

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Three days! Labour's fastest sell-out in history

HAROLD WILSON

HAROLD WILSON's 'speech to the nation' on television on Monday—only three days after Labour's victory in the general election—was as full of Tory trash as anything served up by Heath during the election campaign.

The Stock Exchange gamblers rejoiced. Their index jumped 15 points in two days. The Confederation of British Industry put out a special statement congratulating the Prime Minister on his speech.

Said Wilson: 'As I told the TUC before the election, we cannot afford the "big battalion" philosophy, with power groups, whoever they are, trying to seize more than their share of what is available.'

Was he referring to Pilkingtons, the multi-national glass monopoly, who threatened this week to delay £150 million worth of investment 'until such time as essential changes in taxation and price control are made.'

What was Wilson's reaction to this big, bullying, battalion? 'The government is giving the most urgent attention to the problems for cash for industry . . . We are well aware that tighter price controls are causing increasing problems.'

Wilson and Healey HAVE ALREADY PROMISED big business a minimum of £3000million taxpayers' money to 'tide them over difficulties'. They've already promised to lift their puny price controls so that prices can rise even faster.

The 'big battalions' attacked by Wilson are the trade unions, whose members will be struggling desperately to maintain their standard of living while paying higher taxes and higher prices into the bulging wallets of Britain's ruling class.

Said Wilson: 'It is no longer a time for anybody to be making money. It's got to be earned.'

Who is he talking to? Does he mean his friend Lord Kissin, whom he ennobled earlier this year? Kissin is executive chairman of Guinness Peat, a company which speculates in commodities, including food, all over the world.

PROPPING UP THE BANKRUPT

This week Lord Kissin gleefully announced that Guinness Peat profits are up to £6,536,000 from £2,915,000 last year. Dividends have jumped from 38.6 per cent of all money invested to a massive 42 per cent.

Will these money-for-nothing speculators be forced to make sacrifices on behalf of Harold's 'one big family'? Not at all. Kissin and Co will be enriched still further by their Labour Party friends in high office.

No. Wilson was scolding the dustman in Glasgow or the busman in Mansfield who cannot afford to maintain those cities' basic services on £25 and £28 a week.

Why is Wilson attacking the people who elected him and propping up the bankrupt tycoons who fought against him in the election?

In his book on his time as Prime Minister from 1964 to 1970, Wilson wrote that the Governor of the Bank of England forced him to adopt 'full-scale Tory policies'—'because of the sheer compulsion of the economic dictation of those who exercised economic power.'

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT POLICE

That is still going on. Capitalist monopolies are dictating policy to Wilson. Wilson dare not challenge capitalist power so he kow-tows to it.

His small majority ensures him the support of Labour 'lefts' who pretend not to like what he is doing. The trade union leaders will

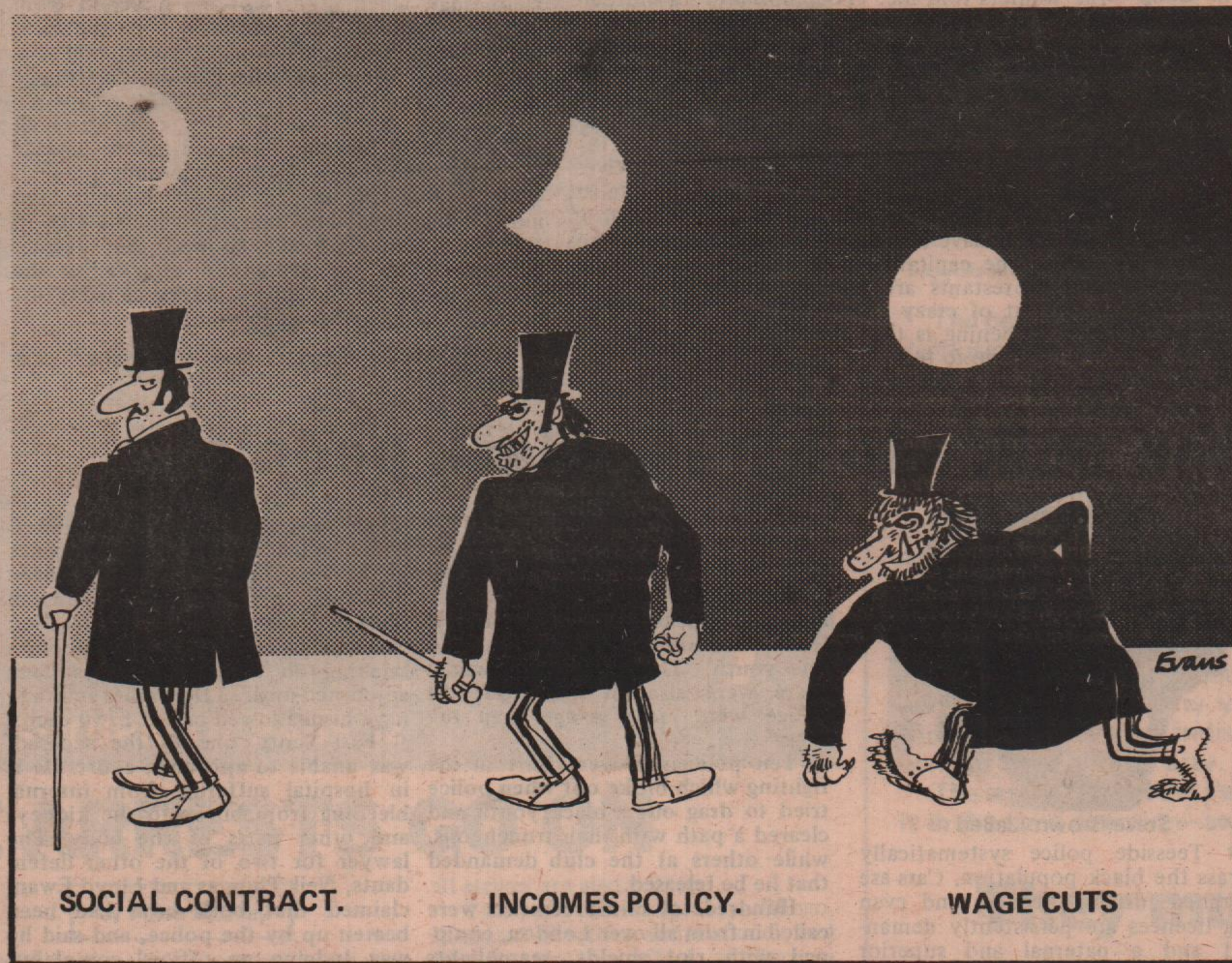
police his social contract for him. Already the full-time officials of the General and Municipal Union have decided to 'go easy' on wage claims. The building workers' leader, George Smith, plans to hold back his members' claim. Bob Wright, left-wing senior official of the Engineers' Union, missed a golden opportunity to attack Wilson's speech. When asked by the Daily Express for his views, Wright replied: 'It was merely a fireside chat.'

We must not pay the price which Wilson and his acolytes in the unions want to wring from us. We must fight back, as thousands of

workers up and down the country are doing, for massive wage increases to compensate for inflation. We must fight against the union officials who urge us to accept time limits on our settlements—so that we can get caught in inflation once again.

We must build a movement in the rank and file of the working-class movement which is strong enough to fight back against the employers—and their allies in Downing Street and trade union offices.

-SOCIAL CON-MAN



The law is costing us money

THE CASE against Paul Foot and Jim Nichol, editor and publisher of Socialist Worker, were to appear in the High Court on Wednesday (after this issue went to press). The Attorney General in the Labour Government, Sam Silkin, claims that we committed a contempt of court when we named the two witnesses in the Janie Jones blackmail case last April.

Our defence argues ONE: That the judge gave no direction in the case that the name should not be published. He even admitted: 'I have no jurisdiction over the press.'

TWO: That, even if he had made such a direction, judges have no power in such cases to order journalists not to publish witnesses' names.

THREE: That, in this case, the informal agreement between judge and reporter not to reveal the names was a flagrant example of the unfairness of protecting 'rich and disreputable witnesses'—while in other cases, such as rape, less well-connected witnesses are not protected.

Judgement is likely to be 'reserved' by the Lord Chief Justice for at least a fortnight. If we lose the case, whatever the penalty, the costs of the case are large. We desperately need money to meet these costs—and those of many other comrades who are standing trial for fighting fascism or selling our paper.

This week our Fighting Fund received a magnificent £869.65, bringing the October total to £1295.91 so far.

A series of film shows have raised some large donations: Coventry District £40, and Oxford District £20.17 so far. Other collections for the defence fund have included: Heinz SW readers £27.50, Supporters and members from the GLC IS branch £20, SW readers, Edinburgh Corporation (NALGO) £19.90, Haverton Hill shipyard £3, TASS, Clydebank £5, Coldharbour Estate £1, BSC Rotherham £3, Radio Times, Park Royal £5, Moores site, Salt Ash, York £1.35, Newton 28 NE AUEW branch £2, SW readers Fulham £3, and GMWU stewards at Turner Brothers Asbestos, Leigh, sent their stewards' fees, totalling £6.

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

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INFLATION? WORKERS FIND AN ANSWER—page 6



Night-shift workers at Ford's PTA plant, Dagenham, being turned away from the gate during the lay-off. PICTURE: Ron McCormick.

Fords: How we organised to win

AFTER a four-week strike, the press shop workers at Fords have returned to work. Although they have not got everything they were claiming, they have won more than £4 on the shift differential, and completely busted the 1974 agreement.

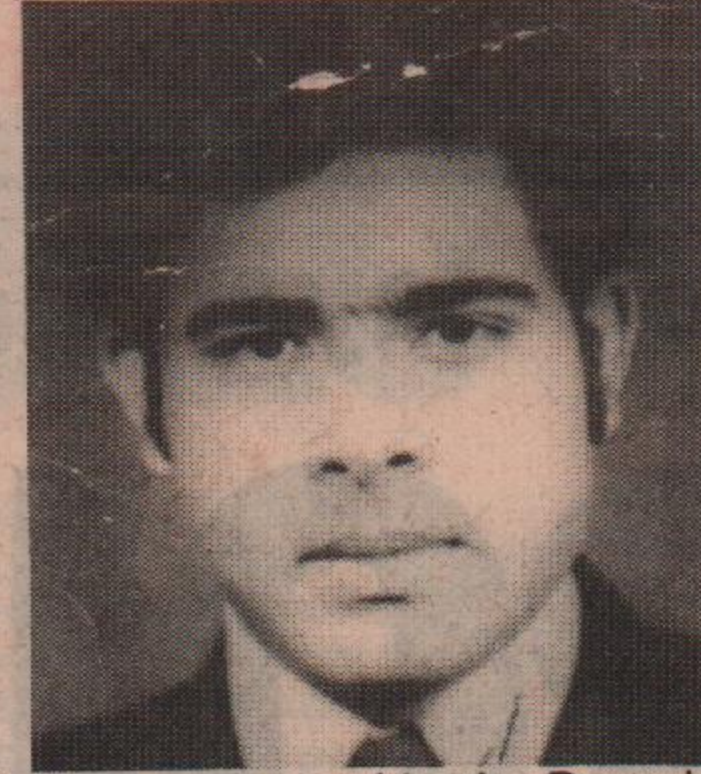
How did the press shop workers organise to win against the company? Why was the strike at Dagenham so effective?

The answers to these questions affects all Ford workers.

The organisation and determination of these workers contrast strongly with what happened in other Ford plants, where thousands of workers were laid off. In the body and PTA plants at Dagenham in particular, there was no attempt to fight the lay-offs and no leadership given over the interim pay deal. As a result, many workers were confused and in the dark about what was going on.

Ford workers are now faced with a new pay offer that is completely unacceptable.

It will have to be strongly fought. We Ford workers can learn a lot from the recent press shop strike, as A Khan, AUEW press shop steward



A Khan, a steward in the Dagenham press shop

at Dagenham stresses in this interview.

‘We won against the company because we were well organised. We did not stumble into our dispute—we prepared all members in the press shop so that when the strike came they knew exactly where they stood. During the first week after our holidays we issued a series of five leaflets—one for each day.’

These argued for our claim for restoration of our shift differential

and holidays at average earnings—for at the moment press shop workers lose a great deal of money when they go on holiday. These leaflets were fundamental in building up the confidence of our members in our claim.

The members were also kept regularly informed at mass meetings at which the shop stewards reported back exactly what was going on. Right from the beginning they knew it was their strike and they were running it.

Also, as the strike continued, there were more and more articles in the newspapers attacking our actions. By our meetings and leaflets we could counter what the papers said and our members did not weaken because they had been convinced that they were in a just fight.

Before the strike we wanted to hold a mass meeting but it was difficult to get us all together because we are three-shift workers. So we went on strike for 24 hours in order to hold a proper meeting with everybody there.

These mass meetings have also enabled press shop workers on different shifts to get to know each other, which again gives a boost to our unity. I'll never forget the feeling of unity and strength at those meetings.

Built

The strike also brought the stewards closer together. We elected a strike committee. Of course there were differences, and we would often argue about them for four or five hours at a time, but if the stewards are united and prepared to give a clear lead around a policy that has been thrashed out everybody will benefit from it. Our lads trust their stewards because we are honest and straight with them. This is essential if we are successfully to take on the company.

The point is, our organisation did not just happen. It had to be carefully built so that when the crunch came we were ready.

The grassroots organisation among the press shop workers at Dagenham also meant that we could tell our trade union officials where to get off.

Both local and national officials were telling us to get back to work while negotiations took place over our claim. But because we had the organisation where it mattered, on the shop floor, we did not have to rely on them and we could ignore their recommendations.

felt

One official, Ron Todd of the Transport Workers Union, who did not speak kindly of the Halewood press shop lads when they united their claim behind ours, got booed off the platform. Because our lads knew exactly what was going on they voted unanimously to reject the recommendation of the officials.

I felt very strongly they were bound by pressure from the Labour Party to put the social contract as their number one priority. That is why they made several attempts to get us back to work, even when there was no money on the table.

Things will never be quite the same again at Fords. Our united and militant organisation in the press shop has helped to burst the 1974 pay agreement. But this is only a beginning and we must all learn the lessons from the strike, so we can build on its successes for the future.

IT'S A FREE COUNTRY

IT WAS an election day with a difference for Mrs Bridget McAnoy. Men of the Gloucestershire Regiment, the 'glorious Glosters', tore apart her tiny terrace home in the Lower Falls area of Belfast.

Mrs McAnoy's husband, Liam, is in Long Kesh as one of Northern Ireland's 1200 political prisoners, so she was alone when the Glosters made their first visit to her Leeson Street home on Monday last week. They searched, found nothing and caused no damage.

They came again on Tuesday. This time they kicked a hole through the bedroom floor into the kitchen below.

Mrs McAnoy was out when about 15 soldiers called back on Thursday morning, so they kicked the door in. She described the scene when she returned: 'There seemed to be soldiers everywhere. The water pipes had been torn up and the house was flooded. The gas stove had been ripped out, furniture was overturned and it had all been ripped open. When I protested one of

Free for army wreckers, that is...

From Eamonn McCann in Derry

the soldiers told me: 'Your husband's a murdering bastard'.

Mrs McAnoy's home has now been declared 'unfit for habitation' so she and her seven-month old baby are staying with neighbours while the housing authorities arrange new accommodation.

While the 'security forces' deploy themselves against people like the McAnoys, Loyalist murder gangs roam the streets apparently at will. They have killed 11 people in the past two weeks. The capitalist press gives the impression that Protestants are killing Catholics and vice-versa out of crazy religious bigotry. What is in fact happening is that the Protestant ultra-right is seeking so to terrorise the Catholic community that it will accept a return to second class

citizenship in a reconstituted one-party state.

That the Catholic workers are not going to knuckle under like this was clear in Derry last Wednesday when 4000 workers marched from factories, building sites and offices to the local trade union headquarters demanding that the unions play a more positive part in the struggle against internment.

'Security gates' in the city centre, which block all main thoroughfares and reduce passage to single file, were torn down and marched over. It was one of the biggest, noisiest, and most determined demonstrations in the city in the past two years and showed that despite harassment by the army and attacks by the murder gangs the Catholic workers' capacity for political struggle remains formidable.

IRELAND: Who is the aggressor?—see pages 8—9.

...and free for the police to harass black people

by Lewis Davies

MIDDLESBROUGH: Fury is sweeping Teesside's small West Indian community after yet another case of police harassment and legal injustice.

Last Wednesday Steve Brown was sent to Durham Jail for two and a half years on a drugs charge.

Early in April a local police officer had told Steve: 'Before long we are going to get you.' This is becoming a standard threat to West Indians and Africans in Teesside and it isn't an idle one.

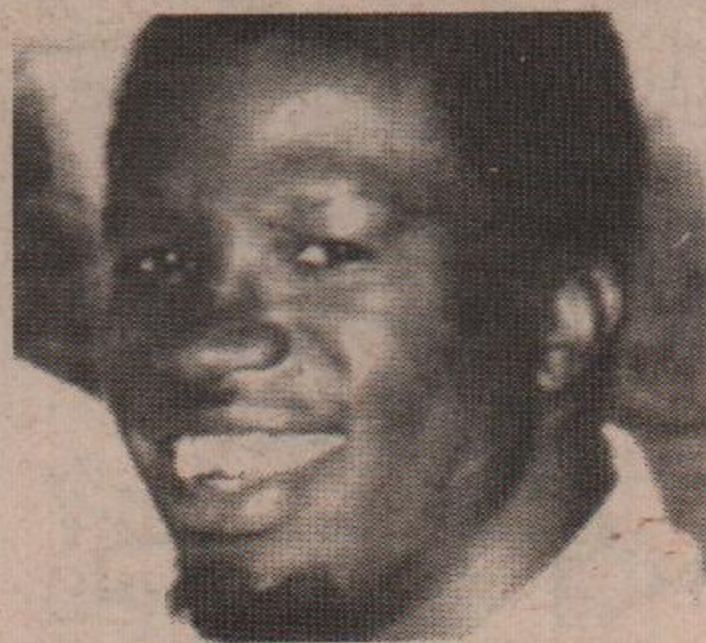
Shortly afterwards Steve was approached by three strangers who asked for a lift in his van. Later he was arrested and told that he was being charged with offering the three morphine.

The guardians of the law searched Steve, his car and his flat and found no drugs. Nevertheless he was brought to court and found guilty on the evidence of two of the three. This was though the third denied the accusations had any substance and a friend who had been in the van all the time supported him.

In court Steve claimed that the whole case was a frame-up.

The two witnesses said they had left the van and then 'bumped into' a man they recognised as a plain-clothes policeman. Very clever for 'complete strangers to Middlesbrough', which is how the prosecution described them. The jury twice failed to agree on a verdict.

In isolation this might be seen as an individual miscarriage of justice



Steve Brown: Jailed

but Teesside police systematically harass the black population. Cars are searched, driving licences and even dog licences are persistently demanded and a paternal and superior manner adopted.

Every family has a story to tell. For instance police arrived at one house to arrest a man who had 'definitely been identified by reliable witnesses' as a man who started a brawl in a pub the night before. The case was dropped when it was pointed out that the man had been in Germany for two weeks.

If police racialism is to be stamped out on Teesside a clear stand has to be taken by socialists and trade unionists, black and white. A demonstration against police harassment of blacks called by Teesside Afro-West Indian Association and Teesside IS will be held this Saturday 19 October, at 11am, assembling at Ayresome Gardens, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.

by Nigel Currie and D Thompson

NORTH WEST LONDON: A massive fight broke out at the West Indian Carib Club in Cricklewood early last Saturday morning as police raided it for the fifth time in three weeks. Said one youth: 'The police went wild—there were alsatian dogs, but the police were more savage than the dogs.'

Ten policemen were hurt in the fighting which broke out when police tried to drag out a black youth and cleared a path with their truncheons, while others at the club demanded that he be released.

Hundreds of reinforcements were called in from all over London, equipped with riot shields, searchlights and more alsatian dogs. Black marias lined the streets round the club. Racist insults were hurled by the women in the club, black and white.

The police ordered the youths to leave the club six at a time. As they left, they were systematically beaten, punched and kicked by the police, who lined the 19 steps down to the street below. One white boy described the scene as 'disgusting—I've never seen anything like it.'

One black youth who ran the gauntlet said: 'From the top of the stairs I could see policemen first swinging their truncheons and kicking people as they went down. I went through as fast as I could.' At one stage, seven policemen were dragging a young West Indian girl down the stairs and across the pavement.

Forty youths were thrown into

police vans and carted off to Golders Green police station. Most have since been released uncharged, having been held for up to 11 hours. Ten, all black, were charged at Hendon magistrates court on Monday with 'making an affray'. The case was adjourned until 13 December and they have been allowed bail at £750 each.

Earl Scott, one of the accused, was unable to appear in court. He is in hospital suffering from internal bleeding from blows to the kidneys and other parts of the body. The lawyer for two of the other defendants, Neil Thomas and Lloyd Ewan, claimed that both boys had been beaten up by the police, and said he was lodging an official complaint.

Racist

The Carib Club, which holds dances on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, is still under constant police supervision. The youths we spoke to asked us not to print their names in case of police reprisals.

The police must not be allowed to get away with these exercises in racist harassment and intimidation. They have become frequent in the Cricklewood, Willesden and Harlesden areas. North West London contains a high proportion of immigrants and a proportionally low level of facilities for young people.

A meeting of the youths and parents had been arranged to discuss what happened, and, more important, what to do about it.

FORDS DAGENHAM INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS PUBLIC MEETING

Marsh Green School, Dagenham New Road (just up from Fred's Cafe) Wednesday 23 October, 6pm

The Labour Government and the Fight for Higher Wages

Speakers: Gareth Williams (AUEW shop steward, Body Plant) and John Deason (former AUEW steward and Industrial Organiser, International Socialists) All Ford workers welcome

WHY WE MUST GET TOGETHER

STRIKES, occupations and overtime bans are going on all over the country in defiance of the trade union leaders. To weld this militancy together we need an organisation prepared to fight against the Social Contract and redundancy.

This is what the Rank and File Conference is all about. In the last year, two

disputes have stood out more than most as ones where the rank and file had to go it alone—the Glasgow Firemen and the strike at Stanlow against Shell.

Two supporters of the conference write below of their experiences during these disputes—and why they are calling for support for the conference.



Stanlow workers on the picket line: their strike hammered home the need for a rank and file movement

RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE: BIRMINGHAM, 30 NOVEMBER

RONNIE ROBERTSON, secretary of the Parkhead branch of the Fire Brigades Union and a delegate to the union's Glasgow Area Committee:

During the Glasgow firemen's strike last November, the official FBU leadership, aided and abetted by Len Murray of the TUC and James Jack of the Scottish TUC, attempted to isolate the firemen. The Glasgow Area Committee of the FBU was removed from office; Murray and Jack sent letters to trade councils and trade unions instructing them not to support the strike by either word or action.

The response to this from rank and file trade unionists was a flood of messages of support and financial donations amounting to thousands of pounds. The lesson to be learned is that workers cannot rely on the bureaucratic trade union leadership to fight for them. The spontaneous support firemen received must be channelled into an organisation prepared to link up and mobilise the rank and file militancy among workers in a united fight against the employers.

In the coming period of wage cuts and reduced living standards (the social contract), it is vital that all rank and file militants push within their union branches and committees for delegations to the Second Rank and File Conference in November. I will certainly be doing this in my own branch and at the Glasgow Area Committee of the FBU.

RUSS LIBBEY, Chairman of the 8/347 TGWU branch at Teesport Refinery:

After the last sell-out T&G members working for Shell Refining and Marketing Company should know of the desperate need for a Rank and File movement.

The actions of John Miller and Jack Jones during the Stanlow strike were classic examples of the 'Save the Social Contract' syndrome affecting all the bureaucratic heads of our unions at present.

Miller's mindless actions of sending Telex messages through company channels to each branch, of his 'go-it-alone' negotiations with the firm, nearly destroyed the Shell National Committee.

Rank and file members must be on their guard against sell outs such as this. We must call for dismissal of such officers, and of course, fight wage restraints of any kind, whether put into effect by Government law or the bureaucratic leaders of the unions.

CONFERENCE DETAILS: TURN TO PAGE 12

SPAIN: THE ARRESTS GO ON

THE FASCIST regime in Spain has made hundreds of political arrests in the last few weeks following a strike wave in which workers have shown tremendous courage and determination—and shaken the ruling class rigid.

The country's rulers are petrified because of the impending death of Franco. The right wing and the international monopolies fear this could

by Alice Murray

lead to the same situation as the victorious breakthrough of the Portuguese working class from the shackles of Fascism.

Against the threat of death, imprisonment and torture, the workers of Spain are on the move. In a country where all strikes are illegal,

all strikes are also political.

Two of the strikes in Bilbao, Standard Electrics and Babcock and Wilcox, directly affect workers in Britain.

Standard Electrics is the Spanish subsidiary of ITT, the company which helped to engineer the military coup in Chile. ITT has subsidiaries in Britain, most notably STC, which has factories in Southgate, Newport, Foots Cray and East Kilbride.

STC has 35,000 workers in Britain, which is ITT's second largest 'empire' in Europe. Spain is the third largest.

The figurehead of Standard Electrics is General Barrosa, Franco's former Minister of War.

In 1971, workers struck at Standard Electrics in Madrid. The leaders were all arrested and 1000 were suspended. Workers in America and Europe demonstrated against this, and collected funds.

International solidarity with the Spanish working class like this is essential again.

The warning signs

A GENERAL STRIKE was called in Italy this week to protest at the lock-out of 71,000 Fiat workers and to demand increases in the cost of living increments in wage deals.

Fiat, part of Italy's largest private concern, has 300,000 unsold cars littering the country. Last week 65,000 Fiat workers in the massive Turin complex went on strike against an imposed three-day week... and were promptly locked out.

The struggle at Fiat is part of the world crisis in the car industry. The need for united action and links between car workers throughout the world is becoming more and more urgent. British Leyland and Chrysler are threatening massive lay offs.

As the crisis develops, we can expect more unemployment. The fight against redundancy will have to be fought not just on a national basis, but with all eyes on the international situation.

WHAT WE THINK

TWO MILLION people who voted in February's general election did not vote again last week. Politicians and newspapers described it as the most important election this century, yet the turnout at the polls was DOWN from 78 per cent in February to 72 per cent.

And, according to one survey, a higher percentage of the population than ever before—more than 39 per cent—declared that there was 'no real difference between the two major parties'.

Profound boredom with the electoral process dominated the election. The Labour Party failed to capture either the imagination or the enthusiasm of the voters.

Fewer people voted Labour than in any other election since the war. Fewer even than in 1959, when Labour lost the election by more than 100 seats to the Tories. Fewer even than in 1945, when there were eight million fewer voters than today.

Labour has gained its tiny majority not because it enthused the electorate with its policies but because the Tory vote has splintered. More than five million people—most of them with Tory sympathies—voted Liberal. Nearly a million Scots—a third of the adult population—voted for the Nationalists.

Workers' indifference to electoral politics is not affected by Parliamentarians who field more 'left-wing' candidates than Labour.

The Communist Party, which had 29 candidates (44 in February), took a terrible drubbing. All 29 deposits were lost, including that of Jimmy Reid in Dunbartonshire, who saved his deposit last time. Reid got 3,417 votes compared with 5,928 before.

In almost every constituency where Communist candidates stood, their vote was badly down on the already pathetic February total. In some places, the vote was halved. The total Communist vote—17,426—was the lowest the Party has registered since 1931.

	LABOUR PARTY VOTE	COMMUNIST PARTY VOTE	Votes per CP candidate
1945	12,038,971*	102,780	4,894
1950	11,518,360	91,736	917
1951	13,948,385	21,600	2,164
1955	12,405,246	33,144	1,950
1959	12,216,172	38,897	1,716
1964	12,205,812	44,567	1,236
1966	13,064,951	62,112	1,089
1970	12,179,341	38,431	663
1974 (Feb)	11,654,726	32,741	744
1974 (Oct)	11,458,704	17,426	601

*includes Independent Labour Party vote

The pattern of British elections since 1951 shows a growing disillusionment and contempt among workers for Parliamentary politics of all description. The 'Vote for me and you will be all right' form of politics not only leads to apathy. It disarms the workers where they have the power—on the factory floor.

The unashamedly Parliamentary approach of the Communist Party has increased the irritation and despair among many fine Party militants who are urged by the Party to devote their time and attention to Parliamentary and local government elections—with less and less to show for it.

Those members should ask themselves and their Party why so much of its slender resources are spent on electoral activity, and why, after so many years electioneering, the Party's attitudes and policies are indistinguishable from those of the Left wing of the Labour Party.

The answer is that the Parliamentary road leads all who take it in the same direction—away from socialism.

They must stay free

NEXT THURSDAY, Ricky Tomlinson and Des Warren will once again appear in the High Court before Lord Chief Justice Widgery. Once again the system that fines factory owners a few pounds for killing and maiming workers will move against two North Wales building workers whose crime was to picket for a wage claim and against the cancer of the Lump.

They have already been in prison—they may go back again. The Labour Government could at any time have repealed the law which sent them there—the 1875 Conspiracy Act. They did not because they may yet want to use it against socialists and trade unionists themselves.

If these men go to jail, it will be the duty of every trade unionist to see they are released. The slogan 'an injury to one is an injury to all' must be out into practice.

LETTERS

SOMETHING SICK IN BRIGHTON

'REAL STARVING poverty has been replaced by hysteric overplaying of the circumstances of the feckless. If anyone would be blamed for what is today called poverty it is the Medical Officer of Health.

'By our very success in preserving the children of problem families who could not make a go of it in former years and whose offspring survive by our preventive medico-social action, we now have a substratum of society which nature would have killed off but for our intervention.

'In a 100 years time it will be seen that the survival and uncontrolled reproduction of this element of the population will have lowered the overall intelligence of the nation at a time when ever-improving technology requires a parallel improvement in the quality of its citizens...

'On a world scale it is the practice of preventive medicine which has so altered the population balance that global disaster threatens mankind by his own increase.'

An excerpt from Mein Kampf? An opponent of an East African wild animal reserve? No.

Part of the introduction of Brighton's Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for 1973. And he precedes that with a few inane remarks stating that Brighton's health is marvellous except for cancer caused by smoking and tooth-ache caused by the lack of fluoride in the water.

No mention of any deaths from hypothermia (in an area whose old-age population replaces an average town's youth population), no mention of malnutrition, although our unemployment is amongst the highest and average industrial wages the

lowest in the South-East. How come Mr Parker can be giving himself such a big pat on the back when, only eight years ago, over 30 per cent of Brighton's households lacked 'basic amenities' (in our ward, the figure was 57.5 per cent)?

Maybe he only inspects the new blocks of luxury flats, like the ones they're building on the Marina, price £47,000 each (that's only today's prices). After all, he can't very often visit the young families and old people rotting away in our rat-infested basements, because he'd have to condemn too many and rehouse the occupants, which is not easy when the only good council house in Brighton's eyes is an empty one—or better still, one being demolished to make way for more luxury flats.—SALLY BENBOW, Brighton.

OILING THE VOTERS

I'VE BEEN surprised by the superficial response of many socialists to the Scottish National Party election successes. People tend to consider them very important because they all happened in Tory seats. They fail to consider who actually voted for the SNP.

In 1966 I campaigned for Labour in South Angus (one of the seats which returned a SNP MP this time) and it was one of the most difficult political tasks of my life. The majority of farmworkers and non-unionised workers for family firms refused to believe that anyone except bosses could govern.

They seemed to believe that the ruling class had a natural ability to rule and so they voted Tory. These workers plus small farmers and

shop-keepers disgruntled by the Common Market are the people who've given their vote to the SNP.

What caused this astonishing change of consciousness in a previously highly conservative group of people? Without doubt a major factor has been North Sea Oil. This has enabled many people to reflect on the possibility of a fundamental improvement in their standard of living and an end to the neglect of the region they live in.

They have no tradition of real class politics, which makes it easier for a vague populist group like the SNP to benefit from the desire for change.

It should also be quite clear that such unorganised workers, farmworkers, shopkeepers etc are an

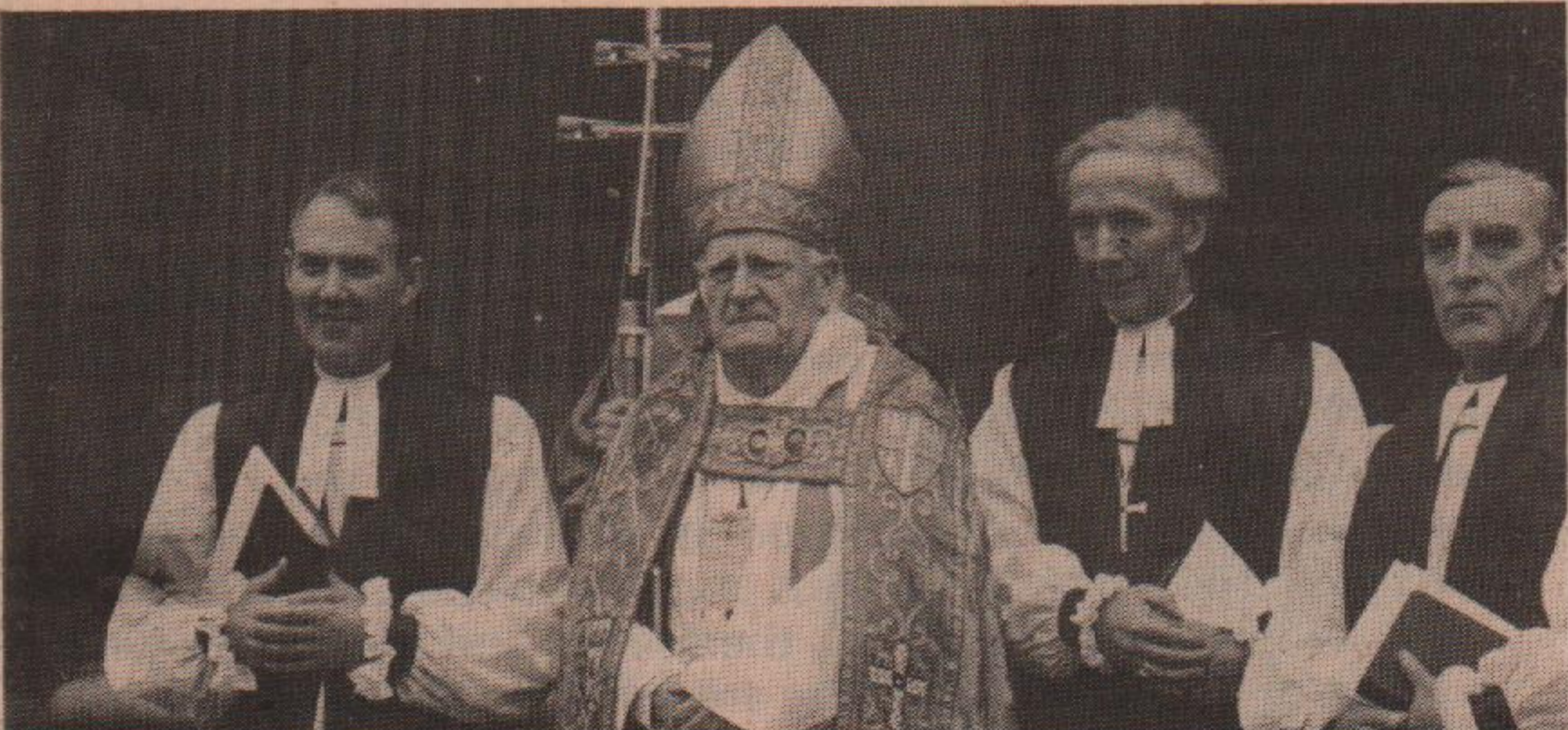
ideal base for a fascist movement. It would be wrong to say at the present time that the SNP is fascist but they're certainly anti-working class.

The best way to prevent the SNP from growing is to build a socialist leadership in the working class, which can win the confidence not only of organised workers but of isolated workers in the rural areas.

In the meantime we should have many more articles exposing the politics of the SNP and their anti-working class nature. Nationalism is always a complex issue but the International Socialists do have the politics to deal with the problem, not least to show that no one nation can ever solve its problems in isolation.—BOB CANT, London N8.

THE PHOTOGRAPH accompanying the article Asbestosis on Page 6 of Socialist Worker (12 October) was identified in the caption as Taffy

Wales. The picture was in fact of one of Taffy's workmates Joe Falcus. We apologise to Joe and Taffy for the error.



A big day for the Archbishop. The costume made it difficult to see socialists in a Christian light...

'Beautiful' Chile— by the Archbishop

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury paid a visit to Chile recently. Before he went he made very Christian promises to speak out against the atrocities committed by the gangsters that hold the country in the grip of terror. But despite being given ample evidence and data of the continuing and indeed worsening use of mass arrests, sickening tortures, and executions, he remained silent except to say that Marxism was evil.

Most Church groups in Chile have managed to make statements against the regime. But the Anglican Church stands alone. They issued a statement that although they thought the use of torture deplorable, owing to 'the total unconstitutionality and illegality of Allende's regime', it 'had to be destroyed to save a terrible bloodbath and a dictatorship'.

If our beloved Archbishop had cared to look he would have seen that one monthly paper that seems to have somehow slipped through the net of the censor's total ban on any paper carrying political content. It is the 'Orden Nuevo'. It is filled with homages to Hitler, Hess, the Italian fascist leader Junio Valerio Borghese. It appeals for the execution of homosexuals by bullets or cheaper alternatives. This is completed by pictures of the Third Reich on parade, captioned 'the true model'.

There is no need to list all that the honourable Archbishop saw and heard. I am sure that all comrades are acquainted with the events in Chile. But it is worth noting that the only remark he made was, 'Chile has some beautiful countryside.' Let's all give thanks to God for that.—PHIL PLATT, Wigan.

Pay rise —off the rails

THE Restructuring rise for British Rail workers haggled over since January has finally been agreed. But for vast numbers of rail workers the rise is far from agreeable, and telegrams have already started to flow in to the executive demanding renegotiation and rejection of the whole deal.

The most sickening aspect of this rise is the so-called 7½ per cent increase given to railmen. The basic pay for 40 hours for railmen working on the tracks in the Manchester district before the rise was £23.85. Since this was below the agreed minimum earnings level, £1.15 was given to bring earnings up to the minimum earnings of £25. So, for 40 hours we drew £25.

But, if we worked overtime, and overtime at weekends has become a necessity to make ends meet, the £1.15 charity sum was automatically withdrawn! Also, when bonus was earned the amount was subtracted from the £1.15.

The rise, intended to achieve a 'substantial increase in rates of pay' for us, consolidated the £1.15 and added on the miserable sum of 65p, giving us a basic of £25.65. And that represents a 65p wage increase in any man's language. Except of course for the negotiators of this fraud.

Of course it's the lowest paid and most insecure section of rail workers that gets hammered the hardest. After nine months a railman on Permanent Way is raised to the grade of trackman. For the first three months he can be sacked with no reason given. Glasgow workers have claimed in the Railway Review that this probationary period is being used to weed out people.

Dispersed in gangs miles away from the home station in all weather, on dangerous and heavy jobs relaying and maintaining tracks we need a 50 per cent increase.

So much for the Social Contract—so much for the tears shed for the low paid—and so much for the TUC resolve to fight for £30 as the new minimum.

When all is said and done it is only the strength and unity of all rail workers organising themselves to throw out this insulting and divisive pay rise that will ensure a decent living wage. We sent this article to publicise this fraud and to call on all rail workers to support any other rail workers who refuse to accept this pathetic deal.—MANCHESTER RELAY GANG (NUR)

HE SHOULD BE SO LUCKY... In the Guardian (2 October) there was a report of an attack by Julian Amery, ex-Tory minister, on nationalisation and the people involved... I don't see how Amery can lose out, if the treatment he got from North Thames Gas when they came to do the conversion to natural gas is anything to be by... He got priority treatment (sick and aged come later) and a £150 gas cooker to replace his old one... Such practices of pampering the privileged continue daily and are bound to continue as long as the privileged run nationalised industry. As for Mr Amery, don't bite the hands that feeds you, cos they'll wring your blooming neck!—JIM DAVIDSON, (Gas Converter) London SE21.

CHRISTIAN REDS... As a Christian reader I feel that there are and have been movements within the Church which merit your support—eg the World Council of Church's grants to FRELIMO have surely contributed to the transfer of power in Mozambique. The Christian Institute in South Africa is proscribed and its members are being brought to trial on trumped up charges: there are pressures from within the Church for the Church Commissioners to disinvest completely and for clergy to take up secular employment as their source of income: the 'theology of liberation' of Latin America and 'black theology' from the States has much to say to socialists the world over. I am aware of the International Socialist position on established Christianity (historically siding with the capitalists, being an exploiter and against the working class etc). But there are Christians who see Christianity in terms of a socialist philosophy (and this is not a contradiction of terms); there are Christians in trade unions, rank and file movements, in revolutionary processes, and I feel that where possible mention ought to be made of the socialist/revolutionary work that is being done.—NC, Lincolnshire.

RED WALES... The nasty sniping at the nationalist parties ill becomes you. To whom do the minority cultures in the British Isles turn to, to protect them? The Labour Party? Like hell! These 'socialists' are more interested in faraway Baluchistan than Ben Nevis or Barmouth, more interested in crude economics than the social and cultural life of the Celtic fringe. Yet without all three any future socialist society would be meaningless. So until there is something better I for one will continue to support Plaid Cymru.—VAUGHAN MITCHELL, Brighton.

UP A JUNCTION... Of course Phil Johnson (5 October) is right about the railways. But what can be done? Is it in our power to help bring about a sensible transport system? I'd like to know, because for years I've badgered British Rail, transport authorities, MPs, mayors, newspapers but have got nowhere.—J TWELLS, Rugby.

MORE THEORY... There's a lack of theory and theoretical articles in Socialist Worker during the year or so I've been reading it, Marx, Engels, Trotsky and the others have hardly got a look in... I don't think that many readers have grasped that the International Socialists are Marxists, not Stalinists... I would also like to see more on articles relevant to people — housing, pensioners, etc.—MICHAEL A DIXON, London E7.

Socialist Worker attempts to combine theoretical articles with material 'relevant to the people'. We will be having a new series on history and socialist theory in the near future. But readers of Socialist Worker should remember that the paper isn't the only International Socialist publication. Apart from a stream of pamphlets and books on aspects of IS theory there is the monthly International Socialism Journal which covers developments in socialism and the world in greater depth than SW can give space to.

ZIONISM, MARXISM, AND FASCISM... El Fatah is just another successor to the Russian Black Hundreds and the Nazi oppressor. Bearing in mind these facts of Jewish history, do you seriously expect the Israeli people to view Palestinian gunmen with anything but hatred?... The Palestinians were nothing more than the pawns of British imperialism. Finally, Jewish liberation fighters succeeded in expelling British imperialism and established the state of Israel. However, the British embarked on a war using their Arab client-states against Israel, which was ultimately successfully resisted in the 1948 War of Liberation. Well comrades, how can you tell me that Israel has no right to

exist, and that Zionism is a pernicious ideology? It's still no fun being a Jew—a couple of weeks ago a group of Left-wing Zionists were abused by the National Front for being Jews, and by the International Socialists for being Zionists! It just goes to show that when it comes down to it, your policy on Jewish matters isn't really that much different from the NF. You said (20 October 1973): 'Its essence (ie Zionism) is that "a chosen people", the Jews, are superior to everyone else and can and should trample on the rights of other peoples'. The NF said in Spearhead (May 1974), 'The true character of the Zionist movement is in fact and never was merely "humanitarianism", a search for a "refuge" or "home" for the persecuted Jews of Europe, but an aggressive imperialistic expansionist power, imbued with a sense of racial destiny that knows no bounds and brooks no opposition in its drive for mastery and world power... There is only one thing that IS and the NF have in common. Your absolute blinding, invincible prejudice against Zionism—the national liberation movement of the Jewish people. This saddens but doesn't surprise me, for we shall always be the "wretched of the Earth"—hated and despised by both left and right.—JOHN DE FRECE, (National Organiser, MAPAM—Socialist Zionist Party), London NW6.

The Russian Black Hundreds were an extreme right wing anti-semitic organisation used by the Czarists to divide the opposition and to provide a scapegoat. El Fatah is an umbrella organisation embracing many Arab nationalists and socialists in opposition to the expulsion of Palestinians from the territory they had lived in. Since its birth Israel has been backed with arms and a flood of money from the Western powers—with the aim of acting as an imperialist policeman in the Middle East. Was Israel 'anti-imperialist' in 1956 when it invaded Egypt with the military support of Britain and France? Zionism was a racist response to racial persecution, and is the ideology by which the ruling class of Israel and the Western powers have justified the expropriation of Palestine, and maintained their exploitation of Jewish and Arab workers and peasants. The National Front are Nazis and anti-semites, the International Socialists oppose Zionism as marxists, on political, class grounds as racialist and a tool of imperialism. The 'wretched of the Earth'? What does this mean? There are the ruling classes of the world, whether in Washington, Moscow, Tel Aviv, London or Cairo, and there are the exploited and oppressed—the world over.

REMEMBER?... I took more than a passing interest in that Police Superintendent Adams' remark, that the National Front chanting 'wogs out' was not necessarily provocative, perhaps we should jog his memory for him, one of Tyndall's fellow travellers, Colin Jordan in the court case Jordan v Burgoyne (1963) under section five of the Public Order Act 1936 was charged with 'using at public meetings, insulting words likely to cause a breach of the peace'. At a public meeting of over 5000 people which included many Jews, Jordan said: 'Hitler was right, our real enemies—were not the National Socialists of Germany, but world Jewry and its associates.' There was complete disorder and a surge was made towards the speaker, and Jordan had to be protected by the police. Would we be mistaken to think that the law was strengthened by the Race Relations Act of 1965?—ARTHUR SMITH, Astley.

JUST A BIT OF FREE ENTERPRISE... Here's a foolproof way of making money. Get hold of £25 million and buy 50 per cent of British Leyland shares thus controlling the company... Since according to the Stock Exchange Handbook BLMC have assets of £601 million and liabilities of £433 million, you then sell the assets and as good businessmen pay off the liabilities. This leaves us with £170 million—a return on capital of £600 per cent... There's just one snag, the workers at BLMC... With unemployment rising the number of defensive struggles will increase and so will factory occupations. It's up to the International Socialists to generalise these struggles and make sure the maximum support for all workers in struggle is forthcoming.—JOHN HEWINGS, London N2.

HE WAS, HE DOES, HE IS... Danny Harmston (5 October) claims he's opposed to the National Front. On Monday 30 September the NF held an election meeting in Fulham Town Hall. We tried to go in. Who stopped us? Messrs Harmston and Webster plus a few other Nazi thugs. He was there and he is a Nazi.—A R KUTTNER (a Jewish, socialist worker—I'd better watch out), Fulham.

Please send us your letters. 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.



The struggle in Spain—in England. A march for imprisoned Spanish socialists in Hyde Park last year.

'Guest workers' — forgotten dynamite

THE FAILURE of most of the British revolutionary left to grasp the increasing political importance of the immigrants issue saddens and disappoints me.

We European immigrants in Britain are rarely mentioned (except recently by the National Front). This is mainly because we're white and no matter how long we remain in the country we rarely settle here permanently. Yet, as unemployment mounts, we shall, for sure, become a suitable scapegoat for these same people who bring us here to fill those dirty low paid jobs that no English people would probably care to do in normal times.

Unfortunately very few of us are involved in trade union work, let alone revolutionary politics. The attitude of the Left in this country (with very few rare exceptions) is very much to blame.

Looking at it in the international context the importance of the issue shows itself. In Switzerland there are one million foreigners. 150,000 of this are 'gastarbeiters'

(guest workers) and amongst those are about 70,000 Spaniards.

Now there's talk of a national referendum on whether to repatriate them. In Germany they have stopped any new foreign workers arriving and have sent back many as their contracts have expired.

Imagine the effect of this on a country like Spain. There the economy is based on the earnings from tourism—which decreased this year in great numbers, and above all on money from emigrant workers abroad.

Sending these workers back means a big drop in national earnings and a big mass of people who couldn't be absorbed. Unemployment is already high in Spain. All this could create a highly explosive, potentially revolutionary situation. In present times of international instability and social unrest this could have wide consequences for the international struggle.—JOSE M CABA, London NW3.

HOW A RACIST GOT OFF Black Magic for the bosses

I WAS SITTING on a 270 bus the other day, when my attention was attracted by the gentleman sitting opposite, who held his nose every time a black passenger went past him. As one black girl passed he snarled, 'You all smell.'

An argument started. I shouted at him, 'If you want the National Front red bus, it's next to the Tory club.' I called him a racist, and said that the people on the bus didn't want him on it.

I called over the conductor, who was also black, and suggested that he should be put off. The other passengers, both black and white, agreed, and shouted at him to get off. He refused to go.

He pulled out his season ticket and showed it to the conductor, making sure she didn't come into physical contact with him. The bus was stopped, and the conductor refused

to let anyone on or off till he left. The driver was called, but he still refused to go. Suddenly a Scottish voice from the top deck shouted, 'What's keeping the bus?'

The man came down, and the situation was explained to him. He immediately grabbed the offending passenger by the scruff of the neck, and ejected him forcibly, to the cheers of the other passengers.

This may be an extreme example, but it shows how racialism can be fought. It shows that racist remarks must not be allowed to pass unchallenged, but should be argued against politically. Racialism must be nipped in the bud before it is allowed to flower. It shows that black and white workers can unite against racialism. What can be done on a 207 bus should be done in the factories, and over the whole country.—P O'KEEFE, Harlesden.

Coach crashes — the avoidable accidents

I'M angry but not surprised when I read reports of coach accidents. Two trips recently by coach opened my eyes to the conditions the drivers' are up against.

We were going to London when the coach suddenly lost a front wheel. Fortunately it had been able to slow down, otherwise people would have been killed. The worst aspect was that the driver had known something was wrong with the wheel.

On a second occasion the gear-box

went and the party and the driver didn't get a replacement for four or five hours. Again the driver knew something was wrong.

There's a new model Leyland coach with has such heavy steering that it could be impossible to quickly avoid a child running into the road.

The recent motorway coach accident involving 17 people was due to design. The suspension was so weak that when the driver braked and

skidded the coach rocked over on one side. All these accidents are avoidable if more time was allowed for maintenance. Practical and safe designs should be well tested before going on the road.

Drivers should have the last word on whether a coach handles well. Coaches on their last legs should be scrapped, only when drivers control their jobs and conditions can we expect to get all this.—MARION TOWNSHEND, Manchester.



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 SMASHING OF 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 _____

Another victim of pit 'progress'

THE NUMBER of miners killed or injured in British pits last year rose by a twelfth, according to the annual report of the Inspector of Mines. The three major 'accidents', at Lofthouse, Seafield and Markham, are named as a major factor in reversing the trend of the last ten years.

They brought together the Coal Board, the miners' union and the British Association of Colliery Managers, who pledged themselves to review 'all safety arrangements in the industry'.

The inspector, J W Calder, 'welcomes' this development and calls on management and men 'generally' to devote more attention to safety matters. He also points out that half the accidents in 1973 were a result of 'a failure to comply with recognised good practice'. Inadequate training instructions or supervision caused another 25 per cent.

This, he says, prompts the question—'is the pace of technological change outstripping the progress made in improving training and instruction techniques?'

Management and workmen must dedicate themselves to a form of 'job safety appraisal' in an effort to combat

By Terry Bristowe,
NUM Dodworth Branch Committee

apathy and complacency. 'Workmen should receive clear instructions in the proper way to perform their duties and officials, through improved supervision, should ensure that these instructions are carried out.'

In the wake of the 'reviewing of all safety arrangements' the 'Triple Alliance' (NCB, NUM and BACM) launched a major campaign, the ultimate in plans designed to check the rising accident rate, or so we might have thought.

But no such document appeared. Instead, we find the arch enemy of safety the 'golden carrot', a plan to make safety second best, a 'productivity deal'.

The land of milk and honey, money for the asking, this is what the prod deal offers. It will also entice you to take that 'little risk'—we're on bonus, don't stop the job, it will be 'alright' this time.

Above ground, taking that 'little risk', that 'extra' pint, can either ban or bury you. Underground that 'little risk', that 'extra' bonus, can also give you star billing at a certain funeral.

Inflation? workers find an answer

IT BEGAN, more than a month ago, on the 5.20am bus that leaves the Piazza Cavour in Pinerolo, a small town near Turin.

The 50 workers who take the bus to Fiat Rivalta, one of Turin's many Fiat factories, found the cost of a weekly ticket had suddenly jumped by 400 lire (25p).

For a week they paid the increase. Then the next Monday they took control of the cost of tickets.

A table was set up near the bus stop and a local engineering union delegate handed out passes with the union stamp on them. Each pass cost the old weekly price.

Within a few days, despite the protests of the bus companies and their refusal to let the buses leave the depots, the idea had caught on in all the industrial areas of Turin.

The local council ordered the bus companies to slash the price rises.

But the movement has not stopped there. 'Civil disobedience', as the newspapers are calling it, is spreading rapidly over northern Italy.

After finding that a massive increase in the price of electricity was going to fall mainly on home consumers, the electrical union called on them to pay only half their next bill.

In Turin, 13,000 families have already sent the national electricity company a form which declares: 'As instructed by the union movement we are paying only half our next electricity bill.'

The ruling party, the Christian Democrats, have responded hysterically to what they are calling 'extremism and adventurism'.

Many members of the trade union and Communist Party hierarchy have also expressed their doubts about such actions.

But most trade unionists and the revolutionary left have welcomed what they see as important steps in 'self-government from below'.

With the Italian government unable or unwilling to set up any effective price controls, the workers have begun to do it themselves.

IN TYNESIDE last week, bus conductors boycotted an increase in fares. They decided on the action as the latest move in their dispute with the local bus authority, the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive.

The boycott was organised by the Newcastle and South Shields branches of the Transport and General Workers Union.



Royal Marines —loyal morons doing their duty

By former CH/X4537 Marine (Jock) Wight

CHAPMAN Pincher of the Daily Express forecasts that the Royal Marines will be disbanded as part of Labour's Defence cuts.

Socialists will not mourn the passing of these highly trained weapons of capitalism and imperialism. Those who served with them and saw the brutalities at first hand will not grieve. Nor, indeed, will those upon whom they were inflicted.

The 1945 Labour government (that was the one that dispelled all our illusions about socialism coming through parliament) also decided to make defence cuts. Then, as now, the marines were top of the list.

Clem Attlee, who combined defence with the top job of prime minister, listened to the pleadings of Lt Gen R A Dallas Brooks, CB, CMG, DSO, RM.

With the market already glutted by surplus colonels and majors, a deal was struck. The marines would take over all commando and amphibious work, but keep their traditional role as the navy's toy soldiers.

Aboard ship they provided sentries, orderlies, and officers' servants. Their living quarters were usually between the officers' and the rest of the ships'

company, the theory being that in the event of a mutiny the marines, being sworn men, would protect the 'pigs', naval slang for officer.

I remember a large gathering cheering and clapping the announcement that the corps was saved. Many of those same men were to be killed and maimed, doing the dirty jobs Brooks had volunteered for.

Brooks? Oh he added more letters after his name and became governor of Victoria, Australia.

Refused

The process of turning a normal working class lad into a hard, mindless, moronic automaton takes 12 months. This is the longest initial training of any service, but even then they don't have 100 per cent success.

Marines, to the everlasting shame

of a few apoplectic generals, were the only British servicemen who refused to be repatriated from a Korean prisoner-of-war camp.

But the marines usually did what was expected of them.

In Malta in 1948, more than 600 Commandos took over the dockyard during a strike. 'Violence' had broken out, you see. A disgruntled worker had heaved a rock through the manager's window.

In the tramway strike in Hong Kong in 1949, thousands of fully armed Commandos waited in side streets around a mass meeting, ready to move in if the police failed. The trams ran again, but the workers had the last laugh. They stopped collecting fares.

The Malaya campaign to protect the tea and rubber estates and tin mines of British capitalists involved

the marines in some awkward publicity.

The Daily Worker and Daily Mirror published stories about the Iban head-hunters used by the marines as trackers.

Pictures of marines holding heads, hands and legs found their way back to the UK.

This filthy campaign ended when the emphasis was moved from fighting the Malayan People's Liberation Army in the jungle to what was called resettling squatters.

This consisted of the forcible removal of the peasant farmers from their small-holdings around the jungle edge and burning their homes.

The peasants were put into new villages behind barbed wire and heavily policed.

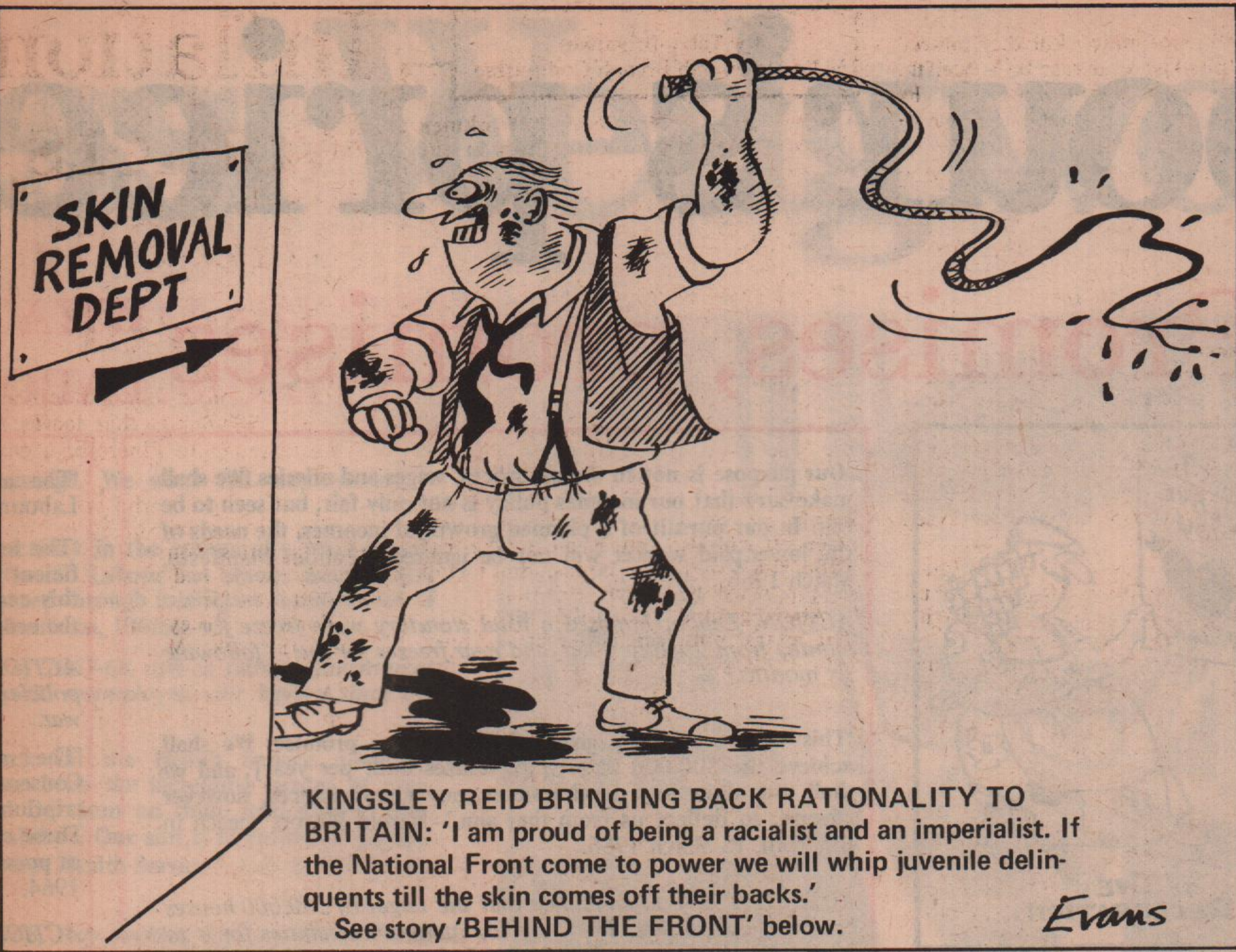
If Pincher is right, and the marines are disbanded, they will have the choice of transferring to another service. To the youngsters I say: get out quick before you are lost. To the others, I wish a soldier's farewell.

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Paul Ginsborg

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KINGSLEY REID BRINGING BACK RATIONALITY TO BRITAIN: 'I am proud of being a racist and an imperialist. If the National Front come to power we will whip juvenile delinquents till the skin comes off their backs.'
See story 'BEHIND THE FRONT' below.

THIS IS THE FABRIC OF CAPITALISM

The author of this article cannot reveal his name. If he did he would be sacked. This is known as freedom of speech.

'WHEN I worked for the Germans in a slave factory during the war, I did not work as hard as I do now!' This was said to me in the heat of the moment, but it did serve a useful purpose; it made me stop and look around. It made me take a close look at my world.

I work in a Lancashire textile mill for 60 hours a week. With a basic wage of £22.50 for 40 hours, the choice is nice and simple: virtual starvation or sophisticated slavery.

As you enter this world, the first thing you notice is the noise. The noise is so loud and harsh you have to yell at the top of your voice to make yourself heard by a person less than a foot away. Because of this noise, many men complain constantly of headaches and hearing disorders.

'Why don't the men use the

ear-plugs provided by the management? Again the choice is simple; total silent oblivion or 'a bit of a headache'.

To exist in this world, you must be sure-footed. Because of the nature of the work the floor, which is tiled, is constantly covered in a film of oil and grease. You stand on this floor when you use a hand winch to lift more than a ton weight eight feet high.

As you can imagine, this is hard and very hot work, but the chances of cooling down are slim. The ventilation is totally inadequate, and with a glass roof to boot, temperatures regularly reach over a hundred degrees.

COMBAT

Of course you soon learn to endure the heat, looking after ten obsolete machines with three other workmates. You remember I mentioned the grease and oil on the floor? The management have a great idea to combat boredom: it is your job to mop the floors around your machines with a hand mop. This keeps the oil and grease to a 'safe' level.

These 'unacceptable faces of capitalism' are by no means rare. Why do my comrades sit back and accept these Dickensian conditions? The answer is not hard to find: apathy—caused by the unions' lack of communication with their own rank and file members. At this time, textile bosses are enjoying the biggest boom in profits for years, and yet the unions can only say: 'We have to keep within Phase Three.'

When I hear talk of the Social Contract, I can't help wondering: 'Where the hell is my Social Contract?'

The time is ripe for the workers in the textile trade to start the great battle, a battle to defeat right-wing elements on all sides who seek to maintain their own high standards of living at the expense of the workers. This is why I believe in the International Socialists. The capitalist system is doomed. Let's push forward its own final destruction.



Sorry, chaps, deer-stalking costs a bit more now



WALKER: Nothing to grouse about

SOME businesses are untouched by the collapse on the Stock Exchange, including those to do with grouse shooting or deer stalking.

Two years ago, the big investment banking operators Slater Walker—that's Jim Slater, capitalist extraordinary, and Peter Walker, then Tory Secretary of State for Industry—bought 21,000 acres of Scotland near Inverness for just over a million pounds.

They formed a subsidiary called the Tulchan Sporting Club to run the estate, which included the Tulchan hunting 'lodge' (53 bedrooms). They then spent another half million pounds modernising the lodge.

At the beginning of September, the estate opened its door to the 'public'. That means you and I are free

to go to Tulchan, provided we can pay the £550 that it costs for a week at the lodge plus grouse shooting. Drinks and deer stalking are extra.

'A reasonably civilised week' according to a recent advertisement, will leave little change from £700.

There has been a flood of applications from stockbrokers, bankers and other gentlemen who are otherwise broken by the sacrifice they are being forced to make in the nation's hour of need.

'We are fully booked so far', says Andrew Coombs of Slater Walker. 'And we already have bookings for next year.' He went on to say that Slater Walker hope to make a profit out of Tulchan something like £200,000 in the first year.

Tesco: Protest has its price

THE excellent Peoples News Service has the following story in its latest issue—which tells us a thing or two about the right to protest and the free press.

LONDON—Jack Glackin, a painting contractor, has taken out summonses against three Tesco supermarket staff, two managers and a grocery assistant, for alleged assault, after Jack complained about the price discrepancy between two toilet rolls.

Jack went to the West Norwood

Tesco branch to buy some toilet rolls, and he noticed that identical toilet rolls were priced at 11½p and 14p respectively. He pointed it out to the manager who was unsympathetic. Jack then stood in the centre of Tescos and addressed the shoppers for half an hour. The manager called the police and Jack was escorted out of the supermarket.

Jack stood outside and talked to passing shoppers until 6.15pm. At this time Jack alleges that he was assaulted by the manager, the

butchery manager and a grocery assistant from the nearby Crystal Palace Tesco branch. Jack alleges that he was kicked in the face and head about the body and in the testicles.

Picket

The police came and questioned Jack, but he stayed outside the supermarket until 8pm when he spoke to the manager of the West Norwood branch. They decided to go for a drink together in the local pub. All Jack remembers before he passed out in the pub is the manager suggesting that they come to a settlement.

Jack was taken to the local hospital where he was given oxygen because his pulse had stopped and he regained consciousness at 10.15pm.

The next day Jack decided to picket West Norwood Tescos with a placard which stated 'Watch your prices—I was beaten up by Tesco thugs'. He picketed the supermarket for four days during which time he won the support of other shoppers. One woman handed him identical packets of washing powders—'Square Deal' surf—one priced at 16p and the other at 21½p.

The Sun newspaper interviewed Jack shortly after the incident for four hours and photographed him, but the next day's edition did not carry the story. When Jack phoned the paper he was told: 'We don't think it was in the public's interest'. Three pages of Tesco advertising was carried that day.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JUSTICES

I WAS interested in the comments of a senior official of the Lord Chancellor's office after it had been revealed that the government paid £100,000 for a 30-room mansion near Preston, to be used almost exclusively by visiting judges. The mansion will accommodate four judges and their wives.

The official said: 'From a historical aspect, there is a need for a judge first of all to maintain a dignity appropriate to a Queen's representative, and not to be pestered by every Tom, Dick and Harry, and to maintain a reasonable standard of living.'

Apart from the most luxurious free lodgings imaginable, the judges also get a grant from the government of 'about £10 a day' for 'entertainment of local dignitaries' (no Toms, Dicks or Harrys allowed here, of course).

BEHIND THE FRONT

ONE of the best aspects of the confrontation with the National Front was that some of their candidates were forced to reveal something like their true colours. Kingsley Reid, for instance, the smooth NF candidate in Blackburn, was so angry when he couldn't speak to a meeting in Hackney, East London, because the meeting place was occupied by International Socialists and other demonstrators that he yelled out:

'God willing, the police will go home so that we can trample this scum under foot as they deserve.'

'I am proud of being a racist and an imperialist. If the National Front come to power we will whip juvenile delinquents till the skin came off their backs.'

'Only law and order', concluded the demented Reid, 'will bring this

country back to rationality' (Hackney Gazette, 8 October.)

I was interested to see that a doctor in Essex, David Baxter, was standing for the National Front in the Cities of London and Westminster. He got only 696 votes.

I wonder if David Baxter has read the sayings of John Tyndall, National Front chairman. In 1964 Tyndall wrote in the programme of the Greater Britain Movement, of which he was chairman.

'For the protection of British blood, racial laws will be enacted, forbidding marriage between Britons and non-Aryans.'

'Medical measures will be taken to prevent procreation on the part of all those who have hereditary defects, either racial, mental or physical.'

- Pamphlets produced by the International Socialists:
- The Struggle for Workers' Power, by Roger Rosewell, 10p
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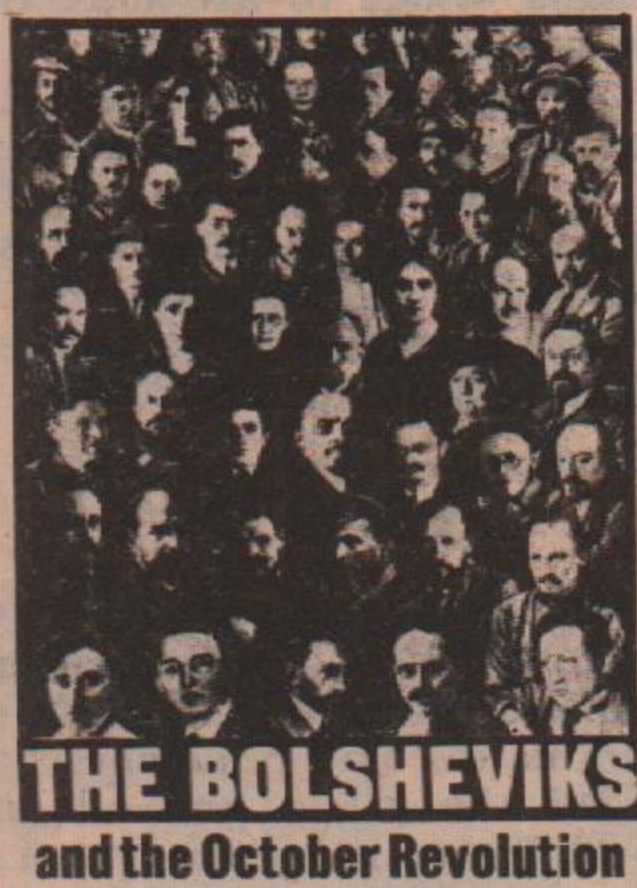
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MANOEUVRES in the French army are usually carried out with two sides called the 'reds' and 'blues'. This year, however, the names have been dropped, so as not to cause offence to France's friends in Eastern Europe. Instead the sides are called 'azure' and 'vermilion'.

Worse was to come; the 'vermilion' troops fought so well that they almost won, something quite against French army traditions.

Labour's price

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'The first major policy initiative of the Wilson government will be directed towards providing hard cash for private enterprise—the small, thrusting young businessman and industrialist who find it hard to get bankers' backing at present.

'The plan for an Investment Bank, already prepared, is the outcome of unexpected, but significant, co-operation between Harold Lever, the Prime Minister's economic adviser at 10 Downing Street, and Tony Benn, Secretary for Industry.

'This collaboration between Mr Benn, the businessman's bogey man, and Mr Lever, who rarely misses an opportunity to reassure business and industry that they have nothing really to fear from a Labour government, has the powerful backing of Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer.'

Sunday Times, 13 October

WHO IS the mysterious Anthony Wedgwood Benn?

Is he, as the business press would have it, a Transport House Trotsky, a crypto who has crept into the cabinet and will not creep out again until the means of production are firmly nationalised in the hands of Scanlon and Jones?

Is he the radical whizz kid of his own image, proclaiming 'direct action against bureaucracy' and 'democratisation of the mass media'?

Frighten

How seriously should workers take the fits of rage and terror among the middle class at the name of Benn? In one way, very seriously. For, while the left-centre trend in the Labour leadership is incapable of leading any active movement among working people, its flirtation with socialist language can frighten sections of the capitalist class into a right-wing, even authoritarian policy towards workers.

With left-wing phraseology and no muscle to back it, Labour could provoke the same sort of right-wing backlash that would come were Benn, Scanlon and Jones really revolutionaries. Worse, for if Benn and Co were revolutionary socialists, they would be leading a struggle in the factories and streets to counter the right-wing reaction. At present they're merely fuelling it.

That Benn's politics are left-wing in terms of official Labour policy shows how far to the right Labour's programme has swung.

Example

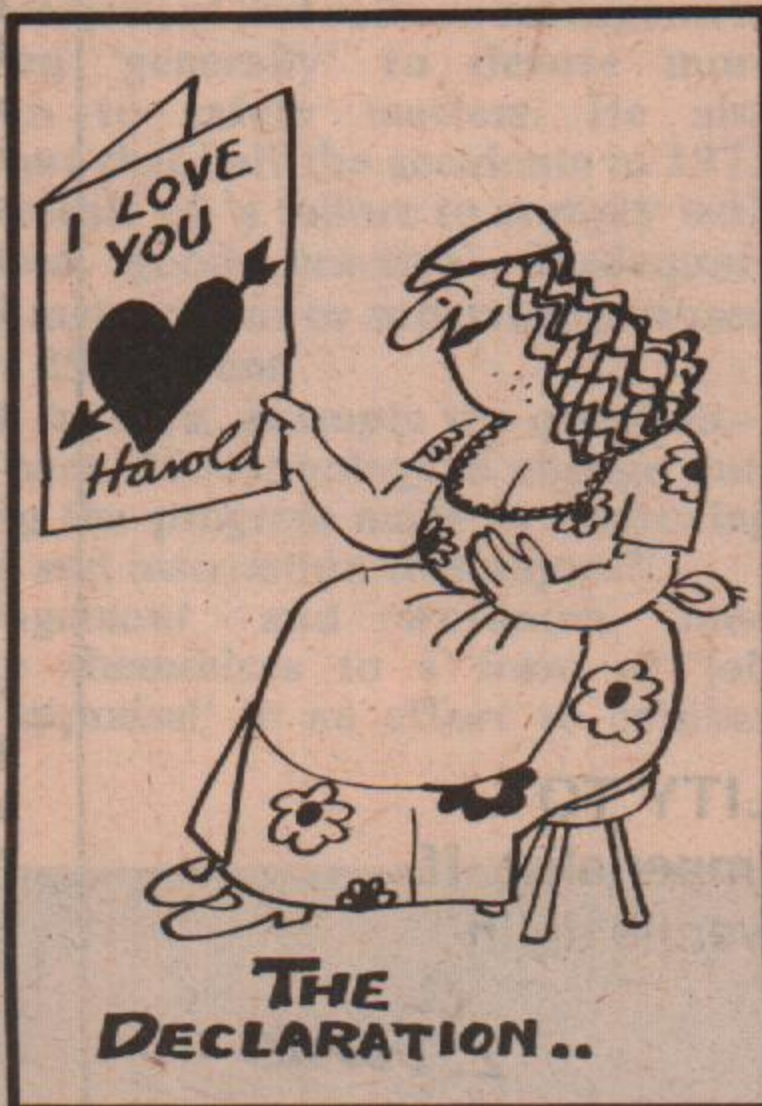
Already in 1969, after the first major economic crisis of the Wilson government, the party statement, Labour's Economic Strategy, anticipated Benn's present proposals for a National Enterprise Board to acquire chunks of industry. This proposed a State Holding Company to expand public investments, 'on the lines of the Italian IRI'.

The Instituto per La Reconstruzione Industriale, which owns Alpha Romeo, the Italian steel monopoly, the national radio and television service and a host of other important enterprises, can hardly be taken as an example of socialist advance. It was founded under Mussolini and extended under the right-wing pro-business cabinets which have governed Italy since 1945.

Measures for British industry similar to those being prepared by Labour were already being operated or mooted by the Tories. In a Sunday Times article on 25 March 1973 entitled 'Heath's spadework for Socialism', Wedgwood Benn personally congratulated the Tory Prime

Promises, promises

WHAT HAS LABOUR



'Our purpose is not to dictate prices, wages and salaries. We shall make sure that our incomes policy is not only fair, but seen to be fair. In our pursuit of a planned growth of incomes, the needs of the lower-paid worker will not be ignored.'—Labour Manifesto, March 1966.

ACTION: Labour imposed a total statutory wage freeze for six months from 29 July 1966, and near freezes for the following six months.

'This is not a lightly given pledge. It is a promise. We shall achieve the 500,000 target [for houses built per year], and we shall not allow any developments, any circumstances, however adverse, to deflect us from that aim.'—Harold Wilson, speech in Bradford, 15 March 1966.

ACTION: 'I have to announce that the target of 500,000 houses has been abandoned. There are too many uncertainties for it to be possible for anyone to say exactly how many will be built in 1970.'—Anthony Greenwood, Labour Minister of Housing, 18 January 1968.

'The aims are Labour Manifesto

'The level of efficiency to provide this can and will be the economy.'

ACTION: In the policies, there is war.

'The most serious Conservative Manifesto charges These charges will be as possible a cost 1964.

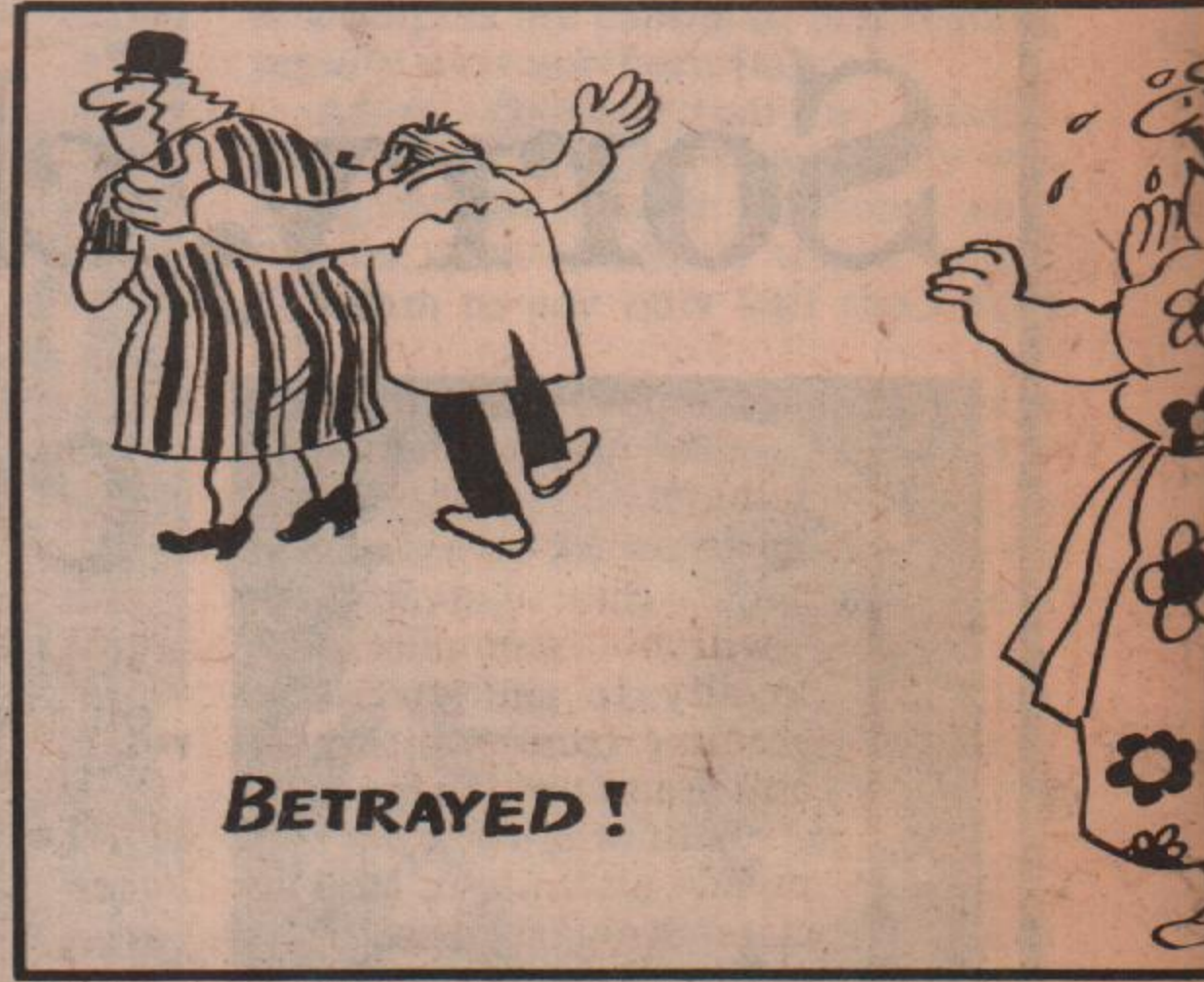
ACTION: In January the Exchequer, the Tories.



THIS TIME?

'The government which faces parliament next week placed a manifesto before the nation. It is a programme for a full parliament, which we shall carry through. I believe that a great deal of cynicism in this and other democratic countries comes from a belief that governments make promises to get into office and do not carry them out when they are there.'

—Harold Wilson, speaking in Monday's Prime Ministerial broadcast.



Minister: 'Heath has performed a very important historical role in preparing for the fundamental and irreversible transfer in the balance of power'.

This is nonsense. What Heath prepared for, and what Wilson is preparing for in a worsened economic climate, is not socialism but state capitalism. There will be compulsory government investment by-passing the stock exchange and the banks and directing funds into the priorities decreed by the top planning

boards. This, though undertaken unwillingly by the capitalists, will be highly profitable for them as the government will continue the policy of underwriting loss and removing risk.

Some commentators have even termed this new partnership between business and government as the coming 'corporatism' and likened it to Mussolini's Corporate State of fascism but, there are differences.

Where Mussolini's corporatism meant castor oil for the workers

and fat profits for businessmen, Benn's industrial policies mean castor oil for Britain's constipated capitalism—and wage restraint and the dole for the working class.

Naturally the employers are reluctant to take their dose. The businessman insists that he must excrete his investments at a pace and in a place chosen by his own spoil whim.

But the interests of British capitalism as a whole, with investment in 1972 and 1973 even less than in 1971 when it was less

than half that in or the United States the system be greased. Labour's capital's stern name the horrid medicine

What we can expect now is a steady motion the type of 'misery with larger state, blurred boundary enterprise and poorer countries' But there is an

Why we say: Get the



ALL THE major parties in the election agreed: British troops must stay in Northern Ireland to 'keep the peace'.

If the troops are withdrawn, they argue, an immediate blood-bath between Catholics and Protestants would result. The main job of British Government and troops is, they state, 'to defeat the terrorists' so that a peaceful solution to the problem can be arrived at.

The facts are different. British troops are not in Ireland to keep the peace. They are there to protect the interests of big business.

And in spite of all the civil unrest, Northern Ireland is still attracting investment. Only last week, two major American companies, Hughes Tool and Otis Engineering of Texas, announced plans to set up new factories for building oil drilling equipment.

The interest of such companies is not surprising. In the six counties which make up Northern Ireland, living standards are half the average for the other Common Market countries.

That means only half the wages

bill (and very generous government grants) for the roving businessman. Profits from Northern Ireland industries are high.

The violence between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland over the past 200 years has been caused by the British government to divide and weaken the Irish people and step up the flow of profits out of Ireland.

The undemocratic six-county statelet in the North was set up by Britain, with British arms and money.

Inwards

For 50 years, Tory, Liberal and Labour governments maintained this statelet and enforced the permanent discrimination against a third of the six county population—the Catholics.

Catholics, by British order, were kept out of all the best houses, the best schools, the best jobs.

By ensuring that frustration in the six counties was turned inwards and along sectarian lines, Britain was able to ensure higher

unemployment, worse slums and more poverty where else in the UK

The slums and poverty are still there—just as the undemocratic rule has been replaced by direct rule from Britain

All the causes remain, and now, the people of Belfast are to put up with British soldiers in their streets

'If the troops were there will be an argument. But in Ireland have been in a bloodbath for years!

They went in the words of the earliest commander of native population. They have been there since. At the time British have devolved Protestant supremacy and its military groups encouraged by the

ess Wedgwood

HAPPENED LAST TIME HAD A MAJORITY

'...simple enough. We want full employment.'
...o, 1964.

...conomic activity in the community must be suf-
...le jobs for all. Labour has always insisted that
...l be ensured through intelligent management of
... Labour Manifesto, 1966.

...winter of 1967-68, due to Labour government
...ere 750,000 unemployed—the highest since the

...ous attack on the Health Service made by
...nisters has been the increasing burden of pres-
...imposed by them on those least able to pay.
...ill be abolished. Our aim is to restore as rapidly
...mpletely free Health Service.'—Labour Manifesto,

...January 1968, Roy Jenkins, Labour Chancellor of
...announced a 2s 6d (12½p) charge on prescrip-
...an any charge previously introduced by the



ference. In African or Asian
state capitalisms, the government
can discipline the workers easily
because of the weakness of trade
union traditions and organisations.
In Britain the government could
face permanent civil strife as
workers refuse to be enthusiastic
over wage reductions and sackings.

The unpopularity of Labour's
industrial programme among
businessmen—which is likely to
get it diluted as capitalists wish
—will not stimulate any positive
loyalty to the government's pro-
gramme from working-class voters
and trade unionists.

With the prospect of wides-
pread discontent and mounting
class struggle what is our mys-
terious Benn likely to offer? We
should be warned that the Whizz
kid of technological socialism
keeps his democratic ideals only
for untroubled times. Propheti-
cally in a recent Fabian pamphlet
he warned: 'Authoritarianism
proper will still be necessary in
the event of military, civil,
economic, industrial, technical or
communal emergencies, which
could occur at any time.'

Fasten your seat-belts, com-
rades, those emergencies could
occur at any time. And on the
evidence of recent history they
probably will.

France, Japan
es, demand that
well and truly
Benn must be
y insisting that
e go down.
pect in Britain
vement towards
ked economy',
holdings and a
between state
ivate pickings,
ristic of many
important dif-



Benn speaking to City chiefs at a: expense account seminar in London's Hilton Hotel in June

“

*There is no question of compulsory
acquisition of the shares involved. It
would not be right to interfere in any
detail with the work of the board. It
wants to get on with its job with the
minimum of political interference.*

*We ought to accord the board
enough room to perate and give them
the sort of commercial privacy for the
negotiations which will be necessary
to make a real success of this job.*

*Tony Benn, Minister of Technology,
setting up the Shipbuilding Industry
Board under a prominent industrialist,
9 March, 1967.*

*I should like to make it clear that
there were no Labour Party or Young
Socialist people from the constituency
involved in the attempt to break up
the National Front meeting.*

*I very much regret the attempt to
silence a view, however unpalatable.
I believe we have always had in Bristol
meetings where people could express
their views whatever they are.*

*Benn quoted in the Bristol Evening
Post, 7 October.*

”

Report:
Peter Sedgwick

Drawings:
Phil Evans

e troops out!

...se wages, more
...verty than any-
...ited Kingdom.
...unemployment
...as bad as ever.
...Stormont has
...undemocratic
...Westminster, en-
...troops.
...of the crisis
...in addition, the
...and Derry have
...20,000 armed
...ets.
...are withdrawn,
...loodbath' runs
...British troops
...een wallowing
...the past 400
...into Ireland,
...one of their
...rs, 'to put the
...to the sword'.
...oing that ever
...ime time the
...berately pro-
...ctarianism and
...into fellow-
...ics.
...of Protestant
...right-wing para-
...n only be en-
...presence of the

troops.
British support, British troops
provide the essential support for
Protestant power. They give it the
confidence necessary to wage sec-
tarian war on the Catholics. As
long as Britain supports a Protes-
tant majority state in Northern
Ireland, and is prepared to com-
mit troops to support that state,
Protestant and Catholic sectar-
ianism will flourish.

The removal of the troops
would take the crutch away from
Protestant superiority. It would
weaken its confidence and its in-
fluence with the majority of
Protestant workers.

Crisis

The British presence in
Ireland encourages and reinforces
sectarianism and makes civil war
in Ireland more likely.

If the economic crisis gets
worse, troops could be used
against strikers—and they are well
trained for that task in Northern
Ireland.

If we don't fight to get the
troops out of Ireland, we'll be
playing into the hands of all

those businessmen and right-wing
Tories who would like to see the
British army used against British
workers as a way out of 'indus-
trial anarchy'.

British troops won't leave
Ireland of their own accord.
There's too much property to
defend.

Support

It's up to us to fight to get
them out, by making their dirty
colonial war so unpopular with
British workers that the Govern-
ment cannot continue with it.

That means we support all
those in Ireland who want to get
rid of British troops, including
the IRA.

When people get hysterical
about IRA bombs in Britain, tell
them that 20,000 troops in
Ireland is like 660,000 foreign
troops in Britain, occupying our
towns and cities.

Then they might see who is
the aggressor.

Mike Heym

International Socialists
For a Free Ireland

BRITISH TROOPS OUT NOW

London 27 October
RALLY AND MARCH

Jointly called by British Peace
Committee and the Troops Out
Movement.

Sunday 27 October, 1.45pm, Rally at
Clerkenwell Green, London EC1,
(Farringdon tube station). March to
Fleet Street, Trafalgar Square.
Demonstrate for the right of the
Irish people to self-determination
and against the presence of the
British army in Ireland. Demand
the immediate withdrawal of the
political and military presence in
Ireland.

Sponsored by: Stan Thorne MP,
William Wilson MP, Maureen
Colquhoun MP, John Lee MP,
Jeff Rooker MP, and Joan Maynard
MP.

All London IS branches must
support. Provincial IS branches to
send delegations where feasible.
IS Student Societies to raise the
maximum support.

The
struggle
in Ireland



Chris Harman

The aim of this pamphlet is to give a
brief history of British domination,
to show its effects on Ireland today,
to show that the problems of the
people of Ireland will not be solved
until the domination is ended, and
to indicate the way this can be done.



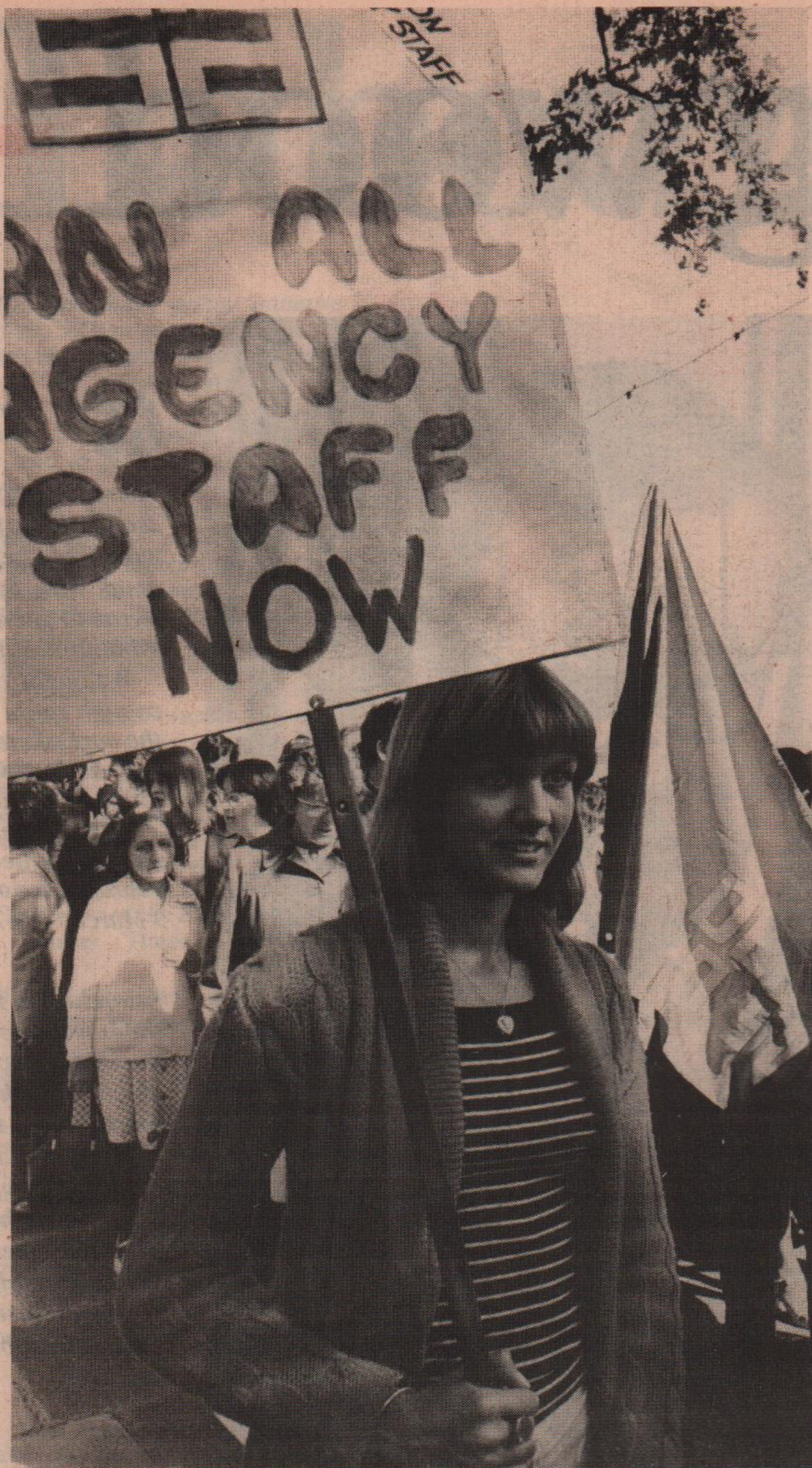
An International
Socialists
pamphlet 15p

Available from IS books, 265 Seven
Sisters Road, N4.



This is Jackie Smith, an office worker. She is a member of the Civil and Public Service Association, and she wants temporary office workers banned. She was on the march last September with thousands of other women who felt the same way.

In the building trades it's called the Lump. In offices it's called temping, in hospitals it's agency nursing. The name may be different, the problem is the same. The problem is employers who don't want to put full-time workers a decent wage, and provide decent conditions. The result? Bad pay for full-time workers, a divided workforce and no security for lumpers, agency nurses or temps. A nurse explains the problem in the National Health Service, and a secretary shows how agency workers keep bad pay, rotten hours, and rotten jobs a feature of life in the office...



Agency nursing—drug that's killing the health service

DURING THE recent nurses' struggles one of the industrial actions we used was a ban on working with agency staff.

Why did we take a move which could be seen as divisive? Well, one of the issues involved in our struggle was the degeneration of the National Health Service and involved in this degeneration was obviously the profits being made by various organisations such as the drug firms and not least the nursing agencies.

As agency nurses are obviously employed by the agency, and not the NHS, they are a mobile workforce which can be employed in any hospital where there is a staffing shortage. Hence they are used to keep the hospital staggering on and distorting the true picture of the

NHS' failure to either attract or retain staff—because of the abysmal pay and conditions.

When the agencies first appeared it was for the use of a then-limited private practice for the rich who wanted private rooms and their own personal nurses. But as the 'cracks' have deepened in the NHS agency staff have been increasingly used simply to keep wards open. Just look around you at the numbers of nursing agencies that are flourishing!

Obvious

Of course, because they are not employed directly by the hospital, agency staff also have a great 'scab' potential. As yet we have not reached the situation of strikes lasting longer

than 24 hours but even in overtime bans etc. agency nurses are the obvious answer to fill the gaps.

Simply because of the increasing numbers of agency nurses employed it was obviously a useful industrial weapon to employ to undermine the solidarity of the NHS workers. Unionising and organising cannot be done effectively inside a hospital unless you can get rid of agency staff because it must involve all layers, and all departments, of workers.

Agency nurses *cannot* be involved when their employers are the agency. They cannot even organise inside the agency as they are, through their situation, isolated inside the hospital. Hence agency staff are a stumbling block to industrial organisation in

the hospital.

The only way the agency nurse has of expressing her discontent is on a purely personal level of leaving one hospital and going to another. She has no means of fighting for change.

Having said that, I must explain that we tried, certainly in London, from the Nurses Action Group to explain to agency staff in the hospitals involved, why we were taking the action and asking them to join us in the fight.

Prepared

Why do people go into agencies? It has been said that nurses go in for freedom of choice, variation. There are probably some who do, but in fact there is rarely any choice about where you are sent and little variation in work.

The main reasons are more cash in hand, and/or more convenience in hours. For example, a married woman with children can say how many hours she is prepared to work. In fact agency nurses lose out all round. They don't get sickness benefit, paid holidays, annual increments, super-annuation etc. They can find themselves 'carrying the can' for wards and patients they may know little about.

How can nurses be kept out of agencies? Through higher wages; 24 hour nursery facilities, allowing choice of convenient hours; maternity leave, not losing increments gained through break in service, etc.

When will these be achieved? Only when fought for by strong trade union organisation *inside* the NHS hospital.

Holidays? 'Out of the question'

FOR A JUNIOR secretarial job in Whitehall, a girl needs good educational qualifications and has to pass tests in shorthand and typing. She may get £30 a week. If she fills the same job as a 'temp', through an agency, she'll probably get about £45 and the agency will pocket their commission too.

The original idea of temporary office workers was to fill in when permanent staff were sick, on holiday, or where the firm was looking for new staff. But for government departments and other large concerns like insurance companies, it has become a way of getting round staff shortages created by salary scales fixed at low levels.

Power

In some organisations agency workers made up a third, sometimes almost a half, of the total. This undermines the bargaining power of the permanent staff, and their resolve to improve their own conditions is weakened by arguments to 'join the temps' if they want a better deal.

The agencies' lavish advertisements with their emphasis on high salaries ignore the disadvantages. A

temp has no guarantee of regular work, she can be dismissed without notice, and she doesn't get paid for holidays or when she's sick.

Taking this into account, and calculating over a year, many temps are no better off than if they took permanent jobs. So why do they do it?

Trivial

For some the money is the big attraction. Girls saving up to get married, or paying off a mortgage, will work hours and hours of overtime. Others like the freedom from the petty rules of the office manager—for temps cannot be bound by the trivial regulations and minor insults which are part of the working routine to permanent staff.

Typing can be a mind-destroying job, but changing to different firms and meeting new people can give an illusion of interest and variety to what is actually very dull work. For others, temping means control over hours. If a woman needs to take a morning off, it can be made up in the afternoon or the next day without having to beg for permission. And for married women and mothers, it is useful, sometimes essential, to be able to take time off, even if it is unpaid.

An enormous proportion of office workers are women with family responsibilities, but employers still refuse to recognise the fact by making flexible arrangements. And yet their tolerance of temps proves that women can fit their responsibilities into their jobs.

When I worked for a government department, I enjoyed the work and would have accepted it as a permanent job. But I needed to be able to take off days if my son was ill or had school holidays. They smiled apologetically—'oh, no, that was out of the question.'

Mistakes

Why? They employed me for a year on that basis, so why couldn't they accept permanent staff on the same basis, and save themselves the pounds they were paying out in agency commission?

The agencies are often called parasites, and that's too nice a word for them. They are notorious for their mealy-mouthed grovelling to personnel officers, and for their offhand treatment of their workers. They're pretty inefficient too, continually making mistakes over bookings and wages.

After sending a girl for a long-term booking, where she may stay for up to two years or more, they do nothing else except collect a 40p commission for every hour she works. On a 35 hour week that's £700 commission a year—not bad for a two-minute phone call!

Civil Service office workers are threatening to refuse to work with temps. The hostility to agency labour is not a personal vendetta against those who work as temps but reflects a growing trade union consciousness among white-collar workers. A refusal to work with agency labour will force the employers to find ways of attracting and keeping permanent staff, and that means better pay and conditions for women workers.

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ON THE BOX

SATURDAY

BBC-2, 2.15pm, the repeat of the British Society for Social Responsibility OPEN DOOR (see On the Box last week). At 9.25pm on BBC-2 is Randy Newman, an American who writes perceptive, funny songs, he is featured on unperceptive, unfunny 2ND HOUSE, as are the paintings of Paul Klee and the writings of Isaac Bashevis Singer whose subject has been the Rumanian, Ukranian and Polish Jewish communities before their destruction by the Nazis.



SUNDAY

ITV, 6.15pm. Albie Sachs is a South African, imprisoned, tortured, put in solitary confinement by that country's security forces, interviewed on PRIVATE LIVES. Sam Goldwyn, the 'G' in MGM is profiled in OMNIBUS at 10pm, on BBC-1. On BBC-2 at 7.25pm THE WORLD ABOUT US covers the drought in the Sahel, south of the Sahara. The rise of farming, and the creeping growth of the desert is shattering the lives of the Tuareg. The rise of capitalist civilisation enriches, expands and builds—enslaves and totally shatters what's gone before. At 11pm on ITV George Melly introduces CINEMA which deals with the changes in films about popular music since the 1950s.



TUESDAY

BBC-1, 9.25pm. Lord Goodman is a fixer for the ruling class, solicitor for Harold Wilson, the man who tried to do a deal with Ian Smith on behalf of the last Tory government. It is appropriate that he should give the Richard Dimpleby Lecture, in honour of the late face of the ruling class. His subject is HOUSING—WHO IS TO BLAME? Answer—the employers of Messrs Goodman and the late Dimpleby...



WEDNESDAY

ITV, 9pm. At last it can be told. With the election over, Sir Hugh Cudlipp's documentary dealing with miners in Wales, slum-dwellers of Salford and teachers in London schools is being networked. The title, and the publicity for TELLING IT LIKE IT IS: CUDLIPP'S CRUSADE make one extremely suspicious.

Just what is being highlighted? The fact that this country has disgusting poverty and exploitation? Or that Cudlipp, the ex-chairman of the International Publishing Corporation, has a well publicised social conscience? ATV quote Cudlipp as saying that a 'divided Britain with over-indulgence and self-interest on one side and deprivation on the other—is an ugly spectacle,' not something which could be said of ATV or IPC profit figures...



THURSDAY

BBC-2, 10.15pm. A SPOT OF BOVVER in the MAN ALIVE series looks at the violence of teddy-boys, mods, rockers, skinheads, football supporters. It does not deal with the violence of police, soldiers, the state, capitalism, or the education system, and will doubtless be the usual load of sociological clap-trap urging that something be 'done'.



FRIDAY

BBC-1, 10.15pm. FACING THE DICTATORS is a filmed interview with Anthony Eden about his meetings in the 1930s with Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini.

In the years after the Russian revolution, and even after the final triumph of Stalin the Soviet cinema produced many great films. Alexander Dovzhenko's EARTH, on at 9.25pm BBC-2, is one of them.

Its subject is the struggle between the poor and rich peasantry, a struggle which off the screen and in the hands of Stalin's army, was to cost the lives of upwards of nine million people.

SCIENCE in the hands of capitalism . . . In South Vietnam enough crops to feed 900,000 people a year are destroyed so the United States can 'keep the world safe for freedom.'

In India, another famine takes the lives of thousands of peasants. Those who survive, such as this girl at a village near Bankura, are forced to live on grass and snails.

Science could be put to fighting such famines . . . but where is the profit in that?



What have they done to the rain?

MAN-MADE earthquakes and tidal waves . . . the melting of the polar icecaps to cause flooding . . . increasing ultra-violet radiation from the sun to cause damage to animal and human life . . . and the modifying of the electrical properties of the atmosphere to affect your brain and behaviour.

These are just some of the 'environmental weapons' now being investigated by the United States Department of Defence.

These chilling facts were revealed at the hearings of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this year. Meanwhile, look what they've done to the rain.

At the same hearings, Pentagon officials admitted that they had been using weather modifications as a weapon of warfare in Indo-China since 1966.

Destroy

According to Lt Col Seyster: 'The programme was to increase rainfall sufficiently in carefully selected target areas to soften the road surfaces, cause landslides along roadways and to wash out river crossings.'

But the main target was the rice crop, the staple food for most Vietnamese.

By seeding clouds with silver or lead iodide, the rainy season could be prolonged and major flooding produced to sweep away dikes, and destroy crops and irrigation systems.

Up to 1972, the US Air Force flew 2,602 cloud-seeding missions from its bases in Thailand and dropped a total of 47,409 canisters of rainmaking chemicals over Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

This was supplemented in the autumn of 1972 by the systematic bombing of the irrigation network of North Vietnam.

In South Vietnam alone this 'Food Denial Programme'—which included the dropping of millions of plant-killing chemicals—destroyed food which would have fed 900,000 people a year.

But peasants of Vietnam are not the only victims of the Pentagon rain-makers.

In 1972, Rapid City in South Dakota was devastated by a flash flood in which 230 people were drowned.

A government report now discloses that two plane-loads of rain-making chemicals were dumped onto the clouds before the storm broke in an experiment called Project Cloud Catcher undertaken by the Departments of Defence and the Interior and the South Dakota School of Mines.

The aim appeared to be to use rainmaking to create difficulties for 'enemies', but the chemically-seeded clouds were blown into the main storm mass and produced a chain reaction which resulted in a down-

By
DAVE PEERS

fall of 50,000,000 metric tons of artificial rain.

The report absolves all concerned of any blame. Most of the victims were American Indians.

Military rain-making and plant-killing programmes illustrate just how integrated basic scientific research has become with war technology.

What could appear more innocent than the investigation carried out by the Department of Physics at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology into 'the role of electrical forces in the development and dissipation of clouds and fogs'?

The scientists who carried out the project probably saw only the beneficial effects it could have in improving the safety of motorways and airfields.

And yet the project was financed by the US military, and when the head of the Pentagon's European

Research Office was told that some of his sponsored researchers were denying that their work had military applications his comment was simply: 'If it's not military, they're not doing it for the United States'.

The extension of the tentacles of the military into every aspect of basic scientific research, seeking to transform every discovery into a new tool of death and destruction, is a striking example of the bankruptcy of this social system.

The techniques of modern industry open the possibilities of a world freed from hunger, disease and conflict, but they are perverted to serve the interests of the lethal competition of capitalist states and firms.

In the Communist Manifesto, Marx likened the capitalist class to the sorcerer who is no longer able to control the powers of the nether world he has called up by his spells.

The powers now unleashed are so destructive that the struggle to disarm and overthrow the capitalist system is now also a basic struggle for survival.

TRADE union branches are responding to the Rank and File Organising Committee's appeal to adopt imprisoned Chilean trade unionists.

The committee have received sums of money which they will pass on to the World Council of Churches. The WCC is able to see that it gets to the families of these trade unionists, many of whom are near to starvation because of rampant inflation and the imprisonment of one or other of their parents.

The committee have also had requests from union branches to send delegates on a deputation, planned for later this month, to the Chilean Embassy.

The committee is urging organisations of trade unionists to persuade their employers to issue invitations to Chilean prisoners to work here, as

Chile: How you can help

this is the only approved way of getting trade unionists out of jail.

To get a work permit, an OW1 form must be filled in signed and stamped by the employer, and then returned to a local employment exchange.

The permit should then be sent to the relevant War Council in Chile (which can decide on the prisoners'

fate) and copies sent to the prisoners' family or the Church Committee. Addresses of all these bodies can be obtained from the Rank and File Organising Committee.

Blacked

The committee also has lists of firms handling Chilean products and exporting British goods to Chile. They must be boycotted and blacked.

For any of this information—and details of how trade union organisations can get copies of Helios Prieto's book 'The gorillas are amongst us' at reduced rates—contact the National Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

Branches which adopt prisoners are urged to inform the Committee.

CATERING WORKERS STEP UP THE FIGHT

ISSUE Number Three of Hotel and Catering Worker, the rank and file paper for workers ground down by the 'leisure' combines, is now in preparation. Contributions and orders should be sent to 345 Hangleton Road, Hove, Sussex.

The issue will come out in the wake of a significant victory. Workers in the Wimpy bars in Romford, London have won union recognition.

They came out on strike in support of their sacked shop stewards at the end of August.

On the second day of the strikes, one blackleg attacked with a knife the President of the Union of Turkish Progressives, Mr Haluk Yurtsever, who joined the pickets in sympathy.

Mr Yurtsever defended himself with a banner. He was promptly arrested by the police for carrying an 'offensive weapon' and later charged with this offence, found guilty and fined £50. He was also in danger of being deported.

But the Turkish workers sent an appeal for support and threatened a wider strike involving the International Branch of T&G if the deportation was enforced.

The man trying to take the Hoover strikers to the cleaners



John Boyd: a new study by Evans, commissioned by the workers of Hoover in appreciation for his support of their fight for a living wage

IT ISN'T only in the conference room that the leaders of the AUEW engineering section are showing their qualified opposition to the Social Contract to be a complete sham. They are also doing the job with considerable gusto at Hoover's Cambuslang plant in Scotland, where more than 3000 workers have now been on unofficial strike for more than five weeks.

The hatchet is being wielded by the appalling Scottish executive member, John Boyd. But he is being given full support in his scandalous activities by the men of the 'left' who sit beside him on the executive.

Boyd's latest outburst on the Hoover struggle came in the pages of Scotland's mass-selling Daily Record. He attacked the stewards as 'unco-operative' and 'would bring the might of the AUEW executive to bear on them'.

Performance

Four weeks ago, Boyd put in another balanced and reasonable performance. He appeared at the Mid-Lanark district committee, to which the Hoover stewards had been summoned.

From the start to finish, he kept telling the stewards they must go back to work. Nothing they could say would, he announced, change his mind.

This was a not untypical performance from a man recently seen at a union meeting in East Kilbride dressed in his Salvation Army uniform.

Boyd also tried to threaten the stewards over the calling of mass meetings. Not that there has been any lack of democracy in the conduct of the strike. Boyd just wanted another opportunity for his assistants,



Brothers Aitken and Milligan, to beat the drum for a return to work.

He announced that if the stewards did not stage a mass meeting in line with his requirements, the union executive would.

Boyd's ploy failed. The stewards did call a mass meeting—but it once again overwhelmingly re-affirmed the decision to stay out.

Meanwhile, the 'lefts' on the executive have been nowhere to be seen in the dispute. Boyd has had a free hand to deal with the strikers.

Even more interestingly, Boyd and two other executive members met Hoover in secret national negotiations.

It is not yet known who the other two were. But it is thought that they were not both right wingers.

The negotiations breached all the procedures set out in the Hoover agreement.

Fortunately, the strikers are sticking together. And, of course, they are learning a thing or two.

Hoover is one place where Boyd would normally expect to pick up votes in the current election for AUEW general secretary. Now his recent intervention may well have enlightened some of his erstwhile supporters.

A vote for broad left candidate Bob Wright will stop the union being manoeuvred to the right. But is that

enough?

The Hoover strike has, among other things, shown that you cannot trust your destiny to 'left-wingers' holding national office.

To defeat the right you need a fighting strategy and a fighting movement which will put pressure on leaders to lead. And if they do not lead, that movement must be able to deliver the goods they keep in such short supply.

SW ban

THE Wakefield and Dewsbury District Committee has sent a resolution to the AUEW Executive about the withholding of press credentials from Socialist Worker.

The resolution, from TASS Burnley branch, expresses grave concern about the refusal to grant Socialist Worker press credentials for the attendance of conferences, which the press in general are normally allowed to attend.

And it adds: 'Although the executive of AUEW may have certain (possibly personal) grievances with this paper, this branch maintains that, as a definite working-class paper it has more right to access than such anti-working class papers as the Daily Telegraph, the Daily Express and the Daily Mail.'

Witch — hunters on the move

JOHN FRASER, NALGO's witch-hunter extraordinaire has made another move against members of the rank and file pressure group NALGO Action. At a meeting of the executive of NALGO's Leeds branch last Monday he and his associates moved against three NALGO Action members.

Fraser put a motion of no confidence in the three on the grounds that they had broken a mandate imposed on them by a Leeds branch executive decision.

The three argued that the committee decision had been over-ridden by that of a full meeting. Therefore they were entitled to abstain on a delegate vote in the course of the London weighting struggle.

The vote of no confidence, when first put, was not

carried, the vote being 32 to 32. It was then taken again and carried 34 to 33. This means that the three are no longer members of the branch executive, which, it seems, is not controlled by the branch, but by its own members.

The gentlemen so worried by 'conspiracies' and 'alleged intrigue' in NALGO resorted to manoeuvre to get their way.

Normally the branch executive takes correspondence first. But this was avoided, perhaps because to have done so would have raised some intriguing issues. Issues such as the Press backing for Brother Fraser's Save NALGO campaign, his letter on the subject, which is full of smears and distortion, and NALGO Action's reply.

ADVERTISEMENT

FIGHT WAGE RESTRAINT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Support the Second National Rank and File Conference

Saturday 30 November, Digbeth Hall, Birmingham

Make sure your shop stewards committee, union branch or district committee is supporting this important conference.

Delegates' credentials 50p

The Rank and File Conference Organising Committee has compiled verifiable lists of imprisoned Chilean trade unionists in all the main industrial and service sectors for adoption by British trade union bodies. Copies of these and a covering letter can be obtained from the secretary.

If you want credentials, get your trade union branch or shop stewards' committee to fill in this form and sent it to the Secretary, Rank and File Conference Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

Send us credentials for _____ delegates to the Rank and File Conference on November 30.

NAME OF TRADE UNION BODY _____

ADDRESS _____

Jail savagery protest

HULL:-50 people, mainly from Clann na h'Eireann and the International Socialists picketed the local prison last Sunday. They were protesting over the treatment of Irish republican prisoners Bobby Gallagher, Martin Brady and Father Patrick Fell.

Bobby Gallagher had smuggled out a letter to the republican paper *Rose Catha* describing the conditions the prisoners were working under. 16 men work in a 20-by-10 yards shed making toy soldiers. They are supposed to make 16 gross a week for 60p. Many prisoners don't get this—because of an 'incentive bonus scheme'.

For writing this letter, Gallagher was thrown into a punishment cell where four warders beat him savagely with batons, and one tried to choke him—causing him to pass out. Then he was given 14 days solitary confinement for a 'breach of the prison regulations'.

Father Fell was given solitary for a similar letter to the *Irish Post* and Martin Brady was subjected to a brutal attempt at forced feeding during his May hunger strike. Bobby is denied visiting rights from



all but his immediate family.

The Home Office denies that he has been beaten or put in solitary. Bradford North's Labour MP, Ben Ford refused to take action because Gallagher had made no formal complaint to the prison authorities—the people who'd beaten him.

The protests have led to a reduction in the harassment. Clann are demanding an end to the victimisation, a public inquiry into the Hull jail situation and political status for these Republican prisoners.

THE Scottish National Party is now hailed as the second political party in Scotland after the election results. Although Labour remains the biggest Scottish Party the

SNP comes second in numbers of votes and is the main challenge left to Labour in most working class constituencies.

How is it possible for a right wing party such as the SNP to take, even temporarily, such industrial seats as Govan and, several years ago, Hamilton?

An excellent pamphlet produced by Glasgow International Socialists should be read by every Scottish socialist. The author looks under the rhetoric of nationalism to show the SNP's main campaign slogan—it's Scotland's oil—is not just a public relations job for the big oil companies (whose oil it really is) but an attempt by some of the Edinburgh bankers to increase their share of the gravy.

The pamphlet looks at the SNP's record. Apart from their verbal militancy in Clydebank over the rents fight, where they postured against increases after the Labour and CP councillors had voted for them, their record is one of vicious anti-trade unionism and more than a tinge of racialism.

The pamphlet is available from IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow, price 3p.

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.



WHAT'S ON

IS public meetings

PRESTON IS now meet every Thursday, 8pm, at The Jutland, Jutland Street, off Meadow Street, Preston. All SW readers welcome.

TOTTENHAM IS JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 26 October, 2pm, Earlsmead School, Broad Lane, Tottenham, N15. If you have any bric-a-brac or jumble we will be pleased to collect (within a reasonable distance). Please ring 808 8553.

NORTH WEST LONDON District IS public meeting to celebrate the anniversary of the October Revolution. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 24 October, 8pm, Willesden Junction Hotel, Harlesden, London NW10.

GREATER LONDON COUNCIL IS public meeting: The Struggle for Socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot (editor, *Socialist Worker*). Thursday 24 October, Waterloo Action Centre, Bayliss Road (near the Old Vic). All welcome.

CROYDON IS public meeting: Law and Order. Speaker: Laurie Flynn (*Socialist Worker* reporter). Thursday 24 October, 8pm, Ruskin House, corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane.

KINGSTON IS now meet every Thursday at the Three Tuns, London Road, 8pm. All SW readers welcome.

CAMBRIDGE IS public meeting: The Lessons of Chile. Speaker: An International Socialist from Latin America. Wednesday 23 October, 8pm-9.30pm, The Chetwynd Room, Kings College.

CHESTERFIELD IS public meeting: Socialism—not the Social Con-trick. Speaker: Duncan Hallas (editor, *International Socialism Journal*). Tuesday 22 October, 8pm, Market Hall, Chesterfield.

LONDON IS public meeting: The Rise of Fascism in Germany and Italy. Speaker: Colin Sparks, Sunday 27 October, 7.30pm, The Roebuck, 108a Tottenham Court Road. Organised by the IS History Group.

Meetings for IS members

MEETING of ex-servicemen in IS: Saturday 19 October, 12.30pm, Manchester University (Oxford Road, 2 mins from city centre). Accommodation provided, showing of film *Blow for Blow* in evening. Agenda being circulated.

WEEKEND SCHOOL for black and Asian members of IS: Friday evening-Sunday 1-3 November at the Clarion International Youth Centre, Brixton, South London. Cost £3.50 (payable in advance as a booking fee.) Bed and breakfast at the youth centre. A pooled fare system to cover travel costs. Further details from Nigel Harris, IS, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

LONDON IS student aggregate meeting: Wednesday 23 October, 7pm, Central London Poly Students Union, Bolsover Street, London W1. All London IS students MUST attend or send apologies to the secretary, London Student Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF IS STUDENT SOCIETIES Conference: Saturday 2 November, Leeds University. Two delegates per IS Society. Credentials from Pete Gillard, c/o Leeds University Students Union, Leeds.

NATIONAL IS STUDENTS advisory committee: Saturday 19 October, 10.30am, North London Poly, Holloway Road (nearest tube Holloway Road). One delegate per student cell to attend.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF IS STUDENT SOCIETIES Rally and disco: Friday 15 November, London School of Economics. Speakers: Paul Foot (editor, *Socialist Worker*), Dick North (chairman, Rank and File Organising Committee) and a student speaker. Tickets 10p from a Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS SCHOOL ON ITALY: Saturday 26 October, 2pm-5pm, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. For further details phone 06284-2671.

IS AND EAST EUROPE: A meeting will be held on Sunday 27 October to set up an IS East European group under the International Sub-committee. The agenda will be in three parts: 1. East Europe in Crisis—Chris Harman. 2. The politics of the Russian opposition—D Hughes. 3. Practical proposals and organisation. All comrades fluent in East European languages should attend. All other interested comrades welcome. See next week's *Socialist Worker* for time and place.

ATCOE: Will any IS members in this union contact ATTI fraction secretary re joint work after merger of two unions. Write to Vince Hall, 24 Estcourt Terrace, Leeds 6.

AUEW weekend meeting: Blackpool, Friday 25 October, 6pm, to Sunday midday. All IS AUEW shop stewards, convenors and district committee delegates should attend. Accommodation and meals £3.50. Wives and families welcome. Bookings and further details from fraction secretary, 25 Selborne Road, Birmingham 20. Phone 021-554 1193.

IS Notices

IS INDUSTRIAL DEPT urgently require volunteers to help generally in office, typing a great advantage (IS members only). Please phone Maggie Rutter on 739 6273.

IS urgently requires a permanent part-time officer worker. Hours can be arranged. Typing an advantage. Phone Judith Cohen at 01-739 1878.

Canterbury IS wants jumble. Anyone with any jumble to give away for a 'Defend Socialist Worker Jumble Sale' please contact Canterbury IS, 1 St Thomas Hill, Canterbury.

POSTERS and leaflets for IS Societies available from John Cox, c/o Dundee IS Society Bookshop, 4 Roseangle, Dundee.

THE AGITATOR, new journal for students produced by National Student Committee of IS. Articles on grants campaign, fascists, crisis in education, 10p from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

OUT-OF-PRINT pamphlets and books by International Socialists: a few copies of each available. *The Struggle for Socialism* (5p), *Unemployment and How to Fight It*, by Chris Harman and Dave Peers (5p), *The Employers' Offensive—Productivity Deals and how to fight them*, by Tony Cliff (30p), *The Fight against Racism*, by Mike Caffoor (5p), *The Postal Workers, Strike*, by Paul Foot (5p), *The Struggle for Bangladesh*, by Nigel Harris (15p). Post free from Peter Marsden (treasurer, Mid-Herts IS), c/o Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

IS COMRADE needs room in flat or house with other IS comrades, North or East London. Phone 274 2405.



Members of the International Socialists and other socialist organisations picketing the Chilean Embassy last week after the murder of Miguel Enriquez, general secretary of the MIR, by the Chilean Junta. Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)

FACTORY BRANCHES: IT'S UP TO US

EVERYONE in IS can help to build factory branches. That was the message from the newly-elected IS National Committee, which met last Saturday.

The new composition of the committee—which has 22 manual workers and six white collar militants on it—became immediately clear in the discussion.

'Every issue in our organisation' said Steve Jeffreys, industrial organiser, 'should be dealt with in relation to the growth and development of factory branches. National Committee members must take a lead by building factory branches in their own factories and in their own areas.'

A conference of factory branches is being called on 22 February.

Several members spoke of the difficulties in building workplace

STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

LOCAL IS Societies are being united in the newly created National Organisation of IS Societies which will, based on the politics of IS, intervene in a national and local level to lead the immediate struggle facing us and help build a revolutionary leadership in the student movement.

That leadership would link the movement to the only force that can lead

branches. Eddie Prevost from the London docks said that many workers who join IS did not know about the structure of the organisation, and that this matter should be cleared up in a simple pamphlet.

A hospital worker and shop steward said that members in factory branches were often expected to sustain themselves on industrial militancy alone. Their only contact with the organisation was on industrial matters. What was needed was more politics and political discussion.

Several members, including a civil

the fight for socialism—the working class. An inaugural conference of NOISS is to be held on 2 November in Leeds University. Each IS Society should send two delegates.

On 15 November, the day of the national grants demonstration, a rally will be held at the LSE to which all student militants are welcome.

service union member, underlined the importance of strengthening the links between geographical branches and factory branches. Each member of a geographical branch had a role to play in strengthening the factory branches in their area.

Andreas Nagliatti, Liverpool organiser, said that in his area they were setting up three new factory branches. Branches should not be set up, he said, unless there was a shop steward in the factory, or someone fighting elections for steward.

'In Liverpool, he said, we had to build a geographical branch in Halewood before we could establish factory branches in the area'. Meetings and political activity outside the factory were crucial to the survival of the factory branch.

Responding to a call from Jim Nichol to explain how members in geographical branches could help, Willie Lee, shop stewards' chairman from Chrysler Linwood, said that they had had some difficulty in building

factory branches in his area earlier in the year.

'The Glasgow branch was split up into cells' he said. 'Each cell operated around a factory branch. Our main perspective for all our members was to build the factory branches'.

Both Tommy Douras, a Liverpool building worker, and Gerry Jones, from Chrysler Coventry, argued the importance of new worker militants in the leadership of the District. Otherwise, they tended to drop out of IS activity because they could not see what they could do.

During its meeting, the National Committee elected its executive and nine sub-committees which will deal with all the main areas of political work.

Jim Nichol was elected National Secretary, Paul Foot, editor of *Socialist Worker*; Chris Harman, political editor, *Socialist Worker*, Duncan Hallas, editor of *International Socialism*.

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.

INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL FOR CHILEAN RESISTANCE: Organised by Artists for Democracy. Opens Monday 14 October, 8pm, at Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London. All welcome. Donations/messages of support to Artists for Democracy, 14 West Central Street, London WC1A 1JH. Support the international struggle against fascism!

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE on Sex Discrimination and Social Security. Saturday 19 October, John Cass College, Whitechapel, East London. Organised by National Federation of Claimants Unions. All welcome. Full details from CU, 207 Raiton Road, London SE24 (phone 01-733 8663).

NALGO ACTION GROUP Annual Conference: Weekend 19-20 October, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Sackville Street, Manchester. Admission by Supporters' Card only. Further details from NAG, 212 Camden Road, London NW1.

MONTHLY BULLETIN on Portugal and the Portuguese workers' struggles published by the Portuguese Workers' Committee. Subscribe now. 18 Fleet Road, London, E3. Annual Sub: 70p.

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT Prepare for October 27 National Mobilisation of Ireland Demand: British Troops Out Now! Self-Determination for the Irish People as a Whole. Smash British Imperialism in Ireland. Rally at Clerkenwell Green, North London, 1.45pm, Sunday 27 October. March to Fleet Street, and Trafalgar Square. Sponsored by five Labour MPs. Bulk orders of leaflets and posters from Ad Hoc Committee, 84 Claverton Street, London, SW1.

BIG FLAME public meeting: The Struggle in Ireland. Friday 25 October, 7.30pm, at 21 Star Street, London W2 (nearest tube Edgware Road).

CONFERENCE OF RADICAL SCHOLARS OF SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES: Friday 25 October, Mechanical Engineering Building, Exhibition Road, Imperial College, London SW7. Friday 8pm: Bob Sutcliffe on Cuba. Saturday 10am: Michael Kidron on Inflation and Deflation. 2pm: Pierre Naville on Roots of the Sino-Soviet Conflict. 8pm: Norman Tera on Rosa Luxemburg and the Russian Revolution. Conference charge: £1.75 (£1 for students).

NATIONAL MASS RALLY to support SEI women strikers, entering their tenth week of equal pay strike. Saturday 19 October, 2pm, at Heywood, near Manchester. Coaches leave London 9am from York Way, Kings Cross (limited seats). Further details from Ingrid or Dodie at 01-278 9526.

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT public meeting: Wednesday 23 October, 8pm, Labour Club, Lewes Road, Brighton. National speakers. All welcome.

LATIN AMERICAN FRONT presents PUERTO RICO: A COLONY OF THE UNITED STATES. Three films: 'Culebra: The Beginning' (Diego de la Texera, 1970, 20 mins), documentary about the struggles of the people of Culebra, a small island off the coast of Puerto Rico used by the US and its allies as a target area for bombing practice with live ammunition; 'Young Lords' (New York Newsreel, 1971, 42 mins), documentary about a Puerto Rican street gang in New York City who evolved into a revolutionary organisation; and 'Superport' (Tomas Morales, 1974, 20 mins), slide show about the disastrous petroleum superport planned for the island. Tuesday 22 October, 7pm, Architectural Association (top floor), 34 Bedford Square, London WC1.

THE OTHER CINEMA, Collegiate Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, Euston, London WC1 (phone 01-734 8508). Sunday 20 October only: 3.30pm Volker Schlöndorff's SUMMER LIGHTENING; 6pm Wiseman documentary LAW AND ORDER, plus Firestone's ATTICA, 9pm premiere Leduc's REED: INSURGENT MEXICO, based on John Reed's book.

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE OF THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT 1974—a dossier of papers, resolutions, reports of workshops. Canterbury Radical Women's Group is compiling a dossier from the conference, expected price 25p. Groups and individuals please send workshop reports and papers, etc, from the conference to Radical Women's Group, c/o Students Union, University of Kent, Canterbury.

ANYONE interested in joining a small new group (3 adults plus 2 children) living communally in a large house in Colchester, write to Brian, Hilary and Ray, 31 Wellesley Road, Colchester. Ultimate aim active socialist non-nuclear family group.

NORTH WEST PLATFORM Rank and file paper for busworkers in the North West Issue no 2 OUT NEXT WEEK. Price 5p. Articles include: Asian busworkers: victory at Burnley and special roundup of countrywide militancy from Fife, Glasgow, Mansfield, Leicester. Orders (with cash please) to Les Kay, 18 Pitt Street, Blackburn, Lancashire.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY aims at building a moneyless world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leadership, all racism, all war. Write for specimen socialist literature to One World (SW), The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London, SW4

WHO does this punk Woodrow Wyatt think he is? In his column in this week's Sunday Mirror, he manages to stick his nose into the affairs of the AUEW. On the coming elections for general secretary and other positions, he writes: 'Here are the names of first rate candidates whom the Communists and extremists do not want elected.'

This is amazing. How does he know they're first rate candidates when he's never been in the AUEW in his life? Why does he recommend these people in union elections when he's not a member but a boss?

In whose interests does Woodrow Wyatt campaign in the pages of the Sunday Mirror? Consider a few facts:

Woodrow Wyatt owns a printing firm called WW Offset which has factories in Banbury and Welwyn Garden City. They are profitable firms, printing anything from FA News to Soviet Weekly. He is in fact one of the parasites who

by Bob Edwards

lives off the back of the working class.

Each column 'earns' him at least four times the pre-tax weekly wage of most engineering workers. The Mirror is owned by Reed International—profits £22 million in one quarter—whose shareholders sit on their arses all day long doing nothing other than living off the sweat and blood of their workers.

Bearing in mind these facts, what would you do if you were Woodrow Wyatt? Would you recommend candidates in the AUEW election who opposed redundancies and fought for a living wage?

Would you hell! You'd push for the candidates who would help you keep your profits rolling in, and the dividend cheques rolling out. You'd campaign for the biggest cowards and creeps in the trade union movement.

You'd extol them as men of reason and moderation, and you'd try to kid workers on

that what is best for you, is best for them.

You'd support the candidates who prefer pin stripe suits to overalls, candidates who enjoy being JPs and sending people to prison, candidates who like a 'good lunch' and a glass of sherry with the boss.

And that, of course, is exactly what Woodrow Wyatt is doing in the Sunday Mirror. It is crystal clear that his gang, if elected, won't do AUEW members any good.

John Boyd, the right-wing candidate for the AUEW general secretaryship, is always on about the menace of outside interference in the affairs of the union. Being a reasonable man he does make exceptions—for outsiders like millionaire Woodrow Wyatt, who surprise surprise supports Brother J Boyd and his kind.

Meanwhile, Mr Wyatt could perhaps tell us how he finances the wonderful little magazine The Welsh Worker which by some strange stroke of chance, has exactly the same list of geniuses for high office in the AUEW.

It's a free country... if you keep your mouth shut

DONCASTER: TGWU members at International Harvesters' Wheatley plant are on strike for the reinstatement of their victimised senior steward Ian McClelland. He was sacked last week on a trumped-up charge of absenteeism.

Mac has played a key role on the shop stewards committee in preparing and arguing for the new pay claim. Harvester workers have in recent years, only got wage increases within the limits of the Tory pay norms.

But now militant stewards are determined to lead a serious fight for £12 a week on the basic rate.

The sacking is clearly an attempt to weaken the stewards committee in preparation for the struggle over the claim.

Brian Kelly, AUEW steward, told Socialist Worker that he had expected the bosses to move against McClelland for some time. 'I would compare Mac's sacking with those of John Worth at Chrysler and Alan Thornett at British Leyland, earlier in the year.'

The company's claim that Mac was removed for absenteeism does not stand up. No previous warning had been given and there is a procedure of verbal and written warnings.

This was made clear in further talks with management. They then said they would reinstate him, provided he resigned as senior steward.

BOSSSES' PLOY FAILS

By Mick Presland UCATT Convenor.

MILTON KEYNES: Quick, united action has led to the reinstatement of six men sacked on Mowlem's Steinbern factory site. Management said the sackings were for 'bad workmanship'.

But a mass meeting of the 250 men on that and other Mowlem sites saw it as a case of victimisation of the charge hand because of his known militancy. They voted for an immediate strike on the four sites. After a day, management caved in.

Strike backs militant

BRIXTON: Carpenters at the Fitzpatrick site have struck in support of Lou Lewis, leading militant and member of the Communist Party, who has been victimised yet again by the building employers. The carpenters are sub-contracted by Howard's.

The job is in two phases and the site agreement states that when work runs out on Phase 1, there is automatic transfer to Phase 2. This agreement obviously does not apply to militants.

The first four carpenters were transferred but Lou Lewis was offered another job on a tiny site four miles away, where he could obviously do less harm as far as management were concerned.

The carpenters struck and went to the Regional Panel, who recommended that he be transferred to Phase 2. The company have refused to implement this.

The building employers, are showing their usual rather ruthless determination to rid the sites of anyone who stands in the way of their profitable policy of keeping the industry unorganised.

Management have broken the site agreement, which happens daily in in-



John Ramos: sacked

STEWARDS VICTIMISED AFTER YEAR OF THREATS

by Norman MacLean EETPU

MITCHAM: EETPU shop steward John Ramos has been victimised after working in Mullards CRT shop for three years.

A year ago, he came into the running for shop steward. He then received official warnings for a day off sick and for talking. He got another for 'attitude', another for not washing enough TV tubes, although not told of a change in the standard wanted.

He was warned for going to buy food in his break. This had been

normal practice. He was suspended after his doctor said he should not wash tubes. The heat and damp of this job was opening a wrist wound.

Other workers had been moved off it because of its effects on the skin and chest. Management had agreed not to leave workers on it, but John was suspended.

He carried on working because of his members' support. Finally John was sacked for fighting. The company rule is that any two workers fighting get sacked. John was attacked by Bro Belfon, who had a long record of fighting.

On four occasions, Bro Belfon hit or tried to hit a fellow worker in front of witnesses. He wasn't sacked. He broke nearly every decision taken by the shop and this suited the management.

System

Conditions in CRT are very bad. Tubes blow up, spraying glass around. The work is very heavy. In summer the temperature reaches 115 degrees. When CRT opened, the pay was £19 a week. It is now £42.

CRT workers have had to struggle. Their first action was to refuse to do work tickets. Bro Belfon did them. Then they joined the TUC Day of Action. Bro Belfon worked.

Later the shop took action for more money. Again Belfon worked. He spent more time in the office than the shop stewards. Finally he was used by the management to sack Bro Ramos.

The company have been out to smash the CRT group bonus scheme. They want a blue-eyed boy system of different workers on different classifications with different bonuses, some on staff, some not. Bro Ramos has led the resistance to this.

ALAN FROST, EETPU shop steward at Clarke and Smith in Wallington, South London has been victimised. Management accused him of malingering, reading newspapers and 'sabotage'.

Little incidents like this have been going on for ages. This one follows a number of attempts by management to break the strong union organisation on the job. They think that because of high unemployment in the building industry they will be able to hire and fire as in the old days. They want to withdraw facilities for stewards and stop mass meetings during working hours. But we shall fight hard to defend out rights to organise and run the job.

dustry, because all managers are only interested in agreements which suit them and their profits.

And every time we read the daily rubbish pumped out in the press about workers and unions not keeping to their promises we should remember all the cases like this one, which shows that the only agreements which the rich parasites agree to are those which promise to keep the working class under their exploitation, and to maintain and increase their profits.

The blacklist and victimisation must be fought to prevent the situation where people like Lou can be mucked about at management's will.

On Saturday he and three of his comrades got a dose of the treatment:

FORCED OUT AFTER ONE WEEK

HIGH WYCOMBE: IS member Ken Johnstone has been victimised by the engineering firm Broom and Wade. He started there last week.

Offered a job as a progress chaser, he applied for membership of the engineering section of the AUEW through his shop steward. He was proposed by the shop steward and seconded by the Branch secretary.

familiar to workers who dare to stand up against the employers.

At Camberwell Court, Lewis was fined £30 for criminal damages he was supposed to have committed during a strike demo. Richard Martin and Patrick O'Neal were fined £10 for obstruction. This is the same sum Imperial Metal Industries was fined earlier this year for killing six workers in an avoidable explosion at their plant in Birmingham.

The three workers were bound over to keep the peace for 12 months. IMI however is subject to no such binding over order. They are free to slaughter again at any time and are subject only to a maximum fee of £10.

As Ken was talking to his shop steward he was approached by Plummer, head of production and buying, and asked to accompany him to his office.

There he was told he had been sacked. Management refused to give any reason for the sacking.

Plummer while escorting Ken from the premises, said: 'No doubt we will be seeing you again.' No doubt he will.

THE JACKBOOTS OF CAPITALISM

WESTHOUGHTON, Lancs:-The engineering workers locked out by Metal Box occupied the plant last week after police turned up in force to see delivery trucks through the picket line.

A fully-laden convoy of six company trucks were escorted through the picket line. One of the drivers was a TGWU steward who had spent all that morning promising he wouldn't allow the lorries to break the picket as long as it was peaceful.

Joe Becket, AUEW convenor, told Socialist Worker the drivers had a bodyguard of two police inspectors, one superintendent, four sergeants, a dozen coppers, two vans of dogs and, for good measure, two police vans parked around the corner. With this protection even stray cattle would get through the picket line.

Charlie Lamb, chairman of the Metal Box combine described the police as 'the jackboots of capitalism'.

So the 75-strong picket occupied the factory that night. The gas was turned off, the gates chained, the entrance blocked. One engineering worker told Socialist Worker: 'It's obvious, the only way to fight picket-breaking is to occupy.'

Tommy Riley, a TGWU member in the factory, told Socialist Worker: 'The factory was taken over by the engineers last week. They immediately stopped all production lines. What a great feeling—all the things we say about workers' control were taking place. Workers were saying: "It's our factory, we control it". And management were powerless to stop it.'

LOCK-OUT

'Questions are now being asked about all this talk of management being all-powerful. It is not the workers who have the power?'

'The engineers have now locked management out of their offices, so their hold is complete.'

The dispute started as a work-to-rule over a 40p-an-hour pay claim—to which management retaliated with a lock-out.

The battle has to be stepped up. On Monday the chairman and secretary of the combine committee, Charlie Lamb and Alan Atkins from Mansfield Metal Box, attended a mass meeting at Westhoughton which urged all shop stewards committees in Metal Box to call on management to end the lock-out.

The combine is putting into action a national 13-point work to rule, including an overtime ban and no shift work.

Messages of support, news of action and money to be sent to the Shop Stewards Committee, c/o 5 Manley Crescent, Westhoughton, Lancs.

POLICE SMASH PICKET SO WORKERS OCCUPY



Inside the Metal Box occupation. Workers were saying: 'It's our factory, we control it.' Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Fords on warpath

FORD'S are on the offensive again—and once more the trade union officials and plant convenors are doing nothing about it.

In fact, both sides of the Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee are trying to get the new deal signed and sealed as quickly as possible. Yet the proposed agreement is unacceptable on several counts.

The £10 offer for a flat 40-hour week on days to the B grade worker—who makes up four-fifths of the work force—includes money which has already been paid.

The £3 'preparation and clean up time' was won by many line workers earlier in the year. Any new wage agreement must be on top of it. The company has already given a firm pledge that this will happen at the Ford Leamington plant.

Under the new agreement, threshold payments will not be paid for September and October.

Ford's are still trying to slide official company spies into the plant. They no longer call them 'utility men' but 'lead operatives'. Whatever the name, they mean increased control over the shop floor with speed-ups, more work and fewer men.

Whether the agreement runs for 17 months or two years, Ford workers will become steadily worse off. Harold Wilson said on television that further massive price increases are on the way. Inflation cuts the value of our wages week by week.

For the last two years Ford's have made record profits. Britain is now the most profitable section of their empire.

They have never been in a better position to pay decent wages. We should throw out the new 'offer' and go for what the Ford Leamington Shop Stewards are claiming—£14 across the board now and a 35-hour week.

ENGINEERS OCCUPY

by Jim Tolton, AUEW

LEICESTER:—Press shop operators at Economic Stampings occupied the plant last week after management instructed foremen to switch off the presses.

The press shop men had suspended the piece work agreement in a bid to win a claim for £3 a week. This cut production by half.

The company tried to insist that the press operators revert to normal working pending a works conference or be suspended.

The operators stood their ground and sat in when the presses were switched off.

Lay-offs at Economic Stampings will soon give way to redundancy if the company get their way. They have announced their intention to axe 45 jobs.

A works conference on the redundancies proved somewhat abortive. It's up to the members to resist them by occupying the factory and pressing for nationalisation under the democratic control of the workers concerned.

The Leicester plant of Wildt Mellor Bromley, part of the same Bentley group, is believed to be on the verge of announcing redundancies with all 600 workers to be laid off by the end of the year.

The only hope of winning is to unite behind a positive lead from the Bentley Group Shop Stewards Combine Committee. The alternative to putting up a fight is a grim winter for Leicester engineers.

Jobs 'vanish'

WEST LONDON:-The adverts are all over the country's hoardings, and Alan Freeman's face is all over the television talking about the virtues of Brentford Nylons.

But the jobs of the workers are going out of the window. Since August there have been more than 300 redundancies and the work-force have been on a 3½-day week.

The reasons given for the layoffs and short time working are the shortage of nylon following the Flixborough disaster and the shift to polyester cotton. The company are moving to Newcastle to be nearer the centre of cotton production.

None of the workers, who are mostly women, Asian, West Indian and English, has been told the truth about the future of the factory. Those still at work don't really know how long they'll be there, despite daily requests for information. Both the dye and print shop have so far been closed down.

The National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers seem to have taken it all lying down. The workers have been far too reliant on union official Mick Mandel. There are now 70 machinists left.

North London IS Black Workers Group public meeting: The Struggle in Africa
Speaker from FRELIMO and showing of the film The Struggle Continues
Sunday 27 October, 5.30pm,
Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road,
All comrades welcome.

2400 walk out

BRISTOL: 2,400 members of APEX and ACTSS walked out at Rolls-Royce last Friday after management failed to make a reasonable offer.

A mass meeting the previous day had been told by APEX and Transport Union full-timers that all that was offered was 10 per cent after consolidation of threshold to the end of October.

They recommended a return to work pending further negotiations. But the meeting gave management 24 hours to come up with a reasonable offer or face a strike.

The offer came back as 12 per cent and the FTO's called for its rejection. This the meeting did overwhelmingly. The claim is for 30 per cent and consolidation.

A tough fight must be expected as this is a 'nationalised' industry. 6000 workers at Rolls Royce in Scotland were due to strike for £10 a week, virtually the same as our claim.

It is high time we build factory branches in all the aircraft factories. The signs are that this is to become a dying industry following coal, railways, and steel.

So not a penny off the pay, full claim or bust.

Messages of support and donations to Mike Pearce, 11 Alexander Park, Redland, Bristol 6.

BUSMEN HIT BY SOCIAL CON-TRICK

MILITANT busmen throughout the country are giving the complacent officials of the Transport Workers Union a shake-up.

In CENTRAL and WEST SCOTLAND striking bus crews have gone back to work after a month of unofficial action. The end of the strike is a partial victory for those TGWU officials who support the Social Contract fraud. The crews, unable to live on their present pitiful basic of £28 for 40 hours, were demanding £35 for 35 hours and improved conditions.

Nevertheless, the dispute marks a step forward for workers in the Scottish Bus Group, who have not been noted for their militancy. Committees of delegates from various garages spearheaded the action.

'Advice' we can do without

IPSWICH:-When supervisors at the Harris Pork Pie factory struck last Wednesday the rest of the day shift refused to accept instructions from top management and were laid off.

Next day management said they would pay for Wednesday but not Thursday. So everyone came out, including the night shift.

A mass meeting was told that management would pay half the basic during the dispute.

The vote was taken. 'Nearly unanimous for a return', the man said. But is anyone against?' Hands shot up and it looked

The bus crews say that if the employers don't deliver the goods by 14 November, they will again strike all-out for the full claim.

In LEICESTER another attempt at victimisation is being challenged by rank and file busmen. Driver George Ames was sacked shortly after leading an attempt to unseat the TGWU bus branch secretary, Bob Leet. But George refused to go quietly and asked his mates to a meeting to discuss his case and other grievances, at

close. But there was no count.

The USDAW representatives got their way. And then they told us the catch—a phased return with some losing half another day's pay.

The union rep left us with some wise thoughts, though. In future we should go into dispute in an orderly fashion.

And there would be an inquiry into improving communications with management. He didn't think of the simplest way to communicate—for us to shout louder.

But he did think to threaten us with the sack if the dispute continued. Well at least he said he was from the union...

Teachers' strikes spread

by Ronnie Smith EIS Council

GLASGOW: The unofficial strike movement among Scottish teachers is spreading fast. After last week's day and a half stoppages, two schools in Midlothian announced their support for the West of Scotland Teachers Action Committee by striking on Friday afternoon.

An East of Scotland Action Committee is being set up to plan the next strike and link up with the movement in the West. The demand is for an immediate £15 a week flat rate increase for all teachers.

Delegates from 72 schools and colleges in the West of Scotland decided last Friday that the next immediate step should be a further one day strike on 24 October.

At its next meeting the Action Committee will consider a motion to call on parents to withdraw their children from school on the day of the strike as a gesture of solidarity. Every empty school will be a protest against the government's cuts in educational expenditure.

Messages of support to W Scanlon, Secretary of West of Scotland Teachers Action Committee, Bellarmine School, Cowglen Road, Glasgow E53.

which Les Kay, editor of the North West busmen's paper Platform, and Pete Glatter, editor of London Platform, spoke for determined action to win back his job.

Leet has a history of collaboration with management. He hardly bothered to defend George and another busman has been sent down the road since.

The meeting decided to form a Platform group. Its first job is to campaign for industrial action unless George is reinstated.

A motion deploring the actions of LEEDS busmen who have fallen for the divisive poison of racialism and failed to defend two Sikh busmen suspended for wearing turbans was to be put to the TGWU Central Bus Delegate Conference in London this week. The conference represents 20,000 busmen.

Links between militants in different towns have already begun to be forged through the rank and file paper, Platform. The Second National Rank and File Conference called for 30 November could not come at a better time. If militant busmen win delegacies a major step will be taken towards a national rank and file organisation for the buses.

Women act

HARLESDEN:-1500 production workers at McVities Food staged a one-day strike last week in support of demands for negotiations on a new wage claim to be brought forward.

The strikers, mainly women, are members of USDAW. Most earn £26 for a 40 hour week and despite the massive increase in the cost of living management indications are that they will only be offered a rise of £1.50.

The combine includes factories at Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow and Osterley. The Manchester factory is due to come out on strike on Friday. The workers in London feel that united action by all the factories could prove decisive.

Heinz -imports from a graveyard

From the Heinz branch of the International Socialists

NORTH LONDON: A trial is going on at Heinz, Harlesden, with a new brand of beans, which could mean that more than tomato sauce will go into Heinz baked beans. Workers blood will be there as well. For these are part of a special batch brought from Chile.

Heinz wants to buy there because they are cheaper than the Canadian and American brands they normally use. They are cheaper because Chile is run by one of the world's most ruthless dictatorships, which has murdered and continues to murder tens of thousands of trade union militants.

Those who have survived this massacre, are deprived of all trade union rights and are forced to work for starvation wages. These cheap beans are, quite literally, produced at the point of a gun.

We do not expect the Heinz management to concern itself with the plight of Chilean or any other workers. But what about our union, the Transport Workers, which is committed to a policy of opposition to Chile and has blacked imports from Chile?

Despite demands from Heinz TGWU members, the convenor is content to avoid the matter and take the line of least resistance—the management's line. This goes as follows: 'We're running out of American and Canadian beans, and we have to get them from somewhere or we'll have to close down.'

This is insulting nonsense. Heinz is one of the most profitable international firms in the country and is in no danger of closing down. It is simply trying to cut costs still further and make still more profit while the Colonels keep their fingers on the triggers.

This must be stopped. All Chilean imports must be blacked, and firms like Heinz must be forced to stop supporting the military cavemen who are slaughtering and torturing our fellow trade unionists.

TENANTS' COURT BATTLE GOES ON

NORTH LONDON:The High Court hearing at which ten members of the Islington Tenants Campaign opposed an attempt by Prebbles estate agents to stop them picketing the local office were adjourned to later this month.

Last Saturday Ronald Hubbard of Prebbles asked the police to move a picket on, claiming they were causing an obstruction. Members of the campaign suspect this could be a ploy by Prebbles lawyers to chalk up a victory before the hearing re-opens.

Money is still needed for the defence of the Islington Ten. Send donations to the Islington Tenants Campaign Defence Committee, 7 Barnsbury Park, London N1.

'SACK NF TEACHER'

SOUTH LONDON:Parents and teachers have distributed a leaflet calling for the dismissal of the National Front member who is a maths teacher at Tulse Hill School.

A demonstration this Friday at 8.30am at the school is being supported by the Lambeth branch of the National Union of Teachers. 'There's been a good response from schools in Lambeth,' said a spokesman. 'Parents and pupils have been given leaflets and asked to support the demonstration, and so have local trade unionists.'

PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)



Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

WE WANT £10 NOW!

WHAT WE THINK

THE PAST few weeks have seen a tremendous build-up of rank and file militancy among thousands and thousands of workers.

The simple truth is that the rate of inflation is forcing workers to demand more wages and fight hard to get them.

The sums of money claimed may sound large but with 20 per cent increases in the cost of living you need every penny of an extra £10 a week before tax and deductions just to maintain last year's standard of living. Before the year is out, you'll need still more.

Despite this, the battle to maintain living standards is drawing nothing but the most violent opposition from

power. Kept in power for what? you might well ask. In power to make investment more 'attractive' to the idlers of Great Gaddesden and Chipping Sodbury? In power to raise profit levels for them? In power to levy the tribute the rich require—reduced living standards for the working class?

That would be an honest answer. But you don't get honest answers. You get phoney talk about Labour's non-existent 'socialist programme', talk about 'radical measures' which exist only in the fevered imagination of the Daily Express.

All this is obvious too. Yet the trade union bureaucrats are straight up and down the line in favour of

the trade union leaders. These gentlemen, who not so long ago specialised in anti-Tory rhetoric and left-wing conference resolutions concerning the plight of the lower paid, are now moving into action against the lower paid and anyone else who dares to fight.

They are saying that the social contract must be observed. They are saying that Labour must be kept in

this new 'voluntary' version of wage restraint, the social contract fraud.

That's why in every strike now underway they are out to attack and destroy the massive groundswell of rank and file activity. They want to see strikers forced back to work and their beloved social contract kept intact.

In truth compromise and accommodation with government and employers is second nature to these gentlemen. With delusions rivalled only by the followers of the more obscure religious sects, they believe that if only they compromise and accommodate enough, the economic crisis will simply go away.

But there is no reason why their attacks and witch-hunts should be successful in browbeating strikers back to work. If only workers will unite at rank and file level across combines, across industries and across regions, the bosses and their new found friends can be beaten.

3,000 locked out after pay insult

WEST LONDON:Nearly 3,000 workers at British Leylands AEC Bus and Truck plant in Southall have been effectively locked out of the factory for 10 days. A week last Monday management removed the clocking in cards and informed convenor Tom Warburton that workers were no longer covered by insurance.

Management's reaction followed a non-co-operation policy adopted by the shop floor in response to the pathetic pay offer. Workers are demanding £15. They were offered £5 on the A grade, £4 on the B

grade, and £3 on the C grade.

Last Thursday a slightly improved offer was overwhelmingly rejected. For three days last week workers sat in the factory. Last Thursday the Joint Shop Stewards Committee recommended that workers leave the factory until a next mass meeting this Thursday.

The AEC claim is based on the fact that workers have only received an average increase of £5 over the last two years and that they have not received the threshold payment. The management brought in British Leylands Southern Area Director, Jessop.

He used the pay talks to complain

that workers were not co-operating on the flexibility, or with the Industrial Engineers (part of the measured day work agreement signed two weeks ago and which resulted in 900 redundancies). Management were told that these points were unacceptable.

The following week, without warning the JSSC, management gave the proposed changes in the wages agreement and the pay offer (which included the insulting £1.80 threshold agreement which Pat Lowry had conned our national official into accepting) to the foremen for general distribution. Shortly afterwards the non-co-operation policy started.

DRIVERS' STRIKE BITES HOME

THE STRIKE by over 3000 road haulage drivers in Scotland is beginning to bite. The strike, which started last week, in Greenock, spread in one week to be almost completely solid in the West of Scotland, and is spreading rapidly.

Newsprint and food should be in short supply by the end of this week, as the strike continues, for £40 a 40 hour week.

The present rate paid by the road haulage companies is just over £28 plus threshold of £2.80. So the effect of the claim would be to increase the basic rate by just over £10. By the end of this week more than a dozen ships will have to be turned away from container terminals on the Clyde, and newspaper production brought to a halt.

The Transport Workers Union has not made the strike official and the strike committee has been elected from all over the areas affected to run the dispute. They have decided to allow through some essential supplies such as medicines. Every group of workers in dispute depends to some extent on the readiness of lorry drivers to respect picket lines and turn away. In a real sense a victory for the drivers is a victory for the trade union movement.

Cash and messages of support to, the Chairman, Strike Committee, Trades Council Club, Carlton Place, Glasgow.

Craftsmen at Imperial Metal Industries Witton are on strike for a £15 a week wage claim.

● British Leyland, Wellingborough, are out for parity with Leyland's Birmingham and Coventry plants. This is worth upwards of £10.

● 250 General and Municipal Workers Union members on strike at Turner Brothers Asbestos, Camberley, Surrey, are claiming an extra £10-a-week.

For AT LEAST £10-a-week increases for all workers with no time limits on agreements.

For EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN and a minimum wage of £35 a week.

FORWARD TO THE NATIONAL RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE.

Dustmen on strike

by Peter Bain

GLASGOW:As mountains of uncollected rubbish gather the 380 dust cart drivers enter the third week of their unofficial strike.

They are claiming an increase of £10 per week plus consolidation of the threshold. At present the drivers basic is £2.57 per week—a clear indication that they are not part of Harold Wilson's one big family.

The drivers have now been joined by 300 Glasgow sweepers and carriers, while drivers, sweepers, carriers and mechanics are now out 100 per cent in the neighbouring towns of Kirkintilloch, Bearsden and Milngavie.

The Glasgow men are concentrating on closing down the three city rubbish incineration plants at Govan, Polmadie and Dalsholm. Pickets are successfully turning back most vehicles trying to enter.

As a picket at Polmadie said 'We're having no trouble with our own kind. It's just the Jag and Volvo team who try to get through.'

The drivers, members of the Transport union are hopeful that the rest of the Glasgow cleansing department workers will join the strike soon although the General and Municipal Workers union officials are doing their best to prevent any such action.

In particular as the strike and picketing hits deliveries to the incinerators the workers in these plants will be forced to decide whether to join the strike.

Labour controlled Glasgow corporation is refusing to meet the men's representatives and insisting that negotiations are conducted through the union officials.

The strikers are determined to win their demands and see their strike as the only way to force the employers to make a decent offer in the forthcoming negotiations.

The men need financial support. Donations to Glasgow Corporation Cleansing Department Strike Fund, Trade Union Centre, 83 Carlton Place, Glasgow.

Boyd does it again

SCOTLAND:The Engineering Union executive council continues to try to sell AUEW members at Hoover, Cambuslang, down the river. After a campaign by right-winger John Boyd in the local press against shop stewards' organisation in the factory the executive has forced the factory joint negotiating committee aside and arranged a meeting later this week in London to negotiate terms for a return to work.

At the meeting executive hatchet man

Boyd was to have a completely free hand with Hoover local and national management while two of the Cambuslang stewards, members of the Joint National Negotiating Committee, were to be allowed to sit next door 'in an advisory capacity.'

This position illustrates the ruthless determination of the AUEW executive to uphold the social contract fraud and force a settlement on the Cambuslang workers over the heads of the factory organisation.

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LONDON:Fifty members of the National Union of Journalists picketed the Home Office and the Law Courts this week protesting over police treatment of journalists covering demonstrations—particularly the National Front demonstration and counter-demonstration in London on 7 September.

A letter from the Action Committee for the Defence of Journalists was handed in to the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins. It called for an end to special Metropolitan Police press cards, for non-interference with journalists carrying out their work, the removal of police photographers from demonstrations and the destruction of Special Branch files on demonstrators.

The pickets also called for the dropping of prosecutions against Paul Foot, editor of Socialist Worker, and David May, co-editor of Time Out magazine.