PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Jailings-the ugly face of the social contract



Eric Tomlinson (second left) and Des Warren (right) outside the court this week as their appeal was being heard.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE Widgery must have felt at home in that roomful of expensive antique books, velvet drapes, fancy wood panelling and with four huge chandeliers.

This was the Court of Appeal where he told Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson they were to go back to jail for picketing in Shrewsbury during the 1972 official builders' strike.

These pickets were singled out, with 24 comrades, not because they had committed a violent crime, but because the ruling class saw the results of effective picketing during the 1972 miners' strike. Now, the very day after the Scottish lorry drivers won a victory through strong picketing, the ruling class puts the knife

In the middle of a strike wave the judges have sent three men back to jail to prove to the working class that their class will use any means to defend and maintain their system. If picketing hurts their profits, they will dig up old laws-such as the 1875 Conspiracy Act-to put you in jail.

The Labour government let these men stay out of jail for five months pending the appeal soften the trade unions into accepting the Social Contract.

Well, this is the real face of the Social Contract. The capitalist class knows only one time of contract-the kind that rakes in the For interfering with the employers' profits, two workers are now in jail.

The Labour government could repeal the Conspiracy Laws at any time, but they won't. They might have to use them themselves to see that the system isn't seriously challenged in the future.

Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson are now paying a price that could have been avoided. George Smith, general secretary of the builders' union UCATT, sold these men down the river during the trial and is now saying he regrets the court's decision.

Well, let's see the executive of UCATT call out all their members to free these men. Let's see the TUC, which was born out of struggles such as this, call on all its members to strike to free these men and wipe the Conspiracy Laws from the statute books-instead of ranting about the Tolpuddle Martyrs and the Peterloo Massacre.

The Labour government has ratted on

these men. So have the TUC and the builders' unions. The rank and file must not do the same.

That Des and Ricky should rot in jail for the profits of Sir Robert McAlpine and his friends shows what this system is really all about.

Hatred is not enough. Neither are lobbies or petitions. It's action that will count.

They are in prison for us all and we should be out on the streets for them. If we aren't, then the old slogan 'an injury to one is an injury to all' might remain on the trade union banners but it won't mean a thing. Two of our comrades will be still locked up

We must free these men.

Mass strike action now to free the pickets. The TGWU and UCATT must call all-out official strike action by all members to force their release.

# Rank and File call for action

A CALL for strike action to free the two men was issued, within an hour of the jailings, by Roger Cox, secretary of the Rank and File Conference Organising Committee. 'The lead in the fight to free the two lads will come from the rank and file, and we've got to organise to make it successful', he said.

'The committee will produce an immediate leaflet calling for strike action and the building of local rank and file committees to ensure we get it. If we don't fight, our right to

picket will be under grave threat.

'This brutal act must be condemned by all trade unionists. You can really see the violence of the forces of "law and order" now'.

The committee is organising the Second National Rank and File Conference against wage restraint and unemployment on 30 November. For delegates' credentials and for copies of the leaflet calling for strike action to free the pickets (75p for 500) write to Roger Cox, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

# Defend paper

£5000 APPEAL: We've now got £1759, we need £3241 more

'DEAR SIR, 'I enclose a postal order to the value of £6 for the fighting fund for Socialist Worker. The money is from a collection we had in our company from readers and sympathisers-what few I could get. We hope this will help towards the disgusting fines and costs imposed on you and our paper and hope

that has become part of our lives.' Yours fraternally, D P Roberts, (AUEW convenor).

this will not be the end of the paper

No one on Socialist Worker has heard of Brother Roberts before. We don't even know what factory he's convenor in. We do know that his letter spells out exactly what our fund -to meet the legal costs imposed on us last month-is all about.

For hundreds, if not thousands of workers throughout the country Socialist Worker is 'our paper'. Letters have poured into the office from all over the country from workers repeating again and again 'Don't go under. You publish too much which isn't published in the capitalist press.'

Or as two sisters, A and E Wilson, wrote from Yorkshire: 'This is a chance to hit back at those who would like to destroy socialism. I have great pleasure in enclosing £5.'

Shining through the vast majority of letters is the need to keep the paper going-the refusal to go back to the days when socialists have to rely for news and views on the trivia and tedium of the capitalist press.

Trades councils after trades councils sent donations. Huddersfield Trades Council have asked for 80 collection sheets to send to affiliated bodies.

The Magazine Branch of the National Union of Journalists, at an emergency meeting last Monday attended by more than 60 people, passed a resolution calling for a campaign to remove the Widgery judgement-and to raise Socialist Worker's legal costs.

The meeting raised £80 in a collection.

Altogether, we've received £1759 in the first two weeks, more than £1000 was in the second week. We need that £5000 in six weeks. We need it to survive.

Our thanks to the following organisations and individuals who contributed money.

#### SOCIALIST WORKER DEFENCE FUND.

Guardian NUJ Chapel £15.40 Hampstead and Highgate NUJ Chapel Hollis Bros, Royal Group Docks £13. Liverpool Rank and File teachers £1.17 TGWU 5/190 branch £5. Working Women's Charter Conference £25.75.

Socialist Worker readers Lucas, Forman Road, Birmingham £7.23. Mullards toolroom, Blackburn £3.50 Norwich International Socialists £37 SW readers, AUEW, Macclesfield £6 North Herts IS £49.40 SW readers, South Acton estate £3.55. Bristol IS £25 Chrysler Stoke nightshift £5.50

SW readers, Canley, Coventry, £3.05. SW supporters, West Bridgeford College £3.30. Edinburgh IS £40.

Contined on back page

SHREWSBURY POSTER PULL

# THE CASE FOR THE



# LORRY-DRIVERS

FOR far too long Britain's lorry drivers have settled for appalling wages and conditions while their employers have been able to afford big wage increases.

250,000 lorry drivers are employed by the 17,000 members of the Road Haulage Association, which is one of the greediest and most right-wing organisations in the country. In the late 1940s, the RHA spent half a million pounds in a campaign against the Labour government's nationalisation of road transport.

The campaign, run by a man who later became a director of the bosses' pressure group Aims of Industry, resulted in the denationalisation of most

road transport in 1953—and the dropping of road transport nationalisation from later Labour Party programmes.

Since then the road transport companies have fought all government restrictions on road traffic. They spent another £300,000 on fighting Labour's mild Transport Act of 1968. They have enthusiastically supported demands for more and more

As a result of these campaigns, the road transport bosses have amassed enormous profits. No private industry in the country has been so free to

put on the profits as the road haulage industry.

The chief reason for these profits has been low wage costs. Because lorry drivers have not used their vast industrial power to force wages up, the hauliers have had it all their own way. The union leaders have co-operated in this task.

Now the drivers in Scotland and in Hull have broken through. Now it's up to lorry drivers all over the country—whether they work for private hauliers, for nationalised hauliers such as British Road Services, or on lorries owned by manufacturing firms—to follow this lead. The demand must be for what the drivers in Hull and Scotland have won: £40 for a 40-hour week. Not a penny less!

# The job we have to do

by John Stevenson

Manchester lorry driver and member of the United Road Transport Union

THE road haulage industry is a jungle.
Nearly every company has a different
wage structure. The smaller firms
are always trying to undercut others.

The basic rate for a 32-ton articulated vehicle is £22.20. Drivers usually work 11 hours with one hour off. Bonuses can be tied to mileage, tonnage or hours—they encourage speeding and overloading.

There is little to be said for the sleeper cab. It can speed up journeys by having one man sleeping while the other drives but it is bad for health

health.

Drivers who have been in the job for years invariably get twinges in the right shoulder from driving thousands of miles with a draught from the window. Hours spent on plastic-covered foam seats often result in haemorrhoids. Add to this

up to really unhealthy conditions.

This is just inside the cab. But being a cab driver can mean being a loader too. More drivers are killed through loading accidents than on the road. How many men fall off wagons while roping and sheeting?

the vibration and noise and it adds

#### Inedible

Although it costs at least £3 for the night, many drivers get the minimum accommodation allowance laid down by the wages council—£1.75. Most of the doss-houses masquerading as accommodation are a disgrace, even though some of the worst are advertised in the union papers.

The choice is no better on the motorways. Fortes have a franchise of service stations and one condition of this is to provide reasonable, cheap meals for transport drivers. In fact, the meals are almost inedible and very expensive. It's time we picketed these places.

The life of a haulage driver affects your family. You rarely see the children. If you happen to be working in the town, you can take your lad along to spend the day with you. So next time you see a lad in the cab, remember it's about the only time he gets to talk to his dad.

We are undermined 24 hours a day by the cowboys in the haulage industry. They go out, tip, run back. To survive in a jungle, you either have to behave like wild animals or organise to change it.

# What Glasgow pickets are saying



Patrick Moore: Road Services Caledonia

PATRICK MOORE: 'If the employers get what they're after on mileage the Aberdeen-Glasgow run will no longer be an overnight job. They'll have us running about like dafties. Yet driving north is really murder. Your average on the Highland roads is 21 miles an hour because they're difficult roads, yet they want to speed us up and reduce our earnings on them. They're not on.'

WILLIAM LOWRIE: 'The stuff in the papers really gets up your nose. They talk about us taking home £70 a week. Well I earned £51 top

# The union's game

by most road haulage companies is still controlled by wages councils. The last 'negotiations' on the road haulage wages council before the Tory pay freeze left drivers with a basic minimum ranging from £18 for five-ton lorries to £20.38 for 21-ton lorries and over for 40 hours driving per week.

These appalling rates mean drivers work heavy overtime to get anywhere near a decent wage. Average hours increased from 53.3 hours a week in 1971 to 53.9 in 1972. Nearly a third of all payments to drivers of heavy vehicles was overtime.

In November 1972 the wages council recommended a £2.40 rise on the minimum for 1973. This was refused by the Tories' Pay Board, and the wages council revised its offer downwards to £1.82 a week pittance.

The Transport and General Workers Union representatives then stormed off the council and recommended that their drivers seek local

agreement. Despite this, no union support was offered for militant action against the Tories' Phase Two, and the drivers were left in the lurch. The union then went back on the wages council and sold their members down the drain again with a miserable increase under Phase Three.

## Assured

The union has made common cause with the road bosses in dealings with the government bodies under the illusion that if the Road Haulage Association and the British Road Federation got their way, the jobs of lorry drivers will be assured.

They are wrong. The total goods carried by lorries over the past ten years has gone up by 60 per cent, almost all because of bigger lorries. The number of drivers employed has remained almost constant. And every time the RHA wins a battle with the government for stopping speed restrictions or removing traffic regulations, it means longer hours and worse conditions for the drivers.

of the line the other week and that was for doing more than 70 hours, including two nights away from home I took home £36.

'There are some that do earn £70 a week. But by God they work for it. They're doing night shunts, they're breaking the law missing breaks and going there and back in one night when they should only do the journey one way—all in a bid to get a decent wage.'

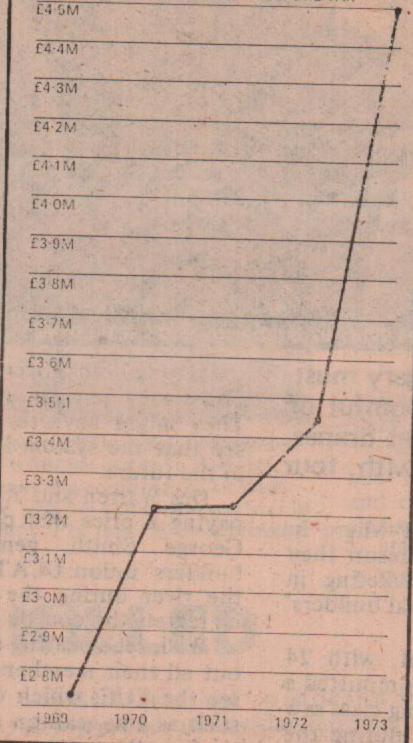
JIMMY GLENCROSS: 'One thing that gets you when you're doing distance is your allowance. We get £3 overnight. Yet you can pay £2.75 just for bed and breakfast and the digs and food is going up all the time.

'The employers make no arrangements for us. We just have to get on with it. And so we do. In one place in Inverness the accommodation is 30 drivers to a room.'

MICHAEL DILLON: 'Until this strike we never knew how powerful we were. This claim of ours should have been settled more than a year ago. But the employers just mucked us around and the union did nothing.

'Now we've got our own committees in Glasgow, Greenock and Grangemouth and our stewards are meeting with drivers from across the border to get things going.'

JOHN FORBES: 'We're just not putting up with the situation where the officials and employers natter away on negotiations and we get nothing done. The committees have linked up and they are going to meet every month now to discuss our grievances and make sure the union does something about it. We will no longer put up with such lousy wages. We've had enough.'



U.K. ROAD HAULAGE PROFIT BEFORE TAX

GIANTS like the Transport Development Group do very well from exploiting their lorry drivers. It made £4.5 million of its £12 million profit (compared with just under £9 million the year before as the graph above shows) from haulage. Nearly £3 million was paid out in dividends—that's enough for a £10 a week increase for all its lorry drivers.

Last year the group gave £1,000 to the Tory Party, £300 to the Economic League and £120 to Aims of Industry.

This is the pattern for the industry.
The Transport Development Group
has taken over seven road haulage
companies in the past year. It now
has 134 subsidiaries.

# How the bosses caused the crisis

THE government wants to bail out British industry with £1000 million of taxpayers' money. Why? Because they tell us, British industry is in crisis.

So it is, but who caused it, and

should we pay for it?

The businessmen argue that raw material prices have gone up during the past year, and that this affects their profits. Although profits still look enormous, runs the argument, they are in fact much smaller because of the increased costs of raw materials and machinery which industry needs to continue.

Well, raw material prices did rise. This did affect the real size of profits.

#### **Dividends**

But during 1972 and 1973, the boom years for industry and the freeze years for the workers, enormous profits were given away in dividends or put in the bank. In 1971, company profits after raw material prices have been accounted for were £9963 million. In 1972, £11,454 million; in 1972, £14,517 million. In 1972 and 1973, £9,400 million was paid out in dividends and interest payments-that's about a fifth of the total national product! £4895 million more was kept by companies and put in the bank. What happened to it then?

Between the end of 1971 and the end of 1973, lending by British banks to property companies increased from £340 million to £2321 million. Insurance companies and pension funds invested £1400 million in property.

That is what British industry did

with its profits in 1972 and 1973. All that money represented wealth created by the workers. Much of it, in insurance companies and pension funds, is owned by the workers but invested for them by gangs of entirely unaccountable spivs, invested in property developments which push workers from their homes.

#### **Productive**

There is a crisis. It's not as bad as the businessmen claim. They only pay 25 per cent tax on their profits, which is much less than workers pay on their wages.

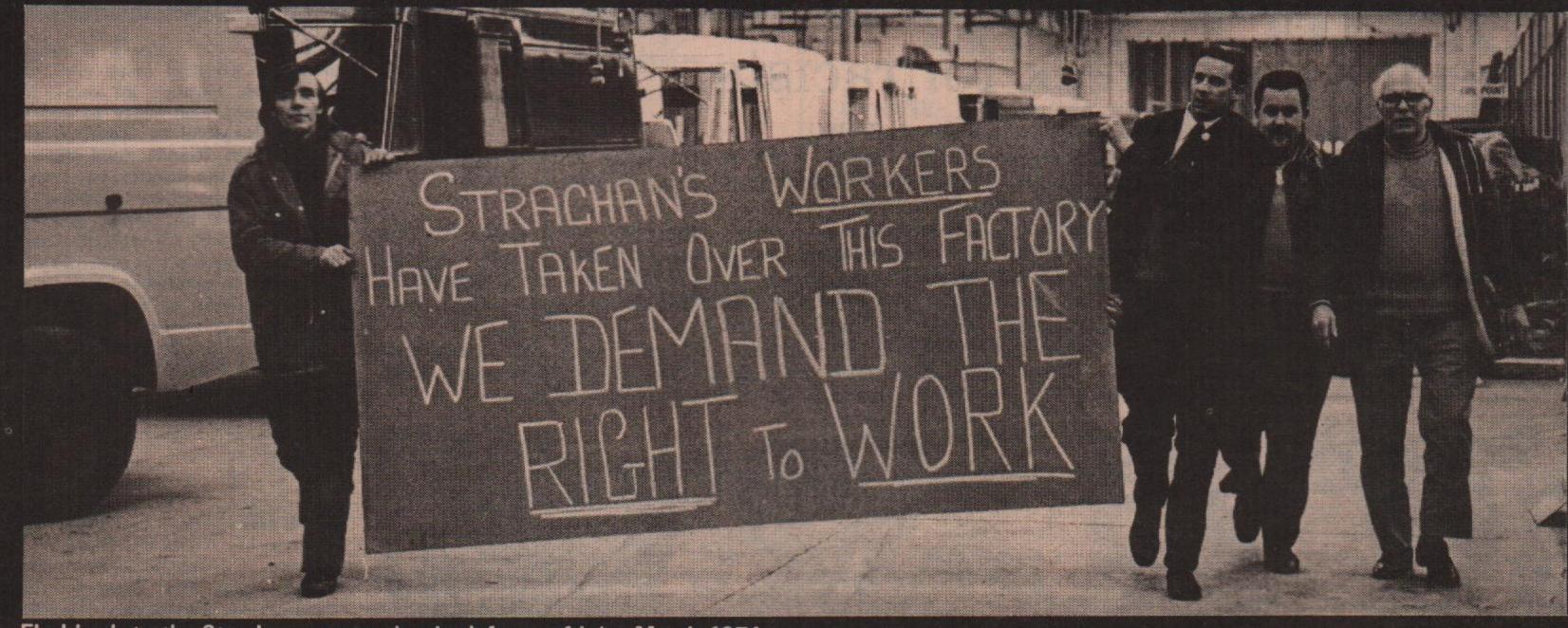
But the cash crisis would not be there if companies had not paid out enormous sums in dividends and interest payments and if thousands of millions had not been diverted from productive industry to property speculation.

The only reason the wealth was diverted was because greedy men thought they could get bigger profits in property. These are the people who caused the crisis.

Workers must not pay for iteither through higher taxes, reduced government spending on houses and schools or in higher prices. The companies should pay. The government will not make them, because to do so would be a fundamental attack on capitalism. Only the removal of the system will solve the crisis.

# Lesson Number 1

Get union officials under workers' control



Flashback to the Strachans occupation in defence of jobs, March 1974

## NATIONAL RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE: BIRMINGHAM, 30 NOVEMBER

Malcolm Vass, former AUEW steward and chairman of the fundraising committee at Strachans, summed up their experience:

One lesson that stands out is that if workers unite and stand together like we did then the Maxwell Josephs just crumble, and even the legal system can be bucked.

But the biggest problem for the working class at the moment is not the employers or the legal system, but the trade union officials. So

long as they're in office without having to worry about re-election they'll continue to ignore the members' interests and look after their

I feel the only way to put the pressure on them is to build a rank and file movement with members united behind the aim of removing the system of voting in national officers for life, and which will bring the unions under the control of the membership.

THE fight against unemployment is one of the two themes of the Second National Rank and File Conference to be held on 30 November. A delegation from the Strachans Occupation Committee attended the first conference in March, and their experience since then provides a striking example of the need for a Rank and File

Movement of trade unionists. Eastleigh factory of Strachans, a subsidiary of Maxwell Joseph's investment company Grand Metropolitan Hotels, used to make van bodies for Fordsuntil one Friday in March the stewards were told the factory was to be closed in 11/2 hours time.

The factory was at first occupied. Then, when the workers were evicted by a police raid in the early hours of the morning, they kept a picket line outside the gate.

Despite the odds against them, the workers could have won if the trade union leaders had not pulled the carpet from underneath them at the most crucial time.

#### DISPUTE

So long as the Strachans lads were fighting alone they were ignored by the officials-with the honourable exceptions of the ASTMS and AUEW district organisers, and their hands were tied by their executives. The TGWU and the AUEW even refused to make the dispute official, claiming there was nothing in their rulebooks to cover unemployed workers in dispute!

The Strachans workers wasted weeks trying to contact other workers through the official union machine, and Ernie Allen, district

# WHAT WETHINK

secretary of the TGWU, even tried to charge the strike committee for the union stationary.

To keep up the struggle the workers needed to raise £600 a week, and to win they had to get effective blacking. They sent delegations round the country and the blacking list circulated by the National Rank and File Conference Organising Committee was so effective that six weeks after the dispute ended Grand Metropolitan were still contacting union offices asking them to stop the blacking of their products.

The breakthrough for Strachans came in June when the Southampton and Newhaven dockers agreed to black all Grand Metropolitan and Ford products.

Then the national officials sprang into life. Three days before the black was to come into force there was a meeting of national trade union officers. Greville Williams of the TGWU stated that Strachans was not worth sacrificing the Ford Motor Company for, and unless the pickets accepted the company's offer of compensation his union would disown the dis-

A meeting of the strikers was fixed for the following morning. Many of the militants were away on delegations, and no one knew what was to be proposed at the meeting.

The sell-out was sharp and brutal. The dirty work was done by George Guy, official of the Sheet Metal Workers Union and a

member of the Communist Party. He said Strachans had offered each man £1,136 compensation for the loss of his job and the national officers were recommending ac-

He said he wanted no divisions or splinter groups and that the pickets should decide there and then whether to accept or reject. If they rejected the offer there would be no further union support for the dispute.

ceptance.

#### SELL-OUT

No speakers from the floor were allowed and a vote was taken immediately after Guy had spoken. By a narrow majority the offer was accepted, and Strachans' work

transferred to Willenhall Radiators in Wolverhampton.

The sell-out at Strachans proves what strikers all over the country are learning the hard way: that union officials of every colour will do their best to sabotage the militancy of their own members when those members are in struggle.

Workers in struggle cannot rely on their union leaders. Nor can they rely on their own isolated militancy. They have to link with other workers in the struggle before their militancy can win.

That is why the Rank and File Conference Organising Committee's call for organisation is vital. Now is the time to respond to their call for a second conference. Fill in the form below.

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 \_ TRADE UNION STAMP

# Ireland gets an oily deal

THE oil slick now smeared all over the beaches of West Cork gives a perfect picture of the effect multinational firms have on the economies of the countries where they operate.

Gulf Oil built a terminal, one of the biggest in the world, at Bantry Bay some six years ago. It was opposed by tourist interests and small conservation groups, but generally welcomed in an area starved of employment.

What now emerges, and what no ome knew at the time, is that Gulf sought and received an assurance from the Irish government that there would be no Harbour Authority set

by Eamonn McCann

up at Bantry. That is, it was allowed to run the terminal itself without being accountable to the public. It also received gigantic tax concessions and freedom to take all profits out of the country.

Since then it has clearly ignored the interests of the area and got on with the job of making money hand over fist. Anti-seepage precautions seem not to exist. The company admits to 21 spillages. Local fishermen put the figure much higher.

Gulf first estimated the present

spillage at six barrels. It turns out to be the biggest since the Torrey Canyon, possibly bigger, and there were no plans to deal with it. The result is that the livelihood of the fishing industry is threatened and the natural beauty of the area destroyed.

Meanwhile other multi-nationals are carving up the rest of Ireland's resources. Marathon (off-shore oil and gas) and Bula and Tara (Silver, lead and zinc) have already won their 'concessions'. But despite the presence of Labour in the Irish government, there are no plans to take them over, or even to try to control them effectively.

Please send us your letters. Address them to: LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescen London E2. All letters must be signed-but specify if you don't want your name published.

# It's been a good week for racists...

WITHOUT DOUBT racialism had a good week last week. The House of Lords decision on working men's clubs and the colour bar was heavily covered in the Birmingham Evening Mail. This paper, anti-working class, anti-black, made all the racialists in the West Midlands who as club owners or managers have been waiting for changes in the law on racial discrimination, happy.

The Transport Union produced its report on the magnificent struggle of the Asian workers at Imperial Typewriters, Leicester. It tried to divert attention from the reactionary role of its own officials and the outright racist role of George Bromley and Reg Weaver of the

Leicester TGWU.

The report aims at producing a smokescreen by focussing attention on the role of 'outside agitators'.

Socialists and trade unionists must fight for the unity of workers, not just at work but at rest. If we can work together, we can drink together. Any attempts by social clubs to keep out black workers must be met with picketting and boycotting.

The TGWU's white-washing of their role at Imperial must be met with resolutions of condemnation from



# Dockers should know

AS LONDON dockers and members of the Transport and General Workers Union, we would like to express our disgust with the Preston Dockers Club in imposing a colour bar.

We find this particularly disturbing because Preston dockers have previously had a fine record of trade union solidarity. We well remember that Preston dockers stood by

Liverpool and London dockers till the very end of the 1972 strike. It was in fact the last port to call off the strike.

But we would like to remind dockers in Preston that when the five dockers were imprisoned under the Industrial Relations Act, we put out an appeal to trade unionists to free them by taking industrial action.

Put NAS out of business! WOULD Peter Smith and Julian

Wells (26 October) be as ready to defend the National Association of Schoolmasters if it were a union based on racialist premises rather than sexist ones? After all what's the difference?-if they are prepared to defend the rights of workers to choose to join sexist unions then they must be equally prepared to defend the right to organise into racially based unions.

This amounts to trade union cretinism as their statement that they would rather see teachers in NAS or the Union of Women Teachers than in no union at all demonstrates In other words the principles of the union aren't important, just the battalions-and who cares why they organise?

Jeannie Holborow's statements about the NAS are quite correct. She implies that it is male chauvinist organisation dedicated to female inferiority and should therefore be driven out of business. Quite right. And also as she quite correctly points out, government legislation will certainly not do that any more than government legislation will end racial discrimination.

The only way that we will end discrimination within the trade unions and in society at large is by rank and file pressure-a point also made quite specifically in Jeannie's article.

The National Union of Teachers'

union represents all teachers, regardless of sex. It must be built up into the strongest of unions. That won't be done by defending the right of sexist unions to poach its members as they have been doing consistently since they came into existence.

The NAS teachers was the first union to be recognised by the TUC. In its attempts to gain respectability among trade unionists it had to take this course. It is a reflection of the TUC's weakness, not the NAS's strength that it was granted recognition.

The NUT bureaucracy will be 'aided and comforted' by the sight of rank and filers condoning the existence of divisive sexist unions. Far from being opposed to the NAS, union bureaucrats at local level usually pride themselves on their good relationships with the NAS. They certainly wouldn't condone campaigns against the NAS.

It is up to the rank and file teachers to argue with the misguided teachers who join NAS, or worse still UWT, on the mistaken belief that they are more militant, and win them to a union which can fight on behalf of all teachers.

Peter and Julian cry that 'these ideas are essentially an accommodation to reformist ideology'. We say that their ideas are essentially an accommodation to reactionary liberal ideology.-SAL JENKINSON, ANNA DEASON, Hackney NUT.

# MOST IMPRESSED...

. . . Do Peter Smith and Julian Wells approve of the Law Lords decision to uphold the 'rights of the Preston Dockers Club to deny membership rights to black people? Or do they oppose racism with more conviction than they oppose sexism?

They express their shock that am International Socialist should subscribe to the 'thoroughly pernicious notion that we can settle political questions in the labour movement by appealing to the bourgeois state.'

And yet after describing the reactionary position of the National Association of Schoolmasters, Jeannie Holborow concludes: 'the white paper does nothing to change that, only rank and file pressure

I was particularly impressed by their 'political' defence of the NAS as a 'real trade union' on grounds that they were the first teachers' union to affiliate to the TUC!-CATHERINE BEARFIELD, Hackney.

We didn't just appeal to white workers. We appealed to all workers, black or white to support us. And it was only because we did get the support of workers of all colours that the five were released.

We would also like to remind Preston dockers of how prominent black trade unionists were on the picket lines outside Pentonville Prison. It would appear that black workers are good enough to strike with us, good enough to stand on picket lines with us, but not good enough to drink with us.

In the interests of trade unionism Preston dockers should see that this decision is reversed:-DICK DESMOND: 1/100 TGWU Shop Steward. JIMMY CLARK: 1/6 TGWU, FRANK SUGDEN: 1/37 TGWU, IAN OLLEY: 1/37 TGWU, GEORGIE SCOTT: 1/6 TGWU shop steward, TEDDY GATES: Chairman Royal Stewards committee, BOB LIGHT: 1/6 Royal Docks Divisional Committee, JAZZER THOMPSON: 1/35 PLA Shop Steward, EDDIE PREVOST 1/6 Vice Chairman Royal Docks Stewards Committee.

# SORRY!

THE FACTS given in Brewery Workers Sold Short (26 October) aren't true. The decision whether to go on strike or not depended on the union's success in asking for re-negotiations to be reopened immediately. The company agreed-so there was no need to report members.-SHOP STEWARD, Fountain Brewery, Edinburgh.

We apologise for this important error in the story.

affiliated working mens club. My club card says 'Honour all men, love thy brother, one hospitality to one another, be not forgetful to entertain strangers, he who has friends must show himself friendly.' Fine sentiments-now I find there are some clubs I could go to with my wife and be turned away-because she's Asian . . . All club members, black and white should put pressure on colour bar clubs to change their ways or cease to be affiliated to the CIU . . . There must be a procedure in the club's constitution for bringing this up. It's up to us to put this right, not lag behind waiting for the Labour government to do some legal juggling with the Race Relations Act.-FRANK ABBOTT, London, N16.

OBSCURE ANNA . . . Anna Paczuska's reply to her critics (12 October) is rather obscure . . . It's nonsense if she means women can only fight for liberation through the rank and file movement containing men and women . . . The war must be waged on all fronts . . . I agree with Kathy Ennis who wrote in a recent issue of International Socialism Journal that 'It is tragic that IS has not yet absorbed the best ideas of the women's liberation movement. 'IS should support the Working Womens Charter. Let's have more revolutionary solidarity and less sectarianism. Women's Liberation generally excludes men, not out of hostility but because 'women want to work things out for themselves'. Work alongside men is also essential. -KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.

ZIONISM, MARXISM, FASCISM (Cont) . . . Once again it's reared its head! John De Frece of the MAPAM Socialist Zionist Party (19 October) writes of the 'national liberation movement of the Jewish people'. This is the problem that's divided the working class against itself-nationalism! Race before class, the concepts of the National Front and other right-wing groups . . . whose aim is to break the unity of the working class while the real culprits, the ruling class sit back and laugh their bloody heads off . . . The NF is anti-working class, anti-black, anti-Jewish, anti-communist . . . The International Socialists are constant supporters of the working class of all countries . . . They must, like all true communists scorn all forms of nationalism . . . The real problem capitalism . . . Class consciousness not race consciousness. Unity not chaos and slavery.—TERRY COLLETT, Horsham.

PART TWO . . . Socialist Worker should publish a history of the foundings of Israel . . . Mr De Frece says the Palestinians were pawns of British imperialism . . . Before 1947 they lived under a feudal system . . . More recently significant left-wing groups have emerged, tending to be dominated by the ideologies and material resources of the nationalist petit-bourgeois military regimes of the area . . . It's not surprising that there are right-wing trends in groups like El Fatah and the Arab World which put the movement on a racial or 'Holy War' approach.-L HOLLEY, Bath.

A WREATH FROM KEITH. I have just been reading Sir Keith Joseph's speech in the paper . . . And what a lot of bloody rot he has to say about the 'left-wing bully boys'. I don't know how he has the nerve to say this. We all know who the bully boys belong to. Keep the poor poorer and the rich richer. This

HONOUR . . . I'm a member of an bloke is mad if he blames the working class for the mess this country's in. I suppose he thinks it would be better if the poor were put away for good.-ANN WOOD, Pontefract. EVENING ALL-AARGH! . . . I came across this cutting from a speech delivered by Lord Willis in the House of Lords in 1964 . . . 'When I was a boy in a neighbouring poor district of London there was constant hostility between the local people and the police. One of our pastimes on a Friday night used to be to beat up a policeman. It was quite often a common thing to tie up a

> there for hours-savage, brutal but it was a war between the police and the public' . . . Lord Willis was the creator of that disgusting, nauseating series, Dixon of Dock Green.-A G MASCARENHAS, Leeds.

policeman to a lamp post and leave him

SOCIALISTS AND ELECTIONS . . What We Think (19 October) commented that 'The unashamedly parliamentary approach of the Communist Party has increased the irritation and despair among many party workers who are urged to devote their time and attention to parliamentary and local government elections.' Yet three weeks before the same column proclaims that 'revolutionary socialists should take part in elections under suitable circumstances.' What are these? Why don't the International Socialists dismiss parliamentary elections and electioneering as the irrelevancies they are?-BARRY GREATOREX,

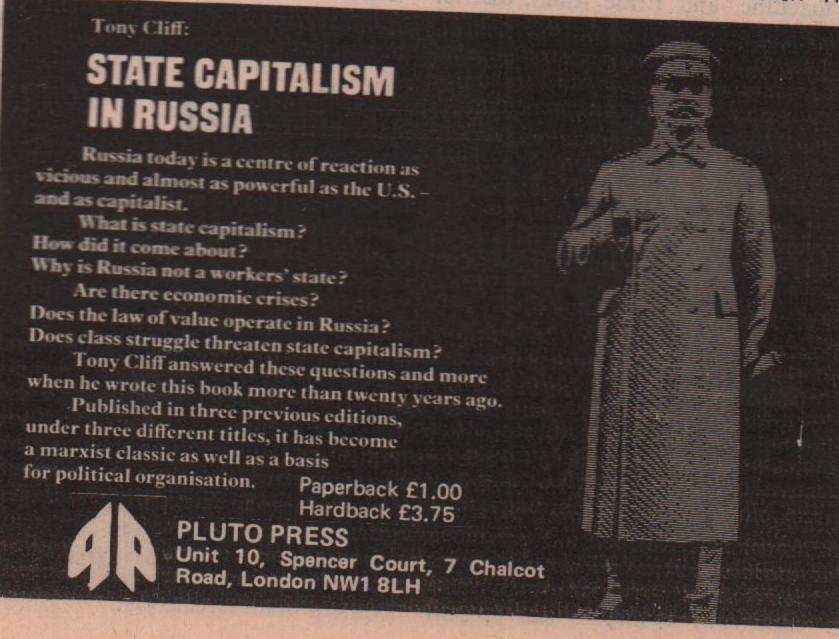
IS doesn't believe that socialism can come through parliament, an institution of the capitalist state. But parliamentary candidatures can be used as a platform. Take a look at Lenin and the Bolsheviks . . .

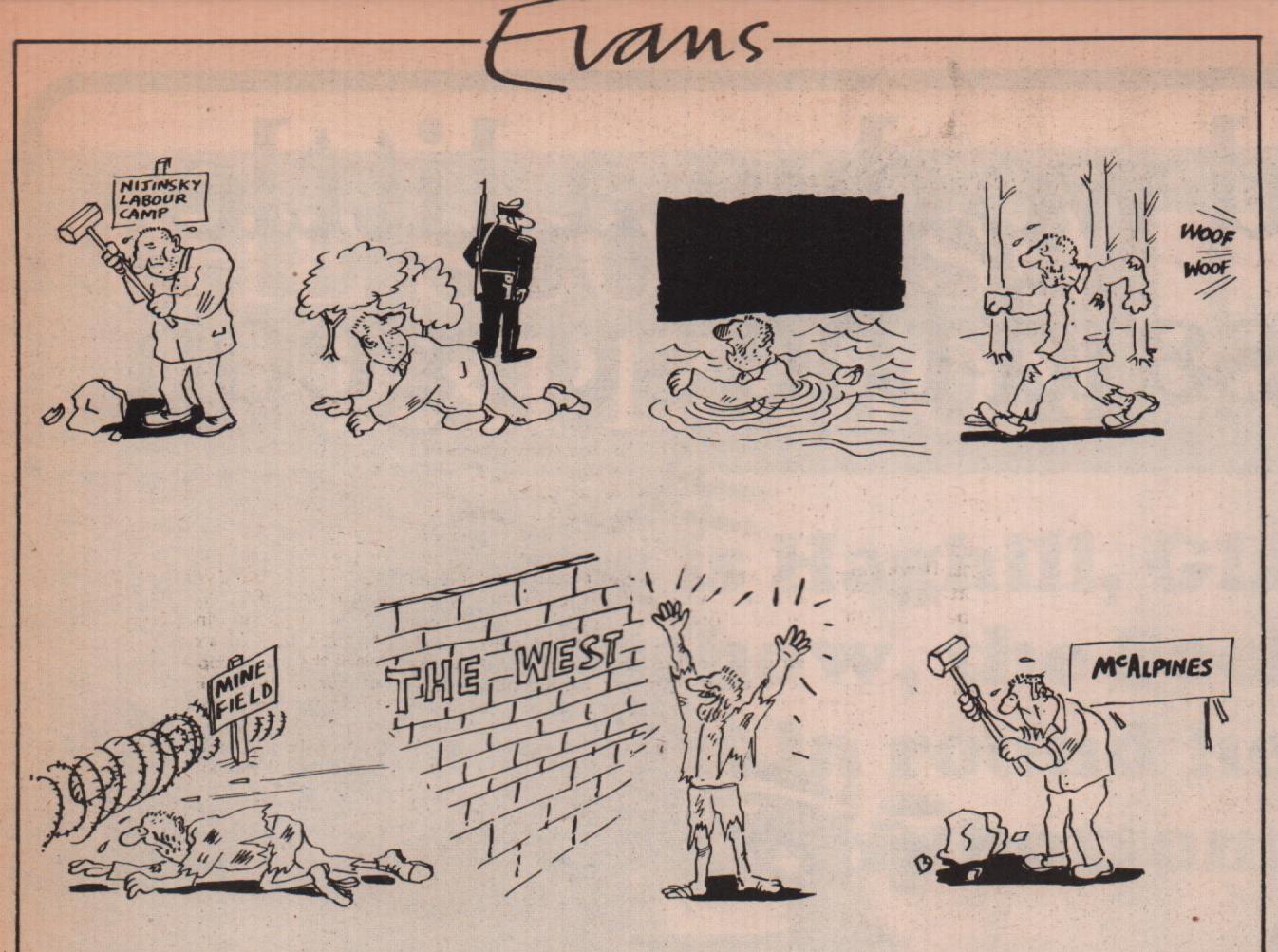
RED HERRINGS AND RED WALES ... The idea that Plaid Cymru (19 October) has anything to do with socialism is a dangerous illusion . . . Their election manifesto favoured a wage freeze, subsidies for big business on food and handouts for industrialists . . . When you realise that more that 70 per cent of Welsh industry is owned outside Wales, Plaid's solution is so much nonsense . . . They obscure the fact that capitalism is international, taking no notice of borders and mountains . . . Welsh workers face the same problems as English and Scottish workers. The nationalists have no solution to our problems . . . The sooner people realise the better.-BRYAN REES, Swansea.

MONEY AND STRIKES . . . The Ford worker (Marriage? Strike? 5 October) asked how to get supplementary benefit during a Ford dispute when he was laid off . . . Your only hope as a single man is the 'emergency clause' in the SB rules which is covered by Section 13 of the 1966 MSS Act. You should argue you are in 'dire need' of money to survive (their figures suggest you need £6.50 a week from any source). This is only likely to apply if you're living away from home and paying rent or if your parents themselves are on SB . . . If they don't give you enough, appeal and if possible get the help of your local Claimants Union. Finally a tip for all strikers. For a few bob you can get the Handbook of the Child Poverty Action Group-CPAG Rights Guide 1-Unemployed Workers And Strikers Guide To Social Security. It's published by CPAG, 1 Macklin Street, London, WC 2 B.-KEN RUTTER, London, W13.

WE DO . . . Why don't you support fellow socialists in their fight North and South of the border . . . Official Sinn Fein and Republican clubs have fought seven elections in about 18 months on both sides of the Irish border . . . Find out who the the real socialists in Ireland, the Officials, are and don't just support everythign the rest of the press opposes, like the Provisional IRA.-C HUNT, Bury St Edmunds.

I ABSTAINED . . . As far as I'm concerned there was only one answer in the election-I abstained. Any other action would appear to have been a betrayal of the What We Stand For. For revolutionaries to stand would be a capitulation to the capitalist parliamentary process.-JOE HERD, Methil, Fife.





# Capitalism causes famine -that's official

'FAMINE' is becoming a common word in the press these days. First there was mass starvation in parts of West Africa. Then Ethiopa. Now there are reports of the worst famine in India since Bengal 1942-3, when three million people died.

A typical report appeared in the Financial Times last week:

'In West Bengal a woman burnt her only child and began to eat it; in villages in other states people are reduced to eating leaves. A family of seven in Andrha Pradesh found their grain store empty so they ate a tin of insecticide . . . '

Usually, the press give the impression that such starvation is the result of a natural calamity:

'In Assam, North West Bengal and North Bihar the crops have been devastated by the floods that have

Fate has dealt a very rough

been sweeping South East Asia. Over the rest of India crops are withering because there is not enough rain.'

All that anyone in the West can do, it seems, is pray for a change in the weather and give a few bob to Oxfam.

But last week the Washington Post revealed details of a recent US government study that tells a quite different story. The 300-page study is such dynamite that it is being kept secret until after next month's United Nations World Food Conference.

The report says there is plenty of food in the world to feed everyone. It asserts that, far from the world running out of land on which to grow food, 'there is twice as much land available for farming as is in use currently.'

It also notes: 'Government decisions to cut production are one cause of the recent situation. Between 1968 and 1970, four major grain-producing countries, the United States, Canada, Australia and Argentina, adopted policies which caused a decline in wheat acreage from 120 million to 81 million acres. Had these four countries maintained the wheat area they had in 1967 and and 1968, yields obtained from 1969 through 1972 would have produced over 90 million more tons of wheat.'

## Produce

As might be expected from a US government publication, it attempts to justify the present system all the same. But its justifications can hardly hide the condemnation made by the facts it presents.

The report says the world could easily produce the two per cent more grain needed to provide adequate diets for most of the world's undernourished people, but getting that grain into those people's stomachs 'would be so enormously complicated as to be quite impractical.' It indicates that the main problem is 'poor distribution and poor management of the food that is available.'

In other words, what is causing famine and starvation in different parts of the world is not some 'natural catastrophe', but the very organisation of capitalist society.

Those who control the food supplies are not prepared to open them up to the world's poor because there is no profit in doing so. This is true of the few rich farmers in India, who refuse to produce wheat on the scale that is possible until the government raises the price. It is equally true of the United States government itself, which insists that Third World governments accept its dictates before letting them have any grain.

# Vally Belper's column

Observer has never used the inter-

# WHERE IS HE NOW?

DOES anyone remember Kenneth Littlejohn? Littlejohn and his brother were the small-time gangsters hired by the British government to infliltrate and discredit the IRA. Only when the brothers were captured on a bank raid, the British government welched on them. dropped them like a hot penny.

Then Kenneth Littlejohn escaped and blew the whole story to the press.

And at first the press listened. Neither Liz Taylor nor Richard Burton was getting engaged that week, so Littlejohn was 'news'. He was the name on everybody's chequebook. BBC TV even interviewed him wearing a black wig, somewhere in Holland.

But since then nothing has been

heard.

This is sinister. Just remember how the press treated that other escapologist, Ronald Biggs. Biggs was just a bigger-time gangster who made a fortune by hitting a train driver over the head. He then made another fortune, being chased round the world by newspaper reporters.

Now Biggs is safe in Brazil, where he is making an LP, using a chorus of police-whistles for a backing group.

But not Littlejohn. I doubt if he is making LPs. I doubt if he is alive. Almost certainly he's been eliminated, so he won't be any more embarrassment to the British government. The press certainly know this. They wouldn't have dropped the story so quickly otherwise.



Kenneth Littlejohn: eliminated?

THERE was a letter in The Guardian last week from the director of Population Countdown, the group that advocates compulsory birth-control. His name is Ronald Dick. Straight up.



FOUR weeks ago, before the present row, Sir Keith Joseph gave an interview to Poly Toynbee for The Observer. Unfortunately, as is often the case in Social Class 1, Sir Keith was tired and emotional at the time. Tired as a newt in fact.

He went raving on about how the country was going to the dogs, how we needed a new prophet, and how television was undermining In short he did his pieces.

But for some reason, The a piddling 10 gns.

This quote comes direct from last week's Southend Standard: 'Mr Victor Shaw, a dustman, found a suspected mortar bomb while emptying bins on a caravan site in Rochford on Thursday. Mr Shaw,

25, picket up a bag next to a dustbin and saw a bomb inside. Mrs Shaw, of Princes Street, Southend, said: "My husband is angry because he thinks if people leave bombs for the dustman, they should leave a sign saying whether they are live or

I feel Mrs Shaw's tip is a very sensible one, and I only hope all the terrorists who read the Southend Standard take it to heart.

# Life in Social Class 1

Lord Montagu has got married again. To celebrate the nuptials, he naturally had a few friends round for a light-ale and a rollmop beigel. 400 friends in fact, and they all had to come cased up like the Great Gatsby.

Lord and Lady Montagu themselves both had matching creations in pure white silk, hand-made by our morals and ought to be banned. Michael Fish. The suits cost 150gns each, the shirts 35gns and the ties

hand to Sir Basil de Ferranti view, even after Sir Keith's inlately. Ferranti's financial famous speech to the Nuremburg headaches have meant the firm is Conservative Association, when he selling its £300,000 Hawkerwas hot news. Couldn't have had anything to do with the fact :that Siddeley 125 executive jet. But don't worry too much. Sir Basil David Astor, who owns The Observer, is a right-winger, could it? won't have to get a season ticket on the underground, he's still got his own jet helicopter to commute from his Georgian house in Cheshire to his office.

And I'm glad to see Sir Basil isn't neglecting his family. On election night he threw a small jolly-up for his daughter Camilla and the beautiful people she toes about with. The bill for the evening is estimated at £25,000. Next day Sir Basil was back rattling his begging bowl to the new government.

In case you can't think of ( ) anything you want for Christmas, Rolls-Royce have announced they are building the 'most beautiful car in the world', The Delta. It will be available next year at around £30,000, give or take a thousand or two.

Glad to see Richard Burton's latest old boiler, Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia, is keeping abreast of the times, She has had a picture of herself in the nude painted by the New York society artist, Nancy Ellen Craig. It cost £4,000. Still, I suppose it might cover up the damp spots on the walls.

# When is a crime not a crime?

NEXT time you hear someone mumbling about equality before the law remember the case of Thomas Crowley.

Thomas, who is 20, was jailed for six months last week. Magistrate Neil McElligott recommended that Thomas should be deported when he was released.

McElligott took the case of this young Irish-born building worker very seriously indeed. 'He comes here and gets good employment and then starts to swindle the Revenue,' he said.

But of one thing we can be certain: the real reason Thomas Crowley copped it has little to do with the fact he was swindling the tax and everything to do with the fact that he is working class and Irish.

We can be certain about this because there are other people, of a different class, who get full dispensation from prosecution for tax evasion.

## Exempt

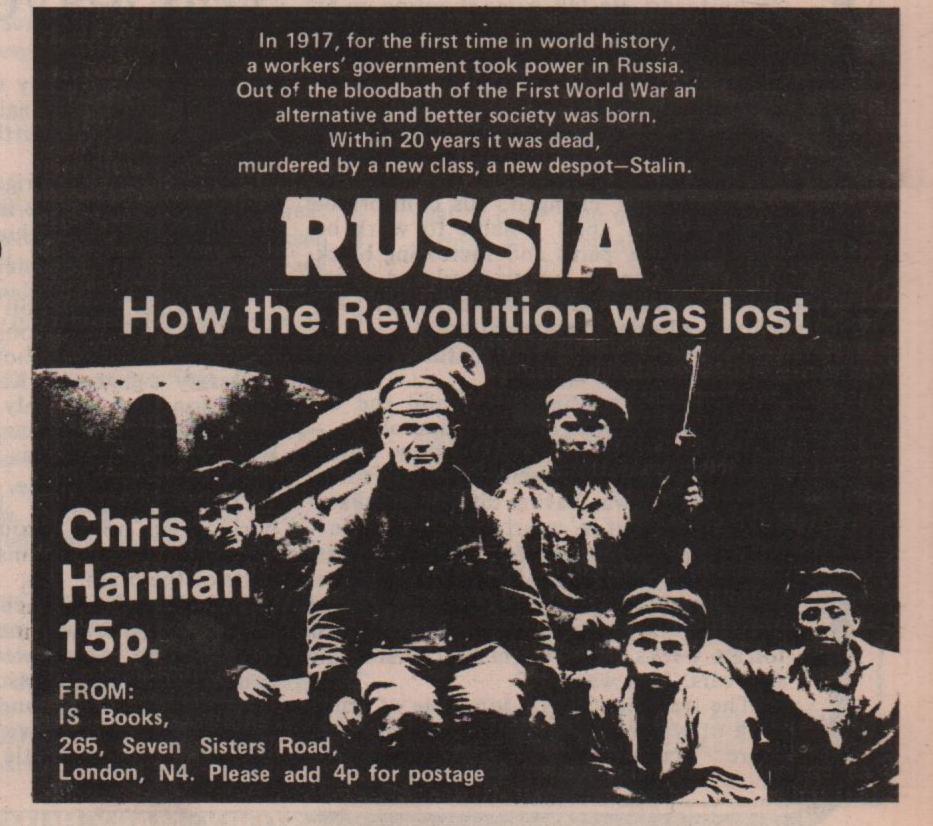
Take Mr J Fox Andrews of Bristol. He was a proven tax swindler, thieving a good deal more than Tom Crowley's £3 a day. But the authorities decided that Mr Fox Andrews could not be prosecuted because 'it would undermine public confidence in the law'. Mr Fox Andrews was

a judge.

Not just judges are exempt. In the taxmen's union journal, Taxes, in January Anthony Christopher wrote:

'Crime . . . is comfortably conceived in class terms. Those who commit crimes are thought of as dangerous and deserving of all they get. Tax evasion, on the other hand, ... has been the preserve of normal, upright, respectable businessmen. They are even admired for it and boast about it in pubs and clubs.'

Which is why Duncan Sandys and his Lonrho colleagues, who salt their money away in the tax free Cayman Islands, are still free to go about their business and Tom Crowley is in jail.



# I'm afraid we dug a little too deep, said the surgeon



WALTER SALMON looks an ordinary man of 48. Then you notice that he looks older, that he walks awkwardly, that he holds his back stiffly. His wife Kathy appears tense and seems to watch him all the time.

Fourteen years ago Walter, Kathy and their five children were a 'well off' working class family living in Chiswick, West London. In his own words, he was a 'true blue bosses' man' who worked for success and the comforts money could buy. Today his children won't speak to him. His married life is destroyed. He has been thrown on the scrapheap by society.

In December 1960 Walter had an accident while working on a building site. Cast-iron guttering fell from a roof, hitting him on the head and knocking him out. He fell back heavily and was taken to hospital, where he was treated for concussion and bruising and detained for several weeks.

He returned to work, though still feeling unsteady. He felt pains shooting up his back and extending into his neck, shoulders, arms and legs. He had occasional blackouts when the lower part of his back was Kathy was horrified by what she saw. This touched. Repeated visits to the doctor threw up vague suggestions of lumbago, rheumatism or fibrositis. His complaints were given little attention.

Walter's life changed. His comfortable home life fell apart. Unable to work because of back pains and increasing blackouts, he began to feel trapped and closed in. The family suffered financially. Nobody mentioned compensation.

Walter returned to his doctor. This time

the diagnosis was 'nerves'.

The pains continued. So did the unsatisfactory answers from the doctor.

Walter became worse, so now Kathy went to the doctor, demanding he do something. Walter was having difficulty breathing and felt 'shut in' wearing a shirt and tie.

The doctor wrote to the West Middlesex Psychiatric Unit, where Walter was seen by a psychiatrist and admitted at once. Kathy was told he might be in for six weeks. They might better have said six years. That was 1963.

The treatment was a long line of drugs, each of which only made Walter gradually

Kathy said she just wanted her husband back. The doctor replied: 'Oh you'll never get that. Why don't you leave him?'

man, once mentally agile and physically strong, had changed little by little into a vegetable.

The psychiatric brigade had failed to bring Walter back into line. As one doctor told him: 'There's nothing the matter with you, what you need is to get back to work.'

The final admission of failure came in 1968 with the cool 'offer' of brain surgery. They set about procuring the necessary signatures. Kathy, told that the operation was the only chance, gave her signature, as did their 17-year-old son. Walter himself, by this time permanently sedated, was easy prey.

The operation-a leucotomy-means boring two holes through the skull and cutting the connections between certain

parts of the brain.

Walter's nature was changed completely. Kathy said she was not married to thesame person. Some weeks later she despairingly asked the surgeon what had happened to Walter and was told: 'Oh, I wondered when you were going to ask . . confused and disorientated. I'm afraid we dug a little too deep.'

In horror, she said she just wanted her husband back. The doctor calmly replied: 'Oh you'll never get that. Why don't you leave him?'

The doctors had certainly left him. Left him with part of his brain missing. Left him with little hope of ever keeping a job again. He still had the pain in his back ...

Now he suffered feelings of violence, instability and hatred which he had never known before. His five children turned against him as he suddenly became a violent madman. Violent scenes in the home grew more regular, until his son tried to stab him to death.

In the Old Bailey trial that followed, the psychiatrist gave evidence that the incident had to be seen in the light of Walter's mental history. The operation had been a failure. Walter was now a 'schizophrenic, psychopathic liar'. And so, disguising his own failure, the psychiatrist named Walter as the origin of the problem. The judge dismissed the case at Walter's request.

They had sent him to hospital eight years earlier with a mild feeling of claustrophobia, and had released him a schizophrenic, psychopathic liar!

## Worried

The pressure of those years, visiting hospital every night, worrying at home, bringing up five children, suspecting that the doctors had done no good for Walter, had begun to take their toll on Kathy. Now she became ill herself, not knowing what to do for Walter.

She also became more aware of her position as a woman in society, as a woman in relation to her husband and as a woman suffering. It was not too long after this that she helped to found the Chiswick Woman's Aid Centre, the first of its kind in England.

Walter, meanwhile, felt still more confused and worried. He decided to leave London to live by himself in Bristol.

That was in 1972. Slowly he began to fight back.

He was granted a minimal Disablement Pension-and discovered after all these years he could, in fact, apply for industrial compensation. Last June he appeared before a Medical Assessment Board.

But first he made a shattering discovery. A consultant uncovered x-rays which showed a 'Z' shape had formed in Walter's spine as a result of an old, unhealed fracture. This, said the consultant, could only have been caused by a severe injury.

The only such injury Walter had known was the building site accident of 1960. This fitted with the fact that the hospital had found him 1½ inches shorter than before.

#### Evidence

When he came before the Medical Assessment Board this was apparently not considered. Walter, on his own, felt swamped by its cold bureaucracy and couldn't present half the evidence he had. The Board decided that due to the head injury in 1960 he had lost his faculty to work and had been '10 per cent disabled' for one year (1960-61). The assessment said it didn't take into account his depression, paranoia and the stomach operation for stab wounds.

He was awarded £22, a lump sum. The devastation of his life, the 14 years of mental torture, the mental breakdown of his wife Kathy and the effect on the children, the Board apparently did not see these as related to the original accident.

Walter, however, had by then learnt enough to reject the £22. Reunited with Kathy, he is trying to appeal against the assessment, with help from the Mental Patients Union.

Walter and Kathy have both learned, by the most tortuous means, the political meaning of their situation. Walter, who after the operation on his brain confides in the psychiatrist that he has the feelings of a 'murderous bastard' and wants to kill, is simply told: 'If you do kill or harm anyone, we'll put you in Broadmoor.' Kathy, expected to leave Walter or, if not, to support him, sees the impossibility of her position as a woman and the need for change in society.

Meanwhile all society will ever offer them is 'compensation'-and that only if they can find a good radical lawyer and sympathetic, competent help. Compensation will never change what they have suffered.

# THE SCOTTISH EXPLOSION



# This is Haghill, Glasgow. Somehow, the Social Contract didn't quite seem to fit in round here. But they found a place for it—at the bottom of the Clyde

THE Scottish strike wave was kicked off by the workers at Hoover's Cambuslang. They have now been out on unofficial strike for eight weeks.

It's not been easy but the workers have stayed united and determined to right a situation where they are on a miserable basic of £26 with average earnings before tax of a mere £32.

That's why they've defied the all-out efforts of the AUEW executive to get them back to work without cash on the table.

The executive broke all records to deal with Hoover. Normally strikers are kept waiting weeks for an official pronouncement. But the EC dealt with Hoover before the first week was out.



EDDIE McAVOY, AUEW shop steward at Hoover's, tells what it's like to be in the middle of the strike wave-and face to face with the Social Contract . . .

WE HAD united working class leadership here in the West of Scotland the situation would be even better than it is already. If the Jones and the Scanlons were doing what they should be doing instead of being members of the government, we would have a fantastic battle. We could improve every single workers wages and clear up a few other injustices besides.

But workers aren't getting that leadership. So they're doing the leading themselves. We're near to a local general strike. But instead of trade union officials running around trying to lead it, we've got leaders who're only out to damp down the fire.

If we had a genuine alliance of trade unionists, we could link up the various strike committees, the employers could never pick us off one by one. The problem is people think we'd lose our separate identities if we joined forces. You have to set that aside in the interests of unity, for with unity the employers are on a hiding to nothing.

We've had four years under a Tory government when our wages were under constant attack. And last year Hoover made £25 million profit. Now they're saying that they've cash flow problems.

But they're a multinational like the others. They've profits they've piled up away abroad. They never invested it or nothing.

So we're not going to pay for their small cash problem. They can damn well bring back some of their money from America.

We have fantastically low wages. That's why it sickens me to hear Len Murray, Jack Jones and Co making their speeches. They must be working for the CBI.

Take Jones' speech at Motherwell. He said that high wages could cause unemployment. If you shut your eyes and ask who said it you'd come up with the answer-an employer. For it's an employer's argument.

If we accept the Social Contract we will end up with a wage freeze. In 1964 George Brown came up with a similar thing to the Social Contract. Only then it was the TUC-CBI declaration of intent. A year later our wages were frozen.

If you accept the Social Contract, they tell you quite openly your living standards will drop. Under this so-called contract, there is nothing to prevent the shareholders and the other people I call parasites increasing their profits.

I'll never know how anyone has the nerve to tell a man going home with £27 a week to pay the rent and feed the family that he should pull in his belt. It is just deceit and any union which says we should accept the contract is selling the members down the river.

I'd accept a Social Contract, if everyone was equal and if everyone had the same standard of living. But until such time, I will not. Pushing such a thing now is nothing but a recipe for continuing the exploitation of the working class.

What causes unemployment is not our wages, high or low. Employers will shut places down even if they break even. They're looking for what they think is a satisfactory rate of return.

They've never invested to help the working class. They invest to help a small minority who already own wealth and want to have more at their disposal.

As long as you have this situation you'll have closure threats, shut downs and lack of job security. The only way to get job security is to take industry out of their hands, to nationalise their factories. You'll never control them any other way.

Jones and Scanlon were part of the great leadership who were going to lead the working class to higher living standards. But now we see that Jones makes the capitalist and their profits the first priority. And I was foolish enough to think that trade union officials were supposed to be responsible to their members.

They were all great fellows under the Tories all attacking prices and how much they'd gone up. But now with wee Harold in there, they've changed their tune. They're saying that profits are OK, as if civilisation depends on them. What a joke.

But they're not on. Up here people are showing that they're not going to tolerate the situation any longer.

All it needs is the organisation and leadership. People are sitting on the sidelines waiting and watching. If we had the organisation, there's nothing we couldn't do.



GLASGOW International Socialists have responded to the present wave of disputes in the West of Scotland by launching a mobilisation around this six-point programme:

- EXTEND the strikes. Put in wage claims and take action now.
- 2 NO RETURN to work until the full claims have been met. No productivity strings. Not a penny less than £10.
- 3 GIVE the strikes official backing by the unions. No sell-outs by full-time officials.
- 4 FOR a West of Scotland all shop stewards' meeting to give full support, moral and financial, to those in dispute.
- 5 FOR a West of Scotland Rank-and-File Strike Committee to link those in dispute and those putting in claims, and to organise a common strike fund.
- 6 SUPPORT the National Rank-and-File Conference in Birmingham on 30 November.



8 SOCIALIST WORKER 2 November 1974

by Roy Brown

A ONE-DAY token strike was staged by members of the Joe Coral betting organisation last Saturday following the management's consistent refusal to talk about recognition of TUBE (The Union of Bookmakers' Employees) in the Glasgow area.

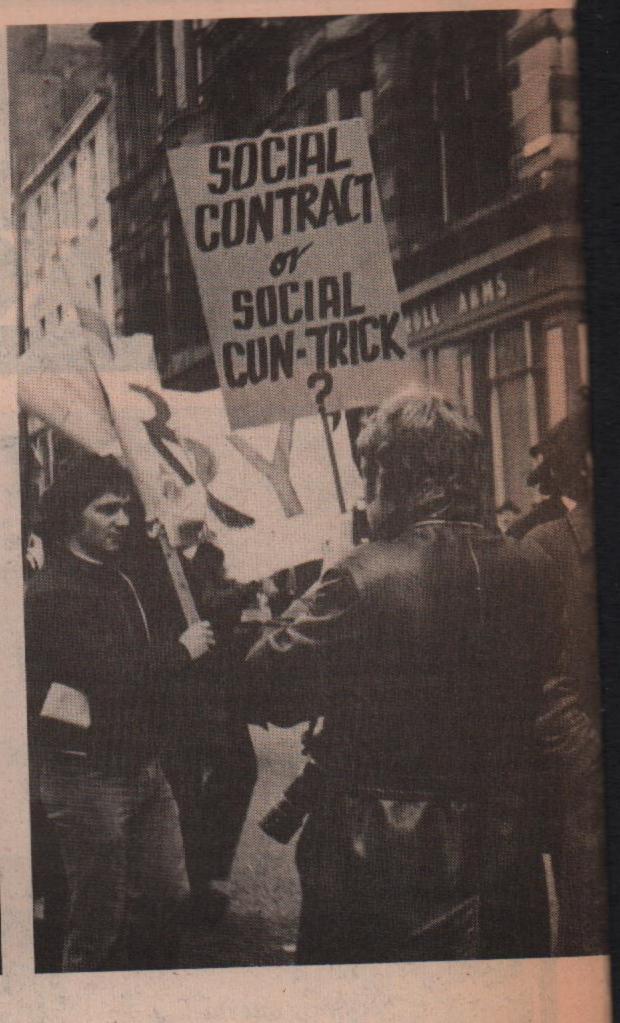
Offices where scab labour was employed were picketed successfully. In one shop the normal Saturday takings of £2000 dropped to £70.

The success of the strike was achieved mainly because of the women counter clerks' determinanation in picketing the offices, The strikers went back to work

on Monday and are determined to win union recognition.

Support from the public was fantastic. The women counter clerks earn £14 to £16 for 31 hours. In the last three months, Coral's have made £2 million profit.





# Some contract

# Shortages? We know the real culprits

By Gail Armstrong

OVER the past few weeks we have seen shortages of perishables and some canned goods in the shops in Scotland as the haulage drivers were stepping up their strike.

Now that the drivers are winning things may improve. But the busmen are still standing firm and there are thousands and thousands of other low-paid workers who could well follow them into battle. So our problems could well carry on.

Story

One thing that all housewives and workers should remember is who is really responsible. The press and TV are all too ready to point the finger when workers demand decent conditions and

It is a different story when sugar or petrol supplies magically dry up. We are told greedy Arab sheiks, panicky women shoppers or natural disasters are responsible.

But there is no getting away from it-time after time we can see the bosses and their class looking after themselves and doing very nicely out of it.

Earlier this year, when lentils disappeared from the shops, workers at Allied Supplies (suppliers to Templetons Liptons Cochran's and Galbraith supermarkets) discovered a warehouse full of them in Glasgow.

## Double

They struck for an independent inquiry into the hoarding. But, needless to say, lentils soon reappeared in the supermarkets at double the price.

Whatever the propaganda over the next week or so, all shoppers should remember one thing: It's the bosses who cause the shortages.

They held back on the drivers' money because they want more sweat per penny. They're the ones who cause the lay-offs and it's on them that we should vent our anger.

by Peter Rain, TGWU

THE UNION right at the centre of the storm in the West of Scotland is the TGWU. Lorry drivers, bus workers, dustmen, engineering workers have all been on strike despite the fact that of all the union leaders, Jack Jones TGWU general secretary, is the most fervent supporter of the Social Contract.

And Jones has not exactly disguised where he stands in this vital battle. Indeed his performance recently must destroy the myth that he is some kind of militant once and

for all. Only last month, every T and G branch received a circular from Brother Jones pointing out that although the Tory Industrial Relations Act was dead the union had never been 'above the law'. He went on to give the

following advice: No strike should take place until the period of notice required under the Contract of Employment had elapsed, and the TGWU

regional office given its blessing. No written appeals for solidarity action

should be circulated. Only small numbers of pickets should be used and all offers of outside help should be refused.

In other words, Jones was saying: Carry on as though the Industrial Relations Act was still in force.

He showed where he stands a year ago, when he last visited Clydeside.

7000 workers had struck at Chrysler Linwood over the company's intention to move scabs in to do the work of striking electricians.

Jones said: 'The repairing of machinery by high level management supervisors in these circumstances is not unusual. It is not contrary to good trade union practice for our members

# PICTURES: John Sturrock

(Report)

to work on the machines.' This is rather like telling the carriers to work with the army during a dustcart drivers' strike. The Linwood

workers ignored Jones' advice.

Two weeks ago at the Scottish delegate conference of the TGWU, Jones went a step further along the road from co-operation with the employers to outright support for them. He warned that wage claims could lead to closures and 'nat 'austerity measures' might

have to be accepted. Perhaps the reason why Brother Jones used the expression 'austerity measures' is that it would have been too embarrassing for him to say what he actually means-wage cuts and

unemployment.

But why does Jones behave like this and use classic employers' arguments. The answer isn't that his sole desire in life is to sell his members down the river, though it may seem like that. It's simply that for him and those he has gathered about him, like Alec Kitson and Ray MacDonald, the achievement of 'socialism' is a long gradual process to be carried out by successive Labour governments and by people

like him. During that process, advances are supposed to be made. But capitalism will still exist, and so accommodations will have to be reached with big business. If that means wage restraint and unemployment in what Jones sees as the long term interests of his members, then so be

And so even today, in a society in which the economy is dominated by huge multinational companies, in which 7 per cent of the population own 84 per cent of the wealth, in

which there is a serious crisis which employers are trying to make us pay for, Jones is in favour of wage restraint from his members.

Objectively, this puts him on the side of the employers in current struggles. Wage restraint by workers means higher profits for the bosses.

In the present situation Jones has some difficulties. Representing hundreds of thousands of low paid workers who have suffered most from the various wage restraint policies of recent years, he has to be careful.

And the sheer numbers of TGWU members currently on strike makes it extremely difficult for him to take too hard a line without provoking a massive revolt inside the union. At all costs he wants to avoid that at the moment. But give him time and he will take the hard line.

# Disguise

Jones' reputation as a militant and scourge of big business is based on a few conference hall speeches. In the real world he's only too willing to co-operate with the employers and to use the whole machinery of the union to that end.

In the period ahead, with raging inflation and increasing unemployment, the ability of the Joneses of this world to disguise their right wing deeds with left wing phraseology will prove more and more difficult.

In certain circumstances, to keep control of particular situations, Jones will be forced to make fighting noises. But in general he will move even further to the right.

Jack 'Jekyll' Jones, socialist militant, avowed enemy of the capitalist class never existed, except in the fevered minds of newspaper hacks.

Jack 'Hyde' Jones, supporter of wage freeze, austerity measures and basher of the TGWU rank and file, is about to enter the scene.

# VILE WORK, VILE PAY

DESPITE massive pressure to follow the decision of the dustcart drivers and return to work on the basis of a shaky promise from the Corporation, Glasgow's striking sewage workers voted to stay out for £35 basic on Monday.

The vote was unanimous, despite the General and Municipal union officials' remarks that the men 'were fighting a lone battle' and that other Corporation workers were as bad off'. What a condemnation of the union's inactivity over the years.

The strikers do the most dirty and dangerous jobs in the city's sewage works for pitiful wages:

by George Kelly, convenor, Glasgow Corporation electrical workshops

£22.17 basic for grade three and £24.77 basic on a seven shift

system. Even with additional bonus few can reach the princely sum of £30. But Glasgow's Labour controlled council is sticking to the letter of the law and insisting negotia-

tions have to be carried out at national level. The health hazards caused by the estimated 35 million gallons

of untreated sewage that have been poured daily into the Clyde is being played down by the local press.

But the Clyde Purification Board are pumping in a ton of liquid oxygen at a cost of £500 a day to help keep alive the river's plant life.

# DECENT

They are also buying two floating areators at £5000 to aid the oxygen. How about diverting this cash to the sewage workers?

At the moment, the strikers are on their own. As shop steward

and strike committee treasurer Lewis Collins said: 'We must link with other low-paid Corporation

workers. 'But we're solid. I'm prepared to stick out for a decent basic

wage. Much has been made by fulltime officials of the national wage

award due within a week. But it is unlikely to come up to the sewage lads' claim of a £35

basic-unless there is a fight. Attempts must be made to link up all low paid local authority workers. With the spirit of the sewage workers, a breakthrough for decent wages in local authorities is a possibility.



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# 'Incredible—but it's

MARIA Burgess teaches at Victoria Drive school in Scotstoun Glasgow. But for five years she taught at Cranhill, a working class comprehensive.

Staff were always short there.
And the shortages have been increasing, thanks to lousy wages and the widespread feeling that if you were going to get lousy wages, you'd be better off teaching in a respectable school.

But now the teachers are on the move to get those lousy wages altered. They are determined to win their claim: £15 a week.

Their union is pussyfooting like the others, though it is having to make some noises. The rank and file action committees are handling the thing gently, to say the least, and are not yet moving for determined all-out action.

But the teachers want cash in the hand now. And though many still think they are a cut above such people as schoolkids and the other strikers, their ideas are changing. Maria explains:

# happening'

Until this year, the mass of teachers were apathetic. Now we have unofficial action involving more than 2000 in the West of Scotland and many more elsewhere.

It seems incredible. But it's happening. In the staff rooms you hear people saying things you'd just never heard before from people who were imbued with the idea of letting their leaders get on with polite negotiations, being moderate and reasonable.

But this year it became clear that if we didn't do something then the education system would collapse. People were voting with their feet and packing jobs in.

In the dispute the older kids are very sympathetic. They come up and say they never realised how little we earned. And the parents, too, are friendly. But a lot of teachers don't want pupils to know or be involved. They still think this unprofessional. They don't understand that higher wages will benefit the kids and so the kids are centrally involved.

There's a lot to change in the educational set-up. And not just teachers' attitudes to wages. Teachers tend to look on the alienated kids as troublesome. They feel superior, that these kids are stupid.

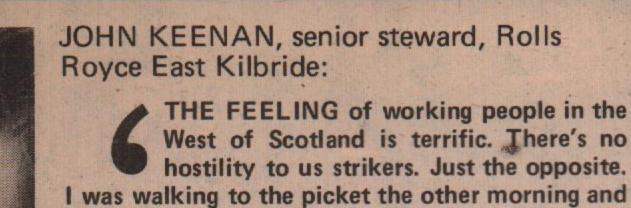
Teachers also accept that working class kids have to go out into lousy jobs. At my last school, the kids went into a big C and A factory nearby.

Another member of the staff asked me why I bothered. "After all," she said, "They're only going to push buttons for the rest of their lives."

That's what we've got to change.

# some society!

# ne Scottish Explosion



I came on a street cleanser.

I said to him "You're about the only person left at work." He said: "I think I'll just have to

The Rolls Royce claim is for £10 for all the three factories. Under the legal shackles we settled not so long ago. It was backdated to April. But we refused to sign the agreement since it was not freely negotiated.

What surprised me was the tremendous feeling for the claim. It just goes to show you the frustration that has built up about wages.

When someone mentions the Social Contract to our people they just say: "What's that? We've

never been consulted about that."

One of the main reasons that working class people are in the mess we're in today is this whole bit about being reasonable. We've been too reasonable. Who's ever been reasonable with us?

It's hogwash that we have to create more wealth before we can get any more. California is the richest state in the richest country in the world. But there is still plenty of poverty and food riots.

The simple truth is that until we have a society based on need and not greed workers will have to go on fighting every inch of the way

That's what so terrible about the behaviour of the union leaders, like Jack Jones' speech about big wage increases creating unemployment.

The union leaders who use these employers' arguments are part of the top of the heap. That's the truth of it. I saw that Len Murray had his tea at Brook's Club the other evening. That just about sums him up. Who elected him, anyway?

# We're strong—but we're stronger together

by Jimmy McCallum (TASS)

IN EVERY strike and dispute, one thing stands out: the rank and file have no confidence in the authority of the trade union machine and rely totally on their own initiatives, organisation and power.

This isn't just a reaction to the half-heartedness of local officials and the arrogance of national officers. In many ways it is a statement of what has become obvious.

If any dispute is to end in victory it depends on the extent to which the shop stewards can extend and strengthen the strike.

The lorry drivers' strike clearly shows this power and self-reliance. From the beginning, the shop stewards controlled the way the strike unfolded.

It isn't only the lorry drivers who have shown the militancy and strength of the rank and file. The Glasgow dustmen, who are now back at work awaiting an offer, also established that their stewards would do the negotiating in their fight against the Labour-dominated council. And the busmen, the teachers, engineering workers are doing the same.

This clearly indicates that workers on the shop floor, on the site or in the classroom, have had

enough of the cynical conference manoeuvre of the leadership of the trade union movement.

Events in Scotland over the last few weeks hold the key to the situation throughout the working class movement. The way the TUC has snapped up the Social Contract has opened up the gap between themselves and the rank and file.

## Power

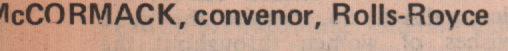
But we have to help rank and file confidence grow. The way to make sure that it does grow is to give it a fighting focus.

That is what the second national Rank and File Conference is about. And at the same time it is about something more. The rank and file have shown and are showing yet again that the working class has tremendous power. What is lacking is serious political direction.

A genuine rank and file movement would speed victory in the fight for higher wages. It would lay the ground for a united battle against unemployment.

Most important of all it would draw together the real power of the workers and put it to work for the emancipation of our class.

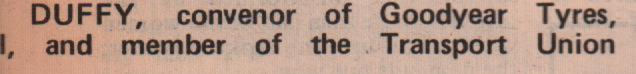




SUBSTANCE of the Social Contract is that the poor Id help the poor while the rich keep a secure grip on pile. This alone exposes it as a massive confidence

hat workers must be involved. But at no stage have the grass roots to have their say on this so-called ey did, I am absolutely certain it would be thrown out. that if we hold back everything will follow and we'll ange is so much rubbish. The only way forward is to who possess, not share out the misery among the

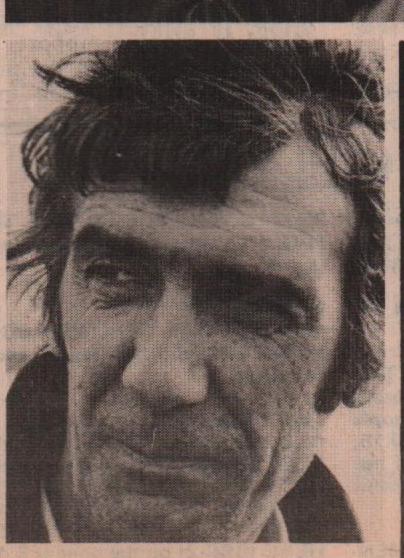
ever and Co are on the side of the employing the election, Harold has left us in no doubt bour government stands.



PRESENT wave of struggles in Scotland is easily ained. For two years workers have been shit on, they are trying to get back to where they were en improve their living standards a little.

Contract, as far as I'm concerned, was supposed to be ing. The unions were to hold back on wage claims and es would be frozen and wealth redistributed. If these happen and the Labour Government does the same as clearly there can be no contract.

are just no longer willing to let their wages be mote negotiations over which they have no the connecting link between all these dismust be made official.



# The lesson they learned

A MEETING of the High Street freight depot workers—members of the National Union of Railwaymen decided last Friday to end their five-week strike after management conceded an increase in manning.

A signed agreement stated that 134 men were needed to cover jobs. The number employed is 70.

Management tried to confuse the issue by introducing suggestions of new shift patterns. They were only prepared to discuss manning if there were concessions on productivity.

Their members were prepared to fight on a nonwage issue. And they only went back to work because of isolation and lack of financial support from other sections of the trade union movement, Like the postmen in 1971, the will was strong but their pockets empty. They are now determined to set up a committee of rank and file workers involved or expecting to be involved in struggle. Set up links now so they will not in future be defeated because of lack of finances.

Their final bulletin stated: 'We appeal to the members of the trade union movement throughout the country to join with us in expressing dissatisfaction with union representatives sitting in their comfortable offices who refuse to represent their members satisfactorily'.

These workers will continue to press for retrospective recognition of the strike as official and call on all members in NUR branches in Glasgow to endorse this at their branch meetings.



Pamphlets produced by the International Socialists:

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

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

Workers against racism, by Paul Foot, 10p

Women fight back, by Kath Ennis, 10p

Trotsky, by Duncan Hallas, 5p

Lenin, by Jim Higgins, 5p

The Meaning of Marxism, by Duncan Hallas, 25p. Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism, by Richard Kuper, 10p

The Politics of Lenin, by Paul Ginsborg, 20p

Russia: How the revolution was lost, by Chris Harman, 15p

Asbestos, the dust that kills in the name of profit, 10p

National Front: The new nazis,

The Struggle in Ireland, by Chris Harman, 15p

Four educational reprints from IS (US), the International Socialists of the United States: WAR AND THE MIDDLE EAST, principally articles by Hal Draper plus 'The Arab States' by Ian Birchall from IS Journal (30p)

POPULAR FRONT OF THE 1930s: Articles by Trotsky, Swabeck, Held and Rosmer from New International and by Kirkwood from IS Journal (15p)

**READINGS IN THE POLI-**TICAL ECONOMY OF CAPITAL includes a number of articles by Cliff, Kidron and others from IS Journal and

its predecessor Socialist Review, plus articles from New International in 1949 (40p)

**POLITICS AS RELIGION** consists of the articles by Duncan Hallas from IS Journal documenting the degeneration of the Fourth International, with an introduction by Cal Williams of ISUS and appendices by Shachtman, Draper, **Erber and Natalia Trotsky** 

(40p)

Also WOMEN IN THE CHINESE REVOLUTION by Laurie Landy traces the changing role of women in China, and shows that the new society there 'has "liberated" women so that they can be more easily exploited . . . by a new . . . mode of production

and ruling class. The emancipation of women in China awaits a new social revolution . . .' (25p)

THE RAGGED-TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS is out of print in paperback until March 1975. The hardback is still available at £2-get your local library to buy it.

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

DIRECT FROM:

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

# Two strikes, almost identical-but one won and one lost. Why?



LEFT: Women strikers at SEI. Heywood, jeering as blacklegs go into the factory. Meanwhile 30 miles away in Liverpool, women's pickets at Wingrove and Rogers (BELOW) were forced to stand by as police cleared a way. Both strikes were by women members of the Engineering Union, women not normally militant. One SEI striker said the union officials 'sold us down the river'but is that all there was to it?

'WE'LL march back with our heads held high,' said one of the victorious strikers at Wingrove and Rogers in Liverpool last week. After 17 weeks on strike they were elated and confident. They had won all their demands.

The same week, another group of women workers in the North West were expressing vastly different feelings. After 11 weeks on strike, women at SEI, a GEC subsidiary in Heywood, had voted despondently to return to work with only a fraction of what they wanted. Demoralised and confused, one striker laid the blame for the defeat at the door of the local Engineering Union officials. 'They sold us down the river,' she said.

Yet on the surface the disputes were very similar. Both involved small groups of women manual workers who were nominally members of the AUEW but had little experience of organising disputes. Both were part of the recent explosion of strikes which women workers have been forced into in an attempt to cope with raging inflation.

Both were doubtless stimulated by the existence of governmentprescribed threshold payments and the Equal Pay Act, legally entitling them to wage increases they weren't getting.

## Fearsome

One ended in failure, one in success. Are we to conclude that the air in Merseyside is different from the rest of Lancashire, that it makes workers more militant and more likely to succeed? Or perhaps the Merseyside women were able to put their case with more eloquence and greater persuasion? Perhaps Wingrove and Rogers are less fearsome employers than the GEC colossus, so guaranteeing a greater chance of success?

Of course such ideas are nonsense. While GEC may be a more powerful set-up than Wingrove and Rogers, the response of both managements

# REPORT: ANNA PACZUSKA

to workers' demands for increased wages was the same-hostile. No management goes in for chivalrous sentiment when profits are at stake. And the air in Liverpool and Manchester is equally filthy.

The difference in the two strikes lies in the way they were organised, These differences were crucial.

Women are a weak, poorlyorganised sector of the trade union movement. For a century the response of more experienced trade unionists to this has been to pass pious motions calling for equal pay.

Sympathy is not enough, action is the key to winning any dispute.

The strikers at both factories got the sympathy of feminists and socialists across the country. Money was raised by trade unionists and women's libbers. But in Liverpool rank and file trade unionists sympathetic to the women on strike decided to organise action in their support. Their appeals for the blacking of the firm's goods were effective and lent considerable weight to the strikers' case.

So when AUEW members on Merseyside voted to hold a one-day

strike in support, management didn't bother to wait for the result but conceded the demands immediately.

The strikers, aided by the experience of other AUEW members on Merseyside, had ensured that they were themselves actively involved in running the strike and that it wasn't manipulated by union officials. Though some workers continued to work in the factory, they needed big police aid to cross the picket line and it was the united efforts of men and women trade unionists that won the strike.

## Involved

very different. From the beginning the workers were divided, for the men workers weakened the strike by continuing to work. Some even escorted women scabs into the factory.

Worse still, the initiative of the strike was left largely in the hands of the AUEW officials. This meant the women strikers were not actively involved in winning support, but were left day after day on the picket line or posting appeal sheets-instead of

travelling the country to win support.

The officials appealed to the men workers to support the strike, but in the absence of rank and file pressure from AUEW members in the area they did not instruct the men to come out.

The officials announced grand plans for a blacking appeal-but never put them into action.

Appeal sheets were issued-but effective appeals round the GEC combine were never planned.

The strikers started to become demoralised. So, despite the good wishes of women throughout the country, the strike was failing.

Too late, rank and file trade unionists in Manchester decided to organise action in support of the strikers. Gerry Walsh, a shop steward But in Heywood the picture was at Ferrantis, said at a meeting organised in support: 'The AUEW has not fought to gain support for the women at SEI. It is important for members to act at shop-floor level.' A mass picket was planned for 28 October.

> But the very lack of shop-floor involvement has taken its toll. On Tuesday last week AUEW officials, intimidated by management threats to sack the strikers, appealed for a return to work. Uninformed about support and misinformed by the officials, more than half of the women voted to return. The strike was over, the demands not won.

> Many of the strikers quickly came to realise the role of the officials. Angrily they saw how they had been manipulated.

The lesson is clear. If weak sections of workers are to win, active support has to be organised involving the better-organised workers.

Workers at both Wingrove and Rogers and SEI have expressed support for the aims of the National Rank and File Conference later this month. It is to be hoped delegates at the conference will listen to their experience and organise effective support for future women's strikes.

# WHEN TO SWITCH ON

SATURDAY

BBC-2: 9.10pm 45 MINUTES EACH WAY is 90 minutes about football in 2ND HOUSE, features contributions from Jackie Charlton, Danny Blanchflower, Bobby Smith, Harry Gregg, Bill Tidy, Tony Hancock, Alan Plater and Willis Hall.

SUNDAY

BBC-1: 8.15pm. OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR started out as an anti-war stage show at Joan Littlewood's Theatre Royal in London's East End. It wound up as an over-blown 'spectacular' movie with an all star cast which says little about war and a lot about the useless liberalism of its

Attenborough. TARY surveys THE RISE OF THE RED NOTORIOUS WOMAN is a seven part NAVY on the growth of Russian maritime series on the French woman writer George Sand at 10.15pm on BBC-2.

OPEN DOOR at 11.40pm (BBC-2) is on the Wapping Parents Action Group. MONDAY

BBC-1: 8.10pm. Panorama looks at THE POLITICS OF FOOD, or how the world's ruling class is allowing 460 million people to starve . . . On BBC-2 at 10.15, SECOND CITY FIRSTS play series has SILENCE on the aftermath of unsuccessful strike at a Cornish boatyard.

TUESDAY BBC-1: 9.25pm. TUESDAY'S DOCUMEN-

WEDNESDAY ITV: 1.30pm. CROWN COURT is

THURSDAY

tenants.

BBC-1: 9.25pm. BABY LOVE, the PLAY FOR TODAY is on baby snatching. On BBC-2 at 10.10pm MAN ALIVE begins a two parter UNFIT FOR HUMAN HAB-ITATION on housing. BYRON LIVED

HERE (BBC-2) on the poet at 8.45pm.

WINKLERS on the illegal eviction of

# How I became a socialist

ROD McFIE fought a private battle against the dole, the law and the army, until the Tower Hill rent strike convinced him that together and organised the working class could beat all three. He still lives in Tower Hill with his family and is a member of Kirkby International Socialists. Here he writes of the influences that made him a socialist.

RIGHT: The Tower Hill rent strike of 1972. 'During the strike I realised I was fighting a political battle and not a one-man hate campaign.'

IT WASN'T reading books or watching films which made me a revolutionary.

It was due to being brought up in poverty, fighting for my life in a Liverpool slum, having a father who had just returned from fighting in the Second World War and thinking he was fighting for a good cause-brainwashed into believing that it was his place to be one of the 'have nots'.

During my childhood it was constantly hammered home to me that I should be a good boy at school, that I shouldn't question what my elders told me, and that I should join the Orange Lodge because the 'Papes' are bastards.

When I left school at 15 with only a nominal education I was forced into an office job as a junior clerk. There I spent 12 months of humiliation running errands for jumped-up middle-class no marks who didn't like me because of my accent and because I swore at them. Finally they couldn't stand me no more and sacked me.

At first I was quite pleased but then I discovered the humiliation

of the dole queues.

On the dole I was getting £1 12s 6d, of which I haf to give my mother £1.10s-leaving me with



# ASSAULt course

2s 6d. With this I had to look for a job, not the easiest thing in the world. I used to get up at seven in the morning and walk around Merseyside looking for a job. The 2s 6d was spent on cups of tea.

## Forced

After a few months of this I thought: 'My parents have told me to be good and honest, but what has it got me? 2s 6d a week.' To get what I wanted and what society owed me I was forced into crime.

I was stealing to keep up appearances and at times to eat. I attended court five times and was

eventually branded a menace to society and sent down for three months. Three months of further humiliation, being treated like an animal for wanting a fraction of what the judge who sent me down had got.

When I came out of jail I was back at square one. No job and no money. I didn't want to return to a life of crime because with my limited intelligence I was no match for the supposed defenders of our rights, the police. I joined the army.

The adverts said they would teach you to think for yourself and be a man. Biggest load of crap I've ever heard. All your thinking's done for you. You're encouraged not to think. You're told what to eat and when to eat it. What time to get up and what time to go to bed. You're given a bible and told the Lord will protect you while you are killing your fellow workers.

After a few months they realised that they had in me a man that was prepared to do a little thinking for himself and so they kicked me out for false enlistment. I was obviously not moral enough to go around killing people.

I laugh now when I think of how many revolutionaries the army must have trained in the use of weapons. Each one of them another nail in the ruling class coffin.

## Battle

Since the army I've worked for a number of bosses of various sorts. I'm married now and have three children and now know the problems of bringing up a family under this corrupt system. I now live on the Tower Hill council estate in Kirkby and it was here that I realised that I wasn't fighting the battle on my own.

It was during the Tower Hill rent strike that I realised I was fighting a political battle and not a one-man hate campaign. I realised the need for an organisation to fight. I saw the tremendous effort the International Socialist members were making in this battle against capitalism. And I saw the Communist Party capitulate and I knew that if anybody could win the battle for socialism it was the International Socialists.

I joined the International Socialists and I am now proud to call myself a member of the organised working class, a member of an organisation made up of people like myself, of people who have had a better training ground than the assault course at Aldershot. We've been training all our lives and the ruling class have been contributing to our training.

## Fascism

Books and films and folk songs are great for use as weapons in argument and for pointing out the greed of the ruling class, but when the revolution comes, as it surely will, we will have to be cunning, vicious and hard. We shall have to fight for survival as well as socialism because the alternative is fascism.

I will use these books now as an additional weapon to my experience but I can't stand behind a barricade and throw books at the enemy. What I shall throw at the enemy is a lifetime of hate and humiliation backed up by the weapons the army has taught me to use, and we shall win.

We are working class. We have the power. We have the resources. Success is inevitable.

# HAMMERS!

THE Half Moon Theatre, the one theatre in London that produces consistently enjoyable socialist drama, has a new production called The Hammers, about West Ham Football Club. It's based on play Alan Plater wrote about Hull City but has been adapted by an ex-docker, Billy Colvill, to fit Upton Park. In sketches, songs and knees-up, 'The Hammers' follows the fortunes of a Hammers fan, Ray, a master joiner. It's your chance to relieve the Hammers winning the FA Cup in 1964, the European Cup Winners Cup 1965 and England winning the World Cup 1966.

It's directed by Pam Brighton, who laid on the excellent production of Brecht's St Joan of the Stockyards earlier this year, and has been packed out by local football fans.

Performances are at 7.30pm every night except Monday until 16 November. The Half Moon is at 27 Alie Street, behind Whitechapel roundabout. Phone 01-489 6465.

It would suit a branch outing. The Half Moon, who are doing their utmost to attract a working class audience, are open to negotiation over reductions for block bookings. Bring a bottle and sing all the Upton Park favourites.

# PICTURE

AMERICAN photographer Nancy Hellebrand has been in the International Socialists for two years. During the same two years she has been taking photographs of workers in their homes. She took more than 200 of cleaners, typists, building workers, drivers, gasmen, railway workers and pensioners. Some have been printed in Womens' Voice and Socialist Worker and there has been a small exhibition in the London IS Bookshop.

Thirty are now on show at London's National Portrait Gallery until Sunday, 3 November. The Gallery is behind Trafalgar Square in Charing Cross Road and is open 10am-5pm on weekdays, 10am-6pm on Saturdays and 2pm-6pm on Sundays. At the same gallery is another exhibition, 'The Camera and Dr Barnardo', also of interest to socialists.

A book of Nancy Hellebrand's photos is published by Lund Humphries at £2.95, available at the exhibition.

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

PRICES are rocketing. Inflation and profiteering by food manufacturers and middlemen mean soaring food prices. It is increasingly difficult to make the housekeeping money stretch that bit further every week. It's time we had organised trade union action for higher wages and to keep down prices.

Workers in Italy have already been forced to take direct action. Last month workers in Turin refused to pay increased bus fares and the electrical union called on people to refuse to pay the new, higher electricity charges.

In Milan people took over two supermarkets one Saturday for half an hour and charged the customers half the price on all the goods.

This is nothing new. British working men and women have taken action on food prices in the past. In 18th century Britain there was a widespread belief that it was immoral for any one man to profit from the needs of others. It was also assumed that when food was short the prices of necessities would stay at the normal price even if there was less to go around. If prices rose, or people suspected swindling by dealers, there was immediate retaliation.

In Honiton, Devon, in 1766 laceworkers seized corn from local farmers, sold it at the market at a price they set, and returned the money and

the sacks to the farmers. This happened all over the country.

The history books describe them as 'bread riots'. But they were not riots. They were highly organised actions. Women would take over the market place while the men visited the local farms and mills, seizing corn and flour. Farmers and millers got paid if they co-operated.

Bread was the staple diet of labourers and their families, so the price and supply of grain was important. When farmers started to export food during a European food shortage in 1795 roads were blockaded, ships stormed at ports, there were threats to destroy canals and burn farmers' houses.

## **DEMOLISH**

When food was seized it was sold by ration. Millers found to be hoarding flour had their mills attacked, machinery wrecked and mill dams let off. The idea was to punish the millowner rather than steal the flour.

In 1795 a crowd at Seven Dials in London began to demolish the shop of a baker suspected of selling shortweight loaves. A passing magistrate weighed the loaves, found the suspicions to be true, and distributed the bread to the crowd. Parish constables and magistrates were frequently enlisted, by persuasion or force, to

preside over the price setting. Food 'riots' were generally started by women, who had more experience

in judging prices and weights. There were strenuous efforts by magistrates and landowners to prevent this action. In 1795 the 'Speenhamland system' was introduced, which subsidised wages in relation to the price of bread. Farmers were also ordered by the magistrates to sell at reasonable prices and parish funds

For popular action over food prices, once started, was almost impossible to stop. Troops might take several days to arrive. So the threat of action was often enough to regulate prices and actual 'riots' were guaran-

used to subsidise prices.

teed to succeed. After the crowd had finished with shop prices they might visit the houses of the rich for 'contributions', given voluntarily or under pressure. In Witney in 1767, the crowd declared in a written notice that they would not suffer 'such damned, wheezing, fatgutted rogues to starve the poor by such hellish ways on purpose that they may follow hunting, horse racing etc and maintain their families in pride and extravagance."

It's the sort of message we should be issuing to today's fat-bellied food merchants.

Di Hatchett

# Defend Socialist Worker



WHAT'S ON

**BIRMINGHAM: Sunday 3 November** 

Speaker: Paul Foot

7.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall Lecture Room 1 (Tickets 10p from IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street)

**COLCHESTER: Thursday 31 October** Speaker: Geoff Ellen and a local trade unionist 7.30pm, The Globe, Military Road

**CRAWLEY: Thursday 31 October** Speaker: Anna Paczuska 8pm, West Green Community Centre, West Green Drive

NOTTINGHAM: Thursday 21 November 8pm, Lion Hotel, Clumber Street

**IPSWICH: Thursday 14 November** Speaker: Steve Ludlam (NUPE) 8pm, Rose and Crown, Norwich Road

**READING: Friday 1 November** Speaker: Steve Ludlam (NUPE) 8pm, AUEW Hall, Oxford Road

**MAIDENHEAD: Sunday 3 November** Speaker: Mike Healey 8pm, Jack of Both Sides, York Road

**WOOLWICH: Thursday 7 November** Speaker: Anna Paczuska 7.30pm, Charlton House, Charlton Village LEWISHAM: Thursday 7 November Speaker: Mike Healey 8pm, The Albany, Creek Road, SE8

**BLACKBURN: Wednesday 6 November** Speaker: Jim Nichol (IS National Secretary) 8pm, above AMAMUS Bookshop, Market St

**DUNDEE: Thursday 7 November** Trade Union Speakers 8pm, 4 Roseangle, Dundee

FINSBURY PARK: Thursday 31 October Speaker: Laurie Flynn (Socialist Worker) 8pm, Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

WATFORD: Thursday 7 November Speaker: Steve Ludlam (NUPE) 8pm, Trades Union Hall, Woodford Road

WANDSWORTH: Wednesday 6 November Speaker: Gordon Peters (NALGO) 8pm, Forresters Arms, Tooting Broadway

MANCHESTER: Friday 8 November 7.30pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate

**HUDDERSFIELD: Monday 4 November** Lunchtime, Polytechnic AND 8pm, Friendly and Trades Club

**EDINBURGH: Tuesday 19 November** 7.30pm, TU Centre, Picardy Place

# Blackburn...Grimsby...

By Miriam Eccles

TWO IS members, Peter Fielding and myself were fined £10 and each ordered to pay £15 costs last week after being found guilty by Blackburn magistrates of abusive behaviour.

With two other comrades, we had been fly-posting three months ago when we were stopped by an unmarked car which mounted the pavement.

Three hefty men in civilian clothes jumped out. One shouted: 'Get that poster down.' Another tore it down. Our first thought was that they were National Front thugs.

We demanded to know their identity. One said he was a detective constable. They jostled us, laughing and smirking, and demanded to know our names and

addresses. We refused to give them. I demanded to know if they were going to charge us. After asking twice and getting no reply, I said: 'If you're not charging us with anything, we are going.'

As we turned to go, my arm was grabbed and twisted up my back. Peter was grabbed by the hair and both of us were pushed into the car.

On the way to the police station, the police made it obvious they knew our names, even though we had not given them.

When we came up before the magistrates-a wealthy local doctor and an ex-headmaster of a fee-paying grammar school-the police evidence bore no relation to the truth.

All four comrades (Paul Whitaker and

**BUT SUPPORT GROWS** 

SUPPORT has come to Socialist Worker in our fight against political victimi-

sation by the Engineers Union executive from the Newton and Warrington

AUEW district committee in Lancashire, and against the victimisation by the

on press credentials for Socialist Worker to attend the union's national

committee meetings. 'We find it repugnant that the Tory press can enter our

conferences on the grounds that they are members of the Labour and Indus-

trial Correspondents Group and yet this group will not allow membership of

weekly newspapers and are not recognised by the National Union of

executive, the NUPE Health Service national committee and the City of

Leeds Labour Party deploring the High Court's financial penalties on Socialist

Worker and calling on them to raise financial support for the Socialist

attempt to financially cripple a working-class newspaper' and criticising the

role of Labour's Attorney-General in the prosecution. It also calls for pressure

on the Labour government 'to cease ALL attempts to financially undermine

The committee unanimously passed a resolution deploring the 'calculated

The hospital stewards have written to the Labour Party national

Journalists', says the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

The district committee has called on the AUEW executive to end its ban

High Court from the St James Hospital NUPE stewards committee, Leeds.

London—still it goes on

Steve Prew were our witnesses) were appalled by the conspiracy of lies which the police concocted.

They said we had jumped up and down, screaming, 'Fuck off, you fascist pigs!' (how corny can you get?). They also said Peter had deliberately used his wet paintbrush all over two of the detectives.

They denied using force to put us in their car and also lied when they said they had cautioned us before that.

Worse was to come from the prosecution counsel, George Graham, solicitor, ex-Captain of the Territorial Army, wellknown militarist and friend of Kingsley Read, the new Chairman of the National Front, who lives in Blackburn.

He produced in evidence our posters, which had been confiscated. He demanded that the magistrates read them.

Our solicitor tried to stop this, saying that we were charged with abusive behaviour and the Bosters had no bearing on

He was overruled and the magistrates read the posters, which said things like: 'The role of the police: harassment of black workers, infiltration of the trade union movement, smashing miners' pic-

Later we tried to defend our politics. At that point the prosecution jumped in and said the posters were irrelevant. He got away with it!

We were duly found guilty. The day magistrates take the word of ordinary working class people against the word of three detective constables is the day that the whole of their corrupt and rotten system collapses.

IN NORTH LONDON, Richard Rieser, an engineering worker and member of the International Socialists was fined £5 with £3 costs for selling Socialist Worker. He

'I had been selling Socialist Worker on Friday nights for six months at Turnpike Lane tube station. I used to sell at the top of the stairs-between the tube and the bus station, which I considered a public thoroughfare.

'On 9 August a Transport Policeman asked me if I had permission. I said I did not know I needed it. I was then charged.

'In court the magistrates asked the Transport Police if there would be an increase in this type of case. They replied that they would be hearing a lot more cases like this one'.

IN GRIMSBY, where Socialist Worker had been sold in the shopping precinct without harassment, a policeman asked a seller last Saturday if he knew he was 'breaking a by-law by giving out leaflets'.

Told it was not a leaflet but a newspaper, the policeman took a copy and told the seller he would be prosecuted.

He has been 'collecting material on the IS for some time' he said.

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

#### IS public meetings

HEINZ IS DANCE: 8pm-12.30am, Friday November. William IV pub, Harrow Road, NW10. Music by Witches Brew and Phantom disco. Admission 60p (£1 double). Cheap bar, extension, raffle.

BRADFORD IS Defend Socialist Worker jumble sale: Saturday 2 November, 11am onwards, Textile Hall, Westgate. We need jumble—clothes, toys, books, anything accepted. We will collect (phone Bradford 55913) if you can't bring them along on

TOTTENHAM IS Jumble Sale: Saturday 2 November, 2.00pm. Bruce Grove Infants School, Sperling Road, Tottenham, N17 (near Bruce Grove).

TOTTENHAM IS public meeting; Why Labour won't deliver the goods. Speaker: Ossie Lewis (CPSA). Thursday, 7 November, 8pm. YWCA (Tottenham Community Project) 628 High Road, Tottenham N17.

WALTHAMSTOW IS public meeting: Social contract-wages contrick. Speaker: Pete Glatter (TGWU). Thursday 7 November, 8pm, Rose and Crown, Hoe St.

WALTHAMSTOW IS Socialist Worker Benefit Disco. The best in soul and rock. Saturday 9 November, 8pm-midnight, Rose and Crown, Hoe Street. Bar extension. Come along, have a good time and help SW-all for 30p.

SOUTHWARK IS public meeting: Ireland-800 years of struggle. Speaker: Jimmy Grealy. Wednesday 6 November, 8pm, North Peckham Civic Centre (corner of Old Kent Road and Peckham Park Road. Buses: 21, 53, 78, 141, 177.

TOWER HAMLETS IS Socialist Worker Disco. Saturday 9 November, 7.30pm-11pm, Knave of Clubs, Club Row, E2 (nearest tube Liverpool St or Old St). Admission 40p. All welcome.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE IS SOCIETY public meeting: Russia-is it socialist? Speaker: Tony Cliff (IS executive). Wednesday 30 October, 1pm-2pm, Civil Engineering Building, Room 207, Imperial College, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (nearest tube South Kensington).

spent a week in Denmark after IS Con-

ference speaking to members of the two

TOWER HAMLETS IS public meeting: The Social Contrick. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Thursday 7 November, 8pm, Star of the East pub, Commercial Road, Limehouse.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE public meeting. The General Strike. Speaker: Harry Wicks. Wednesday 6 November, 1pm-2pm, Civil Engineering Building, Room 207, Imperial College, Exhibition Road, London SW7.

HINCKLEY IS public meeting: The Labour Party and the Social Contract. Speaker: Bob Light, The politics of IS. Speaker: Mal Collins, Friday 1 November, 8pm, The Prince of Wales, Coventry Road.

N E MANCHESTER IS public meeting: The Russian Revolution—how it was lost. Speaker: Chris Harman, Friday 1 November, 8pm, Ancoats Hotel, Great Ancoats Street, Manchester.

EDINBURGH IS TEACHERS public meeting: Teachers and the economic crisis. Speaker: Chanie Rosenberg (sec Hackney Teachers Association and founder member of Rank and File Teacher). Sunday 3 November, 2pm, Trades Council Club, Picardy Place. All teacher, parents and pupils welcome.

HULL IS public meeting: Rank and File Against the Social Contract. Speakers: A docker from the London Royal Group, Roger Cox, Rank and File Organising Committee, 7.30pm, Tuesday 5 November, Stevedores Club.

## Meetings for IS members

IS HEALTH WORKERS fraction meeting: Saturday 2 November, Noon-5pm, Manchester University, Meeting room no 2.

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.

WEEKEND SCHOOL for black and Asian members of 15: 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.

#### **IS Notices**

Women's Voice No 13 due out soon. Articles on night work, equal pay, SEI, prices. Branches please phone orders to Harlow 37205.

IS Admin Office needs a full-time assistant, IS member only, with shorthand and typing, some experience of office work preferred. Apply Judith Cohen, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Apply Duncan Hallas, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. IS members only.

AUSTRALIAN comrades in Britain, or comrades either with contacts in Australia or planning to emigrate, contact lan Birchall, 109 Croyland Road, London N9.

#### **BE WARNED**

IN THE middle of the present strikewave, Glasgow IS's activities were interrupted by a burglary which must be a serious warning to all IS members throughout the country.

About £30 and the complete membership and contacts list was stolen. A Press Conference was immediately called at which our suspicions were aired that the break-in was a political act by a government or employers' agency.

The information could be used to red-bait or victimise workers involved in the present disputes. Glasgow IS now knows, perhaps too late, that internal security is not something to be taken lightly.

## FIGHTING BACK **IN URDU**

Worker Fighting Fund.

THE seventh issue of Chingari (The Spark), the International Socialists' paper in Urdu for Pakistani militants, is now out.

working-class newspapers in the courts.'

Its front page contrasts the struggles of Asian workers at Combined Optical, Slough, and Kenilworth Components, Leicester.

There is also an account of the 'contempt of court' trial of Socialist Worker and an appeal for money.

Also in the paper are an attack on the myth of 'national unity', an editorial on Labour's victory in the election which stresses the importance of saying No to the social contract and the need to link struggles by building rank and file organisations. There are also articles on the Leeds Sikh busmen and the House of Lords ruling that, working men's clubs can operate a colour bar, letters and poems by readers.

Copies, price 5p each, from: Urdu Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

# Making the links international

TWO fraternal delegates from the International Socialists attended the recent conference of the Italian revolutionary organisation Avanguardia Operaia in Rome.

Several hundred delegates provided impressive testimony to the growth and influence of the revolutionary left in Italy. They discussed the economic and political crisis in Italy-which is deeper than in any of the advanced capitalist countries apart from, perhaps, Britain-and the fight back of Italian workers.

There were reports on struggles in the giant Fiat car plants in Turin, where the management is trying to impose short time working, on efforts to build an anti-militarist movement within the armed forces, and on the resistance which Italian workers are putting up to fare and electricity increases.

The delegates from IS were impressed by the day-to-day intervention of Avanguardia Operaia in the

class struggle in Italy, although we disagree with many of their views of international events-in particular their support for Chinese foreign policy.

It was felt that we should step up our collaboration with them, while developing fraternal discussion over the issues about which we disagree.

TWO MEMBERS of the IS national committee, John Deason and Jim Nichol,

revolutionary groups with which IS has fraternal links, the Communist League and International Socialists. The comrades told about the crisis in Britain, the fight against unemployment

and the social contract, the building of the Rank and File Movement and the struggle to build a revolutionary party In a week the comrades crossed the

country from Copenhagen to Aalborg talking in all the large industrial centres.

#### NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF IS SOCIETIES Conference

Saturday 2 November, 10.30am, Leeds University Students Union Chris Harman on the Crisis in Capitalism

Discussion on the cuts in education spending (with speakers from disputes in Portsmouth, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Leeds. Warwick, Manchester and Kent)

Resolutions for NUS Conference

**NOISS Programme** 

Three delegates per IS Society plus observers. Registration from Pete Gillard c/o Leeds University SU.

# Cancer devouring Britain's

FOR ALMOST 14 weeks, 450 workers, mainly Ugandan Asians, struck at Imperial Typewriters in Leicester. They received no money from their union, the Transport and General, and faced a barrage of villification from the union's local leadership.

The battle confirmed what other disputes involving black workers had indicated: that the TGWU had failed to deal with racism from within its own ranks-and specifically from its own full-time officials.

The union's Region Five (Midlands) has, after four months, finally published its report on the strike. It looks at the problem like a rabbit looks at a stoat. Interested, concernedbut petrified.

The strike started over a bonus scheme. The 450 Asians complained that production targets were being continually upped to fiddle workers out of the bonus.

Not so, said District Secretary George Bromley. 'We would fight anything that required fighting, even to the point of approving strike action . . . Shop stewards have carried out time surveys with management of the work required.'

# biggest union

The report backs the strikers. It says: 'We have made a detailed examination of the bonus scheme and we are firmly of the view that the scheme has many shortcomings.

'It contains no clause which allows for the mutual agreement of working speeds or job timings and in cases where an operator exceeds 140 per cent efficiency the management reserves the right to re-time the job.

'These two aspects of the bonus scheme are not in conformity with the union's national piecework agreement and we recommend they be taken up in negotiations with the company.

. .. We attach a great deal of importance to the rights which exist under the national agreement.'

Which means that the national agreement was being flouted by Bromley and Imperial convenor Reg Weaver! Round one to the

So why didn't the strikers work through the union channels? They claimed that they couldn't get representation on the shop stewards' committee, that they couldn't get shop stewards, that the posts were chosen by Bromley and Weaver.

#### Belong

Not so, said Bromley during the strike. He argued that the 'rules' called for a two-year membership of the TGWU before a worker could be elected shop-steward.

The 'rule' was in fact a branch standing order. The report points out that the branch had a 'perfect right' to have it 'although very few branches in fact do so'. It was just hard luck that the strikers belonged to one of the

very few ...

The dispute was about money-and abou democracy in the union. It became an issu about race. The reason?

Faced with a challenge to their power i the union, the local officials did their best t separate the strikers from the rest of th workforce-and with some success.

'Our members on strike,' says the report 'felt a sense of grievance . . . We have searche for less obvious causes for the dispute goin on for 14 weeks.'

They conclude that the system of com munication was not adequate. That the union procedure should be printed in the nativ language of the immigrant members.

One of the principal parts of the 'system of communication' should be the conveno and the officials and stewards of the union.

'There is no communications trouble, claimed Bromley at the height of the strike He said the strikers understood 'what we are doing and what they are after. They just want to create trouble.'

If that doesn't create a 'sense of grievance' what does? 'A destructive element has caused all this,' said Weaver at the start of the battle.

And, on 10 May, George Bromley declared: 'These strikers are being used for unscrupulous ends.'

So just who was creating a 'sense of grievance?' And could Weaver's one attempt to bring the rest of the workforce out-in protest over the re-employment of 'trouble makers' among the strikers-be considered good for the health of the TGWU?

The Report said: 'Given adequate shop steward representation, the problems were not so serious as to be incapable of settlement within the framework of the procedural agreements.

'But if we do not provide the opportunity for leadership to emerge from within our own ranks it is inevitable that disgruntled members will look to outside forces.'

If the failure of 'shop-steward representation' at Imperial was unique then it would be bad-but could be regarded as an isolated failure.

#### Delay

Unfortunately, this isn't the case. Hardly had the Imperial strikers gone back to work when another dispute broke out at Kenilworth Components-also in Leicester.

Here the strike was made official. But not one penny was paid out in strike pay.

The women strikers carried banners from the TGWU. 'It costs no more to belong to the best,' proclaimed the placards, 'TGWU Britain's Strongest Union.' They were defeated.

At Art Castings in Nuneaton, the strike was made official after weeks of delay. What solidarity action there was came from the local factory leaderships-not from the officials.

At Perivale Gutermann in West London it took weeks to get union recognition-and the union leadership then recommended the strikers to go to the Industrial Relations Court Tribunal (which the TGWU didn't recognise) where they were predictably sold out.

Lightning can strike once-and it's an accident. When it happens at monthly intervals there's clearly something wrong with the fusebox.

The same leadership exists in the Leicester TGWU. The response of the union nationally has been one report on Imperial and one pamphlet on racism (introduction by Jack Jones).

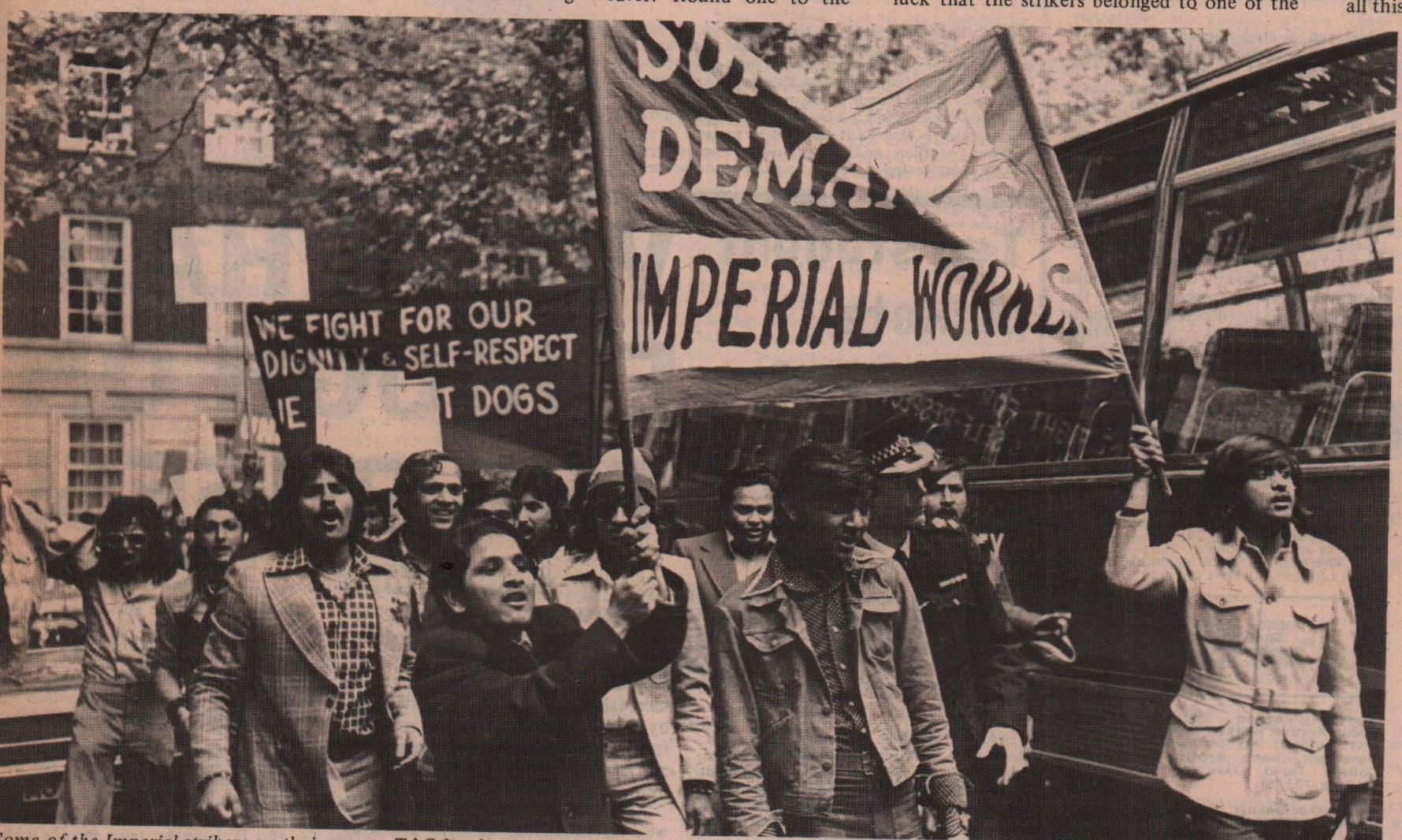
It takes more than words and paper to win strikes. It takes solidarity action, effective leadership, money.

None of these things has come from the TGWU.

It was in the interests of all workers for these strikes to have been won. It is in the interests of all workers that every trade union member can have effective control

over the union. When is something going to be done about the Leicester leadership of the TGWU? When is something going to be done about racism in the TGWU?

> Nigel Fountain



Some of the Imperial strikers on their way to T&G headquarters last summer to seek official support. They failed to get it . . . Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

# Why vultures want peace

THEY inhabit one of the richest countries in Africa-and they live in poverty.

The growing reluctance of the people of Angola to continue accepting this benefit of Western civilisation is beginning to reveal a thing or two about the Free World.

Angola, the vital core of Portugal's African empire, is rich in diamonds, gold, iron ore, coffee and oil.

But Portugal acts more and more as merely a policeman for West European and American multinational corporations to extract this booty.

Britain, for instance, has Babcock & Wilcox, ICI, Reckitt & Coleman, British Steel and Shell, all clawing for Angola's wealth.

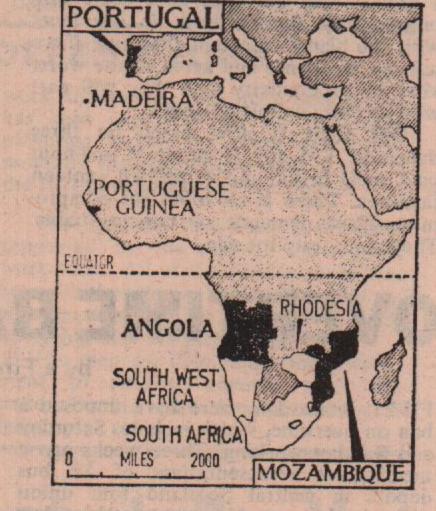
A quarter of the country's export earnings come from oil. Its coastline has been carved up by US, British, Belgian and French oil companies.

## Slowly

With so much to lose, these firms and their faithful policemen have fought stubbornly against independence.

Portugal has been under pressure to decolonise, but things have moved more slowly than in Mozambique and Guine Bissau.

A prime behind-the-scenes mover for a 'peaceful solution' has been General Mobutu, President of Zaire.



Zaire borders the Cabinda enclave and northern Angola.

Since 1962 it has received £20 million in military aid and £170 million in loans from the US.

One of Spinola's last acts as President of Portugal was the organisation of a secret meeting with Mobutu and 'representatives' of the Angolan people (mainly tribal chiefs and white minority groups) aimed at setting up a provisional (and easily controllable) government in Angola.

Costa Gomes, the army general who replaced Spinola a month ago, has been continuing these talks.

The allegedly left-wing Provisional

Government in Lisbon has made no effort to oppose this blatant attempt Africa. at the continued enslavement of the Angolan people.

When, in August, Angolan students

in Lisbon defied a government ban and demonstrated in support of the liberation movement MPLA, riot police opened fire, killing one student and wounding several.

#### Warlike

The Provisional Government issued a statement saying that by continuing the armed struggle in Angola the MPLA was acting against the 'best interests and wishes of the Angolan people,' and that they were not prepared to allow such demonstrations in Portugal, as long as the MPLA 'maintained its warlike attitude'.

The MPLA has warned all foreign companies that they will be thrown out and their assets expropriated when Angola wins its independence.

Massive demonstrations in the towns have demanded immediate and total independence. In June, Costa Gomes, then Spinola's Minister of Defence, stated:

'I am convinced that Angola will decide to remain Portuguese. It should strengthen its relations with South Africa and Rhodesia.'

For there are more than gigantic profits at stake. There is also the question of who holds the balance of power throughout Southern

And so the stranglehold of the West is being strengthened militarily through NATO. Therefore, while its election

manifesto commits the Labour Party to support for the liberation movements, just days after taking office it has sent the Royal Navy to participate in joint exercises with the South Africans. And the French government,

another NATO 'ally', has just announced that it intends to set up a military base in Mayote, a small island off the Mozambique coast. The South African Minister of Defence, Botha, has hailed the

presence of NATO forces in the Southern Atlantic as 'a new gesture of military co-operation by the free world'. In Chile and Vietnam, imperialism has shown the lengths it will go to to

keep its economic and strategic interests. The workers and peasants in Southern Africa know all about the 'co-operation' of the 'free world'.

It has been spelt out to them with torture, starvation, bullets and napalm.

They have fought back, whether with guns or with strikes, and their struggle is continuing. Ultimately theirs is a struggle against the same enemy that is confronting workers in Portugal and in Britain. We must support that struggle.

# Why IS joined Troops Out demo-

by Alice Murray

THE International Socialists marched on a demonstration of more than 4000 in London last Sunday which called for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

Many people in Britain support the withdrawal of troops from Ireland. Those on the right argue that 'our boys' are being killed there and should be brought home to let the two sides kill each other off or they argue that Britain isn't getting what she used to out of Northern Ireland, so the troops aren't much good there anyway. The money just isn't worth it.

Another argument is: why should ordinary working class blokes in the British army get killed for a stupid war that's been going on for hundreds of years?

The International Socialists' position is quite different. We support the withdrawal of British troops only because we support the struggle of the Irish working class against them.

We are for the self-determination of the Irish people. We support their right to get the troops out of Ireland.

## Oppose

Britain has dominated Ireland for centuries. The British ruling class has looted and plundered Ireland of its resources, both material and human. Britain has caused emigration, famines, and has caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Irish workers and peasants.

As socialists we give unconditional support to all those who are fighting British imperialism because we see the Irish are fighting our common enemy. The British ruling class, which exploits us, also oppresses the Irish, physically, economically, and politically. We oppose all this.

Our second line of argument relates to the role of the army. Never in history has there been an army run by the ruling class which was set up to keep the peace, to protect the interests of the working class or to advance democracy or justice. Without exception all armies under capitalism are there to see that capitalism remains

intact and is strengthened and that any effort to change this situation is defeated.

We regret that the army rank and file are working-class men and women, but in no way does that prevent us from wanting to see the defeat of that army-an army being trained in Northern Ireland for possible use against workers here.

We have a duty as socialists to support the struggle of the Irish against the British army. We want to see the end of British imperialism. We want to see the end of capitalism and that means the removal of the state machine that serves capitalism.

For these reasons the International Socialists supported the Troops Out demonstration and will continue to support such demonstrations until British imperialism in all its forms is rooted out of Ireland.

THOUSANDS of policemen were called up for the Troops Out demonstration in London last Sunday, and for most of the demonstration it looked as though their afternoon was wasted. Then, suddenly, while speakers started to address the meeting at the end of the march, there was a scuffle.

As police grabbed a woman demonstrator, a man protested (arrowed left). The result was that he too was arrested (right).

Seven workers and two students were arrested. Another worker was arrested as he moved away from the demonstration.

He was punched in the face by a policeman, dragged up a side street and beaten up. He is charged with using abusive language and assaulting the police. The others are charged with obstruction, threatening behaviour and assault on police. They appeared in court on Monday and are remanded on bail until 9 December.

Witnesses are urgently needed in their defence. Anyone who can help, please phone 01-278 9526. PICTURES: Christopher Davies (Report)

# Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone." Charges are 1p per word, semi-display. 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

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, 32 Wellesley Road, Colchester. Ultimate aim active socialist non-nuclear family group.

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.

SOCIALIST women in Women's Liberation are calling a meeting (with creche) to discuss what London women's groups are doing and to exchange information and ideas, 2pm, Saturday 2 November, North London Polytechnic, Holloway Road, N7.

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,

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

18 Pitt Street, Blackburn, Lancashire.

CONFERENCE of all who support original NUS motion of no platform for racists or fascists by any means necessary. Middlesex Polytechnic, Enfield Branch, Queensway, Enfield. Saturday 9 November 10.30am, Delegates invited to contact Middlesex

OUT THIS WEEK-Hospital Worker No 12. Ancillary pay claim issue. Important Private Practice, Domestics regrading fight and further news on Halsbury. 5p a copy (10 or more post free); orders to 8 Beverstone Rd, London SW2.

SHEFFIELD: AIR POLLUTION AT MORK. Wednesday 13 November, 8pm, Prince of Wales, Division Street. Discussion Charlie Clutterbuck of BSSRS on his with shop stewards on health hazards, constration of personal monitoring pment. For copies of leaflet advertising seeting contact Science for People, 14 codwin Road, Sheffield 8. Phone

TREET RESEARCH BULLETIN No 4 out. Featuring a research guide for ading workers into their industry and an of the developing property lobby. 15p plus 6p postage from SRB 365 mington Road, London SE11.

Weekly Rally. Friday 8 November, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, sakers include Tariq Ali and Alain Film: The Fight Against the cists in France.

SOCIALIST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION SEMINAR: Health and safety at work, Sunday 3 November, 10am-5.30pm, Assembly Hall, Unity House, Euston Rd, London NW1. £1.30 full day, 70p per session (65p full day, 35p per session for students and pensioners). Further details: T C Thomas, 54 Finchley Court, Ballards Lane, London N3 1NH (01-346 5867).

York St John's College Socialist Society Chanie Rosenberg on Education and Society, Wednesday 6 November, 7.30pm, Alcuin Room.

Harrow/Hillingdon Socialist Women's Group Forum: Working Women's Charterwhat will it do for you? Monday 4 November, 8pm, Baptist Church Hall, College Road, Harrow. Contact Gill (Ruislip 72345).

MRA: Documents from and about Arab women. Includes Leila Khaled on Women's Liberation and the Palestinian Revolution. 23p (inc postage) from Funny Farm Publications, Dept SW, 66 York Way, London N1.

VERY MANY out-of-print, unobtainable books & pamphlets on Marxism, socialism, left-wing economics, sociology, politics can be obtained from D Volpe, 16 Belmont Court, London N16 5QD. State what you want-details and price-and quote will be

MILITARY involvement on your campus: sponsored research, MoD-financed lectures, Military Education Committees, Full information in new pamphlet Study War No More (20p + 5p postage) and latest issue of Sanity (10p + 31/2p postage). Quantity discounts. CND, 14 Grays Inn Road, London WC1, 01-242 3872/3.

Latin American Front presents PUERTO RICO: COLONY OF THE UNITED STATES. Dr Jose Herrera Oropeza, President of the Venezuelan Committee for the Independence of Puerto Rico and expert on the politics of oil in Latin America, will discuss the situation in Puerto Rico. His most recent books are The Petroleum Ransom and Latin America: Process towards Socialism. 5 November, Architectural Association, 34 Bedford Square, London WC1. Tottenham Court Road tube, 7pm, top

South London Rank & File Teachers' Day School: Saturday 9 November, 10.30am-5pm, Goldsmiths College. Tickets 15p from South London Rank & File convenors.

URGENT Red Ladder Mobile Workers Theatre wants 'actress/musician' (Equity member preferable) for touring company performing for predominantly labour movement audiences, producing its own material, collectively run, Long-term commitment important. Applications in writing by 9 November stating (i) experience (ii) reasons for interest in this work (iii) where ad read (iv) telephone number if possible; to 58 Wray Crescent, London N4 (tel: 01-263 1053).

THE SOCIALIST PARTY aims at building a moneyless world community without frontiers based on common ownershipwith 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.

# pickets convicted

COLCHESTER:-The impartiality British justice was demonstrated last week when 13 Essex University students pleaded not guilty to a charge of obstruction. They were arrested for picketing during a campaign against victimisation. Not surprisingly 10 were found guilty and given two year conditional discharges.

The police came to the university to break up a peaceful picket and arrest a number of militants. The courts were there to finish the job. Three upper class magistrates who only occasionally listened to the evidence took 10 minutes to reach a verdict.

GLASGOW:-While the workers of Scotland have been making their voice heard students have likewise-been taking direct action to defend their living standards. Students moved into empty University property and are turning it into centres for homeless students.

The Students Representative Council at Glasgow has denounced the occupation as 'illegal' and have disassociated themselves from it. Meanwhile the students involved in the occupation are demanding that the University turn over and renovate all available empty property.

Until now the University has kept its housing arrangements secret and houses go to professors and senior academic staff.

Deserted by their SRC, the students are attempting to build support inside and outside the University and have approach-] ed other colleges in the city with a view to setting up an all-Glasgow action committee. If these struggles are to be successful we must link them up across the country.

**DUDLEY:-Students at the Teachers Train**ing College staged a sit in at midnight last Saturday, 26 October, against the refusal by the Education Authority to allow visitors in the halls of residence after 11pm in the week and 12 midnight at weekends.

Education Committee chairman, Labour councillor Wilson, has refused to meet the students and explain his dictatorial rules to the students. Councillor Wilson is the same Labour man who before being elected for another term as Labour leader in Dudley promised the council tenants he would not raise the rents and then raised them by £1.20 as soon as he got back.

NEXT SATURDAY the first Conference of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies is taking place at Leeds University.

The main topic for discussion will be: the lessons and the future of the current fight against the education cuts and the NUS 'week of action'.

It is vital that all IS Societies apply for credentials immediately from: Pete Gillard, c/o Leeds University Students Union.

# Ten student WEWE HAD ENOUGHON IHEBUSES!

by George Fuller TGWU busman, Conway-Whitehawk depot, Brighton

BRIGHTON: From this week Southdown busworkers here will be starting weekly one-day lightning strikes. We will be adding our muscle to the increasing number of local struggles by busworkers all over the country, fired by anger at pay, conditions and service which get lousier by the minute.

We're sick of local trade union officials who try to prevent solidarity action by other depots, who moan about us being 'unconstitutional' and then make sure that we're dragged through the constitution and back again to absolutely no

We're sick at the response of management to our charter, which aims to improve local public transport as a job and as a service. Our demands have been contemptuously thrown back in our faces with the bland statement that only if we sell our weekends and agree to the worst kind of productivity deal they will part with an extra couple of quid.

Our fight is now based on three demands: £35 for 35 hours, a one-hour paid meal break, and subsidised canteen facilities. There is no room for compromise. These demands are not negotiable. They are not up for sale.

Busworkers at the packed emergency meeting for each shift on Monday were especially bitter about the role of senior trade union bureaucrats like 'Larry the Lamb' Smith who spends more time flying around trying to call action off than in attempts to lead effective national action. But we have a message for him. If he

is not prepared to do the job we pay him to do-he can go. In Brighton, as in many other towns,

busworkers recognise the need for a forceful initiative by rank and file trade unionists and for the struggle to be coordinated nationally. We are in contact with the Scottish and Tyneside busworkers in dispute.

Locally we are urging solidarity action from the other Brighton branches of Southdown and organising flying pickets to other depots around Sussex.

The lightning strikes are our first follow-up to industrial action taken last summer-but we're finished with token stoppages and protest, we intend that the struggle should grow and we mean business.

Telegrams, messages of support, financial contributions to: Brian Simmonds, Secretary 1/402 Branch TGWU, Flat 2, 52 Hova Villas, Hove, Sussex.

# OVERTIME BAN IN FIFE

by a Fife busman

FIFE:-Busworkers here have imposed a ban on overtime, which includes Saturday and Sunday working. Three weeks ago a meeting of representatives of 50 bus depots in central Scotland told union officials they would accept nothing less than a £35 basic wage, with no consolidation of shift allowance, bonus or threshold payments. They set a 14 November deadline for industrial action if management does not cough up.

Management are trying to con the public that the men are responsible for services being curtailed or cancelled. They are saying we are not turning out for the work. What they are not saying is that this work is overtime and we are under no obligation to work overtime.

This dispute has come about because the members have sat back for far too long and left negotiating to the union's national negotiators. The present crew driver's basic wage of £2.58 for 40 hours is totally inadequate. With bonus, shift allowance and threshold this adds up to £29.18. We are not even considered for

unsocial hours payments-and who works more unsocial hours than busmen?

Due to the low basic wage, most depots in Scotland are working anything from 10 to 20 per cent below strength. The result is that busworkers have been doing excessive overtime in the Scottish Bus Group, giving the public the false impression that wages are very high. We are demanding:

• £35 for 35 hours, the seven-hour day, five day week, every day stands on its own.

 Weekend work to stand on its own with double time for Saturday and Sunday.

• All spreadovers to be paid from sign-on to sign-off.

• A week's statutory winter holiday with the present seven public holidays to become rest days. Christmas Day and New Year's Day to be paid holidays, with volunteers working on these days paid at enhanced rates.

 Direct negotiations with the Scottish Bus Group, with elected negotiators.

# We all need a big wage rise

#### APEX v AUEW

LONDON:-Office workers employed at the AUEW head office have rejected an offer of £208-a-year London allowance. and are standing by their claim for £400 backdated to April.

The workers, members of APEX, submitted a claim for a pay rise and improvement in their £1-a-week allowance for working in London at the beginning of this year. When threshold payments were triggered in June they accepted a Phase Three wage settlement, and, at the AUEW's insistence, agreed to put off discussion of their allowance claim until the Pay Board report on London Weighting.

In September the AUEW told APEX representatives the result of a survey by the TUC would have to be known before their claim could be considered. Even when it was published the AUEW still insisted it did not have sufficient information.

**METAL BOX** 

WESTHOUGHTON: The Metal Box occupation is still going strong. There was to be a meeting on Tuesday of 26 workers from all the other Metal Box factories. which could result in the dispute spreading. Meanwhile the 690 members of the TGWU and NGA at the factory have been told to expect to be laid off from next Wednesday.

#### **GEC GAS TURBINES**

WHEATSTONE, Leics:-600 production workers at GEC Gas Turbines voted overwhelmingly this week to continue their struggle for a 20 per cent across-theboard wage rise.

The men, members of the AUEW, Coppersmiths, Boilermakers and Electricians unions, rejected a management offer of varying differentials between £2.50 and £6, described by one worker as a rehash of piecework and designed to split the skilled men.

#### **POWER STATIONS**

YORKSHIRE:-Manual workers in four power stations struck on Monday for 24 hours in a bid to speed up national negotiations on the power workers' wage claim.

The four stations were Doncaster, Mexborough, Rotherham and Ferrybridge C. The unofficial action was given united support by members of the Electricians Union, the AUEW, the TGWU and the General and Municipal, who want negotiations now and not in March next year when the agreement expires.

#### HOOVER

industry.

HOOVER'S operations in Britain are likely to grind to a complete halt by the end of this week. Workers at Merthyr Tydfil are laid off as a result of the strike at Cambuslang in Scotland. And management have used a strike by toolroom workers at the Perivale plant in West London to start laying off the rest

HULL:-At Hawker Siddeley's Brough

factory 600 members of the AUEW

Technical Section who were working

srarted a work-in last week in an attempt

to prevent management cancelling the

30-40 redundancies, but if Hawker

Siddeley are allowed to axe their joint

contract with the government the men

estimate a long-term loss of 20,000 jobs.

Half these would be outside the aircraft

documents and decided to carry on the

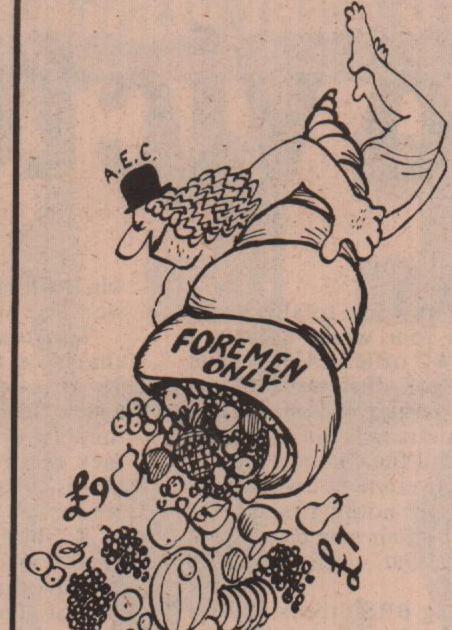
The men took charge of the design

A company statement spoke of only

project and causing mass redundancies.

HAWKER SIT-IN TO DEFEND JOBS

on the threatened HS146 Airbus project move by management to remove any of



# AEC PAY **JOKE**

WEST LONDON:-Locked-out workers at British Leyland's AEC bus and truck plant in Southall had a good laugh at their weekly mass meeting last Thursday when they heard of the antics of labour relations boss Pat Lowry. Lowry had summoned full time officials to his offices to lecture them on the wonderful advantages of AEC's latest pay offer. They should accept it and get their members back to work, he said.

There was no vote. Last week the men agreed not to vote again until a better offer was made.

Shop stewards have set up a dispute committee which operates daily from the local AUEW headquarters. It has begun sending workers to put the AEC case to as many factories as possible.

To add insult to injury word is out that the AEC foremen have just been offered £9, £8, £7. The shopfloor offer is £7, £6, £5, on the respective grades.

One problem the dispute committee faces is lack of contact with the rank and file except at weekly mass meetings.

of the factory.

In fact the toolroom workers have been deliberately provoked. Under the Tory pay laws management agreed to pay the craft section parity with the best equivalent rates in the area. Now they have gone back on the agreement.

Last week the first section to be laid off joined the early morning toolroom picket, dispelling management hopes that workers would blame the toolroom. There is great resentment that the management can avoid lay-off pay because they can blame an 'internal' dispute.

#### **CAMMELL LAIRDS**

BIRKENHEAD:-The strike of the outfitters at Cammell Lairds shipyard, for a common craft rate is now in its second week and is escalating. On Monday the pickets took over the gates and kept out staff and management.

Though the shop stewards committee is under pressure from the Confed officials to let an impounded ESSO tanker leave the yard, they have so far refused. This is an important trump card

#### **SCOTS TEACHERS**

SCOTLAND: -2500 teachers from all over central Scotland demonstrated in Edinburgh outside the Scottish Teachers Salaries Committee. This followed a call by the Scottish Teachers Action Committees for an unofficial half-day strike in protest at the derisory 10 per cent interim award requested by the teachers' official union leadership.

An open air rally in nearby Holyrood Park was told by a member of the salaries committee that the Scottish Education Department had vetoed the 10 per cent

work themselves. The main design area

has been occupied and day and night

picketing started to guard against any

The technical staff's action has been

supported by the rest of the factory

work force. All of the finished work has

been blacked from leaving the factory

and the shop floor workers are co-

ment to propose urgently with the

nationalisation plan for the aerospace

The men are demanding the govern-

operating with the picket line.

the HS146 drawings and documents.

payment after it had been accepted by the union and management sides of the committee.

More and more Scottish teachers are now demanding a £15 flat rate increase. This demand will only get teachers back to the pay position of a few years ago but even to achieve this the fight must be stepped up. The action committees must link up, increasing the scope of unofficial action while forcing the teachers' union officially to comply with the wishes of their membership.

Scottish teachers who want real improvements in pay must now prepare to argue for all-out strike action to achieve the only settlement that means anything in the present economic crisis-£15 flat rate all round.

# **5000** march

by Dave Adshead UCATT steward, Bryant City Centre Site, Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM: -5000 building workers marched through the city last week in protest at the continued growth of the Lump, against unemployment and in support of our claim for £1.40 an hour for labourers and £1.50 for craftsmen, a much needed 100 per cent.

stewards committee chairman, call for a determined fight against the Lump and a campaign for a national strike in summer 1975. He also called for the nationalisation of the industry to solve the problem of unemployment.

Union official Ken Barlow announced the return of the flying pickets on Lump sites, starting with Douglas's National Exhibition Centre, employing over 300 men, half of them on the Lump. They and the site are protected by high wire fences, dogs and 16 electrically controlled security gates. You need a pass to get on

Most of the lumpers carry union cards (TGWU) and the issuing of cards to them by local officials Arthur Fisher and Walter Warren seems common practice.

We are also starting a mass union recruitment campaign which will also place the responsibility for unemployment firmly with the employers and their system,

# against Lump

# The men heard Pete Carter, shop

and popularise our claim.

# Spencer's ghost stalks the coalfield

industry.

THE ghost of George Spencer is stalking the Nottinghamshire coalfield. Spencer was the bastard who formed the infamous Notts and District Industrial Union and led hundreds of miners back to work during the 1926 lock-out.

At the 1974 National Conference of the miners' union, Len Clarke, president of Notts NUM, said: 'If other areas don't want a productivity deal then we won't force it on them. But they mustn't stop us from obtaining it.' When the Board announced their proposals for productivity, Clarke was the only national executive member publicly to recommend acceptance.

A special area conference of branch

by Steve Abbott Calverton Colliery

officials and committee men was called and the only resolution allowed was one from the right wing that unless there was an immediate ballot on the Coal Board's proposals then the Notts area would not accept any kind of national deal.

The main struggle in the NUM is to keep the unity that has been forged over many years. Clearly any attempt by Clarke to split off the Notts area must be resisted.

Already there are signs that Notts

miners are not going to let this rabid right-winger have all his own way. Several branches have already voted against the resolution and have no intention of allowing it to be implemented. Calverton Colliery is formulating a resolution to the area council condemning the area executive for seeking to split the union. The meeting also reaffirmed the longstanding policy of no method study in the pit, saying that if method study comes in then we walk out.

The splitting tactics of the right wing in Notts can only be fought by concerted rank and file activity of this kind. Only then will the ghost of George Spencer be truly buried for ever.



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

#### 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

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# Socialist Worker PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

The Fighting Fund this week raised £452 to bring this month's total to £2059. Now we must raise £2000 for next month.

can only do that with cash.

THE MASSIVE strike wave in Scotland has cost Socialist Worker a

lot of money to report and photograph. Socialist Worker exists to

argue the case of strikers everywhere-and to help them win. But we

Send donations to: Jim Nichol, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# DEFENCE **FUND**

From page one

SW supporters, Glasgow College NALGO Birmingham Rank and File teachers £13.50.

Maidenhead SW readers £6.75. Harlesden IS £82. Exeter Trades Council £1.70 NALGO Action Group £28 SW readers, Chelmsford £1. C A Parsons IS £5. Norwich Trades Council £4.27 London North Central TMO branch CPSA £5.

Walthamstowe IS £30. SW readers, Sheffield Polytehnic £15.50. Southwark IS £30. Bath SW readers £8.30 SW readers, Queenswood estate, Leeds

Leeds University IS Society £25 Hull IS £25. SW supporters, NUT, Barnet £20. Lucas Birmingham IS £8.55. Edinburgh University IS Society, £65. Edinburgh Civil Servants £2.80. Tyneside IS district £19.00. Harlow IS £63.90.

Royal Group Dockers £36. SW supporters bookshop £17. Portsmouth IS £15. SW readers, March estate, Cambs. £1. Cumbernauld Trades Council £2 GLC £20.51

Doncaster Trades Council £2 Blackburn Buses £15.80 Bristol IS £20. Cardiff IS £90 SW readers, Cardiff £1.59 SW readers, Mynachely estate, £1.40

Findus engineering shop stewards committee £2. Central London Print IS £9. York Womens' Action Group £3.90 York University IS Society £3 Sheffield IS £51. Ipswich Trades Council £10.

Lowestoft IS £35.15 SW readers, Uxbridge Technical College NALGO members, Islington Architects

Loughborough IS Society £3.70.
Essex University IS Society £3.70. Glasgow Corporation Central Electrical workshops £5. SW readers, Monmouth, Gwent £5.55. Prestige workers £3.50 Lowestoft prisoner £1

Wandsworth prisoner £2 Cecily Hastings £100 Jack Collins (NUM) £5 Ann and Vincent Flynn £10 Jean McCrindle £10 C M George £2.53. R & J Haywood £10. Mr and Mrs Mellish £2

G Clarke £1 D Willis £5 E & C Barker £50 J Clements £100 H Rees £2 C McCabe £20 P Sills £5 B Thompson £2 Peter Jay £100 C Prince 25p C Bramell £5 K Dennis £20 S Emmett £30

**BREWERY STRIKES** 

by Jim Sheherd, URTU, shop steward at

Watney Mann 700 WATNEY Mann workers have been

staging selective guerilla strikes for the

last four weeks. Production, distribution

and transport workers at Watney Mann

brewery in Newton Heath, Manchester,

have been forced to take strike action after management broke their agreement.

sold us a job evaluation system. If any

adjustment to job rates was made it had

to go through a new procedure which

rates, management simply granted a

differential payment of £2.20 Our demand is a complete change of valuation

systems and an immediate payment of

£2.20 to all production, distribution and

organise like the bosses do. We would like

to hear from any other employee of

Watney Mann so we can compare notes.

Manchester 11 (Phone 061 223 7418)

We have to intensify out action and

Contact us at: 21 Languess Road,

ignored the old differentials.

transport workers.

The dispute started when management

In the present case of the engineering

# Lorry men show theonly way to victory

THE lorry drivers in Scotland and Hull have won the biggest industrial victory since the miners' strike. They went on unofficial strike. They ignored the attacks on them in the newspapers. When their union leaders begged them to settle for a compromise-they shouted them down.

They would not take further cuts in living standards for a handful of unlikely promises, called a social contract. As a result, they won more in a few days then their union leaders had negotiated for them in 50 years.

In Hull the drivers won all their demands with a five-day strike. The unofficial, rank and file strike committee quickly forged links with the Hull dockers, many of them in the same union, the Transport Workers.

In this they turned the tables on union officials, who have insisted on keeping the divisions between dockers and drivers. The

dockers welcomed the move.

In Scotland the drivers won a total victory: £40 for 40 hours and four weeks holiday a year. The words of TGWU official Alec Kitson that 'Neither side has got all it wanted' are nothing more than a face-saver for the employers, beaten by the stranglehold of pickets organised by the rank and file committees.

But drivers for the government-owned BRS have so far being given nothing-and the drivers at Grangemouth, their own claim won, have pledged to stay out until the BRS drivers get the claim too.

Negotiations affecting BRS drivers all over the country are on Monday, and unless the claim is conceded the drivers will have to decide whether to follow Scottish drivers' example and strike.

That is the way to win, to end the years of exploitation in the road haulage industry, to

win the wage increases all lorry drivers-and all workers-need to keep up with inflation.

The road haulage employers in Scotland announce they will put up haulage rates by 25 per cent to pay for the wage increase, which they claim they cannot afford. By this they hope to prove the theory, put about by Jack Jones and the Labour government among others, that wage increases cause price increases.

Rubbish! The road hauliers have made vast profits in the past ten years. They have paid big dividends to shareholders and directors. Out of these the companies could easily pay the wage increases.

If they refuse, they should be taken over and run in the interests of the people who do the driving, and the people who have to pay those higher prices, the working class.

The case for the lorry drivers-page 2.



the poor and the exploited fight and organise to improve their lot. The picture above is of a hunger march in Calcutta, India last Friday. Thousands demonstrated, including workers and peasants from the surrounding countryside. In West Bengal 10 million people out of a population of 44 million are facing starvation. But India, like the rest of the world is in the grip of rich parasites who hold back all social progress, 200 families control the economy. For them there is pleasure as the poor starve and die in famines which could be avoided. Capitalism causes famine-that's official: Page 5

# STARVATION and hunger is still the only reward capitalism brings for most of the world's population. But everywhere

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GEORGE Hamilton of Antrim was killed in Northern Ireland on Monday. But the press cried no tears for him.

He was on picket duty when he was done to death. He was a lorry driver earning a miserable wage of around £25 a week.

He and his mates were on strike in support of the same demands as the Scottish drivers. He was run down by a scab lorry driver.

It's not just scabs who have been turned against the Northern Ireland drivers. The British troops have put their weight behind efforts to break the strike.

They have been hiring lorries from a government owned firm in Larne where George Hamilton was picketing. And the army provides its own lorry drivers to move the military gear they need for other victims. But the death of George Hamilton has enraged workers in the Larne docks.

On Monday evening the Larne

dockers came out on strike in sympathy. And on Tuesday morning 300 pickets went to a mass meeting at the docks.

The dockers backed their brothers again. They are only loading cars on to the ferries. All goods are black.

## TAXI DRIVERS PAY

NORWICH:-Beeline taxi drivers walked out last Friday after management tried to impose a new wage structure amounting to a pay cut.

It could have meant as much as £5 a week drop on the present miserable £30 for 54 hours.

Management's move came a month after we agreed to set aside a wage claim to help them out of financial difficulties. It just shows what 'moderation' brings.

We have voted to stay out until the existing pay structure is restored. We have been backed up by the local TGWU official and a 24-hour picket is being maintained. Hospital account work is still being covered on a voluntary basis.

# Racists take Leeds busmen for a ride

by John Charlton

'BLOODY chaos. A shambles. The meeting was run by a hard core of fanatics from the floor. We couldn't get a word in edgeways'. This was how a bus driver described the 1000-strong mass meeting held in Leeds garage on Sunday morning.

In an atmosphere of hysteria, the city's busmen reaffirmed their decision to continue the ban on Sikh busmen wearing turbans.

The 18-week dispute has allowed an extreme right wing minority to take the busmen for a ride. This fascist element has been aided by the

stupid tactics of the local Transport Union officials and the management. Busmen were given a ballot paper on uniform

regulations last week-and a majority voted for new 'permissive' regulations.

But when it was announced that the ballot result also meant Sikhs were free to wear turbans, the officials had a revolt on their hands. The issue had been slid in through the back door.

The racialists got to work immediately. They had most buses off the road by Friday night, and on Saturday fewer than ten buses were on all day. The Leeds men, like busmen everywhere, are

a mass of pent-up frustrations. They are paid a mass of pent-up frustrations, They are paid shockingly low wages (£25 a week), they work long hours and

anti-social shifts, are forced to wear uncomfortable uniforms, and drive poorly maintained vehicles.

#### Afraid to act

The racialists have channelled these frustrations into a blind alley.

A rank and file busman's leaflet handed out at the mass meeting got a sympathetic response. Many busmen were disgusted by the events but unwilling or afraid to act.

The leaflet spoke of the programme of demands risen by Glasgow busmen. £35 minimum wage for 35 hours work, improved shift payments and 40 per cent one man differentials.

A further mass meeting planned for next Sunday on pay and conditions offers a great opportunity to fight for such a programme.

The appearance of a group of workers ready and willing to fight is the only way forward from the ugly impasse. Only such a campaign can isolate the racialists who never have anything positive to say.

please display this on your notice board

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

# STRIKE TO FREE SHREWSBURY PICKETS

Defend the right to micket

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