# Socialist Worke

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Yorkshire miners say: Defend Socialist Worker

'THE TRIAL and heavy fines on Socialist Worker are further proof of interference by the law courts and the police into the activities of the Left. It is another link in the chain which includes the prosecution of London dockers for contempt of court in 1972, the prosecution of building workers for conspiracy in 1973, the use of Special Patrol Group policemen to defend fascist marches in 1974.

'We urge every trade unionist in the Barnsley area to support local attempts to raise money for the defence of Socialist Worker.

'Signed: A Scargill, President, Yorkshire NUM; T Bristowe, R Roberts, branch committee, Dodsworth, J Taylor, branch delegate, Manvers Colliery; B Peace, branch secretary, Clayton West; E Mountain, branch secretary, Dearne Valley!

We received a copy of that appeal this week, and it lifted us high. As militant Yorkshire miners went into the last week of their fight against the Coal Board's 'divide and rule' productivity schemes, they could spare time to appeal for funds for Socialist Worker. Our thanks to them-and our best wishes for the vote this week!

The money for the fund has been pouring in as fast as ever-almost all of it in small amounts from International Socialist branches, trade union branches and individuals. One more week as good as this one, and we'll be home and dry. The lawyers can be paid and we can raise money for building the paper.

Last week we got £956.22, bringing the total to £4,365.

Halifax £1

Harrow £44

Worcester £5.50

Cricklewood Bonfire £26.71

Middx Poly (Enfield Site) £26.10

We still need £634.78. Make sure we get it!

Send donations to Socialist Worker Defence Fund, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E29DS. This week's donations:

Wrexham IS £1.50 Park Lane Estate, Bootle £2.50 Thorpe Acre Estate, Loughborough £10 Finsbury Park £27 Reading £27 NALGO members Ipswich Sociology Dept West Thurrock Power Station £3 Keresley, Coventry £1.07 Birmingham £20 Staff Warwick University Library £9 Rubery Owen £10 NUPE shop stewards, St James Hospital, Brooke Marine, Lowestoft £5 Deal, Kent £2.50 Croydon £7.50 TGWU strike cttee, Freightliner Depot, Garston £1.30 Hospital Workers Branch Bonfire £10 Leigh £20 Hemel Hempstead £1.10 NUJ Daily Mirror £30 Liverpool Central £21 Lowestoft Area Union of School Students Chrysler Ryton £5.50 'C Shift', Furzebrook Knitting, Wolverhampton £1.20 Isleworth, Middx £6.40 Halewood Grange Comprehensive, Bootle £12.70 Pressed Steel, Cowley £3.95
Alvis, Coventry £3.50
Dunstable Trades Council £2 Morris Motors, Oxford £3.45 Greyhound Folk Club, Oxford £4.111/2 'Outside Woolworths, Oxford' £4.21 Oxford District £10
IPC Science & Technology Press NUJ Chapel £6 COV-RAD, Coventry £15 Accrington AUEW District Committee £1 'Bill and Colin', Chemical Workers, South Humberside £2 LSE £1 Burnley £15.33 Oxford AUEW 630E Branch £2 Cumbernauld £5.50 Intex, Manchester £16.68 Scruttons dockers £3 Wolverhampton Technical College £6 Beans Industries Joint Shop Stewards Cttee, Staffs £10 Loughborough University IS Society £2 'Two Parliamentary Roaders, Fulham' £1 Hull £9 Poole £8.40 Clapton Park School £12.10
Hackney 'Rank and File' £8.45
Grays £8.20
Harlesden £13.40
'Glasgow Reader' £10 Acton £17.94

# 

DENIS HEALEY is Chancellor in a Labour government, but his budget on Tuesday could just as well have been produced by a Tory. It was a businessmen's budget -through and through.

Its central theme was that the businessmen whose system causes inflation should be protected from it-at the expense of those of us who work for a living.

Healey's main proposals are

£1500 million to businessmen in tax deductions and price increases.

An investment bank for businessmen which will give them £500 million a year on top of the £705 million already doled out in government grants.

And it's not just private enterprise bosses who can raise prices. Controls on nationalised industry prices-gas, electricity, coal, transport-have been 'phased out'. Electricity board chiefs are already talking about 20 per cent increases in prices. Add the increase in the price of petrol-to 70p a gallon by Christmas-and

Healey's budget is a price increase budget.

That's not all. Healey also announced restrictions on local government spending. That means cuts in housing and education, in provision for the sick and elderly.

To compensate for these huge price increases and hand-outs to the wealthy; what does Healey propose for the people who elected him?

A family allowance increase of 60p for the second child-the first increase for seven years. And not until April.

An increase of £1.60 on the single pension—again in April.

That means that next April old people will get half the miserable threshold increases available to other workers now. The pension 'increase' means old people will be even worse off in April than now-and this when the census returns show that two-fifths of old people in London can't afford hot water in their houses.

Not content with all this, Healey then warned the workers that if they do not accept the social contract-if they press for wage increases higher than the cost of living increases-he will be 'forced to reduce demand'.

That is blackmail. Put simply, it reads: 'Go easy on wages, or I'll kick you out of your jobs.'

In spite of the massive sums handed to them, businessmen are churlish about Healey's budget. 'We hoped for more!' they cry. In truth, they can't be sure whether Healey's measures will save their system. In the short run, it might stave off disaster. In the long run, they fear

## even more drastic inflation.

The capitalists have no alternative to inflation or unemployment.

SATISFY

Workers do. The wealth is there to solve the economic crisis and improve living standards. Look at the £872 million profit announced by Shell so far this year, the £4966 million handed out in dividends last year, or the £10,000 million by which bank profits have grown since 1969. That wealth could be used to satisfy the needs and wants of the people who produce it. But first it has to be taken from the parasites who squander it.

David Basnett, head of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, has called it the 'social contract budget'. As a supporter of the social contract he should know. The social contract, like the budget, means tax cuts for those who own industry and price increases for the rest of us.

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## 'My Lord Mayor, we've had 5 courses and 3 wines. Now I turn to a subject that concerns us all-national sacrifice'



GALES of applause echoed through London's Guildhall last Monday night as Harold Wilson spoke about the social contract, 'a strong and confident stock market' and the need to tighten our belts. The audience-at the Lord Mayor's banquet-had just sacrificed their way through £25 worth of food and wine. That's about £7 more than the weekly take-home pay of the Glasgow sewage workers on unpatriotic strike against the national interest.

FROM CONFESTALISMENT CONTRACTOR C

Among the social contractors at the banquet were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Ambassador of South Africa, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, the Charge d'Affaires of Paraguay, Lord Chief Justice Widgery, the Marshal of the Royal Air Force, and the Chief of the General Staff.

Invitations were open to anyone with a position of irresponsible power, a fat bank balance and an ability to take a vast quantity of food, drink and hypocrisy.

## Social Con -Trick News

'MY WIFE and I dined last night at the Grosvenor House Hotel,' wrote John Torode in The Guardian last week.

'With drinks, the meal cost rather more than £25 : . . My old friend Bernard Dix of the National Union of Public Employees points out that about 25,000 local government workers earn less than that each week, including overtime.'

There, in a nutshell, is the social contract. On the one hand, wages are to be held below the rate of price increases.

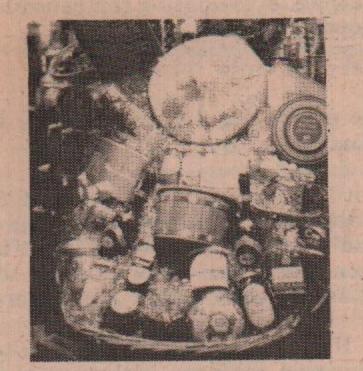
On the other, meals at £25 a go, winter cruises to the Canary Islands and a waiting list for Rolls-Royce cars for those with the necessary cash.

Michael Foot criticised the Scottish lorry drivers' £40-a-week settlement as 'exceeding the guidelines'.

It takes a fair amount of brass neck for a man paid more than £250 a week to criticise the greedy rascals who have just managed to push their pay up to £40.

Our 'left-wing' Secretary for Employment was up to it. He did not flinch. 'We face a supreme test in our country of our democratic institutions,' he told the House of Commons.

The test, apparently, being whether or not further 'extravagant' pay settlements like the



Caviar . . . pheasant . . . social contract? Fortnum's 'famous luxury hamper', not more than £250 for those able to ask others to make sacrifices.

drivers' forty quid could be prevented.

Not one of the listening MPs supports his or her family on £40 a week. Indeed, most of them would consider such pay an intolerable hardship-for themselves.

But it is too much for Scottish lorry drivers. So says Michael Foot and so says our supposedly 'leftwing Labour government.

Mr Foot has a warning for the greedy English drivers, too. It is: 'Do as I say or I'll put the law on you!"

In case you think that an exaggeration, here are the man's own words.

'It is a matter of great practical importance, that people up and down the country should not believe that we have any intention to reinstitute a freeze or statutory control of incomes because if people believe it may happen, all the more will it encourage people to break the social contract and prevent the system working."

In plain English, this amounts to saying that if 'do it yourself' wage restrictions do not work, then 'the system' will break down and then the government will do exactly what Michael Foot wants us to believe it has no intention of doing.

The only question is-how long before they do it?

## Why the consultants are revolting

THE reaction of the part-time consultants to the threatened exclusion of private practice from the National Health Service is that of a powerful minority to an attack on its privileges.

Barbara Castle has proposed that from January, a fifth of private beds in hospitals with more than six private beds should immediately be turned over to the NHS-if they have been occupied for less than three-fifths of the time over the last two years. This ludicrous equation makes the proposal almost completely ineffective.

Mrs Castle also wants all patients to join a common waiting list to avoid queue-jumping by the rich. But consultants control these lists. She wants the scrapping of part-time contracts in the future and the end of the merit award system (where consultants hand out £12 million of NHS money to other consultants).

By IS hospital workers in ASTMS

But of course the present part-time consultants could still fleece the NHS, and the next Tory government can be relied upon to overturn these decisions.

The proposals are hardly a body blow to private practice. Why then are the consultants so excited? The reason is political: their power inside the hospitals is threatened. The private practice issue has exploded because of the action of hospital workers throughout the country.

If consultants gave way to these weak proposals without a fight they would be admitting that the power and importance of nurses, ancillary workers and technicians is greater than their own.

These workers have shown their importance in strikes during the last two years: the power of the consultants has yet to be proven-thus their threats of 'industrial action'.

These threats should be opposed by all workers. The consultants' restrictive practises and closed shop have resulted in hundreds of young doctors, deprived of promotion, emigrating to the US and Canada. This is one cause of the low standard of health care offered to workers.

We can have no sympathy with a fight in defence of privileges which have cost us so much. The position of consultants does not come from their unique importance-all sections of hospital workers are important-but from their links with the ruling class. This position is bolstered by private practice and the 'merit award' system. BOTH MUST GO!

# 

by Chris Carpenter

'I AM speaking on behalf of all Tate and Lyle employees'that was John Lyle, Tate and Lyle's £30,000 a year chairman, asking the government last week to help solve the sugar shortage.

He was speaking at a Tate and Lyle press conference, entry to which was by invitation only. Questions were not allowed.

Socialist Worker was not invited, but our reporter was there.

Tate and Lyle wants government help to maintain its British refining business only because all its attempts to pull out have failed.

£30,000-a-year boss pleads: We're all in this together

sugar, produced in the West Indies. Common Market rules aim to reduce substantially the amount of cane imported into this country.

As Tate and Lyle have no interest in refining sugar from beet, it will be clobbered.

The following facts-not mentioned at the press conferenceshow which side Tate and Lyle is on.

Six years ago Tate and Lyle bought a shareholding in C.E.I.S-a

Its problem is that it refines cane French beet refining company. If the original proposals had worked out it would have ended up with control of Say, the largest beet refiner in France. But the French saw what Tate and Lyle wanted and put a stop to these plans.

Between 1966 and 1972, the aftertax profits of Tate and Lyle's British refineries were more than £21 million. All this money was invested in other areas, such as shipping, warehousing, road haulage and engineering.

Less than £4 million was spent on new equipment in the refining business, and all this came from government allowances. Tate and Lyle now admit that its Liverpool refinery is very run down.

#### COMPARED

GMWU officials complain that Tate and Lyle has been running down its labour force for years. The Liverpool refinery will probably be closed whatever happens.

If Tate and Lyle closed down its British refining business it would be able to sell the 200,000 tons of sugar which it keeps as a 'base stock'.

This cost the company £25 a ton, compared with a market price at the moment of more than £600 a ton. The sale of that stock would produce a £120 million profit for Tate and Lyle's shareholders.

Tate and Lyle owns 32 per cent of Caroni, the West Indian sugar planters which last year made a loss of £500,000 and was expected to make a further loss this year.

The fantastic increase in the world price of sugar changed everything. This year, Caroni made a profit of £2.6 million, and stands to make a further fantastic £6.3 million profit from selling their stocks of sugar.

In other words, whatever happens to the workers at Silvertown and otherTate and Lyle sugar refineries, Mr Cube will continue to make vast profits from refining sugar in the Caribbean.

The interests of Tate and Lyle are completely different to those of Tate and Lyle workers-here, in Europe and in the Caribbean.

For years the company has done all in its power to reduce its dependence on refining cane sugar. It was perfectly prepared to see the backs of its 9000 refining workers in London, Liverpool and Greenock.

But its plans were thwarted, partly by its own incompetence. Now its directors pretend, in another mass advertising campaign worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, that they are on the 'same side as the workers'.

They are not. The only way for workers to make sure of their jobs and to maintain wage levels is to fight against their management-and to demand the nationalisation without compensation of the sugar industry.

That would wipe the smirk off Mr Cube's face once and for all.



#### THE REAL TERRORISTS

By Eamonn McCann

FOUR CATHOLICS were gunned down in Belfast over the weekend as the campaign to terrorise the Catholic community into sobmission continued-a campaign which is not succeeding, as the mass anti-internment demonstrations show.

Less publicised was the death of 48-year-old Desmond Heatley, although in a sense, he too, was assassinated.

In February last year, Mr Heatley's 12-year-old son Kevin was standing outside his home on the Derrybeg estate in Newry when a British soldier, Corporal Robert Foxford, bored perhaps by uneventful patrols, aimed up the street and shot him dead.

After much public agitation, Corporal Foxford was charged with murder. Eventually he was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to three years. Tory papers and MPs were outraged. On appeal, Foxford was acquitted and returned to base, a hero's welcome from his comrades and happy half-page photographs in the Mirror and The Sun.

Last week a delayed inquest on Kevin Heatley was held. It returned an open verdict. Deeply depressed since his son's murder, Desmond Heatley drowned himself in Newry canal. His body was washed up on Sunday at nearby Warrenpoint.

#### LABOUR...TEN YEARS ON

ON 16 November 1964, The Times devoted a supplement to North East England—and a special article to one man, Labour Party Alderman T Dan Smith.

'What the Beatles and perhaps Mrs Bessie Braddock are to Liverpool the Animals and Mr Dan Smith are to Newcastle, One makes raw virile music; the other engineers new homes, new roads, a new city in fact... They [the Conservatives] recognise the visionary and practical qualities of the man who has become known as "Mr Newcastle"."

Labour Foreign Secretary Patrick Gordon-Walker had been defeated three weeks before in a racist election campaign in Smethwick by Tory Peter Griffiths.

On 14 November, the Daily Express revealed that Gordon-Walker's local Labour Party met in the Smethwick Labour Club-which practised a colour bar.

'I did not know that there was a colour bar,' claimed Mr Gordon-Walker in the Daily Express. 'But a club is a private affair and it must say what membership it has in."

Lord Robens, Chairman of the National Coal Board, was disappointed, reported The Times on 10 November, that NUM leaders had declined to join meetings to improve 'communications'.

'The object of these meetings is to use modern methods of communication to bring home the point we're continuously emphasising that we must have price stability to maintain our competitive position and that if we cannot maintain it, more pits will be closed and more men displaced."

On 11 November 1964, James Callaghan introduced the Labour government's first budget. There was sixpence on a gallon of petrol and on the standard rate of income tax.

A new capital gains tax and corporation tax were introduced, as were higher pensions.

These latter moves provoked, said Harold Wilson in his memoirs, 'the first of a series of attacks on sterling, by speculators and others, which beset almost every action of the government for the next five years.'

## 14 days to Conference\_

# IT'S VITAL-AND IT'S URGENT



WITH two weeks to go to the Second Rank and File Conference in Birmingham, Bill Geddes—chairman of the NUPE shop stewards at Hammersmith Hospital in London—told Socialist Worker why they will be supporting it:

WE HAVE no illusions about the full-time officials of the union. From past experience we have learnt that it is a disastrous mistake to believe that a bureaucrat like Alan 'unfinished business' Fisher will lead a determined struggle to get hospital workers off the breadline.

Our branch is sending five delegates to the Rank and File conference. We are now also one of the sponsoring bodies.

Hospital ancillary workers will

Ancillary workers: they could present a major challenge to the Social Contract . . . if they get our support

have the first national claim to challenge the Social Contract. So our delegate at the conference will be appealing for solidarity and support.

We were left to fight alone last time. This must not happen again.

The miners in South Wales showed the way forward during the nurses' dispute. Their 24-hour strike was a historic step forward for rank and file action.

We recognise the urgent need for a national rank and file organisation and are giving this conference our full support.

Applications for delegates' credentials for the conference are flooding in. Credentials have already been sent out to 22 shop stewards' committees and 98 trade union branches for more than 260 delegates.

Among the new delegating bodies are the Transport and General Union (workplace) branch at Avonmouth, near Bristol, Comill Engineering Joint Shop Stewards Committee in Southampton, the AUEW shop stewards' committee at Staveley Machine Tools at Halifax, and the SOGAT branch at Maidstone.

There is still time to get credentials to this crucial conference. Don't pass up the opportunity. Fill in the form below and come to Birmingham.

'Left-wing' bullets-for

socialists

From Jim Raftery in Lisbon
THE Portuguese Security Police fired
on a crowd of left-wing demonstrators last week, seriously wounding one man in the stomach, and
followed this with tear gas and baton

charges, injuring 30 others.

The demonstrators were outside a rally being held by the Portugal's main right-wing party, the CDS, sponsored by its youth section, the Juventude Centrista. The left groups, to the left of the Communist Party, were prevented from entering the meeting and police opened fire after scuffles.

#### DICTATOR

Prime Minister Brigadier Vasco Goncalves apologised to the CDS leaders the following day—they include Almeid de Amarel, a close collaborator of the previous dictator Caetano—and gave security guarantees for future meetings.

The publicly expressed aim of the government—including the Communist Party, which recently deleted the phrase 'dictatorship of the proletariat' from its programme—is to establish normal capitalist democracy. To this end they want the CDS to become a respectable right-wing party. To achieve this they seem prepared to shoot left-wing objectors.

Although 'saneamento', the purging of fascists, is official policy, the police forces remain the same and none of the main political parties have even demanded they be disarmed. The coming elections promise more repression for the revolutionary left

## Socialist Worker

# The rule of law: But WHOSE law, WHOSE rule?

THE ROW which flared up over Clay Cross last week seems, on the face of it, a storm in a tea cup. The Tory government introduced rent increases under the Housing Finance Act two years ago. The Labour government has left those rises in force everywhere, including Clay Cross.

The Clay Cross councillors were ordered to make up from their own pockets the amount of rent which would have been collected had they put up rents when instructed. The Labour government is still instructing them to pay out this money—although there is talk of the Labour Party organising a nation-wide collection to pay off the remainder.

The bone of contention between Labour and the Tories is that Labour is introducing a Bill which, if passed, would end the debarment of the former Clay Cross councillors from standing in local elections.

Hardly, you would have thought, the occasion for screaming headlines in the Tory press and talk by Lord Hailsham of 'grave constitutional imperfections'.

Yet it looks as if the Tories may even carry the issue so far as to use their inbuilt majority in the non-elected House of Lords to throw out the government's 'indemnity' bill.

The reason is not the issue of Clay Cross itself, but something far more fundamental—what the Tories and the press like to call the 'rule of law'.

By this they mean that if judges or auditors make decisions, then it is wrong for the parliamentary majority in the House of Commons to overthrow them. Any other view, they argue, is 'unconstitutional'. And they refer not only to Clay Cross but also to Shrewsbury.

It is worth looking more closely at what this implies. Judges in Britain are not elected by any sort of democratic process. Nor are they in any sense a representative cross-section of the population. To become a judge you have first to be a successful barrister. And it is virtually impossible for people without lots of money behind them to become barristers.

Judges are necessarily part of the small minority of people who own the vast majority of the wealth.

#### Wealthy minority

And if a majority in the House of Commons tries to cancel sentences arrived at in this way, another group of representatives of the same wealth owning minority, the House of Lords, have the power to stop implementation of its decision—for 12 months at least.

It should be fairly obvious, if ever policies really beneficial to workers were going to take effect, that this veto would have to be ignored. Yet over the really important issue, Shrewsbury, Labour ministers are accepting it.

As Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary told the Parliamentary Labour Party on 30 October: 'The party is committed to the rule of law and judicial decisions could not be overturned unless new evidence emerged.'

Jenkins is on the extreme right of the Labour Party. But Michael Foot, of the 'left', has indicated that he stands by Jenkins on this matter. He told the House of Commons five days later that Shrewsbury was 'a matter for my Right Honourable Friend, the Home Secretary.'

In other words, if representatives of the ruling class like Lord Widgery decide that Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson must go to jail for manning pickets, then there is nothing that Labour ministers, 'left' or right, are prepared to do about it.

All the real victories workers have gained in recent years have by-passed the official, 'constitutional' channels. It is direct, strike action that forces up wages. It was direct action that forced the courts to reverse the order committing dockers to Pentonville in 1972.

Only the threat of similar direct action will force Labour ministers to drop their subservience to the ruling class over the issue of the Shrewsbury pickets.

If we are ever going to see real socialist change, direct action will be needed in a much wider sense. It will then be necessary not only to overcome the resistance of the judges and the House of Lords. It will be necessary to do away with their power altogether—and along with that, the power of their friends and relatives who run the civil service and the armed forces.

And that is not something which is ever going to be achieved through the 'constitutional' channels which sanctify their power.

- 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

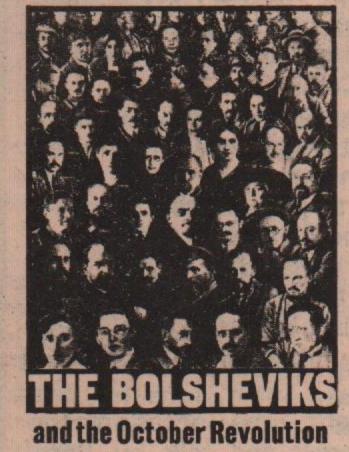
Send us	credentials for		delegates	to the	Rank and File	9
Conference	on November	30.	BE 519		N 12 12 112-60 A	

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## -TANKS FOR THE MEMORY? -

THE FIRST elections in Greece for ten years take place this Sunday. They have been called by the veteran conservative politician Constantin Karamanlis, who returned from exile after the military junta stepped down in August.

Karamanlis' main aim was to preserve under the guise of a 'democratic regime' the structure of power which the junta had built up. As a result, the condition of Greek workers has been getting worse every day.

Prices have soared, and wages have been virtually stagnant. At the top of the unions, fascist officials have been replaced by right-wing politicians. The repressive apparatus built up by the junta remains intact and opponents of the right-wing still find it difficult to organise.

There are four parties in the election. On the right there is Karamanlis' New Democracy, which smacks very much of the old, corrupt police state he did so much to install in the Fifties and Six ties.

The Centre Union Party calls for a pro-European policy combined with a mild programme of reforms and some punishment for the members of the Junta.

who have been in prison, those

who are in prison, and those who

accurate comment on a grim reality. The Eastern European States, the

so-called 'communist' countries of

Europe, have survived through sys-

tematic repression of every social

police were directed mainly against

those who had traditionally opposed

terror was directed at the ruling

stratum itself. Leading Communists

in Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary and

Czechoslovakia were imprisoned,

tortured and in some cases

workers who took to the streets in

defence of wages and conditions were shot down. The uprising was

squashed, only to erupt elsewhere.

in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and in

Poland in 1970, workers again took to the streets, initially over econo-

mic issues. Soon they began also to

demand freedom and control of the

factories. They were brutally put

Different

prisoned. Bureaucrats toppled and

others rose to take their place.

Some concessions were made to the

workers, but the system continued.

that those purged and executed

were right wingers, CIA provoca-

teurs or anti-communists. The facts

members. Some rose to prominence

during the post war period, others

had been active in the Party before

corrupted away from socialist ideas

by CIA propaganda? Or is it the

case that there is something deeply

wrong with the 'socialism' of

cribes how the fate of post-war

Eastern Europe was decided by

Stalin and Churchill in a few minutes

around a conference table in 1944.

Russia got a free hand with Eastern

gan to organise to take over. But

this was not revolution from below,

marxist style. This was bribery, in-

ing the political organisations in

which workers were strong. It meant

harassment and imprisonment of

workers' leaders. It even meant

dividing workers in Czechoslovakia

story? To survive, Russia had to

compete with the West in the arms

race. To compete, Russia had to

accumulate capital. So Russia began

What is the logic behind this

timidation and terror.

on racial lines.

Then the Communist Parties be-

It meant weakening and infiltrat-

Chris Harman's new book\* des-

are rather different.

Eastern Europe?

the war.

Europe.

Apologists for Stalinism argue

Many were Communist Party

Is it possible that they were all

Some were killed, others im-

In 1953, unarmed East German

In Poland and Hungary in 1956,

After the war, the powers of the

But after 1948, the apparatus of

It is black humour, but it is an

will be.'

class.

executed.

down.

workers' demands.

By members of the Greek organisation Socialist Revolution

The Panhellenic Socialist Movement of Andreas Papandreou uses lots of Marxist language and promises the establishment of socialism through parliament. It also claims Greece will gain from entering the Common Market.

Finally there are the two Communist Parties, which have combined for the election as the United Left. They are putting forward a feeble programme of social reforms so as not to antagonise the right and to appear 'respectable'. They have responded to Karamanlis' bluff ('it's either me or the tanks') by calling for calm and by boycotting demonstrations organised by the revolutionary left, even though these have won mass support.

Part of the United Left has even gone so far as to criticise Papandreou for advocating the establishment of socialism. 'Our aim now is the

victory of democracy,' they say.

The revolutionary left faces a dilemma. The mass movement has proved it has the strength to change things. But it is not yet so powerful as to be able to impose its own solutions.

That is why its victories can be used by other forces for their own ends. The elections have come about through the struggles of workers, students and peasants and should be regarded as a victory for the mass movement.

#### COMPROMISE

The revolutionary left does not have any illusion that the mass movement can achieve its objectives through elections. But it does see that every vote cast for the traditional parties of the left, the Communist Parties, will be a vote of protest against the compromise between the right and the Junta, against the attempt of the ruling class to establish its rule under a different guise.

For this reason a strong left wing vote will give greater scope to revolutionaries to push the struggle where it matters-in the streets and in

the factories.

## And they call this 'COMMUNISM did not abolish classes,' runs a typical Polish joke, 'We still have three classes-those





PRAGUE, 1968: a 'workers' state'-so where does the tank fit in?

#### by Anna Paczuska

to 'milk' the countries under its control.

Russia built rockets and submarines-and workers and peasants in Eastern Europe paid the price.

In 1953 Stalin died. The struggle for power in the ruling parties was mirrored by uprisings among workers. Liberal bureaucrats replaced those of Stalin's era. But the crises and uprisings continued.

Chris Harman has brought together material from workers' leaflets and individual recollections as well as official summaries to relate the course of the various uprisings.

... 'They shouted in chorus "We are workers not slaves. Put an end to extortionist norms. We want free elections" and always loudest of all the sentence "We are not slaves"."

But they could not beat the Russian armies which put down the risings in blood. Were the risings doomed from the outset?

Can workers gain better conditions in Eastern Europe or must protest always end in a bloodbath? Can the bureaucratic states survive?

Chris Harman answers these questions in his concluding chapter in which he examines the continuing economic crisis of the state capitalist

countries.

Official schemes for economic reform are just 'pie in the sky'. The only hope of improvement for the workers lies in revolution, but this must not be confined to one country alone.

Isolation stopped the revolutions of Eastern Europe in their tracks. Since then the Russian Army has secured acquiescence. But this constraint cannot last forever. As Chris Harman concludes:

'At some point the monolith in the Kremlin will crack. When that happens the Russian soldiers will be as much affected by the general discontent as were the members of the Hungarian Army in 1956 or of the Czechoslovak army in 1969. Sixty million workers will then have an opportunity to make their mark on history.'

It is an optimistic ending to a book which examines the events and failures of the past. It is a book we can all learn a great deal from and one that no serious socialist should omit from his or her reading list.

\*Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe by Chris Harman (Pluto Press) £1.50.

Special pre-publication offer (until 20 November) £1.



BUDAPEST, 1956: workers who fought for freedom were labelled 'aristocrats' or 'fascists'

## WHEN TO TURN ON...

FRIDAY BBC-2: 6.40pm. THE BLACK MAN IN BRITAIN (presumably including women) is a new series on the 'traditions of

1550. SATURDAY

MONDAY

BBC-2: 9.25pm. 2ND HOUSE features comment on the musical about the Beatles-John, Paul, George, Ringo . . . and Bert.

black involvement in British society' since

SUNDAY RADIO-4: 10.15pm. PLAIN TALES FROM THE RAJ is a new series using interviews with 'survivors of the Raj' about the British Empire in India. On BBC-1 at 8.15pm is an early play by Russian dramatist Anton Chekhov. THE WOOD DEMON.

BBC-1: 8.10pm. PANORAMA is about the rise in juvenile offences. INSIDE THE NEWS at 11.13pm on BBC-1 is a new series on the development of TV news. On BBC-2 at 10.15pm is THE FIGHT FOR SHELTON BAR. Taken from the production at the Victoria Theatre Stoke-on-Trent it uses the words of the workers to tell the story of the battle to keep the local steelworks open. Its politics may be dubious, but it's worth seeing.

TUESDAY BBC-1: 9.25pm. THE MIGHTY CON-TINENT, the series on 20th Century Europe deals with the rivalries of the European empires in the 1900s.

WEDNESDAY THE WEATHER BBC-2: MACHINE is a two hour documentary on the changes in the world's climateand its implications for humanity. Same time on ITV THE MEHINACU in ITV's DISAPPEARING WORLD series is on a Brazilian tribe's life-threatened by the coming of the motorway. Nowadays it is fashionable to be concerned about the fate of the North American Indians, now they appear to have been subjugated. In South America, where the process of genocide is in full progress, there is less concern . . .

THURSDAY BBC-1: 9.25pm. Roddy McMillan stars in his own PLAY FOR TODAY, set in a glass works, THE BEVELLERS. The degradation of women will be dealt with, one way or another, in AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL on the US beauty contests at 10pm on BBC-2.

1: Surname of film actor who played

3675 million miles away from

11: Ancient seaport in the Bay of Naries

12: How the Earl of Caernarvon found

15: '.... of Parts': 1914 Henry Reed

17: Method of secret voting compulsory

taken at mass meetings (6)

20: Misnomer for Manoa, a poverty

23: It can make you deaf . . . (7)

stricken city in Guiana (2, 6)

24: Country over which Victoria was

proclaimed 'Empress' in 1877 (5)

sensational drama of hovel-life, who

became a Stalinist hack in old age (5)

25: Russian author of 'In the Depths', a

26: The 22nd made Yossarian fly! (5)

19: They may be made from oak galls,

for local and general elections in

satirical poem on Army routine (6)

Britain since 1870 and popular with

union leaders for reversing decisions

iron salts, gum arabic, carbolic acid

popular with Roman tourists-until

production of Lolita (5)

Disneyland (5)

10: Noode pictures (5)

79 AD (7)

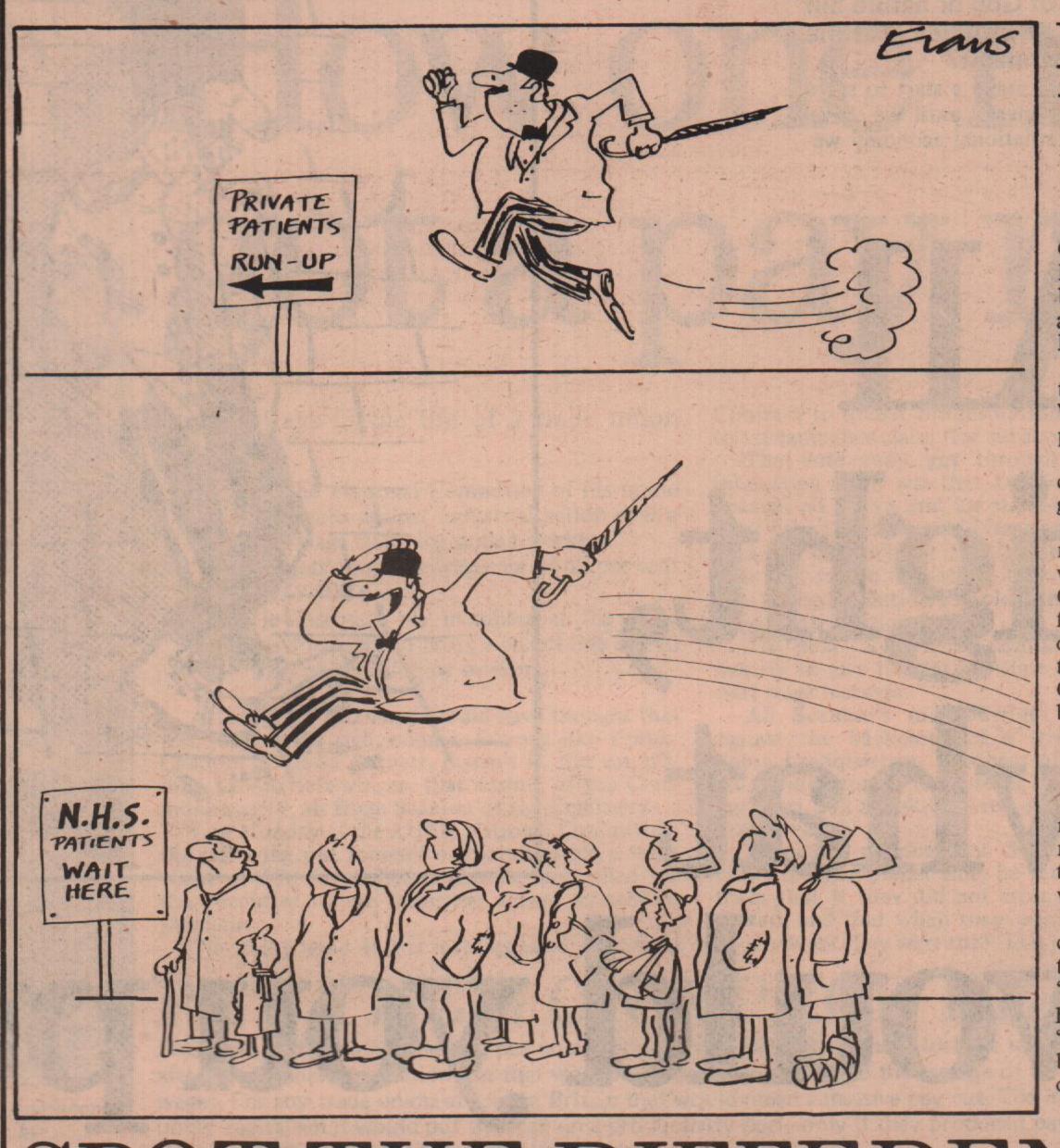
his mummy (8)

13: 'Z' for instance (4)

and phenol (4)

Humbert Humbert in tame film

## Wally Belper's column



## Erans KEEPING THE WORLD SAFE FOR HYPOCRISY

ON Sunday you may have watched the Remembrance Day pageant at The Cenotaph. Her Majesty dressed in black, looking mournful. Philip cased up looking like an admiral in the Chilean Navy. And the Duke of Kent looking like the village idiot as usual. Large wreaths are laid, a volley of guns fire and for

two silent minutes we remember the dead of two World Wars. The symbol of Remembrance is the plastic poppy.

And in the middle of all those poppies is a black centre with the words 'Haig Fund'. There could be no greater insult to the men who died.

The Haig in question was the man who ordered a million men to their deaths in the First World War. He was Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, from 1916 Commander in Chief in Europe. He had the brain of a four-year-old boy (who was probably glad to get rid of it in the first place). He failed the entrance exam to the Army. But his sister was a 'friend' to the Duke of Cambridge, who had the right to get Haig in by the back door. The exam was waived.

#### SHOOTING

At the age of 38 Haig was still a captain, spending most of his time shooting grouse. Then in 1905 he married the Hon Dorothy Vivian, who just happened to be Maid of Honour of Queen Alexandra. Haig was appointed ADC to King George V.

With the King's help Haig rose from captain to commander-in-chief in 10 years. His greatest contribution to modern civilisation was the statement: 'The machine gun is an over-rated weapon.' To prove his point, in battle after battle he ordered his men on 'regardless of loss'. The Germans cut them down like blades of grass as they went over the top across

open ground. The machine gun can kill a man at the range of two

miles. Ordering an attack in those conditions was like putting men into a mincing machine. In one single day more men were lost than in any army in the history of the world. If you like, it was mass murder.

But now on every poppy sold in memory of the dead generations of 1914-8, there is the name of the man who sent them to their early death. And in Whitehall, there like a patron saint of death, is a statue of Haig, just 300 yards from the Cenotaph that commemorates the men Haig and his class murdered.

Nothing, nothing at all is sacred to this system-not even the memory of the men it sends to their deaths to keep the world safe for hypocrisy.

IT IS a well-established fact that Prince Philip is a friend to dumb animals. Among other things, he married one. Two weeks ago last Friday he attended a special film show on animal conservation, given by the World Wildlife Trust at the National Film Theatre. Unfortunately a pigeon gatecrashed the occasion. Rather than risk the possibility of a direct hit on Philip's bald patch, the show was held up while one of the wildlife preservers got an airgun

and shot the pigeon.

THE No 1 Executive Staff Branch of ASTMS passed a resolution condemning the Social Contract at its last meeting. Among its members are 17 Labour MPs, including Harold Wilson. Harold was not at the meeting.

## SPOTTHE DIFFERENCE

'RIOT' was the word the police by the National Farmers Union. It is worth comparing the coverage it got in the national press with that given the building workers' pickets at Shrewsbury.

SOCIALIST WORKER CROSSWORD No 2

During the farmers' flying picket, with tractors and cars. Yet the Daily spokesman used to describe last week's a railway sleeper was placed on the Telegraph described the riot 'as a battle over cattle at Holyhead Docks rails in front of a Freightliner train show of strength remarkable for allgoing at 40 miles an hour. What a round good temper.' Not a word was wheeze, eh?

> Ten policemen were put in hospital during the confrontation. All railway lines out of Holyhead were blocked

there in its editorial about bully-boys, orgies of violence, hooligans or mob-

And by bitter coincidence, the

police forces that were called in to deal with the remarkable good temper that was flying about came from North Wales, Shropshire and ... you've guessed it . . . SHREWSBURY. So now can we expect Ted Savage, chairman of Hertfordshire NFU, and

Vince Aligeri (surely not a 'foreign agitator'?), who stalled his car on a railway crossing, to be charged in nine months time under the 1875 Conspiracy Act, to be tried and to join Warren and Tomlinson in the nick?

I doubt it. After all, the National Farmers Union isn't a trade unionit's an employers' association.

#### Not so fast!

I WAS pleased to read that Senor

Alberto Villar was blown up last week. For 30 years Villar was a terrorist for the Argentinian ruling class, Argentina's own version of Brigadier Frank Kitson. He organised the brigades of police motorcyclists that specialised in charging fullspeed at left-wing demonstrations and battering demonstrators with long truncheons. He was the man behind the wave of police terror that has swept Argentina since Peron. died in July. At least 130 socialists have been murdered. Although I do have one passing regret about Senor Villar's death: being blown up is a very quick way to die.

#### DOWN

ACROSS

- Takes ten-per-cent bond (5)
- I'm ten-ton and balmy! (8)
- Condition of thousands of workers who preferred casual footwear to unfashionable safety boots (4)
- 6: Sean Connery film on sadism in a North African army punishment camp (3, 4)
- Chaplin classic about horrors of automated production (6, 5)

- 20 22 26
- 'Rain, steam and . . . . . ': famous Turner painting (5)
- Treacherous labour leader deprived of pension rights by his union for participation in the 1931 'National Government' (5, 6)
- 14: Where I'm going to in my mind (8)
- 16: Large-jowled ex-left-wing Tribunite now on Labour Party National Executive (7)
- .... written in a Country Churchyard'; tedious poem by Gray on human mortality (5)
- 'er! (5)
- 21: A discoverer under water-not over 22: Anti-aircraft shrapnel (4)
- Solution to last week's:

# TEA

## A few fair cops-

LAST Saturday two small reports appeared on the same page of the Daily Telegraph. The first was about the clean-up of dustmen in Kensington and Chelsea: four more have been charged with 'obtaining pecuniary advantage.' All told 30 are now being 'bought to justice'. One has actually been charged with stealing two plastic dustbin bags.

Inches away was the story of a lorry that crashed on the M5, loaded with tinned food. Police cars for miles around converged on the scene-to loot the tins. At least 120 police officers were involved, and some of the cars made two or three trips to load up. They plundered five tons.

The report went on to say that the Deputy Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, Edward Coppin, said he did not intend to charge any of the policemen because there were too many involved.

#### SEAN TREACY ON HOW SOCIALISM WOULD DEAL WITH THE CRISIS

YOU INSIST that this crisis is not an act of God or nature but of capitalism. But would these problems of inflation and the rest disappear if we had a real workers' government?

Certainly not. But a workers' government could make a start to solve some of them. The crisis is world wide and that means until we have working-class power over a major part of the international economy we cannot travel far on the road to socialism.

But how much could be done about prices for instance? After all, we would still have to buy many things from abroad, such as food.

That is true. The first need would be for a workers' government to take control of foreign trade. That means the nationalisation of the banks and major companies. Some imports we do not need: luxuries such as jewellery and the like, available only to a few. But when it comes to food, much would still have to be imported.

At present many basic foods are so expensive they are in effect rationed. A workers' government would substitute honest rationingnot on the basis of ability to pay but on need. As a result the price of many goods could be kept down.

What else can be done about freezing prices?

A workers' government would straight away close the private markets in commodities. These have been a speculators' paradise and in the past speculation during times of shortage has forced up prices of basic materials and foods to astronomic heights.

#### CURED

A workers' state would also take over the major retailing groupsnot the small corner shops, which are more sinned against than sinning when it comes to profiteering. That would prevent any hoarding of materials during times of shortages and would make it possible to fix prices.

But could all inflation be cured in this way?

It would take some years of economic planning. This would involve the elimination of all the ways capitalism simply wastes the wealth that workers produce, such as on arms, the millions spent on ludicrous advertising, the needless red tape and bureaucracy of the state. This helps to cause inflation

Above all it would be possible to organise production more efficiently and that would go a long way to making inflation just a bad memory.

How realistic is that? Surely advertising is unavoidable.

No one minds public health or information adverts. But it cannot be right that the detergent industry, making a range of almost identical products, spends more on glossy advertising and promotion than the Health Service has for medical research. Under capitalism the people cannot decide for themselves what will be produced. Advertising is capitalism's way of creating false needs and avoiding satisfying real ones.

What about arms? Surely a workers' state would need to defend itself?

It would. But its best defence would lie in its political support from the working class throughout the world. A socialist government in Britain would have every interest

would you put in its place?

in pursuing a policy of internationalism-to hasten the day when workers in other lands come to power.

Some arms would no doubt be needed. But no workers' state could have any use for weapons of indiscriminate mass destruction such as the H-bomb, nuclear missiles, germ warfare and the like. These still cost the taxpayer untold millions of pounds a year. It goes without saying that a workers' Britain would withdraw from all military alliances such as NATO and withdraw all its troops from abroad -including Ireland.

#### BOOM

The talk about 'efficient organisation of production' sounds like the language of the bosses now. You will be suggesting the need for higher profits and an incomes policy next.

Let's get this in context. Under capitalism the blind forces of the market obstruct efficient production. We lurch from boom to slump, from surplus to shortage without

anyone-not even the capitalistsbeing able to control things. That is unbelievably wasteful.

It has been calculated that the stop-go cycle (now the boom/slump cycle) in Britain since 1945 has cost at least £500,000,000,000 (five hundred thousand million pounds) in lost production of wealth. That would have been enough to solve entirely the housing problem and transform the Health Service and education.

Under workers' control we could start economic planning with production for use. That means, as I have already said, that the major industries—the so-called top 200 firms at least—must be nationalised under workers' control without compensation. The state will look after any widows or orphans who depend on funds in these firms.

But will there be a need for profits and wages policy under such a system?

There would certainly need to be a surplus produced over and above what we use up as individuals or as a society. That is vital to pay for efficient labour-saving more machines and production methods.

Socialist objection to profits is that they are the surplus created by workers but are taken from them by capitalists.

Equally, incomes policy under capitalism is a way of transferring wealth from wage earners to capitalists. Working people would have every reason, in a system which they controlled and planned, to take wages out of the competitive jungle. The funny thing is that already workers are often quite agreed about who should benefit more in the scale of relative pay-nurses, the lowerpaid, and so on. At present this cannot be achieved. Under workers' planning it would.

Equally a workers' government would take over the huge private fortunes of the rich. It would use their mansions for hospitals, schools, and to house the homeless.

You mean that in a workers' state we would be working for our own good and that of society?

Right. And for that reason we would have an interest in increasing investment. Because we would all benefit-not just a few. Mistakes would be made, of course. But that is different to the deliberate waste of wealth and the unfairness involved in the chaos of capitalism.

#### NEED

But does socialist planning work? It does not seem very successful in Russia?

Of course planning and workers' democracy must go hand in hand. In Russia the bureaucrats own and control the means of production through their control of the statetheir planning is blind to the needs of the people. It is designed for competition with the Western capitalists. That is why we need a revolution in those countries too.

But even a genuine workers' state would still be part of the world. Could we avoid balance of

payments crises and having to pay our way?

As long as a workers' state is isolated it is vulnerable. In the end workers' power has to spread or the isolated workers' state is crushed. That was certainly the experience in Russia.

But it is unlikely that the working class could come to power here except as part of a movement which, for instance, was also reflected in the mass mobilisation of the workers in many European countries.

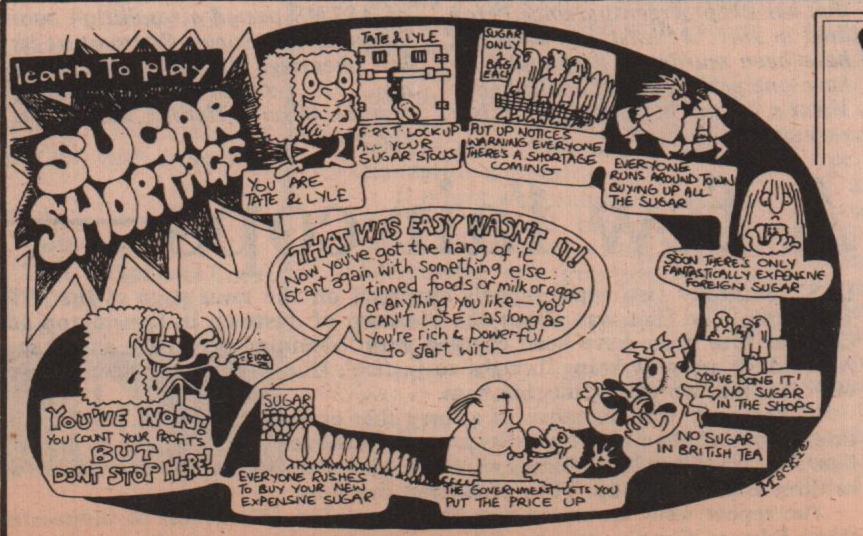
Until that happens a workers' government has to do what it canand sometimes make compromises. It certainly would stop all foreign military spending and it would stop rich people taking their money out of the country. That accounts for a large part of the existing payments gap.

In the end the building of socialism will depend on spreading workers' power. That would give us the possibility of truly international economic planning, which could liberate mankind from starvation and disease and dramatically raise living standards. It would also make possible a society that was so productive it would liberate men and women from much uncreative labour. Liberate us for living.

But we are a long way from that now.

True. But the crisis of the system is getting so severe that working people here and in other countries will more and more obviously face a choice: replace this rotten set-up from top to bottom and start to build socialism, or slide into dictatorship, mass unemployment and maybe war. We can see the dangers around us at the moment.

That is why the International Socialists fight not only in defence of workers' jobs and pay packets but also for the creation of a movement which can take power and put mankind on the road to freedom.



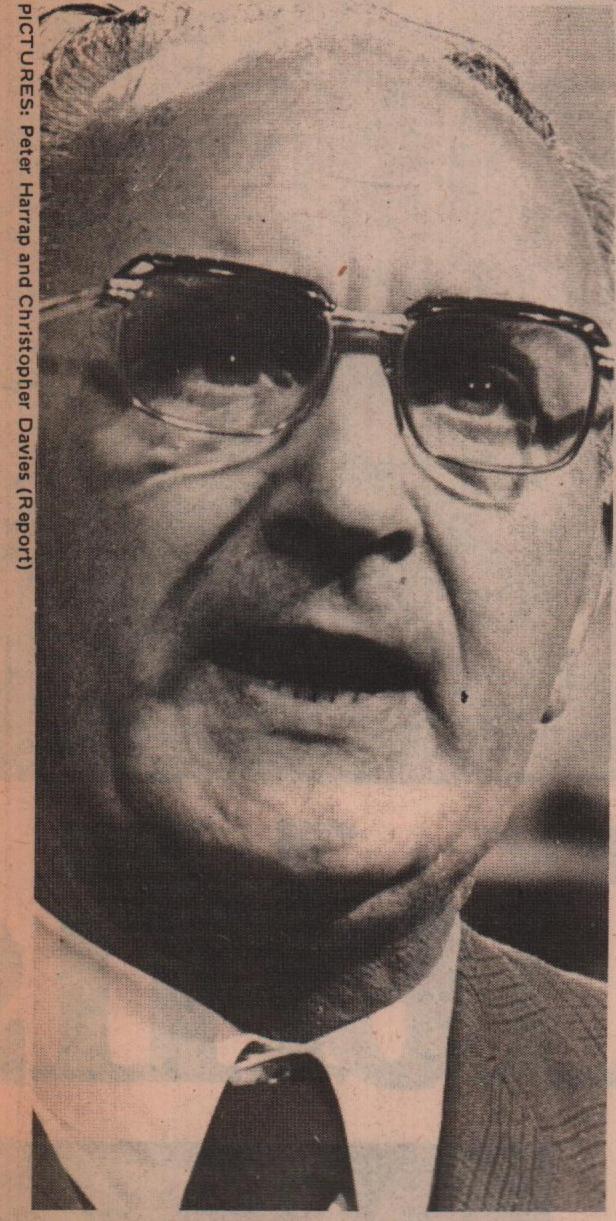
## AOICE

Issue number 13 now out

Articles on Night work, equal pay, SEI, prices. 5p a copy (plus 4p postage) from

WOMEN'S VOICE, 85 Mealines, Harlow, Essex

## 



Hugh Scanlon, general president of the Engineers. now on £101 a week. The basic rate for his members in engineering is £28.50.

# How one man gotapayrise

THREE days in the life of a trade union official:

DAY 1: At the National Committee of his union he speaks against industrial action over a £50 wage claim for skilled workers.

DAY 2: He gets a massive wage rise of 40 per cent or £1,500 a year.

DAY 3: He instructs his members at the union

headquarters to cross a picket line and to scab on their fellow workers.

A few years ago many would have thought that was some rabid right-winger. Sounds like Frank Chapple or David Basnett, doesn't it. But no, it's that Labour left-winger, that darling of the Communist party, Mr Hugh Scanlon of the Engineers.

Last Monday at the AUEW National Committee, the left wing put forward a resolution for a wage claim of £50 for skilled engineers, and called for the executive to use industrial action to achieve the claim.

The right wing at the meeting used the Social

Contract to defeat the resolution and modified it to a meaningless claim 'for substantial increases'.

The vote only got through by 27-25. The interesting point was that Len Brindle was absent because of illness and his stand-in voted with the right wing. Brindle would have undoubtedly voted with the left, making it 26-26, and Scanlon would have had to use his casting vote. From his opposition to the resolution it is clear that he would have voted with the right wing.

The next day saw the committee agree unanimously to give its 200 full-time officials a 40 per cent wage increase.

All Scanlon's manoeuvrings are to be seen against the backcloth of a strike in his own union headquarters. Members of the APEX there are striking for an increase in the London weighting from £52 to £400, as recommended in the Pay Board report.

When 30 members of Scanlon's own union honoured the picket line, he retaliated by telling them that it they did not cross it they would be sacked, and that when they went in they were to do any work they were told. This means scabbing.

stall an election for general president.

Chapple and the executive have even

survived a court case, Mark Young

versus the EEPTU, accusing them of

refusing to carry out the union rules.

The judge found in their favour when

they argued that there was no inten-

tion of abolishing the position of

general president. They claimed that

the election was not in question,

only the executive's right to deter-

sultant's recommendation will be

presented to the members as an

extension of democracy and better

executive not going to ask next May's Biennial Delegate Conference to

ratify their acceptance of the report?

Because conference delegates would

reject the executive line-which ex-

plains the urgency with which the

decision to hold a ballot has been

ference, the executive declared that

ballots would only be held in an

emergency. A situation which has

existed for four years has suddenly

will no doubt put is that the report's

acceptance will mean a cutback in

union costs. This is nonsense. If the

wages of full-time officials were cut,

and made equivalent to the average

wage of the union's members, then

there would be a real saving. The

EEPTU employs more than 150 full-

Another argument the executive

become an emergency!

At the 1970 Rules Revision Con-

No doubt the management con-

If this were so, then why is the

mine its timing.

representation.

taken.

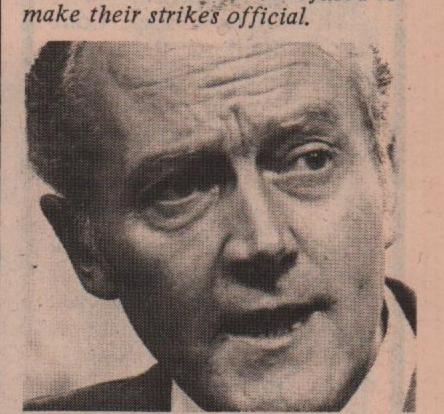
## What they're costing you



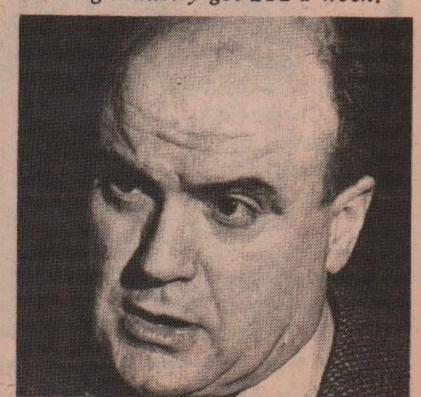
Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of the government officers (NALGO), gets £210 a week. Town hall typists get from £17 to £36.



Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport Workers, gets around £150 a week. The driver of a 32-ton articulated lorry gets a basic £22.20 a week, though in Scotland and parts of England and Wales strike action by lorry drivers has won £40 a week. Jack Jones refused to



David Basnett, general secretary of the General and Municipal, whose wage is the best-guarded secret in Britain. We can assume it is very high. Some of his members in the catering industry get £12 a week.



Lawrence Daly, general secretary of the Miners, gets £136 a week. A miner at the coalface gets £45. Surface workers get less.

#### PUT THEM ON A PROD DEAL!

SHOULD trade union leaders be put on a productivity deal? One of the guidelines set down by Lenin after the Russian Revolution was that workers' leaders should be paid the average of their members' wages. For any trade union official in Britain that would mean a massive pay cut. The irony is that under capitalism it would put them all on a productivity deal-only if they produced pay increases for their members would their own pay be increased.

## What the management boys want...for the union

DURING the next week, members of the electricians and plumbers union, the EEPTU, will be receiving ballot papers and a recommendation from the executive council to accept a management consultant's report. This will propose changes in the union rules to abolish the elected position of general president and create five new appointed officials.

The four executive councillors

IS BOOKS

books:

have recently received

deliveries of the following

**Revolution and Counter-revolution** 

Wedlocked Women-Lee Comer-£1.

Scream Quietly (about battered

Chile's Days of Terror (eyewitness

Poets to the People (South African

ment in British Universities and

Class Conflict in Egypt 1945-70-

James Connolly Songbook-15p

-A Roberts-25p; Repression and

Available again-Women's Rights-

Kong, a Case to Answer-36p.

Coote and Gill-6pp;

let, 7p on books

Road, London N4.

-45p

Colleges-CND pamphlet) 20p

Study War No More (Military involve-

From Spokesman Books: Flixborough

Disaster-Grayson-35p; Consumerism

Exploitation in Indonesia-95p; Hong

Ten days that Shook the World-Reed

Please add 4p postage on each pamph-

IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters

in Spain-Morrow-£1.25

women)-Pizzey-45p

Freedom Poems) 85p

accounts)-75p

Hussein-£1.90

who opposed this report will not be Chapple, general secretary-general allowed to state their case on the ballor papers.

While members are appalled at the idea of employers interfering in union affairs, the managing director of the consultancy firm is James Dobbie Houston, chairman of JIB for contracting and longelectrical standing acquaintance of Frank

president of the union.

Chapple, who was assistant general secretary-before that position was abolished after he moved on to become general secretary-has controlled the union on his own since the death of Les Cannon in 1970. The union rules stipulate a two-man leadership.

Merger talks have been used to

## STRENGTHIN THE COMBINE

ENGINEERING workers have been occupying part of the Metal Box factory at Westhoughton, Lancashire, for five weeks now. They were forced into the occupation: management retaliated to a work-to-rule for a 40p-an-hour rise with a lock-out, then police broke up the picket line. The only answer was to get inside the

Metal Box Combine Committee has been vital. Combine chairman Charlie Limb and secretary Alan Atkins spoke to Socialist Worker about how the

Engineers' and Electricians' shop stewards, consulted with the men at Westhoughton and decided to follow their lead in going for a 40p increase. They adopted the same tactics, a other factories.

And they started a levy of £1 a week per man, collected by all the craftsmen in the combine, and a total

In a multinational company like Metal Box-which produces packaging in factories all over the worldblacking is vital if the company is not to defeat every struggle by shifting work from one factory to another, or closing the factory down.

The combine committee was set up five years ago and has official union backing. Over the past year a great deal of work has been done to get every factory represented.

It meets every six months in London to discuss policy for the combine, although wage negotiations are conducted at a local level. The chairman and secretary hope to organise future participation to the local factory, to increase participation in the committee.

attempts to break up the committee, In this latest dispute some of the firms have refused to pay the stewards while they are going to combine meetings although there is an agreement that stewards get paid while on union business.

The one drawback to the committee is that it is limited to the craft unions and does not cover the production side at all. At Westhoughton, with Transport Union members crossing picket lines and only one TGWU steward supporting the occupation and raising money for it, the importance of extending the committee to include the production side is obvious. It is hoped that through the dispute and through the solidarity shown by the craftsmen at the other Metal Box factories, the production workers and their stewards will see the potential and the necessity for such combine organisations.

SHEILA McGREGOR and PAUL KENNEDY.

Metal Box has made continual

time officers. Only 15 are elected. Members of the EEPTU who are also members of the International Socialists call on all EEPTU members to vote against acceptance of the report. We ask you to support the demands of the unofficial Reform the Union rally, held in Birmingham in May this year. The rally was attended by 600 delegates. The rally called for an immediate election for general secretary and proposed the rule changes necessary to restore some measure of democracy in the EEPTU.

VOTE NO TO THE REPORT.

factory.

For occupation the support of the committee works.

The committee, made up of ban on personal tools, in all the

black on all Westhoughton work.

## To think we buy gowns lined with ermine For dol

MANCHESTER'S 'new Moss Side Centre' is nearly four years old. Its first tenants had hardly moved in when the battle began against appalling conditions and council indifference.

That battle, which has included a rent strike, demonstrations and an occupation of an unfinished council house on a neighbouring estate, is still going on.

And it came to a head recently when many of the 1000 tenants staged their latest protest: a pram march which halted rush-hour traffic.

It brought what could be a

major victory for the families of Linbeck Crescent, Gretney Walk and Arnsby Walk. The council housing committee has promised to re-house them all.

But this has to be ratified by the full council. And much is left to the goodwill of officials.

The tenants, at least, have cause for optimism. The council, meanwhile, will have to explain how hundreds of thousands of pounds of our money was spent on three eight-storey blocks which, less than four years after completion, are fit only for demolition . . .



# 

#### FACT

THE amount of empty office space in the City of London has nearly doubled this year to 1,200,000 square feet. A quarter of this increase, according to land agents Debenham, Chinnock and Tewson, is space 'surplus to the requirements of stock brokers'.—Daily Telegraph, 15 October.

THE number of bricks stockpiled in Britain is 735 million enough to build 60,000 houses—compared with 178 million this time last year. The highest number ever stockpiled was 1,120 million in 1969-70.

The London Brick Company at Bedford, the biggest brick-producing company in Europe, announced 1000 redundancies last month.

Department of the Environment.

THE number of new homes completed in the first nine months of this year was 193,000, the lowest figure since 1952.—Department of the Environment.

THE number of homeless women and children in hostels in the London area has doubled in the last year from 15,000 to 30,000.—Shelter.

THERE will almost certainly be a quarter of a million building workers unemployed by Christmas.—President of the Building Trades Employers Federation in a speech on 7 October.

LOCAL councils in England and Wales spent £875,387,000 on housing in 1972-1973.

Of that, £481,974,000 more than half—was spent on interest charges on money borrowed for house-building. IT'S NOT EASY to tell about life on Moss Side. The difficulties we face and the degradation we suffer are almost unbelievable.

The interior walls, made mainly of compressed straw, are riddled with bugs and spores before they are installed. The central heating system encourages them to breed.

You first find out about them when they drop off the ceiling or when the kids are covered in bites. Some people have opened their mattresses or stripped the wallpaper to find a seething mass of bugs. A number of families had to abandon two lots of furniture.

The council says we brought them with us. But in some cases where 'flats without bugs' have been fumigated, loads of them have appeared afterwards.

Some flats have actually been fumigated 12 or 13 times, but it's made no difference. The only thing that will shift them is fire.

The trouble is that fire shifts everything. There's a modern fire station not 40 yards from our block, but in the five minutes it took them to get to one fire, the place was completely gutted.

There was nothing left of the 'fireproof' straw walls.

There are also rats, mice and beetles. One woman caught 12 mice in one day. Another found two rats in the cot of her fourmonth old baby.

Yet a housing official said recently that there wasn't a plague of mice . . . it was one mouse running between all the flats in the three blocks.

These officials treat us with hothing but contempt. A lady of 82 couldn't open the closet door as it would have come off.

#### Lucky

Her grandchildren's favourite game was passing letters to each other, from bedroom to living room, underneath the wall. All her skirting boards were completely off, and she had gaps between the walls all around the flat.

We took a list of all the repairs down to the office. Jones, who's known as the superintendent because he's in charge of the caretakers, went up to see her and said:



By John Miller

A Moss Side tenant

'You're lucky to have a house at your age, you should be in the workhouse'. She died not long after that.

Another woman complained for seven months that each time she used her toilet she suffered an electric shock. They advised her and her family to wear Wellington boots.

All the flats suffer from sticking windows, sinking stairs, sink units falling apart, warped cupboard doors, skirting boards falling off, disintegrating floors and an enormous number of cracks.

#### Circuit

There is dampness and flooding from upstairs ceilings, caused by rain water seeping through cracks in the outside landing of the floors above. It collects between the concrete beams and periodically overflows.

In many cases, this water short circuits the electrical system, which results in either a fire or no electricity.

To get any fault repaired can take two years or more. I've been waiting two years and nine months for a heating return valve and a replacement bath.

A friend has never had a lighting fixture in her bathroom since it was finished two years ago.

Rubbish is collected if the lifts happen to be working when the dust men call.

Once, when the lifts weren't working for six weeks, the landings were littered with bags of rubbish. The Town Hall officials were finally persuaded to come down.

Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

They were due one morning at ten o'clock. At half past eight, 300 workmen appeared with 40 corporation wagons. They threw all the bags of rubbish over the landings into the wagons, and swept the place spotless just in time for the officials.

The strain of living under these conditions has a terrible effect on many families. Quite a few marriages have broken up, many women are on tranquillisers and some people have turned to alcoholism.

Your sex life is ruined because the walls are so thin that neighbours can hear everything.

When I come home after work and see the flats, my stomach knots and I get a feeling of utter depression and despair.

No amount of alterations will change my feelings—only our rehousing and their demolition will do that.



Life on Moss Side: Brenda Brownlow, whose home wa 'fireproof straw walling' is. Right: her youngest child le fallen from balconies that had no safety rails.

IN BRITAIN'S big cities, twice as many people are homeless today as ten years ago.

Hundreds of thousands of families still live in slums.

Yet politicians of both major parties have allegedly been on the verge of 'solving' the housing problem for years.

In 1951, the Tories were elected after promising to build 300,000 houses a year. In 1966 Labour came to power on the pledge of 500,000 a year.

This year, first the Tories and now Labour have presided over a slump in the number of houses built to 193,000.

The Tories' traditional boast of a property-owning democracy—in which every family would own its own home—has looked a bit hollow over the last few years.

The houses are, in fact, owned by the banks, building societies and mortgage companies—and they are able to extract even greater amounts

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## How best to rid us of our vermin

At last the people in a body
To the Town Hall came flocking.
'Tis clear they cried
Our mayor's a Noddy
And as for the Corporation—shocking.
To think we buy gowns lined with
ermine

For dolts that can't or won't determine How best to rid us of our vermin. Rouse up sirs, set your brains a'racking To find the remedy we're lacking Or, sure as fate, we'll send you packing. At this the Mayor and Corporation Quaked with a mighty consternation.

The Pied Piper of Hamelin, Robert Browning



The Moss Side blocks were built by Mathews and Mumby and, in later stages, by Concrete Ltd in 1970 and 1971. The tendered cost was £1,966,263. The actual cost is still being worked out.

A spokesman for Manchester Corporation said this week: 'The Housing Committee's policy is not to demolish these flats. Instead, it will, over a period, rehouse all families with children. The Committee doesn't believe the flats are suitable for children, though the flats will be occupied—by adults.'



These rats were killed by a dog: one woman found two in the cot of her four-month-old baby



gutted in five minutes, shows how 'fireproof' the inston at an unguarded window. Two children have



programme has been the first to suffer.

The spending cuts mean a drop in the number of houses built and a continual decline in the standard of council housing.

The authorities' behaviour is made possible by the reaction of the working class movement. Workers long ago learnt that merely voting for the 'left-wing' candidate in elections does not protect your wage packet. You need to apply continual, direct pressure, through shop floor

organisation and strike action.

But the working class movement still leaves the housing question to Labour councillors and MPs,

The housing problem will only be solved when workers use their industrial power for non-industrial ends.

In other words, when a political movement is built which uses direct action to challenge the control by big business not only of the factories, but of the whole range of social and political issues.

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using Finance up to a level where they provided profits for the council and paid off enormous interest charges. The Labour government has left intact the rent rises of the past two years, while postponing further increases for a few months.

for a few months.

But that is not all. Whenever governments have felt the 'left-compelled to make cuts in their spending to increase the profitability of private industry—as at present—the housing movement that the 'left-compelled to make cuts in their spending to increase the profitability of private industry—as at present—the housing pressure,

TOP: A motorist tries to drive through the protest march, narrowly missing a pram. He is answered with a placard through his windscreen. ABOVE: Police arrest Liam Smyth, breaking his arm in the process. He had tried to restrain his wife from attacking a constable who had thrown over their little boy. He was charged with assaulting the police.

#### LEST WE FORGET -WHAT WE LOST

WITH Remembrance Sunday with us recently my eyes were caught by some calculations in a very old newspaper made by 'Victor Berger, the socialist representative for Wisconsin in the USA.'

He reckoned that the 1914-1918 War cost 30,000,000 lives and £80,000,000,000,000 in property. With that money could have been built a new house costing £500 for every family in the USA, Canada, Australia, Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany and Russia.

All could have been given £200 worth of furniture and five acres of land at £20 an acre-£800 a family and still leave enough to give every city with at least a quarter of a million people in those lands a £1 million library, hospital and university.

During 1914-1918 the working class in cities like Glasgow, Dundee, Leeds and London lived in abominable slums, in Germany and other countries they suffered awful hunger.

When the Glasgow workers (not to mention Sheffield and Wales) protested against their poor wages the capitalist press smeared them all over their front pages. When German workers struck they were shot down in the streets. Yet that war was said to be for a better world.

When will the workers of the world see that the only war in which their interests are really involved is the class war? When we win that, wars for sources of raw materials will cease, we will have done with the struggle for markets.

Then humans will give freely according to their ability, so that they can take according to their need.-HARRY CUNNINGHAM, Glasgow, E3.

## A flea in the ear for the bug on line...

ABOUT A YEAR ago police swooped on my house, searched it, took away political literature, my address book and arrested my wife and two year old son, her friend and six-month old baby. They were acting on information which could only have come from a phone call I'd made earlier in the day from Shrewsbury, where I was part of a demonstration against the trial of pickets for conspiracy.

I pointed this out to the police officer who later arrested me. He told me the information had indeed come from a crossed line-but couldn't explain how it was traced to my house. We could prove nothing, and the matter was dropped.

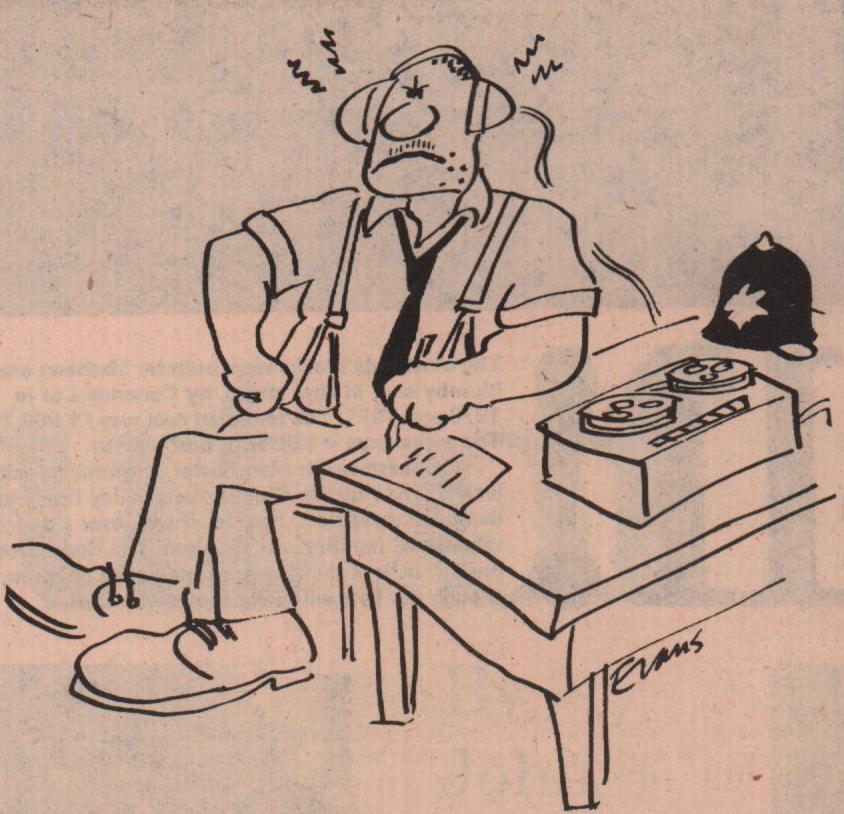
Just last week a friend phoned me and said he thought that the phone was being tapped. A little later we could both hear voices in the background. I said the police were pretty incompetent even at tapping phones. My friend let go a few choice insults at the police.

Then there was some clicking and a voice, clear as a bell, cut in on the line and told us to stop using obscene language on a public service. My friend let off a stream of swearwords at the intruder. I asked him what right he had to listen to a private phone call.

He claimed he was a representative of the Post Office, was tapping our call, and didn't want to hear any more foul language. I told him to get the fuck out of it!

He replied that he'd trace our numbers and report us to the police. My friend and I finished our conversation somewhat stunned by what had happened.

I then phoned the National



Council for Civil Liberties. They told me the only person with authority to order the tapping of phones was the Home Secretary, and that his office wouldn't talk about individual cases so nothing could be proved.

Then I phoned the GPO. Eventually I was put through to 'Traffic'. A spokesman said he'd check with the engineers to see if anyone had been listening to our line to check for quality. But he thought it unlikely, as we hadn't complained about the quality of

our phone calls.

He pointed out that there had been recent cases of private eyes tapping phones and suggested that somebody might be tapping the the phone without the GPO's knowledge.

The next day he phoned me back and confirmed there were no engineers on the line, he could offer no explanation. The engineers had checked the lines and could find no tapping devices. What had happened must have been a 'freak occurrence' ... STEVE DRAKE, Colchester.

## BOMBINGS -WHY THEY HAPPEN

THE BOMB in Woolwich far from hurting the authorities, is striking a blow against those socialists and workers who support the Irish struggle. After the continuous arguments we have in our workplaces on Ireland winning people over, the splash of crocodile tears about the bombings on the media puts all that work back to square one. Thus it is more important to argue the reasons why the bombings happen.

In 1967 in Aden the point was driven home, in the Army camp a prisoner was brought in for questioning. He had his ankles and his wrists tied behind his back to a stake which lodged into the back of his neck.

Throughout the night soldiers were encouraged to piss on him and kick him. The look of horror on that man's face, as he appealed to strange white soldiers, as he appealed for mercy in his own tongue, which nobody understood, reminded me always of the lack of power soldiers have to challenge successfully their orders.

If he had been my father or my uncle then there would have been no lengths I wouldn't have gone to for revenge.

In the society we live in the rule is get back at those that hurt you, we learn that through experience. People are learning this in Northern Ireland, what happened in Woolwich is a small reflection of what is happening there.

The blame must rest with our rulers, in greed they are prepared to spill blood. We have to campaign for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland. Free determination for Irish people. Trade unionists have to demand for trade union rights for soldiers in the British Army:-NEIL DAVIES; N London.

## 'Incredible racialist anti-Irish drivel'

MIKE BRIGHTMAN, in his report on the Guildford bombings (12 October) condemns the IRA. Apart from the fact that the least we Irish socialists can expect from the British Left is total, not conditional support for the armed struggle of the Irish working class, the condemnations are made for entirely false reasons.

Bombing, he states, kills 'innocent people'. Is he trying to say that members of the British armed forces -those who can and do murder Irish civilians, torture internees and harass them at will, and then return to their bases in Guildford or anywhere else for their off-duty entertainment-are not targets for an anti-imperialist army?

This is, after all a war against British Imperialism. It started in your country and the Irish people have every right to carry the war back to the doorsteps of the Imperialists in England.

Instead of trying to completely smash their pro-imperialist illusions, you print the most incredible racialist anti-Irish drivel on the letters page. A letter (12 October) states, 'The role of the IRA is a struggle against

British Imperialism-which means support from the people. The IRA would be better employed meeting their opponents directly.' Obviously you condone such distortions and downright lies by your silence on these slanders.

The IRA is a small guerilla army, based in the anti-unionist ghettos. Without the support of the people it could have not existed for four years. As for meeting their opponents directly, the IRA have done this at all times. It is no fault of theirs that the British Army takes cover behind schoolchildren and the civilian population in general and builds its forts in schools, housing estates and sportsgrounds.

The only campaign of brutal, and premeditated murder against civilians is that carried out by extreme Protestant elements (not the IRA, as your letters page so commonly asserts)who come from fascist para-military groupings with a pro-imperialist stance. There is no such campaign emanating from the anti-Imperialist population. You never point out these simple facts. Instead you condemn the armed struggle in the same

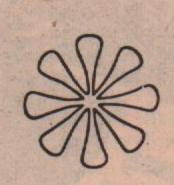
terms as the bourgeois press by using their very jargon 'bomb terrorism' etc

ad nauseam. It comes as no surprise to read of the outlook of your fraternal organisation in Ireland the Socialist Workers Movement, whom you report as saying that the role of Irish workers is to join a coordinated rank and file movement to fight a non-existent social contract in the South.

No mention of the most important task of the Southern working class at the moment-the building of a mass anti-imperialist movement in order to combine both the economic and political struggles against British Imperialism, both North and South!!!

The anti-unionist population now face the prospect of another loyalist lockout, and a handing over of power, after the Convention Elections, from the Imperialists in England to their right-wing and semi-fascist lackies in the Loyalist ranks. It is now more essential than ever that the British Left take a clear and principled line on Ireland and that they translate their words into actions very soon.-BRID RUDDY, Belfast.

Movement Ms Ruddy is right. The SWM does insist that the mass anti-Imperialist movement which urgently needs to be built in the South must be a working-class movement based on the rank-and-file organisations of the class. That means taking up, as a main priority, the fight against the social contract-nonetheless genuine for all that it has not been formalised as in Britain-between the trade union bureaucracy and the Labour-Fine Gael government. Ms Ruddy evidently disagrees with this perspective and in this, too, she is wrong.



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

## Strike to get them out

SO NORTH WEST London District the International Socialists picketed North London MPs demanding the release of the Shrewsbury Two, Ricky Tomlinson and Des Warren. They will of course get sympathy and promises from Left Labour and lectures on law and order from the Right, But they won't get action.

One thing will make the Labour government change the conspiracy laws and release the two jailed pickets. The spreading of the strikes which Liverpool, London and Manchester building workers have started.

Only militant rank and file action will succeed. Spread the strikes to release the Two:-BOB WOOD, London, W7.

#### We are the greatest!

MUHAMMAD ALI always was the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion to oppressed people around the world. He has been an expression to those people in struggle.

Boxing is one of the few things that black people were allowed to succeed in. But they were always compelled to say how fine the system was when they made it. Ali is different-he has spoken out against oppression.

He refused to join the army and go to Vietnam. 'The Vietcong have done me no wrong,' he said. For this the US government threatened him with jail, tapped his phone, and wouldn't let him box.

But he refused to be beaten or to apologise. Four years later they let him fight again-against Joe Frazier. Frazier won and President Nixon personally congratulated him. But now Ali, tougher than ever has beaten George Foreman.

Now Ali is no socialist, he's probably never heard of it. But he's a fighter, a man who won't quit. He has a fighting spirit that black and white workers are feeling. He has the strength that won't be beaten. The message is clear. We are the greatest!-RON SENCHAK, London N15.

SOCIALIST WORKER'S support for the struggle of the Irish people (not, as Ms Ruddy seems to imagine of Irish socialists exclusively) against British Imperialism is total and unconditional, whether those struggles be armed or otherwise. This does not free us from the duty to point out where the tactics of Irish anti-Imperialist organisations seem to us wrong. This is what Mike Brightman was attempting to do in the article she complains about.

Ms Ruddy takes off into the realms of

fantasy when she accuses us of condoning 'incredibly racist anti-Irish drivel' on the letters page. Letters express the opinions of the letter-writers, not of Socialist Worker. And, anyway, SW has carried many, many more letters supporting Ms Ruddy's attitude than against it.

The allegation that SW has not pointed to the fact that it is Protestant ultra-right groups, not the IRA, who use the tactic of sectarian murder is scarcely worth answering. Ms Ruddy must read few issues of SW.

With regard to the Socialist Workers

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RIGHT: Singer Victor Jara

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## Postal Points

COMMENTS AND CONTRI-**BUTIONS TO THE SOCIALIST WORKER DEFENCE FUND** 

The appeal we've made to the readers of Socialist Worker has met with a heartening response. We print below a few of the comments of our readers who sent in money-and our thanks to everybody! Receipts are being sent out.

PLEASE ACCEPT the enclosed to help fight the barbaric judgement in the Paul Foot contempt case.-DJ WILLET, Grimsby.

GOOD LUCK-don't let the bastards grind you down .- FRANCES HOLLOWAY, London NW10.

HOPE YOU get your money. The rest of the press should have printed the names as well.-MICHAEL M SILVER, London NW5.

I HOPE that your other cases (about the Kevin Gately poster) won't be followed up by the police. But if it is I'm sure I speak for all readers in wishing you well in the fight. Socialist Worker is such a good paper. Thank you.-Ms JO LOTT, Brighton.

SOCIALIST WORKER is a really excellent paper these days. Its work must continue, despite recent attacks by the Labour government and the Courts,-CHRIS BRAMALL, London N18.

AS A SUBSCRIBER I was appalled to hear of the savagery of the amount of costs given against you in the recent court case. I am far from agreeing with all the views you express, but I value your paper for the items of news which go unreported in the mass media. The judgement I am convinced is a deliberate attempt by the Establishment to silence a paper which openly treats its pretensions with derision and contempt.-P CASSIDY, Chester le Street.

WE WERE appalled by the ruling. As regular readers we will be very angry if as a result the paper is forced to close.-BOB & GWEN HODGE, Norwich.

THE ACTION of the courts towards Paul Foot doesn't surprise me but confirms my belief that justice and freedom are as class dominated as wealth and privilege. I support your paper as one of the few mouthpieces available to alert working class consciousness. It is essential that you continue publicly to oppose all class domination that does not spring directly from working class people.-IAN M PARR, Plymouth.

BEST WISHES to the writers and publishers of the best newspaper of the left.-BK HILL, Norwich.

I AM SENDING a postal order. I sincerely hope that it will help to alleviate the massive and totally unjust penalty imposed on Paul Foot and Socialist Worker. Keep up the fight against capitalism and fascism.-**HELEN REES, Cardiff.** 

I'M NOT SURPRISED by the excessive fines and costs awarded against Socialist Worker, nor am I over the imprisonment of the building workers. We must learn about our enemies, the capitalist class and their hirelings, and expect from them, their courts, their police and armed forces the repressive measures given to militant workers. We must also learn that the only answer is to stand up, organise and effectively counter attack.-HG HOWLETT, Sittingbourne.

ALTHOUGH SHORT on cash I felt a quick response would remove any doubts others might have that this paper could call on effective support in this, or any future confrontation over 'justice' on the legal mob's home ground.-A SUPPORTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, Epsom.

PLEASE FIND enclosed a donation . . . it will help fight the savage injustice of the law lords in their attempt to pass a death sentence on our paper. We will do all we can to raise money to keep our paper alive.-R DUNKEY, E PLIMMER, Willenhall.

WE DON'T necessarily agree with everything your paper says, but it is necessary to support all papers of the left whatever our personal opinions about any particular paper.-TERRY & JUDY O'HALLORAN, Colchester.

I WAS SHOCKED but not surprised at the savage sentence Paul Foot received. I knew they would make it as severe as possible. This is a chance to hit back at those who would like to destroy socialism. I have great pleasure in enclosing a donation from my sister and I. It will be worth every penny if you're able to keep the paper going. Best of luck.-Misses A & E WILSON, Halifax.

I'M NOT a member of the International Socialists. But the bastards mustn't be able to do this. Even people in this breeding ground of judges are disgusted.-SAMER SHAH, St Catherines College, Oxford.

THE ENCLOSED represents the amount raised by the sale of our second hand cooker!-JEAN & PAUL WIMPENEY, Rochdale.

WE HOPE the money from a collection we had at our company from readers and sympathisers will help towards the disgusting costs and fines imposed on you and our paper, and this will not be the end of a paper that has become part of our lives.-D P ROBERTS, Macclesfield.

I AM A fairly regular reader of your paper and as such I find myself totally shocked at what purports to be justice. think your decision to name the persons in the Janie Jones affair was absolutely right,-J FINWIDDIE, Ipswich.

IT WAS a verdict that your arguments showed was unsound in law, which Lord Widgery's judgement showed was unsound in logic, and which the punitive costs showed was unsound in morality. It seems that law, logic and morality are nothing when set aside the personal loyalties of the most exclusive club in the country.-PETER CARPENTER, London WC2.

THE COURT order to pay crippling costs is blatant victimisation.-DAVID & VICKY BEACON, Hertford.

THEY MAY try to smash you but I don't think the people will let them will they? That's pretty inspiring. We've got to keep the best really socialist newspaper going. Keep up the good work.-MICHAEL GREEN, Birmingham.

WE SHOULD hate to see Socialist Worker fold up since it provides at least some antidote to the barrage of capitalist propaganda we face.-MONICA & DAVE PEARCE, Bath.

I AM NOT a member of the International Socialists and I find a number of points of difference with your policy. But it is obvious that the High Court decision found Socialist Worker guilty of being the most successful socialist newspaper of recent years. You today, who else tomorrow? Good luck with your fight for survival.-BILL MEASURE, Enfield.

IT'S SURELY clear now to many more people what our laws and legal system stand for. Yours fraternally and in sisterhood.-ALEX & SUE BRIGGS, Braintree.



**COMPANERO** 

THE film Companero is part of Joan Jara's courageous determination to tell the story of her husband's murder. My ballad, Victor Jara of Chile, is another attempt. It is written to the tune of Woody Guthrie's Dear Mrs Roosevelt, which can be heard on the Woody Guthrie Memorial Concert album, sung by Arlo Guthrie -who has since sung the Victor Jara ballad at several concerts.

Joan and I are not trying to turn Victor into a legend. We speak of him as one of the thousands of victims of fascism in Chile, one of the few whose life and death we know in detail, one of the few whose voice, through his beautiful and powerful songs, still speaks on records, tapes and in the songs of Companero.

I believe the Left needs to rethink its priorities on Chile. Allende made mistakes, MIR made mistakesyes. But it's our job to make it known to every worker in Britain the extent and the horror of the slaughter and persecution which continues in Chile.

When this has been done, and all trade between Britain and Chile has been stopped by trade union action, and when our government has been forced to stop all aid to Chile, I think we might spare the time for a historical debate. Please unite on this campaign and in the raising of funds to care for the refugees outside Chile and for the many dependants of murdered workers in Chile itself. I'm not trying to evade an argument -I believe that the revolution in Britain won't be won without an armed struggle . . .

ADRIAN MITCHELL Companero is available for hire from ETV, 247a Upper Street, London N1. It is in colour, lasts 55 minutes, and all proceeds go to the Chile Solidarity Campaign. It's a little sentimental but Joan Jara, the singer's English-born widow, tells the story of his death with great emotional power and dignity.

'I have been told,' she says, 'that in the Stadium he behaved with great courage and was a source of moral strength to fellow prisoners. That he sang there in the boxing stadium, that they broke his hands and after two days killed him with machine guns.'

THERE ARE many excellent films that tell the story of Chile before, during and after the coup. Right, Adrian Mitchell, the socialist poet who narrated the words to the film Companero, an account of the torture and death of the Chilean singer Victor Jara, writes about the film and we review in brief others available to hire.

Three of the newest and most moving, Chile September, The Tiger Pounced and Chile-the Reckoning, are being shown at the Collegiate Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1, on Sunday 17 November at 9pm, and should be seen by anyone interested in showing the films locally.

Below is Adrian Mitchell's ballad about Victor Jara.

#### THE TIGER POUNCED AND KILLED, BUT HE'LL DIE, HE'LL DIE

This is another obituary for Jara produced by the Cuban film maker Santiago Alvarez. It lasts eight minutes and costs £5 to hire from the Other Cinema 12/13 Little Newport St, London WC2. (phone 01-734 8508/9).

CHILE SEPTEMBER

This film was made in the first two weeks after the coup by two French film-makers operating socialist secretly. It has interviews with trade unionists, students and foreign visitors set against the official tours of the Stadium and the Junta version of things.

It is not a call for mourning. Women waiting at the morgue breathe defiance and the hundreds in Pablo Neruda's funeral procession sing the International along a road lined with bayonets.

The makers offer no specific analysis but they open the way to discussion. The English language version was produced by members of the Berwick Street Film Group and the Women's Film Group with actors from the Half Moon Theatre.

Colour, 40 mins, £6.50 hire from the Other Cinema.

WHEN THE PEOPLE AWAKE

This film was made, from a revolutionary perspective, before the coup and is the most analytic. It looks at the problems that faced Chilean workers and peasants in 1972, the possibility of a military coup is acutely felt and strategies for defence are discussed. It takes the political position of the MIR: 'Let us say to the imperialists, the middle classes and those who waver, that we're not seeing the failure of socialism, but what we're suffering is the failure of reformism.

60 mins, rental £12 from the Other Cinema.

#### CHILE-THE RECKONING

This is a film version of the TV programme made by World in Action in the first three weeks of November 1973. The director, Mike Beckham, says: 'We found an extreme situation-there was very little resistance to the massive terror which was created in a very open way by the army-and they admitted to torture. The film is about terror; one part concerns torture, the other the indiscriminate shootings, job dismissals and other persecution.'

It is a terrifying catalogue of repression against the Chilean workers' movement, though its analysis is

simply humanitarian. Colour, 27 mins, £5 from the Other Cinema.

Victor Jara of Chile Lived like a shooting star He fought for the people of Chile With his songs and his guitar and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

Victor Jara was a peasant Worked from a few years old He sat upon his father's plough And watched the earth unfold and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

When the neighbours had a wedding Or one of their children died His mother sang all night for them With Victor by her side and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

He grew to be a fighter Against the people's wrongs He listened to their griefs and joys Turned them into songs and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

He sang about the copper miners And those who work the land He sang about the factory workers And they knew he was their man and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

He campaigned for Allende Working night and day He sang: Take hold of your brothers' hand

The future begins today and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

The bloody generals seized Chile They arrested Victor then They caged him in a stadium With five thousand frightened men and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

Victor stood in the stadium His voice was brave and strong He sang for his fellow-prisoners Till the guards cut short his song and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

They broke the bones in both his hands They beat his lovely head They tore him with electric shocks After two long days of torture they shot him dead and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

And now the generals rule Chile And the British have their thanks For they rule with Hawker Hunters And they rule with Chieftain tanks and his hands were gentle his hands were strong

Victor Jara of Chile Lived like a shooting star He fought for the people of Chile With his songs and his guitar and his hands were gentle his hands were strong.

ADRIAN MITCHELL



A two-colour fully illustrated diary which records day by day the last upsurge of revolution in 1945 and its defeat in both West and East. It contains a political activist's handbook for Britain today with facts on wages, profits, work hazards, housing, social security, government spending and more.

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

## We need you to defend Socialist Worker...

#### THE ATTACK ON WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS MUST BE MET

#### **Public meetings:**

LAMBETH: Wednesday 20 November, 8pm
Speakers: John Bell (chairman, Brixton No 1 branch, UCATT, in personal capacity) and Ken Appleby (IS industrial organiser). Brixton Training Centre (near Brixton Town Hall)

NEWHAM: Wednesday 27 November, 7.45pm
Film: Blow for Blow (how a group of workers occupy and take over their factory). Princess Alice, Romford Road, Forest Gate, London E7.

LEEDS: Thursday 21 November, 8pm
Trades Council Club, Saville Mt, Chapeltown.
Speaker: Andreas Nagliati

KEELE UNIVERSITY: Monday 18 Movember, 8pm Students Union. Speaker: Laurie Flynn COVENTRY: Friday 15 Movember, 8pm Speaker: Duncan Hallas

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

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

SHEFFIELD: Sunday 17 November, 8pm
Speakers: Bob Light (TGWU) and Greg Douglas (CEU)
The Royal, Abbeydale Road.

MANCHESTER: Friday 15 November, 7.30pm Speakers include Neil Davies, Bella Fullard (SEI, Heywood) and John Stevenson (URTU). Milton Hall,, Deansgate. EALING, WEST LONDON: Thursday 14 November, 8pm

Special showing of film Blow for Blow, followed by meeting. Speaker: Alice Murray. Ealing Town Hall. Admission 25p.

#### **Defence fund finale:**

An evening of socialist entertainment, with theatre from the General Will and The Combine, poetry from Adrian Mitchell, Chris Searle and Two Fingers, and Stephen Hicks (ex-boxer).

Revolutionary music from Chile, Portugal, Ireland and the West Indies. And the Socialist Worker Choir.

Sunday 8 December, St Pancras Town Hall (Kings Cross tube) 7.30-10.30pm

Tickets 40p in advance, 50p on the door.

# -AND THIS IS WHY...

ON Saturday week, while selling Socialist Worker in Guildford High Street, I was approached by two Surrey police constables, numbers 181 and 1112.

After some quick detective work they decided that I was selling without a licence. They took my name and address and left.

Half an hour later they returned and told me I would be arrested for obstruction. But I forgot my lines and did not say: 'It's a fair cop, guv.'

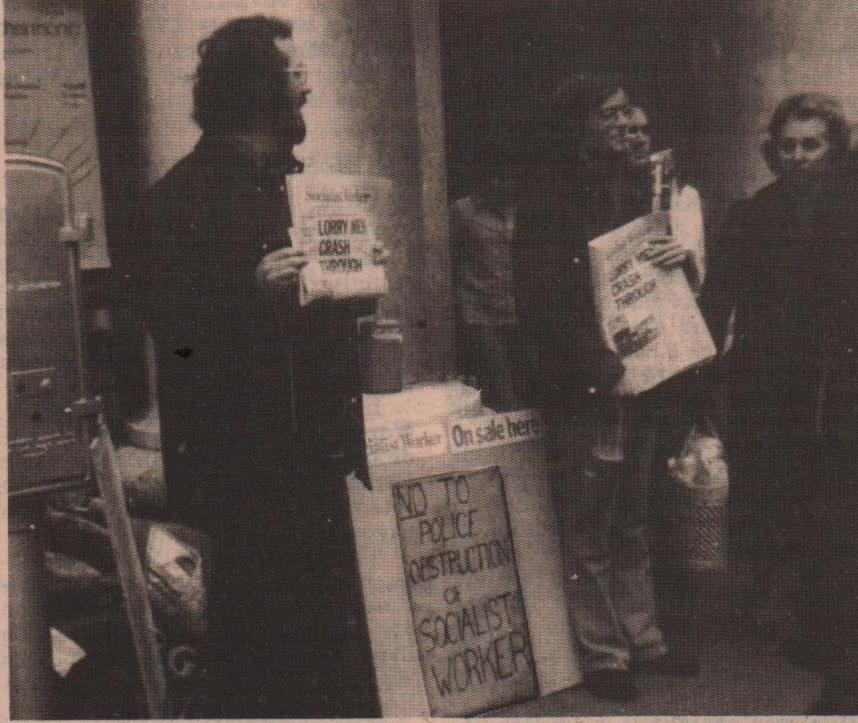
I was then taken to the police station and 25 copies of Socialist Worker were taken off me as 'evidence'. This is the first time the police have gone this far against sellers of the paper, though we regularly get our names taken.

#### SHOWED

The charge of obstruction is all the more interesting because on a Saturday the High Street is closed to traffic. It is all of 40ft wide. The average seller of Socialist Worker is a good deal narrower than 40 feet.

Last Saturday we responded to this victimisation and harassment by a successful mass sale, supported by IS comrades from Woking and London. There were no arrests.

The local trades council is pledged restrict our right to sell.



Saturday's sale in response to police harassment

to support us. This is vital because the harassment is clearly something more than the brainchild of constables 181 and 1112. But, as the mass sale showed, we are determined to resist any attempts to gag us and restrict our right to sell.

## Success story in the North

TEESSIDE District IS has recruited 17 new members since the IS conference. And another six inactive members have refound their enthusiasm and involved themselves in the work of the district.

A new factory branch has been formed as a direct result of the experiences of our delegates at the conference. Through talking to members of other such branches, we realised that the only way IS could build a working class leadership would be through factory branches.

The new members include a chemical worker, a steelworker, a steelworker, a steelworker, a steel erector, two teachers, a print-worker, a lab technician, a seaman, two engineering workers, a plater and students. For the first time in six years, IS now has a serious base at Teesside Polytechnic and Teesside College of Education.

have increased to more than 200, and a regular street meeting in Middlesbrough's shopping centre has been launched. Other street and college

sales have improved.

More than 50 members of the electricians' union have been involved in a leafletting campaign urging members to vote 'No' to Frank Chapple's proposed merger of the President and General Secretary.

IS members have been campaigning for support for the Second Rank and File conference and eight trade union bodies, including one strike committee, have already decided to apply for credentials.

A key factor in the expansion of IS membership and confidence in the area has been the role played by the district political committee, which has increasingly developed a workers' leadership in the branches.

The district premises and bookshop have played an invaluable role in co-ordinating and organising the members.

IS members in Teesside see great opportunities for socialist intervention and are determined to make the most of the situation.

#### **BANNED...NEARLY**

A BAN by a Labour-controlled council on National Front meetings was nearly used against IS a few weeks ago, after Ealing Council, West London, agreed to a ban on 'minorities likely to cause trouble' booking the town hall. In the minds of most Labour councillors this meant the National Front.

But when the West Middlesex IS district committee tried to book the town hall for a Socialist Worker benefit, we were told it was available —but permission had been refused.

Labour councillors expressed astonishment. Resolutions were prepared for local trade union branches and the trades council. This, and a heated argument with the chairman of the amenities committee and the assistant town clerk, did the trick and the ban was lifted.

# WHAT'S ON

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

#### **Public meetings**

SOUTHAMPTON IS public meeting: Why capitalism is cracking up. Speaker: Mike Kidron. Tuesday 26 November, 8pm, UCATT Hall, Henstead Road, Southampton.

BRADFORD IS public meeting: The socialist answer to capitalist crisis—workers' power. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 21 November, 7.30pm, The Star Hotel, Westgate.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE IS SOCIETY public meeting: The political Traditions of IS. Speaker: Ian Birchall. Wednesday 27 November, 1pm-2pm, Civil Engineering Building, Room 207, Imperial College, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (nearest tube South Kensington).

CAMBRIDGE IS public meeting: After the election, the way forward for socialists. Speaker Duncan Hallas (editor, International Socialism), Monday 18 November 8pm-9.30pm. Duke of Argyle, Argyle Street.

LAMBETH IS public meeting: Social contract or wages con-trick? Speaker: Pete Glatter (London busman, TGWU). Thursday 14 November, 8pm, The Clarion, 70 Park Hill, Clapham, London SW4.

LUCAS WORKERS meeting: Wednesday 20 November, 8pm, The Wellington Inn, corner of Bromsgrove Street and Bristol Street, Birmingham. Speaker: Harry Wicks.

coventry is public meeting: Labour in power? Speaker: Duncan Hallas (member of IS executive committee). Friday 15 November, 8pm, Lanchester Polytechnic.

CROYDON IS public meeting: The Crisis. Speaker: John Palmer. Thursday 5 December, 8pm, Ruskin House, corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane, Croydon.

NOISS: National Organisation of IS Societies Pre-demo rally: Fight the education cuts! Friday 15 November, 1pm, Lecture Hall, David Hume Tower, George Square, Edinburgh. Speakers from EIS and action committee, CPSA, and IS students. All students attending NUS grants demo welcome. Bring IS Society banners to the

ASHTON-under-LYNE IS public meeting: Is there a parliamentary road to socialism? Sunday 17 November, 8pm, Highland Laddie, Old Street, Ashton.

REESSIDE and District IS public meeting: Social Contract or socialism? Speakers: Paul Foot and leading North East trade unionists, Thursday 12 December, 7.30pm, Middlesbrough Port Transport Welfare Club. 14 Southfield Road, Middlesbrough.

CARDIFF IS public meeting: Free the Shrewsbury pickets! Build the rank and file Movement! Speakers: Billy Williams (EEPTU). Thursday 14 November, 7.30pm, Rhymney pub, Adams Street, Cardiff (opposite prison).

ADVANCE NOTICE: North West London IS Black Workers in Britain Conference. Saturday 7 December, 1.30pm-5pm, Anson Hall, Anson Read/Chichele Road, NW2 (off Cricklewood Broadway). A range of discussions on black workers and the trade unions, led by West Indian, African and Asian militants, plus a film.

DUDLEY IS public meeting: Chile—the end of the parliamentary road. Film and speaker. Wednesday 20 November, 7.45pm, Castle and Falcon, Wolverhampton Street.

## Meetings for members only

WEST YORKSHIRE district aggregate for all IS members in Bradford, Huddersfield, Hailfax, Keighley. Ian Birchall on 'Revolution and the Communist Parties since 1945' and 'Current perspectives for international revolution.' Sat 16 Nov, 2pm, University, Great Horton Road, Bradford.

LONDON NALGO IS fraction meeting: Tues 19 Nov, 7.30pm, Earl Russell pub, 2 Pancras Way, NW1 (near King Cross Station). All London NALGO IS members to attend.

IS POLITICAL ECONOMY GROUP: Second meeting in Leeds, December 7-8. For details contact Jim Kincaid, 11 Moseley Wood View, Leeds 16.

IS EAST EUROPE GROUP: The meeting for all IS members interested in the work of such a group will now be held on Sunday 24 November at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, starting 11am. Discussion to include Chris Harman on East Europe and the Crisis, and Dave Hughes on the Politics of the Russian Opposition.

IS MOTOR INDUSTRY fraction: Important meeting, Sunday 1 December, 10.30am, Birmingham.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF IS STUDENT SOCIETIES Rally and disco Friday 15 November, 7pm, 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 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Starting 1pm, 16 November, ending at 1pm, 17 November, at IS Books, Birmingham. Details from Flat 6b, 37 Canfield Gardens, London NW6.

#### **Notices**

PADDINGTON IS Disco: Saturday 23 November, 7,30 onwards, Chippenham pub, Shirland Road, London W9. Admission 40p. All proceeds to the Socialist Worker Defence Fund.

Bazaar: Saturday 21 December, Corn Exchange. Help and goods needed. Phone Leeds 751120.

ROOM WANTED somewhere in East London, preferably sharing flat or house with others. Please contact Anne at 240 Neville Road, London E7. (Phone 471 7798).

LABOURER/DRIVER required for IS administrative centre. A clean licence and IS membership essential. Apply to Judith Cohen, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN (phone 01-739 1878).

BRADFORD and District IS social: Disco, food, performance by CAST. Sat 16 Nov, 7pm, Star Hotel, Westgate.

7pm, Star Hotel, Westgate.

15 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.

IS JOURNAL needs business manager. Apply Duncan Hallas, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. IS members only.

#### WHAT WE'RE DOING OVER PORTUGAL

THE situation in Portugal is of vital importance for revolutionary socialists. Portuguese workers are facing sharp struggles and the strength of the right wing is growing. The coming months could see a resurgence of fascism, as in Chile, or a socialist revolution.

It is the duty of socialists in Britain to fight for active solidarity in the British labour movement. In particular many Portuguese workers are employed by international com-

panies such as ITT and British Leyland, which also employ workers in Britain.

The IS International Sub-Committee has now established a Portugal Group, which will have the job of collecting and co-ordinating information on Portugal and developing our contacts with Portuguese organisations.

The group will attempt to supply to comrades—especially those work-

ing in factory branches and trade union fractions—information on developments in particular multinational companies or in specific industries. The group will also try to supply speakers on Portugal for IS or trade union meetings.

The Portugal group would like to hear from anyone who might be able to assist with this work. All inquiries and offers of help to Joanna Rollo, Flat 12, 45 Broadwick Street, London W1.

## DUSTMEN TAKE ON MILLIONAIRES

W LONDON: After two mass meetings last Monday, Kensington and Chelsea's 300 dustmen are now out on unofficial strike.

Their strike is against victimisation and harassment by the police and the council. 32 of them, including two shop stewards, have been charged with blackmail, demanding money with menaces and stealing council property-black plastic sacks.

According to the local press the arrest followed 'a gang busting pattern'. It is most interesting that the subjects of a gang busting operation in Kensington and Chelsea should be the local dustmen. For the area has more rich and respectable thieves than almost any other part of the country.

The council's response to the police inquiry was exactly what you'd expect from a bunch of millionaires. They launched their own attack on the arrested men, who were all suspended on half pay until the court hearing in four months' time.

Union officials pointed out that this was tantamount to

judging the men guilty before the hearing. But Sir Malby Crofton, a Tory, still refused to reinstate them in their own jobs, offering only alternative employment instead.

Now, with the strike hitting home, the Tory controlled council have called in private contractors. The men are threatening to spread the strike to other London boroughs to stop this scabbing.

General and Municipal Workers Union convenor Tony Sweeney refutes the charges that any money was demanded by the men. Not one dustman has been identified by anyone who the police claim made the allegations.

A letter protesting against their treatment has been sent to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins, who lives in the borough. But he's about as sympathetic to the dustmen as he is to the Shrewsbury pickets.

He replied that it was nothing to do with him and was 'the sole concern of the Director of Public Prosecutions.'

## Austin convenor threatens pickets

By Austin IS members and supporters

LONGBRIDGE:-A magnificent show of unity in the face of attacks from management and union officials has followed the laying-off without pay of 18 assembly workers in the East Works.

There was plenty of work for the men. But management hoped the lay-offs would provoke a walk-out by all the engine assembly workers.

The steward did call all the engine assembly men out. Not to go home, as management had hoped, but to picket the East Works.

A mass meeting of 2500 shop operators voted unanimously on Monday 4 November to support the engine assembly and

put pickets on every gate at Longbridge. Bateman's at Halesowen, which has thousands of our engines in store, was also picketed. Thanks to BRS, Car Ferries, Road Transport, and the stewards at Bateman's, nothing entered or left Longbridge that night.

The pickets stayed on all gates from 10pm till 8.30am when they were relieved

by the day shift. The next day management intimated that if the pickets were called off then a procedure meeting would take place which 'would be favourable to the engine assembly'.

#### Support

Mass meetings accepted the stewards' recommendation to return to work. At the night shift meeting a vote of no confidence was moved in the works committee, over which the shop floor has virtually no control.

During the picketing we had to put up with the usual sabotage by the union hierarchy. First the Works Committee tried to call it off. Some pickets withdrew but when they found out that neither our negotiating committee nor the works committee had even met the management they went back on the picket.

Then our local officials told us to lift the pickets immediately as they were unofficial and wouldn't get the support of any union.

This time nobody moved off the line. Then came the biggest and most damaging

Our convenor, Dick Etheridge, a member of the Communist Party and soon to retire, began abusing and manhandling the pickets, shouting that they were illegal and threatening them with the police.

Our pickets, shocked by this behaviour stood their ground. The parting shot from the 'great militant' was that he would be telling the Leyland transport drivers to break the picket.

#### **Dispute**

This dispute is a useful guide to all Austin workers. For the first time in years we have had a united workforce of some 4,500 people, a representative committee recognised by management and, most important of all, a rank and file prepared to take on the management and put the fear of God into the works committee and the local officials.

Our dispute is not over yet and we may have to show the management again that we mean business. However such is the feeling and determination within the East Works that the 18 lads will get their money.

Two lessons should be learned from this dispute. We demand the right to work 40 hours and will not accept, willy nilly, lay offs.

And we must democratise the trade union structure at Longbridge. With talk of petrol being £1 a gallon next year and car sales falling, united and militant leadership will be a necessity if we are to defend our jobs and working conditions.

Out next week-a new Socialist Worker pamphlet, written by and for Leyland workers. The Crisis at British Leyland-Our Answer: 10p per copy from IS Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## sackings'

THE FIGHT against 1250 sackings at the MK Electric's sites is continuing this week. A mass meeting of workers at the Edmonton, North London site decided that unless management agreed to some form of work sharing to save jobs, workers would force the issue by taking one day

off a week. It was agreed that on the first

week everyone would have Tuesday off. It was argued by some at the meeting that a four-day week would solve the bosses' problems and that they would welcome such a move. Stewards countered this by arguing that if different days were taken by the various departments next week then it would cost the company far more than one day's production each

week.

The stewards also said they did not believe that over-production and falling sales was the real reason for the sackings. They had known for some time that the Logic Range will need less labour to produce and that this was the real reason for the sackings.

Shop stewards also suspect that these sackings are only the tip of the iceberg. If workers give in without a fight now many more will be thrown on the scrapheap in the next few months.

#### THE TWO FACES OF TWO militant FOCs (shop stewards) in the print and paper union SOGAT have been victimised in the

past three months. Last week, one of them, Tommy Dunn was reinstated at Admel's in Hartlepools Co Durham after an 11-week strike by his fellow-workers. In the same week, Johnny Johnson lost his battle for re-instatement at Sir Joseph Causton, Eastleigh, near Southampton. He had been sacked for writing an article in the union journal.

Tommy Dunn won his battle with the full support of the union in an area where union membership has been built up by a militant

local secretary, Ron Morrisey. The workers won with the help of solidarity action by Admel's workers in other parts of the

In Johnny Johnson's case, the union helped the management in their campaign. Workers who wanted to support him were left in the lurch.

THAT FEELS BETTER!

THE TURNING POINT in the battle to reinstate Tommy Dunn, came when Admel workers at Hemel Hempstead agreed to co-operate with blacking.

One Admel worker summed it up when he said: 'Without the help of SOGAT and IS in Weybridge (Surrey) and the AUEW stewards at Hemel Hempstead we could never have done it'.

SOGAT gave support from head office and at Admel which went beyond the minimum required in the rule book. One national official even lent a caravette so a 24-hour picket could be maintained in comparative comfort.

The Hartlepool branch of SOGAT, which covers the Admel depot, has voted to send a delegate to the Second National Rank and File Conference in Birmingham on 30 November and has also donated £25 to the Socialist Worker Defence Fund.

> by Ian Lamming, SOGAT FOC, Camelot Press, Southampton.

ON 15 OCTOBER, Johnny Johnson, was sacked for his article in the SOGAT journal. The article asked what had happened to £2 million which vanished during the take-over of Caustons by Highcastle Securities last year.

Had the £2 million gone to London and County Securities, the fringe bank (director, Jeremy Thorpe) which was involved with Highcastle? Or was it spent on new plant or machinery?

of answering these Instead management ordered questions, Johnny to apologise publicly.

Johnny Johnson refused to sign the disclaimer and was sacked.

#### **FUNDS**

Unfortunately the chapel organisation failed to respond. No meeting was called, no action taken. The matter was left to SOGAT officials.

The management agreed not to sue for libel, if the union dropped Johnny. The SOGAT NEC recommended 'no action'.

On 4 November, the SOGAT chapel at Caustons met to consider strike action. They knew by then that if they went out the door, they would have not only the company

against them but the union as well.

The chapel voted against strike action on the Johnson issue. Even after all the talking, militants still felt that the vote would have gone the other way if union officials had backed their own steward's right to write articles in their own journal.

Caustons, with not a whiff of opposition from SOGAT's NEC, has managed to get rid of one of Eastleigh's leading militants, and so to substantially weaken shop floor organisation.

## THE BIGGEST strike in the history of IMI Witton is over. 1000 craftsmen voted to return to work last Friday after being on strike since 7 October following

a series of one day stoppages in September. The men have won an £8 flat rate increase with no productivity strings and pro rata increases for other grades. A £2.80 threshold is to be consolidated into the basic and, for the first time, there will be meetings with management to sort out pay anomalies.

The site convenor for the craftsmen said: 'We've gained a victory although not achieving everything we set out to do. Because of our unity and show of strength, in the next claim we make we will be a force to be reckoned with."

The solidarity and determination of the strikers rule.

#### **Historic strike** ends in victory

was firm against local and national union officials who said they should return to work because their action was breaking procedure. Management also tried to weaken the strikers' resolve with threats of run downs and closures.

For the 5000 production workers laid off the craftsmen's victory means they must build united and effective links with the divisions on the site so that never again will management be able to divide and

## STUDENT OCCUPATION GOES ON

THE OCCUPATION at Sussex University has continued into its second week. Students are acting over the rents in the halls of residence and are demanding the subsidising of rents in guest houses.

The university authorities have tried to split the occupation by campaigning among some campus workers, but so far the students have been able to win the workers' support.

Last week's announcement by the Government to extend the rent freeze to March rather upstages the Sussex Broad Left, who had been arguing against the militants that this was an unrealistic

demand, and that a 10 per cent increase should be fought for.

The fight will have to be escalated this week if the authorities are to be forced to retreat.

In East Anglia, students have occupied a refectory in protest over price rises. The university yas responded by closing down

all catering on campus. This is another example of the college authorities trying to push campus workers into opposition to the students. However the campus trade unions and the students have put out a joint statement demanding a committee of inquiry with 51 per cent

union representation. In Swansea, students have occupied

the registry over the suspending of some students because of exam failures. The university had previously stated that the exam was not to be used for assessment.

At the City of London Poly students occupied the administrative offices on Monday, but were evicted by the police.

In Lampeter, Kingsway Further Education, St Johns (Manchester) and Salford action is taking place at the time of writing against government cutbacks and for a change in the grants system. Many more colleges are expected to take some action this week, the national Week of Student Action.

The National Organisation of IS Societies is trying to organise support for all the disputes.

The vicious cutbacks in education are occurring in every college in the country. It is vital that every dispute is supported and won. IS Societies up and down the country will be working to ensure that every cutback is resisted.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF IS SOCIETIES Public Meeting and Disco

Friday 15 November 7pm, LSE, Houghton Street (Near Aldwych) Speakers: Paul Foot, Dick North (NUT Executive) Pete Gates (NUS Executive).

## You'd better cooperate...

COVENTRY:-Workers in the motorcycle industry are beginning to feel the rough side of Wedgwood Benn's plans to help save their jobs.

When Norton Villiers Triumph set out to close their plant at nearby Meriden last year the 1750 workers voted overwhelmingly to occupy and prevent finished motor-cycles being moved out. Their determination was quickly diverted by Transport Union official Bill Lapworth and local Labour MP, Leslie Huckfield, who sold them the idea of a workers' co-operative.

Wedgwood Benn, always ready to dole out a few millions without strings to private businesses like Ferranti, dragged out the negotiations. The deal is that the plant is to turn out about 24,000 bikes a year with only 750 workers-almost as many as produced by the original 1750.

Benn's long delay in approving the plans was designed to wear down the resistance of the Meridan workers. Now workers at the NVT works at Small Heath, Birmingham, are threatening to refuse to handle Meriden products because they fear a threat to their own jobs. They fear that the Meriden co-operative will be used against them in any future expansion.

The real meaning of Benn's plans is clear. First lure one one group of workers into accepting productivity increases in order to set up a 'viable' co-operative, then use then as a stick to beat other workers. In two years the government has handed out £12.5 million to NVT, plus the price of the Meriden plant.

The Financial Times put the issue clearly: 'A way out may be to put the two factories under central management. But whose? Central management without fully fledged nationalisation looks a non-starter.'

The idea of a workers's cooperative looks attractive to many workers facing redundancy, but the Meriden experience proves it is a trap. The only answer to the threat of redundancies is nationalisation under workers' control. That way, attempts at speed-up can be fought off and groups of workers are not set to snatch jobs from each other.

## GET COURTAULDS NCELYSEWNUP

A TEN-WEEK strike at the Greenfield factory in North Wales, a successful eight day sit-in by workers at Spennymoor, County Durham, against short time, 25,000 workers in the Manchester area put on a four-day week.

All recent events in Courtaulds, the company we work for. 1200 workers at Skelmersdale at the moment are locked out. The new CIS Report on Courtaulds could hardly have come at a better time. It contains pages of invaluable information for Courtaulds workers throughout the country.

The fight against redundancies, appalling conditions, racialism, and official trade union indifference is shared by all Courtaulds workers. The report shows that Courtaulds is capitalism in a nutshell. Our bosses have used all the dirty tricks in the capitalist book in their search for more profit. They grew into a multi-national monopoly by underselling, bankrupting and taking over competitors.

But their ruthlessness towards other bosses seems like kindness compared to the way they treat us.

Members of the International Socialists' factory branch at British Celanese, Spondon, Derby, write about the Counter-Information Services Anti-Report on the plant's parent company, Courtaulds, published this week.

When they are not trying to poison us with acetic acid fumes or burn us in chemical fires, they divide workers on the lines of race and sex. They exploit the sectarian divide of Ireland and the vile apartheid of South Africa to make greater profit. They use threats of redundancy and other bullying tactics to persuade us into accepting lousy wages and conditions and to carry the can for their miscalculations.

As a result we find that for every £1 we earn in wages we give them £1 in profit. The average wage of Courtaulds workers last year was £1545. Profit per employee was £1485.

Black workers and women come in for special

treatment at Courtaulds. Here at British Celanese, immigrants of any race seem to be sent straight to National Plastics. This is much the worst part of the factory, with temperatures as high as 120 degrees in the summer. 95 per cent of the workers in this section are black.

At the Harwood Cash plant in Mansfield in 1972, black workers had to sign for a 60-hour basic week while white workers were on 40 hours basic.

Two-fifths of Courtaulds workers are women. On the Mettler assembly line in Rochdale men and women do the same job. The women earn £25 a week, the men £35-£40. The unions show little interest and allow them to sweat away in confined spaces.

Here some women in Celon Division had to come to an International Socialists meeting to ask us to help find out who their shop steward should be, so they could join the union.

Our experience completely supports what the report has to say about the unions, 'Men feel isolated plant from plant and even room from room. Ignorance of what is going on in other parts is almost total and as a result there is little or no solidarity of aim. The union often play a passive role as a buffer between workers and management, being seen by many workers as nothing less than an arm of management.'

The relationships nationally between full-time officials and management is described as 'cosy'. We might have been less polite.

The report has looked at disputes in Courtaulds factories, especially Spennynoor, Greenfield and Skelmersdale, and clearly points the way forward. Initiatives ... are coming from the shop floor ... if such initiatives are to succeed they will have to be made from the base of a combinewide organisation.'

We were greatly encouraged by the success of the sit-in at Spennymoor and the positive response to our bulletin down here. We have been able to set up a factory branch of the International Socialists. We hope readers of Socialist Worker working in Courtaulds will read, sell and use this report. We hope branches of IS where there are Courtaulds factories will use the report and help to build a strong rank and file organisation in Courtaulds.

Anyone else who wants to see a description of capitalism in action should read it as well. We would like to thank and congratulate the CIS people who wrote

Courtaulds Inside Out is available price 30p from CIS, 52 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1.

Next week Socialist Worker will be carrying a background briefing article on the Textile Industry and the Crisis, researched by an expert financial journalist who will be writing regularly for the

From next week he will be running a SOCIALIST WORKER INFORMATION DESK to provide accurate and revealing company information for workers in struggle. Requests for information from any readers of Socialist Worker are welcome and will be dealt with as soon as possible in the paper.

Write to Socialist Worker Information Desk, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

#### **Turbans** on again

LEEDS:-The bus dispute is over. On Thursday morning Gian Singh Rayat and Kewal Singh Rehal returned to work at the Seacroft depot wearing their turbans. Their

colleagues offered no resistance. For nearly 17 weeks the two bus drivers had been prevented from working while wearing their turbans. An atmosphere of hysteria had culminated in three mass meetings and a two day unofficial strike

stagemanaged by a hard core of racialists. Under pressure from resolutions, letters of protest and the Metro management who feared widespread stoppages, they began to apply some pressure on local officials. An early intervention, an assertion of trade union principles could

have stopped the racialists. Sikhs also criticise the attitudes of the Temple leadership. They moved very slowly, refused to take a militant stand, and were strongly influenced by the community relations officer, Dr Peter Fletcher.

Two great advances have been made as a result of this battle. Once more Asian workers have shown that they will not lie down in the face of racialist intimidation. It is a victory for all black workers raising confidence and self-esteem.

Secondly a group of busmen in Leeds, West Indians, Asians, and whites have learned the value of unity. A Leeds issue of Platform, the rank and file busmen's paper will soon appear and will immediately take up the question of the phoney pay deal which management are cooking

#### Freightliner deal 'a paltry sum'

THE settlement of the Freightliners' national pay claim this week was denounced as sacrifice by Bill Rickersby, of the Liverpool Garston terminal strike committee on Tuesday.

'We have really only been given £3-£4 a week increase because thresholds, bonus and subsistence rates are all consolidated. The NUR has been a long way behind the rank and file. For this paltry sum of money the union has sacrificed a lot of our conditions,' he told Socialist Worker.

'But there will be bigger battles ahead and we intend to keep our unofficial strike committee going and link up all Freightliner depots. It will be a hard struggle, but we will carry on the fight,' he said.

The back-to-work decision came after strikes at Garston, Stretford, Paddington, Glasgow, Willesden, Trafford Park and Birmingham. At Garston the men were on strike for a £40 minimum wage plus a sickness scheme. The previous Friday they were to meet to discuss the claim when they noticed all kinds of cowboy container drivers arriving at the yard. Realising these drivers were there to strip the yard, the men told management they would load only the regular drivers. Management were clearly preparing a lock-out.

The men went on strike in support of the national pay claim and sent flying pickets to the Trafford Park terminal in Manchester which came out with them.

The Garston strike committee has contacted the central strike committee, the North London Willesden terminal and the national negotiating committee, leaving them in no doubt as to what they wanted.

The offer which the NUR accepted does not meet their demands and has no provision for sickness schemes, giving £41 for the highest grade and £36.50 for the lowest. In discussion over the sickness scheme, management suggested that nonsalaried staff could not be trusted.

Ernie Gorman, NUR branch secretary and member of the Garston strike committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The NUR turned its back on its members in this industry. We had a strike by staff which

back because of lack of support by other terminals and our union. Since then the wages grades have fought many battlessome won and some lost.

Freightline drivers at Willesden have been offered £3.60, which would bring the top grade over £40 a week. The men are still negotiating over the London Allowance, at present 90p. They are demanding the same as British Rail signalmen, who get £5.18.

The irony is that clerical staff in the same terminal have been given an increase in London Allowance. They crossed the drivers' picket lines. But the pay award is a

victory for the drivers.

At Paddington NCL depot men in the NUR have received an offer that will bring the low grades from £25.70 without consolidation to a rate of £38, with consolidation of bonus, threshold and subsistence allowance. The men want to go on for the increased London Allowance and have moved a resolution at their local district committee saying: 'While we accept the wage offer, we do so only on the grounds that we receive the increase to £5.18 in the London Allowance. If this is not met by 6 January we will call for strike action to obtain this.'



The flying picket from Liverpool persuade a worker at the Trafford Park terminal to join the strike

#### Victory for BRS men

GLASGOW:-The BRS lorry drivers in Glasgow have gone back to work with an increase between £5 to £5.50. Unlike the private road haulage men they have not sacrificed their 45 hour guaranteed week.

The men have won an important victory

in that they got a Phase Three deal in May, which means that they have had two rises in six months. They have won £38 for three ton drivers and £40 for 32 ton drivers.

Newcastle and Preston have come out in support of the claim along with the Glasgow men.

Jim Meldrum on the West of Scotland lasted three weeks and we had to crawl NFC strike committee drew the lessons

of the dispute.

'We in the West of Scotland intend to keep the unofficial strike committee going both at local and at national level. The big advantage of the settlement is that we have broken the timing of the deals and this has brought us into line with the private road haulage drivers.

What we need to do now is to link up the nationalised section of road haulage with the private sector. As well as this we need to link up the TGWU and the Railway union men who are both under the National Freight Corporation. That way we will be better prepared for future

#### **DRIVERS HOSTEL BLAZE: 8 DIE**

ISLINGTON, N LONDON: - Eight workers died in agony when Brays Transport Hotel burnt down last Saturday night. When James Bray, the owner arrived at the scene of the deaths the following morning, he was driving a Rolls Royce.

The local Fire Brigade divisional officer said of the hotel owners, 'If they had registered two years ago like the law said, these men would be alive today.

The onwers of this hotel and the Greater London Council are responsible for the deaths of eight men. Last week Judith Ward, for supposedly killing 12 people got a life sentence plus 30 years. We can rest assured that James Bray will not spend an hour in jail.

## 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.

NORTH WEST PLATFORM Rank and file paper for busworkers in the North West

Issue number 2 NOW OUT. Price 5b. Articles include: Asian busworkers: victory at Burnley and special round-up of countrywide militancy from Fife, Glasgow, Mansfield, Leicester. Orders (with cash please) to Les Kay, 18 Pitt Street, Blackburn, Lancashire.

PLATFORM, the paper produced by rank and file busworkers: A national special issue has been produced and is available from Les Kay, 18 Pitt Street, Blackburn, price 2p (please add postage). All members are urged to send orders and money so that this important publication is distributed throughout the country.

SHREWSBURY TWO public meeting: Organise mass industrial action! Wednesday 20 November, 7.30pm, Poplar Civic Centre, West India Dock Road, London E14. Speakers invited from NUM, AUEW, UCATT, TGWU and from the floor. Arranged by the East London, Barking and Dagenham Shrewsbury 24 Defence

LONDON Rank and File Technical Teacher special meeting: THE EDUCATION CUTS AND HOW TO FIGHT THEM. Speaker: John Shemald. Sunday 17 November, 7.30pm, The Mother Redcap pub, 174 Camden High Road, London NW1 (nearest tube Camden Town).

NUJ BOOK BRANCH First anniversary party/disco: The Sols Arms, 77 Hampstead Road, London NW1 (nearest tubes Warren Street and Euston Square), Friday 15 November, 7.30pm-onwards. Bar with ex-tension to 12,30am. Admission 50p. All proceeds to NUJ Book Branch strike fund.

BIRMINGHAM REVOLUTIONARY COM-MUNIST GROUP public meeting: Inflation and the World Crisis, Speaker: David Yaffe. Friday 22 November, 7.30pm. The Australia Bar, corner of Hurst Street and Bromsgrove Street.

INDEPENDENT North Islington Housing Aid Centre needs worker with political consciousness for campaign and research and/or case work. Details: phone 01-272 9445. Closing date 1 December.

HACKNEY CHILE SOLIDARITY FESTI-VAL: Now until 23 November. Chilean paintings, posters and photographs: exhibition, Centerprise Community Centre, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8, admission free, Mondays 1-6.30pm, Tues-Fri 10am-8pm, Saturday 10am-6.30pm. Evening of music, film, poetry: Friday 15 November, 8pm, film 'Companeros', Chilean speaker, local trade unionists read poems, folk songs and agitational theatre. Admission free, Second evening of film. Admission free, Second evening of film, music, poetry: Friday 22 November, 8pm, Film 'Companeros' and another, theatre group, poetry by local trade unionists, music by Latin American group Viracocha, songs of protest and resistance. All events free. Further information: 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8 (phone 254 9634). Express solidarity with the struggle of the Chilean people.

FREE ALL IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS! March Sunday 17 November: assemble Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London W1, 2.30pm, for march to the house of Home Secretary Roy Jenkins, Ladbroke Square, Holland Park, Prisoners Aid Committee, 318 Lillie Road, London

CPSA/SCS POST OFFICE ACTION GROUP: Wednesday 20 November, 6.30pm, 'What's in store for us in 1975—redundancies, work measurement, more sell-outs?' Open meeting: The Metropolitan, Farringdon Road, London EC1.

**RED LADDER Grand Variety Night** The pioneer socialist theatre group Red Ladder have in the past five years per-formed for hundreds of trade union branches, conferences, schools and socials. Now THEY need money to sustain their van, their equipment and themselves. They are to perform their own plays at a benefit for themselves and will be joined by singers, comedians, and a band. Monday 2 December, 7.30pm, St Pancras Town Hall (Kings Cross tube) London NJ Tickets 61 Cross tube), London N1, Tickets £1.

SOCIALIST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION public meeting: Pharmacy in the National Health Service. Monday 18 November, 7pm, House of Commons (Mr Ogden's room), London, SW1. All welcome.

B&ICO public meeting: Madawc Williams on the Environment. 'No limits to growth'. Tuesday 19 November, 7.30pm, Conway Hall.

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.



Mass picket stops a Hoover staff worker's car as he arrives for work.

## Hoovers: How they moved Sergeant X31

WEST LONDON:-A police sergeant has been removed from a picket line after complaints from workers.

For the past ten days laid-off workers at Hoovers plant in Perivale have been halting cars and questioning the drivers.

Last Thursday a foreman named Charwood tried to drive through. A police sergeant X31 standing at the back was heard to murmur, 'If that was me I'd drive through at 60mph.'

As angry workers turned on him a man emerged from the crowd and announced that he was Ealing's Chief Superintendant. He called the sergeant to one side and shortly afterwards they both disappeared. The sergeant has not been seen since.

Engineering Union shop steward Peter Peek told Socialist Worker: 'After that pig ignorant performance I understand why so many youngsters call the police pigs.'

Meanwhile the craftsmen, who have been on strike for a month, have rejected management's latest offer of a lump sum payment of £80 and fresh negotiations on a 15-month agreement after a return to work. The £80 would have compensated the day workers for the period August 1 to the beginning of the strike but not the shiftworkers.

Before the toolroom strike started, production workers were about to sign a measured daywork agreement similar to the one British Leyland introduced at nearby AEC two years ago. They will have to guard the vital mutuality clauses which protect workers from the worst aspects of MDW. One of the causes of the five week lock-out at AEC was workers' objections to management attempts to remove the mutuality clauses.

#### **Original**

A mass meeting of AEC workers last Thursday split down the middle after shop stewards recommended rejection of a fresh offer of £8 on the A grade, £7 on the B grade, and £6 on the C grade, plus average earnings for holidays. The original demand had been for £15 across the

Another meeting on Sunday voted to return to work after a majority of shop stewards switched their recommendation

But there is a great deal of bitterness

Transport Workers Union shop steward for the delivery drivers, Eddie Brackley, added: 'We are certainly not satisfied. We have an outstanding complaint that we only get 75 per cent of our wages during the journey back after a truck delivery. Unless this is cleared up we'll be on strike almost as soon as we get back to work.'

#### SOCIALIST WORKER DEFENCE **FUND PUBLIC MEETING**

Alice Murray (Socialist Worker), Bob Clark (AUEW shop steward, AEC) and Alan Pledge (GMWU shop steward,

14 November, 8pm. Entrance 25p

Special national issue of the

The national claim: how it is being sold out-how to fight for it. 2p each, bulk orders only from PLATFORM, 8 Buller Road, London N17 9BH. For further information

board.

to accept the offer.

about the dispute. Many workers feel that there was no aggressive leadership and a general lack of involvement of the rank and file. One of the few shop stewards to vote twice against accepting the offer, AUEW member Bob Clark, put it bluntly when he told Socialist Worker: 'The leading lights in the factory sold us out.'

Film 'Blow for Blow' and speakers: Hoovers).

Ealing Town Hall, THIS THURSDAY

busman's rank and file paper THE PLATFORM

phone 01-808 6300.

**GIVE STRIKE NOTICE** 

by Peter Bain (TGWU)

LINWOOD:-7000 manual workers at

Chryslers' plant unanimously agreed last

Friday to submit seven days strike notice.

Clydeside have been fighting for higher

wages the Linwood workers have had to

face up to Chrysler's plans to smash

has provoked dispute after dispute, in

the vehicle assembly buildings to get

their workforce.

While thousands of workers on

In the last two months the company

**OVER JOBS CRISIS** 

**CHRYSLER 7000** 

#### McInerney, leader of the lump

FINSBURY PARK, London:-Building workers on McInerny's site are in their fourth week of strike against the Lump.

This Greater London Council site of 1000 badly needed council flats has been going for two and a half years, but because of the permanent battle for union organisation and the constant management inefficiencies, is now months behind schedule.

Just six weeks ago, the labourers (who were getting 35p an hour less than the craft rate) came out for more money, supported by the craft trades. They returned after three weeks pending a report from the Building Advisory Service-so that most men have now been out for five out of the last seven weeks.

The report issued some three weeks ago, recommended an increase for the labourers to a fall back rate of £1.27 per hour.

It was just before the report was made officially available that the existence of tax exemptions among one of the sub-contractors became revealed.

The stewards demanded the immediate removal of Harringtons (the subcontractor involved). Management adamantly refused-an unprecedented situation on an organised site where the firm are a party to the register set up under National Working Rule 10.

Both the TGWU and UCATT, have made the strike official, and the fight will have to be spread to force McInerney's to abide by the minimal conditions of the Joint Agreementand also by the terms of the GLC contract which stipulates that no lump labour is to be used.

But more is at stake than the removal of the subby involved-

It is crazy that the GLC have brought no pressure on McInerny's to end the dispute. It's one of the largest GLC contracts. Demands by the stewards for a full site investigation have been refused.

Why? What is being covered up? How long will these desperately needed flats remain unbuilt? And how long must building workers put up with the financial and physical penalties which go with the Lump?

## SEWAGEMEN EISSIANDAL

GLASGOW:-As the sewage workers' strike begins to bite, the 190 GMWU members are determined to stay out until they win their claim for £10, plus consolidation of the threshold. Their present wage level is £24.07 for continuous three-shift working, and this increase would bring them up to the £35 mark.

Dave Elliot, in giving the facts of their pay to Socialist Worker, said all the rest of the press had been approached but had refused to publicise their rotten low wages.

From his above the average basic of £27.20, with deductions of £8.80 tax, graduated pension and bus fares, he takes home a princely £18.40. This means he is below even the Social Security poverty line.

Joe Drummond, a steward and a member of the strike

committee, said: 'My phone went six or seven times yesterday. All the men were telling me to reject the latest offer. "Tell them to get stuffed" was the common feeling. There is a meeting on Thursday and the stewards will be recommending the men to stay

Said another steward: 'Conditions are atrocious and the wages are low. Many people might wonder why we have put up with them in the past. The fact is that it is difficult for those on very low wages to strike. They can't put anything by to take them through a strike.'

But the sewage workers are out and they need the support of other trade unionists. They are getting no support from their union officials. The GMWU local full-timers, Sharpe and Tumelson, have put in regular appearances to tell the men to get back to work. After all, one of them was heard to say, other corporation workers are equally badly off, but they aren't out on strike.

Donations and messages of support to L. Collins, 68 Perth Crescent, Glasgow C5.

## R-R, Hoover: Why strikes are unofficial

by Jimmy McCallum

JOHN BOYD, executive councillor of the AUEW and undisputed leader of the 'get back to work brigade' in the trade union movement, has been at it again. He has sent a letter to the workers at Hoover, Cambuslang, telling them to end their 11-week strike and get back to work. He told the same story to Rolls-Royce workers

At almost the same moment Hugh Scanlon was enlisting the help of the police to break through the picket line outside the AUEW head office in London.

This strike-breaking would be bad from any union official. From the leader of the only union that had a policy of opposition to the social contract, it really makes you think.

But the leadership of the AUEW have been playing a strange game over the social contract.

The operation started with Reg Birch telling the Ford workers their deal was the best they could get 'in the circumstances'. For circumstances, read social contract.

Then it was Scotland and John Boyd's turn. Boyd is an extremist. He hates all

independent working-class action. But, more interesting, the union executive has backed him to the hilt, in attacking the Scottish strikers.

And back at HQ, Scanlon has been doing his bit. Calling police to break a picket line is deplorable, all the more so when it is a so-called left-winger who did it.

But last week's AUEW national committee gave the missing clue which finally identified the union's policy on the social contract. By 27 votes to 25 the committee voted to claim a 'substantial increase'

This is more damaging than Ken Gill's retreat at the Trades Union Congress. Engineering workers, with no wage policy to mobilise and fight for, will be thrown back on their own resources, without official support.

This rot has got to be stopped. The best way would be for the AUEW to drop their prattle about 'substantial offers' and go for a flat rate increase now. The AUEW opposes the social contract. It is about time it showed. If the full-time officials can get a 40 per cent pay increase for themselves-as they did this week-the members can easily fight for £10 across the board now.

The strike at the AUEW head office was settled on Tuesday afternoon. Socialist Worker had intended to carry a full article explaining our support for the strikers, but with the settlement and, pressed as ever for space, we are holding the piece over for publication next week.

#### SCOTTISH TEACHERS FORCE CLAIM UP

by Willie Hart (Glasgow EIS management committee)

GRASS ROOTS action in Scotland has forced the teachers' union, the Education Institute of Scotland, to up its claim from 10 per cent to £10 a week.

But this is a manoeuvre to undermine unofficial action for £15.

EIS leaders are continuing their campaign of three day selective strikes. But instead of the 4000 teachers of last week, they have fallen to 2000 this week.

Last week's unofficial strikes involved over 400 teachers, most of whom spent time leafletting estates shopping centres and factory gates with the facts and figures on teachers' wages and the appalling situation in education as a whole.

The key to preventing demoralisation from token strikes and a carve up compromise with Willie Ross is the call for a demonstration in London next week.

Sections of the National Union of Teachers have already agreed to support this. A half day strike for £15 is planned by London teachers and a united campaign with Scottish teachers is on the cards.

Next Wednesday the Scottish Teachers Action Committee is bringing supporters to London to demonstrate for the £15 now.

A statement from Rank and File Teacher's executive committee issued this week calls on all teachers in England and Wales to support their action by holding meetings in schools and local associations for a half day strike. Rank and File's executive also calls for support for the demonstration and for a joint campaign with Scotland for £15 for all teachers.

lay-offs without paying lay-off pay and to drive workers from the factories. The mounting anger at the company's cynical manipulation of the workforce finally exploded when the managing director stated that he wanted to shut down vehicle assembly at Linwood for 10 days

before the end of the year.

A joint shop stewards meeting on Wednesday last week decided to call a mass meeting and recommend factorywide action if any such attempt were made. That very day the company's provocation touched new depths of cynicism as they hounded a section in the final assembly building into a dispute.

They then took 650 track workers in the building 'off the clock' and proceeded to pay off the rest of the vehicle assembly tracks. On Thursday those laid off reported for work. At a meeting of the senior shop stewards Chrysler stated that their guarantee of full employment for everyone until the end of the year was no longer valid. They announced that they planned a two-day vehicle assembly shutdown at the end of November and after that the situation would get serious.

Strike action unless the company withdrew its shutdown plans was agreed.

Linwood workers cannot rely on Chrysler's goodwill. That has been in short supply and is always related to their production requirements. We should therefore: (1) occupy the plant in the event of unpaid layoff. (2) demand full pay for layoff. (3) fight any redundancies and call for the nationalisation of Chrysler under workers' control.

## Steel, sweets, drugs: out for more

THE struggle to win wage increases to keep pace with the cost of living is going on all over the country.

LLANWERN, South Wales. The 1600 striking craftsmen at the BSC Spencer steel works have accepted a revised offer raising the basic by £9-£10, though this includes consolidation of the threshold and a lead-in payment for work measurement.

But the men have not returned to work. They voted not to cross the picket lines of TASS members at the plant, who are involved in what divisional organiser John Jones describes as 'a forgotten strike'. Management who moved heaven and earth to get the craftsmen's dispute settled are playing a waiting game, though the TASS men are standing firm.

YORK: On Monday more than 2000 production workers at the Rowntree Mackintosh sweet factory unanimously voted to reject the £3 interim pay award and to carry on their unofficial strike for the full claim of an across the board one third increase on the basic.

Management want wage restructuring, a productivity deal which to some would mean a drop in basic pay. It would be made up by a new bonus, which would mean a speed-up of work, depending on the amount that Rowntrees need to produce.

At HALIFAX, Mackintosh management have successfully introduced a scheme of job evaluation under which they can down-grade workers if they prove 'unsatisfactory'. Unsatisfactory means you aren't working as fast as the time and motion men say you should. The unofficial strike, the first for decades, is solid.

ULVESTON, North Lancashire:-150 engineering workers at the Glaxo Chemical plant are standing firm after nine weeks on strike. Glaxo, despite profits of £43 million for the past year-most from National Health Service drug sales, are refusing to meet the workers' claim for a top-rate of £46 plus threshold for skilled

fitters, with tied rates of 90 per cent and 85 per cent for ancillary workers and general labourers. Five plants are involved in the dispute:

Kendal, Barnard Castle, Camboise and Montrose as well as Ulverston. All are now on all-out strike for their demands. The use by management of scab transport firms and the refusal of the police to intervene when unmarked tankers carry-

ing dangerous chemicals are brought in are only hardening the strikers' attitudes: Tommy Myers, who has worked at the plant for 27 years, told Socialist Worker he had been against the strike at first. 'I thought we could talk to management from the inside, but I soon changed my mind when I saw how they were treating us.

Now I am determined to stick it out until we win.' Messages of support and hardship fund donations to Glaxo Hardship Fund, c/o E Montgomery, AUEW Office, Duke St,

Barrow-in-Furness.

DON'T FORGET the Fighting Fund. We are paying off some of the fines of comrades arrested and fined for the National Front demonstrations in the summer. We must try to keep to our £2000-a-month target, in spite of the special defence fund.

We're on our way this month-with £421.10 collected this weekbringing the total to £741.10. We still need £1257 before the end of the month. Send donations to Jim Nichol, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Prod deal hysteria rebounds on NCB

THE hysteria of the National Coal Board, press and television over the productivity deal has succeeded-in convincing miners they should reject

NCB bosses Norman Siddall and Wilfred Miron have slandered miners for alleged absenteeism and called leaders like Arthur Scargill 'latter day Lenins'.

The Yorkshire Post group of newspapers have incensed miners in the area by refusing to publish union advertisements calling for a NO vote.

Local colliery management in Yorkshire have been instructed to tear down NUM posters, which say that the introduction of the productivity deal would mean 'more blood on Britain's coal'.

The Coal Board has been helped by the treachery of Len Clarke, Nottingham NUM Area President and a member of the National Executive.

He has refused to abide by the Executive recommendation to vote against the deal and has campaigned for it outside the Nottingham area. At least four branches in Nottinghamshire have rebelled and decided to vote against the deal.

The right wing was dealt a further blow on Monday when North Western delegates voted, against their officials' recommendation, to oppose the deal by a 2 to 1 majority.

If, as is expected, the vote goes against the deal, there will be tremendous rank and file pressure for a massive wage claim backdated to

1 November. NUM President Joe Gormley and the Coal Board have made it clear that they do not want a new wage agreement signed until March. There have been hints of a possible interim

cost of living award. Gormley and the NCB would be content to settle for a couple of pounds now in such a deal and then delay negotiations on a full claim until early spring, when the rank and file would have lost the advantage of the threat of a winter strike.

#### **Metal Box warned**

WESTHOUGHTON, Lancs:-The Metal Box engineers are still in occupation. Management are refusing to meet the £1.20 an hour claim, and the engineers are refusing to budge from this figure.

One thing that has stopped management from laying off the rest of the workforce: the refusal by the print union NGA to accept suspension of the guaranteed working week. The union is insisting contracts would have to be terminated and this would mean automatic NGA blacking of the company and the loss of valuable trade in printing on beer cans.

newspaper with the Post Office: 1::(11:

# GETOUR BROTHERS

FOR FIGHTING for trade unionism, Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson have now been back in jail for 18 days and nights.

Yet the official leaders of the movement they were fighting for-the TUC General Councilhaven't even met to consider their return to Her Majesty's prisons.

One thing will get them round a table and make them initiate action to free the men: pressure from Britain's trade unionists.

And it's action that's needed. Some constitutional channels are still open. Defence lawyers are, for example, still trying to get agreement that the House of Lords should even entertain a

further appeal.

And then there could be a petition to the Home Secretary or an appeal to the International Courts of Justice at Strasbourg. The only problem with that is they would be out by the time the appeal was heard.

And of course strictly constitutional channels

were used to put the Shrewsbury pickets behind bars in the first place.

So they will only release the men if the rank and file trade unionists step up the fight.

Home Secretary Roy Jenkins and the Labour government as a whole are known to be unsympathetic to any request that he should free the two. They have the police/employer/judiciary lobby to satisfy. And they clearly aren't going to get out of line.

So it is vital that all trade unionists mobilise support and, where possible strike action on the day nominated by the Union of Construction and Allied Trades, which will probably be 28 November.

> Every day we sit back and do nothing the judges are using to rush through more decisions which still further erode the most basic democratic rights.

> In a monstrous High Court decision last Friday, Mr Justice Forbes took away the right of ordinary citizens to picket the premises of landlords, shopkeepers, garage owners and the like who cheat them or otherwise do them down.

'At common law, the use of the highway for picketing is illegal, as it is a use not responsive to the purpose for which the highway was dedicated,' were his words when he granted an injunction to Prebbles, an Islington, London estate agent to prevent members of the Islington Tenants Campaign picketing the agents' local offices.

#### **PROTEST**

The ruling complements all the recent judgments against industrial picketing.

The Tenants Campaign has pointed out that with this judgment 'pensioners would be acting unlawfully if they picketed a supermarket which refused to sell them sugar. It would be unlawful for tenants who were being harassed to protest outside their landlord's offices.

'It means that any group of people who got together over a common problem and took direct action could be sued and perhaps prosecuted for conspiracy-whether they were consumers' groups, tenants' groups or mothers' groups.'

Mr Justice Forbes made it absolutely plain that the law must uphold the rights of businessmen.

... The loss of impact seems to me a small weight to be cast in balance against the possibility of injury to the Plaintiff's business if the picket continues.'

The Campaign is to appeal against this decision. Every trade unionist should support them in their fight.

Messages of support to Ricky Tomlinson and Des Warren should be sent by telegram to Sudbury Prison near Uttoxeter.

#### Witch-hunters

THE witch-hunt in NALGO received a set back last Thursday when the union's Metropolitan District Council overwhelmingly voted to condemn NEC member John Fraser and his right wing cronies for their recent attacks on militants.

Moving the resolution, NALGO Action Group supporter Paul Bream pointed out that Fraser Had deliberately gone outside the union structure to mount his campaign. By using the anti-union press, Fraser hoped to confuse NALGO members and undermine their growing militancy.

The district resolution will now be referred to the next NEC meeting, which will be lobbied by rank and file members demanding that a stop be made to the antics of Fraser's fanatics.



UCATT general secretary George Smith (second from right) gets the message: demonstrations such as this one outside the union's South London HQ also took place in Liverpool and Manchester. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

## Bakery strikes spread

By Eddie Hudson

MERSEYSIDE:-A strike by bakery workers spread throughout the North West this week-and flying pickets are out to make it a national stoppage.

By Tuesday, 4500 workers were out at Scott's, Taylor's, Rathbone's, Mothers Pride and Warburtons.

They have been angered by their union hierarchy and an insulting pay offer.

The action followed a meeting at Central Hall, Liverpool two weeks ago when shop stewards voted unanimous-

ly for a recall conference. They demanded a new pay claim of £40 for 40 hours, equal pay for women, full pay at 18, abolition of Sunday work and four weeks' paid holiday.

Ken Hughes, a shop steward at Scott's Bakery in Bootle, followed a minibus of scabs to their lodgingsthe £15 a night Adelphi Hotel.

They were greeted on the steps by W P Scott, bakery company director. The scabs turned on Ken and reported 'Over 400 people work here and the him to the police for harassment.

Scott's workers were already on strike over a separate matter. A bomb warning was received last Wednesday night. After 15 minutes the workers were told to go back into the factory, where they found

one policeman searching the place. The management had decided the factory was 'safe' after phoning the director, Peter Scott, at his luxury home 30 miles away.

The workers were infuriated when they discovered that there had been four such 'phone calls in the past and no precautions had been taken. They

refused to go back to work.

A picket was put on the gate and the day shift struck in support. Management tried to split the workforce by offering to pay the night shift but not the day shift and vice versa-a clear attempt at trying to weaken the solidarity before the impending pay strike. The workers stood together.

Bill Caldwell, shop steward, said: bosses couldn't give a damn if all were blown to pieces.'

#### Racism: A statement

PRESTON:-The local docks shop stewards' chairman Bill Miller issued the following press statement last week

'I want to make it clear on behalf of 200 Preston dockers that the Preston Dockers Labour Club, the subject of the recent House of Lords decision allowing racial discrimination in membership, has nothing to do with them. The Preston Dockers Labour Club has very few dockers in membership, and is in no way connected with Preston dockers' social organisations.

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## 600 BATTLE ON FOR 8

WHETSTONE, Leics:-The struggle of 600 engineers at GEC Gas Turbines for an across-the-board £8 increase is in its third week. Convenor Dave Blick told the men that negotiations with management had proved fruitless, and that the men's attitudes would have to harden.

A picket was injured by a car whose driver was interviewed by police. The presence of the police has been noticed at all mass meetings. The strike has still not been made official.

DESFORD, Leics:-800 manual workers, members of the TGWU, struck in sympathy with 170 ACTSS white collar workers who had walked out describing pay offers of 78p and £1.86 as 'ridiculous'. The white-collar workers, who earn £10 a week less than the shop floor, are seeking average increases of £6

LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics:-The William Cotton management have made their second major cut back in the labour force

in 18 months, axing 320 men. Blaming the worldwide glut of knitting machinery, managing director John Wegerif denied that profits were being defended at the sacrifice of human beings.

The possibility of an occupation at the factory cannot be ruled out. Workers in Charles Clores Sear's Holdings Group and the AUEW District Secretary Ed Scrivens have pledged full union support for any action the members decide to take to defend their jobs.