

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Introducing the greedy miner and the needy Queen

SO THIS IS THE SOCIAL CONTRACT...



“ I'M GREEDY

I'm a miner working at the face in the bowels of the earth. I help dig the coal that makes society run. Last year 79 of my mates were killed in pit accidents. 700 of them caught pneumoconiosis which will lead them to early deaths in agony. I earn a basic £36 for a week's work.

Figures out this week show prices rising by 33 per cent a year. I want a £30 rise which, after tax stoppages and price increases, will leave me with a little extra.

I suppose I ought to pull my belt in further still so that my betters can continue to live in the manner to which generations of idleness has accustomed them.”



“ I'M NEEDY

I have a personal fortune of about £200 million, with many more millions salted away in land, property, jewellery and paintings. I'm the richest woman in the world. Last week I had to put off some repairs to my place at Sandringham—which I only visit once a year, so my husband can shoot grouse. The repairs would have cost £230,000.

My friend Harold Wilson has promised me a 40 per cent pay increase. He says I can have an extra £400,000—and he's very cross that somebody let the cat out of the bag just when he was busy conning the miners. Stand firm Harold.

Her Royal Idleness—page 11.”

'This is a capitalist crisis and the capitalist class can pay for it. I don't see why the miners or any other section of the working class should give up a penny for their crisis.'—Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire Miners President, speaking last Monday.



With his head tucked underneath her arm: Mrs Thatcher with a poster of Ted Heath during the election a year ago.

Great victory for the shirking class

IN A speech to Young Conservatives on Sunday, Margaret Thatcher summed up her political philosophy like this: 'We are for the workers against the shirkers.'

Mrs Thatcher has now won the leadership of the Tory Party. Her victory has been hailed by shirkers everywhere.

The whole of Margaret Thatcher's life has been dedicated to the shirking class. In 1953 she became a barrister and immediately specialised in tax avoidance. Over the past 20 years she has appeared again and again in the courts on behalf of share-pushers, property speculators and landlords—saving them millions in unpaid tax.

When she became a Member of Parliament she specialised at once in financial matters, and spoke up on innumerable occasions for the class which makes its money from stock exchange gambling or from inheritance. Only last month she made a speech on behalf of the wealthy which described those who live on inherited wealth as 'the backbone of the nation'.

As Minister of Education in the Heath government, she set out to smash effective state education for the underprivileged. She is still proud of the charges which she imposed on what had previously been free school milk.

Mrs Thatcher is married to Major Dennis Thatcher, a shirker extraordinary. The Major was planning director of Burmah Oil when it went bust six weeks ago. He keeps his job and his high salary under the new management, which is subsidised by the Bank of England—in other words by the taxpayer.

Mrs Thatcher personifies everything that is most horrible, snobbish and selfish in the British upper class. She will make an excellent leader of the Tory Party.

This is Northern Ireland

ON Thursday last week James Wray got a letter from the Ministry of Social Security asking him to call and see them. 'Your circumstances have changed', it said. So they had. His family has recently been awarded compensation for the death of their son James.

James junior (Jimmy) was, according to the Sunday Times Insight team, lying on the ground in Glenfada

Park on Bloody Sunday 1972 when a soldier shot him four times in the back with a high velocity rifle at a range of five yards. At the inquiry that followed the soldier concerned was identified to Lord Chief Justice Widgery of England, but he has never been charged.

Three years later the Ministry of Defence created a minor surprise by announcing ex-gratia payments to the

relatives of those killed on Bloody Sunday. The Wrays got £250, less than a week's wages for Lord Widgery.

Mr Wray, like one in five Derry men, is on the dole and receives social security payments. The local office has now told him that the £250 must be taken into account in determining future payments. In other words they want the money back.

INSIDE

MAY DAY STRIKE TO FREE THE TWO—page 2

International Socialists say:

STOP THE CUTS! YES WE CAN SAVE OUR
STOP THE SACKINGS! JOBS—pages 7, 8 and 9

WITCH-HUNT—page 4/THE WEEK IN IRELAND—page 8

Rank and File call on TUC for all-out strike to free the Two



Marlene Tomlinson and her two children—she has not been allowed to see Ricky since before Christmas

AN official strike from May Day until the two Shrewsbury pickets are released—that's the demand of the Rank and File Conference Organising Committee which met last Sunday.

Organising committee secretary Roger Cox says in a statement that the transformation of the London lobby of parliament into a militant lobby, and the mass response of trade unionists in the form of collections, resolutions and sales of 30,000 of the organising committee's fact sheets on the case, clearly demonstrate increasing rank and file pressure to free the pickets.

The statement goes on: 'In the unfortunate

event of the TUC not calling a strike, we call on all trade unionists to organise independent rank and file action for May Day. To give focus to such a campaign, the organising committee are making arrangements for a national demonstration in Central London on May Day.

The organising committee urges all trade unionists to support all initiatives for action to free the two—such as the lobby of the TUC on 26 February called by the London Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, and the Wigan Building Workers' Action Committee march from Wigan to London.'

THE ACTION GOES ON

MORE than 150 delegates representing almost every area of the working class in Liverpool met on Sunday for a conference to discuss the jailed pickets, and passed the following resolution.

'This conference congratulates the TUC for holding the highly successful national lobby of parliament but recommends the following steps be taken immediately to capitalise on that success.

'1 The general secretary of the TUC send a strong protest to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary about the transfer of Des Warren and Eric Tomlinson to closed prisons.

'2 The TUC general secretary on behalf of the General Council name the date for a national one-day stoppage, in support of the release of the pickets.

'3 That the General Council inform the government that if steps aren't taken to release the pickets, the Council will organise a continuous stoppage.

'4 We support the lobby of the General Council called by London trade unionists on 26 February.

ON THE MARCH

TRADE UNIONISTS marching from Wigan to London to raise support for the release of the Shrewsbury pickets have reached Birmingham after 11 days on the road. The march has been called by the Wigan Building Workers Action Committee, a group of Wigan trade unionists.

The march has won considerable support from trade union bodies, particularly in the North West. Two UCATT branches in Wigan, one in Skelmersdale, numerous building sites including a strike meeting at the Eldon Square site in Newcastle, a Pilkington GMWU branch from St Helens, the Lancashire Area Executive of the National Union of Miners and a wide range of other trade union bodies have voted support, money and in some cases delegations to accompany the march.

The march is helping to spread the facts of the Shrewsbury case to thousands of trade unionists. In every town the march passes through, meetings and demonstrations have

been organised. In Coventry the trades council has set up a special sub-committee to help organise the marchers, reception and to win as much support as possible.

All trade unionists should support the march when it passes through their town. Money, motions of support and other help is needed.

WHERE TO FIND THE MARCH:
Thursday 13 February: Coventry, demonstration 4pm, Sportsmans Arms to Coventry Precinct; Friday 14: Coventry; Saturday 15: Daventry; Sunday 16: Northampton; Monday 17: Bedford, meeting 7pm, United Trades Club and Institute; Tuesday 18: Luton; Wednesday 19: Watford, meeting 7.30pm, Trade Union Club and Institute; Tuesday 18: Luton; Wednesday 19: Watford, meeting 7.30pm, Trade Union Hall; Thursday 20: Harrow, meeting 8pm, Co-op Hall, Masons Avenue.

Picket Prentice!

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting of London's West Ham Trades Council called last week for a demonstration in East Ham demanding the release of the two Shrewsbury pickets. The demo will be outside Newham North East Constituency Labour Party offices on Saturday 22 February when Reg Prentice, the local MP, is due to make his next visit to the constituency.

Prentice, a TGWU-sponsored MP, refused to meet a delegation from the trades council at the recent lobby of Parliament. Prentice has told the trades council that 'as a matter of principle' he is not prepared to meet a delegation over Shrewsbury, that he fully supports Jenkins' refusal to change the sentences and that he will not support turning the Shrewsbury Two into 'working-class heroes'.

Bill Chapman, secretary of West Ham Trades Council and a shop steward in the Royal Group of Docks, told Socialist Worker: 'We don't accept Prentice's reply. It was a delegation of trade unionists and he is supposed to be our representative. We are calling for a large demonstration to step up pressure to Free the Two and to show that Prentice does not speak for the Labour movement in Newham. Trade unionists throughout the area are urged to join us with their banners.'

FREE THE TWO!
Demonstrate against Prentice
Newham North East Labour Party offices,
87 Barking Road, London E16, Saturday
22 February, 9.30am

MINERS' CALL

THE North Derbyshire area of the National Union of Miners have carried unanimously a resolution calling on the TUC to initiate strike action to secure the immediate release of the jailed pickets. The area council had received resolutions from five pit branches urging action

Keeping 'em quiet

THAT intimate of the McAlpine's and friend to all needy employers, Labour MP for Wrexham, Tom Ellis has been at it again. After various attempts to get some sort of statement on Shrewsbury from Roy Jenkins in the House of Commons last week, up popped our Tom to ask the Home Secretary a convenient and probably pre-arranged question about whether there was anything to suggest that the Shrewsbury trial was 'political'. Jenkins was pleased to answer his friend's question in the negative.

At the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting later in the week Ellis and Co scored another success. Following a request from some 20 MPs for a debate on the Shrewsbury issue, Cledwyn Hughes first refused point blank and then said the matter would be referred back to his Liaison Committee. This is known as free speech.

FIVE CARPETED

THE executive of the National Union of Teachers has decided not to support five London NUT members who face disciplinary action for taking an afternoon off school to join the TUC lobby on 14 January.

Although the NUT had circulated all local associations giving full details of the lobby, and Fred Jarvis, general secretary designate, had voted in the TUC General Council in support of it, the executive decided that the members had acted contrary to rule 8 of the union which prohibits any form of unofficial action.

The five teachers, who come from South Hackney (Lower) School in East London, have been asked to appear before the school governors to answer complaints that they have acted in breach of their contracts.

A proposal from Inner London member of the NUT Executive Dick North that the teachers should be supported received only five votes from the 40-strong executive. The three Communist Party members on the executive, Max Morris, Sam Fisher and Jack Evans all voted against.

Ban on visits to jailed pickets

by Judith Condon

MARLENE TOMLINSON, the wife of jailed Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson, hasn't seen her husband since the first week in December. The prison authorities are claiming that prison visits are a privilege not a right. Since Des Warren and Ricky have refused to wear prison clothes, they have had all privileges suspended.

Marlene says: 'They never told us they were moving Des and Ricky from Sudbury open prison. I heard it on the news the same as anyone else. Since then I haven't heard from Ricky—or from the authorities. He's been sent to Leicester, which I believe is a top security prison.'

'Des Warren has gone to Lincoln. How could Elsa Warren get from North Wales to Lincoln and back in a day with five children?'

Decides

'Really, I expected they'd go back to prison on appeal. It was marvellous when they came out in the summer. I remember when Ricky first saw the children—he just had two of them in his arms and the tears ran down his face.'

'But, the way I look at it, the government decides whether they come out or not. Ricky doesn't want to come out on parole next summer—he wants a free pardon.'

'That's why Des and Ricky refused to wear prison clothes in Sudbury. And they put them in solitary confinement without books or visits. But they could shout and sing to each other. He didn't even get my Christmas card and photos.'

'The last time I saw Ricky was the first week in December. He had made me and the children a big Christmas card—made it like an official Christmas card from a prisoner of war.'

'Underneath his words to me he had written a message for all of us: "It may be a little lonely this Christmas again, but this is a long way we are fighting. We ask for no quarter, nor shall we give any."

'And it was stamped CENSORED—all our letters are censored. He gave me that card on my last visit, just before I had to go. I came out feeling he'd given me all the world.'

'Then we had some beautiful letters over Christmas from all over the country. It was marvellous.'

'The best thing was the London demonstration—I couldn't get over it. When we turned a corner in the road, I looked round, and I couldn't see the end of the march. It seemed to go on and on.'

'Today I wrote to Jenkins and Wilson. I told Jenkins he is lower than a snake's belly—that's how I feel. And I told Wilson I thought he was a fair man when we voted him in. But it seems I was wrong. My spelling's terrible, but I think he got the message.'

'On the same day, four-year-old Clifford Tomlinson started school. When he came home there was no Dad to tell about it.'

'He is going to have to scribble a little pattern on the bottom of his mum's next letter.....'



REMEMBER THE SHREWSBURY TWO!

Des Warren, serving three years in Lincoln Prison.
Ricky Tomlinson, two years in Leicester Prison.

The Rank and File Organising Committee has asked that socialists and trade unionists show the two jailed building workers that they have not been forgotten. Send messages of support direct to them at the prisons.

The families are facing severe pressures and hardships. Financial support is therefore urgently needed. Send to Shrewsbury Dependents Fund, c/o Roger Cox, Secretary, Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10. Receipts will be issued promptly for all money sent.



WHAT WE THINK

UNFREE PRESS

A MOST hypocritical and reactionary campaign is being conducted in the name of 'the freedom of the press'. Its object is to defeat the clause in the government's Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill allowing the establishment of closed shops.

The Bill, says a pamphlet written by three Fleet Street editors, 'challenges the freedom of editors in their own jobs and in their freedom to publish what they want.' Why? Because 'all journalists—including editors—can be dismissed . . . if an NUJ [National Union of Journalists] closed shop is secured and they refuse to join . . . This would give unprecedented power to extremists in the NUJ . . . Mr Foot's Bill is a weapon in the hands of people who either do not know the meaning of editorial independence or are candidly determined to destroy it.'

The sheer impudence of these editors is astonishing. They know as well as anyone that six rich men control the great bulk of the British press. 86 per cent of national press circulation is under their control and so is a great part of the local press. Editors are hired to do the bidding of these press barons and fired if they fail to give satisfaction.

That is the reality of 'editorial independence.' That is why we have, and have had for years, an unfree press. Thus, when editor Michael Randall of the Daily Mail upset his boss Lord Rothermere in 1966 he was sacked. And when columnist Bernard Levin indicated in the same paper in 1970 that he favoured voting Labour, he was sacked too. The Mail is Rothermere's mouthpiece and woe betide any editor who forgets it.

Fleet Street editors have 'freedom to publish what they want' for just as long as what they want is what the press barons want. The first essential for winning freedom of the press is to break the power of the six millionaires who have a stranglehold on the press.

What terrifies the press gang and its editorial hirelings is that effective trade union organisation by journalists might conceivably impose some modest check on their sacred rights to lie, to distort, to poison the minds of millions. For these rights are what they mean by 'freedom of the press'. And incidentally these same men have a big stake in 'independent' television—that's why broadcasting is mentioned too.

The late Lord Beaverbrook was candid enough to say publicly that he ran the Daily Express 'purely for the purpose of making propaganda'. Such frankness is too embarrassing today and so we have all this nauseating claptrap that 'freedom is now under threat'.

The passage of the Trade Union Bill will not in fact do very much to curb the power of the press lords. At best, it offers the possibility that some of their worst excesses in anti-union propaganda might be made a bit more difficult to perpetrate.

The Bill must be supported because it opens up the prospect of strengthening trade union organisation and therefore of increasing the freedom of workers, journalists amongst others, against the power of the bosses.

But real press freedom will only be possible when we end the power of money to decide what is printed and what is not.

Boycott the butchers!

IN the next few weeks the Chilean Junta will again approach the Club of Paris credit union to renegotiate its foreign debt. Despite the murder of thousands of trade unionists, despite the smashing of almost all opposition, the junta still has not been able to solve the problems of its ailing capitalist economy. The junta therefore desperately needs more breathing space.

So their representatives have been working overtime to improve the junta's image in the run-up to the debt negotiations. One or two well-known political prisoners have been released. A new ambassador has been sent to the United Nations.

If we are not careful, this facelift will be more than enough to ensure that the butchers get a sympathetic hearing.

Last year the junta came looking for similar assistance. The Italian government, pressured by a massive solidarity movement, boycotted the talks. But Britain's Labour government, despite pledges and promises and conference resolutions, went along with the renegotiations. Indeed under pressure from the Treasury and the Bank of England they capitulated. The junta got an extension of its credit, to go with the gun-boats Labour also obligingly supplied.

Now Chile's debt is to be renegotiated again. And again the Treasury, the Bank of England and the Export Credit Guarantees Department will be doing everything in their power.

So every trade unionist and socialist in Britain should be working to ensure that they do not have their way, to ensure that the Chileans do not get any relief from the British government.

LABOUR'S BETRAYAL

Michael Foot told the House of Commons in February 1973 when the Tories announced the plan to close the three steelworks:

‘We have a right—we do not come here to beg—to demand from the government the assistance which great democratic communities ought to have from this House. If this government will not give assistance to places like Shotton, Ebbw Vale and all the others that are threatened, then the next Labour government will . . .

The dates proposed for the closure of Ebbw Vale, Shotton and East Moors are intolerable and impossible. It is impossible for the government to seek to bind us to them—that is to have more than 1000 new jobs created by 1975 and another 1500 by 1976 . . .

. . . In communities like ours the whole livelihood of the area could be shattered. We have to sustain the morale of whole townships in this period.

The case of Michael Foot and Ebbw Vale

By John Hewins

made and the workers are now to receive the usual reward for being good workers. With the workers split between the craftsmen and the production workers the situation looks desperate.

The Works Committee is threatening that unless the steelworks remains open until suitable alternative employment is found, an indefinite stoppage will be called and they will picket the other steelworks to get support. If they unite their own workforce on this and get effective support from steelworkers elsewhere, the government can be challenged.

We said it before . . .

ON 9 December 1972, when the steel closures were first announced, Colwyn Williamson wrote a fine article for Socialist Worker about Ebbw Vale in which he criticised Michael Foot for 'not making up his mind which side of the fence he was on'.

Michael Foot wrote back (SW 16 December 1972): 'No one who knows anything about the matter in Ebbw Vale would make so foolish an accusation. My attitude has been made clear at dozens of meetings I have held over recent days, weeks and years both with the elected Works Council and the elected Urban District Council.

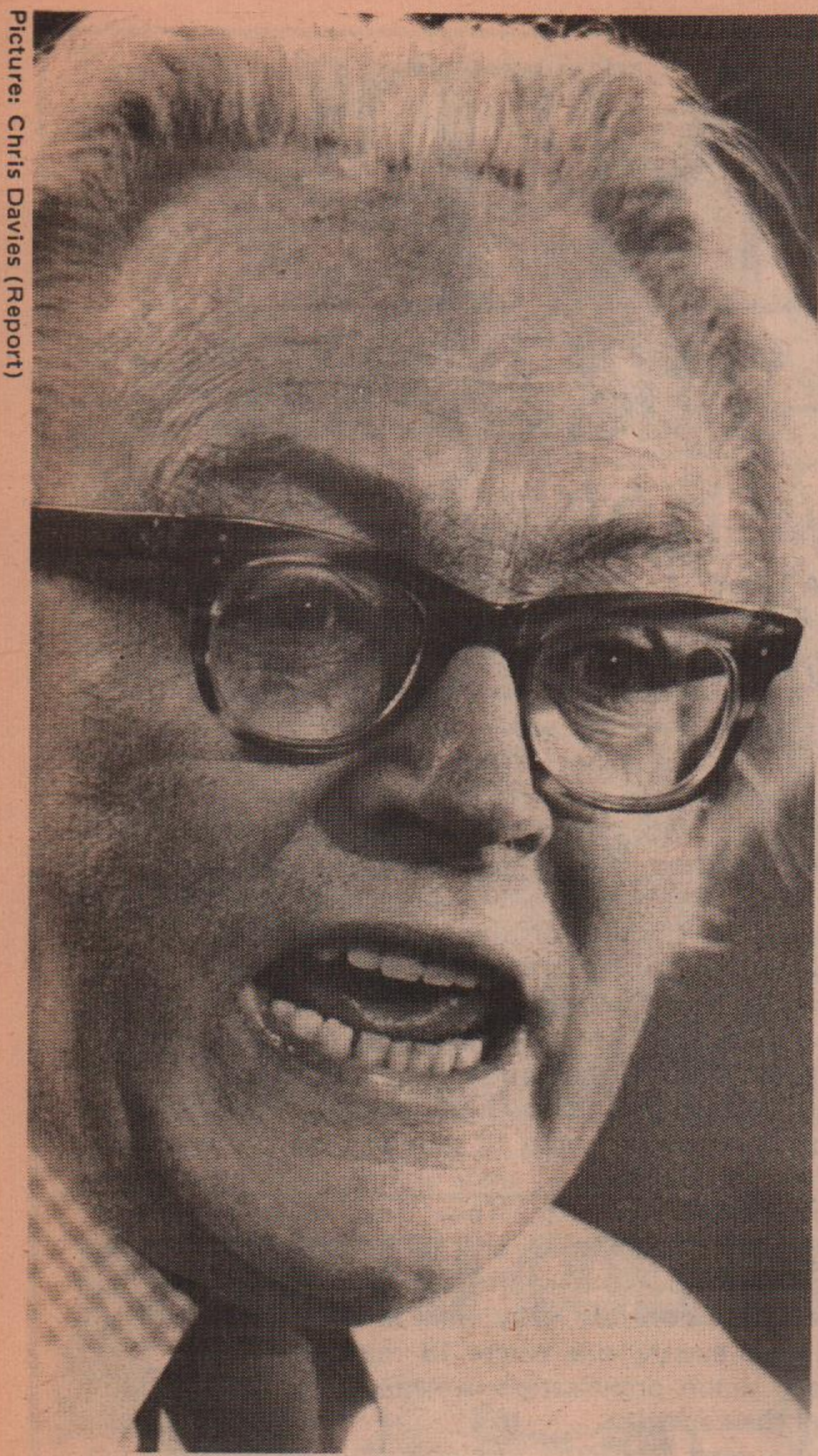
'What is needed, certainly, to save Ebbw Vale is that all of us in the town should combine intelligently to sustain work in the steel industry and to attract new industries as well. Perhaps the worst danger we face is that this effort should

become fragmented by internal disputes about the way to proceed, or by infantile sectarianism. That would help no one else but Heath and the Tories and would not save a single job in Ebbw Vale'.

Colwyn Williamson replied (6 January 1973): 'Michael Foot says that the Labour Party is "fighting to save jobs". The simple truth is that the Labour Party, which has received the undivided loyalty of the people of Ebbw Vale, is not prepared to give undivided loyalty in return.

'Michael Foot says that "internal dispute" is the "worst danger" faced by Ebbw Vale. It is natural that he should be against dispute when he is being criticised, but what he says is not at all true.

'The worst danger faced by the workers of Ebbw Vale is that, like lambs to the slaughter, they will follow leaders who can offer nothing but vacillation, compromise and defeat.'



Abortion rights threatened

THE Ebbw Vale Steelworks Works Council called a one-day strike last Friday in response to the Labour government's decision to confirm the closure of the steelworks.

Local MP Michael Foot, the Employment Secretary received a hostile welcome from the workers and their wives as he tried to convince them of the necessity of the government's decision. Banners displaying 'Foot the boot' were evidence of the disappointment that Ebbw Vale people feel after so many of them expected that their party in power might prove better than the Tories.

Michael Foot claimed that £12 million would be given to assist the community, but forgot to mention the fact that £5½ million of the money had already been given to build additional sewers and water supply. Previous promises of new jobs have not left the people of the town very hopeful, the only success being the building of a marshmallow factory employing 25.

Foot said that there would be several hundred new jobs in the Tin Plate Section when the British Steel Corporation invest £70 million but warned that militancy would discourage further investment.

The local trade union leaders have insisted on going it alone over the two years since the closure announcement by the Tories and point to the profitability of the plant. But the BSC plans have long since been

by Margaret Renn
MPs voted overwhelmingly last Friday to amend the abortion law to make it more difficult for women especially working-class women, to get abortions.

The Junior Health Minister, Dr David Owen, admitted during the debate that he intends to use the powers he has now to stop racketeering and profiteering in private abortion clinics.

Why then change the law? Answer: The doctor and his government can't resist the blind prejudice of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, the Festival of Light, the Catholic Church and the Tory Party and, for that matter, the Scottish National Party, whose leader admitted during the debate that he regarded abortion as a 'sin'.

The present law allows abortion where the doctor can prove a risk

to the life or mental health of the pregnant woman or her children. The new Bill, which has several stages to pass yet before it is law, proposes to change 'risk' to 'grave risk'. That would make it much more difficult for doctors to operate.

The law says now that two doctors must agree on an abortion before it can be carried out. The new Bill insists on two doctors in different establishments. This means more work and complications for overworked junior doctors, who will be pressurised not to bother and to drop all abortion requests.

These and many other changes will make legal abortions much more difficult to obtain. That won't mean fewer abortions. Women who want them will still get them, but at a price—the danger of a knitting needle or the cash for a Harley Street clinic (and most women can't afford the

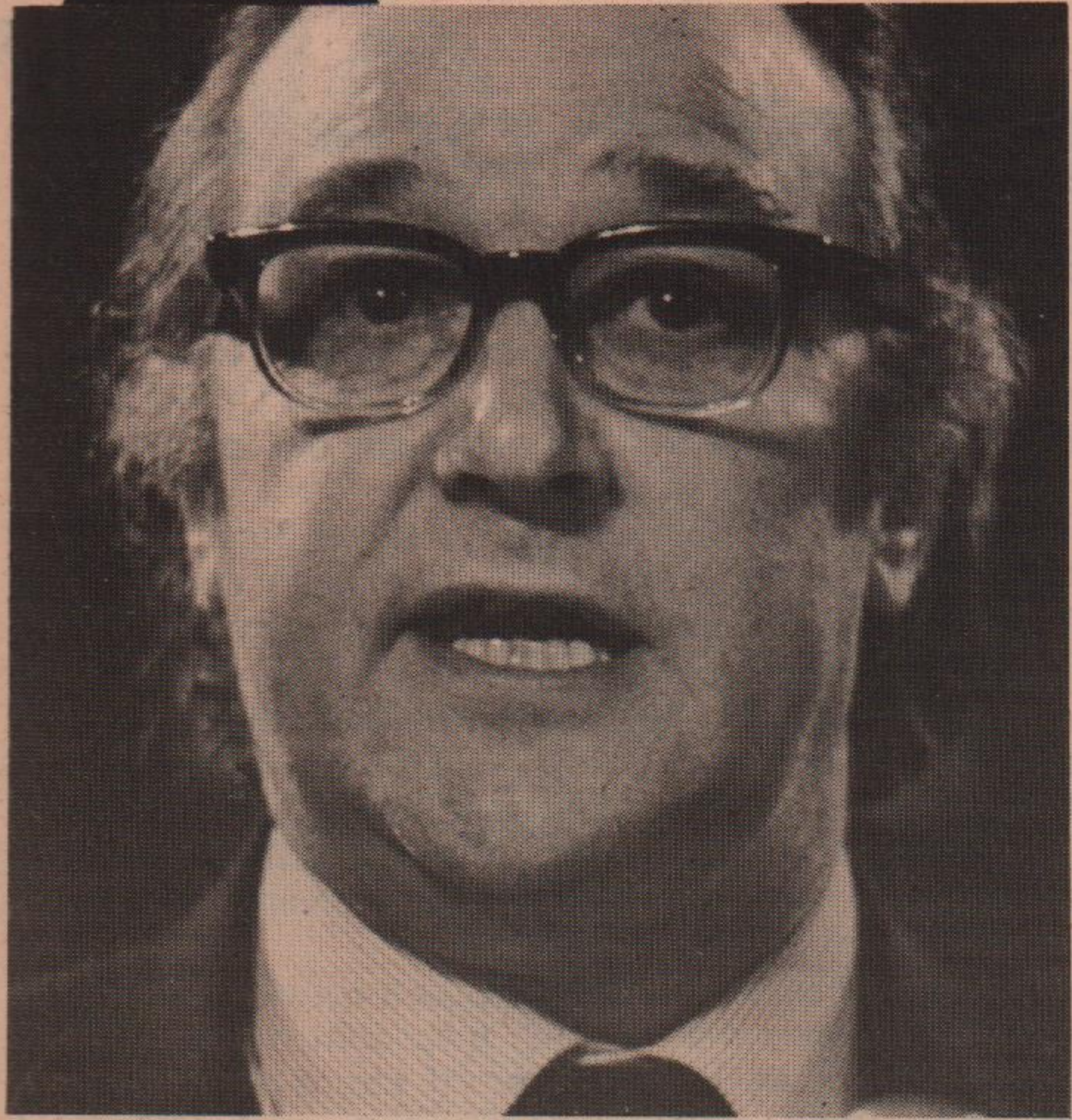
choice). This will mean more backstreet, criminal abortions, more horror, infection and pain.

The conscience of James White, Labour MP for Glasgow Pollok, who moved the Bill, and his fellow conspirators in the Festival of Light will be purified in the mental and physical agony of hundreds if not thousands of working women.

We say that women themselves must be allowed to decide how to run their lives, that they have the right to control their own bodies. We say they have those rights in a way that the unborn foetus does not.

This disgusting Bill is not law yet. A campaign must be organised immediately. Resolutions should be passed throughout the trade union movement against the Bill. It must not be left to the women, doctors and nurses, who are immediately concerned, to fight on the issue alone.

WITCH-HUNT!



THE UNIONS

What we think

HARDLY A WEEK goes by without some union leader sounding off against subversives and disrupters. Last week, Bill Kendall general secretary of the civil servants' union, attacked Redder Tape, a civil servants, rank and file paper, which, he said, was run by the International Socialists.

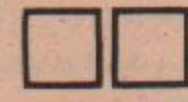
On the same day, Frank Chapple, boss of the electricians' union, blamed the Scottish electricians' strike on the 'extremist press' (including Socialist Worker).

What are the facts? To start with, rank and file papers such as Redder Tape, Rank and File Teacher, Journalists Charter and so on are *not* 'fronts' for the International Socialists. The central aim of these rank and file papers is to rally the biggest possible number of rank and file trade unionists.

But that is only part of the argument. The most important point is that IS members are not 'outsiders'. They are members of their unions, working alongside fellow-trade unionists. They have exactly the same access to the union as any other trade unionist. Nor are they 'subversive' of the trade unions.

On the contrary, they want stronger, bigger unions. Almost everywhere where IS members are at work, trade union organisation is stronger for their presence and their activity.

So what is all the fuss about? The difference between Kendall and members of the International Socialists is not the difference between outsiders or insiders, between enemies and friends of the union or even between 'political' and 'non-political'. After all, Messrs Kendall and Chapple have political views as well.



The difference is between their political attitudes and ours. We want to get rid of a society controlled by shareholders and speculators and replace it with one controlled by the workers. Kendall and Co. are quite happy with capitalist society and are anxious that it should not be changed.

That's the essential difference between us. But that is not the way the union leaders put it. *They refuse to argue politics with us.* Indeed, their aim is to deflect attention from our political views.

When the union leaders talk about 'minorities' trying to control the unions, they are deflecting attention from the control over the unions by officials most of whom have never been elected by anyone.

That's why we call their accusations a 'witch-hunt'. They are like the hunting of witches among harmless old women by rich and powerful men 400 years ago. They are an attempt to deflect hostility away from the real inequalities and barbarities of society.

The ferocity of the witch-hunt by trade union leaders, newspaper editors and the like reflects their own lack of confidence about their politics. When they can't persuade their members how wrong we are, they resort to infantile jibes about subversives and outside interference.

That's why we are not in the least worried or cowed by these attacks. We say to witch-hunters Kendall, Chapple and others:

'We are subversive of the profit system which exploits and humiliates us. We want a socialist society controlled by its workers. We want strong trade unions, controlled by their members. What do you want?'

Why Bill Kendall saw Red

BILL Kendall, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, has attacked unofficial groupings in the union.

He directed most of his fire on Redder Tape, the rank and file paper which circulates among civil servants. Redder Tape was formed three years ago—so why has Kendall waited until now to embark on a campaign designed to discredit some of the best trade unionists in the union?

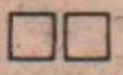
The answer is that the ideas in Redder Tape are gaining credibility among trade unionists in the civil service.

In the early 1950s, the right wing seized control of the union executive after a campaign to purge Communist Party members from leading positions.

The driving force behind this campaign was Catholic Action—known as 'the group'.

Wage awards were modest and, gradually, civil servants slipped further down the wage scale. The resentment of the members boiled over when the right-wing executive called a one-day national strike over the 1973 wage claim.

The strike gave us some idea of our power, and of the sort of action we could take to change our condition. The mood was one of change, and in this period—1973 and 1974—Redder Tape developed into a movement with a clear and constructive programme designed to unite militants in the union.



At the same time, a flabby Broad Left alliance was formed which distinguished itself from Redder Tape. Its aim was solely to capture positions on the executive.

At the 1974 CPSA conference, 'the group' were pulverised, both in a volley of censure motions and in the votes for the executive, which put the Broad Left in charge.

Many CPSA militants put their faith in the new Left executive. Alas, to no avail. Almost immediately, CPSA members in the DHSS section were sold down the river over a departmental allowance claim.

The NEC hasn't even bothered to let the membership know what wage claim they are currently negotiating for. All in all, it's the same mixture as before—just more militant noises.

Many members are realising that so-called 'Left' leaders are no more capable than the old Catholic Action mob in mobilising the union's rank and file strength to stop redundancy and improve our living standards. So there is a vacuum of

Electrical Electronic Telecommunication and Plumbing Union

F. J. CHAPPLE
GENERAL SECRETARY

HAYES COURT,
WEST COMMON ROAD,
BROMLEY KENT,
BR2 7AU.

TO: All Electricians - Scottish Local Authorities

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Executive Council as a result of our concern at the current and unnecessary dispute in various local authorities in Scotland.

However, we believe that the key to the situation lies in two articles, which we reprint overleaf, taken from the extremist left press. These articles make clear that our members are being used as pawns in a vicious political game. This game is designed to embarrass the Trade Union leadership and the Labour Government and has nothing to do with the wages and conditions of electricians, or of any other group of workers for that matter. The issue as far as these people are concerned is not the interest of the members but spreading the revolution, yet funnily enough in the countries where their point of view wins the workers have their rights taken away.

We call on our members to reject the extremists and to support the Union's call to return to work immediately and until such time as the outcome of the case currently before the Edinburgh Court is decided.

Yours fraternally,

General Secretary.

Frank Chapple on rampage again

FRANK Chapple's witch-hunting letter on behalf of the EETPU Executive suggests that the striking council sparks should rely on the courts to settle the local authority electricians' dispute.

But there are some problems. There is no written agreement between the union and the local authorities that they will pay SJIB rates of pay. And while the local authorities are associate members of the SJIB, they have paid no membership fees for two years.

Another factor to be considered in the period of time that the court proceedings would take. Edinburgh Corporation have 31 days just to lodge a first defence. If they do, the case could drag on until November, or longer.



The action at present being taken by local authority electricians will have a strong bearing on whether they lodge a defence.

Another small point that worries electricians is that a wage freeze would mean they would never get their increase.

Bureaucrats like Chapple, of course, need something to try and frighten the members with. A bit of red baiting usually fits the bill. Predictably it has been trotted out yet again.

But Chapple's notion that the strike is all the work of a few extremists betrays his contempt for the ordinary members who, according to Chapple, are incapable of acting for themselves.

leadership, and the rank and file appeal of Redder Tape is increasing its influence.

That's why Kendall has gone witch-hunting. He wants to win the middle ground by scaring everyone about the reds. But he cannot escape the fact that his policies will not win the money which civil servants need to keep up with inflation.

The economic crisis and the Social Contract are whittling away the middle ground. The members must control their own union.

We are organising—and will continue to organise in spite of threats and intimidation from trade union bureaucrats.



Spain? Fly me, I'm Clive

FOLLOWING the exciting Electricians' Union scheme for holidays in fascist Spain—disclosed in a recent issue—Socialist Worker can now reveal that ASTMS is in hot pursuit.

The new ASTMS/Pickfords brochure carries a wide variety of scintillating cheap holidays in Spain.

Best of all, but understandably slightly more costly, is the package which includes a visit to the cells normally occupied by the Carabanchel Ten and a ring side seat at the garrotting of six socialist militants.

Your courier on this once-in-a-lifetime trip is none other than genial ASTMS general secretary Clive Jenkins.

We understand even more exciting treats are in store for next year. ASTMS and the Electricians Union are negotiating jointly to lay on package tours to Chile where the beaches are empty because the jails are full.



astms A Message from Clive Jenkins

Dear Colleagues
You know me, I'm in the insurance business. I give talks to employers' organisations for large fees. Well I'm in the travel business as well.
I'd love to take you to Spain, a country ruled by my fellow TUC general council member Franco Chapple. What about it?
Fly me. I'm Clive.

Clive Jenkins

Clive Jenkins
General Secretary of ASTMS

Why busworkers face attacks

THE death of a London bus conductor after being attacked by a passenger brings to a head the three-year escalation of assaults on platform staff.

Contrary to popular belief, attacks are not restricted to late night services or particular areas. There is no pattern. Seldom are known trouble spots the scene of actual assaults. Acts of aggression now are often the result of frustration caused by poor and infrequent bus services, although of course other social factors have contributed.

Passengers are now feeling even more the results of London Transport being a profit-motivated organisation, pressurised into trying to run a bus service which pays for itself through fares, rather than a service provided for the public out of public funds. Furthermore its management feels no obligation to provide an adequate bus service, neither has it any intention of doing so.

Bus crews have become the scapegoats for these shortcomings. Passengers resent more and more having to put up with a deteriorating

by DAVE FANTHAM
1/227 TGWU, Wandsworth
bus garage, South London

service and pay increased fares for it.

As a job bus work itself has been run down. Busmen have lost the respect of the travelling public. TV programmes such as *On the Buses* do not help by reflecting and encouraging beliefs such as that 'buses are deliberately run late and in bunches' to antagonise waiting queues'.

Endless

People do not see the problem as one of poor management. The £10 million profit last year was made at the expense of the travelling public suffering as the result of a 5,000 staff shortage which meant advertised services could never be run. But, again due to poor management, even if the 5,000 were recruited there would not be sufficient buses for them to work.

One thing you can be certain of is that if employers had to pay workers from the time they left

their homes in the morning to the time they got back the service would improve dramatically. What does it matter if the worker experiences endless waiting and inconvenience as long as it's in his own time, even if he does tend to take it out on the bus crew.

As busmen we must be careful that the understandable anger of fellow workers is not directed into channels which are against the best interests of the passengers and ourselves. The demand for stiffer sentences for attackers serves only to divert attention from the need to get at the root causes of attacks—bad services and conductors having to collect ever-increasing fares for ever-deteriorating services.

Busmen must demand better services, with more routes and more buses per hour. We must also demand the abolition of fares—public transport should be a free public service. This should be done without redundancies.

Improvements in the bus service will only come if rank and file busmen and other public sector workers fight through their trade unions to oppose cuts in public services.



Busworkers crowd outside the memorial service for conductor Ronald Jones

5 FIFTH COLUMN takes on the British Army



THE EFFECTS of the War in Ireland on Ireland have been well publicised in Socialist Worker. So have the efforts of British and Irish politicians to defeat the IRA and defuse the struggle against imperialism. But a blanket hangs over that other key ingredient in the mixture, the British Army.

Armies aren't monolithic organisations. Getting up at six in the morning to roam the streets of Belfast kicking the locals' doors down can lower the spirits of the most enthusiastic military boot boy. And some soldiers, who joined the Army from rotten jobs and with a belief in the adverts for 'The Professionals' and with no desire to kill people—or to be killed by them—are only too anxious to get out.

Which means increasingly the Army is having problems. Fifth Column talked to some of those soldiers whose only aim in the Army is to get out of it.

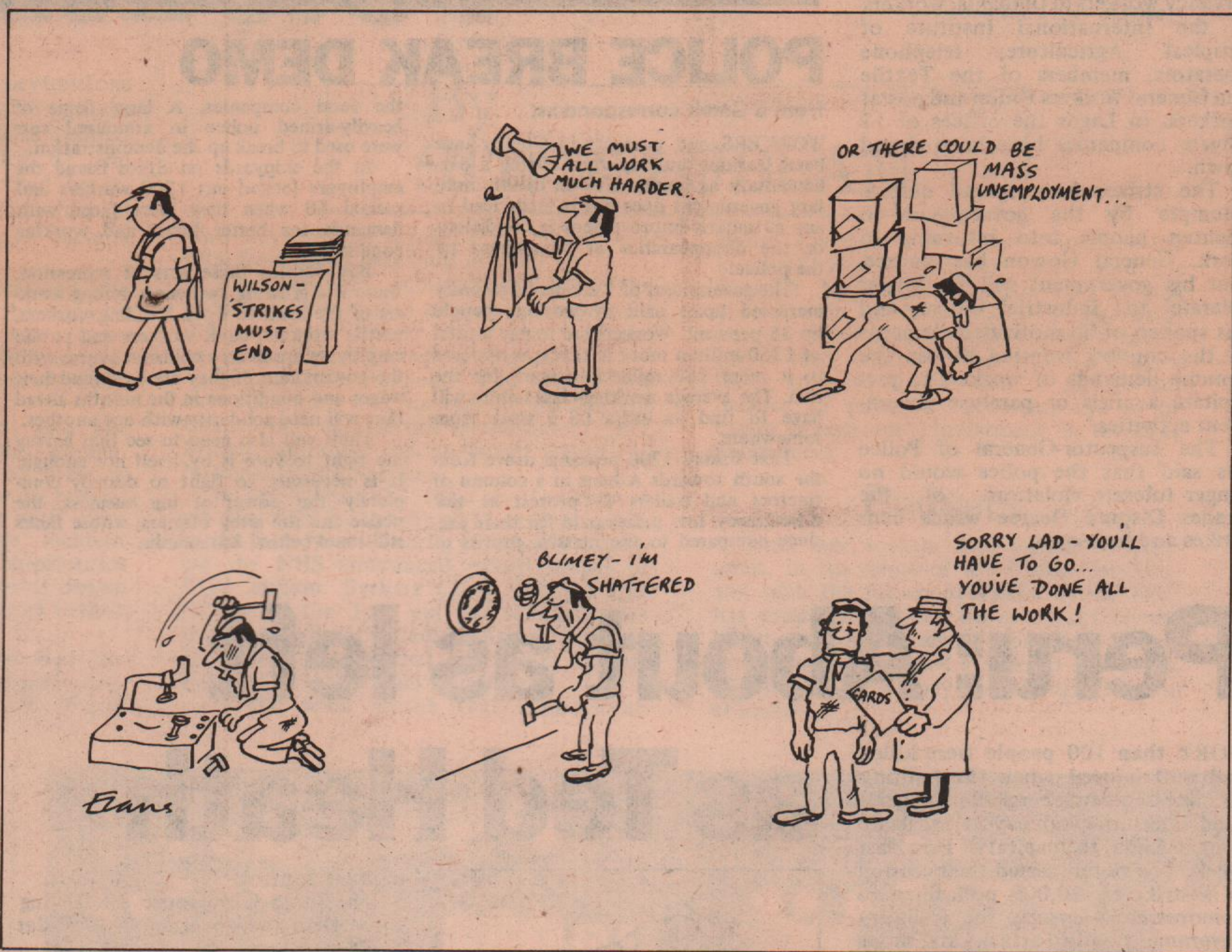
One of them is a socialist. 'You might think it's the wrong time to be getting out because the situation is near explosive. If it wasn't the British Army there would be a bloody flare-up pretty shortly. But this is the British Army . . .

'In our battalion it started just before and during our last tour of Ireland. At first it was just people objecting to training—they said they'd been to Ireland before and they knew it all.

'But a week later there were seven guys. They made it quite clear it wasn't just the training but the whole idea of going to Ireland at all.

'The company commander was quick to take account of it. So was the Officer Commanding and the Commanding Officer. They couldn't do anything drastic like court-martialing them, because that would show the Army up, show it was in a bad state.

'On the other hand they couldn't



let them off—that would give the same impression. Well there was a lot of ranting and raving, our sergeant said they should be shot, but in the end they were just charged with insubordination, threatening an NCO and leaving their place of duty.

'In this way they were treated the same way as if they were late on parade, or had refused to get their

hair cut or had told the NCO to get stuffed. They wound up with 14 days restricted privileges and a £25 fine.

'Then after about a month in Ireland a platoon in our company refused to go out on patrol. They said they'd been out all night and hadn't had any sleep. The corporal got busted for failing to get them out.

'One thing that is particularly rife in Ireland is fighting among the ranks. Even between privates and NCOs. There have been some fights between black and white guys. In some platoons it was said that black soldiers were being used more or less exclusively for foot and night patrols, while white soldiers did mainly vehicle and day patrols . . .

IS THIS WHY THE ARMY WON'T GET OUT?

IF MANY soldiers fancy a quick and peaceful retreat from the colours, has the experience made them understand the reasons for the Irish struggle? Has it made them socialists?

Generally speaking, no. Martin Hughes is one of the exceptions, who speaks now at Troops Out meetings. 'I was sent over in February 1971. We were given a half hour lecture to try to understand what had been going on for 800 years. You can draw your own conclusions from that.

'The large majority of infantry think that the Catholic community is an enemy and should be treated as such. How often have I heard from troops remarks about Fenian and Papist bastards—never anything about Protestant bastards.'

A serving soldier echoed the comments. 'Things have improved a bit, you can openly talk about the reason and cause of the Irish troubles and how the IRA fits in. But you can hear NCOs saying, when they see some strike in Britain on TV: "It's those lazy commie bastards. They should be put in jail".'

The role of the private soldier has remained to 'do and die', some of

the officers allow themselves, as members of the ruling class, to reason why. Provided they come out with the right answers. A German based private recalled a night out at a Belgian Army barracks.

A Belgian officer suggested that the British Army was getting demoralised by the war in Ireland. 'This lying bastard of a captain admitted there had been trouble. He said it was because some soldiers resented the way their hands were tied by the politicians. The captain told the Belgian that he opposed British withdrawal because it would lead to civil war—but more importantly it would mean giving in to left wing pressure.

'He said it would be the biggest victory for all the socialists and trotskyites, not to mention the IRA. They'd see the Army withdrawal as the biggest victory, as solely due to their propaganda and pressure.

'If the situation in Britain became worse and the Army was called in to restore law and order then it would be hopeless if they'd suffered such a big defeat in their morale. That is why he was "confident that the Army is going to stay in Ireland. The government is quite aware of this, and will keep them there till the complete defeat of the IRA".'

How one whole company tried to buy its way out

IF you don't like living in the Army in Ireland you can always leave . . . can't you? Well, no you can't. Some years ago a popular craze was to stand for a parliamentary by-election which got you automatically out of the armed forces. But that loophole was closed.

The standard way is to buy yourself out. 'After we came back from Aden half the company tried to buy itself out' recalled an ex-paratrooper. 'They were pissed off with being shot at. But the Army tightened up on that. They don't mind so much in peacetime.'

But back in the Irish War more soldiers have tried that escape route. A private in the Royal Green Jackets explained. 'When we finished our tour in Ireland we were posted back to Germany. All of my company tried to buy itself out—that included all the junior NCOs and one sergeant.

'So they held a sort of inquiry. When they had established that the reason they wanted to get out was because they were pissed off with going to Ireland it was agreed that they wouldn't be going there for at least another two years.

'It didn't make any difference. Most of them were determined to get out one way or another—provided it wasn't in a coffin.'

SO YOU have spent too many nights in the NAAFI bar and haven't any money? You still want to get out? Or the CO imposes a six month ban on discharge—which has become common. What other ways are open?

'When they put a ban on in our company it just made it worse,' said a soldier now posted in Britain. 'People started going absent without leave all over the place.

'They started doing things they knew they hoped they'd get kicked out for—like breaking into the NAAFI. Two blokes were found in bed together—that's never very popular.

'One guy locked himself in the toilet at Creggan Camp and threatened to shoot himself if he wasn't sent to England or Germany. They promised to send him back to England. They did too—to a military hospital, they said he'd cracked up. I reckon he was the sanest bloke in the battalion . . .

NIGERIAN STRIKE TO FREE THE TWO!

by Martha Osamor

INDUSTRIAL action by Nigerian workers has brought the whole country almost to a complete standstill.

The strikes are against the military government's Udoji Report, which gives the well-off up to 50 times as much as lower-paid workers, against many employers who refuse to pay back wages, and against the imprisonment of trade unionists.

All railway services throughout the country have been stopped. Strikes by the Petrol Haulage Workers Union have caused a petrol shortage in most parts of the country. There have been blackouts in all states as a result of strikes in the power industry.

A strike which cut off the Lagos water supply forced the authorities to pay back-wages, but the workers continued a work-to-rule, demanding the release of a hundred of their colleagues who had been seized from picket lines by armed soldiers.

SPECIAL OFFER

In this first volume of his three-volume study Tony Cliff traces Lenin's life from political obscurity to prominence as the leader of a mass working-class party. It shows him instilling into that organisation the insights gained from every contact no matter how fleeting—with workers. Above all it shows Lenin maturing as a practitioner of revolution in the pre-revolutionary period.

Published price £3.00 paperback, £6.60 hardback. NOW until 21 March £2.00 paperback, £4.50 hardback (post inclusive). Copies will be sent out (before publication) in March.

Cash with orders to: PLUTO PRESS Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Colcot Road, London NW1 8LH

TONY CLIFF: LENIN

Volume 1: Building the Party



Bank workers throughout the country struck against the continued detention of their union leaders—general secretary Alhaji Animashaun, president Alhaji Ladejo and organising secretary A N Aguna. They were eventually released, and a work to rule has continued while negotiations are going on.

Thirty thousand members of the Amalgamated Union of Building and Woodworkers have delayed the completion of many government construction projects. Among the many other groups of workers involved in disputes are teachers in Ibadan, conservancy workers in Umuahia, workers in the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, telephone operators, members of the Textile and General Workers Union and postal workers. In Lagos the offices of 11 private companies have been closed down.

The strikes have spread despite attempts by the government to frighten people into returning to work. General Gowon has warned that his government will 'no longer tolerate' the industrial unrest, and has spoken of 'ill-motivated elements in the country wanting to use the genuine demands of workers to precipitate a crisis or paralyse government activities.'

The Inspector-General of Police has said that the police would no longer tolerate violations of the Trades Dispute Decree which bans strikes and lock-outs.

Peru: About as left as Ted Heath

MORE than 100 people were killed and 600 injured when the military dictatorship of General Juan Velasco used tanks and infantry to break up riots in Lima, the capital of Peru, last week. The rioters seized the occasion of a strike by 10,000 policemen to demonstrate against the military government and to attack cars, shops and a plush American hotel.

There were right-wingers active in the riots but many of the demonstrators were students and the poor from Lima's huge slum areas.

The military junta seized power by a coup in 1968 and has since then tried to build up a left-wing image, supported by the local Communist Party. It has nationalised some American companies, such as the International Petroleum Company, the local banks and the entire press. It has also carried out an 'Agrarian Reform' programme claimed to give land to the peasants.

Votes

At the same time the junta has carried out a policy of repression aimed at smashing any independent action by workers and peasants. In its Law of Industrial Communities it declared that collective bargaining by workers was outdated and attempted to set up state-controlled organisations in opposition to the trade unions.

In some cases this has led to head-on confrontations.

The teachers' trade union, SUTEP, provided one of the major focuses of opposition. Its candidates won 90 per



As students demonstrate, repression spies from the window of a London embassy

Students demonstrated in London last week against repression in Singapore. Sunday 2 February marked the twelfth anniversary of Operation Cold Store, the mass arrests of trade unionists and opponents of the Singapore regime. Most of those arrested are still rotting in concentration camps.

Behind the windows at the Malaysian Embassy in London (below) were government hacks with their cameras photographing the demonstrators.

Pictures: Andrew Wiard (Report)



POLICE BREAK DEMO

from a Greek correspondent

WORKERS and peasants in Greece have been learning quickly that having a parliamentary as opposed to an openly military government does not in itself lead to any automatic improvement in conditions or the disappearance of harassment by the police.

The government of Karamanlis recently increased taxes paid by working people by 35 per cent. Workers are to pay a total of £260 million more in taxes, as opposed to a mere £60 million increase for the rich. The average working-class family will have to find an extra £8 a week from somewhere.

Last Friday 1200 peasants drove from the south towards Athens in a column of tractors and trailers to protest at the ridiculously low prices paid for their produce compared to the massive profits of

the food companies. A large force of heavily-armed police in armoured cars were used to break up the demonstration.

In the shipyards on Syros Island the employers locked out 1200 workers and sacked 60 when they were faced with demands for better hours and working conditions.

But despite these acts of repression, there is a growing awareness among workers of the need to fight. Building workers, textile workers, bank workers and public employees are all on a collision course with the government. If they are to defend their wages and conditions in the months ahead they will need solidarity with one another.

They will also need to see that having the right to vote is by itself not enough. It is necessary to fight to destroy completely the power of big business, the police and the army officers, whose tanks still stand behind Karamanlis.

Portugal: Workers defy law

FORTY THOUSAND workers marched through Lisbon last Friday in protest at the growing unemployment and at the presence of a large NATO fleet in Lisbon. They did so in defiance of a ban by the government and denunciation of the official leaders of most trade unions.

The demonstration was first called for by a meeting of workers in one large factory and later backed by representatives of workers' committees from 42 factories. Among the workers involved were those from the state airline TAP, the giant shipyard Lisnave, the post office, Plessey, Timex, Applied Magnetics and many other sections of industry.

The Communist Party-led Union of Southern Trade Unions denounced the demonstration as an attempt to 'create confrontations with the democratic forces and to sabotage the construction of democracy in Portugal'. The socialist leader, Soares, said the American ships were not in Lisbon 'to make politics' and that their sailors 'should be received just as Portuguese sailors would be received in the US'.

Games

Yet in the heated political atmosphere of recent weeks, it is difficult to believe that the US had its warships there just to play games. Had it come to an armed conflict between rival forces within the government and the armed forces, massive naval armaments within a few hundred yards of the centre of Lisbon would have had an important impact.

A spokesman for the joint workers' committee explained the day before the demonstration why it was going ahead with it: 'It was the workers who decided to demonstrate, and it is not up to us to cancel it. If the workers understand that it is useful to go ahead, it cannot be cancelled because of a bourgeois law...'

He pointed out that 'many worker militants of the Communist Party support this demonstration. But while workers are preparing a fight their leaders issue communiques trying to sabotage it. What the Communist Party is objectively doing is organising the population of Lisbon against those who take to the streets to fight against unemployment and exploitation.'



cent of the votes in an election in 1973 for posts in the educational system. Faced with this opposition the junta dissolved SUTEP, arrested 300 of its leaders and sacked more than 1000 teachers. Solidarity strikes, mass demonstrations and conflicts with the army followed, leading to the declaration of martial law in the southern provinces.

The agrarian reform is equally suspect. According to detailed studies it has only reached 1 per cent of the population and has achieved a shift of 3 per cent in the distribution of the Gross National Product. At the same time, the peasant leader Hugo Blanco remains an exile and the peasant organisations under firm

military control.

The junta is no more a left-wing force than the government of Sadat in Egypt.

In a backward country crushed under the weight of foreign big business the local bosses are not strong enough to build up their own base. Faced with foreign competition and rising militancy at home, they turn to the generals to solve their problems. Peru's junta is of this type, nationalising some companies in an effort to withstand foreign competition.

There is no doubt that the CIA, the Chilean and Bolivian generals, and some of the local bosses would like to get rid of Peru's President Velasco. The junta has failed to deal with poverty and unemployment and is forced to maintain its grip on the country by force and repression. Thus when the right wing attacks Velasco it opens the floodgates of popular discontent.

The Velasco junta claims to be left-wing because it is fighting US control of the economy. In fact it is unable to do even this successfully.

The only way out of the trap of inflation, unemployment and poverty is for the working class of Peru to take the state into its own hands. A planned economy controlled by the workers is the only force strong enough to smash the chains of imperialism.



International Socialists say:
STOP THE CUTS!
STOP THE SACKINGS!

Murdered by the Social Contract

ON CHRISTMAS DAY in Leytonstone House Hospital in East London, 50 patients were poisoned by their Christmas turkey. Two old ladies, Miss Alice Bailey, 61, and Miss Ivy Johnson, 56, were killed by it. Many more might have died. They had all contracted salmonella poisoning, a bacteria of the same species as typhoid.

The Borough Health Officer and the Coroner blamed the state of the hospital kitchens. Both stated publicly that a commercial establishment would have been prosecuted. But neither has any statutory power over hospitals.

So no-one will be charged with the murder of two defenceless old women. There will be no massive hunt by press or police to bring those responsible to justice, because the blame does not lie with some wretched individual. No single incident could highlight more viciously the priorities of the capitalist state and the governments that administer it in the interests of private wealth.

Half of Britain's hospitals were built before 1891. Only four new psychiatric hospitals have been built since the First World

War. Leytonstone House, a psychiatric hospital for women, was built in 1885.

The hospital administrator told the coroner's inquiry that plans to improve conditions in the kitchen before last April had to be abandoned for lack of finance.

The coroner replied: 'You would not have accepted the excuse of insufficient finance in a commercial establishment'. But British capitalism can no longer afford the National Health Service.

In December 1973, the Tory Government cut the NHS budget by £111 million, while in the same year the drug companies supplying the NHS announced record profits of £353 million. Barbara Castle restored £47 million of the Tory cut last summer, even though the British Medical Association had calculated that by that time £800 million was needed to maintain standards.

In the same month that Leytonstone

House abandoned its plans to upgrade the kitchens, Health Minister Castle told the Socialist Medical Association that solving the crisis in the NHS would be impossible because 'most of the additional wealth which the country creates in the next few years is likely to have to be used to salvage our balance of payments problem, and to increase investment'. Investment in the drug companies?

Budgets

Since her speech, this Labour Government, in the name of the Social Contract, and with the full co-operation of the TUC, has presided over successive attacks on the health and social services budgets. It is a direct and undisguised attack on our wages, on the services we pay for through taxation at source.

By
STEVE LUDLAM

Poison on a hospital meal tray



Leytonstone House Hospital ... lack of cash

Express Staff Reporter *Two die, 140 hit by dinner from kitchen where cockroaches were crawling*

BIRDS were flying around in the kitchen and cockroaches were crawling across the floor at a hospital where two women died of food poisoning. Conditions were so bad, an inquest heard yesterday, that if it had been a commercial premises it would

-From the Daily Express, 31 January

Together with the social contract's pay cuts, it constitutes this government's declared aim to shift still more wealth in this country from one class to another, from workers to capitalists.

The murders of Leytonstone House also pinpointed the hypocrisy and 'ethical bankruptcy' of the small group of consultants who rule the roost inside the NHS.

The part-time consultants who control the medical profession also control the allocation of resources within the NHS. They are also the private practice merchants who are now trying to undermine the NHS to preserve their right to do private work on expensive NHS equipment with NHS trained staff.

Their vested interest in the private market inside our health service has subjected the whole service to market-place priorities. There is no market for private work in geriatric and psychiatric hospitals.

So the consultants have seen to it that the lion's share of resources has been channelled into the acute and general hospitals, particularly the teaching hospitals in London, where they build their reputations and their private practices.

To preserve this the consultants are now taking industrial action for the first time, in the name of their 'clinical freedom'.

At Leytonstone House, a consultant psychiatrist told the inquiry that they knew kitchen facilities had always been a problem. Two poisoned patients would seem to undermine their 'clinical freedom'.

The consultants have never suggested industrial action to protect the hundreds of thousands of working people who suffer in an inadequate NHS.

The only people in this society who have the power to prevent more Alice Baileys and Ivy Johnsons dying are the organised working class.

Defend

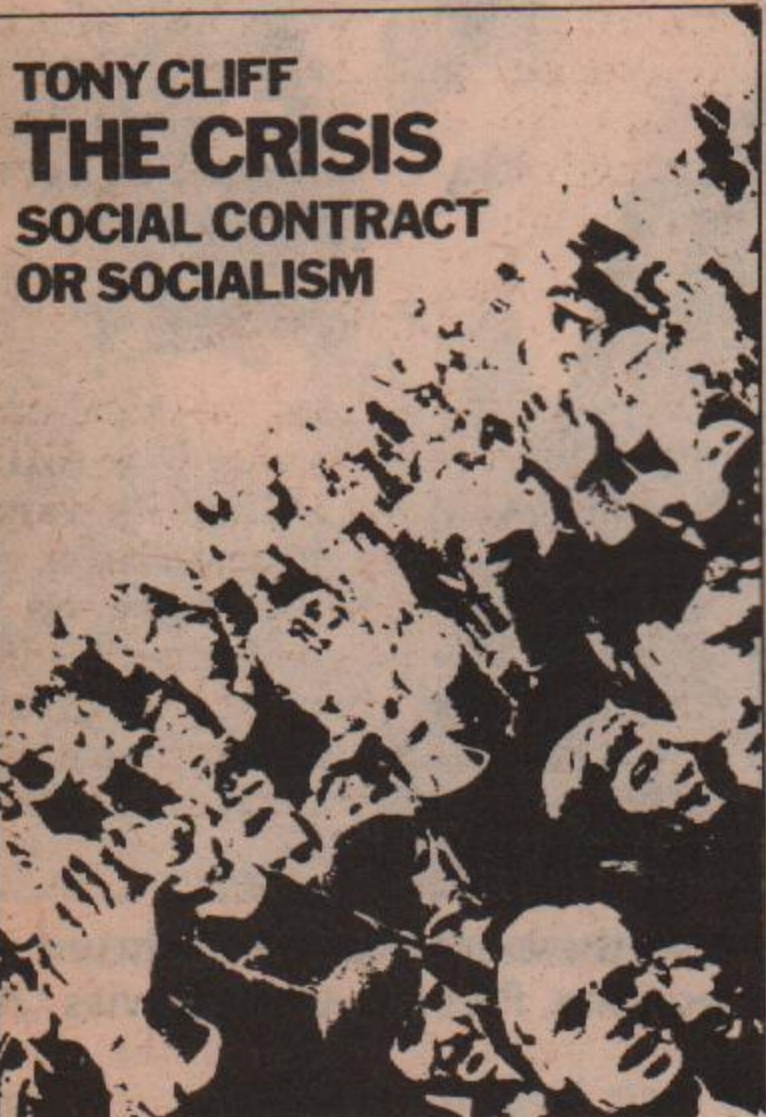
Protests and petitions are pathetic gestures. Where trade unionists inside the health service are well enough organised to catalogue and publicise the crimes they witness daily, it is still not enough.

Unless they can appeal directly to industrial workers to strike and threaten profits, their efforts will be wasted.

If you want to prevent more murders in the NHS your main job is to build a fighting force of rank and file socialist workers in your workplace who can lead the factory out to defend our services and smash capitalism, its murderous priorities, and its spineless servants in Transport House.

A Socialist Worker publication

TONY CLIFF
THE CRISIS
SOCIAL CONTRACT
OR SOCIALISM



75p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Also available from Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH, and bookshops. Bulk reductions for trade union branches, shop stewards committees, etc



While two old women are poisoned to death by their Christmas dinner, a matron at the London Teaching hospital lays on her Christmas binge (above). Three dozen dishes of shrimps and delicacies, two dozen bottles of wine, and a hogs head with an apple in its gob. The famous hospitals receive massive private donations as well as the lion's share of NHS cash. But we are fighting back. In this hospital, private practice has been unilaterally 'terminated' by the NUPE branch in response to the consultants' work-to-contract.

bookshops

Pamphlets produced by the International Socialists:

- The struggle for workers power by Roger Rosewell, 10p
- Can socialism come through parliament, by Roger Kline, 10p
- Workers against racism, by Paul Foot, 10p
- Women fight back, by Kath Ennis, 10p
- Trotsky, by Duncan Hallas, 5p
- Lenin, by Jim Higgins, 5p
- The meaning of Marxism, by Duncan Hallas, 25p. Study guide to the meaning of Marxism, by Richard Kuper, 10p
- The politics of Lenin, by Paul Kinsborg, 20p
- Russia: How the revolution was lost, by Chris Harman, 15p
- Asbestos, the dust that kills in the name of profit, 10p
- The struggle in Ireland, by Chris Harman, 15p
- Black workers in Britain, 15p
- Whats happening to our Health Service? by IS health workers, 10p
- Crisis in British Leyland—our answer, 10p
- Workers against the law: The truth about the Shrewsbury Trials, by Laurie Flynn, 10p

Antonio Gramsci and the origins of Italian Communism by John Cammett provides an excellent introduction to the man and his achievement (£1.50)

The economics of Imperialism by Michael Barratt Brown examines the Marxist concept of the connection between capitalism and imperialism (£1.25)

Close the Coalhouse Door, Alan Pflater's play of the history of the miners' struggles, is available again complete with the words and music of Alex Glasgow's songs (75p)

The September/October issue of **Radical America** is devoted to the class struggle in Britain: Major article by Ian Birchall plus Campbell and Rowbotham on Women, Dhondy on the Imperial Typewriters strike, Douglass on the Miners' strike, and Big Flame on Ford. (50p)

The Death Pit by Eric Foster is the story of the West Stanley Colliery explosion of 1909 in which 168 miners lost their lives. (62½p)

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

bookshops

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

How one firm was forced to back down

by Pete Clark

LAST OCTOBER, workers at Courtaulds in Spennymoor, County Durham, showed that a well-organised shop-floor can defeat a management determined to introduce short-time working.

Throughout August, Spennymoor worked normally with discussions going on about productivity increases. Then, in September, Courtaulds demanded a cut-back and negotiated a reduction of 12 hours every fortnight for the rest of September, but no longer.

At the end of September, management tried to continue the short-time working. The Dyers and Bleachers Union shop stewards' committee rejected this and, instead, went to a mass meeting, explaining the issues involved.

The meeting of all 1,600 Dyers and Bleachers members agreed there would be no flexibility of labour without normal working, and also voted to impose normal working after five days, if management would not give way.

Move

The management had been preparing for this situation since May. Throughout the summer they encouraged discussion on increasing production, extensive overtime was worked, standing orders with important customers were fulfilled.

Management provoked the next phase of the dispute. Seven men refused instructions to move jobs. They were immediately suspended, just two hours before new negotiations between management and union officials were planned to start.

But the shop floor was also prepared. A sit-in began immediately. All shifts were involved, covering the factory for 24 hours a day. Everyone clocked in and out.

Attendance was higher on some shifts than normal. The occupation committee made contact with other stewards throughout the occupation.

Gone

After eight days, Courtaulds surrendered and restored normal five-day working. Management had tried to soften up one of the best-organised factories in Courtaulds. Instead, the work-force was in a position to negotiate from strength. The whole of the rest of the combine was on a four-day week. Only Spennymoor broke through.

The work force was prepared, the arguments were carefully gone through, the stewards' committee had built up a tradition over months and years of strong organisation.

Whether a factory is facing lay-offs in some sections, or isolated redundancies, or is facing factory-wide lay-offs and threats of closure, the example set at Spennymoor can and must be followed.

In eight days, a management which planned to bring the work-force out on strike in an effort to soften them up was forced to surrender.

Sacked — by a union official

PAUL HAYES, a labourer and member of Preston UCATT No 2 branch in Lancashire and Bob Walsh, a bricklayer, were made redundant at Fulwood Barracks Maintenance Department on 21 January. Nothing very unusual in that, unfortunately, except that the foreman who gave them their redundancy notices, Albert West, is secretary of the UCATT branch in Chorley. Incidentally, Albert West is well past retirement age, and so is doing someone else out of a job in more ways than one.



Yes, we CAN save our jobs

by Angela McHugh, AUEW

1975—International Women's Year, Equal Pay year and the year when women are supposed to lose their inferior position—will be remembered by most working class women for rather different reasons. Short-time working and lay-offs, the signs of capitalism in crisis, will mean working class women will be the first to bear the burden of that crisis.

Already, women are struggling every week to make their money stretch further in the shops, while being put on short-time or being made redundant. Do they accept it because they are women and it is their burden in life? Or do they fight back?

Women in the home tend to be isolated and so feel there is nothing they can do to change things. Women in factories feel much stronger and are in a better position to fight back. That is what many are now doing.

Take the Rawplug factory in Glasgow, for instance. This firm, a subsidiary of Burmah Oil, makes masonry devices for the building industry and employs 700 people, 60 per cent of them women.

In the first week in January it was announced that women workers would be getting a rise towards equal pay. The next week the twilight shift was paid off and most of us on the day shift were put on a four-day week.

Work

Work had been running short for months because of the crisis in the building industry. The reaction of the women in the factory to the crisis has changed considerably over the last few months.

When work started running short and there were rumours of redundancies most of them didn't really care if they would be made redundant. Most thought all they had to do was collect their redundancy money and walk into another job.

However, with redundancy and short pay being announced every day in the west of Scotland, the women are beginning to think



Women such as these are bearing the brunt of the crisis. Short-time working. Picture: Chris Davies (Report).

again. They are beginning to realise that there are no jobs for them to go to, but most important of all they are beginning to realise that they have a right to work.

In fact, they have to work as their wages are no longer seen as secondary to their husband's pay packet, but are a necessary and vital part of the family income.

For years in our factory, the management and the union have walked all over the women. With the four-day week thrown at them, the women are beginning to reject this attitude.

'TOE THE LINE the Dole!' shouted last Sunday, joy cellor Healey.

The 'warning' of hundreds of thousands facing unemployment policies.

The picture is far shown in official shows that the lessons from the last year.

They've learned workers first, and areas where trade weakest.

That's the truth. Just look at the workers suffering for their militancy.

Last week the union agreed would be worked in some sections still. When our shop stood this back to the immediately rejected. For the first time women stood together that they had taken next day, a mass and women stood rejected overtime the men and the women in opposite camps have changed.



**E on Wages or Risk
and the Sunday Mirror
fully quoting Chan-**

comes as a grim joke to
hands of workers already
ent because of Healey's

worse than the 800,000
employment figures. It
esses have learned a few
Tories' three-day week

how to take on women
ow to hit hardest at the
union organisation is

about Healey's 'warning'.
t on this page. None of
g there have been noted
They are the weak ones.

by John Deason

So they are the first to go to the wall. The Social Contract and the trade union leaders who signed it are accepting unemployment. They create the atmosphere in which we believe that nothing can be done to stop it. Jack Jones, general secretary of the country's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers, says: 'I understand the Chancellor's view about the moderation of wage claims...'. In other words, he 'understands' that if we weaken our shop-floor organisation over wages, we can expect fewer lay-offs and redundancies. That's nonsense. Weak shop-floor organisation over wages will mean weak shop-floor organisation over sackings and lay-offs.

The choice is not between wages and

jobs. It's between accepting sackings and lay-offs or fighting to stop them.

We can fight, we must fight to protect our jobs. That means demanding nationalisation of firms and factories threatened with short-time or redundancy.

It means extending shop stewards' control over job conditions, manning levels and wage rates. It means linking strong shop stewards' organisation in one factory with weaker organisations in other factories.

This means combine shop stewards' committees and local rank and file trade union committees which can use the strength of several factories to counter a bosses' offensive in any one of them.

The offer from Hull dockers to black typewriters in defence of 1000 jobs at Imperial Typewriters, the mass strike of brewery workers for the striking Newcastle scaffolders—these are examples of how a rank and file movement could act.

Jobs



But there is an answer to the threat of sackings and

management and that overtime the factory by on five days. ward brought shop floor we d it.

in years, the er and decided nough. The eeting of men together and rking. Before, en have been ut now things

And last week the women walked out because of the inadequate heating in the factory. The women, who used to accept everything they were told by management and union, are now standing together and showing what they can do. They are at last beginning to realise that they have an important role to play in the trade union movement—not as wives and mothers standing behind their men but as women standing beside the men and fighting against unemployment.

THIS MONTH'S ROLL CALL FOR DENIS HEALEY...

MERSEYSIDE

Commonwealth Curtains: 100 women sacked

AC Delco: Twilight shift sacked

English Electric: 800 sacked

LEICESTER

Hinckley Hosiery: 20 workers sacked

Decca: 100 sacked

Imperial Typewriters: 1500 threatened with sack

EAST ANGLIA

Lowestoft, Birds Eye: Nightshift sacked

Norwich, Sexton shoes: 76 sacked

Fakenham, Brooke Bond Oxo: 130 sacked

Maldon, Ever Ready: 600 to be sacked

Braintree, Bradbury's: 40 sacked

HULL

Metal Box: 160 sacked, 1100 on 3-day week

Van Leers: 25 sacked, 400 on 4-day week

Hollis: 17 sacked, 400 on 4-day week

Hewetsons: 40 sacked, 50 on 3-day week.

Armstrong Patents: 150 sacked

MANCHESTER

Ward and Goldstone: 500 threatened with sack, mainly women

Small & Parkes: 700 on 4-day week

Huntfield Engineering: 115 on short time

Ferodo: 2000 threatened with short time

GLASGOW

Hoovers: 600 women sacked

British Sound Recordings: 800 women sacked

Singers: 8000 on 4-day week

Rawplug: 700 on 4-day week

WEST LONDON

Glynwed: 300 sacked

Walls, Harlesden: 1600 to be sacked

Firestones, Brentford: 4-day week



THE WEEK IN IRELAND

FRIDAY 31 JANUARY: At 6.00am, Peter McKenna was taken from his home in Cookstown, County Tyrone by soldiers and police, for questioning under Section 10 of the Emergency Provisions Act.

In Cookstown Police Station, he was beaten, punched, kicked and struck with a clothes brush by three men. Later, after being examined by a doctor, he was questioned about the sympathies of his family and friends, then stood against a wall and punched and kicked.

He was then continually struck by a clothes brush, fingers were pressed into his throat, his arm was bent back and, at one point, a gun was put to his head and the trigger pulled a number of times. The gun was empty.

Mr McKenna was taken by his doctor to hospital, where he is badly bruised and having difficulty with his breathing. No charges have been brought against him. The police have no plans to detain him.

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY: Paul McDonagh, a sheet metal worker with London Transport, was released from prison after three and a half weeks. He was being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and threatened with expulsion from Britain. No reason was given for his arrest, or for his release.

Thomas Cupples, a Belfast taxi driver, was expelled from Britain. He was in Glasgow for a few days to buy a new taxi.

MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY: The first internment orders of 1975 were served. A Cookstown man and six people from Republican areas of Belfast were arrested and sent to the Maze prison, Long Kesh. They included a 52-year-old grandmother, Marjorie McConville from the Lower Falls.

Her husband said he couldn't understand why she had been

The game the army played on Mr McKenna

interned. She is active with the Green Cross, which looks after the welfare of Republican prisoners and detainees in the North.

WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY: A report issued by the Association for Legal Justice said that judges, police, the army, the Director of Public Prosecutions, and prison administrators are still mainly anti-Catholic.

In a study of legal cases from the first half of 1974, they discovered 'a strong anti-Catholic bias in the legal system'. The average jail sentence for Catholics was 8.4 years, for Protestants 5.7 years, for army or police two years.

THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY: The SAS, the British Army's secret unit is issued with a new weapon, a silent sub-machine gun which does not make night-time muzzle flashes. The 9mm Ingram, as it is called, has a range of more than 150 feet.

The makers, the Military Armament Corporation, describe it as an 'ideal personal weapon for clandestine operations'. They have already sold it in the USA, Chile, Colombia, Dominica and Saudi Arabia.

LETTERS

Send your letters to **LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.** Please try to keep them to not more than 250 words. Let us have your name and address but specify if you don't want your name published.



Margaret Thatcher—to the right of Heath

The snatcher

MRS THATCHER, the Sun informed us last week, 'has become a hero of women's lib.' Before we all drown in a morass of self-congratulation at this fine example of liberated womanhood, let's just remember that this woman is a Tory who is far to the right of Heath.

If she is a prospective PM or cabinet minister we can expect, on the basis of her past record, massive cuts in welfare spending and regressive education policies. One of her staunchest supporters is Sir Keith Joseph, who wants more unemployment and less social security.

The fact that Thatcher is a clever politician simply makes her that much more dangerous. Politicians are all basically the same. They are interested in power, profit and preserving the status quo. They should be attacked for those reasons, whatever their sex.

Women prime ministers, women newspaper proprietors, women directors-general of the BBC, women heads of ICI or Shell are all irrelevant. There is no point demanding equality for women except in the context of radical social and political change in society.—DAISY DORMER, London SW4.

Prevention is better than...

MARGARET RENN's article (9 February) on the proposed changes in the abortion law rightly states that abortion ought to be available safely for all women who need it.

She misses the point that it is a second best method of birth control and should be considered with the aim of free, efficient and readily available contraception.—BARBARA FOSTER, Exeter.

'Craft' could sink us at Fords

YOUR ARTICLE on craft unions (1 February) prompted me to write about the set up at Fords. A group called the National Skilled Men's Committee have set themselves up in all the company's plants. Members pay a 5pence a week subscription.

The secretary is Paul Caps, a tool-room shop steward and one of the main instigators is Reg Birch of the Engineering union. Also to the forefront is the Pattern Makers union and the Electricians union.

The main target is the Transport union and non-skilled members of the

AUEW. During recent wage talks blows were exchanged between two AUEW convenors. At Swansea three AUEW craft shop stewards had their credentials taken away for following a policy of splitting craft and non-craft members from each other.

At Dagenham and other plants there is now a split between craft

and non-craft union members. The skilled men try to get shop stewards who believe in workers unity removed by sending out regular news sheets attacking skilled stewards who attack them and the convenors.

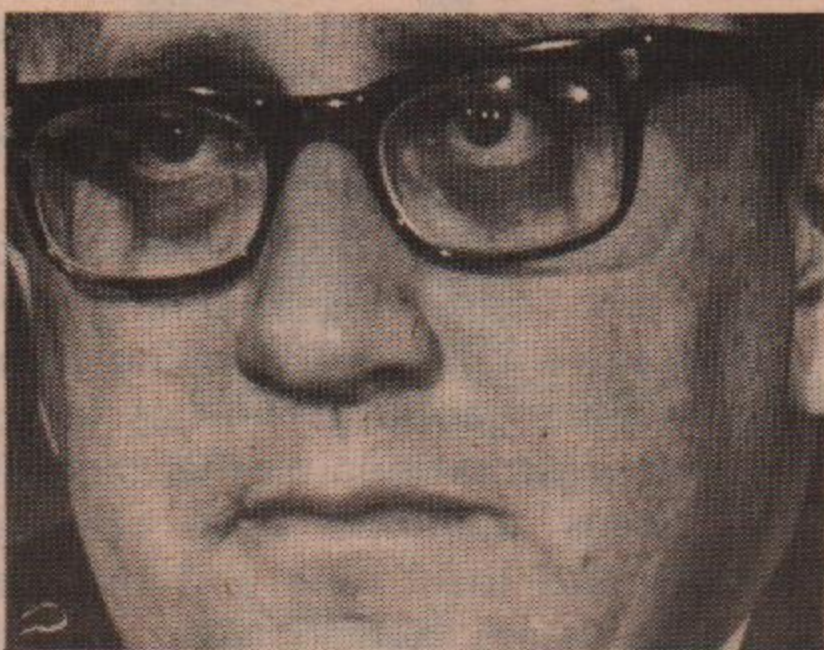
A lot of skilled stewards are attacking this anti-working class activity. They are being threatened by Reg Birch, who keeps the conflict from being discussed at national level.—J WILSON, Dagenham.

Confusing...

THE ARTICLE on petrol (1 February) was typical of the confusing sensationalism which you frequently lapse into. The point about tax privileges enjoyed by commercial car owners was worth emphasising.

In trying, however, to make a simple comparison between 'lucky people' and the 'workers' you obscured the real issues and failed to provide a real socialist analysis.

You should have concluded that cheap public transport should be expanded at the expense of privately owned vehicles. Private transport is typical of the waste of resources under this system.—NICK BROTHIE, Glasgow.



Kissinger—you want peace? Well here's a Phantom...

The puzzle solved...

I HAVE long wondered exactly why Dr Henry Kissinger was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. But after reading the papers last week I found out.

In the Guardian he was quoted as follows about the December 1973 stalemate in the Vietnam peace talks. 'Start the bombing immediately. These madmen have double crossed us. Go on national television tomorrow and announce to the American people that we are resuming full scale bombing of the North.'

The Sunday Telegraph then reported on Henry's strategy in the Middle East. This amounted to

gaining influence by selling arms to both sides. What a man. What a system!—RON BROWN, London, N9.

EEC: I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND!

AFTER reading the Common Market article (1 February) I'm pretty confused about the way we should vote on the referendum in June.

Obviously the Common Market is in the immediate interests of European big business—a logical step in the development of monopoly capitalists to find more room to manoeuvre. The problem for socialists is how best to counter this development. In what way do we treat this latest device—in order to twist it around to the advantage of working class of Europe? Do we completely reject this idea and vote 'No' (as Harman advises) or is there any other road which might lead to our advancement?

Europe's capitalist class has hit upon the idea of a Common Market to give it more room. We know that all the talk of 'Internationalism' is a smoke-screen to the

real motive—higher profits. Yet I'm reluctant to renounce the whole idea of entering the European Economic Community.

I can see many of the pitfalls that we must expect to come from the bosses' common market; but also I feel some vaguely hopeful stirrings... Once the workers of Europe are subject to common economic and working conditions, then isn't there a potential for the working class to organise itself strongly throughout Europe? Once communications between union members in the EEC improve, then are we not on the path towards drawing the class closer together?

All these potentials are of course, fraught with danger—not least from the trade union bureaucrats scattered around Europe. It seems to me a gamble that none of us can predict.

What if we elected to stay out of

the EEC? Our own working class would be left with its traditional struggles, plus the added one of trying to operate out of limb. And yet it is, of course, the capitalists in this country who would be faced by that kind of isolation... it would certainly seem to weaken them. I'm worried that our own working class might become isolated too in the process of turning the clock back.

The Referendum then, is an important decision. We need plenty of information and plenty of discussion—especially from workers from member countries of the EEC. After all, they are the only allies we would be making once inside the 'market'—CONFUSED, N W London.

What are your views on the subject? We will be publishing more letters, plus a reply next week.

CONTROVERSY

CHRIS HARMAN's article 'The Crisis' (18 January) confused issues instead of clarifying them. He says: 'At the same time, wage cuts necessarily increase the overall total of unemployment. If car workers accept cuts in their living standards, they will be able to buy fewer other goods—shoes for instance. That means redundancies in the shoe industry, so that shoe workers have even less money to buy cars with.'

Wage cuts increase unemployment? If we accept the logic of his argument, then the crisis could be solved tomorrow by increasing wages. If wages were increased, then workers would be able to buy more goods and capitalists would have the long-awaited for incentive to increase production.

Capitalists have never been dependent on workers buying up their goods. Most goods produced by capitalists are by their very nature intended to be bought up by

other capitalists and not by workers—not many workers spend their savings on buying up factories.

On the contrary, the capitalists, as a class, would prefer it if the workers didn't buy any goods at all: if workers all lived on thin air and didn't insist on having a few consolations for the misery of factory work (a television, an extra pint of beer), then the capitalists could squeeze even more profits out of workers.

And now the point has been reached where capitalists really are being forced to question the right of workers to live on anything but thin air. Since the war, investment has been going on steadily without any major break; this means that the average worker is now using much more expensive machinery than he was, say, 10 years ago.

For the capitalist this means, unless he can drastically cheapen investment by some new leap in technology, the amount of

money he needs to 'modernise' his factory in order to squeeze an extra ounce of profit out of his worker becomes too great for it to be worth it.

So investment falls, and unemployment increases. As for the permanent arms economy, it has indeed slowed down the whole process by diverting large amounts away from investment but has not reversed the development of the capitalist crisis, and will certainly not insure us a boom, however short lived, in two or three years time, as Chris Harman seems to believe.

A drastic cut in wages would in fact solve the crisis, but along capitalists lines. If workers limit their actions to defending their living standards, this will mean a deepening of the crisis. The only solution is to go the whole hog and replace the profit-making system.—DAVID PAENSON, Ilford.

THE writer underestimates the long term scale of world capitalism's crisis. It couldn't be solved even if every worker accepted massive cuts.

Wage cuts do lead to increased unemployment. If car workers' living standards drop they buy less shoes, food, etc, and millions are employed making these things.

Increased profits might eventually lead industrialists to open new factories. But this wouldn't solve unemployed shoe workers' problems, especially if living standards in the new factories were low. And the investment boom would rapidly

turn into a slump as rising raw material costs cut into industrial profits.

On one thing you're correct. Wage rises can't solve the real crisis of the system either—as used to be pretended by Keynesians and reformist socialists.

Rising wages would prevent profits rising and ensure that no new investment was undertaken by big business.

All this shows that there is no way within the system for dealing with the forces driving towards crisis. Neither wage cuts nor wage increases can help it out in the long run. That doesn't mean that the

present recession will last forever. The history of capitalism has not been continuous slump, but slump-boom-slump.

The measures recently taken by the US government might lead in a year or two years time to the present recession giving way to a boom. The real point is that the roots of the crisis will not be affected. The boom will be based on a higher level of unemployment than the last boom, so that workers who are made unemployed in the months ahead will not necessarily get new jobs. And the rate of inflation will be such as to produce an even worse slump soon afterwards.

THERE WAS an error in Socialist Worker (1 February)—which could be dangerous. It concerned the Yarnolds strike in Wolverhampton.

The article said that women are on £13 for 40 hours. It didn't make clear that this is only the basic and people have complained that the paper is distorting the facts.—STEVE HAMBLETT, DuJley.

Women who are on piecework can earn up to £20 a week. Many aren't—and are on the basic £13.

CALM, RATIONAL CONSULTANTS... At the Royal Free Hospital Medical School, London I attend, a meeting was held in December to discuss private practice in the National Health Service. A young registrar put the economic case against private-practice in a very cool and un-emotional manner... He was interrupted by cries of 'Rubbish' from a consultant... Only two consultants did come but they completely dominated the meeting. The meeting was divided over private practice but despite this all the other speakers from the floor made their points reasonably and courteously. But the two consultants poured abuse on the speaker, shouted down floor speakers, interrupted constantly and gave confidential—and irrelevant—information about the medical histories of Labour Party politicians. Only in a Medical School could they have received such a polite and attentive (though far from like-minded) audience; only in a London Medical School—a bastion of tradition and deference—could they so freely have abused the audience. They were only too obviously accustomed to yelling at subordinates and expected anyone they yelled at to jump just as their subordinates in hospital have to.—SHARON AYLNER, London NW1.

ISOLATION... Neighbourhood associations, tenants groups, and other groups that gather together people on a friendly communal basis, seem to me, to be dying out... This is just the sort of thing capitalism thrives on... It creates classes, putting some people above others, this helps to create antagonisms between peoples. Capitalism creates a very 'individualistic' way of thinking, encouraging greed and individual selfishness... Socialism is the opposite of these tendencies, it seeks to create a strong sense of harmonious feeling among people. Communism after all, means the coming together of all people on a communal basis to do things in a common effort... A look at the rush hour in London shows the 'Dog eat Dog' mentality in practice... many readers can think of other examples. Profits for a few, means forcing most people into situations, that they don't like or want, eg boring and unrewarding jobs... It ties many people to shift work or having to live near work... and as Socialist Worker has shown it helps to impair many workers' health.—REVOLUTIONARY, Suffolk.

THE DAWN... It was about time that Socialist Worker wrote something about gay people's oppression (14 December)... It has been depressingly void on sexism, women's oppression and gay oppression until this article... Not all workers are male and heterosexual you know! A gay warehouseman.—ANGUS SUTTIE, London, NW1

FROM AFAR... Unless the British recognise the Irish people's right to self determination... there will never be peace in Ireland... It's a pipe dream for progressive people to imagine there can be a peaceful re-unification of Ireland via the Ballot box... It's ludicrous for the British to hold on to their oldest colony. The French in Algeria and the Australians and Americans in Vietnam are examples of colonial wars that ended in disaster for the imperialist aggressors.—COLIN MCGARVEY, Sydney, Australia.

STONEHOUSE... Paul Foot's article on John Stonehouse was excellent. This man Stonehouse disgusts me. These people climb to positions of trust on the backs of working class people and then proceed to blow non-pedigree peasantry like myself a huge raspberry. Watching the cover up process in the House of Commons by both Tory and Labour is really amusing. As a pensioner I ask, 'Do these people think we are daft' and, 'Are they all at it?' I was always under the impression that to travel round on a forged passport was a criminal offence. One law for the Shrewsbury Two and another law for wily MPs.—JOHN A BEST, Glasgow.

The student movement today
Alex Callinicos & Simon Turner

The building industry
Alistair Goulding

The return of Bukharin
review article by Peter Sedgwick

International Socialism 75

Monthly journal of the International Socialists
25p including postage from:
IS Journal
8 Cottons Gardens
London E2 8DN

Her Royal Idleness



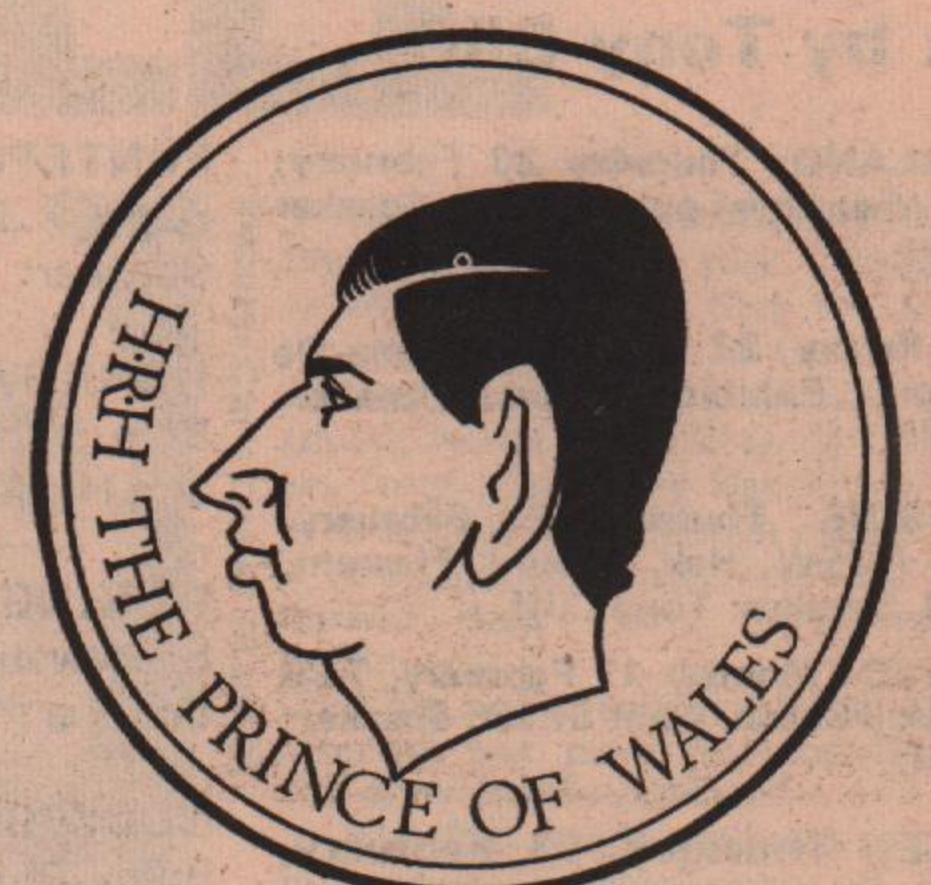
THE QUEEN: £4,280,000 a year, tax free



PRINCE PHILIP: £65,000 a year, mostly tax free



PRINCESS ANNE: £50,000 a year, tax free.



PRINCE CHARLES: £200,000 a year tax free from the Duchy of Cornwall

STANLEY BAXTER, the comedian, had it right. Those who run this country will do almost anything to persuade ordinary people to carry on supporting the Royal Family, the leading idlers and parasites in this land.

They'll put it about that they're good for British business, good for exports. They'll show you herself and her family on television to get you thinking that she, too, has trouble finding the slot when the electricity cuts out.

Or, as Stanley had it, they have Phone-In Royal Weddings where you can garner every detail, feel part of the Wedding Party itself just by lifting the phone.

The idea is simple. If they get you thinking that the Queen and the Royal Family are acceptable not to say unquestionable, then you'll start coming out with other strange ideas, such as 'where would we all be without employers', 'investors take risks and must have appropriate rewards' and goodness knows what else.

And so, it is also vital for you to be deprived of information that might cause you to say: 'Wait a minute. Getting rid of this lot would pay a few hundred thousand

In this country loyalty to the Queen is used by the profitmongers to blind the eyes of the people; in America loyalty to the flag serves the same purpose. Law and order, by which the commoners are kept quiet whilst they are being fleeced by their masters, must have a symbol, and anything will serve. Therefore, until the system of wealth

pensioners' winter fuel bills.'

William Hamilton's new book on Royalty* contains some of this information.

He describes in detail how the fabulous wealth of the Royal Tribe is allowed to multiply. They pay no tax. They pay no death duties. They don't have to pay capital gains on their investments.

They get hundreds of thousands of pounds tax free from the Treasury each year. Hamilton documents a hundred other interesting little ways of fleecing the public.

Hamilton chronicles how, in 1971, when members of a House of Commons select committee tried to get the Royals to admit how much they were worth, no answers were forthcoming.

and production be changed, it is not worth exchanging a king for a president. The robbery of the poor would go on equally under the one as the other. The king [queen] fraud will disappear when the exploitation of the people draws to a close.

—Keir Hardie, first Labour MP

BY LAURIE FLYNN

He describes how, just after axing free milk for schoolkids and just before taking on the greedy miners, the Tory government (with the full co-operation of the Labour Party, left and all) handed over massive increases to every member of the ever-growing Royal Retinue.

Hamilton concludes that the real extent of these creatures' wealth is 'one of the most closely guarded secrets of modern times'. And he indicates that Royalty is but the summit of a whole mountain of idlers and profiteers who dominate

this and other lands.

But his book never really lives. It is a compilation of press cuttings and a great deal of personal reminiscence shorn of any real analysis or social criticism.

Hamilton's venom is theatrical, and one suspects it only comes near to being real when he changes targets and attacks the reds under the beds, the very people who would sweep away the whole class of gorgeous garbage who occupy palaces, fine houses, board-rooms, and estates.

For Willie Hamilton is a strange character who, you can be sure, would be moved to tears of joy if only Royalty would pay their taxes and renounce their titles.

He wouldn't worry that they

stayed immensely wealthy. They could simply join the more everyday, and therefore more acceptable, class of parasites we really could not do without.

Nevertheless, there are one or two points where 'Oor Wullie's' book is truly revealing. His contempt for ordinary people comes through when he writes of the traffic in honours. It isn't the Feathers, Briginshaws and suchlike who set the style that he has in mind, but the ordinary pathetic creatures lower down the scale, 'the women in their Co-op hats', as he puts it.

And he really cannot avoid saying something about the chronic state of decay and decomposition of the Labour Party.

He writes of the delight H Wilson and Co take in fawning before Her Majesty. He comments on the ease with which the left-wingers of today become the peers of tomorrow. He talks of how 'the suffocating, corrupting influence of the cloisters of Parliament has done its work.'

He adds: 'The ability of the British ruling class to absorb and contain its enemies is a well-known fact.' He should know...

* *My Queen and I*, by Willie Hamilton (Quartet Books, £3.50).

ONCE upon a time, the Central Intelligence Agency was a little-known department of the US civil service, set up to gather information about potential threats to security.

But, over the last five years, the secrecy of this most secret of organisations has been shattered. Now President Ford has been forced to call an official inquiry into it to halt an almost daily flood of revelations.

Those revelations show an invisible and self-governing empire with a limitless supply of funds and equipment and an organised base in every country in the world. The CIA can now be confidently shown to have played a leading part in US-inspired coups in Iran in 1953, Saigon and Guatemala in 1954, the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the overthrow of Allende's Popular Unity government in Chile in 1973.

On top of these military operations, there is individual sabotage and murder, black propaganda and bribery, the establishment of anti-communist front organisations and the continuous monitoring of labour and socialist organisations.

And this 'security' work goes on not only in foreign affairs but also in American society, though it is expressly forbidden by the CIA's charter.

Perhaps the most convincing and detailed expose of the CIA's operations is contained in a Penguin paperback *Inside the Company: CIA Diary**, written by a repentant agent of 12 years' standing called Philip Agee.

Micky Fenn travelled to Cornwall, where Agee is now living with his two children and a Brazilian socialist called Angela, to talk to him about his change of heart, about how the CIA operates and how the socialist movement can best deal with it. He found a matter-of-fact, modest, and in his judgement, honest man.

The C.\$\$.A. BY A MAN WHO FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY

When I joined the CIA I sincerely believed reform could be achieved through American foreign policy and that the CIA was trying to buy time for reforms. My doubts started in 1965 when the US and the CIA decided to overthrow the mildly radical government of Juan Bosch in the Dominican Republic.

For the first time, I asked myself whether America was in it for reforms or simply dominating other countries for the good of American big business. At the time I was involved in setting up a Public Safety Mission Aid in Montevideo to train the Uruguayan police in techniques of spying and infiltrating left-wing organisations.

I personally ordered the arrest of Oscar Bonaudi, the leader of a group of Communist defence squads, for preventive detention. Later, during a conference on another subject at the Police Headquarters, I recognised the screams of this man. He was being tortured.

I became more and more doubtful about what exactly I was involved in. I believe that a whole generation of younger CIA operators have very serious doubts about US policy since Vietnam. It's impossible to have any belief in constitutional democracy and stomach what the US did in Chile.

In 1968 I resigned formally and began thinking about writing a book to expose the CIA's operations. I was encouraged by a left-wing French publisher but the Agency sent people after me, chasing me all over Paris, and succeeded in getting me to use a typewriter which was bugged up to the eyeballs.

I wrote mainly about the CIA's operations in Latin America but I have no doubt that there is some CIA spying in British trade unions, although they probably leave the bulk of it to MI5. The TUC, of course, is still affiliated to the ICFTU, which is known to be CIA-funded.

In general, the CIA supports anything that is good for business and socialism is obviously bad for business.

Unstable

This means they tend to move extra operatives into situations where the socialist movement is growing or where the political situation gets unstable. These agents work with the local secret service where they trust them, and operate independently when things go out of control.

Obvious places now are Italy and Portugal, where the class war is only about to begin.

The CIA are particularly fond of

Not to be missed...

THE 7:84 THEATRE COMPANY, the most professional of the socialist theatre groups, are starting a six-week tour of *Fish in the Sea*, John McGrath's new musical about Liverpool politics, with their first London appearance for 18 months. The play talks about Belfast bombs, the student left and the perils of marriage with humour and guts. It lasts three hours, has a cast of ten and a band of five.

It's at the Half Moon, Alie Street, Whitechapel, E1 until Saturday 22 February, the Sherman Arena Theatre, Cardiff until 8 March, the Stephen Joyce Studio at Manchester University until 12 March, the York Arts Centre until 12 March, Liverpool area—including several performances in IPD Kirkby—until 29 March and finishes with a one-week East Midlands tour.

BY A MAN WHO FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY

siphoning funds towards military right wing groups who will physically attack the Left for them. Groups similar to the National Front, such as the National Defence Front in Ecuador and Patria Y Libertad, the Chilean fascists.

Perhaps I am in physical danger from the CIA. But what should I do, run for cover and hide in Cuba? My fight is with capitalism and I can fight it best here. I intend to do my best to expose the CIA and its agents all over the world and alert people to the extent of their activities.

I hope very much my book will prompt doubts in other CIA agents. I hope it will make them realise that they are responsible for the murders of workers in Chile, Brazil and Uruguay—because the CIA provides the finance, the weapons and the training for these murders.

* *Inside the Company: CIA Diary*, by Philip Agee (Penguin, 95p).

WHEN TO SWITCH ON

SUNDAY
RADIO-4: 9.3pm. MARY BARTON, a novel by Mrs Gaskell, one of the many fine Victorian women novelists is serialised. It is set in the slums of the cotton mills of the 1840s. On ITV at 11pm (most stations) is ON REFLECTION which is about the suffragette, Lady Constance Lytton. On BBC-2 at 7.25pm is RETURN TO HONG KONG in the WORLD ABOUT US series. It features two Chinese living in Britain, a waiter—and his boss. On BBC-1 at 11pm is INSIDE GERMANY a new series on Western Germany, starting with national service and conscientious objectors. Back on BBC-2 at 10pm is INSIDE STORY—THE APPEAL, which deals with the attempts of one man to prove that his wife is married to him. The man is a Pakistani and the battle is against the immigration authorities.

MONDAY
BBC-1: 10.10pm. SILVER GIANT—WOODEN DWARF THIS WEEK'S offering in the CHURCHILL'S PEOPLE series is about King John. One must hope that the old crook who wrote the book which inspired the series is rotating slowly in his grave since the episode is written by the marxist playwright and poet Adrian Mitchell.

TUESDAY
On BBC-2 at 9pm is the early French talkie, SOUS LES TOITS DE PARIS, which is schmuck, but OK schmuck...

THURSDAY
BBC-1: 9.35pm. PLAY FOR TODAY is SUNSET ACROSS THE BAY directed by the man who made the excellent film *Gumshoe*, and about a Leeds couple's retirement to Morecambe. Same channel's MIDWINTER at 10.35pm looks at THE SUFFERING RICH, interviewing some of those who will groan under the Labour government's new taxes... A chance to get educated on RADIO-4 at 9.15pm with GO WEST WITH LEE, a German play about one of the leaders of the 1968 'riots'. At 9.45pm is the first episode of PLATO'S REPUBLIC, starring prominent Greek philosopher Socrates...

FRIDAY
BBC-1: 10.15pm. FACE YOUR IMAGE features ASTMS boss Clive Jenkins, being confronted with other people's view of him.



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.

THE CRISIS—SOCIAL CONTRACT OR SOCIALISM Public meetings around the new book by Tony Cliff

SUNDERLAND: Thursday 20 February, 7.30pm, Wheatsheaf public house. Speaker Tony Cliff.

YORK: Friday 21 February, 8pm, De Grey Rooms, Exhibition Square. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

MERSEYSIDE: Thursday 27 February, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

SHEFFIELD: Monday 17 February, 7.30pm, The Mail Coach, Went Street. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

DUNDEE: Thursday 13 February, 7.30pm, Main Hall, Royal Centre Hotel, Union Street. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum, (former AUEW-TASS convenor, John Browns, Glasgow).

WOOLWICH AND GREENWICH: Wednesday 19 February, 8pm, Charlton House, Charlton Village SE7. Speaker: Jim Nichol (IS national secretary).

BRISTOL: Friday 28 February, 1.10pm, Students Union, Bristol University. Speaker: Wally Preston (AUEW).

IS public meetings

SHELL CARRINGTON IS Group public meeting: The future of Carrington. Speakers: Chris Martin (TGWU shop steward, Shell, Coryton) and national IS speaker. Thursday 13 February, 8pm, Partington Community Centre, Central Road, Partington. All Shell workers invited.

BRISTOL IS open educational meetings: Every first and third Wednesday of the month, 8pm. The George Hotel, Newfoundland Street, Bristol. All welcome.

DIDSBURY COLLEGE IS Society Film: Companero. Thursday 20 February, 8pm, Simon O.S., Didsbury College of Education, Manchester. Admission 15p. DISCO Wednesday 26 February, 8pm-onwards. Bar and light show. Tickets 15p. Behrens Social Room, Didsbury College. Proceeds to buy district duplicator.

POOLE IS public meeting: The Fight Against Redundancies. Speaker: Ken Appleby (IS industrial department). Tuesday 18 February, 8pm, Poole Labour Club, Wimborne Road.

Meetings for IS members

INNER WEST LONDON district aggregate for formation of new district. Wednesday 26 February, 7.30pm, Lime Grove Baths, Lime Grove (near Shephards Bush tube). IS executive and district representatives, and election of district committee.

LONDON NALGO Fraction meeting: Tuesday 25 February, 7.30pm, Enterprise Pub, Chalk Farm (opposite Chalk Farm tube). All London NALGO comrades to attend.

NATIONAL NALGO fraction conference, Saturday 5 July, Manchester.

IS BRANCH EDUCATION ORGANISERS' national meeting: Saturday 1 March, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 11.30 to 5.30pm.

IS HEALTH FRACTION executive meeting: Saturday 1 March, 1.30pm to 5.30pm, The Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, London N1 (near Kings Cross Station). Open to any fraction member to attend!

North West & Yorkshire Region IS Day School: Economics of the Crisis. John Palmer leading discussion. Manchester, Saturday 2 March. Further details next week.

IS notices

Socialist Worker needs an assistant business manager. Office experience and typing are advantages, but willingness to work hard more important. Contact Liz Balfour, Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Phone 01-739 2639.

IS AGIT-PROP COMMITTEE PRESENTS—for the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund—an evening of Marxist entertainment with The Black and White Miners Show, by the York Shoestring Theatre, The Miners, the latest documentary from Cinema Action, songs from Mr Leon Rosselson, and class war classics from Chris Searle's poetry band Two Fingers. Plus a secret top bill attraction to be announced next week. Friday 21 February, 7.30pm, The Holborn Assembly Rooms, John's Mews, near John Street, London WC1 (behind the junction of Grays Inn Road and Theobalds Road). Come early to avoid disappointment.

THE GENERAL WILL apologise for failing to perform at last Friday's London IS Social and the consequent early closure. Their Transit van broke down on the M1. The General Will hope to appear in London at a later date for an SW Benefit. Many thanks to The Claimants for holding the evening together.

BEST WISHES and fraternal greetings to Bernadette and Ken Montague on the birth of their son, Brendan, on Thursday 7 February. From their comrades in North West London. Another comrade in the struggle!

PONTEFRAC: Wednesday 19 February, 7.30pm, Pontefract Town Hall. Speaker: Tony Cliff. All welcome.

HARROW: Wednesday 19 February, 8pm, Victoria Hall, Harrow. Speaker: Jim Higgins.

WOKING: Wednesday 26 February, Sheerwater Community Centre. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

NORWICH: Wednesday 19 February, 8pm, Central Library. Speaker: Steve Jefferys.

COVENTRY: Friday 14 February, 7.30pm, Lanchester Polytechnic, Room LL13 (next to The Odeon). Speaker: Tony Cliff.

WAKEFIELD: Tuesday 18 February, 8pm, Elephant and Castle, Westgate. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

AVONMOUTH: Wednesday 27 February, 7.30pm, Shirehampton Public Hall, Station Road. Speakers: Wally Preston (AUEW) and local trade unionists.

CHELMSFORD IS public meeting: Get the Troops out of Ireland: Neil Davies (ex-paratrooper). Wednesday 19 February, 8pm, Civic Centre.

DARLINGTON IS Social with Shoestring Theatre, Arthur Eals and Dave Blair. Friday 28 February, 8pm, Travellers Rest, Cockerton. Tickets 50p.

BRISTOL IS STUDENTS open meeting: The Grants Campaign. Speaker: Simon Turner (IS student organiser). Tuesday 18 February, 1.10pm, Students Union, Bristol University.

IS PORTUGAL GROUP Forum: Portugal—socialism or barbarism? Speaker from Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee. Friday 21 February, 7pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, WC1.

EDINBURGH HOSPITAL WORKERS IS public meeting: What is happening to our Health Service? Speakers: Jim Kincaid and Myra Armstrong (Rank and File Teacher). Thursday 20 February, 7.30pm, The Union Centre, Picardy Place.

IS ITALIAN GROUP: The Revolutionary Left in Italy. Saturday 1 March, 2 to 5pm, 20 Durlston Road, London E5. For details phone Mike Balfour 06284-2671.

IRELAND: The crucial demands

IS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT

THE next two months will be crucial for IS work on the Irish question, on the two key demands of Troops out now! and Repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Two key events in the coming months are the national Troops Out demonstration on Sunday 6 April and the labour movement conference for troops out on Saturday 24 May.

The demonstration is a method of mobilising for the conference. IS is calling for a full national mobilisation of all its members and supporters on the demo.

In particular the emphasis must be to win commitment and support in the trade union movement. Resolutions of support should be moved now. Student unions should be encouraged to do the same.

A letter sponsoring the two events will be published in Socialist Worker soon, and every effort must be made to win support for it. Please send details of successes to the IS Irish sub-committee for inclusion in Socialist Worker.

SPREAD

We believe that it is possible to break out of the narrow confines of the socialist left, and with a real effort involves hundreds of trade unionists in activity around the campaign to get the British troops out of Ireland.

IS activity on the question of getting the troops out should go on in every area, whether or not a local Troops Out Movement organisation exists. IS is affiliated nationally to the Troops Out Movement, but it is

'Standing only' for Cliff

THERE was standing room only when Tony Cliff addressed an Edinburgh District IS public meeting on the crisis. The largest room in the Trades Council Club was packed as more than 130 people heard Cliff explain the dilemma facing the ruling class, the Labour government and the trade union leadership. The socialist alternative was spelt out clearly. This meeting gave the Edinburgh IS comrades a great boost, and since then valuable contacts and recruits have been gained.



not our policy to form local committees just for the sake of it. Where the Troops Out Movement exists and has a meaningful local base and influence IS members should work with it and in it. Where the formation of a TOM branch can usefully expand troops out campaign work, and not merely provide a get-together of various small left groups, we should seriously consider the formation of branches.

We will have full coverage of the campaign in the coming weeks. Every effort must be made now to make both the demonstration and the conference a real success.

EVER READY?

CHELMSFORD IS urgently need information about the Ever Ready group, particularly on redundancies in the past few years. Write or phone Geoff Ellen, 113 Robin Way, Chelmsford, Essex. (Chelmsford 59129).

'Behind the Wire' seen by 3000

THE film Ireland: Behind the Wire finished its three-week IS tour of 16 British towns last week. Its audience only once fell below 100 and more than 300 people watched the film in Glasgow, Coventry and Leeds.

A total of well over 3000 people have now seen the first uncensored feature film from the other side of the barricades and after costs and adding in collections the tour has cleared £300 for the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

Large numbers of Irish workers were at almost all the showings, including comrades from the Republican organisations. At one of the few student showings, at Warwick University, building workers came off the site to watch the film.

Although there have been criticisms of the film's length, the smoothness of arrangements and the unexpected size of audiences is an impressive demonstration of IS's local strength. The makers of the film, the Berwick Street Film Collective, have thanked IS for laying on a tour which 'no one else was capable of arranging', as they put it.

The film, in a new shortened version, is still available for hire—contact the makers direct, the Berwick Street Film Collective, 7/9 Earldam Street, London W1 (phone 01-240 2350).

Socialist Worker and the IS Agitprop Committee are already planning another national film tour in May. We are also preparing a guide to socialist films available with some notes on how to arrange a showing. Advice is also available by phone from Tami at the IS London bookshop (01-802 6145).

Paper sellers held under 1824 Act

by Mike Beacon, Preston IS
TWO Socialist Worker sellers from Wigan were arrested in Preston last Saturday and charged that they 'did wander abroad and trade in Socialist Worker paper without being duly licenced or otherwise authorised by law so do, contrary to section three of the Vagrancy Act 1824'. The occasion of this amazing new legal move was a mass paper sale in Preston by members of IS and the IMG, following a threat by the National Front that 'more militant members' were determined to stop us selling papers in the street. Their determined effort last Saturday took the form of trying to give out leaflets in Preston Market some distance away from where the papers were being sold.

It seems that the arrest of the two paper sellers from Wigan came after a complaint from a 'member of the public'. We are wondering if the National Front well-known as strike breakers, are now adding the job of police informers to the list.

The equality we'd have under socialism

IF we live in a rich society it is because millions of people co-operate to make it so. Consider the work or any one man or woman and you will find it depends on the social labour of hundreds, perhaps thousands of others.

If this system produces inequality, exploitation and injustice, then its only solution must be a social one. We call it socialism.

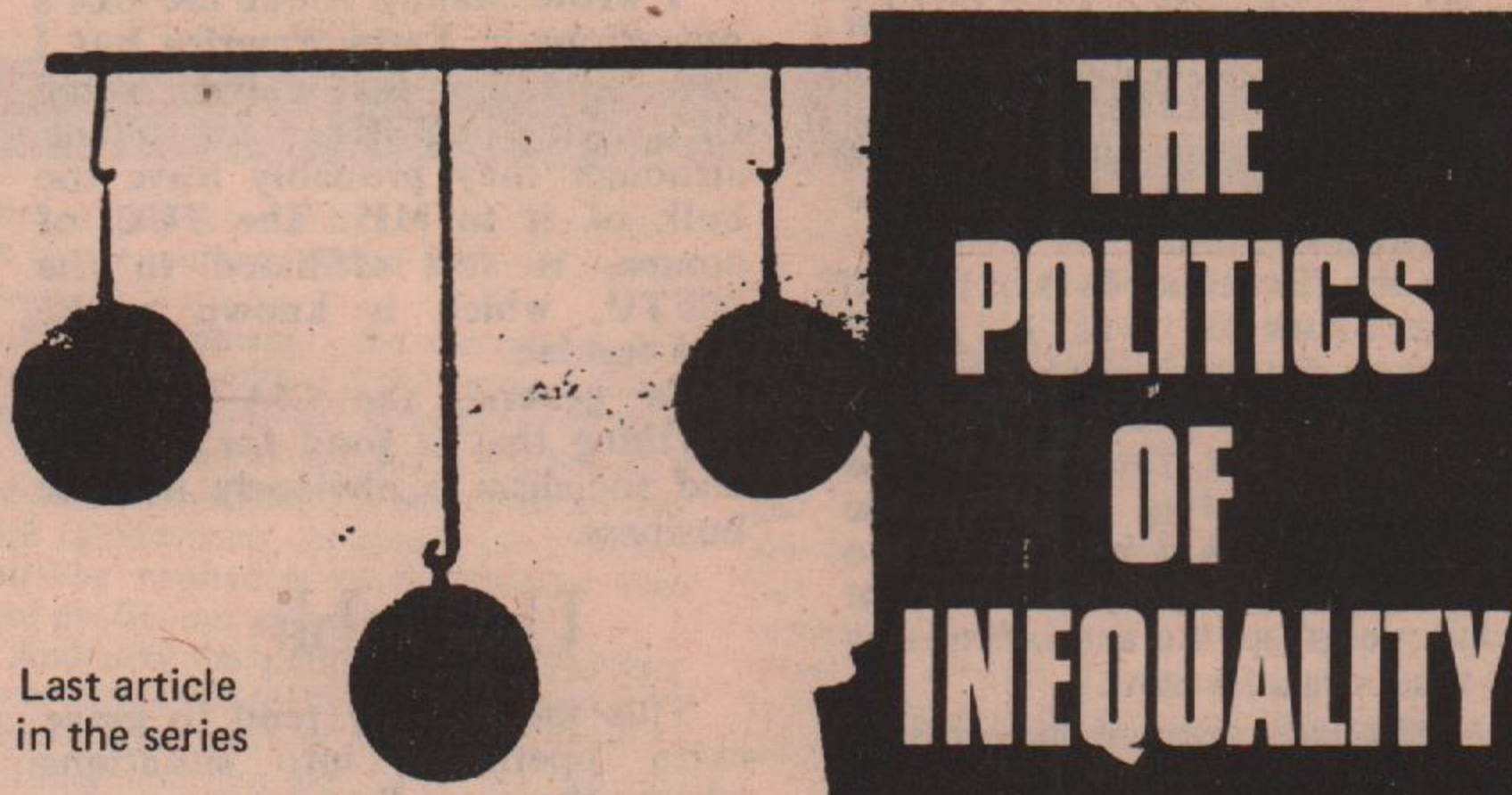
Under socialism, the man on the production line and the man directing operations would be paid the same wage. Does that sound utopian?

It shouldn't, because it would be perfectly workable. In fact the Bolsheviks attempted something of the sort after the Russian Revolution, when all party members were paid the same—whether a general, a soviet official, or a factory worker.

This applied even to the chair-man of the Council of People's Commissars, Lenin himself, and when a government official under the influence of old ideas about status raised Lenin's salary from 500 to 800 roubles a month, he received a severe reprimand.

Since Stalin, all vestige of that has gone . . . but that's another story.

The reason we demand continually higher wages under the present system is because it forces us to live in permanent insecurity, always under the threat that unemployment, a sudden illness or accident could leave us unable to



Last article in the series

work and our families on the bread-line.

Socialism would see a decent standard of living, free health, education, good housing and a living wage as rights due to everyone—ill, unemployed, old people included—and the vast majority would be happy to be paid equally.

Product

Unearned income—income from rent on land or property, dividends from stocks and shares, interest from bank loans—would be abolished. 'He that doth not work, neither shall he eat' is the principle that recognises that no wealth is produced without man's labour.

of the vast majority of workers whose lives they control.

The state that operated social ownership would be a workers' state. It would be run by workers' representatives paid the same wages as the workers, and subject to a system of democratic election that allowed them to be recalled at any time if they acted against the interests of those who elected them.

But the *ultimate* ideal of socialism is not simply pay equality. It is 'From each according to ability, to each according to need'. Our needs, after all, are not equal. Give us equal wages and you will create inequality: the single man will at once be far better off than the one with children to support, for example.

The attainment of that ideal is not as far-fetched as some would have us believe. It is the principle after all that underlies the National Health Service. Some people need lengthy and complicated operations, others need little treatment. The principle is that you receive according to need, free.

Though we live under a system that allows private patients, queue-jumping and often starves the NHS of funds, everyone accepts that the principle is correct.

Extend that principle to the whole of human life and you have what we are aiming for.

Pete Marsden



WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION

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

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM

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

THE SMASHING OF THE CAPITALIST STATE

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

WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

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

INTERNATIONALISM

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

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

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

WE ARE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

International Socialists



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

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____

TUC TRIES THE SAFETY SELL

THE TUC's conference for full-time national trade union officers last Thursday on health and safety at work was an attempt to 'sell' the new Health and Safety at Work Act to the trade unions.

From what was said on the platform you'd think the Act was a major achievement for working people.

Bill Simpson ex-general secretary of the Foundry Section of the AUEW and now chairman of the new Health and Safety Commission, had absolutely no apprehensions about it. 'No safety or health standards will be lowered by the new Act. The standards will be maintained at least at its present level', he said.

If this were true then we could rest easy and look for improvements. But it's not true.

The glossy claims for those on the platform were that the Act will begin to



Bill Simpson, salesman

prevent some of the thousands of accidents at work and reduce industrial disease. The Act does this, they argue, by setting up safety committees on the shop floor and encourages real involvement of workers in their own safety.

To this extent the Act is an improvement.

But the other preventative measures of the Act are not so rosy. Delegates were quick to point out that the £400 fines were laughable and the factory inspector system, never the shop floor's greatest friend, would not effectively stop employers from continuing dangerous practices, even if there were enough inspectors.

Bill Simpson indicated that the Commission didn't want to offend touchy employers.

Why not? Isn't it about time some attempt was made to stop this massive toll of avoidable violence?

The first major weakness in the Act is in section 7, which says all employees MUST co-operate with employers in carrying out the safety regulations. By putting a legal duty on employees—and there is no mention of 'as far as is reasonably practicable' here—employers will be able to shift the blame, or some of it, on to the worker if the employer can show that the workers 'failed to comply' with the safety regulations in any way.

That's what it's all about, making workers pay for their own misfortune in a system that already takes a huge chunk of your earnings for profits. And a legal duty means that if you do not co-operate you will pay for some or all of your own misfortune. And that will save your employer a tidy sum—and leave you possibly crippled and penniless.

LIABLE

The other weakness is in the area of safety committees. Under the Act employers can claim that the safety committee has approved a system of work. If it's not safe, it's no longer their affair.

This may well mean that individual safety committees will become legally liable for work systems which they have approved. There is nothing in the Act to safeguard against this.

Finally, all the employer has to do under the new Act is to take as much care as is 'reasonably practicable'. You may think that questions of life and limb, of severed arms and crushed hands, should not be debated in terms of what is reasonably practicable for the employer.

The old law, useless as it was, recognised this. The Factories Act said that there were some things that employers must do. They had to fence machinery to make it safe. It didn't matter if it wasn't reasonably practicable (or profitable) to do so. They had to keep it safe.

All these strict duties have now gone. Whatever Bill Simpson's regulations say, employers will only have to be as careful as is reasonably practicable. And reasonably practicable means that questions of costs are involved. Profits must be considered. If saving a life is a bit pricy—too bad for the workers.

New Bill will allow students to be evicted

THE government is preparing a new measure which will drastically worsen the student housing situation. The Letting to Students Bill will remove security of tenure from students in flats and lodgings belonging to private landlords. A new registration scheme will mean students can be kicked out of their flats as soon as they have finished their courses.

The government claims it was a mistake to include students under the 1974 Rent Act which gave security to furnished tenants, because this has caused landlords to take students' flats off the market.

An example of this is in Nottingham, where a new 'landlords' association' has banned students from all the flats it controls in the city. The reason the landlords give is that students are driving them to bankruptcy by applying to rent officers for the rents to be reduced.

This is nothing new. Students have always applied for reduced rents—but before last year the landlords could threaten to evict them if they did. That is what they are really moaning about—they no longer find it so easy to throw tenants out on the streets when their profits are reduced.

This Bill will not only affect students. If landlords can get away with it, they will prefer to let to students for high rents, and other tenants will suffer. The housing shortage will just be shifted from one sector to another—and the landlords' profits will rise.

Students must fight this threat now. They should insist that the NUS organise a campaign against this proposed legislation, and should raise the question in their local unions. Unless students show they can shout as loud as the landlords, next year they will be faced with even higher rents, or rapid eviction.

Front pushed back

STUDENTS at Imperial College, London dealt a crushing blow to the National Front last week. The Front has flooded the college with propaganda and for the first time in a college had called a recruiting meeting with national speakers. One of the attraction, advertised in several London colleges, was the chance to bash a lefty.

At two days notice the International Socialists, overseas student leaders and others organised to stop the meeting. The

response was fantastic. More than 300 students and college workers harassed and humiliated seven National Front members outside the building until they retreated in fury.

Chris Harman of Socialist Worker, spoke to a packed meeting on the need to stop the Front before they could build a strong, violent organisation. An anti-fascist committee was set up. Students at other colleges must have the confidence to use the same tactics and smash the Front wherever they organise.

Students occupy!

MONTHS of anxiety and uncertainty about courses was shown by the students of Ealing Technical College, London, in a direct and spontaneous way last week. An emergency motion was carried at the student union meeting calling for the meeting to transfer to the comfort of the principal's office. The action was more surprising in that the college is right-wing.

After the meeting the students' occupation continued until the following evening, the time of the Governor's meeting.

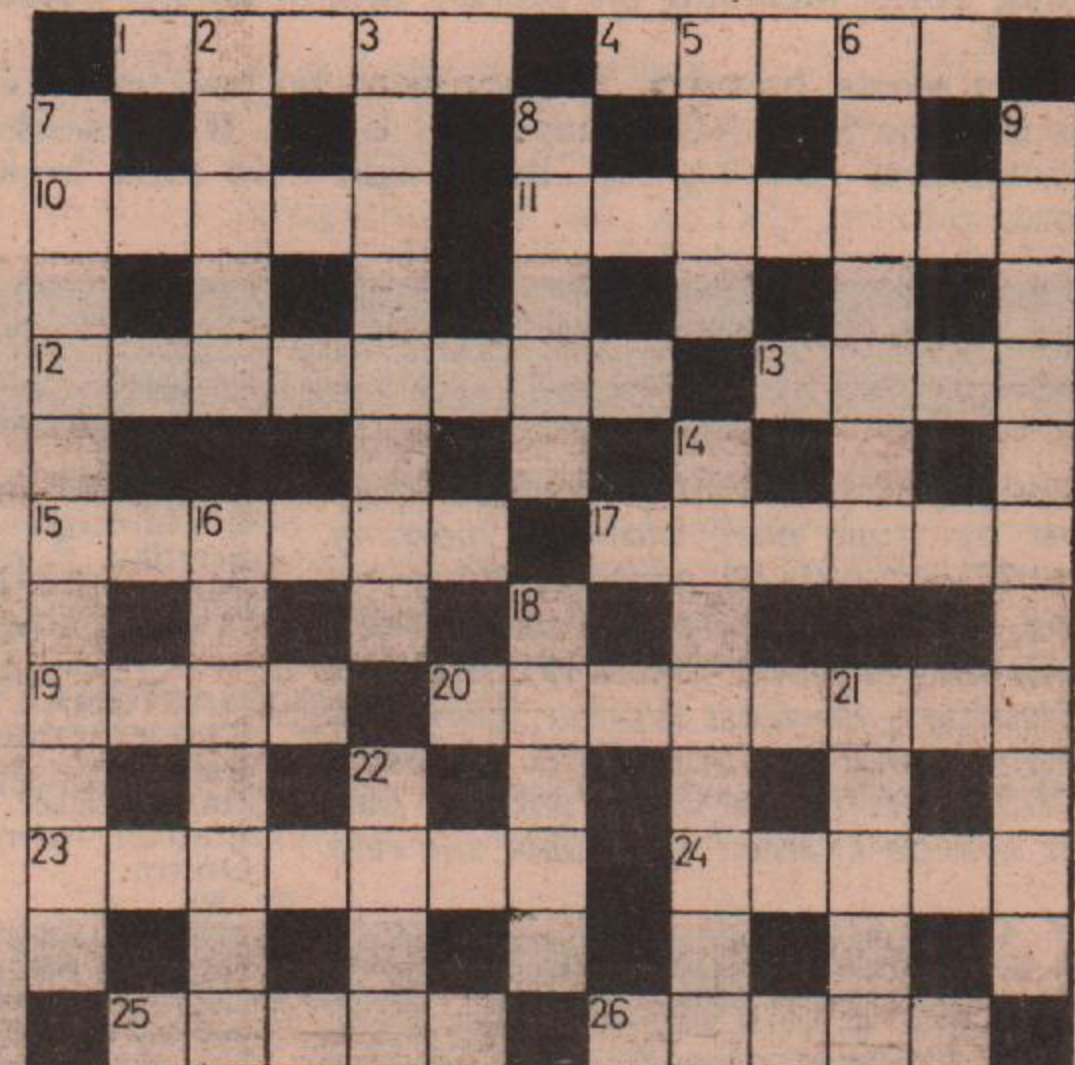
The action was to stress the solidarity of students in opposition to the council's predicted education cuts, and to demand that the Department of Education intervene.

Socialist Worker crossword no 12

by Phil Evans

ACROSS

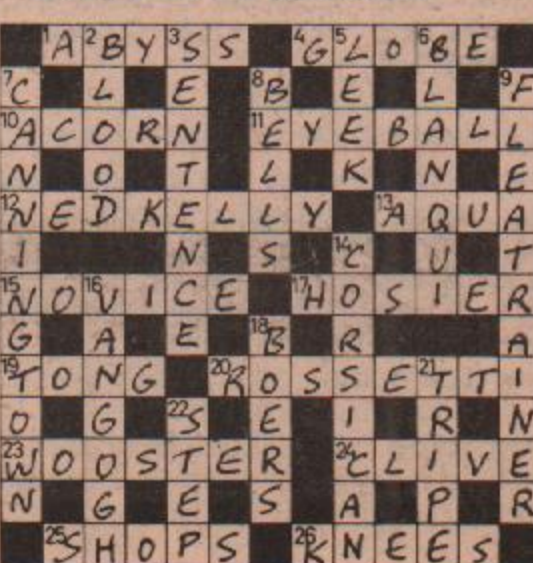
- 1 Early drop-out from Marx team (5)
- 4 'Two-legged animals with corkscrew souls, water-logged brains and combination backbones made of jelly and glue,' according to Jack London (5)
- 10 Lord who stole marble sculptures from the Acropolis for his London 'collection', losing a few chunks in transit (5)
- 11 Arthur was a popular stage and TV spiv of the 1940s and 1950s (7)
- 12 Little tortoise in 'er trap! (8)
- 13 Fate of ex-Soviet secret police chief (see 8 Down) after comrades Molotov, Bulganin and Khrushchev jumped on him at a Central Committee meeting (4)
- 15 Bricklayer author (1573-1637) of 'Drink to me only with thine eyes' (6)
- 17 Humourless Dutch football star of 1974 World Cup (6)
- 19 The 'Graf German pocket battleship scuttled in the River Plate to avoid capture (4)
- 20 Leading Bolshevik economist who capitulated and 'confessed' in the infamous Moscow Trials (7)
- 23 Spinech is a pain-killer! (7)
- 24 They may be relatively great! (5)
- 25 Forename of mad American motor manufacturer who founded a separate town for his black workers called 'Inkster' (5)
- 26 Usually in Australia—but sometimes kept on the mantelpiece (5)



- Hope and Glory' (5)
- 3 P. on a gent upset war headquarters! (8)
- 5 'Robin Redbreast in a Puts all Heaven in a rage' (Blake) (4)
- 6 Affectionate, ironic nickname for England used by 1914-18 Tommies (7)
- 7 Sallow, neurotic Tory who thinks the lower orders are breeding too fast (5,6)
- 8 Stalinist terror supremo (see 13 Across) who met undignified end (5)
- 9 Method of measuring horses' noses? (5,6)
- 14 Flirtatious behaviour under bridges! (8)
- 16 Julius, black head of repressive Tanzanian regime (7)
- 18 Famous painting by Manet which caused a howl of protest when first shown, known abroad as

- 'The naked (5)
- 21 Bizarre hair treatment, blue or otherwise, popular with Tory ladies, like Margaret Thatcher (5)
- 22 Noble diarist whose 1917 entries show preoccupation with his new 'raspberry-coloured shirt' (4)

Last week's solution



NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF SOCIALIST SOCIETIES
Second Conference
 Weekend 15-16 February
 Leeds University Students Union
 Agenda includes the student movement, how to fight the cuts, NUS, women, The Agitator, Colleges of Education and Further Education. Motions for debate to be sent to steering committee by Friday 14 February. A pooled fare system will operate.
 All IS Societies can send three delegates—and as many observers as wished. Conference starts 10.30am Saturday. Registration details from Steve Cass, 13 Cliff Mount, Leeds 6. Delegates who have not already registered should phone Leeds (0532) 39071 before arrival.

Phil Liston (AUEW member at Ferranti) writes:

Our picture shows the picket line at the Cairo factory of Ferranti in Manchester, where skilled workers are on strike in support of a claim for a 20 per cent increase for all Ferranti workers.

The fact that only skilled workers have been used in the dispute has not improved the confidence of the other workers at Cairo—who are being used as 'collection-fodder'—or of the workers in the other five Ferranti factories who have accepted their convenors' advice not to support the Cairo men.

It's no good splitting the workforce and waiting for union officials to sell us out at the works conference. Conferences don't win wage claims. Action does. 'One out, all out' should be our slogan.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report).



Factory conference — experience unites!

THE second conference of International Socialist factory and workplace branch delegates, to be held next Saturday in Manchester, will bring together the experience since IS first set up factory branches 18 months ago.

Gordon Peters, a NALGO shop steward at Islington Town Hall who will be at the conference as a member of the Islington Council Workers IS Branch, told Socialist Worker: 'Before we became a branch we were a group of IS members working for Islington Council. We worked to set up a shop steward structure in the offices over the past two or three years. This is fairly novel for NALGO. Unlike most white-collar workers we don't have the officials in before anything happens.'

'We raised questions like working conditions, job evaluation and so on. When the battle over London Weighting came along, our departmental organisations made us strong enough to respond to the members in spite of the stalling of the union leaders.'

'We worked within the NALGO Action Group, putting out bulletins, organising the fight against the sell-out of the London

HOSPITAL FORCED TO BACK DOWN

LIVERPOOL:—Two shop stewards victimised at Alderhey Hospital have had the sackings changed into suspension on full pay following strike action all over the city. Management has also agreed to go to arbitration. The strikers are now returning to work pending the results.

Already in Newsham Hospital, management had suspended seven shop stewards for holding a shop stewards' meeting in working hours, although this is normal practice. Management demanded to know the subject of the meeting.

Then in Alderhey Hospital two shop stewards went to deal with a problem that arose during working hours when a nursing sister refused to carry out medical duties.

The two, Marty Philips and Bob Gregory, were promptly sacked. Hospital ancillary workers at Newsham Hospital called a mass meeting and agreed to stay out until the two stewards were reinstated. So did those at Mill Road Hospital, while there was a one-day strike throughout Liverpool hospitals.

Management agreed to go to the Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Workers at Crasser Bridge and Wirral Hospitals came out on a one-day stoppage in protest even after this concession. Billy Connors, NUPE branch secretary, has made it clear that if the men are not fully reinstated there will be further strike action.

150 march after five victimised

HALIFAX: 150 trade unionists marched through the town on Monday to Butlers machine tools factory in support of 40 TASS members, draughtsmen, there who are on official strike against victimisation.

The strikers came out two weeks ago immediately after returning from a successful three week strike for union recognition. As soon as the draughtsmen returned to work, five of the strike committee were victimised.

One, a senior instructor with 25 years experience, was given a labouring job. A private secretary was downgraded to a file clerk. The others were sacked.

Management claimed the sackings were planned in September, but one of the two didn't even start work until October. Faced with this blatant victimisation, the 40 walked out at once and started the picket again.

Some lorries driven by scabs are getting out, but pickets have been to the docks to impose blacking on exported goods, and have been in touch with other factories in the Elliotts group. Shop floor workers, who had worked during the original strike, have now given seven days strike notice.

Messages of support, donations, etc to: Butlers Strike Committee, c/o W Sales, 2 Wharf Street, Leeds.

NALGO LEADERS' SECRET SELL-OUT

THIRTY-SEVEN thousand NALGO members in the gas industry, having voted in a recent ballot for strike action, are being secretly sold out by the union's leadership.

Unknown to most of the members, who voted 2-1 for a one-day strike over a claim for a 35-hour week, better overtime rates and more holidays, the union's emergency committee has vetoed any action. Instead, it is seeking to take the case to the Conciliation and Arbitration Service—the graveyard for determined trade unionism.

The committee took fright when it realised the strike might have allowed the gas workers to exercise their considerable bargaining power. The idea that gas supplies to industry might be cut off put the fear of God in them.

Their decision went before NALGO's national executive on 29 January—which amazingly, was unable to get a quorum.

LOBBY

Now it will go before the executive again on 22 February, when it will almost certainly be rubber-stamped.

That leaves NALGO members in gas with an urgent task. They have just a week in which to lobby their executive members and flood the committee with resolutions demanding the strike goes ahead.

650 out at Harvester

DONCASTER:—650 Transport Union members at International Harvesters' two plants Carr Hill and Wheatley, are on strike in support of their claim for an across-the-board increase of £12. Only the TGWU members are out on strike although the claim was agreed by a meeting of more than 100 shop stewards from all unions in Doncaster and Bradford plants.

Management has proposed different rises for different grades. Some of the higher-paid workers would receive as much as £11.57, but lower-paid workers only around £5. This will widen the differentials. TGWU full-time officials agreed to accept observer status at the continuing negotiations, while the other unions negotiated around management's proposals.

The other unions have all accepted the offer, but a mass meeting of the TGWU members at Carr Hill and Wheatley started an overtime ban and other sanctions. Later they asked the company to go to arbitration on the £12.



Weighting. As a result we were militant trade unionists at the end of the day. This is what helped us to develop into an IS branch.

'We've held three public meetings as a branch. The public service cuts will be the next big issue and we are getting ready.'

'We had also fought on more general questions, raising socialist ideas. In the NALGO branch we have proposed and passed a motion calling on Islington Council to employ a Chilean refugee, so enabling one to get a work permit and stay in this country.'

'For the future we want to develop far more joint trade union activity in the borough. We have just set up a Joint Trade Union Committee against the Cuts, which has NUPE, NALGO and other unions represented. We are hoping to work towards a Joint Shop Stewards Committee.'

IS members from workplace groups and Socialist Worker discussion groups—whether in factories, offices, sites, schools or town halls—not yet established as IS branches should also send delegates.

SAUSAGED!

CAMBRIDGE: The lock-out over union recognition of six ASTMS members at the W J Adkins factory is now in its fourth week. The transport drivers in the TGWU are refusing to cross the picket lines, so deep freezes in the factory are overflowing with sausages.

The factory is owned by H Ridgean, one of the biggest businessmen in Cambridge. He locked out the ASTMS members when they said they would work to contract until he gave ASTMS rights to represent them.

Donations to help the strike (Social Security payments have stopped) to E Wallman, 27 Ainsworth St, Cambridge.

COUNCIL SPARKS' STRIKES SPREAD

Glasgow men plan big demo

GLASGOW:—The local authority electricians, now in the fourth week of their strike are planning a big demonstration to mobilise support. Every factory and shop stewards' committee in the district will be asked to join the demonstration next Thursday.

The electricians are stepping up their campaign against the local authority, which is now flatly denying that it is bound in any way by Scottish Joint Industry Board conditions.

The Labour councillors are so determined to uphold the Social Contract that they are prepared to knock back their own employees while paying the new rate of £1.22 to contracting sparks employed on local authority jobs. All the Glasgow sparks can get from them now are threats of cutbacks in the council's direct labour department.

The council has been encouraged in its stand by the EEPTU's refusal to make the strike official. The union officials want to fight through the courts on the legal issue of the council's going back on their contract. The last thing the union wants is a wholesale battle over local authorities paying JIB rates. Too many councils pay less for general secretary Frank Chapple's comfort. The last thing he wants is the Glasgow dispute spreading to other areas.

'It is important to make the council meet its legal commitments to SJIB rates for sparks. But the attitude of the council has significance for every other local authority worker. The threat of cut-backs is aimed at everyone. The dustmen and electricians in Glasgow have realised this and have taken joint action in the present dispute.'

'We need to build on this joint action. That is why we've called a demonstration, to build up support and solidarity.'

Donations and messages of support, and for further information, write to: Hugh Higgins, 2 Primrose St, Glasgow.



GLASGOW Area International Socialists' public meetings: The Labour government and the Crisis. Speaker: Paul Foot (editor, Socialist Worker). EAST KILBRIDE, Wednesday 19 February, 7.30pm. Murray pub; PAISLEY, Thursday 20 February, 7.30pm, Paisley Town Hall; GLASGOW, Friday 21 February, 7.30pm, City Hall. All welcome.

DUNDEE TOO

DUNDEE:—80 local authority electricians have been on strike for three weeks demanding an increase of 23p an hour. Dundee Town Council, by refusing the increase, have broken the Scottish Joint Industry Board agreement which ensures that local authority sparks are paid the same as private contractors for council work. The council is Labour-controlled.

When EEPTU executive committee member Blairford was in Dundee, the men picketed the hotel demanding the executive make the strike official. Blairford sneaked in the back door to avoid them. When he eventually agreed to see some members on the strike committee he made no promises.

The sparks are putting out 6,000 leaflets to get collections from local factories and sites. Money is urgently needed. All donations to John Reilly, 10b Ancrum Court, Dundee.

JOIN US SAY WELSH

CARDIFF:—Seventy local authority electricians are out on strike over wages. While electricians in other industries have received substantial increases local authority electricians have been consistently left out in the cold. They get 73p an hour, contracting electricians £1.23.

One of the striking electricians told Socialist Worker: 'The EEPTU nationally and the bosses on the national negotiating committee seem unable to negotiate anything realistic for us. So therefore we've withdrawn our labour. We have been told by our executive member to return to work and they will call us out when the time is ripe.'

'We think the time is ripe now.'

Sparks in Leeds and Glasgow are out. The rate is so poor that the dole are sending men to work for local authorities, and they get £3 less than they get on the dole!

'Electricians who work for South Glamorgan County Council have joined us in spite of their isolation from the main shops. Over the next week we intend to contact sparks' strike committees in Leeds and Scotland with the hope of forming a rank and file action committee for sparks all over Britain.'

Messages of support, and further information, write to 12 Coburn St, Cardiff.

No private patients here! 400 walk out

SWANSEA: 400 NUPE members at the Morriston Hospital, including ancillaries, nursing staff, theatre technicians, kitchen staff, boilermen and ward receptionists, walked out at mid-day on Tuesday after a union ultimatum to management that they should remove a fee-paying patient.

Ken Price, NUPE branch secretary, said: 'We gave management until noon on Tuesday to remove this patient who was admitted last Friday, or we would enforce all-out strike action.'

'This union will not tolerate a fee-paying patient in a National Health Service Hospital.'

Workers at other Swansea hospitals were meeting later this week to discuss solidarity action.

SACKED WOMEN: WE'LL FIGHT ON

WOLVERHAMPTON: Josie Bradley and Carol Price, the two women shop stewards sacked at Yarnolds clothing factory, were unfairly dismissed, the firm agreed at an industrial tribunal last week. But they rejected an offer of compensation and so the ten-week strike by 32 women for their reinstatement goes on.

The strikers, who are also seeking union recognition, had been urged by their Transport Workers' official to rely on the goodwill of the tribunal since their case was foolproof. It proved to be a farce.

They weren't allowed to discuss either the strike—since 'that was not the issue'—or the reinstatement of Josie and Carol as the management had refused to discuss this 'and because the tribunal had no power to enforce reinstatement.'

They weren't allowed to refute management allegations and so discussion was limited to the amount of compensation for the two.

The women still face no reinstatement, no jobs and no union recognition. They have found through bitter experience that only their own initiative and the support of fellow TGWU members and other trade unionists can they win this vital dispute.

They may now call a mass demonstration through Wolverhampton to bring more publicity and support for their case. Messages of support and donations to Yarnolds Strike Committee, TGWU offices, 33 Bury St, Wolverhampton.

Worker beaten up

MERTON, S. London:—80 building workers staged a mass picket at Leitch's council housing job on Tuesday after a union man had been beaten up while trying to organise it and a London UCATT organiser, Alan Tattam, had been threatened.

The police rushed to help the scab employers and harassed the pickets. The UCATT executive, due to consider the dispute this week, is likely to order a national blacking of the firms involved.

BIG SUPPORT FOR SACKED CONVENOR

BRENTFORD:—From 7-8am on Friday, workers from factories in the Brentford area of West London will be picketing in solidarity with the workers at Rank Pullin Controls, where 135 of the shop floor are on strike for the third week against the victimisation of Engineering Union convenor Eddie Bennett.

The solidarity picket was proposed as a way of putting pressure on the 40 or so scabs at a mass meeting last week by Don Cook, of the AUEW district committee, who with other members of the committee addressed the meeting in support of the strike.

Inquiries, messages of support and contributions to: G Hultquist, Strike Committee, 35 Fairlawn Avenue, London W4.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Pickets in court

By Cathy Cotton
NEWCASTLE:—Ten pickets arrested on trumped-up charges outside McAlpine's Eldon Square site now face the possibility of big fines or even jail sentences.

Their case was adjourned by

Newcastle magistrates on Monday to the county court, which can impose heavier sentences and fines.

The arrests highlighted the determination of McAlpine's—the building industry's most ruthless employers—to smash the growing militancy and union organisation of scaffolders on Tyneside.

About 70 scaffolders on

the Eldon Square site have been on strike for 12 weeks for the reinstatement of 14 of their mates. 130 scaffolders from all over Tyneside have struck in support.

Nearly 200 of them picketed the court when the ten men—Michael Colligan, John Ternent, Cecil Valentine, Robert Henderson, James Dawson, Colin Atkinson,

John Skivington, Tommy Wilson, Stephen Weightman and Colin Lowery—appeared on a charge of threatening behaviour.

Two men have also been charged with having offensive weapons—a platform heel shoe and a stone—and one has been charged with assaulting a police officer.

All are being prosecuted under section five of the Public Order Act, that well-known bosses' weapon.

The strikers organised a public meeting last week at which a defence committee of leading local trade unionists was formed to build up support for the arrested pickets.

Support for the strikers is growing every day. Draymen at Scottish and Newcastle Breweries found themselves locked out when they returned to work after a one-day stoppage.

This might just be related to the fact that McAlpines have large investments in the Breweries and have recently finished an extension for them.

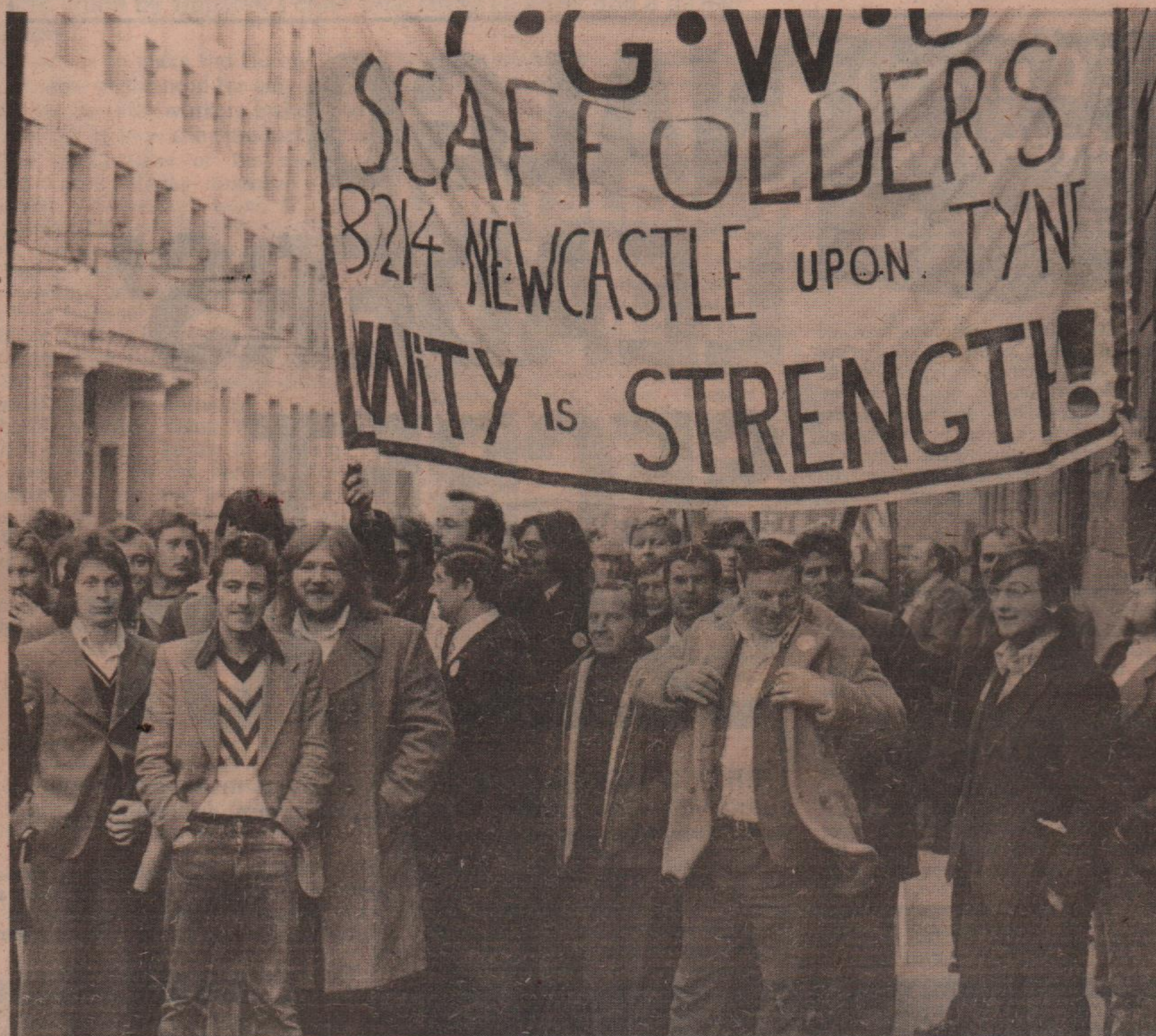
A Transport and General Workers' branch in Leeds has passed a resolution calling on the executive to make the strike official. Most major sites and factories on Tyneside have pledged moral and financial support.

Scabs

London's Royal Group of Docks shop stewards' committee voted on Friday not only to give the strikers a donation but to black all Godfrey Davis vehicles. Vehicles from this van hire firm are being used to ferry in the scabs on the Eldon Square site.

Straight after the meeting, dockers at the Chobham Farm depot blacked three Godfrey Davis vehicles. The 1/6 docks branch of the TGWU have called on the union executive to make the strike official, for an immediate countrywide official black on Godfrey Davis and for a thorough inquiry into how the scabs in Newcastle obtained TGWU cards.

Messages of support and donations to: Eddie Brady, 86 Benwell Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne (phone 32365).



14 scaffolders—arrested while picketing last week—lead a protest march to the court on Monday. The strike is gaining support. Picture: Ray Smith (i.F.L.)

Miners: The pressure builds up...

THE MINERS' Union executive did debate calls from Scotland and Yorkshire for industrial action on the pay claim before resuming negotiations with the Coal Board on Tuesday.

Nevertheless, these moves indicate that opposition to the phoney 'substantial' formulation for the pay

claim is building up—despite a press campaign of anti-miner abuse and predictable declarations of hostility from the Labour government and the TUC to any adequate pay settlement.

Scots miners decided last weekend to call for an immediate overtime ban in the event of further unsatisfactory offers from the Coal Board.

Yorkshire miners voted on Monday for immediate industrial action. Before their meeting, their president, Arthur Scargill hit out hard against the Social Contract fraud. He said some members of the NUM executive were conspiring with the government to get wage restraint accepted.

NUM vice-president Michael McGahey put over the same message. He argued that the miners did not defeat the Tory government just to find their successors peddling the same policies.

But on Tuesday union president Joe Gormley declined to re-open debate before the meeting with the Coal Board. The union executive went straight to the NCB where they were offered a slightly increased but still totally inadequate offer.

With increased wailing about the sanctity of the Social Contract, militant miners will have to campaign hard to ensure their claim is enthusiastically supported and vigorously pursued.

OUR FUND: HERE'S WHY WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

'HOW WAS the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund this week?'

'Bloody awful. Despite the sterling efforts of many contributors we only got £233.97.'

'Only? I could afford a night out at the music hall, a pint, a meat pie and still have change in my pocket after that.'

Unfortunately, we aren't running a pie stall, we're low on music hall turns, and Anthony Wedgwood Benn doesn't seem keen on buying us a pint. We're producing a socialist newspaper and pointing out that there is a capitalist crisis.

Well, that's fine. Socialists have always said there would be a crisis, so you've been proved right!

Yes. But unfortunately the crisis hits us too. We need money to tell more people about the crisis, and we need more money to pay the bills to the capitalists, for their newsprint, their electricity, their transport

bills. To do so we need your money.

What's in it for me? A paper that'll fight on your side, that won't lie about your struggles, a paper you can use. Further, with your assistance, a free supply of meat pies—once we've got rid of this system, and assuming you like meat pies...

Our thanks this week to: Harrow IS £10, LSE Cell £7, Socialist Worker supporters LSE £3.10, Imperial College £4, Chelmsford IS £8.77, Pembroke College Junior Common Room £1, Newcastle IS £1.50, ACTSS Branch Lantro Chemicals Manchester £2, Halifax IS £10, Paddington IS £12.65, Middleton IS £7.10, Cardiff IS £10, Ipswich IS £3, Kingston IS £5.75. Total £233.97.

Send donations to Mel Norris, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Socialist Worker DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

I enclose £_____ for one year/six months Socialist Worker

(£5 for a year, £2.50 for six months)

Name _____

Address _____

Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2

For bulk orders phone 01-739 2639