

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

**Saturday is
action day
to Free
the Two**

TWO trade unionists are in prison for picketing. Ten other trade unionists come up in court next Monday charged with various offences—while picketing. Pickets everywhere are under attack.

While Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson stay in prison, and while trade unionists are brought to court for 'offences' on the picket line, the whole trade union movement is in danger.

That's why the demonstrations this weekend in Lincoln and in Leicester, where Des and Ricky are in prison, are so important. They are the first demonstrations called since the two men were moved to closed prison because they demanded the right to be treated as the political prisoners they are.

The Rank and File Organising Committee has urged trade unionists everywhere to join these demonstrations and give them maximum support.

Both demonstrations will be joined by delegations from the striking scaffolders on Tyneside, ten of whom are to appear in court on Monday.

The International Socialists are calling on all their members to march on these demonstrations.

DEMONSTRATE

LEICESTER PRISON (where Ricky Tomlinson is being held) 12.30pm: All trade unionists to the south of Lincoln are urged to join the march from Victoria Park to the jail for a picket.

Coaches leave London: 9am, Pancras Road (Kings Cross); Birmingham: 10.30am, back of the Hall of Memory; Coventry: 11am, Pool Meadow; Leamington: 10.30am, Town Hall; Liverpool: 8.30am, Pierhead; Bristol: 8.30am, Anchor Road.

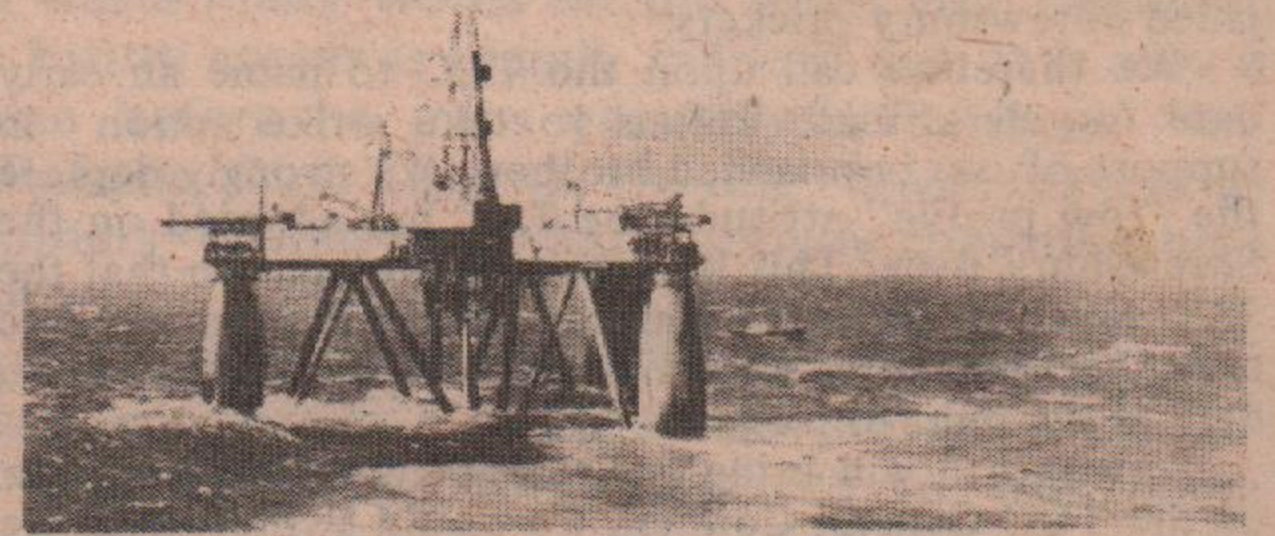
LINCOLN PRISON (where Des Warren is being held) 1.30pm: All trade unionists in Lincoln and to the north of the city are urged to join a picket of the prison.

Coaches leave Sheffield: 10.30pm, Pond Street, Newcastle: 7am, The Haymarket; Bradford: 9.30am, Morley Street (by bus station); Manchester: 10am, St Peter's Square; Teesside: contact D Catchpole, Redcar 73979, York contact P Household, York 51501; Grimsby: 11.30am, Miners Rest.

For further details ring Brother K Appleby (01-249 1207).

As ministers press for tougher wage curbs...

£10000m MORE FOR OIL BOSSES



THERE's a row going on in the Labour Cabinet. It's between Michael Foot, who believes that workers should get something under the Social Contract, and Reg Prentice, who thinks they should get little or nothing at all.

The dispute has naturally attracted massive publicity. The press never loses an opportunity to insist that workers must accept falling living standards for the good of country, civilisation or something of the sort.

That same propaganda machine has kept quiet about a group of people who have struck it very rich indeed, and whose success at extracting huge sums of money from the government hasn't met with a whimper of protest from either Foot or Prentice.

Surrendered

The reason for the deafening silence is that the Labour government has surrendered to the men who control the multinational oil com-

panies. These characters are used to holding entire continents to ransom. Nevertheless last week's walkover victory against the Labour government must give them particular cause for pleasure, especially when their victory is marked by government ministers demanding increased devotion to their beloved Social Contract.

This latest of Labour's many surrenders to big business concerns the Petroleum Revenue Tax.

In the manifesto issued just before the last election Labour promised

to impose a 'substantial extra tax' on the oil monopolies' rich pickings from the publicly-owned North Sea. In later documents there was talk of the government getting 90 per cent of all North Sea oil revenue.

But a few weeks of intensive lobbying and threatened industrial action soon put paid to the pledges and promises.

The International Herald Tribune explained how it was done. The oil companies 'threatened an investment strike that would hold back development,' it said.

Without a murmur the Labour government surrendered. They agreed that the oil companies wouldn't pay a penny Petroleum Revenue Tax on the first million barrels a year from each oilfield. They agreed to forgo all Petroleum Revenue Tax until the oil barons had not only got back all the money they'd put in—but 75 per cent profit on top.

Just in case there might be the odd minor setback for the oil companies in the profitable years ahead, the Labour government has also thrown in the greatest threshold agreement in history. The oil company will pay no tax at all if the world price of oil falls.

Fabulous

The size of the handout to Shell, BP and the rest is a truly fabulous £1,000 million over five years.

That would give the miners a 30 per cent pay rise each year for the next five years. Or it would give all 250,000 railwaymen a 25 per cent pay rise every year until 1980. Or it would provide funds enough to secure the jobs of every Chrysler, and British Leyland worker and still leave enough over to reconstruct the finances of a nationalised Imperial Typewriter Corporation.

But that is not to be. Instead this massive sum has been handed over to the gentlemen of the multinational oil companies, a truly needy section of the community.

If you pull your belt in and accept reduced living standards for another five years, you can be sure there will be another £1000 million in the kitty to give the oil giants another equally generous handout in 1980. It's what the Social Contract is all about.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

COURTAULDS CLOSURE: 500 PROTEST

FIVE HUNDRED textile workers came to Ince in Lancashire to protest at the closure of Courtaulds Empress Mill, Wigan (350 jobs lost), and the mass sackings and lay-offs throughout Courtaulds. Although the spirit and militancy of the workers was magnificent, the meeting in the Ince Labour Hall was dragged through the gutter by speeches from Labour MPs, in particular Roger Stott, MP for Westhoughton, who pretended that the jobs could be saved by stopping imported foreign goods.

Only Stan Thorne, Labour MP for Preston, stood up against this nonsense, pointing out that Courtaulds was a multinational company which exploited workers all over the world. If the textile workers are going to fight to protect their jobs, they must tackle their real enemy: Courtaulds.

Can the Union Jack save our jobs?—page seven. Financial Fiddles and the Fight for Jobs at Imperial Typewriters—page three.

**BENN:
THE
GREAT
PRETENDER**



—see centre pages.

The fight to free the 2

BLANK FROM TUC

TRADES unionists at Hammersmith Hospital, West London, who came out on strike to support the last TUC lobby to free the Shrewsbury Two have been involved in a most revealing correspondence with TUC general secretary Len Murray.

Hammersmith NUPE branch secretary Bill Geddes wrote to Murray on 6 February: 'This Branch believes that only massive industrial action will secure the release of Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson, the two jailed Shrewsbury pickets.'

'We therefore call upon the TUC to name an early date for all affiliate unions to take strike action in support of our imprisoned brothers. We strongly deplore the "low profile" attitude the TUC has adopted on the Shrewsbury issue. This branch is of the opinion that the TUC failed to learn the lesson from the Pentonville Five case that only mass working-class action is sufficient to defend the right to picket.'

'I trust you will bring this resolution to the attention of the TUC General Council. We would be grateful if we could have an early reply to this letter.'

The reply is now in the NUPE branch's hands and is causing a massively swelling feeling of contempt. It was a blank pre-printed card.



BID TO MODIFY LAW OF CONSPIRACY DEFEATED

AN attempt to modify the conspiracy laws so that there would be definite limits on the jail sentences judges could impose was defeated with the direct connivance of the Labour government on Tuesday.

Labour MP Stan Thorne's motion wasn't a head-on challenge to the conspiracy laws.

His proposal would have left the law intact, so that trade unionists could still be hunted down on charges of conspiracy to intimidate. But if found guilty they could only get a maximum of three months jail, the same as on a straight intimidation charge.

Stan Thorne's move in the House of Commons was met by a storm of abuse from the Tory benches. But it was defeated by the mass abstention

of certain Labour members, including left wingers Foot, Heffer and Benn.

This is not the first time Brother Benn has sold the pass on the Shrewsbury pickets. At the recent parliamentary Labour Party meeting which decided against a House of Commons debate on Shrewsbury, Benn abstained.

LOBBY

The Labour government is also still sitting on the Law Commission on the conspiracy laws which recommend changes which the Confederation of British Industry, the Police Federation and the rest of the law and order lobby adamantly oppose. All these manoeuvres indicate that only sustained rank and file action will secure the release of the pickets and win genuine trade union immunity from these vicious laws.

by Chris Harman

HIGH COURT judges were recently awarded massive pay increases by the government. The report by Lord Justice Scarman into the events in Red Lion Square last summer leading to the death of Kevin Gately shows what they are paid for: their ability to use the most tortuous forms of logic to protect the police and the authorities.

Scarman claims that Kevin Gately's death was accidental. 'something happened: either he stumbled and fell or a flying stove or pole caught him a glancing blow behind the left ear... I find that there occurred some unnoticed minor incident—a fall or an apparently minor glancing blow.'

But the evidence he quotes points to a different conclusion.

According to Scarman, Kevin Gately died during 'a second major surge against the police line... The mounted police were here in direct contact with the crowd for a period'. During this time 'the mounted police did draw and use their truncheons.'

Nor was that all. 'A number of demonstrators gave evidence which, if true, meant that, far from being confined to self-defence, truncheons were being used to "club down" members of the crowd.' One of the mounted police, 'Inspector Fleming... openly admits striking a demonstrator a glancing blow to the head.'

Blow

Even Scarman has to admit that 'some mounted officers did hit some demonstrators with their truncheons. Some blows may well have landed on the head.'

At the end of these incidents, Kevin Gately was seen 'lying face downwards, emerging from under the feet of the demonstrators and the police.' He was dying from a brain haemorrhage caused by a blow to the head.

How did Kevin Gately receive that fatal blow? Any logical person may suspect, from 'some blows' that 'landed on the head.' Not so, says Scarman. It is 'very unlikely' that 'in the melee he was hit by a police truncheon.' Why?

Firstly, Gately was tall and no one remembers the incident. Secondly, 'he was never in the front rank of the demonstrators... against whom the police were fighting.'

But anyone who was on that anti-fascist demonstration in Red Lion Square will have no difficulty in explaining why no one saw Gately being hurt. As the mounted police moved forward with their truncheons out, most people were more concerned with protecting their own heads than following in detail everything the police were doing to other people.

The second claim, that Gately was not in the front line and so could not have come in direct



Mounted police move in on demonstrators, Red Lion Square, London, summer 1974.

Picture: TER Report

Judge whitewashes Red Lion Square

contact with the police, is nonsense. As the mounted police moved against the demonstration, its front ranks broke apart, people fell back in panic, and demonstrators several rows back suddenly found the horses upon them.

If it was a police truncheon that killed Kevin Gately, there is one person who would probably know—the policeman in question. But as Scarman himself notes: 'in the course of the inquiry I heard that one inexperienced officer had panicked when he heard of the death of Kevin Gately and had falsely declared that he had not drawn his truncheon. Another officer, who at first denied drawing his truncheon, later agreed, after seeing photos, that he had done so.'

In other words, police on the spot certainly believed that truncheons had been used with sufficient vigour to have killed some-

one, and lied to evade any responsibility themselves.

In the issue of Socialist Worker after Red Lion Square we wrote: 'The police killed Kevin Gately.' The evidence presented in the Scarman Report suggests this was probably what happened.

Cordon

But Scarman, having cleared the police of blame, shifts it elsewhere. He claims members of the International Marxist Group were responsible for Gately's death, by 'starting a riot' in the first place.

He claims they were about to break through the police lines. But his figures show that at most 500 demonstrators were involved in pushing against the police, while there were 408 foot police and 40 Special Patrol Group police and 20 mounted police in and around Red Lion Square, as well as re-

serves nearby. Under such circumstances there was no chance of the demonstrators breaking the cordon for any length of time—which is why the IMG made an error of judgement in attempting this.

The response of the police in viciously attacking the crowd can only be explained in terms of their desire to 'teach the left a lesson.' Incidents later that day, in which mounted police attacked demonstrators in Southampton Row from the front while the Special Patrol Group went at them from the rear has the same explanation. So does the completely unprovoked assault from behind by police upon a 70-strong IMG contingent that was moving at speed away from the area of confrontation.

All this, of course, was in marked contrast to the police attitude to the fascists, who were protected all the time they marched shouting their racist hate.

THE TUC General Council again decided to sidestep the Shrewsbury issue at its meeting last Wednesday.

Alan Sapper of the cine technicians' union ACTT moved a motion for a one-day general strike. This got some support. But the meeting resolved to turn the issue over to its finance and general purposes committee.

This is a familiar device for stalling. They hope that the pickets will be quietly paroled and then the TUC can just forget the issue.

WELWYN Garden City and District Trades Council has called on the TUC to call a one-day general strike to secure the release of the jailed pickets.

WELLINGBOROUGH Trades Council has gone on record in support of the demonstration outside Leicester Prison this Saturday.

THE West Cornwall AUEW district shop stewards' quarterly meeting next week is to feature a showing of London Film School's film on Shrewsbury as part of the campaign to win support for new initiatives in defence of the Shrewsbury Two.

THE National Union of Teachers executive has again refused to support five teachers at South Hackney School who face disciplinary action because they took time off to go on the official TUC Shrewsbury Two demonstration. Communist Party member Max Morris argued that it was out of order. Dick North, a Rank and File supporter on the executive, was unable to obtain the 13 signatures necessary for a motion to reverse the previous refusal of support.

Hackney NUT Association is supporting the five teachers fully. It is producing a broadsheet (cost 5p) to argue their case, Resolutions, messages of support and financial support should be sent to: The Secretary, Hackney NUT, 58 Allerton Rd, London N16.

THE conference called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions for Saturday 22 March in London comes at a time when the whole working class is threatened by short time and redundancy, when wages are under attack by the Social Contract form of wage control and when, perhaps most important of all, two of our trade union brothers are still in jail for picketing.

This conference could step up the fight if it endorsed the call for rank and file strike action from 1 May to free the two, which has been made by the Rank and File Organising Committee in the event of the TUC failing to make that call officially.

This is why the executive of the International Socialists fully supports the conference and urges IS members and readers of Socialist Worker to win the support of their trade union bodies to send delegates. Credentials are available from J Hiles, 137 Wanstead Park Rd, Ilford, Essex.

THREE JAILED OVER PROTEST AGAINST NATIONAL FRONT

NINE anti-Fascist demonstrators who were arrested outside a National Front meeting in Hastings in January were all found guilty at Hastings Magistrates Court last Friday. Three were sentenced to three months in a detention centre. The others received fines amounting to £340. One teacher received a six-month jail sentence suspended for two years. Others received three-month sentences suspended for two years and one year.

The nine were part of a 45-strong demonstration. Their numbers were increased to more than 60 by passers by who joined them on seeing the behaviour of the police and Front.

They were charged with 'vicious assault' on the police. Evidence against them was either concocted or so shaky that at times it was an embarrassment even to the prosecu-

tion. At the time the police had ignored attacks on themselves and on the demonstrators by the National Front thugs!

There will be a demonstration on Saturday 15 March in Hastings (time and place to be announced later) to show solidarity with those jailed and to express contempt at the magistrates' decision. Hastings Trades Council has expressed support for those charged and concern at the sentences.

Raided

The demonstration is part of a campaign against fascism in Sussex. Any contributions and/or messages of support to be sent to: Brighton and Hastings Defence Committee c/o Students Union, University of Sussex, Brighton, Sussex.

The day after the sentences a house in Brighton where two mem-

bers of the International Socialists live was raided by five policemen under Commander John Morrison of the serious crimes department of the Metropolitan Police. The commander is making inquiries into the alleged forgery last year of a Swiss bank statement in the name of Edward Short, deputy leader of the Labour Party.

He took away an IS member for questioning, and asked him in great detail about his activities last year as a member of Northampton IS. He and his colleagues also took away copies of the IS Internal Bulletin and showed great interest in other IS literature.

If any IS members are similarly pestered by Commander Morrison and his men, Socialist Worker would like to know about it. We intend to inquire closely into these remarkable allegations—and their origin.

How they profit by this closure

FOUR weeks before closing down two factories in Hull and Leicester, Litton Industries, the giant multi-national combine based in America, operated a financial fiddle which allowed them to profit from the closures.

As a result, every penny which the company spent on their British subsidiary—Imperial Typewriters—will be saved.

If a subsidiary of a British or American company goes bust, that company doesn't have to pay tax on the value of its shares in the subsidiary company.

It does have to pay tax on any money loaned to the company.

When Littons decided to close Imperial last December, they found to their horror that they had few Imperial shares but had loaned it £9 million when it was set up in 1967.

If they closed Imperials then and there, they would have lost all £9 million.

They acted fast. On 20 December last year, only four weeks before they announced the closure of the factories, Littons spent £12 million on 24 million shares in Imperial Typewriters. They bought these shares knowing that the company would close. Next year they will pay £12 million less tax as a result.

While carefully feathering their nest against the effects of their own blunders, Littons have gone on the attack against the workers at Imperials in Hull, who have occupied the factory and are holding it in ransom for their jobs.

Robbery

Last week Littons announced that Hull workers would not be paid wages for their last week's work at Imperials until the occupation is called off.

This robbery is so monstrous that it even breaks the law. Employers are bound by several statutes to pay agreed wages for work done. The Department of Trade and Industry (Secretary of State: Anthony Wedgwood Benn) has announced that Littons' action is illegal—and that nothing will be done about it. Said a

Department spokesman: 'We hope that Littons will change their attitude.'

Civil servants at Benn's department are still keeping quiet about their plans for the two factories, although they have secret information which exposes the full horror of Litton's exploitation.

The occupying workers have had another bashing this week from the Humberside District Council, whose massive Labour majority voted only ten days ago to 'congratulate and support' the occupation.

On Monday a letter to the occupation committee announced that the council was holding the occupation responsible for the rates on the factory—and were claiming £1000 for the past three weeks. The bill, said the letter, would climb at the rate of £100 a day while the occupation continued.

Despite these attacks, the mood of the occupying workers is militant and determined. They have taken great heart from the support of other workers. Last week a delegation from Marathon Shipyards on the Upper Clyde—formerly UCS, where a mass sit-in took place in 1971 to stop a projected closure—was allowed into the factory with a cheque for £500.

Even more encouraging is the action of the Hull dockers in blacking imported Litton typewriters and Littons equipment and machinery that is being removed from the Imperials factory at Leicester, which is not occupied, for export to Germany.

Blacking

The Hull docks shop stewards intend to ask the national port shop stewards' committee at its meeting this Saturday to extend the blacking of Littons goods all over Britain.

These fine acts of solidarity prove better than any words that the occupation must organise more support in the working class outside the factory.

Union officials and some members of the occupation committee are still arguing for a passive occupation—for hoping that something will turn up.

This would be disastrous. All experience proves that the spirit of the occupation can only be maintained if there is constant financial and industrial support from outside. That means delegations, organised by the occupation committee, to every industrial centre. It means collections and regular levies, won by those delegations.

If the occupation committee takes responsibility for organisation, instead of leaving things to MPs and union officials, they could organise electricians to switch on the heat and light.

They could organise film shows, meetings and discussions, creche facilities, a family day in the factory. Post Office engineers to connect the telephones, a march through Hull.

These are some ideas for strengthening the occupation. They are all founded on the most important asset the workers have at their disposal: the collective strength, initiative and determination of their class.



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

WHAT WE THINK

Back to work with Labour?

WE need not waste many words on the Right Hon Reginald Prentice. His future career is plainly marked out. It is only a matter of time before he joins yesterday's Prentices—Ray Gunter, Alf Robens, Dick Taverne, Hartley Shawcross and so many, many others—in well-rewarded company chairmanships and directorships.

But what about Michael Foot? Why is he annoyed with Prentice? Because Prentice's 'tactlessness' makes it harder for Foot to keep union members deceived by the Social Contract. And that is the role that the Tribunate ministers are playing in this government, selling the Con-Trick.

Twelve months ago the Labour Party got into office after an election campaign which concentrated on denouncing the Tories' 'three-day week', on explaining that wages were not the main cause of inflation, that it was essential 'to attack inflation directly by controlling prices' as Harold Wilson put it on television.

The Labour Party leaders went further than this. They promised in their election manifesto 'a major redistribution of both wealth and income'. A major redistribution they said. More for wages and welfare of all kinds and therefore less for the rich. That was the basis on which the Social Contract was originally sold.

What has happened? Hundreds of thousands of workers are on a two-day week. Price control is a joke. Import costs are falling and have been for some months. Yet prices race ahead with the government claiming that it is all the fault of the workers. Just like the Tories!

Why this complete turnabout? Because an effective system of price control means extensive government control of the economy and that is violently opposed by 'industry'—in plain words by that small but rich minority which owns and controls industry (and runs the Tory Party too).

And the 'major redistribution'? Well, there has been some; mainly as a result of Healey's last budget. Only it has been redistribution away from the working class towards the rich. You don't believe it? Take it from the horse's mouth, more exactly from the big business weekly, The Economist. The budget, it said, 'was wholly devoted to diverting another 2 per cent of gross national product (all that is produced) towards disposable company profits.' And who disposes of company profits?

This is a right-wing, pro-capitalist government—just like the Labour government of 1964-70. Only this time it is trying to run the economy on capitalist lines at a time when, as ministers tell us, there is a world-wide crisis in the capitalist system.

That means attacking the gains working people have made in the past, trying to make workers pay for the bosses' crisis. Chancellor Denis Healey now openly admits that the Social Contract means 'accepting lower wages on average'—those are his exact words.

Foot, Benn, Heffer and other lefts of yesterday, are supporting all this and trying to put a 'left-wing' gloss on it.

They used to explain that only by taking over industry and running a democratically controlled planned economy could the waste and chaos of capitalism be ended.

They were right. That was and is true. Only their party and its government are doing their damndest to prevent it happening.

Neither CIA nor KGB

THE Tory press has been engaging in a furious demonstration of its own hypocrisy all week. Leader writers whose normal job is to sing the praises of near-slave conditions in the South African mines or of the Shah's Iran, where trade unionists are tortured and shot, have been attacking the TUC for agreeing to meet a Russian trade union delegation.

Their complaint is that Russia's trade unions are led by Shelepin, the former head of the secret police, the KGB. The fact that for years the TUC has been meeting with US union delegations heavily staffed with CIA men has never worried them.

The only people who have any right to complain about the TUC meeting a thug like Shelepin are revolutionary socialists, who have in the past made clear their opposition to participating in CIA fronts or junketing with the Shah. Shelepin no more represents the interests of Russian workers than the CIA represents the interests of US workers.

We are in favour of real solidarity with Russian and American workers—which means solidarity with those who are on the receiving end of the repression of the KGB and the CIA.



A letter to Hugh Scanlon

By Paul Foot

LAST WEEK I wrote the following letter to Hugh Scanlon, President of the AUEW:

Dear Brother Scanlon, I am writing once again to ask for credentials for one of our journalists to attend the National Committee of your union.

When I wrote to you last year with the same request you refused it. By way of explanation you wrote:

'The group of Labour and Industrial correspondents, who have no connection with our union, should be the body with whom we correspond and whose members shall be admitted to our conferences.'

Regards

I have been in touch with Mr David Young, of The Times, who is this year's secretary of the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group. He tells me that neither he nor any other members of his group regards the list of his members which he gives you as being exclusive in

any sense—least of all for attendance at your conference.

Mr Young told me: 'I can see no reason at all why your correspondent should not attend the AUEW conference. That is entirely a matter for Mr Scanlon and his union executive—nothing to do with us.' It also needs to be said that the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group is not a part of the National Union of Journalists.

Mr Young also tells me that a correspondent of the Guardian who is not a member of the group has attended National Committee meetings in the past, and that the senior industrial correspondents of the Daily Mirror, the Sunday Times and of the Press Association are not members of the group.

Socialist Worker has a circulation of more than 30,000, and is concerned with reporting the matters under discussion at your conference.

Our journalists are trade unionists. Can we therefore apply again for credentials?

Our application for credentials has the full support of many people in the union, including Bob Wright, the Broad Left candidate for general secretary. Bob Wright told us last week:

'There should be no question of a refusal to any reporter—provided he or she is a member of the appropriate union and deals with industrial reporting.'

Assume

In the next few weeks, before the National Committee meeting, it is vital that all those who support our application should raise the matter in their union branches, shop stewards committees etc.

The reasons given for excluding us so far do not stand up to examination. We want a proper explanation—or we can only assume that the ban is crude political victimisation.



What is wrong with the AUEW?

LAURIE SMITH, 49, has been a shop steward in the engineering industry for 25 years. He was the secretary of the successful strike at Sovez, Erith in Kent, which was solid for 12 weeks and smashed a productivity deal. Laurie has been a member of his AUEW Divisional Committee for 20 years and of the Erith District Committee for 25 years. In an interview with IS industrial organiser, John Deason, Laurie spells out what he thinks is wrong in the AUEW—and how it can be put right.

Q: WHAT DO you think are the main reasons for the apparent success of the right wing vote in the first round of the recent elections?

A: First of all, the right wing candidates have received enormous support—free printing, free plugs in the national press, and all the usual goings on, they have obviously stepped up their organisation. The Communist Party organisation and their Broad Left seems much weaker, specially at factory level. Elections are held in a vacuum, without strong and militant organisation.

But it's also true that the so-called left-wing officials have failed to give clear leads on bread and butter issues like wages. They have vacillated all over the place, at one point giving a good lead over the Industrial Relations Act, then failing to mobilise for meaningful national wage claims, and facing up to the struggles involved.

Never has the value of real wages been eroded as they are now. The basic role of a trade union is to strive for a greater share of the wealth produced. It is not to capitulate to a Social Contract. That disarms workers in the face of most serious threats to our organisation and living standards.

THIS VOTE IS CRUCIAL

THE APPARENT victories of the right wing in the recent Engineering Union elections must be checked. Many of the Broad Left candidates find that the members see them as a clear alternative to the right.

In fact, Broad Lefts such as Scanlon, Wright, Brett and Co are most associated with the failure to lead any meaningful fight for better wages and job security.

AUEW militants have to organise against the increased influence of the right-wing by building a rank and file movement within the union which will campaign for shop stewards' control of the union, for substantial across-the-board national wage claims and for job security.

In the second ballot, we must vote against the right wing. We must keep the right out of the leadership of the union. That means voting for the Broad Left candidates. These candidates are:

- BOB WRIGHT for general secretary.
- KEN BRETT for assistant general secretary
- J FOSTER for National Organiser
- B PANTER for National Organiser
- R WALMSLEY for National Organiser
- L SMITH for National Organiser

Instead it would have been, and still is, possible to mobilise the engineers around simple fighting claims, for across the board increases and shorter hours, not encumbered by strings. We can learn a lot from the miners.

Q: OK, I agree, particularly in view of the disastrous abdication of leadership by Scanlon and his pals in their plant by plant bargaining strategy.

If we'd fought together for meaningful national claims the Engineering Employers Federation would never have picked off individual factories and districts as they were able to do in the 1972 pay claim battles.

But many would argue that it's too late to change, that we're now in the middle of an economic crisis.

What happens if the employers claim they can't afford to meet the sort of increases we need? How can we defend living standards when threatened with redundancy and short time?

Expense

A: There is a serious crisis developing. Without doubt those that own industry and commerce, and the political parties that represent them, are out to solve their problems at our expense.

Their system creates inflation and over-production. Why should the working class bear the brunt for their problems?

The deeper the crisis becomes the more we have to struggle to ensure that we do not accept the sacrifices. Of course the problems posed by a system that cannot work will not be solved for us by trade unionism alone.

We also have to organise for a fundamental change in the social system.

A union leadership serious about maintaining living standards would



The AUEW on the march. Given the lead—the members will respond

have to campaign for such ideas and go all out to counteract the daily barrage of propaganda from the papers and TV. It would not be a party to a Social Contract and the consequent wage restraint.

Q: How do you visualise a trade union leadership capable of such campaigning? What about the argument officials like Scanlon often use—that the membership are not prepared to fight and as we're democratic it's up to them.

A: That argument if used, is a cynical excuse for not leading. Our members have shown again and again that they are prepared to fight on the widest range of issues, given a clear lead. It's a slander to say they are not.

As a shop steward and convenor I've always insisted that the shop stewards committee make a recommendation when action on any issue is being considered.

No steward worth his salt would go to a mass meeting saying 'It's up

to you', without also giving a lead. Quite rightly, the membership expect to know what their stewards think before deciding.

Elected representatives are elected to lead. We need national officials prepared to do the same, while accepting that the final decision must always rest with the members.

Rights

Q: How can the potential and power of the AUEW be used to bring about the changes you stand for? Are you satisfied with the present structures within the union?

A: The constitution of the AUEW is one of the most democratic of all unions and contains rules that safeguard the rights of members in many ways.

But we should never be complacent. The postal ballot means that discussion about respective candidates

is dominated by the ideas of the gutter press like the Mirror and Sun. Better it returned to the informal voting, based on full discussion of election addresses, in our branches.

We have to strive for better and stronger shop stewards organisation. The officials' fear of shop stewards' combine committees is an example of how they put their privilege and position above our concrete needs.

National officers committed to the sort of things we've been chatting about would have to recognise where our power lies. It's not the logic of our case, or the skill of negotiation that can win; it's the ability to mobilise our immense industrial strength.

The recent history of our union shows real preparedness to struggle. The response by the membership to maintain a free and unfettered union by effectively smashing the Industrial Relations Act, shows the potential. But such preparedness deserves clear and decisive leadership.

Vote No, vote against the bosses

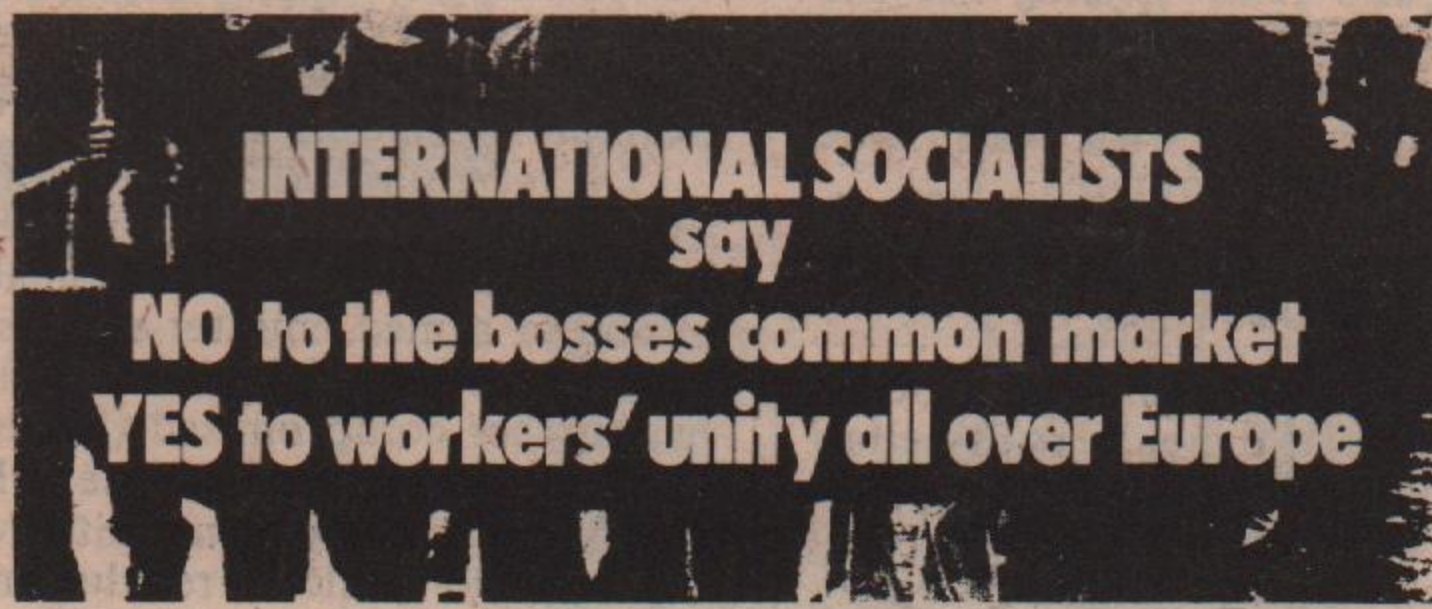
THE International Socialists are internationalists. We stand for international working-class unity. We know that there can be no solution to the problems facing working people—unemployment, inflation and the rest—in an 'independent' capitalist Britain. We also believe that a socialist society can only be built by co-operation between the workers of several countries.

So how can we say 'Vote NO' in the referendum on whether Britain stays in the Common Market? Isn't that just pandering to reactionary nationalist, 'Little Britain' ideas?

The fundamental thing to understand about the Common Market is that it is not, in any sense, a step towards the unity of European workers. It is, as Chris Harman wrote here in Socialist Worker last month, 'an attempt by European capitalism to strengthen itself.' It is and was from the start, an anti-socialist enterprise.

It is no more 'pandering to nationalism' to be against it than being against the NATO alliance—as we have always been.

Of course most of those of our readers who have written in dis-



agreeing with the paper's stand on this issue would accept this. They too are against the Common Market. Their point is that a capitalist Britain is no better.

'In or out we live in a capitalist society, the only alternative to which is socialism' as one reader puts it. So he says socialists should abstain because 'an anti-Common Market campaign will distract working-class attention from the real issues.'

Well of course he is right that, in or out, Britain is capitalist. But it by no means follows that socialists should be indifferent to the matter. It is not enough to say that socialism is the alternative. It is

also necessary to say what is the policy, in the here and now, that will most strengthen the socialist cause and weaken its enemies.

Fight

For instance, Socialist Worker called on workers to vote Labour in both last year's elections. Now under a Labour government, no less than a Tory one, Britain remains a capitalist society. That is certainly true. But it is not at all true, in our opinion, that we should therefore abstain in the electoral fight between Labour and Tory. Why not? Because we believe that Labour

The announcement of a referendum on the Common Market in the summer has pushed the issue to the centre of the working-class movement. This week DUNCAN HALLAS answers some of the basic questions about a socialist attitude to the Common Market—some of which appear in Letters on page 10. Duncan will be writing regularly about the Common Market in future issues. BALANCE SHEET will return next week.

in power is a lesser obstacle to the growth of the revolutionary left than Labour in opposition.

Like it or not, the Common Market is one of 'the real issues' today. And it will make a difference to the immediate prospects of the revolutionary left whether or not the pro-Common Market forces carry the day in the referendum.

Why does that reliable indicator of big business opinion, The Economist, say that a NO vote would be a staggering disaster for Britain?

As a matter of fact not mainly because it fears that 'if the wrong side wins this referendum then Britain will come out of the Market

—that is rather unlikely, whatever the vote—but because, as it says, 'the whole future of the rival left and right flank factions of the Labour Party rests on whether Mr Wilson and his colleagues can carry the country in favour of British membership.'

And not just of the Labour Party. A NO vote would precipitate a crisis, a political crisis, that could seriously weaken the right wing in the whole Labour movement. Of course, it is a big exaggeration to say that 'the whole future' of left and right depends on this. It does not. But it is an even bigger error to say that the result does not matter.

A NO vote, that is to say a defeat for the big-business, Tory, Liberal and right wing Labour coalition on this issue is in our interests. We are part of the left. We can no more abstain in this confrontation than we could abstain in last year's elections. The arena for our internationalist message is inside the NO camp. That is where the vast majority of class-conscious workers are. That is where we belong.

5 FIFTH COLUMN



UNFUNNY STORY...

YOU THINK that 'Love Thy Neighbour' is funny? Have a chat to Joe Williams.

Joe's a West Indian fired last October from Redland Tiles in Coventry. He had hit a white shop steward, Rob Bloomfield, with a piece of plastic piping. He wound up in court and got a £20 fine.

Joe said that the man had taunted him with names like 'monkey' and 'sambo'. The court didn't regard this as 'sufficient reason'. Nor did the Industrial Tribunal that he appealed to over his dismissal.

At the Tribunal the firm's production manager, David Putt cited 'Love Thy Neighbour'. 'The taunts should be taken in the context of a joke' argued Putt.

Hugh Hay, Transport union 'nights' convenor at GEC, Stoke, represented Joe Williams at the Tribunal. He wasn't told about it until 5pm the day before. When they arrived they were confronted with two company solicitors and 12 company witnesses.

One thing did emerge. How racialism has corrupted and brutalised shop-floor life at Redlands—a notorious local sweat shop. How black workers ate their snap in the toilets to avoid racist jibes.

'I used to catch the works coach every morning and the names would begin—monkey, sambo, black bastard and worse. In the canteen they'd throw paper and wet tea bags and bits of food. Once I had concrete poured on my head', recalled Joe.

Hugh Hay recounted four further incidents of assaults on black workers at Redland. In three of them the black workers were transferred—and in the other the victim was suspended.

The same week that Williams lost his case at the Tribunal 90 workers were made redundant at Redlands. It makes a great punch-line. Maybe now the workers will see that unity as trade unionists is a defence and that second hand tea-bags aren't.

'It's up to the trade union to involve black workers' said Hugh Hay. 'It's up to the trade union officials in a town like Coventry to make a stand on racialism and not see it as an embarrassing side issue.'

And it's up to trade unionists. Meantime Joe has been getting poison pen letters. Perhaps he should sell them to Love Thy Neighbour...

'THE emancipation of the working class is the act of the working class.' Karl Marx, the Communist Manifesto, 1848.

'It has always been a basic tenet of Marxism, that the working class, by itself, can never attain its objectives.' Jack Woddis, head of the international department of the Communist Party, Morning Star, 28 February.

Extra Special

THE SPECIAL branch in Edinburgh is to be increased by a detective inspector, two detective sergeants, five detective constables and three women officers.

This was at a recent meeting, behind closed doors, of the city's Lord Provost's Committee, chaired by the Lord Provost, Mr Jack Kane.

Mr Kane left the Communist Party soon after the war when it looked as though continued membership might spoil his chances of being elected as a councillor.

He includes his local Miners' Welfare Institute in his list of clubs in 'Who's Who' but not the fact that he is one of the list of Labour Party worthies once on the payroll of jailed architect John Poulson.

Jack Kane told the local and national press he had done nothing for Poulson in return for the money.

Presumably his conscience is also clear about making common cause with Edinburgh's chief constable, Sir John Inch, and agreeing that there is an urgent need to expand and strengthen the special branch, as the committee were told.

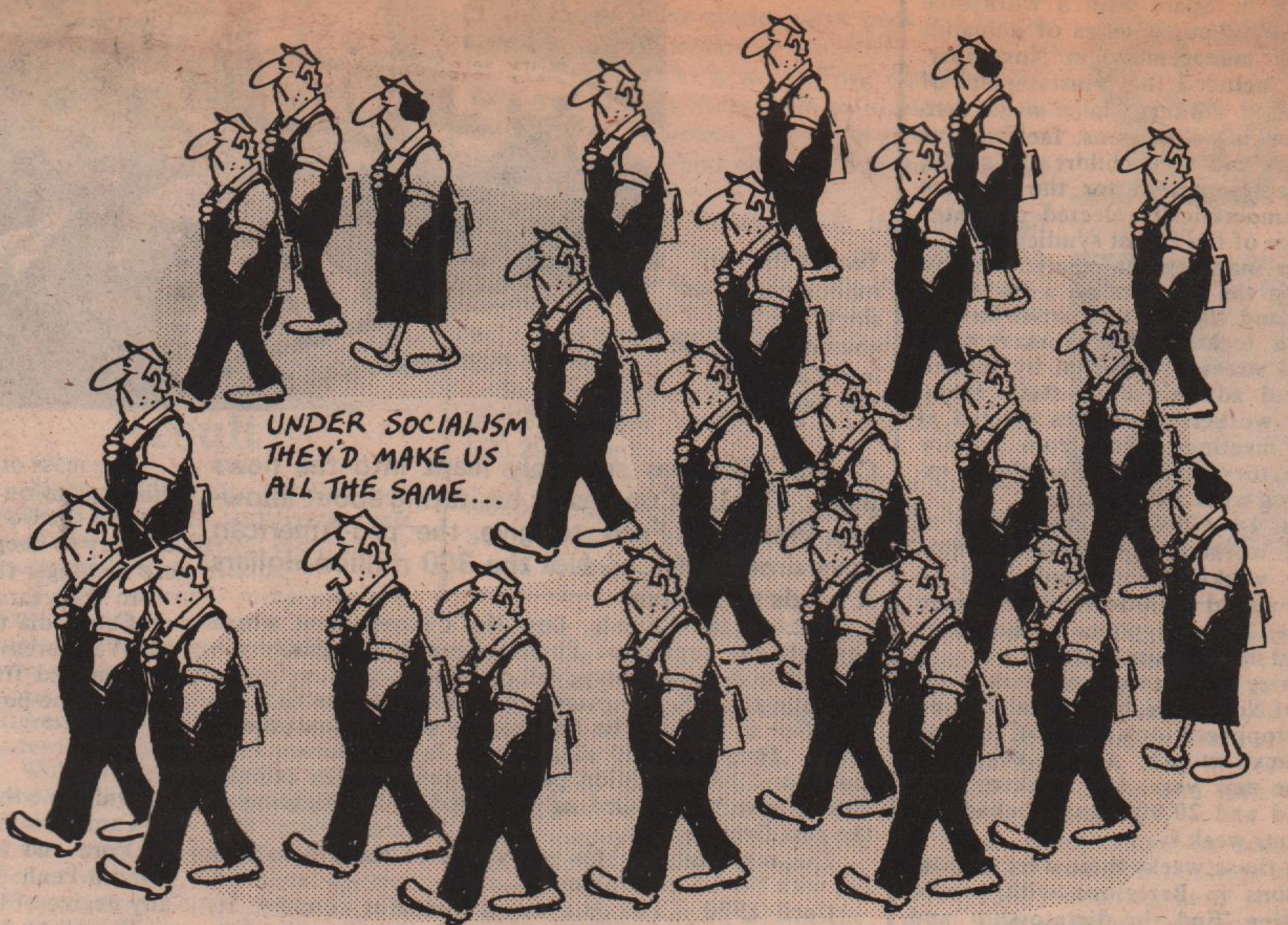
Only last October the local special branch numbers were boosted by a detective sergeant, two detective constables and a woman officer. But now the committee were told 'recent legislation against terrorism would place additional demands on manpower'.

ARE YOU worried about your neighbours? Concerned that Mr Bloggs is a wife basher? Thinking of ringing up the police to explain?

Well maybe you should ring up Mr Bloggs instead. Erin Pizzey of Chiswick Women's Aid, which specialises in helping battered wives, has produced some figures of those professions most likely to indulge in the habit.

'Policemen are way in the lead,' says Ms Pizzey. Good to know that the force carry their principles into private life.

GOOD ARGUMENTS AGAINST SOCIALISM No2



Not what you do -but who does you

'THIS attack on the working people was the last ditch-stand of the fascist and right-wing elements who tried to turn back the clock of history. They assassinated socialists and took over buildings and fired on workers killing many of them.'

The quote comes from the United Irishman, the paper of the Official Sinn Fein. A description of life in Northern Ireland? Unfortunately it isn't. The next line reads 'The government asked for the intervention of Soviet troops who assisted in defeating the counter-revolution.'

The writer is giving his description of the Hungarian revolution—where the workers of Budapest were shot down by the Red Army. The struggle for a free, united Irish workers' republic is not assisted by choosing the variety of tanks you would most enjoy being mowed down by...

Ill health and insecurity

ROSINA DOHERTY used to live with her husband. But he was an awkward man who just couldn't accept that the British government should go on tearing Ireland apart. He became a republican socialist, and taking advantage of something called the right to free speech, he organised and propagandised for a united Ireland.

Mr Doherty was incidentally unutterably opposed to bombings. He was in short the perfect target for hunting down under Roy Jenkins supposed anti terror legislation. He was picked up and kicked out of the country without so much as a court hearing.

This appalling blow has left Mrs Doherty in a very serious situation. Her two children are as Scottish as Billy Connolly and they do not want to live in Ireland where in the words of her boy 'They play the wrong kind of football.' So you can understand that Mrs Doherty was really pleased to have the Department of Health and Social Security come to her assistance in her time of need.

Just before the exclusion order on her husband Gerry was signed by the Home Secretary, Mrs Doherty was offered—and accepted—a job as a clerical assistant with the DHSS. She was told to hand in her notice at her previous job, which she did. Just before she was to start and not long after her husband was expelled from the country, the job at the DHSS was suddenly withdrawn without explanation.

Packages of horse dung (not yet forbidden under the Prevention of Terrorism Act) should be sent to the Minister of Social Security, Lady Barbara Castle, London, SW1. Please reverse the charges.

Shootings threaten left-wing Republicanism

WITH the shooting of the Official Republican's national organiser Sean Garfield on Saturday night the feud between the Officials and the Irish Republican Socialist Party has begun to take on the appearance of gang warfare. The chances of clarifying the vital political issues involved are fading.

The IRSP has adamantly denied shooting Garfield and has hinted that responsibility may lie with either British Intelligence or the southern Irish Special Branch. This is certainly possible, but by refusing to take decisive action to make its position clear the IRSP is playing into the hands of its enemies.

by Eamonn McCann

The objections to the Official's policies which led to the formation of the IRSP were substantial and from a socialist point of view defensible. The Officials' increasing domination by the Communist Party, the total lack of internal democracy and the reformist approach to the North and to trade union struggles convinced many genuine socialists that a break had to be made.

After the split the factional violence came at first exclusively from the Officials who were determined

to stop the IRSP getting off the ground. IRSP members in Belfast were systematically shot at, beaten up and threatened with death. One was killed, eight wounded.

Joined

What seems to have happened is that a few IRSP members in Belfast eventually lost their cool and struck back in like manner—at which point undercover agents of the state may have joined in to keep the feud raging.

The IRSP has done itself no good by denying point blank that any of its members have been in-

involved in any retaliatory action. This has simply made their genuine denials—of the Garfield shooting for example—seem implausible.

The refusal to take action against—to expel if necessary—members who, however understandably, mounted armed counter-attacks on members of the Officials in Belfast has further compromised the entire IRSP organisation. Those IRSP members, possibly a majority, who do wish to build a revolutionary alternative to the nationalist and reformist Republican tendencies will quickly have to assert themselves or see their organisation go down in bloody confusion.



WEDNESDAY 26 February: 17-year-old Peter Young was cleared of murdering two policemen after it was shown that he had been beaten by the Royal Ulster Constabulary to extract a confession.

THURSDAY 27 February: One of the founders of the Ulster Defence Association, Charles Harding-Smith, left Northern Ireland. In January and February two assassination attempts were made on him by other Protestants. He had led the break-away West Belfast brigade of the UDA, whose co-founder, Tommy Herron, was murdered a year ago.

His departure underlined the fear within the Protestant community of the gangsterism which is stemming from the UDA and Ulster Volunteer Force. With the ceasefire protection rackets, extortion and terror are being used by some UDA and UVF units to build personal fortunes.

FRIDAY 28 February: A directive restricting the number of guns held in Northern Ireland was withdrawn by the Chief Constable of the RUC after consultation with Merlyn Rees, the Northern Ireland Secretary. There are 101,839 legally-held weapons in the province. The original directive had been circulated among Loyalist politicians. Ultra-right Official Unionist John Taylor alleged that senior RUC men were ignoring it. Ian Paisley urged his followers to follow his lead and 'hold on to their weapons.'

SATURDAY 1 March: Three Belfast men got £1900 worth of damages from the Ministry of Defence and the Chief Constable of the RUC. They had been jumped on, arrested, called 'Fenian bastards' by the police and beaten by the Special Branch.

Judge Topping reserved judgement over a case where two ex-detainee brothers have taken action against the Ministry of Defence alleging they were dragged out of their beds at 5am, beaten, jumped on, and left for five hours without attention.

A USEFUL pamphlet has been published by the Manchester National Council for Civil Liberties. The State, The Law and Northern Ireland details the powers given to the police under the 1974 Prevention of Terrorism Act. They are capable of being used against not only Republicans and their sympathisers but directly against trade union militants.

It is available (20p) from R Vaughan, 44 Demesne Road, Whalley Range, Manchester 16.

TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND! Demonstration, Sunday 6 April, in London. All socialists and trade unionists should make a major effort for this demonstration. More details next week.

How car workers in Barcelona shook Franco

SPAIN'S Minister of Labour resigned last week. After six years in the job, during which he has supported the most vicious forms of repression against strikers, he seems to have become convinced that the right to strike should be legalised.

Behind his resignation lies a growing realisation among a section of the Spanish ruling class that the law cannot be effective against the rising wave of working-class struggle.

The point is borne out by the struggle in the industrial city of Barcelona over the past three months. Workers at SEAT, the largest car factory in Spain with a workforce of 30,000, put a series of demands to the management in November. These included the reinstatement of victimised workers, higher wages, better working conditions, facilities for workers and their children to study, and representation for the workers by democratically elected delegates in place of the fascist syndicates.

The management reacted first by putting the workers on a three-day week and then, after partial strikes, with a lockout. The workers took to the streets, supported by technical and administrative staff. Meanwhile workers' delegates elected at mass meetings went from factory to factory through Barcelona explaining what was at stake.

On 14 November thousands of SEAT workers, supported by white-collar workers from banks and offices, staged a sit-down in the main square. The riot police immediately moved in with guns and tear gas.

There was a return to work at the end of November, but partial, on-and-off stoppages took place all through the next month. At the beginning of the new year, 400 workers were sacked and 20,000 again locked out for four weeks.

In those weeks there were demonstrations in Barcelona with people chanting 'End the dictatorship' and 'SEAT will win.' The riot police used tear gas, shots and rubber bullets to break up demonstrations, sometimes of 4000 people.

A few weeks ago the SEAT workers decided to return to the factory, as it is the only place they can meet without immediately being attacked. But they have succeeded in changing the atmosphere in the city completely in a few weeks. Workers' assemblies have considerably increased in number, both in the workplace and on the streets, with militants able to express themselves with more freedom than since the Civil War of the 1930s.

Puerto protest

THE US Embassy in London was picketed last Saturday by protesters demanding the release of Puerto Rican political prisoners held in US jails. The prisoners, who are fighting for independence of Puerto Rico from the US, serving the longest political sentences anywhere in the western world and have now been held for 21 years.

THE LAND THE US LAID WASTE



Two of the half million casualties since the US government moved into Cambodia five years ago.

CAMBODIA has suddenly leapt into the news again. The US Congress is hesitating about allowing President Ford to give the pro-American government of Lon Nol the 300 million dollars it needs to survive.

Without these funds, Lon Nol's government which controls the capital of Phnom Penh but virtually nowhere else in the country, will collapse.

While the US government desperately fights to keep Lon Nol in power, the Cambodian people continue to suffer. There are 200 casualties a day in Phnom Penh alone, and half a million people, a tenth of the population, have been killed or wounded in the fighting of the past five years.

The responsibility for every one of these casualties lies with the US government.

Until 1970, Cambodia was a peaceful country. Its ruler, Prince Sihanouk, persecuted the extreme left, but refused to support the US in their war against the Vietnamese. The American CIA were determined that he pay the price of his obstinacy, and organised a coup d'etat while he was out of the country, putting Lon Nol in his place.

The mass of the Cambodian people, however, resisted this imposition of a US puppet government. Within three months the US was forced to send 20,000 troops into the country to keep Lon Nol in power. Today, the US troops are no longer there, but US supplies keep the war going.

In the years since, the US has inflicted all the horrors on Cambodia that neighbouring Vietnam had experienced. Vast areas of the countryside were bombed with napalm and fragmentation bombs, driving more than a third of the population from their homes.

Determined

Only one thing prevents the horror and the bloodshed in Cambodia from ending tomorrow—the determination of Ford and Kissinger to keep their puppet Lon Nol in Phnom Penh. To that end, they are prepared to back up any degree of barbarity.

Socialists do not agree with many of the policies of Sihanouk and the forces that support him. But we back their fight to throw out the US puppet regime and to allow the Cambodian people to determine their own future as the only way to end the misery and the killing.

Torturer ally of the Labour government

by Phil Marflet and Eli Povey

these are the facts of life.

In Iran life expectancy is 30 years. Half of all children die during their first few years.

When Iranian workers have tried to change their conditions they have been viciously attacked. In 1971 2000 workers from the Jalan-Chet tea factory marched to the capital, Teheran, to protest about rising prices and pathetic wages. Halfway along the road they were met by armed police—20 were gunned down and left dead. Scores were injured.

Yet all this happened in a country which, the press tells us is going to be the saviour of Western capitalism by lending large sums for Western industry. It is this country which expects to be a superpower in ten years time, and which the Shah, last weekend, declared a one-party state.

The Shah has clearly not been using Iran's wealth to improve the country's living standards. Other things attract him more. Other buys four-fifths of all the arms exported from the US.

One place these arms are being used is in nearby Oman, an oil sheikhdom in south Arabia. Here one of the Shah's friends, Sultan

Qabus, has been trying to crush a popular uprising. 10,000 heavily armed Iranian troops have gone to back him up.

But they are not entirely alone. The British government too has sent aid—guns, arms, aeroplanes and 2000 troops and 'advisors'. Between them Iranian and British forces have been burning the crops of Omani villagers, bombing their homes and encampment, capturing and torturing.

Demonstration: British and Iranian troops out of Oman! Assemble Horse Guards Avenue, near Trafalgar Square, London SW1. March to Downing Street, Iranian and Omani Embassies, Sunday 9 March, 2pm.

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

Will the Union Jack save jobs?



LIVERPOOL—and 5000 Plessey workers demonstrate against a Post Office contract going to Sweden

MEANWHILE, IN LITTLE OL' KENTUCKY

SIR DENYS FLOWERDEW LOWSON is currently on a world cruise on the QE2. He is the ex-Lord Mayor of London. In 1962 he and his associates took over the American Association, which owns 50,000 acres of coal mining land on the Kentucky/Tennessee state border.

After the take-over, the Clearfork Citizens United asked the AA to 'repair' its houses in the valley to make them livable for the citizens who have to live there... Stop the destruction of our lands, streams, homes, timber and wildlife that strip mining brings to our valley... Pay its fair share of property taxes to the country...

AA did none of these things. They've torn down two-thirds of the coal camp houses—and tripled their profits on property between 1969-1970. The land has been ruined, the inhabitants terrorised—and the money went back to Lowson and the City of London.

TOBY JESSEL is an ex-Tory candidate for Hull North. He is involved in an investment firm called Jessel Securities. They own asbestos mines in South Africa—and claim to pay their African workers £8 a week...

McAlpines, the building firm that helped jail the Shrewsbury Two, operate in South Africa. 'It is our aim to get the industry to raise wages,' claimed R J McAlpine. Meanwhile, they claim to be paying their unskilled black building workers £14 a week.

British Leyland's pay rate in January 1972 for unskilled black workers in South Africa was £30.29 a month.

SIR DON RYDER, head of Wedgwood Benn's National Enterprise Board, has said: 'I regard South Africa as one of the best countries in the world in which to invest.'



Denys Lowson



Toby Jessel



Don Ryder

WILL A dose of patriotism save jobs? Are the sackings and lay-offs which are causing chaos for so many workers all over the country the fault of foreigners—either foreign businessmen or foreign goods?

Could we get our jobs back by banning foreign goods, or foreign workers, or foreign businessmen?

Lots of workers think so. At Plesseys, Liverpool, workers marched through the town shouting against the Swedish firm which has won an order for post office equipment, which the Plessey bosses always regarded as theirs by right.

The occupied factory at Imperial Typewriters, Hull, is decorated with posters calling for the Yanks To Get Out. One poster says: Keep the factory open to help the British economy.

The union leaders of every political shade encourage this sort of argument. Delegation after delegation goes to the Board of Trade to 'demand' from government ministers that Japanese cloth or French eggs or Polish boots be kept out of the country.

Jobless

A leaflet issued recently by the Leicester Communist Party after the closure of Imperial had this to say:

'Already Leicester has lost out to the Japanese and American corporations in the hosiery machine industry—soon we will be importing Stibbe-designed machines from abroad, while Leicester engineers remain jobless.'

The argument sounds simple: if only we can keep out foreign goods, we have to make the goods here, so there's more jobs for British workers.

In fact, all these remedies spell nothing but danger to workers. They do not solve unemployment; they do not bring down prices; they weaken trade unions where they matter most—on the shop

By **CHRIS HARMAN**

floor.

Suppose you work in the shoe industry. If the clamour to ban shoe imports succeeded, what would happen? First, the price of shoes which other workers have to pay would go up.

Maybe a few jobs in Britain would be saved—but at whose expense? At the expense of lower living standards for other workers here—and unemployment for shoe workers somewhere else in the world.

Result

What would those foreign shoe workers then do? Campaign in their countries for import controls of goods made from Britain.

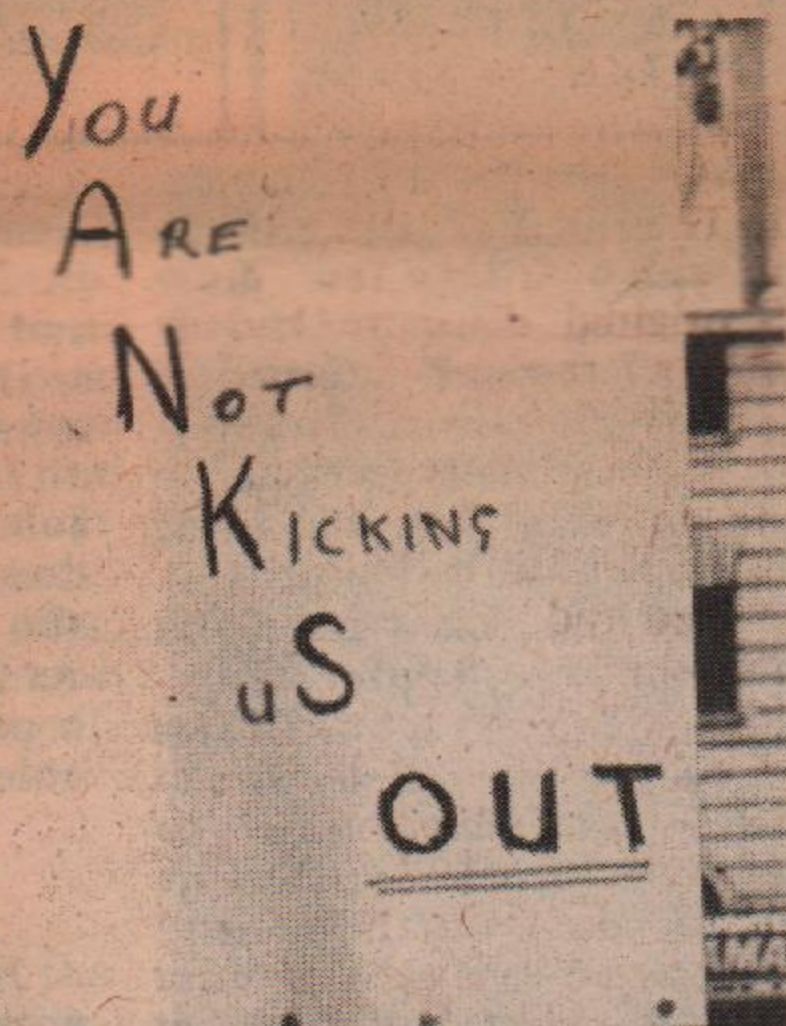
If they succeed, more jobs are lost in this country. So the wretched merry-go-round goes on with workers becoming more and more hysterical about 'the national interest' and losing out faster and faster in all countries.

While different groups of workers try to shift the unemployment burden between each other, and while unemployment and prices rise as a result, the shoe bosses are protecting their profits.

Sir Charles Clore's Sears Holdings, which controls the bulk of the British shoe industry, made £53 million profit last year—that's nearly £1000 for every worker. He wouldn't lose a penny from import controls.

Campaigns for import controls divide the workers movement.

How can you get unity between shoe workers, who want import controls to protect their jobs, and other workers, who will have to pay more for their shoes because of the import controls.



HULL—and a woman from Imperial Typewriters sums up the misguided feeling of many on the march. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

When patriotism gets in the way of profit...

DURING World War Two, the bosses had problems. American bombers (supplied by Boeings of Seattle) were bombing car factories (supplied by Fords of Detroit) in Cologne.

Still, they all made it up after the war, when the bosses got down together to the job of screwing the workers. The German airline Lufthansa was re-equipped with Boeings, the British Army set up the Volkswagen plant at Wolfsburg (originally built by Hitler), VW sold

their cars to the USA, and German workers complained when VW announced plans to set up factories in the USA.

Having done their bit for the German war effort, ITT set about establishing themselves around the world, culminating in their 'de-stabilisation' of Allende's socialist regime in Chile.

The British got back into the act by nicking the plans of a revolutionary new motor bike made by DKW just after the war. They sold it round the world in the 1950s under the name of the BSA Bantam...

Worst of all, the 'foreign goods are responsible' argument plays into the hands of extreme right-wing elements who want to split the workers by colour.

Such propaganda only sets workers of different colours at each other's throats. And leaflets such as the one produced by the Communist Party in Leicester serve only to increase those divisions, because they concentrate on whether people are 'British' or 'foreign'—not whether they are employers or workers.

Increase

Worst of all, the 'foreign goods are responsible' argument plays into the hands of extreme right-wing elements who want to split the workers by colour.

Such propaganda only sets workers of different colours at each other's throats. And leaflets such as the one produced by the Communist Party in Leicester serve only to increase those divisions, because they concentrate on whether people are 'British' or 'foreign'—not whether they are employers or workers.

The way to fight successfully against unemployment and high prices is to realise that both are caused by the international system run by capitalists, which cannot plan its resources, and moves inevitably into slump and inflation to protect its profits.

These people must be fought. When they threaten to close factories, the factories have to be taken over and the machinery and property held in ransom for the jobs.

Victory

If private enterprise won't respond—as is usually the case—the government has to be forced—again by holding the machinery and property—into nationalising the firm, guaranteeing the jobs, and continuing production under shop stewards' control of manning levels and track speeds.

The more workers' solidarity can be built up round the struggles—the more blacking of the firm's goods in the docks, for instance, or the more sympathy strikes by workers for the same firm in other countries—the sooner they will be won.

That road—the road of international solidarity—leads to hope and victory.

The road through import controls, patriotism, and racialism leads only to lower living standards, more unemployment and despair.

ANTHONY WEDGWOOD BENN AND THE REGENERATION

**The Crisis:
Social
Contract
or
Socialism**

Public meetings organised by the International Socialists around the new book on the crisis by Tony Cliff.

IPSWICH: Friday 7 March, 8pm, Room 3, Town Hall. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

LEEDS: Thursday 13 March, 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount, off Chapeltown Road, Leeds 8. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

TYNESIDE: Thursday 13 March, 8pm, Bridge Hotel, Castle Square, Newcastle (end of High Level Bridge). Speaker: Duncan Hallas (editor, International Socialism journal).

BRADFORD: Thursday 13 March, 7.30pm, Star Hotel, Westgate (opposite Morrisons). Speakers: Chris Harman (political editor, Socialist Worker) and Frank Logan (Manchester AUEW).

BRIGHTON: Thursday 6 March, 8pm, The Stratford Arms, Preston Circus. Speaker: Chris Harman (political editor, Socialist Worker).

GREATER LONDON COUNCIL: Thursday 13 March, 12.30pm, The Artichoke, Lower Marsh, London SE1. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

NEWPORT Wednesday 12 March, 8pm, William IV pub, Commercial Street, Newport, Gwent. Speaker: Jim Nichol (IS national secretary).

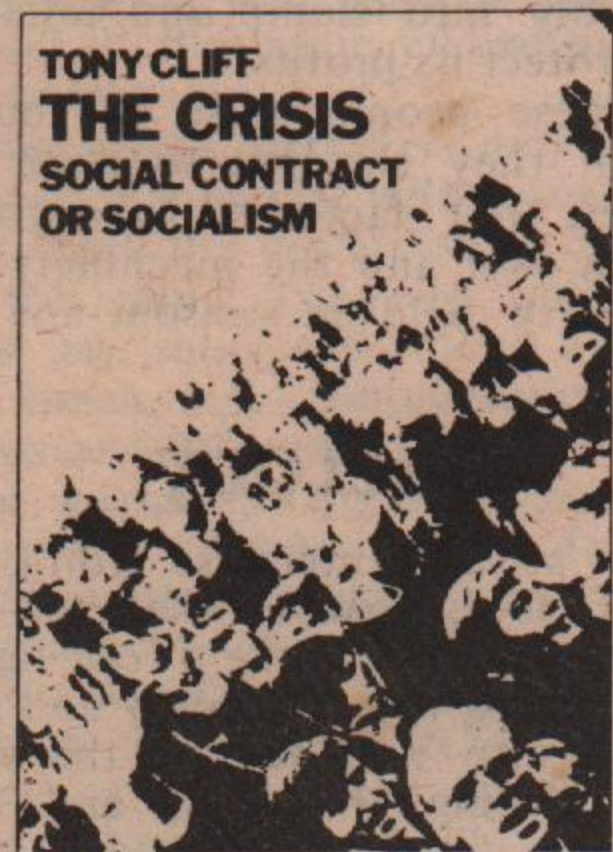
CHELMSFORD: Friday 21 March, 8pm, Shire Hall (near Chelmsford station). Speakers: Tony Cliff and prominent local trade unionists. Plus showing of the new film *The Miners*.

SOUTHALL, West London: Monday 10 March, 8pm, Heastone Village Hall. Speaker: Ken Appleby (IS industrial organiser), plus film: *The Miners*. Admission 20p.

WALTHAMSTOW, East London: Thursday 20 March, 8pm, Rose & Crown pub, Hoe Street, E17. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

EDMONTON, North London: Tuesday 18 March, 8pm, The Golden Fleece, corner of Park Road and Fore Street, N9. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

TONY CLIFF
**THE CRISIS
SOCIAL CONTRACT
OR SOCIALISM**



75p (plus 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, trades councils, etc— inquire Pluto Press. A Socialist Worker Publication.

The Great Pretender

ANTHONY Wedgwood Benn is the most popular Labour Minister among socialist workers since Aneurin Bevan. Large numbers of shop stewards and ministers who have little confidence in the Labour government are prepared to make an exception for him.

Five years ago, nothing would have seemed less likely. As Minister of Technology, Benn symbolised the disasters of the 1964-1970 Labour government.

He masterminded that government's industrial policies. He presided over the creation of enormous private enterprise monopolies. He was never out of the company of tycoons.

When Labour left office in 1970, however, Benn's tone changed. He identified himself with the struggles of workers against the Tory government—especially with the battle for jobs on the Upper Clyde. He developed a 'new theory' of Labour Party politics.

Two extracts from his speech to the Labour Party Conference of 1971, in which he led the standing ovation for the UCS workers, summed it all up.

Active

'But I say to you from the platform that the changes we contemplate cannot be made by parliamentary action alone. It requires the active work of the industrial movement', he said.

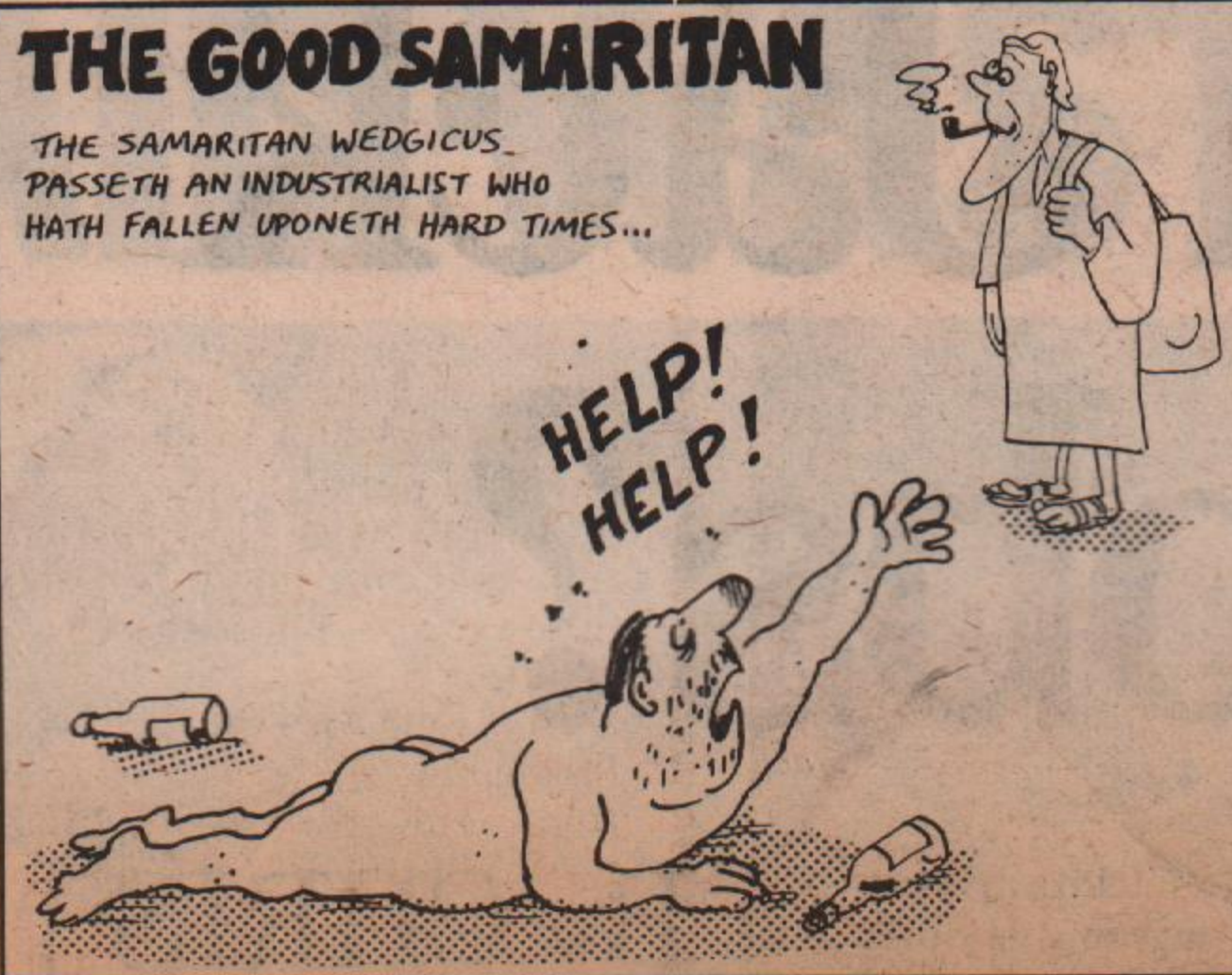
'I confess frankly, that the power I see generated by technology is too great for the Labour Cabinet to control unless the people are unleashed to control it themselves'.

These arguments brought new hope to Labour supporters who despaired at the impotence and isolation of the previous Labour government.

Benn was arguing that the next Labour government would force through socialist measures with the help of industrial strength on the shop floor. Socialist legislation, he suggested, would be made possible by strikes, sit-ins and other workers' actions which

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

THE SAMARITAN WEDGWOOD... PASSETH AN INDUSTRIALIST WHO HATH FALLEN UPONETH HARD TIMES...



POOR CHAP! TAKE ALL THIS!



FACT

In 1957 the Labour Party National Executive recommended to Labour Party Conference a document entitled *Industry and Society* which proposed large-scale nationalisation plus substantial buying of shares by the government. The document was violently opposed by the Labour Left.

Jim Campbell, left-wing general secretary of the Railway Union moved that the document be referred back, saying: 'When you talk of controlling an industry without owning the industry, when you talk about merely buying shares, equity or otherwise, leaving the management in the same hands, I say that all you are doing is contriving a clumsy conception of the consolidation of capitalism.'

Industry and Society was along the same lines as Benn's *Industry Bill*, except that it proposed more public ownership. The Labour Left, which savagely attacked *Industry and Society*, now defends the *Industry Bill*.

would deter the ruling class from sabotaging the Labour government as they had done in the past.

Some speeches by Benn in the past year, during which he has been Secretary for Industry, have tried to hold this line. His recent assault on the management of Imperial Typewriters, for instance, and his declaration that unemployment and short time working were 'unacceptable' have helped to keep up the spirits of his close supporters.

The vulgar hysterics of the capitalist press, who have portrayed him as a Communist monster, have also won for Benn the instinctive solidarity of a large number of workers.

But the test of his politics is not in the stridency of his speeches or in the headlines of the *Daily Express*. The real test is what he does in office.

This month Benn has brought forward what he regards as his most important effort as a minister: *The Industry Bill*. It is the lynch-pin of Labour's industrial policy. It has the almost uncritical support of the Labour lefts and their paper, *Tribune*.

The Bill has three main objectives: to increase industrial investment, to bring about industrial democracy and to disclose information about industry.

INVESTMENT. In 1970-1973 profits from British industry rose

by 60 per cent, but industrial investment fell by 20 per cent. Huge surpluses created by the ruling class were squandered in property speculation and fringe banking. Industrial investment necessary to maintain workers' jobs and living standards went by the board.

This was ruling-class greed and waste of unprecedented proportions.

What is Benn's reaction? Does he propose in his Bill to sweep away the class which failed to invest from 1970 to 1973? Does he propose to take over the control of industry from that class in order to guarantee investment where it matters most?

No. The Bill's proposals for improving investment depend upon the employing class remaining in control of industry.

It sets up a National Enterprise Board which has the power to buy its way into private companies to assist with investment. For this purpose, £700 million of taxpayers' money has been made available.

Achieve

Where will the money go? Listen to Edmund Dell, a former management consultant at ICI who is the Paymaster General in the Labour government, speaking in parliament on 18 February: 'If we are to achieve the overriding objective of improving our industrial performance, resources need to be directed wherever possible to companies which have the

soundest performance and the best prospects and the rate of return.'

In other words where it will make a profit. There is no job security or doesn't matter, if the investment is profitable. As long as the employer makes a profit, the matter is settled.

Sing

No wonder Sir John Gorton, prospective chairman of the Board, describes the Board as a commercial concern.

In Benn's own words: 'The Board is a compulsory power. Not a single business is threatened by it.'

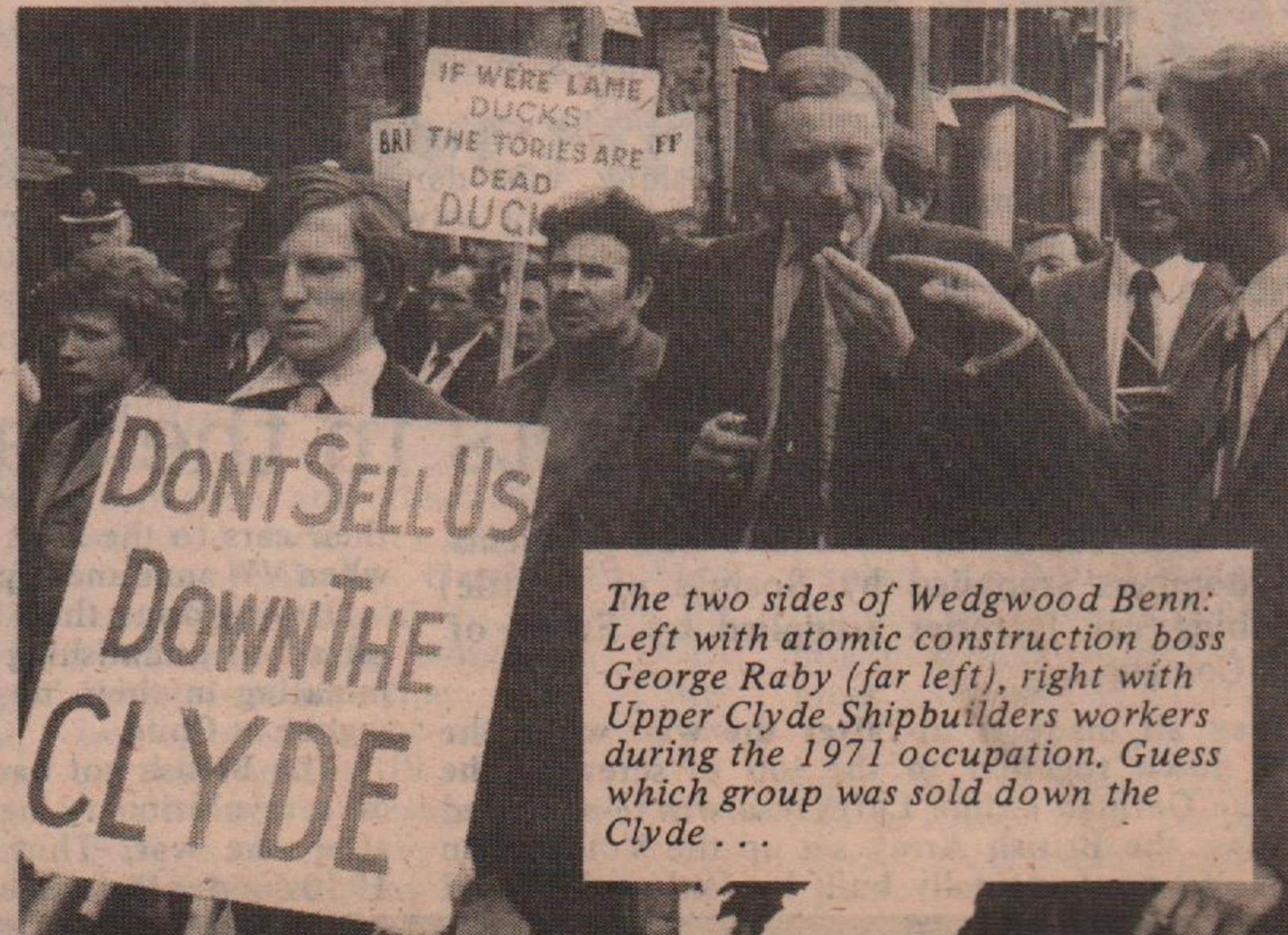
The ownership of industry, in other words, is left entirely in the hands of gentlemen who, in the current crisis, the mass cuts in public spending and education do not matter.

INDUSTRIAL DISCLOSURE. The Bill provides for the disclosure of 'business secrets' to a special board, employment unionists in which will be reached on programmes and jargon of years.

These plans are entirely voluntary and can be forced to

If an employer refuses to disclose information, the Bill gives the government power to force disclosure. This is the part of the Bill which Benn is most proud of.

But the employer's ability to give information is hedged about. Any order for disclosure by the minister must be approved by the employees to a special committee. This is the part of the Bill which is required by the 'democracy' or that it will be seriously p...



The two sides of Wedgwood Benn: Left with atomic construction boss George Raby (far left), right with Upper Clyde Shipbuilders workers during the 1971 occupation. Guess which group was sold down the Clyde...

ION OF BRITISH CAPITALISM



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

DIRTY COMMUNIST...



AND IT CAME TO PASS THAT FOR HIS GENEROSITY THE SAMARITAN IS REWARDED, AS IS THE CUSTOM.

ance and the regards viability turn'. the money goes te the most pro- requirement for job creation. It often happens, means fewer jobs. erprise can make ey will be avail-

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Don Ryder, the an of the NEB, businessman, des- as 'a strictly n'.

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QUOTE
 'We need a vigorous, alert, responsible and profitable private sector—From the Department of Industry's White Paper, The Regeneration of British Industry.'

interests of the undertaking', the information remains secret. The Industry Bill is not, as Benn pretends, a socialist measure. Its aim is the regeneration of British capitalism. It gives capitalists money for investment without upsetting their power. It gives them the option of entering planning agreements or disclosing information where it might be useful to them. It does not guarantee a single job.

Power

In all its clauses, it proposes the exact opposite of what Benn raved about in the heady days in opposition. It will in no way 'unleash the people' to control technology, in no way involve 'the active work of the industrial movement'. On the contrary. The National Enterprise Board, the Planning Agreements and the Disclosure of Information Orders will be supervised by businessmen, civil servants and trade union bureaucrats whose central strategy will

be to dampen down any militant activity on the shop floor.

The 'great partnership' which Benn foresaw between the Labour government and an active workers' movement on the shop floor has degenerated into a handful of corporate bodies which will seek to strengthen capitalism at the expense of strong shop floor organisation.

Real unity between socialist politics and working-class militancy is not, as Benn imagines, a mechanical connection between parliamentarians and shop-floor militants. It is the unity between the fight for better wages, better conditions, job guarantees and the fight for a socialist society.

The socialist worker on the shop floor fights the day-to-day struggle for his and his fellow workers' living standards all the harder because he connects the workers' collective industrial strength with the only forces which can overthrow capitalist society. There, on the shop floor, socialist politics can meet with industrial militancy and change society. Nowhere else.

There is no alternative to socialist organisation on the shop floor. A thousand Anthony Wedgwood Benns in high office are not worth one socialist worker on the shop floor who commits himself to a clear, class battle for power.

PAUL FOOT

by Dr Gerry Dawson

THE anti-abortion argument has a lurid simplicity. Abortion is murder. Murder of a particularly horrible kind because it is practised against an innocent, unborn soul.

How can socialists be in favour of the destruction of life itself?

Our reply is simple. Unless you are religious, there is no such thing as life in the abstract. Life consists of living in the real world with other people. The foetus is only the potential of such a life, a primitive arrangement of cells assembling themselves in the direction of human life but no nearer it than an acorn is to an oak.

Indeed if life is present in the embryo then methods of contraception such as the coil which depend on dislodging the newly-fertilised ovum from the uterine lining and are used by more than 60 million women, are murderous too.

Scientists have now grown fully-developed embryos from unfertilised cells, so, according to the anti-abortionist logic, an idle male masturbation might mean the extinction of several million souls. Or, to ask the question the other way round, if life exists in the fertilised egg long before birth, are we to conclude that if a two-month foetus was kept going in a test tube that it could in any sense be called life?

Anti-sex

Put like this, it all sounds rather silly. But there are sinister implications. For underneath all the elevated talk of the dignity of motherhood, there lurks a sadistic attitude to women which wants to put them back in their 'rightful place'—on their backs in a permanent cycle of getting pregnant, giving birth and bringing up babies, whether they like it or not.

There's a real anti-sex attitude too, as if one should be ashamed of sex for pleasure not procreation.

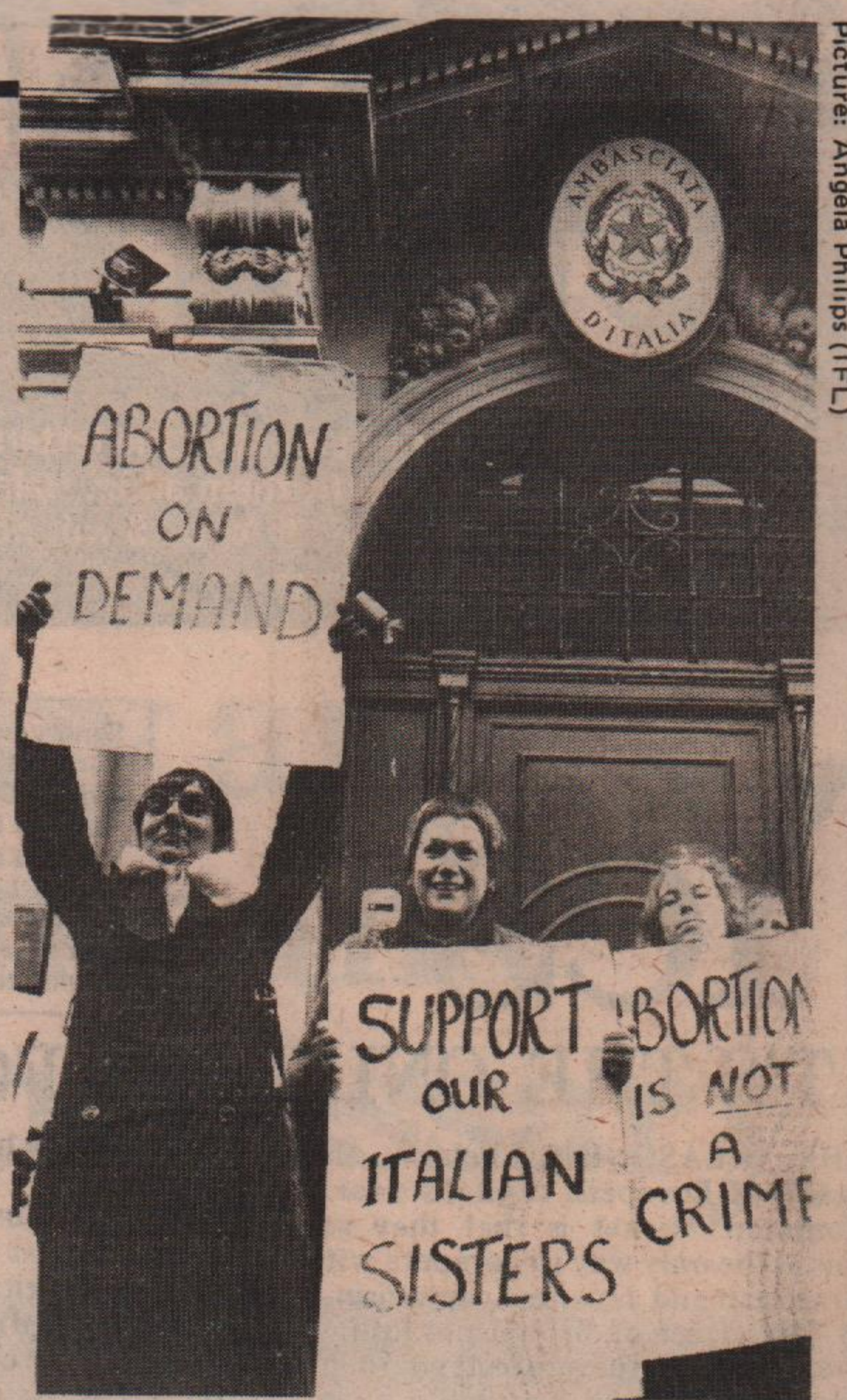
As long as there has been pregnancy there has been abortion. The earliest method of birth control was the murder of the new-born. Every subsequent society has had its informal and highly dangerous methods of abortion.

A 1938 inquiry estimated that 500 women died each year, horribly and secretly, as a result of wedging various objects into their cervix and emptying irritants like washing soda and castor oil into their wombs. Another method was taking large doses of poison which caused convulsions and vomiting so severe that the foetus was aborted as a side-effect.

Clinics

The Lane Commission, in 1974, concluded that legislation had little effect on the number of abortions. Where abortion is banned, it goes on nevertheless in private clinics for the rich, backrooms for the poor.

It would be much better to have really efficient and trouble-free contraception. Better still to have a society where children could be brought into the world without any fear for their future.



Women protest outside the Italian Embassy in London against Italian women being forced to submit to medical examination for past abortions

Picture: Angela Phillips (IFL)

The case for abortion on demand

But to argue for contraception without arguing for abortion too is to enjoy the fruits of birth control without facing the consequences of its failure.

It is particularly silly now that new medical methods involving vacuum aspiration have made early abortion a half-hour procedure which can be performed by nurses and is considerably less risky than having a tooth out under anaesthetic.

Although the abortion issue affects women of all classes, working-class women have fewer, busier doctors, less access to good contraception, many more social pressures and no chance whatsoever of flying off to a private clinic in Zurich. So it's the working-class women who

do the suffering and the waiting, especially those who are unmarried, unemployed and short on O-levels.

Middle-class male priests', doctors' and Tory MPs' ability to decide what's good for working-class women's bodies is like shareholders and bankers having power to put workers out of a job.

Stella Browne, the first person to speak in favour of abortion on a public platform, exactly 50 years ago and a founder member of the Communist Party, directly linked 'workshop control' with women's control over their own fertility.

One could not exist without the other, she said, and argued for 'the fundamental right of the mother to bear life gladly or not at all, and for the unborn to be wanted and welcomed. The right of refusal is a crucial part of socialist ethics... The freedom of sexual relationships from legal or economic coercion.'

Taboos

Working-class women in Austria and Germany in the 1920s, inspired by the immediate introduction of abortion on demand after the Russian Revolution, fought for abortion when that meant going against all the social taboos.

In Britain the Co-operative Women's Guild in 1934 defied middle-class morals by calling for 'abortion to become a legal operation which can be carried out under the same conditions as any other surgical procedure.'

It looks very much as if the working-class movement will have to take up the challenge again or let James White and the Festival of Light reintroduce a virtual ban on all non-medical abortions and permit the triumph of what Stella Browne called in 1935, 'a survival of the veiled face, of the barred window and the locked door, of burning, mutilation and stoning, of all the pain and fear inflicted since the grip of ownership and superstition came down on women.'

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LETTERS ON THE COMMON MARKET

THIS WEEK we have given most of the letters page to the debate on the Common Market. Several of the letters have been shortened slightly so as to fit them all in. Balance Sheet, on page 5, also takes up the question and replies to some of the points made here. DUNCAN HALLAS will now be writing a regular column about the referendum campaign, but we would still like to receive your letters.

Postal Points

THE LONELIEST . . . Prisoners' wives aren't the 'gangsters' molls' they're made out to be. We struggle on social security . . . and are the loneliest wives in society today . . . How many innocent men are there inside jail? . . . How many through desperation have broken the law on the spur of the moment to feed their families? If you're a prisoner's wife you'll understand the loneliness and poverty . . . our children are labelled juvenile delinquents. Prison visiting is both humiliating and barbaric, 30 minutes once a month with no privacy. If you can't cope as a prisoner's wife then contact the Prisoner's Wives Union. We offer free advice, transport to prison, overnight and temporary accommodation for homeless prisoners' wives and their children and any other help you require. We all stick together as prisoners' wives.—MRS MAUREEN WRIGHT (Greater Manchester Prisoners Wives Union and Portia Trust) The Portia Haven, The Red Lion, Ashton Street, Heywood, Lancs. Tel Heywood 62555.

HAVE THE UNITS GONE? . . . We've been informed that at least one prisoner, has been removed from the Wakefield Prison Control Unit, and that there is to be no further allocation to this unit. None are to be condemned to the unit in Wormwood Scrubs . . . We demand that the Home Secretary makes an immediate public statement about this and ensures that not only are no more prisoners sentenced to this regime but that the units are permanently closed. The secrecy clouding the opening and now apparent cease of use of these units is to be condemned. The Official Secrets' Act prevents the general public from knowing, the more insidious trends developing in the penal system and it must be immediately lifted as promised by the Labour Party in their pre-election manifesto.—RADICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON, London, E2.

LAST WEEK's letter from Mr Jack Evans, a Communist Party member on the National Executive of the National Union of Teachers, protested about a report in SW that he voted against a resolution calling on the NUT to officially support the Hackney teachers, who are facing disciplinary action for going on strike on the TUC day of action in support of the Shrewsbury Two. We do owe Mr Evans an apology of sorts. He did not vote against the resolution. He took a highly principled stand on what he obviously regards as a matter of some significance: HE ABSTAINED. For that alone I think Mr Evans has some apologising to do himself . . . to all those members of the labour movement (including those in his own trade union and others in the political organisation he belongs to) who are actively trying to win support for the release of the Shrewsbury Two. And if Mr Evans had second thoughts about his position, he had a second chance this very weekend to support an attempt by some Executive members to re-open the question. Signatures of 13 Executive members were needed, just to get the matter discussed again. Among others Mr Evans and Mr Max Morris—both members of the Communist Party—were approached. Neither of them would sign. Ten signatures were collected. So, please, next time if you don't support people who take industrial action in support of Ricky Tomlinson and Des Warren, don't hide behind self-righteous indignation, Mr Evans.—BETH LIGHT, Plaistow.

SEXISM . . . According to Francis Radice (22 February) working people buy papers to look at pretty girls and read gossip and scandal, they're obviously not bright enough to be bothered with news . . . Luckily he has the answer for Socialist Worker—printing pin-ups. Perhaps we could see women strikers in bathing costumes, they wouldn't mind because he tells us 'women enjoy being admired by men.' To prove that the International Socialists aren't sexist the IS Women's paper Womens Voice could feature SW editor Paul Foot in the nude perhaps? . . . We're told that SW should copy everything that's despicable about the capitalist press to win over the bourgeoisie . . . With articles from socialists like Francis Radice who needs comic strips?—STEVE DRAKE, Colchester.

RED READS . . . Most libraries have few socialist books but if you fill in a request form it's my experience that they'll obtain almost any book . . . I've managed to get Tony Cliff's State Capitalism in Russia and Chris Harman's Bureaucracy And Revolution In Eastern Europe added to our local library shelves. Perhaps Socialist Worker should print a list of socialist books readers should get into their libraries?—NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

Yes

IT'S THE ONLY WAY FORWARD

THE REASONING behind the desire of European capitalists for a Common Market is that they see this as the only way to compete with American and Japanese capitalism.

The effect of Britain not joining the EEC will therefore tend to be that the UK will become a client state to US capitalism.

The world at the moment is split between two major power blocs, the USA and the USSR. A UK that stays out of the Common Market must align itself with one or other of these blocs. If Britain stays

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.

capitalist (which I feel is more likely) then Britain will become even more subservient to US foreign policy than at the moment.

Should Britain manage to become socialist the difficulties of the situation will force an alignment with the USSR. Neither of these atrocities appear very attractive.

We must therefore join Europe and work for an independently-minded, unified and socialist European Union as being the only way forward.—SW READER, Durham.

No

WE'D BE MAD TO SAY ANY DIFFERENT

HAD Socialist Worker advised abstentions during the last General Election, it would have made little difference to the election result, but many readers might have concluded that the International Socialists were nutters.

This month's editorial in one of the banking reviews states: ' . . . there are some in Britain who resist our participation either because they

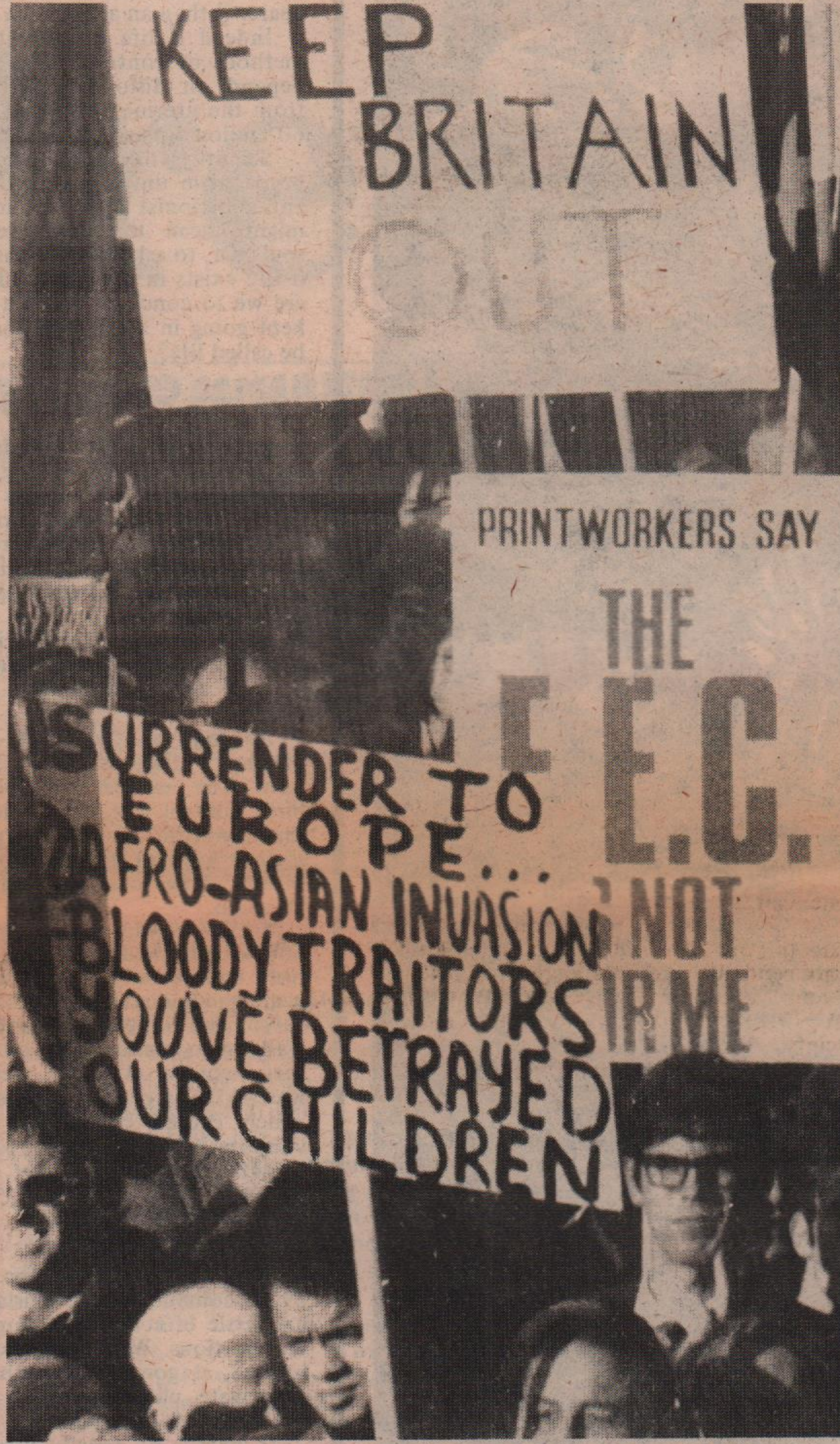
fear that the European Community is insufficiently socialist or because they retain illusions of national sovereignty. These . . . add to the country's difficulties at a particularly difficult time.'

The writer recognised a potential split in the opposition that neither the Kerrs nor Michael Kidron seem to consider important.

It is our job to open up that split and swing those on the left behind us.

Labour Lefts and the Communist Party have shown themselves capable of mouthing nationalistic slogans. Our freedom-loving newspapers and TV can be relied upon to make the running for the Right.

The General Election was not about socialism, and the referendum is not about internationalism, until we make it so.—BERNARD HARRISON, Manchester.



Racialism—and nationalism: socialists must fight them both in arguing for a No vote.

We must oppose it—and lead the resistance

THE SECOND WORLD WAR reduced European capitalism to the position of junior partner to its American counterpart. For German, French or British imperialism to challenge the American and Russian giants individually was not possible.

During the war, European capital had collaborated with the Nazi economic machine as a safeguard against revolution. Hence, Petainism in France and similar phenomena elsewhere.

Since the war this trend has put on 'democratic' clothes resulting in moves to unify European capital—first to compete with non-European rivals, particularly America, secondly

as a defence against working people.

Many British workers rightly see this as a threat to their class interest. Their opposition may express itself in nationalist terms but their underlying class instinct tells them to resist.

For International Socialists to abstain in this struggle would be disastrous. The opportunist opposition to the EEC of the Communist Party and Labour Lefts would go unchallenged and some backward workers would undoubtedly be attracted by the narrow racialism of the National Front.

It is the task of socialists to place themselves at the head of the working

class opposition to the EEC, leading it into constructive channels, mobilising the NO vote and all the time explaining the class character of the EEC and its socialist alternative.

A socialist Britain as the first step to a socialist Europe is just plain common sense.—E EUSTACE, Twickenham.

RELIEVED?

THE LETTER by Michael Kidron in Socialist Worker (23 February) gives the impression that somehow the US would benefit if Britain left the Common Market. But the Economist last week paints an entirely different picture. It says of the US State Department, 'they are intensely worried' that the referendum vote will go against the Common Market.

'The Administration would like to say all this but has decided that if it speaks too openly, resentment of American interference will make the pro-market EEC-selling job in the British referendum harder than it already is.'

No doubt the state department would be very much relieved if the revolutionary left followed Kidron's advice and did not campaign for a No vote.—COLIN HUMPHREYS, London.

WE SHOULD ABSTAIN

MIKE KIDRON was perfectly correct (22 February) when he advocated boycotting the Common Market referendum.

Merely because the British capitalist class can co-operate more efficiently with those of the Common Market doesn't necessarily imply that the British (or European) working class will be exploited either economically or politically to any greater extent.

NO TO THE COMMON MARKET

Posters and leaflets available for local propaganda. Send orders to Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Leaflets—25p per 100, posters—75p per 100. Money with orders please.

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Picture: Chris Davies (Report)



TEN YEARS AGO, Malcolm X was slain. He was the greatest American revolutionary of our times.

Malcolm grew up in small town mid-America during the Depression. It was a time of hardship and brutal privation for most, but particularly for black people. Malcolm's father was lynched for his political activity.

Malcolm was encouraged by racist white teachers not to spend time on intellectual studies in school, but to develop a manual skill.

As a black, he was told, he could not expect to make a living as a professional. His childhood was typical for a black child.

In school, failure was drummed into his head. The American Dream was not for him or for other black people. When he left the mid-West for Boston and then Harlem, he had already begun to hustle.

He tried numbers, dice, theft and pimping. He believed a man should do anything he 'was sick, bad or bold enough to do.'

Eventually he wound up in prison. He was 20.

At that point, Malcolm says, he had 'sunk to the very bottom of the American white man's society'. He was alone, trusting no one. He hated himself and his rotten position in white society.

But in prison Malcolm began to change. His family had been converted to the Nation of Islam—and they in turn began to convert Malcolm.

Change

The Muslims taught that blacks should be proud—of their skin colour, their heritage, their people. And because the Muslims stood up for black people's dignity and humanity, blacks who wanted to change society were attracted to them.

Malcolm joined the Muslims, and eventually became minister of Temple 7 in Harlem.

But when the civil rights movement got off the ground in the late fifties it had an impact throughout the black movement. The conservatism of the Nation of Islam began to show itself.

Elijah Muhammad wanted to

build a new black society, but that society was a mirror of white society—some blacks at the top, most at the bottom.

The Muslims rejected whites, but not the capitalist system. Their solution to racism was to separate and build a black capitalist society.

Black people were moving and struggling for freedom and Malcolm saw that this could be a tremendous force for social change inside American society.

At first, as a revolutionary, Malcolm was sceptical of this new movement. Its precepts were non-violence and love thy enemy. Its goal was integration into white society.

All of these things—non-violence, loving enemies and integration—were wrong to Malcolm X.

But black people were fighting to free themselves from racist oppression and Malcolm began to support and speak to that struggle.

Malcolm X:

'You tell me what kind of country this is. Why should we do the dirtiest jobs for the lowest pay? Why should we do the hardest work for the lowest pay? Why should we pay the most money for the worst kind of food and the most money for the worst kind of place to live in?'

I'm telling you we do it because we live in one of the rottenest countries that has ever existed on this earth.'

Struggle by any means necessary

BY KAY STACY

of Workers Power, the paper of the International Socialists (United States)

As the civil rights movement grew it also began to change. The movement was originally organised through the traditional forces in the black community such as the churches.

It became a mass movement, and began tapping the anger, drive, spirit and creativity of masses of black people. It had to break those bonds, and develop new forms of struggle and organisation.

And while Martin Luther King was saying, 'if any blood be shed, let it be ours,' Malcolm X began to say blacks would struggle 'by any means necessary.'

Parts of the movement were becoming revolutionary. They were rejecting the liberal integration of its leadership. Some looked to Malcolm X, his ideas and his strategy.

Malcolm began to foresee a revolutionary struggle to transform this racist society—rather than to separate from it.

He began to fight inside the Muslims for organising the political struggle of black people. This fight caused his final break with the Nation of Islam.

Remain

The urban rebellions broke out. Martin Luther King showed the true depths of his non-violence by calling for the police and army to crush them.

Malcolm X said, 'It was bloody in 1963, it was bloody in 1964, and all of the causes that created this bloodshed still remain... blacks will struggle by any means necessary.'

This society is wrong, he said. It is a racist, exploitative society and it must be transformed. We can do that, Malcolm said.

Black people needed their own organisations, he said, organisations that could make alliances with whites to build and organise the struggle against racism and for human dignity.

And he realised permanent change would only come through organised struggle. The ghetto uprisings were violent explosions of anger against a rotten and decaying system. But they were spontaneous, disorganised, and lacked leadership.



Without a united and militant defence their gains could be quickly wiped away. Pride and self-confidence could be quickly replaced with defeat and despair.

Malcolm X's greatest contribution to the movement was his ability to combine the best experiences of black people in struggle.

From these experiences he developed an outlook better than both the separatist movement and the civil rights movement.

Revolutionary change he learned from the Black Muslims—but separatism he rejected. Mass struggle he learned from the movement of tens of thousands of his people—but to transform, not adjust, society.

Malcolm X was developing a programme to unify the struggle for black liberation with the necessity of revolution when he died.

The return of crisis to the capitalist system raises these questions again today.

WHEN TO SWITCH ON

FRIDAY
ITV (London area only) 11.25pm. Many have said that WITCHFINDER GENERAL set in the Civil War, made by Hammer (of horror fame) is a good film. The previewer hasn't seen it...

MONDAY
BBC-1: 8.10pm. Panorama will doubtless be its usual sycophantic crawling self, dealing with THE KING AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD about the coronation of another royal gangster, King Birendra of Nepal, one of the 25 poorest countries in the world. On BBC-2 at 9.30pm HORIZON EXPLORES THE PLANETS examining the results of the photo probes of Mars, Venus, Mercury and Jupiter.

TUESDAY
ITV: 9pm. Alan 'would you buy a second hand package tour from this man?'

Whicker looks at HONOLULU in WHICKER'S WORLD.

THURSDAY
BBC-1: 9.25pm. In a rotten week PLAY FOR TODAY—JUST ANOTHER SATURDAY could be an exception. It deals with 17-year-old John and his big moment at the annual Glasgow Orange March. He winds up drinking in the Catholic area of Glasgow. The cast includes BILLY CONNOLLY, the Scottish comedian/singer/banjo player who makes any other 'comedian' in Britain look like a bowl of rancid porridge.

FRIDAY
BBC-1: 11.42pm. The film of French writer Jean Genet's THE BALCONY deals with life in a brothel—with a revolution going on outside. But inside the judges, the cops, the figures of authority continue their normal, real fantasies.

bring in International Woman's Day at a

Grand fund raising benefit for Womens Voice

the paper of International Socialist women

The London premier of The Nightcleaners a feature film which uses the campaign by the Cleaners Action Group to organise London office cleaners in 1972 to show the problems of women workers, the attitude of the employers and difficulties in organisation.

plus **social** and **disco** featuring women singers and musicians from Aunt Molly Jackson to Aretha Franklin.

Friday 7 March, 8.00pm—11.30pm. 50p.

Holborn Assembly Rooms, John's Mews, Northington Street, WC1. Behind Holborn Library.

LEFT IN THE LURCH...

CAST, the pioneer socialist theatre group, have come out with a new 40-minute play on the Labour Left.

It's about Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins MP, his rhetoric, his exploits and his betrayals. In 1945, Muggins is the sort of flaming Labour backbencher who bellowed the Red Flag in the Commons and breathed fire and defiance at Churchill.

Suez has him screaming at the war-mongers and shouting down the hecklers. CND has him still choked in rhetoric but welcoming in the Earls Court Woodcraft Folk.

But, slowly he learns the score, he can voice his reservations (though in a very quiet voice) but he's only the twang at the end of Harold Wilson's reformist elastic. It's always him who gets taken for the ride.

By 1974 the steelworker who has been asking since 1945 about when socialism starts decides to get on and do it himself.

The play is performed with CAST's gymnastic style and brilliant use of a handful of props. It can be put on in a pub room or a Town Hall. And it really takes the Left Reformist argument seriously and so is ideal for opening up serious debate with socialists in the Labour Party. It's ideal to kick off a joint meeting or discussion on the Labour Party.

The show is still finding its feet but CAST may be able to do a few public shows in the London and Home Counties area over the next two months. Contact Roland Muldoon (01-402 6087).

Socialist Worker

NEWS

By Dave Sherry,

Glasgow Area SW Organiser, who distributes 1800 papers a week. A MAJOR task facing IS is the increasing of the sales of Socialist Worker. The opportunities have never been better. More people are prepared to listen to our politics than at any time in the past 18 months, but since we operate in a hostile environment, it is difficult to find new outlets for sales.

In Glasgow, many large newsagents refuse to sell it, preferring to peddle such anti-working class publications as the Daily Express and the Glasgow Herald.

By selecting areas and approaching all the smaller newsagents, however, we have managed to establish a significant number of newsagent sales in three of the major district shopping centres in the city. Twenty-six newsagents take more than 140 papers each week.

One or two IS members are responsible for a particular area, spending about an hour at the weekend delivering the papers and collecting money. Once the sales become established, it is possible to leaflet the papers with notices of meetings, adverts for the IS Bookshop etc.

In this way, regular buyers are put in contact with the organisation. Now that those sales are established, we intend to develop newsagent sales in other major shopping areas throughout the city.

If the job of getting Socialist Worker into the small newsagents is tackled by any area which has neglected it in the past, it will soon become clear that for a small regular effort every week, it is possible to sell a relatively large number of papers almost exclusively to new contacts, with a ready audience for any leaflets or information.

TRAINING: THIS JOB IS CRUCIAL

by Steve Jefferys

MORE THAN 50 IS branch and district delegates from Dundee to Southampton attended Saturday's national Education and Training Organisers' Conference in London.

Duncan Hallas opened the morning session by outlining our present political perspectives. The political consequences of the economic crisis, the possible development of a centrist current separated from the right-wing of the Labour Party, an increased interest in revolutionary solutions, had to be prepared for now.

In the discussion that followed a whole range of topics requiring education schools and meetings were identified. They included the three



schools already being organised nationally—on the Rank and File movement, economics and reformism.

Among the others were the role of the trade union bureaucracy, the Communist Party, the Labour Party, nationalisation, nationalism, how to fight redundancies, and abortion.

The afternoon session on the role of the Training Organiser was led off

by Fergus Nichol, of the IS Training and Education Committee. He argued that Training Organisers had to see their job as being crucial in every branch and district.

They had to take overall responsibility for bringing contacts and new members to a better understanding of IS policy and for developing existing members' political and technical skills.

The relatively short time-scale before us meant we had to make this task a priority.

The conference ended with an appeal to the delegates to take the fight for a conscious policy of training and educating members back into the branches.

The Centre would do the best it

could to help, with two EC members and a part-time National Training Organiser available. But the main drive must be in the localities.

A full report of the conference will be sent to all who attended. Other IS branches should notify the Training Organiser at the National Office of the comrade responsible for their training and education and then the full Conference report will be circulated to them.

Notes for members attending the Day School on the Rank and File Movement and Victimization and Redundancies, and speakers' notes on women's right to an abortion, are also available now from the National Office Training Organiser (01-739 6273).

Again-Asians flock to IS meeting

THE GROWING interest in socialist politics among immigrant workers was shown again last Saturday at another packed IS meeting of black workers. More than 60 Indian and Pakistani workers packed into Slough's Labour hall to hear Tony Cliff on The Crisis and Black Workers.

Cliff stressed the internationalism of the working class, and the need for unity across colour and race boundaries in the fight against inflation and unemployment.

He ridiculed the complaint that Indian and Pakistani workers shouldn't take part in the working class struggle because they can't speak the language.

'If you don't know English very well, go along to your union meetings and select someone to act as an interpreter,' he said. 'If anyone comments about your difficulties with English, tell the English workers that you know two languages while they only know one!'

The meeting heard speeches from two local Asian workers, one an AUEW convenor, the other an AUEW shop steward.

Interest

The discussion which followed was exceptionally lively. For an hour, large numbers of workers asked questions about strikes, wage increases, inflation, the problems of organising non-union plants and sweatshops and the differences between IS and the Communist Party.

Much interest was expressed in the occupations which have been organised to fight against redundancies.

Saturday's meeting—and that of more than 60 Asian workers in Oldham last week—proves there is a well of enthusiasm and concern among Asian workers which should be tapped by all IS branches.



On the gate at Imperials: now Hull IS are trying to set up a creche to increase the number of workers able to occupy. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Hull: How we organised

SINCE the sackings at Imperial Typewriters were announced five weeks ago, the IS branch in Hull has been campaigning actively around the factory.

Long before the workers had begun to discuss the possibility of occupation, Hull IS were distributing bulletins arguing against co-operatives, for nationalisation, and for occupation to force nationalisation.

Together, five bulletins went into the factory. They were clearly-written and not too long. They were models of the sort of duplicated leaflet which persuades workers of a course of action in struggle. When the factory was occupied, the only people outside the factory with the workers were members of Hull IS. Since the occupation, IS members

have printed and distributed collection sheets, organised signatures for the sheets from leading trade unionists in the city, and collected money.

A special branch meeting last week organised emergency action around the occupation. A rota for round-the-clock attendance at the factory gates has been drawn up. The paper order has been doubled. A public meeting in support of the occupation was arranged.

York IS branch have been contacted with a view to arranging creche facilities for young children of Imperial workers. It has been estimated that the occupation force could double if proper creche facilities were provided.

IS branches with occupations or possible occupations in their area are encouraged to contact Hull to discuss their experience around Imperials.

WHAT'S ON

IS public meetings

LSE IS Society: What future for capitalism? A debate between Ralf Dahrendorf (Director of LSE) and Nigel Harris (IS). Tuesday 11 March, 1.30pm, The Old Theatre.

MONMOUTH IS Open Meeting: The Common Market—Why we say No. Speaker: Jim Nichol. Friday 14 March, 8pm, Three Horse Shoes.

BRISTOL IS film night: The Miners, a grim and inspiring film of the miners' struggle. Thursday 13 March, 7.30pm, Unity-Street Poly. Entrance fee 25p.

S W LONDON DISTRICT IS Film show: Ireland; Behind the Wire. Thursday 13 March, 8pm, Battersea Library, Lavender Hill (buses 77, 37, 39, 49, etc). Tickets 40p (50p on door). All proceeds to SW Fighting Fund.

DUDLEY IS Social: Soulopin Road Show Disco. Saturday 8 March, The Rose Inn, Lupin Road, Dudley. Admission 50p. Late bar.

HACKNEY IS & HACKNEY TEACHERS IS Social featuring Cheap 'n Nasty and Night Train Disco. Friday 14 March, Ladbroke House Polytechnic of North London, 66 Highbury Grove, N4 (nearest tube Highbury and Islington: buses 4, 19, 236) admission 40p.

INNER WEST LONDON IS Disco postponed because of Shrewsbury mobilisation. New date to be announced soon.

IS IRISH DAY SCHOOL clashes with the Shrewsbury demonstrations and will now be held on Sunday 9 March.

NEWHAM DISTRICT IS Social: Saturday 15 March, 8pm-midnight. The Railway Tavern, Woodgrange Road/Forest Gate, (opposite Forest Gate Station). Proceeds to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

AUSTIN LONGBRIDGE IS Public Meeting: Chile and Portugal—the lessons for Socialists. Speaker Micky Fenn, a London dockworker. Friday 7 March, 8pm, Shakespeare Summer Row (near College of Food) Lionel Street, Birmingham.

ESSEX UNIVERSITY IS Society public meeting: The Revolutionary Socialist Party. Speaker: Alex Callinicos. Wednesday 12 March, 1pm, Room 3.05.

IS notices

DISTRICT IS Day Schools: The Theory of Rank and File Movements/The Fight against redundancies, Short-time and Victimization. **GLASGOW:** Sunday 9 March. **NEWCASTLE:** Saturday 12 April. **YORKSHIRE:** Sunday 13 April. **MANCHESTER:** Saturday 5 April. **COVENTRY:** Sunday 16 March. **NORTH LONDON:** Thursday 13 March (8pm-onwards). **NORTH WEST LONDON:** Saturday 12 April. **SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Saturday 22 March. **SOUTH WALES:** Saturday 5 April. **EDINBURGH:** Sunday 9 March. **DUNDEE:** Friday 7 March. **BLACKBURN:** Sunday 6 April. **HITCHIN:** Saturday 12 April. Dates not yet fixed for Bristol, West London, East Anglia, Liverpool, Birmingham and Teesside. Details from district/branch secretaries.

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.

LONDON NALGO Day School: Building a shop stewards' organisation. Sunday 9 March, 10.30am. Clarion Club, 70 Park Hill, SW4 (nearest tube station Clapham Common).

IS SCIENCE GROUP: Would all interested contact John Moner, 12 Barras Court, Heath Road, Coventry. Information, perspectives for the first meeting will be sent. The first meeting will be on Saturday 5 April in Coventry.

IS MEMBERS should send details of any contacts they have in Canada, specially contacts who are former members of IS, to Jeff Jackson, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, as soon as possible.

IS HANDBOOK: First sections to be printed are on Public speaking, How to chair a meeting, Writing for Socialist Worker, and How to be a Socialist Worker organiser in your branch. Now ready. IS branches, districts, cells, fractions that have not already ordered copies should send £1 per copy to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Further sections of the handbook—to be supplied at no extra cost—include an index to IS Journal and Socialist Worker, How to layout a small newspaper, Producing a leaflet, Building a Socialist Worker Discussion Group, and several others.



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 racism 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. 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 racism 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 workplace, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

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 _____



A QUESTION OF SOCIALISM

'BRITAIN has a democratically elected parliament which is where policies are decided. If you are convinced about your socialist ideas why don't you try to get a majority of MPs in parliament?' How can socialists reply to this?

First parliament, contrary to everything we are told, is not where important decisions are taken. A wave of lay-offs and redundancies is sweeping industry today. But does Henry Ford or Arnold Weinstock seek parliament's permission before laying off thousands of workers? The idea is laughable.

It is the same with prices, which are now rising every year at about 25p in the pound. Tate and Lyle or Tesco don't ask parliament when they want to put up their prices. They just do it.

Yet prices and unemployment affect the lives of millions of working people in Britain today.

In fact the government itself recognises that parliament's importance is much reduced. Their main weapon to deal with the economic crisis is the Social Contract, but this major instrument of government policy was drawn up with no reference to parliament at all.

BANKERS

Harold Wilson himself admitted that soon after the last Labour government won office the international bankers demanded a change in Labour's programme as a condition of a loan to help bail out the British economy. Parliament and the government had no choice but to obey.

There are many other examples along the same lines. Parliament is at best only a rubber stamp for decisions which have usually been already taken in the boardrooms of companies and bankers.

Many on the Left reply to this by saying that it is necessary to restore to parliament its power to make the important decisions. But even if there was a majority of socialist MPs—and I don't mean Labour—it still would not be possible to establish a socialist society by passing laws through parliament.

Laws have to be put into effect and that depends on the machinery of state—civil servants, police, judges, the courts and the armed forces. This state machine is not neutral—it is not like a motor car which can be steered by the driver, parliament. The people who run the state institutions are not impartial servants, ready to do the bidding of whatever party gets a majority in parliament.

VALUES

They come from and are part of the employing class. Most have been educated at public schools and at Oxford or Cambridge university. They all share the same values and beliefs as employers and directors of industry.

So when they see their interests threatened they are prepared to defend them vigorously. The publication of the diaries of Richard Crossman, a Cabinet minister in the last Labour government, are evidence of this. On several occasions he shows how civil servants watered down or blocked the policies of the Labour government.

The civil servants did this to a Labour government that posed no threat at all to the capitalist system. If a determined socialist party became the government, there is no doubt that the civil service would refuse to implement or actively sabotage policies that aimed to get rid of the privileges and power of the capitalist class.

All experience shows that the armed forces and police will be just as much against real social changes as the civil servants, and the mili-

WHY MPs COULD NOT BRING SOCIALISM

tary dictatorship in Chile, shows they can be even more dangerous.

Judges, generals, policemen and civil servants together make up the state machine that operates in the interests of the employing class. From the Tolpuddle Martyrs to the Shrewsbury Two, they have shown that they instinctively fear and hate the working class—particularly when it is well-organised, strong and confident.

In such circumstances it is plainly absurd to say that winning a majority in parliament will lead to the introduction of socialism. Nobody on a strike committee would look to the employers to organise collections in support of a strike. In the same way, no socialist can expect the employing class or its state machine to lend a hand in the construction of a socialist society.

But socialists are against parliament for another important reason. Socialism is about the struggle of the working class itself to create a new society. No individual and no party can do it for the class. It must do it itself.

CONTROL

Parliament encourages the opposite. It says to working people: if you are unemployed, low-paid or badly housed, don't do anything yourself, but vote for your Labour MP next time. There is no control over the MP once elected and he cannot be removed till the next election. Voters are in no way involved in forming policies or making sure they are carried out.

Parliament, in other words, encourages passivity and apathy among workers and tries to blur and weaken their strength.

In the past few years parliament has been increasingly ignored. The release of the Pentonville Five and the miners' action against wage controls are indications of this change.

As the crisis hits British industry, so the energy and self-reliance of working people is rising. This is the basis both for the defence of living standards now and for the struggle for a socialist society in the future. People who try to direct this new energy back towards parliament are rejecting the road towards socialism.

Paul Holborow

Last week's solution:



400 STRIKE IN SOUTH WALES OVER PAY BEDS

HOSPITAL managements in South Wales are trying to slip private patients in to use NHS facilities.

On Tuesday 400 nurses and other hospital workers in mid-Glamorgan hospitals were staging a two-hour token strike while a patient has a vasectomy operation. The consultant concerned had suspended his operations list to carry out the operation privately.

Two weeks ago hospital workers all over Swansea walked out in protest against a private operation. Management were attempting to get round a Public Employees Union (NUPE) branch resolution at Morriston Hospital, Swansea, to ban

by Richard Jones

private patients. Their attempt has shown how effective trade union action can break the resistance of hospital management.

The NUPE branch at Morriston voted to ban private patients a year ago. It now seems management decided to try to avoid a confrontation over private beds by smuggling the unwanted patients into the hospital. At least one attempt to do this was discovered by the branch and the patient was hastily transferred when members threatened to walk out. Another attempt was more determined. The patient was Anne Colisandro, wife of one of Swansea's more exclusive hairdressers and the landlord of several derelict properties. The operation, planned and booked in advance, was carried out by Mrs

Colisandro's consultant, Pauline Lawrence, and was attended by the consultant anaesthetist from the private Roman Catholic Santa Maria Nursing Home. These two well-heeled servants of the fee-paying aristocracy then cleared off and left the next patient to the hospital registrar and anaesthetist, who clearly wasn't good enough to operate on a person of the rank of Mrs Colisandro.

NUPE branch secretary Ken Price approached hospital management and reminded them of the branch's ban on private patients. Management refused point blank to discuss the matter. A branch meeting was quickly convened, and voted unanimously to withdraw their labour until the patient was removed. At midday on the Monday NUPE members walked out.

There was immediate, spontaneous support for Morriston by NUPE members at Swansea's Mount Pleasant Hospital where, in the absence of most of their shop stewards, members took matters into their own hands, called a meeting and voted to strike. Members at a third hospital, Singleton, were not involved or even consulted about their views while stewards decided to wait and see.

SUPPORT

NUPE Swansea Hospitals branch secretary Eileen Price backed out of giving real support saying that she had 'more important matters to negotiate.' At a meeting of the West Wales shop stewards liaison committee she refused to take action unless instructed to do so by NUPE national office and then only if such action were part of a nationwide campaign. This attitude meant that not only were NUPE members at Singleton Hospital excluded from the action, but also that members at Mrs Price's own hospital—she is a Sister at Mount Pleasant—reversed their previous decision and returned to work.

The local press and radio mounted the expected campaign of accusation and slander. Dr Denis Daley, a consultant and chairman of the Swansea Area Medical Staff Committee, described the action as 'inhuman' and a 'wanton denial of the civil rights of patients and doctors.'

When the Morriston branch met again on the Friday, it was decided to return to work 'as a gesture of good faith', but to refuse to service the private patient. Again, management were informed of this decision and asked to contact NUPE in case of any difficulty. They did not bother to do so, but revealed their 'good faith' the next morning when any NUPE member who carried out the branch decision was immediately sent home. The 400 members responded to the lock-out with an immediate walk out. If management hoped that a few victimisations would break the union, they received a rude shock.

Nurses at Lwypnia and Glyncoel hospitals in the Rhondda Valley walked out indefinitely. Hospital workers in Neath and Port Talbot began a work-to-rule and voted to strike for one day a week until the dispute was resolved. Messages of support began to flood in from all over the country.

The authorities faced the threat of a strike throughout South Wales. Local Miners Union and other trade union branches offered their support.

DISCOVERED

Mrs Colisandro was to remain in hospital for a fortnight. Suddenly on the tenth day, it was conveniently discovered that she was fit enough to go home. The next day there was a return to normal working.

As Ken Price explained, there is no change in the members' attitude towards private patients: 'As soon as a private patient moves in here a mass meeting will boycott any unit in which a bed is occupied by a private patient.'

It is a matter of time before management make another attempt to foist another private patient on the hospital. It is important that preparations are made now to strengthen health workers' organisation. Militants from the hospitals which took action must meet to plan and co-ordinate their actions and more important to establish a permanent link between those prepared to act in defence of the NHS.

This must include other trade unionists in other industries. What happens to the Health Service affects working people everywhere.



Some of the thousands of students who marched in London

29,000 march against cuts

STUDENTS protesting at the government's education cuts staged their second national demonstration of the year last Friday. While 20,000 marched through the centre of London, 7,000 were out in Glasgow and 2,000 in Cardiff.

The huge turn-out cannot disguise that the campaign has suffered a downturn. Although 24 rent strikes are taking place and there have been several sit-ins in the past few weeks, it does not match the widespread militancy of a few months ago.

At the beginning of the academic year, the Labour government put the cuts drawn up by the Tories into effect. Local authorities are drawing up their budgets and a government circular has called on them to make a ten per cent reduction in education spending.

This will mean a further round of cuts within a few months. The crunch is bound to come in the autumn when some colleges will be forced to close, prices will soar, facilities disappear, courses vanish and staff numbers reduced.

At the Easter Conference of the National Union of Students, the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies (NOISS) will be arguing that the fight against the cuts must remain the major NUS campaign. The NUS Executive would be only too willing to push some other campaign which takes the heat off themselves.

In a few places staff and students have fought back together. With the college authorities getting more desperate

to break every dispute, the maximum unity is vital between students and staff, particularly non-academic staff who are often played off against the students.

At BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 200 students occupied the college administration last Thursday calling for an increased catering grant and more funds for the students union. College authorities still have the right to decide how much each union should receive, even though the local council and not the college are responsible for payment. This has frequently been used to suppress student action.

The behaviour of the student union officials at Birmingham should be a warning to all students. Rather than fight the cuts they attempted to implement them and lay off catering staff. Fortunately the students did not tolerate this and hauled the union executive to a mass meeting. Canteen staff went on strike during the meeting so that all students would attend the meeting. The union executive were defeated and the college administration occupied.

Staff are now supporting the students action.

The NOISS held a successful Third World School last weekend. About 40 students attended from many different countries. After a session on the Crisis of Development, the school broke into discussion groups on particular continents. The final session was on Black Workers in Britain.

50,000 TONS of decaying uncollected rubbish is now lying in the streets of Glasgow. It has been gathering there over the last seven weeks while the local dustmen have been on strike. Now there is talk of the government bringing in troops to clear the rubbish and break the strike.

Predictably, the call to use troops has come from a Tory MP, but the Labour-controlled council, called in troops during the firemen's strike in 1973.

Dick Dynes, the Labour group leader, has said: 'The Corporation's responsibility in this dispute has come to an end. It is a different kind of ball game and Mr Ross (Secretary of State for Scotland) will have to find some means of clearing up the rubbish. We want Mr Foot to make it abundantly clear to dust cart drivers that they are in the wrong.'

The council's position caps a disgusting performance by local Labour politicians in a series of wage disputes

'Use troops to break strike' call

in Glasgow.

When the dust cart drivers first went on strike last October, the council gave a written promise that if the national agreement didn't give them parity with HGV drivers working for private hauliers, the council would begin talks to sort it out.

As soon as the drivers went back to work, the council rattled on the promise.

Glasgow is now threatened with a plague of rats if the rubbish lies uncollected for much longer. Glasgow Health Officials are becoming increas-

ingly concerned as the piles grow higher.

Some of the dumps—strategically placed in working class areas—stand 20ft high. Medical officials have been pointing out that it only took three weeks of a similar dispute in London a few years ago to present a serious threat to public health. At that time the Labour government intervened to resolve the dispute.

The strike has laid bare the real concerns of Labour councillors and the purpose of the Social Contract. The council have no worries about the piles of rubbish so long as they are not piled outside their door and there is no rubbish in the middle class areas of the city.

That's why childrens play areas in the working class housing schemes are covered with the plastic collection bags of middle class muck. And that is why the council would use troops to defend the Social Contract and defeat the dustmen.

Donations to Archie Hood, TU Centre, Carlton Place, Glasgow.

TGWU: IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY

'PUT THE strength of the TGWU, Britain's biggest union, around you. Join Jack Jones' 1 1/2 million Transport Workers.' Late last year, two groups of workers, in Wolverhampton and Newcastle, decided to do exactly that.

The women who work for the Wolverhampton Yarnolds curtain firm were on a basic wage of £13 for 40 hours. Those who earned piecework bonus worked under tremendous pressure. Then management moved Asian women to the cushion covers section and demanded 25 per cent more production for the same wage.

Suddenly, almost all the women wanted to join the union. They joined the TGWU and elected two English women as their stewards. The two were sacked—and most of the women walked out.

The Newcastle scaffolders knew they needed unity to fight for better wages and conditions. So they formed a Tyneside TGWU scaffolders branch, the McAlpines Eldon Square site in the forefront.

McAlpines responded by sacking 14 stewards and active trade unionists who took a half-day off to attend a meeting. Every scaffolder walked out. The strike began—and McAlpines moved in scabs, complete with new TGWU cards.

SCABS

How did the TGWU machine react?

'Just stay on your picket line' the Wolverhampton TGWU told the Yarnolds strikers. For six weeks, Yarnolds maintained production with scabs. So the TGWU official told them they were going to the industrial tribunal. 'Don't do any-

STEVE JEFFERYS on the Yarnolds and Newcastle Scaffolders' strikes

thing else in the meantime.'

Ten weeks after the strike began the tribunal announced that Yarnolds had wrongly dismissed the stewards—who were compensated for their 11 years' service. The tribunal couldn't order reinstatement or force Yarnolds to accept the TGWU's plan to use the local Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Only after the Wolverhampton trades council joined the struggle did the local TGWU official contact other TGWU sections to get effective blacking. He's refused to mobilise a mass picket against the scabs.

FOLLOW

The Newcastle official also went to an industrial tribunal. McAlpines, with their experience of putting workers in the dock, won. Then TGWU regional secretary Dave Shenton joined with McAlpines in calling the men 'irresponsible' and said negotiations could only follow a return to work.

When TGWU Scottish and Newcastle Brewery workers struck to join a mass scaffolders picket, their employers threatened a lock-out. Shenton commented that 'I warned them against the demonstration and told them the scaffolders' dispute had nothing to do with them.'

But every local scaffolding operation was immobilised. An unofficial support committee composed of stewards from factories and the brewery was set up. It is raising

money, publicising the battle nationally—and defending the arrested pickets.

In both strikes, the TGWU's approach has made victory more difficult. With 13 weeks gone by in Wolverhampton and 15 weeks in Newcastle, what matters is how to win.

This is where rank-and-file solidarity from TGWU members in other industries and from other workers nationally is crucial. Solidarity pickets, demands for action from the TGWU and cash are our responsibility.

Act now. Yarnolds Strike Committee, 33 Berry Street, Wolverhampton. Newcastle Scaffolders, Brian Alderson, 13 Banburgh Towers, Killingworth, Newcastle 12.

Sparks hand Wilson a 'crisis' all of his own

THE STRIKE of Scottish local authority electricians is now in its seventh week and the EETPU executive has now belatedly promised to support it.

The strikers are demanding they should continue to get the same rates as electricians working for private companies, under an old procedure.

In GLASGOW last week, delegates from all over Scotland heard union official Alf McCluckie say the executive would give support if the strikers agreed to give the union control of the action and were prepared to accept that there might be an element of selectivity.

After lengthy arguments, the stewards agreed to the executive's conditions, but extracted promises that the strike committee would be consulted before any action was taken.



Under the goalposts, the rubbish piles up: Glasgow Corporation have been dumping rubbish from middle-class areas on working class estates

Meanwhile, persistent round-the-clock picketing has helped to close Glasgow's main airport to all passenger transport. All shuttle services are discontinued and all holiday charter flights moved to Newcastle.

At Heathrow, shuttle passengers are being advised to 'go by train'. Even Harold Wilson on his 'Solve the Crisis' trip to Glasgow, had his plane diverted to an airport 30 miles away.

The closing of the airport must bring tremendous pressure to bear on the employers to honour the agreement and pay the 23p an hour needed to return to normal working.

Sham

But although 400 airport workers have been laid off, and British Airport Authorities estimate their daily losses at £30,000, no move has yet been made by the council bosses.

They seem more concerned to keep up their sham of upholding the Social Contract (the present wage increase was agreed even before the contract), while welshing on the agreement.

Donations and messages of support to Hugh Higgins, 2 Primrose Street, Glasgow

IN LEEDS, public works department electricians—now in the fifth week of their strike with no sign of weakening—held a successful demonstration last week.

A mass picket of the Civic Hall is planned for Wednesday's full council meeting. A spokesman will put our case to the council.

The strike is the culmination of a two-year struggle for a decent basic wage. We have persistently rejected management attempts to introduce a bonus scheme as it would be used against us in negotiations for a decent basic wage.

It has been estimated that this rejection has cost each man nearly

£1000 over the two years. This alone, notwithstanding wages lost during the strike, is a measure of the determination to win this strike.

The effects of the strike are widespread. Apart from 120 electricians, there are also 30 lift engineers and about 20 men from the street lighting department, as well as men from cleansing and sewage department, on strike.

Only one of the three lines in the abattoir is still working. Schools are closed because of faults in the heating and fire alarm systems, and more than 100 lifts are out of order, including some high rise blocks with no lift service at all.

There is also a backlog of nearly 20,000 electrical faults in council properties. In some areas, tenants are organising a rent strike, which will further increase the pressure on the council.

Representatives of strike committees from Hull, Leeds, Sheffield and Scotland met in Manchester last Friday. Apart from the usual exchange of ideas, proposals were made for further action and a further meeting was arranged where it is hoped representatives from more areas will attend.

IN HULL, 80 electricians are out, covering all areas, including street lighting and traffic lights. They are now in the third week of strike action, but are having trouble with their local section of the Yorkshire Electricity Board, who are doing some of their work.

IN SHEFFIELD, in the fourth week of action, 40 electricians are out, including street lighting and the abattoir. But there are another 40 in the City Engineers Department, whom the union have not yet called out.

Please send donations and messages of support to Dave Shillinglaw, 14 Kingsley Garth, Outwood, Nr Wakefield, Yorks.

Classified

BECAUSE of heavily increasing costs, we have been forced to increase the nominal charge we make for classified adverts. The new charge will be 3p a word, ordinary display only.

Entries for the Classified column must arrive by first post Monday. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 3p a word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Adverts that arrive without payment will be charged at double the rate.

JOHN AND MARGARET LLYWARCH invite you to enjoy a North Wales farmhouse holiday. Clean air, mountain streams, country rambles, fishing, wildlife galore, barbecues. A children's paradise and only two miles from a main line railway station. For terms ring 069-186 2272 or write to Bryn Iddon, Bron y Garth, Oswestry, Salop.

Bristol Revolutionary Communist Group public meeting: The Crisis and the Social Contract. Speaker: David Yaffee. Friday 7 March, 7.30pm, Midland Pub, Midland Road, off Old Market.

Holiday Accommodation Three rooms in large house for self-catering holiday. £5 a week per person includes use of kitchen, bathroom, constant hot water. Write to Mary Connolly, 22 Highfield Road, Ilfracombe, North Devon.

Men Against Sexism National Conference 21-23 March at Falmer House, Sussex University Students Union. Details from 151 Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton (Brighton 508446).

The Middle East Research and Action Group is showing the Israeli anti-Zionist film To Live in Freedom which caused an uproar the last time it was shown at Conway Hall, Saturday 8 March, 7.30pm, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London, N1.

Third World Roadshow, multi-media a satirical review needs lead guitarist—flexible performer. Cambridge 54312.

The Road to Revolution is not only in the workplace. The politics of housing, social security, community facilities, local government are also part of the class struggle. North Southwark group using photography, radio, community paper and footwork needs more part/full time workers. Blackfriars Community Action Team, 44 Nelson Square, London SE1 (01-928 9521).

Demonstrate against the British and Iranian military occupation of Oman. 2pm, Horse Guards Parade, near Trafalgar Square, Sunday 9 March. End the Labour government's collaboration in this brutal war.

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

IN BRIEF

SOCIALIST WORKER now receives so many industrial reports each week that it is impossible to carry them all in full. This column will summarise those that might otherwise be left out.

EALING: Resistance to the education cuts is building up at Ealing Technical College. In the last two weeks pickets have been held outside council meetings. The Principal's office was occupied for a day. Last Thursday 150 students and 15 staff marched to the local Education Offices demanding an end to cuts in all sectors of education.

Later the Principal announced a one-day shutdown of the college on Friday, a concession to the strength of the anti-cuts campaign which has seen students picketing both students and staff, despite appeals from the NUS and ATTI bureaucracies not to picket members of staff.

JARROW: 30 men occupied Brookes Cylinders on Friday after being told it would close that day. The gates were welded up and management told that nothing would enter or leave until the jobs were guaranteed.

Brookes Cylinders took over in December from their parent company, Tube Investments, who had sacked 280 men. 200 jobs were guaranteed.

Support for the occupation is vital. Please send donations and messages of support to Factory Occupation Fund, 92 Northbourne Road, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear.

PRESTON: 200 tradesmen at Courtauld's Red Scar Viscose plant are using lightning strikes and walk-outs in support of a claim for £40 basic, the average for the district. They have been offered £2 on top of their £31, plus consolidation of the threshold, and a productivity deal which included 28 redundancies.

Courtauld's are threatening to shut the factory and lay off 2,000 workers. Union officials are recommending a return to normal working at a mass meeting on Tuesday.

BIRKENHEAD: 250 building workers have occupied the Cammell Lairds shipbuilding shed site after the closure of the contract because of a battle between Cammell Lairds and the joint contractors, Simonbuild and Peter Lind.

Cammell Lairds accused the contractors of delaying completion of the work—and ordered the contractors off the site. After a mock fight with Cammells, the contractors caved in—and left the workers jobless. The workers are demanding that any new contractor re-employs them.

LONDON: BBC film editors voted on Monday for a one-day token strike, a work-to-rule and an overtime ban, all to operate after 13 March. The film editors are fighting to be regraded. Staff in the BBC, faced with rising prices and the threat of cut backs and economy drives inside the Corporation, are being forced to prepare for industrial action to put pressure on their unions.

MITCHAM: The strike and picket against the lump at Leach's site are on again following a meeting of the conciliation panel last Wednesday. The men had called off the picket while the sub-contractors proved that their men were directly employed and as long as no scabs would be allowed back on the site.

The employers proposed that a lump scaffolding firm should be allowed back on the site, though the firm did not even turn up to present evidence. PAYE forms and Tax return forms were produced for the other men, with the figures covered up by masking tape, and all filled out in remarkably similar handwriting. It was also proposed that men directly employed by Leach's who had crossed the picket line should be allowed back.

Len Eaton, UCATT London Regional Secretary, advised a return to work on these proposals. The men refused, knowing that the meeting had been a whitewash jobs. They refused to work with scabs, and the picketing re-started on Thursday.

Support in the form of pickets, money and resolutions through branches is urgently needed. Messages of support and donations to M Taylor (UCATT Co-ordinating Committee Sec, 86 Pendle Road, London SW16).

LONDON: Five members of the National Union of Teachers at Phoenix School are to be brought before the Governors on 19 March because they supported a strike. Similar disciplinary action has also been taken against teachers in three other London schools: Garret Green, Quinton Kynaston and South Hackney.

The teachers went on a half-day strike last November to support the Scottish teachers' strike. In January they struck against the Houghton Report on teachers' pay. At least 80 schools struck, demanding a flat-rate increase for all teachers. Both strikes were supported by a majority decision of the Phoenix School NUT. They are now accused of 'unauthorised absence' and face dismissal, downgrading or reprimand.

BAC: 'We have only just begun'

Tony Rawlings said: 'Almost immediately we set up a plan of campaign. We got the night shift to block the main gate in the morning to stop management coming in. A raiding party of stewards infiltrated the main admin block. Two senior stewards informed a day shift mass meeting what was happening and the meeting joined the occupation.'

The occupation had an immediate effect. There were four-mile traffic jams in both directions on the main road into Bournemouth. Coomber, BAC chief executive was stopped by police on the motorway and hurried back to Hurn. In an attempt to patronise the work force, he said that there had never been an 'ask them' attitude at BAC. He was asked if company resources could be used to provide all employees with a swimming pool like his own.

Last week stages two and three of the campaign were put into effect. 'We arranged three mass meetings,' said Tony Rawlings. 'The meetings were divided up so that we had about ten raiding parties, all led by stewards. Three of the parties began a temporary occupation of the stores and shipping area, with the rest acting as decoys to confuse security, later joining their colleagues.'

Stage Three surprised even the committee. 'We had another activity planned, then a Monarch Airlines III came in with engine trouble on Tuesday evening. The aircraft was seized and held by rotating groups for about an hour at a time, preventing the ground crew sent down from Luton from carrying out the engine change for 24 hours.'

This action had an immediate effect. Management restarted negotiations which broke down on Monday. No meaningful offer has been made but the workforce is now confident. Tony Rawlings says: 'So far all this has been a practice run to test the membership and decide on the best course of action. We are fairly confident that we can now secure and hold a position. We have only just begun.'

800 PRODUCTION workers at Hurn BAC near Bournemouth are fighting a guerrilla campaign for a basic £55 a week with guaranteed cost of living increments.

Tony Rawlings, EETPU Senior Steward, told Socialist Worker: 'The campaign began six weeks ago with an overtime ban, which is still in effect. The workforce was divided up into eight groups, and one-hour stoppages to a staggered timetable, incorporating shift changeovers and lunchbreaks, were developed.'

'Later stoppages by six rotating groups took place between break periods, causing disruption for the management, with little financial loss to the membership.'

At the end of this period, it was clear that the membership had enough confidence in their leaders to leave all decisions to a small committee of senior stewards. A mass meeting agreed to act on instructions from this committee.

This arrangement improves speed, discipline and surprise. There have been no jealousies or rivalries. The members and stewards have accepted the leadership of the committee.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

A MASS meeting of Transport Union members at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant listens to TGWU Convenor John Farrell. The meeting voted to oppose the company's attempts to impose 2000 redundancies on the workforce of 8000. But already more than 1000 men have accepted voluntary redundancy.

From Vauxhall Luton, two AUEW members write:

THE COMING months will prove vital for Vauxhall manual workers. Talks are under way around this year's claim, the main demands being 35 hours without loss of pay and a 'substantial' increase.

For no reduction in hours or grades, the company offers rises of between £7.20 and £8.80 across the seven grades payable in four equal instalments between April and January 1976, and a few fringe concessions. The money averaged out over 12 months amounts to actual increases of £4.50-£5.50 overall.

In return they demand, a 12½ per cent cut in standard times, all 'restrictive' local agreements to go, no demarcation, new 'realistic' job standards and targets, acceptance of new job techniques and job content, and a clampdown on lateness, absenteeism and discipline.

This disgusting offer has initially been turned down. But now our negotiating officials are asking us to support a demand for 35 hours at present rates to safeguard jobs and stop redundancies (300 skilled jobs at Luton and 2000 production jobs at Ellesmere Port to go through voluntary redundancy).

Vauxhall have announced a record £18 million loss but £13 million is because of interest, taxation and loan repayments. They have also undoubtedly set part of their £53 million expansion against this, plus the bulk of development costs on the new Chevette model.

Vauxhall socialists and militants must organise and agitate now. Our officials must not be allowed to retreat on the full claim without strings.

NO sell out of any agreement
NO further co-operation or productivity bargains
NO reduction in times or manning
NO redundancies

FOR:

- 35 hours without loss of pay NOW
- £15 across the board
- Five days' work or five days' pay
- All agreements to be accepted by mass meetings.

15,000 CAR MEN LAID OFF

15,000 car workers are now laid off. Tens of thousands are on short time. In every plant, redundancy and lay-offs go hand in hand with an assault on the working conditions built up over years.

At British Leyland's CASTLE BROMWICH body plant, toolroom workers are striking for parity with Jaguar and Rover tool-room workers.

They are being pressured to return by their union executive because of the lay-offs the dispute is causing at Jaguar and Longbridge.

But if the Castle Bromwich workers go back, they will face wage cuts and a serious defeat for their organisation. Their claim is based on the rocketing cost of living since 1972.

TERRIFY

In COVENTRY, the Stoke Joint Shop Stewards' Committee voted 78 to 30 to support a national meeting of Chrysler shop stewards. The convenors all opposed the motion.

In LINWOOD there is a similar problem of indecision. Transport Union shop steward Peter Bain takes up the story...

'Shop stewards here have voted against occupying the plant.

This is a reversal of a mass meeting's decision on 19 February, to refuse to accept any further cut back in production unless everyone was put on a five-day week or Chrysler continued paying lay-off money.

'At the shop stewards' meeting, eight convenors and sub-convenors spoke in opposition to the proposal to occupy. They made it clear that they thought "at this time" there was no alternative to "reluctantly accepting" the company's latest production cuts from 45 to 33 cars an hour.

'A mixture of red herrings and extreme

WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR

Nationalisation of the entire motor industry without compensation.
No redundancies and no concessions on working conditions. Factory occupations against any redundancies.
Five days' work or five days' pay
Shop stewards' control of manning, track speeds and working conditions
International links with carworkers in other countries.

pessimism was concocted to oppose any action. The stewards were warned that an occupation could last many weeks, but it would be "anarchy", there would be a "mass exodus" of workers from the factory, that it would suit Chrysler to have production stopped, and that in any case, the workforce wouldn't agree to an occupation.

'Great emphasis was also placed on the "political" campaign—seeing local authorities and Labour MPs—as the answer to our problems.

'Many stewards argued that Chrysler had been getting everything they wanted for weeks, and that a stand had to be made now. Occupations of the plant combined with pickets at every Chrysler compound would pressurise the Company and make it clear to the Government that we were determined to defend every job.

'Chrysler have no intention of maintaining employment in Britain at anything like present levels. They intend pulling out as soon as they think they can get away with it. They have 37,000 unsold cars lying around this country. February car sales were lower than Chrysler's projected level, so they are not too keen on producing cars right now.

'What we can expect is an onslaught on our working conditions. Chrysler think that by putting the boot in they will either make inroads into conditions or provoke us out the door. This attack must be resisted or trade union organisation will be on the road to disaster. Confrontation on some issue or another is unavoidable.'

At VAUXHALL'S ELLESMERE PORT plant the call by the Linwood Joint Shop Stewards' Committee for a national delegate meeting of motor industry shop stewards' committees has been endorsed.

Linwood stewards are touring other plants to increase support.

At Ford's, the shop stewards and convenors on the National Joint Negotiating Committee took a step backwards at a meeting last week. A Ford steward explains:

'The representatives of Ford workers from all over the country have miserably capitulated to the company's proposals for widespread redundancy and short-time.

'The stewards accepted even more stringent lay-offs in exchange for a rotten apology from Ford's for "not consulting the negotiating committee" before announcing the lay-offs.

DEFEND

'Under the new proposals, workers at DAGENHAM will be forced to take six days off in March, 11 in April (and there are only 22 working days in April) and nine in May.

'Ford workers at Southampton and Halewood (transmissions) must now take five days off a month (in place of the four originally suggested).

'After getting their apology, the stewards set about discussing how best they could "soften the blow" of short-time working—except for Elliot, a steward from the PTA plant at Dagenham who wondered if the company would accept "voluntary redundancy" instead!

'Suggestions that there should be fight on the question—one convenor suggested occupying the main Ford plants—were greeted with stunned silence, and some embarrassed giggling.

'The Fords stewards will have to put up a much better show at the next national Fords shop stewards' meeting on 27 April.'

by R Fisher, 25 years an NUR member

THE PRESENT dispute within our grade has arisen as a direct result of the April 1974 pay award. The signalmen were the ONLY grade not to receive responsibility payments.

We are therefore fighting for a ten per cent responsibility allowance, five per cent differential and a signing on and off allowance. The last four pay deals have seen a withering away of the differential between signalmen and other rail workers. But the NUR leadership has done nothing whatever for us in comparison with other grades. It treats us with contempt as a minority group.

Under the new pay re-organisation deal last month accepted by the NUR, drivers get a responsibility payment of between £3.80 and £4.50 on top of their wages. The signalmen's claim for similar payment was turned down. There is now only 30p difference between a signalman and a porter.

We have been abused and vilified by our new (elected for life) General Secretary Sid Weighell (£160 a week) and the rest of the overpaid NUR leadership, through

Message to all signalmen: This is your fight-join it!

the press, radio and television.

The outrageous neglect of signalmen by the NUR can be measured by the way we have fallen behind since the early Sixties. The couldn't-care-less attitude of the National Executive can be seen in the way they 'negotiated' the re-classification of signal box men in 1972. No fewer than 85 per cent of signal boxes were downgraded.

Who needs bosses when you have got union leaders like these. Because of our poor rate of pay, signalmen have to work 60 to 72 hours a week to take home a decent wage. In my area there are 32 signalmen's posts. At present there are 21 signalmen and 11 vacancies.

This speaks for itself. Because of the poor pay British Rail cannot recruit signalmen.

We are fighting our own union hierarchy on this issue. The majority of the NUR NEC and officers are in my opinion only in it for what they can get out of it.

It's time the careerists were swept out of office and replaced by men who cannot be corrupted. The sooner Weighell and his cohorts realise that the unions belong to the members and he and the others are our servants and not our masters, the better. The NUR leadership have for years traded on the signalmen's pride in what is a vital and highly responsible job only to leave them time and again out in the cold. Purely on rank and file initiative, we have now organised among ourselves a series of 24-hour stoppages in which, contrary to what the Fleet Street rags say, more and more signalmen are becoming involved.

Our demands are modest, we are only asking for the same treatment as some other grades. I appeal to all signalmen to join us. We can win—make no mistake about that, but we need your support. This is your fight—join it.

DOCKERS from all three enclosed docks in London are now on strike. In Tilbury and West India Docks on Thursday, men refused to work on scab lorries that had crossed our picket lines at Dagenham Cold Stores. In the Royal Docks, the flashpoint came when a ship was transferred from Tilbury. On Friday, the riverside wharves and container bases came out.

The strike has been brewing since dockers began picketing and blacking the non-registered Dagenham Cold Stores. Road haulage employers incited lorry drivers to retaliate by picketing Tilbury Docks and two registered container bases.

By last Thursday, they were all at a standstill: which is why shop stewards voted to put the black on any shipping transferred from Tilbury. Then the lorry drivers called off their picket line—but within hours the strike began.

This is not an inter-union dispute, as the press and TV are working overtime to suggest.

We are fighting for our right to work, and nothing more. For more than a decade now, since the first introduction of containerisation, dockers' jobs have been slashed to pieces. In ten years we have lost 35,000 jobs.

Dockers have seen employers such as the massive Vestey organisation systematically close registered cold stores and wharves, sacking thousands of registered dockers; only to see the work those men handled syphoned off to one of Vestey's unregistered cold stores and container bases, such as Midland Cold Store.

There, Vestey isn't hindered by such things as the Dock Labour Scheme, which removes his control over hiring and firing and discipline.

And Vestey is the rule not the exception. We've seen Hays Wharf close all their riverside wharves, chucking 2,000 dockers out of their jobs, only to divert the cargo to the Dagenham Complex. Even now, in London, at least 500 jobs are under the shadow of the axe.

ACTION

At T Wallis in the Royal Docks the employers have demanded that 130 men are sacked. T Wallis spent £31 million on container ships last year.

If a trade unionist was sacked from a factory because he was a good militant and had fought for and won reasonable wages, good conditions and job security, the trade union movement would rally to his support.

It would be a clear case of victimisation. Even if the employers hired another card holding member to take his place. That on the grand scale, is what has happened to dockers. We have been sacked because of the wages, conditions and security which we fought for and won in the past.

The T&GWU No 1 Docks Group Committee (which has so far masterminded the campaign) has said time and time again that it is not our intention to put any man on the dole queue. If and when we win container depots like Dagenham Cold Store, it will be on the same formula as when we won Chobham Farm in 1972.

by Eddie Prevost,
TGWU shop steward,
Royal Docks

There, the shop stewards demanded that every single one of the container workers be given a job. Not one was sacked. Instead they were given a £11 a week rise, and a ten hour cut in the working week—to bring them in line with dockers.

But now we are out the all-important question is: on what terms do we return to work?

Jack Jones is appealing to us to return immediately to give the government's Conciliation Service the chance to report. But why?

There have been more Commissions and Inquiries into the docks than any other industry. The docks is not run to give a job to retired judges and pink-gin sociologists.

We—the men who work in the industry—know what is wrong. We don't need any conciliators to solve our problems.

Inquiries into the Docks are part of our problems, not the solution. This is just another stunt to take the heat off Jack Jones.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

DOCKERS STRIKE FOR JOBS



Dockers meeting last Monday: now is the time to take a stand

PORT SHOP STEWARDS ARE KEY TO VICTORY

THE DOCKS Group Committee have called for the campaign to be continued. But dockers would be more than right to be cynical about the Docks Group.

For ten years, they have done almost nothing to fight back against sackings. And when, in 1972, dockers did make a stand for their jobs, the Docks Group undermined the strike and got it called off to give the Jones-Aldington Committee the chance to take the heat out of the situation.

Billy Powell, Docks Group delegate on the Executive, was on the Jones-Aldington Committee. Maybe they have learnt the lessons of 1972. Maybe they are determined this time. Maybe not.

The key to the situation has to be the shop stewards movement and the National Port Shop Stewards Committee.

The National Port Shop Stewards staged the fight in 1972. They warned dockers that the Jones-Aldington Report would give us nothing.

Only the National Port Shop Stewards have the organisation and determination to win this fight.

The national stewards met in Birmingham on Saturday, and it was decided to meet again this Saturday to reconsider the situation.

If London dockers are still out, there will be strong moves to call a national dock strike. And if dockers close ranks behind the National Port Shop Stewards, this is a fight we can win.

Dockers did not want this strike; it was forced on us. But now we are on strike, we can demand the extension of the Dock Labour Scheme to all ports and container depots. This time there must be no compromises, because next time it could be too late.

That is why London dockers should stay out until legislation is introduced to extend the Scheme to all dock work. And that is why all dockers should support the NPSSC and the London dockers.

The time has come to make our stand.

£2621: Now push for that £10,000

LAST WEEK, Socialist Worker printed and distributed hundreds of full-page sheets outlining the case of Fleet Street's latest whipping boys, the signalmen.

It's important for the signalmen to win support from other trade unionists, to break down the lies that surround their dispute.

It's important—and we aim to help them do it. But we can only do it—and all the other similar operations vital for a socialist newspaper—if we've got the money.

It's hard enough in normal times. These days, with inflation making newsprint like gold-dust, it's virtually impossible—without your financial support.

That's why we've launched a Fighting Fund target of £10,000. We need to reach it in six weeks.

After two weeks, the money is coming in fairly fast. But we urge you—our readers, supporters and members—to hurry it along. Organise collections at work, on your estate, at your union branch.

Don't forget: we can't exist without your support.

This week we received £1148.21, swelling the total so far to

£2621.26

- Reading University IS Soc £1.50.
- IS Soc Livingstone House N E London Poly £4.50. SW Readers Social Work Course Medway and Maidstone Tech £7. W London Hospital Workers £30.20. Bradford Readers £1. Mid-Herts IS £6. Tottenham IS £13.76.
- Members' special levy: Bangor £18. Stirling £12. Sheffield £75.55. Grays £29. Birmingham City £3. E London Hospital Workers £114. Poole £9. Leicester £27. Gloucester £18. Liverpool £10. Wandsworth £9. Cardiff £36. Tottenham £37.50. Central London Workers £48.60. Birmingham City £14. Newham £44. Austin £5. Lambeth Council Workers £30. Manchester Health Workers £21. Finsbury Park £12. Bath £7. Leicester Engineers £4. Edinburgh £47. Waltham Forest £12. Oxford £117. Huddersfield £13. Tower Hamlets £31. S Lambeth £38.30. Camborne £0.80. Warley £22. Hounslow £23. Action £13. Oldham £13.
- Rush donations to: Mel Norris, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Worker presents Cinema Action's documentary *The Miners* See the film of the General Strike and the Battle of Saltley

SHEFFIELD: Thursday 6 March, 8pm, Sheffield Poly. With speaker.

WAKEFIELD: Sunday 9 March, 8pm, Queen Street Hall.

DONCASTER: Monday 10 March, 8pm, The Masons Arms, Market Place. With speaker.

BRADFORD: Tuesday 11 March, 8pm, Bradford University, Room N4. With speaker.

BARNESLEY: Wednesday 12 March, Place to be announced.

PONTEFRAC: Friday 14 March, 8pm, Pontefract Town Hall. With speaker.

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