

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Wilson's Contract -with the Tories

THE Labour Party manifesto before the last general election in October was adamant about one thing. There could be no talk of a coalition with the Tories. 'A coalition government by its very nature tends to trim its politics. If we believe, as we must, in our own independent political philosophies, there is no meeting place between us and those with quite different political philosophies,' it said.

Four days ago Margaret Thatcher, the Tory Party leader, declared in the House of Commons during the Common Market debate: 'The Prime Minister at present has to rely more on his political opponents than on his alleged political friends to secure the decision which he considers right for Britain.'

A few days later Reginald Maudling, Tory spokesman for foreign affairs and expert on off-shore property

swindles, made it clear that agreement with Wilson extended to issues much wider than the Common Market. He said of Labour Chancellor Denis Healey's budget: 'No one can deny the political courage of both Mr Healey's words and his deeds. Not only has he identified the nature of Britain's problems, galloping inflation, and its cause, excessive wage increases . . . he actually did something about it.'

The strongest supporters of the government's cuts in education, housing and the Health Service are to be found in the ranks of the Tory Party. Mrs Thatcher and her friends are the most adamant backers of Roy Jenkins' decision to keep the Shrewsbury pickets in jail.

Wilson knows that the real reason he can get away with any of these measures, despite the strong hostility from sections of his own party, is because he can rely, in the last resort, on Tory votes.

SILENT

There is, in fact, only one significant difference between this state of affairs and a formal coalition. If Wilson went into an open coalition with Thatcher, the official leaders of the trade unions would be forced by their members to oppose that government's policies.

Even as it is, some of them are speaking out against the alliance on the Common Market. But on the other, vital issues, most are silent.

Len Murray, head of the TUC, has been able to come to a friendly agreement with the government that wages should still be held back.

Jack Jones, Transport Workers' general secretary and would-be star of the anti-Market campaign, has gone out of his way to attack those workers who have broken through the Social Contract straitjacket that Wilson, Thatcher and Maudling are trying to impose.

Rank and file trade unionists must reject such talk. Every worker needs a wage increase now, because of the budget. Workers such as the railwaymen, who have not yet taken part in the latest round of wage increases, will need larger rises than ever.

NO TO THE BUDGET: NO TO THE MARKET—pages 2-3.

INSIDE

After all, the House of Commons is a very deadening place. It's designed to be. This is a corrupting place by its very atmosphere. Shrewsbury is a simple class question. They should have been released.

Eric Heffer, sacked by the Labour government, talks to Socialist Worker. Centre pages this week.

WORKERS SHUT COUNCIL FOR DAY

ALL the schools and council offices in Liverpool were closed last Wednesday when 15,000 council workers marched to the town hall where their claim for parity with the dustcart drivers was being negotiated. Councillors going into the meeting were greeted with cries of 'Fiddlers!' and 'Grab all!'. One councillor, Al Beadley, claimed £2000 in expenses last year—more than the annual pay of many council workers.

THE ELECTRICIANS' STRIKE—back page.

Cambodia: The bloodbath that never was

A BLOODBATH was unanimously predicted by the press as the soldiers of the Khmer Rouge entered the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, last week.

It didn't happen. Instead the people and sections of the army came out and greeted the liberation forces. From neighbouring Thailand, refugees are moving back into Cambodia. A strange sort of bloodbath . . .

But that has not stopped the press claiming that 'disaster' awaits Saigon if it also falls. The rioting soldiers of Thieu's army, running amok and killing randomly in their retreat from the northern provinces a few weeks ago, have been forgotten. Instead there is talk of the horror that awaits the citizens of Saigon when their city goes the way of Phnom Penh.

But the mass of the population of Saigon have expressed no dismay at the 'disaster' that has already struck them this week—the resignation of President Thieu. He was a creation of the United States government whose reign was synonymous with terror for the mass of people and corruption for a privileged minority.

In his resignation speech he made one true statement: 'I would challenge the United States to do better than the Vietnamese army without B52s.' Throughout his rule, he depended on the US air force to spread death through the countryside as the only way to keep his power. Now the US has been forced to withdraw, his regime has crumbled and for the first time in living memory Vietnam faces the possibility of peace.

But it remains only a possibility until not only Thieu, but the regime which he defended, is overthrown. That is why socialists everywhere must welcome the victories of the liberation forces



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS SAY: No to the Budget!

by Andy Enever
TGWU steward, Chrysler
Stoke, Coventry

Yes, it takes courage to pick the pockets of those who put you in office...

...AND RAT-FACED HYPOCRISY TOO!

THE most amazing arguments being used by Chancellors, newspaper leader writers—and others who get paid thousands for trying to teach us the merits of living in poverty—is that we are living on borrowed money. We are paying ourselves too much. We are getting money we haven't earned.

Well I for one am pleased to know that they are at last admitting they are overpaid and idle. What worries me is that everyone seems to be included.

Nobody is ever going to convince me that I am living on borrowed money or that I haven't earned what I get. I only have to notice the panic-stricken look of my employers when I stop working to realise that they must be making a good healthy living out of me.

So I am ever more amazed that the 'socialist' government should come up with a budget that makes life increasingly difficult. I may smoke 20 fags a day and drink two pints of beer and maybe I'm wanting to buy a colour telly this year and take my small car on a week's caravanning in Wales. It's going to

cost me at least £100 more to do that thanks to Brother Denis Healey.

I earn £52 a week, but a man earning ten times as much is only paying the same increases, so it's going to hit me harder than it hits him.

And if my wife wants convincing that this budget is anti-working class, I only have to point out that if she nips down to the shops to buy

herself a mink coat she will pay 8 per cent VAT. But if she buys a new washing machine she will be paying 25 per cent VAT. Anyway, we are stocking up with mink coats to save money.

As if that wasn't enough, milk and bread prices are going to shoot up as our comrade in the Treasury removes the subsidies.

As Campbell Adamson, head of the Confederation of British Industry, says, our Denis is very courageous. I agree with that. To pick the pockets of the people who put you in office takes a lot of cheek, rat-faced hypocrisy and not a little courage.

Mind you, of course, he must be one of the few chancellors who gets more support from the Tories than he does from his own party. But then the entire government is in that position. They are relying on the Tories to maintain their policy of

helping big business get its share of the spoils of the Common Market.

Now they are relying on the Tories to help them batter down the puny opposition of the Labour left wing over a budget that any good Tory Chancellor would have been proud of.

What was it they were saying when they came to power? 'Policies to unite the nation!'. Policies to unite us with the Tories would have been more correct.

Anyway, I have just revised my idea of what a good wage rise would be this year. It's going up from £15 to £20.

FACT

ONE argument has been repeated ad nauseam in attempts to justify the budget. It is claimed that wages rose much faster than prices over the past year and this is to blame for rising prices and unemployment.

But the government's own figures reveal something else entirely. For instance the report on National Income and Expenditure for 1974 reveals that for the whole of last year 'the estimated increase in real disposable personal income was less than one per cent'. Other figures show that the total amount being bought by consumers today is no more than 12 months ago.

In other words, wage increases have been completely eaten up by increased prices and tax and national insurance deductions.

But you can't draw the conclusion either that wage increases gained last year were useless. Prices were already rising at a massive rate 12 months ago. If workers had not fought for increases well in excess of the Social Contract guidelines, they would long ago have been left well behind in the race against prices.

by Frank Drain
UCATT building worker

AGAIN the Labour government strikes another blow against the working class. Hatchet Healey's budget should be seen by workers for what it is—yet another attack on us by a party which claims to be on our side, a party which enjoys the votes of millions of workers.

After forcing us to work for a pittance on the shop floor, on sites and in offices, they then bump up the price of the few 'luxuries' we have—cigs, drinks, and, more important, domestic appliances. This is the party which talks about socialism.

Homeless

Another aspect of the budget which angers me, as a building worker, is the cut-back in housing. Doesn't this 'socialist' government know that thousands of men depend on the building of houses for their livelihood—not to mention the homeless families?

The capitalist-caused slump is hitting us hard. In Liverpool alone, 9000 building workers are on the cobbles. On the rare occasions I find work on a site in London, I notice a constant stream of unemployed workers coming on to the site looking for jobs: many are skilled men who have never found it difficult to find work in London before.

Sickens

It just sickens me, whether we're living under the Tories or not. Every year it gets worse. If you are out of a job now, it is almost permanent. The frustration of being stuck in your home (if you have one), no money, no prospects, having to weigh up a night out against groceries and rent.

Still, the Labour sickle keeps slashing, the hammer keeps crushing. Are we soon to see unemployed trade unionists and their employed brothers and sisters marching through the streets? I hope so. Working-class tempers have been burning a slow fuse. The explosion could soon follow.

RAILMEN TOLD TO TAKE DO-IT-YOURSELF PAY CUT

by John McCann (TSSA) and Geoff Heaton (ASLEF)

THE Budget has shown that the government is happy to cut our standard of living with taxes—but they still expect us to make more cuts ourselves by means of the Social Contract.

We railway workers are right in the front line of the Social Contract. The press and government are doing their best to keep our wage increase to the miserable 20 per cent already offered—which means a big real wage cut.

Why is the government taking a stand against the railwaymen, after conceding to the miners and powerworkers, and recently granting a 30 per cent increase to all doctors and civil servants? A look at the rail unions' record provides the answer. Since nationalisation in 1946 railwaymen's jobs have been slashed from 600,000 to 200,000 without any kind of fight from the union leaderships.

Yet there is no doubt that we have the industrial power to win any claim. We move four-fifths of the country's coal and two-thirds of all fuel.

But the rank and file must not see the

fight as belonging to their leaders. The miners won because they showed they were not afraid to use their power. Rank and file railway workers everywhere must start arguing in their branches and depots for an all out strike now. An all-out strike with effective picketing and support of other trade unionists would be short, sharp and victorious.

The leadership of the rail unions will be looking for the opportunity to duck out with terms that might just save their face. That is why there is a lot of strong talk about working to rule and banning overtime.

The result of an overtime ban would be a long confrontation between railway workers and the passengers without effecting the movement of coal, iron ore or oil, and would produce demoralisation among railway workers.

If the rank and file take up the fight and push for all-out action it could be that railway workers will finish what the miners started, and bury the Social Contract. It's up to us—the rank and file.



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

PART of the huge meeting last week attended by more than 700 supporters of the National Abortion Campaign. The campaign calls for abortion on demand and contraception for all and has been formed to fight the 'Back street Abortion Bill' introduced into parliament by Labour MP James White. The Bill, which seeks further restrictions on National Health Service abortions, is a direct threat to the rights of women everywhere, especially working-class women.

The campaign has gathered information to support its case, and has lists of doctors and health workers to speak at meetings up and down the country.

Fight the back street Abortion Bill!

by Nell Hirst and Sandy Wenn

The campaign is also working in the trade union movement. Its members have had motions passed in union branches calling on the TUC to fight the Bill, union-sponsored MPs have been pressurised into opposing the Bill, and union

branches have affiliated and given funds. One NALGO branch gave £50. Trades councils have organised public meetings against the Bill.

The tremendous response to the campaign shows the strength of feeling against the Bill.

International Socialists should work inside the National Abortion Campaign, emphasising the campaign's links with the working-class movement. If there's a local NAC group, join it, help to build it and argue within it about the class nature of the Bill. If there isn't a group, help to form one.

Mobilise now for the NAC Abortion on Demand demonstration on 21 June.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS SAY:

No to the Market!



EEC: European Employers Confederation

by Steve Freeman (ATTI) and Lindsay Greig (AUEW)

IN plain language, the EEC stands for European Employers Confederation. Like all employers' federations its aim is to defend profits from the workers who produce them.

Keeping the EEC united at the onset of the crisis is as crucial to the employers as international workers' unity is to the labour movement. This is why a NO vote would seriously weaken the confidence of the employers.

The Financial Times wrote on 29 March: 'The immediate effects of withdrawal would be to create a degree of uncertainty in Britain's political and economic relations which would undermine confidence.' When they speak of 'confidence' they mean the employers' confidence.

US diplomats have recently made similar remarks. They see that British withdrawal would be a blow to their plans for reviving the ailing Western economic and political structure. They know that British withdrawal would be a blow to a US foreign policy that is already reeling from defeats in Vietnam, Cambodia, Portugal and the Middle East.

In Britain, the Tory Party, the CBI and the Labour government reflect the world-wide concern for the safety of European capitalism. So important is this for the employers that Wilson is prepared to risk splitting the Labour Party. Even the Tories, who normally would jump for joy at the Labour Party's predicament, are keeping smugly quiet in case they accidentally shake Wilson off his tightrope.

Rout

In a recent article in The Guardian (18 April), Peter Jenkins explains what Wilson and the bosses are after. 'If, as begins to seem probable, the referendum results in an overwhelming Yes to remaining in the EEC, the forces of the left within the trade unions as well as the Parliamentary Labour Party will have suffered a veritable rout.'

He argues that 'the consequences for the balance of power within the Labour movement from the Cabinet down will be profound.' In other words, a Yes vote will strengthen the right wingers such as Wilson, Callaghan, Healey, Jenkins and Prentice.

That is why the International Socialists urge a No vote. A success for the No vote would upset all the carefully laid plans of Wilson and his paymasters.

But we cannot stop there. Set-backs for the employers sometimes lead to a call for strong government and right-wing dictatorship. That is why the quality of the No vote is also important. We have to campaign for it to be a socialist and anti-capitalist No vote, not one based on narrow nationalism or mixed-up racialism. That is why all nationalist arguments and joint platforms with Tories must

be rejected.

It is not a luxury to put socialist and internationalist arguments against the Common Market. The crisis of capitalism is international and workers must fight internationally, by forging links with other workers in Europe and the world.

The alternative to the European Employers Confederation is not to return to Greater Britain Ltd. The alternative is to fight for socialism. A large and vigorous anti-capitalist No vote will be a step in the right direction.



A picture for those who believe the Common Market could lead to workers' internationalism: Italian workers demonstrating in Rome against the French import ban on Italian wines, prompted by the 'wine lake', the Market's immense wine surplus which cannot be sold because it would bring prices down.

What they want you to vote Yes for

THERE are half a million tons of beef in the Common Market beef mountain—meat taken out of the shops to keep prices artificially high. Some of it is in ships leased to act as floating refrigerators. The rest is in cold stores.

Some of the meat has been in store for so long that it is rotting. The two-year-old stocks are fast becoming uneatable.

According to Robin Pooley, vice-president of the EEC Beef and Veal Consultative Committee, the real cost of the Common Market beef mountain 'will be the biggest financial scandal of the century'.

The meat could of course be given away free to the old and poor. But this would upset the interests of property owners everywhere. So the meat is to rot away.

ONE of the tasks recently carried out by ex-Tory minister and European commissioner Sir Christopher Soames was to visit Portugal and hob-nob with the ex-fascists who lead Portugal's 'centre democrat' party, the CDS. Last week, The Economist, the big business weekly suggested that Common Market involvement in Portuguese affairs would be one of the best ways to protect capitalism's control of that country, a control which The Economist refers to as 'democracy'.

'The EEC has a strong strategic interest in maintaining the security of Europe's south-western flank... It could hold out the prospect of associate membership which can lead to full membership when the conditions are right... Portugal could be the first major test of

the European community's political will.'

THE offices of the Keep Britain In campaign have been donated free by an interesting set of benefactors. They are the McAlpine family, who have done so much for working people by exploiting them, killing them in so-called industrial accidents and recently by helping to initiate the Shrewsbury conspiracy prosecutions.

THE Common Market agricultural ministers, including Labour's own pro-Marketeer Fred Peart, reached an agreement last week which will lead to several hundred million litres of wine being made unfit for human consumption. The wine is to be turned into industrial spirits. The Common Market will pay wine producers about 10p a litre.

WHAT WE THINK

HAROLD WILSON has been known as a skilled political trickster. But this weekend he will be trying to perform the most remarkable trick of the lot. He will be asking the Labour Party Conference for a free hand to unite with the Tories and the Liberals in opposition to the majority of trade unions, the majority of the conference and the majority of Labour MPs.

He will be asking them merely to 'note' that he is campaigning in coalition with Mrs Thatcher and Edward Heath for support for the Common Market.

The alliance with the Tories is not restricted to the referendum issue. Reggie Maudling's praise for Denis Healey at the weekend shows that it extends to the budget. And, of course the government's strongest support for keeping the Shrewsbury Two in jail comes from Tories.

In the early 1930s, faced with a growing economic crisis, the then Labour prime minister Ramsey MacDonald, decided that the only way

Wilson asks for a free hand to rat on his supporters

to defend the interests of big business was to rat on his own supporters and govern in coalition with the Tories. His name became a by-word for treachery throughout the movement.

Today, faced with a growing economic crisis, Wilson too is ratting on his own supporters trying to govern through an alliance, albeit an informal one, with the Tories. Witness their praise for the budget, as well as for his Common Market policies.

Nasty

The difference is that Wilson hopes the Labour movement will look the other way, keep him not merely in its ranks, but as its leader, and accept the nasty medicine he dishes out.

But the most disgusting spectacle is not Wilson, but the trade union leaders who are backing him in his efforts. At the Labour Party Conference figures such as Sidney Weighell of the NUR, David Basnett of the GMWU, Frank Chapple of the EETPU, and Lord Allen of USDAW will be doing their utmost to get support for the antics of the Wilson-Thatcher alliance.

Other trade union leaders will speak out against Wilson—but will then evade a real fight against him by standing on platforms alongside the small minority of anti-Market Tories and by doling out money to organisations that provide publicity for figures such as Enoch Powell.

Alliance

Rank and file trade unionists must demand a completely different approach. It is necessary for trade union organisations, nationally and locally, to take up the fight against the Wilson-Thatcher alliance. There should be no talk at all about any arrangement that gives Wilson a free hand to campaign for the policies he has in common with Thatcher.

Every trade union branch, every shop stewards committee, every trades council has to be mobilised for a campaign for a massive NO vote to the Wilson-Thatcher alliance.

The way to gain such a NO vote does not lie in alliance with the handful of extreme right-wing anti-Market Tories. It lies rather in explaining to workers on the shop floor that Wilson is pushing through with the support of the majority of Tory MPs and against his own supporters, a whole range of policies that can only harm the working class.

That is why we have to build, in the weeks ahead, a massive, trade union-based, labour movement campaign for a NO vote.

In 1919-1920 a revolutionary wave was sweeping Europe. In the factories of Italy, Germany and Britain battles over wages detonated a political struggle—for control over society itself.

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How officials aim to carve up TASS democracy

THE BIGGEST carve-up of a union's democratic structure since Frank Chapple took over the ETU is now taking place in TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineering Union.

General Secretary Ken Gill is putting the full weight of the Broad Left behind proposals to scrap the Executive Committee of 26 lay members, who are elected from their own divisions on a federal basis.

In its place would be an 11-strong EC representing individual regions and elected every three years. With the strength of the Broad Left electoral machine behind him, the EC for the next three years would be the one Gill wants.

An EC based on regions instead of individual divisions would, for example, give Wales' 3188 members the same voting strength as the West Midlands, with 21,289 members.

This exercise in democracy is all the more interesting since the re-organisation proposals result from the union's amalgamation with the relatively democratic AUEW.

Instead of amalgamation breathing democracy into TASS, it has worked in reverse. Consider the question of full-time officials.

Not so

DATA, the fore-runner of TASS, appointed its full-time officials for life. But, since the AUEW has a tradition—vigorously defended by the Broad Left—of regular elections, amalgamation might reasonably have seen it extended to TASS. Not so.

The opposition to this democratic practice comes not from right-wing elements, but from the Broad Left. Why? Because the Broad Left in TASS is dominated by the Communist Party—and at least 16 of the present 26 full-time divisional organisers are CP members, as are two of the four full-time national officers.

Meanwhile, the executive of the AUEW, a body to which all members have previously been elected, now has one member on it for life who will never face election: Ken Gill.

The weight of the bureaucracy in TASS will be increased further by the addition of five more divisional organisers. In 1972, the number of organisers was increased from 16 to 26 to 'enable the union to cope with the sudden growth in membership which will result from amalgamation with the AUEW'.

Unfortunately, this 'sudden



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

TASS
general
secretary
Ken
Gill

growth' has not occurred. By the end of 1974, the membership of TASS will have increased by only 15 per cent in two years in contrast with the 90 per cent 'sudden growth' in full-time officials over the same period.

Most positions have now been filled by Broad Left supporters. The full-time organisers' selection committee is no exception—the Broad Left have a clear majority whose job is to see that the 'right men' get the jobs that the EC has been furiously creating over the last two years.

Another job, that of women's organiser, has been found for a member of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party, Judith Hunt. Unlike all other officials, Judith Hunt is not a member of TASS, but of ATTI.

The re-organisation proposals would put the union's publications, TASS News and TASS Journal, under the control of the general secretary. This will not make the present editor, who is appointed for life, unemployed. The EC has decided to create for him the post of National Organiser...

Why is this man looking so happy?

THIS photograph of the chairman of Trafalgar House Investments, Nigel Brookes, appears in the April issue of *Record*, the journal of the Transport and General Workers Union (general secretary Jack Jones). It appears there with the bubble left blank, offering readers prizes for filling in what Brookes was saying. This is *Socialist Worker's* entry.



I've just heard Jack Jones' latest speech on the Social Contract

Short of funds? Call in the bosses...

THE FINANCIAL position of TASS could reasonably be described as desperate. Last September the EC reported that 86 per cent of all incoming monies was being spent on administrative costs. October figure was 106 per cent. In other words, TASS—that is, its bureaucracy—is spending more than the members are paying in.

How can this situation be remedied? Easy, replies Ken Gill. Instead of collecting subs through the shop stewards (called corresponding members) we will streamline the process and go on to check-off.

Check-off is the system where subs are deducted by the employer from the wage packet. Socialists don't like the idea of the boss picking up a nice commission. They don't think office or factory organisation can benefit from the steward losing the role of collecting subs (and using it as an excuse to keep the members informed).

The EC of course has come up with a simple way of making such TASS members change their minds. Instead of the subs collecting sheets being sent out on a monthly basis, they will be sent out every two months. Not wishing to hold

on to large sums of money for eight weeks at a stretch, most office committees will opt for the check-off system.

It is tragic that when faced with situations such as the Social Contract, Chile, equal pay and the Shrewsbury pickets, the issue that has most consistently occupied the pages of TASS News has been the check-off campaign.

The union will need all the money it can get. Ken Gill and the TASS EC have just recommended a 30 per cent increase for all full-time officers and organisers. That would put Gill on about £6520 a year.

PORTUGAL

THE British press and TV have stepped up their campaign of hysteria over Portugal. BBC's Panorama made great play last Monday about the difficulties facing what it referred to as 'the moderate centre party, the Portuguese equivalent of the Conservative Party', the CDS.

Yet until 25 April last year, the leaders of the CDS were open supporters of Caetano's fascism. There was no mention in the programme of this simple fact.

Again, reference was made to 'more than 1000 political prisoners'. But three-quarters of these are former secret policemen, about another 200 army officers arrested after the attempted coup five weeks ago, and the other 50 are civilians also implicated in the coup.

Panorama's general theme was that Portugal is a 'military dictatorship'. Now maybe some of the leaders of the armed forces have ambitions in that direction. But, at the moment, ordinary workers and rank and file soldiers have a freedom to argue and organise greater than anywhere else in Europe.

These freedoms are under attack. But in the forefront of those attacks are precisely the ex-fascist politicians and generals that the British press so admire.

Elections that will change nothing

THIS WEEK'S elections in Portugal will not solve the country's political crisis. They cannot tackle the most important problems facing the mass of workers and agricultural labourers: growing unemployment and prices.

The revolutionary council of the armed forces has recognised as much by declaring that it will continue to rule whoever wins the election. But it has no solution to the workers' problems either.

It nationalised more sections of industry last week. But control remains with its own appointees or with the old managers, and the nationalisation will do nothing to alter the conditions of the workers.

That is why more and more workers are demanding workers' control to safeguard their jobs and improve their pay and conditions.

The government also announced that, for the first time, there will be dole for the unemployed. But it will be tiny, from £7 to £9 a week in a country where prices are higher than in Britain.

The Communist Party has been greeting nationalisation and dole as great victories. It is now urging workers that their main task must be to 'increase production'.

But many workers are seeing things differently. In the post office and textile industry, they are campaigning for a shorter working week as the quickest way to help both the unemployed and themselves.

Their gravest threat arises from within the armed forces and the two paramilitary police organisations, where many officers are biding their time before launching further attacks on the workers movement.

This danger is increased by the return from Africa of many army units that have not been part of the revolutionary fervour of the last year.

Banned

Meanwhile, left-wing organisations face harassment. Two Maoist groups, the MRPP and the AOC, have been banned from holding public meetings, another, the UDP, had one of its election broadcast censored, and a fourth, the MEC, was banned from the air for several days.

The leaders of the Communist Party appear to think if they keep the independent activity of workers to a minimum and not annoy the ruling class too much, they can somehow take over society without any real conflict with the right-wing officers and police chiefs.

The Communist Party recently claimed that many owners of 'medium and small business' would be voting for it—although these owners pay the smallest wages and sack workers who demand wage rises.

The Communist Party is living in cloud cuckoo land. In the months ahead, two things can happen, the workers' movement will either smash the power of the right-wing officers and re-organise industry under its own control as so to end inflation, and unemployment.

Or high prices and rising unemployment will divide and demoralise workers, giving the right-wing a chance to make a come-back.



Condemned ...after a frame-up

MONEY is urgently needed to send a lawyer to the British colony of Dominica to fight for the life of Desmond Trotter, a young activist due to hang after a frame-up trial.

Desmond is a member of the Movement for a New Dominica, which is agitating against the high unemployment and severe repression by the government, which is the creature of the Van Geest banana empire and the Cadbury Schweppes subsidiary Roses Lime Juice.

Picket

His appeal was dismissed last month. And now his relatives expect the formal 48 hours' notice of execution any day.

So the campaign is being stepped up. There is a picket of the East Caribbean High Commission at 10 Haymarket, London every Friday from 4.30 to 6pm.

On Saturday, 4 May the Desmond Trotter Defence Committee is holding a demonstration, starting at 1pm, at Ladbroke Grove Tube followed at 8pm by a play and dance at the Keskiee Centre, 1 Gifford Street, London N1.

The committee can be contacted at 37 Tollington Park Road, London N4 (01-272 0594).

DEATH OF A SOCIALIST

GIANNI Zibecchi, one of four socialists killed in Italy in the last week. He was crushed to death by a police van while on a demonstration in Milan.

The other three were shot by fascists. The first was killed when a group of fascists got out of a car in Milan and shot him while on his way home from a demonstration.

A protest demonstration the next day saw the death of Zibecchi and by Friday hundreds of thousands of workers and students all over Italy were on strike.

70,000 demonstrators marched in Rome during a one-hour general strike. In Milan and Turin, the offices of the fascist party, the MSI, were burned.

Defending the revolution

SOME Portuguese workers are beginning to defend the revolution in a different way from the dangerous approach of the Communist Party.

Revolutionary councils, uniting militants from different left-wing organisations, are being elected in a number of important factories, such as in three factories in the glass industry centre of Marinha Grande, in the Lisnave shipyard, and in the national broadcasting station.

A congress to discuss the development of this movement drew 500 workers and soldiers last weekend from factories, offices and barracks throughout the country.

Stressed

Workers also came from the newly-nationalised railways, the state airline (TAP), many foreign-owned factories, the banks and the media. Soldiers and left-wing officers from the Alfeite Barracks were also there, along with soldiers from 35 other military units.

The organiser stressed that only

through revolutionary councils could the working class defend its gains. The manifesto for the congress described 'the perfect experience of autonomous working-class organisations as the Soviets of 1917.'

Unfortunately, most of the Left in Portugal is not yet prepared to learn the lesson. The Communist Party, of course, refuses to support such forms of organisations.

But sections of the revolutionary left are also showing themselves blind to the need for rank and file workers' and soldiers' unity, and prefer to fight one another as well as the CP for control of the workers' movement.

They do not see that unless there is a united, rank and file organisation, the strength of the working class can all too easily be frittered away before the next confrontation.

ADVERTISEMENT

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE WORKING CLASS
For 48 years, Portuguese workers fought a consistent battle against the fascist regime. Now, one year after the coup, which toppled the dictatorship, the working class are struggling for socialism in Portugal.

We urge all trade unionists to support this struggle: to campaign in their workplaces and localities for solidarity with the Portuguese revolution; to affiliate their shop stewards' committees, trade union branches and trades councils to the Solidarity Campaign for the Portuguese Working Class.

This campaign has been launched

by the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee and is sponsored by British trade unionists, including Ken MacMillan (secretary, Lanarkshire Trades Councils Joint Committee) and Jack Collins (Kent miners' leader).

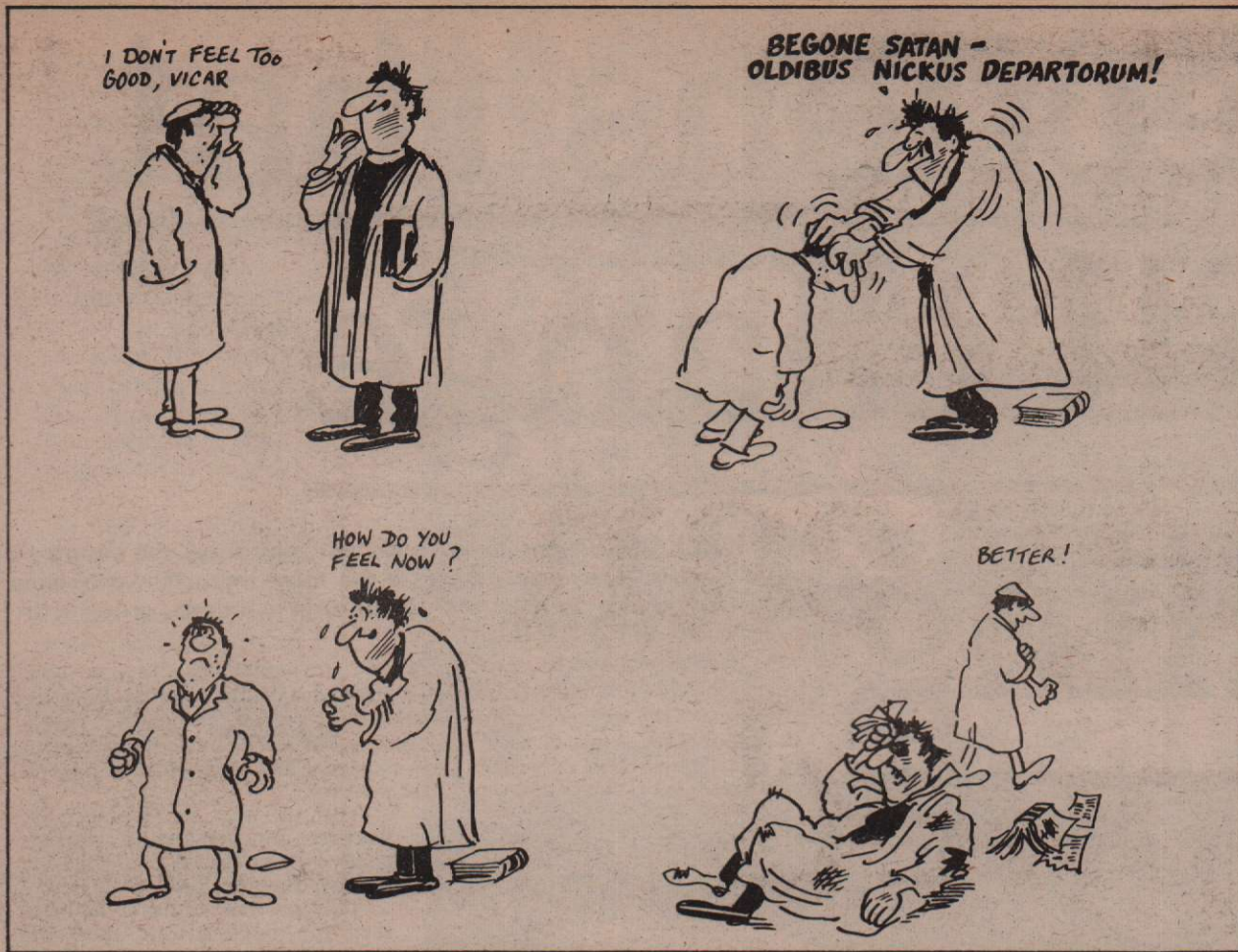
Trade unionists can support this campaign by passing resolutions through branches and trades councils calling for support for the Portuguese working class in their struggle for socialism and calling on the union's national executive to

DEMAND that the British government acts to prevent imperialist intervention in Portugal and avoid another

Chile.

INVITE a speaker from the PWCC to address the union's annual conference.

Annual affiliation fee (includes subscription to the monthly bulletin, Our Common Struggle): trade union branches and trades councils £5, districts and regional organisation £10, national organisations £25. Send all copies of resolutions to the PWCC, 18 Fleet Road, London NW3, who will forward them to the relevant address in Portugal.



Worker against worker - this they call 'a great victory'

1973 is 'a year in which National Front activity in industry is going to increase enormously', according to the NF monthly, Spearhead. Five 'regional industrial organisers', with two national officers are to direct the work.

What is the aim? To penetrate local trade union and shop steward bodies to contest for the leadership of rank and file workers. The strike at Leicester's Imperial Typewriters last summer is a model of their tactics.

The Front claimed that dispute as a great victory, for it was Front members in the factory who fought to prevent white workers uniting with the Asian strikers, who exulted in crossing the picket line, and who led a strike in protest at the reinstatement of the strikers in their jobs.

This is Spearhead's description of the strike: 'The industrial action by Britons at Imperials is a racial struggle! The British workers at Imperials are

in the vanguard of the real struggle that is taking place throughout Britain. This struggle is not the old class warfare ogre between Briton and Briton.

'It is the struggle of a united British people fighting to preserve their freedom and identity against the forces of Communism and international capitalism ...'

Through the Leicester district committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Front not only enforced the so-called 'two year rule' to prevent the recognition of Asian shop stewards: when this was criticised by the Transport and General Workers Union internal enquiry into the Imperial dispute, they reaffirmed it. And not a word from Jack Jones or the great 'anti-racist' leaders of the trade unions.

After demoralising the workers at Imperials last summer, the Front had absolutely nothing to say over the closure of the plant this February. They claim to oppose 'international capitalism'—but they did nothing at all to challenge that international capitalist, Litton Industries (who own Imperial), when it decided to shut down the plant and make off with the loot. The Front is interested only in splitting workers, in destroying their strength, so that the employers inherit all.

Expelled

Front members are increasingly claiming union membership in their propaganda, and some have reason to do so. Take William Roberts, Front general election candidate in Bolton. He was once a member of the Labour Party executive, and is Engineering Union convenor at a Bolton engineering factory.

Or Kenneth Saunders, Front candidate in Loughborough. He demands that a sizable number of his fellow trade unionists in the Hosiery and Knitwear Workers should be expelled from the country altogether. Like Roberts, he gets away with it, and the leadership of both the AUEW and the Hosiery Union tolerate the open pushing of racist hysteria 'in the interests of free speech'.

Let's be quite clear. The Front is out to use the unions to divide workers so that their 'great victory' at Imperials can be repeated—and the bosses, our fellow 'Britons', make off with the swag. They tried to do exactly the same in Leeds when they demanded a strike of all busmen to prevent two Sikh busmen wearing the turban on the job.

The International Socialists argue that Front members should be expelled from the unions altogether. Those whose entire political standpoint is to scab, to work as active agents of the employers by using racialism, should be kicked out. It is an elementary act of self-defence to protect workers' unity. Front members have no right to union membership nor to 'free speech' in the union—to grant this is to disarm the workers' movement.

Define

The Rank and File Organising Committee is now taking up this issue. On 14 June, they are holding a conference in Birmingham to define ways of tackling the racists on the shop floor, in the unions and in the community.

It is a basic task in building workers' strength and in protecting it against all the ultra-right microbes who want to ensure the employers win. Every trade union militant should try to get there, both to provide his or her own experience in tackling this question and to learn what has been done elsewhere.

Rank and File Organising Committee conference AGAINST RACIALISM AND DISCRIMINATION—a practical programme to fight on the shop floor, in the union and the community. Further details and credentials from: Roger Cox, Secretary, RFOC, 215 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

5 FIFTH COLUMN on profit-hungry Unilever



WHAT HAVE you buying a packet of Birds Eye steakettes got in common with a timber worker in Nigeria, a German fisherman, a Ghanian electrical worker or a Gambian ground-nut farmer? Well you and all those other workers are doing your bit to boost the success story of the ninth largest company in the world, the second biggest outside the USA, Unilever.

'World sales in a single year (1973) were £4,492 million. Something approaching two thirds of mankind buy from, or sell to Unilever, and most people in the West use its products every single day of their lives.'

SMOKED BACON ON THE HOOF

IN A company which covers almost the entire range of consumer goods and foods there are bound to be a few bizarre products, and unfortunate accidents.

Take the new improved Unilever pig for example. This unfortunate animal is treated to the 'injection method'. This 'imparts a slightly smoked flavour to the live pig'. So you don't even need to do the amiable porker in before he's smoked. Perhaps he could be employed bringing the Unilever products home from the supermarket—and you could eat him at the same time ...

A more sinister case is over enzyme 'biological' detergents. These have made a big breakthrough in Europe over the last few years. Everybody rushed out and bought Ariel Unilever's entrant in the market—after all it 'ate' the dirt.

But not in the United States. For there an alert member of the chemical workers union saw an advert for an enzyme detergent which boasted of its effectiveness in removing bloodstains. He had put two and two together. What, he wondered, was the effect on the blood of the workers who made it?

'Medical investigations', explains the CIS Anti-Report, 'showed that the enzymes were causing bronchitis, headaches and internal haemorrhages amongst workers'.

Countrywide strikes were threatened—and Unilever dropped enzymes—but only in the USA.

They told the biggest British union USDAW that the US ban was because of housewives' complaints over water pollution. So British workers are still making it everyday—and the rest of us are still using it ...

The quotation comes from the new Counter Information Services Anti-Report, Unilever's World.*

Multinationals are much talked about—and little understood. Most of the publicity about them comes from the multinationals, who have rather more money to spend on covering up than the rest of us have on exposure.

But Unilever has always had a clean image—partly due to its healthy associations with soap, but also due to a conscious effort over the years to show the company as a benevolent, well intentioned employer, showering blessings on worker and consumer alike.

Quietly, sensibly and ruthlessly Unilever have set about buying up the globe.

Wild talk? No, out of the horse's mouth—'If our profits go on growing at the rate they did last year we would wipe out the world, in the immortal phrase of Unilever chairman casting his eye down the 1972 balance sheet ...



The class Unilever like ...



... and the class they don't

THERE'S nothing like a good war to boost profits. And Unilever tried to ensure that it wasn't just the home fires that were kept burning in the two conflicts of the Twentieth Century.

'No one can pay too high a tribute to the bravery and efficiency of our gallant soldiers—the cleanest figures in the world' ran a First World War advertisement.

'We could not associate Sunlight Soap with our own clean fighters if it were not for its high standard of efficiency. Just as there is no better soldier in the world than the British Tommy, so there is no better Soap in the world than Sunlight Soap ... Include a tablet in your next parcel to the front.'

Had Tommy's nearest and dearest done so they would doubtless have been less than pleased to know that Lever wanted to keep Fritz in the other trench clean the same way. Unfortunately even the government felt this was a little too much ...

SIMILAR problems to those of the First War re-appeared in the run up to the Second. But there were ways of getting round them, as Unilever discovered. Paul Rijkens, the senior director in Germany explained...

'In the Sports Place we were Hitler's senior guest of honour and were shown on to a podium next to Goebbels and Goering. With arms raised in the Nazi salute they sung demonically.

'D'Arcy nudged me and said "For God's sake let's stand up and raise our arms as well". This was the first and last time I made the Nazi salute ... The next morning to my surprise I got the contract.'

Power - that's what they like

A QUESTION was asked of the then Unilever Chairman, Ernest Woodroffe: 'What attracts you most about the job you have today?'

'The power to change things, the power not to have to accept things as they are ... For instance, the agriculture of East Anglia has been altered by the operations of Birds Eye.'

A mild winter forced down vegetable prices in 1971. 'The firm's immediate reaction was to sack 1000 Birds Eye workers—mainly women,' explains the anti-report. 'They were able to do this because they had no

*The Unilever World, CIS Anti-Report. 108 pages, £1 plus 20p postage. One third off for orders of ten or more—special rates for bulk orders. Available from CIS, 52 Shaftesbury Ave, London W1 or IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

fear of the workers taking effective industrial action to save their jobs.'

'You can move out antiquated equipment, substitute new equipment. It's a wonderful feeling. You've done something. You're not a slave of the conditions around you.'

'It gives me a great feeling of freedom, of human accomplishment, of being human.' (Woodroffe).

From 1970 to 1972 Unilever reduced the numbers of workers it employed by at least 17,000. They haven't been interviewed about their sense of accomplishment.

While Unilever operate across state borders, and look at their operation internationally, they encourage the workers to look only at their own factory, and to ignore their links with other companies in the group. The result is groups of employees, in Holland, in England, in India, slowly

being softened up, picked off, rationalised—put out of a job.

'The firm likes to tell the various union branches in its plants that it is not really one corporation but a cluster of autonomous local companies. In bargaining it also claims, that, although the company as a whole is doing well, its local subsidiaries are going broke'. (British representative to International Chemical Workers' Federation).

Around the world 353,000 workers are directly employed by Unilever, from Evesham to the East Indies.

'If a company is in a bad financial way there seems little sense in putting in huge wage demands if it results in people being put out of a job—a Unilever (Walls) shop steward, quoted in a company paper.



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

Yes, they can be stopped



A TORY council has been forced to compromise on its plans for savage education cuts after an astonishing protest campaign by teachers and parents.

- The campaign, in the usually apathetic London borough of Richmond, saw:
- Thousands of demonstrators in the streets.
- Massive support for strike action and sanctions by teachers.
- The setting-up of action committees by teachers and parents.
- Motions by members of Rank and File winning near-unanimous support from hundreds of teachers at a union meeting.
- IS gaining more widespread support for its demands than the Labour Party.

Support

The storm began in mid-February. Taking advantage of the half-term holiday, the council announced sweeping cuts, which involved the sacking of part-time teachers and the non-replacement of many full-timers.

Children would be unable to begin school before their fifth birthday and spending on school buildings, furniture, books and paper was to be slashed.

Further and adult education were also to be severely cut.

Parents' groups quickly put out leaflets calling for the lobbying of councillors and demonstrated outside a meeting of the council's Education Committee meeting. Labour, Liberals, and IS were quick to follow with the distribution of thousands of leaflets.

Twickenham IS urged support for the demo but also tried to raise wider political issues.

Labour represented the cuts as the consequence of having a Tory council. The first IS leaflet drew attention to the responsibility of the Labour Government in not devoting more money to education.

Interest

Research revealed that the council had had to find more than £2 million to pay back interest on money borrowed on the previous financial year.

Twickenham IS demanded: 'The Labour Government should put the welfare of schoolchildren before arms expenditure and the interests of the moneylenders. We insist on a full education for our children'.

Labour assumed the leadership



Some of the 2500 parents and teachers demonstrating against Richmond Council: their action has stopped some of the education cuts

of the campaign but immediately showed themselves ready to sell it short. Councillor Samuel, leader of the council's Labour group, conceded the cuts on school buildings, furniture equipment, and in adult and further education.

Unwilling to raise demands on the Labour government, Labour saw the matter in terms of either raising the rates or accepting some of the cuts.

Three demonstrations later, the Labour party began to tire of the campaign. The council had chosen to ignore the protests and confirm the cuts.

And Labour had been subject to sharp criticisms from the Liberals, Communists and IS. The committee which Labour had set up to co-ordinate the campaign was quietly dropped.

By

DUNCAN MacPHERSON

Meanwhile, the teachers had begun to express anger at the lack of leadership from the National Union of Teachers.

A meeting organised by Rank and File drew up demands for action which were later carried unanimously at a union meeting on the evening of the council's 'final' decision.

More than 400 teachers voted in support of a Rank and File amendment calling a one-day token strike on 18 March to be followed by an immediate campaign of sanctions.

The teachers then marched to the council chamber, where 2500 demonstrators were chanting: Education Cuts Out!

The teachers' cries of 'March 18th-All Out!' brought a tremendous roar of support.

Two IS members and a supporter of Rank and File immediately set about re-calling the co-ordinating committee, which had been dropped by the Labour Party.

This meeting, attended by representatives of the Trades Council, parent groups and opposition political groups, with the notable exception of Labour, led to parents being mobilised to join the teachers' march on the day of the strike.

The NUT 'strike' meant that three out of four schools in the borough would have to be closed for the day.

Holiday

The authority responded by declaring a day's holiday. But it did not prevent an impressive demonstration by teachers, parents and schoolchildren.

The council showed little inclination to change its policy... until last week.

It was announced that money had been 'found' to retain 23 full-time or 46 part-time primary schoolteachers. There was also a general promise to try to find the money to end all the redundancies.

This partial but significant victory proves that militancy works. But it would be a tragedy if the campaign were to wind down now.

The council still aims to cut back £110,000 on further education, £75,000 on adult education, £117,000 on furniture and fittings,

£34,000 on stationery and equipment and £116,000 on the maintenance of buildings.

And it has not shown any sign of restoring teacher cuts in secondary schools—cuts which would result in a worsening of the pupil teacher ratio from 17 to 19 to 1.

The attack on education is just one in which British capitalism is seeking to make ordinary people carry the cost of the economic crisis. In Richmond and Twickenham, the campaign presents two great opportunities.

Many teachers and trade unionists are organising in a district where trade union solidarity has scarcely been heard of.

Housewives, white-collar workers who are not trade unionists, and self-employed tradesmen find themselves demonstrating and organising for the first time in their lives.

Marxist

Their aim is the perfectly reasonable one of maintaining the present standard of education for their children.

And they quickly find just how serious the Labour Party is in defending them.

Only the Marxist left is capable of giving uncompromising and politically consistent leadership in this struggle.

WAGES: YOU WERE SAYING, Mr HEALEY?

THE SPENDING power of Chilean workers' wages was cut, on average, by a half in the 12 months after the September 1973 coup. Meanwhile, reports the latest issue of Chile Monitor, prices rose in January by 13.9 per cent, an annual rate of 377 per cent, and unemployment around Santiago, the capital, stood at nearly ten per cent. The price of bread has gone up by 60 times since the coup...

ERIC H

An exclu Whi to so



Pictures: Chris Davies and John Sturrock (Report), Ray Smith (IFL)

WHY DID you decide to get yourself sacked? Was it anything to do with the sort of situation, described in the Crossman diaries, in which the civil service and big business have got things sewn up?

I think the point is that the Labour government from the very word go is obviously faced with the influence of the existing establishment. The Civil Service in this country is a very powerful force.

As Crossman reveals in his diaries, for every Cabinet committee the civil servants have a parallel committee. The senior civil servants have their own meetings to discuss overall policy and, of course, they have their own informal links with big business and the City of London.

Stand up

But the point is not just the power of the civil service and of big business. If the government acted in a united and determined way, then it could alter the character of the Civil Service in a more radical direction than the reforms contained in the Fulton report.

Ministers can, if they want to, stand up. It's not enough to say that the establishment is very powerful. You can't hide behind that. If the Labour government was determined and resolute then we would find out where we could go.

From the day I was first made a minister, I was measuring my state of enthusiasm by how far the government was keeping to the policies on which it was elected.

The first thing that upset me was Chile. Labour was pledged not to send arms. Yet immediately after the election the Labour government turned tail.

From the word go, this indicated the possible direction of the government. That's why I made a stand at that time and spoke out on Chile. One shouldn't say one thing in opposition and then in government do another. If you do, you create disillusion.

There were many issues over which I was unhappy. The Shrewsbury Two is a case in point. In my view, a way could have been found to get around the problem, after all the miners jailed in between the wars were got out by a National Government!

Strategy

Over Shrewsbury some in the Cabinet hide behind the argument that it's all the responsibility of the Home Secretary. By trying to foist the responsibility off on to one man, they are avoiding their own responsibilities.

Then, of course, there is the general question of economic strategy. We need to have a socialist economic strategy. But what we've got is a typical Tory-establishment strategy.

Although naturally I agree with some of the proposals in last Tuesday's budget, it could have been a budget outlined by almost any Chancellor. There was not the faintest sign of any redistribution of wealth. It puts the burden fairly and squarely on the shoul-

ders of working people. Capitalism is in a very serious crisis on a world scale. We need positive socialist policies. There is no other way out.

You say that if the Labour government has the will then we would see what could be changed. What about the events in Chile? What implications do they have for your strategy?

Certainly we all have to recognise that if a Labour government did determine to carry out a serious socialist programme, there would be massive opposition, not just from the civil service but from other parts of the establishment.

Violence

For me, Chile was a traumatic experience, although theoretically it was not a surprise. Here was a country where there was as much political freedom as here, in some respects more. You could fairly have said that if there is a chance of getting socialism by peaceful means then Chile was the place where it could be done. But the establishment were not prepared to tolerate such changes. They turned to violence.

Nevertheless, I'm still not ruling out the possibility of obtaining socialism by peaceful means. I don't want violence because I don't believe in violence. But the answer to that question doesn't lie with us. That is the terrible dilemma facing all of us who believe in democratic socialism.

From what you're saying you obviously believe that next time it could be different. Yet you've seen a lot of Labour governments come and go. Don't you think that there is something inherent in the nature and structure of the Labour Party which make sure that capitalist priorities win out?



HEFFER ON SHREWSBURY: 'A way could have been found to get around the problem. The Cabinet are avoiding their responsibilities.'



HEFFER ON immediately

No, I don't think so, there's nothing more inherent in our party than any other. The Labour Party's strength—and this will continue—is that it is based on the mass organisations of the working class.

The day that it is no longer based on those mass organisations, it might be purer theoretically. But it will no longer be the party of the working class movement. This is where I disagree with the IS, although I don't disagree with everything IS has to say.

IS thinks you can build a movement outside the institutional strength of the British working class. Socialists have to be in the mass organisations, and in the mass party.

What way do you see forward? Do you think that the Tribune strategy could convert the Labour leadership?

No, I don't think that. There has been a tremendous move to the left in the party since 1970. The trade union movement has also moved very much to the left. It is the mass movement that gives me hope.

Absorbed

People like me are only as strong as the workers outside. After all, the House of Commons is a very deadening place. It's designed to be. This is a corrupting place, by its very atmosphere. You get up and you call people the right honourable gentleman rather than that silly idiot over there. And it is hard to struggle against this atmosphere.

Someone once described it as the aristocratic embrace. If you're not prepared to fight against it, it's easy to be absorbed. You have to understand that some of the most 'friendly' and 'interesting' people in this House are Tories. On that basis it is easy to say 'Oh, they're not so bad.'

What you have to remember always is the system they represent. And many of

them don't even understand that they're defending an evil system. Because of this pleasantness, one could easily soften.

They say to me: 'You don't really believe in the class struggle, do you?' But the thing to have in the front of your mind all the time is that when the chips are down they put their class before everything.

You say that what matters is the mass movement. Why did you become a Minister?

It was correct to do so after the 1974 election. The movement had gone to the left since 1970 because of the record of the previous Labour government. We fought the election on the 1973 programme of a fundamental shift of power. If one is offered the opportunity to be a Minister in this situation, it would be irresponsible not to accept.

I think now that the movement understands more than ever before the limitations of being a Minister outside the Cabinet and, indeed, of being a Minister at all. Most Ministers don't like to admit that they don't have much power, that things are sewn up in the Cabinet. They don't like to admit they only hold office, not real power.

On top of the Crossman diaries, this business will help to open up the whole question of government. Governments like to surround politics in mystery. The reason is that if they take the mystery away, there is no mystery at all.

Why did you make the Common Market the resignation issue, rather than Shrewsbury, or the use of troops in Glasgow or wage control?

I did not resign. I was dismissed. It could have been any issue. It was coming sooner or later. It got to the stage where you had to make a stand. The issue of a Minister being gagged in the debates over

Roger Kline's CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT? draws the lessons from the antics of the Labour Party, in government and in opposition, as reformers of capitalism, and argues what we can do to bring socialism.

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an International Socialists pamphlet 10p

ROGER KLINE

can Socialism come through Parliament?

HEFFER:

Exclusive interview Which way Socialism?



CHILE: 'We were pledged not to sell arms... yet after the election the government turned tail.'

HEFFER ON GLASGOW: 'The use of troops upset me... if there had been a Commons vote, I would have been faced with the same sort of situation as over the Common Market.'

the Common Market was one I felt the movement would well and truly understand.

The use of troops in Glasgow upset me, though there is a problem. From my point of view, there should have been a settlement, the council should have got round the table and settled. The problem is that you cannot allow garbage to build up until the health of the community is threatened. If you can't get a settlement then I suppose you have to do something.

The other aspect of the thing is that there was no vote in the House of Commons on the use of troops. If there had been, and an order for the use of troops had been made, then I would have been faced with the same sort of situation as over the Common Market. I don't like the use of troops in industrial disputes. I've always been opposed to it.

Intervene

One of my first disagreements with the government was, in fact, over the interpretation of the Social Contract.

The Common Market is one of the most complex political issues I've ever faced. Some of our allies on this issue do not have any views on other issues. During the budget, I sat listening to some of the anti-Market men and they were saying 'Hear, Hear' when Healey was speaking. I thought to myself, 'Maybe I ought to intervene.' Then I said to myself, 'Contain yourself Eric'.

Yet David Marquand, who is pro-Market, said that this was a dismal budget, that it reminded him of 1966. He's quite right.

Now I've been sacked I intend to campaign. But I'll campaign on working class platforms only. I'm interested in a principled socialist campaign against the Market. I won't be speaking with Tories. I want the biggest possible working class No vote. Then, when the referendum's over, we'll get down to all the wider issues.

In your statement after you were sacked, you referred to the Social Contract being used to hold down wages. Did you really believe that it would ever be anything else?

In my view, the Social Contract is a contract between the unions and the Labour government to carry out a socialist policy. It is true that there was some talk about guidelines.

But the idea that you can have guidelines on wages within a capitalist system is just not on. What has happened now is that the contract has been narrowed down until it is mainly a matter of wage restraint.

What's your view about the Labour government keeping the Shrewsbury building workers in jail?

For me, Shrewsbury is a very simple issue. The lads concerned were involved in a strike. They were elected to organise pickets, which they did.

I've been in a position where you've organised pickets and where there's been a bit of a punch-up, which was not the fault of the pickets and without the organisers wanting it to happen. To me I could have been one of those two lads, not once but many times.

Shrewsbury is a simple class question. They should have been released. It's an absolute disgrace that they haven't been.

I could well have gone on the Shrewsbury issue. The idea of the building employers criticising any building worker on the grounds of using violence is fantastic. They impose violent conditions on working people every day of the week. The very fact that people are forced to work in the industry is an act of violence.

What's your view of the National Enterprise Board, the policy for 'revitalising Britain'?

YOU WOULD be hard put to find a serious socialist who did not agree with Eric Heffer's statement that the present Labour government, just like the last, has adopted a Tory-establishment economic strategy.

Where disagreement starts is over why this has happened and what can be done about it. And in these areas, Eric Heffer's politics are at their weakest and most vulnerable.

He goes a long way towards agreement with the classic marxist argument about the state—that while governments may hold formal power, big business decides the priorities while its state servants in the civil service, police and army do their damndest to ensure those priorities are carried out.

More than that, Eric Heffer agrees that when a reforming government oversteps the bounds big business, its top civil servants and its generals find acceptable, those people will stop at nothing to defeat that government and impose devastating punishment on the working class movement.

But what does Brother Heffer draw

WHAT WE THINK

The one big flaw in the argument

from all this? He argues that he is still hoping for a peaceful road to socialism. He argues that there is nothing fundamentally wrong with the kind of politics which the Labour Party embodies even though those politics have been defeated time and time again.

He still seems to think, despite all the experience, that 'if a government acted in a united and determined way then it could alter the character of the civil service in a more radical direction.' He still seems to put faith in the 'lads in committee'.

IS differs from this, but not because we believe that the socialist movement has to be built outside the 'institutional strength' of the working class.

POWER

We believe that socialist change can only come about when that strength is directed, at the rank and file level, to destroy the power of those who at present control the industry, the civil service, the army and the police.

Chile shows such people can block, ignore and sabotage the orders of government ministers. The Crossman Diaries show it's just as true in Britain.

That is why there has to be rank and file struggle to destroy their power and make them helpless. Such a struggle needs a unity and a co-ordination that can never come from a parliamentary debate with the enemy.

A new, mass working class political party has to be built which fights in a different way to the Labour Party. Such a party would seek to lead the class in real, concrete struggles in the places where power is really exercised: in the factories, offices and barracks.

It would point out to workers that without power there, all the conference resolutions, all the left-wing MPs in the world are fruitless.

And such a party would not have to be small, as Eric Heffer suggests. We believe that in the present situation of spreading crisis it could grow very quickly.

None of the questions raised in the interview are academic. We have just seen a Labour government use troops to break a strike in Glasgow and we have seen them get away with it, thanks largely to the stand adopted by those one-time specialists in left wing conference hall rhetoric, Jack Jones and Alec Kitson.

RIGHT

Yet, on this crucial issue, Eric Heffer hesitates and falls foul of the health hazard argument, an argument disproved a dozen times in recent issues of Socialist Worker, but nevertheless an argument which was used to great effect to confuse sincere people.

The Labour government is moving to the right fast. The supporters of unmodified capitalism within it are being challenged over the Common Market.

But they are in full cry over other issues, such as wage control and the so-called rule of law.

They are receiving massive backing from those with wealth and power in this society because, over the next months and years, politics in Britain are going to come to the crunch.

The International Socialists believe the revolutionary road is the only way. But we argue these issues within the broader working class movement and we organise on the basis of them.

We are grateful to Eric Heffer for raising some of the issues at stake so clearly. We hope our readers will take up the debate and send their views and arguments to us.

The National Enterprise Board before the House of Commons Committee is unfortunately a watered-down version of the original proposals. The lads in committee are trying to improve it. I hope they do.

In the White Paper, the Labour government gave assurances to big business that there would be no compulsory take-overs. They won't go back on those assurances. The National Enterprise Board can do a useful job. But in itself it's not an answer to the crisis of British capitalism.

What's your attitude to workers' co-operatives?

The long-term answer to the crisis of capitalism is not to bolster up failing companies. Nevertheless, when workers take positive action as they have at Meriden Kirby and Glasgow, you have to commend them and support them.

Co-operatives in themselves are not the real answer. But what these workers are saying is that if you can't nationalise us straightaway, we'll take action in the meantime.

Upsurge

What about the Labour government and the war in Ireland?

Ireland is a problem. It's difficult to give any simple answer. I don't want to say anything further just now.

What about Portugal?

I hope the Portuguese working class don't continue too long with the military in control. I hope they pull through into a full-scale socialist democracy.

Wherever you have a great working class upsurge, workers instinctively form their own organisations. Portugal is absolutely marvellous and shows once again the form in which workers come together to solve problems in their own way.

LETTERS

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

Points Postal

FIFTH COLUMN protested last week at the deportation of 32 people under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. It might also have noted that, between 1972 and 1974, 1401 people have been deported on court recommendation and 219 'for other reasons'. These figures include 370 'illegal' immigrants. So the Prevention of Terrorism Act has a precedent in effect in the 1971 Immigration Act.—JOHN ASHDOWN, London NW1.

THE ARTICLE on Cambodia last week was sloppy, superficial journalism. How on earth did SW write: 'What was, under Sihanouk, a happy-go-lucky country, was rapidly turned into a hell-hole? And the front-page headlines are once again combining trivialisation with sensationalism, which does no service to the serious analysis which follows.—FRED LINDOP, GARETH JENKINS, ANDY DAWSON, Thames Poly technic.

THE COMMENT by the Derby IS branch committee (5 April) that the film Ireland: Behind the Wire was an insult to those involved was not borne out in Derry, where its showing—twice nightly for a week—was attended by thousands, including many relatives of those who lost their lives.—PADDY DOHERTY, Derry.

SW DOES an excellent job but, just like the rest of the ultra-left, it never puts forward any constructive alternatives to the pro-capitalist policies of Labour and Tory governments. Both the TUC and Communist Party at least try to propose alternative economic policies. SW's criticism of others' ideas are tardy and lacking in depth.—I MURRAY, East London.

SW IS TO BE congratulated for its recent coverage of Portugal. IS should contact other British and European left parties, groups and papers to set up a comprehensive news service on the developing situation there.—JIM HIGGINS, HARRY WICKS, West London.

I ONCE heard Denis Healey tell a group of Young Socialists unhappy about the 1966 Labour wage freeze that, when they got older, they would come round to his way of thinking. He was wrong. Healey is now the only one left in the Labour Party from that meeting. Labour is a political swamp without enough principled members to split it on even the most savage anti-working class issues.—PHIL EVANS, London N17.

Corrupt face of Labour

TWO WEEKS ago, Socialist Worker editor Paul Foot described to a meeting in Dundee how 'municipal socialism' in the form of Labour town councils had slumped from its modest ambitions to the use of the army against its own workers on strike, as in Glasgow.

A few nights later, World in Action revealed another ugly face of municipal socialism: corruption.

The programme detailed the activities of three prominent Labour Party councillors over the last 12 years:

Tom Moore, the Provost and a director of the plant hire company which gets innumerable contracts from the council;

Jimmy Stewart, who manipulated the Housing Committee to the advantage of Crudens and other firms he worked for;

And Harry Dickson, a director of the firm which supplies most of the heating and ventilation work for the council.

Most workers in Dundee have known about all this filth for years. What action have they had from the Labour Party? In 1974, six months after the Sunday Times exposed Moore, the Labour Party's NEC sent a delegation to Dundee.

They spent two hours in the city chambers and left, saying everything was hunky-dory. Moore was 'cleared' at a later NEC meeting.

Now Dickson and Stewart have been expelled, and everyone expects Moore to go. The excellent work of



The new Tayside region HQ: note the name of Galloway, a firm owned by Councillor Harry Dickson

one television programme has done more to get rid of this scum of the Labour movement than the official organs—Labour Party, Co-op and trade union leaders—have done in 20 years.

When we talk about revolutionary socialism, we mean socialism which involves workers all the time. We mean organisation which controls its leaders through constant discussion, information and debate.

'Municipal socialism' means lying

down and taking everything the elected councillors tell us.

It means voting at election times, then shutting up and leaving it to people like Moore, Stewart and Dickson. That's what brings strike-breaking troops to Glasgow and corruption to Dundee.

The only way we can ensure against both is to build strong revolutionary socialist organisation at the roots of the working class.—SANDY STEVENSON, Dundee.

A LETTER FROM LONG KESH

ELECTION time is here again. Already the different groupings have begun their feverish efforts to convince one and all that their destiny lies in voting for this or that party.

Each and every politician, however, in his frantic attempt to fight his own petty corner, seems to have overlooked the all too familiar blot on the landscape: Long Kesh.

Elections may come and elections may go but Long Kesh, it seems, goes on forever.

We here in Long Kesh can watch all these activities and listen to all the hypocritical speeches and statements with detached amusement.

We have first-hand knowledge of broken British promises and of British guile in trying to dupe those she cannot defeat by sheer might.

This knowledge and experience was not easily gained. It has taken three and a half years of suffering and even death in this, the last concentration camp in Europe, to acquire it.

Years

Those of us who have been here for those three and a half years now fully realise the implications and psychological motives that lie behind every decision taken by civil servants who administer Long Kesh.

In the early days, we dismissed most incidents as the actions of bungling clerks. But we were naive then.

Every move made here and every action taken is part of the overall effort to break prisoners mentally and physically.

It was not bungling or ineptitude that caused a number of now deceased inmates to be refused hospital treatment. It was a cold, calculated decision, made on paper by a civil servant and reminiscent of the detachment and callousness with which the clerks and civil servants of Nazi Germany's camps carried out their tasks.

So to us in Long Kesh the true function of the British government is obvious. We appeal to everyone to reject these latest attempts by Britain to strengthen her control over the Irish people. To vote is to keep Long Kesh open.—REPUBLICAN PRISONERS, Long Kesh, Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

The IRSP and the Officials

SOCIALIST Worker carried a story (1 March) on the shooting of Hugh Ferguson and described the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP) as having been formed 'by people who split from the Official Republican Movement over its failure to pursue the military struggle against the British, its refusal to get more involved in working class struggle and its lack of internal democracy.'

The 8 March issue carried an article on the attempted murder of the Sinn Fein national organiser whose name, incidentally, is Sean Garland, and not 'Garfield' as McCann calls him.

In his analysis of the origins and growth of the 'split' between the Officials and the IRSP, McCann refers to 'the total lack of internal democracy within the Officials' and says that 'genuine socialists' had to make a break.

He adds: '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.' IRSP members, he claims, then lost their cool

and retaliated.

How does McCann and IS know these things? What do they know about the internal democracy of the Officials? And how dare they infer criticism of the military activities of the Official IRA.

Since 1972, the IRA has observed a policy of defence and retaliation and has carried out actions in accordance with the needs of the people.

It has done so in face of the ever-growing danger of civil war promoted by the sectarian bombing campaign of the Provisional Alliance.

Rather than 'genuine socialists' making a break, the

split was engineered by a number of people including McCann (who has in the past been rejected from membership of Sinn Fein) and Seamus Costello, who was expelled for attempting to interfere with the democratic processes that exist within Sinn Fein.

What is even more amazing is how McCann knows all about the events in Belfast. People who were not members of the Republican Movement sought to escalate sectarian strife in the Six Counties to a state of civil war.

To this end, they sought to steal and employ equipment in the possession of the Official

IRA. In line with the policy of the Movement, steps were taken to prevent this.

This does not constitute a determined attempt to prevent the IRSP getting off the ground. Neither can it be described as inter-factional violence.

We would not expect McCann to know this. We would not expect the IRA to take him into their confidence. What we would expect is for him to refrain from filling the gaps in his information with lies and smears.

The International Socialists are entitled to support whoever they like. But if they are serious in their aims and if they are 'genuine socialists' they have a duty to their readers.

That duty is not to smear the Republican Movement but to present the true facts to the readers of Socialist Worker so that they can be in a position to analyse the situation themselves.

Irrefutable evidence exists as to the gangsterism and the sectarianism of the IRSP. If that is the type of organisation IS wishes to support then that is its own business.

But don't dupe the British working class, for that can only be a disservice to the people of Ireland.—SEAMUS COLLINS, PRO, Clann na hÉireann.

Some union leader...

THOUSANDS of workers in the steel industry will be faced in the next few weeks with lay-offs and redundancies as the British Steel Corporation runs out of orders.

But steel union leader Sir Dai Davies, instead of calling his members into action, spends his time writing attacks on other workers.

In the latest union journal, he claims that inflationary wage deals won by British car workers have been at the expense of the country's steelworkers.

What confidence can steel workers possibly have in their leaders when this kind of scurrilous nonsense is printed in a union paper which is more like a bosses' benefit magazine?

The only answer is for militant steelworkers to argue at their branch meetings that no fight can be expected from the knighted union big-wigs, and that the members must start laying plans immediately if jobs are to be defended.

The traditional monthly meetings are no longer enough. Delegates must be sent to other works to build links between the branches.—STEVE SMITH, Sheffield.

Eamonn McCann replies

READERS will note that at no point in a fairly long letter does Seamus Collins try to deny any of the things I alleged against the Officials: that is, the terrorising, torturing and murder of IRSP members.

On the contrary, he justifies these things, describing them as 'steps taken' against those who 'sought to steal and employ' Official IRA guns

What that means is this: whole units of the Official IRA in Belfast went over to the IRSP taking their guns with them. It is a moot point who actually 'owns' these guns, but the Official leadership used the issue as an excuse to launch a terror campaign against IRSP members and supporters, hoping thus to prevent the IRSP getting off the ground.

In private, prominent Officials here freely admit this motivation. Eventually, as I reported on 8 March, some

members of the IRSP retaliated in like manner.

That is what is happening, whether Seamus Collins knows it or not, and the crucial point for socialists is clear and simple. It concerns the right of the IRSP to exist.

The rest of Seamus Collins' letter is a series of lies: for example, that the IRSP has engaged in sectarian and gangster-type activity, that I played some part in engineering the initial split, etc.

He ends by saying that a genuine socialist has a duty to 'present the true facts to the readers'. Quite so: which is why I repeat that the Official Republican Movement is now led by hard-line Stalinists who wouldn't recognise the truth if it came up and slapped them on the face in broad day-light and who are determined, with traditional Stalinist methods, to prevent the emergence of any rival, independent, radical voice.

John Telfair REVIEWS

THE NEW FILM TOMMY

See me, feel me, pay me...



Tommy... all the subtlety of a B-52 bombing raid



Worshipping at the shrine to Marilyn Monroe...

AN INSIGHT into the mind behind the new film TOMMY was provided by its director, Ken Russell, on TV recently. The great man exclaimed that he was bored with turning on the radio and hearing about busmen and dustbin workers.

Quite right. Why should a man with his money have to bother himself with the coarse materialism of fighting for a decent wage? Let's get down to the finer things of life—like the £3½ million spent on promoting his new 'work of art'.

Tommy originated in the late 1960s as a long-playing record by The Who, one of the better British rock bands. It was created by Pete Townshend, the band's composer/writer/lead guitarist.

Previously, The Who had made a good living from his single records, which by prevailing standards were

accurate little parables of teenage life.

Tommy changed all that. The Who have lived on it ever since, playing it, talking about it, and now with the aid of Russell, appearing in the film of it.

Townshend, as his early records illustrated, was obsessed with the way that the talent of youth was lost—frittered away, ignored, derided. For Tommy, he created the bloke with every conceivable communications problem.

He was deaf, dumb and blind, but 'he sure played a mean pin ball'. He couldn't communicate with humans, only with machines.

Russell has taken the two sides of the LP and blown it into a huge, deafening freak show. The post-war world of holiday camps, comics, juke boxes, pin tables, war stories and advertising is shovelled on to

the screen with all the subtlety of a B-52 bombing raid.

Tommy loses his faculties while seeing his war-hero father being battered to death by a plump, Teddy Boy, Oliver Reed, who has been interrupted while making love to his mother.

After this promising start in life, his mother (Ann Margaret) and Mr Reed set about trying to restore him to normality.

This involves visiting a religious cult to Marilyn Monroe staffed by embarrassed-looking rock musicians and populated by a large cast of cripples, followed by the forcible injection of a large number of pleasantly coloured drugs by Acid Queen (Tina Turner) and sundry beatings-up and sexual malpractices at the hands of various ill-disposed relatives.

Salvation comes on a scrap-heap. Young Tom stumbles upon a pin-table and goes on to fame and fortune as pin-table champion and all-purpose Messiah. As such, he is to be worshipped, exploited and profited from by his grasping relatives.

Rape

Throughout it all, he remains the same. Isolated, convinced of his inner beauty—and extremely boring.

Russell dislikes human beings. He is incapable of seeing them as individuals. He can only cope with them in large numbers, preferably trampling on each other. The only emotions he can handle are murder, rape and pillage.

He neither knows nor cares how this society works. He has no idea of the forces within it which loot and destroy lives, drive people to desperation, imprison them in rotten jobs and homes—or impel them to fight back.

He can only see a mob, as related to reality as the cast of Crossroads, in pursuit of his shabby Messiah. The idea of the brutish masses and the pure leader has a long history. Adolf Hitler ran a similar production in the 1930s.

Or, as someone said after coming out of the film: 'Russell? That man's head is a can full of worms...'

ON THE BOX

THURSDAY (24 April)
ITV: 11.10pm (London & Manchester areas) 11.30pm (Birmingham). Paul Foot, Socialist Worker editor introduces **WHAT THE PAPERS SAY**.

FRIDAY
RADIO-4: 8.30pm. Night Two of the Paul Foot Media Festival features him on **ANY QUESTIONS?**

SATURDAY
BBC-2: At 11.40pm one of the finest films of the 1940s, set in the immediate post war Vienna, **THE THIRD MAN**.

SUNDAY
ITV: 10.15pm. **PAROLE** is a play examin-

ing the use of parole by prison authorities as a means of controlling prisoners.

MONDAY
BBC-2: 10.45pm. **OPEN DOOR** is about Asians in Britain.

TUESDAY
BBC-1: 9.35pm. **TUESDAY'S DOCUMENTARY** is **GREECE—THE SEVEN BLACK YEARS** an examination of Greece between 1967 and 1974 under military dictatorship.

WEDNESDAY
Possibly the best viewing of the week is **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE**, by Bertolt Brecht, the German marxist playwright at 9.10pm on BBC-2.

WATCH OUT, Mr BIG

THIS PLAY* is about 60 years of struggle by the working class against the Ford Motor Company. The characters portrayed (or betrayed) are so true to life that it's like looking in a mirror.

To some it might seem very funny and, for the most part, it is. But, to the discerning, it uncovers all the rottenness rife in this society: the big wheeler-dealers who have for so long kept the working class crushed under, and the class traitors who, while agreeing with the principles his brothers are fighting for, sells out to management because the system has encouraged a dog-eat-dog attitude.

And there's the competitive treachery of the world's car companies, as they fight for mastery of this or that particular part of the market, always at the expense of the workers, always at the expense of his or her family, but never at any cost to themselves.

The play also exposes the stupid procedures that the companies (particularly Ford's) have used to bog down shop-floor growth and organisation, with complaints taking up to two months to reach the end

*The Motor Show, by Steve Gooch and Paul Thompson (90p plus 15p postage) from Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.

By **TONY BARROW**
Convener, Ford's Leamington

of their journey before ending in utter failure.

Yes, brothers Gooch and Thompson have produced a masterpiece, but I don't expect it to

receive the acclaim it deserves. They should not, according to the ruling class, exist. Whoever heard of people producing a play about the motor industry? Give 'em sex and violence so they keep their minds off other things—but a play about the motor industry?

The workers' place is in command of the means of production, and all the Mr Bigs in all the world can't stop that. The sooner they realise it the better.

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Classified

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK: Conference for workers in and around Newham, East London, Saturday 26 April, 10am, Lawrence Hall, Cumberland Road, E13. Speakers include Pat Kinnerly (author of The Hazards of Work). Sponsored by West Ham Trades Council and others.

MANCHESTER Socialist Rally against the EEC. Speakers: Ernest Mandel (Fourth International), Ernie Roberts (AUEW) and a Tribune MP. Chair: Bernard Panter, Friday 2 May, 7.30pm, Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate.

BENEFIT for the Solidarity Campaign for the Portuguese Working Class: Tuesday 6 May, 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Red Ladder theatre group: A Woman's Work is never done. A woman worker from Portugal will speak on the situation there. Tickets 50p from the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee, 18 Fleet Road, London NW3, from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, or on the door. Organised by the PWCC.

ROADIE/ELECTRICIAN. Must drive. Touring socialist theatre company 01-969 9348.

RADICAL AMERICA—bi-monthly magazine published by independent socialists. In-depth articles on history and politics of working-class militancy, community organising, black and women's liberation, popular culture and class struggle in West Europe and the Americas. Next issues on SDS women organisers, labour revolt in Argentina etc. Radical America, Box BN, Cambridge, Mass 02140, USA. Six issues (a year) £2.10, 12 issues £3.75, 18 £5 (International Money Orders).

BENEFIT FILM SHOW for the London Women's Film Group. Film: The Amazing Equal Pay Show, followed by discussion. Sunday 4 May, 2pm, Electric Cinema, 191 Portobello Road, London, W11.

DEMONSTRATE TO FREE GEORGE DAVIS, sentenced to 20 years in jail for armed robbery after only five of 43 witnesses picked him out. Sunday 4 May, 10.30am, assemble Tower Hill, London.

FREE BUKOVSKY AND MOROZ! Public meeting in solidarity with imprisoned Soviet dissidents Vladimir Bukovsky and Valentin Moroz. Friday 25 April, 7.30pm, Coliseum Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1. Speakers include Senator Michael Mullens (general secretary, Irish TGWU), Eamonn McCann (author of War and an Irish Town), Dr Tim Shallice, Joan Maynard MP, Harry McShane, Michael Knowles and Gery Lawless. Organised by the Troops Out Movement. Delegates allowed from trade union branches, trades councils, shop stewards committees, Labour Party and LPYS branches and NUS branches ONLY. Make sure your TU branch/trades council/stewards committee is sending a delegate. Events in Ireland are at a critical point. The labour movement MUST be well informed. Credentials from Troops Out Movement, 103 Hammersmith Road, London W14. Delegation fee: 75p per delegate.

LABOUR PARTY AGAINST SOCIALISM Public Meeting organised by Social Revolution (formerly Libertarian Communism). Saturday 26 April, 3.30pm, Centro Iberico, 83a Haverstock Hill, London NW3.

THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT AND IRELAND: National Labour Movement Delegate Conference Saturday 24 May, 10am-5.30pm, Coliseum Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1. Speakers include Senator Michael Mullens (general secretary, Irish TGWU), Eamonn McCann (author of War and an Irish Town), Dr Tim Shallice, Joan Maynard MP, Harry McShane, Michael Knowles and Gery Lawless. Organised by the Troops Out Movement. Delegates allowed from trade union branches, trades councils, shop stewards committees, Labour Party and LPYS branches and NUS branches ONLY. Make sure your TU branch/trades council/stewards committee is sending a delegate. Events in Ireland are at a critical point. The labour movement MUST be well informed. Credentials from Troops Out Movement, 103 Hammersmith Road, London W14. Delegation fee: 75p per delegate.

MIDDLE EAST RESEARCH ACTION GROUP—film 'To live in freedom' (Israel against the Palestinians) plus speakers, including Uri Davis (co-editor). Monday 28 April, 6pm, North London Poly, Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town. Admission free.

Fight the Immigration Act! Fight the victimisation of immigrant workers. Public meeting called by All-National Workers' Committee: Sunday 4 May, 5pm, Westway Luncheon Hall, Ladbroke Grove tube, West London. Speakers from TGWU International branch, IS, Joint Council for Welfare of Immigrant Workers and ANWC. All trade unionists and immigrant workers invited.

May Day meeting: Free the Shrewsbury Two! Defend the right to picket! Thursday 1 May 7.30pm, AUEW House, The Crescent, Salford. Including Shrewsbury film. Speakers include Bernard Panter (AUEW district committee), Bill Geddes (Hammersmith Hospital), John Llywarch (one of the Shrewsbury six). Sponsoring bodies' Manchester No 15 AUEW, NUPE South Manchester Hospital, Pochins (Poly site) shop stewards committee, Phoenix Printshop committee, Wythenshaw No 1 AUEW, Baguley AUEW. For further details contact Bro O'Neill, 27 Wellington Road, Whalley Range. All trade unionists welcome.

LONDON Rank and File Tech Teacher: Next meeting Sunday 27 April, 7pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, John Shemald will speak on College government and democracy.

EAST KENT Science for People group: One-day school on Industrial Health and Safety. Delegate conference for local workers and interested groups. Sunday 4 May, 10am, Rutherford College, The University, Canterbury. Speakers include Pat Kinnerly (author of The Hazards of Work) and Charlie Clutterbuck (BSSRS). Films. Further details from Chris Pitts, 27 St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, Kent.

SOCIALIST SUNDAY SCHOOL reading 'Capital' starting volume 2 in May, invites participants. Details 01-274 0238.

SPECIAL OFFER: Political Undercurrents in Soviet Economic Debates, by Moshe Lewin. Published price £3.95. SPECIAL OFFER until 20 May: £3. Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1.

Common Market:

Pull out the stops!

PULL OUT all the stops against the Common Market. That was the call to IS members from last Saturday's meeting of the National Committee.

Opening the discussion, Tony Cliff said the issue was fundamentally important. We had to stop bickering about which way we should vote in the referendum.

The NC was unanimous for a No vote. He said every development proved we had to swing all our influence and activity behind the No campaign.

We were for a Labour movement campaign against the Market with no Tories or other anti-Labour elements. And we could best argue the case if we bound it together with the case against the Budget, Social Contract, unemployment and government cuts.

Cliff added that our comrades in the localities had to attend the big meetings now being held and make our position clear.

We needed to co-operate at all levels with everyone in the Labour movement fighting for a No vote. We had to fight the issue where it matters most—on the shop floor.

If the vote went against the Market, we should prepare for a special IS conference to discuss the political situation.

There was enthusiastic agreement with Cliff's speech. Granville Williams, Birmingham IS organiser, outlined his district committee's plans for a conference on internationalism—to try to turn the argument against the Market into a positive call for international working class solidarity.

John Rose, West London organiser, said the difference between the Labour committees against the



IS RAILWAY workers, meeting in Manchester last Saturday, discussed the coming wage battle. Most NUR comrades thought there would be a strike, and that it could be won. But some members of TSSA, the white-collar union, took a different view. The meeting agreed to co-ordinate effort in producing bulletins, and to bring out a special national bulletin on the railway pay claim. IS railway workers who were unable to attend are urged to contact Socialist Worker.

Market and the Get Britain Out Campaign, which includes Tories, was becoming clearer to more and more workers.

Dave Peers, from South West London, reported that Wandsworth Trades Council had come out against campaigning with Tories—and had

set up a campaign committee in the Labour movement.

IS comrades had helped in this decision and would be helping in the committee. This followed similar decisions in Trades Councils in Edinburgh, Portsmouth and Newcastle.

Murray Armstrong, from Coventry, pointed out that the West Midlands Against the EEC campaign had held a good opening meeting, and was offering speakers for shop-floor organisations.

The committee would not take the initiative in sending speakers, so it was up to IS workers to demand speakers from the committee.

Martha Osamor pointed out that in the black communities it was easy for our enemies to lump us in with the National Front on the Market issue.

It was crucially important to distinguish ourselves from them, and to argue that the Common Market increased the exploitation of the Third World.

Themes

Concluding an excellent discussion, Cliff promised a new set of leaflets and posters on the Market and urged all NC members to get the membership moving on this important issue.

The committee then heard reports on the Glasgow dustcart drivers' dispute, the recent strike in the docks, the rank and file committee against unemployment in Speke, Liverpool, and the wage battle in NALGO.

Common themes were the drift to the right of the Communist Party and Labour Left and the urgent need for more effective rank and file activity.

The committee also voted 24-14 to reaffirm its decision of last month that the basis of delegations to the IS conference should be one delegate for every 30 members (or major part of 30) and that delegates should be elected at district level.

Chris Harman gave a report on Portugal and called on all IS branches to organise public meetings now in solidarity with Portuguese workers.

FILM TOUR PLANNED ON SOUTH AFRICA

THE IS AFRICA Day School in London last Sunday, attended by 30 people, covered moves to detente in Southern Africa, the problems facing independence in Mozambique and Angola and the host of smashed illusions in the rest of neo-colonial Africa.

A clear working-class perspective was put forward, with the black working-class of South Africa as the key to revolution in the continent.

A spokesman from the Rank and File Organising Committee introduced the discussion on solidarity work and a number of suggestions were put forward for publicity of events in Africa with a view to building real solidarity with workers' struggles and the liberation struggle.

In June, Socialist Worker and the IS Africa Group are sponsoring a tour of

the film Last Grave in Dimbaza, which is a savage indictment of the policies and conditions of South Africa.

Details of the film from David Widgery at Socialist Worker. Notes from the Day School available from IS Africa Group, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Young workers' pamphlet on way

THE IS Young Workers Committee met on Sunday to draft an IS Young Workers' pamphlet. The draft is to be circulated within a week so it can be debated at an IS Young Workers Conference in Manchester on Saturday 7 June.

Full details of this conference will be announced in next week's SW.



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

IS public meetings

INNER WEST LONDON IS public meeting: The Crisis. Speaker: Tony Cliff (author of The Crisis—Social Contract or Socialism). Wednesday 7 May, 7.30pm. The Distillers Arms, Fulham Palace Road (1 minute from Hammersmith station).

MOSTON IS public meeting: Redundancy and how to fight it. Speakers: Tommy Douras (former UCATT steward and IS Liverpool organiser) and Dave Hallsworth (Dyers and Bleachers Union, victimised at Intex, Ashton). Tuesday 29 April, 8pm, St Luke's Church Hall, Lightbourne Road, Moston. All welcome.

NORWICH IS public meeting: Socialism or Labourism? Speakers: John Deason, Nancy McGrath (Fakenham shoe workers' occupation) and an IS building worker. Thursday 1 May, 8pm, The Cock pub, King Street, Norwich. All welcome.

COVENTRY District IS Saturday morning discussion meetings: Fortnightly—all welcome. Saturday 3 May: **SOCIALISM AND THE IRISH STRUGGLE**, 11.30am at IS Books, Queen Victoria Road.

DILLONS/SOAS IS Group public meeting: The Chilean Experience. Tape/slides and speaker. Tuesday 29 April, 6.30pm, School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, London WC1 (Room G55).

HULL District IS public meeting: Revolution in Portugal. Speaker: Chris Harman (recently returned from Portugal). Wednesday 30 April, 7.30pm, Stevedores and Dockers Club, Posterngate.

WIGAN IS public meeting: Revolution in Portugal. Speaker: Colin Sparks (recently returned from Portugal). Thursday 1 May, 8pm, Wheatsheaf, Wallgate.

CAMBRIDGE IS public film night: Blow for Blow, about a group of women workers in France who take over a factory. Thursday 8 May, 8pm, The Auditorium, Cambridge Technical College, Collier Road, Cambridge. Admission 40p.

HYDE & GLOSSOP IS public meeting: Labour—Party of Socialism? Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 8 May, 8pm, The Railway Hotel, Simpson Street, Hyde (3 minutes from bus station).

OLDHAM District IS public meeting: The Crisis and Redundancies—how we fight back. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Friday 9 May, 8pm, Abbey Hotel, Middleton Road, Oldham (opposite Oldham Tech).

BRISTOL IS public meeting: No to the Common Market—Yes to international socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot (editor, Socialist Worker). Thursday 8 May, 8pm, Shepherd's Hall, Old Market.

BRISTOL IS public meeting: The workers' struggle in Portugal. Speaker: Chris Harman. Thursday 22 May, 8pm, Shepherds Hall, Old Market.

CENTRAL LONDON POLY IS Society public debate: The Common Market—Yes or No? Speakers: Chris Harman (IS) and Simon Hebditch (Young Liberals, private secretary to David Steel, MP). Tuesday 29 April, 5.30pm, Polytechnic of Central London Students Union, 104-108 Bolsover Street.

BRIGHTON IS public meeting: Defend the Shrewsbury pickets. Film show on Shrewsbury, plus local and national speakers. Thursday 1 May, 8pm, Art College, Grand Parade.

Meetings for IS members

NATIONAL IS Teachers' aggregate meeting: Saturday 26 April, in Birmingham. All-day creche, and accommodation available. If you have not yet received details, contact J Holborow, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

ESSEX IS Conference Aggregate: Sunday 27 April, Chelmsford Labour Party HQ, London Road. Includes important meeting for all SW organisers and branch treasurers.



What we stand for

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

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

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

The smashing of the capitalist state The state machine is a

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

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

Internationalism We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls. The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers' revolutionary party, organised in the 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 _____



IS TGWU members' national fraction meeting: Saturday 7 June. Keep this date free.

MANCHESTER IS Students half-day school: The Common Market—the case against the EEC and how to raise it in student work. Sunday 27 April, 2-6pm, Manchester Poly Students Union, Cavendish Street. IS members, especially students, welcome.

MANCHESTER IS discussion meeting: Lenin and IS today. Discussion led by Tony Cliff. Friday 9 May, 2.30pm-5pm, Manchester Polytechnic, Aytoun Street. All IS members and sympathisers welcome.

WEST MANCHESTER District IS education meeting: The Common Market—How we intervene. Wednesday 30 April, 8pm. All Manchester Region IS members welcome. Further details from J Townshend (881 7845).

IS SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOLS: Eight schools for IS members to be held in July and August. Sessions on Revolutionary prospects in Southern Europe, What's happening to the Labour Party?, The Capitalist Crisis: what next?, and Building IS. **NORTH LONDON** 12/13 July, **SOUTH WEST (Cardiff)** 2/3 August, **SCOTLAND (Glasgow)** 9/10 August, dates not yet fixed for **SOUTH LONDON, YORKSHIRE, MIDLANDS, NORTH WEST** and **NORTH EAST**. Attendance at each limited to 30, so book your place now by sending 50p registration fee (to cover cost of duplicated notes and of room) to Pete Marsden, training organiser, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

NOISS Day School: Perspectives for IS/The student movement today. Sunday 4 May, 11am, Portsmouth Poly, St Pauls Road, Southsea. Further information from Andy Durgan at the Poly.

HULL District IS day school: Saturday 10 May—NOTE CHANGED DATE. 11am-1pm: The early development of IS. 2pm-4pm: Building a workers' organisation. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Hull University Students Union, Cottingham Road.

GLASGOW area IS aggregate: Saturday 26 April, 11am, Glasgow College of Technology. Admission by membership card.

UPW IS fraction meeting: Saturday 26 April, 2.30pm. All UPW members in IS to attend. Meeting place from IS industrial dept 01-739 6273.

COVENTRY District IS members aggregate: Monday 28 April, 7.30pm, Lanchester Library. Nigel Harris on political and economic perspectives.

IS notices

WORKERS POWER, fortnightly newspaper of the American International Socialists (ISUS), now has a UK distributor and will be available same week as publication. Individual subs £4 a year. All information, including details of bulk orders etc, from Workers Power, c/o IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

IS Afro-Caribbean May Day social: Saturday 3 May, 7pm-1am, soul food and music. The Kesdisee Centre, Gifford Road, London N1. Tubes: Caledonian Road and Kings Cross. Buses: 29, 14, 17, 168, 221, 259. Tickets at the gate.

MAY DAY DANCE FOR SHREWSBURY DEPENDENTS FUND: The Radford, Radford Road, Coventry. Admission 50p, late bar. Sponsored by Coventry North IS branch and Jag/Daimler ACTSS branch.

OLDHAM IS students social: Friday 2 May, 7.30pm, Bath Hotel, Union Street, Oldham. Three Jolly Men (folk act) and TYAS disco and other attractions. Tickets 45p in advance, 50p at the door.

TEXTILE MEETING in Manchester for IS textile workers and sympathisers. Contact Dave Hallsworth for details.

MANCHESTER IS members are urged to intervene at the Common Market meeting organised by the trades council on Sunday 4 May, 2.30pm, Free Trade Hall. Assemble usual place 1.45pm.

WOOLWICH IS jumble sale: Saturday 26 April, 2.30pm, St Peters Community Centre, Woolwich New Road, London SE18.

WOMENS VOICE—All copy for Womens Voice No 17 must be in to the editor at 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN, by 26 April.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER District IS Social: Disco, folk music, magic, bingo. Saturday 26 April, 8pm, The Black Lion, Chapel Street, Salford. 30p at door. All welcome.

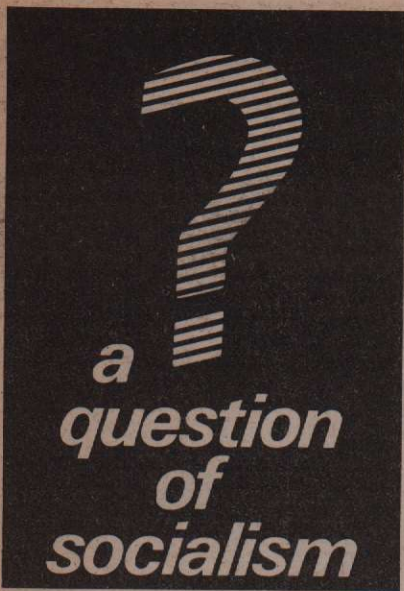
LUTTE OUVRIERE FETE: Enjoyment and politics near Paris, 17-19 May. Discounts available for IS members and Socialist Worker readers. Help needed for IS stall. Write now for full details to Box F, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

BUILDING WORKERS' SPEAKERS: IS branches, fractions, districts etc wanting speakers on the Lump, unemployment in the building industry, or particularly on the Shrewsbury Two for May Day, contact the London IS Building Workers Branch. Write or phone Jan Goleb, flat 12, 45 Broadwick Street, London W1 (01-437 3978).

DISTRICT IS day schools: The theory of rank and file movements/The fight against redundancies. **BRISTOL:** Sunday 27 April. **OXFORD:** Sunday 27 April. **CAMBRIDGE:** Saturday 26 April. Full details from branch/district secretaries.

WORKERS ACTION: Monthly paper of the Ontario (Canada) IS. Subscribe by sending £2.40 for 12 issues or £1.20 for six (airmail) to Box C, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Please make postal orders/cheques payable to IS Books.

The International Socialists need an administrative assistant in London. A knowledge of office procedure and an ability to type will be an advantage. IS member only. Telephone: Mel Norris 01-739 1878.



Why we need a workers' party

I AGREE with the principles of socialism, but I don't see why socialists always seem to be pushing the idea of a party.

THE PROBLEM facing all socialists is how to move from the idea of socialism to the reality. Talking about socialism is important but only if it is linked to the question: How can we bring it about? Socialists answer that question by saying it is necessary to create a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

One of the most important reasons is that there is a great unevenness in the working class itself. If it were true that the experience of one section of the working class was immediately absorbed by the rest of the class then there would be no

real need for any socialist party and the socialist revolution would have taken place a long time ago.

In fact in most workplaces there is a wide range of political views from the committed socialist to the right-wing, pro-employer. When troops moved into Glasgow the committed socialists saw clearly that they were strike-breakers in uniform but many other people thought they were concerned only with tackling the health hazard of rubbish piled in the streets. The working class does not view the same events in the same way. There are, in other words, different levels of consciousness.

People can also think ambiguously. They may say they are in favour of the Social Contract because it seems

to be a way of controlling inflation. But when it prevents them from keeping up with inflation then they are prepared to fight against it even though they do not support others doing the same thing.

This 'split' consciousness repeats itself in many different attitudes towards things such as racist reports in the capitalist press.

Overcome

One of the major jobs of a socialist workers' party is to try to overcome this. It constantly seeks to emphasise what all workers have in common, and how it is essential for them to stick together if they are to get anywhere.

This is not achieved by pious resolutions or empty phrases. It means socialist workers have always to demonstrate in practical ways what class solidarity means—by miners collecting money for striking dockers, or building workers striking for higher old age pensions, or British trade unionists building up a solidarity movement with the workers in Portugal.

The socialist Press also overcomes this uneven level of consciousness by spreading the experience of one group of workers to a wider section of the class. A socialist party therefore attempts to draw out of a particular event the general implications for the working class as a whole. By this it seeks to convince an even larger number of working people of their collective power to change society.

Another important reason why a party is necessary is that the employing class is highly organised. They send their children to public schools and universities. They have their own newspapers and magazines, such as the Financial Times and the Economist, where they discuss the strategy and tactics of fighting the class war. They have their own clubs and societies and so on.

Judges

Out of this background and training come the future judges and civil servants, cabinet ministers and army generals, all with a common class view of the world and all totally committed to its preservation.

The working class has to organise on a similar basis if it is to challenge the power of the employers. This means that in part the workers party has to be the university of the working class, where its members can examine and learn about the tactics and strategy of the struggle against the employers and the state. The working class has to continuously struggle to put forward its own, working class view of the world.

This means being aware of what other workers at other times have done. Mistakes made in the past can then be avoided in the future. The disaster in Chile, the failure of the General Strike in 1926, countless events in the history of the working class contain lessons that have to be incorporated into a strategy for the future.

The workers' party has to act as the memory of the working class, transmitting the experience of the past into the working-class movement of today.

It is of no less importance that the party recognises the energy and fighting spirit of the workers.

The first Russian Revolution in February 1917 was the spontaneous upsurge of Russian workers and peasants, and there are many other occasions when the working class has shown a tremendous willingness to challenge the power of the state.

Socialists strongly reject the idea that it is possible for the party, no matter how well organised or knowledgeable, to take power on behalf of the working class. But at the same time, although a steam engine cannot run without steam, the steam must be channelled in the right direction to drive the pistons. Likewise, it is the function of the party to harness the mobilised strength of the working class and ensure that it leads to the establishment of a workers' state.

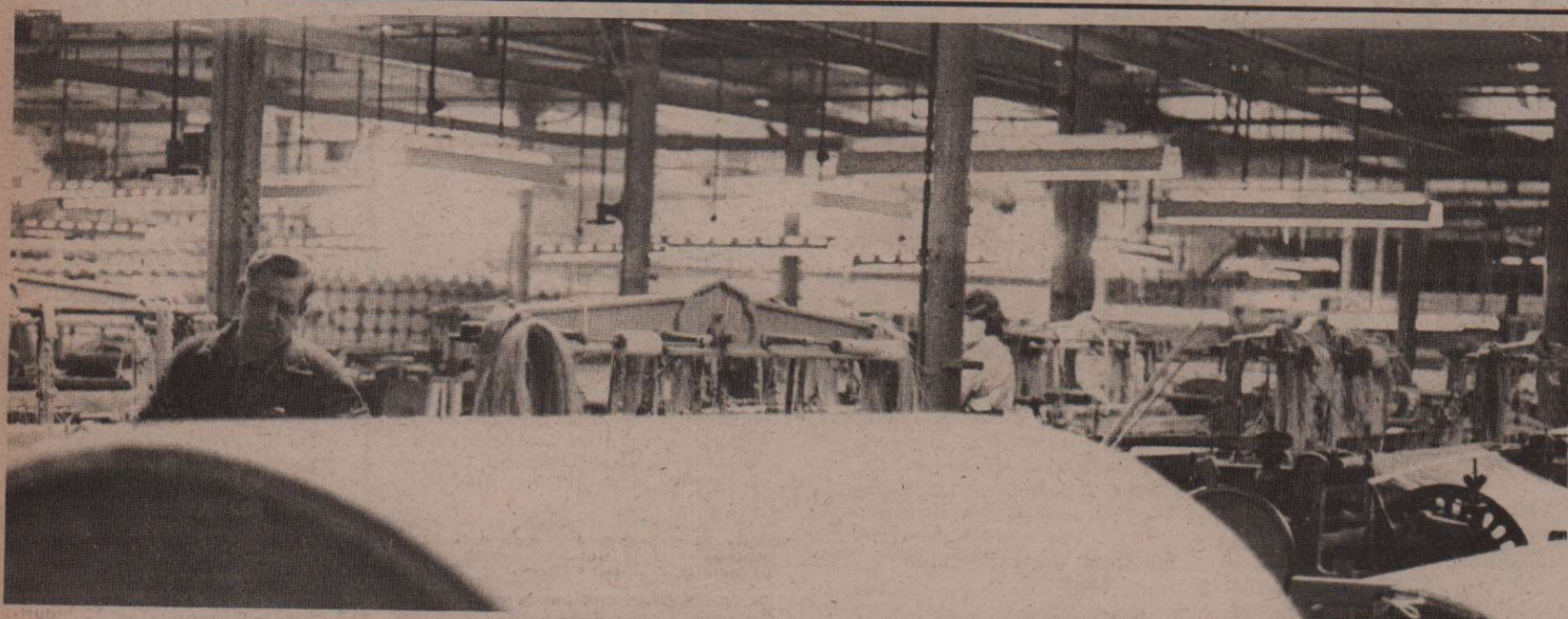
It was primarily the absence of such a party in France in 1968 that meant that the biggest general strike in history—involving ten million workers—dissipated its enormous strength and allowed De Gaulle and French capitalism to survive. It was the existence of such a party and the actions of the Bolsheviks in Russia in October 1917 that ensured the establishment of the first workers' state.

The coming years will again make workers' power a real possibility. Whether it can be made a reality will depend on whether socialists can build a strong and confident party rooted in the working-class movement.

PAUL HOLBOROW

This is the end of the current series.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



THE CO-OP'S jute mill at Taybank Dundee, where two weeks ago the entire 'back shift' were handed their cards and one week's notice. Three months ago the night shift was sacked. Now the mill is on one shift only, and the workers who are left feel uneasy every time a foreman goes round with a list.

Twenty years ago there was £16,173 jute workers in Dundee. Ten years ago 13,677. Now there are 6188. 862 jute workers—one in eight—are on the dole.

Wages in the industry are appalling. Maurice Northeast, an electrician at the CWS mill says: 'There are people pushing barrows in the mill earning £21 a week—and that's after a Saturday morning cleaning up.'

The loss of half the jute jobs in ten years has nothing to do with import controls. For several years in the 1950s,

IMPORT CONTROLS COULDN'T SAVE MILL

the Labour Party, and the Jute, Flax and Kindred Trades Association—the jute workers' union, joined the employers in a demand for a higher 'mark-up' on imported jute goods. The Tories refused to cut the 'mark-up', but when Labour was returned in 1964, they established a restrictive quota on imported jute goods which satisfied both union leaders and employers.

Margaret Fenwick, the union's general secretary, told Socialist Worker: 'We are quite satisfied with the quota'. She

agreed that the loss of jobs in recent years had nothing to do with import controls.

Jim Smith, a former jute worker, reckons on two real reasons for the collapse of the jute industry. First 'there was too much took out of the industry, and not enough put in.' Scores of millionaires have piled up fortunes out of the industry without the investment necessary to keep it going.

More important, 'the union has just

accepted everything. There's a complete lack of militant tradition. Communists are barred from office in the union—and there are no joint shop stewards committees. All rank and file action is discouraged by the union.

Textile workers all over the country, plagued with short time working and redundancy, should take a look at the jute industry in Dundee—just to see how far import controls and placid unions have helped.

Clampdown on student rent strikers

STUDENTS returning to LANCASTER UNIVERSITY this week will find their numbers reduced by 32. This is the number that a special tribunal has found guilty of participating in an occupation last term, and has suspended pending sentence this week.

The occupation started to defend a student on rent strike who was being victimised. Then Charles Carter, the vice-chancellor, declared that he was going to defeat the occupation, defeat the rent strike, defeat the union and expel those he regarded as responsible. So he brought in the police at 3am to clear the occupation, and set up a kangaroo court that didn't even conform to his own rules.

The tribunal, consisting of three senior university staff known to be loyal Carter supporters, sent round mug shots of

students asking if any had been seen in the occupation. On Friday they are expected to announce sentence, and it is unlikely all 32 will escape without some heavy fines, suspensions and expulsions.

This week students at Lancaster will have to decide how they are going to fight the picking off of 32 so-called 'ring leaders'.

Support for the Lancaster 32 is vital. If Carter is allowed to break a rent strike and expel students for occupying university premises, then other vice-chancellors will try the same.

That is why the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies is calling for full support for Lancaster. The NOISS national committee has called for every IS Society to act. Telegrams of support should be sent to the Lancaster Students

Union. Speakers from Lancaster can be invited to union meetings on NUS expenses.

All IS Societies should attend the national demonstration next Wednesday, 30 April, starting at 2pm from the town, (bring IS Society banners).

STUDENTS at WARWICK occupied the university registry on Monday in protest against the victimisation of rent strikers, following a student union meeting. They are fighting the same threats as those used in Lancaster. This is part of the concerted campaign by the vice-chancellors to break the wave of rent strikes and opposition to Labour's education cuts.

Telegrams of support from student unions and IS Societies to University of Warwick Students Union, Coventry.

FIRE SAFETY THREATENED

CLEAR signs are emerging in the fire service of the effects of the Labour government's cuts in public spending.

Pay agreements in recent years have included an undertaking that firemen would become more involved in routine fire prevention inspections of offices, shops, factories and petrol filling stations as well as visiting homes to give the public basic fire prevention advice. This the Fire Brigade Union has been advocating for years, and reluctant employers have now been forced to accept it in the face of soaring fire losses.

Part of the agreement was a joint FBU and employers exercise to assess how much firemen were worth in the light of the extra work they were doing—a productivity deal on the basis of more work now with possibly more later!

After some months of inquiry the employers are refusing to offer any extra money. The Treasury has clearly told them there is no money in the kitty.

Reaction to this from firemen is likely to be a wide scale withdrawal from the fire prevention work. London firemen have already done this and meetings will be held throughout the country to consider action.

From other workers' point of view this will be a backward step. Having workplaces checked for fire safety and means of escape by firemen who have adequate time to do so is a marked improvement on the usual arrangements for safety at work which depends on over worked factory inspectors.

The Glasgow dustmen have already discovered that this Labour government is prepared to refuse to honour agreements already reached between employers and trade unions. Despite the fanfare that accompanied the introduction of the new Health and Safety law the government have now made clear their indifference to the fire safety aspects of the Act.

Rank & File Safety School

SPONSORED BY: Flixborough TGWU shop stewards' committee, BSSRS, Rotherham CEU branch and Pat Kinnersly (author of Hazards of Work—How to fight them).
Subjects covered: Noise—dust—Chemicals—Shift work.

Saturday 3 May, 10am
Stephenson Room, Euston
Station, North London

Credentials, 50p each, from
R Cox, Secretary, Rank and File
Organising Committee, 214
Roundwood Road, London NW10.

IN BRIEF

BASS CHARRINGTON IN NORTH EAST

BASS Charrington lorry-drivers and warehousemen throughout Yorkshire and the North-East are on strike for a cost of living increase.

At Huddersfield where 60 workers are out, shop steward Coleman Mullins said the employers had gone back on a promise given last October: 'We accepted an increase of only £6.95—including consolidating the threshold—provided we could renegotiate in six months if prices kept rising.'

Now the employers refuse to honour their promise. The Transport and General Workers Union won't make the strike official because it is outside the Social Contract.

WANDSWORTH TEACHERS

GOVERNORS at Garratt Green School, Wandsworth, have decided to take no further disciplinary action against three teachers. The Inner London Education Authority brought the charges, claiming that 'unauthorised action'—going on strike—was 'misconduct'.

The governors said, however, that they strongly disapproved of the teachers' action. This was the last of four disciplinary cases—each ending in victory for the teachers.

UCATT, NORTHAMPTON

UCATT members at Henry Boots housing site in Northampton are striking against a scheme which makes it impossible to earn a fair bonus. If the job had started in 1972 the take-home pay would have been the same as now!

There was only one vote against the strike. Management accused the shop stewards of misrepresentation. But, as the stewards pointed out: 'We are elected by the men and, at any meeting, can be voted out of office. We are not the pawns of high finance like the management.'

All the men's demands are based on parity with other sites in the area. If they pay, why can't Boots?

DUNLOP, COVENTRY

CLERICAL workers at Dunlop's engineering factories in Coventry walked out last Friday after a mass meeting rejected the latest pay offer. They were offered £5.25 for women, and £6.35 to £7.50 for men against a claim of £15 across the board and equal pay by November.

Pickets were on the gates from Monday morning and a further mass meeting is arranged for this Friday. The budget is stiffening the resolve of workers. White-collar workers who only last year accepted Dunlop's plea that they 'couldn't afford' to pay the thresholds have taken industrial action for the first time for years.

SNOW'S, SHEFFIELD

120 AUEW members have been on strike for three weeks following the breakdown of annual pay talks at the Snow company, Sheffield. The claim for £10 to £11 was rejected and management offered £4 now and £2 later. The AUEW District Committee is recommending the strike be made official.

Management have now sent out 19 redundancy notices, including that of the AUEW Convenor, which have been handed back. 'We are not going to settle on the backs of our fellows, letting them go down the road,' said one AUEW member.

Moral and financial help is crucial. Write to P Anson, Treasurer, 20 Fox Wood Avenue, Sheffield F12 2ES.

TIME OUT, LONDON

TONY ELLIOTT, trendy proprietor of Time Out, has decided to make his girlfriend, Janet Street-Porter, deputy editor of the 'London magazine—an appointment not approved by the NUJ and SOGAT members.'

Janet Street-Porter is already paid £6000 a year by the Evening News to write a column.

So the NUJ and SOGAT members are on strike. Elliott is trying to print a pirate edition but the strikers are planning flying pickets. The strike has been made official by the NUJ, and both SOGAT and the NGA have agreed to blacking.

Why the Yarnolds women were beaten

By Mary Larkin

WOLVERHAMPTON:—They fought for 20 weeks—but in the end they were beaten. The 40 Asian and British women textile workers at Yarnolds ended their strike last week. Originally out for union recognition and the re-instatement of their two shop stewards, they were soon fighting to win back their own jobs.

Against them were a stubborn and vicious management, many fellow workers who didn't come out, and company-owned transport which made the stopping of deliveries difficult.

The strikers, members of the Transport and General Workers Union, were resilient, and determined. They had to be, facing bad

weather, family commitments, heavy picketing duty and communications difficulties between the different women.

With guidance from experienced trade unionists they might have made it—but they didn't get it. Instead, bureaucratic union leadership gave no education on how to organise, nor did it win active support.

In the first six weeks, the women were isolated on the picket line. And so they accepted union officials' naive reliance on the Industrial Tribunal and local Labour MPs.

There was no functioning strike committee, too few meetings, bad co-ordination and a

lack of democratic discussion and decision making. This lack of involvement sapped the strikers' confidence to go out and gain support.

But all this could have been overcome with rank and file support. There was some. Local shop stewards gave financial support after the issue had been raised at the trades council and in Socialist Worker. They also helped on the picket line and waged a successful nationwide picket of Yarnolds' shops.

It wasn't enough. There was a lack of consistent support from many local trade unionists and the women fell back on the union official. He promised more trades council support, a possible second Industrial Tribunal, a possible intervention by Labour ministers.

They waited, hoped and became demoralised. They lost faith in the trade union movement and lost their own solidarity, and were beaten.

It is a tragic defeat, but one we must all learn from. In so many recent disputes, black and women workers have been forced into militancy as the crisis pushed them behind on the wages market.

Dispute

Time after time, they have fought with little trade union experience—and fallen prey to union officials.

Those officials tend to see the disputes as peripheral unless pressured by the rank and file, which means local support and the strikers organising their own dispute.

Had the Yarnolds' battle been won, it could have triggered action in many other non-unionised shops locally. Last year's battle at Imperial Typewriters was lost—but still inspired a series of smaller battles in Leicester.

Stirchley battle for union rights

AS THE Yarnolds' women were going down to defeat, a few miles away 28 women and two men went into battle on the same issues.

The strikers, at Hampton Stamping in Stirchley, Birmingham, have been out for six weeks for union recognition and the reinstatement of eight of them. One woman was sacked for joining the union, the AUEW, and then another seven were made redundant after a protest sit-in.

The strike has been made official and several local factories—Rovers, Wilmott Breeden, Austins and Tractors and Transmissions—have been supporting it. A mass picket on Friday boosted morale.

Management have agreed to meet the Conciliation and Arbitration Board. One of the sacked women, shop steward Wendy Shields, said: 'Until now we have not felt strong enough to challenge management about the union.'

Fact

'Rates of pay, specially for women, are very low, and vary from week to week, and from worker to worker. Piece-work is calculated by the gross, but management claim there are 156 in a gross and so get eight per cent of all work for nothing!'

The redundancy move was exposed when management went to the Labour Exchange the next day for more workers. They are trying to break the union organisation and, as the strikers say: 'It is a well-known fact that employers at small factories like ours are very reluctant to recognise trade unions. However, we are prepared to see this out to the bitter end until we are all reinstated.'

'We are appealing to all trade unionists for moral and financial support. We particularly appeal to trade unionists in the Birmingham area to aid us with our regular picketing of the factory.'

Messages of support, financial donations and inquiries about help with picketing to Hampton Stamping Strike Committee, c/o Wendy Shields, 25 Benfield Close, Stirchley, Birmingham.

LONDON RUBBER: WHY WE'RE OUT ON STRIKE

NORTH LONDON:—The temperature inside the London Rubber Company plant is, said a picket, 'more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit—and the place is running with water'.

Conditions like that explain why the 250 strikers, mainly immigrants, have been on strike for three weeks for the right to organise in a trade union and why they are keeping up a 24 hour picket.

The strikers' basic wage is £30 for

four 12-hour shifts. Supervisors and foremen are on £68, and few black workers get those jobs.

Management are worried. Divisional personnel manager John Delfgou has been replaced by managing director Robert Larkin as the company's spokesman on the dispute. And they face a possible 40 per cent cut in the price of their product—contraceptives—after a Monopolies Commission recommendation.

Women still working have been moved to the rubber gloves department, where big profits are made and where conditions are appalling.

'When I first started here', said a white striker, 'they gave me a rubber apron and some armshields, but they didn't give me any gloves. They said they didn't have any.'

'Just as we were coming out, 40 pairs of boots arrived—for the women. And yet they've told the local paper that they haven't moved any women in there!'

In the past, management have smashed attempts by the Engineering Union and the technicians' union ASTMS to organise. Now they're trying the same with the TGWU. The bosses fear the growing strength of the union could challenge the factory's terrible wage structure.

FEAR

The local labour movement is beginning to offer support. At the TGWU 1/1530 branch meeting, local official Tom Knowles emphasised the importance of the strike. 'If this strike is lost it will turn the clock back for trade unionism in this area.'

'If London Rubber don't come across, it'll be necessary to organise a demonstration of 1000–2000 TGWU members to show the management up for what they are.' The strikers must hold him to this statement.

As the strikers dig in, they need to convince the women still working to join the TGWU and the strike.

And they must seek to spread the strike to London Rubber's subsidiary companies.

The message has to be got across to the labour movement and the local factories to get the money and help on the picket line that is so desperately needed.

Donations to LR Strike Committee, M Khan, Broad House, 205 Fore Street, London, N18.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
LONDON RUBBER STRIKE SPECIAL

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THE UNION IN DANGER!
APPEAL TO THOSE STILL WORKING

CHINGARI and Socialist Worker come together in this new London Rubber Strike special, price 7p (including postage) from Chingari, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Bulk orders 15p for 20.

Also out now is the April/May edition of the regular Punjabi Chingari. Walthamstow IS sold 52 copies at two cinemas in less than an hour and another 48 at the nearby Reliant factory.

The new issue covers the fight of Blackburn busmen against racialism in the local Labour Club, the progress of the occupation of Imperial Typewriters in Hull, and the rise of the National Front. Among other articles is a survey of the political use of clause 42 of the Immigration Act.

It costs 5p a copy (plus 5½p postage) from Chingari (Punjabi), 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

London weighting strikes

STRIKES for London Weighting by workers outside the public sector have blown up after Shell and BP tanker drivers recently won £7.74 back-dated to August.

RONEO VICKERS:—60 service engineers, all members of ASTMS are in the fifth week of an official strike for a £6 a week allowance. Offices in Croydon, Colliers Wood, Putney, Finsbury Market and the North Circular Road are being picketed.

ASTMS Divisional Officer Bill Walsh has written to Lord Robens, chairman of Vickers, to congratulate the company on their results, published last week. Profits were up 52 per cent at £18.5 million.

'News of the company's success has given new heart to our members, who are now determined more than ever to press ahead with their claim,' he said.

BRITISH RELAY (TV Rentals):—200 service engineers from South-West, North-West and North-East London and Sidcup members of the EETPU, struck on Monday and Tuesday after a one-day strike earlier

this month failed to bring a realistic offer.

The men want at least £4.50, the amount paid by Granada to their engineers.

As at Roneo, management have now cancelled the insurance on the vans and cars so that if any of the men uses the vehicles while on strike he will not be legally covered. The keys have been

demanding from the pickets. And management have refused to make bonus payments in North-East London for work done a month ago.

The backlog of work caused by the strikes so far and a strict work to rule that will be enforced from Wednesday should force management's hand.

Staveley women fight on

STAVELEY:—52 women production workers at Walter and Dobson have now been on strike for seven weeks for the second instalment of the last national engineering agreement. It would bring their basic rate up to £24.50, the national basic minimum.

The women, members of the AUEW, are bitter after an hysterical management attack in the local press and an attempt to take materials through the picket line in a hired van.

The husband of one of the strikers

followed the van. Suddenly, a management car swerved in front of him and one appeared behind. They hope this Chicago-style activity will break the strikers.

Victory would show other local women what strong union organisation can do. And since the men in the factory are not in the union, the women need maximum support.

Messages and donations to: Mrs C Smith, 20 Clarendon Road, Inkersall, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

'STOP THE SACKINGS' OCCUPATIONS GROW



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Inside the occupation at the Smith Hutton ship repair yard at Dundee, which 35 workers have occupied after management announced suddenly last month that they were bankrupt and had to close. The 35 are holding on to two trawlers and one big trawler engine until their jobs are guaranteed.

But the occupation needs help. Shipyard workers from all over the country should invite delegates from Smith Hutton to explain their case.

Donations and messages of support to John Smith, 20 Derwent Avenue, Kirkton, Dundee.

'No lay-offs' strike by Cowley TGWU men

OXFORD:—Transport and General Workers Union members at the British Leyland Cowley Body Plant have voted to come out on strike against the layoffs on the principle of 'One out, all out'.

Marina production workers were laid off last Friday and 100 indirect workers followed on Monday.

The indirect workers have never been on a formal lay-off agreement, it being custom and practice that they were never laid off. The company has just failed to get the unions to agree to change this and announced its intention to impose on them the same lay-off agreement as the production workers have.

The TGWU members responded by a mass meeting of both shifts, voting overwhelmingly to come out. The remaining areas in the Body Plant were shut out, and the Assembly Plant soon came to a stop.

But the AUEW decided to stay in. Only a handful of the semi-skilled indirect workers are in the AUEW, but their refusal to back their own members and come out, leaves the TGWU isolated.

The reason behind all this is the company's plans to cut back production. The Marina schedule is already to be cut from 3850 to 2100, from Monday 5 May; Leyland are looking for 1600 voluntary redundancies across Cowley, about one in ten of the manual workforce, so they can take off half the Marina night shift and keep the rest on a four-day, three-night week. The Pattern Shop, where future models are worked on, is already on a four-day week.

The lead of the TGWU indirect workers needs to be taken up by the whole plant.

Police threat to Crosfield picket line

NORTH LONDON:—Workers occupying Crosfield Electronics in defence of 350 jobs are standing firm in the face of further intimidation from both the management and police.

Last week 50 police and scab loaders removed equipment from an unoccupied part of the factory. This week police foot patrols have been threatening pickets. To use more than two workers to picket factory entrances is, police claim, an 'intimidation'.

At the same time, Crosfield are using crude tactics to try to divide the workforce. They have announced that all remaining workers are to work a three-day week. This is due, they claim, to the 'inaccessibility of the No 1 building' and the shortage of parts.

The Ministry of Labour have announced that this move is merely part of a trade dispute. It is a *lock out*.

Crosfield workers are making it clear that the tactic will not divide them. Steward Jack Tapsell commented: 'The bosses have got it all wrong. All they've done is make the lads angrier, and more determined to stick it out.'

Like all occupations, success or failure at Crosfields will depend not just on the workers themselves but on the support they receive from other trade unionists in the area. No occupation can be won simply by sitting in the factory and waiting. Management too have learnt to wait.

Other workers in De La Rue group, which owns Crosfields, must raise the sackings at Crosfields and demand the redundancy notices be withdrawn. All trade unionists, particularly in London, should pass resolutions condemning the use of police as scabs to move machinery. Delegates from Crosfields' strike committee should be invited to trade union branches, districts and shop stewards' committees to explain their case and appeal for support.

Financial help from across the whole trade union movement is important. Please send all donations to W Hayward, 34 Dresden Road, London N19.

Occupations in small workplaces to fight redundancies are becoming more frequent. In next week's Socialist Worker there will be a major article on the tactics, problems and lessons of occupations in defence of jobs.

Builders still hold Lairds

BIRKENHEAD:—The sit-in by 150 building workers at Cammell Laird's shipyard demanding the right to work is now in its seventh week. It is still as solid as the day it started.

Two years ago an £8 million modernisation plan was started in the yard. Build and Lind's won the contract. Last autumn Laird's management ordered them off the site alleging that the work

COLES CRANES MEN DEFEND JOBS

DARLINGTON:—The two-week-old sit-in at Coles Cranes, part of the Acrow group, is solid.

Workers are keeping up a 24-hour occupation although there is no strike pay and they have to travel from outlying districts.

A few months ago, the AUEW and EETPU shop stewards had been told by management that the future was rosy and jobs secure. Extensions were even being built.

Then the annual wage negotiations came round and management were compelled to put their cards on the table. The workers asked for their wages to be brought up to the district average, a rise of at least ten per cent. After a puny offer was rejected, management increased

WORKERS FIGHT FOR PARITY AT GEC

SOUTH LONDON:—Workers at GEC Elliotts in Lewisham are mounting a picket and sitting-in during working hours. Management are refusing to pay the men, members of the white-collar section of the Engineers Union, TASS, because they are using non-co-operation to fight for a claim for parity.

The 1946 'Fair Wages Resolution' stipulates that workers doing sub-contracted work should not get less than those in firms supplying the work. Yet workers at BSC, CEBG and the Ministry of Defence earn up to £20 a week more than GEC workers.

Kirkby sit-in victory — after one day

MERSEYSIDE:—40 workers at the Russell Kirby Flooring Maintenance Materials factory, Kirkby, have won their biggest ever pay rise. They turned a passive strike into a militant occupation in just one day.

In January they accepted a £2 pay rise, which was to be reviewed in April. April came and the management reviewed it, but that's all they did. They later offered £1 for attendance allowance and 50p for good time-keeping.

After the decision to strike the workers picketed the gates of the factory. The management were set for a long strike until the intervention of Kirkby IS, who argued that unless the

work was proceeding slowly and without due care.

Builds fought the case in the High Court, but generally gave up the fight.

Then the workers on the site decided that they were going to fight for their jobs. They occupied the Build engineers' hut, took over the site canteen, and barricaded themselves in a compound—into which they moved an estimated £1 million of building hardware.

Since then the men have been con-

stantly harassed. Their phones were immediately cut off and their attempts failed to get the Post Office to reconnect—at their expense—a pay phone which was already in the compound. Their gas and electricity went next. Then attempts were made to stop the water.

Building firms with machines impounded have attempted to use the courts to recover them. An injunction has been served on five stewards on behalf of Goodfellow Crane Hire. To date the men have not released any machines.

Goodfellow generously offered them £80 towards the occupation in exchange for cranes worth a few hundred thousand. Another builder offered to deliver them other machinery in exchange for what they held.

In spite of the harassment the men have maintained a 24-hour occupation and weekly mass meetings. They have set up an action committee of 20 to drum up support.

In the meantime Lairds have re-tendered the job. It is rumoured that a new contractor will be named within a fortnight. Then the fight will really start. The men are determined that whatever name goes up on the billboards they will be working on the site. For this they will need mass support.

Support from the shipyard workers has been slow in coming. It was only last week that the first collection was held. It was only last week that a bulletin put out by the Lairds shop stewards informed the mass of workers for the first time of the situation.

Yet in the bitter struggle that lies ahead the support of the workers in the yard will be crucial. Lairds are a hard management and most building firms are not known for their kindness. If the men are going to win their fight in a town with 9000 building workers on the dole they will need on top of their determination mass pickets outside the gate with support from across Birkenhead and the support of the workers in the yard.

Messages of support and money to: L McReady (UCATT), 47 Davenham Avenue, Oxtou, Birkenhead.

Donations and messages of support to: Don Kane, TASS Joint Office Committee Chairman, 103 Braidwood Road, London SE6.

Workers turned the strike into an occupation there was a danger they could be beaten because of insufficient picketing.

Last Friday, after only one day on strike, they occupied. They threw out the factory foreman who was still working, locked the gate, then barricaded themselves in. They manned the switchboard, while the manager, was out at the gate.

He had earlier told the stewards who asked for equal pay that he would sack them rather than pay them. But half a day in the cold changed his mind and the workers have won a £5 across-the-board pay rise and the lowering of the age for full pay and reasonable bonus share.

HULL: WE WON'T CARRY CAN

by an AUEW shop steward, Simon
Rosedown factory

HULL:—More than 300 members of the AUEW, Boilermakers, UCATT and GMWU here are in the second week of their strike for a basic rate of £50 for craftsmen with pro rata increases for all grades. Management have offered £46—and a £4-a-week bonus if there is a 15 per cent increase in productivity. But why should we increase productivity if it's management's inefficiency that causes the problems?

At a works conference with union officials and management we on the shop stewards' committee offered to set up a productivity committee where we could make suggestions for management's better organisation and they could explain their difficulties.

Believe me, the organisation really is chaotic. I work a vertical boring machine and am constantly being knocked off to do another 'rush job'. This is invariably still lying on the floor a week after I've finished it. We are determined that we are not going to carry the can for their inefficiency.

Last Thursday a full meeting of strikers decided by a big majority to carry on the campaign for a decent wage.

TAXMEN CAUGHT EMPLOYING LUMP

CENTRAL LONDON: The Inland Revenue, the body that is prosecuting workers on the Lump for tax evasion, has a strike on its hands. It has itself been caught employing Lump labour!

The battle is at Somerset House, where five painters, members of the building workers union UCATT, are on official strike. They're opposing the use of lumpers on the painters' night shift. The lump firm is called New Regency Decorators.

The strikers believe they can win—and are getting the support they need. Building workers at Lovell's construction site in Guilford Street are backing them and, within Somerset House itself, so is the Electricians union branch secretary.

STERLING STRIKE FOR SAFETY

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:—Workers at Sterling Organics are out on strike fighting for safety at the plant which handles chemicals like bromine, cyanide, phenol and phosgene—a war gas.

The strikers, members of the Engineering, Electricians and Heating unions, are picketing 24 hours a day to halt caustic lime, hydrochloric acid and liquid nitrogen coming into the plant. The company will give money under any guise except one—'conditions'. That would be an admission that there's a hazard at the plants.

A MAY DAY REMINDER...

They're still in jail!

MAY DAY should be a day of celebration—but we have little to celebrate. The Labour government has stepped up its remorseless attacks on workers' living standards. And the Shrewsbury Two, those sacrificial victims of the employers and the Tory government, still rot in jail.

For this reason alone, May Day should be a day of significant working class protest. Already, workers at 74 of London's Wimpy Bars have pledged that they will strike in support of the Shrewsbury Two.

Building workers at Pochins site in Manchester have also agreed to stop. So have their brothers at the Brixton Tarmac site in

London and at the Crudens and Coda Knightswood sites in Glasgow. 300 members of the steel union BISAKTA at Steel Structures in Rochester, Kent will be joining them.

For many workers it may not be possible to win a strike vote. But there is nothing at all to stop organised trade unionists from taking other forms of action.

AUEW members in Manchester have organised a Shrewsbury rally for the evening of May Day. So have AUEW branch members in Dudley. In Coventry the Jaguar Daimler ACTSS branch is sponsoring a Shrewsbury dance with proceeds to the Rank and File

Shrewsbury Dependants Fund.

In other workplaces workers will be having lunch-time meetings to discuss the Shrewsbury case and the continued imprisonment of the men by the Labour government.

In Liverpool and London, there will be May Day demonstrations. The Liverpool demonstration assemblies at Islington Square at 11am and marches to the International Workers monument at the Pierhead.

In London the march departs from the Embankment at Temple Place at 1.30 and goes to Hyde Park for a rally.

Every militant and socialist should support one of these initiatives. The Shrewsbury Two must be freed.



James Callaghan: 'Get back to work'

Sparks spoil Sunny Jim's big day out

AMID THE SPECTACLE of flash cars, flash suits, dresses and a banquet, electricians picketed last Friday's official opening by James Callaghan of the Glamorgan County Council offices.

The sparks—who after 11 weeks on strike for parity with contracting electricians have so far been offered only £3 a week on top of £29.50—were understandably angered by this posh ceremonial waste of ratepayers' money.

When the pickets formed a gauntlet outside the entrance, the police rushed over and forced them away to allow Callaghan free access to the curtain for the unveiling of the plaque.

The electricians' chants—'Council Sparks—More Pay' and 'Out with the Social Contract'—had the Foreign Secretary trying desperately to look dignified in front of his cronies.

He then took the opportunity to denounce the strikers as 'ill-mannered, unruly and unbehaved militants threatening democracy and the British way of life.' As one striker shouted: '£24 a week militants?'

Billy Williams, the electricians' convenor, collared Callaghan and challenged him on the Social Contract. Callaghan responded with a torrent of abuse about the strikers' bad manners.

Callaghan's closing remark was: 'Get back to work, where you belong.' As the electricians said: 'For £24 pick up, you must be joking.'

The night before, Cardiff Trades Council meeting decided to augment the electricians' picket outside the City Hall at 9am on 1 May.

All South Wales trade unionists are urged to support this picket.



GLASGOW: IT'S LOOKING GOOD

AS WE go to press, the local authority electricians in Scotland have moved within reach of victory after 14 weeks on strike.

They have been offered the same Scottish Joint Industry Board rate as contracting sparks, which would give them £1.23 an hour, an increase of £9.20 a week. But there is a snag.

The councils want to abandon future commitment to the SJIB agreement.

After a lengthy strike, the solidarity and confidence of the electricians is amazing.

The feeling of outrage at the local authorities' attempt to ignore the long-standing SJIB agreement runs deep.

With the full money on the table Scottish local authority sparks have already won a victory.

They have forced the local councils

to give in on the point that really hurts them—the money.

And in the process they forced Frank Chapple into a half-hearted fight on their behalf.

For the first time in years, links have been established between every local authority electricians' shop stewards' committee. They have been built not only in Scotland but with some local authority sparks in England and Wales.

This link up has tremendous possibilities for future struggles.

We want the full rate!

ELECTRICIANS from Leeds, Sheffield, London and Hull lobbying last Monday's meeting at the Central National Council Offices in Belgrave Square in London.

The English and Welsh sparks are demanding that in future they should also get the full contracting rate, although in the past they have not been on JIB rates, unlike Scotland.

But the impact of the Scottish action has forced the electricians' union executive to allow local actions in Yorkshire, South Wales, Merseyside and Manchester.

Afterwards, Electricians' Union general secretary Frank Chapple agreed to step up the official action. He said the union would now bring out London local authority sparks one borough at a time for a week, starting with Barking.

Vote

But this means that Chapple is keeping the brakes on. The Scots' strikers have shown the way, bringing out everyone at the same time.

As Mike Green, who came down from Hull to join the lobby, said: 'We are now in our tenth week. Last week we took a vote and it was 100 per cent. We're all electricians, we all do the same job. We should all get the same money. It would have been much better if we had all been out from the start.'

Alf Papworth, chairman of the London Boroughs shop stewards committee said: 'It's appalling to me that all the action so far has taken place up north. We've got to stay out for the basic. If we don't get it, we're never going to get it.'

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