

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



**No to the**

**Wilson-Tory  
line-up**



**NO to  
rising  
prices**

**NO to  
the  
dole  
queues**



**COMMON MARKET**

**NO**



# OUT WITH

## Order books full for £40,000 super yachts

A YOUNG MAN content only with the best, is confounding boat-building experts by hand-building 34-ft yachts and selling them at £40,000 during the current economic crisis.

He is Mr Charles Ward, 23, who formed his company at the Trafalgar Yard, Fakenham, Norfolk, with the sole ambition of creating a "Rolls-Royce" among yachts.

Normally 34ft yachts cost about £15,000 depending on its equipment. But Mr Ward decided in January 1974 there was still a market for "super yachts."

He said: "I felt that there were enough people in the world who still appreciated the finer things in life and could afford to pay for them. My decision was right. We have a full order book until 1977."

—from the Daily Telegraph

'THERE IS too much talk about redistribution of wealth, and too little about creating it.'

Thus Sir Marcus Sieff, chairman of Marks and Spencer, bringing news of more loot for his shareholders this week. He went on:

'A redistribution of diminishing wealth could both impoverish us and destroy our way of life, the good and the bad.'

This popular myth has been given a lot of publicity over the past week. In one way or another, almost all the opinion-formers of our society have been telling us that the 'bad old days' of millionaires and exploitation are behind us.

The facts, however, show the opposite. A book out this week (*Your Employers' Profits, reviewed on page 8*) shows the enormous accumulated wealth in private hands. On this page this week, we publish some examples—all taken from the last few weeks—of the massive waste and luxury around us.

While workers' families are exposed to the full blast of inflation, the wealthy can 'hedge' themselves off from it by buying

## WHAT WE THINK

### We have news for you, Sir Marcus

shares or land. So share prices zoom as fewer and fewer workers' families can make ends meet.

The defenders of the system argue that redistribution of wealth wouldn't make much difference. Well, it would mean about £90 a week for every family, which is enough to be going on with.

But the real argument is not just about wealth distribution. It is that all the decisions about what is produced and what services are provided are taken so as to preserve wealth and privilege for one class.

All the waste of society—all the advertising and Concordes and anti-ballistic missiles, all the motor cars for private companies, the useless drugs, the office building, the subsidies for luxury hotels—derives from the filching of society's wealth by a minority.

Ending the power of the wealthy doesn't just mean redistributing the wealth. It means altering the entire pattern of production so that working people—all the way from nursery school to old age—will be enriched by far, far more than that £90 a week.

So as long as that minority keep their fingers on that wealth, there can be no end to waste, no end to crisis. 'Solving the crisis' by wage restraint means leaving the wealthy in control.

It means that the ladies and gentlemen featured on this page will continue to lay down the rules of production for their advantage.

That's why we encourage the battle for more, and still more, for the people who really do 'create the wealth'.

And why we do want to end Sir Marcus Sieff's 'way of life'.

# THE PARASITES!

## Ferranti: Another killing

FERRANTI, the company whose bosses took the government for £4.5 million and never even ended up in court, appear to have concluded another successful agreement with the state. And the man who presided over the largesse was Industry Minister Tony Benn.

£15 million of public money has been handed over by the Department of Industry to bale out, not the company, but the brothers Ferranti. It will not be put into the company as working capital. The £15 million is to buy shares and take up loanstock.

The main consequence of this form of assistance is that Basil and Sebastian de Ferranti will be provided with large sums of government money in exchange for some of their shares. These they will sell at a much higher level than they'd have got if they'd brought the company to market in its present troubled shape.

The Labour government has also agreed to underwrite the particularly troubled transformer side of the company.

While this deal doesn't even guarantee the transformer workers' jobs, it does have immense advantages for Basil and Sebastian.

### Price

When the company does go public in two years' time, more of their shares will be taken up and their own holding will be valued at a higher price because the troubled transformer side is completely underwritten by the government.

The net result will be that Basil, Sebastian and other needy sections of the Ferranti community will own even more millions than they do now.

Nor did Benn tie the Ferranti handout to any strings, as he has done at the Scottish Daily News.

This is probably connected with the Ferranti Brothers' shrewdness in hiring former leading property lawyer and friend of Harold Wilson, Lord Goodman, to advise them.

Ferranti's have not disclosed and are not required to disclose, how much they paid the good Lord for his services.

But they can rest assured that he was worth every penny.



Sacrifice for you means riches for them: Basil and Sebastian de Ferranti, and Derrick 'Paradise Isle' Robins

## A £14 million gift

A HAND-OUT was made by the government last week—of £14 million. This was much more than has been handed out to all the workers' co-ops since the Labour government came into office.

Full coverage was given to the grant in the press—two paragraphs buried in the Daily Telegraph.

It went (at first) to 'entire W and C French (Construction) to complete motorway schemes'. The Telegraph went on: 'The step is as a result of heavy losses sustained by the company through inflation and fixed-price contracts.'

The Minister who disclosed all this in the House of Commons also announced that the government has already given £7,250,000 to French.

A MONTH AGO, Mr Frederick Hodges died in his modest home in Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

None of his neighbours had noticed anything remarkable about him and everyone was very astonished when the Times announced that Mr Hodges had left £1,083,789.

The editor of the local paper told Socialist Worker: 'We tried everything we knew to discover how Mr Hodges made his million. No one knew anything about it. All we could find out was that he had inherited it somehow.'

No such mystery surrounded the story of Mr Peter Blackburn, a meat profiteer who died earlier this year

and whose will was published, suitably enough on May Day.

Mr Blackburn left £1,263,136 after all taxes and estate duties had been paid.

He 'made' this money when he sold half his Chard Meat company to Brook Bond, the tea firm whose activities in Sri Lanka got so much publicity recently.

With the money, he bought about a quarter of Somerset around Ilminster and Chard. The money goes to Mrs Blackburn, their son and three charming daughters.

Mr Julius Guthrie, the former chairman of the West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Co, died last January leaving £850,189. Tax on that amounted to all of £44,000.

'Sporting millionaire Derrick Robins, who has decided to quit Britain, is believed to be on the paradise isle of Mauritius. His 43-year-old secretary, Miss Pat Stephenson is believed to be with him.'

'He decided to settle there for personal and financial reasons. Mr Robins made a fortune with his Banbury Buildings empire'

—THE SUN, 14 April 1975

## QUOTE

If the property investment market is to be encouraged to return to full activity it requires a steady supply of first-class rack-rented properties...

—Commercial Property, the Daily Telegraph property column, 27-May 1975.

## NOW WHAT ABOUT SOME ACTION, BROTHER MURRAY?

'TODAY WE are marching as a part of the great tradition and purpose of the trade union movement—the assertion of human dignity and human rights.' So saying, Len Murray wound up the speeches, and a stream of similar empty pious statements, at the end of the TUC's demonstration and rally to celebrate International Women's Year.

4000 women—and many men—marched through London last Sunday to mark the occasion. The biggest contingent was from the GMWU, whose members came from the Midlands, Yorkshire and the north, along with members of NUPE, NUT, NALGO, SOGAT, the Tobacco Workers and Tailor and Garment Workers, the AUEW and the TGWU, USDAW, COHSE, CPSA, APEX and many other unions.

But for all the banners it was a sorry disappointment. The demonstration

was for women's equality, but not around any specific slogan.

Alan Fisher of NUPE called on the government to amend the Employment Protection Bill 'to make it compulsory for all employers to provide facilities for regular union meetings to be held during working time'.

Ken Gill of TASS took a stand against the moves of the select committee discussing the Anti-discrimination Bill to barter protection under the Factories Act for equal pay. Brenda Dean, an organiser for SOGAT in Manchester, got nearest to the truth: 'International Women's Year will not mean anything to single parent families, battered wives, and those who will suffer if the James White Abortion (amendment) Bill goes through.'

The National Abortion Campaign, which is fighting against James White's bill, brought up the end of the march, with banners from their local groups.

# NO

## A simple answer to a simple question

IN FACTORIES throughout Britain, a barrage of propaganda is being put out by managements to persuade workers to vote Yes.

Their underlying theme is that a No vote would threaten jobs. Since redundancies only occur when management decide they are going to occur, the tactic amounts to nothing more than blackmail.

It is up to active trade unionists to make sure the arguments against it are put to every single worker in the next six days.

The WIGGINS-TEAPE GROUP, who own the pulp mill at Fort William in Argyll, are a highly profitable company. The latest issue of their house journal Gateway claims that if workers vote against



the Market, their employment prospects and standard of living would be seriously affected.

Yet only ten per cent of the mill's exports go to the EEC, and workers in the loading bays say they have sent no paper and only small quantities of pulp there recently.

To understand why this multi-national company is so keen on a Yes vote, you have to look not at

the jobs of their workers, but at the company's large investments in France and Belgium.

A meeting of the staff of the four depots of CAMERON AND CAMPBELL was called by management last week. After telling the workers that they were being taken over by another company, UDT, Mr Cameron, for the management, then went on to talk about the referendum.

He claimed a No vote would force the firm to sack workers, since it holds a franchise on French and German cars. A film was then shown of UDT's national and international holdings in the Common Market.

### Asked

When workers asked if the reason for the meeting was to push out pro-Common Market propaganda, they were assured it was completely non-political. But clearly it was another step in the campaign to use the threat of unemployment to get a conclusion from the referendum satisfactory to the bosses.

WORKERS' VOICE, the ineptly-named publication of the Trades Union Alliance for Europe, contains a special plea from Lord Vic Feather, former general secretary of the TUC.

Feather, who at one time opposed the Market, now insists that all our future is bound up with it.

Trade unionists may find the conversion easier to understand if they remember that, after his retirement, Feather joined the board of the multi-national ball bearing company SKF, who passionately support the Market.

# DOWN WITH THE MARKET!

THE COMMON MARKET campaign has left a lot of workers confused. The constant statistical bickering, assertion and denial, has made the issues behind the vote seem very complicated. In fact, the central question is very simple. It is this:

*Do you want to see the hand of your employer strengthened in the inevitable battles over wages, prices and unemployment in the months ahead?*

The Common Market is nothing more than an attempt by the employers of western Europe to pool their resources, so as to strengthen one another. Insofar as they are successful they use their increased strength to solve their problems at the expense of workers.

### FOOD PRICES

The aim of the Common Market agricultural policy is to keep food prices within the Market higher than in the world outside.

All the sophistry in the world from the Edward Heaths and the Roy Jenkins cannot conceal the fact that every time you buy butter, beef or cheese, you are paying more because of taxes imposed to keep up the price.

Nor can they conceal the fact that food is allowed to pile up because the EEC price is too high for many workers to pay. Rather than cut the profits of the very wealthy large farmers who benefit from such a policy, the Heaths and Jenkins are prepared to back a policy for wasting millions of tons of food.

Their claim that this is necessary so as to store up supplies for the future hardly explains why, for example, hundreds of tons of dried skimmed milk are being sold off as cut-price cattle food.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

When Britain entered the Common Market, we were told that entry would put an end to economic stagnation. Today unemployment is higher than ever throughout Europe.

The strengthening of big business throughout Europe can in no way solve the problems created by the big business system. Built into the Common Market is the right of big business to move money from one country to another in search of higher profits.

That means continual blackmail by the multi-national companies against workers in any country who push for decent living standards.

### DISCRIMINATION AGAINST IMMIGRANT WORKERS

The whole labour policy of the Common Market is based upon denying immigrant workers the most elementary rights and forcing them to do the worst jobs for the lowest pay.

Workers who come from outside the Common Market are compelled to live in miserable barracks and shanty towns, and are threatened with being sent back to their homelands when unemployment begins to rise.

Workers who come from other Common Market countries can be threatened with deportation if they fight for militant trade union action.

That is why the immigration laws in Britain have been made still harsher since the decision was first made to join the EEC.

### DEFENDING BIG BUSINESS

The first moves towards forming the Common Market 25 years ago were part of an overall attempt to protect big business in Europe, which led also to the founding of NATO.

This was why the CIA gave massive backing to the European Movement which is now funding much of the Yes campaign.

On Monday the Common Market ministers agreed to offer improved trade terms to Portugal and a better deal for her migrant workers in Europe 'on conditions'.

These conditions amount to an assurance that the pro-NATO, pro-big business parties are allowed to be dominant in Portugal.

The main campaigners for the Common Market are also the main campaigners for workers' restraint to pay for the crisis.

Heath's Yes campaign is just a follow-through of his campaign against the workers through Industrial Relations Act, his Rent Act and all the other attacks made when he was Prime Minister.

Alongside him is Jenkins, who keeps the Shrewsbury pickets in jail, and Prentice, who is preparing huge education cuts.

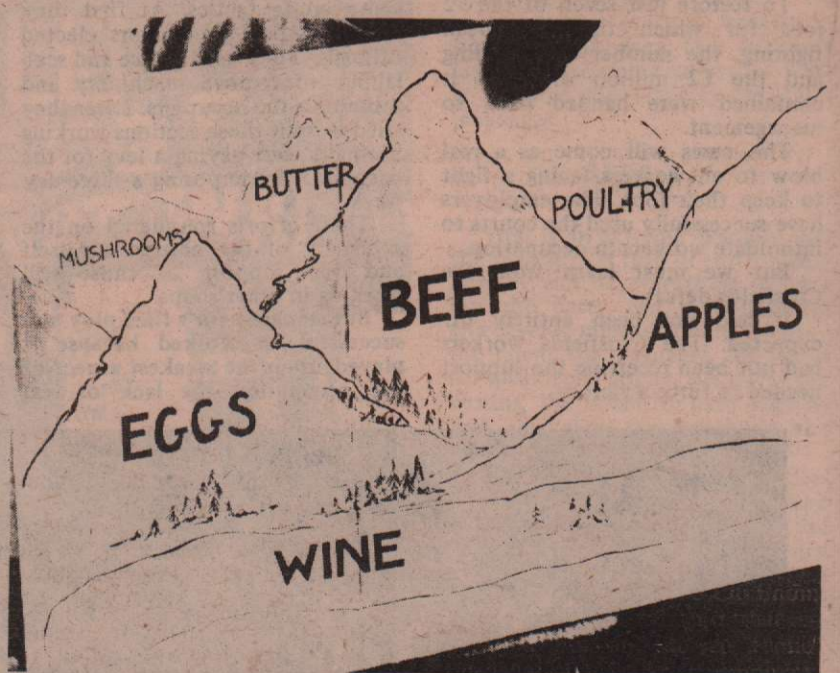
These people have formed an

alliance to campaign for the Common Market. It is an alliance that has the backing of every major daily paper of the whole of big business.

Already, many of its supporters are saying that if it wins a big Yes vote, then it should go on to become a formal government coalition that would impose right-wing policies all along the line.

Rank and file trade unionists must work over the next few days to defeat this line-up. In every factory there must be leaflets, posters and meetings designed to counter the bosses' pro-Market propaganda.

The alternative to rising unemployment, higher prices, and public sector cuts lies in fighting for a socialist Britain as part of a socialist Europe, not in backing the bosses' EEC.



VOTE  
**NO** TO  
COMMON MARKET  
SOCIAL CONTRACT  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
WILSON'S TORY  
POLICIES

### Socialist Worker meetings against the Common Market

**ALL LONDON**  
Tuesday 3 June  
7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 (Holborn tube). Speakers: Tony Cliff and members of European revolutionary organisations.

**KINGSTON, Surrey:** Thursday 29 May, 8pm, Kingston Library meeting room, Fairfield Road. Speaker: John Palmer.

**NORTH WEST LONDON:** Thursday 29 May, 8pm, Anson Hall, Anson Rd, NW2. Speakers: Chris Harman and international speakers.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Thursday 29 May, 8pm, Co-op Hall, Upper Tooting Road, Tooting (Tooting Bec tube). Speakers: Duncan Hallas and a member of a Danish revolutionary group. Admission 5p.

**BARNSELEY:** Tuesday 3 June, 8pm, Lecture hall, New Library, Shambles Street. Local speakers.

VOTE NO! posters available from Elana Dallas, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Phone 01-739 1878.

VOTE NO! leaflets available from Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Phone 01-739 8600. 15p per 100.

**W**e've proved that occupation is a powerful tactic. But the ideas about occupation don't come from nowhere. I think Socialist Worker has established the idea of occupation. Those of us here who read the paper have found out what other workers have been learning over the past couple of years.

Socialist Worker puts around the new ideas as the working class begins to learn them. In some ways it is the advertising of the working class. We have used some of the ideas here. And now we know that if it can happen here, it can happen anywhere.

Ken Payne, sheet metal workers' steward at the GEC Blackmans factory in North London where management backed down after a 36-hour occupation. REPORT: Page 14.



ABOVE: Occupying workers at MASSEY FERGUSON, Coventry, preventing white collar staff from entering the factory. There's strength in numbers—even the courts hesitate to challenge such mass pickets.

# Occupation is a powerful tactic but support is crucial

## WHY CROSFIELDS WAS LOST

REPORT: Phil Marfleet PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report) and Angela Phillips (IFL)

AFTER a mass picket two weeks ago, a factory meeting reluctantly decided to call off the eight-week occupation at Crosfield Electronics, in North London. After the threat of court injunctions and bailiffs the workers accepted management's terms.

To restore just seven of the 32 jobs for which they had been fighting, the number one building and the £2 million of goods it contained were handed back to management.

The news will come as a real blow to all workers facing a fight to keep their jobs. The employers have successfully used the courts to intimidate workers in occupation.

But we must learn from the Crosfields defeat.

It had not been entirely unexpected. The Crosfields workers had not been receiving the support needed to force a victory.

The occupation cost the De La Rue Group an estimated £250,000 a week. In trying to break the workers' determination they tried some crude tactics. At first they tried to by-pass the workers' elected officials. They used police and scab labour to remove machinery and intimidate the occupiers. Later they tried to split those sections working normally, but paying a levy for the occupiers, by imposing a three-day week.

These efforts foundered on the solidarity of the occupation itself and the support of those still working in other shops.

But management's final ploy was successful. It worked because it played upon the weakest aspect of the occupation—the lack of real

rank and file links with other workers in the area and throughout the De La Rue combine, and the unwillingness of trade union officials to help create them.

During the eighth week, after a court wrangle, the workers were told to expect the police and bailiffs. They believed they were not strong enough to resist the courts, so they made the final deal with management.

The shop stewards' committee had fought hard to get the North London AUEW District Committee to call a picket. After delays a belated call was put out, appealing merely for factory delegations. Two hundred workers came.

Steward Bill Hayward was

critical: 'The road outside should have been packed. Much more should have been done in the official union machine. We know it takes time, but we had to fight even to get this.'

Some stewards argued that continued occupation was impossible because a much larger force was needed to counteract the court's threat. Real physical support from hundreds of local workers would have made the difference. In 1972 Crosfields workers were among the thousands who marched to help force the freeing of the five dockers jailed under the Industrial Relations Act at nearby Pentonville Prison. If a fraction of those workers had been at the Crosfields plant it would have been a different story.

Why were the rank and file links which can bring such support not built up? Well over £2000 was collected in local factories, but why was this help not translated into real support when it counted?

### Reasons

There are two reasons. Organisation at the factory was built on a strong rank and file basis, but this principle of workers' self-reliance was not extended to workers outside. The drawing in of financial support is only the first step. The occupation could have been the centre for a North London campaign to fight sackings. Regrettably suggestions along these lines were not taken up.

Mass support in picketing was called only when the occupation became threatened with isolation. The work to achieve really widespread support was never done.

Second, though Crosfields workers stressed their independence of the union machine, and refused to allow the occupation to be smothered by red tape and promises, shop stewards confined much of their effort to pressurising the local AUEW District Committee. Here, the Broad Left delegates who dominate the committee moved at a

snail's pace. Their efforts when they finally agreed to the mass picket were pathetic, the overall lack of support for a leading initiative was a disgrace.

In the disappointment of retreat stewards were also self-critical. Though commenting that 'it was the law of the land that defeated us,' they pointed out that their very presence in the factory had put them at odds with the courts for weeks.

### Slowness

A leading steward recognised the slowness with which they had moved for solidarity action inside De La Rue. 'We spent too much time inside. We didn't get out and about to other workers enough. And we put too much on the official machine. But we have saved at least some of our organisation inside the factory. We will know next time,' he said.

There will be a next time. There will be hundreds more 'next times' for thousands of workers. Within a week of the Crosfields events 300 workers had taken over the Keith Blackman factory less than three miles away. As the crisis heats up, occupation will prove a more and more effective weapon.

But especially when a company appears willing to sit it out, to engage in a 'war of attrition' with the workers, the lesson of Crosfields must be remembered. There is no substitute for the support of rank and file workers. Each workers' occupation must be made the centre of a campaign which will go out and draw in the support of other workers. Never depend for this solely on the efforts of unwilling trade union officials.

This support is the lifeline of any occupation. When the bosses call in their courts such support may be put to its best use. Steward Bill Hayward was right—the mass picket should have packed the street outside Crosfields. Would the bailiffs really have tested the patience of 2000 assembled members of the AUEW?

The lesson has been learned. Next time we must make it count.



Stewards inside the Magnesium Electron occupation, Manchester, receive a collection for the occupation made at the nearby Thermalite factory. Such rank and file support is the key to victory. The occupation becomes the secure base from which wider support can be campaigned for. As Paul Dickenson, AUEW convenor, told Socialist Worker: 'The way to win this struggle is to involve as many people as possible.'

# Building the Party

By COLIN SPARKS

THIS WEEKEND, the International Socialists are holding their annual conference. Worker-delegates from all over Britain will be coming together for five days to discuss their common problems. The theme of the conference is simple: the building of a revolutionary socialist party.

What does that mean? Why is it so important to us? The very word 'party' puts many workers' backs up. It conjures up all sorts of images, most of them unpleasant. The images arise from the two sorts of party which we have in the British working class movement at the moment.

The first, the Labour Party, brings to mind small ward meetings, collectors' cards and periodic bouts of activity designed to ensure the election of an ex-trade union official or bright young careerist to a position

of ease, affluence and impotence in Westminster.

The other is the Communist Party, which brings to mind either a series of very unsuccessful election campaigns or, if you are an older militant, a band of political Daleks following blindly every twist and turn from King Street and/or Moscow.

Our idea of a workers' party is different from both of these. We stand for a democratic organisation which can lead all of the fights of working people against capitalism—in the factories, in the offices, in the schools, on the housing estates.

There are good reasons why we need such a party. The first and most obvious is that there are deep divisions inside the working class. If it was just us and them, workers versus capitalists, we would have won years ago.

Everyone knows it is not that simple. Our side is divided all sorts of ways: by nation, by colour, by religion, by craft, by sex, even by age. The aim of a revolutionary party is to overcome all those divisions.

The ruling class have their small differences but they are united against us. They have a highly centralised machine of army, police, civil servants, courts, press and education. We need to oppose that with our own highly centralised organisation.

When the Labour government moved troops into Glasgow to scab on the dustmen's and electricians' disputes, the need for a united response was clearly shown. Every day the press and television poured out a stream of lies about health hazards

*It took an organisation, the International Socialists, to put the arguments against this*

*torrent of lies and to spread the real facts about that dispute throughout Britain.*

Though many workers gave support to the strikers, the case for solidarity collections was not put in thousands of factories—not because workers did not know about the situation, but because they only knew one side of the case or thought that the issue did not concern them.

It is the job of a workers' party to argue our side of the case up and down the country. To ensure there is a united response to a united offensive by the bosses.

The second major argument follows from the first. If we are to have a united response we must know the real situation, not just in our own workplaces but elsewhere.

The IS conference is a good example of this. Although IS is made up of people who broadly agree with certain policies, there are within IS real differences about the exact way we should act on particular questions. Different people in different industries have different experiences.

Only an organisation which brings them all together can have a real view of the situation as a whole. The conference is an example of that in action. Every aspect of IS policy will be discussed and democratic decisions will be taken as to exactly what policy we need in the coming year.

The fact that the organisation is democratic leads to the third argument. Debates do not go on merely at conferences. They are a part of the life of the organisation at every level.

## Best

Our members in a particular factory need to agree on the policy they are going to pursue at the next stewards' meeting. They can only be effective if they act together and therefore they need to work out a common policy by discussing their individual positions and ideas and working out what is best for the factory as a whole.

Because this debate goes on at every level and involves many different sorts of work, the party is forced to train specialists in particular areas.

For example, we believe we need to build links with workers in other countries. That means we have to overcome language barriers. We cannot expect every IS member in ICI to speak even two or three languages, so some comrades need to become specialists in particular languages.

## Weld

That is an extreme example, but the principle is true of other areas: nobody can be everything at once but the party can weld together and develop many different talents—the talent for languages, the talent for speaking in public, the talent for writing, the talent for hard negotiating, the talent for organising, the talent for collecting money.

The party can draw together workers from many areas and many specialities. So it is often called 'the memory of the class'. In the history of capitalism there have been many workers' struggles in many countries and we can learn valuable lessons from them.

*There are in IS, for example, comrades who played an active role in the 1926 General Strike. We can learn from the mistakes made then.*

Other traditions exist only in books and documents but we need to gather all of the rich experiences of the working class together. The party can generalise workers' struggles not just over areas, countries and industries, but also over time.

The basic idea which runs through all of these arguments is the same: united, acting together, we can be better, more effective than acting as isolated individuals. The job of getting rid of capitalism is the greatest task mankind has ever faced.

With a workers' party, we have a fighting chance. Without it, we have none.

## Now it's a battle for power

It's no longer just a fight over a wage claim now, it's a battle for power. We could run this bloody place ourselves without those bastards. Before I'll give in, I'll chain myself to the bloody railings.  
—A worker occupying Magnesium Elektron in Clifton, Manchester.

THE CLASSES are beginning to line up as though on a battlefield. The struggle, although fragmented, is becoming increasingly bitter. There is a growing audacity among workers, who latch onto a new technique as though they invented it.

The party's policy springs directly from the needs of the class revealed in the struggle against capitalism on a world scale. The party is mainly of the working class itself and able to provide a forum where the experience in struggle of the various sections of the class is discussed so that it may develop and modify its battle programme.

## Able

It needs to be able to link up the sections of the class through its membership, so that the activities in battle of the class will be decisive and not fragmented. It needs a party capable of moving into action swiftly and decisively as the need arises.

This means that at the base, which is entrenched in and sensitive to, the class, there must be the maximum discussion of ideas and experience. It must have a programme of action that has the fullest understanding and support of its membership.

It must have an elected leadership that enjoys the confidence of the membership and can call the membership into action knowing there will be no hesitation or question. A leadership able to impose the discipline of the party as a whole on its individual members. An informed and toughened membership able to give leadership and direction to its section of the class, although cut off from the main body of the class at times.

## Future

It must be clear that the party is not the blueprint of the future socialist society—the workers organised as the ruling class will fulfil that role—but an organ of the class created to fill the needs of the working class to enable it to combat capitalism and defeat it.

Maybe we shall have to settle for less than such a perfect instrument—theory is almost always modified by practice—nevertheless such is our aim. We are facing the most powerful ruling class the world has known.

One which has at its disposal resources other classes never dreamed of. A class which has drummed its ideology into us with our mother's milk and is prepared to starve two thirds of the world in its lust for power and position.

DAVE HALLSWORTH



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

# QUESTIONS ON THE CRISIS

By DUNCAN HALLAS



75p (plus postage) from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Also available from Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH, and bookshops. Bulk reductions for trade union branches, shop stewards' committees, trades councils, etc.—inquire Pluto Press. A Socialist Worker Publication.

STUART Holland, a theoretician of 'Bennery' and one of the back-room boys behind the Industry Bill, has resigned because he says the Bill is being 'gelded' in committee by an alliance of government ministers and Tory backbenchers.

Another sign of the waning influence of Wedgwood Benn in government circles. Another defeat for the 'left'. Or is it?

Suppose, for the sake of argument, that the cabinet 'lefts' got the upper hand and Benn's schemes were pushed through. Would they represent any sort of advance towards socialism?

## Bill

As was said last week, Benn wants more state intervention in industry and 'workers' participation' in management. He said in parliament, when introducing the Industry Bill:

*'We have got to make a fresh start. We have got to get investment up, and to get it up as soon as we can. If the market economy cannot or will not give us that investment we must make it direct.'*

# Isn't Bennery a step towards socialism?

Well there is nothing specifically socialist about that. There is not a businessman, there is not a Tory MP, there is not a TV pundit, who would disagree with the need to jack-up investment. Orthodox capitalist opinion is unanimously in favour of it.

Nor have they any objection at all to getting their hands on money from the state. Quite the reverse.

True, they want an absolute minimum of government interference—and there they do differ from Mr Benn—but they want the money.

The Stock Exchange is no longer a significant source of investment capital nowadays—less than two per cent of the total comes from it. The two significant sources are retained company profits and the state.

This is not only true in Britain. It is true in France, where 'planning agreements' of the type Benn wants between big-business and the state

have existed for 30 years (the French call it 'indicative planning').

It is true in West Germany, where 'workers-participation' in management of the type Benn advocates was established by law in the coal and steel industries a generation ago and more recently is being made general.

It is true in Italy where the state sector of industry is twice as big, proportionately, as in Britain.

## And

What is involved in all these cases, and in the case of the Industry Bill, are measures to prop up the system that, more than 50 years ago, Lenin called 'state-monopoly capitalism'.

The dispute between Benn and the CBI on this issue amounts to this. Benn wants to put the emphasis on the state aspect of state-monopoly capitalism, the CBI

want to put the emphasis on the monopoly aspect.

That is not to say that the dispute is not real. It is. But it is a dispute about how best to strengthen British capitalism in its struggle with rival capitalisms. It has nothing whatever to do with socialism.

As of now, Benn is losing out. But 'Bennery' will survive Benn.

Italy's massive 'public sector' has been developed during decades of continuous conservative government. The necessity for state intervention to keep capitalism afloat grows with every crisis.

There can be lurches in the opposite direction. The Heath government's Selsdon Man period—no lame ducks, the cold wind of competition and the weakest to the wall—was one such. But it did not last long.

Nor would a new 'Josephite' policy survive long if the Tories recaptured office. The costs to the capitalist class are far too high. British Leyland, Alfred Herbert, Fodens and Ferranti are too big a slice to be allowed to collapse.

But what about workers' participation? For Wedgwood Benn, more state intervention and more 'participation' are closely linked.

One of the objectives of the Industry Bill, he has said, 'is to extend industrial democracy in those (major) firms to make them more accountable and thus bring about the shift in the balance of power towards working people which we see as a prime necessity if our underlying problems are to be overcome.'

## Benn

On the strength of this and similar statements, Mr Benn has been invited to feature as the star speaker at the forthcoming conference of the Institute of Workers' Control!

But what he has in mind, as his speeches make clear, is at most the introduction of something like the German (and Danish) Co-Determination scheme, a scheme with a proven record of weakening independent working class action and so weakening the struggle for workers' control.

Incidentally, Benn has some strange bedfellows here. The EEC Commission, target of so much Bennite oratory, also propose the same plan.

To sum up, Benn does have a distinctive brand of politics, but hardly socialist politics. His basic assumption is that if British capitalism can be made more efficient, 'the problems we face' will be solved.

Strip away the left-wing rhetoric and that is what it comes to. And that is no answer at all to the problems facing workers here and throughout the world.

● What questions baffle you about the crisis? What arguments do you keep coming up against in your workplace? We'd like to know. Write to: CRISIS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 8DN.

# 5 FIFTH COLUMN



# The business connections of an 'impartial' editor...

A BILL called the Trade Union and Labour Relations Amendment Bill is causing a lot of unhappiness in Fleet Street. The bulk of the unhappiness is being felt by newspaper proprietors and editors.

Much ink is spilled in daily newspapers about the 'independence' of editors, about how they must remain free of sinister pressures. In practice they are as independent of their proprietors as a Dock Green police dog is of PC Dixon.

The Bill they are all worried about threatens editors with having to belong to the National Union of Journalists. Neither the government or the bulk of the leadership of the NUJ wishes to hold them to this. But the last NUJ conference has, as the supreme body of the union, insisted on it.

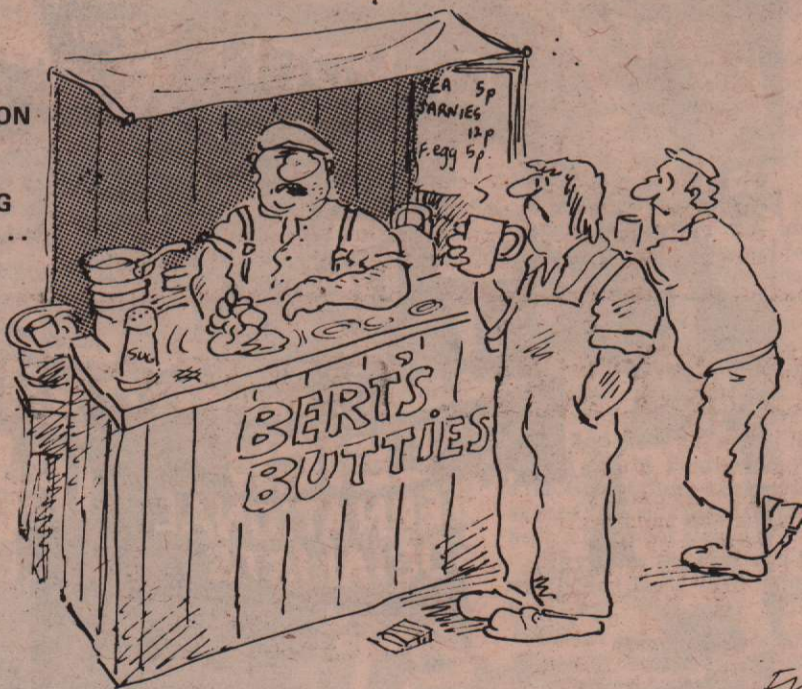
## Parlance

The reasoning is simple. The NUJ is tired of having editors working on during strikes—or scabbing as it is known in common trade union parlance.

Amongst the leading crusaders against this outrageous exercise in free trade unionism is Alastair Hetherington. He is editor of the Guardian newspaper, and has spoken out for the 'freedom' of editors, for their independence from all outside pressures.

Mr Hetherington's own position can hardly be said to be completely independent of those who own, and run, this society.

AS I SEE IT THE COMMON MARKET'S A GREAT CHALLENGE FOR VITAL THRUSTING BRITISH ENTERPRISE ...



Building workers may be interested to hear of 2587 shares in Richard Costain which Mr Hetherington possesses. Sir Ralph Bateman president of the Confederation of British Industry will doubtless be gratified to know of Hetherington's confidence in his company. Turner and Newall, who produce asbestos and asbestosis. The

worthy editor has 599 shares. Dockers fighting containerisation will also be interested by the involvement of Hetherington in their struggles. He has 350 shares in Crane Fruehauf, who make containers and trailers. Not to mention workers in the Woolwich area made redundant by Arnold Weinstock's General Electric Company. Hetherington's shareholding in GEC is 2686 ...

And you don't have to live in Britain to know that Hetherington has an interest in you. West Indians working for Booker McConnell, who have a long and proud record of gross exploitation in that area should know that they are also doing their bit for Mr H, since he has 800 shares in that company too.

What does it all prove? That when the talk is of freedom, independence, and the press then the cash-till, that key to all our freedoms is never far away. Hetherington is no worse, and better than some other 'defenders of freedom'.



# Jack Jones, RTZ and Britain's 'civilising mission'

THE latest instalment in the long running scandal of Rio Tinto Zinc's exploitation of people and resources in Papua New Guinea has involved the company in a brutal attempt to suppress its Bougainville mineworkers.

Workers protesting over pay and conditions and the sacking of a union representative had the police let loose on them after they occupied the mine. Teargas was used to quell what the company naturally described as a riot.

Seven hundred and fifty workers were herded into a detention compound. The mine was temporarily closed down and the management promised that all workers convicted of offences in court would also be sacked.

Rio Tinto's chairman Sir Val

Duncan does everything he can to cultivate a better image for his company than the Bougainville events provide.

Indeed the good of the country is a theme that Sir Val has come across several times in the last year at a number of secret meetings he has staged with top trade unionists.

Among those he has had along are Len Murray, David Basnett, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon. Together they seek for ways to assist Sir Val to 'solve' the crisis.

Together, for politeness sake you understand, they forget about what goes on at Bougainville, in Namibia or Avonmouth. It's known as sinking your differences, trying to find a middle way. It stinks.

# THE POOR MAN'S TORIES

JEREMY THORPE has been addressing meetings of Tory industrialists. His message: 'there are two private enterprise parties' so why don't they cough up for the Liberals? With his own recent experience on the board of London and County Securities (£4000 a year) now being investigated by the Fraud Squad, and his directorships of five other companies, he was doubtless given a sympathetic hearing.

He needed it. The Liberals have been short of cash for some time—especially since their millionaire ex-clergyman backer Lord Beaumont has cancelled his £1000 a month donation to the Party.

It isn't all black for the Liberals—the party that's independent of the big battalions of society. Playboy Club director and part-time Liberal MP Clement Freud is charging £250 a time for afterdinner speeches. Doubtless he swells the Party's funds with this ...

# Ford flies in -and Franco lays out a blood-red carpet

FRANCO'S government, due this week to greet President Ford for an official visit, has launched another wave of repression in the Basque country of Northern Spain.

A 'state of exception'—martial law—has been imposed with house arrests, police road blocks on the exits from the towns, and up to 3000 people arrested and herded into bull-rings.

There have also been dozens of killings by the police and right wing forces. Last weekend, for instance, one of a group of students singing Basque songs was grabbed by the Civil Guards, pulled into their barracks and shot.

Other killings have been carried out by armed groups of right wingers, who have been able to operate without any hindrance from the authorities. Indeed, it is likely that many are off-duty police.

The Basque region has been the centre

## SPANISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

Demonstrate against repression in Spain. Support the Basque and Spanish workers.  
Saturday 14 June, 2pm, from Hyde Park to the Spanish Embassy.

of the most militant and widespread opposition to the Franco regime. Most of its three million inhabitants speak Basque, but Spanish is imposed as the official language, so leaving the population in a position of inferiority whenever they come into contact with officialdom.

For a long time, there has been strong Basque nationalist feeling in the area, which has meant considerable popularity for the guerrilla organisation, ETA, which has bombed police stations and the buildings of the state-run 'unions', and shot members of the political police.

But in recent years, sections of ETA have come to see that their fight is not merely a nationalist one, but a class one.

At the Burgos trial of 16 ETA militants in 1970, the defendants cried: 'Long live the Spanish working class.' ETA has since split, with the ETA VI section merging with various revolutionary groups.

The militancy of the working class in the area was shown on 11 December last year, when 200,000 people joined a one-day general strike in solidarity with political prisoners.

## Calls

The first two months of this year saw the biggest wave of working class struggle known by Spain since the civil war. In the industrial cities throughout the country, workers were able, briefly, to seize for themselves the right to hold mass meetings and elect their own representatives.

The movement could have finished the Franco regime had there been a revolutionary party capable of co-ordinating the efforts of thousands of militants.

Instead, the leaders of the main workers' party, the Communist Party, restricted itself to calls for peaceful one-day actions and to statements that there need be no violence in the overthrow of fascism.

But Franco's state machine is based upon systematic violence against the working class and the national minorities. Its torturers, secret police and right wing officers, are not going to simply let power be taken from them.

## Power

There are rumours that Franco may soon retire. Perhaps he will be replaced by someone more able to speak liberal platitudes.

But the fascist thugs who run the state machine are not going to allow this to happen peacefully unless they have guarantees that their own power to repress the workers will be left untouched.

That is why revolutionaries in Spain are insisting that what matters is not this or that change at the top of Spanish society, but a mobilisation of the workers' movement to smash completely the apparatus of repression built up in the years of fascism.

And that cannot be done without a confrontation—involving the use of force—with those at present enforcing a reign of terror on the Basque country.



PICKETS outside the Royal Aero Club in London last week before a dinner for Chile's Navy Day. The pickets were protesting at the plight of a group of Chilean sailors who were

thrown into prison and tortured by their officers during the last weeks of Allende's rule. The sailors had protested at plans for the impending military coup. Allende refused to heed their

warnings and continued to placate the officers while the sailors rotted in jail, where they remain to this day, Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)

# Portuguese crisis deepens

THE Portuguese revolution is now in a crucial phase and could face serious dangers.

The last weeks have been marked by bitter rows between the two biggest parties within the working class, the Socialist Party and the Communist Party, and by deepening divisions within the Armed Forces Movement that controls the country.

At the same time, the economic crisis is getting worse, with unemployment expected to rise to half a million in the next few weeks—a figure that would be equivalent to more than three million in Britain.

The row between the Socialist Party and the Communist Party leaders is over who should have influence in certain key sections of the state machine and the media. Over the last 13 months, the CP has been able to build up strong positions in local government, the unions, the radio and a number of newspapers.

## Rows

The SP, under pressure from its western backers, is trying to dislodge the CP from these, and the CP is fighting back, trying further to build up its own power by bureaucratic means.

These rows are dividing the working class from top to bottom. But neither party can present a solution to the essential problems facing workers. The Socialist Party cannot offer any answer to the economic

crisis, because of the pro-NATO, pro-western attitudes of its leaders.

And the CP is still annoying large numbers of workers with its bureaucratic approach, which means that while it tries to strengthen its own positions at the top of the state machine it still opposes many strikes and harps on about the need for everyone to work harder.

The dispute over the daily paper *Republica* highlighted these divisions last week. Printworkers on the paper—some in the CP, but some aligned with the revolutionary left—objected to the way it was increasingly an organ of the SP.

They refused to print it and the editor denounced their attitude as an 'attack on freedom'—although he himself, as minister of information, introduced a press law which led last summer to fines and suspensions of a number of papers, including *Republica* itself.

The outcome was a bitter demonstration against the printers, with crowds chanting 'death to the Communists'.

The middle class is moving to the right under the impact of the crisis. It sees its privileges threatened and is taking advantage of the SP's attacks on the CP to mobilise.

The growing political fragmentation is reflected within the Armed Forces Movement. There are now four different tendencies within it: a right wing around Fabiao; a centre group around Coutinho, Antunes and

Jesuino, who want to form an MFA political party which will take support from both the SP and the CP; a group around the prime minister Goncalves who want to back the CP's efforts to gain control of bureaucratic positions; and a group around Otelo de Carvalho who say they are to the left of the CP.

There is little doubt that the splits within the working class are giving new heart to the right wing, whose strength is likely to grow as unemployment demoralises growing numbers of workers. But these splits will not be overcome merely by discussions between the Communist Party and Socialist Party leaderships.

## Directs

A movement at the rank and file level is needed that not only unites workers belonging to different parties, but also directs their energies towards a complete, revolutionary reorganisation of Portuguese society.

The problem is that there is no powerful revolutionary party capable of taking the initiative in developing such a movement. There are many revolutionaries in Portugal, but they are divided into competing organisations.

The best hope for the Portuguese revolution seems to lie with the movement for rank and file revolutionary councils, which was initiated by one of the revolutionary organisations, the PRP.

The workers' committee at the

Setnave shipyard has transformed itself into a revolutionary council and efforts in this direction are now being made in 40 army units.

If some such movement spreads, the Portuguese working class can move forward to establish its complete control over society. Otherwise a bloody attempt by the old ruling class to turn the clock back can be expected in the near future.



The International Socialists will be holding an important series of meetings on the Revolution in Portugal between 10 and 18 June. The main speaker will be a Portuguese soldier who is centrally involved in attempts to set up revolutionary councils uniting rank and file workers in industry and agriculture with soldiers and sailors. Meetings fixed so far:

Wednesday 11 June  
MANCHESTER  
Thursday 12 June  
LIVERPOOL  
Sunday 15 June  
LONDON

Monday 16 June  
COVENTRY  
Tuesday 17 June  
BIRMINGHAM  
Wednesday 18 June  
GLASGOW

Dates for others will be announced later as will details of meeting rooms and meeting times. Every reader of Socialist Worker should keep one of the dates free and get along to the nearest meeting.

# Profits: How to beat the bosses' mumbo jumbo

BUSINESSMEN work hard to cloak their activities with lies and half truths. They desperately need to pretend that their system, profits and finance can only be understood by experts.

And to ensure that real knowledge remains within the magic circle and so makes mere workers feel inferior, they surround the reality of their operations with a seemingly impenetrable mumbo-jumbo.

The task of cutting this rubbish away is an important one. For this reason alone, Christopher Hird's new book *Your Employers' Profits* is an invaluable publication.

*He writes: 'There is nothing mysterious or magical about understanding accounts, or knowing where to find financial information.'*

The crucial sections of the book are those which splendidly illustrate what a company's profits really are. When asked to discover this, many comrades point triumphantly to the profits before tax figure.

Such a reply is not only factually incorrect but betrays a woeful misunderstanding of one of the most essential marxist concepts.

by ALAN DENEAN  
who runs the Socialist Worker Information Service

Surplus value is not some abstract theory. It represents the key to understanding the degree and nature of capitalist exploitation. Without such an understanding workers remain deprived of any real conception of just how massively they are screwed by the profit system.

To find the 'true surplus' or 'total profit', certain deducted items must be added to pre-tax profits.

These include interest payments, depreciation plant hire charges, losses on currency or commodity speculation and directors' salaries.

These have all been taken out before the pre-tax profit figure is arrived at. This wealth represents no more than a transfer of thousands of pounds from one group of capitalists to another.

This book is a practical tool for workers in struggle. A measure of how good it is lies in the simple way that socialist ideas are put over.

When marxist ideas are explained in such factual, concrete real living ways to workers on a picket line, we have the opportunity of taking our politics out of the realm of abstract theories which provoke little response.

## Data

We can make them into data that all of us can deal with, data which has a remarkably rapid effect on the level of political awareness and militancy.

It is an urgent battle. For we face them at every corner of our lives. At one end of the scale, there are employers such as Stewart Plastics who are now fighting savagely to prevent workers winning union recognition.

Over the last five years average weekly wages have risen by 49 per cent to a princely £28.69 a week, while total profits per worker have gone up by 146 per cent.

Then there are the big monopolies, such as London Rubber, who control 90 per cent of the sheath contraception market and whose average return on capital invested was 135 per cent between 1969 and 1973!

For them, every standard packet of three represents 43 per cent profit. Which is why they are determined to defeat the predominantly Asian workers now on strike.

After all, if they win, the bosses and shareholders can expand their remorseless exploitation of labour and continue their lives of luxury.

The present crisis will give all employers the chance to stage brutal attacks on workers' wages and living standards.

To fight back effectively, to move onto the offensive and eventually win, we need to know where and how to get the ammunition.

In a real sense, Chris Hird's book, like *The Hazards of Work*, shows us how to forge the bullets.

Buy it, read it, sell it—and, above all, use it. It would be nothing short of a tragedy if the book was left to decorate bookshops.



# Chrysler: Facts behind

by PETER BAIN, TGWU steward,

IT'S only three months since many socialists and financial journalists were saying that the Chrysler Corporation had decided to pull out of Britain.

At that time, the company's surplus UK assembly capacity, the absence of any new model, and the world economic recession pointed in the direction of Chrysler's departure as soon as possible.

The current dispute at the Stoke engine plant has led to the theory that the whole affair is a manoeuvre by Chrysler to justify withdrawal from this country.

This now seems unlikely in the near future. So what has changed?

First although Chrysler's 'attrition' policy succeeded in sickening workers into leaving voluntarily—and 1200 hourly paid workers have left the Linwood plant since August 1974—any attempt to run down the operations through large-scale redundancies would have met with resistance from the workers.

Secondly, late in 1974, Chrysler UK got an order from Iran for 10,000 Avengers, followed early in 1975 by an order for another 10,000 plus 10,000 CKD cases (completely knocked down imports to be assembled in Iran).

At a conservative estimate, this order was worth £25 million

to Chrysler. Their cash flow problems made it necessary for them to grab anything they could get their hands on.

The company have since stated that if the current Iran order is completed in time (July 1975), then they stand a good chance of getting a further order for 150,000 to 200,000 Avenger

units in the world

ing market—the M. Since the mach and experienced essential for such a available in Brita Avenger is cu Chrysler have lit to placing the on British plants.

## OF COURSE IT'S POLITICAL, WILSON

by GERRY JONES, TGWU steward, Chrysler Stoke

OUR second plant-wide strike at Chrysler Stoke for over 20 years has merited national press coverage and advice from the Rt Hon Harold Wilson himself.

Wilson tells us that the strike is politically motivated. The press tells us that our objective is to get Chrysler to putt out of Britain. We really have to pinch ourselves to remember what it is we are after—an offer of £8 as a basis for discussion. Clearly, there is something

in what Wilson sa Bob Morris's statemen strike is not politica for a decent standar and security of jobs. Wilson sees his mai backing up the em their attempt to cut o of living and carry sackings.

What was ten y purely economic stru a political struggle. T ing crisis in the sy their making.



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Christopher Hird

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## Socialist Worker Information Service

MAYBE you need to know more about your firm, its profits, its directors. PERHAPS you're worried about the chemicals you work with.

Then get in touch with the Socialist Worker Information Service and we'll try to help.

Write to Alan Denean,  
SWIS, Corbridge Works,  
Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



# Huge jump in unemployment for Britain's black workers

UNEMPLOYMENT among black workers is nearly twice as high as among white workers. That situation will get worse as the figures climb rapidly to the million mark.

The latest show that the old pattern of unemployment in Britain, in which the areas of big immigrant population have been virtually free from heavy unemployment is changing. Now the figures show huge jumps in unemployment in precisely those areas: Birmingham and the West Midlands, Central Lancashire, the East Midlands, even London.

Heavy unemployment among blacks will increase the strain on trade union organisation for all workers. Racialists come out of their holes and shout for Blacks Out First, or for deportation of unemployed black workers.

A recent Runnymede Trust report on unemployment in Walsall showed that racial differences are not used solely by employers to divide workers on the shop floor. 'Commonly,' the report says, 'it was toolroom and pattern shops which were all white.' Racial divisions on the shop floor mean weaker trade unions all over the factory. All experience proves that.

## Fascism

Resistance to racialism is becoming a central part of the work of all shop floor militants. That's why the Rank and File Conference called to co-ordinate the work against racialism, discrimination and fascism on the shop floor is so crucial.

This is not a conference just for black workers. White workers confronted with racialism on the shop floor will find the conference just as rewarding as black workers.

Applications for delegations are coming in from all over the country. Hammersmith hospital NUPE branch have added their name to the list of sponsors.

Among the applications for delegations is one from the AUEW branch at Hamstead, Birmingham; another from the Coventry No 9 TGWU branch and three from NUT branches.

## Speak

The conference hopes to invite members of the strike committees in recent strikes of black workers to speak. Invitations have gone out to stewards at Delta Mouldings (Leicester), Leeds buses, Rubber Regenerators (Manchester) and London Rubber.

The conference is on 14 June. There is plenty of time to get delegations—from the Rank and File Organising Committee secretary at 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

Get your applications in now. The conference could prove a crucial organising base for a real attack on racialism on the shop-floor.

## BUT WE KNOW HOW TO FIGHT IT



Intex strikers occupying the Bradford HQ of their union, the Dyers and Bleachers



Some of the 800 Asian workers who struck at Imperial Type-writers, Leicester, last summer.



Picket line at Art Castings, Coventry

PICTURES: John Sturrock and Chris Davies (Report)

BELOW: Two Chrysler stewards question drivers to discover, too late, that crates carrying knocked-down cars for Iran, part of a 10,000 car order, have been shipped out from the Chrysler Stoke factory and loaded since the strike started. Extra pressure had been brought to bear on transport firms to move the crates. One of the strongest criticisms of the Chrysler strike leadership is that proper picketing has not been organised. With 3000 workers voting for the strike to go on (LEFT), the militancy was there to man the pickets. PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report).



# the strike

## Chrysler Linwood

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Since the company definitely wanted the Iran order, and since it could only be carried out here, they appear to have decided that they might as well make the most of the situation.

Chrysler have now stated that if the government makes £35 million available, then they will use the spare assembly capacity in Britain which the Iran contract wouldn't affect.

Since there is little prospect of a breakthrough in the European market, the rumour that the new model would be aimed at the US could have more than a glimmer of truth in it.

Chrysler's proposals for 'worker participation' should be seen against this background. They represent an attempt to involve the union in planning how best to ensure Chrysler's profits in a period when the company feel that they will probably need industrial peace.

At the same time, Chrysler hope to get the union's agreement to establish a national joint

negotiating committee along the lines of Fords and Vauxhall. This body would be dominated by full-time trade union officials who would negotiate for all Chrysler UK workers.

Compulsory arbitration is another of the company's proposals.

Either Chrysler plan something along the lines above or it is indeed a subtle ploy to pull out of Britain in the near future. Last Friday's pay offer seems to confirm that the withdrawal plans have been shelved for the time being.

## Ryton

The Stoke issue appears to be the result of yet another miscalculation by Chrysler of how their workers would react, and not a deliberate provocation.

The Ryton 'shoddy work' dispute in June 1973 and the Linwood strike over Chrysler's plans for scabs to do the work of striking electricians in September 1973 are other examples of the company's inability to assess the workers' reaction.

At Stoke, they obviously

thought the strike threat was bluff.

As a result, they've worked themselves into a hole which they'll have to pay dearly to get out of.

Our position is clear. We are for a combine committee under the control of shop stewards which meets regularly and when common problems, local disputes and so on make a meeting necessary. We are opposed to a full-time national joint negotiating committee and any form of arbitration.

We are for wage increases to improve our standard of living. We recognise that the Stoke strike is a fight which will benefit the entire UK workforce and fully support the workers there.

We are for the implementation of the official policies of the Engineering Workers' Union, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Linwood strike shop stewards for the nationalisation of the car industry. We say that if ever there was a time to insist that this policy was turned into a reality, then it's right now.

**Against racialism and discrimination in the workplace, the union and the community.**

The Rank and File Conference Organising Committee invites all trade unionists to a conference on racialism. Saturday 14 June, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

Credentials and details from Roger Cox, Secretary, Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London, NW10.

# WHAT'S ON

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

## IS public meetings

**BRISTOL IS public meeting:** The Workers' Struggle in Portugal. Speaker: Chris Harman (who visited Lisbon last month). Thursday 12 June, 8pm, Shepherds Hall, Old Market. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.

**NOISS (National Organisation of IS Societies) Day School on Women.** Sessions on Women and the Family, the Women's Liberation Movement, and Abortion. Thurs 19 June, 10am, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC2 (near Aldwych). Organised by LSE IS Society. Further details and registration from L German, c/o LSE Students Union.

**NOISS Day School: Prospects for Revolution Today—The Third World, Eastern Europe, The Prospects for Britain.** Friday 20 June, 10am, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC1 (near Aldwych). Organised by LSE IS Society. Further details and registration from Jim Montgomery, c/o LSE Students Union.

**CELEBRATION DAY for the anniversary of the 1905 Revolution in Russia:** Saturday 14 June. North West London IS presents the film *BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN* (4.30pm) and Tony Cliff speaking in *THE LESSONS OF 1905 FOR REVOLUTIONARIES TODAY*, followed by disco dance and bar. Tickets and further details from P Naylor, 81a Minute Avenue, London NW10. Watch this space for details of place.

**WALTHAMSTOW IS DISCO:** Friday 30 June, 8.00pm. The Three Blackbirds, Leyton High Road, E10. Buses: 269, 69. Bar extension. All welcome.

For IS meetings on the Common Market, see page 3 this week.

## Meetings for IS members

**IS TGWU members' national fraction meeting:** Saturday 7 June, 1.30pm-5.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham (lecture room 5).

**IS YOUNG WORKERS CONFERENCE** (for IS members and close contacts only). Weekend 7-8 June. UMIST Students Union, Granby Row, Manchester. Five minutes from Manchester Piccadilly Station. Saturday 2pm-6pm. Debate on draft IS young workers pamphlet. Saturday evening: Social at The Maypole, Ford Lane, Salford. Disco and socialist theatre group. (Conference fee of 60p will cover entrance to social and food). Sunday 2pm-5pm: Which way forward for IS among young workers?

All districts and branches should make sure that young worker members and close contacts can attend by paying their fares and conference fee. Accommodation in Manchester is being arranged by the IS District and can be booked by writing to Laurie Flynn, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**IS ITALY GROUP Day School:** Saturday 14 June, 11am-5pm, North London Polytechnic. Further details from Mike Balfour phone 06284 2671.

**IS SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** Eight schools for IS members are to be held in July and August. Sessions on Revolutionary prospects in south Europe, What's happening to the Labour Party?, The capitalist crisis: what next? and Building IS. NORTH LONDON 12/13 July, SOUTH LONDON 19/20 July, SOUTH WALES (Cardiff) 2/3 August, SCOTLAND (Glasgow) 9/10 August, NORTH WEST (Manchester) 16/17 August. Dates not yet fixed for YORKSHIRE, MIDLANDS and the 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 8DN.

**IS TASS Fraction: National Meeting,** Saturday 7 June, 11am-5pm, IS Bookshop, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry. All members to attend.

**IS STUDENT SUMMER SCHOOLS:** Glasgow, Manchester, Sheffield, Coventry, and London. Sessions on Traditions of the communist movement, Politics of IS, Building the Party. Trends in the student movement, Practical training. Details have been sent to student convenors. Registration as soon as possible please.

## IS notices

IS needs a fast, accurate typist for an administrative position. IS members only. Phone Mel Norris, 01-739 1870/8.

**THE BATTLER,** Australia's revolutionary monthly paper produced by the Socialist Workers' Action Group. For subscription and more information, write to Geoff Goldhar, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

**WORKERS' ACTION,** monthly paper of the Canadian IS. 15 May issue now available. £2.40 for 12 issues, £1.20 for six (airmail). to Box C, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. For sample copy, send 10p in stamps to Jeff Jackson, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

**PORTUGAL FACTSHEET no 1:** On the struggle of textile workers in Portugal, many of who work for British firms—Coats Paton, ICI, Singers, Smith and Nephew, Courtaulds, K O Boardman. Use the factsheet to win solidarity among British textile workers. For copies, send stamped addressed envelope to IS Portugal Group, c/o Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

**PORTUGAL:** Draft resolution of solidarity with the workers of Portugal, and lists of British companies and their Portuguese subsidiaries—send stamped addressed envelope to IS Portugal Group, c/o Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

# Paisley threatens UDI by loyalists

by Eamonn McCann

A RHODESIA-type UDI by Northern Ireland loyalists with Catholics either driven out or denied all political rights—that was the thinly veiled threat from Ian Paisley on Monday.

Paisley was commenting on the statement by the Rev William

Arlow, one of the clergymen who negotiated the IRA ceasefire, that British troops would be withdrawn if the Constitutional Convention breaks down.

Such a sequence of events is possible, but in the scenario envisaged by Mr Arlow—and he claimed to have high British government sources—it would amount not to withdrawal but to an Ulsterisation of the conflict: a repeat of the Vietnamisation tactic which enabled the Pentagon to fight on in Indochina for two years after the United States had in theory withdrawn.

In arguing for the withdrawal of the army, British socialists should remember that by far the largest British army unit in Ireland is the Ulster Defence Regiment, the 8,000-strong, part-time force which is organised as a fully-fledged regiment.

The UDR is, in effect, better armed B-Specials and cannot be 'withdrawn' in any conventional sense. In his interview on Irish Radio, Mr Arlow said that a British withdrawal would lead to civil war. Possibly so—but it would be a civil war between the two communities, one armed by the British, the other disarmed.

Socialists must see to it that the growing calls for 'Troops Out!' refer not simply to getting 'our lads' out of the firing line, but to the concession of the right of the Irish people as a whole to determine their own future. And that means, at a minimum, the disarming and standing down of those forces which would enable the most right-wing elements in the British establishment to continue their war against the Irish people at long range.



Some of the delegates at last weekend's Troops Out Movement conference  
Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

# The message is clear:

# Get the troops out of Ireland!

by Socialist Worker reporter

'THE Irish problem began over eight centuries ago, when England invaded Ireland and established its first colony,' began the resolution.

'It's all there in the first sentence', Michael Knowles of Hackney Trades Council told last Saturday's Labour Conference on Ireland organised by the Troops Out Movement. He was one of the delegates from more than 30 trades councils, 80 union branches and 70 student unions who packed London's Collegiate Theatre for the biggest delegate conference of the labour movement on Ireland since the war.

The message was clear: the British government has no right to any military or political presence in Ireland. The first step to any solution to the Irish problem—which, as Michael Mullen of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union pointed out in his address to the conference, should more correctly be called a British problem—is the immediate withdrawal of British troops and the recognition of the right of the Irish people to run their own affairs.

Mervyn Metcalf, a TASS mem-

ber and a delegate from Coventry Trades Council, stressed the difficulties of getting this understood in the working class movement: 'The day-to-day struggle is not just economic and political, but ideological too. Ruling class ideas permeate our class.'

'We have to challenge the chauvinism which leads workers to believe that the government has some role to play in Ireland. We have to challenge the reformism of the Bill of Rights.'

This idea—that the Labour government, or any British government could guarantee democracy in the North of Ireland—was totally rejected in the resolution passed by the conference.

In the discussion on this rather long-winded resolution, John Glen of the Glasgow Corporation Electrical Workshops Committee gave some details of their experience with the troops as strike-breakers. He emphasised that as the ruling class used greater repression against militants in this country they could more easily see the

connections with the Irish struggle. He successfully moved an amendment to the resolution to draw this link, calling for action against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, opposition to army recruitment and to the use of troops in industrial disputes.

The conference gave full support to the Troops Out Movement's two central demands: troops out now and self-determination for the Irish people.

## Bigotry

However Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, who was one of the platform speakers, put forward a different perspective. The blame for the present situation, he said, lay with the Unionist Alliance. He castigated Paisley, Craig and West for their bigotry and for holding the North in the 17th-century.

But while he called on the Labour government to break with bi-partisanship and force them to change their tune, he nowhere suggested that the British ruling class has fostered the bigotry when

it suited them. Indeed, he stated that the British presence and influence were in general 'benevolent'

The job of the Troops Out Movement, and particularly of working-class socialists within it, is to win support for a clean and radical break with traditional ruling-class policy. The trade union affiliation to Troops Out and the growing support for its demands must be organised, possibly through local delegate conferences, as well as through the pickets, demonstration and rally agreed at last week's conference.

In the deepening crisis in Ireland, where the Convention will be lucky to survive the prescribed six months, the work of the Troops Out Movement in the labour movement could have a real effect. The right-wing Loyalists will depend on British military and economic support to reinstate their supremacy in a new Loyalist state. If the labour movement can force the withdrawal of that support then the Loyalists' plans can be frustrated.

The British labour movement cannot stand idly by while our Irish brothers and sisters are threatened with another round of even more brutal and bloody reaction.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Trade Union \_\_\_\_\_



# LETTERS

Send your letters to: LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Carbridge Works, Carbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Let us have your name and address, but specify if you don't want your name published. Please try to keep letters to not more than 250 words.

## Stonehouse: I handed over £350

I READ last week's article about Stonehouse and the Bangladesh Relief Fund with interest. I used to live in 45B Whitechapel Road, London E1, during the liberation struggle of my country, Bangladesh.

I collected about £350 from my friends who lived in the same house. Then I went to see Mr A S Chowdury, a senior judge in Bangladesh who was a trustee for the Bangladesh Relief Fund. I handed over the £350 for my people.

Mr Chowdury suggested I should pass on the money to Mr M A Bhuy, an official of the Bangladesh steering committee for collecting relief funds. Mr Bhuy gave me the receipts for my collection. This all happened at the offices of the Bangladesh Relief Committee, 11 Goring Street, London W1.

I was shocked to read in your issue last week that no money at all was transferred from the Goring Street committee to the Bangladesh Fund. What happened to our money?—S CHOWDHURY, 32 Rampart Street, London E1.



JOHN STONEHOUSE  
... money man?

## AUEW: NO WONDER BOYD IS SMILING

WE FULLY agree with the main points expressed in last week's Socialist Worker on the subject of postal ballots in the AUEW. But some important arguments were omitted.

The way the issue was handled at the rules revision conference was typical of the type of manoeuvre which allows the trade union movement to be exposed to slating from the gutter press and Tory MPs.

But these same people would, had it been a right wing policy, have applauded the decision as being in the interests of moderate thinking.

Branch ballots give every paid up member of the union an equal opportunity to vote. It is estimated that as many as 30 per cent of the membership do not even receive a postal ballot paper, and how many of those who do are in arrears?

The strategy of the right wing is clear. They would like branches done away with altogether. The check-off system, which they advocated, has virtually killed branch life.

What do they want? The union run by John Boyd from Peckham Road and the membership's only involvement the paying of money and the putting of a cross on a paper to elect officials for life?

No thanks, brothers, we don't want our great union to go the way of the EETPU. The only way to prevent this happening is to ensure full involvement of the rank and file, not only in the branch but in the factories as well.—LARRY CONNOLLY, AUEW convenor, ROGER GRIFFITHS, chairman AUEW, SSC, Lucas BW3, Birmingham.



TONY BENN  
... workers' man?

## BENN 'SHOULD BE SUPPORTED'

YOUR ARTICLE on Tony Benn (17 May) was as hostile as anything I've seen in the Tory press. Tony Benn is being viciously attacked by the right-wing press.

Why? Because his policies of workers' co-operatives and industrial democracy will spread the idea of total workers control. And because he is putting forward progressive policies that may result in the Labour Party actually implementing the socialist policies that its millions of members have consistently demanded at party conferences.

Now I am not sure what kind of socialist Tony Benn is, or if he is a socialist at all. However, while he is pressing for policies that could strengthen the Left, I feel he should get as much support as possible from socialist newspapers.

I have a lot of respect for the International Socialists, who work hard for socialism, but big business is not worried about a few thousand people expending a lot of energy.

They are, however, extremely worried that the mass working class organisation, the Labour Party, and the trade union movement with

hundreds of thousands of active workers and millions of members, will come under democratic and socialist control.

This is why the Tory press spends a lot of time and effort in attacking Benn.—DAVID FINCHAM, London N22.

### Sovereignty

I RECENTLY heard Tony Benn speak in Bristol on the issue of national sovereignty. If we stay in the Common Market, he said, the power of Westminster would be passed over to non-elected bureaucrats in Brussels.

But this is not the question. Whether power is in Westminster or Brussels, it will only be a facade for where the real power lies—in the hands of the bosses and the multinationals, over whom no government in any capitalist state can have any real control.

Benn talked as if every adult has always had the right to vote. We haven't. It was because the working class fought for it.

If they hadn't fought during the 19th century, Britain would be even less democratic than it is.

Before 1832, only one in ten people had the vote, and they were not the workers! In that year there were riots in Bath and Derby, and a three-day battle with troops in Bristol.

So the vote was extended, not to the workers who had fought, but to the middle class.

The Chartists, probably the most famous working class movement, understood that the class that rules looks after its own interests. They felt that if they could get workers elected to Parliament they could, through them, improve their living conditions.

They put forward demands, and got smashed when they looked as if they were gaining too much support.

Today we find ourselves with the national sovereignty that the Chartists wanted. But their dreams have not been fulfilled. Real power still lies with the bosses in industry, not in Parliament.—DAVE JOSEPH, Bristol.

## The law and social security

HOURLY-PAID employees on the GEC Telecomms Installation work-site at Ferndown in Dorset were recently laid off without pay because of white-collar industrial action.

Three days later, I had a circular from my union, the EETPU, telling me I was eligible for unemployment benefit. I signed on and began receiving unemployment and supplementary benefit.

The same day I phoned the union head office and was told I had been 'laid off' as a temporary measure, in accordance with the 1972 Employment Act. This says that in contract work there is no minimum period of notice, and the employer can close the work-site down as a temporary measure and lay off staff without pay.

A temporary lay-off lasts between four and six weeks. After this, no staff would be eligible for redundancy pay, in accordance with the 1965 Redundancy Act, which says that if employment is ended by an industrial dispute, redundancy pay is sacrificed.

That was all several weeks ago. Last week I asked Social Security what would happen if the lay-off lasted more than six weeks. They told me they were not sure of the

procedure but that I was still employed by GEC.

As far as they were concerned, if the lay-off lasted more than six weeks it would be permanent and not temporary.

Has any reader got an answer concerning the legality of this? Those of us at GEC would be pleased to hear from others involved in similar work employed by STC, Plessey and Pye TMC.—RICHARD STERNE, Wimborne.

## NOW THEY MUST FIGHT

WE AUEW members are dismayed by the election of John Boyd as the general secretary of our union. We are also disgusted by the way he has used the millionaire press and TV to attack militants and left wingers in our union.

His build-up by the mass media should serve as a warning to all rank and file AUEW members concerned about the union's future.

The order of us remember the days of Lord Carron, Boyd and Conway. Then national settlements were a few shillings and pence, and the leadership sought to undermine rank and file influence.



JOHN BOYD  
... bosses' man?

## Redundancies

AUEW MEMBERS from 15 branches in Yorkshire recently attended a school in Leeds. At one of the sessions we discussed the fight against redundancies. The main problem at the moment is the fight against voluntary redundancies.

Those present at the school voted to take up the idea of the Speke Trade Union Committee, reported in Socialist Worker, that no worker accepting voluntary redundancy money should ever be employed in our factories.

To help enforce this, we will push for resolutions through branches and district committees to have anyone accepting voluntary redundancy expelled from the union on the grounds that they have acted against the interests of the union.

We hope trade unionists in other areas of the country will press for similar resolutions.—IS MEMBER, Leeds.

At the moment, most of the shop-floor haven't a clue who they are voting for.

They get misled by the propaganda of the Daily Express, who glorify careerists like Boyd, whose recent statements reek of corporatism, ie workers, management and government working for the 'common good of capitalism'—D LOUGHNEY, R BROWN, J McDOUGALL, A MIDDLEMASS, W KING, R HUTCHINSON, J Mc MORRIN, Parson Peebles, Edinburgh.

**THEATRE ROYAL**  
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## THE UNIONS

# The changing face of civil servants



Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

By a supporter of the rank and file group, Redder Tape

THE PRESS was full of the victories of the right wing at this year's conference of the Civil and Public Services Association, the biggest civil service union.

They rejoiced at the election as president of right-winger Kay Losinka, a supporter of Reg Prentice who was idolised by the Daily Express as 'Cockney Kate', the red-basher.

On the second day, however, the left retained its control on the executive by 16 votes to 10. Although runner-up figures have yet to be produced, the four candidates supported by our rank and file paper, Redder Tape, did very well indeed.

### Record

There were also a number of victories on policy. One resolution, which was passed 'overwhelmingly', ordered the executive to reproduce by means of branch circulars 'a record of all motions debated at NEC meetings together with a detailed record of the voting of individual NEC members on those motions'.

CPSA is probably the only union in the country with this valuable rule on its books. Other unions take note.

There were plenty of staged fights between Right and Left—notably in the debate on political contributions—which were voted down largely through the refusal of both sides to mention the Labour Party openly.

*But the main point about the conference is that after years of paternalism, the left wing has captured and maintained control.*

Considering the hysteria and the efficiency of the witch-hunt against 'Communists, International Socialists and their assorted Marxist allies', this victory is a considerable advance.

CPSA is the best-organised and, potentially, most powerful white-collar union in the country. It has 800 workplace branches (up to 9000 strong) organising around a single basic grade.

The government and the big private employers are becoming increasingly terrified by this situation. The civil service is a crucial part of their state machine. Loyalty to the



Picture: Chris Niles (Report)

## TIGHTENING THEIR BELTS?

DELEGATES to the recent APEX conference in Margate will remember the impassioned pleas for economies voiced by the union's executive members and officials. They will also remember that it was extraordinarily difficult to track down the executive after hours.

Not surprising. General secretary Roy Grantham and his cronies were tucked away in the inaccessible Castlegate Hotel, some miles from the conference centre, and living it up at the members' expense.

The cost for the 12-man executive must have been something like £420 for accommodation alone.

## THE 'DUMB ONES'...

ANOTHER decision by a civil service trade union has worried the government and the press. The Society of Civil Servants' conference voted unanimously to instruct its executive 'to secure the abandonment of administration trainee of HEO (A) level of entry to and promotion within the civil service'.

It sounds harmless enough, but it enraged the Economist—because it threatens the system by which the mandarins of the civil service pick out their successors, cosset them and promote them over and above 'ordinary' trade union members.

Every year, the civil service selects some 200 university graduates with the highest possible qualifications—almost always top first class honours degrees. These

'high fliers' are carefully sifted, kept apart from humdrum grades and, after further examinations, plummeted into what the Economist calls 'Whitehall's fast track'.

Once there, rapid promotion to the top is ensured. All through this time, of course, they are heaped with privileges and higher pay.

This sort of elitism is crucial to class administration. The civil service must be kept close to the class, and that means finding out who the top people are and keeping them separate from ordinary people.

Or, as the Economist put it, 'there is no place for the dumb ones'. At Margate, the 'dumb ones' had their say. And, if the executive of the SCS moves as instructed, the 'high fliers' have had it. Good.

'values' of their society is crucial if they are to stay in control.

Until recently, they have always looked on the trade unions in the civil service as tame poodles of the government. That is changing, and the government will do their best to hit back.

For instance, in an attempt to 'swamp' the left, the Civil Service department agreed recently to allow union meetings in office hours.

### Crucial

They assumed turnout would rise, and the 'small, militant, left minority' would be outvoted. Turnout *did* go up—but usually when wages and other crucial matters were being discussed.

The result has been rather different to what the Civil Service mandarins hoped. Even the Economist (10 May) had to admit: 'The reverse for the left has been rather less severe than it might have been.'

The report went on: 'Leaders of the right-wing faction have held secret meetings with Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal, to see if it is possible to extend the system of meeting in office hours further. Lord Shepherd has, apparently, been highly sympathetic.'

### Afraid

When will they ever learn? The real left in the union is *not* afraid of big union meetings, or of union meetings in office hours. The more members who take part in union affairs, the better.

The more people who listen to the arguments, the more successful we'll be in organising a mass rank and file movement in the union around Redder Tape.

We underestimated the influence of Redder Tape at the conference. 200 Redder Tape badges were being worn by delegates within hours of being on sale.

Redder Tape supporters took the lead on three main issues in the union: union democracy, Whitleyism and pay research.

### Inactivity

We will continue to get stronger if we build around our programme in the rank and file—and react sensitively to the stronger Broad Left, now in command in the union.

Inactivity and manoeuvring by the Broad Left has to be attacked harder than ever—just as positive action from them against the hard Right backlash must be supported.

## Classified

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (3p a word) with copy to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

COUPLE SEEK shared accommodation. North London, for one year from September. Write Southern, 6 Summerhill Terrace Newcastle upon Tyne 4.

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STOKE NEWINGTON FIVE Benefit Dance: Friday 30 May, 7.30pm-11pm, North London Polytechnic, Holloway Road. With Stepney Sisters and West London Street Band. Admission 60p. The Five have each served four years of their ten-year sentences for their alleged part in the Angry Brigade bombings. We need money to send them books, records, musical instruments.

SOCIALISTS AND THE EEC: Debate between Andrew Hornung, Workers' Fight (Bosses' Market, Bosses' Britain: No Choice, Don't Vote) and Brian Grogan, International Marxist Group (No to the Capitalists' Common Market—for a United Socialist Europe). Monday 2 June, 7.30pm, Essex Road Library, London N1. Underground: Essex Road, Angel. Buses: 38, 73, 171, 277. Admission 10p.

# RAPE

## THE HYPOCRISY BEHIND THE LAW LORDS' RULING

MANY PEOPLE are seething over the Law Lords' ruling on rape. Lord Hailsham and his friends have said, in effect, that what matters is not what women want, but what men think they should want.

What produces such attitudes? Why does rape take place at all?

There have been societies in which rape was virtually unknown. Yet in Britain today, it is increasing.

This is not surprising. The rapist or would-be rapist embodies many of the attitudes which society teaches to almost all men.

Look at the photos in *The Sun* or the ads on TV. They deliberately use women's bodies to sell things. The overwhelming impression they give is that women are not human beings equal to men, but objects designed to provide pleasure for those with the money to get them.

The same papers that preach sanctimoniously about the 'mis-deeds' of some woman who has had her private life dragged through the law courts, will also paint these 'mis-deeds' in the most lurid colours so as to titillate the readers.

### Bliss

Such hypocrisy is not accidental. It is a typical expression of the double-edged attitude to women of those who control society.

On one hand, they practise the virtues of conventional marriage. They paint an idyllic picture of a worthy husband, his devoted wife and their bonny children all living together in perfect bliss.

Never mind that they may be cramped together in two rooms, without a bath or indoor toilet, the children screaming; the parents forced to work on different shifts so that they hardly see each other.

The 'typical family' has to be praised, even if all too often the reality is boredom, unhappiness, wife beating, alcoholism and backstreet abortions.

For the image of the family suits the needs of big business per-

fectly. The woman, by waiting upon the man and the children, ensures he is fit and healthy to work and they grow up to join the labour force.

None of this costs the employer a penny. And, because of the difficulty of making ends meet at home, the woman may well be prepared to work for a pittance if the employer decides he wants to expand his labour force.

There is one idea pumped by the employing class that has a great deal of appeal to women trapped in this situation—the idea of the sanctity of the family.

However miserable her own life, she often feels it would be even more miserable were she abandoned by her husband and forced to maintain the children by herself.

And so, all too often, she accepts all the ranting by the church or right-wing politicians or the press about the need to 'safeguard' the family against the 'threat' of 'communism' or 'permissiveness'.

Right-wing political movements always lay great stress upon the family. By doing so, they can get



support from many women for a situation that subordinates women's lives to the profit system.

That is why, in periods of crisis such as at present, we see a strengthening of those forces with reactionary views on subjects such as abortion. Politicians who support the status quo need all the political support they can get—and one sure source of it is from the 'defend the family' anti-abortion lobby headed by the leaders of the Catholic Church.

### Bodies

Alongside this mythical picture of the role of the present day family, capitalism presents another, rather different view of women.

Those who own wealth under the present system take it for granted that they can buy or sell anything they wish. They can even buy

human beings—forcing any worker who wants to stay alive to labour for them to produce profits. Naturally, they expect to be able to buy and sell women's bodies as well.

Members of the ruling class have rarely kept to the rigid chastity which they have preached to everyone else. They have taken it for granted that, if they personally find the conventional form of marriage unbearable, they should be able to indulge in sexual delights outside it, buying the bodies of prostitutes.

So, in the middle of the last century, at the high point of the Victorian doctrine propounded by employers and politicians, there were tens of thousands of prostitutes in London. One house in sixty was a brothel.

The same hypocrisy prevails today. Only a few months ago, one high dignitary of the Catholic

church in France died in a brothel and another collapsed in the house of a call girl.

Businessmen see there is money to be made from the frustration of the masses. Through advertising and seamy stories in the gutter Press, they stimulate and exploit the frustrations, produced by the very structure they so ardently defend.

### Cost

So people's sexual appetites are stimulated while they are forced to live cramped and narrow lives, which often prevent them from even beginning to satisfy those appetites. Their entire psychological make-up can be dangerously twisted as a result.

Most people just about manage to survive. They make do as best they can—although at enormous

### QUOTE

In matters of taste, yes, I am a fairly moral person I think: in other words, I worry about moral issues.

—Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of *The Sun* and *News of the World*, interviewed in *The Guardian*, 28 August 1974.

If human beings are presented like sliced bread, why not nick the odd crust?

cost in terms of personal happiness. But some can't bear the strain and end up in mental hospitals or as alcoholics or even as pitiful cases in the courts.

And a few men take to its logical conclusion what they are taught about women being sub-human commodities. Why not 'steal' one, inflict yourself on the women in the same way you would on a thing.

If human beings are presented rather like, for instance, sliced bread, why not nick the odd crust?

The Law Lords' decision shows how small is the difference between the rapist's attitude and the attitude of those who make the rules in our society.

The Law Lords believe women are not capable of making up their minds on sexual matters and that therefore, every indulgence must be given to alleged rapists.

### Ranting

The rapist carries the view to its logical conclusion and indulges himself, regardless of the woman's view of the matter.

To tackle the problem of rape, you have to tackle the society that propagates such views, and replace it with one in which women and men can relate to one another as human beings, not as objects to be bought, sold and despoiled.

That means a fight to recast the economic organisation of society, so that the wealth at present hogged by the ruling class is used to provide every individual with the prerequisites of a decent existence.

Only then will be people be able to establish relationships that are mutually satisfying, without being compelled by ideology and material necessity to live unhappy and frustrating lives.

The fight against the present reactionary attitudes to women—attitudes embodied in the rape ruling or the anti-abortion bill now before Parliament—are an essential part of the struggle for this revolutionising of society.

But a fight to change attitudes—or even laws—alone, will not be ultimately successful unless it is integrated into the physical fight to seize power from the ruling class.

CHRIS HARMAN

### SATURDAY

BBC-2: 9.50pm. THE END OF THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL features a British, French and US TV reporter telling the story of the Vietnam war and the US involvement including film footage from Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. Could be good, could be the more common substitution of shots of human misery for thought or analysis. TV has spent years juggling with late night shows at weekends, the 'satire' shows of the early 1960s, the plugs for has-beens, ne'er do wells, crooks and scoundrels provided by chat shows and now ELEVENTH HOUR (BBC-1, 11.10pm)—live TV drama! Just like they had in the good old days of the 1950s. These plays will be 'conceived, written, and rehearsed and transmitted within seven days' says the BBC and 'may

### ON THE BOX

well be inspired by recent events'.

#### SUNDAY

ITV: 10pm. WEEKEND WORLD-SPECIAL is 90 minutes on the Common Market from one of the better of TV's current affairs programmes. Earlier on BBC-2 (7.25pm) is THE WORLD ABOUT US: THAIPIUSAM—FESTIVAL OF ECSTASY on a minority Hindu sect in Malaysia, at one of their festivals, at which they enter a trance state, and can mutilate themselves with spears, hooks etc.—and leave no injury.

#### TUESDAY

BBC-2: 9.10pm. Best view of the week is KES the film about a boy and his kestrel in Barnsley and how the adult

world and the authoritarianism of this system try to batter him into the ground. THE TRIBAL EYE: CROOKED BEAK OF HEAVEN (BBC-2, 8.10pm) is about the dying culture of the North American Indian. Includes film shot in 1910 of that culture when still, just, flourishing. A BUS ROUND THE MARKET (ITV 8pm) continues the 15 unfortunate 'ordinary Britons' tour around the Common Market with Clive Jenkins and George Brown, in Italy.

#### WEDNESDAY

BBC-2: 8.10pm. THE ASCENT OF MAN, the series charting 'man's relation to nature' begins a second showing. INSIDE STORY: THE COMPANY

(BBC-2, 9.50pm) is a documentary tracing from the boardroom, the collapse of a company. WESSEX TALES (BBC-2 9pm) is THE MELANCHOLY HUSSAR. THURSDAY BBC-2: 9.25pm. MAN ALIVE: TERROR PART 1. THE PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA purports to 'examine the political frustrations and despair that erupt in terrorist violence.' Later perhaps we may get a programme on the mentality of the Israeli, US, Russian and British ruling class and what has led them to bomb, blast and shoot their way to fame and fortune... BY COMMON CONSENT (BBC-1, 9.25pm) is National Youth Theatre production of a 'political fantasy set in the future.'

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

## Support grows for 40 sacked printers

PETERBOROUGH:—Scab labour at Sharmans printworks produced a copy of the Peterborough Standard on Friday after last week's sacking of 40 NGA members. A campaign is being mounted among local trade unionists to boycott all of the Sharmans publications.

The dispute began after the NGA challenged management's long-term plans to bring out an evening paper using new equipment which could be easily operated by the girls in the office. Sharmans refused even to consider paying the girls at the union rate. Four of the printers who were sitting in protest were ejected forcibly and all 40 NGA members were sacked.

Members of SLADE are supporting the picket outside the printworks but non-union office workers, with members of the National Union of Journalists and the third print union NATSOPA, have been working late into the night to produce the paper.

### Levy

Workers at the rival East Midlands Allied Press have seen the dangers for them if one firm is allowed to get away with using the new equipment outside national agreement and have agreed a 20p levy in support.

Support has also begun to come in from rank and file trade unionists outside the printing industry. TGWU shop stewards from Freemans mail order firm have been down to offer support, and TGWU drivers are all respecting the picket line. Some AUEW branches have invited speakers from the strike committee.

The newly-formed district committee of NUPE is instructing its members not to cross picket lines, not to advertise in the Standard, and not to take any of the group's papers while the dispute continues. Tony White, secretary of the NUPE district, said: 'As a completely new district committee we thought we should start the way we intend to continue—working for the maximum solidarity among local trade unionists. After all it's only recently that the Nottinghamshire miners made a contribution to our refuseniks' strike fund.'

The Peterborough Standard is going to lose a lot of custom as a result of its blatant attempt to smash the NGA.

## Two occupations raise 'Sack the boss' demand

# TETLEYS BREW THE MILITANCY STRONG

BLETCHLEY:—'What do we want? Howes out!' was the chant as the 350 workers who occupied Lyons Tetley tea factory took their second demonstration of the day around the town and local industrial estate.

'They're trying to knock us into shape, but we don't knock easily. We intend to stand solid,' said Molly Carr, the General and Municipal Workers Union steward. The factory was occupied last Wednesday and management were kicked out over a joint GMWU and Engineering Workers Union flat rate wage claim, equal pay, and job guarantees.

Eddie Wales, AUEW steward, told Socialist Worker: 'We've been negotiating this claim since the end of February, but the new manager, Howes, has been trying to undermine the agreements we already have.'

'We already had an overtime ban on because of threats that outside contractors would be brought in to pack the tea bags. Howes wanted 40 million tea bags in a hurry and he ordered us to lift the overtime ban and scrub the manning agreement for the fitters and the semi-skilled workers.'

### Deal

'On top of that our wage claim of £6 across the board plus a cost of living threshold was rejected. We were offered different rates for AUEW and GMWU workers, and a bit of fiddling on the equal pay deal.'

'So we held a mass meeting last Wednesday, and before the meeting was over we had locked the gates from the inside and put pickets on them.'

More than four-fifths of the workers at Tetleys are women, about half of them Italian. The average take-home wage is



Workers from the Tetley tea bags factory after their march through the town.

around £20, £24 for the men.

Molly Carr told Socialist Worker: 'We are after a joint across-the-board claim, and that's the important thing. This is the first time the two unions in the factory have fought together.'

'The management are trying to split us by offering different sums to the two unions, £5.31 to the engineers, and £3.81 to us, and by offering an extra £1 now to the women on instalment for equal pay. We can outvote the men but if we were to accept this we'd be cutting off our own noses.'

'We want that flat rate claim for two reasons: to protect the move to full equal pay in November, and to make sure that the men, who may have to

support families from the one wage, have a decent living wage.'

The morale of the occupation is high. The daily demonstrations and the demand to sack the boss are evidence of this.

That an occupation and not a strike was chosen as the way to fight is significant. Workers now putting forward wage claims can be sure that management will dig in its heels. Occupation is proving the most successful way of pressing home those claims and ensuring that living standards are not allowed to fall.

Money and messages of support to: Strike Committee, Lyons/Tetley Tea, Bletchley, Bucks.

## Sit-in forces Blackmans to back down

by a GEC Blackmans shop steward

NORTH LONDON: The bosses can be beaten—that's the lesson from the Keith Blackman factory in Tottenham, a GEC subsidiary, after a one and a half day occupation.

The chairmen of the shop stewards and office committees were threatened by letter with 'severe disciplinary action' last week for calling a meeting after permission for it had been refused by management. This meeting between the committees was to discuss and formulate a wage claim we are entitled to negotiate from 1 June.

We have never been united on any issue before—I wonder why the meeting was refused?

The sheet metal workers had been on strike and picketing lorries since the previous Monday over a similar letter sent to Ken Payne, their steward. Management refused to retract on any of the letters. So a mass meeting was called.

A management team appeared—and asked us if we had 'permission' for the meeting. Well, that was the last straw. We occupied the site and the management locked themselves in the boardroom!

### Sunny

They stayed there all day, still refusing to concede our demands. They hoped that as it was a sunny day we would collapse by nightfall. But a volunteer force stayed on the site all night.

We put out a statement which said: 'Over the past 12 months, following confrontation after confrontation, the work people at Keith Blackman, Tottenham, have decided that the management are unfit to manage—and therefore they have been suspended.'

'This action has been decided as a necessary step to try to safeguard the jobs and conditions of the workforce. The spark that has united manual and staff workers alike was the threat to suspend shop stewards for carrying out their responsibilities as elected representatives of their members.'

'Sir Arnold Weinstock, managing director of GEC, should remove the Keith Blackman management so that normal industrial relations can resume.'

The GEC heavy mob turned up next morning, disguised as the group personnel manager, Tudor Williams. He told us the management were prepared to retract all the letters and set up a meeting to discuss future industrial relations in the company. This is an unprecedented move for GEC.

We've only won the first round. The real punch-up comes when we submit our wage claim next month. But we now have the confidence to win a massive settlement—and the bosses know what to expect if they offer us anything less than we want.

## IN BRIEF

### NUPE CONFERENCE

THE National Union of Public Employees, some of whose members have been in the front line of the battle against hospital pay-beds over the last year, met in Conference in Scarborough last week. MIKE ALDERSON was the indirect delegate from the South West, and is secretary of the Frenchay Hospital branch of NUPE in Bristol. Below he writes on the conference.

There were two big contradictions in the debates last week.

**CONTRADICTION NUMBER ONE** was over the union's support for the Social Contract. A composite motion rejecting it was defeated, thanks to engineering by the platform. TUC General Secretary Len Murray spoke for 30 minutes and demanded support for the Contract—effectively he moved the motion's rejection.

The motion itself came next, with its mover only allowed five minutes. Including Murray's speech for the Social Contract supporters got 42 minutes—with opponents only getting 20! General Secretary Alan Fisher claimed that the contract had been entered into by 'us the membership'.

Fisher's speech effectively clashed with this and the conference's attitudes during the previous two days. Then he'd waxed eloquent about 40 hours pay for 35 hours (and) other demands outside the contract and against cuts in public sector expenditure.

So we support the Social Contract—and support demands outside the contract!

**CONTRADICTION NUMBER TWO** was in a composite motion supporting bonus schemes. The first section implies that members locally should decide on them—while the last section says all members should be covered.

What does this mean? That negotiators can sell us out nationally—while accepting more exploitation locally.

What's the answer? We rank and file NUPE members must reject local bonus schemes—whether from management or union. We must fight jointly with other public sector unions against cuts—and pressurise the Executive to stick to the conference's demands.

### LONDON RUBBER

'COME and join us!' is the call from the strikers at the London Rubber Company in North London for their mass picket at 3pm on 4 June. The appeal, from the Strike Committee and Transport Union district officer Bob Foskett is to aid their six week battle for union recognition.

TGWU stewards from London Transport, London Docks and local factories have already pledged delegations to follow up the first highly successful mass picket.

Management have now agreed to take the dispute to arbitration, but 'now is the time to make this picket really decisive' said a supporter of the strikers. 'Management are really sensitive about their public image. The bigger the demonstration, the better.'

Mass Picket: LR Industries, North Circular Road (near Angel Road) London, E4. 4 June, 3pm-6pm.



Flora Flynn

### LEVI STRAUSS WHITBURN, SCOTLAND

THE women workers at Levi-Strauss, members of the Tailors and Garment Workers Union, have suffered a setback in their strike against the victimisation of their ex-convenor Flora Flynn. About 60 of the 450 women have been led back to work by the new convenor, Mary McGurk, who was elected before the dispute began

when Flora Flynn stood down after six years.

The scabs went back after the dispute was made official and the management are jubilant.

They may be rejoicing too soon. The strikers may be down but they're not yet out by any means. Picketing is continuing and the strike can still be won.

Support is needed from other workers—support on the picket line from local factories, money and resolutions of support from other workers. Send to Mary Porter, 32 Fallas Place, Fauldhouse, Scotland.

### GARTONS, SOUTH LONDON

MANAGEMENT at Garton's Glucose and Starch Plant in Battersea have had a fight on for the last three weeks—and have lost it. 12-hour process workers, members of the Transport Union, struck three weeks ago when confronted with the bosses' attempts to bring in short-time working, minimal pay and higher productivity.

Now they've accepted the workers' demands for a fully paid week of 52½ hours. They got themselves a face-saver with cuts in Saturday day and night shifts. 'They'll drop that arrangement in a few weeks and normal working will be resumed,' was one comment.

The workers' victory has strengthened their ability to win wage increases during the July negotiations. It is part of a long running battle between workers and bosses stemming from a strike last summer which won workers more than their original demand. From then the heat was on—

## CABLES STRIKE GOES ON

RENFREW:—At the Scottish Cables factory 500 members of the Transport Workers Union are in the seventh week of a strike against redundancies. The strike began when 40 workers were given notice, but now only four redundancies are outstanding. Nonetheless the whole workforce is committed to staying out until these four are reinstated.

The strike has not received a great deal of support from the other factories in the BICC group, but there are now signs that the Prescot and Wrexham factories will take up the Renfrew workers' case.

Messages of support and donations to: Scottish Cables Strike Committee, c/o John White, TGWU office, 129 Renfrew Road, Paisley, Scotland.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Picture: Angela Phillips (IFL)

City merchant bakers Hill Samuel, who are behind the attempted closure of Central London printers Mabbutt and Johnson, faced this protest picket of 200 last week. Thirty-seven members of the print unions NGA and SLADE are occupying the works in an attempt to save their jobs.

Donations and messages of support for the strikers to D Boa (SLADE) and K Kipling (NGA) Mabbutt and Johnson Occupation Committee, c/o 54 Doughty Street, London WC1.

The strikers will be marching again to Hill Samuels next Friday (6 June), leaving Ironmonger Row, London EC1 (Old Street tube) at 1pm. They need your support.

Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)



## The Boot goes in at a second site

THE Boot is going in again. In NORTHAMPTON the UCATT building workers' strike at the Henry Boot's Exeter Road site is in its sixth week, and now a separate battle against the same employers has led to a site occupation in YORK.

Eight building workers were sacked from the York Coney Street site last Friday just after they had joined the local Transport Workers Union branch. They were appalled at the working conditions and 'safety' precautions.

'These are the worst employers I have come across in 25 years in the trade,' said one worker. Another was told after protesting at the danger that he had 'no rights', he was 'merely a labourer'.

Coney Street is one of York's main streets—and the whole building may collapse. Some scaffolding has already fallen off.

So the men occupied the site, and are demanding reinstatement for the eight and a visit from the safety inspector. The workers' wives have been giving out leaflets on the dispute. One of their placards sums it all up: 'We want live husbands, not dead building workers.'

The occupation hasn't been made official yet and the police have tried to re-enter the building.

Meanwhile in NORTHAMPTON a motion about the Boot's strike there to the local trades council has put a Labour

councillor on the spot.

'This trades council is seriously concerned about the apparent lack of interest shown by the local town council in respect of the Henry Boots' building workers' strike.

'A Labour council should be seen to be doing all within its power to solve this dispute in order to expedite the building of much needed council housing and see that the workers employed on their projects receive just and equitable remuneration.'

That motion from a delegate from the white collar union ASTMS to Northampton Trades Council got to the heart of the six week strike at the Exeter Road Boots site—only it was never put to the trades council. The Boots battle, the longest isolated strike in the recent history of Northampton, is about the demand by the UCATT strikers for a workable bonus scheme.

The motion was one of two put to last week's trades council meeting. The other calling for financial support for the strikers led to a £10 trades council donation.

Many angry delegates felt that the bureaucratic methods of trades council chairman and Labour councillor A E Bilson in squashing the motion highlighted his first loyalty—to the local Labour council—and not to the trades union movement.

Bilson closed the meeting three minutes early to prevent the motion being discussed—and was greeted with shouts of 'disgrace' from angry delegates.

A meeting was planned this week between union and management representatives to attempt to break the deadlock. Back on the site the men are still determined, despite the Labour council—and despite the ever present patrolling police.

Messages and donations to: Martin Dunkley, 51 Holly Road, Northampton and Eric Golding, 221 Melrosegate, Yorks.

### Stewarts: 200 march

CROYDON:—200 trade unionists joined a trades council march through the town last week in support of the strikers at Stewart Plastics. This official AUEW strike involving 230, mostly Asian, workers is entering its sixth week.

Stewart Plastics has been able to keep some production going by employing scabs through local employment agencies.

The strike began with a demand for more than 77p an hour. The firm is now paying the scabs £1.20 an hour!

A factsheet on the factory produced by the Socialist Worker Information Service points out that from 1970–1974 pre-tax profit at Stewart increased by 205 per cent, profit made per worker increased by 194 per cent, while average weekly wages increased by only 49 per cent.

### Scots printers strike

SCOTLAND:—Members of the Scottish Graphical Association, the printworkers' union, are on alternate day strikes against an offer from their employers' organisation, the Scottish Master Printers. The offer is of a consolidated threshold, which would not increase bonus earnings. The men are claiming a wage rise of 37 per cent, extra holidays and a shorter working week.

More than 100 SGA members in three chapels (workplace branches) at William Collins, Glasgow, have been striking on alternate days for the past week. On Monday the machine men stepped up their action to two-day stoppages and sent a mass lobby to official negotiations in Edinburgh.

They have contacted SGA members at Bell and Bain, also in Glasgow, who have agreed to similar action. Members at Constables, Edinburgh, are banning all bonus and overtime working as well as alternate day striking.

### Leyland strikers

NORTH WEST LONDON: Brent Trades Council is organising a meeting of all shop stewards in the area to build up support for the strike of 614 production workers at British Leyland's bus factory at Park Royal.

The strike, now in its third week, is for a £12 across the board increase. The latest management offer of £7.65 was rejected overwhelmingly and pickets are organised on all four gates.

Messages of support and donations to S Hearne, 201 Powder Mill Lane, Twickenham, Middlesex.

### Lucas walk-out

BIRMINGHAM:—Staff at Lucas's Great King Street factory arrived on Tuesday to find no lighting or heating in parts of the factory. It is works annual holiday this week, and staff were told the failure was due to rewiring and those areas would be without heat or light for the rest of the week. They were told to sit by the window and use outside light!

APEX members in the sales/production department walked out and told management they would remain out until provided with lighting and heat.

## TV bosses lock out technicians

LOCK-OUT. That's the tactic of the commercial television companies in their battle against the technicians who followed the instructions of the film and TV technicians' union ACTT to strike over the weekend.

The strike was to demand the £231 back-pay the companies owe the technicians from the time of the Tory wage freezes. When the technicians returned on Monday security staff blocked their return—including that of technicians who had opposed the union's decision.

'We've got to stick to the claim, win it—and not compromise', said a Thames TV ACTT member. 'We have to back the union all the way in this. The money has been due to us for years.'

The companies have announced that the lock-out will continue until the ACTT drops the claim. There was undoubted hostility in some branches of the union to the strike action, but since the companies have locked them out feeling among pickets outside the television executive meeting was for backing the union.

'It's a trailer for the June wage negotiations', said another member. 'They want to hold back on wages and bring in redundancies. Well, they're not going to win this one.'

In SOUTHAMPTON, at the Southern TV studios, the lock-out was less successful for the bosses. ACTT members returning to work on Tuesday were met by a 'picket line' of the chief accountant, general manager and station manager.

The 120 technicians approached the picket line and asked that they be allowed to return to their jobs. The company official refused.

The crowd of 120 technicians stormed past the fragile three-man picket line and marched into the building. Now that they have taken over the television centre, the technicians want to produce their own programmes.

## GASWORKS PLUMBERS' FOUR-WEEK PARITY STRIKE 'SOLID'



Picture: Angela Phillips (IFL)

MANCHESTER:—This is Robert Burds, the plumbers' shop steward on the Woodall Duckhams site contract at Partington gasworks. He's one of the plumbers and welders there who've been striking for four weeks. On 13 May they were fired by the site manager. The local Construction and Engineering Union's official W Charles has 'washed his hands of the whole business' but Robert and the rest of the strikers are solid—and 'determined to win'.

The workers, who are installing natural gas in the area, are fighting for parity with the nearby Shell Carrington site—and have Carrington convenor Peter Ashley's support. Their job is controlled by a national CEU agreement which allows for local bonus agreements.

Ring support to Robert, the PTU steward, on 061-747 0874. Donations to Woodall Duckham Strike Fund, Midland Bank, Urmston, Manchester.

# 200 STEWARDS REJECT OFFER BY CHRYSLER

by Peter Bain, TGWU steward, Chrysler Linwood

TWO HUNDRED shop stewards at Chrysler's Linwood plant overwhelmingly rejected the company's reply to their wage claim on Tuesday.

Chrysler replied to only two of the 13 points in the claim. They agreed to equal pay for women from July 1 and made a complicated wage offer.

The company are offering £8 across-the-board to all its hourly-paid employees in Britain. £2.50 of this is a 'supplemental allowance' which will not be used to calculate certain fringe benefits.

In addition if the Linwood workforce accept a widening of factory wage differentials to bring them into line with the Coventry plant then two-thirds of the 5,700 hourly-paid Linwood workers will get an extra £2.50 a week. Also, Chrysler will pay a lump sum of £50 to each employee if the company's proposals for 'workers' participation' are agreed by 12 July and another £50 if these are implemented by 31 December.

The shop stewards unanimously rejected the offer and instructed their negotiators to make it clear that a much bigger

across-the-board offer was required, as well as a reply to the unanswered 11 points in the claim.

They also overwhelmingly decided to refuse to take part in any national negotiations on workers' participation. If Chrysler wish to discuss the subject then they can put their proposals to the Linwood negotiating team, who will report back to the stewards and the workforce.

### BATTLE

In effect this means that Chrysler's proposals for national negotiations on wages and conditions, compulsory arbitration and workers' participation have been thrown out.

Finally, shop stewards agreed to produce a bulletin for distribution on Friday, when the laid-off Linwood workers will be collecting their wages at the plant.

This is to counter the misleading press campaign over Chrysler's proposal and to explain why the shop stewards have rejected the offer. The shop stewards also agreed to use the bulletin to urge the members to vote 'No' in the Common Market referendum.

National bargaining is designed to undermine shop-floor trade union organisation, shifting the control to full-time officials.

We must counter this by building a genuinely representative combine organisation that can fight for:

The full claims at Stoke, Ryton and Linwood.

No regrading in exchange for parity.

No to national negotiations.

No to workers' participation.

Chrysler: The facts behind the strike—see centre pages.

## Boyd wins AUEW poll and turns on the Left

by John Deason

RIGHT-WINGER John Boyd has swept in as general secretary of the Engineering Union with 164,276 votes against Broad Left candidate Bob Wright's 96,216. This, the most dramatic victory for the right wing inside the union for years, has delighted the bosses' press, which campaigned so hard for it.

Boyd's first utterance as General Secretary was: 'The Communists, Trotskyites, International Socialists, and all that conglomeration, turned it into a political fight, ignoring the basic necessity of having a person of experience and skill and some basis in the movement. It is quite clear what the members want—me.'

The rest of the results are not so clear cut. But those for national office show the same trend. Ken Brett, sitting assistant general secretary and a member of the Broad Left, was run into second place with 60,725 votes against little known right winger Docherty (75,354 votes) and now has to go to second ballot. Bob Foster, sitting national organiser and a Broad Left Communist Party member, has been re-elected but only after going to second ballot.

Communist Party member Bernard Panter—who, during the ballot, chased after an appointed full-time official's job in the Electrical Power Engineers Association—was humiliated with 61,609 votes to the right winger's 144,350.

The only result at national level against this trend was Laurie Smith's (133,825 votes) capturing of the position of national organiser, previously held by the right wing, against John Weakley (112,268 votes). Laurie Smith stood as an independent socialist against the Broad Left and the right wing, and topped the first ballot.

At district and divisional level, this round of elections is predictably less generalised, but the right wing has made the greater headway.

These results were dismissed in the Morning Star as not seriously altering the balance between the right and left. This failure to come to grips with the implications typifies the bankruptcy of the Communist Party-led Broad Left, which sees a bureaucratic head count as more important than the failure of its own machine to mobilise rank and file enthusiasm for its candidates. The Broad Left, as an effective machine within the rank and file, is in disarray.

**GRAND NATIONAL IS SOCIAL**  
**Saturday 31 May, 7.30pm**  
 St Pancras Assembly Rooms,  
 London N1.  
 Cheap 'n Nasty rock band,  
 disco, bar extension till midnight.  
 Tickets 50p on the door or from  
 IS secretaries.

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Abortion: How we forced BMA to act

By Ron Singer

**THE FIGHT** against the Back-street Abortion Bill was given a boost last week by the action of militant doctors.

Twenty of us, mostly ASTMS members, confronted the Secretary of the British Medical Association and demanded a written assurance that he would make a public statement of opposition to the Bill at a press conference. He refused, so we occupied the BMA House.

The occupation lasted all night—and eventually the Secretary made a statement . . . at a press conference we had called.

He outlined the BMA's opposition to the Bill and undertook to publicise further this opposition after the next BMA Council meeting in June.

Meanwhile, our action will continue with a joint picket with the National Abortion Campaign of that meeting and by organising support for the 21 June national demonstration. Further information from 01-732 9016.

**THE IS** Executive Committee has decided to work for a national mobilisation round the threat to abortion contained in the James White Abortion (amendment) Bill. All branch and district committees should now discuss how best to work round the issue in the coming weeks, leading up to the National Abortion Campaign demonstration in London on 21 June.

### Rights

We need to raise the issue at work with petitions and leaflets explaining the attack on women's rights in the Bill and why it must be defeated. The following resolution should be moved in all trade union branches, trades councils, shop stewards committees etc:

*This branch supports the call for a demonstration on 21 June: calls on the TUC to adopt the demand for abortion as a part of its women's charter '12 aims for working women'; calls on the National Executive of the union to organise on the issue, by supporting the demonstration with propaganda, and by putting pressure on union-sponsored MPs to vote against the amendment.*

*This branch will organise a publicity and propaganda campaign to mobilise for the 21 June demonstration.*

See the list of union-sponsored MPs to see who voted for James White's Bill.

Districts should ensure maximum involvement in local National Abortion Campaign groups, organise public meetings and pickets on local MPs surgeries etc.

Socialist Worker posters for the demonstration will be available with next week's paper for use in the area.

### Women's conference postponed

**THE NATIONAL** Rank and File Women's Industrial Conference has had to be postponed because of circumstances beyond the organising committee's control.

Rank and File organiser Ken Appleby explained to Socialist Worker: 'The new date we chose was subsequently adopted by the National Abortion Campaign for their national demonstration against the Abortion Amendment Bill.'

'This demonstration is obviously so important for working women everywhere that we are duty bound to call off our conference and urge all trade unionists to support the demonstration.

'We will be discussing with the sponsors of our conference a new date, which will be announced as soon as possible.'



The scene outside Glasgow's Kingston Hall on Saturday as the Police Support Group set about dozens of trade unionists

**A** I saw the most savage brutality by the police, something I have never seen before. I saw a woman kicked in the groin, and punched in the face, and members of the Sikh community with their turbans ripped off.

—Andy McMahon, Glasgow Labour Councillor

# POLICE RIOT

**THE STORM** of working class and socialist protest in the West of Scotland against the police riot outside Glasgow's Kingston Hall last Saturday is still growing this week.

On Thursday, trade unionists and socialists were to demonstrate outside the City Chambers to demand that all charges against demonstrators be dropped and that future National Front meetings in the city be banned.

Thursday's demonstration was called by the Trade Union Defence Committee, an emergency body set up to lead the defence campaign, which is already supported by the executive of the Scottish Miners Union, among other trade union bodies.

The scenes at Kingston Hall have shocked the whole Scot's labour movement.

From 6pm some 300 demonstrators peacefully picketed to prevent National Front racials holding a meeting. The picket followed the failure of successive attempts to get the Labour Corporation to ban the meeting.

The few Front members who turned up shouted abuse and gave the Nazi salute. Then, suddenly, a team of policemen shot across the road and waded into the demonstrators.



By SW reporters

These thugs were members of the Police Support Group, the equivalent of London's Special Patrol Group, which is notorious for the gunning down of unarmed Pakistanis, the breaking up of dockers' demonstrations and the protecting of fascists at Red Lion Square.

### Broken nose

Within seconds, many prominent members of the trade union and socialist movement in the West of Scotland were seized.

Among them were David Bolton, vice-president of the Scottish Miners, Hugh Wyper, Glasgow district

secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, John Reidford, secretary of the Glasgow Trades Council, Charlie Montgomery, a former candidate for the executive of the EEUPTU, Barry Docherty, a prominent UCATT steward, Harry McEachan, secretary of the 7/26a Chrysler branch of the TGWU, Norman Bean, an AUEW steward at Anderson Mavor, Peter Bain, a TGWU steward at Chrysler, Jimmy McCallum, an IS full-timer in the West of Scotland, and Ian McKay, Glasgow secretary of the Communist Party.

Among those beaten up were David Bolton, Peter Bain, Jimmy McCallum and John Dennis, a young sheet metal worker and member of IS whose nose was broken.

75 people were arrested. Before being released, they were photographed by the police, whether they consented or not.

Others were beaten but not arrested. They included men and women trade unionists, members of Glasgow's Sikh community, and students.

From some of the remarks made by Support Group officers, it is clear the police were intent on 'teaching the left' a lesson.

*IS members were punched and*

*kicked and told they had to accept it because they were 'Commie bastards'.*

Many Glasgow trade unionists are demanding an immediate inquiry. But, as a statement this week from Glasgow District IS points out, official public inquiries like Flixborough and Ronan Point are never allowed to get near the real facts.

That is why the district calls for an independent inquiry conducted by the trade union movement in the West of Scotland and focussing on the role of the Police Support Group.

The statement also attacks Strathclyde Chief Constable Mc Neeks allegation that policemen were assaulted.

### Real role

It underlines that the stage for the police riot was set by Glasgow's Labour Group, who let the meeting hall to the National Front

Saturday's scandalous events are yet another indication of the real role of the police—to protect employers' property and their political friends, and to down those who organise and campaign for a different kind of society.

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**SOME** of you, our readers, clearly haven't recovered from our £10,000 special fund appeal—because the money has been trickling in over the last couple of weeks. Up to last Tuesday we had received £261.45 this week, so the May total has staggered up to £1415—leaving us £585 below our £2000 target.

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