

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

MAUDLING: CORRUPTION PROBE BLOCKED



Maudling: a cover-up

But the Shrewsbury Two rot in jail...

POLICE INQUIRIES into allegations of corruption against Reginald Maudling, Tory spokesman on foreign affairs, are being obstructed.

The Labour government's chief law officer, Sam Silkin, knows of this, but has not lifted a finger to stop it.

A number of newspapers and politicians have this week called for a full public inquiry into the scandal surrounding John Poulson, the Yorkshire architect now in jail for corruption.

They have suggested that the police inquiries and prosecutions have exposed only a small part of the corruption in local government, big business and the civil

EXCLUSIVE

By Paul Foot

service.

The story of the police inquiries into Mr Maudling's activities forcefully backs up this charge.

This time last year, senior police officers from the Fraud Squad started to investigate the case of the Gozo Hospital, Malta, which was built at enormous expense with the help of £1.62 million of British taxpayers' money. Finished in 1973, it has been empty ever since.

Poulson, the hospital's architect, was paid more than £250,000 in fees. In 1966-67 he

teamed up with the medical department of Vickers in an attempt to get the contract for the building, designing, and equipping of the entire hospital.

While Vickers and Poulson were going for the contract, Reginald Maudling was chairman of two companies whose main purpose was to sell 'package deals' of Poulson's services abroad.

On the board of one of those companies, ITCS, was Dr Kenneth Williams, then medical director of Vickers.

In January 1967, Maudling, Williams and Poulson visited Malta to fight for the contract. The following month, Maudling made

Continued on Page Two

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT treats Reginald Maudling with such kind concern, Labour Ministers continue their hypocritical campaign to uphold 'law and order' by keeping the Shrewsbury Two rotting in jail.

Last Thursday, Jim Nichol, national secretary of IS, went to Leicester prison with Marlene Tomlinson and Billy Byrnes, a friend of the family, to visit Ricky.

The prison authorities suddenly announced that the visit would have to be cut short. Mrs Tomlinson might have come all the way from North Wales—a four-hour journey. But, they insisted, the maximum time they could allow was 25 minutes.

Des Warren and his family have also been subjected to similar treatment. But his determination not to give in appears to have won out.

Released

Last Thursday, Des was moved from Lincoln, where he has been in solitary confinement, to Nottingham prison. It appears, that since the move, Des has been brought out of solitary, therefore winning his long campaign.

Elsa Warren told Socialist Worker this week that the Home Office hadn't bothered to inform her about the situation, though they had written to tell her the official lie that Des was in solitary at his own request.

She understood, that Des was now being allowed to mix with his fellow human beings and would be able to take up a course as a plasterer.

Mrs Warren is certain now that at no time did Home Secretary Roy Jenkins intend to parole the two men. The only way the two will be released, is by mass industrial action.

● Donations to the Rank and File Organising Committee Shrewsbury Dependants Fund are still badly needed. Send them to the Secretary, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.



Portuguese revolutionary in Britain

THE PORTUGUESE Revolution comes to London's Heathrow Airport. The picture shows Carlos Silva, a sergeant in the Portuguese Army and a member of the Provisional secretariat of the Revolutionary Councils, addressing a meeting on Tuesday of workers in the Hatton Cross, British Airways canteen.

Carlos Silva will be speaking in the next week at a series of meetings organised by IS at which the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund will be launched. The aim is to send cash to the PRP, the revolutionary socialist organisation with which IS has been developing links, to help the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee, which is spearheading solidarity work in Britain, and to assist IS's work on Portugal.

LIVERPOOL

This Thursday, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant.

COVENTRY

Monday 16 June, 7.30pm, Lanchester Poly

GLASGOW

Wednesday 18 June, 7.30pm, McLelland Galleries, Sauchiehall Street

LONDON

This Friday, 7.30pm, Old Theatre, LSE, Houghton Street, off Aldwych tube to Holborn.

BIRMINGHAM

Tuesday 17 June, 7.30pm, Lecture Room 1, Digbeth Town Hall

EDINBURGH

Thursday 19 June: Time and venue to be announced.

Down with the Back-Street Abortion Bill! ● All out on 21 June ● DETAILS PAGE TWO

PICTURE: Andrew Ward (Report)

Abortion: The campaign grows



DOWN WITH THE BACK STREET ABORTION BILL!

EDDIE LOYDEN, Labour MP for Liverpool and a member of the TGWU, voted for the Bill. But now he says:

'If this is a wrecking Bill, I will be opposed to it. My experience after speaking to people in the House is that quite a number would not have voted for the Bill except to allow Lane (the Lane Committee Report) to be discussed by the Select Committee.'

'I believe abortion is primarily a matter for women to decide and that all abortions should be free and on the National Health.'

●The following MPs, sponsored by the Transport and General Workers Union, all voted for the Bill:

Lewis Carter-Jones (Eccles), Peter Doig

NO RETURN TO BACK-STREET ABORTION!
Demonstrate Saturday 21 June
 London: 2pm, Victoria Embankment (opposite Charing Cross tube). Rally and speakers 4pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park.
 Glasgow: 2pm, March from Blytheswood Square through city centre to Clydeside amphitheatre.

(Dundee West), James Dunn (Liverpool, Kirkdale), John Horam (Gateshead), Roy Hughes (Newport), Kevin McNamara (Kingston-upon-Hull), Bob Mellish (South-

wark), Gordon Oakes (Widnes), Michael O'Halloran (Islington North), Terry Walker (Kingswood).

All TGWU members should see that maximum pressure is put on them not to vote for the Bill next time.

●Every trade union member must see that resolutions against the Bill are moved in his or her union branch. They should be sent to the Labour MPs sponsored by the union, local Labour MPs, to the Labour Party NEC at Transport House, to other branches of the union and trades councils in the area, and the union executive.

●The Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions, ATTI, carried this resolution at its recent conference:

Conference deplores the proposals of James White's Abortion (amendment) Bill referred by Parliament to a select committee in February this year.

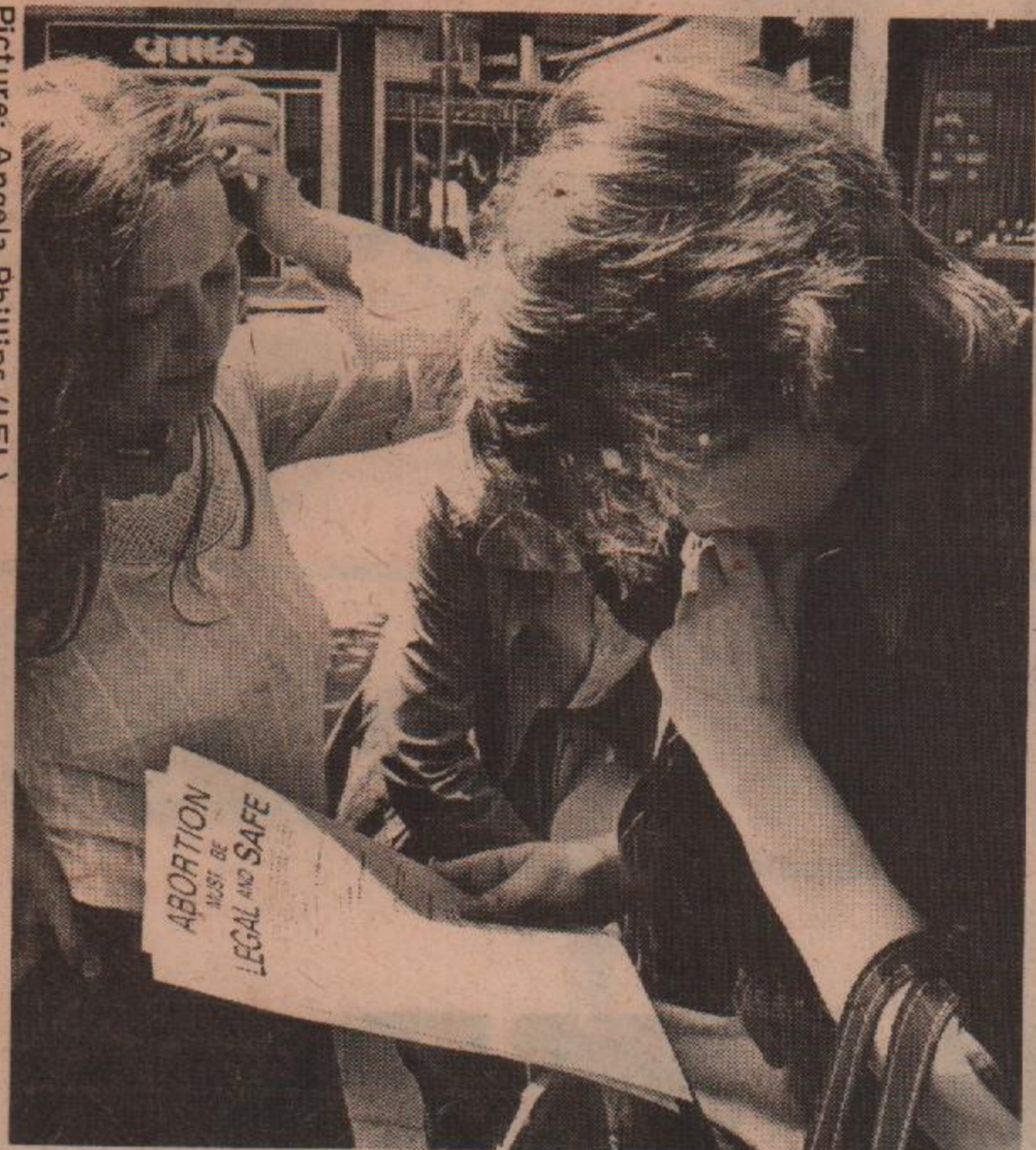
This bill, if passed, would seriously restrict the possibility of women in general, and working class women in particular, obtaining abortions, especially as part of the National Health Service.

This conference supports the demand for a woman's right to choose on the abortion issue and calls on National Council and the National Executive:

First, to distribute material to branches arguing this case;

Second, to request ATTI members of Parliament to oppose the Bill by all means open to them;

Third, to encourage members to participate in the national demonstration being organised against the Bill on 21 June.



Picture: Angela Phillips (IFL)

A 15-year-old girl about to sign the Leicester NAC petition, said 'I had an abortion last year. They wouldn't give me one on the National Health so I had to pay £62. I was stupid and naive then, I didn't really know what was going on. The baby would have been born today. I was lying in bed last night thinking about it. I really don't know what I would have done.' If the Bill goes through, young girls will find it even harder to get an abortion. No-one will be able to give them advice on abortions unless one parent is present.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

SOME of the people who marched through Manchester on Saturday in protest against James White's Abortion (Amendment) Bill. The march was part of the local NAC day of action.

ASTMS, NUPE and ATTI members have raised the issue successfully in their unions. Leaflets have gone into the large factories, petitions have been collected, and pickets are being arranged of Manchester MPs. Anyone in the city who wants to help fight the Bill is welcome to attend meetings every Wednesday at 8pm, Room 202, the Polytechnic, Aytoun Street. Coaches leave for the 21 June demonstration from St Peters Square, 8am.

SOUTHWARK IS Public Meeting: Abortion—A woman's right to choose. Speaker: a health worker. Wednesday 18 June, 8pm, North Peckham Civic Centre.

LOWESTOFT IS public meeting: Fight the Abortion (Amendment) Bill. Thursday 19 June, 8pm, upstairs room, The Norfolk, Denmark Road.

Hull NAC Public Meeting: Wednesday 18 June, 8pm, Stevedores and Dockers Club. Speaker: Dr Judith Gray or Val Gribbon, a social worker.

Barnsley NAC Public Meeting: Thursday 19 June, 8pm, New Library, Shambles Street. Speaker: Carol Dale (Sheffield social worker).

Poole and Bournemouth NAC: March through Poole, Saturday 14 June, assemble 2.30pm, Kingland Road car park. For details of coaches to 21 June demonstration, ring Parkston 740698.

South London NAC Public Meeting: Friday 13 June, 7.30pm, Stockwell Park Walk and Brixton Road. Speakers: Renee Short, MP, Peter Huntingford, gynaecologist, and NAC speaker.

East London NAC public meeting: Monday 16 June, 8pm, Bromley (Bow) Town Hall. Speakers: Ian Mikardo, Jo Richardson and local trade unionists.

Haringey NAC benefit disco: Friday 13 June, 8pm-midnight (bar extension) Small lounge, University College, off Gower Place, WC1. (Entrance in Gower Street). 75p, 50p, NUS.

MAUDLING

Cont'd from page one

a speech in the House of Commons. Without declaring his business interest in this island, he spoke against cuts in Government aid to Malta. The police inquiry established:

●That Maudling wrote letters to a senior Minister and a senior civil servant in Malta urging them to give the hospital contract to Poulson. He also wrote a personal letter to Borg Olivier, the Maltese Prime Minister, pressing him to make a speedy decision in Poulson's favour.

●That Maudling put pressure on a civil servant at the Ministry of Overseas Development—the department which provided the cash for the hospital—to hurry up payment of Poulson's fees.

BRIBE

●That in 1966, £5000 was paid by Vickers Ltd to one of their agents in Malta, a building supplier called John Abela. The money was destined for the funds of the ruling Nationalist (conservative) Party.

It was a bribe to get Vickers the hospital contract.

The police report was submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions last December. The papers were passed to Mr John Cobb, QC who was asked for his opinion as to whether Maudling should be prosecuted under the corruption acts.

There were two questions: did Maudling know about the £5000 bribe? Did he unduly use his influence as a former Minister and an MP to secure the hospital contract for Poulson?

Cobb decided that, on the evidence in the report, it was impossible to decide on either of these two questions until a full



The £100 million hospital at Riyadh: thousands of honey-gold stone blocks were cut out of a desert quarry to create the 'perfect finish' of the exterior. The hospital will be used almost exclusively by the families of the kings and sultans of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf.

statement was obtained from Dr Kenneth Williams. Williams was the key witness in the case.

The police had not interviewed Williams before their report because Williams was in Saudi Arabia—as 'consultant to the King's Cabinet'.

His contacts with the Saudi government date back to the late 1960s when Poulson and Vickers won the contract for the massive private hospital at Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

The buck was passed to the police, who sought an interview with Williams in Saudi Arabia. Last January, Superintendent Kenneth Etheridge, who later pursued John

Stonehouse to Australia, applied to Interpol for a visa to Saudi Arabia.

Normally, these visas are a formality for police officers carrying out an investigation.

Visas to interview Williams were not, however, forthcoming. All the applications from Scotland Yard have been ignored by the Saudi Arabian Government.

The British government could, of course, have intervened. They did nothing. No approach has been made by the government to the authorities in Saudi Arabia to allow police officers into the country.

One man who found it easier to get into Saudi Arabia was Reginald Maudling. Only a few days after the first police application for a visa, he travelled to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he stayed four nights in the luxury Kandara hotel.

THREAT

As soon as he returned to England, he redoubled his efforts to get back into the Shadow Cabinet.

Edward Heath, then Tory leader, had told him he wouldn't get back on the Tory front bench until he could prove he was 'shot of that Poulson business'.

When Margaret Thatcher won the Tory leadership in February, Maudling sought a position, assuring her he was 'in the clear'.

Thatcher sent Sir Peter Rawlinson, former Tory Attorney General, and Sir Michael Havers, former Tory Solicitor General, to 'make soundings' of the Labour Attorney General, Silkin.

Silkin replied: 'On the evidence so far, I cannot see this case coming

to court'. So Thatcher, who wanted someone in her 'team' from the Macmillan era, promptly appointed Maudling to the Shadow Cabinet.

Even the police are annoyed at the qualified assurance from the Attorney General that there would be no prosecution before the police inquiries had been completed.

There are even more interesting political conclusions. Silkin has been the champion in the Labour government of those who believe that the 'law must take its course' against Labour supporters who were prosecuted for political offences under the last Tory government.

He has thrown the full weight of his office behind Roy Jenkins' decision to keep the Shrewsbury pickets behind bars. He led the campaign to continue the disqualification of the Labour councillors at Clay Cross.

He insisted, on threat of resignation, that Labour's pledge to cancel the Tories' fines on those councillors should be broken.

But when those same Tory Ministers who persecuted workers and councillors are under investigation, he covers up

On 11 November last year, in a speech at Oxford exclusively reported in Socialist Worker, Mr Silkin indicated that it was time the Poulson inquiries were brought to an end. There were, he said, 300 people still to be investigated, and went on:

'I ask you this. Is there any point where you say: "enough is enough"? Or do you go grinding on? We have to temper justice with mercy.'

We now know what that means: Justice for your Labour enemies. And mercy for your Tory friends.

womens voice

ABORTION: OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE

'If the James White Abortion (amendment) Bill goes through, 80,000 women will lose their legal right to abortion.'

NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION

'Since 1967 when the abortion law was changed, illegal backstreet abortions have decreased by three quarters.'

The latest issue of Womens Voice lists the trade union-sponsored Labour MPs who voted for James White's Bill. It also has a full run-down on the campaign.

Copies available from: Womens Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. 01-739 2639 (6p plus 7p postage).

The vote is over—out come the knives

THE referendum is over. But the alliance of the press, big business, the Tory Party and the Labour Right goes on.

Having worked so well in turning out a Yes vote, this alliance is now directing its energies elsewhere—to winning support for stronger control on wages and further cuts in government spending on health and education, in addition to the £1000 million already announced.

Anyone who wants such cuts, it seems is a 'moderate', and anyone who prefers better social services and higher wages all round is an 'extremist'.

But the attacks in the press are not merely on those rank and file socialists and trade unionists who oppose the cuts. There are also repeated attacks on certain Labour ministers, in particular on Benn.

Yet Benn has not opposed big business's main demand—that living standards be sacrificed so that investment can increase. He has never once spoken out against the Social Contract, he has kept absolutely silent about the Shrewsbury pickets, from him came not a word of protest over the budget and he has all too readily handed over state cash to private industrialists.

It is true that he has enabled a couple of workers' co-operatives to be set up—but each time on terms that meant an eventual reduction in the workforce by half. In steel, his policy means that 20,000 jobs will be lost through 'natural wastage' instead of the compulsory redundancy wanted by BSC chief Monty Finniston. But they will be lost just the same and there will be 20,000 more unemployed.

Benn's call for 'participation' would not mean real workers' control—workers controlling the overall functioning of the economy and making it serve human need not profit—but rather would mean workers collaborating with their employers in raising profits and cutting manning levels. Benn's policy here is no different from that used in Germany soon after the war to castrate rank and file trade union organisation.

Profitable

In fact, both Benn's state intervention in industry and his 'workers participation' are policies for reforming the big business system and making it more profitable.

To get workers to accept this policy, Benn has engaged in a great deal more socialist-sounding talk than he has ever translated into action. No doubt he also hopes that his talk will one day help him achieve his ambition to be Leader of the Labour Party.

It is this talk, rather than his actions, which anger big business and its most ardent supporters in all three political parties.

They are after Benn not because of what he is, but because of what he could represent to many workers. At a time when they are demanding all-out war on workers' wages and conditions, they cannot tolerate anyone who, even in words, gives the impression that everything is not entirely the fault of the workers.



Benn: Better days playing with Concorde

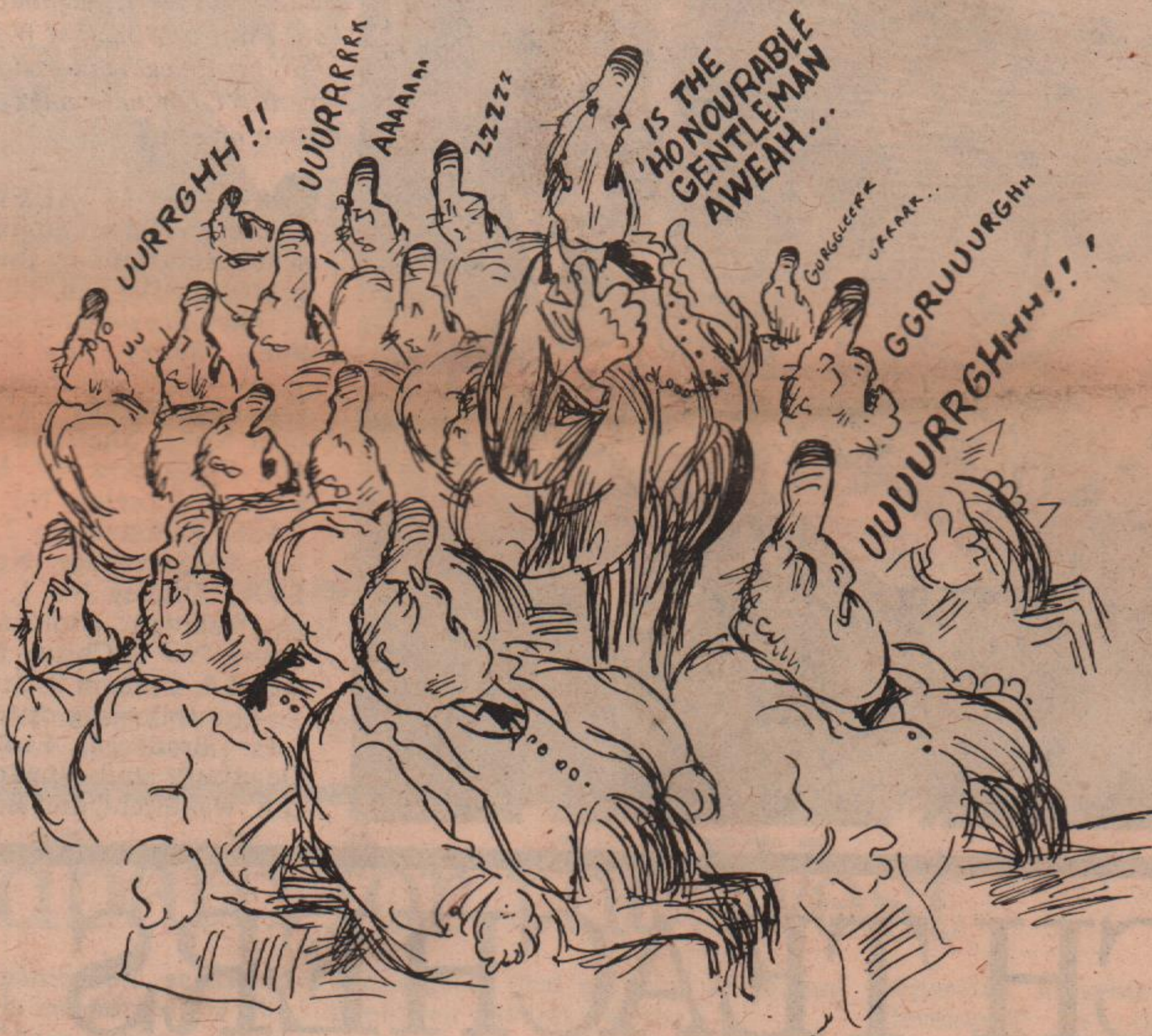
They want a government that is prepared to wage such all-out war on workers, not to buy workers' support for capitalism with concessions. As The Economist, big business's own weekly paper, puts it: 'Mr Wilson's aim should be to refreshen a government which is prepared to administer the awful medicine that Britain now requires.'

Illusions

Thus the change in the government: is intended not so much to get rid of the 'socialist' Benn, as to produce a Cabinet which is more dependent on the Tories for its support and more vicious in its treatment of trade unionists. And that means a government that does not even talk in terms of socialism or concession to workers.

Benn by accepting these changes has shown that he puts political office above any principles.

Now, at last, the moment you've been waiting for. A great historic occasion in which the cut and thrust of debate in Parliament, the cockpit of British democracy, is brought by radio into every living room . . .



Banqueting Healey promises to attack wages

A NEW assault on wages was promised by Chancellor Denis Healey after a bankers' banquet in Glasgow last weekend.

The international millionaire audience enthused over Healey's pledge to aim for a 50 per cent cut in inflation over the next 12 months. But the inevitable punch line came the morning after when he made it clear that once again the workers would be expected to pay for it.

Lower wage settlements would take priority in the counter-inflation policies that he planned, he said. The guidelines for the Social Contract swallowed by the TUC last year would have to be renewed.

Sitting alongside Healey throughout this harangue, without a word of protest at his proposals, were Scottish Labour chairman Tom Fulton and members of the party executive.

The crowning insult was Healey's reference to the majority of workers 'settling for the crumbs to pay for those who are settling for the plums'. This from a 'socialist' minister who had spent the previous night feasting with the representatives of international capitalism over five courses with the usual wines, cigars and liqueurs, at the biggest junket ever in the city's top Albany Hotel.

This gesture to the country's financial crisis was the climax of a £60,000, week-long jamboree by the Institute of Bankers in Scotland

THE country is living beyond its means, we are continually being told, so we must cut back by sacrificing wage increases and social services. One thing that is not being cut back, however, is the spending by the giant soap companies as they attempt to increase their profits through advertising. Last year they spent between them £4,400,000 on television advertising. This year they are spending £1 million on promoting just one new brand, Drive.

Police get a tenner

THE police have done rather better in their wage negotiations than the railwaymen—without even bothering to go to arbitration, and without any fuss in the newspapers about breaking the Social Contract.

A constable joining the police who was on just under £36 a week on last year's pay scales, finds his basic pay jumping to £46.15 on the new rate. That's more than £10 (29 per cent) a week in new money—since the rises are on top of the threshold and social hours payments won by the police last year.

And that's nothing to the rise for the chief superintendents, who get a nice hefty 35 per cent in new money, bringing them up to £154 a week.

AT last week's conference of the International Socialists, Paul Foot said that he was giving up the editing of Socialist Worker, although remaining on the paper as a full-time journalist. The newly-elected Central Committee of IS has appointed Chris Harman as the new editor.



JACK JONES: Wants joint agreement with CBI on wages policy.

TUC circulates secret plan to keep down wages

THE leaders of the TUC show every sign of giving way completely to the hullabaloo the big business press is making about wages. On Sunday Jack Jones, Transport Workers' general secretary, called on the Confederation of British Industry to meet the TUC to agree jointly on a future wages policy. No doubt Jack who must be paid about £120 a

week, will be only too happy to discuss with industrialists who are paid about a £1,000 a week how to hold back the wages of those of us who get massive and outrageous sums like £40 or £50 a week.

Two days earlier senior union leaders had been circulated with the TUC's own plan for wage controls. These plans are secret and trade union members have to rely on papers such as the Financial Times to know what is being talked about in our name. According to that paper, the TUC document 'proposed that unions should be prepared from this autumn onwards to aim for wage rises lower than the current rate of price increases.'

At first, wage rises would be set at a 20 per cent level, though prices are rising at 25 per cent a year. Take away the slice of any wage rise that goes in tax and national insurance deductions, and you can see that the TUC is talking about massive cuts in the buying power of your wage packet.

FOOD GOING UP—OFFICIAL

MOST food prices are going up by 10 per cent in the next couple of months. Hardly was the referendum out of the way, than ministers of agriculture from the nine Common Market countries were discussing proposals to reduce the value of the 'green pound', which determines the price paid in Britain for food imported from Europe.

That is how 'democracy' works—they promise you one thing, and when they have got your vote, do the opposite.

The main effect of such a move will be to push up prices—for example butter is expected to cost another 3p a pound. This is very satisfactory for the big farmers and food manufacturers, who can expect to see their profits rise as a result.

The increases will in no way have been caused by wages. But that won't stop the press blaming workers for inflation, just as they are now blaming us for the price increases of the past two months caused by government policy and the budget.

Health and Safety at Work

Day schools arranged by the Rank and File Organising Committee and sponsored by local shop stewards' committees and union branches:

BIRMINGHAM 28 June

Contact: John Hindmarsh, 37 Lysander House, Castle Vale, Birmingham 37. Phone (4pm-7pm) 021-747 0807.

YORK 28 June

Contact: Eric Golding, 221 Melrosegate, Hull Road, York. Phone 0904 - 30413.

MANCHESTER 5 July

Contact: Gerry Davidson, 75 Lylac Court, Salford 6. Phone 061-737 7828.

Discussions are also taking place on holding day schools in Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Coventry, Ipswich, Glasgow, Newcastle and Bradford. Dates will be announced as soon as possible.

Why not raise it at your next meeting and contact the Rank and File Organising Committee for a school in your area?

The safety pamphlet Cause For Concern is now being reprinted so further supplies can now be ordered from the new address:

Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16 8BY. Phone 01-249 1207.

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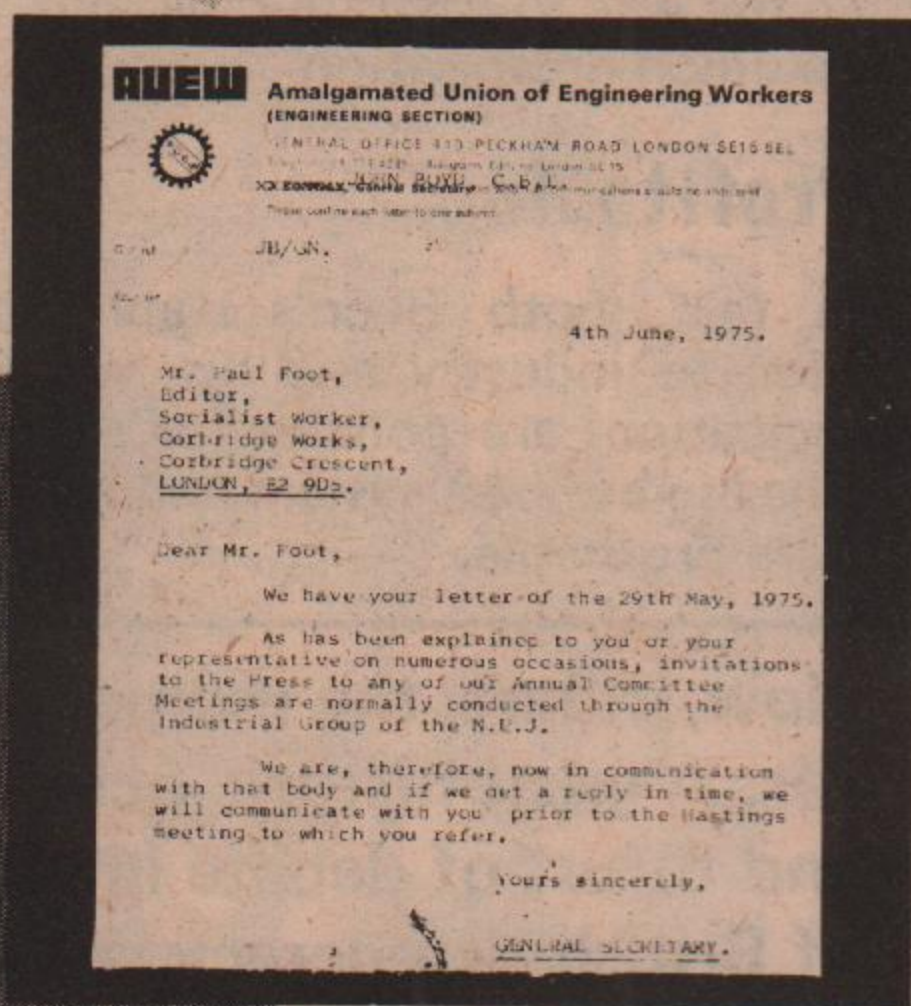
MAYBE you need to know more about your firm, its profits, its directors.
PERHAPS you're worried about the chemicals you work with.

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.

THE UNIONS

AUEW ban: Campaign hots up



Above: the letter from John Boyd, CBE: left, flashback to Paul Foot of Socialist Worker lobbying delegates outside the recent AUEW national committee meeting.

THE CAMPAIGN to allow Socialist Worker reporters to attend conferences of the engineering union (AUEW) is hotting up.

Last Thursday, we received this letter (below) from the union's general secretary, John Boyd, in reply to our request for credentials for the amalgamated union conference in Hastings this week. Boyd's letter says:

Insists

'As has been explained to you or your representative on numerous occasions, invitations to the press to any of our annual committee meetings are normally conducted through the industrial group of the NUJ.

'We are therefore now in communication with that body, and, if we get a reply in time, we will communicate with you . . .'

We have replied immediately to Boyd, pointing out that, in spite of many statements to the contrary by us and by the National Union of Journalists, he still insists on describing the 'industrial group' as 'of the NUJ'.

Our letter went on: 'Once again, can I remind you that the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group has nothing to do with the NUJ, and is not a trade union body at all?'

Written

'The group prohibits all weekly papers from membership. So our industrial correspondent cannot join the group. We cannot, on your ruling, come to your conference unless we are a member of a group, from which, along with all other weekly papers, we are automatically excluded.'

The letter goes on to apply for press credentials for the important AUEW annual conference in Hastings on 16 June.

In the meantime, the Labour and industrial correspondents group have written to John Boyd that they have nothing to do with deciding who goes to AUEW conferences, and that any dispute between the union and Socialist Worker does not and cannot involve the group.

We have also written to Ken Morgan, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, asking him to write to Boyd stating once again that the union does not recognise the groups of correspondents as trade union bodies, and is opposed to the refusal of press credentials to any members of the group.

This is a change from their previous adamant stand. It is a change, we believe, that is related directly to the fine response from the union's rank and file.

It is most important that other branches and committees send in similar resolutions before the Hastings conference.

So far, 34 AUEW branches and seven district committees have sent resolutions to the committee protesting the ban. They include:

The following branches: Thornbury, Shipley, New Southgate No 1, Glasgow Springfield, Leeds Central, Keighley TASS, Chippenham No 1, Sheffield 9, Sheffield 10, Partington 97 ME, Walsall Central, Coseley No 2, Burnley TASS, Kirkstall No 2, Edmonton No 1, Stevenage No 1, Ossett 560E, Shipley No 1, Shipley No 2, Walkden (Bolton), Wythenshawe No 1, Chiswick 5, Cricklewood 4, Oldham 9, Stratford 2.

The following district committees: Bradford, Enfield, Leeds, Dewsbury and Newton, Warrington, Wakefield, and Bolton.

TECH TEACHERS FIGHT EDUCATION CUTS

TECH AND POLY teachers refused at the recent conference of their union, ATTI, to accept passively the next wave of swingeing education cuts promised by Lord Crowther Hunt.

His lordship presented a neat package of 'education for the needs of industry' which would do us good in the long run.

Cutbacks in education could mean better use of resources (broom cupboards for classrooms), while the challenge of 'new technology' and 'manpower planning' could mean training our students for 'flexibility in the workplace', that is, redeployment and redundancies.

Conference delegates refused to swallow Crowther Hunt's tonic and embarrassed our meek executive by heckling throughout his speech. This was not reported in the press, of course.

Education cuts, sanctions, salaries and the effects of the Houghton Report, women's rights and the proposed abortion act were all areas of major concern.

Rank and File policies fought for in the branches and divisions over the past three years were shown as a focus for positive action on these questions—and Rank and File speakers provided a direct challenge to the high-minded speeches of the executive.

Although few Rank and File resolutions were passed, much of the debate was defined in Rank and File terms and the executive had to sharpen up its arguments (or its rhetoric) accordingly.

In the executive resolution on educational resources, conference rejected the concept of a flexible workforce.

In the debate on salaries, conference insisted—in the face of executive opposition—on a firm condemnation of Houghton's reinforcement of differentials between Polys and Techs as well as between the top

By Joy Leman

and bottom grades of teaching salaries.

Rank and File pressure for a single salary scale for teachers contrasted with the minimal proposals of the executive for the merger of the bottom two scales.

Only continuous pressure from the membership will ensure the inclusion of this in the crunch point of the next salary negotiations.

Total support by conference delegates for a comprehensive resolution

About these postal ballots

THE FOLLOWING resolution has been passed by the Doncaster No 8 AUEW branch, and sent to the union's executive.

This branch calls upon the executive to mount a vigorous campaign for the advancement of the postal ballot system in the following areas:

- 1: In all general elections.
- 2: In all referenda.
- 3: For the leadership of the Labour

Party, by balloting all members every three years.

4: For the regular election of all newspaper editors, and those political commentators who show 'genuine' concern for the union, in particular, Bro W Wyatt.

5: We would like to take the opportunity of congratulating our president for restoring to our branch the franchise of all our members and not only those fortunate enough to receive ballot forms.

on women's rights marks a stepping up of the pressure by the membership for implementation of earlier fragmented policy on issues such as nurseries and maternity leave.

The importance of generalising these aspects of the struggle to link up with other unions was shown in our support as a union for the Working Women's Charter of the London Trades Council, which includes demands for equal pay and educational opportunity, more nursery provision, paid maternity leave, paternity leave and freely available abortion and contraception.

Even on this the executive pussy-footed, trying to obstruct the decision of conference to set up an elected standing panel on women's rights to consolidate work already begun on these issues and to co-ordinate future implementation of these campaigns.

One of the most urgent issues which Rank and Filers have organised around is the campaign to stop the James White Abortion Bill.

Conference showed its opposition to this dangerous Bill by overwhelmingly supporting a resolution calling on the executive to campaign against the Bill and to support the 21 June national demonstration.

END POLITICAL REPRESSION IN SPAIN! March, Saturday 14 June, 2pm, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, to Spanish Embassy

THE deep political crisis in Spain has intensified further over the past week.

According to the Financial Times a majority of Ministers now feel that Franco must step down right away or the movement against the regime could become strong enough to overthrow it altogether.

Their problem is that Generalissimo Franco may not wish to oblige them, and every day's delay sees the opposition gaining strength—despite ever-increasing repression.

The opposition movement is at its strongest in Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa in Northern Spain, the two provinces where the people, of Basque nationality, have long struggled against oppression and where the working class is immensely strong.

Despite the imposition of martial law and a truly massive police presence in these provinces, the general strike called by underground workers' commissions and revolutionary organisations for Wednesday this week was expected to gain considerable support.

The strike on 11 December attracted the support of 200,000 workers.

Spain: Resistance to Franco grows

For Wednesday, attempts had been made to spread the strike outside the Basque provinces.

The fascist regime has countered these moves by blacking out all information from the Basque provinces and in every possible way trying to cover up the seriousness of the situation. They have also launched preemptive strikes against working-class militants throughout Spain, making literally hundreds upon hundreds of arrests. But in some cases these

swoops are driving the opposition movement on.

In Getafe, the main industrial suburb of Madrid, there has been a wave of political strikes. Workers at the Casa aircraft factory and at Siemens and Kelvinator went on strike. Riot police were rushed in to the Kelvinator plant to clear the workers out. Strikes were also reported at the Fiat, Standard Electrics (ITT) and Femsal electrical plants. Construction workers also supported

the strikes.

Students at Madrid University also moved into action against the regime. They walked off campus and halted rush hour traffic shouting 'Down with Fascism' and giving the clenched fist salute.

There is also evidence to suggest that there is now willingness among the professional and middle classes to join the opposition movement, often in response to the outrages of the police. Four hundred of them

who attempted to hand in a letter of protest asking for political liberties to the Ministry of Information in Madrid last Friday night were baton-charged. Nearly 2000 had signed the letter.

Just how serious the crisis and the repression is can be gauged from a report in a top-selling news magazine that if the arrests continued at the present rate half the total population of Spain would be in jail and the other half working overtime to feed them. For printing this analysis the magazine has been suppressed.

Forces

Clearly the fascist regime and their backers inside and outside Spain are walking a tightrope. They would like to keep the regime virtually the same as at present but with a slight change of face to make it seem more democratic. But first they want to smash those forces that fight in a militant way for real democracy for the workers. So they initiate massive repression.

But there is a real possibility that their plans could blow up in their faces. Fear of this situation could explain why they backed off from imposing the death sentence in the first of the latest round of show trials last week.

Last Thursday very heavy jail sentences were imposed on five Basque militants tried before a military court in Burgos on trumped-up terrorism charges. Among them was Ignacio Garmendia, a 19-year-old bank clerk who it was thought would be given the death sentence and then garrotted. Instead he got a 23-year jail sentence from the military court, as did Juan Zubendi a student also 19.

Pressure

Two other students, Inigo Alcain and Jose Arrieta aged 21, got eight years and six years respectively. The fifth defendant, Juan Bautista Lasa, a priest, got 12 years for possession of explosives.

One other factor that may have caused the regime to back off is the growing international protests against the trials and the repression. This pressure must be kept on because another Basque militant, Echeverria, is still to go on trial on a capital charge. Antonio Duran, a worker militant, and Eva Forest, a revolutionary socialist, are also to go on trial for their lives at the end of this month.

For this reason all London IS members and every militant and socialist must support the London demonstration called by the Spanish Solidarity Committee THIS SATURDAY. March, assembles at 2pm, Hyde Park Corner, and goes to Spanish Embassy.

“

Western Europe's behaviour as it has watched the situation in Portugal deteriorate has been totally passive. It cannot be proved but it is possible that had greater encouragement been given to the moderate force at an earlier stage the left-wing militants might never have advanced so far. It would be a mistake to risk the same developments in Spain simply because of memories of the Civil War and a dislike of General Franco.

”

'The Western Allies and Spain', an editorial in the Financial Times, 22 May 1975.



Supporters of the Spanish Solidarity Campaign picketing Spain's London Embassy last week
PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Profitable bloodbath for the West

ANGOLA, the extremely wealthy former Portuguese colony, is moving still nearer civil war. Last weekend there was again heavy fighting in the capital, Luanda, between the forces of the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) and the FNLA (Front for the National Liberation of Angola), the organisation which is being used by big business in an attempt to gain control over the rich spoils of Angola.

Over recent months MPLA, the genuine national liberation force, has taken a terrible battering. They have held to the interim agreement reached with the Portuguese authorities which envisages 'peace' until complete withdrawal of Portuguese troops this autumn. But while the Portuguese government has been holding the MPLA to this agreement, troops from the regular army of Zaire have been moved across the border to assist the FNLA. Zaire, the rich copper state to the north of Angola, is the main instrument of Henry Kissinger's new American imperialism in Africa.

Offensive

By operating in this way the FNLA were gaining the upper hand. But the MPLA, fearing that its organisation was going to be totally destroyed, moved on to the offensive. As a result they have won back some of the initiative.

Against this background, the leaders of FNLA and of UNITA, the

third black organisation active in Angola, which is supported by the white settlers, have talked about staging top level peace talks.

The reaction of the Portuguese forces still on the ground in Angola has been 'not to get involved'—that is, to give a passive support to the reactionary forces.

But after an intense debate and all sorts of splits inside the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal itself, the Portuguese army has resolved to intervene more directly in the Angolan situation.

Problems

This policy seems to amount to sending 'disciplined' troops to Angola. But 'disciplined' troops means paratroopers and the like who are not so affected by revolutionary ideas and who therefore tend to be right-wing. It is this contradiction which in all probability led last week to 60 soldiers due to go to Angola refusing to get on board their plane.

The fantastic problems that the crisis in Angola creates in Portugal itself is something that those who frame American and British diplomacy understand only too well. They are doing everything in their power to increase those problems.

But they have another purpose. Angola is an immensely wealthy territory. It's the second biggest diamond producer in the world and the fourth biggest coffee producer. It has significant reserves of iron ore

and a great deal of other as yet unexploited mineral wealth.

What Western big business wants to see emerge in Angola is a weak and corrupt government which will be only too prepared to pay it tribute.

The thoroughness of the operation can be seen in Cabinda. In this Angolan enclave to the north which borders on Zaire and the Congo, a separatist movement has suddenly appeared. This has been conjured into existence with help from Gulf Oil, which has the concessions for offshore oil exploration. A similar

separatist movement has also been developed in the Azores, the Portuguese islands in the Atlantic where NATO operations are based.

Everything that is happening in Angola is a clear indication that the scramble for Africa did not stop with the end of the 19th century or even with nominal independence in the 1950s and 1960s. Far from it, American and British capital are clearly willing to provoke a bloody civil war of Congo proportions in Angola, and drown the people in blood for the greater good of respectable businessmen's profits.



'Black workers must not be burdened with superfluous appendages like women and children'

G.F. VAN L. FRONEMAN
when South African
Minister of Justice

Last Grave at Dimbaza

Filmed ILLEGALLY in SOUTH AFRICA during 1973 by BLACK film makers

SOCIALIST WORKER FILM TOUR
LEEDS: Sunday 22 June—full details next week
BRADFORD: Monday 23 June, 7.30pm, Afro-West Indian Club, 55 Goodwin Street.
MANCHESTER: Tuesday 24 June—details next week
LEICESTER: Wednesday 25 June, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Vaughan Way.
BLACKBURN: Thursday 26 June—details next week.
DERBY: Sunday 29 June, 7.30pm, Queen's Hall, London Road.
CAMBRIDGE: Monday 30 June—details next week.
BIRMINGHAM: Wednesday 2 July—details next week.
COVENTRY: Thursday 3 July—details next week.
WEST LONDON: Friday 4 July—details next week.
NORTH LONDON: Sunday 6 July, 7pm, Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road, N4. Tickets 30p in advance from local IS branches, 40p on the door. Watch Socialist Worker for further details.

Questions on the Crisis

BY DUNCAN HALLAS

RON HAYWARD, the Labour Party's general secretary, has been calling for 'selective import controls' to help solve unemployment and increase output in Britain.

The idea has already been taken up by textile workers—and their employers—and is being argued by some carworkers.

A member of the International Socialists selling Socialist Worker on a demonstration by Vauxhall workers fell into conversation with one of them who told him: 'These blokes are their own worst enemy, half of them have got foreign cars, if they only bought Vauxhalls we wouldn't be on short-time.'

Vauxhall, of course, is wholly owned by General Motors of Detroit!

But what about it? Are import controls in the interests of working people? Are they, as some Tribune supporters argue, a 'socialist measure'?

Two things can be said right off. The call for import controls—or other 'protective' schemes such as special tariffs—unites sec-

Are import controls in the interests of workers?

tions of workers and their employers—that is what is happening in textiles—and divides the working class, both here and internationally.

It is a version of the old 'free trade versus protection' controversy, which the employers (through the Liberal and Tory Parties) used to divide the working class back in the first decades of this century.

That fact in itself should give pause to those who think that there is something inherently 'socialist' about controls.

It was the Tory Party that stood for 'protection' in the 1920s and the Tory-dominated 'national government' of 1931

that abolished free trade at the same time that it cut unemployment benefit.

Nowadays, the Tories are practically all pro-Common Market and the Common Market is a 'free trade area'. So they oppose British import controls and tariffs (which are forbidden by the Rome Treaty) in favour of 'European' ones.

Of course the Common Market is 'protectionist' towards the rest of the world. In fact the Common Market Commission is currently engaged in a dispute with the US Department of Agriculture over alleged 'dumping' of Common Market foodstuffs in the United States.

The US alleges that Common Market butter and cheese is being exported at or below cost (which certainly happens) while US products pay a heavy tariff.

In all these disputes the socialist position is based on this basic principle: 'Economic nationalism, which unites sections of workers behind their employers against other workers, is always harmful to the struggle for socialism—which requires workers to unite against the employing class—and to the interests of the working class as a whole.'

Suppose—for the sake of argument—that, in spite of the Common Market, the British government imposed a quota or a large tariff on the import of foreign cars—as it did in the 1930s.

Planned

British Leyland might sell more, Volkswagen less. But the obvious result would be to unite foreign carworkers behind their employers to demand retaliation, using exactly the same arguments.

More than that. Uniting workers and management 'against foreign competition' undermines the struggle to maintain and improve living standards and increases 'international' competition', undermines the struggle to maintain and improve living standards and increases 'international' competition to drive down standards and increase speed up.

Economic nationalism inevitably means class collaboration just as 'national unity' inevitably means international disunity.

These things are weapons in the hands of the employers in their struggle to increase profits at the expense of wages and working conditions.

Does that mean that socialists accept the 'free trade' argument? Not at all. Free trade is no more compatible with socialism than 'free competition' is.

The socialist alternative is the abolition of the competitive struggle for markets by a democratically-controlled, planned economy based on production for use, not profit.

The first step towards it is working class unity against the employers—all employers, British or foreign.

Socialism is necessarily internationalist. National and sectional interests are necessarily anti-socialist.

5 FIFTH COLUMN takes a ride on a 106



THE 106 London Transport bus runs from the East End to Finsbury Park. It pumps people from factories in East London to homes in North London. It is a one man operation, with the driver collecting the fares.

One hot day in the evening rush-hour last week there were about 90 people on the bus. They were packed together, it was noisy, sweaty, unpleasant.

Around Stamford Hill, halfway through the run, the bus stopped. It took time for the passengers upstairs, in the middle and at the back to realise that an argument was going on.

The driver had told a tired, angry West Indian that the bus was full, and that he had to get off. He wouldn't do so, he was quietly angry, the driver was frustrated.

'I know how he feels', said a woman. 'He was first in the queue, a lot of people pushed past him. But what can you do?'

The West Indian wouldn't move. Two 106s went past, the passengers started leaving the bus, the argument continued.

'Get off! I want to go home' shouted a West Indian woman from the back of the bus.

'DON'T touch me!' said the rebel as someone started arguing with him.

'Look mate you may have been first in the queue, but that doesn't mean a thing anymore,' said an man near the automatic ticket machine. 'People come from all over the bloody place, and get on, queues are finished nowadays.'

Another 106 pulled up behind. The driver left the bus and walked off. It was rumoured that he had gone to look for the law.

HAILED

The bus continued emptying. The rebel had shown considerable courage. He had been first in the queue, he had ignored the pressure of the driver, the rest of the passengers, he had stopped the bus—and he'd lost. He got off and walked back to the other 106.

It is a wonderful thing, a single-manned 89-passenger London Transport bus. Much hailed in the papers as modern and efficient. On the old Routemasters there was a conductor, a driver and less passengers.

On these buses all power, and all responsibility, is concentrated on one overworked driver. He has to open and shut the doors so that the passengers' freedom to nip on and off the bus at the lights (and admittedly, dice with death) is removed. He has to collect the fares, sometimes driving the bus with his other hand, and he has to pack more people into his metal box than any other bus he ever has. He is the classic example of a super-exploited worker.

The rebel, and the bloke who had told him that queues were a thing of the past, has it all summed up. In the 'old days' people had made their order, they'd queued. Now a



Please, your honour, it's my back

sharp operator goes through the automatic ticket dispenser—so there's no point in queueing. The rebel had played it by the rules and lost.

The passengers weren't angry, but sympathetic, and in some cases a little guilty. The argument, the sweating passengers, the angry driver, the defiant passenger were all caught up in our rulers' idea of progress—a model which they extend over all parts of our lives. The driver had been made their representative, the rest of us scramble for a seat, or for standing room.

We filed on to the other 106. From upstairs the last Scottish football supporters in London were singing. 'If you hate Alan Ball, clap your hands.'

BLIND WATCHDOG

HAS BABY just been sucked into the vacuum cleaner? Have you recently been throwing up after eating up an un-datestamped two year old TV dinner? Has your fridge just exploded and impaled you with flying ice?

Well perhaps you should complain to the director-general of fair trading, Mr John Methven, or, after his statement of last week, perhaps you don't need to bother. 'No one will profit from consumer protection measures which impose excessive costs on industry and commerce,' he claimed.

After 21 years of employment with Imperial Chemical Industries Mr Methven is clearly well qualified to give an impartial view. 'I have always said that I am a referee standing between two sides. I am just not a consumer watchdog... One could spend lots and lots of money protecting consumers by, for example, date stamping everything. But it is likely to be unacceptable in the long run because it would put up the cost to the consumer.'

Or, alternatively, it might make a miniscule dent into the profits of companies like ICI. And that's much worse than food poisoning isn't it?

THE FINES and demotions meted out to 40 anonymous policemen who helped themselves to 15 tons of tinned food which had fallen off the back of a crashed lorry on the M5 last year will outrage all those who care about justice in the country.

Complaints that they should have been brought to trial are disgraceful. Their action in transferring the food to their private larders was obviously to prevent the footpads, felons and highwaymen known to infest the

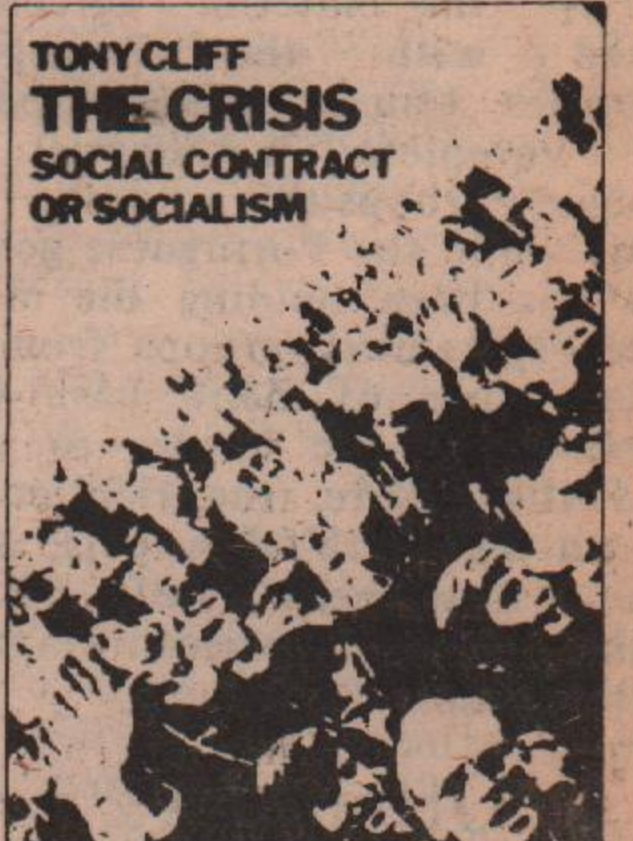
motorway from stealing the goods.

They should also be commended for the alacrity with which they reacted to this motorway tragedy. Police cars arrived speedily from the Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset forces and the food was quickly dispersed to their homes in Stroud, Lydney, Gloucester and Weston Super Mare. This was doubtless to fool the bands of brigands.

It is good to see that the Newcastle upon Tyne force have a more progressive view. Troublemakers among the staff of a local Marks and Spencers branch accused a detective inspector of shoplifting, and are 'annoyed' that the Director of Public Prosecutions is taking no action over the case.

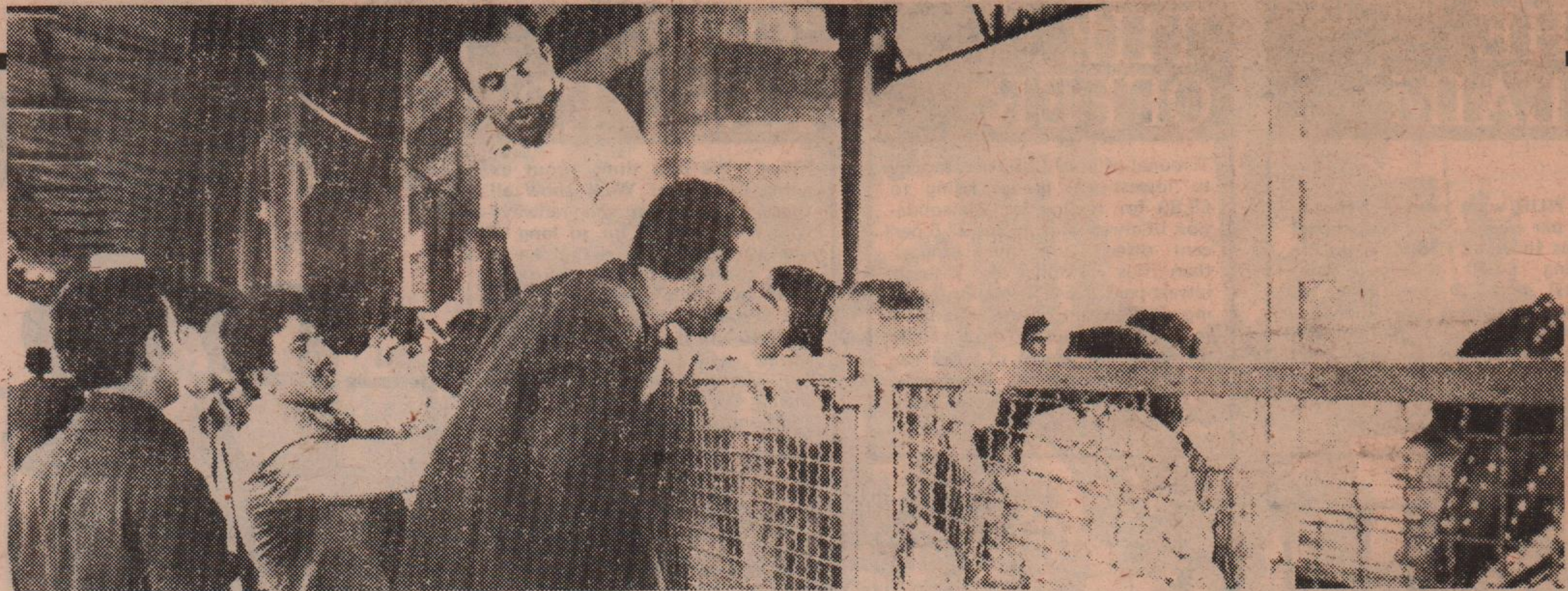
Needless to say the policeman had a complete answer to the charges. Apparently he had a 'bad back' which made him 'forgetful'.

This has led many people to hope that the 250 police who have been bounced out of the London police during the last 30 months on corruption charges will be given a second chance. Contact with the criminal classes had given many of them whooping coughs, measles, swollen wallets, sprained fists and injured toes which has led to widespread amnesia, amongst the lawmen.



75p plus 8p postage from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Bulk reductions for trade union branches, shop stewards' committees, trades councils etc—inquire Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1. A SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLICATION

To be homeless



'ONE WHO is a king at home is a beggar abroad.' I came to understand what this phrase means because I am no longer a king.

By kingship, I mean kingship of heart and soul. What I had of it I have lost. Now I am an 'immigrant', a 'foreigner', a 'coloured bloke'—or a 'wog'.

Exploiters have no colour no race and no nations. But they belong to one class. That is why I am to suffer when I am at home or in a foreign land.

Being away from where I was raised, I sometimes say: 'Death at home is better than life abroad,' though it is an illusion.

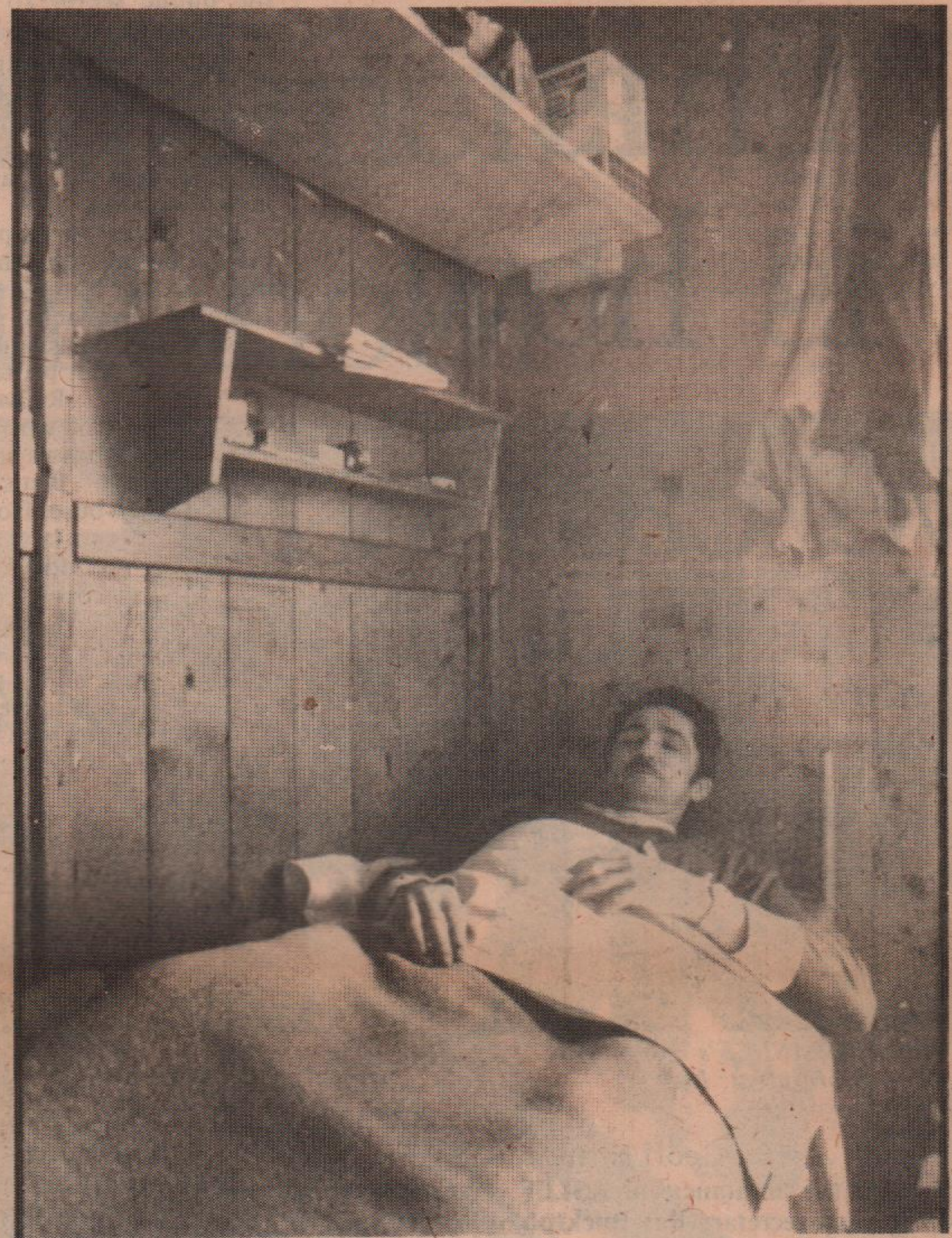
The things I feel about being an immigrant worker are set out very clearly in this book by John Berger*. It is an incredibly representative account.

Somehow it reaches those things which are typical and fundamental about being an immigrant. If you want to know about me and millions like me, then read it.

No immigrant, even after a long stay, tears himself or herself off from his or her old culture and background. This is both a strength and a weakness. It helps you to face and stand prejudices. It helps you get over difficulties in your new environment.

It means hospitality when you are alone. It means some sense of security. It is a mainstay.

is to be



'Second class'

It is weakness because it means that you can never become part of the new world unless you accept class distinction.

In a way, it produces in the immigrant worker a split personality of a sort. You cannot generally communicate the truth with the folks back home. Your own ego stands in the way of admitting your 'inferiority', your being 'second class' in the new world.

Physically, an immigrant worker is aware of being a tool in the new world and mentally he carries a deep, heavy regret against the inability of his own country to 'accommodate' him.

Whatever the new material achievements and satisfaction, there is always something missing—the real sense of belonging. This breeds cynicism, mistrust, even carelessness, with your own standing.

After all, there is no basis for that. Who do you measure yourself against when your fellow white workers, and the world around you, automatically assume that they are superior to you? The sense of resignation and, in many cases, indifference, grows as time goes by.

Admittedly, any generalisation can be misleading. In a world of exploitation and capitalism the human factor is so strong that while circumstances vary and results differ, struggle and efforts to extract and distil from the vast varied arena of experience must continue.

Conditions in your own country compel the immigrant to stay and all the indications are of permanent stay. Immigrants have never returned home except as individuals, though sometimes you wonder why you stay when you are treated as a wog, never as a man.

*A Seventh Man, by John Berger and Jean Mohr (Pelican, £1)

The story of what Britain and her 'justice' have done to us is not new. The Irish were chased and hunted with the game called 'Hunting the Barney' just as the racialists indulged in 'Paki bashing' in London in 1971.

Slogans of 'Control coloured immigration' lead to voluntary repatriation and have culminated, in 1975, into forced repatriation.

The most immoral legislation was passed within 72 hours in 1968. It started from 1962, 1968 and a pause at 1971, and the end will never come even after the new nationality bill of 1976-77.

Racialism has been used over and again in parliamentary and council elections to catch votes and split the working class. Racialism is not only in Enoch Powell's speeches of 'Rivers of Blood'.

It is stamped in by Her Majesty as an Immigration Act 1971 with retrospective patrial and non-patrial and 'conducive to public good' clauses, which amount to institutionalised racialism.

The Race Relations Act, the Race Relations Board, the Community Relations Commission, are just paper flowers for a frightened child.



PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

By
MOTA SINGH

Immigrants, apart from exploiters and opportunists (yes we have our share), have no faith in these agencies and consider them as the watchdogs of the state.

They are to keep the status quo and do window dressing, channel blacks and Asians into acceptance and so lull the initiative from us. They use you and abuse you.

Trade unions have not shown any particular interest in opposing racialism, but most immigrants are good trade unionists.

Immigrants have helped to form many new trade union branches. We have shown militancy and solidarity with our white brothers and sisters.

But the views expressed in the beginning of these lines do have effects. Sometimes the attitude of trade unions towards immigrants forces them to say that the unions are doing nothing about our problems.

A Seventh Man is a true dream/nightmare story that affects us all. For it is not only the immigrant who is deformed by this society.

All of us are. Perhaps those who feel we are inferior are deformed more than anybody else. For in these carefully fanned hatreds we lose our humanity and find despair.

The book tells the story of every immigrant in Britain no matter whether he is from Turkey or Europe or from India. We are the most exploited of all.

The immigrant takes the jobs nobody else will.

The immigrant cannot get promotion.

The immigrant is the first to be made redundant and is always liable to victimisation.

The immigrant is divided from other workers by language and forced to live the life of a passenger on a railway platform.

Heart

There is more to come. On top of all this, the immigrant, vulnerable and exploited, is the first to be insulted and degraded.

These things can do terrible things to you. They can drive fear into your heart, so that you make private deals with your employer, so that you mistrust all officials and organisations.

The only way to solve the workers' puzzle is to get away from the Indian worker, the Pakistani worker, the British worker, the Turkish workers—to the workers of the world.

In real socialism, nobody is divided on the basis of colour, race and nation, and the prejudice and fear that hurts us all is finished.

That is why our slogan is: Workers of the World Unite.

THE CLAIM

The NUR want rises of between 35 per cent for lowest-paid grades (now on £25.65 basic, excluding £4.40 threshold payments) and 30 per cent for highest-paid (top signalmen on £48 basic). Would give lowest-paid £34.65, an increase—after consolidation of threshold—of £4.60 before tax. To get it, NUR has strike fund of £11 million.

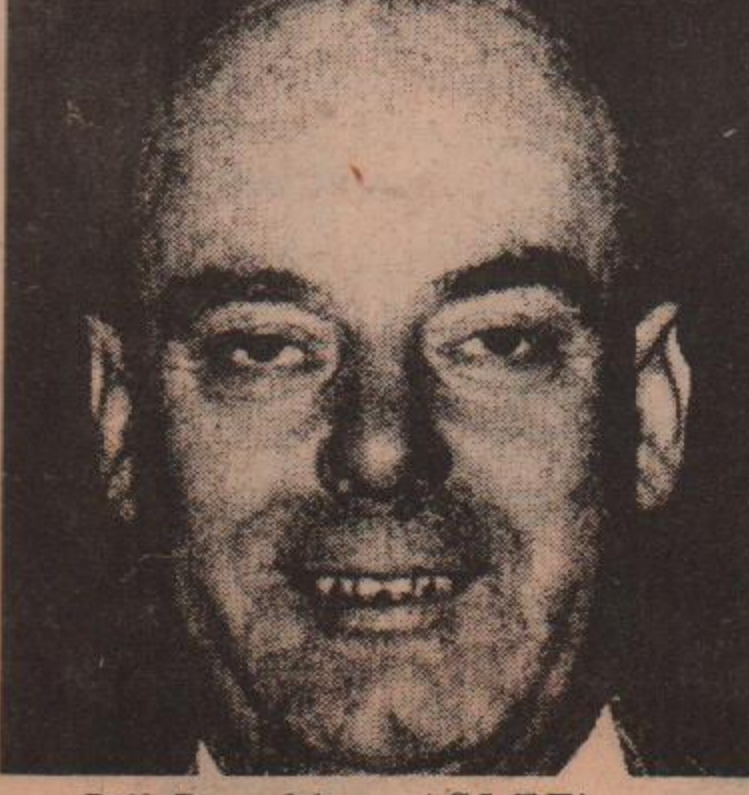
THE OFFER

Tribunal offered £2.65 new money to lowest-paid grades rising to £8.80 for top grades. Consolidation of thresholds makes 27.5 per cent offer sound much bigger than it is. Tribunal also offered lowest-paid a £4 'minimum earnings guarantee', raising minimum to £36.70. Since most NUR members are forced to work excessive overtime, the 'guarantee' is a con-trick which would cost BRB very little.

THE ANSWER

'What's the best thing about us going on strike? We'll show all those workers on the railways who have listened for so long to our leaders telling us that we're weak and helpless, that we're not weak and helpless at all. We've got tremendous power, and we need to use it to prove it to ourselves.'
—Martin Power, Local Departmental Committee member, NUR, Paddington, London.

NUR: This is how we can win



Bill Ronskley, ASLEF's Communist president: he voted for the offer



Ray Buckton, ASLEF's general secretary: so much for his 'militancy'

By Geoff Heaton, ASLEF

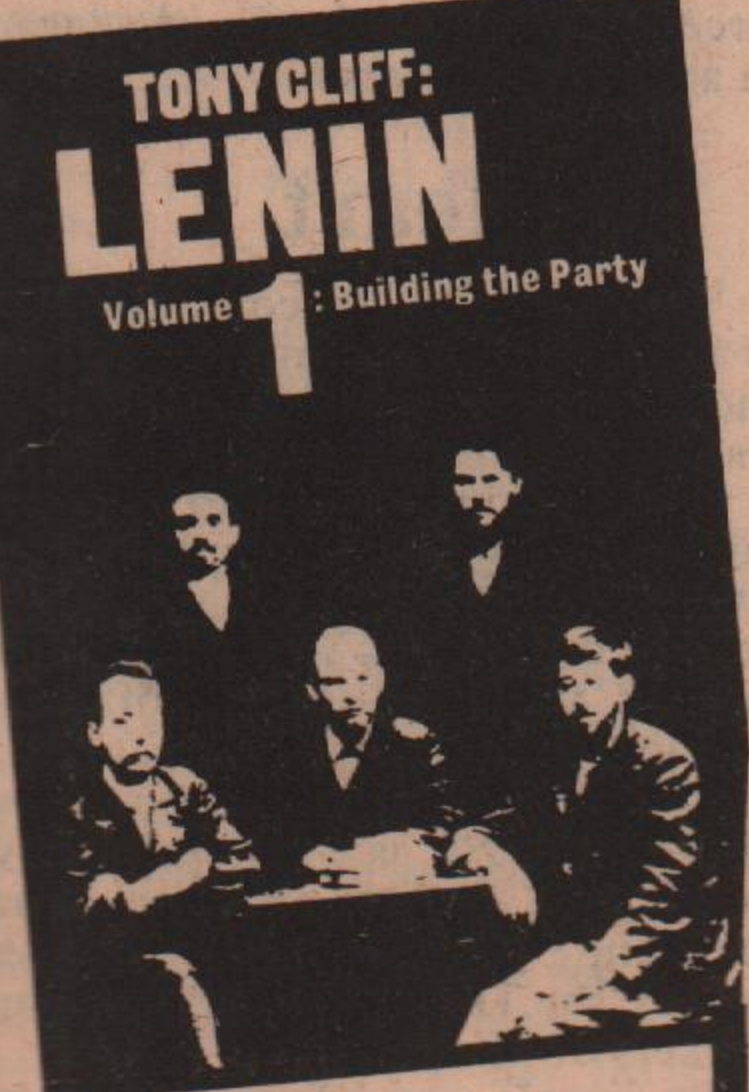
SO MUCH for the 'militancy' of ASLEF. The recent budget produced talk from general secretary Ray Buckton of putting another 11 per cent on the original claim.

Now the executive of the locomen's union have accepted the miserable 'improved' offer—on the same day as the NUR executive were voting to strike—and confirmed the suspicion of many railway workers that the ASLEF leadership is less interested in defending their members' living standards than in maintaining precious differentials.

The unanimous decision of the executive has virtually ruled out any possibility of rank and file members overturning it.

Where were the 'left' in all this? My branch, with several Communist Party members present, sent a telegram calling on the executives to reject the offer. Yet one of those who voted for the sell-out was ASLEF president Bill Ronskley... a CP member.

The Morning Star's front-page report on the NUR strike vote made no criticism of ASLEF's decision. There was, however,



£3 from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (add 15p for post and packing).

ASLEF: What happened?

plenty of praise for ASLEF in a little piece on the same page which announced the splendid news that the ASLEF executive had donated £50 to the Star's fighting fund.

When Ronskley made a powerful plea to vote No to the EEC at the ASLEF conference, the Star was ecstatic.

Strategy

The message seems clear: you may sell out your members, but so long as you give money to the Star and say No to the Common Market, you're alright with the CP.

This is not accidental. It's just the latest example of a strategy that sees the road to socialism in getting 'progressive' people into positions of power and therefore in reducing workers to the role of a stage army.

When the 'progressive people' move to the right, the CP has no answer. This month it is Ronskley, last month it was Bernard Panter of the AUEW.

Rank and file CP militants, in every industry, must question such a strategy.

THE STRIKE called by the National Union of Railwaymen from 23 June is potentially the biggest threat yet to the Social Contract. Harold Wilson has stated that, while he rules out a statutory incomes policy at present, he intends to exercise his control to keep down wages in the public sector so as to discourage private sector workers from putting in big wage claims.

Why is he insisting that the miserable 27½ per cent offered by the 'independent' arbitration board—in new money, less than nine per cent to the lowest-paid—is the limit? After all, he gave in without a fight to the miners and power workers.

The answer is simple: the other groups have shown before that they are not afraid to use their muscle. The rail unions have, for 25 years, accepted cut-backs, redundancies, speed-up, productivity deals and pay norms almost without protest.

Railwaymen have the strength to win any claim. And so the bosses are wasting no time.

British Rail are planning to run buses from London to the Channel ports, and transport 150,000 Golden Rail holiday-makers by coach. Many private companies have secret plans to move goods by road.

This means the strike has to be an active one, or it will demoralise the men while allowing widespread scabbing.

Action

NUR branches, district councils and LDCs (Local Departmental Committees, equivalent to shop stewards' committees) must in every area set up local action committees to:

DEVELOP maximum rank and file involvement in the strike.

MOBILISE support from local miners' lodges, steelworkers, powerworkers and shop stewards' committees, so as to prevent the transfer of coal and iron ore through road transport.

ORGANISE picketing of pits, steelworks and power stations: miners, steelworkers and power workers will support, but won't carry out, railwaymen's picketing for them.

APPROACH bus, coach and transport stewards to get pledges of support not to take on extra work.

BUILD the support of shop stewards' committees in local factories, the post office and print unions to black any goods that normally travel by rail.

OFFER speakers to local shop stewards' committees to explain the railway workers' case.

ENSURE no goods handled by Freightliners and National Carriers travel by road.

PICKET depots and main signal boxes to prevent management and supervisors scabbing.

The NUR should also produce nationally, or branches locally, propaganda for commuters explaining the case.

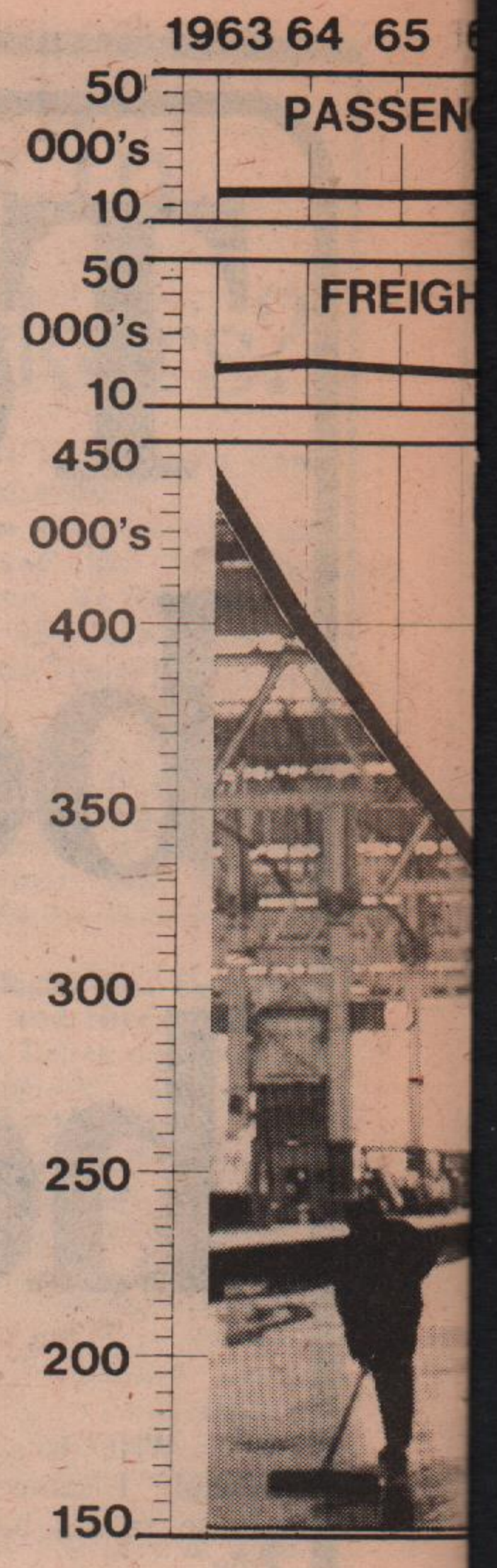
Rank and file ASLEF and TSSA members should refuse to work with scab management and demand full lay-off pay in the event of a lock out. Branches should levy their members to support the NUR, and invite NUR members to speak.

The rank and file are the key to victory—IF they are actively involved and picket effectively.

Such a victory would not only make it far harder for the Labour government to enforce an incomes policy, either voluntary or compulsory.

It could lay the basis for a powerful rank and file movement that will ensure there will be no more sell-outs, either on wages or jobs.

And BR have the nerve to they're b



MANY people say: 'The railways are broke. They can't afford to increase wages.' What are the facts?

The railways were nationalised in 1948. For years before, shareholders in the private railway companies received small dividends as the companies ran down investment.

Yet each shareholder was granted compensation by the government in the form of government stock which guaranteed three per cent income, much of it for thirty years (the payments go on until 1978).

These huge payments had to be found by the new nationalised railways. In 1949, for instance, £44,766,000 was paid out of revenue to the shareholders of the former companies.

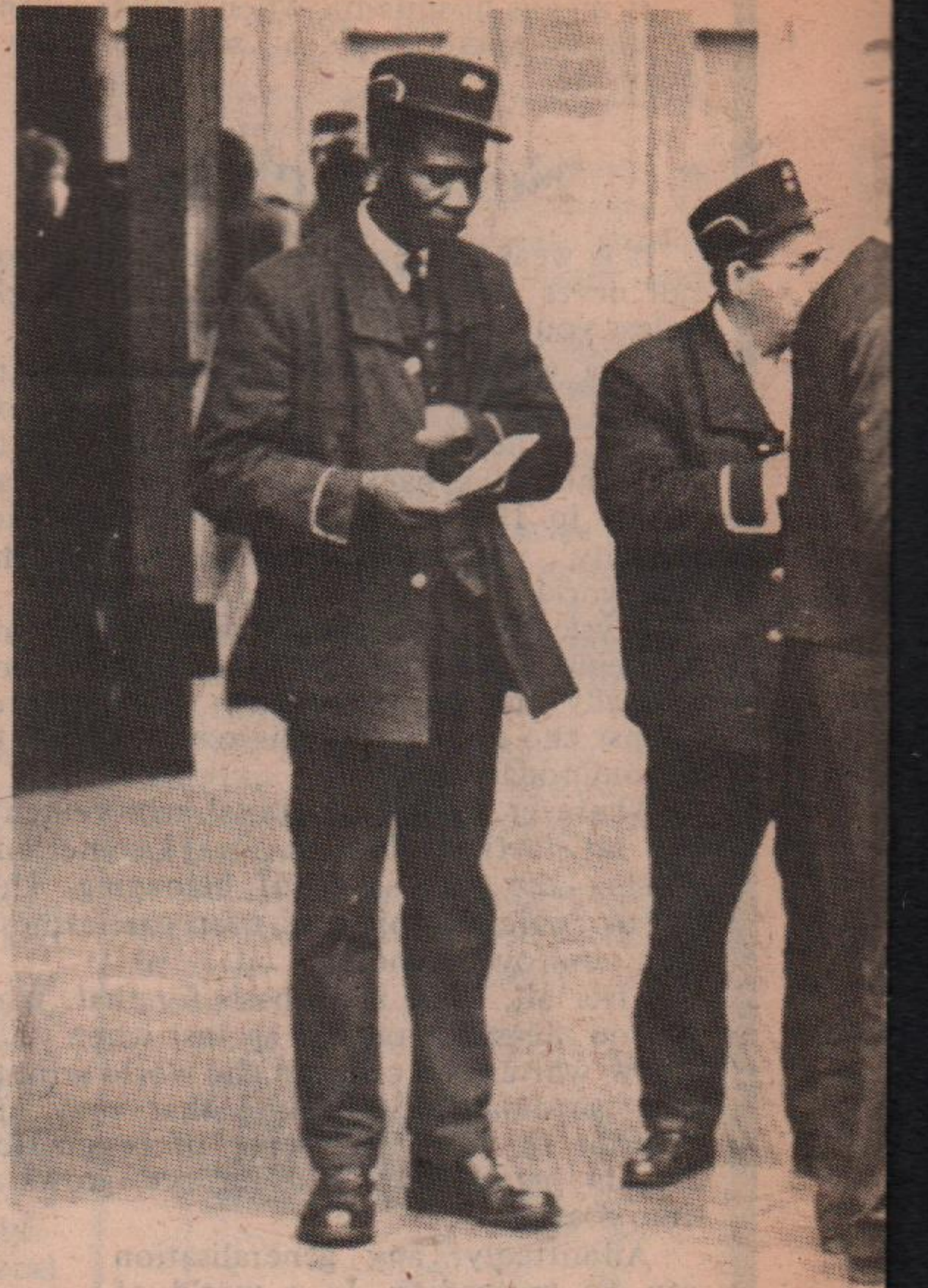
For the first few years after nationalisation, the railways made an operating profit—but it was wiped out by huge interest payments, averaging about £50 million a year.

Reject

Then the Tory government introduced a series of rules designed to turn the railways into a cheap service for manufacturing industry.

Pricing policies were strictly supervised. The railways had to be a 'common carrier' for any goods presented to them, while the road haulage companies could pick the profitable loads and reject the unprofitable.

The railway workshops were not allowed to compete for work outside the railways. Railway investment often had to be paid in one year's revenue, while, in other companies, investment could be spread over five or even ten years.



Railwaymen collecting their pay: 'moderation' has m

The railway tracks had to be paid for in total by the railways while road haulage companies got their roads almost free.

The combined effect of all these restrictions forced the railways into massive losses. As soon as some of the more ridiculous restrictions were lifted—by Labour's Transport Act of 1968—the railways started to make an operating profit again.

But these profits were once again knocked out by interest charges—not only to pay the

railowners, but the losses which had made before.

Year	Profit (£m)
1969	£56.2m
1970	£51.7m
1971	£30.2m
1972	£24.9m
1973	£ 5.7m

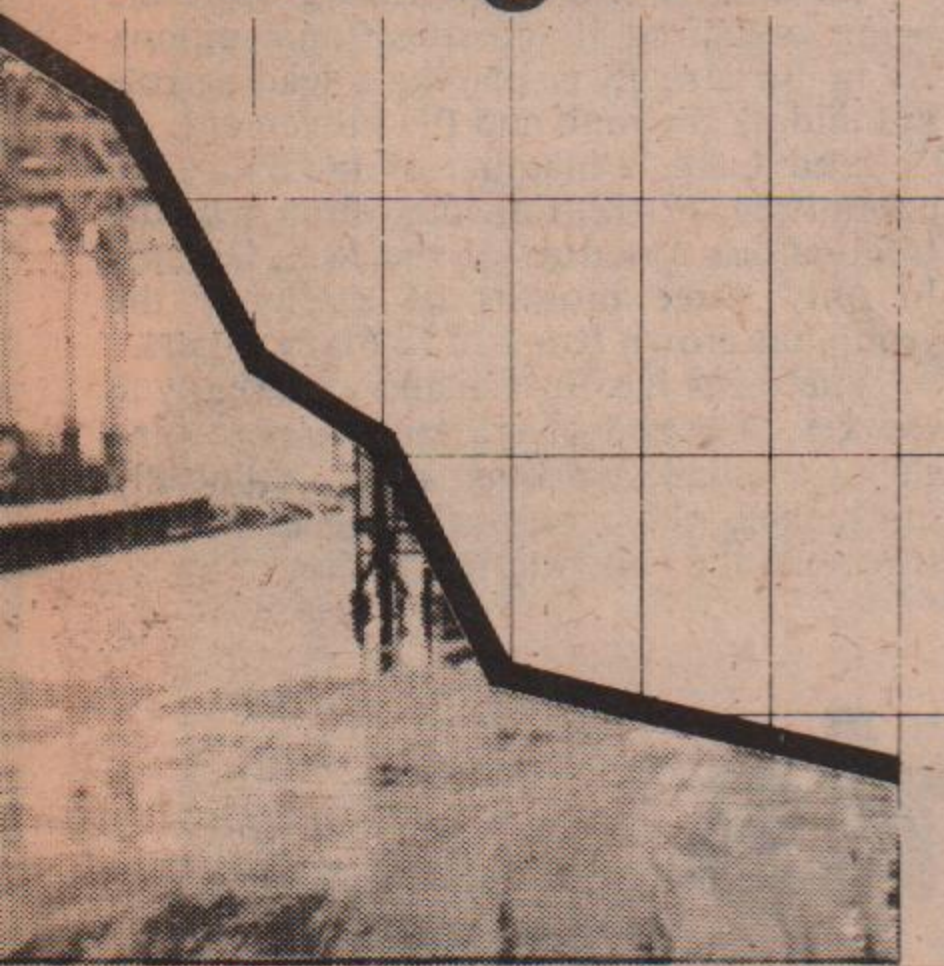
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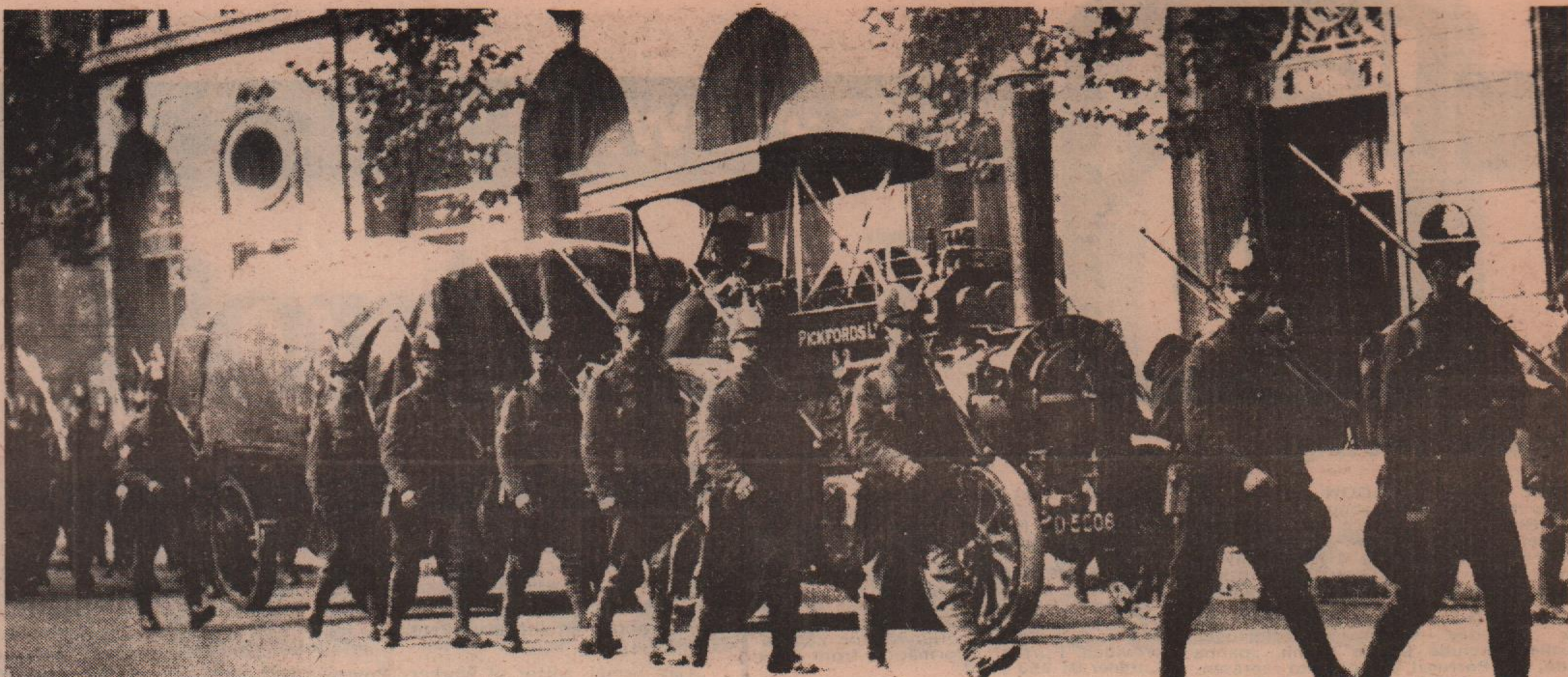
IT INTEREST
£41.5m
£42.2m
£45.6m
£51.1m
£57.3m

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Because there was no profit in the railways, they were systematically exploited by the profit-making sectors of society: and then used as an argument for profit!

For nearly thirty years the railway workers have been persuaded to 'be moderate' because their industry was falling.

In fact, their 'moderation' has positively assisted the destruction of their industry by the profit system.



1911: The railmen's 'momentous hour'

The troops were moved in by Churchill here to escort a traction engine along the Strand, elsewhere to attack strikers. BELOW: Passengers wait hopefully for a train at Paddington station

THE RAILWAYMEN were among the last of Britain's traditional industrial workers to be organised into effective and fighting trade unions.

Throughout the last century, they were riddled by craft differences, bullied into subservience by ruthless employers who refused to recognise even the most modest union leader.

Sir George Findlay, general manager of the London and North Western Railway, summed up the owners' views on union matters in 1896: 'You might as well have a trade union in the army, where discipline has to be kept at a very high standard, as have it on the railways.'

Biggest

The main railway union took its name from the subservience imposed by the likes of Findlay: the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.

A change in mood came from the rank and file with the growth of an 'all-grades movement', which forced the leaders of all four unions to approach the companies together.

A threatened strike in January 1907 led to a complicated system of arbitration and conciliation panels. But the companies used expensive lawyers to obstruct the panels—five main cases were taken all the way to the House of Lords, almost breaking the union's financial resources—and resentment started to build up again among the rank and file.

Then, in the spring and early summer of 1911, a mighty wave of strikes shook British industry.

In June and July, seamen and dockers struck in London, closing the port and winning small victories, and in Liverpool, where they were followed almost at once by 2500 goods porters on the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway.

The porters came out in sympathy but their strike quickly spread into Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham and Cardiff as a spontaneous gesture of fury at wages and conditions.

Reasons

The companies and the Liberal government replied with a massive display of violence.

Two warships were sent into the Mersey and 7000 troops barracked in Liverpool. On 14 August there were pitched battles in Liverpool, which went on sporadically for three days.

The leaders of the four railway unions rushed from city to city trying to calm down their members. By 17 August, they realised that their palsied rhetoric could not contain their members' rage.

Fastening on to the refusal of the companies to recognise the union, they issued a call for a national strike.

The response was instantaneous. More than 200,000 railwaymen, many of them not organised in trade unions, stopped work. The Home Secretary, Winston Churchill, ordered an immediate



"The momentous hour has come. Unless the railway companies are prepared to concede to their employees the elementary but important right of being represented by their unions a general railway strike will take place. Railwaymen are determined to be helots no longer. Their long years of bondage must be brought to an end. The Conciliation Boards have broken down. Their existence in their present form can no longer be tolerated. They have become instruments of oppression and caricatures of justice and fair play. They must be mended or ended. Men will be free—even railwaymen. They will not consent to be outcasts any longer. What they want is justice and fair play, the same opportunities for effective combination as others, the same open road to negotiate, the same right to select their own spokesmen, the same chance to have their wages and hours settled by agreement between their chosen Trade Union as is enjoyed by other workmen. They are determined to be satisfied with nothing less. A forced agreement is no bond. A compulsory Conciliation Board, where all the advantages are on the side of the companies and all the disadvantages on the side of the men, is not good enough for free men. The joint Executives have spoken. The present occasion sees railwaymen united. It is for the men to respond. 'Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow.' Let them settle the job on this occasion once for all. No half-hearted rallies; no sectional or merely local stoppages will do. There must be one great united effort, and then the fight will be won. The word has gone forth. Let us end the present intolerable position for ever."

'There must be one great united effort': the call from the union journal, Railway Review, before the first national strike

mass mobilisation of troops in all major cities.

The troops strutted around the railway stations provoking fights with the strikers. The Royal Engineers were put on alert to start moving trains. But, for two days, the strike was solid.

The companies were forced back on the union leaders to get them out of a situation they could no longer control.

For the first time, they agreed

to sit down and negotiate with the union leaders. Present were two bosses, including Sir Guy Granet, chairman of the Midland Railway, and six union men, among them J E Williams and J H Thomas of the Amalgamated Railway Servants.

Thomas' biographer Gregory Blaxland wrote of the meeting: 'Thomas found in Sir Guy Granet a man after his own heart, a man who went straight to the heart of

the problem without blather or fuss.'

Granet promised to take the conciliation boards seriously and not to victimise any of the strikers if the strike was called off. Thomas and Williams could have asked for almost anything with a fair chance of success. Instead, they called the strike off at once on Granet's terms.

All over the country, rank and file demonstrations protested at the settlement. In Llanelli, the strikers seized the main crossing until they were shot away from it by troops.

Record

The Northern District of the union demanded 'more concrete gains'. At Manchester, a further battle with troops and railwaymen broke out.

But Thomas and Williams got their way. The strike movement slowed to a stop.

Despite the sell-out, the railwaymen had, for the first time, felt their strength.

They had acted across craft divisions as one united force. And they had forced the companies to do what they had always described as 'impossible'—to meet the union leaders.

The Great Strike of 1911 marked the end of the isolated 'railway servant' and the beginning of railway trade unionists who understood that they, like the miners and engineers alongside them, could use their collective strength to change their destiny.



NEWS and WHAT'S ON

IS public meetings

INNER EAST LONDON District IS public meeting: The Labour Government and Benn—What chance of socialism? Speakers: Eddie Prevost dockers' shop steward and Duncan Hallas. Thursday 26 June 8pm, Music Library, Cambridge Heath Road (near Bethnal Green Tube).

EAST LONDON District IS Public Meeting: Half-day school on Portugal. Speakers include Laurie Flynn, Joanna Rollo, (IS Portugal group) and representatives from Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee, all recently returned from Portugal. Saturday 28 June, 1.30pm-5.30pm, Railway, Forest Lane, Forest Gate (by British Rail station).

NEWPORT IS Public Meeting: The Fight against Redundancies. Speaker John Deason. Wednesday 18 June, 7.30pm, Murenger House, High Street.

RHYL IS Public Meeting: The Referendum—what happens now? Monday 16 June, 7.30pm, Rhyll Town Hall.

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.

Meetings for IS members

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.

STUDENT SUMMER SCHOOLS: Agenda—Traditions of the Communist Movement, Politics of IS, Trends in the Student Movement, Building the Party, Practical Work. Speakers include Tony Cliff, Duncan Hallas, John Deason, Jimmy McCallum. Registration should be sent immediately. Monday 23 June to Wednesday 25 June, Manchester—registrations to Jim Roper, 2 Bamford Road, Didsbury, Manchester, 20. Friday 27 June to Sunday 29 June, Sheffield—registrations to Fran Redcliffe, 84 Malton Street, Sheffield 4. Monday 30 June to Wednesday 4 July, Coventry—registrations to Anne Netherwood, 78 Craven Street, Coventry. Friday 4 July to Sunday 6 July, London—registrations to Simon Turner, 8 Cottons Gardens, London; E2 8DN.

IS ITALY GROUP Day School: Saturday 14 June, 11am to 5pm. North London Poly. Sessions on the crisis in Italy, Fascism today, the Italian Communist Party, the Revolutionary Left. Including film on fascism in Italy. All IS members welcome.

LONDON NALGO IS fraction meeting: Wednesday 25 June, 7.30pm, Earl Russell pub, Pancras Road, NW1. All IS NALGO members in London to attend.

ALL IS MEMBERS IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY. Meeting Saturday 28 June at IS Books, Birmingham (224 High Street, by Digbeth Civic Hall phone 021-643 5717). Overnight accommodation can be provided. Further information from Paul Lutener 01-853 0682.

NORTH LONDON District IS School: Black workers and the fight against racism. Sessions on Racism in the Workplace, West Indies, Pakistan and discussion groups. All members to attend; visitors welcome. 2pm Saturday 28 June, North London Poly, Social 7pm to 11pm, YMCA, 184 Tottenham Lane, Hornsey, N8. Boombaya-Afro-Rock group. Buses W7, W2, W3 and 41. Tickets 70p.

NW LONDON IS District School: What's Happening in Portugal? Speakers from IS Portugal group and Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee. Thursday 12 June, 7.30pm, Devon Room, Anson Hall, Chichele Road, NW2.

LEEDS DISTRICT IS Party Day. Saturday 14 June. Morning mass SW street selling. Afternoon practical workshops and post conference aggregate. Evening, social. All members to attend. Details from Leeds 756624.

EAST LONDON District IS post-conference aggregate. Wednesday 18 June, 7.30pm, Princess Alice, Romford Road, Forest Gate.

INNER EAST LONDON IS post-conference aggregate meeting: Tuesday 17 June, 7.30pm sharp. Britannia, Mare St, E8.

ESSEX IS post-conference aggregate: Sunday 15 June, 2pm, Chelmsford Labour Party HQ, London Road. All Essex IS members to attend.

IS notices

TYPEWRITER NEEDED: Manchester IS need a second hand electric typewriter (with a carbon ribbon attachment) for their bookshop. Will collect from anywhere. Phone 061-832 8102.

FOUR GERMAN COMRADES arriving approx 15 July need two rooms in London at low rent for about a month. Phone Mary Phillips. 01-237 6869.

IS TRIP TO PORTUGAL: The IS Portugal Group is planning a cheap charter flight for two weeks in Portugal; one week on holiday, one week of political activity in support of the PRP. First two weeks in August. Families can be catered for. Rough cost £70. IS members only. Anyone interested please write giving name, address and trade union, to IS Portugal Group, c/o Flat 12, 45 Broadwick Street, London, W1.

CELEBRATION DAY for the anniversary of the 1905 revolution in Russia: Saturday 14 June. North West London IS. 1.30pm: Post-conference aggregate for members only. 4.30pm: The film Battleship Potemkin, followed by Tony Cliff speaking on the lessons of 1905 for revolutionaries today. Followed by football, NW London v. Socialist Worker, disco, dance and bar. Details from branch secretaries.

American Revolution – part two soon?

EIGHTY people came to hear two comrades from fraternal organisations of IS speak in London the week before conference about revolutionary prospects for North America.

Gay Semel, editor of Workers' Power, newspaper of the US International Socialists, stressed that there is a revolutionary perspective for the US based on working-class revolution.

For over a decade much of the American left feared that the bureaucratisation of the US trade unions, the wealth of US capitalism and the racism of white workers

made working-class revolution in the US impossible. They looked elsewhere for revolution—to the Third World or the most oppressed sectors of workers.

Today the potential tremendous power and militancy of the American working class is once more on the rise.

Watergate and the defeat of US imperialism in Vietnam have combined with the growing economic crisis and an unemployment rate of 8 per cent to produce a new fighting mood among American workers and an openness to revolutionary ideas.

Rank and file opposition groups are being organised in most national unions. As in Britain, IS is playing a leading role in building the rank and file movement.

Don Lake, a member of the executive committee of IS Canada, discussed the tremendous potential of the IS in Canada. In only three months of existence the group has grown from 20 to 60 members.

The crisis has hit Canada as severely as the US. A mood of militancy is sweeping the Canadian working class, especially in Quebec where a possible general strike threatens the construction trades.

How to make this YOUR paper...

by Margaret Renn
'CONFERENCE calls on the IS district committees to take immediate steps to ensure that there is a real involvement of the membership and the periphery in writing for, using and developing the paper.'

That is an extract from the resolution on Socialist Worker which was passed at the IS conference last week.

What can be done to put this into action? On Sunday a group of workers from the London IS districts met some of the people who work on the paper to talk about this.

One engineering worker from West London, who has been to three such meetings about the paper, said that they had changed his attitude to the paper. He found himself much more concerned and interested in the paper than before. He now looked at the paper as a whole, and tested each article according to what he now knew about the technical and other resources available to the paper.

He and all the other workers at the meeting agreed that we have to start

similar discussions and meetings in the districts if we are to generate the necessary interest and involvement in the paper.

Several proposals were then agreed:

● That in each district one worker on the district committee would be made responsible for getting local articles and reports for Socialist Worker and for liaison with the paper. This job should be separate from the sales and distribution of the paper.

Priority

● That the district committee should not shuffle off responsibility for the paper—but must have the paper regularly on its agenda for discussion.

● That the Socialist Worker organiser needs to organise writers' schools and other meetings in the district between members in the area and people who work for Socialist Worker. We in the Socialist Worker office are making it a priority in the next few months to visit all the districts.

VAN DRIVER NEEDED

SOCIALIST WORKER needs someone with a van, to organise distribution around the newsagents' stalls and bookshops in London. We can't get commercial distribution and want to experiment with our own. The job needs initiative and imagination, some money sense, and a bit of time (a day or two a week). Expenses will be paid. Anyone interested or wanting more information phone or write to Liz Balfour, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 2639).

The meeting also discussed the part of the conference resolution which suggested 'slip' pages for separate regional editions. It agreed that these would not be possible until districts could prove that they had the resources to carry it: not just financial resources but journalistic and technical resources as well, with good sales and the possibility of an increased circulation. One danger of regional editions is that strikes might be reported only in one area, and would never come to the notice of workers in the same combine.

Districts are encouraged to discuss the possibility of such editions—and perhaps experiment with duplicated sheets or a locally printed page 17 inserted in the paper.

I hope that districts will discuss all this in the next few weeks, and get in touch with us as soon as possible.

£73! NOT SUCH A JUMBLE AFTER ALL

A COUPLE of months ago we in Portsmouth IS set up a Fighting Fund Committee of four IS members and two supporters well versed in the arts of fund-raising. Much to everyone's amusement we set about organising a jumble sale.

'It'll never get off the ground,' they said. 'You'll never get any jumble, you'll never get any people along.' Well the scoffers were silenced last Saturday when we raised £73.

We now intend to organise one such fund-raising activity every month—perhaps a folk night, a disco. As well as bringing in money for the Fighting Fund these activities will provide the comrades and our supporters with a good social get-together. Man does not live by politics alone!

AUSTRALIA: HELP NEEDED

OUR Australian comrades in the Socialist Workers Action Group need help with details of contacts, especially former IS members, you may have in Australia. The group is active in the trade union movement in the Melbourne area, and urgently needs to expand in other states in the country.

Any information c/o Geoff Goldhar, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

CHALLENGING THE PARTY

ABERDEEN IS branch organised a debate last week with the Communist Party on The Economic Crisis and the Way Forward. After a lively debate before a well-attended meeting, several people expressed interest in joining IS. A joint collection was taken for the people who had been arrested during the anti-National Front demonstration in Glasgow on 24 May. We recommend other IS branches to approach their local Communist Party for similar debates.



What we stand for

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

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

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

The smashing of the capitalist state The state machine is a

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

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

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

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

WE ARE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____



PORTUGUESE SOLIDARITY FUND

THE International Socialists annual conference voted unanimously to set up an emergency fund in solidarity with the Portuguese revolution.

This fund will be used to send money to the PRP (Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat), the Portuguese revolutionary socialist organisation with which IS has been developing links, to help finance the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee in Britain and, lastly, to pay towards the cost of IS work on Portugal—organising speaking tours for Portuguese revolutionaries and publishing some of our pamphlets in Portuguese.

All districts of IS are collecting money for this fund and a strong push will be made in the IS-organised meetings all over Britain during the next fortnight which are being addressed by a serving Portuguese soldier.

In addition every IS district, conference decided, should stage at least one special fund-raising event for Portugal.

Donations please to Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund, International Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

CONFERENCE 1975

Portugal: All is at stake



ONE of the most moving moments of the 1975 International Socialists Conference last week came when the fraternal delegate from the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat of Portugal spoke to the delegates.

He said that the invitation made to his organisation to come to the IS conference indicated greater liaison between the two organisations.

'Let us then obtain even greater solidarity,' he said. 'Let us get even

closer liaison.'

In Portugal what is at stake now is the struggle for power. It is of course possible that everything will be lost and the working class will come out defeated. It is in this context that international solidarity is so important. International solidarity is one of the fundamental factors which will assist the Portuguese working class to accomplish their aim—taking power and beginning the construction of socialism.

The class struggle in Portugal is reaching a climax. Either the bourgeoisie is able to consolidate its own political domination or workers will take the power and impose the dictatorship of the proletariat.

At this precise moment there is an impasse. The flight of capital from Portugal is very large. Many firms are already bankrupt and are being subsidised out of government funds.

The Socialist Party is in and out of government meetings as one goes in and out of a cafe. Many officers in the Armed Forces Movement feel that the AFM has exhausted its programme. They feel that the prospect of the AFM fighting alongside the MPLA in Angola might take the movement out of its impasse.

In reality there is no future for the AFM form of power in Portugal. The irreconcilable cannot be reconciled. There can be no unity between enemies—labour and capital. The hot soup of coalition cannot solve the grave problems of Portuguese society.

In face of this impasse, a split can be found in the Armed Forces Movement. For instance, Fabiao, the chief of staff, has recently announced that it is absolutely necessary now to disarm the armed organisations.

Otelo Sarvalho de Carvalho, of Copcon, in an interview with the intent of replying to Fabiao, states the exact opposite and even recognises the possible need to arm the working class for the advance of the revolution.

Organs

There are already moves towards the creation of 'councils for national reconstruction', which of course are mass organisations to undertake reformist policies.

Others advance a very different programme—autonomous revolutionary councils, organs of the working class posing a revolutionary alternative and constructing the bodies to make the revolution.

Some officers are supporting these slogans for reasons very different from our own. But the councils will open up the way to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In our country two alternatives are concretely posed. Reform or revolution, with the reformist alternative certain to lead to disaster.

But the point is that the workers are really strongly organising in accordance with the project of revolutionary councils. The idea crops up in the class struggle itself before it is put to meetings, as in Marinha Grande on 11

March, where militants of our party and rank and file Communist Party militants campaigned for the idea and found immediate support. The councils are growing in the Portuguese airlines (TAP), and the Lisnave shipyard.

But there is a fundamental question of time. The time to make the revolution, and the time that the working class is organised in a revolutionary way may not coincide. This may not allow the class time to find one or more revolutionary parties.

We consider that it is possible that a new form of military government in Portugal may advocate or give some form of support to the Revolutionary Councils. We think that the economic, social and political problems will force them into this.

Succeed

But we also think that they will attempt to influence the development of the revolutionary process, pull it aside from its route, influence it and control it. We also think they won't have enough power to succeed in doing this.

The fact that a sector of the AFM supports the revolutionary councils opens the field for rapid development of the revolution. It is important because it will bring the time when it is possible for the working class to make the revolution closer to the time when it is possible to carry it out. And thus the Portuguese drama may be solved.

In Portugal one can see a nearly classic situation for a possible socialist revolution but the class doesn't yet have the organs to pursue this task.

We want to make the point very clearly. The formation of a military government with left-wing soldiers is not at all the dictatorship of the proletariat. Indeed such a government would struggle in a particular way against the dictatorship of the proletariat.

But we believe that such a government will arise out of certain contradictions and create new contradictions. This will weaken bourgeois power.

The state apparatus in Portugal can only be assaulted by a bloc of soldiers and workers. Either by themselves would be a grave deviation and threat.

But in Portugal the unity between soldiers and workers is real and tangible. For instance when the committee for the formation of a revolutionary council was set up in TAP, then immediately the idea cropped up of making links with similar committees in two nearby barracks.

Threat

We feel a solidarity between workers and soldiers. Soldiers are workers in uniform and after the repression of the TAP workers some months ago there is no example of the army attacking workers.

But we want to underline this: nothing has yet been won, though the analysis we make points to the clear possibility that it could be won.

Our revolution demands the international solidarity of all proletarians. The situation in Portugal is one that links many contradictions. It represents a real threat to the world capitalist system and in relation to Portugal imperialism is playing with time. This question of time may lead it to intervene in a more or less direct way.

The connection between Portugal and Spain are also very intimate and the fate of the Portuguese revolution is very closely bound up with what happens in Spain and vice versa.

But imperialism is attacking us on another flank, in Angola. My party recognises that the MPLA is the only force representing the African people in Angola and we are doing our best to support it in its struggle.

My party has this to say about proletarian internationalism. We believe that it starts with incessant struggle against your own capitalist class. Do that and we will win.



Portuguese workers and soldiers: Only if the two unite can Portugal advance on the road to workers' power and socialism

Danger of civil war in Ireland is growing

THE conference discussion on Ireland was opened by a London printworker and member of the IS Irish Committee, who stressed that the coming months will see a definite deepening of the crisis in the North of Ireland.

'Since the collapse of the power-sharing assembly and the Sunningdale strategy which aimed at the integration of sections of the Catholic and Protestant middle class into a more "normal" democratic set-up, British policy has been based on two short-term strategies—the convention elections and the truce with the Provisional IRA. In effect these short-term policies conflict and make for more violent and irreconcilable conflicts in the relatively near future.

'The Convention as a concession to the loyalists has resulted in a large majority for those wishing to return to a pre-1968 Stormont-type set-up. It has reaffirmed in their view the legitimacy of undivided Orange rule and the protestant ascendancy. The paramilitaries are more ready than ever to enforce these aims with force of arms.

'Among the Catholics the truce has enabled the Provisionals more access to open political channels in the Catholic ghettos. In general the results of the truce can only be to make the mass of the Catholics less ready than ever to return to Stormont. Only massive repression and defeat could allow that to happen.

'The real possibility of civil war in the Six Counties now exists, as distinct from the continued murder of Catholics by paramilitary loyalist forces. In the event of a British hand-over to a New Stormont set-up or a loyalist attempt to enforce such a situation should Britain not agree, a civil war could emerge. The victory of

loyalist forces in such a conflict would be a disastrous setback for the working class of Britain and Ireland.

'The renewal of violence in Britain as well as Ireland requires that IS be more prepared than before the Birmingham bombings to resist an anti-Irish backlash. Our stand of unconditional but critical support for all

those fighting British imperialism remains unaltered, however unpopular it might be at times.

'The real crisis of British policy now means that the demands for Troops Out and self-determination for the Irish people must become the pivots of more systematic work of IS around the Irish question.'

WHAT CONFERENCE DECIDED:

THE conference agreed that in the weeks ahead the following work is necessary:

1. The preparation of IS and our supporters for the real possibility of civil war in Ireland. Our intervention on the slogans of 'No aid to loyalism' and 'Troops out now' could be crucial in such a situation in winning broad support for the anti-unionist population.

2. Troops Out Movement: Our basic view of winning trade union support for TOM has been correct but the work has been patchy. Districts must ensure that the troops out question is raised in every area of the labour movement in which they have influence. This will mean defeat in some areas—in particular we must be better prepared to meet the 'Bill of Rights' 'Troops back to barracks' arguments of the Communist Party.

The possibility of local conferences of trade union delegates should be re-

viewed by districts, especially in relation to the use of troops in industrial disputes.

3. Anti-militarist work. The strike-breaking role of the army in Glasgow means that the role of the army and the demand for trade union rights for soldiers should receive more attention.

4. Anti-Terrorist laws. Our work here has been inadequate. In six months time the government will in all likelihood attempt to integrate sections of this repressive legislation into a permanent legal structure. Our campaign against these laws must point out how they are a threat to all militants, political and industrial. We must make every effort to link up the resistance that has already grown up to these laws, especially in the building industry.

This work will also involve us in taking up the question of political prisoners and internees both in Britain and Ireland.

5. Industrial disputes and combines: Many British firms have subsidiaries in Ireland, north and south. Combine links with Irish workers should be especially fostered. Contacts made during industrial disputes should be passed to the IS Irish Committee.

6. Trade union IS fractions bear a special responsibility for examining the Irish operations of trade unions. Too often these are the province of backward loyalist elements. We must understand how they operate and what they do, in order to be able to challenge them. We must move towards a position where we can develop joint policy with Irish revolutionaries on the amalgamated trade unions.

7. Socialist Workers Movement: Our links with SWM in Ireland must be strengthened and our support to them improved.

8. The IS Irish Committee should become an effective centre for the direction and co-ordination of this sort of work.

WHAT'S HE GOT TO DO WITH SOCIALISM?

TONY BENN'S policies of workers co-operatives and industrial democracy will NOT spread ideas of workers' control. They will evade them.

Workers' co-operatives must make a profit to survive, since Benn warns them they will receive no more government money.

They, therefore, must run 'efficiently', which means in a time of recession, laying-off workers. In other words, workers doing the bosses' dirty work. Hardly an advert for workers' control.

Another form of industrial democracy, worker participation, is a con-trick. Plant level wage bargaining and organisation on the shop floor are abandoned.

For what? Representatives that are unaccountable and unrecalable to the shop floor and, in some cases, elected not by the workers but by the shareholders.

Isolated from their fellow workers, they are impotent. Furthermore, the workers' boards can only discuss 'long term' company policy, the important short term issues being left to the bosses.

So the shop floor, the very place the left is organised, is weakened.

Real workers' control will come only with socialism. To say the

Send your letters to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge 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.

Labour Party will bring it is a joke, since the Labour Party is neither a mass party of millions nor predominantly working class in national or local leadership.

There can only be one answer, and that is the spreading of revolutionary politics.—DAVE GRAY, Richmond, Yorkshire.

Roy Jenkins, 'international socialist'

ROY JENKINS, speaking at Birmingham University in favour of the Common Market, told us what a 'democrat' was. So we reminded him of such 'democratic' activities as keeping the Shrewsbury pickets locked up and ignoring Labour Party conference mandates.

Then he turned on the hecklers and said that he knew what our idea of democracy was. If we were in power, we'd rig the ballot boxes like our friend Scanlon in the AUEW. A writ has subsequently been issued.



BENN: an advert for workers' control?

But what an odd idea of socialism Jenkins has. If there is workers' control, there will be no need for ballot boxes. Democracy will be on a day-to-day, completely open basis, not the secret and slanderous insinuations of Jenkins. By the way, Jenkins also referred to himself as an international socialist: do we have grounds for libel? — CAROLYN CLARKE, Birmingham.

REDUNDANCIES: YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG

I WAS dismayed to read in Socialist Worker (31 May) that your AUEW members have decided to penalise workers who accept voluntary redundancy and to enforce this by expelling them from trade unions.

The idea that the 'main problem at the moment is the fight against voluntary redundancies' is completely misplaced. Surely the main problem is the acceptance of redundancies by trade union leaders and their continual refusal either to support workers in struggle, like at Crosfield Electronics, the docks, etc, or to offer a lead which would encourage workers to resist.

Why don't your AUEW members or the Speke Action Committee attack the leaders responsible and demand their removal and expulsion rather than the misguided victims of officials apathy, disinterest and betrayal?

By blaming and penalising individual workers and by claiming that they are the 'main problem', you are diverting action away from those responsible and letting the leaders off the hook.

Far from hoping that other trade unionists will follow the policy of your AUEW members, I hope they will reject and expose it.

Of course, voluntary redundancy

should be opposed but surely not to the extent as suggested without any mention of the inactivity of those paid and able to lead?—J HOWELL, Oxford.

Editor: We are in favour of putting pressure on people not to accept voluntary redundancies and so we campaign for them to go to the end of the jobs queue; but we are not for creating a pool of non-union labour that the employees can use as they wish, which would happen if members were expelled from the union.

How to make AUEW more democratic

RECENT articles and correspondence in Socialist Worker on the issue of elections in the AUEW have failed to give a clear lead to militants

In my opinion, IS members and genuine socialists in the AUEW should now be arguing for a change in the structure of the union with a shift towards factory-based branches. We should also raise the demand for weekly branch meetings in worktime.

In this way we can work towards real democracy with elections in the branches.

And given the latest amazing display of concern for democracy in the union by the capitalist media, we should make sure that their friends in the Engineering Employers' Federation are made to pay for the time we spend at meetings.—PAT QUINN, Wythenshawe, Manchester.

LETTERS

I'm a 'greedy' railwayman...

I WORK as a signalman for British Rail. We will be hearing a lot of talk over the next few weeks of 'greedy workers', 'wreckers', 'breaking the social contract', 'big battalions of power' and 'who runs the country?'

Since starting at Dingwall in Northern Scotland two and a half months ago, I have had three days off.

'SOVIET' CLAY CROSS

CLAY CROSS, a small mining community in the Peak District of Derbyshire, might well have remained unknown to all save those who lived there, little meriting its present notoriety.

These men then assumed responsibility for inflicting a Soviet-modelled "Utopia" upon an unsuspecting population, largely hoodwinked for at least three years before the Clay Cross scandal broke.

Daily Telegraph, 15 May

The oil boom is attracting all potential railwaymen away with its much higher wages. Because of the shortage of staff, we have to work excessive overtime. I have not worked less than 55 hours a week since coming up here.

Last week I took home to my wife and two children £38.50 for a 64-hour week. This week and next week, to fill in for mates to take their holidays, I will be work-

I WAS surprised to read in our fair, unbiased and free press that three years ago the inhabitants of Clay Cross awoke to find a small group of 'politically motivated men' had sneaked up on them and instituted a rigid Soviet system in their town.

Deeply shocked, I read on. It appears that, not content with keeping council house rents down, despite the wonderful Fair Rents Act, these mindless militants also provided free school milk, despite its abolition by the Tories, TV licences and bus tokens for the pensioners and warders, and alarm systems for old people's homes.

To cap it all, these so-called councillors kept their employees wages level with inflation, and provided council work for the unemployed.

How lucky we are that the Labour Government has put a stop to this dreadful 'soviet system'

JOHN PENNEY,

Monday: 5.40am-2pm and 5.30pm-10.10pm; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 5am-2pm and 6pm-10.10pm; Friday, Saturday: 5.40am-2pm and 6pm-10.10pm.

Because the gap between the two shifts is more than two hours, I am not entitled to 'through pay'. Next week my shift will be from 10am-10pm. These shifts will continue for the next two months until we have all had our holidays.

We have to work our rest days both because there are no rest-day reliefs in the area and because we can't afford not to. I live in a tied house but if I happen to tire of my 'wonderful' work conditions and leave, we're homeless.

Normally our shifts are from 5am-2pm and 2pm-10pm or earlier or later, as B.R. require (six days a week and every second Sunday).

All this for the magnificent basic

wage of £29 a week.

Richard Marsh and his Board want to cut rail staff by several thousand—cut the number of trains and lines—and maintain wages at their low rate. The Social Contract has been made by his friends and is custom made for him to hide behind.

All claims of this kind are political. It is not the railwayman's job to bail out British Rail. A planned socialist transport system is needed.

If Richard Marsh pushes through his cuts, we will have fewer trains, fewer lines and—most important of all—a decline in safety standards.

We need an all-out fight to get the full claim and a continuing fight to stop redundancies, to fill vacancies and improve work conditions rapidly.

Victory to the railwaymen: we need your support.—LORNE ANTON, Garve, Ross-shire.

NUR: What we should demand

I WORK for British Rail catering. The working conditions are bad and the wages are worse. My gross pay is £26.73 for a 40-hour week, but after deductions I get £20. I have to work early and late shifts, 6.45am for early and up to 11.15pm for late.

Weekends are also involved but we don't get extra for that. I hope all readers of Socialist Worker will support our full claim and the strike action we are taking.

But if we are to be successful, we need to organise railway workers around a series of demands. We should demand a 35-hour week and extra money for weekend working, as well as better rail services, because cutting services means hardship for passengers and redundancy for us.

As an immigrant worker from Spain, I must apply each year for a new work permit. Since they can refuse without giving a reason, I would rather not give my name and address.—NUR MEMBER, W London.



LONG LIVE THE IRANIAN WORKING CLASS

A recent protest by Iranian students: the hoods tell a lot about the Shah's 'democracy'

Wilson's terrorist friend

I AM writing to draw attention to the arrest of one of our students, Sadiqe Zibakalam, by the Iranian secret police.

The recent murder of nine political prisoners in Iran, and the British government's use of 'conspiracy to trespass' laws against 21 protesting Iranian students, have highlighted the reality behind the Shah's public image and the criminal complicity of the Labour government in backing this regime.

Harold Wilson is Chancellor of the University of Bradford, where Mr Zibakalam was a student. Yet his response so far to telegrams from students and staff has merely been an acknowledgement slip.

As president of the university of Bradford Union, I would be grateful if your readers could bring this matter up at their trade union branches and wherever else possible.—REUBEN GOLDBERG, University of Bradford Union.

KartoonKlowns IN SOCIALISM OR BARBARISM

Theatre Royal, Stratford (a few minutes from Stratford Station) 7.30pm, Sunday 15 June Socialist Worker benefit evening Organised by East London International Socialists Phone 01-254 3952 for tickets

Strikers at Tom Smith and Clarke, Swansea in confident mood during their strike meeting last week.



STEWARDS FROM SIX PLANTS TO LINK UP

Welsh strikers take on the Ironfounders



Aluminium Wire and Cable shop stewards Terry Maunders and Jeff Thomas. Said Terry: 'We have conducted this dispute under Queensbury rules. But very few managements would have issued this kind of threat. Complaints of sabotage have been concocted. We have no alternative but to block the gates indefinitely until we win—or are removed by physical force. If there are arrests, then our wives and children will be down on these gates!'

WHERE THE ACTION IS:

Tom Smith and Clarke, Swansea
90 men from this traditionally moderate factory are on their first strike for 48 years. The strike remains unofficial despite a union directive that no plant should settle for less than £8 and pro rata increases.

Taylor and Sons, Neath
Owned by A W Taylor, chairman of the management side of the Ironfounders and leading light in management campaign against unions. Out for one week.

Dynevor Engineering, Neath
Out since last Thursday.

John's Bros, Neath
Out since Thursday.

Tower House, Neath
32 AUEW members occupied Trim shop for six hours last Friday and are now on indefinite strike.

Baglan Engineering, Neath
The only official strike, over the sacking of two men, possibly provoked by management to delay negotiations over the Ironfounders.

Aluminium Wire and Cable Co
100 craftsmen in two plants occupied their shops and picketed the gates. Management threatened to go to the High Court for writs and refused to pay wages on time. Suspecting that writs would be delivered individually in pay packets, the workers barricaded the gates. 50 men from Tom Smith and Clarke joined them.

The writs were not issued. Instead management sent for the police, claiming that the workers were preparing to help themselves to their wages and had locked them in their offices. Management eventually gave in and paid the wages owed and the occupation was lifted but the pickets remain and the strike continues.

SIX factories in West Wales are now out on strike and others are likely to follow.

For more than 30 years the wages of workers in dozens of West Wales factories have been regulated by the Welsh Ironfounders Agreement.

Each year, the West Wales Allied Trades Committee, the trade union side of the negotiating body, would submit a new claim for consideration. The claim, usually a 15-point shopping list covering everything from a 'substantial' increase in pay and increased holidays right down to equal pay for women, would be swiftly whittled down until little more than a few pence on the basic rate remained.

This was just an annual routine. Workers on the shop floor knew little about it until the miserly increase finally appeared in their wage packets.

All this has now ended. In the past fortnight six factories covered by the agreement have struck.

Seven unions are involved, the Engineers, Transport and General, Electricians, Building Workers, General and Municipal, Boilermakers, and Sheet Metalworkers. This year they demanded £8 with pro rata increases through all grades.

Unlike previous years the unions stood firm when attempts were made to whittle this down. Management, faced for the first time with resistance, walked out of the negotiations.

Under the leadership of A W Taylor, chairman of the management side, nearly all the companies have continued their united resistance to the claim. To date, only one plant, the Glamor Works of the Glamorfa Company, Llanelli, have given way.

The unions, confronted by management's campaign to cut back their members' wages, made the serious mistake of deciding to fight the claim plant by plant. To make matters worse, the only advice to shop stewards is that they should not settle for less than the claim.

Confusion reigns. One plant does not know what the next are doing. Men at two plants a hundred yards apart did not even know that they both used to come under the same agreement. There is no link-up between the stewards in the individual unions, let alone between all the stewards in all seven unions. The situation is dominated by rumour.

While well-organised plants press ahead, the smaller, weaker, plants hesitate to act,

REPORT: Stuart Broomfield and Richard Jones
PICTURES: Richard Jones

or are tempted to settle for less than the £8. Works such as BSC Landore, already on a four-day week and threatened by closure, do not know which way to turn.

During the past week steps have been taken to repair the damage. Following an initiative from stewards at the striking Aluminium Wire and Cable Works and from the BSC Special Steels Plant, Unit Superheaters, stewards from plants including Louis Marx Toys, Baglan Engineering, Signode, Mettoys and Tom Smith and Clarke have united in calling an unofficial meeting to set up the machinery to organise a united fight back.

They face several difficulties. Local union officials have not yet called for any of the strikes to be made official and have

on the contrary told strikers to go back to work so that they can negotiate.

Without reference to any stewards, local AUEW district official Tal Lloyd has referred the dispute for conciliation. Some plants on the verge of concluding favourable agreements with management have been told that they must now wait another three weeks.

First news of this development came from management and not through the local union offices. This exercise in grass roots democracy tells us a lot about Lloyd, who is a leading figure in the right-wing campaign over postal ballots in the AUEW.

Forward

Stewards hope that the rank and file will help bring together stewards from all the plants that used to operate under the Ironfounders. They will be attempting to set up an efficient communications network between all the factories involved and, most important, will organise aid especially for the weaker plants.

This is the first initiative of its kind in the history of the Ironfounders and is an important step forward.

Maximum unity between the different plants must be maintained. The fight must not be allowed to develop into a series of isolated plant-by-plant struggles.

The engineering unions are well noted for their encouragement of plant-by-plant bargaining, a recipe which has in the past led to the ability of officials to abdicate leadership and 'leave things up to' individual steward committees without any district-wide strategy or support.

Such tactics lead to plant isolation and defeat as happened in Manchester in 1972.

- We must fight for a realistic strategy:**
- For the full claim.
 - Weekly shop stewards' meetings across districts to co-ordinate action and spread the struggle.
 - No secret settlements. For the vetting of any proposed settlements by full across district steward meetings.
 - For supporting levies, official recognition and strike pay.
 - Maximum encouragement of district unity—demonstrations, sympathy stoppages, and solidarity picketing.



Workers at the occupied Aluminium Wire and Cable works speak to police through the barricaded gates.

Rent rises make new student grants a joke

A FORTNIGHT ago Reg Prentice, Labour's Education Secretary, announced the student grant increase for next year. It is 22 per cent, bringing grants for students outside London to £740.

'The rise is a joke' said one student. 'Already universities are talking about rent increases of 30 to 40 per cent next year. Take Durham for example, they are planning rents of £540 a year. That leaves £200 for books, clothes, travel, pocket money. What are we supposed to do, eat our exam papers?'

If it's a joke for university students it is a bitter one for students at polytechnics and further education colleges. For those students not on degree courses the rise doesn't apply. University undergraduates receive mandatory awards from their local authorities—who have to pay up.

'Discretionary awards aren't binding on the local authorities. Last year

Prentice claimed that to raise these would cost £200 million—so they're being left in the cold.

Antony Crosland has said that the "party is over" for local authorities spending' pointed out one student. 'What this means is that these discretionary grants are going to be hit—they are going to be hit in money terms.'

The axe is cutting at more than just grants. 40 colleges of education are being closed this year, which means less teachers—more overcrowded classrooms—and worse education.

For student teachers who've qualified the outlook is increasingly bleak. 55 per cent of students qualifying this term have jobs lined up—the usual figure is 80 per cent!

In London, where there is a chronic teacher shortage, the picture is the same. 30 per cent of the new teachers have been refused places by the Inner London Education Authority. The ILEA has made 698 appointments for

September—the figure last year was 1300.

So whether you're a parent, a child or a student the picture is the same. The axe means rotten money, rotten jobs (or no jobs) and rotten education.

Pete Gillard, of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies and a member of the National Union of Students executive, summed up the problem for students.

Ready

'We're going to have a very hard fight even to stand still, and don't think that the authorities don't realise this. There's a wave of victimisations going through higher education, plus the arrival of the police on campus. It's a softening-up job on student unions.'

'IS Societies at colleges have got to use what's left of this term to get ready for the Autumn. If the authorities are planning rent increases—then we've got

to organise rent strikes. And the job's got to be done now, so that we can organise a solid rent strike over the Summer.'

'If you're in an IS society, or if you're a student and you want to do something about these attacks then take a look at the NOISS magazine 'Agitator'. It's got guide lines on how to run a rent strike—and win.'

Prentice's action last week was underlined by fellow higher education minister Lord Crowther Hunt. He emphasised that the cuts were here to stay—and that the Department of Education and Science were looking around to use the axe again.

'We need to fight back right now', said Gillard, 'and NOISS has to ensure that we do.'

Any IS member going to college for the first time in September should contact Simon Turner at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN, as soon as possible.

Pickets on the Henry Boot site at Northampton. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)



Henry puts the Boot in at Northampton

NORTHAMPTON: All 14 UCATT members at the Henry Boots site, now in the seventh week of their strike over bonus payments, have been sacked. On Saturday the men received letters asking them to return to work on Monday. But the strikers stayed solid and on Tuesday morning received letters saying that had all been dismissed, including the two shop stewards. Boots have an agreement with UCATT not to sack stewards without consultation.

On Tuesday three lorries turned up at the picket line, as they had all been told the strike was over. But they respected the picket. The strikers told Socialist Worker: 'We are all staying out and keeping together.'

At the Henry Boots site in YORK where ten building workers and their wives are occupying the site, former Scot s miner John McCallum told Socialist Worker conditions on the site were worse than in the mines. The men are demanding

the reinstatement of workers sacked after protesting about safety and health on the site. The dispute has not been made official by the Transport and General Workers Union.

John McCallum said: 'Occupation was the only way we could take action to protect ourselves. Support is beginning to come in as people see the conditions we've worked in.' Martin Williams said of the site: 'A pigeon wouldn't land here without a parachute.'

Josie Golding said: 'The press have hardly mentioned the wives. They only want to know when wives are against their husbands. We are behind our husbands and are prepared to stick it out as long as it takes.'

Both sites need support urgently. Messages and donations to Martin Dunkley, 51 Holly Road, Northampton, and Eric Golding, 221 Melrosegate, York.

IN BRIEF

PORTSMOUTH PRINTERS

'MANAGEMENT will be able to sit it out for a while, but after six weeks they are going to start feeling it a bit. We intend to stay out that long or as long as is needed to save these jobs.' So said the Father of the Chapel (shop steward) of the Printworkers union, NGA, at the Paragon Press in Parlington.

The Paragon bosses planned to close their Birkenhead factory—one of nine after predicting a £2½ million drop in their £13 million 1974 profits. NGA and SOGAT members at all nine plants are now striking and sitting in—until the bosses withdraw their Birkenhead closure plans. They claim the Birkenhead plant has been deliberately run down—and that the bosses ignored a take-over plan by another company.

MANCHESTER GASWORKERS

'THE stewards and men would like to convey their thanks to all fellow socialists for their moral and financial support' says Bob Buirids, the plumbers' shop steward at the Woodall Duckhams site at Partington gasworks.

The five week strike has ended with a 'suitable arrangement about minimum bonus payments'. Management have been given five weeks to give parity with nearby Shell Carrington workers—a key issue in the dispute.

LAINGS, TEESIDE

THE big oil boom? Try telling that to the workers at Laings Pipelines here at Graythorpe. Last week Socialist Worker spoke to a steward about the situation. We apologise for having, through lack of space, to edit his comments.

Laings employ 1600 men, and most of them are highly skilled craftsmen on heavy

fabrication and ship-building work. Most came here with the promise of 10-15 years work, but now 400 are being asked to terminate their employment after only three years.

We're concerned with the increasing amount of sub-contract work going to the continent. Why can't it be brought back to save the jobs? The men are alarmed that they may become working class nomads, chasing work across the continent, which would cripple shop-floor organisation.

We are campaigning against the threatened job-loss and have written to Tony Benn, Michael Foot and the Northern group of MPs, we are supposed to be meeting Eric Varley, the minister concerned this week. We are awaiting anxiously for further developments, but so far have got nothing definite.

COLLINS, GLASGOW

MEMBERS of the Scottish Graphical Association at Collins, a printing works in Glasgow, were locked out after three chapels organised alternate two-day strikes in a dispute over bonus payments. Management have broken agreements and are refusing to increase the bonus by the amount agreed.

The executive of the SGA was meeting on Wednesday to discuss making the dispute official. No member of any other federated chapel of the union has any doubt about the real issue involved here. Collins cannot be allowed to negate their obligations to the press chapel, otherwise how secure will present and future agreements be?

Financial help is urgently needed. Send donations to Collins Press Chapel Fighting Fund, c/o 222 Clyde St, Glasgow G14 JT.

SCOTS SOGAT DEAL

THE executive of the printworkers union SOGAT is unanimously recommending the Scottish Master Printers Society's new wage offer. 'It should be completely rejected' said a Scots SOGAT father of the chapel this week. 'It amounts to a wage cut.'

The offer is £5.30 for craftsmen, £4.11 for male auxiliaries and £3.30 for women. An August increase will bring adult women on to the lowest male grade.

'The executive's figures include consolidation of the threshold—which everyone has had since 12 May,' he explained. 'What we should be demanding is flat rate across the board increases with open ended agreements. These will help the lower paid workers, especially women—who are being dragged down to the lowest male rate. The current offer amounts to a wage cut!'

LONDON PAINTERS

'THE lads are still maintaining effective picketing. But we would welcome any support,' says building workers' union steward Tom Lannon about the official strike at London's Somerset House tax HQ. The painters there are battling against lump labour being used by the Inland Revenue—who are supposed to be prosecuting such labour!

Money and messages of support to Tom Lannon at 23 West Moorland Terrace, London SW1.

TEESSIDE ICI

'WE'RE not having it', was the response of 2000 craftsmen at ICI's Wilton works to a pay offer of £12.50 on the basic. They are striking for £16.50. A clear lead from Wilton means that ICI could be facing a national battle with their craftsmen.

SCOTTISH CABLES

A 10-week redundancy strike by 500 Transport union members at Scottish Cables has been made official. The strike was sparked when the BICC owned company fired 40 workers. Later the company dropped 20 of the redundancies, and now it's down to four. The officials are urging the issue is made 'victimisation'. 'This is a mistake' said one of the strike's supporters this week. 'The strike was about sackings, victimisation will confuse it and reduce its significance for workers inside, on strike—and others facing closures.'

Messages of support and donations to John White, Secretary, Strike Committee, 129 Renfrew Road, Paisley.

STEEL STRUCTURES, KENT.

MANAGEMENT have already threatened several times to close the job at Steel Structures, Frindsbury, Stroud, where they build steel jackets for the North Sea oil rigs. With this threat they have secured agreement from the Communist Party-led site committee to do an agreed 30 hours extra overtime every month. Since they discovered that they could get away with that, they have announced that they would have to cut basic wages by 10p an hour.

The very next day Wednesday the local Labour MP, Bob Bean, and Sir John Howard, managing director of the John Howard group which owns Steel Structures, had a meeting with convenors and shop stewards to explain that more productivity was necessary in the coming weeks in order to save the job from being taken elsewhere.

Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 1p per word, semi-display 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

LONDON RANK AND FILE TECH TEACHER. Meeting Sunday 8 June 7pm, Mother Red Cap Pub, 174 Camden High Street (opp Camden Town Tube) ATTI conference/what next? A report back and discussion introduced by Richard Kuper.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF WOMEN GROUP: work in progress. A women's Liberation and Socialism one-day conference, Saturday 7 June, 10am to 5pm, North London Poly, Holloway Road, N7. Topics: Women's domestic labour; Women and the Welfare State; Fertility and population control; Women and industrialisation in Britain. For papers ring 607 8889. Women only. 30p.

RED LADDER THEATRE wants ACTRESSES for work in touring collective based in the North, producing own material and performing to Trade Union and community audiences. Commitment important. Equity membership and musical ability an advantage. Applications in writing by 8 July stating (1) theatrical/playmaking/political experience. (2) Reasons for interest. (3) When you can start. (4) Where ad read. (5) Telephone number, to 58 Wray Crescent, London, N4 (01-263 1053).

IRELAND—what policy for the British Labour Movement? A debate between TOM and the CP. Wednesday 11 June, 7.30pm, Manchester Town Hall, Extension Basement Theatre. Admission 10p.

ZIMBABWE NATIONAL LIBERATION hears speakers from ZANU & PAC. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London. Friday 13 June. Zimbabwe Solidarity Committee, 31, Braydon Road, N6.

ROOM to share in house in East London. Contact Box D, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

COUPLE seek shared accommodation N London for one year from September. Southern, 6 Summerhill Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4.

ONE male wanted, to share large room in mixed W10 flat. £6 p.w. inclusive. Write details Box 8E.

RANK AND FILE public Meeting. Wednesday 18 June, 5pm, Britannia Pub, Mare Street. THE CUTS IN EDUCATION. Speaker: Sean Docherty.

INFLATION AND THE WORKING CLASS: a day school with speakers and discussion. Sunday 15 June, 1pm, West Indian Centre, Carmoor Road, Manchester. Social. Organised by Manchester Centre for Marxist education. Admission 30p. All welcome.

IMG PUBLIC MEETING: Whose Press? Whose Freedom? The need for workers' control. Speakers: Carl Gardner editor's board 'Red Weekly', Steve Harper TGWU Ford's Dagenham, Alan Hayling Troops Out Movement Press Officer. Roebuck Pub, Nr Warren St, Tottenham Court Rd, London. 7.30pm, Friday 6 June.

WRITING BOOK on broadcasting in the class war and would like to hear from anyone with experience or documents, especially relating to early Soviet Union, France 1968, Portugal and similar. Views on role of broadcasting under capitalism also welcomed. Write: Secretan, 25 Ladysmith Road, Lipsen, Plymouth.

The Socialist Party of Great Britain says there is no physical reason why there should be wars, poverty, starvation etc on this earth today. The reasons are political and economic. Any reasonable person would pursue further inquiry. Write to Dept SW, The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UN.

AUEW POSTAL BALLOT: THE REAL ISSUE

by Willie Lee (AUEW senior steward, Chrysler Linwood.) **THEY'RE** at it again: their favourite pastime, knocking the most democratic union we've got, the AUEW.

The issue is the postal ballot, which

the press and employers want to impose on us in place of the branch ballot, which allows debate and discussion and is much more democratic. They are looking for support from the courts, which have helped them out so much in the past.

Last week John Weakley, right-

Pickets on Ford plant

DAGENHAM: The strike of door hangers and fender fitters at Fords is now in its seventh week. This strike, ignored by the millionaire press, has left over more than 6,000 workers idle.

The Body and PTA plants, on a three-day week since February, only worked two days in May. Lay-off pay has run out and the men are being refused unemployment and social security benefits. More than 1,000 men have now left the PTA without being replaced. This is involuntary redundancy without redundancy money.

The company deliberately provoked this dispute by demanding 30 per cent speed-up from the door hangers. A Ford spokesman told the Observer newspaper that they had chosen this moment to 'crunch' the body plant 'renegades'. They are using this dispute to prove that they and they alone will decide manning levels and production targets.

Production workers are afraid that a defeat for the door hangers will mean a return to the tyranny of the pre-union days of Fords before the war.

The AUEW and TGWU made the strike official last week. The unions involved made every effort to reach a settle-

ment. They suggested job retraining by independent consultants. The company rejected this. They suggested joint talks. They finally suggested using the government's Conciliation and Arbitration Service. The company rejected all of this.

At present they are installing new plant in the PTA and have sent industrial relations staff on holiday.

While Cortina production has stopped at Dagenham, other plants are still working. The Foundry is working 40 hours. The Engine Plant is on a four-day week.

Support

The axle and transmission plant at Swansea has returned to five-day working. This must mean they have build up a huge stockpile of parts. Escorts are being stockpiled at Halewood.

The danger is obvious. When this dispute is over, the company will attempt enormous speed up in another plant and use the stockpile to ride out any strike, hoping to demoralise and defeat the workforce.

It was decided on Tuesday to begin picketing the Body Plant. This includes the wheel plant, which supplies all of Ford's British plants, and the press shops and the CKD plant. All Body Plant and PTA workers should join the picket line.

WOMAN KILLED ON ROLLS PICKET

COVENTRY: The equal pay strike at Rolls-Royce was marred this week by the tragic death of Flo Frearson, one of Anstey's most active pickets. Flo was struck by a lorry at the factory picket line. The driver of the lorry had observed the pickets and was backing away from the factory gates.

Flo was an active member of the Engineering Workers Union who had

worked at Rolls-Royce for 19 years and was only a few years short of retirement.

The strike, now in its fourth week, has increased in strength and effectiveness. Everything going into the factory is being stopped with the assistance of some of the men from inside who are helping keep a 24-hour picket on the go.

wing AUEW convenor at British Leyland, Llanelli, appealed to the union executive against his removal from the AUEW National Committee which had voted, by the casting vote of the President, for a return to branch voting.

The executive turned down the appeal—and now Weakley, having been encouraged by all sections of the press, has gone to the courts for a series of injunctions to stop branch ballots. One even seeks to stop next week's amalgamated conference in Hastings.

The press have given vast publicity to a 'fighting fund' to assist Weakley's court action. The actions could last for many months, and could prove the most serious threat to the union since the Industrial Relations Act. While most legal attacks on the union came from cranks (like Goad) or employers (like Con-Mech at Woking), Weakley is an 'insider' and has much more credibility with the rank and file.

We've established a long and honourable tradition in our union against settling matters in the courts. We'd have been beaten by the Industrial Relations Act if we'd thrown that tradition over. We must hold to that tradition now.

But the answer to Weakley is not bureaucratic manoeuvring. The answer to him is to carry the argument about the postal ballot into the heart of the union: and to argue the case for active branches and for a rank and file which decides the policy of the union.

The Rolls-Royce women are at the front of the fight that many other women will have to take up as Equal Pay Year draws to a close—the fight to be graded, so that equal pay means equal pay. The Rolls-Royce canteen women are not part of the factory wage structure, so when the Equal Pay Act becomes law in November they will not benefit in the least.



Some of the 200 pickets outside the Thompson and Capper works ...

Speke: 200 picket to fight for jobs

by Tommy Healey, Secretary, Speke Trade Union Committee
LIVERPOOL: More than 200 trade unionists turned out for a mass picket after the stewards at Thompson and Capper asked the Speke Trade Union Defence Committee for assistance.

The factory is threatened with closure after workers demanded a wage rise. Gerry Dean, the senior steward, said: 'This will show management we are not on our own. More than a hundred of the pickets were from other factories and workplaces on the Speke estate.'

Delegates came from Wingrove and Rogers—who turned up to show their solidarity after the support they received from Speke workers during their 17-week strike last year, Fords, Evans Medical, Plesseys, Synthetic Resin, Dunlop, Hunt Engineers, Speke and Garston bus depot, Dista Chemicals, Standard Triumph, Silcock and Collins and Brough Drums.

Members of ASTMS at Thompson and Capper refused to cross the picket lines and instead joined it. Lorries and cars were turned away until police turned up in force and pushed their way through.

But management have been shown that there will be no repeat of the events at London Rubber, in North London, where the same company have just fought a vicious 10-week strike.

The Speke Committee is meeting this Sunday to discuss ways of further beating the closure. Already all Thompson and Capper goods in warehouses are being blacked.

An appeal fund has been set up and financial support is coming in. Donations and messages of support to Thompson and Capper strikers, c/o Richard Kerr, 13 Cromwell Road, Walton, Liverpool 4.

The next meeting of the Speke Trade Union Committee will be at Dove and Olive, Hale Road, Speke on Sunday 15 June starting at 11am.



... where they persuaded the drivers to turn back ...



... until the police stepped in PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

MASSEYS SIT-IN BROKEN, STRIKE ON!

COVENTRY: Faced with the might of the state, the Massey Ferguson strikers have replaced their occupation with factory gate picketing.

Some full-time officials and stewards are hoping that this means the six-week-old dispute will end at any cost. But as far as many shop stewards and pickets are concerned the retreat should only be a temporary one unless pay talks are successful.

Terry Jayne, industrial relations director for Masseys, turned up last Saturday afternoon when picket numbers were fairly low. Accompanied by police, Jayne said he wanted access to his factory. This was refused by the pickets, especially as he was not serving the writs but simply trying to cross the line. Even at this stage the company were reluctant to use their High Court writs.

Pickets, though depleted in number, made ready to stop access to the factory. Jayne hesitated. At this point one of the pickets suggested that Jayne would be allowed access on one condition—that pay talks were held within five days. Jayne, after refusing to meet full-time officials for three weeks, then agreed.

The previous Friday the High Court writ had been granted at 'unbelievable speed', as a management spokesman put it. The democratic 'fair hearing' lasted all of three minutes. Left-wing stewards, predicting this, had argued that the workers prepare for defending the sit-in.

PREFERRED

A city-wide stewards' conference held inside the factory, linked to a campaign for collections and publicity, could have outbluffed the management. But although incensed by the use of the law, many stewards preferred to find some way round the law instead of facing up to it. Given the lack of preparation, management decided to go ahead and regain the factory.

What happens next depends on Wednesday's pay talks. Many stewards and pickets have made it clear that unless there is a substantial pay offer then picketing should

be stepped up and in particular the prestige Royal Show should be picketed.

Before any pay offer is agreed, no Masseys worker should forget the rocketing cost of inflation which will fast overtake the cost of remaining in dispute if a pathetic wages offer is made.

The talks were originally fixed for Tuesday, but management claimed they were too busy that day. This overwork included the attendance of Jayne at a Coventry management training seminar on 'Industrial Relations'.

But who is helping with the training of such anti-union bosses? None other than star speakers Jack Jones, supposedly left-wing general secretary of the Transport Workers' Union, and Ken Gill, Communist Party member, and general secretary of TASS, the white-collar engineering union.

Collections for the strike fund have been received from workers at Perkins and from Warwickshire miners. Donations and messages of support to: Massey Ferguson Strike Committee, c/o Transport House, Ringway St Nicolas, Coventry.

APPRENTICES JOIN

PICKETS IN

JACOBS LOCK-OUT

SHEFFIELD: Workers at Jacobs Manufacturing have been in official dispute, following a lock-out by management of the assembly section. Workers on the section refused to work piecework under a new wage system which the management imposed.

After being locked out the assembly section picketed, calling on all other trade union members to support. But the apprentices were told to continue working as the dispute, it was claimed, did not affect them.

Even after official support for apprentices to take action had been confirmed by the district secretary some stewards still argued that apprentices should not be on strike.

But the argument that to let some trade union members cross the picket line would make it easier for others to scab won. The apprentices came out on strike.

At a mass meeting on Tuesday the workers voted to return to work, after management had agreed to discussion about recognition of a shop stewards' committee, the issue that lay behind the refusal to accept the new payment system.

VOICE

But now the apprentices have supported the strike, providing in practice that they are capable and willing to accept all the responsibilities of trade unionism, they are going to get a voice on the shop stewards committee. At long last they will be recognised as full members of the union.

Fifty young workers attended the IS Young Workers Conference in Manchester last weekend. The conference focussed on the possibilities of building a movement among young workers and how IS could gear up to do this.

There was useful discussion on subjects such as young workers and trade unions, how to build in the factory, how to organise against the discrimination against the young, youth employment, the army, how capitalism exploits the young and tries to control us.

The main purpose of the conference was to lay the ground for a really powerful IS Young Workers pamphlet which is now well under way.

The conference expanded the IS Young Workers Sub-committee, agreed that a Socialist Worker Young Workers Conference should be organised and used to expand the organisation's work into new areas, and also that a day school on socialist ideas and activity for young workers members and close supporters should be organised.

WALSALL: 80 OUT AGAINST BID TO SMASH UNION

WALSALL: 80 workers, white and Asian, have been on strike for two weeks at the car component firm of S F Mokes.

The dispute is over union recognition. Tired of low wages—65p an hour for operators—and frequent instant dismissals, the workers started joining the Transport Workers Union about three months ago. The owner eventually recognised the union but then, in the words of one steward, 'simply went wild'. Leading union members were harassed and told to leave the union or offered chargehand's or foreman's jobs. Almost all refused—and were 'put on the list'.

The management gave just five hours notice that 19 were redundant, including all the leading union members, several with many years service. They were told that the order books had been empty since January—yet at least 10 workers had been taken on since then, and regular adverts for jobs were appearing in local papers.

The notices were handed straight back. When the management refused to withdraw them the shopfloor workers came out on strike. The few non-union members left inside were sent home by the management, and a 24-hour picket has ensured that nothing has come out or gone in since.

The dispute has been recognised by the TGWU, but the strikers are not getting strike pay since they have only been in the union a short time. They will need help from other trade unionists in the area.

Wide support for anti-racism conference

A CONFERENCE against racialism and discrimination in the workplace, the union and the community is being held in Birmingham this Saturday by the Rank and File Organising Committee.

Roger Cox, secretary of the Organising Committee, told Socialist Worker: 'We want white as well as black workers at the conference. White workers have a duty to fight against racist divisions.'

'It's stupid to think racialism is a problem just for someone who's black. The real victims are all trade unionists. Anything which divides us means that we're all weaker. In hundreds of factories divisions between black and white workers are the management's best weapon in keeping wages down, in holding back effective shop floor organisation. It's up to every serious trade unionist to fight racialism to strengthen our organisations.'

Delegates come from a wide range of trade unions. Members of the Transport and General Workers Union are coming from branches in Coventry, Sheffield, Manor House in London and

from the London Docks. Engineering Union branches sending delegates include two in Birmingham, Hamstead and Cannock Chase No 2.

Other delegates are coming from NUPE branches, ASTMS branches, ACTSS branches, the NUT, TASS and the NUJ. Trades Councils sending delegations are Battersea and Wandsworth, and Waltham Forest.

One area of the country, Sheffield, is sending delegates from TASS, NALGO, the NUT and the TGWU.

A number of groups of black workers have been individually invited. Roger Cox explained: 'Black workers who have fought and unfortunately often lost strikes and disputes over, for example, union recognition aren't always in a position to get delegated. But they have experiences important for the rest of us. We need that experience at the Conference.'

Anyone wishing to attend who hasn't yet applied for credentials will be able to get in by producing a letter of authority from their union branch or other trade union body at the door of the Conference.

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 available on the door to delegates who bring letters from trade union branches, Stewards committees etc.

REPORTS for the back pages of Socialist Worker should be posted to arrive at latest by second post on Monday. If there is no other way of getting the reports to us on time we can take copy down on the phone on Monday. On Tuesday morning up to midday we can take items for IN BRIEF by post or if necessary on the phone.

If you can't get your report in on time phone Socialist Worker on 01-739 9043 on Friday or Monday.

ABORTION: THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

London Women's Voice public meeting: Thursday 19 June, 7.30pm. Friends Meeting House, Euston Road (opposite Euston station).

Speakers: Gillian Anciano (NUT), Tony Cliff, and a hospital worker.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

CIA: LEGALISED TERRORISM

THE TRIAL in West Germany of the Baader-Meinhof group alleged to have organised bank robberies, murders and kidnappings, is finally due to start. And in Lancaster the trial of a number of Irishmen from Birmingham, alleged to have been involved in attempted bombings, is beginning.

The press can be expected to give massive publicity to the prosecution evidence in both trials, showing the defendants as vicious and sinister and implying that anyone opposed to West German capitalism or to British rule in Ireland must be twisted and perverted. An attempt has been made to tamper with the brain of the German anarchist defendant, Ulrike Meinhof, to discover what drove her to such 'inhuman' actions.

Yet over the last few weeks, evidence has emerged of a much bigger and brutal 'terrorist' conspiracy than ever conceived by the Baader-Meinhof group or the IRA.

While the German group involves at most a couple of dozen activists and the IRA a couple of thousand, this conspiracy, known as the CIA, involves 16,000 people organised in every major country. It has tried to murder not one or two but hundreds and thousands, including the successful assassination of at least two heads of state and attempted murder of a third.

Yet no-one in the press is talking of the leaders of that organisation, or of the people who give them their orders, as 'inhuman brutes'. Instead, they are respected as civilised gentlemen, doing their duty.

The US President, Ford, is doing his utmost to prevent the facts about these murders becoming fully known. Meanwhile the British government is defending the right of this organisation to operate without hindrance in London, and

20 multinational companies are allowing its agents to use them as 'cover'.

One CIA murder, that of the African leader Lumumba, led to a bitter civil war in which thousands of people died. It took place a month after John F Kennedy had taken over the US presidency and control of the CIA.

But we do not expect those concerned with the mental functions of Ulrike Meinhof to demand the exhumation of Kennedy's body, to find out what it was in his brain that led to the organisation of such a callous crime.

For those who rule us, there are two kinds of 'terrorism'. Any attempt, however feeble, to upset the status quo has to be condemned from all directions. By contrast, actions, however bloody, which uphold the power and privilege of the very rich and of the giant corporations, are to be praised as statesmanlike and civilised.

Ward and Goldstone: Strike hits all 12 factories

by Gerry Davidson

MANCHESTER: Once again, workers at Ward and Goldstone—the biggest employers in this part of Lancashire—are on strike. But this is the first time we have had to go more than a couple of days.

All the AUEW, EETPU and UCATT members of the Common Craft Agreement have been on the cobbles since 30 May. 300 craftsmen through all the 12 factories in Lancashire are out.

W&G manufacture heavy cables and plastic electrical goods, and employ more than 7000 people in the Greater Manchester area. The dispute has been endorsed at local level by the respective district committees.

We want £5 a week. The cause of the strike was the non-payment of a guaranteed bonus for three months. Management didn't see any point in holding further talks to reach agreement. We have had no choice but to accept their challenge and strike.

The 24-hour picket line has been set up at the Eccles plant, because all the other factories depend on the plastics manufactured at Eccles. We will spread the picketing as soon as we can involve more men by setting up various committees.

From the outset management have encouraged TGWU drivers to break the picket lines, with the help of a stamped letter from the local TGWU official stating that the dispute is unofficial.

Official

Although the letter appears genuine, investigations are being pursued to establish its authenticity.

Faced with this, we have to seek help from the raw material suppliers. Shop stewards at Lankro Chemicals, who supply the necessary oils for the Eccles factory, have agreed not to cross the picket lines.

This meant we could go back to our own drivers and argue that if the District Committee's official backing was good enough for the Lankro stewards, then of course it was good enough for them. This argument won over most of the drivers.

We, the stewards, would like to thank Lankro for all the support they have given us.

Management have already tried to resort to strike-breaking methods. A local transport firm, Redfern's, picked up a large consignment of oil late on Saturday afternoon but did not immediately deliver it to the Eccles factory, as they were waiting for a time when the picket would be at its weakest.

The Lankro stewards saw what was happening and immediately warned us. This succeeded in thwarting the management's plans temporarily.

At 3am on Sunday, the truck driven by Redfern's transport manager tried to drive through our picket line, escorted by several security men.

Because we had been warned, we persuaded them not to break our line by talking of the blacking of Redfern's throughout the UK. We thank them for their co-operation. We had made them an offer they couldn't refuse.

We appeal to trade unionists to help us in our struggle.

All messages of support and donations to: Mr V Clough, Treasurer, 27 Hermitage Road, Crumpsall, Manchester 8.

Our fund

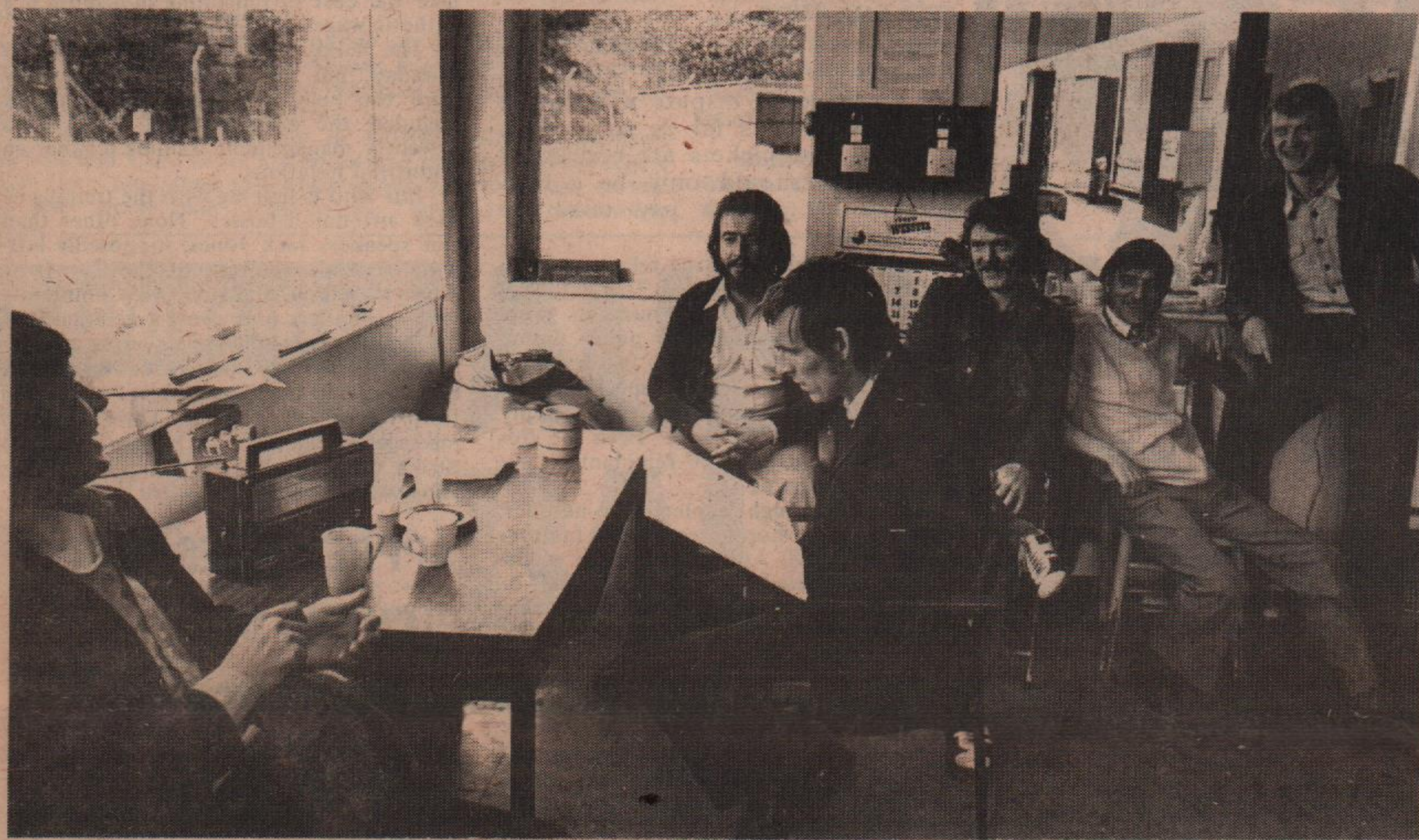
OUR FIGHTING FUND is well on its way to the £2000 monthly target. With £761.00 in the post this week. June's total now stands at

£761.60

Why not organise a whip-round for your paper today? Every penny is gratefully received and will help us reach our target.

Send donations and collections to: Mel Norris, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)



● The occupation began in April after the men had taken strike action in support of the 30 per cent wage claim and for the right of full negotiations at local level. After one week, they occupied.

● The 'final' offer from the employers was 14p an hour plus 8p consolidation of the rate in July. This is the equivalent to about 18 per cent for the general workers and about 21 per cent for the craftsmen. This was rejected at a mass meeting of 400 workers.

● To show that the 30 per cent wage claim was totally realistic in these days of raging inflation, Tony Tyrell, GMWU convenor, said: 'For a long time this company have paid wage rates lower than other firms in the district. Our claim would still leave us with a lot of ground to make up.'

● Management's hard line shows their determination to break the shopfloor organisation and the solidarity between the unions which have been built up by the two convenors at the plant.

Magnificent Elektron!

THREE BIG flags are flying above the occupied Magnesium Elektron factory in Manchester, where the workers' sit-in is now in its seventh week.

One displays a skull and cross bones. Another simply states: 30 per cent—the size of the pay claim the workers are in occupation for. The third, big and red, just reads WORKERS' SIT-IN.

The workers' imagination and willingness to struggle haven't struck home merely in the local area. They have driven fear into the

hearts of the millionaire profiteers who run Tube Investment, the parent company, which made a record profit of more than £40 million last year.

For years, they have paid low wages at Magnesium, just as they have paid lousy wages in a hundred other factories.

At Magnesium's too, just as in

other plants owned by TI, they have imposed hazardous working conditions and polluted the surrounding areas, denying access to information about what was being done to workers and residents.

The last seven weeks have seen the struggle against this kind of tyranny go from strength to strength.

As Stan Walton, General and Municipal Workers' steward in the plant, explained to Socialist Worker:

'It's seven weeks now and we are just beginning to get toughened up. The fight has only just started as far as we're concerned.

'Because we are properly organised, we are now reaping the benefits of our hard work. Solidarity is now the name of the game and with it we cannot lose'. He was referring to the kind of solidarity shown by the workers of the adjacent Chloride factory.

Peter Noone, secretary of the joint shop stewards committee, added: 'We never get less than £120 a week off them and sometimes it's up to £150 a week. They have responded magnificently and we are proud of them.

'The physical solidarity they have pledged will show the management that we are serious when we say we are out to defend ourselves in case of attack, whether it be from the police or any other strike-

breaking force.'

The shop stewards' committee at Chloride have pledged to form a mass picket to help defend the Elektron strikers against any strike breaking force. If such a picket could not be mounted in time, they have promised solidarity strike action in support of the Elektron cause.

The executives of all the four unions involved, the AUEW, GMWU, EETPU and Boilermakers, have now all made the strike official. But, as Paul Dickenson, AUEW convenor, pointed out:

'We need a lot of money to help us with this one. Strike pay won't go far with a wife and two or three kids. Our resolve to win is high. With more support we will.

'Wherever there are trade unionists in the country you can be sure we will be calling on you shortly for your help. Show us that solidarity is not just a word for you.'

The managing director, F B First, arrived at the occupation last week to try to negotiate the return of the plant, but he was quickly disillusioned and left dispirited, to say the least.

He must have been upset to see the high spirits of the strikers and the most effective way the occupation is being run.

If Magnesium Elektron win, it will be a shining example to trade unionists throughout Tube Investments and beyond.

Help keep those flags flying by rushing donations and messages of support, especially from Tube Investments' firms to: Tony Tyrell, 113 Falcon Court, Clifton, nr Manchester.

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