

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

**Rents UP, prices UP—and still
more pay restraint to come**

YOUR WAGES

HOW WOULD you feel if your employer announced you had to accept a ten per cent wage cut, while his profits went up? You'd be bloody angry.

But that is what the government and big business are saying to workers in Britain. To all workers. They don't quite put it that way, certainly not when they are demand-restraint from groups like the railwaymen.

They usually talk about 'curing inflation'. But occasionally they let the truth out, as the Bank of International Settlements did last week. 'Real consumption is going to have to fall and labour will be obliged to shoulder its share of the cut', it said.

When Denis Healey talks about 'the next round' of wage increases being no higher than 15 per cent, at a time when prices are rising by at least 25 per cent, he is talking of a cut in your living standards.

When Michael Foot tells the railwaymen the government cannot meet a wage demand which would only just keep up with prices, he is saying the same thing, although in less abrupt language.

FORCE

The government claims wages are to blame for price rises. But a recent report points out that real wages in Britain are the same as in March 1973—and before that they were frozen by the Tories' Phase One freeze.

Certainly, the most recent set of price rises has not been caused by wages. Even the government admits that three-fifths of the most recent rise in the price index was caused by increases in taxes and cuts in price subsidies.

The decision to force up council rents by monstrous amounts certainly wasn't taken by workers.

Yet workers are being blamed for inflation by the press and politicians. Even trade union leaders are suggesting ways of cutting back their members' wage increases.

No-one who works in a factory, mine or office should listen to such talk, even if it comes from union leaders like Jack Jones or Hugh Scanlon, who the press calls 'left-wing'.

If you do, you will face a cut in your real wages, a cut in what you can spend on yourself or your family, a drop in your living standard. And that is not all.

The same people who are after your wages are also pushing up unemployment and slashing back essential social services. That is

By
**CHRIS
HARMAN**

UNDER ATTACK



'The miners will not bear the cost of the crisis!' The slogan of these Potash miners from Lorraine is in French, but the message they carried through Paris should be taken up by the miners—and every other group of workers in Britain.

why the AUEW conference was quite right to reject both the social contract and further wage restraint.

There should be a simple answer to those who demand that we accept such things. If they cannot make the economy work to satisfy people's real needs, they should get out of the way and allow those who create the wealth to organise society.

A nationalised economy, under workers control, could mean a continued and planned growth of wealth for our benefit, instead of wage cuts and unemployment.

Meanwhile there is no reason why we should make sacrifices to solve their crisis.

**INSIDE THIS
WEEK'S
SOCIALIST
WORKER**

Portugal:



Revolution
at the
turning
point

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The real
issues
at stake

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Question:

Which
'left-wing'
trade union
leaders
helped train
the bosses?

ANSWER: Page Four

No Return to Back-Street Abortion!

HULL PORT shop stewards are among many groups of workers who are to send a delegation to this Saturday's demonstration in London against the Abortion Amendment Bill—a bill which if passed would bring a return to the horrors of back-street abortion.

They made this decision after being told

by housewife Linda Gordon that the demonstration will be fighting for the rights of women just as the stewards are fighting for conditions on the docks. If the bill becomes law, working class women trying to control their own bodies will be dragged before the same judges who put the Shrewsbury Two behind bars and jailed the Pentonville dockers.

Every Socialist Worker reader should be on the march | Bring your trade union banner | All IS branches to attend | Full details in two-page abortion special, pages 8-9

ALL OUT THIS SATURDAY, 21 JUNE

PORTUGAL ALL SET TO EXPLODE

EVENTS IN PORTUGAL were moving rapidly to an explosive climax as we went to press. A special session of the ruling military council was hearing a proposal for the setting up of an exclusively military government along with revolutionary councils of workers, soldiers and sailors.

The man behind it, Otelo da Carvalho, head of the security forces, Copcon, probably believes the revolutionary councils would enhance his own power. But his call could produce exactly the sort of workers' activity that no middle-class soldier or politician would be able to hold in check.

The fact that the military have been discussing such questions shows the extent of the crisis. After 13 months of balancing between left and right, its members are being forced to come down on one side or the other.

For the last fortnight, the right wing have been organising actively to try to regain much of the power which the employing class has lost in industry, important army units and over the press. They have been actively assisted by the leaders of the pro-NATO Socialist Party.

One key issue has been control of the daily paper Republica. Its director, a leading member of the Socialist Party, claims he is fighting to stop 'one of the last non-Communist papers' from falling into 'Communist hands'.

In fact, he is really trying to uphold the right of all newspaper proprietors to control the press, regardless of what those who print the papers think.

He proved this on Monday by saying that to restart production he would have to sack a number of militants. Left wing soldiers from Copcon refused to help him in this, and handed the paper's premises to the printers instead.

□□

But the right wing have not just been backing the Socialist Party in its efforts for big business. They are also mobilising on their own.

There are repeated reports of attacks on left-wing party buildings in the rural areas where the right is strong. There have been seizures of arms from certain barracks.

And last week saw a virtual uprising in the Azores islands, which contain a vital US base, with right wing demonstrators seizing control of airfields and government offices.

The Azores incidents could well have been a rehearsal by the right for activities in mainland Portugal.

The working class is not standing idly by. On Tuesday evening, a mass demonstration was due to take place, calling for the formation of revolutionary workers' and soldiers' councils, for the dissolution of the right wing Constituent Assembly, for the formation of the revolutionary workers' government and for socialist revolution.

The call for the demonstration came from a 4000-strong meeting at the Lisnave shipyards. After being addressed by members of the provisional secretariat of the revolutionary councils, and by Carlos Antunes of the PRP (Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat) the meeting elected 400 delegates to prepare for a workers' council and to form links with other councils.

□□

At the Setnave shipyard, 1000 workers voted for similar proposals.

The demonstration was due to be supported by the Iron and Steel foundries next to Lisnave, by union delegates in the Lisbon transport authority and by the Republica print workers.

Details of the Lisnave meeting and the demonstration were broadcast from the radio station Radio Rinascina, occupied by its workers in defiance of the Catholic Bishops who own it.

As both the right wing and the workers mobilise, massive conflicts cannot be far off. That makes it essential for socialists in this country to step up work for solidarity with the Portuguese revolution and against any attempted NATO intervention.

Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund:—Pages 7 and 10.

SW price increase

YOUR PAPER is not immune to the effects of big business and the government forcing up prices. In recent weeks we have had to face ten per cent increases in the cost of newsprint and ink, a 20 per cent increase in the price of other materials, a 25 per cent increase in electricity charges, increased rail costs of 12 per cent and increased postal charges.

The only way we can recoup these losses is by raising the cost of the paper, even though we know our readers can ill-afford the rise. So, from next week, Socialist Worker will cost 10p rather than 7p.

We hope that the increased revenue will enable us to explore the possibility of establishing regional variations for certain pages of the paper and to begin to establish editorial facilities outside London.



PORTUGAL, SPAIN... ONE SOLUTION... REVOLUTION!

Some of the 1,000 demonstrators, including London members of IS, marching to the Spanish embassy last Saturday. They were protesting at the reign of terror by the Franco regime in the Basque country of Northern Spain and

demanding the release of political prisoners, several of whom face possible death sentences in the weeks ahead. The demonstrators chanted 'Franco, murderer', 'fascism out', and 'Portugal, Spain, One Solution, Revolution'.

PICTURE Report!

Army assassination links exposed

DISTURBING EVIDENCE has come to light of collaboration by British troops and Northern Ireland Loyalists in preparing for all-out attacks on the Catholic community.

On Sunday masked men raided an Ulster Defence Regiment armoury in County Derry, 'overpowered' the six-man guard and spirited away more than 200 rifles machine guns and pistols, plus thousands of rounds of ammunition—and two land rovers! During this record-breaking heist, not a single shot was fired. Nor was the alarm raised.

No-one in Northern Ireland doubts the weapons are now in the hands of ultra right-wing Loyalists.

On 1 June, the Dublin Sunday World printed photographs of Ulster Defence Regiment men training with unauthorised weapons—armalites, Thompsons, M16 'Grease-guns'—all weapons associated in the public mind in Northern Ireland with the IRA, the use of which in any incident would be taken as clear evidence of IRA responsibility.

The fortnightly Dublin paper Hibernia, last week printed a photo, taken two years ago, of the then head of the Loyalist terror group, the UVF, Jim Hanna, posing together with two British officers—a Lieutenant Homer

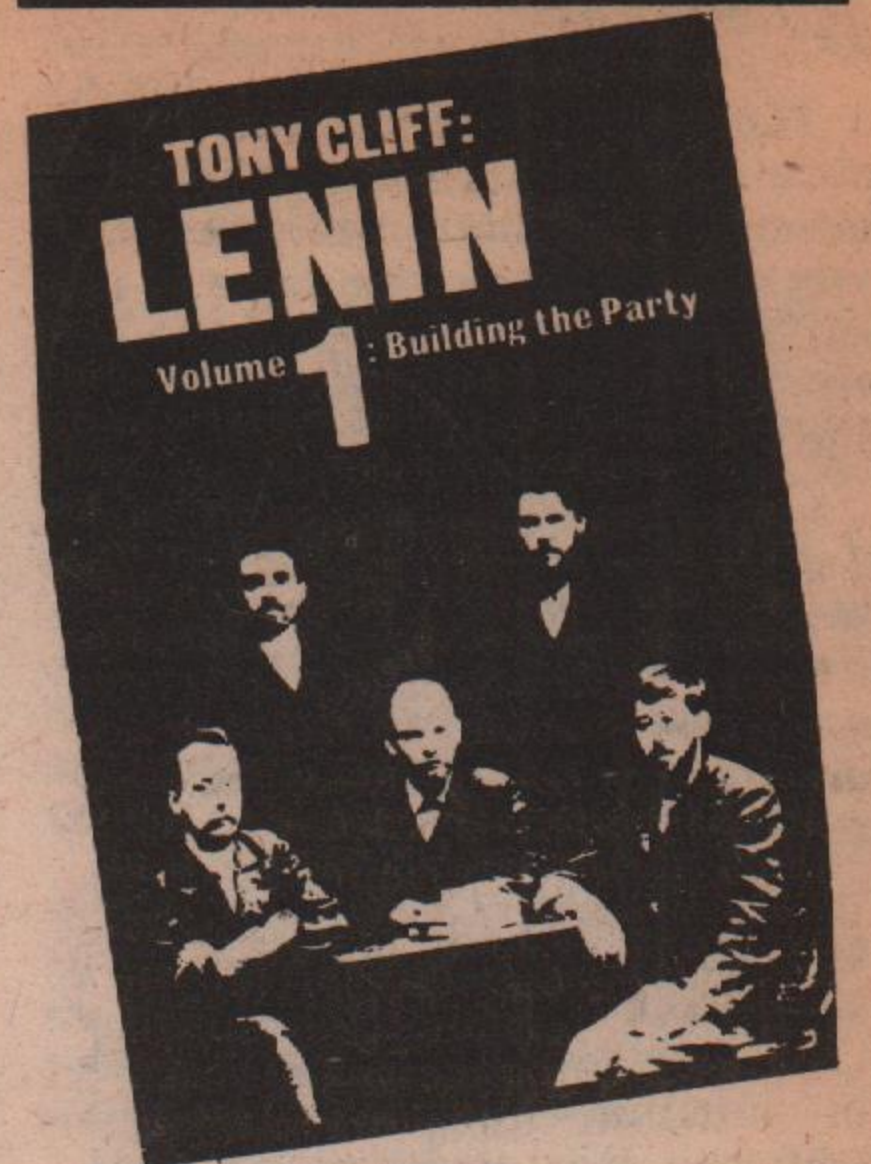
of the Intelligence Corps and a Timothy Golden, probably of the SAS.

They were close friends with Hanna, as were two other officers, Captains Anthony Ling and Anthony Box, at a time when Hanna was involved in supervising a campaign of sectarian assassinations against Catholics.

Hanna told the Hibernia writer, Kevin Myers, that on at least one occasion, British troops had helped him when he was engaged in gun battles with Catholics.

Hanna is dead now, killed by other Loyalists. But the Loyalist groups clearly retain considerable influence in some sections of the armed forces, as is revealed by the discovery of army intelligence documents in their possession.

The demand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops is both urgent and necessary.



'The most important book on the theory and practice of building a revolutionary socialist organisation that has appeared for some time'

—Duncan Hallas, in International Socialism Journal

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

LAST WEEK'S government reshuffle and the hysteria in the press over the railwaymen's pay claim have had one simple aim: to prepare the ground for the biggest attack on workers' living standards since the 1930s.

A few weeks ago, Lord Wilkinson, head of the giant food monopoly Cadbury Schweppes, threatened that, if the government did not behave more as big business wanted it to, industrialists would deliberately resort to measures which would harm the economy.

In the weeks since, particularly since the referendum, Wilson has gone out of his way to placate Lord Wilkinson and his friends. The Industry Bill is to be pruned, to amend those clauses on 'disclosure of information' which annoy some industrialists.

Wedgwood Benn has been shifted, not because of what he had done, but because of what he sometimes said. As the Financial Times put it last week, he was an 'obstacle to confidence'.



And now ministers are demanding that unions accept, in 'the next round', wage increases of only 15 per cent—less than half what is needed to keep up with inflation.

The steep slide in the value of the pound last week was part of the process of preparing people psychologically for such attacks. Those with wealth know that they can exert enormous influence on government policy merely by exchanging their sterling holdings for foreign currency and so creating crisis.

Ministers who call a threat of strike action by any group of workers 'blackmail' keep quiet about such financial means of forcing the government's hand.

The Financial Times was able to report last Thursday that 'there are those in Whitehall who argue that alarm about the pound is a necessary ingredient in negotiating new wage guidelines'.

The fall in sterling was not caused by

FACT:

Last week, the railmen were attacked by Harold Wilson. They want another £2.

FACT:

Last week, big business admitted to blackmailing the government. Wilson said nothing.

WHY?

'foreign' speculators but 'by big corporations, including UK companies'. And there was 'virtually no intervention by the Bank of England', as would normally be the case.

But this organisation on the part of the employing class is in no way matched by the response of the working class organisations. A fortnight ago, union leaders like Jack Jones were threatening action if the government was restructured to re-assure the wealthy.

Yet the day after the demotion of Wedgwood Benn and the sacking of Judith Hart, they expressed 'satisfaction' at what Wilson had done. Instead of preparing to resist the government's attacks, Jones has been peddling his own plan to cut living standards!

The passivity of the union leaders has been matched by that of Benn. For 13 months he has been giving the impression to workers facing redundancy that if they only

waited on him, he would solve their problems. And so workers occupying Imperial Typewriters in Hull raised the slogan 'we stay in 'til Benn says when', and some in British Leyland accepted the Ryder report.

The government changes mean an end to any government help for workers facing factory closures and a much more vicious interpretation of the Ryder recommendations.

Yet Benn has not put up even token resistance to the changes. He has happily gone from the Industry Ministry to the Energy Ministry, abandoning completely those who placed their hopes in him.

Socialist Worker supporters have, in the past, received a lot of stick in some quarters for criticising Benn. We think his behaviour last week proves how correct we were to insist that his fine words were not matched

by his deeds and could not be trusted.

But the real question is not one of individuals. It is one of politics. People like Benn or Jones talk in terms of managing the present system so as to get reforms that improve the conditions of workers. Such reformism seems to work in periods of prosperity, when the employers can afford a few concessions for workers.

But in a period like the present, every concession threatens to make the crisis of the system still worse, and those who begin by preaching reformism end by snatching back from workers those concessions already granted.

The personal views of those who try to manage the system or work within it do not matter. They are forced to accept the logic of capitalism—a logic which means making workers accept the burden of solving the crisis.

There is an alternative, but it is only open to those who abandon the path of reformism for that of revolutionary socialism. That does not mean taking to the streets tomorrow.

It does mean organising rank and file workers against the attacks that are coming, pointing out that crises will continue and get worse until workers finally put an end to the power of big business.

It's all the fault of the big battalions isn't it?

HOW OFTEN have you heard that the Social Contract is a good idea, offering the lower-paid justice, but being wrecked by the 'big battalions' of better paid workers?

The reality is rather different. In a letter to the Guardian on Tuesday, Frank Field of the Child Poverty Action group pointed out:

'Those low-paid workers who struck settlements within the Social Contract guidelines are now worse off in real terms. Only if workers have broken the Social Contract is one able to show that they have experienced a real increase.'

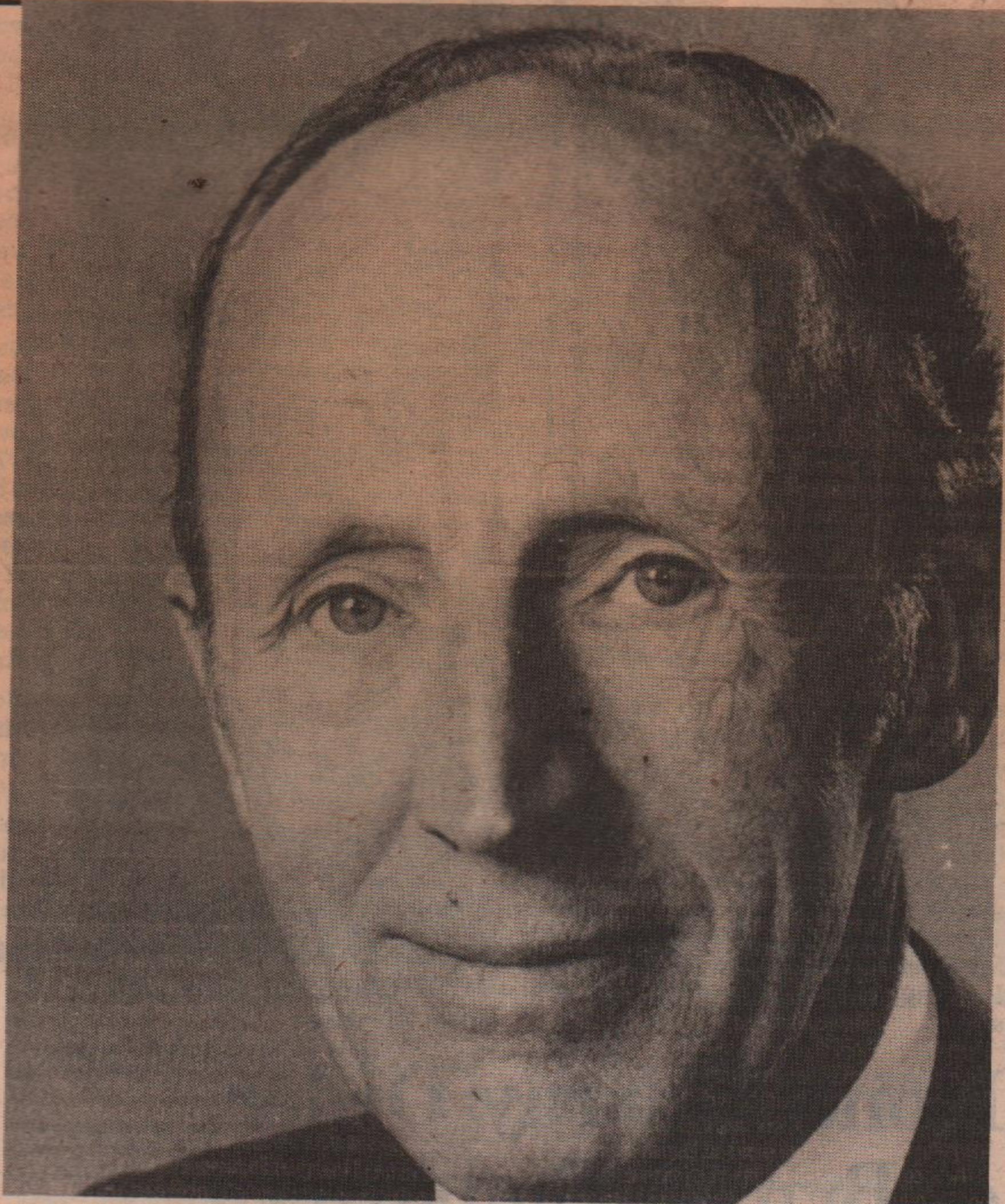
But won't restraint cut unemployed?

THE MOST common argument in favour of wage restraint is that if we don't have it, inflation will continue and unemployment will grow. If only we accept wage cuts, the dole queues will disappear.

But there are countries such as West Germany where workers have allowed their wages to be cut back drastically over the last year.

The result? The rate of inflation is also quite low—about seven per cent. But West German unemployment, far from falling is still much higher than in Britain with a million on the dole and 600,000 on short time.

Even the Economist could comment last week that German workers were still waiting for low wages to cut employment!



Ralph Bateman: a knighthood

Labour honours a man whose trade is death

RALPH Melton Bateman, president of the Confederation of British Industry and chairman of the asbestos multinational Turner and Newall copped a knighthood from the Labour government in last week's honours list.

This surprise announcement will doubtless bring joy to widows and other members of bereaved families throughout the country whose menfolk have been struck down by asbestosis while in the employ of Turner and Newall.

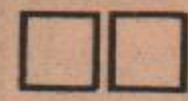


Now they have it officially from the Labour government that all their misery and suffering was in a good cause—maximum profits for Turner and Newall and glittering social success for the worthy chairman.

In an advanced 'celebration' of Sir Ralph's elevation, 300 workers stopped work last week and had their

factory closed by Factory Inspectors at the nuclear missile base at Coulport in Scotland.

The depot has been shut because it was shrouded in a cloud of dust given off by asbestos, the mineral which was Turner and Newall's path to fortune.



Navy spokesmen are now claiming that no danger exists for local inhabitants. The insulating engineers' TGWU branch is not so sure, particularly since in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire many inhabitants who never worked near asbestos are now known to have contracted 'industrial diseases'.

John Todd, who is on the health committee of the TGWU 7/162 branch, said: 'The Navy have been using asbestos and breaking health laws for years. The last time I raised the question with them they said they were looking at it.'

'The laggards shop stewards forced the factory inspectors to act. Workers know what asbestos does to them and our branch committee can tell the story; nine members of the branch have been murdered by the stuff this year alone.'

'It's interesting they never call in the army to clear up these health hazards, real hazards and not phonies like the Glasgow dustcart drivers' strike.'

JONES' PLAN: WAGE CUTS

THE PLAN for wages put forward by Jack Jones, the transport union leader, has received massive publicity over the last fortnight. What has not been made clear, however, is that it is a plan for wages cuts.

The Sunday Times carried some calculations on what it would mean for every worker or salary earner to get a £12 flat rate increase, as Jones suggests. They show, that once tax deductions are taken into account, the rise would only be worth 26 per cent—which is hardly enough to keep up with the present rate of price rises.

For better-off workers, the Sunday

Times version of the Jones plan means cuts of up to ten per cent in the buying power of your wage packet.

Yet the Sunday Times version is unlikely to be that finally adopted. The business press is now talking of a £6, not a £12 rise, all round. And that means massive wage cuts for everyone.

But, some people argue, isn't that fair? For at least the rich will suffer as much as the poor.

That ignores the fact that the Jones plan says nothing about rent, interest and capital gains. Shares have already doubled in value since

January.

Any cut-back in wage increases will mean bigger profits and still larger rises in share prices. It's no wonder that employers are pushing support for what Jones says.

IS THIS WHERE HE GOT THE IDEA?

PERHAPS Jack Jones first got the idea for his wages plan during last year's secret discussions between various trade union leaders and Sir Val Duncan, head of Rio Tinto Zinc, on how to solve the crisis.

Readers will be interested to learn how Sir Val's suffering during the

crisis compares to that of the typical TGWU member.

He had to make do last year with a miserly salary increase of £7000, taking his total pay up to a mere £76,000. He clearly needs all the help Jack Jones can give him.

THE UNIONS

Casting vote: It's legal if it's right-wing

THE PRESIDENT's casting vote at national committee meetings of the Engineering Union has been declared invalid by the courts. But it was used again and again for most of the 1950s and 1960s by Lord Carron, then the union's extreme right-wing President.

In 1960, for instance, at a rules revision conference of the national committee, the Left moved that members of section 5(A) of the union should be entitled to vote for district presidents.

These long-standing members had been 'dilutees' during the war and were being denied simple democratic rights. The vote split 27-27 and Carron cast his vote against the motion, which was therefore defeated.

In 1958, the rules revision conference of the national committee was specially recalled to debate a motion by the right. It sought to end the system of elections every three years for union officials, and replace it with

one whereby officials served only one three-year term before standing for re-election, and, if re-elected, served for five years.

The National Committee split 26-26, and Carron cast his vote for the motion, against regular three-year elections. *The Press* hailed this as a triumph for moderation and common sense.

If the right-wingers are thinking of fighting against the right of the President to cast his vote at executive meetings, they might reflect on this precedent:

In 1957, the engineering union called a nation-wide strike for more pay.

When the employers slightly increased their miserable offer, the executive split 3-3 on it. Carron cast his vote for the offer and the strike was called off.

Once more, no one protested. No-one went to the courts.

The day Jones and Gill helped train the bosses...

TERRY JAYNE, Massey Ferguson's industrial relations director, couldn't meet the strikers at his firm's Coventry factory on Tuesday last week. He had 'another engagement', speaking to a bosses' teach-in.

Organised by the Coventry Engineering Employers' Management Training Centre, it cost 'delegates' £55 each, with VAT (£4.40) and accommodation (£7 a night) extra. After eating and drinking, most waded through £100.

The aim was 'to give the opportunity to take a broader view of contemporary developments in the whole field of employment policies and human relations practices.'

ADVERTISEMENT

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 Kindmarch, 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, Teesside, 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.

Mr Jayne spoke on 'Pay-The Problem of Parity', a problem he knows all about. He and his colleagues first anticipated and then provoked the strike at Coventry precisely because of parity claims.

Masseys conceded the principle of parity to workers at Perkins, Peterborough, after a strike two years ago, and are now battling with the Coventry workers because they can't 'afford' out of their huge profits to pay decent wages to both sets of workers.

The 4000 strikers are members of the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Engineering Union.

Interesting then, that the other speakers at the teach-in should have included 'left-wing' leaders connected with those unions.

Class

Jack Jones, TGWU general secretary, spoke on 'Conciliation and Arbitration.'

Bill Lapworth, TGWU South Midlands Divisional Organiser, addressed the assembled bosses on the co-operative at Meriden.

And Ken Gill, general secretary of TASS, the white-collar section of the AUEW, and a member of the Communist Party, spoke on 'Staff Trade Unions and the Future.'

Gill was sandwiched between Miss A Mackie, manager of employee relations for Unilever, and Sir Anthony Bowlby, 2nd Baronet, chairman of the Working Together Campaign and a group consultant on industrial relations to GKN.

Branches of the TGWU and TASS will not need reminding that the Coventry strikers were viciously attacked first by the press for occupying the plant, and then by the impartial High Court, which ordered them to get out.

They might, therefore, like to ask their general secretaries how, while these attacks were at their height, they could find time to spend a whole day hobnobbing with

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Woodland Grange, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RN.
Telephone: 36621/2/3.

employers and lining up on a platform with the man waging this class war.

It isn't even clear whether they got anything out of it for union funds (or even for themselves).

Asked whether there was a fee attached to the speeches, a spokeswoman for the Training Centre told *Socialist Worker*: 'Oh, I am afraid I really don't know, I'm awfully sorry'.

Lionel Murray, Order of British Employers

THIS CUTTING, from the Daily Telegraph, is about an important occasion, the summer dinner of the Stock Exchange.

This year, very appropriately, the guests of honour were the top policeman in the country and the top churchman. Also present were Prof Dahrendorf, director of the London School of Economics, Sir Michael Swann, head of the BBC, and Sir Hugh Wontner, chairman of the Savoy.

There was also a large number of brokers, jobbers, speculators and swindlers. Everyone who's anyone, in fact.

Wait a minute! Who's that in the ninth line: Mr Lionel Murray? That couldn't be... oh, no, of course not. 'Len', as everyone knows, is short for Leonard. And, anyway,



LORD GREENE: 'A strike? What will their lordships think?'



J.H. THOMAS: '50 years' work down the drain'

NUR: IS THIS THE END OF MODERATION AS WE KNOW IT?

Exclusive—a discussion between Lord Greene (moderate NUR general secretary, 1957-1974) and J.H. Thomas (unbelievably moderate NUR general secretary, 1916-1931)

Well, Jimmy, who'd have believed it? For 50 years we've managed to keep the railwaymen down and the minute we turn our backs, look what happens. A bloody strike...

Quite right, Sid. Mind you, we had a good run, Remember 1928, and the pay cuts? What a settlement that was. I told the blokes how it was 'the best ever made' and how it would 'play a great part in the relations of capital and labour'. And you know what? They swallowed every word of it.

Yes, that was quite a coup, Jimmy. And what about that damn General Strike? That must have been your finest sell-out...

Yes, I must admit I was proud of that one. But did I ever tell you the story of that year's pay cuts?

You had pay cuts in 1926 as well? That's real moderation. Fantastic. How did you get away with it...

Between you and me, Sid, it was tactical genius that got me out of that one. The blokes at the NUR conference wanted to strike against the cuts. They could see the ruling class were on the warpath. Trouble was I had to go straight from the meeting to dine with some members of the ruling class at the Savoy.

Anyway, I managed to swing the vote against the strike and then rushed off to the Savoy. I told their lordships: 'I don't apologise for not being in evening dress. I won by a few votes. What would have happened if I had appeared respectable?'

Brilliant, Jim. Mind you, I've not done bad, myself. D'you know how many members we had when I took over as general secretary in 1957? 370,000. And when I retired? 177,000. All those lost jobs and no resistance. What an advert for moderation!

It left me with plenty of time to get on with the important things, like becoming a director of the Bank of England, and being made a Lord.

Sounds good, Sid. But what about this strike? Looks like the end of an era for us moderates.

I'm not so sure. This lad Weighell's not served under me for ten years for nothing. I've taught him everything I know. Know what I mean? Too right I do, Sid. Too right...

Stock Exchange
The Chairman, Mr G. A. Loveday, Deputy Chairmen and Council of the Stock Exchange yesterday entertained the Archbishop of Canterbury and Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, at their annual Summer Dinner. The other guests were:

Prof. R. Dahrendorf, Lord Diamond, Mr. R. E. Fleming, Mr. M. E. Fisher, Prof. David Flint, Mr. J. P. R. Glass, Dr. J. R. E. Griffiths, Mr. M. R. Harvie, Mr. G. A. Hill, Mr. J. Q. Holloway, Sir Anthony Hornby, Mr. H. L. James, Mr. A. MacDonald, Mr. D. H. Morrell, Sir Nicholas Morrice, Sir Cuthbert Mosley, Canon Norman Motley, Mr Lionel Murray, Mr D. L. Nicholson, Mr David Poole, Mr E. L. Richards, the Bishop of Salisbury, Mr. E. P. Sedgwick, Prof.

Len Murray is always known as such. Just check in Who's Who, p.2283: MURRAY, Lionel (Len Murray) OBE 1966. General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress. Let's hope the dinner stuck in his throat.

Socialist Worker Information Service

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

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

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

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LOOK closely at that pay slip. It belongs to a member of the National Union of Railwaymen, a man with 25 years' service. And it explains the reality of the NUR's so-called 'massive' pay claim.

If the full claim was met, this man would be on the outrageous basic rate of £34.65, an increase in new money of £4.60. Think of that when you next hear the Labour government berating the NUR, or when our rulers let slip the fact that price increases over the next year are likely to average nearly 30 per cent.

Like so many other NUR members, inflation forces this man to work lengthy overtime to keep his head above water. But, says one of his colleagues at London's Paddington Station, Patsie Manning: 'Why should a man have to work 12 hours a day to get a standard of living?

'Our blokes are "lucky". They get London weighting—and they can get the overtime. But what about the lads on the country stations? They don't get the weighting, and they're less likely to get the overtime.'

Ready

'They have to do the lot—one moment they're cleaning out the toilets, the next they're collecting tickets.'

Martin Power, a fellow member of Paddington No 1 NUR branch committee, agreed. 'A man's better off on the dole.'

With John Power, an Up Parcels Office committee member at Paddington, they told Socialist Worker about the facts behind the pay claim—and why they and their mates are more than ready to strike for it.

Martin said: 'If there's a strike, an awful lot of our people will start realising what their basic pay is. They have had for so long to work so many hours of overtime to get a decent wage that they've forgotten just how lousy the basic is.'

'That's why all this talk of "massive" pay claims in the press amuses me so much. I read The Sun—and it's a bloody good laugh every morning to read their coverage of our dispute.'

Patsie added: 'They always make it sound big. It's always percentages, have you noticed that? Well I can't buy a loaf of bread or pay my rent with percentages. I want cash. Thirty-five per cent of nothing is still nothing.'

Attempt

Martin and John are adamant that the NUR leadership should not have given three weeks' strike notice. 'We should have been out straight away,' they said. 'We shouldn't have gone to the tribunal—and we should have put in for a lot more on the original claim.'

The three men spelled out how British Rail are carving up not only their standard of living, but their working conditions and jobs as well.

Two months ago, there were two vacancies in the Up Parcels Office at Paddington. Now there are 14—out of a staff of 100. The men are expected to fill in with endless overtime, especially when their mates are on holiday. No attempt is made to fill the vacancies.

In the Down Parcels Office, the situation is worse still. In the last few years, the union has stood by while the number of jobs has dwindled from 240 to 140.

There's just as much work to be done, of course. But now, after years of being pushed around by the British Rail and being neglected by their union, men like Martin Power, Patsie Manning and John Power, have had enough.

That's why they want the strike. That's why they are so conspicuous of threats from what they

Why you should support the railmen

WHAT WE THINK

THE LEADERS of the NUR have spent the week trying to find some excuse for calling off the threatened strike. They think they have made the noises necessary to calm the growing militancy among their members, and would like to settle, provided the government give a little ground.

They believe they will be helped by the nature of the claim itself, which demands only a little more than has already been offered.

But railwaymen need the full claim—and more besides—as prices soar at record speed. Many militants realise this. They also see that the union has immense strength, if they care to use it.

The trouble is, there is no national organisation at the rank and file level linking them together.

That is why we urge readers to make sure Socialist Worker is read by all militant railwaymen in your locality. If it is sold at union branch meetings, at railway clubs, at stations and on railway-owned housing estates, it can help build the rank and file strength that is necessary.



Martin Power, Patsie Manning and John Power: 'Let the 'so-called' Labour government take the strain'

NUM SUPPORT

CALVERTON branch of the National Union of Mineworkers has unanimously passed a resolution calling on the union's Nottingham Area Council to instruct branches in the area 'that in the event of a strike being called by the NUR, no member of the NUM will handle or co-operate in handling any coal which is normally handled by NUR members, nor will they co-operate in loading coal on to road transport which is normally carried by rail.'

call 'this so-called Labour government'.

And that's why they've got their own line on the British Rail 'let the train take the strain' advert. Theirs says: 'Let the Labour government take the strain'.

How a militant signalman was victimised

DAVE THEEDOM, a leader of last winter's signalmen's strikes, has lost his job in a cynical act of victimisation.

After 25 years' service, he has been demoted to leading railman—one of the lowest grades—and switched from Barking to Fenchurch station in East London.

Not only has it cost him between £20 and £30 a week in gross pay, it also means he has to start work at 6am, even though no trains run early enough from his Grays, Essex home to get him there at that time.

This was his crime:

After the strikes had ended, he warned the area manager that he would bar from his box a trainee signalman who had scabbed. Under British Rail's rules—which state that the signalman on duty is solely responsible for the safe working of the box—he was within his rights.

But Dave Theedom was warned by the area manager, Mr Cooper,

that such action would cause him to be taken out of the box and replaced by a relief signalman.

Dave backed down—and agreed to admit the scab on condition that he did not use the machinery or expect Theedom to speak to him.

To no avail. Dave Theedom was put on a number one charge which accused him of refusing admittance, which of course he had not done. He was duly sentenced to demotion.

This blatant victimisation is underlined by the case of another signalman on the same line, who, only two weeks earlier, had also refused admittance to a scab. In his case, the scab WAS barred from the box—and the signalman was suspended for a day.

Theedom's 'offence' was far less

serious, the punishment far more severe.

But perhaps this is hardly surprising. For Cooper, the man who singled out Dave Theedom, had cause for revenge.

Last November, Cooper was reported for breaking safety regulations on the Thameshaven and Thameshaven Junction lines in Essex. Without informing supervisors or signalmen, he had accepted trains on what is a single line carrying a great deal of traffic.

Exactly the same disregard for safety rules on a single line led to the recent German rail disaster, in which 29 people were killed and 65 injured.

And the name of the man who reported Cooper for this action? Mr Dave Theedom...

QUESTIONS ON THE CRISIS By DUNCAN HALLAS

'YOU have got to stop inflation, nothing else matters at the moment,' said Reginald Maudling last week. It was his contribution to the chorus from Labour Party and Tory spokesmen, using TV, radio and press that is swelling daily in volume, as part of the 'head-fixing' preparation for the next Incomes Policy swindle.

It is meeting with some response amongst ordinary folk, trade unionists included, which is hardly surprising with the Retail Price Index jumping up four per cent last month.

So what about it? Isn't there at any rate a large measure of truth in what all these politicians and 'experts' are saying?

Now, as a matter of fact, the politicians and 'experts' do not mean what they say. Maudling, for instance, does not believe for one moment that 'nothing else matters'.

If it were proposed that to check inflation all 'earned' incomes above £10,000 a year should be subject to a 100 per cent 'excess pay tax',

Are they fighting inflation-or you?

all unearned income confiscated and all speculation forbidden on pain of imprisonment, he would not only protest. He, and his Tory and Labour colleagues, would scream blue murder about 'freedom in danger'.

The government, whose ministers now give daily sermons on the evils of inflation, is the biggest inflator of the lot.

Nearly two-thirds of last month's price rises were due to government action: the budget and instructions to nationalised industries to get their accounts into the black by raising prices. More than half the previous month's increases were due to the same causes. Now Dennis

Healey is going to 'phase out' food subsidies—which will of course raise prices still further.

On top of which 'harmonisation' with Common Market food prices is continuing—which will raise them further still.

No, when the establishment speaks of fighting inflation, one thing and one thing only is meant, cut pay rises. When profits rise it is 'good news'. When pay rises it is 'bad news'.

Certainly, pay rises contribute to price rises. They are part of costs. But pay rises are not a prime cause of inflation. They are an effect of inflation (and union strength) which becomes a secondary cause.

There is really no doubt at all about this. An authoritative OECD report on world economic prospect contains the estimate that *average real wages in Britain have not risen at all for two years (since March 1973)*. So how can wage pressure be the motor of inflation?

It is not. The present inflation has a number of long run causes but its immediate cause is not in doubt. It was the inflationary boom of 1973-74 that sent raw material prices soaring as too many buyers chased too few supplies. That boom has collapsed into the present world recession and raw material prices have fallen again. But big business has not cut back prices.

The present continuation of inflation is due to the struggle to redistribute income away from wages and towards profits, that is: away from the workers and towards the rich.

Left wing rhetoric? Not at all.

The semi-official National Institute Economic Review, which has just produced its latest anti-inflation plan—annual pay negotiations only with 'less than full compensation' for past price rises—states that this 'does imply that pre-tax real incomes would fall'.

Another example. 'The European central bankers' joint bank, the Bank for International Settlements,' reports last week's Economist magazine, 'was also this week telling British workers they must take a cut in real wages.' Less for wages, more for profits.

The underlying trend is now for inflation to slacken off in Britain, as elsewhere—though it will pick up again as the recession gives way to a world economic revival next year. What keeps it high, and ever rising at the moment, is the determination of employers, bankers and our 'Labour' government to use inflation to cut real pay. It is not inflation they are fighting. It is the working class.

5 FIFTH COLUMN On the disastrous results of talking to sailors...



A COUPLE OF MONTHS ago Bill Heatherington, a Wallsall social worker went to Cardiff to address a meeting on the freedom of the press. On the train back he retired to the bar for a drink. And there he fell into conversation with a sailor, an ex-sailor and another person.

The conversation got around to the subject of police harassment, 'and the lack of civil liberty in this country' explained Heatherington.

The sailors disagreed. 'You can't be serious' said one. Heatherington had plenty of personal experience to contradict them. He explained how he was (and is) under charges of conspiracy 'incitement to

disaffection' for allegedly handling and distributing a leaflet 'Some Information for Discontented British Soldiers' produced by the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign, an anti-militarist group.

He got off the train at Wallsall and went home...

On 14 May Bill received an unexpected and unwelcome visit from the Special Branch. A well informed bunch are the SB. They asked him a series of questions about the conversation on the train and went away.

The police were back on 5 June. And Bill found himself in Wallsall nick overnight. The following morning he was taken down to London and appeared before Bow Street Magistrates Court. His crime? the conversation—which led to him being charged under the Incitement to Disaffection Act.

The cops didn't stop there. Since he was already charged (but not convicted) with conspiracy the police argued that Bill, a respected social worker, 'couldn't be trusted on bail'. So since then he's been sitting in Brixton Jail.

'The Director of Public Prosecutions', points out the BWNIC Defence Group, thinks it is illegal to talk to a member of the forces about a court case involving alleged attempts to communicate with members of the forces. To say it's illegal to discuss what one is being charged with is like something out of Kafka.'

Indeed it is, but Bill is only one of many supporters of BWNIC who is receiving the heavy treatment from our rulers...

15 who face jug

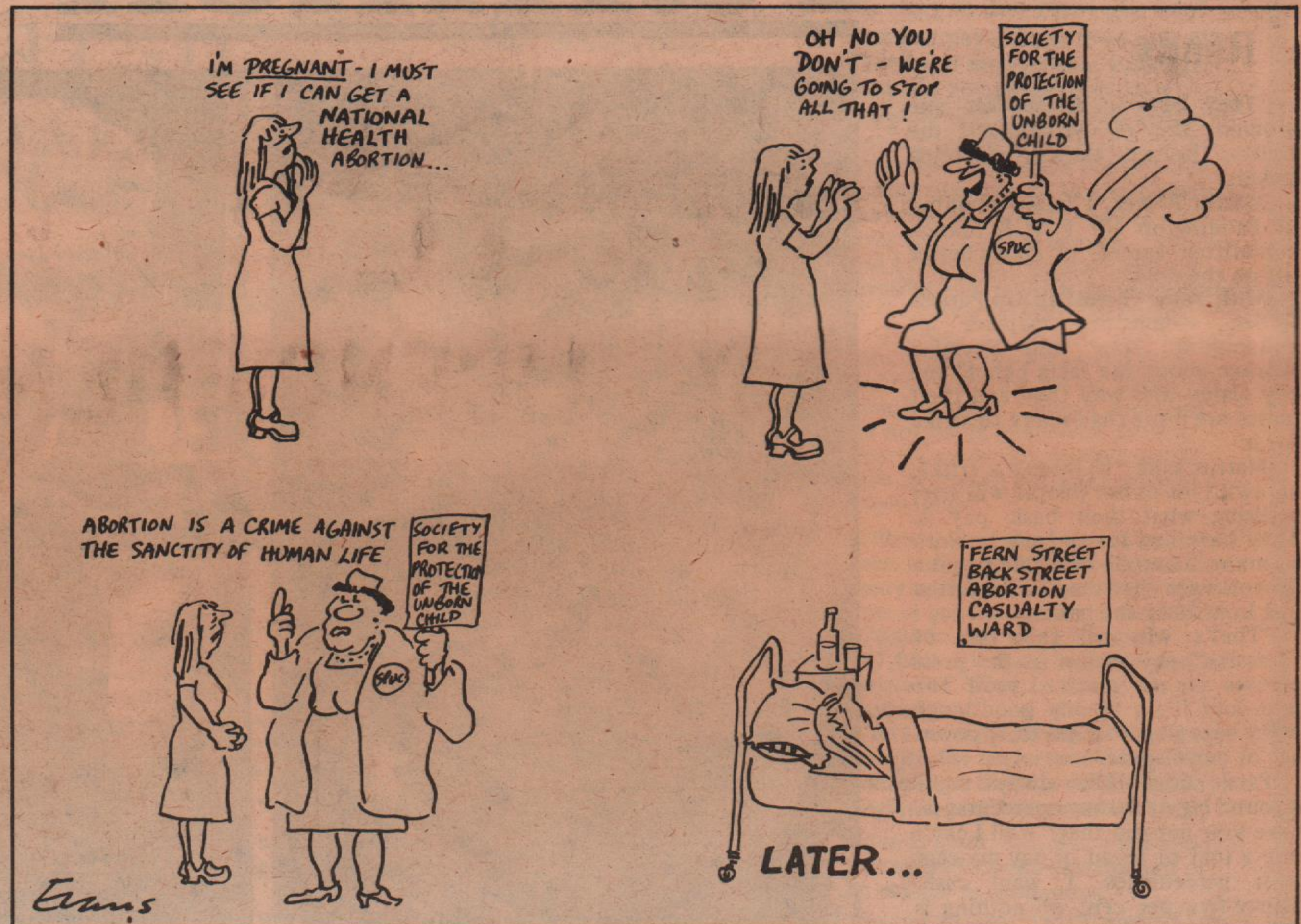
THE British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign was set up in June 1973. 'We are anti-militarist', explains a supporter. 'We don't approve of any military or paramilitary attempts to solve Ireland's problems. We certainly don't support the IRA or any other military organisation.'

Some of its supporters are pacifists, some aren't. Since its formation the authorities have hit BWNIC with everything they've got.

BWNIC's particular crime has been that they have made efforts to extend freedom of exchange of ideas and expression, a well known democratic 'right' into our rulers' primary instrument of control, the Army. The attack began with Pat Arrowsmith in September 1973, when she distributed a BWNIC leaflet: 'Some Information for British Soldiers' outside Westminster barracks.

She'd done the same before—and had been prosecuted and acquitted under a minor public order offence. But the DPP didn't make the same mistake the second time around, using the Incitement Act as their weapon she got 16 months. On appeal the sentence was reduced (because of her previous acquittal) but after conviction in May, she was released in December 1974.

While Ms Arrowsmith languished



KEEP QUIET-OR WE'LL PUT YOU INSIDE!

THE BILL 'is the most daring encroachment upon the liberty of the subject which the executive government has yet attempted at a time which is not a time of emergency'.

That was a comment on the 1934 government's Sedition Bill—the basis on which the 15 have been charged. Who made it? Some long-haired do-gooder, a red trouble-maker?

No, the comment came from Sir William Holdsworth, a Tory and a judge.

The Act makes guilty anyone who 'maliciously and advisedly endeavours to seduce any member of HM Forces from his duty or allegiance'.

Further, anyone who possesses

material likely to lead to such a result, who the Crown can prove 'had the intent', is also guilty. The sentence is a maximum of two years and/or £200.

'The act represents a direct attack on the freedom of expression', the National Council for Civil Liberties point out. It fails to define 'endeavour to seduce' at all closely... The Act could be applied to a great deal of literature, political and otherwise, which was never intended for the forces to read.

'Mere possession of such material is an offence, if the prosecution proves that the accused person intended to use the material to try to subvert the forces or

help someone else to do so. 'It is, of course, impossible to prove another person's intention, but in the course of trying the prosecution is allowed to introduce any relevant evidence, from which intention can be inferred—which might go a lot wider than the sort of evidence usually heard at a criminal trial.'

For our rulers, it is indeed a wonderful piece of legislation. And, with the conspiracy clauses tacked on, it relates closely to the hammer used in another well-known case—the Shrewsbury affair.

If you're on strike, for example, and the Army is brought in, you might be tempted to leaflet the Professionals. If you do, the

material for a month without bringing charges. The month elapsed—and the charges followed. 12 were charged under the Incitement to Disaffection Act. They followed this up by charging a further two with conspiracy to incite, and to keep everything neat and tidy then charged the other 12 with the same.

And why not, thought the bureaucratic police mind, add a few twiddles? So they charged two of the

authorities may well be tempted to do you, just like they have done the BWNIC defendants.

'The charges the 15 are up on', said Ossie Lewis, an International Socialist, member of the Civil and Public Services Association P&T section executive, and supporter of the BWNIC Defence Group, 'are directly relevant to two central issues in the struggle today.'

'First the attack on the unions by the use of conspiracy laws and second, Ireland. The defence of the 15 is a link between the two issues.'

THE BWNIC Defence Group can be contacted at Box 69, C/O 197 Kings Cross Road, London, WC1. (Tel: 01-837-9794).

14 under the Army Act for 'aiding and abetting a person known to be absent without leave'.

Last March at Lambeth Magistrates Court they were committed for trial at the Old Bailey on 29 September. The trial is likely to last two months.

Since then the 14 have been joined by Andrew Lloyd of Leeds, he was picked up for distributing some 'Information for Discontented British Soldiers' leaflet in Preston. A Manchester supporter Ms Alex Otten was unwise enough to produce leaflets about the 14 which incorporated the 'Discontented Soldiers' leaflet. Her case comes up at Manchester Magistrates Court on 7 July...

THERE ARE, with the War in Ireland continuing a lot of discontented soldiers in the Army. There are also a lot of servicemen who are used as stool-pigeons by the authorities. Just how did the Special Branch nail Bill Heatherington over his train conversation for example?

Down in Devizes it didn't work quite so well. 'We had a BWNIC stall there' explained a supporter. 'The Army sent some soldiers to snoop around it. We didn't have the crucial leaflet on display.'

Still the stall must have had some effect. One of the snoopers has gone absent without leave since...

THE BRITISH PRESS have returned to a favourite target: General Idi Amin, military dictator of Uganda. Amin hopes to bargain the lives of two white hostages for more British equipment for the 20,000-strong Ugandan army.

If he cannot properly equip the army, which is his political base and home, he shows his weakness as its commander. And the army becomes weaker in comparison with former Prime Minister Obote's forces in Tanzania, which tried to invade in 1972.

In Britain, you hear little or nothing of the real situation in Uganda, or Africa as a whole. The press pursue Amin as a target for racist abuse and so-called 'humour'. Over the past week, they have thickened the mixture thanks to Amin's latest pathetic exercise in barbarism—the threat to execute two whites if the British government does not oblige.

But while they focus so insistently on the plight of the two white hostages, they say little about the blacks hunted down by the Amin regime.

Some exiled Ugandans put the figure for the numbers massacred since 1971, when Amin came to power, at around 80,000, out of a population of 7.5 million.

The Buganda, the largest ethnic group in Uganda, who initially backed Amin against Obote, have seen one after another of their middle-class politicians disappear in ghastly circumstances.

Terror

Initially the Amin regime obtained a large degree of popularity. Large sections of the Ugandan middle class were bought-off by the distribution of confiscated Asian business. Some former British properties have also been distributed.

But the regime has resorted increasingly to terror to put down any form of opposition. Trade unionists in the railways, in the municipal sector, on the cotton and coffee plantations, and in the country's one copper mine, have been crushed, a fact the British press have failed to mention.

But terror is nothing new to Amin. He served his time in the British Army, where he learned all he knows.

AMIN

They made him -and now they mock him

Amin came to prominence in Britain's colonial army before Uganda won its independence. Brutality was the secret to quick promotion and success.

To keep Africa under their domination, the British authorities cultivated certain minority groups. Amin was born into one such group, the Kakwa. From there he found a ready route into the army, and the King's African Rifles.

Sadism was encouraged. The generals wanted no hesitation when they gave orders to shoot down villagers 'suspected' of being terrorists.

They took to the tall, tough rugby-playing Amin. They used him and others like him against the Mau Mau in Kenya, where the British Army let loose a vicious reign of terror—and where Amin became the man he is today.

The techniques used against the

Karamajong tribe were typical. They were supposed to be cattle rustlers and Corporal Amin was sent to disarm them. According to one of his colleagues in the British Army, he was highly successful, much to the joy of the top officers.

Castrate

Amin ordered the naked Karamajong males to line up with their genitals on the table. When they wouldn't tell where their spears were, he threatened to castrate them.

A platoon under Amin's command also massacred a whole village of Turkhana nomads. But these atrocities were either covered up or supported to the hilt by the British press.

They liked blacks who shot down their fellow Africans. Amin was, as one of his ex-officers put it, 'a splendid chap, though a bit short on the grey matter.'

No doubt the British authorities thought that this shortage would make Amin an even better stooge after he overthrew—with British connivance—increasingly awkward Obote.

Naturally the free British press is not in the habit of condemning the activities of their own sadistic military creations. Ireland today has taught us that.

For them, Amin's brutality and stupidity can be used to humiliate Africans in particular and black people in general.

They mock his fawning to the Queen, the kilt and other Uncle Tom symbols of Imperial Britain. But who taught him to admire these pathetic things?

Britain's 'leaders' taught him—people who are infinitely more dangerous for being 'originals' and not 'caricatures' like Idi Amin.



Amin: a Union Jack and an apprenticeship in terror.

PORTUGUESE SOLIDARITY FUND

This fund has been set up to send money to the PRP (Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat), to help finance the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee in Britain, and to help pay towards the cost of IS's work on Portugal organising speaking tours for Portuguese revolutionaries and publicising our pamphlets in Portuguese.



Get your workmates to make a donation big or small. Use this slip to send to:

Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

NAME

ADDRESS

AMOUNT

WORKPLACE (if workplace collection)



As Socialist Worker goes to press print workers (above) on Parisien Libre the Paris daily paper, are defending their barricades in opposition to the owner's moves to reduce labour and put them on the dole.

The owner, Emilian Amaury, has now moved his operations to a scab shop manned by members of a rival union federation, and called on the services of the state to defend his right to throw workers on the scrap heap.

The police are threatening to move in and evict printers. But the union federation, the CCT, is threatening a strike of all printworker members if they go ahead.

The struggle has been accompanied by two bomb outrages, one fatal. The government is trying to blame those on the left of course, though it is far more likely that the bombings were a provocation.

Barbarians—but Labour's aid goes on...

AID TO the military dictatorship in Indonesia is to be continued by the British Labour government even though a decision had been taken not to furnish any more 'development assistance'.

This complete turn-about has been forced through by Foreign Office officials, who refused to accept the government's decision that aid should be cut off. The turn-around has been accepted by the government without a murmur.

Last month the Ministry of Overseas Development ruled that no more 'development aid' would be committed to Indonesia. This was no great radical step since British capital would still continue to flow in.

But at least the export buccaneering that went under the guise of 'giving aid' would have been terminated.

The Foreign Office declined to

accept this decision and steam-rolled their viewpoint through. Late last month a token £10 million was granted and there will probably be more to come.

This latest chapter in the sordid saga of support for the Indonesian dictatorship, which has 100,000 political prisoners, should surprise no-one.

Top Foreign Office officials, elected by no-one and answerable only to the bankers and business men they mix with, have always ensured that they run the show.

Successive Labour governments have come to support such an arrangement more and more openly.

When the Foreign Office operations were re-organised by the 1966-

70 Labour government, they brought in Sir Val Duncan to head the policy review committee.

Sir Val is chairman of Rio Tinto Zinc, the multinational mining giant with extensive interest in territories governed by Indonesia.

These facts help to explain why the present government refuses point blank even to issue a statement protesting about the plight of political prisoners in Indonesia.

News from the Resistance

THE LATEST issue of *Chile News from the Resistance* is now available. It's the fifth published in exile by MIR, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, and contains an interview with Andres Paschal, the MIR secretary general, articles on who finances the Junta, the state of the Chilean economy and a lot of information on the resistance movement itself. It's available (32p, inc postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD MEAN

1 A woman would have to prove that to continue with her pregnancy would be a grave risk to her life, her health, or her children's health, and not merely a 'risk', as at present. This would reduce the numbers of women entitled to an abortion by thousands.

2 Instead of two doctors from the same medical practice being able to agree to an abortion, the doctors would have to be from different medical practices, and one would have to have been practising for at least five years. This would cause further delays, when time is important, and would make doctors who don't know each other reluctant to agree to abortions, because:

3 Instead of a doctor being able to carry out an abortion in good faith, he would have to be able to prove that he carried out an abortion within the terms of the law, and would be guilty of a crime until he could prove otherwise. The risk of prosecution would make most doctors reluctant to have anything to do with abortions.

4 Anyone, except a doctor or a person approved by the Secretary of State, would be barred from giving advice on abortion. At present, women can get advice from various charitable organisations, such as the Pregnancy Advisory Service, for a nominal sum. Charitable agencies, which provide about two-thirds of private abortions, for fixed prices, to women who can't get an abortion on the NHS, would be outlawed.

5 The 28-week time limit, outside which an abortion cannot be carried out, would be reduced to 20 weeks. The number of late abortions is constantly decreasing. There were only 142 abortions carried out after 24 weeks in 1973. Delays in agreeing to abortions, would increase the number of late abortions.

6 A 20 weeks residential clause in the Bill would make it impossible for any foreign women to come to Britain for an abortion. 54,000 women came here last year for abortions, because laws in their own countries make them impossible. Most came from France and other Catholic countries.

7 It would be illegal for anyone to publish any information about someone who has had an abortion. Socialist Worker wouldn't, for example, be able to name anyone who had had or received any advice about abortion.

The Bill would, if made law, make it virtually impossible for thousands of women to get legal abortions. But not all women. The rich would be free to continue with their private clinics. As long as there has been pregnancy, there has been abortion. To make it difficult to get a legal abortion, would not do away with abortion, it would merely make it a thousand times more dangerous.

We want greater control over our lives, whether at work or at home. The right for women to decide whether or not they want to have children is part of that control. Women must be able to decide that it means not only having access to safe contraception and family planning, but abortion when necessary.

THAT IS WHY WE CALL FOR ABORTION ON DEMAND, FREE, LEGAL AND SAFE.

No return to back-street abortion!

ON 15 JUNE 1966, the House of Commons approved a Bill to reform the abortion law. Thousands of women who put themselves at risk in back street abortions could get safe operations, often on the National Health Service.

Two hundred and twenty-three MPs voted for the reform, including 38 Tories. ONLY 29 voted against. Almost all the newspapers supported the

measure. The ones that didn't kept very quiet. What changed? Not the government. In 1966, like today, Labour were in power with a majority. But the economic climate has changed. In June 1966 Labour, newly-elected, faced what they believed was a period of uninterrupted prosperity. The 'permanent boom' of the 1950s and 1960s was confidently expected to continue. In this atmosphere, there flourished a peculiar brand of politician called the 'liberal', who believed that reform could be pushed through Parliament

without upsetting industry, finance lobby and by pro-capitalist newspapers. He did not of the ruling class. dent that its eco it was prepared, some of the mor controlled people. So the laws v

WHAT IT WOULD BRING BACK

Things inserted into the womb, often with disastrous consequences, including knitting and darning needles, crochet and button hooks, pencils, scissors and hairpins.

The use of the syringe is common, and even if a harmless liquid is used, there is a danger of air being pumped into the blood stream, which, if the woman is pregnant, can cause death through air embolism.

When disinfectants, washing soda, vinegar and other irritants are used, there is a grave risk of serious injury to tissues and organs. Methods of violence used included shifting heavy furniture and jumping downstairs.

Preparations used were water in which pennies and nails had been soaked, and stout and gin were said to be often taken with iron filings.

From the government Abortion Committee Report, 1939.

ABORTION DEATHS

1960: 62
1973: 12

How the campaign is taking root

By Dave Ling, NUPE steward,

LONDON: NUPE and ASTMS members organised a meeting in the Royal Free Hospital for which leafletting had produced a heartening response, particularly from the older nursing staff who know from experience what effect this Bill would have.

The NUPE North Camden District Committee passed with one abstention a motion totally opposing the Bill, calling on all NUPE sponsored MPs to vote against it, for the NUPE Executive to oppose it and publicise the 21 June demonstration and urge all members to support it.

Copies of the resolution have been sent to Ted Leadbitter and Tom Pendry, two NUPE sponsored MPs who voted for the Bill. LEEDS: Since Sir Keith Joseph is a local MP and the number of abortions granted on the NHS is the third lowest in the country, the campaign is important.

Equal

A week of activity, of petitioning, leafletting and meetings, finished with a 500-strong march through the shopping centre.

Leeds District IS produced a leaflet linking the campaign to the struggle for equal pay and improved NHS facilities. It was given out to office workers at lunch-times, and outside factories employing large numbers of women.

COVENTRY: 500 women marched last Saturday to the city centre for a rally.

Coventry ambulancemen were petitioning for the restoration of a bonus scheme at the same time, and one of them spoke to the rally, showing that their fight was the same as that against the Bill, a fight against the oppression of the rights of working class people.

DURHAM: Members of the local Health Service ASTMS branch agreed to circulate petitions on the Bill and to support the 21 June demonstration. The branch also wants the ASTMS trade union sponsored MP Fred Willey to explain why he voted for the Bill.



DEFEAT THE BILL! Another name for the petition outside North London's Whittington Hospital

BACK-STREETS? I REMEMBER THE SCREAMS

By Tommy Healey

IF JAMES White's Bill is passed, there will be more back-street abortionists. That's a certainty.

Those of the past are almost extinct. But this Bill will revive many of them.

The local abortionist in Garston, Liverpool, where I was brought up, did it for little gain. But gossip soon spread that she would help if a woman or girl 'got in trouble'.

Twice a week, on average, some poor woman went to her house to have a syringe inserted in her womb. Then it was touch and go whether she bled to death or caught an infection from a dirty needle.

The screams will always be with me. I have vivid memories of them. It happened to someone close to me.

Her husband was on the dole. She had three kids already and was at her wits' end. As the breadwinner, another child would have been a disaster.

She chose the needle instead and almost bled to death. When she got to hospital, she was shunned by the doctors. They let

these women lie for 24 hours in their halfway stage before they finish the abortion off.

They pretend that they're doing their best 'to save the child'.

They hadn't a clue of what drove a woman to this. How can the well-paid servants of the ruling class know what it's like?

womens voice

PERIODIC PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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).



DEFEAT THE BILL Hospital in London

ABORT OUR RIGHT TO CHOICE

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

the control by one class of and property. He proceeded by pressure group. He wrote articles in papers. challenge the economic power of And while that class was confining power was not threatened, grudgingly, to concede reform of barbaric laws with which it had lives outside the factory. which had repressed homosexuals

were reformed—and so was the abortion law. Now the economic situation is entirely different. Now no-one talks of permanent boom and prosperity. Now the economic situation which rests on the control of industry and property by one class is in deep crisis.

Now, the class in control is trying to persuade the workers who produce the wealth that they must pay for capitalist crisis through wage control and through cuts in their standard of living.

It knows that such policies are likely to be highly unpopular with large numbers of workers. To counter that unpopularity, it seeks support where it can.

And so it turns increasingly to alliances with all those reactionaries who thrive by exploiting people's irrational fears, frustrations and superstitions—the racists, the hang-them-and-flog-them-merchants, the anti-abortion lobby led by the Catholic Church.

This also explains the shift in attitude of Labour MPs. In the 1960s, they were prepared to defy the local Catholic priests—they knew most Catholic workers would vote Labour in any case, because of the prospect of economic reforms.

Limb

Today, as the Labour government takes back the reforms, offering instead wage cuts and dole queues, the only way MPs can still guarantee the votes of Catholic workers is to kow-tow to the priests.

Appeals of support to the MPs, lobbies, even demonstrations, are not by themselves going to halt the shift towards reactionary policies.

Individual liberal-minded members of the Establishment may sympathise with the arguments. But they are not going to put themselves out on a limb fighting for them, risking their own political support in the process.



JAMES WHITE: His Bill would hit working-class women hardest.

That is why we can expect even the women Labour MPs who have been so active in the abortion campaign to end up accepting half-baked compromises.

Fortunately, women who are struggling for the right to control their own bodies do not need to rely upon such people. There is a force that can counter the drift to the right—the force of the organised rank and file within the trade union movement.

The same crisis which is driving our rulers back to reactionary policies is also driving thousands of women workers into struggle—for equal pay, against discrimination, against lay-offs and redundancies.

This strength has to become the force behind the campaign for free and legal abortion.

Force

Working-class women will suffer most if James White's Bill goes through. They will be compelled to turn again to the back street abortionists.

Yet they have the industrial power in factories, shops, offices, schools to exert a pressure that petitions and demonstrations alone cannot.

That is why the abortion campaign has, from this Saturday's demonstration, to go into the working class districts and working class organisations.

Of course, there will be resistance there too. All those who spend their lives trying to compromise with the employing class will be frightened of any political fight with its reactionary allies.

But if the class arguments about abortion are put, tens of thousands of working class women can spearhead a campaign to bring the industrial strength of the class to bear on this crucial question.

DEFEAT THE ABORTION (AMENDMENT) BILL!

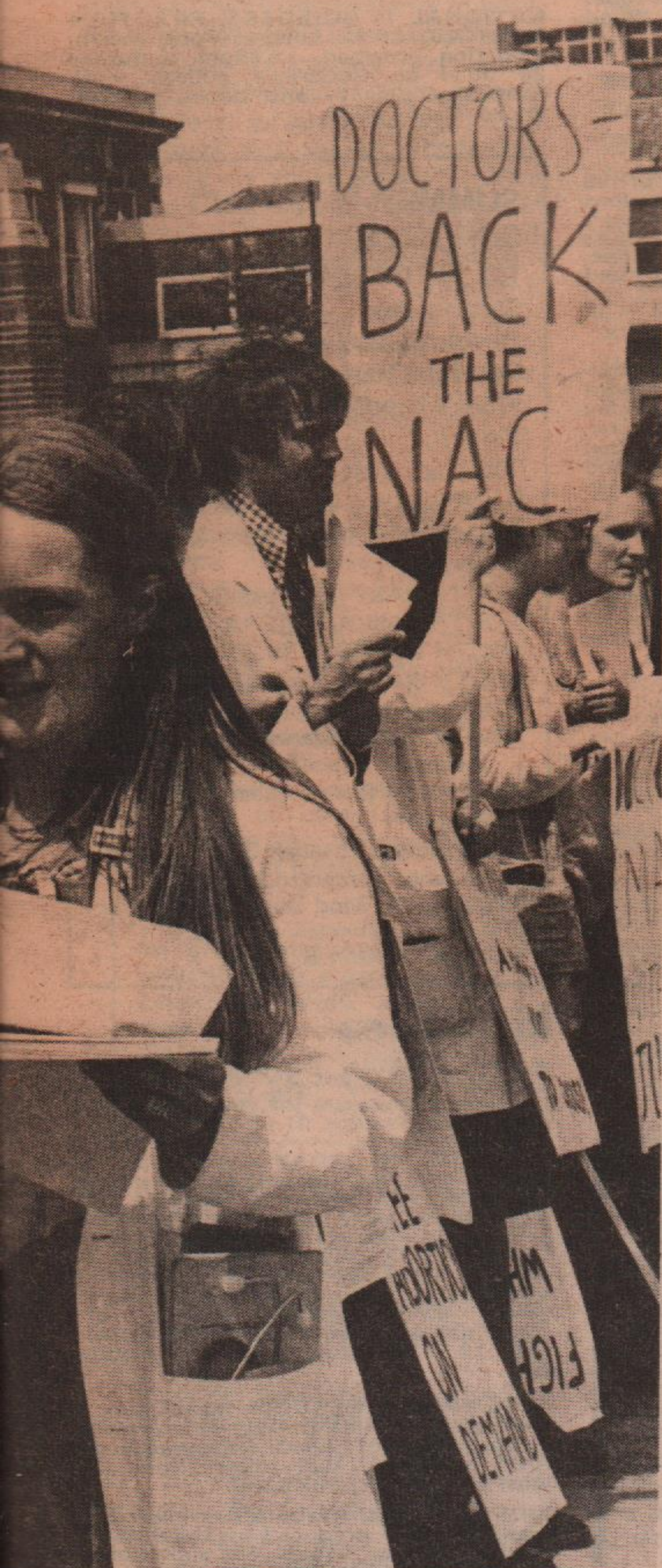
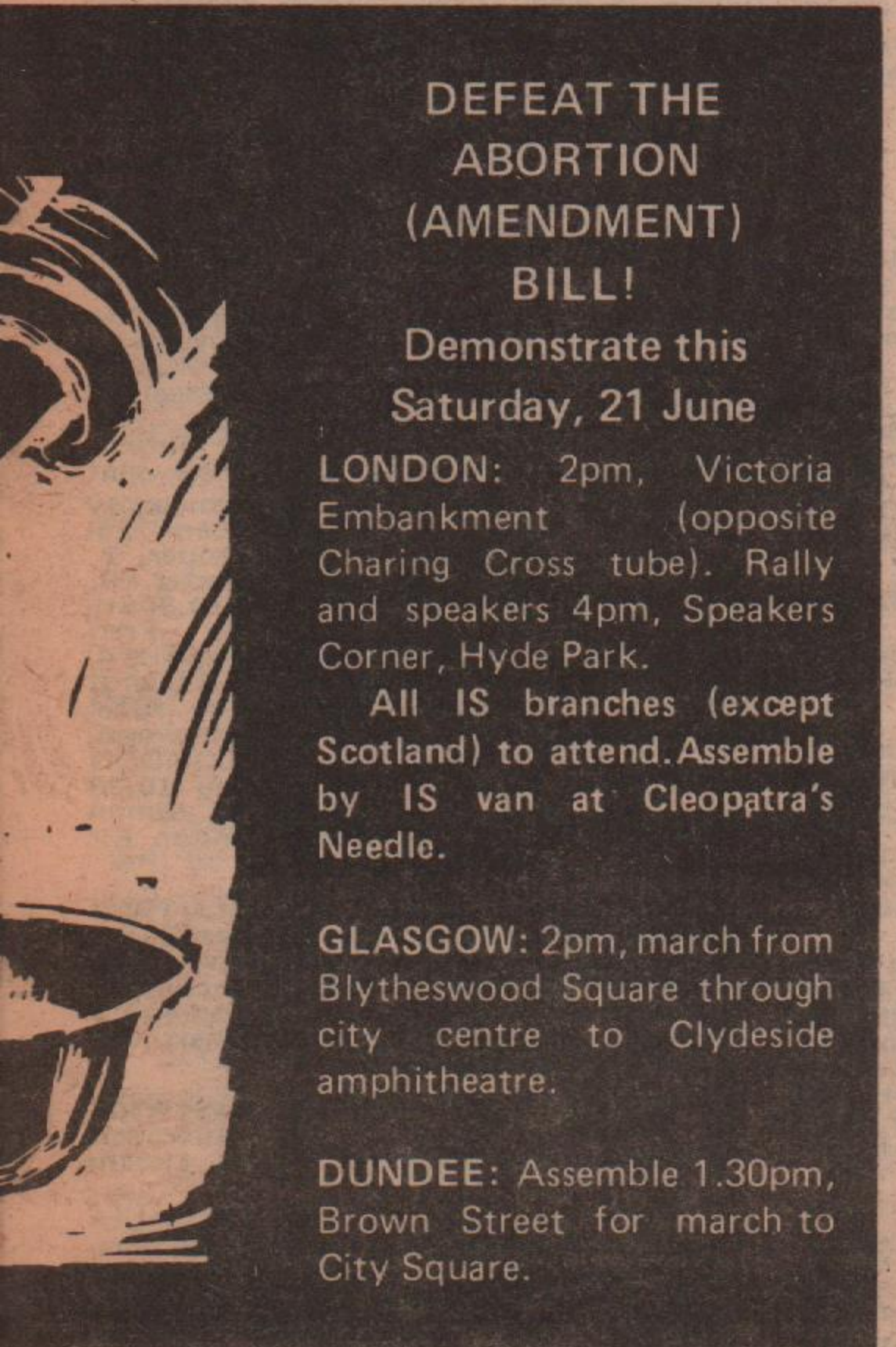
Demonstrate this Saturday, 21 June

LONDON: 2pm, Victoria Embankment (opposite Charing Cross tube). Rally and speakers 4pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park.

All IS branches (except Scotland) to attend. Assemble by IS van at Cleopatra's Needle.

GLASGOW: 2pm, march from Blytheswood Square through city centre to Clydeside amphitheatre.

DUNDEE: Assemble 1.30pm, Brown Street for march to City Square.



Doctors on the picket line outside King's College

NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION
 'Since 1967 when the abortion law was changed, illegal backstreet abortions have decreased by three quarters.'



DEFEAT THE BILL! National Abortion Campaign marchers demonstrate in Coventry

Pictures: Angela Phillips (TFL)

WHEN you go into battle against your boss there's one thing you can do without—splits in your own ranks. And there's one way the bosses have found to divide the opposition, beat strikers and hold down wages and guarantee rotten conditions. It's called racialism.

That subject brought together delegates from all over Britain and from a host of unions in Birmingham last Saturday. They were attending the Rank and File Organising Committee's conference on racialism and discrimination in the workplace, the unions and the community.

'A genuine rank and file movement must include the leading immigrant workers' argued RFOC secretary Roger Cox. 'We need to draw them into the movement—and into the Rank and file. NOT because it's good for them—but because it's essential for us.'

Delegates spoke on the battles black workers had fought, the attitudes of the unions, and the communication problems that spring up when workers have to find their way through the maze of procedures, rule books prejudice and misunderstanding.

It wasn't just a problem for immigrant workers. 'There is a great deal for white workers to learn,' argued Roger. He told the conference about his own engineering union branch, which met in a pub.

There was a problem. The officer was a teetotaler—and he couldn't go through the pub!

The solution? 'We found a pub where he could go through the back door—and not pass through the bar. We have to be equally sensitive to the problems of Moslems who can't drink.'

Major

With some sensitivity, problems like that could be ironed out. But when it comes to the union's structure, the problem is more difficult.

A lot of fine talk about fighting racialism comes out of union conferences—but what it means practically was highlighted by Chrysler shop steward Gerry Jones.

He had been a delegate at the last Transport and General Workers Union biennial conference. There, 1000 delegates had passed a resolution opposing all forms of racialism.

Great stuff... but Gerry pointed out the flaw. '998 delegates were white, two were black!'

'There are almost no black workers anywhere in the country on the district committees of the AUEW and the TGWU—but both unions have passed strong resolutions opposing racialism. We have to look at practical ways to test and build on the formal positions of the major unions.'

The formal position had been tested—and found wanting in Leicester, during recent battles.

RACIALISM: How -and why- it must be fought

Soonu Engineer explained that, in one case, black women workers had joined the TGWU—and had come out on strike.

'Sorry,' said the TGWU officials. 'You can't be paid strike pay, you haven't been members long enough.' They weren't told the special emergency fund which could be used.

Days passed before the officials appeared on the picket line—and when they did their message seemed to be... 'Get back to work!'

The consequences? Defeat, demoralisation—and many women leaving the union...

It didn't stop there. The TGWU regional committee had recommended the scrapping of the local rule that two years' membership was needed before workers could become stewards. The local TGWU's response? They ignored the recommendation.

Even when the will was there, the language often wasn't. Delegates agreed that union cards should contain translation into other key languages—like Urdu. This was where the local RFOCs could come in.

They could help translate rule books, journals, shop stewards' handbooks. Information about branch meetings should go out in different languages.

Another example came from Gerry Jones. 'There are some good militants who don't realise that there is a problem. One excellent convenor in Coventry didn't think there was a problem because there weren't any black workers in his factory!'

There was a problem alright—a management who discriminated in recruitment.

An extension of the same was where black workers were left with the labouring jobs, another Coventry AUEW delegate explained. They had no promotion

prospects—and yet were expected to fight for a wage claim that benefitted only the craftsmen.

There wasn't open racialism, but there was a division which weakened everybody.

The conference wasn't just about problems and defeats. In Ford Leamington, a delegate told the conference, the convenor put all factory information out in two languages.

Then, when he was victimised, 'the Indian workers were out of the gates before the shop stewards committee even met!' He had proved shop-floor organisation to the black workers.

Fought

Racialism isn't just in the unions, or in the workplace. It runs through society. And behind it is the power of the state which can reach into the home and pluck workers out of battle—and out of the country.

That is no incentive to fight. A delegate explained how the loss of a 'work permit could mean deportation. 'IRISH militants can be deported at the drop of a hat.' For IRANIAN workers deportation could mean the firing squad back in Iran. For SPANISH workers it meant prison. This has to be fought—right here in Britain.

The delegates agreed that there has to be equality in jobs, shifts, apprenticeships—and there are going to be no more 'temporary' black workers.

Black organisers had to start appearing in the unions, but that was no easy solution.

The message of the conference, the practical points, are going to be circulated throughout the country by the RFOC over the next few weeks.

The problem is all around us. The solutions began to emerge in Birmingham last Saturday...

AN ADVERT THAT BUILT OUR BRANCH

FROM a tiny acorn—an International Socialist branch can grow. Here a member of DUMFRIES IS explains how, through an advert, a branch has been built in the town.

JUST over a year ago I took out a subscription to Socialist Worker through an advertisement seen in Private Eye magazine.

Subsequently I ordered five more copies on a weekly basis which were sold to friends, and acquaintances who had left-wing views.

A small classified ad placed in SW for socialist literature, books etc brought forth

a contact from a comrade then unknown to us, who had just moved to the area. Our small group of regular SW readers then decided we must form an IS branch and organise to fight for socialism instead of just talking about it.

This we did and increased our weekly paper sales from five to 12, then 24 and now 50 copies. The vast increase in our weekly sales is due to selling on the main street, where we now have 10 regulars who buy each week, stop for a brief chat, and contribute a little to the fighting fund.

Some of these may join IS, others just support us by buying the paper, but the

fact is that many different people are buying SW and the number of regular readers is steadily growing.

Our town is not even a Labour stronghold, it has always had a Tory MP and town council. What can be done by a small group here can be repeated in any town that a few IS members care to tackle, provided they do it in a sensible manner.

Our experience is: be at a busy spot, regularly, same day, same time. Have at least two sellers, three if possible; don't just stand there holding the paper, but shout a slogan.

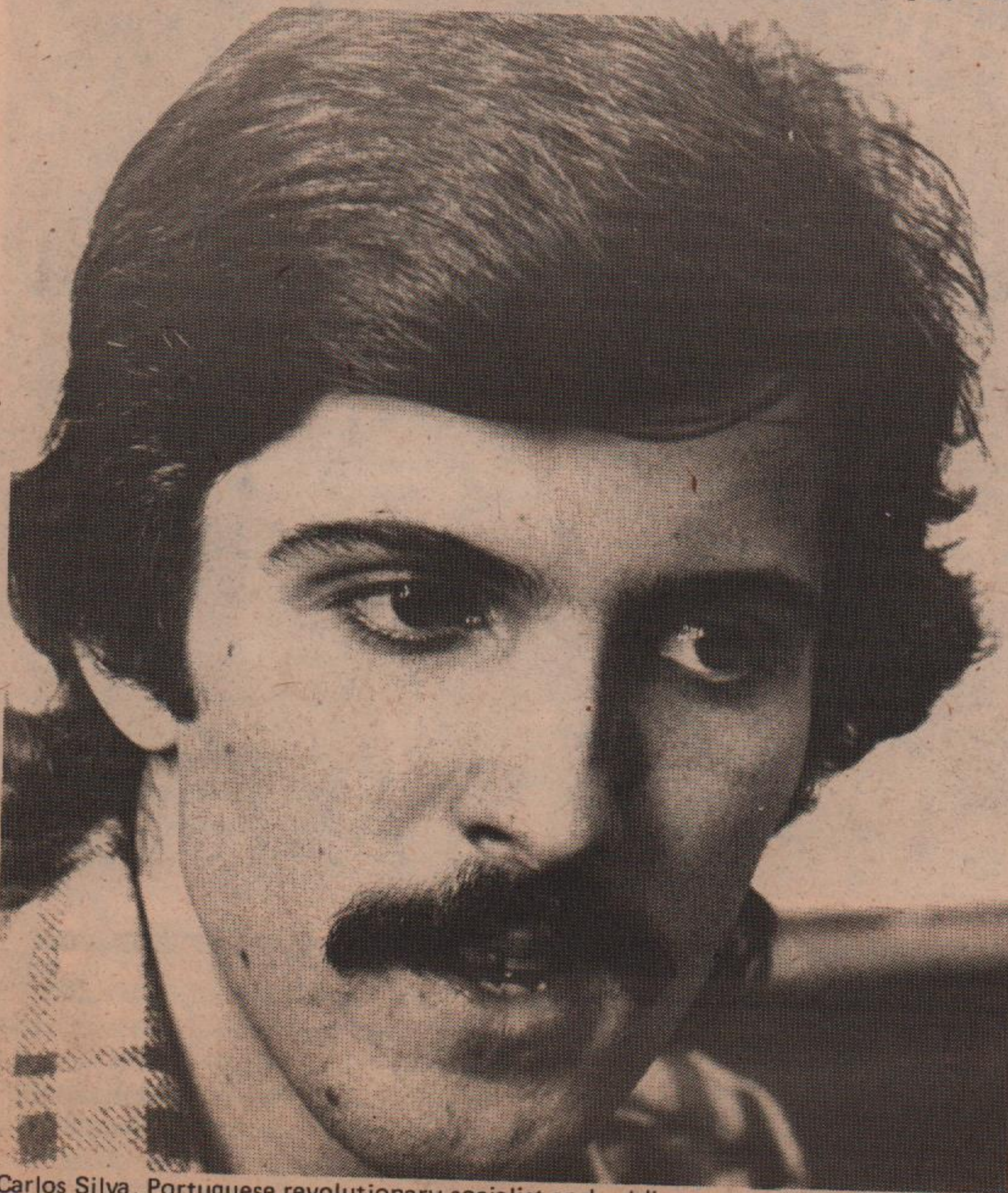
REACTION

A good slogan gets a reaction from passers by—'Troops out of Glasgow' and 'Healey robs working class' brought forth plenty of reactions, not all of it complimentary, but we couldn't be ignored.

We also found that a headline board propped against a wall with a SW poster pasted on helped considerably.

In Dumfries IS we firmly believe that SW is the key that will unlock the door to socialism in this country. It will take the mass action of the working class to open the door, but the paper is the key.

If you don't have an IS branch in your town, then start one. Make your first objective to increase SW sales.



Carlos Silva, Portuguese revolutionary socialist and soldier, currently in Britain. Picture Andrew Wiard (Report)

Soldier of revolution!

CARLOS SILVA, a revolutionary socialist who is a sergeant in the Portuguese army, arrived in London last week to appeal for solidarity with the Portuguese working class, and to get practical support here for the Portuguese revolution.

At his first meeting in England, Carlos spoke to 25 teachers in Hackney, London. He told them how revolutionary councils of workers and soldiers were being built now, and explained the detailed make up of these councils and their aims. That a serving soldier could take time off and come to England to talk about revolutionary politics showed how things were changing in Portugal. The teachers collected £25 for the special Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity fund.

In Manchester he spoke to the University students, the West Manchester IS branch, and visited the occupation at Magnesium Elektron. The workers there were amazed to hear that occupations had become a way of life in Portugal. Late the same night he visited the picket line at Ward and Goldstone. Collections raised over £18.

In Liverpool a public meeting raised £32, and in London meetings have been

held at London airport and in the Royal Docks. A London IS public meeting last Friday raised £218.

On Sunday evening a packed Theatre Royal in Stratford, London, watched the play 'Muggins no longer—Socialism or Barbarism', by the Kartoan Klowns in an evening of entertainment organised by the East London district of IS.

Carlos spoke to the audience at the end of the play, and another £70 was raised.

On Monday in Coventry 100 people heard Carlos and £81.50 was collected. £47.55 was raised from outside collections including £5 at Jaguar Cars and £2.55 on Wallsgrave Estate. Other factory collections are underway.

A tape and slide show is being prepared for use at IS and Socialist Worker meetings, using an interview with Carlos. Details will be announced on this page when the finished tape becomes available.

All IS districts should collect money for the fund. A special leaflet and collection sheet will be available soon. Socialist Worker readers should take copies to collect from your workmates, friends and family.



IS Italy Group 'build the links'

THE IS Italy group met in London last Saturday. Discussion centred on the present political crisis in Italy and the paralysis of the ruling class. The outcome depends partly on how the Portuguese revolution develops and how much the revolutionary left in Italy are able to provide a focus for the militancy of the Italian workers.

The school underlined the need to improve the links between IS and Avanguardia Operaia, and to step up the work around the multinationals which the group has begun.

The Italy group can provide speakers for IS meetings—write to the IS Italy Group, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Sell this issue to the railwaymen!

IS branches must ensure that this issue of Socialist Worker is sold to as many railway men as possible. Even if there is a settlement before Monday a lot of railwaymen will be disappointed with the leadership of their union and will be looking for an alternative. They are the ones who must see Socialist Worker!

Students: convenors names in now

THE NAMES of new convenors for IS student cells for next term and of single members in colleges are needed immediately by IS student organiser Simon Turner. Send them to him at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WHAT'S ON

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

IS public meetings

SOUTH EAST LONDON IS: West Woolwich by-election meeting. Paul Foot and Laurie Smith, AUEW National Organiser on Labour's record and the socialist alternative. Monday 23 June, 8pm. The Carpenters Arms, Eltham High Street, London SE13.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER DISTRICT IS: Public Meeting Fight back against the cuts. Speakers Jim Kincaid, Harry Cowan (ATTI) and John Spalding (COHSE). Thursday 27 June, 8pm. Milton Hall, Deansgate.

SOUTHAMPTON IS public meeting: Women Fight Back. Speakers: Anna Pazuska (NUJT), Dawn Mason (NUPE). Wednesday 2 July, 8pm, UCATT Hall, Henstead Road.

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).

AFRO-ROCK IS: Afro-Caribbean fundraising. Food, drink, and dance evening. Come, listen and dance to the London based Ghana group, 'Boombaya'. Enjoy the best in soul food. 7pm-Midnight. YMCA 184 Tottenham Lane, Hornsey, London N4, Saturday 28 June, Admission 70p. Buses W3, W2, W7, 41. Nearest tubes Finsbury Park, Turnpike Lane, Wood Green. Come one—come all!

Meetings for IS members

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 WC2 (near Aldwych). Organised by LSE IS Society. Further details and registration from Jim Montgomery, c/o LSE Students Union.

IS NATIONAL WOMENS COMMITTEE meeting. Sunday 22 June. One delegate per district and one delegate per fraction to attend. Sunday 19 June, 11am, Cottons Gardens. Send names and addresses of delegates to Sheila McGregor, 8 Cottons Gardens, E2 for circulation of agenda.

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.

IS PRINTERWORKERS meeting (close contacts by invitation.) Sunday 22 June, 10.30am. IS Books London. General industrial perspectives, the fight against redundancies and closures, work in the unions, building the rank and file.

ALL IS MEMBERS attending ASTMS womens workshop on 28 June. Phone Irene Bruegal 01-485 2545.

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.

CENTRAL LONDON DISTRICT: Post conference aggregate. Thursday 26 June, 7pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road.

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. MANCHESTER (University Students Union). Monday 10.30am, 23-25 June, registration to Jim Roper, 2 Bamford Road, Didsbury, Manchester 20.

SHEFFIELD (University). Friday 10.30am, 27-29 June, registrations to Fran Redcliffe, 84 Malton Street, Sheffield 4.

COVENTRY (Trade Union and Socialist Bookshop), Monday, 10.30am, 30 June-2 July, registrations to Anne Netherwood, 78 Craven Street, Coventry. **LONDON (8 Cottons Gardens, E2).** Friday 10.30 am, 4-6 July, registrations to Simon Turner, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

IS Day School on THE REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL: Saturday 28 June, 11am-5pm, meeting room 3, Students Union Building, Oxford Road, Manchester. Speakers: Tony Cliff, John Deason and a member of the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER DISTRICT IS: training session on the other left groups. Sunday 13 July, 2.30pm. Details from the bookshop.

IS DAY SCHOOL on THE REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL: Saturday 28 June, 11am-5pm. Meeting Room 3, Students Union Building, Oxford Road, Manchester. Speakers: Tony Cliff, John Deason and a member of the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee.

NATIONAL IS BUILDERS' FRACTION MEETING: 28-29 June, in York; accommodation provided. 12.30pm Saturday 28 June at Goodricke college, York University. Agenda and details in post. Phone 01-437 3978.

SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOLS for IS members

Sessions on:
 Revolutionary prospects in Portugal, Italy, Spain and Greece.
 What's happening to the Labour Party?
 The Capitalist Crisis—where to next?
 Building the International Socialists
NORTH EAST (Newcastle): 5-6 July
NORTH LONDON: 12-13 July (full up)
SOUTH LONDON: 19-20 July
SOUTH WALES (Cardiff): 2-3 August
SCOTLAND (Glasgow): 9-10 August
NORTH WEST (Manchester): 16-17 August
MIDLANDS (Birmingham): 23-24 August
YORKSHIRE (Leeds): 30-31 August
 Attendance limited to 30 at each.
 Registration: Send name, address and 50p to Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

IS notices

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.

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.

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

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

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

Speaker's Notes on THE REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL: Send 2p stamped addressed envelope to Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Now includes list of British companies with factories in Portugal, and draft resolution of solidarity for trade union branches, trades councils, etc.

FOOTBALL RESULT Socialist Worker printshop 8 NW London. District 3. Man of the Match: Pete Wearden (SW).



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 _____

DIMBAZA:

IN DIMBAZA, an African township in Cape province, South Africa, the authorities have changed their grave-digging policy.

Until recently, freshly-dug graves were left open. Now they are filled with sand, which can easily be removed when the bodies arrive. A spokesman explained: 'The main advantage is that nobody can come and take pictures of the open graves any more.'

That is an oblique tribute to the film *Last Grave at Dimbaza*, shot by two British cameramen in 1972. They smuggled their equipment into South Africa and captured scenes which are illegal to look at, let alone film.

Deliberate

When they returned to Britain, their film was damaged while being processed. So they went back, risking arrest every day, and shot it again.

Over the next two weeks, *Socialist Worker* will be showing it at public meetings around the country.

The film says more about apartheid than countless newspaper articles.

Most of the graves at Dimbaza are small, because most of the dead are children.

More than half the children born in Dimbaza die before they are five.

The poverty, disease and death in this and hundreds of other such townships is deliberately created by the South African government. The Bantu Affairs Commissioner in nearby King Williams Town explained:

'Redundant people are being moved to Dimbaza . . . The people would be of no particular age group and could not render productive service in an urban area . . . Men who had lost their jobs and could not find new employment; old and infirm people; unmarried mothers.'

These people are 'redundant' because they cannot work to produce wealth for someone else. So they are uprooted from their homes,

Do you hear the children weeping?



*Do ye hear the children weeping, O my brothers
Ere the sorrow comes with years?
They are leaning their young heads against their
mothers,*

*And that cannot stop their tears.
The young lambs are bleating in the meadows,
The young birds are chirping in the nest,
The young fawns are playing with the shadows,
The young flowers are blowing toward the west—
But the young, young children, O my brothers,
They are weeping bitterly!
They are weeping in the playtime of the others,
In the country of the free.*

*They look up, with their pale and sunken faces,
And their look is dread to see,
For they mind you of their angels in high places,
With eyes turned on Deity!—
'How long', they say, 'how long, O cruel nation,
Will you stand, to move the world, on a child's
heart,—
Stifle down with a mailed heel its palpitation,
And tread onward to your throne amid the mart?
Our blood splashes upward, O gold-heaper,
And your purple shows your path!
But the child's sob in the silence curses deeper
Than the strong man in his wrath.'*

—from *The Cry of the Children*, by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

every one of South Africa's several hundred thousand domestic servants.

The film shows that such misery has a purpose: to enrich the white minority at the expense of the black majority, and in particular to enrich the shareholders of the great industrial companies operating in South Africa.

There is more than enough wealth in South Africa to feed and clothe everyone in it three times over. But the wealth is not used for that purpose.

It is used, partly on fantastic luxury for the white minority, but mostly to boost the dividends of companies such as Metal Box, General Motors, GEC, Leyland, ICI and Slater Walker.

Their enormous investment is also an investment in the concentra-

tion camps of Dimbaza.

It finds its way to South Africa not in spite of this barbarity, as the company PR men pretend, but because of it.

The film is far from perfect. It exposes apartheid without telling us how to change it.

Profit

It does not catch the great mood of revolt now spreading through the South African working class.

It pretends that apartheid is a bad thing which good men could end, instead of a class atrocity which has to be broken by the combined might of the growing African working class.

The change in the South African struggle from a boycott protest to



There was work at first for about 400 men, building houses for newcomers to Dimbaza. But in 1971, Dr Piet Koornhooft, deputy Minister of Bantu Administration, paid a visit. At Sada camp, he was said to have been so overcome by the wretchedness that his eyes filled with tears. However, soon after, he ordered camp building to cease, with the result that only 100 men were employed at Dimbaza . . .

In the summer heat, gastroenteritis lends a hand to this misery. It struck down 52 severely under-nourished children in two months in 1972. Before then, Dimbaza 'only' had 337 graves . . .

herded into townships, fed on government starvation rations, left unemployed and unfulfilled.

Three million African people have been moved in this way under the government's 'migrant labour' policies.

The film also takes us into the great urban areas, which are reserved exclusively for whites. Exclusively, that is, except for the workers needed in the factories and homes to do the dirty work.

In an astonishing scene, an African woman is feeding a fat, contented white child. The child has never been hungry and so can afford to play with its food.

The woman has to coax it into eating. There is an instinctive affection between the two.

But apartheid does not allow domestic servants to keep their children in their 'quarters'. So her child went to a place like Dimbaza, and died because it didn't have enough to eat.

Now the woman is pregnant again. Her husband lives in a distant township. They will meet, briefly, when their next child is born. Then they will be forced apart. The child will have a 50/50 chance of survival.

That is the experience of almost



'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, 8pm, Room AC, Trades Councils Club, Chapeltown.
BRADFORD: Monday 23 June, 7.30pm, Afro-West Indian Club, 55 Goodwin Street.
MANCHESTER: Tuesday 24 June, 8pm, Holme Labour Club, Bomsall Street, Holme.
LEICESTER: Wednesday 25 June, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Vaughan Way.
DERBY: Sunday 29 June, 7.30pm, Queen's Hall, London Road.
CAMBRIDGE: Monday 30 June, 8pm, College of Art and Technology, Collier Road, off Mill Road.
BIRMINGHAM: Wednesday 2 July, 7.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Lecture Room 1.
COVENTRY: Thursday 3 July, 7.30pm, Lanchester Polytechnic.
WEST LONDON: Friday 4 July, 7pm, Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road, N4. Tickets 30p in advance from local IS branches, 40p in the door.

ON THE BOX

FRIDAY (20 June)
BBC-1, 9.25pm. THE DIMBLEBY TALK-IN on abortion.

MONDAY
ITV: 8.30pm. Part two of WORLD IN ACTION'S THE RISE AND FALL OF THE CIA examines the agency's work in toppling governments. On BBC-2 HORIZON (9pm) is on THE CLEANEST PLACE IN THE WORLD, Antarctica, and scientific research there. The reiteration of nineteenth century moral cant plus laissez-faire economics makes Sir Keith Joseph the thinking man of the Tory Party and thus qualifies him for PANORAMA: THE BATTLE OF IDEAS (8.10pm), something the brains behind the series seem notably short of . . . The understandable, if wrong, desire to blow up our rulers as a method of triggering revolution has a long history—and so has the use of police spies. CHURCHILL'S PEOPLE (BBC-1, 10.10pm) ends with DEATH OR LIBERTY on the post-Napoleonic war Cato Street Conspiracy.

TUESDAY
ITV: 10.30pm. THE MANGLING OF THE MIDDLE CLASSES examines the fate of same in these troubled times.

WEDNESDAY
ITV: 8.30pm. Frank Cvitanovitch directed the interesting documentary on George Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier*. He is the director of BARRY SHEENE-DAYTONA 1975, on the British racing motorcyclist, said to be good . . . FOR RICHER: FOR POORER is a one-off comedy written by Johnny Speight with Harry H. Corbett as the hero, a militant shop steward (BBC-1, 9.35pm).

THURSDAY
BBC-2: 9.35pm. MAN ALIVE: WE'RE WOMEN—BUT WE'RE WORKERS is an examination of the strike for equal pay at Inkersall, near Sheffield. The BBC-2 serial of Tolstoy's WAR AND PEACE comes to BBC-1 (9.25pm) in a nine episode adaptation.

And we subsidised this monstrosity...



FOOTNOTE to Les Kay's excellent article (7 June) on the Leyland National 'death-trap' bus; the Leyland National factory in Cumberland, (not Cumbernauld as stated in the article), opened in 1972. Since it is an area of low pay and unemployment, Leyland got a handsome subsidy from us, through the government.

It was the first bus plant in the country to operate production line techniques and the pay was miserable, between £18.50 and £35 in the first year, with no overtime worked.

The worst thing, however, was the way the unions sold protective conditions in the factory. There is no mutuality, no way for the men to control work speeds, stop for safety checks

or breaks.

The unions agreed to a 'probationary' period of 13 weeks, during which a worker could be sacked by his immediate manager. They agreed to compulsory shift work and 'complete flexibility and mobility'.

But they sacrificed more than conditions. They let bad management and the desire for quick profits endanger the lives of hundreds of bus drivers and thousands of passengers.

Socialist Worker is 100 per cent right to call for a ban on the Leyland National, but we must also ensure the men at the Cumberland plant are not turned into the victims of the policies of British Leyland and the National Bus Company.-DAVID BEECHAM, London W1.

IT'S CALLED BRAINWASHING

I'VE JUST seen a BBC-1 programme for school leavers called 'Going to Work'. It told us of work in a modern British factory where, if you work hard and joined in the 'team', you could get on with this go-ahead company.

They explained that they employed many women because of their feminine dexterity etc, and emphasised the growth of the company and the good relations between the parasites and the women.

Oh, and the name of the firm? Imperial Typewriters . . . TOM BUTLER, Durham.

NO! YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG...

I WAS shocked by the deplorable article (7 June) Railmen-The Signal is Go! The pay offer is an insult and should be thrown out. But I wonder if Socialist Worker really knows the position on the railways.

The NUR has no workplace branches, only geographical branches which meet at varying intervals and are usually badly attended.

There are no shop stewards or representative committees. Instead, we have local district councils which, by their very nature, are useless and just further the bureaucracy of the union. Subs are paid through the wage packet.

All these things help to make the rank and file totally isolated. There has been no rank and file participation in the lead-up to, or the calling of, the strike.

Pence

The leadership acted entirely on its own against the wishes of the branch secretaries' meeting in Bridlington and without informing or asking the membership.

The vote does not represent the fury of low-paid railmen, as Socialist Worker said, but was an attempt by the leadership to save face. Weighell is trying to appear militant as a sop to discontented members.

The members ARE getting increasingly militant. They realise how far behind our wages are. But, on the whole, they are against this strike because the demand is not enough.

To go on strike on £3 a week for a few pence is ridiculous. Obviously the strike should be supported but there was nothing in Socialist Worker's article which showed what was wrong with it.-P HALSALL, NUR member, Ormskirk.

LETTERS

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.

NUR: We've got the strength!

WHEN THE MINERS came out on strike last year, the whole country was worried about a bit of heat and lighting. When the power stations came out, people were worried about the increase in power bills.

The poor railwaymen sat back and saw the reward the miners and power workers got for their action. Good luck to our brothers. But rail fares have gone up twice this year and we have got nothing out of it.

We have had 20 years of Lord Greene and been on the back of the queue for wage negotiations for years. We got the peanuts that were left and Greene told us to be good boys for another year.

Now we have a new leadership. When we go out on 23 June, it will mean no coal, no lighting, no medical supplies, no public transport.

The police force put in for 65 per cent and got, no questions asked, at least 29 per cent in new money. Unlike them, we don't break picket lines.

All we want is a living wage. So now let the so-called Labour government take the strain.-MARTIN POWER, BATSIE MANNING (branch committee, Paddington No 1 NUR branch), JOHN POWER (Up Parcels committee, Paddington).

CLAIM IS NOT ENOUGH

WE FEEL that for too long have the wages of railmen dropped behind. Before the war, railmen were among the best paid workers in the country. Today we are among the lowest.

We are fed up with this situation, and feel that only strike action will end it. We also feel the present

claim should be increased so as to put leading railmen on a par with surface pit workers.

Other grades should be increased by the same amount.-D PITT, D KILNAN, R BRADY (leading railmen), S BAKER (examiner, B GILLET (chargehand), S CALOW, (senior railmen), B STRUGGLES (leading signalman), Chesterfield.



JOBS NOT FOR SALE

J HOWELL's letter (14 June) raises some important points. When workers are faced with compulsory redundancies, they can occupy, strike, work to rule or ban overtime.

But when faced with voluntary redundancies, as we have been on Merseyside over the last year, little can be done. The trade union movement have not come up with the answer. Nowhere has it been fought effectively.

The Dunlop resolution at the Speke Trade Union Committee insisted that anyone who has accepted voluntary redundancy is not to be re-employed in any of our workplaces. This is not an attempt to punish workers but to make workers fight voluntary redundancy.

If you know you are not going to get a job once you have sold it, then logic has it you will try to keep it. What is the alternative when faced with voluntary redundancies?

Abstract slogans are no use when sections in the factories are putting names into a hat to see who is the lucky fella that will win the prize of accepting redundancy payments, as



On the picket line at Thompson and Capper, where the Speke Committee is helping to fight for jobs.

was done at Vauxhalls.

Of course, it's not the best tactic, but until a better one comes along it will do.

Of course we condemn trade union officials. What official has recommended occupation when

workers have been faced with redundancy? The answer to redundancy, voluntary or compulsory, is not with union officials—it is with the rank and file. We of the Speke Committee in no way want to blame workers or penalise them, we want to see a stand made against the selling of jobs.

The real answer is to prepare for the redundancies—mass meetings to give the bosses notice that the factory will be occupied if redundancy notices are given, whether compulsory or voluntary.

A committee must be formed to make bonfires of redundancy notices, along with combine committees of shop stewards and not just convenors, and a policy of one laid off all laid off, to build unity on the shop floor.-TOMMY HEALEY, Merseyside.

DEATH OF A WORKER

YET ANOTHER death has occurred in Sheffield to add to the already appalling record of the British Steel Corporation in the area.

When Bill Adams was crushed to death by heavy steel billets at work this week, he became the seventh worker to die at the Corporation's Sheffield works in two years.

There have also been many near-misses: men have been splashed by molten metal, and an explosion

at the Stocksbridge works damaged more than 20 nearby homes.

After every fatality, the BSC announce a top-level inquiry or a big probe, which usefully serve to divert attention until the death is forgotten.

The only people who look after workers' interests are the workers themselves. The experts and 'safety advisers' are nothing more than management public relations men.-STEVE SMITH, BSC, Sheffield.

Beware that 'open the books' idea

JAMES RYAN (24 May) concludes from the experiment at Penguin Books that the successful use of the demand to open the books depends on workers being in a position of strength.

Surely the point is (of this and any other demand): it is a demand likely to develop workers' strength and confidence in the fight against redundancy?

The wholesale 'Open the books' demand involves bringing in assessors who are guided only by profitability and competitiveness. Nothing could be worse than to raise expectations by putting this demand only to have them dashed.

The Dublin newspapers say they are 'unable' to pay the first phase of the 1975 National Wage Agreement. The Irish Times' Workers Council (federated chapel) has sent them a long list of questions on property deals, circulating figures, revenue from job printing, and advertising, details of the conditions on the loan from the bank; management's projections for the period ahead, and plans for redundancy.

All the workers can see if they avoid the questions, and the interpretation is up to us.

To demand that the books be handed over to us may not raise the question of workers' control at all, but only cause confusion when the losses are clearly documented.

The way to give the demand real fire-power is for the workers' representatives to demand information—and evidence—on particularly sensitive points. That way some of the pitfalls James Ryan mentions may be avoided.-BRIAN TRENCH (NUJ), Dublin.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

IS BOOKS

BOOK SALE

Substantial reductions on stock items, old pamphlets going very cheap, second-hand books.

10am-6pm, 25 June to 2 July (except Sundays)

IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (01-802 6145)

IS member in AUEW election

AUEW BRANCHES throughout the country have sent through nominations for Willie Lee for the position of National Organiser, which is due to be balloted in October. Willie, a member of the International Socialists and a senior shop steward at Chrysler Linwood, is a keen supporter of the current efforts to establish support for an Engineers' Charter.

Socialist Worker urges its readers to support his candidature. This support should be firmly placed in efforts to establish a national network of active members prepared to campaign for a charter of rank and file demands. The suggested basis for the charter is:

WAGES

Opposition to all forms of incomes policy

For national, meaningful, across-the-board wage increases with official campaigning and propaganda within the membership for such claims

For £60 minimum time rates

For full equal pay and job opportunity

JOB SECURITY

For official opposition to closures, short-time working speed-up and voluntary redundancies

For official occupations to force nationalisation, without compensation of plants threatened with closure.

For 100 per cent closed shops and strong shop stewards' organisation to maintain manning levels and control of work speeds

For District committee control of job replacement, registration—a strict restriction of job loss.

UNION DEMOCRACY

Against the postal ballot, for a return to branch balloting

and full discussion of election addresses

For official encouragement of improved shop stewards' organisation, for joint shop stewards committees including representatives from staff unions (for meaningful amalgamation)

For official efforts to build combine committees

For majority of shop stewards representation in district committees and bi-monthly district stewards meetings

For average engineering wage for full-time officials and full accountability to the membership

APPRENTICES AND YOUNG WORKERS

For 100 per cent trade union membership

For full adult rate at 16

For junior worker committees inside each factory, representation on joint shop stewards committees and the right to direct negotiations on wages, conditions, etc.

For too long the Scanlon leadership and its Broad Left has relied on bureaucratic manoeuvring and position-seeking. It has failed to give any clear lead over bread and butter issues. The engineers are the only powerful group of workers not to secure a meaningful national wage increase in recent years. This year they didn't even submit a claim!

By default, the right wing has made considerable headway with notable election victories. This trend can be stopped but it requires the development of an active rank and file committed to fighting policies.

Local charter groups should be built as the first step towards transforming the union. The AUEW is potentially the most powerful union. It must be rescued from becoming simply a bureaucratic battleground for position seeking officials.

Support for candidates like Willie Lee is part and parcel of building the necessary rank and file strength.

ENGINEERS MUST FIGHT COURT THREAT

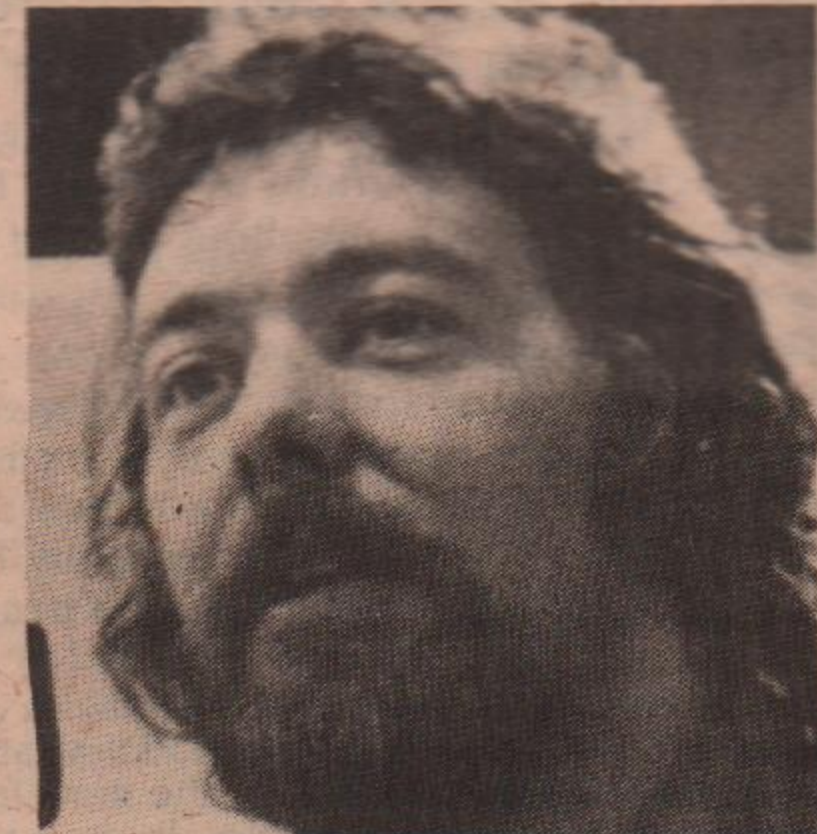
By Willie Lee, AUEW senior shop steward, Chrysler Linwood

LAST WEEK'S decision at Justice Walton's court to uphold the injunctions against the Executive Council of the Engineering Union is the most serious threat to the union since the Industrial Relations Act was put to sleep.

The court found in favour of the charges made against the AUEW by John Weakley, a shop steward at British Leyland, Llanelli. The charges were that he was improperly dismissed as a delegate to the rules revision committee and to the Amalgamated Conference, that Scanlon had acted against the rules of the union in using his casting vote, and that the decision to go back to branch ballots should be declared invalid.

Each issue taken into the court should have been taken through the union's appeals procedure. Brother Weakley knows best why he chose the law courts.

Obviously he is prepared to be the insider for all those who want to nobble



the union. Sections of the press have gone out of their way to push Weakley's case, and encourage a financial appeal on his behalf.

His action has given the employers what they wanted—a legal opening which permits them to interfere in the union rule book. Make no mistake, the employers would dearly love a chance to use the court decision to restrain the AUEW.

For them, the issue has nothing to do with democracy. It is simply that militants have a voice that the employers would like silenced.

Every member of the AUEW, and every trade unionist, should be clear about what is at stake. This is the state interfering in the trade union movement.

The rules and structures of the AUEW are the most democratic of any union in the country. There are many unions which do not even hold elections for official positions, yet the court wants to intervene. It is another attempt to succeed where the Industrial Relations Act failed.

Justice Walton has probably never been inside a factory. The decision of his court has no bearing on the way our union is run, or how the rules are applied.

We must reject the court's decision and make it obvious that any attempt to impose the ruling will be met with the same reply that we gave the Industrial Relations Act. We must fight to defend the independence of any trade union from the courts and the state.

The President of the AUEW has always used a casting vote. The Executive has the right to disqualify delegates whose credentials do not comply with the rules.

This is a matter of union procedure. The court has no place in the union rule book, and the Executive must ensure that every member will be mobilised to make sure it never has.

MAGNESIUM: JUST BLOODY FANTASTIC!

THEY'VE WON! After a seven-week occupation, the 450 workers at Magnesium Elektron in Clifton near Manchester returned to work this week with practically every point of their claim achieved.

They have won rises of a minimum of £10 a week for the general workers and £12.50 for the skilled men. In some cases the rises are up to a massive £16 a week. Women workers have received the highest percentage increase, 31 per cent.

General and Municipal Workers' Union convenor Tony Tyrell enthused: 'They have fought for and earned every penny of it. I'm proud



Picture: John Sutrook (Report)

MAGNESIUM ELEKTRON VICTORY CELEBRATION

Friday 27 June, 7.30pm Beehive Hotel, Rake Lane, Swinton, Manchester. Including West London Theatre Workshop performing General Strike 1926.

All trade unionists welcome, entrance by small change at the door.

of every one of them. We have stuck together, fought hard, fought clean and won.'

Just as important as the pay increase is the right the workers have also won to hold full negotiations at local level. Management agreed only after intense pressure—and then claimed it was 'custom and practice' anyway!

The workers have been fighting for this right for years. National agreements could always be counted on to water down any of the men's demands.

The shop stewards believe they are the only plant in the whole of the multinational Tube Investment combine covered by the CIA/NJIC agreement to have won this right.

'It is vital, as far as we are concerned', said Paul Dickenson, AUEW convenor. 'It means we can build on our new-found solidarity. This is not the end of the fight, just the beginning.'

SNOW STRIKE VICTORY

SHEFFIELD: The nine-week strike at Snow's has ended in success. Management's attempts to break trade union organisation by issuing redundancy notices and refusing talks on the pay claim has failed.

After threatening closure, they moved in the early hours of Thursday 5 June. Machinery was transported to another factory in Peterborough, part of the same Eliot Machine Tool Group.

This attempt to avoid the pickets failed when the stewards travelled to Peterborough. A well-attended factory

PART OF the unanimous vote for continuing strike action at Thompson and Capper in Liverpool. The strike is for a wage rise and against management's threats to close the factory.

The women have now decided to take a more active role. Dot Maher, shop steward, organised a picket rota and delegates to factories on the Speke estate to seek shop stewards' moral and financial support. And two women are to join the strike committee.

The workforce is 70 per cent women but there were none on the committee. Some have not taken an active part as

By Maureen Bruder and Eileen Healey

their kids who attend a local corporation nursery have been turned away since the strike began—no doubt another move by Thompson and Capper to try to force the women back to work.

As the strike has not been made official by the TGWU, these women are suffering financially. They are showing their strength and solidarity against poor wages and bad conditions.

After tax, time-served women take home £20, the men £24. Their £4 pay claim has been turned down flat by management. The workforce are united

Stan Welton, GMWU shop steward, said: 'The way we have won must be a lesson to every strike committee in the country. It's been damned hard work from the word go. We have planned, schemed and organised day and night to win.'

'The press have made out we were lazing about in the sun. Now it's time the truth came to light. The strike committee elected other committees for finance, security, safety, social activities, and, of

course, our version of the flying picket to get around the country to collect money.

'We made sure this dangerous plant was safe for us to occupy, we made sure we kept the bosses out (after the first sensitive week) and we kept the men entertained at all times. We've had darts, radio, TV, bowls and even live theatre. Our thanks to the 7.84 Theatre Group and Red Ladder Group that entertained us.'

The men were tireless in the way they spread the action to other trade unionists. We've visited convenors and shop stewards committees all over Lancashire. We received great support especially from Chorley, Clifton, the miners at Agcroft Colliery, Manchester and the British Leyland lads at Preston.

I would like to extend our thanks for every factory that supported us and, at the same time, give a little advice to any of them on strike or thinking of occupying—work hard and spread the action as fast, far and wide as you can. That way you will win as we did.'

The role of the wives was vital. They were encouraged to visit the plant, which many did. They became part of the social committee and held a jumble sale locally which raised more than £60. They marched through Swinton town centre with banners flying and placards held high, demonstrating

and determined to stick out for the £4, although threatened with closure if they stay on strike.

The Speke Trade Union Committee are giving them full support to help prevent management from sacking the workers and closing the factory. Once your job is gone on Merseyside, you never get another one.

Stewards from Thompson and Capper have met stewards from London Rubber in North London, the parent company. This is the first real link-up in the London Rubber group. The North London workers, who have just ended a ten-week strike, are supporting the Thompson and Capper strikers.

their support for the occupation.

They helped with the collection and, on a domestic level, made the purse strings stretch when others would have thought it impossible. They have deserved a victory and they got it.

It was not all a bed of roses. Pete Noone, GMWU shop steward said: 'We made some mistakes at first, but we had the good sense to correct them. We resisted all kinds of scares and rumours at the start and we stuck together.'

Now there are thoughts of building a combine committee across the massive multi-national Tube Investment. This will be vital if the lessons of this victory are not to be forgotten.

The spirits of the men are sky-high as they showed when they left the factory on Saturday. They insisted that they all went out together to the main gate headed by their leader Tony Tyrell.

Frank Tunnicliffe, a member of the GMWU, walked back as they marched out and said: 'It seems funny to see the gates open, doesn't it?' Another worker added: 'Don't worry mate, things won't ever be the same in the factory again.'

'If I know that lot (management) they'll always be another time. The difference will be that we will know what to do from the word go.'

Classified

ANTI-FASCIST PLAY: 'Do You Remember Cable Street?', performed by professional socialist theatre co-operative, now booking (nationwide) for late July and October. Suitable for meetings, socials, etc. Phone: Howell, 01-722 7273.

VIVA FRELIMO! Celebrate Mozambique Independence Day, Wednesday 25 June, Camden Town Hall, Euston Road, London NW1. 8pm. New play by Michael Abensetts, 8.30pm. Afro Caribbean Dance Group, 8.30-11.45. Disco and Dancing to the Brixton Neighbourhood Steel Band. Bar and Portuguese snacks throughout. Admission £1, children and OAP's, claimants 50p. Tickets from CFMAG, 12 Little Newport Street, EC2 (Tel: 01-734 9541).

CLOSE THE COALHOUSE DOOR, by Alan Plater at Aston University Centre for the Arts, Gosta Green, Birmingham (near City Centre). Thursday 26 June-Saturday 28 June at 8pm. Saturday Matinee 2.30pm, 28 June. Admission 40p Students 25p. (Tel: 021-359 3979).

OPEN CONFERENCE FOR SOCIALIST TEACHERS: Saturday 12 July, 11am-6pm. Discussion around the central issues facing teachers—salaries, education, cuts, social contract, equality of women, teachers and the labour movement. Tickets 50p. Bernard Reagan, 24 St Agnus Close, London. E9.

GAJ TEACHERS GROUP—lobby of ILEA in support of victimised gay teacher John Warburton. Assemble main entrance County Hall, Tuesday 24 June, 2.30pm. All trade unionists welcome. For further details ring 01-723 2458.

SPECIAL OFFER TO SOCIALIST WORKER READERS: Receive current double issue INPRECOR (twice-monthly information and analysis journal of United Secretariat of Fourth International) FREE by subscribing in next fortnight. This 64-page world economy issue contains articles by Mandel, Udry, Langston Vargas, etc. Subscriptions £7 pa. (25 issues including special) can be placed with RED BOOKS, 97, Caledonian Road, N1. Open 10.00-6.00. Monday to Saturday.

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.

NOW THE LAW

YORK:—Builders occupying the Henry Boots' site are the latest group of workers to feel the lash of the law in their struggle.

They seized the site four weeks ago after men were sacked for the crime of joining the union to organise against the appalling lack of safety. The site could collapse at any time into one of York's busiest shopping streets.

On Monday writs summoning the occupants to a Leeds County Court hearing were issued to the workers' wives. The writs are for a possession order to clear the site. A hearing on Tuesday was adjourned and the case was to be heard later this week.

But Henry Boot and Co have added a new twist to the legal persecution of workers. They are asking for £200 a day compensation from the men for the whole period they have been on site. Boots are saying the occupation has prevented them from fulfilling their contracts and they are out to get their revenge. The occupation also prevented the building falling into the street. But the law cares not a damn about that.

Eric Golding, one of the occupying workers, explained the situation: 'As far as the law is concerned a worker can get killed at work and they don't give a damn. They send down a joke Factory Inspector who tells you it's all in the past and that the boss is a reformed man. But as soon as workers take action to defend their interests and their lives, the law is after you.'

'And not with factory inspectors and petty fines. They come for you with writs for possession and jail sentences if you don't comply. We live in a society that puts property where the law exists to defend property. The Shrewsbury Two are proof of that. Massey Ferguson is proof of that. And Henry Boot is proof of that.'

Building workers in London are also in struggle, this time against another aspect of the profit-hungry anarchy that is private enterprise construction.

Tom Lannan, UCATT convenor at Somerset House, London, where building workers are on strike against the Inland Revenue and to remove the lump, told Socialist Worker:

'The UCATT members have been outside the gate for 11 weeks against Regency Decorators' use of lump labour, their refusal to pay backdated overtime premiums and holiday credits and the criminal disregard for safety regulations. Recently a painter was seriously injured when the trestle he was standing on collapsed...'

LUMP

'We are waiting for a report from the House of Commons. This dispute is against the government, we are pushing UCATT to take it up with CPSA, whose members are crossing the picket line.'

'After 11 weeks, morale is still high, and we are determined to stick out against this government department's hypocrisy, but we need more support, specially from the white-collar unions concerned.'

Donations and requests for speakers for your work-place to 23 Westmorland Terrace, London SW1 (01-828 8648).

The London UCATT C3 Co-ordinating Committee organised a mass picket of Roberts Blackfriars Bridge site against widespread use of lump labour. It prevented lump labour going on the job.

The pickets discovered that self-employed labour only got £7 for a nine-hour shift and that the Roberts labour officer is Don Speakman, ex-UCATT research officer, presently Chief Whip for Lambeth LABOUR Council.

In Bootle, Liverpool, McAlpines—the firm who helped frame the Shrewsbury Two—have moved back onto the offensive against electricians who fought and won a three and a half year long strike to defend their organisation on the site.

There have been disputes on the hiring of labour and John Byrne was sacked for performing his duties as a shop steward.

McAlpines threatened to close the site unless a number of unacceptable demands were met. But ETU shop steward T Henderson told SW: 'We cannot accept these ultimatums. We are concerned at the company's attitude on breaking an agreement reached with the union officials and stewards.'

'If we are to function as trade unionists the high-handed attitude of McAlpines must be fought. The workforce are continuing the policies of stopping all recruitment of labour until John Byrne is reinstated.'

ICL BOSSES DEFEATED

MANCHESTER:—The bosses of the computer firm ICL have recently taken on Engineering Union members at the West Gorton and Dukinfield factories—and emerged after a two-week strike with a bloody nose.

The strike was sparked by the bosses' attempt to make computer installation supervision the job of foremen and chargehands. Short, futile negotiations ended with a threat of suspension against workers who had been blacking the relevant machines. The workers' response was a

ATTACKS YORK BUILDERS



Crofts: Now for joint action

By Chris Hall, AUEW shop steward, Crofts
BRADFORD: A mass meeting of more than 1000 workers from the two Crofts Gear Works plants voted overwhelmingly last Tuesday to strike immediately in support of their wage claim. Crofts workers were among the lowest-paid in the district until they struck 12 months ago, and are determined not to fall behind again in the wages league.

With the cost-of-living rising so rapidly, the stewards submitted a wage-claim for a 33.5 per cent increase but management offered only 11 per cent. A shop stewards bulletin pointed out that this did not cover the cost of living increase since December, and 40p of any £1 increase is lost in

deductions.

Pickets were placed on the other two Renolds plants in Bradford. As a result, workers at Holcroft Castings and Forgings struck last week and Carter Gears have given seven days' strike notice over their wage claims. Now, for the first time, workers are talking about joint claims and joint action at all four plants.

They are determined to protect their standard of living—and that means staying out for the full claim. The need for a substantial increase was illustrated by one senior steward: 'A bloke came for a job last week but said the money was no good. That's why we're stood here in a picket line!'

LAMSON PARAGON HIT BY SIT-INS

By Carol Douras, SOGAT

JOBs in the print are under attack. This industry is noted for its divisions along union, craft and sex lines. But throughout the Lamson Paragon group there are the beginnings of a more united fight back against threatened redundancies.

With the exception of the Carfin plant in Scotland, there are sit-ins at the printing plants in Sunderland, Bury St Edmunds, Wellingborough, St Neots, Portsmouth, Gainsborough and Birkenhead.

This multinational combine are trying to impose redundancies across the section of the Continuous Stationery and Business Forms Division. They threatened to close completely the Birkenhead and Gainsborough plants.

At Birkenhead, the occupation is being led by an all-union action committee which has particularly solidified links between SOGAT and AUEW members.

John Holland, committee member of the Machine Room Chapel, told Socialist Worker: 'With the ending of the lease at the Birkenhead factory, management claim the cost of the renewed lease is in excess of what they can afford. This is nonsense. An accountant informed us that they had made substantial profits in the first few months of this year. The combine itself has a turnover of £30 million a year.'

Early this year, Lamson Paragon were taken to task by the Prices Commission for making excessive profits. This makes a mockery of their claim that they cannot afford the renewed lease. In fact, the chapel committee have information that they had already set aside £19,000 to pay this year's rental.

SOGAT FoC Jimmy McNamara said:

vision during the strike proved conclusively they had one motive, to smash the trade union organisation in the factory.'

The workers' victory checked this—and has strengthened the hand of those Dukinfield ASTMS members who backed the AUEW and EETPU strikers.

But far more could have been done if the stewards committee had circulated a bulletin between the two factories which could have turned a searchlight on the dirty manoeuvres of the bosses so everyone knew what was going on.

Ward and Goldstone try to split the strikes

By Gerry Davidson, EETPU

SALFORD: The strike by 400 AUEW, EETPU and UCATT members of the common craft at Ward and Goldstone is, having spread to all 12 Lancashire factories in the group, in its third week.

We are out because of management's refusal to honour an agreed bonus scheme. This has meant a loss of £5 a week and a reduction in differentials. Management have also refused to implement the agreed clause for cost of living increases.

In their efforts to break the strike, they laid off 5700 production workers last Wednesday and said 2000 others would follow.

Many laid-off production workers—members of the Transport Workers'

Union—are not fully aware of the issues. Some of the convenors have not helped, having refused to hold mass meetings at which the facts could be presented.

A united policy is needed—and so the strike committee have issued this statement:

'It is with regret that we observe the management at Ward and Goldstone stooping to the levels to which they have done in making every effort to turn worker against worker, union against union, rather than settle our conservative and justifiable claim.'

'It is in these circumstances that we were pleased to read in the local paper the comments of Brother T Rolands T&GWU convenor who said "Management are clearly trying to play one union off against another. During the dispute production workers kept the factories going, now they are being used to pressurise the men on strike."

'We congratulate Brother T Roland on such honest comments. Management have repaid the loyalty of these production workers by disrupting production and laying thousands of them off work, bringing hardship to themselves and their families in preference to settling our claim. This pursuance of management in creating ill will amongst employees will one day rebound upon them, long after our present difficulties are resolved.'

Twenty-four hour pickets have been maintained at key factories in the group and an escalation of the action is planned. Militants are pushing for a meeting of all shop stewards throughout the group to co-ordinate better the action and formulate a united policy.

ICI battle for £12.50 increase

ICI CRAFTSMEN across the country struck last week after management's offer of £12.50 on the basic was turned down. The men are demanding £16.50 and a threshold clause.

At Wilton, Teesside, 2000 men packed Middlesborough Town Hall to vote for strike action. Billingham Teesside also came out. 4400 craftsmen are out in Teesside alone. At Wilton, picketing has shut the power station.

In the past, ICI have tried to break craftsmen's strikes by using the men's mates, along with white collar staff, to cover. This time the mates are refusing to scab, and most of the white collar staff—fairly recently unionised—are also turning down the massive cash bonuses that management offer to strike breakers.

Many of the men still working realise that victory for the craftsmen will enhance their chance of a big rise.

ICI makes more profit per employee than any other major employer on Teesside. Yet, as one picket put it: 'If we accept management's offer, we'll just about have caught up with the British Steel Corporation across the road—and the craftsmen there are already talking about another pay rise. What we get has to last 12 months.'

Management got up to their usual tricks during the bargaining before the strike, offering a package which they hoped would split the process workers from the craftsmen.

ICI workers are now determined to be fed. The strike is solid and the men are ready to put up a fight. It's to be hoped that their national negotiation team is as determined to get the full claim as the men are.

The craftsmen have been joined by 4000 Transport Union members from the Wilton plant following an attempt by management to victimise four drivers who refused to cross the picket lines.

Non union victims

TWELVE butchers have been victimised in Leicester for striking at Belvoir Bacon. 23 non-union men on an average wage of £38 for a 45-hour week put in for a £5 rise and walked out when offered £1.50. Management—the Bloor Brothers, who drive Mercedes and are wardens of the Coalville Church—threatened them with redundancy unless they accepted their offer, including the loss of their £80 6-month bonus. The 12 who refused were sacked and evicted from their company-owned houses. One has offered double rent until he finds work and was refused.

The Coalville Times initially printed the strike news but reports stopped after Bloor Brothers contacted the editor. The strikers had contacted the TGWU—too late—about joining and have paid the price.



The faces of solidarity... Suspended Ford Leamington Convenor Tony Barrow addressing some of the strikers who have come out in support of him. Picture, John Sturrock (REPORT).

Scots oil men start to fight back

SCOTTISH oil workers who dreamt of 'fabulous' wages and found the reality of standard rates and working conditions that have already claimed four lives offshore this year, are beginning to fight back. Unions are blacking the Odeco rigs for the sacking of a man who was supposed to have disregarded safety regulations.

Workers on the tiny island of Flotta in the Orkneys downed tools last week in defence of two welders sacked for refusing to weld improperly installed pipes. Those 52 welders and fitters were immediately sacked and told to leave the island. This they refused to do.

But their Boilermakers Union official flew in and persuaded them to board the plane for Glasgow. Last month, at a rig construction site at Ardersier near Inverness, 900 men staged a one-day token strike in support of a sacked worker. But the strike received only token support from the AUEW officials and the man was not reinstated.

The conditions on the oil rigs are appalling. A man can be sacked the second he is so careless as to injure himself. Similarly, the rig construction sites have massive labour camps and a policy of total layoffs at job completion.

The STUC have failed to face up to the situation of multinational companies dictating their own terms. Even as the unions attempt to black the Odeco rigs, they are still not recognised by offshore companies. The onshore companies are openly exploiting trade union rivalry by only recognising one or two unions on site.

Meanwhile, all that the STUC can do is to fall for oil company blackmail and call on the government to do something about the 'fall-off' in rig construction demand.

The companies glory in this situation. The Labour government and the STUC are bemused by the oil boom dream. Not only oil for Britain, they say, but also jobs for North Scotland.

All that is happening is that workers are being herded and hounded like animals from the South while local industries in the North are being destroyed. The remedy lies in extending and developing the growing rank and file militancy.

FORD: No victimisations!

LEAMINGTON:—'Make no mistake about that, this is nothing to do with personalities, it is a concerted attack on trade unionism in this plant. If management succeeds in suspending the convenor then there is not much hope for the rest of us.'

This view by an Asian worker at the Ford plant here sums up the feeling on the shop floor. Since Thursday night both day and night shifts have come out solidly in support of their convenor, Tony Barrow, who was refused admission to the plant last Thursday morning. He was suspended for five days for allegedly ordering operators to work without adequate safety provisions.

What really happened was that some foremen walked off the job. Management have tried to present this as an inter-union dispute, but as their representative, the divisional white collar union ASTMS official put it: 'As far as my members are concerned we have no argument

with the shop floor and its representatives. Our argument is with the senior management and we are anxious that this should not be seen as an inter-union dispute.'

What really bothers the Ford bosses is that in recent months the Leamington shop stewards committee has taken a much more positive stand in helping sections in dispute with management. The final straw was the decision by the whole of the shop stewards' committee that overtime must be offered on a rota basis to all workers in the section involved. This is a crucial demand because it stops favouritism being used by management against the stewards' committee.

The strike has been very solid. Only 192 workers were left inside the plant, with more than 1000 outside the gates. Mass meetings on Friday and Monday, strongly backed the convenor. The workers resolve to stay out as long as the convenor is refused admittance. It is obvious

that management has not been prepared for this display of solidarity. They thought they could get away with something as 'minor' as a five day suspension. They hoped that the issue would lead to confidence in the trade union organisations in the factory being undermined. They miscalculated, and backing for the convenor is stronger than ever.

But it is clear that this is only the first round of a new management assault on militant trade unionists. To resist this Ford workers will have to develop stronger rank and file links with the stewards' committee and with other workers throughout the combine.

The leadership of the shop stewards' committee responded well by issuing daily bulletins to keep the membership informed. They have also set up an action group of stewards and rank and file workers to plan future strategy. These are the ways to build the rank and file and keep the management on the run.

DAGENHAM: Shut downs after strike

by a Ford worker, Dagenham

DAGENHAM:—Negotiations to end the doorhangers dispute at Ford are going on and may well lead to a return to work. The settlement is not being revealed until after Socialist Worker goes to press but will be discussed in next week's paper.

Whether the settlement will maintain the doorhangers' manning levels remains to be seen. All Body and PTA workers face a real worsening of conditions when they do return to work. PTA workers have been told that the main Cortina line is to shut down on one shift, other lines are to be slowed down, others speeded up. 200 workers have received

letters telling them to transfer to the opposite shift. No one is guaranteed to be working on his old section or old job when we return to work and job specification will not necessarily remain the same. A labour pool of 260 is to be formed to replace absentees and leavers. The company anticipate 45 workers leaving each week. These vacancies will not be refilled. Similar proposals will also apply in the Body Plant.

If Ford workers in Dagenham and in the rest of the country are to defend themselves against this type of company offensive it is obvious that we need to strengthen the union with better organisation of the rank and file workers

ROVER TRIUMPH

TEN THOUSAND Rover manual workers in seven plants are out on a three day strike ending on Thursday in support of their claim for an across the board increase.

Eight thousand Triumph workers at Coventry voted on Friday to strike after 30 June if the company's offer is not improved.

Both companies are owned by British Leyland, whose management is attempting to put all Rover and Triumph workers on a common wages platform by 1977.

Neither the Rover nor the Triumph offers in any way compensate for the erosion of motor industry rates.

At CARDIFF police arrived on the Rover picket line after the staff, members of the white collar APEX and ASTMS unions were asked not to cross. After a meeting they agreed not to enter.

What is essential is combined action by the Rover Combine Committee and the Triumph factories. A joint meeting of all shop stewards from all Rover and Triumph plants in the country is urgently needed to discuss joint action in the face of the company's assault.

WOMEN WIN

COVENTRY:—The equal pay strike by women canteen workers at Rolls Royce has ended in success. The women have won £5.50 backdated to February, plus another £4 per week in July, with negotiations promised of integration into the factory pay structure.

It was this last demand that has been the main element in the strike. The canteen workers were not included in the factory agreement, and therefore the Equal Pay Act, which becomes law in November, was meaningless to them.

The wage increase has increased confidence of the women in their own organisation. The Rolls Royce management has been forced to negotiate on grading, and this is the most important part of any equal pay fight.

MASSEY BACK

COVENTRY:—Workers who had occupied the Massey Ferguson complex in Coventry until last week have now voted to return to work. After the company obtained a high court order for possession of the plant, the factory was vacated. Then within the week the strikers voted narrowly to return.

The vote to accept a wage offer of eight per cent after tax at a time of 25 per cent inflation was a serious setback. But the workers have returned far very from broken in spirit.

Undoubtedly the fight will go on. The dispute and its outcome hold many lessons for other workers. Socialist Worker will be reporting in detail on these aspects of the Massey struggle in a forthcoming issue.

IN BRIEF

LIVERPOOL PLUMBERS

PLUMBERS at Longview maintenance depot of Knowsly Council went on strike last Friday after management tried to transfer the Deputy Steward and one other plumber. This is an attempt by management to weaken the plumbers who have been leading the fight to force the Council to bring the amount of labourers up to the required level. It is at present 59 men short.

Wally Kemp, plumbers' steward, approached the management to challenge their right to transfer the men as there was plenty of work for them. Management's reply was that under the flexibility clause they can transfer anybody they want for any reason at all, and that in fact since the new cuts in finance they do not need 59 labourers but have 83 tradesmen too many.

On the Monday morning the pickets successfully stopped all material leaving the depot. The management then responded by calling in the police to escort wagons through the picket line. On Tuesday morning the police were there at 8am and Wally Kemp was approached by a police sergeant and warned if he or any of his men tried to approach or even talk to any wagon or person leaving the depot they would be arrested.

The strikers are responding by visiting other council depots in order to try and get them out on strike in support of their dispute.

USDAW ABERDEEN

ARCHIE GILMOR (USDAW), Lawson of Dyce, writes:

1100 workers at Lawson of Dyce near Aberdeen were locked out on 10 June following a massive vote by the day shift in favour of strike action. This followed a dispute the previous day, when the men, all members of USDAW, stopped work for three quarters of an hour because of a foul smell. The hygiene officer admitted to the union that it was from a drain, but later issued a statement saying it was due to some painting in the department. When management refused to pay them the men in the department went home. Next day the whole factory came out.

Union officials who went to explain the situation to the back and night shifts met security guards posted at the gates who said there was no work available and the shift had been sent home as they arrived.

WORKINGTON

ELEVEN skilled maintenance workers, members of the AUEW and EETPU are on strike at Courtauld's weaving mill at Lilly Hall Workington and have succeeded in closing the factory.

The strike, over pay differentials, comes in spite of management's constant threats to close down the mill if there was any militancy. Like many other firms Courtauld's were attracted to West Cumbria by fat government grants and the prospect of cheap labour.

They have exploited the area's high unemployment rate to beat down workers' demands for improved pay and conditions. They have continually threatened layoffs and closures. Despite this the eleven strikers have the sympathy of most of the other 420 workers at the mill, as well as support from TGWU lorry drivers who have refused to cross the picket line.

If this strike can be won it will give all workers in West Cumbria confidence to fight for better wages.

KENT OIL RIG BUILDERS

380 Oil rig builders at Steel Structures at Strood in Kent were paid off last Tuesday with a week's wages in lieu of notice. Those who had not been with the firm a month only got one hour's money. They are now facing the dole because Phillips Petroleum have withdrawn the contract from Steel Structures to build an oil rig for the Norwegian oil fields.

One of the sacked workers told Socialist Worker, 'We are losing our jobs because management is completely incompetent. Yet we are the ones that are going to suffer, not the management.'

'When we were taken on, we were guaranteed work for at least another year, and the probability of much more after that.'

At a mass meeting of all the workers it was resolved to set up an action committee. The mass meeting this Friday will have to take positive steps to defend the jobs. Thousands of tons of steel are still on the site and that is the lever which will win them back. If Steel Structures, owned by John Howard cannot provide employment, the Labour government should be forced to step in and do so.

STERLING ORGANICS,

THE strike for £6 at Sterling Organics, at their Fawdon and Dudley plants is still solid. Workers in the engineering, heating and domestic and electricians unions

have now been joined by the supervisors.

The men have rejected management's offer of £3 a week. They are up to £10 behind other factories in the area. After 10 weeks management has made a new offer, based on the profits for the year, of £2.50.

Management have been trying 'red scare' tactics. At one negotiating session they produced copies of Socialist Worker articles on the strike and the appalling safety conditions at the two plants.

Pickets have been touring the local factories asking for support. A mass picket is being organised. All trade unionists and residents in the area near the foul smelling plants will be welcome.

Money and messages of support to R Giacomazzi, 25 Acorn Avenue, Bedlington, Northumberland.

SCOTTISH PRINTERS

AFTER two weeks of strike action William Collin press chapel have taken on and defeated not only their own management but also the Scottish Master Printers by forcing them to pay the threshold clause for bonuses. This victory should be followed by other printworkers in Scotland who don't have the consolidation of threshold in their particular agreement.

LONDON WAREHOUSE WORKERS

MORE than a hundred workers voted to stay out on strike this week at the Lyons factory in Greenford.

The workers, who handle nationwide distribution of groceries, are demanding parity of shift premiums with the skilled sections. Transport Union worker Keith Greengrass told Socialist Worker: 'Our present shift allowance is £4.77 which compares very badly with the £10 of the skilled departments. We turned down management's pathetic offer of an extra £1.18 at our last mass meeting.'

Strikers turned down the offer despite recommendations to accept from the local full time official and the TGWU convenor Freddy Banks. As Brother Payne put it, 'There is a 24-hour picket stopping everything. We will stay out till we win.'

BECAUSE of the enormous pressure on space this week we have cut most articles on the back pages drastically, others we have left out altogether. We apologise to everyone affected.

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.
 Creche available

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Five more killed by Coal Board's drive for productivity

By John Owen and Trevor Brown, NUM, Houghton Main Colliery

LIFE in the mining village of Little Houghton, Great Houghton and Dartfield near Barnsley, will never be the same.

At 7pm last Thursday night a violent explosion ripped through the Newhill seam at Houghton Main Colliery. By morning, five men were known to be dead. A National Coal Board spokesman immediately stated his utter amazement. For Houghton Main is said to be a safe pit.

It is not yet clear exactly how the explosion was caused, but it looks likely that a spark from an over heated machine ignited methane gas. The water at the face had made the air in the airway humid and sluggish. As a result, gas has been able to build up.

The NCB have claimed that gas is not a problem at Houghton Main, yet over the years there have been many battles over working in gas conditions, particularly in the Parkgate seam.

Safety

The NCB also claim that the water level was not dangerously high. But the key issue is not the height of the water, but whether the water threatens electrical points.

Only recently, on another unit in the same area, the men had to threaten to stop the job before a similar level of water, which was threatening some switch-holes, was pumped away.

In the same way, deputies will urge men to keep a faulty machine running as long as possible, defying safety regulations for the sake of continued production. All such abuses could have played a part in the explosion.

A totally unsuitable unsafe haulage system is now being used. In stead of using the normal tubs for shifting coal, management has insisted on using mine cars. These are normally pulled by diesel locomotives but the drifts are too steep for the engine, so instead they are being pulled on a conventional endless haulage ropes system.

The only trouble is that mine cars are not designed to be used on such a system. And the couplings between the cars are not only wrong, they are loose. The Mines and Quarries Act is being broken in two ways, but management is resisting change, because change means stopping the job and losing output.

Water

What makes it so sickening is that it is totally unnecessary; a different roadway to the face could have been cut which would have avoided the drifts altogether.

But that would have been more expensive. No doubt if one of these cars breaks loose and crushes a man to death Derek Ezra will state his amazement and restate his determination to eliminate accidents altogether.

But if he were really serious about this he could improve safety standards by 75 per cent overnight by instructing deputies to be genuinely concerned about safety instead of worrying about productivity.

This he won't do, for only last week he was warning miners that their production bonus is to be cut by £2.30 a week because output is not high enough.

Whatever the precise reason for the explosion, the lie about high NCB safety standards needs to be nailed.

At all times, there is a continual battle by miners to maintain safety standards. At every turn, they are up against a national and pit level management out to maximise output, no matter how many corners that means cutting.

If there is blood on the coal, there is no doubt who is responsible: the NCB and their big business overlords.

WELSH IRONFOUNDERS BATTLE HOTS UP

THE HEAT is on in West Wales as the Iron Founders' dispute enters its fourth week. The battle was sparked by the revolt of seven unions against the Welsh Ironfounders' agreement.

The Engineering, Transport and General, Electricians, Building Workers General and Municipal, Boilermakers and Sheet Metalworkers' unions have been involved in the fight for an £8 rise—with corresponding increases through all grades.

It's been a story of successes, counter-attacks by the bosses—and disturbing signs that full-time union officials are trying to resurrect the agreement.

The bosses have hit out at striking workers at SWANSEA's Aluminium Wire and Cable Company. Writs for trespass were issued against more than 80 craftsmen, members of the AUEW, who had occupied the two plants.

MASS

Management had intended to serve the writs as the men came to collect overdue wage packets. It didn't work. The strikers chained and barricaded the gates—and were supported by the arrival of trade unionists for a mass picket.

The best response came from Tom Smith and Clarke workers, who are also on indefinite strike over the same issue. Both strikes have been made official by the AUEW.

So the bosses switched tactics—they served the writs at the men's homes. Scared of mass confrontation with the strikers they tried a little scare tactic of their own. 'I didn't know what was going on,' explained a striker's wife. 'Or what to do. I thought they'd come to take him away.'

'They are trying to terrorise our wives into splitting us' said a striker.

WE'VE WON! AUEW BACK DOWN ON BAN

PAUL FOOT of Socialist Worker was admitted to the Engineering Union's National Conference on Monday. When Paul Foot arrived he was asked by John Boyd, the AUEW's General Secretary, to wait outside while the Executive discussed his admission.

Within five minutes the press officer came out and said, 'You've won your battle, you can go in.'

The final pressure on the union to give way came from the Labour Industrial Correspondents Group. They



Workers occupying Aluminium Wire push a car onto their barricade

It hasn't worked. Now the High Court has driven them from the plant they've hit back with picketing. And that's caused four-mile rush-hour traffic jams.

There's just one crucial flaw. Transport and General Workers' union members still working in the plant aren't giving active support. The plant remains paralysed—but these TGWU members' involvement is vital.

During the week the action has spread to other plants involved in the new dead agreement. In LLANELLI O'Connor and Davis' plant was hit by a two-day strike and Neville and Druce Co is faced

with a complete overtime ban plus a work to rule.

Back in SWANSEA, 100 Rees and Kirby workers have had one day strike action.

A meeting last week of 30 convenors and stewards from 10 different plants has boosted the battle's organisation and unity. Key information about the state of play in each plant was exchanged, and the first steps to launch a united campaign for the claim were taken.

FORCED

The 30 heard of one big success. Militants' pressure had forced a climb-down by AUEW full-time official Tal Lloyd. He had tried to have disputes referred to conciliation without telling shop stewards—or lay delegates to the West Wales Allied Trades Committee, thus flouting the union side of the old agreement.

Next week, the 30 meet again—and they hope to be joined by other iron founder stewards fighting for the claim.

Management wasted no time in replying to the meeting. Suddenly they wanted to 'resume talks' the very talks they'd broken off. And they had a new, increased offer to make...

The bosses' move has brought union full-timers back into the game as well. A couple of weeks ago they claimed that it was 'up to individual plants' to fight for the claim. Now

they are resurrecting the iron founders' negotiations again—and instructing their members to scrap action.

Did they consult the West Wales Allied Trades Committee? No they didn't. And their action, following in Tal Lloyd's footsteps, a recipe for disaster, with delay playing into management's hands.

No doubt local AUEW officials like Tal Lloyd have been more concerned with backing legal attacks on the union by local AUEW right-winger John Weakley than getting on with what they're paid to do: backing their members when in dispute.

UNITY

The employers can be beaten, but not by waiting on right wing officials like Lloyd. The encouraging rank and file link ups between different plants must be strengthened—and extended.

- 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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

'OUR fighting fund is well on the way to its £2000 monthly target' we wrote last week. We spoke too soon! This week's total plummeted to one of the lowest in the memory of the most aged SW journalist—a total of £105.60, bringing the total to: £867.20.

To ensure the happiness of these worthy people, and to ensure that your paper keeps fighting, send us a donation today!

Lack of space prevented us running last week's contributors, so we include them with this weeks.

Our thanks this week to: W London Hospital Workers IS £9.30, Manchester reader £4, Watney Mann SW supporters £2.90, Kirkby IS £3.83, Brighton reader £1, Southampton member £5, A reader £1, Birmingham Teachers IS £10, Winding and Crimping B Shift, Intex Yarns, £7.50, Cambridge member £15,

London Common Mkt meeting £68, IS Annual Conference £53.74, three social workers from Bath £5, Liverpool reader £40, Kingston IS jumble sale £24, Peterborough Common Mkt meeting £9.80, Subscriber, Guildford £3, Darlington SW Supporters £1, Wands-worth Teachers IS £2.50, Edinburgh IS £11.80, SW readers Nelson, £4.12 Coventry TU Bookshop, London IS Books £2.23, Manchester Conference delegates £3, Individuals £60.

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