

Socialist Worker

No 442 13 September 1975 Price 10p

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

SIX weeks ago at Kirkby on Merseyside 1500 boys and girls left school. 450 of them are now out of work . . .

PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)



OUT OF WORK . . . Myra McLoud, aged 16. Left school six weeks ago. Has tried every means of finding a job without success. Gets £6.85 a week social security. £6 goes to her mother for rent and food. Both parents are also unemployed.

'Lots of young girls in the area are thinking of getting married just to get away from life on the dole. But marriage could be more of a trap than an escape. There's no work here. I might have to join the army.'



OUT OF WORK . . . Lynn McLoughlin, aged 16. Left school six weeks ago. The careers officer gave Lynn a list of 30 different employers with 'suitable jobs'. She wrote to them all, and got the same reply. 'All vacancies have been filled.'

Two of Lynn's brothers and sisters are also out of work.

'I'd like a job to help the family and be able to have a night out sometimes. There's no chance here though. It was better at school.'

OUT OF WORK . . . Stephen Jones, aged 20. 'My dad's 63. He's a lorry driver. He's the only one in the family who's working. There are five of us young ones in the house. None of us can get a job.'

'My mother hasn't got a job. She spends most of her time trying to find enough cheap food to feed the family. She finds it more and more difficult every day.'

'I had a job for a couple of months as a labourer in an electrics works. I was sacked for arguing.'

'That's one of the worst things about unemployment. It turns workers into crawlers. I remember two 15-year-old lads in the factory. They were always looking over their shoulders, jumping when the foreman said anything.'



'The bosses made it plain: "If you don't like it here get out. We can soon find someone else".'

'I did a government training course, and I'm a qualified machinist. What a joke! There are no jobs for machinists in the whole town. I

haven't been offered a job for two years.'

'Well, many of us thought the Labour government would do something to stop unemployment in Kirkby, The MP, Kilroy-Silk, went around saying he would get to grips with Kirkby's problems. He's got to grips with them, and now there's twice as many out of work as there were last year.'

'All round the town, at the social security, in the community centres, playing football, just walking the streets, they all say the same. The Labour's no good to us. It's sold us out.'

'They're saying something else around here. They're saying it can't go on much longer like this without an explosion. Well, I hope there is an explosion. The only thing that'll get us out of this mess is a revolution.'

EVERYONE says they accept the right to work.

Everyone is 'very moved' by the poverty, the misery and the waste that comes out of these angry voices from Kirkby this week.

The employers believe in the right to work. But they are sacking workers all over the country.

Harold Wilson promised in 1972 that he would 'base a Labour government's policies' on the right to work. But he is basing his policies on wage restraint and public spending cuts which will send unemployment rocketing.

The Trades Union Congress upholds the right to work, but it tags along behind the government.

Unemployment is not inevitable. It is the product of a vicious profit system which can be fought,

The right to work will never be achieved until rank and file workers employed and unemployed fight for it. Rank and file militants everywhere must start now to pool their resources to resist the sackings, to block the spending cuts and everywhere to **FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK.**

Socialist Worker

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE WORKERS' REVOLUTION

DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 20 September
Charing Cross Embankment 2.00 pm

IAN RIDLEY, an AUEW member at Chrysler, Ryton, Coventry, writes:

Next Saturday is important because it's then that we can demonstrate our need for unity with Portuguese workers and against the massive multinational companies. These have no allegiance to any country or interest except their own.

Look at the £93 million fiddle by Chrysler UK that was unearthed recently. Look at the way they are laying us all off just now. That is the kind of power that capitalism has over us.

So we have to demonstrate our solidarity with Portuguese workers because their fight is a part of our fight. We must hammer home to everybody that the choice for Portugal is between workers' power and the return to fascism, backed by the multinationals and the British ruling class.

The bigger our demonstration is the more difficult it will be for them to smash the Portuguese workers.

Coaches are leaving many places to be in London for the demonstration. Ask your Socialist Worker seller to book you a seat, or turn up before the leaving time.

MANCHESTER: 8.30am, St Peter's Square.

LIVERPOOL: 8.30am, Mann Island, Pier Head.

BIRMINGHAM: 9.30am, Hall of Memory.

COVENTRY: 10.30am, Pool Meadow.

HULL: 8am, Fevensway.

HARLOW: 12.15, Town Hall car park.

NEWCASTLE: 7am, St Mary's Place, Newcastle.

GLASGOW: Friday 10pm, Cairns Bar, Miller Street.

STOP PRESS

The multinational ITT, which plotted to get Allende overthrown in Chile, has announced the immediate cutting off of all funds to its subsidiaries in Portugal. This has hit workers in Britain too. ITT has sacked 200 women workers at its Standard Telephones factory, North London, who work on telephone parts for the Portuguese factories.

International Socialists

International Solidarity with Portuguese workers
For Socialist Revolution
Para a Revolução Socialista

Solidariedade Internacional com os Trabalhadores Portugueses
Internacionais Socialistas

IRELAND: NO HOPE UNTIL

TROOPS COME OUT

by Eamonn McCann

NORTHERN IRELAND Secretary Merlyn Rees met Harold Wilson at Downing Street last week for top-level discussions about the deteriorating situation in Northern Ireland.

Immediately afterwards it was announced that Rees would 'address the people of the province' on radio and TV next evening. Northern Ireland held its breath.

The speech was a shambling procession of worn-out clichés. Eyes blinking compulsively, face creased with doubt, Rees stammered for six minutes about 'a political solution'.

As he spoke the tide of blood flowed on.

The only solid political point in Rees's speech was yet another pledge that Northern Ireland will remain within the United Kingdom. And that is at the heart of the matter. Because it is not British policy in the North that is wrong. It is the British presence.

Every time Rees promises that Northern Ireland will be maintained, he is telling the Loyalist extremists that Britain is still with them.

Northern Ireland is an irredeemably

Revolt

sectarian state. To promise to preserve it, and to preserve law and order within it, is willy-nilly, to promise to preserve sectarianism itself.

This is not a matter of abstract argument but of harsh reality. The forces which Rees has at his disposal to implement policy decisions are themselves the agents of sectarianism. The Royal Ulster Constabulary, for example, has been condemned for its sectarian viciousness, not just by Republicans and socialists, but by a Commission under Lord Cameron, a Tribunal under Lord Justice Scarman and by the government-appointed Community Relations Commission.

Yet not a single member has been dismissed for indiscipline in ten years!

The 7500-strong Ulster Defence Regiment has an overlapping membership with Protestant paramilitary groups and a history of involvement in sectarian crime, including many murders.

THIS IS PAISLEY'S LAW

THE appeals by Loyalist leader Ian Paisley for action to restore 'law and order' in Northern Ireland have been receiving considerable publicity. The implication is that Paisley is an opponent of sectarian murder, which would stop if only the border were sealed off and the IRA destroyed.

Yet during the Loyalist strike in Belfast last year, Paisley worked hand in glove with paramilitary organisations such as the Ulster Volunteer Force, which has admitted involvement in murders such as that of the Miami Showband pop group a few weeks ago.

Paisley's election agent is Jacky McKee. Jacky's brother, Bobby McKee, is UVF commander in the town of Larne. He lost a leg in an explosion in a booby-trapped car earlier this year. A Catholic was machine-gunned to death in retaliation the same night in a nearby pub, although it later emerged that the booby trap had

by Joy Leman

PROMPT action by shop stewards from Hammersmith Hospital, West London, last week led to the release of a hospital worker detailed under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Jimmy Shields had just started work on the late morning shift last Wednesday when he was summoned to the catering manager's office. Three plain-clothes men were waiting for him. They bundled him—still in his cook's clothes—into a police car.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act gives the police a completely free hand to attack workers in this way. Any of us could be picked up and spirited away, without legal charges being made, detained for 48 hours without access to legal advice and without even the chance to phone friends or family to say where we are.

Jimmy was kept at Hammersmith Police Station for three days of petty harassment from the police and warders. He was refused the use

Hospital stewards beat the Terror Act

of toilet paper, soap and water to wash, shaving materials or drinking water—except on his wife's visit. In a two-hour interrogation he was subject to threats of violence and deportation, as well as all kinds of personal insult.

Jimmy's wife, Margaret and their baby of 14 months were also brought in for the treatment but not until after a gang of twelve police had carried out a five hour search of their flat and taken away such

dangerous literature as Dr Spock on How To Bring Up Baby.

In a harrowing question and answer session, Margaret was told: 'If you don't tell the truth the baby will be taken into care.'

Why should innocent people be subject to such treatment you may ask? Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, just as under Internment, the niceties of the legal system are ditched completely.

Jimmy told Socialist Worker: 'They say you're Irish and so you're hit. Before you start you're the guilty person. If the NUPE hadn't come down to the station on Friday evening then I'd still be rotting in that cell and no one would have known I was there.'

The simple truth is that trade union organisation and protest can defeat Roy Jenkins' vicious law. If it was brought together in a truly concerted campaign then this could be overturned before Roy Jenkins and Co have the chance to make it even tighter.



Another car bomb in Belfast—and the 'law and order' response follows as troops harass Catholic areas

So Rees's calls for people to combat sectarianism by 'backing the forces of law and order' comes over to Catholics as sheer gibberish. But what else can Rees say as long as his government is committed to the maintenance of the Northern Ireland state.

This is not to argue that Rees and his predecessors, caught in some curious Irish contradiction, have simply blundered into sectarian

positions. Over the past six years they have chosen to back the Orange state even when, as was often the case, this meant putting the boot in on the Catholic community.

Internment is the most obvious example, but the pattern is apparent in other, more recent security decisions. For example, after the machine-gun killing of five Protestants in Newtownhamilton Orange Hall—which all Irish socialists have con-

demned—Loyalist anger focused on the South Armagh area. Responding to that anger, Rees reinforced the local garrison, and last Sunday sappers began blowing up border crossings.

Yet in the predominantly Protestant North Armagh area, where 27 Catholics have been killed in the past 18 months, pleas from clergymen and other naive elements for 'protection' brought no such response: indeed no response at all. The same goes for the notorious 'murder triangle' in Tyrone, where killing Catholics is almost a local sport.

Rees may realise—everyone else does—that the Convention will collapse without any compromise being reached. The way would then be open for an effective sell-out to the Loyalists. Northern Ireland may, with British Labour approval, be on the road back to square one.

The way to stop that happening is to yank out the lynchpin of sectarianism, the British guarantee to maintain the state. In practical terms that means getting the troops out.

It means that this autumn socialists must make a real effort to mobilise mass support to end at last British involvement in her first and final colony.

Trial by newspaper —if you're Irish, that is

'HER Irish eyes may be smiling but her trade is fear and death . . . Consider this female of the species . . . But keep well clear. For Margaret McKearney is certainly more deadly than the male.'

That appeared on the front page of the Daily Express last Friday. Note the word 'certainly'.

The Express was reporting allegations contained in a statement which Scotland Yard released through the Press Association late on Thursday night. But it was far from clear that only allegations, not facts, were involved. The Express banner headline was blatant: THE MOST EVIL GIRL IN BRITAIN.

The other papers' handling of the story was little different. SHE IS BRITAIN'S MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN TERRORIST (Daily Mail), TERROR GIRL (Daily Mirror), DANGER WOMAN . . . DEATH COURIER (Sun), GIRL BOMBER (Evening Standard). And so on.

The media not only assumed that Margaret McKearney had indeed done everything Scotland Yard alleged: on the front pages they assumed it in inch-high letters and half-page pictures.

Now there are—or used to be—a few simple conventions which every journalist automatically applied to stories about persons wanted by the police. It would be reported that so-and-so was 'wanted for questioning in connection with . . .' or that police believed so-and-so 'would be able to assist inquiries into' a particular offence.

It was impermissible to describe a man wanted for rape as 'the rapist'. And indeed the convention still holds in rape cases: as it does for bank-robbing, baby-battering, embezzlement and so on. You're innocent until proved guilty.

But cases connected with Irish politics are different. For Margaret McKearney, not just the convention but all pretence of journalistic ethics was cast aside.

There is no way Margaret McKearney could get a fair trial if ever brought before a British court. Even though the Irish Special Branch vow that she was in Ireland when the British police claim she was in various parts of Britain.

Paul Foot said recently: 'If you don't know what's going on in Portugal you must have been reading the newspapers.' Quite so. He might have added that if your knowledge of what's going on in Ireland is comprised in equal parts of wilful blindness and politically-motivated bigotry, you might well have been writing the newspapers.

WHAT WE THINK

How to reply to the Labour attacks

BATTLE WITH US AGAINST CUTS

ENVIRONMENTAL Secretary Anthony Crosland announced further cuts in local government spending, which, to quote The Guardian, 'will affect every man, woman and child in the country.'

The cuts will mean larger classes in the schools, longer intervals between rubbish collection, untidier parks, less competent fire brigades, council block lifts which don't work and hundreds of other major and minor changes in the daily lives of workers.

The cuts will not affect Anthony Crosland though. The Daily Mail on Monday revealed that he has just bought a comfortable cottage near Banbury, for around £20,000.

'The cottage will be a good place to escape the distractions and telephones of London', said Crosland. He puts up with all these distractions and telephones in his £70,000 house in Holland Park, which, of course, he is keeping.

All over the country, local authority workers are starting the battle against the cuts which for them means mass sackings. Workers for the Greater London Council, the biggest local authority in Europe, are planning a mass lobby of the council against the cuts on Tuesday 22 September.

PROFIT

The GLC workers are protesting about 1500 proposed sackings, which will save the GLC an estimated £10 million. The workers point out that the rising interest rates will cost the GLC an extra £20 million this year.

The same is true all over the country. Council workers threatened with the sack should find out how much the moneylenders are squeezing their local council, and campaign with trades councils and other workers' organisations against all cuts.

But this is not just a matter of concern for council workers themselves. It is also a vital matter for those on the receiving end of the cuts. Action is needed in each locality to bring working class families that suffer as social services are cut together with council employees whose jobs are threatened.

It is up to Socialist Worker readers to take the initiative in trying to build these, and in approaching rank and file council employees.

Socialist Worker itself will be campaigning against the cuts. Our slogan is simple: NO CUTS, NO SACKINGS. We want all our readers to send us details of the cuts in their areas—not just in terms of spending percentages, but in terms of the blight to everyday life.

Send your report to: Socialist Worker Campaign Against the Cuts, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

THE REAL meaning of Labour's economic policy is becoming clearer with every day that passes. Despite the £6 wage freeze, prices are continuing to soar—the Financial Times could report on Tuesday that 'the average cost of food manufacturers' materials shot up by 7½ per cent in August alone'. Despite the £6 freeze, the number of unemployed is fast moving from 1¼ million to 1½ million.

These are statistics. Translated into the bitter facts of life for millions of working-class people, it means hardship on a scale most workers have not experienced before in their lifetimes.

The Labour government knows only one reaction to this state of affairs: to attack living standards still more. One of the biggest groups of low-paid workers in the country, the local authority manual workers, are being told that even the £6-a-week limit is too much for them.

SOLUTION

Over the past week it has been announced that school classes will be allowed to increase in size, that children under five will not be allowed into schools, that train services will be cut back by 10 per cent in the months ahead.

The justification for these measures from government and press is that they will 'deal with the economic crisis'. But you don't have to be an economic genius to see that they will have the opposite effect. Every cut means fewer jobs, more unemployment, less money

in people's pockets to buy things produced elsewhere, a worse economic crisis.

Such is the absurd and inhuman logic of a government committed to propping up the capitalist system.

So what is to be done about the crisis by the working class movement? One possible answer came from Anthony Wedgwood Benn earlier this week. After months of silence, he raised his voice to say that there had to be a fight to commit the Labour government to socialist policies.

EFFECTIVE

For him, the fight is to ensure that one policy document rather than another is passed by the Labour Party executive. Meanwhile, Benn remains in the government and helps implement its policies, policies which mean the dole for those who put their faith in him a few months back.

Further 'left-wing' policy statements from the Labour executive are not going to change this. The plight of the unemployed will continue to get worse, the toll of redundancies will continue to rise, the social services will continue to be hacked to pieces.

The real fight will be elsewhere. It will be the fight back, against the Labour government's policies, of rank and file workers who are hit by them.

The job for socialists is to take the lead in that fight and to build rank and file resistance to Labour's betrayals.

One thing can be said with certainty. If we rely on occasional speeches by Labour ministers instead of building that resistance, then things will go from bad to worse.

Portugal: Solidarity is crucial

MANY workers in Britain are confused by events in Portugal. The succession of governments, the continuing round of talks between different generals, demonstrations and counter-demonstrations leave people in this country bewildered.

Yet the issues at stake in Portugal today are immensely important.

Portuguese workers, like workers everywhere, have been hit hard by the economic crisis. But in the 16 months since the overthrow of fascism they have developed all sorts of means of fighting back.

Their workers' committees have taken control of many factories, forcing the government to nationalise them. Their tenants' committees have begun to solve the housing crisis by taking over the empty houses of the rich.

Most infuriating of all to the powers-that-be, they have countered the lying power of the big business press by taking over newspapers and radio stations, and they have won over to their struggles the rank and file in some of the key regiments in the Lisbon area.

EMPTY

The present political crisis in Portugal arises as big business's supporters try to take these gains off the workers. They are attempting to get a new government which will not hesitate to do this.

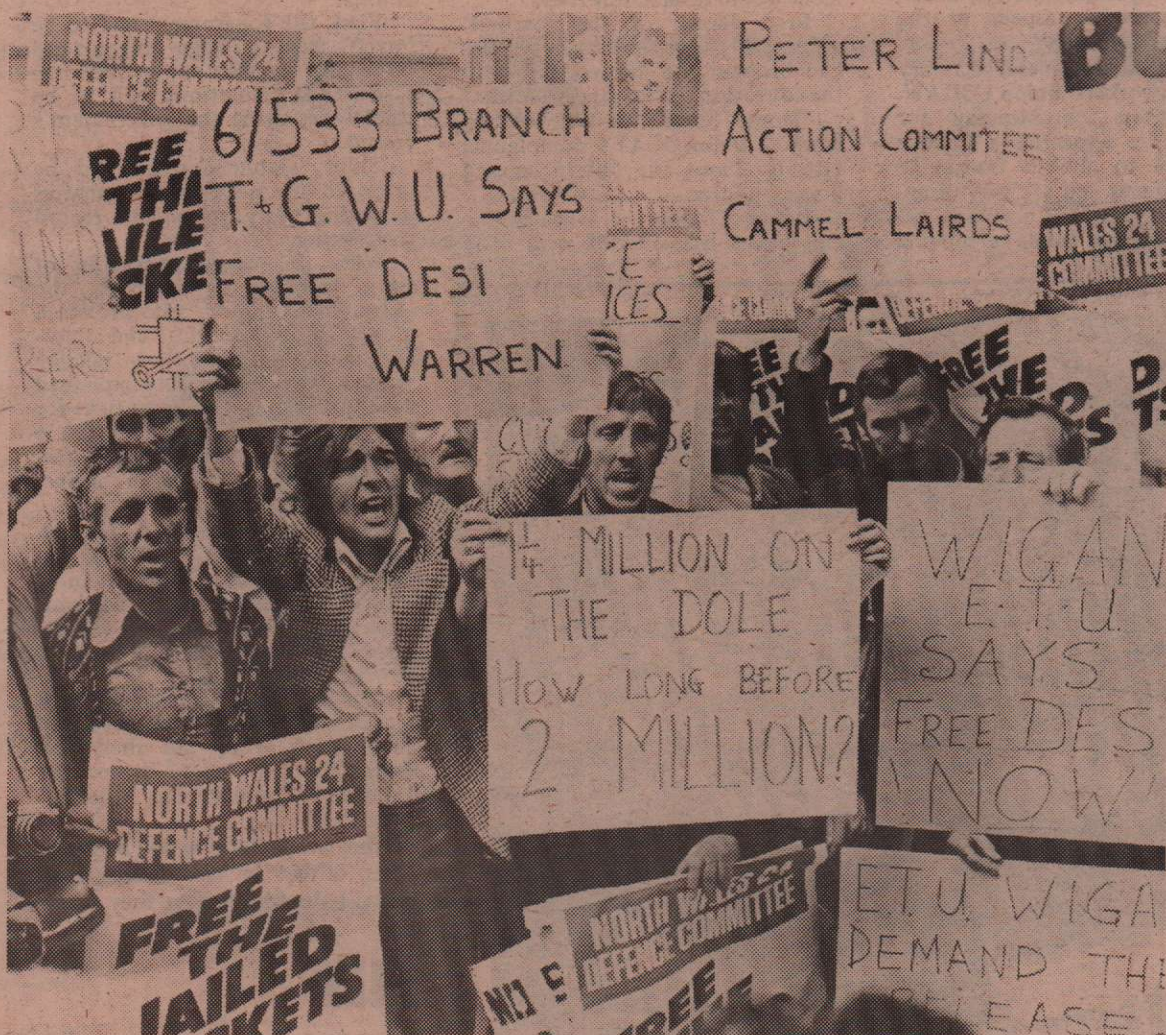
The Socialist Party leader, Mario Soares, has indicated his willingness to do this job. Now they are hoping that the leaders of the Communist Party will help him by accepting a subordinate role in the government.

Soares has already indicated what he wants this government to do—to take from the workers the Radio Station Renascenca and hand it back to the right-wing bishops, to give the newspaper Republica back to its proprietor, and to disarm the workers.

The British press will pretend that such actions involve a 'defence of democracy'. As if somehow it is democratic that radio stations are controlled by bishops that used to support fascist dictator Caetano, that the press is run by non-elected newspaper proprietors, that a monopoly of armed force lies with generals who began their climb to power by implementing the commands of a fascist government.

Trade unionists in Britain need to show solidarity with our Portuguese brothers and sisters—and that means solidarity with those who, resisting the demands of Soares, fight to prevent the reimposition of the untrammelled power of big business.

That is why we ask every Socialist Worker reader to support the demonstration of solidarity with the Portuguese working class in London next Saturday, and to support the struggle for socialism in Portugal through the Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund.



Rank and file building workers who picketed the Trades Union Congress last week. The failure of the TUC to take any action over the cuts, unemployment or the continued imprisonment of Shrewsbury picket Des Warren shows the need for a growing campaign of rank and file action in the months ahead.

PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

Fund prints pamphlet for airline workers

THE Socialist Worker printshop completed an unusual job last week. It typeset and printed 4500 copies of a pamphlet in Portuguese for the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat in Portugal, the PRP.

The pamphlet is a history of the struggle of the workers of the Portuguese airline, TAP, over the past two years.

The pamphlet will clearly be a contribution to the building of the movement for workers' councils. But the materials and the cost of producing finished copies for Portugal have to be paid for.

It is precisely for such purposes that we run our Portuguese Solidarity Fund. It enables supporters

of Socialist Worker in Britain to aid directly the struggle for workers' power in Portugal.

Already many of our readers are showing that they understand the need to give such aid. No doubt many more would if they were approached with the special printed collection sheets available from the Fund.

This week our solidarity fund raised £221.95.

'Congratulations and thanks for doing what the media and press miserably failed to do—present a fair picture of Portugal today. I am 62 and semi-retired, I cannot really use your leaflets etc,' said the letter—but K Harding sent us a cheque for

£50 anyway.

Other contributions have come from: Aberdeen IS £25, Southwark IS £10, Stirling IS £2, Dundee £6.70, Leeds University £3.50, East London £4.50, Heinz factory workers and N W London Portugal meeting £25. Badges and posters £33.80, and many individual donations.

Another £200 went into the fund from the bankers' orders now being regularly paid in each month.



Donations should be sent to the Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, E2. Posters and badges are obtainable, by post, from the same address or from any IS bookshop.



UMA LUTA CALUNIADA UM ANO DEPOIS

The cover of the pamphlet

Paul Foot's TUC Notebook

YOU KNOW LABOUR



Women speakers at the Congress (from left): Brenda Dean (SOGAT), Terry Marsland (Tobacco Workers), Rita Donaghy (NALGO) and Jeannie Drake (CPSA)

THE BEST THING about the Congress this year was the impact of the women's movement. When I first attended a TUC (as a delegate) in 1967, the only woman delegate under 90 to reach the rostrum was greeted with shouts of 'Telephone Number' (guffaws and sniggers all round).

This is beginning to change (in spite of a mass walk-out for coffee before the Working Women's Charter debate on Tuesday). The overwhelming vote for abortion on demand followed a series of powerful speeches—notably from Terry Marsland of the Tobacco Workers Union.

In the debate on the Working Women's Charter, which was voted down with the help of the two big general unions, many of the women speakers for the first and only time in the week had a go

Women leave their mark

at the General Council.

Brenda Dean, of SOGAT, said the General Council were 'damned good at talking, but not so good at getting on with the job'. Rita Donaghy, of NALGO, accused the General Council of paying 'lip-service' to the fight for women's equality.

Jeannie Drake, of CPSA, said the TUC's Charter for women showed an 'acceptance of

traditional attitudes' towards 'women's responsibility for children and old people'.

These fine speeches, and many others like them through the week, earned for the first time a respect for the women's struggle (instead of the patronage which it has received up to now) and, in the abortion debate, the best result of the Congress.

No one should get carried away, however. Congress is still deeply masculine. The worst example I could find of the male domination was the Confederation of Health Service Employees, which has 143,479 members—of whom 101,059 are women. The union's delegation of 11 were all men, and almost all over 50.

GOVERNMENT DOESN'T WORK...

A SINGLE contradiction dominated every discussion at Blackpool's TUC.

Jack Jones summed up his and Len Murray's case for the £6 wage freeze with the words:

'The most important lesson we have learnt is that at all costs we must keep a Labour government.'

Or, as Len Murray put it: 'Either you trust this government or you don't.'

Congress trusted. They accepted the only argument put up in favour

of the £6 limit: that it was proposed by the Labour government.

Most of the rest of the time was taken up with senior trade union officials complaining bitterly about every conceivable aspect of the government's policies.

Lord Alf Allen, general secretary of the shopworkers' union USDAW, told Congress on Monday for instance: 'We expected a Labour government to abolish fee-paying [staff] agencies and are very disappointed that they have not done so.'

Hugh Scanlon made a moving

speech about teenage unemployment, pointing out that it had tripled since last year: 'We hoped,' he said sadly, 'that a Labour government would reverse this trend.'

Fred Jarvis, of the teachers' union, said the government's policies had brought the 'biggest threat to the education service since the war.'

George Smith, of the building workers' union UCATT, complained bitterly about the fall in council house building.

Bernard Dix of the public employees' union NUPE, said: 'The

proposed public expenditure cuts are taking pounds out of your pocket.'

What was going to be done about all this?

First, the government had to be 'saved' with a wage freeze (and more cuts in public expenditure).

Second, resolutions had to be passed deploring the government's record.

Third, resolutions had to be prepared for next year's Congress deploring the government's record still further.

With the single exception of Dave Bowman, of the NUR, the railwaymen's union, who promised a campaign of political and industrial action against cuts in railway services, not one delegate explained how the TUC was going to fight for full employment, more houses, a decent health service, against fee-paying agencies or even against dangerous tricycles.

The teachers' union motion on the education service called on the General Council 'to take action to ensure' a whole number of reforms. Not one speaker in the debate mentioned what action, when and how.

It is all a ritual. The speakers are well-briefed with all the necessary information. They put their case forcefully—and leave it to the General Council to 'lobby' accordingly.

They know nothing will be done. After a day or two listening to them, I doubt whether they really care.



MORE WAS spent on junkets this year than ever before. The official union junket used to be the exception. Now it is the rule. The pace was set, as always, by the lavish ASTMS cocktail party, and this year the EPTU and NALGO were generally reckoned to run ASTMS a close second for splendour and for quantity.

SOGAT, which previously refused on principle to spend its members' money on junkets, joined in this year with an expensive 'do'.

The only guests invited to all these parties, by the way, are the industrial correspondents who showed their gratitude in advance with a lavish party for general secretaries and assorted parasites on the Saturday before the conference started.



DELEGATES from the Dyers and Bleachers Union were seen passing copies of the Morning Star on Wednesday among themselves and laughing heartily. Their general secretary Dyson was described in that paper as a 'progressive candidate' who had been elected to the

General Council.

Dyson, it needs to be said, presided over the savage victimisation of Dave Hallsworth at the Intex factory in Ashton-under-Lyne last Christmas, and has also collaborated in the victimisation of Claude Lavender, another militant.

As his fellow-delegates realised, Dyson is no more progressive than his predecessor, Jack Peel, who now works for the Common Market Commission at £9000 a year.

White-collar militants

ONE ENCOURAGING aspect of a gloomy week was the rapid rise in militancy among white-collar unions. These had, in general, much younger and more militant delegations than the traditional manual unions. Their delegations were much more 'difficult to handle' for their exasperated general secretaries.

Few of the younger delegates get to the rostrum, of course. But their impact shows itself in the speeches of their general secretaries.

Bill Kendall, of the CPSA, for instance, described the £6 freeze policy as 'saving capitalism by inches from itself' (this is believed to be the first time for 20 years that Bill has used the word 'capitalism' in public).

And the only man to have the guts to attack Jack Jones in the open was Gerry Gillman of the Society of Civil Servants, the union which seemed to line up with the left on every issue.

Gillman quoted Jack Jones saying in 1973 that wage restrictions are 'characteristic of a fascist society and intolerable to our members'.

Policeman Marie

CONGRESS was united on one point: the chairman, Marie Paterson, was terrible. Inflexible, arrogant, even reliant on the police.

The Socialist Worker bulletin for Thursday printed the following poem about Marie's refusal to take a card vote on the £6 limit. 'Card vote! Card vote!' they shouted loud.

But Marie did not hear the crowd. And so the world will never know How many 'wreckers' voted No. 'Sit down!' she shouted, 'at the back! 'We really mustn't upset Jack. 'And if this nonsense doesn't cease 'I'll have to summon the police!'



Former SOGAT general secretary Vincent Flynn addressing the Socialist Worker meeting during the Congress

Socialist Worker was here!

EVERYONE seemed to agree that Socialist Worker made an impact on the Congress—not just through consistent arguing and prodding by socialist delegates, but also through intervention from outside.

Socialist Worker bulletins were handed out every morning. They contained comment and guidance to delegates, and also news and gossip about the previous day's (and night's) goings-on. On the first day, delegates were reluctant to take the bulletin. 'There's too much bumph already' one said.

But by Wednesday and Thursday they came looking for it.

Our public meeting attracted nearly 70 people, about half of them delegates. It was very hot—but everyone stayed on to take part in the discussion. Many will remember the meeting for Vincent Flynn's references to Good Lordman, the well-known newspaper proprietor.

Socialist Worker also sold well. On Monday, more than 70 copies of the previous week's issue was sold,

and on Thursday and Friday a total of 105 copies were sold.

The attack on Jack Jones in one issue was denounced from the rostrum by Harry Smith, editor of TASS journal and a member of the Communist Party. 'On a day when he is blackguarded in a certain newspaper on sale outside, my union wants to pay tribute to the humanity and dedication of Jack Jones,' he drooled.

Our intervention shows how important it is for all our members to take the unions seriously and to fight for arguments and positions on delegations within them. If we get 20 delegates next year we can make twice as big an impact. If we have 100—and why not?—the old fogeys won't know what hit them.

To all the comrades who came to Blackpool from Manchester and Lancaster to sell papers and help arrange meetings, and especially to the few, but dedicated members in Blackpool who stayed up most of the nights to help produce the bulletins: thanks, and we'll do even better next time.

PICTURES: Chris Davies (Report)

Socialist Worker
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Introducing the greedy miner and the needy Queen

SO THIS IS THE SOCIAL CONTRACT...

Great victory for the shirking class

"I'M GREEDY"

"I'M NEEDY"

This is Northern Ireland

INSIDE: THE CUTS STOP THE SACKINGS

Socialist Worker
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

IMPERIAL TYPERWRITER CO. LTD. A DIVISION OF LITTON INDUSTRIES

OCCUPATION!

Stop the sackings

8 MARCH All out on Rank and File demonstrations to Free the Two!

Socialist Worker
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

TO HELL WITH SACRIFICE!

APRIL'S DOCK STAFF STEWARDS COMMITTEE

CRISIS

PRICE INCREASE

Socialist Worker
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

The Government's Anti-Inflation programme came into full effect on August 1st.

It is a total fraud.

It is a wage cut.

Prices will go on rising.

Unemployment will go up and up.

If you earn £8,500 a year, or if you have shares or dividends, don't worry.

For more details about what you can do about it ring 01-739 1878 and join the International Socialists.

A workers' paper for a workers' party

THE British economy is heading into a nose-dive.

Up to a few weeks ago, it looked as though the world-wide crisis of capitalism would right itself for a small recovery. This is no longer certain. Prolonged recession and slump now seems more likely. People talk quite openly of two million unemployed next year. Rising prices, cuts and low wages open out dreadful prospects for the British working class.

The Labour government is ruthlessly pursuing the capitalist solution to the crisis.

The central pledge of Labour—that they would not use mass unemployment to curb inflation—is already broken. The idea in many workers' minds that the Labour Party stands for 'something different' will be rapidly eroded.

Open, organised opposition to Labour is the only strategy for socialists.

We have to speak out clearly for every worker who is enraged by Labour's policies.

The Labour Lefts are totally incapable of organising such opposition.

What credibility can Benn or Foot have with their attacks on unemployment—when they are members of a government which is permitting the biggest unemployment for 40 years? The Tribune Left and the Communist Party are mesmerised by the trade union leadership. The other socialist groupings are scattering to the right, sniffing around Labour's backside.

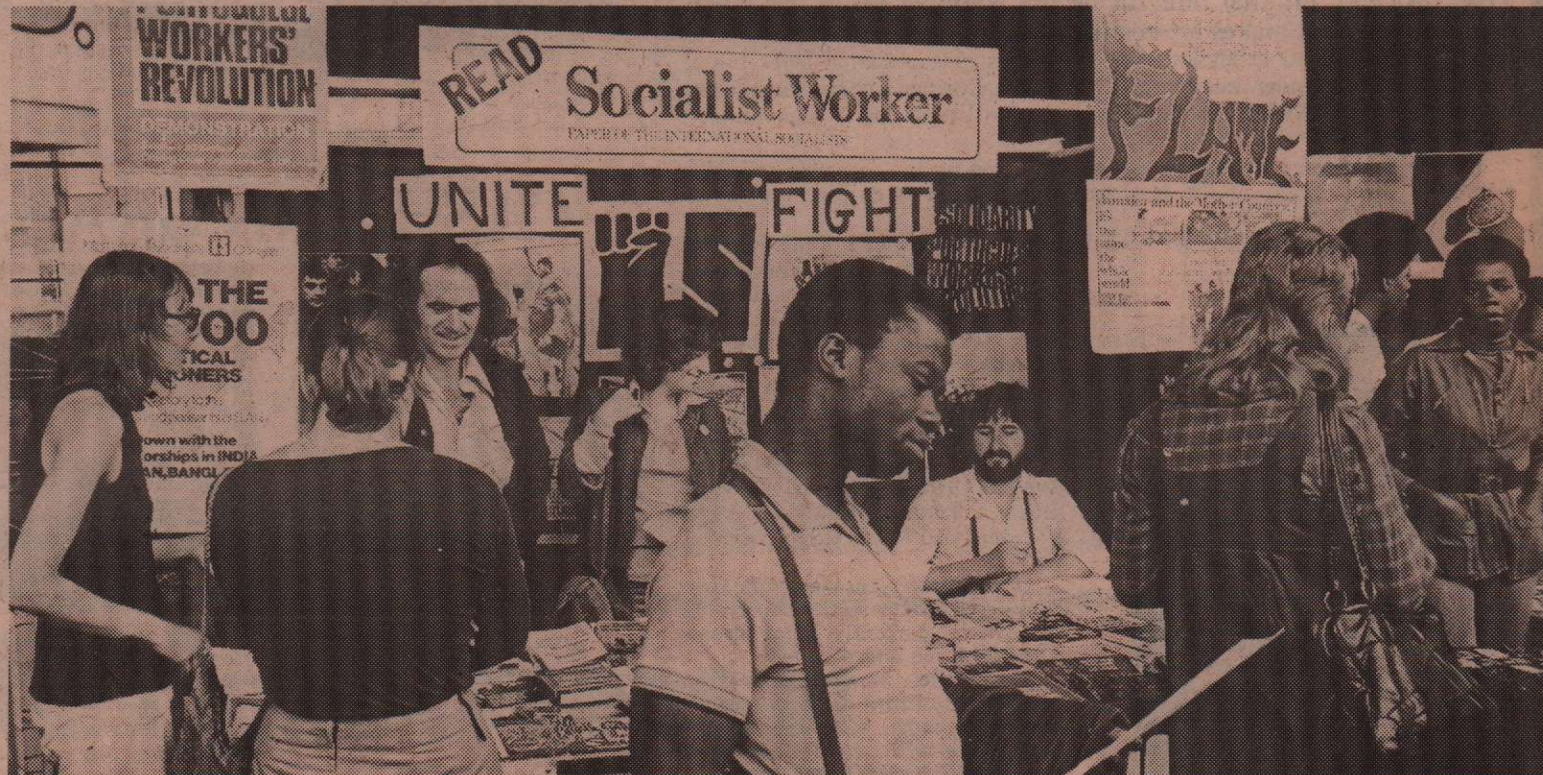
The overwhelming need is for a strong, socialist shop floor-based party which can fight against the Labour government's policies.

As the chairman of a Labour Party young socialist branch wrote in last week's Socialist Worker: 'There is no organisation strong enough to offer an effective and viable alternative to the Labour Party but the embryo of such an organisation does exist around Socialist Worker.' How can we ensure that that embryo grows healthy and powerful?

Socialist Worker has more influence in the working class than have the International Socialists.

This was summed up recently by a West Country worker who said: 'I'd like to join the Socialist Worker, but not the International Socialists.' Because Socialist Worker looks outwards, because it tries to persuade all workers on the shop floor, it can become a powerful organiser.

Socialist Worker is the key to building



Just one idea for using Socialist Worker... At the Notting Hill West Indian Carnival two weeks ago, Socialist Worker supporters in the area set up a stall, posted up the two-page spread on the West Indies, and laid out a lot of other socialist literature into the bargain. More than 200 papers were sold at the carnival—and the stall was a centre of political argument for two full days.

THIS weekend the Party Council of the International Socialists met in London. Discussions covered the main issues facing the British working class. Unemployment and how to fight it, building the rank and file movement, the fight against the public spending cuts, Ireland and Portugal. In coming weeks, we will be reporting on the discussions and decisions.

The most important discussion, however, concerned the future of our organisation and the need to build a powerful socialist party.

the new socialist party.

Success in building the party depends upon the extent to which we can expand the sales and influence of Socialist Worker, and organise the thousands of workers who read and agree with the paper.

Socialist Worker is sold mainly in factories and workplaces. That's how it should be—but we've also got to spread the sale to people who don't work alongside us, people in other workplaces or people in the street.

The economic crisis has generalised political argument. A few years ago, socialists needed to know the specifics about the factory floor fight—the details of productivity deals and so on. Now each struggle comes back to the general issue: the nature of capitalism and the socialist alternative.

In this situation, sales to the general public are more important than ever.

Street-selling should not be passive. Several delegates complained that the selling of the paper on the streets lacked the aggressiveness and vigour of a year or two ago. The slogans and politics of the paper have to be shouted out loud.

Other ways of selling to the general public have proved very successful: stalls in the market-place often encourage people to stay and argue; many bookshops and magazine shops will sell Socialist Worker. In Glasgow, one comrade sells 70 papers in 12 different newsagents.

During the next week every branch and every district must arrange general meetings whose single purpose is to re-organise Socialist Worker sales to achieve in the shortest possible time the target of ten Socialist Worker sales per member.

There is another target, just as crucial. The worker-readers of Socialist Worker must be organised. Socialist Worker support-

ers' cards must go to every worker who agrees to pay a minimum of 10p a week to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund. If he or she pays the money, buys and sells the paper, argues for socialist ideas at the place of work, he or she is already a member of a socialist party.

Branches and districts must aim for one Socialist Worker supporter for every IS member.

Over the next two months, Socialist Worker will be reporting week by week on how our readers and supporters are selling the paper and organising themselves. Every success, every initiative from anywhere in the country needs to be reported to us. If we share our experiences—our successes and our failure—we will build faster.

I want to be a Socialist Worker supporter

Name _____

Address _____

Fill in Cut out Send to
SOCIALIST WORKER SUPPORTERS
8 Cottons Gardens
London E2 8DN

PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

by DUNCAN HALLAS

'MY FATHER was in considerable doubt as to how the Socialist leaders would conduct themselves towards him

'Many of them, in their youth, had publicly scoffed at the Monarchy...

'Fortunately, Mr MacDonald proved to be a reasonable man; the new Prime Minister and his Cabinet in due course made their debut at Court colourfully clad in the uniforms of Ministers of the Crown—a blue gold-braided tail-coat and white knee-breeches with sword—a courtesy that went far to reassure my father.'

Keynote

That is the then Prince of Wales writing of the first Labour government (1924) and he pointed to the keynote of that government—reassurance.

The Left MPs

Not reassurance to Labour voters; reassurance to the ruling classes

'We must show that Labour is fit to govern,' said MacDonald. 'We must show the country that we are not under the influence of the wild men,' said Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Snowden.

They were not. The short and inglorious tenure of the first Labour administration is remembered chiefly for the decision to prosecute the editor of the Communist Party's Workers' Weekly for sedition.

But now there was a Labour left in

existence. Since 1918, the party had been nominally committed to socialism. The famous Clause Four of the 1918 constitution, defined the object of the party as 'To secure for the producers by hand and by brain the full fruits of their industry, and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible on the basis of the common ownership of the means of production and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry and service.'

Adopted under the impact of war and revolution—and proposed by the arch-Fabian

Sidney Webb—this declaration became the talisman of the Labour lefts. Indeed it still is.

Strongly dissatisfied with the 1924 government, the lefts did not seriously reconsider the viability of a purely electoral and parliamentary road to socialism.

Resolution

After all, the government had not had an overall majority in parliament and it had not been bound by a clear programme. These defects could be remedied by getting more votes and by committing the party, by conference resolution, to socialist policies—or so the lefts reasoned.

And so these men and women devoted immense time and effort to the twin tasks of building an electoral machine and pressing left-wing motions at conferences.

They had some success, these left-wingers of the Twenties, in both objectives.

By 1927, Mr MacDonald (in opposition of course) was assuring the annual conference that the next Labour government would be 'a government that had Socialism constantly before its eyes'.

That government came into office in 1929, along with the world slump, the long predicted crisis of capitalism.

Turned

The Labour ministers, as a witty right-winger said, behaved 'like a Salvation Army band which turned out with banners flying for the Judgement Day, but when the first rumble of the approaching cataclysm was heard, turned in disarray and fled'.

From 1929, till its collapse in 1931, the second Labour government pursued the most orthodox, right-wing, capitalist policies.

It did so, notwithstanding the passage of no end of critical resolutions and demands for socialist policies at successive party conferences.

What conclusions did the Labour lefts draw from this experience? That MacDonald, Snowden and Thomas were traitors.

The right-wing, especially the ex-cabinet ministers, were happy to concur. The resolution-mongering got under way again. The party swung left, as so often when in opposition.

The man who was to be the next Labour prime minister, C R Attlee, proclaimed in 1936: 'The moment to strike at capitalism is the moment when the government is freshly elected and assured of its support.'

'The blow struck must be a fatal one and not merely designed to wound and turn a sullen and obstructive opponent into an active and deadly enemy'.

Helped

Clement Attlee headed the first Labour government (1945-51) but it never got round to striking the fatal blow against capitalism.

Instead, it helped to put British capitalism on its feet again after the war, sent troops to crush a left-wing revolt in Greece, took Britain into NATO and energetically waged the cold war with a massive 'rearmament' programme and a British division in Korea.

Of course, a new left wing arose—the Bevanites. They did not find it so easy to win party conferences for left wing resolutions.

During the long boom of the Fifties, the right wing under Gaitskell was riding high, backed by the block votes of the big unions.

These were the years when Mr Crosland was assuring party members that capitalism had permanently solved its economic problems, that indeed it was no longer really capitalism at all.

However, the lefts struggled on and, in due time, their labours were rewarded. Gaitskell died and was replaced by Harold Wilson—the candidate of the left, as Clement Attlee had been before him (and indeed Ramsay MacDonald before him).

Important trade union leaders began to see advantage in a little verbal leftism and so socialist policies came back into vogue at party conference. The rest of the story is too recent to be worth retelling.

Yet still, like blue-bottles buzzing against a window pane, the lefts pursue their revolutionary course.

5 FIFTH COLUMN



NF: The biggest racist joke of all

THE LATEST internal bulletin of the National Front has fallen into our hands. It makes interesting reading.

Listed are the 40 candidates for the nine-strong National Directorate. Among them is founder member and Norfolk landowner Andrew Fountaine, now back in the fold after failing to turn the Front into a para-military organisation.

Fountaine has never been the same since being on the receiving end of a Kamikaze dive-bomber in the last war. He sports a large piece of metal where his brain used to be.

Two interesting candidates are Richard Edmonds, described in the bulletin as 'the former Tulse Hill school teacher' and Neil Farnell, secretary of the Front's trade union organisation (Brentford and Isleworth branch).

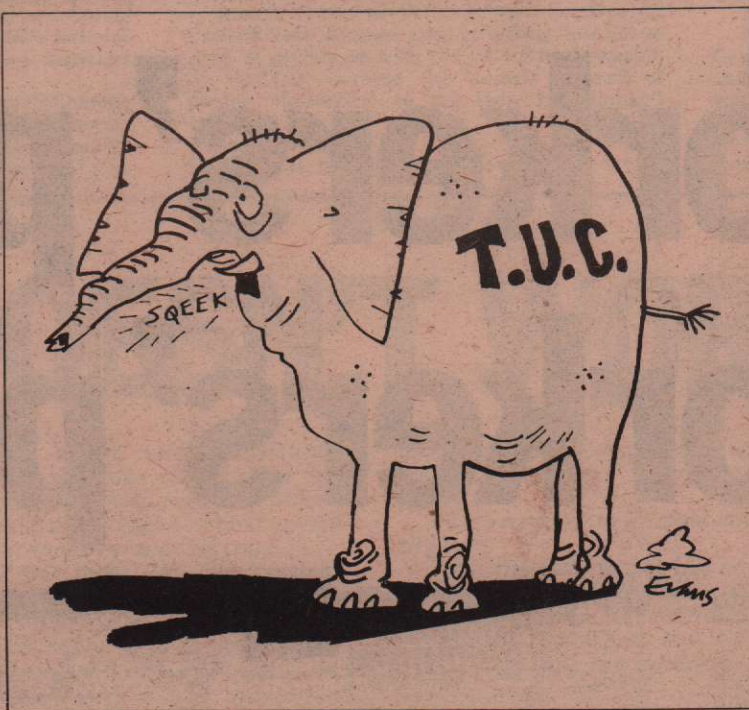
Other Front trade union organisers seeking high office are Thomas Finnegan, holder of the 'NF Gold Badge' (address: 42 West Avenue, Castle Bromwich, Warwickshire), and John Fairhurst (address: 62 Longmead Road, Hayes, Middlesex).

Of the better-known candidates, Kingsley Read boasts the impeccable credentials 'currently being prosecuted by Race Board'.

Meanwhile, according to the bulletin, the Front are producing a new lapel badge with the words *I Am a Racist* to follow their 'popular' *NF Rules OK* masterpiece.

Also in the pipeline is a racist joke-book. Contributions should be addressed 'to The Joke Book Editor at Head Office'.

Socialist Worker readers who prefer jokes at the expense of racists can pass them on by phoning the National Front (01-684 3730) or by writing to them at 50 Pawsons Road, Croydon, Surrey.



CASH AND GRAB...

GUESS where hundreds of City stockbrokers are spending their holidays this year? Would you believe Portugal?

There is, of course, a simple explanation. Portugal's parasites, fearing for their cash, have been getting it out of the country in enormous quantities and changing it into pounds and Deutschmarks.

Hence British banks are stuffed full of 10,000 escudo notes. And to get rid of them they are offering an exchange rate of 82 escudos to the £—rather better than the standard 55 to the £ you or I would get on small denomination notes.

Enter the parasites of the City of London. They can afford large quantities of 10,000 escudo notes, especially at such a tempting cut-price rate.

So they're buying them up, spending a relaxing fortnight or two on the Algarve, and returning with their escudos safely

EUROPEAN football's top brass discuss today whether England's European Championship match against Portugal can go on in the politically troubled capital of Lisbon on November 19. There is a possibility of the match being moved outside Portugal, perhaps to a neutral, but climatically similar venue in Spain.

—Daily Mail, 3 September

bundled up in small denominations to be sold back at the standard rate.

That way they don't merely get a cheap holiday—they get it free, if they buy and sell shrewdly. And that, after all, is what they're in business for.

An interesting one-day seminar is being held at London's Hilton Hotel next Tuesday. It's called Unauthorised Squatters and Sit-ins, is organised by Legal Studies and Services Ltd and costs a mere £46.44 a head. Trade unionists and socialists are not being invited.

We are the taskmasters now...

WE ARE the masters now, said Hartley Shawcross on joining the 1945 Labour government. Fortunately for the ruling class, it was another empty Labour slogan.

These days, Baron Shawcross of Friston, as he is now known, finds people—even 'humblest' workers—worried about Britain. His solutions to the crisis can be found in this month's *Encounter*, the magazine once funded by the CIA.

Predictably, Shawcross hankers after 'patriotic' policies. He avoids the 'dirty word' coalition for jargon about 'consensus'. After all, he says, right-wing 'men of goodwill' worked together in the Common Market Referendum.

The noble Lord—non-elected, by the way—does not like the voting system. It should be changed to help Tories and Liberals more. 'Electoral reform' (fancy words again) would lead to 'stable govern-

ment'.

Shawcross also wants to tinker with the unions. He urges free postal voting for major trade union matters. 'That would produce democracy in the trade unions'.

But Shawcross, like his cronies, does not want REAL democracy, as his article makes clear. He talks of 'industrial democracy' in news-

papers—and is horrified that editors might one day be accountable to 'van drivers, print workers, journalists, and other trade unionists'.

Soon, dear Baron, workers will revolt against capitalism's sham democracy. Their slogan could then be: *WE are the masters now*.

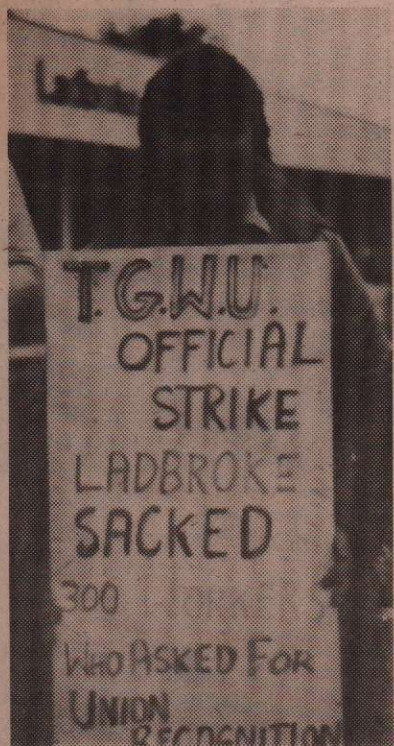
Unlike you, in 1945, they would mean it.

DAVID BUNCH

YOU WERE SAYING?

I believe that the government are right to abandon the market economy approach. I believe that they must protect the public and the State against the blind brutality of the so-called laws of supply and demand. A 20th century economic machine cannot be run smoothly with Selsdon Man in the driving seat. That way lies not a socialist society but the corporate state of Hitler and Mussolini.

—Denis Healey in the House of Commons, 7 March 1973, when unemployment stood at 717,669, slightly more than half its present level.



THIS MAN, photographed picketing Caister holiday camp in Norfolk, is one of 300 sacked by Ladbroke's in Glasgow for seeking trade union recognition. Ladbroke's own the holiday camp—and a massive betting empire.

In the midst of this bitter 12-week battle, Ladbroke's have coolly stuck two fingers up to him and his mates.

They have announced a rights issue. If you hold 60 shares in the firm, you will be able to buy another 60. If you have 6000, you'll be able to get another 6000. And so on.

The price of these shares is 10p. The price of Ladbroke's shares on the Stock Exchange is 175p. Since the rights issue totals 23 million shares, Ladbroke's are giving their shareholders £19.12 million for nothing.

Meanwhile, back on the picket line, 300 men are fighting for their jobs...

ALAN DENEAN

TREATY GIVES ISRAEL 'LICENCE TO SEIZE LAND'

RIGHT: Israeli settlements established in the occupied territories since the 1967 war. There are 51, on land from which Palestinians were driven by force.



THE Middle East treaty which Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, has taken back in triumph to Washington is called a 'peace agreement'. It is nothing of the kind.

It is an agreement which licenses the Israeli government to continue its colonisation of Arab lands, and to wage future wars against the Arab people.

The Times 28 August, recorded a crucial part of the agreement:

'Dr Kissinger told Israeli leaders that the United States will not exert pressure on them to disband any of

the Golan settlements in an interim agreement. The Israelis are also confident that no pressure will be exerted to prevent continued building of settlements in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Northern Sinai.'

Ever since the June war of 1967 in which the Israelis by force of arms conquered hundreds of thousands of square miles of Arab territory, the Israeli government has sponsored a massive settlement programme in the occupied territories.

There are now 50 such settlements. More than 20,000 Israelis are living in them. They have been encouraged there with the help of interest-free loans on houses prefabricated in the

Israeli capital, Tel Aviv.

Many of these settlements have been carried out by the forcible expulsion of Arab tribesmen and villagers. In 1972, for instance, 6000 Bedouin were thrown out of land in the Rafah approaches, south-west of the Gaza strip.

This expulsion was ruled illegal by an official inquiry in Israel—but the government took no notice. In 1973 and 1974, it stepped up its programme of colonisation, intending to populate huge areas with Israelis so that the Arabs will never be able to claim them back.

TRACT

None of these settlements have been handed back in the Kissinger agreement. In exchange for a tract of rock and sand about five miles wide, Kissinger and Egypt's President Sadat have given the go-ahead for further mass expulsions and seizure of land by the Israelis all over Golan, the West Bank and Sinai.

The settlement also gives a green light to the war preparations of the Israeli government. Arms deals between American arms manufacturers and the Israeli government, which were restricted during the negotiations, are now encouraged by the American State Department.

The Israeli government is staking everything on an all-out victory in yet another Middle East war. The Kissinger agreement neutralises Israel's most powerful adversary, Egypt.

If Egypt keeps out of a future war, the Israeli forces will direct their full fire power on Syria, Jordan, and especially Lebanon, where the fertile land south of the Litani River has always tempted Zionist imperialism.

The 'Palestinian problem' will then be 'solved'—by conquest of the remaining land occupied by the Palestinians and the wartime removal of them and their camps.

How and why has Sadat agreed to this shameful settlement?

The Daily Telegraph last Friday gave the answer: 'A secret provision of the agreement . . . will provide President Sadat with about one billion dollars of extra aid.'

EAGER

In the same article, 'an Egyptian diplomat' was quoted as saying: 'We are sure many foreign firms will now be eager to invest in our country.'

With massive bribes, Kissinger has won Sadat to the idea of 'American influence' over Egypt. In return, Sadat is prepared to sell the future of the Arab people all over the Middle East. He need not imagine that the holocaust, when started, will pass his country by. A victorious Israeli army in Damascus, Tyre and Amman will soon turn its insatiable attention to Cairo.

The consequences of such Israeli victories were ably summed up by the courageous Israeli fighter against Zionism, Israel Shahak, who told two interviewers for the Journal of Palestinian studies last spring:

'If the next war ends with a great victory, then I am not afraid to say that we will become Nazified. We will become to Arabs like Nazi Germany was to the Slavic people, and to Palestinians like it was to the Jewish people . . .'

That is the reality of the Kissinger/Sadat agreement. That is why British socialists have to throw their full support behind the workers and students in Egypt who are calling for the overthrow of the Sadat government and the immediate repudiation of its secret treaties with American imperialism.



Palestinian children in one of the refugee camps over the border in Lebanon

Portugal: The right creeps in

THE right wing is again on the offensive in Portugal.

Vasco Goncalves has been replaced as prime minister by Pinheiro de Azevedo, a so-called moderate, and the right wing have been able to consolidate their hold over the leadership of the armed forces by blocking the appointment of Goncalves as chief of staff.

Yet only a few days earlier the strength of the left had been shown by a massive, united demonstration outside the presidential palace at Belem. That demonstration had been called by the United Front of the Communist Party and the revolutionary left. After the demonstration the Communist Party broke with the

United Front.

The Communist Party had been trying to ride three horses at once. Because of pressure from their own rank and file, they had formed a temporary alliance with the organisations of the revolutionary left. They were trying to keep Goncalves in office. At the same time they were trying to do a deal with the Socialist Party.

Ousted

Now the alliance with the revolutionary left lies shattered and Goncalves has been ousted. All that remains are negotiations with the right wing Socialist Party leaders.

The right wing has used the opportunity to full advantage. Mario Soares has made his position clear concerning any involvement in a new government. He is insisting that the workers' controlled radio station, Renascenca and the worker controlled paper, Republica, be handed back to their old proprietors—respectively the reactionary bishops of the Catholic Church and his own friend Rego.

But his most important demand is that the revolutionary left and the sections of the working class who have arms must be disarmed. The disarming of the working class in the present situation would leave the way open for another Chile.

Soares' call for the disarming of the left is virtually an open call for civil war against the most militant sections of workers. Commenting on it, the new prime minister, Azevedo, said he would need 40,000 armed men to do this.

Signs

The right-wing PPD in the northern city of Oporto held its biggest demonstration so far last week, when almost 50,000 people marched through the streets. Its leader said in response to the demand for the disarming of the left that he had 50,000 armed men ready to do just that.

All the signs are that the new government to be headed by Pinheiro de Azevedo will be more to the right than any in the past year. The talks about its composition have involved not only the Communist Party and the Socialist Party, but also the PPD and the ultra-right CDS, which is headed by former supporters of Salazar and Caetano.

The responsibility for the right-wing shift lies with the Communist Party. It is important that the revolutionary organisations build on the still genuine feeling among many workers, including many of those in the Communist Party, for the United Front. Any right-wing government in Portugal will still find it difficult to halt the revolution and bring the working class to heel.

FORWARD! CALL TO PRP'S 2000

THE Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP), the Portuguese socialist organisation with fraternal links with Socialist Worker, held a 2000-strong meeting in the Lisbon Sports Pavillion last week. Isabel do Carmo, editor of the party's paper, Revolucao, called on sympathisers of the PRP to step up their activity in workers' committees, tenants' committees and Revolutionary Workers' Councils.

'The only way to achieve socialism and stop a coup is by building in the working class,' she said.

Carlos Antunes, of the PRP's political committee, said: 'It is not in the military-political leadership that the problems of this country will be solved, but in the working class. We are convinced

that only the masses have an effectively superior force to that of the counter-revolution.

'The game which is being played in Portugal involves the destiny of European capitalism. If the working class does not fully understand the problems, then imperialism will intervene directly. The PRP will only use force if the working class is organised for struggle.'

A militant of the PRP spoke to Socialist Worker after the meeting. 'The meeting was important because it was an appeal to step up our work,' she said. 'It was also important because we are getting to the position where we have enough strength to get more deeply into working-class organisations, to fight for our positions and to strengthen those organisations.'

From Robin Ellis in Lisbon

TWO YEARS AFTER COUP, A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

**PORTUGAL:
THE
STRUGGLE
FOR
WORKERS'
POWER**

Socialist Worker public meetings, with speakers just returned from Portugal.

TEESSIDE: Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Cleveland Hotel, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday 11 September, 8pm, Lord Morrison Hall, Chesnut Grove, Chesnut Road, N17.

INNER WEST LONDON: Sunday 14 September, 5pm, Luncheon Club, Ladbroke Grove.

EAST LONDON: Wednesday 17 September, 8pm, Princess Alice, Forest Gate.

CHELMSFORD: Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Civic Centre.

INNER EAST LONDON: Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Music Library, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (two minutes walk from Bethnal Green tube).

CENTRAL LONDON: Saturday 13 September, 11am-4pm (day school), The Bank, 50 Hampstead Road (by Tolmers Square), NW1.

SWANSEA: Thursday 9 October, 7.30pm, AUEW House, Orchard Street, Swansea.

BLACKBURN: Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Veteran Hotel, Foundry Hill.

SOUTHALL: Thursday 18 September, 7.45pm, Southall Town Hall, Uxbridge Road, Southall.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Saturday 13 September, 2pm, St Augustine Hall, Broadwater Road, near Tooting Broadway, SW17. Followed by a social. See 'What's On'.

CENTRAL LONDON: Friday 19 September, 7pm, Camden Studios, Camden Street (nearest tube, Mornington Crescent). Followed by a social, tickets 50p.

HUDDERSFIELD: Thursday 25 September, 8pm, Fraternity Hall, Alfred Street.

ORMSKIRK: Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Committee Rooms, Civic Hall, Southport Road.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Day school changed to Saturday 13 September, 2-6pm, Charlton House, Charlton Village.

NORTHAMPTON: Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Co-op Hall, Exeter Road.



**SOCIALIST
WORKER
PORTUGAL
SOLIDARITY
FUND**

Help us to raise money for the struggle for socialism by our brothers and sisters in Portugal. We have:

- Collection sheets, for your factory, office, estate.
- Posters, 50p each, including postage.
- Badges (as above) 20p each, including postage.
- Bankers' order forms.

Send your orders and your money to the Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

CIA: A plan for Britain

LONDON, 11 September 1977

THE TIME had finally come for the CIA to act.

Cord Meyer, its London chief, brought the message back after a brief but historic trip to Washington.

The 30-year agreement that all CIA work in Britain required prior approval from British counterparts was at an end.

Unemployment and inflation had paved the way for alarming gains by left-wing militants in the struggle for leadership of the British trade union movement.

During the coming year, we estimated these enemies of NATO, capitalism and the United States would likely gain control of the movement as a whole—unless we stepped in.

Our local friends in liaison services seemed powerless to stem the tide, had not called on us to help. We guess they'll just look the other way.

The day after he got back, Meyer told me I would be in charge of the London station's labour operations because I worked in this activity in Latin America.

Conditions here, he said, are following the Latin American pattern and people at the highest level in Washington want to avoid, if possible, that dilemma between the right wing authoritarian lurch a la Chile or an irretrievable slide leftward.

Expand

No-one's sure if we'll be successful, but they want to make a last try to help 'moderate' trade union leaders and to divide and weaken the left.

My labour operations are only part of the new station programme—we're also going into unilateral propaganda and penetration operations against the left wing political groups.

The wider US policy involves heavy pressure on Common Market leaders, particularly the Germans, to provide emergency credits, expand purchases in Britain and

Philip Agee former CIA agent, on how the CIA would set out to stop Britain moving left

RIGHT: Philip Agee speaking at a recent meeting in London. PICTURE: Andrew Ward (Report)

restrain certain exports to this country.

The main US aid will be massive credits for food purchases together with a quiet appeal for voluntary export restraint.

Many [the US version of Len Murray] will explode if he finds out, but Washington believes it's so bad here that help for creating jobs including even the export of American jobs, may be needed.

My first step, already approved by the Ambassador, is to move over to the Labour Attache's office for better cover.

This will allow me to move in trade union circles and the Labour

Attache himself is going to arrange an intensive programme of luncheons and other meetings to introduce me.

Luckily, I wasn't ever revealed to the local services as a CIA man; otherwise I couldn't get involved in these operations.

Defeat

Meyer promised that we'd get two more case officers, an intelligence assistant and a secretary within three months but meanwhile I've got to forge ahead on the targetting analysis.



Meetings by Philip Agee

MANCHESTER: Monday 16 September, 12 noon, Broad Heath, for workers at Tilghman Wheelabrators, Kearns Richards, Scraggs, Record Engineering and other workers. 2pm, in Eccles for Gardners and other workers, 5.30pm, Trafford Park Industrial Estate. Watch out for local posters with details.

GLASGOW: Tuesday 17 September, 64 Queen Street, C1 (Corporation IS branch). 7.30pm, Community Centre, Cumbernauld (Thames Case). Wednesday 17 September, Paisley Town Hall (Chrysler IS branch). Thursday 18 September, 5pm, 64 Queen Street, C1 (Albion IS branch).

(Other meetings, including Rolls-Royce, CPSA and many more, to be announced).

COVENTRY: Friday 18 September, Lunctime and afternoon factory meetings: details to be announced: Public meeting 7.30pm, Sydney Stringer School, Cox Street (200 yards from Pool Meadow).

like the Soviets work.

In a few critical moments forged, and able to take advantage of the new quarters' new programme to fake them sound like the ordinary bugged conversation.

Given only a few quarters experts can conversation we fake tapes it'll sound like the guy we want to

False

Meyer is getting ambassador to Britain a lot of the money. will be small at first expand if necessary of Britons as

Besides fronting this group can all surfacing false stories and other kinds of

Americans For is what we're going have a non-official officer as 'Executive' and I'll direct him we want to help.

Dividing, weak crediting our enemies not going to be because they're right they say.

But we've got and fear of the comeback on and with propaganda campaign should work here other countries.

By isolating the duce their influence comparable to the

If this doesn't prepared for Meyer's getting an officer going on goon squads to bad guys.

Threatening letting here and there and the word gets

It's sad to have things here. The home.

WHAT WE THINK: Chile is a grim war

IN Chile last Thursday General Pinochet and his fellow torturers staged a 'celebration' for the second anniversary of their coup. For three days the curfew in Santiago was suspended and Pinochet lit an eternal flame in the city centre to commemorate Chilean 'liberty'.

Writing in The Observer on Sunday, journalist Hugh O'Shaughnessy eloquently described that 'liberty'. 'The people of Chile are suffering as never before', he wrote. 'Like the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, terror, hunger, mass unemployment and the big propaganda lie range over the land...'

'One of the relief agencies on Friday showed me sworn evidence from a woman detainee, supported by the sworn medical evidence of a doctor who examined her after her release, which shows how far the treatment had gone...'

'During her first interrogation she was forced to strip completely. She was simultaneously violated anally by a man and sexually attacked by a woman. In her second session she was again made to strip, her legs forced apart and she was subjected to the attentions of a swarm of mice. She was released in a few days with no charge brought against her.'

Overthrow

Or again: 'Prices are continuing to roar ahead, wages are strictly controlled, the unions broken and Chile is in the middle of an enormous slump. Hunger and malnutrition are now affecting hundreds of thousands of Chileans.'

'Since Allende's overthrow the price of bread has risen to 131 times its original price, sugar

164 times and cooking oil 136 times.'

The workers of Chile are our brothers and sisters. For that simple reason Socialist Workers has always fought and fought hard for solidarity with the workers of Chile, solidarity that is needed as much as ever today, two years after coup.

We warmly applaud the efforts of the National Rank and File Organising Committee in helping bring the Cornejo family out of Chile. We congratulate the Hammersmith Hospital branch of Public Employees Union (NUPE) who fought hard to get a job and visa for Pedro Cornejo, ACTSS members at Dillons Bookshop in London who collected money to send to the Cornejo family when they were left without a penny earlier this year, and the Heniz workers who donated food to them now they are here,

... AND OF THE PAST



The Cornejo family in London this week after two years of repression by the junta.
PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

One family free of the junta

RANK AND FILE COMMITTEE SUCCESS

ON MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, Pedro Cornejo, one of the founders of the Chilean National Confederation of Farmworkers and a member of the General Council of the Chilean TUC, was taken out of the Tres Almos concentration camp.

Under military guard he was taken to the airport at Santiago, where he met his wife Maria and their three children, Paula, Pedro, and Camillo Fidel. Together, they boarded the plane for London and some sort of freedom.

At London, the Cornejos were met by a small delegation of trade unionists.

They included Fred Goré, chairman of the joint shop stewards' committee at Heathrow Airport, and other airport stewards, London docks and hospital stewards, and Roger Cox, secretary of the National Rank and File Organising Committee.

That committee, by its patient and persistent work, had got the British government to accept the Cornejos as refugees.

It had sent them money when they were starving, money collected by trade unionists. It arranged to get them out of Chile.

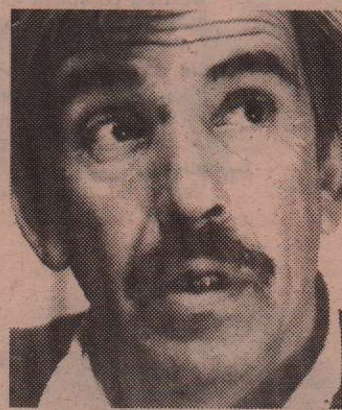
At London's Heathrow airport, Cornejo opened a bottle of wine he bought just before his arrest on 5 October 1973.

He shared it around among his family and his new found friends. Then, when the toasts were drunk, Cornejo explained to the delegation that the wine cost 100 escudos when he bought it.

Two years later, he added, 100 escudos would buy half a box of matches, which gives you some notion of the reality of fascism in Chile, two years old this week.

In an interview with Socialist Worker this week, Pedro told something of his treatment at the hands of the junta.

I felt that I couldn't take asylum after the coup in one or other of the various embassies. I had this blind faith that there would be some res-



Pedro Cornejo at Heathrow Airport after his release
PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

ponse. So I fled my home and continued my work underground.

Then, three weeks later, I thought I could take advantage of a slightly less dangerous situation and go home. I wanted to see my family and get a change of clothes.

But I was seen or someone gave me away. They got me.

After the police station, where I was interrogated again and again, I was taken to the infamous national stadium. I was kept there until 7 November. It was appalling, a shambles. But there was worse to come.

Taken

On 7 November we were taken off to Valparaiso, under heavy military guard.

We were put into the hold of an old nitrate boat. We were sure we would be drowned at sea. Thirty-six hours later they let us up for air. But the men who had been tortured couldn't get up the ladder. From there, we were taken to an abandoned nitrate village and then on again.

We arrived in Chacabuco on 10 November. The camp was appalling: 24 to a hut. The atmosphere was such that there was little oxygen.

With this and the heat, 20 steps would kill you. Inside the camp we got ourselves organised a bit and gave lessons to keep our spirits up.

We got news too. We heard about the British dockers' boycott and the Rolls-Royce blacking.

It was wonderful, and I thank British workers on behalf of all my comrades.

I am grateful to all the brothers and sisters of the Rank and File Organising Committee for the help they've given to us and to Chile and for what they're doing now.

Mario Cornejo heard nothing about the fate of her husband until suddenly, on 4 November,

she received a telegram saying 'bring some clothes, your husband is to be moved'.

Mario Cornejo was left to keep going somehow, to look after the family and help her husband.

She said: 'I worked until August 1974 but then was sacked. The only way to eat was to sell things. I sold everything except two beds.'

'Before long, everyone was having to sell things. You would see poor, desperate people on the street trying to sell a teaspoon.'

The situation in Santiago now is so bad that there are sales everywhere in the shops. After the coup the shops, empty under Allende, suddenly became full. But now even the shopkeepers who helped the fascists are grumbling.'

Pedro Cornejo believes that the worst of the fear and terror in Chile is over. He thinks that what may well happen now is a spontaneous uprising of some sections of the working class, out of sheer starvation and without concerted leadership.

He says: 'The truth is that I have a blind faith in the working class. I know the task is huge and that everything has to be begun from the very beginning again. Sometimes I feel a little demoralised when they arrest one of our leaders who has stayed underground.'

'What matters above all is that we put up a united front to the junta and its backers. We have to rid ourselves of the problem of sectarianism.'

'In Chile now there are functioning resistance committees and leaflets urging opposition are to be found in public places, distributed by one means or another.'

'But we need a single realistic programme. We need to come under the same flag. But there must be no truck with the Christian democrats.'

'They helped bring the junta to power and they, of course, have considerable experience in repression on their own account. Under the Frei government, which came before Allende, our whole family were fugitives.'

'In any case I think that elections are very far away. Besides, I believe that the working class will have to find other ways to arrive in power.'

'But there must be no compromises. Popular Unity was destroyed because of compromises...'

INTERVIEW by Laurie Flynn

... coming to all socialists

Socialist Worker supports all initiatives in solidarity with the workers of Chile. We will work with any and every section of the labour and socialist movement in joint activity to build more and stronger solidarity with Chile.

Terrible

That is one part of our duty. The other is to stress and stress again the grim warning embodied in the terrible defeat of the Chilean working class.

The leaders of the Chilean working class trusted in the parliamentary road to socialism. They set out to take over the existing state, to compromise and cajole their way to socialism. They thought they could peacefully persuade the ruling class to accept more and more reforms.

They even urged the leaders of the army to

join them in that task, and when the generals joined Allende's government, it attacked rank and file soldiers who warned that the officers were preparing a coup.

The role of American big business and the CIA in Chile is testimony to the determination of those with wealth and power to hang on to it.

When it suits them they will cry democracy. When more ruthless measures are needed they will abandon their friends of yesterday and strike with the razor blades of fascism and reaction.

Fortunately their victory is not guaranteed. If the working-class movement anticipates its enemies, draws up its strategy and tactics accordingly, and if the goal of real workers' power is unhesitatingly pursued, then we can win. That way the enormous violence and terrible defeats of the parliamentary road to socialism can be avoided.



Ricky Tomlinson interrupts the Congress in protest as an Electricians delegate attacks the Shrewsbury pickets

I won't let them forget Des

VOWS RICKY AS LEADERS OF THE TUC PREVENT HIM ADDRESSING CONGRESS

'I GAVE them fifteen months of my life. I thought they might give me fifteen minutes of theirs'.

That, in his own words, is why Ricky Tomlinson, who was freed last month after a long jail sentence for picketing, went to the Blackpool Trades Union Congress last week. On the Tuesday during the debate on the building workers jailed for picketing at Shrewsbury, Ricky demonstrated and shouted from the visitors' gallery and was ordered out by the TUC chairman.

Ricky Tomlinson hoped he would be able to speak to the delegates properly. He wanted to speak as a fraternal delegate, who had suffered grievously for standing up for trade unionism during an official dispute. He was delighted when the CPSA delegation asked the TUC general purposes committee to allow him to address Congress.

But the committee, which was happy to allow 15 minutes reactionary rant from a 'fraternal union delegate' from the United States, refused Ricky point blank. No reasons

were given.

Ricky tried lobbying individual trade union leaders. He spoke to Jack Jones of the Transport Workers, to Tom Jackson of the Post Office workers, to Ken Gill of the white-collar engineering union of TASS.

'They didn't tell me what I wanted to hear', he said. 'None of them said they would argue for an all-out stoppage. Jack Jones didn't really want to talk to me at all.'

'I had it quite clear in my mind what I wanted to say from the rostrum. I wanted to remind the delegates about the case: How it was rigged against us. How statements and witnesses and photographs were all fixed. How the police, it's rumoured, didn't want to prosecute at all in the first place.'

'And then I wanted to tell them about Des' persecution in prison. Do you realise that man's been moved 17 times in 16 months?'

'I wonder if any of the TUC delegates know what it's like to be moved from prison to prison. You have to go through all the

ritual—the stripping, the bathing, the shouting—all over again. It's like starting your sentence again.

'People go 30 years without being moved. But Des has been shifted around all the time. That's because of his politics, because he stands up for his rights as a political prisoner.'

'I wanted to tell those delegates that that man is suffering there, because he stood up for the principles that Congress is meant to stand for. But they wouldn't let me speak.'

'Well, I listened to the opening speeches in the debate. Plenty of fighting talk—but no action. We just can't go on with talk and lobbies, you know. I've known blokes that have been on 17 separate lobbies and spent hundreds of pounds on the Shrewsbury business. These lads want action.'

Steps

'But of course that Electrician's Union bloke put the cap on it. He used the phrase "substituting gangsterism for militancy", which is just the phrase the Daily Mail used. I just kept thinking of Des in his cell and that smooth fellow talking about gangsters and I shouted at them to come to their senses and do something about it.'

'It doesn't come naturally to me, this sort of thing. I don't like interrupting trade union meetings. When I came down from the gallery I found I was crying with the strain. Yes, crying. I could hardly talk to the press, I was so upset.'

'But I'm proud that I did it. I think if that sort of thing had happened at previous TUCs, we'd have done less time, Des and I.'

'What should be done? An all-out strike, that's what. That'll get Des out, and all those TUC leaders know it.'

'I'm afraid I had a bit of a row with George Smith, general secretary of the building workers' union UCATT. I asked him what he was doing at Congress when one of his members was in jail for picketing during an official strike. He shrugged his shoulders and said: "You can't move without an army".'

'I shouted at him: "The army's there, George. The army's there. It's the generals we bloody well want. People who will lead us where we want to go!"'

'Well, it won't be the last time, I can tell you that. There will be more demonstrations. There's a thing burning inside me and I won't be able to rest until it goes out. I WON'T LET THEM FORGET DES WARREN'.



Ricky and Ken Appleby of the Rank and File Organising Committee lobby Jack Jones. 'He didn't really want to talk to me', said Ricky. PICTURES: Chris Davies (Report)

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

INVERNESS IS public meeting: Labour policies and the socialist alternative. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Monday 15 September, 7.30pm, Rose Street Hall, Inverness.

EASTER ROSS IS public meeting: Labour policies and the socialist alternative. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Tuesday 16 September, 7.30pm, Averon Community Centre, AIness.

LEEDS IS: The Challenge of Labour's £6 freeze and rising unemployment. National council report back meeting. Thursday 18 September, 8pm, The Trades Club, Saville Mount, off Chapletown Road, Leeds 7.

CROYDON IS debate with Labour Party: David White (GLC Labour councillor) and Duncan Hallas (IS). Thursday 11 September, 8pm, Ruskin House (corner of Combe Road and Park Lane, Croydon).

BOLTON District IS public meeting: Their crisis—Our answer. Speaker Paul Foot. Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Balmoral Hotel, Bradshawgate, Bolton.

SOUTH WEST LONDON District CHINGARI public meeting: Crisis in India. Speaker: Farooq Nawaz. Thursday 25 September, 8.15pm, Tooting Library, 75 Mitcham Road, SW17.

For meetings on Portugal, see page 8 this week.

Meetings for IS members and Socialist Worker supporters

SHEFFIELD students IS branch first meeting: Sunday 14 September, 8pm, 84 Malton Street, Sheffield. All IS students to come back in time for the meeting please.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER IS student cell first meeting: Wednesday 16 September, 7.30pm, Manchester Poly, Aytoun Street. All student comrades in Salford West and Central Manchester to attend.

IS YOUNG WORKERS SCHOOL IN GLASGOW Saturday and Sunday 27 to 28 September. Saturday in Glasgow City Hall, Candleriggs, 11am to 1pm: The need for a revolutionary party, introduced by Jimmy McCallum. 2.30pm to 5.30pm Questions and answers and discussion on work in the trade unions. Sunday in IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow. 11am to 1pm: The need for a workers paper introduced by Laurie Flynn. 2pm to 4pm: Practical session on writing for Socialist Worker. 4.00pm to 5.00pm: Perspectives for Young Workers.

LOWESTOFT: Report back meeting from the IS National Council. Thursday 11 September, 8.30pm, Norfolk pub, Denmark Road.

CENTRAL LONDON IS students: All students who will be attending colleges within Central London should attend a meeting to be held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, on Tuesday 23 September, 5.30pm. Further information from Peter Alexander 01-580 0916.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER IS student cell first meeting: Wednesday 17 September 7.30pm, Manchester Poly, Aytoun St. All student comrades in Salford, West and Central Manchester to attend.

CENTRAL LONDON District IS aggregate: Thursday 11 September, 7.30pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road. To discuss perspectives. All members to attend.

IS notices

PORTUGAL DEMONSTRATION Stewards meeting: London district committees must send two district committee members to a stewards' meeting on Monday 15 September, 7.30pm, at 8 Cottons Gardens, E2.

PORTUGAL DEMONSTRATION: Socialist Worker sellers must be there by 11pm. London branches should phone Kevin at 739 2639, with the names of three sellers per branch. Our of London Remember to sell on the coaches coming down. Order extra papers now.

SW Litho are offering a Printing Apprenticeship to start in September. Applicants must be under 19 and have a mechanical aptitude. Application in writing to: Training Officer, SW Litho, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

WOMENS VOICE: new edition, out this weekend. London branches should collect from the IS Bookshop on Saturday and out of London branches from the stations on Saturday morning.

NATIONAL IS Womens' committee: Saturday 13 September, 11am, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Every fraction and district must send a delegate. Agenda to include: abortion campaign, Women's Voice groups, the government cuts.

GREECE-CYPRUS-TURKEY. An IS committee has been set up to cover this area and the communities in Britain. If you have any contacts, or can speak Greek or Turkish, or have a Cypriot or Turkish community in your area, contact GCT committee, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

E LONDON IS jumble sale: 13 September. Save your jumble and contact Steve 01-590 5846.

BRIGHTON Socialist Worker Jumble Sale: Saturday 13 September. Doors open 2pm St Martins Hall, Lewes Road.

BAT (British American Tobacco) combine committee: Will any readers of Socialist Worker willing to help strengthen the combine please contact Southampton IS (c/o Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2). We will pass all contacts on to the union activists who are building the shop floor in Southampton BAT.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs another journalist. Knowledge of subbing and journalistic techniques is useful but not essential. More important is a willingness to help improve the paper and spread the influence of the International Socialists. Write but do not phone to the editor, including details of any experience you consider relevant to the job at Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

DARLINGTON IS Jumble Sale: Saturday 13 September, 10am all day, Mechanics Institute, Skinnergate, Darlington. Jumble collected—ring Darlington 56728.

SHEFFIELD IS jumble sale: Saturday 13 September, 12 noon, Meersbrook Vestry Hall, Help and jumble needed.

TWO Comrades needed to share room in modern house, Ilford. Phone 01-590 5846.

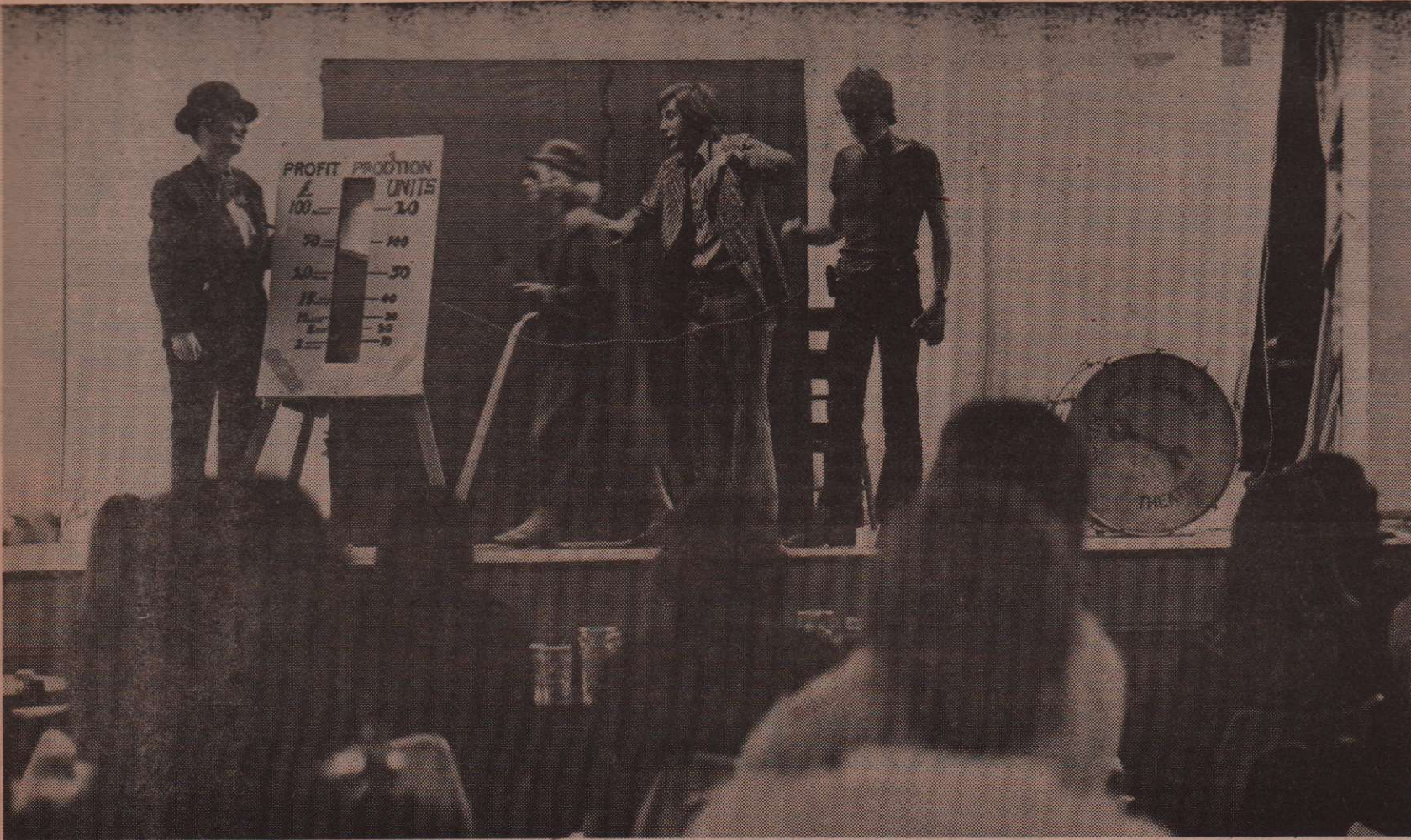
TWO Comrades (couple) urgently need accommodation in London. Any offer will be appreciated. Ring Dietland, 836 2315, between 10am-6pm.

FLAME is a new West Indian paper. It will be out this week. Order your copies now from Flame, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Money with orders please—5p a copy, plus postage.

WANDSWORTH & District IS jumble sale: Saturday 4 October. Please start collecting now. Further details later.

Practical schools for photographers: Write to Socialist Worker Photographers, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 for further details or phone Margaret Renn (01-739 6361).

SOUTH WEST LONDON District IS Social Saturday 13 September. 8pm, Foresters Arms, Mitcham Road, Tooting-SW17 (tube Tooting Broadway). Bar. Disco. Food. Home spun entertainment! 50p. All proceeds to Portuguese Solidarity Fund.



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

A performance of *Safety First or Last* at Kirkby Community Centre on Merseyside

The crisis last time

BBC1 begins a series of four plays with a difference at 9.25pm this Thursday (11 September). The difference is that the plays are about the last great period of working-class struggle, which led up to the General Strike in 1926, and are meant by the author and director to bring home the lessons of the period to workers today.

The team behind the series has been responsible for such outstanding plays in the past as *The Lump* and *The Big Flame*.

Director Ken Loach said of the series: 'We want anybody who feels themselves to be suffering from crises today, people who are caught by price rises, inflation and wage restraint, to watch the films and realise that all this has happened before. And we hope they will learn the lessons from the opportunities that were lost in 1926 and the defeats that were inflicted on the working class at that time.'

'The traditional view is that England has always been a peaceful and stable society. We want to show that England is founded on a violent past which involves the forceful suppression of dissent.'

To this end, each play deals with a different historical event that affected the lives of working people—conscription in 1916, the sell-out of the miners by the leaders of the other big unions in 1921, the first Labour government in 1924, and the General Strike in 1926.

It sounds compulsive viewing for all socialists.

CHRIS HARMAN

SPANNER IN THE WORKS

NORTH WEST Spanner Theatre's new play, *Safety First or Last*, follows Jim, a chemical worker, and his wife Jean through what safety at work means for them.

For Jim, there are two extremes. At one end, there is safety gear which makes the job unworkable. At the other, there are the real problems of health and the stresses of family life caused by shift work.

The play has already been performed at trade union meetings, on building sites, in canteens and at labour clubs. Recently, the play went to Glasgow at the invitation of the Transport Workers' 7/162 Insulators Branch, which has been prominent in the fight against asbestosis.

Tony Hughes, a member of the branch, saw the play: 'As a worker

in the asbestos industry, I was looking forward to seeing the North West Spanner Group. Their performance surpassed my expectations.

'I have just recently lost my father, who died of asbestosis at the hands of the companies so vividly portrayed in the play, so I keenly appreciate the dangers facing the working class in the name of profit.'

CHOICE

'So strong was the message put across that a member of the audience, who was obviously middle class, asked me why I did not leave the industry. I had to explain to him that it was a choice of this job or join the growing masses on the dole queue.'

Other trade unionists also re-

commend the play. Jack Roberts, a steward at Massey Fergusons, Trafford Park, Manchester, explains the importance of the play:

'There were three stewards from Massey's at the Rank and File Safety School in Manchester a couple of months ago. One day wasn't enough to cover every aspect of safety, but the main points came across forcibly in the play at the beginning: Safety costs money.'

'One of the best bits in the play was when Jim, from the chemical plant of Riskit and Soddem, goes in for a TV competition with his bosses, Graball and Run.'

OPPOSING

'The competition is for the safety award flag of 1975 and their reactions show the opposing interests of the boss and Jim. Basically, the play shows the class way of health under capitalism.'

'It packs in a lot of material in a short time and it is presented in a very funny but biting way.'

'We have booked the play for a factory gate meeting in a couple of weeks time and we hope it can be the spark for a real campaign in the working class movement over health and safety.'

North West Spanner's play can be used indoors or at the factory gate. It is designed to help militants concerned about safety problems. In the near future the play will be visiting Magnesium Elektron, Hulme Labour Club and other places in the Manchester area.

Get your branch, trades council or stewards' committee to book it.

North West Spanner, Old St Peter's School, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs. Phone 061-339 2808.

The book as blow-torch

Colin Sparks reviews the latest book from Pluto Press

PAUL O'FLINN has written an interesting book on Literature. That is a considerable achievement.

There are thousands of novels, plays and poems, some good and worth reading. Some are not worth the effort. There are also thousands of books about novels and poems, hardly any of which are worth reading.

Books about Literature are part of an industry called 'Literary Criticism'. By and large, it is a thoroughly useless industry; the best that can be said about it is that it pays well and keeps part of the middle-class off the streets.

It does have another marginal use: most of what is produced is designed to show how only nicely-spoken, well-educated members of this same middle-class could possibly appreciate the subtlety and sensitivity of great literature.

Rough and dirty proles not only don't read these masterpieces but they could not possibly understand them if they did. All in all, it is one of the nastier areas of education.

Paul O'Flinn has taken a blow-torch to the layers of varnish which have been smothered over

some very good books. He writes as a socialist and a militant.

He never forgets that the books he is talking about are products of a divided society and reflect the hopes and fears of men and women in that society. He shows how books are a living part of a class society.

The book is well-written and amusing. It makes hay of the pompous volumes of the middle-class critics. It is not, however, faultless. Paul sometimes overdoes his efforts to write in a popular style and gets irritatingly 'matey'.

Some of the things he says are plain wrong. His enthusiasm for socialist ideas sometimes leads him to bend things a bit. But, all in all, the book is worth reading.

Some of Pluto Press' recent books have been a bit odd but this one is excellent. They are to be congratulated for publishing it. Buy it and read it; it makes literature worth reading.

Them and Us in Literature, by Paul O'Flinn, (60p) from Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London, NW1 8LH.

International Socialists Pamphlets



Can Socialism come through Parliament

by Roger Kline, 10p

Workers against Racism

by Paul Foot, 10p

Women Fight Back

by Kath Ennis, 10p

Trotsky

by Duncan Hallas, 5p

Lenin

by Jim Higgins, 5p

The Meaning of Marxism

by Duncan Hallas, 30p

Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism

by Richard Kuper, 10p

The Politics of Lenin

by Paul Ginsborg, 20p

Russia—How the Revolution was lost

by Chris Harman, 15p

Asbestos, the dust that kills

in the name of profit, 10p

National Front: The New

Nazis, 10p

The Struggle in Ireland

by Chris Harman, 15p

Black Workers in Britain

(produced jointly with

Chingari) 15p

What's Happening to our

Health Service?

by IS Health Workers, 10p

Crisis in British Leyland:

our answer, 10p

There is now a chain of IS bookshops around the country:

LONDON: 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4 (01-802 6145)

BIRMINGHAM: 224 High Street, Birmingham 12.

COVENTRY: 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry.

DUNDEE: Angle Books, 4 Roseangle, Dundee.

GLASGOW: 64 Queen Street, Glasgow, C1.

LIVERPOOL: 28 Barry Street, Liverpool 1.

MANCHESTER: Basement, 260 Deansgate, Manchester.

TEESSIDE: 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough.

The London bookshop takes orders by post. Write for a catalogue.

LETTERS

US Teamsters set up rank and file newspaper

TO add to Mal Collins' obituary of Jimmy Hoffa (Socialist Worker 6 September), the rank and file groups in the Teamsters [the lorry drivers' union] in the United States are growing. They publish rank and file papers in a dozen cities. A new rank and file paper for teamsters working for United Postal Service, a nationwide company, is coming out—distributed simultaneously in 22 cities.

Forty teamsters from 15 cities met in Chicago

recently to organise a national campaign—Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC). Their three-year contract is up for re-negotiation next year. TDC is calling a big rally for teamsters in the autumn to kick off the campaign.

At the Chicago meeting a petition was written with TDC's demands for the contract. They are aiming for 250,000 signatures.

The time is ripe. Lots of teamsters had some kind of allegiance to Hoffa. With Hoffa out of the picture there is a big vacuum and teamsters' rank and file are stepping in to fill it. They probably have a little extra breathing space for their activity, since the last thing the Teamsters' leaders now need is another FBI investigation into gangsterism against its members.—JENNY JACKSON, Stoke Newington, London.

TELL HIM WHERE TO PUT HIS YEAR FOR BRITAIN!

THE ARTICLE on the CPSA's rejection of the £6 limit (16 August) was fine. But it, in common with the statement from the CPSA executive, does not go far enough.

It is pointless to talk in terms of controlling inflation by using selective controls over capital outflow and greater import controls, as the executive does, when the average clerical assistant's take home pay is only £25.

It is obvious that the rank and file movement within the CPSA must take the initiative to ensure that this savage government legislation is smashed.

It is equally obvious that our broad left executive have no intention of leading the struggle, despite their fine words.

We must campaign for a special delegate conference to ensure the adoption of the following demands:

An across the board increase of £15.

A shorter working week, by five hours.

Shortening of the incremental scales.

There is no doubt that real industrial action, as opposed to token one-day strikes, must be used to turn these demands into reality.

Wilson must be told where to put his 'Year for Britain' and surely it would be extremely faithful to him if his civil servants put it there.—EDDIE CHILDS, CPSA.

DON'T FORGET THE SCS

OPPOSITION to the freeze in the civil service is not limited to the CPSA. The Society of Civil Servants (SCS), which represents lower and middle management, came out against the policy as long ago as 18 June.

It's not hard to see why. For an Executive Officer, the full £6 rise which would be paid (if we got it!) in April 1976, represents a rise of 8.3 per cent.

Between 1 April 1975, when our last wage rise was paid, and 14 July 1975, the retail price index had already risen by eight per cent. By now, all SCS members have taken a real cut in wages.

But it is not all plain sailing. The Society has voted against the TUC policy on the £6. If the implications of that are not carried back to the members the basis for a right-wing back-lash will be laid.

At the moment, most SCS members are not sure of what will happen in the next few months; several branches have now voted against the NEC policy because of this.

The attitude of the CPSA in all this is vital. A militant campaign against the freeze by the rank and file will lead support to militants in SCS and start to swing the wavering members.—AN SCS MEMBER

Who's really behind the London bombs?

DESPITE all the talk in the press it's unlikely that the Provisionals are responsible for ending the ceasefire. They're gaining too much from it.

All the internees will be out by Christmas. They have incident centres to police the ceasefire. The longer it holds the stronger their support in the Catholic ghettos, where there is almost 100 per cent support for the ceasefire. In Britain the Provos have codes to give the police about bomb warnings. No such code was used in London.

The press has been strangely quiet about a recent funeral in Tyrone. Lieutenant Wesley Somerville of the extreme Unionist UVF had been blown up after shooting members of the Miami Showband. He had killed two other Catholics previously and yet had mourners from the Ulster Defence Regiment of the British Army, at his funeral.

Somerville's own battalion in the UDR, the 11th, somehow forgot to open fire when the UVF seized 83 guns, 21 sub-machine guns and 1300 rounds of ammunition on 10 October 1972. But then, of course, territorial battalions of the army like the UDR don't shoot anybody, or do they?—FRANK CONWAY, Manchester.



The wreckage of the Miami Showband bus, where UVF men were planting a bomb when it exploded

STOP MORALISING!

AS A DISABLED member of IS I was pleased to read Margaret Renn's article on the invalid strikes (30 August). However, I was distressed to be told that this issue would 'gain the sympathy of trade unionists'.

While this may be true, it gave the article the tone of a Salvation Army crusade, helping—out of sympathy—people too badly off to help themselves.

The disabled are, in fact, waging a vigorous, though sadly respectable, campaign against the betrayals of the Labour government.

There is no reason why trade unionists should need to feel sorry for the disabled before helping them. Hundreds of trade unionists and their dependants, who are today

perfectly well, will, by next year, be crippled by disease or accidents.

If unable to work, they will find themselves at war with the Social Security. If they can work, they will be faced with an unemployment rate that was more than ten per cent before the recession.

Trade unionists should take action on behalf of the disabled because it is in their interests. Thank you for a good article, comrade Renn, but less of the moralising please.—B GROVES, Warley.

Margaret Renn replies:

Point taken, but I wasn't intending to moralise. You will no doubt be disgusted to know that this year, yet again, the TUC has referred the resolution on disablement allowances to the General Council for further investigation!



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.

Too good to waste

STRAIGHT after reading the interview with Ossie Lloyd in last week's Socialist Worker I came across this poem in the Willesden and Brent Chronicle. It was part of a letter from a local West Indian, Joseph Nicholas, and gives 'a bull's eye view of the true way of life of most young black people in Britain today'. I thought it was too good to waste on a local Tory rag.

The Government is my shepherd, I shall always be in want, He maketh me to lie down on the pavement, He leadeth me in the path of oppression for his own selfish sake. Yea, though I walk through fields, street and factory, I obtain no labour, And thou art with me.

The Church and the State they oppress me, They prepare before me guns in the presence of mine distress, They annoy my small income with inflation, my expense runneth over, Surely, nakedness and hardship shall follow me all the days of my life And I will dwell in the house of poverty for ever.

Greetings to 'Flame', the new socialist paper for West Indians!—KEN MONTAGUE, Cricklewood, London.

Down the
drain
with
Labour,
comrade

I READ E Phillips' letter (30 August) with interest. It argued that activists in the Labour Party should stay in and vote their way to socialism.

I'd like to know that his version of socialism is. He appears to be a typical Labour Party 'activist', the type who refuse to learn.

He must have been on holiday when the Chilean workers voted in Allende and his policies, which were a watered down version of a modern Russian-type communist manifesto.

He may well have been out shopping when the coup took place by the armed forces in which thousands of Labour Party activists went to the wall, and are still being put in front of it.

There were only the lesser type of socialists, butchered along with the revolutionaries.

The ruling class didn't discriminate between those who were hard left wingers and those comrades who were misguided enough to believe that a cross on a piece of paper would solve their problems.

No, comrade, you are wrong, terribly wrong. If we lose the socialist crusade I have no doubt what will happen. And if I and my kind are to pay the full price then let us make sure we have sold it at a cost that will inspire others.

For those workers in Chile who have been murdered by the Junta, it's an insult to their memory that 'enlightened' socialists activists in other countries should lay other workers open to the same mistakes.

The Portuguese workers seem to have learned and the bosses are finding them a tougher nut to crack. Best wishes comrades, and crush the bastards when the time comes.—DAVE RHODES, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Councillor in IS!

E PHILLIPS will agree that socialists are only a tiny minority of Labour Party membership, and he will also know that 12 million people are not voting for socialism when they vote for Wilson.

I have been a Labour Party member for years, and I am still a Labour councillor, but I do not think this is enough. I am in IS because I want to see some progress towards socialism.—BRIAN RHODES, Bradford

CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT?

by Roger Kline

An International Socialists' pamphlet on the Labour Party and why 'the parliamentary road to socialism' is a dead end.

10p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.



What Bristol Ship Repairers mean by 'co-partnership'

WORKERS' CONTROL? NO, THE SACK

REMEMBER the advertisements on the right? For months earlier this year the Bristol Ship Repairers waged a massive propaganda attack on the government and on then Industry Minister Tony Benn in particular. They spent £400,000 on advertising.

They were a prosperous, happy company, we were told. Everyone was against nationalisation. The company had its own plans for 'co-partnership'.

The reality of their 'co-partnership' is clear to the 31 members of the Transport and General Workers Union sacked from the company. They were sacked for refusing to go on a demonstration against nationalisation.

Chris Bailey, the managing director, offered to pay his employees to go on the demonstration in London. 31 TGWU members at the Cardiff Dry Dock refused to go. They were paid back at the end of June. The company said there was a fall off in work. 31 workers had to be made redundant, and they just happened to be the 31 who hadn't gone on the demonstration.

The work was still there. The next day contractors were brought in to do their jobs. Three days later another ship was brought into the yards increasing the amount of work available.

Some of the 31 were taken back. But 11 are still outside the gates. Graham Philips, the local full-time district secretary for the TGWU promised an overtime ban if everyone wasn't taken back.

NOTHING

But nothing happened. Normal working continues inside. Bailey sent employees round to Phillips' house to carry out decorating and repair work, during normal working hours.

The eleven went to the TGWU Regional Secretary, George Wright. He is also general secretary of the Welsh TUC. He said there was nothing he could do.

But then representatives of the eleven told him they would be talking to local reporters of the South Wales Echo. In front of them, he phoned up the newspaper and asked for the story to be stopped. It was.

But the eleven have refused to lie down and be trampled on. George Lewis one of the sacked workers said: 'The only thing we've got left out of this is our pride. We know we'll get no help from the union officials, but we intend to fight to the end to get our jobs back.'

They are appealing to rank and file workers in the docks and on the tugboats to support them. All members of the Transport and General Workers Union, particularly in Wales, should raise the need to help financially. And they should demand that the executive investigate the behaviour of the TGWU district secretary, Graham Phillips.

Financial help is needed. Write to c/o George Lewis, 30 Christina Street, Cardiff.

Like you, Tony, we believe in industrial democracy



Don't nationalise us.
 Don't stop our progress towards workers' control.
 We're small and we're efficient. Already we have many employee directors. Already 90% of our workers are shareholders. Between them our employees already own 20% of the company. Already we have full disclosure—every worker receives regular up-to-date profit and loss figures.
 In time over half the shares will belong to the workers, the people who've invested their labour in the company.
 We believe that is right. But if you bring us into public ownership, the state will own the company, not our workers. Co-partnership would come to a stop.
 Some of us would see that as a move to the right, not to the left.
 Why put our success at risk? Don't nationalise us.



Bristol Channel Ship Repairers Ltd.

Fighting for co-partnership.

Private patients blacking extended

THE CAMPAIGN by workers at Hammersmith Hospital in London to ban private patients has been intensified. The Joint Shop Stewards Committee said last week: 'We are opposed to all forms of private practice on principle—everyone has the right to health treatment—this shouldn't depend on the cash resources of the individual.'

The ban has been operating for nearly two years. Management have fought back by slipping private patients into National Health Service wards and, even giving them different names.

Now the hospital management is pushing up the number of private patients from the 15 of a year ago to the full number of 20.

In response two whole wards have been blacked by key workers including kitchen staff and porters. As a result management are having to do some of the work themselves, including some of the dirtiest jobs.

Management have also issued a leaflet saying that the Health Service patients on these wards are being neglected as a result of the campaign. In one ward NHS patients have signed a petition denying this.

The joint shop stewards committee said: 'We'd like to see spending on public health increased and the private sector dwindle away to nothing. Repeated promises by Barbara Castle to curb private practice will come to nothing unless workers in hospitals take action as we are doing.'

Abortion campaign needs shot in the arm

by Sheila McGregor

THE resolution passed almost unanimously by the TUC Congress is a real measure of the success of the National Abortion Campaign so far.

The resolution said: 'Congress calls upon the General Council and on all affiliated trade unions to campaign actively in the Labour movement:

To defeat the Abortion (Amendment) Bill and any other attempts to introduce restrictive abortion legislation.

For the right of all women to adequate services for contraception and abortion on request, available free of charge on the National Health Service,

To resist any changes in the 1967 Abortion Act which would produce conditions detrimental to the health and welfare of the women in this country.'

It shows how we can organise the campaign now, by going to every trade union branch and trades council in the country

In International Women's Year, women have been thrown out of work, nurseries closed down, hospitals and schools threatened.

Those who want women firmly shackled to the kitchen sink as individual baby factories are using the abortion issue to try and drive women 'back where they belong'. If women belong in the home then we don't need child care facilities at work. This appeals to any local council enforcing cuts.

And it seems to appeal to quite a



Flashback to June—and the campaign's successful demonstration
 PICTURE: Angela Phillips (IFL)

few Labour MPs. The TUC resolution is the opportunity to get the message about abortion home to tens of thousands of trade unionists.

But at the crucial moment the nerve of the National Abortion Campaign has failed. At a national meeting of NAC on Saturday the IMG, a left-wing group, followed by the Communist Party, and members of

the Labour Party, retreated before the demonstration called by the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC)

Some dubious vote counting, and the inclusion of votes received by telephone and post, again produced a tied vote on the decision to hold a demonstration in November. This has left us without any national focus for rallying our supporters, both those we have and those newly won to the campaign.

Supporters of Women's Voice and Socialist Worker, indeed all who believe that the struggle for abortion and for women's rights are the same, must go to the NAC Conference to argue for the involvement of the working-class movement. We have to argue that it's not just abortion but all our rights that are under attack.

The conference is in London on 18 and 19 October. Letters for trade union branches and registration forms are available from: National Abortion Campaign, 30 Camden Road, London NW1.

CHELMSFORD HIT BY CUTS CRISIS

CHELMSFORD: 'We've had as much as we can take.' That was the feeling of the nine women supervisors at Newport House, an observation and assessment centre for disturbed girls in Great Baddow, as they walked out on a one-day strike on Monday.

Over the past year, several of the women have been beaten up and one has been attacked with scissors in an attempted stabbing. The violence has grown because of chronic understaffing.

One striker told Socialist Worker: 'Some of these girls are very disturbed psychiatrically and as a result very violent.'

'Recently I was twice on night duty by myself in one week, looking after nine girls. On one of those nights, I was beaten up. I had a black eye for three weeks.'

The women—all members of NALGO, the local government workers' union—are demanding more staff, better child care and the removal of two girls they are unable to control.

The two girls were taken away from Newport House by police after a case of arson there two months ago. But the

police later brought them back, saying they were too violent to be kept at the police station.

Increasingly, the centre is being used, not for observation and assessment, but as a dumping ground for problem girls. Although the recommended stay for each girl is between six and eight weeks, one has been there for nine months.

With management indifferent to the understaffing and deteriorating conditions—41 staff have left in two years and those who remain no longer get any training—the staff have been driven to exasperation.

ADVERTISEMENT
 NATIONAL RANK AND FILE
 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Health and Safety at Work

Another series of day schools have been arranged, sponsored by local shop stewards' committees and trade union branches. Please write direct to local organisers for further details.

TEESSIDE: Saturday 13 September. Organiser: Brother B E Taylor, 55 Heythrop Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough. Hartlepool 60481, ext 270 or 279, or Middlesbrough 821995.

GLASGOW: Saturday 4 October. Organiser: Brother John Glen, 20 Argyle Street, Paisley. Phone (messages only) Glasgow 424 1048.

CARDIFF: Saturday 18 October. Organiser: Brother W Williams, 12 Coburg Street, Cathays, Cardiff. Phone (messages only) Cardiff 387881.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Saturday 25 October. Organiser: Brother J Clifford, 37 Probert Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton. Phone Wolverhampton 788472.

WEST LONDON: Saturday 1 November. Contact through the Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Phone 01-249 1207.

WEST YORKSHIRE: Saturday 8 November. Organiser: Brother G Shaw, 1 Hoyle Court Road, Baildon, Shipley, Yorks. Phone Shipley 54043.

LIVINGSTONE: Rank and File Organising Committee public meeting sponsored by TGWU 7/162 Insulators branch: Gleno-Asbestos, still a hazard. Speakers: John Todd (Safety Committee, TGWU 7/162) and Tony Hughes (TGWU shop steward, and a hospital doctor). Wednesday 10 September, 7.30pm, Riverside School Assembly Hall, Livingstone.

If there isn't a school in your area why not raise it at your next union branch or shop stewards' committee meeting. We'll be pleased to help you organise one. Schools are being planned in Liverpool, Hull, Ipswich, Tyneside.

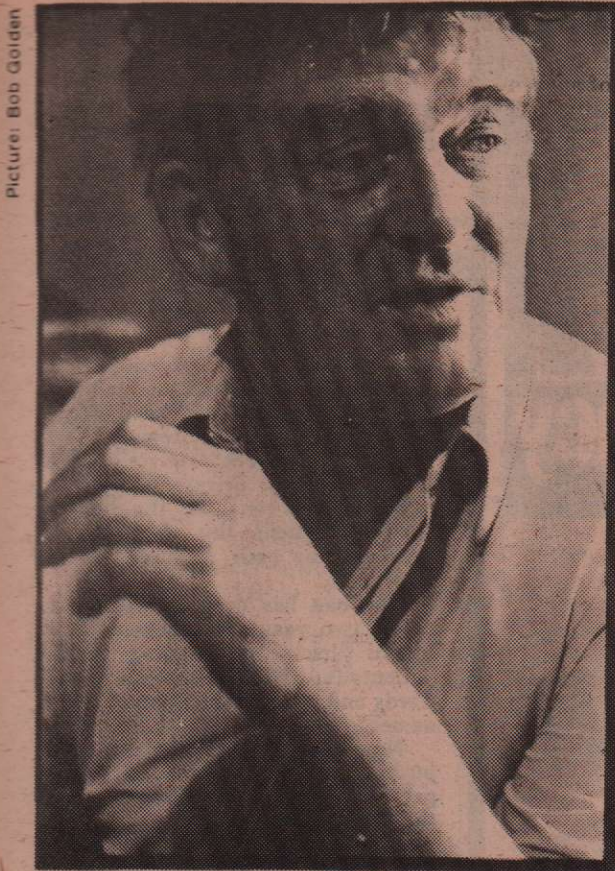
The Rank and File safety pamphlet, A Cause for Concern, has been re-printed, and is available at 5p each, plus postage. Cash with orders please. Write to:

A CAUSE FOR CONCERN



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





Bill Rattigan—sacked on return from holiday

Builders sacked for good work!

YOU'RE doing too good a job. You're all fired.

That's what happened to eleven painters, members of the building workers union, UCATT, working for Murphy's contractors on a Brent Council housing project in North West London.

The houses they painted were passed straight away by the council's clerk of works. He took six weeks to pass other houses painted by sub-contractors.

Bill Rattigan, one of the UCATT members sacked when he returned from his holiday, told Socialist Worker: 'The top director of Murphy's when he came on the site one evening said: "You're doing too good a job". That was his way of saying we were costing too much.'

There was another reason as well, explained Bill Rattigan. 'We were in the process of organising the job. Nine of the eleven painters were ready to join the union.' So were other workers on the site.

During their week's notice, they got the UCATT district organiser on to the site. He suggested they go to an industrial tribunal to claim compensation for unfair dismissal and he is taking the matter up before UCATT's action committee on the lump.

Harlesden UCATT Number 1 branch is considering a picket of the site. Brent Trades Council is pledged to support any initiative taken by UCATT.

Murphy's are notorious for their use of the lump. On the Brent Council site there aren't enough labourers to keep the site clear of rubbish and debris. Earlier this year the factory inspector closed the site for a day so that it could be cleaned up.

Men are working on roofs three and four storeys high without guard rails. Carpenters saw sheets of asbestos for garage roofs. There is no breathing apparatus available and no portable dust extractors. The lethal asbestos dust is there for anyone to breath in.

Brent is a Labour-controlled council, yet it is said to be the worst of the major London boroughs for the employment of lump labour on its contracts. Brent Teachers' Association, the local branch of the NUT, whose members oppose the lump in principle, are appalled at the effect of lump labour on new school buildings. They have demanded that the council set up a direct labour building department to build the schools and homes Brent so urgently needs.

Harlesden UCATT and Brent Trades Council have asked the council to grant contracts only on condition that the trade unions are given the right to organise on the sites and to notify all vacancies to the Union branches.

These are demands all trade unionists should make to their own councils.

SOCIALIST WORKER GUIDE TO WORKPLACE SURVIVAL No 7



THERE ARE SEVERAL GOOD REASONS WHY STEWARDS SHOULD NEVER ACCEPT DRINKS FROM MANAGEMENT

Classified

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

MANCHESTER Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese working class. Public meeting, Friday 12 September, 7.30pm, Hulme Labour Club, Bonsall Street. Speakers from the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee, trade union bodies, and a Labour MP.

DEFEND THE 16! Drop the Charges! Public meeting against the use of the Incitement to Disaffection Act, Monday 15 September, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Speakers include Joan Maynard MP, Ricky Tomlinson, Lawrence Daly, Paul Foot.

WORKERS FIGHT readers meeting: The Collapse of the Fourth International and the tasks of Workers' Fight. Speaker: Sean Matgamna, 7.30pm, Sunday 21 September, at The George, Liverpool Road, London N1 (Angel underground).

PERMANENT REVOLUTION No 3 now out. A Trotskyist discussion journal: price 30p, from 98 Gifford Street, London N1 0DF.

BROADSIDE Mobile Workers Theatre needs versatile actor. Committed socialists only. Phone 01-730 5396 or write 58 Holbein House, Holbein Place, London SW1 WBNJ.

CHARTIST public meeting: After Newham 'What next for Labour left?' Speaker Tony Kelly (Newham NECLP in a personal capacity.) 8pm, Thursday 18 September, Hulme Labour Club, Bonsall St, Manchester. Admission 10p.

KNAVE OF CLUBS Folk Club, corner of Balfour Green Road and Club Row, London E2, every Thursday, 8pm, admission 35p. Guest singer this week, Lizzy Higgins.

SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS OUT OF ANGOLA! The Angola Solidarity Committee has called for a picket of South Africa House, Trafalgar Square from 1 to 2pm on Wednesday 17 September. All SW supporters and IS members who live or work nearby are urged to attend.

Spennymoor: Courtaulds start to wilt

SPENNYMOOR: Courtaulds workers are now in the twelfth week of their strike for a £3.60 increase. Hull dockers have followed the lead of Liverpool dockers and agreed to black all Courtaulds products.

The strike is now backed by the district committee of the Engineering Union.

Kenny Beattie, AUEW shop steward, told Socialist Worker that at the second round of national negotiations at York on Monday, the management began to retreat by making a cash offer—after weeks of claiming Courtaulds couldn't give a penny. The stewards rejected the offer as derisory and refused a settlement.

Courtaulds well known tactics of divide and rule are now being challenged here—a meeting between the stewards of the two largest unions, the Dyers and Bleachers and the Engineers is taking place this Thursday to consider the dispute.

A meeting of stewards from Courtaulds factories all over the north is taking place in Wigan on Saturday week, mainly because of the dispute.

But support is still needed at Spennymoor. Donations to the AUEW convener, Brian Gibson, 7 Magdalene Place, Ferryhill, County Durham.

SMITHS STRIKERS NEED SUPPORT

MANCHESTER: Workers at Fred Smiths, Trafford Park, are now in the ninth week of a strike provoked by management. The management refused to pay a group of workers who wouldn't move some machinery because there was a dispute about this going on.

The Engineering Union (AUEW) convener, T Durran, explained: 'We had a shop meeting and walked out in their

BIRMID ASIANS BEAT WAGE CUTS

BIRMINGHAM: More than 50 Asian workers at the Midland Motor Cylinder Foundry (Birmid's), near Handsworth, have decided to return to work after forcing the management to back down.

The management made a unilateral attempt to introduce new rates in the dressing shop, which would have meant a £7 to £10 wage cut on an interim agreement of £57.50 for 45 hours. The Asian workers refused to accept the wage cut and the management attempted to use the job mobility agreement to get other workers to do their jobs.

In spite of this, the Asian workers showed that this time they were determined to beat the MMC management's trickery and were preparing for a long dispute. The management backed down and agreed to return to the old interim rates.

YORKS: SAVE OUR BACON!

NORTH ALLERTON: Sheet metal deliveries have been cut off and gas supplies are running out at York Trailers. Transport Union members are now in the sixth week of their strike for the reinstatement of victimised shop steward John Bacon, who was sacked for complaining about fire precautions. During the strike management have had to call the fire brigade in several times.

The Engineering Union inside the plant are still supporting management. They have their own board up by the TGWU picket line telling drivers they are working normally. Efforts by the Darlington district of the AUEW committee to get the position changed have not succeeded.

The strike is official but the TGWU have been slow about strike benefit. Four weeks is a long time to wait for cash from your union, especially when the local social security office lines up with management. Last week a striker went to the Social Security and was offered £2.70 plus two milk tokens to provide for his wife and two children.

The strikers at York Trailers need your help. The address for donations is: 148 Ashlands Road, North Allerton, Yorkshire.

support.' Then the management increased the number of redundancies. Before this they had already agreed to reduce the number of redundancies. They then made a series of other demands about increased differentials and flexibility.

The management then laid off 700 production workers. Said the convener: 'We have been in dispute for nine weeks

and haven't met with management for the last four. The dispute was made official by the AUEW executive, and the other unions involved are UCATT and the EETPU. We ask for support.'

After nine weeks on strike financial support is desperately needed. Please rush donations to: Brother C Corrigan, Strike Committee Treasurer, 3 Frinton Avenue, New Moston, Manchester, 10.

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

Will the rail axeman ride again?

ANOTHER round of cuts is planned for the railways. Services are to be reduced by around 5 to 7 per cent on heavily used lines and by up to 40 per cent on some routes.

British Rail claim they are not planning large scale sackings. Instead thousands of jobs are to be lost through natural wastage and voluntary redundancy. The result is the same. Fewer jobs and longer dole queues. And for those who are left on the railways it means undermanning.

This part of the threat is being glossed over by the National Union of Railwaymen. President David Bowman threatened action against 'compulsory redundancies' only, while union secretary Sidney Weighell has instructed NUR branches not to take any action but to wait for guidelines.

By contrast, Ray Buckton, general secretary of ASLEF, the train driver's union, has told members to 'give no co-operation until you get guidelines from us.'

A rank and file policy is needed which includes no sackings, no reduction in manning levels, and no reduction in services offered to the public. But to enforce this policy individual branches need to discuss now what action to take. Any attack on conditions should be met by an immediate work to rule.

At the same time the travelling public need to be won to support the railwaymen's struggle, by the handing out of leaflets at major stations. Joint action, backed by trade union strength, can stop the latest round of cuts.

SANDWELL NO TO PAY CUTS

WEST MIDLANDS: 200 council building workers in Sandwell are on strike against wage cuts and for job security. They have already forced the Public Works Department management to give a break-down of the department's administrative costs after a series of pleas of poverty.

The council management are trying to force building workers to pay for increased operating costs. Over the past few months tradesmen have seen their take home pay slashed by as much as £10-£15 per week as bonus rates have been cut.

In the past, management have got away with making tradesmen pay for apprentices' wages out of their own pockets.

The overall intention of the council is to reduce the number of workers employed directly by the council and rely on subbies. The workers intend to establish 100 per cent direct labour employment.

Eight sites are at present involved, with magnificent unity being displayed between rank and file members of UCATT, TGWU and EETPU. The regional UCATT officials are giving full support to the men.

Management have already conceded the demand for bonus targets to be set before jobs begin. A mass meeting of the strikers was held in West Bromwich on Friday afternoon, where shop stewards and union officials addressed the men and an overwhelming vote to continue the strike was made.

VICIOUS CUTS IN COLLEGES

IN the next four weeks students will be returning to the colleges, or some colleges anyway. Last week 13 colleges of education were finally closed.

NUS executive member Pete Gillard told Socialist Worker this week: 'In the face of this attack a mass campaign is required. We must fight the temptation to bow down to the cuts. It must be all out resistance from the beginning of term.'

An opportunity to get the campaign underway will come this Saturday 13 September at University College, London University, when the NUS Cuts Conference takes place. All members of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies should make sure someone from their college is there.

Drypool battle for 1500 jobs

by Terry Taylor
HULL:—The collapse of the Drypool Group, the largest shipbuilding and repair group on North Humberside, last week threatens the jobs of 1200 workers. Because of the loss of jobs subcontracted out another 1000 jobs are also threatened.
 The company has been placed in the hands of the official receiver. One of the first acts of Eric Varley when he became Industry Minister in June was to turn down a request for £2 million from Drypool.
 Six shipowners have offered to put up £1.76 million of this if the government will provide the rest. But the government wouldn't even make this subsidy to jobs in the area.
 Unemployment in North Humberside is already

double the national average. Most of the shipyard workers in the area are casual. The number of apprentices taken on at Drypool has fallen until this year the company planned to take on ten and took on none. Those taken on last year face the sack.
 The real irony for the workers facing the dole queue is that the government announced its intention to nationalise the Drypool group with other parts of the industry.
 The workers at Drypool need to set up a joint shop stewards' committee as soon as possible to unite everyone in the yards. They have one important bargaining card. There are £12 million worth of ships on the stocks. By occupying the yards and expelling the management, the men could force the government to nationalise the yards and guarantee jobs.

Scanlon: Lots of talk but where's the action?

by Angela McHugh
AUEW shop steward, Rawlplugs, Glasgow
GLASGOW:—800 engineers filled the City Hall here to hear Engineering Union president Hugh Scanlon make his speech on behalf of Jimmy Reid, a candidate for the coming Executive elections in Scotland.
 If you wanted to know what was wrong with the present Labour government and its system the meeting was fine. If you wanted to know how to fight back it was hopeless.
 Scanlon said what was to be done was to stick with the progressive policies of the union. This has meant no decent national rise for engineers in recent years.
 Reid blamed the crisis on the British bosses that were exporting all the fruits of our labour abroad, and the Americans that had dictated to us.
 The reality of the AUEW's opposition to £6 limit has just shown itself where I work.

STEWARDS BACK DOWN AT CHRYSLER

LINWOOD, Scotland:—The Chrysler shop stewards' committee retreated from the fight against lay-offs last week with a decision that overturned one taken earlier in the week to push Chrysler to give a month's notice of lay-offs.

This about-turn has set back the possibility of any fight developing against the company. In fact the Linwood management had accepted giving one month's notice to the workforce, although they

by Willie Lee
 AUEW senior steward, Chrysler Linwood

put the conditions on it that the September lay-off days would be added to October's down days.
 The decision was a narrow one. Only 16 votes separated those that wanted to back down from those who wanted to fight. More than 100 stewards stood out for a fight.

It will be those shop stewards who will have to convince the shop floor that Chrysler will continue to use down days to demoralise the workforce.

The argument used to defend the retreat was that workers would lose three days' benefit. Nobody likes to lose money but these lay-offs are only a prelude to a bigger battle over our very jobs.

Chrysler, like all the big motor corporations, is in serious trouble.

Its share of the British market has fallen to just over 5 per cent and the world recession continues to cut into their world market.

Chrysler now think they have the upper hand and are keen to push new man assignments. The shop stewards need to explain that company man assignments are an effort to completely break the shop stewards' organisation at Linwood. In fact the company are so confident that they are offering some sections overtime.

The stewards who voted to fight will now have to campaign on the shop floor for policies which can defeat the company. These must include:

- No flexibility and no change in man assignments.
- The immediate withdrawal of overtime and all co-operation to make the company withdraw the lay-offs.
- Five days' work or five days' pay.
- Thirty-five hour week with no loss of earnings.
- If the company refuse to withdraw the lay-offs or declare any worker redundant, immediate occupation of the plants.
- For the nationalisation of Chrysler, without compensation and under shop-floor control.

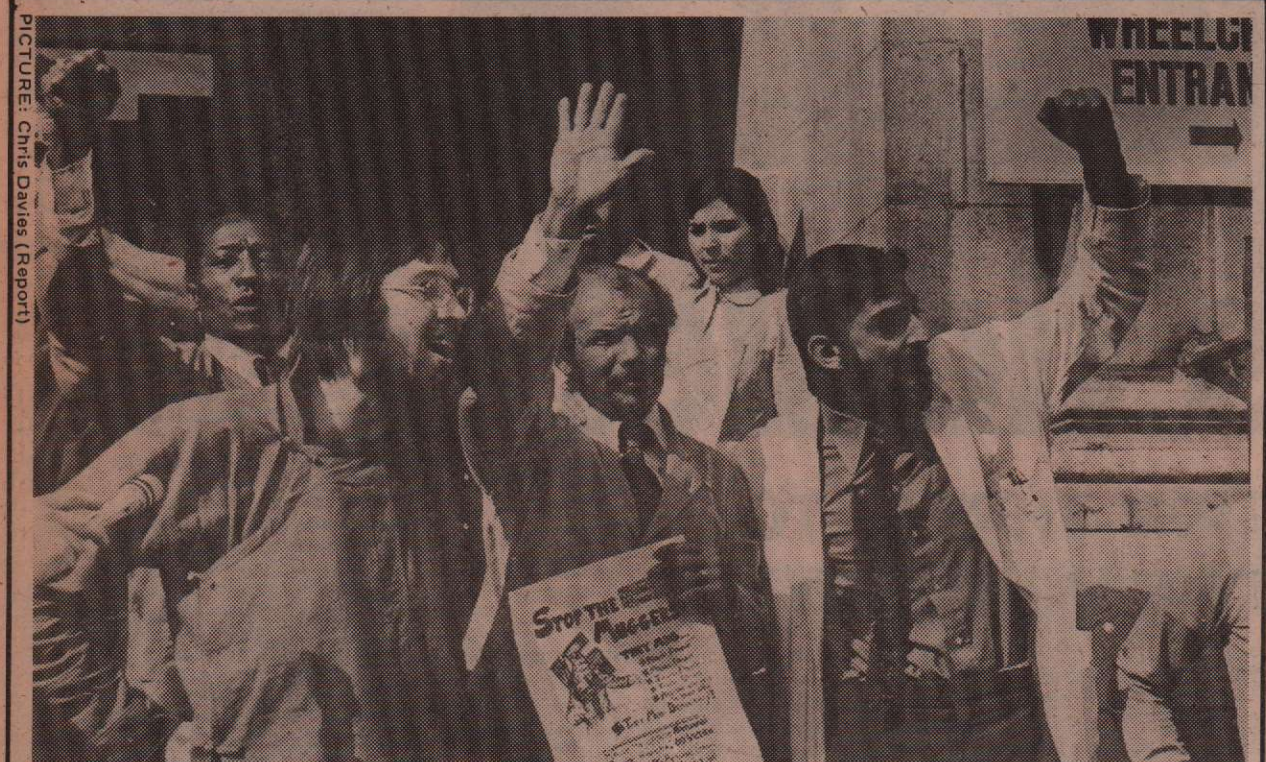
As part of the fight back in the motor industry the Rank and File Organising Committee has called a national meeting of rank and file carworkers under the title 'Crisis in the Motor Industry'. The date for the meeting is Saturday 15 November. Time and place from the Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

LADS' JOBS SAVED

SHEFFIELD:—Pressure by shop stewards has forced an engineering firm to take on eight apprentices instead of giving them the boot.

The stewards at Laycock Engineering threatened industrial action when the management turned away the apprentices last week when they appeared for their first morning at work.

Convenor Colin Taylor said: 'The directors have agreed to take the lads on after all. They have also agreed that in the event of any of the eight apprentices having found other employment, vacancies would still be offered to other school leavers.'



National Front get East London rebuff

HOSPITAL workers coming out of the Hackney Children's Hospital in East London to jeer at the National Front and support the counter-demonstration on Saturday.
 In spite of massive police protection, with troops of mounted 'cossacks' in reserve, the Front's plans to promote a respectable image were shattered when soon after their march had started, they encountered members of the International Socialists.
 For most of the remaining route the National Front march was continually harassed, barracked and heckled. Tomatoes and eggs were thrown and they were accompanied by Hitler salutes, and chants of 'The National Front is a Nazi Front', and the National Front are scabs.
 This continual harassment of the National Front could have been even more demoralising for them if it had been joined by the large counter demonstration organised by Hackney Trades Council together with the Communist Party-controlled 'Liberation'.
 Instead they chose to march on a route through Hackney

which came into no contact at all with the National Front's demonstration.
 After the demonstration a spokesman for East London IS explained
 'We believe that the National Front must be confronted wherever and whenever they raise their heads.'
 'In the week leading up to the demonstration members and supporters of IS in the Inner East London district distributed 20,000 leaflets—including some in Bengali—and put up 2000 posters in Hackney and Tower Hamlets. Council workers, teachers and hospital workers have all been involved in this as well as raising the issue in their trade and workplace.
 'This must now be followed up by campaigning hard on the estates about why the racist policies of the National Front provide no answer to unemployment, bad housing and high rents. Anybody who wants to give us a hand is more than welcome and should get in touch with an IS branch or seller of Socialist Worker in the Inner East London district.'

OBSERVER JOBS FIGHT GOES ON

LONDON: Despite the attentions of full-time union officials, the fight of the NATSOPA members in the Observer newspaper to defend their jobs is still going on.
 Last week NATSOPA machine chapel members launched an appeal against the way national officials conducted last month's emergency chapel meeting which overturned the chapel's previous decision to resist redundancy. Another appeal has also been made against the whole policy of selling jobs at the Observer.
 These appeals are due to be heard by the London Machine Branch Committee next week. But the Observer management may well try to operate with reduced machine room staff this Saturday evening. So it could well be that the struggle for jobs at the Observer will be renewed

IS AUEW Fraction National Aggregate
 Saturday 13 September
 Milton Hall, Deansgate, Manchester, 11am. All AUEW IS members urged to attend. Admission by IS card. Non-members by invitation.
 A pooled fares system will operate to keep travelling costs to a minimum.
 Coach Departs London, Left Luggage Office, Kings Cross, 7am.

SOCIALIST WORKER London building workers meeting: Tuesday 16 September, 7.30pm, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

SOCIALIST WORKER supporters in AUEW-TASS: National meeting: Reform the Union. Saturday and Sunday 27 and 28 September at the Trades Club, Saville Mount, Chapletown, Leeds.
 For all members and supporters.

NEWCASTLE-upon-TYNE: The 5000 ancillary and outfitting workers at Swan Hunters, on strike for eight weeks, returned to work on Monday. They had been fighting for an £8.30 claim similar to the boilermakers' June settlement. Management had offered £3.50 now and £2 in January.
 But last week the workers received the shock news that they were entitled to nothing under the government guidelines—because they had had a settlement in the previous 12 months. They have been conned into a return to work by a few vague promises.
 The Swan strikers were the first section of workers to take on the £6 limit. The government were determined to make an example of them so that no other workers would follow. They threatened to with-

NOTHING GAINED AT SWANS

draw naval orders and thus create unemployment if the strike was not settled.

The basis of the return to work devised by management and union officials is that there will be an independent inquiry into industrial relations in the yard. During the period of government restraint there will be talks about the pay structure of labourers and craftsmen. Management also agreed that, subject to government policy, there will be an offer next year similar to the boilermakers' deal.

But this, even if management fulfilled it, would take into account their last £4 settlement and leave differentials between them and the boilermakers still at nearly £20.

The men voted to go back to work because of pressure from the government and union officials and their own financial

problems. But they have gone back under protest and admit they won't be working with any enthusiasm.
 The trade union officials found the strike an embarrassment and did what they could stop it.
 They arranged for the mass meetings two weeks ago to be held ten miles away from the usual venue, in the hope that because of the small turnout a vote to return to work could be rushed through.
 No discussion or questions were allowed and the meeting went straight to a ballot vote. Many of the men came away thinking that parity with the boilermakers would be established in January.
 John Heathcote, plumbers shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'The union officials bulldozed their way through the meeting and stifled all discussion. They kept saying it was our government.'

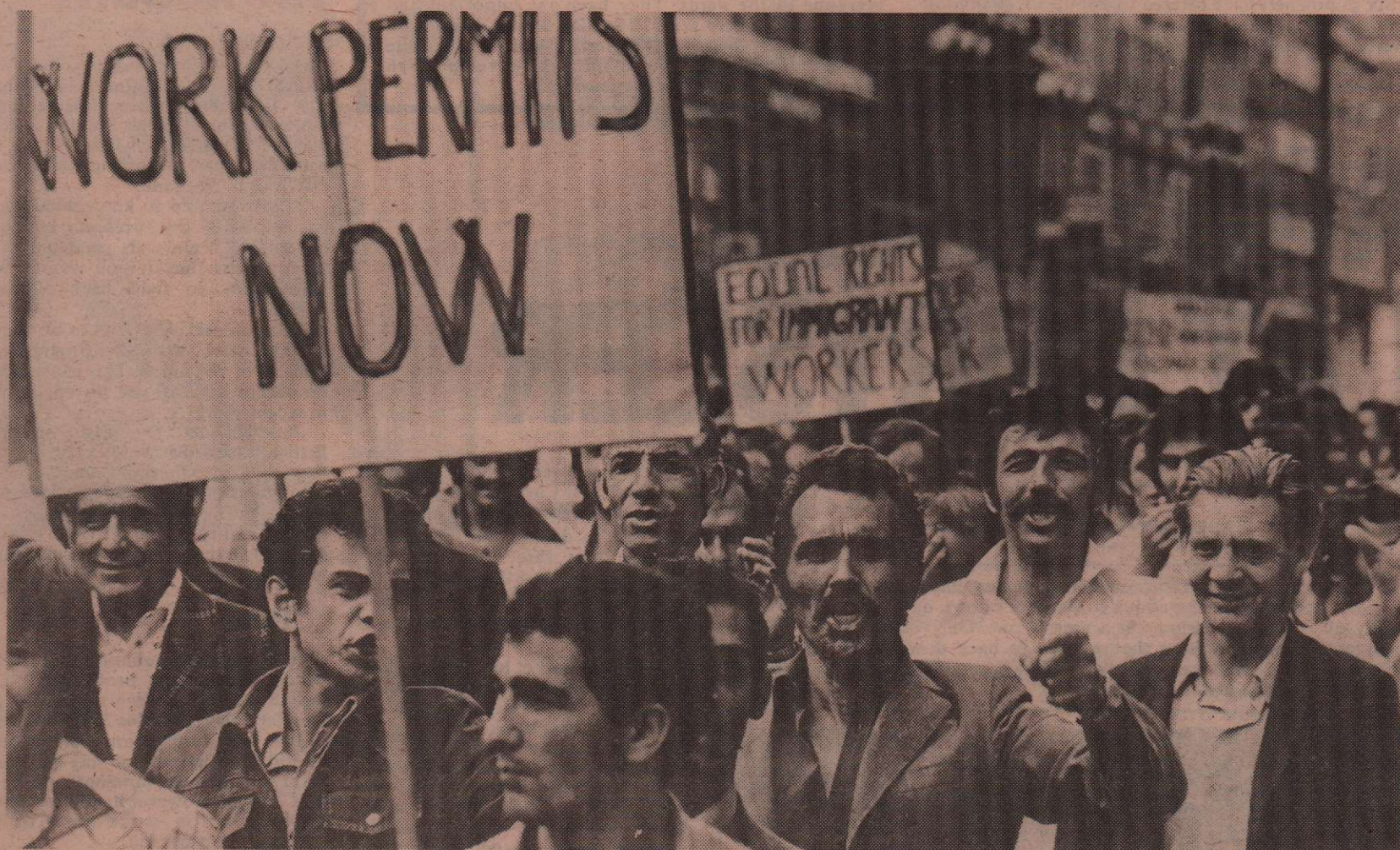
- ENGINEERS' CHARTER MEETINGS**
- SWANSEA:** Tuesday 9 September, 7.30 pm, AUEW House.
 - MANCHESTER:** Thursday 11 September, 8.00pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate, Manchester.
 - BRADFORD:** Sunday 21 September, 7.30pm, Star Hotel, Westgate.
 - NORTH LONDON:** Monday 22 September, 8pm, The Golden Fleece, Fore Street, Edmonton, N18.
 - NORTH WEST LONDON:** Tuesday 23 September, 8pm, Cricklewood Hotel, Edgware Road, Cricklewood, NW2.
 - LEICESTER:** Wednesday 24 September, 8pm, AUEW House, Vaughan Way, Leicester.
 - LEEDS:** Thursday 25 September, 8pm, Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Chapeltown.
 - BRISTOL:** Friday 26 September—further details next week.
- Further details of Engineers Charter activities and speakers from c/o the Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

The changes this target will mean for our paper

£6000



London Eating Houses' workers marching angrily down Baker Street last week demanding that their employers apply for work permits. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Sackings fiddle!

LONDON: 800 restaurant workers turned up to closed doors at the 75 London Eating Houses restaurants last week. The company, they were told, had gone bust, and they were all out of a job.

This is not just another case of bankruptcy. The wealthy London Eating Houses bosses will not suffer. The 'liquidation' is a financial ruse to rid those bosses of workers who had the cheek to organise a militant trade union.

The London Eating Houses group made enormous profits for its directors by two methods: exploiting cheap immigrant labour, and breaking hygiene laws (ten convictions in six years).

Most of the workers came from Turkey. In 1973 their average wage was £18 for a 100-hour week. In October 1973 the workers went on strike for a week, organised themselves into the International Branch of the Transport and General Workers Union, and took further industrial action. In two years, they pushed their wages up from 25p an hour to 75p an hour and shortened the basic working week to 42 hours.

When the group went into 'voluntary liquidation', the directors pleaded 'poor prospects for

DEPORTATION THREAT TO 800 HIT BY 'BANKRUPTCY'

the fast food sector'.

Contrast that with the conversion last July by J Lyons, the food chain, of 24 Jolyon restaurants into 'fast food outlets', because, according to the Financial Times 'the vogue is towards fast food'.

Passed

The real reason is the militant labour forces, which has now been disbanded, and, according to the Tories' Immigration Act of 1971, can now be deported back to the police state in Turkey.

Foreign workers cannot work legally in Britain without a work permit. Unscrupulous employers such as London Eating Houses employ workers without permits. They are not breaking the law—but the workers are. So the employers use the workers' illegal status to harass and intimidate the workers.

Sabri Genc, one of the militant stewards in the group, is now in London's Pentonville prison awaiting deportation because he worked without a permit. The 'liquidation' of the London Eating Houses group means that all 800 workers in the group face the same fate.

These workers must be defended. If the International branch of the Transport and General Workers Union is to survive, it must use the strength of the union to defend the London Eating Houses jobs and workers. If one of these workers is deported it is a blow against the union's right to organise foreign workers.

Jack Jones the union's general secretary won an ovation at this year's TUC for his chairmanship of the TUC International Committee. He would deserve it more by standing up for his own foreign members who are being prosecuted by employers and government

by Roger Crossley

IN THE past few issues of Socialist Worker, we have been appealing for contributions towards some mysterious equipment—Phototypesetting. What is phototypesetting, and why does Socialist Worker want it?

At present, the setting for Socialist Worker is done on IBM 72 compositors. These are sophisticated typewriters, equipped with manual calculating devices which allow the operator to line up both edges of a column of type. This is a slow process, because in addition to the calculation at the end of each line, the line has to be retyped! So each week, Socialist Worker has to be typed twice!

Phototypesetting avoids this. The equipment consists of several 'keyboards', and a 'setting unit'. A typesetter, by depressing the keys of the typewriter-style keyboard, produces not typed letters, as in a typewriter or an IBM compositor, but a strip of paper tape, punched with groups of holes representing letters and numbers.

The punched tape, when completed, is fed into the setting unit, where it is read by a computer, and memorised. Also in the computerised unit is the setting equipment which automatically sets the type.

The computer itself varies the type according to the instructions on the tape. It gives any size of type between two inches and one twenty-fourth of an inch.

So phototypesetting has amazing advantages over the system used at present by Socialist Worker. No longer does the typesetter calculate line length. So there is no need to set the copy twice. Such is the time saved that in all, setting is speeded up about three times.

Since keyboards and setting units are separate, and can be operated independently, several keyboards can be run during the day, and the tapes processed at night. Since the keyboards cost much less than, for example, the IBM machines we use now, expansion in future will be relatively cheap. In addition, articles set, but not needed immediately can be left on tape until they are needed.

The tapes can be corrected much more easily than set type, and time will be saved there too. Since the column width, typeface and so on are contained in coded instructions at the beginning of each tape, changing these can be done in a matter of seconds.

So if a series of articles like 'Talking about Socialism' needs reprinting as a pamphlet, in a different style, typeface, and column width, then it only takes a few seconds to change the instructions, and then the computer does the rest. No operator time is used in the resetting.

Socialist Worker will become a better, more flexible paper. That's why we want phototypesetting. Not to make profits, but as a weapon.

This week's total of £282.18 brings the total in the fund so far to £1254.76. Help swell the fund through jumble sales, collections at work or on your estate, any way and every way.

Our thanks to:

Bristol IS £4, Aberdeen IS £31, SW reader Brundall, Norfolk £2, SW reader Whitchurch Somerset £1.50, new reader Eye, Suffolk £3, Worcester member 25p, Peterborough IS £5, Cambridge IS £6.40, Sunderland IS £5.65, North London District IS £29.73, Tyneside IS £1, Bristol IS £26.65, Sunderland IS £1.50, reader in Irvine, Ayrshire £3, Bradford District Campaign for Racial Equality £20, Hull reader 40p, Anon £3, Brighton reader £10, Burnley IS £3.30, SW readers Nelson £3.55, SW supporter Canterbury £3, London Print IS £6, Loughborough IS £3.50, St Michael's Mount Estate readers and supporters, Hitchin 50p, Anon £5, reader, London N16 £3, SW reader, Immingham, Grimsby £3, Wigan supporter 25p, SW supporter, Glasgow £10, Derby reader £5, North London District IS Jumble Sale £80.

Send donations now to: Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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ELDON SQUARE TEN CLEARED

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: Nine of the ten Eldon Square pickets have had their cases quashed.

The men were charged under the 1936 Public Order Act, under a law initially devised to deal with Mosley and the Blackshirts, with causing a breach of the peace.

The judge held that the scabs were in the vans speeding along the picket line. So the only people the pickets could have caused to breach the peace were the police themselves. He went on to say that the very thought of police breaching the peace was impossible. So the charges were quashed.

The case of an assault against a police officer by Robert Henderson still remained. The jury of eight men

and four women retired for four and a half hours, but failed to agree.

Throughout the trial, significant discrepancies emerged from the police evidence. The only evidence about the alleged assault came from either police officers or Robert Henderson.

BAN

Originally Henderson faced three charges, one of threatening behaviour, one of possessing an offensive weapon, his shoe, and a third of assaulting a police officer.

The first charge was quashed, the second dropped at the Magistrates Court, and the assault charge ended in a Not Guilty verdict on Tuesday.