

Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Portugal must not
become another Chile



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THE BOSSES'
ECONOMIC
BOYCOTT**



Ireland: Thieves fall out

Not since St Paul saw the light on the road to Damascus has there been such a dramatic conversion: William Craig, once a hard-line Ulster Loyalist, is now an apostle of moderation . . . So the media want you to believe anyway.

In fact, the thing is perfectly preposterous. What happened was that Craig made the Catholic SDLP the type of offer which middle-class opportunists cannot refuse: two seats in the Cabinet in return for their 'principles' and election pro-

mises.

The SDLP promised that in government they would give full support to the Northern Ireland police, the RUC, and the Ulster Defence Regiment and even back a 'counter-terrorist offensive'.

Even so, Ian Paisley objected to

the deal and denounced Craig for suggesting it. As a copper-bottomed bigot, Paisley doesn't believe any Catholic can be trusted in government.

When the Loyalist Coalition—Paisley's party, Craig's party plus the 'Official Unionists' led by Harry

West—voted to withdraw the offer, the chance of Loyalist-SDLP agreement disappeared.

Paisley and Craig are now in frantic competition for the allegiance of the various Loyalist organisations, political and paramilitary and this is being presented in the media as a titanic struggle over fundamental principles. It is nothing of the sort.

In part it is a personal power battle. For the rest, it is a disagreement about whether the temporary window-dressing of SDLP men in the Cabinet would, or would not, smooth the way for the eventual return of Orange rule.

Bombs

The British Labour government wants Craig to win. A couple of SDLP 'ministers' would make it immeasurably easier to pretend that democracy had been ushered in in Northern Ireland.

But British socialists should not be fooled. Just as 'a worker on the board' does not alter the capitalist nature of private industry, so a 'Catholic in the Cabinet'—in the unlikely event of that happening—would not end the sectarianism of the Northern Ireland state. That can only be done by ending the state itself, which means, for a start, getting the British troops out.

Delegates are silenced

IT is amazing the lengths some sections of trade union officialdom will go to avoid commitment to the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland. This became clear at last weekend's report-back meeting to the Greater London Association of Trades Councils of its delegation to Northern Ireland.

Three members had been expelled from the delegation for questioning the possibility of solving Northern Ireland's problems while British troops remained, even if 'withdrawn to barracks' with the passing of a 'Bill of Rights'. But they were not allowed to put their position to a vote of the meeting. Every sort of bureaucratic trick was used by the platform to stop them.

The shameful behaviour of such people should not, however, discourage other trade union bodies from sending fact-finding delegations to Northern Ireland. They can provide the arguments and ammunition needed to hammer home the case for getting the troops out.



PICTURE: Andrew Ward (Report)

RICKY TOMLINSON spoke at a meeting of 200 people in London on Monday called in solidarity with the 14 defendants who have been charged with conspiracy to break the Incitement to Disaffection Act. Their 'crime' was to distribute leaflets to soldiers calling for the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland.

Ricky delighted the meeting with an ironic and angry account of the persecution of the Shrewsbury pickets under the Conspiracy laws.

At Preston Crown Court on Monday Andrew Lloyd, a 31-year-old lecturer from Leeds, went on trial for possession of the leaflet that the 14 others are charged with conspiring to distribute to soldiers.

Andrew Lloyd's 'crime' is that he had a copy of the leaflet in his case. If such a charge were brought in Russia, of course, all British newspapers would be making it headline news. Civil liberties at home are another matter. They're only too happy to trample them into the dust.

On Tuesday Andrew went into the witness box. He explained that he believed that all soldiers should be allowed to think for themselves. They should, he insisted, be allowed to join a union. If they did not and if they were expected to obey orders without question, he told the court, then what you could end up with was Nazism or fascism, Chilean-style.

The 14 pacifists are due to go on trial at the Old Bailey at the end of this month. Andrew's case has been put on first to get the leaflet ruled illegal so that they can then be hit hard on conspiracy.

The platform was (above, from left): Ricky Tomlinson, Charles Clarke, president of the National Union of Students, John Miller, TGWU national secretary, who chaired the meeting, George Anthony, president of the AUEW North London district, Jack Droney, chairman of the National Council for Civil Liberties, Wendy Butlin, a defendant in the case, and Pat Arrowsmith, who went to jail for 18 months for incitement to disaffection two years ago.

Joan Maynard, Labour MP for Sheffield Brightside, and Paul Foot of Socialist Worker also spoke at the meeting, which collected £115 for the defence funds.

Portrait of a 'moderate'

IT is not surprising that William Craig became increasingly ill at ease in his highly-publicised role as moderate statesman. He has little experience of such parts.

In 1965 Craig led the opposition to moves by Northern Ireland Prime Minister Terence O'Neill to recognise the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Craig was, and still is, as implacably anti-union as any old-time mill boss.

As Minister in charge of transport in the mid-1960s, Craig denationalised the profitable Ulster Bus Company and sold off five state-

owned hotels to the Grand Metropolitan Group at give-away prices.

He was Minister for Home Affairs in 1968—political boss of the RUC and the B-Specials—as the Civil Rights Movement gathered strength. He personally signed the order banning the 5 October march through Derry that year—the march which ended in baton charges and street battles and detonated the present troubles. In Stormont afterwards he blamed the violence on the IRA, which hardly existed at the time—and on an alleged 'Trotskyist conspiracy hatched in London'!

He was sacked from government by O'Neill in December 1968 after a speech in the Ulster Hall directly attacking the Roman Catholic religion. Since then he has been an unwavering opponent of even the mildest reform measures. He has defended the random killing of Catholics as 'understandable and defensible' and boasted of the paramilitary units he could call on in an emergency.

He is a rich man. He owns a £25,000 house on the outskirts of Belfast, plus an island in Lough Erne in County Fermanagh where he keeps his two power boats.



CRAIG: Former boss of B-Specials

PROTEST AT NHS BACKING FOR ANTI-ABORTIONISTS

FORTY men and women, many of them doctors and medical students, supported a picket organised by the National Abortion Campaign outside the British Postgraduate Medical Federation (BPMF) in London last Thursday.

They were protesting at the use of National Health Service Funds to pay the expenses—about £16 a head—of doctors going to a conference organised by a front organisation for

the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) in Birmingham this weekend. The conference is officially sponsored by the recently formed British Section of the World Federation of Doctors who Respect Human Life, and the topics to be discussed are abortion, euthanasia, and medical confidentiality.

This will be no ordinary medical educational conference—the speakers

are all members of the executive of SPUC. The first, Dr M Sim, a Birmingham consultant psychiatrist holds that there are never psychiatric grounds for abortion. The second, Professor Hugh McLaren is professor of obstetrics in Birmingham and is responsible for Birmingham having by far the lowest NHS abortion rate in the country.

To cap it all, Jill Knight, MP for Edgbaston, will be guest of honour at

the conference dinner—the Jill Knight who respects human life so much that she orchestrates the Bring Back Hanging brigade in the House of Commons.

How is it that Barbara Castle and the Department of Health could agree to finance, out of NHS funds, a conference which is aimed to act as a focus for doctors to campaign for more restrictive laws on abortion?

PRINT ADVANCES WILL AID WORKERS STRUGGLE

MANY printworker militants question us about our plan to instal phototypesetting. They say: 'Why should we support the introduction of phototypesetting at Socialist Worker when we're worrying ourselves silly about what it'll do elsewhere.'

Printworkers are absolutely right to be concerned about the effects of new techniques on jobs. Throughout the print they're being used to lead a concerted attack on manning levels and wages.

So what's the difference with us? First of all we aren't out to sack anyone by bringing in phototypesetting. Nor are we out to reduce wages. What we are out to do is increase the reliability and efficiency of our printshop.

But, they say, that's what every printer claims. So what's the difference? Really it's simple.

Our printshop isn't a machine for producing surplus value, for making a profit. It's a weapon in the workers' struggle for socialism.

Our printshop exists to print papers cheaply, efficiently and quickly. They're not papers that tell lies and retail smears about working men and women. Quite the reverse, they're papers which exist to help the struggle.

We should never be frightened of saying that we are different. That's why, for example, when there is a newspaper strike, Socialist Worker should be allowed by the unions to print. Workers in struggle need support and effective propaganda.

IMPACT

Last week the Phototypesetting Fund came to £229.47, which is good but not enough. We need more donations of the kind we've had from North London District International Socialists—who have sent £30 collected at a public meeting and £80 raised by a jumble sale. This just goes to show the kind of impact that can be made on the £6000 target by one district which really takes the fund to heart.

We're hoping to have the phototypesetting equipment installed soon. So we really do need your donations now if we're to be able to pay.

READERS

We extend our greetings as well as our thanks to Ian Parker and his comrades who've just formed the Shetlands Branch of the International Socialists. Ian explains in a letter to us why they've sent their donation. 'I hope Socialist Worker will reach many new readers and help them to realise as we have done that there is an alternative to the violence and inhumanity of capitalism.' That's what it's all about.

Our thanks to:

North London comrade £2.50, Southampton member £1.50, South East London district IS £25, North Herts IS £6, Guildford SW reader £6, Gloucester IS £2.17, Fowey, Cornwall, SW reader £2, SW readers, Bains factory, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire £2, Bournemouth reader £50, Wandsworth Teachers IS £2.50, Coventry reader £5, SW reader, London N1 £2, Anon £1, SW reader £5, Shetlands SW supporters £10, SW reader, Preston £1, South East London SW reader £30, Wellwisher, Blackpool £50, Burnley reader £2, SW supporters, General Engineering Co, Radcliff £2.30, SW supporters, Gloucester 50p, Jonas Woodhead (Coil Springs) Shop Steward Committee, Ossett £5, Dudley IS £15, Dudley SW readers £1.

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

£6000
£5000
£4000
£3000
£2000
£1000

WHAT WE THINK

Party full of Prentices

THE row about Reg Prentice and the Newham parliamentary seat is about whether working-class people should be represented by opponents of working-class interests. That is why trade unionists from the area were right to heckle Prentice at his public meeting last week.

Prentice is, in terms of his views, a Tory. Not surprisingly, the local Tory Party have said they will support him at the next election if he runs as 'independent Labour'. Prentice's theme is 'law and order' and 'the silent majority'; slogans popularised by two American Tories—Richard Nixon (a proven crook) and Spiro Agnew (another proven crook).

Prentice's favourite targets are the Clay Cross councillors, members of his own Party, and the Shrewsbury pickets. Their crime? Attempting to defend working-class interests against the Tory government and the building trade employers. These are intolerable offences in the eyes of Reg Prentice—and Roy Jenkins, Shirley Williams and the rest.

A person who behaves as Prentice has behaved is commonly called a scab. And a scab puts himself outside the working-class movement. That is where Prentice belongs. No doubt his Tory friends will look after him.

But Prentice is not simply a creation of the press barons. He is a member of the Labour Cabinet. And in substance his views are not very different from those of the majority of his colleagues.

Look at their record on the Clay Cross councillors and the Shrewsbury pickets. Prentice differs from shrewder and more important right-wingers chiefly in possessing a grossly swollen head and an insatiable

appetite for praise from the capitalist press and TV. Let no one suppose that the sanitary operation of disposing of a piece of garbage in Newham North-East changes the nature of the Labour Party.

That Party breeds Prentices all the time; big Prentices, stupid Prentices and clever Prentices, Prentices in parliament and Prentices in town halls. The majority of Labour MPs support Prentice. Maybe his own stupidity and arrogance will eventually force them to sacrifice him, as they were forced to sacrifice Dick Tavener.

But the 'silent majority' of Prentices on the Labour benches remains. These supporters of the capitalist system run the Labour Party, whatever its annual conference may say.

FIGHT GOES ON

We know there are still a fair number of rank and file Labour Party members who oppose this state of affairs. Their efforts to change it have our full sympathy. But we have to be honest and say that they have no chance of success.

There is only one way to break the power that the Prentices of this world hold within the working-class movement. We have to build a new workers' party, based on different principles to those of the Labour Party and that means a revolutionary party.

That means a revolutionary party based on the strength and militancy of rank and file workers, not on electing one or another middle-class politician to a parliamentary position beyond the control of those who elected him.

Roy and Reg's mob come east

by Bob Light and Michael Fenn
IF anyone out there still believes what they read in the papers, then you will know that last Thursday night in East Ham Town Hall there was—to quote the papers—a 'riot', with harrowing scenes of 'hysteria' and 'rowdy disorder', as led by 'dull-eyed demonstrators' and the 'thugs of Newham', 'the Mob howled down Jenkins'.

The Observer said it was 'a systematic attempt by left-wing socialists to silence labour politicians and terrorise their supporters.'

In other words some people had the audacity to shout at Woy Jenkins and Reg Prentice. As you can appreciate, that seriously threatens democracy, the rule of law and the whole Western way of life.

There was no riot. All that happened was that after years of faithfully sending Prentice and his like to parliament, only to have him turn on them and attack them, a

good few local trade unionists and socialists turned up to show what they thought of Prentice and the other filth on the platform.

But the press and TV had decided in advance that there was going to be a 'riot', so they set about creating one.

Draw your own conclusions from these facts:

ONE: There was no need at all for the journalists to attend the meeting. All four speeches had been handed to the press in advance the day before.

TWO: There were three TV cameras there: one was rigged up facing the platform. The other two were focussed on the audience.

THREE: The public address system was turned down so low that beyond about the tenth row, it was impossible to hear the speakers. Anyone with a microphone can always drown a heckler. Unless of course, you don't want to.

The most biased account, for Prentice of course, was as usual in the so-called liberal Guardian. The headline was PRENTICE BRIGADE ROUT RIOTERS. It said that

Jenkins gave a lesson in the art of heckling.

What it did not say was that, in the spirit of democracy, no questions were allowed at the meeting. And that most of Jenkins' brilliant moderate performance consisted of calling hecklers 'animals'. This was supported by the equally brilliant Reg Prentice who called hecklers 'ugly and dirty'. All good moderate stuff.

Nothing about unemployment, of which Newham has one of the highest rates in the country.

Claim

Nothing from Shirley Williams about inflation and rising prices, and how Newham families are supposed to live.

Nothing from Tom Jackson about how the £6 wage freeze will affect ordinary workers.

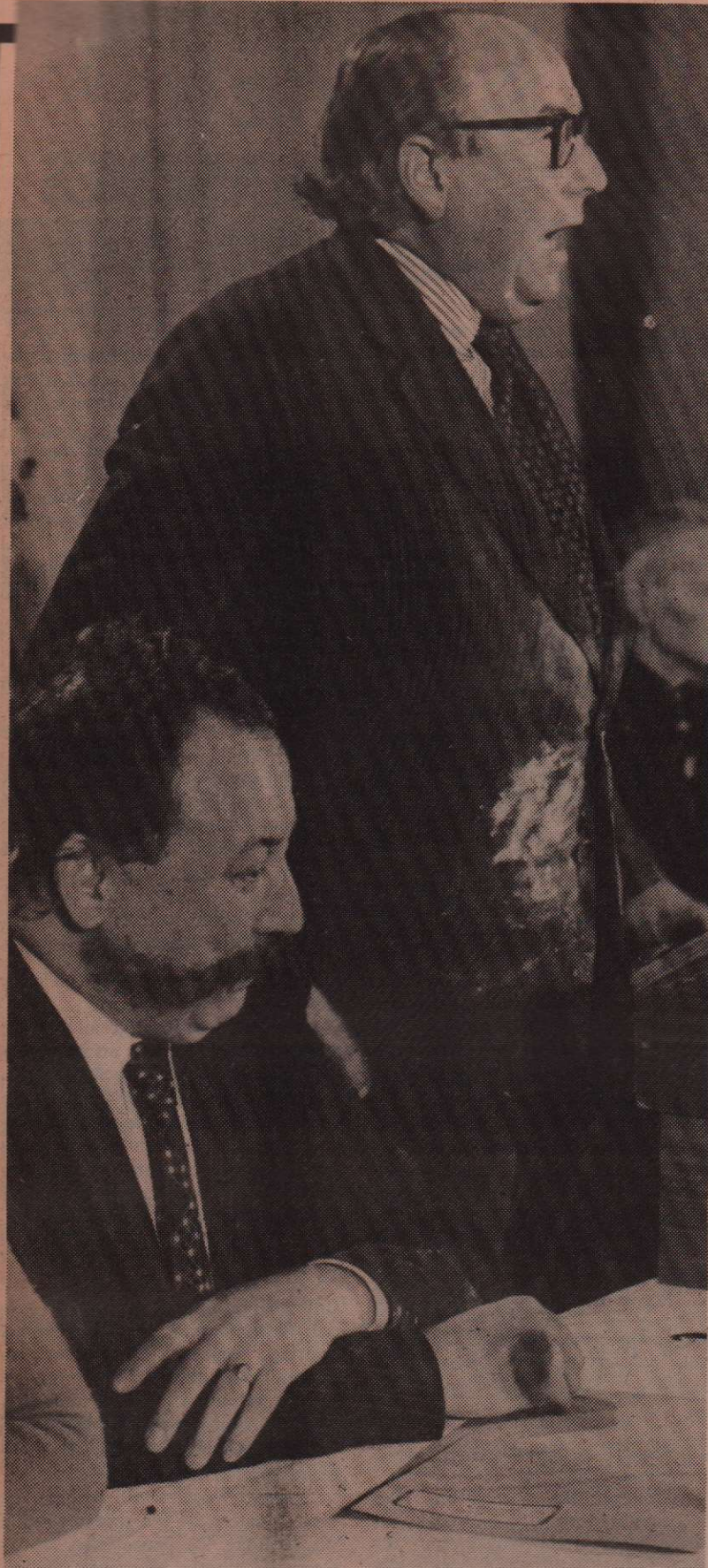
Nothing from handsome Reg, one-time Education Minister, about education in Newham, which has the second lowest level in the country.

One long-haired dirty and ugly extremist thug in the audience who reminded Jenkins that he had let trade unionists rot in prison, was firmly put in his place by a Prentice supporter who shouted back that the trade unions were ruining the country anyway. Prentice is a Transport Union-sponsored MP.

To the chants of 'Free Des Warren' one Prentice supporter replied: 'Who's he?' Another said that he should stay in prison for life. Another screamed: 'Sod Des Warren!' This is the type of support that Prentice commands in Newham.

But one thing we do agree with Prentice on: Rentamob was at the meeting. That was obvious. Prentice had people drafted in from Highgate Village, High Wycombe and other such middle-class enclaves. Most of them didn't even know the way to the Town Hall. They looked as though they would be more at home at Ascot than in East Ham.

We also recognised a whole party of Tories under Witherspoon, the prospective Tory candidate. They were of course cheering Reg on.



Roy Jenkins after being hit by a flour bomb by a member of the National Front

Conspiracy? Oh no...

AS Roy Jenkins got up to speak, he was bombarded with flour bombs by six women from the Nazi National Front. That is a clear case of common assault under the law. In the Daily Mail the leader of these women, Mrs Dyer, openly admitted that the six of them had planned the assault in a motorway cafe. That is plainly a conspiracy under the 1875 Act.

The three supporters of George Davis are still in prison—even though all they did was carve a hole in a strip of grass. Des Warren is still in prison for conspiracy even though he was never even accused of direct violence of assault. But one thing you can guarantee, these six Nazis will not be charged with conspiracy to commit assault on the Home Secretary. Not one single paper even mentioned the possibility.

If it had been trade unionists or left-wingers, we would be in prison right now looking forward to a five-year stretch. But these weren't workers or left-wingers, these were six middle-class—Mrs Dyer's husband is a company director—fascists, from the party of 'law and order'.

So wages don't cause inflation

BEHIND all the government's arguments for the £6 freeze lies the claim that 'excessive' wage rises have caused inflation. The lie is exposed by figures given in the latest issue of Labour Research.

The bulletin gives estimates of the buying power of the average wage packet for the past 18 months in terms of January 1974 money. In December 1973, it would buy £37.67 worth of goods. This fell to £35.71 during the three-day week, then rose through the year to £38.72 at the end of 1974.

Since then real wages have been falling. By June, the value of the wage packet had fallen to £35.26—less than in the three-day week. And that was before the £6 limit was imposed. Whoever caused rising prices, it was not us!

WILL THEY ARREST MAUDLING?

THREE months ago, Socialist Worker carried a front page lead story about Tory Foreign Affairs spokesman, Reginald Maudling, and the Poulson scandal.

We revealed:

That the police had recommended prosecution of Maudling in connection with a Poulson-designed hospital in Gozo, Malta.

That the Director of Public Prosecutions had refused to prosecute until further information about the contract was obtained from a Dr Kenneth Williams, a director of one of Poulson's companies.

That the police attempts to interview Williams in Saudi Arabia, where he is a 'consultant' to the King, had been blocked.

That the police inquiries centred around a £5000 'bribe' paid by Vickers, the shipbuilding and engineering giant, to a Maltese businessman called John Abela.

All these facts have now come out at the trial of John Abela, who is accused of corruption.

Scotland Yard detectives have interviewed Maudling. They are still being blocked from seeing Williams in Saudi Arabia. They are attending Abela's trial in Malta to see if any new facts emerge.

After the trial, they will be forced to come to the decision which has been worrying them for the past three years.

Will Reggie be arrested?

Watch this space—where you get the news first.

Socialist Worker
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

MAUDLING: CORRUPTION PROBE BLOCKED

But the Shrewsbury Two rot in jail...

EXCLUSIVE

THE UNIONS

WHEN ballot papers were issued in the 1970 executive elections of the Electricians Union, they contained a preamble signed by the then general secretary Frank Chapple. This attacked the left-wing candidates and was considered by many left-wing members and several candidates to be an infringement of the rules.

Fred Gore, who had been narrowly defeated in that election, sought a legal injunction declaring the results invalid. The judge indicated that the union should think again. But no injunction was

Electricians' Union stings militant for court costs

granted.

The next step would have been to take the matter to a trial. But this is a massively expensive business and few if any working-class people can even contemplate the legal gamble.

But this was not the end of the story. On the last day of the union's

conference this year, and in the run-up to fresh executive elections, Fred Gore was informed by his wife that the union was demanding costs totalling £1700. His opponent in the 1970 election, W P Blair, was also demanding £600.

If he had been unable to pay the £2300, Fred Gore would have been

put in a most disadvantageous position. The union would simply have transferred the £2300 owed on to his union card as arrears and lapsed him. All of a sudden W P Blair's opponent in the new executive elections would have been 'ineligible to stand'.

However by various loans from rank and file militants in the union Gore was able to avoid being lapsed and the election is going ahead.

For Gore one considerable burden still remains. He now has to repay the £2300 loans.

Can the 'big man' afford democracy?

by Brian Parkin (AUEW-TASS)

A TERRIBLE thing happened at the executive council meeting of the draughtsmen's union (TASS) a couple of weeks ago. There was an argument.

Now, arguments are almost unheard of on this body, which is known mainly for its slavish devotion to 'the line'. Ken Gill, the union's general secretary, was away, and his deputy John Forrester had some difficulty keeping order. Eventually he shut everyone up with the startling statement: 'When the big man gets back he'll expect this item to be settled. If it's not,

there'll be hell to pay.'

What was the problem? It seems that the 'big man' and his colleagues are worried about the union conference. You see, over the past few years an annual conference made up of one delegate from each branch, each of which is allowed two motions and unlimited amendments, has tended to get 'out of hand'.

In 1974, a substantial number of delegates supported a reference back of proposals for amalgamation into the Engineers' Union (AUEW) which they regarded as undemocratic. Last year, the executive failed to get a two-thirds majority for their proposals to reorganise the divisions and cut the size of the executive.

Clearly, there is far too much democracy in the TASS conference for the executive to get their way. So they suggest that delegates should come in future not from the branches but from the divisional councils. Branches would submit motions to the councils, but councils could then select which one they wanted to pass on to conference.

Stop

Moreover, branches would have no right to amend the motions. The executive also wants to stop the practice of 'mandating' delegates to vote at conference as their branch has voted, on the grounds that delegates should be allowed to 'take into account' the arguments at conference.

In other words, the 'big men' want to keep a much firmer grip on delegates.

These proposals for 'reform' are of course nothing to do with reform at all. They are a means for moulding the union in the image of the leaders.

Of course, the union does need reorganising and reforming. We could start by putting all organisers and officials up for periodic election. At the moment they are appointed for life, and this has led to a world 'yawn' for the boys' situation—or jobs for the girls in the case of Judith Hunt, the women's organiser who got the job when set over a member of the



KEN GILL: Described as 'the big man' on his executive union.

union.

If we want to save money, we shouldn't save it on democracy. We could start by having a close look at the fat salaries, free cars, expense accounts and subsidised housing enjoyed by our officials.

Decline

The attack on the branch and on branch life in the union runs side by side with a sharp decline in industrial activity. Militancy in the union seems to be confined to the rhetoric of officials at union conferences. The same officials are telling mass meetings of members that wage claims are excessive. Yet in the TASS Journal we can read articles—usually by left-wing windbags such as Joe Ashton MP or Anthony Wedgwood

Benn—that the workers must defend their living standards.

All these people, together with the TASS leadership, see no place for the self-activity of workers in the struggle to create a fundamental shift in the control of society . . . 'blah, blah, blah.'

The defence of a branch delegate conference must now become the focus around which we start to fight back for democracy in the union and for a real fight-back on wages, redundancies, equal pay, combine organisation.

Socialist Worker members and supporters will be meeting in Leeds on Saturday 27 September to make out a programme to lay the foundations for rank and file opposition to the bureaucratic carve-up of TASS.

Where did you get the suntan, Joe?

WHY didn't Miners' Union president Joe Gormley, seen here voting last week on behalf of a quarter of a million miners, move the miners' motion at the Trades Union Congress condemning fascism in Spain and calling for a workers' solidarity movement with those fighting against it?

Could it have anything to do with the fact that Gormley had only just returned from holidaying in Spain, where he surprised fellow-holidaymakers by his lavish spending. It seems he took time off to pay a visit to the Spanish 'miners' union' which is a captive of the fascist government, and has consistently striven to put down any resistance among Spanish miners.



AROUND THE BRANCHES

CAMDEN Trades Council passed a long motion at its August meeting pledging support to Portuguese workers and urging affiliated branches to:

- Affiliate to the Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese Working Class (£5 for organisations, £2 for individuals).

- Support their national demonstration on 20 September.

- Obtain and distribute copies of their bulletin, Our Common Struggle.

The address for the Solidarity Campaign is 18 Fleet Road, London NW3.

THE Trade Union and Political Staffs branch of the office workers' union APEX passed the following resolution on 1 September:

'This branch supports the aims of the overwhelming majority of ordinary people in Portugal to prevent fascism returning, and recognising the acute danger of counter-revolution supports all moves of solidarity with the government and political parties of the left in Portugal.'

MANUEL ROSALES, a Chilean trade union leader adopted by Southwark Trades Council, has been released from prison by the military junta and allowed to leave Chile. He has arrived in Britain with his wife and two children, and his mother. The trades council, together with the Southwark branch of NALGO, are attempting to find him a job.

Manuel, who is 43, is a member of the national executive of the Chilean National Union of Municipal Workers and president of its Santiago region. Since he was detained in February 1974 he has been in a number of prisons, including Chacabuco concentration camp and Tres Alamos in Santiago, and has been systematically tortured.

Manuel Rosales will address the next meeting of the trades council on Monday 22 September, in the Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Walworth Road, London SE17, at 7.30pm.

SOCIALIST WORKER invites all union branches to send us records of all resolutions which further the working-class struggle in Britain or elsewhere. We would like to build up a regular column each week of trade union branch, trades council and shop stewards' committee resolutions. So don't just pass a resolution. Let us know about it!



FORRESTER: 'There'll be hell to pay'

To challenge redundancies.
To provide information and education facilities.
TASS members decide
Only rank and file members have the right to determine union policy.
Only rank and file members have the right to make or alter union rules.
Every member has a say in running the Union.
The Union is strong because it is truly democratic.

From a TASS hand-out to members



JUDITH HUNT: Jobs for the girls

BIG LINES: Chris Davies (Report) and Angela Phillips (IFL)

THE CUTS

Socialist Worker says: Fight the cuts!

WHY THEY MEAN MORE BATTERED BABIES

by Chris Gunter (NALGO)

IT looks as though we're in for another bout of press hysteria about baby battering.

Last Friday's Daily Mirror devoted its front page to a heart-rendering picture of Neil Honlett, a baby battered to death by its mother. Relatives and friends were quoted as saying that they had pleaded with welfare authorities to take the child away.

HOW COULD IT HAPPEN? shouted the Mirror, which complained bitterly that Neil's mother had been 'let off' with a suspended prison sentence.

As with the Maria Colwell case earlier this year, the Mirror and the rest of the press had an easy answer. Blame an inadequate mother—and put her here in prison for as long as possible. Or castigate an 'inefficient' social worker. Anything except come to grips with the real reasons why people batter their children.

I am a social worker in inner London. Last week I took into care the children of a woman who, in desperation, pleaded with me: 'Take them away!'

She is homeless, and squatting. She has just been rehoused by the Greater London Council and her electricity cut off because her social security money wasn't enough to pay the bill. The only way she could pay the bill was to go out and work—which meant that she had to hand her children over to the local authority.

Earlier in the week, I interviewed a deserted mother of four whose back was black and blue after a rare visit from her husband. She is living in a decaying block of flats, where she was 'temporarily' placed by the local authority five years ago.

A few weeks ago she spent an entire weekend cleaning sewage out of her bathroom.

LEFT

The strain, the hunger, the filth, the noise—these are the reasons why people batter babies. These problems aren't solved by heavy prison sentences or abuse in the press. They're solved by tackling the problems of poverty in our society.

And that's where the real hypocrisy comes in. While the press demands more responsibility from the social services departments for battered babies, they forget to point out that the government is cutting back on spending on social services departments and nursery schools.

A huge building programme for nursery schools would transform the misery of hundreds of thousands of desperate parents. But the government has said that there must be *no more building of such schools!* Some London councils are closing down existing nurseries.

In Southwark social services office there were six social workers left out of 30. The director of social services for Birmingham was quoted as saying the other day that he had 250 social workers—but he needed 850 if families such as that of Neil Howlett are to be visited for even half an hour a week!

So when next your Tory MP or local newspaper shouts out for 'cuts in public expenditure' remember what they mean, those cuts. More battered babies.

For social workers like me and for the people I visit, battered children like Maria Colwell and Neil Howlett are not unfortunate isolated tragedies, that a few more 'case conferences' could avoid.

They are the horrifying, inevitable results of social and emotional stress in a society which produces for profit and not for need.



...and builders show how to fight them

WORKERS who want to know what they can do about social service cuts can take a lead from 100 building workers in South Wales, who have blacked all work on a hospital children's wing until the government increases the number of children's beds.

The hospital is the new Withybush Hospital in Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire.

Roy Barnet, local electricians' union branch secretary, who works on the site, told Socialist Worker: 'There are 100,000 people meant to be served by this hospital. There are 340 general beds and 114 for old people, added to 40 more for old people in another smaller hospital.'

'But there are only ten beds for children in the whole hospital, compared to 24 in the hospital it's replacing.'

'There's been a number of complaints and demonstrations from people in the town, and we had a meeting the other day about what we could do about it. We'd read someone in the local paper saying that unless something was done about it soon, the hospital would be built and that would be the end of the thing.'

'Well, we had a meeting—not of any particular union but just as workers whose children would have to use the hospital. We realise that if our children can't go to this hospital, they've got to go 40 miles to Camarthen. And unless you're really well off, you can't afford to do that.'

'If they acted now, they could easily put in extra beds, or at least as many as they had in the old hospital.'

Avoid

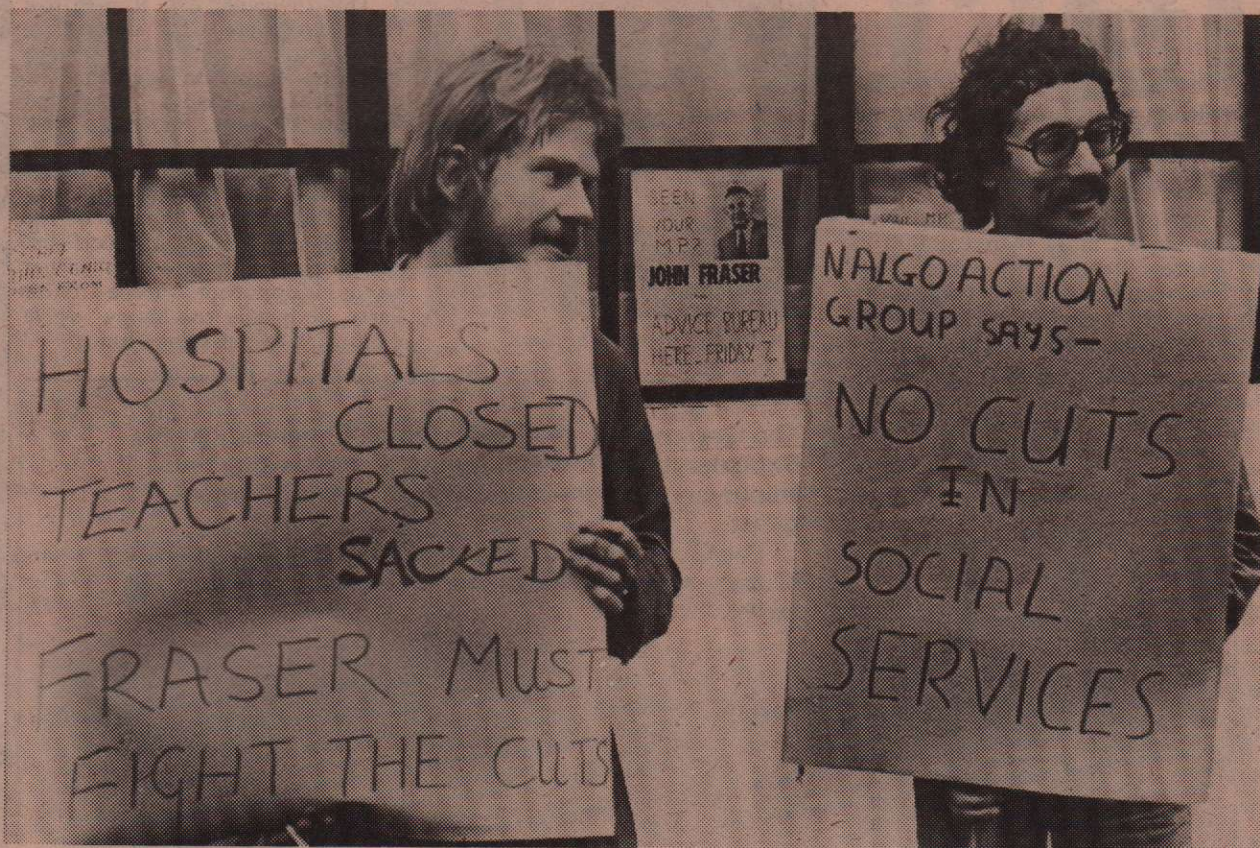
'The contractors and the government tell us to get on and build the children's wing now, and they might expand the ward later. We say that's all very well for the contractors. They'll get more money out of it. But it's just nonsense to build the ward now, take it down later and then expand it.'

'We're plumbers and electricians and carpenters and we know that without much bother they could put in the extra beds now without much extra cost.'

'So we decided that we wouldn't do any more work on the ward until they decide to put in the extra beds. It's as simple as that. Ten beds and the place is black. 24 and we start work again.'

A spokesman from the Welsh Office in Cardiff told Socialist Worker: 'We're meeting the Health Authority next week to discuss the extra beds in the hospital. But I assure you that has nothing to do with the industrial action.'

Roy Barnet has the final word: 'Well, at least it's *doing* something. I'd like to see this story repeated all over the country so that other workers can take similar action to improve our schools and hospitals.'



Phones padlocked

TELEPHONES in ambulance stations all over Essex have been padlocked to stop the men making personal calls.

The move was ordered by the Essex Area Health Authority as part of its plan to cut spending—and a 'terrific increase' in phone bills. Now the men, all members of the Public Employees Union (NUPE), are hitting back by refusing to answer daytime phone calls in the 28 affected stations. Emergency calls reach the crews by radio and telex, and are not affected.

Dave Smith, county union secretary, said the locked phones would make it difficult for his members to get in touch with union officials.

He added: 'Ambulance men work unsocial hours, and we don't think it unreasonable that they should be allowed to call their families.'

Meanwhile the Health Authority is planning a new administrative building costing £1½ million. That's public money, too.

MEMBERS of the NALGO Action Group, the rank and file group within the government officers' union, picketing the Brixton 'surgery' of junior Labour Minister John Fraser, MP for Norwood. The Action Group is planning a campaign, picketing councillors and MPs about the cuts.

In Southwark last Monday members of NALGO picketed a meeting of the council's establishment committee which was considering cancelling vacancies for social workers in the borough. NALGO members in Southwark are operating a work-to-rule against the cuts, and recently held a one-day strike.

PICTURE: Mike Tomlinson (IFL)

It's only a 3-mile walk!

SURREY County Council is cracking down on free bus rides to schools. They have issued a circular insisting that no one who lives within three miles of school should be allowed free travel.

Last week they sent a council official out with a pedometer to measure the distance between the village of Englefield Green and the Magna Carta School, Egham. He managed to make the journey just within the three miles. So free bus rides for all the schoolchildren in the village have now been cancelled.

The fare for each child each week is £1.60. Many families are now forced to keep children back from school because they can't afford the fares.

womens voice



SEPTEMBER ISSUE out now!

Women's Voice is the only women's paper that campaigns against the government cuts, that will defend the workers' revolution in Portugal, that has interviewed Rose Davis, wife of George Davis, jailed for 20 years for a crime he didn't commit.

You can get copies of Women's Voice at 6p from your regular seller of Socialist Worker or by writing to: Women's Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Price 6p plus 6p postage.

Sell it to your workmates, friends, on your estate. Take copies into your newsagent. Help us to sell Women's Voice.

Beware the Princes of the left!

IN the past two issues of Socialist Worker this column has looked at the history of the Labour Party, and of its left wing in particular. It is a wretched history, a history of betrayals and defeats.

But, of course, that is not in itself decisive. Today's Labour left can, and often do, acknowledge that the 75 years of the Party's existence, and its 17-odd years as his (or her) Britannic Majesty's government, have not moved us one inch towards socialism.

But now, they argue, things are different. History, after all, never repeats itself. This time, they say, the socialists in the Party can really impose socialist policies on a Labour



government and no one outside the Labour Party is in a position to influence this exciting development.

Why? Because 'left-wing' policies were in fact imposed on Labour's right wing in the

period of opposition to the Heath government and because there has been a swing to the left among the trade union leaderships. That is what is being argued.

'A socialist challenge has recently come to the forefront of British politics with the election of a majority Labour government in 1974,' writes Stuart Holland, Tony Benn's ideas man, in his recent book *The Socialist Challenge*. Labour's Programme 1973 and the two manifestos of 1974, embody a strategy which makes possible a democratic transition to socialism in this country.'

And John Gollan, general secretary of the Communist Party, takes up the other point in the latest issue of his Party's theoretical journal: 'Perhaps the biggest single change in

the political scene is the advance of the left and its effect on the balance of forces in the Labour movement. To achieve this has been a central aim of our Party's strategy, both immediate and long term. Regarding the unions, they have grown in numbers and effectiveness. The struggle against the Industrial Relations Act speeded up the left advance which had started before then.

'We have seen the emergence of left leadership in key unions and a left group on the General Council [of the TUC]. Left policies have developed with the beginnings of an alternative economic strategy' [My emphasis].

Alas, the 'socialist challenge' has petered out in a few short months and we now have yet again, a Labour government, pursuing Tory policies. The highest unemployment since the war, the biggest attacks on social services since 1931, a policy to cut workers' real pay—and to cut it substantially—this is the reality.

And in international affairs, to take just one example, the Labour Party leaders line up with the CIA, NATO, the 'faceless bureaucrats of Brussels' (as Wilson once called the Common Market Commission) and assorted reactionaries to 'defend democracy'—by which they mean capitalism—against the Portuguese working class.

As to the 'left advance' among union bosses, the TUC has just endorsed the government's gallop to the right, with that pillar of the 'left group on the General Council', Jack Jones, leading the way.

So what will the Labour lefts and their Communist Party allies say now? That Wilson, Callaghan and Healey are traitors? Just as they once denounced MacDonald, Snowden and Thomas as traitors?

Low

As a matter of fact the really striking thing about the reaction of today's Labour lefts to Wilson's Tory policies is the extreme feebleness of their criticism, their failure even to measure up to the rather low standards of their predecessors in the 1920s, 1930s and 1950s. Maxton, Lansbury and Cripps did at least denounce the Labour government of 1929-31. Bevan, Freeman and Wilson (yes, Harold Wilson) did at least resign from Attlee's government in protest against its lurch to the right in 1951.

Now we have to make do with a muted Eric Heffer. The heroes of the left, Foot, Benn and the rest, continue to occupy their ministerial posts and the Tribune group of MPs are about as hard against the government's anti-working class policies as butter in a heat-wave.

There are reasons for this. The heart, core and centre of genuine 'left Labour' politics is the belief that some force other than the working class, some method other than revolution, can emancipate the workers and achieve the effects of revolution by stealth, by manoeuvre.

In the early 1970s the trade union lefts, the Scanlon-Jones axis, seemed to be that force. Now that the trade union lefts have gone over to Wilson as 'the lesser evil', gone kicking and screaming in some cases, but gone nonetheless, the Labour lefts are looking for a new saviour.

Active

They can no longer look, as their forerunners could once look, to the active membership of their Party. That is now middle-class, or at best white-collar. Like the left MPs, it is cut off from the day-to-day struggles and the aspirations of workers.

No doubt another period of Tory government can produce a new crop of 'socialist policies', duly adopted at Labour Party conference. With Labour in office they will, as Burns said 'melt like snowflakes in the water, a moment white, then gone forever'.

The hard truth is that the very nature, structure, ideology and practice of the Labour Party ensures such 'betrayals'. If you want socialism you have to help to build a revolutionary party.

The second line of the International goes 'No trust have we in prince or peer'. Nowadays the prince is the 'left' trade union leader and the peer is the 'left' MP.

5 FIFTH COLUMN



BRIBES? YOU CAN BANK ON IT

BRITISH businessmen are without parallel in their devotion to law and order . . . when it comes to making statements for public consumption, that is. Their own behaviour is a different thing all together, as an interesting article in last week's Daily Express makes clear.

'Under British exchange control laws companies must seek permission from the Bank [of England] to transfer abroad more than £50,000 in negotiating fees a year,' wrote the Express deputy city editor Roy Assersohn. For 'negotiating fees', read 'bribes paid to get export orders'.

. . . the Bank's officials can easily spot where payola or a kickback is involved, but this does not mean that the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street says no.

'A special team in the Bank's Exchange Control Department carefully monitors all these requests to ensure that our balance of payments will benefit from the contract involved. Cases vary considerably and each one is treated on its merits.'

'A typical example was when a leading British bank requested permission on behalf of its customers to transfer £500,000 to meet 'negotiation fees' on behalf of one heavy engineering order.

'The money was to be paid into a New York bank account in the name of an official in the ordering country. It worked out at more than three times the normal negotiation fee, but the Bank of England gave its permission and the contract was assured.'

When John Poulson comes out of prison, there will clearly be a job for him at the Bank of England.

THE death of Sir Denys Lowson, who was the youngest-ever Lord Mayor of London, will be greeted with profound sadness by Britons everywhere.

Sir Denys was a pioneer of the unit trust, a device whereby small savers were persuaded to put their money entirely at his disposal.

Sir Denys ruthlessly pursued the time-honoured ethic of the City of London and businessmen everywhere. As a result he made himself a massive fortune by various forms of lying, cheating and swindling for which he was appropriately rewarded with a Knighthood.

In the early 1970s he crowned a career of sustained swindling with a mammoth unit trust fraud, which netted him £5 million overnight for doing precisely nothing.

Shortly afterwards he dropped his wallet on the floor of the gents in the Hilton and strained both arms and his neck muscles trying to pick it up.

Still Flowerdew, as he was known to all his friends, put in an otherwise unblemished innings for the old country and will be sadly missed. He is succeeded by a huge gang of City swindlers who will carry on his life's work, the enrichment of the few at the expense of the many.



ROGERS: Lunch of honour

Oh, but fascism is different

ON 4 September William Rogers, Labour's Navy Minister, launched a vicious attack on Labour Party members who tried to remove their MPs. They were 'petty dictators', he said.

The following day Rogers had clearly recovered his composure enough to host a splendid lunch at Lancaster House in London. The lunch was in honour of Admiral Geraldo Henning, Brazilian Navy Minister.

Brazil is one of the most savage dictatorships in the world. Clearly while Bill Rogers, founder of the Campaign for Democratic Socialism, hates petty dictators—in other words his opponents—in the Labour Party, he is only too happy to give a Brazilian fascist a good lunch.



'The Government, the Trades Union Congress, and the Confederation of British Industry representing the employers, are agreed on the first and most urgent target.

The Government and both sides of industry are also broadly agreed on the pay limit needed to hit this target.'

HAROLD WILSON

One man who's keeping the homeless out of their place

JUDGE Blackett Ord is a worried man. Some weeks ago he granted Bradford Council an injunction stopping Peggy Relph, a homeless young woman, from squatting in any of the council's many empty houses.

Peggy, however, has taken it into her head to defy the majesty of the law. She has moved out of one cockroach-infested squat into another empty property owned by Bradford Council.

This is an intolerable breach of the selfless and utterly impartial Blackett Ord's injunction. Were Peggy to get away with this she or someone else might move into one or other of the many guest rooms which are perpetually empty at Helbeck Hall, his Westmoreland mansion. And good god there's the weekend hideaway to think about.

What's more, the judge has the family estate to consider. His

brother looks after this little plot of a thousand acres in Northern Ireland given over to shooting, hunting and fishing. Unless someone makes a stand those squat-loving lefties might expropriate it and turn it into common land.

Messages of solidarity and support for Judge Blackett-Ord can be sent to his home at Brough, Kirkby Stephen, Westmoreland.

EXPLOSIVE TIMES?

'OUT from it all, the slaving-sweating-cursing, out from it all comes the clarion call, WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE.' That was the front page of the first issue of a paper called *The New Dawn*, published by the Gorseinon section of the Minority Movement. The *New Dawn* was just one among dozens of rank and file papers written, produced and distributed in the Welsh coalfields in the 1920s. Other papers included *The Gilfach Rebel*, *The Lewis Merthyr Bullet*, *The Cymmer Bomb*, *The Cambrian X Ray*, *Llwynpia Searchlight*, and even *The Workers' Bomb*.

We hope this little piece of history will spur you on. We're looking for a new title for Fifth Column, which is being coordinated by Geoff Ellen now that Nigel Fountain has left the paper. Any suggestions?

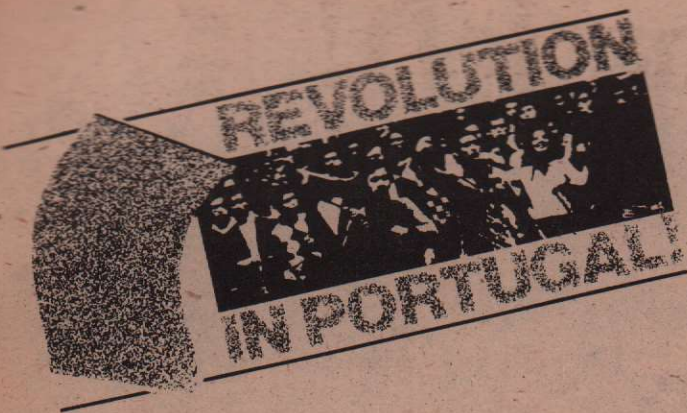
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

'We must protect London Transport's employees from these animals. We should bring back the birch as a lesson to immigrant muggers.'

—National Front candidate Frank Simpson, quoted in the *Hackney Gazette* (9 September 1975)

'The conductor fell over, hit his head on the pavement and fractured his skull, which was thinner than normal and especially thin for a negro.'

—Report on the murder of black London bus conductor Ronald Jones in *Britain First*, newspaper of the National Front (Issue 31, 1975).



AFM'S ROLE IS OVER SAYS AFM OFFICER

'It is necessary to know how to lose illusions. You can't transform an army from the inside'—with those words Captain Matos Gomes summed up his feelings to the French paper *Le Monde* last week. He had just been removed from his position in the Amadora barracks because of his opposition to the right-wing officers.

'The hierarchy want to re-establish militarism, a strict respect for bourgeois authority. But the soldiers, the sergeants and the progressive officers are fighting for their rights. They have chosen the serious, class-conscious option of fighting to main-

tain and develop democratic life in the barracks, to impose assemblies in the military units, and to confront the power that tries to stop the revolutionary process.

'This will not be possible unless we link our battle with that of the workers and neighbourhood committees . . . Only the alliance of the popular rank and file organisations and of the soldiers organised in the barracks can allow us to change the structure of the army.'

Matos Gomes went on to say that he no longer believed that the present army could be the 'people in uniform'.

'The Armed Forces Movement no longer exists. Torn by the same contradictions as Portuguese society, it has collapsed. The anti-fascist phase is over: The AFM has accomplished its historic role. Now is the time to choose: To stop in one's tracks and accept a social democratic neo-capitalism, or to go forward to socialism. There is no other choice.'

He said that Melo Antunes and the group of nine 'moderate' officers 'defend a neo-capitalist orientation. But we know that in Portugal today that means increased oppression of the workers. That is why the social democracy of the 'nine' is only a transition towards fascism.'

Rank

and file soldiers oppose the right

FOR the first time for many months big business interests in Europe and America have been expressing satisfaction over events in Portugal.

For the new prime minister, Admiral Azevedo, has been forming a government committed to protecting private investment, 'restoring authority', membership of NATO and close links with the Common Market.

The proposed government is dominated by the pro-NATO Socialist Party and the right-wing Popular Democrats. But it contains a Communist Party member. Admiral Azevedo has pledged to the Socialist Party that it will disarm those workers who have guns.

Almost all the high command in the armed forces have united in support of this plan. Officers who were quarrelling about how they

would run the country three months ago are now agreed that they must sink their differences in order to crack down on the workers' movement.

They claim that they have to act quickly in order to prevent further advances by the extreme right, led by ex-president Spínola. The prime minister told a delegation from the Maoist UDP last week that otherwise there would be a coup by supporters of Spínola.

But the support which Spínola is able to enjoy in the north of Portugal among small landholders is a result of the economic crisis. And there is no sign that a government committed to capitalist principles will be able to solve that crisis. Under the new government unemployment will rise until it affects one in five of the population—and with it will grow the strength of the extreme right.

In the armed forces, the majority of the career officers already support the right. 'Restoring discipline' will give them firmer control over the left-wing rank and file.

Trial

As a leaflet put out by the six organisations of the United Revolutionary Front pointed out last week, it was precisely such a compromise with the right wing for 'law and order' that laid the ground for the coup in Chile two years ago. 'In Chile the most reactionary sectors were able before the fascist coup to disarm the self-defence groups of the population. Do we want the same thing to happen in Portugal?'

There is, however, one important difference between Chile and Portugal. In Portugal, the rank and file in the armed forces

have been organising to resist the commands of the right-wing officers and to oppose the demands of the new government. The smiles on the faces of Western businessmen may not last long.

Unfortunately, the leaders of the Communist Party seem to have learnt nothing from Chile, except the need to face both ways at once. They have said that they are against a coalition government with the right wing, but will join the coalition despite this.

Although the Party itself has left the United Revolutionary Front to talk to the Socialist Party, they have left their front organisation, the Portuguese Democratic Movement in the united front. It seems they are more concerned with bridging the gap between left and right than with facing up to the dangers of the situation.

Thousands demonstrate in Oporto

From Robin Ellis, in Oporto

TWO THOUSAND soldiers demonstrated in the northern city of Oporto on Wednesday last week, followed by tens of thousands of civilian supporters.

They chanted 'Down with Fabiao'—one of the leaders of the 'moderate' officers, 'The soldiers always on the side of the people' and 'Portugal will not be another Chile'.

Oporto is one of the centres of the right wing among the officers, who have succeeded in forcing out their former commander Corvacho, for his left-wing views. Wednesday's demonstration showed that the rank and file do not share their officers' views.

In at least one barracks the officers locked the doors to stop the rank and file joining the demonstration.

For the right wing, who like to think of Oporto as one of their strongholds, the demonstration was a



Demonstrators marching in London last Saturday calling for the release of the condemned Spanish militants

Five opponents of Spanish fascism are now under sentence of death by garrotting—a medieval form of execution that involves slow strangulation.

Three more were sentenced last Friday, to join two Basque Nationalists, Jose Garmendia and Angel Oteagui, in the grisly queue to the execution

chamber. The Labour government showed last week that it views protests over these sentences indifferently compared with protests by right wingers at left-wing developments in Portugal. Nine people who occupied the Iberian Airlines office in London to protest at the sentence have been charged with conspiracy to trespass under the notorious Conspiracy Acts.

big rebuff. Well-to-do people were walking with their heads down, their eyes averted, as the power of the rank and file marched past them in the street.

The demonstration was called by a new organisation, Soldados Unidos Vencerao—Soldiers, united, will win. It was backed by the parties of the revolutionary left and by many rank

and file members of the Communist Party, although the Communist Party gave it no official support.

In a leaflet distributed in the barracks before the demonstration, the organisers stated:

'In recent weeks we have been fighting hard for better conditions in the barracks and against reaction. We have been fighting for better pay, for an end to arbitrary punishment, for the right to refuse reactionary orders, for the right to meet and discuss freely. We have had our victories and our defeats, but we have learnt that our force can only be effective through unity and organisation.'

Club

'Our fight is part of the great struggle for popular power, for power to the workers.'

'The gentlemen in gold-braid epauletts do not want to lose their

privileges. We rely on you to say no to the military coupists. We will defend together our rights. In the fight for better pay, for free transport, against discipline which only attacks the ordinary squaddie, we are united.

'The soldiers always, always on the side of the people.'

One of the sergeants told me after the demonstration: 'The demonstration, which included professional soldiers, was very important for revolutionaries both military and civilian. It was a good, militant answer to the right. Even the soldiers did not think it would be so large, because of the intimidation and propaganda against it. The soldiers and people showed once again the real possibility of making the socialist revolution in Portugal.'

Attempts are now being made to spread the Soldiers United Will Win organisation to the Lisbon area, with the support of the military police and other regiments.

Military police back commanders

The attack on the left-wing within the armed forces has already begun in the military police. This regiment has become one of the strongest supporters of workers' struggles in recent months. The oath of allegiance for new recruits is now to 'the struggle of workers for socialism'.

But last week it was announced by the army that the first and second in command of the military police, Majors Andrada and Tome, were being replaced. This is seen as the first step towards disbanding the regiment.

A mass meeting of the regiment on Thursday decided to 'give their support to the command of the unit, since it has continued to prove itself on the side of the fight of the soldiers.'

NEWSPAPERS DEFY BAN

ONE of the first attempts by the right wing in the armed forces to impose their will has been a press law forbidding the publishing of statements from any soldier or any meeting of soldiers. But the law is being defied by a number of papers, united together into a coordinating committee.

But the right-wing paper *O Tempo* has not been allowed to join this. The committee explained: 'The workers in the media make a distinction between repression carried out by reactionaries and repression carried out against reactionaries and fascist criminals.'

The importance of this decision is that it shows that workers for press, radio and television will be united against any attempt to hand back to their proprietors the occupied Radio Renascensa and the worker-run paper, *Republica*, although the new government will be demanding both.

PORTUGAL: THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' POWER

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

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

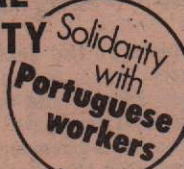
Huddersfield: Thursday 25 September, 8pm, Fraternity Hall, Alfred Street.

SOUTH EAST LONDON SW SOCIAL: Friday 26 September, Thames Polytechnic, Woolwich. Bar, Disco. All proceeds to Portuguese Solidarity Fund.

GIVE A POUND FOR PORTUGAL and have a great night out! Saturday 27 September, 7.30pm, Maypole Hotel, Pendleton, Salford. Singers, theatre show, disco, rock group and compere. All takings to SW Portugal Solidarity Fund. Organised by Greater Manchester IS.

WEST YORKSHIRE SW day school: The Revolution in Portugal, and what we should do. Speaker: Chris Harman. Discussion groups. Bradford Central Library, Saturday 4 October. 1 to 5pm.

SOCIALIST WORKER PORTUGAL SOLIDARITY FUND



OUR Portugal Fund has been fully stretched this week by spending on the demonstration for the weekend. So far we have printed 12,000 posters, 100,000 leaflets and 68,000 stickers.

We have only been able to put out such massive publicity because of the generosity of readers of Socialist Worker in digging in their pockets to help the Portuguese revolution.

In the weeks ahead, our solidarity is going to be needed more than ever. The new government is saying it is going to crack down on 'disorder' within the armed forces and to guarantee 'private property'. It is going to force big struggles on rank and file soldiers and workers.

Now that the Communist Party has agreed to join the right-wing parties in the government, the only organisations that will provide backing for these struggles are the revolutionary left. They need all the support and solidarity we can offer.

Fortunately, Socialist Worker supporters have been responding well to the challenge. Our fund this week produced £153.99. This included:

Sales of badges and posters £36.82, Halifax SW readers £2, Andy Jordan £2.50, A North London comrade £2.50, Rodney Hilton £5, £25 from Norwich, £1 from a comrade in Denmark for badges, £1 from ATTI members in Swansea, £1 from Glenrothes, R J Ireland £2.50, Warwick University students £4.60, British Leyland, Triumph, Coventry £4.40, £4 from a meeting in Grimsby, Kingston and District Trades Council £2, North London district meeting £14, EETPU members at Tooting Bec Hospital £10.

Help us to raise money for 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.

Germany 1919: Those who call for 'Moderation' open the way for fascism

SOCIALISTS who defend the revolution in Portugal, again and again, meet a single, simple argument.

'Look', the argument runs, 'the Portuguese people have expressed their will in a general election. The most votes were won by the Socialist Party. Why don't the workers allow the Socialist Party to form a government and run the country under a parliamentary democracy?'

'After all, that would be much better than fascism, which the Portuguese have had for more than 40 years.'

Exactly the same argument was used during another great workers' revolution—in Germany in 1918 and 1919. There the argument persuaded the mass of workers, with terrible consequences. The story of the betrayal of the German revolution is a grim warning to those in Portugal today who believe that democracy stops at parliamentary elections.

The German revolution broke out spontaneously after a mutiny in the fleet at Kiel at the end of the First World War. It spread quickly throughout the country.

Weary of the war, and determined to rid themselves of the officers and capitalists who had started it, the workers and soldiers elected councils in every workshop, mine, dock, and barracks. The councils ran the local administration and elected delegates to a national council. In a single week, the shop stewards and union officials who ran the councils produced order out of the post-war chaos, a fair system of justice and a lively press.

On 9 November, as the German Empire collapsed under the revolution, the Socialist Party leader, Fritz Ebert, became Chancellor.

Real power in Germany was held by the National Congress of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils. But Ebert, like Mario Soares, the Socialist Party leader in Portugal today, demanded that the councils give up their power to an elected parliament.

False

The argument raged for several hours at a seething meeting of 3000 workers' council delegates in Berlin on 10 November. Ebert appealed to the delegates 'in the name of law and order' to accept quick parliamentary elections and an interim government headed by himself. The left, led by the revolutionary shop stewards' movement, argued for a government of workers' and soldiers' councils.

Ebert won. His winning argument was that Germany had never before seen a parliamentary labour majority. Let them try it and see, he said.

Six weeks later, the National Congress of Workers' and Soldiers' Councils met in Berlin, and had the argument over again. By 396 votes to 98, they voted to surrender their council's power to a new parliament.

At the same meeting, the delegates passed a motion which demanded the demobilisation of the standing army and its replacement by a people's militia.

They voted unanimously against all badges of rank, for the election of officers, and for con-

trol of the army by the soldiers' council.

Ebert accepted the council's surrender of power. But he refused to demobilise the army. On the contrary, he started plotting among the old army officers, as Soares is plotting now, for a war against the councils.

On 5 January 1919, the Berlin police chief—a socialist—was sacked by the Minister of the Interior. He refused to go. Massive demonstrations were called in his defence. Ebert waited until the

demonstrations died down, and ordered in ten battalions of the old officer corps, the Freikorps.

A violent battle shook Berlin for a whole week. After a campaign of cold-blooded terror, the troops emerged victorious.

Drunk with their successes, they sought out the well-known Communist leaders Karl Liebknecht and Rose Luxemburg. They were found in hiding. Their skulls were smashed with rifle butts. While still alive, they were thrown into a freezing river where they drowned.

Overthrow

Four days later, an officer who was convicted of these murders, was sentenced to six months in prison! 'Free elections' were held throughout Germany. The Socialist Party got 38 per cent of the poll—exactly the same percentage as in Portugal earlier this year.

Ebert was delighted. Was the vote not a mandate for his government to destroy the workers' and soldiers' councils which had created the revolution?

He set about the task with gusto. His colleague, Gustav Noske, Minister of Defence, told the officers of the Freikorps that 'no mercy must be spared' in wiping out the workers' and soldiers' councils throughout



The Hammer: red soldiers in the streets of Munich after the revolution—and the Anvil, the wall where workers met Gustav Noske

Hammer

THE WARNING OF THE PAST: PORTUGAL DEMOCRACY MUST NOT HALT AT



Mario Soares (left) anxious to play the same role as Fritz Ebert, strutting among the generals (right).



Germany. A vast army of nearly half a million men was recruited for the Freikorps from among the middle classes and the superstitious peasantry, most of whom swore allegiance to the Catholic Church. This army went on the rampage. In Berlin they shot their way through the working-class tenements, murdering 1200 men, women and children.

The bemused workers' and soldiers' councils put up a courageous resistance against the troops called in by 'their socialist government'. But they were fighting against hopeless odds. The dreadful slaughter continued throughout the country, especially in Bavaria and the Ruhr.

Who were the lovers of democracy who masterminded this 'civilising mission'?

The leader of the Freikorps

'crack division Heydebek, who deputy chief of H SA. Other Freikorps leaders were SA minister in Hitler and von Epp, Governor of Bavaria of the most e pagandists for a terror during the obscure liaison m in Bavaria, Adolf

Terr

By the middle back of the wo was broken. T capitalist class, terrified by the full control. It t the eventual de socialist governm sisted it back to p



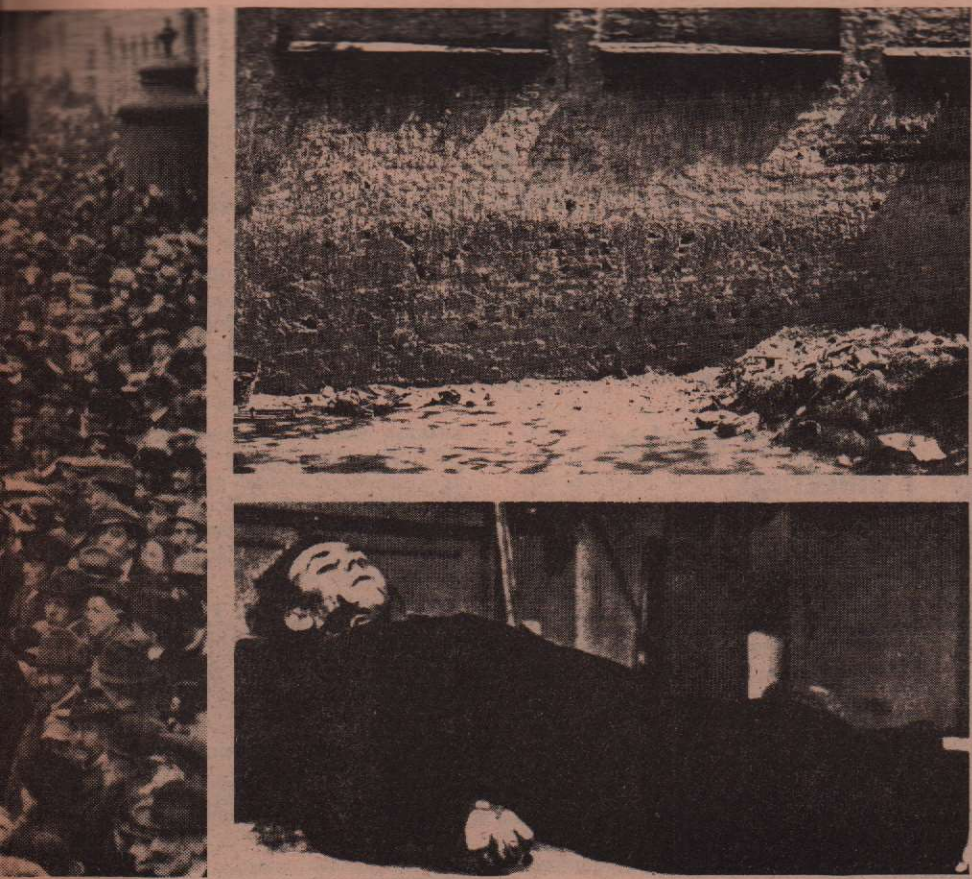
'Of course, there are a dozen officers capable of crazy pranks. But it is on the other side, on the Left, that those stand who endanger the revolution. Against them we must defend ourselves.'

Philip Scheidemann, social democrat leader, at a German Cabinet meeting, 29 December 1918.

WHERE TO FIND O

The best book in English on the German revolution is HAMMER OR ANVIL by Evelyn Anderson. It tells the story from 1914 to Hitler. Unhappily it is not in print. It was published in a limited Left Book Club edition in 1945. So look out for it in your local second-hand bookshop.

FAILURE OF A REVOLUTION by Sebastian Haffner, came out two years ago, and is also good. Haffner writes as a social democrat, and does not put any real alternative—but he shows the betrayal by Ebert and the rest



...olutionaries were shot by the Freikorps, by order of the social Democratic 'bloodhound',

...or anvil

...TUGAL'S PARLIAMENT



'The imperialist capitalist class, as the last offspring of the caste of exploiters, surpasses all its predecessors as far as brutality, open cynicism and rascality are concerned. It will defend its "holy of holies", its profits and its privileges of exploitation, tooth and nail ...

It will sooner turn the country into a smoking heap of ruins that relinquish its power to exploit the working class'.

Leading article in Die Rote Fahne (The Red Flag), written by Rosa Luxembourg, 14 December 1918.

... was von later became ...ler's murderous ...rps battalion ...ldte, later a ...r's government, ... later Hitler's ...ria. Indeed, one ...thusiastic pro- ...ti-working class ...ivil war, was an ...n for the army ...tler himself.

Evelyn Anderson, in her book on the inter-war history of the German working class, wrote:

'It was a perverted civil war in which the social democratic government summoned reactionary and anti-democratic officers to suppress radical workers—with the aim of making Germany safe for democracy. It was in those days that Germany was made safe for the eventual victory of Adolf Hitler'.

In Portugal today, Mario Soares is playing exactly the same role as Fritz Ebert played in Germany in 1918 and 1919. He wants to preserve the class structure in Portugal. He wants to keep capitalists in control of industry, non-elected judges in charge of the law courts, appointed civil servants running the government machine.

If the workers who now con-

...UT MORE

clearly. It's in most libraries. THE KINGS DEPART by Richard Watt (Penguin) tells the whole story of the Versailles treaty that ended the First World War and ends with a wonderful description of the revolution. Every reader of Socialist Worker should get a copy (£1 plus 10p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4) and read it. It will concentrate wisdom on the Portuguese situation wonderfully. One chapter ends with the sentence 'The Kings had departed, but the captains had not'.

...trol their factories hand political power over to Soares, they will be opening the door to counter-revolution just as terrible as that unleashed in Germany 56 years ago.

General Antonia Spinoza, who fought for the fascists in Spain, is waiting the call from a 'socialist' government to restore order in Portugal in the manner of his past heroes, Franco and Hitler.

Parliamentary democracy is a sham democracy which permits the dictatorship of one class over another in every sphere. Direct workers' democracy in the factories and housing estates is their only protection against dictatorship. Either the Portuguese workers push through their revolution to political power, or they will be smashed.

Evelyn Anderson called her book Hammer or Anvil.

The title came from a verse of Goethe's which should be posted on every wall in Lisbon, and recited in every workplace where Portugal is under discussion:

*You must rise or fall,
You must rule and win
Or serve and forfeit,
Suffer or triumph,
Be anvil or be hammer.*

PAUL FOOT

WHY ARE THESE MEN SO KEEN ON WORKERS' PARTICIPATION?

WORKERS' PARTICIPATION has suddenly won some strange converts: senior managers and directors who have spent their lives attempting to break trade union organisation.

Sir Arnold Weinstock, chairman of the giant General Electric Company (GEC) and the man responsible for tens of thousands of redundancies in the past five years, has joined the call for workers' participation.

Don Lander, managing director of Chrysler UK, has the support of the Chrysler Corporation bosses in Detroit, for his participation schemes. Lord Ryder advocated it in his report on British Leyland.

But they want something in return. GEC want 5000 more redundancies in the next 12 months. British Leyland want up to 30,000. Chrysler have just put 17,000 on short time in preparation for redundancies.

The shop floor is being asked to accept voluntary redundancies, natural wastage, a general reduction in manning levels.

But what is it that Derek Robinson, convenor of British Leyland Longbridge, Birmingham, Eddie McGarry, the British Leyland combine chairman, and John Carty, the Chrysler Linwood convenor, hope to get in return.

All the schemes have one thing in common. The participation will be done by senior stewards and convenors. For Eddie McGarry it means the chance to become a director of the new British Leyland. It means sitting in the board room not as a trade union negotiator but as a director. The same will apply to many other top trade union officials.

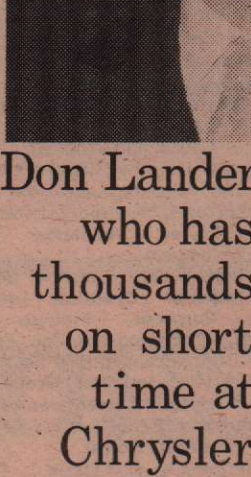
Meals

Most of the tin-pot committees proposed will have no power over planning future car models, company finance, manning, the distribution of profits and wages, or anything that matter. Only a very few convenors will be given any real power.

But it will be a power far away from the men and women who elected them on the shop floor. There is already a serious problem about controlling full-time convenors. Anyone who spends six weeks away from the factory negotiating with manage-



Sir Arnold Weinstock, who has sacked thousands at GEC



Don Lander who has thousands on short time at Chrysler



ment in a hotel is bound to get a bit out of touch.

The strings attached to all the schemes ensure that convenors will get far more than out of touch. The schemes all include a commitment to national bargaining, compulsory arbitration and new, complicated and lengthy bargaining procedures. It will be far more difficult for rank and file workers to control what their elected representatives do.

The talks between senior stewards and British Leyland management about the participation scheme gives a taste of what is to come. Two senior stewards from the Cowley plant were given company transport to the talks. They stayed, together with other convenors and management, at one of the most luxurious hotels in Warwickshire, the Allesley. Rooms cost the company up to £10 a night each, without food.

Menus at the Allesley during the talks included Avocado Pear Vinaigrette, Scotch Smoked Salmon, Half a roast duckling, Entrecote steak Bordelaise, Escalope of veal Cordon Bleu, Duckling in honey and brandy

sauce, Trout with prawns and capers.

Clearly it was a right caper! Will it be possible to recall the worker directors, send someone in their place, and put them back on the assembly line? In practice it will never happen.

The employers themselves have no illusions about workers' participation. The Coventry Engineering Employers Federation made a survey of participation schemes on the Continent and came to the conclusion that such arrangements 'have rarely inhibited managements' freedom to decide and act accordingly.'

Cost

In Coventry and the West Midlands, where industry is at its most modern, workers' participation is being pushed hardest. For it is here that the brunt of sackings—under the guise of 'redundancy' and 'rationalisation' of course—will be. Already in Coventry there are 17,299 on the dole and tens of thousands more on short time.

Management will not concede control over manning levels, line speeds, or hiring and firing.

But each shop and section can take and exercise that control. If management won't replace a man who has left, then leave his job undone. If the line is speeded up, miss every third product.

This would not be participation in management decisions. But it would be shop floor control over immediate conditions. And it would be exercised by the democratic decision of the workers immediately affected.

We must fight for: Shop floor control over manning levels, hiring and firing and line speeds.

A ban on all overtime. A 35-hour week. Five days work for five days pay.

No co-operation with any management who threaten short time.

Immediate occupation in the event of short time or redundancy.

Nationalisation without any compensation of all companies that cannot guarantee the right to work.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM JOURNAL

SPECIAL

PORTUGAL

AT THE CROSSROADS

BY TONY CLIFF

OUT NOW

40p + 8p Post. Order from:
ISJ, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Portugal: Stop the economic boycott!

IN PORTUGAL workers are fighting for socialism, for workers' control in society. We cannot allow that movement to be crushed. The Rank and File Organising Committee are asking all rank and file workers' organisations in Britain to support the workers councils (CRTS) in Portugal, if necessary independently of the TUC and the Labour Party.

Roger Cox, secretary of the Organising Committee, told Socialist Worker how trade unionists could organise solidarity, and work to defeat the economic boycott being imposed by the employers:

- Fight within the unions for official support for the CRTs, and raise funds for them.
- Set up local 'Hands off Portugal' committees of

trade union delegates.

- Counter the anti-working class propaganda with local bulletins, and in trade union journals.
- Work for a national trade union delegate conference to organise 'Hands off Portugal'.

The committee can assist rank and file papers, shop stewards' and union branch bulletins and union journals to get information from fellow workers in Portugal. They can help set up contacts between British and Portuguese workers in the same company or industry, and help organise delegations to Portugal.

What follows is a list of British companies which have subsidiary or associate companies in Portugal. Is your company among them? If so, your fellow workers out there may need your help—get in contact.

IS YOUR EMPLOYER HERE?

(Parent companies in bold type. Addresses refer to head offices—factories and depots are not listed).

Allied Breweries, London EC1: John Harvey and Sons (Port Shippers), John Harvey and Sons (Portugal), Cockburn Smithes, Rozes, Antonio Filipe (Vinhos). **Avery's Birmingham**: Avery Portuguese. **Babcock and Wilcox**, London: Babcock and Wilcox Portuguesa.

Ball and Collins (Oil and Gas): Ball and Collins (Portugal). **Beecham Group**, Brentford, Middlesex: Beecham Portuguesa, Produtos Farmaceuticos e Quimicos. **Beralit Tin and Wolfram**: Empresa Mineira da Argimela. **Berger, Jensen and Nicholson**, London: Emulsa Fabrica de Emulsos de Resinas Sinteticas, Robbaliac Portuguesa RL, Revortex Portuguesa. **Bestobell**: Bestobell Termidinamica.

Blackwood Hodge: Blackwood Hodge (Portugal). **KO Boardman International**, (Stockport): Boardman (Portugal)—Texteis. **British Airways Board**: In Mobiliaria do Sotavento do Algarve. **British Insulated Callendar Cables**, London: BIC Construcão Portuguesa, CEL-CAT Fabrica Nacional de Condutores Electricos. **British Leyland Motor Corporation**, London: Soc. Anglo-Portuguesa de Automoveis, British Leyland de Portugal—Automoveis.

British Petroleum, London: Cia Portuguesa dos Petroleos BP. **Burmah Oil**: Castrol Portuguesa. **Burns-Anderson**, Manchester: Bemposta-Investimentos Turisticos do Algarve. **Cables and Wireless** London: Cia Portuguesa Radio Marconi. (The Cia Portuguesa Radio Marconi has a monopoly of radio and telephone communications between Portugal and the colonies. This is part of a system of cables linking Britain, Portugal, South Africa, Mozambique and Angola. 80 per cent of the cost of building the link Lisbon-South Africa was financed by a loan from three British banks—Lloyds, Barclays and Midland. See also GPO).

Chambon, London, W6: Chambon. **Charter Consolidated**: Anglo American Corporation of South Africa (Portugal). **Charter House Group**: Prainha Empreendimentos Imobiliarios. **Coats Patons**, Glasgow: Cia de Linha Coats and Clark. **Cope Allman International**: Cope Allman Portuguesa Tecnica de Aerolol.

Richard Costain, London SE1: Costain Servicos Tecnicos de Construcões, Empresa ed Financiamentos Turisticos do Algarve, Empresa Turistica Vale do Lobo do Algarve. **Lusotel Industria Hoteleira**, Courtauld, London: International Paints do Portugal.

Drake and Cubbitt Holdings, Bristol: Holland, Hannen and Cubbitts (Portugal). **Eucalyptus Pulp Mills**, London, WC2: Caima Pulp Cia, Soc. Silvicola Caima.

The Everready Company, London, N20: Berec Portuguesa. **General Electric**, London W1: Ventiladores Woods (Portugal), English Electrica de Portugal. **Glaxo Holdings**: Glaxco Farmaceutica. (The GPO invested £4.3 million in the submarine cable built by the Cia Portuguesa Radio Marconi, an associate of Cables and Wireless. The cable runs from the Lizard to Portugal, and forms part of the telecommunications system between Portugal, the colonies and South Africa). **Hoover**, Middlesex: Hoover Electrica Portuguesa.

Hull Blyth: Sao Vincente de Cabo Verde. **Imperial Chemical Industries**, London: Carpecor, Finicisa Fibras Sineticas, ICI Portuguesa, Soc. Fabril de Tintas de Construcão, Indofil Soc. Ind. de Filmes Plasticos. **Imperial Group**: Doro Vondor Produtos Alimentares. **Imperial Metal Industries**: Fecor Fechos de Correr, Opti-Lon Fechos de Correr.

International Synthetic Rubber, Southampton: Soc. Portuguesa da Resina—Dismutada Madeiras do Minho. **Lamson Industries**, London EC4: Paragon Portuguesa. **Laporte Industries (Holdings)**: Interox Portuguesa Produtos Quimicos. **Lep Group**: Lassen Transport. **Lohrro**: Arvanga—Socanglo Portuguesa de Administracões.

Marchwiel Holdings (Alfred McAlpine): Construcões a Supico. **Marks and Spencer**: Marks and Spencer, Lisbon. **Matthews Wrightson Holdings**, London: Matthews Wrightson. **Metal Box**, London: Ormais Embalagens de Portugal. **Mitchell Construction Holdings**, Peterborough: Construcões Mitchel, Urbilar.

Monique, Southampton: Monique is developing an 82-acre site on the Algarve (The Times, 28 March 1970). **Monotype Corporation**: Monotype Portuguesa. **Newman Industries**: Manotecnica Montapens Electro-Technicas. **Norwest Holst**, Liverpool: Norwest Portugal. **Penninular and Oriental Steam Navigation**, London: Ferrymasters Portugal.

Plessey, Ilford, Essex: Plessey Automatica Electrica Portuguesa, Plessey Electronica Portuguesa. **Pritchard Cleaners (Holdings)**: Estrela-Climex. **Rank Organisation**: Soc. Anglo-Portuguesa de Cinemas Rank Filmes de Portugal, Invecine Investimentos e Espectaculos. **Reckitt and Colman**, Hull: Reckitt Portuguesa, Portugal. **Reuters**: Reuters Portuguesa.

Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation: Pillar Portuguesa (Alumino) Portalex. **Rubber Latex**, Manchester: Rubber Latex Portuguesa. **Geo G Sandeman and Sons**, Harlow: Robertson Brothers, Sandeman, Offley Forrester-Vinhos, Soc. Agricola e Vinicola a Produtora de Celeiros, Soc. Vitivinicola de Ribatua, Soc. Vinicola Sandeman. **Sena Sugar Estates**, London EC4: Soc. Industrial do Ultramar.

Shell Transport and Trading, London: Shell Portuguesa. The Shell Company of Portugal. **Smith and Nephew Associated**, London: Rolsol Confeccoes e Exportacões. **Star Paper**: Cymenne Stai (Portugal). **J and W Stuart**, Edinburgh: Cia de Redes de Pesca. **TPT, Romiley, Cheshire**: TPT Portuguesa Sociedade de Cone e Tubos. **Tangynka Concessions**: Caminho de Ferro de Benguela.

Tate and Lyle, London EC3: TLE Agricola, Portugal, Acucar Embalagem e Exportacao, Portugal. **Thompson Organisation**, London: Alugnetevox-Soc. Aluguer de Televisores. **Traflagar House Investments**, London: Cia Portuguesa de Fundacoes e Sondagens. **Trust House Forte**, London: Airport Caterin Portuguesa Fornedora de Refeicoes, Empresa Turistica Vale do Lobo de Algarve, Lusotel Industria Hoteleira.

Unilever Group: Fabrica Imperial de Margarina (FIM), Industrias Lever Portuguesa, Industrias de Gelados. **United Gas Industries**, London: Solasistem. **Vickers**: Operate a malting plant through Vicker's subsidiary Malting Technology International, (Eire). **Bernard Wardle**: Schotte Plasticos de Portugal. **The Wellcome Foundation**, London: Laboratorios Wellcome do Portugal, Cooper.

Watney Mann, London: Croft, Delaforce, Morgan Brothers.

DO YOU AGIT-PROP?

AGIT-PROP stands for agitation and propaganda. We're holding a practical conference to find out how to do both. There will be workshops on how workers' theatre, photography, socials, silk-screen posters, live music, cartooning and filmmaking can be used in the struggle for socialism.

Sunday afternoon will have a discussion on Marx's analysis of art, and its relevance to modern culture and agitation, with speakers including Ian Birchall, Roland Muldoon, Dave Widgery and Paul O'Flynn.

A grand agitational social on the

SW 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.

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.

Socialist Worker meetings

PORTUGAL DEMONSTRATION: Socialist Worker sellers must be there by 1pm. 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.

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

LAMBETH COUNCIL WORKERS Socialist Worker public meeting: Labour policies and the socialist alternative. Thursday 2 October, 12.30pm, Lower Hall, Town Hall, Brixton, Speaker: Paul Foot.

CENTRAL LONDON SW school on the government cuts: Saturday 27 September, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Friends International Centre, Torrington Place, London W1 (opposite Dillons Bookshop).

NORTH WALES SW day school: The revolutionary party and Portugal. Saturday 11 October, Students Union, Bangor. Evening social. Details from IS branch secretaries and SW paper sellers.

HARLOW SW public meeting: Labour's betrayal—the £6 freeze. Speakers: Duncan Hallas (editor, IS journal) and Mick Brightman (AUEW North London District Committee). Thursday 25 September, 8pm, Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair, Harlow.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER SW public meeting: No to the freeze and the cuts! Thursday 25 September, 8pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate. Speaker: Dick North (NUT executive) and a local speaker.

MERSEYSIDE SW public meeting: Why the system stinks. Friday 26 September, 8pm, Damwood Hall, Central Parade, Speke. Speaker: Paul Foot.

TWICKENHAM SW meetings: Labour's incomes policy. Speaker: Jim Higgins. Thursday 25 September 8pm. The Albany, Station Yard, Twickenham. The public expenditure cuts. Speaker: Hugh Kerr. Wednesday 1 October, 8pm, Labour Party Rooms, 77 Waldegrave Road, Teddington.

WEST MIDLANDS SW day school on Young Workers. Saturday 4 October 11am, IS Books, Deritend High Street, Birmingham, (five mins walk from New Street Station). Murray Armstrong introduces session on The need for a revolutionary party. John Clifford introduces session on How to work on the shop floor in your union branch. Speaker to be announced to introduce final session on Local perspectives for work among young workers. Plenty of time for discussion. All welcome.

Saturday night with singers, bands and theatre will live up the proceedings still further. Bring your songs and instruments to the Maypole, Ford Lane, Pendleton, Salford, from 8pm to 11.30pm. Tickets £1 (50p if you're at the conference). The conference is at Manchester TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester, on Saturday and Sunday 27 and 28 September, from 12.30 to 6pm, and 12 to 4pm on Sunday. For further information ring IS Books, London, 01-802 6145. Accommodation can be arranged in Manchester. Registration £1.

SW

What we stand for

SOCIALIST WORKER is a revolutionary socialist paper that seeks to organise its supporters around the following principles:

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

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

The smashing of the capitalist state The state machine is a

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

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

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

The revolutionary party To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and Socialist Worker aims to build towards such a party by fighting of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

WE ARE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

I want to be a Socialist Worker supporter

Name
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International Socialists

NATIONAL IS WOMEN'S COMMITTEE: next meeting 11 October. Delegates from IS districts and fractions please. Could fractions telephone to let us know who is coming. 01-739 6273. Meeting: Saturday 11 October, 11am, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

IS Students in Central London next term must attend a meeting on Monday 22 September, 5.30pm, at SOAS, Malet Street, WC1. Please note the change of date. If there are any problems, or you cannot attend, phone Peter Alexander, 01-580 0916.

MANCHESTER day school on Women: Saturday 27 September, 10.30am University Union, Oxford Road, Manchester. Morning: IS, the National Abortion Campaign, the Working Women's Charter. Speakers: Margaret Renn and Sheila McGregor. Lunch: 1 to 2pm. Afternoon: Perspectives for IS. Speaker: Sheila McGregor. Creche available, but places must be booked. Delegates attending should phone the Manchester bookshop, 061-832 8102. Every district in the north should send two or three delegates. Pooled fare scheme.

INNER EAST LONDON district IS aggregate: Party Council report-back. Tuesday 23 September, 7.30pm, Bethnal Green Music Library, Cambridge Heath Road, near Bethnal Green tube.

NORTH EAST LONDON POLY IS group: All NELP IS members to attend first meeting on 22 September, 10am, Union coffee bar, Livingstone House.

IS SCIENCE GROUP meeting: Saturday 27 September, 11am, IS Books, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry. Discussion on past and present movements of socialist scientists. For further information contact John Morser, c/o Coventry IS Books, address above.

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.

IS students

IN about two weeks time at least 10,000 students will be homeless. Thirteen colleges no longer exist. The education cuts are hitting hard and our response must be immediate.

The name of one person from each college where there are members of the International Socialists, even if there is only one member, should be sent in to the IS Student Organiser (8 Cottons Gardens, London E2) as soon as possible, then we can send out information, and get ourselves organised.

LEBANON AS IRELAND

The bloody legacy of divide-and-rule

by Phil Marfleet

A FEW years back, when politicians spoke of a 'political' solution to the problems of Northern Ireland, they often referred to the situation in the Lebanon. But over the past few weeks, Lebanon, like Northern Ireland, has been on the verge of civil war.

As in Ireland, the apparent issue at stake is religion. Again as in Ireland, the real cause of the conflict lies in hundreds of years of domination by foreign powers, which have used divide-and-rule as a weapon.

Hatred between Christians and Moslems in Lebanon began when British, French and Russians struggled for bits of the crumbling Turkish empire last century.

The French were the first into Syria, of which Lebanon was then part. They soon established complete control over trade. It was said that the people 'could be neither clothed nor have coffee to drink' without buying from the French.

French control depended on making sure that the leaders of the Christian community were well tied into the French business system. A few Arab Christians became rich in the process, while the mass remained poor. The important thing for the French, was that majority of the population, who were Muslims, remained even poorer.

Influence

In this way, the French played one group off against another and could get away with the spoils. Their efforts were crowned with success at the end of the First World War, when the Turkish Empire collapsed, and Lebanon and Syria openly became French colonies.

The French were forced to grant the Lebanese independence after a general strike 30 years ago. But they did not leave without ensuring that their interests would be taken care of.

They had previously ensured that the borders of Lebanon would be drawn up to include the largest possible number of Christians compared with Moslems. They knew that to retain their precarious privileges, the leaders of the Christian community would be forced to look to the Western powers for protection.

The constitution provided for the middle-class representatives of all the religious groups to take part in the government. But leaders of the Christian community have the dominant positions. The prime minister was always to be a Christian. The civil service and the armed forces were overwhelmingly Christian. Most of the Lebanese ruling class was Christian.

Wanted

When the general Arab revolt against continuing Western domination threatened to upset this structure in 1958, American troops were sent in to prop it up.

Within Lebanon itself, Christian domination has been backed by a movement similar in many ways to the Loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland. The Falange Party was formed in the 1930s, modelled on the Italian fascists and the German Nazis. It calls for strong links with France, defends private capitalism and is bitterly hostile to all working-class movements.

The Falange has been behind the recent massacres of Muslims, such as

the shooting of a busload of civilians this week.

The Falange has felt threatened by the growing strength of an alliance between organisations of the Palestinian refugees in the south of the country and Lebanese socialist organisations.

This alliance came to the armed assistance of fishermen in the port of Sidon in February when they were attacked by the army after protesting at a government decision give a fishing monopoly to a company run by a prominent Christian politician.

In the following months, the Falange began attacking the Palestinians—only to find itself taking on the Lebanese workers as a whole, Christian as well as Palestinian.

The latest fighting is not simply a clash between different religious groups. It is an attempt by those who have gained from the religious divisions in the past—the Western powers, Lebanese big business and the Falange—to re-establish their hold. They do not care how many people are killed as they pursue their aim.



Lebanese soldiers on the streets of Tripoli

Angola hangs in the balance

by Peter Alexander
SW Africa Group

THE Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) have made significant territorial gains in recent weeks. They now control 11 of the 15 districts. At the same time it is clear that pressure is being stepped up outside Angola in a bid to carve the country up in the interests of big business.

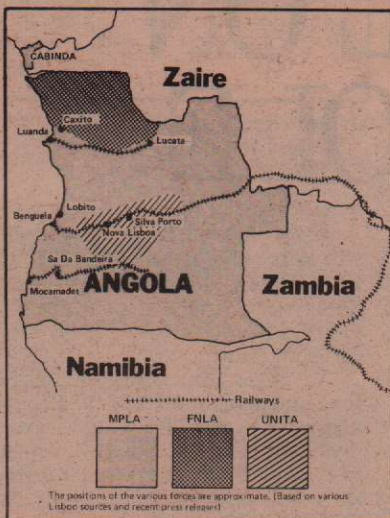
This has been demonstrated by the increased support received by the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (UNITA) and by the direct intervention of South African troops in southern Angola.

Defeat

The MPLA have held the FNLA north of Luanda near Caxito, where there has been a huge build-up of forces. At the same time they have defeated FNLA forces in Lucala and other important points. In the south MPLA have defeated joint UNITA/FNLA forces in a number of towns, and UNITA now control only a small, although important, region around Angola's second city of Nova Lisboa.

A large part of the MPLA's success has been due to their popular support. The MPLA have often armed the civilian population. The same cannot be said of the FNLA and UNITA, which only survive with large bodies of mercenaries.

In the capital, Luanda, the MPLA have always enjoyed the support of the 'People's Power Movement'. This movement has involved the establishment of some sort of workers' commissions.



But the MPLA cannot be said to have a clear working-class socialist strategy. They did not initiate the People's Power Movement, although they now support it. Indeed, they have suppressed workers' strikes in Luanda. Their numerous agreements with the FNLA and UNITA have shown a willingness, at least on behalf of the leadership, to flirt with a neo-colonial sell-out.

The MPLA view that socialism can be achieved as long as they can liberate the whole of Angola is almost naive, especially since they rely so heavily on Russia and Eastern Europe for support—who of course have their own plans for Angola.

Despite these criticisms, it is important that socialists should sup-

port the MPLA. All three 'Liberation movements' opposed Portuguese rule. But the MPLA has put up the most consistent fight against imperialism in its many forms.

The FNLA stands for the domination of one tribe and the dictatorship of one man. UNITA is merely a cheaper brand of the same product. Victory for either—or both—would be a victory for big business, which would be allowed to carve up mineral-rich Angola and increase the exploitation of the mass of Angolans.

Expand

America and President Mobutu of Zaire, who acts in America's interests, are not alone in having an interest in FNLA victory.

The recent announcement that France would cease selling certain arms to South Africa disguised the fact that these arms are being diverted to the FNLA. In return France has been promised a large oil concession.

South African premier Vorster and Kaunda, his opposite number in Zambia, the two great 'moderate' statesmen trying to carve up Zimbabwe are both known backers of UNITA. South Africa wants

UNITA to provide yet another compliant black buffer-state to hinder the prospect of revolution in South Africa.

It is not impossible that South Africa's military intervention is a sign that she wants to open a supply route to UNITA. Kaunda is particularly concerned about the Benguela railway, which provides the main means of exporting Zambian copper, which is the chief economic basis for his own political survival.

The role of the Portuguese has been ambiguous. Although the high command has generally supported FNLA, there have been some occasions when members of the rank and file have supported the MPLA. Individual Portuguese capitalists have supported both FNLA and UNITA, and FNLA, particularly, employs large numbers of renegade Portuguese soldiers.

The Angolan people under the leadership of the MPLA have won great victories, but there is a lot at stake in mineral-rich Angola. So the involvement of outside interests is enormous. The MPLA needs all the support it can get.

In this country the Angola Solidarity Committee (ASC) has been formed to rally support for the MPLA. Get your union branch to affiliate to the ASC and join yourself. The address is c/o Gifford, 6 Bowden Street, London SE11.

IT'S MARRIAGE ITALIAN-STYLE

THE Italian Communist Party is one of the many Communist organisations which are openly attacking the left in Portugal and lining up with the pro-capitalist Socialist Party.

But the Italian Communist Party's anxiety to prove it's respectability doesn't stop at denouncing Portuguese revolutionaries. According to a report in the Financial Times of 20 August: 'Signor Sergio Segre, the top foreign affairs expert of the Italian Communist Party, has been

invited to a high-powered foreign policy seminar in the United States this October.

'The seminar is sponsored by the Rockefellers and attended by leading figures of the US establishment.'

But will Signor Segre actually attend? The report continues: 'The eagerness of the party to allay US fears over their intention after the sweeping gain in the June regional election makes it well nigh certain

that Signor Segre will accept.'

But will he be allowed into the US—Communists usually aren't. The report continues: 'US diplomats... stress that the seminar, under the aegis of the Rockefeller-financed Council on Foreign Relations, is not official that Signor Segre's presence would not imply any change in US official attitudes. Nonetheless the US authorities are not expected, as they have done in past similar circumstances, to refuse an entry visa.'

NAMIBIA

Public Meeting

Wednesday 24 September
N.L.R. Hall 7.30 pm
(Euston Square or Warren Street tube)

Putuse Appolis
SWAPO Women's League

Representative of
SWAPO Youth League

Audrey Wise, MP

Eric Roberts,
Asst. Gen. Sec. ALEW

Pauline Webb

SOLIDARITY WITH
SWAPO AND
THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA

NAMIBIA SUPPORT COMMITTEE
2125 TABERNACLE STREET,
LONDON EC2. TELEPHONE 071-581 042



LETTERS

Write to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

15p THAT MEANS MISERY

I WONDER if Mr Croft (5th Column, 6 September) could spare 15p a week out of the £250,000 he is expecting to spend on his new recluse for a young woman I met who, out of an income of £8.60 a week, is expected to pay £8.75 to cover her bed and board.

Maybe Croft and other members of the ruling class are not aware that a young woman, five months pregnant, is forced to beg for an increase of her social security benefit to enable her to keep a roof over her head.

Perhaps they do not realise how demoralising it is having to wait around in the social security office for a couple of hours a week to get such luxuries as a maternity dress or a pair of shoes.

They may not even have any idea of the humiliation of having to live in a Catholic hostel daily bombarded with stupid comments about the immorality of unmarried mothers, or even of the fear of being homeless when the child is born because the Catholic hostel does not provide accommodation for mother and child.

Of course they don't understand. They are too busy carrying the responsibility for protecting our civilised society from all its evils.

Mr Croft is the sort of person who thinks socialists are trying to wreck our society because they want enough food, housing and clothing to go round.—GAIL CARTMAIL, Norwich.

Arab prisoners need your support

THE Committee for the Defence of Arab Political Prisoners, in Britain, has been set up after yet further news of arrests of socialists and communists in the Arab East. The latest waves have been in Egypt where 20 workers, students and lecturers have been charged with treason. There is also news of the hanging of five militants alleged to be members of the Arab Communist Organisation in Syria.

We understand that the trials are to take place around the middle of September. We ask you to support the democratic rights of these and other socialists and militants in the area.—JINAN AL KHALIDI, Committee for the Defence of Arab Political Prisoners, 18 Finsbury Park Road, London N16.



LET those who marched with Hackney Trades Council away from the National Front demonstration in the East End of London consider their tactics. Will their demonstration—a show of numerical strength and the 'magic' of the labour movement banners—in any way deter the National Front from intimidating black people? No. The only way to stop these people is by using that strength to bar their way.—JOHN SMITH, Ilford.

The National Front marching two weeks ago with the banner even the police condemned as 'openly racist'. The organisers of the counter-demonstration carefully avoided the route of the Front

OH, WE HAVE A BALL ON THE DOLE...

I SEE that in the Daily Mirror a guy called J Blickford from Rotherham calls Britain a sick society because of the welfare state. He thinks that it is more profitable to go on the club.

I don't know if anyone has been sending him up or if he is just round the bend. I live in Kirkby and I have been unemployed for about 15 months.

The reason I have been out of work for so long is not only that the bosses have a million to choose from but because I had the audacity to argue against Ford Motor Company's right to cut manning levels

when they felt like it.

I also argued against right-wing stewards who have control of the Ford Halewood plant, and against lining up at the end of every shift like a schoolboy to get your clock cards marked.

So, after four years of arguing, the management offered me a couple of weeks' wages if I would leave of my own accord. When I refused this kind offer they told me that they would sack me anyway, and that they would black me all over Merseyside. The convenor, being the good trade unionist that he is, backed the management up.

So in the end they sacked me and after 15 months out of work, and after applying for numerous jobs, I don't think that they were bluffing about blacking me.

But getting back to J Blickford. I am married with four children and I receive £32.60 in unemployment benefit and supplementary. I pay £8.39 rent, which leaves me £24.21. Family allowance brings that up to the fantastic sum of £27.01. With that I feed and clothe all of us. I also have to pay gas and electricity bills, and bus fares so my kids can go to school.

Yes Mr Blickford, we have a ball on the dole.—J MURPHY, Kirkby.

Pop goes that victory!

A FEW weeks ago Fifth Column reported that a group of factory girls has used their industrial strength to get off work early to watch the Bay City Rollers on television.

This was seen as a victory for the workers, but really it was a victory for capitalism. The girls fought for the right to wallow in the worst of capitalist culture.

Working-class people have produced many excellent strains of popular culture, but modern 'pop' music is just a profiteering corruption of these. Pop groups are one more link in a long chain of spontaneous working-class culture that has been latched on to by the music barons.

Pop groups have had vast followings, and many have written brilliant music and lyrics. They have also made huge profits for the music companies. From their TV programmes, books, records, clothes and trinkets the companies have extracted lush profits from gullible girls aged eight to 18.

Unluckily for the bosses, their pinnacle of success contains a cruel paradox, for they have created mediocrity run riot. The scene is set for a true cultural rebellion against this plastic gnome culture.

We should oppose the efforts of the establishment to dull the senses of youngsters by immersing them in such drivel. Fifth Column should recognise that when some of them go so far as to use their power as workers to indulge in it still further, then the bosses have had the last laugh. Pop culture is a partial antidote to socialism.—TONY WILD, Newcastle.

Socialist Worker: Always our priority

DUMFRIES International Socialists branch has from its very start placed the top priority at every discussion the sales of Socialist Worker, simply because without the workers' paper, you can't build the workers' party.

At a recent Socialist Worker discussion group I came in for a fair amount of criticism on the point. I was told that I was a fanatic about paper sales, and that personal contact was more important than selling papers.

We believe that the paper is the first step, and once purchased every attempt is made to follow up on the sale. Who bought it? Where do they work? Do they know anyone else who would buy a copy? Will they attend a Socialist Worker discussion group? What are they doing at their workplace to organise against sackings, redundancies and so on?

If they hadn't bought the paper in the first place, we wouldn't know they even existed!

Taken

The Communist Party's attempts to organise sales that will equal ten sales per member we consider moderate, as our group are approaching double that figure.

You don't achieve this by passive selling, but by vigorous activity both on the street and in the workplace. We find that once a new contact has taken the paper for a few weeks they become quite annoyed if it's a day late, and start chasing us for their copy.

That is because Socialist Worker is different from all other left papers, and genuine militants quickly see this.

You only have to push for the first few sales to new contacts, after that it's plain sailing. So we say: sell the paper to build the party, and watch its influence grow. Never miss the chance of a single sale and follow up on every contact.—TERRY STEWART (USDAW), Dumfries.

Engineers' Charter

WILLIE LEE'S article on the Engineering Union (AUEW) (Socialist Worker, 6 September) did not mention amalgamation. This is coming under increasing attack from the right wing, who have no concept of linking sections of workers. The Engineers Charter declares support for amalgamations but does not go into any depth on the direction to be pursued.

As a TASS member I have reservations about the sort of structure presently proposed, as it will lend itself towards the bureaucratic domination of our union. This will make the control of the union more remote from the lay membership.

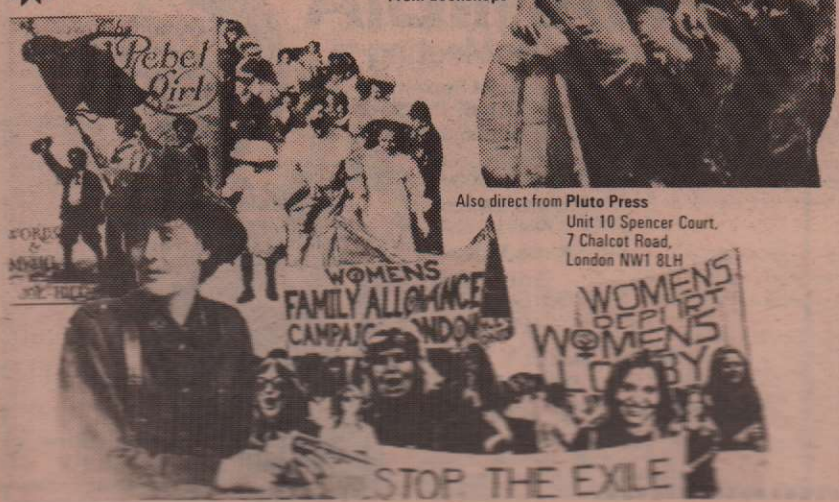
To date the amalgamation has been forged by the Broad Left leadership of the union, at national level. If amalgamation is to succeed it needs the support of the rank and file of all sections of the union.

What is the position of the Engineers Charter on this?—MICK TEW, AUEW-TASS, Coventry 6 Branch.

Pluto 1976 Big Red Diary

An illustrated political diary. This year it records women in history, women at home, women as mothers and women at work—in words and pictures.

For argument as well as for appointments! £1 From bookshops



ON THE BOX

STANLEY BAXTER and his picture show are back this week for another hour, London Weekend, 9pm, Friday). The first of the three specials contained some really marvellous humour including a delightful 'Royal Wedding Phone-in'. Looks good.

On Sunday ITV has its usual and utterly appalling CELEBRITY SQUARE programme hosted by the totally unfunny Bob Monkhouse. This nauseous programme is worth a watch—once that

it enables the already rich celebrities to pick up a fat fee. But more than that

they can also feel good. Halfway through the programme they give away around £50 to a 'good cause of the week'. Last week it was a disabled man in Newcastle who was due for a phone but found that the local council could no longer afford it. A few more episodes and there'll be no need for socialism.

PANORAMA (Monday BBC-1) is on the young unemployed. It makes the discovery that since new investment is capital investment there is a constant loss of jobs. For the young therefore the future looks extremely bleak. Worth a watch. Might provide some ammunition.

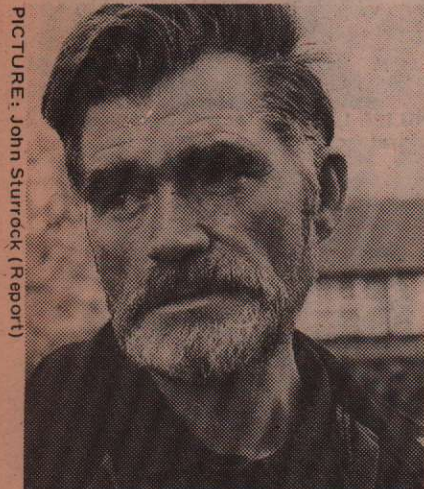
There's a slight problem on Monday. The wonderful feature film THEY SHOOT HORSES DON'T THEY? (BBC-1), about the marathon dancing competitions of the last depression, clashes with the first part of a new serial.

This, in four parts, is the BBC-2 adaptation of the French novelist Flaubert's MADAME BOVARY.

On Thursday BBC-1 has the third in DAYS OF HOPE series about the working-class movement. This week is on the first Labour government. Granada has its THE STARS LOOK DOWN at the same time. LAURIE FLYNN

'ROUGH JUSTICE'

or, The Park and the park-keeper



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Fred Winter: Offered £3

A PARABLE OF OUR TIME

ON the left is Fred Winter, pictured in the Grosvenor Square Park, Salford, where he is a gardener. Fred is shop steward for the General and Municipal Workers, which has 90 members in his park.

This week the union put in a claim for £6, under the government's counter-inflationary policy. Fred says: 'My basic wage is £34; after stoppages, this comes down to £23. We've fought for a bonus rate which just about makes up for stoppages but in many areas park workers are still making do with lead-in payments of £1 a week.

'£6 is an 18 per cent rise. But prices have gone up by 26 per cent since last November when we last got a rise.

'Of course we don't even get the £6. At least £2 goes in tax, and lots of workers in our range will lose rebates, free school meals and so on.

'The employers tell us we can have £3.

'It's a most unfortunate thing which I don't think they have completely understood: that council workers have to eat. Very sad, but necessary.

'I remember when Heath was driving round in London and there was a traffic jam and he had to walk through the rain. He was so angry he made a phone call half way round the world to complain about it to his chum on the GLC, who was in Tokyo.

Now they tell us that our kids have to walk to school if they live less than two miles from school unless we can afford £2 a week each for fares.

It's either the fares or an overcoat. We're wondering if we can afford either . . .

IF you read the government's 'case' for the £6 limit, you'll see they set great store by the complete wage stop for those earning more than £8,500 a year. The rich, they tell us, can't possibly benefit from the policy.

Like Alex Park, for instance. Earlier this year, Park was just an ordinary finance director for British Leyland, on an ordinary executive's salary of no more than £18,000 a year.

Then he got promoted. British Leyland was partly nationalised. Fuddy duddy capitalist Barber got the sack as managing director and ordinary man Park became chief executive.

Naturally, Park expected a hefty wage increase for doing rather less work in his exalted new job.

Then came the government's wage freeze, and his hopes were dashed. After all, he got more than £8,500 a year, and the government had warned: 'There will be no exceptions.'

Then a miracle happened.

Last Tuesday Park was told that his salary was being raised—from £18,000 a year to £50,000 a year: the biggest single pay increase in British industrial history.

As The Times put it: 'Mr Park's pay is well in line with levels paid for big companies in the private sector.'

The news has been greeted with jubilation by Sir Monty Finiston, the chairman of British Steel who gets £28,100, and Sir William Ryland, chairman of the Post Office (£23,100). They hope that they too will be made 'honourable exceptions' to the government's rough justice . . .



Alex Park: £32,000 rise

SURRENDER UNION TELLS FOOD WORKERS

LONDON:—The 800 workers sacked by London Eating Houses have been advised by their union to accept redundancy payments. There had been a call for occupation.

Most of the workers are immigrants from Turkey. The promise to regularise their work permits is meaningless because one by one as their work permits run out they will face the same fate as Sabri Genc, a militant steward now in Pentonville Jail awaiting deportation.

Their solidarity was undermined by attacks from the Transport Union district officer who claimed that their 'excessive wage claims' were responsible for the 'voluntary liquidation' of the group.

Birmingham: Lessons of the lock-out

by a Birmingham member of the National Union of Journalists

Two months on the picket lines taught the 250 journalists locked out by the Birmingham Post and Mail some important lessons.

They went back to work last week after accepting the bosses' original offer of £1 a week plus £6 a week from 1 January—if the freeze limits allow. They also accepted 20 redundancies of people who found new jobs during the dispute—at no cost to the company.

Newspaper bosses have waged an incessant campaign against the NUJ in its efforts to get a closed shop under Michael Foot's Trade Union Bill.

Many NUJ members, including a slight majority of those working for the Birmingham Post and Mail, believed the bosses' tactic.

Now they know that the proprietors really wanted a ready supply of non-union scabs to protect their idea of press freedom—freedom to make big profits and wage the Tory propaganda war.

And with the chapel's unwillingness to mount regular mass pickets to stop the newspaper delivery vans, scabs were able to get newspapers published throughout the dispute.

Force

A history of bad blood between the newspaper union left the journalists with little support inside the building.

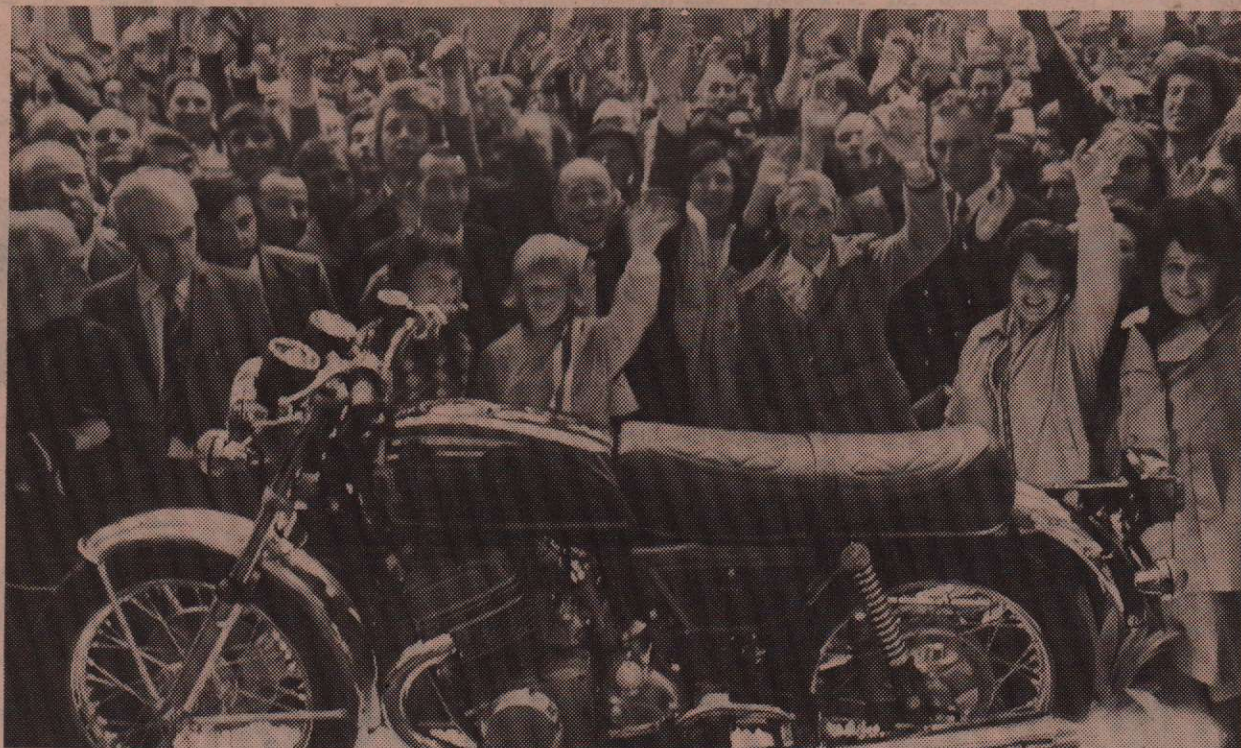
SLADE members gave solid support, refusing to process any editorial work. But NATSOPA members defied a national instruction and handled blacked newsprint deliveries by cowboy lorry drivers.

It is time to end the inter-union bitterness. Newspaper unions must come together now before they are picked off one by one over pay, redundancies or closures.

On one of the two mass pickets, the police proved the claims of thousands of other workers over whose side they take. Too many journalists have believed the police plea that they are 'just the men in the middle'.

But the Birmingham journalists saw for themselves what so many other picketing trade unionists have seen: police helping scab lorry drivers across the lines, then brawling with and arresting pickets who got in the way.

Now the journalists must build upon these experiences. A rogue management took on a group of conservative and industrially naive workers who showed during the nine week dispute that they were a force to be reckoned with.



WORKERS at Norton Villiers Triumph, Wolverhampton, cheering their new Wulf motorcycle, which they have built in the few weeks since their factory was closed by its owners. The workers are sitting in, working on the new models and inquiring about possibilities for new orders. The new model was deliberately sabotaged by the company's former management, and the workers have done more in a few weeks to build something original in the factory than the old management did in 20 years.

More than 1100 of the 1300 workers who were in the plant

when the factory was closed are still occupying. They are still demanding that the government take over the factory and protect their jobs.

Industry Minister Eric Varley has promised to 'look into the matter once again'.

Enthusiasm about the new model must not deflect workers from the hard battle which is ahead of them. The management may still try to get their hands on their machinery by means of vague promises about future markets.

LABOUR COUNCILLORS THREATEN SCHOOL

by Geoff Hurford, (North London Teachers Association)

IS THIS A SCHOOL OR A SCANDAL? asked the Evening News.

They had just sent three children from the William Tyndale Junior School in North London to an educational psychologist. The psychologist reported that the three could do better. Which amounts to saying nothing at all.

This is just part of a systematic attack on the school by the press and right-

wing members of Islington Council, which is a 100 per cent Labour.

The attacks began after the school employed Dorothy McColgan, a member of the National Union of Teachers. She had just successfully fought an attempt to victimise her by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) because of her militant stand on teaching issues.

The attacks have included the appearance of a 'Black Paper' on the school, encouraging parents to move their children. A secret petition was circulated among members of the council who are also school managers calling upon ILEA 'to

take urgent steps to re-establish public confidence in the Junior School'. This is a fine way of reducing confidence.

Now after 18 months of press attacks, innuendoes, slanders and threats, the teachers have been threatened with a special week-long inspection of the school by the ILEA.

The teachers gave ILEA a deadline to call off the inspection. They are being supported by their local NUT branch and a William Tyndale Support Campaign has been set up.

It is now up to other trade unionists

and especially teachers to give full support to the William Tyndale staff. If we allow this political victimisation to go ahead it will encourage witch-hunts from every right-wing councillor and school manager in the country.

Every teacher who reads this should raise the issue in their school NUT branch and local association—speakers can be supplied.

Further information from Jeff Hurford, 18 Williamson Street, London, N7. Messages of support will be passed on to the staff.

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.

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

CARDIFF: Saturday 18 October. Organiser: Brother W Williams, 20 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:



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



Classified

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

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 W8NJ.

KNAVE OF CLUBS Folk Club, corner of Bathnal Green Road and Club Row, London E2, every Thursday, 8pm, admission 35p.

SOUTH LONDON Support Group for the Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese Working Class, public meeting: Thursday 18 September, Brixton Town Hall, 7.45pm. Chairman: Ted Knight (chairman of Norwood Labour Party). Speakers include Judith Hart, Basil Davidson (Angola Solidarity Committee), a Portuguese worker and a member of the Spanish Solidarity Committee. Entry free.

HARROW Troops Out Movement: Thursday 2 October, 7.30pm, Victoria Hall, Sheepcote Road, Harrow. Film 'Behind the Wire', followed by meeting. Entrance 25p. All welcome.

PORTUGUESE WORKERS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE: Viva Portugal! A 1½ hour colour film on the workers' struggles from 25 April to 11 March. First ever showing in Britain. Saturday 20 September (before the demonstration) 11.30am, Collegiate Theatre, Gordon Street (near Euston Station), London WC1. Entry 50p.

PORTUGAL: THE BUILDING OF POPULAR POWER. Big Flame open meeting. Saturday 20 September, 7.30pm. The Rugby Tavern, Rugby Street, off Lamb's Conduit Street, Holborn, WC1. PWCC speaker, and Portuguese workers just over from Portugal. Slides, Drinks. Admission free.

JUST OUT: Portugal special 2 (5p + post). Also Portugal: A Blaze of Freedom (20p + 10p post) now reprinted. Big Flame, 79c, Anerley Road, London SE20. 01-659 3895.

INFLATION—WHERE WILL IT END? A Marxist analysis. Monday 22 September, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1. Questions and discussions. The Socialist Party of Great Britain.

MERSEYSIDE International Women's Year Committee: Day Conference, Sunday 5 October, 1.30am-4pm. Solidarity with the struggles of women throughout the world. Speakers from Chile, Portugal, Ireland, Vietnam. Afternoon session: workshops on the different countries. Creche provided. Tickets can be ordered in advance through 'News from nowhere', 48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1, or pay at door on the day.

RADICAL STATISTICS CONFERENCE: Friday and Saturday 26/27 September, Notting Dale Urban Studies Centre, 189 Freston Road, London W10. Registration fee £1.

DEFEND THE 14, Liverpool Support Group public meeting: The Trial and its Implications. Speakers include Pat Arrowsmith. Sunday 21 September, 2pm, Stanley House, Upper Parliament Street.

CRICKLEWOOD National Abortion Campaign and Barnet Borough Trades Council: Free, Legal and Safe Abortion on Demand. Demonstration Saturday 25 October, Assemble Crown, Cricklewood Broadway, NW2, 1pm. March to Kilburn. Rally with speakers: local doctors, Barnet Trades Council, NAC.

SAM is back. CAST have their new play ready. Lasting 75 minutes, it needs a largish hall and a largish audience. Contact CAST, 11c Cabbell Street, London, NW1. 01-405 6087.

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL 75th Anniversary dance and social: Bar, music, 7.30pm to 12 midnight. Saturday 28 September, Stoke Newington Town Hall, Church Street, London, N16. Admission 50p on the door.

National Abortion Campaign and a Woman's Right to Choose BENEFIT FESTIVAL: Sunday 21 September, Tooting Bec Road (near tube and buses 49, 249); 2.30-10pm. Soft Machine, Kevin Coyne Band, AJ Webber, Joan Armatrading. Speakers, theatre groups, steel band, refreshments, side shows.

A BENEFIT DISCO in aid of the Manchester Ad Hoc Committee for Free Speech on the Army and Ireland will be held at Manchester University Union on Friday 19 September at 8pm. Donations at the door.

IS comrade working in London seeks single room in friendly household. Write to John McDermott, 20 Argyll Street, Paisley, Scotland.

John and Margaret Llywarch invite you to enjoy a North Wales farmhouse holiday. Clean air, mountain streams, country rambles, fishing, wildlife galore, barbecues. A children's paradise and only two miles from the main line railway station. For terms ring 069-186 2272 or write to 'Bryn Iddon', Bron y Garth, Oswestry, Salop.

GLASGOW National Abortion Campaign will be picketing a SPUC demonstration in the city on Sunday 21 September. All supporters are urged to rally at Glasgow Green at 2.30pm.

AUEW rank and file can beat right wing challenge

by John Deason

THE elections in the Engineering Union on 3 October could decide the balance of forces between right and left.

Willie Lee, senior steward at Chrysler Linwood and candidate for AUEW national organiser, said in Manchester at a meeting of the Engineers' Charter last week: 'For all the left-sounding speeches, the established Scanlon, Wright and Broad Left leadership has failed to relate to rank and file needs.

'Engineers remain the only powerful section of workers not to have secured a meaningful national wage increase in recent years. And there has been no official campaign to fight closures, redundancies and short-time working.'

The right wing has been using these failings to re-emerge, and is being helped by the millionaire press campaign for 'moderates' and by the postal ballot.

Late in the day, general secretary Hugh Scanlon and executive member Bob Wright realise the danger of a right-wing takeover. They have chosen to fight by bureaucratic manoeuvres.

But each failed manoeuvre is strengthening the right-wing moderates, and giving ammunition to the anti-union press. It allows the right wing to use the courts because they don't fear rank and file reaction.

The Communist Party and Broad Left-controlled Electricians Union was transformed in the early 1960s through the courts into the right-wing bastion that it is today. The build-up in the AUEW is too similar for comfort.

Postal voting system

The left recently tried bureaucratically to force a return to the more democratic branch voting, after having disqualified two right-wing delegates to National Rules Revision Conference on a technicality.

This was after years of ignoring the dangers of the postal voting system. For some time Scanlon was acting editor of the union journal, yet there wasn't one article on how undemocratic the postal system is. The field was left open to the poison pens in Fleet Street to misinform the rank and file.

The only literature produced to argue the case was the Socialist Worker penny leaflet The case against the postal ballot—the Need for an Engineers Charter.

Not surprisingly the right wing

successfully went to the courts. So the postal ballot remains and the press whips up further discredit for the left officials.

The latest manoeuvre by the executive committee lefts, with Scanlon's casting vote, is to put back the Manchester/Midlands No 4 executive election until next March.

No doubt fearing the possible defeat of Bob Wright, the left tried to move that the 2000 members in the four right-wing Banbury branches should not vote in this election. Their case was based on a rules revision decision earlier this year to transfer these branches into No 5 executive division for January 1976. Now by postponing the election to March the Banbury voters will not participate in this election.

Courts will back right

But even if the left on the executive have a valid interpretation of the rules, such manoeuvring can help only the right. It gives credibility to the right-wing slander that all left-wingers are anti-democratic manipulators. The right will probably take the opportunity to drag the union through the courts again. The courts will always back the right wing.

A fight restricted to the bureaucracy and ending with a legal ruling is a fight the left is bound to lose. It ignores where our strength must always lie—with the rank and file.

Scanlon, Wright and their panicky cohorts fail at every turn to carry the fight to the rank and file. Winning the rank and file to militant policies is the key to keeping the right out.

The AUEW is officially opposed to the £6 freeze. Good, then let's fight nationally and combine-wide for extra cash across the board for every engineer, rather than seeking 'clarification of TUC policy'. Getting even £6 extra for every engineer would be more than Scanlon's leadership has ever achieved.

The AUEW is officially opposed to redundancy. Good, then let's fight for official blacking campaigns against monopolies that threaten redundancies, force the government to nationalise without compensation, officially extend strong shop steward organisation, district committee control of job allocation for all engineers, a national fight for the 35-hour week, official overtime bans and full support for occupations.

But the left leaders prefer to

tinker with participation schemes and cooperatives and talk about unemployment.

No one can pretend that such militant policies can be achieved by just calling for them. They have to be campaigned and argued for. That is a job that needs doing within the rank and file. It can't be done by bureaucratic wrangling.

The Engineers Charter is an attempt to raise that campaign within the membership. A healthy Charter group campaigning for rank and file acceptance of its policies, and elected officials committed to these policies, can stop the right. Where such officials are not available we must keep out the right-wing Sunday and Daily Express and Daily Mirror intriguers by voting for Scanlon's left intriguers.

But above all BUILD THE CHARTER, STRENGTHEN THE RANK AND FILE.

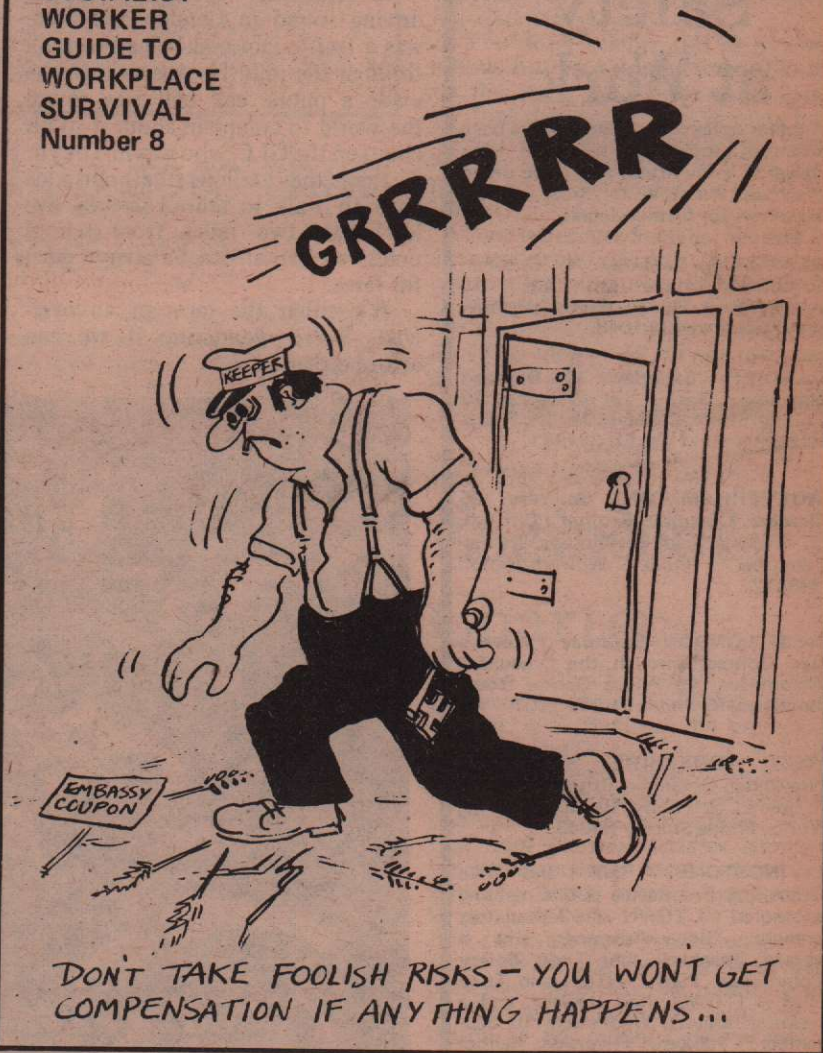


WILLIE LEE: Call for official campaign against sackings, closures, short time



BOB WRIGHT: Chose to fight the right wing by bureaucratic manoeuvre

SOCIALIST WORKER GUIDE TO WORKPLACE SURVIVAL
Number 8



AUEW ELECTIONS: What we think



Scottish candidate Jimmy Reid
PICTURES ON THIS PAGE: Chris Davies (Report)

SOCIALIST WORKER believes that the first priority is to keep the right wing out. This will mean voting in some cases for the very men whose intrigues have put the left's power at risk.

Socialist Worker urges its readers to support in the executive elections:

JIMMY REID of the Communist Party against Gavin Laird, for the Scottish seat.

BOB WRIGHT against Terry Duffy, for the Manchester and Midlands seat.

P BRAMAH for the North West seat.

In the national organiser election there are 17 candidates. The Communist Party is fielding two although there is only one place. Their candidates are Phil Higgs from Coventry and Les Allen from Tyneside. Socialist Worker urges its readers to support the only socialist candidate with national backing, WILLIE LEE of the International Socialists.

He is the only candidate whose election address argues for across-the-board national wage claims, a national fight for the 35-hour week, and strong district and shop steward organisation to counter rising unemployment.

The sitting assistant general secretary, **KEN BRETT** of the Broad Left, is defending his position against the right wing.

The postal ballot means that the election addresses distributed to the branches will have a limited effect. The results of the last round were distorted by a major campaign in the newspapers in favour of 'moderate' candidates.

Crucial

This press influence can be fought by bringing the election addresses from the branches into the factories and insisting they are discussed before voting. Shop stewards' committees should recommend left-wing candidates and campaign for them.

The postal balloting should be held in the factory, with everyone voting together after a full discussion of the respective merits of the candidates, independently of press bias.

The elections should be discussed at meetings called by shop stewards in sections, across the factories in working hours or in meal breaks to discuss the candidates.

Courtauld Dyers back engineers' strike

COUNTY DURHAM:—The strike of Courtaulds workers in the Engineering Union (AUEW) at Spennymoor is now in its 13th week. They first struck for an increase of £3.60. Now they want the full £6. They are being supported by Liverpool and Hull dockers, who are blacking all Courtaulds products.

Management have now repeated their earlier offer of £1 now and a return to work before any further negotiations.

This was completely rejected by the stewards. There are to be new talks in London next week between AUEW officials and management, but without any of the stewards present. The talks are being held on the

request of an AUEW national official.

But at Spennymoor backing for the strike has come from stewards of the Dyers and Bleachers Union, representing 1400 men, against the advice of their officials.

The men are in no mood for any sell-out. With social security officials deliberately making things difficult for some of the strikers, the men and their strike fund are getting desperately short of money.

Donations and messages of support are much appreciated. Send to Brian Gibson, AUEW convenor, 7 Magdalene Place, Ferryhill, County Durham. (Please enclose addresses for messages of acknowledgement and thanks.)

SWANSEA STRIKE SAVES 50 JOBS

SWANSEA:—Last week a strike by 300 mechanical and electrical construction workers secured the jobs of 50 men threatened with victimisation. This is a victory for the recently formed joint shop stewards' committee on the Alcoa site, a 30 million pound aluminium works expansion.

The pipework contractors, William Press, were awarded a further £250,000 contract on the site, so they decided to 'sort out' their labour force which has won high wages compared with other craftsmen. This is unheard of for William Press, a company notorious for low wages and bad conditions.

The shop stewards were told everyone would be laid off, after which only 'those men with the correct attitude' would be re-employed at a cut in wages. William Press employees, members of the Engineering Union Heating and Domestic Union and the Boilermakers immediately went on strike.

A token stoppage by all other organised workers on the site, electricians, fitters, welders, riggers and sheeters, employed by numerous contractors, was held on Monday 8 September. This was followed by a strike on Wednesday and Thursday when all site deliveries were turned back by pickets.

A meeting of union officials with management on Thursday resulted in the offer of a return to work on Monday for the 50 men with a guarantee of full employment and no lay offs. This was accepted.

The strike has brought unity to the Alcoa site. The lesson spelled out to all the contractors is that from now on an injury to one is an injury to all!

LINWOOD STEWARDS RETREAT YET AGAIN

by Peter Bain, TGWU shop steward, Chrysler Linwood,

SCOTLAND: Chrysler kept up its offensive against the Linwood shop floor last week.

After retreating over lay-offs, the shop stewards made another body swerve to avoid a fight over the introduction of new man assignments.

The more we have retreated the faster the management have pursued us. On Thursday night they tried to lay off areas in vehicle assembly at 35 minutes notice.

To rub their faces in it the management told those affected that they would have to come to the factory the next day to collect their wages.

In the car assembly, sections walked off the track when they were told. A meeting of the 600 track workers in the building unanimously decided to report for work the next day and to call other sections for support if they were locked out. In the face of this threat to involve the entire workforce, the company backed away.

CUT

The decision to send men up the road was due to a 'misunderstanding' the company said, and agreed to pay everybody involved for any time lost.

Chrysler want to get their revamped model into the dealers' hands before the Earls Court Motor Show in October. They want the press and machine shop to work without interruptions to meet schedules.

We could have used this situation to force the company to withdraw the lay-offs. Instead, most of the senior stewards have backed away from the company and have strangely avoided going to a mass meeting to gear the workforce up for a fight.

Suspensions are growing that the convenors are hoping Chrysler will declare redundancies. This is seen by some as a 'solution', despite their opposition to sackings.

In fact redundancies would only whet Chrysler's appetite and would be followed by further attacks. Al-

ready there is doubt about how long Chrysler will continue to operate two British car assembly plants—at Linwood and Ryton, Coventry—at a fraction of their capacity. We may soon have to fight for the existence of the factory.

A campaign should be mounted now to prepare for the struggles ahead. This would have to be organised on the clear understanding that factory occupations and other militant action would be necessary to pressurise the government to guarantee jobs and conditions in the car industry.

Cardiff victims need support

CARDIFF:—An action committee has been set up by 11 workers victimised by Bristol Channel Ship Repairers as part of their fight for reinstatement.

The meeting was attended by dockers still in work, as well as their brothers who have been sacked. George Lewis, one of the sacked men, said: 'We are fighting for the right to work, not just for ourselves, but for all the men in the yard who are likely to be kicked out on the streets whenever someone like Bailey, the managing director, needs to save a few bob.'

Roger Cox, secretary of the National Rank and File Organising Committee, speaking at the meeting, stressed the need for links to be formed across the industry, and also the need to muster the support of local trade unionists, especially Transport Union branches in Cardiff.

Workers at the Swansea Dry Dock have already pledged support.

Donations and messages of support c/o George Lewis, 30 Christina Street, Cardiff.

Some light on Lucas

Counter Information Services, CIS, have produced another anti-report. Number 12 in the series is called WHERE IS LUCAS GOING? and is on the Joseph Lucas empire.

Like all the previous CIS anti-reports it is packed full of interesting and often vital information for shop floor militants. Socialist Worker will be reviewing it in full next week.

The report is available from CIS, 52 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1. Price 45p plus 15p postage and packing.

YORK TRAILERS—CLOSE TO VICTORY

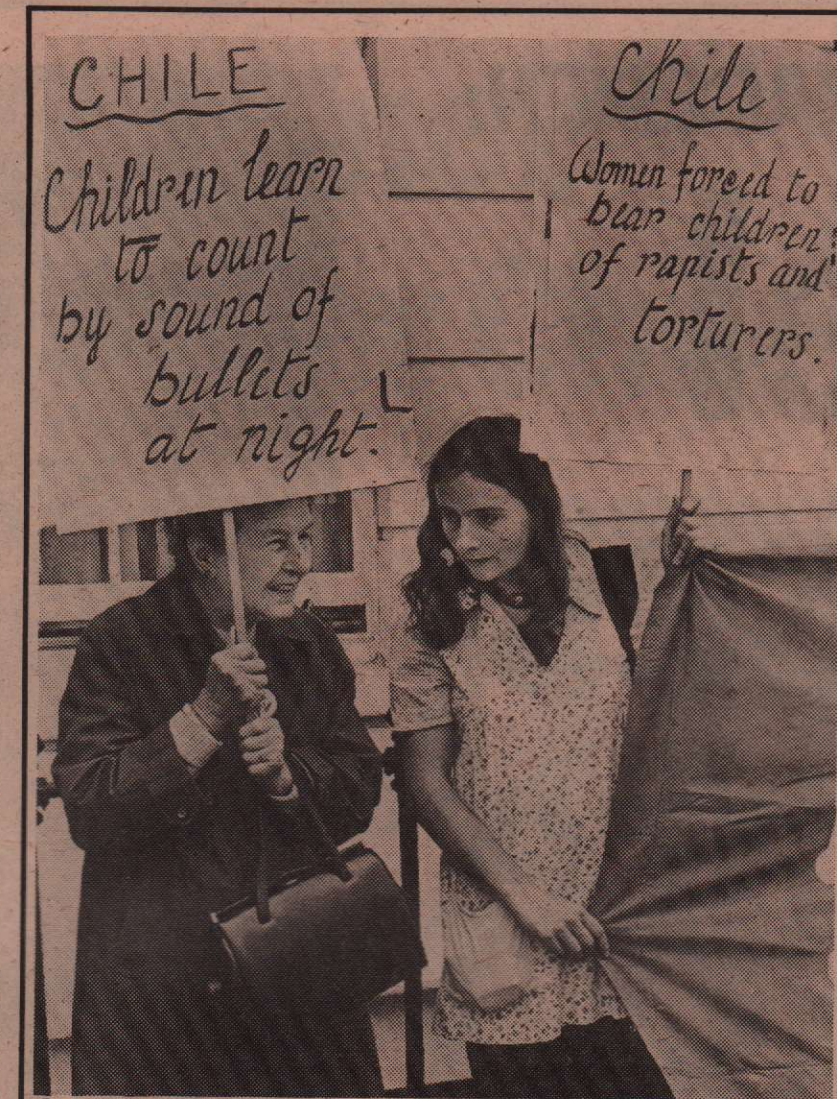
NORTHALLERTON:—Transport Union members fighting for the reinstatement of victimised shop steward John Bacon at York Trailers are on the brink of victory. Management have had to close down the factory because supplies of welding gas have run out, and deliveries of fresh supplies have been cut off by the pickets.

Management can't move the trailers stockpiled inside the factory either. Almost all are for export, and Teesside dockers

have already turned back one consignment. The bosses are now saying that the factory has to close for good. They hope that this will frighten strikers into giving up what they have almost won, but the trick isn't working.

As one picket put it: 'Either they take back our steward or as far as we're concerned, they can blow the place up.'

Morale is still good, in spite of the hostility of the local Engineering Union (AUEW), who have done everything in their power to break the strike. AUEW leaders in the factory saw the active



Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)

TRADE unionists picketing the Chilean Embassy in London on the second anniversary of the coup by the fascist junta last Thursday. In London Mrs Allende wife of the murdered president, spoke at a Labour Party rally.

In Liverpool Pedro Cornejo, a member of the Chilean TUC, spoke at a lunchtime meeting of dockers and shop stewards. Ten days previously he had been a prisoner in a Chilean concentration camp. He is the first Chilean trade unionist to be brought to Britain by the Rank and File Organising Committee. Pedro said he felt deeply moved to be speaking at the docks where the worldwide move to black Chile had begun and he urged trade unionists at the meeting to go back and urge for an intensification of the blacking campaign.

Pressure for this is now building up. There is a trade union conference organised by the Chile Solidarity Campaign in London on 25 October. The Rank and File Organising Committee is producing a pamphlet on blacking, sponsored by shop stewards' committees, to spread information for the campaign.

THIS IS BAD MEDICINE!

by Gordon Davey (COHSE secretary, Whipps Cross Hospital, London)

EAST LONDON:—The 'Connaught Hospital, Walthamstow, is threatened with closure as part of the government spending cuts. In the Waltham Forest area the District Health Authority has been told to save up £300,000 next year.

This means the 120 beds in the hospital are to go. No provision is to be made for extra beds elsewhere. So the waiting lists at the other hospitals in the area will get even longer and the pressures on already overworked staff will increase.

The hospital services in the area are already inadequate—now the government insists that they get worse. Disturbingly

the local branch of the Public Employees Union (NUPE), assured that there will be no redundancies, is considering no action to oppose the closure.

So it is up to local trade unionists to organise against this attack on working-class health standards.

The East London Action Committee against the Cuts, a committee of delegates from hospital, teachers', local authority and industrial trade union branches in the whole of East London, can play an important role in organising against this closure. We must demand no cuts, no closures, all staff vacancies to be filled, recruitment of extra staff to cut waiting lists.

ACTION TO FIGHT RACISM IN THE WORKING CLASS:

Special meeting in London on Saturday 27 September. Social in the evening.

Morning session on Chingari, the socialist paper for Urdu and Punjabi speakers, and on Flame, the new socialist paper for West Indians. Afternoon session on the 1971 Immigration Act. Recruiting black workers into IS.

All IS Districts should send at least one delegate. Socialist Worker and Chingari supporters welcome. Write to Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

BLASTFURNACEMEN:

Steel bosses are the real wreckers

SIR Monty Finniston and his friends on the British Steel Corporation have launched a hysterical attack on the blastfurnacemen.

These men work in some of the most noisy, dirty and dangerous conditions in the country.

Yet now they are attacked as 'greedy' by millionaires and by newspaper hacks who earn five times as much for less than a quarter of the effort.

The new No 3 furnace at Llanwern, which has caused the dispute, is the prototype for similar furnaces which British Steel intends to build all over the country. These will halve the number of blastfurnacemen in the country—a total loss of 8000 jobs!

The men's union, the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, is prepared to 'sell' jobs for money. They have submitted a claim for men who work on the new furnace which would raise their pay from about £60 a week to about £80 a week, before tax.

The £100 a week that the press have been making such a fuss about would be earned at full production by the very top grade, that's four people in the whole furnace crew.

JOBS

In long drawn-out negotiations over 18 months, British Steel adamantly refused to pay anything like the claim. Last week, they made a 'final offer' which gives the men a miserable £3 a week extra on basic pay.

For this pittance, the Corporation has been demanding 'total acceptance' of their manning levels, which could lead to 200 sackings at Llanwern alone.

There would be a harder, more dangerous life for those left at work. 'Casting' at the new furnace, which exposes workers to molten hot metal, would take place 12 times a day, instead of six times in the existing furnaces. It is hardly surprising they rejected the 'offer'.

British Steel went ahead with commissioning the plant, ignoring the union's claim, knowing it would provoke a strike.

There has been a carefully-orchestrated campaign of hate against the blastfurnacemen from the Fleet Street press. 'They're prepared to cut steel

are
the
real

wreckers

BY PAUL FOOT

production!' shouted the editorials.

Not one commentator has pointed out that August's British steel production was down by almost a quarter on last year. Not because the workers weren't prepared to work. Not because steel goods are not needed all over the world. But because of the crazy profit system which Sir Monty Finniston and the press barons are determined to maintain.

The attack on the blastfurnacemen is an attempt to weaken their union so that Sir Monty and his Corporation can carry out mass sackings throughout the industry.

The blastfurnacemen's fight is *not* 'the selfish grab of a few craftsmen' (Daily Mail). It is a battle for workers everywhere who are threatened with mass sackings and inflation.

It is the battle of the railwaymen and the Post Office workers and car workers who are told every day to brace themselves for the 'pruning' of tens of thousands of jobs.

ACCORDING to the British Steel Corporation and the entire British press, sackings and redundancies at Llanwern are going to result in truly massive benefits for the Steel Corporation and the British people.

By our calculations, redundancy and increased unemployment are no benefit at all. Even on the money front, it's worth asking a few questions. We reckon that the maximum BSC can save by thrusting most of Llanwern's furnacemen on to the scrapheap of redundancy and unemployment is £25,000 a week or £1.3 million a year.

Make no mistake, BSC really do

ABOVE: Blastfurnacemen at Cleveland Steelworks on Tees-side: 'Some of the dirtiest, noisiest, and most dangerous conditions in the country'.



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

need that money. They've just given Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons a cool £14 million 'additional payment' on the firm's £30 million Anchor contract near Scunthorpe. BSC paid the McAlpines without a murmur, which must have brought joy to the many members of the Clan McAlpine throughout Britain.

Just to pay off McAlpine's little Anchor extra the BSC will have to devote 11 years' worth of savings from the Llanwern furnace. And if they want to pay off just one year's worth of bank charges (£67 million last year) it'll take them half a century of the same. That's progress.

VICTORY TO THE PORTUGUESE WORKING CLASS!

Demonstrate: Saturday 20 September, 2pm Charing Cross Embankment to Speakers' Corner

SATURDAY'S COACHES FOR PORTUGAL DEMONSTRATION

- LEEDS: 9am, University main entrance.
- LOWESTOFT: 9am, Lowestoft Royal Plain.
- NORWICH: 9.45am, Theatre Royal.
- IPSWICH: 11am, Election House.
- HALIFAX: 8am, Odeon.
- BRADFORD: 9am, Morley Street.

- YORK: 8am, Exhibition Square.
- NORTHAMPTON: 11.30am, Botton Guildhall Road.
- TYNESIDE: 7am, St Mary's Place, Newcastle.
- SHEFFIELD: 9am, Hammer Lane (Pond Street Bus Station).
- DUNDEE: 10.30pm Friday, Frews Bar, Hockhill.
- ABERDEEN: 8pm, Friday, phone

0224-45782 for details.
OXFORD: 10.30am, Trinity Gates.
10.45am, TGWU offices, Cowley Road.
11am, Cowley Swan.
Remember to sell Socialist Worker and badges on the coaches and trains coming down to London for the demonstration. London branches must have sellers at the demonstration by 1pm.