

Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Nine men burnt to death – for profit HOW MANY MORE MUST DIE?

By Jenny Jackson

NINE steelworkers were burnt to death last week in scenes of indescribable agony.

Tearful newspaper commentators and steel bosses called the explosion – at the Appleby-Frodingham steel works, Scunthorpe – ‘a terrible exception’.

Sir Monty (£750 a week) Finniston, chairman of British Steel, said on television that it was ‘unique’.

It was nothing of the sort. Disasters like this have happened before. They will happen as long as profit matters more than workers' lives.

Only last month, a similar explosion at the Clay Lane site, Cleveland, Teesside, injured 16 steelworkers.

LEAKED

Water had leaked through the roof into an empty furnace. A fireman said: ‘If the furnace had been full, there would have been no Cleveland Works’.

At the Anchor steelworks in Scunthorpe last year, there was another minor explosion of this type.

In the spring of 1973 at the Steel Corporation's Clydebridge Ironworks at Cumbuslang in Scotland there was yet another. That explosion, caused by a leak in a water jacket of a 70-tonne mould, killed three men.

In the last two and a half years, explosions have ripped through three different steel plants.

Why? Because the British Steel Corporation won't design the safest possible production processes.

They won't check or re-check the processes when they are installed. Because all that costs money in what British Steel calls ‘unit costs’.

LOWER

And British Steel, in its stampede for profits is constantly searching for lower and lower unit costs.

The BSC safety record at Appleby-Frodingham is an outrage. One man was gassed earlier this year. Another was killed in the Bloom and Billett Mill in October 1974.

Following this death British Steel was charged with failing to ensure that machinery was securely fenced. BSC pleaded guilty to two charges and was fined a mere £200.

BSC's own statistics show how bad the situation is. In September, the latest month for which figures are available, 812 out of the 18,500 workforce in the Scunthorpe and Lancashire group had accidents which kept them off work for three days or more – an incredible rate of one man in 22 every month.

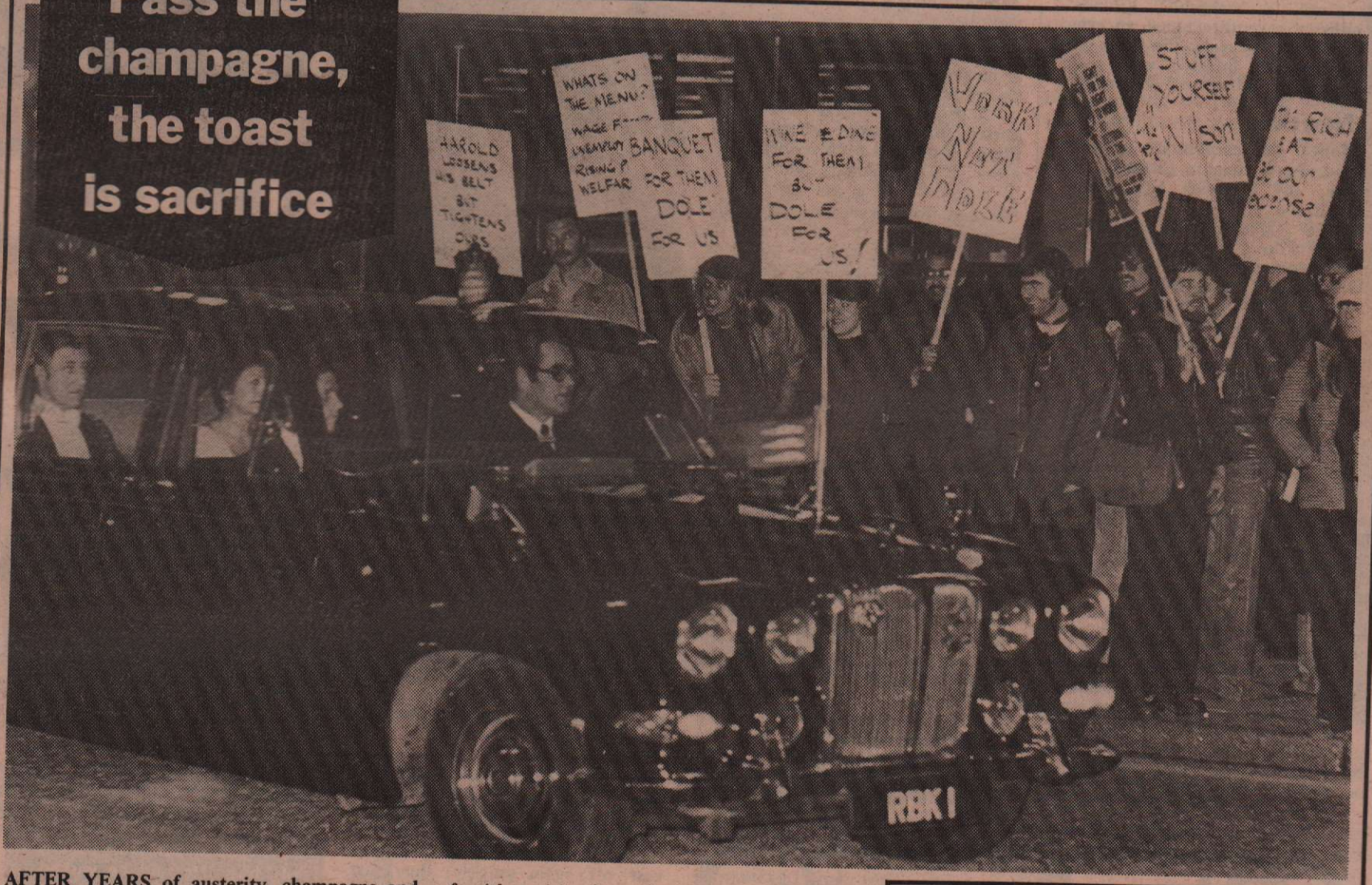
The men who work at the

Continued on
Page Two

MUST DIE?

“ I offered Bob Walls a fag, and lit it. Then, when I went to give it to him, I saw his mouth wasn't there. Just burnt away. ”
Steelworker at Appleby-Frodingham.

Pass the
champagne,
the toast
is sacrifice



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

AFTER YEARS of austerity, champagne and turtle soup came back to the Lord Mayor's Banquet on Monday.

Sir Lindsay Ring, the new Lord Mayor and chairman of the city catering firm Ring and Brymer, knows how to lay on a good dinner and this year's feed was by common consent, the best since the war.

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After the turtle soup, halibut and scotch beef, there was something called lemon posset and maids of honour. The wines were: Hocheimer Riesling (1973) and Chateau Fonbedet (1967), Sweet Champagne Vintage 1969 (£5 a bottle) and Quinta da Noval port.

But the best vintage of all came from Harold Wilson, who battled his way through the belching to warn of ‘bleak months ahead’ and to call

for ‘the spirit of sacrifice’ from workers everywhere.

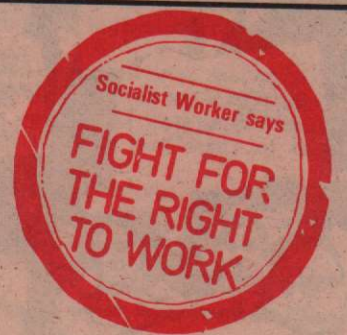
When he spoke about ‘our friends in the trade union movement’ there were smiles and backslapping all round for Len Murray, TUC general secretary, who sat wreathed in smiles and the smoke of the largest cigar on offer.

As the Rolls Royce and government limousines dropped their white-tied businessmen, police chiefs and judges at the steps of the Guildhall, 80 workers under the banner of the Rank and File Right to Work Campaign shouted ungentlemanly comments about unemployment.

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A docker shouted: ‘Harold Wilson is guilty, OK’ and ‘Give a Belch for Britain’. The most common comment, however, was ‘Get Stuffed!’

In the national interest the lords and ladies duly obliged...



SUPPORT THE LOBBY
ALL OUT WEDNESDAY
26 NOVEMBER

Assemble Euston Station, London,
1pm for march on parliament

CHRYSLER

The caress we can do
without: Pages 7-9

Battered wives take over the Palm Court

AT DAWN last Saturday, 50 homeless women and children from the Battered Wives Refuge occupied the 100-room Palm Court Hotel in Richmond, Surrey.

The hotel has been empty for ten years. For the last three it has been owned by Goodhews, the multi-million pound brewers' group.

Chiswick Womens Aid set up the Battered Wives Refuge four years ago. They have operated an open-door policy for 36 people, but the refuge has consistently been packed with more than 100 people.

Two months ago, the local Labour-controlled council stopped their £10,000 annual grant because, they said, the refuge had become a fire hazard.

The grant will only be renewed when the numbers are brought down to 36. Mrs Erin Pizzey, founder of Chiswick Womens Aid, told Socialist Worker: 'Police and citizens' advice bureaux from all over London send us scores of cases but when it comes to providing money or property, the councils plead shortage of cash.'

The women plan to convert the hotel into a community centre, and have already converted the Tudor Bar into a makeshift kitchen. Goodhews have threatened an eviction order. They claim the place is a health hazard, infested with rats. The people inside strongly deny this.

Needed

Money and carpets are urgently needed. Send them to Chiswick Aid Centre, 369 Chiswick High Road, London, W4.

Sheila McGregor, editor of *Womens Voice*, writes: The occupancy by the women of Richmond is magnificent. They have had enough of charity and 'waiting for the council'.

They have taken action themselves, which gets them the accommodation they so desperately need—and also exposes the ugliness of a society which allows millionaire hoteliers to leave a huge building empty for ten years but can't find the money to house the desperate women the newspapers weep about.

Women are learning the same lesson all over the country. In Birmingham, women postal workers are fighting against demands that they should be sacked first—because they are women.

In Merthyr Tydfil, women at a Kayser Bonder factory have camped out in tents on a cold hillside to ensure goods and material aren't moved out of a factory where the bosses plan 400 sackings.

This is the fighting spirit we want to organise and develop at the Womens Voice rally in Manchester on 29 November.



Outside the Palm Court this week: the women and children face eviction—even though the hotel is disused. PICTURE: JOHN STURROCK (REPORT)

IF THEY DON'T BURN YOU TO DEATH, THEY SACK YOU

Continued from Page One

Appleby plant explain just what these statistics mean:

'Repairs there have been reported for weeks, months, one thing I know has been reported for a year. It's the stairs.'

'A year ago a lad was killed. We had to lower him down by ropes, because the stairs are so narrow only one man can go up or down.'

'When we brought this up with the management yesterday, they said "That's the trouble. You want things done in a flash". We had to get those severely burned men down those stairs.'

MISSING

'The door of the crane at the Queen Victoria furnace—made of wood—went up in flames instantly. Why wasn't the door made of steel, like on the crane at the next furnace?'

'The door handle on the cabin at Annie (the Queen Anne furnace) is missing. If that had been at Vicky, the man inside wouldn't have been able to get out the back door to escape the flames.'

'There's a loose step, second from the top. Those steps are bad enough when it rains anyway.'

'The ambulance driver also doubles as a van driver. If an acci-



Where nine men died last week: the plant's ambulance driver doubles as a van driver

dent happens and he is out in the van, the security driver has to find the keys, unlock the ambulance and get there as soon as he can. If we have two cases at the same time, we just can't manage it.'

'The emphasis now is on saving money, botching things to save money.'

'We should clean the runners right from the taphole all the way down each time. But if they want to cast off again quickly, they just get us to forget the cleaning.'

'If you fill a bowl-shaped ladle right up to the top, you get the molten metal slopping out when it's moved. If you leave, say two foot, empty at the top, the foreman will say, "I see you're filling halves today". If it's filled to the top, he'll give you the thumbs up. He wants to see the job move quickly.'

FAULT

'While the job's running all right, you're a good lad. You're helping the job on by cutting corners. But if something goes wrong, then it's your own fault. You're stupid and careless, and a silly idiot for not doing it the right way.'

'When a new lad comes in, he gets shown around. They show a safety film which is so boring he usually falls asleep in the middle of it. Then he gets on the job training for a week or a fortnight, until the men say he's OK to be passed out, to work on his own. But if they're short of men on the job, he's passed out the next day, if they need the extra hand.'

YOU TO DEATH, THEY SACK YOU

QUOTE

“He was walking about burned from head to foot. The skin was just peeling off him. He said he wished he was dead, he was in so much pain. We couldn't do anything to help him, only wait for the ambulance.”

Steelworker at Appleby-Frodingham.

The men who do these hazardous jobs are consistently abused in the pages of the millionaire press. When they were in dispute at Port Talbot earlier this year the press screamed that they were holding the country to ransom.

SACK

What's really sick about this is that BSC plan to sack half of them, saving hundreds of thousands of pounds in wages, AND MAKING THE JOB MORE DANGEROUS STILL.

If they don't burn you to death, they sack you.

Men's lives must come before profit. It is a scandal, that instead of providing money to make jobs

safe, BSC is devoting millions of pounds to paying off the shareholders who used to own the industry and to the bankers who now finance it.

That cost £68 million last year alone.

The murder of workers in the rush for profit is not confined to the steel industry. Only last week:

Phillips Oil Company admitted that they knew four weeks earlier that the protective covering had come off an oil pipe in the North sea.

PROFIT

The pipe leaked, the pipe exploded—and three workers were killed. Corrosion of oil pipes will cause many more deaths as the oil millionaires reap in the profit.

On Saturday, the Dutch State Mines Plant at Beek in Holland exploded after another pipe leak.

Twelve workers were killed, two are missing, 45 are seriously injured.

Dutch State Mines own a half share in the chemical plant at Flixborough—just up the road from Appleby-Frodingham—which exploded last year, killing 28 workers. The reason? A leaking pipe.

The same cause. The same result. Blood for profits.

Workers everywhere will have to fight for safety themselves. It's not good enough to leave it to BSC and trade union bureaucrats.

We will not pay for their profit with our blood.

women's voice rally
Saturday 29 November, 11am-5pm, Belle Vue, Manchester.

THE WOMEN'S VOICE RALLY IS TO FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS:
Our right to a job, equal pay and £6 now
Our right to a home, free nurseries and a national health service
Our right to free abortion and contraception
Our right to decent schools for our kids

For tickets, send this form with 10p to Women's Voice, 8 Cottans Gardens, London E2 8DN.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

WHAT WE THINK

IN SEPTEMBER, 50,000 men and women lost their jobs. The October figure is not likely to be much better.

The employers' organisation, the CBI, estimates that 200,000 jobs will be lost during the winter. Most forecasters predict unemployment will be running at one and a half million next autumn.

Against this background, we have Jack Jones and Len Murray appearing, along with assorted representatives of big business, in those paid advertisements supporting the government's 'anti-inflation' pay-cutting and job-destroying policies.

The TUC leaders, protesting all the while that they are 'concerned' about unemployment, take part in the discussions leading to the government's 'new industrial strategy' along with the employers—and then endorse the strategy.

What does this involve? The Business Editor of the Sunday Times notes: 'Now, even with unemployment nudging 1.2 million and expected to reach 1.5 million... the new strategy is based on maintaining a stable or even a falling level of real government

BACKING the winners, SACKING the workers

spending.'

That is, there will be no resources put into combatting unemployment. At the same time the government's pay policy is cutting consumption and so increasing unemployment.

The government calls its latest policy

'backing the winners'. The Tories called the same policy 'no lame ducks'.

Make no mistake, it is the Ted Heath policy that Wilson and Healey have taken up. They would have to let Chrysler go to the wall and they will if there is not massive resistance.

A significant pointer to what we can expect, is the government's recourse to a loan from the International Monetary Fund.

'You cannot go cap in hand to the central bankers... and maintain your freedom of action, whether on policies maintaining full employment here in Britain or even on social policies.'

Harold Wilson said that (in 1964) and, for once, he was speaking the truth. He went on:

'The central bankers will before long be demanding that Britain puts her house in order and their ideal of an orderly house usually comes to mean vicious inroads into the Welfare State and a one-sided pay pause. The government would then launch savage cuts.'

This time the Labour Ministers have not waited for the IMF to turn the screw. They are already pursuing economic policies so right-wing that even the central bankers can hardly demand more.

Now the TUC bosses know all this very well. Situated as they are, only mental defectives could fail to see that the government is deliberately allowing unemployment to rise, indeed is pushing it up, and the TUC bosses are not mental defectives.

Their pretence that they are 'pressing' the government on unemployment can only be described as fraudulent.

You cannot support government policy and at the same time fight unemployment.

In this situation, the Right to Work campaign is of central importance.

The TUC is not going to start anything. Indeed, Murray tried to kill the 26 November march on parliament.

Trade unionists and unemployed workers will have to be mobilised against TUC advice, against attempts at sabotage by the TUC bosses.

Every Socialist Worker reader should support the march on 26 November and the initiatives of the Rank and File Organising Committee, and should work to commit working class organisations to support them too.

Don't expect any help from the top, we have to do it ourselves.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK! NO RETURN TO THE THIRTIES!

Public meetings organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee:

NORTH LONDON

Monday 24 November, 8pm, Edmonton Town Hall, Fore Street. Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson and local trade unionists. Chairman Ross Pritchard (NGA Executive, Metal Box, Tottenham).

MANCHESTER

Thursday 20 November, 8pm, Houldsworth Hall. Speakers to be announced.

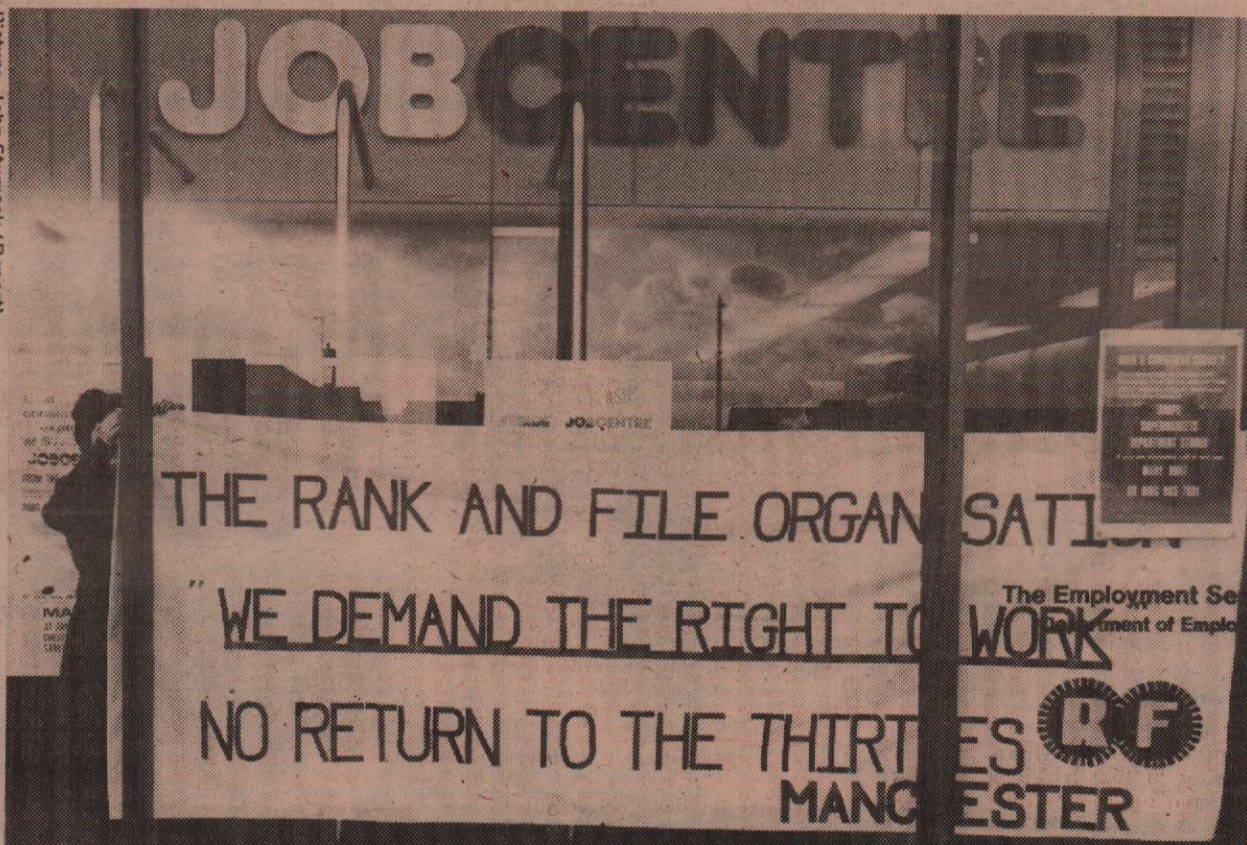
WEST LONDON

Wednesday 19 November, 7.45pm, Ealing Town Hall. Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson and Dick North (NUT Executive member, in personal capacity). Sponsored by British Airways Joint Shop Stewards' Committee (European Division) and Hammersmith Hospital Joint Shop Stewards Committee.

BRISTOL

Tuesday 18 November, 8pm, Full Moon Hotel, Stokes Croft.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



The unemployed fight back: The Stretford jobs centre being occupied last week. 'But... but... but,' the manager stuttered, 'who authorised this?' 'The working class mate!' came the answer from the Manchester Right to Work Committee. Meanwhile, in Liverpool, the dole was occupied last Monday by the local Right to Work Committee.

Young blacks' anger explodes

YEARS of frustration and anger at police harassment exploded among black youth in Leeds last week.

What began as a traditional bonfire celebration ended in a running battle through the streets of Chapeltown, the main immigrant area.

Police claimed a bonfire in Spencer Place was a fire hazard. By early evening, they were patrolling the area with a personnel carrier, two dog patrol vans, a squad car, a CID car, and at least one panda car.

The CID car, which was variously stated to have 'strayed' into the area and to be there on other business, appeared to be radioing descriptions of individuals in the crowd of 300 that had gathered.

Retreat

It was stoned until the police abandoned it and was then overturned and completely wrecked.

A convoy of eight police vehicles arrived to be met with a volley of bricks and stones. The police beat a retreat. Finally, 40 police turned up, swinging truncheons and using dogs to clear Spencer Place and surround-

ing streets.

Two West Indian youths were arrested, along with a white socialist whose 'threatening behaviour' consisted in standing outside his own home.

'An explosion of indiscriminate, senseless violence' were the prosecutor's words in court the next day. The police have done their utmost to create the impression that they were the hapless victims of a carefully planned, unprovoked attack. They claim to have been keeping a 'low profile' that night.

Yet they were patrolling with personnel carriers and dog vans before a single stone was thrown. And they have been harassing black people for a long time.

This is the city where David Oluwale, a Nigerian vagrant, was killed by officers Ellerker and Kitching after months of sadistic persecution.

On bonfire night last year, in the Moortown district, the Fire Brigade were called to put out a bonfire.

Fire hoses were turned on West Indian youths and five were arrested in ensuing clashes.

Since then, police, often using dogs, have made raids on a number of parties and clubs in the area.

Chapeltown itself is a decaying area of slum housing, poverty, and lack of facilities for young people other than the efforts of local community organisations. There are more than 1400 unemployed in Leeds, many of them black school leavers.

Anger

Last Wednesday's explosion of anger was a sign that black youth have had enough of being society's football.

The task now facing supporters of Socialist Worker and our sister paper Flame is to channel that anger into an organised struggle against the root of the oppression and exploitation of black people—the capitalist system itself.

80 AT FLAME MEETING

EIGHTY PEOPLE attended a meeting on police harassment organised by Socialist Worker, Flame and Chingari in Wolverhampton last Friday. The audience, mainly West Indians, heard a fine speech from Dave Butcher, an unemployed Engineering Union member, on the realities of life in Britain compared to the expectations which West Indians have when they arrive in this country.

Police brutality had to be faced in an organised way. A start has been made in London and Birmingham, but all black people must organise. The other speaker, Comrade Mehmi, went on to explain how police harassed Asian people and often took advantage of the fact that many of them did not speak English.

Following spirited contributions, many black people contacted the organisers to fix up another meeting to discuss practical proposals.

'Whip' Bean, a black chief shop steward at the Chrysler US engine plant in Detroit is speaking in Wolverhampton, at the Three Crowns Hotel, 7.30pm, on Friday.

I want to be a
Socialist Worker
supporter

Name

Address

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

Why not take extra copies of Socialist Worker to sell to your mates?

We will expect you to pay only for the copies you actually sell.

Please send me

extra copies of Socialist Worker each week

(Fill your name and address in on the left)

The gravy train rolls again

Programme

Britain's Industrial Future
Meet The People
Who Help Shape It

presented by

Leo Kramer International, Ltd.
Kramer Associates, Inc.

October 29, 30 and 31, 1975

at the

Hotel Inter-Continental
Hyde Park Corner
London

London: 9, Bryanston Square, W.1, (01) 723-6772
Washington: 1225 Connecticut Ave., N.W., 20036, (202) 296-0230

THE TRADE union gravy train, which we wrote about last week, rolled on into the plush corridors of the Hotel Inter-Continental, at Hyde Park Corner, London on 29-31 October.

The occasion was a glamorous conference organised by top public relations firm Leo Kramer entitled: *Britain's Industrial Future. Meet the People Who Shape It.*

The press release advertising the conference said its purpose was to convince the multinationals that 'Britain was still a place worth investing in', which is why various millionaires, industrialists and bankers like Arnold Weinstock (GEC), Lord Kearton (Oil Corporation, ex-Courtaulds) and Lord Watkinson (Schweppes) were wheeled on for the usual clichés.

Ambitious

But what the multinationals really needed were some assurances from left-wing trade union leaders. Which is why Clive Jenkins spoke on *The Future Challenge to the Multinationals*, Hugh Scanlon on *The Future of Union-Management Relations*, and Jack Jones on *The Future Ambitions of British Trade Union Leaders* (whoops, sorry, British Trade Unions).

Len Murray also spoke on *The Trade Union View of Britain's Future*. All these speeches were full of categorical assurances that the normal picture of the militant British worker was a travesty of the truth.

The normal picture of the militant trade union leader was thoroughly vindicated at the lavish reception at the American Embassy, hosted by the American Ambassador specially for the conference.

Hugh Scanlon was a jovial guest, delighting a number of top directors and CIA-men with his bluff, North-country sense of humour.

Fiasco they call the Safety Act

A TRADE union member has been fined under the new Health and Safety at Work Act for an offence which should be down to the boss.

David Holloway, a member of the Engineering Union, works at Quinton Hazell in Redditch.

David, charged with using a power press without the guard in position, was fined £15 at Redditch court on 3 September.

The court heard that the factory's presses had been worked in this profitable, productive and illegal way for years.

Management's malpractices in those years had not resulted in a single prosecution.

The factory inspector who brought the charge apparently did so out of concern that safety performance in the plant could be improved. But

his action and the new law lets management completely off the hook.

The point about a power press is not that a worker should use the guard on it. The press itself should be designed so that it will not operate at all if the guard is not in position.

Costly

But this notion of design for safety is something employers have long resisted. Design for safety is too costly, an incursion into their right to 'manage'.

That a worker should end up being prosecuted for the employers' cost-cutting and bad housekeeping is the result of years of lobbying by the employers to spread the blame and the liability for accidents at work.

The victory was later presented by

Michael Foot as a great reform, the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Another scandalous aspect of the Act came to light in a virtually unreported court case in Darlaston last April.

The huge engineering company Clarke Chapman was appealing against a Factory Inspector's decision to put a prohibition order on 12 massive radial drilling machines in its Darlaston plant. Each was in such an unsafe condition that they could easily have killed one of the workers.

Indeed, one such radial drill had killed a man at Clarke Chapman's Gateshead factory in 1973. What's more, a similar piece of equipment in the firm's Wolverhampton plant was so unsafe that the firm were prosecuted after a serious accident

last year. But still Clarke Chapman did damn all.

Then, last March, a factory inspector issued a prohibition order on the machines at Darlaston. It generously gave them one month to sort the matter out.

Kill

But this wasn't enough for Clarke Chapman. They wanted still more time—and via the new Health and Safety at Work Act, they got it!

At the appeal, the Factory Inspectorate agreed to give them a month's extra notice and, in some cases, even more.

Factory owners get a licence to kill thanks to the immense political power that flows from ownership or control over the means of production.

NUBE: How low



THE NATIONAL Union of Bank Employees, worried that a more militant trade union could win members in the banks, is resorting to desperate measures.

It issued a press statement last week to expound a new theory for saving bank jobs: **Keep Out the Blacks.**

The statement read: 'The union is greatly concerned at the practice of some of the overseas banks in the City of London of bringing staff to Britain to fill managerial posts in their offices here.'

'The practice seems most prevalent amongst the Asian and Indian sub-continent banks who fill most of the managerial posts in their London and provincial branches with staff transferred from their home country.'

can they get?

The statement goes on: 'It is not clear if the staff drafted in from abroad and given managerial posts have as much expertise as some of the UK staff under them.'

The union have sent delegations to the Department of Employment to make sure, as they put it, 'that the requirements of the immigration legislation are being strictly observed': that is, that foreign-born workers are kept out of the country.

This statement really takes some beating. British banks have spent the last 150 years creating fat, well-paid jobs for 'senior staff' in almost every corner of the globe.

These 'senior staff' have openly assisted in the plunder of other countries, especially India and Pakistan, at enormous benefit to themselves.

Now the leaders of NUBE, who have no policy whatever for defending the jobs of bank clerks and junior staff threatened by 'reorganisation and merger' plans, crawl to the government with a request to 'tighten up' the Immigration Act, one of the most reactionary and racist laws on the statute book.

The answer to unemployment in the banks is to get all bank workers into the union, whatever the colour of their skin, and to fight the banks for every job with the only action they understand—such as strikes at lunch-times in the richest areas.

Reactionary

These tactics, however, are intolerable to NUBE's general secretary Leif Mills, who registered his union under the Tories' Industrial Relations Act and is an active campaigner for reactionary policies in the trade union movement.

He gave one of the inaugural lectures for the Trade Union Education Centre for Democratic Socialism, which is sponsored and financed by the extreme Right-wing organisation, Common Cause.

LEST WE FORGET...

Les Cannon, RIP, former president of the Electricians Union, gone to the great boardroom in the sky:

A stranger listening to it all might well have imagined that he was listening to a professional tycoon—he would never have guessed that this was the full time President of the Electrical Trade Union.

—Lord Robens, in a tribute to Cannon, reprinted in Olga Cannon's biography of her late husband (p 302).



'GET THE TROOPS OUT' CALL

HACKNEY Trades Council has, by an overwhelming vote, reaffirmed its continued support for the self-determination of the Irish people and for the Troops Out Movement.

It took the decision after a meeting where the recent London Trades Council delegation to Northern Ireland and its aftermath were discussed.

The Council voted heavily to condemn the rigging of the delegation to Northern Ireland earlier this year.

It has also condemned subsequent attempts by the Greater London Association of Trades Councils to silence three members of the delegation who protested at the way it was being run to accommodate to the continued presence of British

troops in Northern Ireland.

The three have been banned from being GLATC delegates. Hackney Trades Council is also asking other councils to protest against the removal of credentials from its own duly elected delegate, Michael Knowles.

The three 'dismissed' members of the delegation have produced a minority report on the trip.

Are you fighting unemployment?
Join the campaign!

NO RETURN TO THE 30's



POSTERS FOR MEETINGS in the Right to Work Campaign: 10p for five, £1.50 for 100. Get your trade union branch or shop stewards committee to send in orders now.

ALL OUT 26 NOVEMBER! Support the North West TUC call for a march on parliament against unemployment. Special leaflet just printed—200 for £1 to help cover costs of printing and postage.

Right to Work Campaign, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

Lisbon: Striking at the roots of fascism

Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund

WITH a £20 donation to the SW Portugal Solidarity Fund came a letter this week from P. Andrews of Northamptonshire, who says he and other readers would welcome more details of how the fund money is spent.

'I feel also that the fund would be swelled if readers were able to see more explicitly the value that their donations can have.'

Well, last week we were able to send £300 to the PRP, the Portuguese Revolutionary socialist organisation. The PRP has only had eighteen months to build its organisation. What's more, the political situation puts immense demands on them and they need money for placards, for posters and leaflets, and to fund their newspaper, *Revolucão*.

The Solidarity Fund has also enabled us to publish five foreign language editions of Tony Cliff's pamphlet *Portugal at the Crossroads*. The latest, costing £800 to translate and print, is a Spanish edition which we hope will assist the struggle in Spain and Latin America.

Our thanks to: Easter Ross £2.50, Jon and Pat Barlow £5, Leicester Teachers £45, Loughborough £2, Maidenhead £3.40, Cambridge NOISS £4.71, D Evans £1, P Old £10, York IS £6.55, P Andrews £20, K Gown and T Wood £5, Bath 90p, Goldsmiths College £2.50, Anchor Press, Tiptree 62p, Irish comrade £10, West London Hospital workers £3, Hammer-smith Hospital NUPE SW supporters £15, Workers' League, Tasmania £12, Leeds £32, Inner East London £25, Manchester bookshop £3, Badges and posters £20.90, Foreign language IS Journals £6.10.

Total this week: £442.78 plus £340 from bankers' orders for November.

Donations to SW Portugal Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IN THE streets of central Lisbon you can still see traces of the tear gas. And on three out of the past four nights the sound of shooting has been heard.

This is only a taste of things to come. Nevertheless the problem is not when the next attempt at a coup will come or when civil war is going to break out.

The problem is clear. How do you transform the vast energy and potential of the Lisbon working class into a fit fighting force, a force that fights fascist violence not only with arms but self-organisation, aiming to eliminate not only fascism but also its roots—capitalism?

Force

Last week Portugal slithered one big step nearer to civil war. The so-called sixth provisional government is trapped in a corner and is coming up with as much brutish naked force as it can muster. Last week it spent much of its efforts at destroying the ability of the working class movement to make its own propaganda.

Just close your eyes for a minute and imagine that the workers at, say Reg Prentice's ministry decided not to recognise him, because of his

From Peter Robinson
in Lisbon

connections with vicious reactionaries.

That is exactly what happened at Lisbon's Ministry of Social Communications. The Secretary of State, Ferreiro da Cunha, had connections under the previous fascist regime with an infamous body known officially as the Inter-Ministerial Psychological Action Commission. Portuguese workers had another name for it. They called it Super PIDE, after the name of the hated fascist secret police.

This simple act of refusing to recognise the boss shook the whole government. In order to get into work Cunha ordered that the picket lines be brutally smashed. Workers occupying the building should be gassed, he ordered. Demonstrators outside got similar treatment with the additions of shootings as well.

The bottom end of Lisbon's grand main street, the Avenida Liberdade, was blocked by demonstrators surrounding the ministry.

Early on they forced the police and Cunha into the building, where they in turn tried to evict workers and journalists barricaded into a couple of stately rooms.

The paramilitary National Republican Guard arrived too and entered by a side door with their G3 automatic rifles. That effectively completed the civilian police occupation of the building. The Communications Ministry workers were therefore trapped on the second floor.

But soon a lifeline of food and drink was established with messages exchanged through a megaphone. After the original street battle the only sight of the police was a grotesque masked apparition releasing fusilades of gas canisters from one of the upstairs windows in a bid to break up the demonstrators below. Some of the canisters were thrown back, eventually forcing the police to stop.

Relief

And when the tear gas was jerking our guts and eyes out, it was the Ministry cleaning women who threw us down slices of lemon to provide relief.

All through the day soldiers and workers joined the demonstration and by night 250 soldiers, sailors, military police and air force police provided the front rank of a demonstration of around 5000.

The government refused to negotiate with the workers' committee, ostensibly because it contained soldiers and Setenave shipyard workers.

The RALIS artillery barracks had a mass meeting and sent word to Prime Minister Azevedo saying that he'd better authorise them going down to protect their fellow workers 'because we're going down whether you like it or not'. So the Prime Minister ended up authorising an army unit to break up an intervention by the police which was originally authorised by the government.

But at the same time as the police were being forced out of the Ministry of Social Communication the radio mast and station of Radio Renascença, occupied by its workers, were being blown up.

IN the town of Torrao in the southern area of Alentejo a hundred members of Mario Soares' Socialist Party have left it in protest at its right-wing policy.

TWO people were killed and more than a dozen wounded in armed fighting between landholders and landless labourers in Santarem, north of Lisbon last week. The big landowners had managed to orchestrate a demonstration of small landowners against the agrarian reform. In the shooting which resulted one landless labourer was killed. The son of a big landowner also died.



Part of the 3000-strong Anti-Apartheid demonstration in London last Sunday, the day white Rhodesians celebrated the tenth anniversary of UDI. Many of the marchers carried placards produced by Flame, Socialist Worker's sister paper for black workers in struggle and 200 copies of the paper were sold on the demonstration. *Crisis in Zimbabwe*, the new Socialist Worker Africa Group pamphlet, also sold well.

FLAME, 5p plus postage, CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE, 5p plus postage, both from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Angola: The West's vultures gather

TUESDAY was to be a day of celebration in Angola. The last Portuguese colony was to receive its independence. But instead of real independence and unity, the country is being torn apart by the vultures.

The American, the French, the South African and probably the British government are working together through various front organisations to seize the country's immense wealth. They are supplying white South African forces, European mercenaries and avowed Portuguese fascists with the arms to destroy the independence of Angola.

The British press claims that there are three liberation movements in Angola. But only one of them, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), stands for real independence.

In the long war against Portuguese colonialism the MPLA built up its strength on the basis of popular support in the rural east of the country and in the cities of the coast, particularly among the poorer people of the capital, Luanda. It received a few arms and a little training from other African states and from Eastern Europe. But its main feature was self-reliance.

The MPLA leaders are not revolutionary socialists. They say: 'We are



not Marxists.' They welcome foreign investment. But at least they insist that political power must be in black Angolan hands. This is why they are supported by all the left in Portugal and by the governments of the recently-liberated Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Guine-Bissau.

The other movements in Angola are completely different.

The so-called National Front for

the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) has its origins in a tribalist uprising in the north east of the country 13 years ago, which led both to massacres of members of other tribes, and to attacks on white settlers.

Its leaders then went into exile in neighbouring Zaire, where they were helped by the ruler, Mobutu. Mobutu who is now Henry Kissinger's chosen man for a leading role in a new carve-up of Africa. Recently, Henry Kissinger asked the US Congress for £25 million that Mobutu could pass on to the FNLA.

Fascist

What's more, the FNLA is now operating openly with members of the Portuguese fascist organisation ELP. According to the influential right-wing Portuguese paper *Expresso* last week ELP members had broadcast on FNLA radio.

The South Africans also have been only too happy to support the FNLA. They know that a united Angola under MPLA leadership would provide material assistance to the guerrilla struggle in Rhodesia, Namibia (South West Africa) and South Africa itself. So they have been providing arms and men for an FNLA column that has been advancing up

Angola's western coast in the past fortnight.

The column has plentiful supplies of French and British arms.

Finally, the FNLA is getting arms and training from China. The rulers of that country claim to be revolutionaries, but are prepared to work alongside fascists and racists in aiding the FNLA.

The last of the Angolan movements, UNITA, has a record as bad as the FNLA.

There is documented evidence that three years ago its leader, Savimbi, discussed with the then-fascist Portuguese government mutual co-operation in attacking the real liberation forces.

No doubt sections of the British press will use the civil war in Angola to put across racist arguments that black people cannot govern themselves. But the MPLA has been successful in running Luanda, despite the economic devastation caused as hundreds of thousands of settlers abandoned their jobs and departed for Portugal. There have been no massacres through racialism or tribalism in MPLA-run territory.

What is reducing Angola to chaos and bloodshed is not the liberation movement, but the greed of Western powers which want to keep their hands on the loot.

HANDS OFF PORTUGAL



price 10p

This new pamphlet, written by Jack Robertson, AUEW steward at Massey Ferguson, Manchester, and Roger Kline, TGWU steward at Massey Ferguson, Coventry, for workers in Britain, traces the development of the workers' movement in Portugal over the past 17 months. It has a vital section on solidarity work, packed full of ideas on how you can support the struggle for workers' power in Portugal.

10p a copy (plus 6½p postage)—or 12 copies for £1 post free, from the Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

Wages under socialism

WHAT IS the justification for not paying a person with educational qualifications, who is a manager, far more than a labourer?

The short answer is that socialism involves the abolition of social classes, the abolition of the wages system and its replacement by the principle of 'from each according to his ability to each according to his needs'. In a socialist society, therefore, the question does not arise.

Twists

Incidentally, the Constitution of the USSR cleverly twists this socialist principle into its opposite to justify the big inequalities that exist there. It says (Article XII):



'The principle applied in the USSR is that of socialism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work".' (My emphasis)

That is to say, it justifies the very wages system which Marx regarded as a special characteristic of capitalism; and whose

abolition was, for him, an indispensable feature of the socialist reconstruction of society.

Of course, no marxist has ever supposed that the wages system (and the hierarchy of unequal payments that it involves) can be abolished overnight by a workers' state. The achievement of workers' power, the establishment of a workers' state, is the essential first step.

Lengthy

The transition to socialism which requires the dissolution of all classes—including the working class, the class of wage earners—is bound to be a more or less lengthy process.

Why? Partly because a society which operates on the principle of 'each according to his need' is inconceivable except on the

basis of a high productivity of labour and this, in turn, depends in part on international co-operation between workers' states.

Capitalism created a world economic system. It is not possible to go backwards to 'national' or local self-sufficiency without destroying part of economic advances, made under capitalism, which are a necessary foundation for socialism. You cannot have socialism in one country, although you can take the first steps. The wages system cannot be abolished without international socialism.

But there is another reason why some inequalities of payments (unrelated to need) cannot simply be abolished by decree, but have to be eroded over time. It is that some of the very highly paid 'middle class' experts have a real scarcity value.

Not all, by a long chalk. Part, and a large part, of the top end of the pyramid of wages and salaries is created deliberately to make a 'buffer' between the workers and the rich—a substantial layer of people with a vested interest in inequality.

That can be swept away quite quickly. But not all differentials are of this kind.

Suppose you have acute appendicitis. You need an operation, quite a simple one I am told, but, simple or not, you or I can't do it.

The surgeons band together to demand a high payment. You give it because the alternative is worse.

Something like this happened after the Russian revolution. It was necessary to pay the 'bourgeois specialists' high salaries to retain their services.

This had nothing to do with Stalinism. It was introduced in Lenin's day, when no party member (whatever his job) was allowed to earn more than a skilled workers' pay.

Why not force these experts to serve? Because this is a most inefficient way of securing their co-operation and is simply impracticable in a society in transition to socialism, except by way of rare exceptions.

The long-term solution is a massive expansion in the production of the required skills, a process that takes more than a generation.

Of course a modern capitalist society like Britain requires and produces a much bigger range of skills than the Russia of 1917. The problem will be less for us, but it is still a problem.

Easily

The erosion of 'differentials' most easily achieved indirectly. Even under capitalism a host of services are provided without direct payment—education, water supply, public libraries and so on.

A workers' state will progressively expand these in type and quality. For example, housing and public transport are likely to be converted to 'need not ability to pay' at an early stage.

As more and more services are taken out of the realm of direct payment, the importance of money and so of pay differences, is reduced.

As skills of all kinds become more widely distributed, the power of 'experts' is diminished.

The 'person with educational qualifications who is a manager becomes one of a team of producers, many with interchangeable skills, his special position slowly vanishes.



GEN. FRANCO'S protracted fight for life is not expected to lead to any change in Whitehall's contingency plans for British representation at his funeral.

Although the Government expects some opposition from Labour Left-wingers to any move "recognising" the Spanish régime, it is virtually certain to send Lord Shepherd, the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, to Madrid when the time comes.

From the Daily Telegraph 28 October.

Guardian of the people?

THE THURROCK Guardian, a small-circulation newspaper in Grays, Essex, is about to receive an unusual honour.

According to its front page of 27 October, it is '... the ONLY local paper which is to be cited by the TUC when it gives evidence to the Royal Commission on the press.'

Which is not bad for a paper written by non-union labour... and possessed of remarkably reactionary views.

Editor Frank Shean's latest editorial, an attack on the government's £5-a-week subsidy to employers for taking on unemployed school leavers, rants about 'youngsters making themselves literally unemployable' and 'the under-35s who think the world is in a cosmic coma until midday'. It goes on:

Present

'Then they present themselves to their employer, who works on his VAT returns until midnight every night, gets to work at 8 o'clock, works Saturday and Sunday and has to find an answer which makes sense to his wife when he hands over all he has been able to cull from this week's takings—ie an amount equivalent to little more than half the amount he is contracted to pay his boy-wonders.'

Shean is a close friend of Thurrock Trades Council secretary Doug Thompson, who is also chairman of the Labour Party in nearby Tilbury and a director of the company which publishes the paper.

For years, Shean has reported Trades Council meetings, sitting next to Thompson on the top table. Once again, not bad for a non-union paper...

When, recently, Trades Council chairman Jack Smith decided, without discussion, to order a sub-committee to call off a meeting on the cuts, Shean obliged his Labour friends by publishing a vicious red smear on members of the sub-committee.

His article implied that they should be thrown off the Trades Council for 'disruptive' activities.

Meanwhile, the TUC holds up the Guardian to the Royal Commission as a prime example of how important an "aware" local paper can be.

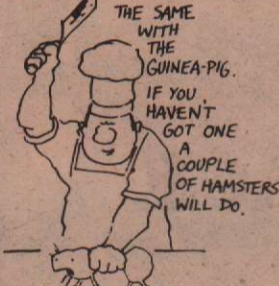
WITHOUT COMMENT

IT IS BEYOND the bounds of reality to expect a Western version of the Russian revolution.

—Enrico Berlinguer, Italian Communist Party leader, 30 October

REDUNDANCY RECIPES

COOKERY TIPS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED



Carve-up? You can bet on it...

SAM DEWAR couldn't believe his luck. This bet, placed last March, accurately forecast the first four in the Grand National—and, as a 71-year-old pensioner, Sam more than looked forward to the winnings of nearly £800.

There was, however, a small problem. The bookies, Ladbrokes, refused to give him more than £42. The manager of the shop—near Central Station in Glasgow—claimed the bet was against their rules. They only accepted bets forecasting the first three.

But, protested Sam, they had accepted his bet—after he had carefully pointed out to them that it was a forecast on the first four, not the first three.

No good. Sam wasn't going to get his money—and complaints to Ladbrokes' local and then national head office got him no further.

So Sam went to a lawyer, only to be told that 'as the betting law stands, they don't have to pay you'.

Sack

As a last resort, he's going to challenge the renewal of Ladbrokes' licence.

Meanwhile, Ladbrokes have just handed out £19 million to their shareholders... and the sack to 300 of their Glasgow workers seeking to join a trade union.

Sacrifice Corner

○ NORMAND (Mayfair) Ltd are about to deliver a Mercedes 600 LWB to one of their customers fitted with a partition, bar, air conditioning, fitted suitcases, television, stereo and stereo radio, chauffeur, intercom, curtains to all rear windows, telephone and tape container.

The cost? ... £32,850.

○ THE PENSIONS of top civil servants were increased last week—75 pensioners broke through the £8,500-a-year barrier.

○ SHAREHOLDERS of Alfred Herbert are to get a free

LADBROKES No.1 in Britain
BET & SELECTION TIME

Red Rum
Lescargot
Money Market
Spanish Steps

21. Bet of 10p @ 10/11

21. Bet of 10p @ 10/11

gift from the government of £1,179,000. The government's take-over plan pays out 6p a share. Had the firm been left to go into liquidation, the shareholders would have got nothing at all.

○ 128 MPs moved into their new offices this week in the old Scotland Yard building. Conversion of the offices cost £2.4 million—£20,000 per MP.

Brass number plates on the landings cost £2000. Plans for further conversions are going ahead—including spending £27,000 on a porch where MPs can wait for their taxis.

Pluto 1976 Big Red Diary

An illustrated political diary. This year's Big Red Diary is history, written at home, and women's power, in words and pictures.

£1

Post this order form to Pluto Press, 7 Chiswick Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH. Telephone 0181 7229111.



Chrysler information bulletin



CHRYSLER
UNITED KINGDOM

GOVERNMENT ministers last week described the threat of Chrysler to close down its plant in Britain as 'the most serious industrial problem the government has had to face'. Harold Wilson complained of a 'pistol at the government's head' after Chrysler had demanded £100 million of government money as the price for keeping the plant open. Yet Wilson shows no intention of taking the pistol out of Chrysler's hand by nationalising the company without compensation to save the jobs.

The car industry is the biggest employer of people in this country. One person in 20 works in it. Already over the past year

200,000 jobs have been lost as workers have been driven out of the industry by the effects of short-time working. If Chrysler closes, at least another 100,000 jobs of workers dependent directly or indirectly on the company will go.

And let's be clear about what Chrysler and the government have been discussing—not whether there should be sackings or not, but how many thousands of people are to get the sack. That is why the fight in Chrysler is a central part of the fight of all workers for the right to work.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK —YOU'VE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR PLACE IN THE DOLE QUEUE

JOHN went to Chrysler Ryton from a job in a timber yard in 1972. I remember it as clear as clear. It was going to be great. We'd made it. Now the good life was going to be ours. Or so we thought.

The way I see it now makes me bitter, angry. We've been cheated. At least in a timber yard you got your wages every week. The good life in the car industry doesn't even give you that. You don't know where you are with the short time and the threat to destroy thousands of jobs.

And there aren't jobs in timber yards any more. There's hardly any jobs anywhere.



Chrysler worker's wife Liz McSorley: 'Now I'm wondering where the money for the next round of shoes is going to come from'

LIZ MCSORLEY knows exactly where the ideas that the good life was on the horizon came from.

'Like everyone else I'd heard an awful lot about the high wages. The Coventry Evening Telegraph and all the other papers were telling me that car workers got a lot for doing very little.

'They were so successful at spreading this tale that people who didn't work in a car factory thought that those who did were lazy, idle folk, getting money for nothing. And now that there's short-time working, lay-offs and jobs being axed everywhere in the car industry

those same people think it's all the car workers' fault. Even some of the carworkers agree.

'I know different. I've seen John's man assignments—so many tenths of a second for this job, so many tenths of a second for the other. I see him out at night for his night shift and wake to hear him home again when he's gone out there just to be laid off.

'I know for sure that it's not our fault that John's only got eight days work between now and Christmas. We haven't got a car. We can't afford one. That's how well off we are. Yet I'd like one. A

Chrysler would certainly do me.

'John told our girl a story that says it all. She asked him what he did and he explained that he made cars. At this she asked if he would bring her one home. When he told her he couldn't she insisted on knowing why.

'John thought for a minute and then explained: "After I make them someone else takes them away." She still can't understand why that's allowed.

'It looks now as if they're out to take a good deal more away from us and people like us. John brought home £31 last week and that's with

lay-off pay. That runs out soon and we're hard-pressed already.

'You worry. You live hand to mouth. You're thinking ahead, worrying how you're going to manage in three or four months' time.

'This summer I was already turning over in my mind how I'd manage to get winter clothes for the kids. Now I'm wondering where the money for the next round of shoes is going to come from.

'What I'd like to see is the workers of Chrysler gathering their strength and taking the company on. I believe that if they're united and militant then they can force the government to protect all the jobs. And if they can't sell all the cars they make at the moment, they can very soon get themselves organised to make something else.'

£90 A WEEK? I WISH IT WAS TRUE...

EILEEN PARKER'S husband Bob has worked at Chrysler's Stoke plant for 13 years. Eileen herself works as a nurse at Tube Investment's Coventry matrix plant.

With short time, her wages are the family's life line.

The situation in Chrysler and the way newspapers and people contrive to blame Chrysler workers for it are deeply offensive to Eileen. That's why she's adamant that neither the company nor the government should be allowed to destroy any more

jobs at Chrysler or elsewhere.

'You're always coming up against the idea that car workers have the good life. I think that's beginning to change. But not for everyone. Only yesterday I heard someone say that everyone at Chrysler was on £90 a week even now. I wish it was true.

'It's been clear for some time what was going to happen at Chrysler. They've been deprived of a

new model for six years. I believe the company has been working towards this, taking resources out instead of putting them in.

'We're having to adjust to the prospect that Chrysler will try to shut down its major operations altogether. I don't believe they should be allowed to get away with this for one moment.

'Surely when they can get men to the moon and back we can do better than this. We must compel them to protect our men's jobs.'

CRISIS IN THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

National Rank and File Meeting
Saturday 15 November, Digbeth
Civic Hall, Birmingham

11.30am: The Crisis—introduced by Willie Lee, AUEW senior shop steward, Chrysler Linwood, and 'Whip' Bean, UAW chief steward, Chrysler Mounds Road engines plant, Detroit, USA.
2.30pm: Workers' Participation—introduced by Frank Henderson, NUSMW shop steward, Leyland Longbridge.

3.30pm: Rank and File Resistance—introduced by Barry Collins, ACTSS deputy convenor, Triumph Coventry. National meeting ends: 4.30pm.
4.30-5.30pm: Leyland Worker and Chrysler Worker meetings.

Credentials: 50p at door for trade unionists working in the industry.

Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.



THE
CHRYSLER
CARESS
— centre pages

WHERE THE PICKINGS ARE BIGGER

CHRYSLER'S drive for profits is pushing it to concentrate production in its French and Spanish plants.

The company's Simca plant at Poissy in France isn't unionised. Better still, the whole country that surrounds the company's facilities in Spain is run on the sort of authoritarian lines that all car manufacturers seek to impose inside the factory.

The minutes of the May 1973 meeting of the international trade union body the Chrysler World Auto Council make this clear. At the meeting, Andre Petit, a French trade union leader, described the situation at the Simca plant.

A so-called independent company union there is supported by the management. There is extreme discrimination and even intimidation. The company, he added, ruthlessly exploited immigrant workers.

There are armed company policemen in the plant too, and in the case of Spanish workers employed there the Spanish secret police operate freely inside the plant.

A delegate to the meeting from an underground Spanish union outlined the equally appalling situation at Chrysler's plant in Madrid.

There was, he explained, the most rigorous examination of new personnel coming into the plant. He cited 19 papers that had to be presented in order to get a job. You also apparently have to get a personal OK from the police. 'Under these circumstances,' he reported, 'it is difficult to get any organisation in the plant.'

Dispute

Chrysler workers in Coventry themselves got some of the Poissy and Madrid kind of treatment during the 'shoddy work' dispute in 1973, a dispute incidentally which the company unquestionably provoked.

Chrysler called in a team of known criminals and thugs to break picket lines at the Stoke engine plant through an Allesley-based huckster, Tony Bilton.

Socialist Worker described the operation at the time:

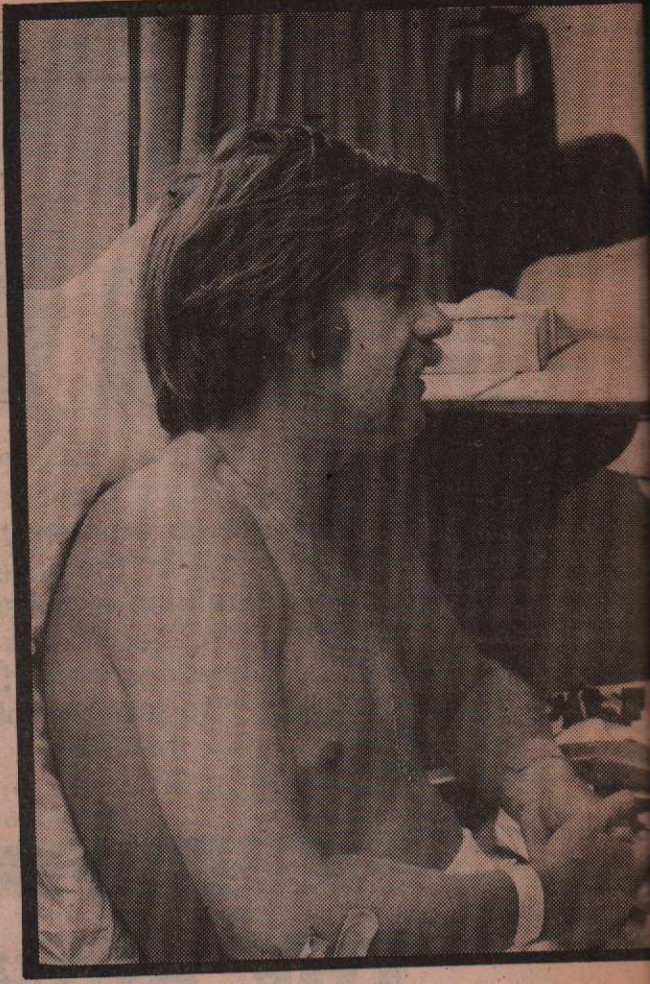
'On Monday 18 June, at 3am, six big lorries crashed through the picket lines at the Chrysler Stoke factory in Coventry. They were loaded with engines for the Chrysler plant at Dunstable.

'Men in the lorries hurled bottles and bricks at the pickets. A millwright in the factory, Mr John Docherty, was attacked by the thugs and beaten up with a spanner.

'Three of the lorries crashed shortly after leaving the factory. The remaining three reached Dunstable shortly after 7am. Security guard Terry Walker-Spiers approached one of the lorries to ask for documents.

'Suddenly, the lorry accelerated forward and charged at the gates. The trailer of the lorry smashed Mr Walker-Spiers against the wall of his gate house. He is now in hospital with a broken pelvis.'

Just another example of THE CHRYSLER



THERE'S a place on the outskirts of Coventry where working people have managed to put together some hard information of the strategy and tactics of the multinational Chrysler car company.

That place is Chrysler Whitley. Whitley is Chrysler's European center for design and development. So workers there are in the privileged position of getting a look in on what the company is really up to.

Out at Whitley they feel absolutely sure that in anything other than the very short term it's not going to make any difference at all to John J 'The Flamethrower' Riccardo and his fellow Chrysler executives how much public money the Labour government puts in their pockets.

Since 1970, they reckon, the company has been running down its operations in Coventry and at Linwood in Scotland. It has been doing everything in its power to concentrate production in France and Spain.

Even if there is some patched-up compromise now, involving public funds and some redundancies, this will not be the end of the story.

In recent months Chrysler has itself been working to reduce sales of its models made at Coventry and Linwood. They have discovered that the company has been offering its dealers here in Britain huge £150 to £200 bonuses for selling Simca cars instead.

The Whitley workers also know that the much talked-of new model isn't a new model at all.

The C8 car, which Chrysler says £100 to £200 million of public funds will persuade it to produce, will be a botched together amalgam of existing models and components with little or no retooling.

Route

The public funds put in would therefore follow a well-travelled route. They'd be used to buy parts from some other outposts of the Chrysler empire so that public funds once again end up in private pockets.

Then, when the operation is completed, there will be another Chrysler crisis every bit as big as the present one.

The last thing the Labour government wants to do is to nationalise the company and pro-

tect jobs.

But Chrysler—and Harold Wilson, who'd be only too happy if the pistol was directed solely against Chrysler workers—face one problem. No matter how hard they've tried to sap the will of Chrysler and other workers, growing numbers are not willing to resign themselves to the scrapheap of redundancy and unemployment. What's more they no longer believe half measures will protect anyone.

At Linwood, Engineering Union stewards have come out in favour of occupation of the plant as soon as any redundancies are declared. The convenors and their deputies have gone on record calling for nationalisation and there is a strong and growing feeling that this must be without a penny compensation.

Militant trade unionists there are adamant that it is not a question of fighting for Chrysler to get more public money to squander but of fighting and fighting like hell to protect jobs and getting the company nationalised without compensation.



RIGHT: The sort of that has forced Chrysler back down in the late Picketing at the Stoke in 1973.

LEFT: The massive Coventry last week full support to the in opposing the late threats.

PICTURES: John Stur Chris Davies (Report)

We've done it before. Rank and file action CAN beat Chrysler's threats

COMPANIES like Chrysler thrive on division. They love to play off factory against factory. They rejoice when they can set production workers against staff or ferment divisions between workers in one grade, trade or country against workers in another.

They're so adept at exploiting divisions that it sometimes seems they're all powerful. In reality that's far from the case. When rank and file workers are united and determined to match blow for blow, even multinationals like Chrysler can be defeated.

In a small way that happened at Linwood last Friday when management tried to split up a militant shift in the press shop. The men, realising that they were being tested out for other battles in the future, refused to have any of it. So Chrysler climbed down.

It's some time since Chrysler was treated to a large dose of this kind of medicine, the kind their centralised machine enables them to dole out again and again. But they got such a dose in 1973 during the 'shoddy work' dispute at Ryton.

Then the company's carefully-laid scheme to provoke a strike

backfired completely. Workers fired for one reason alone met attack with a mealy-mouthed the begging bowl.

A Ryton set up. Through file workers p the company pickets.

Workers struck back a year. When Scanlon and them to be the manning scab labour, and stayed on their organis subject to the monstration and Stoke.

Way If a way economic cr and it mos found—then lat to Linwo similar to

CHRYSLER WORKER
FIGHT BACK NOW
THE NEW MODEL COM

Read CHRYSLER WORKER, the paper produced by rank and file workers in Chrysler to help begin the fight back. 5p plus postage, or 10 copies for 50p post free, from Flat One, 64 Fisher Road, Foleshill, Coventry.

The Party is somewhat subdued...

THE Communist Party holds its 34th national congress this coming weekend. The event is not the most important in the British working-class movement, but it is of some significance. Many of the best militants in industry continue to look to the party for a lead.

If the resolutions prepared for the congress by the Party's executive are anything to go by, the lead they will get over the next year will be abysmal.

The first and most notable thing about the resolutions is that they avoid mentioning many of the key developments of the past few months. The £6 limit and the fight against it gets half a sentence. The use of troops to break the dustmen's strike in Glasgow gets not a word. The conversion of former leaders of the 'left', such as Jack Jones, to defenders of wage restraint is greeted with complete silence.

Instead, we are told 'the right-wing leaders, though still dominant, are being increasingly challenged in all the decisive organisations.' There is not a hint of the development which has led the TUC leadership to condemn the 26 November demonstration against unemployment, to the threatened use of the police against Ricky Tomlinson at the Blackpool Congress, and to last week's amicable discussions on 'planning' with a government that has pushed unemployment up to the 1 1/4 million mark.

Nor is there any mention of the growth of the right wing in unions such as the AUEW.

Need

The same omissions are to be found when it comes to international politics.

Instead of focussing the attention of militants on the overriding need for solidarity with the Portuguese workers and with the authentic liberation movement in Angola, the MPLA, there are merely the statements that 'fascism in Portugal has been overthrown' and that 'Mozambique, Angola and Guine-Bissau have won their liberation through armed struggle combined with democratic forces in Portugal aided by the Portuguese Armed Forces Movement.'

You would hardly believe from reading this that the official leadership of the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal, the Council of the Revolution, is sabotaging the efforts of the MPLA to liberate Angola from American and South African stooge organisations. Nor would you recognise that Portugal itself is heading for the highest form of class struggle, civil war, with the leadership of the MFA on one side and the workers and rank and file soldiers on the other.

Perhaps that is why the executive committee of the Communist Party has not, according to its report to congress, discussed Portugal once in the past two years—although it had time to discuss 'ultra leftism'.

Told

When it comes to the Middle East, we are told that the 'progressive Arab states have consolidated their position in the recent period'—just as Sadat's Egypt has moved back firmly into the American camp and abandoned the Palestinian people.

Finally, of course, 'in contrast to the soaring economic crisis in the capitalist world, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries continue their steady advance'—without a mention of the rising prices in Poland and Hungary or of the dependence of the Russians on American grain.

On Ireland, we are told (correctly) that British troops have been combatting the Irish people for 600 years. Then we

Chris Harman on the coming Communist Party Congress

are told that the solution is 'democratisation' of Northern Ireland by a Bill of Rights. Who is to enforce it? Apparently, the same British troops who have been oppressing Ireland for 600 years.

What binds together all these different aspects of the Party leadership's policy is one thing: illusions in people who hold power in one place or another, a refusal to recognise that the only hope for progress anywhere is through the independent struggle of the workers at rank and file level.

So the conclusion is always support for the 'progressive officers', the 'left-wing' full-time union official, the 'larger Tribune group of MPs', the rulers of the 'socialist' countries.

The most pathetic items in the documents for the congress are the references to Party membership and the sales of its paper. We are told that the membership has fallen by 1242 in the past two years, to a figure of 28,519. If the figures for subscriptions in the financial report mean anything, the real membership must be much less. Total income for the National Office from dues is £26,296—well under 2p a week for every claimed member.

Fell

The circulation of the Morning Star has 'declined'. No figure is given, but information Socialist Worker has received indicates that the print order of the Star fell from 53,000 in September last year to 42,000 this August, with 15,000 of the copies going to Eastern Europe. That makes the current number of papers distributed in Britain, 27,000 with an unknown number not sold.

The decline in the fortunes of the Communist Party cannot be separated from its politics.

A few years ago it seemed 'reasonable' to many militants to place great hopes in people such as Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon. They had much more influence than small groups of revolutionaries.

But those who depend on working within capitalist society for their own pre-eminence and privileges naturally try to prop it up when it moves into crisis. So the Jack Joneses of this world rush to defend the anti-working class policies of the government.

The only organisations that can resist this trend are those that judge union leaders and their like by actions, not words, placing their emphasis on the activity of the rank and file, not the conference speeches of the high and mighty.



THE CHRYSLER CARESS 1973: Terry Walker-Speirs, a security guard at Chrysler Dunstable, being visited in hospital by David and John Walker, two known criminals with convictions for violence who had been hired by Chrysler to break a strike at the Ryton plant. They drove lorries at high speed through the Ryton picket lines and in crashing the gates at Dunstable, pinned Terry against a wall, leaving him with a smashed pelvis.

CARESS



be drawn in. There are public sector workers facing cuts and sackings. There are workers at British Leyland who will also be facing the chop before they're very much older.

Indeed, it is the action of workers in British Leyland's Italian Innocenti plant which shows how much the fight back should be organised. 300,000 engineering workers throughout Milan struck when 1500 jobs at Innocenti were threatened by this British multinational in a carbon copy of Chrysler's threats to Coventry and Linwood.

So powerful has the protest movement been in Italy that commentators say that the government will fall if Innocenti is closed. Not surprisingly, Leyland and the Italian government are being forced to find some scheme to save the jobs.

The same fight back is possible for Chrysler workers. If the whole trade union movement in Coventry and Glasgow were really united behind them, taking direct action to save every single job, victory would be certain.

It's true that the overall market for cars is very much affected by the world recession. But this isn't an insurmountable problem and doesn't mean that Chrysler workers have no future.

They can force the government to nationalise to protect jobs. And if there's not enough of a market for nationalised Chrysler cars then there's plenty other products their skills and machines could be used to produce.

struggle is going to be needed.

Any strategy for success in the fight for jobs begins with the occupation at Chrysler's factories for nationalisation of all the company's assets without compensation. But as the experience at Imperial Typewriters in Hull and elsewhere has shown, a passive occupation confined to the factories themselves will not

guarantee success.

for the right to work in Chrysler would strike a great chord among a whole range of workers inside and outside the car industry.

In Coventry alone, workers at GEC, Alfred Herberts and God knows where else are threatened with the axe.

There are thousands of unemployed youngsters who could

Real

If Chrysler workers were to use the occupied factories as the centre of a real fight to work struggle throughout the working-class movement, then success is within reach.

The occupied factories could become the nerve centre for the toughest possible campaign to strangle Chrysler and to force the Labour government to protect jobs.

Chrysler could be blacked almost out of existence if the operation was properly organised so that seamen, dockers and other carworkers here and abroad were involved.

The launching of a real struggle

International Socialism 83

Monthly Journal of the International Socialist, November 1975, 20p

The rank and file movement • The crisis in Italy • Southern Africa

Articles include:
Portugal—the latest phase,
The Rank and File Movement, The Italian Crisis, Southern Africa, Angola—a new Congo, Notes of the Month, Reviews.
30p including postage, from ISJ, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

London and Home Counties meeting of IS Irish organisers Sunday 30 November, 2.30pm, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. All districts should send a delegate. Further details 806 7009.

IRELAND: HOW WE CAN HELP

SEARCH through Socialist Worker since 1968 and you see a picture of ups and downs in the movement in solidarity work with the Irish struggle.

After the Derry massacre, there were mass demonstrations of many thousands. Yet soon after it was often difficult to win a demonstration of more than a few hundreds and even more difficult to raise it in the trade union movement.

The apparent downturn in support is often the result of jiggery pokery by the British government, now experts in buying time. In reality nothing has changed. Still the Orange Order rules, propped up by the British Army.

The problem for revolutionary socialists, and which the Irish Committee of IS are concerned with, is how best we can maintain active solidarity. The Committee regard Ireland as being the same for British capitalism as Angola is for Portugal.

Just as the Portuguese revolution was triggered by colonial failure in Africa, so Britain's dirty colonial war in Ireland may yet be more important than many think.

Of the many lessons we have learned and are still learning from Portugal, one stands out. We were late, far too late, in giving practical and financial help to revolutionaries there. We were far too late in the fight for revolutionary political ideas in a country where Communist Party and Maoist ideas prevail.

There is no excuse for letting this happen in Ireland. The British Army continues to terrorise daily. British socialists and pacifists are on trial for issuing leaflets to soldiers. And in Ireland the Socialist Workers Movement, our fraternal organisation, are carrying on the fight.

The one problem—no finances and few resources—we can help with. That is why the IS Central Committee have endorsed a request for £2 a month from each branch (and/or individual in a branch) to be devoted exclusively to Irish political and solidarity work.

Bankers' orders are being sent out this week, and should be returned by 30 November.



IS BULLETIN: available next week. Includes important documents for the forthcoming national Council—the Right to Work Campaign; future perspectives, international perspectives. Branch secretaries should order from 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.



NATIONAL COUNCIL: registration forms will be sent out this week and should be returned to the National Secretary by 30 November.

Future national councils will be held on 14-15 February and 3-4 April.

100 at Clay Cross meeting



Former Clay Cross councillor Dave Nuttall (above) addressing the packed meeting (below): 30 people asked for more information about IS.



Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

CLAY CROSS: 100 people heard Paul Foot speak last Thursday on the struggle at Clay Cross and the road to socialism.

He said that every failing in the 'parliamentary road to socialism' was demonstrated by the story of the Clay Cross 11: the enthusiasm and fighting spirit of the working class rank and file; the savage reply of ruling class law; the promise of recompense from Labour in opposition; the shameful breaking of promises in office; the failure of the official Labour Party and trade union movements to respond—and the resulting despair for hundreds of working class socialists.

A sharp debate followed. John Dunn, a miner and a Clay Cross councillor, argued that there was 'a strong current to the Left' in the Labour Party, and that all socialists should be in the Labour Party to take advantage of it.

Dave Nuttall, a fluor spar miner and one of the Clay Cross 11, said he was not as optimistic as John about what the Labour Party can do. He'd met several 'really good Labour people who won't be voting Labour again after what's happened here'.

The Party 'had had lots of Keir Hardies in the past, but they all ended up the same way'. Dave ended: 'I'm stuck for words. I don't want to leave the Party after everything we've built up, but I don't think we'll do much in the Party if we stay'.

Dave Skinner, another of the 11, attacked John Dunn for what he called 'sectarianism'. He said the Clay Cross Labour Party welcomed all socialists who wanted to carry on the fight for the 11.

In a contribution later in the evening, Dave said that if the efforts of his union, NUPE, to stop the legal actions against the 11 failed, then 'my party card is going back to Hayward. I am not going to go on helping parasites like Crosland climb to power on our backs'. This statement was heavily applauded.

Several IS members from Chesterfield and Mansfield spoke up in the debate.

They argued that a revolutionary socialist organisation was the only way to organise and enforce a real fight back against unemployment and the cuts. The Labour Party organised and informed no one, except at voting times.

Thirty people, most of them from Clay Cross and the surrounding villages, signed a list asking for more information about IS.



BRAINTREE, Essex: 45 people heard a fine speech last Friday from David Bunch in a public debate with local Labour stalwart Chris Funnell. Bunch, a Labour activist in Peterborough before recently resigning to join the International Socialists, told the meeting which was organised by Socialist Worker, that socialists were wasting their time in the Labour Party.

After the meeting, seven people joined IS and four took out supporters' cards. No one joined the Labour Party.

Women's Voice Rally coaches

GLASGOW: The Information Bureau, George Square, 7am. E4. Contact Linda Jones, IS Books, 041-424 1048.

CHESTERFIELD: Town Hall, 8.30am
ROTHERHAM: Bus station, 9am
SHEFFIELD: Pond Street, 9.30am, contact Lesley Klein (0742 55910)

LONDON: Euston Station, 8am, return 9.45pm. E4. Tickets must be paid for in advance. Write to Womens Voice 8 Cottons Gardens, E2.

COVENTRY: Pool Meadow, 8am. Contact Glynis-Tew at IS Books, 0203 21662.

LIVERPOOL: Mann Island Pierhead, 9am calling at Golden Eagle, Kirkby, 9.30am. Contact Teresa, 051-236 5036.

BIRMINGHAM: 8.30am. IS Books.
HULL: YEB offices, Sevensway, 8am.

Socialist Worker meetings

CAMBRIDGE SW social: Saturday 22 November, 8.30pm, Village Hall, Trumpington. Music and FREE drinks. Entrance, 30p. All readers and comrades welcome. Further details: Trumpington 3196.

SE LONDON DISTRICT SW day school: 15 November, 1pm, Charlton House, SE7. The traditions of IS; revolutionary trade unionism; militant trade unionism. All members to attend. SW supporters welcome.

NORTH WALES SW public meeting: Friday 14 November, 7.30pm. Belle Vue Club, Grange Road, Rhyl. All welcome. Organised by Clwyd IS.

WOMENS SUB-COMMITTEE, Saturday 15 November, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. All districts, branches and fractions must send a delegate. Discussion on work for Womens Voice rally and Womens Voice groups.

HEALTH WORKERS, national meeting for SW supporters and IS members. 6 December, in Birmingham. Discussion on: the Right to Work campaign: 'pay' cuts in the health service. More details from Health Workers Section Secretary, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER SW half-day school on Ireland: Sunday 16 November, 2pm-5pm. Political perspectives (with national speaker) and practical session. Greater Manchester IS members and SW supporters welcome. Further details from Manchester TU Books, phone 061-832 8102.

CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE, a short pamphlet produced by SW Africa Group, 5p (plus 6½p postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Other bookshops should contact to get copies.

WAKEFIELD SW public meeting: The bosses' crisis—the socialist answer. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 20 November, 8pm, Queen Street Hall, Queen Street (by C&A).

SW AFRICA GROUP weekend school: 22-23 November, Sheffield University Students Union (council room). Starts 1pm Saturday. Registration £1, which includes a film on the liberation struggle in Namibia and social on Saturday night. Accommodation provided, but bring sleeping bag if you have one. Minibus from London—contact Peter Alexander (phone 01-580 0916) for a seat. Sessions: Southern Africa and the essential role of the Southern African working class. Discussion groups on different areas—probably including Nigeria, Ethiopia, East Africa, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Solidarity work—how to use the SW Africa Group bulletin; work in the anti-apartheid and solidarity committees. Minibus leaves University Lond. Union WC1, Malet Street, 9.30am.

BRISTOL SW supporters' disco: Saturday 15 November, 8.30pm, Sea Horse pub (next to the BRI). Bar extension, food, 40p.

IS BUILDING WORKERS national meeting: Weekend 15-16 November, Leeds Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Chapeltown, Leeds 10, 1pm-5.30pm, Saturday, 10am-1pm Sunday. Further details, accommodation, etc, phone 01-274 2405. All IS building workers to attend.

BIRMINGHAM SW public meeting: The CIA and the British Labour Movement. Speaker: Philip Agee, former CIA agent. Tuesday 18 November, 7.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall.

TIPTREE SW public meeting: The CIA and the British Labour Movement. Speaker: Philip Agee, former CIA agent. Wednesday 19 November, 8pm, Thurstable School, Maypole Road (Colchester to Maldon rd).

PORTSMOUTH SW public meeting: Why the system stinks. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 13 November, 7.45, Foresters Hall, Fratton Road.

Notices for What's On should be posted to reach Socialist Worker by first post Monday before publication. Adverts will NOT be accepted by phone. Send to What's On, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

HARLESDEN SW public meeting: What's happening in South America. Wednesday 19 November, 8pm, Willesden Junction Hotel, Station Road, NW10.

NOISS National meeting: 22 November, Leeds University Union, 10.30am sharp. With the growth of the right wing in many colleges, and the threat of secret ballot elections in NUS, this meeting is going to be important for deciding how we fight back. Every IS Soc should send one delegate, and all NOISS NC members should attend. For accommodation, phone Steve Cass, Leeds SU, 0532 39071.

BRITISH RAIL: Day school for SW supporters and IS members in NUR, ASLEF and TSSA. Saturday 15 November in Manchester. Write to Box B, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2, for details.

STOCKPORT WOMENS VOICE AND SW public meeting: Cuts in the public services—How to fight them. Speakers: a Hospital worker, a teacher, and Sheila McGregor (Editor of Womens Voice). Wednesday 19 November, 8pm, Mersey Vale School, Furness Grove (off Didsbury Road) Heaton Moor.

LOUGHBOROUGH SW supporters social: Friday 21 November, Corporation Hotel, Wharnciffe Road. Bar till midnight. Good music. Food. All welcome. Tickets 40p.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION SW supporters public meeting: What's happening in Portugal? Speaker: Tony Cliff. Monday 17 November, 5pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate.

WOMENS VOICE Day School: Sunday 16 November, 10.30am to 4pm. Women and the Family under Capitalism; Women and the Crisis; How to Organise and Fight Back. Workers Music Association, 236 Westbourne Park Road, London W11.

HIGH WYCOMBE SW public meeting: The Crisis—Unemployment and the Labour Government: Fight for the Right to Work. Speakers: Tony Cliff and Tony Paul (president of High Wycombe Trades Council), in personal capacity. 8pm, Monday 1 December. Guildhall, High Wycombe.

Inner East London District Committee apologises to all comrades not notified of the cancellation of the meeting on the CIA on 12 November. We forgot to take the ad out of SW.

HACKNEY TEACHERS SW public meeting: Fighting Back in the Schools. Speakers: Lab technician shop steward; Cliff McDaniel (recently cleared of assault charge on police) NUPE ancillary worker, school teachers. Monday 24 November, 5.15pm, Duke of Wellington pub, Balls Pond Road, N1. All welcome.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL WORKERS SW public meeting: How East London fought the cuts in the 1920s. Speaker: Harry Wicks, Thursday 20 November, 8pm, basement of Centreprise Bookshop, Kingsland Road, Dalston.

WOMENS VOICE SOCIAL: Saturday 29 November, 8pm, Maypole Hotel, Ford Lane, Manchester 6. Organised by Central Manchester District.

WOMENS VOICE RALLY: People wanting accommodation in Manchester should phone Penny (061-434 7255). Limited number of beds available.

WEST YORKSHIRE district aggregate: Saturday 22 November 1pm, Bradford Central Library (room 4), Princes Way, Bradford 1. All comrades to attend or send apologies.

POLLUTOCRATS—hear all about them at IS Science Day School. Saturday 29 November, 11am-5.30pm. The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London. The effects of weapons used in Northern Ireland, scarcity of raw materials, pollution, generic engineering—we need your arguments and you need ours. All shop floor workers, science teachers, technicians particularly welcome.

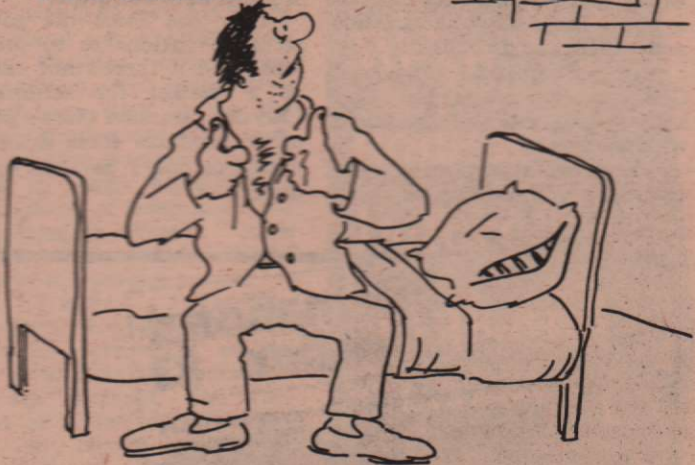
NORTH LONDON DISTRICT SW Jumble Sale: Saturday 22 November 3pm at Stroud Green School, Ennis Road, N4. (Near Finsbury Park Tube). If you have any jumble or bric-a-brac, please phone 802 6145 to arrange collection.

SPAIN: DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES—Socialist Worker film tour, 21 November—14 December, with a film that looks at the struggle against fascism in Spain, during the civil war and today, followed by a speaker. **COVENTRY:** Friday 21 November. **PETERBOROUGH:** Sunday 23rd. **BRADFORD:** Monday 24. **NEWCASTLE:** Tuesday 25. **CAMBRIDGE:** Wednesday 26. **CENTRAL LONDON:** Thursday 27 6.30pm. Kings College Theatre, Aldwych, WC1. **SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Friday 28. **NORTH LONDON:** Sunday 30. **SOUTHAMPTON:** Monday 1 December. **EXETER:** Tuesday 2. **BRISTOL:** Wednesday 3. **CARDIFF:** Thursday 4. **BIRMINGHAM:** Friday 5. **BANGOR:** Sunday 7 December. 7.30pm, Bangor Students Union. **EAST LONDON:** Monday 8. **NOTTINGHAM:** Wednesday 10. **DERBY:** Thursday 11. **DUNDEE:** Friday 12. **GLASGOW:** Saturday 13. **EDINBURGH:** Sunday 14. Watch Socialist Worker for full details. Local organisers please send details of showings in as soon as possible.

Regional meetings for IS training and literature organisers: **NORTH WEST:** Saturday 15 November, 2.30pm, IS Books, 28 Berry Street, Liverpool. **LONDON AND SOUTH EAST:** Wednesday 19 November, 7.30pm, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. **MIDLANDS:** Saturday 22 November, 2.30pm, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham. **YORKSHIRE AND NORTH EAST:** Sunday 23 November, 2.30pm, Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Chapletown Leeds 12. **SCOTLAND:** Friday 30 November, 2.30 IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1. One representative from each branch and district committee. Pooled fare system to aid district branches.

PAPER-MAKING INDUSTRY: Any members or SW readers in the paper making industry, particularly in SOGAT, who are interested in discussing a common policy please write to Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Come to Skegness with Socialist Worker



THERE ARE FIVE BARS...

FOUR DAYS of boozing, political discussion, meetings and films, football, and swimming at the Derbyshire Miners' holiday camp.

Book now with your SW seller for the Easter weekend, 16-19 April.

Only £16.25 a head for full board and lodging. Don't delay—places are limited.

Local organisers for the rally should start sending the forms in now—places are limited, it will be first come, first served.

DAYS OF HOPE

You've seen the plays, now read the book (it's even better)

DAYS OF HOPE*, Jim Allen's brilliant series of television plays, has now been printed as a novel.

The TV series was good, but the book is better. The politics sometimes got lost under the artistic pretensions of the director. But in the novel everything is much sharper and clearer.

The criticism of both is that, when dealing with the General Strike, the writer concentrates too much on the deals done at the top, without giving the real flavour.

Energy

Jim Allen's politics, though close to those of Socialist Worker, are a bit too obsessed with betrayal at the top. In the process, he misses a lot of the energy and initiative of the rank and file.

It is still a good book. Buy it and read it. Give it to your friends as a Christmas present. It is the best novel a socialist has written this year.

*Days of Hope, by Jim Allen (Futura) 90p (inc postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

TAKE IT AS RED

A weekly column by PAUL O'FLINN

So what's the big joke?

WHY ARE MOST jokes right-wing? It was a question provoked for me this week when I came across something George Orwell wrote over 30 years ago:

Every joke is a tiny revolution. If you had to define humour in a single phrase, you might define it as dignity sitting on a tin tack. Whatever destroys dignity, and brings down the mighty from their seats, preferably with a bump, is funny. And the bigger the fall, the bigger the joke.

'It would be better fun to throw a custard pie at a bishop than at a curate... the truth is that you cannot be memorably funny without at some point raising topics which the rich, the powerful and the complacent would prefer to see left alone.'

WHY IS MOST COMEDY SO REACTIONARY?

Perhaps you agree with Orwell, especially if you've seen the North West Spanner Group lately, or can call to mind some of those brilliantly undermining jokes that trickle out of Eastern Europe (sample: Commissar to Party recruit: 'Under capitalism comrade, man exploits man, but here in the Soviet Union it's the other way round').

But the snag is that the overwhelming mass of comedy produced in our own society is

depressingly reactionary. I think of what many people see as the major 20th century British humorists—P G Wodehouse, Noel Coward, Evelyn Waugh and Kingsley Amis, Punch and Private Eye—and my mind sags at all that genteel sniggering and sophisticated sneering, all that snobbery passing itself off as wit.

Racist

Serves you right, you may say, if you go looking for humour in all that ruling class rubbish. Now genuinely popular humour...

OK, so pin your ears back at work, on the bus, at the pub, for a week or two. Of the first dozen jokes you will hear, half will probably be racist ('There's this Irishman/Pakistani, see, and he...') and three will be sexist.

The rest will be about the amazing stupidity of the working classes as advertised on television in *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*, *Are You Being Served?*, *Till Death Us Do Part*, and *News At Ten*.

Agreed, none of this is genuine popular humour. It's stuff that's made for people rather than coming from them, pap produced by the gentry who run television to stop the proles thinking too much between shifts.

But the problem is that it sticks, it seeps through, it takes over, so that genuinely popular humour dwindles to a few graffiti on building sites, swamped under piles of media-spawned jokes about or rather against, immigrants and women and postmen and so on.

The point is that capitalist society is ridiculous, though you'll never hear that from the BBC.

Comic

There's something richly comic about the Archbishop of Canterbury living in a Palace on £9000 a year writing articles for the Sunday Times about 'being poor as we find ourselves today'.

Margaret Thatcher is extremely funny, perhaps the best joke since Ted Heath who, in his turn, was one of the most amusing things the ruling class had done since King George the Fifth asked 'How is the Empire?' and dropped dead.

We don't spend much time laughing at these people, I suppose, because we have to pay for the buggers, which isn't funny at all. And yet we should.

Laughter, after all, is subversive, which is why they never let you do it in church.

In a word: if the National Front can produce a joke-book, why can't we?



The 1889 dock strike—a milestone in working-class history.

DAYS OF REVOLT

'ENOCH has made them and Enoch shall smash them.'

Mention Enoch Taylor to a judge or a mill-owner in the early years of the last century and he would probably have started fuming and gone a funny shade of purple.

It was not so much the man they hated, as the weapon his name was associated with. For the 'Enoch', or sledgehammer, was the principal tool of the Luddites, men who ruling class historians ever since have painted as mindless, machine-hating vandals.

BBC-1's new series, *Milestones in Working Class History*, began last week with a look at them. The series, though easy to follow, won't go far enough.

But it is worth watching simply because it shows certain areas of our history which, for obvious reasons, we weren't taught at school.

Troops

The next four programmes will deal with the 1889 dock strike, and the British 'semi-soviet' of the Red Clyde, where troops were used against workers.

Unlike Enoch Taylor, who was a



GARRY BUSHELL on Milestones in Working Class History

machine manufacturer, most Luddites were woolworkers.

The Yorkshire croppers were skilled craftsmen, the aristocracy of woolworkers. The introduction of gig-mills and shearing farms made their skills obsolete, threatened them with impoverishment, unskilled work and unemployment.

The introduction of wide-loom frames in Nottingham similarly affected the knit workers who saw their skills destroyed in favour of mass-produced shoddy goods.

At this time unions were illegal, so the workers petitioned. They raised thousands of pounds to represent their case in Parliament. All to no avail. Free enterprise capitalism won the day.

These people didn't blindly oppose the machines. The suggestions they put forward included a

gradual introduction of machinery, alternative employment for skilled men made redundant, and a tax upon cloth dressed by machinery for the unemployed.

They were no more backward-looking than dockers today fighting against redundancies. The press say they are against containerisation, against progress when in fact, just like the Luddites, they are fighting to ensure progress is used for the many (for example, shorter hours and earlier retirement) and not for the few.

For these men, denied unions, denied any legal protection, their livelihoods at stake, direct action was the only answer. 'We petition no more—that won't do—fighting must,' wrote one Luddite.

Poverty

And so they moved against the wide-loom frames and gig-mills. Not as a mob, but as highly disciplined units. They were against the freedom of the capitalist to destroy the customs of trade, to lower wages and to undermine standards.

There were no state benefits then, no security; their immediate prospect was abject poverty, and no guarantee of a job.

As well as looking back to the 'good old days', the rights they demanded looked forward to the future. They included: a legal minimum wage; control of the sweat labour of women and children; work for skilled men made unemployed; prohibition of shoddy work; and the right to trade unions.

Almost inevitably, ideas of democracy and republicanism caught on. The movement developed semi-revolutionary tendencies.

Equally inevitably, the government moved in and crushed them.

hangings, deportings, and criminal sentences.

In Yorkshire, for instance, more troops were drafted in to crush the Luddites than were used in the whole Peninsular War.

Sacrifice

Luddism was the half-way point in the process of the working class developing its own organisations for its own defence. The unharnessed private enterprise which developed built up productive capacity enormously, but at a cost of enormous human sacrifice.

Real human history challenges the widespread myth that 'the British worker' is—and always has been—'apathetic' and 'conservative'. In fact, as Luddism shows, the British working class showed extreme adaptability and militancy.

The 'apathy' of which so many socialists in Britain despair did not exist then—and it can be broken now.

ON THE BOX

MONDAY

John Cleese stars in the **SELLING LINE** (BBC2, 7.05pm) a programme for trainee salesmen. This week they are taught to sell something to someone who doesn't want to buy it. If you've ever bought a six-blade-tomato-peeler-cum-stone-remover watch it to see where you went wrong.

TUESDAY

MILESTONES IN WORKING CLASS HISTORY (BBC1, 11.15pm) features modern dockers reliving the 1889 strike for the dockers' tanner. In **THE NEARLY MAN** (ITV, 9pm), local party workers decide to confront their drunken 'moderate' Parliamentary representative.

THURSDAY

Tucked away on BBC-2 (9pm) is the second in Spike Milligan's new series, **O6**. It's very funny.

FRIDAY

In the **MONEY PROGRAMME** (BBC-2, 8.15pm) economists from some of the world's richest countries discuss their mutual problems. **PORRIDGE** (BBC1, 8.30pm) is still going well.

SATURDAY

OPEN DOOR opens its doors to North Devon farmworkers (BBC2, 10.35pm) who discuss the problems of their work.

SUNDAY

TRADE UNION STUDIES (BBC1, 9.45pm) this week is on Unfair Dismissal.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



DEAR MADAME,
Please can you help me. My husband is given to violent tempers and my arms at times have been black and blue through his punches. He butted me on the nose two weeks ago... one night he tried to strangle me...

Part of a letter to Chiswick Women's Aid, now in the headlines again. One of its founders, Erin Pizzy, has told some of the nightmare stories of battered wives in this moving book.

60p (including postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

SCREAM QUIETLY OR THE NEIGHBOURS WILL HEAR

LETTERS

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

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

Postal Points

WE IN THE NATIONAL Abortion Campaign are supposed to be fighting James White's Bill now under discussion by the Select Committee. Why the hell, then, does the NAC steering committee propose a national demonstration next March?

These tactics bear no relation to what is actually happening NOW. By March, the 1967 Abortion Act may have at best been drastically amended, at worst it may have disappeared. Is the steering committee afraid of embarrassing the Labour government?

If David Flint (Letters, last week) thinks 'parliamentary pressure' will quash the Bill, let us remind him of the behaviour of 'our' pro-abortion MPs on the Select Committee: they recently produced a restrictive interim report. 'Socialist' Barbara Castle endorsed their findings, and instead of ending the fiasco of the Select Committee there and then (as she could have done) she capitulated to the anti-abortionists by announcing a free vote in the Commons on the future of the committee.

Make no mistake, it's up to US at grass-roots level to defeat this Bill. We in Chelmsford have urged the TUC to put pressure on the government to disband the committee and throw out the Bill. We could have turned our resolution into hard reality by having a massive demonstration as the new Parliamentary session began. Instead, another chance slips by.

This has made us bitterly disillusioned with the antics of the steering committee. Instead of re-appraising their own tactics they seek to make scapegoats of the very people who seek meaningful activity: Womens Voice.

But for Womens Voice and the International Socialists, there would have been no organised counter-demo against SPUC. And if members of the steering committee care to dismiss us as mere IS members, let us point out that none of us is.

Our best hope now is to make the rally in Trafalgar Square on 22 November, a massive one. Chelmsford NAC will be there.—ELAINE ELLEN, ROGER WELCH, MARGARET WILLIS, JOAN BEARD, DAVE HEDGECOCK (sec'y, Chelmsford Trades Council), Chelmsford NAC.

SW COULD DO with more articles like Duncan Hallas' And This is The News (18 October), exposing the way the mass media is manipulated to the advantage of big business.

The Merseyside press constantly tried to demoralise the rent strikers against the Tory Housing Finance Act, by printing grossly inaccurate information on the number of people withholding rent. During a protest demonstration outside Kirkby Council buildings towards the end of the Tower Hill strike, police with batons attacked several people in full view of reporters from the Liverpool Echo and Kirkby Reporter. This was not considered news by the Echo, who printed nothing.

All I can say is long live the true socialist papers of the working class—and here's to the day when that class is in control of the mass media.—BRUCE SCOTT, Kirkby.

HOW ABOUT Socialist Worker arranging to make a film on Portugal? SW's articles on Portugal have been excellent but the spirit of the revolution would surely be better captured on film.—MARTIN UPCHURCH, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

When thinking is subversive...

AFTER the barrage of ill-founded criticism and accusation in the capitalist press, it was a great relief to see the agony of the William Tyndale school portrayed from a socialist standpoint (SW, last week).

All socialists must have been shocked by the manner in which the staff were treated—a staff whose only crime was to try to introduce educational democracy into a rotten class-based system.

The educational philosophy of the school was one which, for the first time, catered partly for working class children and provided an education relevant to their needs.

It gave children, for the first time, an opportunity to think for themselves.

This, of course, spelt danger for the Establishment and consequently stirred its members towards sickly reaction.

Of course, the ruling classes had to stamp this out. Children being taught to think for themselves—that's unheard of.

Why, if children are allowed to control their own education, they might grow up wanting to control their factories and maybe even their society. And that would never do.—TONY DEAN, Hull.



Teachers picketing the William Tyndale school: 'a barrage of criticism'

THE TRUTH ABOUT GLENSIDE

BECAUSE of poor facilities in the National Health Service, a Bristol man has been given a life sentence for manslaughter.

John Brazil pleaded guilty to killing his wife on the grounds of diminished responsibility. On the evidence of two consultant psychiatrists, he was originally committed for treatment at Glenside Psychiatric Hospital in Bristol.

After the committal, the unions at the hospital, led by the psychiatric nurses, refused to accept Mr Brazil because of an already proven shortage of staff (and the risks this creates for patients and staff) and the total absence of appropriate facilities to deal with such a case.

ALTERNATIVE

The nurses' action meant that Judge Mais (the man who jailed the Shrewsbury pickets) was forced to reconsider. Instead of sending the patient to Broadmoor, which was one possible alternative, Mais jailed him for life.

As one of those nurses, I'd like to explain the reasons for our action which has been called unprofessional, cowardly, illegal and blackmailing.

We have accepted such cases in

EVENING POST
Thursday, October 30 1975
Serving nearly 400,000 readers daily in Bristol and the West

NURSES RAPPED IN WIFE KILLER CASE

the past, but always after a period of assessment in a secure unit. Normal practice is to assess the potential risks involved before transferring the patient for further treatment and rehabilitation in an open hospital.

There is not a secure unit at Glenside because we have a 'no locked doors' policy to create a therapeutic environment.

Our action is not blackmail and it is not illegal. We are trying to maintain a service, and recently we had to threaten industrial action to save the jobs of 12 nurses.

If the press, who are trying to sensationalise and make capital out of Mr Brazil's tragic circumstances, were really concerned they would be campaigning for the implementation of the Butler Report, which recommends the setting up of Regional Secure Units to treat such patients.

Of course, this would involve a

new building programme, the paying of £350 a year extra to nurses and providing them with free houses, in line with the conditions of nurses at State Hospitals like Broadmoor.

If those who are attacking us were as free with their cash as they are with their abuse, things would look a lot brighter for Mr Brazil.

What really concerns the likes of Judge Mais and the consultants is that their apparent God-given right to decide things has been challenged and over-ruled by a group of well-organised trade union nurses.

We are all concerned about Mr Brazil's situation. We wouldn't be doing this job if we weren't concerned people.

But, like every other group of workers, we must have the right to control our working conditions.—DAVE BRIDGE, Bristol.

LABOUR: GET YOUR FACTS RIGHT!

R PIGOTT (Letters, 1 November) seems to have a mind like a computer. Press the button and the pre-determined Pavlov-like response emerges.

In my letter, I merely pointed out the obvious difference between constituency and union voting at the 1975 Labour Party conference. Comrade Pigott then automatically believes that I am a believer in transforming the Labour Party to build Socialism.

As a matter of fact, I have no faith in the Labour Party whatsoever, but I have even less faith in ultra-left ostriches who are not interested in facts.

The interesting point about the 1975 conference is that after several years of the left-wing strength developing in the unions, a quite sudden reversal has taken place. The union machines have taken a sharp turn to the right, leaving the standard of the left to be raised in the constituencies. This runs contrary to the International Socialists' analysis of the Labour movement.

THOUSANDS

While I do not believe that CLPs can be converted wholesale into revolutionary brigades, I do believe that the thousands of active socialists in the constituencies cannot be ignored.

Comrade Pigott's contention that the Left policies of the CLPs are the produce of infiltration by an insignificant group of revolutionaries shows that he is either stupid, or very ignorant about the labour movement.

There were about 500 CLP delegates at this year's conference. Even if we supposed that four dedicated and talented left-wingers were sufficient to infiltrate each party this would amount to 2000 potential revolutionary leaders.

If this is insignificant, what would you call the IS, an organisation with barely 2000 members in total, never mind leaders?—ARTHUR GEORGE, London E1.



BIRMINGHAM Flame, Chingari and Socialist Worker meetings:

Sunday 16 November: Fight unemployment among young blacks. Speakers: 'Whip' Bean (Detroit Chrysler shop steward) and from Black Parents Movement, IWA and International Socialists. 3.30pm, Lozzells Social Development Club, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth.

Sunday 30 November: Day school on Imperialism and the struggle for International Socialism in the Caribbean, South Asia, Russia and China. 11am-4pm, Lozzells Social Development Club, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth.

'Whip' Bean is in Britain to attend the National Rank and File meeting on The Crisis in the Motor Industry on Saturday (15 November). He will also be speaking at meetings in:

BRIXTON: Wednesday 19 November, 7.30pm, St Matthews Church Crypt, opposite Brixton Town Hall.

COVENTRY: Monday 17 November, 7.30pm, Lanchester Polytechnic.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday 18 November, time and place to be announced.

SOUTH LONDON: Wednesday 19 November, time and place to be announced.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday 20 November, 8pm, Stroud Green School, Ennis Road, N4.

NOTICE TO SW LOTTERY ORGANISERS

All the money for tickets sold must be sent in now. It doesn't matter how little—don't hold onto it.

Money should be sent in regularly as invoices are sent out. Get into the habit of sending it by return when you receive the invoice.

Return the stubs in the same envelope as the money.

When your branch or district needs more tickets phone 01-739 1878 or write to SW Lottery, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

WOODHEADS: 'IT'LL BE THE BLOODY ALAMO'

PAUL FOOT reports from Ossett, Yorkshire

TASS: No wonder Boyd is laughing

A STRANGE thing happened at a recent weekend school organised by TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineers' Union.

The executive member for the Manchester division, a leading member of the Communist Party, Peter Coughlin, bought a Socialist Worker.

Just as I was remarking to another lad that Coughlin was actually reading the paper, he came over and started telling me how disgusting was Jimmy McCallum's article on TASS (11 October).

He then said Socialist Worker shouldn't be sold at weekend schools.

Tone

After an argument, he agreed there was nothing factually incorrect in the article. It was the tone he didn't like. But he was quite adamant that he would use all his considerable influence in the union to stop 'this sort of paper' being sold at weekend schools in future.

Coughlin was looking for an excuse to get the Manchester District to ban from meetings those papers which criticise the Broad Left leadership. He has already forced through a ban on all bookstalls except the official union one—which, of course, isn't dissimilar from one you might see at a Communist Party meeting.

This sort of activity just opens the door to accusations of 'communist manipulation' and cries of 'lack of democracy'. No wonder Boyd is laughing. — BERNIE WILCOX, Altrincham branch, TASS.

I HAVE JUST finished reading my first copy of Socialist Worker so permit me to make two complaints. You say you don't believe in violence, but two and a half million British workers died to make these capitalist bastards rich in two world wars. You say you want nationalisation, but that's not socialism, it's state capitalism. Only one thing can bring about socialism, that's violence. — LAWSON IMRIE, Bathgate.

You've misunderstood us, comrade. Our views about violence and nationalisation are not that simple. What about other readers taking up the argument?

THE BOSSES of Jonas Woodhead's coil springs factory in Ossett, Yorkshire, which makes more than half the springs for the British car industry, have won government approval for closing the factory.

Shop stewards representing the 150 workers were handed a letter last Thursday signed by the regional director of the Department of Employment.

The director had carried out a survey of the demand for coil springs in the motor industry which showed he wrote, that closure of Woodheads 'would do no real harm to the British motor industry'.

In other words, if the factory closes, the government does not give a damn.

Colin Moore, Engineering Union convenor, says: 'Our union officials were absolutely delighted when they got that letter. They hoped it would let them off the hook.'

'They told us: 'The fight's over now. We don't want a mess like Imperial Typewriters here'.

'Well, we made it clear to them. There won't be any Imperial Typewriters here. It'll be the bloody Alamo'.

CLOSE

Woodheads are insisting that there is only one month's work left in orders—and that the factory must then close down.

Colin Moore says: 'This pompous pig, the chairman of the Woodheads holding company, comes to the meeting and says to us: 'We're dreadfully sick about this—if I were behind the counter in the dole office, I'd make sure your lads would be in the front of the queue for other jobs.' How patronising can they get?'

As soon as the stewards heard the closure threat, they travelled to other coil spring factories in Britain, including a British steel subsidiary in Sheffield.

Posing as union officials, they found that 53 per cent of British springs production still takes place at Ossett and that there is no immediate alternative source of supply in this country.

They calculate, too, that the Woodhead management has spent hundreds of thousands of pounds in new machinery at



Outside the factory at Ossett: Colin Moore—and the other AUEW stewards: Jack Kennett, Chris Womack, Geoff Silverwood, Clem Smith and Gordon Parsons.



Ossett. The workers know the real reason for the threatened closure: they have one of the strongest trade union organisations in the country.

The bosses, they know, are using the recession in industry as an excuse for paying off old scores with a militant work-force.

When Colin Moore first started at Woodheads in 1968, the factory was 'like something out of Dickens'.

Wages were £10.90 a week, there was no union, no safety standards, nothing. While the bosses were away at the Motor Show in 1968, the whole factory was organised into the AUEW.

In seven years, a cringing, impoverished workforce has transformed itself into a group of proud working men, whose basic rate of £54 a week is the pace-setter locally.

VICTORY

A year ago, these workers won a resounding class victory from which Woodheads have never recovered.

The bosses proposed measured day work throughout the Woodheads combine. The workers at the other four factories—Leeds, Aycliffe, Sheffield and

Manchester—conceded at once, lured by the prospect of an immediate rise in wages. But at Ossett, the workers resisted.

The stewards concentrated on solidarity from outside. They never stopped moving around the country putting their case to other workers.

Hull dockers agreed to black all Woodheads' material. Yorkshire miners sent money and messages of support.

After seven weeks, Woodheads collapsed and abandoned their plans for work study. Wages at the factory have risen steadily ever since.

The spirit and enthusiasm of that great victory has not died, as a walk around the factory quickly proves.

Everywhere there are chalked signs urging the workers to vote for Willie Lee in the AUEW elections. On one machine, which moves slowly round displaying slats, the message: 'Vote. Lee' comes up on every slat. Lenin is chalked on the walls. One huge machine is heavily daubed with the words: £5000 per man, No Giros.

Certainly, all hell will be let loose if the bosses continue with their plans for closure.

If the workers lose, the effects will spread far beyond the swollen dole queues of Ossett, Wakefield and Batley.

THAMESMEAD JOBS BATTLE LOOMS

THERE ARE 15 stages, or 25 years' work, to the Greater London Council's giant Thamesmead estate in South London. But the 600 Cubitt's workers who were told the job would be theirs for life in 1967 now see a giant question mark over their future.

For the GLC are now saying the Cubitt's price is too high and have put the job out to tender. Naturally the men are bitter. Fred Munday, chairman of the

joint shop stewards' committee, told Socialist Worker last week:

'The GLC are using the conditions within the building industry, the unemployment, to get the job done on the cheap.'

At a site meeting last month, a unanimous decision was taken by the men not to allow another contractor onto Thamesmead to take their jobs away. Earlier, men had asked the GLC to take the job over direct. They refused.

Fred Munday said: 'Everytime a new stage starts we go through this issue.' The men will know which contractor will have the site next month.

But the site convenor Bob Gordan, said: 'We will not be afraid to take the law into our own hands.'

The Works Committee are giving their backing to the 26 November lobby, and to a South East London Rank and File meeting on 8 December for the Right to Work.

Don't let them deport these two students!

by Martin Chambers
FEROJE ALI has been held in Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow for two weeks. He is awaiting deportation.

Feroje's problems began some time ago with the revolution in Bangladesh. The new government refused to continue subsidising him as a student at Glasgow University. So he was forced to leave. For most of the time since he has been unable to find a job.

Two weeks ago, he was picked up under the immigration laws. For a few days, his wife, Rahimi knew nothing of his whereabouts.

Now she also faces deportation. She married him in England and was planning to return home after completing her studies at the university. Because of the immigration laws, this is not to be.

For overseas students, education cut-backs coupled with barbaric immigration laws, will mean more than overcrowded classrooms. In the Higher Education sector they will be faced with ever-increasing fees and shortages of places.

For those who already have a place, the threat of deportation will always be hanging over them—especially if they step out of line in any way.

STUDENTS at Bradford College last Wednesday occupied their 'principal' office in protest at a cut in recreation facilities.

They see this as part of the public sector cuts in general and have already gained the support of the lecturers' union, ATTU branch in the college.

A further emergency general meeting of the Students Union overwhelmingly voted on Monday for the occupation to continue, despite attempts from most of the union executive to end the action. We urge all IS Societies to try to pass resolutions of support in their general meetings.

At Leicester University, the executive called for an occupation in protest at the education cuts. A union general meeting voted in favour of this by a narrow majority. But several hours later, another meeting reversed the decision and the occupation was ended without winning any demands.

Harlow cuts campaign

FIFTEEN public sector workers set up a committee to fight the Labour government's spending cuts in Harlow after Socialist Worker public meeting attended by 40 trade unionists.

The committee consists of workers from a hospital, schools, local government social services and British Rail.

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 racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

The revolutionary party To achieve socialism the most mili-

tant 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 for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

WE ARE

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

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

to strike and on effective picketing.

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

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

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

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

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people.

JOIN

Socialist Worker

IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Become a Socialist Worker Supporter—fill in the form on page three.

ALCOA SCABS FAIL TO BREAK PICKETS

by Stevie Stevenson, EETPU shop steward and secretary, Alcoa Site Joint Shop Stewards Committee

SOUTH WALES:—The unofficial strike at Alcoa rolling mill site near Swansea is in its third week, with the men more determined than ever. Scab labour has twice failed to break our picket line.

Five hundred workers are on strike against 29 redundancies. The redundancies come when the site should be recruiting electricians, not sacking them, and are being used to smash the recent organisation of the site.

Alcoa's construction department try to run the site by awarding contracts in piecemeal 'phases'. They hope by

this to replace any contractor whose labour happens to be organised, instead taking on another less militant force, exploiting the surplus of skilled labour due to the unemployment situation.

The present strike is an embarrassment to our local union officials, who should have secured a proper site agreement before construction work began.

The history of the site has been one long struggle for the 500 workers involved. Even recognition of our joint shop stewards' committee on matters of safety was a major achievement, while Alcoa have emphasised that they give it no recognition on industrial matters as they won't have their right to run the site as they choose challenged by meddling shop stewards!

Five years ago the National Economic Development Office issued a report on large industrial sites, suggesting some far-reaching changes in practices designed to improve job security for construction workers. If the Alcoa site is

any yardstick then the only significant change has been in labour relations. They are more akin to 1925 than 1975!

Donations and messages of support to S Stevenson, secretary, Alcoa JSSC, 4 Carlton Terrace, Swansea.

Call for support

THE International Socialists in the EETPU are calling on all electrical and construction workers to raise support for the Alcoa strikers at their jobs and branches.

The 500 strikers are showing tremendous rank and file unity. All the construction unions, united in a joint shop stewards' committee, are out the gate. The potential for one union for the building industry is being proved in action.

The power of rank and file unity is pushing aside the divisions and betrayals typical of full-time officials. Tomlinson, the UCATT full-time official in Swansea, told 40 members to work and was defeated by a meeting at the gate. EETPU executive councillor Clarke called a meeting of the 90 sparks last Saturday and tried to put a back-to-work vote. The sparks wouldn't hear of any kind of vote without the other 400 strikers. When Clarke kept insisting they upped and walked out.

Top

The basic issue is the right to work. Most of the electrical work has still to be done. The sacked shop had an agreement that new starts be taken from the top of the long list of local unemployed.

If the electrical contractors get their way they will operate the blacklist. Jobs will go to company trustees who aren't going to fight for anything. The union leadership gave up the struggle when it handed over control of hiring to employers by collaborating on the Joint Industrial Board (JIB). Previously sparks could go to union area office for a start. The blacklist couldn't operate.

The electricians on the IRO site in Bootle achieved a great victory when they got a non-JIB agreement. They got massive support from shop-floor collections across the country. They still need support as they are out again to defend their agreement and their former shop steward John Byrne.

BID TO GET AUEW BEHIND THE £6 FREEZE

by Jimmy Rule, AUEW West Cornwall District Committee

ATTEMPTS are being made to recall the AUEW National Committee in late November or early December to 'think again' about the union's opposition to the £6 freeze.

But more heavy redundancies are on the way in engineering. We are the last of the major industries to feel the recession, which means the worst is yet to come.

The West Country Divisional Committee has voted by an overwhelming majority for the AUEW to get in line with TUC policy.

This means they have voted in favour of wage cuts for their members, with the inevitable drop in living standards. This is an unusual decision, to say the least, for an area of traditionally high unemployment and low wages.

Clearly, this trend should be reversed by members campaigning within the union now.

If there is to be any serious fight-back against unemployment and falling living standards, if the AUEW's present excellent policies are to mean anything on the shop floor, there will have to be a national overtime ban and a reduction in the length of the working week. At the moment, overtime is increasing with unemployment as fewer people share more work.

VITAL

It is vital that resolutions, on the lines advocated by the Engineers Charter group, go through the branches now in time for the next national committee, insisting on £15 across the board, 35 hours without loss of pay, equal pay for women and a minimum earnings level of £60.

The national unemployment threat will require a national campaign by the whole union. The plant-by-plant nonsense will have to be scrapped. Any merit the plant-by-plant idea may have had ended with the heady days of the capitalist boom of the 1950s and early 1960s.

Plant-by-plant wage bargaining has become a flop except for the big and well-organised factories. Allowing workers to get chucked on the dole plant-by-plant is criminal. We need to act on the slogan 'One union, One fight'.

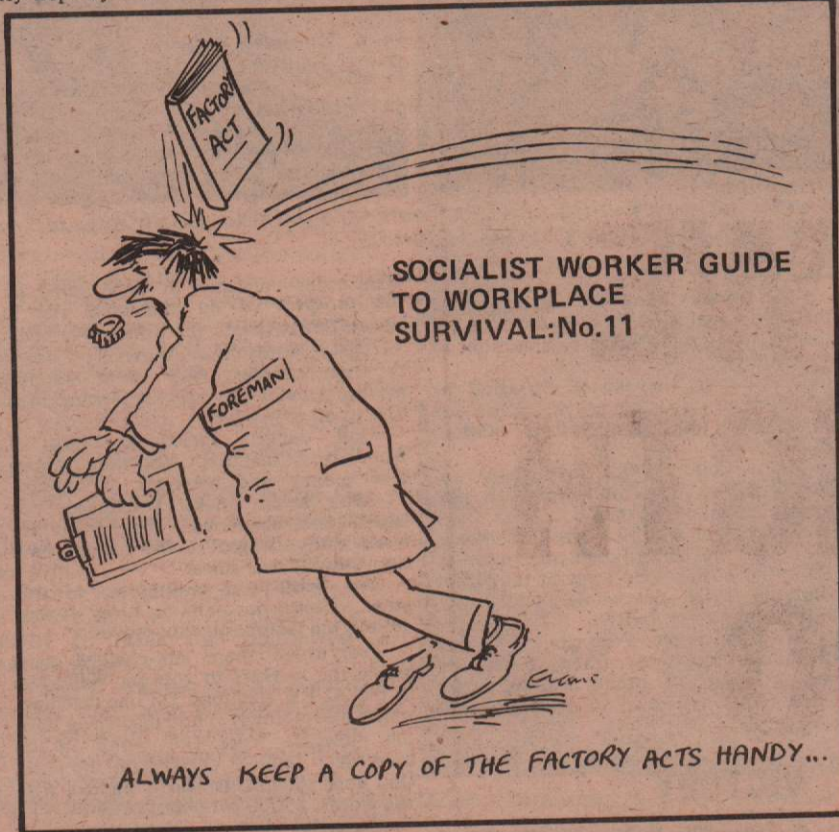
Along with women and black workers, young workers are going to be one of the main victims of unemployment. Junior workers' committees need to be activated to raise demands for a national overtime ban and shorter working week. They should also call for 100 per cent trade union membership among apprentices and young workers, full adult rate at 18, junior workers' committees inside each factory, representation on shop stewards' committees, and the right to direct negotiations on wages and conditions.

FIRST NATIONAL ENGINEERS CHARTER CONFERENCE

Saturday 6 December, 1pm-5pm, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1 (nearest tube Holborn)

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE RIGHT TO WORK, THE AUEW 1976 WAGE CLAIM

Agenda and credentials from Engineers Charter, 46 Prince George Road, London N16



Staples Corner: 300 out after steward sacked

NORTH LONDON: At Taylor Woodrow's Staples Corner site in Cricklewood nearly 300 men have been on strike for a week over redundancies and the sacking of a senior UCATT steward—Brother Casey, who has fought redundancies.

Taylor Woodrow has been trying to force through a seven-day working week while making men redundant. The regional committees of the TGWU and UCATT have made the strikes official and pickets are being manned.

Resolutions should be passed through UCATT and TGWU in support of the strike, calling for an inquiry into the methods of Taylor Woodrow, who demand a seven-day working week while 200,000 building workers are on the dole.

TRADE UNION HOSPITAL VICTIMISES MILITANT

NORTH LONDON: A trade unionists' hospital is trying to sack a militant Transport and General Workers Union shop steward.

Jose Caba, TGWU branch secretary at the Manor House Hospital, Golders Green, have been given two weeks notice by G H Bignell, the hospital's assistant secretary.

The hospital is maintained almost entirely by trade union funds. Its vice-chairman is Philip Jenkins, passenger transport group officer for the TGWU in Glasgow. Last year No 1 Region of the TGWU gave £700 to the hospital.

London busmen and London dockers are traditionally generous donors. They are

all members of the TGWU. Every branch should now question its donation to the hospital, whose administration has indulged in the most brutal victimisation.

One bully in particular, a charge nurse was challenged by Jose on behalf of union members. The challenge, which took the form of answering back shortly, was immediately interpreted as 'insubordination', and Jose got a letter giving him the sack.

An emergency meeting of the hospital workers has voted to oppose the sacking and to demand an immediate withdrawal of the letter. A long struggle is threatened in which the workers will need the support of trade unionists everywhere.

Classified

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post on Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (5p a word) with copy to CLASSIFIED, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Invoices cannot be sent.

SAVE ICC STOP THE CUTS: Rally, Friday 21 November, 6.15pm, Invalid and Crippled Childrens Hospital, Balaam Road, London E15. March to East Ham Town Hall for Newham Community Health Council public meeting to protest against proposed hospital closures. Organised by East London Action Committee Against the Cuts.

EDUCATION CUTS AND UNEMPLOYED TEACHERS: Hackney NUT public meeting. Speakers: Beth Stone (NUT Executive), Mike Knowles (Hackney Trades Council) unemployed teacher, NUPE ancillary worker. The three Hackney MPs have been invited. Wednesday 19 November, 7.30pm, Central (Methodist) Hall, Mare Street, (Opposite Hackney Town Hall). All welcome.

SOUTH LONDON LABOUR CONFERENCE: Solidarity with the Portuguese Workers. Wednesday 19 November, 7.30pm, Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Walk, Brixton SW9. Speakers: a worker from Republica and an STC shop steward. All trade unionists welcome. The important conference will decide the tasks and structures for the Portuguese solidarity work in South London.

DEFEND THE 16 CAMPAIGN: Picket Old Bailey. Thursday 20 November, Noon-2pm. Followed by deputation to Downing Street led by supporting MPs.

LONDON RANK AND FILE TECH TEACHER: Day School on women's rights. Saturday 22 November, 11am-4pm, Central London Poly, Marylebone Road. Maternity leave, abortion (film). An egg is not a chicken, part timers, discrimination, nurseries, Social, 8pm, at the Globe, Marylebone Road, admission 60p, with the Stepney Sisters (women's rock band). Creche available if notified in advance. Details 229 6869 or 317 8812.

TROOPS OUT NOW! END CONSPIRACY LAWS! Friday 28 November, public meeting, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Sheffield. Speakers: Pat Arrowsmith (BWNIC 14) Eamonn McCann (Troops Out Movement). Organised by Sheffield Troops Out Group.

BIRMINGHAM Centre for the Arts: Socialist theatre season. 4 November-6 December. 13-15 November, 8pm, 7:84 Theatre Company, Yobbo and Lay-Off.

COUNTER INFORMATION SERVICES: Anti-reports on Where is Lucas Going? (45p), Courtaulds Inside Out (30p), Unilever's World (£1), Business as Usual—International Banking in South Africa (30p), The Oil Fix—Control and Costs of Energy (60p). Coming soon: a new report on the cuts. Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 add 10p each for post. Bulk orders to ACIS, 52 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1.

PLAYGROUP workers in Manchester want information from other playgroup workers paid by social services departments. Please contact Janet Brown, 34 Delamare Road, Manchester 19.

CENTRAL LONDON NAC public meeting: Monday 17 November, 6.30pm, NUFTO Hall, Jockey Fields, WC1, (Chancery Lane tube). Speakers: Pam Brighton (BBC, Days of Hope), Bernadette Dunn (AUEW, Barnet Trades Council) Pam Edwards (NALGO, NAC steering committee). Sponsored by: Westminster Trades Council, CPSA London area no 4; Central London NAC.

MEDIA AND ABORTION public meeting: How the media has not covered abortion. Speakers: Anna Raeburn, Angela Phillips. Monday 17 November, 7.30pm, Architectural Association, Bedford Square, London WC1. All welcome.

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE benefit disco: Friday 21 November, 8pm till late. North London Poly common room, Holloway Road, N7. Bar, food, live music.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN Lobby of parliament. Thursday 20 November, 2pm and 6pm. Stop the reappointment of the Select Committee.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN Rally. Saturday 22 November, 2pm, Trafalgar Square.

Police moving in on North Wales sites

NORTH WALES:—Police here are intervening on building sites against trade unionists again. This is the area where the Shrewsbury pickets were arrested and site organisation set back three years ago.

Now site organisation is being rebuilt, and the police are going into action again.

Building workers from the four Alcad Homes sites in North Wales agreed last month to a fortnightly site meeting to forge common policy. The first joint shop stewards' meeting from the four sites was called at the Nannerch site last Tuesday.

After the meeting had gone on for an hour a Police Inspector Baker arrived to inform them that they would be charged with trespass if they did not leave. Socialist Worker spoke to Inspector Baker this week. He insisted that his role in the affair was 'precisely nil'. He said: 'I did not view this as a police matter.'

'All I did was to tell stewards that if they did not disperse the management were considering bringing a trespass action against them. The management requested that we so inform them,' he added.

What is odd is that not only did the police agree to intervene on management's behalf on what they clearly regarded as 'not a police matter', but they used a police inspector to do so—an inspector from the very same police force that carried out the Shrewsbury investigation.

The men's response at Nannerch was excellent. They all walked out. At a mass meeting they insisted on the right of their shop stewards to meet.

The police and their allies, the law courts, have already intervened too often in North Wales in support of the building bosses. This time the whole trade union movement in the area must raise the issue and get the police off the sites.

EIGHTH STRIKE IN ONE YEAR

CENTRAL LONDON:—In the year since the Walter Lawrence site was organised, the employers have forced the lads outside the gate seven times. Now all 80 are out again.

Each time the issue had been a matter of principle: union recognition, removal of lump labour, Shrewsbury, blacklisting, solidarity with other sections in dispute, redundancies and support for the Somerset House strike against the lump.

Because we were last out only three weeks ago and it is so close to Christmas, Lawrence reckoned we wouldn't meet a challenge: they broke a signed agreement and refused to pay our standing bonus. This was a blatant attack; if we had allowed it to pass, all agreements would have been worthless.

But Lawrence were wrong. The lads are out 100 per cent. We rejected their terms: wage cuts in return for no redundancies. We want restoration of standing bonus for the rest of the job, compensation for the time lost in this dispute, and no redundancies before Christmas.

Our site is completely shut, and we will be seeking to extend our dispute by throwing the lump off other Lawrence sites and organising them.

Messages of support and collections to: Strike Treasurer, F Westerman, 27 Buckingham Road, London N1.

International Socialist building workers and Socialist Worker supporters in the industry are meeting in Leeds at the weekend, 15-16 November, to organise the fight for these demands within the Charter and the industry in general. For details phone 01-739 1878.

WEST LONDON THEATRE WORKSHOP requires actor-driver urgently for Hazards of Work and Women's Show at £35 a week. Contact 11 Acklam Road, London W10. Phone 01-969 2292.

SAM IS BACK—CAST have their new play ready. SAM THE MAN, an amusing and informative play about Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins, trying to walk the tightrope between socialism and being a Labour MP. Lasts 75 minutes and needs a large hall and audience. Contact CAST, 11c Cabell Street, London, NW1. Phone: 01-402 0687.

ANYONE with information on Communist Party since 1960, especially in industry, local press cuttings, party leaflets etc, which would be useful in writing an article, please contact Steve Wright, c/o Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Pluto Press announces the publication of Martin Shaw's new book, MARXISM AND SOCIAL SCIENCE (£1.50). Martin Shaw will talk on Marxism and Social Science at a public meeting on Friday 14 November, 6pm, in the Old Theatre, London School of Economics (nearest tube Holborn).

UNITED FARM WORKERS presents: An Evening with the Farm Workers. Friday 14 November, 7.30pm, Friends House Hall, Euston Road, NW1. Films, music, speakers, poetry and theatre. Tickets 75p at the door.



Convenor Phil McBride speaks to workers inside the occupied factory. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

PERSONNA: WE NEED STRENGTH OUTSIDE TOO

GLASGOW:—'We were picketing outside in the rain—and the management were prepared to sit it out—so we thought why hang about outside and freeze when we could be sitting inside, organising the thing properly and keeping ourselves warm at the same time.'

That's what Bob Perry, Engineering Union shop steward at Personna, told Socialist Worker.

So after four weeks on the picket line, the 300 AUEW and TASS workers took over the factory. They have been occupying it for another four weeks against management's attempt to get 40 redundancies and a massive increase in productivity.

Bob Perry and Mick McKenna explained how the factory is now the hub of their activities to raise support for the occupation.

'We've sent committee members around the local factories appealing for support and where possible regular factory levies to keep us going. We've spoken at quite a few meetings in the area. We sent speakers to the big trade union rally two weeks ago, to Jordanhill College and at the Glasgow Right to Work Committee's meeting.'

SUPPORT

'They halved their collection with us—and we appreciated that because unemployed youngsters can't afford to give much.'

'Also being inside means that we can receive delegations from other workplaces and allow other trade unionists to see our occupation first hand. Already AUEW maintenance engineers at one of the local bus garages have brought us some food and are arranging support at other depots.'

'Shop stewards from the Albion factory have been over to give us cash and have promised us any help we need. Having this personal contact means that we can explain our case to other workers—and we will welcome delegates from any factory to the occupation.'

Entertainment has been organised inside the factory. Folk and pop groups have given concerts. The workers now run the canteen so the food is much cheaper.

Secret plans were discovered which revealed just how ruthlessly the management prepared their attack on the workforce. 'Finding those documents really opened our eyes,' said Bob Perry. The

by SW reporter

plans are now pinned up on the wall for everyone to read.

The tradition of organisation inside the plant has helped everyone stay united. Joan Brown, the vice-convenor, talked about equal pay: 'It's something we pushed hard for and won. As a result the men and women are united.'

But the stewards are doing far more than organising the occupation effectively inside the factory. They are using it as a centre to argue for wider support for the whole right to work.

On Monday 90 shop stewards from the surrounding area attended a meeting at the factory and heard convenor Phil McBride

explain why they had decided to occupy.

The meeting agreed to return to their factories and organise collections and publicity for the occupation. The meeting felt it was important to get cash in straight away and that it was premature to set up a delegate committee from local workplaces which could organise united action in defence of jobs and could organise a central fund to help all factories in the battles ahead.

Phil McBride told Socialist Worker after the meeting: 'It's been really useful. Now we can begin to broaden our approach, if we can get the cash in from local factories, then we can really begin to move further afield for support.'

Support and donations to Ruby Duncan, Personna AUEW Strike Fund Treasurer, 27 Bowfield Street, Glasgow G52.

Build the Right to Work Campaign!

by John Deason

Barrier building site—these are all the kind of initiatives that not only advertise the Right to Work Campaign, but can provide the impetus for a local committee.

That committee must then campaign for more support from trade union bodies, both to the local committees by sending delegates, and as part of the national campaign by affiliation. Local shop steward committees, trade union branches, trades councils and union district committees must all be approached.

But if we are successfully to bring employed and unemployed together we must not become hidebound by formal structures. Last week John Reidford, full-time secretary of Glasgow Trades Council fobbed off the Glasgow Right to Work Committee's suggestions that the trades council provide free transport for the unemployed to the 26 November march in London. Instead he suggested that affiliated unions should provide transport for their own unemployed members.

Fine, but what about unemployed school leavers, sacked part-time women workers, discriminated groups of unemployed who are not formal members of trade unions? They're not members, or more commonly, they're lapsed members, because of official indifference.

On this occasion the Glasgow Right to Work Committee is countering this problem by supplying their own coach,

Picket lines

BIRMINGHAM:—The fight by Ansell's brewery workers for job security continues into its fourth week. The TGWU branch there has been campaigning for years now to organise the pub managers into the ACTSS, the union's clerical section. At a pub managers' meeting last week £750 was collected for the strikers.

UCATT construction workers on the Ansell's site have started a weekly collection. Most TGWU members inside the brewery, who are not yet laid off, pay £1 a shift levy. No wonder Ansell's have called in the 'fire brigade', asking Len Murray, Jack Jones and Michael Foot to intervene.

Shop steward Matt Folarin told Socialist Worker: 'Allied Breweries have tried to break trade unionism at Warrington and other places. They have had some success and they might think they can try the same thing at Ansell's. They haven't a cat in hell's chance.'

LONDON:—Last Friday saw fantastic steps forward in militancy for the Civil Service Union, when more than 5000 members crowded Central Hall to debate the conditions on London weighting which the Civil Service Department wants to take to arbitration. Traffic wardens, yeoman's wardens ('beefeaters'), security and messenger grades, museum and photo technicians, library assistants, all took part in industrial action to attend the meeting. For the CSU members in the Metropolitan Police section this was their first industrial action.

The leadership asked for and got 'carte blanche' from the membership to decide the action later. One member said: 'When the miners brought down the Tory government we didn't replace them with a Labour government to cut our wages.'

MERseyside docks shop stewards committee is supporting the call for a mass lobby of parliament on Wednesday 26 November. So is the Chrysler combine committee. Among other bodies that have decided on support during the past week are No 8 division of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, Birmingham district CSEU, Greenwich, Haringey, Knowsley, Liverpool, Huddersfield and district, York, Dagenham and Stevenage Trades Councils, the Lancashire County Association of Trades Councils, Tyne and Wear Association of Trades Councils, Brighton area branch of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, Manchester District AUEW, Bury District AUEW, East District of AUEW quarterly shop stewards meeting, Liverpool Corporation building workers, East Anglia divisional council ATTI, TASS, ASTMS and APEX workers at Plessey Sunderland, Metropolitan District delegate meeting of NALGO, North West London lodge of the plumbers' section of EETPU, TASS North East London branch.

TASS Divisional Council 24 has called for delegates from all work places. Bangor, Bristol and Lancaster Student Unions are supporting the lobby and providing places for unemployed workers on coaches.

Islington NALGO council workers' branch are supporting the lobby and a local demonstration the same morning against unemployment. Sunderland Trades Council is organising its own demonstration and lobby at the same time.

Sheffield Rank and File Committee coaches for lobby (free for unemployed): Contact Steve Childs, Flat 1 149, Rustlings Road, Sheffield 11.

GLASGOW: Shopworkers Union members at the J W Galloway meat plant

walked out last week in support of convenor, Richard Strombris and branch secretary, Willie Dolan, sacked on Wednesday. One reason given for dismissal was 'refusing to carry out a reasonable instruction' given by company chairman Ian Galloway. The 'reasonable instruction' was given immediately after the Galloway brothers had manhandled William Dolan and attempted to physically eject him from the premises.

A meeting of the workforce was called, but Richard and Willie were not allowed to attend. When they did address the workers the next day the USDAW full-time official Michael Gordon persuaded the men to return to work with no concessions made.

Support to: Willie Dolan, 7 Edderton Place, Easterhouse, Glasgow, and Richard Strombris, 78 Waulkniell Avenue, Barrhead.

400 pickets set up camp

SOUTH WALES: 400 women at Kayser Bonder's underwear factory here at Dowlais, near Merthyr Tydfil, are on strike demanding the full £6 wage increase from 1 December. They have been offered £3.60, but will have nothing less than the full £6. That's why these fighters, members of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, are camping out all night picketing the plant.

They put in five-hour shifts through the night so that the owners of the combine, the giant Courtaulds Group are, unable to move yarn to one of their other plants.

The Dowlais women are demanding parity with the workers at the nearby Berlei corset factory in Merthyr. Naturally they're hoping for the maximum support from other plants.

Their sister plant on the site isn't on strike, but help is coming from there as well as from local people and local hospital workers. This includes food and assistance on the picket line.

Megan Hopkins, one of the shop stewards, put it this way: 'We're all out till we get what we're after—till Christmas if necessary.'

The strike has already spread to Courtaulds' Treforest factory and shop stewards from the three Courtaulds factories in Northgate have demanded to meet management over similar claims.

SEVENTH HOSPITAL IS THREATENED

by Steve Ludlam, (NUPE) secretary, East London Action Committee against the Cuts.

EAST LONDON: The Area Health Authority is threatening to close seven hospitals: Poplar, the Invalid and Crippled Children's, Forest Gate Maternity, Albert Dock, St Mary's and Aldersbrook.

The Invalid and Crippled Children's Hospital is the next in line. The fight to save this hospital will be a crucial test for trade unionists and working people throughout East London.

It will also be a test of the willingness of the NUPE executive council to stand and fight for their policy of opposition to all cuts which either reduce the service to patients or reduce the number of jobs. This closure would do both.

A rally, demonstration and meeting has been called for Friday 21 November at 6.15pm at the ICC Hospital, Balaam Street, London, E13. There will be a march to East Ham Town Hall and a public meeting starting at 7.30pm. The Newham District Health Committee of NUPE is supporting the call.

Messages of support to: Pauline Holmes, NUPE steward, c/o Nursing Staff, Invalid and Crippled Children's Hospital, Balaam Street, London, E13.

Health workers' meeting: Planning to fight the cuts in the NHS. Saturday 6 December, 11am-5pm, Deritend High Street, Birmingham. All International Socialist health workers to attend. Play: Ragged Trousered Philanthropist, and social in the evening. Further details from 01-749 4834.

No to Leyland 'participation'

THE newly-signed workers' participation proposals at British Leyland are now coming under attack.

The senior shop stewards in the combine, including Eddie McGarry of Standard Triumph, Derek Robinson of Austin Longbridge and Arthur Harper of Tractors and Transmissions, Birmingham, signed the document without referring it back to their shop stewards committees and members. Only one AUEW convenor, Jim Griffin from Triumph Coventry refused to sign out of the whole 32-man committee.

Griffin said: 'The major reason I didn't sign that document is that I was elected to represent my members and not myself. According to the rules of my union I must first consult the members, the shop stewards, the district, and then up to executive council.' Griffin, ironically a leading right-winger, added:

'Not one employee of the 140,000 had seen the document so I was not prepared to sign it when it was passed round the table.'

Now some workers in Eddie McGarry's own plant at Triumph Coventry have rejected the proposals the senior stewards were so anxious to accept on their behalf.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

'DEMOCRATS' AT WORK...

THESE (BELOW) are the remains of Radio Renascença—blown up last week by Portugal's 'freedom-loving' and democratic' sixth provisional government.

A special gang of Parachutists from the specially-trained government forces went down to the offices of Radio Renascença, a radio station controlled by its workers, and blew it up.

Renascença, seized by its workers last year from the right-wing bishops in the Catholic Church, had seen boring, reactionary programmes replaced with regular reports of the workers struggle and a militant, socialist analysis of political events, as well as programmes from left wing Catholics. Thousands of workers learnt some of the truth of what was going on in their society.

The government could tolerate all forms of free speech except the truth. Again and again, they moved against Renascença. Soldiers sent to close down the station last month went over to the side of the workers.

SMASH

So the Government for Free Speech and the Peaceful Road decided at once to smash free speech by the most violent form available.

Fortunately, growing numbers of soldiers are refusing to obey the government's orders. The para-troopers who blew up the station later met in a general assembly and gave a press conference in which they said they regretted what they had done and that they would not be pushed into action again.

At the right wing-run Tancos airbase virtually all the privates, most of the sergeants and some of the officers refused to meet with their commander. They later condemned the destruction of Renascença and recalled soldiers from the base who had joined the hand-picked special intervention force, AMI. Workers at Renascença are saying that they will soon be back on the air again.



Australia: A wave of anger..

One last heave — and we're there!

THE MOST important political polarisation in Australian politics for 50 years. That's how the Socialist Workers Action Group described the 'incredible, unbelievable' situation Down Under this week.

A spokesman in Melbourne phoned Socialist Worker on Tuesday to explain how 'people never involved in politics before are taking sides'. He added:

'Already the wharves are on strike, the seamen are out, building workers have stopped. Strikes can be expected throughout the engineering industry. Unions are considering a general strike. The whole country is polarised.'

A few hours before, Labour Prime Minister Gough Whitlam had been removed from office by the Governor General, who enjoys the same powers in Australia as the Queen does in Britain.

Yet Labour has a majority in the House of Representatives and has won two elections in the last three years. The excuse was that Labour did not enjoy a majority in the Senate—a less democratic body than the House of

Representatives (each state has the same number of seats in it, regardless of the number of voters.)

Whitlam's place has been taken by Fraser, leader of the right wing opposition and the politician most-hated by Australian workers.

The removal of Whitlam's government is the climax of a long campaign by all the newspapers, and big business. When the government was first elected it engaged in a certain amount of left-wing speech-making.

Whitlam soon showed that his words did not mean more than a marginal change in governmental policies. But big business still did not trust him.

They seized upon the actions of some of his ministers to force him onto the defensive. There was talk of 'corruption' by ministers who tried to by-pass the Australian financial establishment by setting up direct links with the holders of Middle oil wealth.

Whitlam gave in and reshuffled his government to the right. But big business and the press were still dissatisfied. They moved in for the kill.

Many workers were disillusioned with Labour's inability to deal with inflation and unemployment. But they were not prepared to see their traditional enemies triumphant. Mass meetings, strikes, demonstrations, were called.

Strike

The head of the Australian TUC, Bbb Hawke, even talked of a general strike. The right-wing held back for a number of weeks.

Then, last Tuesday, they used the governor general's forgotten powers to stage their coup.

Rank and file workers remember their leaders' recent words. The strikes and demonstrations show that. But, frightened of the whirlwind they could be unleashing, many of those leaders are already backing down.

'Workers must show restraint and keep off the streets,' said Hawke after the coup—a sharp contrast to the call from many rank and file bodies (including SWAG) for a general strike as the only way to defeat the right wing while the temper of the



Whitlam: removed

organised workers is on the boil.

There is a lesson here for British workers. The so-called 'moderates' and 'democrats' in this country have been hastening to assure us that the Governor General was right to behave as he did.

What matters for such people, in the last resort, are not elections or parliamentary majorities, but the ability of their class to impose their will.

The same voices have been justifying the House of Lords' use of the 'freedom' of newspaper proprietors as an excuse for holding up the final repeal of remnants of the Tory Industrial Relations Act.

Real

If it came to a real challenge to the power of their class in Britain, they would have no hesitation in turning to the Queen, the House of Lords or anyone else to enforce their will, regardless of democratic protocol.

The only thing which will ever stop them is rank and file organisation, organised independently of parliamentary parlour games,

THANKS to a magnificent response from readers and supporters, the Socialist Worker special typesetting fund is just one heave away from our £6000 target.

A total of £827 came in last week, pushing up the total to £5655. So we need just £350 to take us to our target.

With the Labour government moving further to the right each day, with momentous events in Portugal and a big struggle developing in Australia, Socialist Worker has more and more to do.

So, brothers and sisters, keep the money rolling in.

Our thanks to: Coventry IS £6, Polsoe Cornwall reader £2, A reader 50p, Easter Ross SW reader £1.50, Reader Clackmannanshire 50p, Dumfries SW supporters £2.50, S Tyneside SW readers £7.50, Manchester District £124, Lerwick reader £1.50, GLC SW readers £1.25, SW London Dist £385, Manor House Hospital SW readers £2.10, Royal Free Hospital SW readers £6.60, N London Hospital Workers £2, Holmfirth Teacher £5, Central Manchester IS £8, Portsmouth Disco & Donation £28, Lambeth Council Workers IS £20.

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Wandsworth SW supporters £2.29, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre SW supporters Swansea £11, Bath IS & SW readers £5.80, Exeter IS £3.65.

Rush donations and collections to Mel Norris, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE

WHAT HAVE John Vorster, James Callaghan and Idi Amin got in common? Answer—they all opposed the government of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which is fighting for its life in Luanda, capital of the wealthiest of the former Portuguese colonies.

South Africa and the United States have jointly armed a right-wing force of white mercenaries, Portuguese fascists and tribalist leaders who are attacking the MPLA. Amin has refused to back the liberation government against its attackers. And his attitude has received fulsome praise both from James Callaghan and from the right-wing papers that not so long ago poked racialist fun at him.

The West's vultures gather: PAGE FIVE

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