

Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Steel workers' strikes shake the BSC

NO

SACKINGS!

NO WAGE CUTS!



Steelworks under demolition in Scotland—and the workers' answer, one of the Shotton steelworkers marching last October

Pictures: John Sturrock and Andrew Ward (Report)

SOCIALIST WORKER EXCLUSIVE

Navy buy spares for Chilean warships

by Adrian Sugar, Teesside

THE British Navy is buying 11,000 spare parts for the navy in fascist Chile.

Engine room spares for diesel generators, ancillary pumps and coolers, spares for Oberon Class submarines Hyatt and O'Brien, spares for Leander Class frigates Lynch and Condeff are in the deal.

The order is being prepared and packaged for shipment to Chile at the Eaglescliffe Royal Navy Spare Parts and Distribution Centre, at Stockton on Teesside.

The British government has agreed that no payments for these goods will be made by Chile until 1977. Presumably the British must foot the bill until then.

Torture

Frigates of the Chilean Navy were used on 11 September 1973 during the coup which overthrew Allende. They shelled working-class areas of the port of Valparaiso. Since then ships have been used as prisons and floating torture chambers.

The Labour government publicly denounces the Chilean torturers. And privately arms them.

Socialist Worker supporters in Teesside and Darlington have distributed an open letter to the transport, engineering and civil service union members at the depot. It explains what is going on in Chile and appeals to them to black the order.

Not a word about blacking the supplies has been received by the stewards from that would-be opponent of fascism Jack Jones, Transport Union general secretary, or from any of his full-time officials.

'NO working-class man is going to sit down and be dictated to by his employer. They always tell us to honour our agreements. Now they come and rip up our agreements—and cut our wages by up to £20 a week.'

Wyn Bevan, Electricians and Plumbers convenor at Port Talbot steelworks, summed up the fury which has swept through every steel town in Britain.

The steelworkers face wage cuts. They are told that 40,000 of them—'just for starters'—must join the dole queues.

The steelworkers of South Wales hardly match up to the 'mindless militants' you read about in the newspapers. They have little tradition of militant action.

Yet on Sunday at Port Talbot, they voted by 428 to seven to stay out on unofficial strike until the British Steel Corporation withdraws the wage cuts. At Trostre and Velindre, two big tinplate plants, a series of enormous mass meetings have voted almost unanimously to stop all tinplate production from Thursday afternoon.

TINPLATE

The BSC and the steel unions have had the shock of their lives. Already there is talk of 'drawing back from the brink'. BSC spokesmen are hinting that 'some extra concessions' on weekend working will have to be given, especially at Port Talbot and in the tinplate plants.

Steelworkers must not be put to sleep by these lullabies.

The BSC has made its intentions clear. It intends to sack at least a fifth of its workers and to cut the wages of those who are left. The BSC bosses will not rest until they

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have achieved these 'savings'.

If, from time to time, they are forced to retreat from outright offensives, they will manoeuvre, as they got round the then Industry Minister Wedgwood Benn early last year, until they can attack again.

The steel unions cannot be relied upon to lead the fight back. The leaders know only one game: compromise. When employers are not prepared to compromise, the union leaders are impotent.

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If the steelworkers are to defend their jobs and wages, they must build a campaign in the rank and file, among the shop stewards committees and isolated militants on the floor.

A rank and file fight for jobs in steel is essential. However small its beginnings, it is the only hope for the steelworkers and their communities.

A Steel Right to Work Committee meets in Swansea this week. It represents the best possible chance of a fight-back. It is calling for a conference next month. Every steelworker who wants to fight back must try to get there.

It will produce a Steel Right to Work newsletter. Every steel militant should get hold of copies.

Full details of this conference and newsletter will appear next week—and in future issues of Socialist Worker.



MPs back the Right to Work Campaign

TWO Labour MPs agreed this week to sponsor the Right to Work Campaign.

The campaign is being organised by the National Rank and File Organising Committee.

Harry Selby, MP for Glasgow Govan, wrote to the Campaign: 'You can count on my support in this venture. It is a real indict-

ment of our society, 40 years after the great unemployment marches of the 1930s, that we are once again finding ourselves in the same situation.

The Labour Party makes great claim to the struggle carried out against unemployment in the past, but in spite of proud boasts we have been unable to over-

come the deficiencies of capitalist society.'

Brian Sedgemore, MP for Luton West, wrote: 'I will be pleased to have my name added as a sponsor to the Right to Work Campaign. The broad aims are right, though I wouldn't agree with every dot and comma of your ten points.'

Sebastian Filch is a patriot. He represents 'society as we know it'. He doesn't like trade unions, the Health Service, black people. He reads the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Express. He supports Margaret Thatcher. He believes in 'Britain for the workers, not the strikers'...

He will be appearing regularly in Socialist Worker.

THE ADVENTURES OF SEBASTIAN FILCH

THIS time last year, two tragedies struck Sebastian Filch. The Stock Market fell to an index figure of 140—the lowest since the war—and Sebastian's great-aunt Jemimah died.

The tragedies were compounded when it was learnt that Aunt Jemimah had left her darling Sebastian a mere £8500. The rest—£20,000—went to Battersea Dogs Home.

But Sebastian kept his head. He invested his £8500 in four companies—ICI, Marks and Spencer, Tate and Lyle and Ladbroke's. His stockbrokers told him that ICI were good because they had a monopoly, Marks and Spencers because they exploited their suppliers, Tate and Lyle because they had European patriots, and Ladbroke's because they banned trade unions.

GILTS

Last week there was a miracle. The Stock Exchange index went over 400 for the first time since 1972. Sebastian sold the shares he'd bought for £8,500 last year. He was paid £25,000. He quickly invested the money in gilts—that is, he loaned it to the government. Now he's assured an annual income from interest alone of



£3120 a year. That's £60 a week—from the taxpayer.

For doing absolutely nothing, now or ever, Sebastian will get slightly more than the average wage that those beastly industrial workers get for an average of 47 hours of hard work a week.



STEEL BLACKMAIL!

Here's what BSC want the union to sign

by Margaret Renn

THE British Steel Corporation and the steel unions drew up a 'discussion' document last weekend. It has already been signed by BSC. They have given the unions two weeks to sign too.

What does the document mean to steelworkers?

Here are some examples:

Paragraph 1c: 'The Corporation and the Steel Committee [union leaders] affirm . . . that significant reductions in manpower have to be made . . . The scale of the reductions which is needed is such that very significant changes in the organisation and structure of work will be required.'

Which means fewer men—44,000 fewer, to be exact—and more shift working.

Para 1e: 'After jobs have been declared redundant it is the Corporation's intention that if the manpower has not been reduced within 12 weeks . . . other redundancy measures will have to be applied.'

Each time redundancies are called for, BSC will give the steelworkers 12 weeks to leave of their own accord. That's called 'voluntary redundancy'! If the voluntary redundancies are not

accepted, or enough men don't want to put themselves out of a job, BSC will sack them anyway.

Para 2: 'The unions have accepted the Corporation's proposals to load fully the low-cost plants and to stabilise the load on the "Beswick" plants. In the event of the necessary manning reductions not being achieved by voluntary redundancies the arrangements listed in paragraph 1e will apply.'

The Beswick Report, published in 1975, listed those plants or sections which were too old, and could be run down. They are: Shotton, 6000 jobs at risk; Shelton, 1700; East Moors, 4700; Ebbw Vale, 4600; Hartlepool, 2800; South Teesside, 1400. Scotland: General Terminus Quay, 60; Clyde Iron Works, 1220; Clydesbridge, 1000; Dalzell, 1030; Glengarnock, 530; Lanarkshire, 390; Ravenscraig, 390; Hallside, 450; Craigneuk, 800; Clydesdale, 600; Tollcross, 350; Hamilton, 100.

CUTS

Para 3: 'The Corporation and Steel Committee recognise that because of the critical financial circumstances, weekend and other premium shifts will only be loaded after all non-premium shifts have been properly utilised.'

Weekend shifts, which are paid at higher rates and are a part of the normal working week for the men that work them, are to be cut. This is a cut in wages. A steelworker on a regular Sunday shift could have his wages cut by as much as £17 a week.

Para 4: 'The Corporation and the Steel Committee recognise the need to man jobs flexibly.'

Flexibility of jobs in steel can be extremely dangerous. Steelmaking, especially in modern plants, is complicated in each section.

One steelworker at Trostre told Socialist Worker: 'I work on the finished product. I haven't a clue what happens in the rolling departments. On this new continuous annealing process the steel is moving along at 1500 feet each minute. If you're not trained or not used to this sort of process, you're in danger.'

'But under these proposals, if you say you won't move to the new job, they can send you home.'

COPE

Para 5: 'The Steel Committee has accepted that, where the Guaranteed Working Week Agreement applies, the shifts on which work will be found will be at managements' discretion. Works and Departments will be required to give weekly a formal statement of forward order loads.'

Management will decide, on a weekly basis, what work is going to be available and then decide what shifts are needed to cope with it. The Guaranteed Working Week may stay, but guaranteed premium weekend shift payments will go.

Para 6: 'The Steel Committee has agreed actively to support management . . . in order to minimise unofficial strikes.'

BSC will use the steel unions as policemen on the shop floor.

Para 7: 'Both the Corporation and the Steel Committee have agreed in principle to introduce joint management/union teams to implement the immediate introduction of the arrangements agreed above. During the next four weeks the details of these arrangements will be worked out jointly.'

Once the agreement has been signed it will be four weeks before the measures are announced. Six weeks from now the fate of thousands of steelworkers' jobs will have been decided.

BAN THE CANE!

Schoolkids walk out over equal rights

MORE THAN 200 schoolkids walked out of Heaton Comprehensive in Newcastle upon Tyne last Thursday. 'Ban the cane! Equal rights!' they shouted at headmaster Harry Askew.

Askew had announced on the Tuesday that he would treat girls as equals to the boys. He would punish both with the strap.

The protest grew. Other students were locked in their classrooms to stop them from joining in.

Askew, a local magistrate called the police. Ten panda cars, a black maria and 30 police were soon on the scene.

Errol Hay, aged 14, tried to stop a teacher from shaking his sister. The teacher, named Lunt, let go of the girl and hit Errol in the mouth. Errol was arrested for assaulting the teacher. His mother, Mrs Maureen Hay, will fight the charge in court.

Discontent has been brewing in the school for some time.

Thrusting

Heaton Comprehensive used to be a grammar school. Askew is a former grammar school head. He was against Heaton becoming a comprehensive. In fact, he was a leader in the fight against it.

Said Maureen Hay: 'A lot of the parents think Askew should be out. He's a juvenile court magistrate. He forgets the school isn't a court. We don't send our kids to school to have law thrust into them, but to be taught.'

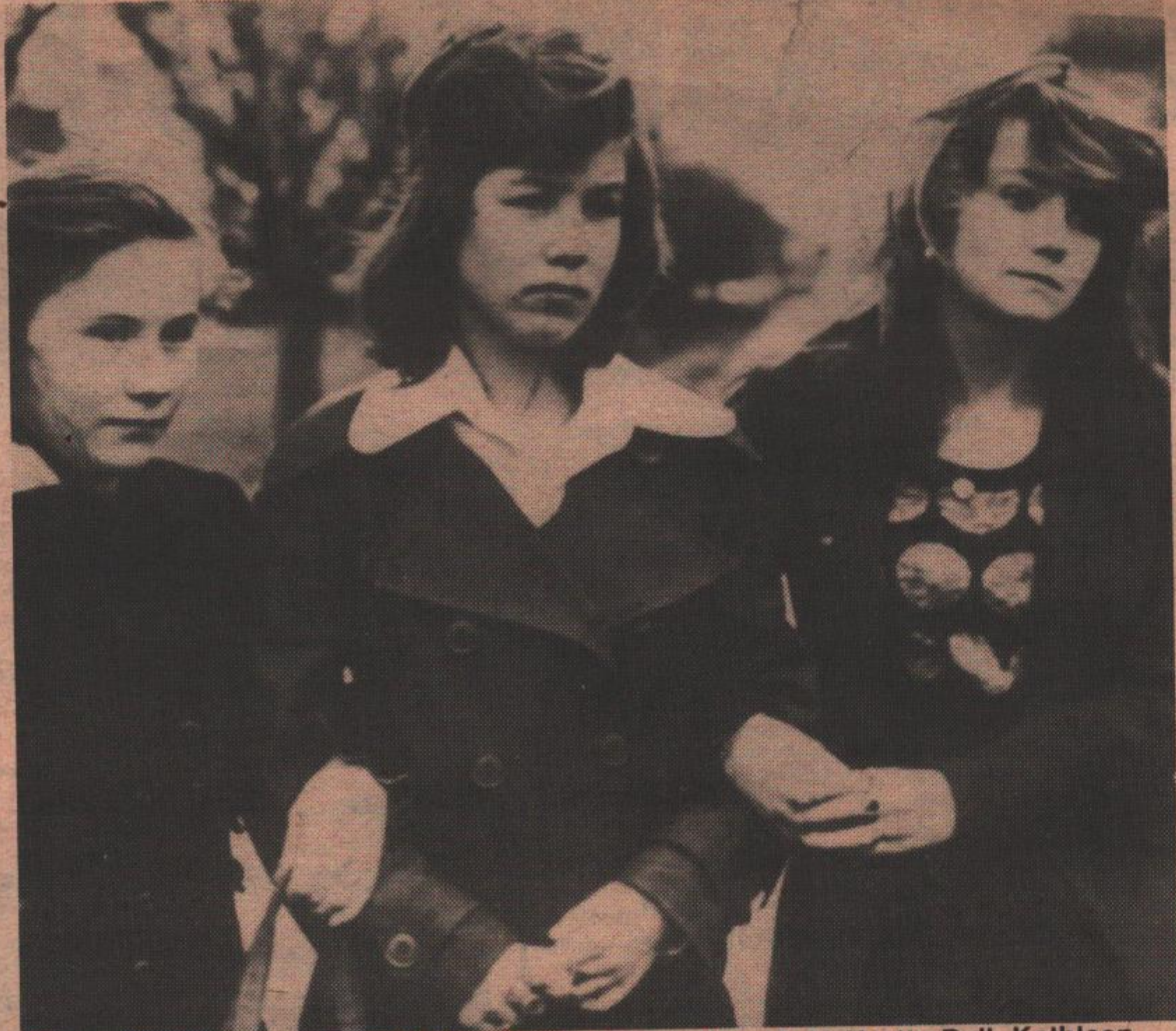
Heaton Comprehensive is in a middle-class neighbourhood. There is a widespread feeling among the parents and children from the nearby High Heaton council estate that they are discriminated against.

Mrs Theresa Bell, whose 13-year-old daughter Yvette has been suspended for her part in the girls' rebellion, told Socialist Worker: 'The parents from the estate are not listened to. Every time the school complain about a kid you always find there is some family problem.'

Yvette has been branded 'a destructive element', but she spends her spare

time helping an arthritic housebound neighbour. She is one of thousands of bright working-class kids that are left to rot in our schools because teachers do not have the time or the resources to encourage them.

The prefects' system works against the children from the council estate. It's children from the rich backgrounds who make it to sixth



Three of the girls suspended after the walk-out: (from left) Yvette Bell, Kathleen Richardson and Jennifer Hayes

by Cathy Cotton

form. 'If you are from the estate, you are suspended, expelled, or on the dole by the time you are sixteen,' said Yvette.

She knows the problems on her estate. About uniform: 'Some of the parents are separated and can't afford to buy two sets of clothes—one for school and one for weekend.'

Girls get a worse deal than boys in the school. One man teacher regularly addresses them as 'peasants' and has even called girls 'sluts' and 'cows'.

These kids are not just losers at

school. Their estate offers them nothing. The nearest youth club is nearly three miles away.

Yvette told me: 'There's nothing to do round here, so there's no wonder there's trouble. The police are always round and they pick you up if you are on the estate after 10pm.'

The school students from the estate have the head, the school, the prefects, the press and the police against them. But they and their parents are set on fighting for their rights.

How the CIA spent £3 million on politicians

THE American intelligence agency, the CIA, has been receiving considerable publicity since the shooting of one of its agents in Athens a fortnight ago. He was buried with full military honours last week, in the presence of President Ford.

But less publicity has been given in the British press to what the CIA has been doing. For example, the New York Times revealed on 7 January that the CIA was very much implicated in the present government crisis in Italy.

'CIA director William Colby briefed two Congressional committees last month, informing them the new programme of covert support for non-communist political parties in Italy would provide £3 million in direct support for these parties.'

Hullabaloo

The significance of these donations is shown by comparing them with the British Labour Party's annual spending—less than £1 million. The CIA is paying for Italian politicians enough money to finance the Labour Party three times over.

But not only Italian politicians are benefitting. Remember all the hullabaloo last year about Portuguese Socialist Party leader Mario Soares defending Portuguese democracy against a 'threatened takeover' by 'Russian-financed Communists'? Colby told the Congressmen that 'funds are also being given to anti-Communist politicians in Portugal, mostly through European socialist parties'.

Soares' campaigns for 'democracy' were in fact financed by the CIA, the very organisation that has admitted organising the murder of the Chilean socialist President Allende. And, it seems, Harold Wilson and his friends were only too happy to act as go-betweens.

THE CIA AND ANGOLA

Speaker: Philip Agee, former CIA agent.

EAST LONDON: Thursday 22 January, 7.45pm, Lawrence Hall, Cumberland Road, E13 (five minutes from Abbey Arms, Barking Road).

HARLOW: Thursday 29 January, 8pm, Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair, Harlow.

CENTRAL LONDON: Thursday 5 February, 6.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1.

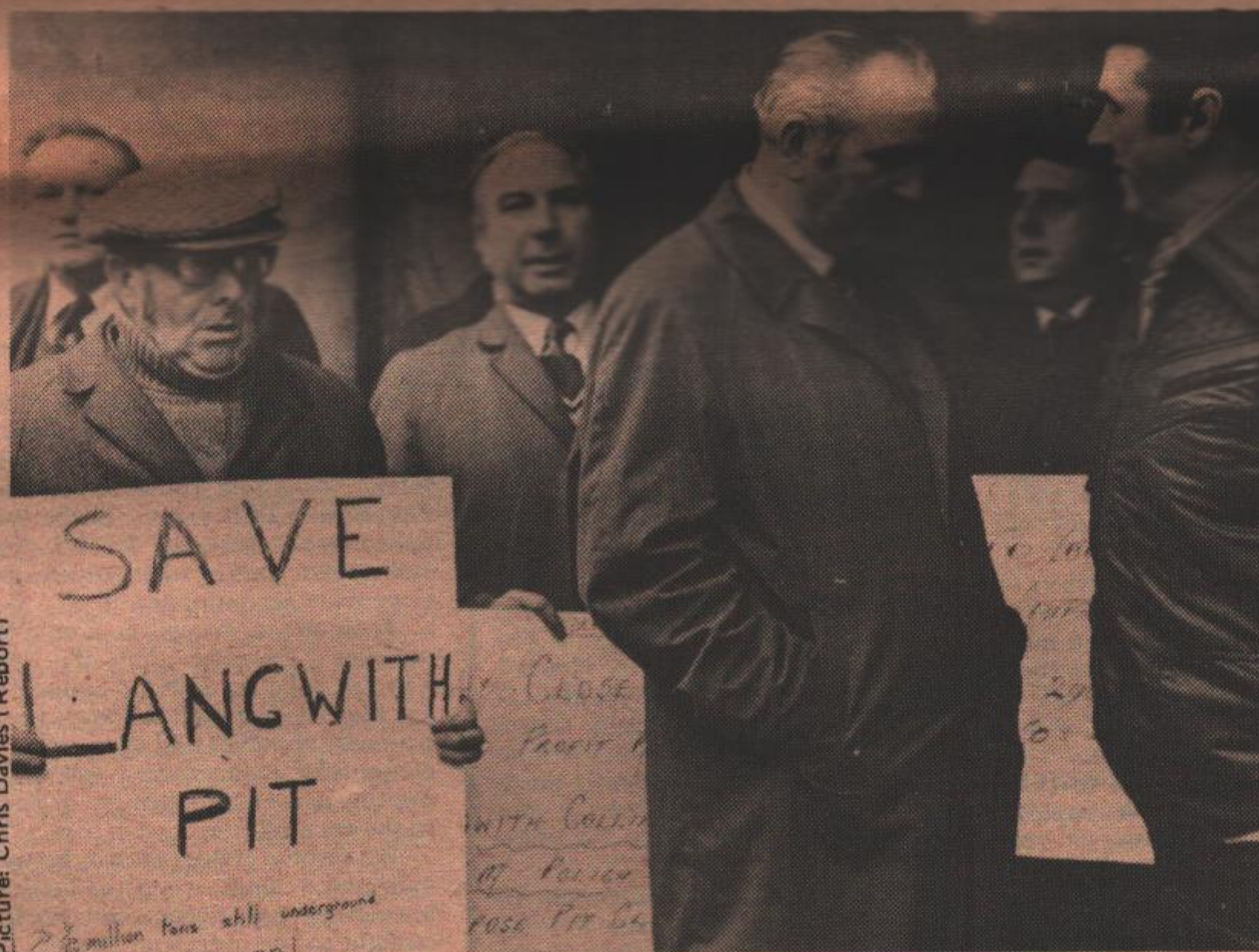
LABOUR'S PROMISES?

Now you see 'em...



...now you don't!

ABOVE: Chancellor Healey returns from the IMF Ministers' meeting in Jamaica. BELOW: Miners picket their union HQ. Their pit is to close—with 2½ million tons of coal still underground.



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

THE Labour government is obsessed by three issues:

- Forcing the nationalised industries to sack workers and cut pay.
- Cutting spending and jobs in schools, health and social services.
- Getting the trade unions to accept a pay policy to follow the £6 limit, a policy to keep pay rises at about seven per cent while prices rise at least double that rate.

Why? Because, of course, we 'can't afford' anything else. We *can* afford unemployment rising to one and a half million. We *can* afford the government's job-destroying offensive in the steel industry. We *can* afford to let a good part of productive capacity rot in idleness. But we can't afford to make life tolerable for working-class pensioners. That's what the Labour government is saying.

In short, we can afford the waste and miseries of capitalism: we can't afford to do anything about them. That is the new 'wisdom' of a party that was elected on a platform which included the promise of 'a massive and irreversible shift in the distribution of both power and income in the interests of working people and their families'.

Back in the 1930s, a time of mass unemployment, when the Wilsons and the Healeys of the day were saying just what our 'Labour' govern-

WHAT WE THINK

ment says now, a famous economist wrote: 'If the Treasury were to fill old bottles with banknotes, bury them at suitable depths in disused coal mines which are then filled up to the surface with town rubbish, and leave it to private enterprise on well tried principles of laissez-faire to dig the notes up again (the right to do so being obtained, of course, by tendering for the leases of the note-bearing territory), there need be no more unemployment and, with the help of the repercussions, the real incomes of the community, and its capital wealth also, would probably become a good deal greater than it actually is.'

'It would, indeed, be more sensible to build houses and the like; but if there are political and practical difficulties in the way of this, the above would be better than nothing.'

Ineffective

Keynes' biting indictment of the criminal and lunatic waste of mass unemployment is as true now as on the day it was written. His *methods* of curing it—tinkering with capitalism by manipulating state spending—have been proved ineffective. But that in no way weakens the force of his indictment.

The resources—men, women and machines—to ensure everyone a decent life exist in abundance. They can be harnessed by socialist planning, with the commanding heights of the economy under the collective control of the producers—the workers, and only in that way.

How to get there? The Labour Party is leading in the opposite direction, the direction of yet more unemployment, yet more waste, poverty and deprivation. The socialist movement has to be rebuilt in the struggle against capitalism and its defenders.

The right to work has to be asserted and fought for against the political and moral bankrupts who would have us return to the 1930s. That is the most important task right now.

It is the duty of every socialist, of every militant to put his or her back into the Right to Work Campaign. The National Rank and File Organising Committee has taken valuable initiatives. Now these have to be developed into a movement so big that it cannot be ignored.

U.S. was the first to start war moves in Angola

THE press described the failure of the Organisation of African Unity meeting in Addis Ababa at the weekend to take a clear line on Angola as a 'defeat for the Russians'. In fact it was a victory for the South African apartheid regime and for the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

As the African premiers met,

further proof emerged that South Africa and the CIA are sustaining the fight in Angola against the People's Republic government of the MPLA.

Last week Socialist Worker reported that:

- The US aircraft carrier Independence, a guided missile cruiser and three destroyers were moving to the Angolan coast, ready to give

tactical air support over Angola to right-wing forces.

- US spotter planes are flying missions into Angola from Zaire.

- US cargo planes are dropping supplies to South African troops inside Angola.

- South African troops and CIA-recruited mercenaries have taken the brunt of the fighting among the anti-

MPLA forces.

The Observer newspaper confirmed all these points last Sunday. It gave documentary proof that US State Department claims that the aircraft carrier Independence was in the Mediterranean, not heading for Angola, were false. It estimated that there were 4000 to 6000 South African troops in Angola, not about 1000 as previously thought. It suggested that there are 2000 mercenaries, equipped with South African armoured cars.

Finally, The Observer pointed out that 'while the Americans have been accusing the Soviet Union of escalating the war, Washington in fact took the first step'.

But for these supplies of South African and CIA troops and equipment, the anti-MPLA forces would long ago have been defeated.

The issue at stake in Angola is simple. It is to be run by a regime based on the needs and wishes of the local population? Or is to be torn apart by the agents of South African apartheid and US big business?

DEMONSTRATE NOW!

A DEMONSTRATION and picket of the US Embassy in London is to be held on Wednesday against South African and American intervention in Angola. It has been called for by the National Organisation of IS Student Societies. It is the only demonstration of solidarity planned so far, so all socialist students in the London area should support it.

Support is already growing. The NUS Universities Conference in Durham last week, the Angola Solidarity Campaign and the London branch of the African National Council have pledged support. Regrettably, however, the London district of the Communist Party is refusing to back the demo.

An example of the sort of support that can be organised has been given by the students of Teesside Polytechnic in Middlesbrough, who are booking a minibus to come to the demo. If students from Teesside can get there, every NOISS supporter in London should be able to get support. That means raising it in union meetings and approaching student African societies for sponsorship and support.

ANGOLA

United States out! South Africa out!

VICTORY TO THE MPLA

Demonstrate and picket US Embassy and Gulf Oil, London. Next Wednesday 21 January, 2pm, assemble Lincoln's Inn Inn Fields (behind Holborn tube)

All IS and NOISS students in London and Home Counties to support.

I want to be a Socialist Worker supporter

Name

Address

.....

.....

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

Support the Right to Work Campaign!



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

'This campaign is really well-organised!' was the verdict of Pat Murphy, a shop steward at Thorn Colour Tubes in Skelmersdale delegated to the first national meeting of local Right to Work Committees in London

There were 48 delegates at the meeting—from almost all the major cities, and from as far apart as York and Cornwall (a delegate came from the Cornish Communist Party).

All the delegates reported on the growth of local Right to Work campaigns. Numerous local trade union bodies, shop stewards' committees and trade union branches are joining the local committees and the national campaign set up by the Rank and File Organising Committee.

Make it a NATIONAL Campaign!

From MANCHESTER, Bobby Burds described how the Right to Work campaign began there by occupying the Stretford Jobs Centre. 'From this we started going round the factories, asking the shop stewards' committees for support. We got them to pay for unemployed workers to go down on the 26 November demonstration.

'We went to the docks. They've agreed to black the goods of all firms where they're fighting redundancies. This is what makes it a national campaign—that sort of blacking is far wider than Manchester. That's why all local bodies must join the national campaign.'



Tony Jones

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

The third article in our series on past struggles against unemployment

'CONTINGENTS poured in until Whitehall was a dense mass of unemployed workers, many of them wearing their war decorations. The crowd was quite orderly and there was singing and cheering.

Then suddenly mounted and foot police began to charge into the crowd in an effort to clear Whitehall. We were compelled to fight back at the police, or simply stand still and be clubbed down.

A roar of anger rose from the workless as they swayed backwards and forwards, whilst those in front were struck down by the police. Then, as the unemployed began to fight back, the police were forced to give ground. With a great rush the unemployed swept forward up Whitehall, breaking through the police formation and scattering them on all sides.

But before the demonstrators could reach Trafalgar Square, fresh reinforcements of police were rushed to the top of Whitehall where they commenced batoning the workers down as they tried to escape.

Dozens of men lay in the roads and on the side-walks groaning with pain as the blood gushed out from the wounds inflicted by police batons.'

The year was 1920, the prime minister, Lloyd George. In the space of little more than a year unemployment had shot up from 300,000 to nearly two million.

The first unemployment movements of these years grew up spontaneously. Wal Hannington, later the acknowledged leader of the National Unemployed Movement, tells how the movement developed in his excellent book, *Unemployed Struggles 1919-1936*.*

*Masses of ex-service men who had suffered the horrors of four years of war were now to taste the bitter fruits of peace in the form of unemployment and poverty in their homes.

The approach of winter in 1920 saw the first definite forms of organisation amongst the unemployed in many parts of the country. In the main they



The reception given to the deputation of unemployed workers at the Ministry of Labour

Police against the unemployed

had no clear working class policy and they appeared to be formed purely for charity-mongering purposes.

Demonstrations were organised to march the streets for the sole purpose of begging charity as a means of relieving distress.

To take collections on the streets it was necessary to obtain police permits. The police readily granted such permits. They realised that such charity-mongering methods were a safe outlet for the discontent of the unemployed.

But during the years 1918 to 1920 socialist propaganda had been rapidly winning support amongst the workers.'

The breaking up by the police of the first big unemployment demonstration, described at the beginning of this article, made large numbers of unemployed workers see the need for united organisations. They also saw it was not enough to beg for help from the authorities. They had to fight.

On the initiative of Wal Hannington and other members of the

then-revolutionary Communist Party, delegates from 12 unemployed organisations formed an All-London Council for the Unemployed in October 1920. This gave the call for the creation of the National Unemployed Workers Movement six months later.

The social security system of the time, the Poor Law, was administered by elected local 'guardians'. The law forbade them to provide money for the able-bodied unemployed, unless these consented either to enter prison-like workhouses or to labour for much less than union rates. But the new movement began to force the guardians' hands.

Huge protests of the unemployed marched to the guardians in each town. They went into their meetings and refused to leave until the guardians ignored the regulations and provided relief for the unemployed.

This was immensely important in building the movement.

There was now on-going activity in every area, activity which large numbers of unemployed workers could see was vital to their own well-being.

But the leaders of the movement saw that it had to do more than organise the unemployed. Otherwise they could be attacked by the police, as the movements in 1817 and 1887 had been attacked. They had to connect their organisation to the strength of workers who still had jobs.

Next week's article will show the ways they sought to achieve this.



*Wal Hannington's book, *UNEMPLOYED STRUGGLES*, is vital reading for everyone involved in the Right to Work Campaign. Unfortunately it is out of print. But you should be able to get copies from your local library or from socialists who were active before the war.

Get hold of a campaign HQ!

A delegate from the SOUTH WEST LONDON Right to Work Committee said: 'Our committee has occupied an empty house in Brixton to use as a centre in the campaign. We needed somewhere unemployed workers could gather to organise the fight for jobs in South London, somewhere that workers still with jobs could come to offer their help.'

Organise now for the march!

Introducing a discussion on the march and the rally, Tommy Douras, secretary of the MERSEYSIDE Right to Work Committee, said: 'The marchers themselves have got to get organised now. We need to get the names in, not general promises but definite names.'

'Then all of us who are marching have got to start going round and ask for money and support for the march from all the factories and trade union bodies that are supporting the national and local Right to Work campaigns.'

'We need the marchers to fight for £5 a day to keep them on the march. This money should be sent to the Rank and File Organising Committee*, saying which marcher is being sponsored.'

'The local Right to Work committees have got to start organising support for the marchers when they arrive. Walk the route in advance, time how long it takes, see the local police, make sure the local Labour clubs, town halls or whatever are open to provide accommodation.'

'Then get a reception committee together. Demand that the local Labour MPs or Labour councillors are there, and get all the local trades councils, branches and shop stewards committees to arrange a welcoming meeting as well as a meeting or social in the evening.'

'We want to arrive in towns between 4pm and 4.30pm, when the factories are getting ready to come out. We'll go straight to the industrial estates.'

'We mustn't neglect local publicity. Make sure local radio, regional television, and, most important, local newspapers are there—and have all the information beforehand.'

'When the march comes through we want action as well. We want to turn the march into a way of forcing days of action and protest against unemployment wherever we come.'

Even raffle tickets help win support!

THE Liverpool Right to Work Committee has eight people going round the factories and sites in the city full-time seeking support and finance for the campaign and the march.

Tony Jones, 40, is a furniture worker who recently passed through a government training course as a skilled woodcutting machinist. He cannot find work anywhere. The only job he was offered was also applied for by 15 other skilled men.

Tony told Socialist Worker: 'We've got 2000 books of raffle tickets, whose proceeds will go to organising the campaign and the march. We've been taking them round the factories and asking for support. It's fantastic the support we've been getting almost everywhere we've been.'

'At Plesseys, Massey Fergusons, Roneo Vickers, Distillers, Ward and Goldstones, the shop stewards took large numbers of books to sell. At a small car harness factory in the Netherton Estate, the stewards took 162 books. In four days we've got rid of 500 books.'

'The demands of the campaign click in right away with how the stewards are thinking. They are very willing to help. We intend to go back everywhere and harden up the support for the campaign.'

Keep up the Direct Action!

Summarising the reports from the areas, Ted Parker of the SOUTH EAST LONDON Right to Work Committee said: 'We must keep up the actions by the unemployed. In the 1920s if a factory was working overtime 30 unemployed workers would go straight into the factory, call a meeting and get the overtime stopped.'

These sort of actions, like the Jobs Centre and TUC Occupations, are a basic part of the campaign and they must not be neglected as the trade union support rolls in. Without the first occupations in Glasgow and Manchester and other places, we wouldn't have won the support we have.'

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

CPSA committee votes to sponsor a marcher

JOHN DEASON, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, spoke at last Friday's meeting of the London Area Committee No 4 of the civil servants' union CPSA. The committee had decided that John should be invited by only one vote—but the delegates responded enthusiastically to his call for a fight against unemployment.

Several delegates spoke about unemployment in the 1930s. One speaker said that if no action was taken to organise unemployed school-leavers, certain areas in the country

would become anti-trade union.

This resolution was moved and carried, with no votes against and only four abstentions: 'That this area committee supports the Right to Work March by sponsoring a marcher and that the secretary writes to the national executive council asking for their support for the march. The secretary shall also contact the other area committees and send a circular to branches asking them to raise the issue at branch meetings and annual general meetings.'

The committee represents 4000 civil servants in London.

National Rank & File Organising Committee INVITES

TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS

Shop Stewards' Committees, Branches, District, Division, EC's of Trade Unions and Trade Councils etc

TO SUPPORT AND SPONSOR the National

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Sponsorship fee £1 details from

46 Prince George Road, London N16

Join the march... come to the 20th March rally!

Skelmersdale? IF THORN GET THEIR WAY, IT WILL BE Skelmersdale!



ONE of the richest men in Britain is preparing to wreck the lives of 1400 workers and their families this week. He is Sir Jules Thorn, chairman of Thorn Electrical Industries.

He and his colleagues want to close the Thorn colour TV tubes factory in Skelmersdale New Town in Lancashire and sack all its workers.

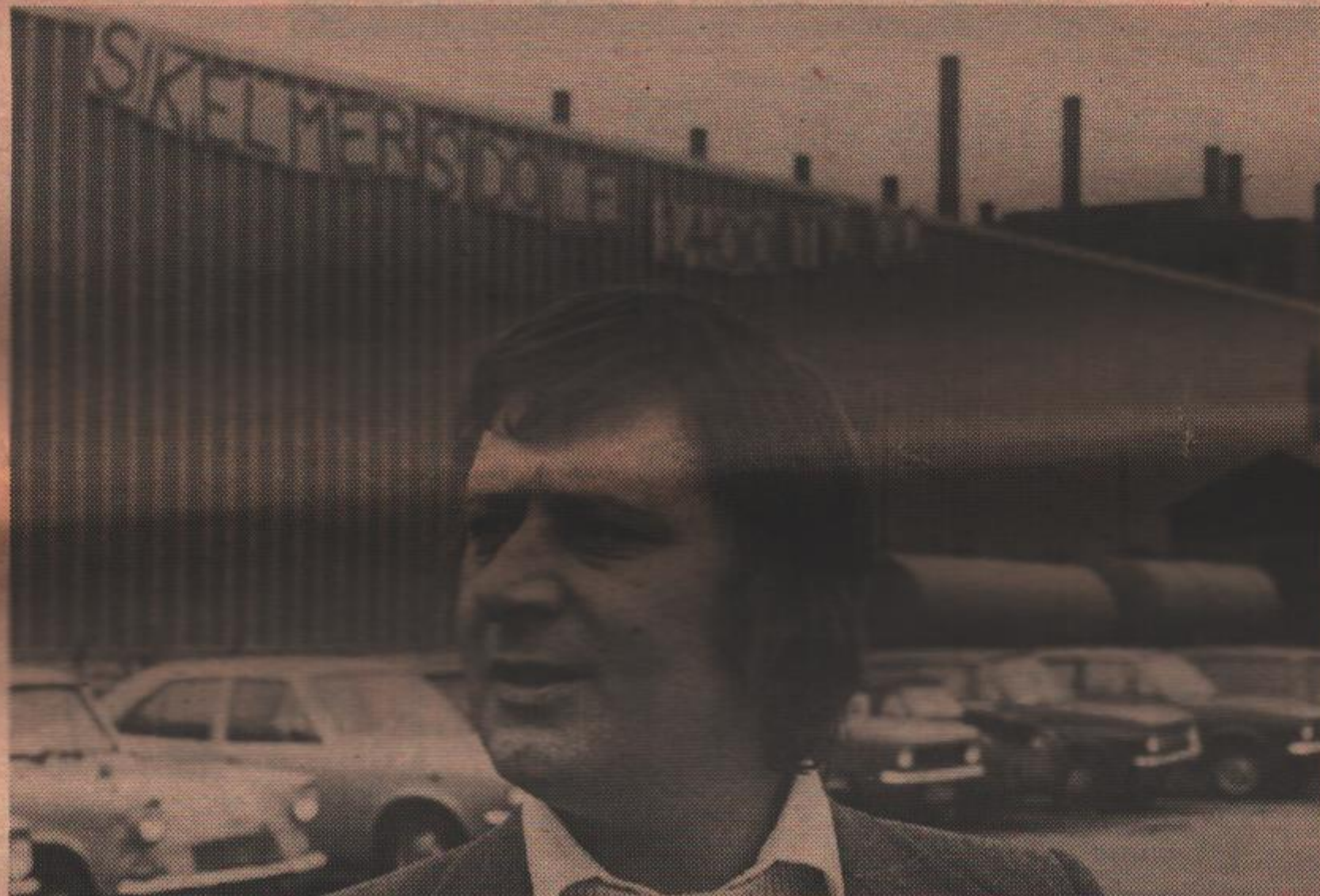
The workers have other ideas. Says Charles Ruddock, GMWU convenor in the factory: 'If anyone thinks we're going to walk down the road and join the dole queue without a fight, they've got another think coming.'

Last Friday, as the workers assembled for the afternoon shift, their anger was boiling over. They were reading a document circulated by management about redundancy pay when the factory closes: A man working three shifts for three years was entitled, according to the document, to a grand total of £367. As Terry Goulbourne, a shop steward in the illuminising department, said: 'You pay your rates, your electricity bill and your gas bill and you're right back where you started.'

Skelmersdale, the sparkling new town which the last Labour government boasted of in the late 1960s, has vanished. In its place is Skelmersdale, ghost town.

In December there were already 2050 unemployed in the town, a tenth of the workforce. The Thorn's closure, if allowed, would add another 1400. More are to follow.

'Only this week Polythene Drums are threatening to sack another 250,' said Terry. 'The whole town is collapsing like a pack of cards.'



GMWU convenor Charlie Ruddock outside the factory: 'We don't just walk down the road'

Moderation, cooperation, work study, voluntary redundancy... Did they help?

EVER since Thorns started whining about their prospects, the shop stewards at Skelmersdale have bent over backwards to be 'moderate' and 'cooperative'.

The shop floor workforce has been reduced in 12 months from 849 to 530, without a single strike or work-to-rule. Most who left volunteered for redundancy.

'I know a lot of these lads who volunteered,' says Terry Goulbourne. 'Every one of them is regretting it.'

'One, Tommy O'Hara, was getting about £65 a week here. He took redundancy money of about £250. Now he gets less than £30 a week on the dole for him, his wife and three small children. Voluntary redundancy didn't help any of them. It was pathetic to see them accept it.'

In December 1974, it took 4.8 man hours to produce a television tube at Thorns. In December 1975, it took a fantastic 1.7 hours: the best

productivity rate in Europe. This rate was achieved with the help of work study, which was introduced with the full co-operation of the shop stewards.

Terrified by management threats of sackings, and bullied by the press and union officials who urged them to abandon their natural militancy, the stewards have devoted the entire year to 'moderate' policies and attitudes.

Those policies have led them directly to the dole queue.

Import controls? And how many jobs have they saved?

MANY workers at Thorns blame Japanese imports of television tubes for their plight. They accuse the Japanese of dumping cheap tubes on the British market.

In fact, Japanese television tube imports were controlled for the first half of 1975. On the insistence of the British government, the Japanese tubes industry stopped all exports to Britain.

This didn't make the slightest difference. Many of the imports which came in during 1975 were from RCA in America. RCA own 49 per cent of the

shares in—yes, you've guessed it—Thorn Colour Tubes.

The main effect of import controls would be to put up the prices of television sets, and make the cheaper ranges scarce—hardly a way to get the support of other workers!

Import controls would do nothing to cure the real cause of the closure: the slump in 'demand' for colour television sets.

Every working-class family wants a television set. But government policy and the international capitalist crisis makes it more and more difficult for them to buy one.

In 1972, which was a boom year—and when there were plenty of Japanese and foreign tubes selling in Britain—Thorn Colour Tubes made a profit of more than £2 million. If sales had kept up to the level of 1973, three million people a year would be buying colour tellyes in Britain and everyone would be in work.

But sales have not kept up. Why?

□ Because Heath's Tory government introduced heavy wage controls which cut the workers' buying power.

□ Because the Labour government has imposed a £6 wage limit which has cut workers' standard of living by more in 1975 than for any other year for 20 years.

□ Because Labour Chancellor Denis Healey has imposed a 25 per cent value added tax on colour television sets.

These measures have cut sales of colour television sets from more than two million in 1973 to 1,600,000 last year and an estimated 1,300,000 this year.

If the government wanted to keep the Thorns workers in jobs they could easily remove the VAT on colour tellyes or allow old age pensioners to

watch telly without a licence.

All the chaos of capitalism is exposed at the Thorns factory. The workers want television sets.

But they can't have them because they can't afford a price which will give a profit to Sir Jules Thorn. Sir Jules, incidentally, is the fifth richest man in the country with a personal shareholding in his own company worth £19 million—enough to pay the entire wage bill at Skelmersdale for nearly five years!

This is how to fight the Thorn gang

THORN and his gang reckon without the fighting spirit of the Merseyside workers. They have bowed down for too long. They are determined not to give up without a battle.

'As far as I'm concerned,' says Jack Stevens, a shop steward of three years standing, 'no machinery goes out of here. None at all. If we can't have our jobs, he can't have his factory.'

The Thorns shop stewards committee sent a delegate, Pat Murphy, to the National Right to Work Campaign Committee meeting in London last Saturday.

Pat heard John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, outline a strategy for Thorns. He said that the workers should act quickly to occupy the factory. Delay handed the initiative to management and left time for disillusionment to set in.

He drew a parallel between Thorns in Skelmersdale and Fisher Bendix at nearby Kirkby, part of the Thorns group which was successfully occupied in 1972. He was himself then an AUEW steward in Newton-le-Willows.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

Public meetings organised by local Right to Work Committees.

EDINBURGH: Wednesday 25 February, 7.30pm, Edinburgh and District Trades Council Club, 14 Picardy Place. Speakers: Harry McShane (former secretary, Scottish Unemployed Workers Movement, in the 1930s), Bobby Buirds (secretary, Manchester Right to Work Committee) and local trade unionists.

WALSALL: Wednesday 28 January, 8pm, Walsall Town Hall. Speaker: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker). Sponsored by Wolverhampton UCATT branch, which has also affiliated to the Black Country Right to Work Campaign and has sponsored an unemployed building worker to join the Right to Work March.

GLASGOW: Thursday 29 January, 7.30pm, City Hall, Glasgow. Speakers: Vincent Flynn (former general secretary, SOGAT) and John Deason.

MANCHESTER: Meeting organised by Trafford Worker. Tuesday 27 January, 7.30pm, Nag's Head, Urmston. Speakers: John Deason (national secretary, Right to Work Campaign) and Bobby Buirds (secretary, Manchester Right to Work Committee).

Socialist Worker will publish free advertisements for all local Right to Work activities and meetings. Send details to Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



ALL MARCHERS should come to a meeting in Milton Hall, Deansgate, Central Manchester, on Saturday 24 January, 1.30pm. Contact the Right to Work Campaign for details at 46 Prince George Road, London N16 (phone 01-249 1207). Transport is being arranged to cut costs to the minimum.

THE National Right to Work Campaign wants to circulate all trade union bodies supporting the campaign locally. Make sure the address of your trade union body has been sent to 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

LEAFLETS calling for support for the Right to Work march, including details of the campaign aims and a sponsorship form, now available. £1 for 500, including postage.

POSTERS to advertise meetings in the campaign. 10p for five, £1.50 for 100. Get your trade union branch or shop stewards committee to send in an order now.

BADGES: Fight for the Right to Work! 10p each, plus 6½p postage. Orders over 50 post free.

FROM Right to Work Campaign, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Money with orders please.

RAISE FUNDS WHERE YOU WORK FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Everyone who supports the Right to Work Campaign can raise money by taking a football card around their workmates each week. Raise £1 a week—cards from local Right to Work Committees or direct from: Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

In aid of the 'Right to Work' campaign and unemployed workers

STAKE: 5p PRIZE: £1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

What about violence?

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

We would prefer a peaceful transition to socialism, but the decision does not rest with us . . .

'REVOLUTIONARY socialists talk about arming the working class', writes a reader from Manchester.

'IS criticised Allende's failure to do so in Chile. But, if we are to place our faith in an armed working class, the scene in the United States, where guns are freely available to all citizens, looks pretty dismal. The fire-power of the capitalists is undoubtedly greater than that of the masses.'

This letter raises a number of important issues which I will discuss over the next week or two.

First of all, it would be a very satisfactory state of affairs indeed if political and social problems could be solved without resort to violence at all, if only because—as the reader

says—the capitalists have most of the fire-power.

Unfortunately, we do not live in that kind of world. We live in a world in which the threat, and if need be the use, of violence is the normal and habitual mode of operation of all the various ruling groups.

Let us be quite clear what this means and what it does not mean.

It does not mean that most regimes commonly use troops against their populations as a matter of course. A regime that does this—as the British government does in Northern Ireland—is in a state of crisis in at least part of its territory.

Normally, the most powerful means by which systems of privilege and inequality are maintained is 'headfixing' or 'socialisation' as the sociologists politely call it; the power of ideas convenient to the upper classes which are drummed into the rest of us day in and day out.

This, supplemented by the fairly low-level

and selective violence of police forces plus judges, prisons and so on, is the rule.

But every state, without exception, maintains the means to use violence on a large scale—for political ends.

There is no end of hypocrisy about this. All sorts of politicians, preachers and pundits deplore 'the use of violence for political ends'—by their opponents.

For war

The very same people enthusiastically support the armed forces of their own states.

Armies (and Navies and Air Forces) exist, in the last resort, to undertake military operations against foreign or domestic opponents of the state. They exist to make war. That is what they are trained, armed and equipped for.

Of course, the rulers of nearly every state claim that their forces exist to prevent war by deterring the others.

This amounts to no more than saying that, though they hope the threat of violence will suffice, they are willing and able to fight for what they regard as their vital interests.

Now war is undertaken for definite political aims.

'War' wrote the famous German military theorist von Clausewitz, 'is politics carried on by other, that is violent means . . . War is an act of violence intended to compel our opponent to fulfil our will.'

Nasty

Often the aims are quite limited. British governments have fought a whole series of nasty little colonial wars since 1945—in Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, Aden and so on—to try to keep control of territories that they could well survive without, which indeed they were finally driven to abandon.

It would be madness to imagine that our ruling class, with its long record of large-scale resort to armed violence all over the world, will peacefully submit to being deprived of its home base.

Faced with a real socialist challenge, that is to say with the loss of all their property, privilege and power, they will most certainly resort to violence if they can.

The British army will find no lack of candidates for the role of General Pinochet or General Franco.

That is not to say that they will be able to get away with it. Far from it. But socialists have to be prepared for violence from the other side.

We would prefer a peaceful transition to socialism, but the decision does not rest with us.

Seconde's out—but for how long?

IT MUST have been a wrench for Britain's Ambassador in Chile, Mr Reginald Seconde, when he was recently recalled following the furore over Dr Sheila Cassidy's torture.

On the first anniversary of the bloody coup, an advert sponsored by the British Chamber of Commerce in Chile appeared in *El Mercurio*, a leading Junta newspaper. It congratulated 'the honourable Junta' on their first year of power.

And the Chamber's secretary at that time? That's right . . . Mr Reginald Seconde, no less.

Upstairs, downstairs!

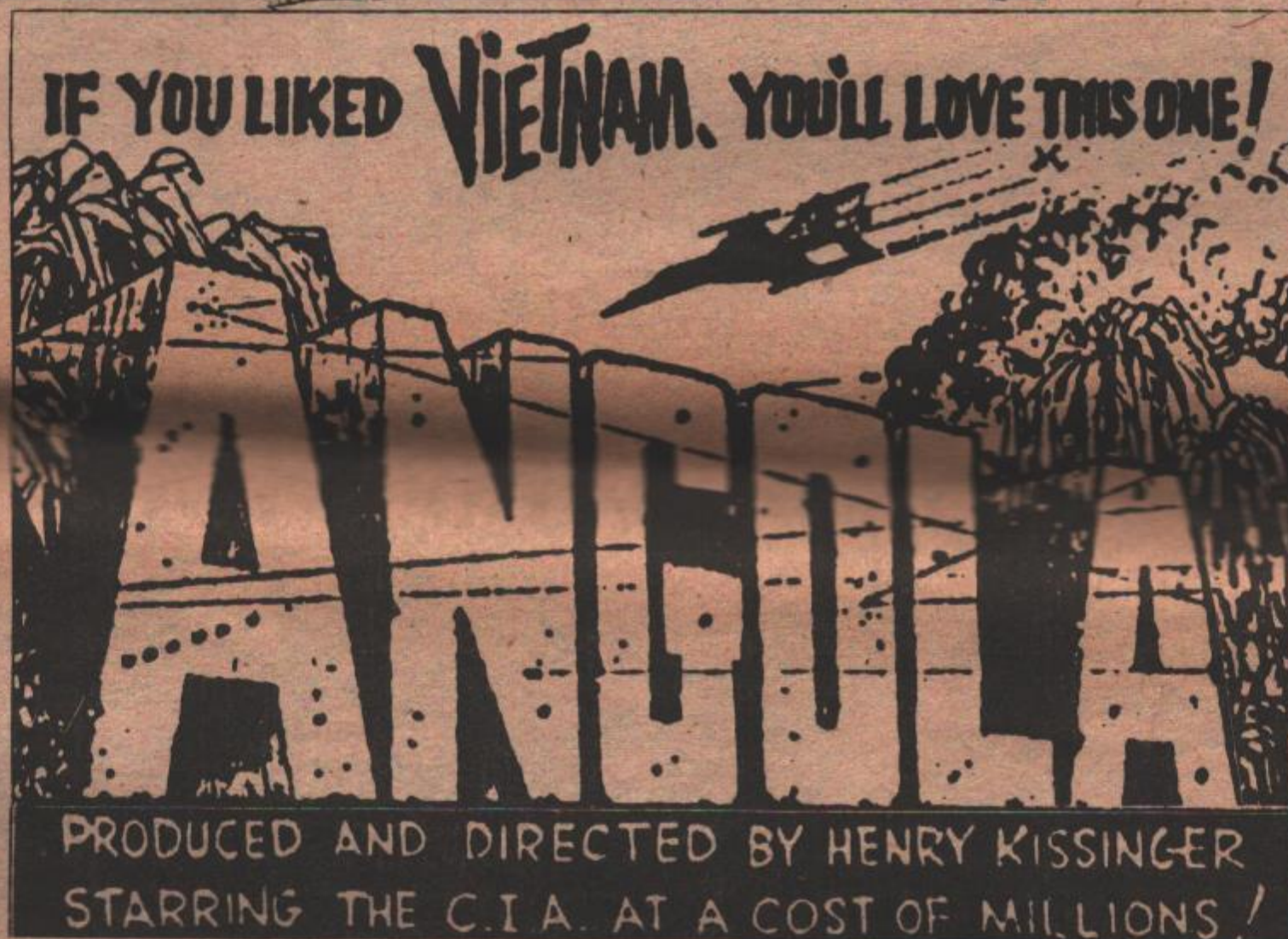
TELEVISION has finally come to South Africa. Why the long delay? Well the government, as you might expect from supporters of that monument to morality called apartheid, feared its powers to deprave and corrupt—blacks, that is.

A former Minister, Dr Albert Hertzog, once claimed that if an African 'houseboy' was on his hands and knees polishing the drawing room floor and looked up to see a scantily-dressed white woman on telly, he would immediately 'rush upstairs and rape the madam'.



L&O LOVER

REMEMBER Alvin S Hanson, the Blackpool Tory councillor and lover of Law and Order whose criminal record (star turn: robbery with violence) was noted on these pages last October? We can now reveal that Honest Alvin has joined that well-known refuge for lovers of Law and Order, the National Front.



Reproduced from *WORKERS' POWER* the weekly paper of the International Socialists in the USA. You can subscribe £1 for 10 issues through the IS Bookshop, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

SAS: Special Armed Savages...

LAST WEEK'S massacre of ten Protestants and five Catholics led the Daily Mirror to describe the situation in Northern Ireland as one 'which no army could control, except maybe the Nazi SS'. As if in direct response, the Labour government dispatched the nearest equivalent, the Special Air Service.

Despite denials, the SAS have been active in Northern Ireland before. For example:

MAY 1972: Patrick McVeigh, standing with four companions in Andersonstown area of Belfast, died

when 'civilian' leaned out of passing car and raked them with sub-machine gun fire. Army admitted 'civilians' were in, fact, soldiers but refused to produce them or name their regiment.

JUNE 1972: Three men seriously wounded by Thompson sub-machine gun fired from passing car in Belfast. Almost immediately, random police patrol stopped car—and arrested Captain James Alistair McGregor, MC, veteran of Aden. He was charged with 'unlawful possession of a firearm'! (Officially, no British Army unit is issued with

Thompsons). A judge ended this embarrassing affair by dismissing the case on a technicality.

SEPTEMBER 1972: Daniel Rooney, 18, killed by shots from 'civilian' car, later admitted to be army 'surveillance' vehicle.

Similar examples abound. The latest to emerge concerns Albert Baker, now serving life for the murder of four Catholics in 1973.

Baker, who led a UDA murder squad, now claims that at the time he was a serving member of the SAS. A native of Belfast, he joined the Royal Irish Rifles in 1970, with a character reference from Eileen Paisley, wife of the UUUC leader.

He says he was admitted to the SAS, was given intensive training, including a spell at Fort Worth, Texas, and then served in the Persian Gulf.

He appeared back in Belfast in June 1972 and joined the UDA.

Baker told the UDA he had deserted but now claims he was under orders to infiltrate the organisation. He also claims that while leading the murder gang he was in regular contact with a 'liaison' officer.

Getting tough, Martin?

TOP NAZI Martin Webster is in trouble. Big trouble. Hard on the heels of the split in the National Front—which left the fat bully in the fascist wilderness—comes news that the Ulster Defence Association are more than a little interested in his whereabouts.

Seems the UDA believe he is spilling the beans on their gun-running activities in Britain—and have a murder contract out to shut him up.

Garner Ted, the plain goof...

IT'S CALLED The Plain Truth and, like all such 'non-political' right-wing magazines, it is nothing of the sort.

It claims to print almost 400,000 copies in Britain and

The PT is published by the Worldwide Church of God, PO Box 111, Pasadena, California, an organisation headed by one Herbert W Armstrong.

Herbert spends his time

flying around the earth in one of his three private jets, entertaining heads of states (he was close buddy-buddy with South Vietnam's Thieu), while his Number One son, Garner Ted, does the day-to-day business of chatting up the converts and gathering in the mazooma.

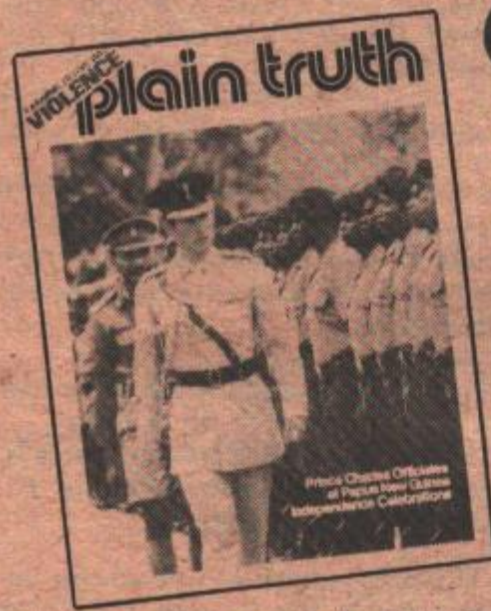
Word reaches us from America that this little soul-saving business may not be long for this world. Apparently Garner Ted has recently

been observed at the tables in Las Vegas, playing dice for five grand a throw.

Further snooping by atheistic elements revealed that, despite Herbert's declared opposition to sexual hanky-panky (he preaches that it is sinful to have sex outside marriage or in other than the 'two natural positions', while cannily neglecting to say which two positions) Garner Ted has been associating with various Nevada ladies in circumstances which make Elmer Gantry look like the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Even more devastating, many of the faithful have realised that The End of the World, scheduled by Herbert for 1975, seems not to have happened.

Isn't religion a wonderful thing. Isn't it just . . .



WITHOUT COMMENT

Seven of today's distinguished thinkers put their views on the question; "When, if ever, is it justifiable to kill for a political motive?" First subject,

Lord Hailsham.

from an ITV preview of forthcoming new programmes

PORTUGAL



The Lessons of the 25th November 1975

Tony Cliff
Chris Harman

10p

For 18 months after the overthrow of fascism, the revolutionary movement in Portugal grew and grew. It was the most exciting working-class upsurge for decades.

Then, on 25 November, it suffered its first major defeat. An abortive coup by paratroopers gave the right-wing the chance to disarm and disband left-wing military units.

Why did this happen? Does it end the hopes of millions that Portugal would become the only country on earth controlled by its workers?

This important new pamphlet explains what went wrong—and what needs to be done to put Portugal back on the road to socialism.

10p (plus 9p postage) from International Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

Portugal: A show of strength

THE WORKERS' struggle in Portugal has shifted very much to the question of wages and prices, following the introduction of a wage freeze and massive price increases.

Construction workers have called for a national two-hour strike against the freeze this Friday.

Sabotage

In a statement on Monday, their union said that 'those of us who live by selling our labour can never agree to pay the price of the failures, the plotting and the sabotage of the exploiters.'

One important plank in the struggle is the emerging battle for shorter hours. So far, the postal workers are refusing to work Saturdays and the stevedores and dockers are still in

dispute about shortening the working week.

The attack on wages and prices is still being flavoured by organised acts of thuggery and intimidation against workers' organisations.

Recently, for example, a handful of commandos sauntered into a local textile union's office, removed the printing equipment and playfully ransacked the office because they did not like the local bulletin the union was putting out.

Last week there was a bomb attack on the agricultural cooperative Arvore in the North. The co-operative had been having a meeting about the soldiers imprisoned for supporting the left.

Once again, right wing organised farmers from Rio Maior, north of Lisbon, are threatening to cut off electricity supplies to the city if the government does not stop the land

reform.

But the workers feel far from defeated. This Saturday should see the first major show of strength since the events of 25 November.

A rally is being organised by more than 20 different unions and by the secretariat of the workers' commissions for the district of Lisbon.

Interest

Numbers of Communist Party members are continuing to show interest in the ideas of the revolutionary left. Last week in the town of Marinha Grande (population 10,000) 400 workers turned up to a meeting of the revolutionary organisation, the PRP—and 150 of those were Communist Party members.

The potential certainly exists for renewed struggle. The problem is organisation and leadership.

AFTER 25 NOVEMBER HOW WE CAN HELP

SOLIDARITY with Portuguese workers is now more important than ever. A step in the right direction could be taken at the National Delegate Conference called by the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee on 13 March at Conway Hall, London.

All IS members and SW supporters are urged to ensure that they and their trade union bodies are there to argue for a campaign with a dominant emphasis on linking workers' struggles and organisations between Portugal and Britain.

Delegate credentials are available from the Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese Working Class, 12 Little Newport Street, London WC2. The fee is £1 a delegate.

All delegates will be allowed to discuss and vote on the policy and organisation of the campaign. But only those bodies affiliated to the PWCC will be allowed to vote for the election of a National Committee for the Campaign. It is essential that you ensure your trade union body is affiliated.

We have been assured by the PWCC that those trade union bodies with little finance, for example, AUEW branches, can contact them to arrange some suitable financial compromise.

Details of affiliation to the PWCC is available from the address above. Phone 01-439 3006.

Strike wave sweeps Spain

THE REGIME of Franco's successor in Spain, King Juan Carlos, is being shaken to the roots by a massive strike wave.

In Madrid, more than 50,000 workers have been on strike, including those at Standard Electric, ITT, Kelvinator, Siemens, Boetticher, John Deer and the aircraft manufacturer CASA.

They have been fighting for the right to organise and against a legal wage freeze.

Last Friday 10,000 workers marched in support of the Chrysler struggle. Nineteen members of the workers' commissions that organised the strikes have been arrested. Among them are six from Chrysler.

£6.50 a day

But the struggle is not contained to Madrid. Last Wednesday several hundred agricultural workers in Palma de Rio in the south demonstrated against rising unemployment and demanded a minimum wage of £6.50 a day.

In Leganes, an industrial town near Madrid, between 1500 and 2000 workers demonstrated. Both marches were broken up by the police with tear gas and truncheons, injuring many demonstrators.

In Modragon in the north of the country, 4000 people demonstrated in support of Gamei workers who occupied a church.

Bank workers in Madrid and Valladolid have been on strike, and construction workers in the capital seem on the point of walking out.

In Oveido, 7000 workers at the key Ensidea steel works are on strike, and



The two faces of Spain's fascism: a strike-breaking soldier while, right, 2000 subway workers gather in a local church, the only legal meeting place.

SPAIN: Socialist Worker National Day School. Saturday 17 February, Unity Lounge, Aston University Students Union, Gosta Green, Birmingham. Starts 11am.

600 shipbuilding workers in Valencia are locked out.

An impressive degree of solidarity was shown in Madrid when people refused to use the free buses laid on to break the underground strike.

Faced with this massive upsurge of working class militancy, the Juan

Carlos regime has reacted with all the brutality of Franco.

Troops were used to attempt to break the Metro strike, the riot police have used batons and tear gas every day in Madrid to break up demonstrations and meetings of workers.

Workers trying to hold mass meetings in church, the only place in Spain where gatherings of more than a few people are legal, have been evicted and beaten up.

Franco may be dead, but the spirit of the regime he created lives on.

WHY FRANCO'S HEIR GOT A BLOODY NOSE

THE BACKGROUND to this massive strike wave is a familiar one. The new government, formed by Carlos Arias after the death of Franco, have promised reforms but are scared stiff of making any real concessions.

The arrests, the torture and the murder of militants continues. Trade unions remain illegal; workers' parties remain illegal; strikes are illegal; mass meetings are illegal. The massive police machine which kept Franco in power remains intact and armed to the teeth.

Over the last year, the government have held down wage rises and allowed unemployment to rocket.

But the new Finance Minister Villar Mir—until recently chairman of a major steel producing firm—said recently that the working class must tighten its belt still further.

In a major policy speech on 29 December, he called for further cuts in workers' living standards.

The strike wave is a direct response to those threats.

India: 40,000 seized - in one day

IN JUST 24 hours, 40,000 Indian workers were rounded up and flung into jail last week.

Their crime was to demand their annual bonuses. They have no right of appeal.

Mrs Gandhi's regime now has 100,000 political prisoners to its 'credit'.

Having secured her position by getting rid of all opposition elements, she has got the legislature in her pocket.

The State of Emergency has been extended indefinitely, and general elections have been postponed for a year.

Every week, some basic freedom is attacked: habeas corpus has been suspended, while freedom of speech and association, along with many other rights, have been done away

Demonstrate Sunday 25 January Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London. Assemble 1pm for march to Indian High Commission.

with.

In the wake of this comes the attack on the working class: strikes are banned, inflation allowances of government employees discontinued, bonus agreements have been cancelled.

Redundancies are being forced through, and lock-outs cannot be easily fought because of massive repression.

Three weeks ago, the All India Trades Union Congress, which is backed by the Communist Party, got together with the government and the bosses. Despite rampant unemployment, the bosses pushed through a

demand for a seven-day week. This was accepted by the AITUC!

The Indian masses face a fierce and bitter struggle. With the law and the baton, Mrs Gandhi has tried to silence them.

We have to mount a solidarity campaign in Britain. The Alliance Against Dictatorship in India has called a demonstration to protest against the erosion of civil rights and to demand the release of all political prisoners.

IS members and Chingari and Socialist Worker supporters are asked to support it.

Workers and students are asked to raise the issue of Indian political prisoners in their union branches. We have affiliated to the Campaign for the Release of Indian Political Prisoners—and now we need to give it our active support.



Mrs Gandhi: now 100,000 political prisoners



The Rank and File Organising Committee is able to ensure that any collections taken for Chrysler or Standard Electric strikers get through to Madrid. Send collections to: Spanish Workers, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, N16.

IRELAND

TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND

Assemble 1.30pm, Shepherd's Bush or Metropolitan Line to G

Organised by Bloody Sunday Rally. All IS London and I

The only way
to stop
THIS...



THERE WERE some who hoped that horror at recent killings would encourage everyone in Northern Ireland to be slightly less intransigent about 'sharing power'.

But after their conference at the weekend, Paisley's Loyalist Coalition was as implacable as ever in refusing to give an inch to the Catholic minority. And they made it clear that if they do not get their way by democratic means, 'other methods' will be used.

At the same time, some experts 'in other methods'—certain of the paramilitary leaders—were using the killings in Armagh as an excuse in advance for further planned attacks on Catholic areas—and grinning with pleasure at the prospect.

Clearly, the Labour government is as far away as ever from solving 'the Irish problem'. Not that Northern Ireland Secretary Merlyn Rees gives any sign of understanding this.

Paisley put his finger on an important truth about Northern Ireland when, defending his call for a return to the old-style Stormont junta, he told pressmen that 'anything else would mean the end of Ulster'.

What he meant was that to undermine sectarianism is to undermine the state itself, that Northern Ireland needs sectarianism for its very existence.

SUPER-THUGS

At least Paisley recognises the reality—unlike Rees, who still thinks he can square the sectarian circle, and Harold Wilson, who explained to MPs on Monday that the way to bring tranquility to troubled areas was to send in the super-thugs of the SAS. Neither is willing to face facts.

As long as Northern Ireland exists, there will be sectarian hatred. And as long as there is sectarian hatred there will at least be the possibility of sectarian killing.

British people who throw up their hands in horror at this are either ignorant or hypocrites or both. Down through the years, British governments have stoked up sectarianism in Ireland for their own reasons.

It was the Tory government of William Pitt which, in the 1790s, first armed the Orangemen and used them to put down the Catholic peasantry.

It was the British establishment politicians like Lord Randolph Churchill who then 'played the Orange card' every time their position in Ireland was threatened.

Thus, when Northern Ireland came into existence, Britain was able to provide it with a ready-made set of sectarian institutions.

And Irish people have been suffering since as a result. There has been sectarian violence almost every decade with Catholics

By
EAMONN McCANN



overwhelmingly on the receiving end.

If this is not to continue, Britain must get out. That is not to say peace would fall on the land the instant the last soldier left. It would not. But neither is it likely that withdrawal would be the signal for the all-out civil war which some people forecast.

It is necessary to be clear what we mean by 'withdrawal'.

By far the biggest single British force in Ireland is the 8000-strong Protestant Ulster Defence Regiment. A 'withdrawal' which did not involve the disbandment of it and the Royal Ulster Constabulary would be a fraud, and probably would lead to something like civil war.

WITHDRAW

But a withdrawal which meant there was no British-sponsored force sustaining the state would create a new situation entirely.

There would still be violence, perhaps very serious violence, as some Protestants including the openly fascist elements would want to fight on for a return to a Stormont-style regime.

But others, including the best elements of the working class, would realise that the days of 'British Ulster', and all that went with it, were gone forever, they would begin to consider how to relate to their Catholic fellow-workers.

That division within the Protestant working class is already expressed—admittedly in a very confused and perverted way—in the bitter dispute between Paisley and some paramilitary groups.

The UDA told him sharply this week that they are not at his beck and call.

Protestant workers understand well that politicians like Paisley do not really represent their interests.

The withdrawal of the army, more than any other possible development, would encourage that clarification. It would pull the rug from under Paisley and force consideration of other options.

The Labour government can decide to stay in Ireland—which would mean a continuation of the drift to the right and no prospect of an end to the violence.

Or it can get out—which would not bring peace instantly but would at least create the pre-conditions for peace, and open up the possibility of working-class unity and an advance towards socialism.

The choice is as simple as that.

So this is 'Bandit Country'

PEOPLE in South Armagh are angry. They are angry that their area has been dubbed 'bandit country' and that they themselves have been projected as an inscrutable breed with primitive sectarian passions seething just beneath the surface.

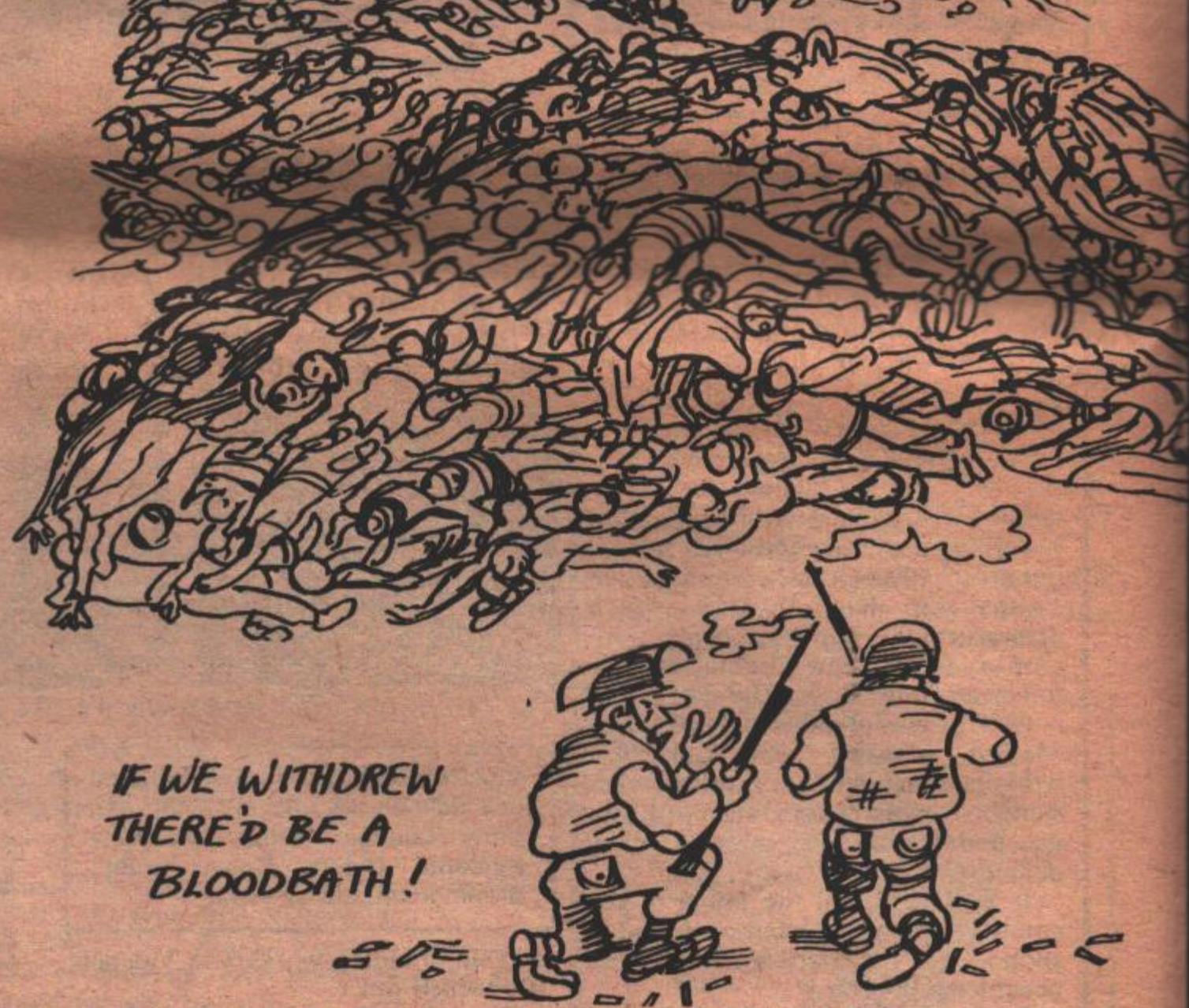
'There is not an ounce of bigotry in this place' they tell you. And, strange as it might seem to anyone knowledge of the area is derived solely from the popular press, they are speaking the truth.

Groundless

The idea that South Armagh has been a hot-bed of violence since the start of the present troubles, that it welcomed war light-heartedly, is entirely groundless. It is a striking fact, for example, that in the first internment swoop, on 9 August 1971, when 342 Catholics were rounded up, not a single man was lifted or a single house searched in the area.

South Armagh was about the only part of Northern Ireland with a sizeable Catholic population and not one person on the wanted

CENTURIES OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM IN IRELAND



list!
Violence erupted soon afterwards. Because, while there was no sectarian feeling, there was much latent nationalist emotion in the area, and this was quickly brought to the surface by the troops drafted in to enforce the post-internment crackdown on Catholics.

People in South Armagh have never thought of themselves as British. The area was never 'planted'. Its barren hills and stoney valleys had not enticed the British settlers who swarmed into a conquered Ireland in the 17th and 18th centuries.

And indeed, if you drive south from Belfast today you can still tell at a glance where Catholic country begins. Good farmland gives way to scrub.

Even those who accept the partition of Ireland are hard put to find a logical reason for the inclusion of South Armagh in the North—except that the Unionists wanted to grab as much territory as they thought they could control. And therein lies the basic reason for all the violence in the area.

The violence was continuous after late 1971,

as local youths poured into using their local knowledge, for a standstill. Their targets were

In fact, contradicting the Catholic gunmen, the first see the area came last Summer.

In part the reason 'had' Provisional truce. The int which had been sufficient to campaign could provide no p in the new situation.

Horrific

It is against that background of Republican activists, reaction of Protestant paramilitary g horrific fashion. That they did last week is to be condemned tion.

But the basic reason for Armagh is that the area lies which it does not and can nev is the radical truth of the ma revulsion at massacre should obscure.

CHOU EN-LAI

CHOU-EN-LAI, prime minister of China who died last week, joined the newly-formed Chinese Communist Party in the early 1920s when Lenin was still alive. Stalin had not yet established his iron rule over the world's Communist Parties and there was still hope of workers' revolution.

As Chou dies, the Stalinist orthodoxy has long since crumbled, partly broken by the action of Chou and his associates. For the world's Communist Parties, workers' revolution is now no more than talk.

China was the hunting ground of the imperialist powers, divided into petty kingdoms of warlords and gangsters.

But China has been transformed. The imperialist powers have been expelled, a new order imposed and the living standards of the mass of people greatly improved—even though the workers still do not hold power.

NATIONALIST

In the mid-1920s Chou was a leading figure in carrying out Stalin's policy of working with the nationalist Kuomintang. This was supposed to lead to the driving of imperialism from China.

When the Communist Party suddenly became the leadership of a massive revolt of workers and peasants in 1925, the Kuomintang—linked to Chinese capitalists—were terrified. They looked to ways to crush their Communist allies. Stalin, however, insisted that the Communist Party continue to act as a junior partner to the Kuomintang.

In 1926 Chou was transferred to the big industrial city of Shanghai. He helped lead a huge general strike and insurrection that liberated the city from pro-Western warlords. But on Stalin's orders the workers were told to welcome the Kuomintang forces of Chiang Kai-shek into the city. Chiang's army disarmed and arrested them.

SHATTERED

Chou eventually escaped but thousands of workers were killed.

The Communist Party was shattered. Its worker membership was destroyed, and Stalin now imposed a policy on the rest that ensured they went from defeat to defeat. Insurrections were ordered whatever the odds against success.

Thousands more workers lost their lives. The Party became a shadow. But those, like Chou, who refused to question Stalin's orders were rewarded with still higher



Chou and Mao: their 'socialist' regime supported the murderers of thousands of workers and peasants in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

The retreat from the Long March

positions in the party leadership.

The only part of the Party to survive as real force was the section led by Mao Tse-tung in the rural region of Kiangsi and, after the Long March, in the remote area of Yenan. There Mao built up an army, led by Communist members and manned by peasants, by offering a programme of land reform and opposition to the Japanese invasion.

Chou seems then to have been Stalin's supporter against Mao. But after 1935 he always supported Mao. He became the Chinese Communist Party's leading spokesman.

It was he who saved Chiang Kai-shek's life in 1936 in return for a new Kuomintang-Communist Party alliance. It was he who negotiated during the Second World War to get US military help for the Communist forces.

The Kuomintang armies proved too corrupt to fight seriously against either the Japanese or the Communists. They disintegrated. By 1949 Mao's forces were in control of mainland China.

MOUTHPIECE

As prime minister of the new People's Republic, Chou continued as Mao's mouthpiece, identifying the key task as 'to set free the productive forces of our country from the oppression of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism'. He again echoed Mao when he attacked egalitarianism as a 'petty bourgeois outlook which encourages backwardness and hinders progress.'

But the task of turning China into a modern industrial power proved to be more difficult than Mao and Chou had thought. An attempt to short-cut the problems, the Great Leap Forward of 1959, ended in near-disaster and Mao was removed from chairmanship of the Republic, although he remained chairman of the Party. Mao took the initiative again with the so-called Cultural Revolution of 1966-7.

MYSTERIOUSLY

His heir apparent, Liu Shao-chi, was removed from power. But the country's problems were not solved. This was shown when Mao's next heir, Lin Biao, mysteriously died amid talk of a plot with leading generals 'to kill Mao.'

During these years Chou gained the reputation of being a mildly conservative figure who avoided involvement in the great rows over China's future but was always around to ensure that the bureaucratic state machine kept functioning. He was credited with

bringing Teng Hsiao-ping back into a key position of power after Teng had been denounced during the Cultural Revolution as the number two 'capitalist roader' after Liu Shao-chi.

In international policy, Chou always acted under Mao's direction. With the Russians, he forced Ho Chi Minh to compromise with the West and accept the division of Vietnam at the Geneva Conference of 1954. He flew to Budapest in January 1957 to congratulate those who had smashed the workers uprising, although ten years later he denounced them as 'social imperialists'.

DEVASTATION

It was Chou who negotiated with Kissinger and invited Nixon to China while US bombers were continuing the devastation of North Vietnam. It was Chou too who sent greetings to Ayub Khan of Pakistan as he directed the slaughter of the Bengalis, to Mrs Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka as she crushed the revolt of 1971, who embraced the Shah of Iran or Emperor Haile Selassie, who sent aid to Holden Roberto, the CIA's stooge in Angola.

But he was no more than an instrument of policy. He presided over the modern transformation of China, a serious defeat for imperialism and the beginnings of industrialisation for a quarter of mankind.

But the leadership crises of Chou's last years, the counter-revolutionary foreign policy and widespread strikes in China all show that transformation was not enough. China's workers still have a battle to fight against Chou's successors.

NIGEL HARRIS

Is China a socialist country? If so, why does Mao wine and dine the murderous Shah of Iran, or Richard Nixon, or even Edward Heath?

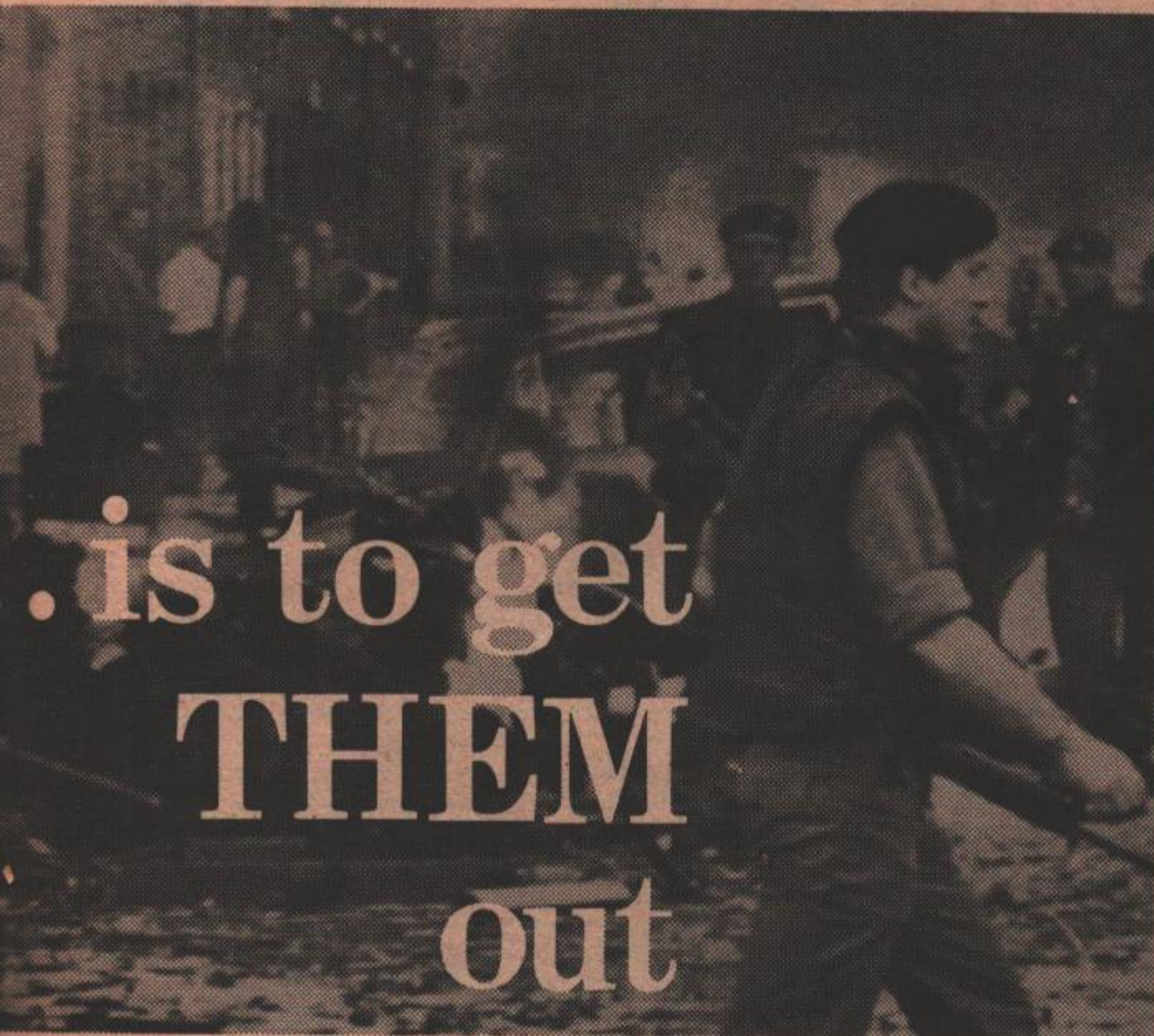
If not, how did the revolution fail? Was China ever socialist? Could it have been? What was the Cultural Revolution?

For the answers to these important questions, read Nigel Harris's in-depth analysis in IS Journal 78 (28p, inc postage), from ISJ, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

ND! Demonstrate, Sunday 1 February

Shepherds Bush Green, West London (Central Line Tube to Shepherds Bush Station, then walk to Whitecross Road; buses: 12, 49, 88)

Organised by the Communist Party of Great Britain and the Communist Party of England. Followed by Troops Out Movement and other Home Counties branches to support with banners.



...is to get THEM out

Sectarianism? I reckon it's been stirred here...

THE FIRST THING you notice at Belfast airport is how you are escorted off the plane by armed troops into the one terminal building and screened. As I drove through Newry an hour later, I noticed that where all the buildings were bombed nothing new is going up in their place.

Newry has been devastated by bombs. The highest percentage of unemployment in the United Kingdom is in Northern Ireland, and Newry has the highest rate of unemployment in Northern Ireland.

In the Bessbrook/South Armagh area, the relationships with Protestants were always very good in the past. I went to a mixed school in Bessbrooke.

It was such a close-knit community that everybody knew everybody else and everybody else's business. There's never been any racial hatred or sectarianism there before. It's not like Belfast.

By a shop steward just back from South Armagh

Stirred

I reckon sectarianism's been stirred. I don't believe anyone from South Armagh killed those people last week. It's not possible because they are all neighbours.

Even now, where my mother works, Protestant and Catholics still mix. I still drink with my Protestant friends when I go home. Some of them agree with a United Ireland, but won't condone violence.

The majority of people say they don't care what happens, so long as the soldiers get out. They want the troops pulled back to barracks and withdrawn within, say, a month. That would be the basic start of a political solution.

People haven't believed for years that the troops protect them against sectarianism. But the harassment and the killings, events like Bloody Sunday, were not expected.

As for sending in the SAS, it makes people more determined. They are not going to back down because they send in 5-600 SAS blokes.

They are stubborn people who are going to fight for their rights—including the right to rule their own country and participate with the South of Ireland when they like.

It makes them more bitter to be called 'bandits' by some bloke sitting in an office in London.

International Socialism 85

**LINWOOD 1975
PORTUGAL
UNITED STATES
ECONOMICS
KEIR HARDIE
& VICTOR GRAYSON**

Available now 28p including postage from IS Journal 8 Cottons Gdns London E2 or you can buy it from any SW seller, 20p

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the Provos and, fight the Army to strictly military. picture of rabid sectarian incidents in

do with the use nationalism sustain a military political guidelines

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presence in South within a state of feel a part. That r which natural t be allowed to

Socialist Worker NEWS...

Slide show on Chile now ready

IN March 1972 the Chilean paper El Siglo wrote: 'The Chilean experience is exciting the interest of the British people because their own perspective of achieving socialism is only possible within the constitutional framework, following a path similar to Chile's.'

Eighteen months later 'the Chilean experience' proved that that path was closed.

The election and overthrow of Allende and the Popular Unity government in Chile has many lessons for socialists. It is the other side of the coin from our own

experience of Labour government 'socialism'—health services cut, schools cut, housing cut, unemployment soaring, prices continually rising.

Now the SW agitprop group has produced a slide and tape show that draws the lessons of the Chilean road. It lasts 45 minutes, includes 125 slides, and is designed for IS education meetings and SW discussion groups. The sound track, made by CAST Recordings, includes several Chilean socialist songs.

□ CHILE SLIDE SHOW: £2 hire from Rob Lumley, Flat 4, 165 Pershore Road, Birmingham 5. Book well in advance.

WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO WORK

UNEMPLOYMENT is rising much faster among women than men, and even faster among black women.

The International Socialists Women's Committee, which met last Saturday, discussed in great detail support for the Right to Work Campaign and march. Womens Voice is already sponsoring two school-leavers on the march—Kerry Abrams and Tina Dickinson from Liverpool. A fund to raise £250 by the beginning of March has been launched.

Womens Voice supporters should organise support in trade union branches, trades councils and on the estates for the women on the march.

In the next few weeks an all-out effort is to be made to raise the question of unemployment among women in the trade union and the women's movement. Speaker's notes on the right to work for women and on unemployment are to be produced soon. Stickers and leaflets will also be printed.

In the towns on the route of the march, we need to ensure that delegations of women from factories and workplaces are there to meet it.

Money should be raised to support marchers—from everyone, employed and unemployed women.

Organise factory gate meetings, and make sure shop stewards' committees and trade union branches are approached to support the women on the march.

We aim to get 1500 women to the rally in the Albert Hall in London on Saturday 20 March. This means careful planning of nursery and creche facilities in your area now

In unions and industries with a large proportion of women members IS women will have to ensure that the problem of unemployment amongst women is challenged now. We have to start the argument now if we are to ensure that women take their place in the building of the campaign, supporting the march and attending the rally.

If you would like Kerry or Tina to speak at meetings in your area, phone Nina on 01-739 9772 to arrange times.

● ●
Sheila McGregor is moving to Birmingham as the local IS organiser until the end of March. The following people in London have agreed to take responsibility for IS women's work. They will meet once a week with Sheila in London. Right to Work Campaign: Margaret Renn at Socialist Worker Working Women's Charter Conference: Joy Leman. Abortion campaign: Jill Brownbill and Gerry Marsden. Education and cuts conference: Cheryl Nichol. Nina Streich will be working full-time in Cottons Gardens and can be contacted on 01-739 9772. For any queries ring Nina, Margaret Renn on Socialist Worker (01-739 6361) or Sheila McGregor at the Birmingham IS bookshop (021-643 5717).

□ The next IS Women's Sub-Committee will be on Saturday 7 February, 11am, in Cottons Gardens. All IS districts, branches and fractions should send a delegate.

FILM TOUR

The tour planned for the film FIGHT THE CUTS has had to be cancelled. The film is not available for other showings either.

HURRY, hurry, hurry. There are still places left for the Socialist Worker rally in Skegness next Easter. The rally is from Friday 16 to Monday 19 April, Easter weekend. The inclusive cost for adults is £16, which includes the cost of all meals; accommodation and entertainment. Children are free. Ask your local Socialist Worker seller for details now.

□ Local rally organisers MUST send in all completed forms now to Skegness Rally, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Late bookings may be too late—there is a limit on the number of places available.

KEY CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS UNDER ATTACK

THE funds of the Lancaster University Students Union are to be investigated by the authorities because of payments to—among others—the Socialist Worker Defence Fund. This was announced shortly before Christmas.

Already North London Polytechnic Students Union faces the same threat for making payments to strike funds.

Some students are beginning to fight back. Even there the authorities are attacking, with the full support of the Labour government. Police moved in at Manchester to arrest students protesting against right-wing Education Minister Reg Prentice.

These events point to the need for a strong fighting organisation of students—the sort that we in the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies are trying to build.

In a few weeks time we are holding the third NOISS national delegate conference, where our policies for the next year will be discussed by delegates and observers from all local IS Societies and other affiliated bodies. We will welcome, as observers with speaking rights, bona fide student organisations and societies interested in fighting with NOISS over specific issues.

Discussion will include overseas students, women, international solidarity work, education cuts and unemployment, NUS, and building NOISS.

□ NOISS Third National Delegate Conference: Weekend 7-8 February, UMIST Students Union, Manchester. Delegates' and observers' credentials from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN (50p each). Observers welcome

...and WHAT'S ON

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

Socialist Worker MEETINGS

CAMBRIDGE IS presents CAST Theatre Group performing their new 75-minute play SAM THE MAN (socialist Labour MPI) at the Mawson Hall, Mawson Road (off Mill Road), Thursday 22 January, 8.15pm. Tickets 40p each.

ABERDEEN SW Readers' Meetings: Every second Monday, 19 January. Introduction to Marxism, 2 February. The Economic Crisis, 8pm, Trades Council, 24 Adelphi (off Union Street, near ABC Cinema).

PAISLEY Socialist Worker Meeting: The fight must go on. Thursday 22 January, 7.30pm. Paisley Town Hall. Speakers: Tony Cliff and Chrysler workers.

EAST LONDON Socialist Worker public meeting: The CIA in Britain. Speaker: Philip Agee (former CIA agent). Thursday 22 January, 7.45pm, Lawrence Hall, Cumberland Road, E13 (five minutes from Abbey Arms, Barking Road).

HIGH PEAK Socialist Worker supporters' meeting: 1976—the way forward for socialists. Friday 16 January, 7pm, The Swan, Newton, New Mills (by A6 traffic lights). All supporters urged to attend.

BLACKBURN Socialist Worker public meeting: Unemployment—time to fight back. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 22 January, 7.30pm, New Central Library.

NORTH KENT Socialist Worker Day School: Sunday 18 January, 2pm-7pm, The Cricketers, Arthur Street, Gravesend, Kent. Topics: Reform or Revolution, The Revolutionary Party, The Rank and File Movement. All SW readers welcome.

Socialist Worker supporters in ASTMS will be meeting in Digbeth Hall, Birmingham, on Sunday 25 January. Discussion on the annual delegate conference.

PETERBOROUGH, STAMFORD, MARCH, ISLE OF ELY: SW groups meet weekly in these areas. Discussion followed by action. Interested? Ring Peterborough 68541.

TEESSIDE SW Public Meeting: Unemployment and the Labour government. Speaker: Paul Foot. Friday 16 January, 8pm, AUEW Hall, Borough Road, Middlesbrough. Employed 10p, unemployed free. All welcome.

MAIDSTONE and district, Kent. Any SW readers and supporters in this area who are interested in contacting active supporters please phone Maidstone 55614.

ASHFORD and district, Kent. Any SW readers and supporters in this area who are interested in contacting active supporters, please phone Ashford 23449.

EAST LONDON SW series of six fortnightly lectures on the Meaning of Marxism. Starting: Friday 9 January, 7.30pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, Stratford, E15.

Friday 23 January: what are the causes of the present economic crisis? Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

Friday 6 February: Is there a parliamentary road to workers' power? Speaker: Ian Birchall.

Friday 20 February: The Revolutionary Socialist Alternative. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

Friday 5 March: What is Imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris.

Friday 19 March: What is a revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Tony Cliff.

Socialist Worker EVENTS

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BLACK POWER? Forty-minute cassette of Fred Hooper, chairman of Black Workers for Collective Progress in Louisville, Kentucky, and a member of the American International Socialist. Exceptional account of the black movement in the States—and of the growing realisation among black and white workers there that theirs is one struggle. £1.60 including postage. (A CAST stereo recording) SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION. 60-minute cassette still available, also £1.60. FROM Pete Marsden, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

CHINGARI (Urdu) out this week: Use the paper in getting support and sponsorship for the Right to Work Campaign, which is given full coverage. Other articles on Pakistani political prisoners, torture in Indian jails, and what we mean by exploitation. 5p a copy from your SW seller or Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Punjabi issue also in print. CHINGARI Organisers must send in money for December issues NOW. Also articles for the next issue, including reports on how Asians in your area have responded to requests for sponsorships for the Right to Work march. Send to Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

NOISS

NOISS weekend school for southern colleges: Sessions on IS perspectives, international and student work, and practical sessions. 17-18 January, Portsmouth Poly. Phone 0705-819141 for further details.

NOISS Film Tour: Angola in Struggle. 26 January—6 February, with speaker from SW Africa Group. Full details next week.

NELP IS Society: Angola in Struggle, film and speaker. Monday 26 January, 7pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, Stratford, E14. Admission 10p.

NOISS London public meeting: US and South Africa out of Angolan Victory to the MPLA! Speakers include invited African speakers and Paul Foot (Socialist Worker). Wednesday 21 January, 5.30pm, University of London Union, (Room 3A), Malet St. London WC1 (Goodge St, Russell Square or Euston Square tube).

IS meetings

ASTMS Meeting for all IS members in ASTMS: Sunday 25 January, 2-5pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Main item—annual conference. All conference delegates to attend.

WALES IS Cadre School: Agenda includes Nationalism, Devolution, and the Right to Work Campaign. Rhydny Hotel, Cardiff, Saturday 31 January, 11am. For accommodation and further details, phone 0222-499 579.

IS Scottish Day School: for branch and district committees in Scotland: Saturday 24 January, 11am, Edinburgh Trades Council Club (Room 4), 14 Picardy Place, Edinburgh. Morning Session—Devolution. Afternoon session—Right to Work Campaign. For details, contact Geraldine Gould, 031-554 6310.

LABOUR WORKER: Ancient copies of Labour Worker, Socialist Worker's predecessor, needed to make up bound volume for SW office files. Scour your attic! We need issues 30, 32, 35-37, 39, 41-43, 50-52, 54, 58, 60, vol III issue 5, vol II issues 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, vol I, all issues except 2. Send to SW editorial, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Upton Sinclair The Jungle



THE JUNGLE is one of the great socialist novels. It's the story of the Chicago stockyards, of their owners' relentless exploitation of the workers and shameless marketing of poisoned meat.

For one immigrant working-class family, the stockyards offer nothing but apparently inevitable poverty and misery. Until the day when one of them stumbles unwittingly into a socialist meeting and begins to make sense of the chaos and horror of his life...

75p (inc postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Go of

CLASSROOMS of Resistance* is a book about one teacher's attempt to challenge the educational set-up.

This book is set against a background of struggle in the Sir John Cass School in Stepney in London's East End.

In 1971 Chris Searle, a teacher, was suspended for having the temerity to produce Stepney Words, a book of poems and prose written by the pupils.

The head and the school governors (an assorted bunch of bigoted Tory backwoodsmen) thought it painted too gloomy a picture of life in the area.

They ordered Searle not to publish it. When he did, he was suspended.

The children spontaneously came out on strike in sympathy.

He was finally reinstated in 1973, having gained the support of the children's parents and his trade union.

Classrooms of Resistance is the follow-up to Stepney Words. What interests me, as someone brought up in East London (where, as in most working class areas, school is boring and a place where you rush to get away from), is how one teacher through his concern and determination, can set on fire the imagination of his pupils.

Contrast

Children, who would ordinarily be written off as no-hopers, produce work of the highest quality.

The book is divided into sections. Dockland, its decline, the associated social problems of unemployment and hospital closures—contrasted with the huge property development in the area. South Africa and apartheid. Chile and the junta. Ulster and the role of British troops.

Not surprisingly, the response of the children is to identify completely with their sisters and brothers from other lands.

Can you imagine the impact of dissatisfied, articulate working-class children with a belief in their ability to change things, working in the factories, in the mines and docks?

This book confirms what many have always known. Working class children, given the right kind of challenge and leadership, will respond.

They will produce imaginative work and actions which augurs well in the struggle for a future socialist Britain.

Are you listening, Professor Eysenck?

EDDIE PREVOST,
a London docker

*Classrooms of Resistance (Writers and Readers Publishing Co-Operative) 95p, inc postage, from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4.

to the top our class!

They call these children write-offs
—but just look at their poems...



RICH LUXURIES

Why did Taylor Woodrow build the hotel?
When there are so many people
who have nowhere to dwell,
The Tower Hotel is only for millionaires
There is nowhere for us to live or to play.

In the Tower Hotel they have waitresses
Where we have to slave for ourselves,
They have luxuries galore
Our homes are just a bore.
They have 836 rooms in the hotel
Where we are scrambled up in about four.
Lynn Marles, 11



The flag of Chile represents
The blood of death,
The star is the star of freedom
The white is the emptiness of lonely people.
Frances Whitmarsh, 11

ON THE BOX

THURSDAY

With the present standard of TV programmes, most people are faced with two alternatives—going down the pub, or switching on the radio. For the few who choose the latter, Radio 4's THE CO-OPERATIVE IDEAL (8.45pm) on the fate of two workers' co-ops, KME's at Kirkby, and the Scottish Daily News, could be worth a listen.

FRIDAY

Yorkshire viewers can watch local Women's Voice supporters among those battling against all odds (see article on this page) to put the case for abortion on Jimmy Saville's SPEAKEASY programme (BBC North, 10.25pm).

GET THE DRIFT (BBC2) is a very funny collection of sketches and songs. Features Alex Glasgow and Henry Livings.

Scottish viewers can see (BBC-1, 8.30pm) a programme on the killer, asbestosis. CURRENT ACCOUNT features John Todd, who has been fighting for safety in the Glasgow Transport Union ladders' branch.

SUNDAY

Want to know how the middle class see workers? Watch YUS MY DEAR (ITV, 7.25pm) with Arthur Mullard and Queenie Watts as wealthy council house tenants. RED LETTER DAY (ITV, 10pm) is a series of plays on important days in the lives of different people. This week's is a comedy with a middle aged man trying to choose between his mistress and his 'old values'.

TRADE UNION STUDIES (BBC1) is on ways to dig up dirt on firms and industries. ITV's OPINION (6.15pm), a very dull programme on the rights and wrongs of violence, this week features the views of Lord Hailsham, possibly the most boring man in Britain.

MONDAY

HORIZON (BBC2) shows us how Tanzania is fighting disease. HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY (BBC2) based on the novel of the same name—said by some to be good. BATMAN (ITV, 5.20pm) is just pure, unadulterated American corn.

WEDNESDAY

Alan Plater's OH NO ITS SELWYN FROGGITT (ITV, 8.30pm) with Bill Maynard as Selwyn, looks like being a good series.

TAKE IT AS RED

by PAUL O'FLINN

TUNE IN-AND DROP OFF

Television, he thought scornfully when she'd gone, they'd go barmy if they had them taken away. I'd love it if big Black Marias came down all the streets and men got out with hatchets to go in every home and smash the tellys. Everybody'd go crackers. They wouldn't know what to do. There'd be a revolution, I'm sure there would.

THAT CONTEMPT for TV expressed by Arthur Seaton, the hero of Alan Sillitoe's novel Saturday Night and Sunday Morning, is a feeling that many on the left must have shared in frustrated moments.

You've called a mass meeting, say, to announce the coming collapse of capitalism and when only three blokes and a ferret show up you suddenly remember there's Morecambe and Wise or a Cup replay on the box...

The sheer scope and penetration of the communications media are staggering and something

that Marxists haven't fully come to terms with. Statistics just hint at the size of it all: audiences of up to 30 million for popular programmes; a radio or a television or both in more than 99 per cent of British homes since 1969; the average person watching 16½ hours of TV a week; and so on.

Granted those facts, a book calling itself *Television and the Working Class** ought to be important. Unfortunately, it's not.

It's not for at least two reasons. First, although part of the book seems an impressive survey of the literature on the subject (250 or so footnotes in less than 170 pages), it's a survey that's loaded. There's heavy reliance on right-wing theorists, but not a reference anywhere to radical thinkers about the media.

ON THE BUSES

That loading means that the really penetrating, important questions about the whole set-up of television scarcely get asked never mind answered, so the book is confined to discovering the obvious and the useless—for example, that people in

Portsmouth who consider themselves middle class claim they prefer Panorama and University Challenge to On the Buses and The Generation Game.

The second snag is that the book moves largely within the terms of a debate begun by sociologists in 1968 about the affluent worker and his allegedly increasing middle-class attitudes and values.

FADS

The authors of this book set out to discover how far workers, as they become better off, tend to adopt characteristically middle-class attitudes towards TV and its programmes.

But the fact is that the so-called affluent worker-as-bourgeois thesis has collapsed, not just under theoretical attack, but, more importantly, under the impact of history.

The idea of car workers as the new, stable, prosperous gentry (the original study was of Vauxhall workers in Luton) now seems a sick joke in a period of mass sackings and short-time throughout the industry.

To do them justice, the authors begin to realise this, so their last chapter is the best as, in a kind of postscript, they back away from their earlier suggestions and admit that 'the entire style of life illustrated in our studies and those of other people, however, rests on an economic structure under considerable strain.'

RUBBISH

What the book had clearly set out to establish as permanent shifts in working-class consciousness and tastes it ends by conceding as no more than temporary fads based on a brief boom that's now gone bust.

It leaves the authors scratching their heads and offering a few confused if interesting 'maybes' in the final pages.

**Television and the Working Class*, by Anthony Piepe, Miles Emerson and Judy Lannon (Saxon House, £5.50)

Why are studio discussion programmes so often right-wing?
Frances Merrett got a few clues while appearing on Jimmy Saville's TV programme Speakeasy

JIMMY Saville certainly is a good fixer.

When we, members of the Pontefract National-Abortion Campaign, were invited to the recording of the programme, we were told we would have the opportunity of speaking. But did we hell! He knew exactly who he was going to pick to speak even before the programme started.

We overheard the man in the control room telling him just where everyone who might want to speak was sitting. One name was that of one of our members, and even though she had her hand up to speak for most of the programme she was not picked.

Two of our members did manage to speak, but Saville twisted their words round and tried to make them look

idiots.

I was annoyed to hear one obviously middle-class woman say: 'I am very lucky to be blessed with five children and all of them in good health.'

I bet she doesn't have a clue what it is like to run out of housekeeping money on a Tuesday—as many mothers of five children and even smaller families do.

Out of the 90 people in the audience, about 40 belonged to 'Jim's Gang', as he kept calling them. He even had his sister sitting on the front row.

He pointed out the owner of the Yorkshire Post sitting in the audience, telling us what a fair man he was. But we know that his newspaper is always trying to shoot our campaign down. Jimmy Saville had the nerve to ask



us to give him a round of applause.

So here is a warning to all the people who might get the chance to appear on one of these sort of programmes—if he doesn't like your question or what you want to talk about, you won't get picked.

What a farce!

LETTERS

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

WHY WE MUST GET THE TROOPS OUT...

THE SECTARIANISM in Ireland shows what can happen when socialist politics are absent or ineffective. So the call for Troops Out is absolutely essential, but on its own it is not enough.

How can we help Irish socialists in the difficult but not impossible task of creating conditions where Protestant workers will see clearly that sectarianism is not in their own class interests?

How do we campaign in the British labour movement for industrial action, boycotts, etc, to counter any attempted pogroms?

We'll not manage anything if we don't first fight the British chauvinism typical of calls to 'bring our boys back home'.

The ineffectiveness so far of the socialist campaign means there's a widespread belief that 'our army' is in Ireland to keep the irrational and ungrateful Irish from killing each other.

The British Army is in Ireland to protect the property and profits of British and other capitalists. It's their army, and it's by fighting for their profits that the soldiers from working class homes are getting killed.—JAMES HARRIS, London N17.

TO A FANFARE of patriotic fervour from the millionaire press, the government last week sent the Special Air Service into County Armagh.

These 'hard men' are, the press informs us, 'no strangers to Northern Ireland'. In fact the SAS is a ruthless murder squad implicated in numerous murders and unattributed bombings.

The Guardian took time off calling for sacrifice to report on this sinister force. It tells of how they infiltrated the IRA to provoke atrocities and how they voluntarily undergo torture to harden up!

While the press and parliament breathe a sigh of relief that the forces of law and order are doing their job, the oppressed Catholic community knows just what to expect; more of the same old British 'solution'.

More death, more mutilation, more terror with one significant difference—the face of oppression is naked as never before. Merlyn Rees' solution may be familiar, it's called 'bombing them back to the dark ages'.—ALAN GIBBONS, Manchester.

THIS SATURDAY (17 January) a big public conference on Ireland is being held in Liverpool. In the light of the attacks by the National Front on a similar meeting in Manchester, we call on all serious socialists and anti-fascists in the North-West to attend.—FRANK CONWAY, Central Manchester Troops Out branch.

The dole: We can fight it together

I HAVE BEEN a carpenter since coming out of the forces in 1945. I have done active work in the building trade but now I am unemployed.

I learnt my trade the hard way, doing all types of work for little money. I saw in those days how the working class were treated—and we earned just enough to keep us from one week to another.

One non-union firm I remember quite well was Thorn Electrics. Being a maintenance carpenter, we did some long hours, including weekends. I was given two hours' notice for refusing to work one weekend.

Rota System

As it was past 4pm, I couldn't be sacked that day. So I got in touch with our union head office. By the next Monday, we had got the firm organised, and all building workers in the union.

Then we formed a rota system so some could have weekends free instead of working six and a half days a week. But in the end I packed it in because the workers went against what I'd tried so hard for—the shorter working week.

Now the same thing is happening today, where greed has come before your mates, when one person is working well beyond normal hours.

If you want a good wage be prepared to stand by your workmates. Don't just think of yourself, think of the next man or woman who's being deprived of a job, because it's you who can make the idle rich sit up and take notice.

Worn out

If everyone stood by their workmates it would be easy to achieve good wages for 35 hours' work, and time off to enjoy life, not like me, worn out at 53.

I am surprised to see the Labour Party doing just the same thing as

MAGNIFICENT, SW!



AN OPEN LETTER TO HAROLD WILSON

Alison is 8 —and dying. Thanks to you, her life's hardly worth living.



MY DAUGHTER, Alison Cummins, is eight years old.

You've cut her school, her home, her hospital. What a socialist policy this is.

CONGRATULATIONS, Socialist Worker. Last week's front page was great. All the readers at our factory agreed it was the best for months. 'That's the sort of front page we need,' said one. Even non-readers were straining over shoulders in the tea room to read it.

Let's see more coverage like that. We need to expose the misery this system creates. Only then can we begin to fight it.—STEVE FOREY, PHIL NAYLOR, BOB GOREHAM, JOE HALL, TGWU members, Heinz, North London.

what I would expect the Conservative Party doing—throwing thousands on the dole.

I am only one of a great number

signing on the dole, so I will close by saying: Fight all the way, we must win in the end.—BILL BAILEY, Lowestoft.

Exposed-BSC's 'fantastic' accident record

THE ACCIDENT report for just one section of the British Steel Corporation's plant in Scunthorpe listed 50 accidents for November alone. Everything from burns and bruises to strains and eye injuries.

The report's 'action taken' column is interesting. Of the 50 accidents, 20 have no comment. Sixteen have the useful suggestion to 'take more care'.

Here is just one example. 'Injury: Burn left arm. Description of accident: Grouting up soaker lid, foot slipped off girder, put out his hands to save himself, he burnt his arm on the main

lid girders. Action taken: Told to be careful when grouting lids and watch out for any oil spillage.'

That's how BSC has got its fantastic safety record! Please don't use my name.—STEELWORKER, Scunthorpe, South Humberside.

I WAS INTERESTED to see Paul Foot's article last week about the BBC News and Naval Intelligence. People

shouldn't think that bias only exists on the BBC. There's plenty of it on the independent channel, I can tell you.

That creep Michael Nicholson on News At Ten has been specialising in Angola recently, putting across 'objective' news reports about how the MPLA are a lot of Russian stooges.

Objective? Well, have a look at The Times on 3 January. There you'll see a letter about how the Russians are totally responsible for the Angolan war. The author? Michael Nicholson unbiased news reporter for ITN (though, of course, he doesn't admit that in his letter).—TV WORKER, Thames Television, London.

PAUL FOOT'S article will have come as no surprise to those lucky enough to have read an article on Britain's version of the CIA, the Secret Intelligence Service, in the New York International Herald Tribune on 23 December.

The paper quoted an 'authority' on the SIS as saying: 'Fleet Street relies on the secret vote to keep its (foreign) correspondents in the field these days.' The secret vote is the figure published for the SIS budget.—GEORGE SMITH, N London.

We need your help to get Socialism

DURING my recent stay in England I met many IS members, all of them very interested in the workers' revolution in my country, Portugal.

I was also extremely pleased to talk about life before and after the coup in a public meeting in Bedford. I wish I could express myself much better and tell your workers that what has happened in my company (we sacked the bosses seven months ago) can be done everywhere and should be done.

I want to thank all IS people who made my stay as good as being at home.

I am preparing a report of the revolution in the north of Portugal in the last couple of months, and also my ideas of a mass revolutionary party in the north.

I think that IS should concentrate a bit more on the north, and not only in Lisbon, as we have a lot to do here.

I am very happy telling Portuguese workers that I could feel the solidarity of British workers and I am sure that you will do your utmost to help us.—MARGARIDA COSTA Oporto, Portugal.

POSTAL POINTS

FOOTNOTE to last week's article on the unemployment campaigns of the 1880s: the agitation produced an upsurge of humanitarian concern among sections of the ruling class. The newly-formed Salvation Army, for instance, quickly went from strength to strength.

But this sudden humanitarianism was not unconnected with a fear that working-class poverty might lead to working-class revolution. For example, in 1886, the Lord Mayor's Mansion House Fund, set up with ruling class donations to relieve the unemployed, shot up from £19,000 to £72,000 in the two days immediately following angry demonstrations in the heart of London's clubland.—G E, Chelmsford.

CERTAIN academically-minded know-alls in the Socialist Worker office inform me that Benjamin Disraeli could not have been Prime Minister at the time of the unemployed agitation in 1887, as stated in my article last week. He had, pointed out these pedants, been dead for seven years.—PAUL FOOT.

HOW SAD to see that Paul O'Flinn (last week) failed to appreciate the profoundly revolutionary nature of Jews. To me and the 500 kids in the cinema last Sunday it was obvious that the shark is a symbol of capitalism (never heard of capitalist sharks?); that the three men in a boat are the proletariat and that the exploding gas canister is, of course, the socialist revolution. Altogether a bloody fine piece of socialist realism!—STEVE SMITH, Birmingham.

I'D LIKE to answer K Anderson's two pessimistic points (10 January). He or she says that in the chaos of revolution 'the victors will be those with the most muscle'. Precisely—the working class organised under the leadership of a revolutionary party.

K Anderson also talks about people who are 'unconvinced' about revolution. In a revolutionary situation there is no fence to sit on. You are either for the working class or against them. Comrades back from Portugal have no doubts about the possibility of workers controlling society.

Comrade Anderson realises the need to destroy capitalism but lacks confidence in the working class and shies away from revolution. That leaves you back on the parliamentary road to nowhere.—ETHEL FREEMAN, Blackburn

HALF MOON THEATRE PRESENTS

KARTOON KLOWNS In their 90-minute socialist spectacular

MUGGINS NO LONGER SOCIALISM OR BAR-BARISM

Friday 23 and Saturday 24 January, 7.30pm, 23 Alie Street, London E1.

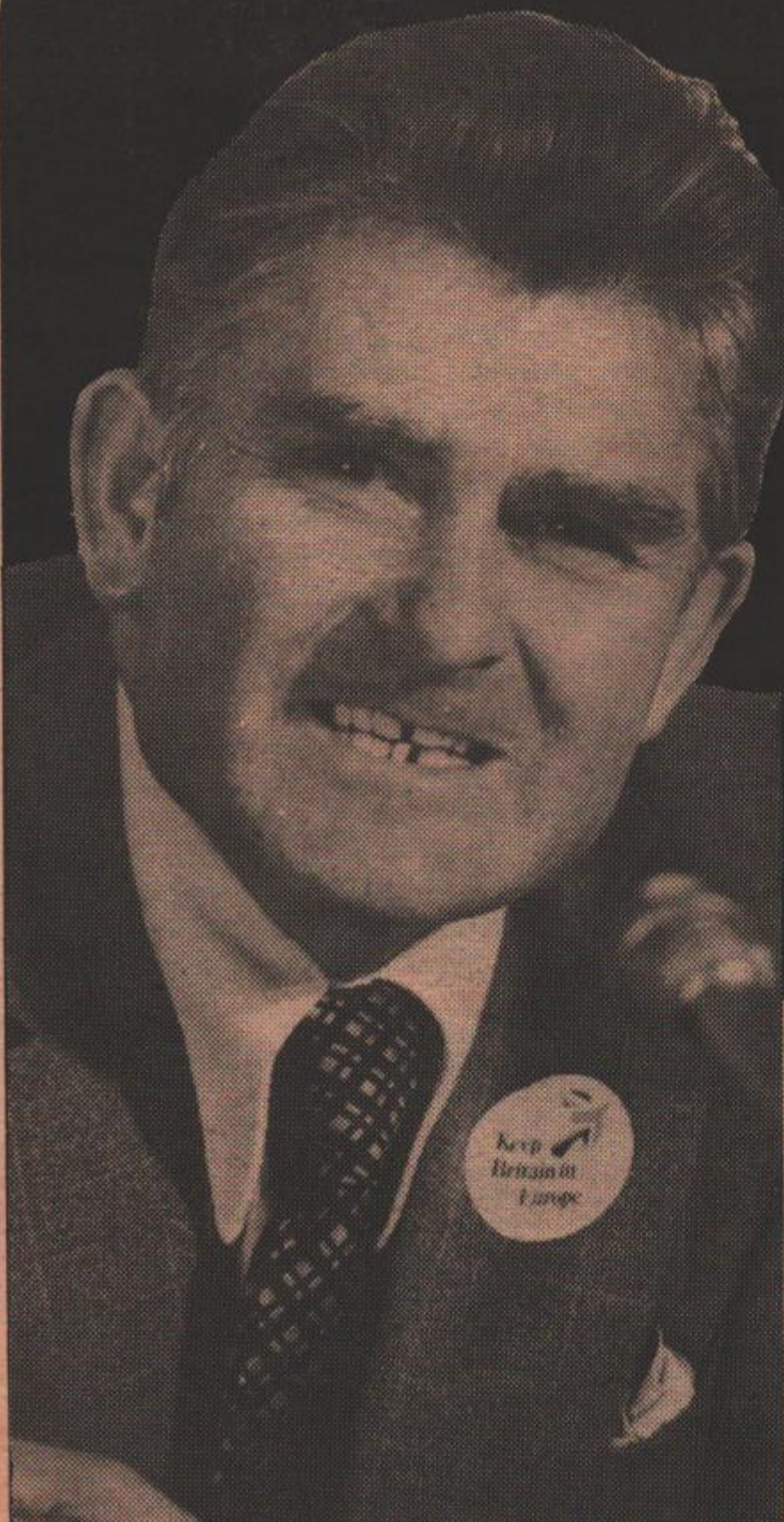
EVERY week supporters send money to the Socialist Worker Supporters' Fund. These haven't been acknowledged for the past few weeks because of the Christmas break, so thanks to all who sent money since 18 December.

Gateshead SW supporters 50p, Coventry IS £8.70, Glasgow Central Electrical Workshops SW supporters £4.65, SW supporters, Caterpillar factory, Uddington £1, Cairns Bar SW readers £4.65, Steel Radiators, Monmouth, SW supporters £8, SW supporters, Bury £6.20, North Herts IS £11, Bristol University SW supporters 60p, SW supporters, Chelsea £10, E A Edwards, Manchester 50p, New Mills, Hayfield, SW supporters £5.40, SW supporters, Manchester Poly £8.30, High Wycombe IS £2.85.

SW Fund: Thanks for your support!

Money for the Socialist Worker Supporters Fund should be sent to the National Treasurer Mel Norris at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Why is Sirs grovelling to the sirs?



Bill Sirs, secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation

WHILE steelworkers all over the country are striking and demonstrating against sackings and wage cuts, their biggest union, the 120,000-member Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, is grovelling to the employers. Every day it makes a new concession on weekend payments or on sackings.

This is nothing new. Throughout the union's history, in crisis and in boom, it has adopted the same posture: flat on its face before the employers.

Apart from the 1926 General Strike, the

THE UNIONS

on the steelmen's union

executive of the union has never called an official strike.

Only one issue in recent years has prompted the leadership even to talk of official strike action—the demand from higher management in the Steel Industry Management Association that they be allowed to join the union!

This terror of militancy has its roots in the almost total separation of the union leadership from its rank and file. All officials are appointed. Only a third of the executive is

elected every year. These elections are held in eleven trades sections, divided among eight divisions and sorted by the executive into three electoral areas. They are a farce.

The policy of the executive can't be changed except by an annual delegate conference. But there hasn't been such a conference since the union was formed 60 years ago!

Now at last, under prolonged pressure from its members, the executive has conceded a delegate conference this Easter. This has been limited, 'on grounds of cost', to one day. The union has £9 million in investments.

Class collaboration, contempt for its membership, trickery and deceit—these have been the hallmarks of the Confederation's history since its foundation.

HISTORY OF A COMPANY UNION

by Peter Ingham

THE founder of the union on New Year's Day 1917 was John Hodge, whose small union had recruited the highest-paid hand steel melters. Hodge had ambitions to control an amalgamated union of all the small steel unions.

But the small unions had democratic traditions. Each union had to agree by a two-thirds majority to any amalgamation—and any new set of rules. Hodge, in league with other union officials, proposed a confederation.

The confederation, Hodge argued, was not an amalgamation. Its foundation and its rules didn't need to be agreed by the members of all the smaller unions. So the confederation was set up, its rules written and its officials appointed without any of the union members ever being consulted!

Hodge and Co quickly brought the militant low-paid steelworkers to heel and declared a policy of 'no strikes' during the First World War. Hodge, a Labour MP, was promptly made



Steel union past secretaries and friends of the employers (from right): John Hodge, Lincoln Evans and Sir Dai Davies, with AUEW right winger John Boyd

Minister of Labour in the wartime coalition government. As Minister—and general secretary of the union at the same time—Hodge brought in the Trade Union Amalgamation Act, 1917, which made it almost impossible for the members of the steel unions to dissolve the Confederation.

Hodge also helped to launch the National Alliance of Employers and Employed. This body was set up by the big engineering and steel

employers to bring in direction of labour at the end of the war when the industrial truce ended. Not only did the Minister of Labour sponsor this strike-breaking anti-trade union Alliance, but Arthur Pugh, the Confederation's assistant secretary, joined its ruling body and urged many of the union's full-time officials to help set up its local committees.

Despite the hostility of rank and file bodies such as the National Shop

Stewards Movement and the Glasgow, Manchester and Sheffield Trades and Labour Councils, Steel Confederation organisers in Sheffield, Rotherham and Penistone joined the Alliance and its executive council in London affiliated the union. There they remained all through the bitter class struggle after the end of the First World War.

All the general secretaries of the Steel Confederation since: Arthur

Pugh, Lincoln Evans, Sir Harry Douglass, Sir Dai Davies and Bill Sirs, have carried out the policy of collaboration with the steel employers. Such bodies as the Midland Wages Board, the Steel Sheet Board, the Heavy Steel Trades Negotiating Committee—joint employer-trade union bodies—still exist much the same as when they were set up in the 1800s.

Refused

If any branch or section goes against the decision of one of these boards, then the Steel Confederation sacks the branch officers involved, dissolves the rebel branches and even expels the men concerned from the union.

As the Confederation has never had any difficulty in getting a closed shop agreement from the employers it cooperates with, usually only the threat of expulsion is needed, as the sack follows expulsion.

By this method five melting shop branches in Rotherham and Sheffield were brought into line when they refused to accept the Sunday Continuous Working Agreement in 1947. Twenty years later, branches at Corby and Scunthorpe were dissolved and officials sacked because they refused to accept so-called neutral committee findings.

But when the employers go against a joint agreement, as now over weekend working, the Guaranteed Week agreement and manning levels, then the union leadership is powerless, because it has never set out to mobilise the rank and file in retaliation against the employers.

Difficulties

Can this leadership be changed? It's difficult, certainly. Sixty years of intrigue has sealed the leadership against its members.

But the recent decision to hold a conference is a small sign of the success of rank and file pressure. Bill Sirs and all the other would-be Sirs in the executive have had the shock of their lives as steelworkers have fought back against the BSC.

Sirs and his clique must be cleared out, and a democratic union built. There must be regular delegate conferences and elected officials. Then for the first time in its history, the steelworkers' confederation will start to represent its members, not their exploiters.

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.

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

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Socialist Worker

IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

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

CHRYSLER RIGHT TO WORK ATTACKED

THE top table of the Chrysler Stoke Joint Shop Stewards Committee, tried to put the boot into the Coventry and Chrysler Right to Work Committee at Monday's stewards' meeting—and failed miserably!

The meeting was opened by Duncan Simpson, the Engineers' convenor, who complained that the Right to Work Committee, which includes Stoke shop stewards, had set up an alternative platform at the Ryton mass meeting and had attempted to 'interrupt the meeting and dissuade workers from voting for their own shop stewards' policy'.

To hammer the point home, Bob Morris, Transport Workers' convenor, pointed out: 'We have a specific policy to deal with these people.'

The specific policy that he was referring to was the power of the stewards' committee to ban a steward from holding office for five years if he goes against committee decisions. This policy was incidentally, derived from the Electricians' dispute in 1973 when dozens of stewards and their members refused to cross the electricians' picket line.

Open and Shut

What seemed like an open-and-shut case was soon destroyed by members of the Right to Work Committee, supported by the majority of the stewards.

Gerry Jones, TGWU steward, told Socialist Worker: 'I explained to the stewards committee that there were not only Stoke stewards, but Ryton stewards and shop floor members from both plants involved in the Right to Work Campaign.'

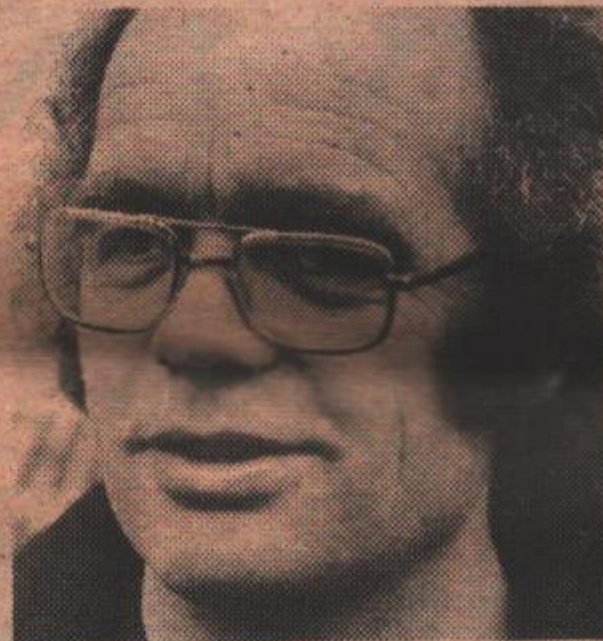
'We set up the platform at the Ryton mass meeting as part of a vigorous campaign for the right to work. There are 17,000 unemployed in Coventry and we are being sold out by our present leadership. If we don't start the fight right across the town as part of the national campaign against unemployment, then no one will, and the figures will keep on soaring.'

'The allegation that we attempted to interrupt the meeting is just rubbish. Hundreds of workers listened to our speakers before and after their meeting, but during the meeting the Ryton leadership had a completely free hand—there were no interruptions from us.'

'As to the other accusation, that we tried to sway the Ryton workers—of course we did! But we couldn't possibly have tried to sway them from their stewards' decision, because we didn't know what that decision was. The Ryton stewards were still in session, right up until the mass meeting



LEFT: Workers from Chrysler's Tilling-Stevens plant in Maidstone march in protest at its planned closure. Pictures: Andrew Ward (Report)



Ben Beaney: 'We must campaign against ALL redundancies.'

started.'

'At one point O'Gornan, the chairman, said he sincerely hoped that we wouldn't be at the Stoke mass meeting with our platform. We told him that we certainly would be there, and not only that but we would be speaking outside every factory gate in Coventry in the next few weeks and at any other mass meeting that we could.'

Millwrights' steward Dave Nesbit said: 'I told the stewards that I had experienced unemployment in Glasgow. I came to Coventry to work and there is nowhere else to run. We have no choice but to fight against this cancer and I intend to use my experience to fight in the Campaign for the Right to Work.'

'I have the right to speak on unemploy-

ment anywhere I want to, whether it's at a Stoke mass meeting or not. But when the chairman said to me he hoped we wouldn't be at the Stoke mass meeting, all I could say to him was: "Don't bet your redundancy money on that brother".'

As part of the ongoing campaign, the Chrysler and Coventry Right to Work Committee will be taking part in next Saturday's Coventry-wide demonstration against unemployment which has been called by the Engineering Confed.

Austin Banks, secretary of the Right to Work Committee, told SW: 'The Confed only called this demonstration under pressure, then they shifted it to a Saturday to try and make it a flop. They're calling on the government to make Coventry an assisted area—a fat lot of good that does

'What we have to demand is the nationalisation of those firms that can't guarantee the right to work. We have to fight employed and unemployed for the official declaration of the 35-hour week and for a complete ban on all overtime.'

'That's the way forward and that's what our slogans will be saying on Saturday. We want everyone who supports that to carry one of our placards and to listen to our speakers at the beginning of the march. See you at 10am in Priory Street, across from Pool Meadow.'

STOP PRESS: There's a rumour that Stoke Transport Workers' convenor Bob Morris has applied for voluntary redundancy. Some people were puzzled at last Monday's stewards' committee when he said of Right to Work Committee members: 'Either they go or we may as well wrap it up.' Now we understand.

"Not just our struggle... it's Maidstone's"

MAIDSTONE: 'It's not just our jobs at Tilling Stevens—it's the whole town,' said Bob Chapman, deputy convenor at Chrysler's Maidstone plant, Tilling Stevens.

The plant is threatened with almost total closure by the government's deal with Chrysler. No more than 80 jobs are likely to be saved out of a workforce of some 600.

Last Wednesday the Maidstone Chrysler workers held a mass demonstration through the town to protest against the closure. As Bob Chapman told Socialist Worker: 'We have to fight for far more than our jobs. If they shut it down all that will be left in this town are empty office blocks.'

'There are no jobs here. For example there's been one job for a toolmaker advertised in the past 12 months in the area. We've quite a few disabled workers here. How are they going to get a job? A lot of the workers here are oldish. What are they going to do?'

'We are going to fight any form of closure.'

AUEW member Dave Dury told Socialist Worker: 'It's not our fault. There's been no investment in the plant at all. Some of the machinery here was being used to make searchlights in the war.'

'There's a general run-down of jobs in the area. One of the breweries has shut down. All the Medway towns have got serious unemployment. 7000 jobs are threatened in the Chatham dockyards.'

With the Chrysler workers were other local trade unionists. Ben Beaney, SOGAT Father of the Chapel (shop steward) at Reeds Tovil, was marching together with other members of the Maidstone SOGAT branch.

'We're here to show our support for any group of workers fighting for the right to work. We want to get together with other local trade unionists to form a joint campaign to stop all redundancies.'

'It's very important that all trade unionists and unemployed workers in Maidstone get together to help in the fight for jobs at Chrysler and throughout the area.'

The battle moves to the shop floor

by Gerry Jones, TGWU steward, Chrysler Stoke.

COVENTRY About half the 4300 workers at the Chrysler Stoke plant returned to work last Monday after the worst Christmas many can remember. For some the return means a two or three-day week indefinitely. For 2300 it means only three weeks work and then the possibility of the dole queue.

The company's voluntary redundancy scheme was due to finish last Tuesday. By Thursday only 250 workers had applied. But the company has put its usual sting in the tail—the short-time working will depend on the numbers of voluntary

redundancies received.

But the real crunch comes at the end of the month when the company intends to force through compulsory redundancies. The plant leadership is vainly trying to have the period for voluntary redundancies extended until June.

But both jobs and conditions still have to be fought for. The Wilson-Riccardo deal has successfully scrapped all existing agreements. It has given the company a clean sheet to wipe out the conditions won over many years.

Already the company has proposed a national planning committee. This has been agreed by the same officials that led the sell-out on jobs. It will consist of six

members appointed by the government, six by the company, and ten by the unions—nine national officials and one plant convenor. So much for workers' participation!

The centre of the fight is now back in the sections. That's where the boot is going in.

We have to be ready to take action because every day from now on will be full of provocations from Chrysler. We must be prepared to walk out, sit-in on the sections, occupy personnel offices, use any tactics which ensure that we are not beaten by the Detroit mafia and their henchmen in the Labour Cabinet. If any section takes action, no matter how small, we must support them.

Notices and meetings

CAST, SAM THE MAN: Theatre group accepting bookings for the spring. CAST wishes to expand its group in many ways, could you help? Experience not necessary but socialist commitment and hard work essential. Forget money. Workshop starting soon. CAST 01-402 6087.

HOUSING STRUGGLE: Saturday 24 January, 3.30pm, Centro Barcol, Stoke's Road, London, NW3 Discussion, Social Revolution group.

SOCIALIST SONGWRITERS GROUP: Meets for weekend 24/25 January, to swap ideas and songs. All welcome, especially beginners. Phone 01-267 5059.

CRITIQUE Public Meeting: Monday 19 January, 7.30pm, Robert Black, German Fascism and the Response of the Comintern, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, St Clements Building, Room 5 117.

SATURDAY EVENINGS at 52 Clapham High Street, SW4. New series, 7.30pm, January 17: The Socialist Party—No Compromise. January 24: The 'Right to Work' Campaign. Questions, discussion, debate. All welcome. Refreshments available. The Socialist Party of Great Britain.

BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND CAMPAIGN (BWNIC): General Meeting at Pax Christi Centre, Blackfrais Hall, Southampton Road, London NW5 (nearest tube: Chalk Farm). Saturday 31 January, 12 noon. Lunch available. May continue to Sunday morning 1 February. All interested welcome.

WANTED: Socialist extrovert singer to join musical duo working nationally with community arts team. Phone 01-267 5059.

Black workers plan campaign

TWENTY black members of the International Socialists met in London to discuss our work and chart out our course. With the number of strikes down, it was important to strengthen links with black militants through involving them in rank and file activities.

The campaign against the Immigration Act has its ups and downs, but members have shown initiative in their workplaces whenever a black colleague has been threatened by the racist clauses of the Act.

In agitation against the National Front, we have been increasingly successful in getting the support of local black communities. We need to do more student work. It is important that the NOISS takes up the demands of overseas students and initiates action where possible.

One proposal was to make the paper Chingari bi-lingual—adding some pages in English.

Lee Kane outlined the tasks of Flame, the paper for West Indian workers, stressing that it was organisation around action in the community that was important. 'We have to earn the right to criticise by building roots in our localities,' she said.

Ways of involving the black communities in the Right to Work march were discussed. We should concentrate where we already have links, and Chingari can help here. We should be approaching the IWA, other black associations and social clubs, as well as blacks in their workplaces.

There was some controversy about how to improve sales of Chingari. There was a feeling that black IS members were expected to carry too much of the work, and if IS is serious about race work, then all members must involve themselves.

Victory for Isle of Grain sparks

KENT: The electricians at the Isle of Grain power station construction site have won. The men went back to work on Monday after management conceded all their demands. They struck before Christmas when two electricians were sacked for refusing to work on high lighting towers which had been blacked.

Now management has reinstated the men and agreed to a joint management and union safety inspection of the towers. They have also agreed to a reinvestigation of disputed jobs and a conference into industrial relations on the site.

Seaman barred over safety move

GLASGOW seaman John McGill is on the dole because he tried to get his union to fight for safety standards on board ship. The union won't do anything. The ship's owners sacked him.

Now he is barred from the 'pool', where he would normally expect to find another job. He told Socialist Worker: 'I don't expect much from the Glasgow pool. It is only a government agency for disciplining seamen. But I do expect my union to do something for me when the reason given for barring me from the register is that I called the union official.'

John was second engineer on a 900-ton coaster, the St Augustus, owned by Gardiners, a small shipping company. The St Augustus loaded wet sand at Lachaline on the west coast of Scotland. John protested that sand would move when the ship went to sea and force

the ship to list.

Worse than that, when the St Augustus was in Cardiff the Department of Trade Inspector had found the bilges could not be pumped. This meant that if the cargo moved, as it would, it would find its way into the bilges and the list would become dangerous.

The captain dismissed John's warning and sailed for Runcorn. As soon as the St Augustus was at sea, it began to list badly to port. Had the weather been bad, the ship could easily have capsized. Not long ago five seamen were washed over the side of the Lovat, another coaster, while trying to fasten down a cargo that had shifted.

At Runcorn John McGill called on his union official and asked him to have the inspector declare the ship unseaworthy. For his effort John has been sacked. The St Augustus is still unsafe. The leaders of the National Union of Seamen are doing nothing.

Locked-out Asians fight on

STOCKTON: Eleven Asian UCATT members are still locked out at Cradock Ellison's in Eaglescliffe. Black and white workers had put in for a £6 increase. The bosses persuaded the white workers to withdraw, and sacked five Pakistanis. Six others who walked out in sympathy were also sacked, and the plant manager declared they'd employ 'no coloureds again'.

This, and the conditions of extreme discrimination within the factory, are being investigated by the Race Relations Board. Messages of support and donations to: Cradock Allison Lock-out, c/o Crook UCATT branch secretary, Dave Ayre, 3 Alma Terrace, Stanley Village, Crook, Co Durham.

Hamilton: So equal pay's now LAW ...is it?

HAMILTON: 60 workers at Magnetic and Electrical Alloys have found out the worth of the government's equal pay laws. They have had to go on strike to get equal pay for 29 women staff workers.

Negotiations with the firm, owned by the multinational giant British Insulated Calenders Cables, broke down last Tuesday. The 60 strikers came out the next day and have been mounting a 24-hour picket. Differentials between male and female staff range from £4 to £7, yet MEA has refused equal pay.

Picket

Major wage anomalies exist between female staff in MEA and female staff at another BICC-owned plant, Telcon, eight miles away at Chatelhall. The Telcon workers are giving financial support to the strikers at MEA in Hamilton.

The strikers—members of TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineering Union—have the backing of the shop-floor workers. Members of the AUEW engineering section have refused to handle any goods which get through the picket.

They say they will refuse to accept any lay-offs as a consequence of

raw materials being turned away.

Stan Martin, TASS steward, told Socialist Worker: 'We have been promised official backing from the union, and we've had full support from the lorry drivers who deliver materials. They've refused to cross our picket.'

Socialist Worker also spoke to four of the women on strike—Margaret Wilson, Margaret Blair, Christina Porteous, and Katharine Fraser. They had this to say:

'The employers don't want to implement government policy and they think they can get away with it. We've only had the staff unions here for just over a year. Before we were split into little groups.'

'But now 100 per cent of the staff are in the union. And we're united in a way we never were before. The shop floor are 100 per cent behind us. It's not the best of weather to be picketing a factory, but we are willing to do it to win our case.'

Cash and messages of support should be sent to MEA TASS Strike Fund, c/o Stan Martin, 179 Dunbeth Court, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire.

Newtons strike still solid

DERBY: The equal pay strike at Newtons is as solid as ever. The picket line has cut the number of lorries supplying the factory. But the engineering workers are still crossing the picket line.

Pressure must be put on the AUEW district committee to instruct them to stop scabbing.

Support and donations to Moira Simpson, APEX Rep, 33 Washington Avenue, Chaddesden, Derby.

What a knit

Equal pay? The president of the Leicester and District Hosiery Manufacturers' Association, Mr Frank Robson, had a few words to say against it. He's arguing for a ten per cent rise, which would give male knitters £6 a week but female knitters less than £3.

'We love and value our women workers, but are old fashioned enough to believe that men have homes and families to support and should be paid more than they are'. The knitters aren't wearing it.

ETU FRACTION MEETING
Manchester, Saturday 7 February, 2pm, for IS members and contacts. Details from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

AINSLIE OCCUPATION TO SAVE THE JOBS

MACCLESFIELD: Workers at Ainslie Wire Products make barbed wire. It came in handy last week when they decided to occupy the factory.

They have barricaded themselves inside the plant which now looks like a fortress.

The foremen, management and one blackleg are locked out. 'We are fighting for the right to work and the right to join the union,' Terry Shufflebottom, the Engineering Union convenor explained.

The 14 men had been working an average of 94 to 96 hours a week in the six months before Christmas. They had to work overtime, since the basic wage was only £28. They were fed up with this, so they discussed putting in a claim.

After a meeting in the basement kitchen, they decided to join the AUEW at the next branch meeting. 'We didn't know any other way of joining the union', they said. A blackleg rattled to the management the next day—and eight of them were handed a week's notice.

APPEAL

The boss claimed that all orders had been filled and there were none coming in. The truth is that the management was moving plant to a new factory at Poynton and using redundancy to get rid of the old workforce.

The Manchester Right to Work Committee is supporting the occupation. Collection sheets have been organised by the Committee to appeal for support from engineering factories in the area.

Right to Work Secretary, Bobby Burds, told Socialist Worker that the Ainslie struggle was one of the most important in Manchester. He added: 'These lads are showing the way in this area by fighting their redundancies with a militant occupation.'

'It's a crime that Ainslie can get away with working the lads 96 hours a week and then sack them when they try to organise. There are people on the dole that should have jobs, while these blokes work decent hours. We're right behind them.'

Donations and messages of support can be sent to Terry Shufflebottom, 20 Leadbeaters Road, Macclesfield, Nr Stockport, Cheshire.

Blackman's lock-out

By members of the Sheet Metal Workers Union at Keith Blackman's

NORTH LONDON: Management at GEC's Tottenham plant, Keith Blackman's, have now locked out all union members.

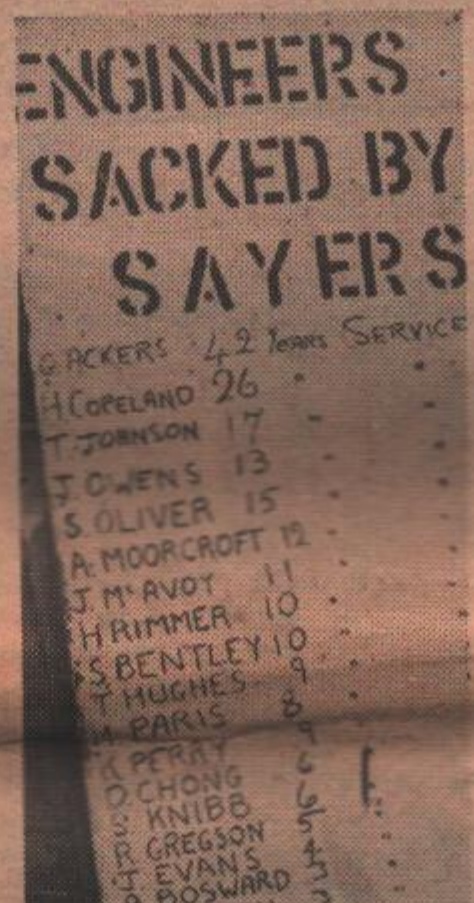
GEC victimised a TASS steward. This resulted in an official strike of TASS storemen. Management then 'laid off' 320 works and office staff, until the unions accepted the original sacking.

A defeat for the Blackman unions would threaten our organisation throughout the country. This applies particularly to those in TASS, but for any union member in a GEC, Marconi, Elliott, AEI, or Cannon factory. A defeat in one part of the multi-national gives Weinstein's mafia the confidence to go for more blood.

At Blackman's last May in just 36 hours a united, militant occupation forced a total GEC climb-down on a similar victimisation. But this time the Shop Stewards' Committee seem to have accepted management's terms. A TASS picket is the only sign of a real response to management's attack.

Though many rank and file members have talked of May's success, there has been no lead which could produce a similar decisive victory.

Got something to hide, then, Mr Sayers...



Yes, he has got something to hide. He's Bill Sayers, head of the Liverpool bakery firm and an enemy of trade unionism. But the engineers and electricians (centre left) now on strike at his bakery can stop him in his tracks.

LIVERPOOL: 20 engineers and electricians are on official strike at Sayers Bakery in a dispute which threatens trade union organisation throughout the big Merseyside baking firm.

The men were sacked last November for threatening to support bread van drivers who were in a pay dispute. The support was never necessary, because the van drivers voted to return. But an arrogant management insisted that all the men should report for work by Sunday midnight.

Instead, the men reported on the Monday morning. Instantly, Engineering Union steward Joe Connolly and two other union representatives were sacked.

The engineers and electricians came out in support—and they, too, were sacked. They have been on strike ever since, manning a picket through the day and night.

The strikers have the official support of the engineering, electricians' and sheet metal workers' unions. But they are

sold out repeatedly by the Transport and General Workers' Union regional officer, Dick Palmer.

'Time and again,' says Joe Connolly, 'we stop a lorry or a van, and the driver rings his office to ask about a dispute. He is told that his union isn't in dispute with Sayers. Now, of course his union isn't in dispute. But we are—officially and all for supporting T&GWU members! If Palmer had given us an ounce of support, we would have won this strike by now.'

Why the press are out for Thornett's blood...

BEWARE OF THE MOLE . . . SQUARE UP TO COWLEY EXTREMISTS . . . STOP THE MOLE.

That is how the Daily Mirror, Mail and Express have treated the elections at British Leyland's Cowley Assembly plant for the posts of seven deputy senior stewards.

After their success in interfering in the ballots in the engineering and electricians' unions, they are now trying to sway factory and branch elections.

They fear the possibility that Cowley workers may elect militant trade unionists with a good record of fighting for their members.

TEACHERS STRIKE AGAINST THE CUTS

1500 BARNSELY teachers struck on Monday to protest against planned education cuts.

The cuts would include halving evening classes, reducing teacher/pupil ratios, abolishing swimming lessons, all nursery schools and music tuition, cutting school maintenance and repairs by half, and closing all school libraries!

Officially there are now 4000 unemployed teachers nationally. But the real figure is probably twice this, since many teachers do not register at the employment exchange.

There is worse to come. A recent government circular recommended further cut-backs. The Inner London Education Authority, which usually takes on 2000 newly-qualified teachers every year, plans to employ only 250 next year.

By Anna Deason, NUT

The National Union of Teachers is doing nothing but attend protest meetings where like Mr Alf Wiltshire, NUT president-elect, at the Barnsley meeting, they describe the cuts as 'disastrous and savage'.

A Campaign Against Unemployment in Education, affiliated to the National Right to Work Campaign, is organising a delegate conference for all workers in education.

Letters of invitation, delegates credentials and further details from the Education Cuts Conference Standing Committee, 18 St Agnes Close, London, E9.

Those trade unionists are opposed by a right-wing slate put up by the Transport Workers' Union, senior steward, Reg Parsons.

Management say they will not recognise Alan Thornett, one of the candidates, even if he is elected. It is a basic principle of trade union organisation that workers have the right to choose their own representatives, without management interference. Instead of fighting for Thornett's right to stand and be recognised if elected, Reg Parsons has led the press witchhunt.

Parsons and Leyland have found yet another ally, Harry Urwin, Jack Jones' deputy in the Transport Workers' Union, chose the day before the elections to call for an end to 'unnecessary disputes and stoppages.'

He wrote in the union newspaper: 'The message is clear for Leyland and its workers. Unless the volume of production is raised, unless unnecessary disputes and other interruptions are eliminated, there is no point in investing more money.'

The same threat has been made by senior Leyland management, who are now demanding massive increases in productivity. This means, of course, even more job losses at Cowley and at other Leyland plants.

Harry Urwin is also a member of Lord Ryder's National Enterprise Board, which is responsible for the payments to Leyland.

In a conflict between his job on the NEB and his responsibility to defend his members' jobs, Urwin knows which side he is on.

Socialist Worker has had many disagreements with Alan Thornett in the past about tactics in Cowley.

In his principled stand against the right-wing Parsons' leadership, and on his fight for Cowley workers to choose their own representatives, we unreservedly support him.

Sayers have moved fast to fill the strikers' jobs with scabs supplied by the SOS jobs' agency. At least two engineers are already up for expulsion at their union branch.

As Joe Connolly says: 'We get a lot of support from branch secretaries and working members of all unions. But full-time officials don't seem interested.'

Flowers

As the Liverpool Free Press revealed this month, some of the scabs are even living inside the factory—in caravans. We intercepted managing director Billy Sayers as he went into the factory, but he didn't want to talk to us. He just raised his bunch of flowers and ran away.

The Liverpool labour movement must not allow Sayers to get away with this blatant victimisation. If the company is not blocked, and if the scabs are allowed to work, the strikers could be beaten.

And that would give a boost to every boss in Liverpool who wants to smash the union in his workplace.

Avonmouth solid

AVONMOUTH: Strikers fighting redundancies at Commonwealth Smelting have voted 500-15 to stay out for an 11th week.

Cardiff and Bristol dockers are blacking zinc ore. A mass picket is being called for Friday 23 January. The strikers, members of the Transport Workers Union, hope for support from the dockers, Rolls Royce and British Airways Corporation.

Messages of support and cash to Mike O'Dea, 10 Eldon Terrace, Bristol.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

BARBARIANS!

ONE OF BRITAIN'S biggest local authorities is planning to cast several hundreds of its poorest people into permanent darkness and cold.

Orders have gone out from the senior officials at Strathclyde Regional Council, which covers half of Scotland, to stop payments to poor families for light, heat and electricity.

In many cases payment has been stopped, even though the cheques for electricity bills have already been made out! As a result, more than 1000 families in Strathclyde will have their electricity cut off.

A memorandum written on 19 December by W Willemse, the council's 'liaison officer', called for 'drastic cuts' in spending on poor families who sought relief from the council.

This relief can only be given if the council saves money by giving it.

Memorandum

In the past, the council's logic was simple: people evicted because they couldn't pay the rent would have to be rehoused—so it cost the council less to pay the rent. Cutting off electricity meant taking children into care—so it was cheaper for the council to pay the electricity bill.

The council made available sums of money for rent and electricity known as S12.

But the memorandum says the council's average S12 spending this year has been £23,000 a month. So there is only £4000 left for the next three months!

Hence the words written in longhand across the bottom of the front page: 'NO ELECT BILL TO BE PAID UNLESS LIFE OR DEATH (ELDERLY OR BABY)'.

A social worker in Glasgow told Socialist Worker: 'This means we can only pay the bills for very old people or for families with new-born babies. But most people whose bills we pay don't fall into these categories.'

Dispossessed

'Almost all the cases I deal with are large families from the poorest sections, all of them unemployed. These people are just going to be cut off.'


'Electricity is becoming one of our greatest problems. In many Glasgow council estates, heating the flat costs more than the rent. People just can't pay.'

Social and council workers must resist with the full strength of their trade unions any attempt to do still further damage to the old, the sick and the dispossessed under their care.

Electricity boards should be picketed and occupied. Cutting off electricity because the bill can't be paid must not be tolerated.

If these cuts are accepted, we will be back in the dark ages.

Council orders cuts - and hundreds of poor families face winter in the cold



STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL
CORPORATION OF GLASGOW - SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMO

19th December 1975

From: Mr. W. Willemse, Liaison Officer

To: Mr. R. Winter, Divisional Director
c.c. Organisers, District Managers,
Principal Admin. Officer

SUBJECT: S12 Expenditure - November 1975

Enclosed are the monthly figures on the above.

As requested by you I calculated how much of the allocated S12 money is left for each Area Team to spend in the remaining four months of the financial year 1975/76 on the basis of the expenditure in the last four months.

In order to stay within the budget the S12 expenditure has to be cut drastically.

Calculation

Total amount allocated 1975/76	£169,344
Spent so far (1 May - 30th November)	£133,801

Left to spend in 5 months December's expenditure (expected) £ 35,543

Reserved for Central District (homeless cases) £ 12,000

Left to spend for remaining 4 months £ 23,543

On the basis of average spending this means:

£ 35,543	£ 12,000
£ 12,000	£ 12,000
£ 23,543	£ 16,000

Handwritten note: No more bills to be paid under law of (slaves of baby)

SHIVERING IN THE DARK...

THE BOMBSHELL from Glasgow comes at a time when high fuel bills are causing havoc in working class areas all over the country. This week the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux issued a

paper with horrifying evidence of the tyranny of the Electricity Boards. A single working mother on a low income got an electricity bill for nearly £90. About two months later, she had £40 to pay. She was cut off.

A father, unemployed for nine weeks, managed to pay off half his electricity bill. He applied for help from the Social Security department, and was waiting to be visited about the possibility of a grant. He was cut off.

A farm worker, whose wife was expecting her third child, owed nearly £80 when he was cut off. The reconnection fee is £50. He is paying both back at £5 a week. He finishes paying next July.



By Maggie Jones
THE ANGRY reception for Gloucester City councillors as they arrived at the annual Civic Ball last Friday.

The demonstrators were enraged that they are expected to accept cuts in education, health and social services while 280 local bigwigs enjoyed the £600 night out on the council.

The local Labour Party passed a resolution forbidding their councillors to attend the binge, but only one or two paid heed. The rest were greeted with shouts of 'Scab!'

The car of Sally Oppenheim, the local Tory MP, collided with another guest's car as they scrambled to get to the door.



That's enough from you, my boy: Gloucester's mayor gets a little upset at being exposed...

£10,000: We need your support

£10,000 by May Day. That's the target for the International Solidarity Fund we've just launched.

We'll need every penny to finance the work we plan: to organise practical solidarity with those struggling in other countries, with Spanish and Portuguese workers, with political prisoners in India and Chile, with the MPLA in Angola.

Our running costs for international work are far higher—£20 a month to send material into Spain alone, and we send our publications to 46 countries around the world.

Every report SW carries from Portugal costs £8 to send. And we have to support two full time workers there as well.

Travel costs are soaring, but we have to put more effort than ever into organising delegations to meet revolutionaries from other countries.

In the next two months we're producing a number of foreign language editions of IS Journal—in French, Spanish and Italian.

We're paying for Chris Harman's book, *Bureaucracy and Revolution*, to be translated into Portuguese.

A new pamphlet, the English edition of *Livros do 25 Novembro*, is coming out next week, and we're financing the NOISS pamphlet *The Struggle for Angola*.

So we're going to need a lot of money. And we're relying on SW readers and supporters, as well as branches and members of IS, to help us raise that £10,000.

We received £73.13 this week, bringing the total since the beginning of December to £1944.61. That's leaves us £8056 to get. So dig deep now.

Our thanks to: S Downes £4, Hammersmith SW Supporter 60p, Cambridge SW Jumble Sale £10, M Hughes £54.63, J Evans £1, S E Hart £1.50, Sale of Journals £2.

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

Cardiff busmen strike

CARDIFF: After three months of fruitless discussion, Cardiff City busmen struck at midnight on Saturday. City council officials, ignoring their own dispute procedure, introduced a revised route, taking in the notoriously narrow and dangerous Blanche St/Broadway junction.

Angry local residents regard the area as a death trap, even without the buses. They recently lobbied the County Council and demanded that traffic lights be installed. They were told it would cost too much—about £1000. So safety gets slung out of the window, as well as agreed negotiating procedures.

Nevertheless the busmen are solid. Ron Childs, Transport Union secretary said: 'The strike will continue as long as transport chiefs stick to the City Council decision to use this route.'

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