

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

ON THE DOLE WITH LABOUR



Saturday's march against redundancies and unemployment organised by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions in Coventry.

THIS WEEK 90 businessmen, dukes, duchesses, viscounts and assorted parasites flew to Bahrein on the first scheduled flight of the Concorde. **1,430,369 - and still going up**

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These are the men we must force out of Britain

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Six young women in dresses specially prepared by the Queen's designer stuffed them with caviar and Chateau Mouton Baron Philippe—at £4 a bottle.

The same day, Minister for Un-

employment Michael Foot announced that 218,911 people joined the dole queues in December—that's 10,000 sacked every working day!

The Concorde so far has cost more than £1,000 million pounds in taxpayers' money.

Meanwhile, the Labour Chancellor is preparing to save half that much by cutting schools, hospitals and public transport.

Every Concorde which flies for British Airways will be subsidised to the tune of £5 million a year. If British Airways get the 20 planes they want, that's £100

million a year of taxpayer's money.

At the same time the Labour government has forced up electricity prices to 'save' half that in 'subsidised' electricity. Tens of thousands of families face having their supplies cut off. In the era of Concorde they are being advised by social service officials to buy storm lamps!

That is the picture of Labour's new Britain in a nutshell: a Britain of luxurious playthings for the rich and the loss of the most basic necessities for the poor.

Two more MPs support Right to Work Campaign

TWO more MPs have pledged support for the National Right to Work Campaign of the Rank and File Organising Committee.

Eric Heffer, MP for Liverpool Walton, and Maureen Colquhoun, MP for Northampton North have joined Harry Selby of Glasgow and Brian Sedgemore of Luton.

Maureen Colquhoun says in her letter: 'Thank you very much for writing to me about the Right to Work March. I am very glad to sponsor it and if you will let me know exactly what is going to happen in Northampton on the 15th and 16th March, I shall hope to be able to meet the marchers'.
Among the trade union bodies



ERIC HEFFER

which have agreed to sponsor the National Right to Work Campaign are Massey Ferguson Joint Shop Stewards Committee, Manchester,



MAUREEN COLQUHOUN

Borg Warner Joint Shop Stewards Committee, Letchworth Feniger and Blackburn Shop Stewards Committee AUEW

branches in Letchworth, Blackburn, Fords at Dagenham, Ealing, Coventry and Manchester. UCATT branches in Northampton and Wolverhampton, EETPU branches in Cardiff and Edinburgh, ISTC number 1 branch in Greenwich, Cambridge NUR, TGWU branches in West Houghton and at Manor House Hospital, North London, Lambeth NALGO executive, CPSA London Region Number 4, NUPE North Hammersmith Health branch, ASTMS Durham and Tyneside Health Service branches, Number 9 divisional council of ASTMS, NUPE at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, London and Cardiff, Greenwich and Bangor Trades Council.

It's just plain butchery, Labour!

THE LABOUR government are ordering Glasgow District Council to slash its spending by £13.4 million—and so throw 2000 local authority workers on the dole.

The news follows last week's expose in Socialist Worker of plans by Strathclyde Regional Council to cut social services in the Glasgow area, so forcing thousands of poor families to face the winter without electricity.

Weakest

These moves mean a savage attack in an area of notorious public services and high unemployment. And yet senior Labour councillors, MPs and local full-time trade union officials have decided that the Labour-controlled District Council, instead of fighting these cuts, should go cap in hand to the government.

That 'strategy' was dreamt up at an emergency meeting last Sunday. The leader of the city's Labour



Flashback to last week's Socialist Worker.

administration, Baillie Dick Dynes, said afterwards: 'I am quite hopeful that a compromise can be reached. If we don't get help from the government, we shall just have to do the best we can ...'

There is an alternative to this nonsense. Glasgow council workers have enormous power. Building and cleansing workers, clerical and administrative staff,

have proved in the past how indispensable they are. But their struggles over the last year have been in isolation from one another.

There is a desperate need now for a public sector alliance that can unite them in the fight back. Initial moves have been made to set up a confederation of public service unions in the Glasgow district council.

Militant

But the necessary unity will never be built by the local trade union leaders on their own. It needs pressure from below, through a linking up of shop stewards' and department committees.

FIGHT THE CUTS!

Socialist Worker Public Meeting

Speaker: Jimmy Ross (Glasgow teacher), Chairman: John Glenn (EETPU shop steward, Glasgow Central electrical workshop).

Thursday 5 February, 7.30pm, City Halls, Albion Street, Glasgow.

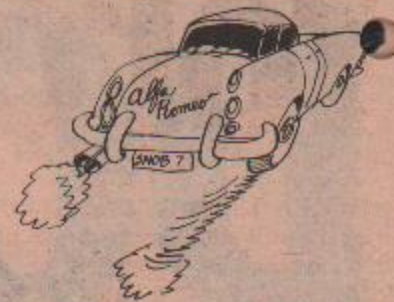
THE ADVENTURES OF SEBASTIAN FILCH



LAST WEEK, we broke the sad news of the death of Sebastian's Great Aunt Jemimah. Her death caused great grief to her husband, Sebastian's Uncle Nigel, who was dying of gout on his 700-acre farm in Kent. Uncle Nigel told his dotting nephew that he was thinking of retiring in some luxury hotel in the Bahamas.



The local Council want to buy the farm, mumbled the sick old man. 'They haven't mentioned a price.' 'Oh, no uncle, you don't want to sell to the council,' said Sebastian. Before Uncle could say anything, Sebastian was rushing down the drive in his brand new Alfa Romeo.



Next day, Sebastian was back at uncle's farm, with a distinguished guest, Lord EASIRIDER. Lord Easirider, said Sebastian, was chairman of a company which looked after the interests of old age pensioners in the printing industry. If Uncle would sell the land to this company, the pensioners would benefit enormously. The only other shareholder in the company was Sebastian Filch, Esq. Uncle Nigel jumped at the chance. He sold his farm for £3 million, and went to the Bahamas.



The next day Sebastian wrote a letter to his friend, Robin Gazumper, an estate agent, who was chairman of the county council. Unless the council bought the farm for £7 million, he wrote, the new owners would have to sell it elsewhere.

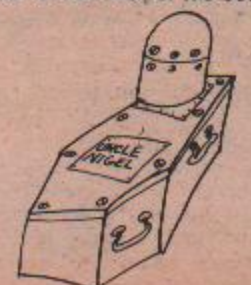
Gazumper called a special meeting of the council, which consisted of himself, the secretary of the planning committee, Mr L Gazumper, and the chairman of the housing committee, Mr G Gazumper, a valuer. They agreed to buy for £7 million.

BINGO!!



So it was that Lord Easirider's pension fund made a profit of £2 million—and Sebastian made a profit of £2 million. He immediately donated £5000 to Aims of Industry; £2000 to Common Cause; and another £5000 to the Campaign to Get Sebastian Filch the Tory candidature for a safe seat in Kent.

He didn't forget his family. When Uncle Nigel died he contributed £5.83 to the cost of his coffin.



A VICTIM OF POLICE THUGS

- ◆ Dragged from his home—and beaten up twice
- ◆ Dumped almost unconscious on his own doorstep
- ◆ The final insult — charged with being drunk



EUREL JAMES

Picture: Dave Evans (F.L.)

FOR MEDICAL reasons, Eurel James doesn't drink much. He made an exception at Christmas—and lived to regret it.

While millions of people were relaxing and enjoying themselves, Eurel was being dragged from his home by police and twice beaten up.

The story begins early on Christmas evening. Realising he had had too much to drink, Eurel's family put him to bed. In the struggle to get him up the stairs, his 15-year-old daughter got a knock.

Panicking, the family called an ambulance—and were amazed when it arrived with two policemen.

The policemen returned an hour later and, without explanation, burst into the house and dragged out Eurel.

He was taken to Thornhill Road police station, where he claims he was so beaten about the chest that he blacked out.

Ineffective

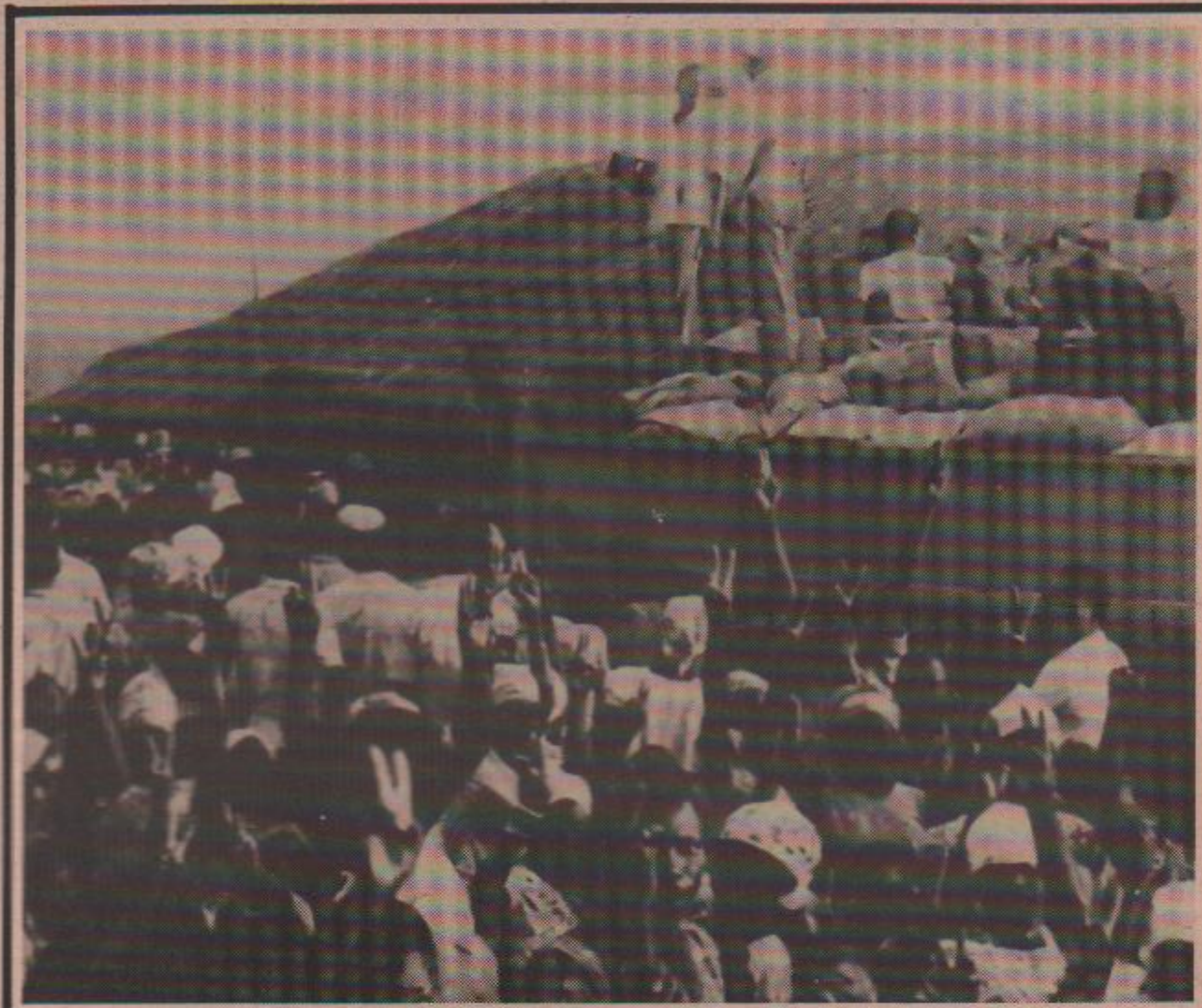
Eventually, he came to—only to be told he'd been arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

A police doctor examined him and said he was bruised but couldn't explain how.

Eurel refused to sign a statement. He paid £10 bail and made his way home. At the corner of Thornhill Road, he was violently sick. Meanwhile, a car pulled up and two men in plain clothes got out.

They pushed him into the car face down on the backseat and beat him up. Then they dumped him outside his house, where his wife found him semi-conscious the next morning.

Two doctors have verified that he has internal chest injuries. Hospital X-



rays have shown a minor fracture of the ribs. He hasn't been able to work for the last two weeks.

Eurel's daughter, though suffering from only slight injuries, was kept in

hospital for observation. While there, she was visited by the police, who tried to get her to sign a statement that her father had beaten her up.

Eurel James' case comes to court next Monday. The Black Parents and Youth Movement, and supporters of Socialist Worker, Flame and Chingari, will be organising to ensure that this case gets maximum support from the local West Indian and Asian communities.

What you can do:

Come to a meeting in Lozells Social Development Centre at 9pm on Sunday 25 January organised by the Black Parents and Youth Movement.

Picket the Law Courts in Corporation Street 1pm, on Monday, 26 January.

'Unreasonable', let him die...

FRANK STAGG, a former Coventry bus driver, is dying. He is 'dangerously ill' in Wakefield jail, Yorkshire, after 37 days on hunger strike. He is demanding to be moved to a Northern Ireland prison.

Frank Stagg was imprisoned for conspiracy to cause explosions at a time when there hadn't been any explosions. No explosives were found at his home. The only evidence against him was a street map of Coventry.

He has been in solitary for most of

his sentence, and now his family have been refused compassionate visits because they won't persuade him to end the hunger strike.

Home Secretary Roy Jenkins has described the request for transfer to Northern Ireland as 'too unreasonable'. Yet last year 12 Loyalist and four Republican prisoners were granted transfers.

Frank Stagg's case is due to come before the European Court of Rights in Strasbourg.

ANGOLA: THOUSANDS GREET THE MPLA...

The MPLA liberated this village after those well-known freedom fighters and allies of South African apartheid, the FNLA retreated.

MPLA forces now have to deal with an estimated 5000 white South African troops spearheading Unita forces in Southern Angola.

THE 'DO NOTHING' MEN

UNEMPLOYMENT will remain above the one million mark for the next four or five years, say the TUC economic advisors, according to *The Observer* on Sunday.

Earnings are now trailing well behind prices, the government's own figures revealed on Monday.

Yet the leaders of the TUC are not budging in their support for the government's policies. Apparently, at the meeting of the National Economic Development Council last week the TUC joined the bosses' organisation, the CBI, to give 'broad welcome' to the government's in-

WHAT WE THINK

dustrial strategy.

Yet Chancellor Denis Healey has made it clear that his strategy means a wage limit next year even lower than the present £6. By the time the next phase of his incomes policy comes into effect in July, prices will still be rising at 15p in the pound. He wants to restrict wage increases to 7p in the pound—before tax.

That means *falling* living standards, *fewer* goods bought, *more*

unemployment.

Almost all the official leaders of the trade union movement are acquiescing in this policy. From Jack Jones through to Frank Chapple they are telling us to 'be moderate', to 'give the government a chance'. Yet if we follow their advice we will all be worse off in a year's time than we are now, and in four years time large numbers of us will still be queuing at the dole offices.

There could hardly be better proof of the need for a *rank and file* campaign for the right to work, regardless of such so-called leaders.

... AND THE NATIONALIST DEAD END

IN Scotland opinion polls now indicate that the Scottish National Party has more support than any other political party.

Two Labour MPs have jumped on the nationalist bandwagon and are setting up a Scottish Labour Party. Parliament has just spent four days discussing whether to give some limited power to Scottish and Welsh assemblies through devolution.

What should the attitude of socialists be?

The nationalists claim that the workers of Scotland and Wales are exploited by 'the English' and that independence would end this. There is no substance in this. The working classes of Scotland and Wales are exploited all right. But they are exploited in exactly the same way as workers in England, by the same ruling class.

Firms such as Chrysler, or the giant corporation ITT, look on bending national governments as part of normal business practice. In Chile, ITT paid millions of dollars to overthrow Allende's government.

Why we must force the CIA out!

'WHEN I heard of the death of Richard Welch, the chief CIA man in Greece, I thought of the thousands—no, it must be hundreds of thousands of people from other countries who have died slow, painful deaths at the hands of the CIA'. Philip Agee, one of the men at the centre of the arguments over the American CIA spy network told *Socialist Worker* on Monday.

Agee used to be a CIA agent, but broke with the agency when he realised what it was doing. Since then he has devoted himself to exposing its methods.

Outgoing US ambassador to Britain, Elliot Richardson, said last week that CIA men in Britain had only an information-gathering role. Agee explained what is really involved.

The CIA is collecting information on the left, particularly the left in the trade unions. It's compiled here and sent to the US. At some point the decision will be made by someone outside the CIA, the president, to take action on the basis of the information if the situation is considered dangerous for US business.

It has been revealed that the CIA gave £3 million in bribes to Italian politicians. They wouldn't hesitate for a minute to do the same here. There's always been an intimate relation between the CIA and their British counterparts.

Ford and Kissinger have stated that they need to keep the CIA, so they can continue to act in situations like Chile. The logic of the CIA is to install one Pinochet after another.

Exposing

'I don't believe anyone should be shocked or surprised of people exert counter-violence against the CIA.

'But from my point of view, the purpose of exposing CIA agents is not to kill them but to get them to go home. They won't get killed in Virginia. The addresses of CIA agents should be given so that they are forced to go.'

Socialist Worker agrees. The CIA is an organisation much bigger, much wealthier and much nastier than the so-called 'terrorists' you read about in the papers. It admits to being involved in the murder of the first leader of the independent Congo (now Zaire) Patrice Lumumba. It admits to planning the overthrow of Allende in Chile. It admits to having tried to murder Fidel Castro with Matia support. It admits to having paid



Chile after the CIA: The wife of a trade unionist learns he has died under Pinochet's torturers.

Here's where they are...

Socialist Worker printed the names and addresses of some of the CIA agents working in London three weeks ago. We reprint them here. We believe this to be essential if a campaign is to be built up to drive out these hired murderers of big business.

The top man in London is **CORD MEYER Junior**, of 24 Eaton Place, London SW1. His top assistants are: **Joseph C Then**, of 39 Montague Square, London W1; **William M McGhee**, of 11 Chester Square, London SW1; **George W Ford**, of 9 Kynance Place, London SW7; and **Robert Hopfl**, of 138 Albany Drive, Pinner, Middlesex.

Holden Roberto of the FNLA 12,000 dollars a year to disrupt the Angola liberation movement.

After Allende was killed, the Labour Party invited his widow to address the Labour Party Conference. Harold Wilson and James Callaghan joined in the standing ovation for her. Yet all the while they knew that the killers of her husband had numerous agents in London, who they were only too happy to wine and dine.

Time Out published the names of some CIA agents in Britain last week, but did not give the addresses. It felt it would be 'too dangerous', it told *The Times*. We believe the addresses of all CIA agents should be known, and every pressure put on to force these murderers out.

THE CIA IN BRITAIN

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.

I want to be a
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London E2 8DN

Blackmail

No Scottish parliament is going to take on these companies any more than Harold Wilson resisted Chrysler's blackmail before Christmas. Will there be a Scottish Chrysler that is not controlled from Detroit?

The Scottish National Party certainly won't fight for one. They are not even prepared to take over the oil companies. They think they would 'talk' with them better than Westminster. That is all their programme amounts to.

Nor is the new Scottish Labour Party likely to be any improvement on the present Labour Party. Its founder, MP Jim Sillars, supported the use of troops against the Glasgow firemen who were fighting the Tory wage freeze in 1973. There is nothing to choose between him and Willie Ross, the Labour minister who sent troops into Glasgow to break the dustmen's strike.

Oil companies

But the agitation for separate Scottish and Welsh assemblies will help to divide workers.

The phoney nature of the present debate over devolution and independence can be seen from the statement of another Labour minister, Edward Short, last weekend, that the oil 'belongs to the British people, not just to the Scottish people'. But at the moment the oil does not belong to the people at all, if by that you mean the vast majority of us who work for a living. It belongs to a few giant oil companies.

That will only be changed when workers throughout Britain establish a fighting rank and file unity, against the present government's policies. This will only be impeded by any sort of nationalist agitation.



Support the Right to Work Campaign!

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE MARCH?

WHAT will happen to the campaign after the march?

When the marchers arrive in London on Saturday 20 March they will be met at the Albert Hall by a mass protest rally against unemployment. National Right to Work Campaign secretary John Deason told Socialist Worker: 'From this rally we want to launch the second part of the fight against unemployment establishing continuity in the campaign and co-ordination between groups of rank and file workers.'

This is why the National Right to Work Campaign is so anxious to get official delegations to the Albert Hall. 'We want every shop steward that attends to have the responsibility to go back and report what is said, the policies we discuss, to his shop stewards' committee.'

MORE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN NEWS— Page 15

Their support will be crucial to forcing a hard fight back against unemployment. The Albert Hall Rally will be the basis not just for protesting but for starting a co-ordinated battle across the country.

It is the delegations, particularly from shop stewards' committees, that will make this possible. We need the power of the movement there.

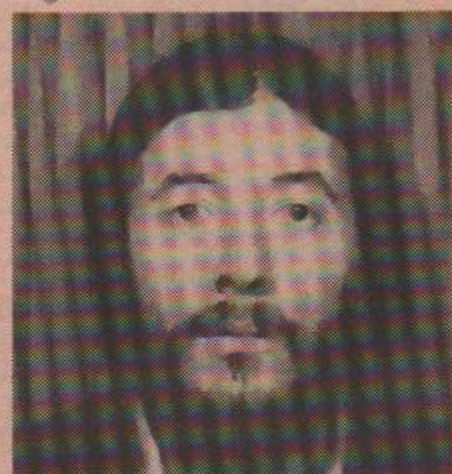
After the rally the bodies which send delegations, regardless of whether they send one shop steward or half the factory will become the real base for setting up a more formal national rank and file movement.

The Rank and File Organising Committee, which set up the National Right to Work Campaign, has already established a tradition of openness. At its last national conference more than 400 delegates from trade union bodies elected the secretary, treasurer and chairman.

'The march is not a stunt,' said John Deason. 'It must start a real fight against unemployment. That is why the rally is so crucial and why every working-class body should have a delegation there.'

We'll be marching for the Right

WE NEED SUPPORT FROM YOU



Mike Buckingham



School leaver

KERRY ABRAM, aged 17, from Liverpool:

Left school last summer. Worked in two small sweat shops—sacked unfairly from both.

She says: 'While the TUC's Len Murray and the government carry on with "talks" to save redundancy—I can't find a job. I'm marching to let Murray and the others know we really do want a job.'

Kerry needs support from all those union branches which pass resolutions about more training for young women.

Carpenter

MARCUS LUCK, aged 26, is a skilled man. He's a carpenter trained by the government. His course finished last September. Since then he's wandered around Ipswich looking for a job. He's written in answer to every advertised job in the town. And he's still out of work.

His wife Shelley is skilled too. She qualified from art college. 'They told us that no one left the college without a job,' she says. 'Yet only one person in our class has got a job since leaving.'

Theo Luck is 18 months old. Both his parents worry almost all the time about feeding him and paying the electricity bill so he can keep warm. Shelley expects another baby in June—which means more worry.

The economies of the household are simple. Marcus draws £31.29 from social security. Rent is £10.27, rates £3.96, electricity £3.17, basic food and groceries, £12.68—making a total of £30.51. This leaves 78p for 'luxuries' such as clothes.

Marcus told a Socialist Worker meeting in Ipswich last Wednesday: 'The figures say that there are one and a quarter million unemployed. But there are many more than that affected by unemployment.'

'I'm unemployed. But I've got a wife and a little boy who suffer from it—



Marcus, Theo and Shelley Luck

and another little one on the way. If you count all the children and dependants, there's at least six million unemployed.

'The worst thing about unemployment is that you have no plans, no future. Your future goes as far as the next electricity bill. Are you going to be able to pay the bloody thing or not?'

'Unemployment sums up everything that's wrong with this society—the poverty, the despair, the waste. There's a huge housing shortage in Ipswich. I had a hell of a job finding somewhere to live.'

'I'd like to use my skills to build houses. Or I'd like to go into nursing. I asked the social security people about nursing training. The man there said that of every three nurses who trained this year, only two will find jobs.'

'He said if I did the training I'd be a trained nurse and trained carpenter—but couldn't get a job as either!'

'I'm going on this march from Manchester to London because I want to fight for my future. I'm going to march all the way—because that's doing something about unemployment.'

Their overtime was our work, so we stopped the

'WE received information that at the Central Aircraft Factory in Kilburn the employees had accepted reduced rates of pay and that a certain amount of overtime was being worked. The matter was discussed by the Willesden unemployment organisation and it was felt that protest should be made against this.'

'If the unemployed were standing firm against taking

work at reduced rates of pay, we felt that the men in the shop should also respond, and on the question of overtime we claimed that when so many workers were unemployed all overtime should be stopped.'

The problem facing the newly-formed unemployed movement in 1921 was not new and still plagues us today. If only overtime working were stopped, hundreds of thousands of jobs could be created for the unemployed overnight.

But the employers prefer to keep overtime working alongside unemployment. It means they can keep down basic wage rates and use the unemployment as a threat to the jobs of employed workers.

The unemployment movement after the First World War began taking action on this front, as part of its strategy for linking the employed and the unemployed. Wal Hannington, leader of the National Unemployed Workers Movement describes what happened to the Kilburn factory in his book Unemployed Struggles.

Avoid

'We were in touch with some of the employees who gave us a plan of the lay-out of the factory.'

'Thirty trustworthy unemployed men were got together. It was decided that they should assemble at a given point near to the factory entrance, and in order to avoid arousing suspicion

The fourth article in our series about past struggles against unemployment

several of them should be carrying football togs and if there were any policemen about they would be disarmed by the belief that we were a group of football enthusiasts.'

'There were very few people to be seen near the factory, and at a given signal, the "footballers" made straight for the entrance. Once inside the factory many of us were quite at home in the surroundings. As engineers we were accustomed to machines and lost no time in finding the power-motors and shutting them off.'

'Of course everybody in the factory was taken by surprise. We put men on to guard every exit to prevent anybody being sent out for the police and we took charge of the telephones. After stopping the machinery I jumped on the bench and called the workers around me for a meeting.'

'I spoke briefly on the question of unemployment, the need for all overtime being stopped, and urged the workers to realise that we, the organised unemployed, would be with them in any fight to prevent any reduction in

their wage-rates.

'Whilst I was speaking, the manager came up, listened for a time to what I had to say, and then demanded that he also put his side of the case. By the time the police entered the machine-shop I had finished speaking and the manager was now up on the bench haranguing the workers.'

'A burly sergeant of the police marched in at the head of a dozen constables and to the amusement of the workers and the raiders, without waiting to grasp the actual situation, he rushed at the manager evidently taking him for the leader of the raid, and began to drag him down from the bench.'

Hotly

'The crowd of workers and raiders roared with laughter.'

'The manager then agreed to negotiate with a small committee from the raiders. Of course, he hotly protested against our tactics but finally gave an undertaking that all overtime would be stopped in the factory as from the next week-end.'

The success in Kilburn led to a series of similar "raids" by local unemployed groups on other factories where wages were below union rates or where overtime was worked. One particular

Advertisement

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

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RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

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Join the march...Come to the 20th March rally

Journalist

MIKE BUCKINGHAM lost his job in Glasgow recently when the Scottish Daily News closed down. The closure of this paper—and the Scottish Daily Express—means no work for journalists in the city. Mike is going on the Right to Work march next month.

Mike was one of the unemployed workers who occupied Paisley Town Hall balcony before Christmas and addressed the shoppers below on the need for a Right to Work campaign.

He was arrested by police, who broke up the occupation with truncheons. The experience steeled his determination to join the march.

Branches of the National Union of

Journalists all over the country should sponsor Mike on the march. Send money in now to the National Right to Work Campaign.

GLASGOW journalists have voted overwhelmingly to support the National Right to Work Campaign. The 700-strong branch carried a resolution calling for affiliation to the campaign with only one dissenting vote. The branch will be represented on the Manchester to London march starting on 28 February by delegates carrying the branch banner.

The Glasgow journalists know only too well what unemployment means. Of the 700 members, more than 100 are on the dole as a result of the collapse of the Scottish Daily News.

In support of the motion, branch chairman John Hodgman said that it was of vital importance for journalists to show solidarity with other members of the working class.

In their determination to fight further redundancies, the branch is also to consider the formation of a chapel (office branch) for unemployed workers. Said the chairman: 'The setting up of an unemployed chapel would show that we mean business. It is vital that we organise in the face of threatening sackings

'The organisation has to be at local and also national level. It's no good just looking after things on our own little patch and sitting there hoping that the much bigger problem will go away.

MARCH FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

MANCHESTER TO LONDON
FEBRUARY 28th
—MARCH 20th



to Work!

-AND YOUR TRADE UNION

Sponsor a marcher from your area, from your industry, from your trade union. Send sponsorship donations to Right to Work March, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

ment. I ask this meeting to support the Right to Work Campaign—and all trade unionists everywhere to support the march.

The meeting raised £20 for the campaign.

Marcus needs support and sponsorship from workers in the building industry, the worst hit by unemployment. That means branches of UCATT, the TGWU building section, joint site committees everywhere in the country. Send support and money for Marcus to the Right to Work Campaign now.

factory

ly successful raid on a large engineering factory took place straight after a mass meeting at Walthamstow Baths in East London.

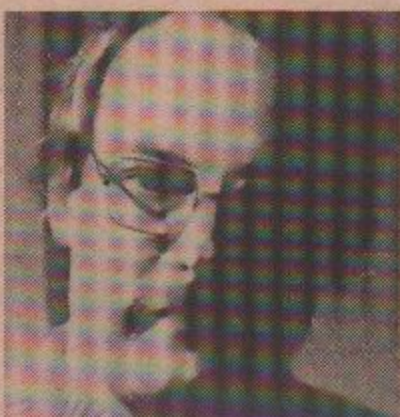
Writes Hannington: 'This raid on this big works created a sensation throughout London, particularly in the engineering trade. It became the topic of discussion in many engineering branches.

'It no doubt did much to stimulate the opposition that already existed in the union against systematic overtime, so that when a ballot of the Amalgamated Engineering Union membership took place on the question whether the union should make an agreement for overtime with the Employers' Federation, there was a very large majority against.

'The practice of factory raids caught on in many localities throughout London, with varying results—sometimes successful, sometimes otherwise.'

Of course, the raids and other similar 'stunts' were not made in isolation. They were part of the work of building a mass movement involving thousands of unemployed and of fighting within the trade unions for support.

Socialist Worker will take up this aspect of the story next week.



Teacher

KEVIN WINGFIELD, from Ilford, Essex:

'There are estimated to be two thousand unemployed teachers in London and many more in the rest of the country. I am one of those. I have been teaching for nearly two years—mostly on temporary terminal contracts, but found myself last September having my contract not renewed.

'This means that my income has been cut—at a stroke—from about £35 a week to £10.31 unemployment benefit.

Kevin will be going on the march—every NUT and ATTI branch in the country should be sponsoring him. Is yours?



Engineering

ROGER MILTON, aged 23, unemployed engineering worker:

'At Christmas, the management of Crabtree-Vickers, where I worked, gave over half the workforce a present of their redundancy notices. I had worked there for two years and was a shop steward.

'It is agonising to see the work that has made Crabtree's one of the best organised factories in Leeds come to nothing. With hindsight, it is obvious that we believed the lies of our management for too long, and should have fought against the redundancies earlier.

'The march gives an opportunity to spread the experience of our factory, and the fight for the right to work. I am a member of Leeds No 6 AUEW branch, branch treasurer, trades council delegate, chairman of the Leeds Junior Workers Committee, and the Junior Workers Committee delegate to district committee.

'I am looking for support and sponsorship on the march from AUEW branches all over the country.'

Textiles

TINA DICKINSON, aged 17, from Liverpool.

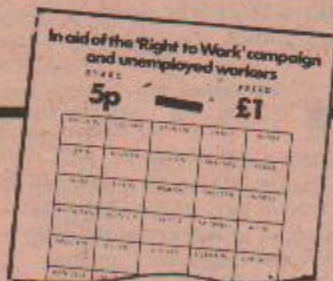
Left school last Easter. One rotten job in a canvas factory. Sacked for answering back. Since then no work at all.

'Do nothing—or march: that's the choice', she says. 'I'm marching'.

Tina needs sponsorship from branches of women workers in all those trades where women workers are exploited and bullied: the Tailor and Garment Workers Union, for example.

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.



HAVE YOU SENT YOUR 50p FROM EACH FOOTBALL CARD TO THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN OFFICE?

Each £1 is divided 50p to the local campaign and 50p to the national. The national campaign urgently needs money. Send off those 50p pieces today!

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16 BBY

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 Burds (secretary, Manchester Right to Work Committee) and local trade unionists.

GLASGOW: Stop the Jobs Slaughter—Organise now against redundancies! Thursday 29 January, 7.30pm, McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street. Speakers: John Deason (secretary, National Right to Work Campaign), Vincent Flynn, (ex-general secretary SOGAT), Chairman: Harry McShane (secretary, National Unemployed Workers Movement in the 1930s).

PRESTON: Thursday 29 January, 8pm, AUEW House, Cross Street. Fighting Unemployment and the Cuts. Speakers: Bobby Burds (Manchester Right to Work Committee), Steve Brindle (secretary, Preston Engineers Charter), Mary Beaken (NALGO convenor, Lancashire Area Health Authority offices).

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.

PORTSMOUTH: Saturday 31 January, 2pm, Forrester's Hall, Fratton Road. Delegate meeting. Open to delegates from trade union branches and shop stewards committees, and to the unemployed.

BIRMINGHAM: Thursday 29 January, 7.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall. Speakers: Tom Litterick MP, Chris Adamson (NUPE District organiser), Jack Jones (TGWU senior shop steward, Austin), Christine Gunter (NALGO staff rep), Tommy Douras (secretary, Merseyside Right to Work Committee).

HACKNEY and TOWER HAMLETS: Wednesday 28 January, 7.30pm, Central Hall, Mare Street, East London (opposite Town Hall). Speakers: Chanie Rosenberg (secretary, Hackney NUT Association, in personal capacity), Mike Heym, (unemployed printworker and secretary Hackney Right to Work Committee), Chairman: Steve Ludlam, (NUPE shop steward). All welcome.

EETPU Members for the Right to Work: National meeting: Saturday 14 February, 2pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

LIVERPOOL: Wednesday 28 January, 7.30pm, AEU Hall, Mount Pleasant. Speakers: Tommy Douras (secretary, North West Right to Work Committee) plus speakers from Thorns and Sayers Bakery strike committee.

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 Burds (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.

NEW PAMPHLET ON THE RIGHT TO WORK

THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK—new pamphlet just out. By John Deason, secretary, National Right to Work Campaign. Includes sections on how unemployed workers can fight strengthening the trade unions, organising factory occupations. Available from the Rank and File Organising Committee, price 19p each including postage. Orders over 10 copies post free, 10p a copy.

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. 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 in.

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.



FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

What about the family?

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

The 'natural family' is no more 'natural' than the House of Lords...

KATHLEEN JONES of Shrewsbury asks Socialist Worker to 'come clean' on the issue of the family.

'This, as all Marxists know, is the crux of the whole matter,' she writes, 'and your attitude towards it determines whether you are really revolutionary or just reformist.'

I don't accept that statement, at any rate, not in the form it is put. But certainly the problem is a fundamental one.

Twofold

Engels wrote: 'According to the materialist conception, the determining factor in history is, in the final instance, the production and reproduction of the immediate essentials of life. This, again, is of a twofold character.'

'On the one side, the production of the means of existence, of articles of food and clothing, dwellings, and of the tools necessary for that production; on the other side, the production of

human beings, the propagation of the species.

'The social organisation under which the people of a particular historical epoch and a particular country live is determined by both kinds of production: by the stage of development of labour on the one hand and of the family on the other.'

For Engels, and for Marxists generally, the family structure is not something eternal and unchangeable.

It is a product of social evolution and therefore has changed and will continue to change as society changes.

Fundamentally different kinds of society will necessarily have fundamentally different types of family structure.

This is, of course, contested. Traditionalists of various kinds advance theological or pseudo-scientific arguments designed to show that there is something called the 'natural family' (usually defined as two parents plus offspring of the first generation) which always has existed and always will exist.

More sophisticated critics argue that Marx-

ists have failed to show a systematic connection between the development of successive stages of social evolution and changes in family structure.

And many feminists are suspicious of the whole approach, suspecting, not without some justification, that its 'evolutionary' emphasis can be used to excuse the inferior position of women today.

Differences

To start at the most fundamental level; men and women are not, and cannot be, biologically equal. I cannot bear a child because I, like all males, lack the necessary biological equipment. There are other differences but that is the one that matters and it is unchangeable.

The traditionalists seize on this indisputable fact and draw the conclusion that, because the sex difference is a fact of nature, so their 'natural family' and the distinct (and inferior) role of women in society are unchangeable. But this conclusion is demonstrably false.

We know that it is untrue because, all theoretical arguments aside, very different kinds of family structure have existed in the past, and indeed some of them survived into the present century.

The status of women within them has varied from high to abysmally low.

That is a fact as incontestable as the existence of the sex difference itself.

Abraham with his many wives and great brood of children represents one kind.

The 'matriarchal' family of one woman with several (simultaneous) husbands, that so astonished the 19th century anthropologists who discovered it, is equally well documented.

Between these probably atypical (historically) extremes a whole range of 'extended family' structures of one kind or another.

Connect

The 'natural family' we are used to is no more than one form among many.

Engels, building upon the work of the American anthropologist Morgan, tried to connect the evolution of the family with the development of the productive forces of society: starting with a (hypothetical) 'primitive stage when unrestricted sexual freedom prevailed within the tribe, every woman belonging equally to every man and every man to every woman'.

His account of the way the family has developed is open to a number of objections. The fact that the 'natural family' is no more 'natural' than the House of Lords remains irrefutable.

None of this means that 'the family' can be abolished by edict, revolutionary or otherwise.

For us, the word family is so coloured by our own experience that we see it in a very restricted sense.

A family structure, that is a way of bringing up children in some kind of emotional (as well as educational) relationship to adults is a social necessity.

What form will it take under socialism? That is an open question.

Quite clearly, the so-called 'natural family' is incompatible with full social equality for women.

They, under socialism, will develop new forms that will transcend it.

5 FIFTH COLUMN



Oh, lucky Kim, how I envy him...

KIM IL SUNG is leader of Communist North Korea. He was sent there by Heaven. At least that's what Nodong Sinmun, one of the country's top newspapers, recently reported.

In a remarkably restrained piece of reporting, the paper added that he was 'possessed of brilliant intelligence and distinguished resources no-one has ever had at any place in the world'.

Intrigued? There's more: 'Our people look up to the great leader as a man who knows everything, sees through everything and can do anything'.

It gets better: 'Kim's tactics and strategy amaze even God'. He had occult power, so that he could see through earth and water. One day he had found gold beneath the soil, just by looking.

When the name of this great Bolshevik was mentioned, his enemies



(the Japanese army) would kick, scream and tremble with fear. His troops were so inspired by him, they leapt over roofs and would march 300 miles in a night.

The article concludes that Kim, 'foreseeing everything, never makes a mistake in anything'.

Until he is purged, that is...



One in six workers in Kirkby, Liverpool, are on the dole, the highest rate of unemployment in the country.

Young workers have been particularly hard hit. Yet facilities for them are virtually non-existent. So what did Labour council decide to build? This £90,000 ski slope, that's what.

To rush the building through, youngsters still at school were put to work, at first unpaid, then for 25p an hour. Eventually this great monument was finished. Then disaster—the slope was found the wrong way. You could only ski UP it. Which was just as well really because anyone skiing DOWN would have finished up on a roundabout.

Now the council plan to demolish it. Perhaps they should have stuck to office blocks.

THE ASSASSINS MOVE IN

YOU'VE HEARD about the Special Air Service being sent into South Armagh. But few people will have noticed the Ulster Defence Regiment going in with them—to deal with 'sectarian assassinations', no less.

The UDR know all about sectarian killings in South Armagh—their record of such killings is second to none.

Last August 'Lieutenant' Wesley Somerville of the Ulster Volunteer Force was buried in Co Tyrone. An ex-member of the UDR, he killed himself trying to blow up the van used by the murdered Miami Showband.

As well as the death of the Miami musicians, he was held to be responsible for at least two other sectarian killings in County Tyrone. 'Lieutenant' Somerville got the accolade of a death notice in the UVF magazine Combat:

'The UCIA agents attached to Portadown,

Lurgan and Dungannon centres deeply regret the tragic death of their colleagues in arms, Lieutenant Wesley Somerville and Major Horace Boyle.'

The UCIA (Ulster Central Intelligence Association), set up last year by the UVF, boasted at the time about its support inside the Royal Ulster Constabulary and UDR.

AMMUNITION

The UDR battalions from those Centres have nearly as 'good' a record as the good Lieutenant himself. The 11th battalion, based in Portadown and covering parts of Armagh, not only enjoyed Somerville's services for some time but also managed to 'lose' 83 rifles, 21 Stirling sub-machine guns and 1300 rounds of ammunition on 10 October, 1972.

They somehow forgot to open fire when the

Lurgan centre was raided. The UVF, who claimed this particular coup, put the machine guns to good use—the Miami massacre was carried out with these weapons, as were most of the shootings in the murder triangle area of Armagh and Tyrone.

The eighth battalion, UDR, based in Dungannon, can also boast a famous ex-member—Thomas Leonard. He was charged with machine-gunning to death Mr and Mrs Devlin near Cong, Co Tyrone, in May 1974.

Tests showed the gun to be a standard UDR issue. At the time of the killings, there was a UDR guard less than 130 yards from the Devlins' farmhouse, guarding an electricity station.

Of the 14,613 who have joined the UDR since 1970, 4781 left and 2542 were dismissed—a remarkable record. Over 80 serving or ex-UDR men have been convicted of 'terrorist' offences—from illegal possession of weapons to sectarian murder.

A JOBS CENTRE has been set up in Chrysler Stoke, Coventry plant. With 1700 out of the 4300 jobs threatened, a worker with a £90 a month mortgage tried his luck.

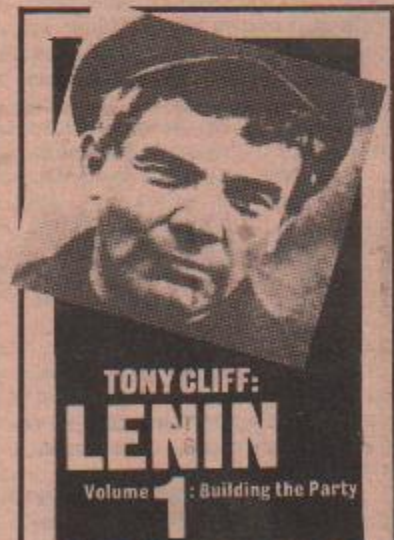
He was offered two jobs. One—funeral director. Experience of social work and nursing required. Two—chauffeur and companion. All found, plus £9 a week pocket money.

There were London jobs to lure him away from Coventry—at 38p to 50p an hour. His comment about this job shop? 'It's the first shop in the world to sell nothing.'

WITHOUT COMMENT

"A girl who loses her virginity before marriage is deprived of her charm, becomes less interesting and, most important, loses her belief in beautiful, profound feelings and in herself."

—from a new Russian sex manual



TONY CLIFF:
LENIN
Volume 1: Building the Party

Price: £3 (paperback) £6 (hardback) plus 20p postage, from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

THE APPALLING Nationwide TV programme has called them 'super soldiers'. But the SAS, as pointed out in Fifth Column last week, are just highly-trained gangsters.

A Socialist Worker supporter in the RAF had the misfortune some years ago to share the Warmminster training camp with some of them. One night, an SAS man was dragged from his bed for a standard 'miniature test'.

This consisted of flying him several thousand miles before bundling him

out over Malaya with only a parachute on his back and an order in his car to be back at camp inside three weeks or face a charge.

Anything that would aid his speedy return was permitted, including murder and robbery. If caught, well, that was his look out.

The SAS man duly arrived back in Warmminster inside the allotted 21 days

PORTUGAL: As the struggle goes on, an analysis of its biggest set-back

IT'S THE RICH WHO MUST SACRIFICE!

SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND workers demonstrated last Saturday against the rise in the cost of living and the government's wage freeze.

A call by the 13 unions in the Lisbon area was announced by 300 different workers' organisations. Workers' and tenants commissions, other unions and co-operative farms, also turned out.

Demonstrators shouted: 'Out With the Wage Freeze!' and 'Down With the Rise in the Cost of Living'. As the names of various government Ministers were mentioned in speeches, the crowds hissed angrily.

UNEMPLOYMENT

One speaker, a construction worker, said: 'This government speaks of socialism and democracy but raises our taxes to pay compensation to the shareholders of the nationalised banks. It allows the cost of living to rise while freezing our wages and allowing unemployment to increase.'

A union research group has forecast that if present trends

From Socialist Worker reporters in Lisbon

continue, workers will be spending a third more by the end of February than last September. In four months, the price of pork has doubled, books have gone up by 50 per cent and price speculation continues on essentials such as beef, olive oil, margarine, lard and dough.

The night before the protest, one of the Maoist organisation called a similar demonstration attended by almost 5000 people, who marched shouting 'It is the rich who must tighten their belts.'

The same day also saw a national two-hour stoppage of civil construction workers, most of who are paid less than the national minimum.

Shop and distribution workers' unions have called on their 40,000 members to stop work throughout the country for two hours on Wednesday.

ON 25 November last year the Portuguese revolution suffered its first major reverse, 19 months after the overthrow of fascism. The left-wing army units were disbanded.

Since then Portuguese workers have faced a massive attack on their living standards.

The right wing is more confident than ever, with the extreme right-wing party, the CDS—led by former members of the fascist party of dictators Salazar and Caetano—expecting to do well in elections this April.

There could hardly be a more marked change from the situation before 25 November, when the government was on the defensive and the workers' movement going from strength to strength.

Prospects

How did the defeat of 25 November happen? And what are the prospects for the workers' movement now?

These points are dealt with in the latest issue of International Socialism Journal and in a new IS pamphlet, The Lessons of 25 November—which

A defeat - but it can be overcome

first appeared in Portuguese four weeks ago.

The journal contains a detailed account of the events of 25 November by Steve Jefferys. This disproves completely the claim that somehow the revolutionary left tried to stage an uprising on that day.

Instead it shows how the right wing prepared the ground to strike and then, at the key moment, army officers close to the Communist Party played into their hands. These officers urged paratroops to take over the air bases and the radio, in the belief that this would force the president, Costa Gomes, to give in to the Communist Party's demand for more places in the government.

The president refused, whereupon the Communist Party leaders did a deal with him. In return for being allowed to stay in the government, they agreed to stop workers moving to support the paratroops and to allow the revolutionary left in the armed forces to be crushed.

Overcome

The Lessons of 25 November deals with two questions: Why were the revolutionaries too weak to counteract the betrayals of the Communist Party? How can they overcome their weakness and fight back under more difficult circumstances?

It argues that before 25 November the best elements on the revolutionary left tended to overestimate their own strength.

As to the way ahead, the pamphlet argues that the next few weeks will see a rising level of economic struggle by Portuguese workers.

The inability of the government to deal with these conflicts will mean growing pressure from both the left and right. The extreme right in particular will argue that the government is not going far enough, and will prepare the ground to smash the workers' movement completely, as in Chile.

The only way to avoid this is by using the economic struggles to build a powerful revolutionary party within the working class now.

Is this Ireland all over again?



IN LESS THAN nine months 10,000 people have been killed in the fighting in Lebanon—ten times as many as have died in Ireland since 1969.

Press and TV say the cause is 'religious fanaticism'. They ignore the deep-lying causes which go far beyond religious rivalry. Lebanon, like Ireland, suffers from the disease called imperialism.

More than 150 years ago, French merchants gained control over the area then called Syria. To make the territory secure, they imported French officials, soldiers and even priests.

They exploited the fact that Syria's wealthy, dominant group were Christians of the Maronite sect. They used an unashamed policy of divide and rule. The Maronite leaders, jealous of their privileges, kept control for the French.

When the country became independent at the end of the Second World War, the Maronites kept their predominant position—in parliament, in the higher ranks of the army, in business.

But they shared a certain amount of their power with members of the ruling classes in the other religious communities.

This enabled the Lebanon to develop as a country of immense wealth on the one hand, and massive poverty on the other.

United States marines were sent in to prop up this structure when, in 1958, it was put into question by popular agitation for the first time.

About a year ago, a new movement began to demand change. Fishermen objected to a Maronite political boss being given monopoly over fishing rights.

The truth about the fighting in the Lebanon

By Phil Marfleet

There was a growing strike movement as prices outstripped wages.

The right wing Maronites, organised into a party named after Mussolini's fascists, the Falange, moved into action to defend the regime, murdering Muslims wholesale.

Intact

There have since been repeated attempts by political bosses from the Muslim upper class to do a deal with the Christian upper class, and the Falange.

This would leave the present structure intact, but introduce a few reforms to give greater political power to themselves.

But these deals have always fallen through. The extreme right of the Falange will not accept any dilution of their power, and respond to each deal with murderous attacks upon Muslim and Palestinian civilians.

The mass of workers and those in the refugees camps, whether Muslim or Christian, have little to gain from such deals either, and tend to ignore the truces agreed by their leaders.

The murderous carnage cannot be ended until the whole sectarian structure is destroyed by the physical smashing of the Falange.

Anything less will leave the sectarian divisions intact, as would partition of the country, the remedy to which the Falange might turn in desperation.

On the other hand, a defeat for the Maronite rulers would be one more blow against the US domination of the area.

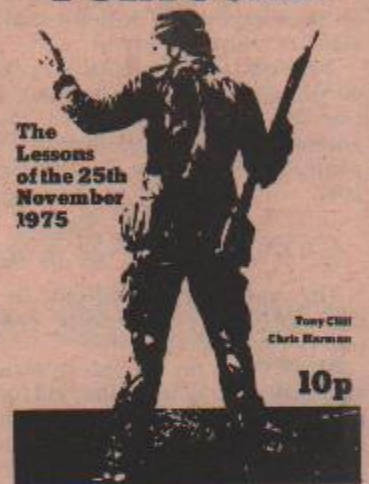
SW Fund: Thanks for your support!

OUR THANKS THIS WEEK TO: Portsmouth IS £8, CA Parsons IS branch £6.46.

The new 1976 SW supporters cards are now available.

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

PORTUGAL



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.

AGAINST THE WIRE

THAT'S THE W

THEY WERE underpaid, overworked and in constant danger: but by early this month, workers at the Ainslie Wire plant in Macclesfield, Cheshire had had enough.

Enough overtime, for a start. Many were working 90 hours. So they decided to join the Engineering Union. Immediately, eight of them got redundancy notices.

The workers were advised by Dave Roberts, a member of the union's local District Committee and a Socialist Worker supporter, to occupy the plant and hold the machinery...

The next day, they did just that. And last week management backed down—and the jobs were saved.



1
The workers take over the plant

They were used to handling barbed wire, of course. Just the stuff for an occupation...



2
The barbed wire comes in handy...

THIS IS INDIA...

Fetters are always clamped on Naxalite prisoners. They prevent normal movement. You cannot bend your legs. Eventually the legs become bent and deformed.

WHEN Mrs Gandhi imposed a State of Emergency in India last June, 1000 political leaders were flung into jail.

Amid the world-wide blaze of publicity, it was almost forgotten that those jails already held 60,000 workers, peasants and students, all of them imprisoned without trial, many of them for several years.

But now, as the economic crisis deepens and political opposition to Gandhi's regime sharpens, the government rounds up ever more people for its already overflowing jails.



Demonstrate against this barbarity on Sunday 25 January
Assemble 12.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London. March to Indian High Commission.
RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS! END PRISON TORTURE AND KILLINGS! SMASH THE EMERGENCY!

CONDITIONS

The appalling conditions endured by those prisoners are spelt out in a new pamphlet*.

Mary Tyler, the English woman held without trial in a Bihar jail for more than three years, states that at any one time there are at least 150-250 alleged Naxalite guerrillas in the jail, along with large numbers of militant workers.

In 1974, 500 railwaymen were interned during and after their strike: on two occasions, 3000 school teachers on strike found their way there, as did several hundred municipal employees and

hospital workers. Large numbers of miners from the Bihar collieries (scene of the recent disaster) are frequent 'visitors', arrested during strikes and demonstrations. This in ONE jail...

Once detained, the prisoner is

subjected to systematic violence. Severe beatings are part of the 'interrogation' routine, and may result in fractured limbs, loss of an eye, and paralysis in some cases.

Prisoners are 'hung upside down and pins and nails inserted into their finger nails and other sensitive organs of the body, including the genitals'.

Women are not spared. According to a report by the middle-class All India Women's Association, Naxalite suspects are 'stripped naked, burned with cigarettes on all parts of the body, and in some cases iron rulers are inserted into the rectum and vagina.'

The treatment is repeated after a recovery period of 20-22 days.

Despite the repression and the constant harassment, workers and peasants in India continue to struggle.

Only a fortnight ago Mrs

Gandhi felt the necessity to arrest another 40,000 in one day. Habeas Corpus has been suspended, strikes are banned, redundancies and lock-outs are common, and the employers are pressing for a seven-day week.

And yet the Communist Party of Great Britain supports the Gandhi government and calls it 'progressive'.

Pressure must be exerted on the Indian government so that the barbarities in the prisons are ended.

* *Land of Political Prisoners, published by Campaign for the Release of Indian Political Prisoners, 40p from G JKumar, 22 Boundary Road, London, NW8.*

SOONU ENGINEER

Spain the be

THE STRIKE wave in Spain goes on—despite attack after attack by police on strikers and demonstrators.

Striking postal workers were conscripted into the army so as to force them back to work. So, apparently, were some striking railwaymen.

Question

Truncheon-waving police attacked telephone workers, and tear gas was used to break up a 2000-strong demonstration demanding equality for women. Dozens of workers' representatives have been arrested.

The decisive question for Spanish socialists is whether the strikes can turn into a movement powerful enough to bring down the dictatorship.

In the past, the regime has always been able to survive by confining strikes to certain areas with the use of massive concentrations of paramilitary police. That happened, for example, during an upsurge, nearly as powerful as the present one, in the Barcelona and Basque regions early last year.

Conflict

Within the Spanish left there is considerable debate on how to end such isolation.

The revolutionary left organisations argue that the only way is to bring the movement into a general strike, a conflict which would put into question not only the present government, but the whole structure of Spanish big business and the state.

But the biggest organisation on the Spanish left, the Communist Party, puts forward a quite different perspective. It says it is possible to form an alliance with all those who are against the present government, however mild their disagreements with it.

So the Communist Party is taking part in a

KICK THESE PEOPLE OUT!

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS intervened last week in the campaign to oust the pro-Ghandi leadership of the Indian Workers' Association in Southall, West London. Fifty people, mostly Indians, attended a local Socialist Worker Chingari public meeting at which it was argued that any campaign for a fresh Indian workers' leadership in Southall must take up the fight against unemployment now affecting many young Indians.

The present IWA executive has a terrible record on this issue. It has suspended elections, with the blessing of the Indian High Commission, because it fears losing control to the anti-Ghandi campaign.

Southall's Labour MP, Sid Bidwell, has just returned with leading members of the present IWA executive from a 'fact finding' mission in India. Bidwell has said on BBC radio that 'any socialist had to support Indira Gandhi'.

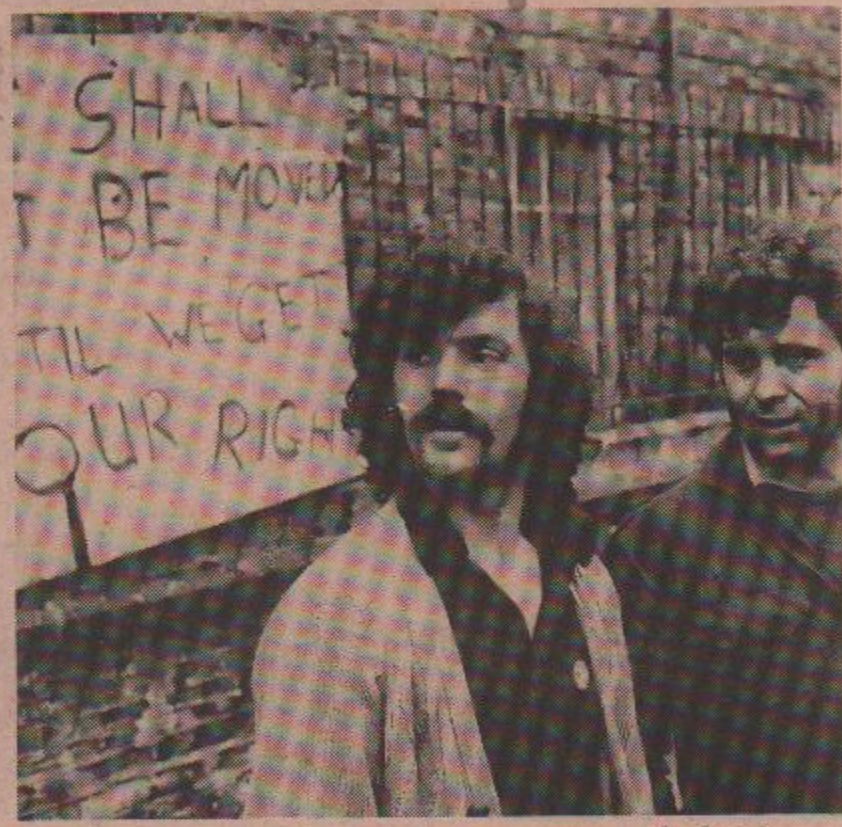
'Demo and want Comm Am 'nation Carri divide accom the ex Am looks social Social C But coun backs prob it up Portu

WAY TO SAVE JOBS!



3 ... as the machines are put out of action

Just in case police broke into the factory with wire-cutters, the workers took the ball-bearing feed mechanism from the machines, so no-one could work them ...



Is this beginning of the end?



Father and son of Spain's fascism: King Juan Carlos with Franco

eratic Junta' that includes Monarchists
ctions of the Spanish ruling class that
a few reforms and membership of the
on Market.
so the Communist Party calls for
al reconciliation'. Its leader, Santiago
o has attacked those who 'continue to
Spaniards into 'wolves' and 'doves'
ing to whether they are for or against
isting political system.
ong the people the Communist Party
to for support in its strategy are the two
democratic parties, the Popular
ist Party and the PSOE (Spanish
ist Workers Party).

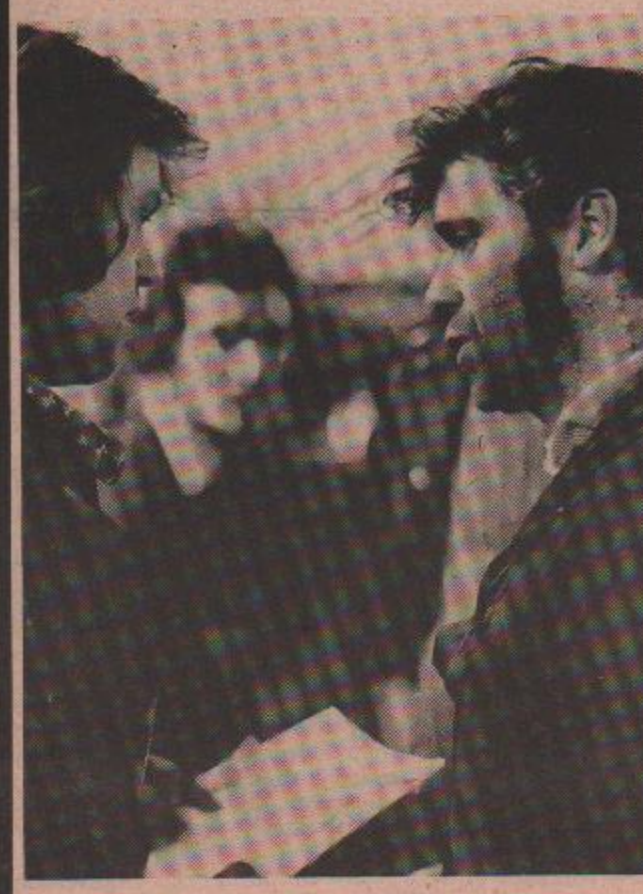
have orders not to arrest its leaders, who can
even get passports to go to conferences
abroad.
The Times reported last week that 'informed
sources said that Fraga, the Minister of the
Interior, dines with the leader of the outlawed
Popular Socialist Party ...

Contact

'Other senior emissaries of the Interior
Ministry made direct contact with Senor
Felipe Gonzales, secretary general of the
PSOE'.
Spanish workers cannot expect the
leadership they need in the fight against
the police from people who dine with the
men who give the police their orders.

**What those workers need is
not 'national reconciliation',
but united and militant all-out
action against the regime.**

4 While some guarded the plant ...



5 ... others formed a picket outside to win support

6 But the bosses still would not budge. Stalemate.

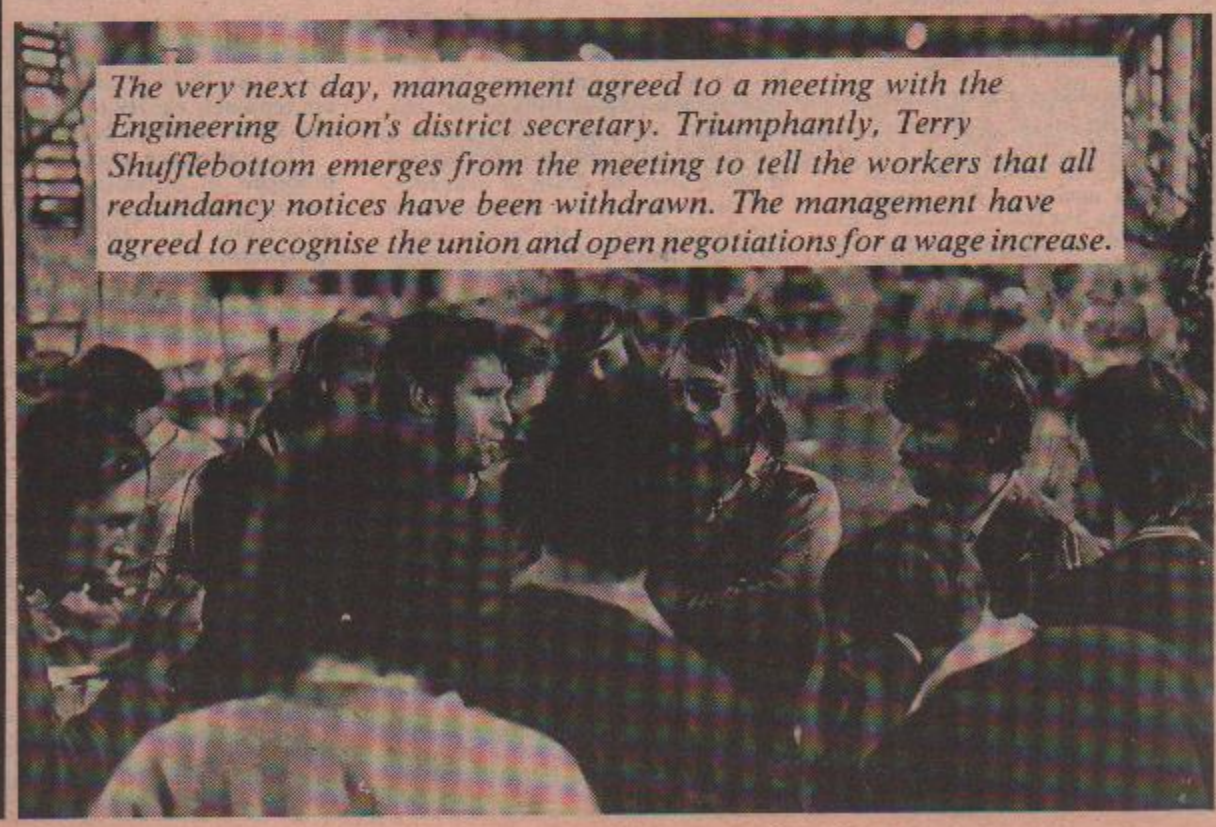
Then Bobby Buirds from the Manchester Right to Work Committee visited the occupation. He urged them to send delegations to factories and get financial and industrial support.

Convenor Terry Shufflebottom (right) does just that: a striker is briefed on visiting other factories

PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

AND THEN... VICTORY!

The very next day, management agreed to a meeting with the Engineering Union's district secretary. Triumphantly, Terry Shufflebottom emerges from the meeting to tell the workers that all redundancy notices have been withdrawn. The management have agreed to recognise the union and open negotiations for a wage increase.



Come to the NOISS Conference!

INTERNATIONAL events, women's rights, the Right to Work Campaign, overseas students are among the issues to be debated at next month's conference of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies, an important event for student militants.

Apart from the sessions on how we can best build NOISS and how we work in the National Union of Students, there will be a lengthy session on international solidarity work, which will discuss how we can re-establish among students a genuine anti-imperialist tradition and get away from the present round-the-world junketing by student bureaucrats.

There will be international workshops on the Middle East, Chile and Latin America, Portugal, Spain, Angola and Southern Africa, Ireland and Eastern Europe. As far as is possible, these will be introduced by guest speakers from the countries concerned.

There will be a separate session on overseas students and the fight against racism, introduced by an activist from Manchester Poly.

Another important area of our work will be issues of women's rights. There will be a session introduced by Fran Redcliffe, from the NUS Women's Action Group, which will discuss both our work within the NUS Campaign, and how NOISS works within campaigns such as the National Abortion Campaign and the Working Women's Charter.

Students are heavily affected by unemployment—especially those in the teacher training sector. We are inviting speakers from the National Right to Work Campaign to lead off the discussion on how students fight for the right to work. A college teacher in the ATTI will also talk on how this links with fighting the cuts in public spending.

And for something completely different—Pete Gillard will speak about how students can begin to challenge the sorts of ruling-class ideas that are pumped into them in their lectures.

In short, we're trying to cover in two days most of the significant issues in the student movement. But however good the agenda, the most important part of the conference will be the overseas students' societies, women's groups, socialist societies, all of which can apply for affiliation to NOISS. Even if you don't want to affiliate you can apply for observer status, with speaking rights.

NOISS Third Delegate Conference: Weekend 7-8 February, UMIST Student Union, Manchester. Delegates' credentials (£2) and observers' credentials (50p), from NOISS, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

PLAN FOR NEW PAMPHLETS

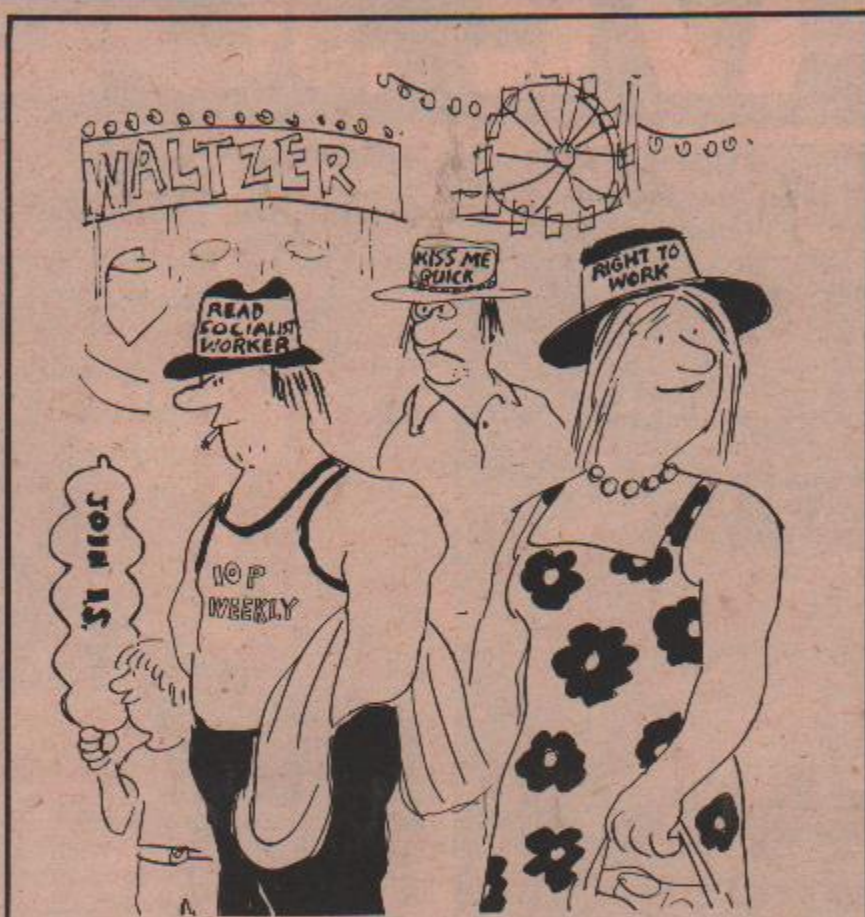
'We need more training material.' This call, made by a number of delegates at the December IS Council, has prompted the training committee to commission four new pamphlets for educational use in the branches and districts.

They cover the trade union bureaucracy, its origin and role in society, the Labour Party, the Communist Party and a manual of practical advice on revolutionary work. The first will be out next month. Reprints or revised versions of existing pamphlets are also planned.

A programme of one-week summer schools, five in all, is also being planned. They will be held in London and Manchester. Watch this page for full details.

Student comrades are planning a 'Marxist university' this summer. Tutors are expected to be mainly authors of well-known Marxist books, speaking on their special fields.

In addition, the training committee is organising a number of day schools in different areas. The first—in South Wales and Scotland—will deal with the national question in Britain and the practicalities of the struggle against unemployment. Details of the meetings are in WHAT'S ON this week.



Easter is a political feast this year

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.

Spain: What can we do here?

WILL the strike wave in Spain lead to a decisive confrontation between workers and fascists? 'I hope we're wrong, but we don't think so,' Colin Sparks told 40 members of the International Socialists last weekend. 'It will be some time before a revolutionary situation develops in Spain,' he said.

He was introducing the IS national day school on Spain, organised by the IS Spanish Group.

He argued strongly the importance of democratic demands in the current stage of the struggle. 'We shouldn't dismiss them as the idealistic ramblings of journalists and lawyers. Democratic demands are crucial for workers in the economic struggle—without freedom of speech, assembly and association, workers cannot organise openly, hold meetings, or produce a paper.'

Paul Harrison, convenor of the Spanish Group, spoke about the organisations of the revolutionary left in Spain.

WE'RE BUILDING LINKS

DELEGATES from the International Socialists recently attended a conference of the Spanish revolutionary organisation Accion Comunista. The conference was entirely devoted to a discussion of the political perspectives in Spain after the death of Franco.

It was expected that there would be a prolonged crisis, as the regime would try to introduce reforms but be afraid to go too far. Accion Comunista saw the main task as the development of working-class organisation. This

means demanding a single union uniting all workers, and trying to ensure that the workers' commissions are genuinely elected bodies representing all the workers in the factory.

The conference also discussed the problems of organising among the unemployed and army conscripts, the questions of the oppressed nationalities and working-class women. The conference committed itself to the task of building a revolutionary party in Spain.

supporter and help expand sales at the dole offices.

Local Right to Work Committees need to know what is happening in the rest of the country. Socialist Worker can give them the information they need.

All IS branches will be receiving a questionnaire asking for information about the local unemployment situation and what is happening in the fightback. Every IS branch must be in regular contact with the Socialist Worker staff about the local situation and with the circulation department about the successes of recent sales.

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 MP!) at the Mawson Hall, Mawson Road (off Mill Road). Thursday 22 January, 8.15pm. Tickets 40p each.

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 Peterborough68541.

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

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.

CENTRAL LONDON Socialist Worker series of six fortnightly lectures on THE MEANING OF MARXISM starts Tuesday 3 February, 6.30pm, The Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road (nearest tube Goodge Street). Open to all SW readers.

3 February—What is Marxism? Speaker—Duncan Hallas.

17 February—What are the causes of the present economic crisis? Speaker—Duncan Hallas.

2 March—What is imperialism? Speaker Nigel Harris.

16 March—Is there a parliamentary road to socialism?

30 March—The revolutionary socialist alternative.

13 April—What is a revolutionary socialist party? Speaker—Tony Cliff.

Tottenham Socialist Worker meeting: Troops Out Of Ireland Thursday 22 January, 8pm, YWCA, Tottenham High Road. Speaker: Paul O'Brien.

PAISLEY Socialist Worker public meetings: Chrysler—the fight goes on. Speakers: Tony Cliff and Chrysler shop stewards. Thursday 22 January, 7.30pm, Gents Chorus Room, Paisley Town Hall, Paisley.

TOTTENHAM Socialist Worker public meeting: Thursday 29 January 8pm, YWCA, Tottenham High Road, Women are Equal—Official, Lindsay German speaking about recent Equal Rights legislation.

BRADFORD SW public debate: Which way to socialism? A debate with the Labour Party. David Bunch, ex-Labour councillor will speak for the International Socialists. Paul Holman for the Labour Party. Friday 23 January, 8pm, Labour Party Rooms, 6a St Mary's Street, Bedford.

CENTRAL LONDON Socialist Worker public meeting: Thursday 6 February, 7pm, Mary Ward Hall, Tavistock Hall, London WC1. Speaker: Philip Agee (ex-CIA agent).

CENTRAL LONDON SW public meeting on Ireland: Thursday 29 January, 7pm, at the Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1. Speaker: Editor of The Worker, paper of the Socialist Workers Movement, Ireland.

NORTH LONDON DISTRICT SW public meeting: Ireland: Troops Out Now. Speaker: Eamonn McCann, 8.00pm, Tuesday 3 February, North Library, Manor Gardens, N7 (off Holloway Road).

Socialist Worker EVENTS

NORTH WEST LONDON IS in association with West London Troops Out Movement present an Irish Night to commemorate Derry's Bloody Sunday with the Irish Mist at the William IV, Harrow Road, Saturday 31 January. Bar extension, raffle, food. Tickets 50p, 65p at door. Buses 18 and 52 Tube Kensal Green.

NOISS FILM TOUR: Angola in Struggle, with a speaker from the SW Africa Group.

CENTRAL LONDON: Monday 26 January, 1pm, Collegiate Theatre, London WC1.

NORTH EAST LONDON POLY: Monday 26 January, 7pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, London E15.

PORTSMOUTH: Tuesday 27 January, 4.30pm, Highbury Technical College.

SOUTHAMPTON: Wednesday 28 January, midday, Hatfield Poly.

WARWICK: Wednesday 28 January, evening, Warwick University.

CREWE: Thursday 29 January, 1pm, Students Union, Couzens Centre, Crewe College of Education, Crewe Road.

MANCHESTER: Thursday 29 January, evening. Details to be announced.

SHEFFIELD: Friday 30 January, 1pm, Sheffield Poly, General Lecture Theatre.

LEEDS: Friday 30 January, evening, Leeds University.

LANCASTER, TEESIDE POLY, NEWCASTLE, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, and LONDON will have showings from 2 February to 6 February. Details to be announced.

WHATSOEVER 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 Socialists. 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. IA CAST stereo recording. SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION. 60-minute cassette still available, also £1.60. FROM Peter 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 sponsorship for the Right to Work march. Send to Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

BRUNEL University NOISS public meeting, Uxbridge, Middlesex. Tuesday 27 January, 5pm, Lecture Theatre A, Room 101, Paul Foot speaking on The Case for Socialism.

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.

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

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.

EETPU FRACTION: The fraction meeting advertised last week for February 7th has been postponed. All IS members and SW supporters in the EETPU are urged to support the EETPU members for the Right to Work National Meeting in Birmingham on Saturday 14 February.

CENTRAL LONDON District meeting for all IS members: Thursday 22 January 6.30pm, (prompt start) till 9pm, Institute of Education, Small Hall, Malet Street, London WC1. Right to Work Campaign, National Council report back.

SOUTH WEST LONDON District IS meeting for members only. Saturday 24 January, 2pm, Brixton Training Centre (junction of Brixton Hill and Effra Road) Agendas from branch secretaries.

Cheshire and Shropshire district IS meeting for IS members: Friday 6 February, 7.30 prompt, Cross Foxes, Boughton, Chester (on A51 near Chester engineering works). Agenda: Party Council meeting 14-15 February, election of delegates, Right to Work Campaign, district organisation and perspectives. Members and/or branch representatives invited from Runcorn, Macclesfield, Warrington, Crewmern Rhyl, Bangor, Shrewsbury, Telford and Wrexham. Agendas available from Chester IS, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Non-members invited.

Use SW in the Right to Work Campaign

by Mike Carver

SOCIALIST WORKER is the only national paper to give full support and coverage to the Right to Work Campaign. If you are a trade unionist involved in arguing and fighting to defend the jobs you've got in your workplace and trying to link up with unemployed workers in the fight for more jobs, or if you are unemployed then Socialist Worker is essential.

If you would like to read the paper yourself and are willing to try to sell three copies to your workmates and friends, paying only for the copies you actually sell, then we are prepared to

send you four copies a week for the next three months, in the run-up to the Right to Work March and the Albert Hall Rally.

We want to hear from branches of the International Socialists and SW supporters about anyone they would like Socialist Worker sent, who cannot easily obtain the paper at the moment.

The Right to Work Campaign is really underway now and we have a great opportunity to get Socialist Worker taken by trade union bodies which are supporting local Right to Work Committees. If you are an unemployed worker become an SW

Every Friday they'd sack 100 men...

AMAZING how we forget the dark unhappy days of our youth. Days of rotten clothes, rotten food, drab uncomfortable homes, fathers forever looking for work. Forget our parents' humiliation at their condition as though somehow it was their fault.

Walter Greenwood's book *Love on the Dole*, brings it all flooding back, and with it our anger. God, how did people survive the misery? The overcrowded hovels of

Salford's Hanky Park were peopled by a desperate band of the unwashed and unwanted. Unwanted—except by those who could still make a profit out of them, the pawnbroker and the bookie. The pawnbroker, vital to the finances of the poor, bled away like a vampire what little the poor had left. The bookie provided the pie in the sky that was the only promise in the killing misery of their lives.

Life in Hanky Park was one long trudge—from the dole queue to the pawnshop, from factory to factory suffering the constant rejection of 'no work'. Gradually they took on the dejected posture common to the unemployed. Eyes down, hands in pockets, shoulders hunched in the thin jackets of the poor. They were easy to recognise.

Suffered

In these times three million trudged the streets begging for work, or just plain begging. Indeed bitter battles broke out between buskers fighting for territory. Many millions of women and children stifled and suffered in those dark dungeons reserved for the criminals of want.

And yet, submerged in their dejection and humiliation there yet glowed a spark that occasionally blew into flame. The National MacDonald Government decreed to the Means Test Board that if there was a wage earner in the family then the rest of the family unemployed were not entitled to any dole.

The unemployed of Hanky Park burst into outraged protest at this cynical injustice. Their march to the Town Hall was met with the Iron First of Capital which brutally crushed their march under the hooves of the mounted police. Capital knew how to deal with outages.

Today would seem like a fairland to those of the hungry thirties. To us nowadays, reading of those times seems like reading of another world altogether. Yet there are those in the ranks of capital who look with envy on the responsibilities in society then.

Power

Clearly would the workers of British Rail and the British Steel Corporation have to see those days of power again. Days when they could not do more than demand wages and hours, and then which brought us running to their factory gates fighting for jobs.

Every Friday the boss of Ward and Langley in Manchester used to tour the factory and sack a hundred workers, just to keep the rest on their toes. The worker at his lathe or bench, was always very conscious of the agonised clamour of the unemployed at the factory gate.

Love on the Dole is required reading for all those among us prepared to sell their jobs for the redundancy pay, or for those grabbing for that overtime which means three men doing the work of four.

Lest we forget!

DAVE HALLSWORTH

□ *LOVE ON THE DOLE*, by Walter Greenwood, Penguin, 80p (including postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Labour's Ministry of Drudgery

GOOD MORNING, boys and girls. My name is Mr Twagley and I'm the North East Coordinator of the Department for the Re-utilisation of Unemployed youngsters in Degrading Employment. Or DRUDGE, as it is known.

Perhaps you have seen some of our projects on television. Notably the Sunderland Experiment. Hundreds of youngsters, like yourselves were specially trained to sweep up all the rubbish and sand on the beach there.

Now we'll divide you into groups. I may as well say now that any youngster who is not prepared to face up to these challenging tasks has no place on this project and he may as well leave now. But I would like to remind you of course that he will no longer be eligible for the £2.65 Reward Bonus which we pay you every day while you are with us.

Well, I am glad that the rest of you are prepared to face up to the future with us. Now to our work.

Group One will concentrate on the canal area, and collect old pram wheels.

Group Two will focus on the council estates. They will be responsible for removing Right to Work posters. Pick up your blow-lamps and steel brushes from Mr Quigley.

Group Three is our Dog Defecation Disposal Unit. In simple terms, you will be responsible for picking up, er, dog droppings. That's right boys. No, I am not joking.

Report back here on Friday and see what we have achieved.

Eye sores

FRIDAY...

All right, all right, stop muttering now please. You will be paid at four o'clock by Mr Sigley.

Group One collected 740 prams, which is good. Almost 60 yards of canal is now free of these eyesores. Now we can turn our eyes towards eight-mile stretch over to Seamington. Well done, lads.

Group Two has also done well. They have completely eradicated Right to Work posters from the wall of the Co-op and have proved that these posters are not impossible to remove (although very nearly so). Yes boys. I am aware that the vandals were busy again last night. But now that you are more familiar with the area around the Co-op, I am sure that getting them off will not be so difficult a second time.

Now Group Three, I'll be frank, I am extremely disappointed with Group Three. This group has shown even less enthusiasm than the other groups. But this lad here has shown a lot of determination. I think he deserves a pat on the back for collecting five stone of, er, matter. (No, lad, stand over there).

We have a fresh crowd of youngsters starting on Monday and have devised a new set of projects which will prepare us for our life ahead. There is nothing we cannot do without the enthusiasm and idealism of our youth!

PHIL EVANS

TAKE IT AS RED

by PAUL O'FLINN

FIREWEED is a nine-month old quarterly magazine of short stories, poems, photos, songs, plays and sketches. There are criticisms to be made of it but it's still head and shoulders—and chest, waist, thighs, knees and ankles—above anything else of its kind being published by the left in this country.

It's a disgrace and wholly to be expected that the hundred and more review copies distributed round the national and provincial press have met with almost complete silence. They couldn't find room for it, I suppose in between puffs for Grocer's book about boats and Lord Hailsham's latest volume of simple pieties for pious simpletons.

De-mystifying

The most recent *Fireweed* (Autumn 1975) has at least two first-rate items. There's a short story by Edward Bond about jury service. This manages to be both an excellent, wry little tale and at the same time a cheerily de-mystifying account of court procedure—part Anglican service, part bureaucratic shambles, part scouring humiliation and part suave bullying.

Then there's an extract from Trevor Griffiths' new play *Comedians*. It's funny in an appalling way. It also uses its own jokes to think its way into the social function of comedians, what they do to audiences and how they do it. But there is one small, important reservation about the magazine. *Fireweed* takes its name from a flowering weed that spreads across waste land and there is a desolating,

Fireweed and the waste land

waste land feel to much of the writing and the visuals.

The dying drifter, paralysed by a thump from a copper's truncheon in Frances McNeil's short story, is a typical figure and one who crops up in all sorts of guises in every issue.

There's lots of loving photos of the smashed faces of alcoholics squatting in ruins. Stories tend to be dense with ash tips, kitchen sinks, leaden skies and sexual frustration. Songs mourn the defeat of the Diggers, paintings detail the smokey horror of industrial landscapes.

All these things are true and need angry recording, but other aspects of

popular life and tradition seem to get squeezed out. Victorious struggles, strikes that were won, revolutions that were successful deserve their own celebration but they don't often get it here.

There is one short poem for children in the latest issue about a successful revolution. It's called 'The Princess and the Ploughman', by Nigel Gray, and I thought it was great so I showed it to an eight-year-old and a nine-year-old.

They said (honest!): 'We liked it but it all happened a bit quick. When the change came he didn't say what the rich people did. They would have started a war. But then he'd've needed 55 pages to talk about that, not just ten.'

So maybe as well as subscribing to *Fireweed* you should send them your 55-page poem on the revolution.

Fireweed: Contributions and subscriptions £3 for one year, single issues 60p plus 15p postage, to The Editors, 107 Bowerham Road, Lancaster.

ON THE BOX THIS WEEK

FRIDAY
THE MONEY PROGRAMME (BBC2 8.15pm) is trying a cosmetic job on property speculators. FALL OF EAGLES (BBC2) on the 1903 Bolshevik Congress is not as bad as the rest of this series.

SATURDAY
BELOW ZERO (BBC1, 11.50am) is a Laurel and Hardy golden oldie. THE RED FELLOW (BBC2, 6.20pm) stars the humble salmon and its battle for survival. Anyone who enjoyed the Ascent of Man might want to watch Jacob Bronowski on PARKINSON (BBC1, 11.25pm).

SUNDAY
THE ITALIAN JOB (ITV, 7.55pm) stars Michael Caine after gold bullion. This week's TRADE UNION STUDIES (BBC1) is on multi-nationals. PETER DONALDSON'S ILLUSTRATED ECONOMICS talks about the bosses' dream—three million unemployed.

TUESDAY
Adrian Mitchell is on THE BOOK PROGRAMME (BBC2). DECISION (ITV) looks behind the scenes at how the Steel Corporation made its decision on a £34 million iron ore processing plant in Scotland.

BOOK OF THE WEEK



JOHN
STEINBECK
THE GRAPES
OF WRATH

The works of the roots of the vines, of the trees, must be destroyed to keep up the price, and this is the saddest, bitterest thing of all. Carloads of oranges dumped on the ground. The people came for miles to take the fruit, but this could not be. How would they buy oranges at twenty cents a dozen if they could drive out and pick them up? And men with hoses squirt kerosene on the oranges, and they are angry at the crime, angry at the people who have come to take the fruit. A million people hungry, needing the fruit—and kerosene sprayed over the golden mountains.

From John Steinbeck's fine novel of sharecroppers forced off the land in Oklahoma, who go to the green valleys of California to seek their living.

£1.05 (inc postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

LETTERS

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

Alison: The press 'lends a hand'

WITHIN hours of the Socialist Worker containing my open letter to Harold Wilson reaching Bolton, a reporter from the Daily Telegraph arrived on my doorstep. His paper wanted, he claimed, to help us.

Trusting soul that I am, I allowed him to come in and conduct an interview. The result was two different reports—a sympathetic piece in the Northern edition on 10 January and a scurrilous, inaccurate report in the London edition the day before. Everything I had said was completely distorted.

The part of the report that really angered me was a 'quote' from me about 'immigrants whose benefits amount to more than £100 a week'.

I had been asked by the journalist if I didn't resent Asians receiving £100 a week and more. This was his figure, not mine, and he brought the subject up.

I replied that I had never heard of anyone receiving that amount of money. I added sarcastically that if they got that amount they must have very large families (figure it out: they'd need about 30 kids of school age to qualify for such a benefit).

Tone

Interestingly, this fictitious quote from me did not appear in the report in the Northern edition, only in the Southern edition.

The reporter, Stanley Goldsmith, was sent all the way from London to interview me. Why did they not get a local man to do it?

Some of my neighbours were approached by him and, from the tone of his questions, it was obvious that he was out to discredit me. Fortunately, he was sent away with a flea in his ear.

A few days later, two other mysterious figures asked for an interview, saying they were from the Daily Express. All their questions were of a political nature and after a while I became suspicious.

When I asked to see their press cards, they said they had left them in their car and went out to get them. They never returned.

On inquiring to the Express, I found they had not sent them. So much for the Free Press.—JACK CUMMINS, Bolton.



Flashback to Jack Cummins' open letter to Harold Wilson in Socialist Worker, 10 January. The Daily Telegraph's response was (right) two different reports—one accurate, one inaccurate—and, below, an invented racist quote

ANOTHER INDICTMENT OF THIS VILE SYSTEM

THE CASE OF Alison Cummins is another heavy indictment, if one were needed, of the evil system we are surrounded by. It's only because the 'authorities' have kept us so busy through the centuries fighting and killing each other, that no one's had time or money to do any research to find a cure. The conditions that make this possible can come only by ourselves replacing the present pitiless system with a real society of human beings.—JOHN ORMSBY, Tatworth, Somerset.

'Greedy Workers' now TV series

ANOTHER swipe at the working class. That's the new TV series *Yus, my Dear*, with the perpetuation of the usual myths of the Three O's: over-paid; overdressed and oversexed. Strange how it is never suggested that the working class is 'overworked'.

OVERPAID: It was stated that 'loss in the pay packet meant he (Arthur Mullard) only took home a wage of £103', to which his wife replied 'lucky we live in a council house, otherwise we couldn't afford to live.'

As the best paid skilled workers' wage is between £60-£75 (before taxes etc. are deducted), I wonder where the author got his information.

OVERDRESSED/OVERFURNISHED: The characters are dressed in the gaudiest clothes imaginable and their council house is furnished with everything ostentatious that has ever been produced, from the wall paper inwards.

OVERSEXED: The brother of AM enjoyed this role, encouraging the belief that women, beer, food and gambling (not necessarily in that order) are the only interests to which the working class subscribe. Except, of course, for bribery which was practised by AM and wife, by donating £100 to a charity.

The women's parts are not less stereotyped; money grabbing, nagging wife, who is supposed to spend £2, for a bar of soap. Or the girlfriend, who works as a topless waitress at a strip club. Hardly wears anything even when not working, but clothes are soon removed when a drink is conveniently poured over her dress to prove that all 'assets' are real.

All the roles are pathetic, and if the series runs true to the traditional form of so-called 'Cockney humour', the next episode will probably be telling us about their holiday plans. Will it be the Bahamas, a Safari trip or a World Cruise, or in line with all the other incredulous ideas, perhaps they will be on the first trip to the moon.—HELEN WARBY, London.

THE MAJORITY of the Teesside IS branch feel that a revolutionary newspaper should maintain a higher political standard on its front page than that of Socialist Worker on 10 January.

Without wishing to sound callous, the Left has been treated to platitudes about the inhumanity of the capitalist system for too long.

Alison and others like her would have been better served by a detailed informative article on the cuts, calling for concrete political proposals on how to fight them.—M WILLIAMS, Teesside.

A GOOD article on the steel workers' union (last week) was marred by the ultra-left and nonsensical headline *History of a Company Union*.

Let's get it clear. The ISTC is an undemocratic, bureaucratised, right wing union. But it is still a union, a workers' organisation, not a creation of the British Steel Corporation.

The distinction matters. Socialists and militants fight to change the policy and leadership of the ISTC, not to wreck it.

Your 'company union' label can mislead steel workers and lead them to turn their backs on the ISTC.

The only people to benefit from this would be Bill Sirs and his cronies and the BSC.—FRED HALL, London.

A disgrace Jack Jones

THE SALE of spares to the Chilean Navy is a disgrace to the labour movement in this country.

It goes without saying that Jack Jones has kept silent over the matter. Witness his outburst on Spain, where he fought during the Civil War.

Again all he did was to mouth fine sentiments, and not follow them up with any call to the rank and file to implement them.

Witness again his stand on the Social Contract and the £6 wage increase.

If these are the sentiments of a great left leader, as the Morning Star would have us believe he is, then all I can say is the sooner he gets his much sought-after knighthood and retires peacefully to the House of Lords the better.

It's worth noting that when the capitalist press attacks the militants in the trade union movement, Jack Jones' name is never among them.—B K JONES, I&G member, Swinton, Manchester.

HERE IN BRITAIN - £1 FOR 38 HOURS

I HAVE just joined the ranks of the unemployed but not reluctantly, however.

I worked for 16 months in a state-owned shop under contract to the post office. There were 42 men who worked 38 hours a week for a total wages bill for the workers of less than £40. The staff of supervisors earned around £100 a week each.

Strikes were illegal and punishable by up to six months imprisonment, without trial, appeal or legal representatives of any kind. It was an offence to leave a machine without the permission of the supervisors.

42 men shared two toilets and two sinks with one towel which was changed once a week. Drinking tea was regarded as a serious offence—no tea breaks were permitted.

All earnings had, by law, to be spent in the canteen provided by the management, who decided what could be bought and at what prices. All wages are paid on a work rate system. No work, no wages.

Why should anyone tolerate such conditions? Simply because if you protest it can, in some cases, cost you several years extra imprisonment.

The shop is in Northallerton prison, a training prison and a so-called easy nick. There are 20,000 people in this country living and working in such places. Many are much worse.

Most offences are trivial but repetitive. If Socialist Worker could help to establish trade union rights in prison it might keep some workers out so useful to the inevitable revolution.—JOHN ELLIS, Sheffield.

When WE take over...

I AGREE that we have the Right to Work, but I feel we ought to think about what sort of work we do when we take over factories.

For example, I think the Chrysler workers ought to occupy and take over their factory, but not necessarily to go on making small, petrol-engined cars that pollute our atmosphere.

Instead they could concern themselves more with different forms of public transport, bikes, etc, which would be of far more use to the workers.

If all the groups of people who take over factories and workplaces put this sort of thing into action, we would soon have so many silly and wasteful things. ANKARET S HARMER, Birmingham

We fought... and won

AS IT IS the year of Equal Opportunity we thought readers might be interested to know that a small victory was won by the Medical Records Clerical Staff at University College Hospital in London. We have won the right to wear trousers at work.

This small action—although it didn't seem it at the time—was the starting point of unionising a group of women who connected unions only with strikes.

Although Sex Discrimination is now ILLEGAL, it's the small issues that count—so don't let them get away with it. KATE GARRATT, NALGO, MAGGIE RUTTER, NALGO, MEL BARTLEY, NUPE.

SEE HIM FADE-WE LOST HIS FIGHT

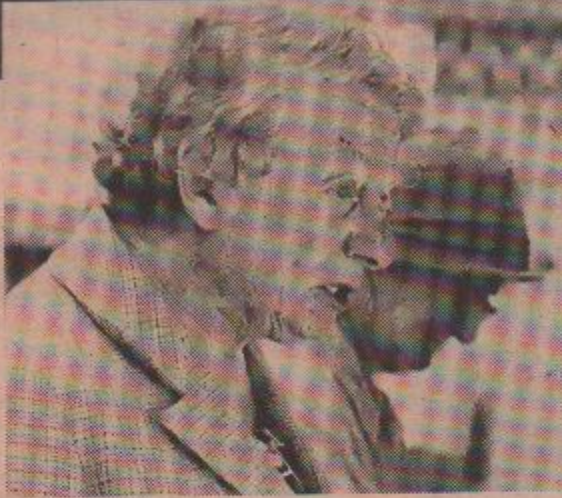
*I've watched a young man this winter,
He walks his little white dog along
The railway embarkment each day*

*He goes for fish and chips—his main meal of the day?
At first his step was sprightly, like a prisoner just released.
Now his steps are slower, he's aged nearly 50 years.*

*I watch my own young man go to work each day,
And know with unemployment he'll end up the same way.
His spirit sapped, his days so long,
It's such a waste, it's capitalism's wrong.*

MANCHESTER HOUSEWIFE.

12,000 STRIKE TO AID PENSIONERS



A MASS strike for better and fairer pensions—the biggest in British industrial history—took place last Wednesday. It closed the hugh Vickers shipyard at Barrow, and their smaller works at Swindon.

The strike will be followed by more unless the multi-million pound company, whose chairman is Lord Robens, concedes better treatment for retired

workers. It was organised by the three staff unions—APEX, ASTMS and TASS—which are demanding that Vickers pensions be 'proofed' against inflation.

The unions are also furious at Vickers' insistence that the 'death in service' benefits, the lump sum payments to families of workers who die while at Vickers, should be stopped.

The strike at Vickers is a sign of

the increasing militancy of workers about pensions.

They are asking important questions, such as:

□ Is the 'deduction' off our wages for pensions too much for what we get when we retire?

□ What happens to all that money—who looks after it?

Here **Christopher Hird** exposes THE GREAT PENSIONS SWINDLE.

How they gamble with our pensions

Can we afford chops this week—or is it sausages again? The week's shopping is a problem when inflation is eating away the pension you spent all those years saving for—all those years when the rich men of the City were using your pension money to make fortunes for themselves.



Pictures: Peter Harrap (Report)

THERE'S a great campaign going on in the gutter press about civil service pensions. We're told these are too high and too expensive. Some papers have even suggested that civil servants should join pension schemes as in private industry—which, they imply, would be cheaper.

The truth is exactly the opposite. Civil service pensions, cost half as much as any other inflation-proofed pensions. But the press and big business oppose them because they threaten the City control over £30,000 million of workers' money. The pension fund system is one of the great swindles of all time.

Under an Act of 1971, civil servants, local authority workers and hospital workers are guaranteed pensions which rise in line with prices. Someone who has worked in the civil service gets a pension of half his or her final pay for the rest of his life, and the pension is increased every year according to inflation.

In 1974-1975, this scheme cost £165 million—that's £240 per civil servant.

Worse

The Post Office Corporation promises exactly the same pensions—but takes £600 a year from each worker to pay for them, equivalent to a quarter of their wages. The difference is because the City gets its hands on that money on its way to the pensioners.

If you work for a private employer, you're likely to get an even worse deal. The civil service and Post Office pensions rise with prices. Most private companies don't proof their pensions against inflation. As prices rise, pensions get eaten away.

But workers in private companies still pay more than civil servants, whose pensions are inflation-proof. Why?

The civil service uses a 'pay as you

go' system. The cost of pensions is collected from workers and handed across to the pensioners.

The private employers and nationalised industries use a 'funded' system. The workers' contributions are put into a pension fund which is run by 'experts' in the City of London. It is then invested in stocks, shares and property, and the income from these pays the pensions.

Bust

This fund has to be big enough to pay all the benefits promised—both to existing pensioners and whatever pension rights employees have earned so far. So even if an employer goes bust the pension fund, and the pensions, will still be there.

Because the government will not go bust, there is no need to give civil servants this protection.

Supposing all pension funds were scrapped and there was just one government pay-as-you-go scheme. Instead of workers having to pay a quarter of their wages into a fund, the government would just collect whatever was needed to provide decent pensions.

The low cost of civil service pensions—which are generally higher than average—shows that workers would have to pay less, wages would be higher, pensions would be better.

What's the catch? The huge pension funds are crucial to the running of the capitalist system. There is about £11,000 million in pension funds, money controlled by merchant bankers, company directors and fund managers. It is used to buy stocks, shares and other investments without the people whose money it is ever being consulted.

Gravy

It is used to lubricate the Stock Exchange. A sudden infusion of pension money into a bank, property or industry can make fortunes for a few rich men. That's why so many pension fund managers end up on the boards of fringe banks and property speculators. They provide the gravy for capitalism—and they get their reward.

If a fair system of state pensions were put into effect, to the great benefit of all wage earners and all pensioners, these fund managers and their friends in the Stock Exchange would lose £11,000 million worth of gambling stake money. That's why they howl against the civil service pensions.

Trade union nominees on the pension funds have, up till now, used the pension meetings as an excuse for an afternoon off. The most appalling robbery of their members' money has taken place under their noses. Workers on the shop floor need to find out what is happening to their pension money and agitate on the shop floor for a nationalised pension scheme for all workers.

□ Christopher Hird's *YOUR EMPLOYER'S PROFITS*, second in the *Workers' Handbook* series, shows how to cut through the bosses' 'We're broke' smokescreen and find out just how much they're making. £1 including postage from Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW3.

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.

JOIN
Socialist Worker
IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

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

CAMPAIGN ON CUTS LINKS TO MARCH

WHEN the Right to Work March leaves Manchester on 28 February, it will be seen off by a demonstration from the local Fight the Cuts Committee.

The committee is supported by 27 local trade union bodies, including branches and stewards' committees from the health unions NUPE and COHSE, the local government workers', tech teachers, and firemen's unions.

The committee grew out of a campaign by the local monthly rank and file paper Hospital Worker. Said Brian McDonald, a student nurse at Prestwich Hospital in North Manchester: 'Hospital Worker campaigned for a year over the cuts. We organised a demonstration a few months back when half the children's wards in Pendlebury Hospital were closed. We got lots of publicity.'

'The Manchester Royal Infirmary cancelled plans to spend £20 million on rebuilding. The place is a right old dump. We were able to get a better organised picket, supported by the unions. A meeting was called and 120 people turned up. That's where we set up the Manchester Fight the Cuts Committee.'

'We got support by raising it at union branches, by circulating union branches, and by getting the NUPE divisional office to take the matter up.'

'Our biggest fight is over the attempt to get rid of 30 cadet nurses from Crumpsal Hospital. These are school leavers who are

By a Socialist Worker Reporter

taken on for two years. They were told that if they got three O-levels as a result of their day release courses, they would automatically go on to become student nurses taking SRN courses.'

Now the authorities are suddenly insisting that they get five O-levels—even though the part-time course they take at college only allows them to do four at the most.

NO CRISIS?

Fifty of the cadets attended a meeting to hear a member of the Cuts Committee. They were very militant. But their union official, Eddie Lawson, the COHSE divisional officer, tried to fob them off, claiming that 'as long as I am divisional officer of this union, not one COHSE member will lose their job.'

'There is no crisis in the Health Service. It is all made up by the papers and will blow over in a few months,' he claimed.

But the next day, after Lawson had negotiated with the authorities, the cadets were summoned to see the Nursing Officer. They expected to get their jobs back. Instead they were told how to apply for dole.

The District Nursing Officer, Mrs Moore, explained to stewards: 'Staff are not leaving at the rate we are used to. Nurses earn a fair salary and are queuing at the door.'

CADETS

The 'fair salary' for student nurses like Brian McDonald is £23 take-home pay for a 9am to 9pm day.

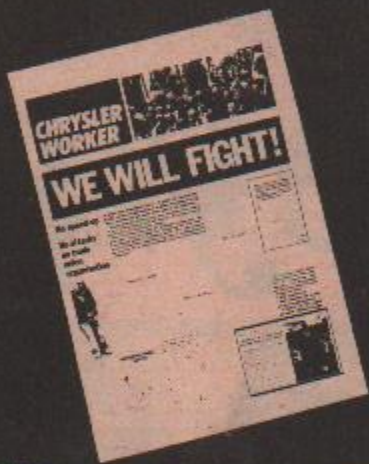
The Cuts Committee has called for two pickets at the hospital on Monday. These will be supported by the Crumpsal Hospital porters, who are NUPE members. These will take off an hour of worktime to support the demonstration.

The Cuts Committee is calling for all union bodies that support it to organise meetings during working time to hear one of the cadets explain their case in hospitals, colleges, schools.

One of the cadets, Julie, who's 17, told the Hospital Worker: 'We're taking action ourselves because it's our jobs. Everyone's just been talking. Now we've got to take action. Domestic, ancillary workers and student nurses should all be on the picket. They must support us to save themselves. It's because of the cuts we're being sacked and they will be next.'

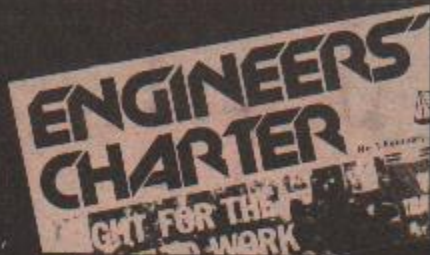
AS unemployment rises and wages fall ever further behind prices, more and more rank and file trade unionists are being forced to link together and fight back in the absence of any action by the trade union leaders. In the past week six rank and file papers have been produced. Some are new, perhaps temporary. Others have a tradition as leaders of rank and file trade union struggle.

Six more papers in the struggle



THE latest issue of Chrysler Worker comes out just as the company is announcing the first sackings. 'The complete failure of both the national union officials and most of the senior convenors to lead any fight back has let the company think they can get away with murder,' said Chrysler Stoke shop steward Gerry Jones. 'We are going to use this paper to show the company and their allies in the government that they can't.'

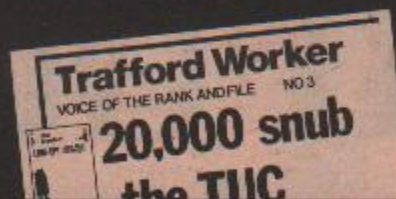
Chrysler Worker has called a national FIGHT BACK meeting, on Saturday 31 January at 1.30pm, PES Club, Whitefriars Street (next to the Odeon), Coventry. Details from A Danks, Flat 1, 64 Fisher Road, Coventry, or W Lee, 6 Keir Street, Glasgow S1. Transport available phone 041 429 2435.



'THIS is our first issue', said Engineers Charter secretary Mick Birghtman.

'We spent nine months arguing that we needed a Charter of demands for militants in the AUEW to fight round, not just a vague promise to follow left-wing policies, but a clear commitment to policies. At our successful first conference we decided to bring out this paper to start linking up together across the whole union.'

Copies 10p each plus postage, from Engineers Charter, c/o Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16



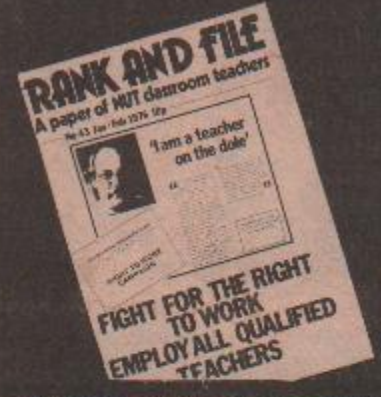
THERE are more than 40,000 unemployed workers in Manchester, and people remember only too well how job after job has been destroyed in Trafford Park, a vast complex of factories. A few rank and file militants got together before Christmas to produce a bulletin, the Trafford Worker. It now circulates in ten factories, including Massey Ferguson, Union Royal Chemicals, GEC, Ciba, Geigy, Parkinson Power and Gardners.

Trafford Worker, c/o TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester 3.



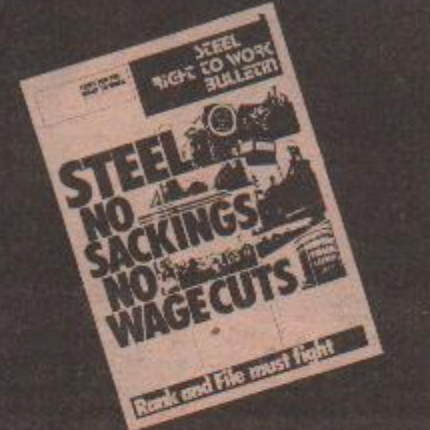
LEYLAND workers have brought out another issue of the Leyland Worker. In it a Transport Union member at Cowley writes about 'the story the press didn't tell'. After a week of press attacks on militant shop stewards, in the assembly plant, Leyland Worker deals with the real danger to Cowley workers, the right wing led by Reg Parsons.

Details and copies (4p each plus postage) from Pat Egan, 50 Bristol Road, Coventry.



THE latest issue of Rank and File Teacher takes as its front page story the Right to Work March. A member of the editorial board, Sean Doherty, told Socialist Worker: 'It is vital that all teachers support Kevin Wingfield, the unemployed teacher who is going on the Right to Work march. We are doing everything to raise support both for him and for all the other marchers as a way of fighting unemployment. We hope thousands of teachers will contribute to the march.'

10p a copy (please add postage) from Rank and File, 5 Romany Road, London, SE27.



IN South Wales, steelworkers have got together to bring out a Steel Right to Work Bulletin. More than 10,000 jobs in steel are threatened in South Wales alone. The South Wales steelworkers hope to link up with steelworkers in other parts of the country as part of the national fight back to protect all 44,000 jobs.

Details and copies of the bulletin from Steel Right to Work, c/o RFOC, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

Teachers: We'll have to fight unemployment

by Anna Deason (NUT)

'This conference is important for students and teachers to get together and fight for the conditions that should exist in schools in 1976, and for full employment. Last year over 20 per cent of trained teachers from our college couldn't get jobs. This year could be worse if we don't fight back. That's why I shall be asking my union to support this conference in every way possible.'

John Lomas Clarke is president of the students' union at Southlands College in London. He was talking about the Conference against Unemployment in Education which is to be held in London on 28 February.

The conference, part of the Campaign

against Unemployment in Education, which is affiliated to the National Right to Work Campaign, aims to involve all workers in schools. It is specially aimed at those being hardest hit by the cutbacks in education—the trainee teachers.

Although union officials publicly deplore the shrinking number of jobs and the decline of conditions in schools, they do nothing. Unemployed newly-trained teachers are automatically lapsed from membership of the NUT after one term unemployed.

Training teachers who may be associate members of the NUT are often asked to cover for non-appointed staff while on teaching practice in the schools. But unless the local NUT branch has been particularly forward looking, they do not even have the speaking rights to put their case in the

union branch.

The conference is aimed to discuss these problems and launch a campaign based on the experience of teachers and students that can effectively fight back. It is vital that teachers and students try to raise this in schools, colleges, and union branches and get delegations to attend.

It is also important that ancillary workers are involved. After teachers, that's where the axe will fall next.

Refuse

As Dick North, a Rank and File member of the NUT executive, said: 'The NUT leadership will know that at least 7,000 teachers will be unemployed next September. But they do nothing but make empty speeches.'

Pickets stop GEC lock-out factory

by members of the Metal Mechanics union (NSMM) at Keith Blackmans

NORTH LONDON: The lock-out of 360 workers at Keith Blackman, the GEC plant in Tottenham, enters its second week. The dispute started with the groundless victimisation of a TASS steward, when storemen went on official strike in his support.

Management's response has been to lock out all trade unionists—a few scabs are still working in the offices.

Unity between the eight unions concerned has produced effective picketing—no goods are entering or leaving the site. Production has stopped. Moves are being made for all unions to declare the dispute official.

The implications of the lock-out are clear. GEC are out to 'rationalise' ruthlessly. They want lower manning, flexibility, mobility, and to keep wage levels low. At Blackmans, which has a good record of union cooperation, this can only be done by smashing union organisation.

Previously, the intimidation of shop stewards has been stopped by successful occupation of the factory. Only a total victory will stop the GEC bosses repeating their attacks throughout the combine. The fight must be increased to whatever level is necessary to achieve this.

Support is urgently required. Finance, messages of support or requests for speakers to: Jim Pickering, AUEW Suite 3 (2nd floor), 128/136 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex.

WALK-OUT AT HOSPITAL

by Josa Caba, TGWU branch secretary, Manor House Hospital

NORTH LONDON: A new domestic manager, Mrs Mackenzie, was brought into Manor House Hospital last week. Immediately she tried to take away all the gains we'd won over the years. Tea breaks weren't paid. One person was asked to do the job of two. Girls were asked to do portering duties, which they aren't classified or paid to do.

The union protested. By Monday we'd had no reply. So we called an emergency meeting and worked out a list of demands. The management wouldn't talk about these, so we walked out the gate. We were out for three hours.

We went back when management agreed we won't lose pay for those three hours out.

We have given management ten days to come back and discuss our demands. Three demands are non-negotiable: for a closed shop—no contract labour, formally agreed manning levels, and the immediate setting up of a joint safety committees—or the recognition of our safety committee.

CUTS PICKET ARRESTED

ROBBIE MAMION, a member of the Sefton Right to Work Campaign, was arrested last Thursday when on a picket of Sefton Council, protesting against cutbacks in jobs and social services.

The picket, called by the Sefton Against the Cuts Campaign (SACC), had leafleted the council and waited in the public gallery for a discussion of the projected cuts in council spending.

After a Labour councillor and Transport Union official had given cuts their blessing and said unemployment wasn't as bad as it was in the Thirties, the gallery erupted in fury.

There were shouts of 'You're taking us back to the Thirties!'. Robbie Mamion was thrown out of the chamber. He was later charged with using 'abusive behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace'. His reply to this was simple: 'Nothing was more likely to cause a breach of the peace than the squirming words of the Labour councillors who agreed with the cuts.'

We request other similar committees and trade union branches to send messages of support and financial assistance for Robbie's defence to the Secretary of the SACC, Chris Jones, 28 Bank Road, Bootle L20 4AU.

Notices and meetings

Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post the Monday preceding publication. We cannot take them over the phone. Send cash with copy (5p a word) to CLASSIFIED, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

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.

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST DICTATORSHIP IN INDIA: Sunday 25 January, assemble 1pm, Hyde Park, London, for march to Indian High Commission.

TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND: Demonstrate in commemoration of Bloody Sunday, Sunday 1 February, assemble 1.30pm, Shepherd's Bush Green, West London (Central Line tube to Shepherd's Bush, or Metropolitan Line to Goldhawk Road, Buses 12, 49, 48). Organised by Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee. Followed by Troops Out Movement rally. All 15 London and Home Counties branches to support with banners.

TRAFFORD WORKER social: Thursday 29 January, 8pm-2am, Waves Disco, Bonze, Food, Dancing Place, Shude Hill, Manchester. Tickets 50c.

BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND CAMPAIGN (BWNIC): General Meeting at Pax Centre, Blackfriars Hall, Southampton Road, London W5 (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.

WORKERS' BOOKSHELF, a socialist mail order book service offers a wide selection of books on Marxist theory, labour history, women and international affairs. Pamphlets our speciality—over 60 titles. Stamped addressed envelope for catalogue to Workers Bookshelf, 150 Foster Road, Trumpington, Cambridge.

STOP BBC VICTIMISATION AND BIAS ON PORTUGAL: Picket of Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1, Tuesday 27 January, 12.45 to 2pm. Organised by the Media Support Group, Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee.

MANCHESTER ANGOLA SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Tuesday 27 January, 12.45pm, Salford University Union, film and speaker, 7.30pm, public meeting, West Indian Centre, Camoor Road, film and exhibition. Speakers: a Labour MP, Paul Faurel of the Angolan Solidarity Committee, Chairman John Straine. Social till 1am, late bar admission 30p. Thursday 29 January, 12.45pm, Manchester Polytechnic, film and speaker, 8pm, Stockport UNA, Central United Reform Church, Millbrook Street, behind AUEW Film Angola and speaker. Monday 7 February, MPLA Day—nationally co-ordinated. Friday 6 February, 7.30pm, Manchester Centre for Marxist Education, Star and Garter, Fairfield Street, film Angola and speaker.

RIGHT TO WORK NEWS

TOTTENHAM

AN UNEMPLOYED worker from Kirkcaldy, Fife, fed up with not being able to get a job in Scotland, travelled to London and went straight to the first Job Centre he could find.

He arrived at the one in Scotland Green, Tottenham, on Monday to find it occupied, not by job vacancies, but by angry unemployed. 20 members of the North London Right to Work Committee were joined by some 35 other unemployed workers.

BRISTOL

THIRTY MEMBERS of the unemployed workers' committee, along with stewards from Rolls Royce and Commonwealth Smelting, occupied the local Jobs Centre on Monday.

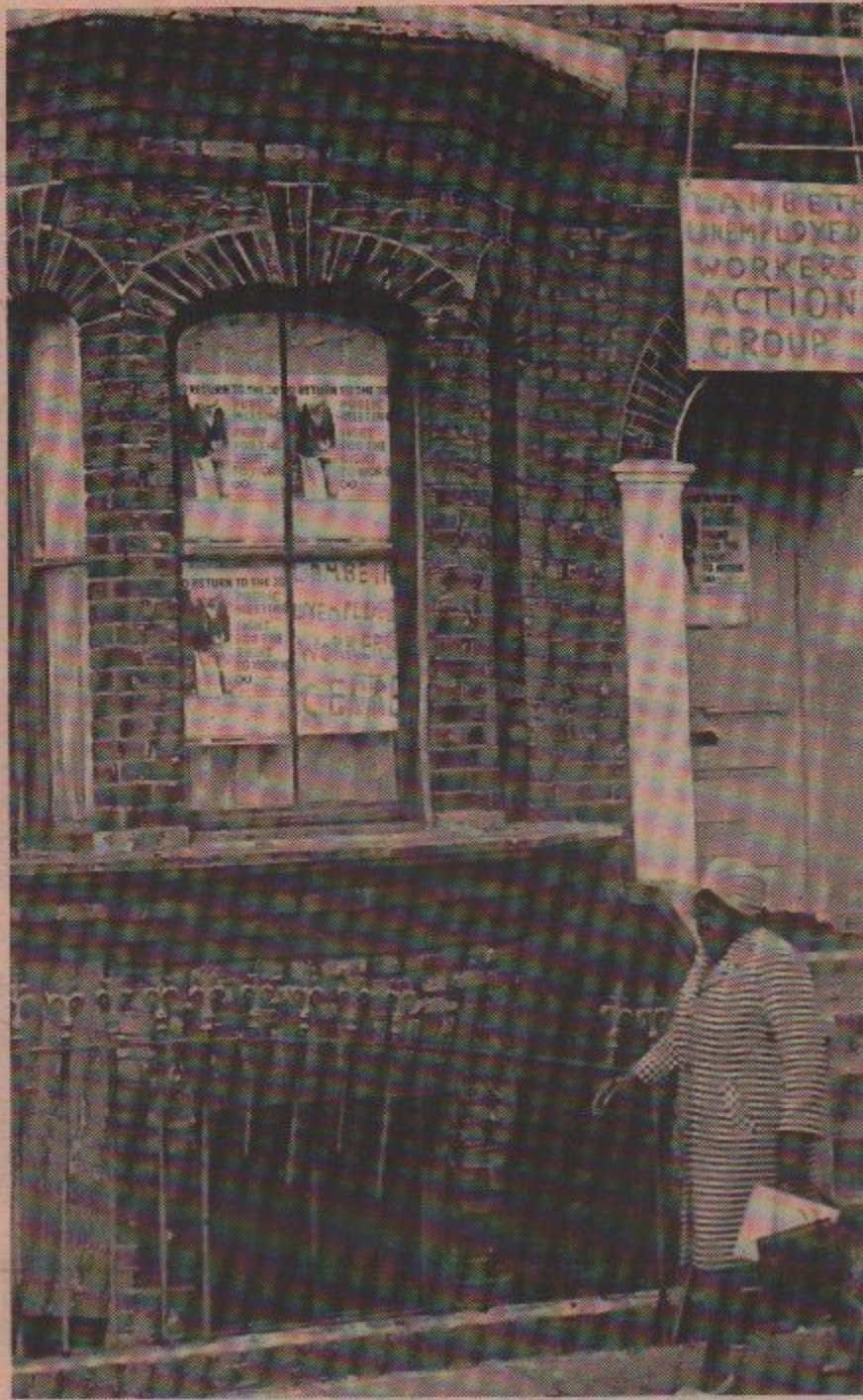
Ted Evans, an engineering shop steward at Rolls Royce, said: 'Redundancies are coming at the Bristol Aircraft Corporation. Any loss of jobs is a loss to our children.'

John Evans, of the National Graphical Association, said: 'In Bristol, 17,000 workers are on the dole. If the union leadership is not going to fight, then the rank and file will.'

The convenor of the Commonwealth Smelting strike committee is to chair a meeting of the Right to Work campaign in Bristol on 9 February in Shepherds Hall, Old Market Street, 7.30pm.

BLACKBURN

THE SHOP stewards' quarterly was picketed last Tuesday by the local Right to Work Campaign in a demand for an end to overtime working locally. Factories where overtime is being worked will also be picketed.



One day an empty council house, the next an HQ for the Right to Work

OCCUPIED! Now it's our HQ, say unemployed

SOME of South London's 7000 unemployed are hitting back. Just before Christmas the Lambeth Unemployed Workers Action Group started leafletting dole queues. Before long they realised they needed a base.

So several members of the Action Group, mostly Transport Union members and building workers made redundant for being 'too militant', occupied a council house at 21 Mayall Road, just three minutes from the dole office in Brixton.

'We needed a place where we could talk and organise, where local unemployed could get together and plan action,' Colin, a member of the Action Group, told Socialist Worker.

Hullabaloo

The place had been unoccupied for over a year. The workers did it up and put out 3000 leaflets at the dole advertising a meeting in the house.

Already stewards from two building sites, Sindall's and Tarmac Fitzpatrick's, have agreed to put to mass meetings this week the demands of the National Right to Work Campaign and proposals to affiliate to the South West London Right to Work Committee.

Now they're planning to get unemployed plumbers and sparks to re-fit the place, as well as producing a 2p bulletin.

All donations welcome: LUWAG, 21 Mayall Road, Brixton, London.

And in East London, too!

UNEMPLOYED workers in Hackney, East London, have occupied a disused Post Office at 179 Sandringham Road to set up a local centre for the unemployed.

They've got table tennis, darts, a record player, radio and are hoping to get a TV. The idea is to make the place a social centre as well as a place to plan action.

MONEY IS needed urgently to help defend Glasgow Right to Work Committee members who occupied the Paisley Town Hall last month to publicise the fight against sackings at Chrysler.

Eleven of the demonstrators were arrested. They face trial on 17 March although the charges have not yet been specified. At least five of the 11 will be on the Right to Work March.

Please send donations to Glasgow Right to Work Committee c/o Tommy Kayes, 20 Argyll Street, Paisley.

TEESSIDE: A meeting of 150 people raised £22 last Friday to help start a local Right to Work campaign.

STUDENTS AT North East London Poly voted on Tuesday to send £50 to the National Right to Work Campaign. Mick Brightman, an unemployed engineer from the National Right to Work Campaign, said: 'This is just what we need. I hope other students will follow this marvellous example of solidarity.'

HANDS OFF OUR JOBS, SAY CHRYSLER SPARKS

COVENTRY:—Millwrights and electricians at Chrysler's Stoke plant have declared they will not accept a single redundancy.

Dave Nisbet, the millwrights' shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'Of 130 millwrights not one is prepared to go and everyone is prepared to fight for the

jobs.'

While the millwrights and electricians prepared to fight back, the Transport Union convenor Bob Morris prepares to leave the factory. After fighting hard all the way for the deal to be accepted, he is taking the money and leaving everyone else to sink or swim.

Elections for new senior stewards will be held next month. Meetings last week decided that no shop steward who has applied for voluntary redundancy should be allowed to take part in the elections for the new plant leadership.

At both the Stoke and Ryton plants, the inquiries about voluntary redundancy have fallen well short of Chrysler's expectations.

At Stoke, where the average age of the workforce is high, only 1200 inquiries have been made, and many of these will be turned down when workers see the paltry sums they are being offered to sell jobs. The company wants 1700 redundancies at Stoke by June.

At Ryton, only 680 have inquired out of a target redundancy figure of 2300.

Memorandum

So the hammer of compulsory redundancies is expected to fall any time. That's what makes the new stewards' and convenors' elections the most important in the plant's history.

IN SHARP contrast to the defeatist attitude of the shop floor leadership, the foremen's union, ASTMS, is resisting any compulsory redundancies. Chrysler want to cut 70 of the 300 jobs.

A mass meeting voted on Monday for immediate sanctions, despite being told by one national official that ASTMS would not support them because 'ASTMS could not be seen as the union that wrecked the Chrysler-government plan'.

The sanctions would quickly bring the plants to a standstill. Scandalously, senior shopfloor stewards at Ryton have told management they will run the plant without supervision.

WHY CONFED DEMO WAS SUCH A WASH-OUT

PATHETIC. This was the verdict of most of the 300 who attended last Saturday's demonstration in Coventry against unemployment. Organised by local Confed officials, it was doomed from the start. Many stewards committees were not informed and not until the night before did an advert appear in the local press. It invited workers to a 'mass meeting' and only mentioned the demonstration in passing.

Only pressure from rank and file stewards forced the demonstration to be called in the first place.

At a Confed stewards' meeting last November, 450 stewards voted for a campaign against unemployment which was to include a one-day strike and a demonstration throughout the district.

Thrusting

The Confed officials—Fred Talmer (Transport Union) and Frank Chater (Engineers Union)—ably assisted by Eddie McGarry, Transport Union convenor at British Leyland's Triumph plant in Coventry, successfully led the attack at later Confed executive meetings and changed the original decision.

'There's so much short time and unemployment', they argued. 'We can't let members lose a day's wages to go on a demonstration.'

So the demonstration was rescheduled for a Saturday, along with a request for a total ban on overtime that day!

Some factories and organisations were incensed when presented with this decision last week. Understandably, but mistakenly, Rolls Royce, Wickmans Machine Tools and the TASS Divisional Council all decided not to support the demonstration and to press on for a one-day strike.

The Coventry and Chrysler Right to Work Committee did turn out in some force. Local militants spoke from a Right to Work platform, and Right to Work placards were in evidence throughout the length of the march.



Dave Nisbet: no sackings

Baracuta: 120 on strike

By Thelma Kennedy

BOLTON: The 40 women machinists on strike at the Baracuta clothing factory have now been joined by 80 other machinists and pressers. The strike follows a management announcement last week that the women would have to work twice as hard—for the same money.

The women—who make men's jackets and raincoats—are paid on a piecework rate. They have had the same rate for three years—8½ garments an hour for a fixed sum. Now management want them to do 19 garments an hour for the same rate!

Baracuta is owned by Thomas Marshall Investments, a firm which owns several clothing factories.

Management say their overheads and electricity bills are going up. As one striker put it: 'They think we don't eat, that our electricity bills aren't going up and that we can afford to pay for their rising costs.'

Management have advertised for inexperienced machinists at £31 a week—£3 more than experienced workers were getting. Messages of support, especially from tailoring works, to Baracuta strikers. c/o Thelma Kennedy, 70 Stewart Street, Bolton.

RHP: Your reward—the sack

BILL BARLOW, boss of RHP, the ball-bearings firm, last week announced the shareholders' reward for a year of record profits: nearly £700,000 in dividends. Two days later, he announced the reward for the firm's workers: redundancies and short-time working.

Forty-six workers at the Stonehouse plant near Gloucester are to be sacked. Shop-floor workers in Chelmsford are to go on a four-day week, and 70 women on the twilight shift are to be sent packing.

At Stonehouse, the unions accepted the redundancies—and then found management refusing to budge on redundancy pay. So last Monday, 850 workers—members of the Engineering Union, General and Municipal Workers, and TASS, the draughtsmen's union, walked out on strike.

It's vital that the strike is turned into an all-out struggle against sackings. Hagglng over redundancy pay suits management fine when

they're trying to cut production. And it will only demoralise workers who will soon find that this is only the beginning of RHP's cut-backs.

We fight on!

AVONMOUTH:—A mass meeting of strikers at Commonwealth Smelting has voted 4-1 to stay out. A mass picket of 150 strikers, supported by the Bristol Unemployed Workers Committee, turned out on Tuesday to show their determination to fight on against reduced manning levels. Messages of support and cash for this magnificent strike to: Mike O'Dea, 10 Eldon Terrace, Bristol.

GRIMSBY:—300 dockers are on strike for an increase in piecework rates from £1.87 an hour to £2 an hour. A mass meeting has voted to stay out for at least a second week.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Port Talbot out, Trostre out, Velindre out!

STEEL: NOW FOR A NATIONAL STRIKE!

by PAUL FOOT

'A NATIONAL steel strike. That's the only way to teach the Steel Corporation a lesson.'

Dai Jones, aged 63, who spent 22 years in the South Wales pits before getting a job at Trostre tinplate works, near Llanelli, summed up the feelings of thousands of his fellow workers.

The tury among steelworkers everywhere at the Steel Corporation's proposals for massive wage cuts and sackings in the steel areas is still at boiling point. At Port Talbot, there is no sign of a break in the ranks of 1000 steel strikers who walked out in protest against cuts in pay for weekend working—and have laid off the entire plant and its 20,000 workers.

Two-thirds of all tinplate production in Britain was stopped last Thursday when 5000 workers at Trostre and Velindre walked out on unofficial strike.

Noel Newton, a member of the largest steel workers' union, ISTC at Velindre, explained what happened: 'Several hundred of us packed into the Mechanics Institute at Gorsainon—members of the two ISTC branches and the Transport and General Workers Branch.

TINPLATE

'The full-time ISTC official reported that his executive was against the strike. He was asked at once to get out of the room, and he got out.

'Even the shop steward who spoke wouldn't recommend anything. He gave a neutral report. Then someone shouted out from the floor: "Come on, let's get on with the nitty gritty. I move we go on strike." This was seconded and carried without a single vote against.'

But leaders of the steel union, local and national, are desperately trying to patch up a compromise. Bill Sirs, the general secretary of the ISTC, still hopes to persuade the steel bosses at Thursday's meeting to 'compromise' by agreeing to fewer instant sackings and a smaller cut in weekend payments!

He may have his work cut out. The steel bosses have indicated that they are out for blood, and are not at all keen to play footsy footsy with Sirs and his sycophants.



But even if the steel chiefs to agree a compromise settlement, they will not alter course. They are determined to wreck the lives of tens of thousands of steelworkers to the profit of their friends in private industry.

Meanwhile, at local level, steel union officials are doing their best to sabotage the action which has already been

taken. At Trostre, for instance, the workers in ACTSS and TASS, the white-collar sections of the Transport and Engineering unions, are crossing the picket lines every morning.

Their branch secretaries advise them that they can 'fight better from inside the factory'. This is nonsense. Until they

reject the advice of their officials, the white-collar workers at Trostre are scabs.

Militants in the TGWU and TASS might like to ask their 'left-wing' officials why their members are being allowed to scab in South Wales.

Steel unions barter, Labour betrays – it's up to us!

THE steel unions, local and national, are completely incapable of defending their members in this great struggle. They react to every crisis by ducking for a compromise and by defending the demarcation lines between the unions.

Similarly with the Labour government. Last May, Industry Minister Wedgwood Benn promised demonstrating steelworkers: 'We will not throw people out of work where there is no alternative work available'. Now Industry Ministry Varley is encouraging the steel chiefs to sack 44,000 workers and cut the pay of 100,000 others.

If steelworkers rely on their unions or their government, they and their communities are lost. South Wales, Lanarkshire, parts of Northamptonshire and North Wales will be right

back in the 1930s.

The rank and file can hit back, but only if they start to organise pickets, leaflets, demonstrations in the steel communities. The Steel Right to Work meeting in Gorsainon last Monday, at which Dai Jones made a call for a national strike, was just the initiative that is wanted.

The meeting discussed strengthening the pickets at Trostre, getting the staff out there, visiting the docks at Swansea to stop imported steel—and circulating their first Right to Work Bulletin.

Every steelworker who reads Socialist Worker should be taking such an initiative this week and next. This is the greatest crisis in the British steel industry since the war. It is started and provoked by the bosses. Unless the rank and file organise, the bosses will win it too.



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND

SPAIN . . . India . . . the Lebanon . . . the CIA—this week's international news is a picture of crises and massive struggles right across the world.

As socialists, it is our duty to organise solidarity with the Spanish working class and with the victims of the murderous Ghandi regime in India. But if our response is to match the demands of these struggles, we need more than your political support—we need money, a lot of it.

That's why we've launched the Socialist Worker International Solidarity Fund. To make raising money easier we've printed a special appeal leaflet which describes our international work and displays some of the publications we've produced. There's an order form for those pamphlets and posters on the back of the leaflet.

There's a bankers' order form as well. Use it to build up a regular income for the fund. Branches and districts must make sure that every reader of Socialist Worker gets a copy of this leaflet, this week.

We need £10,000 and if we're to make that target by our deadline—May Day—we have to start putting a lot of energy now into raising that money.

This week we received £181.40, bringing our total since December to £2126.01. We're only a fifth of the way there—we've got just three months to raise nearly £8000—so start working on it now!

Our thanks to:
J Ormsby 50p
Poole SW supporter £1
N J Bergland £1.40
Anon, Chard, Somerset 50p
Ormskirk IS and SW supporters £3
North Herts IS £2
Two TBA shop stewards, Wigan £5.50
York University NOISS £5.50
Anon, North London £150
North London District IS £7.50

Please send to SW International Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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