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SOMEWHERE... IN THE
NORTH OF ENGLAND
A FIGURE IS WORKING.

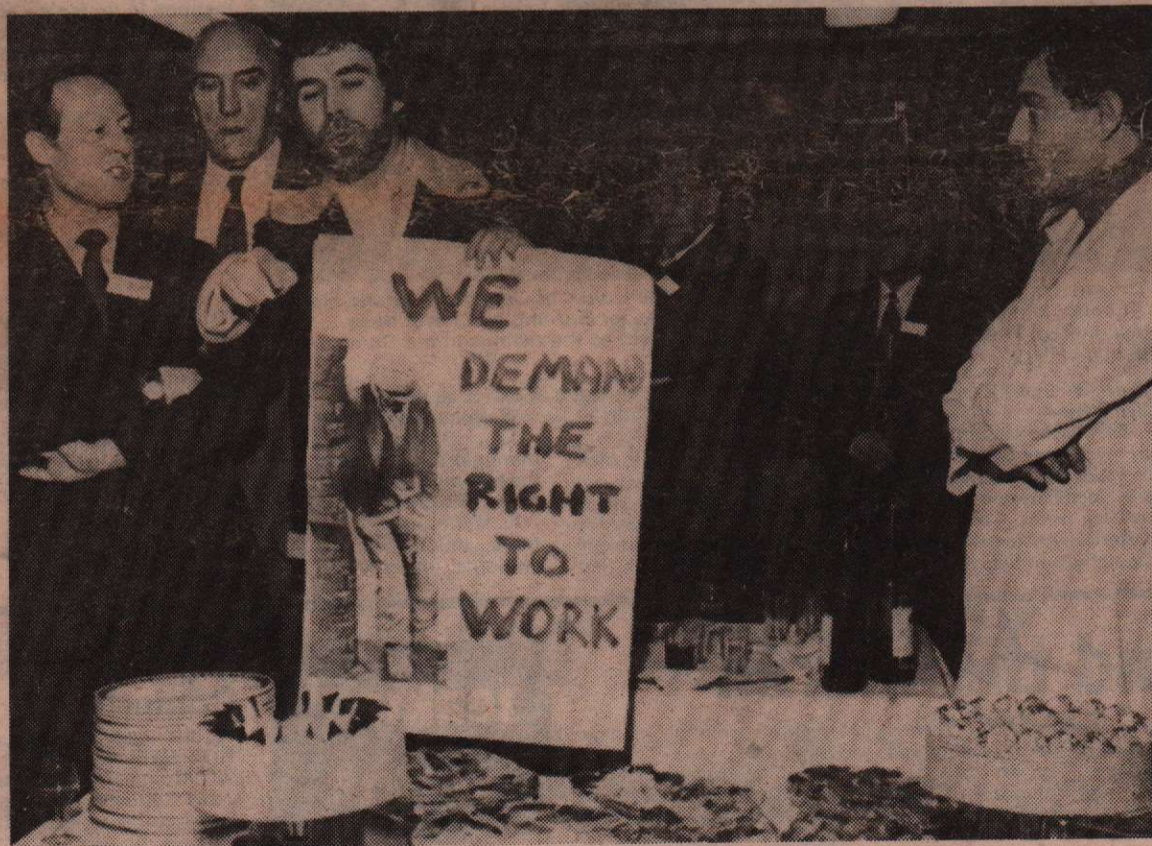
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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR JOBS!

“ This is a public scandal. This is supposed to be about unemployment, but there are pensioners dying of the cold while you are stuffing yourselves up here. ”



RIGHT TO WORK campaigners broke in as 50 Bristol employers were banqueting and boozing at the government's expense last week—in a Jobs Centre.

Members of the Bristol Unemployed Workers Committee pushed past officials and made their protest standing over a table laden down with food.

‘We think this is a public scandal—we want it stopped immediately. This is supposed to be about unemployment, but there are pensioners dying of the cold while you are stuffing yourselves up here,’ protested Colin Cameron, secretary of the committee.

The host was Alan Brown, the Employment Department's new Job Centres boss in

Whitehall. The guests were the 50 top employers in Bristol. The toast was unemployment.

At taxpayers' expense, a lunchtime banquet had been organised so that employers in the town could celebrate a new transmission system

The dozen protesters ruined the party for the pin-striped parasites. Even Brown was forced to concede: ‘These people have a point’.

THE Right to Work Campaign is winning growing support from trade union bodies all over the country.

This week the Hull Port shop stewards' committee agreed to back the campaign, locally and nationally. They will sponsor two unemployed marchers for one day each.

From London docks, Tony Merrick, one of the Pentonville Five jailed for fighting the Industrial Relations Act in 1972, agreed to sponsor the campaign. So did John Lear, TGWU official in the Surrey docks.

The Clay Cross parish council—successors to the council that defied the last Tory government's Rent Act—sponsored the campaign. So has the Clay Cross branch of the public employees' union, NUPE.

The Miners' lodge at Lea Hall in Staffordshire has affiliated to the campaign, sending £77—the money in their strike fund. The lodge at Pendlebury pit, Lancashire, is sponsoring unemployed Bolton engineer Jack Cummins for five days of the Right to Work March.

Hull dockers, Clay X council back Right to Work

Fight Back

More than 130 trade union bodies—branches, shop stewards' committees, trades councils—are now backing the campaign, which is being run by the Rank and File Organising Committee. Many have sent extra money to support marchers on the Right to Work March from Manchester to London starting in two weeks' time.

Alan Kirkby, deputy chairman of the dockers' committee, told Socialist Worker: ‘Hull dockers welcome this initiative in the fight against unemployment.’ They are sending two delegates to join the Hull Right to

Work Committee.

Graham Skinner, one of the Clay Cross eleven and secretary of Clay Cross NUPE, told Socialist Worker: ‘The cuts in public spending could swell the ranks of the unemployed with NUPE members. We've got to stop the slide. I'll be on the march myself when it comes through Clay Cross, and I urge all my members to join it too.’

Struggle

Most encouraging is the growing support in the Engineering Union. So far four district committees—Warrington, Wolverhampton, Bradford and Dursley—and 34 branches have sent in their £1 for sponsorship.

Twenty-four shop stewards' committees are now sponsors.

Finally, thanks from the Campaign to John Forrester, assistant general secretary of the AUEW (TASS) and a member of the Labour Party National Executive. After speaking to a meeting on unemployment in Huddersfield last week, John gave £1 to Right to Work marcher Steve Kind.

‘That'll sponsor you for part of one day,’ he said.

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN NEWS—pages 4-5.

TONY MORRIS will never forget Bloody Sunday. Not just because Paratroopers murdered 13 of his brothers and sisters in Derry four years ago, but because of what happened to him in South London two weeks ago.

He was attacked and beaten round the head with truncheons on his way home from the Bloody Sunday Commemoration demonstration. Tony believes his attackers were Special Branch. He has good reason to.

On 8 October 1974, Tony Morris was sacked because the Special Branch secretly told his boss, Henry Gold,

Tony, the Special Branch and Bloody Sunday



TONY MORRIS

that he was a fund-raiser for the IRA.

Last March a London tribunal contemptuously refused to hear his claim that

he was wrongfully dismissed.

It also refused to hear detailed evidence from Transport Workers' official Ron Todd. Henry Gold had admitted to Ron Todd that the Special Branch had told him Tony was a ‘suspected IRA collector’.

But Tony didn't let the matter drop. He kept raising it with his MP, Tony Robert Carr. For months Carr insisted there was no evidence against the police.

Then, last month, Tony received a letter from Carr explaining that he'd been

elevated to the peerage and was dropping the case. Enclosed with the letter was a photocopy of a letter from Roy Jenkins.

Part of this read: ‘Mr Morris's employers were, however, told that inquiries were being made on behalf of the Special Branch, and, knowing that Mr Morris was Irish, they may have assumed the rest.’

In other words, Jenkins confirmed that Tony Morris's account of his unfair dismissal was 100 per cent correct.

But although Robert Carr had washed his hands of the case, the Special Branch had not. And the Special Branch would certainly have known about the Jenkins' letter.

Stepping off a bus on his way home, Tony was offered a lift from a man in a Volkswagen. When he turned it down, the man drove off to pick up another man, did two U-turns and came at him again from behind.

The men got out of the car and set about Tony. Then another man attacked him

from behind with a truncheon. This missed his head, but the man brought his hand back and hit Tony's eye. Fortunately Tony was able to break free and run clear.

It has been suggested that Tony takes the matter to the National Council for Civil Liberties. It is a difficult decision for him to make. The last Irishman who went to the NCCL with a complaint about the Special Branch was named Kenneth Lennon.

He was eventually found in a ditch with a bullet through his head.

Labour hands out more millions

FREE electricity for the old throughout autumn and winter? Well not this year.

Instead the Labour government has secretly agreed to bale out a much more needy group of human beings. They are the directors of the Maritime Fruit Carriers tanker corporation.

In total the Labour government has agreed to hand them £140 million.

This is as much as Chrysler got in a blaze of publicity just before Christmas. But Maritime's £140 million was guaranteed secretly as early as last Spring, the Financial Times revealed last week.

The hand-out was made by the Department of Trade and Industry. Its head at the time was Anthony Wedgwood Benn, who must have personally okayed the operation.

This is nice to know, since the other main recipient of this generosity is needy arch-Tory multimillionaire Sir John Hunter. His yards are stacked



BENN: £140 million

out with orders for MFC ships following a deal specially arranged by Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath.

Benn has since been moved to the Department of Energy. There he was going to supervise the implementation of Labour's promises to get public participation in the North Sea Oil bonanza.

Socialist Worker can reveal that in the past fortnight this commitment to obtain a 51 per cent public stake in North Sea Oil has quietly been dumped. Labour's secret decision to drop their pledge has been greeted with joy by bankers and financiers.

They had staged another of their—completely unreported—investment strikes as part of a militant campaign to get the government to change its line. Now they have succeeded, the investment strike is over. The investment is flowing fast and free.

Abortion vote is threat to every woman

by MARGARET RENN
A VICTORY for blind prejudice and reaction. That was the vote on abortion in the House of Commons on Monday.

There were never more than 60 MPs in the House to hear the debate, but when the vote was taken enough MPs rolled up from the bars to carry the reappointment of the Select Committee by 313 votes to 172. That's 100 more votes in favour of the James White Bill than when they voted this time last year.

There can be no pretence now that they are voting against some abuse of the Abortion Act. The book *Babies for Burning*, which got so much publicity last year, has been shown to be nothing but lies.

In the past year the number of abortions has actually fallen. There were 13 per cent fewer abortions in 1974-1975. Fewer foreign women too came to Britain for abortions. Why? Because changes in the abortion law in their own countries have made it easier.

Continue

Changes in the abortion law in this country will drive more women to the back street abortionists, and into the hands of the private clinics who will break any law for a price. That will be the outcome of the Select Committee.

The MPs who voted for the committee to continue its debate, and most of those who sit on the committee, don't believe women have any right



The women who dared—one was evicted from the House of Commons for shouting 'Rubbish' when James White said the book *Babies for Burning* had never been discredited. The others tried to handcuff themselves to the railings in the Commons' public gallery.

to decide about abortion for themselves.

They're the same MPs who are overseeing the cuts in the hospitals and schools, growing unemployment and increasing prices. They'll speak hysterically about the right of the unborn to life, yet vote to

increase gas and electricity prices, causing the deaths of old people from cold.

That's the level of their hypocrisy.

They have no right to decide how we will live our lives. We want abortion to be freely available on the Health Ser-

vice, for all women.

We must now:

□ Support the demonstration called by the National Abortion Campaign on Saturday 3 April.

□ Make sure that every trade union branch and students' union which has

supported the campaign commits itself to support the demonstration and to campaign actively against the James White Bill.

□ Organise a public meeting in your area at the end of March to campaign for the demonstration: Abortion—our rights under attack.

□ Use local radio, newspapers, posters, petitions and collections to build the campaign against the Bill.

PICTURE: ANDREW WARD (REPORT)

Members of the National Abortion Campaign who marched to Downing Street to protest at the decision.

Sparks refuse to cut supplies

BOTH Cardiff Electricians' Union branches—No 1 and No 2—are calling on their members not to cut off electricity supplies.

They are also calling on the Executive Council of the EET-PU to instruct all members not to disconnect supplies.

The argument that came up again and again in the Cardiff branch meetings was that the people who most need proper heating are afraid to use electricity for fear they won't be able to pay for it.

The resolution to refuse to do disconnections had 100 per cent support in both branches, which will fight any resulting victimisations.

Electricians in the Edinburgh No 2 branch have passed a similar resolution calling on the executive to instruct members 'not to disconnect supplies for domestic householders through the winter months, due to the danger to life of the elderly, infirm and unemployed'.

Electricity and gas workers everywhere should follow this lead and refuse to cut off supplies. Local government workers can demand fuel bills are paid by the council.

We can stop the deaths. Not by crocodile tears, like we've seen shed for a day or two in the Daily Mirror and the Sun, but by action by electricians, gas board workers, social workers, tenants' associations.

□ Contact Socialist Worker immediately if your trade union branch, tenants' association or Right to Work Committee joins the fight.

WOMEN'S VOICE Right to Work Concert: Thursday 4 March, 7.30pm, St Pancras Assembly Rooms, Judd Street, London N1 (opposite St Pancras Station). Women's Theatre Group play, *Work to Role*; Frankie Armstrong; North West Spanner. Tickets 80p. Bar. All proceeds to the Right to Work Campaign.

The Morning Star and the march

THE support flowing into the Right to Work March and Rally has not, regrettably, stopped some trade union officials trying to sabotage them.

They have sold jobs and conditions over and over, and are now trying to turn union branches and stewards' committees against the march, just as TUC boss Len Murray did when he attacked the 26 November demonstration as 'politically motivated'.

Their efforts have regrettably been aided by a

newspaper that claims to support workers' struggles, the Morning Star. Three times last week it attacked the march and rally.

The Star has not devoted anything like the same space to attacking union leaders who defend the government's present policy of high unemployment.

Redundant

For instance, in the February issue of the Transport Workers' Union journal, general secretary, Jack Jones praises

the government for 'saving jobs' at Chrysler, Leyland and Ferranti. The Morning Star not once criticised Jones last week, or pointed out how many workers have been made redundant through the government's policies to these firms.

Instead it has attacked the unemployed marchers, and has even tried to get people sponsoring the march to withdraw their support.

The Star has also ignored two letters sent to it to explain what the march is about. One, from eight convenors in

Manchester we print, on page five this week.

The other, from the secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, John Deason, tells how many union and labour movement bodies are supporting the march. It also points out that the march and rally in no way are opposed to the delegate conference on unemployment called for 27 March by the London Confederation of Engineering Unions. Many union bodies are supporting all three.

Support

The Campaign has written to the Confederation offering them a speaker at the Albert Hall Rally where the march ends and suggesting that one of the unemployed marchers addresses the Confed conference.

The letter points out that many Morning Star readers and Communist Party members are supporting the march and rally.

'I sincerely hope that the Morning Star publicly commits itself in support of the National Right to Work Campaign', writes Deason. 'We welcome the support that Socialist Worker has given our campaign and we hope that in future the Morning Star will do the same.'

Jenkins' victim

FRANK STAGG is dying as we go to press.

The hunger striker who was imprisoned for 'conspiracy to bomb' long before any IRA bombs had gone off in Britain, is now almost blind. He is so weak that the blankets have to be lifted before he can move in bed.

Yet still Home Secretary Roy Jenkins is refusing Frank Stagg's modest request—that he be allowed to serve his jail sentence in Northern Ireland.

Instead Jenkins is even refusing Frank Stagg's family permission to sit with him.

If Frank Stagg dies it is possible that some Republicans will, out of blind anger, resume the bombings in Britain. Then, no doubt, the press will scream about 'animals'.

They will not mention that Jenkins will have deliberately provoked such behaviour by his callous treatment of Frank Stagg's request for repatriation.

WHO'S SPLINTERING NOW?

HARRY McSHANE, Scottish secretary of the National Unemployed Workers' Movement which led the 'hunger marchers' in the 1930s, told Socialist Worker: 'I'm amazed by the attitude of the Communist Party to the Right to Work marchers.'

'Almost every march which I went on in the 1930s was opposed by the TUC and the Labour Party on the grounds that the NUWM was led by the Communist Party. I was a Communist Party member, and we were always denounced as "a splinter group".'

when the Communist Party stopped being a splinter group.

'Now the Party is attacking the Right to Work March just like the TUC attacked them in the 1930s.'

'It's all part of their obsession with making things official. If they want to have a revolution, it will need to be official now. It will have to be endorsed by Murray and Jones.'

'The fact is that they want to win the leaders: we want to win the masses.'

Harry McShane is supporting the Right to Work March. He is not a member of the International Socialists.



HARRY McSHANE

PICTURE: ANGELA PHILLIPS (IFL)

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WORDS FROM A LONELY BRITISH MERCENARY IN A FAR-AWAY LAND

KILLERS THE ARMY TRAINED IN IRELAND

THE press has pretended that all the evil in the mercenary army in Angola can be laid at the feet of one man, a 'Greek' who goes by the name of Callan or Cullin.

They do not say much about where Callan learnt his 'values'.

The man Callan was in the first battalion, the Parachute Regiment, from 1969 to May 1972, the battalion that on 30 January 1972 murdered 13 unarmed civil rights demonstrators, Derry's Bloody Sunday.

What he was taught was revealed in The Guardian last week, in an interview with the mother of another mercenary.

'He's my son, but I just don't know him any more,' she said. 'It was the army that changed him, and Ulster.'

'Five years of the army had made him so right-wing, a trained killer. He's almost a fascist now'.

Such are the men that the generals train in Ireland. Such are the men the multinationals turn loose against those who challenge their wealth and power.

But from the horror of Angola one good thing is emerging. The mercenaries, the paid killers, are being whipped by the Popular Movement. They will be less keen to fight next time

And that is for the good of us all.

If I should die ...



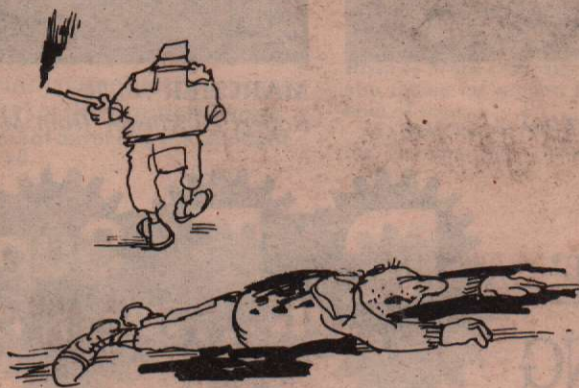
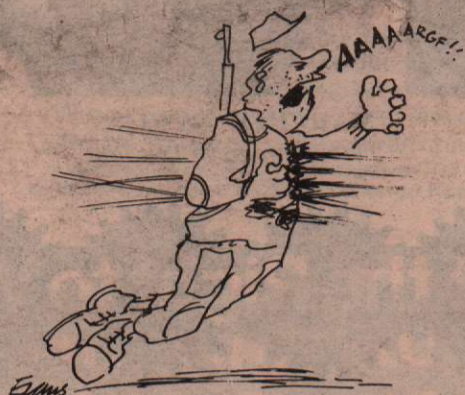
... think only this of me ...



... there is some corner of a foreign field which is forever Eng- ...



We pay 'em to fight .



Mercenaries: It's the Western way of life

THE reported shooting of 13 mercenaries in Angola by other mercenaries has shown, starkly, what the Angolan war is about.

It is not about 'the fight for freedom', as the press has been telling us. It is not about the struggle against 'Marxist' hordes, as the television portrays it.

It is about the murder, in cold blood, not just of a few white mercenaries, but of anyone who gets in the way of what the press calls 'the pro-Western forces'.

'We came through this village and the people came out of their houses and waved at us, friendly like. Some of them shouted 'Comrade'—it was obviously the only English word they knew. The Angolan soldiers shot them down as Communist sympathisers.'

Pay Masters

Those are the words of John Banks, sent back to Britain with a suitcase full of pound notes to recruit more mercenaries, speaking to The Observer.

His account makes clear that the pro-Western troops are in Angola not to fight for the will of the people but to destroy the people, if need be, in order to protect the power and wealth of a minority.

You don't need to look far to see who that minority are. The paymasters of the mercenaries are the American CIA spy

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

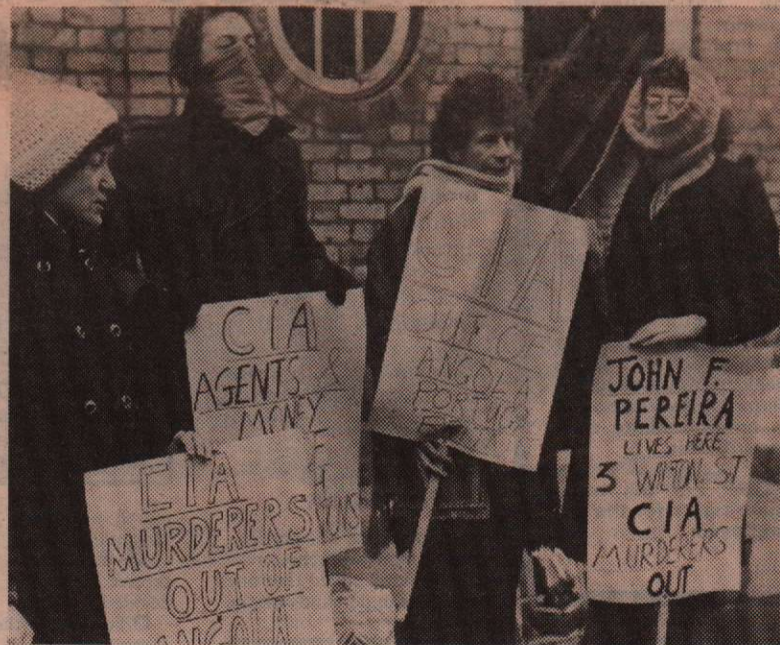
network and the South African government. The CIA have paid 12,000 dollars a year for the past 12 years to Holden Roberto, leader of the Angolan National Front (FNLA), which has a history of murder and torture going back to 1961.

The CIA in turn has been run by the friends and associates of the giant multinational companies, men like John McCone, formerly director of the CIA, now a director of the telecommunications giant ITT.

Angola is a source of huge potential wealth for these companies. They are prepared to do almost anything to get their hands on that wealth, from backing the hideous South African regime to employing mercenaries to shoot one another as well as the local population.

They fear that if the Popular Movement (MPLA) wins in Angola, the whole of Southern Africa will begin to slip from their grasp.

'Our values, our society, are at stake'



PICTURE Andrew Ward (Report)

said Tory leader, Margaret Thatcher, referring to the war against the Popular Movement only a fortnight ago. Her husband used to be director of one of the smaller multinationals, Burmah Oil. It is not surprising that she accepts their values.

But the revelations of the past week should remind the rest of us how horrific those values are once you look beneath the surface.

ABOVE: Pickets outside the home of American spy John Pereira in London's fashionable Belgravia. Pereira's identity as a CIA agent was revealed in Socialist Worker a few weeks ago. Former CIA agent Philip Agee spoke to a Socialist Worker meeting of 200 people in Central London last week. Agee has played a leading part in exposing the CIA

HELP PRINT THOSE VITAL COPIES

A BIG push is planned for Socialist Worker sales during the Right to Work March.

As part of this, we're offering all readers the chance to take four copies on 'sale or return' to sell to their mates or neighbours.

This means a rise in the print order during the march and afterwards, which will cost money.

One of the biggest costs nowadays is the paper we print on. Any extra orders put up our costs a lot, and we can't cover those costs just with sales money.

We depend on our fund.

We can't survive without it. We depend on people like the anonymous London reader who had a windfall of £100 last week and sent it at once to the Fighting Fund.

That contribution brought last week's total to £205.50. That's good—but it must be kept up.



Our thanks to:

London Central Printworker £1.75, Kingston IS £4, Lowestoft IS £5.75, Manchester West Central District IS £5, Lambeth IS

£75, Burnage SW readers £2, Nine Wells Hospital SW Supporters, Dundee £3, Kirkby IS £1. Donation from football card winner £1. Phyl Appleby £1. Anonymous reader, London £100, J Gilding, Hove £1; Hugo Dewar £5.

Send your donations to SW Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

FLAME

JOBS: Get up, stand up, stand up for your rights!

FLAME, the paper of black workers in struggle. Ask your Socialist Worker seller for a copy, or send 12p to Flame, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

Carib trial restarts

THE retrial of three of the 12 young black men accused of causing an affray at the Carib Club, North London, in 1974 is underway at the Old Bailey.

Last year the police failed to secure a single conviction on any of the main charges they brought against the 12 in a marathon £250,000 trial.

By totally acquitting eight of the young men, the jury clearly found that the police

were lying. Their activities that night have been graphically described as 'an orgy of violence'.

The trial decision was a great victory for black people, but police brutality doesn't end there. Socialist Worker will be keeping a close eye on the retrial. We will also continue to argue that the black community must organise in their own defence against racism in all its forms.

Hospital memo: Be ready to sack migrant workers

A MEMO from the Hackney Hospital management to all heads of department is in Socialist Worker's possession.

Part of it reads: 'We have been informed by the Department of Employment that the posts held by employees who are subject to Work Permits will be treated as vacancies when the period to which the permit relates expires ...'

'The Department of Employment will attempt to produce candidates for these posts, and, if suitable British nationals are available for work we will be expected to employ them in place of the foreign nationals concerned.'

The memo goes on to point out that when the Department refuses to renew a work permit 'we will not be subject to appeals against unfair dismissal'.

So far as Hackney Department heads are concerned this policy is now operational.

Permits

The research office of the white-collar union ASTMS investigated the memo and discovered that the TUC has asked the Department to 'limit the number of work permits issued'. But little has yet been done.

The Department did however make clear that current policy is not as set out in the memo—although they have considered it and may introduce it later.

In other words the hospital management is jumping the gun to push through these disgusting racist policies. It is vital that hospital workers in Hackney take this up and fight it, for two domestics are to lose their jobs as a result next month.

The sickening involvement of the TUC is not confined to the Health Service. The government has cut the annual quota of work permits for foreign workers in the catering industry by 2500.

Work

This follows a TUC request to end the quotas altogether—because of 'mounting unemployment'.

That's not all. The TUC also wants 'stricter immigration control' to prevent 'illegal' working in the industry. This can only mean more police harassment, victimisation of militants, and deportations.

The TUC's proposals are a disgrace to trade unionism. Instead of fighting for positive united action against unemployment, it sides with government policy and tries to make foreign workers scapegoats.

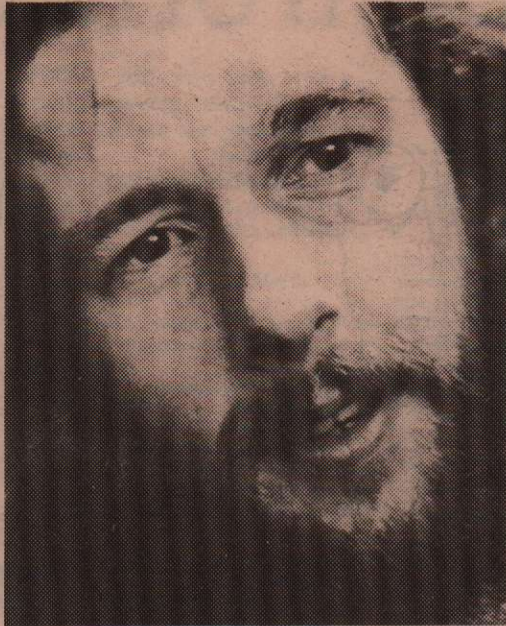
Foreign workers are no more responsible for the crisis than British workers. Getting rid of a few thousands can only help the bosses, because it leaves a weak and divided workforce. In no way can it solve the problem of mass unemployment.

We must fight for the right of all workers to work, and against our so-called leaders' attempts to split us and sell us out.

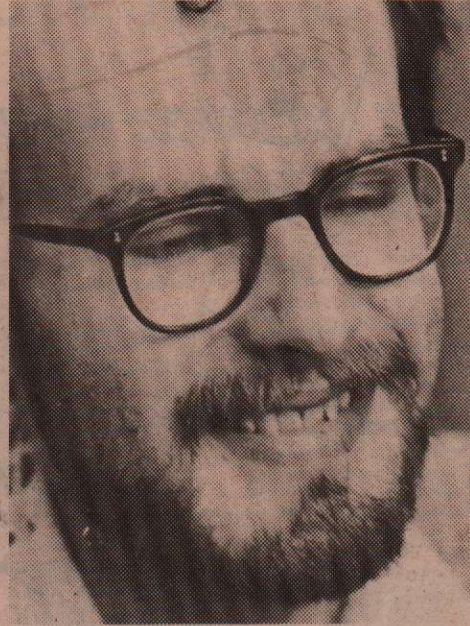
Four more for the March



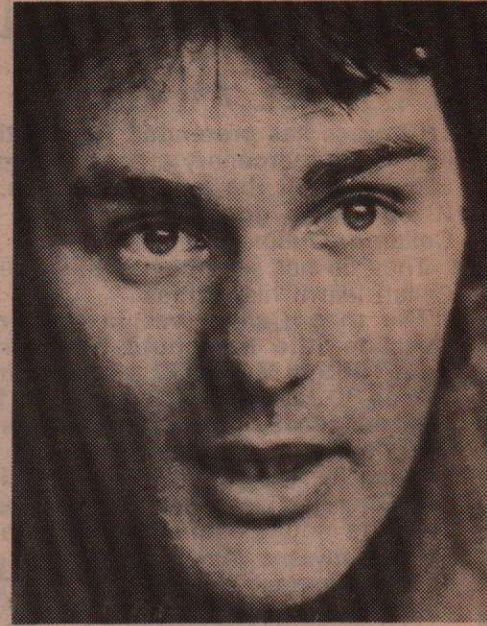
MARCHER No 69:
John Jones from Liverpool



MARCHER No 70:
Robert Dickinson from Manchester



MARCHER No 71:
Pete Fysh from London



MARCHER No 72:
David Hayes from Newcastle

WHAT THEY ARE MARCHING FOR

THESE are the ten demands of the National Right to Work Campaign, which is organising the march:

ONE: Opposition to all forms of redundancy. No voluntary redundancy, no job loss through 'natural' wastage. No productivity dealing.

TWO: For 100 per cent trade union closed shops with shopfloor trade union control of hiring and manning levels. No discrimination or blacklisting. Trade union district registration of all jobs and protection of district manning levels.

THREE: No co-operation with the employers. No to all participation schemes.

FOUR: Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and discrimination. For the equal right of

women to a full-time job.

FIVE: For the 35-hour week without loss of pay. For official overtime bans to force more jobs.

SIX: Five days work or five days pay. For occupations to force the nationalisation without compensation of firms that cannot guarantee the right to work.

SEVEN: Stop the cuts.

EIGHT: Break the freeze, for across the board increases to protect living standards.

NINE: Full wages for the unemployed and no means testing. £6-a-week increase now for all unemployed workers as an immediate step towards this.

TEN: For full trade union rights for the unemployed.

RF Support the Right to Work Campaign!

We've got a job-but we're fighting for those who haven't...

A LOT OF OUR members are keen to do something about unemployment. They see the cuts in the hospital services as part of unemployment.

Our branch committee has been in touch for some months now with the local Right to Work campaign. We had discussions with them, and agreed to have them to a full branch meeting.

Last Wednesday, Kevin Skinner, who is secretary of the local Right to Work committee and John Mann, an unemployed hospital worker, came to our branch to speak.

Kevin told us how the campaign depended on help from employed workers.

Demands

John said he was going to march from Manchester to London and added that one of the main demands on the

- To sponsor the national campaign for the Right to Work.
- To sponsor John's march for as long as possible. Collections would be held every Friday for four weeks. Football cards would



By
STEVE LUDLAM
branch secretary,
NUPE, Moorfields Eye
Hospital, London

- also be sold.
- To sell raffle tickets for the campaign. We took 150.
- To put out an appeal for furniture for the Right to Work occupied premises at Sandringham Road, Hackney.
- To call for immediate action from the TUC on what we see as the biggest scandal of all: that people can have their unemploy-

ment benefit cut off if they refuse to work at non-union rates. These decisions were taken unanimously and enthusiastically. I got a rocket after the meeting from a couple of porters who said I was too soft. I had asked for collections of 5p a member. They said 20p should be the minimum...

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK Public Meetings

BOLTON: Monday 16 February, 8pm, Spinners Hall, AUEW House, St George Road. Meeting supported by T Ryder and Sons Shop Stewards Committee, Hawker Siddeley, Lostock, Shop Stewards Committee, Bolton AUEW Number 9 Branch.

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

BLACKBURN: Wednesday 18 February, 8pm Veteran Hotel, Eanam. Speakers: John Deason (secretary, National Right to Work Campaign), Len Blood (candidate for AUEW assistant general secretary) and local speakers. Meeting sponsored by Feniger and Blackburn, of Blackburn, shop stewards committee, Blackburn AUEW No 1 branch.

MOSS SIDE, Manchester: Thursday 19 February, 8pm, Moss Side Neighbourhood Centre, Moss Lane. Speakers: Bobby Buirds (Manchester Right to Work Committee), Tom McLure (Moss Side Neighbourhood Council), a speaker from Flame. Organised by Manchester Right to Work Committee, Moss Side Neighbourhood Council and Flame.

NW LONDON: Right to Work Committee present the North West Spanner Theatre Group's production on redundancies in the Textile Industry: Winding Up. 8pm, Willesden Junction Hotel, Station Road, NW10. Thursday 19 February.

DEESSIDE: Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm, Hawarden Castle Hotel, Station Road, Queensferry (by Old Bridge). Speaker: Tommy Douras.

Right to Work Campaign SPONSORSHIP FORM

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR

(Name of marcher)

FOR

(length of time sponsored)

NAME OF SPONSOR And or TRADE UNION ORGANISATION

I ENCLOSE

Cut out this form and send to:
Right to Work Campaign, Rank and File Organising Committee,
46 Prince George Road, London N16.

A BATTLE-BUT WE WON

By
GEOFF HURFORD

THE NORTH London Teachers Association of the NUT supported the Right to Work Campaign at their meeting last week.

The branch voted to sponsor a marcher for £1 a day for 23 days and to call for support for the march throughout our area.

But we didn't win any of this without an argument. Most of the argument against came from members of the Communist Party.

Two of us had a resolution down for sponsoring the

march.

We also had an amendment calling for support and delegates for the National Assembly for the Right to Work called by the London district of the confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding trade unions.

A group of people in the branch, most of them Communist Party members, proposed an amendment to our motion.

They wanted to chuck out all references to the Right to Work march!

They refused to allow us

to amend our motion to include the Assembly.

They insisted that the branch should support *only* the Assembly.

We said we wanted to support both. We said there was room for a march, a rally AND an assembly. We won the vote 36-26.

But winning the vote isn't enough. This week, a group of teachers who support the Campaign have circulated all 120 schools in the area with Right to Work material. We've asked for collections in every school.

ANOTHER JOBS CENTRE OCCUPIED



HULL'S Employment Office, occupied by 20 employed and unemployed supporters of the local Right to Work Committee last week.

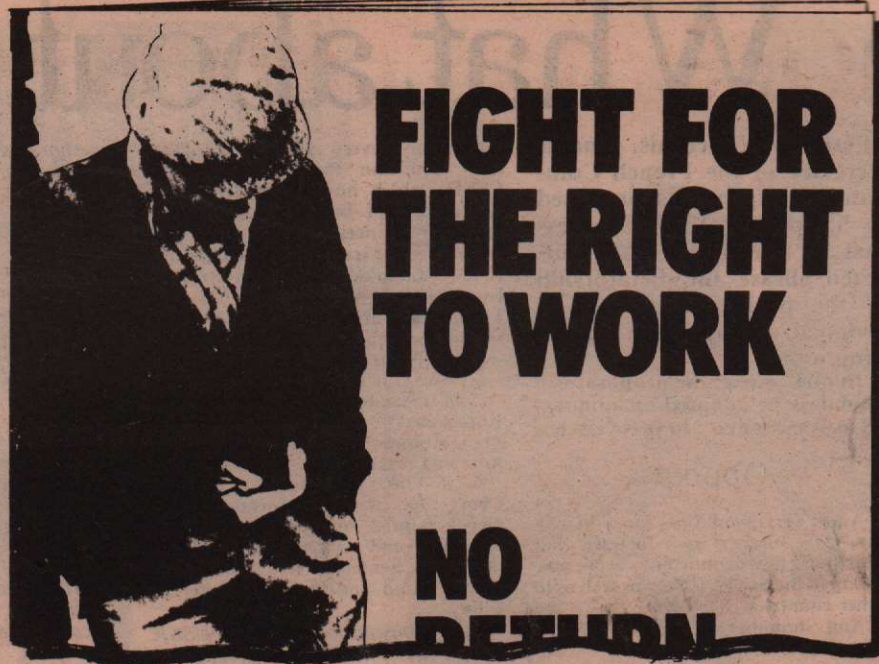
Leaflets were handed out to passers-by explaining why the occupation was taking place—16,000 on the dole in Hull and the likelihood of many more joining them in the near future.

There was good coverage

of the occupation by the local press, Radio Humber-side and Yorkshire BBC and ITV.

Hull University Students Union are supporting the campaign by sponsoring 30 seats on the coach going to the Albert Hall rally, as well as organising regular collections on the campus.

Good collections have also been made by workers at Priestman's and other factories in the area.



WHAT THE CAMPAIGN IS ALL ABOUT. By John Deason, secretary of the Campaign, with an introduction by Harry McShane, secretary of the Scottish Unemployed Workers' Movement in the Thirties.

Watch out for next week's review of this important pamphlet by Bernie La Roche, father of the federated chapel (convenor) at the Kentish Times.

Available, price 19p (inc postage) or 10p a copy for orders of ten or more, from Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

A letter to the Morning Star

Eight convenors in the Manchester area have written to the Morning Star to protest at its attacks on the Right to Work Campaign. Their letter reads:

WE HAVE decided to write this letter as an appeal to end the sectarianism which is the bane of the working class movement.

As representative leaders in the trade union movement in the Manchester area, we will be calling on our members to do everything possible to fight back against unemployment.

Specifically, we will be calling for support for both the Right to Work Campaign and the Labour Conference on Unemployment called by the London Confed.

We understand that the Right to Work Campaign is also calling for support for both of these.

We think it is very sad that the Morning Star, a paper

End these attacks, plead convenors

read by many working class militants, should see fit to launch a series of attacks in its columns on workers who are supporting the Right to Work Campaign.

We call on the Morning Star and its supporters to join with us in a united fight for the Right to Work.

—DAVE ROBERTS (AUEW convenor, Linkester Engineering, Macclesfield);

TERRY SHUFFLEBOTTOM (AUEW convenor, Ainslie Wire, Macclesfield); GERRY HOBIN (AUEW convenor, Kearns-Richards, Broadheath);

R WALKER (AUEW convenor, K E K, Macclesfield);

MATT LENIHAN (TGWU chairman 6/200 branch, Shell Carrington—the largest T&G branch in Manchester);

GEOFF PLATT (TGWU convenor, Manchester Waterworks);

TOMMY RILEY and JOE BENNETT (TGWU and AUEW convenors, Metal Box, Westhoughton).

The letter was taken in to the Morning Star office in Manchester on Wednesday morning.

John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, has also written to the Morning Star protesting at the attacks on the Campaign, and reminding the paper that the Right to Work Campaign supports the Confed Assembly.

Support the Right to Work Campaign!

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 8BY

Unanimous! Mass meeting backs the Campaign

FOR the first time, a mass meeting of factory workers has voted to support the Right to Work Campaign and the Manchester to London march.

The factory is Crosfields in North London where, a year ago, workers fought a bitter battle to save their jobs. Now it has voted unanimously to support the Campaign.

Shop stewards' chairman Bill Hayward told Socialist Worker: 'We support this campaign 100 per cent. We are going to hold regular fortnightly collections to assist the marchers.'

Crosfields' factory was

Can you beat this? Teachers at Hackney Downs School, North London, have collected £50 so far from teachers and ancillary workers.

one of the first visited by the North London Right to Work Committee after its formation last month. Unemployed members of the committee have been visiting factories pressing for support. As a result, a



FLASHBACK to last year's sit-in: Crosfields workers know about fighting unemployment. Bill Hayward is second from the left.

Crosfields' shop steward came to the first and well-attended delegate meeting of the Committee on 4 February.

At English Numbering Machines, Right to Work campaigners were asked to speak to the works committee, and won support from the factory as a result.

So far, 15 trade union bodies are sponsoring the Campaign in the North London area.

The Committee has also written to Norman Atkinson, Labour MP for

Tottenham, asking for support and sponsorship. Atkinson replied:

'I wish the marchers success in the belief that every genuine initiative should be supported.'

The sponsoring bodies in the area are:

- Crosfields Electronics, MK Electric Genista Road Toolroom shop stewards' committee; English Numbering Machines works committee; Metal Box, Tottenham, NGA chapel; Haringey Trades Council; AUEW Southgate No 1

branch. AUEW Edmonton No 1 branch; AUEW Highgate branch; Tottenham UCATT; North London Teachers' Association; Holloway School NUT; Shelburne School NUT.

Middlesex Polytechnic Students Union; North London Polytechnic Students Union; Islington NALGO (whose 400 demonstrators on the 26 November lobby was the second largest after Chrysler); Stoke Newington UCATT; Finsbury Park UCATT.

A LESSON FOR US ALL...

HAVING failed to persuade the Executive of our NALGO branch to support the Right to Work March, I felt a bit pissed off.

The branch president had muttered something about 'extremists' and swung the majority against the campaign.

But one member of the Executive, Alan Gassor, said he would sponsor the march as an individual.

By PHIL JONES
Forest of Dean branch, NALGO

I was amazed when I walked into the tea room the next day—there was a huge display of propaganda over one wall.

This was accompanied by a signed statement from Alan, pointing out that the Executive had failed to support the campaign and he was collecting money for it

from individuals.

Not wishing to be outdone, I thought I'd better pull my finger out. So I sold ten Right to Work pamphlets in our department of 50.

The lesson is obvious. If you can't get your stewards' committee or branch to support the campaign, push individuals in your workplace.

You never know: the next time you bring it up, it might get through.

National Meeting EETPU MEMBERS FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK
Birmingham, Digbeth Civic Hall,
Saturday 14 February, 2pm.
Chairman: Billy Williams (unemployed electrician, Cardiff)

Speakers: Wyn Bevan (EETPU Convenor, Margam BSC, Port Talbot), Bobby Burdits (unemployed plumber, National Right to Work Campaign), George Kelly (EETPU Convenor, Glasgow District Council)

Correspondence: Norman McLean, 56, Brightwell Crescent, London, SE17

BOOTS: Any marcher who hasn't received his or her boots yet should ring the Rank and File Office immediately (01-249 1207).

STICKERS: 25p per 100, plus postage. Fight for the Right to Work—No Rail Cuts, No Steel Cuts, the Albert Hall Rally, The Right for Women to Work sticker is sold out—more will be printed. Money with orders.

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

LEAFLETS: Calling for support for the Right to Work March, including details of the campaign. Now available £1 for 500, including postage.

POSTERS: To advertise meetings in the campaign. 10p for five, £1.50 for 100.

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

THE MARCH organisers still need: single mattresses, sleeping bags, single sheets and calor gas cookers for the duration of the march.

Everything will be cleaned before being returned.

If you can help please contact the Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16. We will collect.

Right to Work leaflets in Urdu and Punjabi: available now from 46 Prince George Road, London, N16. £2 for 500.

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 the National

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Sponsorship fee £1 details from 46 Prince George Road, London N16

What about Russia?

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

If that is socialism, say many workers, then we want none of it. And they are quite right. The USSR is not socialist. It is not a workers' state . . .

GEORGES Marchais, general secretary of the French Communist Party, has just proposed to his party's 22nd Congress that all reference to that 'outdated phrase' the dictatorship of the proletariat should be dropped from the party programme.

In due course, the proposal will doubtless be adopted unanimously, as is customary in these circles.

Oppose

And a very good thing too, you may say. It is surely a step forward that Marchais now condemns 'repressive action in the Soviet Union' as well as in other countries.

And shouldn't we oppose all dictatorships everywhere?

Certainly every genuine socialist must condemn the regime in the USSR—which, however Marchais did not do except by very 'tactful' and indirect references.

That regime is a totalitarian tyranny. A few examples, taken from a recent issue of the 'Chronicle of Current Events', a journal produced at great risk by dissidents inside the USSR, will serve to illustrate just how brutal and repressive it is today.

And remember, this is 20 years after Khrushchev's speech denouncing Stalin's crimes and promising a return to 'soviet legality'.

G P Vins. Arrested March 1974. Charge: 'playing an important role in illegal Baptist organisations and in printing and circulating Baptist literature'. Sentence: 'five years strict-regime camp and five years internal exile'.

The Constitution of the USSR (Article 74) states 'Freedom of religious

worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognised for all citizens'!

Mindaugas Tamonis, a Lithuanian, required to undergo compulsory psychiatric treatment in June 1974 because he refused to participate in the restoration of a monument to Soviet troops and demanded that a monument to the victims of Stalinism be erected.

Vision

Confined for three months and subjected to injections, 'his weight decreased by 17 kilograms and his vision was greatly weakened'.

The Constitution of the USSR (Article 75) states 'Citizens of the USSR are guaranteed by law; freedom of speech, freedom of the press; freedom of assembly . . .'

Anatoly Marchenko. Arrested

February 1975. Charge: 'violating the conditions of parole' imposed as a condition of release from previous sentence (1958) for public criticism of the regime—in other words he continued to criticise.

Sentence: 'four years exile in a remote area of the USSR'.

And so on and so on. The known cases are far too numerous to quote. Marchais, of course, is not responsible for all this.

He very probably disapproves of it—if only because it is an electoral handicap to his party in France.

But he is guilty of the crime of identifying this monstrous tyranny with the dictatorship of the proletariat.

And that is a crime because the portrayal of the USSR as a 'socialist country', a 'workers' state' (that is the popular term for dictatorship of the proletariat), has done untold harm to the cause of socialism. And still does.

If that is socialism, say quite a few workers who have come to learn something of the realities of Brezhnev's Russia, then we want none of it.

And they are quite right to take this position.

The USSR is not socialist, is not a workers' state, is not in any sense an example of proletarian dictatorship.

It is a dictatorship all right—the dictatorship of a privileged bureaucracy over and against the working class.

Kettle

Chou En-lai, told the 10th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (1973):

'The Soviet revisionist ruling clique, from Khrushchev to Brezhnev . . . has restored capitalism, enforced a fascist dictatorship and enslaved the peoples of all nationalities.'

If it is said that this is a case of the kettle calling the pot; well that's true, but these particular kettles know the pot very well.

Leave aside the questions of the precise nature of the Russian ruling class and of when and how capitalism was restored in the USSR.

On the political character of the USSR, Mao and Chou are absolutely right. As Trotsky wrote long ago (1938):

'As in fascist countries, from which Stalin's political apparatus does not differ save in more unbridled rough-shoddedness . . .'

And Brezhnev's Russia is Stalinism without Stalin.

But to return to Marchais. His rejection of proletarian dictatorship is not a step forward, is not a repudiation of Brezhnev and all his works.

State

On the contrary, it is a declaration that the French Communist Party is a 'safe', reformist (ie pro-capitalist) party which is not out to establish a workers' state in France and so should be allowed to participate in bourgeois governments (as it did between 1944 and 1947).

We, on the other hand, believe that a workers' state is an indispensable step on the road to socialism.

I will try to show why this is so, and what proletarian dictatorship really means, next week.

A proletarian victory means the triumph of the essentially inferior, of the less civilised over the more civilised.—Daily Telegraph magazine, 30 January

Nothing to do with politics, of course

FACT: The World Bank last week approved a £16 million loan to the Chilean Junta.

FACT: This is the third loan to the Junta in less than two years.

FACT: No World Bank loans were made to the Allende government overthrown by the Junta in 1973.

FACT: The Allende government was deemed to be hostile to capitalism; the Junta enthusiastically supports it.

FACT: The Junta has murdered an estimated 10,000 trade unionists and tortured thousands more. The Allende government murdered no-one.

FACT: World Bank officials say loan decisions are 'based solely on economic factors' and that the Bank 'does not concern itself with politics.'

THE DECISION of the Executive Staff No 1 branch of the white-collar union, ASTMS, to affiliate to the Right to Work Campaign has not gone down too well with the branch's best-known member . . . Harold Wilson.

IT'S NOT ONLY British capitalism that murders its old folk. Two weeks ago, a 70-year-old woman was found frozen to death in her home in Munhall, Pennsylvania.

Sophia Esser, a semi-invalid, had fallen behind with her gas bill. So she was cut off—and left to die.

Her body was found rolled up in a rug and rags.

The United States, in case you've forgotten, is the wealthiest country on earth.

A HUSBAND who said he needed £15 a week to feed himself, his wife and their baby was told by a High Court judge yesterday: 'You are asking too much.'

Sir George Baker, president of the Family Division, said: 'I take the view, and judges do not live in blinkers, that that is a couple of pounds too high.' The £15 figure was put forward by twice-married Mr. David Feenley in his appeal against a £5 a week maintenance order granted

—from the Newcastle Journal, 28 January. Sir George Baker earns £400 a week. Tax-free, of course.

YES SHAH, NO SHAH,
SIX CARS
FULL...

IRAN MAY BE top of Amnesty International's World Torture League, but it is also top of Britain's export league for cars.

Which may explain why those men of principle who call themselves the Labour government are so anxious to keep a civil tongue up the Shah's arse.

Harsh but true—as one looks at next week's trial in London of 21 Iranian students makes clear. The students protested at the Shah's barbaric regime with a 15-minute sit-in at the Iranian embassy in London.

The Shah was upset. The Labour government was upset that the Shah was upset. So the students end up facing conspiracy charges—and the prospect of being deported back to a cosy dungeon where the Shah can wreak his usual revenge.

Meanwhile, further evidence of the Shah's love affair with his fellow human beings comes

from Rolls-Royce's factory in Willesden, North West London.

The Shah, it seems, has just purchased half a dozen Rolls. Each costing £60,000. Each bullet-proof. Each chauffeur-plated. Each bullet-proof. The chauffeurs, however, are not so lucky. The bullet-proofing ends at the driving seat. Seems it would have cost a mere £3,000 to safeguard each driver.

But what's the odd chauffeur's life when you're butchering people every day of the week?

No more Vietnams!



The reservations that many of us have now about the Angola policy is that in the final analysis—after Vietnam—the people of this country will not give us the backing we need to go the whole route in Angola.

—A United States State Department official, worrying about his government's efforts to crush the MPLA in Angola.

THE RULE OF LAW

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW: The following three cases appeared on Page 13 of the Daily Mail on 6 February:

Lionel Goubin, a Frenchman, remanded in custody at Southend for stealing sausages and coleslaw worth 62p. Mr Goubin is on the dole.

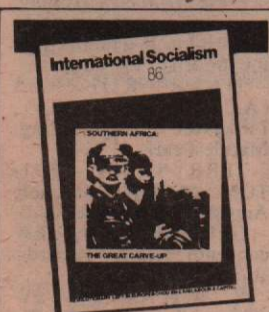
Edward Maudling, given a conditional discharge at Westminster Court for stealing liquor worth £75.

The magistrate told him: 'You have already suffered enough by appearing in the dock'.

Mr Maudling is the son of Reginald Maudling, the Shadow Foreign Secretary.

Sir Yvo Robert Henniker-Heaton, fined £125 at Thetford for bouncing his dead father's cheques to the tune of £180.

Sir Yvo is the son of a former RAF security chief.



Notes of the month include two years of this Labour Government, the Scottish Labour Party and Spain.



Ian H Birchall gives an outline of the development of the revolutionary left in Europe over the past 15 years, from the Trotskyist tradition, through the rise and decline of Maoism, the student movement to the tasks facing revolutionaries and the building of a new international.

Nigel Harris looks at the life of Chou En-Lai. A life that spans the history of the Chinese Communist Party.



Alex Callinicos writes on the great carve-up in Southern Africa that goes under the name of detente. And the circumstances that have pushed Kaunda into the arms of Vorster and that this stranglehold can only be broken by smashing the Apartheid system.

International Socialism is available, 20p plus 10p postage from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN or from your SW seller.



25p (inc postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

When are YOU going to write something for FIFTH COLUMN?



BARCELONA 1976: Demonstrators put an anti-fascist flag on the Franco monument. RIGHT: Demonstrators flee the police, who attacked them with teargas and clubs.

Who's who in the struggle for Spain

AMONG the opponents of the present fascist set-up in Spain are a vast range of political differences, both about how it should be changed and what should replace it.

The main groupings are:

THE 'LIBERALS' WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT

The interior minister Fraga and the foreign minister Areilza used to be hard-line members of the fascist Falange Party.

Now they represent the views of those businessmen afraid that fascism will be overthrown violently, who want to give the system a democratic facade to avoid that.

THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

These are outside the government. The leader of the 'left' Christian Democrats, Joaquin Ruiz-Gimenez, used to be Franco's minister of education. The right Christian Democrats, which have just merged with these, are led by Gil Robles, whose monarchist party prepared much of the ground for Franco in the 1930s.

THE SOCIALISTS

The PSOE (Socialist Workers Party) used to be the main workers' party before the civil war but has not much influence now. The Popular Socialist Party (PSP) is competing with it for the role played by Mario Soares and the Socialist Party in Portugal.

Both want close relations with Harold Wilson and his friends.

THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS

These fight for autonomy or independence for the parts of Spain which speak different languages, such as Basque nationalists—best known organisation ETA—and Catalan nationalists.

Originally these were all movements of the upper or middle classes. Recently they have gained some support among workers.

THE DEMOCRATIC JUNTA

An alliance of parties, ranging from the Communist Party to some monarchists. It includes the PSP but not the PSOE.

DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE

Similar to the Democratic Junta, but led by PSOE. It includes the Christian Democrats.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY

The largest of the underground parties. One Spanish new magazine suggests that it has 90,000 members.

Its policy is for 'national reconciliation' and for the 'peaceful transformation' of Spain out of fascism. It criticises the Portuguese Communist Party for being 'too extreme'.

REVOLUTIONARY LEFT

Groups such as Accion Comunista, Lucha Obrera (workers' fight), OCIE (the left Communists), LCR (Revolutionary Communist League), UCL (Communist Union of Liberation), argue that Spain is a fully capitalist country, that fascism came into being to solve capitalism's problems, and that only socialist revolution can end the danger of fascism for once and for all.

The working class has to fight for democratic rights, but always put forward socialist, working class demands as well, they say.

They oppose the Democratic Junta and Democratic Convergence as attempts to bind workers ideologically to the capitalist class. They believe 'national reconciliation' with people who were prepared to murder workers under Franco is a reactionary dream.

WORKERS' COMMISSIONS

These were workers' committees first thrown up spontaneously in the struggles of the early 1960s. Because of illegality they tended to decline into groups of militants in each factory.

Connections between factories have tended to be by means of bodies called workers' commissions but really run by different parties. New representative commissions have been elected at meetings during massive struggles.

The best-known leader of the commissions is Marcelina Carmacho. In a recent interview with the Portuguese paper Expresso he spoke of 'national reconciliation', insisted that 'Spain is not Portugal', '1976 is not 1917 or 1937', said that words like 'proletariat' were 'out of date' and stated that 'even circles linked to the Falange recognise that liberty is necessary'.

Thousands defy the fascists

POLICE clashed with strikers and demonstrators in several parts of Spain last week.

Two Sundays running thousands of people have defied police cordons to demonstrate in Barcelona.

In the Basque city of Vitoria police fired tear gas bombs and injured 20 workers during a right to work march. At least a dozen firms in the city are closed by strikers and 5000 workers had demonstrated chanting 'We want work' and 'Solidarity'.

German loan tied with long string

IT WAS announced in Lisbon last week that the government-run Textil Manuel Goncalves factory, with 4000 workers, is to be handed back to its owner.

On the same day, it was announced in Bonn that a loan of 250 million dollars was being made to the Portuguese government after negotiations between Mario Soares, leader of the Portuguese Socialist Party and Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor. A French loan is expected to follow shortly.

All last year loans were refused by Western governments on the grounds that Portugal was 'not democratic enough'.

Pamphlet now in Spanish

THE International Socialists pamphlet, Portugal—The Lessons of 25 November, by Tony Cliff and Chris Harman, is being translated into Spanish. The IS International committee received this news last week from one of the underground groups in Spain, the Organisation of the Communist Left (OSIE).

□ Copies of the English edition, 19p including postage from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 9DS.

NOISS pamphlet

THE STRUGGLE FOR ANGOLA

By Alex Callinicos and Peter Alexander

Gives the background to the present war and exposes the fake 'neutrality' of the Western powers and their African allies. 20p a copy including postage, 10 copies for £1 post free. from Julia Hatts, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Police broke up a 2000-strong march in Valladolid in support of Renault workers who had occupied a church after 40 militants had been sacked and the 6000 workforce laid off. Altogether 30,000 workers have been on strike.

Shots were fired by police in the southern town of Murcia. They were dispersing a thousand demonstrating construction workers.

The strike wave started a month ago. Its main focus has been opposition to a government wage freeze designed to keep pay increases below rising prices. But it has rapidly taken on political aspects. Workers never before involved in politics have found themselves in direct conflict with the fascist state machine run by Franco's successor, King Juan Carlos.

However, in Madrid, where the strike wave began, the authorities have succeeded in getting some of the most powerful groups of workers back to work, partly by repression. Police have broken up demonstrations.

But employers such as Chrysler were compelled by the solidarity of the strikers to concede considerable wage increases, despite the wage freeze.



THE Spanish regime has faced strike waves in the past and survived.

Early last year there was a general strike throughout the province of Navarre and dozens of strikes in the Basque country and Barcelona, including Spain's biggest factory, the SEAT car factory. Workers briefly won the right to meet openly, to elect their own representatives and to make their own decisions.

But the conquest was shortlived. They were forced back to work, thousands of militants victimised, some imprisoned. Seven months later the government felt strong

enough to execute six of its opponents.

Two things explain this contrast between the heroic will to struggle and the meagre results.

First there is the lack of coordination of the struggle. While whole cities have been paralysed by strikes and demonstrations, the rest of Spain has continued as normal.

Para-military

So the paramilitary police could concentrate on a relatively small number of workers.

Second, there has been lack of political clarity.

The strikes have thrown

POLICE USE TEAR GAS TO BREAK UP MARCHES OF STRIKERS ALL OVER SPAIN

whole sections of workers into political struggle for the first time. Yet the leadership given by the biggest of the workers' parties has not helped them to grasp the real issues.

For these parties believe that it is possible to change the present fascist structure 'peacefully', by negotiating with some of its supporters. Instead of mobilising all the workers' forces for a single onslaught, they allow them to be kept divided to be used as bargaining counters.

Spain's workers are paying a high price for the lack of a powerful national, revolutionary party.

PORTUGUESE RIGHT TURNS ON ITS SOCIALIST PARTY ALLIES

THE right wing in Portugal is beginning to turn on its former 'socialist allies'.

On 25 November last year the Socialist Party leaders and their friends in the army helped organise the defeat of the left-wing soldiers. The number of troops deployed was only a few hundred, but that was enough to disarm the left-wing regiments and leave upper-class officers with a monopoly of armed power.

With that power in its hands, the right wing now feels less need for a covering of socialist slogans.

A massive campaign is being waged for the removal of the Socialist Party minister of agriculture, Cardoso. Parties dominated by ex-fascists have told huge rallies of land-holding peasants from the centre and north of the country that unless they sack Cardoso and end the land reform, their own land will be collectivised.

This is clearly the first step in the fight of the big landowners to get their own land back. Favourable coverage has been given to the anti-Cardosa

campaign by the Socialist Party's own paper, La Luta.

An attempt is being made to sack the editor of the paper Jornal Novo. This was founded last summer as the most right-wing daily in Lisbon. The editor is now regarded as too left-wing for the owners.

Darling

The journalists and printers on the paper are backing the editor—some unconditionally but others critically. The defenders of 'editorial freedom' in the British press are keeping very quiet about this affair.

Even Mario Soares, leader of the Socialist Party and the darling of the right wing last summer, was shouted down by right-wing separatists when he tried to speak at a meeting in the Azores.

The right-wing parties, the PPD and the CDS, are claiming they will do better than the Socialist Party in the elections to be held before 25 April.

Meanwhile in the north, it is clear there is not going to be much 'democracy' in the elections. Dozens of offices of left-wing parties and trade unions have been bombed or burnt out in recent weeks.

The upper classes do not by

any means believe they have solved all their problems yet. There are growing divisions between those who would like a near-fascist state and those who want a more liberal regime. These splits have produced doubts whether it will be possible to form a stable government on the basis of the April election results.

Fight Back

Nor do the ruling classes know how far they can go before workers begin to fight back in earnest.

Until 25 November, workers expected sections of the armed

forces to be on their side. Now they are having to learn to fight with the armed forces against them, as they did under fascism and in the first months after its overthrow. They still hesitate about taking the risks involved.

But already there have been some big token strikes, the occupation of Timex, and the imposition of the shorter working week to create jobs in sections of the post office and telephones.

The test of the revolutionary left in the weeks ahead will be its ability to lead these struggles and take advantage of the splits in the enemy camp.



SOARES: Shouted down



3pm Friday: Eighteen hours still to queue and already more than 120 people here



Midnight: Six blankets each and it's still too cold to sleep. PICTURES: Chris Davies (Repro)

The housing lottery -a diary

of desperation

Friday 4am:

Carol wakes everyone up. We warm up with hot tea and beans on toast. Start loading blankets and deck chairs into the car. Frank, Carol's dad, drives us to the Housing Department in Paddington.

6am:

We've arrived. There are a few people there already, so at least we're in the right place. A couple of them have been there all night. I buy some papers and we settle down. It's dark and pretty cold. We're about 12ft off ground level and exposed to the wind.

9am

GLC staff arrive. They pull down the blinds so we can't see in.

10.30am:

Men from the housing department give out leaflets about who can apply. We'll be issued with tickets tomorrow morning at 9am. As there must be 100 here already we don't see why they can't give out tickets now.

'They want to sort out who's keen,' one bloke says. 'Sadists,' says someone else. Mark Phillips never had this trouble.

MORE THAN 200 people—mostly young—queued overnight in the freezing cold on Friday—in hope of getting a council flat.

The Greater London Council in Paddington, West London, were offering 100 flats on a 'first come, first served' basis.

The flats had been rejected by people on the council's housing list and are considered unsuitable for families with young children. They are either old and needing repairs which the tenants must do themselves, or in high tower blocks.

Socialist Worker asked one young man, Garry Bushell, aged 20, to keep a diary for the 26 hours that he and his fiancée Carol Cousins were in the queue.

11.15am:

One condition for a flat is 'proof that you are in housing need'. Well, we've certainly phoned and written and seen enough agencies and flat owners. Most of them helpfully suggested that if we didn't have a joint income of £4500 a year we might as well give up.

We've had our name on the Greenwich Council list since 1974 and have been saving with a

building society for over two years. Mortgages are right out. The GLC will only give us a £5000 mortgage. We could buy a lovely garage with that.

1pm:

Carol gets some fish and chips. People are still arriving. You can see the looks of frustration and despair on their faces when they see the length of the queue. Some have rows about whether to stay or not.



Others just sit down, too desperate to be put off, I suppose. Housing officials put up a sign saying the 120 are here, so there's no point in any more staying. But no one takes any notice.

2.30pm:

GLC people sell us tea and coffee at 5p a go. An Evening Standard photographer gets our picture. Fame at last. He says we look like disaster refugees.

4pm:

Reporters ask us what we think of the housing situation. We say it's ridiculous for some people to have two or three houses when others haven't got any. Carol says we should make Buckingham Palace into flats.

They tell us there's 100,000 empty houses in London. And 238,000 families on the GLC housing list.

It's ridiculous. Why are houses standing empty when they're needed? No wonder people squat.

All Harold Wilson does is say what a shame it is, while his government makes matters worse. Any socialist policy would give unemployed building workers jobs building the homes that people need. The property companies prefer to build big office blocks such as Centre Point—there's more money in it.

7.30pm:

Frank's back with more blankets. We go to stay the night. Still people arriving.

Saturday 2a

It's hard to sleep and we talk for ages about the trouble with both sets of was first married

4am:

This is the wind's picked up

7am:

It's light again. Three-quarters we to get in. We're probably be luck. The queue itself of sight. Carol's

When you think are just a lucky d. There's still tho million families j whom a good hou

Yet when you good house for ev a basic human ri homes, education should be able granted. We hav the material, the that dream real.

8.45am:

We've packed Officials have given out 120 ti

Meanwhile, there are 200,000 building workers unemployed...

BARBARA HAINES (right), aged 41

'In London a two-room furnished flat costs about £22 to £25. That's not including electricity and gas. How could I manage that?

'The councils just don't build much for single people. I don't know where they think we can find a decent place to live

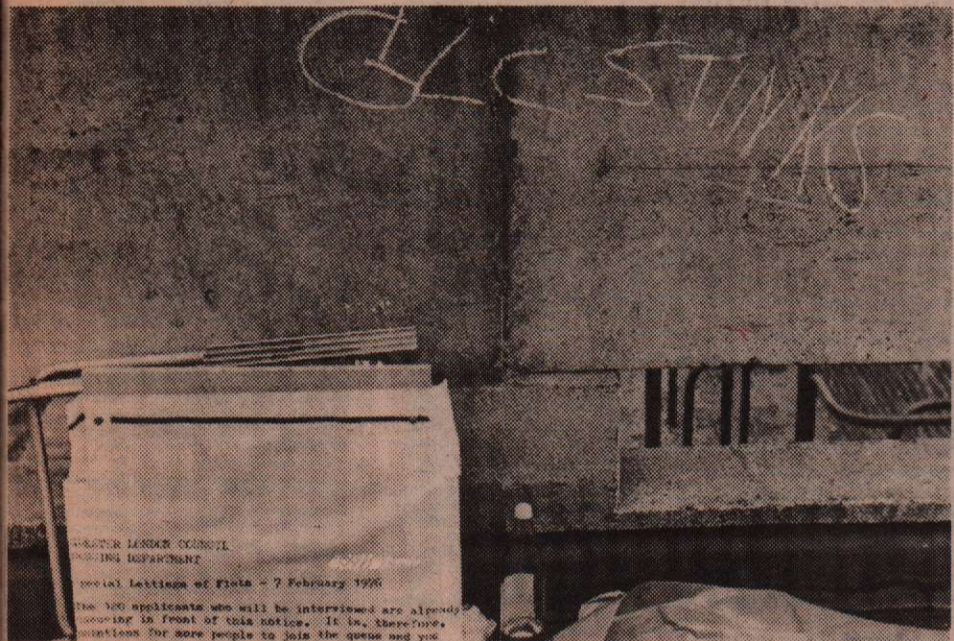


JOHN MONEY (right) a building worker, queued two nights for the chance of a flat. 'I've got two continental quilts, a coat, two jumpers, two shirts, two pairs of trousers, three pairs of socks, and a 10ft-long scarf—and I'm still cold!

'There should be enough places for people to live. I mean, there are plenty of building workers out of work. It's ridiculous. I was out of work for two months before I got the job I have now. I just hope I don't lose it for taking the day off to queue here.

'I went to the council for a GLC mortgage. They just said phone back in six months. But I need a place now. I'm waiting to get married. It's crazy. There are places in London that aren't lived in for half the year.'





9.30am Saturday: The queue is over—leaving a final comment on the housing officials who ran this appalling lottery

FACT

There are 400,000 'second homes' in Britain—used only at weekends or holidays. (Shelter estimate)

There are an estimated 3,500,000 families on council housing lists in Britain. This doesn't include many single people or couples without children, who don't bother to apply because they know they don't stand a chance. (Statistics compiled from government figures)

FACT

It cost £10,750 to build a council house in 1974. (Department of Environment average of all councils in Britain)

Interest repayments—at an estimated 12 per cent interest rate over 15 years—would be £22,000. In other words, they could build three times as many houses if they didn't have to pay the moneylenders.

Out of every pound that Islington Borough Council in North London spends in its housing account, 30p goes in building and maintaining houses. 70p goes to the moneylenders in interest repayments.

FACT

There were 200,280 building and construction workers out of work in December. (Department of Employment Gazette, 11 December 1975)

WHAT WE THINK

THERE is no reason why *anyone* should be homeless in Britain. 400,000 families could be housed for a start if all the 'second homes'—used now only for the occasional weekend—were given to families who have nowhere to live.

At least *three times* as many houses could be built by councils if they didn't have to pay exorbitant interest rates. The 200,280 construction workers looking for jobs now could be building new homes and repairing old ones—homes desperately needed.

This is not pie in the sky. It's a real possibility. This is what socialism is all about. A home for everyone. Not a 35-bedroomed mansion for one family while others sleep on the streets.

Many working families have managed—or are still struggling—to buy their own homes. Under socialism, they will keep their homes. But the rich will have to give up their 'little hide-aways' in the country or their townhouses in London.

Under socialism, we will all have a home. One each.

LABOUR MINISTERS BOW TO MAN WHO SHOOTS TRADE UNIONISTS

by ELI POVEY

THE latest in a long series of political trials starts at the Old Bailey on Monday. The victims are 21 Iranian students.

They face conspiracy charges, like the Shrewsbury pickets. But this time a Labour government has authorised the prosecution.

The 21 students got the most terrible message from Iran last April. The Shah's brutal dictatorship had excelled itself. Nine leading political prisoners had been murdered, or rather 'shot while trying to escape'.

The 21 went to picket Iran's London embassy to publicise the murders. The British press, by now securely in the pocket of the oil-rich Shah, gave them not a bit of publicity. So they briefly and peacefully occupied the embassy.

Soon they were taken away by the police. Kept in jail for a while, they discovered they would be facing conspiracy charges. Not for them the usual trivial civil charge of trespass. Someone was clearly out to get them. Someone still is.

The Shah is out to get them. Socialist Worker believes that the Labour government is in one way or another out to help him.

Iran is one of the most brutal dictatorships in the world. In Amnesty International's most recent torture league, Iran came top, worse than the more publicised Chile.

RESPECTS

Chile is on the conscience of Labour ministers. They do not visit Santiago. They do not go there to push trade deals. But they do go to Tehran, capital of Iran, where all trade unions and all political opposition is forbidden.

There's money—lots of money—to be made out of contracts with Iran.

So the hypocrites of the Labour government are hardly ever out of the place. In recent weeks Barbara Castle has been to pay her respects to the Shah. Following closely behind her was Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

Castle ostensibly went to advise on how to set up a health service—private, of course. In Iran there are



The Shah of Iran: Oppositionists were shot for crimes committed AFTER they had been arrested

pay beds and nothing else.

While she was in Tehran, the southern part of the country had terrible floods. Thousands were left homeless and exposed to disease. Most will die without ever having seen a doctor. Or if they do manage to get near a hospital they will be milked of whatever valuables they have before getting any treatment.

As for Wedgwood Benn, according to no less an authority than the Financial Times, he impressed the Iran government as no other Labour minister. Indeed, it is said, he established a close 'personal rapport' with the Shah.

I wonder how he felt about his 'personal rapport' with the Shah when the latest terrible news came through from Tehran. News about the execution of 22-year-old Jan Manijeh Ashraf-Zadeh on Saturday 24 January.

Jan Manijeh is the first woman whose murder has been directly authorised by the Shah. Eight others died with her. They had all



Barbara Castle: Advice for the Shah's private health service



Wedgwood Benn: Said to have 'close personal rapport' with the Shah

been 'found guilty' of 'crimes against the state'. Some of these crimes were supposedly committed while they were in custody.

In the week following these murders ten more oppositionists were murdered by the police.

The truth is that virtually every senior British government minister has been to Tehran to ingratiate themselves and British big business with the Shah. It is rumoured that Harold Wilson will soon fly out there.

What will the Shah say to him about the Iranian 21? We can only guess that the Shah will demand punishment. So it may well be that these 21 young men will be sacrificed on the altar of profitable export contracts.

We cannot stand aside and let this happen. Every decent trade unionist in Britain should raise this case in their stewards' committee and union branch.

Iran may be a long way away, the 21 may be students unknown to workers. But the use of the conspiracy charge is a direct link with the British trade union movement. Every time the government gets away with using this charge, it makes it easier for the authorities to use it against trade unionists again.

Most of all, please support the demonstration in London in defence of the 21. Send donations, resolutions and messages of support to the Iranian 21 Defence Committee, c/o 58 Old Brompton Road, London SW7. You may not know their names but they are your brothers and sisters and they are fighting for the same kind of freedom as you.

DEFEND THE IRANIAN 21: Demonstrate, Saturday 14 February, at Cavendish Square, London W1. Picket the Old Bailey, Monday 16 February, 9am.

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*Man for the field and woman for the hearth:
Man for the sword and for the needle she:
Man with the head and woman with the heart:
Man to command and woman to obey:
All else confusion.
Man for the field and woman for the hearth:
Man for the sword and for the needle she:
Man with the head and woman with the heart:
Man to command and woman to obey:
all else confusion.*

Tennyson

Student conference biggest on left for years



A section of the NOISS conference listening to Lindsey German, IS student organiser.

A REAL SUCCESS—that was the verdict on the student conference of NOISS, the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies in Manchester last weekend.

300 delegates and observers from all over the country—the biggest conference of left-wing students for years, discussed NOISS policy and how it could be put into practice.

The high spot of the conference was generally agreed to be the session on the Right to Work Campaign. John Deason, secretary of the National Right to Work Campaign, argued that students could play an important role in the campaign by mobilising support for the march and rally and by winning sponsorships in their union meetings.

Tim Butler, a lecturer from

the college teachers union NATFHE (formerly ATTI), argued that the cuts and unemployment were linked, and that fighting cuts in education meant fighting unemployment. He urged students to get delegated from their unions to the conference on Unemployment in Education later this month, so that a co-ordinated fightback by students and teachers can be organised.

Lively

To show that all this wasn't just hot air, conference invited a building worker from the Pochins Manchester Poly site—on strike for the right to work—to speak, and collected £101 for the strike fund.

An important campaign for students is that on overseas students' fees. Conference had a lively discussion on how to develop the campaign.

Speakers stressed that the issue was linked to the fight against racialism. Attacks on

overseas students were made to provide a scapegoat for the savage cuts in education spending.

A resolution was passed unanimously condemning all discrimination against overseas students, and pledging NOISS to campaign against it.

NOISS has mounted fairly successful campaigns around Portugal and Angola. We have produced posters, a pamphlet on Angola, taken a film on Angola on tour round colleges, and organised a small but successful protest demonstration and meeting.

Speakers pooled experiences, and some made the point that it was no good getting involved in international campaigns for a short time—we had to maintain a consistent level of involvement.

Concrete

The conference also included workshops on Spain, Portugal, Southern Africa, Chile and Latin America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Ireland. These emphasised concrete work and produced proposals for the plenary session which followed.

Guest speakers from the Middle East and Czechoslovakia addressed the conference. Fran Redcliffe, of the NUS Women's Action Group, talked about the need to turn the NUS Women's campaign into one of activists and not just a talking shop.

Women in NOISS should assume more of a leadership role both locally and nationally, she said.

Broad Left

Andy Durgan, of Portsmouth Poly, spoke on the student movement. The main points of the discussion centred round the changing nature of the movement—the growth of the right and the decline of the Broad Left. Some delegates seemed a bit obsessed by either or both of these, but it was argued that the situation presented great opportunities for NOISS to grow.

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

EDINBURGH SW public meeting: Stop the Butchery in Iran. Support the Iranians on Trial in Britain. Friday 13 February, 7pm, Societies Centre, Hill Place, Edinburgh.

ABERDEEN SW readers' meetings: Every fortnight in Trades Council, 24 Adelphi (off Union Street, near ABC Cinema). Monday 16 February. Can Socialism come through Parliament?

HARLOW SW discussion meeting: Fight for the Right to Work. Thursday 12 February, 8pm, Tye Green CA, Bush Fair. Speaker: Roger Cox.

AFRICA FORUM: Socialist Worker Africa Group will be holding monthly forums on different aspects of the struggle in Africa. The first discussion will be at The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1, on Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm, on the effect of the Angolan War on the general situation in Southern Africa.

EAST LONDON SW series of six fortnightly lectures on THE MEANING OF MARXISM: Livingstone Road, Stratford, E15, 7.30pm.

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: Tuesdays, 6.30pm, The Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road (nearest tube Goudge Street). Open to all SW readers.

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.

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW meetings: Thursdays, 6pm, Borough Polytechnic Students Union, Rotary Street, London SE1. February 26: Social Democracy or Socialism? March 4: The Communist Party Road to Socialism. March 11: Moderates and Militants in the Trade Unions. March 18: Ireland. March 28: Permanent Arms Economy. For further details ring G Loewenstein, 01-622 1090.

WOMEN'S VOICE RALLY, called by supporters of Women's Voice in South East London. To fight for: the right to work, the right to organise. To fight against: the cuts in education and social services, restrictive legislation on abortion. The Lee Centre, 1 Aislebe Road, London SE12, Saturday 21 February, 2pm to 9pm.

EDINBURGH Women's Voice meeting: Monday 16 February, 7.30pm; The Society Centre, Hill Place. To discuss Women's Voice and the Right to Work Campaign.

SOCIALIST WORKER EVENTS

CHILE SLIDE AND TAPE SHOW: 45 minutes, 125 slides, produced by the Socialist Worker Agitprop Group for SW discussion meetings. Soundtrack includes Chilean songs. Hire £2 from Rob Lumley, Flat 4, 165 Pershore Road, Birmingham 5. Please book well in advance.

Speakers' notes on ANGOLA have been produced by the SW Africa Group. Send stamped addressed envelope to 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WOMEN'S VOICE needs a business manager. It requires about two or three days a week, or equivalent evenings. Urgent. Contact Nina (01-739 9772).

WHAT 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 United States—and of the growing realisation of black and white workers that theirs is one struggle. £1.60 including postage from Pete Marsden, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. **SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION,** 60-minute cassette still available, £1.60 including postage.

ALMOST COMPLETE backlog of Socialist Worker and some copies of Labour Worker back to 1964, available to the highest bidder. Minimum bid £50. All proceeds to SW International Solidarity Fund. Contact Martin Barker, 0272 669352.

LABOUR WORKER: Ancient copies of Labour Worker, Socialist Worker's predecessor, needed to make up bound volumes for SW office files. Scour your attic! We need issues 30, 32, 35-37, 39, 41, 43, 51, 60; vol III issue 5; vol II issues 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9; vol I, all issues except 2. Send to SW editorial, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

NOISS

HEALTH STUDENTS in NOISS please contact Lindsey German, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

All IS members and SW supporters delegated to the trade union conference on SPAIN, 14 February, please contact the IS International Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, 01-739 8600.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs typewriters. Age no problem, but working order preferred. Please phone Margaret, SW editorial office, 01-739 6361.

SUMMER TRAINING SCHOOLS: 21-24 June: IS full-timers' school, 19-22 July: Women's Voice School, 2-5 August: National Cadre School (Manchester), 23-26 August: National Cadre School (London). Details from Training Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

IS OFFICE needs part-time or full-time help. Office experience and typing useful but not vital. If you can help out, ring or write to IS office, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (01-739 9772).

ENTERTAINMENT UNIONS RANK AND FILE: All members of the International Socialists and readers of Socialist Worker who work in the entertainments / communications industry or are in ACTT, ABS, Musicians Union, Equity, NATKE or EETPU, please contact Andy Reilly, 120 Horn Lane, Acton, London W3 (phone 01-993 0356).

SOUTH WEST LONDON IS District meeting for ALL members: 8pm, Thursday 12 February, Lower Hall, Brixton Town Hall. For details ring branch secretary.

WEST YORKSHIRE DISTRICT IS: Jumble wanted for jumble sale late February. Will collect. Phone 0274-55913.

BIRMINGHAM BOOKSHOP needs someone to run it. Interesting job for comrade who would like to live in Birmingham. Experience not essential but you will have to be prepared to graft. Ring Birmingham Bookshop 021-643 5717, or Sheila 021-449 8301.

NATFHE: Meeting for ALL members of IS in the NATFHE: next Saturday, 14 February, Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road (near Warren Street tube and Euston main line station). The meeting will start at 11am. All supporters welcome.

SCHOOL STUDENTS: National IS meeting. Sessions on the Right to Work Campaign, NUSS, and How to Organise. Saturday 21 February, 1pm, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Further details write to above address, mark envelope 'School Students'. Districts to finance.

WOMEN and the Cuts Conference: Saturday 28 February. All IS members and SW supporters attending or wishing to attend the conference should contact Joy Leman (01-229 6869) as soon as possible.

EFFICIENT TYPIST required for IS office. Contact Mel Norris 01-739 1870 or 1878.

WOMEN FOR RIGHT TO WORK

THE International Socialists Women's Committee discussed in detail support for the Right to Work Campaign last weekend.

Support for women on the Manchester to London march is to be organised in breweries, the clothing industry, GMWU, TGWU and NALGO branches around the country.

Money for the campaign will be raised from women both in the unions, at work and those we contact through other campaigns and activity, such as the National Abortion Campaign.

Large numbers of women are expected at the Albert Hall Rally. Facilities for children that day need to be organised now.

Women will be brought into the campaign through activity around electricity disconnections, education cuts, cuts in hospitals. We need to be imaginative.

International Women's Day falls in the middle of the Right to Work March. On Saturday 6 March there are two important events—the Right to Work March goes from Clay Cross to Derby, and in London there is an International Women's Day demonstration. We should be on both. Posters for placards are being designed.

The next meeting of the committee will be on Saturday 13 March.

Join us in Skegness!



There are still places left for the Socialist Worker rally in Skegness at Easter, where there will be a full programme of political meetings, discussions, films and entertainment. Four days, Friday to Monday, 16-19 April, for £15.25, covering all meals, accommodation and entertainment. Children are free.

Ask your local Socialist Worker seller for details.

Teachers open campaign

MORE than 40 delegates attended the International Socialists' teachers conference in London last week.

In the morning, Tony Cliff spoke about the Right to Work Campaign, stressing that everybody could play an important part.

'If you can't get your NUT branch to support the march, maybe your school will support it. If you can't win a majority,

win a minority. If you can't get that, then get a few individuals to sponsor a marcher and come to the rally.'

A Newcastle delegate explained how her local association affiliated to the campaign: 'I didn't expect them to, but everyone agreed that the right to work had to be fought for and that with at least 8000 teachers on the dole the campaign had to be supported.'

Geoff Hurford stressed the importance of the Conference Against Unemployment In Education: 'It is in no way separate from the Right to Work Campaign. We have to win as many delegacies from schools and local associations as possible.'

WATCHING CHINA

THE International Socialists China Group is now working and has set itself four main objectives: Preparing a day school to be used as part of a district's education programme, providing articles on China and related topics for Socialist Worker and International Socialism Journal, helping with IS international work, and developing links with Chinese revolutionaries.

The group's next meeting will be held shortly. We welcome the help of any member of IS or supporter of SW who is interested in China, especially those who know the Chinese language—however little of it—or who used to be Maoists.

For further details write to the IS China Group, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Successes from schools up and down the country were reported. One delegate from Hackney said that in her school, the ancillary staff had decided to sponsor the march before the teachers had even met to discuss it.

There was a unanimous vote to start rooting Rank and File teachers groups in the schools, making action on the Right to Work Campaign, action against the cuts, and action to fight for the Teachers' Charter—a draft of which was unanimously supported by the conference.



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 militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and Socialist Worker aims to build towards such a party by fighting 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.

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists, fill in the form on page 15.

TAKE IT AS RED

Land, sea, they'll steal the air next!

WHEN oil was discovered in the North Sea, the British government suddenly discovered that its share of the sea shelf extended up to 400 miles.

Iceland doesn't own any oil. The one natural resource its people can lay claim to is fish in the sea. But they find that just as the oil giants have grabbed the oil, so the food and fishing giants—Ross, Birds Eye, Associated Fisheries—are grabbing the fish.

Competitive theft of this sort is what capitalism is all about. The whole squalid system was in part born out of the largest crime wave in British history, organised by the ruling class for their own enrichment. This crime wave is known to historians as the enclosures.

From the 16th century on, the gentry simply enclosed large areas of common land, putting a fence round it and declaring it private property. Tame parliaments usually rubber-stamped these swindles. Between 1760 and 1867 parliament agreed to the enclosure of seven million acres.

A folk rhyme of the time shows what people thought of this robbery:

*The law locks up both man and woman,
Who steals the goose from off the common,
But lets the greater villain loose,
Who steals the common from the goose.*

So capitalism has pinched the land from under your feet and now it's busy turning the sea into private property. What next?

Disloyal

What might be next was suggested by a report in the London *Evening Standard* a couple of years ago. This noted that pollution in Tokyo was so bad that slot machines were being installed to dispense clean air to passers-by at 12p a minute. The *Standard*, bless its little businessman's heart, thought that this 'could well be considered a bargain'.

It's time we saw more of initiative of that kind. I suppose you realise that while you're sitting there reading this you're consuming precious air in a thoroughly Marxist way and the whole exercise is subversive and disloyal.

Here I think there's a great opportunity for the merchant ventures and captains of industry who once made Britain Great. They led the world in nicking land from people and their Labour government is about to nick the sea. It's high time they set about expropriating the air.

Concorde could provide the excuse.

Concorde's aim is to make the air unbreathable and unlivably noisy. How about taking advantage of this to patent and produce lots of little sound-proof booths for people to waddle about in, complete with oxygen cylinders and retailing at a couple of thousand quid?

At a stroke, this could solve the balance of payments problem, stop all this Marxist breathing that's going on and ensure the survival for another generation of Reg Prentice as we know it.

Paul O'Flinn

MAKING THE NEWS...

HAVE YOU ever been on television?

Perhaps you were in one of those crowd shots taken outside the factory gates after a walk-out. Or perhaps you've been interviewed as the media-designated 'leader' of a strike.

If you have then you'll know that when it comes to industrial relations, what you see on the box bears little relationship to the real facts.

To try to find out how much of this kind

of reporting is going on, two young sociologists from Glasgow University, Brian Winston and Paul Walton, decided to look a little more closely at television news industrial coverage.

RESULTS

For the first three months of last year they recorded every single news broadcast on all three channels. Then, with the help of a computer, they analysed the results.

Television news, they found, deliberately seeks out 'photogenic discord'.

The punch-ups, the riots, the public rows, the confrontations, are what the broadcasters are after. Any real explanation of events is left out, ignored.

Their report cites the Glasgow dustmen's strike last year as an example. There were plenty of nice pictures of rotting rubbish, rats and hazards to health. But in 13 broadcasts, not a word about why the men were on strike, or about the controversial decision to send in troops.

Again, they analysed the way television news covered the troubles in the car industry, showing how separate situations could be added together to mislead.

Remember Harold Wilson's speech at Huyton

A new column about television's behind-the-screens dealing

a year ago when he talked about 'manifestly avoidable stoppages of production' in the car industry. That speech was 'tied in' with the engine tuners' strike at Cowley, not just once, but 13 times in ITN bulletins and nine times by BBC news during the following weeks.

TROUBLE

The effect was to give the impression that strikes, and only strikes, were at the root of the car industry's problems.

This is how it was put across on ITN: 'The British Leyland plant at Cowley, especially picked out by Mr Wilson in his warning about strikes last night, is at a standstill for a second day because of industrial trouble.'

The report also analysed the coverage of the Ryder report on British Leyland, published in April last year. Ryder had put the company's difficulties down to poor management, and above all a basic lack of investment.

But what did we see on the box? A passing reference to management, with most of the coverage concentrating on bad labour relations.

In a potted history of the company, designed to go with the story on the report, BBC News announced that 'every new model seemed to be delayed by a strike'. In fact Ryder had said specifically that he didn't believe the ills of British Leyland could be laid at the door of a work-shy labour force.

ANSWER

Far worse though, was the fact that nowhere on television was there a mention of what Ryder saw as the key explanation for British Leyland's troubles—the decision to distribute 95 per cent of the firm's profits between 1968 and 1972 as dividends to shareholders, and to retain only five per cent for reinvestment.

On 28 January, armed with their findings, Brian Winston and Paul Walton went along to Congress House to meet members of the TUC General Council. They showed them recordings of ITN and BBC industrial coverage.

But these days, when you are taking on the establishment, you have to be really quick off the mark. The BBC had already nobbled the TUC.

When the Director General of the BBC, Sir Charles Curran, heard of the report he was worried that the 'propaganda' it contained might fall on fertile ground.

So he commissioned a senior executive to draw up a reply. Copies were to be sent to the TUC assistant general secretary, Norman Willis, and for good measure to Tom Jackson, sometimes BBC governor, and Post Office union chief.

SHOWED

The BBC's reply did what it could to answer the points made in the report, picking up inaccuracies and inconsistencies, and arguing about definitions. But the BBC failed to answer the report's main charge, because it couldn't.

That charge is that the BBC's view of industrial affairs is not impartial—it is the view of the people collecting, editing and broadcasting the material—and that view is the management's view. For television newsmen, the news is what they say is the news. And night after night they thrust it down your throat.

Ed Fixer



Only an equipment failure...

DOG DAY AFTERNOON is a film about a bank robbery that goes wrong.

The robbers, Sonny and Sal, are unemployed Vietnam War veterans. Sonny is bisexual. He has two wives, one a massive Italian woman with two kids, the other a man. Sonny needs the money to pay for a sex change operation for his male wife.

Which all sounds pretty unbelievable—except that it really happened.

Sonny and Sal become folk heroes for the local kids in this poor, working-class Puerto Rican section of New York. They are trapped inside the bank with nine hostages. Outside are 250 police, with guns. Sonny and Sal are a symbol of rebellion.

There's a great bit where a TV programme interviews Sonny over the phone. 'Why are you doing this?' the reporter asks.

'What d'you mean?' Sonny says. 'I'm robbing the bank because they keep money here.'

'Why don't you give yourself up?'

'Have you ever been inside prison?'

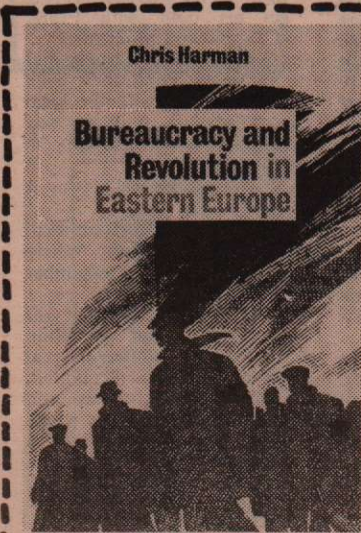
'Well, why don't you get a

RIGHT: The police question Sonny's male wife. TOP: The massive show of force as the robbers and hostages come out.

REVIEW by Frankie Owen

job?'
'Do you know what you're talking about?' Sonny asks. 'I'm a Vietnam Vet. I don't have a union card. Without a card I can't get a decent job. And I can't live on a non-union job. I've got two kids and a wife to support.'
'So you rob a bank,' the reporter says like a scolding headmaster.
'How much do you make?' asks Sonny.

'I'm doing the interviewing.'
'I'm dying here,' says Sonny. 'And you're making us into entertainment. What the fuck do you make for that?'
The reporter hangs up, and **EQUIPMENT FAILURE** flashes up on the screen.
The film is unusual, because at a time when the TV is a massive public relations exercise for the police, it takes the other side. It sympathises with the victims. It's worth seeing.



Book of the Week

According to a Russian joke, 'capitalism is the exploitation of man by man, and socialism is the exact reverse'. This book describes the fight for workers' power in Russia, Poland, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary over the past

30 years. It will give you the facts you need to show that these countries are not socialist.

£2.20 including postage
From **IS BOOKS**, 263 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, or direct from **IS BOOKSHOPS** in Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Hull, Coventry, Glasgow, Dundee, Leeds.

IS Books

PRE-VIEW

THURSDAY
SHOWBOAT is the first in a BBC2 Paul Robeson series. **WHEN THE BOAT COMES IN** (BBC1) has had good episodes, and bad ones.

FRIDAY
GET THE DRIFT (BBC2) is a very funny collection of songs and sketches.

SATURDAY
London viewers can see Enoch Powell at his best in **DRACULA HAS RISEN FROM THE GRAVE** (ITV).

MONDAY
FILM AS EVIDENCE (BBC2) looks at the impact of cinema newsreels. The first is on distorted news from the Spanish Civil War. **HORIZON** (BBC2): ships and planes have vanished in an area known as the Bermuda Triangle. Horizon offers an explanation.

Name date

JOIN the Pluto Press diary writers' collective! The subject for their **BIG RED DIARY 1977** is to be **Law and Disorder** and they're looking for entries. Any examples of how the law has been used to suppress or control threats to the established order and how it has been challenged collectively by the people it has been used against.

Example: 20 May 1926, Cardiff. A girl of 17 received a month's imprisonment for tripping up a scab during the General Strike.

Any ideas? Send them to Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW3.

No typecasts

CAST, the socialist theatre group that brought us first Hilda Muggins and now Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins MP, wants to expand. With a new play planned by August, they need two new members.

CAST have a few distinctive theories about theatre. They're not too bothered about training, but are looking for people who want to act and have the guts to try it.

CAST, phone 01-402 6087.

PARLIAMENT? NOW I KNOW THE TRUTH

I WAS ONE of the 'hooligans' who dared to interrupt the holy procedure of the House of Commons debate on unemployment two weeks ago.

The obscene spectacle that we witnessed completely destroyed any faith I might ever have had in the Parliamentary road to socialism.

If there is anyone who still has illusions in socialism being achieved through Parliament, I suggest he or she sits in the Strangers' Gallery for an hour, during a 'key' debate that allegedly affects millions of people.

If the sight of a bunch of overpaid, overfed clowns behaving worse than a fourth-form debating society doesn't drive you screaming from the place, then reflect for a minute.

While our MPs are acting out this miserable charade, the real decisions are being made in the corridors of Whitehall and the boardrooms of the multinationals.

Our 'betters' in the House of Commons are just the front-men and women for the people really responsible for unemployment—the bosses.

The battle for jobs won't be won in parliament. It won't even be fought there.

It won't be won by a few Labour lefts supporting the Right to Work Campaign (although all praise to Eric Heffer for making a principled intervention on our behalf).

It will only be won by the rank and file militancy of employed and unemployed workers fighting together for the Right to Work.—KEVIN SKINNER, London N16.

And it's not just in Britain, either...

THE POWER and importance of the House of Commons is beyond question (?) in Britain—and, so too, in Japan, where Prime Minister Miki (below left) and his No2 Mr Ide intervened in last week's crucial budget debate with a few well-chosen snores.—READER, N London.



Kevin Skinner, defiant after the recent Commons protest with other unemployed demonstrators: Parliament was an eye-opener...



Letters

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

Time we disconnected

Barbara Castle...

MY PARENTS are pensioners, forced to live on the miserly sum of £23 a week. Since losing their part-time jobs, they can't afford luxuries like a Guinness or an ice cream, let alone astronomical electricity bills.

Yet last week the press and television offered help to people like my Mum and Dad. If you're cold, put an SOS card in your window, said the Daily Mirror.

A spokeswoman for the Health Education Council said on TV that old people could keep warm by wearing gloves, many layers of clothing and even by putting foil around their feet.

On TV's World in Action last week the great socialist Barbara Castle talked of the 'problem' of the 'all electric' family.

And Wedgwood Benn said that of 19 million consumers of electricity, the rate for disconnections was still only 120,000 (in 1974-75).

After all, he said: 'The Board does have a responsibility to those who pay'.

Castle and Benn have a bloody responsibility to people like my Mum and Dad who elected them.

How disgusting when these 'socialists' don't even mention the fact that their government took the decision to introduce crippling increases in the prices of electricity and gas.

They know full well that while thousands of pensioners freeze and die, industry still gets cheap electricity.

To all the hypocrites, my Mum and Dad say: Stuff your foil and SOS cards—we're fighting for every penny we're entitled to.—ELAINE ELLEN, Chelmsford.

Pat on the back for Russia?

I LIKE SW's coverage on Angola—with one reservation. You don't say very much about the role of Russia and Cuba.

You spend enough time knocking them. But this time they're doing a good job.

So why don't you give praise where it's due?—SW READER, North London.

What do other readers think?

Make it clear, SW

THE FIFTH Column (31 January) exposing the News of the World's lying portrayal of Charlie Hallett as a scrounger was factually good, but it didn't consider the broader implications.

The News of the World article is just one example of a concerted press campaign to turn the employed against the unemployed.

The tragedy is that this campaign by the bosses' media has had some effect.

When selling Socialist Worker around Hallett's

estate, we talked to people who tried to blame their situation on state scroungers.

It's no good for SW just to expose the lies of the capitalist press so as to make martyrs out of people.

Articles that take up individual cases must emphasise the general arguments about the crisis.

Otherwise they become hard-luck stories and not propaganda weapons in the class war.—BRIAN WILLMAN, Exeter.

PRESSURE THEY PUT ON METER READERS

LAST WEEK'S front page reminded me of an experience when I worked for the Electricity Board as a meter reader.

Most of the meter readers had spent much of their lives working in factories and so identified with the people they came into contact with.

When ordered to cut off families, they would, for example, arrive to find a mother with her kids cooking the dinner.

Rather than cut them off halfway through their dinner, they wouldn't bother at all.

The Electricity Board didn't like that. So they threatened the meter readers: do your job or we'll employ someone full-time to do it—and that will mean one of you out of work.

Since there were more than a million unemployed at the time, it wasn't a threat to be taken lightly.

That is the sort of situation in which workers find themselves in this crazy capitalist society.

Only a planned socialist society can scrap these useless jobs and give people what they need. Power to the people.—GRAHAM BLACK, Ilford.

In a word —distortion

THE HYPOCRISY of the 'free press' is unlimited. So, to untangle the web of confusion, I have compiled a glossary of media phraseology.

MILITANT: Sir Jules Thorn et al.

WRECKER: Investment striker.

DETENTE: Holding talks while waging war by proxy (as in Angola).

FREE WORLD: free enterprise.

DEMOCRACY: the right to make a cross every five years.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE: preferential treatment for those who can pay.

OVERMANNING: the board of directors.

HOLDING THE NATION TO RANSOM: currency speculators.

RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES: one man doing one man's job.

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE: the right to do the opposite of what you promised before the election.

NATIONAL INTEREST: Stock Exchange.

— M GREENWOOD, Halifax.

POSTAL POINTS

HOW PATHETIC of Duncan Hallas (24 January) to hide behind Engels and dodge the crucial question—our attitude as socialists to the family today.

It's all very well to 'prove' the transience of an abstract 'natural' family but that proof won't bring us its automatic abolition or transformation under socialism.

The social oppression of women is rooted in the family structure and the division of labour within it (which is not to say that the family liberates men either).

We won't emancipate women without challenging their traditional role as housewives and childbearers, nor will we involve them in the revolutionary movement without such a challenge.—IRENE BREUGEL, London NW5.

AT LEAST, Duncan Hallas, we are agreed that the modern 'natural' family is unnatural, and also that it is incompatible with socialism.

Beyond that you do not give the answer, so you put the buck to women.

Take note. Who demands biological interpretation of the reaction?

on feminists and socialists. It comes unexpectedly from a socialist.

I have never known anyone suggest that the family could be abolished by edict. Give women and children economic independence of men and see what happens to the family.—KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.

LISTENING to a programme on the radio about the new exhibition centre in Birmingham, I heard the most disgusting story from one of the speakers.

It summed up for me the vile and corrupt profit-mad society of ours, that must and will be changed.

This speaker had attended a meeting, at which a government minister was present, where doubts were expressed that Birmingham could provide adequate entertainment to satisfy visiting business managers.

It was said that Birmingham had not even got enough prostitutes. We were proudly told that Birmingham is devoted to private enterprise.

'Show us the need,' the speaker said, 'and we will supply it.'

Everyone, it seems, women most of all, have to be degraded and corrupted in the sacred name of profit.—MARGARET HOUSE, Nuneaton.

Scottish Nationalism:

NO! IT'S A HINDRANCE

and in the past, the handmaiden of British imperialism, but Scotland is not dominated by a foreign power, and the working class is not the victim of enforced poverty and discrimination, as in Ireland.

Scottish nationalism is unashamedly the tool of Scottish capitalists. They hope to cash in on the oil boom and they see the possibility of becoming the rich section of British bosses, and not the genteel poor

they have become over the last 50 years. Capitalism in Scotland developed alongside English capitalism, and grew fat on British imperialism. It was never in conflict with British imperialism in fact it was from there that Scottish nationalism grew.

Those socialists who flirt with Scottish nationalism come in two forms. Those who are tired of the real fight against the real enemy—British and international capitalism. And those who live in hope of a Scottish parliament dominated by socialists. Separatism is just another brand of reformism, but even more pie-in-the-sky.

YES! FIGHT IT-AND YOU'RE 'RACIALIST'

PLAID CYMRU and the Scottish National Party do not argue—as you suggest—that their peoples are exploited by the 'English'. They argue that Wales and Scotland are nations and so entitled to self-determination.

Socialists opposed the British capitalists' possession of an empire, and fought long and hard for the national liberation of the overseas territories.

Apart from a few odd rocks, reefs and outposts, all that now remains of the empire is the UK itself—the 'Imperial Unit'.

For social justice and consistency, socialists must seek to wrest that from the possession of British capitalists. Welsh and

TO EQUATE (Fifth Column, 31 January) the doubling in attempted suicides with the Chrysler situation was not only crude and unimaginative—it was downright wrong.

The statistics you quote appeared before the Chrysler crisis broke and were largely made up of old people, not redundant car workers.

The pathetic attempts of the lonely and despairing to end their lives speaks volumes about a society which can ruthlessly neglect the very people who have sacrificed most to make money for its parasitic owners. In your hands, that tragedy was transformed into a polemical gimmick.—MALWYN COLLINS, Coventry.



Why I'm standing for CPSA president

BY MIKE McGRATH

WE on Redder Tape don't believe in electioneering for fun. I've been pushed into this decision to stand for President by the scandalous behaviour of the Broad Left movement in the union.

They're supporting one right-winger against another. Don't laugh. That's exactly what they're doing.

Last year the press had a field day when Kay Losinka won the presidency. Losinka is a vicious right-winger, one of the most vicious in the whole movement. She's used her position as president to impose her right-wing views at every level—in the union and outside.

I'd really like to see her crushed.

In last year's election, I supported Walter Adamson, who was a strong candidate for the Broad Left. The whole left supported Walter, and I would support him again.

But some time before Christmas the Broad Left group met to decide their tactics for this year. They thought they couldn't beat Losinka with a left-wing candidate—so they picked a right-winger one.

Issue

They picked Len Lever. He's a colourless ex-president who sides with the right wing on almost every issue.

For instance, since last conference they've had 13 card votes on the ruling national committee. Lever has voted against the Broad Left majority no less than eight times.

Lever is especially reactionary on women's issues, and

MIKE McGRATH is secretary of the British Library branch of the biggest civil service union, the CPSA. He is one of the union's best known militants and contributes to the civil servants' rank and file paper, Redder Tape, which is supporting his candidacy for CPSA president.

the CPSA has a large women membership. He moved that the union should not affiliate to the National Abortion Campaign. On this issue he is even further to the right than Losinka—and that takes some doing. Redder Tape has always argued against the strategy of the Broad Left. We have said



Mike McGrath

for years that concentrating on the top of the union fosters apathy, cynicism, gossip mongering and personal slanders.

The rank and file lose confidence in the union leadership. The union leaders lose confidence in the rank and file, and so back away from any real fight on sackings or incomes policy.

We can't allow an election to go ahead in which the rank and file are ignored in the interests of electoral advantage for one group over another.

Low-paid

The Redder Tape editorial board, which includes militants from several different political parties (and of none), decided unanimously to support me, if I'm nominated. I think and hope I will be nominated.

Our union is a democratic union. It is founded on

workplace branches. We have a low-paid membership who are infuriated by government plans for big job cuts and wage control.

Our members are fed up with being used as voting fodder for cliques in the union, and I think there will be a big response to a fighting programme.

QUOTE

From 1975 CPSA president Kate Losinka:

'Last August, the Trotskyist International Socialists spoke proudly of a thriving new cell in the Inland Revenue Department. We thus have the possible prospect of declared enemies of the system picking their way through the confidential tax returns of 25 million people in search of material—an illegitimate child, controversial shareholdings—for possible political pressure.'

Writing in Readers' Digest (scale fee: £500 for 1000 words) February 1976.



Fat Tory votes Communist!

COMPANY DIRECTOR and fat farmer James Prior turned up to his union branch last Monday.

Prior is the Tory spokesman on union matters. He recently urged all Tory workers to go along and participate in union branch meetings.

Somehow, Prior has been accepted for membership of the Trade Union and Political Staffs branch of the clerical union APEX. Last Monday was his first-ever attendance. He had a bad night.

He voted against sending a delegate from the branch to the Women and the Cuts

Conference this month—and against sending a delegate to the Portuguese Workers Coordinating Committee Conference.

Then came the voting for area executive council. Among those moved for branch support was E Boon of Hythe Road Engineering, a member of the Communist Party.

Prior voted in favour. Upon which an impertinent branch member turned to him and said: 'Brother Prior, I hope you realise you've just voted for a member of the Communist Party!'

'Oh, in that case I certainly withdraw my vote,' mumbled

Prior, scarlet with embarrassment.

James Prior, incidentally, is a director of United Biscuits, the IDC group and Avon Cosmetics. He also has an office as management consultant to Trust Houses Forte, a viciously anti-union firm which has victimised trade unionists in at least three major disputes in the past year.

What is this rich hypocrite doing in union meetings anyway?

If you work for United Biscuits, or IDC or Trust Houses Forte why don't you let us know how Prior's firms treat trade unions?

OFFICIAL RULE OF STEEL

THE TUC Steel Committee (TUCSIC) is taking over all major negotiations in the steel industry.

From now in, it's clear that wages, conditions and sackings in the industry will be taken out of the hands of the elected executives and put into the hands of an entirely appointed body which is dominated by full-time officials in the ISTC, the biggest steel union.

The recent proposals for mass sackings in steel, for instance, were signed by 15 members of TUCSIC. Nine were full-timers in ISTC.

Not one of them is elected. Not one of the clauses in the document was decided by the elected executives of any of the unions involved.

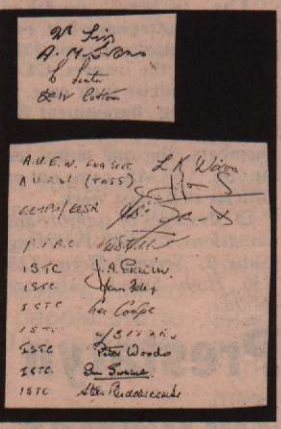
By stealth, the ISTC leaders are getting what they've always wanted: a tightly-knit negotiating body which doesn't have to bother about the membership. The TUC committee provides just that.

The employers are delighted. They want more power for ISTC officials. One of the proposals put to the steel committee by BSC—and which was kept strictly secret—was that ISTC should appoint another full-time official for the Sheffield-Scunthorpe area.

The reason? 'To deal with unofficial outbreaks at the Anchor works.'

ISTC are only too happy to oblige.

Signatures of steel union officials on the document



NALGO: Were they pushed?

THE executive of the local government union NALGO defeated a motion for recalling the TUC by 44 votes to 25 in November. This month, the same executive voted by more than two to one in favour of a motion to recall the TUC.

What's made the difference? First, the public spending cuts, which are threatening thousands of NALGO jobs. Secondly, a dispute in the gas industry.

At the same meeting, the NALGO executive voted to approve strike action by members in the gas industry. The strike, for bonus payments over a productivity deal, has been viciously opposed in several letters by Len Murray of the TUC and David Basnett of the General and Municipal Workers Union, the other big union in the gas industry.

OUR NORMAN



NEWSFLASH: The sumptuous offices of NALGO near Kings Cross in London are to be fitted with bullet-proof glass. A spokesman denied that this was to protect its full-time officials from their members.

'Stop the entire city' call to fight cuts

By UNA TURNER, COHSE Chairman, Ninewells Hospital Branch

DUNDEE: We have the strength to fight and win. That was the message that came over loud and clear from a meeting last Wednesday of 800 local shop stewards. They voted to take strike action against public expenditure cuts.

Dundee is being hit severely by the cuts. The Tory regional council is spending £3 million less than last year's budget and £11 million less than the totally inadequate government cash limit. The effect will include the loss of 100 primary school teachers and the end of concessionary fares for pensioners and children. It will also push up the price of meals on wheels, it will mean cutbacks in home helps and staff in old folks' homes, and the loss of at least one secondary school and several nursery schools. All this in a city where one in 10 workers are already unemployed.

The meeting was addressed by local full-time officials of the Transport Workers Union, the builders' union, UCATT, and the AUEW. All spoke of the need for all Dundee trade unionists to unite against these cuts.

After a limited discussion, the officials put a resolution calling for a one-day stoppage throughout Dundee on 5 March. It was carried unanimously.

Demonstrate

Tayside is showing the way. Other areas must do the same and spread this into a national campaign. 90,000 workers were represented at that meeting. They can and must win on 5 March.

It is the responsibility of every shop steward and full-time official in Dundee to see that there is massive support for the strike and demonstration.

MEETING for IS members and SW supporters who are NUJ members in publishing. Saturday 21 February, 2pm, St Brides Institute, off Fleet Street.

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.

CONFERENCE Against Unemployment in Education: North London Poly, Holloway Road, Wednesday, 28 February. Open to students, teachers and workers in educational establishments. Details and delegates' credentials from 18 St Agnes Close, London, E9. Organised by the Education Cuts Conference Standing Committee.

PUBLIC MEETING called by Southwark Trades Council and South London Group of Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese working class. Chair: Ernie Roberts (Assistant General Secretary, AUEW), a PWCC representative, Mike Duggan (CPSA) for the Solidarity Campaign. Plus showing of the film Republica. Thursday 12 February, North Peckham Civic Centre (library hall), Old Kent Road, London, SE15. (Junction of Peckham Park Road, and Old Kent Road). All trade unionists welcome to this important meeting.

WALTHAM FOREST Women's Action Group, Community Centre. We have rooms available. Anyone interested in teaching crafts, skills, etc. come to 161 Markhouse Road, London E17. Or ring 521 6368 or 520 1803.

LONDON Rank and File Tech Teacher: Sunday 15 February, 7pm, Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road, London, W1.

CRITIQUE, the journal of Soviet studies, is organising a series of seminars. The next will be on Tuesday 17 February, 7.30pm. Alix Holt on The Bolsheviks and the Women's Question, 1903-23. LSE, St Clements Building, Room 5418.

BROADSIDE Mobile Workers Theatre need versatile actor, and administrator with trade union experience. Committed socialists with long-term perspective. Write 58 Holbein House, Holbein Place, London, SW1W 8NJ or phone 01-730 5396.

THE LEVELLER: New radical magazine, controlled by its subscribers. Meetings nationwide: including Coventry, Leicester, Southampton, Canterbury and Sheffield. Details: 01-703 8998. Single copies 30p plus 10p postage from 91 Grove Lane, London, SE5 8SN.

SO WHAT WOULD YOU PUT IN ITS PLACE?

£110 a week for every family

WHEN did you last worry about having enough 10p pieces to put in your water meter?

When did you last think you'd better run only one tap, and not two, for fear of the terrible expense?

Stupid questions? Maybe—or maybe not.

In Britain, water is produced in abundance and made available according to need.

As a result, people neither hoard it for fear of shortages, nor squander it to demonstrate their wealth and social standing.

But that water does not merely fall from the sky. It's produced by a

complex industry, an operation costing, quantity for quantity, about the same as Coca Cola.

But Coca Cola is produced for private profit. It's put in bottles, given an image and sold at upwards of 12p a half pint.

How would socialism stop this highway robbery?

First, those who held stock in Coca Cola or claimed the patent on Lea

and Perrins Worcestershire sauce would be dispossessed.

They would no longer be allowed to grow rich simply because they had married the grand-daughter of the third cousin of the person who had stolen the recipe off some generous working woman a century ago.

Their wonderful products could then be made available at much lower cost to the community. They would, in short, be made available exactly

like water—according to need.

The same could be done with beer, bread, butter, cheese, eggs, heat, light, transport and housing. It could be done with everything that human beings need.

A dream? Not at all. It's a distinct and practicable possibility.

Not that you'd get that impression from reading The Sun or the Mirror, The Times or The Guardian.

Wisdom

According to these experts, our present society is unalterable and socialism doomed to failure. Which is nice for the Coca Cola shareholders who advertise in such newspapers with a view to obtaining regularly repeated doses of this 'wisdom'.

We have the skill, the technology, the labour power and the machines to create abundance for all.

Luxury consumption and the immense self-indulgence of the rich would be halted overnight, releasing the resources to give rich diets to those who had been very poor.

By equalising the present scandalous distribution of wealth, a socialist society would take giant steps.

At the height of Heath's battle against the miners in 1972, a Tory professor set out to prove that redistributing existing income in Britain would make little or no difference

Wealth

He came up with the fact that redistributing existing incomes equally would give every household in Britain an income of £80 a week.

That's £110 a week at today's prices.

On top of income wealth there's property wealth. And that is truly stupendous.

Take one example from Scotland. While people are living packed together like sardines in tenements and tower blocks in the Lowlands, the boss man in Distillers Company, Lord Vestey of Dewhurst Butchers and many others like them own 50,000 acre Highland estates apiece.

Greed

When you come down to it, there are only a few things which stand in the way of our reaching a society where production is for human need, not private greed.

There's the so-called 'rights' of those who at present own and control the wealth of our world. There's their power to keep us in line with physical force.

Besides these, they have one other thing going for them.

And that's the considerable hold they have on our minds, a hold that makes human beings doubt their own immense capacities and believe quite falsely that there's nothing we could put in its place.

LAURIE FLYNN

DON'T LET IT BECOME THE ISLE OF SLAIN!

THE thermal insulation companies—according to the glossy hand outs of their public relations men—are all reformed characters.

Their days of murdering workers by deliberately flouting asbestos regulations are over, they claim.

Poison

But go away from the fancy offices where the PR men and friendly journalists hang out, and you'll find that the insulation firms are still only too willing to poison their employees in the pursuit of profit.

Go to the Isle of Grain power station site in Kent, for example.

There you'll find three of the biggest insulation companies working in the CDN consortium. They're Cape Asbestos, Turner and Newall, and Darlington Insulation.

These three organisations are so proud of their profit and slaughter track record that they have refused to issue ladders with protective clothing.

Asbestosis

The companies decided that they would revoke a locally negotiated deal to give the men protective clothing.

When the men declined to work without them, CDN sacked all 13.

They would have sacked a fourteenth man, Bennie Fairbrass. But he was off work



A dummy with safety overalls on—and the Isle of Grain strikers who don't intend to be treated like dummies and kept without them.

Safety and Health at Work Day School

Saturday 21 February, 10.30am-5pm, Perrins Centre, Alness, Ross-shire. Sponsored by Invergordon Branch, Boilermakers Society. Further information from: Brother L Anton, 23 Burgage Drive, Tain, Ross-shire. Phone Tain 2632.

burying his father who, though he had never worked in the trade, had just died from asbestosis.

The men weren't being asked to work with asbestos. They were working with calcium silicate which, they suspect, might contain some asbestos.

Also in use on the Isle of Grain is Rocksill, the new fibre glass wonder that the big insulation firms swear is

hazard free.

Evidence suggests that Rocksill, far from being hazard free, may well be very dangerous indeed.

Dr Irwin Selikof, the respected American authority on insulation diseases, believes fibre glass is bad for the health and may cause cancer.

That's why the men of CDN insisted on protective clothing, on masks and gloves.

They did not feel that they could wait for 20 years to find out whether Rocksill, like asbestos, showed up as fatal on their union branch's list of deceased members.

The struggle of these men to impose elementary safety standards has not been won by Michael Foot's cure-all, the Health and Safety at Work Act leaves the asbestos murderers free to victimise trade unionists.

Decision

It's not been won by the Factory Inspectorate, the countrywide police force that is the same size as the Fraud Squad and about as effective.

Their struggle is being fought on the picket line where the 14 are now, following the decision of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, on official strike.

Already their picket line has won rich rewards. Now all 3000 construction workers on the Isle of Grain are out in support.

Support

This marvellous strike must be supported by every trade unionist who cares for the future of the cause. If Cape Asbestos, Turner and Newall and Darlington Insulation get away with spreading their poison on the Isle of Grain, they will feel free to spread it everywhere else.

So, brothers and sisters, send your messages of support and donations to the Strike Committee, 18 Berwood Close, Corringham, Essex.

Blackman's demo

NORTH LONDON: The lock-out of 360 trade unionists at Keith Blackmans in Tottenham is now five weeks old.

The workers marched through Tottenham last Friday to demonstrate against the attitude of the owners, GEC, and to publicise their case.

Following harassment by management of their members, the one union left on site, ASTMS, came out on official strike last week.

Messages of support and donations to Jim Pickering, Suite 3, Second Floor, 128-136 High Street, Edgware, Middx.

Prestatyn pickets turn away scabs

NORTH WALES: Building workers on the Prestatyn Holiday Centre site are now locked in a bitter battle

The centre belongs to Pontins, who bought it from Thomas Cook and British Rail three months ago.

Pontins brought in the notorious lumpers, Ambrose Ltd. But the site became organised after a visit by a full-time official of the building workers' union, UCATT.

Shop stewards were elected at a mass meeting, despite obstruction from the management. The next day, 29 January, six blokes were sent down the road with no con-

sultation. They were told there was no work, even though more joiners and labourers were taken on the next morning!

Everyone on the site was sacked on the morning of Friday 30 January, while trying to get the six men reinstated and the elected stewards recognised.

A picket on Saturday morning turned away three vanloads of scabs from Preston. There is daily picketing from 7.30am to 4pm, with no deliveries or departures.

And support is growing from local people and direct Pontin workers.

Shetlands struggle goes on

SHETLANDS: Workers at the Firth Voe construction camp in Mossbank are still on strike in a struggle against Grand Metropolitan Hotels.

The strike is being met with the use of scab labour and numerous other familiar anti-union devices.

This is despite the presence as a director on the Grandmet Shetlands board of Shetlands Islands Council chief executive Ian Clark.

Clark is the man made into a hero by the press and television in Scotland on account of his supposed ability to extract concessions from, and obtain public participation in, the oil giants.

Now in the Firth Voe strike, it is becoming clear that participation is now power, unless of course it is power to

back up the employers.

Shortly after the strike got underway, management agreed to remove scab labour and a meeting took place.

The Grandmet management conceded some of the demands—union dues, forwarding of part of the wages to dependents, a common room, and sick pay for notifiable diseases.

But, on some of the key demands, they gave no ground. These other, just as important, demands include an Island Allowance of 25 per cent of the basic, a slightly smaller shift allowance, flights home, travelling time for workers living out, a subsistence allowance and proper overtime rates.

Following this, pickets were re-imposed and workers again

refused to eat scab meals.

The result for some Motherwell Bridge workers was that their bosses arranged for them to eat the same food as company directors enjoy every day. They ate at the Sullim Voe hotel.

This is but the latest in a long-running series of battles which all the joyful propaganda about the oil boom totally ignores.

This is the battle to win half decent working conditions, in the rig construction yards and onshore facility sites in the camps and for the divers and others on the completed rigs.

The strikers are determined to win. They need your support. Send messages and donations to Donald Wilson, secretary, strike fund, c/o Mossbank P/O, Shetland.

Equal pay battle goes on

GLASGOW: 42 men and women at the Cockburn's Valves factory on the Hillington industrial estate have been on strike for nearly three weeks for equal pay for women white-collar workers.

The telephonists' selective lighting strikes for equal pay led to one of the male TASS members being suspended when he refused to do their work.

All the TASS members then decided to take all out strike action and have since been picketing the factory.

William Ramsey, a TASS shop steward and Pearl O'Neill, another TASS member, told Socialist



Worker: 'We are on strike for equal pay for the women.'

There is a differential of £20 between male and female clerks. The men on strike won't benefit financially, but they are 100 per cent behind the women.

The company have asked us to return in "good faith", but we've had no concrete offer.

The dispute has been made official, but the strikers still have not received strike benefit.

Local factories are beginning to support the strike. Yarrows, Personna, Prestcold and Govan Shipbuilders have all sent cash. But more donations are needed urgently.

Send them with messages of support to John Fisher, Cockburn's Valves strike fund, 16 Whitefield Road, Ibrox, Glasgow.

Sageways occupied

SOUTH WALES: After making money for 26 years for a number of different bosses, including the notorious Slater Walker group, 180 AUEW engineering workers and 20 TASS members found their factory locked last Wednesday morning.

A polite notice told them that the receiver had come in and although the firm Sageways, at Ynysboeth, had plenty of orders, there was no money to pay the wages.

Support

The factory was immediately occupied. Plans were made for the struggle. A written statement issued by the stewards spelled out that theirs was a fight for the fundamental right to earn a decent living.

Deputations were dispatched to local factories, union branches, lodges and trades councils, seeking money and support.

The dispute has already been made official by both sections. Aberdare and Mountain Ash Trades Councils have passed resolutions of support.

The workers are planning a series of demonstrations and public meetings to involve the maximum number of workers in South Wales in their struggle.

Clanson's strike

WEST LONDON: Six workers at Clanson's Typewriters, South Ealing Road, were sacked after they joined the AUEW. Management sacked Graham Watson, the elected shop steward, on 5 January. They sacked the others on 14 January when they stayed out in support. New workers have been hired. Heathrow Airport AUEW have given £100 to the strike fund, and are blacking all Clanson goods. The strike is official.

6000 MARCH FOR RIGHT TO WORK



6000 BRITISH Aircraft Corporation workers demonstrating in Bristol on Friday for the right to work.

40,000 jobs are likely to disappear in the industry. The Donaldson factory in Northern Ireland is closing down.

In Rolls Royce, Bristol, 3000 jobs are to go—and 527 jobs are under the hammer at Blantyre in Scotland.

Ted Evans, AUEW convenor at the East Works Development site in Rolls Royce, Bristol, told Socialist Worker: 'Worker participation won't stop

redundancy. 'It can't exist at all levels, because the conflict is always there. Management and workers' opinion of what is "right" would never be the same.'

Meanwhile calls to sack 'Yanks and Frenchies', as in the placard pictured above, will not save jobs here. Government funding of new projects will.

Private patients battle hots up

W LONDON: The struggle against private practice at Hammersmith Hospital has reached a crucial stage.

For more than two years, ancillary workers have refused services to individual private patients. Management give them false names, making detection difficult, and the supervisors merely scab on our jobs.

So, six months ago, the Joint Shop Stewards Committee decided to black the three wards with the most private patients.

Two weeks ago, manage-

By the Private Patients Sub-Committee of Hammersmith Hospital Joint Shop Stewards Committee

ment threatened to close down the three wards.

We then reconnected services and blacked two other wards. Now they say they will close down wards regardless.

We want outside help. Our demands are private patients out, negotiations with area management, no ward

closures. We also want the 'Shah's Consulting Rooms', a haven for private outpatients, converted into a sick bay for the workers on the site.

Picket

We will be having a picket of the hospital on Friday 27 February from 6pm to 8pm against private practice.

Please send resolutions and messages of support to: JSSC, Union Office, E Block, Hammersmith Hospital, DuCane Road, London W12.

DON'T MISS THIS CONFERENCE...

WOMEN are hit especially hard by the cuts in public services.

They lose their jobs as nurses, cleaners, office workers. The work of caring for the old, the young and the sick is thrown back on them.

That's why everyone involved in cuts campaigns in the London area should try to get to the Women and the Cuts Conference. If possible go as a delegate from your trade union branch or trades council.

Women and the Cuts Conference, Saturday 28 February, 10am-6pm. Friends House, Euston Road, London, NW1.

One in eye for Chrysler

LINWOOD: The victory at Chrysler last week was one in the eye for those who said we wouldn't fight. The response—after being back at work for just four days following a month's lay-off—was magnificent.

Not only did we have to withstand a vicious, dishonest press campaign, but also attacks from MPs, government Ministers and union officials such as John Boyd, general secretary of the engineers.

Chrysler conceded increases to the Johnstone CKD workers to bring them into line with the Linwood grade rates.

And they have been forced to abide by all existing agreements on conditions, and to take any changes they wish to discuss with the unions through procedure.

The only blot on the outcome of the strike is that, under pressure from the Scottish TUC and without the agreement of the shop stewards, the senior stewards involved themselves with the Government arbitration and conciliation service.

By a Linwood shop steward

But the overall situation confronting Chrysler workers remains unchanged. It's still the company's 'undeclared' intention to pull out of Linwood in about two years.

SIESTA PICKET BITES

SHEFFIELD: The two-week strike by the Siesta workers continues.

The 50 sacked night club workers, most of whom are women, are maintaining a 24-hour picket and preventing beer, lager, and letters from being delivered.

The strike started when management sacked five workers, including three stewards, allegedly for inefficiency.



Boyd: no doubt whose side he's on

We must never lose sight of the necessity to continue campaigning for the nationalisation of Chrysler as the only way to defend jobs in the factories.

At first, management refused to recognise their union, the Transport and General Workers. But successful picketing and the threatened walkout by both the National Union of Musicians and the actors' union Equity have forced them to start negotiations. Messages of support and donations: Siesta Strike Committee, Transport House, Hartshead, Sheffield 1.

BUSES: ALL OUT NEXT WEDNESDAY

BRITAIN'S bus services are faced with catastrophe.

After years of rising fares, cuts in services and loss of jobs through one-man operation, we are now faced with a loss of up to 10,000 jobs and 49 million miles of route in the National Bus Company alone.

Fearful of militant reaction and loss of membership, the Transport Workers Union has launched a campaign to persuade the government to give more money to the industry. Every bus worker should fight to make this campaign a success.

A real campaign means militant action with workers who use the buses, workers who make them and the unemployed.

MASS RALLY 12 noon, Wednesday 18 February, Central Hall, Westminster.

LOBBY starts 1.15pm in Central Hall moving to Parliament at 2pm. For more information and details of Platform leaflet, ring 01-808 6300.

Pochins: Time to repay that solidarity...

MANCHESTER: Fight for the right to work. It's no longer just a campaigning slogan, but a harsh reality for the 50 striking building workers at the Pochins Poly site.

Delegations to local building sites raised collections. A whip round at the NOISS students' conference in Manchester at the weekend raised £111 after a fine speech by Ian Heyes, the convenor.

The strike was called after management fired five of the workforce—breaking all the site agreements in the process.

With most of the major sites in Manchester nearing completion, it's clear that management are using the redundancies in a bid to break the site organisation in Manchester.

The Pochins workers' record in defending other workers in struggle is second to none.

They have supported with levies Magnesium Elektron, the Eldon Square scaffolders, Woodall Duckhams, Clarks electricians (Taylor Woodrow) and Henry Boots, York.

March

They have consistently led the campaign with token stoppages for the release of the jailed Shrewsbury building workers.

And when the Nazi National Front planned a march through Manchester, it was the Pochins workers who called a strike and march to keep them off the streets.

It's clear that if management win their way, it will be the green light for building employers throughout Manchester to use the unemployment situation to launch attacks on basic trade union rights.

Did you know...?

... that living standards fell, in the 12 months before last November, by £2.50 a week for workers earning the average industrial wage

The Right to Work Committee are now taking Pochins workers with them on delegations around factories in the area as they raise money to sponsor the Right to Work march. They have agreed to split 50-50 all the cash they raise. Management seem to be digging in, and it promises to be a long and vicious struggle. So rush donations and messages of support to: Ian Heyes, 45 Heathfields Drive, Bolton, Lancs.

750 out at Blantyre

By A Neilson, ETU shop steward

BLANTYRE: We've been on strike at Reyrolle-Belmos since last Friday because management refused to apply the £6 increase to the Sick Pay scheme.

In 1971 our management agreed to progress towards staff conditions for the manual workers.

They now state that 'staff workers have always had better conditions and that the national insurance increases should be enough for you'.

The strike involves a total of 750 electricians' union and engineering union members, mostly at Blantyre, but also at our factories in Bothwell and Carntyre.

Messages of support to the Reyrolle-Belmos Joint Shop Stewards Committee, c/o A Neilson, 7R Hamilton Road, Bells Hill, Lanarkshire.

Socialist Worker

Please send me more information about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists

Name

Address

Send to: National Secretary, International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

Support!

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

Help us hit that £10,000 target

FROM the many letters we got for our International Solidarity Fund this week, one from Leeds IS particularly stands out:

'Enclosed is a cheque for £7.50 which we have collected in memory of George Cummings, a Leeds engineering worker who died just before Christmas.

'A libertarian socialist and Socialist Worker reader, George began a very full political life in the Thirties fighting against fascism. He was a fighter all his life.

'We thought it would be a fitting tribute to send some money in his memory to the International Solidarity Fund as George was very excited about Portugal.'

This week the Solidarity Fund collected £231.20. That brings our total since December to £3119.37. Our target is £10,000.

STOP THIS FRIEND OF FRANCO

JESUS MARIA de Areilza, the Spanish Foreign Minister, has been touring European capitals in an attempt to get moral and financial support for his regime's repressive policies.

He is scheduled to come to Britain this weekend for talks with the Labour government.

Keeping Areilza out of Britain is a direct way of organising solidarity with the struggle of Spanish workers.

Saturday 14 February:

LONDON: Mass picket of Downing Street, noon-2pm.

MANCHESTER: Break all links with Francoism. Demonstration assembles 11.30am, Oxford Road.

GLASGOW: Mass picket of Iberian Airlines. 10am onwards.

Another 'natural' disaster



SOMETHING other than routine misery and exploitation hit Guatemala last week.

It was an earthquake, and it brought with it what hurricanes and earthquakes have long been bringing the poor of Central America—death, disease and desperation.

The desperation is particularly intense. Intense because all this death and disease is avoidable.

In a moving article in last Friday's Guardian, Richard Gott told some of the truth about Guatemala.

He wrote: 'Firemen and Red Cross removed the injured, most of whom were in the poorest sections of the city where the flimsy houses could least withstand the quake.

'The town is constructed so that the paths of the rich and the poor rarely meet.' Guatemala may be short of medical facilities for the poor, of shelter and food. But Guatemala is not without wealth.

It's just that the wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few, the landowners in the coastal belt, the bankers and businessmen of the capital.

They in turn survive thanks to the forces of repression.

That repression is, of course, aided by the CIA. They installed this vile regime in an Angola style operation in 1954.

All in the name of western civilisation to be sure. And in the name of western civilisation they're at it still.

In the 1974 election, for instance, they stopped the count when it looked like going the wrong way.

The next time you hear of Britain's or anyone else's 'civilising mission' in some far off land, remember what is being done to your brothers and sisters in Guatemala.

Remember that two years ago, 30 Indians in the port of Champerico died after being sprayed with insecticides.

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT, RIO TINTO!

By Margaret Renn

BRISTOL: 632 Transport Union members have now been on strike at Commonwealth Smelting, Avonmouth, for 15 weeks.

They've stopped all zinc production in this country. They've stopped all imports of zinc. Now they need to win their strike.

The story at Commonwealth Smelting is the same as everywhere else: a cut-back in demand last year, then the inevitable overproduction—and now 93 sackings.

The workers came out on strike in defence of their jobs, and their health. Zinc production is a hazardous business and fewer workers will mean longer hours.

It's the only zinc smelter in the country, and it is owned by an Australian company, AMS, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Zinc.

RTZ has a monopoly on zinc production throughout the world. It owns the mines, the smelters, the shipping and transport, and the companies that process the zinc.

Redundant

So the strikers have stopped all imports of the ore through Bristol docks, and all exports from Cardiff docks. The TGWU has blacked all movement of zinc.

All the local engineering firms have the product blacked. Imperial Chemicals, on the same site, is now closed down as well.

But RTZ won't give in. 'They are out to smash the shop stewards' movement in the smelter,' Tony Cooksley, the chairman of the shop stewards' committee told Socialist Worker.

TGWU members should give the strikers every support they can.

Workers in other RTZ plants should contact the strike committee to organise spreading the strike.

All messages and donations should be sent immediately to: W F Smith, Commonwealth Smelting Strike Fund, Transport House, Bristol.

Docks: Fight for this Bill

FOLLOWING yet another carefully orchestrated anti-docker press campaign, the Labour government's Docks Bill just scraped through its second reading in the Commons on Tuesday.

The Bill does nothing more than give dockers what the Labour government promised ten years ago but then quietly dropped under pressure from the employers.

Vital

That is recognition of a corridor each side of registered port areas in which all stuffing and stripping of containers is accepted as registered dock work.

The need for such a container corridor is overwhelming.

It would stop the Midland Cold Stores manoeuvre



Vestey: one in the eye?

pioneered by the Vestey organisation.

Such employers shut up shop on the waterfront, move inland—and re-open under a new name, at lower wages and worse conditions of course.

Acceptance of the container corridor would also reduce unemployment. In the last ten years, more than 30,000 registered dockers' jobs have been destroyed. This can and should be stopped.

Perhaps the most sickening aspect of the campaign against the Bill has been the performance of the Confederation of British Industry leaders.

Their hatred of registration and the fact that it prevents them sacking workers at will is the inspiration for all the rubbish talked about 'greedy dockers' passing on jobs from generation to generation.

Yet this talk is the purest hypocrisy. Consider for a moment what the leaders of the CBI specialise in handing down from generation to generation. Not jobs, but whole family fortunes.

Continue

The dockers' struggle against the Heath government proved that united industrial action can get an Act off the statute book.

More of the same will soon get another advantageous piece of legislation on the statute book.

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