### VICTORY IN ANGOLA!

**MPLA** triumph - and now apartheid trembles

Page Seven



# Socialist L'OFKER

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

# miners back the march

THE Yorkshire miners are backing the Right to Work March. Their area council voted unanimously in favour on Monday.

Yorkshire NUM president Arthur Scargill and general secretary Owen Briscoe both spoke in favour of supporting the march, which begins in Manchester next Satur-

The resolution passed by 78 votes to none after only ten minutes discussion, read:

#### Work

This area council supports any campaign for the Right to Work and for any reduction in unemploy-ment. Although we do not necessarily agree with all the aims of the organising body, we nevertheless call on all our branches to give whatever offer of accommodation and assistance they can when the march passes through Yorkshire'.

They also voted to send delegates to the Assembly on Unemployment in London on 27 March.

The London Port joint shop stewards' committee also voted unanimously support the Rank and File Organising Committee's Right to Work Campaign. The London building workers Joint Sites Committee voted support

#### Cuts

More than 200 trade union bodies have now written to the National Right to Work Campaign asking to sponsor the Campaign.

These include 18 trades councils, 34 AUEW branches, four AUEW district committees, 10 UCATT branches, mittees, 10 UCATT branches, 34 shop stewards' committees, 11 TGWU branches, five hospital branches of NUPE, four SOGAT printworkers' chapels, seven NALGO branches, seven schools and two NUT associations, two divisional councils, of divisional councils of ASTMS, 11 ASTMS branches, and branches from nearly every other trade un-

The Scottish National Un-

ion of Students is supporting the campaign and is urging all its constituent organisations to sponsor marches. Fourteen student unions in England

have already done so.

Forty-five of the 81 delegates at the TUC Youth Conference last Friday signed a petition supporting the National Right to Work Campaign, the march, the 20 March Rally in the Albert Hall and the 27 March Assembly.

The platform, organised by the TUC General Council, refused to allow any resolutions from the floor.

### MINERS' PRESIDENT Joe Gormley worked overtime this week trying to wreck last week's decision of the NUM national

executive to ban overtime. Newspaper editors and television commentators usually without a word of good to say about union leaders have been rushing to back him.

They've been praising NUM vice-president Mick McGahev too, because he couldn't make up his mind and abstained last week, leaving a bare majority of one for the ban.

#### STATUS-QUO

The reason is that the overtime ban would be for the miners' right to work.

The miners at Langwith Colliery in Derbyshire, threatened with closure, say that while there's coal in the pit, while there are men to work it, while there's a need for coal-then theywe a right to work there.

There is two million tons of coal at Langwith, coal that could be keeping pensioners warm. That's why the NCB's 1970-73 development was clear: Langwith was staying open.

# Yorkshire PISELE FOR ALL OUR JOBS

Crumbs

for the old

THE crumb of a promise

not to cut off pensioners'

electricity supplies until

June was thrown out by Anthony Wedgwood

Benn, Labour's Energy Secretary, on Monday. Benn insists that there can be no permanent relief

from having to pay the bills, which have doubled

in the past year. The bills

for the present cold weather will arrive in

April—which gives pen-sioners a grand total of

eight weeks in which to

The community ex-

☐ TO PAGE TWO

Abortion

charade

SIX MPs have resigned from the House of Com-

mons Committee on Abor-

tion. They told the press

they resigned because the

committee is set up only for

one thing: to make it difficult for women to get

It is time for women to

take action on the streets

again. It is time to ensure

that the trade unions last

year passed resolutions in

favour of the woman's

right to choose, turn these

☐ Force the TUC to

abortions legally.

into deeds.

act-page 13

Why do they now want it shut?

Because it would cost money to open the way to those two million tons. Why should the NCB spend money when there are easier profits to be made in other pits.

That's why Langwith is a vital test case for all miners. For the same applies to half the pits in

Britain. If Langwith can be shut so can they.

The excuses at Langwith are 'exhaustion of reserves', 'high dust levels'. The NCB can always find excuses-and it will find more if miners don't resist this one.

But there may be more behind the threat to Langwith. The NCB has promised the Langwith

miners jobs at other Derbyshire pits-but at a top level meeting in January last year NCB officials questioned whether there should be any extra jobs in Derbyshire to compensate for Langwith.

This has nothing to do with the cheapness of Derbyshire coal or the efficiency of the workings. The NCB, simply, would like to move the jobs to an area where trade union organisation is weaker, less democratic.

#### Build

Less chance that way of a repeat of the great struggles of 1972 and 1974.

miners' ban might be giving a lead in the fight for jobs all over the country. That's what frightens Gormley and the newspaper editors. That's why they've been manoeuvring so hard to overturn what has been clear union policy for four

Make no mistake, the 1972 NUM Conference voted to resist all closures unless pits were exhausted or could not be made safe. The January NUM executive meeting voted overwhelmingly, 18 to 3, to fight for Langwith.

Whatever manoeuvring at the top, miners have made their policy clear. By sticking to it, the miners of North Derbyshire, the miners of Britain, can help the unemployed and toughen the resistance of all trade un-



ON THE RIGHT, Marcellino Camacho, a leader of the Spanish workers' commissions. On the left, Michael Foot, declaring his

international solidarity.
Foot, Minister of Unemployment, turned up with Jack Jones at this conference in London on Saturday. They are 'concerned' about Spain's downtrodden workers.

Other platform speakers were too polite to point out that another current concern of Foot and Jones is the knifing of Spanish and other foreign workers in the back.

Foot's department has been urging East London hospitals not to renew work permits. And Jones' Transport Workers Union has been campaigning against the employment of foreign workers in the hotel and catering

With friends like that, who needs enemies?-Full story, page 2.

# NOWTUC TURNS TO RACIST DEMANDS

THE TUC leaders, who have allowed unemployment to rise by 850,000 in the past 15 months, are now trying to shift the blame for this on to a mere 14,500 workers from overseas.

The latest issue of the TUC broadsheet boasts that 'a team from the Hotel and Catering Industries Joint Committee led by Harry Urwin of the TGWU met junior employment minister John Frazer last month.' They told him: 'The quota system which allows foreign workers to enter the British hotel and catering

industry must go'. Their justification for this despicable attempt to make overseas workers bear the burden of the crisis is that 'importing cheap labour meant that employers were able to

hold down the wages' This is a scandalous statement coming from men who are supposed to be building up

the strength of the unions.

If wages are low it is because unions in the industry are

The way to raise wages is not to divide British workers against overseas workers. It is for overpaid and overfed fulltime trade union officials to get off their arses and to do the job for which they are paid.

#### Stood

Their present policy can only lead to still lower wages and still higher levels of unemployment. The work permit system enables employers to threaten with deportation any worker who joins the union.

The London Eating Houses chain did this when it locked out several hundred Turkish TGWU members last year. Urwin and the union leadership refused to lead a serious fight. As a result many of the workers have since been

Further restrictions on work permits will strengthen the employers still more.

Only a hair's breadth separates such a policy from the outright racism of the Nation! Front's demand that all immigrant workers be

Such is the bankruptcy and the hypocrisy of those who refuse to take on the employers and the govern-ment in a real fight for the right to work.

#### Spanish workers need your help

RENAULT workers in Spain are on strike in solidarity with victimised workers. They urgently need financial help and have appealed to British trade unionists. Donations will be

forwarded by the Spanish Solidarity Com-mittee, Box 212, 197

King's Cross Road, Lon-don, WC1.

COVENTRY Socialist Worker public meeting: Stop the National Front! Fight for The Right to Work! Speaker: Paul Foot Monday 1 March, details to be announced.

### The thousands who could be deported

by STEVE LUDLAM NUPE shop steward at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London.

SOCIALIST WORKER revealed last week how Hackney hospital management were circulating a memo saying Department Employment would not renew work permits for 'foreign' workers.

Of the 24,000 members of the Public Employees Union (NUPE) working in hospitals for the Greater London Council, probably around 5000 are foreign nationals. All 5000 are foreign nationals. All are threatened by this new

Any widespread application of the policy would 'at best' mean deportation of several hundred militant stewards when their current work permits expire. At worst it would mean the deportation of thousands of our members.

At a special meeting last week the NUPE Health Committee for the GLC area unanimously condemned the Department of Employment's 'final solution' to unemployment and instructed the divisional office to raise this with the national executive and to take action at TUC level.

### Three ways to help-and Benn refused

SIXTY THOUSAND old people may die of cold this winter. They die because they know that they cannot afford electricity.

But the one thing Energy Minister Wedgwood Benn will not do is cut the price of electricity for them.

His department spent a the 'poor'. They came up with three ideas. Low rates for low-consumption homes. Or free electricity to certain groups. Or a free fuel allowance of, say, £1 for everyone, with the rich paying more in tax.

But Wedgwood Benn rejected them all.

Meanwhile, the government's famous price check scheme does not cover coal, which will go up by

be affected.

SPARKS SAY:

EETPU No 2 branch have passed a

resolution asking the union ex-

ecutive to instruct members to refuse

to disconnect supplies where the

elderly, the sick and the young would

But they haven't stopped there. Willie Black, a member of the branch and a shop steward at Parsons Peebles.

told Socialist Worker that they're spreading the fight.

We went to members of the local

another 20p a cwt, or elec-tricity, which will go up by another 16p in the pound.

Another crumb was thrown this week to those struggling to pay fuel bills. It's called 'voluntary savings'.

If you have an unpaid fuel bill, they'll deduct an extra 50p a week to pay it off. It would take two years to pay

'There is a fine balance between punishing the whole family for an unpaid bill, and punishing individuals in that

off a £50 bill at this rate!

There can be no higher condemnation of Wedgwood

Benn's decision to let 'the

poor' freeze than this, in the Daily Mail:

Tony Benn, the Energy

Minister, that he has refrain-

ed [from giving a subsidy to pensioners and families on

supplementary benefit or from limiting fuel prices]. "Could it be that the responsibilities of office are

forcing Tony Benn to hold his

nose and take a refreshing sip

or two of the milk of pure

Tory pragmatism?"
(Daily Mail, 17 February)

'It is to the credit of Mr

The Department of Health

and Social Security made a deal with the fuel boards. The DHSS will deduct the cost of your weekly fuel bill from your supplementary benefit cheque before you get it. This is to protect you from an irresponsible urge to spend the money on some luxury like a pair of shoes or a

#### Credit

government union (NALGO) gas-workers branch. They are going to put a similar resolution to ours. We also went to gasworkers in the General and Municipal Workers Union, to do the

#### Argue

same for gas supply.

'We have asked the Edinburgh EETPU No I branch, which is the supply workers' branch, to send a delegate to our next meeting, so we can argue for them to join

STRUGGL

DISCONNECTIONS

'We've also gone to the shop stewards at the Portobello power station, which is due to be shut down soon. About 200

jobs are up for the chop.

'This is a Right to Work initiative.
We're being a wee bit adventurous, going to places we've never been before, and it's

paying off.

Let Socialist Worker know if your union branch, Right to Work Committee or Right to Fuel group joins the

### REID **BLOWS** INTHE WIND

by PETER BAIN, TGWU shop steward, Chrysler Linwood

Pickets keep

the heat on...

EIGHT Commonwealth Smelting strikers have successfully stopped an electricity disconnection

They formed a protective picket outside Roy Daniels

They formed a protective picket outside Roy Daniels' house immediately when they heard the electricity board had sent a man to cut off the family's supply. Roy has been on strike with them for 16 weeks.

He has a total of £23.44 a week to keep himself, his wife and four children—£14.50 from his wife's wages, £6 from strike pay, and £2.94 from social security payments.

When an electricity bill for £17.57 arrived, Roy couldn't pay it. Social Security refused his claim.

The electricity board man came with eight policemen, including a detective inspector. They saw the picket.

including a detective inspector. They saw the picket, went to the bottom of the street to talk about the situation

..for everyone

ALUN MARSHALL is one of 200 electricians out of work in Cardiff. In January his electricity was disconnected—by a member of his own union, the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union.

'We use electricity for heating part of the house, for hot water and for the lights. It was bad for us because the baby. Rebecca, was only six months old,' Alun told

'We had a £48 bill which we just couldn't pay. It's virtually impossible to save enough to cover it when you're on the dole. We were dead lucky. Both our parents

got the money together to pay it for us.

'The Cardiff Electricians' branches have voted now not to cut anyone off. But if we hear of any cases, we'll go down and make sure they don't cut a single family off. This doesn't just concern EETPU members—it's

A spokesman for the South Wales Electricity Board said: 'We can't promise not to disconnect families with small children. It's one thing to have a child on the premises, and another if there is a sick child on the

for 20 minutes, and disappeared.

The electricity is still on at the Daniels' house.

in Avonmouth.

JIMMY REID'S resigna-tion from the Communist Party last week after 26 years of membership came as a bombshell inside and outside the Party.

Reid seemed to many people the embodiment of the ideal Communist, But his move last week only carried to the logical conclusion politics he has held for several years.

Reid became nationally known when he led the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders work-in against redundancy in 1971,

With the full support of the national leadership he stressed how 'moderate' the workers were, that they were willing to hob-knob with men like Wedgwood Benn and even Harold Wilson.

#### SUPPORT

Seven thousand of the 8500 jobs at the Clydebank yard—now Marathon—were eventually saved by an agreement with a Texan oil rig firm. But only in return for union acceptance of compulsory arbitration.

Keeping friendly with the management meant that when five dockers were thrown in Pentonville in July 1972, Reid refused even to call a mass

meeting
Reid later became Rector of
Glasgow University. Then he
stood as Communist Party
candidate in the 1974
parliamentary elections.
Best remnaigned by

Reid campaigned by emphasising his own personality and playing down the fact that he was the Communist candidate. In the run-up to the first election he

### **BENN'S**

☐ FROM PAGE ONE

ects bills to be paid, Benn commented.

No extra help at all could be given to the unemployed, he said. Unlike pensioners, he claim-ed, 'they don't die of

hypothermia'.

Perhaps we can remind
Wedgwood Benn of a story in the national papers last week.

Lloyd Thompson. father of four, is un-employed in St Helens, on Merseyside. When he couldn't pay the £180 electricity bill, the family was cut off. They lived by candle-light, cooked on a Calor gas stove and used a paraffin heater.

A week before Christ-mas the 17-month-cld baby Mark, died in a fire that his six-vear-old brother Sean had started.

At the inquest Lloyd Thompson said: 'I was made redundant, and we even had to sell things in the house to make ends

His electricity is now reconnected. But his son is dead. Wedgwood Benn's playing with the lives of pensioners, the young and

Those lives will only be saved if rank and file trade unionists insist: NO DIS-CONNECTIONS.



JIMMY REID

voted on Clydebank Council to implement the Tory rent

The Party leadership concerned with Reid's votewinning capacity, ignored all

this.

Later Reid agreed to stand for positions in the Engineering Union (AUEW). Even then he didn't stand on a militant programme, but on a militant programme, but on a Vote for Jimmy Reid because he is Jimmy Reid' basis.

Reid was later asked on TV if his defeat was due to his membership of the Communist Party. He replied that he had received support from many Labour Party members, and that he agreed on many issues with 'people like Tony Benn!

#### REPLY

The Communist Party leadership never criticised such statements. They could not, because their own programme. The British Road to Socialism which Reid introduced in its most recent form at the 1969 Communist Congress accepted

Yet the logic of these statements was for someone with hopes of being an MP or an union official to leave the Communist Party.

Pushing individuals into positions where they are beyond the recall of the rank and file, whether in parliament or in the unions, is bound to produce individuals who eventually drift to the right. This can only be avoided by building democratic and disciplined revolutionary socialist organisations where the 'leaders' are controlled by the rank and file.

### Coventry Front threat

Coventry area creeps closer to one worker in ten, Labour has announced that the Coventry North West by-election is to be held on 4 March. Their candidate is Geoffrey Robin-son, ex-financial controller of

British Leyland.
The Tories are fielding Jonathan Guinness, former chairman of the right-wing Monday Club. But the greatest threat, in a

constituency with a high im-migrant population, comes from the National Front.

The Front have planned a demonstration on Saturday 28 February. This march is a deliberate provocation aimed at the immigrant community and the trade union movement. It must be stopped.

The Coventry Chrysler Right to Work Committee has called for a counter-demonstration and has

organised a local anti-fascist committee to prepare for this.

All Midlands branches of the International Socialists and all other members who can should members who can should join this demonstration

## Ireland's toll: Who is to blame?

AS WE go to press no one has been killed by bombs planted in London. We hope this will still be the situation when you read this paper.

No socialist could feel otherwise, faced with the prospect of the tube stations, pubs or flats where workers gather being blown to smithereens. But if there have been no victims, it

won't be any thanks to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins or to any of his friends in our so-called Labour government.

Last week Jenkins deliberately caused the death of Frank Stagg, a busman from Coventry. Stagg was imprisoned for 'conspiracy to bomb' long before any bombs had actually gone off in Britain. He turned to the hunger strike as the only weapon any prisoner has to fight for his rights.

Stagg was only making a modest demand-that he be allowed to serve his prison sentence in the island where he was born, close to his friends and relatives in County Mayo.

The government has granted such

requests in the past.

The notorious Callan, the mercenary murderer in Angola, was given that concession when imprisoned for armed robbery in Northern Ireland. He was allowed to serve his sentence in Britain.

#### **Blind Hate**

But no such concession was available for Stagg. Instead Jenkins allowed him to starve to death.

Jenkins did so knowing that his inhumanity was bound to provoke a horrifying response from some sections of Republicans, so blinded by their hatred of English politicians that they take a vicious vengeance on workers in

But Jenkins is not a lone figure. His policies in the Stagg case are matched by the general responsibility of the whole Labour government for the ever-rising death toll in Ireland.

The root cause of the present horror in Ireland lies in the fact that for centuries British governments have insisted on ruling all or part of Ireland. It

Socialist

was this policy that first created hatred between Protestants and Catholics in

This policy has produced thousands of political prisoners, armoured car patrols in the streets of Belfast, the use of rubber bullets, of tear gas, of submachine guns against workingclass families

It is this policy that causes the hatred that drives Irishmen to plant bombs in British cities.

The government has spoken about a 'search for political solutions'. It has appointed commissions of inquiry. It has churned out White Papers. It has had direct rule and power-sharing and still more direct rule.

But nothing it has done has begun to deal with the strife in Northern Ireland.

The one thing it hasn't done is go to the root of the problem and withdraw British troops—a policy that according to opinion polls the majority of people in Britain would support for one reason or another.

And so we repeat: Stop the Bombings. Troops Out of Ireland NEWSMEN

APPARENTLY Kenneth Morgan, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, is perturbed at the report in Monday's Times that the army in Northern Ireland has been issuing forged press cards to soldiers for use in 'emergencies'.

Morgan feels that this puts 'genuine' journalists at risk.
I don't know about that.

After all, many British jour-nalists in Northern Ireland have been behaving for years as if they were on the army's pay-roll. As far as I know none has come to serious harm. Last October I wrote to

Morgan and asked him what the union proposed to do about members who, at the request of Scotland Yard,



#### by Eamonn McCann

were writing lies in national papers about a Ms Margaret McKearney, dubbing her 'Terror Girl' and 'Bomb Girl'.

A few days later an old couple named McKearney were shot dead by UVF raiders at their farmhouse in ounty Tyrone. The UVF believed, wrongly as it turned out, that they were the parents of the girl 'convicted' by the Mirror, Sun, Express and

In November I wrote again to Morgan expressing my concern for the well-being of a William Hagerty of the Daily Mirror who seemed to me to be tempting providence—if not Provos—in his reports of the kidnapping of Dutch industrialist Tiede Herrema.

To put no finer point on it, Hagerty was writing lies. For example, he treated Mirror readers to a lively account of alleged kidnappers Eddie Gallagher and Marian Coyle making love and forcing the unfortunate Herrema to

This torrid tale appeared in the Mirror the day Herrema was released and gave a press conference—and confirmed that there was not a syllable of

truth in the story.

Last Wednesday found me writing another letter. This time to the editor of The

#### Knowledge

'Is it fanciful to suggest it might be more than coincidence that the man who ordered the killing of 14 fellow-mercenaries in Angola learned his trade in the Bloody Sunday battalion, the First

unreasonable to ponder whether he might have been marginally more willing to order the massacre for the knowledge that the last person of his acquaintance who supervised the "cold-blooded murder" (I quote the coroner) of 14 unarmed men was not denounced as a "homocidal maniac" but awarded the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth?

'And in the light of that is it neighbours to consider that the comments of Harold Wilson, and editorial comment such as your own, are sick-making hypocrisy?" Although the editor of The

Guardian had space for lengthy missives on subjects such as the origin of button-holes (honestly!) and the reluctance of the British to think in terms of centimetres rather than inches when ordering clothes, he found no room for my terse little communication. It's all a question of priorities, I suppose . . .

THE IRANIAN 21 CHARGES ANAINST HE TRANIAN 21

last weekend in solidarity with the Shah's 45,000 political evidence against the 21 and a 'not guilty' verdict was prisoners and demanding the dropping of conspiracy returned—a victory for the campaign for the 21 and against charges against 21 Iranian students who staged a peaceful the conspiracy laws. occupation of the embassy. On Monday the government Picture: ANDREW WIARD (REPORT)

Demonstrators march to the Iranian Embassy in London prosecutors announced in court that they would offer no

#### Party broken up A SATURDAY night par-

ty broken up by 50 policeeveryone searched, even children. Don't believe it? Maybe in New York, or Spain—but England?

For the black community in Britain, massive police harassment is becoming a nightmare feature of everyday life. Lloyd Stephenson, of

Northampton, was enjoying a Saturday night party in his cellar with his family and a few close friends, listening to some records. Just past midnight there was a knock at the door

In Lloyd's words: 'Between 50 and 60 police burst in and started to tear my house apart, searching my 11 and 12-yearold sons for drugs, also my guests and wife."

Lloyd's wife takes up the story: 'All of a sudden police appeared everywhere. One came flying behind the bar where I was standing, waving a baton. He slammed it down on the counter, and frightened the life out of me.

They got the two youngest boys out of bed and asked them for drugs. The boys didn't even know what drugs were. They were stripped and

The shock of these events hasn't died quickly. Mrs Stephenson writes, 'My se-cond eldest son has been frightened ever since. He has taken two days off school without me knowing, because he says he thought the police might be there. I have had to stop working as I'm very shocked. My children have been waking up at different times during the night because of nightmares.'

#### Intimidation

The police made no arrests, no charges. But they took £26 from the house, plus a couple of dozen cans of beer, and Lloyd's passport, which has now been returned.

Lloyd still finds it hard to believe. 'I'm '44 years old, without any criminal or drugs record, and I'm a decent



Lloyd Stephenson

citizen. The reason behind this, I'm sure, is police intimidation.

There are quite a number of black workers out of work in this town, along with other white workers, who are living

on good terms
'But it seems like the police are trying to divide us by harassing the black people to turn us against the whites, and make things difficult for those out of work. If you are black the police grab you on the street and search you.' Lloyd has been out of work since

The Stephensons and the black community in Northampton are determined not to be walked over by these uniformed thugs. Last Sunday a meeting elected to set up a Black Peoples Protection Association for their own

MANY readers will have seen news of the collapse of another socialist paper, the Workers' Press, last weekend. The rising cost of printing, soaring electricity and phone bills, heavy bank charges finally forced the paper into bankruptcy, following in the path of many other left-wing

papers.
Fortunately, we can reassure our readers that there is not the slightest chance of Socialist Worker going the same way. Of course we are hit by the rising costs too. But we have one great protection

against them.

Not just that our sales are higher. We know we have wide support among those sections of the labour movement not prepared to compromise with unemployment at the million and a half level and with the £6 wage limit.

Such support is the key to expanding and improving this paper, your paper, despite endless rising costs.

That's where our

fighting fund comes in. Collections in the

workplaces Socialist Worker is sold, donations, however small, from individual readers, the proceeds of socials and jumble sales, all add to our ability to fight for workers' power, for socialism.

If you want to help us keep up the fight, then put your hand in your pocket or make that collection,

Last week's fund brought in a total £131.07, Thanks to:

Southwark teachers £1 and £15, J Kelly, Manchester, £1.60, C Nash, Cambridge, £2, R Facer, Ivor, 50p, Peter-borough IS £4, Ideal Standard of Hull, £1, Hull SW supporter £1.50, anonymous £5, Ray Han-son, Hull, 50p, McInerney site, Finsbury Park, £7.10 and £6.16, SW supporters, Shelbourne School, N7, £3.50, Aberdeen IS£16.75, Owen Davies Cardiff, £2 Owen Davies, Cardiff, £2, Pat Owen, London, £5, D Jarvine, 50p, Plaistow SW supporter, £3.90, Newcas£10, NALGO SW sup-porters, Bradford, £5, In-ner West London IS £6.75, Central Manchester £12.18. Allan House Southampton £3, Bath £5, Manchester South Hospital £1.10, Maidstone £2.70. Newton-le-Willows SW reader £3, Guildford IS, £5.33.

The donation Lambeth £75 last week should have read: Southwark Teachers

Donations and collections to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

#### Worker Socialist

**EDITORIAL** 

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February Fabruary

### ERE THE MARCH GOES

THE MARCH FOR THE Right to Work will start in Manchester next Saturday. So far 80 unemployed workers, from places as far apart as Dunfermline and Exeter, are pledged to

march all the way to Lon-

But many more will join them for sections of the route. Hundreds of marchers will join them for the first day, which begins with a demonstration in

has been called jointly by the local Right to Work Campaign, the Campaign against the Cuts, and the Trafford Worker, a paper produced by trade unionists on the massive Trafford Park in-

The send-off demonstration will be at St John's Gardens, off Deansgate, starting at 10am.

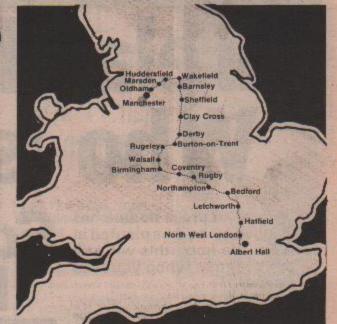
Jailed Shrewsbury building worker Ricky Tomlinson and unemployed

workers' leader of the 1930s Harry McShane will be speaking at a rally for the Right to Work the previous evening.

All along the route the marchers will be taking part in meetings and demonstrations for the demonstrations Right to Work.

In many towns they are to be met by delegations from trades councils and shop stewards' committees. In some-such as Clay Cross and Derby-the Labourcontrolled councils are arranging civic receptions.

The march needs single mattresses and sheets, sleeping bags, calor gas cookers. Everything cleaned before being returned. Please phone 01-249 1207.



### WHAT THEY ARE MARCHING

FOR

THESE are the ten

demands of the National Right to Work Campaign, which is organising the

ONE: Opposition to all forms of redundan-

cy. No voluntary redun-dancy, no job loss through 'natural' wastage. No produc-tivity dealing.

TWO: For 100 per

cent trade union closed shops with shopfloor trade union control of

levels. No discrimination or blacklisting. Trade union district registration of all jobs

and protection of dis-

THREE: No co-

FOUR: Uncom-

promising opposition to

all forms of racialism

and discrimination. For

the equal right of

operation with the employers. No to all participation schemes.

trict manning levels.

hiring

and manning

The full route is: Manchester to Oldham: Saturday 28 February Oldham to Marsden: Sunday 29 February Marsden to Huddersfield: Monday 1 March Huddersfield to Wakefield: Tuesday 2 March Wakefield to Barnsley: Wednesday 3 March Barnsley to Sheffield: Thursday 4 March Sheffield to Clay Cross: Friday 5 March Clay Cross to Derby: Saturday 6 March Derby to Burton-on-Trent: Sunday 7 March Burton-on-Trent to Rugeley: Monday 8 March Rugeley to Walsall: Tuesday 9 March Walsall to Birmingham: Wednesday 10 March

women to a full-time

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

SIX: Five days work or five days pay. For occupations to force

guarantee the right to work.

SEVEN: Stop the

NINE: Full wages for

TEN: For full trade

union rights for the un-

the unemployed and no

means testing. £6-aweek increase now for all unemployed workers as an immediate step

for across the board increases to

living stan-

EIGHT: Break

freeze,

protect

towards this.

nationalisation without compensation of firms that cannot Coventry to Rugby: Saturday 13 March Rest Day: Sunday 14 March Rugby to Northampton: Monday 15 March Northampton to Bedford: Tuesday 16 March Bedford to Letchworth: Wednesday 17 March Letchworth to Hatfield: Thursday 18 March Hatfield to North West London: Friday 19

Birmingham: Thursday 11 March Birmingham to Coventry Friday 12 March

NW London to Albert Hall, Central London:

# Support the Right to Work Campaign!

# BRNIE ROBERTS



AUEW assistant general secretary Ernie Roberts

National Rank & File Organising Committee INVITES

TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS

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

SUPPORT AND SPONSOR the National

RIGHT TO WORK

CAMPAIGN

Sponsorship fee £1

details from

45 Prince George Road, London N16

## SAYS: Support this march

'I wish the Right to Work March the very best of luck,' Ernie Roberts, assistant general secretary of the Engineers Union (AUEW), told Socialist Worker last week.

'A large number of young people will be marching through our cities campaigning for policies to end unemployment. They will be calling for the 35-hour week. The 35-hour week would do more to stop unemployment than any other single policy,' he said.

Socialist Worker asked Ernie Roberts what he thought of the view that the Right to Work. Campaign should not be supported because it is 'an International Socialist front'.

'Oh, I've had that from members of the

Communist Party at different meetings,' he replied, 'It's just sectarianism. It sows disunity in the movement at just the time when we need the maximum unity

'Unemployment doesn't choose members of political parties. It hits at the entire working

'Of course, it's the most class-conscious workers who take the initiative in the fight, against unemployment. They're the people that start organising demonstrations and assemblies. These people may well be members of political parties. They may be members of IS, or they may be Communists.

'Of course, if some party says "Only members of our party can attend", then they don't deserve anyone's support. But if they say. We want every worker who wants to fight unemployment

to join us—then they should be supported.
'That's why the Right to Work march should be supported!

'In the 1930s, I was an organiser for the National Unemployed Workers' Movement in Coventry. The TUC and Labour leaders said: "Keep clear of the NUWM. It's a front for the Communist Party".

'As a matter of fact, it wasn't Communists started it off but many of us militants in the unions and the Labour Party joined in. Because it was by far the best campaign

against unemployment. 'I'll be speaking at a number of meetings on unemployment in the next few weeks. In all of them, I'll be urging maximum support for the march, the rally, and the assembly.

☐ John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, told Socialist Worker: was delighted to hear Ernie Roberts' views. I would like to stress that the Right to Work Campaign is open to all workers who support our basic demands: for no redundancies, for nationalisation of firms which threaten closure, for the shorter working week and for full maintenance for

We have support from workers of many political parties, and of no party."

the unemployed.

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.

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, Lon-don, N16. All orders with

### Yes, we have a RIGHT to wor.

RIGHT TO WORK is a slogan that should not have needed to be conceived or indeed spoken. It is an obligation of society that jobs are there as a right.

This pamphlet by John Deason spells out clearly in my mind the need and urgency of all working people on a national basis to fight and

LAROCHE Federated Father of the Chapel, Kentish Times, Sidcup.

secure jobs for the unemployed.

Its article on our 'do nothing leaders' I agree with. Jack Jones, Len Murray and Harold Wilson have their written agreement to prop up high finance in the form of a

government pamphlet. The working man's worst enemy does nothing but stagnate one section of the community.

Put me in the ring with Muhammed Ali and tie my hands behind my back-there you have an analagy of the present pay code.

The pamphlet is well written and a lot of sound investigation has gone into compiling

It was once said that the



Right to Work pamphlet available now from Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Price 19p a copy including postage. Or 10p a copy for orders of ten or more.

No man has this right. Unemployment, the £6 pay limit, modern technology. active participation, high finance, all these points and more are political issues, and should be fought on a sound political basis. It is no good opposing anything unless you

intend to replace that something with something

don't entirely agree with that,

but a small percentage do

highlight redundancies. My

opposition to redundancies

and the workers who receive

payment for selling their jobs I

have made known wherever I

can punch the point home, because there is no doubt in

my mind that a small percen-

tage of workers that are unemployed at the moment are guilty of receiving vast

sums of money for selling their

The pamphlet goes on to

come under that category

As an active member of the Communist Party, my only criticism of the pamphlet is that I cannot see a political alternative.

FOR

(length of time sponsored)

(Name of marcher)

NAME OF SPONSOR And or TRADE UNION ORGANISATION

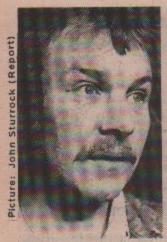
Right to Work March

SPONSORSHIP FORM

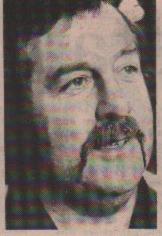
I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR

#### I ENCLOSE

Cut out this form and send to: Right to Work Campaign Rank and File Organising Committee, 45 Prince George Road, London N16

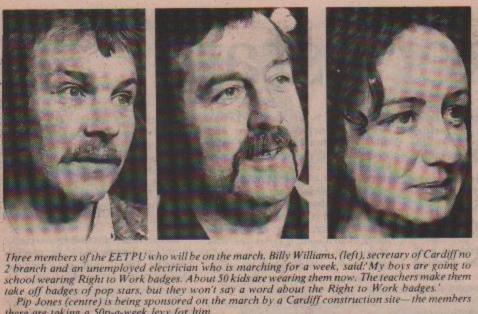


there are taking a 50p-a-week levy for him.



Linda Jones (right), has been unemployed for 14 months. She used to work at Barr and Strouds,

Glasgow. She has a young baby to support and will be going on the march for one week



## Electricians back campaign

A BIG meeting of rank and file members of the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union gave its support to the Campaign for the Right to Work at the weekend.

Bobby Buirds, an unemployed plumber and secretary of the Manchester Right to Work Committee, told the meeting in Birmingham last weekend: 'Our trade union officials agree to mass redundancies. We're the ones who get hammered.

'We've got to get the unemployed off the dole queues to fight for themselves. The Right to Work Campaign can do

There is apathy, but it's because there's no leadership. The time has gone for sitting on your ass. Unemployed workers should picket factory gates where they're working

'We should also picket any house where they try to cut off the electricity. We have cases of unemployed electricians being cut off by their own brothers. In Hulme, Manchester, where two men out of three are unemployed, 100 working-class families were cut off

'It's up to us to stop the disconnections. We'll have to build among EETPU members. We can do it - we can topple pyramids once we

get going.

An electrician from Wulfrun ATE, a GEC factory in Wolverhampton, said: 'll's time we cleaned up our own backyard. We've only got one delegate to conference for 7000 members.

'GEC Telecommunications are going to lay off 4000 to 5000 in September. We want to save these bloody jobs.' Colin Calder from Swansea

said a solution to this would be to nationalise the telecom-munications industry, not farming out profitable contracts to shitbags like GEC, as in done now. Dave Davies, a North Lon-

don electrician, pointed out 'We don't see 30 or 50 electricians losing jobs at one time. It's a case of 'if he leaves, he doesn't get replaced. If he's 10 minutes late, he's sacked.'

'Since September, 91 jobs have disappeared off one section and another 50 in the building section.

The message that came over loudest from the meeting was this: When you're fighting for the right to work, you're fighting for union democracy

☐ Cardiff EETPU No 2 branch have already spon-sored the Right to Work Campaign. Other branches can do the same. Unemployed EETPU members will be marching. A collec-tion sheet with their photos and work details is available from EETPU for the Right to Work, 56 Brightwell Cres-cent, London SW17.

☐ Edinburgh No 2 branch, Cardiff No 1 and No 2 branches have passed resolutions to the union executive to members not to disconnect electricity supplies.

#### three days before Christmas. FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK **Public**

WELWYN GARDEN CITY: Wednesday 25 February, 7.30pm, Cam-pus West, (function room 5, fourth floor). LETCHWORTH

Meetings

No, 5 branch public meeting: Wednesday 3 March 8pm, AUEW House, Nightingale Road, Hitchin **EAST LONDON Right to** 

Work Campaign Benefit: Film: The Mattei Affair. Admission 40p, un-employed 10p. Wednes-day 3 March, 7.30pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, Strat-

CENTRAL LONDON: Right to Work marcher Neil Rogall will be speaking at The Plough, Museum Street, WC1, at 6.30pm, Wednesday 25 February.

MANCHESTER Right to Work and Stop the Curs Fa v Friday 27 February. 7.30pm, Lesser Free Trade Hall, Peter Street Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson (jailed Shrewsbury building worker), Harry McShane (national secretary of the National Unemployed Workers Movement in the 1930s). Paul Foot (Socialist Worker) and Colin Barnett (NUPE divisional organiser).

DEMONSTRATION to launch Right to Work March from Manchester: Called by Manchester Right to Work Committee. Manchester Fight the Cuts Committee and the Trafford Worker. Assemble 10am, Saturday 28 February at St John's Gardens loff Quay Street, Deansgate, near Granada Television studios.) Bring union banners.

NORTH LONDON: Tuesday 24 February, 8pm, Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, N4. Speakers: John Deason and Alex Macdonald (shop steward, Crosfield Electronics). Sponsors include Crosfield Electronics joint shop stewards' com-mittee, Islington NALGO, North London Teachers' Association.

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

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



LEEDS City Council were determined that the plight of the city's 15,000 unemployed should not stick in the gullets of Prince Philip and 'promi-nent citizens'—in other words themselves—while they stuffed themselves at our expense in Leeds Civic Hall last Friday

Within seconds of a Right

to Work Campaign picket arriving on the Civic Hall steps with placards deman-ding an end to the cuts in spending on the social services, they were surrounded by police and threatened with arrest if they did not move on.

The superintendent in charge repeatedly refused to state what law or regulation

was being infringed, saying:

This is security, now move.

The pickets moved to the other side of the road and gave out leaflets while droves of fur coats and expensive suits arrived for the £500 feast. 'Have a good feed,' shouted one of the pickets, 'It's costing us enough - and was again threatened with arrest for

using threatening behaviour.

The council are refusing to make money available for essential repairs to councilowned bungalows occupied by school caretakers. Most schools in the city are overcrowded and understaffed while teachers are on the dole. The council are demolishing more houses than they are

Vicious cuts are being made in the council's own workforce. Leeds social service spending is among the

lowest in the country.

Meanwhile, they spend thousands on cleaning up the route of Philip's tour and get themselves a free feed into the

#### Challenge on overtime CHALLENGE over wins 16 jobs overtime has forced the management at Hailwood and Ackroyd to advertise

16 new jobs. Our factory at Morley, near by MIKE FITZPATRICK, Leeds, has a long tradition of working overtime due mainly **AUEW** shop steward to the lack of a decent wage for 40 hours. But last year the at Hailwood and Ackroyd bosses decided they didn't want to give everybody over-

This later created bad feeling on the shop floor, with

some people working over while others, with perhaps a greater need for the extra

#### Civic reception

DERBY: A big reception awaits the march when it arrives in Derby on Saturday 6 March. The mayor, the leader of the council's Labour group and the chairman of the Trades Council will welcome the marchers at the Town Hall.

time. At a mass meeting, workers decided to accept

selective overtime, with management doing the selec-

> The large meeting hall inside, which holds 380 people, has been booked for a Right to Work Rally. Representatives of the Indian Workers Association and of four shop stewards' com-mittees in the city will be speaking.

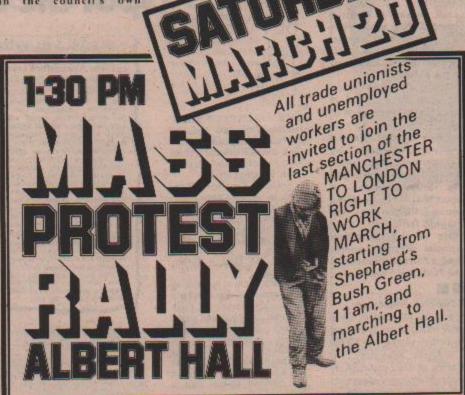
money, not having the opportunity.

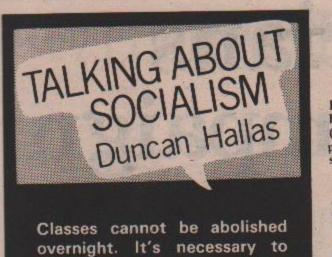
Two weeks ago management wanted to extend the selective overtime due to an increased order. We on the shop stewards' committee initially agreed, but only on the understanding that we look into the whole question of selective overtime and the possibility of phasing it out altogether.

We have now forced them to take on 16 extra workers. This is an area particularly

hard-hit by redundancies and unemployment. It underlines the fact that the first step towards full employment must be the refusal of those with jobs to work overtime.

One man's overtime is another man's place in the dole queue.





have the working class organised as the ruling class . . .

### The workers' state

I SAID last week that IS believes that a workers' state ('the dictatorship of the proletariat') is an indispensable step on the road to socialism.

As Marx himself wrote, in his criticism of the first programme of the German Social-Democratic Party:

Between capitalist and communist society lies the period of the revolutionary transformation of the one into the other.

Corresponding to this is also a political transition period in which the state can be nothing but the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat' (Marx's emphasis). I cite Marx, not because I think that arguments can be settled simply by quotations from the masters; I do not say 'Marx said it, therefore it is so'.

Not at all. Authorities need to be studied critically. But they need to be studied.

#### Foundations

We do not start afresh in each generation. Not in the physical sciences and their practical applications nor in revolutionary Marxism.

We build on the foundations laid by others and modify only what subsequent experience shows must be modified.

The onus is on those, like the British, French and Italian and other Communist Parties, who wish to modify—to 'revise' if you like—Marx on this question to show that he was mistaken for this or that reason or that cir-cumstances have so changed that what he said is no longer relevant.

In practice, they choose the latter. Very well. Let us see why Marx and Engels and Lenin held that the proletarian dictatorship was necessary and what they meant

Then we are in a position to judge whether their view is obsolete or not.

What is a state? What is it for? What are its essential

SAID IT?

calculated that by bring-

ing in the 35-hour week

and by raising annual

holidays to four weeks,

we could create over two

million extra jobs. We

believe that nothing less

Answer at foot of the

JOHN ROSE an IS member, got a shock when he parked his car near London's Eusten Station

last Saturday morning. He was immediately ac-

costed by two policemen

who had spotted a 'Tax in

Post' notice on the windscreen—and socialist

literature on the back seat.

On the floor of the car they found a roller-towel given to John by a garage attendant for a jumble sale.

To John's astonishment,

they announced that he was

under arrest for receiving stolen property. He was taken to the police

station and kept in a cell

until 5pm, a total of six

hours without access to a

solicitor or food and drink.

Eventually released, he was remanded on bail last

in left-wing politics, don't

Moral: if you are involved

Monday.

certainly will .

than that is needed.

column.

characteristics? Has it always existed and will it exist in the socialist future?

A state is an organisation for 'the use of force for political ends', to use the current cant phrase.

#### Coercive

Its essential function is coercion. It is, as Engels said, 'a special coercive force' and its essential characteristic is 'special bodies of

or, as Machiavelli told his Prince: 'The main foundations of every state are good laws and good arms . . . I shall not discuss laws but give my attention to arms'.

But why is this coercive force needed? Obviously so that one group or class of people can dominate another class or classes.

And this, in turn, implies that states exist only in societies that are divided into classes.

The state, then, has not existed from all eternity. There have been societies that did without it, that had no idea of the state and state power, Engels writes in his classic work on the subject.

#### Hinder

'At a certain stage of economic development. which was necessarily bound up with the split of society into classes, the state became a necessity owing to this split.

'We are now rapidly approaching a stage in the development of production at which the existence of these classes not only will have ceased to be a necessity but will become a positive hindrance to

production. 'They will fall as inevitably as they arose at an earlier stage. Along with them the state will inevitably fall.'

from the Marning Star's report (13 February)

Not, of course, without human actions, without a revolution. But this alone does not explain why a workers' state is needed. The answer is that classes cannot be abolished over-

night. Therefore, as the Communist Manifesto puts it, it is necessary to have 'the proletariat organised as the

ruling class' (my emphasis). That still implies coercion, and therefore a state,

give the police any oppor-tunity to pin something on you. Because, by Christ, they but a radically different kind of state, for a transitional period. The nature of the tran-

sitional state, the workers' state will be discussed next week. Obsolete

At this point the obvious question is: what has changed to make the marxist view of the state obsolete?

No convincing answer has been given, or can be given, by the theorists of the 'new model' Communist Par-



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



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 E28DN or from your SW seller.

#### the Engineering Union convenor at Electronic Components, Hirwaun, in Today he is one of the thousands who

rely on an invalid tricycle to get around. But he hasn't stopped fighting. Peter knows that the vehicles are dangerous. hadly-designed, poorly-maintained death-

And he has campaigned for a reliable,

safe form of transport for them.
But a militant invalid is
vulnerable. When Peter signed himself off the sick and started looking for work, they decided to take his trike away. Because he was unemployed.

He can have it back when he's got a job. But how can he get around to find a job without transport?

Peter recently hid his trike and began a hunger-strike on the steps of the Welsh Office. In the freezing cold, unemployed members of the Cardiff Right to Work Committee found him there

A delegation promptly entered the building and demanded to see the office representatives. arguing that trade unionists in the Department should show solidarity with their brother outside.

After several hours. during which a delegation from the Committee went to demand action from George Wright. Secretary of the Wales TUC, the Welsh Office invented a new appeals procedure—and decided that Peter could keep his trike. At least until the publicity

and the anger of workers in Cardiff dies down. JULIAN GOSS

WILLIAM Furnival is an interesting man. Not least because he warned his wife's lover that he was going to 'blow his head off'.

He wasn't joking ther Police who went to his South East London home found a .38 revolver and 50 rounds of ammunition.

Come the court case and our Mr Furnival is fined the massive sum of £15.

This swingeing sentence, passed by Camberwell magistrates on 30 January, followed the -announcement in court that Mr Furnival is a senior official in the Foreign Office.

He is also a former Special Branch agent. And a former member of the National Front.

stand by to cash in on a new mood of co-operation by British workers in 1976. -Trade Minister Eric Varley, quoted in the Sheffield Morning Telegraph,

15 January.

Advice to employers

### THE TRIKE: ONE MAN'S BATTLE

TRADE unionists in this country will be interested to learn that there is also a national Right to Work Campaign in the United States. Interested—and

Because the aim of this campaign is to smash the closed shop.

Backed by big business and sections of the Republican Party, it has £2 million in its funds.

The money is coming in useful right now to pay the legal costs of nearly 60 workers who are taking various unions to the US equivalent of the National Industrial Relations Court. Just think of it: not one James

PHII. McCOWEN



THE RESPECTABLE fascists of the new National Party are being caused more than a little trouble by the loud mouth of their leader, John Kingsley Read.

Seems Kingsley Read used a recent press conference to boast how several big names would be joining his pathetic little band.

The best-known of these was to be John (Hare) Braine, the famous author and bigot.

Which came as something of a surprise to the revolting Braine. Contacted by Fifth Column, he spluttered angry denials down the phone before reaching for his

solicitor. The National Party was just a little too right-wing for his civilised tastes. Just a THE shadow of Oswald Mosley has been swept from Chelmsford without trace this week with the news that the Chelmsford branch of the ultra Right-wing

political organisation, the National Front, has been

Spot the difference

wound up.

At a crisis meeting last week, the Chelmsfurd committee decided to sever all inks with the National Front party and join the recently formed British National Party. Chelmsfurd organiser Mrs. Audrey Joyce who lives in Fox Crescent, told the Weekly News that they were "sick and tired of the authoritarian, and neo-fascist factics of certain members of the National Front, leadership, some of whom had been members of the old British Nazi Party."

"We think many people will

the old British Nazi Party."

We think many people will
want to support a party which
offers a real alternative and
will put the interests of British
and the British people first.

"We have no yearnings for
alien ideologies or for the
Irapping and methods of Fascists and Nazis," she said.

from the Chelmsford Weekly News, 15 January.

CHELMSFORD National Front Party organiser Mrs Audrey Joyce has quashed a story that her organisation was being wound up and its members joining the new British National Party.

Mrs Joyce said "that as a true patriot" she is in absolute agreement with the National Front and their policies. The winding up story was published by the Weekly News from a written Press statement purporting to have come from Mrs Joyce.

Mrs Joyce has described the statement as untrue, adding that it did not come from her We apologise for any embarrasament to Mrs Joyce or members of her party.

-from the Chelmsford Weekly News, 29 January.

Fifth Column deplores this disgraceful stunt to bring the National Front into disrepute and wishes to disassociate itself now from those who might seek to repeat it in other parts of the JAPANESE businessmen spent E3,102,000,000 in 1974 on wining, dining and enter-taining each other, accor-

ding to figures just released. This bill for beer money exceeded what the United States currently sper Is in aid to the entire Third World.

#### ANSWER

Jack Jones, speaking at the 1972 TUC, when there million unemployed-and a Tory government.

#### WHITE racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia now face their biggest challenge.

That is the significance of the MPLA victory in Angola.

South Africa has been beatenthe first time in more than 80 years that white troops have been defeated blacks in battle in Southern Africa.

The presence of the liberation forces along its northern borders has sent a shiver of fear throughout the South

African Reich.

The MPLA forces are within striking distance of the Cunene Dam, central to the economy of South African-occupied Namibia (South West Africa).

some of the fire power now in MPLA hands were given to the Zimbabwe (Rhodesian) guerrillas, the Smith regime could not last two years.

#### Failed fraud

In desperation, the South African Premier Vorster is trying to avoid this eventuality. He wants to do a deal with middle-class leaders of the MPLA to halt the advance of their forces short of the Namibian border.

Now that his attempts to defeat the Angolan liberation forces by fraud have failed he is resorting to financial

He is saying that he and his West European allies will help reconstruct the Angolan economy (which was devastated by the war they unleashed) if the Angolans come to terms.

But whatever agreements may or may not be made, the stability of white-run South Africa has been irreparably damaged. In the years ahead, millions of black workers in South Africa will take heart from the Angolan victory.

### Callaghan defends racist regimes

JAMES Callaghan, British Foreign Minister, has leapt to the defence of the beleaguered racist regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa.

He issued a stern warning last week to the MPLA forces to stop well short of the borders of South African-occupied

Claiming that the MPLA forces were run entirely by Cubans, he demanded that they make it crystal clear that they were not intending to send their troops on from Angola into Zambia, Rhodesia or any other countries which adjoin Angola.

They have not been invited into any of the neighbouring countries in Southern Africa.

The Angolans have no intention whatsoever of attacking Zambia or Zaire, despite the fact that these regimes helped the forces of South Africa and the CIA in

#### Illegal

Callaghan was really referring to the possibility of the Angolans taking on the South African forces in Namibia or the white forces in Zimbabwe.

Yet Callaghan is supposed to accept that both the Rhodesian regime and the South African occupation Namibia are illegal.

What Callaghan is really worried about is this. Throughout Southern Africa British and American based multinationals own enormous wealth-the diamonds, iron ore and oil of Angola, the copper of Zaire and Zambia, the coal of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), the gold, diamonds, car factories, explosive plants of South Africa, uranium deposits of Namibia.

These are owned by the same corporations and linked by the same railways. But the political regimes in the South are run by white racialists, those in the North by middle class black nationalists who are usually in pawn to the

MUIORY! MPLA triumph - and drive fear into the heart of apartheid



So much for Cuban stooges: just some of the support the MPLA enjoys among the Angolan people.

white racialists.

Naturally, the mul-tinationals want friendshipdetente - between the black governments and the white government in South Africa.

They recognise that the weak spot in the calculations is the racist Rhodesian regime, where the 250,000 whites could easily be overthrown by the blacks who outnumber them 12 to one.

#### Terms

And so they have been trying to persuade the leader of the Rhodesian whites, Ian Smith, to come to terms with middle class black leaders like Joshua Nkomo.

They have managed to persuade Vorster of South Africa and Kaunda of Zambia to cooperate together on this, just as they cooperated in opposing the MPLA.

Their efforts failed in Angola and it looks as if they might fail in Zimbabwe.

The victory in Angola has raised the fighting spirit of blacks throughout Southern Africa and the middle class regimes will have difficulty avoiding the consequences.

One thing, however, is clear. Creatures like Callaghan can be relied on to try to bolster up the crumbling dyke that protects racialist South Africa.

### OD NEWS, BUT..

IN THE WAKE of the MPLA victory, the black governments in Tanzania Mozambique and even Zambia are talking about ending attempts to get an agreement with Ian Smith.

Kaunda of Zambia has spoken of the likelihood of a 'bloodbath' in Zimbabwe. This should be good news to every opponent of the racialist

regimes in Southern Africa. But a qualification is needed.

Many Zimbabwe freedom fighters are still held as prisoners in Zambia, and even

Mozambique

The black middle class leaders haven't dropped their hope of an agreement with the South Africans.

They see the threat of renewed guerrilla action as a means of putting pressure on Smith to accept such an agreement, rather than as a way of igniting black workers' struggles throughout the area of white domination.

### WHY THEY WON

WHY DID the MPLA win? According to the press, television and James Callaghan, because of Cuban troops and Russian tanks.

But a different story has been told by, someone who should know, Melo Antunes, a key figure in the present right wing inclined government in Portugal and one of the men responsible negotiating Angolan in-dependence from Por-

He told the Common Market leaders recently that victory for the MPLA was inevitable, because the Popular Movement had the political loyalty of the majority of Angolans'.

So much for another of Callaghan's lies

TWO RECENT IS publications give the full background to the crisis in Southern

The latest issue of IS Journal contains an article, The Carve Up in Southern Africa, by Alex Callinicos, which is indispensable for anyone who wants to understand the situation in greater depth.

The NOISS pamphlet. The Struggle in Angola, explains what the MPLA is, and dis-cusses the impact of its victory its victory.

### 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 £16.25, covering all meals, accommodation and entertainment. Children

Ask your local Socialist Worker seller for details.

### Portugal bosses rampage

From SW reporter in Lisbon

THE OFFENSIVE of the sses in Portugal is intensifying.

Many of those hundreds of bosses kicked out of their factories last year—and others who deserted the factories are now trying to get them back, with a little help from their friends-the so-called Socialists in the government.

A good example comes from Codiproal, a Lisbon supermarket. Last week the police, accompanied by a former member of manage-ment, closed the doors.

#### New law

A year ago, the workers had occupied the firm and displaced the bosses. As one worker

'We founded a co-operative because the sabotage and the pomposity of the boss obliged us to. Thus we were able to reemploy five workers and employ 13. We increased turnover three times'.

But under a new law being implemented this month, it was the old administration that applied for and was

granted recognition

At Martins and Rebello, which markets 70 per cent of the country's packaged dairy products, the old boss was sent away last June, partly through the pressure of the workers.

#### Rich

A new administration was set up to work out a plan to solve the problems of the dairy industries. But the state has now put the old bosses in total

charge of the works.

One of the workers on the sacked administration said: Our dismissal indicates that the government isn't interested in organising the dairy industry. It is more interested in helping the former bosses

At another big plant in the north, the textile firm Manual Goncalves, the bosses said they were returning on condi-tion that 17 militants were

A meeting with workers was held, and, in spite of threats of

closing the firm down, the majority of the workers sup-ported the 17.

But a group of workers supporting the management tried to organise a secret ballot. During the speech of a well-known reactionary, the workers started shouting, 'The right to work' and fights broke

The majority left and a vote was forced with the few workers remaining.

For more than a year, the workers at Pao de Acucer (Sugarloaf) supermarket chain, the largest in the Lisbon region, have worked without any bosses.

#### Money

A year ago, they combined with the workers from two other chains, A C Santos and Nutripol a Boa Aiuda Modelar. They had organised this without the blessing of the government.
As Fernado Goncalves.

representative for the co-

ordinating committee of the organisation was the first thing that the government didn't like about us. 'Our other crime was that

our wages have gone up 25 per cent since last March and the turnover has increased faster than inflation. We have employed another 100 people.

#### Vultures

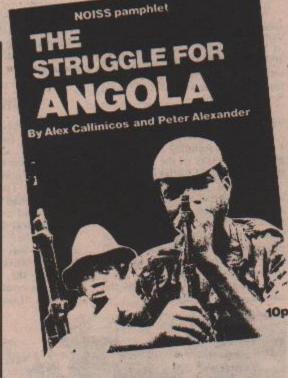
The government refused to give us funds but now it has made available £2 million for

Its own stooges.'

Flsewhere, the bosses are sitting like vultures on the sidelines waiting for the occupations and co-operatives to collapse.

The problems are immense. International markets and supplies have been cut off, retail networks have collapsed, technical expertise has been withheld.

In hundreds of factories. the workers are struggling to rebuild their working lives in the midst of a world economic crisis and one of capitalism's backwaters.



'Of course, Britain was neutral . . . '

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

# Think what we could do if the union was run by the rank and

#### 'JUDAS! You've sold us out!'

The shouts echoed through the huge Top Rank ballroom where workers from the transmission plant at Fords Halewood, on Merseyside, had gathered to listen to their union of-

It was the eleventh week of the great Fords strike of 1971. Moss Evans, Transport Workers Union official for the car industry had just given details of a settlement for an £8 a week rise £7 a week less than the men's demands.

The interruption came from a small, fair-haired steward in the front row.

Evans, dapper and glib, look startled. But just think how much money I've won for you', he replied.

You've never won anything for us', yelled the steward. We've won every penny-by striking and starving. And now you sell us for £8, when we could have got all £15'

Moss Evans almost broke into

Len Blood, the interrupter, had been a steward at Halewood almost since he started work at the plant four years earlier. 'I got the steward's job', he explains, because I challenged the former steward's habit of doing things without first consulting his

'That Fords strike was magnificent. We convinced the membership that the £15 could be won. The lads were hard and militant.

members'.

Then, just as we were winning, Jones and Scanlon went round the back of the negotiating committee and sold us for half what we could have got.

#### Lost £7

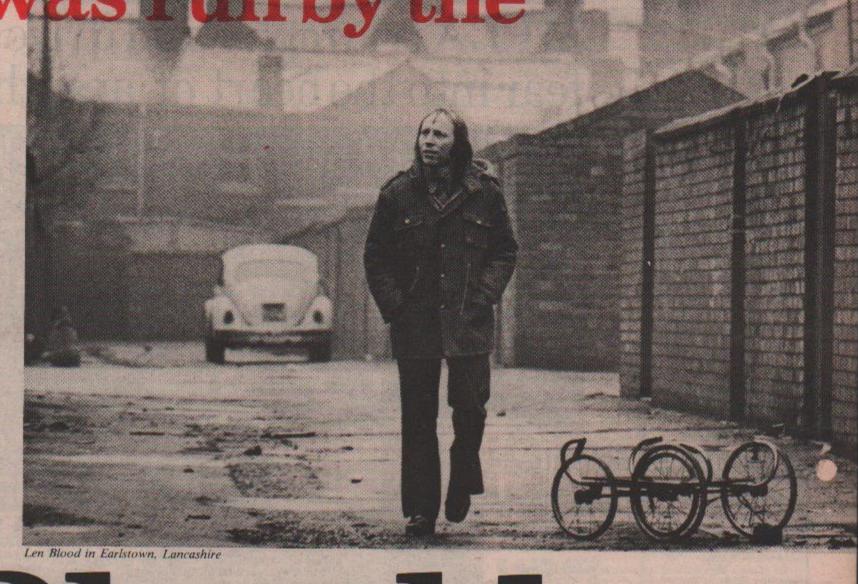
When Hugh Scanlon, the Engineering Union (AUEW) president, came to an AUEW function in Newton a few weeks later, Len Blood refused to shake hands with him. 'You've never won £8 a week for your members in your life', said Scanlon, angrily, Len replied: 'No, And I've never

lost them £7 a week either!'
In union elections this March,

Len Blood is standing for assistant general secretary of the AUEW as the Engineering Charter candidate.

His main credentials are an undying hatred of the employers and their system, confidence that the workers have the power to beat both, and contempt for union officials who cut themselves off from those they represent and sap the workers' strength.

'I don't know where I got the hatred from', he says.



# 3000 Droi

'At the railway works where I got my first job, the foreman wore bowler hats, and you had to call them Sir. I've always detested that sort of thing; workers bowing and scraping to dictators and idlers. I've always hated stewards and

officials who go along with it'.

Len Blood was on the strike committee in two big disputes at Ruston Paxman's factory in Vulcan Village, Newton le Willows. The militant workforce at the Vulcan led the engineers' campaign for the 35-hour week in 1972.

#### Tone it down

'I remember the report back from the final negotiations at Knutsford', says Len. 'They were led from our side by John Tocher, the union's Manchester divisional organiser. Tocher was one of my heroes. I had him down as a leftwinger and a fighter.

Our local district secretary, Jim Coffey-he really is a good official-was steaming away at the bosses, when Tocher suddenly stopped the talks and took us stewards outside. He said to Coffey: "Look, you're a union

When we took over Ruston Paxman, we occupied the boardroom. Some of us sat round the table pretending to be directors. Others would knock on the door and creep in cap in hand: "We're sorry, Sir", they mimicked, "we're frightfully sorry. But we can't go on with it, Sir. Will you be kind to us, Sir."

'And when we could stop laughing we would say: "I'm sorry, that's not good enough." And one bloke went out and came back again crawling on his hands and knees!

official now. You're behaving like a shop steward. Tone it down, will

Said Len: 'He bloody well ought to have behaved like a shop steward. If Tocher had behaved like a shop steward, we might have won the dispute.'

The workers went back without winning the 35-hour week, and the employers pressed home their advantage. They sacked John Deason, a militant steward, on a trumped-up charge.

The workers were out againfor seven weeks. This time they occupied the factory

Again the dispute was sold. Bob Wright, AUEW executive member for the area, offered to withdraw Deason's credentials. From that moment, the strike was doomed.

Len Blood was put on a redun-dancy list, and left for a job at Greenings wire factory in Warrington.

THREE big disputes-and three union sell-outs. What happened at Fords and at Vulcans had a profound effect on Len Blood's thinking about the union.

The officials did sell us out. It's not because they're left-wing or right-wing. It's because they're not accountable to the rank and

I wouldn't trust myself becom-

ing a union official if I was on my own. I'd probably sell out too.

'But I'm the candidate of the rank and file Engineers' Charter. Unless I represent that organisation and its militancy, I'm finish-

'Just think what we could do if n by the rank file. Think what we could do about unemployment.

#### Sat back

'We could run a real campaign, a national strike campaign for the 35-hour week-just like we should have done in 1972. We could win the 35-hour week,

'lt's not a dream. It's a real possibility. And that would put a stop to this unemployment nonsense once and for all.

'I think Bob Wright's performance at Chrysler was dreadful, dreadful. He just sat back and told them to bow and scrape.

'If it had been me, I'd have gone among the stewards right from the start. I'd have said, "Right lads, you've got a fight on your

"There's no reason on earth why we should give £170 million to some crook in a boardroom. We're not giving them 8000 jobs."

'The lads would have been convinced as they were at Fords, and the government and Chrysler wouldn't have known what hit

'Our union isn't democratic enough. I'd like to see executive members stand down after each three-year stint and go back to the shop floor. Instead, you get people who assume they're got a right to a union job because they've had one for several years.

'I want amalgamation from the bottom up, so that you have clerks and draughtsmen and foundry workers and engineers in the same branch, represented on

the same district committee.

'And I want to see all our secretary of its officials elected—TASS officials trophy Group. as well.

'I don't want office. I don't like the idea of leaving here for a start. But I'm standing because the rank and file have got to change the union: if we don't change the union, we won't change our lives'.

#### THERE'S hardly a trade union job available to him which Len Blood doesn't hold.

He's branch secretary of Newton 28 NE branch of the AUEW. He sits on the Warrington district committee and the Manchester divisional committee.

He is secretary of the Newton Trades Council, an executive member of the Merseyside Association of Trades Councils, a member of the TUC North West Regional Council.

But Len is not a trade union professional. He never uses the bureaucratic language of trade union officialdom. He despises the privileges provided by trade union slush funds.

He left the Labour Party in disgust two years ago, and joined the International Socialists. He was worried at the time that he

#### **Paul Foot** LE BIG

would lose his inf friends among the were still loyal to I On the contrary.

Walking throu with Len Blood afternoon is a slow few yards he is str introduction, a jok

He is president

#### Puzz

He shows not know-all sectari puzzles and irrates neighbours of revolutionary social orator. He doesn't books. 'Not enough futile excuse', he s

But he stand shoulders above ti

THE Engineers' C Blood up for this trade unionists will WAGES

☐ Opposition to a ☐ For national, m wage increases wage propaganda within

For £60 minimu ☐ For full equal women workers.



The parking space won for invalid drivers.



# ner

ence and his workers who

Earlstown on a market usniess. Every ped—with an a problem.

of the town's as for years uscular Dis-

trace of the iism which he friends and many sts. He is no read enough ime—the old,

head and professional

trade unionists who are his main rivals in this election.

This is the comparison. On the one hand John Weakly,

with his lawsuits against the union, and Bob Wright, with his pathetic stammering at Chrysler—'I'm the moderate now', he said. On the other, the furious plans for fighting threatened redundancies which Len Blood and his workmates are making at Greenings.

If people like Len Blood, with the strength of rank and file organisations behind them, are elected to control our trade unions, those unions can become dynamic instruments of workers' power.

Battles for jobs, wages, houses, pensions, control over our own working lives can move away from the corridors of impotence into the factories, mills, mines, offices and council estates where there is real life and power.



The Engineers' Charter group has started a new journal, written and edited by rank and file members of the AUEW. For a copy of the first issue, which includes articles on the postal ballot, equal pay, the Right to Work Campaign, and the AUEW right wing, send 17p (including postage) to ENGINEERS CHARTER, 46 Prince George Road, Lon-

### SADIE'S MOTTO:

# You get nothing out of society unless you fight for it -so FIGHT

IN 1972, Sadie Blood won a large bottle of whisky in a Co-op raffle. Len, her husband, wanted to raffle it for muscular distrophy. Sadie had another idea: 'Let's take it to the Miners' Welfare and raffle it for the pickets', she said.

Like most other working-class women, Sadie Blood is a victim of the meanness of public spending on health and social services. In this interview, she tells of her long battle against the authorities to make life easier for her crippled child.

'PHILIP was always slow at walking. We took him to an ortheopedic surgeon and he prescribed built-up shoes. We bought the shoes-they were very expensive-but they didn't make the slightest difference.

'He was three years old before we knew any more. Another doctor saw the way he pushed himself with his hands on his knees when he wanted to stand up. The doctor suggested a blood test, which we

'Len had to go to the doctor one Friday and I asked him to find out the result of the test. I didn't think much of it.

'When Len came home, he was crying. He said: "Our Phil's got muscular distrophy". I didn't know what that meant.

"The next day a senior children's specialist came to the house. "Strip the child", he said.
"I took Phil's clothes off, and he did some tests. He stood up and said: "Your child has an incurable muscular disease. Don't have any muscular disease. Don't have any more children"

And he walked out of the house. I was six weeks pregnant.

'I went down to the hospital, and the doctor said: "I can't be sure that your baby will have the disease. I can't possibly recommend an abortion." The sister turned round on him and said: "Will you be the one who tells the mother if the child is born with the disease?" She really

#### Panting

'So I saw another specialist and agreed to an abortion that afternoon. I had to run back and get Len's signature agreeing to the abortion. And run back again.

'When I got to the operating

theatre, the surgeon said I was the first person he'd ever seen panting on the operation table!

'I had the abortion without anyone ever explaining to me what muscular distrophy was. Now I know that it slowly kills off the muscles so that the child gets weaker and weaker until he dies of a heart attack'.

For four years since then I've had one struggle which has completely dominated my life. I've tried to get a lift to take Phil upstairs. He weighs four stone. I weigh just over

'I had to get the lift, Phil couldn't sleep downstairs. I have to be near him at nights.
"Well I've had all sorts of social

workers and other people here.



Sadie and Philip Blood with the wheelchair lift she fought so hard to get

First they said the stairs wouldn't take the weight of the lift. I think many working-class women would have accepted that, and left it there.

But I refused to accept it. I went on ringing them and fighting for

Then one social worker said to me: "You realise if you have the lift, then we'll have less funds for other people in need". I told her it wouldn't solve anything if I had to carry Phil upstairs. That's the way I

For four years they've been putting me off, switching the responsibility between local authorities, delaying, changing their minds. I've had to fight until nothing else was allowed to matter.

Finally, just the other day, the lift was put in. We won in the end.

Then there was the problem of Phil's school. The special school said, no, they were very sorry, they couldn't fit Phil in. We argued, and still they said No.

So one day Len went down to the school and said that he would bring Phil the next day and leave him on the school doorstep unless he could get his legal right to a

Suddenly they found a place for 'Living with a tragedy in your

home is bad enough.

But living with a tragedy which the authorities make worse and worse just by meanness is terrible. Do you know the council here spent a few minutes deciding to buy a Rolls-Royce for the Mayor?

#### Purse

'Four minutes to get £8000 of our money for a Rolls-Royce for a Mayor-and four years fighting to get £900 for a lift for a sick child.

When I raised this at a Labour Party meeting, they told me the money for the Rolls-Royce and the lift came out of different purses. I asked them what purse I paid my

'I think a lot of people just accept things and give up. They become zombies. But there's one thing I learnt through all this. I've learnt it watching and supporting Len's battles in the factories, but most of all I've learnt it here in the home.

'It's this. You don't get anything, anything at all out of this society unless you fight for

district stewards' meetings

☐ For the 35 hour week ☐ For official opposition to closures, short-time working, speed up and voluntary redundancies. ☐ For official occupations to force nationalisation, without compensation of plants threatened with closure.

☐ For 100 per cent closed shops and strong shop stewards' organisation to maintain manning levels and control of work speeds.

DFor district committee control of job replacement and registration

Against the postal ballot, for return to branch balloting and full discussion of election ad-

☐ For official encouragement of improved shop stewards' organisations—for joint shop stewards' committees including representatives from staff unions (for meaningful

amalgamation). For official efforts to build combine com-

For majority of shop stewards representation in district committees, and for bi-monthly

For official efforts to build combine com-

☐ For a majority of shop stewards' representation in district committees, and for bi-monthly district stewards' meetings.

☐ For the average engineering wage for full-time officials and full accountability

APPRENTICES AND YOUNG WORKERS ☐ For 100 per cent trade union membership ☐ For the full adult rate at 18.

For junior worker committees inside each factory, representation on joint shop stewards' committees, and the right to direct negotiations

the membership for such n time rates. y and job opportunity for

ction, is an organisation of

aningful, across-the-board

h official campaigning and

in the AUEW who stand for

forms of incomes policy

### Socialist Worker NEWS...



COULD it be? Yes, it's Michael Foot's chauffeur buying a copy of Socialist Worker. The occasion? A recent speech by the Unemployment Secretary in Birmingham, which was picketed by the Birmingham Right to Work Campaign. While Foot speaks inside, his chauffeur reads subversive literature outside. Surely that sort of thing doesn't go on in Britain?

### The struggle that is ahead

CONNECT the fight against unemployment with the coming resistance to the next round of Labour's wage freeze. That's the key for revolutionary socialists in the months ahead, Tony Cliff told the International Socialists' National Council.

He stressed that the main task for revolutionaries was to build an on-going rank and file movement of trade unionists around the Right to Work Campaign.

The next date after the Right to Work Rally of 20 March and the Assembly against Unemployment on 27 March will be 31 July, the day the next round of the incomes policy should come into effect.

The government will have more difficulty selling the next round than with the last. Because there will be more "anomalies", more arguments between those union leaders who want a flat rate and those who want a percentage rate.

We will have to argue in each industry and union, at each union conference. We have to be fighting for resolutions that link unemployment to the question of wages policy, that demand

a fight back. We have to fight for the building of rank and file organisations in each union and each industry.

#### Build

Building the International Socialists was central to everything we do, said Cliff. Without IS nobody would have taken the initiative in the fight against unemployment. Without IS nobody will take the initiative in building rank and file organisation.

The fight for the right to work has provided us with a central theme. But it will still



TONY CLIFF

be difficult to build.

Our success is a threat to the Communist Party, but they have an even bigger crisis their own camp. Jimmy Reid's leaving is a symptom So it is important for them to attack us.

Our response has to be hard in politics, but friendly and non-sectarian. We have to press for common action gropping our political differences. Dave Peers from South

London emphasised that after 20 and 27 March the fight against unemployment would have to be at two levels.

Firstly there would be local

campaigns, struggles over the government cuts, factory closures, and overtime. The cuts made now would take six to eight months to come into

But the Right to Work Campaign had to continue nationally. This needed a

national focus.

Colwyn Williamson from South Wales stressed that the Rally on 20 March would not be the end, but the beginning of the fight for the right to work for large numbers of people. The message from there had to be 'Get back to the localities and organise the fight for the right to work'.

#### Cuts

Jim Nichol pointed out that neither IS nor the Right to Work Campaign could manufacture a national focus for the struggle. But we could ensure that local Right to Work committees took up issues. Without activity they would disappear. Jack Robertson.

Manchester engineer, told how the Right to Work Campaign had allowed them

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

Notices for What's On should be posted to reach Socialist Worker by first post on the

GLASGOW Socialist Worker public meeting: Ireland—Troops Out Now! Speakers Eamonn McCann and speaker from Socialist Workers Movement of Ireland, Thursday 19 February, 7.30pm. City Halls—Mid Hall, Albon Street Admission by ticket only. Tickets available from IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow.

Socialist Worker NORTH AMERICA GROUP public meeting: The Studies in the US—A report from Laurie Flynn and Judith Condon, both just recently back from there. Friday 27 February, 7.30om, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Roed, London WI.

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 Reebuck, 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.

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW

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 Asilbie Road, London SE12 Saturday 21 February, 2pm to 9pm.

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

Friday 5 March What is a 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
Inearest tube Goodge Street. Open to
all SW readers.

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.

ABERDEEN SW readers' meetings: Every fortnight in Trades Council, 24 Adelphi (off Union Street, near ABC

#### 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.

now, because come the

summer, the level of violence,

particularly on the dole queues, is going to grow, said Neil Davies.

In Derby sales of Chingari, the International Socialist

paper in Urdu and Punjabi, have paid dividends. Seven Asian shop stewards stood in

the Transport Union elec-

National

tions in British Celanese on a Socialist Worker platform. The Socialist Worker bulletin

there is written in Punjabi

and Urdu as well as English.

Azeem, from Birmingham, explained the difficulty of getting IS accepted in the black communities. You have to talk about India, harassment, jobs. Organise

around the community, and

prove that our white workers

will fight racialism in the factories. Now people ap-proach us for help.'

stand up-

Soonu Engineer stressed

stand up for

your rights!

CENTRAL MANCHESTER Socialist Worker Auction: Saturday 6 March, 7pm onwards at the Black Lion, Chapel Street, Salford, All proceeds to the Right to Work Relly coach fund. Second-hand books, records, objets of art desperately needed, Will collect, phone 061-832 8102.

Socialist Worker AGITPROP BULLETIN: First issue is reedy, with ideas for using posters, tapes, slides, films, music in political work. Send stamped, addressed. large envelope for a copy, to SW Agitorop Group, 255 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

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, Excestional account of the black movement in the United States—and of the growing realisation of black and while workers that theirs is one struggle £1 60 including postage from Pete Marsdan Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London £2 SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION, 60-minute cassette still available, £1.60 including postage.

ALMOST COMPLETE backrun of Socialist Worker and some copies of Labour Worker back to 1964, evailable to the highest bidder. Minimum bid £50. All proceeds to SW International SolidarityFuhd. Confect Martin Barker, 0272, 569352.

LABOUR WORKER: Ancient copies of Labour Worker, Sacialist Worker's predecessor needed to make up bound volume for SW office files, Soour your attical We need assues 30, 32, 35-37, 39, 41, 43, 51, 60, woll livissue 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, Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

#### INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Speakers' notes on ANGOLA have been produced by the SW Africa Group. Send stamped addressed envelope to 8 Cottons Gardens. Landon £2

SUMMER TRAINING SCHOOLS 21. 24 June: IS full timers school: 19-22 July: Women's Voice School: 25-August: National Cadre School: Manchester; 23-25 August: National Cadre School: (London: Details: from Training: Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

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

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 member, and SW supporters attending or wishing to attend the conference should contact Joy Leman (01-228 8869) as soon as possible

WEST YORKSHIRE District meeting for all IS members; Sunday 22 February, 1pm-5pm, Bradford University (Room C7)

BUILDERS: National Weekend School for iS members in the building industry, 28-29 February at IS BOOKS, 255 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 Inear Finsbury Park tube), Starts 1pm Accommodation and social arranged Pooled fare system. Further details, contact Builders Fraction Secretary, B Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WOMENS VOICE: Latest issue now out. Collect from stations and IS Bookshops. Contributions for the next Womens Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens London E2.

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

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

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).

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

PHONE NUMBERS at Cottons Gardens: Some phones have been changed—please note these numbers. Socialist: Worker Circulation and IS Journal: 01-739 2839. Joanna Rollo (International), Undsey German (Students), and National Treesurer's Office: 01-739 1878. Liz Balfour and Jim Nichol. 01-739 9772. Nina Streich, Women's Valce. Simon Turner and Steve Jefferys; 01-739 6273.

If the appropriate number is engaged please DO NOT ring another number.

to draw together many militants on the Trafford Park estate. This was par-

ticularly important, as the signs were that the Com-munist Party's Broad Left was going to lose to the right wing in the elections for assistant general secretary in the Engineering Union. Peter Bain from Chrysler Linwood said that in factories

Reports from last

weekend's

**National** 

Council

International Socialists.

of the

such as Personna, Chrysler, and Marathon people had accepted redundancy. This was not due just to the betrayal of the trade union bureaucracy. Those who volunteered for redundancy didn't yet see what they were letting themselves in for.

Steve Ludlam, an East London hospital worker, said that one vital issue had been raised from the dole queues in Hackney,

The unemployed were having their dole stopped for refusing to work for less than trade unionists. We had to campaign against this use of unemployment to weaken the unions.

### CHINGARI AND FLAME: SUCCESSES WE MUST BUILD ON

'ITS in the community that racialism strikes, so it's in the community that we have to organise.

Kim Gordon, an un-employed young black worker who writes for Flame. Socialist Worker's sister paper for black workers, began the discussion on the International Socialists' work

among black workers.

Flame now has a base in Brixton and Birmingham . and is launching a fighting fund to go to eight pages. A

black music band is to tour the country for Flame.

The problem is always the same—black militants are reluctant to join a white organisation. But the possibilities now are better than ever.

#### Work

Some black students came to the recent conference of the National Organisation of IS Societies because of the work organised around the overseas students and on Angola. NOISS has now decided to push for a conference on the fight against the increase in overseas students' fees.

Now work around the dole queues has to concentrate on the high unemployment among young blacks—as much as 50 to 60 per cent. One West Indian woman is joining the March for the Right to Work for two days.

The work needs to be done

the importance of organising Asian workers in the Right to Work Campaign, means arguing for the right of their dependants to come to this country and their right to The Punjabi edition of

Chingari needs to be produc-ed monthly, argued John Rose, from West London. Birmingham and Southall IS districts will guarantee pay-ment for copies to enable this. It will also have a new section in English, for young Punjabi workers. A resolution calling on the

central committee and Socialist Worker to concentrate more on the threat to foreign workers' work per-mits was carried. Support for a Right to Work mobilisation against the National Front demonstration in Coventry during the by-election campaign was also agreed.

#### NATIONA RUGGLE: **ALVS MU**

troducing the discussion on Spain, Portugal and Angola, said that the International Socialists' solidarity work is focused on the central struggles and as events change, so does the emphasis of our work

1 ntil 25 November Portugal was most important. The working class had risen to beights not seen in Europe for 30 to 46 years.

The working class in Spain is on the way forward, but we can't exaggerate the speed of

There were more strikes King Juan Carlos is still in control. Strikes are not co-ordinated between one city and the

#### City

The central struggle is in Angola. Victory for the Popular Movement, the MPLA. puts the whole of Africa into the melting pot. Black African troops have defeated shites, an example for all

We can draw black workers and students to us by

Chris.

Joanna Rollo said that workers in Portugal were fighting now on the same issues as we are-against unemployment and wage freezes, for the right to work We should be trying to build rank and file links between workers in the multinationals that operate here and Portugal, such as STC. Plesseys and Massey

Ferguson. We have 15 years experience of fighting British government wage freezes and our experience and tactics can be useful to Portuguese

The Rank and Organising Committee is preparing a Portuguese ver-sion of its Health and Safety Schools, and Pat Kinnersley's book. The Hazards of Work, is being translated into Por-

#### Sort

Central to the solidarity campaign with Spanish workers is the demand for boycott of all Spanish goods and trade.

We support the demands for free trade union organisation in Spain and the release

of political prisoners, the ability for Spanish workers to organise openly is crucial. But an effective boycott would not only hit the Spanish regime where it hurts, it would also be direct solidarity action with workers in Spain, action that they call for.

Arguing for such a boycott when there are 1½ million workers unemployed in Britain is very difficult. But the rank and file response to the solidarity campaign around Spain, Portugal and Chile shows that a section of the working class is prepared to



#### THURSDAY

Set in a mining town, WHEN THE BOAT COM-ES IN (BBC1), has had some good moments. This week's episode is by Alex Glasgow. Anyone at home at 5.50, might find PSYCHOSEX-UAL DIFFERENCES (BBC2) worth a glance—despite the title. It looks at the way boys and girls are expected to assume sex roles from childhood.

TONIGHT (BBC1) profiles John Cleese OPEN ALL HOURS (BBC2) is a new comedy series with Ronnie Barker. Wonder if he'll be as funny as a small shop keeper as he was in jail.

The MONEY
PROGRAMME (BBC2)
reports on Argentina where
inflation is running at 35 per cent . . . maybe they're getting us prepared for '77.

SATURDAY

This week's CENTRE PLAY (BBC2) looks in-CENTRE teresting. It's 'Two men from Derby' by Barry Hines, who wrote the book Kes was based on. Set in a mining village, the two come to sign up Freda's husband for Derby, but he's out—and the n have a bus to catch.

SUNDAY

Bud Abbott and Lou Costello star in IN SOCIE-TY (BBC1) as plumbers who cause chaos at a high class party. What would Frank Chapple say?

#### MONDAY

Anyone interested in ancient civilisations should tune in to BBC2, where HORIZON looks at the city of Chan Chan in the Peruvian desert. Said to be the 'greatest ancient city in the Americas'

This week's FILM AS EVIDENCE (BBC2) shows extracts from cinema newsreels before the war, and asks how they prepared the British people for the war.

ESDAY

Cancel everything and stay in for PLAY FOR TODAY: CLAY. SMEDDUM AND GREENDEN—three short stories by Lewis Grassic Gibbon set in north-east Scotland, between the wars. His book. Scots Quair. is one of the great socialist

#### A good night out

WANT a good night out this weekend? If you're in London. you can see Northwest Spanner.

They'll be doing their play Winding Up-the story of textile workers fighting to save their mill from closure combined with the get-rich-quick-out-of-war-contracts story of Sam Courtauld.

It's well worth seeing. It's at the Oval House, Kennington Oval, London SEII, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 19.20 and 21 February at 9.30pm. Tickets



Down, dog, down.

THE BRITISH, they told us at school, are famous all over the world for their love of the underdog.

This may well be true of certain sections of the British

people. The way, for example, that penniless Jewish refugees fleeing Czarist pogroms in Russia in the 19th century or, more recently, South Americans escaping from Henry Kissinger's Chile have for



the most part been received and welcomed into British working-class communities is certainly remarkable.

But if you turn to the British ruling class and their press spokesmen you see

and theatre

don't mix?

that that lot love an underdog only in the sense that it gives them something to

The blood lust of our masters hasn't had a really good war to glut itself on for some time now, and foxhunting and spattering the brains of hapless grouse all

over the moors is a pretty limited substitute. The result is that nowadays when someone is down or cornered, the ruling class vandals and the people they hire to write their

A SCENE from Yobbo Nowt. It's magnificent. Superb material by John McGrath

and Mark Brown goes hand in hand with superb perfor-

The story is of a youngish

begins to discover herself only

brutish-but all too typical-

husband and is obliged to fend

for herself and her children. She has to deal with social

security and employment of-

When she gets work, it is for £17.50 a week during a train-

ing period-although the job

only takes a couple of minutes

employer's pocket but the

kind of pig who thinks it is amusing to keep fondling

take up what she calls her

'hobby'-finding out what

makes the capitalist system

COLWYN

All of which leads her to

The union official turns out

ficials who think they are

doing-her a favour.

to be not only in the

to master.

them as well.

working class mother who

after she throws out her

newspapers start to mill around, baying and snorting and sniffing blood. Take the case of Frank Stagg, the Provisional IRA

man who died last week on hunger strike in Wakefield

Perhaps a twitch of human sympathy for him, whatever the political differences, from, say, The Guardian, the conscience of British liberalism? Nope.

'Moral blackmail,' says The Guardian, by a man who 'in addition to his illegal acts persists in the grievous moral evil of taking his own

Well said, Carruthers; throw another peasant on the fire while you're up, will

Then there were the Neweastle schoolgirls who walk-ed out of Heaton Comprehensive last month because the headmaster planned to start beating

Most decent people that Tve spoken to aren't strongly in favour of adults laying into young girls with a blunt instrument.

#### Underdog

But most decent people aren't the Minister of Educa-tion or editorial writers, Linked to this hatred of

the underdog is the press'. fawning attitude towards

You may feel, in your twisted Marxist way, that the people really in trouble these days are the un-employed, the old dying of hypothermia and the young whose education is being cut to ribbons.

Not so. These problems Not so. These problems pale before the problems of the rich, hounded from these shores by the taxmen. There was an article just the other day about the plight of William Douglas-Home, brother of Sir Alec.

Because of the fierce inroads of the taxman, William, a second-rate

William, a second-rate playwright, is now down to his last couple of racehorses.

#### Wrecker

But that's not all, there's worse to come. William (brace yourselves for this and send the kiddles out of the room) William drives a car that's three years old. Jesus, it's tough at the top.

The man next door to me has been making cars all his life. He drives a bicycle that's 20 years old and the only time you read about him in the papers is when he puts in a wage claim so he can pay his electricity bill. Then he's called a wrecker.

Yet it's only the decency of the wreckers that makes this society livable in at all. Ask the Jews and the Chileans. But don't ask the

Paul O'Flinn

newspapers

# Who said politics

GOING into the theatre business was something new for us in

We brought a theatre group down for one production just before Christ-

Then, last week, we ran a full week of performances—in the Port Talbot Working Men's Club, the Swansea Mechanics Institute and the Swansea Men's Club, the Pontardulais

Having experienced some of the ups and downs, we would certainly recommend the idea to comrades in other parts of the

We have worked so far with only one theatre group, the 7:84 Company. They take their name from the 7 per cent who own 84 per cent of the wealth of this

Highly professional and immensely entertaining, their aim is, in their own words: 'a few laughs, some good sounds and a good night out—not as well as the politics, but as part

#### Turnover

We had a total of 1300 people at these performances, and a turnover of £1000.

What's more, the International Socialists here are now seen in a different way.

> To find out more about how Swansea their organised week of theatre, ring Colwyn Williamson, 0792 56270.

To contact 7:84, ring Sandy Craig in London, 01-722 7186, or Feri Lean in Edinburgh, 031-226 4300.

We're obviously not just a small group of somewhat strange people who 'couldn't organise a piss-up in a We brought good, socialist

entertainment to the areaand our audiences were better than those for any conventional stuff except pantomime.

#### Handful

This was mainly possible because of our general political work in the factories. particularly around the Right to Work Campaign.

We have had our setbacksonly a handful turned up for the show planned at Pontar-

But we have also had moments of glory-an audience of 350 absolutely wild about the marvellous

Yobbo Nowt show.

Anyone trying it for the first time should be a little less ambitious. A full week of theatre is a lot to handle. particularly a week after a

would seriously urge com-rades to apply the idea in their

Financial help can almost always be found tocally. We were assisted by the local Association for the Arts and by the Students Union at the university.

Renewed confidence in the power of our ideas and bringing home the socialist alter-native to a wider audience these are the results.

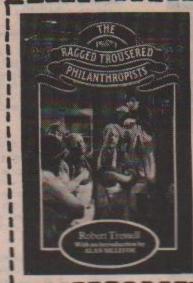
And it is great for husbands and wives to spend an en-joyable night out together.

There was a bonus, too. The 7:84 Company performed in London the week after they were in Swansea.

They asked for a collection

for the strike fund of the Alcoa construction workers in Swansea-and raised nearly

SWANSEA IS DISTRICT COMMITTEE



Robert Tressell will make you laugh, cry and see things in a new way. And he'll never lose your interest.

This book is a gripping expose of working conditions in the building industry at the turn of the centuryand one man who spells out a socialist

alternative

Worth reading for the Great Money Trick alone. If you're not a socialist before you read it, you should be after. £1.15 including

postage.

Leeds.

From IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Staters Road London N4, or direct from IS BOOKSHOPS in Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Hull, Corentry, Glasgow, Dundee,

### JACK JONES: A TRIBUTE

Jack Jones well and known to everybody. For to see the way he treats all his old pals Round about the market, don't yer see, I've no fault to find with Jack at all Not when he's as he used to be. But since he's had the bullion left him He has altered for the worst,

Fills me with nothing but disgust. Each Sunday morning he reads the Telegraph, Once he was contented with the Star. Since Jack Jones has come into a little bit of cash. Well, he don't know where he are.

Not our 'friend' Jack Jones, but another. Charlie Chaplin sang this song on his first night in an Aldershot music hall in 1894.

NO WONDER he wants to hide his face. This is one of Britain's defenders of democracy returning from Angola.

It's interesting that the Press call men who are prepared to kill for cash 'mercenaries' and those who, however misguidedly, are prepared to kill for an ideal terrorists'-SW READER. Hampshire.



# ettes

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

### Postal Points

IWAS appailed to read last week's article on homeless couples queueing for flats. What the hell do the Greater London Council

think they're playing at? It's like something out of the Dark Ages.

It makes my blood boil to think of all those people with three houses and villas in Spain.

Socialist Worker is right—housing is a basic right. — JOAN EATON, London SE13.

Readers may be interested to know that the couple featured in the article finally got a flat-after many hours of queueing.

YOUR ARTICLE about free electricity for old people (7 February) is strong in heart but weak in head. You should be asking for free closed stoves and a supply

of coal. The point is the use of electricity for space heating is a shocking waste (only about 30 per cent efficient) and it should be discouraged for all by steep differential tariffs. — OWEN DAVIES.

Cardiff.

DUNCAN Hallas's article on the family (24 January) is one of the worst I have seen in Socialist Worker. As a very first one of a series, it might have been okay, but as a one-off article on a question about socialism it was ridiculous.

I get the impression that SW does not want to question the family too closely. Is this just a side-track from the more immediately important industrial work? —S ARTHUR, TGWU member, Glasgow.

AFTER the recent letters in SW about the power of dead politicians, I wonder if the same applies to dead industrialists.

SW (31 January) refers to Sir Val Duncan as boss of Rio Tinto Zinc and friend of Denis Healey. In fact he died on 19 December. Does this mean Denis Healey is dabbling in spiritualism? — MARY BLACK, Ashton-under-

SO SW (7 February) has admitted that the oppres-sion of homosexuals is part of the twisted set of

Perhaps it's dawning on you that gay oppression is class oppression, and that there can not be a revolution without destroying all

As most gay people are working class, the current hostile attitudes of most of the left to the gay struggle strikes me as being incredibly short-sighted and

I hope the day is not faroff when you include the words 'for real economic, social and political equality for gay people' in your list of causes SW stands for. -MARCUS CARLTON, London NW1

## hat a fiasco!

Gallery (apt name) during the abortion debate in the Commons last week.

An enlightening experience, looking down on the 50 or so corpse-like figures slouched among the benches, feet on table, many asleep or chatting among themselves.

There was a respectful silence in the Gallery we hardly dared breathe for fear of being ejected by one of the many attendants (bouncers) in fancy dress.

No talking, no moving, no writing, no peanut throwing allowed—we were strictly observers—nothing to do with us, this circus. I made a few notes, though,

ACT ONE: Jill Knight-'none of the allegations in the book Babies for Burning have been disproved . . . those who support quickie lunchtime abortion tend to support the Soviet Union

What an intellect! A cry of 'Rubbish' from the gallery-the bouncers pounce and drag off the offender. Enter James White, chief

SUPPORT

WHY SHOULD every Socialist Worker reader February) support the Icelandic government? Are we to believe that Iceland is some form of workers' state which the British fishing companies are out to destroy?

What about the British fishermen who'd become unemployed if the Icelandic government's demands

> grey corpses came alive momentarily and grunted approval.

On the dot of 10pm, someone cracked a whip and 400 defenders of democracy poured out of the bar and into the chamber to vote, having taken no part at all in the

I am now convinced more than ever that these bigoted, hypocritical defenders of the status quo must be swept away before ordinary women and men can ever begin to take control of their own lives. — SUE BRIGGS, Braintree.

Devolution: Yes, but...

Ours is the classic position of socialists in the

middle of an imperialistic conflict. Both Icelandic

and British socialists must condemn the exploitative

nature of both sets of governments and capitalists-

and demand subsidies for food prices increased by

more expensive fishing grounds. JON BARLOW

WHILE agreeing with most of the article on Nationalism (24 January), it leaves me with rather mixed feelings

ICELAND?

were conceded?

Liverpool

Of course, neither the Scottish National Party nor the Scottish Labour Party will really fight for the people of Scotland.

Of course we should es-tablish a fighting rank and file unity. But this doesn't mean we should regard devolution

as a step backwards.

Surely we should support and promote ethnic determinism, whether this is added by the Basques, the Bretons, Welsh or Scots, and recognise that national consciousness, as it is anti-imperialist, may be positively beneficial to the growth of class consciousness.

The danger is that nationalism becomes an end in We, as socialists, must try and prevent this by urging the co-operation of groups of workers whatever their cultural and national iden-

tities. We should welcome devolution, and the struggles of ethnic minority groups, because it will help reduce divisions between working people in the long term. It may indirectly lead to

greater class consciousness; and it's one admittedly small step towards the possibility of greater self-direction for workers.

Devolution as politicians and businessmen see it, may not be devolution as the people see it. - HOWARD MILES, Guildford, Surrey.

#### Now I want to help

1 HAVE only now come to know about the existence of the IS.

have been working in Britain only one year, I used to come here for holidays and I have always believed there were good left-wing forces in this country.

A few days ago, an English bloke told me about IS and I immediately bought Socialist Worker, which I found quite

I have read the Italian translation of your pamphlet on Portugal by Tony Cliff, for which I sincerely compliment

Dumfries is not a big city but it has many Italian comrades who have not heard of

IS up to now. I have been a socialist for some time, several years member of the Italian Communiat Party, 1 am 20 years old, born of a red working class family.

I am trying to help you by letting Italian comrades know about your existence. — ITALIAN COMRADE working in Scotland.

### Why Russia backs MPLA

tion'

And

A READER asks (Letters, last week) why SW doesn't praise the Russians for the help they have been giving to the MPLA in Angola.

But a brief examination shows that the Russians do not give help for reasons of good will to liberation movements.

Five years ago, when there was an uprising against the government of Mrs Ban-daranaike in Ceylon, they sided with the plantation owners and the American,

British and French governments, in sending military aid to put down the

clown-'at no time did Babies

for Burning influence me in

any way'. He is on record as

saying that it was his main source of information.

At last the ringmaster

appeared: Leo 'a woman's friend' Abse. Women MPs, he

says, are 'male women who

feel motherhood is a humilia-

women think motherhood is a

curse, that is not the opinion of this House'. A few of the

he added: \*Some

RESPECTS

Today there is a struggle going on in East Timor, another former Portuguese colony, against a takeover by the corrupt right-wing Indonesian regime.

The Russians claim to support the liberation movement, but they haven't sent any arms.

Why do they behave differently in East Timor to

Angola?

Because there is immense untapped wealth in Angola. There is none in East Timor. So Fretilin are left to the mercy of Indonesian torturers.

MPLA are quite right to get aid from where they can in their fight against the CIA, the mercenaries and the South Africans. But they would be silly if they ignored the calculations in the minds of those who provide Russian COLIN HUMPHREYS, N London.

#### **ISBON** economic front so far, but this

PERHAPS it was because I hadn't seen SW for the last few weeks that my heart burnt with pleasure when I saw the

Especially magnificent was the series of photos showing the proper use of barbed wire—the protection of property from private ownership. I showed this issue to a militant building worker here in Portugal. His question was 'Did the government intervene?

The Lisbon demo (SW 24 January) was the biggest step against the attack on the

AGAINST unemployment, redundan-cies and lay-offs. Instead we demand

five days work or five days pay, and the

FOR nationalisation without com-

pensation under workers' control.

FOR militant trade union unity, joint

shop stewards committees at plant

and combine level.

same building worker asked: 'Was this meeting a demonstration? No proposals came out of it. It went nowhere. Or was it something

that was being used as an electoral prop by the Communist Party? Incidentally, the PRP were trying to organise a march through the streets of Lisbon,

so that the magnificent roars of the crowd would be heard outside the football stadium. For the record, the repq from Lisbon suffer fro-telecommunication problems.

The 17 January issue had a couple of irritating little mis-takes: especially for the readers in Portugal. Marinha Grande has a working population, and not a population, of 10,000, 400 of whom turned up to the PRP meeting (which finished about 2am on a working day.

And the bomb attack on the co-operative Arvore was not during a meeting, but possibly because this co-op had a meeting in support of the imprisoned soldiers. — PR, FOR the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union Lisbon

Hammersmith District Committee of the

National Union of Public

Employees has passed a resolution in support of

the campaign against the Criminal Law (Jurisdic-

We have also in-structed our delegate on

the West London Anti-

Prevention of Terrorism
Act Committee to get a
message of solidarity
from that Committee. We
feel this Bill is just a
carbon copy of the
Prevention of Terrorism

The aims of both are to

open the door to further, and legalised, attacks by

the State on the

organisations of the

werking class.—A R KUTTNER, NUPE shop

steward, Hammersmith

tion) Bill

NORTH

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.

SOCIALIST WORKER is a revolutionary paper that seeks to organise its supporters

around the

following

principles:

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS

ACTION: We believe that socialism

can only be achieved by the indepen-

dent action of the working class

capitalist values.

forms of sexism.

hypocritical.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM: 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, smashed. The present parliament, socialist party, and Socialist Worker aims to build towards such a party by fighting for a programme of political class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORK-ING 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

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 con-

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.

and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

WE ARE FOR rank and tile 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 un-ion laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

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

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

### take on the Right -and win

By Lindsey German RIGHT-WINGERS in the student movement got a rude shock last week.

They had been trying to smash the power of the National Union of Students by getting local student unions to leave it.

They seemed all set to gain some successes among the universities, following a vote for disaffiliation from St Andrews in Scotland.

But then Manchester University, where the right is quite strong, threw out their call by a massive majority.

Even more surprising for the right was that they were defeated in a secret ballot. And this after a large union meeting had decided by just one vote to disaffiliate.

The right had expected that a secret ballot would give them overwhelming support.

#### Good

But the right wing had reckoned without the Manchester members of the National Organisation IS Students Societies

JISS).
The NOISS members set out to ensure that the largest possible number of students had heard all the arguments against disaffiliation.

They distributed 3500 leaflets in halls of residence and outside lectures, as

and outside lectures, as well as in the union building and coffee bars.

John Penney from the Manchester University IS Society told Socialist Worker how they argued against disaffiliation:

"We didn't just go round saving NUS is wonderful.

saying NUS is wonderful, because it isn't. We said "stay in NUS and change it-make democratic".

#### Bars

On the day of the vote we plastered the place with dreds of posters and dressed the voters with loudhallers, telling them to

This activity clearly paid off, and the vote to stay in was decisive—2128 to 1694.

The example of Manchester shows that the right can be defeated if they are argued against politically—and if the left breaks out of cliquishness and talks to students who don't necessarily go to union meetings.

At Plymouth Polytechnic, the right got an even bigger bashing from the 'silent majority'. example

'silent majority' The call for disaffiliation was lost by 500 votes to 25.

#### Clique

But the lessons of the Manchester vote have been lost on the Communist and Labour Party student

organisations.
At the weekend they issued a joint statement with the Broad Left editorial board, the Conservative Students Federation and the Union of Liberal Students calling on student unions to 'play a full and active part in NUS'.

By doing so, they are providing a cover for Tory politicians who periodically urge their supporters to join unions so as to weaken

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

### Students -ABORTION: MPs VOTE IS A THREAT TO EVERY WOMAN-



### MARGARET RENN

she has a right to an abortion, if she so James White wanted to change that to

> It is not just a matter of one word. Every woman who wanted an abortion would have to prove that her need was 'grave'

Doctors signing the forms would have to be convinced that the risk was 'grave', for fear of prosecution.

Fewer women would be entitled to abortions. And for those who were, delays would occur while it was

Delay is the worst difficulty for women wanting an abortion. Yet James White's Bill was full of requirements which would delay abortion even for those entitled to

#### Against

And then, as a final blow, he proposed reducing the time limit for abortion to five months!

That's why there was so much opposition to the Bill, and why so many union members campaigned

That's why we're against the reappointment of Parliament's Select Com-mittee, which has no other purpose than to continue to discuss that Bill, and to

Last September's TUC Congress overwhelmingly passed this resolution:

\*Congress opposes the attempt being made through the Abortion (Amendment) Bill to weaken and restrict existing legislation governing abortion. Congress further recognises that in many areas, the 1967 Abortion Act has not been implemented and the decision on abortion is left to doctors rather than the women concerned.

Congress therefore calls upon the General Council and on all affiliated trade unions to campaign actively in the labour movement a) to defeat the Abortion (Amendment) Bill and any other attempts to introduce restrictive abortion

b) for the right of all women to adequate services for

contraception and abortion on request available free of charge on the NHS and c) to resist any changes in the 1967 Abortion Act which would produce conditions detrimental to the health and welfare of the women in this country.



James White: His Bill is a threat to every

and to change the law accor-

Yet when the vote was taken on reappointment, no less than 78 Labour MPs who are sponsored by or are members of unions voted

Andrew Faulds Warley E

MUSICIANS UNION \*Brian O'Malley Rotherham

\*Alan Williams Swansea W

\*John Roper Farnworth

\*Dennis Canavan

Stirlingshire W \*W Ross Kilmarnock

\*Shirley Summerskill

EQUITY

EIS

Halifax

There can be no confusion over what they were voting for. The motion read: 'That a Select Committee be ap-pointed to consider the matters contained in the Abortion (Amendment) Bill committed to a Select Com-mittee in the last Session of

The TUC agreed to 'campaign actively' against the Bill. It's up to us to make sure they do.

Union branches should

Parliament

carry resolutions demanding

that:

MPs be instructed to vote against the Bill or any similar restrictive legislation

#### Attack

Money, should be provided to organise publicity campaigns among union members pointing out their rights under the 1967 Abortion Act and how they are under attack

☐ Members support the demonstration called by the National Abortion Campaign on Saturday 3 April.

Speakers and the 1p fact sheet on the James White Bill are available. Contact Nina Streich, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, 01-739 6273. Speakers notes, leaflets, badges and posters will also be available soon.



Harold Wilson and Shirley Williams: they voted for the Select

### LABOUR'S 78 SCABS

ALL OF THESE Labour MPs are sponsored by or are members of trade unions. Most of them are voting against their union's

declared policy.

The asterisked MPs are those who didn't vote last year, but knowingly came to vote for the James White Bill for the first time two weeks ago.

Ronald Atkins Preston \*Barry Jones E Flint \*Edward Short Newcastle

H Boardman Leigh \*E Fernyhough Jarrow Frank McElhone Glasgow, Queens Park Walter Padley Ogmore Sydney Tierney Birmingham, Yardley

Richard Buchanan Glasgow, Springburn

\*Ron Lewis Carlisle Tom McMillan Glasgow Leslie Spriggs St Helens

\*Donald Anderson Swansea East Jeremy Bray Motherwell

Lewis Carter-Jones Eccles Peter Doig Dundee W James Dunn Liverpool Kirkdale

Jack Dunnett Nottingham

\*John Ellis Brigg and Scunthorpe
\*David Ginsburg Dewsbury
\*Harry Gourlay Kirkcaldy
John Horam Gateshead

\*Hugh McCartney Dunbartonshire Central Kevin McNamara Kingstonupon-Hull Simon Mahon Bootle

Bob Mellish Southwark \*Mike Noble Rossendale Gordon Oakes Widnes Michael O'Halloran John Watkinson Gloucestershire W Terry Walker Kingswood

Ivor Clemiston Luton E

**GMWU** Robert Brown Newcastle A Duffy Sheffield Attercliffe Michael English Not-tingham W James Johnson Hull W \*J Dickson Mabon

Greenock and Port Glasgow Fred Peart Workington \*Ernest Perry Wandsworth, Battersea S John Smith Lanarkshire N \*Frank Tomney Hammersmith N

\*Frank White Bury Stanley Cohen Leeds SE

\*Walter Johnson Derby S Thomas Cox Wandsworth &

Walter Harrison Wakefield Alex Eadie Midlothian

Adam Hunter Dunfermline Michael McGuire Ince Roy Mason Barnsley Albert Roberts Normanton Edwin Wainwright Dearne Valley Alec Woodall Hemsworth Robert Woolf Blaydon

Dan Jones Burnley William Small Glasgow Carscadden AUEW (Construction)
James Hamilton Bothwell
AUEW/TASS

James Lamond, Oldham E

Harry Ewing, Stirling Charles Morris Openshaw

\*Bruce Grocott, Lichfield & Tamworth Fred Willey, Sunderland N Harold Wilson, Huyton

Colin Jackson Brighouse \*Philip Whitehead Derby N

Ted Leadbitter Hartlepool Tom Pendry Stalybridge &

Hyde APEX Bruce Millan, Glasgow Craighton

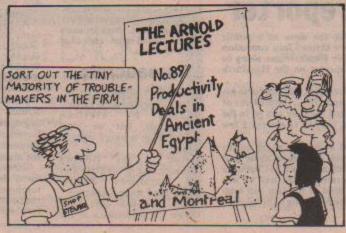
NUB James Tinn, Teesside Red-

AUBTW T Urwin Houghton le Spring

Committee

#### OUR NORMAN







Free abortion on demand!

A woman's right to choose

Demonstrate Saturday 21 February, 12.30pm. Sefton Park, Liverpool.

Liverpool Council is trying to prevent the National Abortion Campaign demonstrating and leafletting in Liverpool.

Organised by North West Region of the National Abortion Campaign.

### **NALGO** members locked out in gas battle

THE BRITISH GAS Corporation have now locked out more than 200 staff members of NALGO in various training centres throughout the country. This move follows an attempt by the employers to scare the staff into disobeying NALGO's instructions to refuse to train manual workers under an agreement with British Gas.

Since last June, NALGO have had a policy of non-cooperation with this agreement, which also requires the altering of certain staff duties. Negotiations were interrupted last week by the employers' sudden lock out. They have repeatedly stated in the press that staff are being asked to work normally when they in fact, being told to work extra duties.

are, in fact, being told to work extra duties.

NALGO's National Executive, after pressure from the rank and file, decided that it could not tolerate this and has replied by calling official strike action. So far supervisors of manual workers have been on indefinite strike in the regions where the training staff have been suspended.

Meanwhile at the end of last week, one-day stoppages took place in various branches and regions all over the country. In the North West, 5,500

stopped on Thursday. The East Midlands had branches of 600, 1000 and 1400 out on different days.

On Friday, 1800 struck in Wales, and in Scotland the headquarters branch of 1600 and four smaller branches came out. The action is to be taken eventually by all Scottish branches next week About 650 are on indefinite strike in Wales.

In the Eastern District, all NALGO members in Gas were called out on a one-day strike on Tuesday, while in the afternoon Gas members demonstrated outside the headquarters of the British Gas Corporation in Bryanston Street in Central London. The National Gas Com-

mittee has now decided to pull out computer staff nationally.

This will affect the sending out of bills, meter reading and supply deliveries. We must not let up until our members are

#### 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.

CRITIQUE, the journal of Soviet studies, is organising a series of seminars. The next will be on Tuesday 24 February, 7 30pm, Gunther Minnerup on The German National Question. LSE, St Clements Building, Room S418

NHS IN CRISIS, HOW TO FIGHT BACK. For speakers on this subject or any other issue within the health service contact Bill Geddes, 15 Ethelden Road, London W12, 01-749 4834.

PICKET HAMMERSMITH HOSPITAL Friday 27 February 6pm-8pm against private practice.

CAMPAIGN presents A Concert for Chile with Chilean folk singers Isabel Parra and Patricio Castillo, and popular Leeds singer Bob Pegg. Friday 27 February, 7.30pm. Leeds University Great Hall. Tickets £1 from Barkers. The Headrow, or Leeds University Union. Solidarity with the people of Chile!

CHILE SOLIDARITY CONCERT (see above) Saturday 28 February, 7.30pm, Selford University, Maxwell Hall. Tickets 80p, £1.00 and £1.20 from Grassroots Bookshop and Salford University Union.

ANARCHY OR SOCIALISM Socialist Party of Great Britain (Haringey branch) public discussion, Hornsey Library, Crouch End, London NB. Monday 23 February, 8.30pm.

SOCIALIST TEACHERS
CONFERENCE public meeting:
Tyndale and the right wing attack.
Speakers Chris Searle, Dave Lister,
Ken Jones, and a speaker from
William Tyndale School. 26 February.
Friends Meeting House, Euston Road.

The Irish Prisoner, background information on the trials and ill treatment of Irish political prisoners in pail in England. Price 32p (including postage) from Prisoners Aid Committee, c/0 66 York Way, London

Workers Bookshelf: Socialist mail-Workers Booksnett: Socialist main-order service offers wide selection of books on marxist theory, labour history, women and international affairs. Pamphlets our speciality— over 60 titles. SAE for catalogue to Workers Bookshelf, 150 Foster Road, Trumpington, Cambridge.

were the property and and the same

#### SO WHAT WOULD YOU PUT IN ITS PLACE?

### ow workers could run the show

nice, but it wouldn't work. We'd produce less, not more, if we ran the show'.

Sad to say, this is a common view of the world.

Keep your ears open and you'll hear Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher coming out with some variant of it. Or Len Murrary and Sir Ralph Bateman, the top man in the Confederation of British Industries.

They really believe that workers are—and always will be—people who need to be compelled to produce.

In some ways, of course, Harold, Thatcher and Sir Lionel Bateman are absolutely right. Under the present system of society, workers do respond

#### A NEW SERIES ON THE ALTERNATIVE TO CAPITALISM

to incentives.

It's the 'incentive' to avoid absolute want and deprivation that drives workers into the factories at ungodly hours of the day and night in the first

#### Create

Socialism would change all this. Workers would be producing for need. They'd know what they're producing and why and for whom because they'd have helped to decide

these things.

Farmworkers would create food in abundance. In return, they would get the housing they've so long desired from the construction workers who consume their food.

The construction workers, in turn, would build for carworkers and dustmen who in turn would produce for them.

In this simple way, all workers would be united in a planned system of co-operative production. The

simple—to meet human need.
The factories and workplaces themselves would, of course, be under democratic workers' control. This measure alone would transform our

#### Improved

Elected and re-callable workers' committees would be charged with drafting out the best, safest and most efficient ways to produce what the factory makes. Then their suggestions would be scrutinised and improved on by the whole mass of workers.

The committee would also be responsible for making sure that the vast reserves of talent in the workforce were properly tapped.

Take the emptying of dustbins, for example. Even if we couldn't transform or abolish this job, we'd have a number of options.

We could ensure working hours in such trades were extraordinarily short. Alternatively we could share the job around so that no one person had to spent anything like five days a week doing it.

#### Redesign

In a sane society there'd no longer be three wrappers on Spangles. No longer would whole forests be torn down to enable newspapers to tell lies and advertise Weetabix. (Nutritonal value: precisely nothing) What's more, the dustral

could redesign the whole waste collection and dis-

With the introduction of technology that already exists, each household's weekly waste could be compressed to the size of a tin of shoe polish.

No worker would have anything to fear from this. There would be no scrapheap of redundancy and unemployment to abandon people on. Instead, the liberated

dustmen would simply go off to work somewhere else, thereby enabling hours to be shortened and leisure to be increased.

#### Carrot

Of course, there would be problems. In the intervening period before we've got rid of all the rotten jobs, the would be the odd sk seeking to cut a few corners on his or her share of the work. And certainly the workers' committees in the factory would have to do something about it.

Perhaps they'd use a carrot. Perhaps even a little

But their discipline would be collective. It would be democratic and not autocratic.

It would be all the more effective for being based not on fear and intimidation but on an insistence on real fairness and equality.

For sure, there'd be other problems. But there's no reason to be frightened of

them. And no reason at all to believe that human beings do not have the capacity to

solve them. LAURIE

wonder that management can FLYNN afford to hire scab labour at a

conditions.

## A SET-BACK - BUT WE CAN WIN, SAY LAGGERS

Laggers demanding protective clothing on the Isle of Grain power station site have suffered a setback in their struggle against the Cape Darlington Newall consortium.

When the General and Municipal Workers Union took a stand on the health and safety issue by making the dispute official, the 3000 construction workers on the site agreed to observe the picket.

#### Anger

But, at a mass meeting last Friday, it became clear that the union had included along with the protective clothing and reinstatement demands, a claim for reimbursement for the time the men had been out.

This angered some of the construction workers. They felt it was wrong for the laggers to claim reimbursement while the 300 construction workers were out in solidarity without prospect of

This led, sadly, to a vote by the construction men to return to work.

Nevertheless the laggers are still receiving full financial support from their brothers on And the job remains blacked.

Billy Milne, branch secretary of the thermal insulation engineers and chairman of the London district committee of the GMWU, is fully in support of the men.

The laggers, greatly en-couraged by this initial recognition, are determined to see that their demands are

A leading shop steward on the Grain told SW that he was confident the men would win.

He also stated that no other lagging firm would be tolerated on the site without the reinstatement of the 14.

NF bar black reporter

NATIONAL FRONT thugs guarding the door to a public

meeting in Horsforth, near Leeds were thrown into confusion when local newspaper reporter Charles Lauder came along to report the meeting. For Charles a reporter on the Horsforth

Charles walked up to the gang on the door, showed them his

NUJ press card and asked to be admitted. 'Hey', shouted one of them, 'will somebody take this coon and see if he can go in the

meeting'. Charles was escorted inside, only to re-emerge a few

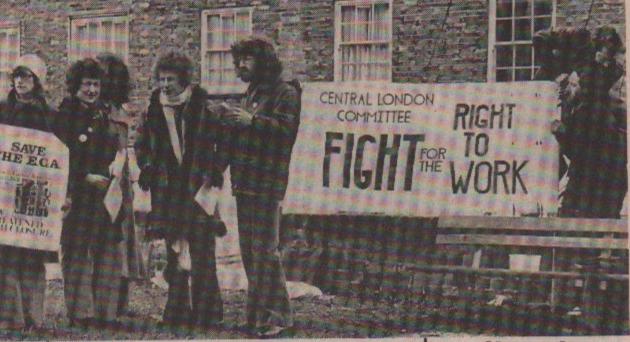
stairs someone said: 'Can this Ugandan gentleman come into our meeting?' — but they were about 4000 miles out, as Charles in

fact comes from Jamaica. At the entrance to the hall he was

refused admission and his escort got hold of his arm and said:

You might as well leave quietly, you are not going to be allowed

He told Socialist Worker later that as he was going up the



DEMONSTRATORS Barbara Castle's house in Can-nonbury, North London. The 24hour picket protested against the closure of a local hospital, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson.

The closure of the hospital, one of many threatened in the area, is a particular blow because it is one of the few in the country where women are guarenteed care by women doc-

### Civil servants fight for jobs

1,600 WORKERS walked out of the Ministry of Defence ordnance depot at Chilwell, Notts last Friday in protest against government plans to shut the plant down.

Other Ministry of Defence cuts mean 100 clerks and telephonists have received redundancy notices—43 at Bicester, 21 in Suffolk, 23 at Portsmouth, 22 in Leicestershire and 22 in-Wiltshire.

300 workers at the Ministry of Defence Signals Establishment at Highcliffe, Dorset are to lose their jobs. And, to cap the lot, another 2,500 clerical workers are to be sacked at

four other ordnance factories. Many of those threatened are members of the civil servants union, the CPSA.

McGrath, CPSA Library branch Mike McGrath British Library secretary and candidate for union president (supported by the rank and file paper Redder Tape) writes:

So deep is the crisis that even the Civil Service has been hit by sackings. First hit has been the Ministry of Defence, and many militants will say,

'And a good job too.'
But Defence Ministry workers are, increasingly, young men and women from working class backgrounds who've stayed on at school for

#### Bureaucrats

We don't support the existence of professional armies, backed by civilian bureaucrats, but we must defend these workers' right to

Not in the Defence Ministry, but in the DHSS or the Employment Minstry

which need more assistance. The last few days have shown the inadequacy of the

agreement, which took four years to negotiate. This has proved worthless when a real conflict has arisen.

#### Redundant

Not even the first of the eight stages (the removal of agency staff) was implemented before redundancy notices were issued to 40 clerical workers. Now another 2500 jobs are threatened.

Our leaders' response? Natural wastage and early retirement will deal with the problem! While we sit back and watch thousands of jobs disappear . Any fight back will have to

come from the rank and file organising around the slogans: NO NATURAL WASTAGE—NO REDUN-DANCIES.

British Library branch has already passed a resolution urging the National Executive Committee to call a one-day national stoppage in protest at the murder of our jobs.

Other branches should flood the NEC with similar resolutions and make a national stoppage the kick-off for the real fight-back.

#### PRESTATYN VICTORY

NORTH WALES: Building workers at Pontins' Prestatyn Holiday Centre site have won

Clanson's

still solid

SOUTH EALING: A strike

by six Engineering Union members at Clanson's

typewriters is still solid after

seven weeks. The strikers were

sacked by the manager who refused to recognise the union.

Management say that the picket line outside their shop

has had no effect on business. Despite this, the workers have

been offered money 'to go

away or to accept a return to

work with the exception of shop steward Graham Wat-

to cross the picket line. Post Office workers no longer

deliver the post to the shop and British Road Services and

National Carrier deliveries

gross for a 40 hour week.

Customers are charged £8 an

hour labour costs. Little

The strikers' top wage is £36

have stopped.

Six men were sacked last month in an attempt to break union organisation on the site-and then the entire site was sacked after trying to get them re-instated and the stewards recognised.

Picketing stopped all deliveries and departures. Meetings between the Union, UCATT, Pontins and Ambrose Ltd, the contractor, resulted in Ambrose recognising the union and taking everyone back last Monday. They are also going to sign a closed shop agreement with UCATT, agreeing not to employ the lump, and to keep to the building industry NJC

The site organisation will now start negotiations for safety, conditions and wages and consolidate their organisation.

This victory will show other building workers in the area what a trade union can do.

### OCCUPY! NATIONALISE! FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

**Fiesta** workers

triumph

SHEFFIELD: The 50 strikers at the Fiesta night club have gone back to work after win-

ning a total victory. The strikers, most of them women, walked out

when management sack-

Last week, the stewards were reinstated without conditions and

the managing director was moved to Stockport.

ed five shop stewards.

### GREENINGS: 'NO SACKINGS When they called a VICTORY

WARRINGTON: Management's attempt to make 75 hourly-paid workers redundant Greenings has been defeated.

meeting to announce sackings, management grinned as the local General and Municipal Workers' Union full-time official grovelled to them.

But the engineering union full-time official, Jim Coffey, quickly wiped the smiles off their faces.

#### FORCE

He told management: 'We oppose any form of redundancy and we will meet you with the full force of our organisation.

Convenor Arthur Conheeny then announced that the workers weren't going to accept any redundancies.

#### WOMEN REJECT **GEC OFFER**

RDIFF: 400 workers at GEC. Treforest, are striking for a basic rate of £31.20.

The strikers, who are women members of the Engineering Union, angrily rejected the offer. They want the full semi-skilled rate and they intend to stay out for it.

The factory makes telecommunications equipment for the Postal Office, and local postal workers are refusing to cross the picket line, which has about 30 women at any time. AUEW District Secretary

Tom Evans has admitted that APEX and ASTMS members are still crossing the picket

The will to win is there. In the recent wages battle at nearby Kayser Bondor and Northgate factories, women successfully took on and defeated the giant Courtaulds group by spreading their strike across the country and living thousands of their

The meeting told manage ment to go back to the drawing board and try something else.

At another meeting. management said they would accept voluntary redundancies instead and that they thought they had enough 'volunteers'. In fact

it was a total climbdown.

They want to get rid of 30 engineers. Only one has volunteered, and he's

that the workers couldn't stop them accepting voluntary applications for redundancy—but they would fight to restore every vacancy this created.

A mass meeting was then called, where men and women in their hundreds, including hourly paid and staff, stood together on a fundamental issue and backed the stand against redun-

### Corby bosses get sit-in warning

CORBY: A mass meeting of 450 out of the 500 workers at British Sealed Beams voted unanimously on Sunday to occupy the factory if management went ahead with their plans to close the plant.

Most of the workers are women. They have seen their husbands and friends thrown out of work by the rash of closures which has swept through Corby over the last few months. They aren't prepared to join the dole queue without a fight.

On the stewards' insistence, management agreed to delay handing out redundancy notices till after Sunday's meeting.

#### Contact

There, speakers stressed the shop-floor workers' deter-mination not to accept the bait

of redundancy pay.
Stewards would have to contact other factories, particularly in the car industry, to

### Spreckley Sage fiasco

weeks ago, 500 workers at Spreckley Sage, South Tottenham, were told that their company was bust, they could collect their cards; and get down to the dole queue-all the jobs were gone.

The firm, one of London's largest shopfitters, is part of Spreckley Industries. The Spreckley collapse, even the bosses' own press has admitted, has been because of open property speculation and bad management

Spreckley Sage has made a profit over the last few years— in 1975 some £500,000. This profit' was squandered in

Now the jobs are to be 'saved'. In a sudden swoop on the dismembered Spreckley empire, Courtney Pope.

another local shopfitting giant, has taken over.

The workers' union, UCATT, apparently helpless in the face of the original collapse, have now claimed to have secured an agreement. They said that all the jobs will be saved.

This remains to be seen. If they can be saved, 500 workers in North London will have been pleased to keep their

But what a way to get job security". Dole queue one day. back on the bench the next. Open property speculation one week, more empire building by the big corporation the next.

And the workers? Well they're just there to clock on and off. Or sign on and off at the local dole.

persuade the unions there to press for the use of BSB sealed beam headlights.

As a first step to ensuring the workers don't pay for the recession, Sunday's meeting voted unanimously to refuse to accept the redundancy notices due to be given out on

Monday.

If management persist in their attempts to close down the factory, they'll be faced with a full-blooded occupa-

### Blackman's called off

NORTH LONDON: Workers locked out at the Keith Blackman plant picketing the head offices of its owners, GEC, last

The workers' disputes committee organised a full-blooded occupation last Wednesday. Or so the

350 workers thought.
After 36 hours, the factory was handed back to management.

Stewards say this was a tactical' decision which would 'keep GEC guess-

Within minutes of the announcement of the occupation, the local Right to Work Committee organised its sponsoring

rally more local support.

The response must have encouraged the occupiers. By Friday, convenors and stewards delegations from MK Electric, Crosfield, Metal Box, and numbers of other local factories have actived with linearies and activities of the contraction of the contraction

rally more local support.

arrived with financial support and the promise of further backing.

disappointed to hear that

GEC was to have the whole site given back that

Nevertheless, all those who have been involved in the support of Blackman's workers will continue their efforts.

Financial assistance and messages of support to: Jim Pickering, Suite 3, Second Floor, 128-136 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex.

SHETLANDS: Transport Union catering workers strike against Grand Metropolitan Hotels is continuing at the Firth Voe construction camp in Mossbank with the Strike Committee sitting-in

They are demanding Island Allowance of 25 per cent of the basic, a slightly smaller shift allowance, flights home, allowance, flights home, travelling time for workers

out. allowance and proper overtime rates.

Management have so far conceded the demand for flights home but are still negotiating the other demands. A demonstration was held last Monday in solidarity with the strikers.

#### Strike

The strike is taking place right in the middle of the North Sea oil rigs.

It is of major importance in fighting for trade union rights and decent working con-ditions on the rigs and con-struction sites of the North Sea oil boom. Your support is needed now.

Send messages and donations to Donald Wilson, secretary, Strike fund, c/o Mossbank Post Office, Shetland.

### Sageways: We've occupied to save the jobs

SOUTH WALES: 200 workers at Sageways, Abercynon, have been occupying the factory for two weeks in defence of their jobs.

John Harman has worked there for 21 years. His wife also works there. He told Socialist Worker: 'The firm has loads of orders. That's not the problem. Since the Spreckley Investment Group took over the firm, the goods we produce have been sold at a low price to other subsidiaries of the group, which have sold them at a profit. Our jobs have miraculously disappeared while vast profits were being sucked out of the firm.'

For this reason, Engineering Union convenor Will Lloyd, sitting in the manager's office, told Socialist Worker:

cialist Worker: 'We intend to set up a workers' cooperative. We are asking the Welsh Office to put up about £1/2 million to pay off the National Westminster Bank, who originally forced the closure.

#### Agreed

We recognise, however, that the Welsh Office will obviously want to put in their own manager. But we are prepared to accept that to protect our right to work.

Two shop stewards from IPD, the workers' co-operative on Merseyside, have agreed to come down and tell us how they organised when they took over.

The workforce is solid, as no-one has signed on the dole. They are determined to win, and with 12 per cent unemployment already in the Cynon Valley, their struggle will vitally affect the whole area.

Donations and messages of support to Frank Edwards, Sageways Occupation Com-mittee, 3 Nant-y-fedw, Ynysboeth, Abercynon, Glam

East Manchester public

Lecture Theatre, Openshaw Technical College, Ashton Old Road, Manchester, at 8pm. Speakers include Bobby Buirds Bobby Buirds (Manchester Right to Work Committee) and Paul Foot (Socialist Worker).

# FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK meeting Thursday 26 February,

TEACHE	RS: NOW	/LET'S	FIGHT	BACK
TAL CONFEDENCE	as tanahasa and all the		Harrist at attachment	***** *** ***** ******* *******

who work in education has been called for Saturday 28 February in London. 5000 teachers are already on the dole. Another 16,000 fully-trained teachers will not be able to find jobs when they leave teacher training college this summer, according to the Sunday Times.

Teachers have every right to expect a militant lead from their union, the NUT. Instead they have got only a passive declaration of intent to safeguard standards

The only way teachers and other workers in schools will safeguard jobs is to implement a

every single job in education. This means demanding the replacement of anyone who leaves, the refusing to do any work for non appointed staff and

refusing to take large classes.

To create jobs for college leavers, increased preparation time must be fought for. These are the kind of policies and actions that will be discussed at the Conference Against Unemployment in Educa-tion. If you work in education, send a delegate.

Details and credentials from 18 St Agnus Close, London E9, Phone 01-986 8719.

こ門	Worker
	Please send me more information about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists
1	Name
1	Address
i	
	Send to: National Secretary, International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

--Support!--

**MPLA** 

victory!

Celebrate

it this

THE NEWS from Angola is fantastic. We have supported the MPLA from the

beginning. And now we

But not everyone agrees. That's why we have to argue the politics of the

Angolan war. The NOISS pamphlet on

Angola and the demonstration are the way to argue. But we always need money and resources to move quickly. We've got the answers, but they're no

use unless we can produce

the pamphlets and leaflets

to win the arguments. For that we need money.

That's why we have an international fund.

This week we received a total of £77.66:—a North London comrade £20, D

Spencer £26, Central London District £13.30, sales of the Angola pamphlet £11.22, sales of Lessons of November 25 £7.14. We have also had £590 in

from bankers orders during

But we need much more

than that. In fact hundreds of pounds more. To keep

our international work at the level of the last months

we need a regular flow of bankers orders and hard

cash. Send us a bankers order

for £1 or or £2 a month,

now. Have a collection

Send your money to: SW International Fund, 8 Cot-

ons Gardens, London E2.

where you work.

January and February.

welcome their victory.

way...

### Socialist Worker PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

is still on.

near Bristol.

in the smelter.

aren't any."

official strike for 17 weeks.
Its purpose was best summed up by Jock

Smith, a process worker

'It's to save my job,' he says. 'And the jobs of 60 other people who were sack-ed just before the strike

Stop

The workers insist that the

The bosses, taking advan-tage of 'slackening demand'.

between the two figures was rejected by RTZ.

So the pickets will stay— at the smelter and the ad-

joining chemical factory,

phone call from the in-

dustrial relations officer of the Chemical Industries Association (CIA), Mr

Geoff Collins.

A compromise proposed

want to cut to 430

# IF YOU VALUE

#### THE BIGGEST strike YOUR JOB for jobs in the country At a meeting at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, the murderous multinational Rio Tinto Zinc refused to SUPPORT compromise on demands for at least 100 sackings at their zinc smelter at Avonmouth, The workers have been on



leading the strike



Jock Smith: 'I've been looking around for jobs—and there aren't

Company, which is talking of axing 10,000 jobs and 49 million route miles. Their pressure had forced the union, the Transport Workers, to launch a campaign against the cuts.

#### City.

Busmen

move

against

the

THOUSANDS of bus

workers were marching

through London on

Wednesday in protest

against the massive cuts

planned in provincial ser-

They were lobbying their MPs in an attempt to force the government to increase its subsidy to the National Bus

But the seriousness of the TGWU leaders is open to

Hardly had the campaign began than full-time officials were scurrying around the country to try to stop bus workers striking in support of

Wednesday's protest.

And the official in charg the campaign. Larry Lamb' Smith, has a welldeserved reputation among many bus workers for selling

out their struggles.

It is hardly likely that such men are going to spearhead the campaign needed to stop our bus services being butchered.

Only the rank and file can do that. They can trust no-one but themselves.

#### Sort

The cuts can be resisted— but only with a militant movement organised around the sort of demands put forward by the rank and file group Platform:

Industrial action against

attempt to impose cuts.

Official ban on overtime

to force more jobs.

Do extension of one-man operation.

Platform supporters distributing thousands leaflets on the protest lobby calling for bus workers to take the fight to other groups of workers by linking up through the National Right to Work

#### Teeside acts on Chile

THE LABOUR movement on Teesside is trying to stop the delivery of 11,000 spare parts

for frigates and submarines for the Chilean navy. The Labour government's willingness to sell these parts to the Junta was exposed by Socialist Worker some weeks

Now Middlesbrough Trades Council has condemned the government's action and called for blacking of the

All parts of the labour movement must black these goods, particularly the docks

in Liverpool, the main docks

#### Jobs battle

WINCHESTER: Camill Engineers, who make parts for Lansing Bagnall trucks and ACL container movers for the docks, are busy trying to make 'awkward' workers redun-

Mick Marshall, for example, refuses to accept the company's unilateral declara-

tion of redundancy.

He is reporting for work every day and staging a one man sit down to get his job

back.

More redundancies are in the offing

THISSTRIK



On the picket line: this is the bravest strike for jobs for years.

up their mind.

Alun Beynon, vice chairman of the T&G branch at the smelter, told Socialist Worker.

Collins recommended an inquiry under the Joint Industry Council. The 'If these bosses turn down their own organisation and refuse an inquiry, then we'll have to spread the strike far workers want an inquiry. The employers can't make

and wide 'We'll have to insist that chemicals and zinc which would otherwise have come from Avonmouth are black-

ed everywhere Jobs

Within days, that would shut down half the steel industry, not to mention English China Clays and British Cellophane

The Avonmouth strike is the most courageous action yet taken by workers in defence of jobs. Without the slightest prospect of any financial advantage to themselves, 600 men have lived at or near starvation level for four months—all to save the jobs of their fellow-workers, and to maintain safety standards

inside the factory. Roy Daniels summed up the mood of all the strikers when he told Socialist Worker.

Trunght in shit creek, but Fil follow Tony Cooksley and the stewards till I drop

Alun Beynon explained: 'The employers are forcing

through things in a down-turn period which they can't get and don't even need in an

'If shop stewards accept sackings like these in the down-turn, they condemn 'We must build powerful combines among shop stewards and militants to take on these mul-

#### Party

Every Transport and General branch, every shop stewards committee must rally to this brave strike.

Get the collection sheets now. Keep the money rolling

If they beat Rio Tinto at Avonmouth, they'll knock every boss in the country that's saving his profit by throwing men and women on the dole. Rush collections and

Rush collections and donations to W F Smith, Commonwealth Strike Fund, House, Bristol. Smelting Transport



Alun Breynon: 'If shop stewards accept this, we'll lose all we've ever gain-

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### The truth about overseas students

preparing a huge attack on overseas students studying in this country.

It is going to raise their fees fivefold to £2000 a year. The press claim that foreign

students are milking the British education system dry.

And they imply that all overseas students are the sons daughters of oil-rich What is the truth?

Overseas students are rarely rich Most are on scholarships, or have their education paid for out of their families' life savings.

They often live in extreme poverty, because spare money goes on books instead of food. And they can't get holiday jobs to boost their income

And they certainly aren't getting education on the cheap at the taxpayers' expense. Their college fees are fixed by the government at three times level paid by other students.

In many colleges they have to prove that they have a certain amount of money in the bank before they're allowed to start their courses.

And they are often discriminated against in other ways. In Manchester Poly, for example, residence fees for overseas students are double those of home students-£26 a week for a room instead of £13-and the landladies operate an effective colour

campaign against overseas students is racialist. No-one complains about rich United States students

coming to Britain. The attacks are directed at African. Asian and Middle Fastern students, The attack serves to divert

attention from the real problem in education: reduced facilities, increased hardship for students, greater dif-ficulties for working class children.

These are the result of the government's spending cuts. The argument about overseas students is meant to make people forget this. Instead of asking why un-

employment rises and social services decline, we are meant to shift the burden of unemployment onto the

shoulders of those least able to A meeting of activists on the

overseas students campaign in National Union of Students met in London recently. Students unions from all over the country were

It called on the NUS to hold a national demonstration in early March to follow-up this week's day of action involving occupations, local demonstrations and pickets.

It was stressed that the fight against discriminatory fees should be taken up within the context of education cuts, and that there should be a separate overseas students contingent on the cuts demo on 27 February.