

# TRANSPORT UNION BALLOT SCANDAL

The steel union silence mystery



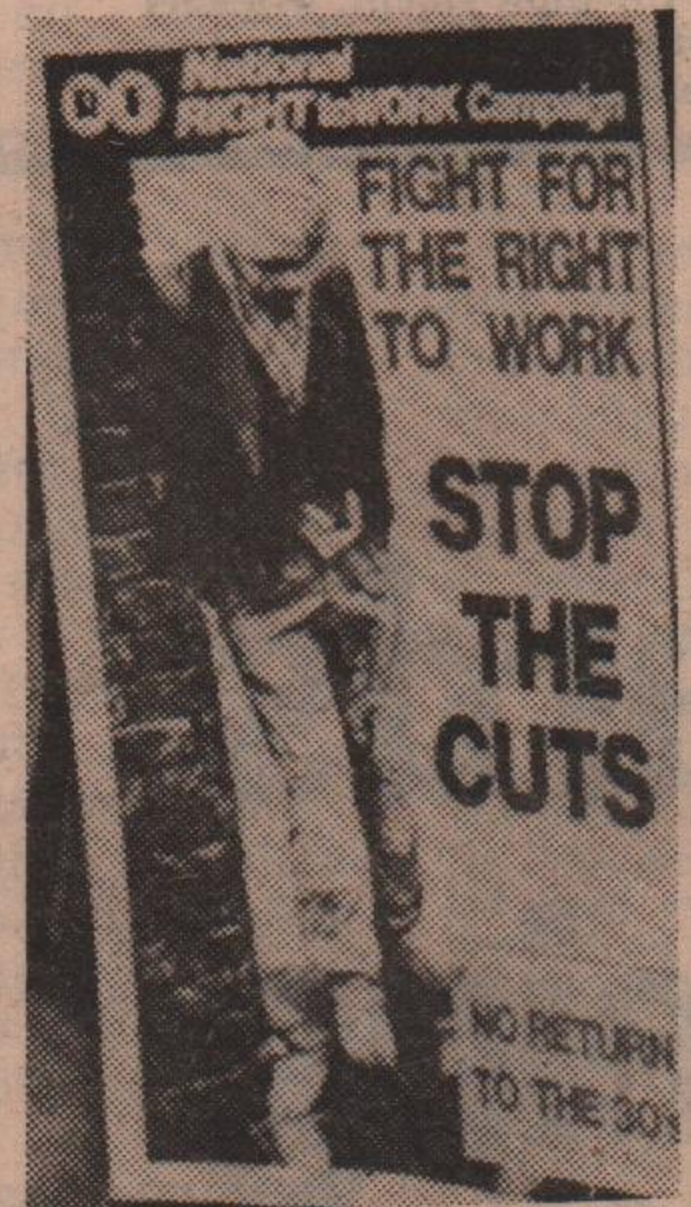
**BOTH ON  
PAGE THIRTEEN**

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

# Call this a Labour

# government?



THE CUTS: who will suffer and who will benefit—pages 4-5

THEY'RE cutting vital public spending. They're closing hospitals, abolishing nursery schools, cutting back on council houses.

Hospital workers, teachers, building workers will lose their jobs.

Already overburdened hospitals, crowded classrooms, year-long housing lists will get worse. The old, the sick, the homeless, the schoolchildren will suffer.

BUS and rail fares are to go up. Fewer people will be able to afford to travel.

With buses and trains half empty, the railways and buses will lose even more money. They will sack more workers. Services will get worse.

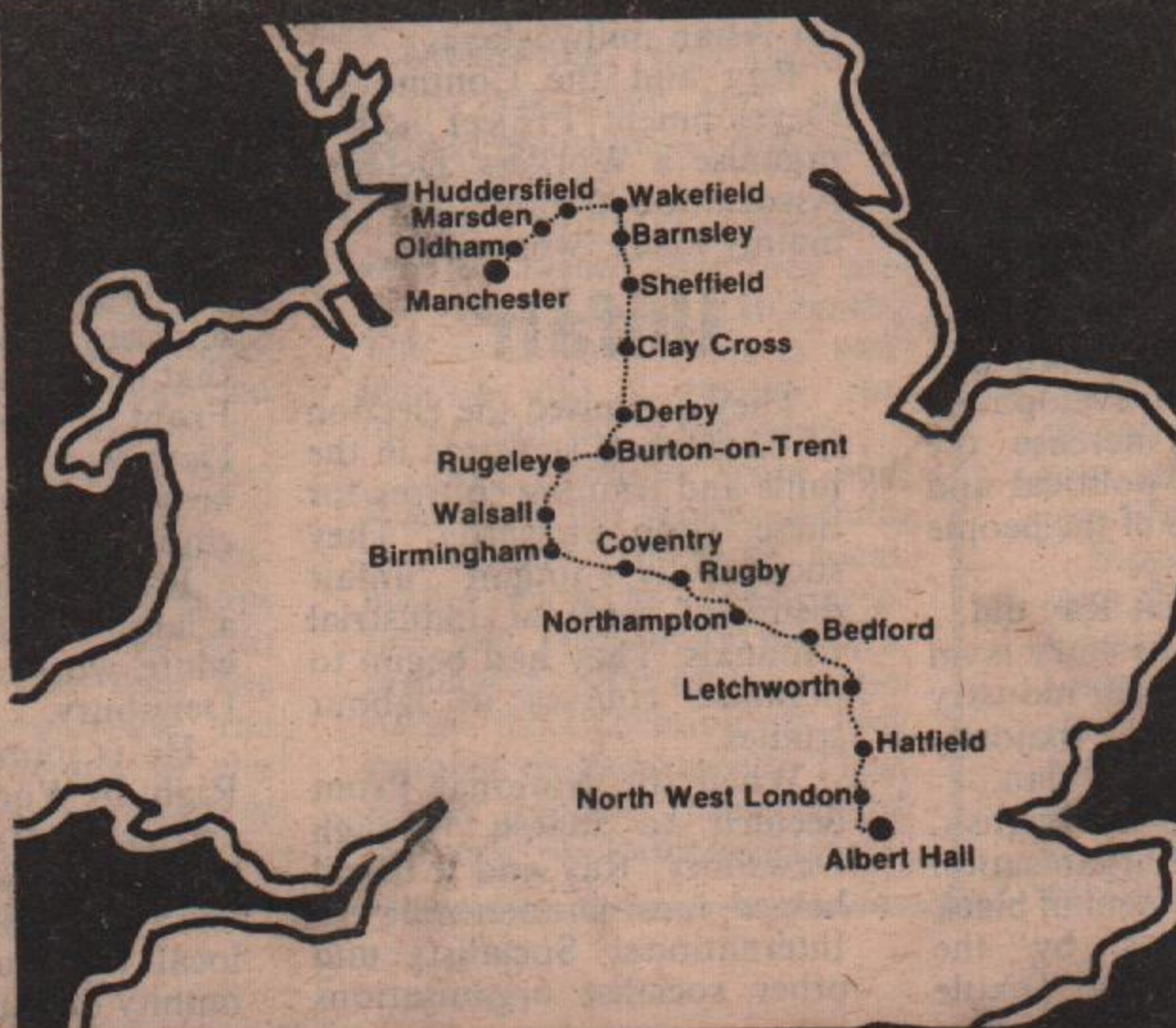
There will follow demands for still higher fares, for still more cuts in services and for still more redundancies, which will mean still fewer people travelling...

THEY'RE giving £2,500 million extra a year—that's £2.50 a week for every worker in the country—to the City moneylenders in extra interest payments.

They're giving £500 million a year in grants and subsidies to big business.

They're spending an extra £156 million a year on the means of destroying other workers in other countries. It's called 'defence' and will cost every worker in the country £5 a week.

## They're marching against this madness



WITH the solid backing of more than 350 trade union bodies throughout the country, 80 unemployed marchers are leaving Manchester this weekend...

They will be marching 257 miles to London, through twenty towns and cities. In every one they will be campaigning for the Right to Work.

If you are worried about unemployment, these marchers are demonstrating in your name. You should get out to meet them when they come through your town. You should start organising now to get yourself and your workmates to the Albert Hall protest rally on Saturday 20 March.

In the past week a deluge of more than 100 sponsorships has flooded in. They bring the number of shop stewards'

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# MARCH FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

□ FROM PAGE ONE

committees sponsoring the march to 54.

The march is now sponsored by no fewer than 51 branches and four district committees of the Engineering Union, the AUEW. The national organiser of the union, Laurie Smith, has added his 'unqualified support' for the march. So has assistant general secretary Ernie Roberts.

The two National Union of Mineworkers branches at Markham Colliery have recommended that the North Derbyshire area council of the NUM support the campaign—joining the NUM's Yorkshire area council.

Among five branches from the print union SOGAT is Merseyside and District, which has voted £100 towards the march expenses.

TUC general secretary Len Murray and the Minister for Unemployment, Michael Foot, have both refused to meet a delegation of the marchers.

JOIN the Right to Work march. About 80 unemployed workers will leave Manchester this Saturday and will arrive in London on Saturday 20 March.

Many more—unemployed and in work—are joining the march for parts of the route. Here is where you can join the march during the first week.

Get your trade union branch, district, shop stewards committee, trades council to meet the marchers, with banners if possible, when they come to your town. If you want to join the march for more than the day tell the campaign headquarters in London so they can make accommodation arrangements.

□ Phone 01-249 1207

## MANCHESTER

Friday 27 March: Demonstration and march into central Manchester organised by Manchester Right to Work Committee. Starts 3pm, Trafford Park Hotel, Trafford Park Estate. Arrives 4pm, St John's Gardens.

Saturday 28 March: Send-off demonstration for marchers to London. 10.30am, St John's Gardens, off Quay Street, Deansgate.

## OLDHAM:

Marchers arrive Saturday 28 February, 4.30pm, Oldham Church Hall. Social in the evening with North West Spanner theatre group. Carib Club, Waterloo Street. )

## MARSDEN:

Marchers arrive Sunday 29 February. Meeting: 7.30pm, Mechanics Institute.

## Huddersfield:

Demonstration to welcome the marchers: Monday 1 March, 4.30pm, Bradley Mills Road, by Leeds Road Football Ground. 7.30pm: Meeting at the Friendly and Trades Societies Club, Northumberland Street. Speakers: Ivor Fallas (chairman, Broadbent shop stewards committee) and Paul Foot (Socialist Worker). Plus North West Spanner theatre group.

## DEWSBURY:

Marchers pass through town centre, Tuesday 2 March, about midday.

## WAKEFIELD:

Marchers arrive Tuesday 2 March, 3pm, Herbury Road entrance to Thorns Park (opposite Union Garage).

## BARNESLEY:

Marchers arrive Wednesday 3 March.

## SHEFFIELD:

Marchers arrive Thursday 4 March. Meeting: 7.45pm, Red Lion, London Road, Heeley. Speakers: Len Blood (Engineers Charter candidate for AUEW assistant general secretary) and Paul Foot



## FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK Public Meetings

**RUGELEY.** Right to Work Campaign meeting to discuss arrangements for welcoming the Right to Work March into Rugeley. Tuesday 2 March, 7.30pm, at the AUEW Hall, Rugeley.

**LEICESTER.** Right to Work Campaign Conference: Thursday 4 March, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Vaughan Way. Sponsored by Mid-Leicester NUT. Delegates' credentials from 104 Knighton Fields Road East, Leicester.

**LEEDS.** Right to Work Campaign public meeting: Wednesday 3 March, 8pm, Leeds Polytechnic, Woodhouse Lane. Speakers: Len Blood (AUEW) and Paul Foot (Socialist Worker).

**ABERDEEN.** Right to Work Campaign public meeting: Monday 1 March, 7.30pm, Trades Council, 21 Adelphi (off Union Street, near ABC Cinema). Speakers: Vincent Flynn (ex-general secretary, SOGAT) and local trade unionists. Sponsored by Donside District SOGAT.

**LETCHEWORTH.** AUEW No 5 Branch public meeting for the Right to Work: Wednesday 3 March, 8pm, AUEW House, Nightingale Road, Hitchin.

**EAST LONDON.** Right to Work Campaign Benefit: Film: The Mattei Affair. Admission 40p, unemployed 10p. Wednesday 3 March, 7.30pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, Stratford.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON.** Right to Work Campaign Social: Saturday 28 February, 8pm, Forrester Arms, Mitcham Road, SW17 (Tooting Broadway tube). Disco. Late bar. Admission 60p, unemployed 10p.

**NORTH LONDON.** Right to Work Campaign public meeting: Thursday 4 March, 8pm, Enfield Arms (next to Enfield Town station).

**NORTH LONDON.** Right to Work Campaign Social: Saturday 28 February, 8pm-11.30pm (with party to follow), North London Polytechnic Students Union, Holloway Road, N7. Rock from Limousine. Tickets 60p, unemployed 10p.

**GREET THE MARCHERS FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!** North West London Right to Work Campaign Social to welcome the march from Manchester. Friday 19 March, 8pm-2pm, Acklam Hall, Acklam Road, Ladbroke Grove, London W9. Reggae and Soul music, Dave and the Nightingales. The Zanbanis, guest appearance by Ray Williams. Bar extension to 1.30am. Hot food, raffle, cheap booze. Tickets 85p in advance from your local Right to Work Committee, £1 at the door.

# The rewards of being moderate

**A SMILE from Mrs Thatcher and two weeks without pay. That's what you get for moderate trade union leadership.**

They've found that out at Britain's biggest washing machine factory—at Hoovers in Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales.

Millions of people still desperately need washing machines. Millions of women spent endless hours in drudgery because they have not got one.

## THE JUDGE THEY CAN'T GET RID OF

JUDGE Melford Stevenson is in trouble. He told a man to plead guilty or the man would go down for 20 years. He sent another away for four years for petty theft.

Lord Justice Widgery was not all pleased.

Some MPs are cross too. They've put down a motion criticising Mr Justice Stevenson.

But they won't do anything to remove Stevenson. He'll be allowed to carry on until he's forced to retire in two years' time when he's 75.

Too much of a fuss might expose an unpleasant fact. Judges are not responsible to anybody.

Stevenson, Widgery and all the others are never elected. They are appointed on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor, a lawyer.

Only barristers can become judges. Only people with 'private means' can become barristers. So all judges come from one class.

Most of Mr Justice Stevenson's victims weren't as lucky as the two last week.

Jake Prescott is still serving 15 years after being convicted of a minor role in the Angry Brigade—in which the main protagonists got ten years).

The only time Stevenson was ever treated properly was when George Ince turned his back on him and refused to be tried. That did Stevenson more damage than all the sanctimonious cant which comes out of the law courts, parliament or the newspapers.

Yet, according to a spokesman for the industry: 'Almost all the washing machines we're making go straight into the warehouse. We're hardly selling any'.

Why? Because people can't afford to buy them. Because of VAT increases, because of wage restraint, but most of all because of unemployment.

Hoovers have found a solution to this crisis. They are throwing washing machines on the dole as well.

This week they told 5000 workers at Merthyr Tydfil to stay at home for two weeks—without pay.

## Compare

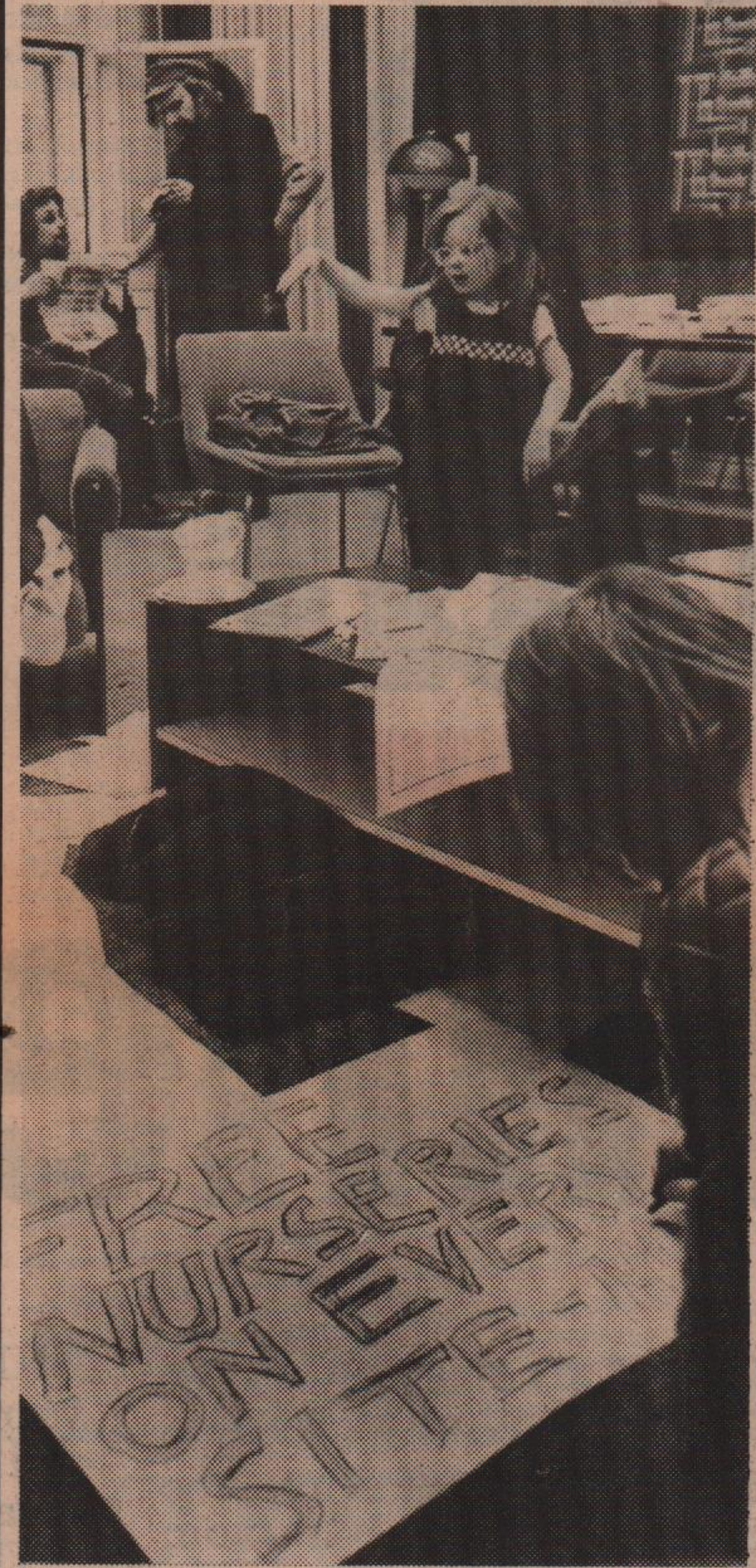
Astonishingly, the shop stewards just accepted it. Compare their attitude with that of the stewards at Hoover's big factory in West London. Nobby Clarke, AUEW convenor told Socialist Worker: 'We are absolutely opposed to all attempts by management to lay us off or make us redundant. If they tried that here, we'd fight.'

They didn't fight at Merthyr Tydfil. They've lost two weeks pay without a squeak so that Hoovers can save profits. At Merthyr Tydfil, the Hoover workers in all unions are led by those 'moderates' which Mrs Thatcher admired so much the other night on Panorama.

These moderates have consistently refused to join the workers' leaders of the two other Hoover factories in a combine committee. They have always argued for 'co-operation' with management.

The down-payment for that co-operation and moderation has cost the Merthyr workers two weeks wages. The rest of the payments are still to come.

PICTURE: JOHN STURROCK (REPORT)



**THE occupation at North East London Poly in West Ham. Last Thursday between 40 and 50 students and mothers brought children into the Poly directors' office demanding nursery facilities. The director, GS Brossan, reacted by calling in the police, then locking the occupiers in the room for 45 minutes. One of the occupiers told Socialist Worker: 'We're fed up with waiting. We're going to force Brossan to provide these facilities.'**

# Sacked! For doing a job well

RAY HOLMES used to be an Adult Education Worker at the Batley Community Development Project. In December Kirklees Labour Council sacked him.

Ray had taken his job seriously. The supposed aim of Community Development Centres is to increase the participation in political and economic affairs of the people in the community.

That's just what Ray did. Batley and Dewsbury is an area where the main industry is wool textiles. The majority of the workforce is Asian.

Inability to speak English, little tradition of organisation and the abandonment of black workers' interests by the Dyers, Bleachers, and Textile Workers' Union, have meant

low pay and filthy conditions for Asian millworkers.

Ray and the Community Development Project helped organise a Workers' Defence Association of more than 150, mainly black, workers.

## Unfair

They organised the election of black shop stewards in the mills and training courses for these shop stewards. They successfully fought unfair dismissal cases at industrial tribunals. They had begun to organise courses in labour studies.

When the National Front decided to march through Dewsbury, Ray and a friend helped local branches of the International Socialists and other socialist organisations to mount a counter-

## MPs' PROTESTS INCREASE WITH DISTANCE

CONTINUING my survey of letters printed in The Guardian I note that 20 or so 'left wing' worthies wrote last week protesting, as well they might, about the illegal trial of six Namibians by the South African regime.

Among the signatories was Audrey Wise, the MP for Coventry South West. Nothing surprising about that. She is a passionate campaigner for all manner of good brave causes.

Or almost all. Emotionally committed as she is—and the lady has been seen to shed salt tears about events in Portugal—she finds it easier to relate to oppression in far off places than on her own door step.

## LUCKY

The Namibians don't know how lucky they are. They might have been Coventry South West constituents with an Irish background: in which case she would have been more likely to ignore their problems than write letters to The Guardian about them.

When Frank Stagg, after three years in solitary confinement and eight months in a cell without heating or furniture, went on his final hunger strike, his family naturally turned for help and advice to their local MP.

They probably thought themselves lucky to have an uncompromising left-winger like Audrey Wise to represent them.

Not only that. Audrey Wise already knew some of Stagg's

demonstration.

Ray produced thousands of leaflets and helped the Workers' Defence Association mobilise a large number of Asian workers

Ten days later he was told by the Labour-controlled Kirklees Council—the same that had allowed the National Front to hold a meeting in Dewsbury Town Hall—that he was 'undesirable for further employment'.

Ray is still unemployed, like a large number of black and white workers in Batley and Dewsbury.

He is joining the National Right to Work March when it arrives in Huddersfield on 1 March. He will be marching for a week and is calling on local trade union and community organisations to sponsor him on the march.

## TROOPS OUT



by Eamonn McCann

family. His sister, Veronica Phillips, is a supporter of the Labour Party. In 1974 her home was used as a party committee room on election day in the successful drive to have Audrey Wise elected.

But with Frank Stagg on his last hunger strike his relatives found that their MP had suddenly become elusive. Unable to make a contact by conventional means, they finally resorted to taking a paid advertisement in the local paper asking her to get in touch.

It was a waste of money. She never did.

Probably she was too busy composing letters about South Africa

## SIGNED

Her attitude is not untypical of a 'Labour left'. The Tribuneite Stan Orme has signed internment orders. The fire-eating Scouse and scourge of the hare-coursing fraternity Eric Heffer has publicly described Irish people as 'mad dogs'.

At no time in the past seven years has it been possible to count more than a dozen Labour MPs willing to take a stand against military oppression in Ireland. At times you could have counted them on the fingers of one foot.

Many of them make the excuse that Ireland is such a 'difficult' issue and their constituents unfortunately so anti-Irish that it would be self-defeating to stand firm on socialist principle.

The truth is that one reason there has been no mass opposition to the colonial adventure in Ireland is precisely that the Labour left and some of the left outside the Labour Party has funkled the issue.

And having funkled it, having failed to raise the question and try to give a lead within the working-class movement, it ill behoves them now to use the resultant ignorance, apathy and prejudice as an excuse for their continuing cowardice.

**Socialist Worker**  
 BALLOT SCANDAL  
 Call this a Labour government?  
 They're marching against this madness

# What the hell is Labour doing?

## Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

People like Arthur Proud have been irritated by Socialist Worker during the past two years. They have complained that we have attacked the Labour government far too fiercely: that we 'never gave

**WHY do people support the Labour Party?**  
 The answer comes from Arthur Proud, chairman of the Twickenham Labour Party, in The Guardian this week: 'They expect that a Labour government's policies will be concerned primarily with bettering the lot of those in the bottom half of society.'  
 Arthur Proud and thousands of others up and down the country have put up with a lot from Labour Parties and

governments throughout the ages. Broken promises, corruption, despair.  
 But they've stuck to Labour because they hoped for slightly better schools, slightly better housing, slightly better hospitals.  
 Now, Arthur Proud complains: 'We all know what Healey's cuts mean and we know where they'll take effect. Each one of them will hit directly at those members of society that Labour was elected to protect.'

Labour a chance'.  
 But our argument has always been that Labour can not even deliver the reforms.  
 We've argued that schools, hospitals and council houses are all resented by a profit system. As that profit system grinds into crisis, so it demands less spending on schools, hospitals and houses.

**Cannot Resist**  
 We've argued that a Labour government, any Labour government, cannot resist these demands. Because a Labour government is just a handful of individuals in parliament, who are incapable of confronting the enormous power of modern big business.  
 There is an alternative to supporting the Labour Party. The only power that can deal with big business is the power of the working class. Socialists have to organise where that power lies—among rank and file workers.  
 That way, we can defend our schools and houses and hospitals from the ravages of capitalism and speed the day when the whole system is changed.  
 In March 1968, Labour

Chancellor Roy Jenkins called for 'two years hard slog'. He was justifying massive cuts in public spending and the tearing up of Labour promises.  
 Six years hard slog later, Labour Chancellor Denis Healey calls for more massive public spending cuts. His speech was described in a London Evening News headline as: 'Healey calls for Two Years Hard'.  
 We face an eternity of hard slog unless Arthur Proud and thousands like him switch their allegiance from a despairing support for Labour to revolutionary socialist organisation in the rank and file.  
 The public expenditure White Paper is the final and most convincing sign of the final demise of post-war social democratic orthodoxy.  
 The triple pillars that have supported the Labour Party of Attlee, Gaitskell and Wilson—the welfare state, full employment and the mixed economy—have crumbled.  
 The question is whether the inhabitants prefer to live in the existing structure or whether they would prefer to sweep the whole lot away.  
 Political correspondent, Financial Times, 20 February.

### PENSION WORTH LESS THAN AT LABOUR'S VICTORY

**PENSIONERS** are worse off now through inflation than they were two years ago when the pension was £10!  
 The single person's pension of £13.30 is worth only £9.84 in 1974 figures. The married couple's pension of £21.20 is worth only £15.55—in 1974 it was £16.  
 Age Concern found this disgusting fact when they analysed the government's own figures in the Retail Price Index for January.  
 Pensioners have to spend a larger part of their income on food than a working household does—50 per cent more. They have to spend twice as much on fuel.

**Pint**  
 Which doesn't leave much over for luxuries like a new pair of shoes or a Sunday pint.  
 Every year pensioners picket the TUC Conference to demand a living pension. Every year Transport Union leader Jack Jones shakes their hands, mutters about their problems, and forgets them for another 12 months.  
 Only when trade unionists use their strength will we get a living pension. A pension equal to the average national wage.  
 It's not an optional extra. It's a matter of life and death.



The signs claim prices are being cut—but what difference does it make when your pension's been cut too?

### Meanwhile electricity prices double

**ELECTRIC GAS**  
**NO**  
 DISCONNECTIONS

**WISH** you had an 'all electric' house—just like in the ads?  
 Just like Mr and Mrs Alf Evans, who live in a tower block in Prospect Ring, East Finchley, London.  
 They have electric under-floor heating. 'If I had my way I'd wreck it,' said Mrs Evans. They have to pay a fixed charge of £1.64 a week for it. They also have to use an electric fire in the living room, an oil heater in the hall, and a fan heater in a bedroom to keep warm.  
 The cost of electricity has doubled in the past two years. The new 'Price Check' scheme

is so selective that electricity is not included—and it's due to go up another 11p in the pound in a couple of months.  
 So gas is cheaper. At the moment.  
 But the Coal Board, the Electricity Board and Energy Minister Anthony Wedgwood Benn are putting pressure on the Gas Board to raise their prices.  
 Their upside-down argument is that if a tax on gas put the price up—in line with other fuel prices—then the government could use the money from the tax to pay some kind of supplementary fuel benefit to poor people.

Meanwhile the national press has gone very quiet about pensioners suffering from the cold.  
 The slightly warmer weather means that they are not actually freezing to death. The cold and damp is still making life a misery for them—but that's not news.  
 Local Right to Work and Right to Fuel groups should demonstrate to force local authorities to pay pensioners' fuel bills. They should put up a protective picket on any house where disconnection of fuel supplies is threatened. They should demand of electricity workers: No Disconnections.

### The Tories wouldn't have got away with this!

**IF** the Heath government had announced a package like the cuts introduced by Denis Healey last week there would have been a huge explosion of anger within the working-class movement.  
 The leaders of the TUC would have appeared on television one after another

to denounce the Tory cuts. Votes of no confidence would be moved by the Labour Party in the House of Commons.  
 The reaction this week has been quite different. A few trade union leaders in the public sector have raised their voices in protest.  
 But Jack Jones could stress that 'The labour movement is still united'—meaning united behind Denis Healey.  
 The Tribune group of MPs have shown slightly more principle.  
**Protest**  
 But one of their spokesmen, Arthur Latham, admitted that 'the group was in difficulty about how to put its protests into effect'. Apparently, the group is frightened even to abstain.  
 Their indecision shows that the betrayal of the government cannot be fought by their own brand of politics, the politics of parliamentary pressuring.

### SOCIALIST WORKER GOES ON TRIAL!

**THIS** is an important week for Socialist Worker. For the first time your paper is getting commercial distribution.  
 This operation will take the paper into the newsagents and on to the bookstalls in Leeds, Wakefield, Castleford and Pontefract on a trial basis.  
 If the trial run is successful, then our distributors may agree to distribute Socialist Worker to newsagents and bookstalls throughout Britain.  
 This would never reduce our need to sell the paper directly on factory gates and street corners. That is our lifeblood.  
 But distribution would take the paper into towns where we have only a few members. It would also help make socialist ideas much more a part of the established political scenery, an alternative familiar and accessible to

hundreds of thousands of workers.  
 To sustain this vital operation we need your help. Inflation is playing havoc with our budget just as it is with yours.  
 So we need anything you can spare. We need you to collect for us among readers and workmates. Every 50p into our fighting fund is a weapon in the struggle.  
 This week's fund is pretty low. Only just over £100 came in. We need to double that. So, brothers and sisters, give us a hand!  
 Our thanks this week to:  
 SW reader, North London £10, Shrewsbury SW reader 50p, SW buyer, Piccadilly, Manchester £1, Graeme Smith, Lerwick, 50p, Stephen Clare £2, R Ireland £2, Oxford SW reader £3.50, Southwark Teachers £10, J Richardson £10, Hitchin SW readers £2.10, Anon £20.  
**Donations to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.**  
**Fight**  
 Some of them have demanded the recall of the TUC and Labour Party Conferences. We support such demands.  
 But no one should have any illusions that conferences alone are going to stop the cuts. Wilson and Healey have ignored Labour Party and TUC Conferences in the past.  
 The need is to organise action from below, resisting every cut-back, fighting for every job.

# TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

The features of a workers' state are nowhere to be seen in Wilson's Britain or Brezhnev's Russia . . . a fact which emphasises the fraudulence of their 'socialist' pretensions.

# Socialism? Where?

WE ARE so used to hearing about 'socialist states' that many people are surprised at the marxist view that, properly speaking, there is no such animal.

It is not only that the East European states, with their hierarchical armed forces with privileged professional officer corps, vast bureaucracies, uniformed and secret police forces and so on, call themselves socialist.

## Preaches

Every Tory newspaper not only agrees with Brezhnev that Russia is socialist but also preaches, day in and day out, that 'socialist policies' mean more bureaucrats, more

regimentation, less 'freedom'. Of course, you can't expect the truth from such sources but their systematic misrepresentation, reinforced by that of preachers, professors and TV pundits, is so overwhelming that pretty well everyone is influenced by it to some extent.

So we need to emphasise again the elementary fact that socialism means less government, not more, and in the end it means *no* government.

'The government of men is replaced by the administration of things,' as Marx put it.

*But surely this is utopian, impossible to realise in practice?*

It is certainly impossible to achieve while institutionalised inequality is the basis of society,

while there are rich and poor and a whole series of layers in between.

The state machine exists precisely to maintain inequality, to maintain the class system and it is indispensable in a class society.

That is why the army and the bureaucracy are organised as a series of ranks—from private to Field Marshal and their civil service equivalents—each rank superior in pay and privilege to those underneath it.

## Useless

Such an instrument is not only useless to a socialist society; it is incompatible with it.

'One thing especially was proved by the (Paris) Commune,' wrote Marx, 'namely that the working

class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery and wield it for its own purposes.'

Of course not. You cannot use a hammer for sewing nor a police force for abolishing coercion.

Now the core of any state is its armed forces. 'The first decree of the Commune was the suppression of the standing army, and its replacement by the armed people.'

Lenin, commenting on this, added:

'This demand now figures in the programme of every party calling itself socialist.'

Needless to say, the social-democrats got rid of this dangerous demand long ago and now the social-democratic inclined Communist Parties are following suit.

It is, of course, essential for the creation of a workers' state.

Abolition of the standing army, all officials elected and subject to recall, all public officials paid the average workers' wage.

These were, for Marx and Lenin, the necessary features of a workers' state. And so they are for us.

## State

Lenin's comments on the subject are worth quoting at some length, in view of the Communist Party's current rejection of the need for a workers' state:

'This is exactly a case of "quantity being transformed into quality": democracy introduced as fully and consistently as is at all possible, is transformed from bourgeois into proletarian democracy; from the state (= a special force for the suppression of a particular class) into something which is no longer the state proper.

## Crush

'It is still necessary to suppress the bourgeoisie and crush their resistance

'The organ of suppression, however, is here the majority of the population and not a minority, as was always the case under slavery, serfdom and wage-slavery.

'And since the majority of the people itself suppresses its oppressors, a "special force" for suppression is no longer necessary!

'In this sense the state begins to wither away.' (Lenin's emphasis)

- All of which is a long way from Wilson's Britain or Brezhnev's Russia.

A fact which merely emphasises the fraudulence of their 'socialist' pretensions.



THE DISGUSTING antics of Joe Gormley over the miners' overtime ban brings to mind a tale lovingly retailed by pit militants.

SCENE: A Boeing 707 jetting Gormley home from holiday during the 1972 miners' strike.

PILOT: The plane is now passing over Sallley. On the starboard side, you can just see thousands of miners picketing the coke depot.

GORMLEY: (feeling warm inside, reaches for his wallet and pulls out a £20 note and 20 £1 notes) What shall I do—throw out the £20 note and make one miner happy, or throw out the £1 notes and make 20 miners happy?

PILOT: Better still, throw yourself out and make them ALL happy . . .

THE FOLLOWING letter was recently sent by the BBC to one of its viewers:

Thank you for your interest in our Current Account on Asbestos. The wide reaction indicates that the programme aroused a great deal of attention.

I am sure you will understand that this means it will be impossible for us to re-show it in the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely, Anne Prescott, (Assistant to David Martin, Producer, Current Affairs)

SEEN in a newsagent's window in Blackheath: Wanted—preferably a retired gentleman to clean company director's car (Rolls Royce) 3 days a week. Must be extremely conscientious.

On 31 January, Fifth Column reported some share transactions of Jonathan Aitken, Tory MP. We said that the transactions took place in 1973. In fact, they took place in 1975.



JONATHAN GUINNESS, Tory candidate, pictured (centre, front row) at 1972 anti-immigration rally with most of Britain's leading right-wing MPs. Former chairman, Monday Club.

Millionaire stepson of Sir Oswald Mosley, merchant banker, educated Eton and Oxford. Has urged that convicted murderers be left in their cell with a razorblade and invited to take

their own lives. Wrote (in Monday Club Midlands Newsletter, January 1972) that the trouble with immigrant labour in the Fifties and Sixties was that it wasn't cheap enough. 'Although

in certain circumstances a flood of people who will work for lower wages is a real help in breaking working-class moves for improved pay and conditions, in this case it just did not happen like that . . .

## SLIGHTLY TO THE LEFT OF HITLER...

### A profile of three candidates in next week's by-election

NEXT THURSDAY'S by-election in Coventry North-West has given three of Britain's leading right-wingers the chance to crawl from out of their respective gutters and into the public spotlight.

The best-known is the Tory candidate, Jonathan (Razorblades) Guinness. But far more dangerous—potentially, at least are two former Tories now standing on openly fascist platforms, John Kingsley Read and Andrew Fountaine.

Kingsley Read led his new National Party out of Fountaine's National Front two months ago amid bitter claims that he was 'determined to move away from any taint of neo-Nazism'.

Leave aside the curious fact that Kingsley Read and his followers consistently denied, while they were members of the National Front, that the Front was in any way 'neo-Nazi' only to brand it just that on resigning.

Leave aside also the even more curious fact that Kingsley Read's National Party is campaigning in Coventry on exactly the same platform (unemployment is the fault of the blacks) as the organisation he is now pleased to call neo-Nazi.

Leave all that aside—and there is still more than enough evidence to suggest that the National Party, far from being a 'respectable' radical force on the Right, is just as fascist as the Front.

A clue to that inescapable fact lies in the shape of a fourth right-winger closely involved with the by-election, a man who is not a candidate but who lives little more than a jackboot's stride from Coventry North West.

That man, wealthy farmer Robin Beauclaire (address: Chapel Acote Farm, Ladbrook, Southam Warwickshire), left the Front with Kingsley Read to set up the National Party.

His money makes him an important man to the new organisation.

And his politics make the true nature of it a giveaway. Two years ago, Beauclaire was responsible for the publishing of a pamphlet called Did Six Million Really Die?

This revolting little work produced 'evidence' to whitewash Nazi war crimes and prove that only 300,000 Jews died in the concentration camps.

Questioned about it by the Daily Express, Beauclaire said: 'Our purpose is to sweep aside all the Jewish propaganda of the past'.

He went on: 'Don't you know that we live under Jewish domination? The entire mass media is Jewish controlled.'

'It is time that we, as British people, dictated our own destiny'.

## Hate

This is the man who Kingsley Read, privately and quietly, ushers into his new organisation, while publicly and loudly proclaiming that organisation to be eschewing 'any taint of neo Nazism'.

An organisation which

also, for example, contains within its ranks such interesting 'anti-Nazis' as Dennis Pirie, who once addressed Hitler Was Right rallies in Trafalgar Square.

The National Party, like the National Front, has no chance whatsoever of winning next week's by-election. But, like the National Front, it must be stopped from getting any audience for its anti-working class ideas.

Ideas which, for all Kingsley Read's obsession for respectability are every bit as fascist as those of the neo-Nazis they have left behind.



JOHN KINGSLEY READ, National Party candidate: rose quickly in National Front hierarchy after quitting Tory Party two years ago. Led so-called Populists out of NF two months ago into National Party. Told Hackney Gazette (8 October 1974): 'I am proud of being a racialist and imperialist . . . if the National Front comes to power, we will whip juvenile delinquents until the skin comes off their backs . . . only law and order will bring this country back to rationality.' His German-born wife was a member of the Hitler Youth.



ANDREW FOUNTAINE, National Front candidate: Wealthy Norfolk landowner. Fought on Franco's side in the Spanish Civil War. Former Tory candidate, expelled for anti-semitism. Founder member of National Front. Expelled after advocating the setting up of paramilitary groups and (in interview with Sunday Times) the gassing of Harold Macmillan and Harold Wilson. Returned to the fold in 1974 and is now a leading light on National Front directorate. Note his Hitler-style haircut.

## Lord Robens: A few questions

THE PRESS announced last week that Lord Robens, former chairman of the Coal Board, has 'been appointed' chairman of St Regis International (UK).

They did not announce the following:

In 1965 St Regis International, a huge paper com-

bine, paired up with the Coal Board to buy a builders' merchants called J H Sankey. The Coal Board had 77 per cent of the shares; St Regis (through a subsidiary) 23 per cent.

J H Sankey was used to market the Coal Board's expanding central heating business. It was bound to

make huge profits as soon as the business got under way.

In 1972, profits really took off. They trebled—to more than £2 million.

But suddenly, very quietly, the Coal Board sold a hefty slice of its shares to St Regis.

At the end of this transaction, the Coal Board had

only 60 per cent of the shares—and St Regis had 40 per cent.

This meant that every year since 1972 St Regis shareholders have enjoyed more than £1 million profit from a company which grows fat on Coal Board orders.

## WITHOUT COMMENT

LET US COLLECT YOUR SLOW ACCOUNTS

Special low cost terms to industrial and commercial users. Used by many national companies

Details from C.I.A. Ltd., Tel. 061 832 6811.

—from the Bolton Evening News.

## Socialist Worker

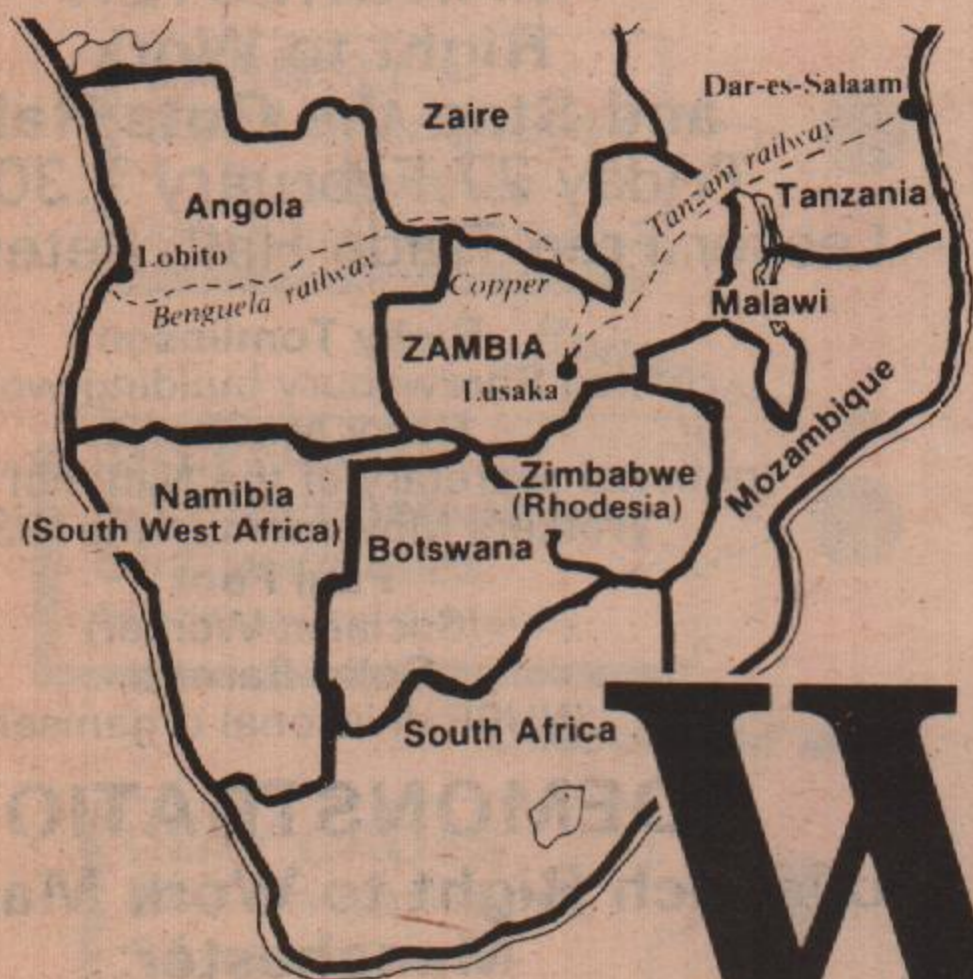
### EDITORIAL

Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

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# The victory that's giving hope to 20 million people...



**LOVEMORE HENGANI** is an old peasant farmer. He has lived all his life on a kraal in Maziwa, a tribal trust land in north east Rhodesia.

One night just before Christmas, a gang of men arrived from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. He was told to pack his belongings and leave. His cattle were confiscated 'to pay for transportation'.

Lovemore and his family were dumped five miles away on a patch of barren ground inside a barbed wire fence which was lit up by searchlights.

They are allowed to walk back to their farm to work during the day, but must return by nightfall.

But today, they are all smiling.

**FACT**

600,000 people—one in ten of the black people in Rhodesia—have been herded into 'protected villages'. These are like the 'strategic hamlets' of Vietnam.

Their purpose is simple: to cut off the freedom fighters of Rhodesia from the black peasantry who support them.

Their effect is equally simple: to condemn a tenth of the country's population to death by starvation or disease.

...IN ZIMBABWE

**NURSE Rauna Nambinga**, aged 18, is lying in prison in Windhoek, Namibia (South West Africa).

She is on trial because, according to her charge sheet: 'She did cross into Angola to meet a group of the South West Africa Peoples' Organisation and did hand over to Miss Kafaila, one of its members, a dress, a bar of soap and a sanitary towel.'

If Rauna is found guilty, she goes to prison for ten years. She may not last that long.

But today Rauna Nambinga is smiling.

**QUOTE:**

'I would like to let you know how I and the others are treated in jail. We are accused of being guilty of killing Filemon Elifas. Our legs and arms are tied. We are hung from the roof and tortured.'

The people in jail are watched over by soldiers so that they do not get a chance to sleep. The soldiers do that in turns.

'If the others are treated in the same way in those days I was in jail, then they will die or their mental capacity will be damaged.'

Theophilus Kalimba, a member of SWAPO, who was arrested by Namibian police last August, and escaped to Angola.

...IN NAMIBIA

**FACTORY worker Peter Metshane** is starving. He cannot move from Bophuthatswana in the Western Transvaal.

He has been confined there by the South African government since he left prison last year after a ten-year sentence for 'furthering the objects of the African National Congress'.

From six at night until six in the morning he is locked in a tiny wooden hut. In the daytime, he has to report to the police four times a day. There is no work for him—and no income.

He looks forward each week to a pittance from his wife who works as a maid to a lawyer in Pretoria. His children live with his wife's parents—in another 'homeland' which Peter cannot visit.

He tries to get a meal each day from friends or comrades, but they themselves have barely enough to survive.

But today Peter Metshane is smiling.

**QUOTE**

'Black workers must not be burdened with superfluous appendages like women and children.' — G F Van L Froneman, when South African Minister of Justice.

...IN SOUTH AFRICA

# White South Africa is on the run

## KEEP THEM RUNNING!

**TWENTY million black people in Southern Africa are smiling. Why?**

150,000 of them are in prison. One in four are arrested every year, usually for not carrying pass books or identification cards. Two of every three working people among them are migrant labourers, separated from their families.

Not one has a right to work, a right to sexual relationships, a right to a place to live, or a right to vote.

**Death**

All are horribly exploited from birth to death so that four and a half million whites can enjoy the most extravagant luxury in the world.

So why are they smiling? Because for the first time in their lives the barbarous apartheid system which oppresses them has been cracked

Report by **Paul Foot**

wide open. For the first time in their lives, white South Africa is on the run.

Five thousand of its 'invincible troops' have been whipped out of Angola by the black armies of the Popular Movement (MPLA) and their Cuban allies.

The liberation forces are at the borders of Namibia and Zimbabwe.

**Puzzles**

The weak underbelly of white South Africa has been hit with deadly accuracy by the MPLA. White South Africa cannot afford to fight an open war with other countries—for fear of black South Africa.

As soon as its army and police have turned northwards to fight their enemies in other countries, the seething masses of black South Africa will explode. So the white army and police must conserve all their energies for their main task: oppressing the black people of South Africa itself.

For the past 15 years, white South Africa has won black African markets in other countries not by force, but by stealth. The policy is called 'detente'.

In a series of secret treaties, the middle-class governments of black African countries have surrendered their fragile economies to white South

African economic might. In exchange for favourable trading agreements they have abandoned and often betrayed the fighters for freedom in Zimbabwe, Namibia and in South Africa.

One by one, Banda of Malawi, Khama of Botswana, Mobutu of Zaire, Nyerere of Tanzania, Kaunda of Zambia and Machel of Mozambique have been enticed into white South Africa's web.

But now the whole web has been blown to pieces by the MPLA. Now the people of the black states of Southern Africa are demanding that their governments act to smash apartheid.

Now, in panic, white South Africa turns for help to its paymasters: to the foreign businessmen who have invested in the cheap, strike-free labour which apartheid can provide. Vorster, South African Prime Minister, has appealed for assistance to rich men all over the world, but especially to rich men in Britain.

**Barbarism**

His most enthusiastic supporter is James Callaghan, Labour's Foreign Secretary. Callaghan is straining every muscle to protect the £2000 million of British investment in Southern African barbarism.

Vorster and Callaghan have hatched an ugly plot.

They want to replace the white minority government in Rhodesia under Ian Smith with a tame 'multiracial' government under Joshua Nkomo. That way, they hope to persuade the MPLA to disband their armies and dismiss their Cuban allies.

Then, they hope, the South African government would gain peace and time to repair

its shattered detente policies and suck Nkomo and the new Angolan government into its jaws.

By removing one racist regime from Rhodesia, Callaghan, Vorster and Nkomo intend to sustain another, much more savage one in South Africa.

They can and must be stopped. Workers and students in Britain who have proclaimed and demonstrated their solidarity with the MPLA must not imagine that the struggle is over.

**Betray**

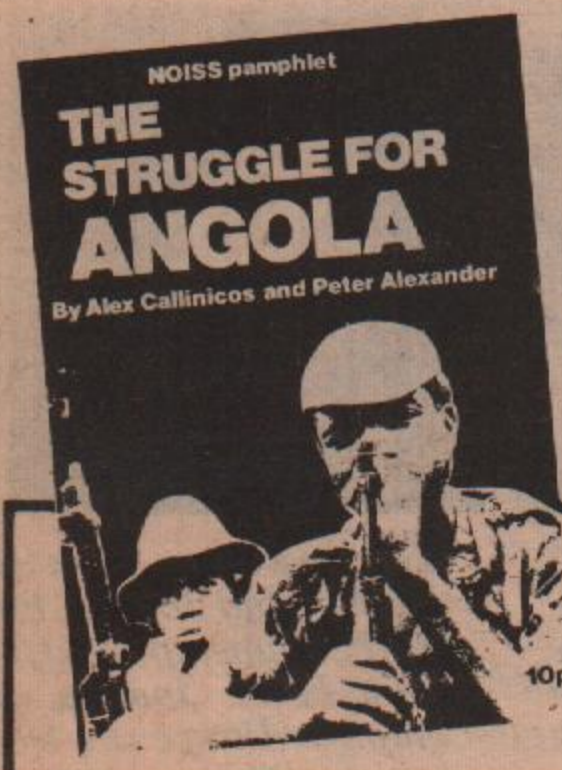
The MPLA, the South West Africa Peoples Organisation and the guerrillas in Zimbabwe and South Africa need every assistance against the politicians and businessmen who are scheming to betray them.

They need encouragement from every country to unite the 20 million exploited people of Southern Africa and continue their conquering march to the Cape.



## THE FACE THAT TERRIFIES APARTHEID AND TWO WHO WOULD PROP IT UP

An MPLA soldier after the capture of Huambo, in southern Angola, and (left) Labour Foreign Secretary Callaghan with Joshua Nkomo of Rhodesia.



20p a copy including postage, ten copies for £1 post free. From 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

By Alan Sandham and Laurie Flynn  
**IF you're a 19-year-old suspected criminal like Mark Andrew Rowntree you don't get the treatment from the Leeds police force.**

They might pick you up on suspicion of murder. But once they've got you down the station it's not long before they make certain important discoveries.

That you talk nicely. That your dad is managing director of A E Turbine Components of Yeadon and in every sense a pillar of the community. That you have immediate access to the best lawyers in Leeds.

That you clearly ought to be released and treated with kid gloves.

## Beating

As Reg Gale, top man in the police union, the Police Federation, put it so nicely at a summer school on the law: 'There is one law for the poor and another for the rich. Position and money is power'.

That's why if you're a young working-class kid in Leeds and the police pick you up, you do get the treatment: threats, bullying, a little 'encouragement' to confess in the form of a beating.

If you're a young working class black kid you get that treatment in a particularly concentrated dose.

That's what's happening to 11 young blacks from the Chapeltown district of Leeds.

The story of the Chapeltown Twelve—one is white—begins on Bonfire Night last year. By 7pm the youngsters had built their bonfire in Rossington Grove, a small side street in Chapeltown. By 8pm 100 youths had gathered in Spencer Place letting off fireworks and enjoying themselves.

## Story

Then police patrols set out. One large police personnel carrier, one Triumph 2000 patrol car, two Panda cars, one unmarked CID car and two dog patrol vans.

Chapeltown's young blacks have good reason to fear this kind of police presence. It usually means house parties are going to be raided, people arrested, some 'fitted up'. Like London's dockers and Shrewsbury's building workers, each has a story to tell about police persecution.

They saw their Bonfire Night about to be ruined. So they



Pickets at Leeds Magistrates Court when the Chapeltown Twelve appeared earlier this month.

## FROM SHREWSBURY TO CHAPELTOWN, LEEDS...

# The law and order machine moves on

decided that this once they weren't going to let the police walk all over them.

So they stoned a few cars they thought were CID cars. They weren't, and the stoning stopped immediately the mistake was realised. But then the police formed a convoy and drove down Spencer Place to show who was boss. The result was a hail of bricks and stones.

The police fled and one abandoned CID car was turned over.

By 9.30pm the police were back, with forty reinforcements and dogs. They advanced up Spencer Place swinging truncheons and making arrests. They arrested six people.

One was Max Farrer, a young white man who edits the local community paper, Chapeltown News. He had tried to photograph the police attack—and was himself beaten over the

head.

Max then stopped another policeman, said he had been assaulted, and demanded to know the attacker's police number.

The usual police solidarity prevailed. Max was promptly arrested for threatening behaviour. He now has three police witnesses against him ready to swear that Max Farrer stood in front of the line of young blacks and incited them.

## Once

More than 100 youngsters were involved in the Chapeltown events. After a massive police investigation, 11 are to carry the can for an offence which amounts to this: The young blacks of Chapeltown were so provoked that they responded to the police in kind. They did to the police

once what the police have done to them a hundred times.

In case you are in any doubt, consider this.

In 1973 Leeds policemen killed David Oluwale, a black tramp. Since then there have been more racist incidents.

In January police stopped a car on North Street. They didn't ask the driver for licence or insurance. They accused him of stealing the car, his own car.

The 11 young blacks face a battery of charges. These range from threatening behaviour and causing damage to causing grievous bodily harm.

There are already strong signs that when the case comes to trial later in the year the police intend to get the blacks heavy sentences. Already they've extracted 'confessions' from one or two, which the defendants insist were obtained by force.

## Combat

West Yorkshire Chief Constable Ronald Gregory has also weighed in behind his boys in Chapeltown, announcing that 'older men with known anti-police views' incited the violence.

Gregory is a highly political police officer. He was personally responsible for setting up the specially-trained flying squads of police to combat miners' pickets in the 1974 strike.

Chapeltown is a cause that the working class movement in and around Leeds must rally to. We cannot stand idly by. We cannot allow the lives of 12 young men to be squandered by the legal mincing and fitting up machine.

# MARCH FOR

**OLDHAM**  
 4833 unemployed  
 122 vacancies  
 March arrives 28 February

Openshaw

**MARSDEN**  
 March arrives

**MANCHESTER**  
 42,780 unemployed  
 581 vacancies

**MANCHESTER**  
**Right to Work**  
**and Stop the Cuts Rally.**  
 Friday 27 February 7.30pm  
 Lesser Free Trade Hall, Peter Street

Ricky Tomlinson  
 (jailed Shrewsbury building worker),  
 Harry McShane  
 (national secretary of the National Unemployed Workers Movement in the 1930s),  
 Paul Foot  
 (Socialist Worker)  
 Colin Barnett  
 (NUPE divisional organiser)

**DEMONSTRATION**  
**to launch Right to Work March for Manchester:**  
 10am, Saturday 28 February  
 at St John's Gardens (off Quay Street, Deansgate, near Granada Television Studios).

**RUGELEY**  
 683 unemployed  
 25 vacancies  
 March arrives 8 March

Cannock Chase

**WALSALL**  
 6885 unemployed  
 147 vacancies  
 March arrives 9 March

# These are the marchers

## NORTH WEST

Bobby Buirds (EETPU), Manchester. Thelma Kennedy (NALGO), Bolton. Jack Cummins (AUEW), Bolton. Tommy Douras (TGWU), Liverpool. Tony Jones (FTAT), Kirkby. Robbie Marmion, Kirkby. Joseph Cronshaw (AUEW), Manchester. Brian Brown (TGWU), Liverpool. Kerry Abram, Liverpool. John Jones, Liverpool.

Frank Jones (FTAT), Liverpool. Steven Jones (TGWU), Liverpool. Paul Moores, Manchester. Colin Calvert, Manchester. Eric Acton (TGWU), Manchester. Ken Watson (GMWU), Manchester. Bob Wilson (GMWU), Manchester. Tom Maclue (NUPE),

Manchester. Pa (COHSE), Blackb (NUR), Liver Eastwood, Lanc Hayward, Blackb

## SOUTH EAST LONDON

Marcus Luck (UC Carolyn Conw Guildford. Neil F John Mann (NU Sam Strudwick (T Ray Storry (GM Kevin Wingfield ( Mick Brightman, don. Danny Ev makers) Green Matthews, Lo Wakeford. We Senchak (SLADE

...and more are joining the



Compton Burrell left school 1 1/2 years ago. He spent nine months on the dole, then got a few short term jobs. Now he's back on the dole again.

Two marchers from the South Allman and Joanna Fursden, from has been unemployed for a year sitting in a hotel. Joanna, who is 17 employed since she left school.

### ADVERTISEMENT

National Rank and File Organising Committee

## THE NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

**Calls on all its supporters to ensure maximum support for the London Confed's 27 March Assembly on Unemployment.**

The assembly is to be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, London. Credentials for delegates are available from 'Assembly', CSEU, 28 Denmark Street, London WC2



### ADVERTISEMENT

National Rank and File Organising Committee  
**RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN**

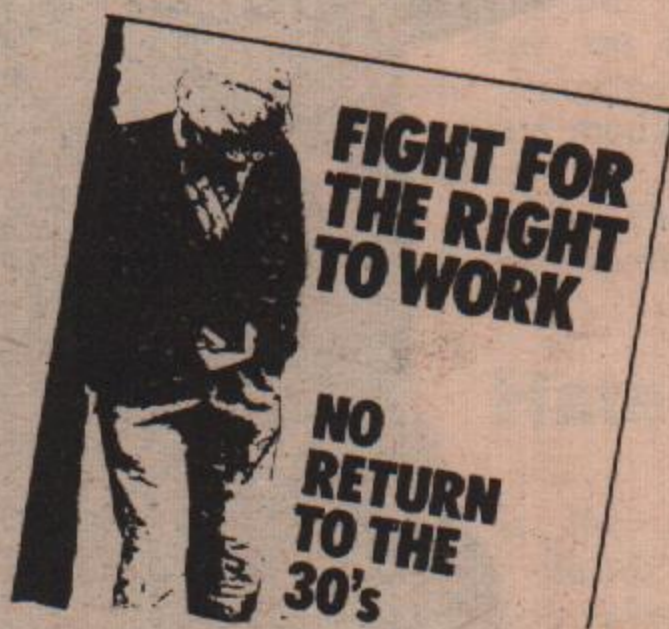
**Urgent appeal to local committees, trade union bodies and other sponsoring bodies**

# Funds needed for march

All money collected from

- Football cards
- Collection sheets
- Sponsorships for marchers

Should be sent immediately to the Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London N16



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.

**BADGES:** Fight for the Right to Work. 10p each, plus 6 1/2p postage. Orders over 50 post free.

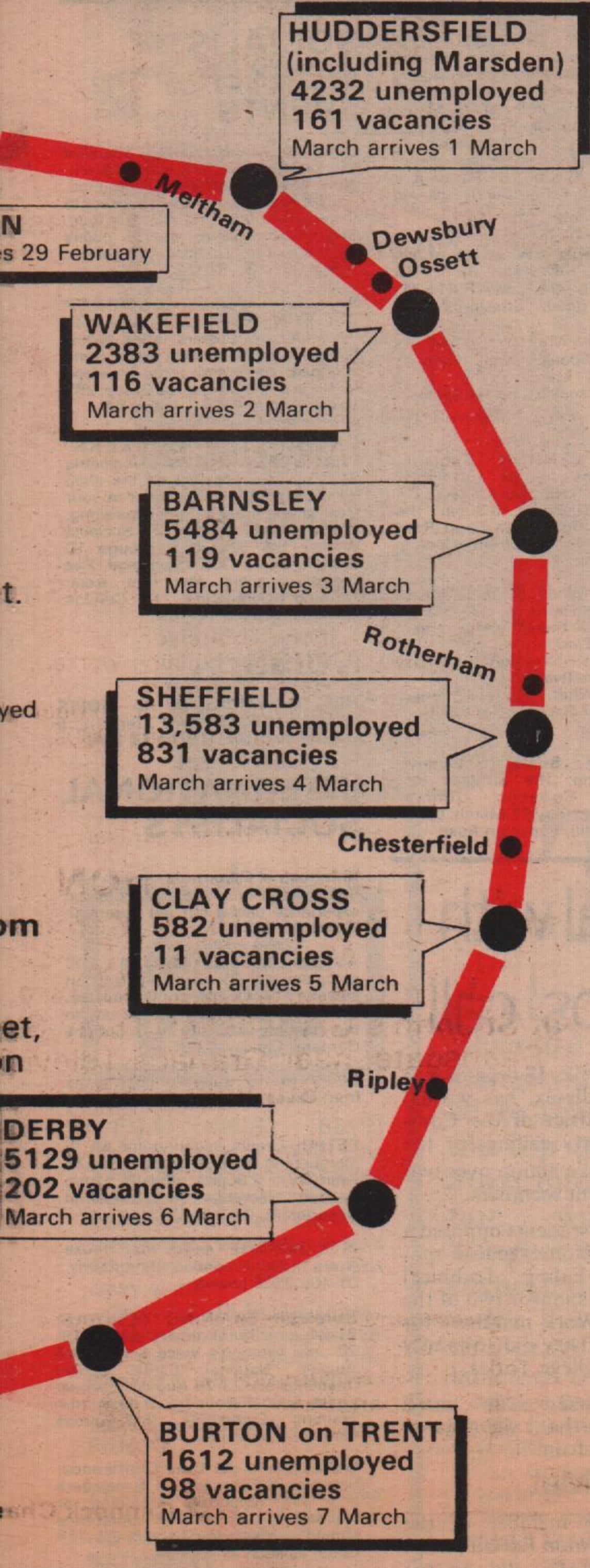
**POSTERS:** To advertise meetings in the campaign. 10p for five, £1.50 for 100.

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

FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK Manchester to London 28 February to 20 March

# Why they're marching

◆ OFFICIALLY 1,300,000 ARE UNEMPLOYED  
 ◆ UNOFFICIALLY THERE ARE TWO MILLION  
**IS YOUR JOB NEXT?**



*In Germany, in Italy, France, Britain and Japan, In every country of the world they told the workingman: There's one law of the market, in the fight to nobble trade; It's turn out products cheaper, as good or better made. So cut our costs and sacrifice and we'll achieve our dream; That means—no strikes, no sit-ins; in short, don't be extreme.*

*Make more of that, the bosses said, make more of that and this; We promise you prosperity, if not eternal bliss. The workers—trusting souls—they listened, they believed; They did not know—do they know yet?—how much they were deceived. But now to their alarm they find the goods are so abundant, The market is so glutted, that millions are redundant.*

*The bosses and their spokesmen, they have the galling crust To snivel it's the workers' fault that boom has turned to bust;*

*Insist the system functions fine, although they do admit That here or there some mild reform might better it a bit. One says change this, the other that, they look at every part, The only thing they fail to note—it hasn't any heart.*

*Its driving force is profit, its single passion greed; It cannot by its nature give the people what they need. As sure as night must follow day, it takes its heavy toll Of broken homes and broken hearts, of millions on the dole. Machines are made to unman men, since all that counts is cash, So those who feed and house and clothe the world are made to feel the lash.*

*What murmur on the wind is that? The sound of marching feet? Is true democracy astir then on the highway and the street? Are we on the march together, are we on the march as one, To build the wide world over—the Cities of the Sun?*

HUGO DEWAR

**RF Support the Right to Work Campaign!**

**BURTON on TRENT**  
1612 unemployed  
98 vacancies  
March arrives 7 March

**BIRMINGHAM**  
51,669 unemployed  
607 vacancies  
March arrives 10 March

**COVENTRY**  
17,898 unemployed  
324 vacancies  
March arrives 12 March

Meriden

**YORKSHIRE AND THE NORTH EAST**  
Martin Brownbridge (TGWU), York. Mick Moran (FTAT), Hull. Steve Kind (AUEW), Leeds. Mary Littlefield, Leeds. D P Fitzgerald (AUEW), Middlesbrough. Roger Milton (AUEW), Leeds. John Gordon, Leeds. Graham Cooke (NUM), Sheffield. Barry Hargreaves, Bradford. Kevin Burridge, Bradford. Padala Vee Reddy, Bradford. Cossar, Bradford. Kevin Shearn, Huddersfield. David Hayes, Newcastle.

**SOUTH WALES AND THE SOUTH WEST**  
Pete McDonnell (AUEW), Cheltenham. Eric Cameron, Bristol. Colin Cameron, Bristol. Pip Jones (EETPU), Cardiff. Chris Allman, Exeter. Joanna Fursden, Exeter. Tony Evans, Clwyd. Mike Alderson (NUPE), Bristol. Paul Bryden (NALGO), Bristol.

**SCOTLAND**  
Mike Buckingham (NUJ), Glasgow. Nancy Kelly, Glasgow. Tommy Kayes (NALGO), Glasgow. Robert Graham, Glasgow. Tom Donoghue, Glasgow. Willie Dolan (USDAW), Glasgow. Stuart Dowie (NALGO), Dunfermline. Jacky Hodgman,

Whittaker  
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**SATURDAY MARCH 20**

**1-30 PM MASS PROTEST RALLY ALBERT HALL**

All trade unionists and unemployed workers are invited to join the last section of the MANCHESTER TO LONDON RIGHT TO WORK MARCH, starting from Shepherd's Bush Green, 11am, and marching to the Albert Hall.

## HOW TO SELL 50 SWs A DAY...

By Brian Higgins, UCATT, Northampton

**THERE'S only one good thing about unemployment that I know of. It makes it easier to sell more Socialist Workers.**

We had a reasonable sale here in Northampton of about 40 to 70 papers a week. The usual round: shopping centres every week, union branches and so on.

Since I went on the dole, sales have really rocketed. The main difference has been that I've had the time—and the Right to Work Campaign has really clicked.

The first week I sold out our 100 papers. I then got 50 more from Coventry and sold those out in a day.

### No secret

Most of these are sold on the dole. There isn't any secret. Just use your loudest voice and most convincing manner.

People will buy the paper if they think you really want to sell it. That's my philosophy. And it works.

At present rates, I am selling about 50 copies of the paper every day—and this is not a town well known for its socialist militancy.

A few people on the dole often come and sell with me. The other day one unemployed woman sold ten papers in an hour.

## IS attends founding conference

THE 17,000 STRONG Italian revolutionary organisation PDUP held its founding conference in Bologna last week.

PDUP is divided between one section (based largely around the industrial areas) which wants to continue and strengthen its work with Avanguardia Operaia and other revolutionaries, and another which favours a 'reformist—revolutionary' government alliance as a priority and means to push the mass Italian Communist Party leftwards.

Three comrades from the IS Italy group were among the many foreign delegates.

Paul Ginsberg related the British experience of social democracy. IS's fight in the Right to Work Campaign, the role of Socialist Worker and finally commented on PDUP's concept of unity.

Paul argued that every revolutionary should fight alongside reformists but that this does not mean drowning in electoral alliances.

A resolution was passed supporting a strategy which could mean closer ties with the Italian Communist Party, in spite of opposition. But the PDUP will continue their activities in the factories, neighbourhoods and colleges.

Socialist Worker would like to hear from any readers who have personal reminiscences of the 1926 General Strike. We would also like to borrow any personal accounts, photos, documents of the strike in your possession. Write (not phone) to General Strike, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



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

## SOCIALIST WORKER MEETINGS

**HACKNEY SCHOOLS SW public meeting:** Chris Searle on The Politics of the Classroom. Monday 8 March, 8pm, De Beauvoir Arms, Stamford Road, London N1.

**WEST LONDON SW public meeting:** Work Permits and Unemployment. Speaker: Jose Caba. Monday 1 March, 6.30pm, Westcott Lodge, Upper Mall, W6.

**SOUTHAMPTON SW public meeting:** Stop the Killings! Troops out of Ireland! Speakers: Paul O'Brien (International Socialists) from the Troops Out Movement. Thursday 11 March, 8pm, The Anchor, East Street, Southampton.

**SOCIALIST WORKER NORTH AMERICA GROUP public meeting:** The Situation in the US—A report from Laurie Flynn and Judith Condon, both just recently back from there. Friday 27 February, 7.30pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London W1.

**SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW meetings:** Thursdays, 8pm, Borough Polytechnic Students Union, Rotary Street, London SE1. February 26: Social Democracy or Socialism? March 4: The Communist Party Road to Socialism. March 11: Moderates and Militants in the Trade Unions. March 18: Ireland. March 28: Permanent Arms Economy. For further details ring G Loewenstein, 01-622 1090.

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

Friday 5 March: What is Imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris. Friday 19 March: What is a revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Tony Cliff.

**CENTRAL LONDON Socialist Worker series of six fortnightly lectures on THE MEANING OF MARXISM:** Tuesdays, 6.30pm, The Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road (nearest tube 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.

**GATESHEAD Socialist Worker public meeting:** The Struggle for Socialism. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Thursday 11 March, 8pm, Five Wands Mill, Bensham Road.

## SOCIALIST WORKER EVENTS

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

**Socialist Worker AGITPROP BULLETIN:** First issue is ready, with ideas for using posters, tapes, slides, films, music in political work. Send stamped, addressed, large envelope for a copy, to SW Agitprop Group, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

**SOCIALIST WORKERS' PRACTICAL NOTES,** including Working as a socialist on the shop floor, Working as a socialist in your trade union branch, Public speaking, Chairmanship, Writing for Socialist Worker, SW Discussion groups. 10 p each, 17p including postage. Five copies or more post free, from: Training Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

### NOISS

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

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

**IS Industrial Department** needs full-time or part-time secretary. Clerical experience useful but not essential. Phone 01-739 6273.

**ASTMS IS Fraction:** All ADC delegates should contact the fraction secretary. News letters now available. Annual levy £2 should now be sent to the fraction secretary at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

**COPY for IS Bulletin—copy dates** from National Council delegates.

**EETPU:** Urgent meeting for all IS members in the EETPU. Saturday 28 February, 2.30pm, details from fraction secretary or Industrial Department, 01-739 6273.

**IS COMRADE seeks flat/house** share in North London. Ring Penny, 01-405 2505 (work).

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

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

**BUILDERS:** National Weekend School for IS members in the building industry. 28-29 February at IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (near Finsbury Park tube). Starts 1pm. Accommodation and social arranged. Pooled fare system. Further details, contact Builders Fraction Secretary, 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.

**CIVIL SERVICE** National general meeting for IS members in civil service. Saturday 6 March, London. Details of time and place to be announced.

**CHESHIRE/SHROPSHIRE IS** District meeting: Friday 12 March, 7.30pm, Bullring Vaults, Watergate St, Whitchurch, Salop (turn off A41 by Victoria Garage/Vincent Greenhouse, pub at far end of car park) Agenda: Report-back from Party Council meeting (February), Right to Work Campaign, Review of local positions and perspectives, and delegate to next Party Council. Members and/or branch representatives invited from: Bangor, Crewe, Macclesfield, Rhyd, Runcorn, Warrington, Chester, Shrewsbury, Telford, Wrexham; information from Chester/Shrewsbury IS, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**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 2639. Joanna Rolfe (International), Lindsey German (Students), and National Treasurer's Office: 01-739 1878. Liz Balfour and Jim Nichol: 01-739 9772. Nina Streich, Women's Voice, Simon Turner and Steve Jefferys: 01-739 6273. If the appropriate number is engaged please DO NOT ring another number.

**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.

# STUDENT UNITY: A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

**THE FOLLOWING letter from the IS National Student Committee has been sent to the Broad Left Editorial Board, Communist Party National Student Committee, Clause 4 and the National Organisation of Labour Students:**

Dear comrades, We were very distressed to read in the Morning Star of 16 February that the Broad Left Editorial Board and the National Student Committee of the Communist Party had issued a statement which also seems to have been signed by the Federation of Conservative Students and the Union of Liberal Students.

In recent months, the National Union of Students has come under increasing attack from the right wing in

its various forms. This is why NOISS has been campaigning for the maximum unity of all left wing students against the right wing attack.

For example, before the last NUS Conference we approached you for united action in defence of democracy in the NUS.

We agree entirely with the statement in the Broad Left Journal supplement on democracy where it states, 'Under the guise of "democracy", the right and their supporters are seeking to weaken the NUS at the very time it needs to mobilise its maximum strength if students' interests are to be defended.'

As John Webster, a Broad Left member of the NUS executive, wrote in Broad Left Journal no 1 1976: 'Our main aim must be to isolate the right and create the climate in which

socialist ideas can ferment.'

You ought to be aware of the close working relationship between the Federation of Conservative Students and Tory Party Central Office. These people are in favour of cuts in education and of using racist slurs to put the onus of the cuts on overseas students.

We ask you formally in the interests of the unity of the whole left in the face of the right-wing attack to make totally clear your opposition to the Federation of Conservative Students and your refusal to co-operate with them.

In particular, we ask you to repudiate the scandalous rumours circulating in some areas that you are considering electoral deals in NUS with the Federation of Conservative Students.

We are certain there can be no truth in this. But a prompt public denial that you intend anything of the sort will help the efforts of all of us to build a united left response to the right wing attack, with Broad Left and NOISS candidates transferring to each other.

Yours fraternally  
Lindsey German  
for IS National Student Committee

□ A vigorous campaign on abortion should be the main emphasis of our work around women in the colleges the IS National Student Committee decided last weekend.

The campaign should lead up to the National Abortion Campaign demonstration against the Select Committee on 3 April.

## Where We Stand



**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 independent action of the working class.

**REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM:** We believe in overthrowing capitalism not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

**THE SMASHING OF THE CAPITALIST STATE:** The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

**WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS:** We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

**INTERNATIONALISM:** We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

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

**THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY:** To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and Socialist Worker aims to build towards such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

**FOR 100 per cent trade unionism.** Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against anti-trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

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

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

**AGAINST** unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week.

**FOR** nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

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

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

**AGAINST** racialism and police victimisation of black people.

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

**FOR** real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

**FOR** unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

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





Kenneth Lennon (right) and a newspaper photograph of demonstrators pulling down a police barricade in Newry 1969. The police threatened Lennon (centre) with prosecution—which would have left his daughter homeless—unless he worked for them.

# Kicks for King Rayon

BET you've been to one of those plays by well-meaning, left-wing middle-class actors.

Sat in your seats cringing, your teeth on edge, as—between telling us how glorious it is being a worker—they've made their calls to action.

We've sat there with our mates from the shop floor, hoping they will walk out after the play without saying anything and transfer to another department the next day, never to be seen again.

We all knew how rotten it is being a worker, we'd swap with them anyway.

Thank God things are changing, nowhere more evident than in the latest play by North West Spanner, *Winding Up*.

After the show at Hindley Green, near Wigan, last week, one of the local militants talked to my wife. 'I sat in the audience, crunched between middle-aged women and mill workers. I thought: Blimey this will go right over their heads. Then I saw how it gripped them. One woman near me was crying.'

Praise indeed!

A local mill worker said about the play: 'Bout time Courtaulds got some stick for a change.'

## Learn

The story is one they all know about personally. For them it's like rushing out to get a football paper to see what was written about the match they have just been watching.

It's about Courtaulds workers being told their mill is to close in a fortnight. Mill workers, with little or no experience of struggle or organisation.

Running parallel with this is the history of the rise to power and riches of Sam Courtauld, King Rayon himself, on the backs of the mill workers.

The play has its weaknesses of course, surprising if it didn't. Its success is that it communicates with millworkers at their level and gives them a slice of their own life.

Here's a play you can take your mates to with the confidence that you can face them

## DAVE HALLSWORTH

□ North West Spanner will be doing their new *Right to Work* play at several towns on the Right to Work March. Check locally for time and place.

Saturday 28 February: Oldham. Monday 1 March: Huddersfield. Thursday 4 March, St Pancras Assembly Rooms, London (Womens Voice concert). Friday 5 March: Clay Cross. Tuesday 9 March: Walsall. Friday 12 March: Coventry. Monday 15 March: Northampton.

## Grubby

The men of the Special Branch had also shown themselves willing to rig trials, offer perjured evidence and make a grubby farce of the 'British justice' they supposedly exist to defend.

The Department of Public Prosecutions cooperated. Parliament too. The newspapers didn't object.

Lennon achieved little in the course of his short, sad and ragged life. But in death he has achieved a grisly kind of immortality.

Because whenever anyone talks about the quality of British justice, or the rectitude of British policemen, or the vigilance of the British parliament, the ghost of Kenneth Lennon will be there in the background laughing at the mockery of it all.

\* *Reluctant Judas*, Maurice Temple Smith, £2.25.

## Riot

Moreover, he told the NCCL, the Special Branch men threatened to have him jailed for his part in a riot in Newry in 1969 if he didn't cooperate—which would have meant Sheila being taken into care.

Once he had accepted the first £5 he was trapped. He was now a 'paid informer', a crime not easily forgiven—and never forgotten—in Irish communities.

The Special Branch used him until his cover blown by the clumsily contrived acquittal in Birmingham, he was of no further service.

Geoffrey Robertson, a trendy-left journalist as well as a barrister, is the author of the book about Lennon, titled *Reluctant Judas*. It has serious faults, for example a silly, highly-imaginative 'reconstruction' of Lennon's last days. But it is worth reading for a devastating analysis of the Starritt Report.

After the discovery of Lennon's body had made front-page headlines, Home Secretary Roy Jenkins asked Deputy Commissioner James Starritt to in-

# The spy they left out in the cold

by EAMONN McCANN

GERRY MEALEY, Phil Sheridan and Sean Campbell would be amused to read last week that the top cops' 'union', the Superintendents' Association, was calling for 'tougher measures' against suspected criminals.

'We live in a society which encourages wrong-doers,' lamented one senior officer.

Mealey, Sheridan and Campbell are among the Irish 'terrorists' doing time in English jails. They got ten years each for an attempted armed robbery near Luton in 1973. The police arranged that a fourth member of their group, Kenneth Lennon, would escape.

## Spring

Lennon then organised an attempt to spring Sheridan from Winson Green Prison, and drove to Birmingham with 18-year-old Pat O'Brien to reconnoitre. Both were caught red-handed and charged.

But Scotland Yard conspired with the Department of Public Prosecutions to rig the trial, so that while O'Brien went down for three years, Lennon was acquitted.

Lennon, 30, from Newry in Northern Ireland, a former member of the Communist Party and shop steward at Chrysler, Dunstable, had been employed by the Special Branch to set

up Irish Republicans. Three days after his acquittal he was shot three times in the back of the head and his corpse dumped in a Surrey ditch.

No doubt Scotland Yard—and the Special Branch in particular—dearly wishes the memory of Lennon had been buried with his body. But a television film last week and a recently-published book have dragged the whole scandal back into the open.

The film, *Death of an Informer*, was

# EVERYWHERE IN CHAINS...

ROMANTIC dreams prop up capitalism, or at least help make it tolerable.

From the songs of aging crooners like Frank Sinatra to the dog-eared novelettes that sell in millions at Woolworths the message is the same: okay, the world's a bad and sad place in many ways, but somewhere for you there's a stranger in the night who'll come along and off you'll go to a rent-free cottage in the hills, roses round the door and happiness ever after.

That's an illusion that people probably need if they're to stay sane in a world run by lunatics like Eric Varley. But it's worth going back to one of the first Romantics, the poet Shelley, to see how his work in fact cuts through that illusion.

Shelley wrote *Prometheus Unbound* in 1819. The first half of the poem presents us with a harsh universe in which Jupiter rules absolutely and Prometheus, chained to a rock, is cut off from his lover Asia.

Shelley suggests through this set-up that in a world of hierarchical relationships—a world of Jupiter and



Prometheus, boss and worker, king and subjects, priest and flock—men and women are for the most part similarly separated from each other and from real love. The alienation that a hierarchical society fosters infects even the sexual relationship.

Sexual relationships in such a society will tend to be domineering in the same way as other relationships. So when Jupiter copulates with Thetis she screams in submissive terror: *Insufferable might! God! Spare me! I sustain not the quick flames. The penetrating pressure; all my being ... is dissolved.*

What Shelley is driving at is that not until society has got rid of domination and the bitter, frustrated mind-sets that go with it can the full potential for love in human beings be set free.

Half way through the poem, Demogorgon, representing the strength of the masses, overthrows Jupiter and his rule. The rest of the poem is a shout of delight at the way men and women are changed

Man at last is: *Equal, unclassed, tribeless and nationless Exempt from awe, worship, degree, the King Over himself.*

Love

Women are seen as: *Speaking the wisdom once they could not think, Looking emotions once they feared to feel, And changed to all which once they dared not be.*

Prometheus is unchained and reunited with Asia. The pair are literally transformed and arrive at a love that they couldn't even guess at before. You could say, I suppose,

that all this is high-flown rubbish—that most people manage to get along all right with their partners, hierarchies or not.

But what Shelley strains all his powers to suggest is that, if so, it's in spite rather than because of the society they live in. Remove the ruling class in

that society and you abolish the mental habits of dominance and servility that sustain them, and so, among other things, liberate unimagined possibilities in even the most private and intimate relationships.

PAUL O'FLINN



**THURSDAY**  
FILM NIGHT (BBC2) features extracts from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, the film based on Ken Kesey's brilliant novel of life in a psychiatric hospital. Who's mad and who's sane in this crazy world?

WHEN THE BOAT COMES IN (BBC1) will ring true to too many this week. Unemployed, his wife pregnant, Jack Ford is tempted to join the Black and Tans...

**FRIDAY**  
THE MONEY PROGRAMME (BBC2) asks 'Will North Sea oil make all our dreams come true?'

**SATURDAY**  
BBC2 allows free speech for fascists on this week's OPEN DOOR. The British Campaign to Stop Immigration will make you sick.

**MONDAY**  
Solzhenitsyn tells PANORAMA (BBC1) where he thinks the Russian Revolution went wrong. You'll need to watch it so you can argue with your mates at work about where he went wrong.

**TUESDAY**  
A study of a fast disappearing species—the district nurse. SEE YOU TOMORROW (ITV)—but with Healey's cuts, will we?

**WEDNESDAY**  
The terror of life in South Africa is shown in *SIZWE BANSI IS DEAD* (BBC2). Under no circumstances miss this programme!

**THURSDAY**  
A PORTRAIT OF A BUTCHER... er, sorry, I mean A PORTRAIT OF RICHARD MARSH (BBC2). Chairman of British Railways talks about train spotters and the Royal Family

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**IS Books**

**THESE KIDS** on the Briar Hill Estate, Northampton, cleared rubbish and levelled unused land to make a playing field.

Then, just as it was nearly completed, the council ran through it to lay a pipe. The clay and subsoil was pushed back on top of the pipe, so the area cannot be properly drained or seeded.

The estate has no amenities. The teenagers hang about the chip shop because there's nowhere to go. There's a disco once a month, that's all. Since the football club stopped, seven young lads have been before the police.

We occupied the play stockade on the Thorplands estate last October to protest that we wanted our own play area. But a £27,000 stockade is now locked up because the council won't pay for a play leader.

Meanwhile the council is spending thousands on a golf course. — JIM SMITH, Northampton.



# Letters

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

## Another 200 sackings

I AM A MEMBER of the General and Municipal Workers Union and an employee of Reeps, a can and drum manufacturer in Aintree, Merseyside which is part of an American multi-national.

Two weeks ago, management issued redundancy notices adding another 200 to the already swollen Merseyside dole queues.

The notices came as the culmination of a calculated and cynical campaign, which included a series of letters sent

to our homes to intimidate our families, preying on fears generated by the current crisis.

Management have once again used classic 'divide and rule' tactics by concentrating redundancies in one half of the factory.

They've made it clear that in the departments where redundancies have occurred they want to establish new manning levels, working practices and shift patterns.

When profit rates are falling, managements attempt to push up productivity by any means necessary.

In the GMWU group, the sackings included the convenor and deputy convenor of a stewards' committee which was beginning to develop as a force.

One motive seems therefore an attempt to weaken trade union organisation—a number of engineering stewards were similarly affected.

In times of economic crisis, managements will have no hesitation in refusing to abide by properly negotiated procedures and agreements.

The recent declarations by the British Steel Corporation, and the current struggle at Rio Tinto at Avonmouth illustrate this point.

Now we have first-hand experience at our own factory.

This can only be resisted successfully by a strong, aware trade union organisation in the workplace.

We, as a workforce, have suffered the consequences of not coming to terms with management's motives, methods and tactics.

Workers must realise that their interests are NOT the same as the management's. Firms operate to make profits, to maximise profits they must hold down costs, and they see labour purely as a cost.

The conclusions to be drawn are obvious. — P SUMMERS, Liverpool.

## Postal Points

ANYONE with strong eyes or powerful glasses might have seen the following half-inch paragraph in the Daily Mirror recently:

A 59-year old miner was killed by a roof fall at Cynheidre Colliery yesterday. He was the third miner to die in a pit accident in South Wales in 24 hours.

On the opposite page about 78 square inches were devoted to Slik, the latest manufactured pop sensation.

Good old Daily Mirror—at least it's got its priorities right.—DISGUSTED, JOHN BARKER, London, SE7

I'VE LET my subscription to SW lapse. My eye doctor has asked me—almost demanded—that I give my eyes relaxation. No reading of any kind for at least six months, because of my age: 81 years.

It is inevitable that we must pass the torch to those who follow in our footsteps. But I feel that the workers are realising that their emancipation must come by their own efforts.

And I'm wishing all workers a complete victory in all countries in the not too distant future.—LAURENCE H WILLETT, London, Ontario.

## Postal Points

WHEN Harold Wilson talks about the mercenary recruiters as being 'small time crooks' he should include himself.

Because over the last few years he has authorised the renting of British soldiers to the feudal sheikhs of the Arabian Gulf.

Ostensibly there as technicians and advisors, their real job is to crush any attempts by the people to seize power for themselves—EX-MEMBER OF THE BRITISH ARMY AND TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS

HERE'S the letter of the Year, from The Guardian a couple of weeks back:

'Sir—the best argument against Concorde that I've heard was given a few nights ago by Mrs Thatcher. She said: "It will be of immense help to people like me." —SW SUPPORTER, Islington.

HERE ARE the views of a 'rational' economics expert on waste. After talking about the 'irrationality' of the EEC Agricultural Policy and its beef mountains, wine lakes etc, this university lecturer praised the 'rational' Americans.

Seems instead of mountain building, they simply destroy the 'surplus' crop or pay the farmers not to produce any more.

We hear a lot about student agitators living at the ratepayers' expense, but what about those who lead luxurious lives destroying crops or simply not producing, and preaching the 'rationality' of these crimes at the expense of the taxpayer?—SW READER, Southampton.

# A letter from the TUC

STORIES in your 31 January and 14 February issues give a misleading impression of TUC policy on immigrant workers.

Both stories link alleged moves to reduce the use of foreign labour in hospitals with TUC policies for the hotel and catering industry.

There is no truth in your claim that the TUC has asked the Department of Employment to cut the number of work permits issued to foreign hospital workers.

## No other

The TUC call for an end to the quota of work permits for hotel and catering workers applies to the hotel and catering industry and to no other.

Far from being an attack on foreign workers, this is the only way to force employers to attract labour by providing decent pay and conditions in an industry which has hitherto relied on importing exploited, unorganised workers.

Ending the quota would be of great benefit to the many foreign workers in the industry.

That the TUC is not engaged in a racist witch-hunt is shown by the fact that it is also asking the government to amnesty all foreign workers now illegally employed in Britain.

In seeking to regularise the position of illegal workers, the TUC is trying to tackle an abuse which gives unscrupulous employers a perfect weapon of blackmail against their employees.

Finally, it would have been nice if you had mentioned that

## THIS DISGUSTING SECTARIANISM...

I WAS DISGUSTED to read (14 February) about the sectarian attitude of the Morning Star and the Communist Party leadership over the Right to Work Campaign. Any trade unionist knows that our strength lies in unity and that the fight against unemployment can only be weakened by sectarianism.

But SW readers and rank and file supporters take heart. Not all Communist Party members are following this sectarian attitude. Our trade union branch has passed a motion affiliating to, and supporting, the Right to Work Campaign.

The motion was proposed by a Communist Party member. Another member of the CP, along with myself, agreed to be a delegate to the local Right to Work Committee.

Both these stewards are excellent trade union militants. Hopefully many other CP members will follow their lead to fight against unemployment, by building the Right to Work Campaign. — KATHERINE CHRISTISON, COHSE shop steward, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

the TUC General Council has recently set up an Equal Rights Committee to develop policies to bring equal rights to all, at work and in the community at large.

If you follow the committee's progress you will, I think, come to see that the TUC is not trying to 'make foreign workers scapegoats' but is concerned to fight for equality for workers of all races. — BRIAN MURPHY, Head of Information, TUC.

The editor replies: The TUC may not yet have asked the Department of Employment to reduce the number of work vouchers for hospital workers.

But it has certainly done so for hotel and catering workers.

Racialism in relation to one group of workers inevitably encourages racialism in relation to another group.

And, of course, it is a racist attitude. Workers from abroad are

## Stop these cheap jibes

NO ORGANISATION, least of all the International Socialists, has yet come up with a proper scientific analysis of the growth of the Scottish Nationalist Movement.

All we hear from the revolutionaries are the same non-political jibes such as Tartan Tories. They merely parrot the Labour Party and their anti-working class allies, the Tories.

I would hope that revolutionaries would come up with something better... or haven't they read Marx and Lenin on the subject of Scotland? — JOHN CARLYLE, Secretary, Scottish Republican Club, Glasgow.

just as willing to join trade unions as British workers. They're just as in need of decent wages.

What stops them fighting for these are two things.

One is the present work permit system, which plays into the hands of the employers. Whether Brother Murphy likes this or not, the TUC boasts that it is trying to make this system more restrictive.

If it is successful, it will have strengthened the hand of the employers even more.

The second reason why hotel and catering wages are low is that for many, many years the trade union officials responsible for organising this sector have not taken their jobs seriously.

As we said last week, they prefer to sit on their arses, draw large salaries, and cooperate with government wage limitation policies.

Instead of organising workers in the industry, they have now taken a leaf out of the National Front's book, and are pressing to stop entry of foreign workers.

That may keep life easy for trade union officialdom. But it will do nothing to improve appalling wages and working conditions for workers from any country.

## Why the taxmen are stirring

MIKE McGRATH'S article (14 February) ended with a quote from Kate Losinka about a 'thriving new cell in the Inland Revenue Department'.

### Serious work

At the Inland Revenue Staff Federation conference last year a group of members, with a record of serious work in the union decided after years of beating their heads against the wall of the union rule book, to attempt to organise around a clear rank and file programme.

A handful of IS members

were involved and the first issue of Revenue Rank and File sold 2500 to a membership of 50,000.

That happened because our union leadership is full of Kate Losinkas. Because the EC is unaccountable and unknown to the membership (no election addresses, no EC minutes) and has a majority of managers on it.

Because the system of card voting means that the big 'safe' branches, policed by leading EC members, smash the rest, and because of the Whitley system, whose key premise is that the staff have the same interests as management.

We are still saddled with

that today. Improvements are not fought for but secretly negotiated by the union leadership.

That is why the 'thriving new cell' exists. As for the charge of exposing the personal affairs from files, this is an irrelevance to us.

### Worried

It is interesting to note, however, that the right wing should be worried about this—obviously they are the ones with the 'embarrassing shareholdings'.

The Rank and File group in the Inland Revenue has

## MPLA: YES, BUT LET'S GET IT RIGHT

SO THE MPLA is 'progressive'. Alright, but let's get clear what progressive means here.

The MPLA politicians are fighting for the right to exploit 'their' Angolan workers, just like the FNLA and UNITA.

The fact that MPLA is backed by Russia and Cuba doesn't make it 'marxist' or 'communist'.

The MPLA stands for the interests of the black bourgeoisie, whose only quarrel with the white bourgeoisie is about who's going to grab the lion's share of the loot stolen from the black working people.

At the moment of victory, the MPLA stops being 'progressive' and the workers have to battle to build their own independent class organisations.

And—let's face it—that's not going to be an easy job up against the powerful resistance of the black bosses allied with the white moneybags.

The most immediately effective way to help the African workers is to involve the trade union movement here with the struggle for trade union organisation there. Wages, hours, conditions: investigations.

What is being done to help train African organisers, shop stewards? — HUGO DEWAR.

AFTER reading in the Daily Express a report that British immigrants were being conscripted into Rhodesian Forces to fight against African guerrillas, I sent a letter of protest to that journal: it was not published.

The Express later published

an editorial supporting, with slight reservations, the recruitment of mercenaries for the non-popular forces; although it was, by then, common knowledge that, in the main, these mercenary types were sadistic killers.

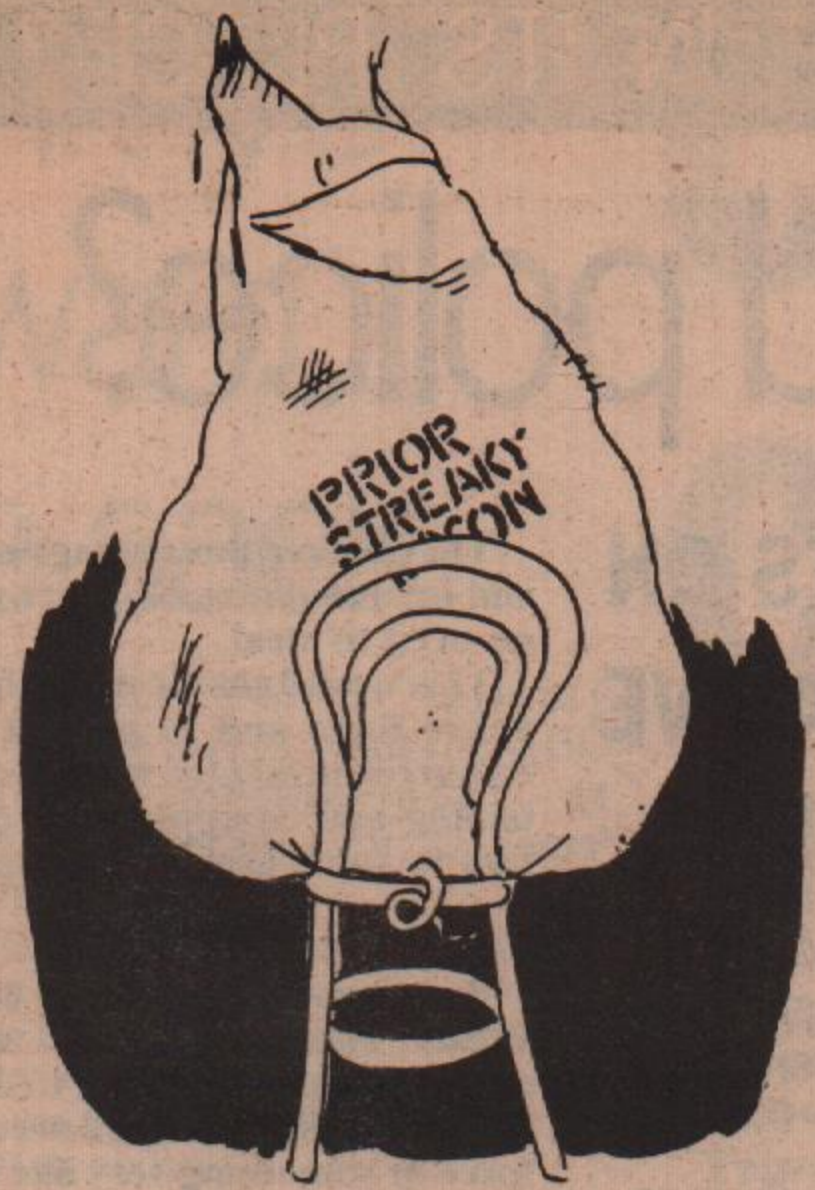
Two days later, the same journal published an editorial calling on the Western Nations to react to what it called a menace to white Rhodesia and South Africa by what was described as a Cuban Foreign Legion.

Perhaps the Daily Express will use its influence on the redundant Angolan mercenaries to divert them to the support of Mr Smith's unpopular and shaky regime. — C McCANN, Buxton.

LIKE YOUR North London reader (14 February), I believe that support should be given to the military assistance of both the Soviet Union and Cuba to MPLA forces.

If we support the MPLA then we must acknowledge the support given to them by Soviet-Cuban forces and, in turn, support them in relation to Angola.

If the MPLA had only our verbal support to rely upon—and if that support were to influence the MPLA against the Soviet-Cuban block—then our influence would have the same impact upon the Angolan struggle as Stalin's upon the Chinese revolution—culminating in the massacre of Chinese Communists by Chiang Kai-shek in 1927. — BILLY GRIF-FITHS, Norfolk.



## Fat Tory in 'Pig!' shock

FAT FARMER and anti-union boss James Prior has been talking about his first-ever union meeting—at the Trade Union and Political Staffs Branch of APEX.

Prior told a meeting of Cambridge Tories: 'The meeting was attended by 12 International Socialists, two bordering on it, and myself.

'They bring their girlfriends and leave them sitting at the back filing their nails and titering while the meeting goes on. Half the members there were girls aged between 18 and 25'.

Prior went on: 'They were very polite to me, and then proceeded to indulge in left-wing activities.'

These activities, apparently, took place with everyone, including Prior, fully-clothed.

An APEX member who attended the meeting admitted at once to Socialist Worker that she was a member of IS,

female and between the ages of 18 and 25. She also confessed to indulging openly in Left-wing activities.

She agreed that she had laughed at the back of the hall—along with everyone else in the meeting—when the stammering Prior voted for a member of the Communist Party, then withdrew his vote when he found out about it.

### Chauvinist

She went on (apparently without shame): 'What we want to know is why this fat chauvinist pig is in the union anyway. He's a consultant to Trust Houses Forte, which is known for its anti-union activities. If he comes to another meeting, he won't find things so comfortable. I can tell you . . .'

The rest of her comments are unprintable in any paper except the Daily Telegraph.

## Tackling the 'Troops Out!' issue

THERE are right ways and wrong ways to raise an issue in a shop stewards' committee or union branch. It's important to know the right ways, especially with the tougher issues.

A good example of the right way was shown recently by Ross Pritchard, a member of the Printworkers' union, NGA, who raised the Irish question at his chapel (workplace branch) in an attempt to get the demand for Troops Out on his union conference agenda.

Ross drafted the resolution carefully. It read:

'This biennial conference of the NGA is concerned that the situation in Northern Ireland is moving to an increasingly violent conflict and towards civil war.

'We believe that the British government cannot provide a lasting solution to these problems. The people of Ireland, north and south, are the only ones capable of providing a solution to the problems of sectarianism, unemployment and bad housing.

'We therefore call for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and the recognition that only the Irish people, free from outside interference, can overcome the problems facing them'.

### Heckling

The chapel voted for the resolution, which was moved by Ross. But a London Region Conference knocked it back after a long, tough argument with lots of heckling—and shouts to the hecklers to keep quiet.

Of course it would have been better to win. But a defeat is much better than doing nothing. What matters is that we get our arguments across, that we win more support than before the argument took place.

So, brothers and sisters, please let the Unions Page know how your resolutions fare. Particularly on issues such as Ireland, and even if you get defeated!

# BALLOT SCANDAL!



A BALLOT SCANDAL in the country's biggest union is being ignored.

The newspapers and television scream about improperly-conducted ballots when left-wingers win. In this case they couldn't care less—because the victors were right-wing 'moderates'.

The elections were held last December among members of the Transport and General Workers Union in Oxford and Coventry. They were for positions on the union executive, its automotive committee, and the No 5 regional committee.

The Oxford TGWU district committee proposed a right-wing slate.

Bill Roche, branch secretary for the huge British Leyland Body Plant at Cowley, for the executive. Reg Parsons, convenor at the Cowley Assembly Plant, for the automotive committee. Jack Addams, convenor at the tiny MG plant at Abingdon, for the regional committee.

The results were announced last month. All three right-wingers polled more than 6000 votes. Roche and Addams won their positions.

### Incredible

This was incredible. Most of the votes for Addams and Parsons can only have come from the two largest car branches in Oxford—the Cowley Body and Assembly plants. The assembly plant voting figures were published: Roche 399 votes, Parsons—a convenor seeking votes in his own plant—289, Addams 187.

So if the overall figures were correct, Parsons and Addams must have got at least 6000 votes in the Body Plant. That's not far off being the total TGWU membership

## Clean up the T&G

### THE VANISHING VOTES ACT

December 1975	
Roche	11,442
Addams	6,134
Parsons	6,781
February 1976	
Roche	8,273
Addams	3,198
Parsons	3,264

in the plant!

This could not have happened. Voting was only possible in two ballot boxes in the canteens during lunch hour. There was no canvassing, no interest shown in the elections.

What were the real figures from the Body Plant? No one knows.

Rule 13(9) of the TGWU instructs the scrutineers in each branch to declare that the ballot papers have to be

kept by the regional secretary for a month after the returns have been posted.

The scrutineers of the Body Plant in the December election were the Reverend Tony Williamson, branch chairman, and Alan Morton JP, vice-chairman. Remember that the branch secretary was the candidate.

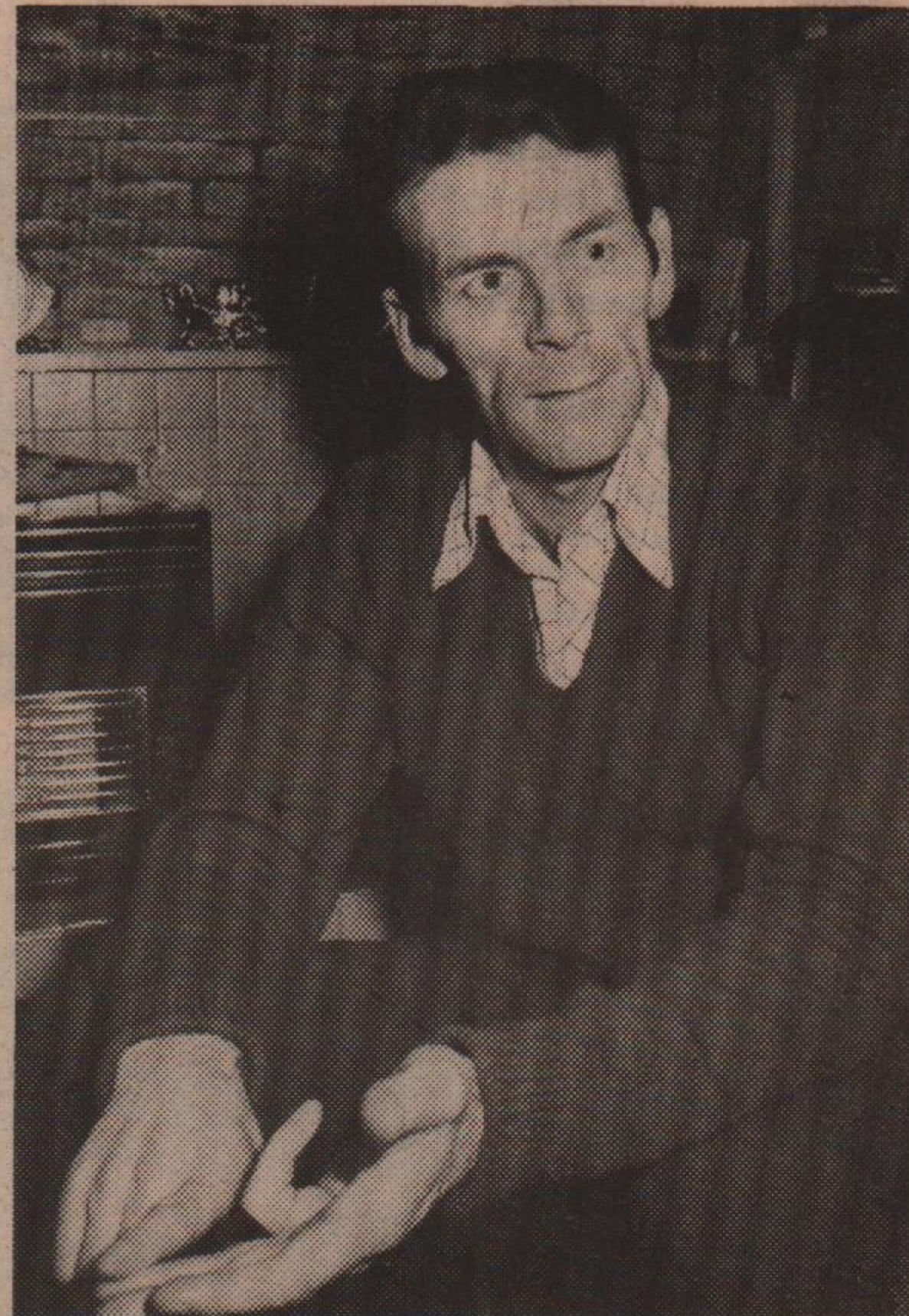
### Destroyed

Williamson, man of God, and Morton, man of justice, did not declare the result of the Body Plant elections.

When the results were demanded at the January branch meeting, they claimed that the matter was 'sub-judice'. It now appears that the ballot papers have been destroyed. If so, no one will ever know the real result of the election.

So great was the scandal of the December elections that the regional committee could not hush it up. After interviewing Wilkinson and Morton, the committee called for new elections, which were held two weeks ago.

In this election, everything went according to rule. In the Body Plant, there were ballot boxes in every building for five hours on both shifts. Voters' union cards were checked.



Reg Parsons, known as the witch-hunter of the left

For the first time in living memory, the right-wing were forced to canvass for votes. The results, announced immediately for each plant, showed a fantastic drop in the candidates' votes.

Was the December vote rigged? Did the branch officers follow the time-honoured practice in the TGWU of 'block-voting'? That is, inventing a good vote for the suitable candidate and sending it in the regional

office? The Oxford scandal must not be shelved. Socialist Worker opposes ballot-rigging whether by Left or right-wing candidates.

We will pursue the scandal of the No 5 Regional elections in the TGWU until they are explained, and the ballot-riggers, if such they are, dealt with.

# WHAT DO STEELMEN PAY FOR SILENCE?

WHAT is the price of silence? That's the mystery puzzling members of the main steel unions, the ISTC. For twice in the past six months officials and executive members of the union have attended meetings in London at which nothing was said, nothing done.

These are the executive council meetings of the Combined Association of Metalworkers, which appears to be an attempt by the ISTC to promote more unity among metalworkers' unions.

We reproduce the minutes of the August 1975 meeting (31 present) and the November 1975 meeting (29 present). Surely all those people don't go all the way to London on union expenses just for nothing.

### The Combined Association of Metalworkers

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT SWINTON HOUSE, 324 GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON, WC1X 8DD ON FRIDAY 22nd AUGUST, 1975 AT 11.30 a.m.

There were present:— Section (a) Bro. I. Edwards; Section (b) Bros. J. Clark and J. G. Evans; Section (c) Bros. F. B. Bradley, R. K. Codlin, J. H. Lewis and E. Wilson; Sections (d) & (h) Bro. R. C. Richards; Section (e) Bro. E. Makepeace; Section (f) Bro. G. Pugh; Section (g) Bro. J. Cowling; Section (i) Bros. M. J. Bourton, E. G. Hett, P. J. McKim and A. Stevenson; Section (j) Bros. L. Bramley, C. O. Sullivan, D. H. Williams and A. C. Cook; Section (k) Bros. K. Clark and B. White, also Bros. J. E. Pickles, J. A. Gavin, J. Foley, S. E. Biddiscombe and G. Cooper (Divisional Officers); Bros. P. Woods and K. Clarke (Senior Divisional Organisers); Bro. H. A. Feather (National Staff Officer); Bro. R. L. Evans (Assistant General Secretary) and Bro. W. Sirs (General Secretary).

Bro. J. G. Evans presided. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.— The Minutes of the previous quarterly meeting were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record of the proceedings.

There being no items on the Agenda, the meeting terminated.

(Signed) J. G. Evans, President.  
W. Sirs, General Secretary.

### The Combined Association of Metalworkers

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT SWINTON HOUSE, 324 GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON, WC1X 8DD ON FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER, 1975 AT 11.30 a.m.

There were present:— Section (a) Bro. I. Edwards; Section (b) Bros. J. Clark and J. G. Evans; Section (c) Bros. F. B. Bradley, R. K. Codlin, J. H. Lewis and E. Wilson; Sections (d) and (h) Bro. R. C. Richards; Section (g) Bro. J. Cowling; Section (i) Bros. M. J. Bourton, E. G. Hett, P. J. McKim and A. Stevenson; Section (j) Bros. L. Bramley, C. O. Sullivan, D. H. Williams, and A. C. Cook; Section (k) Bros. K. Clark and B. White, together with Bros. A. Bell, J. E. Pickles, J. A. Gavin, J. Foley, S. E. Biddiscombe and G. Cooper (Divisional Officers); Bro. K. Clarke (Senior Organiser); Bro. H. A. Feather (National Staff Officer); Bro. R. L. Evans (Assistant General Secretary) and Bro. W. Sirs (General Secretary).

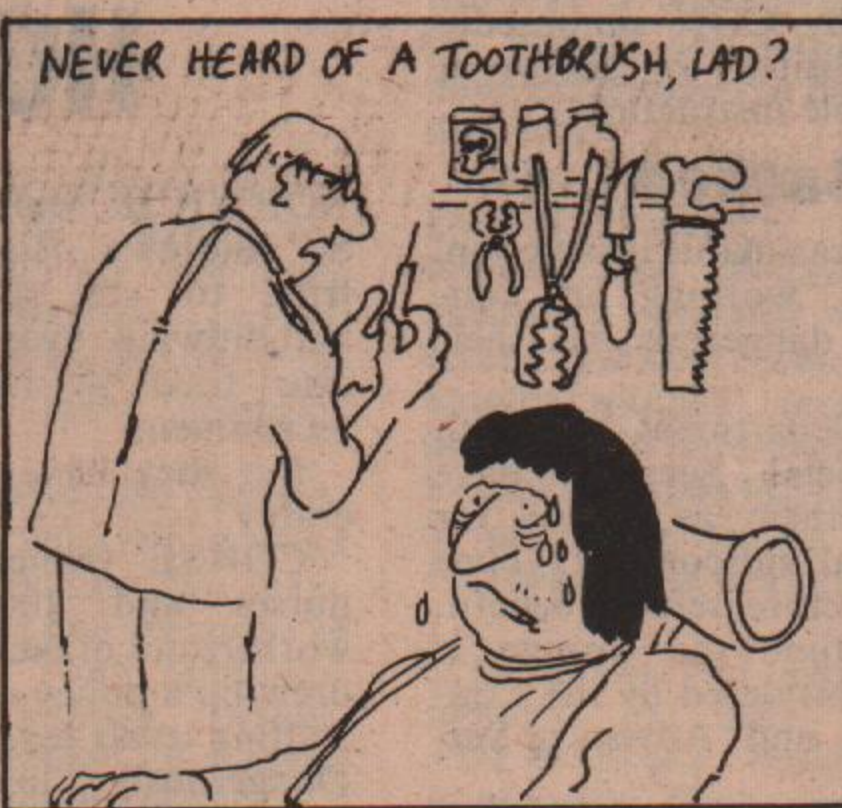
Apologies were received from Bros. E. Makepeace (Section e) and G. Pugh (Section f). Bro. J. G. Evans presided.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.— The Minutes of the previous quarterly meeting were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record of the proceedings.

There being no items on the Agenda, the meeting terminated.

(Signed) J. G. EVANS, President  
W. SIRS, General Secretary.

### OUR NORMAN



International Socialism 86

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

# BOOST FOR CHARTER CANDIDATE

**LEN BLOOD'S** election campaign for Assistant General Secretary of the Engineering Union got a boost in Ipswich last Thursday.

With one abstention, the Howard Rotavators' shop stewards' committee voted to support the Engineers Charter candidate.

Steve Barker, convenor at the Ipswich Division of Howard Rotavators, said: 'All the shop stewards read through the election addresses before the meeting. There was nobody else there who we believe would really back up the rank-and-file.'

The main items that our stewards supported were the fight for the 35-hour week—which has been sold out for years. Then we agree with the fight against any wage limit—whether it's £6 or £10. And we think there should be an official ban on overtime to help fight unemployment.

## Visit

The campaign for Len Blood begins in earnest this week. He will be marching for the first week of the Right to Work March, visiting various engineering factories on the route and speaking at a series of meetings.

He is the only candidate who is 100 per cent behind the Right to Work Campaign.

## LEN BLOOD CAMPAIGN MEETINGS

**Support the Engineers Charter**

**Fight for the Right to Work**

Monday 1 March, 7.30pm. Friendly and Trades Club, Huddersfield  
 Tuesday 2 March, 7.30pm. Westgate Common Club, Wakefield  
 Wednesday 3 March, 8pm. Leeds Polytechnic, Leeds

Wednesday 10 March, 7.30pm. The Gardeners' Arms, Bishops Hill, Ipswich

Monday 15 March, 7.30pm. Milton Hall, Manchester.

Other meetings include Bradford on Sunday 29 February, Sheffield on Thursday 4 March, Warrington on Wednesday 10 March, Glasgow and Walsall on Sunday 14 March, Derby on Tuesday 16 March, and London on Wednesday 17 March.

Full details from Engineers' Charter, 46 Prince George Road, London N16, phone 01-249 1207.

## Two man sit-in

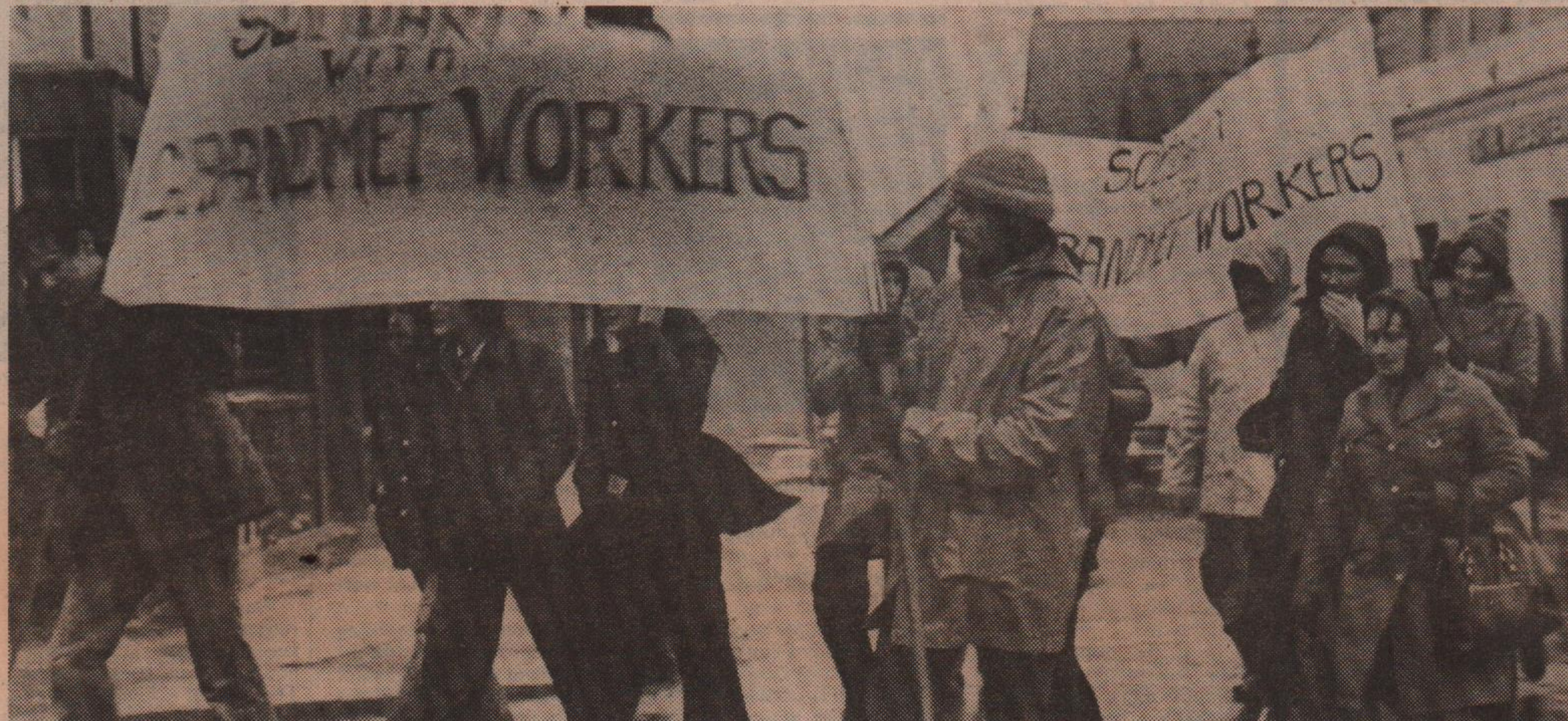
**WINCHESTER:** Engineering union member Mick Marshall's one-man sit-in at Camill Engineering is to become a two-man sit-in. Both men were made redundant without management consulting the AUEW or going through the national agreed disputes procedure.

The sit-in will continue until the matter is resolved. Other redundancies hint at the possibility of factory closure.



Len Blood

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



Pic: Dave Lyons IFL

IT WAS the first demonstration the Shetlands has seen.

These catering and cleaning staff employed by Grand Met Shetland Ltd are out for parity with other workers at Firth's Voe, which houses construction workers from BP oil terminal complex.

The 84 workers have already forced construction contractors to suspend operations. Eight members of the strike committee have oc-

cupied a TV lounge since the strike began, and will stay there till Grand Met meet their demands.

The main ones are: 25 per cent island allowance; a 20 per cent shift allowance; travelling time to and from the camp; subsistence allowance of £3 for staff living out; overtime rates after 40 hours.

At present staff are paid £49-50 for a 60-hour week, with chefs and maintenance workers receiving £60

a week. Bill Read, area district secretary for the North Eastern branch of the Transport and General Workers Union, has advised his members to accept a verbal offer of £6 a week pay rise.

However the strikers never discussed a wage rise. They are only asking for allowances already enjoyed by other workers on the camp.

The strike committee also intend

to investigate a postal ballot carried out by the TGWU without their knowledge, from which the union claim the majority of workers are ready to resume work.

In a similar ballot carried out by the strike committee at the same time among the local workers, five voted to resume work and 29 voted to stay out.

A further ballot of all the workers showed 41-31 in favour of the strike.

SO WHAT WOULD YOU PUT IN ITS PLACE?

# Do we need police?

**SURELY YOU** can't be serious about abolishing the police force? There'd be chaos. You must have somebody to enforce the rules

The idea that human beings need to be repressed is deeply ingrained. And no wonder. It's at the very heart of all religion and all the arguments the law and order brigade have developed over the years.

## Ludicrous

Yet just cast your eyes around your workmates and you'll see what a ludicrous notion this is.

You'll notice that the fundamental thing about working people is their basic decency, a decency which incidentally the bosses exploit to the full.

But our masters don't just rely on our own decency and restraint to keep us in line. They also have highly organised bodies of armed men like soldiers and policemen to keep us in line.

There can be no doubt that socialism will involve the abolition of the standing army and the police

## A NEW SERIES ON THE ALTERNATIVE TO CAPITALISM

force. What's more, such a change should frighten no-one.

Consider what the real, as opposed to the supposed, purpose of the police is. It's not to help old ladies across the street.

It's not to sort out traffic chaos or what have you. You don't need a professional non-unionised police force to do these things. Any worker could do them.

The main function of the police force is to look after property, not people. Its business is to combat that most elementary form of wealth redistribution—stealing.

In a socialist society want, the fundamental cause of crime, will disappear.

One person will not be permitted to own three houses while others are homeless. People would no longer have to struggle and sweat to get a house or to furnish it with decent equipment like studio couches, stereo systems and washing machines.

They'd have these things as of right and in abundance. So there would be no need to steal.

This would enable us to abolish the police force and to put the massive resources presently wasted on maintaining and equipping this organisation to some useful purpose.

## Murder

But, say the critics of socialism: What about murders and sex crimes—socialism won't do away with them. So you'd still need a police force or something very like it to deal with these problems!

In fact, socialism would fairly swiftly result in a fairly significant reduction in the murder rate.

Thousands of workers would no longer be murdered at work because of the flouting of safety standards in the pursuit of profit.

All the tensions associated with poverty would disappear. There'd be no worrying about money, there would be more human solidarity.

There'd be less overcrowding and therefore less conflict in people's living units.

The result is obvious—unquestionably fewer murders, suicides, and person to person violence.

Most murders take place within the family. They are not the actions of wild beasts, but of people rent by passion and frustration.

Socialism would involve major transformations in this sphere of our lives. So much so that sex crimes would begin to disappear.

After all, the repression of sexuality and emotion associated with religion and with capitalism would be ended.

As a result, the explosions of torture and guilt, loneliness and unsatisfied desire that lead to 'sex crimes' would disappear.

## Savage

Of course, for a fair length of time under a socialist society there would still be people who, for one reason or another, would break the accepted standards of human solidarity and concern.

But they would no longer be savagely repressed.

Instead, they could be helped and assisted to rediscover their humanity—in all probability before they had acted out of turn.

In all this there would be no place for any such thing as a professional police force.

There would, of course, be rules. And there would be a mechanism to enforce them, though in a quite different and non-authoritarian way.

In a socialist society, all authority would be in the hands of elected and recallable committees.

Police forces—professional organisations set up by the tiny minority to control the overwhelming majority—would therefore be abolished.

With their departure would go another important category of crimes—the beatings, frame-ups, thievery and corruption committed by the so-called guardians of law and order.

**LAURIE FLYNN**

## 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.

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

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

**LEEDS CHILE SOLIDARITY 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, Salford University, Maxwell Hall. Tickets 60p, £1.00 and £1.20 from Grassroots Bookshop and Salford University Union.

**HOLIDAYS 76.** Four bedrooms in friendly guest house. Self-catering. Write for brochure to: Mary Connolly, 22 Highfield Road, Ilfracombe, North Devon.

The Irish Prisoner, background information on the trials and ill treatment of Irish political prisoners in jail in England. Price 32p (including postage) from Prisoners Aid Committee, c/o 66 York Way, London N1.

**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.

**Workers Bookshelf:** Socialist mail-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.

**LOCAL LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE** on Unemployment and the Cuts. At Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Walk, Brixton, SW2, on Saturday 3 April. Creche provided. Details and delegates, visitors credentials from V Wiseman, 23 Saunders House, St Martins Estate, London SW2. Organised by Lambeth Trades Council/Norwood Labour Party. Sponsored by Battersea/Wandsworth, Southwark Trades Council and South West London Right to Work Committee.

**CRITIQUE**, the journal of Soviet Studies, is organising a series of seminars. The next will be on Tuesday 2 March, 7.30pm. Alan Adler on 'Anti-semitism in the Soviet Union', LSE, St Clements Building, Room S418.

John and Margaret Llywarch invite you to a **NORTH WALES COUNTRY HOLIDAY.** Walking, fishing, pony trekking and more besides. Stamped addressed envelope please to Bryn Iddon, Bron y Garth, Oswestry.

## Laggers battle on

**KENT:** Laggers at the Isle of Grain power station site are now in the fifth week of their safety struggle against the big insulation companies.

Cape Darlington Newall are still refusing to give the men protective clothing when working with fibreglass insulation.

With fibreglass they are repeating the same profit-grabbing they staged on an earlier generation of workers with asbestos. The result is an untold number of deaths.

The 14 laggers have been sacked by CDN supposedly for 'refusing to accept a reasonable instruction'.

## Sacked

The 'reasonable instruction' involved working in conditions dangerous to their health.

The Department of Health and Social Security have classed them as sacked for industrial misconduct. They are, therefore, refused benefit.

Meantime the dispute is being considered by the Conciliation and Advisory Service.

But the employers are just stalling with this powerless body and holding firm on the dispute.

On this prestige £2 million plus contract, the employers are using a new bonus system which has cost thousands of pounds.

CDN workers are beginning to believe that the bosses want to renegotiate their lucrative contract.

The workers are determined not to be beaten. Their strike is

official and they have stopped their union official Bill Bradley engaging in abortive meetings at the Waldorf Hotel, London with the bosses.

They have also secured an agreement that any deal must be referred to the strike committee before acceptance.

Donations and messages of support to Strike Committee, 18 Berwood Close, Corringham, Essex.

## HOSPITAL BOSSES FOILED

**NORWICH:** Management at St Andrew's Hospital have tried to cut spending by withdrawing overtime. They also tried to ban nursing recruitment.

But they have failed miserably.

COHSE (which has 250 nurses and 100 ancillary workers out of the staff of 700) drew up a policy of minimum staffing levels for every ward. Dangerously low staffing

levels were exposed.

The union wrote direct to the Department of Health and Social Security, and got publicity in the local papers and television.

## Prompt

This no doubt encouraged the prompt reply from management.

They agreed—as an interim measure—to pay for 600

hours overtime a week (nearly double the overtime worked before the cuts).

COHSE is now negotiating with the Area Health Authority to translate that overtime into new jobs. 600 hours equals 15 more jobs.

This would go some way to making St Andrew's a safer place for long-stay psychiatric patients to receive care and for nurses and ancillary staff to work in.

## Jimmy's reward... the sack

LAST CHRISTMAS Jimmy Harrison got an award from the GEC Automation management at Maryport, Cumberland for 25 years' loyal service.

Last Thursday Jimmy got another award—the order of the boot.

GEC are using the crisis to rationalise. They are trying to get fewer workers to do more jobs, an operation in which GEC are consummately skilled.

That's why the GEC bosses insisted that Jimmy Harrison do more than his existing job in the finished instrument stores. He was to sweep up and drive an electric truck as well.

Jimmy refused. His fellow Engineering members at GEC Maryport backed him to the hilt when he was sacked.

### Noon

Then, last Thursday, a mass meeting of the factory's 200 manual workers gave management a noon deadline for immediate reinstatement. Otherwise, they resolved, they would strike.

Management persisted—and so the workers stood firm. On Friday they picketed the plant staff workers, who had earlier agreed to give a tenth of their wages to the strikers. They declined to cross the picket—so now all 300 workers are on strike.

These courageous fighters need and deserve the support of workers throughout the GEC combine and beyond.

They will stop at nothing to inflict yet another defeat on trade unionism. To beat them, tough tactics and widespread solidarity are indispensable.

## Reyrolle strikers win staff support

LANARKSHIRE: 750 workers at the three Reyrolle Belmos factories have been on strike for nearly three weeks.

The electricians' convenor told Socialist Worker: 'We demanded staff conditions because, although we got £6, management were deducting 15p an hour for all the time lost. Staff workers have fully supported us.'

'After the management refused to move on staff conditions we applied to work to rule. The firm suspended 16 people and we sat in the factory. This provoked the employers' federation into arranging a works conference inside two days.'

At the conference, the management still refused to negotiate.

'We then applied another work to rule and again the management followed with suspensions. Management then agreed to go to conciliation.'

'The next stage was to apply a seven-day strike notice. On the seventh day, the union area official asked management to return to arbitration, but they refused.'

'After a week's strike, we had a meeting with the engineering union executive member who agreed with our claim and said that it was within the £6 limit.'

The strikers are members of the engineering and electricians unions. 150 are women. The claim would cost management little and the shop stewards cannot understand why they are digging their heels in.

□ Messages and donations to: A Neilson, Reyrolle Belmos strike fund, 7r, Hamilton Road, Bellshill, Lanarkshire.

## 100 SIT IN AT SEALINE

BASINGSTOKE, Hants: More than 100 workers at Sealine Services—80 from ASTMS and 30 from the Union of Road Transport Workers—have been occupying their workplace since last Friday in defence of their jobs.

They have made their move in defiance of the owners of Sealine Services, the multi-million pound P&O shipping company, who decided to

completely close the £2½ million cold store warehousing and office complex, the largest of its kind in the country, in April.

Three years ago, P&O moved all the workers from London and promised them that the custom-built facilities would become the national centre for its shipping provisions operation.

P&O have two other provision stores in Southampton

and in the Royal Albert Docks. The Basingstoke workers have the best tradition of organisation—so P&O have selected them to bear the brunt of their economy measures.

This is despite the fact that their depot has had pre-tax profits for the past two years.

□ Donations and messages of support to: Tony Mahoney, ASTMS Division Officer, Annabell House, 28 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middx.

# CELANESE: HOW WE CRUSHED THE RIGHT

By Stan Simpson, TGWU Shop Steward British Celanese, Spondon

attack on what they called ultra-lefts. They also defended Jack Jones and his £6 wage cut.

Even the right wing chairman only scraped back by two votes. He has not been opposed in the last six years.

We kicked the right wing out

because black workers throughout the site were fed up with the lack of interest from union reps. Together with white workers, they organised through the Socialist Worker Celanese Bulletin to kick out the right out.

It was a welcome sight to see the white shop stewards uniting with

the newly-elected Asian shop stewards to oppose the re-election of these yes men.

In the election for convenor, the old convenor got nine votes, the former chairman—another right winger—14, and the new convenor, Alex Russell 42 votes.

This is only the beginning of shifting British Celanese. We shall have to be on our guard against management attacks. But we can now go forward.

DERBY: Workers at the Spondon British Celanese plant, part of Courtaulds, have thrown out the right wing Transport union convenor, Charlie Carruthers.

Before the elections, local full-time officials came to the meeting and made a ten minute



Some of the 100 women who marched to Leeds Civi Hall last week to protest about the council's threat to close three of the city's wash-houses.

Despite the rantings of Tory councillors about the wash-houses only being 'gossip-shops' the wash-house women won the day. The move to close the wash-houses was defeated.

## Cockburns 32 battle on

GLASGOW: The equal pay strike at Cockburns Valve Hillington is now in its fifth week. The 32 AUEW/TASS members say they will not return to work until the company pay the women their money.

The strike committee feels it is important to fight small engineering companies like this one, particularly when they refuse to meet their equal pay obligations.

The strike committee has also sponsored the National Right to Work Campaign, March and Rally.

The dispute began over the payment of wages to men in the same job as women, a differential of up to £20.

### Struck

The women, who had only joined the union last year, began sanctions against the company, who replied by suspending a TASS member. All 32 AUEW TASS members then struck.

A TASS shop steward said:



'It is a pity that this strike for equal pay doesn't get the press coverage that other disputes receive. It would be very important for us to show the way the company are avoiding their obligations to equal pay.'

Two other local AUEW/TASS strikes for equal pay have just ended in victory. The workers at Cockburns feel certain they will win but they need all the support they can get.

□ Send donations and messages of support to: John Fisher, Cockburns Valve Strike Fund, 16 Whitefield Rd, Glasgow G42.

## Treforest strike solid

SOUTH WALES: The strike at the GEC factory in Treforest is now in its fourth week and is still going strong.

400 women members of the Engineering union the AUEW are fighting for equal pay, and are supported by the men in the factory, who are also out on strike.

The women are striking for £3.45 which would give them the semi-skilled rate.

Management are upping their offer weekly by 25p and are now offering £2. The women say 'It's a sheer bloody insult.'

The women last week staged a mass picket to keep out 50 APEX and ASTMS workers who had previously continued working. Only five members of higher management are still working.

At a mass meeting on Monday it was obvious that the women are getting even more determined to fight until they win.

Tom Evans, the AUEW District Secretary, told the meeting the struggle was against 'a capitalist management exploiting cheap labour, bloody minded enough to make 20,000 redundancies. So be sure that if we lose this fight it will be a return to the Thirties for the working class.'

□ Donations and messages of support to GEC Strike, AUEW House, Fadif Road, Pontypridd, Glamorgan.

## Pickets halt Clarksons

SHEFFIELD: 44 TASS pickets, mainly women, at the Clarksons International Tools factory prevented shop floor workers going to work last Friday. They stopped the factory.

Their official strike over equal pay arose over the third part of a one-year pay deal. The women are paid £4 less than one of the male clerks, and £9 less than similar workers at their sister factory in Nuneaton.

The women are paid between £28 and £36 a week for 35 hours. No one earns the top rate. The claim is for £37 to £45.

□ Messages of support and donations to Clarksons International Tool Strike Committee, AUEW House, Furnival Gate, Sheffield 1.

COVENTRY: 25 women at Helen Street GEC telecommunications factory have been on strike since 6 January.

Management put the piecework price for a new job so low that women were losing up to £18 a week. GEC told them that if they wanted more money, they could work harder.

Betty Simmons, Transport Union steward, told Socialist Worker: 'If management get away with paying these girls the lower price, rates will fall in all sections.'

## RTZ: 'We got what we wanted'

'WE'VE GOT what we wanted, that's the point' says Alan Beynon, vice chairman of the strike committee which is leading Britain's biggest strike for jobs.

The giant Rio Tinto Zinc smelter at Avonmouth will be idle for at least another week—the 18th since its workers went on strike last autumn.

They were protesting against 90 sackings which were not even put through the official disputes procedure.

From the outset, the strikers demanded arbitration. They refused to accept any redundancies until the employers accepted an inquiry.

### Spread

The employers arrogantly refused. So the strikers spread the strike to the nearby ISC Chemicals plant.

This stopped half production at Fisons plant, which gets its sulphuric acid from ISC. It was Fisons who broke the deadlock.

Desperate for production, they complained to the bosses' organisation, the Chemical Industries Association (CIA).

The CIA brought pressure on Rio Tinto. And last week Rio Tinto reluctantly agreed to an inquiry.

The inquiry is this Friday—in London. Alan Beynon says: 'We're staying out until then because we've discovered that arbitration awards are usually fairer to the workers if they stay out on strike.'

ALLOA: Magee's textile factory is due to be closed on 12 March. This will put another 130 people on the dole in an area where one in 12 are already unemployed.

Magee's, an Irish based company, plans to pull out only three years after they came to Tillicoultry, near Alloa.

They raked in more than £133,000 from the Scottish Development Department and the local council during that time.

Now they are prepared to leave their 130 workers on the scrapheap. And they will unless those workers occupy the factory and fight the closure.

# Socialist Worker

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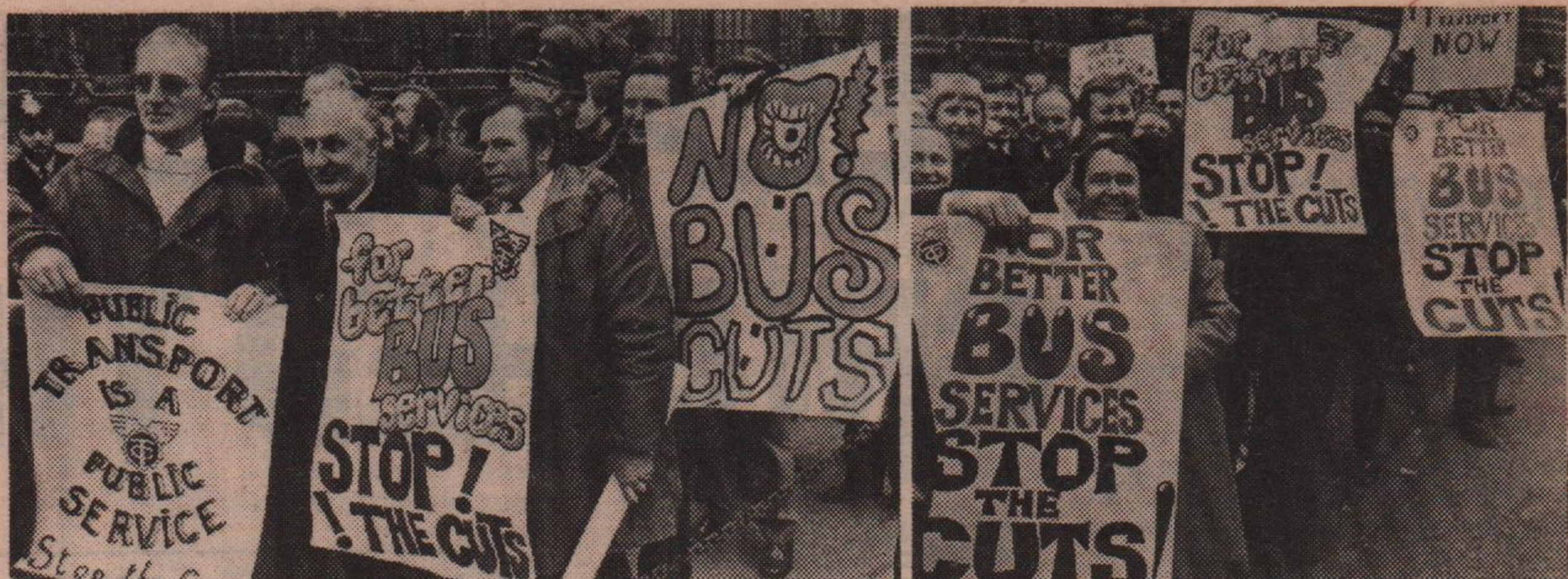
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Support!

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

## Gas workers keep up ban

200 DELEGATES from gas branches of the local government workers union, NALGO, decided to continue national industrial action at a special meeting on Monday. The action is against the victimisation of members who were locked out. The meeting called for the stepping up of action, including if necessary, reduction in gas supplies to industry. It also called for the reinstatement of all suspended members without loss of pay, protection of their pension rights, restoration of all facilities to trade union representatives, no victimisation of any NALGO member for action taken during the dispute. The meeting also headed off, for the time being, negotiations to accept a new staff agreement.

LEICESTER: Management at Electro-Motion Limited have refused to recognise the engineering union, which most of their workers have now joined. Instead they have sacked the convenor, driven the whole work force out on strike and are now refusing to negotiate or even discuss the situation with local AUEW officials. This is an important strike for the right to belong to a trade union. Financial help is urgently needed. Please send a donation to the strike committee, c/o the AUEW District Office, 71 Vaughan Way, Leicester.

JOSEPH GORMLEY, OBE, took another mighty stride last week towards that heaven on earth which beckons all trade union leaders willing to sell out their members—a seat in the House of Lords.

The president of the National Union of Mineworkers brought approving nods from those champions of the working class—parliament, press and television—as he did his not inconsiderable bit to get Langwith pit closed and a few more miners thrown on the scrapheap.

He and the right-wing on the miners' executive sapped, by disgraceful manoeuvring, the will of the rank and file to fight the Coal Board's plans.

Worse, they have assisted the Board in its battle to close dozens of other economic pits as it brings Selby and other massive new developments into production.

Last week's NUM executive meeting opened with Gormley stating that he wouldn't attend the talks with the Electricity Board about the future of the industry if the miners' overtime ban continued.

It's a great shame that he wasn't taken up on his blackmailing offer.

Then, one of his creatures, Ken Toone of South Derbyshire, moved into action.

This gentleman, who represents 3500 miners but has the same voting strength as North Derbyshire's 13,500 miners, moved for the ban to be called off.

### Grotty

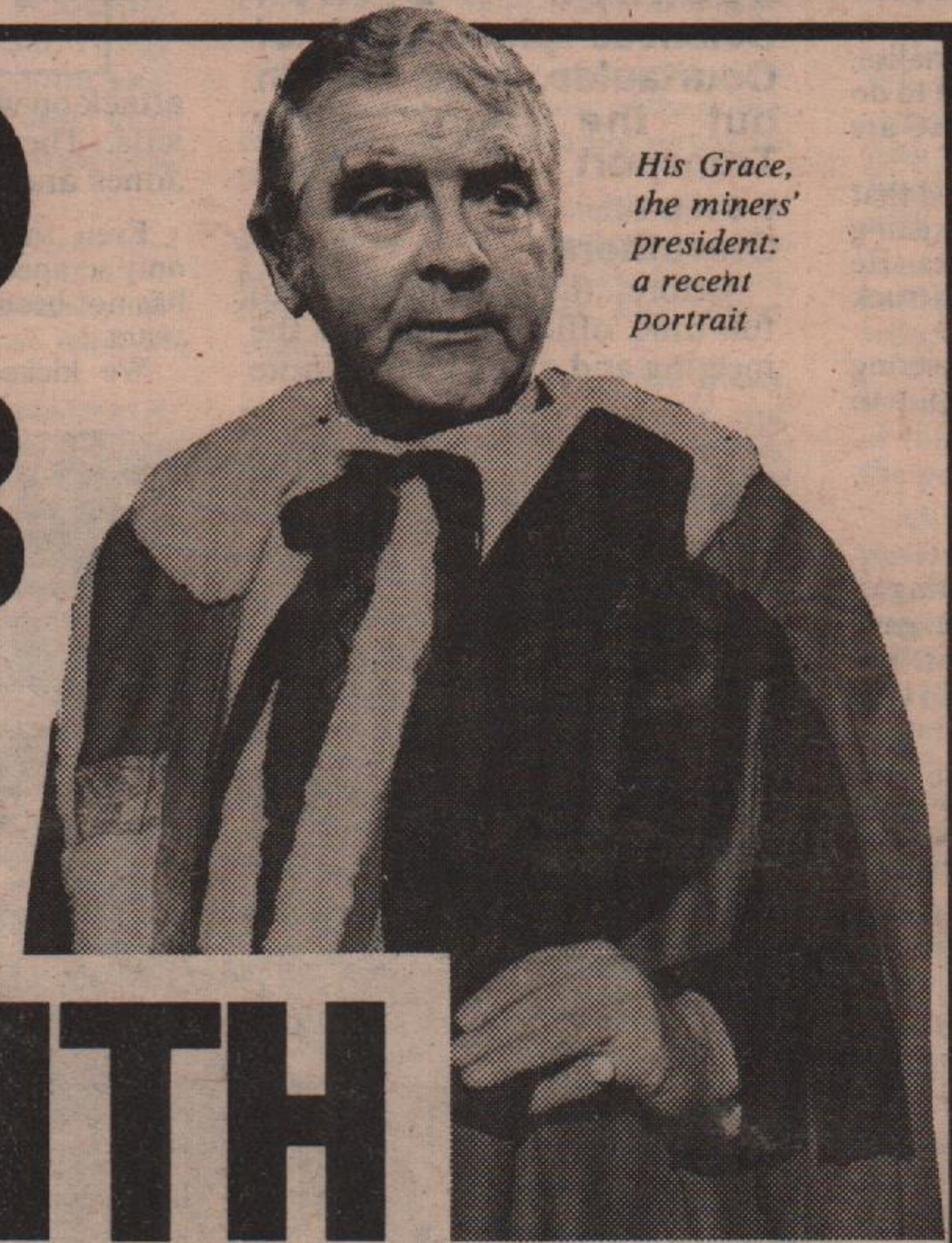
Toone had voted for the overtime ban last month. But, by last Thursday, he had had a miraculous change of heart.

He was seconded by Roy 'Grotty' Ottey of the Midlands, another man of moderation.

Meanwhile, Sid Storey, of the clerical workers, argued that there was nothing wrong with leaving a bit of coal in the ground (Langwith has two million tons of it).

'After all,' concluded this future Nobel prize winner in logic, 'in the future some

# LORD SCAB OF LANGWITH



His Grace, the miners' president: a recent portrait

scientist might come along and find a way of getting it out.'

Obviously Storey has not heard of that recent discovery, coalmining.

Frank Smith of Leicester had some telling words. He had sympathy with the Langwith miners, 'but this is politically motivated' he said.

Mr Smith is a member of that highly politically motivated right wing organisation, Moral Rearmament.

### Fight

Gormley spoke next: 'We've had previous (conference) resolutions about fighting pit closures and we haven't abided by them. So why should we get worked up about this one?'

This master of the behind-the-scenes-manoeuve concluded: 'We've got to fight for a bigger industry.'

By closing pits, presumably

Will this be the reward for Joe Gormley, OBE (Order of British Employers)?

Those who wanted to fight for Langwith pointed out that there are dozens of closures to come in Lancashire, Yorkshire, South Wales and even Nottingham. But they were defeated because the right has a built-in

majority, thanks to the rotten borough system of representation which gives tiny right wing coalfields the same voting strength as coalfields five times their size.

### Ban

Nevertheless, the fight over Langwith was far from worthless. The struggle against closures is now being actively considered by thousands of rank and file miners.

It's already resulted in Nottinghamshire miners at Teversal Colliery deciding to keep the overtime ban in operation until they get an assurance that the pit will not close.

Langwith did not vote to maintain the ban, but strong feelings of betrayal were expressed at Sunday's meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion of how Gormley could be got rid of and how union

officials could be elected for short periods and then made to stand for re-election.

All this bodes well. But meantime the right wing manipulators on the NUM executive—who refused to have a recall conference—have organised a ballot to try and get their actions in betraying Langwith endorsed.

### Curb

It is vital that rank and file miners campaign to make the No vote as big as possible.

What's more they need to organise to change the union structure so the unrepresentative moderate power at national level is curbed.

Until this is done, the national strength of the miners' union will not be used effectively to resist closures and whatever other schemes the employers have in mind.

Some of the bus workers who lobbied their MPs at Westminster last week as part of their national campaign against the massive cuts planned by the Labour government and the National Bus Company.

The lobby was preceded by a rally addressed by Jack Jones, leader of the busworkers' union, the Transport and General.

But not even Jones' usual rhetoric could hide the fact that he and his officials, while talking about a campaign to fight the cuts, were running round in circles to make sure busworkers didn't take them at their word and strike in support of the lobby.

The cuts can be fought—but only by the initiative of those likely to be affected: the rank and file, not the likes of Jones.

## Why we need your cash

TWENTY-FIVE Greek comrades attended a special meeting in London last weekend on the politics of the International Socialists. Speeches by Nigel Harris and Tony Cliff were followed by good discussions.

The IS International Department is hoping to do a lot more of this vital work. Which is where the Socialist Worker International Fund comes in.

So, comrades, please keep the money rolling. Last week we received £147.63. Our thanks to:

- N London £4
- Norwich £8
- Oxford £10
- N London comrade £100
- Sales of Angola Pamphlet £17.83
- Sales of Lessons of 25 November £7.80

The United States IS have ordered 50 copies of the pamphlet *The struggle for Angola* and have produced one of their own.

Australia IS have sent £250 to match the sum raised by the International Fund to finance a speaking tour by a comrade from Socialist Worker.

We have also had another four bankers' orders, bringing in an extra £10 a month.

Send collections and donations to SW International Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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## Subscribe!

## COVENTRY: Vote, demonstrate...

THAT five-yearly circus touchingly known as democracy is paying a special visit to Coventry next Thursday.

And the animals on display are of a rare breed by any standards.

The electors of Coventry North West will be able to exercise their freedom by choosing between a man of the right, a man of the far right

and two lunatics.

Labour's candidate, Geoffrey Robinson, not only supports mass unemployment: as the former boss of Jaguar and a one-time financial director of Leyland he's played his full part in creating it. Against him are three racials.

Jonathan Guinness, former head of the right-wing Tory Monday Club.

Andrew Fountaine, a Nor-

folk landowner and the candidate of the Nazi National Front.

John Kingsley Read, leader of the National Party, the fascists who crave 'respectability'.

These last three will all be hoping for their own despicable gang to exploit the justified unpopularity of the government and the dislike of many workers for their former

boss.

They will be attempting to divert such anger, to direct it against the unions and against black and Irish workers.

Faced with the threat from such candidates, trade union activists will have no choice but to vote for the Labour candidate.

This is the price the left has to pay for not yet having built a strong, revolutionary alternative to Labour that could put forward its own candidates in places like Coventry.

But the right wing must not be given the chance to appear as the only alternative to the present government of rising unemployment.

That is why the activities of the local Right to Work campaign in fighting for jobs and against the racials is so important.

We urge our readers to support its demonstration in Coventry this Saturday.

## ...keep fascists out!

COVENTRY: 100 angry shoppers stopped a National Front street meeting last Saturday.

Andrew Fountaine, the National Front's candidate in the by-election had to give up any idea of speaking in the shopping precinct as the crowd grew larger and larger.

The National Front's racist slogans 'British jobs for British workers' and 'Start repatriation—Stop immigration' are an insult to the intelligence of any worker—but especially to those in Coventry. Chrysler jobs weren't axed by black

workers! The National Front are marching through the Asian community on Saturday.

### Assemble

A counter-demonstration called by the Coventry and Chrysler Right to Work Committee is being supported by the Trades Council, Coventry City Engineers shop stewards' committee, the University of Warwick Students Union, Leamington Indian Workers' Association, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and other working class organisations.

Assemble at the Indian and Commonwealth Club, Lockhurst Lane, Coventry, at 1pm, Saturday 28 February. March to the rally in Cathedral Square.

All Midlands, London and Home Counties IS districts to support.

From London: coaches leave St Pancras Road, Kings Cross, at 10am. Cost of return trip: £1.50.

From Wolverhampton: Right to Work coach leaves from Falkland Street at 11.30am. Will arrive back by 6pm.

From Birmingham: Coach leaves from Hall of Memory, Broad Street at 12 noon.

## Womens Voice Concert

Women's Theatre Group Frankie Armstrong NW Spanner Broadside Mobile Workers Theatre

Thurs 4th March 7.30pm St Pancras Assembly Rooms Judd St WC1 tickets 80p bar

