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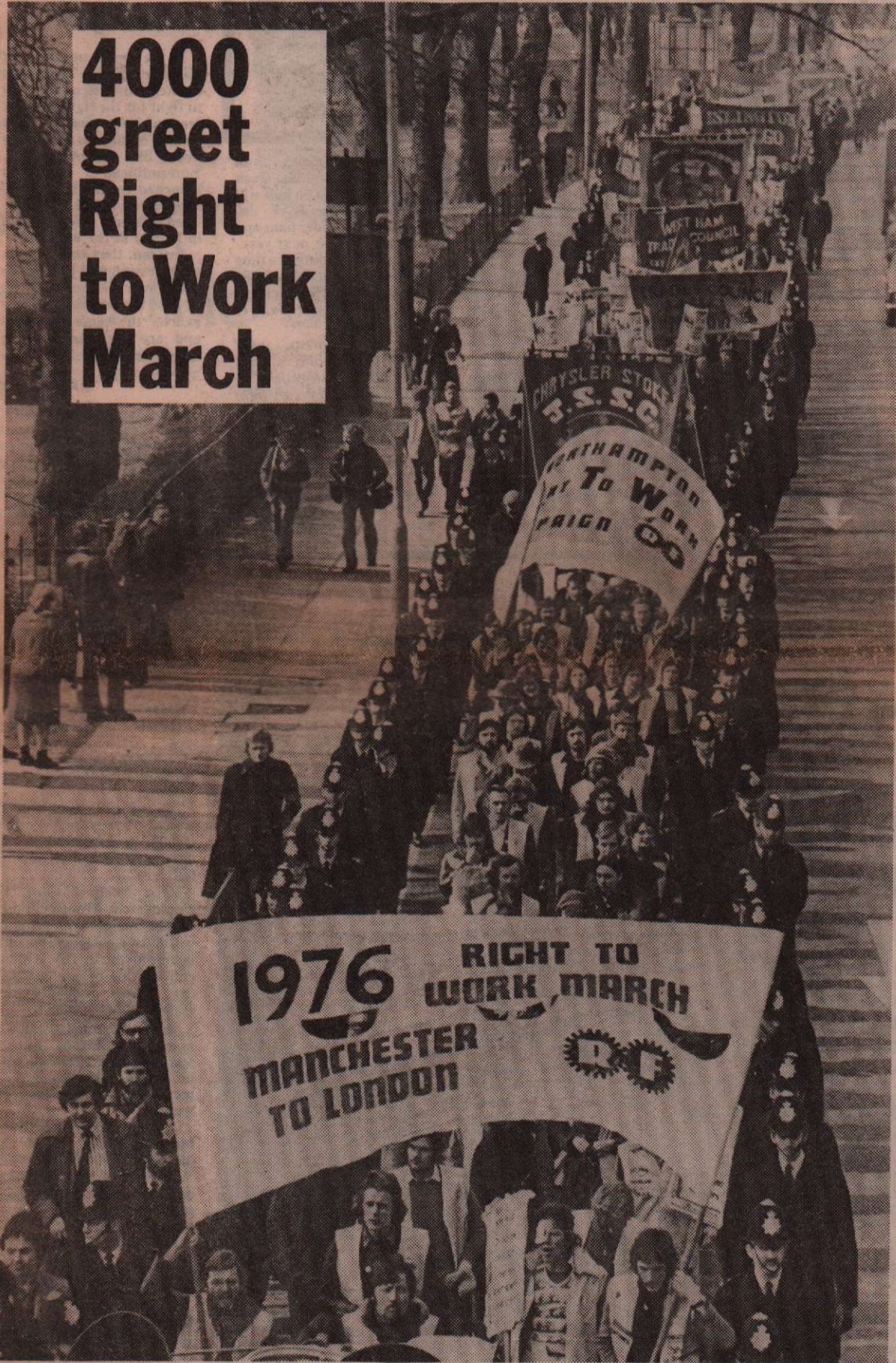
Heads they win, tails we lose

PAGE THREE

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

4000 greet Right to Work March



THREE THOUSAND supporters joined the Right to Work March on its final leg from Shepherds Bush Green in West London to the Albert Hall. Another thousand joined them for the rally that followed.

The previous day, at Staples Corner in North London, the march was attacked by police, including the Special Patrol Group.

Thirty-five of the marchers were arrested. John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, was charged with 'intent to cause grievous bodily harm'—but released on bail in

time to tell the cheering rally: 'They will not stop us marching'.

AND NOW FOR SATURDAY'S ASSEMBLY:

This Saturday, the Assembly on Unemployment meets in Central Hall, Westminster. This could be an important step in the fight for the right to work.

There's still time to get to the Assembly. A letter from your shop stewards' committee secretary or branch secretary will serve as credentials.

The Right to Work marchers will be lobbying the Assembly. They want to attend and to be represented by a speaker.

Right to Work Campaign supporters should rush telegrams to the Assembly organisers (Assembly, CSEU No 8, 28 Denmark Street, London WC2) calling for solidarity with the arrested marchers and asking for their rights to speak at the Assembly.

Bill McGloughlin, secretary of the CSEU No 8 which has called the conference, told a lobbying marcher on Tuesday that he could see no objection to the marchers' speaking.

Full report of the rally—pages 8-9.

Drop the charges! What the police did to the marchers—pictures page 7.

PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

They cut off a pensioner's electricity

THEY CUT OFF HIS LIFE

GEORGE STEVENSON, a 71-year-old pensioner and former riveter at the Robb Caledon shipyard in Dundee, was burned to death last Saturday night.

George died in his attic room in the tenement slum where he lived most of his retired life. He died because his electricity had been disconnected.

His electricity was disconnected in 1972 because he could not pay the bills. George, like thousands of pensioners, had to supplement his pitiful pension with a part-time job. He worked in a chip shop.

But he still couldn't afford to meet his ever-increasing electricity bills. So he used candles for light and whatever he could afford for heat.

On Saturday the inevitable happened. His attic room caught fire.

It was half an hour before firemen with breathing apparatus found the body. They thought at first it was the body of a dog.

Basic

Neighbour Mrs Shiela McKenzie said: 'These old buildings are bad enough even with electricity.' She agreed that electricity should be a basic right for old age pensioners.

Brodie Angles, full-time Electricians Union official in Dundee, was asked whether the local electricians had taken

By Jim Barlow (TGWU)

any decision against cutting off pensioners and other needy people.

He replied 'No comment'. When asked whether he thought it important that the public know of any such policy decision taken by the electricians, he again replied 'No comment'.

Maurice Whitfield, the local electricity board manager, was more direct: 'Several people who live in that particular block of flats have been disconnected', he told me.

He added that he 'understood unofficially' that several of these people 'have a social problem'. There is, he added, 'an unfortunate situation'.

Unfortunate situation indeed.

Johnny Miller, secretary of the Dundee Right to Work Campaign, said: 'This is sickening. The man was

murdered by the authorities, by the electricity board, by the rich landlords who took rent off him while he went without.'

'George Stevenson worked all his life producing profits for the employers. Then when he was old and worn out they threw him on the scrapheap to starve and worry and die.'

Fight

'Old age pensioners have no power to fight the authorities. So organised workers must fight for them.'

'The attitude of Brodie Angles shows that we must rely on the rank and file. Our campaign will now be approaching the local electricians to ask them to pass a resolution at their branch to stop all disconnections for pensioners.'

'No disconnections. Let's stop these killings.'

WHY IS everyone, even Jim Callaghan, suddenly talking about Rhodesia?

ANSWER NO 1 comes from a Mrs J S Robins in a letter to Monday's Daily Telegraph:

'As immediate past President of the Chamber of Mines of Rhodesia, I am amazed at the complacency with which the non-Communist world views the situation in Southern Africa.

Extra

'With the vast wealth of Angola already lost, the arrival of the Russians in Mozambique highlights the importance of the mineral wealth of Rhodesia and South Africa.

'Rhodesia is the most important supplier of metallurgical chrome ore, the importance of which is so

RHODESIA: WHAT'S REALLY AT STAKE

great that the United States of America was prepared to overrule United Nations sanctions to import it.

'In addition to chrome, Rhodesia has large quantities of copper, nickel, lithium and caesium.

'Rhodesia is also a large gold producer, being probably the fourth most important in the world.

'Its vast coal resources should not be overlooked.'

ANSWER NO 2 came in a series of interviews in the black suburbs of Salisbury which were printed in Tuesday's International Herald Tribune. One young black man said:

'We want to be free now. If we have to get Russian or Cuban help to do it, we don't care.'

Another said: 'Britain has done nothing for us for ten years now. Why should we expect help from her now? We can gain our freedom only by fighting.'

Ten years ago, Harold Wilson offered Ian Smith, leader of Rhodesia's 250,000 whites, independence from Britain in exchange for a few vague commitments about 'slow advancement to majority rule'. Smith refused.

Guerrillas are fighting in many sections of Northern and Eastern Rhodesia. The

victory of Frelimo over the Portuguese in Mozambique and of the MPLA over the South Africans in Angola has enormously strengthened these guerrilla armies.

Now the propertied interests in Rhodesia, and the British government which supports them, are terrified of another Angola.

Hope

A racist regime has served them well for 80 years. Now they are dropping it like a hot brick.

They are desperately trying to replace Smith with a black puppet, Joshua Nkomo.

They are offering an 'interim period' in which the British government keeps control of Rhodesia, 'pacifies' the guerrillas (if necessary with British troops) and offers enormous compensation to the whites to stay on their farms and property.

Where three out of five workers are on the dole

ONE WORKER in nine is on the dole in Northern Ireland—and the figure is rising fast.

For many this is nothing new. Unemployment has been a way of life here, particularly in Catholic areas, for generations. And, once used to it, people do not normally fight back against it.

But this time it is just possible that things will be different. Even by Northern Ireland standards the present situation is desperate.

In Newry, 27 per cent are now jobless, in Strabane 26 per cent. Community leaders in Ballymurphy in Belfast say that male unemployment in their estate is now approaching 60 per cent!

Young

These are all Catholic districts where young workers, particularly after their experience in the past six or seven years, are much less willing than their fathers to take it lying down.

Moreover the crisis is now hitting jobs once regarded as 'safe'—and where the workforce is predominantly Protestant.

The Belfast shipyard is in deep trouble. Like Swan Hunter in Tyneside, its order book is dominated by the giant Maritime Fruit Carriers, whose near-corporate manipulation of the shipping market has ended in collapse.

Pay-offs were recently announced at Rolls Royce,

TROOPS OUT



They have been supported by the Labour and trade union co-ordinating group, a loose alliance of leftist trade unionists.

However, the union bosses, like their counterparts in Britain, are doing what they can to stop any real fight.

Last Saturday the Irish Congress of Trade Unions hosted a 'Crisis Summit' in Belfast which was attended by SDLP leader Gerry Fitt, the ultra right wing bigot Ian Paisley, and the anti trade union demagogue William Craig.

Plague

If the small numbers of Catholic and Protestant workers now discussing how to fight for the right to work are to have even a tiny chance of success they must avoid like the plague any 'non-political' campaign launched by the ICTU and supported by the motley band of bigots who gathered in Belfast at the weekend.

Instead, they should look to the South and join hands with their fellow workers beyond the border, who face exactly the same problems and are beginning exactly the same struggle.

EAMONN McCANN

Foot to see Right to Work marchers

THIRTY Right to Work marchers went to the Department of Employment on Monday to collect the unemployment figures for March.

The official number in the United Kingdom is down 19,501—to 1,284,915. But this does not represent any real fall.

Even Michael Foot, Unemployment Minister, said:

'The unemployment figures will show a considerable fall in unemployment. This is almost entirely due to students leaving the unemployment register.'

Foot was not in when the marchers arrived, but his secretary assured the marchers he would make an appointment to see them later this week.

A porter came out of the building and told the marchers: 'That's right, lads. You're the enemy until they want to stick you in a monkey suit and fight their wars for them.'

£600 a week to axe jobs

AFTER appointing a tobacco millionaire as boss of British Leyland, the government have now found a merchant banker to head British Steel.

He is Charles Villiers, executive deputy chairman of Guinness Peat, a gang of bankers and commodity speculators.

From 1968 to 1971 he led the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, and carved up a number of industries in the interests of monopolists.

The enormous profits from mining machinery firms, for instance, were shared out between three firms.

Sir Charles will get £600 a week to sack as many steelworkers as he can.

PRESS 'RACISM' SMEAR ON BLACK MILITANT

By Azim Hajee
RACIALISM in college probe, screamed the Birmingham Evening Mail last Wednesday.

It hadn't suddenly taken a hard line against racialism.

Instead it raved about this so-called 'black power devotee' who was terrorising the students, beating up lecturers and had been responsible for 30 lecturers coming out on strike against him.

As usual with the Mail, the truth was far from this.

Sebastian Goodwin became president of West Bromwich Tech on a platform of militant opposition to the squalor and racialism in the college.

The lecturers vowed to get rid of him. Their chance came when Mrs Bird, a typing teacher, complained that Sebastian had sworn at her.

This was the cue for many lecturers to surface.

Vote

As part of the campaign against him, lecturers canvassed white students to vote against Sebastian. The Evening Mail got in on the act to make his defeat a certainty.

In a mass meeting, he lost his position by 243 votes to 183. The rest of the executive resigned and is now fighting new elections on a militant programme to unite both white and black students.

Conditions at the college are appalling. At Kentrick Street, one of the premises, the common room is freezing.

In the High street premises, it's even worse. There is no common room.

Protest

Black students also complain of racialism. A Pakistani student said: 'It is very subtle. They make a remark which makes you mad, and then they laugh.'

'One senior lecturer said to me. 'When we were in your country, you knew your place.'

The college authorities' response to Sebastian's attacks on this was to ban from the college even the government sponsored propaganda news sheet of the Race Relations Board.



RAIL UNION LEADERS RUN AWAY

INCREASED rail fares—the prelude to still bigger railway cuts—take force on Sunday. And they will do so because the leadership of the three railway unions have done nothing to fight them.

Three weeks ago, the North London District Council of the National Union of Railwaymen called on their executive to act.

They asked it to meet with the executive of the white-

collar railway union, TSSA, to organise a campaign against taking the increased fares. The NUR executive did nothing.

Two weeks ago, the executive of the train drivers' union, ASLEF, isolated the strike by Eastern Region members against the cuts when, with an ounce of leadership, it could have snowballed into a national stoppage that would have

made the government and British Rail think again.

The strike fizzled out—leaving the leadership of ASLEF, like that of the NUR and TSSA, to 'fight' the cuts by chatting amiably with people in high places.

But the fight still goes on. Southern Region drivers are calling a one-day strike on 20 April. They are supported by the Scottish drivers.

And they want the ASLEF

executive to make it an official, national stoppage.

It is likely that the ASLEF leadership, put to the test once again, will fail once again.

But if the bureaucrats won't fight to save jobs and services, the members will. Already members of all three unions are getting together to produce the Railway Worker, a rank and file bulletin which aims to link up militants in the fight against the cuts.

Pickets protesting in London last week over the case of Desmond Trotter. The Privy Council had decided that it had no objection to the government of the British colony of Dominica executing him. Desmond Trotter is in a condemned cell in the colony after being framed in a murder trial two years ago. A key witness has now made statements retracting her evidence. But the Labour government and the Privy Council have refused to intervene to save the life of an innocent man.

Picture John Sturrock Report

Sunny Jim, friend of rich men the whole world over

SOON after the nominations opened for the Labour leadership, the favourite, Mr James Callaghan, Foreign Secretary, was approached by Reginald Maudling, shadow Foreign Secretary. 'Good luck, Jim', said Reggie. 'But remember, I was front-runner once. And I lost'. The warning is a fair one. For Callaghan is Labour's Maudling. Like Maudling, Callaghan specialises in a cheerful image.

Signed

Like Maudling, Callaghan was a reactionary Chancellor of the Exchequer and a reactionary Home Secretary.

Callaghan introduced the Kenyan Asians Immigration Bill in 1968, which discriminated against black British passport-holders.

When Maudling introduced an even more reactionary Immigration Bill in 1971, Callaghan pleaded with the Labour front bench not to oppose it.

Like Maudling, too, James Callaghan fancies the high life. He likes living well, and is not averse to a 'business life' running side by side with his 'political commitment'.

Story

Callaghan's business friend is Sir Julian Hodge, a Welsh businessman who fought his way to riches through financing second mortgages at enormous interest rates.

Hodge is a prominent Labour supporter—and no wonder. He does better under a Labour government.

Callaghan, as Treasurer of the Labour Party, asked its 1971 conference to do a deal with the Hodge organisation. Labour members would sell

Hodge insurance policies. The party would get a cut—and so would Hodge.

The proposal was voted down.

When in 1972, Hodge formed the Commercial Bank of Wales, two prominent shareholders were Mr and Mrs Callaghan.

In the same year, Callaghan also joined the board of the International Bank of Italy, a lucrative new post which is said to have doubled his Parliamentary salary.

This is only one man whom Callaghan holds more dear than Sir Julian: Henry Kissinger.



Hodge: Labour's pride and joy

While Foreign Secretary, Callaghan has followed every policy dictated to him by the Kissinger machine.

Kissinger told him not to be too hard on the Chile junta. So Callaghan withdrew from the sanctions which Labour had promised, and allowed gunboats to be built for the Chilean navy.

Kissinger has dictated British policy in Southern Africa—especially the so-called 'neutralism' in the Angolan war.

Kissinger has ordered Callaghan to prepare a royal reception for the murderous government of Brazil.

Visit

Kissinger has persuaded Callaghan's 'total support' for splitting Arab from Arab in the Middle East and 'winning' the Egyptian government to the Pentagon's 'point of view'.

Last year, Kissinger, on Callaghan's instigation, received the freedom of the City of Cardiff. Callaghan, in short, is as fitting a successor to Harold Wilson.

The ultimate 'pragmatist', who will give pragmatic support for property and reaction anywhere in the world.



A number of respectable inhabitants of the country, uninfluenced by the Party zeal which a few violent men have enjoyed, have favoured the true interests of the country, and have taken the liberty to recommend, to the support of all good citizens, the following person—viz.

ME

Foot the bill - on the dole

HEADS THEY WIN, TAILS WE LOSE

'I AM NOT saying we have done exactly the same as the Tories.

There may be some trimmings and some improvements, but the essentials are the same, a resort to unemployment as a weapon of policy which this Labour movement has denied and abjured throughout the whole of its history.

That was Michael Foot at the Labour Party conference in 1967, attacking the economic policies of James Callaghan, then Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Today, Foot is himself Minister in charge of unemployment twice the 1967 figure. He has gone against everything which he once claimed to stand for.

Failed

Despite that, most of the parliamentary left are backing him.

They will be voting on the basis of a past record, not present achievements. Foot, once thought of as the left-wing 'conscience' of the Labour Party, has often showed himself willing to forget his conscience in the interests of 'practicability'.

During the war, he worked for the right-wing press baron Lord Beaverbrook (owner of the Daily Express group) as editor of the Evening Standard.

Argue

Beaverbrook later insisted: 'Foot never gave a left turn to the politics of the Evening Standard' and explained how he gave 'directives' to Foot. One of these, in 1940, was 'to lay off Franco'.

Foot's great belief was that the mere presence of a Labour government was enough to move towards socialism.

And so, after bouts of disagreement with the Labour leadership which even led—in 1961—to expulsion from the parliamentary party, he always ended up apologising for them.

Freeze

He was so enamoured with the 1945-50 Labour government that he backed its wage freeze and its support for the US adventure in Korea.

'American soldiers are fighting in Korea,' he wrote, 'to uphold a principle that the Labour Party since 1918 has considered essential for the preservation of world peace.'

By 1964 he had again forgotten his criticisms of the Labour right wing.

He wrote a book on Harold Wilson that described that miserable fraud in the most glowing terms.

Before the 1966 election he wrote that it would be 'one of the essential days in the forward march'.

Those who thought otherwise were 'incorrigible sectarians and nihilists'.

Now Foot has betrayed his old principles.

Build

The man who led CND marches is now in a government that is happily building more bombers and more nuclear submarines.

He has made it clear that, if he becomes leader, there will be no change from Wilson's politics.

Only last Saturday he boasted of the 'success' of these policies.

Betray

He spoke of 'our great hope for the future, the social contract' which 'all the ministers at the Department of Employment have worked by might and main, day and night, by every means in our power, to consolidate'.

'The results have been beneficial for the country as well as the party.'

There is an outside chance that Foot will become Prime Minister. If so, the Labour Party will be keeping to its tradition of putting into office someone who once claimed to be on the left and witnessing him following policies indistinguishable from those of the party's far right.

A SMALL section of the parliamentary left refused to join the Foot bandwagon. Instead, they swung their support behind Wedgwood Benn.

They have been backed by some of the left outside parliament. For instance, a statement of support of Benn came on Monday from the Scottish Area of the miners' union.

The refusal to be conned into supporting the Minister of Unemployment because of his left wing utterances in the distant past is a good sign.

But it would be a mistake to believe Benn's policies represent any real alternative. He

THE ELECTIONS for a new Labour leader and Prime Minister are not going to alter the policies of this government one iota.

The main candidates are unanimous in their support for high unemployment, the £6 freeze and the cuts.

So, too, are the leaders of the big unions—Jones, Scanlon and Basnett. Some of them prefer Foot simply because they believe it will be easier to persuade their members to accept unemployment and wage freeze if he is head of the government.

The Labour government does not, however, end with the Labour MPs and the heads of the giant unions.

Three weeks ago, 30,000 Dundee workers struck for a day in protest at the cuts. A fortnight ago, the biggest

WHAT WE THINK

unofficial railway strike for many years closed most of Eastern Region for three days. Elsewhere, workers are beginning to look for—and take—action to defend themselves.

This weekend an important Assembly on Unemployment is taking place, called by the London Confederation of Engineering Unions. Many fine speeches will be made.

But if it is going to contribute to the building of a real alternative to the disastrous and reactionary policies of the present government, there will have to be a call for action to unite the local and sectional struggles that are beginning to develop.

has stood on three main policies.

ONE: The call for 'open government'. Benn wants stronger parliamentary committees to discuss government policies, such as budgets, before they are presented for ratification.

Struggle

His ideal is the United States, where congress plays an active role in shaping economic policy, and is not just a rubber stamp like the House of Commons.

But this is hardly a method of dealing with the problems

confronting millions of workers. There are seven million unemployed in the US—and no amount of 'open government' is going to end that.

TWO: The great plank of Benn's policy is 'joint control of industry' by workers and management. That also exists in some parts of the world.

Under the name 'co-determination', it has been the policy in West Germany for many years—but it has not stopped the great financiers and industrialists dominating the economy.

Nor has it prevented unemployment of well over the million mark. All it has done

has been to weaken the trade unions. It would be the same in Britain.

THREE: Import controls. They mean higher prices. They mean merely trying to shift unemployment from the backs of workers in Britain on to the backs of workers in other countries.

Cuts

And they mean encouraging other countries to take retaliatory measures against British exports.

So, for instance, a few jobs

Benn's policy...suicide

THROUGHOUT the world, in Italy, France, Germany, Portugal, Latin America, women are organising to make abortion legal. In Britain it is legal, but the anti-abortion lobby is working its hardest to change the law again.

Behind all the anti-abortion lobbies stand the hierarchy of the Catholic Church—the Pope, the Bishops, the archbishops. They are making a last ditch stand against the erosion of the

values they uphold, not least of which is that sex is wrong, for procreation only.

Another big demonstration is being planned in London on Saturday 3 April against the James White anti-abortion Bill.

If the law is changed here it will only help the Church ensure that women all over the world are kept in a state of misery.

NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION!

Demonstration organised by the National Abortion Campaign.

Saturday 3 April, 1.30pm, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, Central London.

All branches of the International Socialists to attend, with banners.

Abortion: The demand is worldwide

ABORTION is illegal in Italy. Yet the World Health Organisation estimates that the number of back street, illegal abortions each year runs to 1½ million.

Compare that to 150,000 abortions each year in this country and it makes you wonder what the anti-abortionists are screaming about.

The abortion law dates back to Italy's fascist years. Its strongest defender is the Catholic Church. But things are moving.

Early last year a Constitutional Court decision found that the mother's right to health and sanity must take precedence over the foetus, which is 'not yet a person'. 800,000 signatures demanding a national referendum have been collected and the three main political parties, the Socialists, the Communists and the Christian Democrats, have all produced new draft legislation.

But all their proposed laws would still leave doctors with the power to decide whether or not an abortion can be carried out. So the campaign goes on for women to have the right to decide themselves.

Meanwhile the misery that goes with illegal abortion continues.

Susan Crawley describes how safe but illegal abortions have to be organised.

For three years the Italian Centre for Sterilisation and Abortion has worked to get the law changed. But with the Catholic Church and doctors who charge £300 a time it won't be easy.

There isn't much chance of publicity because all the work done by the Centre and its voluntary workers is strictly against the law.

Their meetings are held three times a week. To them come men and women of all types, young students, menopause housewives who thought they were 'finished with all that' and then came in for an unpleasant surprise!

Simple

Small tickets are handed out: name, age, last period, previous abortions and pregnancies.

The talk itself is short, and simple. The suction method is explained thoroughly, with diagrams and apparatus. Questions are answered with patience and kindness.

JUDITH CONDON

Those who are into the third month of their pregnancy are given the chance of going to England—for £140! Others stay in Italy, and the abortion costs about £40. Women and young girls that are penniless have the operation free.

Eventually names are called out, and three groups formed—those that must go to England, and those in the first and second months. You are told where to meet, and after the appointment are taken to a private house.

Curious

These places have to be changed every time. Too many women coming and going and too many curious eyes will alert the police. The risk is enormous—not only the 'abortionist' but the patient and the go-between can all go to prison.

Some have already been sent to prison. No doubt others will follow.

All because abortion is illegal.

Glasgow Abortion Demonstration
Saturday 3 April.
2pm Blythwood Square.



ABOVE: Women demonstrate for abortion outside the Italian parliament.

The plastic mock-up reaction

ELLEN McCORMACK, New York housewife, mother of four, and devout Catholic, is against abortion. She is also against contraception.

She is also against abortion even when it is needed on medical grounds to save the woman's life. She is against the abortion of malformed foetuses. Or for the victims of rape.

What makes Ellen McCormack so special? The fact that she is running for President of

the United States backed by an anti-abortion fund of £85,000.

She claims to be an amateur—just a housewife. She has never even worked for her living.

Most presidential candidates raise their campaign funds from American big business. Mrs McCormack is no exception.

In the United States, even more than in Britain, vast amounts of money and organisation are being used to fuel the anti-abortion

backlash.

In Britain, the Catholic organisation, Life, places relatively modest adverts in national newspapers. In America their counterpart, Right to Life, buys prime television time for sickening commercials.

Ever since 22 January 1973, when the US Supreme Court made abortion legal, the anti-abortionists have been fervently gathering their forces.

Last year alone 59 anti-abortion amendments were

introduced, unsuccessfully in Congress, as well as many other attempted legal riders to make abortion harder to get.

A freelance journalist, Louise Farr, attended the Right to Life National Convention in Denver, Colorado, last June, along with 850 overwhelmingly white delegates and has described their methods.

On display in the lobby of the Denver Hilton were: 'plastic mock-ups of foetuses in utero; rings symbolising "the hand of God holding the unborn baby"—God's hand in silver, baby in gold tones; Right to Life sportswear and auto licence plates; buttons picturing cuddly babies labelled "endangered species"; hot-pink "happy faces" telling the world "I'm glad you were born"; and tiny cartoon books starring "Foetus", who sits in her mother's womb plucking daisies and saying "I luv u mom."'

Appeal

But the Right to Lifers' proudest success came last year. In Boston they provided prosecution witnesses against Dr Kenneth Edelin, who had performed a perfectly legal abortion, yet was convicted of manslaughter on a technical charge of not attempting to save the foetus's life. He is appealing against this.

BELOW: Adele Faccio, who was jailed for her part in the campaign for abortion in Italy.



The Ugandan Asians' ordeal goes on

THE racist outcry in the British press was unprecedented when Ugandan Asians, expelled by General Amin, started arriving here in 1972.

Now that the last of the settlement camps have closed, the story is different—though often no less racist for that.

These people have now settled down, we're told. What's more the story goes, some are better off than the rest of us, with big cars, televisions and so on.

But the truth about this 'settlement' is in a recent report* that shows how the Ugandans have become scapegoats of a vicious system.

Remember that when they arrived in England, some were old and sick, many could not speak a word of English. The bureaucracy they had to face caused considerable suffering.

No help

When they tried to find accommodation, they were strongly advised not to do so in the 'red' or highly immigrant areas. They weren't given any help if they did.

So they were inevitably cut off from any friends or community, and also from the extended family system through which Asians have always looked after their old and sick.

So the old are left alone in a foreign country, sometimes with no communication with anyone.

Life was made more difficult when any of the Ugandan Asians tried to claim benefits.

For example, a widow of 58 who ventured up to the Social Security office with an interpreter was asked to show her marriage certificate and her husband's death certificate. These had been left behind in Uganda.

The officer was sorry but nothing could be done about it. She could not argue. The result was that she had to live with a relative without any money for six months.

Later, when the office was questioned about this, they replied that she'd probably gone to the wrong office. No one had thought to direct her to the right one!

Serious

Says the report: The number of families in need of help all over London is probably 500—out of which 200-300 may be serious, 100 urgent. We have little or no information on Ugandan Asians in other cities.

Because of cultural and language differences, and the in-built racism of bureaucracy, the problem Asians face are more aggravated than for whites. But the problems are basically the same—bad housing, low wages, unemployment, cuts in living standards.

* TABU: Ugandan Asians—the old, the weak, the vulnerable, produced by the London Council of Social Services.

Dina Bhadeshia

What did you do in the class war, Daddy?



We know what the TUC did. They sold out. But for thousands of rank and file trade unionists, the General Strike was a different story.

For them it unleashed the imagination, the determination, the power that, in normal times, our 'democratic' society keeps firmly under control.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the strike, Socialist Worker is producing a special supplement. So if you were around at the time, we want to hear from you.

We want your anecdotes, your clippings, your old photographs and strike bulletins. Anything you send us will, of course, be returned.

Contact Socialist Worker (General Strike), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 8DN or phone 01-739 6361.

BLACK WORKERS IN BRITAIN

An International Socialists pamphlet IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. 20p including postage.



Batons fly as police smash women's sit-in

PICTURES which show how the police brutally attacked one of the struggles by Thai workers last week.

The occupation at the Hara clothing factory in Bangkok was one of a number that began last year. Others were in Colgate Palmolive, Thai Moulten and Standard Garments.

The Hara struggle began five months ago, after the closure of one factory of 300 workers, the sacking of 120 workers in the firm's other factory, and the cutting of wages to 70p a day.

When the management tried to beat up a picket line with 30 hired thugs, the women occupied, renamed the factory Labour Union factory and began running it under workers' control.

Last week, as the pictures show, the police and army felt strong enough to take it over. They hadn't dared to earlier in case the strike spread to other factories.

This followed a sit-down protest outside the Prime Minister's house. Police moved in to break that with batons and tear gas, arresting 40 strikers. Two hours later they moved in to seize the factory.

Messages of support to Mrs Chorkiang Chua, Hara (Thailand) Trok Chan, Bangkok, Thailand.

THAILAND

Where the tiger of revolution meets the iron heel of repression



Hurricane gets new trial

RUBIN (Hurricane) Carter, the black boxer serving a life sentence, is to get a new trial. Hurricane's case has been the subject of a best selling Bob Dylan record.

The New Jersey Supreme Court last week accepted his contention that the key prosecution witnesses at the trial were forced by the police to give rigged evidence.

It looks as if Hurricane will be free soon. But there are thousands of black prisoners in US jails who will never get the publicity that he got and will never get retrials.

That is how American freedom works...

NIGEL HARRIS reports from Bangkok

THIS IS Thailand, where the tiger of revolution is abroad.

And, as these pictures show, the country's iron-fisted rulers are trying to ride that tiger in the only way they know how.

Only last weekend, two demonstrators were killed in Bangkok, the capital, when right-wingers threw a hand-grenade among several thousand students demanding that the government implement its deadline for the withdrawal of all United States troops.

Chairs

Thailand is the least-known of that trio of countries which, two years ago, overthrew long-standing dictatorships.

And, as in Portugal and Ethiopia, a rising working class came to the fore to snap the chains of that repression.

But the fight is far from over—and Thailand's workers

are still fighting.

Their battle can be traced back to October 1973, when Rajdamnoen Square in Bangkok saw unprecedented demonstrations.

A meeting half a million strong sent a delegation to plead for the release of 13 prisoners—and marines opened fire with machine guns, slaughtering between 400 and 800 of the crowd.

It was the end of the dictatorship. The group which runs Thailand could no longer afford the dictator.

The generals, the state bureaucrats and the businessmen, foreign and domestic, tried to make a few concessions.

Most of the demonstrators were students, who then began

to move to the left, raising socialist slogans and protesting at the presence in Thailand of the 39,000 US troops.

But workers were involved in the movement, and showed increasing signs of militancy.

There was a massive strike by textile workers in June 1974. The landless labourers in the north-east began to form peasants associations.

A month later, 3000 people fought a pitched gun battle for three days outside Bangkok police station after the arrest of a taxi driver for a parking offence.

The government at first tried to win over the workers and peasants with small concessions.

But last year the right began to counter-attack. The core of the right was the Internal Security Operations Command, with its own paramilitary youth organisation, the Red Gaurs (sic).

This has attempted to build its own student organisations and to use it to attack the leadership of the left.

Murder

Some 35 left and liberal party and student leaders have been murdered in recent months.

Last week a shower of shots was poured into the car of the leader of the Socialist Party.

Nevertheless, workers' militancy has continued to rise. The most outstanding example of it was a five-day general strike in January, following a 30 per cent increase in the price of rice, the basic food.

The government caved in and, to defuse opposition, called for elections which are due next week.

But there have been dozens of other kinds of militancy.

There is, however, a catastrophic lack of leadership. There is no workers party. The illegal Communist Party is away in the countryside of the north-east, waging guerilla warfare.

The right are biding their time to carry through a counter-revolution.

Cocktail

The Supreme Commander held a well-publicised cocktail party last week, where he told other generals to be patient. 'I'll tell you when the time comes', he said.

The workers and peasants have shown they have the power to resist—but they still lack the necessary organisation.

And there is precious little time.

PORTUGAL: FORGING THE LINKS

A THIRD delegation from the Rank and File Organising Committee is to visit Portugal at the end of next month.

The visit could not take place at a more opportune time. For the workers' struggle to defend themselves against the advance of the right wing is rapidly growing.

Last week the so-called socialists who dominate the government and the military council took a leaf out of the book of the fascists in neighbouring Spain.

They threatened to conscript striking nurses into the army where they would have been liable to appear before military courts.

In the North, the threat was

effective. The nurses reluctantly voted to return to work.

But in Lisbon and the South they replaced the strike with a work to rule which has left the

hospitals virtually paralysed.

An even bigger strike is likely soon from the country's 200,000 building workers.

In their fight for the wage

Communists to join Tories?

DISCUSSIONS are taking place in Rome with the aim of getting the Italian Communist Party to help sustain a government of the Christian Democrats—the Italian equivalent of the Tories. The Communist Party has made it clear for sometime that its aim is a 'historical compromise' with the Christian Democrats. It would like to form a coalition government with them.

The main obstacle is the US government, which does not trust the Italian CP, despite the statement by the Communist leadership that they are prepared to support NATO. But many western governments are convinced that Communist participation in the Italian government is necessary if Italian capitalism is to survive a crisis which is getting worse by the day.

increases needed to keep ahead of 80 per cent inflation, they have voted to occupy their sites for two days and then send out flying pickets to make sure the whole industry comes to a halt.

The Rank and File delegation will enable shop stewards from Britain to witness at first hand such struggle, and to discuss with many of the workers involved forms of active solidarity.

Workers interested in going on the delegation can get details from Portugal, c/o Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.



Police re-enter the factory, having smashed the sit-in.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Chris Harman

Despite the complaints of Tory MPs about 'detente' meaning weakness and about defence 'cuts', arms spending is going up and up—and we are expected to pay the price.

A mad merry go round

ANYONE who watched ITV News last week will have been inundated with propaganda about 'the weak state of the west's defences'.

The impression was given that arms spending in Britain and the other western powers is continually declining.

A couple more years like this, it was implied, and the Russians would be walking through the streets of Calais. Strangely enough, a similar although opposite message is being pumped out in Moscow. Listen to General Alexei Yepishev, chief political officer of the Russian army and navy, writing in the Defence Ministry daily paper last week.

'NATO countries of Western Europe have doubled their military budgets in the last five years, while military spending in the US has assumed massive proportions'.

Both the ITN and General Yepishev are partly right. Take, for instance, defence spending in Britain and America.

Despite

Despite all the complaints from Tory MPs and right-wing American senators about 'detente' meaning 'weakness' and all the talk of defence 'cuts', in both countries military spending is rising. The British defence white-paper published last week shows that arms spending is to go up this year from

£5400 million to £5623 million before taking account of inflation. This means the real figure is likely to end up above

£6000 million.

In the US, arms spending is at an all-time high, as a whole series of new and very expensive weapons comes into production.

It is impossible to get any absolutely reliable information on arms spending or production in Russia. But the growth in consumer goods over the next five years is being cut to the minimum—probably to leave leeway for a bigger arms programme if necessary.

So what are all the complaints, East and West, of a 'low level' of arms spending about?

The rulers of Russia and the West

have divided up most of the rest of the world between them since 1945. But each knows that its ability to dominate depends in the last resort on the arms at its disposal.

Otherwise it can lose control to the local population. This happened to the western powers in the case of Vietnam, Cuba and Angola.

It happened to the Russians in 1948 in the case of Yugoslavia and nearly happened again in Czechoslovakia in 1968.

They can also lose control to one another. The Russian rulers live in fear of countries in Eastern Europe—with their considerable manufacturing capacity and raw materials—passing under Western influence. The west lives in fear of the middle-east with its oil reserves falling under Russian control.

And so, as well as making agreements with each other, they are continually trying to outstrip one another in the manufacture of the means of destruction.

The situation today is particularly acute for a number of reasons. New ranges of weapons are being developed that are much more expensive than any previously.

It costs thousands of millions of dollars just to prepare prototypes of these—and tens of thousands of millions to put them into production.

Balance

What is more, both the Russians and the Americans fear that the other is producing weapons—such as the cruise missile and the backfire bomber—that will disturb completely the existing balance of power and make many old defensive radar networks out of date.

Finally, the Russian rulers in particular want weapons to threaten China as well as to deal with the US challenge.

A new arms limitation agreement is supposedly being negotiated between the Russians and the Americans at the moment.

But all these problems have caused difficulties in the negotiations. In the meantime, both sets of rulers feel they have to prepare the ground for a massive increase in arms spending if they can't get an agreement.

Budget

A US Congress memorandum suggested that if this happens, the US arms budget will shoot up by £600 million a year.

In the west this will mean still more cutbacks

In Russia it will mean further cutbacks in consumer goods and workers living standards.

Hence the propaganda from both Russian generals and British generals about the danger to our 'detente'.

They want workers to accept still greater sacrifices so that their rulers can dominate the world and threaten workers in other countries with nuclear destruction.

Such is the future offered to us by Ford, Brezhnev and whoever succeeds Wilson.

International Socialism

International Socialism 87



International Socialism Journal for March/April is now available.

Notes of the month cover the background and effects of Healey's savage cuts, the melting pot of Southern Africa and a look at racism in today's Tory Party.

Mike Buckingham argues that the end of the Scottish Daily News heralds the end of workers' co-operative as a job saviour.



Tony Cliff and Robin Peterson survey the last three months in Portugal and look at the tasks facing revolutionaries in the face of the bosses' offensive.

The Middle East is covered by Terry Povey with a critical look at the role of revolutionaries in the Arab states.

Twenty years after Khrushchev's 'secret' speech concerning the crimes of Stalin, Duncan Hallas argues that a discussion on Stalinism and Communism is relevant today in the light of John Gollan's 'Socialist Democracy: Some Problems'.

David Widgery's book on the Left in Britain is reviewed by Martin Shaw.

International Socialism is available, 20p plus 10p postage from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. It can also be obtained from your SW seller.

DO YOU believe in the Freedom of the Press?

William Deedes does. In fact, as you might expect of an editor of the Daily Telegraph and a former Tory MP, he's absolutely obsessed by it.

Precisely what sort of 'freedom' is another matter. Recent disclosures might suggest that it is the freedom to lie to three million readers daily.

Consider the case of Bruce Loudon, the Telegraph's man in Portugal, among other places.

Loudon spent much time in the summer of 1973 writing 'impartial' news reports from Mozambique ridiculing allegations that Portuguese troops—then under fascist command—had massacred the village of Wiriyamu.

Prominent

(The Portuguese later admitted the massacre had taken place).

Loudon's reports were given prominent coverage in the Daily and Sunday Telegraph.

Those two papers did not, however, publish some of Loudon's rather more interesting writings of that time.

Writings which have recently fallen into the hands of the Journalist, the bulletin of the National Union of Journalists.

Agency

They show that while the debate over the massacre was raging, Loudon was secretly negotiating with the Portuguese authorities in Lisbon and Mozambique to set up a news agency which, in Loudon's words, would 'present the realities of Mozambique in a positive and effective manner'.

What Loudon meant by 'positive and effective' was spelt out in a letter to Dr Pedro Pinto, then Director of Information in Portugal's fascist administration.

'I have a deep conviction', he wrote, 'that allegations such as those in connection with the "massacres" in

CALLING ALL FASCISTS...DO YOU READ ME LOUDON CLEAR?



A soldier, holding the rifle... the back of... a... and... through...

A routine beheading by the Portuguese in Africa: Loudon tried to cover up such atrocities.

Mozambique gain rapid international acceptance because of the consistent failure of Portugal to launch effective counter campaigns.

A daily flow of information was needed for distribution to foreign news media which would emphasise 'every atrocity by Frelimo, every brutal attack by them on civilians...'

The letter ends: 'Though only a humble foreigner—he is a 33-year-old South African—I hope you will understand when I say that at the present time I feel very, very deeply about the

situation in Mozambique, I stand ready to help in any way I can over the next critical months'.

When news of all this reached the Financial Times, who also employed Loudon, they immediately sacked him.

Opposite

But, as the Journalist points out, 'the news seems to have had the opposite effect on the Daily Telegraph.

'They rewarded him by making him one of their star correspondents which he

remains to this day'.

Loudon is not the only Telegraph reporter to have had his 'impartiality' exposed in recent weeks.

Last December, it was revealed that John Draw—the Telegraph's man in Saigon until last April—was in fact Nguyen Ngoc Phac, an officer on the General Staff of the South Vietnamese Army.

This not uninteresting fact has been suppressed by the whole of Fleet Street.

Which is what William Deedes really means by the Freedom of the Press.



STH
COLUMN

The Price of fame

A RECENT Alan Price concert at Birmingham University included the Jarrow Song, a song dedicated to the marchers of the 1930s.

Part of the chorus includes these lines: 'I can see them, I can feel them, and it's just as if they were here today'.

When these words were sung we chanted from the back of the hall, 'they are... they are'.

The concert over, we decided, tongue in cheek, to ask Price for a donation to the Right to Work Campaign.

Surely a person who sings about unemployment in the past would be willing to concern himself with the fight against it today?

Whatever vague hopes we held out for Price's concern were quickly dashed by his total indifference.

We were refused entry to see him back-stage. One comrade managed to push past two baffled bouncers, but just as she got to Price's dressing room he emerged and dashed past her without even bothering to listen to what she had to say.

We left the concert with a slightly more cynical view of the so-called 'pop stars'. It's so easy to romanticise and cash-in on the past sell-out on the present... the price of fame, I suppose.

SW SUPPORTERS Birmingham

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We had learned how to handle the Africans, and didn't know how we were going to handle the English workers. The answer is, of course, just the same!

—A hotel-owner back in Britain after several years in Rhodesia, interviewed in The Guardian, 18 March.

Without comment

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, now on holiday in Spain, praised the Spanish regime in a long interview on Spanish television last night in terms which astonished and delighted the most reactionary supporters of the Madrid establishment.

—from The Guardian, 22 March

A West German soldier told by a Lieutenant-Colonel to 'climb up that tree and shout 'I am the biggest idiot in the Army'' appealed to the military Ombudsman who ruled that this order was an affront to human dignity.

—from the Daily Telegraph, 19 March

And pigs flew overhead...

It was crisis day in the Commons
The House was hushed and still,
As a Member rose with a question:
"Are we doomed to go downhill?
I am confident of an upturn."

The P.M. made reply:
"If workers' pay is held at bay
We'll all be home and dry."

"How true! How true!" cried the workers,
"Let's end this wicked strike,
we don't want a rise in wages,
they can stick it where they like."

"Thank God! Thank God!"
Sobbed the bosses,
"There's faith on the factory floor,
And now we've got this extra lot
We'll give it to the poor!"

Adapted from Communication Worker, the paper of the Australian Telecommunications Technicians Association

They filled their pockets with money,
And ran with eager feet,
Pressing their surplus profits
On the people in the street.

They moved among the dole-queues,
And boarded every bus,
With streaming eyes and heartfelt cries:
"You need it more than us!"

Soon all the people prospered,
And the devil became a saint,
Now that the sober unions
Had exercised restraint,
And the cities were filled with singing
and the sound of laughter spread,
As hand took hand in the golden land
And pigs flew overhead.

Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL

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Police baton-charge unemployed workers

THE RIGHT TO MARCH IS UNDER ATTACK



Police attack Right to Work marchers after dragging them up the steps of West Hendon police station. PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

AFTER marching 340 miles without a single arrest, the 80 unemployed workers on the Right to Work march were attacked by the police as they reached West London last Friday.

At Staples Corner the police made four unprovoked assaults, into the march. 35 marchers were arrested, with nine local trade unionists who were part of a welcoming delegation. The police used their truncheons.

Replying to reports in the national press

that the marchers began the fighting, unemployed Merseyside building worker Tommy Douras told Socialist Worker: 'Do you think we're lunatics to pick on a bus load of coppers outside a police station with just one mile to go to the end of the whole march?'

It was the police, not the marchers who were prepared. The police blocked the road with buses to cut the marchers off. A police helicopter flew overhead to direct operations.

Charged

The police claimed heavy casualties, although no police were kept in hospital overnight. Two marchers were beaten unconscious, one for more than two hours. One marcher had a broken toe, another a broken nose, another needed five stitches.

Four were still in hospital on Saturday afternoon.

The Right to Work Campaign is calling a mass demonstration at Hendon Magistrates Court when the trials begin on Friday 21 May.

Already electricians at the Arndale site in Manchester have voted to send a delegation. During their strike they received help from the marchers as they left on their route to London.

The marchers face a variety of charges, including assault. The campaign secretary, John Deason, has been charged with intending to cause grievous bodily harm to a police officer.

Because of the expected high legal costs of defending the marchers, a special defence fund has been set up by the Right to Work Campaign. Tribune Group MP, Bob Cryer, told the marchers: 'Many of us in the Tribune Group will back the defence fund.'



Police claimed in their statements that they were outnumbered by four to one. That certainly wasn't how it looked to unemployed GMWU member Pete Fysh—here receiving the attention of three policemen while four others stand guard.

CONVENORS CONDEMN THE POLICE

'WE totally condemn the police attack on the marchers. We call on all workers to strengthen their support for the Right to Work Campaign. We call on the Unemployment Assembly this weekend to give full support to the marchers.'

SYLVIA GREENWOOD (convenor, Easterbrooks and Allcards, Sheffield).

JIM MAY (secretary, joint shop stewards committee, Doncasters).

T CARDWELL (convenor, Sheffield, Twist Drill).

KEN O'NEILL (former chairman, joint shop stewards committee, Vickers, Sheffield).

CLIVE HARTLEY (convenor, Balfour Darwin, Fitzwilliam works).

MIKE BOWER (NUJ executive member, Sheffield).

Trade union inquiry to be set up

BARNET Trades Council executive decided unanimously on Monday to set up a trade union inquiry into the events of 19 March.

A spokesman told Socialist Worker: 'The march was passing through our area when the events took place. We feel responsible for the

safety of the march. We think that the trade union movement should conduct its own inquiry into these events.'

'We are therefore contacting a number of prominent trade unionists and asking them to sit on the inquiry. We hope to get the inquiry under way within two weeks.'

Support for this has already come in from three branches of the building workers' union, UCATT—Camden Town, Hampstead Woodworkers and Brixton No 1—and from Mill Hill AUEW No 1. The National Union of Students executive has unanimously condemned the police, demanded the charges be dropped and called for an inquiry.

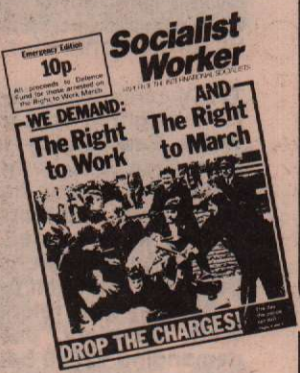
Questions

At a meeting in the House of Commons between marchers and members of the Tribune Group, the group's chairman, Arthur Latham, and other MPs agreed that a letter should be sent to the Home Secretary and that members of the Tribune Group should ask questions in the House of Commons about the police attack.

The marchers will be meeting the full Tribune Group at their meeting next week.

AN eight-page special issue of Socialist Worker was produced overnight last Friday in solidarity with the marchers. All proceeds from this issue are to go to the Defence Fund.

Copies are still available, giving the marchers' account of the police attack. A minimum of 17p each (including postage) from SW circulation, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



Marchers chair Right to Work secretary John Deason outside the Albert Hall after his release on bail.

Advertisement

The arrested marchers need your help . . .

If you were a witness of the attacks on the Right to Work March, then you must get in touch with the Right to Work Campaign Office, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Telephone 01-249 1207. If you have photographs or information of any variety please do not hesitate.

...and your money

It will cost a lot of money to keep up the Right to Work Campaign and defend our arrested brothers and sisters. So, brothers and sisters, dig deep, raise the matter in your stewards' committee and branch. Affiliate to the campaign and/or send us some money earmarked for the Defence Campaign. Send all monies to: Right to Work Campaign Defence Fund Treasurer, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.





ABOVE: Introducing the fraternal delegate from Portugal, the chairman had hit out against one so-called solution to unemployment that had been widely canvassed—import controls. Such controls cannot be supported because they flung our brothers and sisters in other countries out of work.

Rosaria da Costa (left), a Portuguese textile worker, told the rally: 'Your fight against unemployment is the same struggle we have been waging in Portugal for the last two years.'

'Of the 300,000 textile workers in Portugal, one half are out of work.'

'But the workers of Portugal, despite the set-back of 25 November, are fighting back. Our struggle is the same.'

THIS IS OUR RIGHT TO WORK

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

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

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

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

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

women to a full-time job.

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

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

SEVEN: Stop the cuts.

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

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

TEN: For full trade union rights for the unemployed.

Our alternative to the crisis

CAROLINE CONWAY, an unemployed member of the General and Municipal Workers Union from London, was treasurer on the march.

'There's one thing about this march that's completely different from the marches of unemployed in the Thirties. The women are organising with the men. Women are taking a leading role.'

'This is very important because it shows we are not going to be divided. It's a question of unity—of men and women, employed and unemployed, black and white.'

'We want you who have come to the rally to take back our aims—for a 35-hour week, for a national overtime ban, for no voluntary or com-

pulsory redundancy—back to your factory, hospital, school.

'We have a real alternative to the crisis of capitalism—socialism. As someone said: A bird that lays such rotten eggs as capitalism should have been extinct long ago.'

PIP JONES (EETPU) from Cardiff told the rally: 'Trying to describe what the march was like in just five minutes is like trying to climb Everest on crutches.'

'We visited a lot of factories, and we weren't always invited. The foremen and the bosses kept seeing these horrible trade unionists with their yellow jackets and telling to their workers: "Get back inside."

'Don't be apathetic. That's the message of the march. They're frightened of the power of the rank and file.'

JOE CRONSHAW acted as medic on the march, treating the sore feet at the end of each day. He's an AUEW member from Salford.

'I'm married with five kids. The oldest leaves school next year, then the second the year after, and the third the year after that. I'm not waiting to fight unemployment till they have to face it.'

'Not while potbellied hypocrites stick their bellies against the table and ask us to tighten our belts.'

'These are the kind of people running the country. People tell me things won't be as bad as in 1932. They will—they'll be worse—if we don't get up and fight for our rights.'



HARRY McSHANE was one of the leaders of the great movement against unemployment of the 1930s. At the age of 84 he travelled down to the Albert Hall from Glasgow to speak to the rally.

Three weeks earlier he had travelled to Manchester to see the marchers off and lead them the first three miles.

'We are the strongest opponents of the Tories,' he told the rally. 'And we're the strongest opponents of Tory policies carried out by a Labour government.'

'Now for the first time in our history we are on the road to building a mass movement with unity between unemployed and employed.'

'As for the police, attacks happened time and again in the 1930s. In 1932 they attacked us on a Thursday in Hyde Park, again on Sunday in Trafalgar Square and again in Trafalgar Square the next Tuesday.'

'I remember that Tom Mann always used to say that the biggest danger was asking parliament to do things we should be doing ourselves.'

'This must be the last crisis of capitalism. We must build the movement and the society of the future.'

JARROW WAS PASSIVE -NOT US!

MICK BRIGHTMAN (AUEW), told the rally: 'Jarrow was passive. Our march has actively campaigned alongside workers in struggle.'

'We must build the campaign in the trade union movement. Get back to your branches and your districts and fight for the demands of the campaign.'

'This includes fighting in the unions for the elections of men like Len Blood. He's standing for assistant general secretary in my union and he came and marched with us on the road for a week with the support of his factory and district committee.'

'Build rank and file groups in every union. Get back in there and fight like bloody hell.'

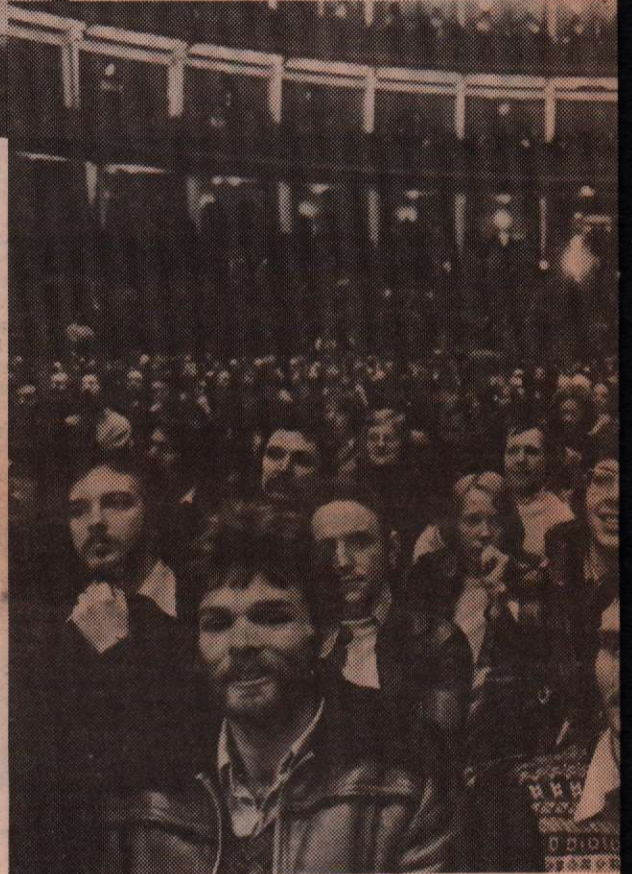
KERI ABRAM is an unemployed school-leaver from Liverpool. She's never had the chance to join a union.

'The march went to support an ASTMS recognition dispute at Colortrend in Rugeley. We convinced a lot of the Transport Union members—mostly girls—to join them.'

Since then they have gone back. They made a mistake—they relied on the men at the top. Well, we make mistakes too.

'But the unemployed can't make the same mistake as those girls did. Let's smash the men at the top—Jack Jones, Hugh Scanlon, and the other trade union bosses—then we'll smash unemployment.'

The great great be are on o LET RIS



Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

THEY came from all over the country. Campaigners for the right to work from Aberdeen, Cornwall, North Wales, East Anglia—from all major towns and cities. More than 3000 gathered in Shepherds Bush Green to join the 80 who had marched the 350 miles from Manchester and march with them to the Albert Hall.

They were worried. They had heard of the police attacks on the marchers the previous day. They knew that more than half the marchers had been arrested.

But they were released on bail—except the Right to Work secretary, John Deason. The police were demanding £2500 bail.

So the great column set off in the sun. On the approaches to the Albert Hall it grew as the buses poured in from outside London. On the pavement were the banners: Leicester Right to Work Campaign; Peterborough Right to Work Campaign; Exeter Right to Work Campaign; a group of Palestinians shouting, FREE, FREE PALESTINE! FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

Outside the hall, another mighty cheer. John

Clay X: We're proud to be here



HOW many times, asked chairman Dick North, have you been to sympathetic Labour councillors who have told you there was nothing they could do?

'There is one Labour council which proved that something can be done,' he said—and introduced Dave Nuttall, one of the original Clay Cross 11 who defied the Tory government, almost alone among Labour-controlled councils.

Dave Nuttall brought the rally and the marchers greetings from both the Clay Cross

Labour Party and the 21 councillors prosecuted for resisting the Tories. 'I am full of pride to be here and part of this,' he said.

'Our struggle wasn't just over rents or school milk. It was over jobs as well. When unemployment in Clay Cross was 17 per cent we took 40 men off the dole queue and gave them work.'

'For this we were surcharged and practically branded as criminals. Only a small part of the surcharge we owe is for rents. The vast majority of the money is for creating jobs. Altogether I am now personally surcharged £64,500!



t are only
cause we
ur knees
US
SE!



ABOVE: Marcher Danny Evaristo, unemployed boiler-maker and former president of Greenwich Trades Council, who told the massive audience: 'This is a historic day for all of us, black and white. The black community has been harassed for years. Yesterday the police attacked all of us.'

'In the police cell I asked for a doctor. I told him I had a pain in my knee. He didn't believe me and said he couldn't see a red mark. I told that doctor: Of course you can't, I'm black!

'I want to tell all the black people in this hall: You must fight side by side with the white people. Black and white unite and fight!

The cry was taken up across the whole Albert Hall.



Deason is out! The marchers threw him up on their shoulders.

The hall filled quickly. The total capacity of the Albert Hall is 6500. All seats were filled except on the very top floor. There were more than 4000 there. The Observer reported this as 2000.

As the crowd waited for the marchers, they shouted and chanted the march slogans. Rosaria da Costa, who had come from Portugal to speak, said in surprise: 'It's like a Portuguese revolutionary meeting!'

The whole hall rose for the marchers. Many marchers were overcome with emotion as they walked to the platform.

As chairman Dick North of the Teachers' Union executive said: 'They can't ignore us now.'

The Daily Mail described the march as 'the biggest ultra-left rally since the 1960s.' We saw it as the biggest launching of rank and file workers' action since the war.

Together we can win

ERNIE ROBERTS is assistant general secretary of the Engineering Union, the AUEW.

He told the rally: 'The Labour government and the TUC must be forced to act. Instead they are telling workers not to demonstrate.'

'An injury to one is an injury to all. Let this rally and the assembly next Saturday be a point of unity for the whole working class.'

'This is no time for sectarian

divisions. We face a crazy system—there's piles of unused bricks, 1½ million unemployed, land unused, industry working at 70 per cent under capacity. Capitalism is now a barrier to progress. All it can offer is unemployment, stagnation and war.

'We must use all the power we have in the working-class movement and its organisations. Together we can win.'

THE TRADE UNION BANNERS

Here is a list of the trade union banners on the march from Shepherd's Bush:

- Hull docks shop stewards committee
- Dagenham Trades Council
- Tower Hamlets NALGO
- Newcastle upon Tyne Trades Council
- St Pancras Trades Council
- Hackney Trades Council
- Chrysler Stoke Joint Shop Stewards
- Croydon Trades Council
- Norwich Trades Council
- Islington NALGO
- AUEW Letchworth District Committee
- Wandsworth NUT
- ASTMS Edinburgh University
- NATFHE Middlesex Poly, Enfield Branch
- Woolwich ATTL
- NATFHE Acton
- Cambourne AUEW District Committee
- BEA Heathrow Shop Stewards Committee
- Hammersmith NALGO
- Paddington NUR
- Walthamstow NALGO Action
- ASTMS Division 15
- CPSA Computer Centre
- CPSA British Library
- Area 4 Committee CPSA
- EETPU Right to Work Committee
- Glasgow University Students' Representative Committee
- Muswell School NUT
- North London NUT
- Avery Hill Students Union
- NELP Students Union
- Southwark NUT
- AUEW Foundry Section, Sheffield
- NALGO Essex County Branch
- Manchester City Housing NUPE
- Swansea ASTMS No 2 Branch
- Wigan Trades Council
- Hackney NALGO
- Exeter University Students' Union
- ASTMS North East London
- Manchester Rank and File Teachers
- Moorfields Eye Hospital NUPE
- West Ham Trades Council
- Lewisham NALGO
- East London Action Committee Against the Cuts
- NALGO Greater London Council
- NALGO Redbridge
- Lambeth Trades Council
- Hackney Downs School NUT
- Camden Working Women's Charter
- Leeds Students Union
- Steel Right to Work Committee
- City University Students Union
- Kingsway-Princeton College of Further Education
- COSHE Area No 4
- SOAS Students Union
- SOAS Students Union
- South West NALGO Action
- NATFHE Uxbridge
- NUT Kingsdale School
- Exeter NUR No 2
- COHSE Ninewells, Dundee
- NUS Glasgow Area
- 'Cypriot Worker'
- Paisley College of Technology Students Union
- Langdon School NUT
- Thames Poly Students Union
- Bedford College Students Union
- Iranian Students' Society
- Swansea CEU
- Alcoa shop stewards' committee
- ASTMS Durham Health Services Division
- Institute of Education Students Union
- Leicester AUEW
- South Wales EETPU Right to Work
- York Trades Council

The nuts and bolts of building this struggle

IN the closing speech to the rally, John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, said he wanted to deal with the 'nuts and bolts': the hard work which had to be done after the rally.

The main message of the march was that workers had to rely on themselves, he said. The 'total gutlessness of the vast majority of trade union officials' was letting the government get away with their policies.

'Those of us who want to fight are still a minority. We have to win the majority by constant argument and agitation on the shop floor to win commitment to the demands of the campaign.'

'We have to carry the rank and file campaign into the official union movement. We need more rank and file papers like the Engineers Charter, which can now actively campaign within the official union for the 35-hour week.'

Guard

'We need rank and file organisation in the pits for fight for the £100-a-week claim and for no pit closures.'

'But the problem for many of us unemployed is that it's very difficult to get into the official movement. Many unions make it difficult for unemployed members to play their part in union affairs.'

'We want local Right to Work Committees: watchdogs in every town on their guard against sackings and against cuts in hospitals, schools, building.'

'The unemployed can join

with the employed on these committees. They can get the necessary information. They can give more of their time.'

He went on to outline plans for a National Right to Work Council which is genuinely representative of rank and file workers. He said the campaign would be convening a national meeting of all the people who in the past few weeks have by their actions shown their commitment to the campaign.

Trail

'From that meeting, we'd like to see a council emerging, consisting of representatives from stewards' committees, and branch and district representatives from miners, engineers, hospital workers—all kinds of workers.'

John said that 21 May was now an important date for the campaign. He and 43 other marchers were to come up on trial that day.

'We need to make sure that all of you are there,' he said to enthusiastic applause. 'We must show these people that we are not going to be stopped. This brought loud cheers.'

John also urged the huge audience to do their utmost to get to the Assembly on Unemployment called for the following Saturday. He said the unemployed marchers hoped to speak to the Assembly and urge delegates there to fight for policies which would stop unemployment—and not allow the Assembly to be diverted into parliamentary channels or nationalistic slogans.

'I'd like to end with what

Pip Jones, a marcher from South Wales, has said at many meetings in the past three weeks. It strikes me as summing up what all this has been about—and what it's got to be about from now on.

'If you can't fight for the right to work—you can't fight for anything.'

'The last time I was in this hall,' said Harry McShane, 'was in the Spanish Civil War. That night we raised £2,000. We want to do better tonight.'

With that he called for the collection. A total of £4,011 was raised.

WHERE THE CAMPAIGN GOES NOW

THE march has started to build the Campaign for the Right to Work. Rank and file trade unionists must continue it:

ONE: Continue the agitation around the Right to Work demands in the factories and the dole queues.

TWO: Build rank and file action groups around the rank and file papers in the official trade unions.

THREE: Build local Right to Work committees uniting

employed and unemployed against sackings and cuts, open to all unemployed, with delegates from shop stewards committees, trades councils and other trade union bodies.

FOUR: Work for a National Right to Work Council consisting of genuine workers' representatives.

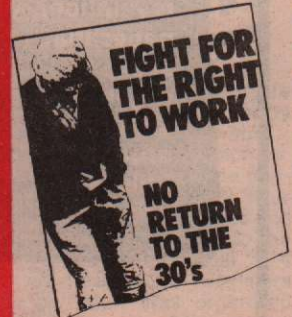
FIVE: Defend the 44. Drop the Charges. Demonstrate on 21 May.

MINER THEY BEAT UNCONSCIOUS

MIKE LYNCH is a miner from Dunfermline in Scotland. He is also an active member of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

He was knocked unconscious on Friday by one of the police baton charges, and stayed unconscious for nearly three hours. The police continued kicking him as he lay unconscious.

Still shaken from his experiences, he told the rally: 'I've worked in the Labour Party for two years. My constituency party is typical—there's some people who are there to maintain their positions, not fight for socialism. But the Labour Party also has a lot of fine socialists in it.'



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

Easter is a political feast this year

Come to the Socialist Worker Rally, Friday 16 April to Monday 19 April, at the Derbyshire Miners Holiday Camp in Skegness. £16.25 for all meals, accommodation and entertainment. Book your place through your local Socialist Worker seller.

Final details for entertainment, political events, children's events are being made now. More news on this page next week.

Rally organisers should collect in all the money for the rally now. Travelling arrangements must be completed.

WHAT'S ON

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

COVENTRY: Friday 26 March, 7pm, Sidney Stringer Community School, Community Dining Room, Cox Street. Speaker: Nina Streich.

WALTHAMSTOW: Friday 2 April, 8pm, Ross Wyld Hall, corner of Church Hill and Hoe Street, Walthamstow.

SOUTHAMPTON: Thursday 25 March, 8pm.

BRIGHTON: Tuesday 30 March, 8pm, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Royal Sussex Hospital.

GLASGOW DISTRICT SW public meeting: Which way to socialism?—The Communist Party and the 'British Road'. Speakers: Steve Jefferys, Willie Lee (AUEW shop steward, Chrysler Linwood), Chair Angela McHugh (AUEW shop steward, Rawlplug). Sunday 4 April, 7-9pm. City Halls (Mid Hall), Albion Street, Glasgow.

HUYTON SW public meeting: After two years' hard Labour. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 1 April, 8pm, Huyton Suite, Huyton Village, Liverpool. Bar facilities. Buses 89, 11, 75, 40, 6C, 92, H6, H8, H12.

WANDSWORTH SW public meeting: CHILE: Pictures, slides, tapes and talk. Speaker: Dave Shonfield, 8pm, Wednesday 31 March, Wandsworth Council for Community Relations, 172 Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction, SW11.

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW Public Meetings: Thursdays 6pm, Borough Polytechnic Students Union, Rotary Street, London, SE1. 25 March: Permanent Arms Economy. Further details, ring G Loewenstein 01-622.1090.

NORTH LONDON WOMENS VOICE Public Meeting: Monday 29 March, Sexism in Education. Speakers: Carol Adam and Rae Lauzkiets. 8.00pm The Beehive pub, Stoneleigh Road, off Tottenham High Road, N17. Nearest tube Seven Sisters, buses 149, 259, 279, 243.

INNER WEST LONDON SW public meeting: The Labour Party—who is it, and how do we work with them? Speaker: Martin Roiser. Monday 29 March, 6.30pm, Westcott Lodge, Upper Mall, W6.

LONDON PUBLISHING BRANCH SW public meeting: The Economic Crisis. Speaker: Mike Kidron. Tuesday 30 March, 7pm, Museum Tavern, Great Russell Street, WC1.

SOCIALIST WORKER EVENTS

NORTH LONDON WOMENS VOICE GROUP: Jumble Sale, Saturday 27 March, 3.00pm, Stroud Green School, Ennis Road, N4. If you have any jumble, bric-a-brac, etc, we could use it! Please phone 348 2041 for collection.

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.

FOR SALE: SW Collection from No 207 to date (few missing), Private Eye No 235-350 (few missing), Ink (all but 2), Proceeds from Fighting Fund. Rush offers to 46 Westport St, London E7.

WOMENS VOICE BADGE: Abortion, our right to choose. White on red. Price: 17p inc postage, 10 or more 10p each, post free. Money with orders please, from Womens Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Worker is looking for a NEW JOURNALIST. Political and journalistic experience, particularly of subbing, required. Write to The Editor, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Give details of involvement in Socialist Worker's politics and of any journalistic background. No phone calls. Letters only.

THE WORKER, paper of the Socialist Workers Movement (Ireland), will now appear on the 17th of every month. Branches which do not order it and would like to, should send orders to The Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. The March issue will be available with this week's Socialist Worker. Money for the last issue should be returned to above address.

SE LONDON SW Film Show: FIGHT THE CUTS! The film made with the help of the Rank and File Organising Committee, Friday 2 April, Charlton House, Hornfair Lane, SE7, 7.30pm. Details from Caroline Bracken, 52 Woodland Terrace, SE7. Telephone: 317 8812.

WORKERS AND NORTH SEA OIL: New Socialist Worker pamphlet published by Edinburgh IS on conditions offshore and onshore and the role of the trade union leadership in the Oil Boom. 6p (plus 8p p&p—10 copies post free) from Rosie Smallwood, 9 High Street, Edinburgh.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

IRISH WORK ORGANISERS: London only. Meeting Wednesday 31 March, 7pm, 8 Cottons Gardens. Each London district to send one delegate.

EETPU Fraction EC meeting: Saturday 3 April, 2.30pm. Details from Fraction Secretary or Industrial Department.

URDU and GUJERATI editions of the Communist Manifesto, price 10p, and Bengali edition of State and Revolution, price 15p, now available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Please add 15p postage to all orders.

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.

THE MEANING OF MARXISM is now back in print—but the file of back orders from IS branches has been mislaid. Please reorder copies: ten copies £2.50 (£1.75 if cash with order) from Mary Phillips, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Phone 01-739 2639.

PUNJABI CHINGARI out now. Lots of news and views from India, TUC, unemployment and work-permits. The Education Act and Immigrant children. Send in money for the last issue NOW. Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS BLACK CAUCUS MEETING: Lozells Social Development Club, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. Sunday 4 April 11am. All black members welcome. For accommodation Saturday night, ring Birmingham bookshop, 021-643 5717.

Are you a delegate to your TRADES COUNCIL? Meeting for IS members and SW supporters to discuss trades council work. Saturday 3 April, 9.30am. The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1 (nearest tube Warren Street).

NOISS

NOISS meeting for all NOISS delegates and observers to all Landudno NUS Conference. Saturday 27 March, 10.30am, Birmingham Poly Students Union, Gloucester Green.

A SKILLED JOB IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY

SW Litho are offering an apprenticeship as a compositor, to work in the pre-print department, which handles copy preparation, typesetting and page make up for litho reproduction of magazines and newspapers. Training will be given in works or a whole range of techniques, and also by day-release education at a printing technical college. Applicants should be 18 or under, and must be prepared to undergo a written examination and an interview (plus a medical examination) held by the union. The job will be offered subject to the applicant's successfully meeting the requirements of the above examinations. Write for further details and/or interview to SW (Litho) Printers Ltd, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Telephone 01739 1413/1870.

Black caucus launched

By Dave Butcher, Birmingham AUEW

THE PLAN to form a black caucus was enthusiastically welcomed by black members of IS at a meeting on Sunday. It was felt that it will not only raise the level of black leadership within the organisation but contribute to improving the whole style of race work and work among black people in industry and in the community.

Pool

The caucus will pool experience, set up guidelines and ensure that race work becomes an integral part of the activities of the entire membership.

Black work is the collective responsibility of all workers and not just the black ones. The caucus is intended primarily to serve the needs of black members, thereby serving the organisation as a whole.

It is an opportunity to use the experience of black workers in IS to build a black leadership and to make IS more habitable for black recruits.

For additional information, contact the Black Caucus Secretary, c/o IS Books, 224 High Street, Deritend, Birmingham.

May Day greetings

WE NEED to start receiving May Day Greetings now. The copy date, by which we need all the ads, is Friday 16 April.

Trade union branches, shop stewards committees, Right to Work Committees and Cuts Committees, should all be asked now to send in greetings.

Copies of the letter, which has already been sent out to a number of trade unions, are available from Socialist Worker Circulation, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

SOCIALIST WORKER Women's Voice

NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION

DEMONSTRATE Sat 3 April 1.30 pm Speakers Corner Hyde Park London

Socialist Worker posters for the 3 April abortion demonstration are arriving with this week's papers. Please get them displayed as soon as possible. Remember colleges which are still open, meetings, work places, places where women meet.

By Mike Carver, SW Circulation Manager

FACT: It can be estimated that around 100,000 trade unionists have so far supported the Right to Work Campaign in some way or another.

FACT: There was virtually no coverage in the national press of the March and the Rally until the police attacked it, and then the coverage was mostly police lies.

FACT: Socialist Worker is the only national paper that has supported the March fully.

FACT: Most of the 100,000 supporters of the Campaign still do not know exactly what happened during the March and at its end.

Urgent

Although the Campaign will be sending out a report to all affiliated bodies there is still an urgent need for Socialist Worker sellers to get the news of it to trade union supporters.

All Socialist Worker readers must push sales of the paper this week.

Socialist Worker NEWS SELL THE TRUTH!

THE DAY

THE POLICE RAN RIOT

The centre pages of the emergency edition: we must get these facts to every Campaign supporter.

That is the way to combat the lies of the press about the police attack on the marchers, and build support for their defence.

The charges against the marchers will be dropped if the support of trade unionists is strong enough to worry the

government. Socialist Worker's printers proved that they were willing and able to respond to the situation by printing the emergency edition last Friday night.

All sellers of Socialist Worker must match the

printers' energy by redoubling their efforts to get the paper to those workers who have supported the Campaign.

Check the Right to Work list of sponsors in last week's Socialist Worker and make sure that you get Socialist Worker to them this week.



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 product 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.

'SO FAR on the left as to be on the right.' That was AUEW leader Hugh Scanlon's description on television of Dave Widgery's new book, *The Left in Britain 1956-68*.*

But it is, in fact, the most reliable, most easily available and most honest account you are likely to find of what the revolutionary left was like in a period when it was even more difficult to be a revolutionary than it is today.

The book begins with the reaction of the best Communist Party members of the 1950s to the revelation by Khrushchev that Stalin was a mass murderer and to the smashing of the 1956 Hungarian revolution by Khrushchev himself.

They left the Communist Party in their droves to seek an authentic socialist alternative to Stalinism.

They discussed, they argued, they wandered in one political direction or another.

They tried to weld a democratic, humanistic version of socialism onto a movement of tens of thousands of young people protesting against nuclear weapons.

But such dreams were doomed to fail. The movement disintegrated and all that survived were the then much derided revolutionary groups.

They could live on because they rejected the then fashionable nonsense about 'socialist incomes policy' (even under 'workers' control') and were able to relate to the industrial struggles of the time, however limited.

Youth

The student movement, the Vietnam war and then the events of May 1968 in France, turned tens of thousands into would-be revolutionaries.

When 100,000 people marched through the streets of London to protest at the Vietnam War in October 1968, the most common banner said 'workers' control'.

The generation of 1968, like that of 1956, began by believing they were out to create something new, quite different from the 'old Marxism'.

The symbol of the first student occupation (at the London School of Economics in 1967) was not the red flag but the yellow daffodil.

Its most renowned slogan was not 'workers of the world unite' (despite the efforts of the IS members) but 'down with the pedagogic gerontocracy' (rough translation—old professors).

A succession of papers emerged to give expression to these novelties, even if fashion moved leftwards as time progressed—IT, Ink, Black Dwarf, Idiot International and onto Seven Days and the Red Mole.

Middle-Class

But, once again, the wave of mostly middle-class protest subsided. The Vietnam War continued for another six years, but not the demonstrators.

Most were soon lost in the political wilderness.

Not that they abandoned all their left-wing ideas. But they no longer did much to make them effective.

All our yesterdays...

SON OF FRANKENSTEIN MEETS MRS THATCHER

FRIDAY NIGHT. Thank God that week's over. Collapse in front of the box.

What's on? 'Monster Movie', it says. What's it this week? *Frankenstein Meets Dracula*? *Frankenstein Meets The Daleks*? *Margaret Thatcher Meets Robin Day*? Switch it on anyway.

Enter Boris Karloff with his knuckles trailing along the ground doing his Lord George-Brpwn imitation. Fall asleep.

Wake up next morning to find that Western civilisation has apparently survived, dammit. Have to go back to work on Monday after all, then.

It comes as a shock to push through all those heaps

of celluloid Frankensteins to Mary Shelley's original novel and to realise that the movie makers have had the balls off a good subversive story.

Mary Shelley came from a progressive family. Her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, wrote the pioneering *Rights of Women* in 1792 and died giving birth to Mary in 1797.



Her father, William Godwin, was author of *Caleb Williams*, an attempt to expose in novel form 'the tyranny... exercised by the powerful members of the community'.

Mary married the revolutionary poet Shelley in 1816, two years before writing *Frankenstein*.

Her story describes *Frankenstein*, a scientist who creates a creature of immense size and strength.

The creature is for various reasons rejected by the rest of society, becomes embittered and so finally uses his strength to destroy *Frankenstein* and his family.

This story was written out of the heart of that period that E P Thompson describes in his classic *The Making of the English Working Class*, a period that saw the Industrial Revolution, an explosive growth of productive capacity and the emergence of a vast new working class.

Mary Shelley renders this history in imaginative terms. She is aware that science and technology are creating enormous productive forces and a working class to operate them.

Descent

It's as a worker that *Frankenstein's* creation describes himself. He tells *Frankenstein*:

I learned that the possessions most esteemed by your fellow-creatures were high and unsullied descent united with riches.

A man might be respected with only one of these advantages; but, without either, he was considered, except in very rare instances, as a vagabond and a slave, doomed to waste his powers for the profits of the chosen!

Mary Shelley shows at several points in the book that the new forces represented by *Frankenstein's* creation are potentially of huge benefit to mankind.

Destroy

But in the end the persistent hatred and rejection that the creature experiences leads it to trap *Frankenstein* and destroy him.

Capitalist society has created a working class and it hates that working class. So that working class will in the end use its strength to destroy capitalist society.

Mary Shelley knew that destruction would be appalling but she also knew it would be just, and she says as much in the book's last pages.

All of which is a long way from Boris Karloff and Friday night on the boob tube.

Paul O'Flinn



CHRIS HARMAN reviews a book that tells how socialism re emerged from the political wilderness

The scenes that galvanised two generations: ABOVE LEFT, one of the countless thousands of victims of American devastation in Vietnam that thousands of young students and workers demonstrated against (TOP) in the late Sixties. A generation earlier, the Hungarian rising of 1956 (ABOVE RIGHT) led to a questioning of 'Marxist' orthodoxy—and helped to free real socialist politics from the swamp of Stalinism.

Some, who wandered into well-paid lecturing jobs, you can meet at occasional congresses of left-wing philosophers (if you waste your time going to such things).

Others tried living in communes before sliding into middle age, marriage and even the ward Labour Party.

Many went into women's liberation until they found that was getting nowhere without women workers. A few are bureaucrats in this union or that.

The rest you encounter on about one demonstration every four years.

This book enables you to follow in detail how it all

happened. Some reviewers have chosen to concentrate on the lighter side (the singing of Auld Lang Syne between police and demonstrators in Grosvenor Square, the farcical second Revolutionary Socialist Students Federation conference).

But there is solid politics as well.

Each section contains statements of IS politics at the time, which stand out, providing a guiding light through the excesses and absurdities of the period.

The book can be criticised, however, for ending on a note of pessimism. Its last sections deal with the bust-up of the revolutionary student wave of 1968.

Vietnam

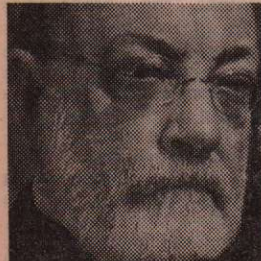
The cue is provided by the heading, 'Make one, two, three balls ups'. But there was more to the period than that.

Despite everything, the fight against the Vietnam War and the experience of the student movement did push vast numbers of young people in a revolutionary direction.

The huge May 1968 strike in France did show them that the working class could change society.

They provided the initial impetus for the beginnings of workers based revolutionary organisation in later years. The book under-emphasises this and suffers accordingly.

THURSDAY
Two good films. LIMBO (BBC2) is about three wives whose husbands are fighting in Vietnam. It's one of the spate of films about Vietnam now being shown—we didn't see many while the war was going on. SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER is on ITV.
FRIDAY
£85 million of our money has gone to prop up the Crown



Arthur Lowe as Louis Pasteur in *Microbes and Men* (Wednesday).

PRE-VIEW

Agents. Do you know who they are? Involved in property and banking, and somehow they managed to lose £150 million. Watch THE MONEY PROGRAMME (BBC2).

SUNDAY
PARENTS AND CHILDREN (BBC1) looks at the idea 'boys will be boys' and how sex roles are put across in children's books—the boys climbing trees and helping Dad fix the car, the girls washing up and making pies with Mum.

MONDAY
NURSE OF THE YEAR is on ITV. One of the more ludicrous competitions. Nurses don't get a living

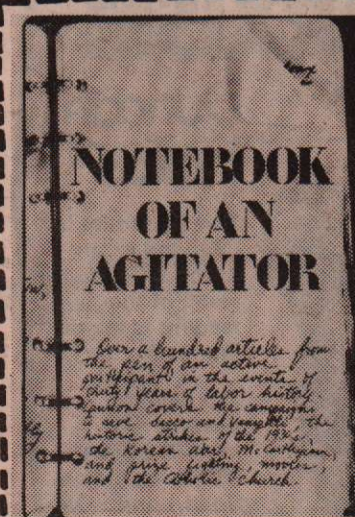
wage, but this makes up for it all, don't you know.

HORIZON (BBC2) is about schizophrenia. 60,000 people in Britain are admitted to hospital every year to be treated for it. One man who had had two breakdowns talks about the difficulties of returning to society after recovery.

TUESDAY
Last episode of ROCK FOLLIES (ITV). INSIDE STORY (BBC2)—for the first time film cameras have been allowed into the Stock Exchange.

WEDNESDAY
MICROBES AND MEN (BBC2) is a good series. Arthur Lowe plays Louis Pasteur.

THURSDAY
MRS GHANDI'S INDIA (BBC2) is your big chance to see her trying to justify the repression and censorship under the State of Emergency.



Book of the Week

Thirty years of struggle in America set down by James P Cannon a fine revolutionary. Just some of the contents: With all Our Strength for Sacco and Vanzetti! 1926-28; The Secret of Local 574 (how the Teamsters Union was organised first in Minneapolis

and then across the Midwest) 1934; Four Days that Shook the Waterfront (the maritime strike in San Francisco) 1936-37; £1.80 inc postage

From IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, or direct from IS BOOKSHOPS in Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Hull, Coventry, Glasgow, Dundee, Leeds.



What a let-down this man is!

WHEN reading Solzhenitsyn's early work, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, I thought, 'What a terrible place is Soviet Russia.' And so it was.

Later on, *The First Circle* appeared, and Solzhenitsyn appeared too petulant. Within that prison, there seemed to be far more humanity than in Siberia.

When the Russians offered him a position as physics lecturer, it seemed that they were doing something for him, even though they did not like him.

But he refused it, and then complained of poverty.

However, when he left the Soviet Union, it was good that they let him go, and neither imprisoned him, nor took any other action.

But as the first thing he did when in the West was to consort with Swiss bankers, I was very disappointed with him.

□ Joan Martin, London, E5.



Solzhenitsyn: 'a disappointment'

▲▼
SW IS AN excellent paper, both in content and presentation.

The ideas of socialism are so popular that even those who oppose them cannot ignore them.

Translating them into reality is not, however, so simple. I believe that with the help of SW and IS we will build a strong and effective socialist society.

□ R Leddington, Stamford, Lincs.

Free speech and fascists: A reply

AS ONE of the Communist Party members referred to in the article—The Communist Party Members Who Defend A Fascist (7 February)—I want to reply to the serious and unscrupulous distortions of our position over this issue.

As you know, a local TGWU branch had nominated a member of the National Front as a delegate to the Norwich Trades Council and your article alleges that we defended his nomination on the grounds of his 'right to speak'.

While we appreciate that the article was based on a garbled letter—initiated by some of your more sectarian comrades and signed by 16 delegates to the trades council—nevertheless the use to which it was put (and why, by the way wasn't the letter printed in full?) merely illustrates the depths to which your organisation will sink in order to promote its long running anti-communist campaign.

Opposed

Needless to say, the accusation is completely untrue.

It is correct that we opposed an amendment to our new constitution—tabled by an IS comrade—which would have effectively barred branches from nominating fascists.

On no occasion did we defend the right of fascists to 'free speech'.

We opposed the amendment on the grounds that it was politically inept and, moreover, bureaucratic. We wished to defend the generally democratic principle of the right of branches to nominate a delegate of their choice.

Procedures

There is a distinction between the position you allege to us and the one we actually took.

What is at the root of the matter, as far as we are concerned, is the ongoing struggle to defend and deepen democratic procedures within both the labour movement and society in general and in the full recognition that such a

struggle when successful may present short-term difficulties from the perspective of left advance.

Whatever the problems that may arise, we should not attempt to solve them by reversing our overall impetus towards greater democratisation.

If we do so we expose ourselves to the charge of inconsistency and opportunism and, in the process, damage our credibility in the eyes of the class and its allies.

□ Peter Tobin, Norwich.

Letters

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

WHO ARE THE MURDERERS?

D SCOTT (Letters, 13 March) is obviously confused by who the 'murderers' unleashing terror on the community are.

There would be no Irish prisoners or bombings in England if there were no British forces of occupation in Ireland who have unleashed

their own brand of terror on the Irish community.

Does D Scott recall the bombings in Dublin in December 1972—almost certainly carried out by British agents—which killed innocent civilians?

No-one can condone the

pub bombers in this country, but to fail to understand why these men turn to such tactics is a shortcoming no socialist can afford.

To live in a state that was born out of violence, and maintained by it, to be denied basic human rights while

'socialists' in this country turn a blind eye year after year, it is not surprising that this oppression should breed the bomber.

The struggle for the destruction of the sectarian state which is the root cause of the violence is one that socialists must recognise as valid, even though we don't always agree with the tactics used by the Republicans.

Failed

Of course they won't establish a socialist state, but surely we shouldn't make the condition that you have to be socialist before we support them against imperialism.

The failure of the Left, including IS, to mount any effective campaign against the treatment of Frank Stagg shows once again the level to which the question of Ireland, the most important facing the working class today, has been relegated.

□ Willie Dolan, Glasgow.



DAVE SCOTT brands republican prisoners as 'murderers' who deserve neither our sympathy nor our support.

But they deserve our support precisely because they are victims of British imperialism.

The Irish people have a right to determine their own future and, as British socialists, we must support their struggle for self-determination.

Unless we take seriously the task of building a movement to end British involvement we have no right to criticise those Irish people who, in desperation, turn to terrorism.

It's up to us to argue consistently in the workplace for Troops Out Now, and to build the Troops Out Movement into a real force inside the labour movement.

□ Steve Berry, London, N15.

Why not all the candidates?

SOCIALIST WORKER has always put itself forward as opposing the capitalist press interference in union elections.

Therefore, as rank and file activists, we have to point out that your article on the current election for the assistant general secretary of the Engineering Union is grossly misleading.

You state (6 March): 'To help Engineering Union members to discuss the election we are publishing the election address of all three candidates.'

There are in fact 14 candidates, 12 of whom have written election addresses.

We suggest that in future you publish the full facts or none at all—unless you wish to be tarred with the same brush as the Fleet Street capitalists.

□ John Bergamin, shop steward, Paul Lewis, deputy shop steward, Bradbury Wilkinson Ltd, New Malden, Surrey.

Editor replies: We should, of course, have said 'the three main candidates'. We simply did not have space to print the others.

SNP 'Scotland's only radical party'

PETER Porteous and John Stirling (Letters, 13 March) are typical of the haughty attitude of most IS members on the question of Scotland.

They denounce the Scottish National Party for not 'even' calling for nationalisation of the oil industry.

But we don't want that. We want real public ownership by local authorities, not inefficient bureaucratic control from some distant metropolis.

The SNP has grown from radical anti-imperialist groups and individuals, radicals, republicans, CND anti-war pacifists, and remains today the only radical protest party in Scotland.

Porteous and Stirling seem to regard Scottish Nationalism as some kind of joke, so showing a total ignorance of such individuals as Keir Hardy, James Maxton, Andrew Palmer, Thomas Muir, the 1820 Radicals, Robert Burns, Hugh MacDiarmid, and John Maclean and many other great leaders of the Scottish Labour Movement who pioneered the fight for socialism and combined it with a strong Scottish Nationalist instinct.

We are brothers with our

OUR 'DEMOCRATIC' TRADE UNIONS...

I WAS ON the Right to Work March, having been unemployed for two months. As a member of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, I went, before the March began, to see the union's East Midlands area secretary to ask if I could seek sponsorship from branches.

Not so easy. When the TUC announced last October that it was having nothing to do with the campaign, our general secretary, David Bassett, went to town.

He sent all branch secretaries and officials instructions not to co-operate with the campaign.

So, according to my area secretary, 'it is unconstitutional to ask for support for the campaign as it has already been discussed and the matter finally dealt with'.

Anyone who thinks that union democracy is a secondary issue, please take note.—ERIKA BURNLEY, Nottingham.

upon the election of a Labour government all penalties financial and otherwise should be removed retrospectively'.

But then Harold Wilson tells the House of Commons that the fines must be paid, and that there would be no

retrospective legislation to remove the penalties from the councillors.

Why was it that Wilson and Short so blatantly ignored the party's democratic decision? These councillors have fought like Trojans over the last five years, and are still not defeated.

But I would like to know where are the thousands of men and women from the length and breadth of the British Isles, who marched side by side with these people

What are their intentions of helping these councillors, and what I wonder will Labour leaders think when the majority of stout-hearted socialists desert them at the next election?

If any medals are to be given away by the Queen, give them to the men of 'iron guts'

Men who I am proud to call my friends.—BEATRICE JONES, Dudley Tenants and Ratepayers Association.

Labour's betrayal

HAROLD Wilson has resigned. But his government have turned out to be traitors to the people of this country who elected them.

If they have any thoughts of getting back into power they must now try to rectify some of the mistakes they have made.

First and foremost, they must try to get the councillors of Clay Cross discharged from bankruptcy.

Freedom

They risked their freedom and their livelihood in the fight against the Tory government. And now they're being completely ignored by the Labour Party.

These councillors refused to implement the Housing Finance Act of 1972, and so saved their tenants a lot of money in unpaid rents.

As a result, they were fined thousands of pounds by the Tory housing commissioner.

The Labour Party then rallied to their support at its Blackpool Conference in October 1973, resolving 'that

WHY GEORGE IS SO WRONG

IN REPLY to George Tait (Letters, 13 March) I would like to make the following points:

The reason why SW—being known for defending the struggle of oppressed and colonised people such as in Vietnam and Angola—does not defend Israel can become obvious if one is to explore and identify correctly the oppressed and the oppressor in this conflict.

A genuine exposition of the tragic conditions of Palestinian people and the hardship

they have suffered as a result of Israel's colonial settlement can give a vivid analogy between the role of Israelis in Palestine and the Whites in Africa.

Ever since the establishment of the exclusive Jewish state of Israel, Palestinians have continually been oppressed, their rights being constantly denied.

Today they are either forced to live in the refugee camps or undergo colonial and military occupation which has resulted in 'third class' citizen's rights

for them.

Are the recent Israeli army raids on student campuses and the severe brutality exercised against West Bank demonstrators—seeking freedom and self-determination (as much as their oppressed friends in Africa)—not good reasons to justify why SW does not support the colonialist, racist and expansionist state of Israel?

□ Ahmad Shah, London WC2.

THE MEANING OF MARXISM



Duncan Hallas

This pamphlet is intended as an introduction to some of the leading ideas of Marxism

25p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

Series of lectures on THE MEANING OF MARXISM:

SOUTH WEST LONDON Socialist Worker series of fortnightly lectures on THE MEANING OF MARXISM: Mondays, 8pm, Battersea District Library, Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction, SW11. (Buses: 19, 37, 49, 77, 168, 249). Open to all SW readers.

29 March—The meaning of Marxism. Speaker: Tony Cliff.
12 April—Marxist Economics. Speaker: John Ure.
26 April—Racialism and imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.
10 May—The State. Speaker: Paul Foot.

MIDDLESEX & INNER W LONDON DISTRICTS SW series of fortnightly lectures on THE MEANING OF MARXISM: 8pm (prompt) Kings Head, Acton High Street, London W3. Every other Tuesday.

6 April: Basic Marxist Economics—John Ure.
20 April: Why Capitalism's in Crisis—M Kidron.
4 May: What is Imperialism—N Harris.
18 May: History of the Labour Party—D Hallas.

1 June: Building the Revolutionary Party—T Cliff.

EDINBURGH SW series of fortnightly lectures on THE MEANING OF MARXISM: Alternative Thursdays 7.30pm at the Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place.
Thursday 8 April: What is Imperialism? Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.

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.
30 March—The revolutionary socialist alternative.

EAST LONDON SW series of six fortnightly lectures on THE MEANING OF MARXISM: Livingstone Road, Stratford, E15, 7.30pm.
Friday 26 March: What is a revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Tony Cliff.

NALGO: The vital issues

SCRUB THE SOCIAL contract. Fight to stop public expenditure cuts. Extend union democracy. Stop the right-wing witch-hunt against the rank and file Nalگو Action Group.

These are just some of the demands raised in resolutions now going before members of the biggest white-collar union in Britain, the National and Local Government Officers' Association.

The union's annual conference will take place in Eastbourne from 7-11 June and the preliminary agenda has just been circulated.

The London Metropolitan District Council has a very clear motion down that

D: Considers that the government has had ample time to demonstrate its preparedness in meeting its side of the social contract, and that to date it has failed to do so;

E: Instructs that NALGO table a motion to the 1976 TUC calling for an end to co-operation with Government policy:

Condemns

A motion from Lambeth condemns the Labour government's cuts in socially-useful public expenditure, and its uses of policies leading to increasing unemployment.

Hackney takes up the argument that unemployed town-hall workers should be allowed to continue as members of NALGO

Union democracy is also a major issue. One motion calls for rule changes to be prepared so that the members of national service conditions committees can be directly elected by the members in the appropriate services in the districts.

Addresses

It goes on: 'In addition, provision should be made for the issue of election addresses

Lewisham take up the witch-hunting decision of the NALGO National Executive Council to investigate the National Action Group and the International Socialists.

Their motion concludes: 'This Conference therefore



NALGO members fighting the government's spending cuts: action is more important than a 'good vote' at conference...



instructs the National Executive Council to terminate the investigation, stop trying to stifle its antics by organisational means and continue to answer their policies in democratic debate.' NALGO readers of Socialist Worker are urged to

do what they can to make sure the debate on these issues and on the other important conference issues—such as the attempt to water down NALGO's opposition to private medicine—takes place as widely as possible in their place of work.

The real job of building an active rank and file organisation is not simply to get a 'victory' or a 'good vote' at Conference.

It is to win our fellow workers to take action in support of policies of non-co-operation with a government that is attacking wages, jobs and public services.

BEWARE, TORIES!

STUDENTS unions all over the country are now involved in elections for their full-time officers.

In the past the Broad Left alliance of Labour and Communist students has won many of these positions.

But this year Broad Left bases are crumbling in many areas.

Their Scottish stronghold—Strathclyde in Glasgow—has voted to disaffiliate from the NUS.

So, too, has St Andrews, 'home' of Chris Morgan, the Broad Left's candidate for NUS Treasurer.

And at the London School of Economics, the Broad Left-dominated executive has lost control in the last year to 'independents' with a whole range of political views.

The right-wing, specially the Tories, are beginning to organise for elections—and with some success.

Higher

But the revolutionary vote is also much higher

At the North London Poly, the president, the editor of the students union paper and two of the three site vice-presidents are NOISS members.

And at the Portsmouth Poly, NOISS candidates, though losing to the right-wing, polled 500 votes.

This sort of vote will begin to reflect itself nationally at next month's NUS conference. The Broad Left will emerge weaker from it because they have failed to build militant bases against the cuts and low grants.

The danger is that this will now let in the Tories—unless a fighting left alternative can be presented. That is the basis of the NOISS slate for the elections.

The crucial vote facing students

At a hustings of 600 in Lancaster, the whole NOISS slate was chosen as first preference. Our slate is as follows:

President: Dick Mungin (Stirling University). Involved in many struggles during his time at Stirling and is secretary of the Students' Association.

Deputy President: Tim Whitfield (Bristol University). Involved in rent strike at Reading. At present involved in victimisation dispute following nursery occupation at Bristol.

Secretary: Pete Gillard (Leeds University). Member of the NUS executive.

Vice-Presidents: Kevin Murphy (Highbury Tech), Marie Durkin (Didsbury College), John Chaplin (Portsmouth Poly), Stirling Smith (Hull University).

ECO, ECM: Graham Threlfall (Lancaster University), Andy Durgan (Portsmouth Poly).

Red-baiters get official backing

EXTREME right-wing 'moderation' continues its march inside the trade union movement.

Iris News, the monthly publication of the employer-financed Industrial Research & Information Services Ltd, has emerged from its anonymous

swamp in the pages of the current edition of the NUFLAT (National Union of Footwear, Leather, and Allied Trades Journal).

This official union publication contains an article called TUC Statement on Trade Union Education, that has



How the Engineers Union used to fight

THIS CARTOON shows how the Engineers Union journal used to campaign for the Right to Work.

It was published in April 1922 at the time of the 14-week lock-out of engineering workers.

An overtime ban today in manufacturing industry could create another 300,000 jobs.

But the unions involved—including the AUEW—won't lift a finger to fight for them.

That's why it's down to the rank and file...

WHIP LASH...

THE 46,000 members of the Civil Service Union have just received the March edition of The Whip, their monthly union journal. It makes a call to arms against the government's proposed cuts in public expenditure.

'The civil service trade union movement will want to make absolutely certain that no unreasonable hardships are imposed upon the staff.'

Then, to make absolutely sure that nothing subversive is intended, it adds:

'Civil Servants are well aware of the fact that if the government reduces its services then it will reduce its staff.'

CSU members who end up on the dole are unlikely to be grateful that their union has spared the government the whip...

give to poor people who needed a spell in the sun.

The deal is to help out the owners of DC10s whose planes can't carry more than 250 people.

So what's the bloody point in having a Jumbo on the route, you might well ask. There isn't any, except of course it keeps the aerospace companies happy.

If the working class ran society and the airlines, the airlines would exist to help expand people's lives, to enable them to visit relatives who've emigrated.

Just look at how many people never have a holiday abroad. Meeting their needs is what our airlines would be about.

Chaotic

And that's far more important than any number of jet-setting rich people.

British Airways is probably less corrupt and chaotic than any of the other airlines. But you should see it from the inside.

You should see the fantastic waste and the huge, swollen bureaucracy that the people who actually do the work have to support.

Because the airport isn't run democratically, there's massive waste in the supervisory and management apparatus.

It works like this. British Airways buys Concorde. So a new Concorde department grows up. It has a Concorde project manager, a suite of offices, secretaries, the lot.

Lack of democracy means huge teams of bosses and policemen of one sort or another. If workers ran the show they could be set free for useful labour.

There's yet another remarkable area of waste that we would abolish—the parts racket.

McDonnell Douglas, Boeing and Rolls Royce put the engines in aeroplanes and they give them a warranty. To keep the warranty (necessary for flight and safety clearance) you must only fit their spare parts.

Stupid

And, of course, they charge the most phenomenal prices for these parts, parts that we could make for a fraction of the cost. Pounds upon pounds for stupid little parts you could buy down at the ironmongers for 5p.

There's the most fantastic waste on the catering side, too, with excellent food being scrapped in huge quantities.

It could feed poor people, but instead it's being dumped.

If you get caught taking any of it away before it's dumped, you get the sack.

We'd put a stop to all this. We'd run things much more efficiently and we'd run things democratically without the handbar moustaches from Northolt who dominate our industry.

And we have no doubt that airline workers could run the industry and provide an excellent service for their fellow workers.

By the Heathrow Airport IS branch

WHEN CONCORDE flew to Bahrein last Monday, there were 17 passengers. That's worse than usual.

British Airways work on a 50 per cent load being economic. Or, put another way, on every flight they plan on half the seats being empty.

Another fact tells a little more of the story. British Airways spend £96 million a year on advertising, and only £93 million on engineering and maintenance.

Half empty

They advertise all over the world to compete with other airlines so that their respective planes can fly around half-empty.

The airline business is entirely designed to cater for the rich, and the expense account market. Prices are fixed by international agreement, and fixed high.

But the same airlines also engage in any number of under-the-counter deals through the bucket shops.

They need a few peasants to fill up the load. To get them they engage in cut-throat competition.

Jet set

Then, of course, the jet set businessmen start complaining. They don't like to fly with mere people.

So British Airways and all the others lay on new deals for them, like the 707s with their executive suites.

You wouldn't believe the things that go on.

Take the route to Miami. The airline companies have



The plane truth - we could all afford it

How could your job be organised under socialism? We want to hear from you. Write to us at Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 8DN.

an agreement that they won't put more than 250 fare-paying passengers on the London-Miami Jumbo, even though the plane can take 350 passengers.

So there's 100 free seats, that you could immediately

OUR NORMAN



Fascist attacks on AUEW offices

SOUTH EAST LONDON: The headquarters of the Engineering Union at Peckham has become the target for a series of hit-and-run attacks.

The first was three weeks ago when, under cover of darkness, attempts were made to smash a glass door. The damage was put down to a passing drunk or a stone-throwing youngster, and soon repaired.

Within days a hammer or something like it was used to shatter the glass again.

This door has no special significance, but is an isolated side entrance, readily accessible from the street. This makes it more vulnerable than most of the building which fronts on to a main road and is surrounded by high iron railings.

Mystery

The identities and motives of the people behind this blitz on the AUEW remained a mystery until workers arrived at the offices to discover the door had been smashed a third time. This time racist stickers were found outside and inside the headquarters.

This part of London has recently seen a flourish of activity by the Nazi National Front and its offshoot the National Party, as both organisations compete for a limited membership.

A major aim of the Nazis is to smash trade unions—some seem to have set about it in the crudest possible fashion.

BOYCOTT THIS BAKER!

Sayers workers on official strike over jobs for four months



Bill Sayers, the firm's boss hides his face as he goes into the bakery. The boycott has reduced management to smuggling in sacks of flour and sugar inside car boots.



Pickets speak to a van driver as he crosses their picket.

BOYCOTT, black and defeat this management—that's the message of the striking electricians and engineers at Sayers Bakery, Liverpool.

The 20 workers have been on official strike for four months. Three stewards were sacked last November after the men had supported bread workers in a strike. Ever since, all electricians and

engineers in the bakery have been demanding reinstatement.

The pickets have remained strong in spite of attempts by the management to demoralise them. Recently the management have erected a hoarding across the front of the factory extolling the virtues of their 'loyal' workers.

The management have also attempted to turn sections of the workforce against the pickets by blaming them for the outbreak of fires in the factory. The pickets say that the real reason for the fires is lack of safety precautions.

The pickets stress the rank and file support that their action has received, but they are not so happy about David Palmer, divisional organiser of the Transport and General Workers Union. He has sent a letter to the company saying that drivers should work normally—in other words cross the pickets.

Support has been coming from other sectors. Workers have threatened to black canteens unless Sayers' products were withdrawn. So with little argument Sayers are now blacked at Tate and Lyle, Metal Box, Speke, Yorkshire Imperial Metals, Plesseys and Littlewoods Pools.

Difficult

Tate and Lyle have also refused to deliver sugar and Sayers management are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain fuel, flour, and so on. We have had the weird spectacle of Sayers management smuggling bags of flour and sugar into the works in their cars.

Financial support has been marvellous, said Harry Rimmer, EETPU steward. But the support needs to be extended. Liverpool Docks Shop Stewards Committee have given £100, Otis Elevators £130, MPTE AUEW £145, Ince Power Stations have given £200 and there have been numerous other contributions.

The boycott is spreading to housewives and shoppers. Set up pickets outside Sayers shops. Spread the blacking. Help this fight for jobs.

Last week's Socialist Worker reported that the meal given to the Right to Work marchers in Northampton was provided by the Northampton Labour-controlled Council. In fact much of the money for the meal was donated by Northampton National Union of Students.

Rule 14: TUC bid to force trades councils in line

THE TUC has stepped up its campaign to force trades councils to fall into line over the new 'Rule 14'.

The London Trades Councils, which have refused to agree to the sweeping changes designed to stop them fighting against unemployment, government spending cuts and wage restraint, having been threatened with expulsion from the TUC. Action has been taken against at least one trades council, and others face the chop in the next few weeks.

The TUC refuses point blank to issue a press statement saying what the exact position is.

The executive of Camden Trades Council have been told by the secretary that their council is suspended. The president of Greenwich has been told on the 'grapevine' that his council is disaffiliated. The secretary of Westminster Trades Council refuses to tell other members of the executive committee the outcome of his discussion with the TUC.

All this secrecy, rumour-mongering, double-talk and outright lying is designed to cover up one of the dirtiest deals in trade union history. The fact is that the TUC General Council and some members of the Communist Party have struck an ugly little

bargain: they are working together to force this rule change through.

The General Council wants the change to stop the growing opposition to its reactionary policies. Members of the Communist Party want the change so that they can strengthen the sort of sectarian attack they tried to launch against the Right to Work March.

Tragedy

The tragedy of all this is that the new rule will not simply be used against the Right to Work Campaign. It will be used against bodies like the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions—which the Communist Party does support.

Take Camden, for example. The secretary, a prominent Communist Party member, told members of the executive that the council is suspended. It was true he had not actually had the letter, but he knew exactly what the position was.

He also added a new twist. Apparently it is policy, although whose policy nobody can say, that when the trades council next meets,

only those delegates who can produce signed letters from their branch secretaries stating that they are mandated to vote for the new rule 14 will be allowed into the meeting. This rule change is not a matter of one small change. It is the first round of a long campaign.

The rule is there to be used. And it will be used. It will be used to stop any and every attempt to organise a fight back.

The old rule read: 'In no circumstances shall the council co-operate with or subscribe to the funds of the Communist or Fascist Parties, or any subsidiary organisation of these parties, or any industrial organisation which has been prescribed by the General Council.'

Part of the new rule reads: 'In no circumstances shall the Trades Council co-operate with or subscribe to the funds of any organisation whose policies or activities are contrary to those of Congress...'

Socialist Worker is opposed to both rules. We are against all bans and proscriptions against working-class organisations.

bans against fascist organisations, which are designed to destroy the labour movement, but organisations that for all their faults are part of the labour movement should be granted full rights to put their point of view.

Meeting of all International Socialist delegates to trades councils: Saturday 3 April, 9.30am, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1 (nearest tube Warren Street). Discussion on Rule 14 and on co-ordination of trades council work. (Meeting will end in time for NAC rally).

Right to Work unites school

by **CHANIE ROSENBERG (Hackney Nut)**

NORTH LONDON: In my school, Hackney Downs, teachers and ancillary workers got together over the Right to Work Campaign.

It seemed logical this way. If there's any cut in ancillary workers—lab technicians, cleaners, dinner, caretaking, library, media resources staff, and assistants of various sorts—the education of the children suffers, and teachers have to work harder.

Any cut in teachers affects the children's education and leads to further cuts in ancillary staff.

The ancillary workers in the school met early on and decided to support the campaign. Later the teachers did the same.

Then together they went out to other schools, meeting teachers and ancillary workers. This working together has never happened before.

Equal pay fight in 10th week

HILLINGTON, Glasgow: The strike for equal pay at the Cockburn Valves factory is now in its tenth week.

The 45 men and women members of TASS, the clerical section of the Engineering Union, have been picketing the factory to force the company to give women white-collar workers equal pay.

The dispute arose because the men were getting £15 to £20 a week more than the women for doing the same job.

The women, who only joined the union last year, began selective lightning strikes. This led to a male member of TASS being suspended by management for refusing to do the women's work.

The workers decided to take all-out strike action and the pickets have been at the factory every since. The men on strike won't benefit financially but they're 100 per cent with the women.

Last week TASS members at Chrysler Linwood gave £200, but three months' picketing in cold weather is a long time.

Stewart Lindsay, the TASS shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'It's becoming clear that we need to step up the action. And we're asking for support from other workers on our picket line. If we get it, then we can win the strike quickly.'

Messages of support and cash donations should be sent at once to: Cockburns Valves Strike Committee, AUEWTASS offices, 7 Mile Street, Paisley, Scotland.

Council strikers' support grows

KNOWSLEY, Merseyside: The strike by 579 council workers to save 181 jobs at the Knowsley Direct Works Department is in its second week—and it's gaining support.

This support has been won through effective mass picketing of building sites in the Huyton area, where contractors are renovating council houses.

Men from the Unit Construction and Cubitts sites were addressed by pickets at site gate meetings and agreed to strike in support.

The strike committee is keeping the men informed through regular, well-attended mass

meetings. The men also produced a leaflet and distributed these door-to-door on the council estates, explaining their situation and the 'couldn't care less' attitude of the council. There are regular mass lobbies of the council meetings.

These men are fighting against the cuts of a strong Labour-controlled council. They would gain great confidence from messages of solidarity and donations.

Send to Jim Edgar, c/o Kirkby Labour Club, Town Centre, Kirkby, Merseyside.

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.

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION Sunday 25 April—Against cuts in the NHS—Ban all private practice. Called by: National Co-ordinating Committee against Cuts in the NHS. Sponsors include: NALGO, Socialist Medical Association, NUS, AUEW District Committee, Sheffield. March from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square. Finishing with a rally. For further information and copies of mobilising literature posters etc, please contact Dr P. Stern (secretary), 55 Bridge Lane, London NW11.

THE COLLIER Editorial Board is reformed. An issue will be out within the next three weeks. Contributions, information and orders from The Collier, 38 Cundy Cross, Barnsley.

WANDSWORTH Rank and File Teachers public meeting: Racism and Education. Speaker: Cecil Ross (director, Tooting Project). Monday 29 March, 6pm, Kings Arms, Wandsworth High Street, London SW18.

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT: Support the Labour Movement delegation to Ireland! Public meeting with film. Friday 2 April, 7.30pm, Hammersmith Town Hall.

Local labour movement CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE CUTS: Main speakers include Dennis Skinner MP and Peter Bain (Chrysler shop steward). Saturday 3 April, Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Walk, Brixton, London SW2. 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 Councils and South West London Right to Work Committee.

BENEFIT SOCIAL for Keith Blackman lockout. Saturday 3 April 8.00pm. Red Lion pub, Tottenham High Road/Lansdown Road junction, N17. Bar extension until midnight. Disco 65p entrance at door. Organised by Haringey Trades Council/North London Right to Work Committee.

BIRMID STRIKE TO DEFEND STEWARD

By AZIM HAJEE
BIRMINGHAM: 160 maintenance workers are on strike at Birmid Qualcast No 2 and No 3 after the sacking of senior shop steward Harry Berg.

This strike is against union bashing by the management, who are trying to break the trade union organisation, a member of the strike committee told Socialist Worker.

A mass meeting on Tuesday decided unanimously to stay out indefinitely until Harry Berg is reinstated.

This is the main issue of the strike. Unfortunately, this is not appreciated by many workers, particularly Qualcast No 1. Some refused to support Harry Berg because they disagree with him over certain policies.

He wants workers who have accepted voluntary redundancy to be reinstated.

They also disagree with his lack of contact with the combined shop stewards committee.

These are policies for which Harry Berg should be strongly criticised. But this should not put in question the basic reason for the strike—that no management has the right to sack a steward who is representing his members.

Said one member of the strike committee: 'If management get away with this, the position of every militant shop steward is threatened'.

We call on all Birmid workers to support the Qualcast No 2 maintenance workers on this basic issue. Pickets on Qualcast No 3 and No 1 foundry should receive full support.

COLORTREND GOES ON

RUGELEY: The picket and strike for union recognition by members of the white-collar union ASTMS continues at Colortrend.

Transport Union drivers from Kodak are supporting and respecting the picket line, but Meyer and Baker supplies are still getting through.

The 300 Transport Union members inside the factory are beginning to pay for accepting the company's offer to return to work. Trevor Morris, the full-time official who had threatened them with a £10 fine if they supported the ASTMS pickets, now has nothing to say as Colortrend asks for voluntary short time.

EXPLODING BOSSES

BIRMINGHAM: Management at Brook Tools System, in Camphill, have caused three explosions in the past fortnight. In the third the works manager nearly blew himself up.

Management have provoked a strike of 35 workers by sacking a machinist who refused to carry out hardening work. Management's attempts to cut down on labour and light the furnaces themselves have caused the explosions.

The management agreed to reinstate the sacked machinist last Thursday, but then threatened to put him back on the hardening, so the 35 came straight out again.

2000 OUT AFTER NIGG SACKINGS

by LORNE ANTON (NUR)

SCOTLAND: 2000 workers at Nigg oil rig construction site, mainly electricians, boiler makers, and engineering union members, are on strike for reinstatement of the night shift shop steward, Alan McBeath, and the shop stewards' convenor, Bill Lindsay.

The sackings—for allegedly sleeping in the convenors' office at 5.30am on Monday—follows a week of management harassment of workers involving issues such as the supply of food to distant

Rover picket weakened by officials

BIRMINGHAM: Toolroom workers at Rover, striking in defence of their agreements, received a major blow this week.

The Transport Workers' regional secretary, Brian Mathers, has complained about lorry driver members being forced to respect the AUEW picket lines. 'Our members are losing wages', he said.

Equally serious, two Engineering Union convenors, Peter Nicholas from Tyzley plant and Jack Hogart from Percy Road, led their members across the AUEW picket lines. Nicholas, who is a supporter of the Broad Left, also argued against the strike at the AUEW district committee.

Some of the toolroom workers even suspect that their work is being covered inside the plant.

Attack

If the Leyland management get away with breaking the toolroom agreement then the way will be open for them to attack other agreements.

Every worker who crosses a picket line at Rover is cutting his own throat. Future bitterness, and future refusals of mutual assistance, are being stored up.

All workers ought to support the strike at Rovers. In particular, members of the TGWU should move resolutions censuring Mathers and demanding that action be taken throughout the TGWU to ensure that all picket lines are respected.

Messages of support and donations to the Rover Strike Committee, c/o Fred Nibbett, 33 Hazledean Road, Marston Green, Birmingham 33.

HOSPITAL STRIKE OFF

A STRIKE of hospital workers in Scotland and Northern Ireland has been called off at the last moment.

The strike was due on Thursday. No reasons have been given for the retreat, and many hospital workers are bitter at the decision.

The stoppage was originally called by the Scottish Divisional Council of the Public Employees Union NUPE to coincide with a Scottish TUC conference on public spending cuts.

NUPE has called on their 51,000 members in the division to take part in the strike. But the initiative was never more than lukewarm. The NUPE officials never distributed leaflets or sent circulars to their members.

A demonstration is also called for next Saturday, organised by the Glasgow Trades Council and a Woman's Action Committee. Alan Fisher, General Secretary of NUPE, is billed to speak. The intentions was clearly to divert activity from the Thursday stoppage.

When the reckoning is taken, the Glasgow Trades Council leadership will have a lot to answer for.



Financial Times editor 'Fredy' Fisher—HIS pay is a secret.

'Half Fleet Street on dole' threat

HALF the 20,000 workers in Fleet Street will face the dole in the next few years if the Royal Commission on the Press has its way.

The Commission made up of professors, judges, lords and accountants, say in their report published last week: 'Publishers estimate that their plans would involve the loss of some 7000 out of some 20,000 regular jobs.'

New technology would involve the loss of up to a further 2500 jobs'.

The prize for the newspaper owners is a saving of £35 million a year. The cost of the redundancies will be met by loans subsidised by the government.

The Commission claims that the problems for Fleet

Street is the doubling of the cost of newsprint in the past two years. This, says the report, is 'largely outside the control of the publishers'.

They don't say that IPC, which owns three national newspapers including the Daily Mirror, also owns Reed International, the largest British paper company. Nor do they say that Lord Thompson, who owns The Times and Sunday Times, also has large shareholdings in Canadian paper companies.

Problem

The real problem on Fleet Street, says the report, is caused by the workers. The problem is 'overmanning'—another way of saying that the only way to save money is to get rid of people.

In addition to the 9500 regular jobs under threat the report wants to get rid of most of the three to four thousand casual workers.

The Commission has received support for its claims about overmanning not just from the newspaper owners themselves and their hired servants who write the editorials. Union leaders have joined the chorus.

Last year all six print unions issued a statement denying that overmanning was a problem. They changed their minds. 'The general secretaries of the main production unions in the industry have publicly accepted the need for reductions in manpower', says the report.

Refused

But the printworkers have not accepted the report lying down. Last Thursday's edition of the Financial Times did not appear because the NGA composing chapel refused to print one article.

This referred to NGA members earning £12,000 a year, while all mention of senior editorial staff getting £18,746 a year had been cut out. Management refused to reinsert the references to the senior editorial staff and the paper didn't come out.

The new techniques could be brought into Fleet Street to give printworkers longer holidays and shorter hours, without any loss of jobs. Instead the leaders of our unions are joining the employers to force the redundancies through.

A campaign throughout every chapel in Fleet Street will be needed to ensure a united fight-back.



Pickets outside the Keith Blackman GEC factory in North London where GEC locked out 350 who came out on strike in support of a victimised shop steward in TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineering Union. The lock-out is now in its eleventh week. Donations and messages of support to Jim Pickering, Suite 3, Second Floor, 128-136 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex.

Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

Cashmore workers to refuse closure

NEWPORT: The Cashmore steel stockholding warehouse is to shut at the cost of 75 jobs.

For sixty years ago Cashmores produced gold and silver for the shareholders, who used it to set-up more modern sites in Great Bridge, Leeds, Hatfield and Bellshill in Lanarkshire. Now 200 workers are left and 75 will lose their jobs.

Engineering Union shop steward Bruce Barton told Socialist Worker: 'It's crazy. They've been asking us to work overtime. The order books are fuller than they've ever been. We've been demanding an extra two blokes on one job and we've been banning overtime since January to

get those jobs filled.'

AUEW steward Ron Jones, chairman of the elected Action Committee, said: 'We've decided not to accept our notices on Friday, and to revert to our old two-shift pattern, so that all the workers are there together for four hours a day. This way we'll avoid splits in the workforce.'

Halt

'We have also agreed to halt the transfer of steel to other warehouses. There's £3 million worth of steel in this warehouse and Glynwed, who own Cashmores, had better not forget it.'

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN MEETINGS

TEESSIDE Right to Work Campaign meeting: Monday 29 March, 7.30pm, Middlesbrough Labour Club, Linthorpe Road. All welcome. **FUN-DRAISING SOCIAL:** Friday 2 April, 9pm-2am, Hummingbird Nightclub, Newport Road. Dancing to Reggae and blues, food, late bar. Admission 70p.

CENTRAL LONDON Right to Work Committee meeting The Plough, Museum St, W1. Monday 29 March, 7.30pm. Open to all affiliated bodies, unemployed and rank and file groups.

DARLINGTON Right to Work meeting, organised by Darlington Trades Council: FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT! Public Library, Darlington, Friday 26 March, 7.30pm. Speakers: John Deason (Secretary, National Right to Work Campaign), Cambell Christie (Society of Civil Servants) and Ted Fletcher MP.

MAY DAY GREETINGS

Socialist Worker is including a special supplement this May Day—the 50th anniversary of the General Strike—for the many trade union bodies, shop stewards committees and other labour organisations who wish to send May Day greetings.

The rates for advertisements will be: 'Special' Classified insertion (up to 20 words) £1 Semi-display, per single column inch (1in by 1½in) £1.50 Display, per single column inch £2.

Advance space may be booked now by telephone. Ring 01-739 2639. All copy or art work must be received by Friday 16 April.

Send to Socialist Worker (May Day), 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Message:

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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

This is why we need cash

LAST FRIDAY night, within hours of the Right to Work March being attacked by the police, the staff of the Socialist Worker printshop were hard at work producing a special 8-page emergency edition. It was printed first thing on Saturday morning and on sale on the last stage of the magnificent march.

It's the SW Fighting

Fund that enables us to produce special issues when the situation demands them.

That's why we beg you to keep your contributions rolling in.

As the struggles against unemployment mount, more such special issues will be needed.

More and better coverage—coverage in your regular weekly SW

will be necessary, too.

Total this week is £39.41.

Our thanks to: Anon Kent £25, Hugo Dewar £5, York reader £1, Maidstone supporters £2.20, SW buyers Manchester £2.70, Southwark teachers and builders £39.41.

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

Teesside Right to Work Committee Public Meeting THE FIGHT CONTINUES

Monday 29 March, 7.30pm. The Lounge Middlesbrough Labour Club, Linthorpe Road. All welcome.

TEESSIDE RIGHT TO WORK SOCIAL

The Hummingbird Nightclub, Newport Road, Middlesbrough, Friday 2 April, 9am-2am. Dancing to Reggae and Blues. Food and bar till 2am. 70p, 50p unemployed.

TEENAGE VICTIM OF OFFICIAL TERROR



THE BRITISH government has spirited away Joe Matthews.

His family do not know where he is.

Thanks to Labour Home Secretary Roy Jenkins and his so-called Prevention of Terrorism Act, the police have been able to seize their son Joe and hold him without charge for more than three weeks.

Now they fear that the authorities have still more misery and uncertainty in store for them.

They fear that Roy Jenkins' legislation is to be used to separate Joe from them permanently by a deportation order.

The Matthews' nightmare started on the morning of Wednesday 3 March this year.

Joe's father Ignatius told Socialist Worker how policemen from Liverpool carried out a KGB-style dawn raid on their house in Coventry.

'It was 6.30am. I was frying my son Mick's breakfast in the kitchen when I heard a dog bark.

GUNS

'I parted the curtains and saw a man aiming a revolver at me.

'He was holding it in both hands. He shouted "Inside, Pop" and then a whole crowd of them burst in through front and back doors.

KGB-style dawn raid - then Joe, 19, is flung in jail

'I didn't know what to think. I thought Hitler was dead.'

Mrs Matthews takes up the story: 'Two of them had guns and the rest of them had sticks. One of them shouted "John, Joe, up!"

'They manhandled them downstairs. They didn't even have time to get dressed. Then they tried to take Mick—he's only 18, and Kathleen—she's 21.

BAGS

'I told them they weren't touch them. But they wouldn't even let Kathleen or me alone go get dressed.

'Then they started taking things out of the house. They filled three polythene bags full of personal effects.

'They took John and Joe away.'

John Matthews, a Transport Union member and carworker, just made redundant out of Chrysler, was released from Little Park Street police station after two days of questioning by the Special Branch.

IRA

'They kept on asking me if I was in the IRA,' John told Socialist Worker.

'They wanted me to say that Joe was in the IRA. They went

through diaries and letters from home, and asked about every name, every address, every telephone number.

'They took my fingerprints, photographed me six times and swabbed me for traces of explosives.'

Joe Matthews was kept in the Coventry police station for seven days. He had no mattress and no blanket. He was transferred to Winson Green prison in Birmingham on Wednesday 10 March.

According to reports from relatives, he has been beaten on the lower parts of his body. His arms are bruised and his head has been knocked against a wall.

SAS

He has been ordered to repeat the words 'Father Fell is a bastard' and when he refused he was beaten.

He was told by a Special Branch officer that 'Frank Stagg died like a cabbage and you will too.'

He has been threatened with being 'dumped in Belfast' and 'shot by the SAS'.

A deportation order has been served against him—despite the fact that his whole family are here in England.

Joe once tried to eke out some sort of a living in Northern Ireland, where Roy Jenkins wants to send him.

Now let's fight to get

this vile Act off the statute book!

SINCE the Prevention of Terrorism Act was rushed through Parliament 17 months ago, 1200 Irish people have been seized and held without trial for various periods by the British police.

Almost without exception, the police have subsequently had to release them, since there was not a scrap of evidence to suggest involvement in terrorism.

The Act has allowed the police to frighten not only their direct victims but their family and friends and, in some places the whole Irish community.

Drives

It makes open political activity on Ireland more difficult. Far from preventing terrorism it probably drives people into clandestine operations and terrorist activities.

What's more, it lets the police and the Special Branch arrest without trial anyone they're 'interested in'. And that includes rank and file trade unionists, shop stewards and convenors.

That's why Socialist Worker warmly welcomes the initiatives of active trade unionists in West London in setting up the trade union committee against the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Luck

The committee was a response to the seizing at work of a West London Hospital worker by the police.

By luck, one of the shop stewards at the hospital got to hear that he had been picked up.

He reported it to the NUPE shop stewards committee and they and rank and file hospital workers went to the police station and secured his release.

The committee is now anxious to expand its activities and hopes to launch a fight back against the Act.

A conference has been organised on Saturday 10 April, 1-4pm at Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London, W6. There will be a report on what has been achieved and the committee will be expanded on a more representative basis.

Look

This conference is not limited to representatives from the North West London area, but is looking for support from all over the country.

If your union branch, shop stewards committee wishes to send delegates or observers, credentials are available from:

Trade Union Committee Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 46 Prince George Road, Ondon, N16 8B7.

The committee is supported by Bamel Trades Council, Camden Trades Council, AUEW Chiswick No 5, AUEW Camden No2, TGWU Heinz, NUPE Hammersmith Hospital.

Now now fears that if his appeal fails he will be dumped somewhere in Belfast, where of course he will be a sitting target for the Protestant gun gangs.

The Matthews family have received two poison pen letters threatening to set fire to their house.

It was just such threats that drove them out of their house in the Ardoyne district of Belfast in 1971. They came to Coventry to seek refuge!

SHOW

Joe Matthews needs your support. Send resolutions to your trade union executive and to the Home Office.

Only if we show constant opposition in all cases where the Act is used will we have it removed from the statute books.

Coventry Socialist Worker public meeting organised against the Prevention of Terrorism Act: Speaker from the North London Trade Union Delegate Committee on Friday 9 April, 7.30pm, Sidney Stringer Community School, Cox Street, Coventry.

Advertisement

National Rank and File Organising Committee 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.



Which way forward from the 27th?

Meeting for supporters of the Right to Work Campaign delegated to the Confed, Friday 26 March, 6.30pm. Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London.

Child labour scandal

A PLASTICS welding factory in Dukinfield isn't deterred by the law which outlaws 14-year-old schoolchildren from working more than two hours on a Sunday.

Ashton Trades Council has reported J and D Plastics to the Police, the Education authorities and the Factory Inspectorate for employing children—some only 12—for seven-hour periods during weekends.

Teachers in the Tameside area need no longer wonder

where their truant-playing pupils are: J and D Plastics is happy to employ them to work with sharp guillotine machinery.

When police recently paid a surprise visit, the management kindly helped their victims to beat a hasty retreat out the back.

The Trades Council and other working class bodies are to picket the plant on 31 March. Be there and help us stop this grotesque exploitation.

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