

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

## NO FASCISTS HERE!

March against the National Party this Saturday

LONDON: Assemble 2.30pm, Trafalgar Square. All IS branches south of Birmingham to support.

BRADFORD: Assemble 12.30pm, University, Richmond Road. All IS branches from Birmingham northwards (except in Lancashire) to support.



# POISONED FOR PROFIT

**IF THEY'RE NOT managing to poison you at work, they're almost certainly managing to poison you at home or in some public place.**

That is the only conclusion to be drawn from this week's appalling revelations about the blue asbestos hazard on the Pepys Estate in Deptford, South East London.

For 18 months, tenants have been complaining about the dust being released into their corridors. That blue dust is the deadliest of all the deadly varieties of asbestos.

Now the tenants have got some action.

This foul hazard is to be removed and replaced. But not until June.

*The tardy action of the Greater London Council—which isn't even evacuating the block—comes too late for Janet Smith.*

### Invaded

When she was X-rayed last year, scarring was noticed on her left lung.

Her father Ron Smith believes that it is a result of the blue asbestos fall-out in Pelican House.

Janet is 14 years old . . .

But it isn't only Janet's home that has been invaded by the asbestos monopolies.

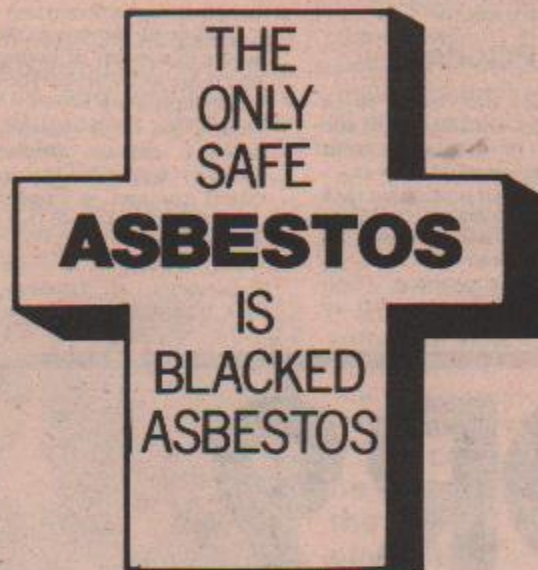
Have you thought about what's on the end of your ironing board?

Or what the backing to your cushion floor in your kitchen is made of?

Or that garden shed made out of corrugated sheeting?

Did you know that Rawlplug screwfix used to put up shelves or curtain rails contains asbestos?

And it's all deadly, even in the smallest quantity. It's in



schools, hospitals and it is claiming lives on an unknown scale.

America's foremost researcher in the field, Dr Irving J Selikoff, believes one million people in that country will die from asbestos-induced diseases by the end of the century.

And he has written to Transport Union insulation workers in Glasgow saying he is sure that city's extraordinarily high cancer rate is

related to industrially-induced diseases and to asbestos in particular.

*The response of the Labour government and the Health and Safety Executive to this huge health hazard is appalling.*

In parliamentary replies and other statements, they are going out of their way to

**CONT'D ON PAGE 2**



Janet Smith, 14, possible victim of blue asbestos

Defend the 44 says ASLEF leader

RAY BUCKTON, general secretary of the train drivers' union, ASLEF, has added his name to the growing list of signatures calling for support for the Defence Fund for the 44 workers arrested during the police attack on the Right to Work March.

Other signatories the Right to Work Campaign has heard from this week include the general secretary of the Scottish Trade Union Congress, James Milne, another member of the executive of the National Union of Miners, David Bolton, and the Glasgow Regional Organiser of the TGWU, Hugh Wyper.

### Campaign

More trade union bodies have announced that they will be joining the picket in West London on 21 May when the 44 appear in court.

King's Cross ASLEF, Exeter NUR No 2 branch, AUEW TASS Leeds branch, Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council, NALGO Lambeth social services reps committee:

North East London ASTMS medical branch, the joint shop stewards committee at the Juniper building site in London, AUEW Cricklewood No 4 branch:

NUJ Book Branch, NUJ Magazine Branch, South West London CPSA branch.

□ **The independent trade union inquiry into the police attack on the march will meet on 15 May. Details page 4.**

Advertisement

### DEFEND THE 44! NO MORE SHREWSBURYS!

The 44 workers arrested in the police attack on the Right to Work March will appear in court on Friday 21 May.

The National Right to Work Campaign calls on all trade union and labour movement bodies to send delegations to a picket outside the court on Friday 21 May at 10am, outside Hendon Magistrates Court, The Hyde, Edgware Road, West Hendon, London NW9.

Send delegations. Make sure you are represented. Bring banners.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK **ALL OUT 26 MAY!**

# WHY Mr SMITH IS NOW GRITTING HIS TEETH...

THE DAYS OF WHITE Rhodesia are numbered—and the number is a small one. That was the message of Monday's guerrilla attacks by black freedom fighters which temporarily cut Rhodesia's main road and rail links with South Africa.

The 250,000 whites in Rhodesia make up a highly privileged ruling class. They own all the best land. They occupy all the managerial positions in industry.

Their arrogant attitude has been fortified by the failures of past guerrilla movements. But they forget that the black freedom fighters of the late 1960s, who crossed the Zambesi in Northern Rhodesia, were only killed because of two things.

## Sunny Jim's a racist!

—SAYS A MAN WHO OUGHT TO KNOW



Alex Lyon: the truth about Callaghan...

ALEX LYON, Labour MP for York, shocked the whole Labour establishment last week by saying out loud that the new Prime Minister is a racist.

Callaghan sacked Lyon from his job as Minister of State at the Home Office.

In his place comes a safe, respectable nonentity, one of Callaghan's main backers among Welsh MPs, Mr Brynmor John.

Last year, when Alex Lyon visited India and Pakistan, he was shocked at the inhuman treatment dished out to those who wanted to join their families in this country.

### Certificate

Largely because of his efforts, the waiting time for an entry certificate for these people—who are still, in theory, allowed to come here free of control—was cut from three years to two and a half.

But Lyon continued to champion their rights, so annoying the racist British officials in Islamabad and Delhi, who complained to the British ambassador, who in turn complained to James Callaghan, who was then Foreign Secretary.

Alex Lyon was also worried about the government's support for the white regime in South Africa, and often complained about it, much to James Callaghan's intense irritation.

### Resign

Of course, Lyon should have resigned and made his point earlier. There is a strong element of sour grapes in his speech made on the day of his sacking.

But what he says about Callaghan is quite true. Callaghan couldn't care less for the blacks in Britain—and is a strong supporter of what Edward Heath used to call the 'white South Africa's right to live'.

One was the presence in Rhodesia of South African troops and police.

The other was a wide belt of white domination that included the then Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique as well as Rhodesia.

Now these countries are run by black governments which fought Portuguese colonialism and which support the Zimbabwe freedom fighters.

### Defeat

South Africa has withdrawn its troops and police, for fear that they will be defeated at the hands of the freedom fighters.

Rhodesia's police and troops cannot last long on their own. Even those blacks who have collaborated with the regime in the past will turn against it once they see its defeat is inevitable.

Only one thing can stop this happening—a compromise agreement between Smith and sections of the black middle class in Rhodesia.

This is what the South Africans want. It will protect their own racist state from the impact of revolution along its northern borders.

### Estates

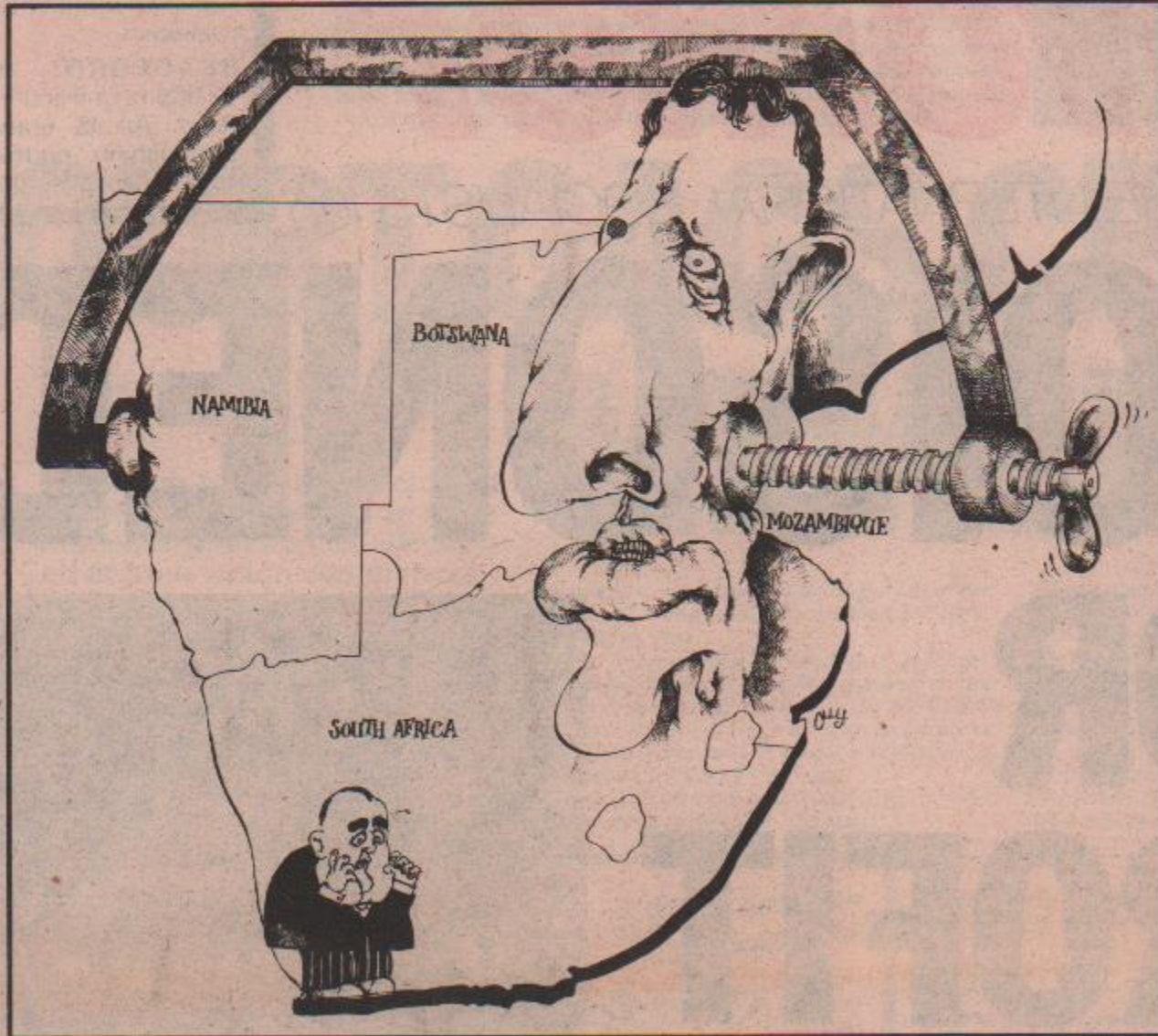
This is what British big business want. It will safeguard their estates, their plantations, their copper mines, their asbestos mines.

But it is not something any black worker in Rhodesia or South Africa can want. Nor is it something socialists in Britain should want.

For us, the most welcome sight in the world will be white Rhodesians standing in long, bedraggled queues, waiting in desperation for the last plane from Salisbury airport.

That will mean that the wave of liberation which began in Mozambique and Angola has swept through Rhodesia and will soon be shaking the South African reich.

## PREMIER



CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

# POISONED - for profit

minimise the extent of the hazard and the number of victims.

And they are doing as little as possible to rectify the situation speedily and prevent future victims being struck down.

### Monster

Yet, thanks to Cape Asbestos's operations in Hebden Bridge alone, 50 people are already dead and 220 are likely to die in the years ahead.

In Glasgow, courtesy of Cape, Turner and Newall and the others, 100 members of the lagers branch have died in the last nine years.

All this takes no account

of those struck down by the asbestos giants' operations in Newcastle, Barking, Belfast, Rhodesia and South Africa, where black miners die by the score from asbestos-induced diseases.

The monstrous scale of this murder explains why the Labour government are determined to avoid any public inquiry.

Employment Minister Harold Walker has indicated that it would be too expensive. The Flixborough inquiry, Walker whined, had cost £750,000.

But cost is only part of the reason. The Labour government knighted Turner and Newall chairman and Con-

ederation of British Industry president Sir Ralph Melton Bateman.

They don't want him pilloried as the coalowners were pilloried for mass murder in the mines at a historic public inquiry a half century ago.

### Pilloried

They don't want to endanger valuable export contracts or to curtail the profits of important businesses.

And so it is vital that rank and file workers do not sit back and wait for 'someone in authority' to 'do something' about their plight. Parliament after all

was first informed of the dangers of asbestos in 1906!

Everywhere, asbestos should be blacked. Dockworkers, building workers, car workers, will not only be protecting their own health by refusing to handle asbestos.

They will be doing the future occupants of houses and those who live near their workplaces a big favour.

Just last week building workers on the Greater London Council's Juniper Street contract in London took the sort of stand that's needed.

Following on McInerney's at Finsbury Park they decided to black

asbestos. And now that decision is being followed by moves on the Lower Thames Street site.

Fire Brigade Union members in Glasgow and many other groups of workers are also ready to act.

### Fibreglass

Such a blacking campaign could have tremendous results.

Shipyard workers on Tyneside blacked asbestos sheeting last year. Within weeks, Turner and Newall was forced to develop and supply asbestos-free sheeting.

Where asbestos is replaced by Fibreglass or some other material, workers should insist that the same precautions should be taken as the law requires for asbestos.

Fibreglass is dangerous. It causes fibrosis and tumours and anyone who works with it at home or at work should be properly protected.

### Disease

Such a campaign would also lay the basis for a struggle to force the asbestos employers to pay up massive and automatic compensation to every victim of asbestos-related disease.

Such a campaign would also be a giant step towards taking the industry out of the hands of profit-hungry businessmen who care not a damn for the lives and well being of mere people and know but one master: PROFIT.

Laurie Flynn



# OUT FOR 9

A new play directed by Pam Brighton, heroine of BBC's 'Days of Hope'

To commemorate 50 years of the General Strike

## Socialist Worker May Day Rally

Fraternal Greetings will be given by representatives from Spain, Portugal and by Tony Cliff on behalf of the International Socialists.

Friday 30 April, Camden Town Hall, 7.30pm sharp. Admission 80p

**Manchester**  
Friday 30 April  
Houldsworth Hall,  
Deansgate,  
7.30pm  
Speakers:  
Laurie Flynn  
(Socialist Worker)  
David Skinner  
(ex-Clay Cross Councillor)  
Carol Douras  
(victimized SOGAT MoC)  
Ken Anderson  
(Right to Work Marcher)  
Brian Jones  
(TGWU Massey Ferguson)  
John Deason  
(Secretary National  
Right to Work  
Campaign)

# Yes, Mr Jones, this is the way

## BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?

AT long last the leader of Britain's biggest union has said something about unemployment.

Transport Union leader Jack Jones pointed out at the weekend that a reduction in the working week to 35 hours would create another 750,000 jobs. Both Socialist Worker and the National Right to Work Campaign have been making this point for months. The call for the 35-hour week was one of the main demands of the unemployed workers on the Right to Work March from Manchester to London.

But unfortunately Jones' statement about the benefits of the 35-hour week is not matched by any action to achieve it. He says it could not be introduced in less than two years. He says it would have to be introduced in all the Common Market countries simultaneously. Meanwhile the million and a quarter people in the dole queues will, according to Jack Jones, have to show patience, grin and bear it.

### ASTONISHING

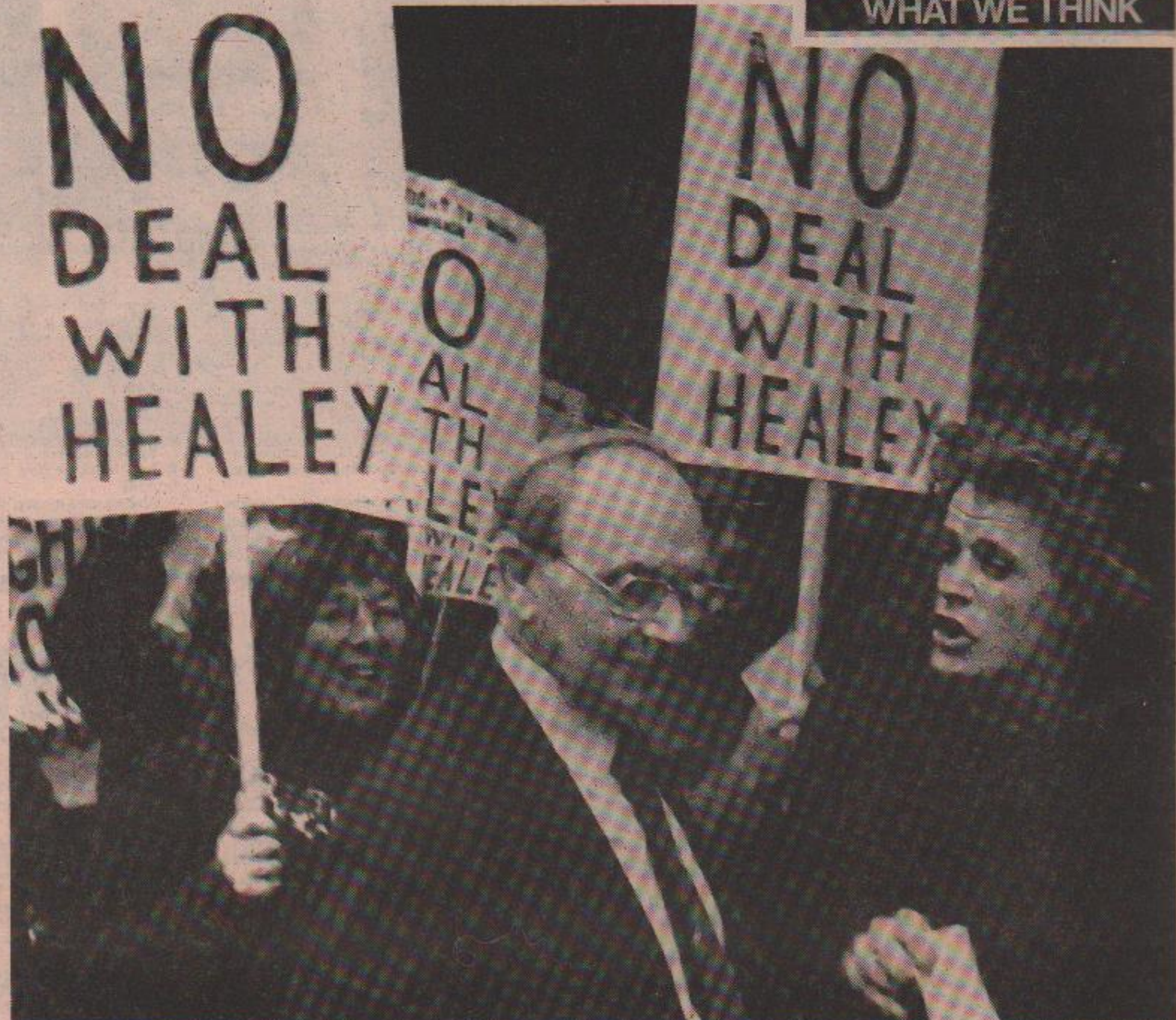
This is an astonishing attitude from someone who claims to be fighting for the interests of nearly two million trade unionists.

Every day Jones' union negotiates dozens of agreements affecting thousands of workers. There is no need to wait two years before demanding from the employers that new agreements cut the working week. Through such struggles first the eight-hour day and then the 40-hour week were achieved.

There is one simple reason why Jones will not lead a similar battle for the 35-hour week,



Jack Jones speaking to Right to Work Campaign secretary John Deason



Unemployed building worker and Right to Work marcher Jan Golab argues with Transport Union leader Jack Jones on the Right to Work Campaign picket of the TUC Economic Committee last week. PICTURES: Andrew Wiard (Report)

despite all his talk.

His first concern is to collaborate with the present government and help it patch over the massive cracks in the system. The interests of his members, employed and unemployed, come a long way behind in his list of priorities.

To start fighting for the 35-hour week now, Jones would have to break with the present policies of wage restraint. He would have to stop merely quibbling over whether the figure is to be 3 per cent or 5 per cent, over whether there is to be a gigantic cut in living standards or only a big cut. He would have to admit that the £6 limit has increased unemployment, not reduced it.

He will not do any of these things.

But that is no reason why rank and file activists in the trade unions should do nothing either.

Every organised worker in Britain needs to be informed how the 35-hour week could cut the dole queues. In every factory and at every trade union conference, the fight for the 35-hour week must begin now.

The call for the 35-hour week should be one of the central rallying calls of the strikes and demonstrations being planned for 26 May, against unemployment, the cuts and the wage controls.



National Right to Work Campaign  
Rank and File Organising Committee

**No deals  
with Healey!  
Stop  
the Cuts  
Smash the  
freeze!  
Fight for the  
Right to Work!  
ALL OUT  
26 MAY!**

RIGHT TO WORK  
CAMPAIGN

**Defend  
the  
Right to  
Work 44!**

'UNLESS the whole trade union movement rallies round the 44 marchers we could have another Shrewsbury on our hands. That is why everyone should support the Right to Work Defence Fund,' said Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson last week.

The fund has also been signed by leading London dockers, including two of the Pentonville Five imprisoned by the Industrial Relations Court in 1972, Bernie Steers and Vic Turner.

Donations were received this week from:

Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council £10, Hounslow Trades Council £2, Dundee Trades Council £8, Exeter Right to Work Committee £5, NALGO Tarry Lane, Bradford £5, NALGO members at Gateshead £4, NATFHE members at Central London Poly £10, NATFHE at East London College £5.95.

Newcastle Right to Work meeting £25, Birmingham Rank and File Teachers £15, Bradford public meeting collection £8, British Leyland rank and file, Longbridge £5.50, Wolverhampton pub collection £2.30, TGWU, Central London £10, Reading Right to Work Committee £1.50.

Among shop floor bodies were Chrysler Linwood joint shop stewards committee £10, Macdonalds Pneumatic Tools shop stewards committee, East Kilbride £10, Mollins Deptford shop stewards committee £4, TGWU 1/667 Fords Dagenham branch £5, UCATT Crook branch £2.

□ Please send money urgently to Ernie Roberts, Treasurer, Right to Work 44 Defence Fund, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## A CRIME TO LIBEL RICH, SAYS JUDGE

THE first prosecution for criminal libel for more than 40 years has been allowed by a High Court judge.

For all that time it has been accepted that libel is a civil offence. People who are libelled can sue for damages. Now the courts are saying that libel can be a criminal offence for which editors and journalists can go to prison.

This takes the law back to the dark days of the last century when radical journalists were imprisoned for the

slightest deviance from the accepted line. In the early 1930s, the directors of the company which published the Daily Worker were imprisoned under the laws of criminal and seditious libel after the paper had attacked a reactionary judge.

This new prosecution, against the editor and publishers of Private Eye, has been brought by one of the richest and most reactionary men in the country, Jimmy Goldsmith, chairman of Cavenham Foods. Goldsmith,

incidentally, is one of the most generous supporters of Truemit, the right-wing pressure group in the trade unions.

### Interest

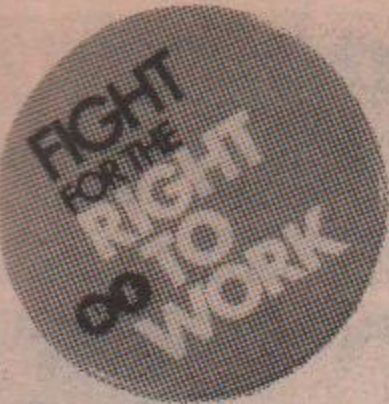
What made Private Eye's attacks on Goldsmith a criminal libel, not just an ordinary civil libel? Said Mr Justice Wien: 'It is a matter of public interest. Mr Goldsmith holds positions of importance, and that cannot be disregarded. He has an association with

the Bank of England.

'It is essential that the public should have regard to his integrity. He is chairman of some very large companies and a director of Rothschild's Bank of Paris.'

In other words, libel becomes criminal when the person libelled is rich and 'respectable'.

We've been saying for years that there's one law for the rich, another for the poor. It's not every day that a High Court judge says it out loud in court.



# Make 26 May a second May Day

**SUPPORT for stoppages and demonstrations on 26 May is being raised in trade union bodies across the country.**

The Day of Action for the Right to Work was called by the Assembly against unemployment held in London four weeks ago. The call has the full support of the National Right to Work Campaign.

The campaign's secretary, John Deason, told Socialist Worker: 'Unemployed workers can play a major role in visiting trade unionists at work and asking them to stop and demonstrate on the 26th. As we proved on the Right to Work March, unemployed workers have developed their own special direct tactics for bringing home the need to fight unemployment and the cuts.'

### Action

There was an example of this action in Glasgow last week, where unemployed workers occupied the headquarters of the passenger transport executive to protest against new fare increases and the attempt to shut down Bridgeton bus garage with the loss of many jobs.

The Right to Work Cam-



A new Right to Work Campaign factsheet on immigrant workers and the TUC attack. 5p a copy. Send stamped, addressed envelope with order please to 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

aign is also calling on the 1000 trade union bodies that supported the marchers to take action on 26 May.

'We want local stoppages and demonstrations to be raised in every workplace and every trades council,' said John Deason. 'Where no one else will organise local demonstrations the Right to Work Campaign will. In any case we shall campaign for the maximum turn-out and support.'

### Arguing

'On the 26th we shall be arguing against overtime, for the 35-hour week, for resistance to all closures and sackings and against the government cuts, in hospitals, schools and social services.'

'And we shall be arguing against any deal with Healey over wages. The crucial point is that if wages rise there is more money for people to buy things with and this in turn creates jobs. The present incomes fraud causes unemployment.'

'That is why we shall also be picketing the Special Congress of the TUC on 16 June to demand that there is no deal with Healey.'



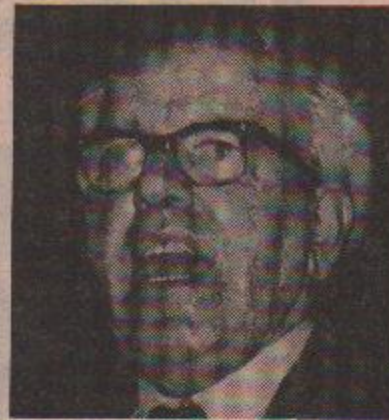
'We are against any deal with Healey, on wages, cuts or jobs.'

In South East London the local Right to Work Committee has organised a conference on Monday 10 May to organise support for 26 May.

### Open

Unemployed worker Ray Storry, who took part in the march from Manchester to London, told Socialist Worker: 'The meeting is open to members of all organisations that supported the Right to Work March, the Albert Hall Rally or the Assembly on Unemployment.'

## Inquiry to meet before court

Three members of the inquiry (from left): Labour MPs Neil Kinnock and Syd Bidwell, and Vincent Flynn, former general secretary of the printworkers' union SOGAT.

THE independent trade union inquiry into the police attack on the Right to Work marchers is to meet on 15 May in London, six days before the first court hearings on 21 May.

The secretary of Barnet Trades Council, Ken Montague, told Socialist Worker: 'The inquiry is made up of leading figures in the movement and local convenors. Those serving include two Labour MPs, Neil Kinnock and Syd Bidwell, and the general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, Brian Stanley, who is also a member of the national executive of the Labour Party.'

Others are Jack Morrish, general secretary of the Customs and Excise Union, Jack Collins of the National Union of Miners executive, Mike Quinn, the convenor at CAV Simms, Colindale, and Dolly Seeley, the convenor at Patent Die Castings, Park Royal.

The chairman is Vincent Flynn, who recently retired as general secretary of the printworkers' union SOGAT. The legal advisor is a barrister, Ian Macdonald.

Ken Montague appealed to all trade union bodies to pass resolutions, 'to support Barnet Trades Council's inquiry, demand that the Press Association and the national press cover and report the inquiry, and demand that the police give evidence.'

'Resolutions should be sent to the Press Association, to Sir Robert Mark at New Scotland Yard and to the Trades Council.'

'And we need money,' he said. 'The inquiry is proving very expensive for the trades council to support by itself.'

□ Barnet Trades Council, c/o Jim Connolly, 80-108 The Broadway, West Hendon, London NW9.

We are going to organise visiting of all workplaces, leaflets, posters, coaches, meetings and assess how to get the maximum possible support.'

The meeting is at Charlton House, London SE7, at 6pm.

On Merseyside, Liverpool Trades Council is supporting the call for a meeting of shop stewards on 13 May to organise support for stoppages on the 26th and a march from Islington Square at 12.30pm.

The Right to Work Campaign is also expecting a good turn-out by its supporters on May Day demonstrations throughout the country.

**PROTEST  
ACTION  
WON  
LAST  
TIME...**

WHAT'S the point of coming out on 26 May? Do demonstrations ever achieve anything?

The answer, resoundingly, is YES—and the years of the last Labour government prove it.

Then, as now, the trade government were pushing policies of wage control down our throats.

Then, as now the trade union leaders did nothing about it except engage in polite conversation.

Then—and it can and must become the same now—rank and file trade unionists moved into action to put the block on Labour's plans.

In 1968, there were the first parity strikes at Ford's. There was the explosion of the dustmen demanding £5.

The Labour government quickly decided that wage control was not enough. They had already stabbed their supporters in the back; now the knife was to be plunged deeper.

On 17 January 1969 the government published In Place of Strife, a Bill that was later to re-appear almost without alteration as the Tories' Industrial Relations Act.

The proposals—fines against strike leaders, legally-binding agreements, registration of procedure agreements—brought protests from the TUC leaders.

But they did no more than seek a horse-trade with the government. If the Bill was dropped, they, the TUC leaders, would carry out its aim of disciplining workers.

But both the TUC and the government were to be foiled in their devious plans by the revolt of the rank and file.

A call went out for Kill the Bill strike action on 27 February, 1969.

### Grown

It came from the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, a body heavily influenced by the Communist Party and which had grown out of an action group of militants set up to fight Labour's incomes policy.

The call had a small but significant response.

In Liverpool, the Communist Party pulled hard and got a successful stoppage. In Glasgow, where they equivocated, the International Socialists put their backs into trying to build support for the call.

Virtually every major factory in the city was leafleted and something around 1000 workers struck. They staged a demonstration, with around 300 of the 500 demonstrators coming from the Glasgow Corporation Electrical Workshops.

Then came May Day. This growing movement was to prevent the Labour government pushing through its legislation.

Today's situation is similar but not identical.

The crisis is more serious. The Labour government's range of options is much less.

But the parallels are obvious.



Graham Skinner (right), who moved the resolution, with fellow former Clay Cross councillor Dave Nuttall after marching with the Right to Work marchers from Clay Cross last month.

## NUPE 'Pay marchers' costs' call

THE executive of the huge council workers' union NUPE is being asked by one of its most influential area committees to help with legal expenses for the Right to Work 44.

The committee, which represents NUPE workers in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, passed the following resolution:

'Disgusted by the brutal attack by the police on people taking part in the Right to Work March, this committee calls on the executive of NUPE to demand that the Home Secretary drop the charges against the people arrested and instigate disciplinary action against the police officers responsible.'

The resolution also notes that 'at least two' of those

arrested are NUPE members, and calls on the executive to help with the legal costs of their defence.

The resolution was moved originally in the Clay Cross branch of NUPE by its secretary, Graham Skinner. It was passed unanimously at the branch, at the North East Derbyshire district committee of the union, and at the area committee.

ADVERTISEMENT

### Picket the TUC!

Wednesday 28 April, 10am, Congress House  
Great Russell Street, London WC1.

**Stop the Attacks on Immigrant Workers!  
Jobs for all—end Immigration Controls!  
Fight for the Right to Work!**

Organised by the Right to Work Campaign and the East London Action Committee. Supported by Hammersmith Hospital NUPE Shop Stewards Committee and the Camden Committee against the Cuts and Unemployment.

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### NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN FIGHT THE CUTS!

Support the demonstration in London, Sunday 25 April,  
12.30pm, Hyde Park, against the cuts  
(All supporters in London and the Home Counties are urged to attend.)

Support the demonstration in Manchester on Saturday  
24 April at 12.30, AUEW Offices, The Crescent, Salford,  
against the cuts. (All supporters in Manchester and the  
North of England are urged to attend.)



**FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK meetings**

**BRAINTREE** Right to Work Committee May Day Social to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the General Strike. Saturday 1 May, 8pm-1am, Rayne Village Hall. CAST (Socialist Theatre Group), speakers from 1926, exhibition, disco, plenty of beer. Don't miss it.

**EETPU members for the Right to Work:** Tuesday 4 May, 8pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1 (nearest tubes Warren Street and Goudge Street). Speakers: Bobby Burds (unemployed plumber) and Pip Jones (unemployed electrician).

**FIGHT THE CUTS** film tour in South East London: 10-22 May. Series of showings in workplaces and trade union branches. Details and bookings, phone 858 8400.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON** public meeting: Danger—Immigrant workers under attack. Saturday 8 May, 6pm, Invicta Motor Lodge, Hall Place, off Plumstead High Street. Organised jointly by the Indian Workers Association and the South East London Right to Work Committee.

ADVERTISEMENT

**Did you see the police attack the marchers?**

The police are trying to throw the book at the arrested Right to Work marchers.

This must not be another Shrewsbury case, with trade unionists jailed.

Anyone who saw the attack—particularly building workers on the Staples Corner M1 site and workers at Smiths Industries, Cricklewood—should contact the Right to Work Campaign immediately. Phone 01-802 6145.



**MUST THESE BE THE WALLS OF A CHILD'S HOME?**



ONCE upon a time, in the bad old days, young mothers and their children were locked up at home and the world was an unhappy place for them.

They had nowhere to go during the day, no television and not so many books. They were irritated and frustrated with each other.

But one day things began to look up. There was a lot of money around, everyone had a job, and plenty of good people wanted to help the women who weren't doing so well.

One of these was Lady Plowden. She worked very hard and wrote a long report.

She opened up a bright new world for mothers and children. The old idea that children needed to spend their first five years with at least one parent permanently in attendance was thrown out of the window. Young children, said Lady Plowden, should be with other children, with lots of books, toys, teachers.

**Enthusiastic**

Nurseries and nursery schools should be built. 40,000 nursery teachers should be trained.

'Eventually,' her huge report concluded, 'there should be nurseries places for all children whose parents wish them to attend from the beginning of the school year after the age of three.'

That was in 1966. Everyone enthusiastically agreed to her proposals.

In 1970 at the Tory Party Conference, Margaret Thatcher, Minister for Education, argued for the under-fives. She proposed a new crash programme of nursery schools.

Not to be outdone, the Labour Party argued for even more. 'Educational expenditure will be increased, with a major priority in this sector being nursery schools,' said Labour's Programme 1973.

Their manifesto for the February 1974 election promised to 'expand the education service by the introduction of a national scheme of nursery schools, including day care facilities.'

In October the same year, Labour's manifesto again promised: 'The next Labour government will give priority to nursery school and day care provision, full time and part time.'

**Work is dangerous to your health... Safety is dangerous to their wealth**



Special feature on Women's health and safety at work plus articles on the abortion campaign, unemployment among women, equal pay.

**womens voice**  
**JOBLESS WOMEN: THE TRUTH IS OUT!**

6p from your Socialist Worker seller or direct from Womens Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

# Women and young children first, to suffer

by MARGARET RENN

First the Tory government, then Labour started on an extensive programme of nursery building.

In the past two budgets, all those plans have been scrapped. Now the Labour government is in office. Now Denis Healey, like some fairy-tale monster, wants to take us

right back to the bad old days—and further.

**FACT:** Less than one child in ten aged three and four goes to nursery school. In Solihull, Bromley, Redbridge, St Helens and Gloucestershire only one in a hundred has a place.

The government target was to provide places for four children in every ten. That would mean 613,520 places. Thanks to Healey's latest cuts, there will be no more than 459,000 places in 1980.

**Cuts**

In **GLASGOW** 14 newly-built nurseries are to be kept empty.

In **SURREY**, all nursery schools and classes are to close.

In **CHESHIRE**, all nursery building is to be put off.

In **ISLINGTON**, North London, three residential nurseries are to close.

In **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**, all nursery places are to go.

In **STRATHCLYDE**, 40 out of 90 planned nursery schools are to be dropped.

The decision to make the cuts is often arbitrary. In Islington they analysed attendance at a nursery and found that on average one child in five was usually absent. So they decided to cut the nursery by a fifth.

The country can't afford it,

Denis Healey argues.

Can't we?  
□ In 1948 the country's national income was a third of what it is today. Sweets and sugar were rationed. No one had television. But the war had forced women out to work, and nurseries were provided.

□ In 1948 there were as many under-fives as there are today. 71,045 went to nurseries. By March 1974, the figure had slumped to 25,700.

That's 26 years of progress. Back to the old ideas of the mother tied to the home. Women will have to leave their jobs, baby minders, friends and relatives will do—instead of a nursery.

It's up to us to see it doesn't happen. We will have to fight to open the nurseries and the nursery schools, occupy them, embarrass the local councils.

We'll have to fight to save the jobs of nursery nurses—just as they're doing now in Dundee, fighting for the jobs of 50 nursery nurses.

The teacher training colleges will have to join the fight. So will the members of the local government union (NALGO), and the Teachers (NUT). Mothers and children can't fight on their own, but their guts and determination can lead the fight.

'What a wise and good parent will desire for his own children a nation must desire for all children,' was Lady Plowden's slogan. Denis Healey doesn't remember it.

We'll just have to remind him ourselves!

**SPENDING ON THE UNDER-FIVES**

Capital expenditure (buildings)

1970/71	NIL
71/72	NIL
72/73	NIL
73/74	NIL
74/75	£18m
75/76	£31,900,000
76/77	£22,500,000
77/78	£10,600,000
78/79	£6m
78/80	£6m

**BUT SOME SAID: NO!**

A HOLE in the ground where a hospital 'emergency accident' unit should be.

Sheffield, where men deal every day with metal at terrifying temperatures, had plans to build a hospital burns unit. They've been scrapped.

In Glasgow they're knocking down more houses than they're building.

After years of big classes because 'there aren't enough teachers', education authorities are now increasing class sizes by throwing teachers on the dole.

The road accident victim in East London who dies on the way to a distant hospital, the steelworker who dies on the 35-mile journey to the Wakefield burns unit, the homeless family, the children sent home because an overworked teacher falls ill—these are victims of the cuts in government spending.

It could be my child, or your child.

**Message**

It probably will be too, for health, schools, social services are being cut wherever we live.

But it need not happen. That's the message of a film made with the help of the Rank and File Organising Committee, free to hire, and titled *The Cuts—and How to Fight Them*.

In it, trade unionists tell how their action got children into a school in East London that had been standing empty and unused for two years. Hospital shop stewards tell how they're getting together to prevent hospitals being closed before new ones are built. Social workers tell how they went on strike to win a house for a homeless family.

This film should be shown everywhere that workers' living standards are being cut—which means everywhere.

□ **THE CUTS—AND HOW TO FIGHT THEM**, 16mm, 55 minutes, available from CIS, phone 01-439 3764.



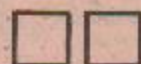
A demonstrator on the 'Mothers Day' march organised by the Hackney Nursery Campaign. PICTURE: Ann Mullen (IFL)

**The yawning gap**

TAKE two London boroughs, and the scale of the problem begins to emerge.

**HACKNEY** has 18,000 children under the age of five. There are 359 day nursery places in seven nurseries. 6000 of these children have either both parents or their only parent out working all day.

**ISLINGTON** has 15,000 children under five. There are 600 day nursery places and 1200 part-time and full-time nursery school places. To get into a day nursery you have to be a 'priority'. The best way to get a nursery school place is to have an elder brother or sister already there.



TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM  
Duncan Hallas

The French Revolution brought together worker and capitalist against a common enemy. The 'friendship', as some foresaw, could not last long . . .

# Whose revolution?

'WE DECLARE that we can no longer endure, with the enormous majority of men, labour and sweat in the service and for the benefit of a small minority.'

'It has been long enough, and too long, that less than a million individuals have been disposing of that which belongs to more than 20 million.'

## Manifesto

I take these words from the Manifesto of the Society of Equals. They were written in Paris in 1795.

The outstanding figure of the society was Noel Francois Babeuf, the pioneer of revolutionary socialism.

Babeuf's ideas were, in some ways, similar to those of Robert Owen. 'If you follow the chain of our vices,' he declared, when on trial for his life, 'you will find that the first link is fastened to the inequality of wealth.'

But there was a fundamental difference between the two men.

Babeuf had no faith at all in the power of reason to persuade the rich of the desirability of socialism. Nor did he favour the setting up of cooperative workshops.

He believed in the necessity of political agitation and revolutionary action to overthrow the government of the rich.

The political difference between the

two men reflected the difference of their backgrounds. Babeuf had taken part in the destruction of the Bastille in 1789 and throughout the stormy years of the great French revolution (1789-94) he had been a Jacobin.

## Ruthless

The Jacobins were the most determined and ruthless of the revolutionaries. The Jacobin dictatorship (1792-94) had crushed the counter-revolution and driven out the invading armies of the Kings of England, Prussia and Spain, the Austrian Emperor and the German Princes.

The Committee of Public Safety, inspired and driven forward by the sea-

green incorruptible', Maximilien Robespierre, became the effective government of France and sought, not only to defeat the forces of reaction and their foreign backers, but also to establish 'the Republic of Virtue'.

But the great French revolution was, and in the circumstances of time could only be, what Marx later called a bourgeois revolution.

Its real achievement was to sweep away the old semi-feudal order and clear the ground for the development of capitalism.

Once this had been decisively achieved, as it had been by the end of 1793, the Jacobins with their 'Republic of Virtue', price controls, minimum wage law policy and reliance on 'the mob', became an obstacle to the fast-growing capitalist class in France.

They were overthrown by the National Convention, a broadly representative body, on 27 July 1794 (the ninth of Thermidor—for the revolutionaries had renamed and altered the calendar to purge it of reactionary associations).

Robespierre and his colleagues were promptly guillotined.

## Victory

Thermidor marked the victory of the bourgeois, the capitalist reaction, as opposed to the feudal reaction that had been crushed forever.

The financial sharks, the speculators, profiteers, opportunists and general riff-raff . . . came into their own, as a marxist historian put it.

Against this reaction, Babeuf the Jacobin grew into Babeuf the Socialist.

He brought out a paper, the Peoples Tribune, which defended the recently executed Jacobins and the Constitution of 1793 (in effect, the control of prices and the defence of wages).

'Bread and the Constitution of 1793 was its watchword.'

The Society of Equals, 'a group of democrats, both workers and Jacobins', saw itself as the nucleus of a new dictatorship—that of the poor.

## Crush

It was crushed. The Thermidorian reactionaries took it so seriously that they sent their outstanding general, Napoleon Bonaparte, the future Emperor, with a strong force of cavalry to seize Babeuf and his associates.

They were executed—for treason, of course—in 1796.

One survived, Philippe Buonarrotti carried the torch to a new generation.

And one of his pupils was August Blanqui, a giant of our movement.

NEXT WEEK

The revolutionary who made one big mistake—and escaped the guillotine twice.

# Socialist Worker

## EDITORIAL

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# CALLAGHAN, CALLAGHAN, MAKE ME A PILE AS FAST AS YOU CAN

A DEAFENING silence has fallen over Parliament and the Press following the Commons outburst—ironically by that well-known strong swimmer John Stonehouse—over 'allegations' in the magazine Private Eye about our lovable new Prime Minister.

The 'allegations' will be well-known to regular readers of Socialist Worker: that Sunny Jim Callaghan has an interesting friendship with Sir Julian Hodge, a profiteer up to his neck in muck and second mortgages.



Hodge and Callaghan: you scratch my back . . .

## Pyramid-selling

In the late Sixties and early Seventies, an American pyramid selling outfit called Holiday Magic set out to con black families buying their own homes in this country.

If they sold Holiday Magic cosmetics, the families were told, they would make a fortune. But they had to pay for the goods in advance.

Where would they raise the cash? As if by magic, each family soon received a

visit from a Hodge 'insurance broker'. The families, 800 of them, got their cash via second mortgages—at enormous rates of interest.

Most of them lost thousands of pounds and, in some cases, were threatened with eviction since their homes could be seized in lieu of the money they had borrowed.

The scandal was later exposed by Granada Television. But a Fraud Squad investigation of Hodge's outfit resulted only in a little finger-wagging.

Throughout this time, Sunny Jim stood loyally by his good and increasingly wealthy friend (Hodge profits hit £5 million in 1973 at the height of the second mortgage boom).

A year earlier, in 1972, Hodge had set

up the Commercial Bank of Wales (director J Callaghan). Sunny Jim immediately started touting its shares round the House of Commons.

He was favourably received. At least seven Welsh Labour MPs are now shareholders, not to mention several other important people.

And so one small, fringe bank can now—thanks to the activities of James Callaghan—number among its shareholders the Prime Minister, the wife of the deputy leader of the Labour Party, the Lord Chancellor, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party and the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Thank God we live in a democracy . . .



SOCIALIST Worker has won several new readers . . . in the offices of that bastion of big business, Consolidated Gold Fields. What's more they're paid for it. Two people have been hired to read the left-wing press and forecast political developments that may affect the company's profitability. And where do these people come from? They both previously worked in the Research Department of . . . Conservative Party Central Office!

HAWK-EYED readers of the Daily Mirror will have enjoyed the 10 April issue.

GREATER Manchester Council has reversed its decision, reported here two weeks ago, to buy its Labour chairman Tom Hamnet a £650 silver chain.

Seems there was widespread public disgust. And Hamnet's credibility with fellow councillors was not helped by the news that his official Daimler has regularly been used to take the Hamnet children to school.



The aftermath of the General Strike: by 1927 the miners had been starved back to work—and death, as in this disaster of the Cwm pit in South Wales, where more than 50 men were killed.

# The great days to come—by the men of 1926

APPROPRIATELY, the South Wales Area of the Miners Union and the Swansea-based South Wales Miners Library have been first to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the General Strike.

Their recent weekend school was an impressive affair.

Among the speakers was Robin Page Arnot who, at the time of the strike, was a member of the Central Committee of the young Communist Party.

He disclosed that the CP had only 40 members in the whole of Northumberland and Durham in 1926. What's more, the social composition was none too good.

But, no matter the obstacles, they got down to work, using every way in to the official movement that

## MURDER BY LABOUR

MOST people think the Labour government's spending cuts are not unreasonable. Most people don't know about 69-year-old John O'Leary.

John, a Socialist Worker supporter, died last month—a victim of those cuts.

Weak with a serious bout of flu, an ambulance was called to take him to the casualty department of Manchester's Withington Hospital.

The hospital, with too

little staff and too few beds, sent him home—even though he lived alone. Three days later, on 22 March, he was found dead.

There were only two mourners at his funeral, one of them representing Socialist Worker.

developments in Scotland, Northumberland and Durham—because the TUC leaders sold the strike and because there was no rank and file movement capable of unifying important sections of the class from below.

The school was full of implications for today—a point made again and again by veterans of the strike.

Each saw ahead struggles every bit as great as the life-or-death struggles of 1926.

Having gone through 1910, 1919, 1921, 1925 and 1926, they ought to know . . .

# Women Without Life . . .

YOU DON'T have to be a crank to join the anti-abortion 'crusade' but it certainly helps.

Take Women For Life, for example. They claim to stand FOR women's liberation, but are AGAINST abortion: in other words, women must control their own lives but not their own bodies.

Not surprisingly for a group who can perform such intellectual somersaults, they are in danger of falling flat on their

faces. A circular sent out to all members last week by WFL organiser Debbie Sanders spells it out: 'Why are we not as active as the National Abortion Campaign? At present a mere handful of us are doing all the work. We are near breaking point and desperately need to spread the workload.'

It would be tragic if we had to fold up through lack of enthusiasm. Oh, I don't know, Debbie

# The long arm of the political police

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT if your signature is on a petition to parliament your name and address is indexed by the secret police?

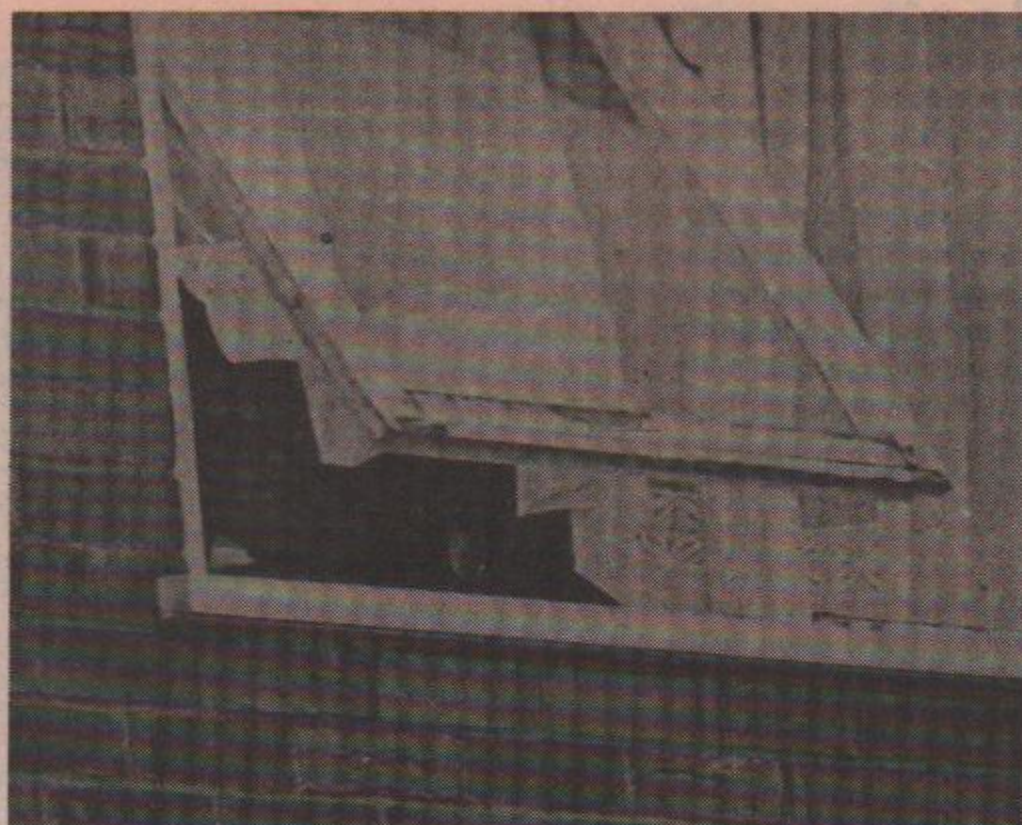
THAT the Special Branch has files on three million people in Britain?

THAT they index the names of all left-wing letter writers to national and local newspapers?

THAT if you are arrested for even petty offences such as painting slogans your name is checked with the officers of the British secret police?

THAT whenever and wherever there is a strike or demonstration the local police receive advance notification of so-called 'ringleaders' from the secret police?

THAT there is close and continual liaison between the Special Branch and management in virtually every industry in Britain.



## THE GAME'S THE SAME

It's called 'Keeping the workers in order'.

LEFT: A cameraman uses a telephoto lens to photograph workers demonstration during the trial of the Shrewsbury 24.

RIGHT: A director filming pickets outside the Electro Motion lock-out in Leicester last week.



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)



LEFT: Plain-clothes Special Branch officers watch an anti-National Front demonstrators in London. The pocket radio (circled) gives them away.

the 1910 Siege of Sydney Street and today the use of Kenneth Lennon against Irish Republicans—and his later murder.

It shows too how the secret police work hand-in-glove with management and some top right wing union officials and journalists to keep tabs on those on the shop floor who lead struggles of any and every sort.

Bunyan also goes to considerable pains to point out the purpose of these operations. Naturally it has nothing whatsoever to do with 'defending democracy' and everything to do with defending a system of society which gives huge wealth, unique privilege and power to the very few.

This shows in the selection of 'society ladies' to staff the clerical ranks of the secret services. No one else is considered trustworthy.

It shows in the fact that time and again the top officials in the secret services have close personal as well as political links with big business. They've come from British American Tobacco or a sound background in the arm of big business known as government.

THE chances are that you knew nothing of these startling facts.

They apply not to the CIA or the KGB but the original British version—the Special Branch, M15 and M16.

The facts came from an important new book published this week, *The Political Police In Britain*.\* It is an excellent survey of, regrettably, probably the most efficient secret service in the western world.

The British secret service enjoys a much more protected position than even the CIA. Thanks to the 1911 Official Secrets Act—rushed through

\* *The Political Police in Britain*, by Tony Bunyan, published by Julian Friedmann, available £5.15 including postage, from Bookmarks (London IS bookshop), 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

by LAURIE FLYNN

parliament on a Friday when hardly any MPs were present, and alteration jobs since, the political police have plenty of money and plenty of room.

They can bug telephones, open mail, plant provocateurs, censor and gag newspapers, raid premises and seize films with impunity. Now, thanks to the Prevention of Terrorism Act—which history will surely prove was drafted by the secret police, they can even deport people without bothering with courts or even the slightest scrap of evidence.

The secret police have in short built the perfect extension to the myth of British justice—the hidden reality of British tyranny.

Tony Bunyan has done a fine job in revealing the methods and activities of the British political police.

### Content

They grew to further the British reign of terror in Ireland and keep an eye on 'oppositional elements'. Then, as the working-class movement began to give a new content to the once every five years kind of democracy, the secret police was expanded rapidly.

It's a pity in a way that Bunyan doesn't set out in more detail just what the government and political police got up to on Clydeside after the First World War.

Yes, in Britain in the 20th century, Russian-style orders preventing people living in their home towns were served

against the leaders of the Glasgow working class.

They were followed around and spied on continually, as James Hinton shows in his wonderful story of The First Shop Stewards Movement.

Yes, they even had people put away in mental asylums when they could not prove them criminal or guilty of conspiracy—as Sir Percy Sillitoe, Chief Constable of Glasgow and later head of M15, has himself admitted.

Bunyan also shows how rapidly the secret services are being expanded today, and for similar reasons. There were around 200 political police officers in Britain before the

great anti-Vietnam War demonstrations of 1968. Immediately after this 100 more were taken on.

After the miners' and dockers' struggles of 1972, the British KGB was expanded again. The present estimate is 550 in Special Branch alone.

### Police

Expansion of the political police has been accompanied by reorganisation in the army and the civil police, who are taking on an increasingly political role in addition to their usual protection of the property of those of wealth and power.

Bunyan's book shows the continuity between the planning of a provocateur to stage

## GET THE STRENGTH OF YOUR MATES AROUND YOU

THE British political police make no distinction whatsoever between overtly political working-class militants and the studiously non-political ones.

They're interested in anyone and everyone who protests and fights for social change, no matter that the law claims to allow their protests.

This leads directly to a flaw in Tony Bunyan's otherwise excellent book.

We need the knowledge of the secret police that his book provides, but we also need to know how to fight them.

Without this, many people will react to this book by withdrawing into inaction out of fear.

Yet the very nature of the secret police is such that this is no answer. They go on track record. They go on snippets of information. For them the present is the past.

And of course if ever they come into their own in some more thoroughly oppressive regime,

they never balk at jailing and torturing even the most inactive of people, as the experience in Chile shows.

These things mean that the only way to resist them is through organisation and activity. It is a complete illusion that by standing alone and apart, you can gain a sort of immunity.

Only systematic organisation with power in the factories can do that. Get the strength of your mates around you.

Another weakness is that the book outlines too much. It assumes that a theoretical outline of the relationship of big business and the state is enough, without showing how the state reaches down into everyone's lives, not just those of 'reds' and 'commies'.

It doesn't show, for example, how the Official Secrets Act is used to preserve employers' profits and deprive working people of vital information on industrial health and safety—because it applies to Factory Inspectors.

### BOOK BARGAIN

Michael Farrell: **NORTHERN IRELAND: THE ORANGE STATE**

The first political history of the puppet state and its current disintegration. £5 paperback.

Geoffrey Bell: **THE PROTESTANTS OF ULSTER**

The history, the culture, the jobs, the politics of the 'most criticised and misunderstood community in Western Europe'. £2.00 paperback.

Pre-publication Offer: £5.00 for both, post free (cash with orders only).

Pluto Press, unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.



# The Socialist Party that isn't socialist...

THEY'RE LIKE the Labour Party: they sound left-wing—and act right-wing.

And, in fact, the Socialist Party have close links with governments in Britain and Western Europe—links which, last year, helped them to orchestrate an international fanfare about the 'threat to democracy' in Portugal.

They talked about 'redistributing wealth'—and then whipped up anti-communist hysteria in the backward North when workers in the South looked strong enough to do a little of it themselves.

The result was a wave of attacks on militants and left-wing offices.

Meanwhile, mightily encouraged, the struggling right-wing PPD and CDS parties were able to take over the 'backlash' and so re-emerge from the political wilderness.

## Outcry

They talked about 'workers' control'—and then led a 'freedom of the press' outcry worthy of Fleet Street when workers took over a paper owned by one of their members.

They talked about the 'army on the side of the people'—and then, faced with the growth of the rank and file soldiers' movement, called demonstrations in support of the right-wing commando chief, Jaime Neves.

So much for the 'socialism' of the Socialist Party...



Anti-communist rioting in the North: it was sparked off by the Socialist Party

# The day of jubilation

IN THE EARLY hours of 25 April 1974, tanks moved into Lisbon. More than 40 years of fascism were coming to an end. Soon the dictator, Caetano, was fleeing from the country, having been overthrown by 400 middle-ranking officers—the Armed Forces Movement.

Millions poured onto the streets, greeting the news with jubilation. They demanded the jailing of the hated secret police and the freeing of all political prisoners.

In the factories workers committees sprang up. They quickly chased out managers and company spies who had been linked to the fascist set-up. Press and broadcasting passed into the hands of those who worked in them.

## Everyone a 'socialist'

Suddenly everyone was a socialist. When a right-wing party, the CDS, was set up by an avowed admirer of Caetano, it called itself 'social democratic'.

Members of the Socialist and Communist Parties were invited to sit alongside former supporters of Caetano in a government headed by a one-time member of Hitler's blue division, General Spínola.

The mood was what is now called in Spain 'national reconciliation'—unity of rich and poor, capitalist and worker against a minority of fascist policemen and torturers.

This was the message of the main parties with influence inside the working class, the socialists and the Communists.

They gladly joined a government with representatives of big business and declared again and again that what mattered was 'unity'.

## Wreck

But not everyone on the left accepted the call.

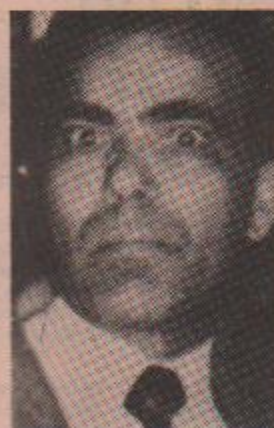
Small organisations—such as the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (RPP), the Movement of the Socialist Left (MES) and one of the Maoist groups, the UDP—argued that unity between the workers and big business would endanger everything gained by the overthrow of fascism. If the workers were prevented from improving the miserable wages and conditions forced on them by fascism, they would eventually see no difference between 'fascism' and 'democracy'.

On the other hand, if they did make these gains big business would try to wreck the revolution.

The 'united people' would inevitably be torn apart by class struggle. The question then would be which class was better organised and prepared for a battle for power.

As Karl Marx had written 126 years before:

'Fraternity, the fraternity of antagonistic classes, of which one exploits the other, its true unadulterated expression is civil war, civil war in its most frightful form, the war between labour and capital'.



Three men the workers have terrified: TOP Mario Soares, CENTRE General Spínola, ABOVE a secret policeman arrested just after the overthrow of fascism.



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# The days of hope

THE ENTHUSIASM for national unity did not last long.

In September 1974 and March 1975, generals inspired by the most powerful sections of big business tried to overthrow the revolution.

But they were defeated—and their leaders fled. Most army officers would not yet tolerate a return to fascism—if only because they feared it would mean a renewal of unwinnable colonial wars.

More importantly, hundreds of thousands of workers showed they were prepared to take to the streets to resist the fascist

generals.

The attempted coups merely spurred the workers' movement into bigger attacks on the power of big business.

In May and June 1974, there had been a strike wave, despite attacks from all the parties in the government and scabbing by the army.

## Decisions

Now workers moved from fighting just for wage increases to taking over factories when employers claimed they could not afford them.

The owners of the banks were proved to be involved in the March coup, so the

bankworkers occupied their buildings. The government had to nationalise the lot.

In this way, more than half of Portugal's industry was either nationalised or controlled by its workers.

Rarely in history had a workers' movement achieved so much so quickly. Big business seemed almost powerless.

Workers grew stronger and stronger until, by last summer, they were influencing large numbers of rank and file soldiers.

In many barracks, only officers popular with the rank and file could get orders obeyed.

And when officers who had previously given the impression of supporting the

revolution swung in the opposite direction, a movement independent of them grew up.

Thousands of rank and file soldiers marched behind the banner of SUV, the movement called Soldiers United Will Win.

## Wage

There grew up 'organs of popular power'—an attempt to link workers and soldiers.

But they were always fairly weak and unrepresentative, except in the industrial town of Setúbal.

And soon their shortcomings were to be tragically revealed.



The children of the revolution: the

# How long to

# the day of reckoning

THE WORKING-CLASS movement has lived on despite the defeat of 25 November.

The last two months have seen a growing number of small strikes. In the North, around Oporto, workers have found themselves forced to fight, often for the first time. With inflation at 80 per cent a year and unemployment at 17 per cent, there is no choice.

Throughout the country, groups of workers have been rediscovering how to fight in a situation in which the armed forces are on the other side. They have slowly been rebuilding their confidence.

But the employers have also been on the offensive. They feel less and less need to conceal their real aim. Growing numbers are demanding back the factories occupied a year ago.

Former fascists no longer fear to

mobilise. They know that the armed forces, purged of the left, are run by their friends.

Five months ago, the extreme right needed the 'moderates' of the Socialist Party as a cover for their own aims. Not any more. Now they feel confident enough to turn against the Socialist Party.

In many parts of the country, the combined forces of the police and the extreme right have been creating a virtual reign of terror against the left. Bombs go off nightly in the North outside the offices of trade unions and left wing parties, or the homes of militants. One recently murdered two supporters of the left wing Maoist group the UDP.

In the smaller towns and villages, workers know that if they support the Communist Party or the revolutionary left, they may lose their jobs and possibly their lives.

This climate gives confidence to the

right-wing in tomorrow's elections. They feel that with the police, the army officers, the radio, the TV and the newspapers on their side, they cannot lose.

## Destroy

It also encourages those who want, not merely to win an election, but to destroy the workers' movement root and branch, as in Chile.

General Spínola was recently expelled from Switzerland for trying to buy arms for his '100,000 supporters'. He boasted that they could either be smuggled into the country, or go in directly 'through the high command of the armed forces'.

No wonder then, that the Communist Party leaders, who once pushed the gospel of 'national unity', now warn that if the right wins the election, there will follow a 'long night of blood and terror'.

The elections will be important. A

victory confide more. left workers. The mistake revolva the ele But impor class stop are im The fa boxes. Mar wing with they fight and je The and f



SPECIAL REPORT  
by Chris Harman

# Portugal: All the red revolution remain? dom ain?

THIS SUNDAY, two years to the day since the overthrow of fascism, Portugal goes to the polls.

It will be no ordinary election—but, then, this has been no ordinary revolution.

It has been a tremor, shaking to their roots the strongholds of racialism in Southern Africa and fascism in Spain.

And yet Portugal's Red Carnation—the symbol of those heady days of April 1974—is now wilting.

Astonishingly, many expect the election to be won by the PPD and CDS, parties dominated by those who prospered under fascism and who yearn for its return.

How has this happened? And what does the future hold?

## The Communist Party that isn't communist...



The first Communist rally after the overthrow of fascism: soon the Party were denouncing strikes.

STRIKES were 'ultra left' or even 'fascist'. A mass demonstration against unemployment and NATO was denounced as 'reactionary'.

### Overthrow

This was the Portuguese Communist Party in the days after the overthrow of fascism. And they were prepared to back up their words with deeds—organising, for example, scabbing against a strike by postal workers.

And yet they have a reputation of being to the left of Western Europe's other Communist Parties. The difference is, however, one of approach—and it was shown clearly last summer.

Instead of waiting for parliamentary elections, as would the other CPs, they plotted with army officers to hoist their way to power.

### Power

But, last November, when some of those officers made a half-hearted attempt to seize power, the CP were trapped.

A section went along with it—and then backed off in fright, leaving the right-wing in a powerful position to crack down on all of the left.

The CP were trapped because their leadership would never take up the idea of building a movement of workers and soldiers which would take power for the working class.

So, while intriguing within the military, they remained in the government alongside the Socialist Party and the Popular Democrats—and restricted the workers' movement to token actions.

## The day of defeat

ON 25 NOVEMBER, 1975, the real weakness of the revolutionary left and the organs of popular power were exposed. The right-wing succeeded in provoking certain left-wing regiments, particularly those influenced by a section of the Communist Party, to attempt a limited coup.

The revolutionary left found itself too weak either to prevent such a movement developing prematurely or to take control of it to turn it into a full blooded insurrection and to lead it to victory.

### Arming the workers

The right-wing seized the opportunity to attack the regiments where the rank and file soldiers' movement was strongest. The Communist Party abandoned its own supporters and prevented the arming of the workers.

Instead it tried to do a deal with the president, Costa Gomes, so as to stay in the government. Meanwhile, the left wing regiments were disarmed and sent home, the left wing papers and radio stations closed down.

Any revolution is marked by sudden and unexpected shifts in the balance of power. Victory turns overnight into defeat—and defeat into victory.

Decisive is the morale, combativeness and organisation of the contending classes.

A sudden thrust by one throws the other into confusion, breaks its ranks, turns its members one against another, and makes them feel that a continued fight is not worthwhile.

That is what happened immediately after 25 November.

### Force

In two days, the upper classes succeeded in disarming regiments sympathetic to the workers and in ensuring for themselves a monopoly of armed force.

The left, which had seemed all powerful, even to the government, was suddenly running for cover.

That did not mean the revolution was vanquished.

The relatively small number of troops at the disposal of the government was not enough to smash the workers' organisations in the factories or to destroy the unions.

But it did mean that workers no longer felt that power was within their grasp.

The upper classes were more confident than they had been at any time since the overthrow of fascism.

The revolution had suffered a serious defeat.



Alvaro Cunhal, leader of the Communist Party (TOP); the CP abandoned its own supporters after last November's abortive coup and tried to do a deal with Costa Gomes (ABOVE), the President. The right-wing seized their opportunity—and inflicted the greatest defeat yet on Portugal's workers.



poverty remains—and with it, the threat of disenchantment.



for the right will increase the... of the upper classes still... A big vote for the revolutionary... would show that large numbers of... are still prepared to fight... is why it is a serious tactical... by the best section of the... ionary left, the PRP, to boycott... tions... the elections are not all... ant. They may hasten battles of... gainst class—but they cannot... em. For those confrontations... vitable... ight-wing is still much weaker in... ories than it is in the ballot... y workers will vote for the right-... rties because they are fed up... chaos and disorder'. But when... back to their workplaces they... defend their living conditions... os—if the correct lead is given... e are still large numbers of rank... le soldiers who secretly sym-

pathise with the workers. Only last month soldiers called to defend a meeting in Evora of the neo-fascist CDS ended up attacking the fascists.

The economic struggles desperately need to be linked up so that workers rediscover their unity and power in action. That would soon weaken the hold of the right-wing parties on the mass of the population in the cities and the North.

But some people never learn. Instead of encouraging the spontaneously developing militancy, the Communist Party and the trade union leaders have been telling workers 'not to cause trouble'.

At the last minute, they called off a national strike of construction workers. They denounced a struggle by the nurses because of their right-wing influenced unions—instead of using the struggle to break the hold of the right wing.

The fact that the right-wing even have a chance of winning Sunday's election shows how wrong were those who preached 'moderation' and 'national unity' two years ago.

If that message continues to hold sway in the Portuguese working class in the months ahead, the country could indeed end up as the Chile of Europe.



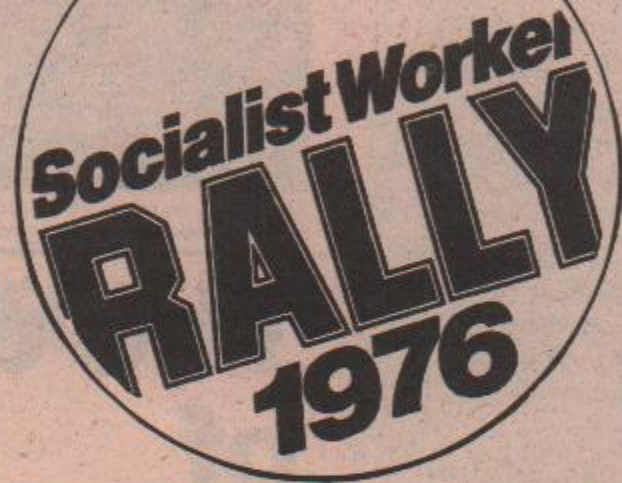
Workers democracy in action: a meeting on an occupied farm in the South.

Pictures  
by  
Chris Davies  
(Report)

**FIGHTING FIT** and in good shape to fight for the policies of Socialist Worker. That was the feeling of the 1100 International Socialist members, Socialist Worker supporters and their families who came to the Skegness Rally last weekend.

The past two years have been difficult for socialists and militant trade unionists to campaign against Labour's anti-working class policies.

But the tide is changing. 21 May, 26 May and 16 June are now key dates in the calendar. Skegness has, above all else, shown that we have the capacity and the ability to take part in the battles to come.



# FIGHTING FIT AND IN GOOD SHAPE!



The Rally ends with the Internationale. The song climaxed Tony Cliff's speech on Lenin. He outlined the intense struggle to ready the Bolshevik Party for the Revolution in 1917—and showed how a real living party is built.

There were many other lectures. Shelley, capitalism, the family, law and order, and mental health were just some of the topics that filled the weekend.

With audiences of up to 400, the meetings were always interesting, often provocative and kept people arguing until the small hours of the morning.

**PICTURES:**  
John Sturrock  
and Angela  
Phillips (Report).



A near miss for Markham Colliery—but they proved no threat to Leeds IS, who beat them 8-2 in the football finals. Twenty teams from all over the country fought it out over the weekend. The miners' wives challenged the Socialist Worker women to a game—and lost 8-1.

□ THE collection for the camp staff raised £160.37. Thanks to everyone who donated.

□ WE'RE hoping to be able to sell prints of some of the photographs taken of the children's events. Watch this page for details.

□ SEVERAL items of lost property have been brought back to London. If you lost anything please write to see if we have found it.

□ MANY comrades expressed interest in booking **Karatoon Klowns** for political and trade union meetings. Contact the Klowns at 41 Great Windmill Street, London, W1 (phone 01-734 9083)



Peter Heathfield, secretary of the Derbyshire Miners, addressing the rally just before the draw for the Socialist Worker raffle. The

winning ticket was picked out by Dave Nuttall, one of the Clay Cross councillors. Meanwhile, the bar was drunk dry...



The Children's Pageant—the highlight of the weekend for some of the children. Altogether 250 youngsters under the age of 14 came to the camp. Games, trips to

the Zoo, beachcombing and craft kept them busy while their parents enjoyed the peace and the political meetings.

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

## SOCIALIST WORKER MEETINGS

**PETERBOROUGH SW** public meeting: The lessons of Clay Cross. Speaker: Dave Nuttall (Clay Cross Labour Party). Chairman: David Toone. Tuesday 27 April, 7.30pm. The Still, Cumbergate (near BR Station).

**CHESTER SW** Inaugural public meeting: Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 20 May. Venue and further details to be announced.

**CHESHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE IS** District Aggregate: Friday 30 April. Report back from Party Council. Further details later.

**BRIXTON FLAME** public meeting: South Africa, what next? Film: Angola. Thursday 15 April, 7.30pm. Abeng Centre, Gresham Road, Brixton. Admission 20p.

**NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Worker** public meeting: Angola in Struggle. Film and speaker from Flame, SW's sister paper by and for black workers. Thursday 28 April, 7.45pm. Leavis Constantine Centre, Dudden Hill Lane, NW10 (buses 52, 266, 260, 8, 297. Dollis Hill underground).

**COVENTRY SW** public meeting: Crisis in South Africa—Detente and Revolt. Friday 23 April, 7.30pm. Sidney Stringer School, Cox Street (200 yards from Pool Meadow).

**BOLTON SW** public meeting: 1926-76 Fiftieth anniversary of the General Strike—No more sell-outs! Thursday 29 April, 8pm. Balmoral Hotel, Bradshaw Gate.

**SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW** public meetings: Next series starts 29 April. Trade Unions: Militants and Moderates. South Bank Polytechnic Students Union, Rotary Street, London SE1. Further details: Gail Lowenstein, 622-1090.

**GLASGOW SW Irish Day School:** Saturday 24 April, 11.30am to 1.30pm. Larkinism and the Struggles in Dublin. Speaker: Harry McManis. 2.30-4pm: Ireland and the Socialist Workers Movement. Speaker from the SWM, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow.

**SE LONDON SW** public meeting: Chile—with slides and speaker from the MIR. Wednesday 5 May, 8pm. Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE7.

**SE LONDON SW** public meeting: Which way to socialism? Speaker: Chris Harman (editor of Socialist Worker). Wednesday 28 April, 8pm. Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE7.

## SOCIALIST WORKER EVENTS

**DURHAM SW May Day Social:** Big Jug, Claypath, Durham City. 8pm-11.30pm. Bar, music, food and raffle. Tickets from SW sellers 30p. All proceeds to Right to Work 44 Defence Fund.

**SOUTHAMPTON SW** jumble sale: Saturday 24 April, 11am-2pm. Kell Hall, London Road, Southampton. Any jumble collected please take to 29 Northumberland Road, Southampton.

**SW MAY DAY DISCO:** Saturday 1 May, 8pm-midnight. Room S03 Didsbury College of Education, Wilmslow Road, Manchester 20.

**SW JUMBLE SALE** Saturday, 24 April, 2pm. Thamesmead Information Centre, Harrow Manorway, Thamesmead.

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

**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.

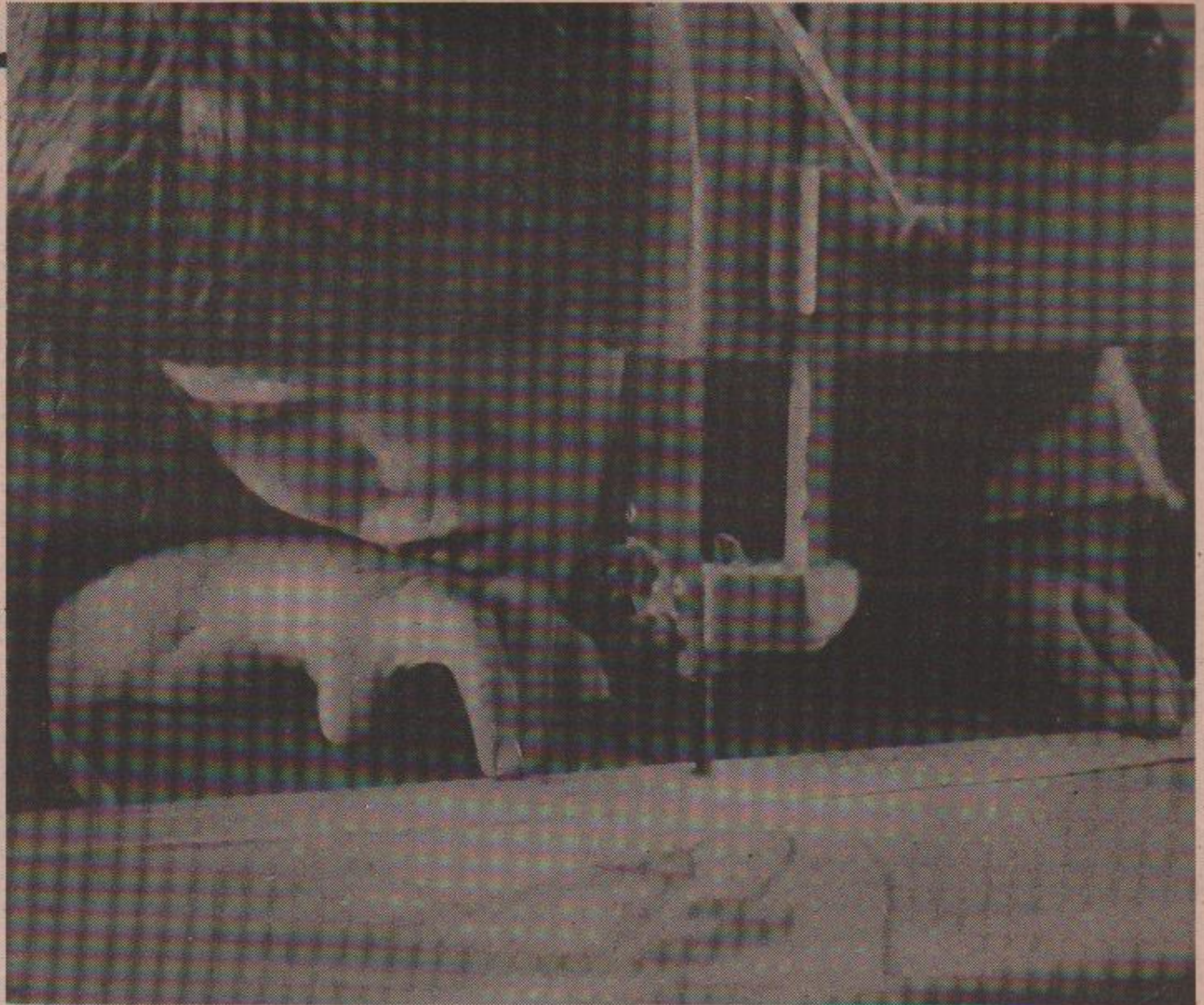
**UPW FRACTION AGGREGATE** Sunday 16 May, 11am-3pm. Cottons Gardens, London, E2. All areas must be represented. If you are coming a long way, we will try to work a pooled fare. But please travel by the cheapest possible means.

**INNER WEST LONDON DISTRICT** Aggregate: Pre-conference discussion. Wednesday 28 April, 7.30pm. All members to attend. Venue from district secretary.

**ESSEX DISTRICT** Aggregate: Pre-conference discussion. Sunday 9 May, 2.30pm, in Chelmsford. Details from Chelmsford 59129.

**FRENCH DAY SCHOOL** for IS members: Saturday 15 May, 11am, Birmingham IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Digbeth, Birmingham 12 (opposite coach station). Suggested for comrades who already have some special knowledge of France. Further details from Marnie Stewart, 42 Middleton Road, London, E8. (Phone 01-249 3668).

# It does your heart good to see the bosses beaten over the head with their own illusions



Thalidomide victim Louise Mason

WHEN I joined the Communist Party many years ago, I visualised the capitalists as a bunch of grim-faced bosses who sat around a table planning how to do the dirty on us workers.

Maybe not quite as simple as that, but you get the general idea. After all, they seem to run a pretty tight system.

Later I realised that they don't so much run the system as it runs them. Even their political front is only a mishmash of illusions, prejudices, 'feelings', views of life, all bunched up together behind which they can maintain some form of unity.

Their alliance with the middle class, who seem to be the strongest believers in their daft theories, brings them problems.

When the bosses talk about 'democracy' the middle classes give it religious overtones.

Everyone who has anything to do with the bosses knows that bribery is rife, none so more than we workers who daily see our leaders bought. It apparently escapes the notice of the

DAVE HALLSWORTH writes about David Mason's book **THALIDOMIDE: MY FIGHT FOR LOUISE**



middle class, who still believe that diligence in the rat race can make them a boss as well. When they do notice the ugly side of capital, their outrage is something to see.

### Belief

It does your heart good to see the middle class beating the bosses over the head with the very illusions the bosses now believe themselves. Here in Britain we had our own show on the road not so long ago.

David Mason, a middle class art dealer not without a bob or two, tells the story in his book *Thalidomide—My Fight for Louise*.

Mason's fight with Distillers,

who made the drug, was the classic case of the bosses being beaten into submission by the very slogans they use to maintain their rule.

Mason faced three sets of opponents.

First, the anguished and less well-off parents who wanted to settle for the miserable pittance Distillers offered, and who were wary of the legal process.

Second, the massed ranks of the legal process themselves, who blackmail and browbeat to get a settlement.

Third, the cold, implacable Distillers who treated the whole issue as they would an industrial injury.

Distillers found they had a tiger by the tail.

Brought up on the slogan 'Money is power', Mason decided to buy some, nay, go broke if necessary. With dogged opportunism he dragged into the fray anyone—press, TV, unions, insurance companies, airline passengers.

The efforts of the state—parliament, press, lawyers, officialdom—to dampen down the struggle was of no avail. Except to give a classic example of how the state operates in conditions of capitalist democracy.

### Upset

Distillers was made to eat crow, because not only was the muck flying around sticking to the bosses, but because the issue was upsetting the illusions the bosses have in their own system.

The book shows how tender and fragile the alliance is that the bosses have with the middle classes. As someone said: 'It's a rotten wall ready to collapse'.

The book does you good to read it.

\* **THALIDOMIDE: MY FIGHT**, by David Mason, George Allen & Unwin, £3.95.

## Two ways

*Their way is a vicious circle in a jungle of endless strife, Where the constant growth of capital is the meaning and end of life; Where man is estranged from nature and made a machine-part slave On assembly lines devouring the years to the scrapheap and the grave; Where the heart is no more than a pump that fuels the programmed brain, The workers nothing but unit costs in the reckoning of gain.*

*There's a way to the land of promise, foretold by many a sage, The classless social order the long-sought Golden Age; Where men and women can't be bought; where nothing is for sale— The land of milk and honey, the land of cakes and ale.*

*How far have we to march then? Shall we get there very soon? It's just around the corner; it's no further than the moon*

HUGO DEWAR

## HERE IS THE WARNING...

THE summer of 1816 was wet. To pass the time, the poets Byron, Shelley and Mary Shelley who were living in Geneva, set about writing stories. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* was the only one to be finished.

These circumstances of its composition have meant that *Frankenstein* has received that mixture of straightforward exploitation and brutal condescension that so many women authors have experienced since.

### Plunder

Plundered by dozens of producers of bad movies, *Frankenstein* has traditionally been regarded by the literary establishment as good only in so far as Byron and Shelley had a hand in it—it's 'one of those second-rate works, written under the influence of more distinguished minds, that sometimes display in conveniently simple form the preoccupations of a coterie' sneers D W Harding in a



standard anthology of criticism.

Yet if read with any sort of attention, *Frankenstein* reveals itself as an imaginative and perceptive novel, feeling its way into a series of issues freshly thrown up by the industrial and scientific revolutions that still remain to be solved today.

A couple of weeks ago I wrote about the book's rough grasp of the new class structures and tensions of the period. In addition, it includes a great deal of intuitive sense about the problems that follow scientific and

technological progress.

*Frankenstein* uses his scientific knowledge to create a monster. The monster in the end murders *Frankenstein's* family and wrecks his life.

If that was all the story said, it could be read as a reactionary fable about the dangers of accumulating knowledge, and indeed that's the moral *Frankenstein* himself draws in his moments of despair.

But the book as a whole knows better. The *Frankenstein* story is contained within another story—the story of an expedition to the North Pole led by a character called Robert Walton. He meets *Frankenstein*, learns his story and is used by Mary Shelley to narrate it to her readers.

Walton and *Frankenstein* share a common ambition for personal 'immortality and power', as *Frankenstein* terms it, to be gained through scientific achievement. But whereas the pursuit of this destroys *Frankenstein*, Walton survives. Why?

Because of the sailors on Walton's expedition ship. When they see that his reckless adventure among the polar ice is likely to cost them their lives, they elect a delegation to tell him to turn back or else.

Walton is furious but has no choice. He agrees, the ship turns back and so he and the crew live to tell the tale.

What Mary Shelley seems to be driving at through her novel is that scientific development undertaken for private gain and without a sense of social responsibility will lead to disaster. This is *Frankenstein's* experience.

But when that development is subject to some form of real democratic control and is made aware of its social duties then any dangers it meets can be handled. That is Walton's experience.

OK, it's a crude enough rule of thumb, but in an age that's given us Concorde, thalidomide, asbestos and H-bombs, it's a rule that could still do with enforcing.

PAUL O'FLINN

THERE'S a programme on London's Capital Radio this Thursday (22 April) about Ford. It includes a lot of interviews with former Ford stewards.

But here's the point. The programme also includes a phone-in. So why not listen in and give them a ring? It starts at 8pm.

## WHY RUSSIA ISN'T SOCIALIST



In 1917, for the first time in world history, a workers' government took power in Russia. Within 20 years it was dead. Two publications by the International Socialists explain why.

Chris Harman's pamphlet, **HOW THE REVOLUTION WAS LOST**, 22p  
Tony Cliff's book, **STATE CAPITALISM IN RUSSIA**, £1.70  
**BOOKMARKS**, 265  
Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

# SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT...

**I AM A CLERK** at Pioneer Mutual Insurance in Waterloo, Liverpool and a member of the ASTMS branch there.

On 23 March I was made redundant, together with six other women.

The manager called me in at 4pm and told me he was 'very sorry', he had some 'bad news'. So now my services are no longer required after 31 May.

Our union representative said 'sit tight, girls, the union is going to fight these redundancies—it is going to ask for the part-timers and those over retirement age to go instead'.

### Resign

Three days later, the same union representative was asking management if some of the girls could work overtime to clear a backlog of work.

Arguments broke out over it but three girls turned in to do the overtime, including the union rep, who has since resigned.

So the union is going to fight! That's good! However, some months earlier the management introduced a job evaluation scheme—accepted by the union—under which more than half the staff received no pay increase and some were even told they were only 80 per cent efficient and so would not receive any pay increases for up to two years.

### Deal

A union meeting voted to strike until we received a better pay deal. But, a few days later another meeting was called and the chairman opened it with the words:

'The purpose of this meeting is to reverse the result of the previous vote'.

I spoke against this but lost the vote. After that I lost confidence in the union officials.

I haven't much hope of the union or the workforce fighting hard to get me and the others our jobs back.

Do those who are to remain realise that, unless they are prepared to fight the management over redundancies now, it will be their turn next?

□ I Caldwell, Waterloo, Liverpool.

### COMRADE

**Smith** (Letters, 3 April) says we should call on the Labour government to close radio stations because fascists are dominating the phone-in programmes.

What is wrong with taking a bit of initiative and doing something about it yourself?

□ Bernie Wilcox, Manchester.

## I work in a nightmare

**I WORK** in a small workshop with 12 other people, including a foreman, chargehand and works manager (the boss's son-in-law).

The machinery is pre-war. Repairs are done by the employees. The belts continually snap or come loose. No machine is guarded.

The gangways are narrow. Two people have to pass sideways. Boxes and pieces of metal jut into the centre.

Often a petrol-powered fork-lift is used in the factory. The room soon fills with carbon monoxide, making us cough.

When the pneumatic pumps are tested, the noise can be heard over our machines. The local residents have complained, and we often get headaches.

### Clutter

The canteen is cramped—the boss goes out to lunch—13 people using a ten foot by six foot dining room.

It is cluttered with tables and a staircase on which some eat their meals. Sheet metal is often stored there.

We don't have lockers, so we leave our sandwiches on the table. Rats kept eating

them while we were working. Nothing was done until one started gnawing into the offices.

The stink from a decomposing rat flowed from the 'dining room'. Only when we complained as a group was it cleared away.

One man works three machines for 5p extra an hour. Another stays after work to clean up.

We agree with trade unions but we're wary of victimisation. Please don't print my name and address.

□ SW Reader, Hertfordshire.

## On the dole at 16

**I WILL BE** unemployed in two months' time. That is practically a certainty.

When the official school-leaving date, June, comes around, thousands of school students, including myself, will look around in desperation knowing that their chances of securing employment are very near zero.

Hundreds more will resign themselves to another year at school, hoping that when they leave next year they will have better qualifications and that the situation might be a little better.

I am horrified when I think of the fate that awaits me. And

I am also angry, very angry. Just think—the small people with small minds at the top (sometimes called our 'leaders') can decide our fate.

### Army

What can we do, the ever-increasing army of unemployed? We can stand up for ourselves!

Join the Right to Work Campaign and fight this system which denies us the Right to Work.

□ Tony McGhee, Glasgow.

## A visit from Jack Jones

**WINE AND DINE** me well gentlemen—and I will forget my brothers on the shop floor. Jack Jones, leader of the Transport and General Workers Union, visited the Firth Voe construction camp this week, scene of the five-week strike by Grand Met catering workers.

Not one acknowledgement was received during the strike to show that Jack Jones and the TGWU even existed.

On his visit he spent all his time stuffing himself with management's food and ideas. He left without one single nod to the rank and file.

### Tedious

Obviously Jack Jones regards the workers' problems as over, since the camp is now functioning again.

Or perhaps workers' problems are too tedious for him to cope with on a full stomach and a few glasses of wine.

The fact that ex-strike committee members and the more militant rank and file workers are being victimised will no doubt please him.

Because the longer these members are kept down, the safer his stinky job will be.

□ P Stratford, TGWU, Shetlands.

### Tragedy

The tragedy of the people of Palestine is that their country was 'given' by a foreign power to another people for the creation of a new state.

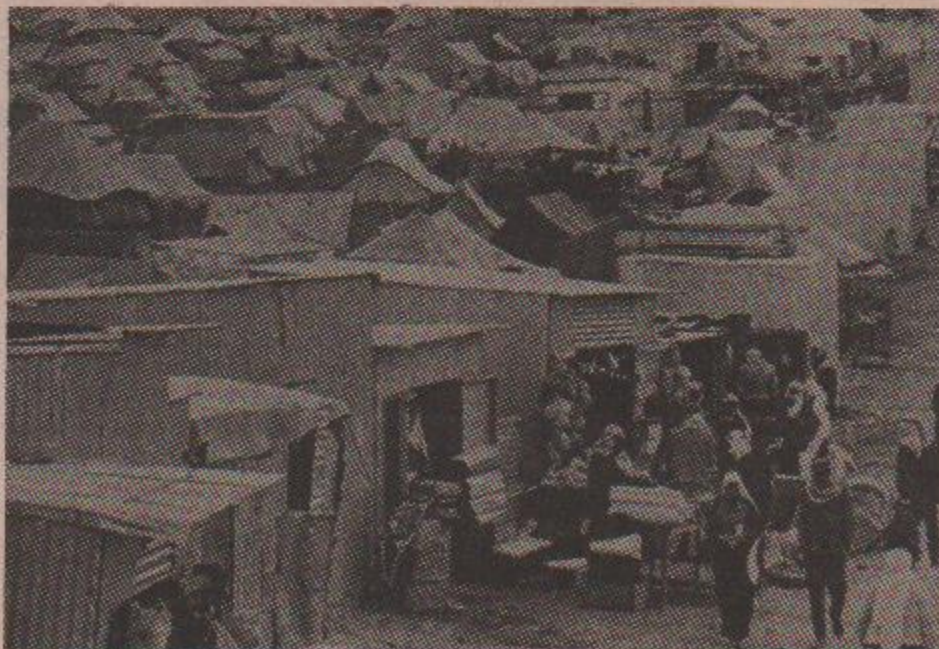
The result: thousands of innocent people were made permanently homeless.

The refugees have every right to the homeland from which they were driven. This is why the conflict will continue.

We are told frequently that we must sympathise with Israel because of the suffering of Jews at the hands of the Nazis.

What Israel is doing today cannot be condoned, and to invoke the horrors of the past to justify those of the present is many hypocrisies.

□ R Leddington, Stamford, Lines.



A Palestinian refugee camp: these people have been uprooted from their own land

## ISRAEL: This savagery cannot be condoned

**THE LATEST** phase of Israeli oppression will not persuade the Arab people to give up their homeland, but will stiffen their will to resist.

The Vietnamese people endured years of American aggression. They responded, not by capitulation, but by an unprecedented unity and determination to defeat their enemy.

For more than 20 years Israel has expanded by force of arms.

After every stage in this expansion, it has appealed to 'reason' and negotiations.

# Letters

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

## Foot? You're joking!

**ON THE FACE** of it, L. Smithson (Letters, last week) seems to have a good point. Surely Socialist Worker should draw out the fine distinctions between Foot and Callaghan?

Hang on a minute, though! I suddenly realise where I've

heard that argument before—usually from sincere Labour Party members who think progress to socialism will be faster if we have a 'left' Prime Minister.

Of course, this completely disregards history. The most successful leaders of the Labour Party have come from the left—and look at the

results.

A wage freeze, a high level of unemployment, cut-backs in social services, health, education, public transport and so on. There's no end in sight, either.

Surely the lesson is plain. Labour Party leaders, whether of the left or right, are forced by the banks, the giant firms

and the structure of world capitalism into attacking working class living standards.

Whatever Foot and company's intentions, they cannot escape from the trap.

Week in, week out, this message comes over, directly or indirectly, from SW.

Experience has shown us that the only way to defend working class living standards is for workers and their families to organise against these attacks.

So let's not mislead ourselves into relying on the Labour 'lefts' but instead trust in our own strength.

□ Ken Collins, East London.

**THE Troops Out Movement** is organising a delegation to Ireland from 29 May to 1 June to get the facts that will enable the British Labour Movement to develop an informed and progressive policy in support of the Irish people's long struggle for self-determination.

But we need cash to finance the visit. We urge readers to send us what they can.

□ Bill Freeman, Treasurer, Troops Out Movement, 1 North End Road, London W14.

## ELSA WARREN: I'M NOT AFTER GLORY...

**I WAS OFFENDED** by the letter (Tut, tut, those nasty ultra-lefts, 10 April) which said: 'Elsa Warren fully deserved a standing ovation on Saturday (at the Assembly on Unemployment). But standing ovations do not get Des out of jail'.

Standing ovations may be an honour. But at no time in my campaign to get my husband released from prison have I wanted medals.

I don't travel the length and breadth of the country for personal glory. I know only too well that a standing ovation will not get Des out of jail.

All I want is justice. No way would you get me on and off dirty British Rail and five children just for laughs or glory. I have a job to do. All I want is to do it with the best of my ability without folk having a go at me.

There are too many people cutting each other's throats in this business. Please leave me out of it.

□ Elsa Warren, Henllan, Denbighshire.

**SUPPORTERS** of the National Abortion Campaign found out some interesting information at a recent meeting in Bexley of Life, the anti-abortion group.

Life claim that, in a rape case, women can easily be doused within 24 hours (a dangerous and ineffective method) but should pregnancy result, the foetus should not have to pay the parents' 'mistakes'.

This, along with other lies


such as their insistence that there has been no drop in illegal or legal abortions, is how they gain support. They also show pictures of dismembered foetuses.

Fortunately, the audience at the meeting mainly consisted of predominantly middle-class people who were past it.

Life's solution to abortion is abstinence from sexual intercourse.

□ Carolyn Bracken, S E London

**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

**Lecture series on THE MEANING OF MARXISM**

**EDINBURGH:** Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place.  
22 April: Nationalism and Socialism. Speaker: Allan Armstrong.  
6 May: Is there a parliamentary road to socialism? Speaker: Harry McShane.  
20 May: The revolutionary socialist alternative. Speaker: Peter Bain.  
3 June: What is the revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Mick Napier.

**EAST LONDON:** Every second Friday, 7.30pm, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.  
23 April: Marxist economics. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.  
7 May: Is there a parliamentary road to Socialism? Speaker: Ian Birchall.  
21 May: The revolutionary socialist alternative. Speaker: Colin Sparks.  
4 June: What is Imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris.  
18 June: Building the revolutionary party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

**WEST LONDON:** Every second Tuesday at 8pm, Kings Head, Acton High Street, W3.  
4 May: What is Imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.  
18 May: The Labour Party. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.  
1 June: Building the revolutionary socialist party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Every second Monday, 8pm, Batterssea District Library, Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction, SW11 (Buses 19, 37, 49, 77, 168, 249).  
26 April: Racism and imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.  
10 May: The State. Speaker: Paul Foot.

# Bowler-bashing in the City

WALK around the City of London any day of the week and you'll see thousands of people scurrying around—what are they all doing?

Well, if you believe the Daily Mirror and the BBC, lots of them are making sure you have a pension and a job.

There's this wonderful place, see, called the Stock Exchange, where companies raise money to invest in new plant and machinery, so you have a job. And the money comes from pension funds and insurance companies who

have collected it from workers throughout the land.

In this sensible way workers' money helps finance industry and workers benefit from profits—which are paid into their pension funds.

So it is absolutely essential, you see, to have tens of thousands of people beavering away in stockbrokers' offices helping the thousands of insurance companies, pension funds and banks.

Well, socialists would sweep it all away, because it is not quite like the Daily Mirror and BBC would have us believe.

Most investment in companies is financed by retained profits—including

a large amount of tax rebates from the government—and loans from the banks. Even in 1975—a bonanza year—the stock market provided less than a tenth of the money used for industrial investment—about £1 billion.

## Insurance

This compares with the £5 billion that flowed into the coffers of the insurance companies and pension funds. So what happened to the rest?

Quite a lot of it was lent to the

government; some went into the bank. A lot went into property and buying shares—other people's shares, shares already in existence.

The money pours into the pension funds, so the pension fund manager rings up his stockbroker, who wanders into the stock market, says hello to another of his chums and spends some of the pension fund's money—say £1 million—on some ICI shares.

And where do those shares come from? Well, from another pension fund which has decided to sell—probably bought them the day before but the price has gone up so the fund managers decide to take a profit.

The snag is that there may be a bit of a shortage of shares, so the price has to be hiked up to encourage others to sell; which makes some other fund manager think something is happening, so he piles in for some shares as well.

## Spiral

Up spirals the price and so do the stockbrokers' profits—parts of which are then used to buy nice lunches for the fund managers.

This sort of thing meant that total turnover in the stock market last year was almost £100,000 million—and on every £1 the stockbroker got commission.

Jolly nice for them and their fund managers' lunch guests.

This most appalling waste of time, talent and resources will be defended by the capitalist class to the bitter end because it is the mechanism by which a few men—perhaps 1000 who faithfully serve the interests of capitalism—keep control of the surplus wealth that workers produce.

## Machine

This is the machine by which the capitalist class decides what happens to that surplus—whether it goes to property developers in London or property developers in Paris, whether it goes to manufacturing companies or to the banks.

Some they let the government have—at a high price, a price which is then collected in taxes from the very same workers whose money starts the merry-go-round in the first place.

So what would socialists put in its place?

There'd be no pension funds. Pensions, like wages, would come directly out of the wealth created by workers, instead of forcing people to accumulate it for their old age.

## Plans

There would be no fund managers and no stock exchange, but plans would be made for industry and its products by workers themselves at local and national meetings.

Long-term plans would be made for things such as housing with, for example, each factory paying so much per head to the housing authorities.

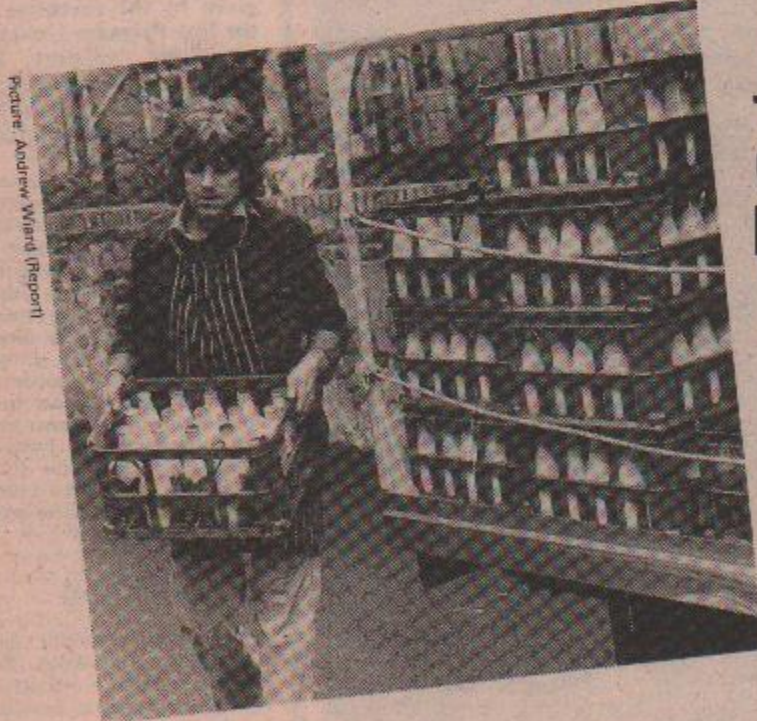
Under socialism, the surplus produced by workers would be theirs; to decide how much of it there should be and how much should be spent.

They'd be deciding differently than the men in the City of London.



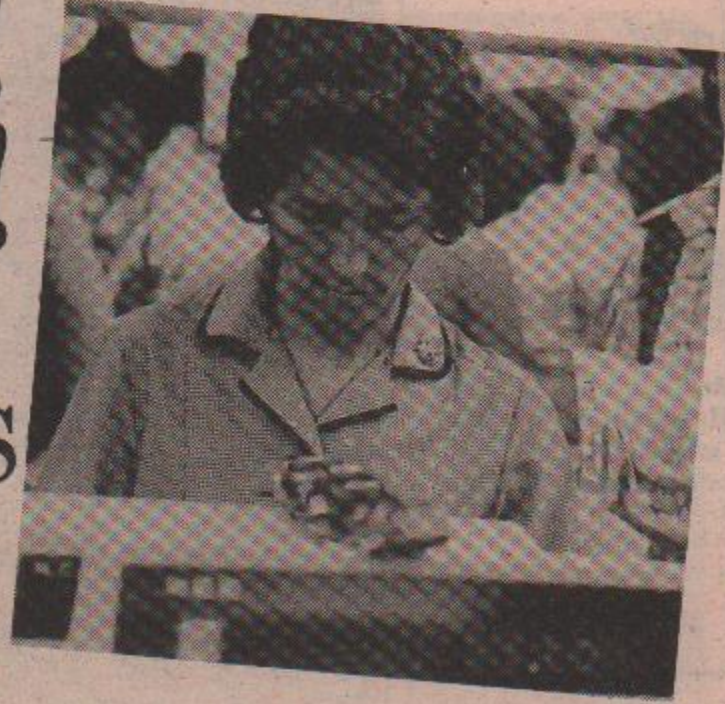
So what would you put in its place?

by CHRISTOPHER HIRD



Picture: Andrew Wilford (Report)

# Milk! Shop! ANGRY SHOUTS THAT COULD



# GIVE ALLEN'S PALS A TOUGH TIME

by MARTIN LARKHAM

USDAW senior shop steward, London Co-op, and delegate to USDAW conference in Blackpool next week

FOR a militant trade unionist, a conference of the shopworkers' union USDAW used to be grim.

For years this huge union—it's grown from 325,000 members in 1973 to 380,000—has been run by a rather sinister body called the Progressive Labour Group.

Our general secretary, Lord Allen, former chairman of the Labour Party, is a leading progressive. So are most other members of the executive. The conference has been packed with elderly gentlemen, many of them retired.

## 'Vote Knowles', NUJ rival told!

by AIDAN WHITE

Member of the NUJ executive

ONE of the most crucial debates at this year's Annual Delegate Meeting of the journalists' union (NUJ) at Buxton is about the introduction of new printing presses.

A special pamphlet on this new technology which the employers are threatening to introduce across the industry has been produced by the rank and file Journalists' Charter. It proves that the advantages of the new presses are all one way: more profits, fewer jobs.

The NUJ Magazine branch has a motion down insisting on the maintenance of all present manning levels in response to this.

There is also a resolution criticising the executive for not sticking to its policy of free collective bargaining—and for supporting the £6 pay freeze.

## Freeze

Under the freeze, junior provincial journalists, badly paid enough already, had their annual increments consolidated into the £6.

Journalists' Charter has also produced a small pamphlet entitled The Militant Chapel, which is a guide to radical rank and file organisation in newspapers and magazines.

The Charter have



organised a special meeting for delegates at the Queen Anne's Hotel, Buxton, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 April.

The conference will elect a new editor of The Journalist, the union paper.

Ron Knowles, who was elected editor three years ago, has made a fighting trade union paper out of what used to be a paper for printing pictures of the president with pretty girls. Ron has always insisted that union officials should be elected for specific periods, not for life—and is the first full-time official in the history of the NUJ to stand for re-election.

He is in every way a better candidate than his rival, Nick Clarke. In fact, last week Clarke's branch at Uxbridge mandated Clarke to vote against himself at conference—and for Knowles.

Charter posters are to be seen this week around Buxton proclaiming: 'Even Nick Clarke is voting for Knowles.'

There has been hardly a sign of the 200,000 women who make up the majority of our union.

But recently things have begun to change. At the conference last year, the platform came under some heavy criticism. They even lost the vote on the Common Market—though that didn't stop Lord Allen stomping the country in support of Labour for Europe!

This year, so many USDAW members have been hammered by the £6 freeze that there promises to be a few more rows.

Last year, our members in the Co-op were offered a split increase—half in May, half in August. The £6 policy came between. Now we are looking for another rise—but we've been told we can only have £6 minus what we got last August. This hits especially hard at the Co-op managers, who are fuming.

Another group who are angry are the milkmen.



the unions

They've been told that they couldn't have three days extra holiday and the £6, even though the three days had been agreed before the £6 freeze.

There was outcry when a branch vote agreed to this, and a ballot vote of all milkmen members is being conducted. Our members at Oakthorpe Diaries have said

they will go on strike from 17 April unless they get the full £6 and the holidays.

All this promises a much tougher time for Allen's Pals on the platform.

Not many people in our union are going to like the idea of Healey's 3 per cent and many members are worried about unemployment.

There's a resolution from Glasgow Carpets which calls on the executive 'to mobilise the membership in a campaign for the right to work'. The resolution is spoilt with a lot of nonsense about import controls and investment incentives, but its tone is very different to what we've

been used to.

Things are changing, slowly. There'll be more young delegates, more women delegates. But we've still a long way to go. There are five resolutions down calling for the return of capital punishment.

Lord Allen will keep smiling until rank and file militants get together and start a rank and file movement in the union. USDAW members are some of the lowest paid and most humiliated people in the country.

They'll stay that way until they get control of their union.

## OPPOSE THIS 'CATCH-ALL'

THE movement is growing against the TUC's new Rule 14, an attempt to prevent trades councils supporting any campaign which it doesn't like.

The rule says: 'In no circumstances shall the trades councils co-operate with or subscribe to the funds of any organisation whose policies or activities are contrary to those of Congress.'

This 'catch-all' rule will be used to block anything, not approved by Congress.

It will be impossible to organise support for campaigns like the National

Abortion Campaign, the Working Women's Charter, the Portuguese Workers' Solidarity Campaign or events like the national day of action against unemployment on 26 May.

Trades council support is just one way trade unionists have of putting pressure on the TUC and the official trades unions to support such campaigns.

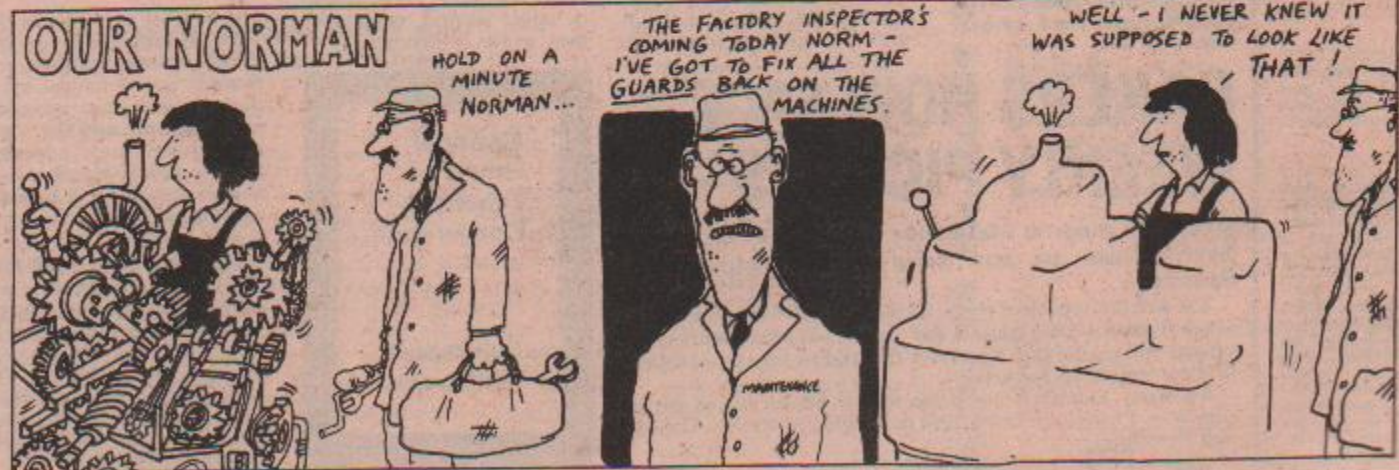
If you support any of these campaigns, you must join the fight against Rule 14.

Send resolutions from your union branch to your local trades council

against Rule 14 and calling for a campaign against it. Copies should be sent to the TUC, your union executive, and the union's annual conference of there is still time.

In your trades council, move a resolution condemning the threats of suspension or disaffiliation against those councils wanting to pursue their own policies.

Emergency resolutions should go to the annual Trades Council Conference. Delegates should be mandated to oppose Rule 14.



OUR NORMAN is on holiday this week. This cartoon comes from The Adventures of Our Norman, in which are published the best cartoons from Norman's first two years. 20p. from Bookmarks (London IS Bookshop), 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

# Seamen jailed - for being Asians

**TEN seamen are in jail in Glasgow not because they committed any crime but simply because they were Asians.**

The bizarre and frightening story behind the jailings was told to Socialist Worker last week by a member of the local Indian Workers Association.

It reveals the repressive way in which the Tories' 1971 Immigration Act is being applied against foreign black workers by the immigration authorities.

The ten seamen—four Indians and six Pakistanis—are crew members of the Greek ship *Alartus*. They were taken from the ship by government officials when it docked on the Clyde at the beginning of April.

At first they were told they were being taken to a hotel. But instead they were taken by private Securicor guards to Barlinnie jail, literally because the immigration authorities alleged that they would try to jump ship.

The *Alartus* has a crew of 36. All are foreign seamen. Only the Asians classified by the Home Office as 'non-professional seamen' are un-

by Dave Sherry

der suspicion of being likely to enter the country illegally. All the others had been allowed shore permits.

A request for the detention of the ten men until the ship was ready to leave was made to the Home Office by the ship's British agent, Denholm Ship Management, after three Asians had disappeared.

The Asian crew, it was revealed, were being paid £25 a month less than other crew members.

The National Union of Seamen took the matter up with the ship's captain. After threats of an embargo on the ship, the captain signed an International Transport Federation seafaring wages agreement and agreed to backdate the increase.

## Hold

Early this week the seamen were being held in the untried prisoners' block and were forced to wear prison clothing. The ship was due to sail this week.

The IWA say this happens regularly at British ports under the legal umbrella of the Immigration Act. British trade unionists, especially members of the National Union of Seamen, have a duty to challenge the shipping agents and the immigration authorities whenever they use this racist tactic against foreign workers. The only long-term solution is a campaign in the labour movement for the repeal of this Act.

**CORRECTION.** Last week we wrongly reported that there were several thousand people on the demonstration against the Immigration Act. This should have read several hundred.

## BAKERS NOW FACE WEEKLY PICKETS

**BAKERS' shops in Merseyside belonging to the Sayers Bakery chain are now being regularly picketed on Saturdays.**

The pickets, organised by the local Right to Work Committee, are in support of 20 engineers and electricians who have been on official strike since last November demanding the reinstatement of three victimised workers.

Knowsley Labour Council has struck Sayers off its list of suppliers. Pickets are being held in Kirkby, St Helens, Huyton and Newton.



Arthur Conheaney (far left) on the Greenings picket line. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

## PICKETS END BOSSES' SOLIDARITY

**WARRINGTON:** The pickets are still out in force at Greenings, the wire factory whose bosses have victimised the militant works convenor, Arthur Conheaney. There have been pickets on the gate all through Easter, 24 hours a day.

The pickets will be there for some time to come. Says Len Blood, strike committee secretary: 'They hope to keep the factory closed till we crack. That time is very, very much further away than they think.'

The pickets have been moving

outside the factory, where they have come across an interesting example of capitalist treachery.

Greenings' oldest rival in the Warrington wire business is Rylands. The two firms 'competed' with one another for years. Recently Greenings and Rylands have been swallowed by huge engineering combines—Greenings by the Johnson Firth Brown group of Sheffield, Rylands by the Tinsley Wire octopus, also based in Sheffield.

The Greenings pickets now have evidence that Greenings management approached Rylands before the strike and asked if they could shoulder some Greenings work during their 'coming troubles'. Rylands, in a spirit of 'free competition', agreed.

They reckoned without the workers. Rylands stewards have agreed to monitor all work, and to black anything which could have gone to Greenings.

## STUC protest silenced

**STEWARDS** at the Scottish TUC this week sat on members of Dundee Right to Work Committee when they protested against Transport Union leader Jack Jones speaking on unemployment.

The Right to Work Committee began shouting at Jones when he told the Congress in Perth: 'We are not working against the Labour government, but the Labour government has been working

with us to bring down the level of unemployment.'

'If the trade union movement had not accepted the £6 limit, unemployment would be ever higher now,' he said.

At this the unemployed workers from Dundee could not contain their anger and began to heckle Jones and ask him if he had ever had to look for a job in Dundee.

The shouts of protest were almost the only words raised in anger against unemployment at the conference.

National Union of Teachers Conference.

Full report next week.

## STRIKE AT HOSPITAL

**WEST LONDON:** Portuguese women domestic workers at Hammersmith Hospital went on strike for one day last week, demanding the right to take their annual leave when they choose. Twenty-five women were on the picket line, and are considering further action—probably a longer strike—if their demands are not met.

Most hospital workers can take their holidays when they want, but the domestics have been forbidden to have more than two weeks of their four-week annual leave in one period—and even then only the privileged few could take them in the peak summer months.

Management claim they cannot afford to let the domestics take their holiday when they want because it would mean hiring relief staff. But said one of the strikers: 'We've worked hard for our holidays. The extra cost should not be an optional extra, it's part of their duty.'

## Firemen send their fighting fund to Spain

**ESSEX firemen** have been quick to follow the lead given by the executive of the Fire Brigades Union in expressing support for Spanish workers—and in particular firemen—in the fight for trade union rights in Spain.

Firemen in Barcelona were recently called to evacuate the town hall after riot police had bombed a mass meeting of municipal employees with tear gas. After rescuing their colleagues, they drove around the city centre with sirens wailing to protest at the violence of the riot police.

After this incident, both local police and firemen were put under military jurisdiction. They now face court martial and possibly execution for any involvement in the current strike wave.

## Sending

The FBU executive has written to Carlo Arias, the Spanish Prime Minister, recently welcomed to London by the Labour government, condemning this action. The Essex FBU Committee have sent a similar protest.

They are also sending the remainder of a fighting fund they set up some years ago to finance their own lock-out/strike. While this only amounts to £5, Spanish trade unionists at the recent Spanish Workers' Solidarity Conference in London made it clear that financial assistance was desperately needed to build their illegal trade union organisations.

The increasing violence and murder that the Spanish police are resorting to in order to contain the rising militancy and confidence of the working class make it all the more urgent to raise the question now in trade union branches.

## Teamster sell-out

**AMERICA** saw its first ever national lorry drivers' strike at the beginning of April.

400,000 teamsters were striking for a contract they could live with for the next three years. The rank and file group, Teamsters for a Decent Contract, built up a network of militants to fight not only the bosses but their own union.

But the contract they got is a sell-out—a 1.70-dollar (90p) wage increase over three years, plus a cost of living allowance. There was no improvement in the grievance procedure, nothing about forced overtime, no change in the 70-hour week for long distance drivers, nothing on pensions.

The rank and file were still too weak and disorganised to stop the sell-out.

But their campaign over the past eight months has given them fantastic confidence. Tony Candela, a driver at Earl C Smith Freight Terminal in Detroit, Michigan, said: 'This did a lot of good—there's no doubt about that. It put a lot of fear into our union officials after all these years.'

There was never a show of strength like there was this year as long as I've been in the union. It's the first time everyone showed some decent unity.'

## Notices and meetings

**BRAZIL—The Politics behind the Facade.** Public seminar to stimulate debate on the most influential country in Latin America after 12 years of military dictatorship. Arranged to precede the visit of Brazilian President Geisel to Britain in May, first of series arranged by the recently-formed Latin America Study Group. Friday 23 April, 7pm, Friends House, Euston Road, (opposite Euston Station), London, WC1.

**CRITIQUE seminar series:** Tuesday 27 April, 7.30pm, Mike McKenna on 'The Necessity of Hegel' Wednesday 12 May, 7.30pm, Frank Richards on 'The Communist Parties and the Capitalist Crisis' Room 5-418, St Clements Building, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2.

**KIDDERMINSTER Trades Council Folk Concert:** Ian Campbell and others Wednesday 28 April, 7.30 to 11.30pm, Town Hall, Kidderminster. 90p. For Flyposting Defence Fund

**WORKING WOMEN'S CHARTER Benefit Social:** Saturday 24 April, 8pm, The Old Fire Station, 84 Mayton Street, London N7. Everyone welcome, 60p.

**SOLIDARITY CONCERT:** Manchester Spanish Solidarity Committee: Pi de la Serra, from Catalonia, Joaquin Sabinas, Saturday 24 April, 7.30pm, Reynolds Theatre, UMIST, 60p.

**CRITIQUE CONFERENCE:** April 30/May 1, Kings College, Cambridge. The Future Socialist Society: Friday—Trotsky and Counter-revolution, M Cox and D Law (7pm); Saturday—The Transitional State, S Meikle (10.30); Social Planning and Self-Management, C Goodey (2pm); Central Planning and the Problem of Prices, G Smith (4.30); social in the evening. Sleeping bag accommodation (please register needs in advance with John Barber, Kings College, Cambridge). Registration: £1.00 for Critique subscribers, £1.25 non-subscribers.

# LIVERPOOL DOCKS FIGHT FOR RIGHT TO WORK

**THE WHOLE** of Liverpool docks could soon be closed by a strike over the right to work.

The strike began when 300 shoregang men insisted that they would not let the employers destroy three jobs through so-called 'natural wastage'.

It spread as the employers tried to get ships unloaded at other berths. Dockers who blacked this work were laid off.

Other groups of workers, such as tugmen, shipwrights and gigboat crews, have been showing solidarity with the strikers.

## Struggle

Early this week, a Spanish ship, the Monte Grenada, was forced to leave the port by the strike and to take its million pounds cargo elsewhere.

The employers are trying to get a settlement which would leave the three jobs unfilled.

They have even offered to pay the wages for the jobs to charity.

Clearly they fear the dockers establishing a precedent and stopping the destruction of jobs.

If that happened, it would be an important victory in the battle for the right to work—a battle not only against straight redundancies, but also against 'natural wastage' which destroys jobs that should be available to other, unemployed, workers.

ABOUT 400 clothing workers in Kettering and Corby last week won the full £6-a-week increase from Aquascutum, makers of luxury coats.

After a week's strike, the company coughed up the extra £2.40 it had refused to pay, even though the Department of Employment had said there was no reason why the money shouldn't be paid.

Ignoring the secret ballot requiring a two-thirds majority, which is the only way members of the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers can come out on official strike, workers struck unofficially after a show of hands.

A visit by stewards to the Colchester and Bletchley plants brought out key sections. Workers there will share in the settlement.

## 100 picket the Front

LONDON: 100 people turned out at short notice on Tuesday for the Socialist Worker Flame picket of the Conway Hall.

The picket was called against the revolting National Front racials.

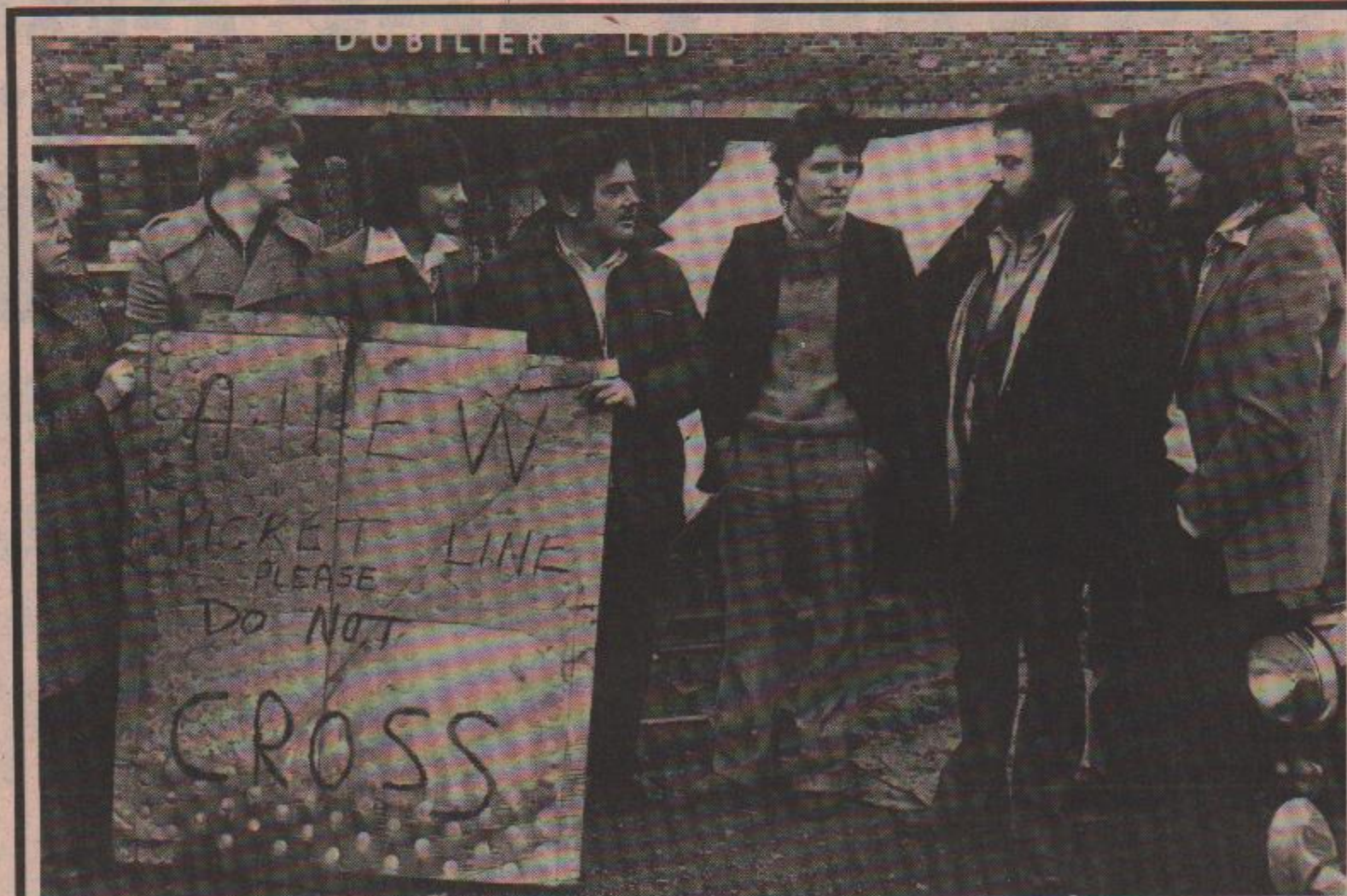
They support white racism in Rhodesia and raise the hypocritical and equally revolting cry of 'Keep Britain White'.

The picket was very successful. Only 150 racials turned up. That's still 150 too many.

**ENGINEERS CHARTER SECOND EDITION GOING TO PRINT**

**Bob Wright and Willie Lee — a debate — What happened at Chrysler?**

Articles — Letters — Orders for copies plus ALL money owing, RUSH to 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



## 'We learned the hard way'

**ON THE PICKET** line at Dubillier, Kirkby—where 250 manual workers have been on strike since 9 April.

Engineering Union shop steward Joan Windever summed up the pickets' feelings:

'We've learned our lesson the hard way—with 400 jobs lost for our

members. We've no intention of going back to work until we get equal pay and the full £6.'

The strikers are demanding the full £6 on their basic wage, reclassification of the 160 women as semi-skilled workers, which would give them equal pay with almost all the men.

In 1971, Dubillier, who make electronic equipment, employed 650 workers in two Merseyside factories.

In 1974, the workers in both factories put in for a pay rise. The bosses pleaded the usual: 'There's no money in the kitty'.

They proposed a bonus

scheme which divided one factory from the other. 'Unless you accept,' they warned, 'there'll be heavy redundancies.'

So the scheme was accepted and the organisation which bound the two factories together was smashed.

Four weeks later, the bosses announced that they were closing the Hammond Road factory, and sacked 200 workers.

Dave Williams, AUEW convener at the Ashcroft Road factory, and a strong supporter of the Engineers Charter, said:

'We're still bitter about the Hammond Road closure. But we're going to fight this time. The vote for a strike was unanimous.'

Joan Windever says: 'We're even more annoyed about the equal pay issue than the basic pay.'

The management have classified all the women workers as labourers, in the lowest grade.

'But we get the same six weeks' training which the semi-skilled men get. And we should get the same pay. All the men are for our claim.'

for **BOOKS ON THE WOMEN'S STRUGGLE**

Send large, stamped, addressed envelope for booklist to Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

One thing is certain. If a stand isn't taken now the telephone supply industry will soon no longer exist.

## VICTORY AT BEVERLEY

**BEVERLEY:** Women office workers at Dean and Light Alloys have staged a two-week strike for equal pay.

After negotiations since last June they were offered the insulting sum of £1.50 a week.

The 11 women, members of the Association of Technical, Clerical and Supervisory Staffs, started negotiations last summer over the amount

of their annual increment, and in January they put in a claim for equal pay.

They held a one-day strike, and were then persuaded to take the dispute to the government Conciliation and Arbitration Service rather than the Industrial Tribunal.

After all these months they were offered only £1.50, so they reversed their decision

not to go to the Tribunal, and came out on strike indefinitely.

Their work wasn't being done by the men in the office, and although three non-union women were still working, management quickly came up with an offer of £2.50 backdated to December.

## Fight the STC jobs axe!

By Richard Rieser, AUEW shop steward, STC, New Southgate

them by saying they wanted their workforce reduced by ten.

At East Kilbride, STC want 250 redundancies by July and a further 200 by Christmas. The total workforce is only 974. A mass meeting resolved to fight.

In Northern Ireland, they want 670 by July and another 200 by Christmas. 600 have already left through voluntary redundancies.

At East Kilbride, they have never accepted a volun-

tary redundancy scheme, and are in a stronger position to fight than plants that have.

We need to strengthen our links across the whole combine. As Charlie Small, electricians union convener at New Southgate put it: 'We are now committed to no enforced redundancies and we will take this one all the way.'

One thing is certain. If a stand isn't taken now the telephone supply industry will soon no longer exist.

Who needs bosses? Triumph workers don't...

**TRIUMPH WORKERS** at Leyland's Canley plant have proved that they can build cars without management.

For a week and a half, they have kept production going while the company have tried every trick they know to bring it to a halt—a fact which the local and national press have kept very quiet.

Following the decision two weeks ago to withdraw five per cent productivity—originally given on the understanding of a £6 wage rise on 1 April—shop stewards and workers took control of the tracks to enforce the reduced speed.

Foremen withdrew after trying—and failing—to stop the tracks.

In some shops, the paint shop for example, this resulted in increased productivity!

And the company, in the attempt to halt production, have picketed the gates, tried to stop supplies at source and asked key groups of staff to stop work or risk not being paid themselves.

These have had mixed results, but so far the workers have kept production going.

But there is a danger now that things will get back under the control of Transport Union convener Eddie McGarry, who opposed the action from the start.

Under his influence, the shop stewards committee agreed to recommend a return to 'normal working' subject to payments for the past two weeks, and to support an MP's inquiry into industrial relations in the plant.

## Blacked

Although only 11 shop stewards voted against this recommendation, a mass meeting last Friday was evenly split.

To many at the front of the meeting, it appeared that the recommendation had been defeated and McGarry had to beat a hasty retreat after announcing a ballot on the question.

Without effective leadership from the shop stewards committee, which could show the men how to win (by withholding completed cars from the company, occupying the factory and fighting for a decent wage rise now) some may think it is not worth fighting on.

Nevertheless, they have shown that they are prepared to fight against workers participation, against the company's rationalisation plans, and against government wage controls.



# Socialist Worker

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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

## President warns rival candidate of summons for contempt

MIKE McGRATH, the only left-wing candidate for the presidency in the civil servants' union CPSA. He is the candidate of Redder Tape, the rank and file paper within the union.

McGrath was told before Easter by the present union president, Kate Losinska, that he is being summoned before the High Court for contempt following an article he wrote in Socialist Worker.

McGrath has not yet received the summons. He told Socialist Worker: 'I am waiting to hear from the court. Losinska may have been lying. If anyone thinks this sort of action is going to stop me running for the presidency they are very much mistaken'.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

# HIGH COURT GAGS CPSA MEMBERS

## WHAT WE THINK

Socialist Worker has already published the full text of the resolution passed by the CPSA executive and banned by the High Court. We believe it is essential that freedom of speech in the trade unions be defended against interference by the High Court. We stand by our decision to publish the resolution

and call on all trade unionists to support the CPSA against Losinska and the High Court. This act by the High Court is as much an interference in the free and democratic workings of the trade unions as the Industrial Relations Act and the imprisonment of the five dockers at Pentonville in 1972.

by MIKE DUGGAN

CPSA Regional Organiser, DHSS, London South Region, in a personal capacity.

**THE High Court has decided it has the right to dictate to trade unionists what may be discussed at trade union conferences.**

Members of the civil servants' union CPSA were instructed by the High Court last week that all but one of the resolutions that branches have passed and sent to conference criticising the union's president may not be discussed.

The resolution will not even appear on the conference agenda.

The High Court decision argues that if resolutions critical of the president, Kate

Losinska, were debated they might affect her chances of being re-elected as union president for another year.

This is the second decision in a fortnight interfering in the democratic running of the CPSA. The court earlier instructed the CPSA executive that it could not circulate to members or publish in the union journal a resolution it had passed criticising Losinska.

Losinska's own freedom to say what she likes has not been curtailed in any way.

The original executive resolution criticised Losinska for a vicious attack on the members of the union in an article she wrote in the Reader's Digest. She can now go on writing all the articles she likes, but she can't be criticised by her members.

The Readers Digest article was part of a series called 'The Marxist Battle for Britain'. Contributors included Frank Chapple, head of the Electricians Union. Losinska dealt with 'extreme left penetration' in the civil service.

Now the High Court has stopped the executive from telling the membership its view of the article, and the members have been told that the High Court will decide what resolutions can be discussed at conference.

Forty CPSA members picketed the union's national executive meeting last week some demanding that they ignore the High Court.

## SUMMONS

In another move against discussion inside the union, Losinska told one of the other candidates for the presidency, Mike McGrath, that he would be receiving a High Court summons for contempt of court. His crime, it seems, was to write an article in Socialist Worker a fortnight ago about her first court injunction against the CPSA executive.

The latest edition of the rank and file civil servant's paper Redder Tape will be published before the mandating union meetings for conference, and intends to carry the full story of the Losinska case, calling for support for Mike McGrath for the presidency.

Redder Tape supporters are also issuing a leaflet for distribution to all CPSA branches arguing that the motions critical of Losinska must be heard at conference and that the civil servants should use their considerable industrial power to get the High Court decision reversed.

## Inquiry call

THE general management committee of Northampton South Labour Party has called on the Home Secretary to initiate an immediate, independent inquiry into the police attack on the Right to Work marchers, and is also demanding to know on whose orders the attack was made.



Picture: Les Kay (IFLU)

## FIGHT THE CUTS!

Demonstrate this weekend!

**LONDON**  
Sunday 25 April  
12.30pm  
Hyde Park

**MANCHESTER**

Saturday 24 April  
12.30pm  
AUEW Offices, The Crescent, Salford

The Right to Work Campaign has called on all its supporters to join these demonstrations against the cuts in hospitals, schools and social services.

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## Subscribe!

## MASS PICKET BACKS FIGHT FOR UNION

Part of the 250-strong mass picket outside the Automat factory at Swinton, near Manchester.

The strike, now in its third month, began when the convenor and seven others were sacked after recruiting nearly half the 120-strong workforce into the AUEW. Twenty-three of the new AUEW members came out against the victimisations. The 23 got their cards in the post.

The fight is for full union union recognition and reinstatement of the strikers. A district levy of 5p a week from every AUEW member in Manchester was agreed after a ballot in every branch, and blacking has begun.

On last Thursday's picket the Engineers Charter group issued a leaflet calling for a daily picket of the factory to be attended on a rota basis by workers from individual factories or groups of factories.

Donations and messages of support to the Automat Strike Committee, c/o District Secretary, AUEW House, The Crescent, Salford.

## Help us beat Parkinson's disease

If you want to know why you should send some money to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, listen to John Parkinson, chairman of the Co-operative Party, opening the party's conference in Plymouth last week.

'I want to refer to the potentially enormous strength of the International Socialists', he said. 'The International Socialists have entrenched themselves in the trade union movement to the extent that the largest public service union might

well fall under their control within the next two years'.

The prospect terrifies Mr Parkinson. The idea that genuine socialists, elected by and responsible to the rank and file, should take decisions in our trade unions is enough to keep him awake at night.

But his nightmare could come true.

Socialist ideas are gaining ground all the time.

If you hate Parkinson and his toadies, you must help us build a real socialist alternative. That means money to help us print

more copies of Socialist Worker.

This week was a good one. We got £209.32. We need more next week.

Our thanks this week to:



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Send your collections and donations now to: Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.