

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION
Wednesday 26 May

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!
NO DEAL WITH HEALEY!
NO TO THE CUTS!



The National Right to Work Campaign calls on all its supporters to fight for maximum support for the day of action in every town and city by employed and unemployed. Move resolutions through trade union bodies calling for support. Organise maximum publicity.

SUPPORT ALL LOCAL ACTIONS

In London, support the demonstration called by the London Confed and the London Co-op Political Committee. Assemble Tower Hill, 1pm, to march and lobby parliament.

ALL OUT 26 MAY!

BLACKMAIL!

And they call it 'a run on the £'!

BLACKMAIL

That is what is being used to force us to accept the deal drawn up between the TUC and Healey.

Look what happened on Monday, when the president of the South Wales miners, Emylyn Williams, voiced opposition to the deal.

Immediately, there was frantic activity on the international money markets.

Within two hours, the pound had fallen in value by a full cent.

Avalanches have been triggered off by loud noises.

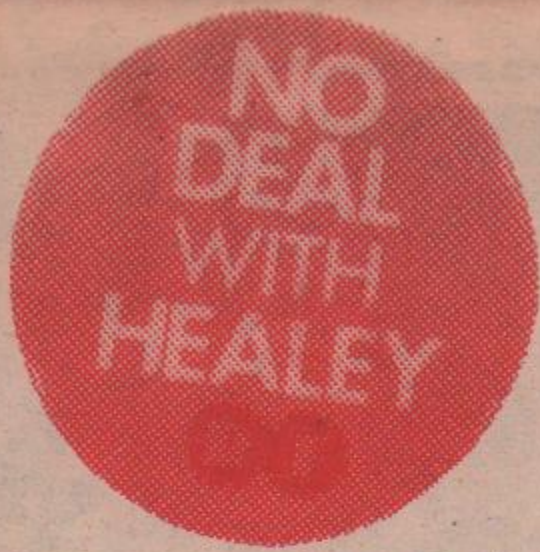
Quiet

The press would have us believe that runs on the pound are somehow similar, that they are caused by conference speeches.

They draw the conclusion that unless we keep quiet there will be a disaster.

But the decline in the value of the pound is not a natural event.

Those who buy and sell pounds, those who run the monetary exchanges, are not natural forces, but people—wealthy people who have accumulated enormous economic power.



Financiers, bankers, speculators, industrialists control vast amounts of money and can change them from pounds into marks or dollars as they wish.

They choose to do so the moment they believe things will not go exactly the way they want them to.

Their economic power is so great that chaos threatens every time they feel slightly upset with the government or the unions.

The government and the press say: 'Accept the deal with Healey and protect the pound'.

What they really mean is 'keep the bankers, the financiers, the speculators and the industrialists happy'.

In the last two years this

has meant the abandonment by Labour of all the promises it made when in opposition.

Social services are cut, not expanded. The dole queues are longer than at any time since the Thirties.

The pensioners are worse off in real terms than they were two years ago.

Taxation on big business has been cut to nil.

Wages

But still those with wealth are not happy. So we are to have yet tighter controls on wages.

The government has abjectly surrendered to the blackmail of big business.

The alternative—a frontal attack on its power—is never considered by our



Labour politicians.

They have always argued that the only way to improve things is by working for change within the confines of the capitalist system.

Now they are drawing the logical conclusion—and cringing before the blackmailers, even if that makes things worse for workers.

The TUC leaders have collapsed just as ignobly.

They are no longer pressing the employers to improve the living standards of their members.

Cuts

Instead, they are telling the members to accept cuts in living standards so that the employers can have

more 'confidence' in the economy.

If rank and file workers don't fight such capitulation, the outlook for the next year will be grim.

Unemployment will remain above a million. Food prices will continue to soar.

Social services will be slashed. And all workers will be worse off.

Only the blackmailers will benefit. And, in a year's time, with their power over the economy bolstered still further, they will come back and threaten even greater chaos unless we give in to them even more.

Bluff

That is why we have to call their bluff and throw out the freeze.

And if we are told that the result will be further runs on the pound, we have to call for a fight against the blackmailers, not for cuts in the living standards of their victims.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

ALL OUT 26 MAY!

RANK AND FILE RULE, O-KAY!

THE ATTEMPTS of High Court judges and press millionaires to control the unions received a major setback on Monday.

Delegates to the conference of the biggest civil service union, the CPSA, voted out last year's president of the union, Kay Losinska.

Losinska, an extreme right winger, has taken the union to court several times in the last few weeks to prevent either the executive or the conference circulating motions critical of her.

Her campaign for re-election was backed by lurid stories in *The Sun*, *The News of the World* and the *Sunday Mirror*.

In his column in the *Sunday Mirror*, Woodrow Wyatt

Losinska kicked out as support for militants grows

CPSA conference: Chris Harman reports

urged conference delegates to ignore the mandates given to them after democratic discussion in the branches and to vote for Losinska regardless. She was beaten by 107,300 votes to 87,700.

PROPER

The only regrettable thing was that the candidate whom the union's broad left had supported against her was not himself a left winger.

Len Lever told newsmen afterwards: 'I am middle of

the road, I believe in militancy used the proper way, not unofficial strikes.

'I've got no political creed, only a religious creed, I'm a Roman Catholic.'

So as to emphasise that there was a real left in the union, the rank and file organisation Redder Tape ran its own candidate, Mike McGrath, an IS member, against both Losinska and Lever.

Mike got 13,400 votes—a creditable performance, since many delegates who sym-

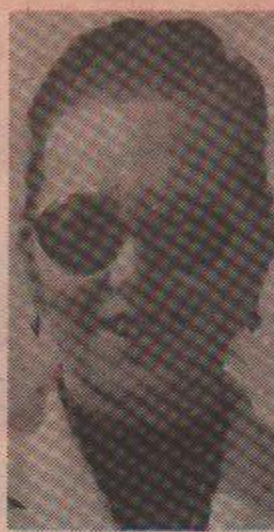
pathised with him voted for Lever to get Losinska out.

The main conference debates on policy were between Redder Tape and the executive which has a broad left majority.

OPPOSE

The executive's line was one of saying it was against the government's pay policy, but that there was nothing it could do against it.

This led it to oppose calls for a shorter working week,



Kay Losinska: she asked for it—and she got it

increased London weightings, and even teabreaks.

As Doug Murdoch, a Redder Tape supporter from London, put it in the debate on weighting:

'The executive always give us the same tired old story of government policy preventing us from doing anything.'

He received considerable applause from nearly half the conference when he asked: 'Who decides the policy of this union? Us here or Denis Healey?'

VOTED

The conference showed a continuing swing to the left, but delegates did not yet feel confident enough to take the government on frontally.

Although they voted to campaign for bigger weightings and for tea breaks, they supported the wait-and-see attitude of the executive on the main resolution on pay.

The growing militancy and influence of Redder Tape was also shown in the conferences of the union's different sections.

Redder Tape supporters were voted on to several of the sectional executives, especially the DHSS section, where Redder Tape editor Mike Duggan got more than 30,000 votes.

Scandal of the killer in a hospital laundry

By TONY SHARP

A PICKET of the giant Liverpool Teaching Hospital site last week put a stop to an appalling instance of asbestos exposure.

Alan McLean, chairman of the General and Municipal Workers 143 (thermal insulation branch, works on the site. Last Monday he was told that asbestos lagging in the boilerhouse was being stripped.

This phenomenally dangerous job was, as usual, being carried out for cheapness by a firm of subbies called N and M Scaling. Alan takes up the story:

When I approached the two workers and asked them if they knew they were working with asbestos, they said they were aware of it.

They were not wearing overalls and they had totally inadequate gauze masks. When I tried to inform them of the hazards to others, they told me to clear off.

I then contacted the factory inspector. The non-union labourer approached his employer who told him to carry on.

When I told the ladders of the position we immediately organised a picket of the boilerhouse.

Ignored

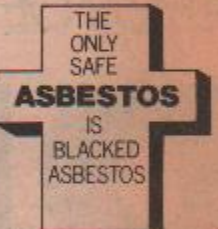
This was successful in that the workmen then left. They were, however, seen getting on a bus, covered in deadly dangerous asbestos dust.

The attitude of the Liverpool Echo towards our action was disgusting. They presented it as 'another strike at troubled building site'.

They completely ignored the really horrific story. The boilerhouse is also the United Hospitals laundry.

The women working there were complaining of the dust they had to sweep up. And of course that dust could have got on to the hospital bedding linen.

The union has demanded an



inquiry into this appalling incident with the Hospital Board. And the job was only completed when the stewards committee was convinced that all the necessary safety precautions were being observed.

Keep your eyes skinned for a rerun of the Liverpool Teaching Hospital scandal in your area.

With the huge cuts in public spending, hospital boards everywhere are trying to do these de-lagging jobs on the cheap.

This means more and more cowboy firms being brought in, more and more unsafe working, more and more exposure to asbestos.

Glasgow ladders recently caught British Rail management at it. At the Glasgow Central Station Hotel they were delagging blue asbestos with lump contractors.

They were subsequently fined under the safety laws. But the fine was so paltry that British Rail still made a whacking profit on the deal.

NINE maintenance men at Cardiff Royal Infirmary walked out last week in support of one of their members who refused to work in an asbestos dust-laden boiler-room.

The dust was falling from broken lagging on pipes.

Adrian Evans, area administrator of health authority, predictably claimed that masks which they provide are perfectly adequate. And he's been backed up by the local factory inspector.

Pen-y-ern School, Cardiff, has been closed indefinitely.

South Glamorgan Local Authority will inspect every school and council building.

FORTY women workers at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth came out on strike on Monday against asbestos. 25 of them refused to work with sterilising machines when they discovered that they gave off the dust.

Twenty five more came out in sympathy. As a result, the hospital bosses agreed to their demand to remove the asbestos.

TWIT OF THE WEEK

I'm a great believer that, as far as this asbestos business is concerned, ignorance is bliss.

—Councillor Ernie Rowling, Lambeth, speaking to the Guys Hospital Community Health Council. (Quoted in *South London Press*, 30 April).

MARXIST EVENING CLASSES

Lecturers interested in helping develop this course should attend a preliminary meeting next Tuesday, 11 May, 8pm, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E8 8DN.

JOURNALISTS BACK DAY OF ACTION

'WHAT ARE YOU doing to fight your news editors, copy tasters, sub-editors and plump proprietors to make sure your copy is not turned into a despicable insult to working people?'

This challenge from Barnsley delegate Phil Williams summed up the mood of anger among many working journalists at last week's NUJ conference in Buxton.

The press high-lighted the victories of the right-wing in the postal ballot elections for the executive.

They paid less heed to a

number of important victories for the rank and file organisation, Journalist Charter, at the conference itself.

The executive was censured for its failure to halt employers' reduction of manning levels.

BACKING

Conference voted overwhelmingly to support the Day of Action on 26 May.

General Secretary Ken Morgan read a statement backing the two NUJ members arrested on the Right to Work march.

Conference supported the action of the Barnsley branch in refusing to cooperate with members of the scab union, the IoJ.

Ron Knowles editor of the *Journalist*, was triumphantly re-elected by 206 votes to 109.

The Daily Telegraph industrial reporter, Blake Baker, was humiliated and censored by the conference for his patronising and lying report of the proceedings.

One of the delegates who spoke against Baker was a Daily Telegraph journalist in Manchester.

Of course, the conference was not all victories for the

Left.

On the crucial issues of new technology—and support for some form of wages policy—the right wing, and the executive, won through.

But this was Charter's most successful conference. Meetings throughout the four days drew in militants who had been isolated in their fight to strengthen the NUJ and organise the rank and file.

The mood of the conference changed as it went on and there was a noticeable move to the left in votes taken on the later part of the agenda.

On the march in London: Rank and File supporters were out in force all over the country

Wage cut? Leave it to me, says Murray

RIGHT TO WORK and Rank and File campaigners were out in force on May Day marches throughout the country last weekend.

They were among 2000 marchers in Glasgow, 500 in Leeds, 300 in Swansea, 60 in Ipswich, 100 in Gloucester.

Right to work marcher Pete McDonnell spoke in Gloucester, and marcher Pip Jones spoke in Swansea.

Reports

There were Socialist Worker rallies of 150 in Manchester and 300 in London.

We have had reports of all the above marches and demonstrations. Unfortunately, there is not space to include them all.

This is the report of the march in Exeter—written by Keith Bennett (NUPE), Mike Broderick (NUT) Chris Allman (GMWU) and Arthur Johnston (TGWU).

EXETER Right to Work Committee saved the day for the local Trades Council May Day march.

We were the only group to



PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

put out a presence or even chant slogans.

When Len Murray, the main speaker, arrived, he was swamped with chants of 'No deal with Healey', and was forced to meet a Right to Work delegation, because it had so dominated the march.

Throughout Murray's un-inspiring speech, he attacked the 'wreckers' for daring to stand up and fight unemployment.

When confronted by the delegation, he called a different tune, and even admitted that the £6 limit

meant a wage cut.

He made no attempt to deny that workers are being made to pay for the bosses' crisis.

One low-paid worker asked Brother Len how much he was going to settle for this year. Murray replied: 'Oh, don't worry about exact figures, we'll sort that out for you.'

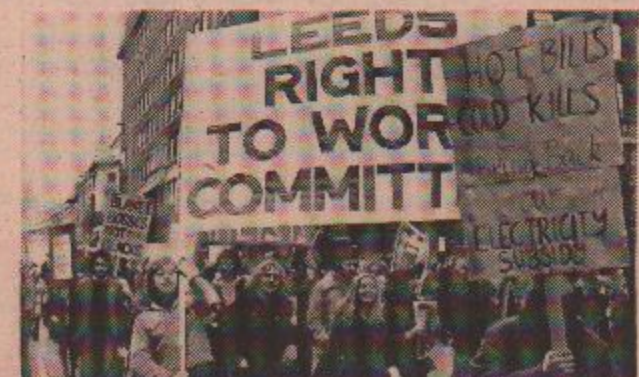
Like hell he will! If £6 is a cut, three per cent is a disaster.

Murray continued soft-soaping while he puffed his cigar (note, none offered

round) and argued that we were all fighting for the same ends, and it was only a question of the speed in getting there.

Meanwhile, we presumably sit back, accept wage cuts, and leave it up to the benevolence of Len and his mates to hand us socialism on a plate some time in the next 200 years.

Sitting back is all very well for Brother Len who then went off to enjoy his now usual three-course lunch after his exertions. But it isn't good enough for us.



On the march in Leeds

LIE

LIE

LIE

LIE

Healey says his deal will bring down living standards by one or two per cent.

But if prices rise at even half the present rate, the average workers' living standards will be cut, by June 1977, by another five per cent.

Healey says his deal will help the low-paid.

But a detailed analysis by the Sunday Times shows that the deal means *more* money the better off you are. On their figures, if you earn £50 a week, the deal gives you £2 more; if you earn £100 a week, it gives you £5 more; if you earn £200 a week, you get £8 a week more—even more than under last year's limit!

Healey says his deal is necessary 'to bring down unemployment'.

But *all* the forecasters agree that unemployment will still be more than a million, and perhaps even one and a half million, by the end of the year.

Healey says his £6 deal has halved inflation.

He says the annual rate of inflation is now only 12.2 per cent—but he only gets that figure by leaving out the figure for 'seasonal food'. Food prices have risen so steeply that the figure for all price rises, including food, is 21 per cent.

LIES!

THE WHOLE deal is based on lies. It must be smashed.

But who is going to smash it? Not the so-called left trade union leaders. Scanlon, Jones and Co aren't just supporting the deal. They're the instruments of it.

Many trade unionists who

read Socialist Worker have campaigned for men like Jones and Scanlon.

Now they watch their heroes block-voting through Congress the most savage wage restraint and cuts for 40 years.

What's the point of bothering, these people are asking, if the men you fight for sell you down the river?

The point is to build a

movement that is not dependent upon the whims of such people.

Read some of the reports in this paper, the reports on the union conferences, the reports on the industrial struggles on page 14 and 15.

You will see that there is a growing minority of workers who want a fight.

But they are isolated.

Among white-collar workers especially in the public sector, union conferences are likely to vote against the cuts and the freeze.

But, again, isolation has its effects. The workers involved do not feel confident enough and powerful enough to take on the government by themselves.

But if they organise and work together with other trade unionists in other industries, they can win.

We say that the only way to smash the freeze, the only way to restore the cuts and the workers' standard of living, is to build a rank and file movement.

WHAT WE THINK

Hypocrisy Unlimited

THERE'S an important fight for 'civil liberty' going on.

It's being led by the people who brought you the Industrial Relations Act, which put trade unionists in jail, who gave you the Drugs Act, and its searches without warrants, and who drafted the Prevention

of Terrorism Act, with its deportation without trial.

Sir Geoffrey Howe and other Tory big-wigs are worried that taxmen will be able to search their premises.

Even worse they'll be able to impound the documents that show the huge scale of tax evasion carried out by the self-same hypocrites who make endless after-dinner

speeches about social security scroungers.

Their campaign for freedom from tax inspection is one of the most hypocritical operations these arch-hypocrites have

engaged in since their press freedom fraud a few months ago.

These people defend only one liberty—the liberty to make and sell away vast profits from other people's

labour.

Nevertheless, Socialist Worker believes that if Healey and Co have their way and get more powers for the taxmen, it won't be the rich who suffer, but the poor—already the targets for searches, harassment and intimidation.



1000 trade unionists at Newcastle rally

ABOVE, the impressive turnout at Newcastle's May Day rally. Harry McShane, secretary of the Scottish Unemployed Workers' Movement in the Thirties, and Arthur Scargill were the main speakers.

Ken Ternent, vice-president of Newcastle Trades Council, writes: Nearly 1000 rank and file trade unionists attended the march and rally organised by Newcastle Trades Council.

Arthur Scargill gave some indication of the confusion on the left of the Labour Party. When talking about trade union activity around unemployment and the cuts he gave a good lead—particularly on the need for unions with industrial muscle to defend weaker sections in the public sector.

This was relevant since

groups of nurses in uniform were present to protest at the closure of the local Wooley and Fleming hospitals.

On the need to fight for the 35 hour week, retirement at 60 and less overtime he was very positive, saying that it was immoral for us to put up with attacks from the Labour government that would never be tolerated from the Tories.

When it came to what the Labour Government could do, Arthur Scargill took up a more or less nationalist position, advocating import and currency controls.

On the second point, he reasoned that such measures would force British industrialists to invest in Britain rather than overseas.

He did not seem to grasp the fact that British capitalists would invest in stamp collection rather than industry if there were greater profits to be made.

Socialist Worker
£1000 Fighting Fund

WITH THE

CAMPAIGN

Socialist Worker

OUT FOR NINE was fantastic. Nine days of the General Strike just as it might have happened in Stepney, London.

And £135 collected at the London May Day meeting where the play was shown gave the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund a really good start.

If people can enjoy themselves as they dip their hands into their pockets for the fund, it hurts less.

So why not organise a social, a play, a dance or a

disco one Friday or Saturday evening? Remember to have a special collection for the Fund.

Then we'll be sure to hit our target—£1000 a month.

The first week of the fund has brought in **£224.11**

Our thanks to:

All those at the London May Day meeting, £135, F Came £5, SW supporters Central Electrical Workshops £4.50, Glasgow £10, M K Rashid £40, S Hoyle £1, Loughborough IS £5 anon 50p, 1 Abbott £1, J Doyle £5, Darlington IS £5, Andrew Carver £4, Skelmersdale IS £8.11.

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

Out for Nine is being performed at the Half Moon Theatre, 27 Alie Street, London E1, 7.30pm, Tuesdays to Saturdays until 5 June.

Now is the time to draw the lessons of the collapse of the union leaders.

Join your local Right to Work committee, join your local cuts committee.

Above all, ensure that you are part of a rank and file organisation, with a rank and file paper, campaigning in your industry and your union.

And begin the campaign to convince other workers of the need for a fight back.

Argue with your union branch, your shop stewards committee, your trades council, for support for the National Day of Action on 26 May.

'Left' trade union leaders stand shoulder to shoulder with the Orangemen



EAMONN McCANN REPORTS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

THE two best-known 'Left' trade union leaders in Northern Ireland stood shoulder to shoulder with ultra right-wing Orange leaders at mass rallies in Belfast and Antrim last Tuesday.

The demonstrations, called by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, linked a campaign against redundancies to demands for greater repression.

In East Belfast, the chairman of the Confederation, Andy Barr, joined with Unionist MP James Kilfedder and the anti-trade union extremist William Craig, while Jimmy Graham shared a platform with Ian Paisley, the main speaker in the Market Square at Antrim.

The meetings, part of a campaign to stop the shut-down of three defence installations, reflected a genuine fear that unemployment here is soon going to reach catastrophic levels. Already the figure for men is over 11 per cent and rising fast.

Recent closures have begun to hit Protestant workers, who were traditionally shielded from unemployment by the sectarian carve-up. It was mainly these workers, from Belfast shipyards and engineering factories, who came out to the rallies.

Invite

Neither Barr nor Graham said a word to dissociate themselves from the right-wingers on the platforms. They joined in support for a meaningless resolution which 'condemned policies which result in mass unemployment' but which made no mention of action to back up the condemnation. Barr's most radical proposal was that Prime Minister James Callaghan be invited to come over and 'see the situation for himself'.

The only cheer at the Belfast meeting came when a speaker called for 'more forceful security policies'—that is, increased repression.

Both Barr and Graham are members of the Communist Party. Their behaviour follows directly the Communist Party line in Northern Ireland—and that of the Northern Ireland Labour Party.

They have argued against 'bringing politics on to the factory floor', arguing that in Northern Ireland politics inevitably meant sectarian divisions.

Bigoted

But of course, the Orange Order never hesitated to bring its bigoted brand of politics onto the workplace. So the Communist Party's attitude simply helped to ensure that the bigots won without a fight—and proceeded to make skilled engineering jobs in Belfast a Protestant preserve.

Because it failed to put up any fight in the past, the Communist Party, despite its apparent strength in the trade union apparatus, is in no position now to start hostilities. Barr and Graham have no choice but to take their place tamely alongside

Call for 'more forceful security policies'

supporters of Paisley and Enoch Powell in a phoney, futile campaign which will not save a single job but merely strengthen the grip of the Orange bosses on Protestant workers.

Their action is a crime against the working class movement—and all the more grievous because of its timing. It is now, when Protestant workers are being made to bear some of the brunt of British government policy, that a genuine lead holds out real hope of winning a section away from reactionary Orange ideas.

A campaign of stoppages and sit-ins involving both Protestant and Catholic workers against the common enemy—British big business controls 85 per cent of manufacturing activity here—would under-cut sectarianism and transform the situation. Workers would see in struggle who their real friends were.

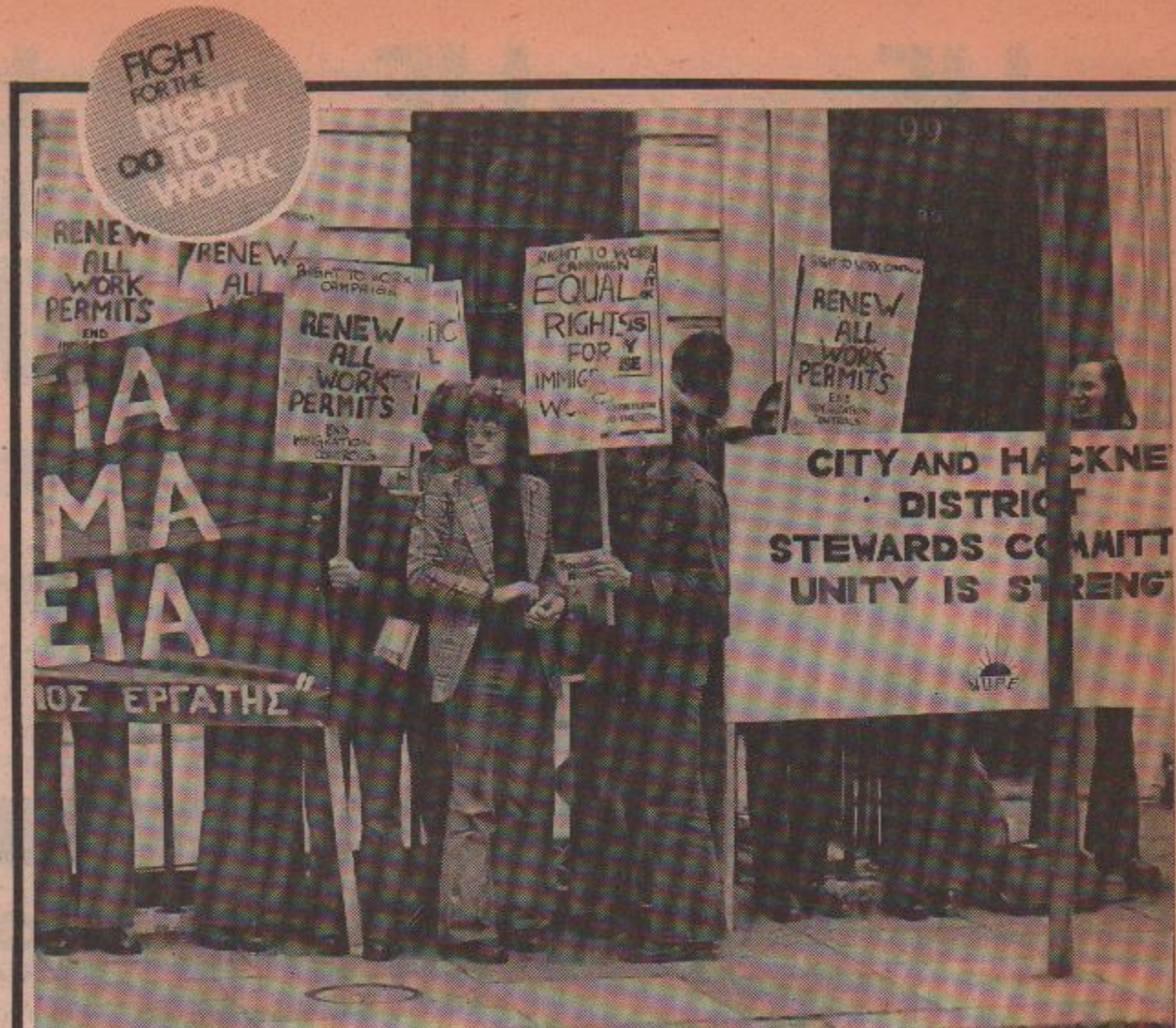
Ultra

Even an *argument* for such a campaign, coming from officials as well-placed as Barr and Graham, would alter the shape of the debate and force the ultra-right on to the defensive.

The Paisley-Craig line is that rising unemployment here has nothing to do with a crisis in capitalism but results from the government retreating before the IRA and beginning an 'economic withdrawal' from Northern Ireland. It is in the context of this crazy analysis that 'more forceful security policies' can be put forward as a solution.

But far from suggesting a socialist alternative to such outrageous anti-working class rubbish, Barr and Graham silently acquiesced. Far from challenging the right of Orange Tory demagogues to speak at a meeting of workers, they provided the platforms.

Having begun by insisting that 'politics' be kept out of trade union activity, they end as odd-job men for the ultra right.



Some of the 50 trade unionists who picketed the TUC General Council meeting last week to protest at the TUC's proposals to the government to stop issuing work permits to foreign workers and apply stricter immigration controls. The picket was called by the National Right to Work Campaign.

ADVERTISEMENT

STOP THE CUTS

A Rank and File pamphlet
BY PAUL FOOT
Price 10p

SELL THIS PAMPHLET!

'I READ Stop the Cuts as soon as I got hold of a copy this weekend. It's a really excellent pamphlet, which makes it all remarkably clear. I think all Labour councillors who are standing up against the cuts should read this pamphlet. It will explain the difficulties we're all in—and give them confidence to keep on fighting.'

'I'm taking 25 copies right away to sell at my Labour Party and at the council. I hope I'll get rid of those soon, and be able to sell some more.'

MARIE DICKIE, Labour Councillor, Northampton.

10p a copy, plus 8p postage.
The Rank and File Organisation are offering **POST FREE rates for all bulk orders over 10 copies.**

Ten copies will be sent POST FREE for £1—and every additional ten will cost £1.
100 copies will be sent for £9.

*Send to Rank and File
Organising Committee, 265a Seven Sisters
Road, London, N4.*

DEFEND RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS

Right to Work Factsheet explains what happened at Staples Corner when the police attacked the marchers. Copies available to shop stewards' committees, trade union branches, Right to Work committees etc in bundles of 100.

Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

26 May: THIS IS WHERE THE ACTION WILL BE

SUPPORT the National Day of Action for the right to work on 26th May, called by the Assembly on Unemployment. That is the call that has gone out from local Right to Work Committees in towns across Britain.

The campaign secretary, John Deason, told Socialist Worker: Unemployed workers have a crucial role to play in mobilising support for the day of action. Our supporters are out all over the country visiting factories and arguing for support.

'We have also written to every one of the 1,000 trade union bodies that supported the march from Manchester to London.'

'We are raising two main slogans for the 26th: Fight for the Right to Work, No Deal with Healey. As part of the Right to Work Campaign we shall take the argument to the recall TUC Congress on 16 June.'

VARIED

'In every area we want local Right to Work Committees to support all calls for stoppages, organise demonstrations if no one else has called one, fight for maximum support for all demonstrations that day. Support overall is very varied. Unemployed workers can play a major role in ensuring the maximum protest.'

In **SHEFFIELD** the Trades and Labour Council has backed the call by the city's AUEW District Committee for a half-day stoppage and demonstration. The local

Right to Work Committee is issuing leaflets and posters supporting the call.

In **HUDDERSFIELD** the Trades Council is organising a demonstration. The AUEW District committee is supporting the demonstration and planning a meeting of shop stewards to discuss the event.

The conference of the **National Union of Journalists** in Buxton voted full support for the Day of Action. The meeting called on all branches and chapels to discuss how best to support the day of action.

LOBBY

The conference also supported a report by the general secretary, Ken Morgan, for the executive committee, that the union was backing the two NUJ members arrested on the march and was sending a protest to the Police Commissioner, Sir Robert Mark.

The **LONDON Co-op** Political Committee and the No 8 District Confed have called a demonstration from Tower Hill at 1pm to a lobby of Parliament. The Right to Work Campaign is urging all its supporters in the London area to mobilise maximum support for the demonstration.

The campaign is also organising a picket in **FLEET STREET** starting outside the Evening Standard at 11am on the 26th. Said John Deason: 'We are going to argue with the printworkers that they mustn't allow the day of action to be blotted out by the press proprietors.'

In **SOUTH EAST LONDON** the local Right to Work Committee has

organised a conference on Monday 10 May to organise support for the 26th. The meeting is open to all trade union organisations that supported the Right to Work March or attended the Albert Hall Rally or the Assembly on Unemployment. The meeting is at Charlton House, London SE 7 at 6pm.

The **GLASGOW** Right to Work Committee has written to Glasgow Trades Council urging them to call a one-day stoppage for 26 May, and to convene a West of Scotland shop stewards meeting to discuss further action. The trades council meets on Monday.

The Right to Work Committee has called a demonstration for the 26th, from Govan into the city centre.

MARCH

At **MANCHESTER** the Right to Work Committee has called a demonstration to leave the AUEW Offices in The Crescent, Salford at 1pm. They are also issuing thousands of leaflets to mobilise support.

On **MERSEYSIDE** the Trades Council is calling a meeting of shop stewards on 13 May to organise support for stoppages on the 26th, with a march from Islington Square to Pier Head, leaving at 12.30.

ST HELENS Trades Council has called a demonstration, which is being supported by the local branch of UCATT.

The **OXFORD** AUEW District Committee is supporting the London lobby of parliament.

Picture: Chris Davies (Report)



Inquiry to hear 43 witnesses of attack

THE Independent trade union inquiry into the attack on the Right to Work marchers will meet in London next Saturday.

The inquiry was set up by Barnet Trades Council. Its president, John Phillips, a member of the Post Office Engineering Union, spoke to Socialist Worker.

'It was a unanimous decision of the whole trades council. These events took place in our area and we are determined that there won't be another Shrewsbury case. We don't want Hendon leading to that'.

'We are asking for evidence from all sides. We have a legal adviser, a barrister, to help with the legal side of it.'

'We wrote to the police asking them to give evidence. But they wrote back saying that our letter had been sent to the Department of Public Prosecutions.'

STORY

'We've had splendid assistance from the local trade union movement in finding witnesses. The shop stewards committee at Smiths Industries handed out our leaflets to all their members asking for witnesses, and the shop stewards committee at the Staples Corner site itself co-operated fully with us.'

'We've also had help in finding witnesses from local union branches, including the UPW, the POEU, UCATT, TGWU, AUEW and so on'. 'Because of all this help we now have statements from 43 independent witnesses who saw what happened, as well as statements from the marchers themselves, to go before the inquiry.'



John Phillips

'We have one serious problem. The inquiry is going to cost us more than our total annual budget for last year. We need financial help from other trade union bodies.'

AIM

'We have had a lot of resolutions supporting our action. Some contributions to the cost would really help.'

'We also need resolutions supporting the inquiry to be sent to the Home Secretary, to Police Commissioner Sir Robert Mark, head of Scotland Yard, to the TUC General Council and to the national executive of trade unions, as well as copies to us'.

□ The inquiry members include Sydney Bidwell MP, Brian Stanley (Labour Party national executive member and general secretary POEU), Vincent Flynn (ex-general secretary, SOGAT), Jack Morrish (general secretary Customs and Excise Union), Jack Collins (NUM executive), Mike Quinn (convenor, CAV Simms), Dolly Seeley (convenor, Patent Die Castings, Park Royal).

Special Branch threaten marcher

TWO WEEKS after the end of the Right to Work March I was arrested for causing grievous bodily harm in my own home.

A neighbour opposite forced his way in and said he was going to turn off my record player. A fight broke out, the police were called, and, although the whole incident took place in my house, I was the arrested one.

I was taken to the police station and ordered to strip, then placed in a cell in handcuffs.

The local magistrates court sits daily, and is directly above the police station, but I was kept for 48 hours (still minus trousers) before I was taken before them.

While I was in the police station I was visited by the Special Branch, and was questioned about my part in the Right to Work March. They said they would stop my bail and send me to Risley Remand Centre.

They also said that, as Right to Work Campaign secretary John Deason was on £2500 bail, 'Surely we can come to some agreement'.

And if I didn't give them the names of at least three marchers, to prove I was not involved in the fighting on the march, they would charge me with a serious charge.

UNFAIR

They also said I was just a tool of the International Socialists, and an idiot, and as long as I was involved with such a group I would never work and would eventually be black listed by all the places of work locally.

When I was released on bail two days later, my wife told me that shortly after my arrest she had phoned some of my friends in Liverpool to see if they could help me in any way. Two IS members, Ray Long and Nigel Varley, came to see her.

When they arrived home my wife was still in the back seat of a police car being questioned. She said to my friends that she wouldn't be long, so they



RIGHT: Billy Castley (centre, without hat), as the march comes off the Staples Corner building site just before the police attack. ABOVE: His swollen face after the attack.



BILLY CASTLEY is an unemployed building worker from Skelmersdale in Lancashire. He took part in the Right to Work march from Manchester to London.

He is one of the marchers who was not arrested when the police baton-charged the marchers at Staples Corner in North West London. But he hadn't heard the last of the police.

This is a letter he wrote to Socialist Worker about what happened to him a fortnight after the march ended.

waited in my house for me. Now Nigel bears a resemblance to Paul Foot. One of the coopers said to my wife 'Is that Paul Foot? What the hell is he doing here? Is this an IS rally?'

The Special Branch also asked me what kind of numbers did IS have in Skelmersdale, who were they, where did they meet, what did they discuss and so on.

I would like to add that at

the magistrates court, I was not even asked to make a plea. But the Special Branch were in the court during my brief appearance. After I was granted bail they still questioned me in the cells, and they told me that they could still send me to Risley.

They questioned me not about the charge I was on, but about John Deason, Paul Foot and the Right to Work March.

MORE BANNERS TO SAY: THIS WILL NOT BE ANOTHER SHREWSBURY

THE Right to Work Campaign has heard from more organisations who will be joining the picket outside Hendon Magistrates Court on Friday 21 May, when the marchers appear in court.

The No 3 Divisional Council of the white-collar union ASTMS is supporting the picket and has agreed to send a magnificent £100 donation to the defence fund. Brent East Constituency Labour Party is supporting the picket and has written to its MP, Reg Freeson, calling for his support, and to Brent Trades Council.

Other bodies include Hackney Trades Council, TGWU 1/1232, Euston

Builders Branch, Camden No 3, AUEW, ASLEF Stratford Branch, Hackney and Tower Hamlets CPSA. This makes 60 organisations so far.

There is still time to get a resolution through your trade union organisation to send a delegation to the court. BRING YOUR BANNERS.

There are coaches booked to the picket from the following places:

GLASGOW: Leaves Thursday 20th, 10.30pm, George Square. Leaves London 11pm, Friday, £6 employed, £3 unemployed.

BLACKBURN: Minibus from Foundry Hill, 6am Friday.

CARDIFF: 7am from Central Bus Station. Phone Cardiff 499579 for details.

SHEFFIELD: Pond Street, 6.45am.

MANCHESTER: Leaves from St Peter's Square. Tickets and details from 280 Deansgate. Phone 061-832 8102.

TEESSIDE: Leaves Teesside Polytechnic, 12.30am, Thursday night. Phone Mike Burns—Middlesbrough 43037.

LEEDS: Corn Exchange, 6am.

BRADFORD: Morley St, 6am.

HUDDERSFIELD: St George's Square, 6am.

WAKEFIELD: Bus Station, 6am.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Leaves Falkland Street, 6.30am.

BIRMINGHAM: Leaves Hall of Memory, 7am.

SOUTHAMPTON: Free minibus, leave Cenotaph, 7.30am.

DUNDEE: Leaves Willie Frew Bar, 10.30pm, Thursday 20 May.

□ Picket: Hendon Magistrates Court, The Hyde, London NW9. Picket starts 9.30am, Friday 21 May—court sitting starts at 10am.

HOW WE'RE WINNING SHOPFLOOR SUPPORT

THE steady flow of money to help pay the defence costs for the Right to Work marchers continues. The 44 are to appear in court on 21 May, but for most this is expected to be a formal hearing, with the case adjourned to a higher court.

The costs of defending them will rise as the case proceeds, but trade unionists all over the country are taking collection in their workplaces and winning donations from their branches to ensure these costs can be met.

Donations arrived at the Right to Work Campaign office this week from:

Official branch donations: AUEW Coventry No 2 £2, Lambeth Trades Council £5, ASTMS West London Medical £5, ASTMS Cambridge General £5, Manchester Poly Students Union £50, Hitchin Trades Council £1, UCATT Hitchin £5, Ealing AUEW £5, Islington NALGO £5, CPSA Hackney and Tower Hamlets £5, Harlow Constituency Labour Party £10.

Workplace collections: Action Hospital £6.85, Harold Wood Hospital £5, Glasgow University £3, Gloucester Trades Council £1.40, Islington NALGO £5, Hammersmith Hospital Central Stores £6, Swansea 8 District Trades Council £5.40, Cranford Research Institute, Reading £1.45.

NUR Paddington Station £3.65, RDL North Sea Workers, Methil £5.24, Ealing Green High School NUT £5, EEPFL Willesden £6.37, Manchester Hospitals £5.70, Headstart Project £1.20, CPSA Edinburgh Area Co-ordinating Committee £10.70, NALGO members, South West London £4.30.

Collectors at: North West TUC demonstration (24 April) £30, Working Women's Charter Conference £10.16, Redder Tape Conference £15.65.

Right to Work Committees: Southampton £10, Reading £1.40, Manchester £5, Hammersmith 8, Kensington £1.

Other donations: Loughborough International Socialists £5, Harlow £5.08, Manchester Big Flame £7.50.

Donations and collections to: Defence Fund, Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



DANGER—IMMIGRANT WORKERS UNDER ATTACK. Saturday 8 May, 6pm, Invicta Lodge, Hull Place, off Plumstead High Street. Organised jointly by the Indian Workers Association and the South East London Right to Work Committee.

SOUTHAMPTON Right to Work fund-raising disco: Wednesday 19 May, 8pm, Anchor Pub, East Street, Southampton. Employed 30p, unemployed 10p.

PETERBOROUGH 'Defend the Right to Work 44' fund-raising social: With The Alan Davie Sound. Plenty of booze, food, etc. Raffle of new Pluto Press books. Friday 14 May, Coach and Horses, High Street, Old Fletton, 7pm onwards. Bar extension. Tickets 50p.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK meetings

ALL OUT 26 MAY—SOUTH EAST LONDON ORGANISING CONFERENCE. Open to all members of organisations that supported the 26 November Right to Work Demo, the Right to Work March and Rally and Confed Assembly. Monday 10 May, Charlton House, 8pm.

NORTH WEST LONDON Right to Work Campaign public meeting: Speakers: Paul Foot (of Socialist Worker) and Danny Evaristo (Right to Work Marcher). Thursday 13 May, 7.30pm, Harlesden Library, Craven Park Road, (buses 260, 226, 18).

JOINT CENTRAL LONDON Right to Work Committee and CYPRIOT WORKER public meeting: Immigrant Workers under Attack. Thursday 6 May, 6.30pm, Camden Labour Centre, 8 Camden Road (near Camden tube).

EAST LONDON Action Committee against the cuts Delegate Conference: Saturday 15 May, 10am—3pm, Montefiore Centre, Deal Street, London E1 (tube: Aldgate East/Whitechapel). Cuts film and wide range of rank and file speakers. Creche and refreshments. Credentials (25p) from 71a Vallance Road, London E.1 (phone 247-7907).

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.

The great conspiracy

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

Blanqui never wavered from the idea that 'society' is a conspiracy of rich against poor, which can only be broken by overthrowing the rich man's state.

'WHAT IS your profession?' asked the judge when Blanqui came to the bar.

'Proletarian.' 'That is not a profession.'

'Not a profession?' Blanqui replied. 'It is the profession of 30 million Frenchmen who live by working and are deprived of all political rights.'

That was in 1830. Blanqui got 12 months for 'sedition'.

It is fashionable to sneer at Blanqui, to stress his weaknesses and to dismiss the contribution that he made to the development of

our movement.

Yet, before Marx, he understood the central fact about society—that everything, politics, economics, social policies and what have you are part of the struggle between social classes.

Slogan

Blanqui understood, again before Marx, the necessity for 'the dictatorship of the proletariat'—indeed he invented the slogan.

'There is a war between the rich

and the poor,' he said. 'The rich have made it so, for they are the aggressors. They do not like the poor to resist. They say, when speaking of the people, this is a savage beast—it defends itself when attacked.'

Blanqui was a disciple of Babeuf, through Buonarroti.

He never wavered, in the whole of his long life (1805-81), from his commitment to two propositions, that 'society' is a conspiracy of the rich against the poor and that this conspiracy can only be broken and overthrown by a revolution, a

violent overthrow of the rich man's state.

Not content to be a mere intellectual critic, Blanqui became a professional revolutionary.

Directed

He took part in, and largely directed, a whole series of revolutionary organisations: the Society of the Rights of Man (1833), the Society of the Families (1835), the Society of the Seasons (1837) and so on.

These were secret societies, devoted to preparing 'the insurrection'.

In 1839, the Society of the Seasons made a serious attempt at an armed rising.

For a short time, in May 1839, the Blanquists actually captured control of central Paris—but they were soon crushed.

Blanqui was sentenced to death (together with others), a sentence eventually commuted to life imprisonment.

Death

He spent most of his life in and out of prison, collecting another death sentence—again commuted—after the defeat of the Commune in 1871.

As Engels wrote, he was 'essentially a man of deeds and (held) that a small well-organised minority, which strikes at the right moment, can carry with it the mass of the population and thus consummate the revolution.'

Off-shoot

The Society of the Seasons had a German-speaking off-shoot, the League of the Just, which became the Communist League in 1847.

That same year it gained two important recruits, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Their criticism of the Babeufist tradition, as well as that of the Utopians, was the foundation of scientific socialism.

Wrong

In this, and other matters, he was wrong.

But he kept alive the revolutionary tradition of Babeuf at a time (the 1830s and '40s) when Utopianism was rampant.

THE UNIFORMED THUG, THE JUDGE AND THE NINE-MONTHS JAIL SENTENCE THAT NEVER WAS

WHEN PAUL DONNOR left a Sheffield night-club full of the joys of a few excess pints, he found his balance wasn't what it had been when he arrived.

He leaned against a parked car, whereupon a plain-clothes policeman arrested him, bundled him into the back of a police car and then proceeded to knock hell out of him.

Paul was then informed that he was being nicked for assaulting a police officer.

Feeling somewhat peeved, he made a complaint to the Chief Constable—and felt hopeful when a magistrates court decided there was no case to answer against him.

Then came the verdict of the Director of Public Prosecutions. 'No further action' should be taken over PC Meek, Paul's attacker.

Far from satisfied, Paul and his solicitor decided on a private summons. They had no less than 14 witnesses to the police thuggery.

In court, PC Meek 'explained' that the front seat of the car had sprung up, hitting Paul in the face.

But alas for PC Meek, his brain proved less agile than his fists and the jury found him guilty. The judge gave him a nine-month prison sentence.

Coppers

The next day the courtroom was mysteriously filled with coppers. The judge announced he would recall PC Meek, who promptly appeared to be told his prison sentence had been suspended for two years.

What happened between sentence being passed and being suspended, I will leave to your imagination.

The judge's explanation? He'd sentenced PC Meek to jail 'after a long and tiring day' and had 'failed to weigh in the balance... that you (PC Meek) had an exemplary record'.

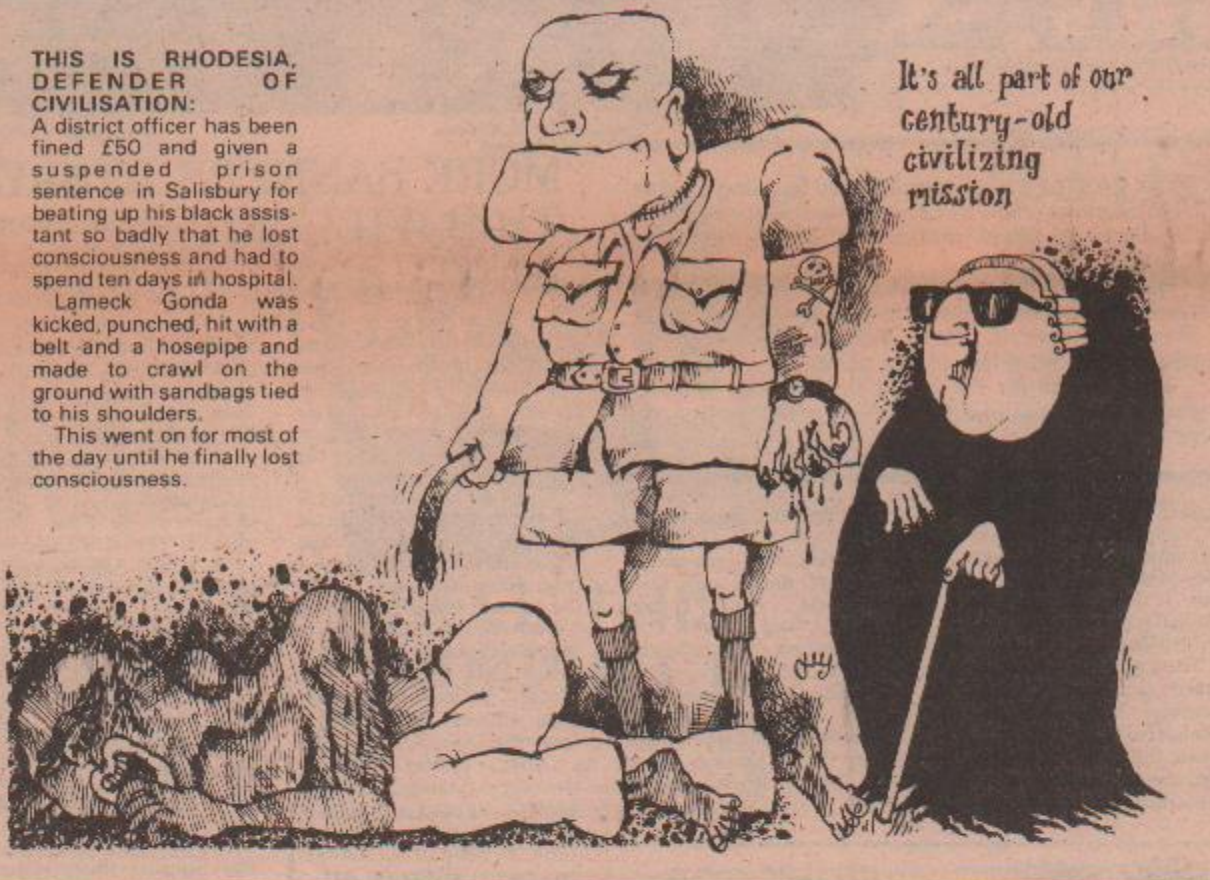
PAULINE LUMB

THIS IS RHODESIA, DEFENDER OF CIVILISATION:

A district officer has been fined £50 and given a suspended prison sentence in Salisbury for beating up his black assistant so badly that he lost consciousness and had to spend ten days in hospital.

Lameck Gonda was kicked, punched, hit with a belt and a hosepipe and made to crawl on the ground with sandbags tied to his shoulders.

This went on for most of the day until he finally lost consciousness.



It's all part of our century-old civilizing mission



What the CBI says in private...

THE following words—from the City Editor of the London Evening Standard—are quoted with approval in the April newsletter of the West Midlands CBI:

'We tend to say this government is in the hands of the TUC. It might be truer to say it is in the pocket of the CBI.'

As if to underline the point, the newsletter then quotes an unnamed Black Country member company:

'In my own company's case, the stock appreciation relief for the two years covered by Finance Act is exactly £180,000.'

'To produce this amount from operations would require pre-tax profits in excess of £360,000.'

'My company has never made one year's pre-tax profits of this order from its normal operations.'

'Which is why I am as cock-a-hoop as my instinctive caution will permit.'

So much for this so-called 'Labour' government...



ALBERT Ryder was 24—and unemployed. After months of looking for a job, he simply gave up the effort.

One day he told his mother he was so depressed that he felt like jumping off London's Battersea Bridge. A few days later, he did it.

His body was found three days later, on 17 April. Wonderful thing, capitalism.

The Employment Service Agency

VACANCY	CAR CLEANERS.	(MAN OR WOMAN)
DISTRICT	SKELMERSDALE.	
BUSINESS		
SALARY	Basic :- £15. Plus rate per car.	
HOURS	Mon to Fri :- 8.30 to 5.00.	
REMARKS	For the complete renovation of old cars, cleaning interiors, exteriors, engines, upholstery and wheel arches. Reliable persons with experience.	
REF. NO.	519.	

Can you beat this insult? Forty-two and a half hours for £15, as advertised recently in the Skelmersdale Jobs Centre. That's even worse than the Manchester Jobs Centre's 37-hour hotel cleaner for £15, which we recently published. Can you 'improve' on this? Scour your Jobs Centre—and send in the worst 'offers' to Fifth Column.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: ... in Tribune we try to write about reality.' (Tribune 2 April). 'Michael Foot ... has not moved to the Right but the Parliamentary Labour Party has moved to the Left.' (Tribune, 9 April).

PRIVATE PRACTICE: A doctor in Alabama pulled freshly-sewn stitches out of the arm of a 13-year-old black youth because he could not pay the £13 bill, the International Herald Tribune reported on 18 April.

International Socialism



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Notes of the month on the budget, Italy and China
Steve Jefferys on the decline of the narrow left in the EETPU
Ian Birchall and Paul Harrison on the prospects for Spain
Mike Haynes on the crisis in the USSR
John Bowman on Argentina: The end of the Peronist road
Glenn Wolfe on the USA and Duncan Hallas on the Communist Party and the General Strike
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As Geisel visits Britain, a glimpse at a regime he holds dear

Our ordeal, by the Whitecrosses

IT WAS 7am, an unlikely time for the postman to be making a 'special delivery'.

Again and again he pressed the bell of the Buenos Aires flat. Inside Richard and Cristina Whitecross overcame their suspicion and opened the door on the latch.

Guns

Immediately the 'special delivery' was thrust inside: three machine guns. The Whitecrosses were forced to lie on the floor. Meanwhile, a friend was dragged by the hair from another room.

The Argentinian police were paying a visit. And for Richard, a rep for a British publisher, and Cristina it was to mean six months in a jail in a country where political suspects have a habit of 'disappearing'.

They recently arrived back in Britain after being released as suddenly as they were arrested. Their ordeal gives

some idea what life is like under the military dictatorships of South America.

Jail

Cristina told Socialist Worker: 'We were never charged. But they accused us of aiding the Chilean resistance, along with a

number of other people who are still in jail.

'My main worry was to let someone know we had been arrested. (Anyone who has seen the film *State of Siege* or who has heard of the semi-official right-wing murder gangs will understand why).

'I hit on an idea. I asked the police if I could take our dog

to a neighbour's house. When the neighbour answered the door, I said: 'We've got to go away. Can you look after the dog? It might be for two weeks, it might be for six months.'

'I wasn't sure she understood, so I suddenly said: 'It's the police! I repeated and then the police hurriedly

pulled me away. 'Later a friend went to the British Embassy and told them Richard Whitecross had been kidnapped. It wasn't true. But it was a better way of getting them to do something than to say he had been arrested by the police.

'Soon my father had found out where we were. For eight days we were held incommunicado at the police HQ.

'Then we were taken to another place. You could hear the screams of people being tortured.

'One day I was taken for a car ride. You never knew if you were coming back.

'On 4 November we were taken to the big Villa Devoto jail, along with dozens of other political suspects.'

Inside the jail, the Whitecrosses communicated illicitly by sign language.

Song

Then, after weeks of detention, Cristina was told she was being 'transferred'. Her fellow women prisoners suddenly burst into song. Everywhere people were singing the Internationale. They knew she was being released.

Soon the Whitecrosses were on their way out of the country. They had been 'lucky'. They had not been tortured. But behind them there are still thousands of political prisoners who are, and who may never get out.

One friend arrested with them, for example, was given electric shock treatment and immersed in water until nearly drowning.

That is why the Whitecrosses are now campaigning in Britain for the friends they were forced to leave behind.

JAILED IRANIANS FACE TORTURE

SOME 500 Iranian students have been jailed in India and must now face the threat of deportation en masse to the Shah's torture chambers.

The arrests follow protests over the visit to India of the Shah's prime minister - a man who has loyally served him for almost 20 years.

To crush any opposition to the visit, the Indian regime jailed 60 Iranians in advance. The rest were locked up for protesting against this.

Rotting

So now the so-called 'socialist' regime of Indira Gandhi, which became a dictatorship in order to 'protect India from the forces of reaction' has added 500 Iranians to the tens of thousands of political prisoners, most of them workers and socialists, already rotting in jail.

Meanwhile two Iranians in Britain also face the threat of deportation.

They were arrested in London last autumn on an anti-Franco demonstration.

Two weeks ago they were sentenced, one to six months and the other to a suspended sentence.

IS Societies in particular are urged to raise these matters in the NUS.

Indian workers are urged to take up the jailings in India

A COMMEMORATION for the Jazani group is being held in London's Conway Hall this Friday (7 May) at 7pm.

These nine political prisoners, most of whom had been jailed in Iran since the late sixties and had been subject to severe torture on many different occasions, were murdered last year.



May Day in Madrid—and our sisters celebrate. This meeting was organised by the city's workers commissions. Thousands joined demonstrations and rallies throughout Spain, in spite of the regime's ban. Riot police attacked the demonstration in Barcelona with rubber bullets and tear gas. Nearly 1000 people were arrested throughout the country.

Immigrants deported

PARIS: 16 immigrant workers were deported to Portugal and North Africa on Good Friday.

The police broke into their lodgings at dawn. An hour later they were at the airport and being flown out of the country.

Crime

Their crime was to be elected as delegates to a residents' committee. They had organised a rent strike after rent rises of 15 per cent. But immigrant workers in France have no rights and so they were deported.

The day after the arrests, a 10,000-strong demonstration organised by immigrant workers in Paris marched to demand that those deported should be allowed to return to France.

The demonstration was supported by many of the trade unions and the revolutionary left. The main slogan was *French workers, immigrant workers - same boss, same fight.*

SOCIALISTS RAIDED

THE OFFICES of several leading members of a small Guyanan revolutionary group, the Working Peoples Alliance, have been raided by the police.

Typewriters, stencils and other material were taken away as the police apparently tried to find out who was responsible for producing the now illegal newspaper Dayclean.

One of those raided, Moses Bhagwan, was recently sentenced to more than three years in prison for printing and publishing Dayclean.

Bail

He was released on bail pending appeal, but the duplicated newspaper continued to appear.

Guyana's Forbes Burnham government makes a lot of noise about support for the liberation struggle in Southern Africa and opposition to the evils of the capitalist system.

But as Evisi Kwayana,

another victim of the raid, put it: 'Shall we oppose official brutality in South Africa and the USA of whites against blacks and shall we say nothing when black rulers (the prime minister) oppress black people?'

The only other opposition to the government comes from the People's Progressive Party led by Dr Cheddi Jagan.

Jagan is Moscow's blue-

eyed boy in Guyana and he is giving 'critical support' to the government.

There is even a rumour circulating in Georgetown, the capital, that the two parties are discussing a merger.

It would appear that the government is attempting to play the Russians and the Cubans off against the Chinese in an attempt to get the most aid.

But Burnham has started a process that could run out of his control. The works of Marx and Lenin are freely available and widely understood in Guyana. Workers' consciousness is at an all-time high.

It is this that he really fears. That is why he tries to stamp down viciously on the Working Peoples Alliance and Dayclean.

Back from Portugal

THE THIRD Rank and File Organising Committee delegation to Portugal has just returned. The 12 trade unionists spent ten days visiting workers' commissions in factories in Lisbon and Oporto.

One of the highlights of the trip was a one-day conference on health and safety and the Right to Work Campaign.

The school was attended by delegates from the Workers' Commissions of 38 factories in Lisbon, including Standard Electrica, CUF, TLP,

Lisnave, General Motors, Efaced-Inel, UTIC (British Leyland), and Ormis Embalagens (Metal Box). The conference was reported in the Portuguese press.

Roger Cox, of the Engineering Union, spoke at the conference. He told Socialist Worker: 'We found it was a good way of getting across our experiences of fighting wage freezes and unemployment on the shop floor.'

'One of the most valuable contributions was the one on

health and safety. As the workers from the Covina and Tabaqueria said:

'Although in many companies there is a form of safety and health care this is more often used as collaboration between the health companies and the bosses.'

'In most cases there is no more than a verbal agreement on health and safety. Only workers' control can solve the problems of industrial hazards and accidents at work.'

Tony Cliff:
LENIN
 Volume 2
All Power to the Soviets

The second volume of Tony Cliff's LENIN, to be published in June, describes the first revolutionary victory of the working class anywhere—October 1917, and ends with Lenin's announcement to the Congress of Soviets: 'We shall now proceed to construct the socialist order.'

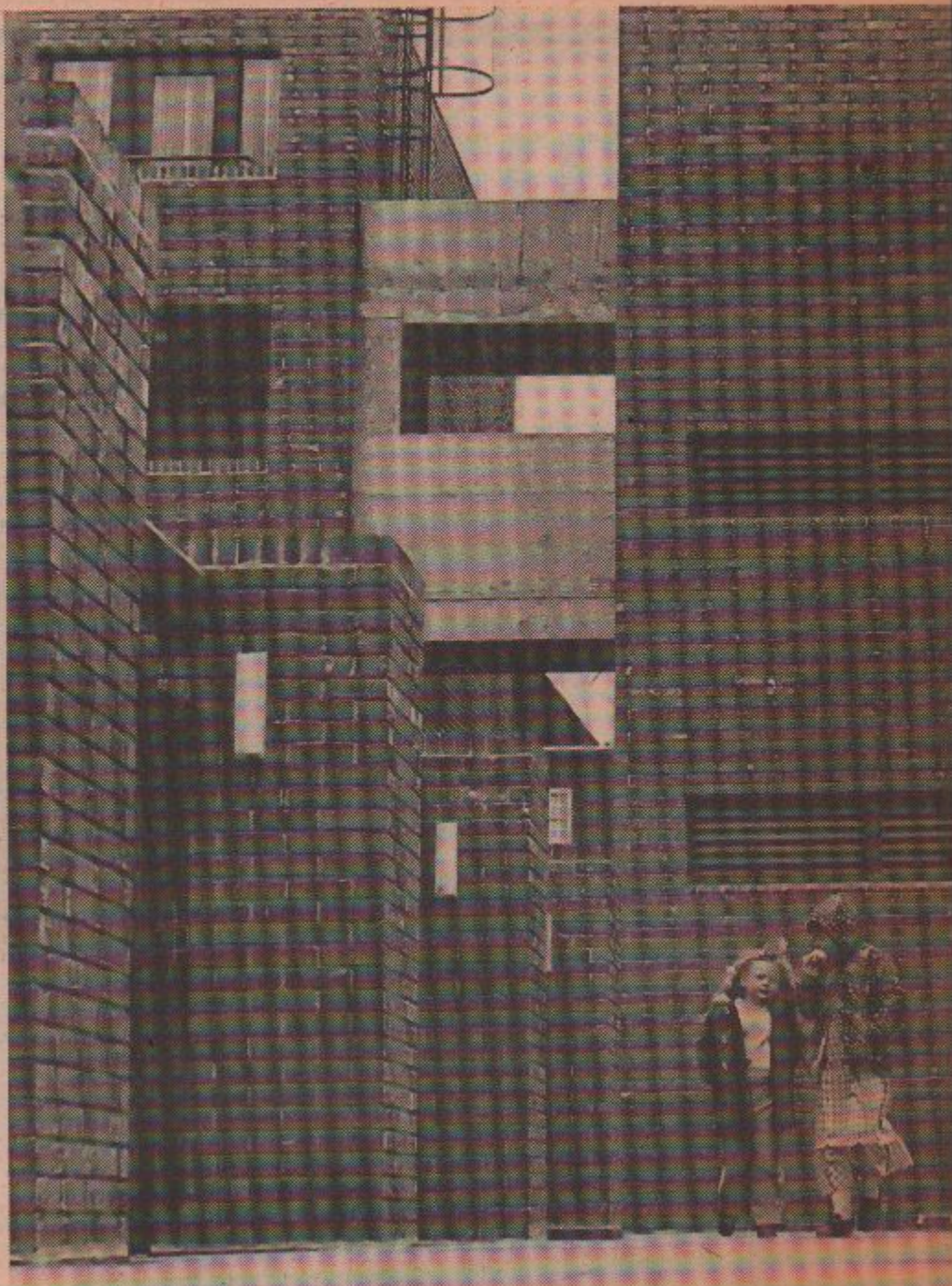
PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER until 31 May: Volume 2 for £2.60 (published price £3.60). Volumes 1 and 2 for £5 (published price £6.60). Post free. Cash with order.

PLUTO PRESS Books will be sent out early June.

Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.



Emmelda Ennis and three of her five children, who live in a three-bedroom flat on the Hindrey Estate in London E5. Out of a weekly income of £38, they were expected to pay £12.50 for heating!



Robert Ayres, who lives with his wife Margaret in one of the pensioners' houses on the estate. The central heating boiler just caught fire. It is encased in a cupboard. The Fire Inspector said the systems were dangerous. Now the GLC have switched them off in all the old people's flats. Lucky the weather is warm.

HELL IN PARADISE FLATS

WHEN the Greater London Council finished these flats, they called them Paradise. For us who've had to live with them, they've been hell.

These are some of the most modern flats in the country. But everything is badly designed and badly built—and it costs far too much.

But we didn't just sit around. We organised. And we've won some battles.

Our Tenants' Association was started last summer by Ray and Helen White—there were just five of them at the beginning. They went round knocking on the doors, getting people to join. Now nearly all the tenants are in the association.

The first fight was over the electricity bills.

A lot of people accepted these flats because the letter to view the flat said that the cost of the central heating was included in the rent, and they thought they could afford it.

BILLS

They got the shock of their lives when gas and electricity bills for heating started arriving. The electricity bills were fantastic—anything up to £12 a week.

So we went round to find out whose letters had said the heating was included. We found 70 in one block!

The GLC said it was just a clerical error. Then we discovered that their copies of the tenants' letters had lines through the words 'central heating included'. We decided to sue the GLC.

We eventually found one solicitor who was willing to act for us—and two weeks later the GLC decided to settle out of court. All the bills are to be paid up to January of this year.

by YVONNE WALKER



Committee member, Hindrey Estate Tenants' Association

The GLC had backed down to a tiny Tenants' Association like us—we were winning!

One day we noticed that the brown paint on the fences at the front of the flats was washing away in the rain. We asked a few pointed questions, brought in the forensic experts and eventually got some red faces at the GLC northern committee meeting. Someone had thinned the paint! The man responsible was moved—to another district!

We always let the local paper know what is happening. Articles were read by tenants on the neighbouring Pembury estate, and they asked us to help them form an association.

FLATS

It's an enormous estate, with 2,500 flats. So we lent them our hall for a meeting and agreed to help. The time came and there was just me and Ray sitting there.

We walked over to Marden House and just knocked on every door, running up and down, taking six doors at a time. People were very shy, and didn't want to commit themselves.

So the few people who did come out we told to stand in the courtyard so they could be seen. When the rest of the people said they weren't sure and asked who else was going, we just pointed—that lot down there!

Eventually about 30 of us marched over to the hall. We told them how a tenants' association is run, what its job is, what papers to contact, the GLC officials they should call, the Health Act which they could quote at the GLC.

LOCAL

Lots of flats had huge holes in the walls, damp, no hot water, no cold water even no gas or electricity. After the meeting, the newly-elected secretary, Betty, called the local paper and the GLC repairs department. Work started next day.

Our next battle is for a rent reduction. The high cost of

running these flats, the lack of services and the bad maintenance surely means we shouldn't have to pay so much. We've got a petition going round to put to the GLC for a £4 reduction.

We're also organising support for the East London Cuts Committee conference on Saturday 15 May, and the 26 May Day of Action for the right to work.

I spoke to the Hackney Group of the Association of London Housing Estates about these dates, it went down marvellously. Nearly everyone there was a union member. The Hackney Group is sending a delegate to the conference, and all the individual estates will try and send delegates too.

The paper for all the estates in London, London Tenant, is running an article on the Cuts Committee, and details of the conference are being sent out all over London.



We forced the GLC to back down once. Now we're collecting signatures for our petition calling for a £4 reduction in the rent.



A meeting of the tenants' association

Running for the profits of torture

PRESIDENT GEISEL, dictator of Brazil, was trained at Fort Leavenworth in the United States.

He was the chief conspirator in the army's overthrow of the Brazilian Labour Government under Goulart in 1964. He was head of the Supreme Military Tribunal in 1967, and presided over the ending of all basic rights, political and trade union for Brazil's 109 million people.

But isn't there a parliamentary opposition in Brazil?

Yes, you can belong to the opposition so long as you don't oppose the Geisel government. Since 1968, six senators, 107 federal deputies and 160 state deputies have been dismissed for disagreeing with the government.

On 30 March this year, Geisel sacked two more deputies for 'giving serious offence to the government'.

What happens to any genuine opposition, then?

They get killed, imprisoned or tortured. 'Death squads' of plainclothes policemen are estimated to kill 400 people a year.

In 1972, Amnesty International named 1081 people who had been tortured in Brazil. 600 people had been tortured in the first three months of 1975 alone.

Poorer

But isn't Brazil a prosperous country?

Only for a tiny, rich minority. The great majority of working people have been getting poorer while the economy has been growing. Between 1965 and 1975, the Brazilian economy grew by 8 per cent.

In 1965, the average worker in Sao Paulo had to work for 87½ hours to buy a month's food. In 1974, he had to work for 155 hours to buy the same food.

There are no free trade unions, no collective bargaining, no legal strikes.

Why is Geisel visiting Britain?

Brazil's economic miracle is petering out in tyranny, corruption, high oil prices, and

WHY OUR RULERS LOVE GEISEL OF BRAZIL, NOW ON A STATE VISIT TO BRITAIN

TUBE INVESTMENTS
1975: 1,200 redundancies (at least) in Britain—acquired a further 40 per cent holding in Acos Inafer, Sao Paulo.

PLESSEY
1975: 2,000 redundancies in Britain—growing manufacturing capabilities in Africa, Australia, Portugal, Brazil', said Sir John Clark, the Chairman, in the annual report.

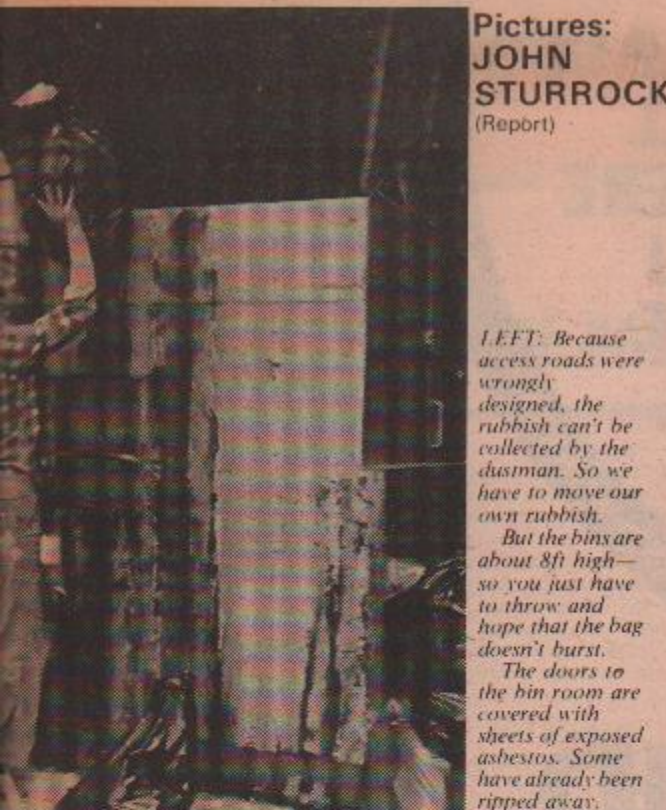
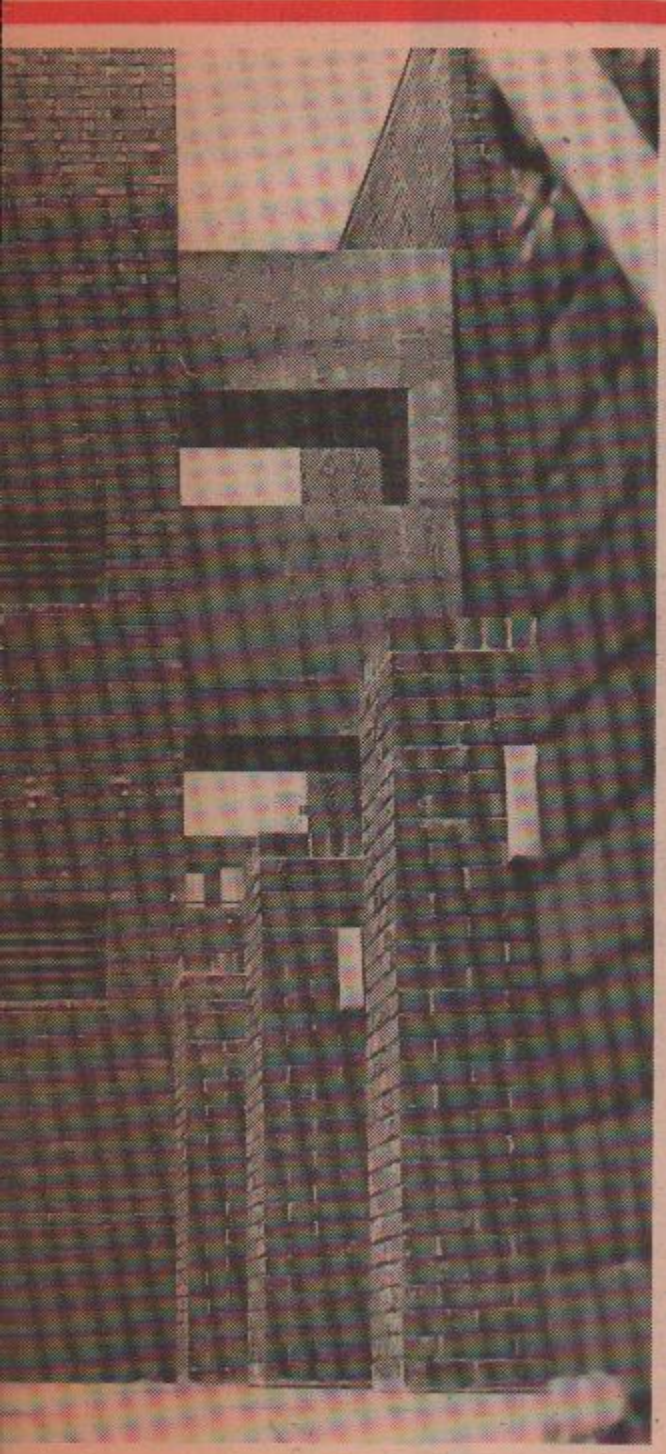
LUCAS
1975: 7,000 redundancies in Britain—doubled investment in Brazil, with £20 million turnover.

MILITARY AID FROM BRITAIN:
VOSPER THORNEY-CROFT is building six guided missile fragments for the Brazilian Navy—worth £100 million. VICKERS is selling the Brazilians 3 Oberon million.

FERRANTI has set up a joint company with the Brazilian Armed Forces to manufacture the Argus 700, a computer used to control weapons systems.

CHRYSLER
1/8 & 1/16: 8,300 redundancies in Britain—new model launched in Brazil.

GKN
1975: 1,500 redundancies in Britain—acquired interest in Brazil's largest scaffolding firm. It also has a controlling interest in Sachs, the West German component manufacturers, which acquired at a cost of £62 million factories and distributive outlets in Brazil.



Pictures: JOHN STURROCK
(Report)

LEFT: Because access roads were wrongly designed, the rubbish can't be collected by the dustman. So we have to move our own rubbish. But the bins are about 8ft high—so you just have to throw and hope that the bag doesn't burst. The doors to the bin room are covered with sheets of exposed asbestos. Some have already been ripped away.

the world economic crisis. Geisel needs more credits from businessmen all over the world.

So he needs to improve his image. Hugh O'Shaughnessy wrote in Sunday's Observer: 'General Geisel is coming here because his visit will give his government a seal of respectability from one of the western democracies. This is more valuable because it is

conferred by a social democratic government'.

Who wants him here?

British businessmen who have always enjoyed the tax concessions, high profitability and absolute right to bring their profits back from Brazil.

There are 44 British companies in Brazil, operating through 108 subsidiaries. The biggest is British American Tobacco, employing 12,000 workers. Its before tax profits for 1974 were £39 million.

Jobs?

In 50 years BAT has invested £2½ million in one subsidiary—in the past 10 years alone it has received £40 million back in profits.

Roberto Campos, the Brazilian ambassador to Britain, put it well: 'Of all Britain's trading relationships with the countries of Latin America, that with Brazil is certainly the most profitable.'

But doesn't investment in Brazil mean more jobs for British workers in those companies?

Look at the map—and the figures. Multinational companies are investing in places like Brazil to safeguard profits in this international recession. This investment doesn't safeguard jobs here or in Brazil.

The only safeguard for jobs is workers' organisation and strong trade unionism in both countries.



QUOTE

What I cannot get used to are the young babies dying. In the summer it's worst. Their skin gets dry, their eyes sunken, hollow. And then the diarrhoea and vomiting begin. I go with the mothers to the hospital, often knowing that the case is hopeless, that I'll soon be burying another tiny coffin.

Irish priest working in Sao Paulo, quoted in The Times, 2 May.

QUOTE

The factories are like military barracks. Each one has an internal police force. But in spite of repression, workers are fighting back. There have recently been lightning strikes and go-slows in the car factories of Sao Paulo.

Jose de Figueiredo, Brazilian exile in London.

FACT

In 1960, 60 children in every 1000 died. By 1970 it had increased to 90. In the past two years it has reached 97. These statistics are for the whole city of Sao Paulo, including the wealthy districts. In the poor areas the rate is up to 200—one baby in every five dies.

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 THE MEANING OF MARXISM

EDINBURGH: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place.
20 May: The revolutionary socialist alternative. Speaker: Peter Bain.
3 June: What is the revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Mick Napier.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Monday 10 May, 8pm, Lower Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, SW2. Paul Foot on The State and Revolution.

EAST LONDON: Every second Friday, 7.30pm, Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.
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.
18 May: The Labour Party. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.
1 June: Building the revolutionary socialist party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

CAMPAIGN WITH THE Socialist Worker

LESS than a year ago, Bernie Stinson was a Communist Party candidate in a local election in Leeds.

Today he works closely with the Right to Work Campaign and the International Socialists.

He talked to Socialist Worker about his breach with the Party and where he now stands politically.

'I got to know quite a few rank and file Communist Party members,' he said, 'and I was always impressed by them as good trade union militants.'

Practice

'It was this that led me to join the Party in the first place, and I would not support Socialist Worker now if it took a sectarian attitude to these people.'

He quickly found out, however, that the aspirations of many rank and file members of the Party were not reflected in its political practice.



Over a period of 18 months he saw the enthusiasm of the membership dissipated in five campaigns for local and national elections.

'We had to slog round the streets canvassing support. The whole machine was aimed at getting candidates elected instead of arguing our politics.'

'All we succeeded in doing was getting votes for the Labour Party on a totally uncritical basis.'

Of the slogan used for his own campaign, 'From the people, for the people', Bernie says:

'It was the best we could come up with at the time, but it's no good using slogans like that if you aren't offering people a serious alternative, if you aren't actually building a fighting movement in the rank and file of the unions where it really matters.'

Shortly after losing the Barley election, Bernie left the Party. He was attracted to IS by its emphasis on the need to build a Rank and File Movement.

'Fighting elections is fine as long as it's part of an ongoing campaign to get the politics across and build a fighting movement. Otherwise it becomes a diversion and a waste of energy.'

Support

'The Right to Work Campaign is the perfect example of the approach we need. Although I thought that the Right to Work March was a bit premature, it has more than justified itself by the wide support it has won in the Labour Movement.'

'I am disgusted by the attempts of sections of the Communist Party to undermine that support.'

'As long as Socialist Worker keeps up its support for this sort of activity, and keeps up its non-sectarian attitude to the best elements of the Communist Party and other groups, it will have my support.'

How many Bernie Stinsons do you know?

Some of the sales organised for this Saturday:

BIRMINGHAM: New Street Station ramp, 10am-4pm



EAST LONDON:
Walthamstow High Street, Hoe Street 11am-1pm
Barking Magistrates Court, 10.30am-1pm
Ilford High Street, Woolworths 11am-2pm
WEST LONDON:
Ealing Shopping Centre, Saleways 11am-1pm
Hounslow Shopping Centre, Woolworths 11am-1pm
INNER WEST LONDON:
Shepherds Bush Market, 10am-noon
Portobello Road, Corner of Lancaster Road, 11am-1pm
NORTH LONDON:
Wood Green High Road, Woolworths, 11am-1pm
Holloway Road, Sainsburys, noon-2pm
DUNDEE:
City Square 11am-4pm
Thursday and Friday evenings 4-5.30pm
MANCHESTER:
11am-1pm, Cheetham Hill Precinct
Salford Precinct
Urnston Shopping Centre
Stockport Merseyway Centre
Prestwich Precinct

Send in details of your street sales for this column.

Do you lumber your SW organiser?

DO YOU lumber your Socialist Worker Organiser?

Are you always the first to volunteer to help out your SW Organiser? When the branch chairman asks for an indication of those selling the SW on Saturday, does your hand go up first?

When the story about blue asbestos on the Pepys council estate appeared on the front page of Socialist Worker were you the first to suggest a mass sale on your council estates?

Do you expect your SW organiser to deliver your papers and collect money from sales? If, for one reason or another, he or she doesn't manage to deliver SW on time do you put yourself out and go and collect them yourself?

Effort

Is trying to get SW sales money out of you like getting blood out of a stone? Does the District/Branch Committee discuss in detail the sales?

It's not easy being a Socialist Worker organiser and, in theory, all of us would agree that it is about the most important job in any area.

But what about the practice? The overall organisation of the SW sales is the responsibility of one person.

Responsibility of the District Branch Committee ensure that he/she is the right person for the job, and that the organiser is given the maximum support from the committee and membership.

HELP US SELL WHERE YOU LIVE

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

CROYDON SW public meeting: Women and the Law, Thursday 13 May, 8pm, Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon.

CIVIL SERVICE SW public meeting: Fight for the Right to Work. Speakers: Caroline Conway, Right to Work Marcher, DHSS Hackney, Mickey Duggan, Editor, Reader Tape, DHSS Brixton, Wednesday 12 May, 6.30pm, The Plough, Museum Street, London, WC1

CHESTER IS Inaugural Meeting: Unemployment, Cuts, Wage Freeze—what's gone wrong, and what can we do about it? Speaker: Paul Foot Thursday 20 May, 7.30pm: Bear and Billet pub, Lower Bridge St, Chester Admission 1.0p

HULL SW discussion meetings: 9 May, The General Strike: 23 May, Germany 1914-1933, 6 June, The Communist Party, 20 June, Women and Socialism, 4 July, Crisis in Southern Africa, 18 July, The Labour Party, and obstacle to socialism? All meetings on Sundays, starting 7pm, at Socialist Books: 238 Springbank, Hull

SOCIALIST WORKER EVENTS

CENTRAL LONDON SW Education Classes

The Family, Speaker: Joan Smith, Tuesday 18 May
The Origins of the Joint, Thursday 3 June
The Politics of Women's Oppression, Thursday 17 June
Women and Socialism, Thursday 1 July
6.30pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1

WEEKEND EDUCATION SCHOOL: 8 and 9 May, Stirling University, Saturday, The Right to Work and Lessons of the Thirties. The Need for a Revolutionary Party. Evening a new play by Fellow Travellers Theatre Group about the first shop stewards movement during the First World War, and disco. Sunday: film on Chile, discussion on the Parliamentary Road to socialism, International work—workshops on Spain, America, Eastern Europe, Portugal, India. Inquiries to IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

LUTTE OUVRIERE FETE 5 to 7 June: Wine, good food, and politics in a woody glade just north of Paris. Thousands of French workers go to this political fête. There are stalls run by most of the major revolutionary groups in Europe. IS is having a stall and sending a delegation. If you are interested in coming, contact Sybil Cook, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

You don't need to speak French to enjoy yourself but fluent French speakers are especially encouraged to come.

CHINGARI: latest special 6-page May Day issue out now. Additional copies available from Chingari—Cottons Gardens, London E2.

THE WORKER: The May issue of The Worker, paper of the Socialist Workers Movement of Ireland, out now. Articles on wage restraint and the rank and file fightback, Ireland and the 1926 General Strike, and the Better Life Campaign. Please send all money for previous issues and orders for this one to The Worker, c/o B Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

FLAME: West Indies Group wants to hear from you if you are from or have knowledge of the West Indies. Please write to: Flame, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE, 2nd Edition. Because of popular demand, this pamphlet has been reprinted and updated. Produced by SW Africa Group, 5p. Available from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

BRITISH RAIL FRACTION: National meeting for all IS members and SW supporters in ASLEF, NUR or TSSA Saturday 5 June, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. More details later—but start booking your tickets now.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: Preferably own room in flat in London, Hackney area. Contact: Oliver Duke 739 1870 (days), 373 2416 (evenings).

CENTRAL LONDON District Aggregate: Sunday 16 May, 1-5pm, London Co-op Education Department, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (Near Finsbury Park Tube)

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

FRENCH DAY SCHOOL for 15 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).

ASTMS CONFERENCE: Any readers of Socialist Worker and members of the International Socialists who will be delegates please phone Middlesbrough 86474.

MAY DAY MAGIC!

THE shop stewards committee at Ciba-Geigy, Manchester, have ordered 100 copies of this week's Socialist Worker. The issue contains the facts behind their dispute (See Page 15).

SALES and circulation of the May Day Socialist Worker went well over 30,000.

By Friday Afternoon, area such as Sheffield, Central London, Lambeth, Birmingham, Leeds, Oxford and Merseyside had rung in for extra copies.

Additional supplements are available at 10p each, bulk orders by arrangement from Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, E2.



The May Day SW on sale in Newcastle: more than 200 extra papers were sold in the city.

CAMPAIGN WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKER

WHERE WE STAND

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION:

The workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up, or reformed, as the established Labour and trade union leaders say. It has to be overthrown.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling classes against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based

upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most, parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system. Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a world-wide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers

in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racialism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

We are for real, social, economic and

political equality of women.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist, but state capitalist.

We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

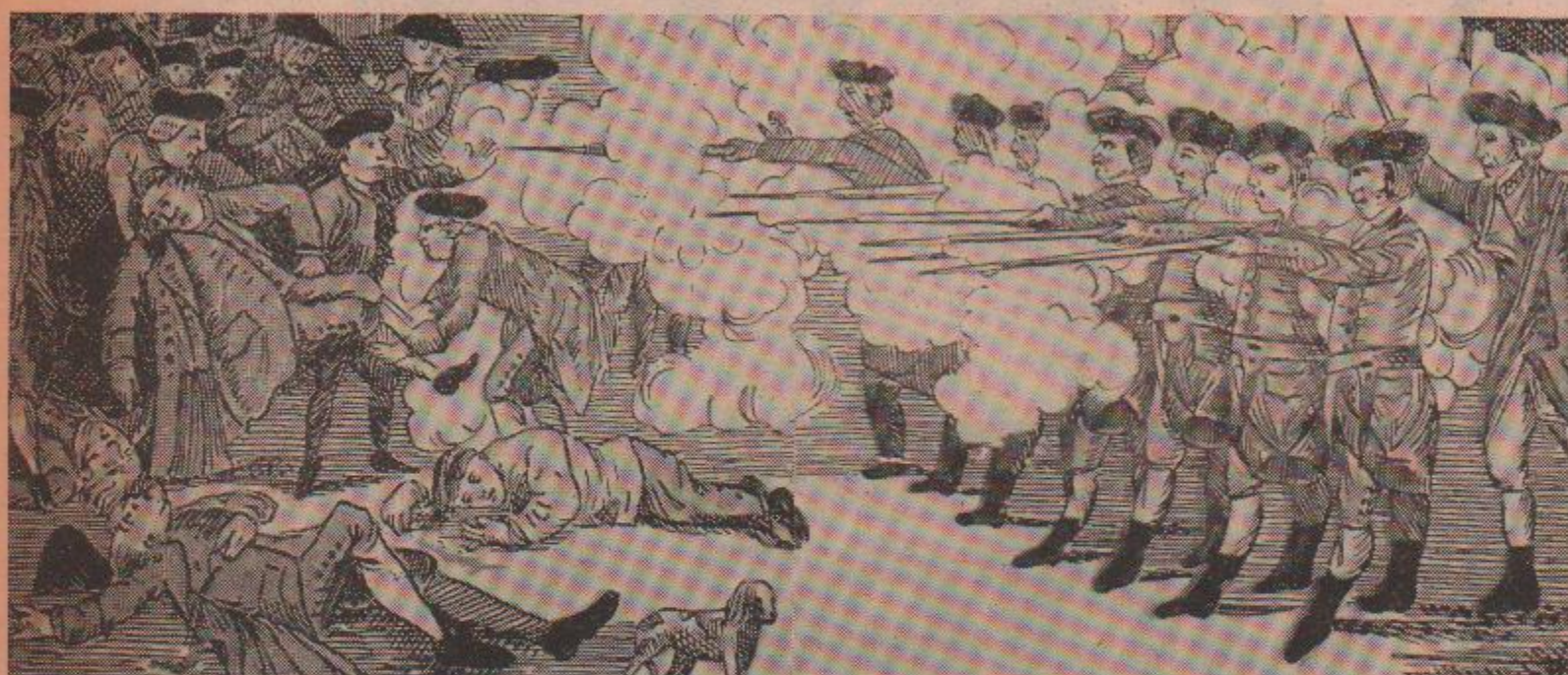
We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests.

We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

We urge all those who agree with our policies to join with us in the struggle to build the revolutionary party.

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

Law and Order Brigade 1776...



ARE you looking for an antidote to the press and television barrage on the 200th anniversary of the American War of Independence? If you're in reach of London, try the Marx Memorial Library, where they've an exhibition on the American Revolution—for such it was, though the papers usually manage to avoid saying so.

On the one side was the class of rich merchants and manufacturers in Britain, determined to keep the American colonies as a cheap source of raw materials and an easy market for their expensive goods.

On the other side were the carpenters, shoemakers, trappers, blacksmiths, the craftsmen of America, demanding freedom from arbitrary laws and taxes. If it hadn't been for the popular movement that pushed him, George Washington would never have turned from a foxhunting gentleman (that lilywhite who 'couldn't tell a lie') to become for a while the leader of a revolution.

It's hardly surprising the great ideals of freedom weren't entirely achieved, but Lenin described it as 'one of those great, really liberating, really revolutionary wars of which there have been so few', and it fired the great European struggles for democracy of the next 100 years.

You won't get that by listening to Prince Charles reading the words of George the Third on Radio 3.

□ THE EVENTS OF 1776, Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1 (Farringdon tube station) 4pm-9pm until Sunday 9 May. Entrance free.

...and 200 years after

THE biggest criminal conspiracy in world history took place five years ago in the United States.

Its purpose was to re-elect President Nixon. It broke almost every law in the book.

It impersonated, robbed, forged, embezzled. It employed professional criminals of every description.

The chief conspirators were the President and his Attorney General, both of whom had stormed to leadership of the 'free world' with the slogan: LAW AND ORDER!

Everyone knows this now. The fact that they know it has changed the face of American politics. However quickly people forget about Watergate, the infallibility of the President has been irrevocably damaged.

Enormous power and wealth was used to prevent people knowing about Watergate. All the 'top' political writers were persuaded, muzzled, bribed not



to cover Watergate. The pollsters reported that 'nobody is interested'. The television networks forgot about it.

Two junior reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, stumbled on the story and clung to it with the tenacity of journalists who know their hunch is right long before they can prove it.

The film, *All the President's Men*, is their story. It shows, I expect accurately, how the two reporters dug the facts from the heap of manure called the Committee to Re-Elect the President. It is a thriller.

It is directed by Alan Pakula, who directed *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, *Kluge* and *The Stalking Moon*—so it's a very good one.

★PREVIEW

EVERY NIGHT 10 12 May: GENERAL STRIKE REPORT gives the news of what happened that day in 1926. It's a Robert Kee presentation, so don't expect unbiased reporting, but it could include interesting film. (ITV, after the night's main news).

THURSDAY NETWORK (BBC 2, 10.45 p.m.) investigates the oil-rig divers in the North Sea. Rarely a month goes by without another death reported and accidents are

commonplace—with safety measures rudimentary. Edinburgh International Socialists produced a pamphlet on it, WORKERS AND NORTH SEA OIL, 6p plus 8p postage from Rosie Smallwood, 9 High Street, Edinburgh.

TUESDAY Are children's books responsible for turning out a new generation of household slaves? is the question being asked on THE BOOK PROGRAMME (BBC2), which looks at children's books that always show girls



Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman as the two Washington Post reporters who blew the Watergate conspiracy

Bob Woodward, who is not, I suspect, anything like as glamorous as Robert Redford, gets a tip early on in his investigations. 'Keep away from the trivia. Follow the money.'

Watergate, the source explained, was not about minor burglaries or dirty tricks. It was about tens of millions of dollars in a secret slush fund.

The flaw in the film is that it doesn't follow the money. It doesn't reveal the pact between Richard Nixon and the 'sunbelt' capitalists, the property sharks from Florida and Arizona, the milk firms, the drug magnates, wheat farmers—a whole section of the American ruling class that Nixon had promised higher prices, lower taxes and less stringent safety laws in return for his re-election.

This is the essential background not only to the Watergate conspiracy but also to the ability of Woodward and Bernstein to expose it.

The Washington Post is not a radical newspaper. It is liberal, respectable, constitutional. It represents the interests of the great Eastern US monopolies which were shocked and, in some cases, undercut by the Nixon Mafia.

A great fissure opened up in the US ruling class, one section for Nixon, the other against it. The Washington Post was not as isolated as the film pretends. It could count on the support of its paymasters as long as Nixon was its victim.

So it continued with the Woodward/Bernstein story in the face of White House abuse, threats of legal action and even danger to the reporters' lives.

None of this could have happened in Britain.

Censor

Here, the state machine keeps much tighter control over newspapers and television. Stricter libel laws, now reinforced with the revival of criminal libel, a 'D' notice system which allows the state machine to censor any national newspaper story, a catch-all Official Secrets Act, tight liaison between editors, broadcasting chiefs, judges, industrialists, police and army chiefs, and trade union leaders ensures against exposure of any British Watergate.

The British secret police, intelligence service and civil service bureaucracy is sheltered from the outside world far more effectively than in the US.

Yet, even in Britain, the fissures exist. Things can be found out and published, especially where trade unionists speak out about the employers and their system.

All the President's Men avoids the real reasons for the Watergate conspiracy. But it reminds us powerfully that the conspiracy happened, and that even the President of the United States couldn't stop it coming out.

It's on in a lot of cinemas from this week—not just in London. It's a good night out.

PAUL FOOT

THE SOLZHENITSYN

THE Solzhenitsyn show, it seems, is going to be with us for a long time. After the TV and radio interviews, now the book of the interview, *Warning to the Western World*, at 95p a time.

So it is that the man gets caught up as a highly profitable part of that very decadence he claims to condemn, at once fulfilling and betraying his own analysis.

He becomes another element in the giggling, hysterical society of speculation, occupying the slot in the Sun between Malcolm Allison's latest bubble bath and Princess Margaret's newest boyfriend: Next month, perhaps, free plastic Solzhenitsyns with every double pack of Andrex.

Prison

The hysteria is a pity, because the man is impressive and much of his testimony is important. After the war he was packed off to prison for eight years for making rude remarks about Stalin in a private letter, with the result that 'my outlook on life has been largely formed in concentration camps'.

This has rightly bred into his bones a deep aversion to the bureaucrats who run the Soviet Union. He's aware that behind all the cant about 'detente' and 'a new era', people are still being packed off to prison for eight years for making rude remarks, and he's not afraid to say so.

Moreover his grasp of the fact that it is naive for Russian dissidents to look to

SHOW HITS THE ROAD



Western governments for help is a sound one. We will achieve freedom, he insists, 'only by relying on ourselves' rather than having any illusions about Henry Kissinger.

Solzhenitsyn, in short, is an articulate thinker who speaks with ideas and authority. To a British middle class appallingly bereft of ideas and struggling along on that mix of Queen-worship, mummified Christianity and gutter patriotism which has served it as a substitute for thought for generations, he comes across as a revelation, a genius, a saint, with Bishop Bernard Levin calling us all to worship.

Solzhenitsyn, of course, is none of these things. To

claim as he does that there was 'great freedom' (great freedom for whom?) in Tsarist Russia is laughable.

To push off to Spain, as he has done, and applaud its government, that doomed gaggle of straightforward fascists and dishonest pseudo-liberals, is the action not of a genius or a saint but of a rogue or a fool.

His position is a standard reactionary one—the 'bastion against communism' line. This means you support any government, however tyrannical, that can be seen to be locking up its Marxists.

This means that you assert, as Solzhenitsyn does, that 'freedom has been lost in Laos, Thailand and Angola' because Communists have moved towards power, without pausing to analyse what sort of freedom existed under the last lot of stooges, thugs and imperialists who ruled in those places.

Blood

Of course we have no illusions that the arrival of a few Communist Party ministers means freedom. Between us and the Stalinists there are rivers of blood.

But equally we have no illusions that the old Portuguese colonialism or the new-look Spanish fascism represents any sort of freedom either. All we ask for is a society in which people are free to organise and control their own lives, unhampered by the KGB on the one side or the Special Branch or the Guardia Civil on the other.

Why is it so difficult for the Solzhenitsyns of this world to grasp that?

PAUL O'FLINN

POSTAL POINTS

THANKS and congratulations to the organisers of the Skegness Rally for a great holiday.

Hope you'll feel up to it again next year. If so, book our places now!

□ Ann Howard and John Marchant, Loughboro.

THE POLICE Review of 9 April contains the following extract from a police exam:

Question 3(b): Indicate with reasons whether or not any offences have been committed in the following circumstances.

(i) A man is masturbating in a toilet cubicle of a public lavatory. He cannot be seen by anyone except you and then only because of the method by which you are keeping observations.

One wonders exactly where this policeman is 'keeping observations'—maybe hanging down from the ceiling disguised as the flush chain.

If they are spending their time spying on anyone who goes to the toilet where else might they be?

Next time I go to bed I'll check under it for any policemen with nothing better to do with their time. Just to be sure.

□ Jon Lucas, Bristol.

WORDS play a vital part in the class war. Words such as Moderates, and Law and Order.

The enemy uses them to mislead and confuse. And so the war of words must never be ignored.

It's a battle for the minds and hearts of the working class and it must be won.

□ E Reddish

NO, anti-abortionists are not all 'cranks', as Fifth Column (24 April) implied.

I am neither middle-aged, middle-class nor a religious fanatic. I am a socialist who believes in everything Socialist Worker stands for, but I try never to make compromises where human rights are concerned.

I am a member of Women For Life, an organisation which believes that abortion is supported by this male-dominated society because it relieves it of its obligation to give realistic aid to women during and after their pregnancies.

□ Mary Fellowes, Batley.

JOHN DEASON wrote (24 April) that 'if wages rise there is more money for people to buy things with and this in turn creates jobs'. We reject this solution.

As revolutionary socialists, we believe unemployment is part of the daft system we live under. No amount of tinkering will have any lasting effect.

Revolutionaries oppose wage restraint, not because of unemployment, but because the working class should not pay for a crisis they did not create.

□ Bernie Wilcox, Alan Shoreman, Dave Taylor, Partington.

THE NAZIONAL PARTY

The National Party's demonstration last Saturday—its first since its split from the National Front—showed how it is trying to get a respectable image for fascism.

The demonstration started from a church and was orchestrated by Lady Birdwood.

The National Party could pose a bigger threat to the Labour Movement than the National Front, if it is allowed to appear respectable with the 'nazi' tag removed.

Spot the guilty man...

THEY'RE ALL THE SAME BLOKE



THANKS for the piece you did on my verdict and the Director of Public Prosecutions (17 April) which I thought was very good.

Justice Against Identification Laws

SO PETER Hain is innocent (good), and suddenly we have MPs protesting bitterly against the laws regarding identification, and calling for the resignation of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

This is just the latest of a series of wonderful conversations.

After a taste of our legal system, the vanishing Stonehouse has discovered just how hollow is the idea of a 'free trial' in Britain, and how unfair the operation of bail and legal aid regulations.

Jeremy Thorpe (who thinks that his robbery of ordinary people through London & County Securities was just 'an error of judgement') is so upset by the suggestion that he once had a gay relationship that he is demanding changes in the law of evidence, and the way that the press reports cases.

Charges

What I'd like to know is, where the hell were these people when the Shrewsbury pickets were being sent down on patently trumped up charges?

Who called for the DPP to resign when he authorised prosecution of Socialist Worker's Paul Foot for telling the truth in the Janie Jones case?

It seems that these hypocrites only become aware of the true nature of Britain's ruling class law when they get a dose of it themselves.

□ Paul Bream, N Shields

is holding a conference on 23 May in the Conway Hall. London from 10 am to 5 pm.

If IS groups could be encouraged to form JAIL groups that would be good,

since the opportunity now exists for working people who have accepted their lot as victims of mistaken identity in the past to begin to fight back.

□ Peter Hain, London, SW15

Who killed them? A letter from Long Kesh...

LATE ON 31 March, three British soldiers, members of the Royal Scots Regiment, were blown up on a lonely road in South Armagh.

Within hours of their death, the local unit of the IRA had admitted responsibility.

Taken in the context of the last six years of war, what happened was not unusual. Unfortunately, it is only one more operation resulting in death which the IRA has had to carry out in its seemingly

endless war with the British Army.

What was unusual was the scathing personal attack by Merlyn Rees on Maire Drumm, vice-president of Provisional Sinn Fein.

Merlyn has claimed she should be glad now as only months previously she had boasted of sending British soldiers home in coffins.

This sort of abuse illustrates the opposing mentalities of the British government and the Irish people.

Republicans and socialists in Ireland see the British soldier as a support for the British capitalist establishment in Ireland and, like economic targets, is seen as a legitimate target for those who want to end British involvement in Ireland and destroy the artificial and sectarian state of Northern Ireland.

Human

But this does not blind Republicans to the fact that he is a human being. On numerous occasions Republicans have spoken out against the needless deaths of British soldiers, but who listens?

Republicans are accused of hypocrisy and portrayed by the media and British propaganda machine as 'mindless murderers'.

Who is responsible for the deaths of British soldiers?

We know the IRA are actually directly responsible but can they be held morally responsible?

Generally, British soldiers know little of what is happening in Ireland, or why they are there. Today, as so often in the past, British soldiers are fighting in defence of British investment in Ireland and in defence of continued British exploitation of the Irish people.

British soldiers will continue to die in Ireland until the British government decide to withdraw the troops.

The IRA may pull the trigger or press the switch which kills, but the individuals who should be in court for this violence and for all the other acts of savagery against the Irish people and for their insistence on sending British soldiers home in coffins remain free.

For they are the faceless bureaucrats and politicians.

Such is British capitalism in Ireland and such we shall continue to fight until we have established a 32-county democratic socialist republic.

□ R McAuley, political prisoner, Cage 12, Long Kesh, N Ireland.

□ Socialist Worker will publish letters from prisoners in Northern Ireland—and send the paper free of charge. Write to SW, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Letters

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

Our kith and kin...

I WAS recently visited by an uncle from Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). After some probing, I found out some interesting things.

The whites there see their role as The Saviours of the Wretched Blacks. He boasted of his Nanny (servant) who had three children living in a shed at the bottom of the garden.

'But, of course, it's got a shower in it, and it must be

better than the shacks or mud huts she could expect in her own environment.'

She is paid £20 a month. 'Well if we paid more she'd only spend it or give it to her mum who would gamble it away. They're born gamblers, you know.'

He wouldn't discuss the fact that her man didn't live with her and was hundreds of miles away, which is the accepted thing by the whites.

It became obvious that the nanny didn't have electricity and had to use a paraffin lamp for lighting. Why? 'Well they would leave the light on all night, they're completely ignorant of the cost of running these amenities.'

He had already mentioned that electricity bills weren't very high.

He went on to tell me how his son-in-law, aged 27, was regularly recalled to do 6-12 weeks jungle fighting 'to rid these areas of terrorists, or turds as we call them'.

He said schooling wasn't so readily available for the blacks.

My parting comment was: 'If I don't see you again, it's been nice talking to you'. I wonder if he understood what I really meant.

□ Tony Field, Bradford.



LADY TRISH, NAKED IN A 'QUAKE

THIS IS LADY PATRICIA PEHLHAM, 27, daughter of the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, pictured in Los Angeles. 'Trish' is involved in pop music in Hollywood, managing rock bands. In some quarters she is known as 'Lady Rock'.

She is a very talkative person—unlike her father, whose telephone number is ex-directory—and enjoys living in California. 'It's a weird place, weird things happen, but I love it. I don't want to go back to the cold. I enjoy the sunshine and the smog, the hills and fires, all good things and the bad things, the ocean and the quakes.'

'The recent earthquake was one of the best things that ever happened to me. It reminded me of what I think it must have felt like to be a baby rocked in a cradle.'

'I thought it was wonderful and when it was all over I ran out of my house at six o'clock in the morning stark naked, and all I could see was the power conductors on the telegraph poles exploding.'

'I lived in a house on a hilltop overlooking the entire city and it was if we were under siege. It was my first earthquake and it was very exciting.'

THE ARTICLE above appeared recently in the Sunday Express. Lady Patricia Pehlham, daughter of the Duke of Newcastle, has just experienced her 'first earthquake and it was very exciting'. Perhaps she should be made to visit Guatemala, Central Turkey or wherever people forced to live in shanty towns are massacred by 'exciting' earthquakes.

□ SW Reader, Cheadle, Cheshire

A LETTER FROM DORCHESTER JAIL

UNFORTUNATELY, my stay in this decadent environment won't end until May next year. My offence was malicious wounding. I split a person's lip, which needed two stitches.

The judge said he had no alternative but to protect the public from the likes of me and imposed a sentence of 21 months. It was my first offence for violence. Though I was provoked, the judge said it made no difference.

I've got a pound in my private cash which I will send on for further copies of SW. My only other form of news is via the radio, but we all know how biased and distorted that it. Yours in solidarity.

□ Don Morrison, Dorchester prison.

The new life...with asbestos

FOR THE LAST two years, we've fought on the issue of asbestos in Livingston New Town.

It's meant to be the new life for families coming out of the slums of Glasgow and young

couples setting up their first home.

Yet in the nearby village of Pumphreston, and in sight of our new homes, Gleno Asbestos spews out its filth daily.

To publicise a public meeting on 12 May about the asbestos threat, we undertook, with the help of Edinburgh comrades, estate and pub sales, selling 95 Socialist Workers and 20 copies of the asbestos pamphlet.

We intend to make sure that the workers in Gleno's and the people of Livingston know what is at stake. No more Hebden Bridges!

□ Livingston comrades.

WHAT DID you think of the Budget? The Economist liked it. Under the headline *Hail*

Healey, the businessman's friend, they raved on 10 April over his proposals.

On pay restraint: 'If the Chancellor can sell the idea of lower pay norms in exchange for cuts in personal tax, industry gains.'

On the price code: 'Healey has pledged the government to take full account of the needs of industry' and the need to allow sufficient recovery of profits to encourage new investment and so new jobs. Profit is a clean word again.'

It concludes: 'The Chancellor could hardly have done more... The CBI is privately delighted. And so it should be.'

Well Denis, they're their words, not ours. You've sold out the workers again.

□ Mark Robertson, Stockport.

MY BROTHER recently went to the local Social Security office to ask for help. He had no money and nowhere to go.

He was told that it would help him to get billboards from where he was staying.

He went away, got them, and returned to the office. They kept him there until it was time to close and then gave him £3 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

I went back on Saturday with him and asked them where he was going to sleep for the weekend. I was told: 'I do not care'.

I asked if he could go into a hostel and was told that if I did not leave the office they would call the police.

The people seemed to be fascists. It looks as though the bosses are telling them not to pay the working class the money that they have paid into Health and Social Security.

□ E De Guelle, NUPE shop steward, St George's Hospital, London SW1.

Wage rises don't cause inflation? SHHHH... says TASS

AT last month's Assembly on Unemployment Ken Gill, general secretary of the white-collar section of the Engineers Union (AUEW/TASS), drew a round of applause when he said: 'We must reject the capitalist notion that workers' wage rises cause inflation'.

Motion 68 of this week's annual conference of the union says: 'This representative council condemns all forms of government intervention in free collective bargaining. It refutes the theory put forward in the government attack on inflation that wage increases are the main causes of inflation'.

This motion is amended by the executive to delete the second sentence! In other words, the executive, controlled by Ken Gill, are trying to reverse Ken Gill's Assembly rhetoric.

This summarises the central contradiction of TASS, which is becoming all too clear at this week's conference. Left-sounding talk from the leadership—but no call for action, no attempt to mobilise the rank and file for a fight for better conditions. And a gradual erosion of democracy in our union.

End

This year, the executive's proposed rule changes, if carried, will further weaken the rank and file. They want divisional councils to decide which resolutions go to conference—not branches, as till now. They want an end to the mandating of delegates on how to vote.

At the same time, the executive is cutting the number of available union journals and raising the salaries of appointed full-time officials.

We need more democracy, not less. There is a direct link between democracy in a union and its ability to fight for better conditions for its members.

A bureaucratically-run union, however 'left' its leadership, will always look for ways of getting things from the employers without fighting. Democratically-elected union officials have the confidence that they can rely on their members for a fight.

That's why we're fighting at this conference for more democracy and more militancy.



Enter Bernard Levin, extreme right...

BERNARD LEVIN, former radical columnist, now Pillar-in-Chief of the Existing Order on The Times, has started his own brand of 'moderate' activity in the trade unions.

Bernard gets about £250 a week from The Times, and can usually rely on another £50 to £100 from elsewhere. So he's not too worried about journalists' standard of living.

Indeed, the main reason for his activity in the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) appears to be to keep the wages and conditions of ordinary, mortal journalists in check.

Levin has spent a great deal of his almost limitless spare time organising his colleagues and girlfriends into a right-wing block in the NUJ London Freelance Branch.

At the April branch meeting, Levin's lapdogs mustered more than 40 votes with which they carried a series of 'moderate' resolutions and amendments. One such called for a ban on branches from taking any disciplinary action against people who worked during strikes.

Pillar in Chief of the Existing Order Bernard Levin and follower Sheila Black



the unions

arm and put hers up when she saw it rise. We ought, I think, to consider ways of ensuring that those who are unfamiliar with procedures and personalities can be helped by having members of our "hard core" pointed out to them.

Levin ends with a call for more organisation among what he calls 'friends, acquaintances, and even strangers who we know to be "sound".'

Levin reveals in his bulletin that one of the strongest speakers for his lapdogs was Sheila Black, who also writes for The Times. Sheila Black left full-time journalism some years ago to join John Addey Associates, public relations firm to, among others, Rupert Murdoch, the newspaper proprietor.

Sheila Black is a director of Debenhams, the flashy chain store.

For years the shopworkers' union (USDAW) has been struggling to organise Debenhams workers into a trade union.

Refused

In January this year, Debenhams' store in Birmingham was organised, but the company refused to recognise a union until the Arbitration and Conciliation Service had decided that more than 50 per cent of the workers wanted to join.

Debenhams maintain the traditions of most British chain stores: low wages, rotten conditions, and strong opposition to trade unions.

Two years ago, in Nottingham, USDAW members went on strike at Debenhams's Scan supermarket because the women workers were not being allowed any time off to go to the toilet.

That's Levin's 'moderation' for you: a rich, powerful, Tory woman calling for moderation in her own trade union, while being a director of an anti-union firm.

Scargill libel: Who pushed them?

THE Yorkshire miners' president, Arthur Scargill, recently won a libel action against the Sheffield Star. The Star had alleged that he had shown favouritism to certain pits while allocating pickets during the 1974 miners' strike.

This allegation was proved in court to be mischievous and completely unfounded. Scargill got £3000 damages.

Who was behind the allegations which led to the Star's attack? This month's issue of The Collier, the paper produced by rank and file miners, reveals that Bill O'Brien, right-wing secretary of Glasshoughton NUM, and Tom Roebuck, former secretary of Manvers NUM, had a lot to do with it.

Both men are former business associates of John Poulson. Roebuck, in fact, has just come out of prison as a result.

The full details of this scandal are in The Collier, which also exposes the Coal Board's financing of stockpiles to weaken resistance to closures.

THE COLLIER, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. 5p a copy plus postage.



THE SHOP MANAGER

DEAR Unions Page,

Well, I sat through the conference of USDAW, the shopworkers' union. It was rather as I'd predicted in my article a couple of weeks ago.

I was amazed at the power which Lord Allen, general secretary, wields in the union. On the last day of the conference he replied to nearly

every critical motion, and won every time. It really is one-man management.

There were quite a few younger delegates who seemed fed up with the whole business. I'm sure we can do something to change the union. We could start by getting a really strong International Socialists group

working within USDAW.

Yours fraternally,
MARTIN LARKHAM,
London

□ If you read Socialist Worker, are a member of USDAW and want to fight to change the union write to Steve Jefferys, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Copy

After his triumphs, Bernard wrote an 'internal bulletin' for his group, which he couldn't even be bothered to copy himself. His secretary at The Times was used for the 'dirty work'—does The Times know that its secretaries are being used for this trade union activity? Yes, they probably do.

'We scored an overwhelming victory for moderate policies,' bleats Levin's bulletin. The 'extremists were defeated every time'.

How did they do it? Here's a paragraph which gives a clue:

'Rosemary Meynell pointed out how useful it was that Doug Harris was wearing a white jacket, as whenever she got lost she just looked for his

So why is APEX losing members?

DELEGATES to the office workers' union (APEX) conference in Scarborough next week might like to take note of the following figures from its annual report.

APEX membership is down at a time when most other unions are putting on members. It is down most heavily in the Midlands, from 37,463 to 34,809, a drop of 2,604.

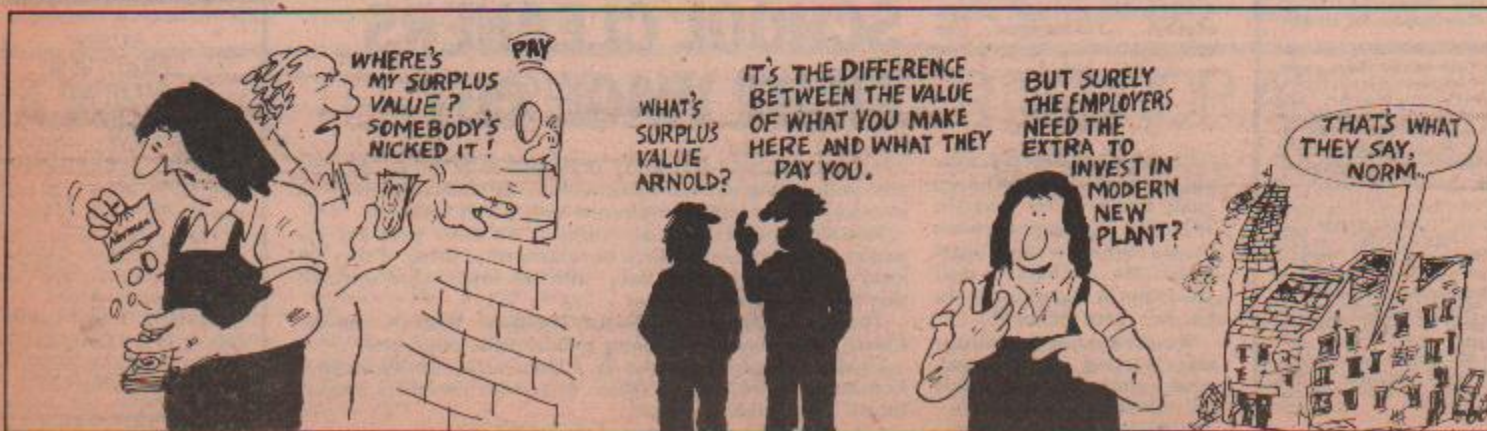
All week, the members will be deluged with demands for more

import controls. The APEX leaders will be slapping themselves on the back for their ridiculous campaign to keep out foreign cars.

Maybe they have kept out a few foreign cars. But they haven't saved a single job—because they haven't fought for a single job. There's been natural wastage and voluntary redundancies in offices all over the Midlands—so the union is losing members.

Draw your own conclusions.

OUR NORMAN



LEYLAND TURNS THE SCREW

BRITISH LEYLAND is really trying to put the 'frighteners' on its workers.

Managing director Derek Whittaker has warned the 114,000 workers that unless the disruption of production stops, there will be 'massive job loss'.

The threats follow the numerous parity strikes in Leyland plants over the past few months, mostly among the toolmakers, where the pay rates vary by up to £10 a week. The reason for the rash of disputes is that there are 58 separate negotiating units in Leyland's 34 plants.

Said Whittaker: 'Lost production also means lost cash, and lost cash means less capital investment, which also means lost jobs.'

He takes the strikes seriously, so seriously in fact that Socialist Worker can reveal there have been two circulars sent out to every single worker in Leyland—228,000 circulars in all.

Staff

Lost cash means a lot to Whittaker, that's why he's just 'lost' an estimated £20,000 sending out the circulars—which does not include the cost of the envelopes and the time spent by office staff filling the 228,000 envelopes.

This is not an isolated incident. Management of BAC also circulated their workforce with a similar statement. While our bosses are crying about lost investment, they spend as much money on stamps as they would have spent settling most of the disputes.

There's a lesson here. The strikes threaten the government-TUC wage freeze package, and the bosses are willing to spend any amount of money to preserve that.

AUEW leaders 'motley crew'—convenor

JACK SHELDON is convenor of the toolroom fitters at British Leyland's Tractors and Transmissions plant in Birmingham. He explained to Socialist Worker the background to their recent battle.

'Our dispute had its origins in the machine tool demonstrators changing unions and getting £8 more than us instead of £4 less. And they got staff status.'

'We began to black machines worked by the demonstrators to force the company to give us parity in pay and conditions as soon as



200
out in
bonus
strike

READING: 200 members of the Transport Workers Union including many West Indian and Asian workers, walked out on strike at Ideal Casements last week after management failed yet again to turn up for an arranged meeting with the convenor and the district organiser.

The workers are striking because of management's failure to renew their contracts—there is a dispute over the system used to work out bonus payments.

The present system is a complete mystery to all except the wages department, and the union wants a system that the workers can check for themselves.

Having failed to keep two appointments to meet the convenor and the district organiser, the management claims complete ignorance of the workers' 'problems'.

In the meantime the picket line remains strong, and no lorries have entered or left the site since the strike started. A 24-hour

picket has prevented attempts by the management to get lorries out—they face the loss of an important export order, and this should force them to negotiate soon.

In the meantime, Ideal's marketing director has just been jet-setting to Bahrain and the Far East in Concorde, at the company's expense, and the managing director has just added another new Jaguar to his collection—no problem about working out their bonuses!

Rule 14: Camden leads the struggle

MEMBERS of Camden Trades Council are fighting back against the attempt to exclude them for opposing the TUC's new Rule 14, which places a ban on trades councils supporting any organisation which disagrees with TUC official policy.

It replaces a ban on Communist organisations which was itself a serious attack on trade union rights. But the new rule is worse.

In Camden a majority of delegates have consistently refused to adopt the new rule. The Trades Council secretary, a member of the Communist Party, sup-

ports the new rule. He has convened a meeting open only to delegates who support the rule.

In opposition, the Camden Trades Council Defence Committee, made up of delegates who oppose the rule, including many members of the trades council executive, has called an open meeting to organise a campaign against Rule 14. The meeting is open to all London trades council delegates.

□ **Friday 7 May, 7.30pm, Small Hall, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.**

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



SETBACK FOR LEFT IN AUEW ELECTION

by **MICK BRIGHTMAN**, delegate, North London AUEW district committee

FROM the latest election results in the Engineers Union (AUEW), it is clear the right wing have made further gains through the postal ballot system.

In the most important election, for assistant general secretary, right-winger John Weakley, with 82,094 votes, came out top with Bob Wright with 63,723 second. Engineers Charter candidate Len Blood, from Warrington, came seventh of 14 candidates with 7684. Weakley and Wright now proceed to the second ballot run-off.

In the election for national organiser, Jim Bradley, with 173,206 votes, beat Phil Higgs, the Broad Left candidate, who got 83,038. This is the election in which Charter candidate Willie Lee, from Linwood, stood in the first ballot.

Right-wing

For West Midlands divisional organiser, right-winger Bill Jordan (19,215) beat Fred Griffiths (9950). Also in Birmingham, right-winger Bert Benson (4692) beat Brian Chambers (1995).

For Midlands regional officer, right-winger Phil Povey (39,437) beat Jack Dickens (15,789), and in Coventry Jim Griffin from the right had an overall majority for assistant divisional organiser over five other candidates, and so wins in the first ballot.

There was one success for the left. Jimmy Reid topped the first ballot for Scottish divisional organiser with 13,389 votes. Ron Brown, from Edinburgh, who stood on a more left wing platform, got 5700 votes.

But in the Wright against Weakley election, now going to a second ballot, Engineers Charter has no doubts who we should be voting for. We must support and actively campaign for Bob Wright.

Although we have fundamental criticisms of Wright, it is vital to keep the right-wingers out. Said Len Blood, the Charter candidate: 'Any member who takes the union to court, as John Weakley did, must be opposed.'

Attack

The only way forward for the left in the AUEW is policies that benefit the membership—opposing the deal with Healey, fighting for meaningful across-the-board wage increases, a return to collective bargaining and for the 35-hour week now.

The next national committee convenes on Tuesday 18 May. An emergency resolution needs to be proposed on these lines now. District and divisional committees, shop stewards' committees and branches must send resolutions and mandate their national committee delegates to move and support a new set of fighting policies.

CRANE DRIVERS CALL FOR TOTAL BLACKING

EAST LONDON: Fifty crane drivers and fitters at Attwoods, in Wood Street, Walthamstow, have now been on strike for four weeks over the non-payment of three men for eight days when they could not work on a site because it was on strike. Wages have always been paid in that situation before.

The area manager of Richards and Wallington, of which Attwood is a subsidiary, has twice threatened the men with the sack if they do not return to work.

He also wants them to sign away their guaranteed 40-hour week and become virtual casual labour. This would mean they would have to sign on the dole when there is not enough work.

The men, members of the AUEW Construction Section, are determined not to give in to this bullying. The strike began in defence of the right not to cross a picket line. It

continues in defence of their own conditions.

The men need the support of other Richards and Wallington depots and of any sites using the firm's cranes, which include British Crane Hire cranes.

□ **Donations and messages of support to Cliff Norris, 47 Cairo Road, London E17.**

Kerr: Sit-in threatened

MERSEYSIDE: Transport Union members at John Kerr Chemicals, Kirkby, are on strike over the sacking of a shop steward who refused to handle dirty goods.

A laboratory assistant is scabbing on the van drivers, and two AUEW fitters worked during a mass meeting. The men on strike have said that if this continues they will occupy the premises.

SCHOOL CLEANERS FIGHT WAGE CUT

SCOTLAND: School cleaners at 90 schools in the Borders are now in their fifth week of strike action. The council wants to cut wages by 30 per cent—the cleaners only get £13.50 now!

One striker told Socialist Worker: 'We don't work for pin money these days, but to keep our standard of living. If they get away with cutting wages here, with the lowest-paid workers, they'll do it to everybody.'

The two unions involved—the Transport Workers and the Public Employees—are forming a joint strike committee.

□ **Messages of support to: W J Dunseath, Site Committee Convenor, TGWU District Office, Andersons Chambers, Market Street, Galashiels.**

Notices and meetings

Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post the Monday preceding publication. We cannot take them over the phone. Send cash with copy (5p a word) to CLASSIFIED, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

CONFERENCE ON OVERSEAS STUDENTS: Saturday 22 May, 11am. Sponsored by UMIST Union. Three delegates per student union. One delegate per overseas student body. One observer for other student societies.

ANGOLA: LESSONS OF A PEOPLE'S VICTORY: Workshop, Saturday 8 May, Africa Centre, 38 King Street, London WC2. 10.30am to 5.30pm.

DAY SCHOOL ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS: Saturday 22 May, 10.30am-5pm, Nottingham Teachers Centre, Cranmer Street. Speakers include: Jean Cousins, NCCL, Joy Elson, NUPE, Sylvia Greenwood, TGWU, Judith Hunt, TASS, Mel Read, ASTMS, Una Walton, Tobacco Workers. Hosted by Nottingham NUT Women's Rights Sub-Committee. Creche provided. Registration 75p, 40p unemployed.

INDEPENDENT FILM-MAKING IN THE '70s: Weekend conference at the Architectural Association, 21-23 May. Organised by the Independent

Film-makers Association and the Greater London Arts Association. Sessions on: Funding Bodies and Funding Procedures; Regional Film Development; The British Future; Film Criticism and Independent Film-Making. Conference fee £2 (tickets are limited). Details from The Greater London Arts Association, 25/31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF.

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

RELIGIOUS OPPOSITION TO SEXUAL FREEDOM: Public meeting, Friday 7 May, 7.30pm, Caxton Hall, London SW1 (St James Park Underground). Speakers: Helen Dobson, Brook Advisory Centre, Diane Munday, Abortion Law Reform Association, Alison Hennigan, Campaign for Homosexual Equality, Barbara Smoker, National Secular Society. Organised by National Secular Society.

of workers, that the viability of Leyland was at risk and that government financial aid to Leyland might be cut off.

'Scanlon was really concerned that the dispute might bring the government down. In other words we're expected to hold down and accept cuts in wages and conditions to keep a Labour government in power.'

'When we asked why the executive wouldn't support us, Scanlon told us that it was the people on the AUEW national committee from the West Midlands who had voted to change the policy. If we changed them next year, he said, the executive would support us.'

'But he also said that even that might not make any difference. We wouldn't necessarily get any further because Leyland was determined to stop sectional bargaining and get centralised bargaining like in every other nationalised industry.'

'In other words, Scanlon wasn't really prepared to lead a fight. He was only giving excuses. Throughout the meeting, he was the only one to do the talking.'

Fight

'Scanlon has changed. People get tired. You can't keep going forever. Ever since the 1975 TUC Conference, when he was part of the move to get TASS to withdraw their resolution in opposition to the £6, he's been different.'

'I looked at our executive at that meeting and thought, what a motley crew. We could do with some young blood.'

C L R James World Revolution 1917-1936. Special offer. Beautifully printed and bound American library edition at cost price of £8.45 post free. Should be over £12. Socialist Books, 238 Spring Bank, Hull. First come, first served.

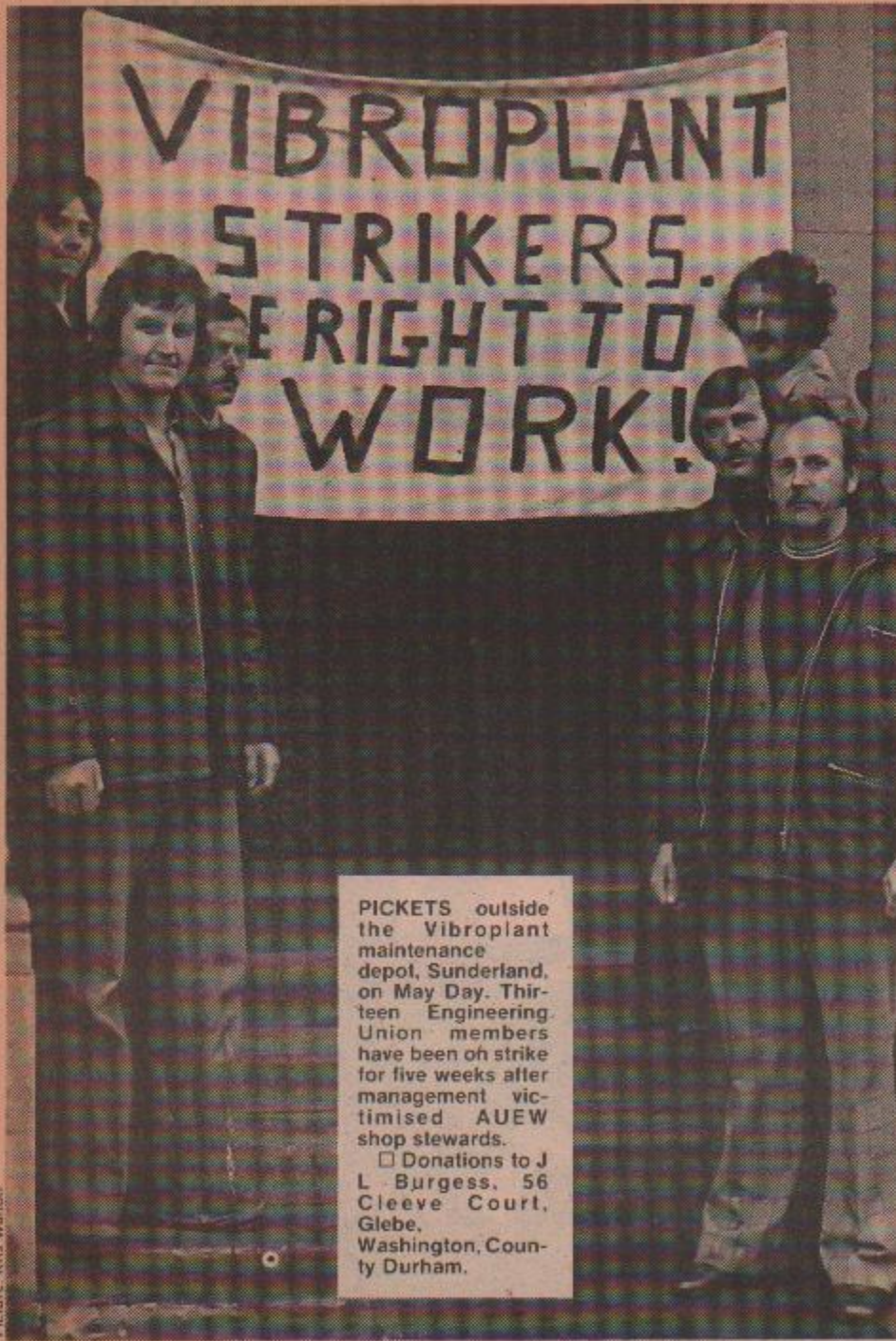
POST OFFICE WORKER: A paper written and produced for UPW members is available NOW. Order from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. A meeting is being organised to elect an editorial board and to discuss the programme of the paper's supporters. Anyone interested should also write to Post Office Worker at the same address.

AUEW FRACTION MEETING

For all IS members in the AUEW. Socialist Worker supporters welcome.

Saturday 8 May, 1-5pm, Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London, W1. Nearest tube station, Marble Arch.

Details from fraction secretary, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN. (Phone 01-739 6273).



PICKETS outside the Vibroplant maintenance depot, Sunderland, on May Day. Thirteen Engineering Union members have been on strike for five weeks after management victimised AUEW shop stewards.
 □ Donations to J L Burgess, 56 Cleeve Court, Glebe, Washington, County Durham.

Picture: Kris Wallton

We're bugged!

600 STRIKE OVER POLICE BUG IN HOSPITAL BAKERY

EAST LANCASHIRE: Workers at Brockhall Hospital, near Blackburn, discovered a bugging device in the hospital bakehouse and 600 walked out in protest.

The dispute began when a device was found hidden behind a wooden chest. Part of the device was in a chest of drawers with wires connecting the two parts. It looked like a bomb, so a union

by a NUPE MEMBER

representative rang the senior executive officer for the hospital, Mr A Sharples. To their amazement he said he knew all about it—and so did the police. The device in fact was 'police property' and everyone should get back to work.

Instead all 600 workers walked out. Jack Thomas, the area official for the hospital workers' union NUPE, was called. He said: 'It is definitely a transmitter. I think that other things are going on. We strongly suspect that phones are being tapped.'

Superintendent Fred Kemp, deputy head of Blackburn police division said: 'Who says it is a listening device? I'm not saying that it is. All I will say is that thefts at the hospital have been reported to the police and that investigations are now proceeding in a normal manner.'

How normal can you get? After the walk-out, a mass meeting was called. Union officials reported that the management had agreed to remove the device, but no further explanations were given.

We all left the meeting not knowing whether we had won or lost.

Ciba-Geigy: 600 out over '£60 fine'

MANCHESTER: One out—all out! That's the message from more than 600 workers at Ciba-Geigy's factory on Trafford Park industrial estate.

The strike started on Tuesday last week after one of the workers was suspended for five days for allegedly throwing a 'water bomb'—a plastic bag filled with water—although there were three witnesses to say that he didn't do it.

In reply the stewards' committee called the factory out

until either the suspension had run its course or was lifted by the management—they're scheduled to return at 7am on Sunday.

The strike isn't just about this one incident though, as the stewards explained to Socialist Worker.

Trial

'The management say that the suspension was in the interests of safety on the shop floor but we know they're more interested in discipline than safety. The stewards'

committee offered to run a joint safety campaign in the factory more than six months ago—the management have yet to take up the offer.

The lad has been suspended for five days—equal to a fine of £60 without any trial at all. He's been treated to the reverse of normal justice. He's been assumed guilty until proved innocent.

'Any notion of a joint disciplinary procedure has been thrown out of the window.'

The stewards are concerned about safety, but as one of them said: 'We wouldn't condone any horseplay that could endanger any of our members but when the management say that playing with water is dangerous and handling hazardous chemicals like phenol is OK, what they really mean is that playing with water slows down production while playing with phenol produces profits for them.'

The strike has cost the management dearly. It's clear that they will think twice next time before acting in the same dictatorial way.

Passed

The issue was a test of the union organisation in the factory, a test which they passed with flying colours, but it's clear that discipline will be a sore point in the plant for some time to come. It's all part of the small change of capitalism and the struggle of workers to assert their own identity and dignity.

OO

This article was discussed and approved by the shop stewards' committee, who have taken out a special order for Socialist Worker in order to combat the distortions about their strike appearing in the local press.

VICTIMISED!

Azko Chemie

MERSEYSIDE: 17 men at Akzo Chemie, Kirkby, came out on strike last Wednesday over the sacking of a man for non-competence. He has worked at Akzo for eight weeks. Management sacked him, offering to take him back temporarily at £25 a week less.

Stan Boyd, branch secretary of the shopworkers union USDAW, told Socialist Worker that management are keeping dossiers on all the men working in that shop. That

on the sacked man was shown to the shop steward as so-called proof of the man's non-competence.

But the shop steward refused to accept this as proof.

Beldams

BRENTFORD: Beldams management have failed to sack four members of the newly-formed AUEW organisation in the factory. A mass meeting decided that the redundancies were a way of delaying the already overdue wage claim, so when management handed out notices the whole workforce came out on strike.

The next day management surrendered. They announced they weren't making the men redundant but simply wanted to move them to another part of the factory.

Orlakes

DAGENHAM: 150 women in the TGWU are on strike at Orlakes, demanding union recognition after two workers were victimised. Management are relying on a few men who are crossing the picket line. They are also taking advantage of the massive unemployment in the area to try to recruit women to break the strike.

The strikers are determined to succeed and need support from local trade unionists in their efforts to black the firm and organise a strong picket line.

Rose Tyres

MERSEYSIDE: Management at John Rose Tyres, Kirkby, have tricked the men back to work to end a one-week strike. They told the strikers they would get a £10 wage rise and start talks about recognising the Engineering Union (AUEW), but it was all lies. The victimised shop steward, Charlie Cave, has been left outside the gate.

RESISTANCE to victimisations is growing. The rise in unemployment has let the employers think they can get away with actions unthinkable only a short time ago. The enthusiasm of many trade union officials to co-operate with the Labour government and not rock the boat whatever happens makes it easier than ever. But rank and file resistance is beginning. There are probably no more victimisations now than nine months ago. There is far more resistance.

Gartons

BATTERSEA: Shop steward Gordon Wayne has lost his job at Gartons in spite of a one-week strike to reinstate him.

A mass meeting of transport drivers voted to return to work last Friday and await the outcome of new negotiations between management and union officials. On Monday, these confirmed the sacking.

One striker told Socialist Worker: 'We should have stayed out until they reinstated him without any conditions.'

Incidentally, Bob Kaye, the TGWU official, who negotiated on Gordon's behalf, is not happy in his job. Among the others he has applied for is that of industrial relations officer at Gartons.

FOOD FACTORY HALTED

WORKSOP: 623 members of the Transport Workers Union, many of them women, are on strike at the Batchelor foods factory for the right to work.

On Monday last week management took six workers off the lines as the first step in their attempt to cut 232 jobs in 12 months. They are also seeking early retirement and voluntary redundancies.

At once a sit-in began. It ended last Friday with a

decision to walk out and stay out until the six are put back on their jobs. A 24-hour picket was put on the gates, and is having total success.

Management want the workers to take a cut in hours worked, but at the same time are advertising for a new supervisor and a new foreman.

□ Donations and messages of support to: Mrs M Cane, 14 Northumbria Close, Worksop, Notts.

CHIVAS REIGN OF TERROR

SCOTLAND: A reign of terror is what management are trying to bring in at Chivas plants in Paisley, Dalmeir and Beith, where 650 General and Municipal Workers Union members are still on strike against a new disciplinary plan. The plan would give chargehands power to send workers home for trivial offences.

Picket lines—mostly women—are up. The strike is solid, but still unofficial.

□ Messages of support to: Betty Harp, 30 Bernon Drive, Linwood, Glasgow.

Greenings 'attrition'

WARRINGTON: The strike against the victimisation of convenor Arthur Connehey, is now in its second month. After two meetings, management have virtually admitted the dispute is about their attempt to break the union organisation, not about redundancy as they first claimed.

John Tocher, AUEW divisional organiser pointed out that management are after removing Arthur's credentials.

The employers might feel confident at present, with

1½ million on the dole, but they're not getting away with it at Greenings. Links have been made with other factories in the Johnson-Firth Brown group, but much more support is needed.

Strike committee secretary Len Blood said: 'This is a war of attrition. We are going to hold out until we win.'

□ Donations and messages of support to Greenings Strike Committee, c/o AUEW House, Froggall Lane, Warrington.

PICKETS AFTER THREE HELD UNDER TERROR ACT

THREE Irish workers living in North West London have been held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in the past two weeks.

The Trade Union Committee against the Prevention of Terrorism Act was contacted in each case. They have picketed the police stations where the men were held and found solicitors for them.

Tom Goodchild, a building worker and a member of the legal political organisation Sinn Fein, was picked up in the early hours on Good Friday. He was released on the Saturday, just a half hour before a mass picket of Willesden Police Station to support him.

No charges were laid against him.

To take Vincent Plover, a carpenter and former member

of Sinn Fein, police broke down the door and entered the house with dogs at 7am on Tuesday last week. His wife, sisters, and five young children were held in the front room for five hours, not allowed to dress.

He was released after 33 hours, without being charged.

Sean Canavan, a driver at McVities Biscuits and former member of Sinn Fein, is the brother-in-law of Vincent

Plover. He was arrested as he went to work last Tuesday night.

There has been a picket of Harlesden Police Station every night by 30 to 60 people—many of them local West Indians who are continually harassed themselves by the police. Largely because of this, he has been allowed newspapers, cigarettes and messages from his family.

Sean Canavan has now

been charged with conspiracy to cause explosions between June and December 1973. He has been moved to Brixton Prison. Pickets to support him continue there.

□ The Emergency phone number works. Remember it. You may need it tomorrow if you or one of your mates is held under this Act.

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

'My home is yours' Queen tells Brazilian dictator

TORTURE

GETS THE ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

SCANDAL OF BID TO OUST LABOUR MILITANT

TRY to change the Labour Party from within—and the powers that be will use every filthy trick in the book against you. They'll even get on to some supposedly left-wing union leader and have him take your union membership away.

That's one conclusion you can reasonably draw from last weekend's disclosure that Tony Kelly, one of the leading campaigners against right-wing Labour MP Reg Prentice in the Newham Labour Party, has had his ASTMS union card withdrawn.

There are a few others. First that the opposition of people like ASTMS general secretary Clive Jenkins and other lions of the left in the Labour Party is a sham.

Jenkins is a regular writer for Tribune. Yet when it comes to it, he's only too anxious to do Transport House's dirty work.

ASTMS has a galaxy of Labour Party stars in membership. The union has always gone out of the way to recruit them. That includes

WHAT WE THINK

Harold Wilson, David Ennals, Roy Hattersley and Edmund Dell among the government ministers who want to defend Reg Prentice at all costs.

It used to include another great Labour moderate, John Stonehouse. But even after he went 'missing' off Miami Beach, Jenkins took no action against him.

Despite several resolutions from rank and file members calling for the expulsion of Stonehouse, the issue was quietly fudged over.

Socialist Worker calls for full support for Tony Kelly. Not least because it is a disgrace that Jenkins is attempting to drive him out of membership because he is or was unemployed.

With more than a million out of work, the unemployed must be defended. The ASTMS rule book is commendably clear on the point. Rule 15, section 10, states that no member of the union may be excluded by virtue of his unemployment.

Playtex: 200 out in support

PAISLEY: 'There's been a feeling of bitterness for some time. We're now prepared to take a stand'. Marie Donnelly, General and Municipal Workers steward at Playtex, Johnstone, summed up the mood of 500 angry women now on their second week of strike.

Management have broken many agreements with the women. Two weeks ago they broke their agreement to rehire 31 who had been redundant. Vacancies came up and they hired new people, instead of taking on those earlier made redundant.

The company had gone too far this time. One section walked out. Later the whole factory voted to support them.

A mass meeting on Friday voted unanimously to stay out. 200 women at Playtex in Port Glasgow are now out in sympathy.

Messages of support to Margaret Toyne, 11 Wilson Avenue, Linwood, Scotland.

" I was arrested on 6 August 1970 after the arrest of my husband. I was tortured together with him . . . despite the fact that I was four months pregnant.

We were tortured together with electric shocks. Since they couldn't inflict many tortures on me with electric shocks and the parrot's perch, they would apply them to my husband . . . while he was sitting on the 'dragon's chair' in front of me so as to force me to confess where I had been, the names of my comrades, and any information I could give them.

"

Maria do Socorro Vigovani, in testimony to a Rome tribunal on torture in Brazil, 1974.



PRESIDENT Ernesto Geisel of Brazil and Mrs Geisel being welcomed on Tuesday at London's Victoria Station by an admirer. 'There's an awful lot of coffins in Brazil,' joked her Majesty, before hauling the brute off to Buckingham Palace for three days wining and dining with British businessmen.

Geisel wants more money to

subsidise his terrorist regime. He'll get it—from British businessmen. Torture, cheap labour, and a ban on all trade unions means more profits. That's why he's here. That's why British firms operate in Brazil. That's why Geisel gets a welcome from the Queen—and the Prime Minister. Callaghan, Junta's Man, the friend of the Chilean dictators.

Firms that profit from torture-p9



Pictures from Uruguay of political prisoners being tortured by methods introduced by the Brazilian military police

LEFT: The 'sawhorse'—after an hour you feel your body is cut in two. They leave you there for four.

RIGHT: The 'banner'—you hang there till you burst.



FIRM TO SUE SIT-IN STRIKERS FOR £1000

TWO Engineering Union members are being sued by management after occupying their firm's offices.

The two were sacked from Clansons office equipment, Ealing, West London, for joining the union and trying to organise the office. After a ten-week strike they occupied the office for a few hours.

Management used 'lump' builders to break in and threw them out.

Now the management has

launched a private court action against them demanding £1000 for the loss of trade the company claims to have suffered as a result of the occupation.

They also allege trespass and interference with fixtures and fittings.

The two already face a police prosecution on damage charges. They are being charged with damaging two machines that they never even saw until after the occupation.

The management are claim-

ing the right to sue trade unionists for money they claim to have lost because of industrial action. If the prosecution is allowed to succeed it will put the law back to the situation before the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act.

Now Clansons management are trying another way of achieving this by suing the strikers in a civil court.

The Clansons case affects every trade unionist. It is an attack on the right to strike.

As part of the campaign to get this prosecution stopped in its tracks, all Clansons equipment should be blacked. So should their sister company, Evers Business Equipment, of Holloway Road, London N7.

These companies service and supply many local councils, so NALGO members in particular should see that they are blacked. AFEW branches and district committees should send resolutions to the AFEW executive calling for national action

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