

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

National Right to Work Campaign advertisement

## NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST THE CUTS

Called by NUPE and supported by 11 other unions and the Labour Party NEC

Assemble 12.30pm, Hyde Park, Speakers' Corner, for march to Parliament and mass lobby from 4.30pm onwards. The Right to Work Campaign calls on all its supporters to be in Hyde Park by 12.30pm.

### ALL OUT 17 NOVEMBER

### FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

# Strike, demonstrate on 17 November WHY YOU SHOULD FIGHT THE CUTS



By Billy Castley, secretary Skelmersdale Unemployed Workers Action Committee

THE WORKERS of Skelmersdale downed tools for an hour last Thursday to picket Courtaulds and march through the town in solidarity with the 1100 brothers and sisters facing the scrapheap.

The night before, workers at the plant had to move quickly to stop management sneaking files out of the factory—the first attempted steps in the closure of the plant.

Meanwhile, Courtaulds workers in Wrexham are demanding a conference of the Transport and General Workers Union to fight for all the threatened jobs—even though their own are not under the axe.

THE GOVERNMENT, the Tories and the Press have one argument for cutting back on schools and hospitals and social services.

They say we can't afford them. That we're living beyond our means.

But, at the same time, the government is quite prepared to 'afford' one and a half million people out of work.

If these people were employed, they would produce six thousand million pounds worth more—enough to expand all our social services.

In other words, we're not living up to our means. Figures published this week have knocked another hole in the government's argument.

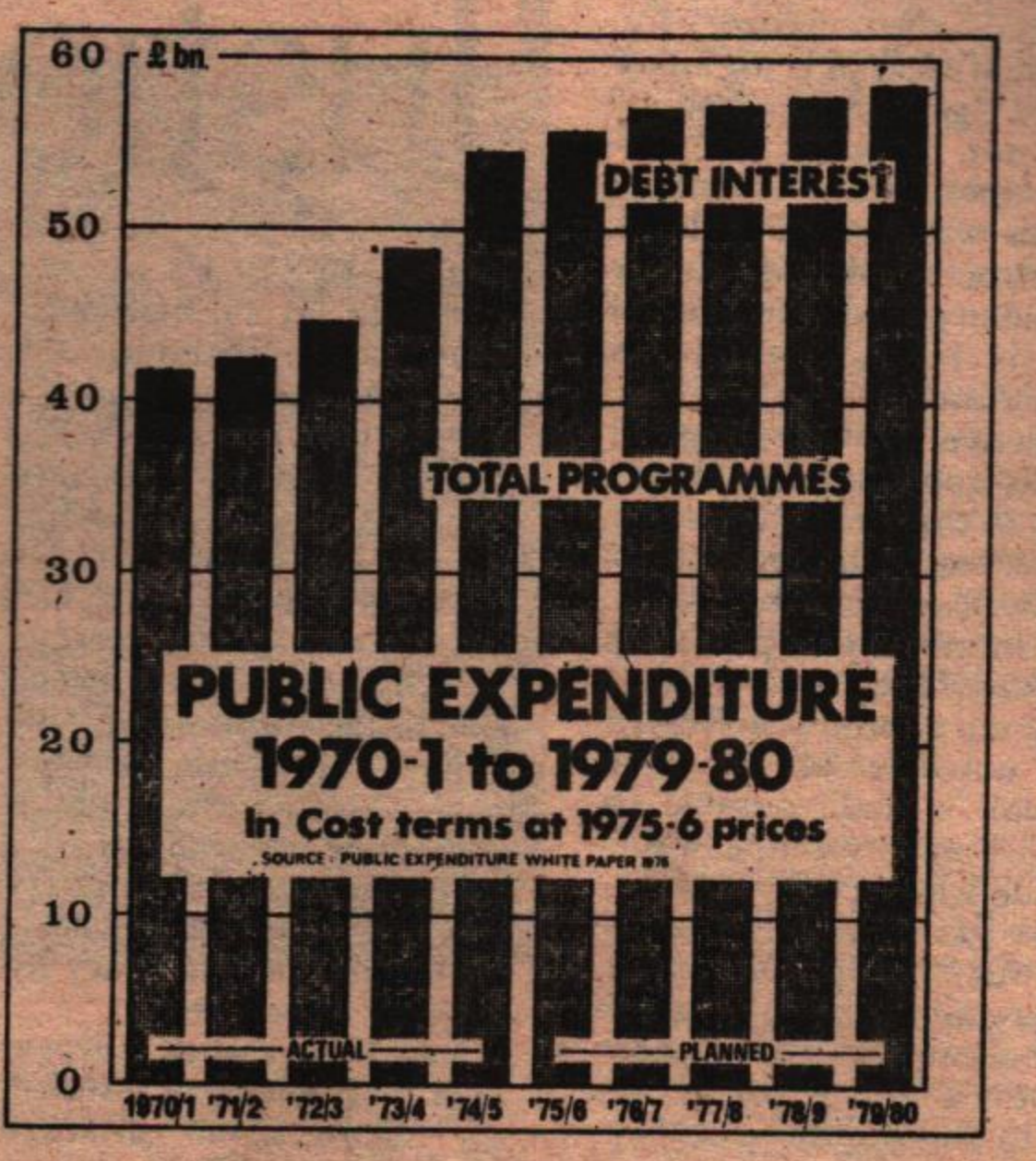
They show that landlords, moneylenders and shareholders spent *four thousand million pounds* of our money last year—money collected from rents, interest and dividends. These people are a tiny minority of the population.

If that spending had been cut out, a few parasites would have had to do without their luxuries—and all the public spending cuts for the next four years could have been restored!

If you're still not convinced of the case against the cuts, take a look at the graph. It shows that public spending in 1980 will be *lower* than it is this year, even if there are no more cuts. And spending on things that matter, such as schools and hospitals and food subsidies, will be much, much lower.

But interest—the loot which goes to the moneylenders—will be much higher.

By 1980, it will be nearly *ten thousand million pounds*—double the amount which Healey and Co hope to 'save' by sacking nurses, teachers, health



inspectors and firemen. Can't afford it? What nonsense! We can make far more with far less effort than we ever could. Why should we be cutting back on the things which mean most to us: the care of our children, our sick people, our old people?

There is no reason on earth why any worker should accept any cuts in services. There is every reason why they should make every effort to resist the cuts.

The 17 November strikes and demonstrations called by the leaders of nine unions, representing a quarter of all trade union membership, are a wonderful opportunity to marshal that resistance. Make sure you're among them.



# A 'mixed' marriage - so fascists smash up home

**'NF' SPRAYED ON WALL**

A HACKNEY couple, Ian and Ingrid Dudley, had their flat ransacked last week by a gang of racists. Ingrid is black and Ian white. Theirs is what the twisted minds of racists condemn as a 'mixed marriage'.  
Paint was sprayed all over their

walls, including the letters 'NF'. Wardrobes and mirrors were smashed. Money, jewellery, a TV and a hairdryer were stolen. Their clothes were soaked in oil. They were set back £2000 altogether.  
There is a lot of anger in the area about this—the couple have three young kids who have many friends.

Yet some people feel intimidated. A group of SW supporters and other anti-racists are taking a letter around the area for signatures. It will be sent to the local paper, demanding that it stops printing reports of National Front meetings, and giving publicity to these racist views in letters from NF readers.

They hope to call a meeting in the area to discuss ways of protecting people from future attacks. Local residents should be heartened by seeing that some people are prepared to make a stand on this. There has already been some interest expressed in the idea from some of Ian's workmates, who are on the buses.

## Heathrow horror: Protest planned

AN EMERGENCY meeting was held in Southall last week over the scandal of the Indian baby born dead because of racist immigrant officials.

As Socialist Worker reported two weeks ago, the mother, Zahira Galiara, was held for 24 hours at Heathrow Airport Immigration Centre without food and under threat of deportation.

As she screamed for help, security guards stood by and laughed at her.

Soon after, she gave birth—but the baby died.

'Appalled'

On the initiative of the Southall Youth Movement and the West Middlesex District of the International Socialists, a meeting was held with representatives from the Ealing Community Relations Council, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, the Labour Party, the Communist Party and the Brunel University Students Union.

A demonstration has been planned for Saturday 20 November under three main slogans. They are:

*Kick out the racist immigration officials. Repeal all the racist Immigration Laws. For a full independent inquiry involving the union and immigrant organisations.*  
Further details next week.

## FRONT MEETING STOPPED

A NATIONAL Front meeting in Bodmin, Cornwall was stopped last Saturday by about 50 International Socialists and supporters.

The meeting, organised by Nigel Hedger, assistant housing manager to Cornwall County Council, had won a lot of local and even national publicity.

But IS members turned up early and locked and sealed the hall. People who arrived for the meeting found the hall in darkness and promptly left, muttering about the fascists' lack of organisation.

The IS pickets then occupied the front steps of the hall.

While searching the town to ensure that the Front had been driven out, a dozen fascists were found to have scraped a meeting together in the back room of the White Hart pub.

### Demonstration

The pub was surrounded and anti-Fascist slogans were shouted through the window of the meeting room.

Some IS members got into the meeting which quickly broke up. A horrible little group of the would-be master race was then hounded through the streets.

We showed that day the NF can be confronted and pushed out of an area before they get a hold in it.

The landlord of the White Hart, for instance, now says he will not allow Front members in his pub again.

As a result of the activity, two people joined IS, and expressed interest in holding a Socialist Worker meeting in Bodmin.

# MAN UNDER 'SENTENCE OF DEATH'

By Chris Porsz

VISIBLY shaking, Ebrahim stammered: 'Well then, it looks as if I must go. But I shall not be taking my wife and children with me. They have a right to be here and I cannot ask them to run the risk of losing their lives with me.'

'I am very upset by all this. I thought they would be generous to me. Everyone has been so good, my colleagues, my union. Only the Home Office seem to have a heart of stone.'

Those were the words of my workmate Ebrahim Dhanji when the bombshell hit him: that he had lost his second appeal to stay in the UK.

Ebrahim, although Kenyan by birth, spent most of his life in Uganda.

As a chief engineer at a textile mill, he was forced to stay when Amin expelled Asians in 1972.

Harassed by the regime, he managed to escape with his Ugandan wife and children to join his parents here.

For the past two years, Ebrahim has worked in Peterborough as a hospital domestic, where our union, NUPE, formed a campaign committee to keep him here.

Former Home Secretary Roy Jenkins wrote to Ebrahim that he was 'not satisfied that you have a well-founded fear of being persecuted should you leave the UK.'

'Left winger' Michael Foot wrote: 'Although I sympathise with his difficulties you will realise my main concern is to safeguard the employment opportunities for resident people.'

Foot was, of course, later to become known as Minister for unemployment.

### Right-wing

A hospital mass meeting pledged militant action if Ebrahim was to be deported. It may be needed for Ebrahim's fear of being killed by the Ugandan secret police did not impress the adjudicator.

This was despite evidence of atrocities by a former Ugandan government official now in hiding after threats from Amin.

There is now a final appeal to an appeals tribunal and then to the Home Secretary. A meeting with Merlyn Rees has been asked for by NUPE.

A meeting of hospital shop stewards last week sent a telegram of protest to Rees. If the outcome of the final appeal is unfavourable, a further mass meeting would decide what action to take.

NUPE branch secretary Arthur Murdock said: 'Everything about this is diabolical. I shall be down the airport stopping them if they try to deport him.'

## A NEW LINE IN POISON ...

By Eric Cameron

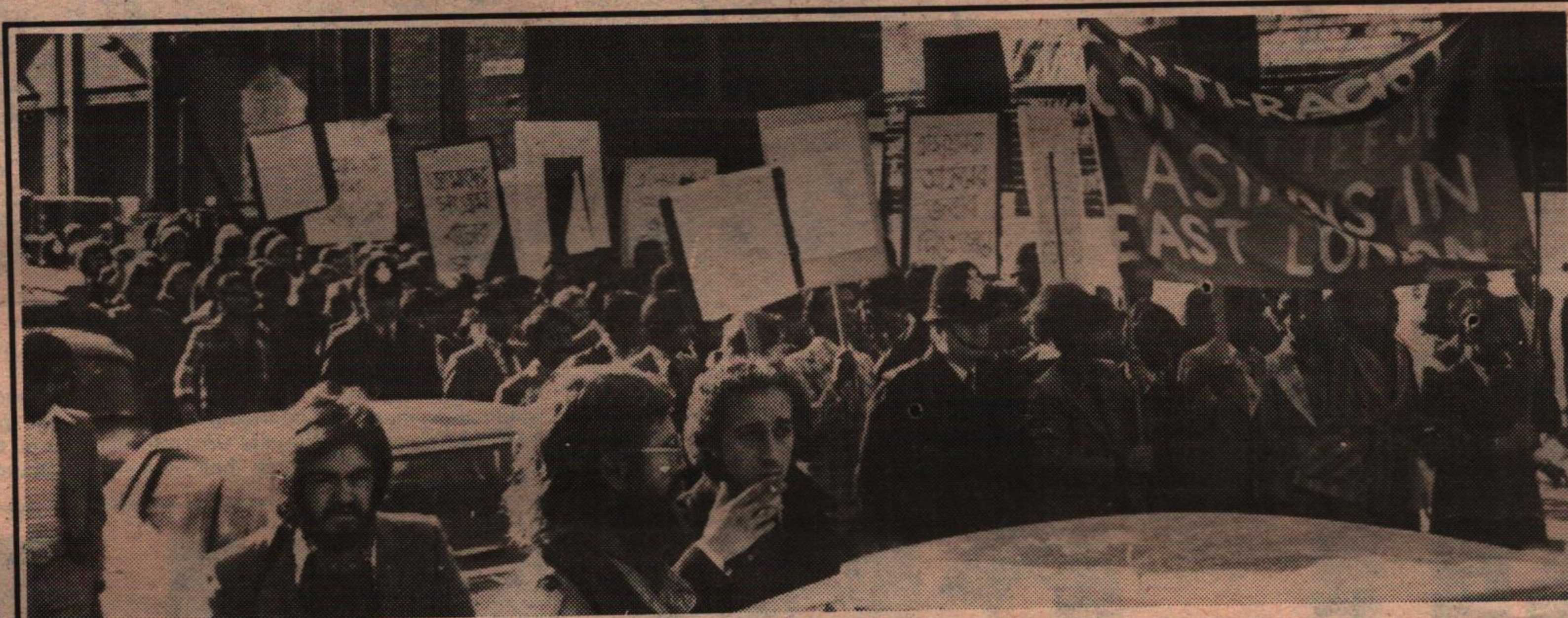
150 ANTI-RACISTS picketed a National Front meeting in Bristol last week. The meeting, addressed by top Nazi Martin Webster, was held in the Top Cat Nite

Club, owned by a Front member.

The club had been in the news the same day. They had taken on an employee while under prohibition for being infected by salmonella poisoning.



UNITED: Ebrahim with NUPR branch secretary Arthur Murdock (left) and official Keith Posey



By Alocke Biswas  
BRICK LANE, heart of the Bengali Community in London was again the scene of bitter clashes last Sunday thanks to the Nazi National Front. A demonstration had been called by the Bengali anti-racist

committee in protest against the beating up of a young Bengali by National Front thugs.

The 700-strong march was made up of Bengalis, white socialists and trade unionists, many of them Socialist Worker

supporters. As the march passed the National Front, stones and beer cans were thrown by the Nazis. In the clashes which followed, 19 anti-racists marchers were arrested. Only six NF members were picked up.

After the march, a group of NF members attacked three SW supporters who received injuries to the head and face. Charges of grievous bodily harm have now been lodged against the three Nazis.

# Justice, McCarthy-style

THE DEFENCE of the Harlesden Six, the black girls charged with assaulting the police last June, goes on.

The defendants are Virginia Joseph, Hyacinth Mathas, Rosa Toussant, Monica Wright, Shirley Williams and Olive Wright.

A week ago, the prosecution charged the first defendant in the witness box with perjury. They also insisted that she was a member of the International Socialists.

They were trying to prove that the whole case against the police is a conspiracy by political extremists.

Last Friday when independent local witnesses testified, the prosecution attacked

them as being members of IS.

Christine Clark, who is several months pregnant, was told that all her evidence was a lie cooked up by the International Socialists.

She replied that the only time she'd ever seen IS was when they sold papers outside her factory.

### Overthrow

The prosecution then demanded that she point out all the IS members sitting in the public gallery. She was unable to do so.

As witnesses entered the dock, defence barrister Ed Reece explained to the witnesses that because of the nature of the prosecution, he would have to ask them one important question:

'Had they had visitors over the summer months from either Peking or Moscow.'

The public gallery erupted into laughter.

The extent of the prosecution witch-hunt against a political organisation has appalled everyone in the public gallery.

Local papers are now carrying the story of the

alleged IS plot.

Having had all the police evidence torn to shreds, they are now trying to play the old red scare.

It is now clear that witnesses waiting to testify are terrified to talk to anybody in the IS.

The case was adjourned last Friday for a week.

## Battle over club steps up

THE BARRAS Green Working Men's Club in Coventry, where Asian Right to Work marcher Ian Bailey was refused work because of his colour, was picketed on Saturday for the eighth week running.

Ian's union, Equity, and the Musicians Union have since officially boycotted the club.

But refuse is still being collected and beer is still being delivered.

The regional committee of

### PICKET THE FASCISTS

Picket National Front celebration of Remembrance Day, Sunday 14 November, 2.30pm, The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London. London IS branches to support.

### Evacuate

From next week, the local branch of Equity and the Right to Work Campaign will be mounting day-long pickets to stop all deliveries.

□ If you can volunteer for the picket rota, phone Coventry 21662 or 503602.

## DEMONSTRATE AGAINST RACIALISM

Sunday 21 November

Assemble 11 am, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London. Socialist Worker meeting at Speakers Corner, Noon. March to rally in Trafalgar Square.

Demonstration called by the TUC and the Labour Party  
All IS branches to support



# YOU'RE DIGGING YOUR OWN GRAVE, LABOUR

**TWO THINGS** are now crystal clear about the Labour government.

It cannot fulfil its promises—made barely 15 months ago—to cut unemployment and end rising prices.

And, far from keeping out the Tories, it is opening the way for right-wingers to make a big come-back in British politics.

Labour's own statisticians now talk glibly about an increase in the number of people on the dole to 1½ million throughout next year.

Meanwhile, the Price Commission predicts a rising rate of inflation—even though most workers can expect wage rises of no more than £2.50 to see them through the next 12 months.



And so millions of workers become bewildered and confused. They are on the receiving end of unemployment and falling living standards from a government which the press tells them is 'socialist' and even 'Marxist'.

The confusion showed in last week's parliamentary by-elections. And it's giving a gigantic shot in the arm to the Tories and, to a lesser extent, the National Front.

But it's not just those election results that make Thatcher and her cronies now seem so confident. After all, the government's

But that's no reason why we should let the Tories bury us as well

WHAT WE THINK

majority in the Commons has been small for two years.

And throughout that period there have been enough profiteers, parasites and inebriates in the House of Lords to have wrecked the government's programme any time the Tories chose.

No. The Tories have been haunted by the memory of what the miners did to them when they were in power. So they have sat tight. Until now.



In the same way, the bosses in the Confederation of British Industries have been almost as enthusiastic about the Social Contract as the likes of James Callaghan and Jack Jones. Until now.

Suddenly the employers, having got the Labour government to do just about everything they

have asked of it, are feeling ready for a fight again.

They want still bigger cuts, still larger cuts in living standards. After two years without any big strikes, they now believe they could soon get away with a massive onslaught.

And so they're discussing among themselves—and you can find the debate not in the Daily Mirror but in those internal bulletins of the ruling class, the Financial Times and the Economist—whether the time is now coming ripe.

Ripe to ditch the Labour government, to annoy the trade union leaders—and to go all out for everything they want.

Their minds are not yet made up. But the more the trade union leaders dampen down the struggles against the present attacks carried through by Labour, the more the employers



If there's any old coppers going spare...

THE NEWCASTLE and Walsall by-elections are over. But the campaign to build a new Socialist Party goes on.

And the success of the Tories shows just how urgent that need is.

That is why we don't apologise for asking you to continue contributing to our fighting fund.

We know money's tight, thanks to the Labour government. But there's always someone worse off than yourself.

Someone like poor Sir Robert Mark, for instance. He's resigned as London's top copper because his pay has been held down to a meagre £18,000 a year.

Now he's going to have to scrape by on a pension of just £280 a week. Shame.

Our special campaign fund brought in another £434 this week—taking us to a total of £2542

This is still a little short of our target but no doubt there are many collections and levies from IS branches still to arrive.

What is more, another £115 has been raised to help our anti-racist campaigning.

Our thanks to:

H M & G M Newlove £1.50; J M Caba £5; Lawrenson & Schollfield £5; Pat, East End £1.30; A R Nehmad £5; Eddie Murray UCATT £5; Jim Parkes £1; Cowley Princess night shift £4.40.

IS Branches: Barnsley £18; Albion Motors British Leyland £8; Huddersfield £5.50; Brighton £18; Chester £18; Coventry £20; Oxford £3; Oxford SW Readers £7; Reading £21; Bangor £6; Kingston £15.

Birmingham £22; Gravesend £6; Colchester £9; Robert Golden £3; Chippenham Readers £3; Durham £13; St Albans comrades £10; Portsmouth £6.50; Shipley £5; Cardiff Jumble Sale £8.09; Cardiff £15; Bangor 60p; Norwich £19.90; Southampton £12.50;

Loughborough £21.60; South West London District £12; ISUS comrade £100. £434.89

Donations to Anti-Racist Fund £115.

□ Send donations and collections to SW Fighting Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## Boot boys in ermine rule, OK

THE FARCE now taking place in the House of Lords over the Dockwork Regulation Bill concerns every trade unionist in the country.

The Bill, one of five now being blocked, seeks to extend the National Dock Labour Scheme. And it is vital to our industry.

It was one of the points for which we struck in 1972 and 1975. And, poor though it is, this Bill sought to grasp back some of the work we've lost.

And by god we have lost

By Michael Fenn, NASD, and Bob Light, TGWU

work. It's been whisked away and hidden in backstreet wharves to break our power as dockers, to enable the giant shipping companies to charge what they will, when they will.

The bill was blocked by 100 Lords. The other 830 upper-class gangsters failed to turn up.

Among the militants was Lord Simon, managing director for the PO shipping company, the biggest in the world.

Many other Lords are also shipping directors. Added to this are the traitors to the labour movement, Lords Brown, Shinwell, and Shawcross, who voted with the rest to defend their freedom to make fortunes.

Statements were made against dockers which, to say the least, were an interesting reflection on the intellectual equipment of our 'superiors'.

Lord Hankey said that

registered dockers steal up to one third of the cargo they handle.

In London that would mean 11 million tons a year. Since London has less than 10,000 dockers, that works out to 1100 tons a year for each docker—or one fully-laden 20-ton container lorry a week.

This does not allow for sickness or holidays, of course.

This makes us more efficient thieves than Poulson and all his pals put together.

The major Lords amendment was to change the cor-

ridor classified as dock work from five miles to half a mile.

Five miles was inadequate. But half a mile is absurd.

A half-mile corridor from the high water mark on the Thames would mean that areas of Tilbury, the Royal Group and the West India docks would be outside it.

The Lords' main objection to extending the National Dock Labour scheme is that dockers have won job protection. It means that we get paid a minimum wage whether we work or not.

But what no-one has said is

feel encouraged to go all out and demand still more attacks.

That is why the 17 November Day of Action is so important. It is a display of working-class muscle in the streets that will worry the employing class.

The only way to stop the right-wing advance is to show that the power that threw out Heath in 1974 still exists.

And that means fighting the anti-working class policies of this government.

The only way to stop the right-wing advance is to show that the power that threw out Heath still exists.



# BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

# ELECTIONS: WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

AT AN eve-of-poll meeting in Newcastle, the Socialist Worker candidate, Dave Hayes, summed up simply:

'The campaign starts now', he said.

Sure enough, in Walsall and Newcastle last weekend, when the other candidates had packed up and gone home, Socialist Worker was on sale in the streets, council estates and factories.

The elections proved of incalculable value in building that campaign. First, 56 people have joined the International Socialists.

People in Walsall like Avtar Baines, an Asian bus driver, Jim Loughran, another busman, Geoff Lunn, a metal worker, and his wife Chris.

## WARNING FOR LABOUR, A WARNING FOR US

THE Labour Party reaped the whirlwind of its policies when it faced its supporters last Thursday. In three by-elections, the Labour vote was smashed to smithereens.

Labour voters stayed away from the polls by the thousand. At Walsall, these massive abstentions turned a Labour majority of 15,885 into a Tory majority of 4,379.

The most wretched aspect of the Walsall result was the high vote for the Nazi National Front, which received 2,724 votes, 7 per cent of the poll. More than 4,000 people also voted for an Independent Labour candidate who campaigned on a racist ticket.

The votes for the fascists were not inspired by an active campaign. The Front candidate relied on an election address and the old racist slogan. He hoped to pick up passive racist votes, which he did.

Fortunately the Front still have a long way to go in turning their vote into an active movement where it really matters, on the streets. But the size of the vote is a warning to us all of what can happen unless we build a socialist alternative.

The most serious election

The new secretary of the Walsall branch is Jill Arrowsmith, a primary school teacher, who was chairing election meetings within two weeks of joining.

As Bob Brett, John Clifford, Richard Kilsby and Bruce Young from the IS Black Country district committee wrote this week to Socialist Worker:

### Gained

'All of us who've taken part in the campaign have gained invaluable political experience from it.

'For the first time we had to argue our politics on a really mass scale, often with people we'd not have come across in any other way.'

Ted Cuckin, chairman of the Boilermakers Society branch at Maclellands shipyard, Newcastle, joined IS after chairing Dave Hayes' meeting at the County Hotel. After the eve-of-the-poll meeting, Alan Harris, a striker at Vibroplant, also joined.

Dave Hayes was invited to speak at the North East area committee of shop stewards in the Fire Brigades Union, the Tyneside Region of Shop Stewards committee of NUPE and the TGWU Byker Bus Garage committee. He also visited more than 70 factories, depots and hospitals in the area.

These are the important statistics of the campaign.

The voting figures are not so important—but they are still creditable. Dave Hayes received slightly less than 2 per cent of the vote in Newcastle, and beat the

fascist into last place. On polling night, the local chairman of the Communist Party sent a letter of congratulation to Dave for beating the Nazis.

In Walsall, our percentage was slightly lower, about 1.6 per cent—574 votes. That's 109 more than the Communist Party got at the last general election—on a much higher poll.

We said last week that if we got more than 400 votes in Walsall and 100 in Newcastle, we would be doing well. We did better. As candidate Jimmy McCallum put it: 'It shows there are 574 people in

Walsall prepared to fight'.

But the votes also show that masses of workers still remain to be persuaded. 'I think one big mistake we made', says Jimmy McCallum, 'was to try to present the whole of our programme all the time. We have to get used to presenting a few ideas to a lot of people.'

'We have to break away from the language and habits of a small group, in the possibility of mass organisation and a mass party.'

'The election campaign taught us that, at least. And that's a lot'.

## DOES THIS MAN MAKE YOUR DECISIONS?



Supporters of Women's Voice block the way ahead of the Chelmsford march

Pictures: Mark Rusher (IFL)

by MARGARET RENN  
WOMEN'S VOICE supporters all over the country picketed, heckled and disrupted anti-abortion rallies organised by SPUC last Sunday.

At one of the rallies, in Glasgow, Teddy Taylor MP showed his own hypocrisy. Backstreet abortions are on the increase, he said, despite assurances when the Abortion Act was passed that they would be wiped out.

Of course backstreet abortion is on the increase. Teddy Taylor, Cyril Smith, James White, Leo Abse, to name but

## ANTI ABORTION RALLIES PICKETED

a few MPs, have spent the past two years campaigning against legal abortion! They have voted for cuts in the National Health Service which will close the abortion clinics and restrict the facilities available.

### Listen

They have given every encouragement to those top gynaecologists who listen more to the priests than the women whose needs they are supposed to care for. They

have again tried to make abortion a dirty word.

Women have always had to resort to abortion. When abortion is illegal, the amount of money in your pocket decides whether you get a couple of days in a plush clinic or a knitting needle or syringe in someone's back room.

That's why we will go on fighting to defend, the 1967 Abortion Act, and for free abortion, on the National Health, for every woman who wants an abortion.

In BRADFORD, 300

Women's Voice supporters picketed and heckled the biggest SPUC rally, where 40,000 had gathered in Listia Park to listen to Cyril Smith and Kevin McNamara.

In GLASGOW, SPUC packed out the Kelvin Halls and had to organise an overflow meeting in Kelvin Park, which was heckled throughout by 120 Women's Voice supporters.

At BRISTOL, SPUC held their rally on the Downs, which ended up like a cowboys and Indians show, with

Women's Voice and National Abortion Campaign (NAC) supporters parading and shouting in a circle around the rally.

Women's Voice and NAC supporters followed the SPUC march through BIRMINGHAM to the Hall of Memory, where we laid a red wreath to mourn the women who have died in the hands of backstreet abortionists.

CHELMSFORD: Elaine Ellen reports:

SPUC must have been glad to have seen the back of Chelmsford on Sunday. Their pilgrimage of bigotry became an utter humiliation as 150 supporters of Women's Voice and the National Abortion Campaign led them a dance

### Invaded

First we invaded their rally at Chelmsford football ground. Then we harassed them along the length and breadth of their march.

Finally we staged a sit-down. As we blocked the road, one of our members appeared from a side alley dressed as a bigoted bishop.

He carried a placard which read: 'Where Bigots Lead Fools Follow'.

SPUC, good Christians that they are, reacted to this with a show of strong-arm tactics. Inside the rally, their steward karate-chopped one woman on the neck, causing her to fall down a flight of stairs.

Another person was struck across the face with a walking stick.

And the SPUC steward stole two of our megaphones and smashed a third. Good job it was the Sabbath or they might have turned violent... Please send donations to help pay for replacing the megaphones to Elaine Ellen, 113 Robin Way, Chelmsford, Essex.

# 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 an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

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

SOCIALIST WORKER is a revolutionary paper that seeks to organise its supporters around the following principles:

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



# Capitalism kills—official

A RISE OF 1.4 per cent in unemployment in 1970 was responsible for 51,570 deaths. That is the conclusion of a report of a US Congress joint economic committee. The report blames at least 1,500 suicides on unemployment. And it says that at least 1,700 murders had the same cause—proof that it is unemployment that

is directly responsible for violent crimes such as mugging. Diseases brought on by the stress caused by unemployment—strokes, heart and kidney diseases—killed another 26,000 people. Fight for the right to work—and fight for the right to live.

FROM THE Argentine, a bastion of the 'free world' where political parties and trade unions are banned, there has been no official labour news this week, or last week, or the week before.

That's because workers are fighting against brutal oppression.

## Lightning Strikes

One of the first things the military junta did after seizing power last March was to ban all wage increases.

Price rises have since cut real wages by 43 per cent.

In reply, shop floor militants have organised go-slows, works-to-rule, lightning strikes and sabotage.

Car workers have been spraying cars at the wrong temperature. The cars look all right when they come off the production line—but the paint crumbles two weeks later.

Biscuit workers have been putting one bad biscuit in each tin—so the whole tin goes bad almost at once. Huge electricity generators have mysteriously blown up.

Last month, at a car plant, 40 new police patrol cars straight off a production line were parked outside the factory.

## Power Cuts

When the police drivers came to collect them, they found them smashed to pieces.

Two mighty disputes are shaking Buenos Aires, 7000 power workers, whose union is one of the most democratic, are fighting against 214 sackings. The 214 included the entire executive of the union (all shop floor workers) and every known militant.

The workers resisted with strikes and go-slows. When government 'inspectors' backed by troops invaded the power stations, the workers worked normally until the soldiers turned their backs. Then they worked to rule once more.

Power cuts followed, and a settlement was patched up by a nervous government.

As the workers started to go back to work, three of their leaders were kidnapped by one of the navy's 'snatch squads'.

These squads are given almost total freedom of action by the authorities.

## Kidnapped

They operate, on their own admission, 'to keep the government in order'. So whenever Minister of Labour Horacio Liendo opens talks with union leaders, the union leaders are kidnapped.

In the past month, the leaders of the tobacco workers, the port workers (white collar section), the cinematograph workers, and the paperworkers have all been kidnapped.

Only the tobacco workers' leader has been released.

As soon as they heard of last

# Argentina Workers defy state terror machine



Some of the 25,000 people who demonstrated in Lisbon last week demanding the immediate release of the imprisoned Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho. While all sorts of fascists and secret policeman are at liberty, he has been

jailed for 20 days on a trumped up charge of making illegal statements at a Popular Power meeting.

The government and military authorities obviously jailed Carvalho to

test the water. But the support for his immediate release must have surpassed their expectations.

And there has since been another major demonstration calling for his release.

week's three kidnappings, the power workers renewed their strike.

The government retaliated by arresting 500 power workers in their homes.

Still, the workers are resisting. They are demanding the release of their comrades.

They are also holding to their original demands for restored fringe benefits and

better pay.

Since the end of October, the dockers have been working to rule in Buenos Aires for similar demands.

Argentina has four million trade unionists out of a population of 25 million, a higher proportion than in most European countries.

## Hamstrung

Most unions are weak and corrupt at the top, but many, like the power workers, are strong and democratic on the shop floor.

The junta torturers of the Argentine have hamstrung the powerful guerilla movement, which replied only by meeting guns with guns.

They have hamstrung the trade union leaders and 'respectable' Labour politicians.

Now they have taken on the rank and file of the working class—and they are not finding things so easy.

## GIEREK GETS PROTEST

WORKERS at the Ursus tractor plant outside Warsaw have called upon the Polish leader, Edward Gierk, to reinstate 200 militants victimised after the strike earlier this year.

Nearly 900 of them have signed a letter protesting at the sackings. The strike forced the government to drop its plans to increase food prices, but it retaliated with mass arrests and sackings.

Strikes over food supplies have been taking place inside the Soviet Union. Four dock workers from Riga, on the Baltic coast, have been sent to labour camps for up to three years after being involved in strikes over meat shortages earlier this year.

BUY FOR THE BOYS ON THE BORDER



Help keep Rhodesia Super and Safe



Part of the proceeds from all goods carrying the Rhodesia Super symbol goes to the Border Patrol Welfare Fund!

HE WON'T BE SMILING MUCH LONGER...

THIS IS their 'solidarity' camp sign.

It's designed to help preserve the power and privilege of the racists and the rich in Rhodesia.

It involves paying out extra money so that white racist soliders can get their little comforts in between the murders and massacres they engage in.

Our solidarity goes elsewhere—to the people out to smash them and everything they stand for.

It goes to the black people who're fighting for the freedom of Zimbabwe.

That's why we're happy to report that guerrilla activity has once again been stepped up in the North.

The 'rich, whites-only' golf tournament at Victoria Falls has even had to be postponed.

Another similar tournament in Geneva however, goes on. There Kissinger and company are still trying to save the situation for big business.

But the freedom fighters battle on.

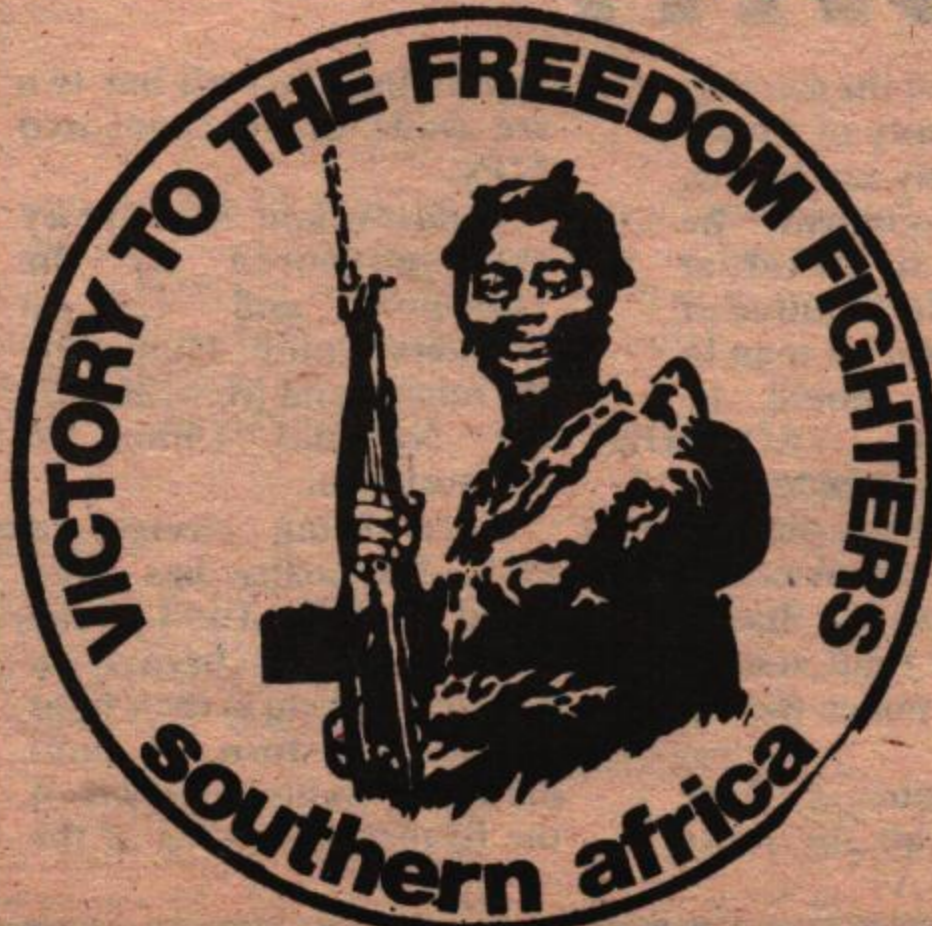
One Year of the Right to Work Campaign John Deason  
The end of Two Party politics? Martin Shaw

International Socialism 93

What's Happening in Poland Chris Harman  
Fascism in Leicester Wayne Asher  
The Crisis in Britain Duncan Hallas

Reviews  
Notes of the Month  
39p including postage  
Sub £4.70

## SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



BULLETIN: First issue out now. Articles on Transkei, black trade unions under apartheid, Zimbabwe, Soweto, racism at Heathrow Airport, London. 10p a copy plus 10p postage.

PICKET: With space for details of local activities. Two colours. £1 for 50.

GLASGOW PICKET: Saturday 13 November, Meet 9am, City Halls, Albion Street.

MANCHESTER public meeting: Black workers hit back. Speakers from Zimbabwe People's Army and SASC. Sunday 14 November, 7.30pm, West Indian Centre, Carmoor Road, Rusholme.

PICKET: Annual general meeting of Consolidated Goldfields one of the biggest exploiters of South Africa. Monday 22 November, 11.30am. The Dorchester, Park Lane, London, W1.

BRIXTON public meeting: Tuesday 23 November, 7.30pm, Abeng Centre, 7 Gresham Road, London SW2. Organised by Brixton SASC committee

DEMONSTRATION: Saturday 27 November, 1.30pm, outside Brixton Town Hall.

GRAND FUND-RAISING BENEFIT SOCIAL: Friday 3 December, 8pm, School of Oriental and African Studies. (SOAS), Malet Street, London, W1, with The Derelicts and real ale.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN, 101-103 Gower Street, London, W1.



# So much for 'experts'

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM  
Duncan Hallas

Directors and the like are highly paid. But why? Their only skill is their ability to pull the wool over our eyes . . .

**THE DIRECTORS of Cable and Wireless Ltd have a grievance.**

So strongly do they feel about it that they have decided on a spot of industrial action—they are threatening to resign as a body.

The trouble is, they say, that they have only had an eight per cent pay rise since 1972, whereas the cost of living has doubled. And so the poor fellows have to struggle along with a mere pittance of between £200 and £240 a week.

What is more, their colleagues in the private sector (Cable and Wireless is nationalised) have at least doubled their pay since 1972 by voting

themselves increases and, anyway, they had much bigger salaries to start with. Unfair to directors of Cable and Wireless is the slogan of these new militants.

## COMMON HERD

Well, a good many of us with jobs, not to mention the unemployed, would probably be glad to replace these badly-done-to directors at even less than their present pay and perks (which you can be sure are not negligible).

Why on earth should they be paid more than a postman, a nurse or a foundryman?

Because, comes the instant reply, they are experts. They have specialised knowledge and experience which we,

the common herd, altogether lack.

And this must be paid for at super-premium rates—or they will run away to jobs with Standard Telephone or GEC.

Indeed, Readers may recall that Cable and Wireless has just been given a new boss, a new Chairman of the Board of Directors. He is Edward Short, a redundant Labour Party leader.

Now Short certainly has some specialised knowledge and experience. Just what of is another matter. The libel laws make it prudent to avoid this question.

But one thing is sure. He knows about as much about telecommunication as I do—that is to say,

practically nothing.

That is no disqualification apparently. You may regard Short's appointment as a piece of pure political nepotism, an example of jobs for the boys.

Just as in the 18th and early 19th centuries needy politicians with the right connections were awarded sinecures such as Keeper of the King's Chamberpot at Windsor or Keeper of the Pells (I don't know what they were either, but the job really existed), so today they get jobs on the boards of nationalised industries.

However, it would be quite unfair to Edward Short to doubt that, ignorant of the industry as he is, he will do quite as well as most of his fellow directors.

Ninety per cent of their alleged expertise is pure balderdash and anyone who is reasonably quick on the uptake can master the other ten per cent pretty fast.

It is not as if they were toolmakers or draughtsmen.

We have been speaking of a nationalised industry but, of course, exactly the same applies to the much better rewarded directors of 'private' industry.

## HIERARCHY

Do you remember Mr Angus Ogilvy? This relative of our dear Queen sat on the boards of a whole string of well-known firms.

When one of them turned out to be crooked, his defenders insisted that he was in no way to blame because he didn't understand the business anyway.

Far be it for me to suggest that they were wrong.

Under capitalism, the hierarchy of pay and perks has, in the upper reaches anyway, nothing whatever to do with skill, knowledge or social usefulness.

It is obvious enough that the man who cleans the sewers renders a vastly greater service to society than the Chairman of the Stock Exchange.

## VULNERABLE

No, the massive inequality of 'earned' income exists because capitalism is based on a colossal inequality of unearned income.

If there was nothing in between the vast incomes of the heirs of Paul Getty and the average worker's wage the heirs would feel (and rightly) extremely vulnerable.

What do they contribute to society?

To keep the rich safe, there needs to be a pyramid of inequality, with layer after layer of privilege.

And, of course, to justify this we have the myth of 'expertise'.

People like the directors of Cable and Wireless do have one skill though—skill in pulling the wool over people's eyes.

THERE ARE STILL many companies which continue to prefer the things they know, to opt for the comfortable familiar status quo, and to put the blame for poor results on the government, the trade unions or mischance. The responsibility for prolonged stagnation rests with management . . .

Who said that? Frank Kearton, first chairman of the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, 1966. Kearton was also chairman of Courtaulds—and remained so until he resigned last year.

The IRC was set up by the Labour government to 'rationalise' British industry in what Harold Wilson once called 'the white heat of the technological revolution'.

Kearton was a favorite of the Labour government and they served him well. In 1968, some people made a bit of a row about the way Courtaulds had sewn up the cellulose fibre market by rigging prices for its own retail outlets.

The Monopolies Commission found that the firm had 'exemplified one of the classic disadvantages of the market'.

Everyone waited breathlessly for the Labour government to do something about it. They did nothing.

Courtaulds were let off scot free, and allowed to go on fixing the market and rigging prices.

A rather different attitude was taken when ICI tried to take over Viyella.

## Takeover

The Labour government allowed the take-over on the grounds that it didn't interfere with Courtaulds.

Frank Kearton kept up his relationship with certain Labour Ministers, George Brown, former Labour Economic Affairs chief, became a Courtaulds consultant.

Douglas Jay, former Labour President of the Board of Trade, became a main board director.

Then, in 1968, Frank Kearton pleased Harold Wilson personally with a nice £7 million new factory in Skelmersdale, (£4 million came from the government).

People wondered why he had taken such a risk with such a factory. Kearton never let on.

Then, just before the Labour government went out of office, Kearton became a Lord—by order of Harold Wilson.

As the man said: 'The responsibility rests with management . . .'

# SORDID STORY OF THE FIRM THAT'S NOW SACKING WORKERS BY THE THOUSAND



## SACRIFICE AND THE EXECUTIVE DUCK

IF YOU'RE stocking up for Christmas, you'll obviously want a few jars of Russian Beluga Caviar and a couple of tins of Turkey Wing in Sauce Perigord style of course.

No Christmas is complete without them. At least, no ruling class Christmas is complete without them.

They come complete with a good few other delicacies in the Fortnum and Mason luxury hamper. Price: £325.

And if you're wondering what to buy the intelligent ruling class man in your life, what about an Afamis Executive Soap Duck (right)? A snip at £2 . . .



# Take six of the best . . .

IT'S NICE to know who your friends are, specially when you need a bit of help.

Workers at the Redpath Dorman Long site in Methil, Fife recently called off their strike against lousy working conditions after being sabotaged by union officials and many so-called socialists.

They weren't helped, either, by six Scottish Labour MPs who are allegedly in Parliament to further the working-class cause.

During the strike, those MPs—Harry Gourlay, Adam Hunter, Tam Dalyell, Peter Doig, Tom McMillan and Hugh McCartney—had a meeting locally with RDL management.

Strikers picketing the meeting watched a van being unloaded before lunch. Goodies included cartons of whisky and vodka and stacks of food.

Three of the MPs later had the (Dutch) courage to face the pickets. Gourlay tried double-talk. Hunter and McMillan told them

they were only at the meeting to seek 'continuity of work'.

When Gourlay saw he was losing the argument, he staggered over to his car, at which the pickets inquired of the police whether a man in his condition should be allowed to drive.

With Hunter beside him yelling abuse at the pickets, Gourlay then drove off, unable at first to locate which was the right side of the road. The police merely looked on.

The behaviour of these individuals is all the more

interesting since all but two are trade union sponsored MPs.

Gourlay and McCartney are sponsored by the Transport and General Workers Union, Hunter by the miners and McMillan by the National Union of Railwaymen.

Since being elected in 1970, McCarthy has been asked by John Todd of the TGWU ladders branch in Glasgow to help in their fight against asbestosis. A hundred and twenty members of the Branch have died of the

disease in the last ten years.

McCarthy has done nothing. Too busy abusing pickets, no doubt . . .

JOHN HEALY

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

AS NYE BEVAN said, the Labour Party is a crusade or it is nothing. But I don't think we now see ourselves as crusaders. I think we have become very much defenders of what we have got rather than campaigning for more.

— Colin Ware, headmaster, leader of Haringey Borough Council, announcing his council's decision to accept sackings and three per cent cuts.

WHEN the Social Contract was introduced, workers were told it would do 'rough justice' to all. Just how rough is that justice was highlighted a couple of weeks ago by the leather company director given a £275 a week increase. Not only could he get that rise under the £6 limit but there is no reason why he can't have a similar rise, under the 4½ per cent policy. Who says so? The Department of Employment, policemen of the Social Contract. They have ruled that directors who have contracts which tie their salaries to company profits be treated the same as workers on piece rates. But what if the directors sack workers and so increase profits, as many companies have done? According to the Department of Employment, that is within the Social Contract. Just another reason for smashing it . . .

IAN REINECKE

ANOTHER milestone was passed in the glorious history of London's Metropolitan Police Force when a jury recently cleared me of a 'theft' charge.

Last February two policemen searched my car and discovered a roller-towel which a garage attendant had given me for a Right to Work Jumble Sale.

They arrested me, held me in a cell all day and charged me with theft and handling stolen property.

The case finally came up in the Crown Court two weeks ago. It lasted a day and a half at an approximate cost to the taxpayer of £1000. It took the jury less than half an hour to find me not guilty.

But the most interesting aspect was a remark made by the prosecution counsel. He told my solicitor:

'They only charged your client because of the International Socialist literature they saw in the back of the car.'

JOHN ROSE

# Socialist Worker

## EDITORIAL

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# SAFETY VALVE? ASK LABOUR'S WELSH BOSSSES

REBECCA first appeared in May 1973. In that issue the need for such a radical magazine was discussed by Ffred Ffransis, a member of Cymdeithias yr Iaith Gymraeg the Welsh Language Society.

'How does one fight against such a monopoly of the mass media with the terrific material resources, behind it?' he asked.

'Rebecca could become merely a safety valve—something to ease our own consciences, a medium for letting off steam. We must search for means of reaching the people directly and of creating a system of popular control of the mass media.'

Well, Rebecca is in its eighth issue and while we are not much closer to controlling the mass media in Wales or anywhere else, Rebecca has not become the safety valve for middle-class and armchair socialists.

It is a radical magazine and not a Welsh 'Private Eye'.

## Rebecca

In 'Private Eye' the sight of Lord Gnome with his trousers around his ankles is funny, but nothing more. In Rebecca, the mention of any South Wales Labour Party boss is not so funny—it usually means some deal has been done, usually to the detriment of thousands of people and to the advantage of the party boss.

Almost the whole content is directed towards the ordinary working-class men and women in South Wales, exposing the corruption and graft which surrounds their lives or taking up the issues they fight on—the Hirwaun Gas Tanks, the BP Baglan Bay site, the state of housing in Wales, the Shrewsbury pickets.

It has, too, an excellent 'Corruption Supplement', which followed the decision by the printers in August 1974 not to print the News Section. The supplements have focussed attention on the Labour Party establishment in South Wales and I think have been instrumental in shaking those foundations severely.

Rebecca reflects the belief of its editors that things must be changed, and that working people are the main agency of that change. But its ability to expose and assist in the downfall of a corrupt and rotten Labour establishment is not enough. It is unfortunate that Rebecca is not an organiser.

## Rebecca

The 1976 local elections in South Wales produced a landslide for the Ratepayers, who stood on reactionary manifestos, they are now taking great delight in screwing the conditions of working-class families to 'save the rates'.

Not that those families did any better out of Labour—they didn't. But the disillusionment has not been directed anywhere—it has produced only an increased vote for the Ratepayers, the Tories in disguise.

The task of building a revolutionary alternative to the Ratepayers and the Labour Party in South Wales still remains, and the editors of Rebecca will have to give some thought to the part they wish to play in that.

nevertheless, Rebecca remains essential reading for anyone in Wales.

## BRYAN REES

□ REBECCA costs £2 for five issues, 30p plus 10p postage for a single copy, from the Hosts of Rebecca, 15 Windsor Esplanade, Docks, Cardiff.



# Why do so many swallow the lies?

'THERE is no politician in the country with the slightest idea how to make the capitalist system work,' readers of the Sunday Times were informed in November 1974.

Which seems to support Marx's contention that capitalism as a system of production is fundamentally unstable.

Massive unemployment, inflation, cuts in social services and living standards all over the world—isn't it time production was organised for human need and not for profit?

LEFT: The bosses' press—not only because they own it, but because it churns out a continuing barrage of propaganda to justify their system.

This should be clear to any sane person, but it is not. A majority of people who create the wealth in Britain grudgingly accept that wages must be restrained in the 'National interest'.

Workers in France, Germany, Japan and the USA also agree to keep down wages for the same reason.

In England in the Middle Ages if a person was seriously ill they were encouraged to lose blood. The end result was that thousands of people died because of ignorance of the human body and of medicine.

Yet when politicians and leading trade unionists argue that living standards must

be cut in order to nurse the sick British economy back to health, many people accept this to be broadly true.

Sixty years ago Antonio Gramsci became a revolutionary socialist in Italy. After the October Revolution in Russia much of Europe, including Italy, was ripe for revolution.

But Gramsci realised that without socialist consciousness, socialist awareness of the system we live in—and effective organisation—the revolutionary tide would turn.

The Workers' Councils, which in 1919 paralysed the whole of Italy, ended.

What prevents the development of socialist awareness and revolutionary change in society?

According to Gramsci, capitalist ideas and values dominate society and impose a mental strait-jacket on working people, which prevents them from understanding society in order to change it.

The family, the local environment, the education system, work, the mass media, political parties and trade unions, in which we are brought up and live, are dominated by one view of society.

The real power relations in society are masked.

Instead we are all taught to respect private property, to obey people in authority, respect for Britain's traditions which have served us well in the past, and that people get what they work for.

That is the capitalist theory which the Sun and other papers tell their readers every day.

## DOMINATION

Capitalist practice involves getting people to compete against one another in everyday life for exam marks, jobs and overtime.

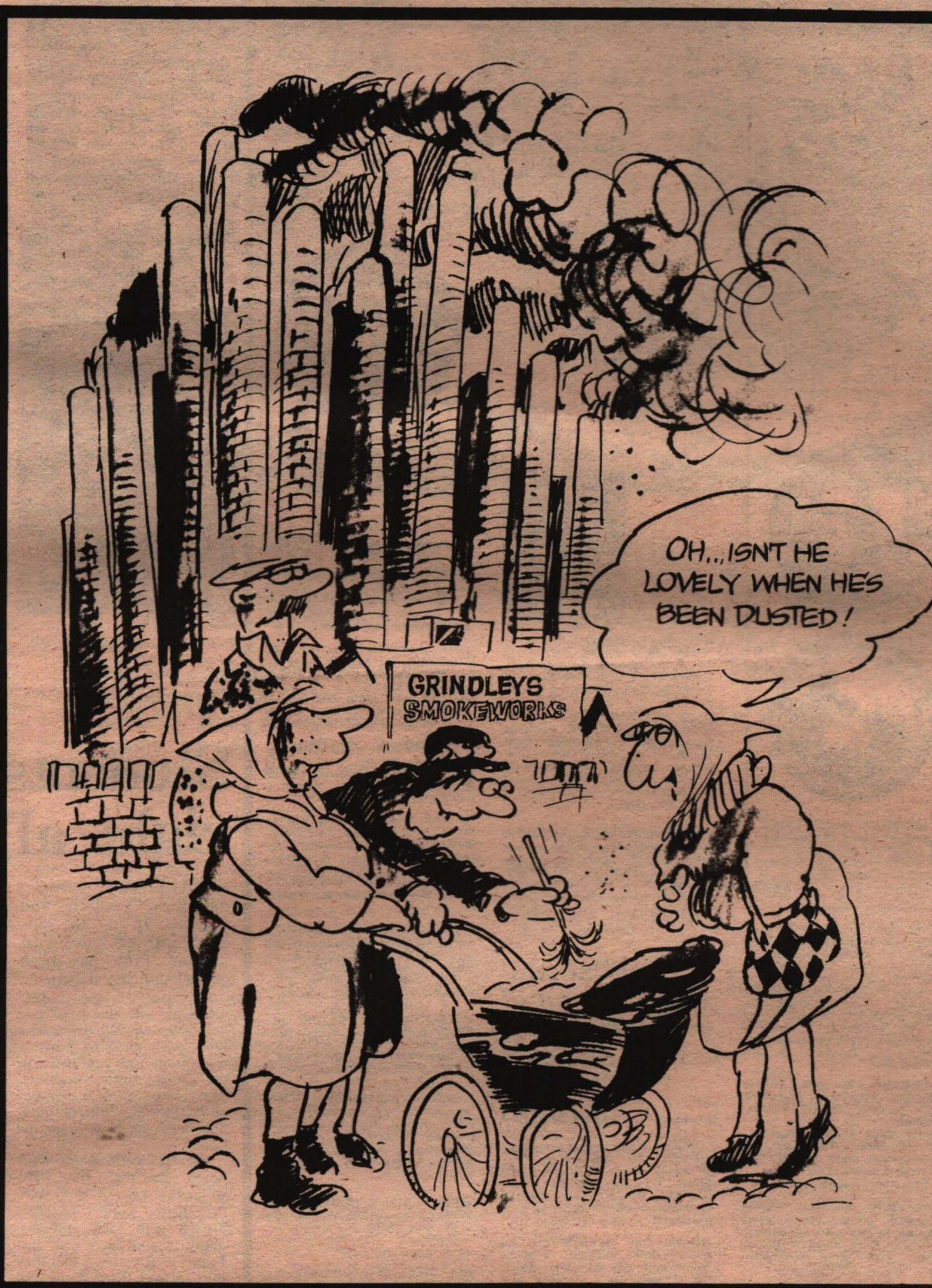
Any stoppage of work to improve wages is reported as holding the firm or nation to ransom. Yet if the media and politicians were genuinely concerned about lost production they would devote more time to sickness and accidents, which every year account for 20 times more lost production than strikes.

The key is that strikes not only mean lost production, income and profits but they threaten capitalist domination of the ideas in our heads.

Gramsci was concerned with the structure of laws, ideas, practices, beliefs, customs and 'norms' which are considered to be proper and legitimate, and which come to define the limits of the possible—and prevent people realising they can change things.

The problems that faced Gramsci in Italy are very similar to those socialists face today in Britain. The answers are also the same.

TERRY WARD



## World coughing final shock

THE greatest criminal in the North, is Eric Ackroyd.

Eric, Fume Master at Grindley's Smokeworks in the Northern town of Badchester, one day presses the wrong button—and instead of belching forth their usual six-foot-visibility smog, Grindley's chimneys emit...

CLEAN AIR! Only for one minute, granted, before Eric, with a colossal effort of will, slams in the 'MURK' button.

But the damage is done—for the Grindley's Smokeworks Coughing Choir was outside practising. In Eric's own words: 'My God... the poor buggers, they've been taking in fresh air!'

And that's only the start of the story.

Bill Tidy, the cartoonist who draws the Fosdyke Saga for the Daily Mirror, gives us another breathtaking tale of a working-class lad who makes bad.\* The story is a laugh, but the price is no joke at all.

Get your local library to buy it for Christmas.

PETER MARSDEN

\* THE GREAT ERIC ACKROYD DISASTER, by Bill Tidy, Hutchinson, £2.50.

## Make next year Law and Disorder Year!

The theme of the 1977 Big Red Diary is Law and Disorder—the legal repression of capitalist society

There's William Hone in all his glory taking the piss out of the high and mighty... It also contains a great

deal about the struggle for real freedom

Treat yourself. Have one for each pocket.

—Laurie Flynn in Socialist Worker.

SEND ME A 1977 BIG RED DIARY

I enclose £1 per copy, of which 25p is for the Right to Work Defence Fund

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF COPIES \_\_\_\_\_

Please Press: Encl to Spencer Court, 7 Clack Road, London, N.W.1. Cash with order only.

## PRE-VIEW

**SUNDAY**  
THE LONDON PROGRAMME (LWT 10.55pm) looks at the left wing in London's Labour constituencies. The programme also gives viewers the opportunity to put across their views.

It's a good night for films with Paul Newman as Billy the Kid in THE LEFT-HANDED GUN (BBC1) and SACCO AND VANZETTI (BBC2) starting a season of films showing the gulf between the

'criminal' and those who operate the judicial system.

**MONDAY**  
Your chance to see how the other half lives, with THE LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET (BBC1).  
Jim Callaghan will be winning and dining with 700 fat

cats and no doubt making a fine speech about how we all have to tighten our belts. Not so easy for the revellers themselves after the sort of meal they'll be having.

**TUESDAY**  
A touch of 1960s nostalgia in THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST (BBC2) with some vintage Beach Boys film and music.  
It isn't what you do, it's where you do it. That's the conclusion of SIGNS OF TROUBLE (BBC2), a

programme which investigates the differences in the court system in various parts of the country.

**THURSDAY**  
Psychiatrist R D Laing is interviewed about his latest book, The Facts of Life, in THE BOOK PROGRAMME (BBC2).

**FRIDAY**  
A few handy hints about company law and how it is or is not used in THE MONEY PROGRAMME (BBC2).



# BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

## Socialist Worker public meetings

□ Send notices — to reach us first post Monday — to What's On, SW, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

**WEST MIDDLESEX** Socialist Worker discussion meetings on The Meaning of Marxism. Alternate Mondays, 7.45pm, The Mill Hill Tavern, Gunnersbury Lane (nearest tube Acton Town).  
15 November: The Minority Movement and the Right to Work Campaign.  
29 November: What is fascism?

**KINGSTON** Socialist Worker discussion meetings on The Fight for Socialism. Thursdays, 8pm, Three Tuns, London Road.  
11 November: Why there is no parliamentary road to socialism.

**DUMFRIES** Socialist Worker day school: Sunday 14 November, 12 noon—6pm. Speakers: Peter Bain and Henry Matiles, on The Origin of the International Socialists, The Crisis—Who caused it and What can we do about it? The Need for a Revolutionary Socialist Party.  
More details from Terry Stewart, 1 Irving Street, Dumfries. Or phone Dumfries 62406.

**DURHAM** Socialist Worker Christmas social: Friday 3 December, 8pm, Fowlers Yard, Durham. With CAST in Sam The Man, bar and disco.

**LEICESTER** Socialist Worker teachers' meetings: Mondays, 7.30pm, The Bricklayers Arms, Welford Road.  
22 November: The trade unions and bureaucracy. Speaker: Bob Carter (AUT).

6 December: The Left in Europe. Towards the revolutionary international.

**HALIFAX** Socialist Worker meeting: AMERICA—the problems of building a socialist movement. Speaker: John Charlton. Friday 12 November, 7.30pm, Room A, Harrison Road Library.

**FINSBURY PARK** Socialist Worker meetings: Every Wednesday, 8pm, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.  
17 November: Workers and law and order. Speaker: Alistair Hatchett.  
24 November: The Labour Party and Socialism.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON** Socialist Worker day school: Saturday 13 November, 10.30am, Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. Nigel Harris on MARXISM AND HISTORY, with other sessions on Women and the Family, Revolution, and Slavery. Cost £1 including lunch and tea. Details: ring 733-5201.

**NEWHAM** Teachers Socialist Worker public meeting: Crisis in Education. Monday 15 November, 5.30pm, Earl of Wakefield, Katherine Road, East Ham. Speakers: Duncan Hallas and Jim Backhouse (Little Ilford teacher suspended from NUT).

**SOUTHALL** Socialist Worker half-day school on INDIA. Saturday 27 November. Socialist following. More details next week.

**WITHAM** Socialist Worker film show: Blow for Blow, a film about women workers fighting for their rights. Friday 19 November, 8pm, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill.

**ILFORD** Socialist Worker public meeting: The Labour government, racism and unemployment—the socialist answer. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 11 November, 7.45pm, Fellowship House (corner of Sunnyside Road and Green Lane).

**CREWE** Socialist Worker discussion groups: Alternate Tuesdays, 8pm at the Angel pub, Victoria Street, Crewe Town Centre.  
23 November: What is Racism?

**CHESTER SW** discussion meetings: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, The Railway Inn, Brook Street (two minutes from station, just off Hoole Way/Hoole Road). Meetings finish 9.15-9.30. All welcome.  
18 November: What the papers say—is it the truth? Why we need to build a socialist workers' daily paper.



**SOLIDARITY BADGE:** Southern Africa—Victory to the Freedom Fighters! Red, black and white 15p plus 6p postage, £1.50 for ten post free, £10 for 100. International Dept, IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

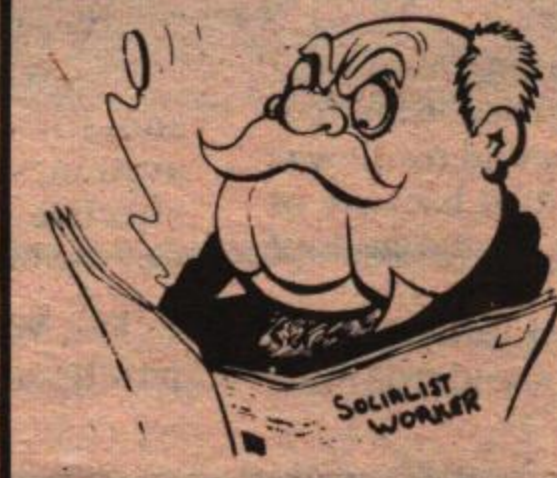
### Socialist Worker meetings

**CARDIFF:** Sunday 14 November, 7.30pm, Rhymney Hotel. Speakers from the Zimbabwe People's Army and the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Monday 15 November, 8pm, Three Tuns Pubs, London Road, Kingston. Speaker: Sue Cockerell (Secretary, Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign).

**LEICESTER:** Thursday 18 November. Speakers: Russ Bowman and a representative of the Zimbabwe People's Army. Watch for further details.

### Socialist Worker EAST OF SCOTLAND RALLY



Weekend 4-5 December, Students Societies Centre, Hill Place, Edinburgh.

□ **LEADING SPEAKERS:** Harry Mc Shane of the unemployed workers' movement in the 1930s on the fight for the right to work, Tony Cliff on the fight against racism, Angela McHugh on women's role in industry, Joan Smith on women and the family, John Deason on the Broad Lefts and the narrow lefts, Alan Meyer on the RDL oil rig site dispute, Alan Armstrong on the SNP.

□ **CAST** theatre group's plays on the Prevention of Terrorism Act; unemployment, the C.U.T.S. and SAM THE MAN. The

tightrope walker on Labour's parliamentary road to socialism.

□ **FILMS:** BOF, Women against the Bill, Attica, The Miners' Newsreel, Chile—the Reckoning, Animal Farm, Blood of the Condor, and others.

□ **DANCE** on the Saturday night, 8pm-midnight, with the Dead Loss Band.

□ **CRECHE, FOOD and REFRESHMENTS**—and if you break your neck running from room to room there will be first aid facilities in Room 9A.

Tickets £1.50 from Andrew McGeevor, 12 Oakville Terrace, Edinburgh 6.



**MANCHESTER:** Regular, informal SW/IS get-together, every Sunday, 7.30pm, The Wheatsheaf, Deansgate. Come for a drink and a chat! All welcome.

**EAST KILBRIDE SW** discussion meetings on THE MEANING OF MARXISM: Every second Thursday, 8pm, The Murray Hall s The Murray.  
16 November: The Crisis and the Cuts.

30 November: The Struggle in Ireland—a Socialist Perspective.

**PRESTON SW** discussion meetings: Every second Thursday, 8pm, The Keystone, Brook Street. All welcome.  
25 November: India and Pakistan.  
9 December: The police and the state.

**EAST LONDON Hospital Workers IS** open meeting: Enterprise Books, 136 Kingsland High Road, London E8  
Wednesday 17 November: British fascism—the Thirties and now. Speaker: Nigel Fountain.

**LEICESTER SW** discussion meetings: Every second Friday, 9pm prompt, Globe Inn, Silver Street.  
19 November: Workers' control or state control? Speaker: Alan Mee (NUSMW).

3 December: The International Socialists and the Labour Party. Speaker: Mike Teague (ASTMS).  
Topics to come: China, Portugal, Trotsky and the united front, Leicester and the revolutionary left, Ireland. Queries and suggestions to Terry Allcott, 106 Knighton Fields West, Leicester.

**BLACKBURN SW** discussion meetings: Thursday 18 November: Marxist Economics, 8pm, Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn.

**DURHAM SW** International public meetings: Leading speakers from IS: Tuesday 23 November, Middle East, 8pm, Elvet Room, Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham City.

**DURHAM SW** Education meetings: Socialism or Capitalism? Speakers from local IS branch.

Monday 15 November: Is Russia socialist? Monday 29 November: Which way to socialism in Britain? The politics of IS, 8pm, back room of Colpitts Hotel, Sutton Street, Durham City.

**LEA VALLEY SW** public meetings: The Fight for Socialism.  
Thursday 25 November: Building the Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.  
8pm, Golden Fleece, Fore Street, Edmonton.

**LONDON** Socialist Worker public meetings on marxist theory and the politics of the International Socialists: MARXISTS AND THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY. Every second Friday, 7pm, University of London Union, Malet Street, London, WC1 (opposite Dillons, Bookshop).

19 November: Inflation and Marxist Theory. Speaker: Michael Kidron.  
3 December: The Labour Party and the Communist Party. Speaker: Paul Foot.

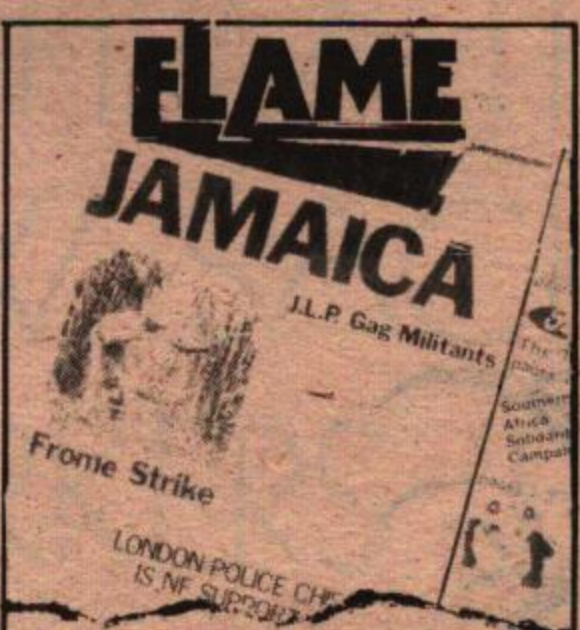
17 December: History of the International Socialists. Speaker: Ian Birchall.  
6 January: The Minority Movement and the Right to Work Campaign. Speaker: John Deason.

13 January: State Capitalism in Russia. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.  
20 January: World Capitalism and Imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.  
27 January: British Imperialism and Ireland. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.  
3 February: Shelley and Revolution. Speaker: Paul Foot.

10 February: The Degradation of Work. Speaker: John Ure.  
17 February: The Crisis of British Capitalism. Speaker: Michael Kidron.  
24 February: Fighting Racism and Fascism. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

**MANCHESTER IS** Hospital Workers public meetings: Every other Thursday, 8pm.  
25 November: Portugal one year later. Film and speaker who was on the spot. Meeting to be held at Manchester Poly.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON** Socialist Worker discussion meeting: Did the Labour Party start out socialist? Speaker: John Laxton, Thursday 18 November, 7.30pm, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE7. All welcome.



The latest issue of FLAME, Socialist Worker's sister paper by black workers is out—with articles on police muggings, Southern Africa, Jamaica, Fords Dagenham and the by-election in Brixton, South London. Copies now from Flame, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 8p monthly.

Flame is burning now!



**STICKERS:** Stop police brutality! Defend the Carnival 60, or Defend the Right to Work 43. From Flame, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 3p for a sheet of six, £3 for 100 sheets.

**SHEFFIELD** Socialist Worker trade union day school: Sunday 14 November, 11am-3.30pm (lunch provided), University Council Chambers, Students Union, Sheffield. Speaker: Ken Appleby (AUEW/TASS). For all trade unionists who are supporters of Socialist Worker or members of the International Socialists in the Sheffield area.

**BLACKBURN** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn.  
18 November: Marxist Economics.  
25 November: The cuts and unemployment—their causes and how to fight them.  
9 December: Southern Africa.

**EDINBURGH** Socialist Worker discussion group meets every Saturday, 11.30am, Trades-Council, 14 Picardy Place. Open to all SW readers. For further information phone Penicuik 72819.

**ISLINGTON** Socialist Worker discussion meeting: The Communist Party—dead or alive? Thursday 18 November, 8pm, Hemingford Arms, Offord Street, N1.

**NUPE:** National meeting for all Socialist Worker supporters and members of the International Socialists in NUPE. Saturday 20 November, 2pm-5pm, Room 61, North London Polytechnic, Holloway Road.

**International Socialists BLACK CAUCUS** meeting: Saturday 27 November, 10.30am-5pm, Black members and supporters of IS please keep this date free. Details next week.

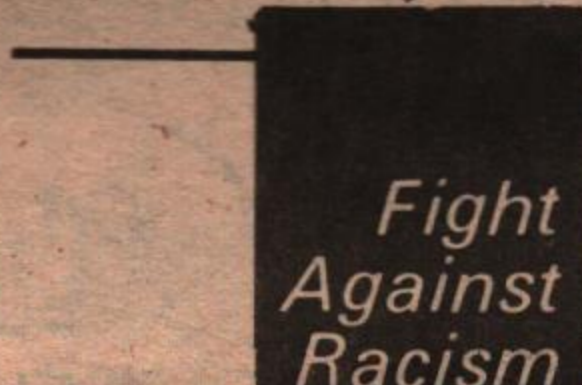
**CENTRAL LONDON** Socialist Worker meetings on sexual politics: Thursdays, 7pm, Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road (Warren Street tube).  
25 November: 'We come to bury housework, not to praise it'—socialists and housework. Speaker: Irene Breugel.  
9 December: Working women under attack. Speaker: Elana Dallas.

**CLAY CROSS** Socialist worker public meeting: Which way to socialism? Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 25 November, 8.45pm, The Elm Tree, Market Street, Clay Cross.

**HARLOW** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Every Wednesday, 8pm, Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair. All welcome.  
17 November: Who are the International Socialists?  
24 November: What is happening in Lebanon?  
1 December: Workers against the law. Speakers: Laurie Flynn and a Right to Work marcher.

**EXETER** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Devonport Inn, Fore Street.  
2 December: Should socialists be in the Labour Party?  
16 December: Internationalism.

**TOTTENHAM SW** discussion group on Racism. Sunday Evening 14 Nov. 7.30pm. Everybody welcome. Ring 348-2041 for details.



**WELLINGBOROUGH** Socialist Worker Public meeting: Racism and the fight against unemployment. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Wednesday 17 November, 8pm, Labour Club, Church Street.

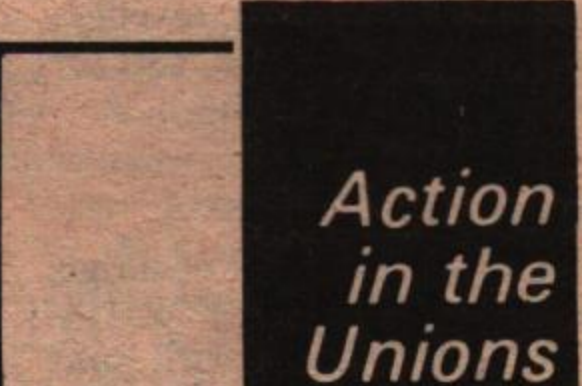
**BALHAM and TOOTING** Socialist Worker public meeting: Fight racism—build a socialist alternative! Speaker: Nigel Harris. Thursday 25 November, 7.30pm, Balham Social Hall, Balham New Road (near Duke of Devonshire pub).

**TOWER HAMLETS** Socialist Worker public meeting: The struggle against fascism in the East End in the 1930s—the lessons for today. Speaker: Colin Sparks. Wednesday 24 November, 8pm, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2. NOTE: 17 November meeting is cancelled.

### National Organisation of International Socialist Students (NOISS)

**LONDON** NOISS delegate meeting: Tuesday 16 November, 7pm, University of London Union, Malet Street, W1. One delegate per IS Society to discuss London organisation. All societies must send a delegate.

**NOISS Day Schools** on the international struggle: Sessions include imperialism, Southern Africa, The Middle East, students and solidarity work, film.  
**SCOTLAND:** Sunday 14 November, Edinburgh University.  
**SOUTH ENGLAND:** Saturday 20 November, Portsmouth Polytechnic.  
**MIDLANDS:** Sunday 28 November, Birmingham Polytechnic.  
**LONDON:** Saturday 4 December, University College.



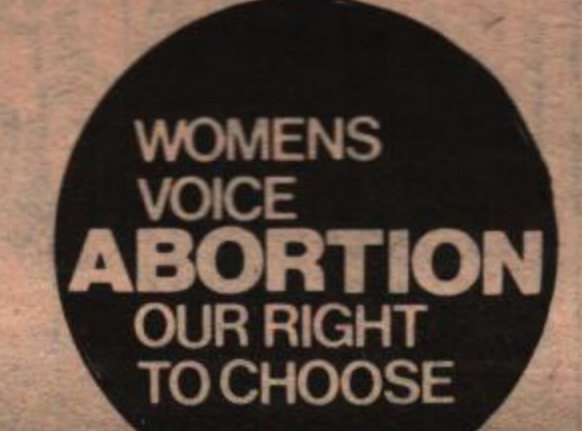
National meetings for all members of the International Socialists and Socialist Worker supporters in the following unions:

LEEDS and MANCHESTER to be arranged. Watch for further details.

### Womens voice

**DARLINGTON** Women's Voice public meeting: Women and Socialism. Speaker: Joan Smith. Friday 26 November, Public Library Annex.

**NORTH LONDON** Womens Voice evening jumble sale: Tuesday 16 November, 7.30pm, Stroud Green School, Ennis Road, N4.



**BADGES** available now, 15p including postage, £2 for 20, £10 for 100 post free. Money with orders to: Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

### Notices

**£1 PRIZE FOR BEST CHANT.** Write a chant suitable for demos, to the tune of a popular song or football chant. Send to Chants, TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester 3.

**International Socialists HEALTH WORKERS** full fraction meeting: Saturday 4 December, 11.30am, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. £3 pooled fare, lunch provided. Will all members please try and attend. Further details from fraction secretary.

**ANY COMRADE** going abroad for Christmas please contact the International Department well in advance. International Dept, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**NATKE:** Could all members of the International Socialists and SW supporters in NATKE, also anyone with experience of building in theatres please contact (in strictest confidence) Stage Hand, Manchester TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester 20.

**SHIPBUILDERS:** Will all members of the International Socialists employed in shipbuilding/repairing or oil rig erection please contact Jim Conner, c/o 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1. (Glasgow IS Shipbuilders Branch).

**REVOLUTIONARY POSTERS** from Spain, Portugal and Africa (with explanatory text), for £1.50 (inc postage) from IS International Dept, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**CALLING ALL LIBRARIANS** who are supporters of Socialist Worker or members of the International Socialists! Contact John Lindsay, 19 Redman's Road, London E1 3AQ, urgently concerning conference against the cuts.

**KIRKBY, MERSEYSIDE:** Socialist Worker is now on sale every Saturday in the town centre.

**HELP NEEDED** is isolated North of Scotland branch of the International Socialists (Easter Ross) with education and branch meetings. Speakers on all political subjects welcome. Comrades are welcome to stay longer in this beautiful area to help with activities. Arrangements can be made with fare, accommodation no problem. Phone Tain 2752.

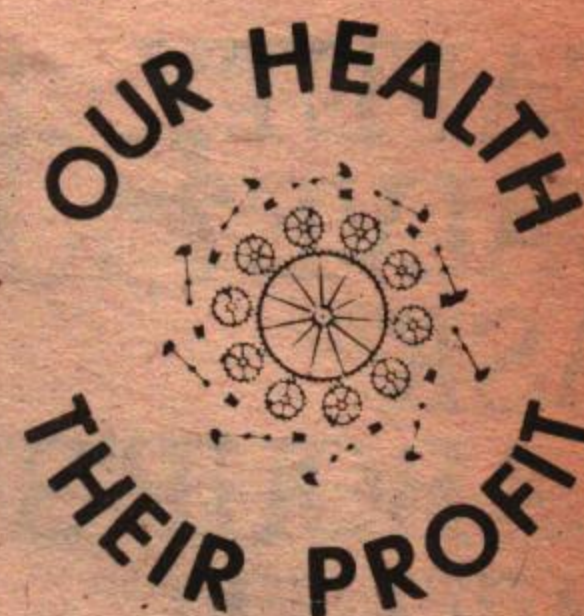
**NUPE:** Saturday 20 November, in London.

**CIVIL SERVICE** unions: Saturday 27 November, in London.

**HOSPITAL WORKERS** unions: Saturday 4 December, in Manchester.  
**TGWU:** Saturday 4 December, in Birmingham.  
Fraction secretaries' meeting: Tuesday 23 November 7pm.

For further details of these meetings, contact your branch or fraction secretary or call the IS Industrial Department, phone 01-739 9772.

# Legacy of death left by Central Asbestos



AT LEAST 200 men and women who worked at Central Asbestos, in Bermondsey, South London, will contract the fatal cancer, mesothelioma, before the end of the century.

This is the conclusion of research carried out by the TUC Centenary Institute recently among the 2700 workers who are still under medical supervision as a result of working at the plant between 1913 and 1968.

This evidence has been kept very quiet in the massive press advertising by the 'Asbestos Information Committee' about how safe asbestos is, if only you use it properly.

The findings are important because they show yet again how long the delay is between exposure to asbestos and the appearance of the disease it causes. One group of workers were first exposed in the

1930s—but none died from mesothelioma until the 1950s.

But perhaps it's good evidence to bring in a case against the firm, to expose their lies once and for all? Unfortunately not—they have already been prosecuted for their breaches of the very inadequate Asbestos Regulations. In 1973 the Factory Inspectorate showed that Central Asbestos had operated a secret and completely illegal mill in one part of the factory, and had failed to provide the proper dust-proof sacks for shifting asbestos around.

The firm was fined £170, with 50p costs. A leading barrister suggested to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) that the firm could be successfully charged with conspiracy to cause the deaths of large numbers of workers. After all, it has been known since at least the 1930s that asbestos kills.

But the DPP was too busy to be bothered with bringing to justice the murderers of a few workers. He was engaged in his own conspiracy prosecution—against the Shrewsbury building workers' pickets.

So Central Asbestos have 'paid' for their crimes. And according to the law it isn't a crime to expose workers to asbestos as long as you abide by the regulations.

But the threat of prosecution was too much for Central Asbestos in the end. They closed down their plant in Bermondsey in 1968 and reopened it in South Africa, where they could be guaranteed no interference from the law.

As Socialist Worker has said all along, the only safe asbestos is blacked asbestos.

SYBIL COCK



Bob Smith (right), who worked at Central Asbestos, prematurely aged by asbestos to look as old as his 59-year-old father (left).

## Students defeat right alliance

AN ALLIANCE between right-wing lecturers and students to end the left-wing control of North East London Poly has been overwhelmingly defeated.

At one of the largest meetings of the students' union ever, the right wing were too cowed even to move a resolution of no confidence in the student union president, Andy Strouthous, a member of NOISS, the International Socialists' student organisation.

At the previous student union meeting, the right wing organised. Lectures were cancelled. Some lecturers argued with their students, many of who have only just begun their courses, that they must attend the meeting and vote against the left wing.

The meeting had been called to discuss action in support of students suspended last term for attempting to occupy a meeting of the governors. This meeting had been called to impose illegal changes in the student union constitution without consultation.

When Andy Strouthous stood up to speak he was howled down. Every IS member who attempted to speak met a similar response. As one student said afterwards, 'it was like a witch-hunt, stirred up by lecturers and right-wing students who support the college administration.'

Andy Strouthous told Socialist Worker: 'We went on

the offensive—holding meetings on different precincts, printing thousands of leaflets explaining the issues.

'We called on all those who wanted an active strong union—and a fight against the cuts and racism—to fight against the right wing. We refused to hide our politics and stood behind policies we have always fought for.'

'And we put out a leaflet calling for the biggest reconvened union meeting ever. It paid off. We won the arguments.'

### Howl

'Now we can go ahead with organising a militant campaign against the cuts and in defence of the two students victimised for last term's occupation. A series of pickets have been called to support overseas students and against the cuts.'

'But most important of all is the picket of the next hearing about the victimisations. Our union gives it full backing, but we need students from all over to show that we're not going to let the college administrators run our union.'

□ **PICKET East Ham Town Hall, Barking Road, Monday 22 November, 9.30am.** All IS Societies in London should mobilise with banners. Messages of support to NELP Students Union, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, London E15.



ON 11 September 1975, the Allied Irish Bank at Killester, Dublin, was raided by four people and £7,000 was stolen.

The robbers were followed by an off-duty policeman, Garda Reynolds.

He was later found dead, having been shot in the head.

The Dublin Evening Herald ran a story that the Garda had been shot by 'anarchists'.

The police, however, were far less sure. They appealed for help from 'anyone who was in the area'.

The number of genuine anarchists in Ireland is few. Nevertheless, the police began a series of 200 raids, especially on the homes of known anarchists.

One person, after helping police with their 'inquiries', was released with several broken ribs. Another was put into hospital for two weeks.

Among those released after interrogation was Ronan Stenson, who had been active in the Prisoners Rights Organisation.

### Irish Times

Inspector Ryan said he 'did not become aware of any other matters which could result in Stenson's being arrested and held' (Irish Times 5-5-76).

On 8 October, Noel and Marie Murray took their dog for an early morning walk. What follows is taken from a pamphlet called No Hangings Here or from reports of the court proceedings in the Irish Times. There are virtually no other sources.

Noel Murray explained that as he opened his front door at 8am, armed police officers sprang at him from practically all over the house. It seemed to him that there were about 20 of them.

He was held at gunpoint and the first words spoken were 'Murray, you are dead.' This was said by a police officer who was holding a machine gun.

### Interrogation

This officer appeared to be nervous and the gun was shaking in his hand. 'I was afraid he was going to shoot me'.

'This officer also threatened to shoot his dog which was only a pup.' (Irish Times 1-6-76).

Ronan Stenson was arrested two hours later. Why did the police pick on these three?

The only evidence which linked the Murrays with the shooting was their own statements. Let's see how those statements were extracted.

Taken to Harcourt Terrace Garda Station, Noel Murray was refused access to a solicitor until 5-30pm. Marie Murray was refused a visit from a solicitor, a doctor or a friend the whole time she was in custody.

Noel was first interrogated by Inspector Ryan, who asked him if he knew Ronan Stenson. Told that he did know Stenson, Inspector

# Framed - now a couple face the gallows



**NOEL and Marie Murray could be hanged any day now. They are alleged to have murdered a policeman following a Dublin bank raid in September 1975.**

**But their case has all the ingredients of a classic political frame-up: forced statements, press censorship of their evidence by the Southern Ireland government . . . and a trial which**

**probably ranks as the most remarkable the country has seen.**

**The reason? The Murrays are anarchists—and therefore easy targets for the law and order hysteria which the government are currently orchestrating.**

**FRANK CONWAY, a member of the Murrays Defence Committee, tells their story:**

Ryan said 'You are sold'.

Returning to the room a short time later, Ryan kicked him on the legs and stomach, and kicked the chair from under him. He was beaten in the stomach, head shoulders and arms. Other policemen watched.

Later that day, Detective Hegarty of the Drugs Squad came in and beat him in the kidneys, stomach, and behind both ears.

Finally allowed to see his solicitor after 6pm, Noel wrote out a statement—namely that he had no wish to make a statement

### Spreadeagled

At about 11 pm, Ronan Stenson was brought into the same room. Noel noticed that Stenson's face was swollen, he had a cut behind one of his ears and he 'looked very

unwell'.

Stenson was able to tell him at 11.30pm. that, in Rathmines Garda Station. He had been beaten across the back with a rope, struck with a hammer and had his hair pulled repeatedly.

*Noel Murray had now been in police custody for 16 hours and the police still did not have their statement.*

Detective Finn now called in three other policemen to help him. 'They pushed him from one to the other', the Irish Times reported (1 June, 1976) and punched him in the stomach. He fell down and was picked up by the legs and dropped head first on the floor.

He was then taken to the cells, where he was made to stand with his back against the wall and punched in the stomach and the face. When

he fell he was picked up by the legs and carried over to a toilet in the corner of the cell. He was held up and his head put into the toilet. Detective Garda Finn threatened to drown him in the toilet.

### Collapsed

'He was spreadeagled against the wall and beaten in the stomach and kidneys. Eventually he said that he would make a statement just to get out of the cells.'

Next morning in the Bridewell Station, Inspector Finlay came into his cell and said 'If you don't make a statement, I can have the Murrays branded as informers. I can have you dead in a week in any prison in this country.'

By 3.30am. having had Noel Murray in their 'care'

for 19 hours, the police had their 'statement'. His other written statement, describing how he had been beaten up, was 'lost' by the police.

Marie Murray's 'voluntary' statement was extracted under mental torture. 'It was made clear to me that Noel would be unrecognisable when I saw him.'

'I was given the impression that Noel would be beaten up and possibly even killed, that is, if she didn't make a statement.'

These two verbal statements, later retracted, are the only real evidence the Court has against the Murrays.

The prosecution admitted in court that they were not able to prove that the fatal bullet was fired from the gun they produced in court. They were only able to contend that it was.

## WHY IT'S HAPPENING

IT IS NO accident that the Murrays should find themselves facing the rope.

The Dublin government face massive rapid inflation and record unemployment. Their only response has been 'Law and Order'.

New laws have been pushed through under which soldiers can now arrest and hold people without charge for up to six hours.

With their economic masters in the City of London calling the shots, the Dublin government are trying to polish up their 'tough' image. If they can get away with hanging two isolated individuals—with no political organisation to defend them—next in line come the republicans and socialists, especially those who look to the working class for solutions.

*Faced with 18 per cent unemployment, the Southern government has nowhere else to run.*

## HOW WE CAN HELP THE MURRAYS

IT IS OUR duty to help break the conspiracy of silence around the Murrays' treatment and the death sentence hanging over them.

We have two main strengths: tourism and our trade unions.

There must be an office of Aer Lingus or the Irish Tourist Board near you which could be easily picketed. We should tell them that we will postpone our next holiday in Southern Ireland until after the death sentences have been lifted.

Some Trades Councils have come out in support of the Defence Committee. Take a resolution on the Murrays or invite a speaker, to your trade union branch. Take the petition around your workmates and friends. A small collection would also help.

□ Petitions from and to: Murray Defence Committee, Box 2, Rising Free, 138 Drummond St, London NW1.

□ Letters and telegrams to: Mr Liam Cosgrave Dept of An Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2, Republic of Ireland.

The Murrays were convicted because of statements extracted under beatings in the police station. All the newspapers which tried to report those beatings were taken to court by the government.

During their trial, the Murrays were

□ **ALLOWED** no jury.

□ **TRIED** by a three-man tribunal brought in to deal with armed conspiracy. No evidence of such a conspiracy was brought. One of the three judges had previously tried the Murrays in a separate case, namely Justice Carroll. He also took part in the ruling as to whether he was fit to continue hearing the case.

□ **FORCED** to listen to much of the case against them, including the death sentence, from a prison cell. Judge Pringle explained the manner of their execution to them over the court loudspeaker system.

While in court, Noel Murray was manacled. His counsel argued in vain that these should be removed.

*The Chief Justice said: 'The greatest courtesy and consideration was extended to both accused.'*

But most serious of all was Ronan Stenson's collapse in court.

On the second day of the trial, Stenson collapsed in the

dock. He was carried semi-conscious back to the cells. The trial was adjourned to give him a chance to recover.

When Stenson was finally able to start his evidence on Day 13—and with reporting restrictions imposed six days earlier by Justice Pringle now lifted he had some startling revelations to make.

### Hammer

He had only started to describe the beating he received in the police station—they used a nylon rope and a hammer according to Noel Murray's testimony—when Justice Pringle adjourned the hearing on the basis that Stenson needed 'the assistance of a psychiatrist'.

### Examined

That was Stenson's last appearance in court. Only now is he considered fit to face his own trial.

*He has been in police custody for more than a year.*

He was examined by two doctors within five days of his arrest. Both stated that he had injuries consistent with his allegations.

Meanwhile, the Murrays were unable to call him as a defence witness or to refute the evidence given by him which had been prejudicial to them.

### Uproar

Now the court went into uproar as the Murrays dispensed with their defence counsel in protest. They realised that the 'verdict' had been decided well in advance.

For the rest of their 'trial', the Murrays were usually confined to their cells, where they listened to the rest of the 'trial' over the loudspeakers.

They used every appearance they were allowed in the Court room now to protest their innocence:

**'The attitude in this farce has been 'hang the Murrays' because the Murrays—and the police know it—are anarchists.'**

## Even the parents get the treatment

Armed guard on the court as Noel Murray's parents Paddy and Bridget, and uncle Willie Moloney (centre) leave the appeal hearing





## Ban by fireman to save jobs

AVON: Firemen are operating emergencies only and have banned 'detach duties' in opposition to Avon County Council's plans to shut the fire station at Severnside, near Bristol.

The proposed closure is part of the plan to save £74,000 on the fire service in the county. Avon Fire Brigades Union, at first accepted the need for cuts, but put forward its own suggestions where the axe should fall, insisting on no redundancies or natural wastage.

These counter-proposals were verbally agreed to by the chief fire officer three weeks ago. But then the county's public protection committee agreed to shut the Severnside station.

The chief officer 'anticipates' that there will be no redundancies among professional firemen as a result. He wants them transferred to other stations. But, as Avon FBU committee

member Pat Creapon told Socialist Worker, this requires Home Office approval. So the jobs of nine men are at risk.

The firemen are now refusing to ride alongside non-FBU members. This mainly involves members of the Fire Officers' Association, who are officially opposed to the cuts but seem reluctant to take action.

### Pressure

Support for the men's action is already coming from workers at the local ICI factory, which the Severnside station was originally built to cover. The factory has only limited fire protection equipment and depends entirely on the professional service in the event of a major fire.

Firemen in Gloucester have already started sympathetic action and Pat Creapon is hoping to win the support of the South Western Regional Committee on Tuesday.

## ANOTHER LONGANNET STEWARD IS SACKED

SCOTLAND: When General and Municipal Workers Union shop steward Garry Carr was sacked at Longannet electricity generating station, the local full-time official, Frank Leaky, hurried to the scene and said: 'How can the union act for Mr Carr, as he no longer represents the members?'

Garry Carr and six other men were sacked without notice or holiday money because they struck over safety conditions.

Over the past five months every shop steward working for the contractors, Ailsa, has been sacked or laid off.

Conditions at the plant are appalling. Dust is everywhere, the noise is shattering, heat is

in the 90s. But according to Frank Leaky: 'Things are now quite in order... the general problem is one of communications.'

According to the latest shop steward, Barry Trout: 'The problem is nothing to do with communications. It is one of organisation.'

'The only way to ensure safety is through rank and file trade unionism. The GMWU are as frightened of this as the bosses. They even make sure that branch secretaries are appointed full-timers.'

### Fight

'The branch only meets four times a year and is tied to the district and region officials by a completely undemocratic rule book.'

'What all contractors and nationalised industry employees must fight for is direct employment in all state industries and for an end to the contracting system.'

The GMWU is trying to recruit professional footballers in Scotland. One official recently said on television: 'Some workers in the chemical industry who work with dangerous materials actually earn more than some professional footballers. This is a tragedy I aim to put a stop to.'

### Fight for union at Chloride

DAGENHAM: Seven women at the Chloride Gaedor battery distribution depot have been on strike for two months for union recognition.

They have joined the transport union TGWU to fight bad pay and conditions. The average wage is £25 for a six-day week and some women drivers are earning as much as £44 less than men doing the same job at the company's main plant nearby.

# '10,000 STC JOBS MAY GO' SHOCK



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

**NORTH LONDON: Workers at STC New Southgate went on a half-day strike last Monday and 400 went on a picket and lobby of the House of Commons against threatened redundancies.**

They were joined by a coach of workers from STC East Kilbride, in Scotland, which is threatened with total closure. There were

also representatives of workers on half-day strike at STC Fooks Cray, in Kent, where 350 redundancies have already been declared.

Industry Minister Eric Varley was meeting national officials of the seven unions involved. An attempt was being made to see if some orders from the Post Office could be brought forward to give breathing space in the industry.

But officials were told of a further drastic reduction in orders which would lose another 10,000 jobs in the

telephone supply industry. In the past 18 months the industry has lost 20,000 jobs.

These new cuts were unexpected but what was really disgusting was the attitude of the national officials when they reported back to their members.

Roy Sanderson, of the Electricians and Plumbers (EPTU), kept repeating meekly that the union would support anyone who fights. But when asked to call a meeting of all stewards in the industry, he replied: 'People do not want to fight — look at how many have already taken voluntary redundancy.'

Jack McKenna, EPTU convener at STC East Kilbride, and Charlie Small, convener at Southgate, both called for national policy from the union and a combine called by the officials as essential.

John Forrester of the AEUW then let fly a disgusting attack on the membership for accepting voluntary redundancies. 'If we all want to go, what are we doing down here on strike for the day?' came the reply from the floor.

### Action

After the meeting, Roy Sanderson complained with surprise: 'What do you want, an industry-wide strike?'

When shop stewards said 'Yes', he just walked away.

The stewards present are now calling for an STC combine.

Apart from this we need action on the shop floor now to hold on to our jobs. This means banning all overtime and an end to cooperation with management.

There is an alternative! Nationalisation without compensation and a reduction in telephone prices to bring the phone within reach of all those who need it.

## AUEW militant still in prison

TERRY GALLOGLY is still locked in Wakefield Prison, where he was sent two weeks ago after being victimised by the management at Aronstead's in Batley, Yorkshire.

Since June, Terry had been staying in a hostel at Wakefield and working at the factory on a pre-release work scheme. He was due to finish his sentence at Christmas.

Terry organised at the factory into the AUEW. When management threw him out he was taken from the hostel and locked up in Wakefield Prison.

Last Wednesday the Wakefield AUEW district committee agreed that Terry had been 'harshly treated', but so far Ken Garwell, the district secretary, has been slow to act.

Last week the governor of Wakefield jail himself asked the AUEW head office to provide a solicitor for Terry. This was refused on the grounds that the request had not come from an AUEW branch. So far there has been no request from Ken Garwell for the union to provide a solicitor.

Prisoners who are approaching the end of their sentence are usually entitled to a week's home leave. Last week Terry's request for this was turned down flat by the prison authorities.

The Right to Work Campaign is pressing the AUEW at national level to provide Terry with a solicitor. Engineers' Charter supporters in Wakefield have been leafletting factories this week and there will be a picket of Wakefield Prison at 1pm on Saturday 13 November.

## Hospitals protest

By GAY BURRIDGE

NEWHAM, East London: The Community Health Council met recently to decide 'whether Plaistow Maternity Hospital or Forest Gate Maternity Hospital should close.'

Most people there made it clear that they wanted to talk about why either had to close, but the chairman, a Labour councillor, could only repeat parrot-like: 'Lack of money.'

This was the same reason given for the closure of Poplar Hospital and the Invalid and Crippled Children's Hospital. The money 'saved' from these closures were supposed to improve the remaining hospitals in Newham until the much talked about 'nucleus hospital' was built.

This has been talked about for more than 20 years. Over £2 million has been spent on plans for it. It is supposed to start taking patients in 1980, but not a brick has been laid and the site is nothing but an empty field.

By 1986 five more hospitals will be closed—four by 1980.

## Notices and meetings

Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post the Monday before publication. We cannot take them over the phone. Send CASH WITH COPY (10p a word) to Classified, Socialist Worker, Carbridge Works, Carbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent

**SPEAKERS ON IRELAND:** This autumn 65 delegates from labour movement bodies went to Ireland to see for themselves. They represented trades councils and union branches. The delegates are willing to speak at report-back meetings. If you want a delegate to speak at your union branch or trades council, contact Troops Out Movement, c/o 1 North End Road, London W14.

**NALGO ACTION GROUP CONFERENCE:** Saturday 20 November, 10am, North London Poly Students Union, Holloway Road, London N7, and Sunday 21 November, 10am, Central London Poly, 16-18 Ridgeway Street, London W1. Saturday night social at Central London Poly, Bolsover Street, W1. 7pm, with Kartoon Klowns, Barry White, disco. All rank and filers and socialists welcome.

**NOEL JENKINSON** Commemoration Meeting: Friday 12 November, 8pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

**WATFORD** Campaign against Racism and Fascism public meeting: Tuesday 25 November, 8pm, Trade Union Hall, w/o Ford Road (near Junction station). Speakers include Tom Litterick (Labour MP for Birmingham Selly Oak).

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Play by CAST on the cuts in health, education and welfare: Friday 12 November, 8pm, St Matthews Hall, St Marys Road. With speaker and discussion. Organised by Rank and File Teacher. All welcome.

**CARDIFF** Right to Work Campaign public meeting: Tuesday 23 November, 8pm, The Four Elms, Elm Street.

## NURSERY NURSES STRIKE

LEEDS: Ten nursery nurses struck a blow against the cuts at St James Hospital when they struck for 24 hours against a management decision to cut wages by between £6 and £12 a week.

Since last year the nurses, who are in the Public Employees Union (NUPE), have been paid on the same scale as local authority nurses. Now they have been told there's been a mistake and they are to be paid on a lower scale.

Management even suggested they would have to pay back money.

The four nurses suspect that management want to shut the nursery down altogether. The fees have doubled over the past year. If the wages cuts go through, and some of the nurses leave in disgust, it will be an ideal opportunity to shut it.

## Bingo: Help us spread the blacking

COVENTRY: Management at the Club One Bingo hall are refusing to go to the government's Conciliation Service (ACAS). Workers here have been on strike for three weeks over union recognition.

Orr Enterprises, who own the club, say they will recognise NATTKE, the entertainment union, but not the TGWU—which we have joined.

The Spa Bingo Hall in Leamington, also owned by Orr Enterprises, has not yet been blacked by the union, and we assume that the barrels of beer that management are rolling in through the front door of the Rialto Casino, who are out on strike with us, are coming from there.

Refuse is no longer being collected from Club One, the Rialto Casino or from the Theatre One Cinema.

Crispin Woodcock, the NATTKE official for our area, was seen working in the

club behind the bar, while we were on strike.

We are receiving money and support on the picket lines from several local factories. The National Union of Students have given us full use of the playgroup facilities in the Lanchester Polytechnic. But we still need support.

Police are continually being called by the management to the picket line, yet there has never been any need for them. The picket line has been peaceful, with mums, dads, grans and grandads helping us.

We thank everyone for the letters of support and donations that have been sent to us and ask for your continued support. We are having a mass picket at Rialto and Club One this Friday night—so please turn up.

Donations and messages of support to Club One Strike Committee, 42 Hamilton Road, Stoke, Coventry.

## ENGINEERS, HERE'S A CHANCE TO DITCH SCANLON'S INFAMOUS DEAL

THIS is the last week for branch resolutions to go forward to the 1977 National Committee of the Engineering Union (AEUW).

This year gives the membership a chance to amend or scrap AUEW president Hugh Scanlon's infamous Procedure Agreement for the Avoidance of Disputes. Last year's National Committee allowed it to go through on the nod.

For the first time the agreement included a status quo shop-floor representatives.

This meant that the employers would be unable to impose a change in existing work practices before the procedure was exhausted. But in return for this clause Scanlon and his friends sold out some of the basic preconditions of strong shop-floor organisation.

This is happening as more and more negotiations about wages and conditions are being taken on by the full-time union officials instead of

The most pernicious clauses are 5a and 5b, about the victimisation of members. 'In any case of gross industrial misconduct which necessitates instant dismissal, then it is open to the dismissed person to contest the dismissal, but the person will no longer be an employee of the company as from the time of the dismissal,' says one sentence (our italics).

Clause 5, line 7, reads: 'In order to allow for the peaceful resolution of any matter raised by any party, there shall be no

stoppage of work, either of a partial or general character, such as a strike, lock-out or go slow, work to rule, overtime ban or any other restrictions, before the stages of procedure provided for in this agreement have been exhausted.'

Clause 7 even reads: 'The Employers' Federation and the unions will use their best endeavours to ensure that their respective members honour their obligations and to this end will not give any

support, financial or otherwise, to their respective members if acting in breach of the obligations arising from clauses 5 and 6 above.'

Resolutions to the National Committee should be passed through branches by the end of this month. Engineers Charter, the rank and file group in the AUEW, is campaigning for a resolution containing the following points to be moved through branches.

'That clauses 5a and 5b be renegotiated, because in their

present form they remove status quo in the event of victimisation and allow the employers to decide what is industrial misconduct.'

'That clause 7 be renegotiated because the employers can always be supported in a dispute by the Federation through the back door, while dispute benefit in the AUEW is open to inspection.'

Resolutions should be moved through branches at the next meeting in order to end this agreement.



# Support grows for nursery occupation

by GORDON WILSON

Easterhouse Right to Work Committee

GLASGOW: The occupation of St Clare's Primary School annexe, Easterhouse, which had been standing empty for three years, is winning growing local support.

The Strathclyde Regional Council had refused many organisations the use of the building, saying it intended to turn it into a nursery school—yet nothing was done. The occupation is organised by the Easterhouse Right to Work Committee.

We organised a meeting inside the occupation—60 local people, many mothers with small children, came along. We proposed that the building be opened as a day nursery.

We organised a showing of the film *Fight the Cuts* to an audience of more than 60. This meeting rejected a council proposal for a 'self help' scheme—which would let the council off the hook. We elected a Nursery Action Committee to fight for our demands.

During the weekend we urged parents to bring their children to the occupation to show how great the need for such a nursery is. We ended up with a full building.

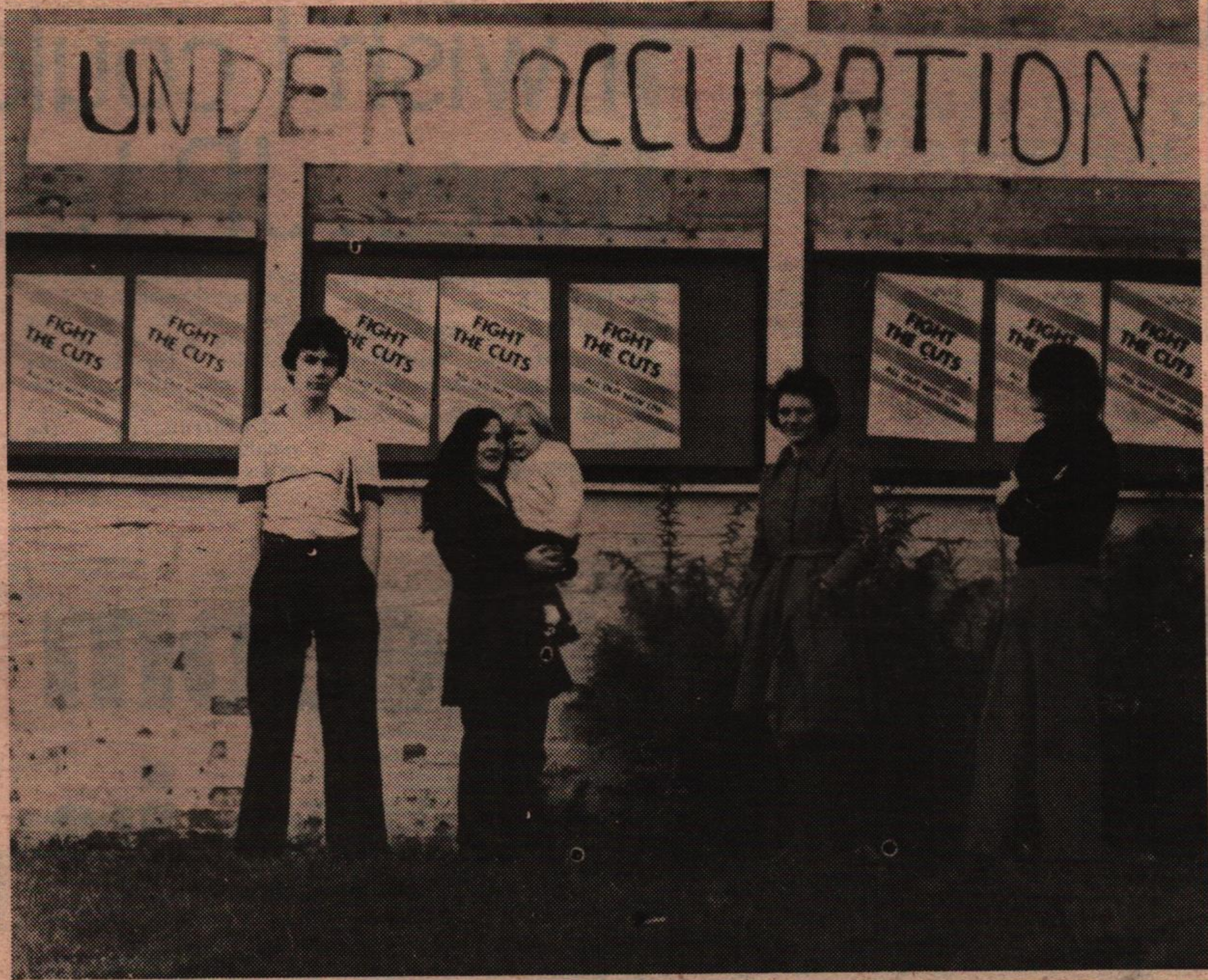
Last Wednesday we won unanimous support from the Easterhouse Community Council.

## Militancy

On Wednesday this week we are participating in a mass lobby of the Strathclyde Regional Council, demanding that the local authority drops plans to sack 7,000 workers.

We want to create jobs for unemployed nursery nurses. More than 300 are threatened with the sack thanks to the region's cuts.

Messages of support and donations will help us extend our campaign. Send to Willie Dolan, 7 Edderton Place, Easterhouse, Glasgow.



# Chrysler pulls the 'crisis' knob again

by PETER BAIN

Chairman, Chrysler  
Linwood TGWU stewards

LINWOOD: Only ten months after the £162 million so-called government rescue plan, Chrysler's Linwood workforce are in the middle of another crisis. George Lacy, Chrysler's UK manufacturing director, flew to Linwood on Thursday.

After convenors had insisted that TV cameras were removed, Lacy launched into an attack on the failure of Linwood to launch the new Avenger on schedule. He threatened to abandon plans to build a new small car, the 424, at Linwood.

## Narrow

The start of two-shift working, scheduled for 10 January, along with 1,700 new jobs, was to be postponed.

Before he could be questioned, Lacy strode off the platform.

Chrysler have another reason for adopting this attitude.

Under the rescue plan the government has underwritten losses by Chrysler UK of up to £60 million by 1979. Another £102 million is available in loans and grants for capital investment and the development of new models.

The harsh reality is that either the company smashes union organisation by 1979 and continues production here or fails, closes British plants and switches abroad the production of models that British taxpayers have paid to develop. Chrysler cannot lose out of the rescue plan.

## Sales

Linwood is being singled out for attack. The workers are angry and only too aware of the total shambles that was management's Avenger launch plan.

Like a recurring nightmare, the failure of Chrysler workers to fight for the nationalisation under workers' control last January will continue to haunt us. But only by adopting such a policy will carworkers be able to defend jobs and conditions in the stormy period ahead.

# SIT-IN AT SANCTION BUSTING FIRM

by ROGER KEELEY

HUDDERSFIELD: Hopkins, the engineering company that was discovered to be sanctions-busting to Rhodesia last week, now faces a sit-in over wages.

Two hundred and fifty members of the white-collar engineering union TASS are sitting in and have imposed an internal picket to prevent management carrying out TASS work.

For several weeks they have been claiming the full £6 under the pay policy. Management have refused, claiming that some of the £6 was paid last Christmas as part of an earlier award.

They insist on the letter of the law even though the Department of Employment ruled that the Christmas award need not be offset against any new award.

At Hopkins there is one law for the workers and another for the bosses. Soot-blowers are being illegally supplied by Hopkins through Stewarts and Lloyds of South Africa to Umniati B power station in the heart of Rhodesia.

Photocopies of documents taken by one of Hopkins's workers and are now in the hands of the Foreign Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Granville Clay, chairman of the TASS office committee was sacked last week.

He is only the latest of seven TASS members victimised solely for carrying out union work.

The grounds for Granville Clay's dismissal are that he had unauthorised possession of internal documents—manufacturing orders and drawing prints. In fact he was given these documents and held them only long enough to do the normal shop steward's job of checking that the work was not black.

This is now more than a pay dispute or allegations of sanctions-busting against the firm, or even victimisation. It is a case of ruthless employer engaged in an all-out attempt to break union organisation inside a factory.

# Council's bootboys move on jobless

SHEFFIELD: The county court was faced with a serious criminal case last week. One hundred unemployed workers from the local Right to Work campaign were summoned to court by the City Council.

Their heinous crime concerned the occupation of some valuable premises owned by the council, namely an empty shop.

For the past two months the Sheffield Right to Work Campaign has used the shop as an unemployed workers' centre. As a result several workers have found employment, delegations to the social security have successfully sorted out claims and unemployed workers have visited the centre from the dole.

But the City Council, fresh from £250,000 pounds cut in the hospitals, found a much more important use for this shop—that had lain empty for seven years. Their need was so great that the leader of the council, George Wilson, described the unemployed centre as 'criminal'.

The council's alternative to the centre was demolition in two years time. For some reason it is essential that the building lies empty until its demolition.

The court granted them an eviction order.

To add insult to injury, the council then insisted on a claim for costs, much to the surprise of the judge, who advised the defendants to appeal against this.

In Sheffield we now know who the boot boys are... the city council.

# UCS £1000 for Rolls jobs battle

BLANTYRE: As the occupation at Rolls-Royce entered its 19th week, a £1000 donation to the strike fund came from Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, themselves involved in a work-in several years ago.

With it was the message: 'Don't be afraid to ask for more'.

# Rig yard strikers send £75 to Right to Work

FIFE: The strike committee at RDL oil rig construction site at Methil has sent £75 to the Easter Ross Right to Work Committee. An accompanying letter by the chairman of the strike committee, Jimmy Fitzsimmons, explains

'On behalf of my fellow members and myself who were in dispute with the company (RDL) at Methil, may I take this opportunity to inform you that our dispute, unfortunately, has come to a fruitless end.

'After five weeks our own trade unions, both the Boilermakers and the Construction section of the AUEW, undermined our struggle by their directives to RDL to replace and fill our jobs with sub-

contractors, and even more so by the poisoned documents which they circulated round all our trade union branches and construction yards and also NUM and TGWU branches in the Fife area.

'But there were minority groups who defied the official trade union line, as did your members, and gave their support both financially and morally to assist us to uphold and maintain the rights of workers.

'I would be obliged if you would accept the sum of £75 which I am sure you will use to help others obtain and maintain the Right to Work in a free and democratic community.'

# ... to help fightback

FIVE THOUSAND jobs are threatened in Britain's new boom industry—oil. Graythorpes oil rig construction yard on Teesside has laid off 1200 men. RDL Methil is likely to lay off 1400 in the near future, and 230 jobs are threatened at Foster Wheeler, Dumbarton.

Ardersier, Kishorn, Nigg, Portavaddie, and Ardyne Point have no future orders.

In Easter Ross 250 men have been made redundant at M K Shand. There were 750 jobs there at the beginning of the year—now there are only 50.

At the Nigg yard, 600 will be laid off in December and

another 1300 will go by Easter if the site doesn't get another order.

Accompanied by the threat of redundancy, savage attacks are being made by the employers on safety and conditions. There is an overwhelming need for a rank and file fight back with links between all the yards and an accurate, well-produced bulletin. We have to fight to preserve our jobs.

Anyone in the yards interested in forming a rank and file committee which aims to preserve jobs and conditions in the industry please contact Jim Connor, c/o 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1.

but the same day a vote to continue the occupation was carried by only 29 votes, underlining the feeling of isolation at Blantyre as work at Rolls-Royce's two other Scottish plants continues.

The magnificent struggle by the 470 workers to defend their jobs and keep the factory open is in great need of support from every trade union organisation in the country.

In the words of Willie Lynch, convenor of the occupation's Coordinating Committee: 'We are determined to fight on, but 18 weeks is a long, long time. We badly need financial support, so we are appealing to every trade unionist to stand by us.'

## Paymasters

'The Blantyre area has 11 per cent unemployment and if Rolls-Royce are allowed to close this factory it will mean disaster for engineering workers and youngsters leaving school.'

Seven hundred trade union delegates at the National Right to Work Conference last Saturday heard Willie Lynch's appeal—and unanimously issued an emergency call for delegates to go back to their workplaces and trade union organisations and win support for the Blantyre struggle.

The outcome at Blantyre will be crucial in the fight to defend jobs everywhere. The time has come for the rest of the Rolls-Royce combine to get behind the occupation and take solidarity action.

If the leaders of the labour

movement in the West of Scotland are serious about fighting unemployment, they can start a real fightback now by mobilising maximum support for the occupation. Every local workplace should be asked to organise collections and send telegrams and letters of support.

If the other Rolls-Royce factories in Scotland were to organise stoppages now, the Blantyre shop stewards feel the company would be forced to give in.

Donations and messages of support to: John Simmons, 54 Aypon Park North, East Kilbride.

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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

## I wish I could let you off fines, JP tells marchers

EVEN the magistrate at Hendon no longer believes the police version of what happened when the Right to Work marchers were attacked last March.

Summing up the case

against five of the marchers on Tuesday, the magistrate, a Mr Hines, said he would have liked to give two of the defendants, Tom Donoghue and Erica Burney, a conditional discharge.

'Unfortunately, the penalties have been laid down by the powers that be, he said.

'I have taken into consideration the previous incidents...the marchers were highly distressed and upset. The march has re-formed and showed every intention to go on'.

What the magistrate meant is clear enough. Even the police cannot explain their fourth charge into the marchers.

There had already been more than 30 arrests. There was no conceivable reason why the police should go back and pick up another dozen marchers. Those left had drawn up and attempted to march peacefully down the road when the police stormed in yet again.

The magistrate showed, in the penalties he imposed, his feelings about the latest extraordinary mixture of lies and incompetence by the police.

Tom Donoghue was found not guilty of assault and threatening behaviour, but guilty of obstruction in the police van after arrest. He was fined £10.

Iain Brown was arrested for obstruction and found not guilty. He was found guilty of assault on the police after his arrest and fined £10.



Erica Burney



Danny Evaristo



Iain Brown



Tom Donoghue

# Grunwicks: 'Freedom to rob' boys move in

JOHN GORST, wealthy public relations man, Tory MP and chairman of the late and unlamented Middle Class Association, and Norris McWhirter, millionaire chairman of the National Association of Freedom, are determined to establish a basic freedom; the freedom to exploit black workers in sweatshops.

They are asking for a High Court order to stop Post Office workers blacking mail to a North London sweatshop, the film processing firm Grunwicks.

If the order is successful it will mean that the Post Office workers cannot take industrial action in support of other workers. The notorious Tory Industrial Relations Act might as well still be in force.

Jayanben Desai came to Britain nearly ten years ago. She has worked for Grunwicks for three years answering the letters and dispatching the films to the laboratories.

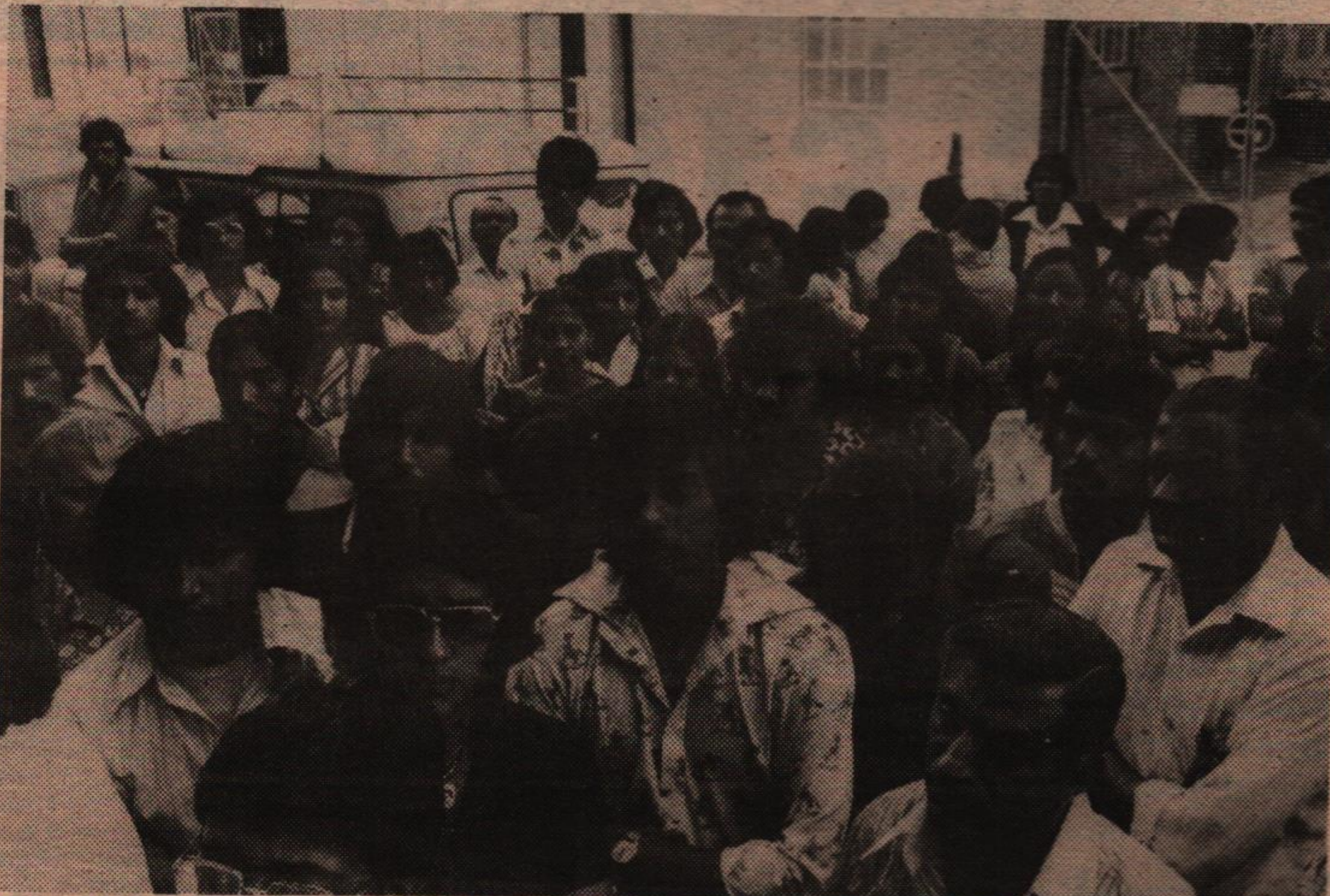
For a 40-hour week she was paid £25. She took home £18.

She and all other Grunwick workers were expected to work compulsory overtime whenever told to do so. The first six hours of overtime were paid at the basic rate, the next six hours at time and a quarter, and the next six at time and a half.

Six days hard work brought home take-home pay of £20.

Jayanben Desai worked under a particularly nasty bully called Malcolm Alden.

'We had one worker who



Grunwicks strikers' mass meeting last month

Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

by PAUL FOOT

was pregnant', she told Socialist Worker. 'It hurt her back terribly. This man Alden used to go and stand over and shout at her: "You're the worst girl on my staff, I can't understand why I don't sack you".'

'She begged him to speak to her politely, but he snapped back: "Don't tell me how to do my job!"'

'Often this lady used to cry out: "My back is hurting!" and the managers used to stand around laughing at her.

'You couldn't do anything in there. If you talked to your friends or if you dropped something, you'd be instantly sacked. They sacked lots of workers, lots of them, for nothing at all.

'Even if you wanted to go to the toilet, you had to put your



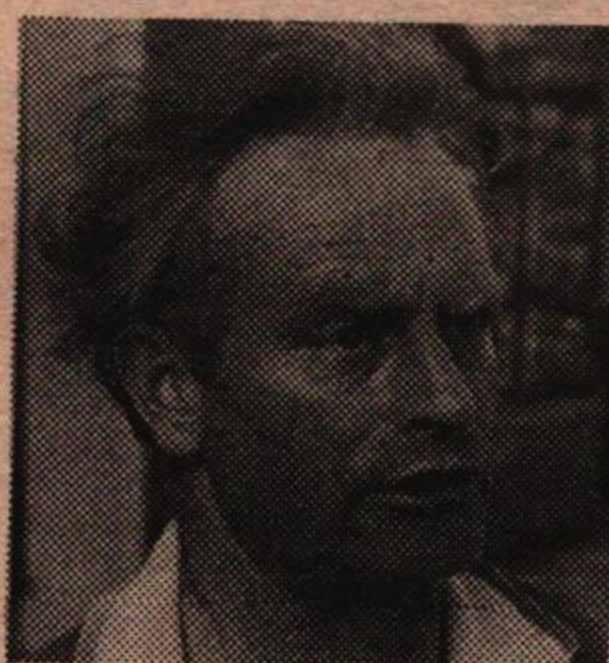
Jayanben Desai

hand up, and ask the manager. "On 23 August, the manager Alden swore at one boy and sacked him. Several other lads walked out. Then we all walked out and demanded a union."

Grunwicks refused even to discuss union recognition with the workers or the local official of the office workers' union APEX, Len Christie. They enticed about 40 scabs into the factory, and have continued production.

### Solidarity

The pickets made little impact. Then, last week, the Lon-



Archie Sinclair

don District Council of the Union of Post Office Workers (UPW) agreed to an official APEX request to black all mail into the factory. The action was endorsed by the UPW Executive.

In one day's blacking, all Grunwick's business was suddenly cut out. In a panic, the firm sought out Tory MP Gorst. Gorst has a number of directorships in firms which do substantial business by mail, though he forgot to remind the House of Commons of them.

Instead he complained that the UPW action was contrary to the 1953 Post Office Act, a clause of which prevents any

Post Office official from 'hindering the Queen's mail'. The clause dates back to the days of the highwaymen.

In the High Court, McWhirter and his Freedom for Exploiters and Slavedrivers Association was wheeled into action.

Unfortunately, that was enough to make UPW general secretary Tom Jackson back down. He ignored the lesson of the fight against the Industrial Relations Act—that union defiance can kill anti-union legal actions. He claimed there was no need for more blackings, since Grunwicks were pretending to negotiate with the government's conciliation body, ACAS.

### Outrageous

Archie Sinclair, assistant secretary of Willesden UPW, told Socialist Worker: 'We wanted this black on from the beginning. We've kept it off while the ACAS negotiations are going on. But if the negotiations are called off, as far as we're concerned we'll put the black straight on again'.

### Fight

Erica Burney was found guilty of two cases of assault and one of obstruction. Instead of giving her a conditional discharge the magistrate explained that he was forced to fine her £10 for each offence.

Danny Evaristo was found guilty of assault. He was fined £10 like all the others.

Another five marchers were tried last week.

Mike Buckingham was cleared of obstruction. Mick Brightman was cleared of assault, after the defence had convinced the magistrate that he had in fact been calming the situation by talking to police inspectors. Tim Baster was also cleared of assault.

Pip Jones, an unemployed electrician from Cardiff, was found guilty of assault and obstruction. The police he is supposed to have hit were at the back of the march, while Pip was at the front. He got a £25 fine and a two-month suspended prison sentence.

### Shock

Jan Golab, an unemployed bricklayer, was convicted on two assault charges, fined £100 and given a six-month suspended sentence.

Colin Langton, a theatre group administrator, was fined £25 for threatening behaviour.

The conviction of Ian Mason on the same charge is particularly amazing since the police claim that he charged them with horizontally held banner poles at the front of the march. None of the pictures taken at the time show him anywhere near the front. This didn't stop him being fined £25.

Noel Halifax, a member of the Transport Union white-collar section ACTSS, was fined £15 for obstruction.

Journalist Dave Shonfield was found guilty of possessing two offensive weapons, a brick and a stick. The police were so sure of themselves that they

didn't even produce the offending objects. No one else had any evidence of their existence, but Dave was still fined £70.

Finally, Paul Whittaker, a member of the Health Service union COHSE was fined a total of £75 on assault and threatening behaviour charges.

With one more trial this week, that leaves three marchers with prison sentences—Mike Lynch, an unemployed miner and Labour Party member from Dunfermline, Bobby Buirds, a Manchester plumber, and Willie Dolan, a Glasgow member of the shopworkers' union USDAW. All are appealing.

The Right to Work Conference last Saturday voted for a mass picket of the court on the first day of the appeals.

### Urge

There is one trial to come. In the first week of May, Right to Work Campaign secretary John Deason appears at the Old Bailey.

It is no coincidence that the most serious charges have been levelled against the campaign's secretary. It is clearly an attempt by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the police to damage the whole campaign against unemployment.

The Defence Campaign will continue throughout the appeals and John Deason's trial until all the marchers are free from threats of imprisonment and other harassment.

## OCCUPATION AT BP ENDS

SCOTLAND: The 1700 workers at the BP Chemical International plant in Grangemouth have called off their occupation and returned to work. But the dispute is by no means over and negotiations are in progress over pensions and fringe benefits.

## Equal pay strike at Plessey

ISLE OF WIGHT: Workers at the Plessey Radar plant at Cowes are on official strike for equal pay and against sackings.

The women—members of the white-collar engineering union TASS—have been negotiating for equal pay for office staff for three and a half years.

Recently women in the computer section held a one-day stoppage and were sacked. After a mass meeting another 33 were given notices. Dismissal notices issued to men at the meeting were quickly withdrawn in an attempt to split

the workforce.

They were told by the union officials to work normally and ignore the sackings, but last Friday two women were jostled by security guards as they went in for work. They had to be treated by the site nurse.

They are demanding equal pay now and no sackings.

Said one of the women: 'The victory at Trico is going to make things easier for us to fight.'

Send donations and messages of support to: Mick Dobbs, (Chairman JNC), 15 Bellevue Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

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Name .....  
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 Trade union .....

Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary,  
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