

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

## TELL THE JUDGES: HANDS OFF OUR UNIONS!

### THE COURTS launched another attack on the unions on Tuesday.

Lord Cameron banned the local government workers' union, NALGO, from calling a one-day strike throughout Scotland.

And shamefully, the NALGO leaders immediately gave in.

They rushed off telegrams ordering their Scottish members not to join this Wednesday's strike against the cuts in public spending.

**NOVEMBER:** Injunction stops Post Office workers' union blacking mail to Grunwicks in North West London.

**JANUARY:** Injunction bans Post Office workers' union blacking of South Africa.

The strike had been called by January's special NALGO Conference.

An injunction had been sought by seven NALGO members, including senior council officials and architects.

The judge claimed that the elected leadership of NALGO

should have had a ballot. But no-one elected him to sit in judgement on what unions can and cannot do.

Nor, for that matter, was there ever a ballot on whether the people of Britain want public spending cuts.

There is no need to accept such judgements.

Writs and injunctions are merely paper with legal language scrawled on them.

It has been proved time and time again that they are worthless if opposed by a united and confident group of workers.

In 1972, the dockers refused to accept the rule of such writs,

Leicester. Occupation ends when 200 police threaten those inside.

Injunction ends occupation of Pontins Holiday Camp site, North Wales.

Injunction defied by LSE students. 600 police storm the building.

even though five of their leaders were in Pentonville Prison.

After five days of spreading strikes, the Law Lords had to hold a special meeting to free those five dockers.

Even when a small and weak group of students at the London School of Economics refused a fortnight ago to obey a High Court writ, the authorities did not dare commit them to prison.

Six hundred police were used to break the students' occupation—but there were no arrests.

### BACKBONE

Does anyone seriously believe that if Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of NALGO, had defied Lord Cameron and continued with the strike, he would have been treated more harshly than five virtually unknown dockers or a group

### ONE INJUNCTION AFTER ANOTHER . . .

Injunction ends occupation of Massey Ferguson factory, Coventry.

**FEBRUARY:** Injunction ends occupation of Haskins factory, Basingstoke.

Injunction taken out against occupation of Wildt Mellor factory,

of completely unknown students?

Drain is prepared to lead a union in return for a large salary. But he hasn't the backbone to stand up and defend that union's rights.

It's up to rank and file members of NALGO and other unions to insist:

No legal controls on the unions.

Defy the courts.

Tear up the injunctions as we tore up the Industrial Relations Act.

### IMPARTIAL? JUDGE FOR YOURSELF

LORD Cameron was educated at the snob Edinburgh Academy school.

A devout Conservative, he is known and feared in Scotland for his passionate belief in giving more and more power to the police.

He is also a fan of big business, acting in his spare time as chairman of the Carnegie Trust, the foundation set up by the ruthlessly anti-union Scots American millionaire Andrew Carnegie.

FOUR thousand telecommunications workers are to be sacked by Plesseys.

Three factories, in Sunderland, in Kirkby and in Speke, Liverpool, are to be closed.

Altogether some 20,000 jobs in telecommunications are to go because of Post Office cut-backs.

But one group of workers is fighting back. The 378 workers at Kirkby, most of them women, have taken over their factory and locked out the management.

Thousands of telecommunications workers joined a one-day protest strike against the Post Office cuts just three weeks ago (above).

Their support is now needed if the Plesseys workers are to resist any closures, any redundancies, any attempt to transfer work.

The fight-back in telecommunications will be under discussion at Saturday's conference in Manchester of Contact, the rank and file paper in the electricians' union.

Details: Page 4



### JENKINS' OFFICIALS BACK OUR FUND

PROTESTS are growing inside the white-collar union ASTMS over general secretary Clive Jenkins' £10,000 legal action against Socialist Worker.

If we do not raise the money—awarded against us in costs and damages over a satirical article about him—he will drive us out of

Save Socialist Worker—Page 5

business. But this week a meeting of ASTMS full-time officials voted 47-18 to urge Jenkins and the union's executive to waive the

damages.

Another motion, again calling on the executive to waive damages but also deploring Jenkins' action, was only defeated 24-44.

Twenty-seven officials at the meeting then signed a round robin in support of Socialist Worker and collected £132 for our defence fund.

SPECIAL REPORT BY GRIMSBY DOCKER MIKE STANTON, TGWU

**GLOBTIK STRIKE-BREAKER: If I'd known the facts I wouldn't have gone... I hope Tikkoo goes bankrupt.**

# 'WE WERE THE REAL PIRATES'

**YES, THEY ARE SCABS, BUT THIS IS WHY**

SEA-DOGS, the Daily Mail called them.

And it's true that the men, mainly trawlermen from Grimsby are scabs. But the real pirates are the multi-national firms that are carving up the fishing industry on Humber-side.

For giants like Imperial, who won the Ross fleet, fishing is just a sideline. As soon as it ceases to profit them they will cut their losses and run, leaving unemployment and shattered communities.

They bleat about the Icelanders and the continental fleets over-fishing while they lay up trawlers. Yet whose trawlers destroyed the herring fishing this year?

Over-fishing by trawlers drove the inshore men bankrupt and turned tons of potential food into fishmeal. Now they are doing the same to the mackerel on the west coast.

The money is there to solve the problems in fishing. Imperials make massive profits (£30 million in their food division alone). They waste massive amounts on tobacco advertisements.

But all is not gloom. If the anger against Globtik and the example of international solidarity it has given can strengthen trade unionism in the area then Ravi Tikkoo and his like will find that they have lost more than they have gained.

**ONE OF the 60 unemployed men dragged into action as strike-breakers by the owners of the Globtik Venus this week told Socialist Worker: 'If I had known the facts, I would not have gone.'**

And he added: 'The owners said the Philipinos were mutineers and pirates. We were the real pirates. I hope Ravi Tikkoo's ships are blacked. I hope he goes bankrupt.'

Like the other strike-breakers, John White (we have changed his name for obvious reasons) was paid £200 for the 'successful operation'.

But he told Socialist Worker:

I went because I needed the money. I've been unemployed for six weeks and was being pressed for a lot of debts.

We were not told about the strike. All we were told was that the Philipinos were being egged on by two or three of their officers to hold the ship for ransom for about £200,000 before they would let a replacement crew on board.

## KEY UP

Everybody was keyed up for a fight. We were told the Philipinos were not going to give in easily.

We were booked into three hotels at Le Havre. Ray Miller (a Globtik official) was supposed to come back at 9.30am but did not return till noon. We were given an unlimited supply of drink. Crates of beer were brought in.

At 5pm we were told to be ready to move out. By this time people were getting drunk and falling out among themselves. Some were very scared and there was a lot of apprehension.

We were driven down to the docks at about 10pm. The security police let us through. We stopped about 50 yards from the ship and Alastair Glennie (Globtik's manager) and Miller went aboard.



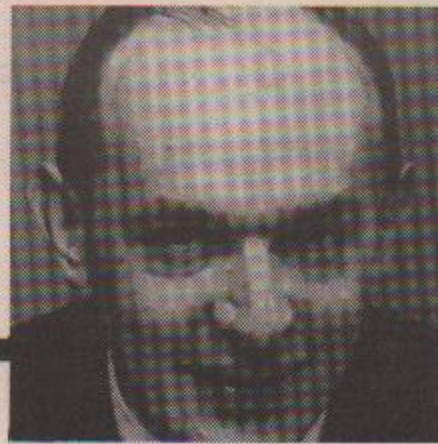
THE VICTIMS: The Globtik crew were only demanding the same pay as other seamen



THE SCABS: How many of these men were fooled into becoming strike-breakers?

## THE TOP TORIES WHO LOVE TIKKOO-AND 'LAW AND ORDER'

Two members of the Tory shadow cabinet are deeply involved in the thuggery of Ravi Tikko (far right), Teddy Taylor (right), MP for Glasgow Cathcart and chief Tory spokesman on Scottish affairs, is Globtik's paid parliamentary advisor. And Nicholas Edwards (centre) is a non-executive director of the firm.



When Miller came ashore he told us it might be called off for the night. He was still drunk but most of us had sobered up and did not want any more delays.

We were shouting, 'It's now or never!' and the tension was causing arguments. Finally he came back and told us it was on.

We all had plastic safety helmets. Two men had fire-axes. We had torches and rope. I saw two men with

spray canisters but I refused one.

The rest of us went over to a hut and got sticks, bits of wood, anything we could lay our hands on. Miller said he hoped there would not be any violence but if any Philipinos were injured there would be no come-back on us.

## MERCENARIES

I was the second one on board. The Philipinos were

stood on the bridge with their hands raised shouting: 'We don't want no trouble'. Afterwards we learnt that they had been told we were Angolan mercenaries and if they put up a struggle they would be shot immediately.

We rounded them up in the mess room and refused them access to their cabins.

One Philipino was hurt when he was kicked off a ladder. Locked cabins were broken open to see if anyone

was inside. Glennie had told us that any damage we caused did not matter so long as we gained control of the ship.

## SCARED

The Philipinos were very scared and obeyed us immediately. The original plan was for us to sail out of French waters and hand them over to the Navy to stand trial for mutiny. They were very worried by this.

They told us why they had occupied the ship and some of the lads felt really sick at what they had done. A lot did not care, but some of us were angry that we had been conned into strike-breaking.

One of the crew had been on board for 21 months without a break. He had a wife and six children at home.

I would never do it again. If I had known the facts I would not have gone. I feel sorry for them now.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH

HOME OFFICE racials have come out into the open with a nauseating letter seeking to justify their decision to deport 20-year-old Wayne Williams.

Wayne followed his parents to this country in 1973 from Antigua.

Unable, like thousands of other youngsters, black and white, to find a job, he stole a couple of trivial items, for which he was convicted.

## Feared

In January 1975, Wayne was accused of having cannabis and came up in Knightsbridge Crown Court, the one most feared by black people in London for its blatantly racist bias.

Predictably, his defence—that he had been planted with

drugs by police—was set aside and he was sentenced to borstal.

He was told that he was being recommended for deportation under the disgraceful 1971 Immigration Act. The recommendation was not acted on.

But later that year Wayne again came up in court. After he came out of borstal he had still been unable to get a job.

Unemployment had increased still further. And so like two million other people last year he committed another petty crime: having cannabis and being in posses-

sion of a number of records which the police maintained were stolen.

Again he got borstal. And this time the recommendation to deport him was endorsed by the Home Office.

Inside borstal, the theory goes, you're supposed to be 'retrained' and 're-equipped' for the world outside.

But while Wayne was being re-equipped—and the re-equipment doesn't extend to the provision of a job when you get out—the Home Office decided they were going to deport him.

These partisans of so-called

fair play decided they would punish him twice over, cut him off from his family and send him back to Antigua where his chances of getting a job are even more unlikely.

In a revolting letter to the black organisation, the Unity Association, socialist and Minister responsible for Immigration, Dr Shirley Summerskill, outlined the 'thinking' behind her department's decision.

The most amazing statement in the letter is an accusation levelled against Wayne that for most of his stay in Britain he has been un-

employed.

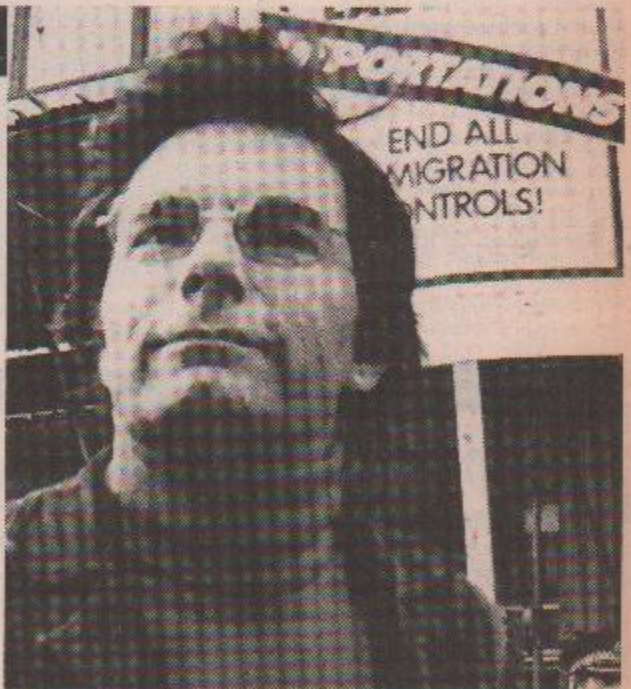
Since he came here there's never been less than 700,000 unemployed. And now, thanks to this government's policies, there are double that.

In this terrible situation, black kids suffer most of all. And Dr Shirley Summerskill has the cheek to accuse them of being responsible for being unemployed.

Wayne hasn't yet been deported. For the moment he is still doing his borstal stretch at Rochester.

Only a forceful defence campaign will stop the Home Office executing their decision. An important meeting on his case has been called for 3pm this Sunday, 13 March, at the Abeng Centre in Gresham Road, Brixton, London SW2.

It's organised by the West Indian Standing Conference, the Unity Association, Flame and the Socialist Workers Party.



Phil Agee, the man the Labour government want out of the country—along with a few others...

## The truth about those 'crippling' tax increases

By Judith Hamilton

average wage paid only one twenty-fifth of it in income tax. By 1975, the figure was a quarter.

The increase in taxation for managers was much less. According to a survey by Incomes Data, someone on three times the average wage in 1950 paid out 17 per cent in tax, and only twice as much (33 per cent) in 1975.

The burden of taxation has increased five-fold for the worker, but only two-fold for the manager.

So if the government was really worried about 'easing the burden of taxation' it would be slashing the level of income tax for those with average and low wages, not for 'the middle incomes' of our bosses.



Instead, it accepts all the stories about managers being taxed to the point of poverty.

Someone earning £10,000 a year only pays about a third of that in tax. So he or she is left with £7,500—enough to keep the occasional wolf from the door.

But that's not all. A group of international management consultants, HAY-MSL, have estimated that those on £10,000-a-year receive, on average, fringe benefits worth an extra 30 per cent.

Since these are largely untaxed, they bring in anything up to £60 a week. In other words, the 'impoverished' £10,000-a-year manager gets back in fringe benefits what he pays out in tax.

Or, to put it crudely, he lives a tax-free life.

## ARE THEY SERIOUS ABOUT THREATENING TO CLOSE LEYLAND?

No government would eagerly welcome the prospect of another 200,000 - 250,000 cars a year being imported and 220,000 being exported. British Leyland, for all its troubles, is still a major exporter. The immediate damage to the balance of payments might be over £600 million in a full year.

—The Economist, 5 March

YOU CAN hardly turn on the radio or TV these days without hearing some employer or Tory MP bleating about how 'tax rises' have hit managers much more than workers.

The government has already promised to give in to many of these moans in the next Budget by easing taxation on 'middle incomes' (by which it means at least twice what you're likely to earn).

But the group hardest hit by rising taxation has been workers, not managers.

In 1950, someone with an

# WHY EVERY WORKER SHOULD SUPPORT THE TOOLROOM STRIKERS

## WHAT WE THINK

THE LEYLAND toolroom workers' strike has been bitterly denounced.

Government Ministers are against it, Tory spokesmen are against it, television pundits are against it, trade union leaders are against it.

All of these people, of course, earn two, three or even ten times what a toolroom worker gets.

But the strike has also caused confusion among many good trade unionists.

The reason is simple. The press, TV and union leaders portray the strike as being about differentials.



And some at least of the strike leaders speak as if that was one of the main questions.

It can easily seem to people that the toolroom workers are fighting a backward, sectional struggle to separate themselves from less skilled workers.

But this, in reality, is not the crucial thing about their strike.

Whenever workers find themselves fighting in isolation against national government policies, they are tempted to excuse their struggle by claiming it is a 'special case'.

Remember the miners' strikes against the Tory wage policies in 1972 and 1974. Most of the miners' leaders insisted that theirs was a 'special case'.

Yet the revulsion of the miners against falling living standards was common to millions of other workers. Once the miners had beaten the pay policy, no amount of talk about 'special cases' could stop every other section of workers

doing likewise.

Exactly the same considerations apply to the toolroom workers.

An attempt is being made by the powers-that-be to isolate them, to turn other workers against them, to browbeat them into returning to work. Part of this process is the portrayal of their strike as being

against other workers.

But let's be clear. The toolroom workers have been the first group of workers to take industrial action against the continuation of the pay controls.

If they are defeated, it will be a blow against all workers.

WHOSE CRISIS: Between 1968 and 1974, Leyland paid interest charges of £153.9 million to rich bankers—and still made profits of £200 million. Of these, £68.89 million was handed over to shareholders in dividends.



Industry Secretary Eric Varley: he's been in the forefront of the attacks on the toolroom workers

## ...And the right of the police to strike

THE POLICE are a much stranger 'special case'.

Normally, governments do all they can to stop the police from seeing themselves as workers or from considering trade union action.

The Police Federation was set up by the government after the police strike of 1919 so as to prevent the formation of a real trade union.

Its advisers have been safe, reactionary, establishment figures such as James Callaghan and Tory MP Eldon Griffiths.

So as to keep police loyal to the Federation, governments have usually allowed the wage increases which they would have refused other workers.

You can see why if you look at what is happening these days every time occupations take place against sackings or the cuts.

Employers go to the High Court and get injunctions which they then threaten to enforce with hundreds of police.

They can't bear the idea that the police could be part of a real trade union, identifying with the trade union movement, perhaps refusing to evict people fighting for their jobs or refusing to break the picket lines of workers fighting, like themselves, against wage controls.

The Sun summed up the view of its owner, multi-millionaire Rupert



That's what we want to see: police on strike in 1919—and catching up with their socialist reading, 1976



## IT'S IN OUR OWN INTERESTS

Murdoch—and of every other speculator, asset-stripper, profiteer and right-wing politician—when it said on Tuesday:

'The police, like the armed forces, must stay politically independent. Full trade union rights, including the strike weapon, would lead to a conflict of loyalties when they had to deal with picketing, sit-ins and other forms of industrial conflict.'

But now the authorities

have got themselves in a tangle.

They are committed to cutting public spending, yet they've increased the number of police by a third in the last ten years.

They're committed to a pay freeze, but to let the police go through it would be to cause vast anger among other groups of workers who are being held back.

Within the police force,

frustration and discontent is growing. It can lead to a move for real trade unionism, for affiliation to the TUC and for the right to strike.

If this happened, it would open the eyes of many police to the job they spend much of their time doing—protecting the property of profiteers and parasites.

That is why the authorities will use almost any means to prevent this happening, if necessary victimising militants and turning higher-paid sections of the police such as the Special Patrol Group against the ordinary bobbies.

It's also why they will encourage the frustration to be released in other

ways—through the use of more brutish behaviour against minority groups, through fewer controls on police violence, by more leeway for the vicious, racist elements in each police station.

All this makes it vital for every socialist and trade unionist to support those sections of the police who want a real union and the right to strike.

This does not mean forgetting that the police are used, in the main, to protect those with property against those without.

But many working-class lads who have joined the police force are only going to see this as a result of their own struggles.

### PICKET

Great Dane Hotel, Hollingbourne near Maidstone, 6.30pm this Friday (11 March).

### BUILD THE BLACK RALLY!

All black members and SWP race organisers are urged to attend the National Race Work Meeting this Saturday, 12 March, at the Right to Work Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Rd, London, 1pm sharp. We need to organise and work hard over the next month to ensure a great success for the Socialist Workers Party Rally of Black revolutionaries



# FINANCIAL APPEAL TO THE TRADE UNION AND LABOUR MOVEMENT

# Trade union leaders act to kill Socialist Worker

A CONCERTED EFFORT is being made by trade union leaders and officials to put the Socialist Worker and our socialist printshop out of business.

Last week Clive Jenkins of the white-collar ASTMS was awarded damages and costs amounting to almost £10,000. This follows closely behind a settlement with Frank Chapple of the electricians and plumbers (EETPU) of £4,000.

There are High Court writs against us from T Comerford, an ASTMS full-time official, and from the National Union of Bank Employees.

To cap it all Frank Chapple has issued yet another High Court writ against us concerning the Rank and File publication 'The Ugly Face of Chapple's Union'.

These actions, win, lose or draw, will cost Socialist Worker many, many thousands of pounds.

Why is Socialist Worker being taken to court? What are these trade union leaders frightened of? And why is it that trade union leaders and officials are prepared to put Socialist Worker out of business?

For two long years union leaders have hoodwinked and cajoled their members into accepting pay restraint. They have worked hand in glove with the government, using every opportunity to subordinate their members to the Social Contract.

During these two years Socialist Worker stood virtually alone, agitating and organising inside the trade unions for rank and file policies, backing to the hilt the campaign against unemployment launched by the Right to Work Campaign.

We were a thorn in the side of the trade union leaders. Always reminding them they could only fool some of the people some of the time.

Their fear, with some justification, is that the policies of Socialist Worker will be increasingly fought for by their members.

It's not the money these union leaders want. After all, what is £2000 to a wealthy man like Clive Jenkins?

No, they want to remove that thorn and the only way they know is to

bankrupt our paper and our printers.

We will not be silenced nor will we be bankrupted. We believe our record in the trade union movement has won us support and respect from many working people.

Our fighting policies will not be curtailed. Who would benefit if we stopped campaigning?

- Against racism.
- Against the Social Contract.
- Against unemployment and for the right to work.
- For women's rights and equal pay
- For victory for the blacks in Africa
- For rank and file control of the unions.

It could only be the enemies of our movement.

Our socialist printshop has served both the Socialist Workers Party and the movement well. Many dock shop stewards not connected with the SWP will testify to the devotion given by the printworkers during the 'Pentonville days' to give but one example. We have printed quickly and cheaply for many, many strike committees.

We have already received many messages of support from people such as Frank Clark of the Fine Tubes Strike committee, John Llywarch of the Shrewsbury Pickets and Eddy Brady, secretary of the Eldon Square strike committee.

Our printers, more than 30 men and women, are every one socialists and trade unionists.

The trade union movement is re-awakening. Hundreds of thousands of workers are seeing through the trade union leaders and the government.

Thousands of workers are taking strike action. 19 April sees the first major rank and file strike for years.

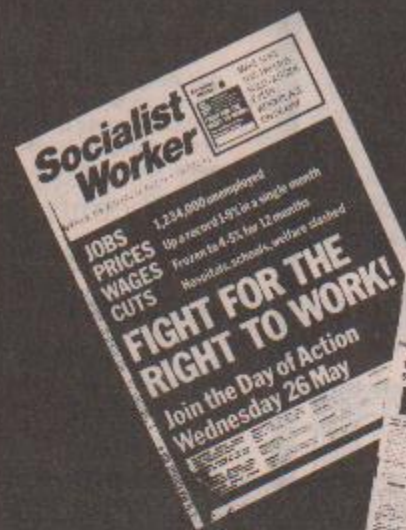
Socialist Worker will be there fighting. We will not knuckle under. We appeal to the trade union, labour and socialist movement for financial assistance.

You can help. We ask that:

- Every reader considers making a substantial donation according to their means.

- Every reader takes a collection sheet around his or her workplace.

- ASTMS members send resolutions to their national executive asking them to waive damages.



**DEFEND SOCIALIST WORKER AND THE SOCIALIST PRINTSHOP**

Donations to Socialist Worker  
Defence Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens,  
London E2.

# Socialist Worker



# Wage cuts: Europe's workers hit back

**DUTCH workers struck two weeks ago for pay increases to keep ahead of the cost of living.**

They won—and now their example has been followed in other European countries.

In **Belgium**, trains, buses and much of industry was paralysed for the second time by a one-day strike on Friday.

wages and force up the cost of living, have united Flemish-speaking and French-

speaking workers, Socialist and Catholic trade unionists, on the biggest scale since the general strike of 1961.

In **Denmark**, the social democratic government has been forced to use the industrial relations law to delay a planned strike by 250,000 workers.

The government is aiming, with the help of the right-wing opposition parties, to impose another two years of wage controls. But many of its former supporters inside the unions are turning in anger against it.

In **Portugal**, the 'moderate socialist' government of Mario Soares has taken economic measures that are going to force up prices

further although wage increases are limited.

Hundreds of thousands of workers have been showing their anger at the measures. Last Friday there was a half-day stoppage of all the country's building workers.

## Bankrupt

300,000 textile workers are on a national go-slow. There is an overtime ban by the printers, and railway technicians are working to rule.

In **Spain**, the government is rumoured to be planning a batch of measures, including a wage freeze.

This follows its success in entangling the 'moderate' op-

position groups in talks while harassing the far left with hundreds of arrests and fines.

These tactics have helped the employers to defeat a number of major strikes in the last six months—at Motor Iberica (part of Massey Ferguson), the Madrid Transport workers, the Sabadell metal workers and most recently, the three-month strike at Roca, part-owned by ITT.

But last week the government got a shock. Its plans to win a rigged election on votes from the countryside received a set-back when tens of thousands of poor peasants blocked main roads with their tractors.

Several people were injured

when the riot police attacked the demonstrators with rubber bullets and tear gas near Valladolid in central Spain.

In **Greece** a huge strike wave involves 18,500 teachers, 20,000 electricity workers, TV technicians, the telephone company, metal, bauxite and iron ore miners, the banks, the AEG electrical goods factory, several textile factories and the Fiat workers.

The strikers are demanding the reinstatement of sacked militants and pay rises of about 40 per cent.

In an effort to control things, the government has made all the strikes illegal and the Greek TUC has expelled two-thirds of the unions.

## Dance for joy! Apartheid ballet group take a tumble

THE SOUTH African financed dancing company, Ballet International, has collapsed.

Its director, Max Martin, told the Press: 'From the start, we had trouble with anti-apartheid demonstrations.'

'They picketed our launching Press conference and our auditions as well as some of the theatres we played.'

The pickets were members and supporters of the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign. In December they picketed the first performance of the Ballet company.

In February, Ballet Inter-

national was due to play at a council-owned theatre in Newcastle. Pressure from the local branch of the SASC nearly stopped the performance.

'The theatre said they would not let us play there because of our South African connection', said Martin. The performance eventually went ahead.

But it was picketed by more than 100 members of the SASC.

Ballet International was formed a year ago with a £500,000 grant from the Arts Council of the Orange Free State, the stronghold of Afrikaner racism.

A condition of the grant was that Ballet International would visit South Africa twice a year. The project was designed as a prestige boost for South African 'culture'.

## Measures

But the campaign to black their performances, and the demonstrations and pickets that greeted them, helped to put a stop to this racist propaganda exercise.

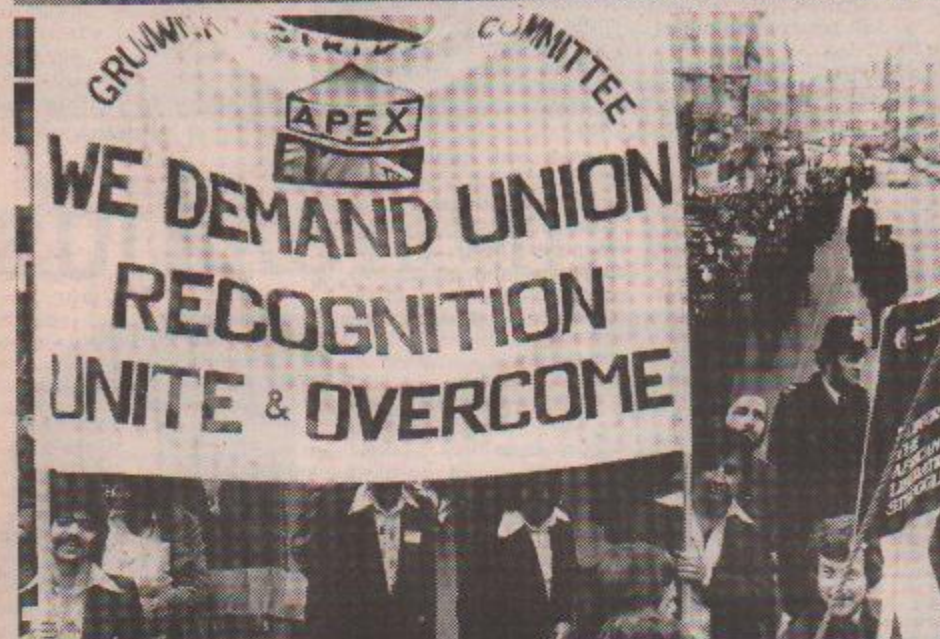
The stooge company lost their South African backers. They are now bankrupt.

50 people joined an all-day picket in Aberdeen last week of an official South African migration delegation recruiting skilled white workers for South Africa.

The picket was organised by the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign during the week of action to build for last Sunday's demonstration.

It was backed by the students union at the local university and college.

John Macinnes, secretary of Aberdeen SASC, told Socialist Worker: 'No unemployed workers were after these jobs. We stopped quite a few of the potential applicants from going in.'



Some of the 6,000 people who demonstrated in London last Sunday against apartheid. Among them were many trade union banners. And a big proportion wore stickers or carried placards from the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign calling for active solidarity with the armed struggle.



**INTERNATIONAL FUND RAISING SOCIAL**  
 Saturday 12 March, UCL Union, Gordon Street, London W1. Bar and Disco from 8pm-midnight, food from Iran, Greece, Poland, Austria, France. Tickets: 40p each.  
 Proceeds to SW Fighting Fund, and SWP International Fund.



Victory to the Freedom Fighters stickers now available. Two colour (red and black), 3p each. 25p a sheet (of 12). Send cash with order to: International Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN (Make cheques payable to SE International Fund.)

GLASGOW: Film show—Last Grave at Dimbaza, plus South African speaker, Thursday 17 March, 7.30pm, place to be announced.

LEEDS: Victory to the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe! Speaker from ZANU and SASC, Thursday 17 March, 8pm, Trades Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 7.

**SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN**  
 101-103 Gower Street, London WC1

# TORTURE—BY THE POLICE

A FEW days ago, a man was pushed from a second-storey window at the Springfield Road police barracks in Belfast.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary say he jumped.

Somehow, after 14 hours of interrogation, they claim he managed to fling himself through bullet-proof glass.

Eddie Rooney, 25, from Ballymurphy, is now in hospital with a 50-50 chance of survival.

Last June, the RUC told Sean Moore, also from Ballymurphy, that they would throw him out the window. This time, it seems, they have actually carried out their threat.

Earlier last week, the BBC Tonight programme interviewed two Catholic men from

Fermanagh. Bernard O'Connor, a teacher, and Michael Lavelle, a production controller, described the torture they went through while being interrogated in the Castlereagh RUC centre.

A track suit top was put

By Joan Kelly in Belfast

over O'Connor's head and tied around his neck in hood style. His nose and mouth were blocked off.

'I couldn't breathe, and I actually found my stomach

trying to come up when I was gasping for my last breath,' he said.

The police said they would assassinate O'Connor. Then they threatened to take him to the top of the Shankill Road and notify the Ulster Volunteer Force so they could

do the assassination.

How many of the numerous bodies found in and near the Shankill Road have been the result of RUC planning?

The RUC practice torture regularly to make their victims sign confessions so they can convict and jail more

'terrorists'.

How many innocent men and women are in British jails because they were tortured? Or because their lives and the lives of their families were threatened by the RUC?

O'Connor and Lavelle resisted, refused to sign. The charges were dropped.

Obviously the RUC thugs weren't getting their way with Eddie Rooney. So they took care of him in their own sadistic way.

Roy Mason, the Minister for Northern Ireland and the security forces continue to deny that torture is being used. In Strasbourg, the British Attorney General Sam Silkin says that Britain will not use those torture methods again.

But working class people in Northern Ireland are potential victims of torture every day.

THE CASE of Eddie Rooney is only the tip of a massive iceberg.

Other recent unpublicised cases involved six men from county Derry, Kieran Farren, Finbar Lullin, Gerard Farren, Kevin Mullin, Martin O'Hara and David Ward.

Each has sworn an affidavit that during four days in Castlereagh they were hood-

By Eamonn McCann in Dublin

ed, deprived of sleep and food, stripped and made to run on the spot for hours, kicked, punched or threatened with death. All were released when they refused to confess to anything.

Four Derry men were arrested after the killing of

Dup executive Jeffrey Agate, held for three days at Castlereagh and then charged.

The RUC says the four have confessed. The men, who appeared in court looking dazed, battered and bruised, say the confessions were extracted by torture.

A doctor who examined them—Dr Joseph Hendron, a prominent member of the 'moderate' SDLP—says that

their injuries were entirely consistent with their stories.

The Belfast solicitor Mr Pascal O'Hare, who handles many political cases, reckons that as many as three-quarters of his clients are convicted on confessions alone.

Their claims about torture are almost invariably rejected, there being no witnesses except the defendant and five or six soldiers or RUC men.

# THE ISLINGTON

**EIGHTEEN BLACK teenagers from Islington in North London are being treated in a fashion that should rouse the anger of every human being with an ounce of feeling in their heart.**

They are on the receiving end of a 'legal' operation that is designed to drive fear into them and their families.

It is being instigated, organised and carried out by the Metropolitan Police under a favourite guise: an anti-mugging campaign.

Just how insidious the attack is can be seen from the charge sheets.

All the youngsters face the following unbelievable blanket conspiracy charge: '... between 21 August and 21 October 1976 in the Greater London area (you) conspired together and with persons unknown to commit robberies.'

A superficial reading of this incredible charge should make it clear that this is a very serious attack.

Indeed, the fact that the charge is so utterly unspecific and all-embracing makes the case the most serious legal offensive against working-class people since the launching four years ago of conspiracy prosecutions against the Shrewsbury building workers.

## GOSSIP

The use of conspiracy means that the police do not have to charge these youngsters with any specific offences requiring specific proof.

They do not have to bring witnesses to testify they were robbed of anything.

Instead, just as at Shrewsbury, they can rely on hearsay, gossip, unsupported police evidence lumped in with information about 'general character' and even 'political beliefs' to secure their convictions on a charge which means anything they care to make it mean.

The parallel with Shrewsbury isn't confined to the charge sheets.

The Islington 18 are intended to be sacrificial victims of the very same kind — if the police can get away with it.

If you doubt this, examine the dates chosen for the period of the trumped-up 'conspiracy'. The first, 21 August 1976, is the give-away. It has been carefully chosen so as to precede a crucial day in the recent calendar of the Metropolitan Police. That day was 29 August 1976, Bank Holiday Sunday.

For London's West Indian population, the August Bank Holiday is just about the most important weekend of the year. It is the time for the carnival, when the black

# Police stage Shrewsbury-style on black teenage

PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)



Two of the 18 accused: Anthony Rodney and Floyd Willoughby outside Holloway police station.



A detective well-known to...

community celebrate their own roots, their own culture and identity and generally have a good time on the streets of Notting Hill.

Last year, however, their pleasure was rudely interrupted by an amazingly heavy police presence. And not just a passive presence, either.

On the ridiculous pretext of 'pursuing pickpockets', the Metropolitan Police—in huge numbers from all over London—harassed and hassled the young.

The Metropolitan Police turned the Carnival into a riot. They came out of it very badly indeed. And they wanted revenge.

In the immediate aftermath, Sir Robert Mark, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, rushed into print with

By  
**Laurie Flynn and Jim Cronin**

a statement that the force would maintain control of the streets 'at all costs'.

A special inquiry headquarters was set up in Notting Hill. From there an investigation was planned which gave the CID free rein in all the black areas of London and in Holloway and Islington in particular, where the black community was least organised to defend itself.

Armed with hundreds of fuzzy and indistinct photos of the Carnival, policemen touted themselves around the local schools.

They went to all the clubs frequented by black teenagers and asked for 'co-operation' from those in authority.

And they roamed the streets questioning kids at random.

## FILTHY

Every filthy trick in the book was to be used in this Sweeny-style operation. Youngsters were held in jail for long periods without their parents being informed, in blatant defiance of the Judges' Rules which are supposed to regulate police behaviour.

In the station, people were beaten up or threatened, and attempts were made to recruit some of them as grasses who would implicate other youngsters.

Anthony Rodney, one of the 18 accused, told Socialist Worker what was done to him.

'When I was first arrested, I was simply offered a job by the police. They told me that if I would inform on my friends they would go easy on me.

'If I didn't, they said they'd make trouble for me. They said to me that I should go into

MacDonalds, the big hamburger bar in Holloway Road, and hang around there.

'I should give them names of suspicious people. I went back a couple of times to the station but told them nothing.

'I think they knew what was going on so they decided to fix me. They're perfectly capable of that. They're horrible people.'

The police took a whole range of youngsters into custody for short periods of 'intensive questioning'. One by one, they threatened and intimidated them.

## THREATS

And from some they got what they wanted—names, statements implicating themselves and/or others, statements which were made or signed out of fear.

After 'extracting' names from one lad, they took a total of 26 boys into custody, all friends or acquaintances.

Of these, 18 were charged late in October. Thanks to the police and compliant magistrates most got no bail for three months. Even now seven are still being held 'on remand'.

All face the charge of conspiracy to rob persons unknown of things unknown at times and places unknown

between 21 August and 21 October. With such a charge the phoney statements come into their own.

'Proof' of one boy's guilt is another's 'statement' extracted of course under duress.

When the cases come to court at the Old Bailey next month, only eight of the lads will face extra charges relating to the Notting Hill Carnival.

But initially the police tied all the accused very closely to the Carnival. They extracted confessions to Carnival offences from lads who weren't even there!

Somewhat reluctantly the police have decided that such a frame-up really is a little too obvious. So they've backed off a bit.

But what they've given up on there, they've made up for with some other amazing charges which they fully intend to press.

## UNKNOWN?

Typical examples of these are: 'On a day unknown in the month of October 1976 outside the Nightingale Youth Club Wood Green, London N22, did rob a woman unknown of a handbag and contents.'

Or this: '... that you on a day unknown in the months of August and September 1976

together with persons unknown did rob a man unknown of £4.10 cash.'

Such blatantly phoney charges are, however, entirely appropriate. For mugging is a phoney crime. If one of the authors of this article went out and ripped off an old lady's handbag, it's called a 'robbery'.

But if someone ten years younger does it, and he happens to be black, it's called a mugging.

## 'FAULT?'

Our society goes to immense lengths to make everyone, the young in particular, want things. But more and more youngsters are denied the most elementary means to satisfy the wants the system arouses.

In that situation is it any wonder that young people do steal? Is it their 'fault' if they do?

And wouldn't a job and a decent wage do them rather more good than borstal?

It's worth remembering that surveys show that almost every single adult in Britain has committed a crime which would put them in prison for a year or more.

And that includes all the judges and politicians and policemen and Daily Telegraph letter-writers who prattle on about law and order!

People like ourselves always get it in the neck. And the Islington 18 will get it in the

# 'I just o



LILL hospitalized to the son Mar part in t She couldn't he was day, he Park. 'My s said. 'A anything more'. It was bail—an he does 7am an Lillian is all ov bags an this who no more

neck—even though the charges ranged against them are unspecific and fabricated—if ordinary people don't rally to their cause.

So it's imperative that you raise their case now on your shop stewards committee, tenants association, union branch or student union.

Imperative because without your help the hypocrites who control this system will be able to make a good many more marks in their record of revenge.

In this case the marks will go right alongside those they made when they got prison sentences imposed against Des Warren, Eric Tomlinson and John McKinsie Jones, jailed for conspiracy for being trade unionists just a few years ago.

**THE CHARGE: '... that on a day unknown, together with persons unknown, you did rob a man unknown'.**

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**SATURDAY 30 APRIL**  
Full details from phone 01-739 1878).

**ISLINGTON 18 DEFENCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Tuesday 15 March, 7.30pm, Manor Gardens public library, London, N7**  
Hear what the teenagers and their parents have to say.



# N JOB

## style frame-up

RS

**AND ONE COPPER HAS THIS TO SAY ABOUT IT**



ally for his treatment of black teenagers gives his verdict on the case.

## can't take no more'

IAN CARTER, (left), a worker from Guyana, rushed to the police station when told her son, Clive, 16, was being held for his part in the events at the Carnival. She told the police her son was possibly guilty because he had been at a fair in Finsbury

son was badly beaten, she said he was told that if he said no to me he would get some

three months before he got out then only on condition that he wouldn't leave the house before 7pm.

added: 'I think that after this I'm just going to pack my things and go home. It's really got me out of the business. I just can't take

WHEN Leante Whiteley (right) went to the police station to see her 17-year-old son Clive she was told that he didn't want to see her.

'I went back the next day', she said, 'and a detective eventually told me that my son had made a statement admitting his guilt. I insisted on seeing him. But the detective just wouldn't look me in the face.'

'I knew why when I saw Clive. His top lip was puffed up. His eyes were red. He looked terrible.'

'Finally, two months after being charged, Clive got bail and then he told me what had actually happened. While I was asking for him upstairs, they had him downstairs, stretching him with his finger tips against a wall, questioning him and punching his sides when he couldn't answer. It's a disgrace.'



OUR NORMAN AT SKEGNESS



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Women workers at Electrolux: 600 are still waiting for equal pay

PAULINE I'ons and Joan Goodwin work on the fridge assembly in the big Electrolux factory in Luton.

In their part of the line, there are four workers and four jobs, taping and sealing the inside of the fridges.

To break the boredom, the four workers take turns at the four jobs, one hour at a time.

Pauline and Joan get £13 a week less than the other two workers. Why? Because the other two workers are men.

Ted I'ons, Pauline's husband, works in the other Electrolux factory, making vacuum cleaners. He works with two women.

### Blatant

He says: 'The women could do my job just as well as I can—and they've proved it'. But Ted gets £13 a week more than the women workers.

The same sort of thing goes on throughout the factory. The wealthy gentlemen who own and control Electrolux carry out a system of blatant sex discrimination. That's against the law nowadays. But the law isn't doing anything about it.

Until 1974, there was a 'man's rate' and a 'woman's rate' at Electrolux. The woman's rate was about a third less.

Then came the Equal Pay Act. The company abolished the man's rate and the



woman's rate and created two new grades—01 and 10.

By an amazing coincidence, all but five of 600 women workers were graded 01. And all the men workers were graded 10.

And 10 was paid about a third more than 01!

This 'solution' satisfied the 'moderate' shop stewards committee. It satisfied Arthur

# These women do the same work as men—and get £13 a week less

Electrolux world-wide profits

1966 61,598 million Kroner = £8.54 million  
1975 709,200 million Kroner = £98.36 million  
Profits increase in ten years: 1051 per cent.

In the same period Electrolux paid out £82.6 million in dividends.

Sjogren, district official of the AUEW, to which all the workers belong.

But it didn't satisfy the women.

Shop steward Anne Hutchinson and six other women workers in her department took their case to an industrial tribunal.

The union refused to help her. She battled with a top barrister from the

company—and the tribunal unanimously awarded equal pay to all seven workers.

The employers appealed—and the workers won on appeal.

The seven victorious workers were then taken off their jobs and moved to another section of the factory.

Their jobs were filled by other women, who were kept on the lower rate!

## HOW THE WOMEN CAN WIN

THE COMINGS-AND-GOINGS to the tribunals have worried and divided many workers in Electrolux.

Some women fear that equal pay will mean compulsory night shifts. It does not. Night work is rewarded with special 'night premiums'—and has nothing to do with equal pay.

Others are worried that equal pay will mean harder jobs. But the enormous majority of jobs in the factory can be done by women.

Others still prefer to leave matters to the Equal Opportunities Commission, which is 'investigating' the firm. But the EOC team could take 15 months—and then there's no guarantee of equal pay at the end of it.

Many men workers are worried that equal pay will mean lower pay for them.

There are simple answers to all these problems.

There should be a SINGLE RATE for all workers in the factory—what is now the higher rate, or the men's rate.

The only way to get that single rate now is by industrial action.

### Action

Works convenor Harry Martin doesn't want a strike. Nor does district official Arthur Sjogren. They're stuck so deep in their procedures and graded structures that they can't lead a fight for equal pay.

The women who want equal pay will have to move themselves. They'll have to form an action committee across the different departments to put an end to the divisions and pessimism which the company is trying to sustain.

Strike for the single rate. Equal pay now.

### Sit-in

The company said they would not pay equal pay until every one of the women in the factory had fought their way through the tribunals.

Two weeks ago, Anne Hutchinson led a walk-out. Hundreds of women followed.

They staged a sit-in strike in the canteen for an afternoon—and they forced the shop stewards committee to hold a meeting there.

As a result, 20 more women won equal pay. But the rest of the 600 women in the factory are still waiting.

**PAUL FOOT**



# Time for all good apes to stand up and be counted

## The unexceptional face of capitalism...

A scene from 'Yes, But...' Kartoon Klowns' new play



☆  
**TAKE IT AS RED**

PAUL O'FLINN  
MONKEYS  
AROUND  
WITH A PARABLE  
FOR OUR TIMES

ONCE upon a time, nearly 30 million years ago, a couple of apes were shuffling on all fours across a clearing in the forest.

Suddenly, for no good reason, they stood up. Just like that.

No ape had ever done it before and they weren't quite sure why they did it then, but somehow they wanted to.

It felt good, it felt 'human', they said, even though it hurt a bit and made them feel dizzy.

Next day they did it again. They told their friends about it and even persuaded a few of them to try it.

News of these goings on spread quickly and it wasn't

long before questions were asked in the House.

Enoch Ape demanded to know what the Home Secretary was going to do about this threat to society as we know it. He blamed outside agitators and called for repatriation and tighter immigration controls.

'Hear, hear', grunted a few backwoods apes sitting alongside him.

Bernard Orang-Outang wrote a brilliantly witty column in *The Times* about this latest piece of absurdity from the trendy left. Headlined 'Standing up, Indeed!', it concluded:

**God's plan**

*Not until the left addresses itself and can be seen to address itself to the real concerns and needs of apes in this country will it deserve to be taken seriously as a political force.*

The Rt Rev Donald

Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of England, summoned a hasty press conference. He pointed out that while on the one hand the Church was not against innovation, this standing up was clearly a sin against nature and not part of God's plan for monkeys.

He announced a national day of prayer to bring everyone back down on their knees where they belong.

His Royal Highness the Chimpanzee of Edinburgh said it was the sort of thing that happened when you had too much featherbedding with the welfare state.

Britain would only be great again, he added, when everyone learned to stand on their own four feet once more.

Mary Whitemonkey wrote to the *Sunday Express* calling on the police to act now to stop these obscene displays. She argued that modesty

demanding that apes should crawl, because when they stood up their genitals were revealed for all to see.

*'It's time for every ape of goodwill to crouch down and be counted to halt this filthy habit', she proclaimed.*

An editorial in the *Daily Telegraph* said that this latest craze was one more piece of evidence of the widespread decline in standards and lack of respect for traditional values.

**Patriotic**

It blamed the unbridled growth of polytechnics and permissiveness in the schools, and agreed with Rhodes Gorilla, opposition spokesman on education, that corporal punishment was the only way to discourage this distressing practice.

And so it went on. Medical apes pointed out that it was bad for the spine. Psy-

chological apes hoped that it was just adolescent Oedipal rebelliousness and would soon pass.

Patriotic apes feared that it was making Britain a laughing-stock around the world and was the reason we couldn't match the productivity of the Germans and the Japanese.

At the next election, all the apes who supported standing up lost their deposits. The *Daily Mail* called the result 'a massive snub for the extremists and a victory for sound common sense.'

*Thirty million years later, the apes who stood up had given birth to Shakespeare and Marie Curie, Emily Bronte and Marx, Rosa Luxemburg and Einstein.*

**Happier**

They had built the pyramids and been to the moon, written *Jane Eyre* and abolished smallpox.

But they had made mistakes and still had much to do, so much so that some widely respected thinkers claimed that man would have been happier if he had stayed an ape.

It was curious to note, however, that these same widely respected thinkers tended to live fairly comfortably and gave no signs of going back to the trees and a diet of bananas themselves.

As for the apes who stayed on all fours, you can still see them in the zoo. They spend their days slumped in heaps looking for fleas.

No wonder they look pissed off.

□ Paul O'Flinn is the author of *Them and Us in Literature*. Available, price £1 (including postage) from Bookmarks, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

KARTOON KLOWNS' new play, 'Yes, But...' took a while to grab my full attention.

But once my interest was caught, I found it a very good satirical expose of the Labour Party.

It shows, in a lively way with songs, jokes and mime, that the Labour party, the so-called party of the workers which claims to support 'socialism', is really one of the mainstays of capitalist society, prepared to use any con-ning means to prop up the Establishment.

Scene after scene shows this. For instance, the scene with the Border Patrol, which shows the so-called British flag-wavers doing everything in their power to ship their ill-gotten gains to more profitable climes, thereby draining the country of resources.

When the police think it's an ordinary worker trying to leave the country with currency, all hell breaks loose.

But when it is found that it is really Lady Boardroom trying to abscond with her capitalist swag, the police call in a Labour Minister and he personally removes all barriers and ensures her a safe escort.

At the same time, as another scene depicts, the Labour government holds workers' wages down to meagre crumbs from the cake we bake.

Although the Kartoon Klowns use hardly any props (just a step ladder

and a box) the acting is very professional, using a type of exaggerated mime to get over certain long scenes which in straight dialogue would have been boring.

Although it is only 40 minutes long, I was left with a feeling of anger, as it brought back to me the real villainy of the Labour Party, hiding behind the flag of socialism.

Having seen the play, I would have no hesitation in recommending it to anyone.

**JIMMY CLARK**

TGWU Royal Docks

□ To hire Kartoon Klowns, phone 01-734 9083 or write to 41 Great Windmill Street, London W1.

## Bookmarx Club

Selections for the second quarter of 1977 (starts 1 April)

**The First Shop Stewards Movement** by James Hinton. This excellent study of the shop stewards movement which arose at the end of the First World War has, until now, only been available in an expensive hardback edition. Bookmarx have persuaded the publishers to issue it as a paperback.

**The Dispossessed** by Ursula LeGuin. An unusual science fiction novel which, by its presentation of an imaginary society, forces the reader to view our society in new ways.

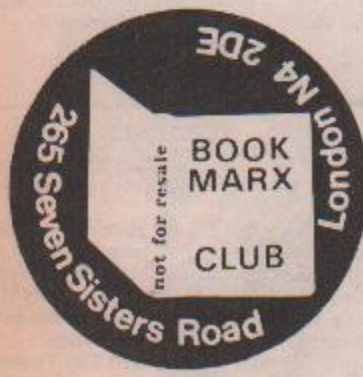
**God's Bits of Wood** by Sembene Ousmane. In 1947-8 the railway workers on the Dakar-Niger line in the French Sahara came out on strike. This novel is the story of the strike, the strikers and how their success showed them that they could regain control of their country.

**Stella Browne** by Sheila Rowbotham. A biography of this women's leader of the inter-war years which brings home the fact that there is nothing new in women's struggles and the issues they raise.

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**INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 96**

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**ALAN FISHER, NUPE and the New Reformism**

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August 1975—and the 'Free George Davis' protest at Headingley that earned Peter Chappell 16 months' jail.



PETER CHAPPELL:

I kept telling the young lads: Look at the respectable crooks, the businessmen who are at it day after day. They're no different. It's just that their graft is strictly legal. . .

THERE are going to be more explosions of protest inside British jails.

I finished my 16-month sentence for protesting against the George Davis frame-up just two weeks ago and the situation inside is unbelievably bad.

Prisons torment people. They crush them and set out to make them less than what they are.

Any prison is anti-human, as far as I'm concerned. I don't care what a person's crime is, you don't pen them up like animals. Such methods have never solved anything and never will.

Let me take the example of one man I met inside: Freddie Mills. He's from Durham and he's a big man. He can look after himself.

For some reason he is a violent man. But these screws think they can 'cure' his violence by various devious methods.

**Help**

First they gave him cushy little numbers. Then they put him in the punishment block. They transferred him from Walton to Durham and then put him in solitary. And of course it didn't work.

He needs help, real treatment, not 'the treatment'.

And that's exactly what he got. He was put in a segregation unit.

The Home Office deny that they have these things. But they do. In Durham there's one on the end of D wing. And that's where Freddie went. The cell has an inner and an outer door. There's no daylight and there's a special spy-hole for the screws.

Eventually they did find a way to quiet Freddie. They pumped him full of drugs.

Solitary does terrible things to you. I know of lads who've been banged up in solitary develop so profound a hatred of the screws that they take their own shit out of the bucket just before the screw comes round and cover themselves with it.

**Screw**

Then, when the screw comes, as soon as the door is open they just leap on the screw, just to disgust him. Now and again you do come across a decent screw but they're just swimming vainly against the tide.

# Life behind bars

## PETER CHAPPELL, WHO WENT TO JAIL FOR GEORGE DAVIS, TALKS TO LAURIE FLYNN ABOUT BRITAIN'S SEETHING PRISONS

Inside the jails you get so-called psychiatric treatment, too. That's just unbelievable.

For instance, the psychiatrist at Durham is a right nutcase. You're told to report to his office. You get there and there's no-one in the room, just a desk, a chair and a cupboard.

So you sit down. You wait and wait. Then all of a sudden this 'psychiatrist' jumps out of the cupboard. He gets up to all kinds of tricks like that.

I heard a story just last week about the one in Wormwood Scrubs. He's a real nut, too.

He apparently had this young prisoner in and he was such an arrogant pig that he threw the lad a tennis ball and said to him 'Here you are, son, have an orange.'

**Peel**

But this was a smart boy. He just threw it back at this so-called doctor and said, 'All right, but you've got to peel it for me first.'

The situation in the prisons is already desperate and getting worse as every month goes by. There are over 1200 men at Durham. Out of that huge number only 72 do any kind of classes.

Yet the guy who's in charge of the classes was given an MBE. When I started some classes we found that there were no pencils, no rubbers, no materials, no nothing. And yet the guy who's



G. Davis was innocent: 'the campaign started for me out of regard for your fellow human beings', says Peter Chappell

supposed to be organising all this gets an MBE.

There's two prison systems, of course. If you're T Dan Smith, a bent businessman who's made the mistake of getting caught, why you don't go to Durham except for a few weeks on the way through to some nice open prison.

Smith was in just two weeks before he went on his way and this bastard was organising little meetings where business executives were coming in to speak to him and his friends. It's the same with that man Cunningham, you know, the chairman of the police authority, who was finally caught.

That's what I always kept

saying to the young lads in prison. That we're supposed to be different. But look at all the respectable crooks, look at the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Are they so different from us? Of course they're not. The situation is that businessmen are at it day in and day out. It's just that their graft is strictly legal and they know all the angles.

I'll tell you what it's like. You recall the people from the East End who've made it. They started out by turning over a bank or something and getting away with it.

But now they've got fine houses. They bring their kids up nice and, lo and behold, they've become like the chairman of the Midland Bank. It's the pound note that matters.

**Compete**

If you're going to change society there's no way you're going to do it by chasing after the £1 note. But from the very day you go to school they're at you.

They're not out to arouse the social awareness and concern of the kids. They're out to make you compete.

I've often thought when I've been going around and I've come into contact with meths drinkers and tramps that they're where they are because they're not as good at competing as even the likes of me and I'm not a very great deal further up the ladder.

I've just got a roof over my head.

Most prisoners are people from poor backgrounds. They're there because they've been competing in the only way they know how.

The only answer is to tell them to forget this competition, this thirst for money. But if you were to do that, they'd come straight out and turn society upside down.

Outside there's massive cuts in useful public expenditure, though none on arms, you'll notice. Inside there's cuts too.

In Durham you're allowed out of your cell one night a week and alternate Saturdays for a little TV viewing. There's fewer and fewer classes, association and TV viewing.

They had one football field which allowed 40 prisoners out of 1200 to take a little exercise on a Saturday. But now they've knocked that on the head.

**Hull**

Most of the prisoners are young. They desperately need exercise. But instead they're left to sweat in unbelievably crowded cells. Cells that the viciously disciplinary Victorians built for one person, are now used for three.

That's why these explosions like Hull are going to take place a lot more often. In these prisons, people are just being left to rot away, to have their lives destroyed.

And the remarkable thing is that the prisoners who protest know that they're not going to win. They know that they're going to suffer. But they still fight on for their dignity.

In Walton we had a six-day sit-down in the yard when these screws, those so called trade unionists, were on their work-to-rule. These people aren't trade unionists. They didn't suffer on their work to rule. They didn't sacrifice anything.

They didn't go on strike. Oh no. They made us suffer. Working to rule meant that every night at 5pm, or 6pm, they opened our cells and gave us that day's breakfast, dinner and tea in one go.

Anyway, we had a sit-down. One of the boys on it was

Spinksie. I don't know his first name. He was a young black boy. He would fight like a lion for his people.

He was inside and his father died of cancer. His brothers and sisters, the respectable ones you understand, the ones on the outside, were busy quarrelling about how to get their mum out of her house and flog it.

From inside the prison, Spinksie cared about this and fought against it.

The whole George Davis campaign started for me out of that kind of love and regard for your fellow human beings. I knew that I had to fight. Fight because I knew he was innocent, but also because I wanted to show what friendship meant to me.

**Active**

When it came to how I was going to fight, there was no way I was going to just write to my MP and hope other people would do something. I knew I had to be active.

It's activity that matters. I knew I wasn't going to operate in the bureaucrat's way. That's why I got my van out and eased it through various newspaper office windows and the like.

And now I'm out, I want to do everything I can to change the whole prison system.

I did a lot of reading when I was inside and I found out a great deal about my life. I found out how many bad reasons people are given for the kind of lives they have to lead.

Blame it on the blacks, the Pakistanis and this garbage. The talk of this once great country just sickens me.

**Rich**

You can't cure the system by working harder. You can work your tabs and it won't make a penny worth of difference. The moneymen, the rich, will do whatever they like anyway.

When I was in Pentonville towards the end of my 16 months I was on the same landing as young Mike Lynch, the Right to Work marcher. There's a lot of bad things in Pentonville. The screws' racialism against the prisoners held under the Immigration Act is terrible.

But Mike Lynch is fine. He'll be out this week, though everyone who's reading this would do well to remember, he won't be the last.

So we've got to get organised.



# Womens VOICE

No. 3  
 Articles on Equal pay, NUPE, Soweto, rape, abortion and childbirth. Interview with Carol Grimes.  
 Price 10p.  
 Available from: Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2  
 Orders for SWP branches will be sent out by rail this Friday 11 March. London branches to collect early Friday evening.

**SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT! NO MORE WAGE CONTROLS! STOP THE CUTS!****BATTLE FOR  
WILDTS  
GOES ON  
—BIG VOTE**

**LEICESTER:** The 800 workers at Wildt Mellor Bromley knitting machine factory reaffirmed their determination to keep the threatened plant open at a mass meeting on Monday.

Last week management wrote to all employees telling them that 190 were redundant, that 320 would be transferred and that the remainder could be treated either way. They said the factory would be open at 7.30am on Monday 'to allow people to come to work'.

The stewards decided to hold a mass picket followed by a meeting and the company responded by delaying the opening until 1.30pm, after the mass meeting.

At the meeting only 25 workers voted to go back and the entire workforce of 800 then marched back to the factory and told the management the strike was still on.

The factory did not open.

During last week the managing director told the picket they did not need to man the gate after dark as the company would not try to move anything 'during the hours of darkness'. The next night they tried to get an oil tanker through the picket—it was turned away.

As the mass meeting started they again tried to get oil in. The stewards left the meeting to reinforce the skeleton picket and the oil did not get through.

Messages and donations: Wildts occupation fund, 2 Granby Road, Aylestone, Leicester.

**Gear  
plants out  
together**

NEARLY 200 workers at three factories owned by the David Brown group came out on strike last week. The factories at Salford, Sunderland and Penistone, near Sheffield, are demanding joint negotiation with management for the phase two claim.

For several years shop stewards have been trying to form a group stewards' committee uniting the four factories in the group in negotiations with management.

This year the three factories put in the same claim for the 5 per cent pay rise under the Pay Code and an equivalent sick pay scheme for staff. Management refused to negotiate on a cross-factory basis.

After several one-day strikes and selective industrial action, management threatened to lay off workers. This led to all three factories downing tools and walking out.

The workers are supported by the three district committees of the engineering union (AUEW) and are calling on the executive to back the strike officially.

Messages and donations to: David Brown Shop Stewards Committee, Penistone Working Men's Club, South Yorkshire.

**Marconi insult is thrown out**

**CHELMSFORD:** Anyone who thinks we live in a fair and reasonable system should take a close look at what GEC are up to in their Marconi factories here.

The firm has so much money in the bank that it hardly knows what to do with it. Only a few weeks ago it handed over £178 million to shareholders, on top of their half-yearly dividend payment at Christmas.

But for the workers who produced that wealth, it's a different story.

White-collar staff seeking merely the 5 per cent pay increase allowed by the Pay Code have been told by GEC they can have it as long as

they extend their working week by up to three and a half hours.

This extra work would be paid at plain time rates only. And for the higher grades it would be unpaid.

Not surprisingly, a mass meeting of 1600 staff threw out the offer last week. There wasn't a single vote for it.

The meeting brought together all four white-collar unions in all the local Marconi plants for the first time. That sort of unity now needs to be extended to the hourly-paid workers in the Engineering Union (AUEW), who are being offered a similar insult

**CHELMSFORD:** Workers in English Electric's packing department took unofficial industrial action last week to demand safety footwear. They refused to lift heavy objects and banned overtime.

In the negotiations that followed, their shop steward was threatened with the withdrawal of his credentials—and, at the same time, offered a pair of safety shoes for himself alone.

Management then called a special meeting with the full negotiating committee and, under threat of continued action, backed down.

**Now Norfolk  
firemen fight  
against cuts**

by Norfolk firemen

**FIREMEN** in Norfolk are supporting their fellow firemen in Essex. After threats to cut staff and remove a turntable ladder from Clacton fire station, the Essex firemen decided to answer emergency calls only.

Norfolk firemen gave a resounding yes when asked to support their colleagues in Essex. They too decided to answer emergency calls only. But the Norfolk County Council sent specialist and fire prevention staff home without pay.

For years the Fire Brigades Union has used the limited form of industrial action—emergency calls only—because of the special nature of the job, saving life and property. We will have to look at other methods of taking action in the future. Otherwise what can we do when negotiations have broken down?

Other brigades need to discuss this matter urgently.

**Now stop  
the docks!**

by MICKY FENN

NASD shop steward, London Royal Docks

**THE National Port Shop Stewards Committee have called a one-day national dock strike on Monday 21 March to prevent the threatened closure of Preston Docks.**

If Preston is allowed to close as many as 1750

Preston workers, including 150 registered dockers, will be condemned to the dole queue.

There were stewards from 14 ports at the committee's meeting on Saturday, with messages of support from another 10 major ports. Already mass meetings in Hull, Southampton and Manchester have voted to strike.

The other ports will be holding their meetings in the next fortnight with recommendations from their stewards to support the stoppage.

Monday 21 March could see as many as 20,000 registered dockers—two thirds of the dock labour force of this country—on strike.

And it was made plain at the meeting that if a one-day stoppage does not succeed in keeping Preston open then when the committee reconvenes on 26 March we will step up the campaign.

The meeting also discussed wages. A resolution condemning the social con-trick and demanding free collective bargaining was passed unanimously.

Southampton and Liverpool are both refusing to settle their current wage claims within the social con-trick. Liverpool stewards moved a resolution that all the ports should make the same move: refuse to settle wage claims within 5 per cent now, but wait until the contract expires on 1 August. Then slap in a nationwide claim for a 20 per cent rise.

It was carried with no votes against.

The committee also voted unanimously their solidarity with the dockers of Le Havre, who are backing the scab ship *Globtik Venus*.

**Electricians  
strike for 35p  
an hour**

by BOB HARRIS (Sheffield EETPU)

**YORKSHIRE:** Electricians working at Dinnington Colliery for contractors Hall and Kay have been trying to negotiate a pay rise of 35p an hour—a rise at present being paid to large British Steel sites.

After several weeks of industrial action they were assured the 35p at a meeting between the electricians' shop stewards, management and the area full-time official. But the wage packets revealed they had been paid the rise as a bonus for unworked hours.

Hall and Kay had applied to the Joint Industrial Board (JIB) not for the 35p an hour but for permission to pay a set bonus over nine-week period. The lads could see that the 35p an hour would be a breakthrough for contracting sparks.

Donations and messages of support to: V Wilkinson, 215 Yew Lane, Sheffield.



Save Our Hospitals campaign pickets outside the Wandsworth and East Merton Area Health Authority in South London last week. The meeting place was hurriedly switched to avoid a picket—but the pickets hired a coach and interrupted their meeting with an angry demonstration of local hospital workers, pensioners and mothers.

**Walkout  
at CAV**

**WEST LONDON:** 70 members of APEX, the office workers' union, have been suspended by management at CAV deisel engineering, Acton.

After 18 months of negotiations for grading new jobs, management went back on the agreement. When the APEX members went back to working their old jobs, they were suspended.

Their work has been blacked by other APEX members and members of TASS, the white-collar engineering union, inside the factory.

Last Thursday morning some engineering departments walked out when police were called to the factory because management said a lorry driver was being intimidated. In other words, no lorries are getting through the picket line.

and to force the government into guaranteeing every job will rebound on us.

'Chrysler, government and certain union officials will try to blackmail us into accepting the deterioration in our wages and conditions. We have to face up to them from the word Go, otherwise slavery will be introduced at Chrysler'.

That is still the position. And that's still the fight we'll have to wage.

**Steel  
walkout**

**DARTFORD:** 20 Cleveland Bridge steel erectors, members of the AUEW construction section at Littlebrook D Power Station, near Dartford Tunnel, walked out when management stopped wages because they refused to work at heights of 150-300 feet in gale force winds.

**CHRYSLER: CALL FOR UNION PROBE**

by PETER BAIN  
TGWU shop steward,  
Chrysler Linwood

Two weeks ago Chrysler announced worldwide profits of £252 million last year. But in Britain Chrysler announced £42.4 million losses—of which £41.3 million is paid by British taxpayers.

There has been growing suspicion at Linwood that Chrysler, perhaps in collusion with the government, are trying to justify shutting down the factory. Attacks on trade union rights and conditions have been stepped up, but the company has usually ended up with egg on its face.

**Stopped**

In particular workers in K building, at the start of the car assembly process, have been under sustained pressure. Last week a building work-to-rule began, to support a claim for payment for one and a half hours for four men, which had been stopped from their wages.

On Friday the dispute escalated when an operator was told he was being taken 'off the clock' unless he carried out Chrysler's interpretation of his function.

The 400 workers in the building unanimously decided to strike. Another 1000 were either laid off or took sympathy action.

The shop stewards' meeting

on Saturday were solid in their opposition to Chrysler's tactics of trying to force new disciplinary procedures by making an example of K building.

The only difference among the stewards was whether the shambles at Linwood was a question of mismanagement at factory level or part of a deeper plan to justify closure.

Against this background of discontent and suspicion, Monday's mass meeting voted in favour of strike action.

With British Leyland workers still resisting management there are good grounds for concluding that Chrysler have assured the government that they'll tough it out and stand up to the unions.

One year ago a factory bulletin produced by the International Socialists, now the Socialist Workers Party, stated: 'The failure to pursue the fight for nationalisation

**WE'LL OCCUPY, FORD TOLD**

**DAGENHAM:** Shop stewards at Fords Paint, Trim and Assembly plant, have decided that if there are any more lay-offs they will occupy the plant and organise pickets to bring the whole factory complex to a standstill.

Shop stewards are holding departmental meetings to endorse the decision. Emergency plans for pickets are being drawn up.

In the past week the line workers have adopted guerrilla tactics against continued lay-offs. Lightning stoppages throughout the plant led to the loss of over 2,500 cars last week. There have even been militant marches around the plant.

This has left management reeling. In reprisal

on Friday night the company virtually stopped all production to allow scabs to lead a mob of 200 to smash up the convenor's office and attempt to intimidate shop stewards.

But they have failed to frighten anyone and the stoppages are continuing. In desperation the management has suspended 70 men, including two shop stewards. But the 70 are continuing their action.

But these 70 men and their magnificent stand can't win lay-off pay by themselves. They need the support of the whole plant.

Continued lay-offs have drained the life blood of union organisation in the PTA for years. Now we have a chance to change all this.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

WIRRAL LAY-OFFS —so 530 OCCUPY!

BROMBOROUGH: 530 members of the Engineering Union have occupied Kelvinators. They are demanding payment of two days wages and withdrawal of two written warnings issued to a paintshop worker because he refused to do another worker's job.

Two weeks ago 26 people were laid off. Management claim it was because of a toolroom workers' dispute—but they were instructed by stewards to carry on working as there was work for them to do. The management refused to pay them.

Workers held a one-day protest occupation and management withdrew insurance cover, medical treatment and foreman supervision. They said they would negotiate if workers returned to normal work the following day—then decided they needed 24 hours to 'inspect' the factory.

Sick of being messed around, the workers have occupied. Toolroom workers and office staff have been laid off.

Pickets beaten up

BIRMINGHAM: Brian Masters, sacked from Landers car components for organising the union, was brutally beaten up on the picket line last Friday. He was punched in the face and had his hand broken by a supervisor from the factory.

On Tuesday the pickets tried to stop a lorry backing into the works. They were literally driven into the factory and trapped inside. Management then appeared with a gang of heavies.

The police stood around saying what happened inside the factory was 'no concern of theirs'. They would only obstruct pickets and arrest pickets for allegedly obstructing the highway.

Workers scabbing on the strike have received pay and bonus rises since they started scabbing. They have also been offered £2 to £3 a head for every striker they persuade back to work.

□ Mass picket Landers, Wednesday 16 March, 7am. Support is vital if the brutish tactics of management are to be stopped.

□ Donations are messages of support to: Val Richards, 32 Mary St, Balsall Heath, Birmingham 12.



WEST MIDLANDS: Nine members of TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineering Union, are on strike at Precision Presswork, Halesowen, for parity with other workers in the area. They want rises of between £10 and £15.

Management said they agreed to the pay rise on the first day of the picket, but they refuse to backdate it. The strikers—seven women and two men—are being supported by shopfloor workers.

NIGG BAY SITE OUT AGAIN

SCOTLAND: More than 2,000 workers at the Nigg Bay Oil Construction site are on strike to demand bonus payments they were promised. The management are refusing to pay the bonus unless the job is finished by 7 April.



Yardleys strikers picketing the factory on Monday

Women paralyse Yardleys

BASILDON: The equal pay strike by 450 women at Yardley's is in its third week. The women remain determined and confident despite the TGWU regional secretary's refusal to make it official.

The convenor and nearly all the male workers are still going into the plant, but the factory is virtually paralysed.

Nearly all drivers and delivery lorries have refused to cross the picket lines.

Management are clearly rattled. Last week they sent a letter to the women asking them to fill in a secret ballot which asked for a return to work and independent arbitration.

The women have angrily returned the letters unanswered.

Women on the picket line laughed off a threat to close the factory, pointing out: 'They have more to lose than we do.' The women have the support of other TGWU members in Basildon. A collection is being raised at the nearby Ford tractor plant.

ALL OUT TUESDAY 19 APRIL!

Join the national strike against the Social Contract

NALGO members cross hotel picket

SHEFFIELD: The principle of trade union solidarity took a kick in the teeth last Friday when 160 members of North East Derbyshire local government workers' union NALGO crossed the picket line at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Sheffield to attend an official function organised by the union.

They did this despite requests from the strikers, Transport and General Workers Union officials and the Sheffield branch of NALGO. The reason the NALGO officials gave for going ahead with the function was that they would lose money if they had to cancel it.

Members of Sheffield NALGO mounted a fraternal picket of the hotel on the night of the function in protest

against the North East Derbyshire branch's action.

But a large force of police prevented any more than six people standing on the picket line and the NALGO scabs were ushered into their hotel.

Meanwhile the strikers are as uncertain about what's going on at national level between union and management as they were three months ago. National blacking has not been implemented.

The Grosvenor House strikers have now formally linked up with strikers at the Randolph Hotel in Oxford and the Night Out night club in Birmingham, both THF-owned. A joint meeting of the three strike committees in London last Wednesday decided to set up a national shop stewards committee to coordinate joint action.

BIRMINGHAM: More than 300 trade unionists turned up to a mass picket in support of the strike at the Night Out Club for trade union recognition. The picket was a great success, but local Transport and General Workers Union officials agreed to the police demand to keep a passageway free outside.

There is another mass picket this Saturday. We must use it to stop anyone going in to the club. The picket starts at 7.15pm

DONATIONS AND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO:

- Linton Lodge Strike Committee, 127 Bolley Road, Oxford.
□ Night Out strikers, Transport House, Broad Street, Birmingham.
□ Randolph Hotel Strike Committee, 41 Bridge Street, Oxford.
□ Grosvenor House Hotel strike committee, c/o Trevor Jones, Transport House, Harsthead, Sheffield.

Stewards back strike at Masseys

by Terry Lindsay (AUEW steward), Terry Wilcox (strike committee), Mick O'Raw (AUEW) and Max Fletcher (TGWU).

COVENTRY: In the 11th week of our strike at Massey-Ferguson over the lock-out of 176 assembly workers the management are still playing stalemate—but would love to give in. Our strength grows by the week and we are determined to win.

Last Tuesday we again lobbied the national executive of the engineering union (AUEW) to have a national blacking on all Massey Ferguson products. We know the company have a warehouse full of goods in Warely, Staffordshire and may be trying to get it to their French factory.

It is disgraceful that the AUEW did not automatically black Massey over four weeks ago when they made our strike official.

Argue

The Coventry stewards meeting that we called last week was attended by 160 delegates from different plants

After a long discussion the delegates were urged to go back to their sections and stewards' committees to argue for unequivocal support for the workers in Coventry. The meeting will be reconvened shortly with the possibility of organising at least a half-day strike in support of our fight.

AUEW assistant general secretary Bob Wright attended our meeting and made an electioneering speech against the Social Contract while also promising us his wholehearted support. Whether that is forthcoming will be the test of his election promises.

□ Money and messages to: Massey Ferguson assembly shop strike committee, c/o AUEW Halls, Corporation Street, Coventry.

VICTORY FOR GASWORKERS

by STEVE CEDAR

A THOUSAND gas workers in East London and Essex have won their dispute over non-union contract labour.

The victory came last Friday after a two-week strike. The North Thames Gas Board has agreed that their own labour will be used before contractors and that stewards will be met before contract labour is brought in.

Gas Board workers will be used at other depots wherever possible before contract labour and if any dispute

arises, the status quo is maintained.

By Wednesday last week flying pickets had pulled out more than 3000 gas workers all over Essex and North London in support of the strikers. But on Thursday at a meeting of the Regional Joint Industrial Council, the general secretary of the men's union, the General and Municipal (GMWU), David Bassnet, moved in and made the strike official for the Eastern Area men only.

Official

Eastern area shop stewards have drawn up a blacklist of contract firms that were used during the strike.

Shop steward at Barking Road, Bob Turner, said at the

shop stewards meeting on Monday night: 'We will be carrying out the blacklist as the strike was official.'

'All branches should send a letter demanding an inquiry into British Gas at area, regional and national level.'

Bob went on: 'It was our initiatives which got us this agreement. If we hadn't imposed our will on the Gas Board instead of using all the official machinery we wouldn't have got what we have.'

But it might not be over yet. The Confederation unions, who supported the servicemen and fitters, are also in dispute with North Thames Gas over negotiating rights.

They have been trying to get negotiations and restructuring for three years. All they want

is to be paid for the extra duties they are already doing.

The Gas Board refuses to negotiate, so they have given 21 days strike notice.

Again, the Gas Corporation want to take work from their own workers and give it to massive contractors. In the long run this will mean redundancies. For instance, the firm of William Press have just been given a contract to renew the distribution and service mains for the whole of South Herts and North London.

Rexco out over pay

FIFE: 30 men at the Scottish Rexco plant are on strike, for parity with workers at the Rexco plant in Mansfield. Their present rate is 76p an hour.

The men, members of the General and Municipal Workers Union, are aware that the Mansfield men get only 7p an hour more than them, but large discrepancies in wages arise from the many fringe benefits at Mansfield.

Messages of support and donations: Martin Beehan, 42 Canmore Street, Dunfermline.

Bakery workers win union rights

by SIMON PHILLIPS

CHELLENHAM: 41 members of the Transport and General Workers Union returned to work at Tilleys crumpet factory in Cheltenham on Tuesday having gained union recognition and the reinstatement of victimised van driver John Donaher.

The workers joined the union because they were fed up with the low pay and appalling conditions at Tilleys. Wages vary from 46p an hour for young women to 65p an hour for men.

Van drivers, who get no shift allowance or overtime pay, get £1 an hour for working nights.

The strike started when the management sacked John Donaher in an effort to break the TGWU organisation

started by the drivers six weeks ago, 41 workers had joined the union so the management called in the Bakers Union, who made the foreman shop steward and the chargehand branch secretary.

They also employed an interpreter to persuade the Asian workers to join the Bakers Union.

The management drove cars containing supplies at some of the pickets and hurt three of them.

The strikers held out and got supplies blacked. They also padlocked the company store to prevent management getting supplies out. After a week the management agreed to recognise the TGWU but refused to reinstate the sacked driver.

A meeting of the strikers unanimously agrees to continue until John Donaher was reinstated.

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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

## SCANDAL OF THE SECRET COLLEGE FILES

A SECRET LIST of teachers who are 'politically left and generally anti-establishment' has been found by occupying students at Exeter University. The list was in the files of the vice-chancellor, Dr H Kay.

It contains 30 names, divided into three groups—those that are 'politically left', those that are 'not really establishment types', and those that are 'awkward'.

The vice-chancellor is claiming that it is a list he was going to invite to a cocktail party.

This is not the first time such lists have been discovered in secret college files. In February 1970, occupying students at Warwick University found secret cor-

respondence on the political activities of lecturers and students.

That discovery was followed by a wave of occupations at other colleges, with students opening up the administrators' files themselves to make sure there was no political spying.

That sort of response is needed now to the discovery at Exeter.

It may be a coincidence, but one lecturer at Exeter has been Major General Richard Clutterbuck, an advisor to the armed forces on how to deal with 'subversion'. The administration seem to have been putting into practice some of his ideas for 'tracking subversives'.

# OCCUPIED!

## Thousands of students fight cuts and racism

THE WAVE of student occupations is the biggest since 1968. Thousands of students in more than 30 colleges have been involved.

Attempts by authorities to attack the occupations have brought massive union meetings behind the struggle.

Students at the London School of Economics, who were evicted from the administration building by 600 police a fortnight ago, were back in occupation on Tuesday.

250 students from Sheffield Polytechnic began an indefinite occupation of the Local Education Authority.

At Essex University a meeting of 800 voted to occupy.

Colleges occupied in the last week include North London Poly, Portsmouth Poly, Teesside Poly, Bedford College London, York University, Sussex University, Exeter University, Hendon College of Further Education.

On Monday they were joined by Reading University and Hattfield Poly and on Tuesday by Kingsway College of Further Education and Leeds University.

In London, four art colleges are now occupied—the Royal

### WHY THE OCCUPATIONS?

WHAT are the occupations about?

The press usually says they are about 'fees'. They are. But they are also about something more fundamental—racism.

The government has increased fees massively, knowing that for most British students the local authorities will automatically pay the increase.

The students who will have to find the money themselves—if they can—

are overwhelmingly self-financing students from the Third World countries. Thousands will be forced to give up their courses.

The fees increases are nothing more than a covert device for discriminating against thousands of black students. They are part of the same growth of officially tolerated racism that led last summer to a wave of racist murders.

The student occupations are part of the fight against the cuts.

College of Art, the Slade, the Central School and St Martins.

At Exeter University, the Conservative Students Society waged a campaign against the occupation. They succeeded in pushing a decision to call off action through a union meeting on the basis of a dubious vote count. The 'moderates' of the 'Broad Left' wanted to end the occupation.

But the occupiers decided to stay put and organise an even bigger union meeting. At this

1600 students voted 900-700 to keep up the struggle.

At North East London Poly a huge meeting of 800 students voted to back the occupation and to spread it to all the sites of the Poly in protest at the victimisation of the union president, Andy Strouthous. Since then the director and the right-wing students have been attempting to wreck this decision.

At Portsmouth Poly the occupation began 750 strong—one of the biggest in any college for years.

### Deliveries

But unfortunately the militancy of students in the colleges has not been matched by a national lead from the National Union of Students.

The Broad Left majority on the NUS executive have taken no action to build a national campaign of all-out occupations. Instead Charles



INSIDE AN OCCUPATION ... and telegrams from other occupied colleges line the noticeboards.

### STUDENTS STRIKE AGAINST EXAM BAN

KEIGHLEY Technical College students went on strike last week protesting against the principal's refusal to allow those who had done badly in 'mock' tests to enter GCE even as external candidates paying their own fees!

Brendan Cropper, 18 year old vice-president of the students union, told Socialist Worker: 'We wanted educational opportunity for everybody. So on Monday we held an emergency meeting of the union. 200 students turned up and voted unanimously for strike action.'

### Decent

The strike, on Tuesday, was dramatically successful. 'We had 50 or 60 people demonstrating with Socialist Worker banners. Only 20 out of about 350 full-time students crossed the picket line.'

The students' action got a lot of publicity. Yorkshire Television gave filmed coverage. Brendan was interviewed on Pennine Radio. By lunchtime the students had won.

The fight is of more than local interest. For years, student unrest has been confined to universities and polytechnics. Keighley's struggle is the first sign of the coming militancy amongst working-class students in technical colleges.

### THE WAY FORWARD

THE educational establishment has already been shaken by the size of the occupations. They thought the student unrest of the late 1960s was a thing of the past.

They are learning to their cost that students are still prepared to fight the cuts and racism.

The National Organisation of International Socialist Student Societies, which is linked to the Socialist Workers Party, is calling for:

- Maintain the occupations.
- Make links with local trade unionists, particularly with those fighting the cuts themselves.
- Picket the joint conference of Public Sector Unions on 22 March to make sure they take firm action against the cuts.
- Spread the occupations!

This weekend, Friday 11 - Saturday 13 March, at Manchester Polytechnic  
 Agenda includes Overseas Student Campaign and How to organise an Occupation  
 Individual sympathetic observers welcome (bring sleeping bags)  
 Registration, 6pm, Friday, at Poly, Ayton Street, (near Piccadilly Station).

Clark, the NUS President who recently put his name to a Royal Jubilee appeal for funds, was last week at a conference of directors of polytechnics and industrialists.

At local level the executive majority's supporters have usually opposed occupations, as they did at LSE, York and Hull.

No wonder many of the occupied colleges were preparing to picket the NUS executive meeting after the national demonstration on Wednesday.

**JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY**

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

Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary,  
 Socialist Workers Party, 6 Cotton  
 Gardens, London E2 8DN