

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p



Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

Shrewsbury  
pickets  
say:  
Defend  
John  
Deason!  
Back this  
picket!

## 'WORK OR BE SACKED' BLACKMAIL

# A threat to every worker

### IF WORKERS demand a decent wage, threaten them with the sack.

That was the message from the government-owned British Airways to all other employers this week. It follows a similar message from the Leyland bosses two weeks ago.

The newspapers and television have enthusiastically joined the attack on the airport workers. It is the third group of workers they have attacked in one week.

First they turned on **ELECTRICIANS** at the huge Port Talbot steelworks in South Wales, denouncing them for bringing the steelworks to a halt.

The electricians want more money for taking on extra work and are being told they can't have it.

Then, they got stuck into **BRITISH AIRWAYS ENGINEERING WORKERS** who are refusing to work shifts until they get the same kind of shift rates as workers elsewhere in engineering.

The airport workers were savagely attacked for causing 'holiday chaos'—though it was British Airways management that produced the chaos by sending workers home who refused to work shifts.

There was a special dose of venom reserved for the delegates to the conference called by the **BRITISH LEYLAND STEWARDS** in Birmingham on Sunday.

According to the Daily Mail, they too were threatening 'chaos' by calling a day of action, including

strike action, against the Social Contract on 20 April.

But we say:

### ALL THESE WORKERS ARE RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION.

They have no choice. In the past three years average living standards have fallen by nearly a fifth, 20p in every £1.

Growing numbers of working-class families just cannot afford to buy meat, drink tea or coffee, pay the rent, clothe the children or go out a couple of times a week. The cost of all these things has been soaring while wages have been controlled by the Social Contract. Meanwhile, profits have risen 30 per cent in a year.

That's the 'Contract': they get richer, we get poorer.



The final insult was Denis Healey's budget last week. According to calculations in the Guardian, it takes away an average 34p a week from families that earn less than £40 a week—thanks to the price increases in the package.

By contrast it gives £17 a week to those on salaries of £25,000-plus.

You can't change this disgusting state of affairs by sitting quietly and hoping for a better future. That merely allows people like Healey to take still more from the poor to give to the rich, to cut back more on hospitals and schools, to leave more people on the dole queues.

To change things, you have to take the sort of action taken in Port Talbot and the airports, the sort of action called for at the Leyland conference.

## AIRPORT WORKERS

for the right to decent shift pay. SEE PAGE 16.



## STEELWORKERS

for extra pay to cover their extra workload. SEE PAGE 16.



## ALL OF US

on Wednesday 20 April, answering the call of the rank and file conference called by British Leyland stewards at the weekend. SEE PAGE 5.

THE building workers tried at Shrewsbury, including those who were jailed for picketing, have issued a letter urging support for Right to Work marcher John Deason.

The letter calls for support for the mass picket of John Deason's trial, organised for Wednesday 4 May at 9.30am. It says:

John Deason is the secretary of the Right to Work Campaign.

He led the Manchester to London unemployed march last year.

This peaceful march lasted 21 days, without incident, gathering support and sympathy from workers on its way.

On entering London, the march was attacked by the police. 43 of the 80 marchers were arrested.

42 have already been tried before magistrates. 17 were acquitted, 24 received fines and suspended prison sentences. Mike Lynch, an unemployed miner from Dunfermline, served two months imprisonment.

The secretary of the campaign, John Deason, has been singled out to face alone the most serious charges at the Old Bailey. If convicted he stands to receive a long prison sentence.

We appeal to all trade unionists to demonstrate their solidarity outside the Old Bailey on 4 May.

As Shrewsbury pickets, we were framed and some of us were imprisoned for fighting for basic trade union rights. Don't let the same thing happen to Brother John Deason.

Signed

Arthur Murray  
Ricky Tomlinson  
Brian Williams  
Des Warren  
Ken O'Shea

(Arthur Murray and Brian Williams spent six months in prison. Ricky Tomlinson spent two years. Ken O'Shea received a nine-month sentence, suspended for two years. Des Warren spent three years in prison).

Get your trade union organisation to support the picket. Bring banners. No more Shrewsburies!

Transport to the Old Bailey picket: SHEFFIELD: Coaches leave Pond Street 7am. MANCHESTER: Cheap block booking on train, £6 return. Tickets from 260 Deansgate or phone 061-832 8102. DUNFERMLINE and EDINBURGH: 45-seater coach. Details phone 031-668 1125. OTHER AREAS: phone 01-802 0978.

Support the Port Talbot and British Airlines workers!

Strike and demonstrate against the Social Contract on Wednesday 20 April!

# The barbarity they call 'strip-searching'

THE DUBLIN government has said bluntly that it will allow Republican prisoners on hunger strike in Portlaoise prison to die rather than concede their demand for reform of the prison.

By Eamonn McCann

hunger strike and a number, including Sinn Fein vice president David O'Connell, are reported to be extremely weak.

The main demands are for an end to strip-searching and solitary confinement. Strip searching involves a man being stripped and made to bend over double while his anus is probed; then turned round and held on the ground while his genitals are lifted and examined. Warders stand around leering.

Justice Minister Paddy Cooney defended this last week, saying that prisoners might carry explosives 'in the intimate parts of their bodies.' But that this is not the real reason is proved by

the frequency of the strip-searching.

Men have undergone it three times in an hour, although locked alone in a cell throughout. One man was strip searched six times in one day while in solitary confinement.

*It is simply a filthy way to humiliate men in an effort to break their spirit.*

Solitary confinement means that the prisoner is put in a cell in a special isolated section of the prison. The cell is entirely empty. The prisoner is allowed nothing to read, no radio, cigarettes or letters.

He gets out of the cell for one hour's exercise a day—walking alone around a yard. It is imposed for the most trivial 'offences'. Three men got a month each

for talking at mass!

Visiting facilities are so harsh as to make the occasion an ordeal for both prisoners and relatives. There are no facilities for education or for hobbies.

As well as warders, about 100 policemen and a company of soldiers are permanently stationed inside the jail. It is as bleak and as brutal as the authorities can contrive to make it. And the slightest protest is instantly punished.

If any of the hunger strikers die, there will be an explosion of anger inside the Republican Movement—and indeed outside it.

The determination of the Dublin government to be seen as tough as the British in putting down 'subversion' may thus lead to yet another bloody escalation of the troubles.



Protesters outside the Irish Embassy in London last Sunday: 20 prisoners are on hunger strike

And, just to underline the point, squads of police thugs staged vicious attacks on Republican demonstrators outside the prison on Sunday in scenes reminiscent of Franco's Spain.

The possibility of some of the prisoners dying is very real. The 20 men are now in the fifth week of their

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN A

# RACIALIST THUGS ON RAMPAGE

RACIST violence flared on the streets of Oxford at midnight last Thursday.

Munwar Hussain told Socialist Worker what happened:

'While waiting for a take-away meal, three Asian youths were called 'black bastards' by two men in their late twenties.

'Unfortunately for the two racists, they had picked on the wrong lads.

## Shots

'Before the fight started, one man pulled out a gun, but we thought it was a toy. He handed it to his friend, saying "Don't be afraid to shoot any of them if it's necessary."

'A fight started and a crooklock mysteriously ended up across the head of the man without the gun.

'The man with the gun ran across the road, took aim and shot Liaquat Ali, 17, through the upper arm.

'The gunman then ran away. The police were called and a search began.

'The man with the gun was found, but threatened the policemen with it and got away.'

Some months ago an Asian was assaulted in the same area with crowbars and a spade.

In the same period the Community Relations Office was broken into and £2,000 worth of damage done.

It is clear the police are unable or unwilling to apprehend the perpetrators of these crimes.

The Asian community will have to protect itself.

## HELP ANTI-FASCISTS

MEMBERS of Youth Club were stopped at three anti-fascist last week despite their significant doubts about the 'legitimacy of police searches.'

Applying for the seventh time before magistrates in Caversham, South London, John Baywood and Elizabeth Hartnett of the All Peoples Anti-Fascist Movement and Norman Williams of Woodsworth TWP were found guilty of obstructing the police.

The court arose out of a fight on November when the local Night Watch Secretary had his collar bones broken and young Communist Peter Priday was thrown through a plate glass window by a member of the National Front.

If possible, help can be found, send cash to A.F.A.M. c/o South Essex Post Ltd, 7 Rodney Street, London, SE7.

RACISTS struck again in Walthamstow, East London last week.

In their usual courageous manner, they tried to burn down a house while the two brothers who own it—Arshad and Tariq Mahmood—were at work. Three separate fires were lit—one on each landing.

The ground floor was gutted and the central landing virtually destroyed. Damage is estimated at £1000.

ONE OF the most revolting policies now being pursued by the TUC and the Labour Government is the deportation of overseas nurses when they have finished their training.

This policy was adopted last year following TUC pressure supposedly for more jobs for so-called British born workers.

There's just one problem. First, it's not working along

By K Rashid

All water in the house had been turned off in the cellar and the water outlets were ripped out in order to stop anyone putting the fire out.

A nurse standing at a nearby bus stop has given descriptions of three men she saw leaving the house.

No one should be surprised, however, if the police who, in other circumstances

are well-known defenders of property, decide that this particular case is not worth bothering with.

## Intimidation

Arshad suspects the fire is directly related to the local council election due on 21 April.

The National Front desperately want to win it and are obviously hoping to stop Pakistanis voting by intimidating them.

## Police beat up black worker

LEMUEL Peter, a West Indian who lives in Plaistow, East London, was assaulted by three police officers in the early hours of Tuesday 22 March.

## Assault?

He is now being charged with assaulting the police. Lemuel told Socialist Worker:

'I came home and my

mother told me the police had been round asking for my brother, I went out, and when I came back she told me they had been round again.

'I went to bed; I had to get up at 6am. About 12.30am I heard a knock at the door. I was in bed. I presumed it was the police again. I went to open the door.

'I told them my brother wasn't home, which was true. I said I didn't have any idea where he was.

When they asked me who I

was, and I told them. They asked if they could come in and have a look.

'They didn't have a search warrant or anything. So I said they couldn't come in without one.

## Hand-cuffs

'They said I was lying, that I was my brother. I started saying "I am not my brother, I know my own name."

'Three of them rushed into the hallway. After a struggle, they put a couple of hand-cuffs on me like I was some sort of criminal.

'They hit me and knocked two front teeth out.

'When my mum shouted to them, 'Don't beat him up', they pushed her out of the way.

'When they took me to the police station, they threatened me a lot but they didn't hit me there. They kept me in all night. They think it's a big joke. They love it.

## Cost

'On Wednesday at 8am they came and got my brother. Apparently they wanted to question him. He helped some girls move and something was missing from that house after they'd gone. That's what they wanted him for.

'So far I've lost three days' pay. It's going to cost £65 to recap my teeth.

'I wouldn't mind so much, but I have never been in trouble with the police, I've never done anything.

'They charged me with assault. They say I bit a police officer. How could I? They had knocked out my teeth!

'It's really bad. It makes me sick. You can't phone up the police if you're being hit by the police, can you?'

## Brother's home set on fire

THE RANSACKED offices in Rochester, Kent of Des Perdes, Britain's most important Punjabi newspaper. Racist slogans were daubed on the walls following an Enoch Powell speech in nearby Maidstone last month. Police told Tarsem Purewal (above) that the damage had been done by vandals. No prizes for guessing which political party they belong to.



# Scandal of the deported nurses



Maggie Dunne: TUC's policy is revolting

think the it'

'Half the student nurses—about 400—come from overseas. When we heard that they were not going to get jobs once they finished training, some of the English nurses thought it was a good idea. They thought it would mean more jobs.

But I pointed out that that's a load of rubbish. It would mean less jobs and more work.

'The hospital is appallingly short of staff. Everyone is overworked. A lot of the nurses are off sick because they are just exhausted.

'Ten years ago there'd have been two student nurses, two SENS, two Staff and probably two sisters on every ward.

## Drugs

'On my ward there are two third-year students, four in their first year and one sister.

'I've been left in charge of the ward, with the key to the dangerous drugs cupboard, and I've only had seven months' training! I've been able to cope, but if anything had happened it would have been me in the coroner's court.

'There are millions of accidents. It's so bad that the Sisters held a meeting to discuss it. It's the pressure of work and the lack of qualified people that causes the accidents.

'It's not our fault, but it's dangerous for the patients,

and it means we get a poor training. There's no-one even to supervise us when we're changing dressings.

'Overseas student nurses are training as SENS, which means they can't get a job as a nurse anywhere else in the world. England is the only place where that qualification is recognised.

'For two years they've put up with being bullied and pushed around. All for nothing. They work really hard, they're always on night duty and working weekends.

## Exploited

'If there are any accidents with the patients they're always the ones who get slung to the coroner's court. The NHS recruited nurses from overseas because they couldn't get anyone else to put up with these conditions and the unsocial hours.

'We've got to fight to make sure that no nurse is exploited like that. We need more nurses and more qualified nurses.'

WHAT WE THINK

# A WARNING TO EVERY WORKER

**THE TORY victory in Stechford and the big fascist vote is a warning to every worker.**

The cuts in our living standards pushed through by the Lab-Lib government are driving an important minority of workers to vote for the right or even the extreme right.

There is little doubt that a general election now would lead to a massive Tory victory.

It is no answer for trade union leaders such as Jack Jones to say we can avoid this if we all 'pull together' and 'don't rock the boat'.

Stechford shows what's in store for Labour—and why we must fight now to prepare for the Tories later

They have been telling us for three years to trust the government—the same government that has presided over mass unemployment, wage freezes, inflation, the wrecking of large areas of the National Health Service, and an organised assault on the welfare state.

These policies will let the Tories back into office.

The secretary of the Stechford Constituency Labour Party, Dai Havard, said at

Sunday's conference against the Social Contract: 'We did awfully because we apologised for a Labour government that is cutting our living standards. The fascists are crawling out of the woodwork because the people of this country are confused.'

Of course no socialist wants to see the return of a Tory government. But there is no point in being frightened unduly by the prospect. We can resist and defeat a Tory government.

That was the message of the miners' victory over Edward

Heath and the Tories in 1974. And it is the memory of that battle that made The Times, The Guardian and the Financial Times urge Liberal support for Callaghan. They are frightened of what the trade union movement would do to a Tory government.

They want a Labour government for a few more months because they know Jack Jones and Jim Callaghan will cook up another round of wage restraint and the continuation



Healey: the bosses need Labour—for the time being

of the Social Contract. And they know that Jack Jones is far more likely to sell that deal to the trade union movement than a government led by Margaret Thatcher.

The rank and file resistance to another round of the Social Contract will lay the basis for the sort of organisation we shall need in the autumn if there is a Tory government.

## If only the Great Train Robbers had gone to Eton...



Thomas Montague Hickman: British justice at its best

IT'S NOT true that there's one law for the rich and another for the poor.

Ask Thomas Montague Hickman; he knows there is no law for the rich.

An officer and a gentleman, he left the Old Bailey a free man last Friday despite pleading guilty to two 'highly professional and terrifying' bank raids.

Things had looked grim for Monty. After all, he had made off with £17,500, he had clubbed a bank manager so hard and so often with a sawn-off shotgun that the wounds needed 30 stitches, he had used home-made bombs in the raids, and he had threatened to 'blow out the brains' of a passer-by who tried to stop him.

But never mind. Monty is an Old Etonian and a former major in the Guards and therefore not a 'criminal type'.

Sitting in judgement on him was, just by chance, another officer and gentleman, Judge Mervin Griffiths-Jones, also of Eton and the Guards.

Say no more. The wise judge immediately got to the heart of the matter—Monty's wife had left him

for another man and he wasn't feeling himself—and decided that a jail sentence 'would do neither yourself nor the public any good.'

Poor Monty had not been 'in command of his senses'—although he did have them under sufficient command to hot-foot it out of the country with the loot—and so he received a suspended sentence.

Similar understanding from Judge Griffiths-Jones was not unfortunately extended to two youths who recently appeared before him for snatching four handbags. They were sent to detention centres but then, of course, they hadn't been to Eton and were thus in full command of their senses.

Like all good judges, Griffiths-Jones displays much ingenuity in expressing class solidarity with defendants—or class hatred, as the case may be.

Almost exactly two years ago, a young lad called Simon Rhodes was given a conditional discharge after he admitted setting fire to Harrow School, where he was a pupil.

Justice McKenna ex-

plained his decision—which was clearly influenced by the fact that Rhodes was a second cousin to the Queen—with the familiar words that 'to send you to prison or to a Borstal institution would serve no purpose.'

Another lucky young man that year was 17-year-old Anthony Summers, expelled from a public school for smoking pot.

Justice Thesiger let him off because he doubted 'whether someone of a public school education gains much from Borstal training.'

Thesiger's views of those without a public school education are, however, rather different.

Seven years earlier, he had had before him a youngster called Tim Daly who, believing war to be obscene, had climbed to the dome of the Imperial War Museum and thrown a petrol bomb inside.

Daly, who quickly gave himself up to the police, was sent to jail for four years by Judge Thesiger with the words:

'To send you to Borstal would be like putting gelignite in an unlocked fuel store.'

Serves him right for not having been to Eton...



## THE BUDGET HEADLINE THAT SAID IT ALL...

'THE PIPS shouldn't even murmur this time' the Economist magazine commented on Denis Healey's budget.

Healey, of course, was the man who went vote-hunting in 1973 and 1974 by promising to distribute wealth from the rich to the poor until the pips squeaked.

Certainly the rich have every reason to crow. The budget gives a married man on £25,000 with two children a clear £830.28 cut in income tax.

Someone on £2,500 a year only gets a cut of £30.78 a year—less than 75p a week.

The Guardian gave figures last week that paint an even clearer picture.

They calculated how much you gained or lost in the budget, taking into account the income tax changes and the changes in petrol tax, cigarette duty, road tax and so on.

For the average family the change is

WAGE	Change
£40	34p loss
£75	34p gain
£100	57p gain
£150	£1.42 gain

Healey has simply stolen from the poor to give to the rich.

## AN SWP CANDIDATE

THE SOCIALIST Workers Party are standing a candidate in the Grimsby by-election, which is to take place on 28 April. He is Mike Stanton, a local 24 year old docker, a member of the TGWU and on the local trades council.

Anyone who can help in the campaign—should contact the Party immediately at 01-735 9772.

# Stechford: What we gained

**THE Stechford by-election showed that a growing number of workers have had enough of the Labour Party and the government.**

Much of this feeling was shown in the appallingly high vote for the National Front.

But there was also a small but growing minority of workers who were prepared to vote for candidates to the left of the Labour Party.

Compared with one per cent of the vote in Walsall and Newcastle, the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party and the International Marxist Group won 2.5 per cent of the vote.

The SWP did not do as well as we had hoped. But there were important gains.

## Order

On polling day, our candidate, Paul Foot, spoke to a dinner-time meeting of 80 workers in a factory canteen at Die Castings, just outside the constituency.

As a result, shop stewards ordered a regular 12 Socialist Workers a week. None of the 80 who attended the meeting lived in Stechford, but an inroad for socialist politics was created in another Birmingham factory.

In all, 42 Birmingham workers joined the SWP during the by-election campaign. Thirteen are shop stewards, 15 are black.

Regular sales of Socialist Worker have now been established inside eight more factories, including Tractors and Transmissions, Fort Dunlop, and GKN Hardy Spicer.

## Fight

In the nine days of the active SWP campaign, 1,000 Socialist Workers were sold. This looks like settling down to a regular sales increase in Birmingham of at least 170.

These are the real successes for the SWP of the Stechford by-election. In a large area of Birmingham, we have brought together more socialists and militants who want to fight, who are looking for an alternative to the Labour Party.

A revolutionary socialist alternative to Labour will not be built by winning votes.

It will depend on how many organised units of the party we create in the factories, on the housing estates.

And it will depend on how successfully these units fight for socialist politics and organise active resistance to this government and its politics and to any Tory government that follows.



The 'workers' friends' Margaret Thatcher and Tory candidate Andrew Mackay trying to look interested in two Stechford workers' problems

By-elections are a good opportunity for us to argue our politics, our ideas. They are a better opportunity than we usually get to meet people and to find the socialists who want to fight.

## Rotten

Chris Naisbitt, a railway worker, walked into the SWP's Stechford offices, brought out his Labour Party card and said:

'You can have this—I want to join you. I've got five kids and I can't bear the thought of them growing up in the same

rotten society as the one we're in now.'

Throughout the campaign, while Labour and Tory tried to win votes by lies and half-truths, we concentrated on meetings in factories, with small groups of workers in pubs and homes, arguing that it is possible to build a socialist party that can begin to take on and change this society.

There is no way that the decades-old grip of the Labour Party and its policies will be broken overnight.

But by winning new members, by organising a presence in the factories, we

made a further step towards this. When all the other parties have cleared out of Stechford, we shall still have a presence.

## Active

Socialist Worker and our Party will be on every picket line in Stechford, on every demonstration, in every dispute, active on the streets against the National Front, and in the factories arguing against racism, and against the Social Contract.

Labour Weekly won't appear again in Stechford until there is another election.

# Students say it again: NO fascists in colleges!

**FASCISTS and racists are not to be allowed inside Britain's colleges.**

That was the decision reaffirmed last week by the conference of the National Union of Students.

This 'No Platform' position was carried, despite the attempt to reverse the union's policy by the executive, dominated by the Left Labour Party and Communist Party members.

On most other issues, the executive managed to get its way. It was able, by relying on Tory votes, to block a motion

calling for spreading of the occupations against the fees increases.

## Critical

The conference didn't accurately reflect the huge upturn in struggle seen during the last term. Most of the overseas students at the conference were critical of the cynical way the executive has tried to ignore the campaign—and yet motions saying this were voted out by the combined forces of the Tories and executive.

Perhaps the most important thing that the conference shows is the polarisation among students. Faced with worsened living conditions, there are growing numbers of students looking to the right on the one hand and to the far left on the other.

The conference split three ways—between the smallest grouping, the Tories, the Broad Left and the revolutionaries.

NOISS, the student affiliate of the Socialist Workers Party, gave the lead to the far left in proposing motions and speaking. But when it came to elections, votes were divided between it and the Socialist Student Alliance, which attracted those people not yet prepared to commit themselves fully to revolutionary politics.

So, for instance, two SSA members were elected to the NUS executive, as opposed to only one NOISS member, Andy Strouthous. Andy got more first preference votes, but the Broad Left voted with the SSA to try to keep him off the executive.

## Upset

The politics of some SSA candidates was ambiguous, to say the least.

One of those elected, Colin Talbot, came out in favour of two redundancies in the NUS services company—a position which upset many SSA members, but which the group defended.

And another of their delegates won applause from Tories and Broad Left members by attacking NOISS delegates for being in favour of occupations.

Conference voted to hear Paul Foot speak about the attacks on Socialist Worker. In a collection for the defence fund, we raised £159.52.

# £40,000 FUND

# £26,079 SO FAR

**THERE MUST** be some heavy hearts among the trade union leaders.

Jenkins, Comerford of ASTMS, Mills of NUBE and Chapple of the EETPU, must look at that figure of £26,079 raised for our fighting fund in just four weeks and ask themselves, was it all worthwhile?

They have tried to break us and they can't do it. They have succeeded in finding support for Socialist Worker that we never knew existed.

That support, we are sure, will go on long after Jenkins and Chapple rest contented, six feet under.

It's not just socialists that are rallying to our support. Jenkins has stirred a hornet's nest inside his own union. No less than 27 of his full-time divisional officers have signed a statement of protest and contributed to the fund.

That takes courage when the statement is critical of your general secretary who has influence.

This statement, together with a letter signed by many prominent rank and file trade unionists and ASTMS MP Tom Litterick expressing outright condemnation of Jenkins, has been sent to over 600 ASTMS branches with an appeal for money.

The undersigned members of ASTMS are concerned at the implications in the recent decision of ASTMS and its General Secretary to sue for libel and breach of copyright the Socialist Worker. Further, we are concerned at the decision reached by the courts which appears to threaten the press right to lampoon or make satirical comment. We therefore wish to subscribe to a fund to help to defray the award and costs or to assist in any appeal that may be necessary.

Signed, in a personal capacity, Divisional

- Officers:
- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Don Groves    | W Cairns   |
| Pam Taylor    | C Crabb    |
| J Chowcat     | B Fox      |
| D Ingram      | P Kennedy  |
| P Amoss       | K Orme     |
| M Teague      | R Lear     |
| J Higgins     | P Ray      |
| R Spiller     | G Fordham  |
| T Dolan       | J F Hall   |
| J Payne       | F Sharp    |
| H Glass       | D Barr     |
| J Fisher      | A Stubbs   |
| E A Hazlewood | P Leverton |
|               | W Holmes   |

## DON'T BE COMPLACENT!

Some people have asked: Why the figure of £40,000? It is the minimum we need to prevent the trade union leaders from breaking us.

If we beat off this attack, we think these 'spoiled child' leaders will find something more worthwhile to do with their members' funds.

**DONATE NOW DONATE GENEROUSLY DEFEND SOCIALIST WORKER**

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

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CA Parsons  
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M House  
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J Cummings  
J Cummings  
B Jones  
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J Mossey  
S Newman  
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P Griffith  
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P Jackson Brighton  
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Mark Parlo  
I Graham  
M Clark  
R Turann  
Anon, Huddersfield  
Welwyn and Hatfield  
I Burns  
A Gosling  
Claybury Hospital Workers  
Building worker  
2 rank and file teachers  
Mr & Mrs Humm  
Charing Cross Hospital  
Workers  
Holbrook cleaners  
Dundee  
Harry Cowen  
Gloucestershire College of  
Art & Design  
D Hutchinson  
A Covrad worker  
Anon, Hull  
A D Watts  
Sheffield  
Inner East  
ASTMS St Mary's hospital  
TSSA Victoria Station  
G Brindan  
Lampeters  
S Shear  
D Eastock  
W Middlesex  
Anon, W Glamorgan  
Anon, Ayrshire  
NK Sharma  
M Ball  
Enfield Fire Station  
S Armbuster New York  
B Defork, Ohio  
K Quinn  
d Collins  
E Taraskover  
L Hatch  
B Burton  
S Maddison  
D McFaren  
Hull  
K Jones  
Anon, Burnley  
Anon, Liverpool

# R F Rank and File DIARY

## Smash the Social Contract

All out Tuesday 19 April NATIONAL STRIKE AGAINST THE SOCIAL CONTRACT, called by the British Leyland combine committee, endorsed by the Right to Work Campaign and the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions. MOVE RESOLUTIONS NOW endorsing the strike call and arranging delegations to mass lobby of parliament.

## Right to Work Campaign

WHAT DID HAPPEN TO THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS AT HENDON LAST MARCH?

Read the new Right to Work Defence Campaign FACTSHEET. Minimum price 5p—proceeds towards paying the remaining fines. Available from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

NO MORE SHREWSBURYS! DEFEND JOHN DEASON! Rally. Saturday 30 April, 2.30pm, Unity

House, Euston Road London NW1. Speakers include Ricky Tomlinson (Shrewsbury picket), Ernie Roberts (Assistant general secretary AJEW), Peter Hain and Mike Lynch (jailed Right to Work marcher). Tickets: Individuals 35p, trade union organisations 20p each for more than one, from 16 Yew Grove, London NW2 3AD. Book now to ensure a place. Organised by Barnet Borough Trades Council.

**DEFEND JOHN DEASON:** Mass picket of the Old Bailey on Wednesday 4 May, 10am. Fight for official delegations. BRING BANNERS.

Train from Manchester. Cheap group booking. £7 return, from TU Books, 260 Deansgate or phone 061-832 8102.

Latest issue of PLATFORM, PAPER OF RANK AND FILE BUS WORKERS. OUT NOW, March issue. Ten copies for 70p including postage, from Platform, 175 South Park Drive, Ilford, Essex.

PLATFORM, the paper of rank and file bus workers, NATIONAL MEETING: Saturday 23 April, in Manchester. To discuss: Wages and the Social Contract, Cuts. How to build your own locally-based Platform, Racism and how to fight it on the buses, a national Platform pamphlet. Further details from Platform, 175 South Park Drive, Ilford, Essex.

**STOP THE CLOSURE!** Mass picket outside the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital: on the day set for closure, Monday 18 April, 7am and all day, EGA, Euston Road, London (near Euston Station).

**LONDON NALGO ACTION GROUP** public meeting: Why you should vote NAG/Why you should fight toe Social Contract. Tuesday 19 April, 7.45pm. The New Inn, 183 Tottenham Court Road. Speakers include NAG NEC candidates.

**TGWU RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN** Say no to the Social Contract petitions to be presented to TGWU Biennial Delegate Conference—available from Right to Work Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Send money to cover postage.



10p each, plus 7p postage (10 or more post free) from Engineers Charter, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

# All out 20 April!

**1700 DELEGATES**, including 300 Leyland shop stewards and representatives from the whole of industry, called for an end to the Social Contract and a day of action on 20 April, including strikes and demonstrations.

That was the outcome of the conference on Sunday in Birmingham, called by the Leyland combine.

## Enthusiasm

At the beginning of the conference, there was considerable enthusiasm. The delegates clearly represented some of the most powerful sections of rank and file trade unionists. There was a feeling that if this power were used, the Social Contract could quickly be

## LEYLAND CONFERENCE NAMES THE DATE FOR ACTION AGAINST THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

killed and buried.

The tone of many of the speeches was apparently one of strenuous opposition to any notion of wage restraint.

Introducing the conference, Derek Robinson, of the Leyland national stewards committee, said:

'If the Leyland shop stewards are raising the aspiration of thousands and thousands of workers for a return to free collective bargaining, we are proud to plead guilty.'

Phil Higgs from Rolls-Royce, Coventry told how a mass meeting in his factory had voted for mass action on 20 April. He said: 'There is a need for

mass demonstrations in the cities and towns. Our shop stewards committee has written to other shop stewards committees in Coventry. We hope Brother McGarry (one of the platform speakers) will be demonstrating as well. Words without actions are useless.'

Kevin Halpin, from Acton rails and the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, argued: 'We have the possibility of a mass movement we did not have a year ago. People like Brother McGarry who have supported the Social Contract are now speaking against it.'

Brother Davies an EETPU

member, told of the strike in Donnington, South Yorkshire, where contracting electricians are demanding that payments in excess of those allowed by the Social Contract and the Joint Industrial Board for the industry are paid openly, and not 'under the table'. He said: 'We are still on strike. This is our way to break the Social Contract.'

Roy Ricks, from Imperial Metals in Leeds, argued that 'on 20 April we vote with our feet, with a most massive day of action against the Social Contract.'

Arthur Scargill, the President of the Yorkshire Miners, said: 'We have a special relationship with Birmingham. It was here in the 1972 miners' strike that the working class came out in the streets and demonstrated with us. It was the fundamental step in our victory.'

## Rocking

'I am sick and tired of hearing from some trade union leaders about not rocking the boat, about supporting this Government. I was elected to defend the standard of living of miners. We are not prepared to tolerate any longer the holding down of living standards.'



Mahmood Ahmed: standing ovation



Sunday's conference: It showed its strengths—and its weaknesses

Cheers  
for the  
strike  
that  
goes on  
and on

THE CONFERENCE gave a standing ovation to Mahmood Ahmed from the Grunwick strike committee.

'We're the people who are the lower paid,' he said. 'When we ask for pay increases we are told the Social Contract cannot give it. We're still out after 32 weeks because the movement's not doing anything.'

'The Postal workers union say they don't want any action because if they do they'll be taken to the High Court. When we asked the TUC for all unions to take co-ordinated action we got nothing.'

'The electricians' union would not cut off electricity to the factory which the management are running with scabs. The TUC should have come to a group of workers like us who are in struggle. Instead, we had to go to them.'

'This strike shows how useless are the Employment Protection Act and the government conciliation service, ACAS.'

'The National Association for Freedom has helped the management in their court cases. They should be called the National Association For Exploitation. They are also attacking UCATT members who are fighting the lump.'

'If the trade union movement want Asians and black people to join the trade unions and organise themselves, the unions will have to do better than they've done in Grunwick's so far.'

## Uproar over toolmakers

REPORTING: CHRIS HARMAN AND PETER CLARK

PICTURES: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

THERE was an important division within the conference.

It was about how the words against the Social Contract were to be translated into deeds.

The platform and a good number of speakers from the floor said they were against the Contract. But then they went on to attack as 'sectional' and 'divisive' the toolmakers' strike, which the Leyland management and the executive of the Engineering Union broke with threats of a lockout.

These people also tended to emphasise 20 April as merely a lobby of parliament rather than a strike.

George Anthony, secretary of the North London District Committee of the AUEW, attacked the 'disunity of the toolmakers'. He claimed that their sort of action was 'the basis for another stage of the Con-trick.'

He also decided to re-write history. He claimed that 'one day strikes stopped the Industrial Relations Act.'

He had obviously forgotten that the Industrial Relations Act was finally destroyed

when his own union, the AUEW, organised an unlimited all-out national strike against the Industrial Relations Court over the Con Mech fines.

Eddie McGarry, convenor of Triumph Coventry, who used to support the Social Contract and was one of the keenest advocates of workers' participation in British Leyland, claimed he was now 'bitterly disappointed, bitterly disillusioned,' to heckling from the Conference. 'The

### Credibility

credibility, status and authority of the trade union leaders is at stake,' he said. 'We, the NCOs of the movement, the convenors and shop stewards, have been making all sorts of excuses for the Social Contract over the past two years.'

'Speak for yourself,' cried part of the audience.

He attacked the toolroom workers as a 'sectional in-

terest, backed by Tory newspapers, a reactionary strike.'

Bob Wright, the newly-elected Assistant General Secretary of the AUEW, seemed to see the demand for import controls as the answer to the Social Contract.

'Some people say this is exporting unemployment to other countries. But at the moment all the imports mean that we are importing unemployment from the Common Market countries to Britain.'

There were loud interruptions, with cries of 'what about the 8,000 jobs you sold at Chrysler?'

Derek Robinson, summing up, said he was a toolroom worker himself. But he went on to denounce their strike as 'divisive'.

'These people have been smoking opium since the day they were born. We are not going to solve these problems in isolation. . . the toolroom shop stewards have no

representatives here today.'

In contrast, many other speakers saw that the toolroom strike, however limited its objectives, had involved action, not just words, over wages.

### Toolmakers

George Cole, president of the AUEW Manchester District, pointed out that 'the Social Contract was well and truly taken on by the toolmakers and proved to be a con'.

Wyn Bevan, of the Port Talbot electricians, pointed out that his strike was in many ways similar to the toolmakers'.

John Deason, from Newton AUEW and the Right to Work Campaign, put the argument forcibly.

'A lobby of parliament is not enough to fight the Social Contract. The question is struggle in the here and now. That means support for the

toolroom workers, support for the Port Talbot electricians.'

'The toolroom workers have been insulted in the press, in the trade union movement, even from this platform.'

'But we should support any strike against the Social Contract.'

'It would be ideal if the fight was nice and orderly with us all putting in for £15 together and striking together.'

'But the real world is not like that. The struggle is often confused. But that is the struggle we have to support.'

'The trade union leaders sold the Social Contract. Now some of them say they have changed their minds. Does that give Scanlon and the AUEW executive the right to join management in threatening a lockout?'

'Let's make 20 April not just a day of action, but a day of strike action. And let's go back from this conference and each of us put in claims for £15 now.'



Phil Higgs: his factory has voted for mass action



D. Davies: 'We're fighting the Contract.'

Advertisement

**National Right to Work Campaign says:** All out on 20 April in support of the North Region NUPE Day of Action Against the Cuts.

Full support for the Demonstration and Rally in Newbray Park, Sunderland, 2pm.

**TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM**  
**Duncan Hallas**

The Iroquois indians had no state, no police system, no private property and a high status for women.

**Facts of family life**

ONE THING about the development of the human family is sure. It is tied up with the evolution of property. Whatever the details—and they are highly controversial—this is the central fact.

In particular, the evolution of private property—which means rights held by individuals over things and especially over other people went hand in hand with the growth of dominance of men over women and with the emergence of the state—an armed force seperated from, above and parasitic on the actual producers of wealth.

This is the thesis of Engels' famous book *The Origin of the Family, Private*

*Property and the State*. No other Marxist writing has been so violently attacked and ridiculed as this one, not even Marx's *Capital*. It may be worth noting that the critics, liberal and conservative alike, have been—almost without exception—men brought up in male dominated societies.

**Tribunal**

Engels relied for part of his information on the work of the American student of surviving primitive societies, Lewis Henry Morgan.

Morgan had lived amongst the Iroquois indians of New York state who still preserved their tribal organisation in the last century—and very unlike the popular idea of tribal life it turned out to be.

In fact Morgan became an Iroquois

by adoption and, you might almost say, by conversion. 'Liberty, equality, fraternity' were their cardinal principles, he wrote. Now this was not at all what was expected.

The five 'nations' of the Iroquois confederacy had been extremely warlike peoples. The confederacy had played a large part, as allies of one side or the other, in the wars between Britain and France for the control of Canada at the North East of the present UKA.

They had the reputation of being most savage, ruthless and efficient fighters. Such a 'militaristic' society must surely be aristocratic, authoritarian and male dominated!

In fact the Iroquois had no hereditary royalty or aristocracy, no state, no police system, no private property save of the most trivial personal possessions.

Property in the means of production—the Iroquois were agriculturalists—belonged to the clan itself, not to individuals.

Moreover, descent was reckoned and inheritance took place through the female line i.e. property remained in a man or woman's *mother's* clan or subgroup. Because the system was matriarchal, a son could not succeed his father as chief or sachem.

**Rights**

In any case the authority of these officers was slight. They had prestige but no economic privilege. Everything not dictated by custom was decided by vote, men and women alike voting.

The status of women was high; very much higher than amongst the British and French colonialists.

The secret was, of course, that women were mainly responsible for raising the corn crop, the principal source of food.

There was no slavery. Captives were normally killed. If spared they were given a 'mother', put through an elaborate 'adoption' ceremony and became Iroquois with the same rights and obligations as the rest.

**Amazing**

More precisely, they became members of a particular matriarchal clan and tribe.

Thus Morgan became a member of the Hawk clan of the Seneca nation.

Now for a point to which Morgan attached great importance. He was given a 'mother', a female of the previous generation, but the word was used not only in addressing this lady but also in addressing all her clan sisters.

In the same way all the males of the previous generation within the subgroup were 'fathers', all contemporary brothers and sisters.

This 'classificatory' system of kinship terms did not correspond to the actual facts of Iroquois family life.

The Iroquois were monogamous. Morgan thought the system was a survival from an earlier state of 'group marriage'.

As Engels put it 'we can deduce from the historical survival of a system of consanguinity (i.e., ways of reckoning relationships) that an extinct form of family once, existed which corresponded to it.'

Morgan and many other investigators soon found that the 'classificatory' system of reckoning kinship was found amongst primitive peoples all over the world.

From this he worked out a hypothetical history of the family at which we will take a critical look next week.

What he had proved beyond dispute was that, in one case at least, 'primitive communism' and a high status for women went together.

**Socialist Worker**

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**CENSORSHIP! A case for the NAFF?**

THE PRISON governor at Walton in Liverpool is still withholding letters from prisoner Billy Castley.

Another Right to Work marcher, Joe Cronshaw told Socialist Worker:

'On the last occasion I wrote to Billy Castley I sent the letter recorded delivery. I also posted one to the Governor protesting at the withholding of mail from Billy.'

**Second**

'The recorded delivery slip says they got the letter on the 14th and on the 15th they sent it back, together with a note from the Governor saying:

'As you do not appear to have known Castley prior to his coming into custody then correspondence and visits cannot be allowed.'

'So I wrote a second letter to the Governor, enclosing my original letter to Billy Castley.'

'I said in the letter that I had known Billy for a long time. If they wanted confirmation I said they could get it from the Special Branch and the London police who ambushed us at Hendon.'

'I said I had also been with Billy on the London to Brighton march, and that the contents of my letter made it obvious that I knew Billy for a long time before he went to prison.'

'I said I couldn't see where the difference was between the Post Office workers' boycott of mail to South Africa and what they were doing—withholding mail completely.'

'I asked them if they returned the letter again to give me a truthful reason why—if that's possible for them. I am convinced the reason is purely political.'

'I've written to Labour

MP Frank Allaun, and I've had a letter back from him, saying he is taking it up with the Home Secretary.'

'I also wrote to Right to Work marcher Mike Lynch, when he was in Pentonville Prison, several times, and I never had a reply. Now I'm wondering whether he ever got the letters.'

**Write**

Socialist Worker wants to hear from anyone else who has written to any prisoners and had the letter returned. Write and tell us, and write to Frank Allaun at the House of Commons.

H M Prison  
 68 Hornby Road  
 Liverpool L9 3DP  
 15 April 1977

Dear Mr. Cronshaw

The enclosed letter addressed to 726010 CASTLEY is returned to you.

Under prison regulation prisoners may correspond with and receive visits from relatives and friends known to them prior to conviction.

As you do not appear to have known CASTLEY prior to his coming into custody then correspondence and visits cannot be allowed.

Yours sincerely,  
 [Signature]  
 For Governor

**LETTER OF THE LAW**

RASHID BUTT whose Scottish wife is expecting a baby in May is appealing to the High Court to allow him to stay in Britain.

Rashid was fined £50 at Glasgow Sheriff Court for overstaying his time in this country. He was also recommended for deportation.

Announcing his decision, Sheriff Mowat came out with this gem:

'The only condition against deportation is the consideration of marriage.'

'I am not prepared to accept simply that because you got married there is no reason for deportation.'



BLACKPOOL WAS covered with posters last week during the Student Union Conference which said 'Vote NOISS for a lighting NUS'.

NOISS members were approached several times by different members of the Blackpool police force, asking for the whereabouts of 'Mr. Noiss' because they wanted to get him to take his posters down.

THREE WOMEN are suffering from typhoid because of cuts in the health service.

Doctors carried out tests on the women using a tube which had previously been used on a typhoid victim.

The plastic tubes, which are impossible to sterilise and cost £3 a time, should be thrown away after use. They were washed by hand and re-used to save money.

THE FIRST £1 million flat has just been sold. It is nicely placed beside Hyde Park, has 17 bedrooms, six reception rooms and 11 bathrooms.

'LEFT-WING' Under Secretary for Industry Bob Cryer has apologised for crossing the picket line at the Randolph Hotel in Oxford.

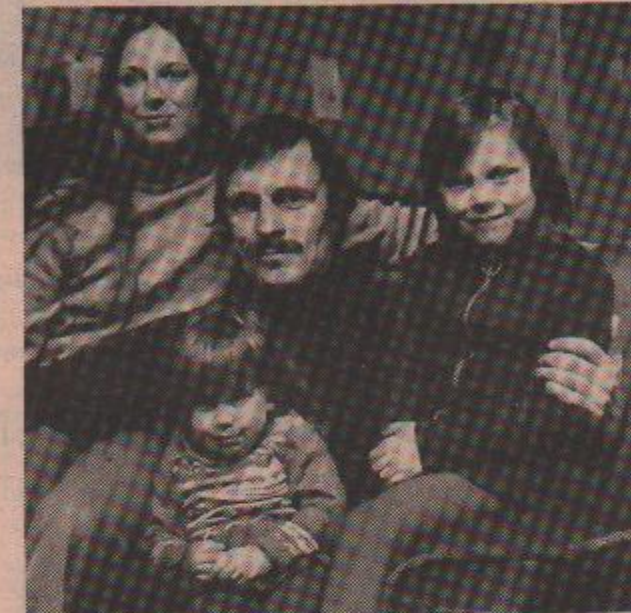
Mr. Cryer says in his defence that he knew nothing about the strike which has been going on for four months.

Presumably he doesn't know either that a picket line is there to tell people who don't know about it, and to persuade trade unionists not to cross.

WHO DUNNIT? The body of Las Vegas Labour leader Al Bramlet was found in a shallow grave in the Nevada desert. He led a strike of catering workers last year which closed down all the hotels and casinos.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS need have no fears about the two per cent National Insurance surcharge in Healey's Budget.

Most of the 1500 independent schools are registered as charities and will therefore be exempt.



Terry Gallogly back home with his family.

TERRY GALLOGLY, the AUEW member who was thrown into Wakefield top-security prison last October after being sacked from his job, has won his case of unfair dismissal. Terry had been working at the factory since June on a pre-release scheme which allows prisoners to serve the last six months of their sentence at work.

Terry is understandably bitter about his treatment, not only by the Home Office, but also from his own union officials.

He told Socialist Worker: 'I can't understand why district secretary Ken Garwell didn't implement the 'interim relief procedures' under the dismissal laws so that I was re-instated until the tribunal hearing was over.'

'The workers at the factory went on strike to support me. Garwell told them to go back to work.'

'The union ignored appeals to help my wife and family. They were only prepared to help me fight unfair dismissal, not wrongful imprisonment.'

'Ken Coates from the Institute of Workers Control tried to get people to raise it on the TUC General Council. None of the union leaders would do anything.'

'And if I was wrongly dismissed then it follows that I was wrongly imprisoned. I would like to hear what the Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, has to say about that.'

**The new "moderates"**

THE WORD 'moderate' has taken on a new meaning in the London Freelance Branch of the journalists' union the NUJ since Bernard Levin and friends took control of the branch.

Last year Levin circulated a report of a meeting to his

associates telling of their 'overwhelming victory for moderate policies . . . a success far beyond anything we had dreamed of.'

This meant they had mandated delegates to the annual conference to support the social contract and

oppose NUJ members in Barnsley who asked local trade unionists not to cooperate with members of the IOJ scab union.'

This 'moderation' has taken a new turn. The branch committee has introduced new standing orders which give them the power to guillotine motions before the branch meeting.

Last year's circular says: 'Rosemary Meynell pointed out how useful it was that Doug Harris was wearing a white jacket, as whenever she got lost she just looked for his arm and put hers up when she saw it rise.'

**Hard-core**

'We ought, I think, to consider ways of ensuring that those who are unfamiliar with procedures and personalities can be helped by having members of our 'hard core' pointed out to them.'

Nothing has changed. Throughout the last stormy meeting anti-feminist socialist Arianna Stavitsopoulos is reported to have been reading.



ROSE HAD THE BALL

SOME READERS of the Socialist Worker who enjoy punishing themselves on a Sunday morning may do so by reading the Sunday Times Colour supplement.

Those who read it last Sunday might have noticed this revolting anti-Irish 'joke'.

Ian Brown, a North London member of the Socialist Workers Party has devised an excellent reply to anti-Irish racism. It's in the form of an anti-joke which deserves wider currency. It goes as follows:

QUESTION: Why are anti-Irish jokes so stupid?

ANSWER: So that English people can understand them.

# This is 'white civilisation'...

## THE guerrilla war for the freedom of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) from white minority rule has been out of the headlines

But that does not mean that the fighting has stopped. If anything, it has been getting more intense.

In two days last week, 24 people died, according to the white regime.

More significant, the 'kill ratio' the white forces claim against the freedom fighters has dropped markedly from the 10:1 figure boasted of before Christmas.

A number of items that have recently appeared in the press in neighbouring Zambia throw important light on the methods of the regime.

THE Smith regime is forcing black Rhodesians to join the puppet ZUPO party by being refused medical facilities unless they produce ZUPO party membership cards.

ZUPO's campaign for membership is being spearheaded by white district commissioners in the tribal trust lands, according to Rhodesian refugees.

This move is reported to have been put under way soon after the collapse of the Geneva conference.

ZUPO is a brainchild of the racist Rhodesia Front party of Ian Smith which has all along been white and now needs black support.

It is believed that if the Africans in trust lands become ZUPO members—rightly or wrongly—the Rhodesia Front might claim half Rhodesian black population support.

The refugees also said that despite the massive campaign for ZUPO, its leaders are very unpopular among Africans.

Puppet chiefs Chirau and Ndjweni have no support in Rhodesia. They live and travel under armed escort and threats of death are constantly being made against them.

—Times of Zambia, 23 February.

A WHITE farmer who beat to death an elderly black labourer was fined 300 dollars.

He unleashed four blows to the face, a kick to the head and two kicks to the chest after the 65-year old labourer planted maize wrongly.

The magistrate, V.J. Koch, said he did not consider the assault a serious one, 'though the results were unfortunate.'

—Rhodesian Herald, 26 March.

SINCE 1972, a total of 632 Africans have been killed while breaking Rhodesian

## RHODESIA, WHERE A BOSS CAN LITERALLY GET AWAY WITH BLOODY MURDER

curfew regulations or 'running with guerrillas'.

—Ian Smith, 23 February.

THREE American recruits to the Rhodesian army grabbed a plane and deserted to indepen-

dent Africa.

The rebel army sources said two of the deserters were serving in the racist regime's light infantry and the third who had a pilot's licence, was a member of Grey's Scouts, a

cavalry unit.

Eight foreign nationals are now reported to have deserted from the army in the past three months.

—Times of Zambia 20 February.



Some of the thousands of Israeli Arabs who attended last month's mass memorial near Tel Aviv for five of their comrades killed while protesting against Israeli land-grabbing.

## THE 'CRAZY BRUTALITY' JUDGES DEFEND

A COUPLE of weeks ago, a judge struck what he regarded as a great blow for freedom.

He prevented the students union at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology discussing the motion that Zionism is racism.

But for the Palestinians who live in the Israeli occupied territories on the West Bank of the River Jordan, the racialism of the Israeli army of occupation is only too real—as it is to more than a million refugees driven out of their homeland in what is now Israel by settlers who

decided that it should be inhabited almost entirely by those of Jewish descent.

A recent US state department report tells that 'in quelling demonstrations and restoring order in the territories, the Israeli authorities have in several instances used excessive force.'

The International Herald Tribune reported on 23 March what that involved: 'The deportation of Arabs in contravention of the Geneva convention, the blowing up of houses belonging to trouble makers, and the administrative detention of persons whose crime may be as minor as writing anti-Israeli poetry.'

### BROKEN

'Ten years of military occupation have had a brutalising effect. . .

'An example came to light when 17 students of the UN-run teachers training college in Ramallah were admitted to hospital with broken bones, lacerations, concussions and missing teeth.'

This followed the Zionist police entering the college looking for demonstrators, and grabbing everyone at hand.

The chief in internal medicine at Jerusalem's Victoria hospital said that he had not seen before 'such crazy brutality'.

Jerusalem's Arabic newspapers were prevented by censorship from publishing photos of the students—a decision which our 'guardian of free speech' for Manchester would no doubt heartily approve.

□ The Observer newspaper revealed on Sunday that the Israeli government has started supplying arms to the Chilean junta.

## Why blacks are refusing to do Smith's dirty work

**BLACK police and soldiers in the employ of Rhodesia's white minority government are deserting in growing numbers.**

The following interview, from the Mozambican weekly magazine, Tempo, is one of several interviews with deserters published in Mozambique.

'I joined the police because at that time there were no other jobs in Rhodesia. There a person my age could only arrange food in the army or in the police. There is no work.'

### Racist

These are the words of Robson Chaziwa, a deserter from the racist police in Rhodesia.

Chaziwa is 19 and belonged to the police of the area of

Odzi near Umtali.

'I was in the police in a post near my own village. One day I learned that the police went to my mother's house because of guerrillas. . . . When I arrived there they had killed her.'

We asked him if his mother really had contact with guerrillas.

'Not at all. She didn't. I know how it was.'

He continued by telling the kind of actions he himself had been obliged to participate in. Normally, the tasks of arresting, beating and killing fall to the black police. They receive orders to go to a village to get information. There they should arrest, beat up, and if necessary kill the people if they don't speak up, or at least denounce somebody.

Robson Chaziwa's own mother was killed this way. She had no information to

give, she was beaten and her house was burned.

'The whites, besides earning a lot, rarely kill, because this is to be done by black police. And if they don't follow the whites' orders, they are branded 'terrorists'.

### Walked

'I fled because I couldn't stand it any more. I walked two days without eating to cross the border into Mozambique.'

About ZIPA Chaziwa said: 'I don't yet know a single ZIPA guerrilla, but Smith's soldiers and also the police are very frightened of them. Many black police and soldiers are deserting because they don't want to die.'

—African News, 28 February.



Ian Smith: his troops have one big fear

## International Socialism

APRIL ISSUE NO 97

The labour government has launched a series of debates on what it sees as the falling standards in education. The governments' main contribution being massive cut-back in education spending. In this issue of IS JOURNAL Richard Noss joins The Great Debate with a socialist view.

Also in this months issue  
Alex Callinicos on *The British Road*, Joanna Rollo  
Immigration part 2, Colin Sparks on *Stuart Hollands' The Socialist Challenge*  
Plus Briefing, Notes of the month and Reviews.



40p (inc post)  
6 Coltons Gardens  
London E2



IN THE mid-1970s unemployment in Britain reached an official total of a million and a half, the highest level since the pre-war depression.

For the first time since the thirties, almost

## WHY THERE IS UNEMPLOYMENT

every worker had friends, neighbours or relations on the dole.

During the 1950s and 1960s the cycle of booms and slumps seemed to have been permanently evened out. This cycle had plagued every capitalist country since the beginning of the industrial revolution.

Those who in the 1950s and 1960s thought they had found a regulator for the economy and a means of ending unemployment have to admit that it no longer works.

As early as 1848, in the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels described how this switchback-ride from crisis to crisis is built into the capitalist system.

A simplified explanation of Marx's complex analysis is: under capitalism, those with money use it to buy factories, equip them and employ workers to make goods. The capitalist then sells the goods, fixing the price so that it covers their expenditure on wages and raw materials and repays the cost of plant—their capital.

They then add an extra element—profit. Most of this profit is reinvested to produce more goods and so make more profit, and in this way capitalists aim to accumulate more and more profit.

The goods produced are put on sale, but their prices add up to more than the wages which have been paid out to the workers. So the workers cannot afford to buy all the goods which are available.

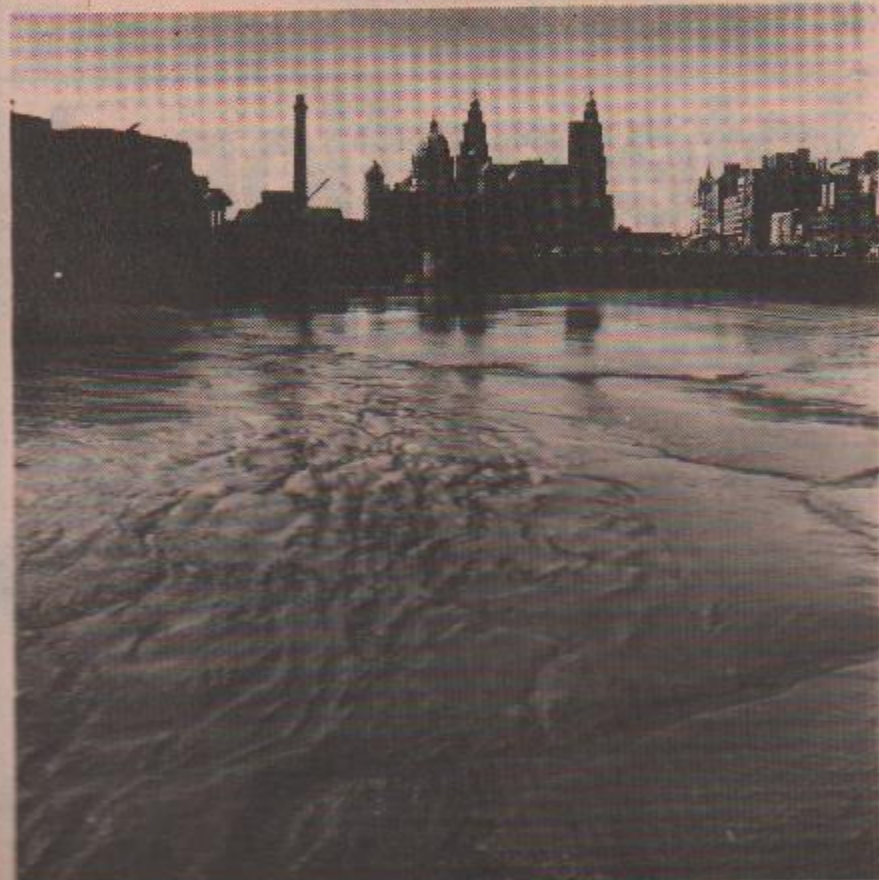
The result is an apparent surplus of goods—not more goods than people need, but more than they can afford.

Marx also explained that unemployment is not just a result of the crises, but that it is essential to the accumulation of profit since the unemployed act as a 'reserve army of labour' outside the factory gates which helps employers to discipline the workers inside the factory and keep their wages down.

Throughout the competitive manoeuvrings the needs of people are subordinated to the demands of profit.



The surplus no one can afford



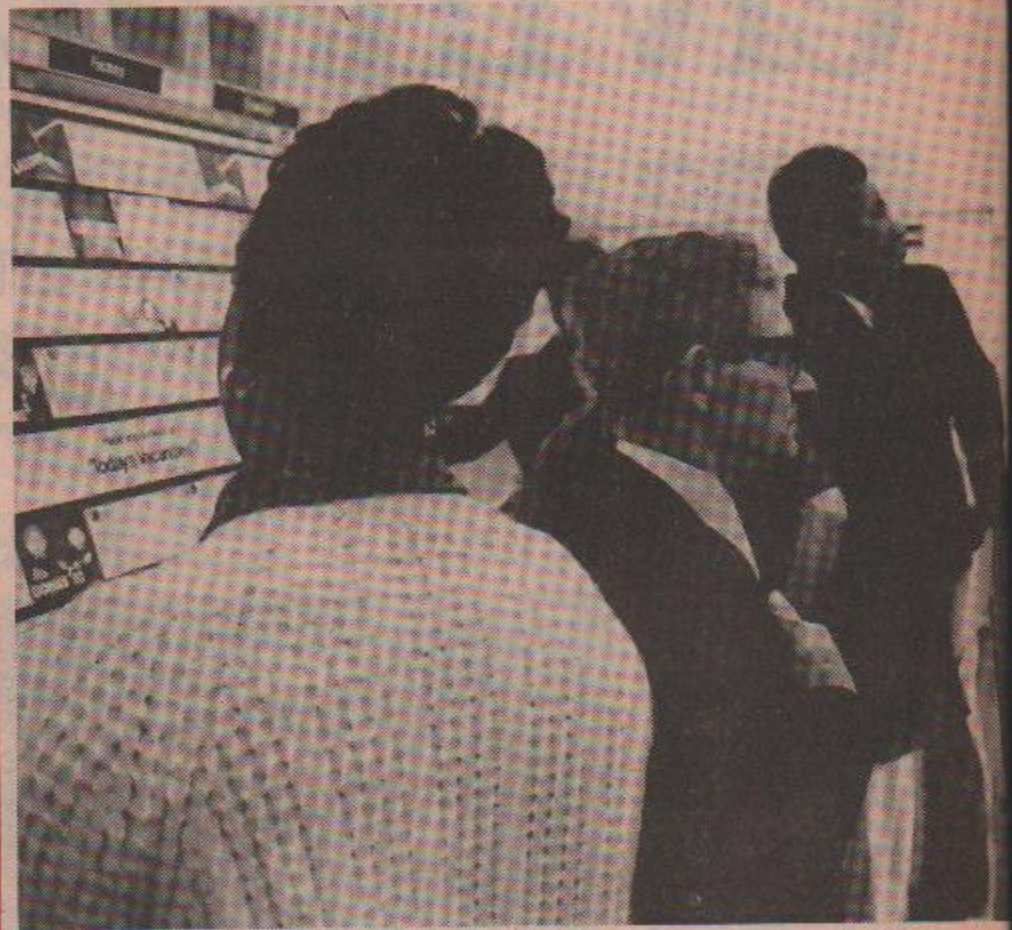
The George V docks in the heart of Liverpool—recently closed

## LIFE ON THE DOLE



'WHEN I first saw unemployed men at clubs and quarters, the thing that horrified me was to find that many of them were ashamed of being unemployed....

'I remember the shock and astonishment it gave me to find that a fair proportion of these boys whom I had been taught to regard as cynical para-



Occupied to save jobs! Ainslie Wire, Stockport



A demonstration in North West London



During the Right to Work March

## THE CUR

THE DEMAND for the right to work is essential to the well-being of the capitalist system. It challenges the basis of the system itself....

Because unemployment is essential to the well-being of the capitalist system, raising this demand challenges the basis of the system itself....

The demonstration marches organised by the National Unemployed Workers' Movement in the 1920s and 1930s were bigger and more militant than the Jarrow March—the one march which many people symbolise as the hungry thirties.

Throughout its existence it was a movement of audacity and determination.

Its leaders took personal risks, and many were imprisoned.

Wal Hannington was in prison ten times in the years he spent in the NUWM.

In 1975 a demonstration against unemployment was a lobby of parliament called by the North Region of the TUC in November.

The TUC disowns the protest, fearing that it might have 'an anti-government nature'. Len Murray, the general secretary, circulated to Trades Councils and member unions calling them not to support it.

In spite of this intervention, more than 20,000 workers marched from Euston Station



were decent young miners and cotton workers... They had been brought up to work, and it seemed as if they were never going to have the chance of working again.

'In their circumstances it was inevitable, at first, that they should be haunted by a feeling of personal degradation. That was the attitude towards

unemployment in those days: it was a disaster which happened to you as an individual and for which you were to blame.

That's what George Orwell wrote 40 years ago, in the Road to Wigan Pier. In 1976 a young unemployed engineering worker describes the same feeling:

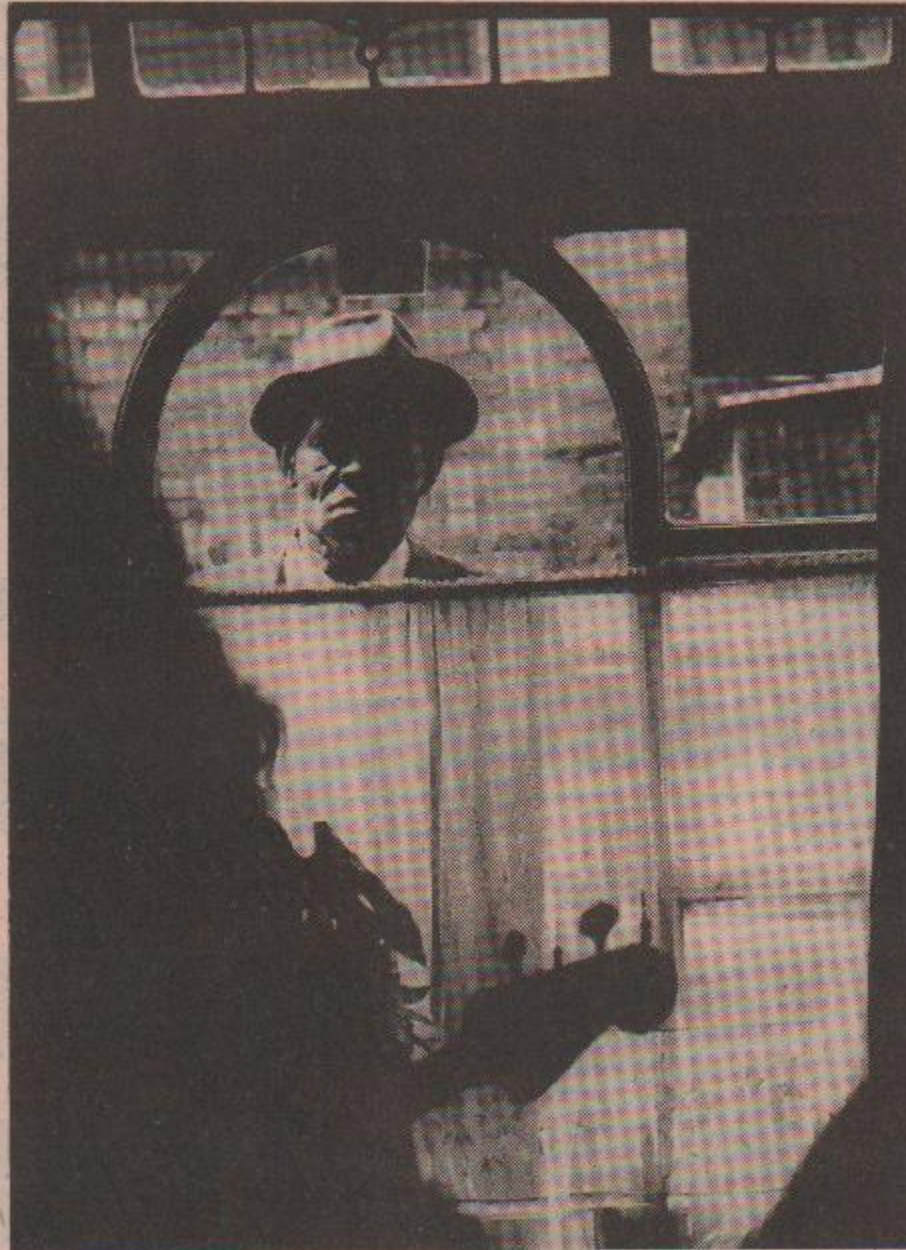
'I was very down because I'd written what, 150, 200 letters for jobs, drawing only one interview that I didn't get the job for. On average there's anything between three and four hundred people going for a job. I mean one does become very demoralized.

'I saw a lass I knew coming to sign on. She's usually a nice, lively, cheerful sort of lass. She's always smiling, always nice to you. As she came down, she had her coat collar turned up, and dark glasses on, and she was huddled down, and she was so depressed.

'You know, it was like the end of the world. I mean she'd only been out a couple of months, but you get to that point very quickly.

'A lot of people who don't understand why there's unemployment at this time in such large numbers get the idea that they themselves personally are failing, that they're just not good enough, that's why they don't get a job.

'That's just not true in this situation.'



# DOWN THE ROAD



The photographs and articles on these two pages are taken from a superb new book, Down the Road—Unemployment and the Fight for the Right to Work, which is to be published on May Day. It's written by Sarah Cox, with photographs by Robert Golden—and the authors are giving their 'royalties' to the National Right to Work Campaign.

The book will be published by the Writers and Readers Publishing Cooperative at £1.50—or £1.25 if you take advantage of the Right to Work Campaign's pre-publication offer advertised below.

## WORK OR RIOT ONE OR THE OTHER!



House of Commons, passing Congress House, the TUC headquarters, on the way.

Out of the success of this march grew a campaign for the Right to Work. Plans were made for a march of unemployed workers from Manchester to London.

While more than a thousand trade union bodies gave support or affiliated to the campaign, others refused to do so because it was not

recognized by the official labour and trade union movement.

The 80 marchers spent three weeks on the road, using the march as one of them put it as an 'anger march, not a hunger march'.

The march acted as a flying picket, holding meetings at factory gates or inside the factories themselves along their route.

The fight cannot be left to the trade union leaders, who are paralysed by their loyalty to the Labour government while the government in turn dedicates its energies to making industry profitable on the terms laid down by the international bankers.

The unemployed cannot fight alone, since by losing their jobs they have lost their power at the point of production. Therefore the fight must be carried on by

rank-and-file workers uniting with the unemployed.

Battles have been won by the rank and file in the fight for the right to work, and many more can and will be won in the future.

If every worker had the right to a job, it would be necessary for the workers to be in control of the resources of production and the social services. This would undermine the whole basis of the system.

Therefore, the fight for the right to work is essentially a fight against the system of capital—within which workers are simply another commodity.

Advertisement for the National Right to Work Campaign  
**PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER**

Please send me... copies of **DOWN THE ROAD** at the pre-publication price of £1.25 each (normal price £1.50) plus 17p postage.

NAME..... ADDRESS.....

SEND TO: Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4





The Memorial Day Massacre, 1937: ten strikers were murdered, seven of them shot in the back

# Some of my best friends are... British

HEARD the joke about the immigrant who kept his wife's jewels beneath the soap in the shower?

No? That's not really surprising, because the joke is Australian, and the immigrant in question is neither Pakistani nor West Indian.

In fact, he's British and the joke only becomes funny once you accept the widespread Australian belief that the British, the 'poms', never wash.

## Whining

The pommie-immigrant-who-never-washes joke crops up over and over again, in all sorts of different disguises, wherever you go in Australia.

It's one of two basic anti-British Australian jokes, the other being the ungrateful-whining-pommie-immigrant joke. One well-known example of this runs:

**Question:** How can you tell which planes at Mascot (Sydney Airport) are full of pommie immigrants?

**Answer:** They're the ones which go on whining after they've switched off the engines.

It would probably come as something of a surprise to the racially pure super-heroes of the National Front to hear this, but there is actually somewhere in the world where the British are the largest single immigrant group and where it's thought very funny to tell jokes about how dirty, smelly and lazy they all are.

## Whites only

It came as something of a surprise to me too when, shortly after arriving in Australia, I spotted this brilliant piece of wit on the toilet wall at work:

**Keep Australia beautiful—kill a pommie a day.**

Well, I suppose it all depends on your sense of humour, but somehow I couldn't quite see what was funny about that.

Whenever racists in Britain try to justify their own

## ANDY MILNER REPORTS FROM A LAND WHERE THE 'WOGS' ARE WHITE IMMIGRANTS

racism, they usually point to the black immigrants themselves as the cause of the racism which is directed against them.

'We're against the blacks,' runs the argument, 'because, unlike the British, they're lazy, they smell, and they don't wash. If only Britain had a "Whites Only" immigration policy, then there'd be no racial tension'.

Well, Australia has had the infamous 'White Australia' policy for decades, and all that has happened is that the same sort of prejudices which are directed against black immigrants in Britain, are here directed at white immigrants, be they British, Greek or Italian (in fact, the word 'wog' is actually used in Australia to describe Italian migrants).

## Scapegoats

And the reasons for this should be obvious. Racism has nothing at all to do with what the immigrants, who are its target, are actually like.

Rather, racism has its origins in the need to find scapegoats who can be blamed for all those problems—poor housing, unemployment, inflation, the lot—which are actually caused by the capitalist system itself, and which will only finally be solved when that system is overthrown.

It also has the additional advantage for the ruling class that it makes it possible to divide workers, to turn us against each other, and so to weaken our organisations.

This is particularly true here in Australia where British migrants are generally strongly involved in trade union militancy.

And so the whining-pom joke gets turned into the

trouble-making-pommie-shop-steward joke.

Whenever a strike develops which involves British militants, the right-wing press (and in Australia all the papers are right-wing—not a single one supports the Labour Party) comes up with a carefully orchestrated campaign of pom-bashing.

Then you get to hear all about how the whining pommies, not content with ruining their own country, come over here on a free passage, and show their gratitude by setting out to ruin this country too.

## Genocide

'Divide and rule'—it's the oldest trick in the book, and the Australian ruling class plays it as well as the British.

The British migrants in Australia are actually relatively 'lucky'. By comparison with the Italians and the Greeks, the real 'wogs' in this country, the poms get off lightly.

And, of course, Australian racism at its most vicious is reserved for the Aborigines, the people 'we' came to 'civilise' (in Tasmania, the 'civilising' process was so successful that the entire Aboriginal population was wiped out.)

But, nonetheless, being on the receiving end even of relatively mild prejudice teaches you a lot of lessons.

Most British socialists have had to argue against racism at some time or another, but few white militants in Britain have actually felt what it's like to be the target for all those terribly funny jokes about how immigrants never wash.

Only when that happens does the full stupidity of it all dawn on you.

So next time you find yourself arguing with a racial

superman, you might consider telling him the one about the immigrant who keeps his wife's jewels beneath the soap in the shower.



Bird's eye view of a big demonstration by U.S. workers in 1937

In the Land of the Free, a bullet in the back...

FORTY years ago, a wave of sit-downs swept the United States.

Even official figures estimated that 400,000 workers were involved.

Terrified, the bosses and the police responded with a reign of terror against any form of industrial action.

George Patterson, 'picket captain' during a strike at the Republic Steel plant in Chicago, recalled later the infamous Memorial Day massacre of 30 May, 1937:

I was an organizer in charge of the picket line, so I walked along and saw my familiar old friends Mooney, the commander of the police, and Kilroy.

And I looked up and said: 'Well, here we are. We'd like to go through. Would you escort us? We'd like to picket.'

Well, he was standing there—Kilroy was the man.—and he was reading a very official document asking us in the name of the people of Illinois to disperse; and as soon as he said that he put the paper down and all hell broke loose.

They began to shoot us, club us, and gas us... 10 people died while 68 were wounded...

I could smell the gunpowder; I'll never forget it. And then I began to see people fall.

Then it dawned on me: They were shooting real bullets. This was for keeps.

They didn't stop shooting and killing till an hour and a half later.

CAST are offering their excellent play SAM THE MAN MP for expenses only to help raise money for the Socialist Worker fund.

For those who don't know: SAM THE MAN is a 75 minute play based on the life of a left wing Labour MP, Samuel Keir Hardie Muggins, and his time in Parliament from 1945 to date.

It's laughs all the way except that we're laughing at our own predicament, that's why it's labelled a comic tragedy.

To book SAM THE MAN contact CAST, 11c Cabell Street, London, NW1, 01 402 6087. The play needs a 20ft space and can fit into Town Hall, meeting halls, Church halls, and large pub rooms.

# Sam the Man aids Socialist Worker



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Comrades and Friends,

Personally, I'm not keen on your idea to help Socialist Worker. I have been off them since they printed a picture of me on holiday in Turkey (a perfectly innocent union outing).

However, I would like the opportunity of having a word in the ear of those misguided enough to follow their policies. Please ask them not to dress students up as workers as I am told they have done in the past.

Anyway, it will be nice going round the old halls again, for some reason I haven't been invited out much of late.

Yours fraternally,  
SAMUEL KEIR HARDIE MUGGINS (Sam the Man)

MP for Mill Town, Vice Chairman  
Hands off the Co-op, Committee  
member Friends of Clause Four,  
Founder member Unity Theatre and  
President Help an Old Person  
Campaign.

## Murrays: Now a retrial

WE are writing to let you know the latest developments in the Murray case in Ireland, and to ask for your support.

The Murrays were sentenced to hang, the first executions in Ireland for 26 years. Now Noel Murray is serving a 30-year sentence. His wife Marie is being retried, and could still be executed.

The retrial will again be in front of the Special Criminal Court. There is no jury and very few rights or safeguards for the defence, even over cross-examination.

The only evidence against Marie Murray is a statement she is supposed to have made when held in isolation even from legal advisors by the police. She was also named in a statement made by another prisoner.

This statement was ruled inadmissible as evidence by the court. The prisoner was illegally held when it was made, and was tortured to get it.

Marie says that her own statement was taken from her under duress. She was told that the police would murder her husband, who was still on the run at the time.

We desperately need money to help with legal fees and legal advice for Marie's trial. We also need at least £3,000 to bring a civil action against the police for assaulting Noel Murray while he was being interrogated. This could help overturn his 30-year sentence.

Please cross all cheques and postal orders and if possible register all post.

□ Murray Defence Committee, 123 Springhill Avenue, Belfast, or 155 Church Road, County Kildare, Ireland.

## The 'Human Nature' myth

THANK YOU for another good article this week, 'The Myth of Human Nature.'

The most superb demolition of the 'Human nature' myth is Lucien Malson's book *Wolf Children*, published by New Left Books. It deals with all the authenticated cases of children who have grown up devoid of contact with humans, often brought up by wolves or bears.

These children exhibit the most amazing behaviour. Those brought up by bears behave like bears, and so on.

□ PETER BURTON, Moss Side, Manchester.

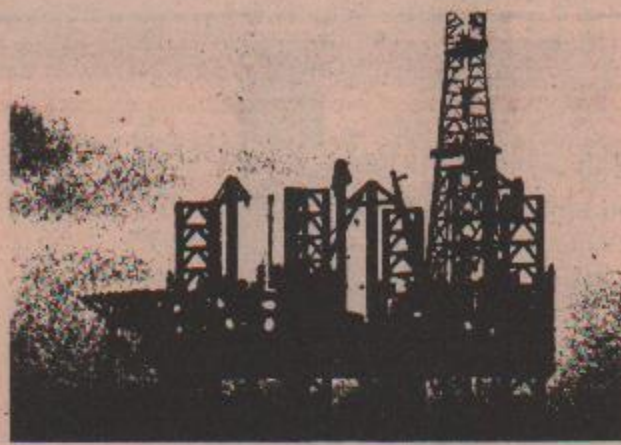
\* Available, price £2.20 including postage, from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## New Womens Voice Out Now

Cypriot women in North London; how to organise the union; your maternity allowance rights interview with Evelyn Reed; News, letters, information, and lots more.

Price 10p. For single copies send 17p to Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Orders for SWP branches have been sent out with this edition of Socialist Worker. Please collect from stations.



## You're not even a number

THE HIGH price paid in men's lives on the oil rigs and platforms in the North Sea increases.

On the Brent 'B' oil platform on 7 January a German worker for the Deutag drilling company was struck by a wooden baton in the back of the head. The baton was either loose on an above deck or had worked loose and the high winds had driven it downwards at a high speed.

Within the hour the German worker was dead—the terrible waste of a man's life who had five children and a wife back in Germany.

It's an indictment of the complete lack of union organisation on that platform and others. There was no attempt by any section of the workers even to have a collection for the man's dependants.

No doubt if a collection was organised the person or persons who started it would have been looked on by the Shell Oil Company as the first step to eventual trade union organisation on the rigs, and one way or the other they would be blacklisted.

So the iron grip of the employers on these rigs remains supreme. They can sack anybody for the slightest or no reason—do exactly as

we tell you or get off.

But the worst part is that some of the callousness of the employers must rub off on a percentage of the workers, as the above story shows. You are not even a number out there, just a body, and if you die—too bad—send the body back and get a live one out.

□ A Socialist Worker reader (name and address withheld due to possible victimisation)

# Letters

## Student Circular no 115

I'VE BEEN teaching overseas students for years and, with my colleagues, have got used to routine circulars from the Home Office asking for attendance figures of students, the date they started, etc.

Some nasty extra little questions are now being slipped in, like being asked to comment on the progress and ability of the students.

Also students are now receiving Home Office questionnaires with questions like: Have you done military service in your own country? If not, do you intend to do it when you return? (I'm sure the Shah would like to know too).

Or: How do you occupy your time when you

## COPIES TO MI5, SPECIAL BRANCH AND THE SHAH?

are not studying? If you're working where are you employed? (A real Catch 22 question since overseas students aren't allowed to work!)

On top of all this we get phone calls from the local police asking for individuals' attendance figures over the phone. Some students' passports are held at the Home Office for six months with no reason given.

This is the type of harassment overseas students suffer.

We refuse to answer such questions, but there must be hundreds of teachers who are innocently, and in some cases maliciously, helping the Home Office.

It's about time the teachers' union gave clear instructions not to co-operate in this way.

□ Name and address withheld by request, Leeds.

ROBERT RELF, known to his friends as Fuehrer, the nazi who put up that racist sign last year, is working on the buses in Luton.

If only the buses Transport Workers Union branch would wake up.

However much he claims to have reformed, nobody who's been in racist activities for the past ten years changes overnight.

The truth is that he got chased out of Leamington by industrial action and 'other means'. We must unite in the workplace to deal with these scum.

□ DAVE RUMBOLD, Luton.

## £40,000 down the Drain

AT A recent meeting organised by the local government workers' union NALGO about the cuts in Stockport, 60 people witnessed the sell-out by the trade union leader Geoffrey Drain.

I think NALGO members would be interested to hear what their general secretary thinks of his members' interests. Replying to a question about his recent decision to sabotage NALGO participation in the strike against the cuts in Scotland, he said: 'Yes, I sold out and I'll sell

out again and again because I don't think my members are prepared to challenge the rule of law.'

No doubt Drain (£14,000 a year) is not prepared to challenge the rule of law that sent two Stockport pensioners to jail for being poor either.

As one person in the meeting put it: 'With leadership like this, who needs enemies?'

□ M O'CALLAGHAN, Stockport.

## STUDENTS UNION



Overseas students on the march against racist fee increases that will drive thousands out of Britain.

## Yes, rank and file policemen too

ROSS MACKENZIE (letters, 2 April) makes a sweeping statement about the frustration of young working-class police officers being directed towards a call for tougher laws and not against their superiors.

In my experience this is certainly not true in every case. I was on a strike a couple of years ago when the local police turned up in force to our picket.

There were scuffles with the police in which a chief superintendent was injured. We had pictures to show the only people near him at the time were his own men.

When they came back the next day they could not conceal their joy at the fact that he would be off work for sometime.

These local men were very friendly and interested in what our dispute was about. They gave us coffee when we were on all-night picket duty and their superiors weren't around.

But obviously they were getting too friendly. Eventually the thugs of the Special Patrol Group were brought in and three people were arrested.

Many young people go into the force because they have

some misguided idea about doing good in society. Many often refuse promotion.

Most have less honourable reasons, but certainly it is dangerous to draw the conclusion that the army has potential goodies, while all policemen are lost for good.

□ SW Reader, East London.

GOOD LUCK to the Socialist Workers Party and Paul Foot in the Stechford by-election. There can't be many people left who still believe that the Labour Party is still the party of the working class—but if there are, they ought to consult a psychiatrist because they are obviously suffering chronic delusions.

Members of Labour's hierarchy have become wealthy from writing and sprouting about socialist ideology, and the votes of working-class men and women have been their passports to power and even more wealth.

And what have they had in return? Just one long chapter of treachery and betrayal.

□ A B. Bolton.

## WHITE RIOT

Black people gotta lotta problems

But they don't mind throwing a brick

White people go to school

Where they teach us how to be thick

White Riot! Wanna Riot!

White Riot! A Riot of my own!

WHITE RIOT, Clash's anti-racist anthem, came out as a single last week. One minute 58 seconds of thermo-dynamic rock—the group's comment on being white during the police attack on last year's Notting Hill Carnival.

The flip, 1977, is just as good . . .

1977  
Hope I go to heaven  
Been too long on the dole  
Can't get no work at all . . .

1977  
Knives in W 11  
Ain't so lucky to be rich  
Sten guns in Knightsbridge.

At a time when punk is being drowned by businessmen, trendies, and band-wagon-jumping musicians, Clash still have the raw honesty and gut disgust at society that made last year's punk rock explosion so exciting.

Buy this single—and get the album when it comes out in April.

□ ROCK AGAINST RACISM, London E2.

## REWARDS OF ANTI-RACISM

A COMMITTEE member of a local anti-racist organisation has been arrested for speaking in public.

Chris Nickolie was arrested while addressing a small gathering in Stevenage town centre. He was held for 30 minutes at the local police station and then released uncharged.

Three weeks later he was charged with obstruction.

This is in direct contrast to the police treatment of the National Party, who held a stall and gave out leaflets for months on end. Despite many complaints, no action was taken against them.

Local readers should create a stink and raise support for Chris.

□ Matt Salisbury (AUEW), Letchworth

# Inside 'socialist' Russia, workers rot in jail for leading a strike



Borissov and family with (right) his close friend Victor Fainberg: Borissov, locked up for a total of nine years, is now free—unlike many other socialists in Russia

IN THEIR coverage of Russian dissidents and oppositionists, there is one category of people the conventional press consistently ignore.

Yet the category that doesn't rate a mention is the most important of all.

For only working-class opposition has the power and the capacity to smash the Russian tyranny and in its place install socialism and freedom.

Last week Socialist Worker received vital information concerning four of the oppositionists the KGB fear most. All four men are dockers from the Latvian port and capital city, Riga. They were jailed last August for their part in leading an unofficial strike.

## Slander

Serge Ivanovich Frolov, Janis Kristapovitch Varna and Mikhail Stepanovitch Lartchenkov were jailed for three years, and Andres Petrovitch Goldberg for 18 months.

Like the Shrewsbury pickets in this country, they faced charges which guaranteed the prosecution success. All four were charged with 'slandering the Soviet state and social system.'

Predictably the charge bore no relation to the real offence—leading a strike. As for the



The Arsenalnaya special hospital in Leningrad; Borissov was held here

slandorous fabrications, the court is not permitted to inquire into the truth of any defendant's remarks. Just making remarks is enough.

The strike took place last May, before the events in Poland when workers took to the streets over price rises and forced the government to backtrack.

Information sent out by the Moscow oppositionists, who are now urging solidarity with the Riga dockers, indicates that food was once again the cause of the discontent.

In the Spring, all meat dishes were apparently withdrawn from public canteens and restaurants. Instead of meat, a whole number of 'fish days' were declared. In some weeks, there were as many as six fish days.

This triggered industrial action in Riga. Dockers and other workers struck.

Their action may well have been prompted by first-hand

knowledge gained while loading or unloading meat that the party officials, factory bosses and other members of what workers call 'The Red Bourgeoisie' were getting meat aplenty while ordinary people were going without.

The Riga Four are now being held in a prison camp in Latvia. And while they are locked away, their families will be left to fend for themselves.

Sergei Frolov has two children, aged three and five. Janis Varna also has two, aged two and four. Mikhail Lartchenkov has one 13-year-old. And Andres Goldberg has three children aged 8, 12 and 15.

## KGB

Even when they are finally reunited with their families, their problems will not be at an end. All

will be marked men, finding it very difficult to get work.

In recent weeks, the KGB have also been paying renewed attention to another important working class dissident. He is a Leningrad electrician called Vladimir Borissov. Aged 35, Borissov is one of the most indomitable oppositionists in Russia.

His close friend and comrade Victor Fainberg, who now lives in London, told Socialist Worker last week that Borissov passionately believes that only working class opposition can bring fundamental change to the system.

Borissov's beliefs and his insistence on translating them into practical action have so far cost him a total of nine years' detention in psychiatric prisons and KGB preferred hospitals.

Indeed Borissov was only freed from his latest detention in a

psychiatric hospital on 5 March this year, after a three month stretch.

On Sunday 20 March, however, he was again lifted by the KGB and taken to the militia station next door to the Leningrad number 3 hospital where he has been incarcerated before.

But, says Victor Fainberg who has himself been interned there with Borissov: 'They were afraid to keep him for fear of the international protest. So after 24 hours he was set free again.'

## Organise

Since he was a young man, Borissov has, according to Victor Fainberg, always dreamed of helping to organise a working class opposition. When he was 18 and working as a docker in one of the USSR's Far Eastern ports, he helped to organise a strike.

After that, he went into the navy for a while. Then, as a worker in Leningrad, he was actively involved in organising with some other youngsters an opposition circle. For this crime he was soon incarcerated.

Inside he met and was influenced by the heroic old dissident General Grigorenko, jailed for defending the rights of the oppressed Tchechen and Tatar peoples.

Borissov came out a socialist and neo marxist, though not a Leninist.

He became an electrical worker in the Kalinin Experimental Toolmaking Shop in Leningrad. And it was on this large factory that Borissov oriented much of his political activities, arguing with

## LAURIE FLYNN ON VLADIMIR BORISSOV AND THE DISSIDENTS THE BRITISH PRESS PREFERS TO IGNORE

□ DIRECT your protests about the jailing of the Riga Four to the Russian Ambassador in London, 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

It is also worth sending a letter or telegram of protest from your shop stewards committee or union branch to the boss of the puppet Russian unions, A Shibayev.

His address is:  
SSSR g MOCKBA  
Leninski Prospekt 42  
All Union Central Council  
for Trade Unions  
Chairman, Mr A Shibayev.

his workmates, circulating Samizdat publications and doubtless organising in some form or another when this was possible.

Borissov became a target of the KGB once again last autumn during their frantic search for the secret wallpainters of Leningrad.

These people conducted their oppositional activity by painting slogans demanding freedom for political prisoners on prominent public places in the city.

Their triumph came last summer when they painted: 'You stifle freedom, but the soul of the people knows no bondage', in letters three foot high on the wall of the Peter and Paul Fortress in Leningrad, now a museum, but formerly the top Czarist torture centre and political prison.

## Protest

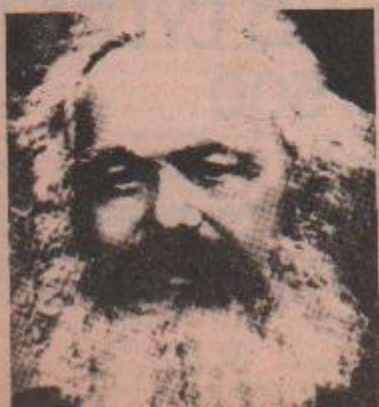
On 19 March the KGB got two men, Oleg Volkov and Yuli Rybakov, jailed for seven years and six years respectively for the wall painting protest. They had initially suspected Borissov.

They raided his flat and found Samizdat publishing materials. They do not feel strong enough at the moment to keep him locked away. But continued protest will keep him free and lead to the release of the Riga Four.

In France, the various trade union confederations have protested strongly over the treatment of Borissov, thus probably securing his release.

Groups of rank and file trade unionists in Britain could possibly do the same for the Riga Four.

## MARXISM 77



JULY 1 - 8

## Seven days of revolutionary ideas and discussion at the Polytechnic of North London

Six main courses on: Revolutions of the 20th century, Literature and Revolution, The Marxist Method, Women's Liberation and the struggle for socialism, Capitalism and crisis, Labour History.

Plus guest speakers, debates, films, music, free creche, accomodation. Registration fee: £5. Send to Marxism 77, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Organised by National Organisation of International Socialist Societies. NOT ONLY FOR STUDENTS

# Rank and file organisation

**Huddersfield: White-collar engineers at Hopkins have won their five-month fight for the reinstatement of six colleagues sacked during a dispute over wages.**

This struggle was vital to preserve effective TASS organisation at Hopkins. It has proved nationally that the organised membership of TASS can and will defend its elected representatives against victimisation.

Tribute was paid to the many workers who helped achieve the victory:

□ To the hundreds of trade unionists who sent financial help, many on a

## Hundreds helped us win

regular basis.

□ To the many workers in factories throughout the country, especially in the AUEW, who blacked products going to or from Hopkins.

□ To drivers who refused to deliver supplies across the picket line, often contrary to their own union advice.

### Crucial

One driver, General and Municipal Workers Union member Mick Copple, from Air Products, played a crucial part.

Mick had already refus-

ed a few weeks earlier, to deliver CO<sub>2</sub> across the picket lines at the Windscale nuclear power station. At Hopkins he refused to take vital oxygen through the gates.

Shopfloor workers at Hopkins, especially AUEW Engineering Section workers, faced layoffs for refusing to handle blacked work. By their stand they have begun to break down the traditional barriers between 'white collar' and 'blue collar' workers.

The lessons, the confidence and the rank and file organisation which the TASS struggle has given to those involved now need to be spread right across the factory, to involve members of all the other unions represented on the Hopkinson shop floor. This is the most important task ahead.

## wins!

**THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM THESE VICTORIES**

**GLASGOW: A total victory for trade union organisation — that's the outcome of the magnificent seven-week strike by 380 workers at the Anderson Strathclyde engineering works in Bridgeton.**

The strike was provoked by management when they tried to insist on increasing productivity without any discussion with the shop stewards. The workforce saw the issue for what it was—a direct attack on the unions' right to negotiate conditions—and the decision to strike was immediate

## Andersons combine was the clincher

and unanimous.

That determination to fight the attack was vindicated at the jubilant mass meeting last Thursday when convenor Kenny Gormal gave details of the victory.

### Abandon

'The management have surrendered—we have an offer in writing which makes it clear that they have abandoned any talk of productivity until they are prepared to talk CASH.

'Secondly, they will not attempt to introduce the new welding techniques. Instead they agreed to create a vacancy for a new welder.

'Thirdly they have backed down on the issue of flexibility in the maintenance section.

### Clincher

'We've won not just because of our own strength, but because of the willingness of the workers at the four other Scottish factories to strike in solidarity with us. The threat of strike action throughout the combine was the clincher.

'The strike committee is recommending that we march back into that factory as a united work force—and show them the kind of solid organisation that they will have to contend with in the future.

'Today we have delegates from all the other Scottish factories at our meeting—and that is the most gratifying thing about what has been a hard, bitter strike. Out of it we have built the basis of a strong combine committee that will meet regularly and link us all together.

'I would like to thank you all—it's your victory—I'm proud to be your convenor.'

The strike was a model of workers self-organisation. The willingness of the stewards committee to inform and involve the membership at all times was crucial in building the confidence and determination that carried the strike on to victory.

### Howled

The open strike committee, at times 80 strong, met every week and reported to a mass meeting every week—so decisions were always taken by the mass of the strikers, and the conduct of the strike was always in the hands of the rank and file.

It meant that when the full time officials tried to force a premature return to work two weeks ago they were howled down by the strikers.

The enthusiasm for picketing and for being part of the many delegations to other factories increased throughout the seven weeks.

The lesson from this strike for other groups of workers facing the employers' offensive, is simply this: Rely on your own self-organisation—and don't be afraid to argue for support from other workers.

The Anderson Strathclyde workers would like to take the opportunity of thanking all the people who supported them in their fight, including Socialist Worker.

## Official pressure forces Nigg site back

by LORNE ANTON

**NIGG BAY: The strike by 2000 men at the Nigg oil rig construction site has been broken. The men have been on strike for four weeks against a 75 per cent cut in their negotiated 'time saved' bonus.**

Militants on the site believe that effective trade union organisation has been broken. The events follow closely the sell-outs at the RDL Methil site where 1200 men are to be made redundant in May.

### Savage

They also believe that the strike was provoked intentionally to get the men out and put through a savage productivity agreement calling for a 40 per cent increase in productivity with the resultant loss of jobs and safe working conditions.

It is expected that 600 to 800 travelling and local men will lose their jobs permanently in the near future.

Pressure has been brought on the shop stewards and men from every quarter. Dickson Mabon, Labour's Energy Minister, put pressure on

Scottish TUC secretary James Milne to visit the site.

The shop stewards were twice taken to negotiations away from the site—in fact that whole shop stewards committee were called to London to be told by union officials to return to work.

Twice the shop stewards committee recommended a return to work—twice this was rejected.

The night before the mass meeting last Thursday, Tommy Lafferty, CEU official and ex-convenor of the yard, said on TV that if there was not a return to work the yard would close.

At the mass meeting, the general secretary of the CEU, John Baldwin, told the men they had no alternative but to go back to work. Also on the platform were Laurie Smith, national organiser of the AUEW, and other officials.

Baldwin had to be escorted from the site by police after a large section of the mass meeting surrounded and threatened him.

The meeting voted by a narrow majority to return to work. The following morning 40 police were at the gates to make sure pickets did not prevent the return to work.

## Wage cuts? NO!

**ABERDEEN** Wage cuts of up to £14 a week on tradesmen's basic rates are written into the new wages structure that Wiggins Teape are trying to push in their Dyce stationery factory.

In a letter sent behind the backs of the union negotiators to all the workers, management also proposes scrapping the sickness scheme and all previous local agreements on pay and conditions.

Members of the print union SOGAT, of the engineering workers and electricians' unions have rejected the company's ultimatum they voted to strike from 19 April—the date the company had set for sacking all those who had not accepted the proposals.

### Insult

Faced with the strike threat, the company has put back the deadline until 2 May.

Dave Merson, SOGAT, father of the chapel (shop steward), told Socialist Worker: 'It is vital that we fight this. If management get away with scrapping all previous agreements what is

this factory going to be like to work in next year?'

'Our members have to realise that management are deliberately trying to divide the workforce in order to push through the kind of agreement they want. We stand to lose all the working conditions we have won over the years at the stroke of a pen.'

## TATE AND LYLE TO SACK 1500

TATE AND LYLE have announced plans to put 1500 workers on the dole in their sugar refining plants. Hardest hit will be the Love Lane factory in Liverpool, where 650 jobs are at stake.

The workers at Love Lane have voted overwhelmingly to oppose every redundancy. Most are women who already carry the burden of being the only family breadwinner in an area where unemployment is rife.

Tate and Lyle made £52

million profit last year. The workers are adamant that a company which makes so much profit has an absolute obligation to provide jobs.

An action committee has been in existence for more than two years, but has done little more than talk to MPs. All eight unions in the plant are represented on the committee.

The Action Committee must now take up the mood of the workers and lead the fight against all the redundancies.

## School walk-out over cuts

**BRISTOL: 400 pupils walked out of Hartcliffe School in support of their teachers, who have been on dinner duties strike all this week in protest at the cuts.**

The pupils are threatening further action if their petition is ignored by Avon Education Committee.

Within one hour of a petition being circulated the pupils had gathered 1300 signatures, and this did not include approximately 200 pupils who had remained on strike.

A delegation of Right to Work Campaign members and NOISS members from Bristol University went to visit the pupils and offer support. They were invited to speak to the conference of pupil delegates.

Ron Baker, head of the Sixth Form Council, led a large delegation of pupils to the county headquarters where they handed in their petition. Arrangements have been made to strengthen links between the school pupils and local students, with a view to joint action against the cuts.

## TASS strike for steward

**WALTHAMSTOW: At Hammond and Champness all 40 members of the white-collar engineers' union (TASS-AUEW) have come out on strike to support their shop steward, Richard Thompson.**

Management say there is no longer enough work for him as work study manager. But they are willing to give him a job as work study engineer—if he'll accept a £700-a-year cut in wages.

Thompson is president of TASS North East London branch and chairman of the office committee. The TASS members are picketing the gates to stop deliveries.

## Strike over pay at GEC-Elliott

by JAN REBURE, chairperson AUEW (TASS), GEC-Elliott, Lewisham

**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** A management attempt to break grading agreements has sparked a strike at GEC-Elliott Process Instruments, 34 members of TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineering Union, struck after three workers were suspended without pay for refusing to cooperate with a man employed in the Test Department in contravention of grading agreements.

Test engineers at the plant are so poorly paid that the company can't get new workers. So

they're trying to introduce higher grades without upgrading existing workers.

The indefinite strike in key areas is supported by the 150 other TASS members and the Engineering and Electricians Unions. GEC are never beaten easily, so we'll need all the support we can get.

□ Donations and messages of support to: J Rebure, 1 Wilshaw House, Crossfield Estate, London, SE8.

Easter, can hold out, there's a real possibility we can step up the fees campaign next term.

Student occupations against fee increases at North East London and North London Polytechnics are going on over Easter, despite threats to bring legal injunctions.

### Reinstate

A mass general meeting at NELP voted to continue occupation by 468 to 403. They also voted to occupy another site next term as part of their campaign to reinstate sacked president Andy Strouthous.

□ If students could send any of these college messages of support, or arrange support over the holiday it'd be useful. Phone Lyndsey German, 01-739 1878 for details.

## Work-to-rule 'suspended'

**POST OFFICE** Computer Centres were shaken by an unprecedented wave of anger last week when union leaders 'suspended' their work-to-rule.

The indignity which sparked off protest walk-outs at Derby and Portsmouth, was that union reps received CPSA instructions by Telex messages sent to centre managers.

Group secretary Peter Thomason was unanimously censured by delegates from all 12 centres for 'adding insult to injury.' One delegate bitterly commented: 'They call a vote to start action, but not to call it off. What a farce!'

## Site stopped

**LONDON: Building workers** at Cubitt's Shelgrove site voted unanimously to strike last Friday after a man was sacked for 'gross misconduct.'

No specific reasons were given for the sacking. The men feel he's being victimised because they've just won £12 a week severance pay and transfer when the site finishes.

The continual harassment of the lads isn't really surprising. One of the site managers is a member of the National Front.



The picket line at ICL Dukinfield in Lancashire, where 37 Electricians Union members are locked out after refusing to work with a flexibility agreement signed by the Engineering Union leadership in the factory.

□ Donations and support to L Birchenhall, 9 Herle Drive, Wythenshawe.

## Occupations go on

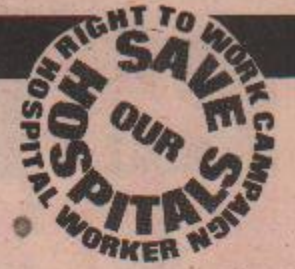
**OCCUPATIONS** in several colleges against increased fees and education cuts are continuing over the Easter break.

The Jubilee Street site of City and East London College has been occupied for two weeks now, with never more than five students against. After the initial shock, teachers held an emergency meeting and voted to support the occupation in principle. There has also been support from local people.

The month-old occupation at Birmingham Polytechnic was voted in at a general meeting with just one vote against. Many of the sites of this multi-sited poly have had token occupations in an attempt to build active student support for the campaign.

David Owens told Socialist Worker: 'If we, and the other colleges occupying over

## THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CUTS



# Work-in starts at second hospital



**WEST LONDON:** Hospital and industrial workers were out on the streets on Saturday drumming up support for the work-in at Hounslow Hospital.

The work-in, only the second in the history of the National Health Service, came after weeks of planning and careful preparation by the hospital unions, the TUC council of action and Hounslow

Hospital Defence Committee.

The hospital is one of three in the district scheduled for closure or change of use, as part of a 'package of economies' which the health authority are trying to push through.

The three hospitals are crucial not only because of the basic health services they provide for the community but because they act as a vital overflow for the hard-pushed West Middlesex.

Patients have to lie on trolleys for hours at West Middlesex while the doctors search for a bed.

The 85 workers at Hounslow have been receiving messages of support from all over. After they had

voted for the work-in, mass meetings of all staff were held in the other district general hospitals, where the workers pledged their support.

The ambulance service has already passed a resolution banning the transfer of any patient from the threatened hospital union. Backing has also come from many of the industrial workplaces around West London, including Heathrow Airport and Trico.

## Promises

Consultants in West Middlesex Hospital have promised to continue to refer patients to Hounslow for post-operative treatment.

The only pessimistic notes sounded have come from a couple of the union full-timers, Giles Duncan of

NUPE and McCall of GMWU. Both went out of their way to stress the differences between the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital work-in and that at Hounslow.

Moves to enlist the support of the building workers to prevent any of the structural work for the proposed change or the dismantling of machinery are also under way. It is also planned to mount a 24-hour picket on the hospital.

## picket 'tree'

Chris Parker, secretary of the Hounslow Joint Shop Stewards Committee, said: 'The round-the-clock picket and the picket 'tree' are really important if we're going to stop the transfer of patients or prevent any of the equipment being moved.'

Money for the defence committee is badly needed to pay for badges, stickers, posters and leaflets etc. All financial donations and messages of support to: Hounslow Hospital Defence Committee, Stained Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

## Canteen saved!

MANCHESTER: Nurses and ancillary workers at North Manchester General Hospital, supported by sections of the works department and technical staff, have won a fight to save canteen facilities. A half-day official stoppage, and management agreed to all the demands.

## NUPE: Berkshire stops . . .

by NOEL FAGAN, NUPE shop steward

BERKSHIRE was hit by a county-wide strike of Public Employees' Union members of Friday, a massive protest at the cuts in public spending.

More than half the schools were closed as school caretakers and kitchen workers struck. The teacher's unions refused to cross the picket line.

All road works came to a halt because of striking council workers, and ambulance drivers were dealing with emergencies only.

Hospitals in Slough and Bracknell were hit by strikes of nurses and ancillary workers.

At Borocourt Hospital in Reading, nurses struck to show their anger at the dangerously low staffing levels on wards. Ancillary workers held emergency meetings throughout the day and effectively no work was done by NUPE members.

The picket line stopped deliveries to the hospital and action was supported by bus drivers, TGWU members, who refused to take the strike-breakers up the hospital's half-mile drive.

Hospital shop stewards from all over Berkshire have called for a lobby of the NUPE conference to push for national action against the cuts and the Social Contract.

PICTURES from inside Hounslow Hospital as the work-in starts. The workers are determined patients will not suffer—now, or in the future because of hospital closures. Pictures by Phil McCowen



## Hospital ban to stop deportations

ESSEX: Nurses and ancillary workers at Warley Hospital, Brentwood, have taken steps against official racialism within the NHS, which means that the student nurses on finishing their training are sacked and then sent back because they no longer have jobs.

Two male nurses from

Mauritius were due to be sacked and then deported in a few weeks time, but at a general meeting last Thursday there was an overwhelming majority vote of the 70 members attending for a total ban on overtime and a work-to-rule until these two are offered jobs.

There was applause when

Maggie Blake, nurses' shop steward, said that there was an attempt by many people in authority to blame the economic crisis on the blacks, similar to the situation in Germany in the 1930s when Jews were made the scapegoats. While overtime was being worked there were obviously jobs available.

## EPSOM VICTORY

SURREY: 'We've won this fight, but the battle's still on.' That was the message from Transport Union members at five Epsom hospitals after their strike last week.

The 100 ancillary workers went on strike in support of their colleagues at the Manor Hospital, who had been sacked for refusing to work unacceptable rotas.

Despite a barrage of abuse from the national press and attempts to get local Tories to do their work, the strikers forced management to negotiate the rotas through ACAS, the government arbitration service. The workers have been reinstated but are suspended on full pay for a week while their new rotas are agreed.

The senior shop steward at Epsom District Hospital, Trevor Walker, told a mass meeting on Monday: 'Management told union officials that they intended to take on the TGWU and smash us so that they would have a clear road for introducing cuts.'

## Rats at Ormond Street

LONDON: Management at the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital this week tried to take on the Public Employees Union (NUPE) this week—and failed.

They suspended three porters who refused to work in a rat-infested cellar, without going through the negotiated procedure.

After a 24-hour strike by NUPE members at the hospital and the nearby Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and an eight-hour meeting through ACAS, the government arbitration service, the three were reinstated.

The cellar is now locked up pending a visit from NUPE general secretary Alan Fisher and management representatives.

Some of the hospital workers suspect the management were trying to weaken the union so that they could introduce cuts.



## ..what happened in the North?

by STAN KUKALOWICZ, NUPE branch secretary

NORTH WEST: 90,000 members of the Public Employees Union in the North West could be forgiven for not noticing the Day of Action against the Cuts and Unemployment in our division.

It took place last Saturday in Warrington, in the form of a consultation meeting between all NUPE shop stewards in the North West and NUPE general secretary Alan Fisher. Fisher, who

gave his normal stage performance of clenched fist and 'Tribunite' rhetoric—support the Social Contract, don't strike against the cuts, and so on.

Speaker after speaker from the floor got up to attack the Social Contract, and a resolution was moved for a real day of action on 19 April.

The chairman insisted on 'Questions Only'. Fisher declared that it would be 'undemocratic' for stewards

representing 90,000 members to take a decision and that only the divisional council could call days of action. It's next meeting is in July.

After more demands from the floor for a vote, the meeting was suddenly closed on the pretext that Fisher had to attend a press conference. He was not amused when it was suggested he was going to Aintree to ride Red Rum.

## Mass picket for journalists

KETTERING: The TUC Printing Industries Committee will discuss the 18-week journalists' dispute at Kettering this week. Locked-out NUJ members have been asking for the meeting for more than six weeks so that other print unions

make clear they will not see the NUJ broken.

Meetings of East Midlands Allied Press NUJ chapels will be asked to support their 60 colleagues at Kettering—a mass picket is planned for Friday 15 April. Join the picket at

1pm outside the Evening Telegraph, Northfields Avenue.

Messages of support and money to Lock-out Committee, c/o NAAAW Offices, Cattlemarket, Kettering (phone 516145).

## SCHWEPPES FIZZI!

LONDON: 90 engineering workers on official strike at Schweppes in Sidcup have won after nine weeks. The men struck when three night-shift fitters were suspended for refusing to work blacked machines.

The men were locked out but last week management caved in. The three men were reinstated and the strikers paid compensation.

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PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY



OUT OF CONTROL—the newspapers' concern for the truth about workers' disputes

# THE PAPERS LIE

## Heathrow: It's not a strike —the bosses sent them home

**THE PRESS** launched into vicious attacks on the British Airways maintenance engineers on Monday.

They denounced them for 'causing chaos' to thousands of holiday makers.

What they did not mention was what the dispute, which has affected every British Airways base except Manchester, is about.

In their hurry to malign the workers, the papers talked about a 'strike'. Yet the industrial action taken by the workers has not been a strike. It has been a refusal to work shifts.

The workers all turned up to work at 8am on Monday, the normal time for the regular day shift.

Had British Airways been prepared to let the men work at that time, most of the holiday flights could have gone ahead. But management refused, sending the shift workers home.

The engineers were *not* on strike—they were deliberately locked out by management in an attempt to raise the stakes in the dispute. And to force the

men to cave in.

Yet not one national newspaper had the headline 'British Airways bosses cause holiday chaos.'

The men's claim is simple enough:

□ The shift workers are demanding the same shift premiums as paid in general engineering industry. At present they get less than half—up to £10 a week less, in fact.

The claim should be allowable under Schedule II of the Protection of Employ-

ment Act. It was put in months ago. But management have refused to concede it.

So the workers are refusing to work shifts for less than normal shift pay rates.

### DEMAND

□ The men insist that negotiations should be through their own shop stewards, not in the hands of remote national trade union officials. This demand was passed by the Engineering Union's National Committee

and is supposed to be official union policy.

Yet the dispute is unofficial and the AUEW's right-wing national organiser Hepple tried to organise a mass meeting at Heathrow last Friday, behind the backs of the elected stewards, to get the action called off.

When the stewards refused to call a meeting, he sought the help of management, who announced over the public address system that there would be a mass meeting, with pay, for all AUEW members.

But only few hundred workers turned up and Hepple was shouted down.

No wonder Hepple was heckled when he turned up to a stewards' meeting on Monday. Out of 250 stewards present, only seven voted for his demand to call off the action.

### ATTACK

The Daily Express dared claim on Monday that 'only one in ten of the engineering

workers' took the strike decision. They were referring, totally dishonestly, to the vote taken at the unrepresentative meeting called by Hepple and the union.

The press attack on the airport workers is as dishonest as the attacks on the hospital workers in Epsom last week. It is a barrage of lies, designed to intimidate anyone who fights against low wages or bad working conditions.

Alas, not only the bosses' press gives a false idea of this dispute



Jets grounded at Heathrow—they could have taken off if the engineers had been allowed to work

UNFORTUNATELY not only the right-wing papers have misrepresented the British Airways engineers. On Monday, an article in the Morning Star claimed that 'their action is not receiving the support of the British Airways Overseas joint shop stewards' committee'.

The article gave the impression that the action is somehow a sectional strike, opposed to the interests of other workers at the airports. But this is not true.

The engineering stewards have given the lead. They have put in a claim that is in the interest of shift workers in other unions.

The transport workers on the airport, for instance, could put in a claim like the engineers' within 24 hours. One decision of Monday's engineering stewards' meetings was to encourage other unions to put in such claims. And they should all be allowable under Schedule II of the Protection of Employment Act.

In the past divisions between the shift workers and those who work normal hours have prevented unity in the wages struggle. If the engineering workers' action is successful, both sets of workers will share an interest in pushing up the daytime hourly rate.

It should be possible to push a claim for the end of Phase Two that would bring all workers on the airport together as never before.

That is why the attitude of those who refuse to back the airport engineering workers is so unfortunate.

## Port Talbot: Our action will benefit ALL workers

'WE ARE fighting the Social Contract,' Wyn Bevan, convenor of the electricians on strike at Margam Steelworks, Port Talbot, in South Wales, told Sunday's Conference Against the Social Contract.

The British Steel Corporation suspended five men who refused to work on blacked machinery, provoking a strike by 500 electricians.

Wyn Bevan is clear about the issues involved. 'Ours is not a craft, elitist strike. Our gains will be gains for other workers, craft, ancillary, production, administration, all will gain,' he said.

### Disowned

For two years the electricians have been negotiating for more money and regrading because of an increased work load and new machinery. 'The work we do, with new plant and machinery coming in, needs recognition,' Wyn Bevan told the conference. 'But our executive says this

would be against the Social Contract. Our own union has disowned us.

'We are staying out without strike pay and without any social security benefit. But at our last mass meeting no one called for a return to work.'

'Instead we passed an overwhelming vote of no confidence in our executive member, Bernard Clarke.'

The press are 'already attacking the Port Talbot steelworkers. Wyn Bevan told the conference: 'The very same pressures that the toolroom workers faced will be put on us. They will try and treat us in the same way.'

'We are fighting the British Steel Corporation, our own union and the Social Contract. Against the odds we are



EETPU convenor Wyn Bevan

staying out. Ours is a just cause, just like the Leyland toolroom workers. We need the moral and financial support of everyone to keep our fight going.'

□ Donations and messages of support to Bill Curtis, secretary shop stewards committee, 27 Hawthorne Avenue, Baglan, Port Talbot, South Wales.

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