

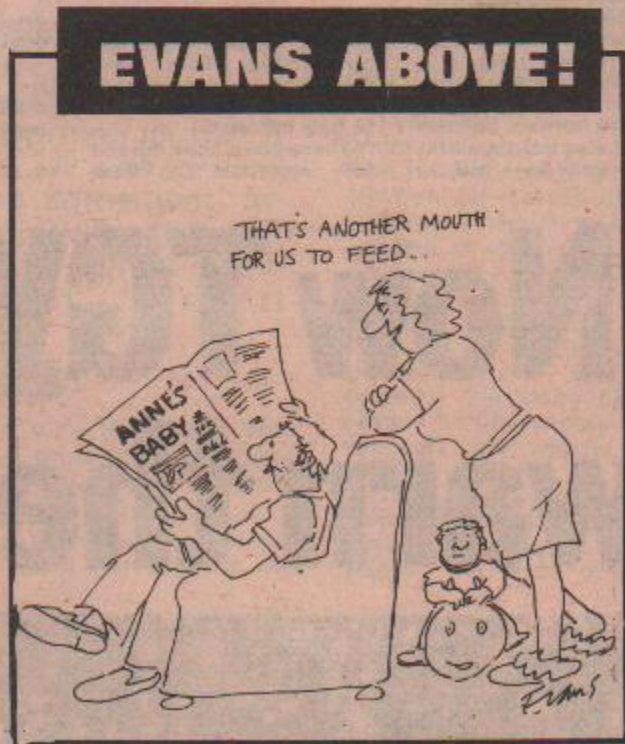
Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

Join the mass picket of the Old Bailey at 9.30am, when Right to Work marcher John Deason is on trial. John Deason is the last to be tried of the 43 marchers arrested when the police attacked last Spring's Right to Work march.

**FIGHT FOR RIGHT TO WORK
NO MORE JAILINGS
DEFEND JOHN DEASON
MAY 4**

YES, LET'S BURY THE CONTRACT!



This is what it has done to the old...



Answer: three times as many as died ten years ago.....

FIGURES out this week prove that 'incomes restraint' has dealt a devastating blow to the old and the poor.

The figures, released by the Royal College of Physicians, show that one in 25 of all old people admitted to hospital are now suffering from hypothermia, from low body temperature because of lack of food or warmth.

This figure is three times higher than when the College surveyed the same hospitals ten years ago.

In seven of those last ten years, there have been incomes policies.

Each has been 'justified' on the basis of helping the poor and the old.

But while the rich got richer, the poor and the old got poorer still, living and dying in even more tragic circumstances than before.

The Labour government's response is to put up food, electricity and paraffin prices still further.

Warmth

They are ensuring that still more old people die from lack of food and warmth.

Jack Jones, architect of the Social Contract, used the plight of the pensioners to sell his beloved contract in 1974. And now that the contract is collapsing he's hoping to use them, again as the price of what he calls 'moderation', an 'orderly' return to free collective bargaining.

By which he means more tiny wage rises at a time when prices are rocketing.

'Moderation' never has done the poor or the old any good. And it never will.

The poor and the old will only stay alive and warm if the trade union movement uses its industrial muscle to force big wage and income rises all round—for workers, for the unemployed, for the old and the poor.

WE'VE had enough. We don't want the Con Trick any more.

That has been the cry from countless trade union bodies this week.

Even some of the trade union leaders who designed the wage controls two years ago are now trying to get in on the act.

Yet most of them are quickly adding that they want 'responsibility' and 'moderation'. They warn of the dangers of a 'free for all'.

What are they worried about? Surely a 'free-for-all' is better than what we've had for the last two years—a free-for-some.

A free hand for the profiteers—company profits rose by more than 30 per cent last year, three times as fast as wages.

A free hand for the shareholders—dividend payments for companies reporting in February were 34.2 per cent higher than a year ago.

A free hand for the speculators—with fortunes made by individuals and companies who have taken advantage of the shortages of coffee, tea, potatoes, green vegetables.

A free hand for the price rise merchants—with any talk of real controls denounced as nonsense by £15000-a-year Prices Minister Hattersley.

All those against the Social Contract please show: more and more trade unionists are becoming sick and tired of it



Silence

The only people who have not had a free hand have been the wage earners, the housewives, the old people.

We've been expected to suffer in silence for 'the good of the country'.

And, despite what un-

ion leaders like Scanlon and Jenkins say, it is not only those with 'special skills' who have suffered.

Every worker in Britain is about 17 per cent worse off now than in 1972. By the summer we will be 20 per cent, a fifth, worse off.

What is needed is not flexibility for some of us. It's an end to wage controls for any of us.

If particular sections of

workers are the first to realise they need a rise and strike to get it, the best of luck to them.

Blacklegs

We have to support them, not sign blacklegs charters as Scanlon did during the Leyland toolroom strike, or as Jones' and Jenkins' unions have done during the

Heathrow strike. We all need a rise. At least £15 across the board. Let's put in for these sort of claims now.

And let's pledge unity to any group of workers, skilled or unskilled, strong or weak, prepared to fight for more money.

Then we can surely bury the Con Trick.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT-LINE

HEATHROW: Turn to Page Two

PORT TALBOT: Turn to Page Five



THE WITCH HUNT

THE REPLY

Far Left is blocking peace, says airline

By Derek Humphrey

A FLEETING sun emerged yesterday over a scenario that far left revisionaries of the International Socialist Movement were attempting the Heathrow maintenance workers' dispute over shift-patterns.

THE Sunday Times 'story' (above) took British Airways witch-hunting bullshit into a million homes. The Observer also led on the story. The Sunday Express, Telegraph and the News of the World had it on their front pages and television news took it in another 20 million homes on Sunday night. But by Monday British Airways bosses had been forced to turn tail once again and were putting it on record that they believed the Heathrow battle 'was the result of genuine grievances.'

THE Heathrow Airport Socialist Workers Party branch issued the following press statement on Monday in reply to the British Airways management witch-hunt against socialists.

Last week British Airways management tried to persuade non-engineering workers to scab on the engineers. They failed miserably. This week they have started a witch-hunt against a number of socialist shop stewards. This will also fail to break the streak.

The British Airways management are now reduced to using the tactics of the gutter. The Socialist Workers Party branch at Heathrow stands four square with the engineers and wherever possible will be in the vanguard of their struggle to assure a speedy and complete victory. After all, in a period of intense attacks on working-

class living standards the demands of the engineers are extraordinarily modest. Perhaps for the benefit of the press they need to be spelled out again.

- 1 Direct negotiating rights for shop stewards so that their members' demands can be dealt with properly.
- 2 Increased shift allowances to be brought into line with the average in the West London area.

Deader

If incidentally these points are deemed by the powers-that-be to be breaking the so-called Social Contract, then the 'contract' is deadlier than even we thought it was. However there is a further point that is clearly terrifying the British Airways management. During this dispute the shop stewards have had the

WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO RUSSIA!



final say on any recommendation to be put before the membership. They have debated and argued for many hours so that the members can be fully informed. The members know this and fully appreciate this fresh

development of working class democracy. It angers the management, and indeed the full-time officials, that they no longer can manipulate the needs and wishes of the rank and file workers.

Perhaps British Airways management know that it is precisely this kind of workers' democracy that the Socialist Workers Party believes in for fights for. If so then we are proud to be identified in this way.

Heathrow: Now TGWU members warn the bosses

THE Transport and General Workers Union members at London's Heathrow Airport warned on Monday they would shut down the airport immediately if management tried any lay-offs as a result of the engineers' dispute.

The decision was carried unanimously by a mass meeting of several thousand.

It was the first time in living memory the TGWU had tried to call all its members at the airport together. The full-time officials used the meeting to attack the Engineering Union (AUEW) for withdrawing from the bureaucratic National Joint Council negotiating machinery, to launch their own shift pay claim.

Causing chaos

But the best speech came from Phil Gibbons, chairman of the trade union side of the British Airport Authority. He told the audience that the Social Contract was responsible for forcing the engineers to fight for their shift claim.

'The employers shut the European side of the operation long before they needed in order to cause maximum chaos, to break up our solidarity,' he said.

The man responsible for this is Sir Frank McFadzean, chairman of British Airways. When McFadzean came to British Airways he was the second highest-paid director in the country, earning £81,000 at Shell.

Later that evening, AUEW shop steward Ian Morris was asked at a Socialist Worker public meeting why the TGWU officials were hostile to the AUEW. He replied:

JOHN ROSE

'The panel machinery is a big soggy mess.

The working-class movement progresses by a section advancing and other sections taking heart. But the TGWU bureaucrats, particularly in the Overseas Division, are trying to stop this happening—because the panel machinery is threatened and



TGWU members vote to refuse all lay-offs at Heathrow on Monday.

their power will be taken away.

Afterwards Ian spelt this out in more detail. 'If the TGWU rank and file were properly informed then not only would they be supporting us, they'd be putting in their own shift claim. The IGWU engineers also have shift allowances below the West London average.

'But the TGWU leadership doesn't want such a claim.

They want to protect the panel machinery because they enjoy the petty privileges it gives them.

'In the European division the TGWU stewards have followed our lead, withdrawn from the panel machinery and are demanding direct negotiating rights—notice direct, not separate, negotiating rights.

'One reason for the 'red scare' over the weekend is

management's attempt to block this development. They know that as more and more unions withdraw from their beloved panel, they will no longer be able to jam up the unions' demands in a bureaucratic mangle.

'The last thing they want are the shop stewards in the different unions organising meetings to formulate policy the way the AUEW is now doing.'

WE SUPPORT THE ENGINEERS!

ALAN WATTS, (AUEW), convener of the toolroom at MK Electric, Edmonton, North London, addressed the Heathrow mass meeting last Thursday. His speech got massive applause.

He said: 'I came here in response to your call for solidarity. Yesterday our senior shop stewards committee sent the following motion to your stewards and to our district committee for executive council after we read your bulletin.

'This MK Electric Joint shop stewards committee is appalled at the handling of the Heathrow Airport dispute and demands that the AUEW executive make the strike official immediately.

'You have not succumbed to the pressure that forced the Leyland toolmakers back to work. But let's be clear that the executive threatened to sack those men. Leyland management could never have done it.

'We suffer from a union leadership which is out of touch with the shop floor—which is why you have to

build a rank and file organisation to respond to the trade union officials' mishandling!

WE, the undersigned trade union representatives, call on all trade unionists to give their full support to the Heathrow engineers.

Despite being snubbed by their own union and subjected to a hysterical press campaign, the men, in their fight for higher pay, are challenging the grip of the Social Contract on all workers' wages.

Supporting the Heathrow engineers by messages of support and money collections is one of the best ways we can ensure that there is no third phase of this Social Contract.

- Clive Hartley, works convener, Balfour Darwin Fitzwilliam Works, Sheffield.
- Ken Whitmore, TGWU shop steward.
- Alan Turner, AUEW shop steward.
- Les Frith, AUEW foundry section shop steward.
- Trevor Hancock, AUEW shop steward.
- Denis Hearnshaw, works convener, W and R Flanges, Sheffield.
- James Smith, works convener, Osborne Mushet.

The 100 British Airways engineers at Rhoose Airport, Cardiff, voted unanimously last Friday to stay on strike in support of the engineers at Heathrow. They had been out since the previous Wednesday lunchtime.

The engineers at British Airways' two factories in Treforest, where they overhaul British Airways engines, are also out in support.

Several local shop stewards committees, including Rovers and GKN, took large numbers of the Heathrow stewards' bulletins to distribute to their AUEW members.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORK

This 'well-oiled Nazi machine' must be stopped

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The National Front are planning to march through the streets of North London this Saturday (23 April). We believe we must keep their fascist violence off our streets.

This is what the National Front stand for:

- More Police harassment of Black people.
- The deportation of Black, Chinese and Irish workers, and eventually the same solution used by Nazis for the Jews.
- Lower hospitals and schools, even unemployment.
- The destruction of the trade union movement.

When were the National Front when the local

This letter from leading trade unionists in North London has been distributed throughout workplaces in the Tottenham, Edmonton and Enfield areas. Keeping the National Front off our streets is important, but fighting the fascist idea in the factories is number one priority.

workers marched through Tottenham and Edmonton against the closure of the Prince of Wales Hospital, Northwick to be seen. Now they want to march through these same streets to spread their violent and

disgusting ideas.

Their demonstration is organised by the same man, Martin Webster, who told a national newspaper: 'We (the NF) are building a well-oiled Nazi machine in Britain.'

WE HAVE BEEN WARNED.

Violence

We call on all trade unions and anti-fascists, and indeed all the people of North London, to take to the streets to keep this fascist violence off our streets. Support the demonstration against the racist—assembly of 1pm, on Saturday at Dartmouth Green, opposite Turnpike Lane tube.

Yours fraternally,
Peter Harris, secretary, Joint Shop Stewards Committee, Keith Blackman Ltd, Tottenham.

- Dave Fewes, convener, Phonodisc Edmonton.
- Ross Pritchard, father of the chapel, (NGA), Metal Box, Tottenham.
- Alan Watts, chairman joint sites committee, MK Electric, Edmonton.
- C J Paul, secretary, Tottenham Bus Garage, TGWU.
- Lino Fusco, secretary, National Union of Public Employees, Prince of Wales Hospital, Tottenham.
- N Flanagan, shop steward, Prince of Wales Hospital.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

THIS Saturday in North London there are two vital demonstrations to which the Socialist Workers Party is giving maximum support—in defence of the Islington 18 and against the National Front's march through Tottenham.

Both marches take place at or around the same time. Therefore it is essential that the following arrangements are followed.

- All members of North London and Inner East London SWP districts all Flame Groups and Flame supporters to assemble at Highbury and Islington tube (Victoria Line) at 12 noon sharp, to support the demonstration to Defend the Islington 18.
- All members of all other branches in London and the Home Counties to assemble at Turnpike Lane tube (Piccadilly Line) at 1pm sharp. You must be there on time. This is the anti-fascist demonstration called to oppose the National Front St George's Day March.

If they're so worried about 'confetti money', why don't they throw it our way?



DAVID MONTAGUE OF THE Orion Bank got a pay increase of a mere £169 a week last year, taking his total pay to £46,789



Anthony Tuke, chairman of Barclays Bank, is a strong supporter of the Social Contract. He got a rise of £145 a week—worth about 15 per cent of his £56,975 salary



NH CASTLE of S and W Berisford was not as fortunate. His rise was a mere £96 a week. No doubt he's been complaining about 'erosion of managerial incentives'



SIR JAMES HANSON, chairman of Hanson Trust, more than managed to best the pay policy, with a rise of 12½ per cent taking him up to £36,000 a year.

UP GOES THE PRICE OF TEA YET AGAIN

THE PRICE commission has given the major tea companies permission to raise the price of tea again.

The rise, of 6½p a quarter, will take the usual price up to 27p. Bread is also likely to

THESE FIVE DON'T SEEM TO FEAR IT TOO MUCH-OR

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT EITHER

THE ARCHITECT of the Social Contract was, of course, Sir Harold Wilson, Prime Minister until last year. It has just been revealed how a close friend of his, the head of the Peachey property company, Sir Eric Miller, made sacrifices during the pay policy.

He incurred no less than £177,671 in 'general expenses such as entertaining and travel'. According to his replacement as head of the company, Lord Mais, Sir Eric's personal expenditure had always been high.

Never mind. For his 'services' during the 'year for Britain', Wilson gave him a knighthood.

THE SCARE is on. Government Ministers and newspaper owners are warning us that if there is no Phase Three agreement, inflation will get worse and we will be in the era of 'confetti money'.

The way they talk, you would think that because money is declining in value we can do with less of it. That, of course, is nonsense. Prices have increased by 75

per cent in the last three years, and food prices by more.

If you want to keep ahead of prices, so that you can provide food, clothing, housing and the odd treat for yourself and your family, you need more money, 'confetti' or otherwise.

Of course, it is appalling that prices keep rising. But who is to blame for that?

For the last two years trade unionists have mistakenly accepted the claim of their elected-for-life leaders that if you hold back wages, prices will stop rising.

Prices have not stopped rising. At present they are increasing twice as fast as wages. The most optimistic

WHAT WE THINK

forecast by 'Prices Minister' Hattersley is that they will still be rising by 13 per cent a year next Christmas—even if workers agree to accept increases in take home pay worth less than that.

Indeed, any suggestion that direct action be taken by governments to stop price rises, through strict controls, always gets the same reply. We are told that the big business system will get into a still worse crisis unless prices are allowed to rise.

Next time you see such a claim look at it carefully. What does it really amount to?

That in order to function at all the big business, capitalist system has to create confetti money, regardless of what trade unionists do.

Modern capitalism is the confetti money system. No amount of sacrifices by wage earners can stop that.

What is really at stake for those Ministers, industrialists, press barons and union leaders who try to link wage rises and 'confetti money'?

They are worried about who gets the money. They want it to go into profits and managerial salaries (including their own) rather than into wages.

That is why you never hear them offering to give up any of their own 'confetti money'.

Don't cheer too soon

JACK JONES, general secretary of Britain's biggest union, the TGWU, has finally admitted, it seems, that Phase Three won't work. But don't cheer too soon.

Jones has also made it clear that he will continue to do his best—and he expects the leaders of other unions to do the same—to hold back the

fight for wages. He said that he thought the best thing would be to rely on trade union leaders to try to 'moderate' the claims of their members.

His own moderation was shown on Monday when he tried, unsuccessfully, to get his union's delegation to the Scottish TUC not to vote against the Social Contract.

Let's be clear what such

'moderation' means.

The fight against the Social Contract is not going to be a push-over. Leaders like Jones are only hesitating about another round of wage restraint because of pressure from strikes like those of the Leyland toolroom workers, the Heathrow engineers, the Port Talbot electricians.

Jones and his friends, like Scanlon of the Engineering Union, have tried to crush all of these strikes, spreading the lie that they are 'divisive'. If they succeed in isolating and breaking such strikes in future, the pressure will be off them and they will be only too willing to return to another bout of wage freeze.

Support

After all, there was no official wage freeze in 1974-75. That did not stop Jones allowing the government to break a strike of TGWU dustmen in Glasgow.

Other leaders, like Gormley of the mineworkers, are preparing their alternative to Phase Three—productivity deals that will sacrifice the jobs and safety of some of their members so as to give small wage increases to others.

That is why the rank and file have to be preparing their alternative.

Good patriots wanted, must be deaf, daft...and dying

TWO recent American actions are supposed to have inflamed the anger of 'all good British patriots'.

First, the people of New York have made it clear that they don't want to be deafened, polluted and threatened by Concorde, the scheme for getting rich businessmen across the Atlantic by lunch-time at a cost of £10 million a year to British Airways.

And second, American President Jimmy Carter has slowed down production, reprocessing and sale of plutonium and is bringing pressure to bear for the British government to do the same.

'All good British patriots' are supposed to be angry because two developments threaten to 'wreck the prospects' for two British industries.



Carter: his concern isn't 'humanity'

This is the insane logic of capitalism. We are to have the Concorde, despite the noise threats and the damage to the ozone layer, because Concorde is vital to keeping British Aerospace competitive.

And we are supposed to stand back and let British Nuclear Fuels re-process plutonium (a few pounds of which will make an atom bomb) for sale to the assorted dictatorships of the world.

We are to have these things thrust upon us so that someone can make money from them.

And we are told that either these deadly and insane things are produced or still more workers will be thrust on the scrapheap of redundancy.

What an indictment of the

system that it offers work only in industries which threaten human life rather than extend it, and enrich it.

No-one should have any illusions in Carter's motives. A man who, from beginning to end, supported the war of extermination waged by the US against the people of Vietnam is not motivated by concern for 'humanity'.

The opposition to Concorde in the US is effective because the American aircraft industry has not yet decided to build supersonic airliners.

And the Carter administration is prepared to go slow on plutonium-based nuclear power because the US controls nearly half the world's supplies of the one alternative, less dangerous fuel, uranium.

Inconclusive

But that shouldn't lead one person to line up with the British patriots defending Concorde and fast breeder reactors.

We cannot allow them to go one inch further along this route to disaster.

What we are talking about, if British Nuclear Fuels has its way, is a repeat of Flixborough or Seveso on an unbelievably bigger and more disastrous scale.

And for the same squalid reason—the pursuit of profit.



Miller ... a knighthood



Victim of Seveso: what the 'patriots' promise is a repeat of that here—but on a much bigger scale

MAY DAY

Join the London Demonstration

Assemble 1pm, Charing Cross Embankment, to move off to Hyde Park at 2pm. Sunday 1 May. London SWP branches to support with banners. Relax at the Rock Against Racism/Right to Work Campaign dance at the Roundhouse, Chalk Farm from 5pm onwards.

Give us this day our daily lead...

**IT'S A KILLER—BUT EVERY YEAR 40,000 TONS
ARE PUMPED INTO THE AIR**

LEAD IS a killer—and yet 40,000 tons of it is pumped into the air every year from car exhausts.

In Birmingham, it has been shown that children and adults contain higher levels of lead in their blood the nearer they live to Spaghetti Junction.

Lead also gets into our bodies through food and, in the case of many children, through chewing wood painted with lead-containing paints or playing with eye make-up.

By Ian Gibson

Atmospheric lead levels have been increasing in this country since 1945 and there is no question that most of this comes from the motor car.

In Los Angeles, levels are 5,000 times above a normal level in, say, Bexleyheath.

Levels in the blood above 60ug result in the need for medical treatment. Adults and children become anaemic, kidneys stop working and the thyroid gland is also affected. The most noticeable effect,

however, is in the behaviour of the individual. You cannot sleep, you vomit, have diarrhoea and have fits.

In El Paso, Texas, for several miles around a lead smelter factory, nothing will grow. Children in the schools show a lack of concentration and perform poorly in IQ tests which results in them being regarded as mentally retarded.

The scientists surmised that lead caused these effects. The levels of lead in the blood were low—40ug.

Steps are being taken in the States to use this as the maximum tolerable level in the blood.

Lower amounts of lead in the blood have been associated with 'behavioural' difficulties in black children in New York.

Mothers in Glasgow exposed to high lead from drinking water which has passed through lead pipes have given birth to retarded children.

It seems that lead accumulates in one's lifetime and that there is no safe level.

Claims that lead benefits people's health should be viewed with suspicion, since the research project was financed by an American petroleum company.

Profiteers

So Seveso is no isolated incident. Working people are subjected to hazards all the time. The problem is they don't all affect you immediately. Like asbestos, it takes years to show the effects.

As a scientist, I am appalled at the way trade unionists are lied to by experts with bland assurances about safety.

However I realise that whilst you can fight a battle over asbestos or lead there are thousands of other hidden hazards, such as noise, which one grows used to.

After the first choking coughs, your body adapts and you learn to live with it.

There are alternatives to lead in petrol. There are no needs for the drugs of the advertisers.

While the production process remains in the hands of the profiteers and is not geared to people's needs, and while safety and health are not considered for workers and consumers, people will be poisoned, children will suffer and hospitals will be full of patients with cancers and heart diseases.

Port Talbot: We're out against the Con-Trick



Outside the plant: Wyn Bevan (third from right) says: 'Our fight is for all steelworkers'

'THIS is a strike against the Social Contract', Wyn Bevan, convenor of the electricians at Margam Steelworks, Port Talbot, told Socialist Worker last week.

The three-week-old strike has brought the 560 electricians into conflict with their union executive as well as the British Steel Corporation.

The reason is clear enough: the union supports the Social Contract.

Voted down

General Secretary Frank Chapple is quoted in the employers' newspaper, Steel News, under the headline 'Back to work, union chief tells strikers.'

Chapple gives two reasons for opposing the strike:

'The current agreement between the TUC and the Government does not permit it.

... the overall claim on the part of the electricians would undoubtedly bring similar claims from other groups of employers.'

But when executive member Bernard Clarke told a mass meeting at the start of the dispute to get back to work, he was overwhelmingly voted down.

A subsequent meeting passed a vote of no confidence in him.

Shop steward Les Sexton said: 'Our national officer said he would support us to the hilt. And we've got the knife in our backs right up to the hilt.'

Shop steward Roland Cole said: 'The company forced us out and so the executive called a meeting to get us to go back to work. And of course they were voted down virtually unanimously at the meeting.'

'There's been no contact between the union executive and us from that day to this. They've washed their hands of us.'

The strike began because the electricians demanded equal pay with technicians doing the same job. The company suspended five electricians who refused to do the new work, and this provoked the strike.

Wyn Bevan said: 'Our union

PETER CLARK REPORTS

is seen to be in coalition with the employers to bludgeon the men back to work.

'Our executive isn't even allowing the members to decide on Phase 3 until after it has been signed and delivered.'

Almost alone among trade unions, the EETPU has postponed its Conference from April to after the TUC in September.

Phase 3 of the Social Contract will be debated, signed, sealed and delivered before the EETPU Conference meets.

'What we are fighting for,' said Wyn Bevan, 'is not elitist. We believe in support wherever there is a fight for realistic and decent wages against the employers. That is what everyone ought to support.'

'It doesn't matter where you fight or what the exact issue is. Arguments about differentials will always creep in.'

'Our fight is a fight for all steelworkers. Everyone will benefit. If they see that electricians can win, the door will be open to make further inroads by other groups of workers. No-one will be left behind.'

Donating

That is why the hostile attitude of the EETPU executive has not stopped a wave of rank and file support for the strikers. British Rail electricians at the local depot are each donating £1 a week to the strike fund.

The strikers are well organised. They have written to steelworkers in Holland asking them to stop materials going to other parts of South Wales that would normally come from Port Talbot.

And they have had meetings with shop stewards representing all the electricians in steel plants in South Wales, at Trostre, Velindre and Llanwern. Delegations have been touring the country.

Wyn Bevan added: 'The only people we can rely on are the rank and file.'

'There is a close affinity between us and the strikers at the British Leyland toolroom and London Heathrow.

paper Contact, went to Port Talbot last week to offer his support.

He told Socialist Worker: 'My branch, Cardiff, with more than 3,000 members, has passed a vote of no confidence in the executive and in Bernard Clarke for their handling of the dispute.'

Contact is bringing out a special leaflet calling on all electricians in South Wales to support the Port Talbot strikers.

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 Cabbell 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



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 Cop, Committee
member Friends of Clause Four,
Founder member Unity Theatre and
President Help an Old Person
Campaign.



Strike meeting: 'Our union official said he would support us to the hilt. And we've got the knife in our backs right up to the hilt'

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM Duncan Hallas

Engels tried to show that that the growth of private property, the break up of the clan system, and the subjugation of women went together.

When women had power

'YET FOR thousands of years... communities around the Mediterranean basin, in the Near and Middle East and in India worshipped a Goddess, not a God. In the whole of this enormous area, where civilisation began, the male deities—including the Jehovah of the Jews, took over comparatively late: that is, after the invention of agriculture, after the invention of writing. Ancient civilisation began in societies which revered, as their supreme creator, their divine ancestress, a great Goddess... In societies where the great Goddess was worshipped women certainly

had much more power and independence than they were later allowed. Well, yes—more or less. But this account, which I take from a condensation of *The Paradise Papers* by Merlin Stone, stands things on their heads. And her account of how this state of affairs passed away—invasion by the 'patriarchal and warlike' Indo-Europeans will not stand examination.

Fertility

Merlin Stone proceeds from heaven to earth. Let us keep our feet on the ground and proceed in the opposite direction. The Mother-Goddess, with all her numerous forms and names, was a symbol of Fertility. Of human fertility, of the fertility of the herds of grazing

animals on which hunting peoples preyed but, above all, of the fertility of the soil. She is certainly older than agriculture—mammoth, horse and reindeer hunters in the Europe of 20,000 years ago carved 'little figures of women out of stone or mammoth ivory... the sexual characteristics are always emphasised... which archaeologists call Venus figuring. But it is in the lands where agriculture was first invented that the Mother-Goddess really flourished. The invention of agriculture, probably about 10,000 years ago and certainly in what we now call the Middle East, was the most important single development in the whole of human history. It was a gigantic leap forward in controlling the environment. It produced a population explosion and a whole

train of other inventions. Not until the industrial revolution of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries AD was there to be another event of comparable importance. Agriculture—in the first instance the cultivation of wheat and barley—was invented by women. The sexual division of labour amongst advanced savage (hunting) peoples left the job of collecting plant food to women while the men hunted large game. Cultivation grew out of collecting and, once established, soon replaced hunting as the main source of food. Women became the most important producers—that is why 'they had much more power and independence than they were later allowed.' That is why those pioneer, barbarians (cultivators) worshipped a Goddess, not a God.

Allowed

A whole 'complex of scientific discoveries and inventions'—pottery, spinning and weaving, domestication of cattle etc, was made in this period by 'primitive communist' peoples.

Why did they pass away and give rise to male-dominated class societies? Their greatest achievement was to make possible the creation of an economic surplus that could be stored—grain, meat on the hoof—so that it was no longer necessary to live, literally, from hand to mouth.

But what can be stored can be lifted. An economic basis for war had come into being. Significantly, the original Jericho 'was defended by a rock-cut ditch, 27 feet wide and 5 feet deep, and by a stone built rampart.

Slave

More important, an economic surplus makes possible 'full-time specialists', probably priestesses and sorcerers at first, who 'toil not, neither do they spin' and it also makes possible slavery.

A slave is useless to savages—he can't produce more than his keep. But with agriculture he can produce a surplus. In short, the 'agricultural revolution' made possible both a ruling and a servile class.

What made them necessary, in the sense of inevitable if further development was to take place, was the size of the surplus. Big enough to transform the entire way of life, not big enough to ensure reasonable leisure and plenty for all.

Early class society came into being because, in the last resort, exploitation could produce a higher productivity of labour, a bigger surplus.

But class society must destroy the clan system and the common (clan) ownership of the means of production on which the relatively high status of women depended. And it must create the state.

This was a gradual process, so gradual that the earliest class societies which left written records show marked traces of the transition as we shall see.

EPITAPH

'HE WAS extremely polite to women and never sat down until they did.' — Lady Diana Mosley reminiscing about Hitler in her autobiography *A Life of Contrasts*, published this week.



TREATING WOMEN POLITELY: This woman was made to stand in the street in Nazi Germany wearing a sign which read: 'I am the greatest swine in this town and only get involved with Jews.'

Keep politics out of politics

SALESMAN Roy Dovaston is being tried for trying to recruit unemployed workers from Britain to go to Rhodesia as part of his fight against Communism. He offered jobs abroad at £150 a week. When applicants turned up for interviews, he is said to have demanded £3 membership

advertisements in a national newspaper, it was said at St. Albans Crown Court where he has pleaded not guilty to sanction busting.

He offered jobs abroad at £150 a week. When applicants turned up for interviews, he is said to have demanded £3 membership

fee for the World Deed A Day movement.

Dovaston, who is the founder of the Anti-Communist Movement, sent Rhodesian immigration papers to the applicants. Many of the hundreds of unemployed people were told to go to meetings, they had to give details of army service and membership of

any Communist organisation.

Mr. Leo Charles, prosecuting, told the court: 'Dovaston's plan was ambitious. He hoped to get 30 plane-loads of immigrants. He is probably a genuine and sincere anti-communist, but we are not concerned with his political views.'

The Sweet taste of the Con-trick

THE chocolate firm Rowntree Mackintosh announced profits of £30.9m., an increase of 36.3 per cent on the previous year's figure. This, during year two of the Social Contract, had enabled them to increase the dividend handed out to shareholders from 5.76p to 7.3p per share. Good pickings for the bosses you might think, but it would seem they were not quite good enough. In the 'City' profits as high as £33m had been hoped for and the results were said to be 'not quite as sweet as expected'. Rowntree Mackintosh shares slipped by 3p to 215p.

Rubber

Rowntrees bosses weren't satisfied either. The following day they announced price increases of up to 10 per cent. The increases, rubber stamped by the Prices Commission, were blamed on rises in the market price of cocoa. S.W. readers and Rowntree workers might suspect other factors, for instance the fat dividends handed out to shareholders and the need to keep stock market dealers happy.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: 'Mr Carter (US President Jimmy Carter) is an idealistic man with deep religious convictions, but I wonder what will prevail, the idealism of President Carter or the reality of the United States.' —Fidel Castro quoted in the Morning Star.



Jubilee Mania:

YOU MIGHT have to wait for hours for your bus in Jubilee year, but there is the thrill of knowing that when it arrives it might be silver. London Transport—renowned for its losses and cuts in services—has decided to splash out to celebrate the Queen's 25 years of never having to wait at a bus stop. 25 double deckers are being painted silver and carpeted with pure new wool throughout. According to the Queen's 'friends' one of her ambitions is to ride on a bus like any other 'ordinary' person. Maybe LT is hoping this will persuade her to take the plunge.

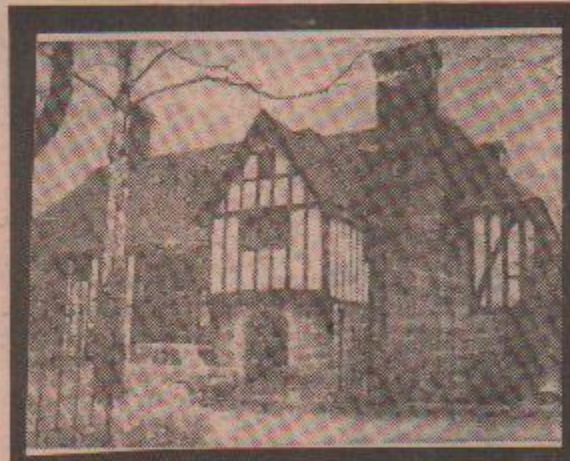
The quality of mercy

FRANK ANDERSON, 36, and Peter Cooney, 37, are both homeless. They were found sleeping in an empty house in Cheltenham. They had attempted to light a fire in the grate to keep warm. Both pleaded guilty at Cheltenham magistrates court to 'lodging in an unoccupied building in circumstances likely to cause damage to property.' They were fined £20 but have no money to pay, so they've been sent to prison for a month. Obviously they didn't go to Eton.

RELIANT are producing a limited number of Super Robin three-wheel cars for Jubilee year. 750 lucky buyers will get Royal Red paintwork with silver grey upholstery. They will have numbered bonnet badges and Jubilee insignia etched on the rear window and wheel hubs.

WARNING: If you switch on your television on Thursday night be very careful. You might be unfortunate enough to catch a glimpse of 'Royal Heritage' in which the Queen will be showing off her ill-gotten Crown Jewels to the nation.

House of Thieu



IT SEEMS that the way to get into Britain as an immigrant without being hounded by the racists as a scrounger is to actually be one. And if you're the former American puppet president of South Vietnam, so much the better. Nguyen Thieu who fled from Vietnam in 1975 allegedly with 3 1/2 tons of gold is currently writing

his memoirs at his £90,000 mock-Tudor home in Wimbledon. His son Loc is at Aldenham public school in Hertfordshire. Princess Noura, the Saudi Arabian cousin of King Khaled, has spent £5 million on two homes in Hampstead. She is reported to be whiling away her idle hours at a health farm in Berkshire.

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Rock solid! Gib union fights a lock-out

300 CIVIL servants employed by the Ministry of Defence and the Property Services Agency in Gibraltar have now been locked out for six months.

The workers, all members of the British Civil Service union CPSA, have maintained round-the-clock picketing, despite the mass arrest of 187 members during a sit-down demonstration, and the night time arrest of a further ten for 'intimidation' of blacklegs.

Doubt

This has not broken the spirit or the solidarity of the members, and the MoD has only been able to keep its military in-

300 CIVIL SERVANTS UNDER FIRE

stallations operating by flying in senior grade scabs from England.

At the heart of the dispute is the refusal of the MoD and PSA to bring the wages of CPSA members into line with those paid by the Gibraltar government.

Clerical workers employed by the Gibraltar government who used to earn the same as those in the MoD and PSA, are now being paid up to £8 a week more.

The British government departments have refused to negotiate and appear determined to break the CPSA.

The response of the national leadership of the CPSA was to do nothing for five months, except try to foist a Board of Inquiry upon the Gibraltar membership.

The national executive has now begun to organise

solidarity action in the UK. A one-day strike has taken place at the Inland Revenue mail centre at Kew, and there was a walk-out in the Dept. of Industry, Newport.

Other branches are deciding upon forms of action, including Customs and Excise, DHSS and DTI.

Blackmail

In Gibraltar, the situation is deadlocked. The TGWU dockers are refusing to handle any cargo for MoD/PSA, and have turned away the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel Bacchus despite an offer of double rates to unload her.

But the dispute has to be won by action in Britain to complete the blacking of all goods to Gibraltar through the docks and airports.

And, most important of all, the leadership of the CPSA must step up the campaign of industrial action here to give proper support to the magnificent struggle of the Gibraltar workers.

□ Messages of support and financial assistance should be sent to: Mr Michael Alman, 33 Picton House, Alameda Estate, Gibraltar.



On the march in Gibraltar: 300 British civil servants have now been locked out for six months



Police escort scabs through the picket lines scabs have been flown in to try to break the workers' stand

Africa: Whose finger in the pie?

PRIME Minister James Callaghan spoke out against 'foreign intervention' in Africa at a meeting on Sunday of the so-called 'Socialist International'.

Did he attack the western powers who have tried to dominate the continent since they ran the slave trade? No.

Did he attack the agents of the South African secret police, BOSS, who are at present reported to be active in Zaire trying to prop up the government of president Mobutu, the corrupt murderer and friend of Uganda's Amin? No.

Did he denounce the American intelligence agency, the CIA, who have financed Mobutu for years and who are now, according to reports in The Guardian newspaper, recruiting mercenaries to fight in Zaire? No.

Dominate

Did he denounce the French, who have been flying in Moroccan paratroops? No.

Did he denounce the Belgian mining companies who still dominate the mineral wealth of Zaire? No.

Who did he denounce? The Russians. Yet the Russians, despite their abominable behaviour in places like Eastern Europe and against the Kurds in Iraq, have no troops in Africa, and own none of the mineral wealth.

Callaghan was quite simply using the Russian bogey as a smokescreen for his friends and colleagues who are intent on keeping their own hands on the wealth that should belong to the people of Africa.

If you think that's an exaggeration, look who was on the platform next to Callaghan—Willi Brandt, the former West German 'socialist' prime minister, who has been named as receiving bribes from the CIA.

Spain's new 'freedom'

ELECTIONS are to be held in Spain on 15 June. And the Communist Party has been legalised.

These pieces of news last week made it seem that the days of Francoism are finally over.

But things are not nearly that simple.

On the very day that the Communist Party was made legal, Basque nationalists tried to hold a commemorative rally in the city of Vitoria. Early last year the paramilitary police opened fire on workers demonstrating in the city, killing several.

Able

The same police were out in force last week. They fired rubber bullets and tear gas canisters at any people who tried to assemble.

A member of a Belgian television team had to be taken to hospital after being hit by a rubber bullet at close range.

The city was surrounded by road blocks. Other cities where similar demonstrations were planned were also cut off. In Durango, the police seriously injured a youth.



The terror goes on: mourners stand over the bodies of five Communists murdered in January

Three days later, the generals running all units of the Spanish army made it clear that they regarded themselves as having the right to intervene in politics whenever they chose.

They expressed disgust at not being consulted about recent government policy moves. And they added that they would 'resolve problems' by 'other means' if necessary.

In effect, they've said that if the wrong people are elected in June, or if the government takes action against the interests of the Francoists, then they will impose a military dictatorship.

Broken

The key question in Spain in the next few months is whether the left is going to accept this blackmail, or

whether it is going to build a mass movement capable of defeating any military coup designed to protect the remains of fascism.

Unfortunately, the most powerful organisation among rank and file workers, the Communist Party, has opted for acceptance of the blackmail. It called off a mass rally last week rather than annoy the generals.

Its leader, Carrillo, has praised the prime minister Suarez, although Suarez never once criticised Franco while the fascist dictator was alive.

Carrillo said 'I am not against Suarez'. And last week, the Party declared that it would accept the rule of King Juan Carlos (hand-picked as monarch by Franco) although in principle it still preferred a republic.

WEEK OF ACTION ON ZIMBABWE: 9-14 May, supported by the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign.

Action planned includes a picket of BP/Shell against sanctions-busting (Friday 13 May) and Zimbabwe Forum and Social (Saturday 14 May). Details from SASC, 101-103 Gower Street, London WC1, or Zimbabwe Ad-hoc Campaign, c/o 247 Pentonville Road, London N1 (phone 01-607 1270).

VICTORY TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA! Scottish tour by Barney Mokgatla, from Soweto. ALLOA: Monday 23 May. ABERDEEN: Tuesday 24 May. GLASGOW: Wednesday 25 May. EDINBURGH: Thursday 26 May. Full details next week.

International Socialism

APRIL ISSUE NO. 17

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 Nuss 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 Cottons Gardens
London E2

Why this Bill is a threat to us all

FORTY THOUSAND women demonstrated against the James White anti-abortion Bill in 1975. It was dropped by parliament.

But now another Bill has been introduced—this time by Tory MP William Benyon.

The Benyon Bill appears milder than the James White one—and so stands more chance of getting through. Many people don't realise what changes in the law it would bring about.

□ It gives the police right of access to medical records.

This is probably the most frightening part. I had a case of incest in my practice where an abortion had been involved. I could refuse to give details and at present they have to take me to court if they want them—this will change if the Benyon Bill is passed.

□ Doctors will be regarded as guilty if the abortion is termed 'illegal'—and the burden will be on them to prove their innocence. This will deter many doctors from giving any abortions—and will give anti-abortion doctors the sort of let-out they want.

□ The 'conscience clause' will let doctors refuse abortion on religious or moral grounds—and so lead to even greater regional differences than at present. In places like Birmingham, with its handful of anti-abortion gynaecologists, NHS abortion will cease to exist.

□ Only doctors with five years experience will be able to agree to abortions and the two must not be in the same practice—this will cause inconvenience, and will also hit the charitable agencies which provide cheap and safe abortions.

Backward

□ The limit for termination will be reduced from 28 weeks to 20 weeks.

This is appeasement to the anti-abortionists. 80 per cent of abortions are performed before 12 weeks and less than 1 per cent after 20 weeks. Those few cases are of exceptional need and should be allowed.

All these measures—if passed—will mark a backward step for women. Many women used to feel guilty about having abortions. This has certainly lessened as the whole issue has become more honest in the past few years. As abortion has become a natural topic of conversation, women have not had to pretend psychiatric illnesses.

I have had Catholic patients who had abortions and certainly felt no fault at the time. But when the James White issue blew up and the Catholic Church started putting the pressure on, the guilt—and associated depression—appeared.

Because of the public

by
DR JEAN LEWIS

pressure over the past two years I now find that I am just about able to give abortion on demand on the NHS. But I'm dependent for this on local gynaecologists—and if the Benyon Bill is passed it will be much more difficult.

Before 1967 it was difficult to get pregnancies terminated. When I hear SPUC consultants talking hypocritically about the sanctity of life, about doctors willing to do abortions as butchers and describing women seeking abortions as blonde, healthy and driving cars, it makes me want to scream and shout.

Cope?

They should see what it's really like away from their plush consulting rooms. Right-wing MPs should see what working-class women really have to cope with—rising food prices, rents, not knowing where the next penny is coming from, and not knowing how they would cope with another child.

They should come to any surgery as it was before 1967 and see the tears, the tension, the depression. They should see all the pain, the infection and bleeding from backstreet abortions.

Not only that, they should have to watch these women year after year and see what unwanted pregnancies have done to their lives.

We all want more nurseries and better schools and these we campaign for as well. I haven't seen many of those morality-preaching SPUC associates and MPs doing much of that. We do care about life and we do have compassion, which seems sadly lacking in many supporters of the Benyon Bill.

The fight for abortion is the fight for increasing human freedom, part of the struggle of ordinary women for control of their bodies. And that is an integral part of the struggle of working-class women and men for control of their lives.

That is why we must fight the Benyon Bill and all that it stands for and why we must mobilise for the demonstration on Saturday 14 May to show our strength.



BIRMINGHAM: Black faces white as the police protect the racists of the National Front.

FOUR TIMES in the past four months, the police have 'visited' Phonodisc, a record and cassette manufacturers in North London, 'on the trail of illegal immigrants.'

Four times workers have been dragged away, and four times they were eventually cleared.

This makes Phonodisc convenor Dave Fewes well-qualified to talk about police persecution of immigrant workers. He told Socialist Worker:

'Khalid Hassan's case is pretty typical. Police came round his house during the day one day in December. Khalid wasn't in.'

'When he got home and found out, he went round the police station. They told him: 'Forget it, there's been a mistake.'

'The next day at work Khalid was told 'friends' were there to see him. The friends were police who 'had reason to believe he was an illegal immigrant.'

'He wasn't, but they wouldn't listen. They told him he could either go straight to the airport or 'did he want to go home first to get some clothes?'

'He was taken down the nick and held for hours. He said their attitude and everything was very, very frightening.'

'It was the same with the three other guys. All were legally here. They were all taken down the police sta-

'All these arrests were based on telephone tip-offs . . . If I say someone's robbed a bank, the police don't just go and pick him up. But when it comes to immigrants . . .'

tion, spent a few hours there, and all of them were told 'you're going home,' meaning deportation. Their homes are in this country.

ARRESTS

'When they arrested the last bloke they had a load of information on him. They knew how long he'd been in the country. They knew he'd be allowed to stay but they still insisted on arresting him. 'All these arrests were

based on telephone tip-offs. This is a ridiculous situation. 'If I say someone's robbed a bank, the police don't just go and pick him up. Yet when it comes to immigrants, then they just go and arrest them.'

'Even when, like Khalid, they get an apology from the Home Office, it's too late, the damage is done.'

'At the moment we've approached the company to draw up a code of practice and look at legal aspects. Now if the police come, the



BIRMINGHAM: Another arrest—an everyday event for persecuted

INTERVIEWS

by Garry Bushell and John Rose

PICTURES

BY Richard Platt, Dave Evans (IFL) and Andrew Wiard (Report)

security office must contact the person involved, tell him it's the police, and contact a shop steward to go with him.

'The last time the police came the press shop was just going to walk out. It's got to the stage where if the police come back the whole factory will probably stop.'

'We've got to do something en masse because its got to be stopped.'

'This copper knocked me down'

DECOSTA BEST is 22. He's lived in Islington, North London, since his parents came over from the West Indies 13 years ago.

'When I was 15 I used to get stopped by the police a lot. They'd ask where you're coming from, who was there, where are you going, do you know so and so? Sometimes you'd be taken round to the police station

'One night an officer

stopped me and decided to let me go on. A van pulled up and two more police jumped out. One shouted at me to stop and asked where I was going. I said the officer said I could go, but this copper still searched me.

'The first officer shouted out that I could go on. But this one knocked me down and a container full of pills I needed for my illness fell out. He crushed the container and said: 'You fucking black cunt.' That was it.

'Nowadays it's just as bad. I've been stopped three times this year.'

STOPPED

'Once officers from Hornsey knew my name. They asked if I attended certain meetings. I said yes, and they said: 'That's all we wanted to know.'

'Once they stopped us in the car. They made me pick up every piece of paper and tin in the street.'

Decosta is a skilled man, an electrical engineer. The firm he worked for went bust in April and he hasn't been able to find a job since.

'I've been looking constantly. I keep going to the Unemployment Office. The men in one office said to me: 'Why don't you just give up hope. You've been coming here too often.'

'I asked at another exchange if they thought it was because I was black. They said maybe why don't you find out?'

RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMP

In defence of the Islington 18, black victims of police harassment now on conspiracy charges. Saturday 23 April, assemble 11am outside Highbury Magistrates Court, Highbury Corner, London N1.

Organised by the Islington 18 Defence Committee.

Socialist Worker

NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE BENYON BILL

SATURDAY MAY 14th 1.30pm
BELVEDERE ROAD, WATERLOO
LONDON SE1

WOMEN'S VOICE

BLACK IN BRITAIN

BLACK IN BRITAIN. West Indians and Asians. One and a half million people taunted, insulted, harassed because of the colour of their skin, their accent, because they, or more often their parents, were born thousands of miles away.

Asian communities live under the shadow of a constant fear, fear of the gestapo immigration officials, the knock in the night that spells deportation with no chance of appeal.

West Indians, many of them born here, are victims of continual police harassment, from little things like always having your car stopped, to vicious attacks—Eurel James, Lloyd Stephenson, the Carib Club, Notting Hill... the list is endless.

Always the scapegoat of ignorance, so 'they cause the crisis'. Employed, 'they're stealing our jobs', unemployed 'they're sponging off the state.' It's Catch 22.

In truth black workers are the worst

victims, get the worst jobs, the worst houses.

And while the employers can convince white workers to blame blacks, to look down on them, then our strength as a working class movement is splintered.

Last summer witnessed the worst wave of racism in decades. But black people didn't just lie back and take it—they fought back.



The young Asians turned their backs on their conservative elders and formed their own defence organisations. Young West Indians attacked at their carnival picked up bricks and fought back.

Out of this growing mood of resistance more and more black workers are beginning to realise that to fight racism you need to fight the system that spawns it.

Which is why the Socialist Workers Party is holding a Black Rally. It will be a small, but significant step in winning more and more black workers to revolutionary socialism.

YOU DIDN'T KNOW GEORGE....

YOU WON'T have known George Perukutty. He didn't know many people.

You can't know him now because George is dead. He threw himself under an eastbound train at East Ham tube station in East London last month.

They're calling George an 'immigrant casualty', an oddity. He arrived in the 'mother country' about a year ago trying to earn

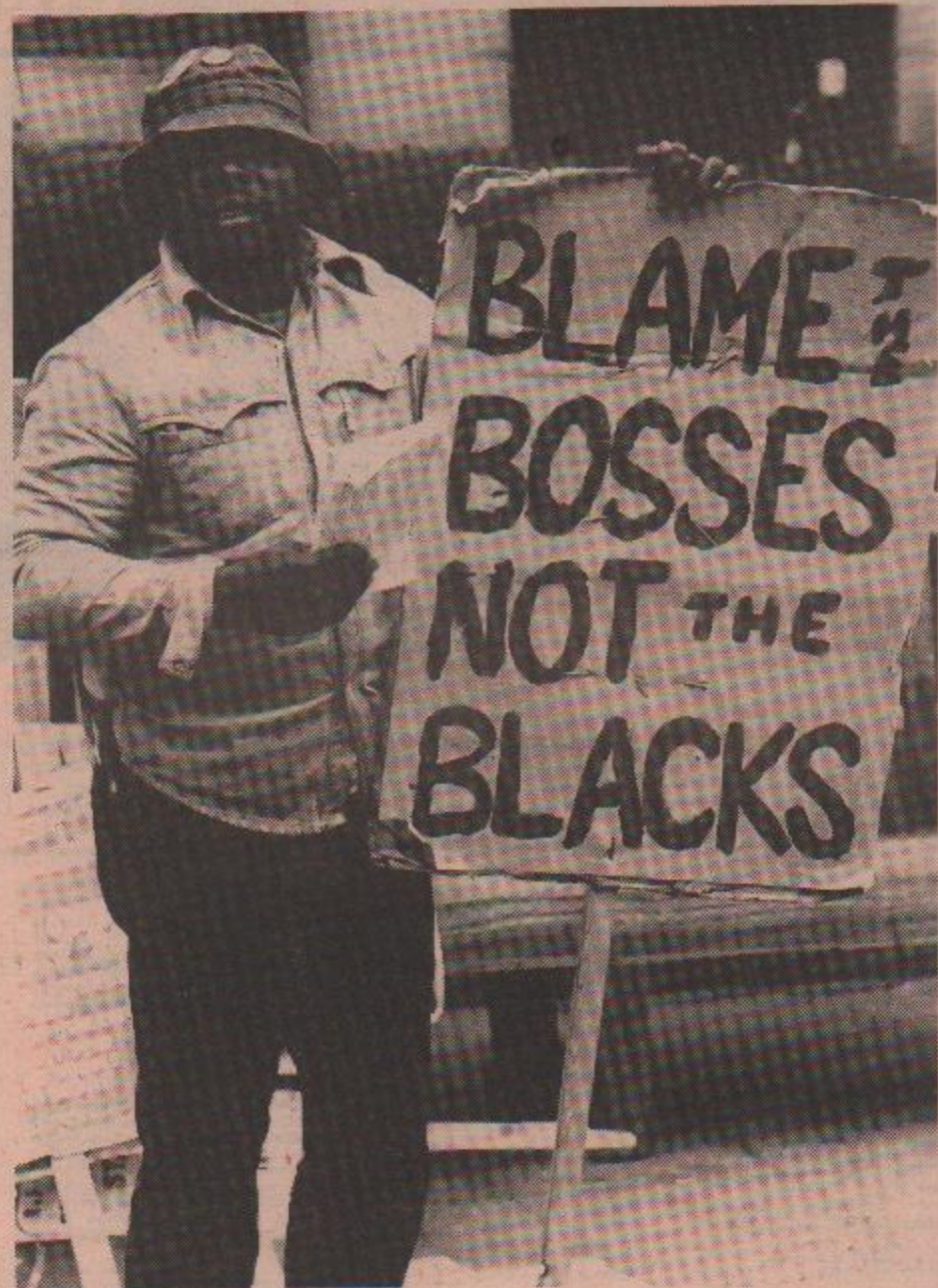
some money for the wife and four children he left behind.

George was working at the Indian Embassy, but he was lonely, he missed his family, he was trying to live in London at the height of last year's anti-Asian backlash.

He got depressed, lost his job, got thrown out of his lodgings. He tried to throw himself out of a

window and was admitted to hospital in January, working during the day, going there at night.

He died on 14 March. Their verdict: suicide. Our verdict: a vicious indictment of the life of immigrants in Britain. If Labour's 'humane' immigration laws hadn't kept his family out, George would still be alive.



LEEDS: Class divides us, not colour.

WHAT IT MEANS

HOUSING:

For an Asian family the only way to find a place to live is to buy a cheap slum house. Council houses are virtually ruled out.

More than half the white families find a way out of slums by rehousing through council waiting lists. Only four out of every 100 Asians trapped in inner city hovels can get out this way.

38 per cent of Asians stay on waiting lists over two years, as opposed to 4 per cent of whites.

Result? Nine out of ten black families live in houses built before the war compared to five out of ten white families. Four out of ten West Indian and three out of ten Asian families are sharing bathrooms, hot water and inside toilets compared with two out of ten white families.

WORK

Nine out of ten black men are of working age, compared to eight out of ten white men. Yet only one in ten black workers is white-collar.

Black workers are in general lower-paid than white workers. The average weekly wage for black men is £36.70 compared to £40.20 for white men. Shift work is even worse, where the average weekly wage of black workers is £37.30 compared to £41.20.

Black workers are also hardest hit by unemployment. In the past three years overall unemployment has trebled, whereas unemployment among West Indian women has risen eight times, among black youth it's gone up nine times and unemployment among Asian women has gone up more than 1000 per cent.

Statistics from 'Facts of Racial Disadvantage', a PEP report by David Smith.



ted black communities

'A white man in a Jaguar stopped and shouted 'Black bastard!' at us'

REMEMBER the day we burnt the Relf sign in Southall last summer? Remember a raucous Cockney voice screeching 'ENOCH... BASTARD!' into the clear blue sky?

That voice belonged to Freddie Singh. Last week Freddie was sitting on top of a bus riding past the Dominion cinema in Southall when

he saw crowds of airport workers pouring out of a mass meeting. He jumped off the bus and charged into the cinema.

He grabbed a Socialist Workers Party member that he recognised. 'What's going on?' he demanded.

When told it was an airport workers' mass meeting, he said: 'I guessed this must be something to do with your

mob.' It wasn't particularly, but Freddie decided to join the SWP anyway and tell his story to Socialist Worker.

TURBAN

'I came to this country when I was six years old

'I came across racialism at school. The Southall Youth Movement was born in the schools. We wore turbans in

those days. The white kids would call us 'girls' and tear our turbans off and laugh at our long hair underneath.

'Finally the young Indians ganged together and started fighting back. That changed the situation totally. Why, some of those same boys became our best friends.

'Those same gangs all took to the streets in the summer after Gurdip was murdered.



LONDON: Asian women workers protest at slave wages and working conditions at Heathrow Airport



RALLY OF BLACK REVOLUTIONARIES IN BRITAIN

Saturday 30 April, 11am, Stockwell Hall, Brixton, London SW9

Speakers include: **Mota Singh** (secretary, Leamington IWA), **Jupiter Harry** (shop steward, Ford Dagenham), **Kim Gordon** (editor, Flame), **Allock Biswas** (Hackney Asian Association), **Nicky Siew** (NUPE shop steward, Selly Oak Hospital), **Pravin Parmer** (Bolton Asian Youth Organisation), **Raj Goel** (ACTS secretary, Walls, Southall), **Rehana Minhas** (editor, Chingari (Urdu)), **Tony Bogues** (Revolutionary Marxist League, Jamaica), **Frank Osei Tutu** (secretary, UPW WDO branch), **Steve Matthew** (Islington 18 Defence Committee).

Tickets 50p in advance, from SWP Black Rally, 6 Cotton Gardens, London E2. Inquiries and accommodation, phone 01-739 1878.

BRUTALITY NOW!
DEFEND ISLINGTON 18!
STOP POLICE

WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORK

HEATHROW To hell with the jet set



Picture Andrew Ward (Report)

AIR TRAVEL NEED NOT BE ONLY FOR THE RICH, WRITES THE HEATHROW AIRPORT BRANCH OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

LEFT: Airport workers discuss socialism in the British Airways canteen at Hatton Cross, near Heathrow

IT'S NOT unusual for Concorde to take off with only a dozen or so passengers on board.

British Airways work on a 50 per cent load being economic. Or, put another way, on every flight they plan on half the seats being empty.

Another fact tells a little more of the story. British Airways spend £96 million a year on advertising and only £93 million on engineering and maintenance.

They advertise all over the world to compete with other airlines so that their respec-

tive planes can fly around half-empty.

The airline business is entirely designed to cater for the rich, and the expense account market. Prices are fixed by international agreement, and fixed high.

But the same airlines also engage in any number of under-the-counter deals through the bucket shops.

They need a few peasants to fill up the load. To get them they engage in cut-throat competition

Deals

Then, of course, the jet set businessmen start complaining. They don't like to fly with mere people.

So British Airways and all the others lay on new deals for them, like the 707s with their executive suites.

You wouldn't believe the things that go on.

Take the route to Miami. The airline companies have an agreement that they won't put more than 250 fare-paying passengers on the London-Miami Jumbo, even though the plane can take 350 passengers.

So there's 100 free seats, that you could immediately give to poor people who needed a spell in the sun.

The deal is to help out the owners of DC10s whose planes can't carry more than 250 people.

So what's the bloody point in having a Jumbo on the route, you might well ask. There isn't any, except of course it keeps the aerospace companies happy.

If the working class ran society and the airlines, the airlines would exist to help expand people's lives, to enable them to visit relatives who've emigrated.

Just look at how many

people never have a holiday abroad. Meeting their needs is what our airlines would be about.

And that's far more important than any number of jet-setting rich people.

British Airways is probably less corrupt and chaotic than any of the other airlines. But you should see it from the inside.

Support

You should see the fantastic waste and the huge, swollen bureaucracy that the people who actually do the work have to support.

Because the airport isn't run democratically, there's massive waste in the supervisory and management apparatus.

It works like this. British Airways buys Concorde. So a new Concorde department grows up. It has a Concorde

project manager, a suite of offices, secretaries, the lot.

Lack of democracy means huge teams of bosses and policemen of one sort or another. If workers ran the show they could be set free for useful labour.

There's yet another remarkable area of waste that we would abolish—the parts racket.

McDonnell Douglas, Boeing and Rolls Royce put the engines in aeroplanes and they give them a warranty. To keep the warranty (necessary for flight and safety clearance) you must only fit their spare parts.

And, of course, they charge the most phenomenal prices for these parts, parts that we could make for a fraction of the cost. Pounds upon pounds for stupid little parts you could buy down at the ironmongers for 5p.

There's the most fantastic waste on the catering side, too, with excellent food being scrapped in huge quantities.

It could feed poor people, but instead it's destroyed.

If you get caught taking any of it away before it's dumped, you get the sack.

We'd put a stop to all this. We'd run things much more efficiently and we'd run things democratically without the handlebar moustaches from Northolt who dominate our industry.

And we have no doubt that airline workers could run the industry and provide an excellent service for their fellow workers.

ARE YOU TAKING ORDERS OR ARE YOU TAKING OVER?

THE first time I heard about the Clash I couldn't believe it.

A young working class rock group turning out the most exciting music in years and singing revolutionary songs as well?

Clash are all that and more. Children of the inner city—guitarist Mick Jones has never lived below floor five in a tower block—they're singing about being young and working class in London in a medium that, aside from football, is the main interest of the young white working class.

And when they sing about the dote they know because that's where they started.

But Clash do more than reflect their upbringing—they're about active change. Against racism, against fascism, against apathy, ignorance and passivity.

They had a superb debut

album* come out last week. A collection of lyrics gives some idea of what they're doing:

*They offered me the office,
offered me the shop,
They said I'd better take
anything they'd got*

*Do you wanna make tea at
the BBC, do you really wanna
be a cop?*

*Career Opportunities the
ones that never knock, the
only jobs they offer you's to
keep you out the dock, career
opportunities the ones that
never knock.*

*I hate the army and I hate the
RAF, you won't catch me
fighting in the tropical heat,
I hate the civil service rules.*

*and I won't open letter bombs
for you . . .*

(Career Opportunities)

*They're calling on kids to
face up to facts and fight
back. 'All the power's in the*

hands of people rich enough
to buy it, while we all walk the
streets too chicken to even try
it,' they sing in White Riot,
which includes a great one-
liner: 'Are you taking orders
or are you taking over?'

Clash are talking about
fighting back to a potentially

huge white, working-class
audience. They sing White
Riot not because they're
racist, in fact they're violently
anti-racist.

The words to White Riot
make that clear. They're
saying to the white kids that
young blacks have got
problems but they fight back,
while with us, 'Everybody
does what they're told to,
nobody wants to go to jail.'

And, while recognising the
cultural gap between young
blacks and young whites and
aiming at the white rock
audience, they're also trying
to bridge that gap. Result,
'Police and Thieves', the best
white reggae I've ever heard.

Other songs stand out as
well—Remote Control, I'm
so bored with the USA,

Protex Blues, and Garage-
band, which includes the
lines: 'I don't want to know
what the rich are doing, I
don't want to know where the
rich are going, they think
they're so clever, they think
they're so right, but the truth
is only known by
guitarsnipes.'

The lyrics can't be divorced
from the music which is hard
and aggressive with amazing-
ly catchy choruses which
sound like football chants put
to music.

The problem of getting
successful—and Clash will—
and getting the money to
move out of the conditions
which bred them, is one
they'll have to face with time.

But now they're red hot
with a fantastic potential.
Buy this album, but better
still, see them live.

*THE CLASH CBS 82009

GARRY BUSHELL

Did you know Shelley was a revolutionary socialist?

Yes, Shelley the poet. Find out how the establishment has twisted our history—and our poetry. Come to Marxism 77, seven days of revolutionary socialist ideas and discussion at the Polytechnic of North London, 1-8 July.

'British poets and the French revolution' is one subject in the course on Literature and Revolution. Other courses: Revolutions of the 20th century, The Marxist Method, Women's liberation and the struggle for socialism, Capitalism and crisis, Labour history. Plus guest speakers, debates, films, music, free creche, accommodation. Registration fee £5. Send to Marxism 77, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

OPEN TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS AND STUDENTS

MARXISM 77

Organised by the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies



Notting Hill Carnival—black response to the police attack inspired the Clash song, 'White Riot'.

Letters

Child Benefit 'increase' - it's a fake!

WHEN I opened my dole cheque last Friday morning I found that I was £1 a week worse off.

Just a little slip-up, I thought, until I phoned the Department of Employment to have it put right.

It's because of the new Child Benefit Allowance, they said, "Your dole money has to be cut by £1 under the Social Security Act to compensate for the extra pound paid through the Post Office".

I was speechless! This new Child Benefit Act was supposed to assist lower-paid families—and was hailed as 'a breakthrough' by Labour politicians. What does it do for the unemployed? Bugger all!

Healey must be saving well over £1.3 million by refusing to pay it to the unemployed families. That's just enough money to cover the fees paid out to Arthur Anderson & Co, the consultants to the Treasury, who also run courses in tax-

avoidance for multi-national companies.

But the worst is still to come. My wife is working and since I have been unemployed she has claimed the children's tax allowances. Thanks to the Child Benefit Scheme these allowances have been cut by £200—that's for two children. That means she has to pay £70 a year *more* in tax.

So we are now £1.33p a week worse off! How many working-class families up and down the country—employed and unemployed—are being legally fiddled by the Child Benefits Act?

It's a cut, like any other cut in hospitals, schools and social services, only this one affects everybody's pocket right away. Let's have a 'Scrounger's Charter' to put an end to this disgraceful swindle.

□ MURRAY ARMSTRONG, Coventry.

AN OPEN LETTER TO CLIVE JENKINS

Dear Mr Jenkins,

WHETHER it be at my Labour Constituency Party, union branch meeting, local pub, or within the family confines I must admit to being highly prejudiced whenever your name is mentioned.

Now, although I realise the very word Socialist must make you shudder, the frightening fact is that so many unthinking people do take you as a

member of 'The Left', though thinking about that statement I'm not so sure that the number with this view is as high as it might have been some years back. You have done a good job in dispelling that myth.

These views are expressed due to the outcome of the case you brought against Paul Foot and the Socialist Worker, the outcome of which I heartily deplore.

My views are well supported by many people in my

habitat, who feel as I that there should be far more vigorous public debate on most subjects, and in particular on public figures.

Poor dears, they have to be protected from the vulgar 'hoi-polloi', who, should they get too near the truth, have the whole weight of the law slung at them in the shape of that stifier of the truth, the British Libel law.

It so happens that I do not believe that you or your union condoned political oppression under the Franco regime, but if redress was needed surely it could have been done without recourse to providing our grossly overpaid legal system with yet more loot.

It would be a nice gesture if your union made a donation to the Socialist Worker covering at least the expenses of the case. At least they will get a year's subscription from me.

□ A G HUGHES, Wembley, Middlesex.

worth of goods to those same Western countries. Of these exports, copper accounted for £156 million.

Aside from strategic considerations, trade routes and so on, Zaire is a very wealthy pearl to the West.

□ GARRY BUSHELL, London W12.

Zaire's millions

A FEW extra facts as a postscript to last week's article on Zaire.

Zaire imported £204 million worth of goods in 1974 from the major Western governments. 64 per cent came from Common Market countries.

Zaire exported £266 million

This book is about growing up.



It is about baby girls

who will grow up to be schoolgirls.

It is about schoolgirls who will grow up

to be brides.



to be mothers.

and to be grandmothers.



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

GIVE THE QUEEN THE WELCOME SHE DESERVES

THE 'Stuff the Jubilee' badges produced by Camden SWP are great, and every reader should place bulk orders for them.

The Silver Jubilee is an excellent opportunity to put forward our policies, and at the same time expose the disgusting hypocrisy of a society which calls on workers to make sacrifices, and at the same time flaunts around the biggest social security scrounger of all time.

The Jubilee is not a joke, the argument against it must be won in every workplace and college.

Socialist Worker readers should try to ensure that whenever the Queen visits their area, union branches, trades councils and Right to Work Committees are there to give her the welcome she deserves.

The royal parasites are only a small part of our corrupt and decaying society, but the Jubilee celebrations do give us an excellent opportunity to show that there are a great many people who are not prepared to put up with falling living standards and cuts in essential services. Let's remember 1649.

□ HUGH ROBERTSON, Aberdeen.

□ Anti-Jubilee badges and posters—see page 10.

MEMBERS of Socialist Worker Recordings would like to thank all the speakers and audiences at the Skegness SW Rally for their cooperation.

□ Chris Mascarenhas, Pete Marsden, Roger Crossley, London E2.

YOU OFTEN hear people talking about a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. Have you ever thought how absurd that slogan is?

The whole point is that wages can never be fair. How can it be fair for us to be paid wages for working while the wealth we're producing is being pocketed by some bloated boss?

The most progressive thing we can say is we want more money. And let's get bloody stuck in and fight for it!

□ S.W. reader, Edinburgh

Free the Riga 4!

AT THE Skegness SWP rally a meeting was held about what was going on in Eastern Europe. We discussed how best we could raise support in Britain for the four dockers imprisoned in Riga in Russia last year for organising against the lowering of the quality of food in public restaurants. (This was reported in Socialist Worker two weeks ago).

Comrades from a port town which is regularly visited by Russian ships suggested that we leaflet the Russian sailors expressing our support and telling them how we are trying to get resolutions of support from trade union branches. Also that we are sending telegrams demanding the immediate release of the Riga 4 to the Russian Embassy and the Russian trade unions.

A leaflet has been produced in Russian. We will send stencils to any SWP branch that can organise the leafletting.

Resolutions of support demanding the release of the Riga 4 should be sent to the Russian Ambassador, 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8, and to the Russian trade union boss, A Shibayev, SSSR g MOCKBA, Leninski Prospe 42. All Union Central Council for Trade Unions.

If you want a stencil of the leaflet write to us at International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

□ Anna Paczuska, SWP East Europe Group.

THE BEST PLACE FOR THIS IS THE DUSTBIN

WHAT can a girl hope to be when she grows up? A bride, a mother and a grandmother, according to one schoolbook I found in the stock cupboard recently. Bags of exciting choice. I had the greatest of pleasure in depositing all 30 copies of this foul book in the nearest dustbin. Old books like this are best destroyed.

But cuts in education spending mean that fewer new books will be bought by schools. Old books lurking in school stock cupboards will be dusted down and reused for lack of any alternative. This kind of crap may well find its way back into the classroom.

It represents all the old reactionary ideology that women thought they were beginning to shake off. Till the cuts, that was.

I say fight the cuts and keep the crap out of the classroom.

□ ANNA PACZUSKA, Hackney, London.

SOLD!

THERE was a popular song in Britain just after the war called 'Cruising down the River.' Substitute the word 'selling' for 'cruising' and you have the perfect slogan for the Labour and TUC hierarchies.

These people would sell their own grandmothers down the river. Personally speaking, after 5 minutes in their company I'd feel myself to be in urgent need of a bath.

□ A. B. Bolton

Wales: A military playground

METHODD awyren 'Buccaneer' y Llu Awyr fron ag ymrwygo Argaw Claerwen, y byddai wedi ladd mi loedd o bobl yng nghanolbarth Cymru ar Ddydd Llun, 4ydd Ebrill.

Er mai gwrthwynebiad sy'n dal i barhau iddi wrth pobllleol, bu'r dynion godidog hyn yn peryglu bywydau'r pobl lleol, nid eu bywydau nhw eu hunain yn eu ffolineb drwy ehedeg yn isel iawn ers meitin; yn anffodus nid oeddynt yn brifo'n ddrwg.

Teimla pobl Cymru fod problemau cenedl a'l defnyddir fel chwaraeole militaraidd ar y naill llaw ac argae ar gyfer diwydiant yn Lloegr sy'n cael eu diystyru. Mae'r chwech llinell yn y Times yn edrych fel pe bai'n gwreduddu hyn.

READERS who followed with interest the debate on our attitude to the police may be interested to read the views of Trotsky. They are to be found in his marvellous book, 1905, and go right to the heart of the matter.

The repressive forces of the state are immeasurably stronger than the workers' movement—and this is even truer today with CS, gas, sound weapons etc. So 'fraternising' is not a matter of choice but a necessity.

The ranks of the police are made up of the sons and

daughters of workers. In settled times capitalist ideas hold sway but the storms of class conflict erode confidence in these ideas.

Only a year ago a police cadet left the force after witnessing his colleagues' brutal assault on an anti-fascist demonstration. How many more like him are still reluctantly doing the capitalists' dirty work?

We ignore them at our peril.

□ ALAN GIBBONS (USDAW), Crewe, Cheshire.

Advertisement for the National Right to Work Campaign.

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER



This superb book is to be published on May Day. The authors, Robert Golden and Sara Cox, are giving their 'royalties' to the Right to Work Campaign. It is available now, pre-publication, at £1.25 (plus 17p postage), compared with the published price of £1.50 + 17p. Fill in the form below.

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.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE?

Interested in European Languages, Air Photo Interpretation or Counter Intelligence in your spare time?

We deal with these subjects, travel to Europe—and get paid for it.

THE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY GROUP (VOLUNTEERS) is part of the Territorial & Army Volunteer Reserve. We are looking for more keen, fit young men up to 30, with reasonable education.

If you live or work in the following areas, why not (without obligation) telephone for further information?

- LONDON—01-435 9660
- BIRMINGHAM—021-444 2730
- EDINBURGH—031-556 9983

DID this advertisement appear in The Times, the Tatler, the National Front Bulletin or The Economist?

You could hardly be blamed for assuming that it appeared in some such publication. But you would be wrong at every breath.

It appeared in the March issue of a trade union journal TAXES, official magazine of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, whose former secretary was last year's president of the TUC General Council.

One inquiring mind decided to ring up and find out if it was, as had been suggested, a hoax. Or whether it was genuine.

He tried the London number first, but this was unobtainable. Then he tried the Birmingham number and got through. The conversation went as follows:

CALLER: 'Oh Hello, I've seen your advertisement about military intelligence and I wondered what exactly was involved.'

SWITCHBOARD: 'Ah yes. Now presumably you're under 30 and have a good education.'

Training

'Well actually I was inquiring for my son, who's 27, has five O-levels and works for the civil service.'

'Oh, ideal. Yes indeed! Yes that's just right!' (Long pause).

'Well can you give me some more information then?'

'Oh, ah, yes, of course. Now he'll get 16 days training at one of our top training centres.'

'And where would that be?'

'And he'll get special leave with pay to attend. The same will also apply of course if he's ever subsequently, er, doing anything for us.'

'I see and what would he be trained in?'

'Well photo reconnaissance, elementary telecommunications and deciphering and that sort of thing.'

'Really?'

'Yes, of course. He can be most use to us if he can speak European languages.'

'Eastern European languages, no doubt?'

'Oh, Ha ha ha. Well, um, let's just say that if he spoke Russian, he'd be just about ideal.'

'I think I get the idea. But what is your organisation?'

'Well it's part of the, er, TAVR, the Territorial Army Voluntary Reserve.'



ABOVE: Police cordon outside the London HQ of MI6, Century House. LEFT: Leconfield House, in London's plush Mayfair, the MI5 HQ.

MI5 OK... but not the rank and file

BY JOHN WALKER

'Look, let's be quite blunt about this, shall we? Do you mean MI5.'

'Oh, Ha ha ha. Um, Well er, yes.'

Having got this far, our caller, thoroughly disgusted at what he had been hearing, put the phone down.

Now I am a member of the union in whose journal this advert appeared. Our union has been affiliated to the Trades Union Congress since 1911, when it was known as the Association of Tax Clerks.

Our union has a reputation for being substantially conservative and harbours some of the most glaring cases of trade union bureaucracy in the whole movement.

Indeed, so obligingly have our full-time officials played along with the government and the TUC in the

past that they have been duly rewarded.

One of them, James Callaghan, is Prime Minister.

Cyril Plant, formerly general secretary, was made chairman of the TUC for 1976 before retiring with a gratuity of £19,000 and a pension of £6000 a year.

Tony Christopher, present general secretary, has been given his place on the TUC General Council.

But never has this bureaucracy, with all its wheeling and dealing for its own benefit, ever posed in such a viciously reactionary light as they have now by allowing this advertisement to be published and thereby making the job of the MI5 easier.

Make no mistake about it, MI5 is the British counterpart of the American CIA, that insidious organisation which Philip Agee has exposed in such a masterly way both in his book and at the countless public meetings he has addressed up to his deportation.

The sort of antics these organisations get up to need no amplification here, particularly their activities in undermining and attacking trade unions and their members.

Militants

Furthermore, this same union magazine, being the mouthpiece of a small clique of officials, only a few months ago refused to print an advertisement placed by the union's own members.

The censored advert didn't seek to recruit spooks or thugs or spies. It was from a group of London militants in the union and called for a special conference of the union about a subject relevant to all its members.

That advert sought to further union democracy. It was banned. The Military Intelligence advert seeks to undermine it. It was printed.

This scandalous situation really does press home the need for strong rank and file organisation and a strong rank and file movement in every union, white and blue collar alike.

For if we do not achieve this then the matter will not end with trade

union officials undermining the living standards of the members they purport to represent. It will end in tears and blood and murder, as the CIA/MI5/KGB have so often instigated before.

The forces of reaction organised by these people would destroy any uncoordinated and aimless opposition.

Our rank and file movement must not be aimless or uncoordinated. There must be cooperation between

its every section. It must be strong and it must seek to implement definite aims.

For only in this way will we stand a chance of transforming these bureaucratic institutions whose leaders not only work so tirelessly for the employing class selling Social Contracts and the like, but who are even in some cases recruiting agencies of MI5.

REMEMBER WHAT THEY DID TO TRADE UNIONISTS IN CHILE . . .

In the great church of Santiago, Chile, the moneylenders were cheerful, giving thanks to their God: for there in the temple were hands that cradled guns to guard the riches gathered up on earth, and all around the armoured cars and tanks to keep secure that holy ground; and it was worth some prayer to show their gratitude, their great relief to know the earth remained the Lord's sole fief.

A day of songs of praise to mighty Mammon; for sanctimonious sermonizing gammon; for raising minds up to the height of that great argument to prove the right

at gunpoint to exact the widow's mite; to demonstrate to everyone's content the three-in-one divinity, the holy trinity, of profit, interest, and rent.

The chars that cleaned the bloodstains from the altar, the Chilean workers in the factories and fields, did they believe a cross upon a ballot paper would bring them freedom, make the bosses yield?

Do they believe now prayer will bring them ease? It may be so. . . but this we know, They will not stay for long upon their knees.

HUGO DEWAR.

ROCK AGAINST RACISM-RIGHT TO WORK BENEFIT
MAYDAY

CAROL GRIMES and the London Boogie Band
Featuring PAUL JONES harmonica

- ASWAD
- Roots Reggae/Black Rock
- KARTOON KLOWNS
- Maximum Agitprop
- GENERATION X
- New Wave Rock
- STEEL & SKIN
- Afro Rhythms

BAR/FOOD ● 5.00PM - 10.00PM ●
SUNDAY 1 MAY ROUNDHOUSE ●
CHALK FARM ROAD ● LONDON NW1
● TICKETS AT THE DOOR/OR RIGHT
TO WORK CENTRE £1.50 ● 50P WITH
DOLE CARD



THE DEBATE OVER THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

TASS leaders surrender...and sell out

HUGH SCANLON and the other crusaders for the Social Contract can sleep soundly in their beds.

On Monday, during the opening debate on wages at the AUEW/TASS conference in Bournemouth, General Secretary Ken Gill condemned the steamrollering that had been used at last year's amalgamated conference which agreed to support the second phase of the con-trick.

Pressure

He assured us that whatever the pressure was at this year's amalgamated conference, the TASS delegates would stand firm on what he was sure would be a policy of militant opposition.

But the policy that then emerged on wages should keep

the Financial Times Index in a healthy state.

Dick Jones, Coventry No 1 delegate, who had moved a resolution for a national wages campaign, saw it emasculated by amendments that were supported by the executive. The result was a toothless murmur against wage controls.

As Jones said in his summing up: 'Now that this resolution has been amended in this way I and my branch couldn't give a damn what conference does with it.'

Although the morning session saw the executive duck the fight on wages, the next session saw the realisation of its long held dream—the scrapping of the annual branch-based conference.

A skilful reorganising of the order of business by the standing orders committee

was used to confuse and divide the delegates.

Now effective democracy in TASS has been crushed, delegates who equate democracy with real fighting policies will have to take the fight back into the branches and the newly formed divisional conferences.

Rejected

SOUTH LONDON: A three-week strike in support of three TASS members suspended by management at GEC Elliotts ended last week when a mass meeting voted narrowly to return to work.

The return was recommended by the full-time officials—despite the fact that the terms accepted were substantially those rejected by the members a month ago.

A management plan to abolish all existing grading structures had been unanimously rejected by a mass meeting on the firm recommendation of the full-time officials.

Yet when management tried to force it through and three members were suspended for not co-operating—the full-time officials and Divisional Council, refused to support strike action, and just agreed to support the three members financially.

The Joint Office Committee proposed alternative action—a strike by 30 members from key areas supported financially by the rest. This was carried at a mass meeting.

From then on the official made it clear that because their advice had been rejected, union financial support was unlikely.

After two weeks' solid strike action, the officials argued that defeat was certain. Their efforts were then directed at achieving this.

When the vote to return to work was eventually narrowly carried—again against the decision of the joint office committee—it was through the officials threatening to withdraw union support if the strike continued.

Sicken.

This strike shows yet again how the officials will work to end a strike despite the wishes of the membership.

That is why we cannot rely on the officials but only on our own factory organisation—and why we must fight for control by the membership over the full-time officials and union machinery.

Ford's: Make it £15, not 15 per cent

THE FORD National Shop Stewards conference last Sunday didn't even debate the need to end the Social Contract. That was taken for granted by all the speakers.

Instead the 300 stewards discussed the convenors' proposal for a 15 per cent wage increase as the first of a nine-point package.

Moving the resolution, Danny Connors, Dagenham Body Plant convenor, said we needed a package that would achieve the broadest possible unity. The demand for 15 per cent along with other parts of the package, did this.

Many stewards disagreed.

One from Dagenham Body Plant compared the size of his rent increase, his electricity bill and food price increases with the 15 per cent demand. It didn't compare with the huge increases in living costs.

Another steward from Dagenham Body Plant argued for a £15 increase and a 35-hour week. He described how he had been campaigning in his department for this demand, with bulletins, petitions and stickers, and how he was often told by his members that even £15 was not enough.

Much of the debate was between the supporters of the rank and file Fordworker bulletin, which is campaigning for £15 and 35 hours, and members of the Communist Party, who argued hard for support of the convenors' proposal.

There was a strong feeling that 15 per cent was inadequate. It would mean an effective cut in real wages. And why go for 37½ hours? The TGWU has produced its Target 35 pamphlet. Even Jack Jones has spoken in favour of the 35-hour week.

If we are to unite rank and file Ford workers, we need a campaign like the parity campaign of 1970-71 and £15: 35 hours is the best slogan for this.

A Halewood steward remembered the end of the nine-week strike in 1971, when Scanlon and Jones went behind the backs of the convenors and negotiated a return to work. It mustn't happen again.

In future, convenors and stewards committees must have time to meet and consider offers from the company. Decisions should be taken at mass meetings on the same day.

Danny Connors concluded by saying that 15 per cent represented a minimum demand and the convenors' committee would consider changing this in the light of future inflation.

He also agreed that they might have to reconsider the demand for a 37½-hour week in view of the comments from the floor. Watson of Middlesbrough, are trying to pull a fast one. They want us to drop our double time shift rates in exchange for a productivity deal.

That would cost us at least £20 a week. A mass meeting voted on Monday to stay out until management withdraw their attack.

ENOUGH'S ENOUGH!

Notices and meetings

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

NO TO THE RACIALIST VOTE IN HARINGEY. Public meeting, Tuesday 26 April, 7.30pm, Lord Morrison Hall, Sceles Road (off Chestnut Road), London N17. Organised by Haringey Campaign Against Racism.

Croydon Trades Council MAYDAY DEMONSTRATION: Saturday 30 April, 11am, Elmwood Road, Croydon. End unemployment. Stop the cuts and fight racism.

All Socialist Workers Party members and supporters to attend.

HATFIELD POLY Student Union benefit in aid of Zimbabwe Student Refugees. Starring Limousine. Friday 25 April, 9pm, North Refectory Bar, Hatfield Poly. Price 60p.

DEFEND Aubrey-Berry Campbell. Picket Tottenham Magistrates Court, Lordship Lane, London N7, Tuesday 26 April, 9.45am. Nearest tube Seven Sisters, buses 149, 259 to Lordship Lane or Bruce Grove. Aubrey-Berry Campbell Defence Committee organising meeting: Tuesday 26 April, 8.30pm, Northumberland Arms, Kings Cross Road, London WC1.

NORTH WEST GAY RIGHTS WEEKEND: 7-8 May, in Oldham. Information stall on market, public meeting, disco. Gay People's Conference, picnic, workshop sessions. Details from Peter Marsh, phone 061-852-7468. Accommodation, phone Bill Cort, Littleborough 70488.

SOCIALIST FEMINIST PLANING GROUP meeting: Sexual self-determination and the fight to control our bodies. Sunday 24 April, 10am-5.30pm, Caston House, St Johns Way, London N19.

JAMAICAN WORKERS SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN Bulletin No 1 out now. Price 5p plus postage from 36 St Alphonsus Road, London, SW4.

Trade Union Conference Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act: Conference of trade union delegates, Sunday 15 May, 4pm-7pm, Hammersmith Town Hall. Further details from Brother E Reidy, 37 Middle Lane, London N8 iPhone 01-286 9833.

DELEGATES from the Transport Workers Union voted at this week's Scottish Trades Union Congress against any further wage restraint.

Despite the presence of their general secretary, Jack Jones, the TGWU delegates voted 18-12 to support a militant resolution from the miners' union opposing any pay restraint.

On paper at least, the STUC regularly maintains a position to the left of the British Trade Union Congress.

And most of the resolutions at this year's conference in Rothesay reflect that.

No cuts!

The General Council's motion on economic policy is a clear rejection of the government's strategy for dealing with the crisis.

Correctly, the General Council call for a return to free collective bargaining, opposition to the cuts in public spending and an end to policies that are deliberately creating unemployment.

This is backed up by militant resolutions from the Scottish miners, the local government workers' union NALGO, ASTMS, Glasgow Trades Council and many of the other big affiliated organisations.

They all call for an 'alternative strategy' to the right-wing course being pursued by the Labour government. Clearly many of them will be passed.

No doubt the rising wave of rank and file anger that threatens to sweep away the Social Contract will allow the full-time officials and other conference militants to make their fiery speeches, safe in the knowledge that somebody is

TGWU delegates give Jones a shock



A van drives into the picket line at the Evening Telegraph in Kettering, where 60 journalists have been out for 20 weeks. The incident happened during last Friday's mass picket, attended by journalists from all over the country.

On Tuesday, the annual delegate meeting of the National Union of Journalists voted to bring out on strike

all members employed in the East Midlands Allied Press combine, owners of the Evening Telegraph.

Editors from the New Musical Express and Motorcycle News which print at Kettering have been instructed not to cross the picket line.

And the union is to call one day solidarity strikes across the Newspaper Society field. Initially,

these will be directed against those companies whose executives sit on the Newspaper Society committee which decided to set up an anti-NUJ closed shop fund.

Messages of support and donations to the Lock-Out Fund, c/o the NUAAW Offices, Cattlemarket, Kettering, Northants.

actually fighting.

But the test for the STUC is not about the passing of 'left resolutions', nor is it about raising demands and presenting alternatives to a Labour government that is too impotent to respond.

With one or two exceptions, notably a positive resolution from Paisley Trades Council which argues for the setting up of local action committees against the cuts, the agenda is bursting at the seams with resolutions asking, telling or

pleading with the government to change what it is doing.

Fortunately, the trade union movement is not just about conference halls and negotiating rooms.

On Wednesday the rank and file were on the streets against the Social Contract.

Delegates at Rothesay ought to be arguing about how that action can be extended, because it is that more than anything else that will guarantee the defeat of Labour's Tory policies.

SPARKS MARCH ON CITY HALL

300 GLASGOW local authority electricians held a mass meeting last Thursday to organise against the cuts in the building department.

We voted to strike against the Social Contract on 20 April and to join the local demonstration.

We then marched to the

By Alan Wilson, EETPU shop steward, Glasgow District Council Electrical Workshops

City Chambers, the citadel of the local Labour Party, and occupied the committee rooms in protest against the cuts that threaten our depart-

ment. So far the local authority bosses have been reluctant to try and enforce redundancies, but it is obvious to us that work is being deliberately held back, particularly on school repairs.

Dispute

At the same time, 30 or 40 electricians who are willing to work are being forced to sit around in the workshops.

It is clear that the bosses want to sicken the men and make them look for alternative employment or even accept voluntary redundancy. This would assist the Council in carrying out their policy of natural wastage.

We took direct action on Thursday to show that we won't sit back and allow our jobs to be destroyed.

We refused to end the occupation until local councillors gave assurances that the work which we know exists would be given to us.

Tube bosses forced to back down

By Bernie Dunne

THE FIGHT against new London Transport rotas began last week when 60 drivers and guards at the Queens Park depot refused to adopt a new rota scheme.

The new rotas would have meant shorter breaks, longer periods in the tunnels and no extra pay.

Instead of working the new scheme, drivers and guards reported for work but only agreed to operate the old

rotas. As a result, a quarter of the services from Queens Park were cancelled.

Management finally caved in when the Elephant and Castle branch of ASLEF agreed to spread the action and stop all trains between Queens Park and Baker Street. The old rotas have now been restored while discussion take place.

The Platform, the transport workers rank and file paper, has been active around the dispute, organising support

from busmen and station workers on the underground.

An ASLEF member from Queens Park will be speaking at a Platform public meeting next Wednesday (27 April) 7.30pm, Shepherds Bush Labour Rooms, 446 Uxbridge Road, London W12.

150 GUARDS and shunters walked out last Friday at Kings Cross station in London in support of two guards who had been reprimanded by

management.

Their 'crime' was to refuse to take out unheated guards vans.

But the action is not just about that. It is about management attacks on railway porters' conditions at Kings Cross because of the cuts.

On 9 May, 6000 NUR members who work for Freightliners are expected to strike over a refusal by management to pay a London Allowance award.

THE OTHER CINEMA
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ABOVE US THE EARTH (A)

A FILM BY CARL FRANCIS with Gwen Francis, Windsor Rees, Evan Jones and Michael Foot, Joe Gormley, Neil Kinnock

A domestic tragedy set against a community tragedy told in documentary sound and images.
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Hotel workers' one in the eye for Jones

HOTEL WORKERS occupied the Board Room in Transport House last week to demand that the Transport and General Workers Union organises national blacking of Trust Houses Forte.

The occupation was organised by hotel workers from the Grosvenor in Sheffield and the Linton Lodge in Oxford. Both hotels have been on strike since before Christmas after TGWU members were sacked for joining the union.

Hotel workers are also on strike at the Randolph Hotel, in Oxford after joining the TGWU.

Both the Randolph and the Grosvenor are part of the giant Trust Houses Forte catering group. So is the Night Out Club in Birmingham, where more TGWU members are on strike after being sacked for joining the union. But the TGWU national executive has consistently refused to organise national blacking of Trust Houses Forte.

TGWU general secretary Jack Jones, has said that if they give up he will try and find them other jobs.

Instead support is coming from rank and file trade unionists. In Birmingham one TGWU branch is organising blacking of deliveries Trust Houses Forte motorway service areas.

Support

At the Cumberland Hotel, in Central London, workers in the General and Municipal Workers Union, staged a 24-hour strike last week, in support of the TGWU strikers.

□ DONATIONS AND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO:

Linton Lodge strike committee, 127 Botley Road, Oxford.

Night Out Strikers, c/o Trevor Jones, Transport House, Hartshead, Sheffield.

Randolph Hotel Strike Committee, 41 Bridge Street, Oxford.



Tate and Lyle lock-out goes on

From the TGWU process workers shop stewards committee, Tate and Lyle Gartons plant, Battersea, South West London.

WE ARE now in the second week of a lock-out after refusing to do compulsory overtime and cover in support of a claim for regrading.

Our claim was based on 'expanded responsibility'—the formula previously used by Tate and Lyle to give increases to management and supervisory grades ranging from £295 to £1500 a year, backdated to 1 January. The regrading was suggested by local department managers and agreed by them but later refused by higher management.

Wally Church house, the TGWU district official, saw management last week and told them that there is no way the TGWU will accept that their members must do overtime compulsorily.

However, it is unfortunate that after 10 days this clear cut lock-out case has not been made official. The stewards are now convinced that we cannot rely solely on our officials to win the dispute for the members.

Tate and Lyle have started major work inside the plant which would have caused a shutdown later in the year. If this is not stopped by the pickets Tate and Lyle will be happy for us to stand outside the gate for weeks.

The key to this dispute is effective picketing—we are getting all the members involved on a rota basis so that they don't sit at home and get fed up and forget what we're fighting for.

□ If a donation can be made, please send it to: S. Boosey, 14 Fox House, Maysoule Road, London SW11.

CHAMBERMAIDS STRIKE

LONDON: 28 chambermaids at the British Rail-owned Charing Cross Hotel are on strike because management have broken agreed procedure over offering work on days off.

The management have brought in scab labour and stopped meals for those

chambermaids who live in the hotel. Other staff have been threatened with the sack if they feed the strikers.

The chambermaids are in the railworkers' union (NUR). Their representative, Jean Jepson, told Socialist Worker: 'We will stay out until we win even if we have to starve for it.'

Five hospitals to strike for a day

WORKERS at five hospitals in South London will be striking for a day next week in an attempt to stop the closure of a maternity hospital and the conversion of its buildings into unwanted offices.

The workers at Weir Maternity Hospital plan to stop work and picket the hospital on Thursday.

Support has been promised from four other local hospitals and local trade union organisations, including the Save Our Hospitals Campaign. The day will include a demonstration through Balham and Tooting.

Two wards at the hospital were converted into offices two years ago at considerable cost, on the grounds that the wards were under-used. The reason for the 'under-use' was that local doctors had been told not to send patients to Weir, but to other already overstretched maternity units in the area.

This was a deliberate policy to run the hospital down.

The Area Health Authority made the conversions without applying for planning permission. Now they are applying to Lambeth Borough Council to convert the rest of the building they are having to answer some awkward questions.

At a meeting in February midwives were told that the Weir was due to close in July. They were thanked for their services by the Area Nursing Officer and told there were no local vacancies for midwives.

Future

Meanwhile individual hospital workers had been approached and offered work in the building when it becomes offices, but this will mean

Fifty angry Save Our Hospitals campaigners confronted the Area Health Authority at their April meeting—and the chairperson, Mrs Alison Munroe, claimed that the future of Weir Hospital was still at an 'early consultative stage'.

Staff at the Weir were so frustrated and demoralised, not only with management but also because they were not receiving any useful support from their union, that a shop steward approached the Save Our Hospitals Campaign.

We attended a Joint Shop Stewards Committee set up specifically to fight the cuts and closures in the area.

The outcome was that the public employers' union NUPE finally organised a meeting—which decided on Thursday's one-day strike.

□ SUPPORT THE PICKET: All day, Thursday 28 April, at Weir Maternity Hospital, Weir Road, Balham, SW12.

□ DEMONSTRATION: Assemble 7pm at the picket line, for march through Balham and Tooting to a public meeting, 8pm, at St George's Hospital, Blackshaw Road, SW17.

MASSEYS NO HARVEST

KILMARNOCK: 1200 workers at the Massey Ferguson combine harvester factory are now in their sixth week on strike.

The strike started because for over two years the company consistently refused to link the bonus earnings of 125 assembly track workers to those enjoyed by other assembly shop workers. Because management controls the speed of the track, the workers are unable to benefit

from any increased production.

When 125 assembly track workers voted to strike the rest of the factory came out with them Sam Kay, convenor, told Socialist Worker: 'The strike has official support and we've been picketing the factory from the outset. Nothing is getting through.'

'This grievance has already been through all stages of procedure without being resolved.'

Printworkers locked out

SURREY: 61 members of the printworkers' union SLADE were issued with dismissal notices last Friday. The men, workers at the Bradbury Wilkinson printing works in

New Malden, have effectively been locked out for daring to work to rule in support of opening negotiations for a 15 per cent pay claim after Phase 2 of the Social Contract ends.

POLICE ENFORCE LOCK-OUT

EAST KILBRIDE: 500 workers at Sunbeam Electric returned from their Easter holidays to find management had locked them out.

And 16 policemen and women, backed up by dog handlers, were at hand at the factory gates to curb any demonstration by the workforce.

Management stated that the layoffs were necessary because of a strike by 50 men in the bonderising department over a payment of bonus rates. But the shop stewards said there was plenty of work still to be done in the factory.

The stewards are suspicious of management tactics, which, since the beginning of the year, have been to escalate every small dispute into a confrontation.

At a time when orders are low Sunbeam seem to be taking a leaf out of the car manufacturers' book and laying off workers at the first opportunity. The reply the workers must give is to stay in the factory and demand full pay or full work.

□ Donations and messages of support to: John Cowen (treasurer), 7 Colville Drive, East Field, Rutherglen, Glasgow.

Strike over council 'gestapo'

EAST LONDON: Unanimous support for the action taken by cleansing officers and manual worker of Tower Hamlets Council was given at a meeting of white-collar council workers on Tuesday. Four unions were represented.

Officials blocked a call for strike action by white collar workers being put to the meeting, claiming such a decision could only be taken by the different unions represented separately at separate meetings.

The dispute arises out of

action taken by the transport manager and an official claiming to be from the 'Internal Security' department. There is no such department. He was an internal auditor.

Last Thursday these two officials 'paid a visit' to a mechanic in the cleansing department. He was accused of having stolen property in his possession.

Asked if they might search the house, he was caught in a Catch-22 situation: if he refused, it would appear to confirm his guilt.

Shop stewards are incensed by this flagrant violation of civil liberties. Not even the police may search without a warrant. Nor may a worker be 'interviewed' without a union representative present.

They want an end to Gestapo tactics by council officers.

OIL RIG PILOTS OUT

by JOHN DENNIS

ABERDEEN: Helicopter pilots at Dyce airport are on strike and 53 are picketing their terminal as of Friday morning.

Bristow's, a notoriously anti-union company, had sacked Captain Peter Royston when he refused to accept an overseas posting before his current contract expires in September. Captain Royston just happen to be active in

BALPA, the pilots' union. The strikers are hoping to resolve the dispute without taking up many of the offers of support they have had from other trade unionists—except for TGWU drivers who are not crossing the picket lines.

Bristow's fly out men and equipment to many of the oil rigs. Disruption of this multi-million pound industry is bound to bring pressure from the oil companies on management to settle quickly.

Castings: A hard battle

PETERBOROUGH: Workers picketing Die Castings are experiencing great hardship in their eight-week fight for a closed shop. The weather is bitter and £9-a-week strike pay doesn't go far.

Meanwhile their boss, Coley, is getting away from it all in St Andrews for a spot of golf.

A letter from management is now being considered but as one of the men put it: 'We want firm assurances first, we returned last time after a three-day strike and got nothing. They can't be trusted.'

The haulage firm that is continually breaking the picket will regret it. They have lost major contracts to other firms and won't be very popular if they come after the dispute.

The men and women, members of the engineering union (AUEW), see their struggle as crucial not only for improving their own dirty and unsafe conditions but as providing a lead for other sweatshops in the area.

His mate, pointing to the 20 blacklegs still inside said: 'Really, we are fighting for them. They moan about the rotten pay and conditions but are not prepared to do anything about it.'

Ted Piper was pleased that Socialist Worker said what the dispute was about. 'The local press were only interested in a wife who paraded with a placard to get her husband and son back to work. They didn't want to know about us.'

□ Donations and messages of support to Bill Weeber, 29 Camelia Close, Peterborough.

Winders out

NORWICH: 78 winders, members of the Electricians Union (EETPU), at the largest engineering works in Norwich, Laurence Scotts and Electromotors, are entering their sixth week of official strike.

They submitted a claim for regrading which would be worth £3 a week for most of them. Many of them have worked there for 20 years and never struck before.

Their picketing is effective. The employers threatened to lay off 2,500 workers by the end of the week. The winders are getting little strike pay and urgently need money.

□ Donations to: Winders Strike Committee, c/o Labour Club, Bethel Street, Norwich.

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PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

GRUNWICKS: THIS 24-HOUR PICKET NEEDS HELP

Isn't it time we won this strike?

JOIN the 24-hour picket of Grunwicks. Step up the support.

That is the message going out to trade unionists throughout London this week.

For 35 long weeks, nearly nine months, the workers of Grunwicks, most of them Asian, have been on strike for the right to

belong to a trade union.

When they joined the clerical workers union, APEX, they were all sacked. They had been getting £25 a week for 35 hours, before deductions. Even the Daily Mirror, described these as slave wages and Grunwicks as a sweatshop.

For a few days the Post Office workers union (UPW) blacked all delivery of mail to Grunwicks. As part of the business is processing film this could easily have won the strike.

But the extreme right-wing National

Association for Freedom made the first of many interventions in the strike and helped the Grunwicks management get a High Court order to stop the picketing.

The UPW backed down.

Since then pickets have been assaulted by the management—and by the local police, the same police division that attacked the Right to Work march in Hendon.

The strikers' case could not be stronger. Even the TUC general secretary, Len Murray, made a rare appearance at the strike. 'We do not stand behind you, we stand beside you all the way,' he said.

That was before Christmas. Since then the TUC General Council has called on trade unionists not to use Grunwicks film.

Confidence

They have done nothing else at all.

While the UPW and the TUC have covered and kept out of the way, support from local trade unionists has been encouraging.

But far more needs to be done to win this strike.

A meeting in Birmingham of 1,500 members of the Indian Workers Association passed a resolution last week calling for support for Grunwicks workers.

Massive support is needed on the picket lines. Every trade union branch and shop stewards committee in London should send official delegations with banners to the pickets, regularly, to keep the rota going.



A picket outside the Grunwicks factory—they've been there for nearly nine months now

Old Bailey delegations grow

MASSIVE trade union support for the picket of the Old Bailey on Wednesday 4 May, in support of Right to Work marcher John Deason, is now building up.

There is still time to move a resolution to ensure that your trade union

organisation sends an official delegation with banner to the picket. The picket begins at 9.30am sharp, as the court begins at 10am.

Among the trade union organisations sending official delegations are:

Shanleys building site UCATT, Cricklewood AUEW, East London NUJ, Gardners SSC Manchester, Franchise Hospital NUPE, Cook UCATT, Ellington NUM, Wokingham 2 AUEW, York Trades Council, Barnet Trades Council, NUJ Book Branch, ACTSS Composite York, Letchworth 5 AUEW, Ipswich AUEW, Cowley AUEW 203, Hammersmith Hospital NUPE, Hackney Trades Council, Seddon Atkinson SSC Preston, Warley Trades Council, Greenwich Trades Council, Swansea EETPU, TGWU 5/293 (Cowley Assembly) Oxford, TGWU 7/38, Accrington AUEW 8, Rolls-Royce Production SSC Bristol, Northampton WE 12 UCATT, Luton UCATT, Newton 28 NE AUEW, Howard Rotovators SSC Ipswich, Churchdown AUEW, UCATT Norththerton, Hackney 1 UCATT, Springvale AUEW, Kingsheath AUEW, Timberley AUEW, ASTMS Swansea 2, ASTMS General Cambridge, Stevenage No 1 AUEW, Warrington NSMM, AUEW Edmonton 2, Solway AUEW, Glenhead AUEW, New Ham AUEW, Ellesmere Port 7 AUEW, NALGO Lothian Regional Branch, East Northants NUJ, AUEW West Cheshire Wirral, Islington NALGO, TGWU 6/22, GLC NALGO, APEX Holborn, ACTIS Central, London, ASTMS Executive Staffs Branch, DOE CPSA Westminster, DPS CPSA, LSE Students Union, SOAS Students Union, Bedford College Students Union, North London Poly Students Union, Guildford Trades Council, Woking Trades Council, Lewisham NALGO, Thames Poly Students Union, British Library CPSA, Hendon ASTMS, Shepherds Bush AUEW, Mill Hill 2 AUEW, NW Metropolitan POEU, Hammersmith NALGO, Smiths Computers SSC, Frigidaire/General Motors SSC, Hendon College NATFHE, BCC Racall SSC, Oliver Toms SSC, PCL Joint Union Committee, NUJ Magazine Branch, Camden GLC nlgo Action Group, London Redder Tape, Spenny Moor Trades Council, Salford 6 AUEW, Hounslow NALGO.

Full details of transport to the picket—Rank and File Diary, page 10.

NO MORE SHREWSBURYS! DEFEND JOHN DEASON!

RALLY: Saturday 30 April, 2.30pm, Unity House, Euston Road, London NW1. (opposite Euston Station). Speakers include Ricky Tomlinson (Shrewsbury picket), Ernie Roberts (assistant general secretary, AUEW), Mike Lynch (jailed Right to Work marcher). Organised by Barnet Trades Council.

Tickets 35p each (20p each for orders of more than one from trade union organisations) from 16 Yew Grove, London NW2.

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Send to: National Secretary,
Socialist Workers Party, 6 Cottone
Gardens, London E2 6JW

THE 1984 MACHINE

by EAMONN McCANN

THE British Army's '1984' computer went into operation in Northern Ireland last week.

Almost immediately four young County Armagh women were arrested in the Channel Islands, accused of being 'terrorists', locked up and treated 'like wild animals'.

Mauritta Heaney, aged 18, Bernadette McConville, 18, Una McCann, 19 and Mary Loughran, 18, arrived in Guernsey on Wednesday hoping to find jobs for the tourist season. Within hours they were stopped in the street and frogmarched to the nearest police station.

Mauritta Heaney says: 'They told us we were in the Provisional IRA and when we said we were not they said 'But you are Catholics'.'

What had happened was that Guernsey police, through the Royal Ulster Constabulary, had had the women's names fed into the army computer, which holds a mass of cross-referenced 'biographical' information

In Northern Ireland...

The computer immediately announced that one of the women had a father and brother in Long Kesh. When this information was flashed back to Guernsey the four were transferred to the island's 150-year-old St Peter Port remand centre and locked in the cells.

Mauritta Heaney said later: 'They treated us like wild animals. While the other prisoners were allowed out of their cells between 7am and 9pm each day and could watch television, we were only allow-

ed out for ten minutes' exercise. The other prisoners were not allowed to talk to us.

'The police kept telling us they could hold us for seven days and then for another five days.'

Meanwhile local papers and radio reported the dramatic news that a suspected IRA terror unit had been apprehended on the island.

When the police told the women on Friday evening they would be released if they agreed to leave the island immediately they had no

... and in the republic too

FOUR THOUSAND people marched through the centre of Dublin last Saturday in support of the 18 Republican prisoners on hunger strike in Portlaoise Prison.

Prisoners are stripped and their genitals and anus explored continually, supposedly in an effort to ensure that they are not carrying explosives, but actually in a

systematic attempt to humiliate, degrade and break the spirit of the men.

One man, Joe O'Neill, a Sinn Fein councillor, was stripped and searched in this way five times in one hour. Men are sometimes strip-searched just for the hell of it—having been alone in their cell since the previous search.

Solitary confinement for

choice: their names had been blackened beyond repair, their chances of finding jobs were nil.

Each had saved about £100 to go to Guernsey.

They are now back home and can expect constant harassment. Because the fact that they were once held as suspected terrorists has now been added to the store of information in the 1984 machine. Every time they are stopped at a check point they can expect rough treatment.

Likewise anyone stopped while in their company will be recorded as an associate of a suspected person.... and so it goes on.

weeks on end is imposed for the slightest infringement of rules.

The hunger strike is a last-resort action against these conditions. The prisoners have no other weapon.

And to maintain its right to inflict such torture the national coalition government seems prepared to sacrifice 18 lives.