

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

THE MOST IMPORTANT PICKET  
SINCE THE MINERS' STRIKE WAS  
WON AT SALTLEY

- Send delegations to the picket every morning at 7am, especially this Friday (1 July), Dollis Hill tube.
- Organise mass delegations and stoppages for the mass picket on 11 July.
- Picket your local chemists and make sure they are not handling: Copper and Pearson, Bonuspool, Trucolour, Monkolov

# GRUNWICKS: The workers, united, will never be defeated



DEFEND THE LEWISHAM 21, STOP  
POLICE MUGGING

Demonstrate Saturday 2 July. Assemble 2pm, Clifton Rise, New Cross Station, London, SE14. All London SWP Districts to support.

# Dockers vote to demand 20 per cent wage rise

**THE Social Contract is no more!**  
This was the message coming through loud and clear from 3000 dockers meeting in Southampton and Liverpool last week. They voted *unanimously* to fight for a 20 per cent increase in August.  
The meeting was the first of a series

to be organised at every major port in the country by the National Ports Shop Stewards Committee.  
The dockers are setting a magnificent example to workers throughout the country to kill the Social Contract as soon as Phase 2 ends on 31 July.

## TGWU pays out £15 -to scabs!

**THIS Thursday, in the canteen of an Essex factory, the Transport and General Workers Union official will pay about a thousand pounds of union money—to scabs.**

Each of the 70 workers at Yardleys, Basildon, who crossed the picket lines during last spring's equal pay strike will receive £15 from the union.

'I'm so mad about it I can hardly speak,' says Joan Penfold, a TGWU shop steward who was one of the



Flashback to March, and the Yardleys picket line

strike leaders. 'It's knocking people's jobs and it's knocking the whole trade union movement.'

Every week during the strike, mass meetings of the women had voted by huge majorities to stay out of work. The scabs had gone back in defiance of these decisions.

### Persuaded

At the final meeting, the strikers were persuaded to go back to work after Ron Todd, regional secretary of the TGWU's biggest region—no 1—had offered them an 'ex gratia' payment of £25 per striker.

'Todd promised *three times* that money would only be paid to those of us who had stayed out on strike,' says Joan Penfold.

Todd, however, plotted otherwise. He was angry that his constant instructions to the women to go back to work had been

ignored. He believed that the 70 scabs who had crossed picket lines on his instructions should get some money too.

So, despite constant protests from the Yardley strikers, the finance and general purposes committee of the union has agreed to pay £15 to each scab.

The firm has made the canteen available this Thursday for this squalid hand-out. If Todd appears on the scene he is in for a rough reception.

Joan Penfold has written a poem about the Yardley's strike in this month's issue of our sister paper, *Women's Voice*. It's a fine poem, and a fine issue. *Women's Voice* is going from strength to strength. Get your copy now. 17p including postage from WV, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## PROTEST STARTS AT FASCIST STRONGHOLD

THE TUC has decided to start its national demonstration against racism next Saturday outside Strangeways Prison, in Manchester.

This is highly appropriate. Eighty prison warders in Strangeways are organised into the National Front.

Warders openly wear National Front badges. They have been known to come on duty wearing National Front

badges.

Black prisoners have been threatened and abused. They are given the hardest work and made to wait last for food and slopping out.

One black prisoner was locked in a padded cell for three days and threatened by National Front warders.

On some cell doors warders have pinned notices saying 'Illegal immigrant.'

And all the Home Office has done is forbid the wearing of National Front badges.

Supporters of Flame and Socialist Worker demonstrated outside the prison in February. Now the massive national demonstration called by the TUC must be supported by all trade unionists and socialists in the North West, as part of the general campaign against racism.

It will also be a way of showing the National Front warders inside Strangeways that the campaign against them goes on.



Women's Voice picket out in London last week with a noisy reception for the anti-abortion bigots who came to picket the British Medical Association, the doctors' organisation which has come out against tightening the abortion laws.

### March against racialism

Saturday 9 July in Manchester  
Called by the Trades Union Congress as a national demonstration. Leaves Strangeways Prison, 12 noon.

All SWP North West branches and members to support with maximum turn-out

SUPPORT THE GRUNWICKS PICKET LINE: 7am, every v

# Printers, miners, STOP THE

**LEADERS of 30,000 Post Office workers in London voted by 2-1 on Tuesday to impose a total black on Grunwicks mail.**

Dockers in Liverpool and Southampton also voted to give the Grunwicks pickets their support, while the civil servants' union CPSA is calling for official delegations this Friday.

And in Bristol, printers have blacked production of a million postal packets ordered by Grunwicks for their mail order film business.

## DEFEND RICHARD MAULL!

SIXTY PEOPLE, family, friends and fellow workers of Richard Maull, met on Monday and formed a defence committee. Richard is the young West Indian worker who has been charged with throwing the bottle that injured Special Patrol Group police constable Wilson.

Chris Piggott, chairman of the white-collar union ASTMS at Smiths Industries Computer Department, where Richard Maull works, told Socialist Worker: 'The Special Branch came looking for Richard last Saturday morning.'

'They made a raid on the department at quarter past seven. Two of them were led in by a Smiths Industries security guard through the back entrance into the computer area.'

'There were other Special Branch men in position on the front door, apparently in case Richard, who wasn't there, tried to escape.'

'The security guard asked if Richard was present or if he was hiding somewhere. The two Special Branch men stood on either side of the security guard. They never spoke, never produced a warrant or showed any identification at all.'

'When they were satisfied

Richard was not on the premises, they left.

'The computer operators at Smiths are all members of ASTMS. They have all been on the Grunwicks picket line. Richard is both a friend and a comrade of ours.'

'He is black and he is a militant trade unionist. He was a perfect target for the political police.'

### Security

On Monday a courtroom packed with Richard's family and friends heard the police successfully oppose bail. His family were in tears. He is being held in Brixton police station until he appears in court again in seven days time.

APEX has disowned Richard. Who are they to act as judge and jury?

They are playing right into the hands of the press and making the chance of a witch-hunt against him much more likely.

Richard Maull's union branch has formed a defence committee. If you witnessed what happened or if you can help in the defence campaign, please contact Richard Maull Defence Committee, c/o Secretary, ASTMS 628 Branch, 65 Ashworth Mansions, Elgin Ave, London W9.

## They come armed . . .

'The 100-strong group is split into four teams and is used as a mobile reserve to go to trouble spots. Members of the unit travel in specially fitted carriers . . . and always have a marksman and a gun with them.'

Daily Telegraph, 24 June.

## STORY FROM THE INSIDE

TWO West Indian women workers and accountant Rasheed Mohammed quit the Grunwicks factory last week and told a press conference of their ordeal under Ward's rule. They all confirmed rumours that Ward had jacked up the wages by 25 per cent, thus breaking the Social Contract after the

strike had started.

They gave vivid descriptions of how he leaned heavily on any worker he thought might vote for the union in the 'independent' ballot he commissioned.

Last Monday Tony Jimenez was at the press conference. He'd just quit work too.

'Last August I earned £36 for 40 hours. Since then I've had two wage increases, one of 25 per cent and one of 10 per cent.'

'When Grantham was coming to the factory Ward came down to the canteen in Cobbold Road and incited the workers. 'Go and give it to him' he told them.'

*The message is: the mass action goes on. The strike committee is standing firm. They want as many people as possible at the picket line every morning.*

Grunwicks boss George Ward has made it clear again and again that 'under no circumstances can those workers who have been sacked be reinstated.' Only mass action will force him to back down.

### Fantastic

Numbers may have slackened since the massive police occupation of the streets last Friday, when they doubled their numbers. But the signs are that the big battalions of the trade union movement are now beginning to move.

The London District Council of the Post Office Workers Union took its decision for a total black on Grunwicks in the face of opposition from the union executive—and regional management have already hinted that postal workers operating the blacking may be suspended.

Send them telegrams and messages of support to: John Taylor, LDC UPW, 14-16 Old Street, London, EC1.

### Arrested

Dave Percival, chairman of Croydon UPW, told Socialist Worker: 'This tremendous boost for the Grunwicks strikers is a direct result of the mass pickets.'

'The Cricklewood office gave the lead as soon as the picket started. Now we can paralyse them throughout London.'

Micky Fenn, shop steward in the Royal Group of Docks, in London, told Socialist Worker:

'I've just come back from a fantastic meeting in Liverpool. Two thousand dockers voted to a man to give every

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# postal workers, dockers, civil servants all act to GRUNWICKS SCABS!

## THIS THEY CALL PEACEFUL POLICE ACTION

MARY DAVIS, a teacher, tells what happened to her on the Grunwicks picket line:

'I was around the back one day when the bus came. We were surrounded by ordinary police. As the bus approached the Special Patrol Group jumped out and cleared a way for it. Their tactics were quite different to those of the ordinary police. We were just something in the way. The fact that we were human was irrelevant to them.'

'They went for the weakest points first. That meant the women and the smaller men. I'm quite sure they deliberately jumped on my legs. A bone in my foot was broken.'

'I was carried out of the way and put on the pavement. There I met other pickets who had also been huddled out. There was another girl with damaged legs. There was also a man bent double where he had been hit in the groin.'



## THIS THEY CALL VIOLENCE ON THE PICKET

JOHN ROSE writes: I was standing next to Mike Hicks, a printworker and a few minutes before the Special Patrol Group policeman was hit by a bottle. The pickets were fuming because the police had arrested Arthur Scargill and several other miners.

Hicks was arguing with a Special Patrol Group police sergeant. Their conversation was quite amiable. The sergeant was denying that the police were biased.

As they chatted an SPG minibus pulled out in the street.

A crowd of about 70 pickets standing on the pavement jeered them. Suddenly the SPG jumped out of the back of the bus and plunged into the crowd.

'They must be crazy,' the police sergeant muttered to Hicks.

Fighting then broke out on the street. The bottle was thrown minutes after this.

conceivable assistance to Grunwicks.

'Now we can confidently say that dockers will start coming to that picket line.'

Said Mike McGrath, national executive committee member of the CPSA, the civil servants union: 'We are now calling officially for branches to send delegates to the picket from this Friday. It is now up to civil servants to get down to the picket line in their hundreds.'

Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader who was arrested at Grunwicks last week, is calling for a national day of action on Monday 11 July.

### Decision

Socialist Worker readers everywhere, as well as organising delegations as often as possible before 11 July, should start preparing now for action on this important day.

Printers in Bristol have blacked production of a million postal packets for Grunwicks mail order firm.

But above all the mass picketing continues and will be intensified.

## Rule of law, Rule of the few

'I ONLY obey the law of the land', says George Ward, boss of Grunwicks.

On Monday, he will be in the High Court, suing the government's conciliation agency, ACAS, which he claims broke the law in their inquiry into the Grunwicks dispute.

ACAS, claims Ward, interviewed sacked workers on the picket—and these were not 'workers' within the meaning of the Act.

ACAS was set up by the Labour government's Employment Protection Act, by which Labour promised the trade unions to 'safeguard' trade union rights. But now Ward is claiming that the conciliation agency has no right to interview workers who he has sacked.

If he wins, it means that any

## Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

employer can sack any worker who wants a trade union—and so place that worker outside the range of the trade union laws!

If he loses, he can waste another few months by appealing to the House of Lords.

Ward has already had a good run in the courts. A mere threat to sue the Post Office Workers Union lifted the black on postal deliveries to Grunwicks.

In March, a North London industrial tribunal found that his sacking of workers last summer was justified.

The reason was simple. The workers had gone on strike. And the tribunal is banned by law from deciding that dismissals are unfair if the dismissed workers are on strike.

In other words, no cases of strikers being dismissed can be judged by the industrial tribunals.

### Discovered

Because he sacked 90, he could justify it, again under an Act—the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act—which was part of Labour's boast to secure trade union rights!

So however tight, however detailed is Labour's trade union legislation, it can still be shot to pieces by the legal profession.

The laws passed by the elected government become shadowy nothings when they are tested in the courts by the employers and their

lawyers.

None of the lawyers or judges are elected. All, with only a handful of exceptions, are drawn from the wealthy few. The higher they climb, the more reactionary they become.

They are also irresponsible. No judge has been removed from the bench since 1706. Only the monarch has the power to remove them. They can overthrow the substance of Labour government Acts without even the slightest fear of dismissal.

The rule of law is the rule of the unelected and irresponsible few. It is a constant threat to workers' rights and trade union strength.

It is no wonder that Ward, the National Association For Freedom and the Tory Party are champions of the rule of law. The wonder—and the tragedy—is that trade union leaders seem all too happy to hang their members by the same rope.

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# EAGER BEAVERS

THE COMPANIES THAT LOVE THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

# The scandal of BP

By SEYMOUR PROPHET  
*The bug in the boardroom*

THE GOVERNMENT has taken the first steps in selling off North Sea Oil.

In one case—reducing its shareholding in British Petroleum—it is giving in to the demands of private industry that the government should not have control of one of the largest oil companies in the world.

rearrangement of the finances of the British National Oil Corporation—the government has allowed the company to prepare the ground for an eventual hiving off to the private sector. This week the government has sold 17 per cent of its 68 per cent shareholding in BP, for £566 million. Since 1914, the govern-

ment has had a large shareholding in BP. But, as the prospectus advertising this week's sale said: 'BP has always been managed and operated as a private business enterprise.' And the government has said it has no intention of changing this, or its policy not to intervene in the running of the company.

Despite this, when, at the beginning of 1976 the government increased its stake in BP to 68 per cent, there was an outcry from the city and the oil industry. The government got these extra shares as part of its rescue of the Burmah Oil Company. As a result of a variety of lunatic schemes—especially a

major foray into shipping—Burmah had brought itself to the verge of bankruptcy. The government, through the Bank of England, said it would help by buying from Burmah most of its large shareholding in BP. At the time, Burmah were only too pleased to grasp this lifeline. Since then, however, they have changed their minds because the price of BP shares has gone higher—much to the profit of the government. Now Burmah claim the sale was invalid. So much for the risks of rugged private enterprise.

# Seven years of torment for victim of a new menace down Britain's pits

By BILL MESSAGE

FOR the past seven years, miner Ron Taylor has been suffering from a relatively new hazard in the pits—chemicals.

Like many miners of his age, Ron—or Brick, as he is known to his mates at Shireoaks Colliery in South Yorkshire—has had a bad back. He also has had to have a cartilage removed.

**Blind**  
But in 1970 he was sprayed in the face by oil used to lubricate the new hydraulic machinery introduced into the pits in recent years. Two five-gallon drums of oil dropped and burst open, the contents hitting Ron full in the face.

'I was blind for half an hour and I was sick all over the place,' he says. Four weeks later, his face started going red. Ever since, he has had a blotchy red face, which from time to time bursts out into sore, stinging spots. Has he received any compensation for his disfigurement and suffering? 'The first time I was off I got industrial injury benefit. The doctor put it down as dermatitis. The next time it was put down as acne and I didn't get a penny. There's a booklet now explaining the dangers of these oils, but it's only come out in the past three years. Seven years ago I didn't know anything about them.' Several NUM branches are

pressing the union to investigate and do something about the dangers of such oils down the pit. Nothing has happened. The oil used in most of the hydraulic machinery on the coal-face is called Aquacent

Group 9. Century Oils, who manufacture it, provide a code of practice for 'safe' use. One glance at their publication shows that these oils should never be used down a coal mine. It is stipulated that they

should not be used in a confined space. The oils are extremely poisonous and the company advises immediate hospital treatment if their vapour is inhaled. Leakages of the oil on the coal face are not uncommon, yet the oil is supposed to be cleared up immediately any spillage occurs. A coal-face is hardly the

best location for a mop and bucket operation. Food and drink should not be permitted where these oils are stored or used and washing facilities should be provided. It is obvious that these oils are not fit to be used down a pit. It is equally obvious that NUM officials and their safety advisers are dragging their feet.

# STUFF THE JUBILEE—AND GO TO JAIL

WALLS ARE precious in Golspie, Sutherland. For putting up a Spot the Scrounger poster on this fine example of British architecture—a brick wall—Mike Dodd has suffered police harassment. Just before HRH Prince Charles was due to visit the Scottish town, Mike was

arrested as he was about to paste up a second poster. He explained: 'I was charged with maliciously damaging the wall and spent two hours in a police cell. I was taken to another police station 50 miles away at 3.15 am and ignored for five hours. They wouldn't allow bail or

tell me when I would appear in court. If my wife and Easter Ross SWP members hadn't phoned the police station I reckon I would have been kept in the whole weekend.' Mike was released and told to appear in court 50 miles away at 2pm. He was locked

up for another half an hour when he arrived there. Eventually he was released on £5 bail. But it didn't stop there. 'On the way home my wife and I were stopped for a "routine" car check by a detective who had been arguing with my wife outside the court.'

When the government bought that Burmah stake, it promised it would not use the votes on those shares to exercise its control over BP. But even this was not enough for the city who have been clamouring for the government to sell part of its shareholding ever since. And now the government has obliged.

**Millions**  
This week, almost 67 million BP shares owned by the government have been sold.

As they were offered for sale at £8.45—£3 down, the rest in six months time—when the price in the stock market was nearly £9, there was no shortage of buyers.

The millions of pounds that a select band of stockbrokers, bankers and investors received in return for promising to take the shares if no-one else wanted them, was thus money for old rope.

Those who have bought the shares may see their money back in dividends within ten years.

Although dividend increases are controlled at the moment, BP have decided to pay into a special fund money which they otherwise would have paid out in dividends. This year the payment goes up by half.

**Fortune**  
When dividend controls are lifted, the money in this fund will be paid out to shareholders.

Something rather different has been happening at British National Oil Corporation—the company which owns the government's interests in the North Sea.

At the moment BNOC is not making any money as the exploration programme is in its early stages. But it is clear that one day it is going to make a fortune.

So far, BNOC has been financed by loans from the government—almost £330 million at the last count.

But earlier this month it announced that it had borrowed £485 million from a group of American and British banks.

BNOC's chairman Lord Kearton—rewarded with the post by the government after his success in closing bits of his textile group, Courtaulds—said that a large part of the money would go to repaying the government.

**Suprise**  
This news came as something of a surprise to the government, who were expecting to finance most of BNOC's development programme.

Although all the shares in BNOC are still held by the government, and champions of the labour movement such as Lord Briginshaw are on BNOC's board to look after our interests, the company has made the first move to loosening the financial strings which tie it to the government.

So, regardless of the ownership of the shares, BNOC can, like BP, operate as a private business enterprise.

# Where the army attacks pickets

FOUR hundred workers from five workplaces in West Belfast marched to a lunch-time protest last week in support of 26 workers on strike for union recognition.

This solidarity, organised by the Belfast Unemployment Action Committee, has led to the formation of a shop stewards committee for factories in the area.

The committee already has representatives from the EEP-TU, Irish Transport and Amalgamated Transport representing workers in five sites, as well as delegates from the unemployment committee.

**Sacked**  
When the Eastwoods scrap yard workers joined the General and Municipal Workers Union, management refused to meet with them. After a shop steward and two

other workers were sacked, the workers went on strike. The strike has been receiving tremendous support from the Andersonstown community. The Eastwoods family has a long history of exploiting workers in the area.

**Conditions**  
For years, they were willing to hire ex-internees who were not able to get other jobs. In return, they paid them extremely low wages.

The young workers in the yard are no longer willing to put up with the low wages and dangerous conditions. That's why they are fighting for a union.

The shop stewards committee is making determined efforts to win Eastwoods. They intend to take on the other problems of workers in the area. These include winning better working conditions in other factories, unionising

non-union shops, fighting unemployment in the area and dealing with the British Army harassment.

Workers on every site have been harassed by the Brits on picket lines or just on the way to and from work.

A shop steward from Ulster Crystal said: 'We've marched and demonstrated for years, but now that the workers are organised, we can deal with all these problems.'

**To win**  
But first on the agenda is how to win the Eastwoods strike. Further mass pickets are planned. And the Shop Stewards Committee has set up a strike fund.

The men have been out since 2 June and there is no strike fund for them. They need your help. Please send messages of support and donations to the Eastwood Strike Fund, 52 Broadway, Belfast 12.

**RF Rank and File DIARY**

Right to Work Campaign PETITION OF THE UNEMPLOYED to the Blackpool Trades Union Congress against the Social Contract. Blank copies available from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Send stamped addressed envelope.

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN LEAFLETS for Dole Queue distribution. Join the march to the Blackpool TUC. £1.50 for 500. Money with orders to the Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

HEALTH WORKERS ALMANACK: Essential reading for all who care about the NHS. Information and practical advice for all hospital trade unionists. Order now from Hospital Worker, 19 Red Post Hill, London SE24 or phone 01-733 8443—or contribute to the next one.

SOUTH LONDON SAVE OUR HOSPITALS CAMPAIGN: Picket the Area Health Authority, Wednesday 6 July, 4pm, Nurses Hostel, Springfield Hospital, Glenbourne Road, SW17. Make placards, bring kids.



THE COLLIER—new format June issue out now! Articles on The Jpe Gormley Show, the campaign against a productivity deal, Notts Miners' Gals, Dodworth safety victory, coal allowance deal, Rockingham, open-cast mining 10p a copy, plus 7p postage (subscription, 5 issues for 75p), from The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

JUST OUT—2nd edition of RANK AND FILE FIREMAN. Articles on Witchhunt against R & F Fireman, The Fight for £15, The Lessons of Glasgow 1973. Individual copies 15p, 10 for 50p, 20 for £1 (all post free) from Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Cash with orders.

Right to Work Campaign BADGES: 35 hours now, Fight for the right to work, Stop the Cuts, Smash the Social Contract, Save our Hospitals. All from the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. 10p each (1-7p postage). Cash with orders please.

**BOOKMARX CLUB**

Selections for third quarter of 1977

All members will receive the books in List A plus either List B or List C. Please indicate your choice when applying for membership.

LIST A  
Southern Africa After Soweto by Alex Callinicos and John Rogers  
Daughter of Earth by Agnes Smedley. A powerful feminist novel set in the shanties and mining towns of America at the turn of the century.

Plus one other book to be announced LIST B  
A Biography of James Connolly: Socialist, Patriot and Martyr by Samuel Levenson LIST C  
Destiny by David Edgar. A brilliant play about the rise of fascism in Britain.  
Poems and Ballads by Wolf Biermann. The East German government stripped him of his citizenship in 1976—but they failed to silence his communist songs and poems.

HOW TO JOIN THE BOOKMARX CLUB: Send £4.50 a quarter to Bookmarx Club, Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

I love our union but I am sick and tired of the way it is led.  
The rank and file spirit must be rekindled.

# AUEW: Ian Morris for president

**I BECAME a socialist at school, in the war years.**

I was at grammar school—very unusual in those days for a working class lad.

The snobbery turned my stomach. Trying to make us 'speak properly' and all that crap.

And I was dimly aware of the Nazi threat in the background too. I started thinking.

I did my apprenticeship in an engineering factory, and there was quite a long train journey.

I used to look for something that connected with my feelings of dissatisfaction. I came across a Frenchman who wrote about miners, their lives and their ideas. Emile Zola, he's the one writer that sticks out in my mind from those days.

Life in the factory confirmed me in my socialist way of thinking.

**Karl Marx**

I never really came across Karl Marx until I joined the International Socialists (now the Socialist Workers Party). But what struck me about Marx was the way he understood working class life and our struggles without having ever worked in a factory.

I was called up into the army just before the end of the war. Eventually I was sent to Palestine. I was expected to defend the place from 'illegal immigrants'.

We used to have to mount the buses with our sten guns and demand identity cards. I used to do the job with my eyes shut. I didn't want to know.

Years later, I was really angry when the British government bombed Port Said during the Suez crisis in 1956. I had been at Port Said. It was a terribly sad place. It looked like a bomb site anyway. Devastating poverty. People lived, if you can call that living, in hovels.

**British Rule**

Hundreds of years of British Rule had done that to them. And the British army finished off raining bombs on them just for good measure. I would have gone in the glass house if they'd called me up again at that time.

**ONE OF the most important union elections for years is taking place in the Autumn—for the President of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.**

This time there is going to be a candidate with a difference. He is Ian Morris 52, a welder and a leading shop steward at Heathrow Airport.

Ian is secretary of an AUEW branch in Wembley. Unlike the other candidates, he will be conducting a rank and file campaign—insisting that his supporters prepare for action around the policies he puts forward. The main points in his programme will be:—

- Against the Social Contract or any other form of wage restraint.
- For a 35 hour week: the only solution to unemployment.
- Opposition to racism
- Fight for equal pay and women's rights.

**INTERVIEW BY JOHN ROSE**

I've always detested the way people get treated badly because of their colour—abroad and at home.

*Racism wrecks our movement, and we have to speak out unequivocally against it.*

You've only got to look at Northern Ireland to see what happens when the nonsensical myths about different races and religions get believed. When that happens, there's no unity among workers, and the door is pushed open for the most horrible exploitation.

**Racism**

The union has a responsibility to act against racism, too. I remember reading in Socialist Worker some months ago about the woman who was forced by immigration officials to have a baby in an airport lounge. The baby died. I felt physically sick reading that.

I'd like to see the day when trade unionists on the airport could ensure that such a thing

could never happen again.

I've been in the engineering industry all my life. The Communist Party influenced all the people I knew who felt like me. But I never joined.

**Rank and file**

I always had the impression that too many of those who did join wanted to gain personal industrial power. Now, no-one is immune from this weakness. The system encourages it.

But the Communist Party also seemed to encourage it. This seemed the very opposite of the idea of rank and file control.

I've always been afraid of rising 'above' the work place. I never like to leave the work bench and my workmates on union business for more than half a day.

I feel instinctively that this is the only decent attitude. Of course we need leaders but it is the working class as a whole that has to create a different society.

## NAZIS FLEE—OVER THE WALL

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD proved too hot for the National Front last Friday.

They had planned a public meeting with leading Nazi Martin Webster—the man who says the Front are 'building a well-oiled Nazi machine in Britain.'

The first spanner in the works came when socialists called a demonstration outside the Warners Community Hall where the meeting was to

be held—and won official Labour Party backing.

The second was when pressure from various sections of the Labour movement persuaded the Community Association to cancel the Front's booking for the hall.

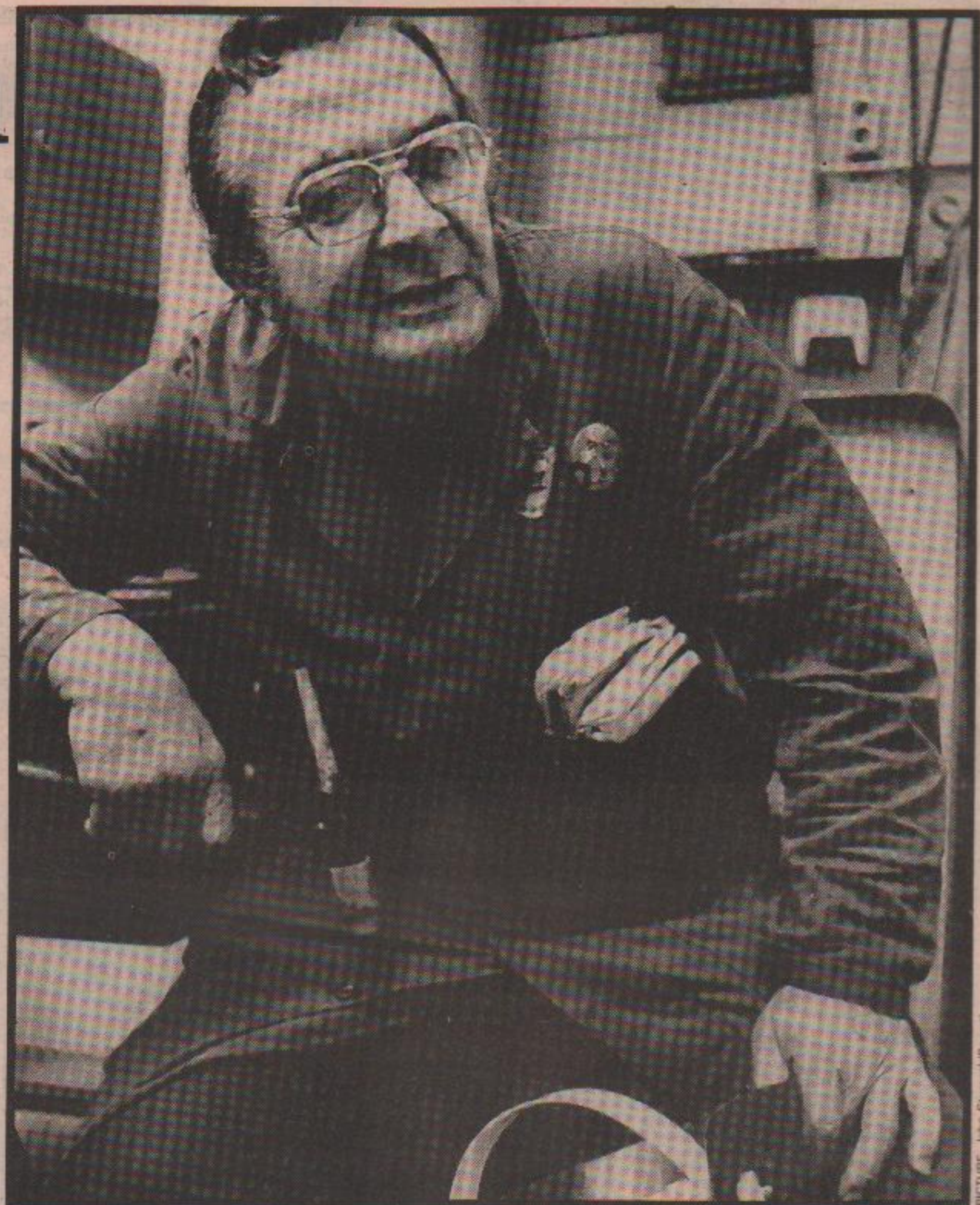
The Front threatened legal action, and said they'd hold their meeting on the grass outside the hall.

*At which point the Labour*

*Party added oil to the machine by calling off their demonstration.*

But the left demonstrated, regardless—200-strong, at least half of us members and supporters of Socialist Workers Party from South Herts and neighbouring districts.

The Front arrived, all four of them, without Webster, to stand isolated on a corner,



IAN MORRIS: We need a President with direct shop-floor connections

In the best of movements, 'personalities' can get in the way. There is great danger in becoming a 'recognised personality'. The pressures operate subtly.

It's something to do with ego. Once you start projecting yourself instead of your politics and your workmates, you're on the road to ruin.

Eventually you become an instrument of the employers who go out of their way to encourage this process.

**Democracy**

Obviously you must speak out if you feel strongly. But all the time you have to search out the balance.

During the Heathrow strike the shop stewards dominated the decision-making. It was a first-class exercise in democracy. I would only speak if I felt things were going wrongly.

*I was really delighted when I saw less experienced and less political workers jumping up and giving a lead.*

surrounded by chanting demonstrators, anti-racist placards, and wall-slogans reading 'Stop the Nazi NF'. Only the police 'heavies' were on their side.

After ten minutes, someone in the crowd threw an egg. The Front ducked. Then their nerves broke, they clambered over a 3ft car park wall and fled.

That's another cog in the 'machine' stripped of its teeth.

I've known so many people in the past who've become jealous when they hear someone else making their points for them.

I never had any time for the so-called 'socialist' countries. I've been in Hungary and Russia. I remember chatting in a cafe with students critical of the regime when I was in Budapest.

One of the leaders of our delegation came up to me immediately and broke up the conversation. He was a full-time AUEW official!

Again, in Russia I was really disgusted by the way Lenin has been turned into a Jesus Christ figure. They queue for hours to worship his tomb.

At least that is what it looked like. It's visitors in the morning and Russians in the afternoon.

One lovely sunny Sunday morning our group of airport workers was strolling across the park near where the queue was forming to see the Lenin tomb.

Suddenly a Russian policeman came racing across the park blowing his whistle and waving his arms wildly in the air. He shouted at our interpreter that we must tidy ourselves up and form up in groups of three!

**Prejudices**

One of the books I've enjoyed reading most in the last few years has been The Little Red Schoolbook.

I bought it especially for my daughter when she was at school. It answers all those questions perfectly honestly. It cuts across all that Establishment teaching that

women should be moulded to become appendages of men.

I had a quarter of an hour's argument with the manager of W.H. Smith's before he'd order it for me.

*I was so irritated with his little-minded attitude that when he finally agreed I told him I wanted two copies!*

I think it's very important that these things should be available for learning when people are young. Otherwise people get stuck in society's prejudices.

**Sisters**

When I look at women in our union, I see how they are often treated as second-class members—and many of them start to think of themselves as second-class members.

We don't have any women on our National Committee, and most District Committees are just as bad.

Too often, it's just assumed that the women on the shop floor will be 'looked after' by men shop stewards—even if they're not in the same department.

We've more than half a million women in our union. In fact, it's the only area where our union is growing at all!

And we must start taking this seriously, starting where it matters on the shop floor with the union deliberately promoting women shop stewards, and setting up training courses for them.

Our sisters in the union often move faster than us, but if the whole union machinery is biased against them, we'll all lose out.

One of the reasons why I

joined the International Socialists was because it had a similar constitution to that of the AUEW.

It's clear where the leadership is—and it's also clear that the leadership is the property of the members.

Of course structures and constitutions mean nothing if the policies go rotten—as in the case of the union.

It is politics that matters—socialist politics. But at least our union has maintained its democratic methods of electing leaders.

I love our union but I am sick and tired of the way it is being led. There is a tremendous democratic rank and file tradition in the union.

But this is worth nothing when you consider the way the union leadership has virtually sunk all differences with the government and the employers.

**Contrick**

The rank and file spirit must be rekindled. The campaign for a rank and file President is one way of doing this.

However an election campaign is useless if it is not tied to activity. I notice now, for example, that the so-called left-wing candidate is claiming to be against the Social Contract. But he did not support, let alone was involved in, the recent strikes against the Social Contract.

Over the years the full-time officials have naturally expected to rise in the ranks of the union—perhaps to become President.

On the contrary, we need a President who has direct shopfloor connections.

# TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Chris Harman

The events at Grunwicks prove that there is no Parliamentary Road to Socialism.

# MPs or workers' power?

A MOST AMAZING coincidence. Just as there has been an intensification in the debate over whether there is a parliamentary road to socialism, the police at Grunwicks in North West London have proved that there is not.

You might think that is an extreme statement. But just reflect on what has happened outside that factory over the last three weeks.

The top officials in the police—from the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police McNeen downwards—have decided to keep the factory open, come what may.

No minister and no majority of MPs told them to do that.

They decided themselves. Once they had taken that decision, any picket trying to blockade the factory was guilty of a criminal offence of some sort—whether obstructing the police in the execution of their duty or of some more serious 'crime' like assault.

### Criminal

Many individual policemen were unhappy about helping to break a strike that is supported by a trade union movement with which they themselves are in sympathy. But if they disobeyed the order to attack the pickets, they too would be guilty of a criminal offence.

But could not a majority of MPs instruct the police to behave differently? Not according to the British

constitution. As the judges have insisted in a whole number of recent cases (like that of the National Association for Freedom versus the Post Office Union) what the majority of MPs want matters less than what the judges decide is the law.

The MPs are not allowed to change the law without a long and time-consuming process (including delays at the hands of the non-elected House of Lords and the non-elected monarch).

So, according to the parliamentary process in this country, even if a huge majority of MPs was elected tomorrow that wanted to make the law favourable to the Grunwick workers, it would take them about two years to do so.

Meanwhile, the Grunwick strikers would be worn down until they were almost certainly tired, demoralised and

defeated.

Anyone who told the Grunwick strikers to rely on parliament would, then, be telling them to surrender to George Ward and his cronies.

That is why those who believe most in the 'parliamentary road to socialism', like Roy Grantham of APEX, have ended up on the sidelines in this vital battle.

What applies to Grunwicks would apply even more if really massive battles were taking place, involving millions of workers.

Then you would find that not only the police, the judges and the employers' associations were on the same side.

You would also find the army being used to back them up—as it was, for instance, in the General Strike of 1926.

After all, virtually all army officers come from the same families and the same expensive public schools as the people who own industry. They are the blood brothers of the George Wards and the John Gouriets.

They have even greater powers over the lives of the rank and file soldiers than McNeen has over the power of rank and file police.

There would be only one way to defeat this combination. It would be to prepare to meet the force of these scum with the force of a united, militant working class.

### Vengeance

That would mean establishing secret contingents of socialist, rank and file police and soldiers, prepared to change sides at crucial moments.

It would mean also ensuring that the workers had enough force of their own to protect these rank and file soldiers and police against the vengeance of their superiors.

There would have to be a workers' militia, prepared to fight the forces of the state until it had a monopoly of armed force in its own hands.

The workers' militia would have to be subject to a democratic organisation of the workers, able to decide on how the struggle was run.

That could not be provided by a parliament where workers representatives debate with ruling class representatives.

The great founders of Marxism like Marx, Engels, Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg, Trotsky concluded from these arguments that socialism could only win when the existing police and army were smashed, and when parliament was replaced by a new, democratic organisation of the working class.

They said instead of big business, its army and its police 'dictating' to the working class, the working class had to take power and 'dictate' to the remnants of the old order.

That is why they insisted that real workers' democracy involved the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' over its enemies.

# I'm Clive, feed me

Go easy on the satire sauce.



CLIVE JENKINS, general secretary of the ASTMS white collar union enjoyed lunch at the Cafe Royal (owned by Trust House Forte) in London's Piccadilly last Wednesday.

Mr Jenkins was one of the speakers at executive pay conference, sponsored by IPC Electrical-Electronic Press. Delegates paid £50 a head which of course included lunch.



RUSSIAN leader Leonid Brezhnev has been doing very nicely thank you out of his detente trip to France.

After champagne and caviare off a gold plate at the Elysee Palace, Comrade Brezhnev was given a £15,000 racing car and a Matra 'runabout' car by the French.

Both cars had to be resprayed in blue—Mr Brezhnev's favourite colour.

No doubt they will make a change from the two Rolls Royces, a Cadillac, a Mercedes and the Citroen Maserati he has at home.

STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS AT Lancaster University received wider attention than expected.

On the day of the election a member of the local constabulary was seen leaving the campus with a pile of election material issued by NOISS, the Socialist Workers Party student organisation, including photographs and names of candidates.

—Andy Fawcett, candidate for the vice-presidency.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL: The Duke of Portland who died in March this year left £4.3 million in his will.

WITHOUT COMMENT: 'The first priority for the Government is inflation. This must be mastered by reducing state expenditure, putting right the balance of payments and so on.'  
... Closing my eyes and forgetting the hammer-and-sickle posters on the wall I thought for a surrealist moment that I was listening to Ted Heath.  
—Frank Giles, Deputy Editor of the Sunday Times in an article on the Italian Communist Party.

## 'Pin' money NAFF

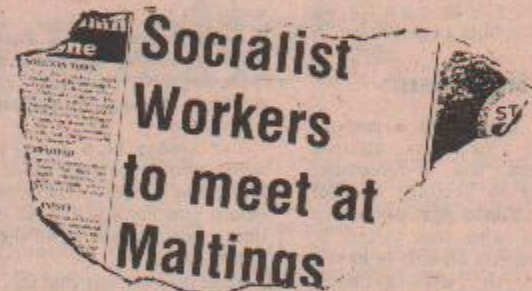
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for Freedom, as we all know, is not anti-union. It simply believes in the freedom of an individual to exploit other individuals without any kind of fightback being allowed.

In line with this policy the NAFF has just had 50,000 badges made by a non-union firm in

Bromsgrove near Birmingham. This firm uses the outwork system.

It dumps thousands of badges and pins on women who are desperate for any kind of work and 'pays' them for assembling the badges at rates which must earn NAFF's approval.

They are paid 5½p a hundred.



THE EARTH-SHATTERING news that the Socialist Workers Party is to hold a meeting at Ely Maltings was so astounding to the editor of the Ely Standard that it relegated MP Clement Freud's daughter, Nicola's fraud case to second lead on the front page.

Readers were told that the SWP—a Trotskyist group—is BANNED IN RUSSIA because our views are too extreme.

Yet, was the implication, we are allowed to hold a public meeting in a quiet East Anglian market town. Shock, horror.

There is a full description of how branch

secretary Roger Cray booked the room 'by filling in a form and handing it to a council employee. Will wonders never cease?

And then there is the news that the SWP usually 'shuns publicity'. Although of course Mr Cray 'makes no secret of the organisation he represents'.

One wonders where the news hounds on the Ely Standard have been hiding all these years. But Fifth Column readers can be assured that a copy of the article will be sent immediately to our underground agents in Vladivostok.

# Socialist Worker

### EDITORIAL

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# The country where you work at gunpoint

FOR 15 months, Argentina has been ruled by terror.

The military coup of March 1976 has been followed by the crushing of workers' organisations and leaders.

Tens of thousands of people have been murdered, imprisoned or have simply disappeared.

A member of Orientacion Socialista, a revolutionary organisation working clandestinely in Argentina, recently gave this interview to Socialist Worker.

For technical reasons, it cannot be regarded as the official view of OS.

REPRESSION has taken two forms: all political organisations, particularly the revolutionary left, have been crushed. And workers' organisation in the factories has been attacked.

## Attacked

Individual militants have been attacked and there is suppression of trade unions, strikes or any collective agreements.

There are kidnappings, assassinations and imprisonment without trial. Eight months can elapse before the military say they have imprisoned someone.

Resistance is concentrated mainly in the largest factories where the working class is strongest. It takes the form of strikes and go-slows.

For example, the state electricity workers worked a six-hour day before the coup. The military imposed an eight-hour day.

After six hours, the workers would just stop and sit around for the other two hours. The army occupied some of the power stations and arrested individual militants, but they were unable to force eight hours' work.

During the military occupation, the workers resorted to sabotage. Whole electric networks were cut off.

## Red Milk

In Rosario, a shop steward in a milk factory was sacked. The workers retaliated by putting red colouring in the milk.

Red milk was distributed all over Rosario. The firm lost a whole day's production.

In Buenos Aires, 70,000 telephones are out of order. When telephone engineers 'repair' cables in the middle-class districts, they spit into the cable core, which short circuits the system.

Last October there was a long struggle in the Peugeot factory in Buenos Aires against the victimisation of a shop steward and for wage demands.

The workers organised a go-slow and production dropped to two cars a day.

Eventually the army was sent into the factory. 700 soldiers, one for each worker,

# work at gunpoint



Cut-price offers in a fashionable Buenos Aires shop: but with massive inflation few can buy



Bank workers on the march for more pay in February 1975: the coup smashed trade union organisation

stood by the machines to intimidate the workers into stopping their action.

On the first day, production was back to normal. By the second day, the level was dropping again.

By the fourth day, it was down to 20 per cent and the soldiers were fraternising with the workers.

## Withdrawn

The army was withdrawn and the company agreed to the wage demand. But the shop steward was not reinstated.

This is typical of the nature of the struggle. Workers in the well-organised factories will strongly resist attacks by the bosses but they are not starting struggles.

In some factories, falling productivity and sabotage have forced the bosses to recognise some form of trade union representation.

I emphasise forced to, because they had to try to maintain some control over production. They prefer to have a representative of the workers than none at all.

There are cases where the employers have offered protection to militants from repression because they represented the shop floor.

I don't want to give too favourable an impression of Argentinian bosses. Some give the army a list of the activists in the factories.

In the Perkins diesel plant in Cordoba, the management not only gave the military

murder squads lists of militants, they also gave them cars to carry out their kidnapping and murders. Solidarity is urgent.

Organised resistance has virtually disappeared. What resistance exists is spontaneous.

## Speakers

The military have smashed the advanced forms of organisation that existed before the coup.

In some factories, the workers protect the militants. When there was a big strike in a factory in Rosario where a comrade was working, seven workers surrounded him and said:

'You're not going to



THE working class swept back onto the front of the political stage in Portugal last week.

Huge demonstrations of trade unionists took to the streets—200,000 in Lisbon, 50,000 in Oporto, tens of thousands more in

other cities.

According to the Financial Times correspondent 'a human tide of 100,000 singing, slogan chanting workers (and white haired grandmothers and tiny children) poured down the Avenida da Libertade ...

Nearly all of Portugal's 260 trade unions were represented.

Gaily coloured banners proclaimed, 'Work yes—Unemployment No' and 'The cost of living is rising—the people won't stand for it.'

sabotage, because of the continued class struggle, because the workers have not been defeated but only silenced, the government will be faced with insoluble problems.

It will be forced to find a way out. And this will open up enormous possibilities for the revolutionary movement.

□ The SWP Latin America Committee can provide speakers on Argentina and the rest of Latin America. Contact SW International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Phone 01-739 1878.

□ The interview from which these extracts were taken is published in full in Issue No 4 of the International Discussion Bulletin, available from SW International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 (30p including postage).

□ International Socialism No 88 (available from IS Journal, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, price 20p) carries an article on the events leading up to the 1976 coup in Argentina.

# MARXISM

A week of socialist discussion beginning this weekend

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Details: Page Ten

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## SPANISH CP LEADER UNDER FIRE

THE DEBATE in the international Communist movement exploded last week.

The Russian weekly magazine New Times published a bitter attack on the 'Eurocommunist' leader of the Spanish Communist Party, Carrillo.

Coming almost immediate-

ly after a very poor performance by Carrillo's party in the Spanish elections, the attack seems aimed either at splitting that party or at trying to reduce his power within it.

It speaks of his 'interpretation of Eurocommunism' as according 'solely with the interests of imperialism, the forces of aggression and reaction'.

Carrillo, it says, is 'escalating anti-Sovietism', and is guilty of 'conscious anti-Sovietism'.

It accuses him of believing that Russia is a state of a new type, which 'while not being a bourgeois state, at the same time cannot be considered a workers' democracy where the organised proletariat is the ruling class'.

The attack is clearly designed to take advantage of disillusionment with Carrillo's policies inside the Spanish Communist Party itself.

Yet it does not mention the specific policies inside Spain that have led to such disappointing results—such as the recognition of the monarchy.

No doubt this is because these policies were first urged-

on the Spanish CP ten years ago by the Russians—only to be rejected then by Carrillo who insisted that the Communist Party had to be part of the republican, anti-monarchist tradition.

The attack is going to have one important side-effect—it is going to increase the pressures leading to a split inside the British Party.



## Which force is stronger in Southern Africa?

ABOVE: Workers in Namibia, which is under South African occupation.  
BELOW: Apartheid's iron fist. Riot squads in Soweto last year when they murdered hundreds.



THE WHOLE of Southern Africa is in the melting pot. In 70 years white racist rule has never been as threatened as it is now.

The guerrilla war in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is growing from strength to strength. The freedom fighters in Namibia (South West Africa) are sorely trying the South African occupation forces.

And around Johannesburg and the Cape the vast 'townships'—cities of hundreds of thousands, even millions of black workers—are in almost permanent revolt.

But many people are still confused as to what this growing struggle is about. How did regimes based on racism entrench themselves in power in the first place? How are they going to be overthrown?

Liberals — well-meaning and otherwise—have a simple answer to these questions. Apartheid, they argue, is a hangover from a previous colonial era, when primitive white-thumping Dutch settlers grabbed part of Southern Africa. In time, capitalism will bring apartheid to a peaceful end.

### Fallacy

Even some socialists accept part of this analysis.

But Alex Callinicos and John Rogers begin their new book\* by showing that these views rest on a fallacy.

Apartheid is *not* some hangover, some weird predilection of Dutch-speaking white Calvinists. It has been, and remains, absolutely necessary for the functioning of the multinational companies at the

centre of the South African economy.

The fight for control of Southern Africa 80-odd years ago, between the British and the Afrikaaners—then called the Boers—was a fight for

control of some of the world's richest deposits of gold, diamonds and other minerals. The desire of British-run companies to get their hands on these was the cause of the Boer War and of the seizure of

Rhodesia by the British South Africa Company of Cecil Rhodes, former minister of the British Cape Colony.

Anglo-South African big business could only mine these minerals profitably by forcing black people to work for below-subsistence wages. Taxes were imposed on the peasants that they could not afford, so that they were forced to volunteer for the mining compounds, where, herded together under appalling conditions, they were denied the most elementary rights.

This was—and is—the core of the South African economy.

This explains the pass laws, the banning of black people from living in the cities where many were born, the attempt to deprive them of South African citizenship by setting

up 'bantustans'. All are measures aimed at forcing black people to become temporary workers, without rights, and without any means of getting a living except working at rock bottom wages.

But the history of white rule is also a history of black rebellion.

In the past, the South African capitalists broke these rebellions by sacking workers wholesale and by driving them back into the misery of remote, starving villages.

And here, Callinicos and Rogers make one of their most important points. The South African regime is now trying to preserve itself using a new tactic—and one that has the full support of the British and American governments.

### Buy off

It is trying to use the wealth accumulated from the exploitation of its black workers to buy off many of the middle class-run black states to the north. This is the real meaning of the 'detente' between Vorster and men like Kaunda of Zambia.

The black states were often run in the past as little more than an extension of the South African economy. Now their rulers are caught between the popular hatred of apartheid and their dependence economically on South African companies.

### Death blow

Even the most radical of the new black governments, that in Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia has given South Africa.

From this, Southern Africa After Soweto draws a simple conclusion.

The war of liberation began by the guerrilla fighters in Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia has given an enormous encouragement to those oppressed by Vorster. But it cannot gain final victory until the black workers of South Africa deal a death blow to capitalism in that country.

The analysis this book provides will give the strength of understanding to the deep hatred that all socialists have for apartheid.

\* SOUTHERN AFRICA AFTER SOWETO, Pluto Press, £2.

# Blues

## THE TORY PLOTTERS BEHIND THE GATES AT GRUNWICKS

TIMED like a cuckoo-clock, Tory leader Margaret Thatcher has entered the battle at Grunwicks.

At a keenly sensitive moment, she demanded that the prime minister 'publicly disassociate' himself and his party from the Grunwicks pickets. She was, she made plain, one hundred per cent behind the Grunwicks management.

And no wonder. Because the sinister conspiracy known as the National Association for Freedom, which has manipulated Grunwicks boss George Ward from the outset, can always expect the ready support of Margaret Thatcher.

For it is to that section of the extreme right wing that she owes her position as leader of the Conservative Party.

For years the 'respectable' extreme right have been trying to unite. Early attempts at this in the 1970s were the Society for Individual Freedom, Powellism and various anti-immigration fronts.

These organisations could not resolve the argument: do we work within the existing political framework or do we set up an entirely new organisation?

The same argument wrecked the 'private armies' movement which gained ground in the first few months of Labour government in 1974.

### Collapse

General Walter Walker's Civil Assistance and Colonel David Stirling's GB 75 both collapsed because of opposition from supporters inside the army and police. Why set up alternative right-wing organisations, ran the argument, when we can capture the existing machinery for the right?

This was the argument developed by the Institute for the Study of Conflict, formed in 1972, whose most influential figurehead was Robert Moss, then editor of the Economist Intelligence Unit, who supported the overthrow of the Chilean junta and

longed for the day when British Pinochet would come to power.

The Institute infiltrated police colleges and army establishments and sought supporters for its extreme right-wing views inside the existing bodies. It took the same attitude to the Tory Party.

In autumn 1974 another attempt was made to unite the warring factions on the right: the Middle Class Association. Its founder and chairman was John Horst, Tory MP for Hendon North, a public relations man who had enormously enriched himself through his support for commercial radio.

Horst threw his new group into the campaign to replace Tory leader Edward Heath with Margaret Thatcher. He was assisted in parliament by a new band of mainly young MPs who had nothing but contempt for the 'moderation' of the old leadership.



Robert Moss: Behind the NAFF—and Thatcher's leadership campaign



General Walter Walker: His 'private army' plans rejected

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# s under the bed!



**LEFT:** Tory MP John Gorst, special adviser to Grunwicks boss George Ward, is only one of the Tories inside the gates. John Gouriet (above, crossing the picket line) heads the National Association for Freedom (NAFF), which brings prominent Tories such as Rhodes Boyson and Winston Churchill behind Ward. Former Metropolitan police chief Robert Mark (right) was offered a top job in Phoenix Assurance—chairman Lord de L'Isle, of NAFF.



Self-Help offered to supply scabs to any employer hit by strikes. But Moss felt it was too crude, too impotent.

When Self-Help started offering £50,000 rewards for information leading to the conviction of IRA bombers, he knew it was finished.

When McWhirter was assassinated in December 1975, Moss saw his chance. The National Association for Freedom was formed in the wake of McWhirter's death, reaping a lot of money and sympathy from it.

### Scabs

The policy of the NAFF was simple: to work within the Tory Party, the police and the military to build up a force which could counter the unions.

Margaret Thatcher approved entirely. She attended the first meeting for setting up the NAFF.

She was the guest speaker at its inaugural dinner too. At her first opportunity she promoted two of the NAFF council to the Shadow Cabinet, Rhodes Boyson and Winston Churchill.

In the NAFF campaign over Grunwicks, which has been selected as a testing ground, she has been closely informed throughout. The chief adviser to the Grunwicks management has been John Gorst.

### Support

Gorst it was who first raised in Parliament the Post Office blacking last August, which was eventually lifted after a High Court injunction. Gorst hardly spends a day without seeing or speaking to George Ward.

The Gorst/NAFF campaign for Ward has been run in harmony with the Tory Party leadership, which has supplied its support whenever it was asked for it.

Margaret Thatcher's official policy towards the unions is one of cooperation and consultation. But in her instinct and in her main support inside her party, her policy is the opposite: confrontation.

The two strands of policy do not contradict each other.

For Thatcher knows, even if some trade union leaders don't, that if small battles, like those at Grunwicks, can be won by employers, the big ones will be easier to win in the future.

She knows that her friends in NAFF are not yet strong enough to face down the miners or the engineers or transport workers in open class struggle. But she is prepared to work to the day when that is possible by throwing all her support behind every little battle against the unions which is provoked and fought by the NAFF.

### Powerful

This is the deep significance of the Grunwicks affair.

The 'respectable' extreme right are, for the first time since the war, powerfully united and organised. The NAFF is a real threat to trade union power.

Of course trade union power, if used, can smash the NAFF to smithereens. But if it is not used, if it is dissipated in attempts at conciliation at all, it can be broken.

The people who run Britain's big business firms are watching anxiously in the

wings. After the miners' victories of 1972 and 1974, most of them have taken it for granted that they will need to use the trade union leaders to discipline the workers.

### Avoided

The Grunwicks boss, Ward, got little big business support when the strike started.

He was avoided as a 'maverick' who might upset the cosy relationship with the unions.

But as soon as it became even remotely likely that the 'maverick' and his supporters in NAFF could break the power of the official unions, the attitude of big business began to change.

The whole power of their propaganda machine is now beginning to line up behind the Grunwicks employers.

The Daily Mirror for instance, which published a double-page spread in favour of the strikers last autumn, now vies with the Sun and the Express in hostility to the pickets.

The other side—the employers—see the real importance of Grunwicks.

It's time for our side to wake and see it, too.

William Shelton, MP for Streatham, put the resources of his advertising agency, behind his new heroine, Rhodes Boyson, the champion of privilege in education, and Winston Churchill, MP for Manchester Stretford, every bit as reactionary as his illustrious grandfather, enthusiastically joined in.

In the background, Moss and the McWhirter brothers,

Norris and Ross, strained every muscle to mobilise substantial resources in a united movement for Thatcher.

### Hounded

The Moss-Gorst-Shelton publicity machine hounded press and television. Army and police officers, and every MP in parliament were

similarly bombarded.

Even wet liberals like Norman St John Stevas were persuaded to change their minds and throw their votes behind Thatcher.

When Thatcher won, Moss wrote, in a letter to a friend: 'Well, she's done it, and the period ahead looks immensely challenging. What the party is clearly going to need now is a strong infusion of latter-day

Tory populism'.

Moss knew well that the main problem confronting Tories was the power of the unions. He knew that any right-wing movement worth its salt would have to 'take on' the unions.


But he was sceptical when his friend Ross McWhirter joined up with the ludicrous extremist the Dowager Lady Birdwood, to form Self-Help.

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the bluest of them all?

Maggie Thatcher gives her full support to NAFF. She attended its first meeting and its inaugural dinner—and has promoted two of the NAFF council to her Shadow Cabinet, Rhodes Boyson and Winston Churchill.



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**THE BRITISH ROAD DEBATE**

International Socialism





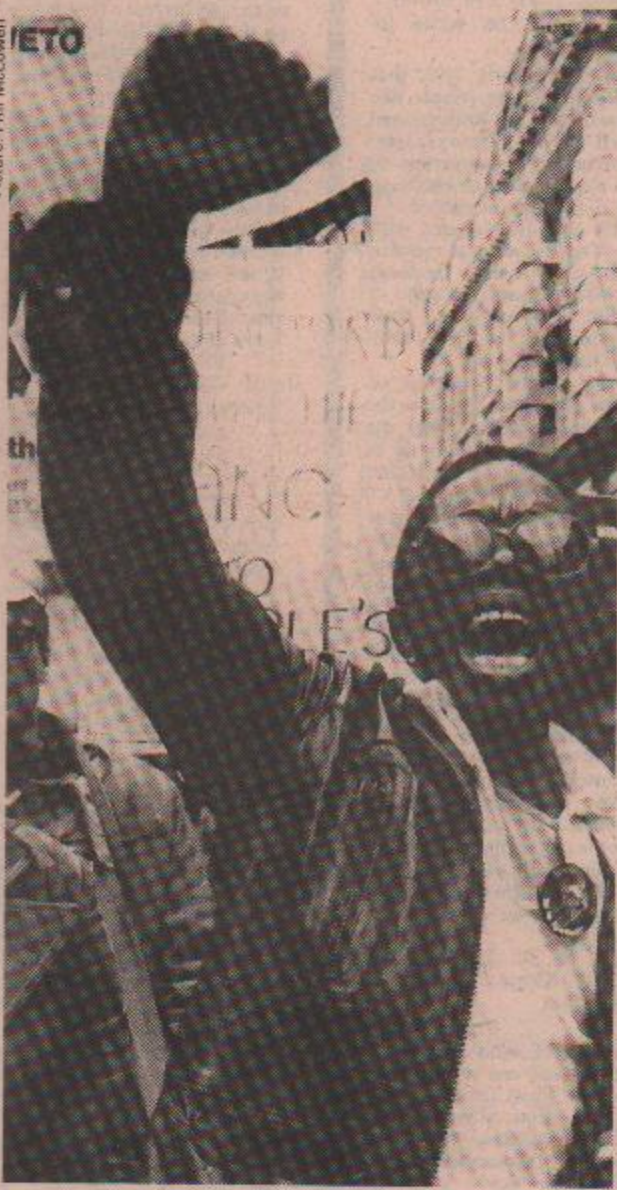
**Socialist Workers Party**



**NATIONAL CONFERENCE 1977**

# The spark is there to ignite rank and

Picture: Phil McCowen



A symbol of the changing struggle—a black demonstrator in London last week.

**THE LULL in the class struggle is coming to an end.**

Since Christmas the Leyland toolroom strike, the Heathrow engineers' strike, the Port Talbot electricians' strike, the mass picketing at Grunwicks, have all marked a change in mood by tens of thousands of workers.

This was the central point of the opening debate of the Socialist Workers' Party annual conference

on Saturday. The years 1974-1976 were bad for the working class. While unemployment and prices rose at incredible speed the numbers of workers prepared to take action in their own defence fell.

In 1974 15 million days were lost in strikes including the miners' strike that destroyed the Heath Tory government. In 1975 this fell to 8 million, in 1976 3 million.

But in the first few months of this year more days were lost than in the whole of 1976.

The Social Contract is by no means dead, but a growing minority of workers are no longer prepared to take it lying down. There is a new bloody-

mindedness and anger in disputes that has not existed for several years.

As well as the traditionally well-organised groups, such as the Port Talbot electricians or the Heathrow engineers, other workers have started to play a role.

**Equal pay**

Women workers, on strike for equal pay at Laird Portch and Yardleys, or for union recognition at Trust House Forte, black workers at Grunwicks, both are playing a leading role in fighting back. Their militancy and determination is shaming traditionally militant sections.

The trade union bureaucracy have for two years acted as policemen of the Social Contract.

They would like to go on doing this. In spite of the pressure, in spite of numerous resolutions, no trade union conference has yet clearly committed itself to a fight for a firm wage rise at a firm date after Phase 2 ends on 31 July.

But the pressure is building up. This makes it possible to turn into reality all the many resolutions we have passed calling for rank and file action, and a national rank and file organisation.

Far from leading the fight against Phase 3 the trade union leaders will stab it in the back time and again. So an

**BLACKS**

**From black anger to socialism . . .**

THE ANGER and frustration of black youth against police muggings, deportations and unemployment has to be channelled towards socialist ideas. That was the conference's conclusion.

'The Socialist Workers Party is the only organisation who can draw together black people and lead the fight,' said Kim Gordon, SWP black organiser.

'Last year we were seen to be the people taking the initiative against the fascists and the racism that exploded in the summer.

'We have the credentials of the Right to Work march to show black people that the way to fight police muggings is with mass organisation.'

He stressed that the way to keep black people in the SWP

is for solely black groups to be set up to draw together the thousands of supporters of Flame and the other black papers.

But we will accept help from anyone—in Lewisham we even accepted help from Prince Charles!

**Spontaneously**

'Black youth are at the same time acting spontaneously against police harassment and they are also apathetic,' said George Black from Birmingham. 'Before I joined the SWP I just wanted to hit out at anything and everybody.

'To win over and keep black people in our organisation we have to understand what black struggle is about and that's why we need a solely black section of the party.'



ABOVE: Workers at C A Parsons, Tyneside, on the march to save their jobs. Altogether some 6,000 jobs could be lost.

## WHERE WE STAND

**INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION**

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

**REVOLUTION NOT REFORM**

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

**THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD**

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

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

delegates and a workers' militia.

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

**INTERNATIONALISM**

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

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

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

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

We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

We are for real, social, economic and political equality of women.

The experience of Russia

demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

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

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

**THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**

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

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

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

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

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

HOW MUCH could you get for the Queen? SWP members in Leeds could only raise ten Woodbines when they held a street auction to sell off HRH, Sheila Parkin told the conference.

But the reluctant takers were more than willing to buy copies of Socialist Worker—and some have since joined SWP.

## Enormous strides

**WOMEN** are now 40 per cent of the workforce. The tapping of their enormous potential for struggle is essential for the building of a revolutionary socialist movement.

But this could not be done without seeing that they are oppressed as women as well as being exploited in the workplaces. It is because they are held down as women, in the home and in society at large, that they are forced to put up with the worst-paid and most miserable jobs.

This was the argument presented as background for the conference discussion on the work of the SWP with women.

As SWP women's organiser, Margaret Renn put

**WOMEN**

it: 'we are trying to organise working women, something never effectively done by the revolutionary socialist movement in this country.'

'There have been hundreds of years of the oppression of women by capitalism in Britain. There has been a hundred years of labour movement that has been mainly anti-women. This is what we have to fight against.'

**Strides**

In the past year we have made considerable strides—although often despite the bad advice given by the

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# Towards left unity in ACTION

**3 DISTRICTS:** Members of workplace units must be fully integrated into the life of the districts, selling papers, flyposting and so on, and not kept segregated in their workplace units.

**4 THE CAMPAIGN NOW:** For the next nine weeks all members in workplaces must take up the issue of unemployment and the Social Contract in an effort to win support for the coming Right to Work March and to bring around us the nucleus of the workplace units.

THE SWP Conference renewed the appeal from the Socialist Workers Party to the Communist Party for the widest possible co-operation between our two organisations in the face of the threat from the right. Many delegates reported

that individual CP members had responded with interest and enthusiasm to the proposals made by the SWP. In Tower Hamlets CP Branch, whose members include leading London dockers, they had voted by 14 votes to 6 to urge the CP executive to take up our proposals. Another delegate reported that the South Essex District of the CP was anxious to hold a joint debate with the SWP.

or other racist provocations, around the slogan 'Drive the Nazis off the Streets', joint activity to stop cuts in schools or hospitals, and so on. The proposals for joint action depend on far more than a simple exchange of letters between the leaderships of the SWP and CP. They depend on the factory units and local branches of the SWP making specific proposals, to bring together on particular issues all those who want to fight. Conference also agreed it would be useful to organise joint debates with CP members and branches about the British Road to Socialism, the CP's programme. This is now being hotly debated within the CP.

## Approach

Conference agreed that proposals for joint activity should be made by every single SWP branch to their local CP branch, whenever such co-operation would lead to a more effective fight. Over Grunwicks, for example, every SWP branch should approach every CP branch to arrange joint transport to the picket. In every workplace our members should approach CP members to organise activity for specific collections, pickets, strikes, or around issues at work. We should approach CP branches to organise joint opposition to fascist marches

## Action

This debate offers us an excellent opportunity to argue with CP members why we do not accept the British Road's position that there is a 'parliamentary road', or that it is possible to rely on left MPs or progressive trade union officials. But it is action that counts, not debate.

country since the 1920s. These very struggles inevitably have a radicalising effect. But still weak is the organisation that builds on this and makes it a springboard for building both a National Rank and File Movement and a mass revolutionary socialist party. Sessions on internationalism, Scottish and Welsh nationalism, students, Socialist Worker, Ireland and other issues were being held after we went to press.

leaders do not have the stomach to enforce trade unionists' rights, nor the stomach to protect them against victimisation. Some sections of the ruling class clearly no longer believe that Phase 3 of the incomes policy will be adequate for their needs. They are starting the direct assault. But it is also clear that this is still a minority view—it is not shared by the CBI, nor is it reflected in the Financial Times. Within the ruling class, just as for the working class, Grunwicks is a test case. If we do not win at Grunwicks it will be the start of a series of bitter confrontations unlike anything in this

more alarming fashion than at any time since 1974. At Grunwicks there is no question that the extreme right wing—including the National Association for Freedom, some senior police officers and sections of the Tory Party—are trying to prove they can take on the trade unions and win. At the very least they want to drive out of trade unions some of the one and half million workers who have joined in the past year, many in sweatshops such as Grunwicks or in badly-organised industries. But more than this they are trying to prove that the trade unions are a paper tiger, that the TUC and many union

# file organisation

organisation, independent of the trade union leaders, which links together all those shop stewards' committees, rank and file organisations and trade union bodies that want to fight is essential. Urgent Within the next year it will be possible to create the beginnings of such a movement. The success and credibility of the Right to Work Campaign provides a fine starting point for this. The task of creating such a Rank and File Movement is urgent, for while the trade union leaders wobble and back down, the right wing is on the move in a

## UNEMPLOYMENT

### Make this march a focus of protest

UNEMPLOYMENT will remain a major political issue in the coming year. More than 800,000 young people under 18 will be unemployed at some time during the year. The SWP Conference gave unanimous support to the decision of the Right to Work Campaign to march on the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool in September. Young people will make up the bulk of the marchers. Last year's march made sure that the TUC did not ignore unemployment. This year the marchers will be arguing that unemployment is part and parcel of the Social Contract. High prices, mass unemployment, the cuts and incomes policy are all part of the same package. Delegates explained how in Wigan some factories were already raising weekly collections for the marchers. Nearly a hundred trade union organisations had already agreed to sponsor the march. Much more remains to be done in the two months before the march leaves. Money is urgently needed. This must be raised from employed trade unionists as

part of the political mechanism for winning them to the fight for the right to work. Factories should be asked to sponsor individual unemployed. Where possible, the sons and daughters of workers in a particular factory or workplace should be sponsored by the shop stewards committee and workers there. Dole queues Activity around the dole queues, Job Centres and so on must be stepped up. All the lessons we learnt 12 months ago about winning and keeping unemployed workers around the Right to Work Campaign must be relearned. This includes local demonstrations, pickets, occupations. Social activity for the young, using Rock Against Racism, is an easy, enjoyable and highly successful way of keeping unemployed workers together, both before and after the march. As one delegate pointed out, the Right to Work Campaign is 'more than a marching campaign'. The prop of the campaign must be employed workers.



ABOVE: The occupied Greenwich Steel Reinforcements factory in South East London. Six workers were sacked and others threatened with suspension because they struck for one day in protest at the closure of local hospitals. Now the local hospital workers are helping the steel workers with a demonstration

## RANK AND FILE

CONFERENCE agreed that the full resources of the SWP must be put behind the creation of a national rank and file movement within the trade unions. Declarations are not enough. Such a movement has to be built in struggles. More and more rank and file papers are springing up. Every effort must be made to spread their circulation and influence—by workers in all industries. For instance, engineers should ask local firemen to take Rank and File Fireman, and vice-versa with Engineers Charter. The credibility of the individual rank and file organisations and of the idea of a National Rank and File Movement will depend on how effectively we intervene in specific disputes. SWP members who support different rank and file groups would have been fighting for special leaflets over the past week calling for support for the Grunwicks picket line. One delegate told how North London Redder Tape had

done so. This is just as true in other disputes. In Manchester the supporters of Hospital Worker organised a meeting to support the Port Talbot electricians. Yet few rank and file groups, locally or nationally, took up support for the Heathrow engineers. Isolated More and more groups of workers will find themselves isolated, under assault from the newspapers, and facing long drawn out disputes, often in the teeth of opposition from their own trade union officials. It will be increasingly up to rank and file organisations, and to the shop stewards committees and trade union organisations they influence, to win support for all workers fighting any aspect of the Social Contract, regardless of union or industry. This sort of action will build the foundations of a national rank and file movement. ends

**WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST**  
PAUL FOOT

**NOW BACK IN PRINT**

We socialists are not fanatics or time servers. We are socialists because we see the prospect which life holds out for all working people. We want the commitment of workers who laugh and live and want to end the wretchedness and despair which shuts love and laughter out of so many lives. We do not have to spend the rest of our lives, and leave our children to spend the rest of their lives, wrestling in the struggle against a mean and despotic ruling class. Society can be changed, but only if masses of working people abandon the rotten shipwreck of the 'leave it to us' reformers, and commit themselves to change from below. This pamphlet puts our case. Will you read it?

## forward for Women's Voice

overwhelmingly male leadership of the Party, she said. Women's Voice and the dozen or so Womens Voice groups had enabled us to link socialist ideas to the struggles of working women. Hence we learnt for our mistakes around the Trico strike, and through Womens Voice had been able to get support from many groups of working women for the Laird Portch strikers. In the same way, the South London Women's Voice group had been able to take the initiative in the fight against the closure of the Weir Hospital. At the Transport and General Workers Union Rally organised by the Right to Work Campaign, a quarter of the workers present had been

women—a big step forward in manual union. The paid sale of Womens Voice has shot up from 1700 to 6000 in just six months. Now we have to generalise these lessons—to encourage the formation of more Womens Voice groups and to look eventually to a national structure linking them together. Ideological The womens movement was in crisis—just as the economic crisis was forcing more and more working women into struggle. In the longer term, Womens Voice could replace the present women's movement, which ignores women at work, with a movement linked to the revolutionary party and

based on the problems of working women. But this meant fighting not just on economic issues, but also on the ideological questions that perpetuate womens subservience in the factory and at home. These points were emphasised by Birmingham SWP organiser Sheila MacGregor, who said: 'Women have to emancipate themselves. That means we have to develop an organisation led by women, that takes our politics to women.' 'This means talking seriously about a womens section of the party, so that women would be able to discuss the whole range of political issues and relate them to the oppression women face in the home and factory.'

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# FORD'S: NO SELL-OUT SAY STRIKERS

By Paul Holborow

**DAGENHAM:** The strike and picketing go on.

That was the decision of a 3,000 strong mass meeting of Paint, Trim and Assembly workers at Fords on Tuesday morning.

Determined picketing has brought the whole of Fords at Dagenham to a standstill, with the rest of the company's plants in Britain and Europe also being severely disrupted.

The PTA workers are demanding an 80 per cent lay-off pay agreement. The decision to continue the action was taken in the face of combined efforts by the company and full-time officials to get a return to work.

Last week a mass meeting of the PTA workers, on the unanimous recommendation of the shop stewards, rejected the agreement drawn up by the officials and the company.

The officials then arranged with the company for another mass meeting at which the PTA convenor was barred from speaking.

Fred Blake, the TGWU official, came to the microphone and was met with a shower of leaflets and jeered off the platform.

## Scuttled

Together with Jack Mitchell, AUEW district official, he scuttled back inside the company. Brian Elliott, TGWU PTA convenor, said at the meeting:

'Our committee feels that our case for lay-off pay has not been put. The officials want to sell the workers of the PTA down the Swansea river.'

After the meeting, another steward told Socialist Worker: 'The action of the officials underlines the vital importance of building up an organisation of rank and file Ford workers capable of fighting the disgusting sell-out of the trade union officials. We must organise against this for the future.'

The rank and file Fordworker paper has issued leaflets and stickers throughout the dispute.

Further information from Fordworker c/o 42 Middleton Road, London E8. (01- 254 6508)

## SAY STRIKERS

### WHAT THAT SETTLEMENT MEANS

THE 13-POINT agreement that the trade union officials drew up with the company is a complete sell-out. Not only does it give no guarantees on employment or an 80 per cent lay-off pay agreement, it also allows the company full mobility of labour.

This means that the company has the right during any shift to move any worker to another job. Anybody who refused

would immediately be taken off pay.

This disgusting agreement was signed over the heads of the shop stewards and bulldozed through the Body Plant stewards committee.

The Body Plant narrowly voted to return to work because the trade union official gave the fake information that the PTA lines had started up again.

At a stormy stewards meeting later in the day, strong opposition was raised against the agreement.

Shop steward Tommy Bermingham, an SWP member, said that 'the real fight against lay-offs was not going to come at national negotiations. The real strength lies with those plants which are most affected by lay-offs taking militant action and it is up to us to support them.'

## 2000 firemen on strike

**MERSEYSIDE:** 2000 firemen are on strike for the reinstatement of 30 Fire Brigade Union members sacked by the new Tory-controlled County Council.

Firemen at Strand Road, Crosby and Derby Lane station have been operating a work to rule against the Social Contract and in favour of a 33 per cent pay increase to put pressure on their union executive.

The FBU voted against Phase Three at the annual conference and agreed on a recall conference in September to set the pay claim for next year.

The Merseyside firemen decided to lift their work to rule from next Monday and wait until September. But the County Council obviously wanted a confrontation now to weaken the union before September.

They sent out notices threatening the sack if the work to rule was not lifted immediately. At least 30 people have been sacked so far.

### Chapple angered locked-out lift engineers

**SW LONDON:** 1200 Otis lift engineers have now been locked out for seven weeks, and are becoming increasingly angry over the blatant collusion by EETPU officials.

The dispute started when Otis suspended eight workers, including two shop stewards, in disregard of the agreed procedure.

Shop steward Bill Ronayne explained: 'We are not going back until these suspensions have been lifted so that the case can go to arbitration. This is an attack on trade union organisation, and we have been let down by the EETPU.'

### No contact

'For six weeks we couldn't contact the officials and now Chapple has sent us a letter which simply repeats the position of Otis management.'

Despite press attacks on the effects of the lock-out on tower block dwellers, the Otis engineers are solid. But financial support is needed.

Donations and messages of support to Bill Ronayne, Otis Strike Committee, 10 Chesterton Terrace, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

SOME of the 1000 people who marched through London last Saturday to protest at discrimination against homosexuals. In particular, they were protesting at the prosecution of the homosexual newspaper, Gay News, for blasphemy and the police witch-hunts against homosexuals in Bradford and Cornwall.

Not all the marchers were homosexual and several political groups gave support, including a contingent from the Socialist Workers Party.

Four busloads of police turned out to keep control. When the march reached Hyde Park the police threatened to arrest anyone they saw giving out leaflets. They also prevented the organisers from speaking to the crowd through megaphones.

A Special Branch cameraman was seen filming the whole march from the roof of the Sun Life building in Piccadilly Circus.

The background to this dispute, which is being referred to ACAS, the Government arbitration service, is virtually the same as the Port Talbot electricians dispute—18 months of worthless discussion followed by provocation by management.

Clearly management are flexing their muscles and are in the mood to take on any section of BSC workers after the smashing of the Port Talbot electricians' strike by Chapple and Clarke.

If this dispute is not resolved, we are going to see another fight in South Wales against the Social Contract by BSC workers.

### Provocation

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## TEACHERS STRIKE

**OXFORD:** Teachers are closing 36 schools this week with a ten-day strike against massive education cuts.

Negotiations between the union and the Tory County Council broke down on 15 June over the issue of sackings still threatened for some 'short-term contract' teachers, and over the worsening pupil/Teacher ratios which are inevitable in September under the Council's present budget reductions.

### Actions

The strike is the last of the present series of escalated actions by the NUT in Oxford.

The strike will end on 7 July, to re-open schools for

the exams, and also to prevent any lock-out of striking teachers by the County.

The Tory Education Committee leader in Oxford, Brigadier Streetfield, has stated: 'If the teachers want a bloody settlement, I'm quite prepared to mix it.'

But the NUT have acted alone so far, and the local liaison committee for public

### Cow Plastics: 150 walk out

**SLOUGH:** 150 workers are on strike at Cow Plastics.

They want an increase in the meal break allowances, and in the bonus payments of 14p an hour to 20p an hour, which, they say, should be applied equally to men and women.

All 150 strikers are

service unions has failed to produce any joint policy.

Instead, NUPE officials, led by Divisional Officer George Anderson, have undermined the teachers' actions by claiming in public that such actions are a threat to the livelihood of NUPE members.

So far the moderate NUT leadership at local level have kept firm control of an

orchestrated package of token actions and intensive negotiation.

The next few weeks will see if the growing rank and file militancy will be strong enough to ensure that the leaders stand fast by the demand for no drop in ratios, and that when the real fight starts again in September the Tory Council will be defeated.

members of the TGWU.

The strikers have been threatened with the sack if they do not return to work.

Despite all these grievances, the Transport Union branch secretary Dolly Stevens says there is nothing the union can do for them.

Manzoor Ahmed, the shop steward, said the strike will go on indefinitely. A round-the-clock picket was mounted on Monday.

**SAINSBURY'S** warehouse and production line workers at Basingstoke and Buntingford have returned to work and ended their strike for a wage claim that would have broken Phase 2 of the Social Contract.

Although some gains have been made, it was not a victory. The blame lies with the officials in the shopworkers union, USDAW, and the Transport Union, the TGWU, who refused to make the strike official.

## Chloride boost

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Workers from the Dagenham Chloride occupation came down to Chloride Bardic to spread support for their dispute and to shut our plant for the day on Tuesday morning.

They got a fine reception from the Transport and General Union members here. Only a few staff workers crossed the picket line.

Sue Miller, shop floor convenor, said: 'Last Friday the members, who are mainly women, voted to support the picket overwhelmingly.'

Bob Wheatley, TGWU convenor at Dagenham, said: 'We would like to get all the Chloride plants to act as one from now on.'

This is what some of the workers on the picket had to say:

'We are the lowest paid and we want a rise as well. The

working conditions here are terrible.

'Upstairs you get heat exhaustion, downstairs you get frost bite,' said Rene, Lou, Mary, Isa and two shop stewards Mary and Midge.

Workers at Chloride in Manchester and Dagenham are occupying for the right to negotiate conditions.

Donations to: 25 Firbank Road, Romford, Essex and Chloride Strike Fund, 59 Buckingham Road, Clifton, Manchester.

## FOUR HOSPITALS TO STRIKE

**S. LONDON:** Hundreds of hospital workers are taking strike action in support of the occupied Weir Maternity Hospital.

So far, four hospitals in the Wandsworth and East Merton Area Health Authority have voted to strike for one day next Wednesday (6 July), as part of the protest action

against the attempted closure. The four hospitals are St George's at Hyde Park Corner, the St James and the Bollingbroke in Balham and the South London Hospital.

John Cousins, NUPE branch secretary at St George's, told Socialist Worker:

This is particularly encouraging because all three

unions, CoHSE, the GMWU and NUPE are co-operating for the day strike. The hard work done by the local Save Our Hospitals campaign has helped to make this possible.

The strikers will be attending a mass picket of the Area Health Authority's meeting at Springfield Hospital, Glenburnie Road, SW17, at 4pm.

## BSC TRY IT ON AGAIN

By Swansea and Llanelli BSC workers

BSC management are looking for trouble again. Last Friday four tractor drivers from Trostre Tin Plate works were suspended from the afternoon shift for refusing to do work contrary to their 1970 agreement.

The night shift tractor drivers found their clocking-on cards were withheld although they were ready for work. The BSC issued a press statement claiming that the men had 'walked out'.

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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

## Sproat's 'evidence' is thrown back in his face by the Ministry

# WELFARE STATE SCROUNGERS?

IAN SPROAT, Tory MP for Aberdeen and notorious scrounger, hit the headlines day after day last summer with stories of 'mass scrounging' on the welfare state.

Sproat revealed that he had 'incontrovertible evidence' of people overclaiming and falsely claiming social security benefits. This 'abuse', he told parliament, 'probably runs into hundreds of millions of pounds.'

These fantasies appealed greatly to the headline writers and editors of all our national newspapers—not to mention the producers of television 'current affairs' programmes.

When Jonathan Dimbleby, of the ITV programme This Week, disproved the allegations, Sproat successfully appealed for the full right to reply!

Now from the Department of Social Security itself comes facts to which there is no reply whatever. They prove that the unspeakable Sproat was basing his entire case on the twisted imaginings of his 'correspondents'.

After a lot of pressure, Sproat had agreed to hand his 'evidence' over to the Ministry. It consisted of 485 letters accusing people of falsely claiming social security.

All these cases have been

# They don't exist!

examined in the closest detail. The results of the 441 cases which could be investigated were as follows:

□ In 59, that's 16 per cent of the total, the person accused had never ever claimed social security benefit of any kind.

□ In 297 cases, that's nearly three-quarters, there was no reason to suspect fraud.

□ In a further 41 cases, there

seemed to be nothing wrong with the case currently.

**In other words, in 96 per cent of the cases Sproat submitted as 'incontrovertible evidence' of 'massive scrounging', the 'accused' were either claiming the right benefit, or too little, or none at all.**

□ In precisely 22 cases, that's 4 per cent of the total, was there any evidence of people not already

investigated who *might* be overcharging or falsely charging, and even here no case has yet been proved.

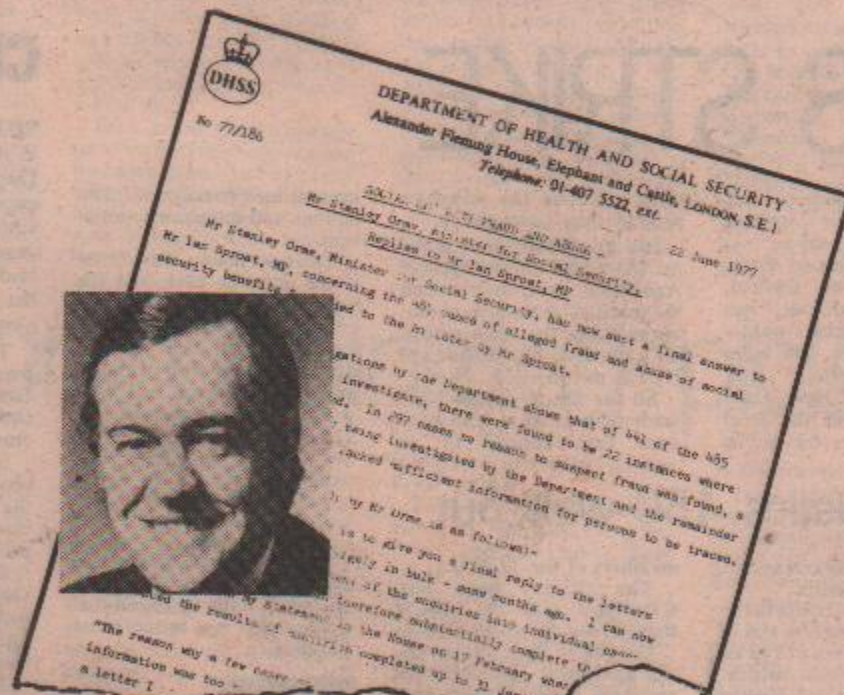
**So the mighty Stoat's roar has turned into a miserable whine.**

But the newspapers and television have been as reluctant to publish the facts as they were keen to publish the fantasies.

Only a few inches of space

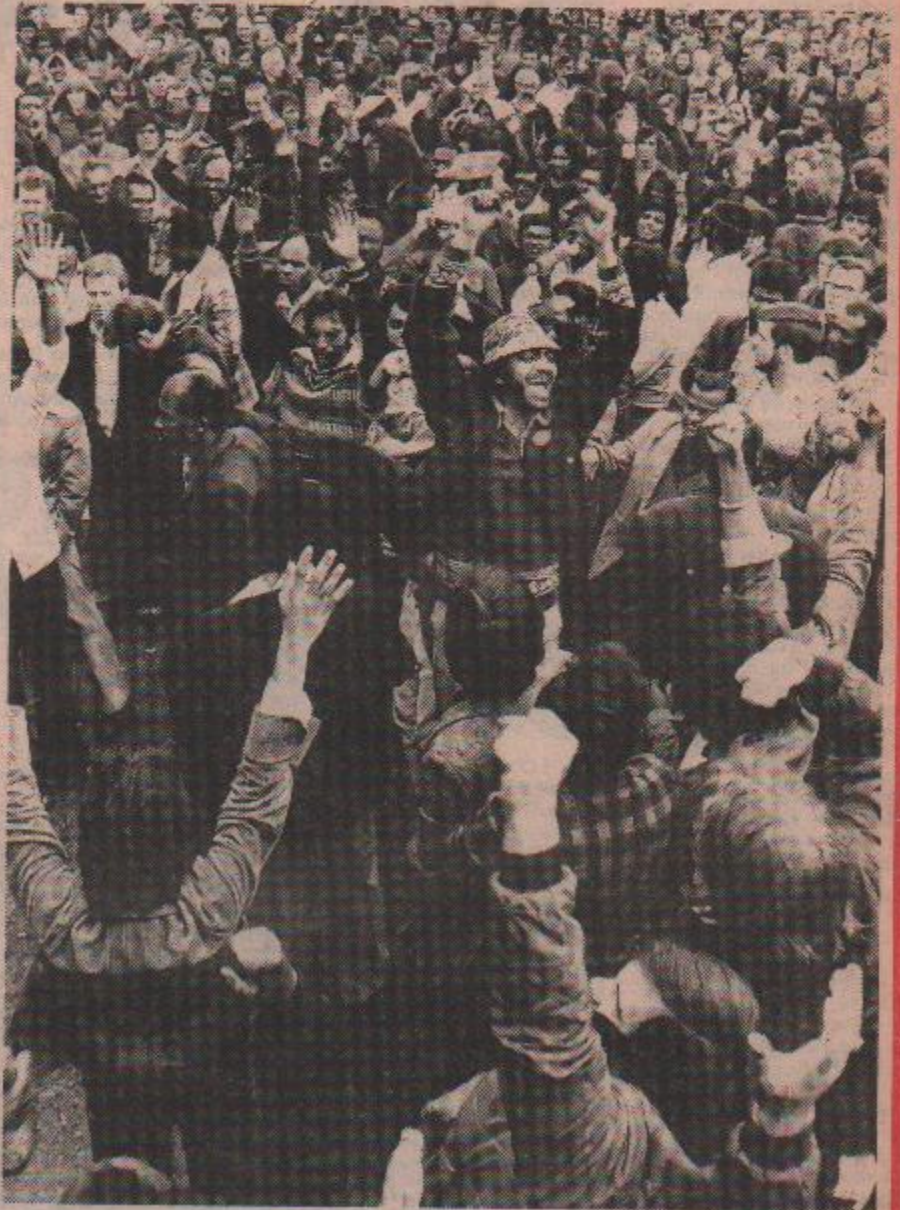
could be found to correct the monstrous errors of past headlines.

Again, a monument has been built to the freedom of the press: the freedom, that is, to proclaim the lies of Tory scroungers and to hide the facts about the dreadful poverty which goes with mass unemployment.



The ministry's circular showing how the allegations by MP Sproat (inset) were baseless.

## Overwhelming! FORDS STAYS OUT



Tuesday's mass vote at Ford's PTA plant, Dagenham, to continue the strike for lay-off pay. FULL STORY—page 15.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

## Condemned to five days starvation—by the SS

Socialist Worker received this letter this week:  
ON 10 JUNE my wife, myself and our three children aged eight, five, and ten months, were told to go without food for five days by the Social Security.

It seems they have found me guilty of being absent from work for one week—I was ill.

On Thursday 9 June my wife went to make a claim for money as I had no wages due. They sent her away with a form for me to fill in—the same form I had filled in a week before.

I filled it in again. The following day my wife returned the form and was told we could not have any money until my employer had filled in yet another form. I would be attended to on 15 June, the earliest appointment.

My wife explained that we didn't have a penny and could not last till Wednesday. The high and mighty assistant was not impressed and insisted the matter was closed until Wednesday.

My wife then pleaded that she had no money to feed the family and we would go hungry. He repeated: 'There's nothing I can do. I cannot help you.'

□ David Williams, Salford Brow, Cheetham, Manchester. 8