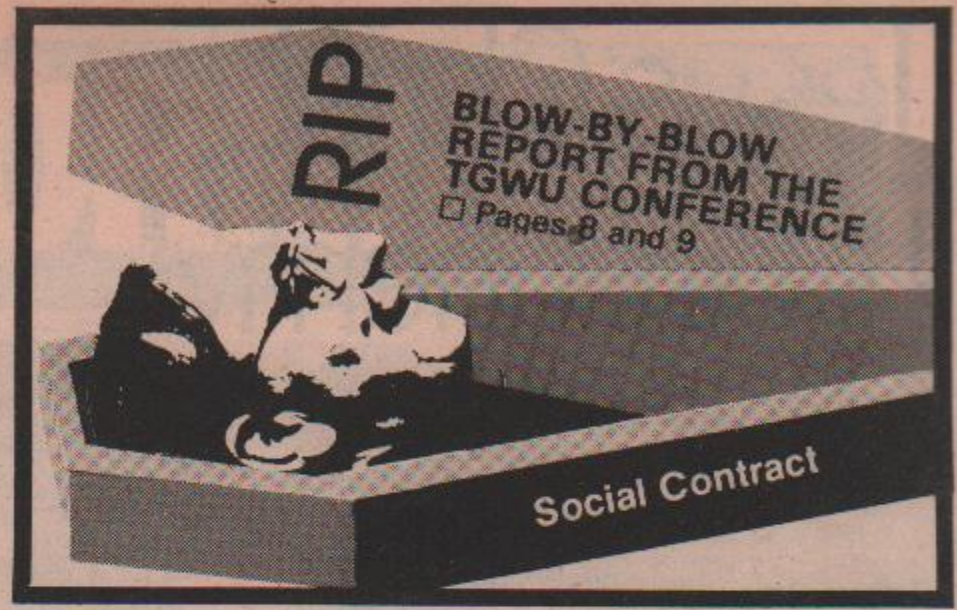


Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p



THE MORNING THE RANK AND FILE STOPPED GRUNWICKS



OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING! Turn to pages 2, 3 and 8

Jesus Christ, it's blasphemy!

'AN ATTACK on Christ is blasphemy if there is an element of irreverence, scurrility, profanity, vilification or licentious abuse coupled with the Christian religion or any sacred person or object.'

Thus Mr Justice King-Hamilton, summing up in the trial of Denis Lemon, editor of Gay News.

Found guilty of 'blasphemous libel', Denis has been fined £500 and given a suspended prison sentence of nine months—and Gay News has been fined £1,000.

When the jury asked King-Hamilton what amounted to the 'breach of the peace' necessary for proving a blasphemous libel, he replied: 'Breach of the peace means that the words complained of are apt or inclined to provoke or arouse angry feelings'.

This means that any comment about the Christian religion which might make anyone angry is a crime!

This is the first prosecution for blasphemous libel for 50 years. It was brought by Mary Whitehouse, who has appointed herself censor over other people's pleasures and what they are allowed to read.

Whitehouse found an ally in the Labour government's Solicitor General, Sam Silkin.



Mary Whitehouse: high-handed as always

GAY NEWS: WHAT WE THINK

Setback

Silkin agreed to take on the case for the Crown thus shifting the expenses of the case from Whitehouse to the taxpayer.

The verdict is one of the most serious setbacks for freedom of speech since the war. It calls for a campaign up and down the country in defence of Denis Lemon and Gay News.

It's worth remembering that a similar conviction against the free press against the magazine Oz in 1971 was overturned on appeal.

What was the poem which

caused all the fuss in the first place? It imagined the thoughts of a Roman centurion who had fallen in love with the body of Jesus Christ when it was taken down from the cross.

If this poem had been submitted to Socialist Worker in the normal way, we would not have published it.

This is not, of course, because the poem is blasphemous or because it

refers explicitly to the sex act. Our objection is that it debases love between human beings by wrapping it up in religious mysticism.

When the friends of Mary Whitehouse and Mr Justice King-Hamilton go to church to drink wine and eat bread believing these are being transformed into the blood and body of Christ, they are indulging in the same sort of cannibalistic fantasies as the sexual fantasies which inspired the Gay News poem.

Appeal

But in the light of the outrageous decision of the court—and as part of the campaign to get the decision reversed on appeal—we publish the two stanzas which apparently upset Whitehouse most.

We believe readers should make up their own minds whether they like or dislike poems.

And that in no case should these matters be decided by judges, juries or Mary Whitehouses.

I knew he'd had it off with other men—
with Herod's guards,
with Pontius Pilate,
with John the Baptist, with Paul of Tarsus,
with foxy Judas, a great kisser, with
the rest of the Twelve,
together and apart.

He loved all men, body, soul and spirit—even me.
So now I took off my uniform, and naked
laid together with him in his desolation,
caressing every shadow of his cooling flesh,
hugging him and trying to warm him back to life.
Slowly the fire in his thighs went out,
while I grew hotter with unearthly love.

Police beat up black teenagers in cells

THE intimidation, beatings and arrests are continuing in Lewisham, South London.

Two more youngsters have been arrested and charged alongside the original 21 with 'conspiracy' and 'sus'.

Seven of the original 21 are still being held in custody on remand. They have been refused bail for the past seven weeks. Two defendants are aged 16, and two are 17.

The black community in Lewisham is getting more and more angry about this continued harassment.

MASTER RACE FLEE

FASCISTS in Lewisham were given a shock last Saturday when they tried to break up a Right to Work street meeting. A number of workers, angered by the National Front violence in the area, had offered to protect the meeting.

As the Nazis approached they were met by a group of larger-than-average stewards. Most of the master race fled immediately, leaving a few of their mates a bit cut up.

DEMONSTRATE Saturday 23 July: Assemble Lewisham BR station, 2pm, for short march to Defence Rally at Lewisham Town Hall, Catford.

Last Wednesday police and prison warders even threatened to beat up defendants while they were in the Camberwell magistrates court cells.

David Foster, Chairman of the Lewisham 21 Defence Committee, said: 'I heard blows from inside the court. My son had been refused bail for the seventh week running and he's only 16.'

'There was some sort of

scuffle as he was taken away and about 20 policemen rushed to the court room doorway. They stopped us from seeing him.'

The court was stopped for two hours while the beatings went on downstairs in the cells.

Stitches

When 16-year-old Colin Jackson finally appeared he had to be held up by two police. He couldn't stand by himself.

We now have the National Front to contend with as well. A middle-aged West Indian woman, Alga Knight, had her front teeth knocked out and had to have stitches in her jaw after being assaulted by the NF.

This makes the coming demonstration called by the Lewisham 21 Defence Committee that much more important. They are not going to be cowed by the likes of the National Front or the Lewisham police.

OH, WHAT A

But then the union top brass sabotage it

By Bob Light,

TGWU, Royal Docks

IT WAS an impressive sight—shop stewards banners from the four biggest ports in the country, Hull, London, Merseyside and Southampton, lined up right across the road.

The police made a couple of half-hearted attempts to clear the road, but there were just too many pickets.

We saw five coaches of the Special Patrol Group making towards us. But, 100 yards away, the Scabs Protection Group turned round. They obviously didn't fancy the odds.

Having failed with that group of animals, the police sent in the cavalry—three dozen mounted police. These horses and riders looked very big in the flesh, especially when they were trotting down a hill right at you.

At that moment, I thought it was just a matter of time until the line was broken. But, as I looked round, the mass of pickets had linked arms to form a wall right across the road, about 50 or 60 deep and with thousands more struggling up the road.

The police just could not get through. They were absolutely sick. A few seconds before, they had looked all brash.

But now, as their horses stood still and the crowd jeered and laughed at them, they just looked



EXUBERANT ... a Grunwick striker



DETERMINED: Some of 1,000 postal workers who turned out in solidarity with their brothers and sisters locked out at Cricklewood

'WE CAME down to do a job and we only half did it.'

Those complaints, by Yorkshire miners after hearing that the scabs' bus had got into the factory were perfectly understandable.

They had been in the frontline of the picket blockade all morning.

For four hours Grunwicks was sealed off.

Then the trade union top brass got to work, drawing away the pickets onto their march and allowing the police to get the scabs into the factory.

The strikers' union, APEX, had agreed to the Strike Committee's request for the mass picket only on condition that the TUC arranged the demonstration.

The APEX Executive had insisted that the Strike Committee declare, against their better judgement, that there would be no attempt to stop the scabs' bus while the Court of Inquiry was sitting.

APEX and the TUC want to win the strike—but not through mass action.

This split goes to the heart of our movement. On Monday the TUC marched trade union delegations in alphabetical order away from the action.

The collective will of rank and file workers was broken up and fitted back into the old, staid structures of the trade union bureaucracy.

The lesson will not be lost on many of those taking part in mass action for the first time.

Rank and file action can swiftly transform working class hopes and aspirations into reality—but only if a clear break is made with the indecision of the present trade union leadership.

In the months ahead, rank and file organisation will be vital to link stewards committees across the unions and to assert their independence from the full-time union leaderships.

THE IMPARTIAL BBC

IF YOU thought the BBC news report on Monday evening was bad enough, you should have seen the midday bulletin.

Put out by arch right-wing BBC News reporter, Clifford Luton, it showed demonstrators singing 'Why are We Waiting' and suggested that the 'waiting' was for a punch-up with the police.

Luton also claimed demonstrators were singing the 'Russian National anthem' (a reference to the Internationale!).

This was too much even for the hard-lined stomachs of the BBC news editors, who took the unusual decision to cut out a lot of Luton's ravings from the night bulletins.

Violence? Yes

By Ken Muller

I DON'T care if you're dying—get in here!

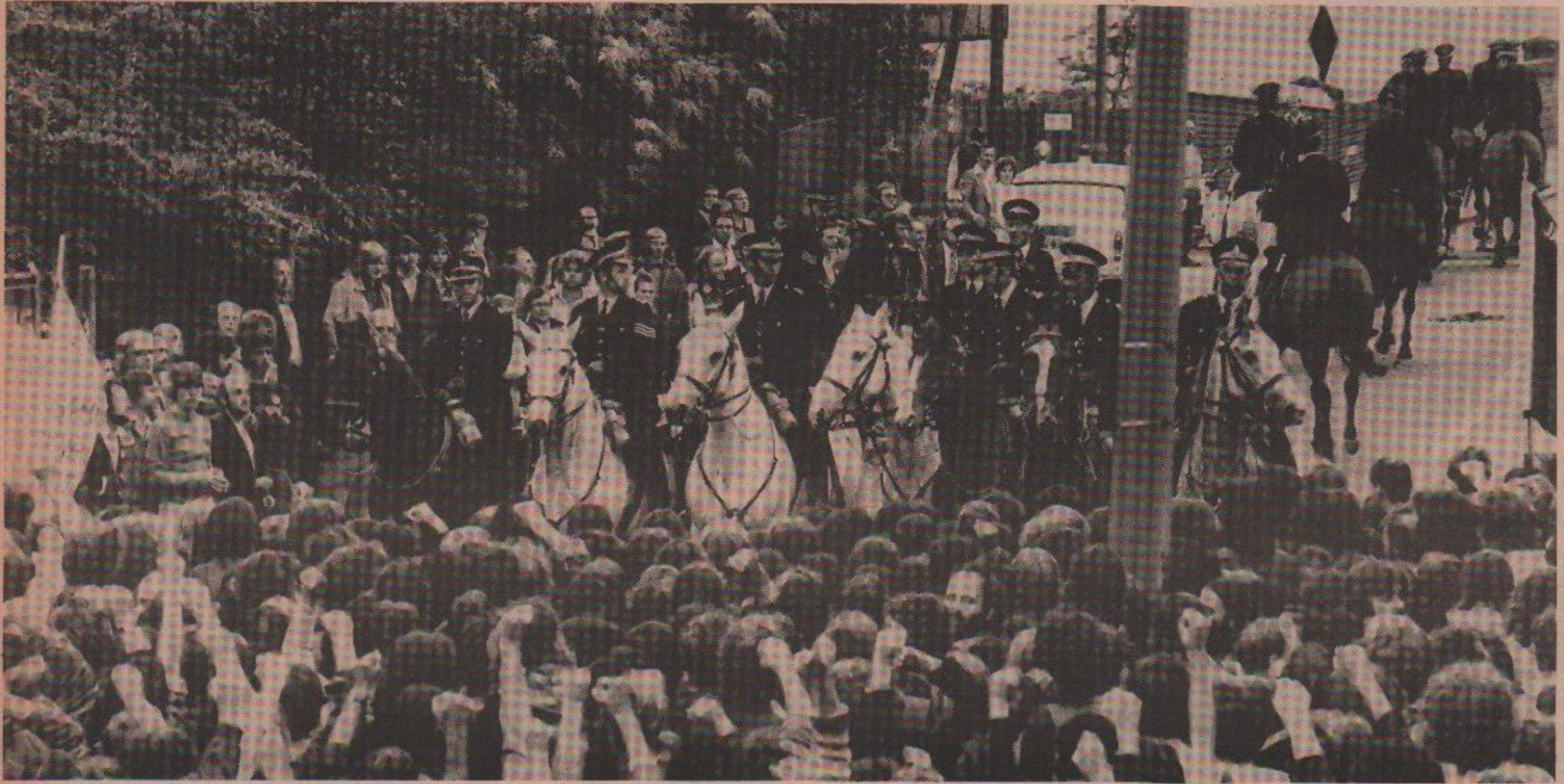
That's George Ward's attitude to his workers, according to Kevin Slattery, one of the seven Grunwick drivers who came out on strike last Monday.

If you think he's ex-

aggerating, listen to what happened to Fred Scarfe last year. Not from Fred, mind you. He's dead.

He died of lung cancer after turning up for work for six months, too scared to go to hospital lest he was sacked. Fred's fears were not un-

BEAUTIFUL MORNING...



PICTURES: John Sheppard, Andrew Ward (Report) and Phil McCowan

embarrassed, like mounted lemons.
There's nothing in the policemen's manual about what to do when trade unionists are determined enough not to be intimidated.
So, after ten minutes, the more intelligent horses turned and took their riders away.
It was about the most exhilarating moment I've ever experienced on a demonstration. It

took me back to the five electric days of Pentonville in 1972.
You could sense the same charge in the air, the same mood of confidence and determination.
At that moment, the Grunwick's factory was totally blockaded. There was nothing the police could have done to get the scabs' bus through.
The only thing finally that let the scabs through was when the picket line broke up to join the TUC guided

tour of Willesden.
Had that TUC demonstration been outside the factory gates, there is no way the scabs could have got to work.
And in the face of working class militancy shown on that picket line on Monday, the only force in this country that can save George Ward will be the spineless 'responsibility' of the TUC.

THE PICKETS STOOD FIRM... AND THE POLICE TURNED AND RODE AWAY
There were dozens of them... mounted police coming down the hill, straight towards the pickets. But there was no way through. The pickets linked arms and simply formed a human wall across the road. The mounted lemons looked absolutely sick...

ALARM OVER MISSING MINERS OFFICIAL

By Bill Message

YORKSHIRE miners' leaders are worried about the disappearance of Maurice Jones, editor of the official Yorkshire Miner.
Maurice vanished a few days after his arrest at Grunwick's on 23 June.
Willesden magistrates have issued a warrant for his arrest after his failure to answer bail last week.

Shaken

When arrested, Mr. Jones was questioned closely for several hours by the police. When I spoke to him after his release he appeared shaken, but did not go into the details of his interrogation.
After he returned to Yorkshire, he was apparently visited by Special Branch officers and interrogated again.
Friends who spoke to him on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 June have described his manner as being completely out of character.
Maurice Jones has not been seen since.

Where we go from here THE MASS PICKETS MUST BE STEPPED UP

IS THIS a coincidence?

11 JULY: The largest picket since the miners' blockade of Saltley 1972.

12 JULY: Lord Widgery rules in the High Court that the government advisory service ACAS did not act illegally in recommending that Grunwick recognise the union.

The court decision is not binding, however.

All it means is that ACAS is allowed by law to make its recommendations.

Ward, the Grunwick boss, does not have to take any notice of them. The only way to bring him to heel is to step up the mass pickets and blacking.

This is what the Grunwick Strike Committee are calling for after last Monday's mighty picket and demonstration. It means **MAKING SURE** trade union delegations go to the picket line as often as possible.

SUPPORTING the call made by the Right to Work Campaign for as large a picket as possible every Friday morning. Coaches are organised from every area of London. Contact 802-0978

MAKING SURE every chemist inside and outside London is approached and picketed if they are still

using Grunwick products—Copper and Pearson, Bonuspool, Trucolour and Monkolor.

EXTENDING the postal blacking. Grunwick mail is now turning up in sorting offices up and down the country as the NAFF try to by-pass the Cricklewood blacking.

This mail must be blacked. Local sorting offices should be visited and support and encouragement given to Post Office workers halting Grunwick's mail.

ORGANISING now to get commitment for strike action and massive delegations for the next National Day of Action in August. It must be twice as big as Monday's.



there's violence here all right

behaviour convinced three of the drivers—Ossie Grant, Milford Russell and Victor Hamilton—to join the Transport Workers Union, to recruit other drivers, and to join the APEX members on strike.

Their task was made easier by management attempts to

founded. Kevin Slattery had been 'discouraged' from going to hospital after blood started oozing from a post-operation wound in his leg.

When he finally got medical attention, blood gushed from the wound as the stitches were removed.

This kind of management

intimidate them. The firm's 22 drivers were called in one by one and quizzed about their attitude to the union.

It was made clear to them that anyone who joined the union would be sacked once the dispute was over. The 19 non-union drivers were instructed not to talk to the

three TGWU members.

This proved counter-productive. It led to four more drivers joining up.

Last Monday the TGWU called them out on strike for recognition. The drivers' courageous action puts one more nail in Ward's coffin.

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN WHO WALKED OUT

For months they'd been forced to try to build up the union secretly inside the plant. Then, on Monday, seven Grunwicks drivers walked out to join the mass picket and to strike for recognition of the Transport and General Workers Union.

Solidarity

A CIVIL and Public Servants Association branch in the Post Office has pledged support to their colleagues at Cricklewood sorting office.

The Kensington Computer Centre branch are ready with a programme of action the minute the locked-out postmen call for it. And they will refuse to co-operate with any moves to reduce the pay of suspended postmen.



EAGER BEAVERS

THE COMPANIES THAT LOVE THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

Rank and File shock for NSMM

IN ELECTIONS for assistant general secretary of the National Society of Metal Mechanics, Arthur Griffiths, who stood on the programme of the Right to Work Campaign, has come third.

Arthur is an engineering worker from Warrington. He was nominated only by the Warrington branch. His decision to stand came too late to allow any campaigning.

But in his election address Arthur committed himself to an all-out fight against the Social Contract and for a militant battle against racism. He said he was a supporter of the Right to Work Campaign and a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

Green, a right-wing conveyor from Coventry, won the first ballot with 2,224 votes and a Birmingham NSMM official called McCarthy came second with 1,924. Arthur Griffiths got 1,123—despite considerable efforts during the campaign to discredit him.

No other candidate got more than 1,000 votes.

Since the campaign Arthur has been contacted by stewards from all over the country who are surprised at his success in the ballot and are keen to organise a reform movement in the union up and down the country.

The second ballot in the election between Green and McCarthy is this weekend. 'They're both right-wingers' says Arthur.

The company that never was

BY SEYMOUR PROPHET

The bug in the boardroom

REMEMBER earlier this year electrical combine GEC bust through dividend controls by giving shareholders a £178 million pay-out?

Remember how the unions were told this was all a part of a scheme to expand overseas?

Remember how profits are necessary so companies can invest and create jobs?

It is lies, all lies. The proof is in GEC's profit Back in January, in an ingenious and entirely legal scheme, GEC arranged to hand over £178

million of the £231 million cash it had accumulated over the years.

This meant that, among others, GEC's managing director Sir Arnold Weinstock was about £2 million richer, after paying tax, at a time when his workers' wages were held down by the government's wages policy.

GEC said that the money paid out to shareholders was by way of compensation for losing complete control of overseas operations.

For a multinational, GEC have relatively few companies abroad. British government rules prevent them from exporting capital, so they had to decide to set up a parallel company—GEC International—which would look after the overseas interests and in which foreign investors would hold shares.

British shareholders, they argued, needed to be compensated for not owning all the shares in GEC International.

When last week, GEC announced profits for 1976/77 £70 million higher at £278 million, there was still no sign of GEC International. Quite the opposite.

GEC said they had been borrowing money abroad to start up businesses there and were producing plenty of goods in Britain to satisfy overseas markets.

They were waiting until the British government altered the rules on exporting capital so they could use

the cash in their British bank account—now almost £500 million—to finance overseas expansion.

That board of cash represents almost £3000 per GEC worker—slightly more than the average annual wage in GEC.

But very little of this is being spent on new investment or on creating jobs. Last year GEC invested about £85 million.

That leaves plenty over on which the GEC shareholders can grow fat and rich. And it leaves plenty over to ship out of the country



Women's Voice supporters on the May march against the Benyon Bill

Abortion: Benyon Bill hangs in the balance

THE Benyon anti-abortion Bill is still fighting its way through parliament to the statute book.

Its supporters have got unprecedented debating time this week in a desperate attempt to rush the Bill through its committee stages.

If these stages are passed by this Friday, the Bill could get its 'Third Reading'—and be law by the end of the session.

As we go to press, the Bill still hangs in the balance. If it survives this week, it will be a black day for every woman in the country.

They have been assisted this week by the departure of two of the Bill's opponents, Labour MPs Renee Short and Maureen Colquhoun.

Last week, Renee Short declared that she and her Labour colleagues on the



DEMONSTRATE: Saturday 15 July 2.30pm, assemble Victoria Park, Parnell Road entrance, London E3 (Bromley by Bow tube bus No 8).

committee would be fighting the Bill to the finish. 'We are the toughies,' she said.

But this week, as the Bill goes into committee for the final crucial three days,

Renee Short and Maureen Colquhoun, the two toughies, are off on a pleasant trip to Canada and America to 'take evidence' for a Commons Select Committee on job creation!

It will be one of the most reactionary pieces of social legislation ever passed under a Labour government.

For the Bill does not just restrict legal abortions to 20 weeks of pregnancy. It aims a death blow at the charitable agencies which provide abortions where the National Health Service is governed by anti-abortion bigots.

And it imposes new restrictions on doctors who sanction abortions.

That's why virtually all informed medical opinion—as well as the vast bulk of the trade union movement—is against the Bill.

Rich old men

The passing of the Bill would mean a triumph for all those who believe women should be trapped in the home, rather than being able to choose for themselves what sort of life they want to lead.

Above all it means increased misery, maiming and death for women forced to backstreet abortions as the only solution to their problems.

If the Bill does get through it means we need not only a campaign among the trade unions—but also among doctors. Every doctor who agrees with the present law, or feels it is inadequate, should refuse to implement any backward changes in the law—such as the Benyon Bill.

The demonstration supported by Women's Voice in London this Saturday is a step in that direction. It is a demonstration protesting at the monopoly of consultants—rich old men who can decide whether a woman is entitled to an abortion—and calling for more out-patient clinics where quick, safe abortions can be carried out.

The demonstration is going through one of the poorest parts of London—the East End—which has the highest incidence of many diseases, along with some of the worst medical facilities in the country.

JUBILEE —YOU'LL LOVE IT ... OR ELSE!

THE POLICE are stepping up intimidation and harassment of people caught flyposting and spraying anti-jubilee slogans.

In Stockport SWP member Iftikhov Hussain was traced from his car registration number. His family were constantly threatened while he was away on holiday. Eventually he went voluntarily to Cheadle Hulme police station, where he was kept for five hours.

Although he is British, he was threatened with deportation and prison, so that he gave a signed confession to the police. He was promised a low fine by the Special Branch if he agreed to act as an informer on his local SWP branch.

In the same branch Mary-Anne Stuart was caught spraying on a wall. She was kept in the police station overnight and interrogated by three police officers with no woman present.

In court the following day the police amazed even the magistrates by asking for her to be remanded in custody for three days—until the Queen's visit was over.

ELIZABETH WINDSOR hasn't brought much joy to the working people of Lambeth. Even the local newspaper admitted that all too few houses had been painted at all since 1952.

And few of them were painted red white and blue for the Jubilee. Indeed, whole estates had not so much as a flag in the window.

No wonder she could only spare us ten minutes of her time for a royal visit. About 2000 people gathered, mainly kids herded in from school, bored mums and pensioners.

A small group of unemployed supporters of the local Right to Work Campaign gathered to sell Stuff the Jubilee badges.

As the happy couple from the palace arrived, the protesters started up a chant of 'Stuff the Jubilee! Immediately 20 plain-clothes cops jumped on us. We were beaten and kicked, arrested and charged.

It's legal to sell flags saying 'God Save the Queen' or 'Do as you are told', but if you say the opposite, you get beaten, arrested and fined.

THOSE great defenders of democracy, the police, saw to it that democracy was banned for the day when the Queen visited Ipswich on Monday.

For they stopped socialists Colin Brinton and Keith Lay and confiscated their placards, reading 'Why should we pay taxes—the Queen doesn't' and 'Roll on the Red Republic'.

The police told them the chief constable had issued strict instructions. 'He would not allow any display of disloyalty, any kind of opposition or dissent, any posters, demonstrations or signs,' they were told.

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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 overturned.

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'

INTERNATIONALISM

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.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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 REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

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

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.

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the Socialist Workers Party, fill in the form on page 16.

THE £50m DRUGS SCANDAL

FIVE HUNDRED hospital workers marched last week in protest against the proposed closures of hospitals in South London by the Wandsworth, Sutton and East Merton Health Authority.

The authority want to close the Weir Hospital (39 beds), the Wimbledon Hospital (70 beds), St George's Hospital, Hyde Park (176 beds—and 150 operations a month) and another substantial hospital as yet unnamed.

The suffering these closures will cause in the area is impossible to describe.

The authority insist they simply have not got the money to keep these hospitals open. That's the argument for the health cuts all over the country.

Branded

But there's plenty of money spent by the Health Service now which is wasted—and which could keep ALL these hospitals open.

For there is a running scandal in the Health Service—the regular prescription of patented or branded drugs by doctors when there are similar non-branded drugs available at only a fraction of the price.

The cost of drugs and appliances prescribed by doctors is one of the main items of Health Service spending. It is rocketing.

In 1974 the Health Service spent £255 million on drugs. In 1975, this had risen to £329 million.

And last year the figure jumped to an astonishing £427 million.

The Department of Health do not disclose how much of this spending was on 'branded' drugs—and refuse even to estimate how much of the spending could have been cut by prescribing non-branded drugs instead.

Decision

But a conservative estimate says that about an eighth of all prescriptions are for branded drugs which are medically identical to much cheaper, non-branded drugs. In other words, about £50 million at the very least—could have been saved by regulating the prescription of branded drugs.

Compare that with £7 millions which will be 'saved' by the closure of those hospitals in South London.

Why do these branded drugs get prescribed instead of their cheaper equivalents? Simple. The profit ratio for non-branded drugs is hugely higher for the drug companies. So an army of 'reps' travels round doctors' surgeries trying to persuade them that the branded products are 'better' than the non-branded ones.

Here Jean Lewis, a socialist doctor in Yorkshire, describes how this vast pressure group works.

The message of her article is that if the drugs were produced and marketed directly by the Health Service, there could be enormous savings—and no closures.

The article should be pinned on the wall of every hospital—and every doctors' surgery—where the cuts are lurking.

How the Health Service is robbed by 'patent medicine' con

The workers' antidepressant.

When difficulty in coping with work or domestic responsibilities is a feature of depressive illness, a treatment which causes drowsiness may add to the patient's problems.

Vivalan is unique, improving mood and restoring drive without daytime drowsiness so that the patient is able to take a lively interest in work, social life and the family.

Listless, apathetic, tired patients who complain of fatigue and inability to concentrate are those most likely to benefit from Vivalan.

VIVALAN
The workers' antidepressant.

DON'T CHANGE IT—DOPE 'EM UP. That's the message from the drug firms in this advert that appeared in medical journals.



Hospital workers and supporters in South London demonstrating outside the health authority meeting last week

'You don't need a sticking plaster to repair the NHS. You need a scalpel'.

WRITES JEAN LEWIS

AS A socialist doctor, I try to stand back and think carefully about what drugs I prescribe. I often tell myself that I am not really influenced by the advertising pressures of the multinational drug companies.

But I know that because of shortage of time, pressure of work and tiredness I sometimes allow myself to be influenced by what their representatives tell me.

There have been tremen-

dous changes in drugs and treatment since I left medical school in 1961. To keep up to date, I have to rely on information from various sources about what drugs are available.

What are these sources? All too often, directly or indirectly, the drug companies themselves.

Medical journals—often high-powered and don't cater for advice to ordinary GPs.

Drug company dinner-film shows: four courses, drinks and a 10-minute film. Totally unbiased, of course, and the drug companies pay the bill.

Free medical newspapers, paid for by the drug companies.

Robbers

Drug company representatives who come to the surgery. This is my main, often only source of information.

I get, on average, three of four visits a week from my rep—and there's a rep allotted to every GP in Britain. When he describes his products, they sound marvellous, just what's needed to cure all your patients.

They are less keen to tell me about the side-effects or the cost of the drug—and get quite huffy if I tell them I

won't try it, or I don't believe in appetite suppressants or I think tranquillisers and anti-depressants mask things and don't solve anything.

Yet they are the ones who are robbing our Health Service.

For example, there are 66 varieties of painkillers. Most are very similar. They are mixtures of codeine, aspirin and paracetamol.

So when a patient comes and says that the painkiller I gave last month didn't work, what flashes across my mind but the wonder painkiller that the drug company rep talked about yesterday.

The same thought goes through the minds of thousands of GPs all over Britain. They write out the prescriptions—and the high pressure salesmanship has paid off!

The reps always talk in brand names—they're always the easiest to remember.

And more often than not the brand name masks nothing but a cheap con. They've taken a standard drug, added to it a 1/2 per cent of some new 'wonder ingredient'—and lo and behold it's the latest advance in medicinal care!

The key is that it can now be patented—and patented drugs are not subject to price control or competition.

As you can see from the tables the patented drugs are priced many times higher than the standard medicine—though the ingredients may be almost exactly the same.

Dependence

The drug companies have fostered a dependence on their products which is often an addiction. Their profits are paid for by the NHS.

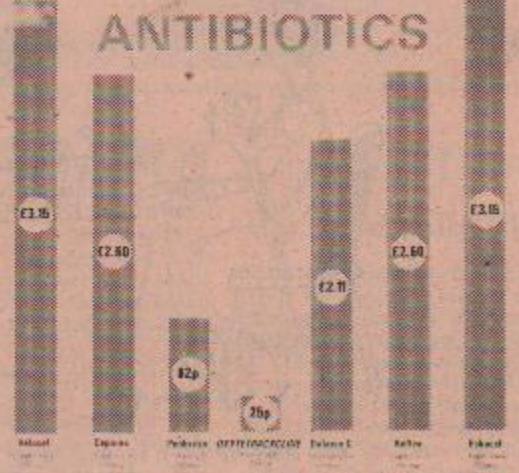
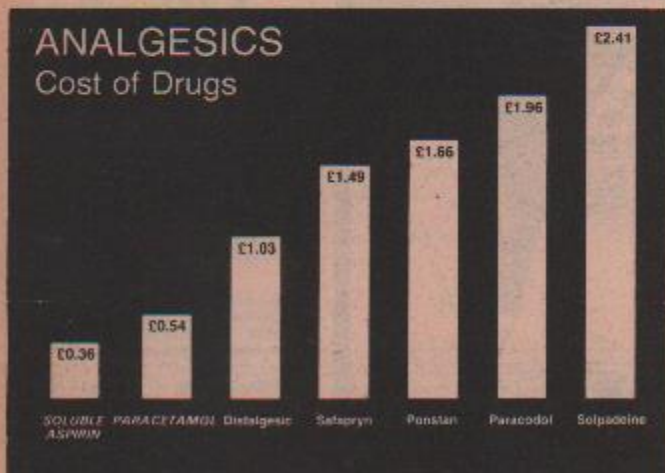
They are always quick to point out that the profits from their medicines is offset by what they spend on research. This is nonsense! The average research costs of a drug company are only 10 per cent of total income—while advertising and promotion takes 20 per cent!

The profits are fantastic. In 1972, Pfizer made 103 million dollars profit out of 1000 million dollars sales. Eli Lilly made 126 million out of 820 million dollar sales.

No wonder the NHS is in a state of collapse!

I sometimes feel that I am a minute part of a gigantic machine, since the focus of the drug companies is always on the GP. For in our prescriptions are the profits for them.

You don't need a sticking plaster to repair the NHS. You need a scalpel.



Charts handed out to doctors by the NHS in an attempt to keep costs down. Left, headache pills. Right, antibiotics—used to treat a vast range of illnesses. In both cases the patented drugs are vastly more expensive.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

PAUL FOOT

The printworkers who 'censor' anti-union muck in the newspapers are striking a greater blow for press freedom than all the Lord Gibsons.

The 'noble' press gang

I AM PREPARED to sacrifice the whole North of England Newspapers Group for the principle of freedom of the press. This remark is attributed by Darlington journalists on strike for the closed shop to their employer, Lord Gibson, chairman of the huge Press combine, the Westminster Press.

Gibson's argument, which is taken up by the entire Press and television, sounds sweet. He says: 'We concede closed shops for all newspaper workers except the journalists. We don't mind closed

shops for trade union purposes. But we're opposed to a closed shop for journalists because they might interfere with the editors right to publish what they want. And that's an interference with the Freedom of the Press.'

The picture which people like Gibson present, and which is widely believed among lots of people, is of newspaper editors freely taking their own decisions about what goes in their papers. And people believe that there shouldn't be any interference with that freedom.

But how does the editor get there in the first place?

He is appointed by the newspaper proprietor. His job is to carry out the proprietor's policies. Victor Matthews, a property speculator who bought the

Daily Express group last week put it bluntly:

'By and large the editors will have complete freedom, as long as they agree with the policies I lay down.'

And that policy, you'll be surprised to hear, is a Tory policy based on the extraordinary proposition that 'everything about Britain is beautiful.'

Five rich men own 90 per cent of British daily and Sunday newspapers. They appoint the editor, who appoints the news editor, the chief subeditor, the night editor and so on. All these people are responsible to the people above them.

Their only relationship to the people below them is to tell them what to write, and change it if it doesn't suit.

So all the pressure on what is written and what is printed is biased towards

rich and powerful men like those five proprietors.

But surely, the defenders of the Press reply, if newspapers are only popular among a few rich men, they won't sell any copies and will go to the wall.

Not so. Newspapers are financed, in the main, by advertising. Even the Daily Mirror, which sells more than four million copies a day, gets a third of its revenue from advertisers.

The Financial Times, which sells less than any other national Fleet Street paper, makes the biggest profit.

Why? Because it sells more advertising. And why does it sell more advertising? Because it sells all its copies to people who have plenty of money around to buy the goods and services which are advertised.

So all the pressure on journalists—from owners and from advertisers, and therefore from editors—is to write and print articles which look after the rich minority.

The freedom to challenge the rights of that rich minority is continually obstructed. And the skills and imaginations of journalists and photographers are corrupted in the stampede towards triviality, pornography and reaction.

Devoted

For twenty years former Financial Times journalist Gordon Tether, wrote the Lombard column in the Financial Times. About 4000 of his columns were printed without alteration.

In 1973, Fredy Fisher became editor. Fisher is Fleet Street's most devoted opponent of the journalist's closed shop.

He regularly sang the praises of the Freedom of the Press. But he ordered Gordon Tether not to write about anything except financial matters.

When Tether refused, articles which Fisher didn't like, especially those which attacked the City, Margaret Thatcher or Richard Nixon were kept out. Eventually, Tether was sacked.

So the argument comes down to this. Who is more likely to interfere with the freedom of people to write and publish what they really think is best: men like Fredy Fisher who'll do what their owners want; or a collective of all the journalists on any paper?

Abuse

The truth is that a strong journalists' chapel, like trade union organisation everywhere else in newspapers, is a far more powerful guarantee against the abuse of Press Freedom than is any appointed editor.

So when the printers on the Sun or the readers on the Sunday Telegraph or the secretaries on the Observer stopped their paper printing anti-union muck about Grunwicks, they were doing a greater service to the Freedom of the Press than all the editors of our greatest newspapers can ever do.

They let her in—for the funeral!

FOR FIVE years Sri Krishan Sharma tried to bring his wife and children to Britain from India.

He was expelled from Uganda by President Amin in 1972. A British passport holder, he came to Britain and settled in Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

His wife and family were finally allowed into the country last month—for his funeral.

Mr Sharma became ill shortly after coming to work in Britain. Because he was paralysed he couldn't sign a

document for his wife's admittance.

After months of exchanging letters with the Home Office, the Foreign Office and his MP Ian Stewart, the signature was finally waived. He was being helped by the Executive Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

'At one point he was in an awful condition, crying and weeping and saying he wished to see his wife and

children' said Mr Darshan Dey of the Executive Council in the Hitchin Gazette.

When his condition deteriorated seriously, his wife was given a date for entry to Britain.

But the family arrived too late.

Of course, once they got to London airport there was a seven hour delay while officials argued with them.

Now they have to fight to stay and work in Britain.

WATCH OUT! There are subversives about in our town halls.

When Hemel Hempstead SWP held a 'Stuff the Jubilee' disco in the cellars of the Old Town Hall, the council officials who took the booking didn't know the theme of the disco. Until one of them noticed our advert in the local paper.

Then a message was passed down: the £17 booking fee wasn't going into council coffers—they'd made a special decision to send it to the Queen's Jubilee Appeal Fund.

There's subversion at the top.



RIGHT WING NUJ executive member Jenny Harris showed just how deep her belief in democracy really is at Darlington last week.

Journalists on the Northern Echo are on strike to defend their 100 per cent post entry closed shop.

This policy was decided democratically at a full delegate meeting of the union last year and the executive voted to give full support to the Darlington strikers.

They have also asked NUJ members not to supply copy to Darlington.

Yet last week an article on press freedom—like democracy, a subject which concerns Miss Harris deeply—appeared in the Darlington paper under her by-line.

THE WEST MIDLANDS police senior prosecuting solicitor, Alex Nicholls, was fined £300 with £500 costs after being convicted of fraud.

He was found guilty of forging a hire purchase document on a car.

A story told on the picket line at Darlington last week illustrates the kind of management the NUJ members are up against.

One journalist who has worked for the company on a newspaper in the South for 30 years broke his leg while on a job for the paper.

The company—Westminster Press—have stopped his wages after six weeks and he is having to claim sick benefit.

QUESTION: Why have Wormwood Scrubs prisoners Moody (BO7769), Virgo (BO9288) and Brown (BO9290) been moved to open prisons after only two months, while most prisoners wait years for the privilege?

ANSWER: They are three of the policemen convicted for corruption recently.

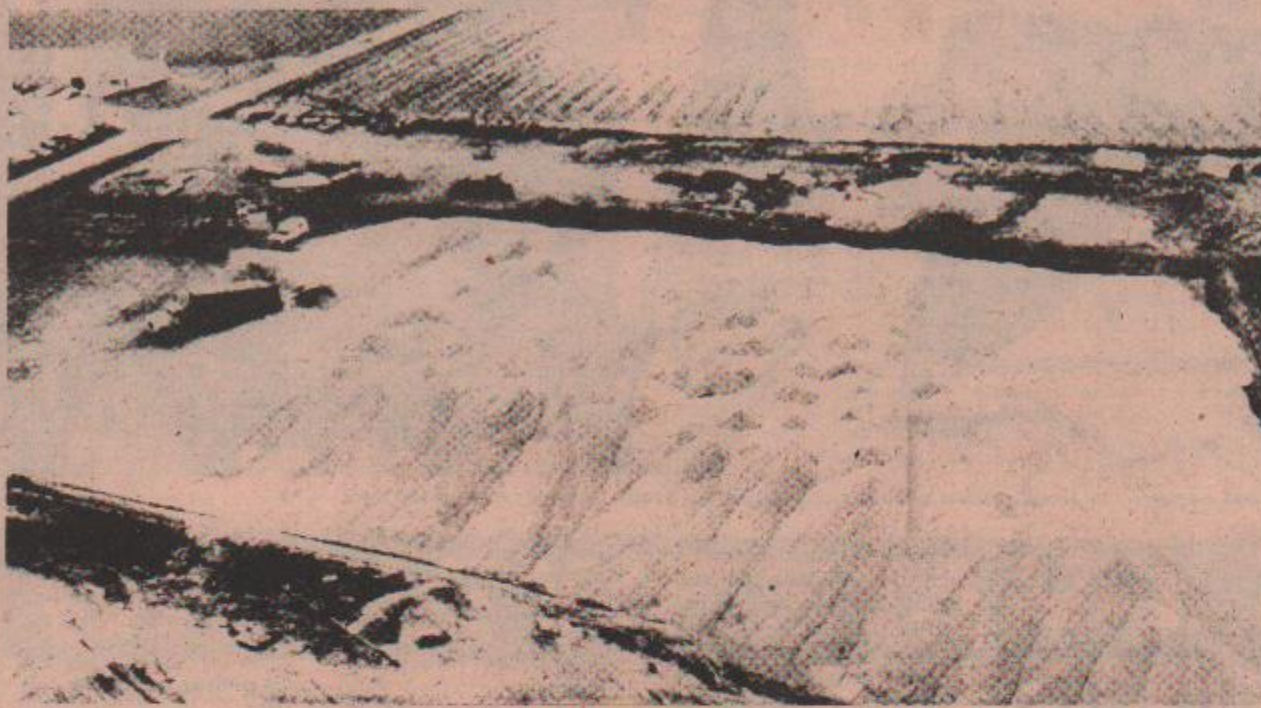
MOUNT BREAD-BIN

WHAT IS going to happen to this pile of grain? Answer—nothing. It will stay where it is, one of America's grain mountains.

It could, of course, be distributed to the starving people of the world, except they don't have the money to buy it.

The American farmers don't want to lower the price. That would mean less profit for them.

It's much more likely that if it is used, it will fill the bellies of pigs, cattle and poultry, who eat more grain in a year than human beings.



Hypocrisy: By royal

THE DUCHESS of Kent, who will produce her fourth Royal scrounger next February, has added her two pennyworth to the anti-abortion rants.

Safe in her gossamer world of silver thread christening gowns and round-the-clock nannies, HRH saw fit to send a telegram to the gynaecologists' conference calling for tight controls on abortion.

Which one of her two stately homes was she in, I wonder, when she sent the telegram waxing lyrical about the sanctity of human life?

She picked a fine time to

appointment

do it of course with the William Benyon Bill going through Parliament and the Royal Family hot into the breeding season.

Come the autumn we are going to be bombarded with the old dewey-eyed family album shots of the Royal new arrivals.

Not one of them will have had to weigh up the cost of their bundles of joy. You and I have taken care of that side of things for them.

Every child they produce is a wanted child.

If HRH really believes that 'human life is sacred' where is her concern for the women like Margaret McGovern?

Margaret died in March this year after taking an

overdose of gin to induce an abortion. She died alone at her flat in Edgbaston, Birmingham. That's what 'tight control' on abortion means.

And it's that sort of action that the Benyonites will drive more women to, if we let them.

TIGHTENING OUR BELTS: The National Gallery has paid £650,000 for a Parmigianino portrait which had been on loan to the gallery for nine years.

The painting was sold by the Wrotham Park Picture Settlement.

THE JUBILEE RACKET



"If you ask me they've staged an economic crisis to take everyone's mind off the Silver Jubilee."

Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL

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PAKISTAN



A train blazes outside Karachi. Strike pickets set it alight after it tried to break a picket line, killing two workers. The 'Jam the Wheels' strike was but one of dozens that led to Bhutto's downfall.

by NIGEL HARRIS

PRIME MINISTER Bhutto's regime has collapsed, after four and a half months of spectacular agitation—with between 350 and 1,000 people killed, and, at times, up to 50,000 in prison.

The mafia of the Pakistan People's Party, Bhutto's government since 1971, has been overthrown.

Rhetoric

Bhutto and his cronies inherited power from the military after the break-up of Pakistan in 1971 and the formation of an independent Bangladesh out of the former East Pakistan.

Decorated with much rhetoric about the socialist revolution and the destruction of the top capitalist families of the country, Bhutto built a corrupt and dictatorial regime as any of his military predecessors. In the province of Baluchistan, he fought a civil war against the Baluchi independence forces.

His jails overflowed, the press and courts were terrorised. Far from fighting for socialism, his policies drove down the living standards of the mass of the population. Any who protested disappeared into his prison.

But enforced silence sometimes makes dictators deaf. They mistake the lack of sound for enthusiastic support. That is how Bhutto came to call a general election in March.

Rigged

Just to make sure he would win, he tried to intimidate the coalition of opposition parties, the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), in the run-up to the election, and then rigged the ballot.

The resulting 'victory' at the polls was his undoing. The PNA, having raised the hopes of millions, was now cheated of the prize.

The millions reacted in fury. Months of general strikes, street fighting, massive demonstrations, could not be controlled. There was martial law in all the main cities and severe repression.

Bhutto could have handled the protests of lawyers and doctors. What he could not stand was the explosion of worker militancy.

It was in the industrial districts of Karachi that the opposition found its real muscle. Here the fighting was most severe, and the street barricades most persistent. The city, like Hyderabad, Multan and Lyallpur, was paralysed for weeks by the stubborn courage of factory

The workers fought, but the generals stole their victory



A women's demonstration in Karachi confronting troops, armed with rifles and tear-gas grenades, during the April demonstrations which followed Bhutto's rigged elections.

workers.

The profit rate collapsed, investment stopped, exports dried up. The government said it cost 60 working days or £350 million.

Arrest

Bhutto was driven to concede, at least formally, all the opposition's demands. But he still tried to keep the final say, to ensure his own personal survival.

When the opposition threatened to intensify the

agitation, the army swiftly intervened to arrest Bhutto, his government and the PNA.

The defeat of Bhutto was a great victory. But a military coup is a great defeat. It painfully shows the lack of any real political alternative for the workers and peasants of Pakistan.

It was the workers who fought, who made the enormous sacrifices required to defeat Bhutto, but the generals have reaped the victory.

Uganda: There are murders—and executions

THE bloodthirsty acts of General Amin of Uganda are usually good for inch after inch of column space in the popular papers. But one of the most barbaric acts of the Ugandan dictator was given only a single paragraph in the Daily Telegraph on Monday.

This told how workers at Uganda's telephone and electricity corporations were executed for going on strike in January.

It seems that for those great defenders of 'press freedom', the newspaper proprietors, the murder of a bishop or a judge is a grave crime that deserves reporting at length, but the murder of trade unionists is something utterly insignificant and hardly worth mentioning.

by JAMSHED MEHTA

THE official opposition to Bhutto was The Pakistan National Alliance (PNA). This is a motley crowd of religious bigots, chauvinists and small businessmen.

But it found itself giving expression to the groundswell of anger and resentment felt by workers in the major cities against Bhutto's attempts at cutting living standards and undermining trade union organisation.

After three months of rioting, ten one-day general strikes and 500 dead with thousands injured, the army chiefs staged last Tuesday's coup in order to prevent a possible mutiny by young army officers, no longer drawn from the traditional martial families, who were reluctant to do Bhutto's dirty work.

Another reason was the possibility of armed conflict between government and opposition supporters due to extensive gun-running by both.

The new ruler, General Zia-

al-Haq, was promoted by Bhutto only months ago, over the heads of many other likely candidates. He is known to be a religious fanatic, sympathetic to the Jamat e Islami, which subscribes to orthodox Islamic views and vicious social Islamic views, and social methods and customs.

Lashes


Within a week of coming to power, the General has had to resolve the crisis in the only way he and his class knew. All trade union activity has been declared illegal and on conviction before a court martial can lead to ten lashes or three years hard labour.

For attending a political meeting, the prison sentence is even longer—seven years hard labour.

This political crisis has shown the tremendous courage and fighting spirit of Pakistan's working class. It has also shown how corrupt and ruthless the ruling class can be when faced with a serious economic crisis.

LENIN: BUILDING THE PARTY

Three excerpts from the first volume of Tony Cliff's biography of Lenin published for the first time in farsi (Iranian). They deal with the early period of the struggle in Russia, the internal life of the Bolshevik party. 40p (inc. postage) or 30p each for orders of ten or more from SWP, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Cheques/bankers' orders payable to SWP International Fund.



SUPPORT THE GRUNWICKS PICKET LINE: 7am, every weekday.

Words fail us, Bro. Jackson...

Why we need mass action, by a postman locked out at Cricklewood

THE CRICKLEWOOD postmen have been suspended for refusing to handle Grunwick mail. They have defied their own union executive by taking action.

The day after they were suspended they turned up for work and tried to do their job as normal—except for moving the Grunwick mail. But management had hidden the Post Office van keys and sealed the pillar boxes.

Undeterred, the postmen tried to do their job on their own bicycles and in their own cars. It was a deliberate gesture to demonstrate to the public that the breakdown of postal communications was the fault of the Post Office and not of the men.

The next day the Post Office locked the workers out altogether. They turned up at Brent Trades Hall, headquarters of the Grunwick Strike Committee, and asked for temporary accommodation.

Meanwhile the executive of the Union of Post Office Workers decided to make up the wages of the locked-out postmen.

Solid

This offer was double-edged. It was a welcome, if belated, token of support.

But it also helped the executive to stem solidarity action by other Post Office workers.

Nevertheless, the Cricklewood men are solid. The Grunwick 'jugular vein' is no longer working.

One of the Cricklewood postmen, Fred Jenkins,



Fred Jenkins: the fine words of union leaders like Tom Jackson have done nothing for his fellow Cricklewood postmen or the Grunwicks strikers

INTERVIEW BY JOHN ROSE

spoke to Socialist Worker about the dispute:

You have to understand that we are subject to strict regulations that tend to mould conservative habits and outlook.

The idea that we are working for Her Majesty's government is inculcated into us. Striking is 'disgraceful'.

When I first joined, 15 years ago, we were part of the Civil Service. There were many ex-service men. It was almost like an extension of the army.

Then, as now, there were 'spots' on the street. These are individuals, unknown to us, who check on finishing times and generally make sure we are doing our job.

In those days, they would also check that our uniform

was in order. If you were caught without your hat, for example, you could lose pay.

Now they are akin to unofficial 'time and motion' men. They are like spies.

Again, there is one-way glass where the mail is sorted called the 'watching gallery'. We are under observation from the 'Investigation Branch'. We never know when they are there.

We have all signed the Official Secrets Act. It hangs over your head like a cloud.

Stoppage

Among other things, it says words to the effect that 'you cannot communicate to anyone outside the office conditions that relate to the job'.

I remember, when I told my wife about how we had a one-hour stoppage over canteen conditions, wondering whether I was in breach of the Act. I suppose we're all in breach of it now!

All this makes it popular to say that postmen are not and cannot be, political.

But I don't know what this means. The government recently cut back expenditure on our offices. All the proposed renewal of lighting, painting of canteen, and so on was shelved.

This was a political act. We must respond politically. Grunwick is very political. The youngsters in particular, understand this in our office. The cruelty of Ward sticks in their throat.

Struggle

I think that Grunwick has provided a political awakening among people, a new class consciousness.

We are witnessing the rebirth of mass action. The leaderships of the trade unions and the Labour Party hate this. But it is their fault.

If their words could have won the Grunwick dispute then the struggle would have been won months ago. But

they didn't.

Mass action is frowned upon almost as though it was foreign to our movement.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

It's funny. See that old piano in the corner? I'm sure it was here when I used to come to socialist Sunday school as a boy at this Trades Hall in the Thirties.

It is an odd link between then and now. We seem to have lost much of our tradition: Active involvement of large numbers of ordinary people was taken for granted in those days.

I remember when the council cleared the traders off Kilburn High Road. Hundreds of workers took part in a protest demonstration at the old Willesden Town Hall. Police had to evict them.

Shouting

I recall the election campaign for a local Labour MP, Maurice Orbach. You couldn't get near the count. The school and yard were packed solid.

There was a demonstration over the Spanish Civil War. People were shouting about arms to defend the Spanish working class from the Fascists. The Tory candidate needed police protection. The crowd really hated him.

Feelings on issues like this ran very high in those days. There was nothing wrong with that. Collective demonstrations of anger have always fuelled our movement.

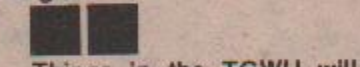
We should never be afraid of the way our movement is smeared. The Daily Herald used to be denounced by the other side in the way the Morning Star and the Socialist Worker are today.

I always say to myself: if wanting a decent home, schools, hospitals, life, means describing myself as a socialist or communist, then I plead guilty.

THIS YEAR'S TGWU Delegate Conference was historic. It was the first time the General Secretary and executive have been defeated on major policy.

It was also Jack Jones' last conference as General Secretary. For five years he has made the running in TUC collaboration with first the Tory government under Heath, then with the Labour government since 1974.

Now the rank and file delegates at the TGWU's own conference have decisively rejected Jones' collaborationist approach on wages.



Things in the TGWU will never be the same again. The General Secretary designate, Moss Evans, watched stony-faced as delegates rejected Jones' impassioned plea for unity behind the Labour government.

Evans was elected on a minority vote with a massive anti-Social Contract vote being split between other candidates. Tommy Riley, the rank and file candidate who came fifth in that election, told Socialist Worker:

'The vote today was great. We've waited for years for this. Now we're going to have to fight to win the election of all our officials.'

The vote on Wednesday 6 July was only the start. Socialist Workers Party members and supporters in the TGWU are invited to discuss where next for the TGWU at a meeting in Manchester this Saturday (16 July).

NO-ONE ON THE LEFT predicted victory. The Jones appeal for loyalty has always worked before. But the impossible happened.

Some 40 speakers went to the rostrum. As Wednesday morning went on, more and more speakers inveighed against the Social Contract until the point was reached when Jack Jones prompted the chairman to appeal for speakers who would support the executive.

Supporters of an 'orderly return' to free, collective bargaining—a Phase 3 by another name—argued that inflation would get worse, that the lower-paid would suffer, that the only alternative was Margaret Thatcher.

The mover of the resolution, Ia, predicted, for instance, that 'the rat race situation created by the workers would create a situation where there wasn't enough to keep a rat alive'.

Jack Jones developed the theme: 'If at this Conference you defeat Ia, you will make our troubles ten times worse, yes, for years to come'. This produced a wave of heckling.

'To talk about unfettered bargaining to me is reminiscent of unfettered capitalism. We have got to protect the weaker members of our society,' said John Webb, from the union's south east region, seconding the motion.

AMAZED

'Ia reflects realism, relevance responsibility... the slanderous statements being made here today about the Labour government are almost unbelievable', declared Albert Bull from Bath.

Then Jones again: 'I am amazed at the various criticisms of the government and the TUC. Do you imagine that we on the TUC and on this platform would deliberately maintain a policy of lowering living standards.

SOCIAL CONTRACT

All the way again



The historic vote: out goes the Social Contract ... by

DE -TH JAC

STEVE JEFFERYS REPORTS FROM

This was greeted with shouts of 'Yes!'.

'Our policy,' continued Jones, 'is to keep the ship afloat and not to let it go down. We should be determined to maintain the Labour government warts and all.'

The supporters of the successful resolution were bitter and angry. Speaker followed speaker making the same point.

'We must decide whether the trade union movement will walk tall or whether the long retreat of the last three years is to continue', said Danny Harris, the mover of Ia, a London lorry driver and a Labour councillor.

Bernard Pitson, the Welsh delegate who moved support for the Social Contract two years ago, told Conference he had changed his mind. Tom Moore, a meatworker

at FMC Newry in Northern Ireland, announced that his firm had increased profits by 560 per cent over the last year.

'But today the only beef I'm likely to get is when I'm invited to the Lord Mayor's ball.'

AUDACITY

Eric Porter, a shipyard worker from Middlesborough, pointed out that 'even in the bad old days Oliver Twist had the audacity to ask for more. On reflection, if he had asked for less there'd have been no story.'

Wilf Edwards, a building worker from Gorton in Manchester, held up a copy of the TGWU Record for July 1975. The headline was: Price Control: the number one priority.

He asked 'Is there anyone in this hall who can put his

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Your union: APEX
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vagina infections
The Ballad of Unequal Pay

CONTRACT: Those inst...



a 2-1 majority

THE BATTLE BEHIND THE SCENES

THE STRUGGLE to get an anti-Social Contract resolution allowing new claims to operate from 1 August was not easy.

An initial Broad Left meeting on Saturday decided to support resolution 43 calling for a 'return to unfettered collective bargaining', without specifying a date.

But then another meeting took place, organised by the London Docks branch. Delegates there insisted on something stronger.

Finally a joint meeting took place on Monday night and it was eventually agreed that the words 'by August 1

1977 would be included.

Members of the Communist Party, Socialist Workers Party and the Labour Party, as well as unaffiliated militants, were involved in these moves.

So when Harry Urwin tried to persuade supporters of resolution 43 to agree with the executive's composite 1a this was rejected out of hand. The amended resolution 1b stood and was carried:

That this Conference considers that the constraints placed upon union negotiators during recent years have failed to solve the basic problems facing the country.

The undue emphasis placed upon wage levels as being a major source of inflationary pressure has now been totally disproved, and continued adherence to present policies will only aggravate the chronic crisis of unemployment.

Conference calls for a return to unfettered collective bargaining as from 1 August 1977, so that this union can fulfil the objectives contained in our rules, 'maintaining and improving of the just and proper hours of work, rates of wages ...'

The build-up to the big vote

DAY ONE—Monday—saw the full-time officials get a real roasting from the 1150 delegates as point after point was raised on the annual report.

Dave Patcham from the Midlands challenged Mick Martin, the Public Services Group National Officer, about the disgraceful refusal of the TGWU to support the joint campaign against the cuts run by other public service sector unions.

Defend

Martin replied: 'We've got to be honest. Local authorities and the health service have got a bit over-bureaucratic. That's why we don't go along with the propaganda campaign. We've taken the line of defending our members.'

Jock Smith, Clydebank local government worker, was given a tremendous cheer when he answered back: 'Had it been a Tory Government



Harry Urwin:
half-hour appeal

that implemented some of these measures we would have torn up the park.'

Jack Jones himself had to intervene to save Martin from further pressure.

But another delegate still got up and forced Martin to admit at the TGWU had only called seven official strikes against the cuts so far.

On Tuesday, the atmosphere at Conference sharpened.

Harry Urwin, deputy general secretary, made a half-hour appeal on behalf of the Labour government in

replying to an angry debate on unemployment.

That afternoon came the first sign that delegates might totally reject the Social Contract.

A pious resolution on the 35-hour week was challenged by a call from the London docks and from an ACTS branch in York. They demanded official support for all fighting for the 35-hour week and for a recall conference next year to review progress in the fight against unemployment. Jones called this resolution 'divisive'.

But one third of the Conference then went and voted for it.

Joyce Garner, from Yardleys, Basildon, told delegates about their equal pay strike.

'We got support from the CP and from IS (SWP). But we didn't get support from our officials.'

She wound up with a reference to the £15 payment made to the scabs at Yardleys

MOLISHED THE HOUSE CK BUILT

FROM THE TGWU CONFERENCE

on his heart and say control has been the other one priority?

Sylvia Greenwood, a Sheffield engineering worker, said: 'I've eaten two-thirds of the pudding. And it's given me food poisoning. If I eat a piece it would kill me.'

Jock Smith, from Clydebank, spoke to the lower paid workers: 'If you get £20, we lower paid workers can argue for £15. If you settle for £5, we get any more than

Pennis Kelly, a Liverpool worker, said: 'The lower-paid workers have got no muscle. But we've got guts. The scab workers haven't got any muscle, but by God we've got guts.'

After lunch, Jack Jones spoke for 33 minutes. But the atmosphere hadn't cooled. It was desperate.

'What does 1a mean? That we keep our agreement under Phase 2 and then return to free, collective bargaining. The issue before us is whether we maintain our word.'

Voting followed on the two crucial resolutions, 1a, the executive council resolution, was defeated by a 60 to 40 margin, and 1b was then carried by 2 to 1.

Cheering delegates danced in the aisles.

This victory doesn't mean the battle is over. Jones will continue to manoeuvre. The test is how the victory is put into practice—with new wage claims

□ Socialist Worker calls for

Claims for a minimum £15 across the board from 1 August.

No time limit to any agreement

No productivity strings



Sylvia Greenwood



Tommy Riley:
'We've waited years for this'

Join the Right to Work

Will I get paid my dole money?

Before you go on the march just tell the dole office you are going on the march and ask for a holiday form. You will get your money paid to you as normal.

What about food and accommodation?

The marchers will be sleeping in big tents we have hired. All food will be provided free to all marchers. We will be collecting the money from trade unionists up and down the country.

What sort of entertainment is laid on?

Big dances and discos are being organised for every town we will be in. Several punk rock, rock and reggae bands have already offered their services. While we are telling them that we've got the right to work we'll make sure we have a good time. It will all be free for the marchers.

WE'LL WIPE THAT
SMILE OFF YOUR
FACE



LEN MURRAY!

JOIN THE MARCH

I would like to join the march/have more information about the march.

Name

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NAFF have got a big future lined up for us...

EVERYONE has now heard of the National Association For Freedom.

But, Grunwicks apart, what are they really about?

You can get some idea from a recent book by their director, Robert Moss. The title, *The Collapse of Democracy**, just about sums it up. But Mr Moss has to bore us for 230 pages nonetheless.

The first chapter is what he thinks a 'Communist' Britain in the 1980s would be like. He presents a picture of the Soviet Union today, only exaggerated. From then on, the book reads like a National Front policy statement.

Useless

Moss is worried about the growth of trade union power. He says it is 'compatible with a free society only if it is subject to the following limitations, some of which were embodied in the Industrial Relations Act'.

He then names the aforesaid limitations which can be summarised as

- ☐ The right to scab
 - ☐ The right to strike except in vital and political disputes (who decides what's vital and what's political?)
 - ☐ The postal ballot
- These would make trade unions democratic, respectable, compatible with a 'free society' and also totally useless.*

Apparently freedom of choice is also being taken

By
TONY
McGHEE

away, by governments and councillors who are veering left at an alarming rate.

'True economic democracy means freedom of access, to employment, housing, education etc.', says Moss.

What, you may ask, happens if you don't have any money?

Ah, that's the good thing about freedom: at least you have the choice. Whether you can afford it or not is irrelevant.

Freedom of choice is alright as long as it's for our rulers and as long as we stay inside the rules they set for us.

Step outside those rules and you're destroying freedom and democracy—the freedom, for instance, of NAFF to support and bolster the disgusting regime of South Africa and the likes of Grunwicks boss George Ward.

*A far cry from Moss's fantasy is the reality of our democracy described in *The Technology of Political Control***

Instead of subversion and anarchy creeping into our 'free' society, there is plenty of

The Collapse of Democracy, by Robert Moss (Abacus) £1.50; The Technology of Political Control, by Aekrovd, Margolis, Rosenhead and Shallice (Pelican) £1.40, inc. postage from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.



Armed power on the streets—against the workers: Moss believes Britain should have an authoritarian regime.



Moss: NAFF's top man

evidence to show we could have an authoritarian state to cope with.

Take the example of Joseph McKearney who, on discovering three soldiers had broken into his Belfast attic to keep watch on the nearby Sinn Fein HQ, was promptly and legally arrested under Section 17 of the 1973 Emergency Powers Act.

Armed

We never stop hearing about the crisis. But we know that for capitalism to restore the economy inevitably means a reduction in the living standards of the working-class.

This causes resentment and bitterness which leads to industrial disputes.

Therefore capitalism prepares itself for a possible prolonged period of class confrontation.

The first method of dealing

with this is, as the example of Joseph McKearney shows, repressive legislation. Other examples of this are the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Bad Debt Act (brought in during the Catholic rent strike in Northern Ireland) which means that anyone owing money to central or local government could have their social security stopped.

The second precaution the ruling class take against insurrection is to involve and develop the armed forces in political situations.

Examples of this are the mock riot control exercises which trainee officers get at Sandhurst, the 'security' exercises at Heathrow, and the use of troops as strike-breakers during the Glasgow dustmen's dispute of April 1975.

The book quotes from the army's theoretical material and examines it in detail. It discusses to what extent 'low intensity operations' take place in Britain now and how successful they would be in a state of armed insurrection or civil war.

Apart from the Territorial Army, police, Special Branch, MI5, MI6, National Data Banks and so on, the technology of riot control, or even population control, is astounding. Everything from bugging devices and CS gas to torture



What the Chilean junta did to an opponent: Moss supports the junta

DOES REVOLUTION FRIGHTEN YOU?

I JOINED the Labour Party several years ago because I believed that socialism was 'morally' right.

I believed in working through the Labour Party and our 'democratic parliamentary system' towards socialism, and I became a keen Tribune supporter.

I opposed the idea of revolution because I wrongly believed it meant the violent seizure of power by a minority who would try to impose socialism against the wishes of the majority.

This view is held, unfortunately, by most people, and we should make every effort to show that we are fighting for the revolution of the majority, which would lead to more democracy, not less.

By PHILLIP WEBSTER, BLACKBURN SWP

It soon became obvious to me that our 'democratic system' was not so democratic after all.

The power of the capitalist class is far greater than that of Parliament. The capitalists have economic power (runs on the £), ideological power (control over people's minds via their control of the media and education) and ultimately they will use force if necessary, as they did in Chile.

'CENTRISTS'

This realisation of the capitalists' power, combined with a continuing suspicion of 'revolution', led me, as it has led others, into what

Marxists call the 'centrist' camp.

Centrists, such as those connected with the Institute for Workers Control, argue that socialism can be achieved via Parliament if limited extra-Parliamentary action is taken by the working-class in support of 'left' MPs.

It involves hovering between reform and revolution and only delays the choice between the two. When the crunch comes, potential revolutionaries will be herded back into the reformist camp by the centrist leaders.

Eventually, through reading and talking to members of the Socialist Workers Party (at that time,

the International Socialists), I came to see that socialist revolution could only be achieved by the mass action of the working-class from below.

I hate the idea of violence, but I came to see that any violence in the revolution would largely be caused by reactionaries opposing the revolution.

NUCLEAR

In any case, illusions about the parliamentary road can cause even greater violence from the Right, as it did in Chile.

And capitalism itself is killing people every day through war and starvation,

and it threatens us all with total nuclear destruction.

It is becoming more obvious all the time that the only alternatives for humanity are socialist revolution or barbarism.

We must win the working class to socialism by leading the struggles against the effects of capitalism and generalising the lessons learnt in workers' day-to-day struggles.

I eventually joined the SWP (then IS) a year ago.

After the experience of yet another disastrous Labour government, it is quite obvious that we need to build a socialist alternative.

I urge anyone 'wavering' about joining the SWP to put aside their doubts and help us build that alternative.

International Socialism

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World crisis and the system

World capitalism today

Women and the struggle

The British labour movement

Trotsky re-assessed

IS Journal
6 Cottons Gardens
London E2

100

A great man
—and
Socialist
Worker has
ignored him

PICKING POCKETS OF THE UNEMPLOYED

The day we wiped
the smile off a
racist comedian's face

FM DISAPPOINTED that Socialist Worker has not reported the recent unveiling of the memorial stone to Robert Noonan (Tressell), author of the Ragged Trousered Philanthropists.

Noonan did more for the growth, knowledge, and subsequent strength of the British Labour Movement than the oft-quoted discussion pieces in Socialist Worker by Marx, Engels, and Trotsky.

Noonan, in his great work, brought home to the ordinary worker the terrible corruption and evil of the capitalist system in an easy-to-read novel, which is on the surface about construction workers employed in Hastings at the turn of the century.

This book is nearly always the first which Labour Movement activists read and the one they remember throughout their lives as the clearest, most comprehensive, easily understood book explaining the need for true socialism and the ending of the present capitalist system.

I think Socialist Worker should print in a future edition a comprehensive account of the life of Robert Noonan and of his great work. This would help bring the book into the prominence it so richly deserves.

□ JOE DURKIN, Southport.

Dead-end Labour

T.B. SPOONER (Letters, 2 July) is being misled. Those 'Marxists' who insist on remaining within the Labour Party are doing its right-wing leadership a favour.

As a matter of fact, now that Tribune is totally discredited, it is only the presence of people like comrade Spooner in the Labour Party that gives it any left-wing credentials.

Who would do its spadework at elections, hold together the local branches and provide new generations of professional sell-out artists (all of whom must begin by having a left image)?

Callaghan needs you, comrade Spooner. Why not explain that to the 'class-conscious' elements in the Labour Party?

□ HOWARD SENTER, Slough.

WE ARE unemployed, and have recently left college. We were advised by the Social Security to take temporary work picking, before making a claim for unemployment benefit.

So we became pickers at a local farm, belonging to Mr Carter, at Manor Farm, Great Baddow.

On our first day, we received 40p per 20 pound bag of peas. This took us roughly 50 minutes to pick, working fast.

The next day we were still filling the bags at the rate of one every 50 minutes. Then we found that the price had gone down from 40p a bag to a mere 30p.

The reason he gave for this was the increasing number of pickers, and that he wouldn't be able to make a profit.

He has a newly-installed swimming pool, a large house, two farms, a farm shop and both his children are at private schools. His daughter also belongs to the local hunt.

Picking for the day finished at noon. The most we could make a day was £2, and we had to cover all our own expenses out of this.

We aren't working for pin money. We took temporary work while trying to find full time employment, to help us survive.

Shouldn't there be government protection for people like ourselves to stop us being exploited by opportunist farmers who can see an easy way to make a quick profit?

□ STEVIE MORGAN and JERRY LEE MARSTON, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex.

The ACAS fire brigade

When the factory has trouble
Down comes ACAS on the double
With Managements and Union's grace
They put the workers in their place.

They came to see the way we slaved
Working at the belts all day
We told them that the JE Scheme did not
include us

This is what had caused all the fuss.
But to us they did not heed

and went and did their dirty deed.
When they sent down their award
Management said 'thank the lord'.

Management say ACAS they like,
it does away with all the strikes.
But workers say without hesitation,
'Don't ever go to Arbitration'.

□ HARRY PENFOLD, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.

FASCISM is rearing its ugly head again. And what disturbs me most about it, is that it's happening on the factory floor among 'card-carrying' trade union members.

I recently came across a classic example. A group of workers banded together to try and stop a fellow worker coming on 'their' section. His crime? He was coloured.

They even tried a vote of no confidence in the shop steward concerned because he refused to take any part in it.

But ask yourselves how widespread is this situation on the shop floor. Use whatever name you like to describe it, be it Fascism, Neo-nazism, or more recently, the National Front.

Wherever you encounter it, resist it. If the shop steward concerned in this sad little tale had been weak enough to bow to the pressure put on him by this group, who knows what the consequences would have been, and how far it would have spread?

But this particular shop steward was strong enough to resist the pressure. I know, because I was the shop steward concerned.

□ H. JOHNSTON, Leading Steward, Drews Lane Plant, Birmingham.

Letters

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



A new recruit for Britain's Fascists in the Thirties; now it's happening again

The 'immigrants' no-one mentions

□ LAST WEEK the papers reported record numbers of white emigrants leaving Rhodesia. The numbers quoted were more than 1000 a month.

Where were they going? Funny, isn't it, that this mass exodus hasn't been twisted into the headlines as another 'mass invasion' of the British Welfare State?

□ JEAN WRIGHT, E. London.

□ ARTHUR Scargill's rejection on Radio 4 recently of Nuclear Energy was like heavenly music in my ears. The British Council of Churches has also made up

its mind. It argues that planning permission at Windscale should not be granted.

There is a difference, though. Arthur Scargill may be able to do something about it. The British Council of Churches won't.

□ U WADSWORTH, Pudsey, West Yorkshire.

□ A FITTER went for an interview at the Sandbach lorry firm, ERF. He was asked, first of all, if he was an active trade unionist.

The second question was what he thought about the Grunwick strike.

□ MARTIN HAYNES, AUEW.

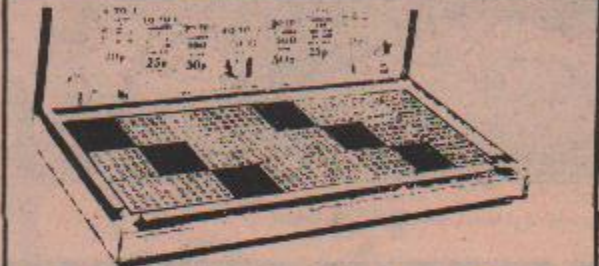
Of course, the answer couldn't possibly effect the outcome of the interview—it's a free country.

□ I WILL shortly be appearing in court with a Welsh nationalist in connection with some Welsh freedom posters and the Welsh's visit to Cardiff.

There are many Welsh people who speak Welsh, and intend to continue doing so. Many of these can be fully considered as militant socialists. But when I talk to some of them they feel ignored and even opposed by the Socialist Workers Party.

The SWP needs to have a clear position on Welsh nationalism and the special problems of the Welsh people.

□ PETE PEATMAN c/o Cardiff College of Art.



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Cottons Gardens, London E2.

CP: NO JOINT WORK WITH SWP

OUR attention has been drawn to a statement in last week's Socialist Worker which implies that the South Essex Communist Party is 'anxious' to embark on joint work with the Socialist Workers Party.

This is not true. At no time has our District Committee been approached or considered the matter.

One of our members was asked by a local Communist Party branch to debate the new draft of 'The British Road to Socialism' with a Socialist

Workers Party speaker, but in no way can this be interpreted as a desire by our District Committee to work on a long term basis with the Socialist Workers Party.

The Secretariat of the South Essex District Communist Party endorses the views put forward in the reply to the Socialist Workers Party by Bert Ramelson which was published in last Friday's Morning Star.

We should be obliged if you would correct the wrong

impression conveyed in last week's Socialist Worker.

□ MARGARET WODDIS, District Secretary, South Essex Communist Party.

Editor replies: The paragraph to which the letter refers reads: 'Another delegate reported that the South Essex District of the CP was anxious to hold a joint debate with the SWP.'

The debate is now taking place on Thursday 21 July at

8pm at the Ross Wyde Hall, near Walthamstow Central Tube.

Socialist Worker said nothing about the South Essex Communist Party being 'anxious to embark on joint work with the Socialist Workers Party'.

Naturally, though, we hope that the South Essex District will be concerned to pool resources to fight together on issues such as racialism and the Social Contract.

IT MADE ME SICK

LAST NIGHT I picked up the Evening News and nearly choked on my tea!

A whole section on the front page, headed Captain Curry, was devoted to informing the great British taxpayer how much money was spent saving the life of an Indian.

He was attempting to sail to Calcutta to meet up with his family. Sad that anybody should be driven to such desperate lengths to see their family.

The paper ranted with disgust, outraged that the boat was laden with 'curry, porridge and tea'. How eccentric. Fancy taking food on a boat trip to Calcutta. Or maybe the fact that Indians eat curry upset the Evening News.

I don't suppose it would occur to the national press that hundreds of rescue teams are paid year in, year out to rescue people from the tops of mountains and winking people out of potholes.

That sort of thing is different though. Striving to get the Duke of Edinburgh award is a reasonable thing to risk your life for.

That particular issue of the Evening News didn't stop at racist filth. It launched off on a tirade attacking scroungers on the dole.

Did you know that thousands upon thousands of people jack in their jobs for the summer, put their name on the housing list at seaside towns and live in the lap of luxury for the summer months?

□ GAIL CARTMAIL, Tottenham.

We are not asking to be top dogs: we are asking for unity

I BELIEVE the Communist Party will be making a fundamental mistake if it adopts the new draft of the British Road to Socialism at its Congress in November.

The new draft starts from a basic misunderstanding about the achievement of socialism.

Socialism will not be won by a loose amalgam of Communist and Labour MPs. This idea has nothing to do with the ideas of Marx.

Mistake

Social Democratic parties, like the Labour Party, were never designed to fight for socialism. Revolution is born out of the struggle of workers, not through Parliament.

This basic mistake is widespread throughout the European Communist Parties who have decided that they are no longer striving for the socialist revolution, and are now indistinguishable from the social democratic parties.

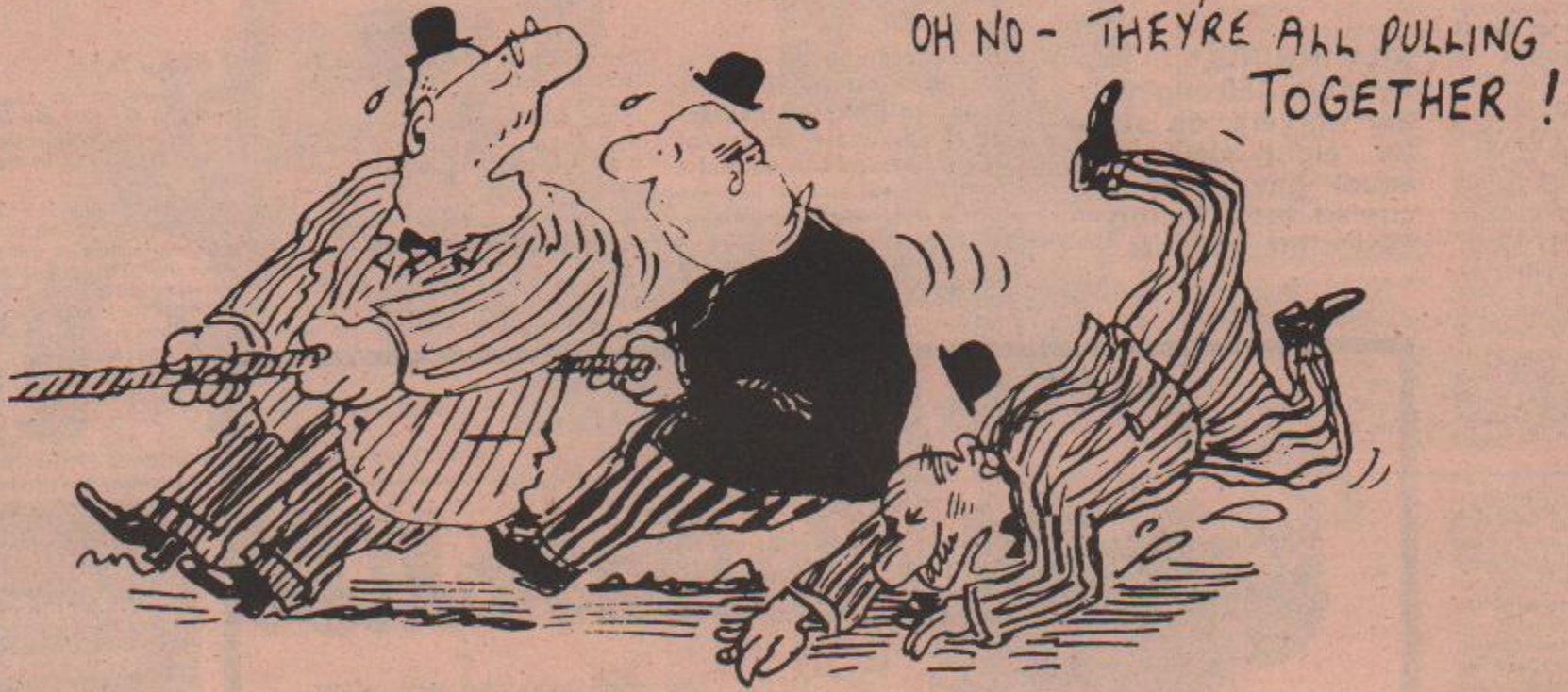
Despite this, the Communist Parties still claim to be marxist parties. There are two wise old men, one in Highgate and one in Red Square, who must be spinning in their graves.

I take no pleasure in the

fact that the new draft is fostering a split in the Communist Party. Any split in the CP will weaken all of the left, but it is the inevitable result of having abandoned a Marxist programme.

Since the adoption of the first British Road to Socialism in 1952 there has been a growing disillusionment among rank and file members of the Party which has accelerated over the last few years.

But there has not been enough theoretical discussion. The hierarchy in the CP is still firmly entrenched, and there is no real democracy.



By CLIVE HARTLEY

A member of the foundry section of the engineering union, convener of the Fitzwilliam Works of Balfour Darwin in Sheffield and, for more than ten years, an active member of the Communist Party. At the end of last year, he joined the Socialist Workers Party.

This only helps to make a split more likely and its effects worse.

In my opinion, the CP has never recovered from Khrushchev's speech criticising Stalin.

The British CP had always been blind adherents to Stalin's twists and turns. After Khrushchev's speech, and now the turn to Eurocom-

munist, it is trying to perform a complete about-face on policy.

The new draft takes no account of the sharpening conflict on a world scale.

It takes no account of the failure of economic units like the Common Market. It takes no account of the failures of the so-called socialist countries, whether you want to

talk about the invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, or the suppression of workers' rights in Poland.

It takes no account of the emergence of mass workers' struggles in the Third World.

And in particular no notice is taken of the glaring example of the failure of the ballot box road to socialism—

Chile.

Workers cannot afford to escape these drastic lessons, or the lessons of the 1968 revolt in France, or what is happening in Italy today where the CP is playing into the hands of the employers.

No nearer

It is no good drum-beating about the French CP's gains in the local elections. In fact these are the same results as about ten years ago. And it is no nearer to real power.

The CP needs to make a complete break with parliamentarianism and re-

establish the idea of workers' control and workers' power.

I believe that we in the SWP must strive for unity whatever Bert Ramelson, the CP's industrial organiser, may say. The concept of the CP on left unity has become rather narrow.

It is about getting left officials elected, rather than building the left in the movement.

Real left unity is about action and policy that leads towards socialism. Actions speak louder than words and left unity is more than a series of talking shops.

Effective

I would say to CP members that there are a number of basic questions like unemployment, racialism and the Social Contract where left unity is essential for the good of the movement.

We are not asking to be top dogs. Nor are we asking you to compromise your politics. It is a question of common interests.

I'd like to make one comment about Bert Ramelson's attitude when he calls us divisive. The SWP has been instrumental in building one of the biggest campaigns against unemployment this country has ever seen.

In doing this, we have worked alongside many CP members in the broad movement.

Price of a TV ad: £350,000

A COUPLE of Mondays ago, after a beautiful hot day, and having got the kids to bed, completed the ironing, the washing up and finding that we liked each other, everything having been said, we snuggled down to watch telly.

The XYY man failed to make sense. The series seems to be about a right-wing plot in which we're all going to be saved in the end by a policeman and a double dealing misunderstood male chauvinist cat burglar.

After the Ten O'Clock News from Grunwicks we were tired and about ready to go to bed. But, secretly, we were waiting for Clint Eastwood in the first film he directed, *Play Misty for Me*, on the Thames TV Adult Movie slot.

I can't help it, I love Clint

Eastwood. His cruel manly lip.

The plot was slow but the film was well made. A DJ was being pursued by a freaked-out fan.

We drained the last alcohol in our possession and hung on. We believed everything we saw. How mad and possessive women can become.

Knife

Poor Clint, a man friendly with black people (his black cleaner was rude to him yet he didn't mind). Our hero was going out of his way to be straight with everyone, he just didn't deserve to be chased around by a nymphomaniac brandishing a knife.

As the film got better, so did the ads; there was the new Cadbury Smash ad, with the tin men from outer space; then a great one from Dunlop which lasted the fullest length

By
ROLAND
MULDOON

ads can. It shows how no-one could play tennis or golf or do a thousand things without this benevolent company. It was genuinely funny.

It took a long time for my Marxist conscience to surface. It's the workers who make everything, bloody Dunlop just get rich on it! My voice sounded stilted.

We were lulled back by lithe West Indian limbo dancers and frosty drink and the speculation of whether Clint was going to die at the end of his own movie. It was no good—I had to find out the economics behind my mesmerised evening.

The next day I found that



the actual viewing figures wouldn't be published for another week and that the programme wasn't exclusively for London but was, in fact, transmitted from Yorkshire.

Different press officers got uppity with me when I started asking about costs, so I went to see some mates of mine who work on commercials.

They reckoned that the Dunlop ad would have cost around £25,000 and that wouldn't include actors' fees

or space.

They reckoned the film was peak viewing time and that in one region alone 30 seconds could cost £2,000. Imagine ten times that in ten regions.

It was their professional consideration that the whole lot could have cost Dunlop from first idea to completion a cool £350,000 and that a standard 'quality' ad costs £20,000 on average, just to film.

Inadequate

The evening ended with a bleeding Eastwood punching the crazy psychotic woman over the edge of a cliff.

We sat fixed to the screen as the titles rolled past. Cunningly, about five more ads were slipped in. The last one wasn't very good so we started to clear up, faced again with our inadequate personalities.

We hadn't switched off and a groovy late night song oozed from the box as tomorrow's delights were rolling up into the sky. Still we hurried to bed. Someone's got to get up and pay for all this.

P.S. ATV profits nearly doubled this year, from £6,626,800 to £11,161,000.

THURSDAY
MEN AND WOMEN (ITV, 11.15pm) is worth a look. It's about sex alienation.

SUNDAY
THE MAKING OF THE NEW JAMES BOND FILM

IF THAT'S MARXISM 77, ROLL ON 78

'BLOODY marvellous, I'll be back next year'. That was the feeling of everyone at Marxism 77, a week of socialist discussion organised by NOISS, the student organisation that supports the Socialist Workers Party.

Five hundred students, workers and unemployed gathered in North London Poly to discuss and argue about all the ideas of Marxism. People came from as far

By Alan Beavers
from Edinburgh.

away as Aberdeen.

There were courses on *Revolutions of the Twentieth Century*, *Labour History*, *Women's Liberation* and many others. But they weren't the sort of courses you get at school or college.

There were also workshops and discussion groups. And everyone got the chance to say their bit and exchange ideas.

But it wasn't just talk. The main message of Marxism 77 was that Marxist theory isn't the property of a few eggheads. That's why one of the sessions discussed the strike at Desoutters and, after an appeal by one of the strikers, £100 was collected

for the strike fund.

The atmosphere was great. It shows not only that Marxist ideas are important but that they can be learned and discussed in an enjoyable and friendly way.

In the evenings there were films, discos and plays. And the debates carried on over a pint in the bar.

Marxism 77 will be even better next year. So keep your diaries free for Marxism 78.

BOOKMARKS

265 Seven Sisters Road London N4.
phone 01-802 6145

The Making of an African Legend: the Biafra story, by Frederick Forsyth, 75p.

Women at Work by Mackie & Pattullo, £2.20.

Female Friends, by Weldon, £1.

William Morris, Romantic to Revolutionary, by E P Thomson, £3.90.

Left Hand of Darkness, by Ursula Le Guin, 60p.

Art and Society: Essays in Marxist Aesthetics, by Vazquez, £1.50.

The Long March 1935, by Dick Wilson, £1.25.

NEW BOOKLIST now available! send s.a.e. (large).

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UNION BID TO DITCH MATHERS SPARKS

TYNESIDE: The Electricians Union bureaucracy is trying to wash its hands of the 43 striking electricians at Mather and Platt Alarms.

EETPU area official G A Graham wrote to the strikers: 'As soon as normal working is resumed we will arrange a meeting with the stewards and management to discuss all aspects.'

'I have asked the management to withdraw their threat of termination until after you have received this letter and also had a mass meeting to make a final decision, but it is my opinion that this is the most we can possibly achieve at present under the Social Contract.'

The sparks, working on an oil rig contract for the Shell-owned Brent Field, have been on strike for three weeks. They are demanding £4 an hour while they are on the rigs, to bring them up to the rate being paid in other fields.

After nine fruitless months of negotiations they started to work a basic eight-hour day on the rig instead of the usual 12 hours.

Strike

At a mass meeting the men then decided to strike.

In line with the anti-union cowboy attitude that rules on the rigs, Shell have now threatened to take the contract from Mather and Platts and give it to other European workers who they say are ready to start. This means Norwegians who already get £8.

Mather and Platts have responded by threatening to sack the strikers.

Despite official pressure, the sparks are staying out and see the fight as part of the vital battle to introduce safe, decently-paid conditions to the rigs.

They need maximum financial and practical support. Mather and Platts is a large contracting firm based in Manchester and efforts should be made to spread the strike. Support should be raised among other electricians and oil rig workers.

Donations to: Vince Foy, 12 Morelands, Hedworth Estate, Jarrow.

OCCUPIED UNTIL WE GET EQUAL PAY!

KILWINNING, Ayrshire: 150 engineering workers, on strike for eight weeks for equal pay, have occupied their factory—Essex International.

The engineers—mostly women—have thrown out the

management and the plant is under their control. They are fighting to force the management to negotiate over equal pay and time and motion study.

Shop stewards from the occupation told Socialist Worker about their fight.

'This company is part of a big American-owned multinational called United Technologies. Our part of the group has factories throughout Eu-

rope. We make electrical systems for the motor industry—mainly Ford and Chrysler.

'The strike began when management tried to bring in a time and motion study on jobs without any union agreement—and without any talk of extra cash.

Taking orders

'We tried to go through procedure but the management refused, obviously they were taking their orders from the

head office in Detroit.

'They were all set to race this through, so we came out on official strike, the whole engineering section, and we were backed by the AUEW district.'

'We picketed 24 hours a day but we were beginning to get a bit demoralised. The management were still managing to move stuff. They moved stuff to the Derry plant in Northern Ireland—but we've been in touch with the shop stewards there and it's all blacked now.'

On Wednesday the mass meeting decided it was time to step up the fight. We occupied.

'We've heard that one of the top dogs from America is prepared to meet us. We are determined to stay in until we win.'

'Our other main demand is for equal pay with the Derry factory. In Derry it's men who do the visual inspection, here it's the women who do it.'

'Yet the wages difference can be as much as £7.60 a week.'

'All the wage rates are below Derry rates so it affects the men as well as the women.'

Solidarity

'The wages are terrible. For 40 hours the basic take-home pay for the women is £26. For the men it's £35.50. We want an end to the differences between the two factories.'

'The company are determined to fight us. Since we took industrial action they've tried to intimidate us by threatening 99 redundancies in August and more in September.'

'At the moment it's stalemate, they won't budge and neither will we. But with support we can win.'

'We've started getting cash in from our strike sheets, but we need much more to keep going.'

Messages of support to: Bill Murgatroyd, AUEW convenor, Essex International, Kilwinning, Ayrshire.

Offer for electricians

TEESSIDE: The dispute at Dock Point is now in its eighth week. A tentative offer has been made. Management are reported to have offered to bring the sparks up above the Joint Industrial Board rate.

The boilermakers have agreed to stop doing the electricians' tray work but no offer has been made regarding the work which is being disputed between pipefitters and boilermakers.

The strike is still solid. The sparks have refused to go back until the pipefitters' grievances are settled.

Solidarity action in the area continues and the area stewards' committee is meeting this week to consider any further action.

Rank and file trade unionists on Teesside must get round the table and sort out this dispute. Big jobs are due to open up soon so we need to go on to them with a united rank and file trade union movement.

Three meetings held by Rank and File Contact, the organisation inside the EETPU, in the North East last week drew more than 200 EETPU members. Billy Williams, rank and file candidate against Frank Chapple in last year's election for the union's general secretary, spoke on the struggle for democracy in the union and the fight against the JIB.

Rank and File Contact committees were set up in Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough.

Strength to the Radford picket!

by JIM WILLS
EETPU convenor, Welding Industries, Bristol

BRISTOL: 15 workers from Welding Industries joined the picket line outside Radford Electronics last Friday—by agreement with their management!

Ten members of TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineering Union, are on strike at Radfords over union recognition. 49 non-union members are crossing the picket line.

But now the picket line is being strengthened. The convenors at Welding Industries have their own management's agreement that 15 workers can join the picket for 2½ hours twice a week.

Radfords are totally opposed to the union. The managing director refuses to talk to the local AUEW/TASS full-time official and won't cooperate with ACAS, the government arbitration service.

Refused

A skilled worker there is paid £35 a week. The nationally agreed minimum rate is £50.50. Workers are not paid for day release or college courses and tuition fees are not paid. This is contrary to the national agreement.

Workers who have completed one year of their HNC course and paid £300 of their own money have been refused permission to take time off for the second year.

Two workers have been arbitrarily sacked, one the day after he joined TASS. The workers have been on the gate for four weeks.

Only one lorry has crossed the picket line so far, but 49 non-union workers are going in. They are sympathetic but afraid of the bosses. They are mainly women and part-timers.

Radford issued a typed statement to the press alleging the strikers were 'politically motivated' and have been found with company property 'in suspicious circumstances.'

He also told Simon Pearson, the shop steward: 'I'll make sure you don't get a job at Rolls-Royce or BAC. I've done it before.'

Donations to: AUEW/TASS office, York House, Bond St, St James, Bristol 1.

GLC stewards to fight cuts

by CHRIS BARKER

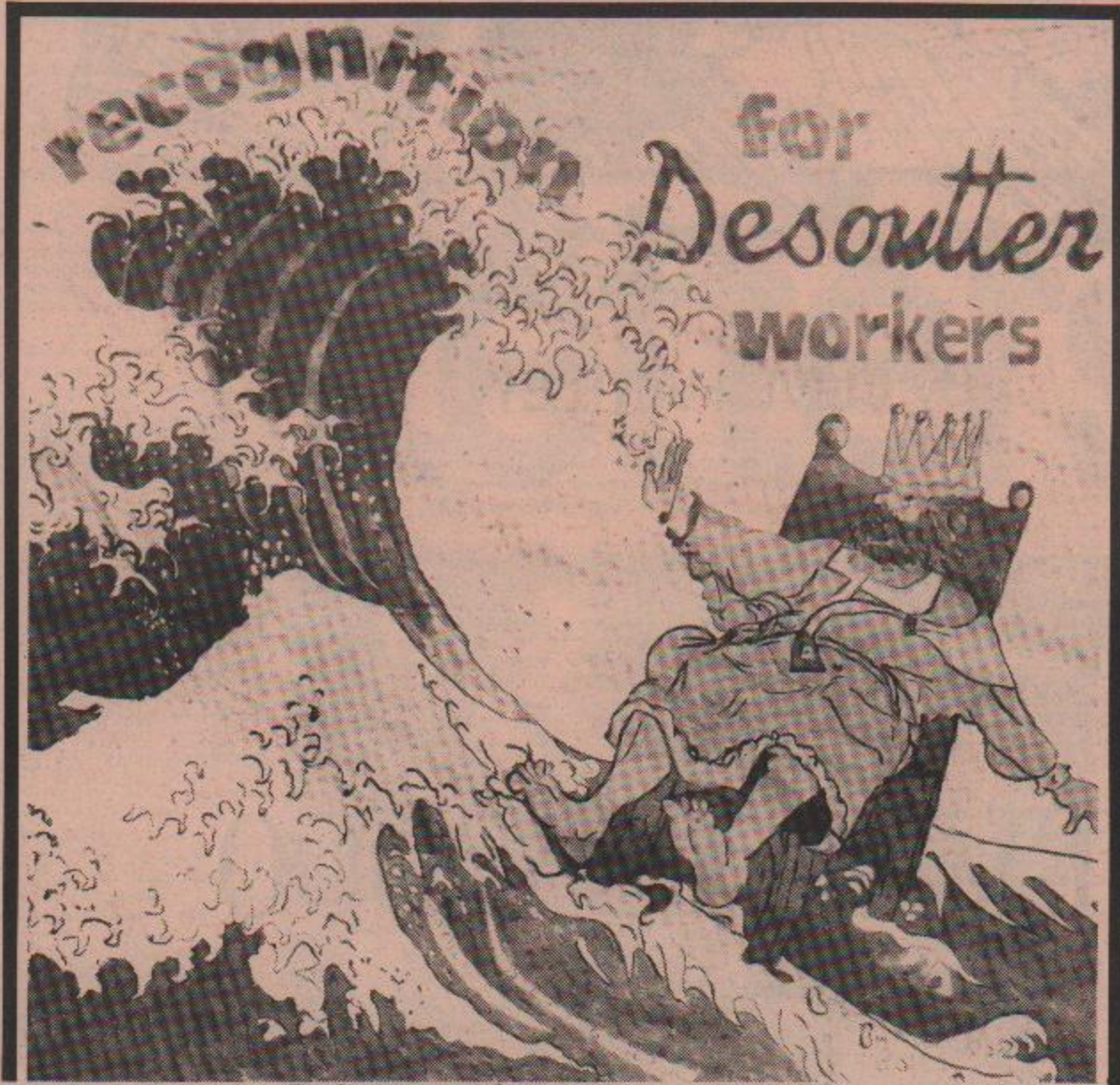
LONDON: 200 shop stewards met at the Greater London Council's County Hall to form a joint shop stewards' committee and plan a campaign against public service cuts.

Unions represented included the electricians (EETPU), engineers (AUEW), transport workers (TGWU), teachers (NUT), local government workers (NALGO) and the GLC Staff Association.

The meeting unanimously pledged resistance to attempts by the council to weaken trade union organisation—an important step in view of threats from new Tory-controlled council leader Horace Cutler—and opposition to cuts, redundancies and the Social Contract.

The meeting elected a provisional committee charged with organising a half-day strike against cuts and redundancies on Tuesday, 19 July.

The GLC was referred to by one speaker as the 'militants' graveyard'. It would seem that the Tory council can no longer rely on this comfortable state of affairs. The fight-back is beginning.



The Desoutter strikers' banner

200 stop work to join picket

NORTH LONDON: 200 workers at General Motors in Hendon stopped work at noon on Thursday to march to our mass picket outside Desoutters in Colindale.

It was the first real sign of growing support for the regular Thursday mass picket, called by the North London AUEW District Committee, in support of our nine-week strike for trade union recognition.

The General Motors workers will be stopping

by BARRY MORONEY
AUEW shop steward,
Desoutters

work again this week, and have organised solid blacking of Desoutters tools throughout the factory.

Shop stewards from other local factories also joined the picket.

The management organised a counter-demonstration of office staff and scabs in the factory forecourt. As a result

of this confrontation, some scabs have rejoined the strike.

Angry shop stewards promised to organise bigger delegations and a Grunwicks-style mass picket every Thursday until the strike is won.

Support and donations to c/o Barry Moroney, Acting Treasurer, 10 Yewfield Rd, London NW10.

MASS PICKET: 12 noon-2pm, Thursday 21 July, The Hyde, Edgware Rd, Colindale.



Rank and File DIARY

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN collecting tins. Raise funds for the Right to Work Campaign on the streets and door to door. 30p each including postage. Orders to Right To Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4

CONCERT in aid of Rock against Racism and the Right to Work Campaign: Featuring The Decorators, Mistry, Frumenty, Prisoners, Saturday 23 July, 7.30pm, Students Union, Ealing Technical College. Tickets 50p in advance (25p unemployed) from Martin, phone 01-579 5185

READING Save Our Hospitals Campaign play: The Cuts Show by Counteract. Wednesday 20 July, 8pm, AUEW Hall, 121 Oxford Road. Admission 50p (20p unemployed)

JUST OUT—2nd edition of RANK AND FILE FIREMAN. Articles on: Witchhunt against R & F Fireman, The Fight for 1975, 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

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



STICKERS in support of Grunwicks, 25p for a sheet of 12, proceeds to the strike fund. FROM Support Grunwicks Strikers, 10 Fairclough Street, London, E1

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BLOCK CAPITALS!

Traitor Tom gets rough time at rally

TOM JACKSON, the Post Office workers' union leader, who was the main speaker at the rally that followed the TUC demonstration against racism in Manchester last Saturday, was shouted down with cries of 'scab', 'off, off' and calls for a speaker from Grunwicks.

The TUC had insisted that the Grunwicks strikers had not been invited to speak and were not to join the platform. But pressure from the crowd forced the platform to allow a Grunwick striker to make a short speech. This striker had already spoken at the beginning of the march, when hundreds stood around and participated in a Right to Work Campaign meeting.

The other glaring omission of the rally was the total lack of reference to the National Front presence in Strangeways Jail. Although the march started from Strangeways, where the Nazis have members, there was no other attempt from the organisers to link the struggle against racism to the struggle against the National Front inside the prison.

Harrassed

A prisoner just released from Strangeways told the Right to Work meeting how the National Front had permeated the prison right up to the top level. He gave instances of how not only blacks were being harassed but other minorities too.

More than 3,000 people marched on the demonstration, one of the biggest in Manchester for years. It is a rare event for the TUC to call a demonstration and a TUC demonstration outside of London is as rare as the Jubilee.

But if the TUC had organised seriously there could have been at least 25,000.

There were several incidents with the NF, including one Nazi brandishing a shotgun. At least 12 NF members were arrested, most of them later charged with possessing offensive weapons.

Whether the charges are pressed is another matter.

Three SWP members were arrested, including Right to Work marcher Billy Castley.

Any witnesses to these incidents, please phone 061-832 8102.



Building workers protesting in Birmingham last Thursday

Builders march to save Direct Works

BUILDING WORKERS in Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester held protest demonstrations against the closure of direct works departments last week.

In Birmingham a demonstration of 1500 builders was supported by the public employees union NUPE and the local government workers NALGO. There was a one-day stoppage of members of the construction union (UCATT) throughout the Midlands region.

Ken Barlow, UCATT Midlands regional secretary, was amazed that the token action had not worried the Tory-controlled council.

But as Brian Higgins, an unemployed building worker, pointed out: 'The only way to prevent closure is for building workers to organise an all-out strike, then the Tories will start talking.'

Manchester Direct Works Action Committee has called a national delegate conference at Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, Manchester, on 20 August to start a national campaign against the cuts.

Fight

A half-day stoppage demonstration has been called by London building worker shop stewards this Tuesday, 19 July. The cuts in council building affect us all. Campaign for delegations.

Assemble 1pm, Lincoln's Inn Fields (off Fleet St), London EC1. March to County Hall.

Building Worker, rank and file paper, out now. From: Alasdair McSweeney, 19 Redpost Hill, London SE24.

Builders vote for action

TEESSIDE: A mass meeting of more than 1,000 construction workers working for CJB at the Monsanto site has decided—after months of negotiation—to take direct action in acquiring a better severance agreement at the end of the contract.

The workers at the meeting were in the plumbing section of the electricians union (EETPU), construction section of the engineering union, (AEUW), and the Boiler-makers Society.

The men have been trying to work a severance agreement for the past three weeks on a time-saved basis. But the bonus they were promised for the increase in production, which has gone up 50 per cent, only gave them 3p an hour increase to take them to £1.08-an-hour bonus.

The contract has less than 10 weeks to run.

A resolution from a EETPU member was carried, with no amendments against. The resolution said 'Shove the severance agreement up management's arse and go for the £1.50 minimum bonus on top of the £1.08 basic rate and a £1,000 tax free finishing bonus.'

The resolution also proposes that a 12-man safety committee should be set up and all men should work to maximum safety until they get the money.

The ball is now in the management's court.

NUJ striker cleared - join this picket!

DARLINGTON: Journalists at the Northern Echo are calling a mass demonstration outside their newspaper's offices this Friday evening in support of their strike for a post-entry closed shop.

NUJ members at Darlington have been on strike for six weeks. Their management provoked the strike by employing a journalist who refused to join the union and has since joined the anti-trade union Institute of Journalists.

The 108 union members are up against the Westminister Press group, owned by Lord Gibson and the kingpins of the Newspaper Society. And of course the police.

But there was a victory at

the magistrates' court on Tuesday when Ewan Campbell, the deputy FOC (shop steward) was cleared of an obstruction charge. He was one of the first people to appear in court after massive arrests on the picket line.

An inquiry is being held into police behaviour.

Drivers

On Monday night, NUJ member Josie Collins was taken to hospital after being crushed by one of the newspaper delivery vans, driven by a member of NATSOFA, the printing union. The van drivers have consistently crossed the line to deliver the scab-produced papers, pleading that they had no instructions from their head office.

Peace talks are going on this week without any local representation. In on the discussions are NUJ general secretary Ken Morgan, presi-

dent John Devine, two top men in the Westminister Press hierarchy and Bill Keyes, chairman of the TUC Printing Industries Committee.

But the strikers will be demanding full details of what has gone on. So far they have run the dispute themselves.

Many Darlington members remember the sell-out in 1972 which destroyed their hopes of negotiating a house agreement.

They are being supported by NUJ members at the

Westminster Press London office, who were locked out for refusing to provide copy for Darlington.

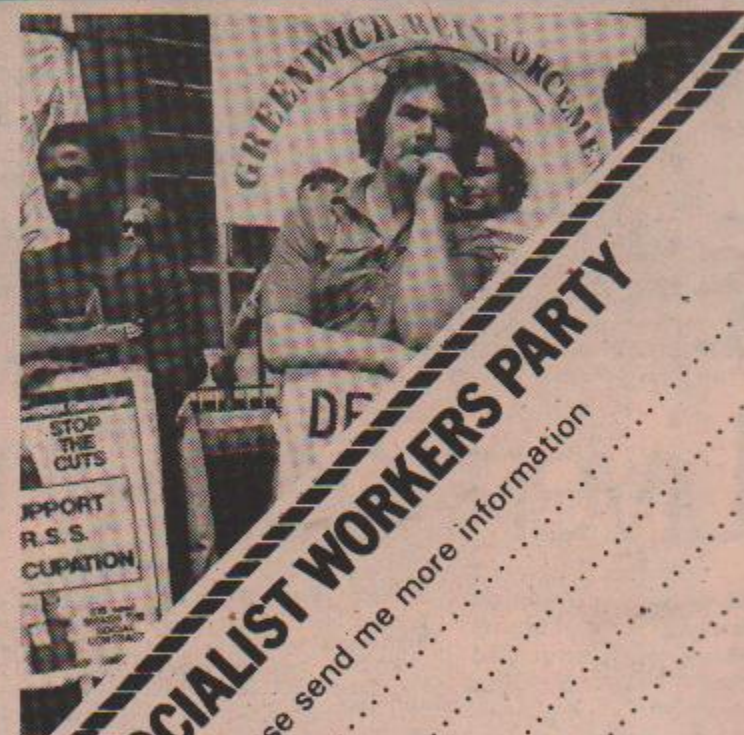
LONDON MASS PICKETS. Every Monday and Wednesday lunchtime, Newspaper House, Shoe Lane (off Fleet Street).

MASS DEMONSTRATION of solidarity with the Darlington NUJ members, Friday 15 July, 6pm onwards, Priestgate, Darlington.



TWO GROUPS of workers who face long factory occupations. At Greenwich Reinforcements (right) 80 workers are opposing sackings and suspensions for taking action in support of the hospital workers' day of action against the cuts.

At Chloride in Dagenham (above) and in Manchester 4,500 workers are demanding the right to negotiate pay and conditions. Both occupations have now lasted more than two months.



KETTERING £1 MILLION

JOURNALISTS at Kettering stood on the picket line for six months to defend their closed shop while editor Ron Hunt carried on doing his 'normal work'. That meant producing a daily edition of the Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph single-handed.

Thanks to those efforts, the East Midlands Allied Press management have just announced a 47 per cent increase in their profits. They made more than £1 million last year.

MINERS THROW DOWN THE GAUNTLET

by BILL MESSAGE

DELEGATES to the annual conference of the National Union of Mineworkers have thrown down the gauntlet not only to the government, but to their own leaders as well.

Joe Gormley, NUM president, realised he had no chance of persuading the rank and file to accept another phase of the Social Contract.

So he started to fly a kite for a productivity deal, hoping that he could push such a deal through and avoid any confrontation with the government over wages.

This partly explains why the NUM executive backed a resolution from the Nottingham area which 'seeks to achieve' £135 a week by November this year. They were prepared to support this because of the wording and because a productivity deal would have made the demand a mere academic argument.

The militant left set their pay demand at less, £110 a week for face workers, but the wording of their resolution would have left the executive absolutely no room for manoeuvre.

In the event the Nottingham resolution was passed and Joe Gormley sat back to enjoy the rest of conference. But his composure was short lived, for a South Wales resolution totally opposing productivity deals was passed by the narrow majority of three in a card vote.

PUSHING

At the end of the session Gormley was fuming. When he spoke to journalists outside the hall he intimated strongly that he still intended to find some way of pushing a prod

deal through. Earlier in the day NUM general secretary Lawrence Daly, anticipating the vote perhaps, had warned that if necessary the executive would take the productivity deal to a ballot of the membership.

Later in the conference delegates were addressed by Labour minister Tony Benn who, pulling arguments out of thin air, stressed the 'positive' side of the Social Contract and the bond between the NUM and the Labour Party.

Even Joe Gormley rebuked him publicly for making no reference to the question of Drax B power station.

This omission was a direct snub to workers from CA Parsons in Newcastle, who had been lobbying both the conference and Benn, for a decision on Drax. The go-ahead for the power station is vital for the jobs at Parsons and on the new Selby coalfield.

On balance the conference was a win on points to the left. The rejection of productivity deals offers tremendous prospects for a fight on the coalfields to catch up on wages—now worth less than 60 per cent of their value after the victorious 1972 strike.

PERSUADE

There can be no doubt, however, that the executive is terrified at the thought of a fight for £135 a week for face workers. They will do all they can to persuade the Coal Board to come up with a new offer of productivity incentive schemes, possible with a larger carrot than previously expected.

It remains to be seen to what extent the left leaders in the union are prepared to go against a Labour government in fighting for the demands which undoubtedly reflect the mood of the rank and file.

AIRPORT DEADLINE

LONDON: Shop stewards at Heathrow Airport have told management 'Pay up when the Social Contract ends on August 1 or we strike.'

The first meeting ever of all engineering and maintenance shop stewards at British Airways voted on Tuesday to recommend strike action to a mass meeting if management do not concede new shift rates.

The strike will start on 25 July.

LUCAS

BIRMINGHAM: The Lucas toolmakers who came out on strike a week ago because their bonus had been cut are preparing for a long strike.

So far pickets are turning most external transport back. Unfortunately the internal drivers are still crossing the picket line.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY. Please send me more information. Name, Address, Trade union. Send to: National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party, 6 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5BE.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

ANOTHER POLICE OUTRAGE

KEEP THE NAZIS OUT OF LEWISHAM DEFEND THE LEWISHAM 21

Join the demonstration Saturday 23 July, 2pm, Lewisham British Rail Station. March to Lewisham Town Hall, Catford.

All SWP branches and members in London and the Home Counties to support with banners

IN RAID after raid, police smashed their way into homes in Sheffield's black community last week and arrested youngsters at random.

They came without evidence, without warrants—but with truncheons and fists at the ready.

Jeered

Whites who went to the youngsters' aid were jeered by the police as 'wog lovers'.

The incident, in Burngreave, follows similar police outrages in Islington and Lewisham.

It began at 4.30pm on Monday, 4 July.

An unidentified man, who had been visiting a prostitute in the area, claimed he had had £1,500 stolen from his car—a story doubted by many local people.

Lewisham all over again as the muggers in blue raid black homes

Without a warrant, police raided a Catherine Street house occupied by a number of young West Indians, and arrested everyone there.

'They had no evidence to support picking on these black kids,' said the mother of one, Mrs Ramsey.

Half an hour later, they were back. Two plain-clothes and two uniformed police broke into another house occupied by three young blacks—again without a

warrant.

They got two—Tobias and Clive—into cars, handcuffed so tightly that weals marked their wrists.

The third youth, 16-year-old Tony Armstrong, said: 'They couldn't say what I was being arrested for, so I said I wasn't going with them. They hadn't even asked me my name, so how could they arrest me for a crime?'

As he argued, one of the plain-clothes men pulled out a truncheon and hit him on the back of the head. They started to beat him.

Ruth Miggely, a local playleader, takes up the story:

'I was sitting in my front room when I saw two blokes battering a black kid. I thought they were drunks.'

'It was only when I went outside to try to break it up that I realised they were cops. More and more police appeared until there were about ten of them.'

Beatings

A crowd gathered and local people tried to intervene, horrified at the beating the police were handing out.

The police reaction was to pull people at random out of the crowd. 'Get her, she's a little cow', shouted one policeman.

One girl was grabbed round the neck from behind and dragged to the ground. Her boyfriend saw her and jumped out of his front window.

That was as far as he got. He was hit by a truncheon on the back of the head and frogmarched to a police car.

The police hadn't expected the white people to join in. Terry Cannon, who was also arrested, was told by a policeman: 'This has got nothing to do with you—look at the colour of your skin.'

Eleven people arrested in this incident were held at the police station for six and a half hours.

For 90 minutes, they were made to stand with legs splayed and their arms up against a wall.

The four whites among them were taunted as 'do-gooders', 'agitators' and 'wog lovers'.

Eventually, at about 1am, they were released. But at 4am eight police again burst into Tony Armstrong's house looking for the money—and then again at 5.30am.

The next evening an angry meeting of 200 people showed how strong local feeling is on the issue. A committee has been set up to steer the defence campaign.



Protest at police thuggery: this time the community is fighting back

Liverpool: 70 sign up for march

SEVENTY unemployed workers from Merseyside have said they want to join September's Right to Work march.

They have been signed up in Kirkby, Bootle and central Liverpool. Twenty marchers joined in Kirkby after the local Right to Work Committee occupied the jobs centre and held a street meeting outside.

Another 18 marchers were

signed up after the Bootle Jobs Centre was occupied. Radio Merseyside arrived at the occupation and interviewed two young school-leavers who said they wanted to go on the march.

More occupations, street meetings, demonstrations and other activities are planned throughout the Merseyside area.

The march is leaving Liverpool on 2 September, reaching Blackpool on 7 September for a mass lobby of delegates to the Trades Union Congress.

Hundreds of marchers are

expected from all over the country.

Trade union support is now rolling in from shop stewards committees, trade union branches and trades councils. More than 130 organisations are now officially backing the march.

Organise

Welcome support for the march has also come from the executive of the train drivers' union, ASLEF.

The money raised from official donations from trade union organisations and from

collections among employed trade unionists will pay for transport to get all the marchers to Liverpool and to cover the cost of food and supplies for the five-day march.

With just six weeks to go before the march, the Right to Work Campaign has called for a special effort, starting now.

ORGANISE leaflets and activities on all dole queues and jobs centres to win unemployed young people, to join the march.

RAISE money by official

donations and collections, jumble sales, street meetings and so on.

ORGANISE frequent protests and pickets by the unemployed to help raise publicity and support for the march.

For details, collections sheets, leaflets, and the address of your local Right to Work Committee, contact 265a Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.

A special day of action against unemployment is being organised by the Right to Work Campaign for the next

time the unemployment figures are announced.

It will be on Tuesday 19 July. Even the government admits that the numbers of those registered as unemployed will top one and half million.

Demonstrations, protests, and other actions are planned outside Jobs Centres, Youth Employment offices and dole queues.

For local details, ring the Right to Work Campaign 01 802 0978.

How to join the march: Page 9.