

Socialist Worker

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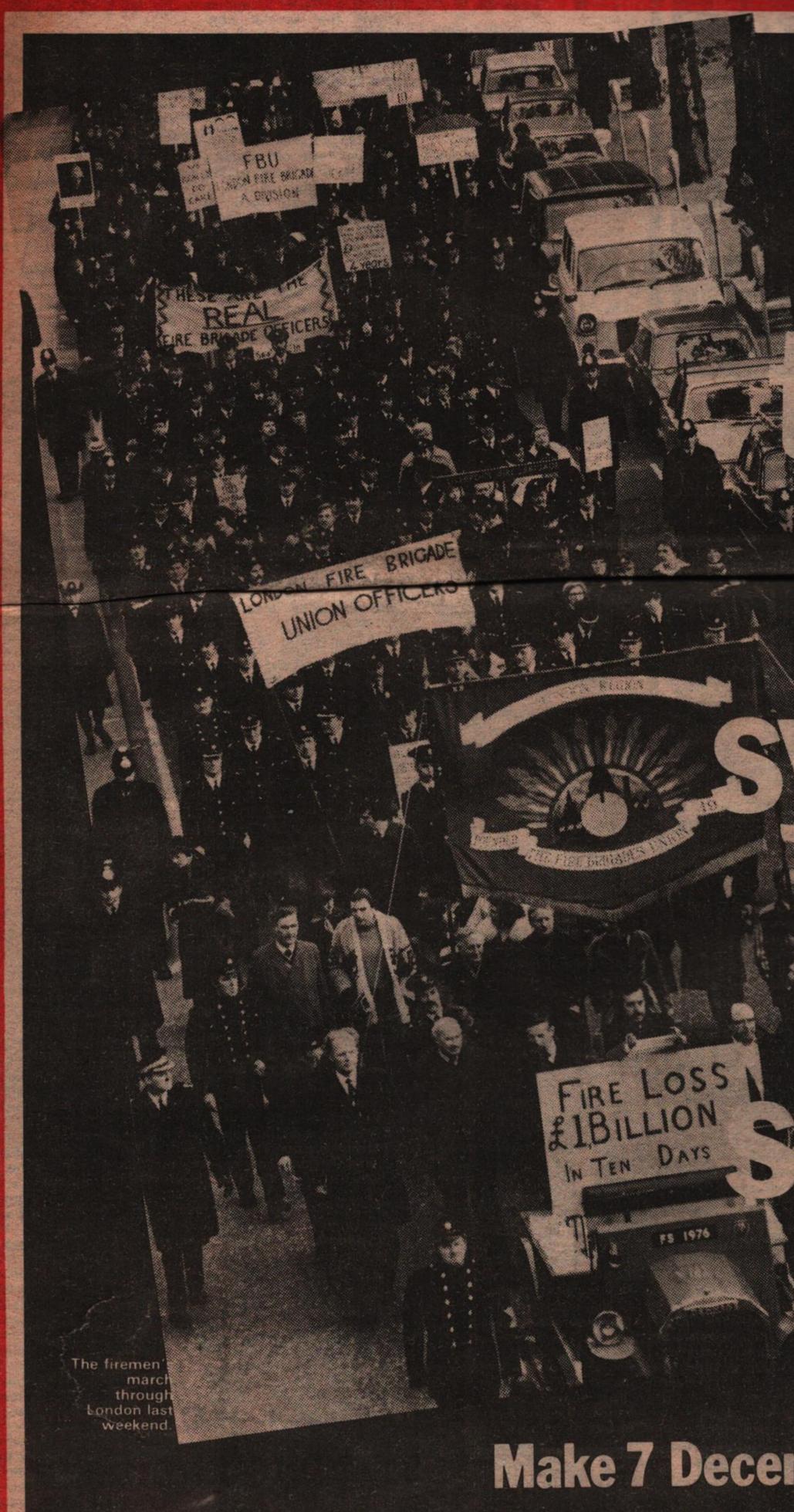
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PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

10P



The firemen's march through London last weekend.

Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

THREE WEEKS

Now is the time to turn sympathy into solidarity

COLLECT, DEMONSTRATE, STRIKE FOR THE FIREMEN

Make 7 December a national day of action

THE FIREMEN'S STRIKE:

**Wages:
We're
all in the
firemen's
boat**

THE strike has brought home to millions of people that they're not alone when they complain they can no longer make ends meet on the wages they are getting after a full week's work, even though these wages would have seemed big three or four years ago.

What better proof could there be that you can't survive on a wage packet of £50 or £60 before tax than the voices on the radio of firemen's wives detailing how they cannot afford clothes for the kids, or school dinners, or to go out in the evening?

Or that they have to use paraffin for heating, not electricity, although they know it's a fire risk?

That is why millions of workers are rightly throwing their full support behind the firemen.

□ □

But the firemen aren't the only workers in this plight. Labour Research recently revealed that one male worker in four earns less than £56 a week before tax—that's less than about £45 take-home pay for a man with a family.

And for women workers it is even worse—half earn less than £42 a week.

Such workers are to be found in virtually every industry—from dustmen to hospital workers to car workers. All of them need to follow the firemen.

ROSE McGEE found out how hard it is to get what you're entitled to out of the Social Security, never mind anything over and above it. Strike her house in Glasgow's nock Road, Glasgow, caught fire. She and her three children were made homeless.

Rose went to Social Security to seek help to get new clothes for the children. She was given the princely sum of 50p.



WEEK THREE

News from inside the strike

THERE are some unsung heroes in this firemen's strike. In fact heroines, the fire service controllers, most of them women.

They stand to gain absolutely nothing in wages from this strike. Yet hundreds up and down the country have come out on strike.

In Strathclyde 21 of the 44 are out, and determined to win. It would be nice if the fire officers would follow this magnificent lead and stop prolonging the strike.

MANY FIREMEN in London are fed up with the way the London regional leadership is distorting what the rank and file are doing in the strike.

The region produces its own bulletin on the strike,

called Strike News. Last week two versions of this were produced—one for the whole of London except for K23 station in Battersea, and one version just for K23.

The general version claimed that 'some fire stations were collecting money which they were not handing over to the region for equal distribution with other stations. 'No money', it was claimed, 'has been received from K23.'

This paragraph was missing from the K23 version. For a simple reason, as the Rank and File Daily Strike News was able to reveal on Monday—for at least two representatives of other unions, Pete Gallter of the TGWU and of A. Richards of the AUEW/TASS, had personally witnessed a regional

FBU official receiving money from K23 two days before the report was printed.

The same issue of the London bulletin contained the lie that the Socialist Workers Party was opposed to the big demonstration called for last Saturday. It seems that some union officials see their aim as not to lead the strike, but to produce disunity among the strikers!

□ □

YOU MAY know that last year five firemen died on duty and 340 were seriously injured on the job.

But did you know that the Firemen's benevolent fund is caring for 405 children whose fathers were killed in action and 589 widows? Twelve totally disabled firemen are also permanently cared for.

□ □

ONE THING that gets on the striking firemen's wick is the constant propaganda about how the 'poor old troops' must get breathing apparatus. In reality this would be doing them no favours—and could indeed result in mass suicide.

When you're wearing breathing apparatus inside a fire you can't hear or see. It is in fact utterly terrifying.

The only touch contact you have is the burning heat on your touch contact you have is the the burning heat on your ears and neck and your mate's hand, of which you try keep hold.

Giving the troops breathing equipment was described by one Glasgow fireman as: 'If you gave a monkey a pencil it might have a try at writing its name. But what the hell could it do if you gave it a printing machine?'



Firemen and nurses march together against the cuts, in Manchester last week.

The solidarity just grows...and grows

MILLWALL football supporters gave nearly £30 towards the firemen's strike fund in a collection organised outside the grounds last Saturday by the local Socialist Workers Party.

Fans of all ages contributed. It was one of the lowest gates for some time, just 5,654 people, a result of the television programme which painted Millwall supporters as mad hooligans who support the Nazi National Front.

One fan gave £2 and said it was to 'keep the Front out.'

There was a steady clink of coins, and occasional slaps on the back from the supporters who realised that the warm response was the best reply to the press myth of National Front infiltration.

One solitary voice was raised in support of the Nazi Front, from one of the stars of the BBC programme, a certain Bobby the Wolf—very much a lone wolf on this occasion. He got no support and crept on his way.

by PAT DUFFY (COHSE)

FIREMEN from the Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade came to Haddington on Tuesday to picket the local fire station and persuade the retained staff to support them.

Afterwards 17 of them went to the Plough Inn for a pint. The landlord, discovering they were firemen, ordered them out.

Local trade unionists, called a picket of the pub the following night.

The picket has had an immediate success in helping to win public support for the firemen.



This leaflet, in both Greek and Turkish, has been distributed among the Cypriot community in London urging support for the firemen. It was produced by Cypriot Worker.

HUNDREDS of delegates from the special conference of the civil servants union (CPSA) in Southport last week marched down to the local fire station to hand over a collection of £1000.

Supporters of the rank and file group in the union, Redder Tape, are advising firemen who have trouble getting social security to phone up the local or regional Social Security office and ask to speak to the CPSA rep. The reps ought to be sympathetic and able to help advise on claims, as well as take collections for the firemen.

The National Rank and File Centre (phone 01-802 0978) can supply copies of a pamphlet on social security for strikers.

THE executive of the Public Employees Union, NUPE, has voted £10,000 to the firemen's union. They have called on every NUPE branch to adopt a local fire station and give them every support.

Local authority manual workers in NUPE have just voted overwhelmingly to reject the 10 per cent pay increase they have been offered.

BILLY CONNOLLY, in his film Big Banana Feet, calls the huge Drumchapel Housing Estate one of Glasgow's many 'reservations.'

Reservation it may be. But it hasn't crushed the fighting spirit of the people who live on it.

They all support the firemen. And the Glasgow Women's Voice Group set out to build that support. They collected £140 in a couple of hours, with unemployed and poor pensioners giving and giving again.

WOMEN'S VOICE members and Socialist Worker supporters also organised an excellent collection outside the Yarrow's shipyard on the Clyde. A shop steward came out who affected to be worried about the unofficial nature of this collection.

British Leyland shop steward and SWP member Tommy Gorman coined a beautiful phrase to deal with him.

He said: 'I've spent weeks trying to find out the difference between an official and an unofficial £1 note. I just can't seem to find one.'

THE Glasgow branch of the Post Office Engineers Union took a noble step in defence of trade unionism and the firemen this week. They voted not to accept an instruction from the union's national executive to cross firemen's picket lines in emergencies.

Under the rules of the union all other branches will have to be circulated with Glasgow's decision. It is to be hoped that they follow it.

The Glasgow branch also voted a donation of £200 to the Firemen's strike fund.

The money's there all right!

BILL CRAIG, Scottish chairman of the Fire Brigades Union, drew attention to one interesting feature of the strike in a speech last week. 'We are now in day 12 of a national strike', he said. 'And the estimated government spending to keep some sort of a service going is £40 million.'

This is enough to pay the firemen's claim for a whole year. Alternatively the government could lay its hands on the increased profits of anyone of whole range of companies whose profits have rocketed.

Distillers, the big Scottish booze firm, for example, made a thumping £73 million profit in 1975-6. In 1976-7 their profits soared to £127 million!

There's enough extra in Distillers' swollen coffers this year alone to pay the firemen for 15 months.

You know Labour government works. For the bosses, that is.

TWO Socialist Workers Party members in Basingstoke town centre collected £25 for the firemen in one hour on Saturday morning.

... AND ONE SOLDIER SPEAKS OUT

A SOLDIER based in St Johns Wood, North London, on fire fighting duty phoned in to LBC Radio on Monday afternoon to say that the view of himself and the other blokes there was that they 'would not do the firemen's job for twice the money and at the moment we're not even doing half of the firemen's job.'

'Our job at the moment is to try and get along to some fires, squirt a bit of water at them mainly for show. Fighting fires is far more complicated than people realise.'

He also said they didn't want to use breathing apparatus because that would end up with some of them being 'more exposed to danger.'

He explained that what he meant by that was that they might get sent into the heart of the fire if they actually had the apparatus, whereas at the moment they just stand outside and squirt water.

Press attacks: Firemen hit back

GLASGOW firemen Ronnie Robertson launched a spirited attack on press coverage of the firemen's strike at a well-attended SWP Support the Firemen meeting in the Woodside Halls, Glasgow, on Monday.

'The media are afraid of our strike,' he told the audience. 'They're afraid to put the boot in on us in the disgusting way they savaged the power workers and the car workers.'

'They're afraid because this strike has got the potential to unite the working class.'

One of the stories Glasgow firemen use to counter this propaganda concerns a remark made by a strike-breaking soldier at a fire in Glasgow when asked: 'Is this better or worse than Belfast?'

His reply: 'I wouldn't do your job for what your asking, for never mind what you get.'

Picture: John Smith (FL)

THE FIREMEN NEED YOU NOW!

IT IS DIFFICULT to recall any strike in the past five years with so much support from outside its own ranks as the firemen's.

Even the opinion polls show two-thirds of people want the firemen to get their 30 per cent rise. If public opinion alone decided whether strikes were won or lost, the firemen would have won a fortnight ago.

But they haven't won yet.

JUSTIFY

After they've stood on the picket lines for three weeks, the government still resists their demands. Even Terry Parry, the Fire Brigades Union leader who opposed the strike in the first place, could not extract from Callaghan on Tuesday so much as a word to justify a sell-out.

Yet the strike is biting, as few others have in recent times. Despite claims that there are fewer fires than normal, the cost of property being burnt down is five or ten times the normal amount, because the troops are simply incapable of putting fires out quick-

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

ly.

At the end of the day, the government, the local authorities and the insurance companies will have to meet huge bills.

The government knows that if the strike goes on long enough, it will have to settle. But it believes it can force the firemen back to work before that point is reached.

It has a precedent for this belief.

Back in 1971 there was a strike by a group of workers nearly as popular as the firemen, the postal workers.

Like the firemen, they were almost unanimous in their determination to win. But after nine weeks they were forced back to work through a simple lack of money. All the strength and confidence gained in the strike was quickly lost.

There was a simple reason. All the emotional support for the postal workers, all the fine words spoken in their favour, all the opinion poll findings were rarely translated into practical solidarity from the rest of the trade union movement.

The TUC could have won the postal workers' strike, merely by collecting one penny from every

trade unionist. It refused to do so. Still less did it call on other workers to strike and demonstrate in support of the postal workers.

It sat back and watched them go down to defeat.

In the case of the firemen, the TUC's behaviour is even more disgusting. At its meeting last week, it decided on no action at all over the strike, although it is against a government pay limit thrown out at the last TUC Congress.

This is why it is indispensable for every rank and file trade unionist to take up the firemen's case now.

Street collections have, so far, helped the firemen to keep going. But street collections, by their very nature, are accidental. Some weeks they go very well, other weeks badly.

REGULAR

What are needed are factory collections, organised by trade union branches, trades councils, shop stewards' committees. These can guarantee a regular income for every fireman as long as the strike lasts.

And as well as collections, there

is the need for industrial action to back the firemen. If there were enough one-day strikes, enough demonstrations in work time, enough workers refusing to work in conditions that created fire hazards, then private employers would start queuing up to force the government to settle.

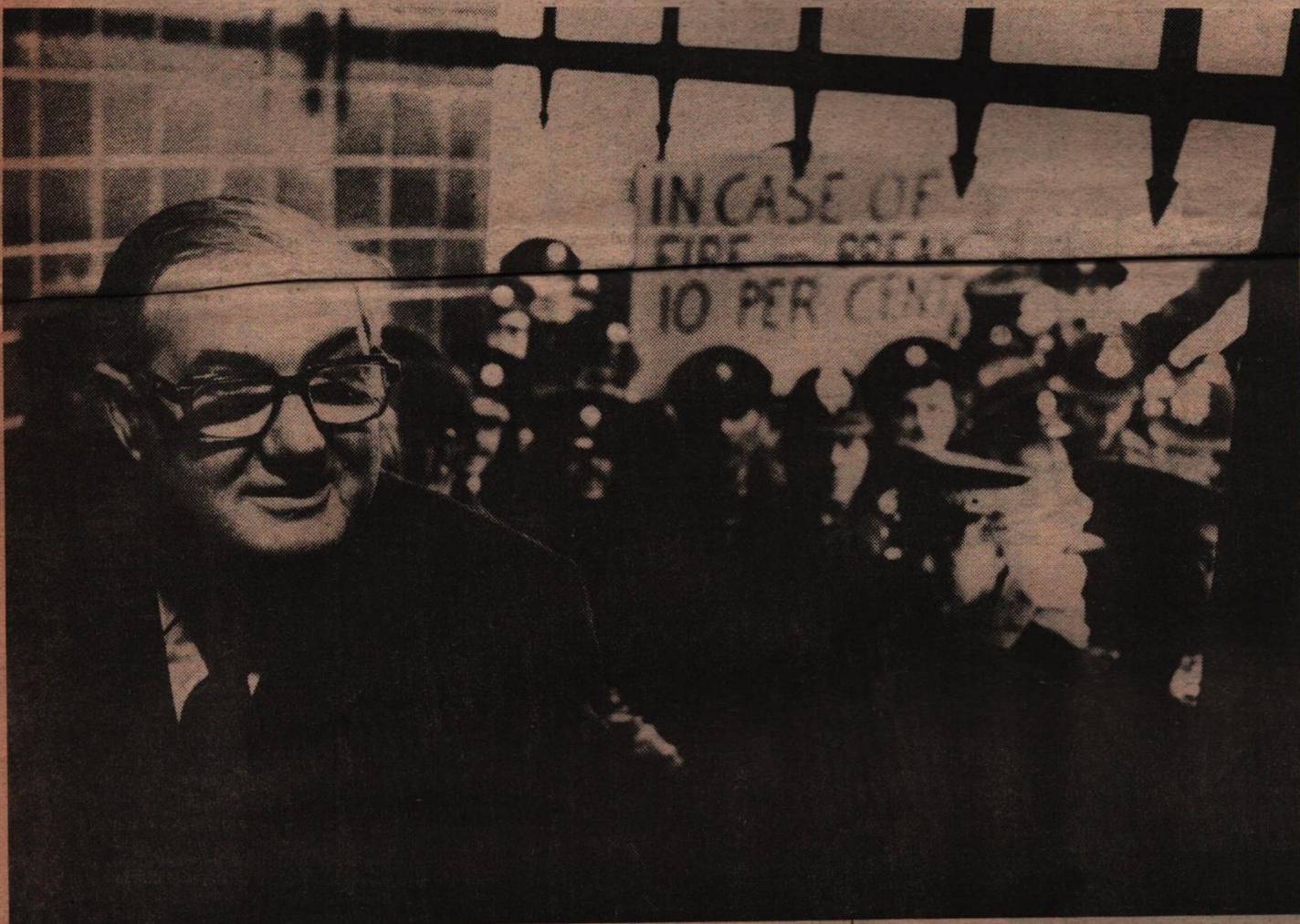
SUCCEED

But none of this will happen unless rank and file trade unionists organise to make it happen. The Fire Brigades Union leadership is embarrassed by the strike, and cannot be relied on to do anything to make sure it succeeds.

Firemen must be prepared to visit local factories and union bodies, to call for collections, to call for sympathy industrial action, without waiting for the union leadership to give the word.

And other trade unionists must ensure support is coming from their sections for the firemen, without necessarily waiting for local firemen, who usually have no previous experience of running strikes, to make the call.

This has already been done in many places. But only if efforts are redoubled in this direction can victory be ensured.



Picture: John Sturnock (Report)

...and here's one area where the solidarity is going strong

'PULL UP THE DRAWBRIDGE, THE WORKERS ARE AFTER ME.' Prime minister Callaghan besieged by firemen in Blackpool last week.

Printworkers give a hand

This leaflet (right) was produced for the Glasgow firemen by printworkers, members of the SOGAT chapel, at the Civic Press in Glasgow.

They approached the firemen direct and asked if there was any propaganda they could print. When the firemen said yes, they went back to their employer and got his agreement to make machines, type, paper and ink available free of charge.

Eighty thousand copies of the leaflet were produced as a result. What can you do in your workplace that will match this excellent example of practical solidarity?

THE FIREMEN'S STRIKE

The Fire Brigades Union and its members greatly regret any hardship or inconvenience caused to the public during this dispute. The decision to strike was not taken lightly, and it is hoped that the facts contained in this leaflet will in some way help you to understand why this action was deemed necessary.

THE FACTS

Firemen work a 48 hour week on a two shift system of 10 hour day-shifts and 14 hour nightshifts. During dayshift, firemen clean, test and maintain all items of their equipment. Training exercises are done daily to ensure the men's peak physical fitness and efficiency, and their complete familiarity with the fire-fighting and rescue equipment.

Firemen also undertake the inspection, testing and maintenance of fire hydrants, and the inspection of offices, factories and shops to ensure their fire and rescue equipment.

The Fire Service is the only properly trained and equipped emergency service. On joining the Fire Service, a fireman undergoes a rigorous 4 month basic training course, followed by a 4 year apprenticeship. The work he does is often exhausting, hazardous and emotionally harrowing.

He can expect to be at work on Christmas Day, New Year's Day, New Year's Eve and all other Public Holidays, no shift allowance, no rent allowance, and there is no optional overtime.

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WHY ARE FIREMEN PUTTING LIVES AT RISK BY STRIKING?

In all fairness this question should be aimed at the Government. Since 1966, 5 reports on Fire Service pay and conditions have been commissioned by the Government. In each case the Government has shelved these reports. Once effect, "Wait till next year." The latest report was published in September. In effect, the Government has had from then to decide on a just settlement. Once again, the matter has been thrust aside. In the meantime, the firemen's standard has plummeted, possibly faster than that of any other member of the community.

BUT 10% IS THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

In year, and the Government have been made in excess of that figure. In fact, has plummeted, possibly faster than that of any other member of the community. BUT 10% IS THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED BY THE GOVERNMENT. In fact, has plummeted, possibly faster than that of any other member of the community.

WITHOUT COMMENT

Staff sergeant Nick Rogers, a glass of wine in his hand, has no doubt what sustains him in his task. 'We do it because we are soldiers, that's why. Next week, when the dockers go on strike, we'll unload the ships. When the miners go on strike, we'll dig the coal, and when the railways go on strike, we'll take the stuff to the power stations.'

—Sunday Times, 27 November.

The Nuffield Trust for the forces of the Crown has donated to the three services £1000 each for the servicemen engaged on fire duties.

—Evening News, 29 November.

AS SOON AS the firemen's strike began, North London trade unionists rushed to their support.

Firemen from Enfield Fire Station and local shop stewards organised regular visits of the sprawling factories in the Lea Valley.

The response was fantastic. Fords immediately collected £70—followed by another £45, with promises of about £50 each week. 14 Thorns shop stewards visited the firemen's pickets and are now organising regular collections. A GPO factory has collected over £100.

Local

A meeting was then called at Enfield Fire Station. There were ten firemen and trade union representatives from 12 local factories and local union leaders.

The meeting elected an organising committee of three firemen, the convenor from Fords and a shop steward from Thorns to organise future support for the firemen in the area.

A declaration was voted unanimously, for:

□ More factory visits by firemen.

□ Weekly collections or levies of union members.

□ Support for solidarity stoppages taken by workers in protest against inadequate fire protection.

Action

□ A North London demonstration of firemen and trade unionists. Plans are underway for the national day of action on 7 December.

The committee has now called for another support meeting with delegates from every factory in North London and Enfield. A weekly £10,000 appeal sheet for J Division—roughly about £20 per man—and a factory leaflet calling for support for Friday's meeting have been produced.

□ JOIN THE NORTH LONDON DEMONSTRATION: Saturday 3 December, 11am, Endymion Road, Finsbury Park, opposite Harringay Stadium. Rally at Woodside Park, Wood Green, 1pm.

SWP WHERE WE STAND

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

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

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers. The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia. At most, parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system. Only the mass action of the workers themselves can

INTERNATIONALISM

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

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

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

■ We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements. The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist, but state capitalist.

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

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

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

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party. Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

■ We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. ■ We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions. ■ We urge all those who agree with our policies to join with us in the struggle to build the revolutionary party.

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the Socialist Workers Party, fill in the form on page 15.



THEY HAVE not finished counting the dead yet. So far, the total is something over 20,000 killed in India's worst cyclone disaster this century.

On the Saturday before last, twenty foot high tidal waves smashed through the coastal defence of the eastern Indian state of Andhra. The waters tore up the rich river deltas of the Krishna and Godavari, penetrating up to 25 miles inland.

Three million homeless fled to high ground or to wherever there was solid shelter. They have lost their relatives and homes. They have lost the crop standing in the fields—their food for the coming season.

Need it have happened? It need not.

Every disaster of this kind is a man-made catastrophe. There are cyclones every year in the Bay of Bengal as everyone knows.

The force of the tides can be broken and blocked with barrages, breakwaters, cement defences and channels.

The Met Office issued a warning on the radio on Saturday morning. But most of the villages never hear

the warnings.

Even then the government could have used the helicopters it is now using to drop food to the stranded to warn isolated villages and to evacuate people through Saturday. They didn't.

Most of the dead were killed when walls and roofs collapsed on their heads. One solid brick or cement building in each village would have saved many.

Those who are dead, need not have died. Those that survived need not now be facing the threat of dying from a cholera epidemic because people are drinking corpse-contaminated water—if the government had provided enough vaccine.

For the dying, the new Janata government and the old Congress are indistinguishable.

But the Government of India is too busy developing nuclear weapons, missiles and cars for the rich, to spend on the means to keep people alive.

Lecturer paid by Shah's spies

SAVAK, the brutal Iranian secret police, have been paying university lecturers to collect information on Iranian students in Britain.

A 'consultancy' from the Iranian Embassy was arranged with University of Kent academics by an Iranian lecturer called Kartusian.

It was worth £1000 a year plus another £850 'expenses'. For this, the lecturer had to compile a list of all Iranian students at all schools and colleges in the country.

A lecturer called Basilevsky started the work. He then handed it over to Chris Hale, 'quantitative social science' lecturer, masquerading as a socialist.

In August this year Hale got the first £250 of his payment from the Iranian embassy, plus all £850 expenses.

In October, he wrote a thousand letters to the heads of schools and technical colleges, and received information about some 3000 students.

The heads replied freely to a lecturer at an English university. They might have been less forthcoming if the letter had come from the Iranian embassy itself.

Brutal

For the Iranian secret police SAVAK, which operates out of the Iranian embassy, is known to be particularly brutal with dissident students.

Many dissidents leave Iran for Britain, and enrol at colleges, polytechnics and



WORLD
IN
STRUGGLE

schools where they can organise against the Shah's regime.

The regime and its embassies have no way of knowing which students are at which colleges. This ignorance hampers the work of the secret police.

What happens when dissident students in Britain are run to ground? Last year, a former Sussex university student returning to Iran was executed for 'unpatriotic' activities.

The Shah's executioners and torturers would have been greatly assisted by Hale's 'research'.

On Friday 25 November, the SWP national office was told that an SWP member, Chris Hale, who is a statistician at the University of Kent, was carrying out a survey of Iranian students in Britain, their courses and places of study, on behalf of the educational department of the Iranian embassy.

This fact was previously unknown to any other SWP member, locally or nationally.

A special control commission consisting of comrades, D Turner, M Robotham, T Povey and D Hallas investigated the matter.

It found that the allegation was true but that none of the material had yet been turned over to the Iranian embassy.

C Hale co-operated with the commission and handed over to it all the material he had collected. This material was immediately destroyed by the commission.

Although C Hale satisfied the commission that he had been unaware of the implications of this work, it was unanimously agreed that his actions were such an extreme breach of elementary security that he should be expelled from the SWP immediately.

£72.72—the price of a life

by DAVE CAMPBELL

IN 1975 eleven workers were killed in an explosion at the British Steel plant at Appleby-Frodingham in Yorkshire.

In the inquiry that followed, BSC management were blamed from top to bottom.

They were prosecuted, found guilty and fined £800. £72.72 per life. In any large company that'll come out of the petty cash box.

It's no wonder that management don't give a damn about workers' lives.

But in Italy recently, the bosses got a shock that may make them take the health and safety of workers more seriously.

The dependants of 13 Turin dye workers who died of bladder cancer took the owners of the factory to court AND WON.

Instead of the usual paltry fines, the two owners of the factory were sentenced to six years in prison each and two directors got 3 and 4 years.

The company doctor, who had told workers complaining

of passing blood in their urine to smoke and drink less, got four and a half years.

The court also ordered the company to pay £36,000 in costs to the dependants, damages have not been worked out yet but are likely to be in the millions.

Cancer

The company was charged with 13 counts of manslaughter... even though 132 workers at the factory have died of bladder cancer.

Although this is a real victory for workers fighting claims in court it's still a case of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted.

No price can be put on the lives of people. Sure, the compensation will make the lives of the dependants a little easier, but we must fight to force the bosses to clean up the factories.

We must organise to fight against processes which kill and maim us, it can and has been done.

Nazis smashed in Bournemouth

THE RESULT of the Bournemouth East by-election shows that the National Front vote can be cut down by a virulent campaign.

Paul Holborow, secretary of the Anti-Nazi League, told Socialist Worker that the National Front vote was down to 3.5 per cent of the poll, half the Front vote in Walsall this

time last year.

The Front kept up their vote at Stechford and only dropped slightly at Ladywood. This vote is a disaster for them in an area where they would hope to poll well in by-elections.

They got less votes even than they got in the general election three years ago.

The Anti-Nazi League put a

lot of resources into the Bournemouth election. Two public meetings were held; 18,000 'What's Behind the Front?' leaflets distributed and 300 'Never Again' posters displayed.

What we did in Bournemouth is just a taste of what we'll do in future elections' says Paul Holborow.

£12,000 by Christmas

IT WAS a good week for your contributions. Perhaps you were excited by seeing all those Socialist Worker PAY THE FIREMEN posters at fire stations (even if the Socialist Worker was cut off some of them!) not to mention 250,000 leaflets. But as the firemen's strike drags on and the government determines to stick it out, we'll need many more posters and many more stickers and leaflets.

The firemen will find they'll have many fairweather friends who will begin to turn against them.

Their real supporters will have to double their efforts to spread their case and build the support committees.

And that's not counting the need to find somewhere else to set up our headquarters after we've been evicted for being bombed by the Nazis. So keep it up.

We got £625.75 last week, more than a hundred pounds every post day, and that brings us in sight of our £12,000 by Christmas. Keep it rolling.

PAY THE FIREMEN



THANKS THIS WEEK TO:

North West London
South West London
Pontypridd
Black Country
Derby
Oxford
Rotherham
Inner East London
Northampton
Medway
Coventry
Dundee
Ealing SWP teachers
Basingstoke
Darlington
Portsmouth
Glasgow
Ipswich
Llanelli
Colchester
Tower Hamlets

Benfleet
Glasgow teachers
Birmingham
Leeds
Nottingham
Chester
Bolton & Hull
TCL Night & Day
J Chester
S Cherry
Essex University
BFI ASTMS Group
Anonymous Edinburgh
KD Harding
LSE
Mike Harvey
Reuters
GLC County Hall
Basildon College of Further Education



HUGH JAMES, a plater from Clapton in East London, with his son Paul, wife Enid and grandson, Daniel. 'I was earning £18 a week in 1973. I borrowed £2000 from Hodge and paid him about £700. They threatened to throw me out of my house several times. The pressures completely ruined any life I and my family might have had. I never saw any products at all. We were swindled. I want the money back.'



WILLIAM AND DAPHNE JOHNSON. 'We went to the meetings of World Wide Products, the pyramid selling company, in 1973. We borrowed £1500 from Hodge, and we've paid £400. e kept asking for the products, Where were they? First they were 'held up in a dock strike', then they were 'delayed in transport'. Then, suddenly the directors had vanished and we realised it was all a trick.'

The swindlers' victims who are suing the prime minister's pal



MYRTLE GREEN, with son Peter, she is a dispatch clerk from Hackney. 'My husband is a postman. We have six children. We agreed to borrow £2000 from Julian Hodge. Our house was a collateral to the loan. The interest brought the total loan up to £4000. There were lots of other payments. You had to pay for the training, for the meetings in the hotels, even for storing the products, which were never stored. We paid out about a thousand pounds. We are determined to get it back.'

A GROUP of West Indian workers who lost thousands of pounds in the 'pyramid selling' swindle are to sue the Prime Minister's best friend for their money back.

The decision was made at a meeting in Shoreditch, East London, on Sunday.

The group is the Afro-West Indian Investors Protection Group. Its 20 members came together two years ago to protect themselves against the harassment of fringe banks who had lent money for pyramid selling.

Chief among these is Julian S Hodge Ltd, a subsidiary of the Hodge Organisation, chaired by Sir Julian Hodge, friend and former business partner of James Callaghan, Prime Minister.

In late 1972, as the pyramid selling swindle got under way, the Hodge organisation started to lend hundreds of thousands of pounds to its victims. James Callaghan joined the board of a new Hodge Bank, the Commercial Bank of Wales.

Prominent

The speaker of the House of Commons, George Thomas, also joined the board. At least 14 prominent other Labour personalities including the present Lord Chancellor Selwyn Jones, the wife of the then deputy leader, Ted Short and a dozen MPs took shares in the bank.

The pyramid selling firms swarmed into the country in late 1972 and in 1973.

They made a bee-line for the West Indian working-class communities. Thousands of West Indian workers were invited to meetings in luxury hotels where they were urged to

sell 'products' (usually shampoo or detergents) directly to their friends and make a fortune.

In an atmosphere bordering on hysteria, thousands of West Indian workers agreed to join. They were introduced at once to representatives of a fringe bank, usually Julian S Hodge.

The banks, they were told, would lend them the money, at high rates of interest. Cheques were instantly produced from the banks which the victims were persuaded to endorse to the pyramid companies.

Vanished

The salesmen and directors then vanished with the cheques. In most cases the West Indians never even saw the products they were meant to have bought!

And the banks were left with a 'debt' payment of which they proceeded vigorously to enforce.

Millions of pounds have been paid to banks such as Hodge's by poorly-paid West Indian workers who were terrified that non-payment would lead to eviction.

The Afro-West Indian Investors Protection Group was one of many which came together to protect such workers from the banks. They have managed to stop evictions.

William Johnson, the group chairman, says: 'Until now, people have been so relieved to have their payments stopped that they haven't worried too much about the money paid.'

'But we think that the whole thing was a swindle and that the banks have no right to the money we paid. We're backed up by a barrister's opinion.

'We've seen London solicitors and we are going to start a test case.'

'If there are any other pyramid selling victims who would like to get in touch with us, we would be only too happy to join them to the action. They can get in touch with us through Socialist Worker.'

REPORT: PAUL FOOT
PICTURES: JOHN STURROCK



CLEM GEORGE, a telephone cable worker from Dagenham.

'I went to one of the meetings and agreed to borrow £2,500 to be repaid at £45 a month. But I had second thoughts and when they called me to endorse the cheque, I refused to do so, and asked them to send the cheque back.'

'They endorsed the cheque for me—forged my signature—and ran off with it. I never received any products for sale, apart from a few samples.'

'I paid Hodge his money because I was frightened by their letters, and I didn't know what to do. I paid about £700.'

'It was terrible. We all had to go without new clothes, and the children without any presents.'

'I couldn't afford to go on paying, and Hodge took me knowing, and they redeemed my mortgage without me knowing, and they threatened to evict me.'

'Fortunately, I got to know of this group just in time.'

'The case is indefinitely adjourned, but I am still insecure in my house. I could still be thrown out by the Hodge bank any time.'



ROBERT ETIENNE, a painter-sprayer at Ford Dagenham who lives in Ilford.

'I borrowed £400, payable back at £20 a month. The bank was the Medium Trust. I couldn't pay.'

'In 1975, while I was at work, three men came to the door and threw my wife out of the house. When the children came back from school they found my wife evicted on the doorstep! I had to force my way back in.'

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When the middle classes made revolutions

TODAY 'MIDDLE CLASS' is nearly always coupled with 'moderate', meaning against change. But at the beginning of the modern era (in this country 300-500 years ago) the middle classes were far from 'moderate'.

They were intent on turning the then-existing society upside down, so as to impose on everyone else the way of life that suited their economic interests.

We said last week that the 'burgers', the 'bourgeois' or the 'middle classes' began as a class within the feudal society of the middle ages.

But they obtained their riches in a quite different way to the feudal lords who dominated that society.

A feudal lord lived directly off the agricultural produce he was able to force his serfs to produce on his land. He used his personal power to make

them do this, without having to pay them.

By contrast the wealthier classes in the towns lived off the proceeds of selling non-agricultural goods. They paid workers' wages to work producing these for them, by the day or week.

These workers, often escaped serfs, were 'free' to come and go as they liked—once they had finished the work for which they had been paid.

The 'only' compulsion on them to work was that they would starve if they did not find employment with someone.

The rich could only grow richer because rather than starve, the 'free' workers would accept less money for

his work than the goods he produced were worth.

We will return to this point in later weeks. For the present what matters is that the middle class burgers and the feudal lords got their wealth from quite different sources.

This led them to want society to be organised in quite different ways.

The feudal lord's ideal was a society in which he had absolute power in his own lands unbound by written laws, with no intrusion from any outside body, with his serfs unable to flee.

He wanted things to stay as in the days of his father and grandfather, with everyone accepting the social station into which they were born.

The newly rich bourgeois necessarily saw things differently. They wanted restraints on the power of individual lords or kings to interfere with their trade or steal their wealth.

They dreamed of achieving this through a fixed body of written laws, to be drawn up and enforced by their own chosen representatives.

They wanted to free the poorer classes from serfdom, so that they could work (and increase the burgers' profits) in the town if they wished. As for themselves, their fathers and grandfathers had often been under the thumb of feudal lords, and they certainly did not want that to continue.

In a word, they wanted to revolutionise society.

Their clashes with the old order were not only economic, but also ideological and political.

Ideological chiefly meant religious, in an illiterate society where the chief source of general ideas about society was church preaching.

Since the medieval church was run by bishops and abbots who were feudal lords in their own right, it propagated pro-feudal views, attacking as 'sinful' many of the practices of the urban bourgeoisie.

So in Germany, Holland, Britain and France in the 16th and 17th centuries the middle classes rallied to a religion of their own. Protestantism—a religious ideology that preached thrift, sobriety, hard work (especially for the workers!) and the independence of the middle class congregation from the power of bishops and abbots.

The middle class created a God in their image, in opposition to the God of the middle ages.

Today we are told at school or on television programmes about the great religious wars and civil wars of that period as if they were just about religious differences, as if men were daft enough to fight and die merely because they disagreed over the role of the blood and body of Christ in the Holy Communion.

Based

But much more was at stake—the clash between two completely different forms of society, based upon two different ways of organising the production of wealth.

In Britain, the bourgeoisie won. Horrific as it must seem to our present ruling class, their ancestors consecrated their power by cutting off a king's head, justifying the act with the rantings of Old Testament prophets.

But elsewhere the first round went to feudalism. In France and Germany the Protestant bourgeoisie revolutionaries were wiped out after bitter civil wars (although a feudal version of Protestantism survived in the religion of Northern Germany).

The bourgeoisie had to wait two centuries and more before enjoying success, in the second round that began, without religious clothing, in 1789 in Paris.

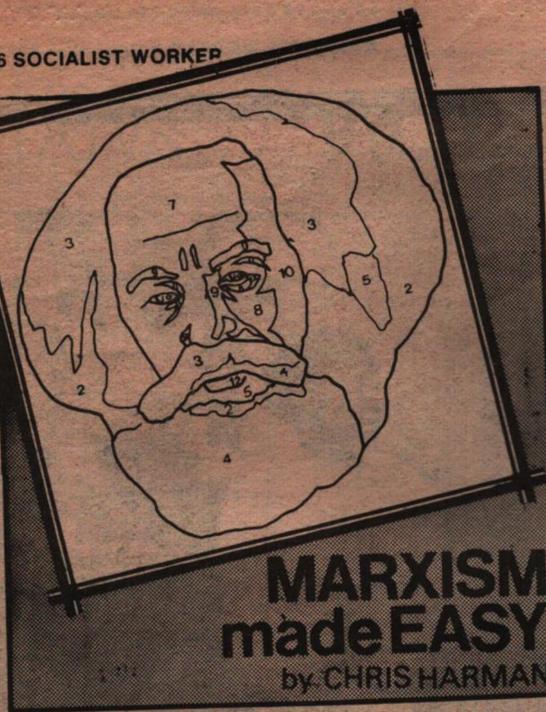
One can almost envisage the head of a feudal army surveying the smoking remnants of a 16th century town and saying: 'This proves that bourgeois revolution will never work'.

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RACAL WELSHED

OLIVER PRENN, deputy chairman of one of Britain's top arms and communications firms, Racal, is a liar and a perjurer. He is also given to paying bribes.

Proof of all three was produced at the Old Bailey corruption trial of a former army colonel and some executives of Racal, which involves bribes for Iranian arms contracts.

Last Wednesday Prenn said in evidence that he had not paid a lot of money to a man called Sir Shahpoor Reporter for 'arranging' an arms contract with the Iranian

government.

Whoops!

There must have been some mistake. On Thursday Prenn was back in the witness box saying that he had paid Sir Shahpoor some money for the contract.

A little matter of £80,000 it was. And no one else at Racal knew about it.

Prenn said he had lied to the jury 'out of loyalty to a friend and a very great man'. This was his description of Sir Shahpoor Reporter, who also received 2 per cent of the commission on the £4 million arms

contract and made himself a cool million from the British government for persuading the Shah to buy Chieftain tanks.

'He has done a great deal for the country', said Prenn, meaning that he had 'arranged' a lot of contracts for suitable payment.

Will Prenn be prosecuted for perjury? Will anyone complain that he paid out £80,000 in this 'private commission' without telling anyone at all? Is there one law for the rich and one for the poor?

Watch this space, or rather don't bother. You know the answers already.



Wages: This is the limit

SOME employers clearly don't think Big Jim Callaghan is being tough enough, keeping workers only 10 per cent behind the rising cost of living.

For the annual wage offer to one group of London-based journalists is 0.15 per cent.

In cash terms the offer to the lowest grade at Marshall Cavendish, the magazine publishers, is worth 9½p a week before tax. Even the highest grades are being offered only 6 per cent. And management is refusing even to talk about it.

We're delighted to say that the journalists' reaction was an immediate vote, by 84-6, for a one-day protest strike. They have since given their union officers power to call lightning walk-outs at 15 minutes notice. There have been two so far.

HOMELESS? More than 100,000 people in London are. And none of them will gain anything from the latest little effort by property speculators.

An old office building has been taken over and converted into flats, which would seem like a good idea—except that the lowest price for a flat in Gloucester House on Park Lane will be £575 thousand.

The topfloor flat has its pool, seven bedrooms and five bathrooms. It will cost £1 million.

MORE censorship at the BBC. The Goodies made a programme which contained a few jokes about the royal family—and was due to be screened just after Anne Phillips had her baby.

The BBC stopped the programme and instead showed a repeat of a previous episode.

THIEVES have stolen a gold-plated lavatory and the rest of the £1,500 bathroom fittings from a house near Barnsley in South Yorkshire. The Daily Telegraph quotes a police spokesman as saying: 'It is an unusual theft. Gold-plated fittings are not as common as the usual type in Barnsley.'

Living skeleton in Labour's cupboard

CORRUPTION and inequality are Siamese twins. They grow together. A good illustration is Hong Kong.

Three-quarters of Hong Kong's policemen are reckoned to be corrupt. Members of the Independent Commission Against Corruption were attacked and beaten up by angry cops after it began talking about police syndicates.

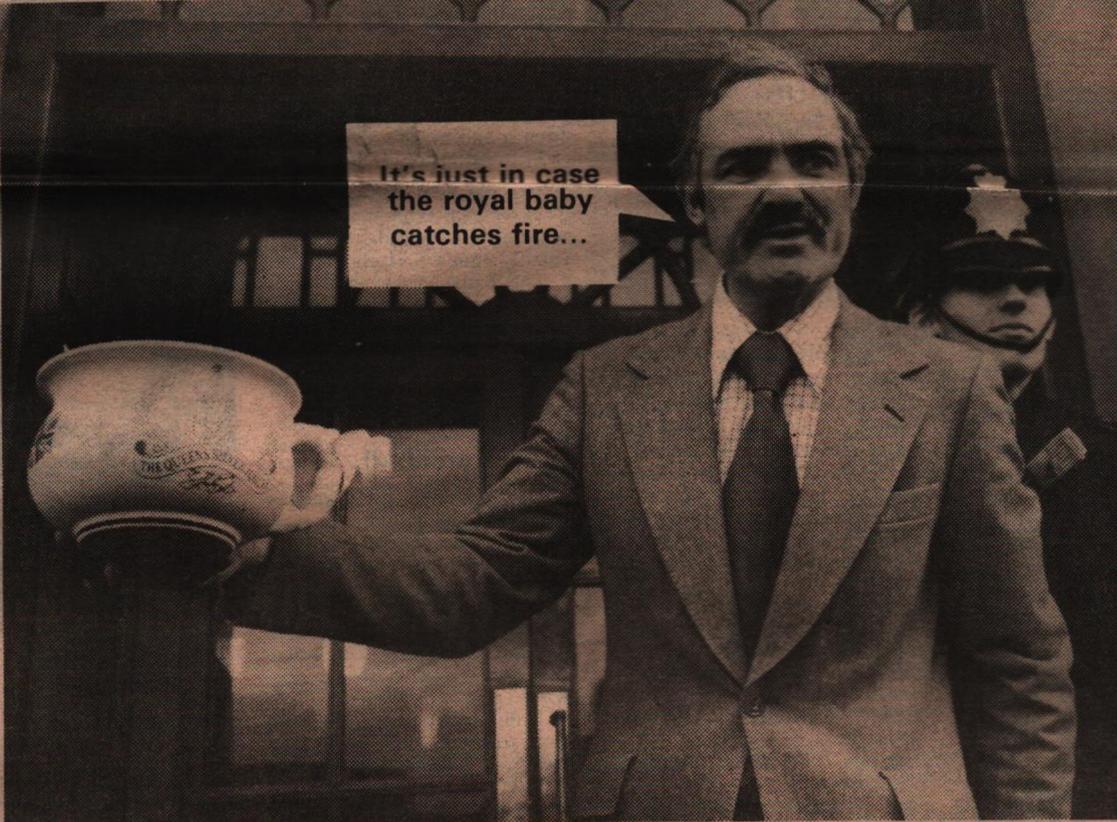
The government admitted that the police force was now totally out of control, and the Governor, Sir Murray Macelhose, declared an amnesty for all corrupt cops, except the 'rotten apples', to re-establish control.



More than likely you would get the impression from the British press that the Hong Kong 'community' were outraged at this 'Oriental disease'.

But the press wouldn't have told you that this hell for 4½ million people, which functions like an offshore island of Britain, is exactly the kind of place our 'law and order' brigade love.

In fact, Hong Kong provides half the backing for the pound, has tax levels at half of Healey's, rock-bottom wages, and economic growth four times higher than Britain. It is,



A jubilee potty for Princess Anne's baby, from Reading Chamber of Commerce

believe it or not, one of the world's top twenty industrial 'nations'.

Neither Jim Callaghan nor Maggie Thatcher object to the fact that Hong Kong retains the death penalty, bans all political parties, has absolutely no pretence of democracy of any sort, and has no right to free assembly and association.

Someone once said that

Hong Kong is 'run by the Jockey Club, the Hong Kong Bank, Jardines and the Governor—in that order'.

Imagine it, a Labour government is responsible for a colony, the second richest area in Asia, which has no health service, education service, maternity leave or unemployment pay.

In this employers'

paradise the trade union movement is kept under an iron heel, and the powers of the police would bring a twinkle to the eye of Chile's General Pinochet.

True to form, the law and order merchants there scream about the 135 per cent increase in violent crime, and say nothing about the fact that much that is criminal in Britain—such as setting up bogus companies or employing child labour—does not even figure in the crime figures of Hong Kong, where it is perfectly legal!

In 1971 there were 36,000 children between the ages of 10 and 14 legally working, and an estimated 20,000 more between 6 and 10 were working illegally. The mass of the population are squatters, live in one room or in a cubicle in a room.

MURRAY ARMSTRONG

Grunwicks, says Benn. But...

AT THE Labour Party national executive committee, Anthony Wedgwood Benn has suddenly, and rather late in the day, shown an interest in Grunwicks.

He suggested that the whole national executive, which is a stronghold of the left-wing Tribune group, should go to Grunwicks to picket the factory. So that no one would be too upset, he suggested that they go on a day when there wasn't a mass picket.

When Wedgwood Benn had finished speaking, he was greeted by total silence. No

one took up the suggestion.

Instead Eric Heffer, a leading member of the Tribune group, explained that it wasn't a good idea to get mixed up in industrial disputes. He said he would be happy to have a word with Roy Grantham, general secretary of the strikers' union, APEX, about whether he would like them to go to Grunwicks.

Since Grantham is busy trying to stop anyone going to the picket his reply is predictable.

ICI profits down to £105m

ICI reported a 10 per cent fall in profits to £105 million in the first three months of 1978. This was due to a 12 per cent fall in sales and a 10 per cent increase in costs. The company's share price fell 10p to 250p.

Yes, only £105 million... A cutting from the London Evening Standard last Friday.

IN A desperate, and futile, attempt to break the ranks of the striking firemen, the head of the employers, side of Fire Service national joint council last week tried to blame the strike on 'manipulation' by the Socialist Workers Party.

The claim has been treated with disdain in firestations throughout the country, where

firemen who've spent their life voting Labour, or even Tory, and have never come across the SWP are determined to stick out for victory.

But the events of the last few months have led some firemen to break with such traditional political views and to see that what the Socialist Workers Party says is right. Two of them told us why.

Are we to believe our strike isn't political - that breaking the pay guidelines isn't political?

by Gordon Vassell, Kingsland Road Fire Station

THE CLICHE of being 'dragged up' was not so far from the truth when I was young in the 1950s in Hoxton, in the East End of London.

My mother brought up myself and my sister as best she could—my father had left when I was three. The 'slate' at the local grocer as an easy guide to the general lack of finance in the locality between pay days. And there were no parks as such—just the occasional bomb site.

Engulf

My primary school days bring back little or no recollection of anything significant except for the horrible brown glazed brickwork that seemed to engulf everything from floor to ceiling.

My earliest recollection of racism—my father was



Fireman Gordon Vassell (left)

Indian—occured at secondary school when, rather than the novelty I had sometimes been at primary school, I became a good scapegoat for some people to vent their otherwise frustrated feelings upon.

Secondary school came and went—a few exam certificates, but not much to show for 11 years schooling. So I was obliged to look for a job of some sort.

When I was 14 or 15 I

managed to get a job sweeping up in a local furriers and at 16½ I left school to work there full time.

Dough

Such places were nothing more than sweatshops. It was always said that if you worked hard enough you could make good dough.

But that was just a good way of ensuring that the majority

of bosses in these places made fat profits out of people's hard labour, out of bad conditions and long hours, rarely protected by trade unions. I think that was my first awareness of socialist views of one kind or another.

I joined the fire service, with some trepidation, in May of 1972—a decision I've never regretted and hope I never will. I soon found out that it gives rewards other than the exchange of labour for money.

Angels

The people in it are probably some of the most genuine and comradely people I have ever met. They are by no means angels or saints, but they are governed by an inner feeling of a sense of duty to perform a job to the best of their abilities in the interests, primarily of saving life.

We now find ourselves in a strike, which at the outset seemed impossible. This has been no hasty decision. The negotiations and discussions and job evaluations have been going on for years.

The many government inquiries with their recommendations have fallen by the wayside. As ordinary workers we were left with no choice but to take action.

Are we to believe that our strike isn't political? Can we believe that the breaking of government pay guidelines is not political?

My belief is that it has been the policy of the so-called Labour government and of those professionals of the capitalist ideal, the Tories, to keep down public sector workers.

Awareness

The situation we in the fire brigade now find ourselves in has increased my awareness of the beliefs of the Socialist Workers Party. My background helps explain the fact that I've always been a believer in the sorts of policies the SWP advocates and wants to bring about.

But I've only just realised that my beliefs are those of the SWP movement.

I know now that change must be brought about in this brutal world, where big business throw perfectly good grain into the sea in order to maintain their profits while people are starving for want of grain.

I will personally along with other SWP members, now endeavour to challenge the arguments that we as workers cannot change the capitalist state that runs our lives.

The electric car window that says it all...

I SUPPOSE you could say I've always been a socialist. For as long as I can remember I've always disliked the anomalies and inequalities of this society, the fact that someone who already has money can so easily make more, while those who have nothing, work all their lives more or less just to survive.

At the end of last year I read the Ragged Trousered Philanthropist. I'd been in the queue at the fire station for it for a year before I got it. And then I got it. What else can you be but a socialist after reading that?

Questioned

I was an electrician before I came into the fire service and I suppose I always questioned people in power.

A thing happened on the firemen's march in London on Saturday which exemplifies it all. We were marching along and the lads out on the edge of the demonstration were handing out leaflets.

By Davie Patton, Strathclyde FBU strike committee

At this particular time we were in a well-appointed part of London. Park Lane or something like that. A big fancy car stopped at the lights to the side of us and one of the lads went over to give the occupants a leaflet stating our case.

And for a few seconds the man and the women in the car stared at the fireman as if he were a lump of shit. Then a few seconds later one of them decided to take the leaflet.

And then it happened, the thing that really offended me. The car window shot down—it was an electric window. I thought to myself 'I only recognise two classes in society: there they are, and here we are.'

The money they've spent on electric windows alone would have paid my wages for a fortnight.

I remember what they did to my dad. He was an engineer, a tremendous engineer. He

worked with the firm that opened all the first coin operated laundries in Scotland.

He made a fortune of money for them. Then when the laundries were all doing well they wanted to diversify. And what did they do with my dad? They slung him on the scrapheap.

Wholesale

I've only been in the fire service three years. But already I love the job. Even though I take home less than half what I made as an electrician.

This strike of ours is changing people wholesale. We've men, who were Tories, out doing flying pickets and insisting on the virtues of the closed shop. These changes come because people learn in the struggle.

Working class people can run their own lives instead of being sold up the river by James Callaghan and Co. That's why I'm a member of the SWP. And that's why so many more rank and file workers should be too.



A FIREMEN looks on as untrained scabs do his job.

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WE'RE THE RA

THE firemen's strike dominated the mood and speeches at the Rank and File Conference held in Manchester on Saturday.

Over 500 delegates from 200 trade union organisations attended. Among the many speeches from firemen, there were speeches from other strike committees. At least eight delegates spoke about their strikes and appealed for support.

The conference responded with a splendid collection of more than £400, split between the firemen, the other strikes represented and the Rank and File Centre.

What is the importance of the Rank and File Conference? After all, there have been rather too many conferences this year already—the Leyland Conference, the Liaison Committee, and so on. And little apart from rhetoric has emerged.

There was a difference on Saturday. Instead of a pious commitment to carry on the fight at some unspecified date in the future, we heard directly from workers already struggling against the government's pay norm.

Sabotage

Worker after worker, often from small factories, stood up with the same harrowing tale of being on strike and getting no support at all from the official trade union movement.

And one lesson came home hard and clear, from Michael Fenn of the Royal Docks, from Steve Grimley, engineering convenor from Leicester, from the Grunwicks strike committee delegate.

Workers who take action now can expect not only no support from the official movement, instead they can expect opposition and often sabotage.

The TUC is committed to the government's policies, whatever sacrifices those mean for working people. Anyone on strike can expect to be abused by the newspapers and ignored by their own union ex-

ecutive.

As the speaker from Rolls-Royce, Pat Morrissey said: 'We have to rely on each other.'

All the pious rhetoric in the world about mobilising left MPs, calling on the TUC to do this, that and the other, or finding a suitable list of demands, will have little effect.

Instead what matters now is the telegrams of support to strikers, raising money for workers who are getting no strike pay, fighting for blacking regardless of whether a strike is official or not. What matters is for delegations of shop stewards to go to every picket line and offer active support.

The big mistake the power workers made was not to approach other trade unionists, not to approach the miners that many of them live next door to in Yorkshire.

Instead they sat at home and allowed their morale and confidence to be destroyed by the gutter press of Fleet Street.

The firemen have escaped the same fate. But to win they now need active support from trade unionists. That must mean more than signing petitions. It must mean solidarity action.

That's why it is so important to support the Day of Action for the firemen called for next Wednesday, 7 December.

If you can't win a full stoppage in your workplace, win a token stoppage, or a mass meeting, or a lunchtime meeting with a firemen speaking in the canteen and a delegation of all the shop stewards to spend the day on the picket line at the fire station.

Everyone can do something on Wednesday's Day of Action.

But more than that needs to be done. Never has the case for a national rank and file organisation been more clear. It will be created by the detailed and specific solidarity and help discussed at the Rank and File Conference, not by vague resolutions.

The test of everyone's workplace organisation in the coming months will be whether they can win support, against the press, against the TUC, against the Government, not just for their own claim but for other workers fighting as well.

We're fighting AGAINST THE ATTACKS ON OUR MOVEMENT

MICHAEL FENN, shop steward, London Royal Group of Docks and secretary of the Organising Committee of the National Rank and File Movement:

The firemen are the main victims of the treachery of the last four years. We're all victims of the same conspiracy—TUC involvement with Labour, Tory and the CBI.

Benn and Foot castigated the power workers. The left wing of the Labour Party—all these people are against us, the average workers.

Look at the union officials. They all drive R-registration ordinary cars—middle management cars. The Transport Workers Union have buildings worth £22 million.

Yet dockers have to wait for weeks, even months, to get money if they go on strike. These people have assumed responsibility for our money. The firemen have to go begging to get money for their strike fund.

SKINT

The officials tell us to hang just for a while—to hang on a pie in the sky. They say there will be six bags of popping for two quid at insurbys if we hang on. It's true. This has been the top bid for the Stock Exchange—and we're all skint.

We can't take any more of this. It's got to stop. We must have rank and file organisation.

Our industry has rank and file organisation. It's called the National Port Shop Stewards Committee. This was the organisation that called the



Peter Bain (TGWU)

strike to keep Preston docks open. The officials did nothing.

The poison is really going into the firemen. We need rank and file action to support them. Strike action if possible otherwise take news to get down the firemen's picket lines.

We should also refuse to work with inflammable material.

We need finance. All our money is wrapped up in the official movement. The rank and file cannot afford to send delegations to Grunwicks.

If we can help the firemen win before Xmas then this conference will have been worthwhile. The dockers will be following up with a strike for 30 per cent on 1 January.

ROGER BURRIDGE

We've got a closed shop. We've got overmanning. We've got restrictive practices. We've no 12-month rule. We've no 10 per cent norm.

I would urge you to do the same.

Obviously I happen to be a barrister!

We are only as strong as a brick wall. Take one brick out and the wall falls down. The fireman are that brick. We can't move forward unless the firemen win.

PETER BAIN, chairman, TGWU shop stewards, Chrysler Linwood:

At Chrysler we have been presented with a 17-page document threatening every aspect of our working conditions.

At Govan shipyards there is a list of 31 items.

There is a general offensive against established working conditions going on inside well-organised, traditionally militant plants.

There is a strata of senior shop stewards who have drifted along with this, they've been pressurised and now they're not really prepared to fight.

EXPORT

At the same time the government is intervening more and more. At British Leyland they threaten the workers with a withdrawal of funds, at the shipyards with a withdrawal of subsidies, at Mackies in Belfast with the loss of export credits.

Every group of workers that take the government on, they

try to isolate. Look at what the newspapers did to the power workers. The Sunday Express tried the same thing with the firemen.

We must fight this isolation.

JOHN DEASON, Right to Work Campaign secretary:

There has been a comprehensive attack on the whole working-class movement.

Labour has steered through Tory policies more calmly than the Tories could have done. There is a joke about Callaghan and Thatcher in Hell. Hell is like a swimming pool full of shit.

REPLY

Thatcher is in it up to her neck. But Callaghan is in it only up to his waist, so she asks him the reason.

'I'm sitting on the shoulders of Len Murray,' he replies.

Look inside the miners' union. The miners threw out the productivity deal. Then they waited. Then letters went out from Gormley, Daly and McGahey calling for improved productivity!

One pit replied to the letter. They sent three pit shovels to union HQ with a note: 'From them that do, to them that don't'.

We're going to organise for 7 December as a day of action in support of the firemen. The Strathclyde FBU are calling for a demonstration.

This means a demonstration in working hours. If we can't get strikes, let's get mass delegations down to the picket lines. We need to organise rank and file support for the firemen in every union—in every locality.



AND WE'RE FIGHTING BACK!

RANK AND FILE

We're fighting FOR THE FIREMEN

PAUL McDONALD, Strathclyde FBU:

Our executive has been pushing for a 40-hour week since 1918! So you see that they're really pushing it along! The firemen were forced to take their moral conscience and themselves out of the door.

The 10 per cent has already

been smashed. We've got the letter from the British Oxygen workers.

The firemen are not a special case. We're just the first to take on the pay policy in the public sector.

FBU chief Terry Parry made the plea 'Would you let old people burn?'—but the union executive totally mis-

understood our mood. They've taken no initiative in the strike. Rank and File firemen are going to the factories by themselves.

The executive of the Post Office Engineers Union (POEU) has instructed its members to break picket lines. There is silence from the TUC.

Public sympathy is there but it alone will not win the strike. We need action. We need stoppages. We need support committees.

The government is playing a psychological game with us. Firemen are beginning to realise that they need the support from the trade union movement.

JIM FITZPATRICK, Battersea FBU:

Here are two official FBU bulletins. One is for Battersea, the other is for the rest of London. The one for the rest



Paul McDonald (FBU)



Kathy Caig, a fireman's wife



Steve Walker (FBU)

Day of action for the Firemen: This Weds 7 Dec

HOW TO HELP THE FIREMEN

The conference agreed to:

□ Build support for a national day of action on Wednesday 7 December, with sympathy stoppages, local demonstrations, mass solidarity pickets, mass meetings and other local activities.

□ Get trade union delegations on all demonstrations and pickets called by firemen and their wives.

□ Raise financial support by collections, levies, and adoption of individual firemen and fire stations.

□ Continue to build and strengthen local representative rank and file Firemen's Support Committees.

of London contains an additional paragraph criticising rank and file activists at Battersea.

But it is only the Rank and File Centre that is doing anything. It is helping to produce the Daily Strike News which is the only bulletin the firemen are getting.

We need money for the Rank and File Centre. The place is an absolute tinderbox! Firemen from the Home Counties are appalled.

CATHERINE CAIG, fireman's wife, Glasgow:

I'm here at this conference with my husband to ask for your support.

It's very nice to have the money and the sympathy. But we need more, we need your active help.

STEVE GRAHAM, Manchester FBU:

At one minute past nine last Monday we went through the

door and became part of the trade union movement.

STEVE WALKER, branch chairman, FBU, South Yorkshire:

Merlyn Rees has done everything he could to alienate the firemen from the working class. The media is bellyaching for the squaddies. Firemen must win the propaganda war for public opinion.

It's up to you people to make sure we don't lose this strike.

We're fighting AGAINST THE CUTS

SADIE BLOOD, NUPE shop steward and school meals employee:

There were school meals strikes last year. Some of these were lightning strikes.

The TV and the national papers asked how could these women do this to these children? The school heads turned on us. Some of them are what you'd call sods.

But the women had highlighted both the viciousness and the sheer meanness of the cuts and how they affect everybody.

The worst cut is in food. There used to be two fish fingers for the children—now there is only one.

This means that there are two million less fish fingers

produced. It means they cost twice as much in the shops. It means you cut out a driver who delivers them. It means there is cut in production and a threat to jobs.

This is the link between the cuts in the public sector and the private sector.

It's no use in the private sector even if you break through the 10 per cent pay norm. You're still losing if they're cutting the social services. It's no good if you haven't got ambulancemen, firemen...

SHEILA PARKIN, from St James Hospital, Leeds:

Patients are falling out of bed because there is no staff. Untrained staff are having to

hand out the medicines.

We now have a special section in our branch to sort out nurses' problems. People are underpaid, overworked and pushed about.

It's you and your families that are suffering because of the cuts. They're the ones who are being sent home.

STEVE LUDLAM, NUPE shop steward, Moorfields Hospital, London:

The Social Contract is a blank cheque on which they're writing out their cuts.

□ This government has closed about 120 hospitals since it took office. That's about one a week.

□ Over 600,000 people are waiting for treatment



Sadie Blood (NUPE)



Sheila Parkin

We're fighting FOR GRUNWICKS

KAMLESH GANDHI, chairman, Grunwicks strike committee:

I am on a four-week suspension from my union because of the way we did outside the TUC.

You can see what these bureaucrats try to do. They want to be able to say it was the strikers who gave up. It won't be us, it's the bureaucrats who want to give up.

If you've got muscle, use it. Don't give in to the law and go to ACAS.

If you're not organised, you'll be defeated.

We have had tremendous support. But how are we going to win?

We need action from the

Postal Workers Union—it won't be official, not from Tom Jackson. Tom Jackson asked for £5 million guarantee from the TUC before he'd do

It will have to be unofficial. Otherwise we'll get recognition from the House of Lords, but not reinstatement. What use is that?

The only way is through organisation. It's like the joke about the man riding in a carriage.

He sees the driver kill one fly with his whip. Then he kills another fly. But then a swarm of flies comes towards the carriage.

'I couldn't kill them,' says the driver. 'They were organised.'



Kamlesh Gandhi

We're fighting IN STRIKE ACTION ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

GEORDIE BARCLAY, strike committee, Spun Plants, Stanton, British Steel Corporation Ilkeston, Derbyshire:

There are 1000 of us out on strike for a £15 across the board increase. They offered us 5 per cent.

We've been out on strike now for three weeks. It's unofficial because we're out of procedure.

If you're unofficial there are problems with blacking. People hide behind the title. People use it as an excuse and we need to take that excuse away.

We need support. Our members have been to the

Social Security, but you have to be starving before those swine will give you anything.

There's one family among our members, the father, the mother and the daughter are all on strike with us. And the daughter is married, her husband is a fireman and he's out.

The firemen near us say they are not a special case, they're fighting the same battle as us. At Ilkeston we marched 900 men down to the firemen and joined their picket line.

JIM BLAKE, shop steward, Isle of Grain construction site, Kent:

I'm a scaffolder. When I started on the site I was

nominated and seconded to be shop steward. It was the worst part of the site, no huts, toilets, drying facilities.

The next day me and the bloke who nominated me were sacked.

We saw the site committee—it's a closed shop site—and they said the whole site would stop if we weren't reinstated. The next day we were sacked to return to work.

Some of the lads who voted me in were totally against unions. After we were reinstated they'd all changed completely. We came back to work on Monday, and by Friday the lads wanted to go for £3.50 an hour, parity with

the best paid group on the whole site.

We're on strike again for he £3.50 and we're going to win it, even if we have to stop the whole site. And after that all the scaffolders will be in there fighting for the firemen.

Jim McKENNA, Suttons, St Helens:

We have been on the cobbles for three weeks now, on strike to demand they recognise our convenor and negotiating committee. We were all sacked three days after a token stoppage.

I was offered £1,750 together with two other shop stewards to leave and they said

they would take everyone else back. But we have stayed out.

MICKIE BOULTER, TGWU shop steward at British Oxygen, Hackney:

We beat through the 10 per cent. We won 12 per cent, plus £5 for past productivity, and another 15 per cent in shift allowances and other guarantees, like no redundancies and no loss in hours.

But I'm embarrassed to stand up here and tell you all this, to tell you about the massive increases the private sector are winning on the backs of the firemen.

STEVE GRIMLEY, AUEW convenor from Cannon and Stokes, Leicester:

We struck for higher wages. There were 400 of us, rock solid. We thought we'd win easily. But it went on for six weeks, with the press against us all the way.

We held a mass lobby of the district committee and they agreed to say it would be made official. But after six weeks it still wasn't.

Our executive in the AUEW is holding back from helping people in disputes because of

the one-armed bandit vote at the TUC on the 12-month rule. A one-armed bandit is fixed and so was that vote.

The only money we got for our dispute came from other workers. That's what building the rank and file is about. It's done in small ways. It's vital when workers are on strike like we were, to raise collections and send messages of support.

PAT MORRISSEY, Rolls-Royce strike committee, Mulliner Park Ward, Willesden:

I want to start by apologising for the product I earn my living from. I don't suppose our stoppage has affected you much.

We have been out on strike now for three months for a 17 per cent rise. As a result the person with the biggest council house in London, Buckingham Palace, is still waiting for her Jubilee car. We sent her an apology and a collection sheet.

We have stayed solid for 12 weeks not because of support from the TUC or our own officials, but because we have continued to get support from

rank and file workers everywhere.

We have to help each other, that's where our strength lies.

TONY PRIEST, AUEW shop steward, Leyland Longbridge:

We're called greedy carworkers so we get the worst of it. The stewards committee decided at Longbridge to fight on a big pay claim, 31 per cent.

Then AUEW president Hugh Scanlon threatened us with shutting down if we didn't accept just 10 per cent. Now they want us to take a productivity deal as well.

There's no way we can increase productivity on machines that are 50 years old.

TERRY TAYLOR, British Gypsum, Botton:

We've been nine weeks on unofficial strike yet according to the union officials we haven't even exhausted procedure!

Striking is bloody hard. One of our lads came to the picket with four slices of dried bread. I couldn't even give him butter.

We need support from the trade unionists.



Jim McKenna



Geordie Barclay



Pat Morrissey



Terry Taylor

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Scotland

PAISLEY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The General Strike and the struggle today. Speaker: John Glen (Glasgow Building Dept Shop Steward). Tuesday 6 December, 7.30 to 9.30pm, Paisley Town Hall, Paisley. All welcome, questions and discussion. For further details contact SW Books, 64 Queen Street (top floor), Glasgow G1, or phone 041 221 3426.

GLASGOW Womens Voice meeting: Our support for the firemen, by a fireman's wife. Plus expert on social security. Monday 5 December, 7.30pm, Room 3, The Highlands Institute, Charing Cross.

WOMENS VOICE weekend school in GLASGOW for all members and friends in Scotland: Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December, 10am to 5pm. Saturday, 2 to 8pm Sunday. Creche, social, accommodation. Information, phone 041-424 1048.

EAST LOTHIAN: Anyone interested in helping form a branch of the Socialist Workers Party in this area or coming to discussion meetings, please contact c/o 130 Morrison Street, Edinburgh.

Yorkshire

BRADFORD Socialist Workers Party Teachers are holding a series of meetings about educational issues. It is vital that socialist teachers counteract the right wing in the education debate. Alternate Thursdays, 5pm, Meeting Room 1, Communal Building, Bradford University.

1 December: Standards—the big bogey!

DONCASTER Socialist Workers Party Miners Branch inaugural public meeting: Do wages cause inflation? Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Sunday 11 December, 7.30pm, Masons Arms, Market Place, Doncaster. Miners and non-miners welcome.

BRADFORD Socialist Workers Party Christmas Bazaar: Saturday 10 December, 11am onwards, Textile Hall, Bradford. Books, records, tools, toys, crockery, knick-knacks, handicrafts, foods and jumble (good stuff only) urgently required. It is intended to last a few hours and food and drink will be available. We need your help, please contact your SW seller.

North West

HUYTON Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday, 8pm, details from your SW seller.

8 December: The USSR

WARRINGTON SUPPORT THE FIREMEN SOCIAL: Friday 2 December, 8pm, Kings Head, Winwick Road.

WARRINGTON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Alternate Thursdays, 8pm. Next meeting 8 December. Details from your SW seller. All welcome.

BIRKENHEAD Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday 8pm. All welcome. Details from your SW seller.

1 December: Southern Africa.

KIRKBY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The socialist alternative and the case for the Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 1 December, 7.45, details from SW sellers.

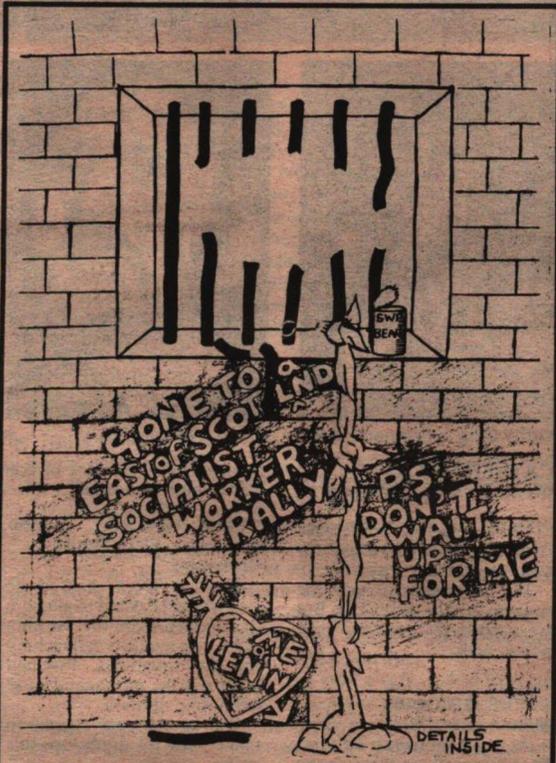
BIRKENHEAD Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday 8pm. All welcome. Details from your SW seller.

1 December: Southern Africa
8 December: Women in capitalist society.

MANCHESTER Socialist Workers Party training school, for revolutionary socialists in the workplace: Saturday 3 December, 2pm-8pm, meeting place. Tony Cliff on details of meeting place. Les Kay on establishing your credibility at work. Session on factory bulletins. 25p registration fee. Contact Pete Robinson at R&F Books, phone 061-832 8102, or Eddie McDonnell phone 061-861 9165.

Public meetings and events organised by the Socialist Workers' Party and its fraternal organisations.

□ Send details of meetings and notices to reach us by first post Monday at the latest, to Whats On, Socialist Worker, PO Box 82, London E2 9DS.



EAST OF SCOTLAND SOCIALIST WORKER RALLY 10 and 11 December, Societies Centre, Hill Place, Edinburgh. Weekend of films, debate, entertainment, including CAST in Goodbye Union Jack. Creche, coffee, tea, snacks. Tickets £2 (£1 unemployed) from Andrew McGeever, phone Edinburgh 554-6310.



FASCIST MOVEMENT IN BRITAIN by Robert Benwick. Most complete record of pre-war Fascism. Price £2.50 available from Bookmarks for £1 including postage (75p to callers at the shop). Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. 01-802 6145.

WITHINGTON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Sundays, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller.

4 December: Nationalism. Speaker: Dave Richards.

GARSTON Anyone interested in helping form a branch of the Socialist Workers Party in the Speke/Garston area, or anyone interested in coming to discussion meetings, please contact Garston (Merseyside) SWP c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

ORMSKIRK Socialist Workers Party meet every Thursday 8pm. Details from your SW seller.

1 December: Fascism in Britain.
8 December: Rank and File Movement.

MANCHESTER Socialist Workers Party Christmas Party: Manchester club—ours for the night. Free buffet, prizes, competitions and one of Manchester's top DJ's. Sunday 18 December. Tickets £1 in advance only, from Rank and File Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester.

Midlands

BLACK COUNTRY Socialist Workers Party Social: Friday 9 December, 8pm to 11.30pm. Late bar. For place, ask SW sellers. Rock band plus local artists. One £1, two £1.50, unemployed 50p.

South East

SOUTH EAST ESSEX Socialist Workers Party meetings: Every fortnight, on Tuesdays 8pm. See your SW seller for details.

13 December: What the Socialist Workers Party stands for. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

CAMBRIDGE Socialist Workers Party are holding a jumble sale on Saturday 3 December, 3pm to 5pm, in the Mawsons Hall. Please come along.

ASHFORD Socialist Workers Party sell SW at the entrance to the Tufton Centre every Saturday 11am to 12.30pm. Come along for a chat and help us sell SW.

CRAWLEY Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings fortnightly on Fridays. Next meeting: 16 December, 8pm. Place from SW seller.

London

CAMDEN Socialist Workers Party branch, speakers every fortnight.

Wednesday 7 December: Southern Africa—what's at stake? 7.30pm. For venue see your SW seller.

HACKNEY Womens Voice public meeting: Education cuts—what about the kids? Speaker: Jeannie Holbrow (NUT). Wednesday 30 November, 8pm, Centreprise, Kingsland Road.

GLC branch public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Wednesday 30 November 7.30. Jubilee Tavern, York Road, London SE1. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

INNER EAST LONDON Socialist Worker Christmas bop: Saturday 10 December, St Hilda's East, Club Row, London, E1 (Bethnal Green or Liverpool Street tubes). Band, disco, bar, 8pm to 12 midnight. £1, or 50p claimants.

BERMONDSEY Branch Socialist Workers Party meets every Tuesday 8pm at Bede House, Southwark Park Road (Nr John Bull Arch).

TOWER HAMLETS Socialist Workers Party branch meetings every Wednesday 8pm, Oxford House, Devonshire Street, Bethnal Green. All SW readers welcome.

SOUTH WEST London Socialist Workers Party/Womens Voice joint public meeting: The Women's Movement across the world. Speaker: Joanna Rollo. Monday 5 December, 7.45pm, Battersea Library, Lavendar Hill, London, SW11.

SOUTHWARK Socialist Workers Party celebration: SWP members and friends come along to a party, Saturday 10 December, 9pm, Right to Work Centre, Mayall Road, Brixton. Food and booze. Live music. 40p.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SEXUAL POLITICS: London, Saturday/Sunday, 3/4 December. Open to all SWP members. Details, phone 01-790 2454, or from your branch secretary.

CROYDON Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The women's movement around the world. Speaker: Joanna Rollo. Thursday 1 December, 8pm, Ruskin House, Croydon.

CENTRAL LONDON Socialist Workers Party District meeting: 7.30pm, Wednesday 7 December, details from branch secretaries.

INNER EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party meetings on Why You Should be a Socialist. All welcome. Alternate Fridays, 7.30pm, details from SW sellers.

2 December: Because there is no alternative. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

CENTRAL LONDON Socialist Workers Party Civil and Public Services Branch public meetings: Alternate Wednesdays, ask your paper seller for times and places of meetings.

7 December: The Paris Commune.
14 December: Terrorism—a solution or diversion?

South West

SOUTHAMPTON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings on our politics: Fridays, 8pm, October Books, 4 Onslow Road, Soton.

4 December: Why we need a revolutionary party.
11 December: Internationalism and the experience of Russia.

BRISTOL Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Russian Revolution—how it was won and how it was lost. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 1 December, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller.

NOISS National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies

NUS Conference: NOISS supporters meet in Winter Gardens, Blackpool, Friday 2 December, 5pm.

CENTRAL LONDON NOISS (Architectural Association), 34-36 Bedford Square, London, WC1. Wednesday 30 November, 1pm; open meeting with Nigel Harris speaking on imperialism and the roots of racism (Council Room, ground floor.)

AGITATOR SOUTH AFRICAN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN REPORT Pages 10 & 11



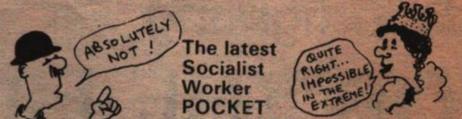
New AGITATOR out now. Branches will receive copies with this week's paper. Orders from NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN. 10p each plus 7p postage.

THE 1978 BLACK and White Calendar with 12 superb photographs by Robert Golden produced by N W London Socialist Workers Party for the right against racism and fascism. Only 50p from Bookmarks and other bookshops soon or direct from Black & White Calendar, c/o 214 Roundwood Road, London, NW10. Cash with order. Postage and packing 10p each. 10 or more post free. Cheques payable to Black and White Calendar.

COHSE: Health and Service members and supporters of Socialist Workers Party contact P Duffy concerning work in the union and setting up national meeting. Write c/o Morrison Street, Edinburgh.

Any Socialist Workers Party MUSICIANS want to form a punk band? Contact Martin Millar, 15 Severus Road, Bttersede, London, SW11.

IS SOCIALISM POSSIBLE?



The latest Socialist Worker PAMPHLET. 5p a copy, plus 7p postage, or 30 copies for £1, post free. FROM SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

SW Notices

ISRAEL: A RACIST STATE? Socialist Worker Pocket Pamphlet number 3. 5p a copy, plus 7p postage (3p a copy post free for pre-paid bulk orders). From SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

BUSINESS MANAGER needed for INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM and other SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLICATIONS. Applications to National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party, PO Box 82, London E2 9DS.

DAY SCHOOL ON GERMANY: Saturday 3 December, all day, The School, Star Street, London, W2 (Paddington or Edgware Station, bus to Marble Arch or Edgware Road). Sessions on: Repression and terrorism. The fight against nuclear power. The way forward.

Liverpool new wave socialist band NEEDS DRUMMER, BASS PLAYER and SECOND GUITARIST. Contact Philip Hayes, 75 Adlam Road, Fazakerly, Liverpool L10 1LG.

PLAN CHEST FOR SALE—proceeds to Socialist Worker fighting fund, phone 01-254 0770.

BIRMINGHAM Socialist Workers Party have two Gestetner duplicators, an IBM electric typewriter and a Sterling platemaker, which all need repairing. If any comrades can help please ring Jerry, 021-643 5717.

BRADFORD Socialist Workers Party jumble sale: Saturday 10 December, jumble needed now please—contact SW sellers. Books, records, tools, toys etc.

ANTI-FASCIST greetings card for Christmas or the New Year. Celebrate the victory at Lewisham. Proceeds to Rock Against Racism, Coventry Socialist Workers Party and the Lewisham Defence Fund. Price 17p each including postage, five cards for 60p including post. 10 cards for £1 post free. From Box A, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry. Cheques/POs to Trade Union and Socialist Books.

CHEAP accommodation urgently needed in London for Soweto refugees. Phone Joanna 01-739 1878.

THE 1978 BLACK and White Calendar with 12 superb photographs by Robert Golden produced by N W London Socialist Workers Party for the right against racism and fascism. Only 50p from Bookmarks and other bookshops soon or direct from Black & White Calendar, c/o 214 Roundwood Road, London, NW10. Cash with order. Postage and packing 10p each. 10 or more post free. Cheques payable to Black and White Calendar.

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RED BADGERS



A Flame/SWP badge in red and black, extra large size. One for 22p by post, 10 for £1.70, 50 for £8, 100 for £15.



STOP RISING FOOD PRICES—eat the rich! Printed in green and red, 20p each, 10 for £1.50, 50 for £6.50, all prices including postage. Cheques made out to RED BADGERS please.

All from RED BADGERS, Socialist Worker, PO Box 82, London, E2 9DS.

LABOUR HISTORY CALENDARS 1978 printed and published by Sheffield Socialist Workers Party. Each month highlights an event in working class history. Sheffield Outrages 1850-58, Suffragettes 1900-1914, Shop Stewards Movement 1915-20, General Strike 1926, River Don Work in 1971, Kill the Bill 1972, and others. Limited edition of this fine calendar. Not just useful but a marvellous catalogue of our traditions. Rush order to Simon Ogden, 1 Portsea Road, Sheffield 6, 0742 34674. Price including postage £1.80.

Socialist Worker needs REGULAR HELP on Wednesday mornings. Anyone able to do this work should phone John Larkham on 01-739 2639.

Socialist Worker MOVIES present

October & after

a season of films showing monthly

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 7.45pm

BLOW FOR BLOW

NE London Poly Greengate St. (Plaiostow tube)

December issue

Womens Voice out now!

Childrens books, reviewed by children, our first short story; the Virgin birth; news; reviews; and much more.

Copies available from Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2, 20p including postage, or from your Socialist Worker seller.

SWP branches should collect their copies from the stations this week.

Notices and meetings

□ Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post Monday before publication. We cannot take details over the phone. CASH WITH COPY ONLY to Classified, Socialist Worker, PO Box 82, London E2 9DS.



WATFORD Rock Against Racism: The Bears at Carey Place, Saturday 3 December, 50p contribution. Bring your own booze.

MANCHESTER Rock Against Racism Christmas concert: Friday 23 December in Stretford Civic Theatre. Bands are: The Fall, The Worst and poet John Cooper-Clarke. Tickets available beginning of December.

MASS PAINT OUT OF RACIST SLOGANS: East London trade unionists and residents invited to meet on Sunday 4 December at 11am outside the public baths at the junction of Cheshire Street and Valance Road, London, E3. Bring paint and brushes. Organised by Campaign Against Racist Slogans, c/o 9 Poland Street, London, W1.

LONDON Rock Against Racism: 999, Misty (Roots reggae), and Artattacks, at The Royal College of Art, Kensington Core, London, SW7 (nearest tube South Kensington or Knightsbridge, buses: 73, 52, 9, 33, 47). £1.20, unemployed with card 50p. Friday 2 December, 8pm-2am.

MARXIST BOOKS MORNING STAR Bazaar: Saturday 3 December, 2.30pm. Ashburton Community Hall, Cortis Terrace, Putney.

CHRISTMAS holiday in Devon. Few places left in quiet holiday house for Christmas week. Share rent/food etc. Reasonable cost. Kids welcome. Ring Chris 808 3200 evenings.



YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SEE THIS PLAY IN LONDON

Thursday 1 December, 8pm, The White Horse, Willesden (junction of Church Street and Roundwood Road) London, NW10.

Friday 2 December, 8pm, North London Polytechnic, Holloway Road, N7.

□ Admission £1 (50p unemployed). Proceeds in aid of the Right to Work Campaign and the Rank and File Centre.

RANK AND FILE DIARY



Right to Work CHRISTMAS CARDS: six designs—postcard type—two colours. 8p each or £1 for 20 plus 10p postage. Rush your money and orders to CARDS, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

December issue of **THE COLLIER** out now. Paper of rank and file miners. Articles on the ballot, Armthorpe's three shovels. Yes, they can afford to pay us, the firemen's strike, the Grimthorpe Grand National, COSA, the killing of US miners—and others. 10p plus 11p postage (10 copies for £1 post free) from The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

An answer to those who say whites civilised Africa...

'THE WHITES have built up these countries — South Africa and Rhodesia. They've worked hard to get where they are today and they have the right to keep what they've worked for.'

That's a typical argument you can hear on the shop floor. The new pamphlet — Southern Africa: what's at stake — demolishes it and provides a lot of facts and information for the real argument.

When talking to the lads at work many think that 'Southern Africa is a White Man's Territory' because most were not taught of the black history that took place before the white man arrived.

By Terry Farrer

AUEW Convenor
Shipley, Metal Box

It's the same as saying Christopher Columbus discovered America when in actual fact it had been there all the time.

In every case where the whites are alleged to have brought civilisation to a country, they brought misery and despair.

They are responsible for enslaving and slaughtering millions of people throughout the world.

Every time blacks organised themselves to fight back they were ruthlessly crushed. In the mid-forties an African working class had emerged as an organised and combative

force.

The South African ruling class, well aware of the dangers of an organised African working class, decided to introduce 'Apartheid' in order to remove that threat.

Apartheid is not just segregation and denial of political rights to blacks. It also controls blacks through the migrant labour system. Which means that your permit to work will not be renewed if you take part in trade union activity.

Enforce

This is where we, in Britain, can help because we should demand that blacks must be allowed the right to join trade unions and if necessary bring pressure on our bosses to enforce this.

After all it's the same firms and the same bosses which are allowing this situation to

exist.

Vorster says: 'We stand for Christian Nationalism, which is an ally of National Socialism. You can call this anti-democratic principle dictatorship. In Italy it is called Fascism, in Germany, German National Socialism and in South Africa Christian Nationalism.'

So Vorster uses racialism and fascism to ensure that the tiny white minority retain their privileges.

If apartheid is smashed, capitalism in Southern Africa will be smashed, because the survival of the South African bosses depends on the white monopoly of power.

All the information is very clear and briefly presented, making the pamphlet extremely useful for getting the facts to argue against the widespread myths.

As the crisis deepens and the armed struggle develops



Reid: a sad defection

By Peter Bain,
shop steward Chrysler Linwood

SIXTEEN years ago, while an engineering apprentice in Clydebank, I joined the Labour Party.

Believing as I did then that all we needed was 350 Michael Foots in Parliament and we would get socialism, I was puzzled by my early experiences in the 'workers party'.

Apart from the Young Socialists, and two or three older party members, nobody, but nobody, was interested in political theory.

In fact the main division was between the Freemasons (Protestants) and the Knights of St. Columba (Catholics).

Raffle tickets for the rival factions used to circulate regularly at party meetings, although occasionally they would unite to smash anything remotely resembling socialist policies into the deck.

From what I know of the current state of the Clydebank Labour Party, not much has changed. Many of the same people are still in control, the party has become even more just an electoral machine, while there isn't even a Young Socialists Branch any more.

But it is this branch of the Labour Party which Jimmy Reid, spokesman for the UCS work in, has now become a member. After suffering the indignity of having his application rejected by the local ward, Reid successfully appealed to the constituency party.

Whatever his reasons for joining, it can't possibly be because he sees the worthiness of the Clydebank Labour Party as the true fighters for

socialism in the area.

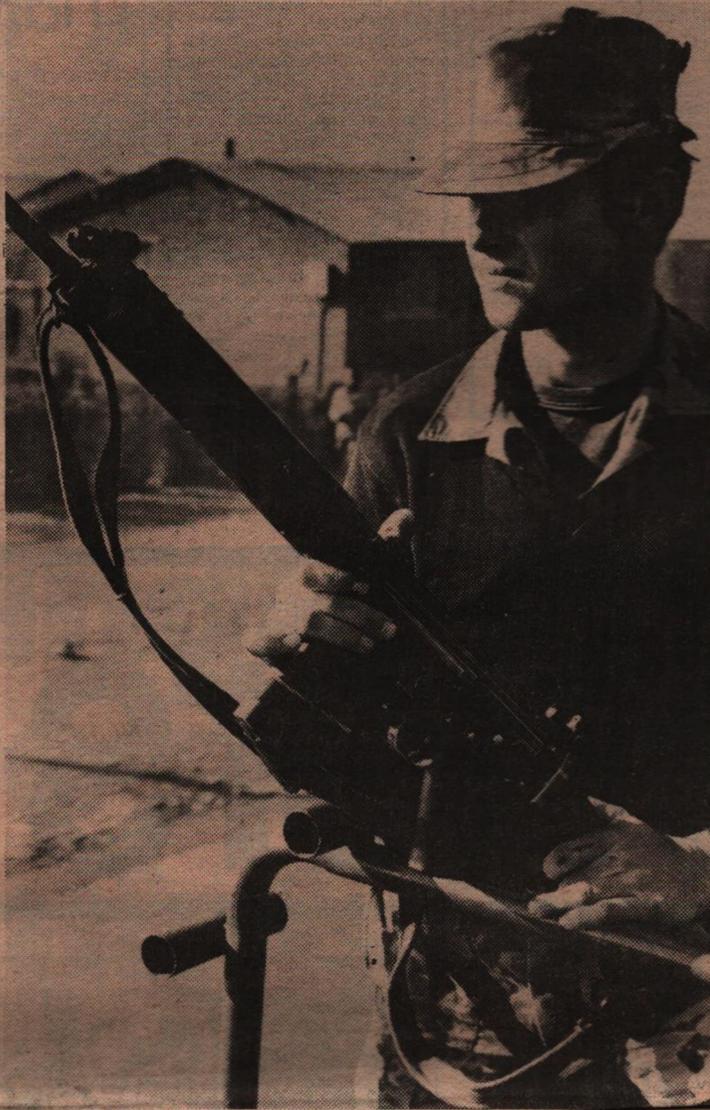
And, by Christ, if anybody ever needed socialism, it's the people of Clydebank.

Nor can Reid conceivably imagine that his new comrades will mobilise support for workers in struggle.

Career

Sadly, for it is sad when someone who had a contribution to make to the struggle does such things, Jimmy Reid's membership of the Clydebank Labour Party, can only be in order to further his own career.

That career may be in Parliament or in the ranks of trade union officialdom where Labour Party membership can be a useful electoral asset.



Socialist
Workers
talking



ALAN GIBBONS

... and once, for a brief moment, he lived

OUR FACTORY has just voted to accept a 12 per cent pay deal so I was sitting in the brew room the other day with a face as long as a yard of pump water.

Talk came round to how we would spend our back pay. I suggested a packet of jelly babies. One of the lads muttered something about: 'this one doesn't need any more jelly babies.'

He was reading in the paper about Princess Anne's 'escort'—lovely way with words these journalists!

This motor-biking, dare-devilling, bacardi-sipping, jet-setting whiz kid had just gone to that great Harrow in the sky after crashing his bike.

But what really galled some of the lads was the last paragraph:

'But he found time to work.' What a man! Between all the arduous flying around the world and all those tiring parties, he worked. And as a managing director too—a giant among men.

Which is probably what the article was really all about—how they are so much more capable than us. It is just like something our full-time official always says: 'It's the management's right to

Sounds good but it's like saying it's a killer's right to kill. The words are OK but the meaning is all wrong.

For example, on our job the foreman has little to do. We know the job and he lets us get on with it.

The only time we need him is when there is information we don't have. To say the workers could not manage their own workplace because they are ignorant of what is involved is like blaming a man for being unable to see when you have blindfolded him!

Working people show scraps of their abilities in lots of little ways but if they go further and try to control their work a bloody big hammer knocks them back into recognisable shape—the bored, sullen, unresponsive type the press always shows us.

And that takes me back to our epitaph for a super scrounger.

Imagine how our death would be written about if we could all be famous for a day:

'He worked. He woke at five in the morning. He was chilled by the winter and stifled by the summer. He performed tasks as foreign to him as the moon.

'He has to ask permission to go to the toilet, to eat and drink and talk to his fellows. His health, comfort, the future of his children were as the wind.

And sometimes, for a brief moment, he found time to live.

Christmas offer

PLUTO PRESS are offering a number of very good political books at half price for Christmas. Given the price of books these days some of Pluto's Christmas offerings are very good bargains indeed.

Paul O'Flinn's book Them and Us in literature is just 45p. The splendid biography of Rosa Luxemburg by Paul Frohlich is just £1.65. Lenin's Last Struggle by Moshe Lewin is just 45p.

Anyone who can afford to buy most of the books on this list would have a marvellous introduction to revolutionary politics.



Choose two or more books from the following list before Christmas, and you can have them at half-price:

State Capitalism in Russia, by Tony Cliff, 75p (usually £1.50)

Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe, by Chris Harman, £1.35 (usually £2.70)

Workers against the Monolith, by Ian Birchall, £1.35 (usually £2.70)

Communist Politics in Britain, by Hugo Dewar, 90p (usually £1.80)

The Balham Group, by Reg Groves, 60p (usually £1.20)

Capitalism and Theory, by Michael Kidron, £1 (usually £2)

Rosa Luxemburg, by Paul Frohlich, £1.65 (usually £3.30)

Lenin's Last Struggle, by Moshe Lewin, 45p (usually 90p)

Them and Us in Literature, by Paul O'Flinn 45p (usually 90p)

Origins of the International Socialists, 50p (usually £1)

Chile: The Gorillas are amongst us, by Helios Prieto, 38p (usually 75p)

Lenin's Moscow, by Alfred Rosmer, £1.20 (usually £2.40)

The Emancipation of Women, by Eugene Thonnessen, 98p (usually £1.95)

The Occupation of the Factories, by Spriano, £1.20 (usually £2.40)

The Bolsheviks and the October Revolution, £1.80 (usually £3.60)

1/2 -PRICE
CHRISTMAS OFFER

Add 50p flat-rate postage on all orders, send money with order to:
PLUTO PRESS, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1.

POSTAL POINTS

THE articles that you print on Zionism and Israel are all about how reactionary they are.

They neglect the fact that Zionism, although never quite OK in socialist circles, was essentially a national liberation movement in a way.

It was, and still is for Russian Jews, a national liberation movement to the extent that it was the only way that a group with a cohesive and separate culture and language — ie the Ashkenasim Jews — could see to get out of oppression without the immediate arrival of socialism.

Obviously, it was obscured by a lot of religious and 'inevitable nature of racialism' ideas, but this social basis was the same as that for the black power and women's movements, the IRA, and in fact any minorities' fight.

□ Pete Braham, Newcastle.

□□

I HOPE you publish this letter as I feel the message is very important for the fight against the Nazi NF. We see their graffiti too much these days and I have a suggestion to counter it. Those who love freedom should take a suitable instrument and draw a G after the slogan making it NFG: No f good.

□ Joe Denton, University of Warwick.
THE ANTI Nazi League has come up with the following gem along the same lines and without the swear word. NF = No Fun; No Freedom, No Future.

□□

I'D LIKE to thank the to my assistance after I was beanten up on the Grunwick picket line. Unfortunately I was in no condition to ask him his name.

Having a stomach ulcer it did me no good to be kicked unmercifully by those in blue uniforms. So whoever you are comrade, thanks. And try to be there on the mass picket because George Ward may be sure of one thing—I'll be there.

□ Steve Hope.

Solidarity!

THE SOUTH East Manchester district social which we advertised in SW last week was changed at the 11th hour to a firemen benefit and was a riotous success.

Over 100 SW members, supporters and non-aligned people came to see Counteract do The Cuts Show (doubly relevant since we found out last week of plans to close the local childrens hospital, The Duchess of York at Burnage)

Local firemen from two stations, took a collection which raised £31, after which we auctioned a Solidarity With The Firemen banner for £15, making a total donation to the strike fund of £46. We hope that the banner will be well used around Manchester during the dispute!

□ Lindsey Muire, Longsight, Manchester.

VICTORY

On Littlebrook power station not far from Dartford town A gallant band of working men did quickly gather round To fight a great injustice and see fair play was done When Bestobells did rudely sack two honest working men.

'We'll have to call a meeting' that's what Dan O'Connor said I'll go and see Ted Lewsey, the painters steward as well And also Billy Gardiner who's a truly honest man A fighter for the working class if ever there was one.

When the stewards all came together with Danny in the chair Bro. Ted stood up and said 'Their case I think is fair These lads who got the hammer they have done nothing wrong' And Bro. Gardiner then spoke up 'I think I'll sing a song'.

Then chairman Dan O'Connor looked up with a smile I think I've got a better plan, Bill don't sing yet a while We'll go and see the CEGB and tell them what we know If the lads aren't reinstated we'll have to have a go.

So Dan and Ted away they went and saw the big Boss Man They told him in their forthright way that Bestobells were wrong They also said 'It's very true, if these lads don't come back Our mighty worker army will go on the attack'.

The ending of this little tale is a happy one for all When workers stand together the bosses soon do crawl So drink a toast to Danny and brave Ted Lewsey too And also Billy Gardiner who showed his colours true. □ John Kettle, Brentwood

Listen to this

WITH THE exception of a few punk bands, it's not often we get good political messages with our music.

So it's always a pleasure to listen to Gil Scott Heron. He's made a lot of records highlighting the black struggle in America, singing about police harassment, landlords, soap box revolutionaries, unemployment and other issues.

His best-known song, with pianist Brian Jackson, is 'Johannesburg' a message of solidarity with the black liberation struggle.

'South Carolina' deals with the construction of a nuclear plant and the threat it brings to peoples' lives.

In other songs he takes the piss out of Watergate and the Bicentennial celebrations. And if anyone needs something to pep up a Rock Against Racism disco or a party listen to his song 'The Revolution will not be televised, it'll be live'.

□ CHRIS BARLTROP, Cambridge.

Sore feet - so they gave him something to make them worse!

I WOULD like to bring to your attention what is happening to one of the Irish political prisoners in Wakefield prison. The prisoner is my brother, John McCluskey, who is serving a 10-year sentence on a conspiracy charge.

During the last two months John has been complaining to the medical people at Wakefield about his feet. Things have gone so far now at Wakefield that the last week in May my brother cut the toes out of the prison shoes in order to relieve the ache in his feet.

John was charged with damaging prison property and ordered to appear before a 'court' in the prison. He

refused to go as he had asked the governor of the prison on many occasions if he could have leather footwear or something more suitable than prison boots.

However, he was taken to the court in the prison with his hands twisted up behind his back and the punishment he got was to be locked up most of the day until such time as he wears the prison boots or shoes.

The doctor in Wakefield prescribed a liquid to be added to the water in which John washed his feet. John added this liquid to the water as advised, and instead of this relieving the soreness in his feet, it made them bleed.

During my visit on 5 June

John told me that he will be put in the Control Unit very soon if he continues to refuse to wear prison boots or shoes.

I was also told by my brother that very recently at Wakefield a prisoner has been kept in the Control Unit for 21 days.

During a BBC documentary earlier this year, it was made to appear by an officer at Long Lartin prison that Control Units were only used in very rare cases when a prisoner would be locked up for no more than three days at a time.

This is definitely not the case and would be well worth further investigation.

□ HELEN O'BRIEN, Leicester.

Letters

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

You just can't win

I WORK at Belling Cookers in Enfield. Recently my chargehand asked the senior hand to take me off the benches and give me a trial on the line.

He was keen to prove his belief that all militant eventually see sense and settle down. Since my wife was then expecting our first baby, he was convinced my 'juvenile idealism' would soon fade.

Unfortunately the move never transpired.

It seems the senior hand nearly had a fit at the prospect. Everyone would be on strike every five minutes and I was described as a 'leading fascist'.

An argument then ensued, with the chargehand swearing I was the extreme opposite. 'Well,' said the senior hand, 'I saw him on the platform at the mass meeting last week, screaming and throwing his hands about just like Hitler.'

Sometimes it seems like you just can't win....

□ IAN BROWN, North London

□□

I'VE JUST read my very first copy of SW and what a nice change to read something so honest and blunt.

I'm not into politics and make a point of not getting into arguments on the subject. But your paper I will read every week because you don't beat about the bush.

Your honesty has made me believe in people again. All I can say now is thanks a million. Keep up the good work.

□ Carole Walker, Leeds.

And the Pope Prayed

LIKE JAMIE Dookery I'm very much concerned with the bombing of the Irish pub in Glasgow three weeks ago. But I fail to understand how his fanatical defence of the Catholic minority will help the situation.

The problem here in Glasgow and in Northern Ireland where religion continues to split the working class is a very serious one.

On Clydeside and in Northern Ireland the Battle of the Boyne is a glorious milestone in history for Orangemen while Catholics curse it.

This battle fought on 2 July 1690 is generally regarded as disaster for the Irish cause.

Yet that battle was the result of an alliance between William Prince of Orange and Pope Innocent XI.

When news of the defeat of the Irish at the Boyne reached Rome the Vatican was illuminated by order of the new Pope Alexander XIII and special masses offered up in thanks.

This is one example which underlines the gross stupidity of religious bigotry. There are thousands more. Use them.

□ Tommy Gorman, Glasgow.



PEOPLE arrested at Grunwick's on 24 June need witnesses. In particular we would be very glad to hear from the girl taking photos and the amateur photographer bloke with the cine camera shown in these photographs.

Or from anyone who knows them. Please phone 01-986 9321 daytime. □ G McKenzie, London.



INNOCENT-BUT PAY UP

ONE AREA where public expenditure cuts are continuing to bite is in the field of legal rights. I faced a court case recently and was charged with 'threatening behaviour' and 'insulting words' contrary to Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936.

The case arose after I'd attended a meeting called by those well-known lovers of liberty for Grunwick sweatshops, the NAFF, at West Ewell, Surrey.

It was alleged that I had

been shouting abusively and has raised my fists in a highly aggressive manner, with the object of striking some poor, innocent, NAFF steward.

The upright British bobby was on hand, however, to prevent such a dreadful breach of the peace. What the court evidence showed, however, was that the NAFF attract some nasty little thugs who despise democratic rights.

The main prosecution witnesses—2 NAFF-ites and an ultra-right loony—were a shambles.

I could not reasonably be convicted on such flimsy evidence, and was acquitted on both parts of the charge. But there's a sting in the tail. I was ordered to pay £40 as a contribution towards legal costs 'bearing in mind the difficulties of the present economic situation'.

□ Alan Soskin, London.

Information please

WE NEED more information on how we can more effectively combat the Nazi Youth Groups which have sprung up in our schools recently.

We are all fourth and fifth-year pupils and feel too young at the moment to join the SWP. However our lack of years does not dampen our support for the socialist

cause, and we would like very much to help to destroy Tyndall's Bulldog movement.

□ K C, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

PS: Don't take any notice of the silly letters against your badges. I think 'Stop rising food prices—Eat the Rich, makes a marvellous badge.

Late Night revels

ABOUT 11.30pm last Saturday myself and a few mates were walking home from the pub, a pub near Finsbury Park in North London. We saw a most amazing thing.

Two police officers got into a Panda car and promptly backed into another car, making quite a bang.

Our guffaws turned to cries of dismay when, after a cursory inspection, the police returned to the Panda and drove off. I inspected the car myself and noticed that the bumper, while not noticeably dented, had been pushed back and was now touching the paintwork.

In future if I find my car damaged in the morning I won't be so hasty to blame some late night reveller.

□ VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, Tottenham, London N15.

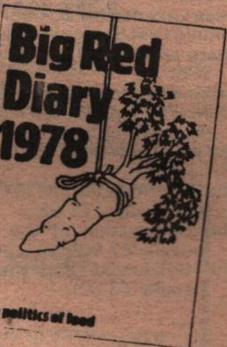
Hole upon hole

Ten million holes have I bored, In this ever-rolling sheet of tin, Long years of work weigh heavy on my back, And I would like to see the finished job, Once before I die.

This belt moves on omnipotent, it has stripped my manhood clean away.

Great wars, disasters, celebrations have all flowed by, As I concentrated on making hole upon hole, The work is steady, soul destroying, But I have soldiered on. Perhaps I am dead already.

□ RW, Harlow, Essex.



Big Red Diary 1978

£1.50 Proceeds to SWP International Dept.

Name

Address

No. required Amount To: SWP International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

LOUD & CLEAR

I'VE JUST brought a record by Delroy Wilson and Dillinger. It's a reggae Disco mix 45, it will not be played on the radio. Although its number 6 in the reggae charts.

Delroy Wilson is a reggae soul singer and the single is called Stop in the Name of Love. A reworking of the old Supremes record. Then Dillinger comes in, toasting, (that's like a DJ talking over the top of a record, but totally committed to the music), turning the song into 'Stop Them In The Name of Love'.

This is how he puts it: We've got to stop them marching in the streets Oh no don't just sit and watch them pass Stop Them In The Name of Love.

The 'B' side lets on who he is talking about. We gotta stop the National Front Black and White Unite And Fight the National Front Black race stand up and stop The National Front. □ Roger Huddle, London

Is America a capitalist paradise?

AT THE HEART OF THE BEAST



San Francisco police stand guard to stop pickets preventing strike-breaking plumbers mending a burst water-main. Baton-carrying police are part of America's industrial scene.

DRIVING THROUGH the steel districts of Pittsburg and along the upper Ohio valley you feel the sheer brute power of US capitalism.

Steel mill after steel mill, some big, some gigantic. A dozen Sheffields rolled into one.

The stink of sulphurous fumes on and off for forty or fifty miles right down to Weirton, Ohio.

And on the other side of the river the coalfields of West Virginia, now the biggest in the US and perhaps the biggest in the world.

Of course we all know that the USA is the world's biggest steel producer, the world's greatest industrial power. But to see it is something else again.

Yet this immensely powerful industry is in desperate trouble. The US steel barons are taking full page advertisements in newspapers all over the country to denounce 'unfair competition' from Japanese, European and 'Third World' steel producers.

The steel barons have succeeded in pulling the leadership of the union, the United Steel Workers of America, enthusiastically behind their demand for protection against the foreigners.

BEATEN

Not surprisingly, since the right wing in the union has just beaten the 'broad left', represented by Ed Sadlowski of Chicago Gary in the election for president of the union.

Sadlowski in office would not be so different—he is the US equivalent of Jack Jones or Hugh Scanlon—but what is different is that people like Sadlowski are beginning to emerge as real alternatives to the dinosaur right-wing of the AFL-CIO for the first time for more than twenty-five years.

In the miners' union, the 'reformers' are actually in office.

But why is US steel in such difficulties? A look at the plants is enough to tell. They are old, often very old. The steel barons have creamed off the profits and used them to invest in all manner of service industries in the USA and abroad. They have run down the industry and now, with a world crisis of overcapacity in steel, they want to solve their problems by protection and screwing the workers—just as in Britain.

Closures, redundancies, higher productivity, more sweat and more accidents are the bosses' aim.

CAPITAL

And not just in steel. I went through Akron, Ohio, rubber and tyre capital of the world, home of Goodyear Firestone.

The plants are just like Fort Dunlop in Birmingham—late nineteenth or first third twentieth century.

DUNCAN HALLAS just back from the US, REPORTS



There has been no really big new investment for many, many years. US capitalism is sick, sick with the same sickness that is sapping the strength of capitalism the world over.

Working class reaction? There is this paradox. Militancy is, in many cases, at a higher level than in Britain. In the coal industry—increasingly recognised as the source of

power as oil and gas runs down, the President of the coal owners has just gone on record as saying that 'anarchy in the industry must and will be smashed.'

Anarchy means unofficial strikes which are frequent and bitterly fought.

BASIC

At the same time basic trade union organisation in industry overall is relatively weak and is declining. Only twenty-three per cent of the workforce is now organised and vicious anti-union employers flourish.

Even in the coal industry the miners at Stearns, Kentucky, have been out for fifteen months to force the Blue Diamond Coal Company to accept a union contract.

The company has a small private army and it has the courts too.

Twenty-seven strikers and a United Mineworkers organiser were put on trial last month for 'kidnapping'. First degree assault and first degree robbery, the charges arising from the shooting of two company guards.

On 17 October state troopers attacked the picket line and arrested 120 pickets.

This is an official strike but the 'reform leadership' of the mineworkers which overthrew the old and corrupt Boyle leadership nearly few years ago will not use the immense power of the union to win it.

In most unions the old corrupt and extremely reactionary union bosses are still in the saddle and the situation is far worse than in the Mineworkers.

How do they hang on? Not, certainly, because US workers love them. Not even because oppositionists are hounded, driven out, beaten and in extreme cases murdered—yes, murdered.

Terror helps of course, but it would not be sufficient by itself.

The central facts about the US labour movement are that the left in the unions which was dominated by the Communist Party, was thoroughly smashed in the cold war atmosphere of the late 1940s and that over twenty years of boom followed that smashing.

CREATED

The combination of the elimination of organised and politically motivated opposition with the 'good times' in purely economic terms anyway, of the fifties and sixties created the atmosphere in which corruption, criminal complacency and outright gangsterism could and did flourish.

The chief dinosaur, 74 years old George Meaney, AFL-CIO president, is a product of that era.

Meaney has learned nothing and forgotten nothing but, under the impact of economic crisis and declining membership, both rank and file militancy and the emergence of newer, slicker,

more 'progressive' bureaucrats are beginning to be evident.

And the left? In the years of cold-war prosperity it withered and became almost completely isolated and impotent. Even the reformist left was reduced to a shadow of its former self.

But a revolutionary left was reborn in the anti-Vietnam war struggle, the student movement and sections of the women's movement—all of them movements on a vastly bigger scale than their British counterparts.

This revolutionary left is fragmented and politically confused.

LAYER

But there is also a large layer of more or less radicalised young people; students, ex-students and young workers. Out of it a sizeable force can be built which can fuse with the native militancy of US workers and lay the foundations for a real revolutionary socialist party in the USA.

Our comrades in the International Socialist Organisation of the US are working to this end.

They face immense difficulties but they have great possibilities too.

And, in the end, their struggle is even more important than ours, because they are fighting in the heart of world capitalism.

□ If you'd like regular news from the US, read the monthly paper of the International Socialist Organisation—also called Socialist Worker. £2 for ten issues from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

THE MAKING OF A CRIMINAL

JIMMY (ITV) might well have been sub-titled 'How to manufacture a criminal.'

A case history of an emotionally disturbed 12-year-old but with a bright, cheeky, lovable face, and how in three years he was turned into an embittered, confused incorrigible criminal. All because it was found not possible to provide for him the

TELEVISION by Ossie Lewis

correct location and treatment at the time it was most needed.

Tossed around from one institution to another, and continually before the court, 'maladjusted' Jimmy is dealt with by a woman peer, who

one is supposed to assume is herself well-adjusted to working-class families and their problems.

A damning indictment of the inadequacy of our emaciated social services.

OPEN DOOR (BBC2) made the case for merging barristers and solicitors into one layer, citing an instance where one man spent a whole year more

in prison than he ought between conviction and appeal—because a solicitor did not have access to the papers held by the barrister.

But why did the viewer have to put up with ex-Lord Chancellor Hailsham dressed in all his finery and grinning like a Cheshire cat? Thankfully a shot of Islington Law Centre introduced us to one of

today's progressive lawyers clad in jeans.

POLITICS NOW (BBC2) was Tory geriatric peers brought in to do a whitewashing job on Churchill's last premiership. He was well in his dotage before obliged to hand over to Eden.

How come professional politicians seem to handle the truth so carelessly?

Attempts to stop meetings

FOUR PUBLIC meetings at which I have spoken in the past two weeks have been moved at the last moment—by publicans who seem to have been harassed by the police.

At Portsmouth, Lincoln, Colchester and Evesham, rooms were booked in the normal way in pubs where SWP meetings have often been held before.

On each occasion, the pub owner cancelled the booking at the last moment, muttering about 'dangers' and 'by-laws'.

It seems that some pressure has been brought to bear on them not to hold the meeting.

Thanks to the initiative of SWP comrades in all four areas, the meetings went ahead elsewhere, a little bit down in size. (Though in Colchester we had a rousing meeting of more than 100).

But the warning is there. When a big public meeting is planned *make absolutely sure of the booking*. It's probably better to book public rooms or halls rather than pubs, since pubs are so volatile and uncountable.

PAUL FOOT

IN BRIEF

SHEFFIELD: 300 students at the university staged a lightning occupation of part of the administrative block last Wednesday to protest at the authorities' insistence on implementing government's racist increase in overseas student fees. The occupation forced a meeting of the university senate council to be postponed.

SHEFFIELD: Workers from Brown Baileys Steel works were picketing their sister factory, Dunsord Hadfield, on Monday.

The strike began when management cut off electricity to the machine shop because they claimed power costs at peak times were too high.

Workers stopped work and demanded average earnings for the time when the power was off. Management locked them out last Friday.

COLCHESTER: Walkouts have become almost a daily event at Ruston Paxman, the GEC factory whose poverty line wages were recently exposed by Socialist Worker.

And on Monday half the shopfloor workers downed tools after six men were suspended.

Cause of the anger is management's refusal to budge on a meagre pay offer.

Asians fire bombed.

BY A strange coincidence, an Asian store in Dartford Kent was fire bombed in the middle of the firemen's strike.

The fire destroyed the living quarters and stock in the shop. As the blazing Molotov cocktail was hurled through the door, it narrowly missed the owner's son, the only person in the shop at the time.

The Dartford and Swanley Chronicle said the attack is 'a mystery'. The police say they are treating the case as arson. No doubt neither of them would think for one minute that the attack was 'racially motivated', or that members of any of the Nazi organisations active in the area might be responsible.

Metropole: we're still out

by John Bruce Metropole Strike Committee

WHILE our strike at the Metropole Hotel in London for a £50 minimum wage is carrying on, negotiations on wages at other London hotels are taking place.

At the Centre Hotels group, last week full time officials from the General and Municipal union accepted a 10 per cent offer and a productivity deal.

Among the full time officials at the negotiations was J. Tilston, the London official who refused to support our strike at the Metropole after encouraging us to take action. The present minimum wage

WILL NUPE JOIN THE FIREMEN AND FIGHT?



PART of the demonstration against the cuts organised in Birmingham on Saturday. Several thousand trade unionists answered the call to join the march made by the official West Midlands Co-ordinating Committee Against the Cuts. More than a hundred

local firemen were enthusiastically greeted when they joined the march.

HOUNSLOW Hospital in West London is still occupied to stop its complete closure. The occupation committee

wants to turn the hospital into a community health centre to offset some of the effects of the health service cuts in the area.

They are appealing for help to carry on with pickets and the occupation. If you can help out please ring them on 01-570 4448.

TENS OF thousands of local authority manual workers have voted to reject a 10 per cent pay offer.

A ballot members of the Public Employees union, NUPE, resulted in 17 out of 18 areas voting against the offer.

But this enormous vote against the offer doesn't mean that anything is likely to happen. The Public Employees union has more members involved than the two other unions, the general and municipal and the transport and general.

But on the national joint council which will decide on what to do the GMWU and the TGWU have more votes than NUPE.

The GMWU is certain to recommend acceptance of the offer, and there is little likelihood that the TGWU will stand out and risk another major strike against the 10 per cent pay limit.

Most likely of all, the three union executives will prefer to see what happens to the firemen and then decide on whether to fight for a serious claim or not.

Kill the trespass law!

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY delegates attending the Conference on Occupations and Criminal Trespass in Birmingham last weekend decided to mobilise in defence of all forms of occupation to prevent any use of the new Criminal Trespass law.

The conference discussed the importance of occupation as a tactic and the ways in which it has been used.

The new law comes into effect this Thursday and threatens with arrest and criminal charges people taking part in any of these forms of action.

The conference called on the TUC and the national executives of trade unions and the Labour Party to campaign against the law. It urged trades councils, as the focus of working-class organisation at local level, to co-ordinate active opposition from all sections of the movement to any use of the law.

Ireland under Labour

by STEVE BERRY

ONE HUNDRED trade union delegates met in London on Saturday to discuss the best way of helping to end British involvement in Ireland.

First speaker Ernie Roberts, former assistant general secretary of the Engineers Union, pointed out that a Labour government was now responsible for the British Army's terror tactics and use of torture in Ireland.

Ken Quinn, an Irish trade unionist and member of the executive of the Workers Union of Ireland told delegates how the presence of the army affected his trade union work.

Bottom

He had been stopped, searched and questioned by the army several times when he was in the north on trade union business.

He brought delegates' attention to a small story in the papers last week which demonstrated the full horror of life in Northern Ireland.

The driver of a car was slumped over the steering wheel following a heart attack. The army were 'suspicious' of him and the car despite the fact that he was well known in the area. They left him there for twelve hours before they blew the car up—with him in it!

The conference took a number of practical steps. A committee was set up to campaign for the working-class movement to use its muscle over Ireland.

METROPOLE DISCO
Monday 5 December
8.00pm until 2.00am
with DRYICE
£1.25 including meal
Price £1.25 for tickets
phone Bonny 01-249 7876

group to settle their annual wage claim (The Grand Metropolitan Group) meet on 5 December and it looks certain that no attempt to break the 10 per cent or achieve a £50 minimum wage for the industry will be made and that the GMWU bureaucracy will make every attempt to isolate the Metropole strike.

□ Support the Metropole strike by attending the Friday mass picket, 6 to 10pm. Messages of support and financial aid should be sent to Strike Treasurer, Mr V Murphy, 98 Fordwich Road, London NW2.

NUT election result

RANK AND File Teacher has improved its vote in the elections for Vice President in the teachers union, the NUT.

The right wing Murphy won with 14,366 votes, followed by Kennedy with 12,447.

Four of the six candidates were head teachers, just the Rank and File candidate and the Socialist Teachers candidate were not.

Dick North for Rank and File Teacher came fifth with 3,728, with well over 1,000 votes more than the Rank and File candidate who stood two years ago in the last election.

The Socialist Teachers Alliance candidate got 2,179 votes.

Strike over

HUNDREDS of Asian workers on strike at Heathrow Airport's catering units returned to work last Thursday. Management and union officials cobbled together one of their famous multi-clause documents after sitting together for hours.

The document concedes nothing but is so ambiguously worded that many of the workers returned to work believing they had made some gains.

The strike was about resisting the racist abuse of white supervisors who refuse to recognise bonafide Asian shop stewards. It was also about whether overtime is compulsory.

Raleigh 30p.c. claim

NEARLY FIVE thousand workers who make bicycle components and toys for Raleigh in Nottingham are on strike for higher wages.

Their claim is for a 30 per cent wage increase. They've been offered 10 per cent.

Production of Princesses and Marinas at Cowley, Oxford is hampered and Chrysler is likely to be affected on Sunbeams and Avengers made at Linwood Schotland.

The strike is now two weeks old. It is one of the largest strikes in the Nottingham area in memory.

□ □

100 WORKERS at Industrial Fasteners, Gloucester have won a date for pay negotiations on a new pay claim after a lightning one and a half day strike.

A victory for women's rights

JENNIFER DAVIS can go home. She lives in a council flat in Hackney, but she hasn't dared to go there for two years. She's been terrified of Nehemiah Johnson, the man who used to live with her.

Jennifer herself got the tenancy of the flat when her parents went to Jamaica two years ago. Nehemiah Johnson became a joint tenant with her.

But before long he started to threaten her and bet her and her little girl Cordelia up.

Violence

When Jennifer tried to get an injunction to stop him molesting her and banning him from the flat, the County Court ruled that the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act, which was passed in 1976 to help battered women, only assisted battered wives. Battered women who weren't wives had no rights at all.

Jennifer and Cordelia fled to a single room in the battered wives' refuge in Chiswick. She appealed against the County Court

decision. This week, with a verdict which will be celebrated by women everywhere, she won a great victory. The Court of Appeal, by three votes to two, overturned two previous court decisions and gave her the right to stay in her home and to ban the batterer from it.

Of course, it's only a start. The judges were very keen to say that 'each case should be conducted on its merits'. And the ruling may still be overturned by the House of Lords. The judges are *not* the friends of working women, black women, black unmarried mothers.

Yet the decision stands as a victory, not for law and order, but for the battle for women's rights over the last ten years.

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Darlington: NUJ sell-out on way?

THE SHADOW of treachery hangs over the longest journalists' strike in history.

On Wednesday National Union of Journalists president Ken Ashton was travelling to Darlington in an attempt to sell yet another 'deal' to 108 journalists, who have been on strike for the closed shop since early June.

On Monday Ashton attended a meeting with the big newspaper and magazine bosses Westminster Press and with print union leaders. Ashton had said not a word about this meeting at the NUJ's executive meeting, which discussed the Darlington strike at length last weekend.

The Westminster Press bosses were adamant. They were prepared to offer more money through a 'self-financing productivity deal', but they insisted on the right to recruit non-NUJ members.

Open

More than that, they refused to give the NUJ sole negotiating rights, thus insisting on their 'right' to open negotiations with the non-TUC scab union, the IOJ.

The meeting produced *not* a single concession on the demand for the closed shop which brought the journalists onto the streets at Darlington on 3 June.

Yet Ashton is still going to Darlington in an attempt to call off the strike.

Dave Nicholson, strike committee member and Darlington branch secretary of the NUJ, said: 'We haven't been out all this time to go back on an offer which might have been made in the first week of the strike. We came out for a closed shop and we intend to stay out for that'.

I'm 'All Right Jack' -how are you?



Transport Workers Union leader Jack Jones shakes hands with the Grunwicks hunger strikers at the TUC last week. A handshake was all they got.

I'M 'ALL RIGHT JACK'. How are you?

It was a handshake from Transport Workers Union general secretary Jack Jones and another violent TUC stab in the back for the Grunwicks strikers last Wednesday.

The TUC General Council effectively buried any prospect of official trade union solidarity action to support the strikers.

The Post Office Workers Union leader, Tom Jackson, said his members would black Grunwicks mail only if they had an indemnity from the General Council for any damages or legal costs.

This the General Council refused to give, and the meeting passed hurriedly to 'next business' without promising or deciding upon a single support action.

Outside Congress House four hunger-strikers from the strike were joined by a solidarity demonstration. The Grunwick strike committee issued a state-

ment that they had been 'betrayed' by the official trade union movement.

This Tuesday a report in The Times that the Grunwicks strike was 'as good as over' was denied by strike leaders. Appeals have gone out for unofficial action to cut off Grunwicks essential services.

When the answers to these appeals have been received, and when the House of Lords hands down its judgement next week on the legality of the ACAS recommendation for trade union recognition, the committee will decide on further action.

EETPU welcome half-hearted

by a delegate at the EETPU Conference

IF YOU read the newspapers you'll have heard that Prime Minister Callaghan got a standing ovation at the Electricians and Plumbers Union conference. He didn't.

Some delegates stood up and applauded him. Most stayed in their seats, silent.

The chairman admonished conference on their treatment of the prime minister. He said it fell below what should be the normal treatment of guest speakers.

Hundreds of rank and file firemen stood outside the hall in the pouring rain to give Callaghan the reception he deserved. When he went to his hotel, members of the rank and file 'Contact' group within the EETPU yelled: 'Pay the Firemen' at him.

His response? 'Is this the way you treat a guest?'

On the two major issues at the conference, the right-wing executive won hands down. Although the union voted against wage restraint, the executive motion 'recognised the difficulties experienced by a Labour government in managing the economy'.

The second major issue was the election of officials. The executive took it seriously and passed papers to all delegates giving estimated costs of

elections. General secretary Frank Chapple also made a personal plea to delegates to accept the executive's position against elections.

The executive won by a substantial majority.

They also won a motion upholding the ban on Communist Party members holding union office. Conference also agreed to do away with the Northern Ireland seat on the executive.

The best thing about the conference was the size of the opposition organised by the rank and file Contact group. Large numbers of angry electricians mingled in a series of demonstrations outside the hall—lift engineers on strike, electricians and plumbers from sites which had struck for the day.

□ Socialist Worker was banned from reporting the EETPU Conference by the general secretary, Frank Chapple. While the Daily Express and the Sun were free to attend, no credentials were granted to us.

The general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, Ken Ashton, sent a telegram to Chapple demanding that Socialist Worker be admitted. The telegram was ignored.

Danger for builders

by BOBBY BURDS, (EETPU)

THE CONSTRUCTION industry has been for years one of the most militant sections of the working class.

This situation could change if the government, bosses and the full-time officials implement the recommendations of the National Economic Development Organisation report on the construction industry.

The report has upset many rank and file trade unionists

for its attack on the lazy, unproductive British construction workers compared with American and European workers.

At one of the latest meetings attended by government officials, bosses, full-time officials and the North West contracting shop stewards, we got some idea of what was in store for us.

From the start, the bosses who did most of the talking from the platform, tried to cover up their incompetence in recruiting so few apprentices to the industry—only 23 this year—and also showed no signs of improving conditions on site, which they promised to do early this year.

But most surprising statement came from John Baldwin, general secretary of the CEU, the construction section of the Engineering Union, who was part of the working party on the report.

When confronted for not disclosing enough information about the proposed National agreement he said: 'I do not agree that we should take a sounding from the sites. Management are there to manage and we are here to lead and we will negotiate and take it to our respective executives and then make a decision'.

The meeting itself did not give concrete proposals of how to improve conditions on sites or anything about the decasualisation of labour and a training programme for apprentices.

There was also no indication of what the new basic rate will be under the proposed national agreement. All that was said was that the lads would only be able to earn 25 per cent of the new rate in a productivity bonus.

When the meeting was finished there was a nasty smell of a sell-out on the way and the smashing of stewards' organisation on sites.

WITNESSES NEEDED

Were you present on the Grunwick's picket line on Monday 7 November as pictured in the Socialist Worker.

If so I need your help. I'm the person in the foreground getting my hair pulled by the police. I was later arrested and charged.

I would be most grateful if anyone with information, would contact Farrell on 01-969 7055.



News strike is off

JOURNALISTS on all weekly papers in Scotland were set to strike from last Monday for a £20-a-week pay claim—until the NUJ executive went into action.

The executive voted to postpone the action and go for further talks with the management when they met in London at the weekend, even though there is no money on the table.

Two weeks ago 90 per cent of the journalists voted in

favour of striking for the claim. But after a concerted management campaign and a new vote, ordered by the NUJ leadership, not surprisingly support dropped slightly.

Not all journalists are the well-paid people many workers think they are. A senior journalist with several years experience can expect to take home £40 a week. Younger journalists 'live' on half that.

Mirror locks out journalists

by MIKE KEEN
Daily Mirror NUJ Chapel Committee

LONDON: 440 journalists have been sacked by the management of Mirror Group Newspapers after launching industrial action to back up a pay claim.

The journalists are employed on the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, Sunday People and Reveille. They are fighting for rises of £3,000 a year.

They are refusing to accept the dismissal notices and have continued to report for work normally.

While these journalists are among the country's top wage earners, it is important for all workers that they achieve their aims so that all pay levels are pushed up.

They were sacked after working to rule and holding meetings in work time.

The management is well able to pay the rises being sought. In the first half year of 1977 the Mirror Group made £5¼ million profit and it would cost less than £1 million a year to meet the claim in full.

STUDENTS' STAFF ON STRIKE

THE note pinned to the door of the National Union of Students offices at King's Cross, London, last Friday, read: 'National Student Competition: Who are the worst employers you've ever had? Entries from NUS Staff not welcome.'

For the first time in the union's history, NUS staff had come out on strike over their pay claim.

The staff, members of the Transport and General Workers Union, picketed the headquarters. By 5pm the executive had backed down and agreed to most of the pay demands.

But the worst event of the day occurred in the early afternoon when some executive members crossed the picket line carrying bundles of documents for the NUS meeting.

The NUS president, Sue Slipman, who also happens to be a member of the national executive of the Communist Party, elbowed her way to the door. She then kicked out at the pickets, hitting the union convenor.

Lewisham: Did you see this?

JOHN LOCKWOOD, an unemployed teacher from Deptford in South London, has been jailed for six months for allegedly assaulting a policeman at the anti-Nazi demonstration in Lewisham on August 13.

He is out on appeal and needs witnesses to prove his case that the police evidence against him is sheer fabrication.

The police alleged in

Lambeth Magistrates Court last week that John single-handedly attacked a group of 30 policemen—kicking one in the groin.

The officer concerned has not come forward and was still unknown at the time of the court hearing.

On the other hand John himself sustained injury at the hands of the police. A written doctor's statement described bruising on the back of the legs

as the result of being kicked.

John was kicked down Lewisham High Street by the police along with three or four others at about 5pm near to the hospital at the far end of Lewisham High Street □ Those who were with John at the time or anyone else who saw the incident should contact Socialist Worker immediately phone 01-739 6361 or 0185 ask for John Rose.

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PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10P

TYNESIDE DEFIES WAGES BLACKMAIL

WAR HAS BEEN declared by the government on the lowest paid shipyard workers in the country.

In an astonishing move last week, the newly-nationalised, government-controlled British Shipbuilders told 1700 outfitters at the Swan Hunter yards in Tyneside to call off an overtime ban or lose the order for Polish ships.

At a mass meeting on Tuesday the workers voted to continue their ban against their stewards' advice.

The overtime ban was declared as soon as Phase 2 of the government's pay policy came to an end in August.

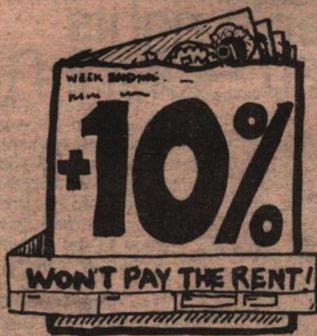
It is in support of a parity claim of £7 a week, which, the outfitters claim, would bring their pay in line with the boiler-makers' union members.

Recieved

The case for the outfitters is overwhelming. In June 1975, the boiler-makers received a substantial pay rise.

Swan Hunters agreed to pay the outfitters a corresponding increase. But in July 1975, the Government pay policy came down like a hammer, and smashed the outfitters' settlement.

The outfitters tolerated the government



policies—and the suspension of their rise—for two years. When the pay policy ended, they banned overtime to enforce their suspended rise—only to be told that the rise broke the 10 per cent guidelines!

This ban on overtime offends against the government's new 'charter' for the shipyards.

The 'charter' amounts to a castration of shop floor organisation in the yards.

It means, effectively, a ban on all strikes and industrial action over disputes which have not gone through procedure.

It means 'flexibility' which will mean swapping jobs and more accidents.

It means the acceptance of wage guidelines for as long as the government wants to set them.

This snivelling surrender has already been signed by shop stewards such as

Jimmy Airlie, in the main yards in the Clyde—and it is to the Clyde that British shipbuilders intend to divert that part of the Polish order previously committed to Swan Hunters.

To show they mean business, British Shipbuilders issued 90-day redundancy notices to 800 workers at Swans as soon as the outfitters decided to maintain their overtime ban.

Elsewhere

There is little or no work in Swan Hunters and, if the Polish order goes elsewhere, there could be up to 5000 shipyard and engineering workers on the dole by the middle of next year.

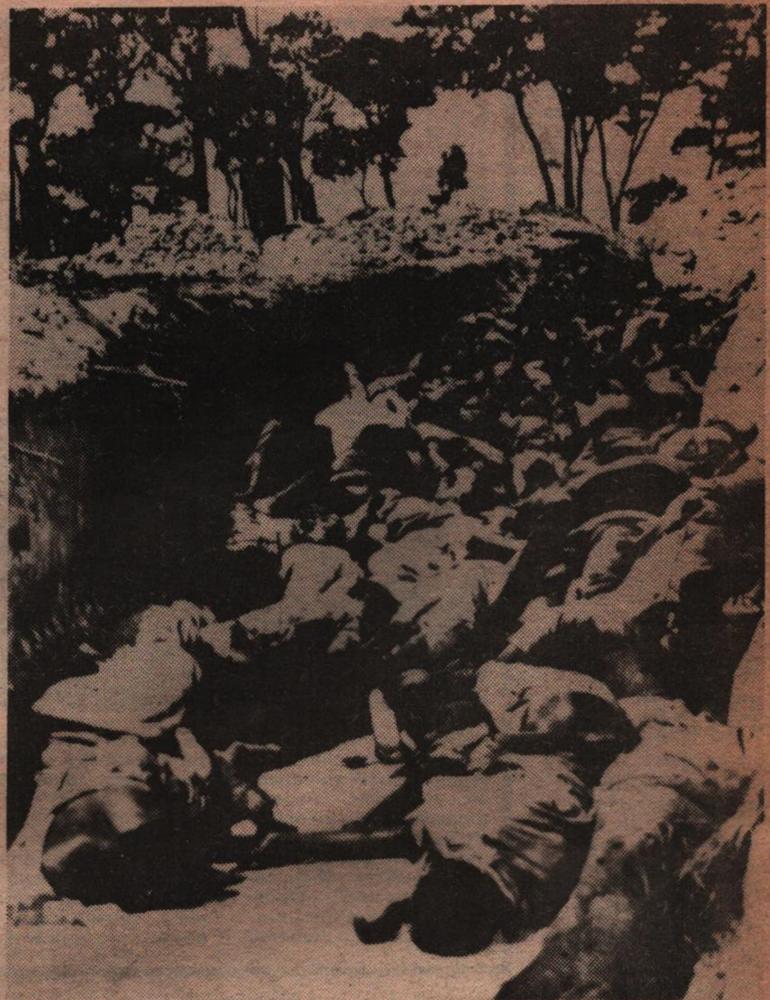
As one Tyneside shop steward put it: 'We keep thinking that the government can't sink any lower. But they've sunk to new depths in the Swan Hunter dispute'.

If they want to save their jobs, they must occupy the entire yard as the Clyde yards were occupied in 1971, 250 OUTFITTERS at Smith Dock, Haverton Hill, Teeside, came out on a one-day strike on Tuesday in solidarity with outfitters at Swan Hunters.

Their shop steward said that they would never accept any of the Polish ships unless the outfitters got parity with the boiler-makers.

Harry Wilkinson, AUEW official at Sunderland, said that the work due for the Tyne would never be accepted either at Austin Pickersgill or at Sunderland Shipbuilders.

Rhodesia's bloodiest massacre



THE LAST great massacre carried out by Smith's troops at Nyazonia in Mozambique last year. Then also Smith claimed that 'hundreds of guerrillas' had been killed.

The picture shows a mass grave of civilians. The doctor in Chimoio said on Monday, 'this is even worse than Nyazonia. Smith will pay for it.'

IAN SMITH, the Rhodesian leader, claimed last Thursday that he was prepared to give 'one man, one vote' to the country's six million blacks, who outnumber his white racist supporters 20 to one.

But even as he was being applauded by the British press for this 'offer', his troops were engaged in wholesale murder.

Since then Smith has boasted that 'twelve hundred guerrillas' have been killed, as his troops raided 'guerrilla training camps' across the border in Mozambique.

Reporters on the spot tell a rather different story.

According to Derek Ingram, whose report was published in The Times on Tuesday, a hundred children between the ages of 11 and 14 were buried in a mass grave at the Chimoio camp.

The camp contained 2,500 people, who had fled from the ferocity of Smith's troops in Rhodesia, many of them women and children.

Bombing

Smith's planes began by bombing the camp.

Then Paratroops landed and, according to eye witnesses, 'began shooting all over the place and fired at children who had been at their classes when the attack began. The camp clinic was shot up and few of the patients got away.'

'People were running in all directions, and the helicopters fired at random.' According to the Mozam-

REPORT BY CHRIS HARMAN

bique press, even now there is 'a horrifying sight, with pieces of bodies scattered everywhere'.

The Rhodesian government have claimed this as a 'successful military operation', and its words have been reported by much of the British press, radio and TV.

One wonders whether that would have been the tone of their reports if the freedom fighters had broken into a white town inside Rhodesia and bombed and machine gunned a thousand white women and children. Or would we not then have heard about 'blood-thirsty savages'?

Of course, among the dead were some armed freedom fighters. But talk of 1200 dead 'guerrillas' has to be treated as being about as truthful as the American army's claim in Vietnam that it had killed 'hundreds of Vietcong' every time it shot up or bombed a peasant village.

Smith sees the raid as part-and-parcel of his attempt to persuade middle class black leaders to come to an agreement with him.

This might give black people the vote, but would leave control of the country's armed forces and wealth in the hands of Smith's white backers.

Two of the 'moderate' black leaders, Sithole and Muzorewa, have already

said they would like to cooperate with Smith. But despite lying press claims that they have the support of 'eighty per cent of the black population', Smith knows that most black Zimbabweans know that freedom can only come from armed struggle.

That is why he attempted last week to wipe out the chunk of the guerrilla army based in Mozambique.

At the same time, he has been trying to split off the leaders of the other part of the guerrilla army, based in Zambia. According to the Sunday Times, when Ian Smith flew to Zambia for secret talks with the country's president, Kaunda, the leader of that section of the guerrilla forces, Nkomo, 'was waiting in an adjacent room'.

Murders

But if Smith is confident after last week's murders, it is a misplaced confidence. Any 'moderate' African leader who takes his limp hand now will feel a red clammy substance oozing in their palms and on the fingers.

Smith has shown for every African to see, that by 'majority rule' he means the continued right of the armed forces of the white minority to massacre the majority at will.

Smith may have wiped out freedom fighters, women and children at a base training camp in Mozambique. But he has done nothing to stop thousands of freedom fighters moving at will inside Rhodesia itself, as the rainy season ideal for guerrilla war approaches. Chimoio will be avenged.



DAY OF ACTION FOR FIREMEN 7 DECEMBER