

# BIG FLAME

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Paper of the Revolutionary Socialist Organisation Big Flame

8p

# IT'S THE RICH WHO ARE THE SCROUNGERS

**FULL STORY PAGE 5**

**...AND THEY HAVE THE NERVE TO SLANDER US!**

Their aim is to get us so het up about the Welfare scroungers, so divided amongst ourselves that we won't notice that for some people life goes on as before, crisis or no crisis.

### Tax evasion

Three weeks ago a conference on Tax Avoidance for Private Companies and their Directors was held at the London Hilton. Imagine the headlines if someone had run a conference on how to de-fraud the Social Security!

High Street fraud: Department of Employment investigators have just carried out a low-pay blitz in several cities, covering mainly shop-work and catering. Nearly one-third of employers are *illegally* underpaying their workers.

Only one in ten of the unemployed receive benefits near or higher than their income would be if they were in work, according to the head of the Supplementary Benefits Commission. Only workers with at least four children could be in that position. And that means one out of every 35 claimants.

### Serious

A far more serious problem than the tiny number of people who over claim is the thousands who don't get what they are entitled to.

\*550,000 pensioners eligible for supplementary benefits don't claim them.

\*70-80% of tenants in furnished and unfurnished accommodation who are eligible for rent allowances don't claim them.

### Social Services

In the U.K., capital expenditure in the social services in 1975 was 25% less than in 1972 and lower than in any year since 1966. It is planned to be reduced in the current year and further cuts are to be made in 1977. Countries like Germany and France spend more proportionally on social services than the U.K. does - yet they have a faster rate of economic growth and less unemployment. It is incorrect to say that spending on the social services is the cause of our economic problems.

## LETTER FROM THE MIRROR

IT seems strange that the hunt attended by Prince Charles and Princess Anne should attract such a tremendous following of the foxhunting fraternity on a Monday—a working day.

I hope Prince Philip had none of these people in mind when he said men of enterprise and hard work should prosper. — D. Wilkinson, Bury, Lancs.



Charles Windsor at play.



## HOSPITAL OCCUPIED IN MANCHESTER

The fight against cuts - page 3

## WOMEN'S AID IS VITAL

BEFORE actually living in a refuge for battered women, my knowledge of the Womens Liberation movement was very limited and even cynical.

'Womens Libbers', to me, were middle class women with excessive freedom compared to my way of life. The burning of bras seemed like a childish ritual of a small sect of women who had little else to do anyway.

When I eventually mustered up the courage and left my husband, I went to live in the Leeds Refuge. Some of the workers there belong to various womens groups and this is where my interest was drawn to Womens Lib.

While I was living with my husband, I had practically no social life. It was very difficult to converse with people, especially on anything other than the 'kitchen sink', rising food prices, or the next school holidays.

After about a month of living in the refuge I found I was feeling better. After two months I could find the courage to go out of the refuge and mix with people. At this time it was only women I could talk to. I began going to the womens group meetings and found new friends and confidence in myself.

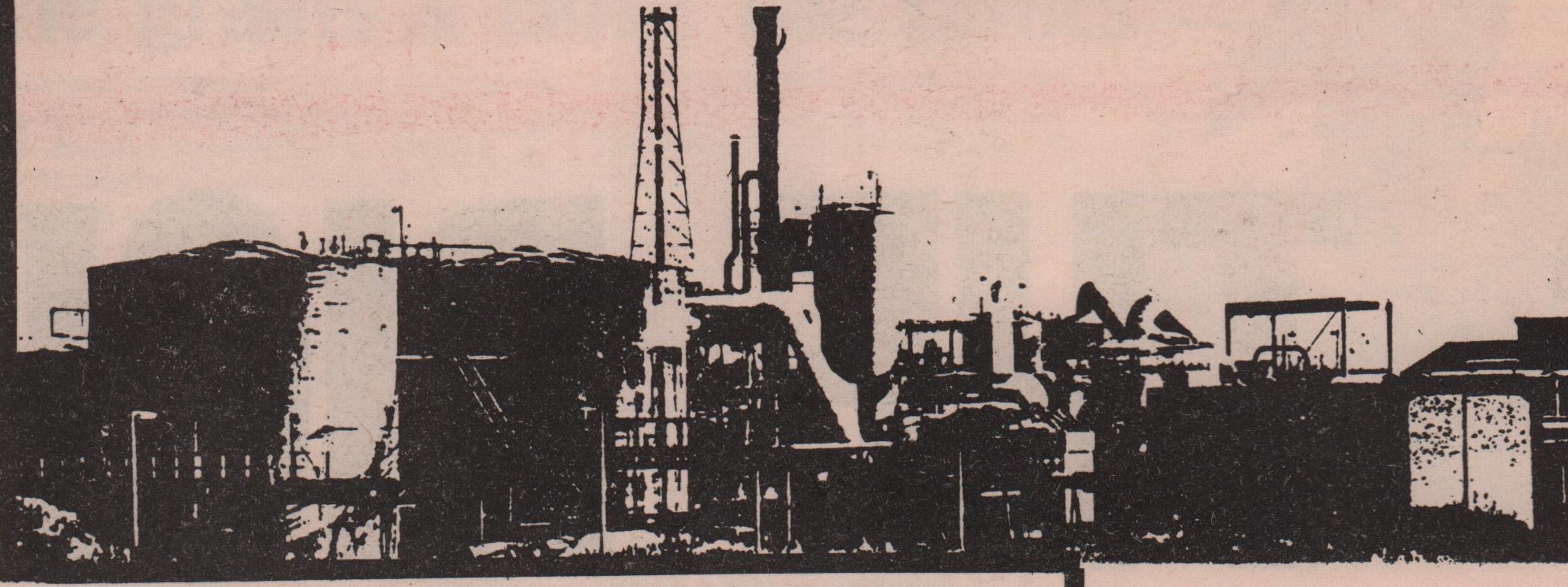
The womens group meetings were held in individual houses. The atmosphere was very informal. A topic was chosen each week for discussion. Quite a few of the womens group were on the Women's Aid Committee and more joined it after they heard the personal experiences of myself and other battered women.

I think Womens Aid is the most active part of Womens Liberation, but it isn't the part that makes the headlines. It brings womens liberation to the underprivileged working class housewife to whom it is vital.

Josie Hackett  
Leeds Womens Refuge

# Tenants step up fight to close acid plant

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS OF THIS LARGE ORDER (SEVERAL MILLION POUNDS) FOR THE LIMITED BENEFIT OF RELATIVELY FEW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WOULD NOT BE DEFENSIBLE.' — Bruce Whittaker, public inquiry inspector's report.



ore the health and safety of local people.

The inspector stated boldly that 'initial weaknesses and shortcomings' have been overcome and that the plant 'is now up to modern standards...'. He added that the plant 'should now operate without giving rise to incidents which would justify complaint from the public.'

**BUT THE FACTS GIVE THE LIE TO THE INSPECTOR'S WHITE-WASH**

**SINCE MARCH—**

\* Several workers have received hospital treatment for burns.

\* Seven workers from nearby British Sidac factory have received compensation from Leathers of between £70 and £120 for damage caused to their cars by acid fallout.

\* One man has been killed and another badly injured in one acid plant accident.

On November 19th an inquest at Whiston, near St. Helens, was told how a corroded pipe carrying nearly full strength sulphuric acid at Leathers had fractured and sprayed acid over shift supervisor Bill Delaney, a married man with two young children from Haydock, and plant operator Ian Twist.

Bill Delaney, with a lifetime's experience in the chemical industry, died four days later in Whiston hospital. He suffered extensive burns covering 30% of his body. Ian Twist survived, but still carries the scars.

Government experts told the inquest that the pipe, dating from when the plant was built in 1970, had been corroding for years and 'complete failure' could have

happened at any time. The inquest jury returned a verdict of 'misadventure'. The coroner told them they could make no statement on civil liability on the July accident.

## A NATIONAL SERIES OF BIG FLAME MEETINGS WITH Unemployment - the gaffers' strike A NEW FILM BY THE NEWSREEL COLLECTIVE

THE FIGHT against unemployment is long and hard and at the moment is, despite increasing resistance, a losing one.

In many places there have been militant struggles in workplaces, especially throughout the public sector. There are many people who are active in the struggle but what is lacking

**DATES OF MEETINGS**

**BRADFORD**  
Monday December 6th 2pm  
Canterbury Estate Community Centre, Bradford.

**LEEDS**  
Tuesday December 7th 12 noon  
Marquis Pub, Eastgate.

**LEEDS**  
Tuesday December 7th 2pm  
The Harehills Housing Aid, 188 Roundhay Road, Leeds

is a strategy and a plan of action to carry it forward.

Big Flame hopes that the film tour will bring militants together to discuss the way forward. It is through this united action that we will be able to build a stronger working class movement against unemployment and the system that creates it.

**LEEDS**  
Tuesday December 7th 8pm  
The Trades Club, Savile Mount, Leeds 7.

There will be more showings in Leeds, ring 620 535 for details

**MANCHESTER**  
Thursday January 13th 7.30pm  
Unicorn Hotel, Church Street, Manchester 4 (behind Piccadilly Gardens)

See the next edition for details of showing in your area.

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Peter Shore — who endorsed the enquiry inspector's report — has condemned thousands of residents in the East Sutton area of St. Helens to live in daily fear of acid fallout and pollution.

The council, which had blundered several years ago in giving Leathers Chemicals planning permission to operate a sulphuric acid factory at Lancoats Lane, had been pressurised by residents into making a closure order.

Leathers appealed and there was a public inquiry in January, at which residents produced evidence of the danger to health and safety caused by acid fallout, mist and spray.

But the inquiry inspector's report, published in October, recommended that the sulphuric acid plant should stay in business. His two main reasons were: it would damage the national economy to close the plant because there are very few suppliers of sulphuric acid, and the cost of closure compensation would be too high.

The residents are carrying on the fight. Their association in East Sutton claims that the inspector and Peter Shore are putting money be-

## IN HUYTON A LABOUR COUNCIL IS IMPLEMENTING A HARSH CUTS POLICY ON HOUSING, DIRECT WORKS AND EDUCATION BUT RESISTANCE IS GROWING TO THE RUNDOWN IN SERVICES



Burnt out and empty for five years while waiting list grows

THIS ISN'T Belfast but Bruton Road, Huyton, Merseyside. These are just a few of the hundreds of burnt out houses in a town where there is along waiting list for houses. One of them has been empty for five years.

The Council claims that the houses are standing empty waiting for a modernisation scheme next year. But tenants are sceptical. There is no guarantee that the Council will have the money (or the desire) to implement the scheme by the time next year arrives.

Mrs. Margaret Friel lives at 38 Bruton Rd — all the time! She can't leave the house because the front door won't shut. The Council won't repair it.

Tenants all over Huyton face the same problems. They pay their rent but they still have to live next door to rat-infested shells, and they can't get repairs done.

Recently, tenants from the hardest hit areas formed an association. Their first action was to turn up with placards to the Labour Club

where a senior councillor holds his surgery. Taken aback, he was forced to meet them in groups and to promise to carry out some urgent repairs.

But that has no impact on the real problem, the Council's refusal to maintain its property.

Now some tenants are talking about taking more drastic action. Picketing the councillors' homes or taking out an injunction to force them to fulfill their obligations as landlords.

After all, they can't claim there isn't any money. There is enough for many councillors to be claiming thousands in expenses.

There's also enough to engage private builders to carry out the odd repair at the same time as the direct works department is being run down.

AT LONGVIEW Juniors the children take an umbrella to school on rainy days. Then, when they get into the pre-fab classrooms they put them up, to ward off the constant drip-drip through the leaking roofs.

And they can't take off their coats because the quaint log-cabin type stoves won't keep them warm in the winter. Even in the few huts where all the windows are intact.

Outside, the toilets are so primitive that many kids refuse to use them. The drains overflow: last year there was a hepatitis epidemic, this year there are signs of scarlet fever taking hold.

Longview is one of the worst schools in Huyton. But many others are suffering from the same cuts. Nearby at Parkway, teachers are following the NUT policy by not standing in for teachers who are off for 3 days or more.

The Council refuses to employ extra teachers from the dole queues, so the kids have to be sent home. Is it any wonder that educational standards are falling?

# WHERE THE KIDS TAKE UMBRELLAS TO LESSONS

CUTS IN Local Authority spending CAN be beaten. This is the lesson of a two month strike of Direct Workers in Knowsley, Merseyside.

As reported in last month's Big Flame. Knowsley Council have been systematically reducing the number of workers employed on council property repairs. Despite an already growing backlog of over 20,000 repairs! The last straw came when the council announced a new payment scheme which would reduce the men's pay by up to £12 a week!

After striking in protest, the workers found themselves facing a smear campaign in the local press and on the radio. Direct workers were portrayed as lazy money-grabbers who rarely completed repairs but who 'fiddled' excess bonus payments. The Labour Council quite deliberately attempted to stir up the anger of local council tenants who were already fuming over the scandalous number of empty houses and uncompleted repairs at a time of rising rents.

But the council's campaign failed. The Direct workers refused to stay at home and wait helplessly for the end of the strike. First, they went to the newly-formed tenants association in the Huyton area, explaining that the slow rate of repairs was due to the inadequate number of workers, NOT to the strike.

Later, leaflets supporting the strike were distributed door to door by the workers and tenants.

After two months the council has caved in. The old bonus scheme will remain until at least March next year. And no more redundancies will be demanded until then. In fact, in the 6-point back to work agreement, only one point could be considered to the workers' disadvantage.

Of course, this is only a temporary victory and the attacks may be resumed next March. But at least it shows that determined action can bring results in the fight against cuts.

"They have been cutting from the bottom as always. It comes down to us."  
 "They should cut from the top. We work the hardest. What we get a week wouldn't keep the Lords in birdseed."

# FIGHTING THE CUTS

THE DEMONSTRATION on November 17th against the government cuts in social expenditure showed how strong the feeling is in the working class that the welfare state must be defended. The importance of large militant demos is that they make clear to people in struggle all over the country that their local struggle is part of a national movement. The strength of the national movement lies in the strength of the local struggles.

When the union leadership accepted the Social Contract 'offered' by the government, it did so on the condition that there would be no increase in unemployment and no cuts in social expenditure. It is only recently, when the effect of the cuts is biting, that people are beginning to understand that the social contract was a complete fraud.

To try and divide the working-class, the government is putting across the argument that cuts in spending will mean more investment, and so more jobs, in industry. But this is usually not the case. Capitalists have found it more profitable to invest abroad, or in property and art. Even when they do invest in this country, it usually means fewer jobs as workers are replaced by new machines.

The giant size of the Nov 17th demo has clearly surprised the government. They'll have to weigh up between the wishes of the IMF and the struggles of public sector workers when planning large-scale cutbacks. And they can't afford a situation where the union leadership loses control of the rank and file.

IN FUTURE it's going to be up to the workers to push the unions leadership to refuse the cuts. After the demo it's quite likely the the organisers, who were the full time officials of NUPE, COHSE etc. will sit back and say "we've done our bit now". It's up to everyone where they work or live to organise day to day against the cuts.

## 80,000 ON THE STREETS

by a Liverpool Hospital worker

THERE SEEMED to be more people in Hyde Park than I'd ever seen in my life. Some said nearly as many as the great demonstration against the Industrial Relations Act. Others said 60-80,000.

Euston Station was overrun with women and men with stickers, badges and banners against the cuts. Women sang for the benefit of waiting telly men. We spilled out of the station and into the demonstration in support of the workers who are occupying the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for women against its planned closure. This demonstration snaked all the way up Oxford Street, past bemused, but mainly sympathetic shoppers and tourists.

At Marble Arch we got into the park, and it was chaos; thousands and thousands of people with banners made specially for the occasion and trade union

banners from all the public sector unions and also the Miners, the AUEW, the GPO etc. They came from all over - Glasgow, Cornwall, Wales, the lot. There were large contingents of hospital workers, mainly women, local authority workers. Schools and colleges closed in London because caretakers teachers and pupils came on the demo. And there were more papers for sale, pamphlets and leaflets than anyone could cope with. There were bands but we never heard them; someone said they were great. The march, which took over three hours to pass and was 3 1/2 miles long, went miles down the deadest parts of London to get to Parliament. There was hardly anyone on the route and there was only token coverage in the papers and on the Radio and TV. The Mirror said it was a 'damp squib'. Some squib!

## BURY: Occupation GLASGOW: 24 Hour stoppage

The Bury Action Group has won the struggle to keep open the Hillcrest Hostel after an eight week occupation. The Area Health Authority has agreed to take it over from the Council. The Sefton Street Day Centre, also threatened with closure will be the starting point for a demo on December 4th at 12 o'clock.

## NOTTINGHAM

Bus workers from the 5/92 T&GWU branch have been handing out to passengers a leaflet which makes clear their opposition to the cuts in the bus service. The leaflet explains the details of the cuts and says to the passengers 'We hope that you will join us, the busmen, in objecting to and preventing the proposed massive cuts.....'

## LIVERPOOL

Instead of going on the march, hospital workers at several hospitals decided to give management a surprise - they stopped all meals to staff for the day!

## LEEDS: 'I won't count the carrots'

Carrot counting is the management's latest way of solving their crisis at our expense. But the canteen workers in a Dewsbury school, have refused to let the kids health suffer by cutting back on their dinners. One woman said: "I've been told to count the number of carrots on each plate, and I've said NO. We're going to give the children what we've always given them. If we run out, they'll have to give us more - that's all there is to it."

Members of NUPE and GMWU have had informal discussions about one day walk-outs to protest against these food cuts next term. These same workers were among the northern contingents to the Cuts demo, so there's no doubt about their commitment to militant action.

## Nursery nurses

THE CUTTING machine rolls on, this time with even more bureaucratic confusion than usual. The twelve nursery nurses at St James Hospital in Leeds occupied the boardroom for 24 hours on 23rd November against management's proposal to cut their wages by £6-12 a week.

The story goes back two years, when the bureaucratic nightmare of metropolitan reorganisation was implemented. To save money, Leeds council tried to 'harmonise' wages of nursery nurses in both the old county and the old city areas. They proposed to reduce the wages paid to the county nurses to the level of the city nurses. Their idea of harmony was badly shaken by the massive protests from nursery nurses, who maintained their existing levels of pay.

Now the local authority has realised that it has paid the St James nursery nurses at the wrong rate for the last two years, and demanded the money back. After a work to rule, a one day strike and now the boardroom occupation, management has agreed to write off the £1,000 they say the nurses owe - but they are going ahead with the wage cut.

This is part of their attempt to close down the nursery altogether. Already they have doubled the fees (from £1 to £1.95 a day), so that hospital workers who use the nursery can no longer afford to pay. Instead of the long waiting lists, there are now vacancies in the nursery. With its usual distorted logic, management says there is no demand for a nursery.

But the nursery nurses, fully supported by NUPE, have shown that they won't take this lying down. Tim South, NUPE shop steward, told Big Flame:

"It's a straight fight against the cuts. It's not a mistaken pay scale - it's a decision by the Health Authority to cut wages. If they succeed, the nursery will close in a matter of months." One of the workers added: "We'll fight to the end."

## For a working class health service

Health is a right not a luxury. Cut the profiteers (like the profits of the drug companies, medical supply companies and building contractors). Not the workers and patients. End all private practice.

No to increased workload for no extra pay. And no to increased housework for no pay at all.

Wages: we want a higher basic rate. All benefits inside the basic. We want a 35 hour week with no loss of pay, and five weeks holiday.

Union branches and joint union committees and action committees controlled by and looking after the needs of working class people. Regular meetings, leaflets and bulletins.

For a Health Service controlled by the working class for our needs. From a Big Flame Hospital Workers Leaflet

## MANCHESTER Hospital occupied

"We have been for a long time dissatisfied with the porters and theatre technicians in our theatres. These people only work a very short day....and we can get along without them."

It has nothing to do with the fact that they disappeared to London the day before. I have been watching them for the past six months. They sit most of the day reading newspapers.

Throughout the hospital people are getting non-cooperation and rudeness from the ancillary staff. They assume they know a lot but they know nothing."

With these words, Bruce Torrance, consultant at the Manchester Royal Infirmary banned a theatre porter and two theatre technicians from his theatre. This happened on the 18th November - Torrance had been aggravated by the demo in London the day before which had included a large contingent from the M.R.I.

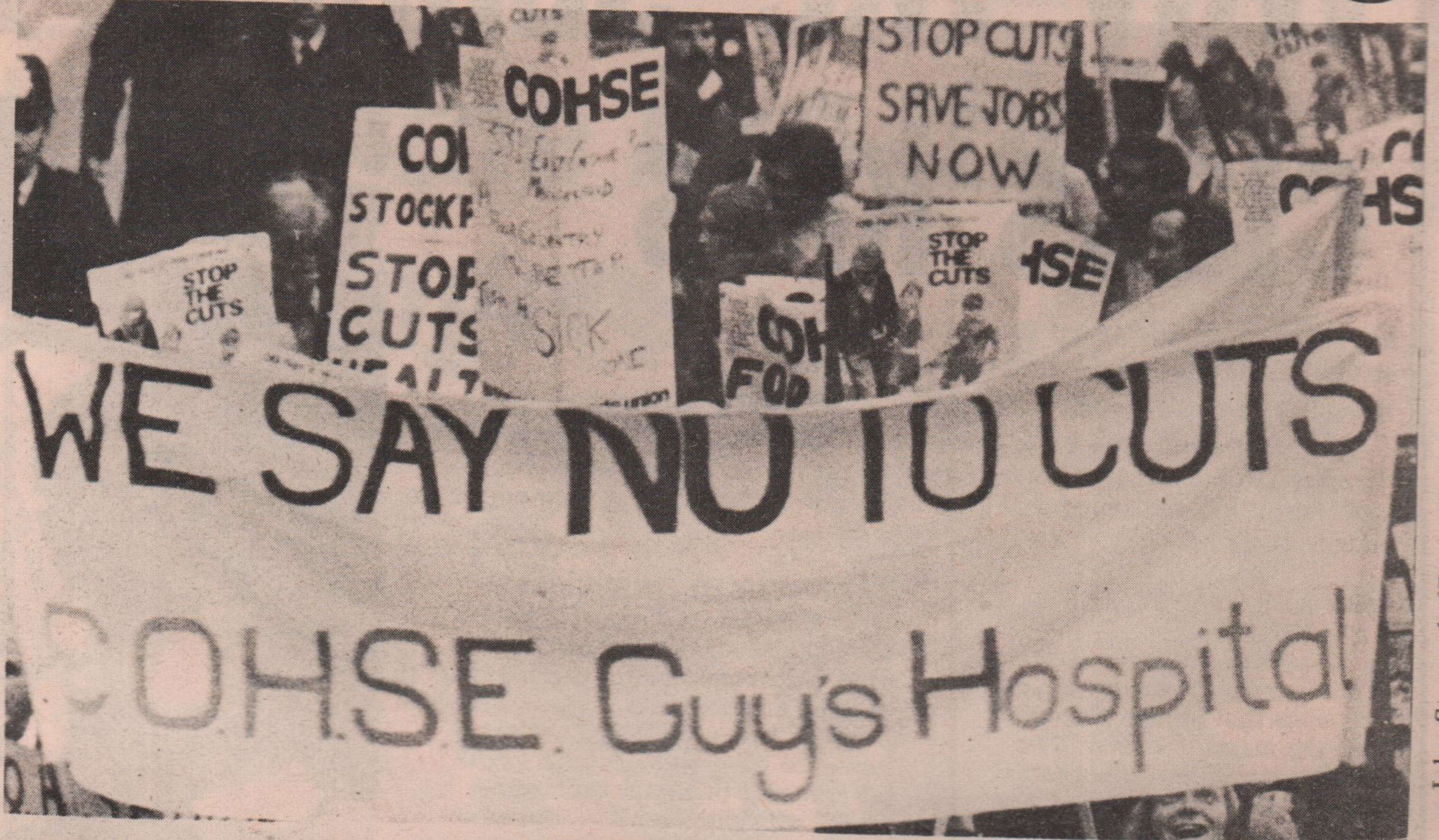
Torrance is an unpleasant, arrogant man who thinks that consultant surgeons like himself are destined to rule over the 'masses' of ancillary workers. He spends much of his time operating on private patients and over the years has acquired a yacht and a Rolls-Royce. He is hated by workers all over the hospital because of his rudeness and the way he treats NHS patients. Often he postpones operating on NHS patients to do a private patient and on one occasion he left a NHS patient in the middle of an operation.

It was quite obvious that the workers were not prepared to accept Torrance's provocation and the next day their NUPE branch held a mass meeting attended by over 250 workers. The meeting decided on an immediate occupation of the hospital's admin. block which was carried out by over 200 workers who then occupied Torrance's private consulting rooms - Torrance had had the good sense to flee minutes before.

All this militancy impressed the management who are in a difficult situation - they are prepared to accept the workers' demands, but they don't want to risk aggro with the consultants.

Last week management got Torrance to apologise for his remarks and they are bringing forward a scheme of job rotation inside the hospital in the hope that this will mean that no one worker will have to work under Torrance for long.

This incident, which follows an incident in Rochdale where a consultant attacked a porter with a stretcher pole is a clear indication of the class tensions that exist inside the NHS. Hospital workers all over the country are making it clear that they are not prepared to accept the arrogance of consultants - many of whom are not concerned about the health of those patients who do not choose to go private. THE SOONER PART-TIME CONSULTANTS AND PRIVATE PATIENTS ARE KICKED OUT OF THE NHS, THE BETTER.



John Sturrock (Report)



17th Nov march from the EGA Women's Hospital now under a workers' work-in.

CALLAGHAN SAYS THE SCHOOLS ARE DOING A BAD JOB...BUT HE WANTS TO CUT EDUCATION SPENDING!

# Why the schools fail working class kids

Mr Callaghan, self-styled expert on education, has told us that our education system is just not good enough! TOO RIGHT! It has never been good enough.

He has joined the Black Paper brigade of right wing educationalists in saying that standards in our schools are falling. Yet his government, a Labour government has demanded that local education authorities cut their education budgets still further.

## WHY ARE STANDARDS FALLING?

He says that the country is not getting the scientists and engineers that industry needs. And the reason for this? Too many teachers have abandoned the old-fashioned methods like the Three R's and the cane! He attacks progressive education as the cause of the rot.

## WHAT IS PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION?

Progressive education is a more child centred approach to teaching than the traditional one. It means more freedom of choice and a chance for children to learn through their own experience. That's the good news about progressive education. The bad news is that very often teachers don't question what is being taught by these methods. Very often, they can make school seem a nicer place for children. In this way, modern teaching methods can be used to disguise the real purpose of education in our society to produce the labour necessary for a system based on profits.

Before the crisis brought mass unemployment, working class people were kidded that education was the gateway to opportunity. But this just isn't true. The system is rigged to produce only the needs of the labour market, which only ever needs a few to be in charge at the top. (Most of the ones at the top aren't bothered by cuts in education because their children go to independent schools)

## THE NEEDS OF THE BOSSES

Traditional teaching methods serve the needs of the bosses better. They are based on children learning to obey and accept what they are taught. It wouldn't do for the bosses to have workers who might criticise and think for themselves. That's why they don't like progressive education. (In fact, some civil servants, and bosses would like a national curriculum, which would mean complete control over what teachers teach and pupils learn.)

In a time of economic crisis, the bosses don't want workers who are prepared to fight for their own interests.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SCHOOLS?

Schools in working class areas have always been worse equipped. Now the effect of the cuts is beginning to be felt as well. Anywhere you look, you can find schools with larger classes, fewer materials, poorer meals. Children in many schools have to be sent home if their teacher is off because there are no supply teachers to cover. School buildings are not being repaired. Cleaners and cooks have to do as much work as ever in fewer hours with less help. Not only are the children fed up and losing out, but so are thousands of unemployed teachers. Parents are worried, especially the mothers. It's mostly women who end up coping with children off school, finding money for school meals and books.

It's at a time like this that Callaghan tells us that progressive



education bears the blame for the fall in educational standards. The fact of the matter is that no method will succeed when there are no pens and paper, or when rain drips through the ceiling.

Money – that's one of the chief reasons why working class kids have never done well in our schools.

If standards are falling now, the full impact of the cuts is going to produce a generation with even more reading and writing problems.

But there's another reason that accounts for this educational decline. The promises have turned sour: the kids know that whatever happens at school, the future for jobs is bleak. The incentive to learn has dwindled as the dole queues lengthened. The grammar schools are being abolished, but somehow it's always the children from the same backgrounds who land the best jobs.

## THE FIGURES PROVE IT

\* IN THE LATE 1930's ONE IN TEN OF CHILDREN WITH NON-SKILLED FATHERS GOT TO GRAMMAR OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL.

\* TWENTY YEARS LATER, IT WAS STILL ONE IN TEN.

If you would like to find out more on our ideas, or give us yours about education, write to us for a free copy of the draft of

### A BIG FLAME PAMPHLET: THE CRISIS IN EDUCATION

This pamphlet is prepared in draft form to provoke a critical discussion among socialists who are interested in the struggles in education. Out of this discussion we will produce a more accurate and comprehensive analysis. The pamphlet looks beyond the present cuts in education spending, to examine the underlying causes of the educational crisis, and its consequences for pupils, parents and teachers.

It also examines the educational possibilities of a socialist society, and ways in which we can move towards realising them.

WE WANT YOUR IDEAS, CRITICISMS AND SUGGESTIONS.

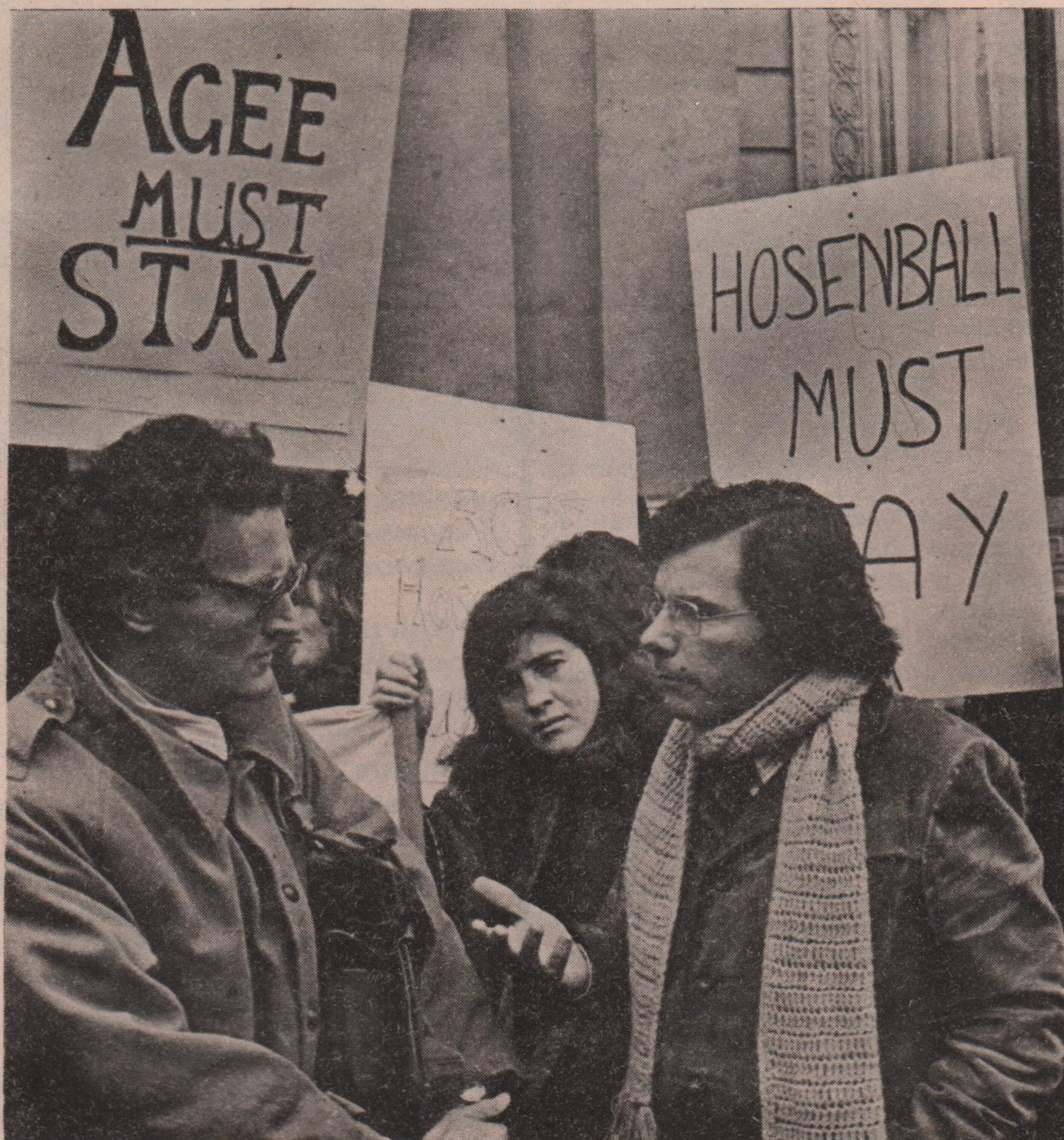
# IS THE LABOUR GOVT. SO CIA LIST?

WHILE EX-CIA agent Philip Agee was writing his book "Inside the Company, a CIA Diary" which began the long job of uncovering the activities of the CIA, he discovered his typewriter had been bugged. By coincidence he happened to be playing a transistor radio when the typewriter began to 'sing'. Agee discovered a bug which was transmitting every word he typed. The incident took place not in America, but at Penguin Books in London some four years ago.

It would have been farcical if it hadn't been one of the many attempts culminating in last month's Government deportation orders, to shut Agee up. In fact it's generally believed the CIA has been trying to get Agee out of Britain, where he has been relatively free to continue uncovering its activities, for several years. It's reported that almost routinely Washington has asked MI6 in this country, to speed Agee's expulsion. The only question is why the British Government chose this particular time to sign the deportation orders on Agee and American journalist Mark Hosenball.

## Obvious answer

While it's easy to exaggerate, the most obvious answer, which has extremely serious implications for anyone having a go at the ruling establishment, is that the secret service has succeeded in increasing its influence over Government ministers. It's not a coincidence that the new Home Secretary is Merlyn Rees, who while at the Northern Ireland Office established close links with military intelligence.



## CIA dirty tricks

Agee's latest exposures of CIA dirty tricks was in Jamaica a month ago where he helped name CIA agents actively involved in 'destabilising' the Jamaican Government, in the run-up to the island's elections on December 15th. The elections are being fought between

the nationalist People's National Party of Michael Manley, and the pro-American Jamaican Labour Party. During his visit Agee and friends distributed 150,000 leaflets exposing a CIA campaign of disruption, violence, murder and arson designed at undermining the PNP. Manley's PNP is a member of the same Socialist International as the Labour Party

REPORT

So much for Labour's socialist internationalism!

For a long time, Agee been one of the foremost figures in exposing the work of the CIA in other countries. While it's no secret that it exists to impose US foreign policy by secret means, Agee has helped show exactly how it is done and by whom. He has helped begin the process, which American Congressional and Senate hearings have pushed further, of revealing the bribery, manipulation, murder, assassination, and planned interference in political parties and trade unions, that is the CIA's stock-in-trade.

## Immigration laws

Yet while the shift in the power balance towards the CIA inside the British Government may turn out to be the single most important aspect of the deportation orders on Agee and Hosenball, it's also important not to lose sight of the method used for getting them – the immigration laws. These are used everyday to threaten, blackmail, exploit and demoralise the immigrant community in Britain. They help ensure that immigrants will continue to work in the most dangerous, dirty and low paid jobs, under the threat that if they fight back they can be deported. At the same time thousands of people every year are separated from their families held in deportation camps, excluded from the county and shuttlecocked around the world at untold suffering, because of the same laws.

Individual deportation orders have been beaten in the past. In 1974 Italian socialist Franco Caprino was threatened with deportation on the grounds that he was a threat to 'national security': the same grounds that are being used against Agee and Hosenball. So great was the public outcry that the Home Office had to throw open the case against him – and the threat was dropped. Victories like this, and the campaigns associated with them, should be used as part of the long-run campaign to repeal the immigration laws completely.

## Defence Committee

The Agee/Hosenball Defense Committee are appealing for support to stop these particular deportations. The campaign can provide a big boost to the general campaign against the Immigration Act.

The Defense Committee are asking individuals, union branches, and all other organisations to petition Merlyn Rees against the deportations. They are also picketing the Home Office in Whitehall every Wednesday lunchtime until the orders are lifted, and have called a national day of action on Wednesday December 8th.

Details of the Defense Committee from 186 Kings Cross Road, London WC1X 9DE or phone 01.251.3495 or 01.278.4575 daytimes, and 01.609.3625 or 01.451.0980, evenings.

# ONE LAW FOR THE RICH

Why should I have to work hard when some people can get more by lounging about all day long — that's the question on thousands of lips. We've tried to answer it on this page. We hope you'll find our arguments useful. Try to display the page on your notice board, or just paste it up on a wall where it's likely to be seen.

THE GOVERNMENT isn't worried about the economic effects of welfare 'scrounging.' Frauds cost social security a few million a year. Peanuts. So, why the big campaign, the daily stories in the papers, the speeches by Prince Philip, the calls for a dole tax?

The government's solution to the economic crisis means making life worse for those already badly off and helping the rich to become richer. This is not because Callaghan has a personal grudge against the working class. It's just the way capitalism works.

Callaghan put it another way. He said that greater incentives have to be given to industry to produce and to export. That's why prices are being freed from controls. That's why the promised wealth tax is being abandoned. That's why the welfare state is under the Treasury scalpel.

The government is making sure that we don't know what it intends to do. We are being softened up to accept still more cuts in the welfare state as things get worse. Civil servants are preparing plans for taxing welfare benefits and for cutting them.

In the 1930's, when a Labour Prime Minister cut the dole he was faced with a nation-wide movement of the unemployed, with some support from those at work. Today, those with jobs are being persuaded that the unemployed don't deserve anyone's solidarity. Even though it's obvious that the vast majority on the dole would rather be in work.

Meanwhile, some people are really getting away with murder. Tax evasion by companies runs into hundreds of millions a year. With profits of over £100 million a year, Courtaulds manages to pay peanuts in taxes by claiming state incentives. Then, it closes the factories down.

The Swiss drugs firm Roche overcharged the National Health Service by millions. When have its bosses appeared in court on fraud charges?

Never. And they never will. One law for the rich: one for the poor. That's not just a saying. It's the way this society works.

## Meet the big-time scroungers



'Prince Philip has got a damn cheek to say it's working class people who are ruining the country. He should shut up. He should stick to his crocodile shoes and play polo. We should abolish that lot.' (Shirley Homes, NUPE shop steward from Brickshaw Comprehensive, Leeds)

### We're paying...

#### COURTAULDS THE TAX (EVASION) EXPERTS

Year	Pre-tax profit	UK tax paid
71-2	£99.6m	Zero
72-3	£125.3m	£313000

### ...for this

At the beginning of October, London Transport hired out a whole tube train (complete with waiters and wine) to Volvo, the luxury car firm, to take their guests a couple of miles on the Piccadilly Line to the Motor Show at Olympia.

(Islington Gutter Press)

**£200 fine for dole cheat father**

**Another spine-chiller from the Daily Mirror**

Just one of the dozens of recent scrounger stories. It's very easy to get things out of proportion. The Department of Health and Social Security has 326 investigators. In 1974, 13,700 people - responsible for a total of £3.7 m. worth of fraud - ended up before the courts. In the same year, £300 m. was lost through business tax evasion. Only 126 taxpayers were brought before the courts. Tax evasion is nearly 100 times larger than welfare fraud, yet nobody is concerned about it. Why? There are two good reasons \* There's no political mileage to be made from it. The constant attacks on scroungers are meant to weaken the unity of the working class. A similar campaign against the tax evaders would just mobilise the people against the rich, and powerful.

\* The wealthy are only taxed for the sake of appearances - it makes things look fair. But the government agrees with big business that company taxes are too high. So rather than reduce company taxes, which wouldn't look too good when we're all asked to make sacrifices, the tax collectors simply turn a blind eye to evasion.

# ONE LAW FOR THE POOR

## THE SCROUNGER BOSSES

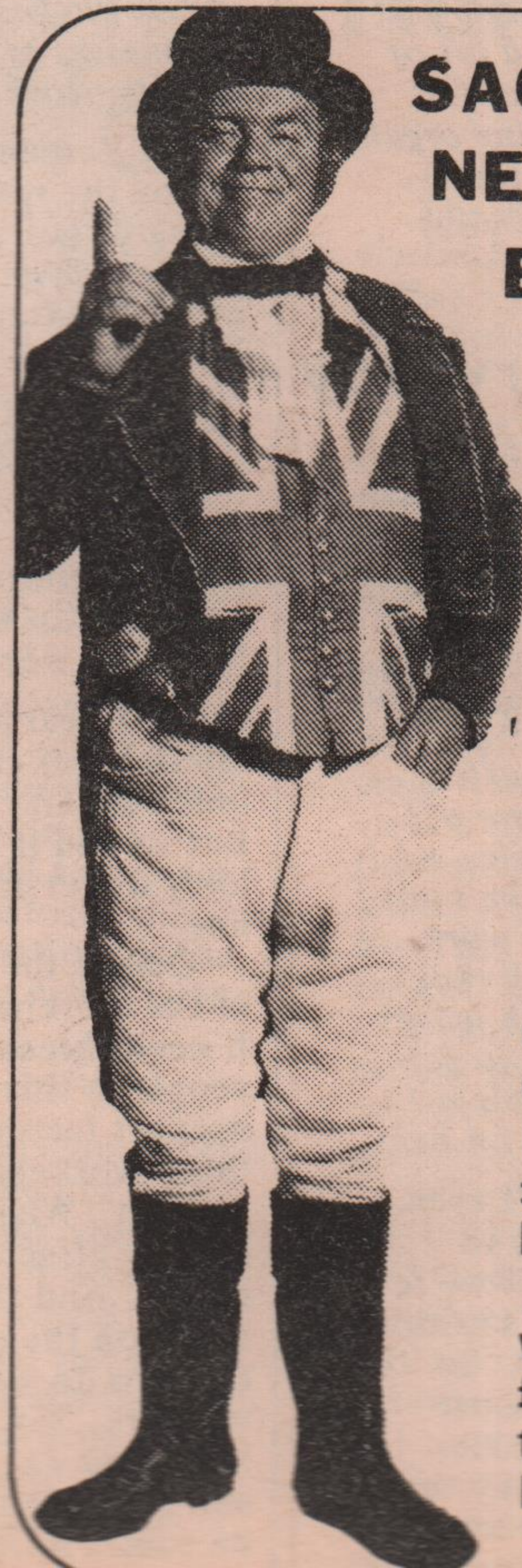
According to David Donnison, the Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, 'Scarcely any of our claimants are getting an income anywhere near what they would get in work.'

If they do, it's nearly always because they have four or more children. But only one in 35 claimants or one in 14 on the dole have that many kids.

But there are two other reasons why you might get more money if you're not in a job.

- For the first six months of unemployment there's earnings related benefit. But after that, dole money drops sharply.
- Benefits are no higher today than ten years ago but they may equal some people's wages. That is because the low paid are paying more tax than they used to. But Jack Jones, leader of the Transport workers Union, pointed out how that could be changed: pay the low paid more!

In a recent survey in Bradford it was found that hardware store workers were getting £27 for a 5½ day week. And that was after 12 years' service.' In the same town home-workers working for Creative Cards of Valley Mills were getting 5p an hour.



**SACRIFICE IS NEVER EASY TO BEAR. BUT IT'S ALL FOR THE SAKE OF OUR GREAT NATION... AND**

■ Sir Brian Massey-Greene, ex-director, of Consolidated Gold Fields, who received a £250,000 golden hand-shake

■ Mr John Barber who settled for a mere £378,000 when he got the boot from British Leyland.

**The Illustrated LONDON NEWS**  
Number 6979 Volume 262 December 1976

### The plight of the middle classes

by H. V. Hodson

However the middle classes are defined, there is no doubt that they are having to bear the brunt of the current economic crisis. Lacking class consciousness they have little inclination to organize, and are the inevitable victims of inflation which could destroy them altogether.

**Luxury furnished flats in Central London**

2 HYDE PARK SQUARE, W.2.  
73 highly recommended 1 and 2 room luxury flats in modern surroundings. Ideal from £175 per month, including heating. Minimum booking period 2 months for advance reservations.

**Chestertons**  
40 Connaught Street, Hyde Park, London W2 2AB  
01-262 7202

Times are getting hard for the middle class readership of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. But not so hard that they can't afford £175 a month for a luxury flat in Central London.

## THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE ENTITLED TO

Supplementary Benefits (Means tested — not dependent on National Insurance Stamps).

These are the current rates of social security.

Single person £12.70

Couple (married or living as married) £20.65

Non-householders (Those not responsible for paying rent)

Aged over 18 £10.15

Aged 16-17 £7.80

### Children

Aged 13-15 £6.50

Aged 11-12 £5.35

Aged 5-10 £4.35

Aged under 5 £3.45

### Long term additions\*

Single Person £3.00

Couple £4.45

Single over 80 £3.15

Couple over 80 £4.45

\* Long term additions are paid to single parents and other claimants who don't 'sign on' after they have been claiming for two years. It's also paid to all pensioners.

### National Insurance Benefits (Only eligible if you have enough stamps)

#### Unemployment and sickness Benefits

Single person £12.90

Wife or dependent adult £8.00

Married woman £9.20

First child £4.05

Any other child £2.55

Maternity Allowance £12.90

# "PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS"

Two new Big Flame members speak on the need for a new communist organisation

Big Flame talked to two housewives from a working class estate (Tower Hill) in Kirkby, near Liverpool about the present situation and needs of working class struggle. They have worked very closely with Big Flame militants on the estate since 1972, when there was a total rent strike against the Housing Finance Act, but only decided to join after our conference in October. We asked them why they had joined and why they are working to build a new communist organisation.

**MAY.** Capitalism is hammering us. Rents going up, factories closing down, teachers not being replaced. A lot of people are angry and frustrated. They know who's responsible but they don't know how to hit back. I was interested in the Big Flame conference; to hear whether BF members meant the same as me when they said they wanted to work towards a new communist organisation; to see if there was room in this new organisation for working class people like me. The only way to make sure was to join and be part of building it from the start. As long as there is the masses on their own and small left wing groups on their own, no-one will get anywhere.

**ANN.** I first met Big Flame during the rent strike. As time went on I really got close to them but I never really thought I could join. The meetings and conferences were way above my head and with living in the family unit there was a problem with time and how much you could give. I always said I didn't feel the need to join a group and stick a label on myself. So I remained as an individual outside the group but working with them on different things. The difference now is that things have changed. Big Flame has broadened its outlook a hell of a lot. I've changed as well, broadened MY outlook.

**MAY.** Working class people have never had a fair deal off anyone. So they're very suspicious about anyone who comes along and offers to help. I was like that more than anyone.

**ANN.** I've joined BF now because it was no good waiting until a new group had been sorted out to see if I liked it or not, before joining it. And if it didn't turn out the way I liked then start criticising it. So I decided to get involved and be part of the change.

**MAY.** A lot of people are like that. They look at something and say, I don't like it, it won't work. They criticise all along the line and when you say 'right, we're going to stop all that now. YOU make it what YOU think it should be', they've got no excuse for not doing anything.

**ANN.** It's very important to get as many new members as possible at this stage. There must be a lot of people like us who've never felt able to belong to a left wing organisation. Now is the opportunity.

**MAY.** It's like saying 'Put your money where your mouth is'.

## Including everybody

**MAY.** Big Flame's politics include everybody - kids, housewives, trade unionists, unemployed, white collar workers. Whereas other left wing political groups don't see it the same. They never stop to consider some parts of the working class.

**ANN.** All these cutbacks affect women most. The kids are off school. There's no nurseries, no playgroups. The man, if he's got a job, is still going out to work. But the woman has got all that extra to cope with - which leaves her less time if she wants to get involved in anything. She's got that much more pressure on her.

**MAY.** The fact is we can't even manage on the money we're getting now. Especially if we're unemployed. And there's nothing on the estate for the kids. So they're confined to the house or just bored playing outside.

nerves. You shout at them. It's just a vicious circle. We haven't even got the money to take them out for the day. When we fought for metal road safety barriers we used leaflets and road blocks fighting against the police and the council just to keep the kids alive.

**MAY.** If factory workers want to fight for something they can go on strike, work to rule or occupy. They're affecting capitalism directly. We have to think if the same way for women on a housing estate. Let's face it. If your husband works and you've got a couple of kids under school age and you get sick and can't look after them, he has to stay off. He loses his money and his little contribution to production is affected. People don't realise how much capitalism relies on the women at home.

## Housewives have power

**ANN.** If every housewife on Tower Hill went on strike at the same time, 90% of men wouldn't get up and go to work. The women wouldn't be there looking after them, getting them out of bed, giving them breakfast, giving them more food when they come home to keep their motor going to get them up the next morning. Women keep the capitalist motor going.

**MAY.** It's like a well-oiled machine. Like a maintenance engineer looking after one of the machines in the factory. If that machine breaks down the people on the line can't keep working.

**ANN.** Some people and political groups can't see that organising in a community is political. But it is, because women ARE important. If I had a choice tomorrow I'd love to pack my job up. I hate work. And even though I work harder at home I'd have more chance of getting involved in the community.

**ANN.** Trade unions only fight for their own members, but with the crisis they're coming together more, because they've got no alternative. We need the masses of the working class fighting together.

**MAY.** Remember what happened during the rent strike. Two shop stewards got sacked and over 20 men got suspended from Birds Eye for taking May Day off and joining the rent strikers on the demo. Who was the first to make the break and stop production? The women on this estate!

**ANN.** We brought the place to a standstill. We got the men their jobs back.

**MAY.** I hear an awful lot of 'housewives can't talk to trade unionists and shop floor workers'. But we did it that day. Not one lorry driver crossed our picket line.

One of the biggest enemies of the working class is tradition. It needs breaking down so that people in this estate will go and support factory workers - and those workers will accept their support. What happens in a factory affects people on this estate. And the living conditions on the estate have everything to do with the factory workers. Say my husband has had a bad day at work, arguing

Hitting the floor, saying I've had murder down at the council all day over getting a repair done. Right away we're going to get at one another.

**ANN.** Think of me personally I'm a trade unionist and I'm also a woman who comes home and looks after a house. I fit into both categories. But I haven't got myself split into two people, have I? I'm on low wages. The Council's hammering me over my rent. The two things are the same.

**MAY.** The worker on the factory floor can do a lot of harm to the capitalist economy, but so can people on this estate. Every

time we win something like repairs or metal barriers, housewives can build power on the estate. We can kick capitalism up the arse just as much as the factory workers can.

## Building up organisation

**MAY.** For five solid months before the rent strike, a group of us worked to prepare people with leaflets, meetings etc. But it wasn't till the Sunday morning when the rent books went through the doors with

£1 increases that this estate started jumping.

**ANN.** When the time came and people wanted to do something there was a group and organisation ready. We have to do the same now.

**MAY.** We're talking about a new communist organisation being there when people need it. Not to do it for them but to help them do it themselves. Giving advice on how to write and type leaflets, that sort of thing. Not saying we'll do the leaflet and show it to you. They're going to have to do it themselves.



The picture was taken outside St. Eugene's Cathedral, as the bells rang out for peace at 3 o'clock last Saturday. We were not protesting about the ringing of the bells but the inhuman and barbaric treatment being meted out to our boys and the deafening silence of church leaders on the matter. With the exception of a few priests, the church ignores this terrible torture.

# Derry woman writes of son's torture in Long Kesh

Derry  
24 November  
1976

THERE ARE 14 special prisoners in Cell Blocks 1 and 2 of Long Kesh. They were sentenced at special courts for various offences, like membership of the IRA. These courts are political and sentence is passed by one judge. No jury is allowed. Statements produced as evidence are usually made under duress in interrogation centres, but they are always accepted by the courts.

Since these 14 boys were sentenced for offences committed after 1st March 1976 they were refused special category status. After sent-

clothing was removed from them. They were placed in solitary confinement and bedding was removed from cells. During the day the heating is turned off and they just stand there naked and alone.

The young prisoners, five in all, have been subjected to daily beatings, degradation and obscene comments from prison officers. If they want food they must go naked to the canteen. They were brought before the prison chaplain naked. Two of the prisoners, aged 18 and 19, were forced to stand to attention naked in the yard as a woman teacher passed by.

They are allowed no letters, papers, books or toiletries. No visitors are allowed, not even priests or doctors. They cannot leave their cells in H 1 to empty their pots so the cells are stinking. They are not

doors and come in and out all night. This treatment is barbaric and is designed to break the young prisoners. I don't have to tell you how we mothers feel about this. For myself personally. I am going through it all with my son and my health has deteriorated considerably. You can see how I feel from the photographs. The photos are from the left, Kathleen McCann (whose 18 year old husband is serving 10 years) Teresa Doherty (whose 19 year old brother is serving 16 years) and myself (my 18 year old son is serving 16 years). If you need any more information please contact me. Please try and help us as we are desperate.

Six women in Belfast started a protest last night. They are sitting in a tent clad only in blankets and are on one weeks hunger strike.

God bless and sincere wishes to you,

Mary Nelis.

This letter was sent to England by a woman whose son is suffering terrible torture in Long Kesh Camp in the North of Ireland. She wants as much publicity as possible in this country. If you can help in any way or want more information please contact BIG FLAME

## THE STRUGGLE WORLDWIDE



## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Zimbabwe guerillas: "We are fighting for the total transformation of our country"

The Geneva Conference on the future of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), chaired by Britain as junior partner of US imperialism, was set up as a result of Kissinger's attempt to resolve the crisis in Southern Africa. The Western powers and South Africa want a government in Rhodesia which serves the interests of big business while also giving the trappings of black rule.

The main obstacle to that solution is the growing strength of the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA). ZIPA demands real power for the black people now and the end of exploitation in Zimbabwe. In the interview that follows Dzinnashe Machingura, one of ZIPA's political leaders, talks about the current situation in his country.

Machingura was interviewed by the Information Agency of Mozambique, one of the 'front-line' countries which has given steadiest support to ZIPA's revolutionary aims.

#### Is ZIPA only an army or does it have a political structure and leadership?

ZIPA is an army in the traditional sense of the word. But ZIPA is a unique and revolutionary army in the sense that it has a strategic role of transforming itself into a political movement.

In the history of revolutionary struggles we find examples that closely approximate our own situation. For example, in the course of their struggles, at one time or another, depending on the stage of their revolution, the political leadership was identical to the military leadership of the organisations fighting for freedom in China, in Cuba, in Vietnam and in many other countries.

#### CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Has it been possible to establish liberated or semi-liberated zones in Zimbabwe?

We can say that at this stage we have managed to establish semi-liberated zones in the sense that, although the political administrative infrastructure is not yet organised, the enemy has no control whatsoever in these areas. The masses are fully mobilized and organized and are fully behind the armed struggle that is now being waged by the freedom fighters. We also feel that establishing liberated areas at this time would be presenting the enemy with many targets vulnerable to air strikes.

#### How far has ZIPA gone in organising a political infrastructure inside Zimbabwe to mobilize the people?

The masses are organised in units and they are democratically conducting their day-to-day business under the leadership of ZIPA. In each unit we have a section of dedicated people and we have also managed to establish mass organisations — for students, for children, for women, peasants and workers.

#### Does this political structure extend into the cities?

Our strategy has been that of fighting from the countryside, encircling the cities. As far as the rural areas are concerned, this structure is quite organised. But because of the existing conditions it has not been possible for these organisations to come out into the open in the cities. They are still clandestine. But they are there.

#### But hundreds of thousands of people have been moved into concentration camps in Zimbabwe. This must create problems when the people want to help the guerrillas. How do the fighters and the people deal with this problem?

It is the strategic aim of the Smith regime, like its counterparts in Vietnam, Angola, Mozambique and other countries, to try to isolate the guerrillas from the people by establishing concentration camps, the so-called 'protected villages'. However, the Smith regime has now overtaxed its manpower to



ZIPA — a guerilla army that relies on the people's willing support

such an extent that it isn't adequate to police the concentration camps. So there are always loopholes.

Our struggle is a popular struggle and it enjoys abundant support from the broad masses of the Zimbabwean people. We have a fairly large army, which runs into thousands.

We get food, clothing and whatever kind of assistance we need from the masses. Some governments find it a burden to maintain an army only half the size of ours. But we are capable of maintaining this army because of the support we get from the broad masses of the people.

#### What does ZIPA see as the objective of the recent Rhodesian massacre of more than 670 Zimbabwean refugees at Nyazonia in Mozambique?

Principally to internationalise the conflict. They hoped that the People's Republic of Mozambique would react rashly and invade Rhodesia, which would have created a pretext for Smith to call for support from his Western allies.

#### Many Zimbabweans are fighting in the Smith regime's army. Why, and what is ZIPA's attitude to them? And are any of them deserting to join the guerrillas?

It is true that thousands of Zimbabweans are fighting in the racist regime's army. This is because of blackmail and conscription. The people are blackmailed into serving the Smith regime in search of social

security. They want to guarantee the security of their families. They want to earn a livelihood and have no alternative, with all other employment opportunities denied to them, but to serve within the racist army. It has also become clear of late that the Smith regime is actually conscripting Africans into its army by force.

An economic plan has been drawn up with the collaboration of the US Government concerning economic guarantees for settlers after the formation of an African government in Zimbabwe. What are your views on this plan?

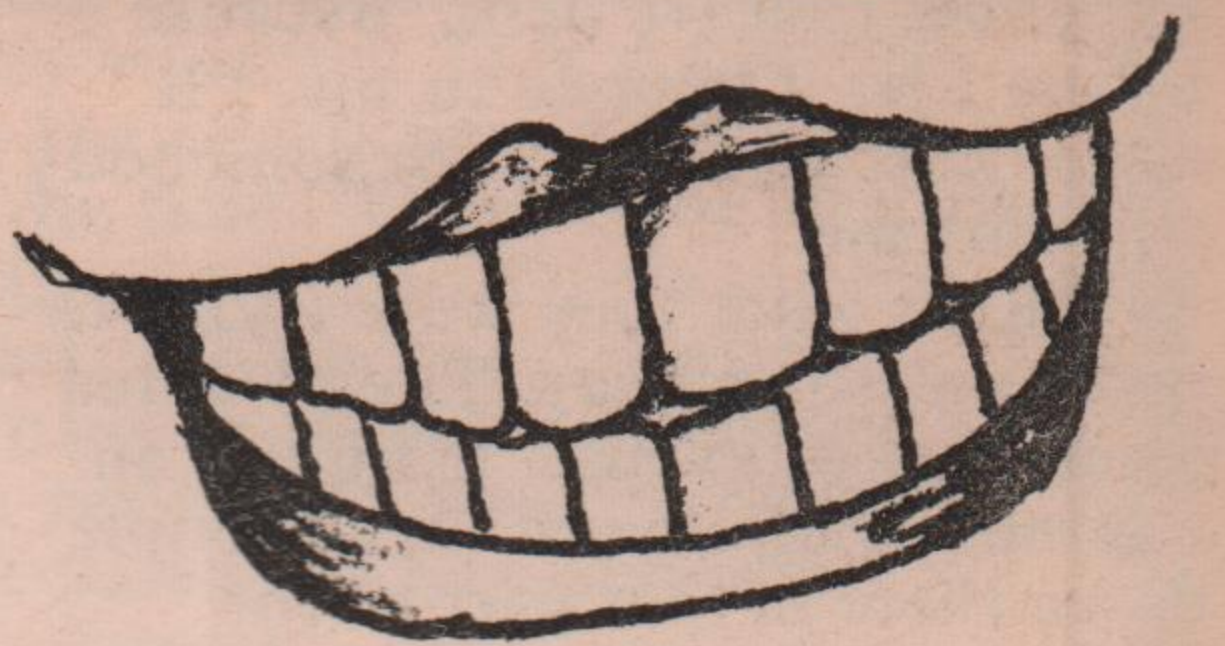
First of all, this so-called economic plan is a direct result of the intensification of the armed struggle in Zimbabwe. The US and other imperialist powers see their interests threatened and they are determined to stamp out the revolutionary flame before it is too late. The so-called economic plan aims at creat-

ing a socio-economic climate conducive to the continued exploitation of Zimbabwe and its people under 'majority rule'.

We are totally opposed to the so-called economic plan. It falls far short of our objectives. We are not fighting for economic or political reforms. We are fighting for the total transformation of the Zimbabwean society.

To us the economic plan is doubly ridiculous. First, the US wishes to pay compensation to the racists for the termination of their exploitation. Secondly, the US purports to be supporting the struggle for majority rule, while the US Government itself is oppressing millions and millions of people in its own country. They would do better to make use of the money in alleviating the economic burden of the broad masses in their own country, who live a life far worse than that of the Rhodesian whites.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN PRESENTED AS AN EASY-GOING, DEEPLY RELIGIOUS POLITICIAN. JIMMY CARTER IS MORE THAN THAT.



## The Man Behind The Man Who Rules The World

In London, in the winter of 1973, businessmen, bankers, and civil servants from the US, Europe and Japan got together to set up an international forum that would serve as a 'think-tank' for the forces of international capitalism. This forum, which is known as the 'Trilateral Commission' (US-Europe-Japan), was organised by David Rockefeller, the head of the Chase Manhattan Bank. The 'Trilateral Commission' came about because international bankers and the heads of the large multi-national companies realised that a new world economic and social order was needed to replace a world order built on force that had been greatly weakened by the failures of US military might in the Far East.

While the 'Trilateral Commission' was reflecting on topics like 'the end of democracy?' and 'the viability of US democracy', it was selecting politicians who it would educate and who would put into practice the Commission's thoughts. Among the chosen few were the Prime Minister of France, Barre, the head of FIAT (Agnelli) and Jimmy Carter.

The man selected to educate Carter was Zbigniew Brzezinski ('Zbig'), author of 'The Technetronic Revolution' (technological + electronic).

#### THOUGHTS OF ZBIG

International banks and corporation corporations make and act on plans that are often way in advance of the schemes of governments. The links that unite their planners — businessmen, scientists, economists, even top civil servants and generals — know no frontiers. Zbig's view is that the future will pass into the hands of an elite, like the Trilateral Commission, but more extensive. They will be technologically radical but socially conservative.

In Latin America, for example, radical reforms will be brought about by Peronism or military dictatorships, but not by socialism.

John F. Kennedy summed up the US's world role when he described himself as the first American President for whom the whole world was a problem of internal affairs. Jimmy Carter, the man who would not have got to the White House without the black vote or the trade union vote, is now at liberty to make Zbig's thoughts a reality.

## THEIR First Prize Will Be A Tractor



Government troops and police are massing in Central and Southern Portugal. Their orders are to break up the agricultural cooperatives and evict the workers. If they succeed they will have put an end to one of the main achievements of the working class since the overthrow of fascism in April 1974.

Shipyard workers in Lisbon have clubbed together to buy a tractor for the Barcouco cooperative in Central Portugal. In Britain the Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese working class has decided to buy another very badly needed tractor for Barcouco.

The money will be raised through a giant raffle. There are three first prizes of a two week holiday for two in Portugal next year, plus £20 spending money. The draw will take place on 24th April 1977 and winners will have the opportunity to visit Barcouco. Books of 5 tickets for £1 from Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese Working Class 12 Little Newport St London WC2

# AMERICA ON TV

## Brutal episodes from

### the 30's

RECENTLY THE television has been giving a lot of coverage to episodes in the class struggle in the United States in the 1920s and 1930s. The excellent films shown on the General Motors sit-in strike and the judicial murder of Sacco and Vanzetti remind us that American capitalism is built on the violent oppression of working people both inside and outside the frontiers of the US.

### Frame-up

Another brutal episode from that era was the frame-up of the 'Scottsboro boys'. In March 1921 8 young blacks (the youngest was 13) were arrested in Alabama and charged with the rape of two white women. After a close escape from lynch squads the Scottsboro 8 were brought to trial and sentenced to death. After the first trial Ruby Bates, one of the 'victims' changed her testimony and this, together with pressure from progressive people all over the world, forced the US Supreme Court to overturn the verdicts of the lower courts. In 1938 the death sentences were commuted to life sentences and a year later some of the Scottsboro 8 were freed - the others were paroled.

The only surviving member of the Scottsboro 8 is Clarence (Willie) Norris who jumped parole in 1946 and has been living underground ever since. In a recent interview in the New York Guardian, Willie Norris described the parole conditions as like slavery. He was forced to work in a lumber-yard.

'...they tried to lynch me in 1931 — and after I got parole, they still wanted to do the same thing,' he said.

### Lynch law

'They always wanted to hard-line me, tried to get me the heaviest job to do. I saw what they were doing, so I said I couldn't make out with this. They always asked me 'didn't y'all have those women' and all that kind of stuff, so I got tired of hearing that.

'They were going to try me on the job out there. Again? That don't make sense. You just can't take so much, and then I said: 'Well I'm going to leave here.' Because before I let it happen to me. I'll either hurt somebody, or somebody will hurt me.

'That's what they were trying to make me do anyway. They wanted some kind of excuse. If I made an attempt to hit one of those people down there in that part of the country at that time, boy, they'd a lynched me.'

### On the run

And so Norris left Alabama in 1944. He was on the run for about 8 months — first to Ohio to see his mother and sisters, then to New York.

But then he decided to return to Alabama in hopes of being cleared once and for all. 'I went back on the

terms of not going back to jail,' Norris recalled. 'They [the parole board] said they were going to see that I got a decent job...if I returned back on my own.'

When he returned, however, it was a different story. The board said that he would have to work at the lumberyard again or go back to jail. 'That was one of the worst things they could have told me,' he said.

### Fugitive

That was the last straw for Norris. He knew that the parole arrangement would never work out. So he went to the field agent and said he wanted to change jobs. The field agent contacted the prison officials and Norris went back to prison until he was re-paroled in 1946. He immediately jumped parole and since 1953 he has lived in New York as a fugitive. He got married in New York and has two daughters, who are now 21 and 16.

Last month, Willie Norris applied for a full and complete pardon. He says 'I'm tired of this thing hanging over me. Fifteen years is more than long enough to suffer in prison for something I didn't do.'

### Jail

The response of the Alabama state officials has been that he must return to jail before his request for a pardon on the rape conviction and parole violation can be considered.

A campaign for the immediate pardon of Willie Norris has started in the United States. His 45 year long struggle should be a reminder to all of us of the violence and brutality of the dominant country of the 'free world'.

# TIME OFF

The struggle of women for control of their bodies is international. In Germany, abortion is prohibited under article 218 of the penal code. This poem, 'The Ballad of Paragraph 218' is by 'Bert' Brecht, who wrote plays poems and essays that were powerful weapons in the fight against fascism and the fight for revolutionary change. This poem is taken from Brecht's book, 'Poems of the Crisis Years, 1929-1935'.

*Please, doctor, I've missed my monthly...*

Why this is simply great

If I may put it bluntly

You're raising our birthrate.

*Please doctor, now we're homeless...*

But you'll have a bed somewhere

So best put your feet up, moan less

and force yourself to grin and bear.

You'll make a simply splendid mummy

Producing cannon fodder from your tummy

That's what you body's for, and you know it, what's more

And it's laid down by law

And now get this straight:

You'll soon be a mother, just wait.

*But, doctor, no job, no dwelling:*

*My man would find kids the last straw.*

No, rather a new compelling

Objective to work for.

*But, doctor...*

Really Frau Griebel

I ask myself what this means

You see, our state needs people

To operate our machines

You'll make a simply splendid little mummy

Producing factory fodder from your tummy

That's what your body's for, and you know it what's more

And it's laid down by law

And now get this straight:

You'll soon be a mother, just wait.

*But doctor, there's such unemployment...*

I don't follow what you say

You're all out for enjoyment

Then grumble at having to pay

If we make a prohibition

You bet we've a purpose in mind.

Better recognise your condition

And once you've agreed to put yourselves in our hands you'll find

You're simply a splendid little mummy

Producing cannon fodder from your tummy

That's what your body's for, and you know it, what's more

And it's laid down by law

And now get this straight:

You'll soon be a mother, just wait.



Scottsboro boys surrounded by National Guardsmen. Clarence Norris, first on left

# SOCIALIST VIEW OF THE FUTURE

REVIEW OF 'THE DISPOSSESSED' by URSULA LE GUIN (Panther Science Fiction' 75p)

The common image of science fiction is monsters, repetitive, ridiculous plots and cardboard characters. Programmes like Star Trek and more recently Space 1999 as well as films like Rollerball and Logans Run get mass audiences indicating the great fascination people feel about the future. But enjoyable as some of them may be they are empty of any real investigation of ideas that goes on in any good science fiction. Very few novels have ever been successfully put on the screen. Directors prefer spectacular special effects to the ingenuity of the original plot

### Unique

A recent novel, 'The Dispossessed' by Ursula Le Guin is an example of the best in science fiction and one socialist in particular should take note of. Science fiction is the most consistently political genre of novels. Most project our current problems on to alternative futures. Many are horrific, reflecting the pessimism of a lot of authors, who are radical but not part of any movement for change. 'The Dispossessed' is unique in that it is written by a committed socialist about the possibilities of a revolutionary society.

The book contrasts the sister worlds of Urras and Anarres. The first is run on traditional authoritarian capitalist lines. The second is populated by revolutionaries who left Urras after a long uprising. It is run on communist lines. Not a mockery like Russia but a society where people really manage their own lives, where there are no bosses, where education is really learning and where men and women have free relationships based on love and comradeship.

### Real

The strength of the book is that Le Guin does not look at the two worlds through rosy, idealistic spectacles. Anarres is not a Utopia. The society and its people have real problems, enough to make some, like the main character, Shevek, want to leave and find out about the other planet, with which there has been no contact for generations.

It is the depth and seriousness of the plot and characters and the treatment of problems that we hope to face one day that should make socialists want to read this book. But encourage your friends to read it as well. Who knows, it may have the same effect on people as famous socialist novels of the past, like 'The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists'.

## BIG FLAME IS...

**BIG FLAME IS A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST ORGANISATION.** Socialist because our aim is to build a society which the working class, the majority of the people, run in their own interests. Revolutionary because we believe we'll only reach that goal by completely

changing society, not by patching it up or by piecemeal reforms. At the moment the working class produces the wealth and the ruling class takes it. In a socialist society we will get all the wealth and the power to control our own lives.

**WE STAND FOR GENUINE MASS INVOLVEMENT.** Every struggle must be controlled and run by the people concerned. We want to put the means of production — propaganda, information, ideas and organisation into the hands of the majority of the people. Not just a handful of militants, however committed. Only when people join together and fight do they work out where their interests lie and use their imagination to achieve them.

**CAPITALISM OPPRESSES THE WHOLE OF OUR LIVES.** We are not only exploited at work, we also have to pay high prices and rents; make do with bad housing, schools and hospitals. And it not just those sections of the working class with great economic power, like the miners or

engineers, who can fight. Housewives, hospital workers, the unemployed have all proved they can fight — and win!

**THE RULING CLASS TRIES TO DIVIDE OUR CLASS BY SKILL, SEX, RACE AND AGE.** It encourages divisions...skilled and unskilled, black and white, women and men, old and young... to prevent us fighting for our interests as a whole. We recognise these divisions, but try to develop unity among the working class against the common enemy — capitalism.

**CAPITALISM IS INTERNATIONAL.** The struggle for socialism in other countries attacks capitalism internationally and helps the fight in this country. For countries dominated by imperialist powers, the fight for national liberation is a progressive fight and usually inseparable from the struggle for socialism. This is the case in Ireland, a country oppressed by Britain for 800 years. We support these struggles and try to spread information about them.

**WE TRY TO BUILD A MARXIST MOVEMENT FOR TODAY'S NEEDS.** We try to learn from the various Marxist traditions, but we firmly believe in the need to create a politics and organisation which grows out of today's situation.

We believe that Big Flame's job is to help the whole working class understand and learn from its power, and so strengthen that power. We see the need for a revolutionary party of the working class that will lead the fight to defeat capitalism, but such an organisation can only be built out of the struggles of the whole of our class.



We fight for higher wages, shorter hours, a lighter workload and for full pay whether there is work or not.

We oppose incomes policies, productivity deals, redundancies and speed-ups.

We encourage links between factory and community struggles, the opening up of factory occupations to the community,

and the taking of rent and housing struggles to the workplace. We back the fight of council tenants, private tenants and squatters against rents and for decent housing for all.

We support the struggle for state-paid community-controlled facilities like nurseries and playgroups., which provide a better life for our children, and are part of the struggles of housewives against their unpaid labour in the home.

We fight against sexism and racism and support the independent organisation of women and black people for their own power.

We support struggles for sexual freedom. Freedom from the law and freedom from social prejudices. In particular we support the independent gay organisations.

We oppose British involvement in Northern Ireland, and support demands for troops out now, for self-determination for the Irish people as a whole, and for a united socialist Ireland. Against the army and the British state we give basic support to all the republican and socialist groups fighting in Ireland, whatever criticisms we may have of their political strategy or tactics.

We support and work in the National Abortion Campaign, the Troops Out Movement, the Portuguese Solidarity Movement and local anti-fascist committees.

We want people who agree with us to work with us and join our organisation.

- Merseyside:**.....217 Wavertree Rd. Liverpool 7. 051 263-1350
- Manchester**..... 14 Piccadilly, Mcr. 061 223-4515
- Leeds**..... 80 Harehills Ave. Leeds 7. 0532-620535
- Birmingham**..... c/o People's Centre 768 Bristol Rd. Birmingham 29.

There are also groups in South and West London and Sheffield. There are also members in Norwich, Colchester, Brighton, Durham, Cambridge, East and North London. For more information contact:

National Secretary  
217 Wavertree Rd.  
Liverpool 7



# THREE WEEKS OF STRUGGLE AT FORDS HALEWOOD

IN THE last few weeks Ford Halewood has been constantly in the news. The media campaign has been along the 'sloopy, lazy Halewood workers' lines - this at the same time as Ford management was starting a heavy clampdown on shop-floor organisation.

There are good reasons why Halewood should permanently be in the headlines;

- \* the daily confrontation of the shop-floor.
- \* the nature of the job; 'it drives you crackers'.
- \* the fact that Ford management leads the way in the introduction of new techniques to screw profits out of workers.
- \* the importance of Ford to the British economy.

All these factors make Halewood one of the focal points of working class resistance to the capitalist attempts to increase productivity and reduce the number of workers needed.

The workers' fight has been helped by the fact that the Ford Escort (the main car made at Halewood) has been a best seller. On a day to day basis, the shopfloor has fought against cuts in manning, increased exploitation, increased hazards to health and safety, and against the Friday afternoon 4-hour mini-shift. The result of the shop-floor struggle has been to force management to take on more workers and to hand out more overtime. Management's response has been an all-out attack on the shop-floor with the aim of smashing the workers' confidence and the customs and practices which have been won over the years; like 'working the welt' which is a working-class form of work-sharing.

Recently a militant steward told Big Flame 'In this place to improve conditions means only one thing - to decrease the workload per worker. It's a way of avoiding going round the bend. It's a way of getting a few people off the dole. It's what we should always push for - as trade unionists and as socialists.'

The above quote sums up the strategy put forward by the Big Flame Ford Group over the last two years 'LESS WORK FOR THE EMPLOYED - MORE JOBS FOR THOSE ON THE DOLE'. And there is no doubt that that's the way in which the shop-floor has fought, though not always conscious of the demand.

Big Flame's role in Halewood is important. We've got some members in Halewood, but many more sympathisers, and a wide range of contacts. We produce at least a leaflet a week and every two months we also produce a 2p bulletin which includes all sorts of short snippets, funny bits, cartoons and letters from workers and also some more serious pieces. We are organised as a base-group which meets every two weeks and consists of full time organisers, members and sympathisers.

(the next meeting of the Ford Halewood base-group will be on Monday 6th December 7.30 - 9.00 pm, 217 Wavertree Rd., Liverpool 7. ALL FORD WORKERS WELCOME)

## Lead men fighting for their lives

THE LEAD area in the Halewood Body Plant has been a constant thorn in management's side. The recent strikes and sackings involving the discers is only the culmination of a long history of struggle.

The solderers fill in all the major joins on the bare body shell; they apply melted lead to the cracks, constantly playing a gas torch over the metal, keeping it malleable so that they can produce a smooth finish.

The discers come next along the assembly line, they work in a closed booth, under particularly strenuous conditions, the noise from the discing machine means they have to wear ear protectors whilst the lead and steel dust raised by the discs forces them to wear "space suits" (see picture) with air pumped in from outside the booth. The discers job is to smooth down the lead applied by the solderers and polish up any other rough surfaces. The lead area is a comparatively small section in the Body plant, this, combined with the dangerous nature of the work has meant that they are closely knit and look after one another. For years they have been fighting to better their conditions.

Lead is one of the oldest hazards of industrial life, and it is still the single biggest cause of reported poisoning at work. The discers have long had protective clothing and extra paid 'wash-up' time (dirt money) and since early in 1975, the solderers have been demanding similar conditions.

Because management dugged its feet, there was a series of walk-

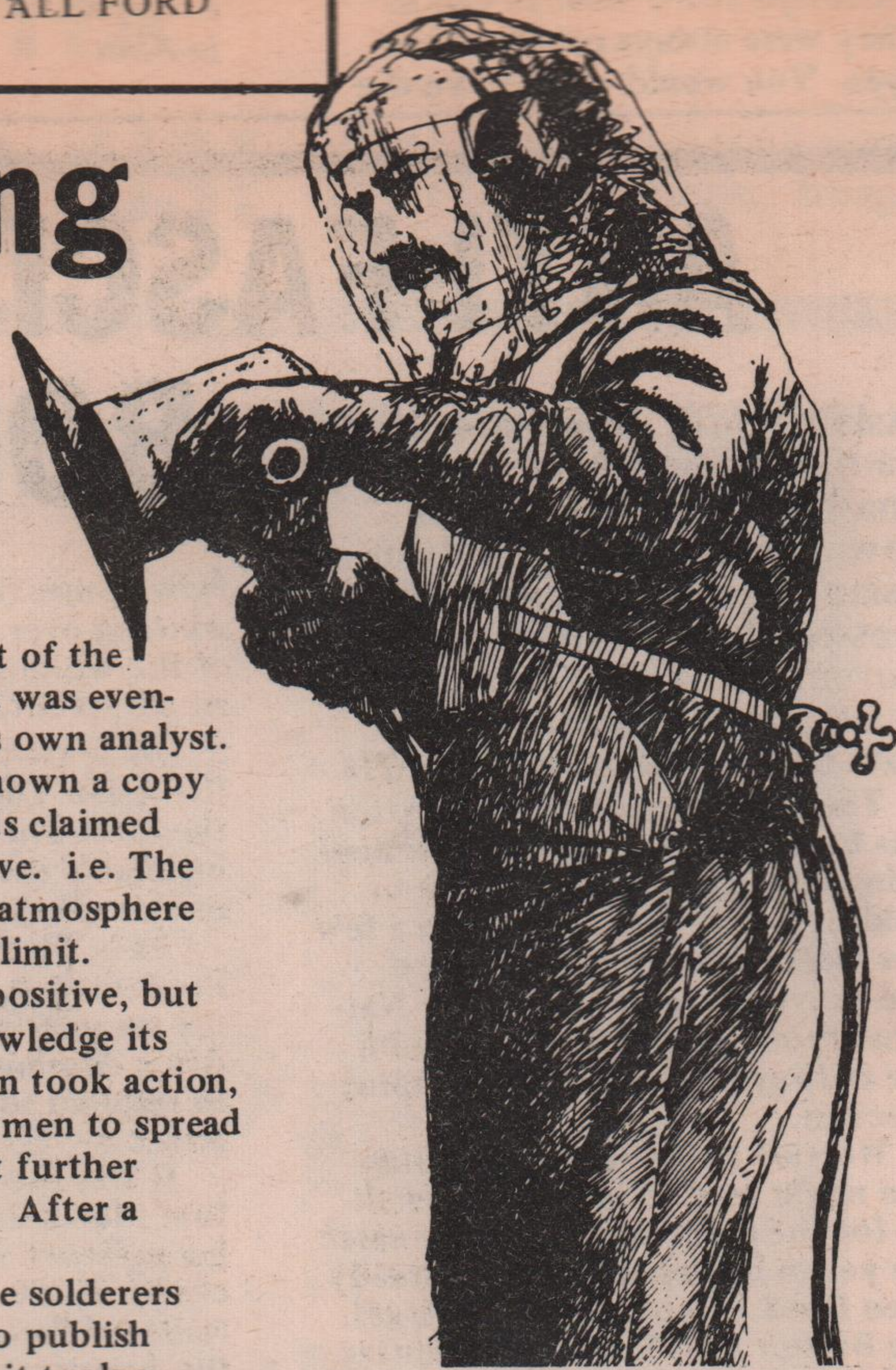
outs. The lead content of the atmosphere in the area was eventually tested, by Fords own analyst. The men were never shown a copy of the report and Fords claimed the results were negative. i.e. The amount of lead in the atmosphere was less than the legal limit. A second test proved positive, but Ford refused to acknowledge its validity! The men then took action, demanding two extra men to spread the danger load, whilst further tests were carried out. After a fight they got them.

The next job for the solderers was to get the union to publish the results of its tests, it took a three day strike at the beginning of September to get any action. The results of the tests were confused and while part of the job has been moved into an atmospherically sealed area, the solderers have still not won all that they demanded.

Whilst the lead men have shown through their struggle that their health comes before the companies profits, Fords recent attack on the discers conditions of work have shown that the company policy is the exact opposite. The recent return of Victorian conditions to Halewood has brought with it a subsequent increase in the danger of working there, the long and persistent fight of the lead men to better their conditions is an example to all shop floor workers.

Sat. 6th November Enjoying a lie in. No worries, no work for Ford. Then a letter from management arrives. I feel like throwing it away, but the wife's read it. She says it's important. Well...we've been naughty once again. Not enough cars produced; not good quality. They're threatening our jobs. For a start they threaten overtime. What a cheek. We should be able to manage without overtime. We've got to work it to make ends meet. But then, when it suits them, they threaten to take it away. Not a bad move... from their point of view. Just before Christmas...and in the middle of the wage contract being negotiated. Just think, another 10,000 have received this letter.

Mon. 8th November Here we go again. Another week on the line. Wonder what's going to happen on the other shift. There's rumours of a sacking in the Body Plant. See what happens tonight. There is a Big Flame Ford group meeting this evening. I'll have to go one of these days.



### ONE OF THIS SEASON'S KEY FIXTURES:

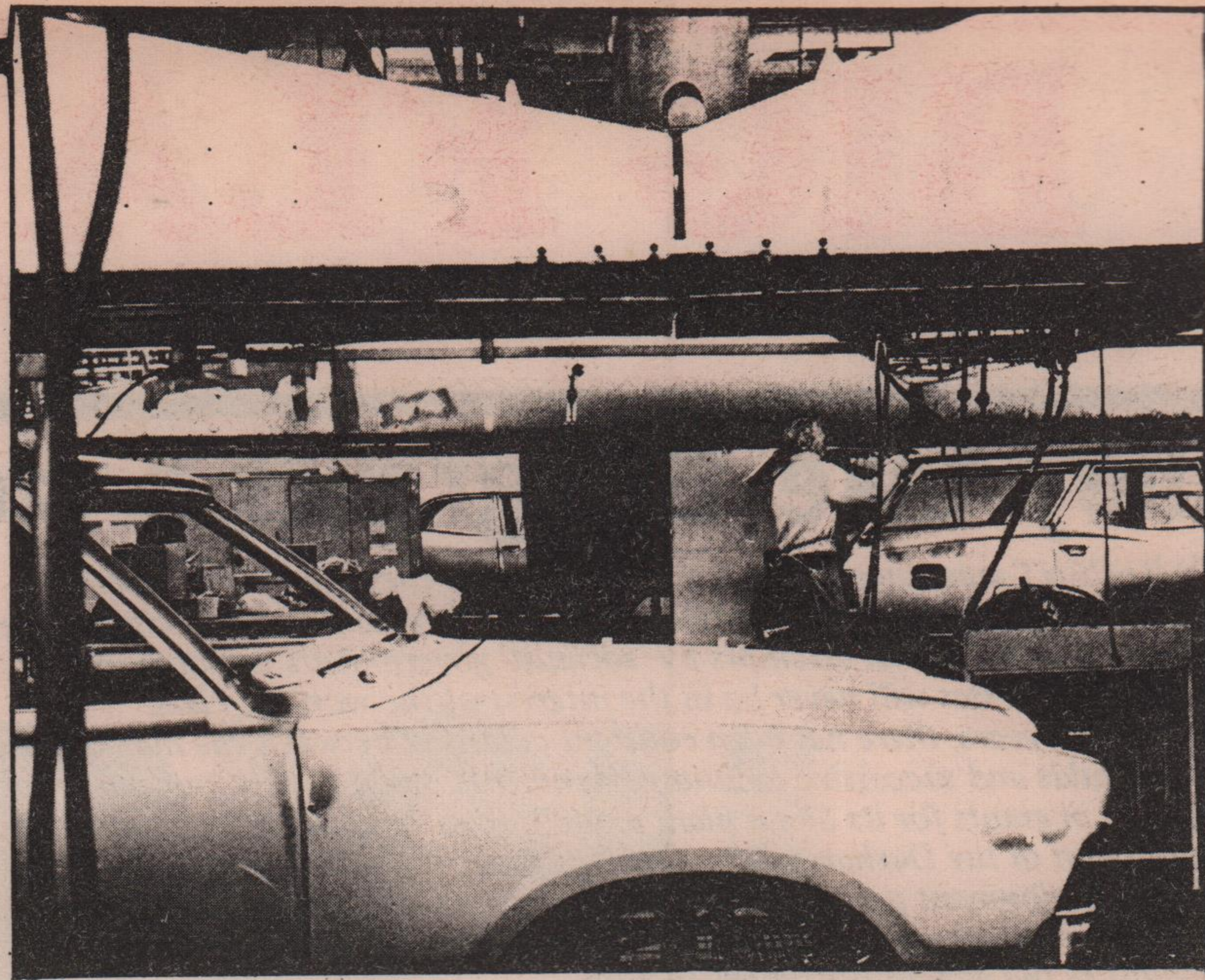
FORD MANAGEMENT UNITED v. THE UNIONS

THIS ACCOUNT OF THE GAME COMES FROM A BIG FLAME LEAFLET PUT INTO THE FORD PLANT AT HALEWOOD LAST MONTH

The crowd began to get nasty, they sense the game has been fixed...bostik bombs and spanners rain down on the pitch. Around the Big Flame banners to the left of the ground the chants go up... "40hours pay Work or no Work.".... "35 hour week paid 40". Some people are on the pitch demanding their money back....

The pitch is finally cleared, and the game restarts...but it's the same one way traffic; the union side has no answer to the fast flowing play and dirty tackling of the management side. Now it's Charlie Skinner with the ball he beats two men but is 'stopped by McCrea. The referee judges the tackle unfair....under the new rules of the social contract you are only allowed to tackle management with your eyes shut and your feet tied round your neck. From the free kick another goal is scored....the keeper was once again out of position, this time he had apparently gone to visit his sick auntie.

The whistle goes for the end of the first half....the union side relieved that they are only twelve goals behind.



## Militant's diary

I've got to give it to them. Their leaflets have gone much better. I'm told more and more people from the shop-floor are getting involved. Besides they provide us with the information. A bit political at times. But how can you expect anyone to go to a meeting at 7.30 after working till quarter to six? Anyway they're doing a good job.

Tues 9th November FRONT PAGE OF THE MIRROR. We are slack, sloopy, lazy. Great stuff. Only a few months ago they were praising us. Mind you we've hit them hard since the shutdown. Now they are starting a campaign in the press. All the lads off Trim I have received a written warning, for taking action outside procedure yesterday.

Wed. 10th November Last-night they confirmed the sacking of one of the lead discers. All sorts of rumours are flying around. We know only that all of the White Lines backed him. Good. They walked out and all the Body was laid off. But the P.T.A. was kept working all night. Strange. Where did they get the body shells from? I know what it feels like. You expect a gap but the cars keep on coming down the line. You wonder whether they pull them out of a hat. Dinner time. There's trouble in the Paint Shop on our shift. Some months ago they took a job away from the Sealer Deck, and a man with it. Now, they've put the job back, but not the man. The Paint Shop are going home. We are all laid off. But the Body Plant are kept in.

Thurs 11th November. 'Get your Big Flame'. Finally some information. The leaflet has got a statement by the lead area. The lad was sacked because of custom and practice. All the rumours about hitting a foreman are unfounded. They walked out again last night. Won't come in till next Monday. But the Body Plant are not backing the White lines. Dangerous situation. Don't know why, they always manage to split us up. Anyway, they were all sent home. On our shift the Paint Shop are out again. And we are sent home.

Sat 13th November Another letter from management. They are furious. Our overtime has gone. We're on all the papers again.

Mon 15th November Change of shift. We're on nights now. I hate nights. It ruins my sleep, my social life, my sex, everything. Go in and receive a spiel from the foreman. They have received a letter too.

"Can't work the welt, can't be absent without permission, can't play cards or darts, can't go for a piss etc." We all tell the foreman to stick it. Everyone is amazed. It's like being back at school. Or maybe they've got something bigger in mind.

Tues 16th November Another leaflet. The other shift are out again. Against the three day suspension of 12 men. The lead discers again, but also some welders. This time a unanimous decision of the whole of the Body. Even the Press Shop are out. The lads have called Managements measures "The Riot Act". There's chaos everywhere. On the day shift, they are starting a work to rule in some sections. In the P.T.A. they asked for a mass meeting, but the unions wouldn't give them one. Some stewards are saying that the company are not recognising any rules - just the ones they are making up at the moment.

The body are having a mass meeting. Here they come back. On strike till monday, against the Riot Act. We want a mass meeting too. No chance. Laid off. Beats me why we don't go on strike, when we know we lose the money anyway. Just think how more powerful it is when you read "10,000 on strike". The Body will put pickets on the gates.

Monday 22nd November Back in. Management are handing out their bulletin again. I'm sure they're trying to compete with Big Flame! They've sacked TEN men! They say the discers have been wrong all the time. They've got all sorts of figures down. That's not the point. Do we want to let them go back to the manning levels of ten years ago? They're handing out warnings and suspensions like confetti.

Tues 23rd November All reinstated. But at what cost? The union official says that he'll help management to sort out all problems. But as the Big Flame leaflet points out "We must not lose the gains made in the last year". The good thing is that they don't suggest a strike. A lot of people think Big Flame wants us out the gates. Not true. They want us in, where power lies, but fighting, they suggest a work to rule. One sacking on the high lines, two suspensions there and two on the final assembly

Thurs 25th November More warnings and suspensions. They are trying to smash the framing area and the elephant house. I'm told they are very organised sections. Some stewards tell us to keep it cool. But how can we. We don't want to walk out. It's around Christmas. We picked up £20 last week. Ford management have chosen the best time for them. We need to resist till the new year and then we can turn the screws on them. But we must make sure we're not defeated before then. The best tactic is a work to rule and withdraw cooperation with the foremen. Just play it daft. Make sure he doesn't feel that he has got power. We've got to challenge their power. These bastards - I was saving up for Christmas. I they've called up a hard line manager from Dagenham. A yank. A tough guy. One day we'll make him work in the lead booth....and all the likes of him.

# BIG FLAME

## They take the grants & close the plants

THE RECENT announcement by Courtaulds that they were closing their mills in Flint (North Wales), Grantham (Lincolnshire) and Skelmersdale (Lancs) are a clear reminder that attempts by 'socialist' governments to patch up capitalist businesses will never be in the interest of the working-class. Over the last years, there has been constant collusion between the management of Courtaulds and successive Labour governments; since 1968, Courtaulds got £3million in grants for its Skem plant alone! It got even more in grants for its new plant in the Durham area. Over the years it has got millions in regional employment premiums, training payments and special employment aids. Of course, these hand-outs to industry are not the part of public expenditure the government plans to cut.

The bosses of Courtaulds like Lord Kearton have been close economic advisors to the Labour governments. Kearton was chosen by Harold Wilson to head the Industrial Re-organisation Corporation; a body set up to allocate government funds to industry and not surprisingly his company got the odd penny out of the IRC. Kearton was made a Lord in 1970 for 'services to industry'. He is also director of the merchant bank Hill Samuel, which like Courtaulds has vast investment in South Africa.

Throughout all this the workers have been exploited and cynically used by the company; during the EEC referendum, management even paid them to go on a demo in favour of import controls because it suited management's needs at the time. And the textile union leaders have over the years shown themselves very competent at understanding the needs of the employers.

Not surprisingly Courtaulds is quite ready to take its grants and move out when it suits them.

Skelmersdale is the latest to suffer from this ruthlessness — and not for the first time. In 1972, the one thousand weaving plant workers were blackmailed with the "irrevocable" decision to close the plant. The threat worked, with an agreement being reached which guaranteed six months peace on the shop floor.

This was an example of Lord Kearton's (a boss of Courtaulds)

ruthless tactic of (as Knight, the present Chairman put it), "deliberately creating stress situations without which otherwise able people cannot be induced to modify their behaviour."

Courtaulds are notorious for their use of the 'reverse strike' or lock-out.

At the Skelmersdale plant, of the seven disputes since the factory opened in 1968, five have been lock

outs, and in three of these, workers were locked out while negotiations were taking place over new working methods

At Hartwood Hosiery, also in Skelmersdale, Courtaulds have enforced a one week lay-off of 500 workers.

In Flint, North Wales the plant is threatened with closure, as is the Furzebrooke factory at Aintree, Liverpool

At the Red Scar plant in Preston Asian workers in 1965 had to strike not only against Courtaulds, but also their union, and fellow white workers. They were fighting against a deal offering them a 3% bonus for a 50% increase in workload. The shop stewards said they could not support the strikers because of a management threat to shut down the whole factory for six months.

In 1976, Courtaulds determination to close down their weaving plant in Skelmersdale is for real.

The Action Committee representing all unions at the plant and shop floor representatives, are refusing to talk with the company about redundancy arrangements, and to Government officials offering alternative employment. They say these jobs should be offered to the 12½% unemployed in the area. They are demanding an extension of the 90 day consultation period which expires in January, and a Public Inquiry into Courtaulds

# COURTAULDS



Flint Workers picketing in a previous struggle against Courtaulds

finances. In the long run, they want the plant taken into public ownership.

The workers reject management allegations of inefficiency and non-cooperation. One of the problems has been the rapid turnover of managers, six since the plant opened, who have only a small amount of local autonomy from London where the decisions are made. Another cause has been the poor quality of some of the new looms installed in the factory.

An important part of the workers' case is the poor safety record of the plant which has given it the nickname, 'the Slaughterhouse' — something it shares with the rest of the Courtaulds Empire. There have been fires at Red Scar in 1973, and

a subsidiary in Loughborough in 1974. At their Aintree factory which used the same chemical as that produced at Flixborough Courtaulds actually applied for a relaxation of fire regulations.

At Skelmersdale, the safety committee has never functioned properly and when workers have won their claims for compensation with the Insurance company, Courtaulds legal department have interfered to delay payment of the settlement.

But Courtaulds have not had things all their own way. At Spennymoor in the North East in 1974, 1,600 workers occupied the plant against cut backs in the working week, and won all their demands, after building contacts throughout the combine.

At Aintree, the workers rejected the 'closure' blackmail and refused to agree to a crippling productivity deal. Unfortunately, these struggles are isolated. In 1974 there was a company Combine Committee, with over 70 delegates around the country. As one union representative said:

"we built a muscle and never used it. Now we need it, its not there."

(credit CIS Anti-Report no 10 "Courtaulds Inside-Out")

## TENANTS PLAN METER RIP-OUT

Tenants associations from all over the country met in Manchester on November 6th to launch a National Heat Metering Campaign for the complete Withdrawal of Clorius "heat meters" from their District heated council estates.

These devices have been installed in about 23,000 council homes throughout the country. Attached to each radiator in every house linked to the District Heating system is an unsealed tube containing a chemical fluid which, in theory, evaporates, according to the heat produced.

People in Longsight, a council estate in Manchester, are fed up. On top of the high rents of £9-10 they are faced with massive heating charges. For the last two years they have had the notorious 'Glorious' Clorius meters which means bills of £400 for some.

The council has installed these meters to surcharge tenants for the extra expense of 'oil and running costs'. But they don't seem to be concerned how accurate they are.

The tenants are concerned, however, and have been fighting for rebates. One got a bill of £400 reduced to £85. In fact, of the 793 people with extra charges 705 complained and got rebates.

But the threat of a large bill based on a device which is very difficult to read means that many tenants are frightened of using the heating provided. So they turn instead to more

expensive and dangerous means such as electric fires and paraffin stoves.

Last week Longsight tenants decided to take direct action to get rid of their problem once and for all. They voted unanimously to take the meters out and send them back to the council undamaged. A Christmas present from grateful tenants!

The action in Longsight is part of the national campaign launched last week and the same has been done in other parts of the country.

What's more, no-one has yet been taken to court for removal of meters. The councils realise they are standing on shakey ground because of the inaccuracy of the meters — which leads to totally unfair bills.

The slogan being adopted by the National Heat Metering Campaign is C.O.N. [Clorius Out Now.]

"My dad said he would never let a son of his work in the place. They gave him a gold watch when he retired, but he was a sick man by then. My father and the other workers used to grope their way out of the factory, holding on to each other — they were temporarily blinded by the chemical fumes. "Sore eye" they used to call it. They were always rubbing their eyes. You would walk down the

street and see all the curtains drawn in the middle of the day because they couldn't stand the ordinary daylight.

They've taken millions from the government. Now when it suits they want to close it down. They don't care what happens to the people here."

son of a Courtaulds worker in Flint

## ANTI-FASCIST DEMO IN BOLTON

'Asian Youth, Superstar. How many Frontiers have you smashed so far?' That was how members of the Bolton Asian Youth Organisation expressed their feelings on the November 27th demonstration in support of 7 anti-fascists now before the Bolton courts.

The 3-400 strong demonstration was banned by the police from marching through the town centre or holding a rally there, although a few weeks previously the police had provided an escort for the National Front as they marched from the railway station to the shopping precinct.

Worried that to defy the police ban might lead to increased penalties for the 6 defendants whose cases are yet to be heard (one has already been fined £70 on a trivial charge), the Bolton Anti-Fascist Committee and the AYO accepted the police route through the backstreets.

### Rally

But after a short rally the demonstrators broke up and made their way to the shopping precinct to hand out thousands of leaflets and hold a meeting explaining the anti-fascist case.

National Front strategy in the North West has been to build a base in the textile towns — Blackburn, Bolton, Accrington. There they have fed on white working class anger at the run-down of the industry and the Government's and bosses' inability to provide alternative employment. White workers turn their resentment against immigrants who took the hard, low paid jobs in the textile mills that the whites refused.

Bolton has shown that anti-fascists and Asian youth can work together to roll back the fascists.

Now comes the harder grind of winning over the hearts and minds of the white working class to an anti-racist, anti-fascist position.

The presence of 60 members of the Asian Youth Organisation at the forefront of the demonstration highlights the main development of this year's anti-fascist struggle.

As in Blackburn and Southall, the Bolton AYO sprang up during the summer when the traditional Asian community leadership failed to respond to the wave of racist attacks.

It was the young Asians who first took action against the growing presence in Bolton shopping centre of the National Front and National Party. Later on August 21 the Asians were joined by white

anti-fascists in a joint demonstration against the fascist papersellers.

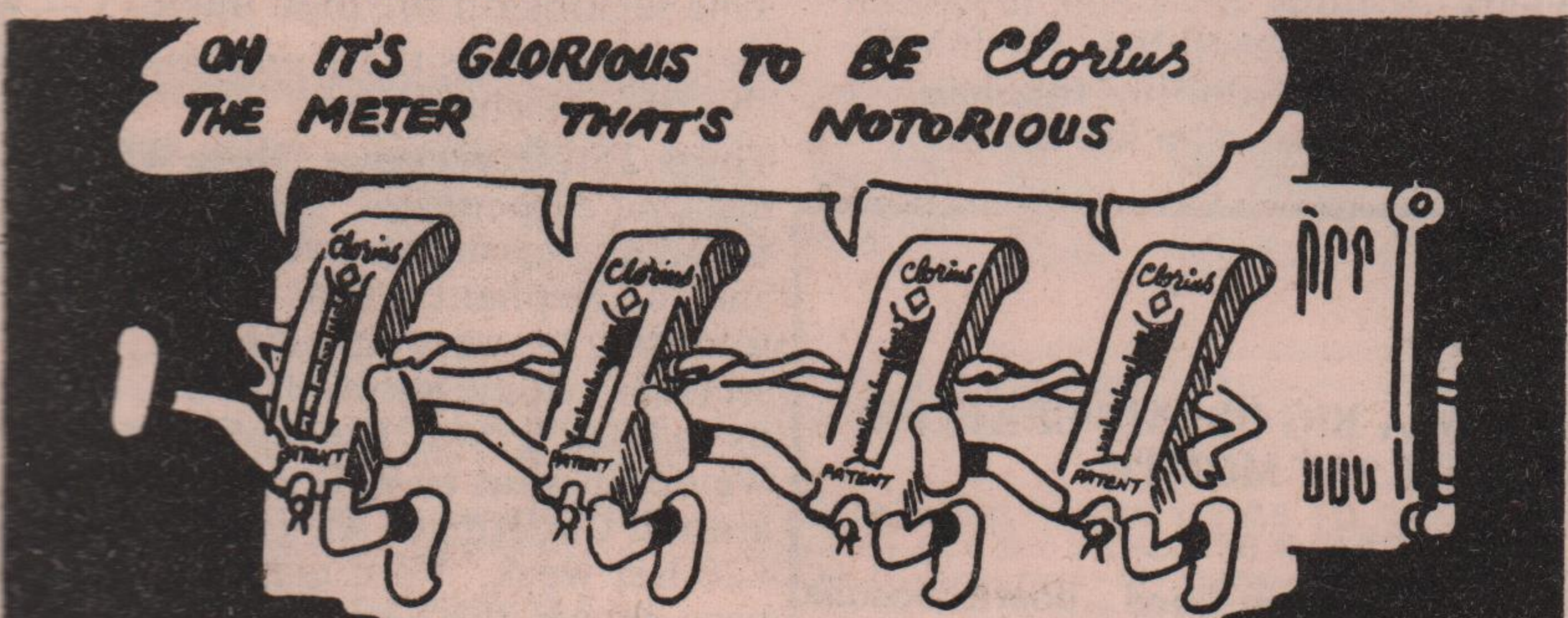
A large force of police escorted the fascists to the shopping precinct, and during the course of the afternoon police arrested seven of the anti-fascists who are now awaiting trial.

One of the seven, Ian Heyes, a building worker, had to have hospital treatment for a fractured rib sustained in a police cell while under arrest.

(Thanks to James Redfean for some of the information contained in this article.)

[Essential information for the anti-fascist struggle is provided by the broadsheet on race that has just been brought out by the Labour Research Department.

Copies can be got from LRD, 27 Blackfriars Rd. London SE 1.]



# BIG FLAME

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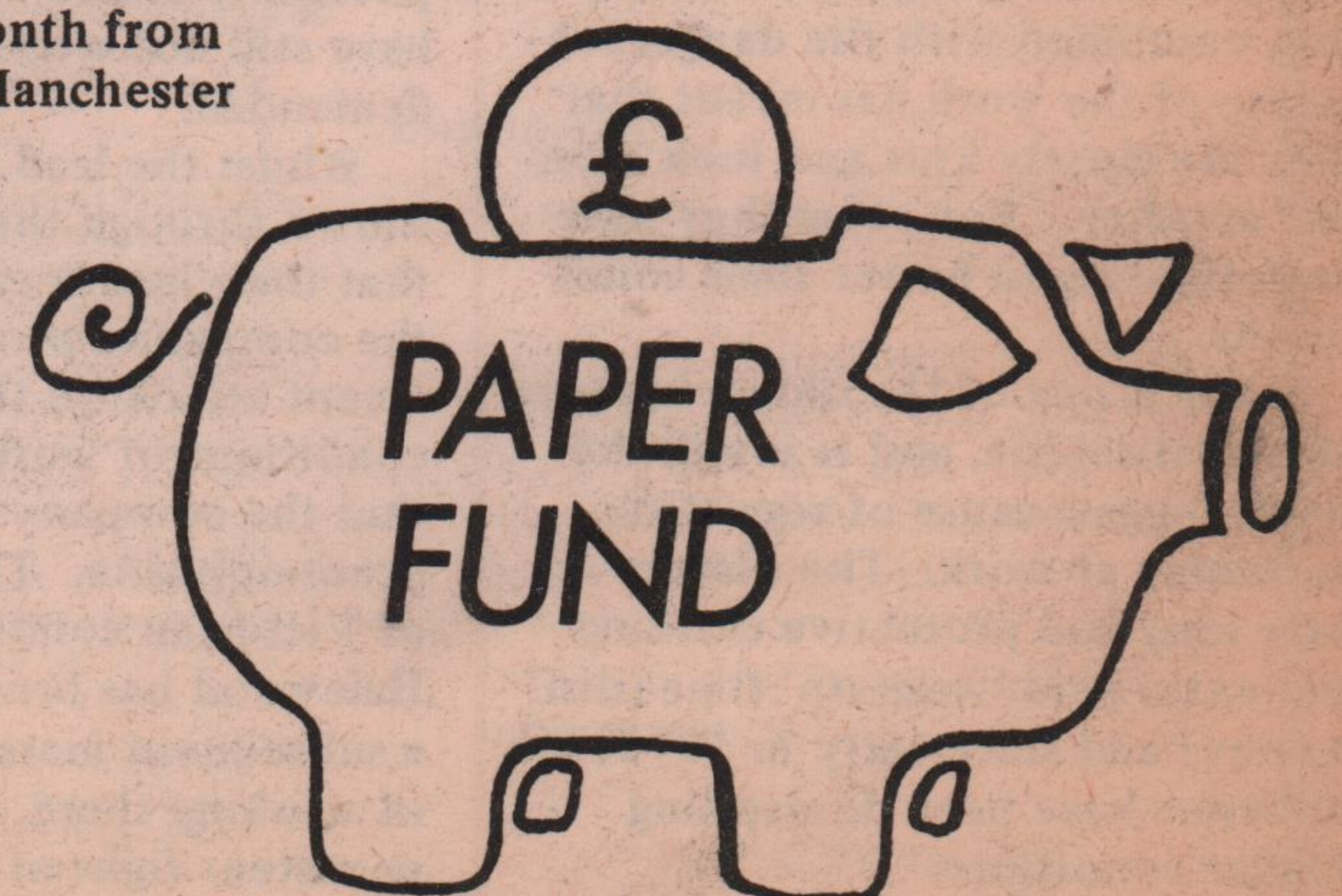
NAME AND ADDRESS

Big Flame, 217 Wavertree Road, Liverpool 7 tel. 051-263-1350

Last month's total of £30 is a great improvement. At this rate contributors will be getting their postage refunded. Unfortunately, our Job Creation application was turned down. So remember us when you fill up your Christmas stockings. A revolutionary New Year to you all.

Donations this month from  
Norwich BF £2; Manchester BF £10; Sheffield BF £2.60; Italian reader £1; Kirkby reader 50p; anon £10; Liverpool reader £1.40; Liverpool member £3.

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Donations to the Business Manager, 217 Wavertree Rd. Liverpool 7. pool 7.