

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Anti-NIRC strike on Monday

FINE THE BOSSES

MANAGEMENT stooges are taking photos of the pickets outside Con-Mech in Woking. They will be used as evidence that the ruling of the National Industrial Relations Court is still being defied by the engineering union.

The result could be a new and still bigger fine on top of the £75,000 already imposed on the AUEW.

Whether or not this happens depends on the size and militancy of the protest strike on Monday 5 November. Make no mistake about it, the Con-Mech case is a try-on by the NIRC.

If court president Sir John Donaldson succeeds in enforcing his decision on the Con-Mech workers and the AUEW, new and still more vicious attacks on the rights that working people have won in years of struggle will surely follow.

Tory Judge Donaldson deliberately picked on a case where the most elementary trade union rights were being denied by management: the right to organise without victimisation, the right to negotiate.

He backed the anti-union management to the hilt. He threw down the gauntlet to the whole trade union movement.

All out on Monday

North London Confed strike: demonstration 11am Hyde Park, march to Tower Hill. All IS members to support.

Confed district committees striking include: London, Sheffield, Manchester, Merseyside. AUEW district committees include: Wolverhampton, Birmingham East, South Essex.

Industrial action is the only answer.

The employers who pay the Tory Party, and whose interests the government serves, must be 'fined' heavily as a punishment for the decisions of their court. That is the way, and the only way, in which the wings of the NIRC will be clipped.

Of course more extended action would be better still. If it can be achieved the whole movement will gain. But there should be no illusions that without massive action on 5 November an extended stoppage is at all likely.

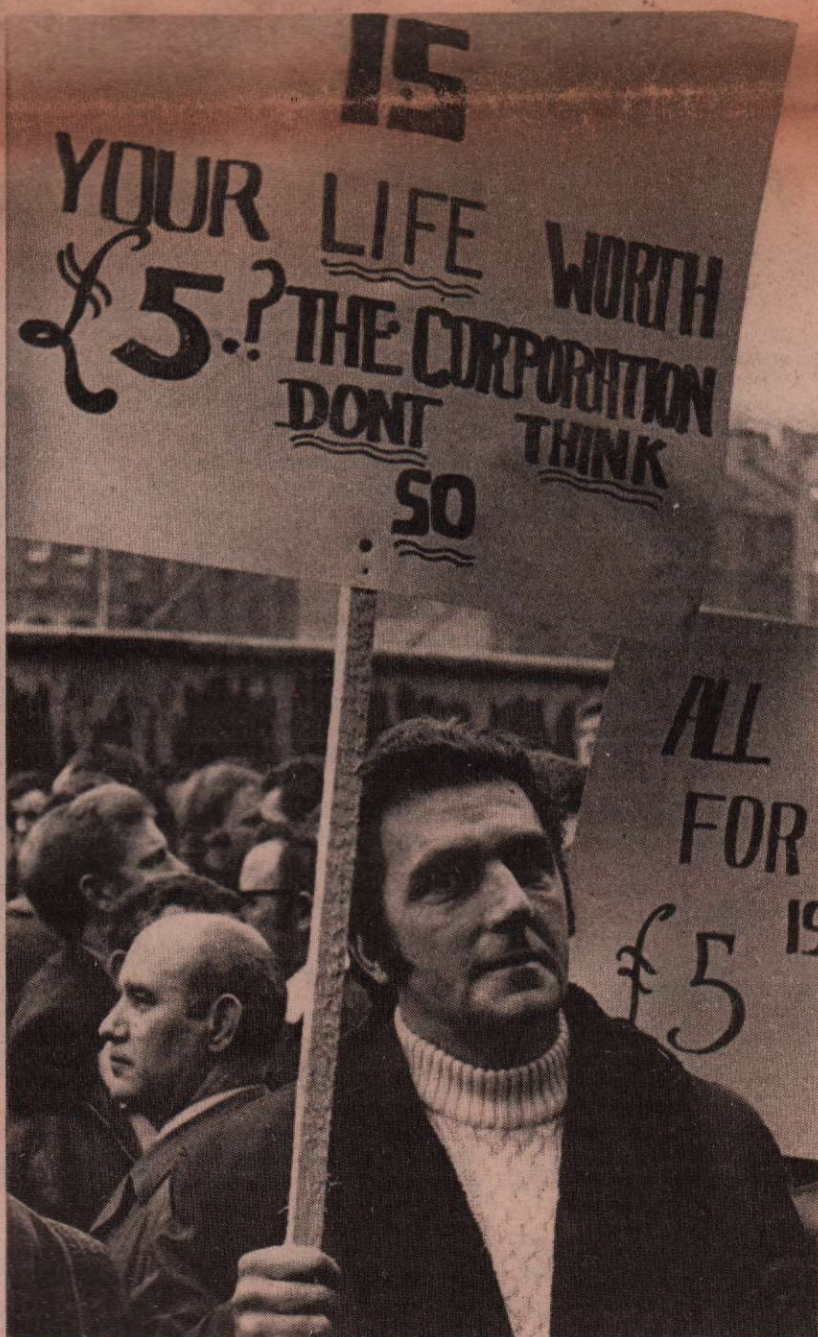
Some of those arguing against the one day strike as 'ineffective' are really against any strike at all.

They need to be reminded that rights have to be fought for. They are not handed out on a plate. The rights we now enjoy are the fruits of the determination and self-sacrifice of earlier generations of workers. And they are threatened by the NIRC's attack on the AUEW.

They can be defended only in the way they were first won—by militant industrial action.

Every trade unionist has a vital interest in the defeat of the NIRC and the victory of the Con-Mech workers.

All out on 5 November!



BOOST OUR FUND

IN THE FIRST MONTH our new £1000-a-month Fighting Fund target fell short, reaching only £702. But £702 is a good start to what will be a permanent fund.

Last week's Socialist Worker story on prices showed how tight money is and how deep Tory policies are biting. Think of the humiliation of asking for one fish-finger from the profit making millionaires of Tesco.

The directors of companies like these are the financial backbone of Tory policy. Profits that are squeezed from

working people are poured into the coffers at the Tory Party headquarters. They know which party represents their interests and they support it to the hilt.

Socialist Worker puts the workers' case. We cannot match the Tories' millions but we can hit our target. Every penny helps to put them out of business. To make the November fund successful, please send your donations quickly to Jim Nichol, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Glasgow firemen set Tory battle ablaze

STABBED in the back by their union leaders and Glasgow's Labour council—but the firemen battle on magnificently against the Tories' wage restraint policy. With troops moved in to do their jobs, this is set to be one of the most vital industrial battles of the decade. Reports: back page. Picture: John Sturrock, (Report).

See you at Belle Vue...

WALLY PRESTON, chairman of the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference, long-standing member of the AUEW:

'Prices up, rents up, profits up—while wages are being pushed down. The Tories have launched an all-out assault on the working class. Their confidence is such that they are even taking the Industrial Act "off the ice" and using it to support a non-union back street employer

'Yet this Tory revival could have been prevented if there had been an organisation of militant workers which would have said to the TUC: "If you are not prepared to launch a union fight against the employers and their government, then we will."

'This is why the International Socialists are holding the Industrial Conference at Belle Vue, Manchester. We want to make a start in building a rank and file organisation in industry which is strong enough to prevent the appalling betrayals by the TUC over the last year.

'See you in Manchester, brothers and sisters!'

IAN MORRIS, BEA AUEW shop steward, British Airways Engineering Base:

'A few weeks ago there was a meeting at Heathrow Airport of 300 shop stewards in engineering and maintenance representing airports all over the country. The meeting agreed on a set of demands which included an across-the-board wage increase of not less than £10, a shorter working week, and equal pay. Negotiations should be concluded by the New Year and unless the claim is met in full the meeting declared that every airport in the country would be shut down.

'But a lot can happen between now and then. Our negotiations are left in the hands of national trade union officials who will wheel and deal with management behind locked doors

'This is a general problem. What is needed is a national rank and file movement that will force our national officials to fight. This is why IS airport workers will be going to the Socialist Worker Conference on 11 November—to support the first step at a national level to building a real alternative to the present sorry state of affairs in the labour movement.'

● More interviews and special articles: centre pages.

Kick out Phase 3

Socialist Worker Industrial Conference

OPEN TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS
Belle Vue Manchester
Sunday 11 November
11am to 6pm
Admission 10p

Full facilities available: cafes, bars, small rooms for group meetings, nursery facilities and zoo for children. Details of coaches page 14.

London train leaves ST PANCRAS at 7.15am



Please send me credentials and details of the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference

Name

Address

Trade union

Send to: IS Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Palestine refugees fight on against Zionism

by Jim Higgins: Cairo

'THERE is no Middle East question, there is a Palestine question,' said Abu Nidal, chief spokesman in Cairo for the Palestine Liberation Organisation. 'Whatever peace settlement is reached will not help if it ignores the Palestinians.'

'To reach our aim of liberating Palestine may take 10 or even 50 years but we are used to fighting. We have already been fighting for 25 years for the identity denied us and for the land stolen from us by the Zionists.'

Mr Nidal added: 'In 1967 the Palestinians faced their first defeat but that did not stop us from carrying on an armed struggle. In 1968 at Al Koramah we showed that the Israelis were not invincible. We showed that with mobilisation of the masses they could be defeated.'

Objective

'Since then we have faced conspiracies, engineered by US imperialism, in Jordan and the Lebanon and thousands of our militants have been killed. In Jordan, Hussein had no less objective than the physical liquidation of the Palestinians.'

'In Jordan it is a crime to say you are a Palestinian. The people of the west bank hate Hussein. We consider him to be as bad as the Zionists. A prime task of the Palestinian revolution must be the liquidation of the Hussein regime.'

I asked Mr Nidal what part the PLO had taken in the present fighting and what attitude they would take to the ceasefire and any subsequent peace conference.

'There are units of the Palestine Liberation Army fighting on the Syrian front and our commando groups are very active in Israel and Sinai. As to the peace conference, we will not be present. We are not concerned with the ceasefire resolution of the Security Council and we will continue to struggle until the Zionist entity is finished and Palestine restored.'

Clients

I asked Mr Nidal to comment on the Zionist propaganda that the Arabs wished to drive the Israelis into the sea, or at least to expel all post-1945 Jewish immigrants.

He said: 'Nobody in the PLO has ever suggested that we should drive the Jewish people into the sea. This is nonsense. Apart from the Zionist clients of American imperialism, all Israelis from before and after 1948 have been victims of the same imperialism as the Arabs.'

'There are three million Palestinians and three million Israelis. We believe that all can live together in a free, democratic Palestine, with no second class citizens. The Israelis have to come to terms with the fact that they are now a Middle East people, not a policeman for the West and oil interests.'

'In my own personal opinion the only lasting solution will be a socialist society for Arabs and Jews alike.'

● Jim Higgins visited the Middle East with a group of journalists from left-wing papers in Britain. Most of them experienced great difficulty in getting reports back to their papers. This is the only despatch from Jim Higgins that got through. He will report more fully next week.

Zionist victory: page 4



Catholic party in move to

by Mike Miller: Belfast

THE second session of the Northern Ireland Assembly, unlike the first, which ended in uproar with a sit-in by the extreme loyalists, has been relatively smooth.

Since its opening two weeks ago it has been debating continuously a motion from the Loyalists rejecting the assembly as 'non-democratic'. With the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Faulkner Unionists opposing the motion, and agreeing in principle to share power, supporters of the assembly are clearly hopeful for its success.

The earlier tactic of blatant disruption adopted by the extreme right wing has given way to less flamboyant methods of attack, but it would be a mistake to assume that this shows they are accepting the system.

A recent meeting of the Unionist Party Standing Committee agreed by a tiny majority to support Faulkner's acceptance of power-sharing with the middle-class Catholic SDLP—something which the

Unionists have consistently rejected in the past. Their willingness to accept it now is a sign of the success Tory overlord William Whitelaw has had in opening the doors between the old Unionist ruling class and the SDLP.

The SDLP, for their part, have conceded whatever principles they had when the struggle for civil rights was at its height. They have done so with virtually no response from the Catholic workers who put them where they are—a sign of Whitelaw's success in taming the mass movement and channeling its activity off the streets.

Struggle

But it is still by no means certain the Assembly will work. Britain's aim in setting it up was to stabilise British rule in Ireland as a whole, by giving the Catholic people of the North an alternative course to that offered by militant republicans, and so undermine the anti-imperialist struggle.

Another aim is to reach a closer relationship with the Southern Irish ruling class, in whose care British capitalists have



Faulkner: tiny majority

invested several hundred million pounds in the past 25 years. The price was the ending of the 50-year-old one-party state in the Six Counties. Britain now has a staunch ally in the Southern Irish government.

Although the one-party state has been destroyed, the tasks of the new Assembly are no different from those of Stormont

before it. Only the means of fulfilling them have changed. The Assembly's creation of British rule and, if it worked at all, can only function as a 'troubles'.

For this reason it can never solve the problems which caused the 'troubles'.

Britain is only interested in making profit out of Ireland. This means wages, a constant and huge pool of employed, slum houses and primitive living conditions.

Crammed

To back this system of exploitation are 20,000 armed men supposedly doing 'law and order'. There are concentration camps and prisons crammed with 2000 political prisoners, many of women and young teenagers.

Drawing the Catholic middle class into the state machine gives a thin cover of respectability to this situation but it not alter it one bit. For that reason the struggle against British rule, in which form it takes, must and will continue. Whether or not that struggle can succeed in destroying the Assembly and what it stands for, depends on the course it takes.

WIMPY STRIKE IS BITING

by Nigel Fountain

LONDON:—Hundreds of restaurant workers, mainly from Turkey, have been on strike since Wednesday of last week. More than 60 Texas Pancake Houses, Aberdeen Steak Houses and Wimpy Bars have been closed by the move.

The restaurants, all owned by the London Eating Houses Group—stretch from Wimbledon in the South through Piccadilly Circus to North London.

Despite high prices in the eating places, conditions for the work force are appalling. A worker showed me his pay slip—he had been working a 99-hour week.

His normal work-day starts at nine in the morning and continues until half past midnight.

'The conditions are very bad,' said Hasan Capci of the Turkish Workers Committee. 'The pay is terrible—between 25p and 50p an hour and the workers have no time to sleep. No unions are allowed, and the bosses have plenty of ways of blackmailing the workers.'

One such method is over holidays. If a worker wishes to return to Turkey for a holiday he needs a certificate from the group to prove that he has employment in England in order to ensure his return.

If the worker decides to join the Transport Workers Union or to demand better conditions then he doesn't get the certificate.

ORGANISE

A month ago a strike in South London restaurants in the group won 're-instatement' for a sacked worker and the promise of union recognition—but nothing has happened since.

The international branch of the TGWU is organising the workers with the support of the workers committee. 'Our main demand is higher wages,' said Capci. 'But we also want no more blackmail, full union rights, demarcation between the different jobs, equal pay for women and the right to organise throughout the restaurants.'

Behind the battle lie other issues. 'A lot of people made a lot of money acting as agents—going around little Turkish villages telling workers what wonderful pay and conditions they would get in England,' Capci pointed out. 'Now they are in the country they can be exploited at will.'

The strike raises crucial issues. If one section of workers in Britain can be denied union rights, paid pitiful wages and subjected to blackmail then the way is open to undercut union organisation throughout the country.

This has happened with union work forces already, both in Britain and in other Common Market countries. The strikers need support, both money and on the picket line. Last week the employers 'sacked' all the strikers. 'We are going to win this strike,' said a spokesman, 'but we desperately need money and support on the picket line.'

Donations to the strike fund, messages of support and other assistance should be sent to the Transport and General Workers Union International Workers Branch, 21 Theobalds Road, London WC1.



Strikers picketing a Wimpy Bar. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Three arrested on explosives charge in republican crackdown

THE POLICE CRACKDOWN on Irish republicans in this country has spread to Bradford. Last week Michael Egan, Norm McCarthy and Bob Gallagher were arrested and charged with offences concerning explosives and ammunition. The operation bears all the marks of a frame up of political militants designed to behind the local Clann na h'Eireann leadership.

Egan and McCarthy are charged with possessing detonators and ammunition and are being held as Category A prisoners at Armley Jail and Riseley remand centre respectively. Category A prisoners, unlike other remand prisoners, have to wear prison uniform and are held in isolation. Gallagher, also held in Armley, has been separated from Egan. When police searched his house they found only republican literature but he faces the vague charge of being 'in control' of detonators.

A fourth person, Joe Doherty, faces the even more improbable charge of conspiring to send guns to Northern Ireland. Although out on bail he is constantly

watched by the police who clearly intend to further arrests. An air of alarm about the case is fostered by massive security precautions at the hearings. The local paper has reported the presence in Bradford of a Scotland Yard bomb squad and two Manchester CID officers investigating the shooting of Patrick Downey.

Clann na h'Eireann has never been involved in bombing activity in this country nor has it supported the bombing campaign in Northern Ireland. The socialist organisation committed to the building of a 32-county socialist republic. The members of Clann na h'Eireann possess nothing more lethal than a new

They are standing trial for their political beliefs. What the Tories must see as a trial run for mass spread repression against other socialist militants in Britain. Every socialist should show maximum solidarity with them. Local IS and Clann branches will be present at the next hearing.

bolster tottering assembly

The course of 'civil rights first', demanding reforms but excluding any independent working-class demands and activities, has been tried for five years and found lacking. The mass struggle for civil rights, with no class content, has been easily used by the Catholic middle class as the motor to drive them to power.

Now they have secured a strong voice in the Assembly they have abandoned their former allies to their fate.

To think, as the Official republicans and Communist Party do, that such a broad-based reformist movement, covering all shades of 'progressive' opinion, is a possible and necessary means of continuing the struggle, is a serious political error. The SDLP and all they stand for must be exposed and opposed with clear working-class politics.

The days of broad alliances are over. The Catholic middle class has made its bed and is eager to lie in it. It is the working class that should abandon them to their fate, by standing on its own feet, raising its own demands and struggling to achieve these against all the would-be rulers of the Assembly.



SDLP's Fitt: surrender to Whitelaw

The belief of the Provisionals that the struggle can continue along purely military lines is also a dangerous illusion. Although they correctly recognise the need to destroy the Assembly, just like Stormont before it, they are wrong to think they can do it in isolation from a mass political movement.

Such a movement must aim to win

at least a section of the Protestant workers without whose active participation in the struggle the state will not be destroyed. These workers will only be won to a genuine struggle for the destruction of imperialism in all 32 counties of Ireland—which means a struggle against capitalism in all 32 counties.

Long-term

Not only do the Provisionals rule out any form of social struggle, they avoid any serious struggles in the 26 Counties whatsoever, in spite of the increasing repression against all republicans and socialists there.

The answer to the Loyalist threat to destroy the Assembly is not to demand that British guns be turned on Protestant workers. That could only be of long-term benefit to Britain.

Those workers can and must be won away from the existing Orange leadership.

The options open to Britain if the Assembly fails to produce an executive are few. Heath recently hinted that such a failure would result in total integration

of the Six Counties with Britain, and then changed his mind the next day.

The Provos seem to be counting on a declaration of Britain's intent to withdraw, but that is clearly not on the cards.

A return to direct rule appears the only solution. This would be a prelude to new elections and would probably be accompanied by veiled threats of withdrawal if a compromise were not reached next time round.

It may be that the Loyalists foresee this possibility and will hold their fire, permitting the present Assembly to get going. But there are certainly some within the Loyalist camp prepared to risk everything on a fight for the restoration of Orange rule. As the present debates continue in the Assembly with all their apparent calm, it is impossible to know how strong each side of the Loyalist camp is.

One thing is certain. Whether the Assembly 'succeeds' or not, the root causes of the troubles in Ireland will remain until the struggle for socialism finally puts them to the axe.

Troops must go rally is told

SW Reporter

MORE THAN 400 people packed Fulham town hall, West London, last Wednesday at a public meeting called by the Troops Out Movement where an ex-soldier, who recently served in Belfast, described army repression against the Catholic community in the North of Ireland.

The soldier, who appeared anonymously, spoke of the 'hundreds of men interned for their beliefs and opinions, homes wrecked and innocent people shot dead when internment was introduced. At the reception centres, I saw many men brought in frightened and bewildered their only crime being that they were males, aged between 15 and 50, lived in a certain area and were of a certain religion.'

Jack Dronoy of the National Council for Civil Liberties, said that at the present time there was an uneasy peace in Belfast but it was 'the peace of a Warsaw ghetto after an unparalleled reign of terror within the UK.'

Spill-over

TGWU convenor Jim Kemp of the Shrewsbury 24 Defence Committee stressed the necessity to raise the Irish issue in the trade union and labour movement and the need to explode the myth of the army as a 'peace-keeping' force. He highlighted the recent conspiracy cases against trade unionists as a direct spill-over from the repression in Northern Ireland.

James Wellbeloved, Labour MP for Erith, disassociated himself from Jim Kemp's speech. He said he was in favour of withdrawing the army but said denigrating the troops was not the way to go about it.

Eamonn McCann, calling for the spreading of the Troops Out Movement, warned British trade unionists and British socialist organisations of the dangers of standing on the sidelines on the Irish question. Calling for all socialist organisations to affiliate, he said the machinery of repression which was being perfected in Northern Ireland would be used to smash any future working-class movement which seriously threatened the power and privileges of the ruling class in this country.

Phase 3 gets cold reception

SERIOUS power cuts, perhaps even blackouts, will be the first result of Heath's Phase Three as senior staff in Britain's power stations take industrial action for the first time in their history.

The men, members of the 30,000-strong Electrical Power Engineers' Association, are furious that a stand-by pay agreement, signed and sealed before the wage freeze last year, has now been broken by the Tories.

The agreement gave them £13 a week for 'standing by' for emergencies, compared with a miserable £5 a week which they get at present. Payments for call-outs on emergencies and for weekend 'stand-bys' had also been agreed.

The government and the Pay Board have refused to allow the payments as 'anomalies' under the freeze, and the union leaders have been forced to endorse a work to rule. The EPEA's general secretary, John Lyons, has been desperately playing down the action, but many of his members intend to make the action bite as soon as possible.

Engineers in rents row storm

GLASGOW:—850 manual and drawing office workers at John Brown Engineering at Clydebank gave a powerful kick to the Tory Secretary of State on Monday morning as a government-appointed lawyer was due to hold an inquiry into the reasons why the second rent rise under the Housing Finance Act had not been implemented.

Half an hour before the lawyer was due to get his inquiry under way, the entire work force of John Brown Engineering marched out of the factory and occupied the town hall. The demonstration was in accordance with a decision taken by the West of Scotland Shops Stewards meeting.

The John Brown Engineering stewards expected a similar response from Singers and Marathon, where James Reid is AUEW convenor as well as a Communist Party councillor, but only a handful of other shop stewards and no councillors at all, apart from one who works in John Brown, turned up.

Occupied

Danny McKendry, Boilermakers convenor at John Brown, told me that he was disappointed with the attendance of the Clydebank councillors. Other workers put it even more sharply. 'Where are the saviours of Clydebank today?' they asked.

As the workers occupied the hall that had been converted into a temporary courtroom they marched up to the front and sat in the lawyers' chairs. When Mr T Gordon Coutts QC appeared he couldn't be heard over the shouts of 'Kick out the Tories' that filled the hall.

He moved the hearing to another hall, but before he could get there the men had occupied that hall too.

Mr Coutts was forced to ask the stewards for permission to speak which they gave him on the understanding that they would switch off the mike if they disagreed with what he was saying. Soon after he started his mike went off and he was forced to adjourn his attempt at a hearing for another week.

The John Brown Engineering workers had scored a victory. Eddy Curran, the AUEW convenor, wound up the demonstration by saying: 'We're not only opposed to the Rent Act, we're also against the government's whole policy, particularly Phase Three. If rents go up while our wages are kept down then this demonstration is just a start.'

UNION BUILDER SACKED

WOLVERHAMPTON:—More than 40 workers are on strike at FAG Bearings, at nearby Wombourne, demanding the reinstatement of Arthur Ford, who was sacked on Thursday. Management claimed his work was not satisfactory—but the week he was sacked his immediate boss, the sales manager, was away. The real reason was clearly that he was helping to establish the Transport Workers Union at the factory.

Arthur is a clerical worker at FAG but he is being overwhelmingly supported by the manual workers. Effective picketing by the strikers, many of them women, has prevented any bearings coming in or out



FLYING PICKETS FACED MENACE OF SHOTGUN

SW Reporter

THE HOT reception that the North Wales flying pickets received in Shrewsbury during last year's building workers strike was described in court last week by one of the men involved:

'A man got a shot-gun out of a car and pointed it directly at several pickets. He was in a raging temper and said "the first one that touches me has it".'

This came out as the trial of six of the pickets entered its fifth week in Shrewsbury. John Carpenter, Eric Tomlinson, Des Warren, John McKinsie Jones, Kenneth O'Shea and John Llywarch are all pleading not guilty to conspiring to intimidate workers to abstain from work, unlawful assembly and fighting and making an affray.

With half the prosecution's 240 witnesses still uncalled the case is expected to last three months. And that won't be the end of it, for then the six accused and the rest of the Shrewsbury 24 will be

tried on lesser charges.

The court heard of the battle of the North Wales building workers to get £30 for a 35 hour week, and their attitude to scabs after 11 weeks on strike.

John Batterby, treasurer of the Oswestry Strike Action Committee, talked about the work of the committee. His own job as treasurer was 'nominal—we never had any strike pay at all.' About 40 people attended the committee's meetings, which took place several times a week. John Llywarch was chairman said Batterby, 'because he had a better way of speaking.'

Another witness, Mr Evans, also on the committee said that the committee was 'very informal and democratic. John Llywarch wasn't really forceful enough and sometimes everybody spoke at once.'

Once a week John Batterby and John Llywarch had attended joint action committee meetings at Chester. At one such meeting Batterby produced a newspaper report describing an 'anti-picket' force which building employers boasted they had set up in Shrewsbury. Previous attempts to send flying pickets from Oswestry had failed and they were scared to return.

'NO VIOLENCE'

It was decided to send coachloads from all over North Wales on 6 September. Mr Evans said he had been picketing every day and 'there had never been any trouble' until 6 September. When the picket reached Shrewsbury he described how pickets had rushed on to the first site, the scaffolding had been pulled down and windows broken.

Several witnesses described how Llywarch had opposed violence. A coach-driver talked about a meeting in Oswestry which preceded the trip to Shrewsbury. He emphasised that the meeting's policy had

been 'no violence'.

Mr Edwards pointed out that the man with the shot-gun had appeared upon their arrival in Shrewsbury. In the afternoon the flying picket had gone on to the McAlpines Brookside site in Telford New Town near Shrewsbury. A works manager claimed that '£500-£700 worth of damage had been done.'

A Mr Hughes said that he had been approached by 20 or 30 pickets armed with pieces of wood, while he was painting a window. He was called a scab and blackleg in a 'vicious manner and I was told to get off the site.'

Des Warren, one of the accused, had addressed a meeting on the site. He had asked the site workers to form an action committee. After a long pause a man had volunteered to be the secretary, but a witness said the site had only come out for a couple of days.

PC Amies claimed that the pickets 'had run from their coaches and on to Brookside to the noise of shouting and machines being turned over. Pickets who had stayed on the coach looked pretty fed up with what was going on.'

Amies had asked another of the accused, John Carpenter, if he 'couldn't control the pickets.' Carpenter had replied that 'I need a loudhailer.'

Under cross-examination Amies agreed that Carpenter had been 'perfectly co-operative.'

NEXT WEEK
Royal
Wedding
'souvenir'



Chilean left still a threat to military junta's rule

by Vic Richards

SIX weeks after the overthrow of Allende, Chile's military dictators are still wrestling with continued resistance to the army's rule. The junta has now decided to expel several foreign journalists, to prevent any independent reporting of

atrocities committed by the army.

The other problem is the serious state of the Chilean economy, and the inability of the right to reach a consensus on how to

solve it. Prices are still rising at a rate of 600 per cent a year and there is serious pressure to slow this down immediately. In the long term, the stability of the regime depends on staging an economic boom.

The moderates, in particular the Christian Democrats, clearly hope for foreign aid as a means to recovery. They feel that the present wave of repression scares foreign investors, and deters foreign governments from granting loans to Chile, so they want a return to normal parliamentary rule and a less vicious attack against workers' living standards.

At the other end of the right-wing spectrum, the fascists are advocating that the whole burden be shifted on to the working class. They want the complete repression of socialist ideas and organisations, the physical liquidation of the regime's opponents, and the destruction of any form of free trade unionism.

Dictatorship

Their ideas are supported by many who feared the loss of their property and the possibility of a workers' revolution during Allende's government, and also by many young officers.

In recent weeks the fascists have been less in evidence as senior generals have sought to enhance their own independent power and to reduce the volume of bad publicity abroad. But fascism is an integral component of the dictatorship. The refusal of the left to lie down and the pressures to reduce inflation are bound to lead to a more systematic attack on the working class as a whole.

The continuing violence is one aspect of this. Organisations in the slums and working-class districts have been shooting back at the army only under the most extreme provocation. Most 'summary executions' by the army seem to have been against sections of socialist or workplace organisations engaged in regrouping or in hiding arms.

The level of violence is beyond anything experienced in Northern Ireland, despite the left's care to avoid being trapped by army efforts to drag it into an all-out confrontation. It shows that resistance is widespread.

The military, unable to 'flush out' the revolutionaries, also seem unable to cut them off from the mass of workers. Before the coup, about one trade unionist in ten was an activist in one of the socialist organisations. Even among non-union workers a majority voted for the left-wing parties.

The army has eroded this base, by sacking, jailing and killing thousands of socialist workers and many more have been demoralised by the defeat of the Chilean Road to Socialism. But many survive, having lost their illusions in Parliament.

Opposition

The right cannot exploit its victory, partly because of internal divisions, but mainly for lack of support among workers. The Christian Democrats, who had the only non-socialist mass following in the trade unions, have lost most of their activists since ex-President Frei supported the coup.

With the dictatorship eroding wages, the alternative open to Chilean workers are opposition to the regime and apathy. Socialism alone will have a mass following, unless the whole working class is demoralised. And as the army itself recognises, it has not destroyed the marxist organisations.

This will increase the pressures in the direction of fascism. Until the left is destroyed and the unions completely controlled, Chilean workers are down but not out. The junta's austerity programmes are the beginning of the second phase of counter-revolution in Chile. They will hit all workers, and while the left survives this means the junta continues to be vulnerable.



A Syrian truck convoy at the Golan Heights front destroyed by the Israelis

CEASEFIRE VICTORY FOR THE ISRAELIS

THE fourth Arab-Israeli war has ended in yet another Israeli victory and Arab defeat.

by Neil Rogall

refugees. While America pours arms and money into Israel, Russia has been putting enormous pressure on Egypt for a cease-fire by telling Sadat Egypt will get no more Russian aid unless he gives in.

Israel will only accept a cease-fire and negotiations on the basis of its own military strength. The Israeli leaders, not for the first time, cry 'peace' only after they have conquered yet more Arab territory.

They aim, as General Dayan has put it, to 'create facts'—to legalise by international recognition conquests and advantages they have gained by naked military superiority. Israel will always back a cease-fire if it is to her own advantage.

Nixon's nuclear threats, which created the illusion that Russia was preparing a military intervention, were made to divert attention from his increasingly severe domestic

crisis.

Both the Americans and the Russians wished throughout to keep the war 'under control'. The superpowers want a permanent settlement in the area, which means strangling the struggle of the Arab masses, preserving oil supplies and reopening the Suez canal.

On the Arab, the war was also kept within strict limits. The sheikhs made cuts—actually marginal cuts—in oil supplies, but at no time were the workers of the oil-producing countries encouraged to take action themselves, nor were the Palestinian guerrilla fighters mobilised against the Zionist enemy they have been fighting continuously for years.

In Egypt, the war was used by Sadat to divert the opposition of workers and students to his regime. Some were released from jail only days before the war and rallied to support Sadat. But with the cease-fire and Egypt's obvious defeat, internal conflict and class struggle are bound to rise again.

The Arab states have shown they are incapable of defeating the racist settler state of Israel. But the myth of Israeli invincibility has been severely dented: it has become more and more apparent that Israel is nothing without America's unceasing military and financial aid.

This is why the only real solution to the Middle East problem is a united socialist movement of Arab and Jewish workers against both Zionism and the reactionary Arab states, which can lead on to a democratic Palestinian state with equal rights for all.

UN is tool of superpowers

by Ian Birchall

The United Nations, almost certainly working hand-in-hand with the American CIA, permitted the arrest and then the murder of Lumumba and his replacement by a pro-imperialist government.

The sole use of the United Nations has been to patch up matters after the big powers have come to an agreement, as in the Middle East in 1956, or after the Cuba crisis in 1962. But when a big power has engaged in naked aggression or vicious repression against a smaller country or a liberation movement, the UN has simply stood aside.

In 1954, when the United States intervened to overthrow a mildly left-wing government in Guatemala, the UN Security Council refused to place a request for action from Guatemala on its agenda. When Russian troops smashed the Hungarian working class in 1956 the UN passed self-righteous resolutions, but abstained from all action. The bloody wars

waged by France in Algeria and the United States in Vietnam merely highlighted the UN's total impotence.

For despite all the illusions nourished by many on the left, the UN can never be independent from the interests of the big powers. It depends totally on them for arms and for money, and must dance to their tune.

The UN can bring no solution to the problems of the Middle East. On the contrary, the UN forces will be used, against any developing Arab guerrilla movement that seeks to carry on the struggle against Israel and against any mass movement that seeks to overthrow the existing Arab regimes.

The predecessor of the UN, the League of Nations, which collapsed dismally at the time of the Second World War, was described by the Russian Bolsheviks as 'a hopelessly compromised Geneva organisation which will direct its future efforts to the suppression of revolutionary movements.' The judgement fits today's United Nations perfectly.

THE United Nations troops being sent into the Middle East are described as a 'peace-keeping force'. But no-one should be under any illusion that the United Nations is, or ever could be, anything other than a direct tool of the big powers.

The United Nations was set up at the end of the Second World War. The two big powers, Russia and America, had carved the world up into 'spheres of influence' without consulting the inhabitants of their respective 'spheres'. The role of the UN was to police the carve-up, and to kid the rest of the world into helping pay for the job.

From the very beginning, the United States, backed by tame dictatorships in Asia and South America, made it clear who was going to be boss. Going back on an agreement with Russia, the US insisted that the pro-fascist regime in Argentina should be brought into the UN.

Between 1946 and 1953 the UN General Assembly adopted more than 800 resolutions—fewer than 3 per cent of these were contrary to American wishes, and none at all affected US security interests.

In the 1960s, Connor Cruise O'Brien, who worked for the UN in the Congo, wrote: 'A Secretary-General [of the UN] who lost the confidence of Washington would have to resign. A storm from the East could be weathered, although with difficulty; a storm from the West could probably not be weathered at all.'

In the Korean War from 1950 to 1953 the United Nations was simply the legal fiction under which the United States fought in a long and bloody struggle between the two great world powers. The UN forces were allowed to experiment with a new weapon—napalm.

The war left Korea in ruins from end to end. It did not advance the interests of the Korean people one inch.

In 1960 Patrice Lumumba, recently elected Prime Minister of the newly independent Congo, faced right-wing and pro-imperialist opposition. He invited in the United Nations to help 'restore order'.

THE workers at the LIP watch factory in Besancon, France, show no signs of weakening in their six-month struggle against closure. Last week saw the fourth 'workers' pay day', when monthly wages were again paid out of money received from the sale of watches under the control of the LIP workers.

The day after, the strike headquarters were raided by a massive force of CRS riot police, who hoped to seize the money and the watches held 'illegally' by the workers. They managed to grab only 38,000 francs (£3,500)—a month's wages for fewer than 40 workers. The strikers' cash reserves run into millions of francs, some of which was hidden in flower pots right under the noses of the riot police raiders. The police found only 39 of the 65,000 watches still held by the workers.

by Richard Kirkwood

A week or so before the raid, the government announced its latest offer, a scheme which would make 159 workers redundant, was final. A mass meeting of strikers rejected this offer, though the local members of France's biggest union the Communist Party-led CGT, called for a return to work and negotiations on the details of the scheme.

The local CFDT—the biggest union at LIP—has gone part of the way to meet the government's mediator, but insisted on the spelling out of detailed conditions of employment both for those workers

who were to remain and for those to be made redundant. The mediator broke off negotiations himself.

The hidden sting in the government's offer, which the CFDT pointed out, was that it would reduce the workforce below 1000, and under French labour law this would mean a major drop in the number of workers' representatives who could be elected within the factory. The section of the factory hardest hit by the redundancy plan was, incidentally, one in which a high proportion of these elected representatives worked.

The mass meeting shouted down those

who wanted a return to work and reaffirmed the original demands of no redundancies and no break-up of the firm. One worker said: 'We have fought shoulder to shoulder for six months and we've no right to leave anyone out now.' When the CGT insisted on a secret ballot, the result was 626 to 174 for continuing the struggle.

The CGT complained of 'adventurism' and 'outside agitators', but the mood of the workers was clear.

Last week's police raid has brought even the moderates back into the struggle. It has reinforced the anger and determination of the LIP workers, and the solidarity of workers all over France. With such determination and such support, the LIP workers are not going to give in to government blackmail.

Having a Whales of a time

THE OLD SAYING one law for the poor, another for the rich has recently been revised to take account of the war in Northern Ireland.

There is now one law for the poor and another for the rich and British Army soldiers in Northern Ireland.

Malcolm Whales, formerly a soldier with the Royal Anglians in Northern Ireland pleaded guilty last month to charges of attacking and raping a 50 year-old woman in a Norfolk country lane.

In court, the defence painted an amazing picture of the 'fated love of this British soldier'. The court

was told that while Whales was serving Queen and Country in Ireland he fell in love with a Catholic girl, joined the church and married her.

'This marriage was a disaster,' Mr Raymond Chance, defending Whales, told Norwich Crown Court. And a month after it broke up

Whales attacked and raped the 50 year-old woman in a country lane.

'The wife was sluttish and dirty with a childish mentality,' explained Mr Chance. 'Whales is a casualty of Ulster. The traumatic experience of his marriage has led to the break up of his personality,'

Whales, the casualty of Ulster,

was jailed for 15 months.

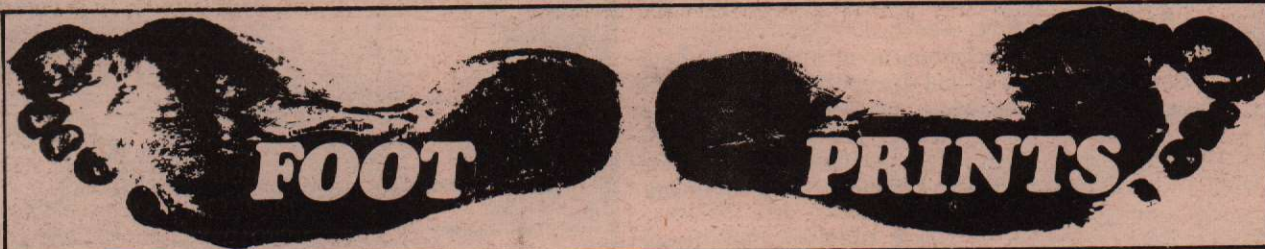
At another trial at Winchester Crown Court, Gunner Kevin Thompson pleaded not guilty to rape. He had been involved in some erotic dancing with a WRAC girl at an army camp dance. They left the dance, kissed and cuddled.

What followed was disputed—

the girl claiming she was raped, Gunner Thompson that she had resisted at first, but then became willing.

Although there was much more room for doubt since he pleaded not guilty and there was a measure of agreement between defence and prosecution on the friendliness of the two at the dance, Thompson got the book thrown at him. He had no 'casualty of Ulster' defence.

Mr Justice Willis told him that he had 'disgaced his uniform and good-army character' in persisting 'like a brute' to this girl, and that 'his lust had got hold of him'. Thompson got four years.



Murky Mersey Liberals

THE LIBERAL IMAGE is cracking fast. The party's dedication to 'community politics' and 'the needs of ordinary people' is clashing all the time with the interests of the people who represent it in parliament and on the council.

This week the shares of one of London's nastiest property and finance combines, London and County Securities, fell back 10p after disclosures that the company was being investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The directors have been embarrassed by the disclosures, none more so than Mr Jeremy Thorpe who, when he is not getting £5000 a year for lending his name to make property tycoons respectable, is leader of the Liberal Party.

In Liverpool, where the Liberals won most seats in this year's local elections, things are even worse. The current issue of the Liverpool Free Press, which is by far the best of the country's community papers, pulls the pants of some of the more revolting of the new 'tribunes of the people'.

Shark in chief is Mr Michael Hefferon, who was elected this year as Liberal councillor for Tuebrook, and who has interests through a string of companies in at least 50 properties in Liverpool.

Most of these are multi-occupied houses, and for most of them Hefferon is applying for improvement grants.

The Free Press estimates that Hefferon stands to gain £250,000 from improvement grants and will then set about trying to get rid of the tenants in the houses so he can improve them and sell them or let them at higher rents. He has already written several 'evicting' letters, politely suggesting that tenants get out or the noise and dust of improvement will be difficult for them to bear.

Mr Hefferon's companies have a shocking record in almost every

AT The Financial Times dinner given for Victor Feather to mark his retirement as general secretary of the TUC there was a representative from almost every big employers' group and every capitalist newspaper in the land.

Another guest was Harold Wilson, leader of the Labour Party, who stunned guests next to him by repeating for the umpteenth time how glad he was that England lost the world cup match with Poland.

'After all,' said Wilson, apparently seriously, 'we only lost the last election because of England losing the World Cup.'

department. They have been fined for not providing proper fire escapes and ordered by the Health Department on numerous occasions to carry out essential repairs.

The activities of Mr Hefferon are exactly the sort of thing which the Liverpool Liberal Party promised to stop. It can and will not do anything to fulfil its promises, if only because Cyril Carr, the leader of the Liverpool Liberal Party and prospective leader of the Liberal-controlled Liverpool District Council, is a property lawyer with directorships of 16 property companies.

With his family, he has built up a property empire which is worth all of a million pounds.

The common feature of all Carr's properties is the hefty payments to directors, including Carr.

New-style liberalism spreads far and wide. Essex County Council is leasing half an acre of precious school playing-field land to a property company which wants to build squash courts.

The company has agreed to pay £1.60 a week to the council for the land. It hopes to make £400 a week from subscriptions from fat businessmen in the Chelmsford area who want to cut down their weight.

Parents at Moulsham comprehensive school who will lose their land



TRAIN OF THOUGHT

AMAZING THINGS are happening these days. Sitting in the train on the way to Manchester the other day, trying to slog through a boring book on Herbert Morrison, when a dining car attendant from Liverpool stops on his way through the carriage and asks me if I'm interested in politics.

'I'm not a Communist,' he went on, without really waiting for a reply, 'but I can't stand Heath any more, I'll tell you. Did you see him on the telly yesterday say-

ing how we were all better off?'

Before I could agree, he whipped out his last week's pay slip. He'd worked 69 hours (that's just under 10 hours every day of the week) for £45 on the top line.

After stoppages, he took home £31. He went on to tell me that he spent his time serving expensive dinners to 'people like Heath'. The previous evening four businessmen had had dinner and a lot of wine. The bill came to more than the attendant's basic pay.

are very angry, but they have got no joy from Mr Norman St John Stevas, Tory MP for Chelmsford, even though St John Stevas is a junior Minister for Education.

The chairman of the property company is Mr John Griffiths. Needless to say, he is a Liberal, and a former Liberal parliamentary candidate for Woodford, London.

Seen but not Hern

THE scrupulous fairness of the Industrial Relations Act came to light recently at Reading Industrial Tribunal, whose chairman is a High Court judge, Sir Hugh Griffiths. Before the court was John Morgan, 35, who was claiming damages for his dismissal by the famous racehorse-trainer, Dick Hern.

Hern's stables at West Ilsley, Berkshire, house some of Britain's finest and fastest horses. Among the owners whose horses are trained there are Lady Beaverbrook, wife of the

former press Baron, the millionaire 'Jakey' Astor and Sir Michael Sobell chairman of GEC's radio division, who got his knighthood last year after massive contributions to the Tory Party and to the European Movement.

The vast wealth of the Hern stables had been noticed by John Morgan, who had worked for Hern since 1964 and had worked in racing stables for 19 years. From time to time, in a friendly sort of way, John would be heard to comment to his fellow workers that Hern was spending more on his horses than on his workers.

These remarks came to the ears of Mr Hern, who summoned the unfortunate stable 'lad' to his presence. 'I have come to the conclusion,' said Mr Hern, 'that you are undermining my apprentices and I want you to leave.'

John Morgan was sacked, and, soon afterwards, was evicted from his 'tied' cottage.

John Morgan went to the Reading Citizens' Advice Bureau, where he was given a pamphlet published by the Central Office of Industrial Tribunals. The pamphlet told him

how to sue employers for unfair dismissal.

Unfortunately the pamphlet nowhere pointed out that the dismissed worker has to sue his employer within 28 days of his dismissal, or his action fails. John Morgan sued 30 days after he was sacked. So Sir Hugh Griffiths told him that the court had 'no jurisdiction' to deal with his case.

Sir Hugh described the failure of the pamphlet to note the 28-days provision as 'unfortunate in the extreme'. But there was nothing he could do about it.

MY COLLEAGUE Jim Higgins tells me that the Daily Telegraph man in Cairo, John Miller, was so distressed at the lack of co-operation shown him by the Egyptian authorities during the war that he went on radio to say how courageous and magnificent the Egyptian troops had been in battle.

This singular exercise in hypocrisy did not make the slightest difference, and the wretched Miller had to spend the war consoling himself by the swimming pool of the Cairo Hilton.

Weapons for the war against Phase 3

WHAT TOP COMPANY'S profits went up 144 per cent during the freeze? How much did real wages fall over the last year? How does the Retail Price Index distort the true cost of living?

These and other key questions in the fight against Phase Three are answered in a handbook, from Counter-Information Services, the radical research group. It should be essential ammunition in the hands of every trade unionist.

Each page in the handbook unfolds a mass of material on wages, prices, and profits under the freeze, on the plight of the low paid, on who owns Britain and on the real roots of inflation in the international anarchy of our profit-mad economy. The overall picture comes across clearly; the Tories are out to cut real wages, to boost profits and to make sure that the costs of world inflation fall entirely on the workers.

The CIS team has made its own survey of the results of 20 top companies reporting in the nine months before Phase 2 came in. It shows profits up 26 per cent while wages rose 10.9 per cent.

Contrasts

It quotes Stock Exchange reports which show how the profits boom went on under Phase 2. Companies reporting in June and July showed profits up 40 per cent on the year before. And bank profits nearly doubled, from £165 million to £300 million.

The report contrasts this with the plight of wages. It shows that for a worker on the average industrial wage, with two children, Phase 2 meant a wage cut of at least 4 per cent in real terms.

And that's using the fiddled figures of the Retail Price Index. The report shows how the committee in charge of this so-called 'Cost of Living Index' has only one trade unionist on it out of 17 members—and hasn't met for more than two years.

No wonder then that a family with a £5 weekly council rent would need to earn £80 gross per week, to meet the committee's assumptions of how an 'average' family spends its income! Meanwhile, the authors estimate, it would take a 17 per cent wage increase this year to make up for last year's real cuts, and keep ahead of next year's inflation.

Some of the best nuggets are in the section on food prices, which shows in detail how the big monopolies in poultry and egg production and in frozen foods, can drive up prices at will and boost their profits at the housewives' expense. Every 2p increase in the price of a dozen eggs brings in an extra £1.3 million for Eastwoods, the giant egg and poultry farmer—and there were three such increases in September alone.

Fraud

The report also details the workings of the Wages Commission, and the loophole-ridden Prices Commission. Its maximum £400 fine for firms withholding information, is less than the cost of drawing up the accounts.

The new Phase Three norms still amount to a wages cut, even taking into account the 'threshold' fraud. If you don't think prices will rise as fast next year as last, look at what the report has to say about increases of up to 35 per cent in wholesale food prices and 75 per cent increases in world commodity prices, still to work themselves through into the shops.

A chapter on 'Money and the multi-nationals' shows how the real roots of inflation lie in the madness of modern international big business, where giant firms cock a multi-national snook at governments, and one day's speculation on the money market can affect prices more than a year of wage increases.

The report should certainly be in the hands of anyone who will need to argue about the freeze in the months ahead.

Stephen Marks

Three Phase Trick—A Handbook on Inflation and Phase Three, available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Price 30p (plus 7p postage). Five copies or more post free. The usual 10 per cent discount for IS branches for payments in advance.

One mother's desperate battle for survival in

WE HAVE NOW BEEN without electricity for 12 days. I am a 28 year-old unsupported mother with three children—a boy aged eight, a girl aged five and a baby of 13 months—in Grimsby.

We would be in an impossible situation if it were not for the assistance of comrades, neighbours and friends. Social security has provided us with a Calor gas stove which has only one burner and is obviously quite inadequate for the preparation of a decent meal.

Fortunately, a friend lent me a camping stove with two burners so I can at least provide proper meals for the children. We can be seen making our expeditions to other houses in the neighbourhood with the washing and ironing or bath towels and shampoo bottle.

Apart from the hardships involved there are the safety hazards in being without electricity. I have a burn on my hand from a gas appliance and a glass bottle containing a candle shattered and narrowly missed burning or cutting the baby.

My husband left us in March 1972 and I have been on Social Security ever since. It is only since I became a claimant that I have come to understand the inhumanity of our Social Security system and the inadequacy of our welfare state, which makes existence possible but life impossible.

I receive £11.05 a week Social Security benefit and £1.90 family allowance and out of this paltry sum I am expected—like many others—to feed and clothe the three children and myself and pay all day-to-day living expenses including gas and electricity bills.

A few months after my husband left, the SS paid a gas bill of £12 for me and I had a meter installed. In cold weather this eats up about £1 a week. (Why is there no winter fuel allowance, since obviously expenditure on heating is much greater than that in the summer months?)

At first I was under the impression that since the electricity bills were all addressed to my husband he was liable to pay them and I optimistically forwarded them. Then I discovered that it is the user of the electricity and not the owner of the property who foots the bill.

The matter was closed

I put in a claim for the bill and a visitor from the SS came to see me. She said that since they had already helped me with one fuel bill it was highly irregular for them to help me with another and that first I must agree to have a meter installed.

I said that I wouldn't entertain the idea, since life was difficult enough as it was. She snapped her file shut and said that the matter was closed.

So the bills continued to mount up. Last winter the baby had bronchitis and the doctor said that it was important that the air she breathe shouldn't be too cold. So I borrowed a friend's convector heater for the baby's bedroom during the coldest weeks.

The bills mounted alarmingly. I

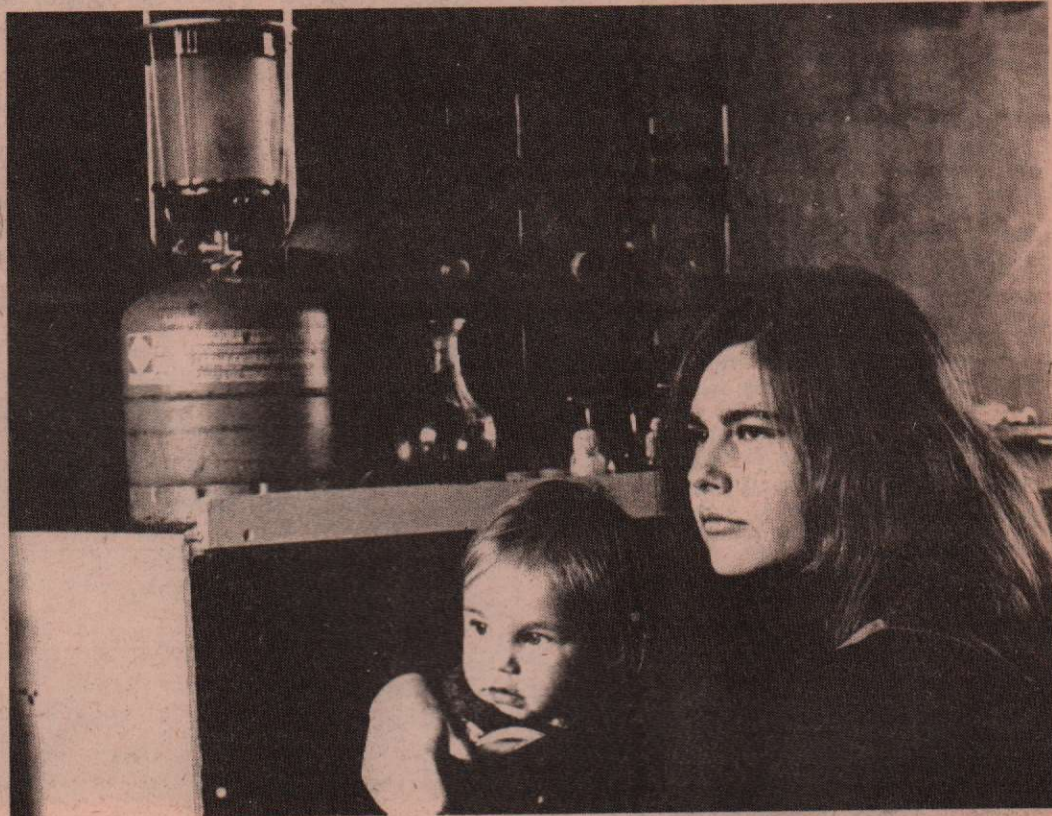
continued to put in claims which were fobbed off by the SS by virtue of the fact, they said, that they had already helped with one fuel bill.

In July I received notice that the supply was to be disconnected. I put in a claim which was ignored. An electricity board official came round to disconnect the supply. I refused him entry and he went away. The same thing happened a few weeks later.

The bill now totalled £60. In September I received a letter from the electricity board saying that an officer would be coming accompanied by a police officer to enforce the disconnection of the supply.

I put in another claim. I also asked the board if I could have a meter installed and use the rebates to pay off the debt. This was refused. I also approached a probation officer who was carrying out a welfare report on the children. My husband had won the race to the divorce court, been granted his decree nisi and informed the judge that he was not satisfied with the arrangements for the children—hence the welfare report.

The probation officer managed to hold off the disconnection while, as I thought, my claim was being dealt with.



A candle to light us to bed...

by SHEILA
JONES

I received the following letter from the Probation Service:-

Dear Mrs Jones,

Would you please write to Social Security enclosing your bill for electricity and they will arrange for someone to come and see you.

No one came. I rang Social Security twice and was told I was down as a priority case for the visiting officer. Still no one came and I naively came to believe that they had decided to pay the bill.

On Monday 24 September, the local policeman came round with an emergency message. My father was dying in a hospital in Scarborough. I visited my father that night.

I left the children with a neighbour and a comrade from Grimsby IS drove me to Scarborough. I stayed overnight and visited him again the following afternoon. I returned to Grimsby that night by way of the train and the ferry, feeling

very unhappy and alone.

Next morning, Wednesday 26 September, two men and a police officer arrived at the house to disconnect the electricity. I told them I would not let them in and that I could not look after my children without electricity.

They forced their way in and the police officer 'restrained' me while the supply was disconnected. I scratched him and was later told I was lucky not to have been put on an assault charge.

On Thursday I went to the SS office with two former members of the now dissolved Grimsby Claimants Union. I told the clerk I wanted to claim for train fares and expenses incurred in the visit to Scarborough. He said I would have to furnish proof—such as a note from my father's doctor—that I had made such a visit.

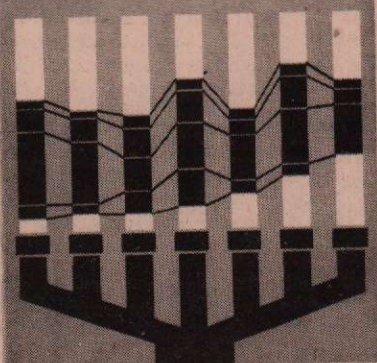
I said that such proof would take time and I needed the money then. If they would only ring the village policeman who had brought me the emergency message, I said, then they would have enough proof.

They replied that it was up to me to provide the proof and they would not even let me use their phone. I live some six miles from Grimsby—15p each way on the bus—

3 children and mounting bills

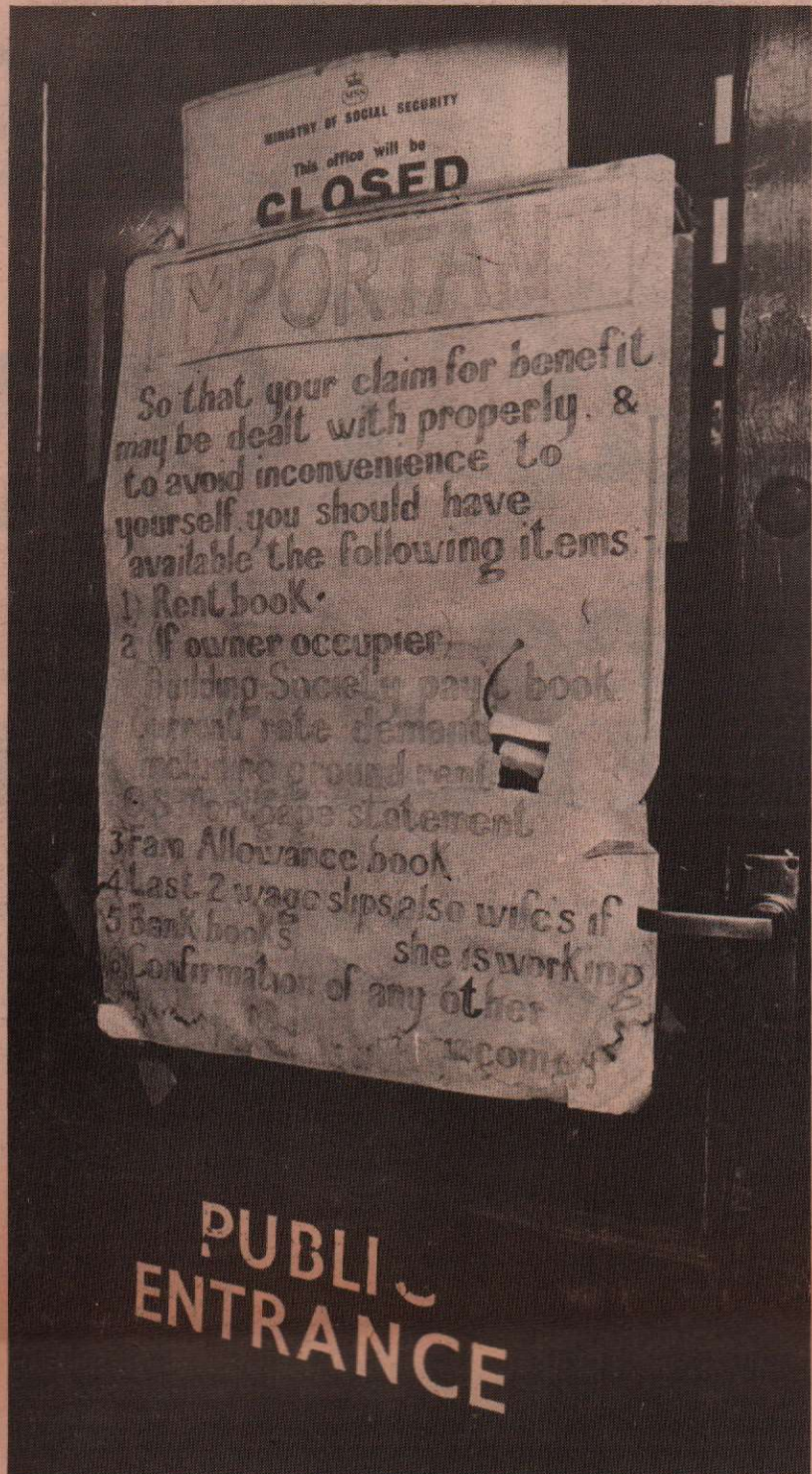
Haim Hanegbi,
Moshe Machover, Akiva Orr

The Class Nature of Israeli Society



The Class Nature of Israeli Society by Hanegbi, Machover and Orr. Three Israeli socialists analyse Israeli society and argue that a rejection of its Zionist basis is the precondition for any breakthrough in the Middle East.

Published by Pluto Press/available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, 10p plus 4p postage and packing (10 or more copies post free).



and I became very annoyed at the thought of having to return the following day with the proof that was a phone call away. I then said that I wanted to put in a claim for my electricity bill. He wrote out a claim for half the amount and asked me to sign it. I refused to do so and asked for an interview.

No kindly light amid the encircling gloom... Sheila Jones and her 13-month baby (left) in their Grimsby home. Without electricity, light is supplied by a hurricane lamp.

Above: the austere, forbidding entrance to Grimsby Social Security office. Pictures: Chris Davies (Report)

No response, of course

This was refused. I went into the interview room and moved from booth to booth repeating over and over, 'I have come under urgent need.' No response, of course.

We returned to the waiting room and stayed there until the building had closed. I said I would not leave until I received my train fare money.

Eventually the police were called—five in uniform and two in plain-clothes. After some argument had taken place it became obvious that although the police were unwilling to lay hands on us nothing could be gained by remaining.

On Saturday I learnt that my father had died. It was my son's eighth birthday and the candles on the cake were a reminder that we were without electricity.

A whip-round was organised by Grimsby Women's Group and the IS branch. I had £40 towards the light bill—a further £20 had been added to the bill just before the disconnection.

I claimed a further £40 from the SS. It was refused. But the electricity board said they would reconnect the supply if I paid £60.

More collections—a further £10 from Grimsby IS and £10 from Brixton Claimants Union. So I should have the light back on in a few days.

'TURNING OUT' THE MEN OF IRON

IN THE SUMMER of 1842 a vast series of strikes by factory workers swept like a prairie fire across Lancashire and the North of England, ignited by vicious wage cuts of 25 per cent.

After several years of economic depression there was a brief recovery of trade in 1841 followed by a new and more severe depression. Employers throughout the country were attempting to cut wages. As a result, a series of strikes broke out on an absolutely unprecedented scale, taking the form of a general strike.

In June 1842 miners and iron-workers of Stafford and Warwickshire 'turned out,' the term for striking in those days. As one mine or iron works closed the workers marched to those in the neighbourhood and turned them out in support. At that time the 'flying pickets' had to tramp from village to village.

Worst hit in the new depression were the factory districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, where reduction in wages had brought tens of thousands of workers to dire poverty, living on the merest pittance. A soup kitchen in Manchester was dispensing a thousand gallons of soup per day to the poor.

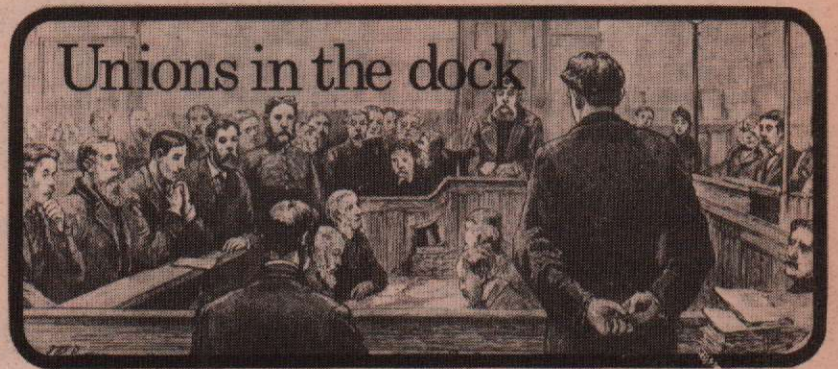
When the bosses announced further wage cuts in August the workers exploded. On 5 August the men and women of Ashton struck work in desperation. On the 7th 10,000 textile operatives met on Mottram Moor and passed resolutions calling for 'a fair day's wage for a fair day's work'.

On 9 August several thousand workers, men and women, formed into a procession and marched on Manchester, armed with bludgeons and carrying banners. They were stopped by the military on the outskirts, but after discussions with the magistrates it was found wiser to withdraw the soldiers.

The workers then formed into 'flying pickets' following the example of the Staffordshire colliers and marched from mill to mill, from workshop to workshop, turning out all the hands. In Manchester, Stockport, Stalybridge, Ashton, Oldham, Rochdale, Bolton, Preston, and Hanley, all work was soon stopped.

The strikes of this month became known as the Plug Plot strikes because as each flying picket went from factory to factory they knocked out the plugs from the boilers of

THE MEN OF IRON



The second article in an occasional series on earlier conspiracy trials which will appear during the Shrewsbury trial of the 'North Wales 24'.

by Alastair Hatchett

the huge steam engines, completely cutting off the source of power.

When marching workers swept through Preston to close the factories the magistrates ordered out the 72nd Highlanders who were quartered there. Fighting broke out and the workers pelted the soldiers with stones. As the mayor attempted to read the Riot Act, a well-aimed stone was thrown which knocked it out of his hand.

Despite showers of stones the mayor succeeded in reading the Act and the troops were let loose on the pickets. Women filled their aprons with stones and brought them to the men who threw them over the houses on to the harassed military.

The troops opened fire, four strikers were shot dead, and many more were wounded. The remainder dispersed and the mills resumed work the next day.

But the strikes elsewhere continued and spread through Yorkshire, as far as Scotland and Wales.

As employers and magistrates grew terrified by the workers' uprising, more and more violence was used to stop demonstrations and flying pickets, and many strikers

were imprisoned. A major battle took place near Halifax when 25,000 men and women were confronted by the 17th Lancers, foot soldiers and special constables.

But within a few weeks a combination of repressive measures against the strikers, their own lack of organisation and the desperation of their plight led to a ready return to work. 1500 workers had been arrested and lay in prison.

Some of the workers arrested were released, but a very large number were brought to trial. 275 were taken before the Stafford Commission, and 377 before the Yorkshire Assizes. There were 54 sentences of transportation.

Some 59 men were charged with seditious conspiracy for offences connected with the strikes. At a preliminary hearing of their trial at Chester Lord Abinger presided, and in his charge to the Grand Jury made a ferocious speech on behalf of the ruling class. He said:

'A due regard for the public safety makes it essential that all tumultuous and unlawful assemblies of the people should be put down by force if necessary, and punished with the utmost rigour of the law... Gentlemen, you will, find by the evidence which will be produced before you, that it has been inculcated upon many misguided persons, that the sovereign remedy for all abuses, and the only means of putting themselves in possession of such a share of power as would enable them to vindicate their own rights and secure themselves against oppression is by the enactment of what they call the People's Charter.

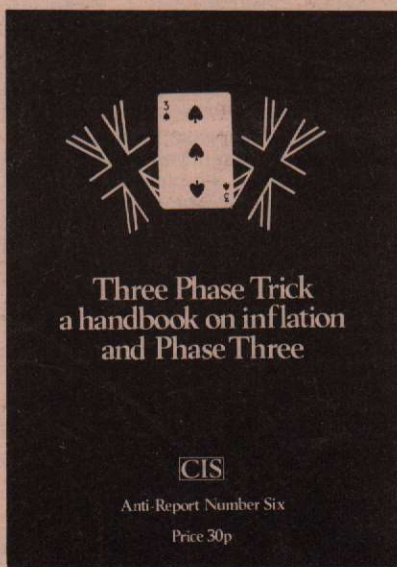
'In what strange situation this country would be placed if those who have no property were to possess a preponderating voice in the making of the laws! These unhappy men do not consider that the first object of civilised society is the establishment and preservation of property and the security of persons...'

Lord Abinger's speech set the scene for the conspiracy trial, but the defendants themselves fought back. The workers on trial were transferred to the Spring Assizes at Lancaster and there, Richard Pilling, one of the great leaders of the factory movement, defended himself by describing the persecutions and the privations he had suffered as a handloom weaver and in the cotton factories.

The trial continued through March 1843, the calmer political atmosphere in the wake of the suppression of the plug strikes favouring the defendants. It found guilty of conspiracy a new outbreak of unrest would have undoubtedly followed.

The result was verdicts of guilty only on the less serious charges, and the final dropping of the case through a technical flaw in the indictment.

This is dynamite!



Want to know how to fight Phase Three, the latest Tory swindle on the workers? Here's all the information and ammunition you need crammed into a fighting, no-punches-pulled, 32-page pamphlet from Counter Information Services.

Every union branch, stewards' committee, tenants' association and political organisation should have dozens of copies available.

Price 30p plus 7p postage from CIS, 52 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1.

Special offer to IS branches: see column one, page 6

See you at Belle Vue!

GARETH WILLIAMS secretary NUM lodge committee Morlais Colliery near Swansea and a member of Swansea International Socialists:

'Phase Three is a blatant attack on the working class. The Tories are doing their best to keep down wages while profits and prices are soaring. This is why the miners' pay claim is so important, not only for the miners, but as a response by the whole of the working class to this vicious Tory government. If the miners blast a hole in the Tory wage freeze other workers, like the engineers and the hospital workers, will be able to win their claims too.'

'Our claim is a fair one. The NCB reply concerns productivity concessions and the NUM talk of a national productivity deal. The money offered is derisory and is intended to split us—£2.50 a week for day surface workers, £9 a week for night workers.'

'If the national leadership will commit themselves to what they said at the national conference then obviously we must call for strike action and win and see the downfall of the most reactionary Tory government for many years.'

'Gormley has made a statement that if we strike the Tories will resign and call a general election. That is exactly what the working class wants. The rank and file in the NUM know Gormley means to take the steam out of the strike call—let us hope it rebounds on



him. Local pits are unanimous for banning overtime and demanding industrial action.

'Probably the most important thing for miners is that we are in the most powerful position for a long time—especially with the Middle East war. This makes it all the more urgent that there is a large attendance at the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference.'

'It is essential that all industrial militants attend. The growth of IS in the last few months shows we can expect a very good conference with large numbers present. It is most important everybody comes.'

Need to fight racism



HUBERT FLOYDE, USDAW, convenor of Caxton's sweet factory, North London, part of the Associated Biscuits empire:

'I'm going to the conference to gain more knowledge of the International Socialists' aims in the industrial struggle. I've only been in IS three months and I would like to see us have more discussion on our work with black and Asian workers. This also means that IS policy must be explained to all workers in terms that they can understand.'

'I also want the IS branch in my factory to spend more time fighting racialism and discrimination at Caxton's. In this way we can get more recruits to IS to help us in the struggle to build a movement among all workers.'

Dam must break

ARTHUR AFFLECK, chairman of the joint shop stewards committee at the British Steel Corporation's Lackenby works on Teesside, vice-chairman of the No 2 Division of BISAKTA, the main steelworkers' union, member of the South Teesside Steelworkers IS branch:

'I am really looking forward to the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference in Manchester. For over a year now, every time I negotiate for my members, I find management at every level running for cover behind the Tory wage freeze policy. Nationally, steelworkers have fallen to 26th in the heavy industry earnings league. At local level the gains we made at one time are being eroded by the "low pay board".'

'Meanwhile our full-time trade union leadership at national and local level have adopted a policy of passive acquiescence to the Tory attacks. I am a member of the central negotiating committee of BISAKTA and I am involved in establishing national pay agreements. It is a sorry thing to say that the "left" leadership of unions like the AUEW and the Boilermakers have played as negative a role as that of my own union.'

'Steelworkers are now facing this problem up and down the country. Along with literally millions of other workers they are looking for a way to break through. Frustration and anger are mounting. Sooner, rather than later, the dam



has to break.

'As I speak at trade union and IS meetings in different parts of the country, as I read Socialist Worker each week, I become more and more aware that there are a massive number of organised workers looking for a lead. The conference is a major step forward in organising the rank and file solidarity the official leadership has failed to give. I hope that every steelworker and every trade unionist who is fighting for genuine working class advance will attend this vital conference.'

Hitting back at Tory offensives

THE BRITISH labour movement is in ferment. Traditional ways of fighting the employers no longer seem enough.

The answers of the 1960s do not answer the challenge of the 1970s. Many workers are confronting different problems and are asking questions about how to deal with them.

Basically this is because the nature of the struggle is different. Through the pressure on the British economy and British companies from the rest of the world, the employers have much less room to manoeuvre. Through increasing international pressure, they need to push up profits to compete effectively with their rivals.

This means they must attack the living standards of their own employees to get this extra money. This cold wind of competition affects every employer in Britain and the government has developed a national strategy for driving down workers' living standards.

This has changed the face of the struggle in industry. Strikes in the 1970s have become longer, bigger, and much more difficult to win.



This is due to many reasons. The massive shift to Measured Day Work is one. The government's intervention in industry through the Industrial Relations Act is another.

The wage freeze makes it impossible to challenge the pay norm other than through the struggle of big battalions. The employers, backed to the hilt by their Tory friends, show a greater determination to resist.

The consequences of this new pattern of strikes are many. The importance of the national union and its role in a strike situation is much increased. The old saying that 'if you want to win, you have to keep the officials away' is no longer applicable in the new circumstances.

All too often the active support or at least the green light from the union is a precondition for a successful strike. The militants can no longer afford to consider the union machine as something remote and irrelevant.

YET the rank and file response to the government's attacks has been magnificent. There has not only been a tremendous display of militancy, but new weapons of struggle have been created to cope with the changing circumstances.

The miners and builders organised flying and mass pickets. Factories were occupied to fight redundancies. Mass solidarity, physical at Saltley coke depot, financial for UCS, came into being. They became the new weapons of victory.



These weapons should have become the property and strength of the whole union movement. The official machine should have made them their own.

The hospital workers needed the solidarity that UCS and the miners got. It could easily have been theirs.

If the union officials had been really serious about winning the strike, they would have campaigned in the movement for solidarity strikes. Instead they looked to the TUC and the executives of other unions for aid and support. They went down the same path which Tom Jackson had followed two years before during the postmen's dispute and found that led to the same place: defeat.

It is quite clear that militants in industry today do not have the organisation required for an effective fight back. The main task of such an organisation would be to link militant workers across industry and to give a living reality to the old slogan of labour 'an injury to one is an



Hospital workers: no lead from the unions

injury to all'. It would aim to overcome the sectionalism and fragmentation which over the past few years has been shown to be more and more inadequate.

There are two dangers in the trade union movement at the moment. The first is that there is no leadership from the top, that is, there are no generals. The other is that militants can too easily become detached from their base, they can become generals without an army. A genuine rank and file movement would be an effective remedy to both.

What is required at the local level is an effective link-up between different factories and industries to co-ordinate action and to provide a channel of communication and above all assistance for those in need. Nationally, too, a rank and file delegate body needs to be built to organise the same type of link-ups.

With the link-up of the struggle on the shop floor and inside the union, fractions of militants need to be built inside each union. These need to be organised nationally and locally. They are required not only to fight for militant policies at each stage, but also to campaign for democratic control of the union and regular election of all officials.

The replacement of the right wing by left candidates must be seen as an integral part of this wider work in the unions and not a substitute for it.

AT PRESENT there are a number of rank-and-file papers in the trade union movement. They cover many industries and trade unions, blue and white collar.

a conference. A number already to do so. Collier, NALGO, Carworker, Steelworker. Many others to respond to the call.

A committee will up from their efforts to organise a delegate conference in the spring. It should be the first step towards a national movement.



The Socialist Worker Conference on 11 November is a useful springboard initiative. But it is not enough. Militancy is not enough. Building such organisations is also a political task.

The future of the movement is totally dependent on the success of its initiative. It has staked its life on the success of the workers.

The Tories see this as a challenge as a political force. The courts, the police, the press, become their true struggles taking place.

We have to build a force which clearly recognises its prepared to organise.

The Socialist Worker Industrial Conference is a vital step in this process. We urge all readers of Socialist Worker to attend.

They have a combined readership of about 100,000 militants. Members of IS are active inside all of them.

We have taken the initiative to campaign for them to jointly sponsor

'Israel, as a separate state, can only maintain itself by allying with imperialism.' 'The conflict of industry between bosses and workers over the cost of safety touches the lives of millions. If an army was suffering these casualties it would fight back.' '... the Communist Party itself has since become a victim of teaching it's leading members to seek responsibility.' The October issue of the journal of the International Socialists, on the Middle East, industrial hazards, Chile and more.

20p inc post, £2.10 for a year
IS Journal, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS

by ANDREAS NAGLIATI

IS Industrial Organiser



Sattley Coke Depot and an arrest on a picket line: the miners' strike still lives in the memories of millions

A WELL OF ANGER is rising in the hearts of millions of workers. Price rises, rent rises, cuts in social services—all of them make workers more and more bitter.

This anger is accompanied by a feeling of frustration, even demoralisation.

The anger is natural. Many workers believed, when Phase One was introduced, that it would be temporary. Then we got Phase Two and now Phase Three. There is nothing more permanent than the temporary, and if capitalism and the Tory government continue, we shall have Phases Four, Five, Six and so on.

And many workers fell for the Tory propaganda that wage rises are the cause of price rises. They hoped that wage restraint would be followed by price stability. But they were quickly disillusioned.

Millions of workers feel frustrated because they are not getting a real lead from the union leaders in fighting Tory policy.

MEMORY

1973 was a year of retreat on practically the whole industrial front—the hospital workers were beaten, as were gas workers, civil servants and teachers. Dockers, miners and the overwhelming majority of engineers accepted the government norm of £1 plus 4 per cent without a fight.

But at the same time, the memory of 1972 is alive for many hundreds of thousands of workers.

1972 was a tremendous year for Britain's working class. The struggle rose to new heights, both in terms of the number of workers involved, the size of strikes and their length and above all in the quality of the struggle.

1972 saw the first national miners' strike since 1926—and this time the miners won—and the biggest building strike ever, with 300,000 workers out for more than 12 weeks.

The quality of the struggle was also on a high level. There was a purely political strike to free the Pentonville Five. There was a solidarity strike of 50,000 Birmingham engineers in support of the miners, 10,000 of them marching to Sattley Coke Depot.

PHASE 3 MUST GO

For the first time we had strikes in support of old age pensioners, with 6000 construction workers on the Anchor site near Scunthorpe coming out.

The main lesson of 1972 for employers, government and union leaders was a simple one: Never again. It was not the weakness of the workers that led the union bureaucracy to collaborate with the state. On the contrary it was their fantastic strength.

The government knows and the employing class knows that they cannot rule by relying on brute force. They have to rely much more on collaboration with the trade union bureaucracy. Ted Heath needs the TUC and the TUC needs collaboration with the government.

But the pressure on the trade union leaders from both sides—from the government and employers on the one hand and the workers on the other—is increasing so much that they have less freedom to manoeuvre.

IN MANY WAYS the situation today is similar to that at the end of the first year of the Labour government's wage freeze in 1967. At that time it was the collaboration of the trade union bureaucracy with the government that made wage restraint work. Even then the restraint worked only for a period of one year.

This time we have had Phases One and Two for a year and the government intends that Phase Three will go on for another year.

Under the Labour wage freeze, the trade union bureaucracy managed to persuade the rank and file to comply with government wishes through the loophole of productivity deals. The workers got wage increases in excess of the norm in return for productivity sacrifices.

INFLATION

In three years the number of workers covered by such deals shot up from half a million to six million.

Today this loophole is practically closed. Under Wilson millions of workers were offered productivity deals with a £4, £5, £6 a week sugar coating on the bitter pill.

Under Phase Three a mere 3½ per cent is the maximum allowed for productivity deals. With the speed of inflation now much faster than in 1966-69, this is a very thin coating indeed. In addition, even the 3½ per cent will not be paid until the productivity deal has been implemented for a period of three months and has proved that it did not raise total wage costs. In other words the workers have to take the castor oil first and the sweetener comes later.

The rigidity of Heath's Phase Three compared with the policy of Wilson six years ago is not accidental: the area of manoeuvre open to the employers and the government is very narrow and will continue to be so because British capitalism is rest-

By TONY



CLIFF
IS executive committee

ing on a time bomb—the increasing balance of payments deficit and the abysmally low level of capital investment in industry.

For the trade union leaders productivity deals were a soft option in wage negotiations. The workers got extra money above the norm without the need for a fight. This time the opening for the trade union bureaucracy to avoid fighting the employers, while still delivering considerable wage rises, is not on.

For a whole year during Phases One and Two, the union leaders, while verbally opposing government policies, in practice accepted government norms. This was particularly true of the leaders of the strongest sections, such as miners and dockers.

Now the pressure of workers and the narrowing of the possibilities for manoeuvre will make the strain on the trade union bureaucracy unbearable. Unwillingly, too little and too late, they will be pushed along.

The root cause of the feebleness of the union leaders in the face of the employers' and the state offensive lies in the conflicting pressures on full-time union officials. The trade unions are organisations for the defence of workers against their employers, but the social conditions of the full-time officials separate them from the workers.

MORE THAN 50 years ago, in his excellent pamphlet The Workers' Committees: An Outline of its Principles and Structures, J T Murphy, a leading industrial militant and communist, had this to say about trade union officials: 'Everyone is aware that usually a man gets into office on the strength of revolutionary speeches, which strangely contrast with those of a later date after a period in office.'

Even the most left-wing of the top union officials is trapped by his environment. And worse, he has to work through an official machine whose personnel are prisoners of this same social environment.

Left-wing union officials, having come to their position of power

through the apparatus and continuing to be dependent on it, cannot avoid continuing to work within the limits imposed by it. They are ready to use it to commandeer the workers in the struggle for reforms, but they are averse to self-activity and the independence of the rank and file.

The pressure from rank and file workers is already great and will continue to grow in the coming months. The union leaders will be forced to respond to the pressure not only with militant speeches, but with a partial mobilisation of the members for industrial action. But they will try to limit the scope of any industrial action as much as possible.

The attitude of Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon to the Downing Street talks, and the far too weak reaction of the union leaders to the NIRC imposition of the £75,000 fine on the AUEW are pointers to the cowardice and capitulation of the trade union leaders

CENTRAL

The vacillation of the union leaders is plain and will become clearer. The rank and file must keep up its pressure on the union leadership while keeping its independence from them.

The basic programme of rank and file independence must be the same as that of the shop stewards in the First World War: 'We will support the officials just so long as they rightly represent the workers, but we will act independently immediately they misrepresent them.'

The crying need is for rank and file organisations. The need to cement the militants throughout a whole industry, through a rank and file organisation assisted by its own paper, will become more and more vital.

This is a central plank in the policy of the International Socialists. The main issue that rank and file organisations in the unions will raise will be 'Who is the union?' Of course, for us the unions are the members, but in the real world the union bureaucracy acts as if the union is nothing but the extension of its will and power.

To create a rank and file organisation, let us say, between miners in hundreds of pits, isolated geographically from one another, is not an easy task.

Without the inspiration of a socialist world outlook, without the clear conviction that the struggle is greater than the immediate issue of wages and conditions, however important they are, one could not build a viable rank and file movement.

The coming months and years will put on the order of the day the building of rank and file organisations in all trade unions and in all industries, and the building of a really consistent fighting revolutionary socialist workers' party.

The Socialist Worker Industrial Conference of 11 November will be a major step towards this target.

Learn the hard way



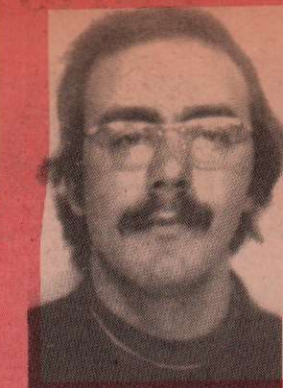
JOE MCGOUGH, Dunlop engineers chairman at Spake factory, Liverpool:

'The reason that we are sending three official delegates from our shop stewards' committee to the conference is because we believe that any move to make workers more aware of the dangers of Phase Three should be fully supported.'

'We ourselves learnt the lesson of Phase Two the hard way when we and the rest of the national combine had to go on strike for 3½ weeks to win an increase which we had freely negotiated but which was blocked by Pay Board and government interference.'

'That is why we regard this conference as an important opportunity for workers to discuss the dangers of Phase Three and learn how to defeat them.'

End crazy system



TERRY HORN, convenor John Laing's Heriot Watt site, Edinburgh, member of the Shrewsbury co-ordinating committee, Edinburgh:

'I joined IS at the end of last year's building workers strike. I saw during that strike and in fact during that whole year previously that something could and should be done to put an end to this crazy system. Up to the strike I could see the necessity for militancy but also the lack of any co-ordinated activity and lead for militants to follow, a definite, disciplined policy in opposition to the Tories and the sell-outs of the trade union officials.'

IS gave me that perspective and without it any amount of militancy is useless if in the end the militants don't really know what each other is doing or where we're all going. This is why I will be going to the industrial conference and why I urge other trade unionists to go as well. It's no good moaning about betrayals and lack of leadership if you yourself are not prepared to help formulate a policy for the workers to smash Phase Three and the Tories and get the quisling trade union leaders off their asses for a change, which I believe this conference will help to do.

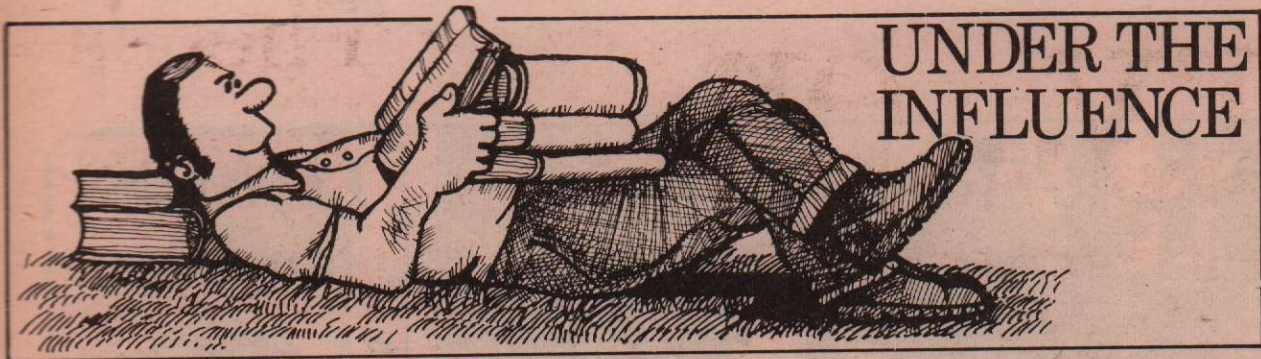
'In Edinburgh we worked hard to get the building industry out in support of the Shrewsbury 24 on the opening day of the trial. We got 11 sites out on strike that day, and raised quite a lot of money for the lads on trial.'

'The Shrewsbury struggle is only beginning. Our union leaders in UCATT have sold out all the way down the river on this issue. I believe that the leadership for that is going to come from the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference. If for that reason and no other any trade unionist worth his or her salt should be there.'

International Socialism

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UNDER THE INFLUENCE

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING OSCAR...

FIRST, a word about background. I was not brought up on books. As a result of intense social conditioning, I was certainly intimidated by anything more advanced than The Dandy or the pull-out fun-section of The Sunday Post.

I left school at 15, became an apprentice baker, then somehow saw a light inside myself. From then on the rest is a mixture of personal history and bunk, but I managed to get to university (where the main lesson I learned was that middle-class accents were a substitute for, not a sign of, intelligence) and thus got the leisure to read books.

Leisure, creative leisure, to develop one's individuality is what Oscar Wilde's *The Soul of Man Under Socialism* is all about and when I read the essay I knew it was something worth fighting for. Wilde makes this clear from his first sentence which is worth quoting as it gives so much of the tone of the essay: 'The chief advantage that would result from the establishment of Socialism is, undoubtedly, the fact that Socialism would relieve us from that sordid necessity of living for others which, in the present condition of things, presses so hardly upon almost everybody.' I wish I'd said that, Oscar.

Wilde had no romantic notions about the working class and saw that the poor were 'people living in fetid dens and fetid rags... bringing up unhealthy, hunger-pinched children in the midst of impossible and absolutely repulsive surroundings.' For all the concessions the labour movement has screwed out of the property owners the poor are still, relative to the rich, living in fetid dens and their children are still deprived, educationally and emotionally, even though the rags have gone.

People are conditioned by poverty and Wilde knew that the abolition of private property and the equitable distribution of wealth would create new conditions to which people could respond with edification not degradation. He would not, however, tolerate authoritarian socialism because 'under an industrial-barrack system, or a system of economic tyranny' people would only be free to serve an arbitrary and impertinent officialdom.

Ironically enough, Wilde's essay was obligatory reading among Russian socialists before the revolution and those who lived (*survived* might be the more apt word) to see the day of Stalin could even have agreed that 'Despotism is unjust to everyone, including the despot, who was probably made for better things.'

Of course Wilde himself is all irony and paradox and one of the irresistible features of the essay is that hallmark of his own individuality, his style. If a thing was worth saying for Oscar, it was worth saying brilliantly. For example: 'There is only one class in the community that thinks more about money than the rich, and that is



Oscar Wilde



Alan Bold

the poor. The poor can think of nothing else.'

For example: 'As one reads history... one is absolutely sickened, not by the crimes that the wicked have committed, but by the punishments that the good have inflicted.'

For example: 'The note of the perfect personality is not rebellion, but peace.'

However, don't be fooled by the wit. What Wilde is basically saying is utterly serious. He sees that private profits poison the national (and international) atmosphere, and that people should be liberated by the development of technology not thrown out of work or tied to a machine.

Wilde, unlike eminent Victorian economists, sees that capitalist society can absorb small reforms and still retain its perniciously unfair economic structure. Whereas George Bernard Shaw was the licen-

sed buffoon of capitalism, the man who could titillate the property owners by pulling faces at their own image, Wilde was uncomfortably near the mark. His ideas were indeed dangerous and, of course, he went to prison for his ideas, not his homosexuality.

I honour Wilde for his ideas and recommend *The Soul of Man* to one and all. Because I like to believe with Wilde, that under socialism 'Nobody will waste his life in accumulating things, and the symbols for things. One will live. To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.' Oscar's essay remains the wisest brief for socialism I have come across.

NEXT WEEK:

Gill Simms writes on the American playwright Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie*.

History that is her story

HIDDEN FROM HISTORY by Sheila Rowbotham, Pluto Press, £1.50 (paperback) £3.30 (hardback)

DID you know that in May 1832 there was a strike of 1500 women card setters in Leeds or in 1874 a strike of women wool weavers in Dewsbury or that in 1890 women blanket weavers in Heckmonwike came out against the 'tyranny of our masters'?

If not, read Sheila Rowbotham's book which focuses on the period from the late 18th century to the early 20th century in England.

It is the first book written in England which attempts to unravel the confused tangle of unwritten experiences of women workers that have been haphazardly handed down to us for decades. Living in the 20th century, it seems amazing that our knowledge of women is so fragmented. This very fact reveals not only how lightly the whole history of women has been viewed by historians, socialists and women themselves, but also the importance of *Hidden from History*.

Her book shows that you can't look at women apart from the rest of society. Yet when the relation between the women's question and society has been made before, it has often identified women merely in terms of occupation. As trade unionists, housewives, mystics and not in terms of their position in the family as well.

As Sheila Rowbotham says: 'The tentative and spasmodic militancy of women workers threatened the hold of men over women, as well as the hold of employers over workers.'

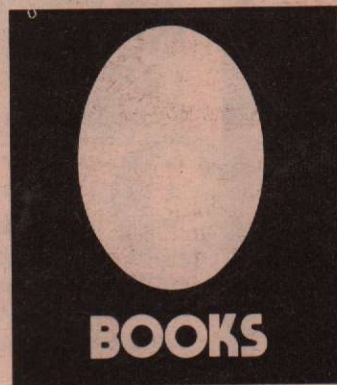
It is with these two connected problems of class and sex that the book attempts to make basic connections.

On the one hand it provides numerous examples from the 19th century, of women who agitated against being part of a cheap labour force and the problems they had in organising themselves. She shows how threatened management felt when confronted by a female striker. She points out a number of small upsurges of women taking power into their own hands.

On the other hand the book also provides us with previously unknown incidents of groups of women struggling against living up to the ideals of motherhood when under economic and physical pressures.

Amongst the most interesting accounts of the 1820s, for example, are those concerned with early birth control information. This was seen by the establishment as 'seditious and blasphemous'. In a later chapter opposition to birth control is seen to become more political and less moral. Socialists were against birth control because they wanted to increase the numbers of the working class and make revolution more likely. Meanwhile some conservatives became in favour of it to keep down the working class. In the argument the question of the right of women to self determination and control of their bodies somehow became separated from the women themselves.

The book isn't limited to one class but deals with the link between middle class radicals and working class women, and the impact socialism had on both. What's important to this aspect of women's history is the parallel development of the Minority movement, the foundation of the Communist Party and the Suffragettes Movement.



The book shows how quickly one part of the Suffragettes movement became a right-wing pro-Great War faction, isolated from the working class and pushed into more and more extreme gestures. The other half, behind Sylvia Pankhurst, became a working class movement in the East End of London.

There's a lot of work to be done on the history of women and the socialist movement, and although Sheila points out that 'she's only scraping the surface' she's done most of the basic spadework. Let's hope that now she's broken the ground we'll get more on the period.

Hidden from History is essential reading for the working class movement. But it's got to be a jumping off point not a full stop.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

FROM the GLC Rent Strike to the Housing Finance Act' (South Hackney Private Tenants Action Group, 7 Queensgate Villas, Victoria Park Road, E9, 2p each plus postage to cover) is a short pamphlet typed up from informal discussions about the Housing Finance Act.

It looks particularly at how the policy of 'fair' rents, that is to say market level rents for council tenants with a means tested rebate for the poorer tenant, was introduced.

This type of scheme was seen first in St Pancras in the late 1950s where defiant tenants in the centre of London were defended by steel and barbed wire fortifications and spontaneous mass marches by local builders and railmen. It was introduced by the Greater London Council in 1969 and again met with formidable working class resistance.

Now with the Housing Finance Act, these pilot schemes have become national policy and despite the press blackout on estate news, it's clear that more rent strikes have occurred than ever before. The pamphlet shows however how skilfully the Act encourages and enlarges divisions between tenants and how increases can be phased and delayed so as to demoralise rent strikers, cause a ragged response, and completely avoid the flash-point of evictions.

Discussion also turns to the changing composition and ages of the tenants and the role of housewives and the unemployed in housing struggles. Readers should be warned that the many interesting points are presented incoherently and the postscript does little to help.

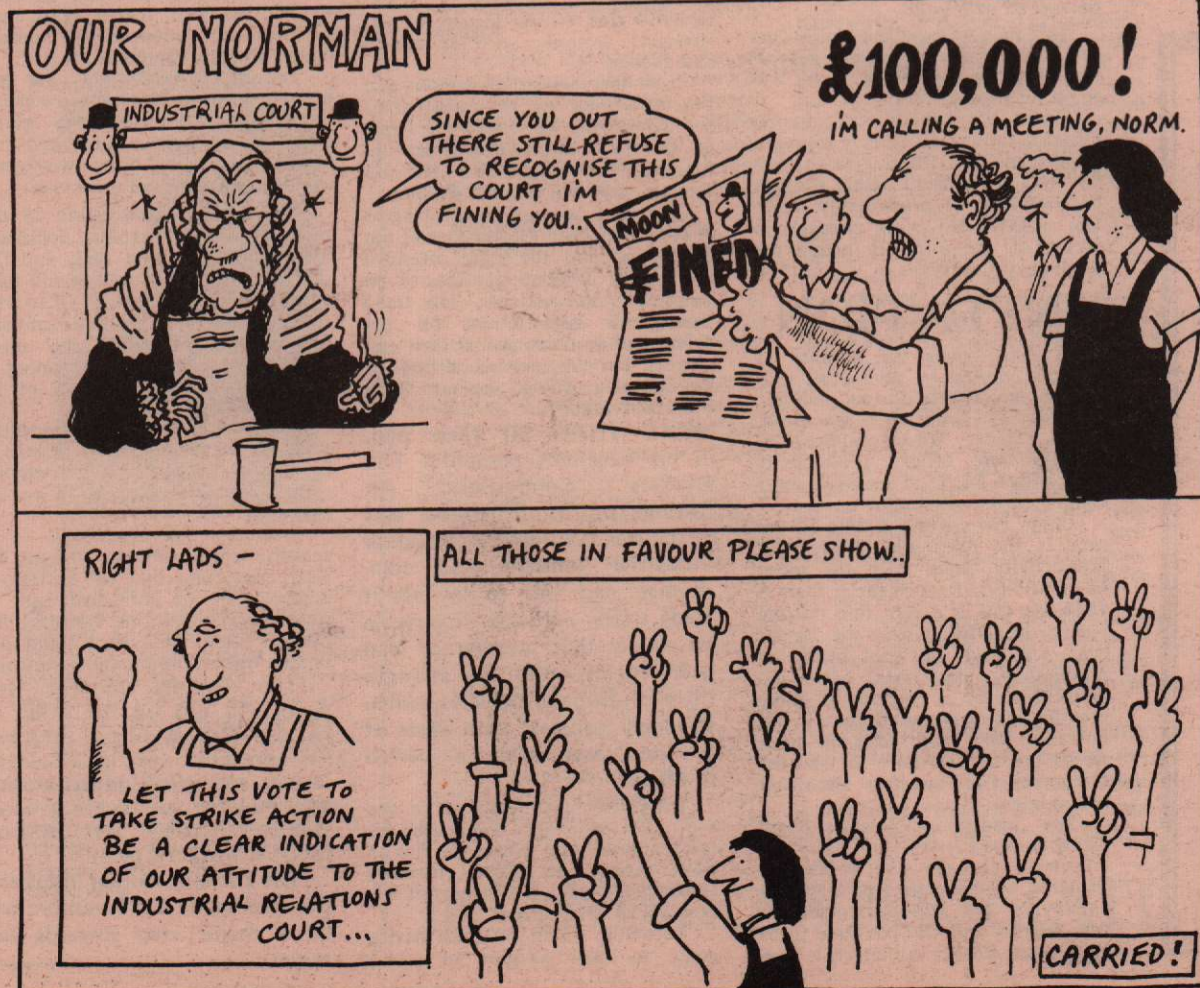
The Leeds socialist bookstore known uncompromisingly as BOOKS, has, as left-wing bookshops tend, taken to publishing. In co-operation with the established expert editors of Latin American Newsletter, they have produced a hefty first issue of Latin American Review of Books (£1.25 from BOOKS 84 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds).

This new venture in anti-imperialist scholarship deals with a continent still largely unknown on the Left with a comprehensive survey of existing books dealt with region by region.

Colin Harding and Christopher Roper have assembled intellectual guides which carefully orientate the amateur to the most useful reading available. James Petras' excellent review article on Chile, Laclau on Argentina and Richard Gott's illuminating account of the reception given to the Penguin Latin American Library are highlights in a journal whose general standard of interest is extremely high.

If, as one of the writers comments, many people in the West would still be hard put to differentiate between Columbia and Bolivia, this new series is an excellent corrective.

For the expert it is a must, but the general socialist reader will also find it a valuable reference work in the years to come.



UNDER THE INFLUENCE—where socialists write on the books which helped make them revolutionaries—this week features Alan Bold on *The Soul of Man Under Socialism* (available in *De Profundis and Other Writings*, Penguin Books 35p) by Oscar Wilde.

Alan is a poet, a painter and a tenor-sax player. He has been writing poetry since he was 16 including *Society Inobrius*, an edition of *Penguin Modern Poets*. He edited the *Penguin Anthology of Socialist Verse*. He left the Communist Party in 1966.



Sorry...er... I've lost the cassette...

'Let's hear some local news now from John Snow.'

Pause.

'Ah, well, we seem to have lost the cassette . . . Meanwhile here's some more news from Sinai.'
Bubbling noise, Edward Heath is heard speaking in middle distance—what's he doing in Sinai? Picking up tips for Phase Three?

'Try a taste of Martini' . . .
Bubbling noise, a man starts talking about the Guardian newspaper.

'Well I'm sorry about that,' says Australian voice. 'Still, to finish the bulletin here's a time check. It is 39 minutes past eight.'

I look at watch. It's 20 to 10 in the evening, the programme I have just been listening to is THE COMPLETE NEWS OF THE DAY IN DEPTH, according to a hand-out from London Broadcasting, Britain's first legal commercial radio station. What time zone is he operating in? New South Wales?

FOR A MONTH London has had commercial radio. For three weeks it has had Capital Radio, primarily a music station. This means that the eight million inhabitants can choose from Radios One, Two, Three, Four, BBC Radio London, BBC World Service, Radio North Sea International, Radio Luxembourg, Capital Radio, London Broadcasting and if you hold your radio in the right direction when the wind is blowing from the East, BBC Radio Medway.

'I want anyone who turns on Capital to know immediately that they are listening to Capital.' Chairman Richard Attenborough.

Turns on Capital. 'I mean I think you're really incredible!' says American lady.

Really?

'Well of course I had a very happy childhood.'

Who is that voice?

'I mean you can talk about politics—you're so intelligent! I mean I think you're really incredible. I can't talk about politics. I just think that if you know about what is going on you just gotta get in there and do something. You know I really respect you.'

Who is this transatlantic buffoon? Worse still who is this English buffoon? It's not—yes it is . . .

It's David Frost. Capital Radio—IN TUNE WITH LONDON.

Over the next few months commercial radio will come to Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester, Swansea, and Tyneside. Commercial Radio is coming to these places for three reasons.

The first is that pirate radio like Radio Scotland and Radio Caroline broke the BBC monopoly in the late 1960s and provided young people with what a lot of them wanted, a continuous pop station.

This awoke a large number of rich people to the fact that they would become even richer if they got their hands on radio.

This in turn awoke a lot of rich Tories to the fact that commercial radio would be a dig at the BBC which many of them, in their barminess, regard as a nest of lilac suited Bolsheviks.

So now we've got commercial radio. Not a shady business like the pirates, but cleaned, up with long lists of directors like Attenborough, Sir Gordon Newton of the Financial Times and Michael Cudlipp, son of Hugh Cudlipp of the Daily Mirror. It's been a great chance for some of the slower newspaper groups to get their claws into radio after missing out with ITV.

In the 1950s the sternest critic of commercial television was the Daily



DJ plus commercials: Roger Scott broadcasting at Capital

Express, which just so happened to have neglected to have got any shares. Things are different now. Capital Radio's first day was hailed with three pages of enthusiastic copy in the Daily Express's sister paper, the London Evening Standard, 'Switchboards jammed . . . lively, topical etc. etc.'

It would be dangerous to say that commercial radio will drag down the high and principled BBC. The Corporation has survived 50 years on the basis of being a sometimes subtle, sometimes blatant supporter of the government and the bosses. As for Radio One, that is the logical absurdity of broadcasting in this country, a terrible, insulting, patronising station. Because it has no commercials it substitutes irrelevant time checks, plugs for identical programmes which will be on in half an hour, and adverts for Tony

Blackburn, written by Tony Blackburn, sung, mumbled, ingratiated by Tony Blackburn.

Commercials on commercial radio are worst when they exhort you to go and buy a bottle of 'the most beautiful drink in the world' at eight in the morning when you are recovering from the effects of the ugliest drinks in the world from the night before.

In fact the commercial stations have shown some advances over the BBC. I suspect that the adventurous spirit is going to begin evaporating as the Money behind the stations start listening and complaining. The two stations have had on various people who are infrequent guests on the BBC, Martin Loney of the National Council for Civil Liberties

and the editor of Socialist Worker to name two.

The vast publicity surrounding the new stations has obscured various things. One of them is the local BBC-stations. Starved of money and resources, parasitic on Radios One and Two, the stations have still managed to put out some interesting local material. But there was no money in them for local businessmen, and for the BBC they have been a fig-leaf for community 'participation'. The hand of the censor has never been far from the on/off switch.

The potential of local radio is tremendous. The potential isn't going to be fulfilled until interference from the sound of crashing cash-tills and the BBC board of governors has been removed.

Nigel Fountain

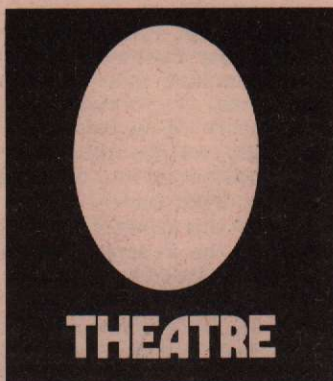
Highlands stalking

LAST April we ran an article on John McGrath and the 7.84 theatre group. 7.84 (the title comes from the seven per cent of the population who own 84 per cent of the wealth) have just spent 13 weeks on the road in Scotland touring with The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil.

The play is about the driving of the crofters from the highlands during the last century and the similarities with the situation of today's booming oil industry. The tour has been highly successful. 'It has been absolutely amazing,' said McGrath, 'the halls have been packed everywhere we went. The reaction of the audiences to the politics has been fantastic. We had a line in about the Libyan government raising its oil prices—it gets a round of applause in little Highland villages.'

Until 10 November the play is

on at the Glasgow Citizens Theatre, then, after a week on the road doing one-nighters the company goes on to the Lyceum Edinburgh from 19 November to 1 December.



In between performances the company is writing and working on another play. This is to be on John Maclean the Scottish revolutionary socialist of the early twentieth century. They are hoping to have it ready by the new year.

Meanwhile the English branch of 7.84 is at the Oxford Playhouse from 5 November to 10 November with The Reign of Terror and the Great Money Trick. This production is in collaboration with the Belt and Braces group and is an adaptation of Robert Tressell's classic novel The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists.

The company moves from Oxford to the Robin Hood pub in Birmingham on 14-15 November, Shadworth School in Blackburn on 16-17 November and Warrington Trades Council on 19 November. Both the Scottish and English 7.84s are worth seeing.

There's a way through the mist

A WORKER is a lazy, shiftless animal who enjoys being smashed to the ground every time he dares to raise his head from the dirt.

His clawed hand is ever open asking for more, because for some unknown reason it is as empty as his belly, or even his head, for he is not to be educated as his master is educated, for no good can come of it. He does not possess the brain capacity. His speech is not refined, nor can it be for the last reason.

He must only toil. For only through this may he hid his nakedness, and feed his family. He must be allowed to do this or there will not be another generation of workers to take his place and produce more profit for his rightful master.

He must above all be subjected and, wherever possible, disgraced as a lesson to others that they will also know their place.

He may raise up leaders so that they may serve his master the better he is to be subjected. This last he will call a trade union and he will serve it all the days of his life, for it will make his misery easier to bear. As long as he does not provide the keys for his fetters his master will smile benignly.

Other workers will be seconded for the protection of their master, their brains will be altered slightly so they will be better able to bear arms in his defence, and to protect him from the masses he controls. For the master is the fearful ruler, and the worker is not to know who he fears.

For the same reason the master will raise up another force, also with their brains interfered with, this he will tell the worker, is to protect them both from other 'evil' masters who will seek to take their troughs and the pigs around it. He will not tell the worker that the trough is his, and that the worker is his pig.

These forces are for the master for he knows that there will be failures, and his property must be protected from these insane incidents.

The worker must be kept under strict surveillance, he must be kept fully employed so that he will not think. When the master has no need of him or his employment, there is no danger for he will think only of his hunger.

The worker must have no hatred in him, no anger, he must be told that this is wrong because there is a god who sees all, and who will punish him. In this way he may blame god, or not, for all his misfortunes, the blame is never to be put where it rightfully belongs.

The worker will see none of this and will adore his master, who, in return, will throw him a crumb or two as it pleases him.

Until slowly, imperceptibly, as though through a thinning mist, the worker will see his master for what he is. As the mist becomes thinner he will begin to pull at his chains in horror until they burst from his tortured limbs. He will raise himself from from the mud, he will wipe the clods from his eyes and burst into tears at the wasted years. His gnarled fist will clench and he will scream anger at the sky.

Singly, he will die, collectively he will smash the forces that have kept him in chains throughout those long, long years. And then finally, there will be no more obstacles, he will meet his master face to face. With chest heaving, with smoking weapons in his hands, with blood on his face, with his comrades lying in a dead trail over the centuries, he will offer this miserable creature life As a worker.

Tony Barrow



All books mentioned in Review page can be obtained by post from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (phone 01-802 6145). When ordering books, please add 7p to cover postage and packing.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or 'unofficial'.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a combine basis.

For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the demand: Five days' work or five days' pay.

For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.

Against racism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the Iapd, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of man's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

THERE ARE IS BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen
Cumbernauld
Dundee
Edinburgh
Fife
Glasgow N
Glasgow S
Greenock
Paisley
Stirling

NORTH EAST

Bishop Auckland
Durham
Hartlepool
Newcastle upon Tyne
South Shields
Sunderland
Teesside

NORTH

Barnsley
Bradford
Dewsbury
Doncaster
Grimsby
Halifax
Huddersfield
Hull
Leeds
Pontefract/
Knottingley
Scarborough
Sheffield
York

EAST

Basilston
Cambridge
Chelmsford
Colchester
Fakenham
Harlow
Ipswich
Leiston
Lowestoft
Norwich
Peterborough

SOUTH

Brighton
Canterbury
Crawley
Deal
Guildford
Maidstone
Portsmouth
Southampton

NORTH WEST

Barrow
Blackburn
Bolton
Burnley
Crewe
Kirkby
Lancaster
Manchester
Merseyside
Middleton
Oldham
Preston
Rochdale
Salford
St Helens
Stoke-on-Trent
Stockport
Stretford
Wigan
Wrexham

WALES and SOUTH WEST

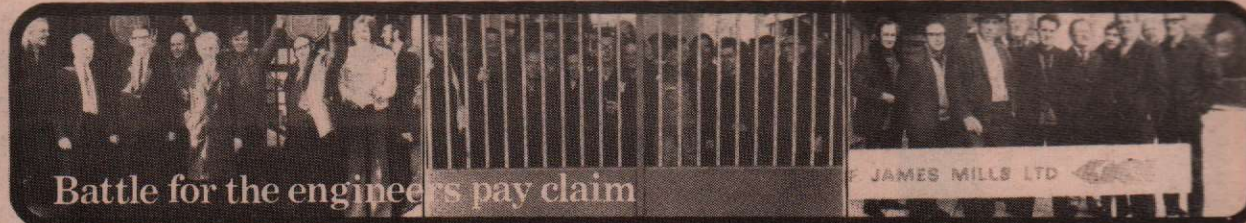
Aberystwyth
Bath
Bristol
Cambourne
Cardiff
Exeter
Gloucester
Llanelli
Mid-Devon
Neath
Plymouth
Swansea
Swansea Valley

GREATER LONDON and HOME COUNTIES

Barnet
Bexley
Camden
Chertsey
Colindale
Croydon
Ealing
Enfield
Fleet Street
Fulham and Hammersmith
Hackney
Harlesden
Hemel Hempstead
High Wycombe
Hillingdon
Holborn
Hounslow
Ilford
Islington
Kilburn
Kingston
Lambeth
Lewisham
Mid-Herts
North Herts
Newham
Paddington
Reading
Slough
Tottenham
Tower Hamlets
Walthamstow
Wandsworth
Watford
Wood Green
Woolwich

MIDLANDS

Birmingham NE
Birmingham S
Coventry
Derby
Dudley
Leamington and Warwick
Leicester
Loughborough
Luton
Mid-Derbyshire
Milton Keynes
Northampton
Nottingham
Oxford
Rugby
Warley
Wolverhampton
Worcester



Battle for the engineers pay claim

FACELIFT FOR RUTHLESS BOSSES

IN RECENT YEARS the Engineering Employers' Federation has been desperately trying to change its image. Instead of being seen as the toughest and nastiest bunch of employers in the country they have been spending large sums of money in trying to pretend that that's no longer the case.

Writing of themselves in their little booklet 'Serving an Industry,' they give a good example of this: 'Today . . . the Federation is concerned with the development of good industrial relations in the widest sense. It is an initiator of progressive policies which are a significant force in modernising the traditional framework of employee-employer relationships . . .'

This is just a clever lie. For all that has 'changed' is the quality of their propaganda, not their intentions.

No one understands this more than the federation itself. They are so concerned about maintaining their new public image while privately continuing their fundamental aim of smashing trade unionism that, on 13 July 1972, their Manchester area association sent out a special circular.

LEAKAGES

It was headed 'Private and Confidential and was addressed solely to 'The Chief Executive of Member Firms.' It was called 'Confidentiality of Association Produced Duplicated Letters and Other Documents.' It said:

'In the past three months we have received a number of reports of leakages of confidential Association and Federation information . . . We feel that an attempt must be made to reduce the possibility of written information which is not intended for disclosure, from falling into unauthorised hands . . . With this in mind we are introducing some changes covering our internal security . . .'

'Within the category of Private and Confidential there is a wide range of security classification . . . In this connection we would draw attention to the fact that some circular letters are considered to contain such sensitive information that the first paragraph will indicate that they are not to be reproduced and are intended as a means of advising only the recipient.'

HYPOCRISY

Just how 'sensitive' some of this information is can be seen from an amazing document issued by the same Association on 16 March 1972. It was published at the time of last year's engineering dispute in the Manchester area when thousands of workers struggled against their employers in support of claims for higher minimum rates, a 35 hour week, equal pay and longer holidays.

This document, more than most, exposes the hypocrisy of the 'changed image' of the federation.

On page two the circular refers to the decision of the Manchester workers to fight for their demands and says that this makes it appropriate to consider the Federation Management Board's recommendations of 28 January 1972 . . .

'The Board recommended that member firms should adopt a policy of maximum possible escalation when faced with industrial action, on the basis of making the action as costly to the unions as possible, as quickly as possible.'

'This is not to suggest that there should be domestic lock-outs, but that wherever possible any sectional action or go-slows should not be tolerated but management should

Second of four articles by Roger Rosewell

react in such a way that the unions turn it into full strike action. Member firms would in this way be taking a positive step to support other members of the Federation.'

The circular continues: 'It will be noted that the tone of the advice is firstly to remove the industrial action, but if this fails, to escalate the situation as quickly as possible afterwards.'

The circular then details how lock-out notices should be worded. It outlines a procedure for first threatening workers who go-slow 'with the intimation that if normal working is not restored forthwith further steps will be taken against all non-complying employees.' Finally it spells out that if all this fails to work, then certain workers should be suspended.

This is on the assumption that 'once the offending employees have been suspended for refusing to work normally, the remainder will follow them by taking sympathetic action.'



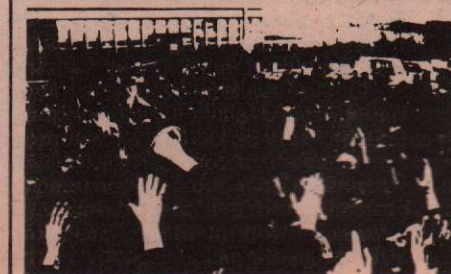
Optimistic workers in the Manchester battle

The entire Federation was also mobilised into a fighting mood. In a Manchester Association circular on 21 January 1972 the heading was Manual Workers versus The Federation and shows that they most certainly do not believe their own publicity department's propaganda that the 'class war' is dead, old fashioned and out of date.

In a private and confidential circular from the same association on 17 July 1972 firms were told not to talk to trade union officials without a representative from the association being present.

International Socialists Industrial Pamphlet 3p

THE 1973 ENGINEERING PAY CLAIM



But this has not meant that they have adopted any radically different attitude towards their dealings with staff trade unions. On the contrary they have displayed the same kind of ruthless determination that has characterised all those selected documents already quoted.

This is made particularly clear by the following two extracts. The first is from another Private and Confidential circular issued by the Manchester Association on 24 March 1972.

It admitted that 'the position in relation to staff employees is, of course, that they are entitled to their salary for so long as the contract subsists, even if there is no work for them to do.' (Their emphasis)

They warned that just laying them off could create certain difficulties. This said, however, it then proceeded to outline a vicious strategy to overcome this. It said: 'It of course remains open to a firm to seek the agreement of their staff to a temporary variation of the contract which would allow some lesser amount than the full salary to be paid for periods when work is not available.'

And how was this to be achieved

WAGE CUT

'The chances of securing agreement to this course are likely to be much improved if it has been made clear to the staff that the longer-term prospects of employment at the company were dependent on the staff employees not insisting upon their strict rights under the contracts of employment,' said the Federation. In other words accept a wage cut or else!

The second and final extract from this selection of secret documents is from a Confidential Engineering Employers' Federation document written on 2 October 1970 and dealing with 'Staff Workers' Salary Policy'.

It says: 'It is necessary to consider how the unions might . . . be brought into line with Federation policy. This means consideration of the practicality and effectiveness of (a) collective resistance to strike action, (b) collective lock-outs.'

It went on: 'It may be desirable to consider whether the Federation should afford financial assistance in addition to Indemnity Fund entitlements, to firms resisting action from DATA (draughtsmen's union now called TASS) in support of their union's claim.'

It concluded that this would require that 'the Federation spend considerable time and thought in preparing member firms for battle.'

A pamphlet vital to understanding the issues behind the engineers' pay claim

3p, plus 3p postage (orders over 10 copies post free) from IS Books 265 Seven Sisters Road London N4

Palestine: the dead tell tales...

LETTERS

AS A socialist, I believe that there can be no justification for the existence of a Zionist state based on racial separatism. I support those Palestinians and Israelis whose aim is to establish a secular, democratic, socialist state in Palestine in which Jews and Arabs have equal rights.

However I find your assertion that genuine socialists must give unconditional support to the Arab states in their war against Israel both reactionary and absurd.

It is reactionary because it is argued in nationalistic terms and fails to recognise the importance of (or even mention) the class struggle which exists both inside Israel and the Arab states. A socialist revolution can only come about by raising the socialist consciousness of the people and this process is being hindered, not helped, by the present war.

This is a war initiated by reactionary governments in Tel Aviv, Cairo and Damascus, egged on by American and Russian imperialists. Unfortunately it is the people, the peasants and workers on both sides who have to do the fighting and it is they who are getting slaughtered in their thousands. In this context to call for the 'victory' of one side over another is obscene.

Your call for unconditional support for the Arab states is absurd because recent history has shown that these regimes have no more concern for the rights of Palestinians than have the Israelis. In 1948 the Arab armies captured substantial areas of Palestine. Instead of setting up a Palestinian state, Transjordan annexed the West Bank and dropped the 'Trans' from her title, while the Gaza Strip involuntarily became an Egyptian colony!

Only three years ago, King Hussein declared war on the Palestinian guerrillas. Jordanian troops killed thousands of fedayeen and carried out systematic and sustained bombardments of Palestinian refugee camps in Amman and Zarga—resulting in a great number of deaths. Scores of fedayeen escaped into the Israeli occupied West Bank and gave themselves up rather than face torture at the hands of the Jordanian soldiers!

For three days the Egyptian government remained silent and it was not until workers, students and peasants took to the streets that Nasser belatedly voiced his protests. Iraqi soldiers stationed in Jordan pulled out altogether, making no attempt to help the Palestinians. Syrian tanks that had moved into Jordan from the northern border were later recalled as a result of pressure from Nasser and the Russians.

Only a few months ago, the Syrians closed down the Palestinian railway station. It is not surprising therefore, that the Palestinians have hardly been involved in the recent war at all.

I certainly do not believe that the forces of pan-Arab nationalism will bring social justice to the Middle East. Only the joint struggle of the Jewish and Arab working classes can do that.—AYRE FINKLE, London N12.

Shrewsbury

THE FOLLOWING resolution was passed unanimously by the 10/79b branch of the Transport and General Workers Union, the branch consists of Doverstrand, Laportes and Fisons factories. SHREWSBURY 24: 'We

Fighting Terry Perry's fires

AN ILLUMINATING sidelight on the behaviour of the Fire Brigades Union in dismissing from office the Glasgow area committee.

At the 1972 FBU conference myself and two other delegates from Midland Brigades voted against the Executive Committee on a motion of censure for their lack of drive in pay talks. Furious at this conduct by members of what was considered a 'tame' region the district EC member was despatched to the next area committee meetings of my two brothers, where demagogic appeals reversed the members' decision and

*** Socialist Worker wants to hear from you. What you like about the paper—and what you don't like. Your thoughts and comments on problems facing working people. Your experiences at work.**

But please be brief. We receive so many letters now that we cannot publish them all. We could publish many more if writers restricted themselves to 250 words at the most.

Letters must arrive first post Monday. Handwritten letters must be legible and with names in capitals please to avoid confusion.

the 10/79b branch instruct the Executive to do all in its power to squash this attack on trade unions and to support the defendants.

'That this branch be informed by the Executive on the progress that they are making in the defence of the trade unionists who are on trial.

'That the 19/79b branch send a letter of support to the defence committee.'—JOHN IBBET, Grimsby.

Chile Debate

IT IS very easy to criticise distant defeated revolutionaries by selective quotation but it neither expresses genuine solidarity nor is it marxist. The essence of marxism is that it is the science of society—it is not a list of 'revolutionary' demands. It bases itself on factual study of society. The current debate on Chile is infrequently marxist.

The essential difference between your position and that of the British Communist Party as expressed in Jack Woddis recent article is that the Communist Party believes that class forces made a proletarian revolution impossible whereas you do not. But, you offer us almost no evidence about the actual state of affairs in Chile and neither does Jack Woddis.

Bob Rowthorn's question (Socialist Worker 13 October) about the

resulted in censure on the delegates for their 'irresponsible' behaviour.

My area (Coventry) avoided this by omitting to notify district of our meeting!

Incidentally the General Secretary, Terry Parry is much given to virulent if confused attacks on the 'International Trotskyists'—but of course he is shaped by his background, which was in the Communist Party until he left to receive his OBE. Still he does attend Vietnam peace vigils!—DICK MUSKETT (obviously destined to be an ex-member of the FBU) Ruskin College, Oxford.

military is the key question—it remains unanswered. It was never really raised in Kate Clark's book on Chile. But until it is raised and discussed on the basis of the evidence and historical materialism the debate on Chile contains no lessons.

Less Cavalari's slogan, do not appear totally 'reformist'—if you wish to accuse him of betraying the revolution you must provide practical alternatives to: 'No to Civil War', 'Fascism shall not pass', 'To unite forces to arrest factional war and prepare, if it occurs, to crush any sedition', 'to maintain and develop more combat mobilisation of the masses.'

This time, Duncan Hallas, I suggest that you avoid deftly sliding away from any marxist analysis and cease abusing the plaintiff's attorney.—DAVID GREEN, Edinburgh.

BOB ROWTHORN claims that Socialist Worker's appeal for arming the Chilean workers begs the question. In Chile, he says, any attempt by the Allende regime to arm the workers would immediately have precipitated a military coup which, he implies, would have resulted in the earlier overthrow of Allende.

If he is right, and I am sure he is, he is saying that the Allende regime was doomed from the start and that, therefore the politics of the Popular Unity coalition led inevitably to the horrible orgy of violence and destruction that Chile is currently experiencing. This is a pretty serious conclusion to reach and needs some explanation. Where did they go wrong?

The answer, surely, lies in the different levels of commitment required between voting (and let us remember that in the local elections shortly after Allende became President 51 per cent of the voters voted for the UP) and taking to the streets ready to lose liberty or life in the defence of what you have voted for.

To try to smash a powerful enemy before gathering the necessary forces to do so is the height of folly. It is like sending one soldier to subdue a garrison whilst his comrades stand around and watch. No military commander does this. He makes sure all his forces are in a state of readiness before launching the attack.

But this is precisely what Allende did. And the urgent importance of learning this lesson lies in the fact that this is precisely the tactics of the Communist Party here in Britain. First, manoeuvre to win an electoral victory. Then, expect the 'progressive forces' that made the victory possible to mobilise at some later date which never, if Chile is anything to go by, arrives. Result, defeat and destruction.

What the International Socialists do instead, and presumably they would have advocated the same thing in Chile, is to help build in workers a realisation of the power they have through their potential control over production so that when confrontation comes there is some prospect of physical defeat of capitalism and its supporters. It might be harder than winning electoral battles but at least there is some chance of its being worthwhile.—CHRIS BARKER, London NW5.

ACID ON TATE AND LYLE'S SUGAR CUBES

THE CURRENT campaign by the big sugar companies—particularly Tate and Lyle—is a dramatic example of the hypocrisy of British capitalism. For years Tate and Lyle have been doing everything possible to pull out of sugar refining in Britain, using the profits made here to buy ships, warehouses and transport flats. During those years the profits of the sugar division have been artificially inflated, so that the cost to Tate and Lyle of any closures will appear high.

Suddenly the newspapers are full of the problems of the British sugar industry. This is the situation, the industry is divided into beet and cane refining. The British Sugar Corporation, which is 36 per cent owned by the government, has a monopoly of refining the beet, which is grown in this country.

Tate and Lyle has around 65 per cent of the cane refining industry—the raw cane is imported. For both sections of the market the profit margins are negotiated with the government and Tate and Lyle are allowed a 'refining margin' of 227 a ton, 22 of which is profit.

What has gone wrong is the Common Market—the European Economic Community. The French farmers are big beet growers and want eventually to stop the importation of all cane sugar into the EEC. Until this happens they want to restrict the refining margin to 212 a ton. They have succeeded in doing this already and for almost a year now the British government has been paying Tate and Lyle a subsidy of £5 a ton, and remember that £2 of this is profit.

Although it is true that if the French get their way British refiners of cane sugar will probably go out of business, it is only the workers who will get hit by this. Because Tate and Lyle have been preparing to pull out of sugar for years and have been milking off sugar profits for use in other industries.

EXPANSION

All their British refining is carried out through a subsidiary called Tate and Lyle Refineries Ltd. Since 1966 this company has paid £21.2 million of dividends to the parent company, which is every penny of profit made by the refinery division. In one year, when there was a fire at the Silvertown refinery, it even paid the tax rebate that was allowed. During the same period of time less than £4 million has been added to plant machinery and buildings in the whole refining division.

As a result of this policy the British refining division accounts for only 20 per cent of their total profits. Because now the company has a big shipping fleet of 700,000 tons and recently announced that it intended spending a further £15 million on the expansion of its warehousing and transport division.

But of course, not even Tate and Lyle would like to lose £4 million worth of sugar profits over night. However, they will have two valuable consolation prizes. First, the Silvertown refinery occupies a potentially valuable Thames-side



site that could be redeveloped. Second, the company has 250,000 tons of sugar in its stocks. This sugar cost 225 a ton. It can be sold today for over £100 a ton.

Furthermore, in every year since 1966 the profits of the refining division have been inflated by including various exceptional items that would not normally be treated as profits. The result of this has been to make the sugar refining interests more important than they actually are.

MONOPOLY

But that is very typical of the way the company is running the campaign. The fact is that the final decisions on the future of sugar have not yet been taken. Tate and Lyle are hoping to build up a public campaign, not to save jobs, but to make more money for them. One possible 'solution' would be to end the BSC monopoly of beet sugar by selling the government stake in BSC to Tate and Lyle. The enthusiastic support that they have given to the Tories in the past should be a great help.

There is, then, a strong chance that some deal will be done to support the profits of the company. It is vitally important that the 10,000 sugar workers, fighting for their jobs, realise that their interests are completely different from those of the bosses, who have been systematically neglecting the sugar industry for the last seven years. For those seven years the workers have been making the profits that make it a comparatively painless process for the directors to close down their sugar refineries. It is that fact that makes the current campaign so hypocritical.

T H Rogmorton

International Socialists Industrial Pamphlet 5p

Defend the North Wales 24 PICKETS ON TRIAL



As the Shrewsbury 'conspiracy trial' of the North Wales 24 drags on, solidarity support and action throughout the trade union movement is vital.

This new IS pamphlet is invaluable—outlining the background to the trial, the sinister police-bosses-government line-up and its implications for all workers' organisations.

5p a copy plus 3p post: 12 copies or more post free from Industrial Department International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS

WHAT'S ON

IS building workers rally to Shrewsbury 24

THE national committee of the IS building workers' fraction heard last Saturday of the magnificent response of IS building workers' groups to the appeal for support for the 24 building workers on trial for picketing at Shrewsbury.

All 5000 of the first print of the pamphlet Pickets on Trial have been distributed and sold. The pamphlet has been enthusiastically received in building sites and in factories.

The Hull building workers' joint shop stewards' committee, with the help of Hull Trades Council, is organising a meeting on the case. So is York Trades Council.

The committee concluded, however, that there are still tens of thousands of workers who have not heard of the Shrewsbury trial and pledged itself to organise a combined effort by IS branches everywhere to raise the issue on building sites and among industrial workers.

It called for more public meetings such as the one organised last week by the North London IS building workers branch, at which the main speaker was John Fontaine, an IS member and a UCATT convenor.

Fontaine highlighted the importance of effective picketing in strikes against employers backed by the Tory government. Effective picketing was the only way to force employers to concede the beginnings of a decent standard of living—part of the profits that building workers themselves produce, he said.

He insisted that every trade unionist must explain the Shrewsbury issue on the shop floor, and fight for strike action if the pickets are jailed.

The second speaker at this lively meeting was Michael Fenn, a shop steward in the Royal Group of Docks in London.

Fenn recalled the important support dockers had obtained from building workers and engineers

when their five brothers were in jail last year. Our men have not forgotten, he said.

After Pentonville, the government and the Tory press had learned a lesson, he said. They gave massive publicity to the dockers' struggle and everyone knew what was at stake. With Shrewsbury, they were keeping dead quiet, he said.

Last year's picketing of Chobham Farm had been portrayed as a superbly-organised conspiracy backed by huge funds, he said.

In fact, he said, the stewards started the campaign with funds of £3, the use of some telephones and plenty of imagination.

The activists on the London Docks may have been a bit slow off the mark on Shrewsbury, he said. But the issue was now being got across to the men who were responding well.

'It may be that we have taken up the issue for selfish reasons. For if anyone's to be charged with conspiracy then it should be the miners, dockers and car workers'.

IS denied speaker at Sunday's Chile protest

THE Executive Committee of IS has issued this statement on the demonstration in protest against the Chilean coup to be held in London on Sunday 4 November:

The executive committee of IS welcomes the solidarity demonstration organised by Liberation in defence of Chilean workers. We are unable to mobilise our membership because of the restrictions placed upon us. As a sponsoring organisation we would not have been entitled to a speaker. The official speakers include the Communist Party, Labour Party, churchmen, liberals, and MPs, most of whom represent nothing but themselves.

A letter from Liberation states: 'It must be emphasised that this is a solidarity demonstration... Speeches must be about solidarity with the united resistance in Chile, and not in any way divisive.'

These conditions in our view place intolerable restrictions on our full participation in such a demonstration. The Chilean working class has suffered a crushing defeat, and it is the responsibility of serious socialists to draw the lessons about why this happened and to try and avoid such developments in the future. By denying us a speaker, Liberation have prevented IS from doing this.

ICI stewards to go to conference

THE ICI combine committee, which represents ICI workers in 17 plants from Ardeer in Scotland to Bristol, has decided unanimously to send official delegates to the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference in Manchester on Sunday 11 November.

At the committee's monthly meeting last Sunday, Ron Murphy, AUEW (TASS) militant from GEC, Manchester was invited to speak about the conference. Ron stressed the need for a rank and file workers'

Strike to defend the engineers!

THE IS Industrial Department has issued the following circular to all IS branches:

All AUEW IS members on shop stewards' and district committees should move a resolution for a strike on Monday 5 November to support a protest demonstration with factory and union banners. They should also move a motion congratulating the AUEW executive on their principled opposition to the Industrial Court, and calling on them to issue an official call for national strike action.

These resolutions should also be moved at union branches. IS workers who are not shop stewards should approach their stewards and ask for these resolutions to be moved. IS members not in the AUEW should do everything in their power to gather support for the union.

It is likely that demonstrations will be held by the AUEW on 5 November. IS members should of course join with their trade union banners. IS branches should also join with their branch banners and placards bearing the slogan: SMASH THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT.

Coaches to the Industrial Conference

Coaches will be going to the conference from the following areas. Contact the addresses given for details:
BRADFORD: 12 Heath Road, Bradford 3.
EAST ANGLIA: 15 Bury Street, Norwich.
PONTEFRAC: 39 Windermere Drive, Knottingley, Yorkshire.
DONCASTER: 7 Rosehill, Cantley, Doncaster.
TEESSIDE: 28 Glenfield Drive, Tollesby, Middlesbrough. Phone: 87616.
GRIMSBY: 29 Durban Road, Grimsby. Phone 0472-56269.
BARNSELY, GOLDTHORPE and neighbouring villages: 18 Station Road, Barnsley.
YORK: 25 Swinerton Avenue, Leeman.
HALIFAX: 57 Crag Court, Mixenden, Halifax.

LEICESTER: Coach to the Industrial Conference will leave London Road Station at 7.30 am sharp, Sunday 11 November.
NE ESSEX: 61 New Park St, Colchester, phone 49621.
PORTSMOUTH: Basement flat, 32 Ashburton Road, Southsea.
SOUTHAMPTON: 21 Cambridge Road, Southampton, tel: 31743.
OXFORD: Coaches leave Cowley Swan 7am and Broad Street 7.10am. Contact: 32 Garsington Road, Cowley, Oxford 085 773883.
HUMBERSIDE: Jan Brooker, 31 Shaftesbury Avenue, Holderness Road, Hull (or phone 0482 213810).
EDINBURGH: 2 Murano Place, (off Leith Walk), Edinburgh, Phone 554 6310.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 1 The Hayes, Willenhall, Staffordshire.
SHEFFIELD: 98 Malton Street, Sheffield 10. Phone Sheffield 381417.
BIRMINGHAM: 25 Selbourne Road, Birmingham 20. Phone 021-554 1193.
NEWCASTLE-upon-TYNE: 7 Knivestone Court, Killingworth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE12 0ST.
BRISTOL and the South West: 31 Eldon Terrace, Bedminster, Bristol 3.
MERSEYSIDE: 64 Kenmare Road, Liverpool 15.

PAISLEY, CLYDEBANK, CUMBERNAULD, EAST KILBRIDE and GLASGOW: IS Books, 64 Queens Street, Glasgow C1.
COVENTRY: 42 Hamilton Road, Coventry.
WARLEY: 99 Barclay Road, Warley. Phone 021-429 4166.
SOUTH WALES: 5 St Albans Road, Brynmill, Swansea, SA2 0BP.
NORTH LONDON: 46 Manor Road,

SAYING IT IN URDU

THE Urdu edition of Chingari (Spark) the fighting socialist paper for Pakistani and Indian workers in Britain, is on the streets. Its lead article describes the horrific conditions of Punjabi women workers at Heathrow Airport, London.

There is also an interview with Burhani Hussein, from the IS branch at STC, North London, and an article by the president of the Wolverhampton Indian Workers Association about the failure of the Wolverhampton Labour Party to lift a finger for Indian workers in the town.

8000 copies of the paper have been printed—compared with 7000 last month.

All IS branches in factories where there are Pakistani workers should place a bulk order with Europe Singh, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

N16. NORTH WEST LONDON: 15 Staverton Road, NW2.
SOUTH WEST LONDON: 8 Beverstone Road, SW2.
SOUTH EAST LONDON: 87 Speenwell House, Comet Street, Deptford, SE8.
EAST LONDON: 16 Madras Road, Ilford.
CENTRAL LONDON: 79 Bayham Street, NW1.
WEST LONDON: 18 Sutherland Road, Southall, Middlesex.

CAMBRIDGE: 46 Greens Road, Cambridge.
LEAMINGTON SPA: 11 Dale Street, Leamington Spa. Phone 35991.
LEEDS: 3 Granby Grove, Leeds 6.
LEICESTER: 10 Edward Road, Leicester.
HARLOW, HERTFORD, HATFIELD, ST ALBANS and HEMEL HEMPSTEAD: 113 Little Grove Field, Harlow (phone Harlow 37205) or 5 The Graylings, Abbots Langley (phone Kings Langley 66035).

DERBY: 43 Stafford Street, Derby. Phone Derby 23127.
RUGBY: 29 Caldecott Street, Rugby.
NORTH HERTS (STEVENAGE, HITCHIN and district): 16 York Road, Hitchin. Phone Hitchin 52975.
ST HELENS and EARLESTOWN: Coach leaves St Helens (opposite town hall) 9.45am, and Earlestown (Market Square) 10.10am. Price 40p return. Further details from 48 Thackeray House, Worsley Mesnes, Wigan.
WIGAN and LEIGH: Coach leaves Wigan (opposite Wheatsheaf pub) 9.45am, and Leigh (opposite Leigh Library) 10.10am. Price 40p return. Further details from 58 Thackeray House, Worsley Mesnes, Wigan.

MEETINGS

BASILDON IS public meeting: The crisis in capitalism—will it go away? Thursday 15 November, Civil Defence Building (behind Tesco, next to ambulance station), Basildon.

TOWER HAMLETS IS public meeting: Smash Phase Three. Speaker Duncan Hallas. Thursday 1 November, 8pm, Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, London E3.

LLANELLI IS public meeting: Defend the AUEW against the NIRC. Trade union speakers. Monday 5 November, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli.

WANDSWORTH IS public meeting: The Crisis in the Middle East. Speaker Ian Birchall. 8pm, Thursday 7 November, The Alma, corner Alma Road and York Road, SW11. All welcome.

SALFORD IS public meeting: WHOSE WELFARE STATE? Speaker Jim Kincaid. Friday 2 November, 8pm, Ye Olde Nelson, Chapel Street. All welcome.

WOOLWICH and SOUTH EAST LONDON IS public meeting: Why we need a revolutionary party. Speaker Jim Higgins. Thursday 8 November, 8pm, Charlton House, Charlton Village, SE7.

NORWICH IS public meeting: Capitalism in crisis. Speaker Jim Kincaid, IS national committee member. Thursday 8 November, 8pm, The Littlejohn pub, Northumberland Street (off Dereham Road).

LEEDS IS: Tickets for the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference on 11 November obtainable from 3 Granby Grove, Leeds 6. Price 40p, including transport.

IS BUSMEN: A national meeting of all IS busworkers will be held at the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference in Manchester on Sunday 11 November. Details will be announced at the start of the conference.

CROYDON IS public meeting: The Middle East Crisis, 1 November 8pm Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon.

HACKNEY IS public meeting: Phase Three and the rent increases. Speaker John Palmer. Thursday 8 November, Rose and Crown, Stoke Newington Church Street (near Clissold Park) All welcome.

NOTICES

SW (LITHO) PRINTERS requires a copy typist urgently. Apply Jim Nichol, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Phone 01-739 1870.

COVENTRY CHRYSLER IS pamphlet Crisis at Chrysler. 20 printed pages full of ammunition, analysis, facts and arguments—4p a copy. Orders—for not less than 10 copies—to 12 Barras Court, Heath Road, Coventry.

CAST revolutionary theatre workshop starting soon. Recruits welcome. 11c Cabbell Street, London NW1. 01-402 6087.

IN BRIEF

NEWCASTLE:—The Tyneside district has been in a flurry of activity during the past week. All week, members of the Newcastle branch have been picketing the offices of London and Tyneside Properties, the company on whose behalf the Coal Board is planning to evict seven miners in the village of New Hartley, Northumberland.

The picket has been extensively covered in the local press and has earned IS considerable good will in New Hartley.

Last Thursday IS members formed the bulk of a strong demonstration which stopped a proposed meeting of the National Front and dispatched its secretary, John Tyndall, from a city hotel with his tail between his legs.

On Friday more than 300 people filled the new YMCA Hall to hear Paul Foot speak about Phase Three and the failure of the Labour and trade union leadership to fight it. Ten people joined IS. The local district secretary of the Communist Party applied for, and sold, 20 tickets to the meeting.

BARNSELY:—Geoff Mountain, a miner at Houghton Main Colliery, spoke to a Barnsley IS meeting on the miners' pay claim. 'The offer is one terrific joke,' he said. 'It is alleged to be 13 per cent, but in fact if we got the same pay rise as last year, £1 plus 4 per cent, we would have been nearly as well off. £1 plus 4 per cent would have amounted to £2.25, and this will give us £2.29.'

LEEDS:—The most successful day's activity for Leeds IS was held with a 'party day' last Saturday. Paper selling in shopping centres in the morning was greatly assisted by open-air meetings. In the afternoon, members split up for discussion after hearing Glyn Carver, Manchester IS organiser, speaking about building the revolutionary paper.

THE NALGO IS Fraction is calling on all its members to attend the mass rally on Wednesday 7 November at Central Hall, Westminster, calling for a £400 increase in the London weighting allowance. IS members should get there at 6.30pm to sell Socialist Worker and should prepare speeches for intervention at the rally.

WARWICK:—180 people attended a meeting of the university's IS Society last Friday to hear Steve Marks speak on the Middle East crisis. It was the university's biggest political meeting this year. The meeting set up a Palestine Solidarity Committee, which is to hold a Palestine Week soon.

IS has recruited six students at the university in the past week.

MINERS DEMAND BAN ON OVERTIME

by Laurie Flynn

YORKSHIRE miners' delegates demanded on Monday that the National Union of Mineworkers' executive impose a national overtime ban from Monday 12 November in support of the union's £8 to £13 a week wage claim.

The Yorkshire area council took this decision under strong pressure from below. Militant miners feel that the executive is failing to give a firm enough lead against the Tory government's intention to enforce its incomes policy.

Yorkshire delegates to the special national delegate meeting on Friday last week were among those who unsuccessfully pressed for the executive to set a definite date for imposing the overtime ban.

Instead the national delegate conference voted to recommend that the executive be given powers to impose the ban if the Tories and the Coal Board do not improve on their present, paltry wage offer.

After this decision the Yorkshire delegates in particular felt that the decision was not as firm as it should have been. They returned to Yorkshire to face motions at this Monday's area council meeting criticising them for not summoning a special delegate meeting in advance of the national one, and, by implication, for not obtaining a much firmer lead.

CONCESSIONS

The tide of resentment over low wages in the industry is swelling with many miners voting with their feet and going to work elsewhere. The number of miners leaving the industry each week has gone up by more than half in recent months.

Some national miners' leaders, particularly NUM president Joe Gormley, are giving the impression that an overtime ban on its own would be enough to win the claim, or at least enough concessions for them to sell to the members.

The overtime ban is of course an indispensable weapon for preparing the ground for a strike. But it will not of itself win the full claim which the miners are in a position to do if their full industrial strength is engaged against the government.

The Tory government is undoubtedly preparing carefully for a strike. The Central Electricity Board has been building up its supplies of oxygen inside the power stations in the hope that this would make the miners' picketing slightly less successful.



Gormley suggests that overtime ban is enough to win

Dockers one-day lightning strike

HULL: Dockers launched the first of their one-day-a-week lightning strikes last Friday in support of their £8 a week wage claim. 2000 men came out for the day and strongly rebuffed employers' attempts to get the work done over the weekend.

The strike decision was taken two weeks ago after the employers had come up with a final offer of £2.92, the exact 7 per cent Tory freeze norm.

The dockers' mass meeting two weeks ago voted unanimously to support the stewards' recommendation to reject the offer and mount the lightning strikes.

The men made their decision despite recommendations from Transport Union

docks delegates Brian Barker and Leslie Larkhurst who used every excuse to try to avoid a fight.

The wages issue is also coming to the fore in London enclosed docks—Tilbury, the Royals, West India and Millwall.

At a mass meeting last Wednesday dockers overwhelmingly rejected an outline pay claim drawn up by their negotiators. The reason for this is that frustration and resentment at the impact of the Devlin productivity package is now really coming to a head.

The men voted by five to one in support of claiming a new agreement along the lines of the London Riverside deal instead of claiming extra money on the present basis.

Dockers in the Riverside wharves have maintained the piecework system. As a result they are earning up to twice as much as their counterparts in the enclosed docks who lost piecework bargaining under Phase Two of the Devlin deal.

The source of the men's resentment is typified by the situation in the Tilbury container berths. There dockers work a three-shift system including nights and earn less than daywork dockers on the Riverside. This is the basic reason for opting for a Riverside-type agreement which is boosted by locally negotiated bonus payments.

Blunting the axe

SHEFFIELD:—Ten TASS workers have come out on strike at the GEC-AEI plant in Sheffield over the 'rationalisation' of jobs in their section. George Thompson, their manager, followed GEC boss Arnold Weinstock's cut-throat policies over redundancies. Fourteen jobs have been reduced to 10 in the past few months, saving an estimated £8000 a year.

Although the remaining men now have extra work to do, their attempts to get payment for this have been ignored. The men are now picketing the factory gates demanding a 'substantial' increase and the employment of four new workers to replace those who have gone.

RAF men used to break pickets

OLDHAM: RAF personal are being used to break official picket lines at Ferranti's Cairo plant. Test engineers and technicians in ASTMS at Ferranti factories in Manchester and Oldham are on official strike over management's insistence that they wait six months for their pay increase.

Ferranti supplies to the RAF are normally collected by civilian drivers. These agreed to honour the picket lines. So now collections are being made by lorries driven by uniformed RAF men.

But despite this the strike is biting increasingly hard and shop floor lay-offs are expected in the coming week at the Cairo and Weston plants. ASTMS has been excluding the strikers and now all ASTMS members involved at the Cairo and Weston are out, most have been called out at Weston and picket lines at Wythenshawe are strong.

It is becoming obvious to the strikers that Ferranti is not just out to resist their wage increase but to cripple ASTMS as an effective union in the company. At its Bracknell plant far bigger increases have already been given to non-unionists and at the Cairo plant strikers told how half a dozen of them had been offered bigger increases of they left the union.

But this has only increased the strikers' determination to win and they intend to picket Hollinwood, the biggest Ferranti plant in the area, where there has been virtually no ASTMS organisation and which so far has not been involved in the dispute except as a haven for some of the lorries turned away from the other factories.

150 occupy Concorde

BRISTOL:—Office workers at the BA plant occupied Concorde last Thursday. More than 150 TASS members marched into the hanger and surrounded the plane. They stopped the manual workers returning to work on the plane after dinner. Several manual shop stewards commented: 'About time to.'

The occupation was part of a campaign of protest against a new company pension scheme which would drastically reduce benefits. For example a worker on nights earns one and a third times the basic rate and has to pay contributions for pension at one and one third times the standard pension contribution.

But unless he works nights for his last three years before retirement he only receives pension at the standard rate. So all older workers will be under pressure to take on night work at an age when it will be worst for them.

Many staff representatives see the fight over pensions as part of the fight against Phase Three. Even non-unionists are incensed over the company's refusal to negotiate and are being drawn in to the fight. A victory will be a tremendous boost to factory organisation and confidence.

'Support 24' call

STEVENAGE:—A special meeting called by the Trades Council on the Shrewsbury 24 is asking the trades council to set up a local defence committee to issue leaflet and hold factory gate meetings on the case, collect financial support for the 24 and secure pledges of industrial action if the 24 are fined or imprisoned.

CLASSIFIED

IMG public meeting: Chile. Speakers include Tariq Ali and Chilean revolutionary Roberto Suarez. Friday 2 November, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

TEACH-IN, London School of Economics Old Theatre, Houghton Street, London WC2, Saturday 3 November at 5.30pm on situation in Chile in preparation for demonstration on 4 November. Music and refreshments available later.

CHILE student solidarity meeting: Saturday 3 November, 1pm to 6pm, NUR Assembly Hall, Euston Road, London NW1. Speakers from Popular Unity, Chilean Students and the film When The People Awake. Further information from NUS international department 01-387 1277.

BIRMINGHAM GAY LIBERATION FRONT Autumn Ball. Come as you please. Digbeth Civic Hall, Saturday 3 November, 8pm-midnight. Admission 50p. Live group, disco, bar.

MARGARET, who's an actress, and Dorian aged 6, would like to meet someone also with a child, who might be interested in sharing their house in NW5 on a communal basis. Phone 485-0077.

4th Conference of Radical Scholars of Soviet Union and East European Studies: Union Concert Hall, Imperial Collage, Prince Consort Road, London NW7 (South Kensington tube). Saturday 10 November: Theme: The Law of Value: 11am Maurice Godelier on Some Primitive Societies: Brief Remarks, 2.30pm Paul Walton and Andrew Gamble on The Law of Value and the State, 7.30pm Hillel Ticktin on The Law of Value in the USSR. Sunday 11 November, 11am Jean Kananova on Opposition in Czechoslovakia, 2.30pm China after the Cultural Revolution (Symposium) speakers John Gittings, Malcolm Caldwell and Jack Gray. Registration at door: £1.50 (Students £1.00)

CHRYSLER FRANCE: Exposure of scab union at Simca—told in story form. 15p each £1 for 10 (post paid), from Dave Spencer, 17 Winifred Avenue, Coventry.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY aims at building a world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leadership, all racialism, all war. Write for specimen socialist literature to 'One World' (SW), The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London SW4.



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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Even soldiers back firemen



Chairman Jim Flockhart and other members of the Glasgow fireman's strike committee at a strikers' meeting

STORY: Steve Jefferys

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

HISTORY is being made in Glasgow. The city's firemen are continuing their strike for a £5-a-week rise despite the attentions of the millionaire press and in defiance of their union leaders and those of the TUC and the Scottish TUC.

Theirs is the first ever firemen's strike. Quite simply, the Glasgow firemen, men employed to save life, have been driven to strike action to safeguard their own and their families' lives and living standards.

As one of the strikers put it this week: 'Our job is supposed to be a vocation. But you can't eat vocations and you can't spend them either.'

The wage packets the men take home bear witness to their anger and frustration. The younger men take home £19 for a 48-hour week including eight hours overtime. The top rate—after 15 years service—take home just over £25 for their 48 hours.

History is also being made in another way. For the first time in more than 20 years, troops have been moved into strikers' jobs.

That the troops should be sent in to scab on a strike against the government's wage laws is disturbing many trade unionists. They rightly feel this is part of a softening-up process before they are used in other strikes.

The Glasgow firemaster is trying to get other firemen to blackleg because he knows that after a short time on the 24-hour shifts the dangers will increase rapidly. An offer of £1 an hour was made to Clydebank firemen to come into the city in their off-duty hours to man machines. Clydebank union representatives told their firemaster that unless the offer was withdrawn within five minutes they'd be out on strike too.

Some of the soldiers are backing the firemen. One told the pickets as he went in: 'You deserve an extra tenner, not a fiver, for the work you're doing.'

Support in Glasgow for the strikers is phenomenal. The first workers to move were the men in the corporation central electrical workshops. The electricians blacked all work in fire stations during the strike.

George Kelly, senior electricians' steward, said: 'It's not just that our lads won't cross the picket lines. We're also right behind the firemen. We think Glasgow Corporation should pay them

Solidarity

'We were on strike against the Labour government's incomes policy and our union refused us backing. So we know you can't rely on the officials to fight for the rank and file. The FBU leaders' stand doesn't make any difference to us. The lads are out and that's it.'

Active support for the strikers and against the use of troops has included firemen in Coventry, Liverpool, Bootle, Essex, Luton, Norwich, Cambridge, Derby, Warley, Bristol, Great Yarmouth, London, Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Salisbury, Nottingham and Kent.

On Monday night the Essex Area Committee decided to continue their solidarity work-to-rule despite the decision of the Fire Brigades Union delegate meeting called to stab the Glasgow strikers in the back.

In a letter to the union's general secretary Terry Parry, OBE, Essex Area Secretary R Lowe wrote: 'We inform you of our extreme disgust at your employer-like attitude and threats towards members of the FBU who take any militant action for themselves what you with your pseudo-respectability, OBE and seats of glory on the TUC cannot.'

With this sort of support there is little doubt the Glasgow firemen can win. They must quash any talk of breaking away from the union and must try and get other firemen to join in the fight, campaigning within the union, sending speakers to other areas and fighting for more democratic control.

TREACHERY BY FIRE UNION

by Laurie Flynn

THE Fire Brigades Union leaders rigged and manoeuvred their way to get Monday's recall delegate conference to move against the Glasgow firemen.

The platform insisted that only the executive's resolution that the Glasgow firemen should accept the corporation's £2 offer and get back to work would be taken.

They made sure no resolutions from the floor could be taken—for this would have meant the conference would have been asked to reinstate the Glasgow Area Committee removed by the union leaders for leading the strike and to support the strike. Calls for the resignation of the Executive and the general secretary would also have been made.

Feeling ran high about the meeting. There was a massive lobby outside which broke into cheering and applause when the Glasgow delegates arrived. Inside 30 of the 35 speakers supported Glasgow.

The union's general secretary, Terry Parry, used the most amazing arguments in his long closing speech to sway the block votes. He suggested that if firemen repeatedly used their industrial strength, then the Home Office would move in, close down the union and impose a Police Federation-type sweetheart organisation.

He also claimed the Glasgow men were diverting the union from its task of still more negotiations for the 48-hour week without loss of pay.

We say: These men must be supported

THE Glasgow firemen are the first group of workers to put up a real challenge to the Tory Incomes Policy. They are perhaps an unlikely group to take the lead, for firemen have never struck before.

They are being witchhunted by the leaders of their own union, supposedly left-wing leaders who have often made militant conference speeches against the evils of wage freezes—and then does absolutely nothing. The Glasgow firemen do not get strike pay.

Every reader of Socialist Worker must back their struggle, moving resolutions of support and condemnation of the use of troops, in shop stewards' committees

and union branches. The strike committee desperately needs money to support the 656 strikers and their families, to pay for fares and expenses to extend their campaign. Donations and messages of support should be sent to James Flockhart, 83 Carlton Place, Glasgow C5.

Members and branches of the International Socialists should follow the example of Coventry IS in putting out leaflets explaining the Glasgow firemen's case and the plight of all firemen, countering the lies in local papers where other brigades have supported Glasgow.

He used the smear tactic. After lobbying firemen had spilled up the stairs, he was asked to point out that the Glasgow men had not organised this.

Parry said he knew it wasn't Glasgow. But he added: 'There is an organisation called the International Socialists which has attached itself to them.'

The union leaders won with a vote of 20,000 to 12,000. This led to more angry scenes among the several hundred firemen demanding support for the Glasgow strikers.

Terry Segars, a delegate to the meeting from the Essex Area Committee, told Socialist Worker afterwards: 'The union leaders' arguments are totally false. Our union exists because firemen want it to exist. It exists in spite of vicious opposition from the Fire Authorities and the Home Office for at least the first 40 years of its existence.'

EFFECTIVE

'If the Tory government moved to shut down our union for leading a strike, it is inconceivable that the rest of the trade union movement would stand idly by.'

'The leaders' arguments are simply a screen to cover the unwillingness of the national executive, president and general secretary to take on the employers and the government in any effective way.'

Then when firemen take independent action to win their rights they move in and remove them from office. The rewards of this philosophy can be seen in out pitifully small wage packets.

'The Glasgow men have done a magnificent job. We must all support them. The executive's deplorable performance has provoked deep anger.'

'But the worse thing to do would be to break away. That lets them off the hook. The rank and file must become more involved in the union, not less—working to make it into a real fighting organisation.'

With this sort of support there is little doubt the Glasgow firemen can win. They must quash any talk of breaking away from the union and must try and get other firemen to join in the fight, campaigning within the union, sending speakers to other areas and fighting for more democratic control.

Then when firemen take independent action to win their rights they move in and remove them from office. The rewards of this philosophy can be seen in out pitifully small wage packets.

'The Glasgow men have done a magnificent job. We must all support them. The executive's deplorable performance has provoked deep anger.'

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Major strike victory

CANNOCK, Staffs: 100 workers at Albany Jigs and Tools won a major victory last week after a two-week strike over the victimisation of a shop steward. A superintendent had provoked the steward, who told him he would sort him out after work. The superintendent reported him to management.

The superintendent had a long record of harassing shop floor workers. The incident was the final straw and members of the engineering and patternmakers unions demanded he be disciplined. Management tried to use the issue to break down the union organisation the victimised shop steward, who is a member of the International Socialists, had helped build up. The shop floor immediately went on strike.

Management have now been put firmly in their place. The victimisation of the steward has been unconditionally withdrawn and the superintendent now no longer has the authority to deal directly with the shop floor workers. He must go through the foremen.

Anti National Front demonstration

on eve of Hove by-election
Saturday 3 November
Assemble Brunswick Lawns 12 noon
All Southern IS branches to attend

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