

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Press hysteria as support for pitmen grows

# MINERS' FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT!

PROPERTY SPECULATORS, television tycoons, share dealers, newspaper proprietors—anyone who gets rich because someone else does the work—are trying to persuade us to hate the miners.

'A bully!' shrieked the editor of the 'liberal' Guardian last Monday, writing about the National Union of Mineworkers. He described the miners as 'exceptionally greedy'.

The editor of The Guardian gets £20,000 a year before he takes his dividend from his shares in the highly profitable Manchester Evening News. He is an expert on the 'bullies' and the 'greedy men' who work more than eight hours a day six days a week for £31.

The Times, which supported the recent overthrow of parliamentary rule in Chile by the military, blames the miners for challenging democracy in Britain. On Tuesday it called on its readers, if the miners win their claim, 'to impose a policy of sound money at the point of a bayonet.'

Tory Minister after Tory Minister in television interviews and radio discussions attack the miners for 'blackmail' and 'holding the country to ransom'.

Not a single property speculator, Tory Minister, newspaper editor or proprietor has died or been injured at work in the last 100 years. Not one is suffering from an illness or disease contracted while at work.

But last year in Britain's pits, the accident rate was up 25 per cent. 80 miners were killed at work and 583 were seriously injured. The total number of accidents in the pits was 69,329—one for every four miners.

17,000 miners have died from pneumoconiosis—lung disease—in the last 20 years. 52,000 are less lucky. They are still alive with pneumoconiosis and every breath is a pang of pain.

Every year, 700 more miners catch pneumoconiosis from the dust thrown up at the coal face.

Small wonder that with every new cry of 'Stand Firm Against the Miners!' from the Stock Exchange, the well of anger in the pits grows deeper.

The miners are sick of being patronised, sick of being attacked, sick of co-operation and compromise which has resulted in mass pit closures and vicious productivity deals. As Jim Rush of Cadeby colliery, Yorkshire, put it in one simple sentence: 'We should have had it 40 years ago.'

Tom Boardman, the property lawyer masquerading as Minister for Industry, wails that the miners must accept the government's offer because the Tory freeze 'protects the low paid and the old age pensioners'.

## VICTORY

One year of this 'protection' has left the low-paid workers and old age pensioners worse off than at any other time since the war. The low-paid workers now fighting the government for more pay—ambulancemen, dustmen, sewage workers, teachers, local government officers, bakers, hospital workers, busmen, tubemen and many thousand others—know perfectly well that they will not get an extra penny if the miners accept the government's offer.

They know too that if the miners lose, they will lose. On the other hand: 'If the NUM break the incomes policy,' as The Times put it, 'other unions will crowd through the gap.'

That is why the government's attempts to turn other workers against the miners are failing fast. That is why more and more workers' organisations are spilling to join the fight alongside the miners.

When Lawrence Daly, the miners' general secretary, suggested in Fife at the weekend that the 'three Longannet mines and the power station join forces', he was pointing to victory.

So were the members of the Walkden (Manchester) branch of the engineers' union (AUEW) when they unanimously passed a resolution last week calling on the executive to 'join with the miners to fight against Phase Three with industrial action'.

Union branches, shop stewards committees and trades councils should follow the Walkden example. They should pass resolutions, organise solidarity action and commit their organisations to fight alongside the miners and against the lies of the layabouts in newspaper offices, board-rooms and government offices.

It is a political fight: page 3.

## Living wage strike by ambulance workers

Picture: Chris Davies (Report)



London ambulancemen held a lightning 24-hour strike on Tuesday in support of their wage claim. They picketed

the Greater London Council offices (above) before marching to parliament. Story page 15.

## Socialist Worker Rally Pickets on trial

This Christmas the families of the Shrewsbury 24 face a bleak holiday. They have been without a wage packet for several months and this has caused great hardship.

Many of the defendants in the trial at Shrewsbury have to travel 120 miles a day or spend long periods away from home. It will not be easy for wives to see out the long winter and it is desperately hard on children who rarely see their fathers.

The Shrewsbury 24 are our representatives in the dock—on trial for trade unionism. Socialists and trade unionists have a duty to their families this Christmas.

Socialist Worker is sponsoring a rally with speakers and entertainers at Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London W1 on Monday 17 December 1973 at 8pm, admission 50p—proceeds to the families of the Shrewsbury 24.

Tickets are available from local IS branches or direct from Socialist Worker (Rally), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. All trade unionists and their families welcome.

GREEK COUP PAGE 2/SHREWSBURY PAGE 3/ATTACK ON ASIANS PAGE 8

## Strike call over sackings

SW Reporter

IN A REMARKABLE show of solidarity, all engineering union members in West Cornwall threatened to go on strike last week over the sacking of 22 of their members, two of them shop stewards, at the Holman ship repair yard, Penzance.

The 22 were sacked as a result of an overtime ban imposed following the breakdown of pay talks. On instructions from the workers at the shipyard, shop stewards Peter Collins and Nick Harvey were sent to negotiate a pay increase to combat the steep rise in the cost of living that all workers are now experiencing.

All they were offered under Phase Three was a £2 shift allowance to be spread over a three-week period, which means 65p a week. This was offered to fitters only on condition that they worked an incredible 84 hours a week.

When an overtime ban was imposed, the boss of this privately-owned shipyard, Edgar Holman, promptly sacked 22 workers and threatened to sack 20 more every week for as long as the ban was on.

The West Cornwall AUEW District Committee immediately banned all overtime in the district and called for a strike. At a lively emergency shop stewards' quarterly, district secretary Ken Richardson said that all employers were now hiding behind the law.

If the TUC had led a proper fight initially and encouraged other unions to take the same stand against the Industrial Relations Act as the AUEW had, the Act would have been smashed before it became law, and workers would not now be suffering under pay freezes, he went on. As it is, because of the government, workers were being forced to work excessive overtime to get a living wage.

Shop stewards at the meeting decided that the sacked men would be supported by a 50p levy from every member in the district and by any industrial action necessary to get them reinstated. Mass meetings throughout the district have supported the lead given by the District Committee.

## Lobby says stop firm shutdown

'NINETY MINUTES of wind,' that's how one worker at the small factory of Optical Measuring Tools, Helston, Cornwall described their discussions last Wednesday (21 November) with their local MPs, John Nott, Tory MP for St Ives, and David Mudd, Tory MP for Falmouth.

Forty workers at the factory had travelled from Cornwall through the night to lobby their MPs about the sudden closure of their factory by its parent group—the Newall Machine Tool company of Peterborough.

Optical Measuring Tools was opened in 1968 with the help of £500,000 taxpayers' money. 25 key workers were moved from Newalls factories in Maidenhead to help set up one of the most advanced machine tool factories in the country.

Special machines, jigs, tools and testing equipment of the highest precision have been made at Helston. The company went through a bad time in 1971, when the workers were persuaded to accept one-in-five redundancies.

Recently, the factory has experienced an unprecedented boom. It has definite orders worth more than £500,000, and promised orders enough to establish an annual turnover of more than a million pounds.

On 12 November, five years and 21 days after it was founded, all 140 workers were called together to be told they would all be sacked. The government grant was conditional on the firm staying in business for five years.

Newalls, which made a loss of £750,000 last year, can now sell the factory and the machinery at an enormous profit, thanks to the original government grant. The 140 men will get nothing but the state redundancy benefit. One key worker said he will get £2000 for 27 years' service to Newalls.

# CRISIS COUP AS REVOLT SWELLS

THE ARMY TAKEOVER in Athens on Sunday replaced one military dictator by another. Its leaders hastened to reaffirm support for the 'revolution' of 1967 which brought military rule and mass repression.

And it seems that the chief organiser of the coup was probably Brigadier Ionodis, head of the military police and directly responsible for much of the pressure, including torture, let loose by the old junta.

SW Special Correspondent

But the fact that the coup could occur is of enormous significance. It shows that even the Greek generals recognise that it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to maintain control over the country.

This recognition was forced on them by the growing movement of popular opposition to military rule, which began with students' demonstra-

tions last year, was joined by different groups of workers who have been striking for economic demands over the summer, and culminated in the massive protests of students and workers two weeks ago.

After students had occupied the Polytechnic and called for a movement to overthrow the regime, more than 100,000 more people moved on to the streets in support. Troops who were sent to smash the rising, killing an untold number of workers and students, showed signs of questioning the orders of their officers.

The junta came to power in 1967 because its backers—particularly the American spy network, the CIA—believed it would bring to an end strikes and demonstrations by workers and students. It was successful at first: in 18 months the value of Greek shares doubled.

For five years the junta seemed to serve the needs of Greek capitalism adequately. Workers and students were frightened by the military power of the regime. The major problem facing the junta came not from the mass of the people, but from various cliques within the ruling class itself—associated with King Constantine or with the old capitalist parties—who resented the way the colonels were taking their privileges from them.

But the demonstrations over the last year have shown workers and students that the army is not all powerful and have opened up the way for still bigger strikes and demonstrations.

## STABLE

The officers of the armed forces found they were completely isolated from the mass of the population, with no support outside a very narrow layer of the richest section of the population. They feared that even the rank and file of the forces would turn against them.

In the past the military regime was able to stay in power because of backing from Greek capitalists and arms from the other NATO powers. But now these groups fear that their interests will be threatened if the military loses complete control of the situation and are looking for another, more stable, way of keeping the workers, students and peasants under control.

The sort of solution they are looking to would be a government led by Karamanlis, the prime minister of Greece until 1963. Under him a certain appearance of democracy was maintained with periodic elections. But armed thugs, police repression and bribery were used to ensure that the right always won in elections and to prevent workers and peasants organising in their own interests. The political murder described in the film Z took place under Karamanlis. And that is the sort of regime to which Greek capitalism would like to turn now in an effort to resolve its problems.

But it is doubtful if they will be able to make the transition without facing further massive demonstrations and strikes as the economic situation gets worse and as workers and students gain heart from their successes so far. The outcome could be exactly the kind of revolutionary development which Sunday's coup was meant to avoid.



Last Wednesday's demonstration in London when several thousand students, including International Socialists, marched on the Greek embassy in solidarity with the anti-government uprising in Athens. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

## Fitt's soggies join Orangemen

by Mike Miller: Belfast

THE NEW Northern Ireland executive has finally got off the ground, marking a new phase in British domination of Ireland. Thinly disguised as a major advance for 'democracy and reconciliation' after five years of bitter struggle, the new set-up is nothing other than the latest attempt to stabilise British political control in the Six Counties and economic control over all 32 counties.

In a major concession to the extreme right wing of the Unionist party, ex-premier Brian Faulkner has been made chief executive with a clear Unionist majority on the executive council.

### Promote

Faulkner has a political record which has won him the hatred of everyone bar the Social Democratic and Labour Party with whom he will now share power. He has a long history of personally leading provocative jack-boot style Orange parades through Catholic areas.

He is a member of the Orange Order, the Royal Black Institution, and the Apprentice Boys, three secret and powerful right wing organisations whose only reasons for existing is to promote sectarian divisions and maintain domination over Catholics in the North.

He has twice been responsible for internment of the political opponents of Orangism—in 1959 and 1971. On the second occasion Prime Minister Heath said 'the decision whom to intern in individual cases is the decision of Mr Faulkner'.

He filled Long Kesh concentration camp with socialists, trade unionists, and republican supporters. As chairman of the security council he was deeply involved in planning the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry, and total terror of Catholic areas throughout the North.

Harold Wilson, now one of Faulkner's admirers, once said that both he and William Craig belonged to a 'black reactionary group'. This is the man that the press now projects as the great liberal and generous politician.

His new found friend Gerry Fitt of the SDLP is to be second in command. Fitt is one of the sharpest operators in Northern politics. He has personally stated that he would not like to see the internees released.

He has recently been accused of providing the British with lists containing the names of internees whom his Catholic middle class friends think should be let out and those they would prefer to see kept locked up. After Bloody Sunday, Fitt's own SDLP branch spoke of 'Faulkner and his fascist clique'. Now 'socialist' Fitt and 'fascist' Faulkner are jointly to run the Six Counties as British big business dictators.

The other executive members so far announced are equally suited to the task of looking after imperialism's interests here and keeping the working class in order. Ex-factory manager John Hume, SDLP, is to be in charge of commerce. Austin Currie, SDLP and a former member of the right-wing Nationalist Party, is to be in charge of housing. His first two tasks will be to break rent and rates' strike organised to protest against internment and to put an end to squatting.

And the British have little to fear from the inclusions of the SDLP's 'radical socialist republican' Paddy Devlin in the executive. He will be in charge of the social services, and sees his task as being to 'eradicate poverty as has been done in Britain'.

Bob Cooper of the Alliance Party is to

be in charge of manpower—a task for which he is well suited. As assistant secretary to the Engineering Employers Association at £85 a week, he operated a savage blacklist which ensured that socialist and militant trade unionists would never find work here. Clearly, just the type of man imperialism needs.

The Loyalist opposition to the executive is correct when they say it is not democratic. But their alternative is equally as bad—a restoration of the corrupt Orange junta which ruled the Six Counties with an iron fist for 50 years.

The fact is there can be no further advance towards democracy within the Six County state. The assembly executive, which simply institutionalises sectarianism and does nothing to overcome it, is the peak of 'democracy'. To ensure that it will function, against the wishes of a large section of the population, the British Army must continue arresting, beating and interning people, searching and wrecking homes, and terrorising whole communities.

### Fighting

For socialists there can be no doubt whatever about the Assembly and its new executive: they must be destroyed. The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, made up from Communist Party and official Republicans, continues to peddle dangerous illusions that it can be made 'more democratic', while the Provos continue with their equally fruitless illusions that imperialism can be destroyed by a purely military campaign.

After five years of struggle here the lesson is clear: only an independent working class organisation, fighting for socialist policies North and South, can hope to destroy British domination, replacing it with a genuine workers' republic



# WHAT WE THINK

## IT IS A POLITICAL FIGHT

LAWRENCE DALY, the miners' union general secretary, told a mass rally in Scotland on Saturday that his 270,000 members were not fighting the Coal Board but the government and Phase Three.

He is right. The miners' fight is a political fight. It is about more than wages and conditions. It is about the right of trade unionists to organise and seek to improve their conditions. It is against the right of government, any government, to shackle the power of trade unionists. Above all, it is certainly a political fight.

Once again the miners are back in the trenches. And once again they have the power, determination and ability to beat the government through all-out strike action. They are fighting on behalf of all working people who have seen their living standards slashed while big business grew fat.

The miners won in 1972 because of the toughness and audacity of the rank and file. The brilliant strategy of the flying picket that immobilised power stations, coke depots and docks changed the entire face of politics in this country. And that initiative at grass-root level did more to beat the government than months and years of responsible negotiations between union leaders and the government's front men at the Coal Board.

The decisive battle was Saltley coke depot in Birmingham when the police squads brought in to help the strike breakers move out supplies were defeated by the solidarity strike action of the city's engineering workers. Saltley points the way to victory in 1973. If unity of miners and engineers in Birmingham broke the government's resistance in 1972 it could sweep the Tories out of office completely now.

The unions grouped in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions have a claim lodged with the employers. The call has gone out already from confed members in Scotland for a united fight with the miners. It is a call that must find an echo throughout the country. Every union branch and stewards' committee should press the

leaders of the AUEW, the TGWU and the other unions concerned immediately to hold talks with the NUM to prepare for an united fight to smash Phase Three. The government could not survive such a confrontation.

We also have to fight the progaganda battle. The miners have a tremendous fund of support and goodwill in the working-class communities. But it would be irresponsible to suggest that the government's powerful mouthpieces, the press and television, will not attempt to divide our ranks with their growing hysteria in the weeks ahead.

Every socialist and trade unionist must go on the offensive now. Through meetings, demonstrations and leaflets we must argue the miners' case and the need for maximum solidarity with them. All the implications of the last 3½ years must be drawn out: the ceaseless attack on living standards and union rights, the anti-union laws and trumped up conspiracy trials and now the threat of special centres to organise police squads to tackle pickets.

### RANSOM

Talk of a snap election on the theme of 'who runs the country' should not deter us. Trade unionists would have one or two things to say on the subject. They could point out that in our 'democratic society' 25 million working people produce the nation's wealth and yet official statistics show that just 7 per cent of the population owns 84 per cent of the wealth. They could stress that parliament is merely a charade and the real power is exercised by the giant corporations, the banks and the financial institutions of the City who can over-run any government measure that does not suit them. Here are the men who really do 'hold the country to ransom' through their ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange and over whom there is no democratic control whatsoever.

And even if Heath were able to drum up such a pitch of hysteria that sufficient voters were hoodwinked into forgetting the

last 3½ years and returned a 'strong' Tory government, it would still face the same problems, only worse. The workers it has set out to tame would still be in opposition to it. The wages battle would continue. It would be a crisis government, forced to use ever more dictatorial power against the unions.

The alternative—a Labour government—would fare no better. But we should welcome it, for what little credibility Labour has would quickly be shattered by political reality. Its pathetic attempts to cobble together a new 'socialist' image have failed totally to disguise its own record from 1964 to 1970 when it set about attacking the rights and conditions of workers with a zeal matched only by the government that replaced it.

The recent by-election results show there is no swing to Labour even with such a hated and discredited government as Heath's. And the reintroduction of Roy Jenkins into Labour's leadership, coupled with Reg Prentice's vicious assault on militant trade unionists last week, show that the openly pro-capitalist right wing would rule the roost, not the flabby and floundering left of the Benns, the Heffers and the Ormes.

The current economic crisis, the mounting tide of anger with the government, the slide of the Labour Party and the growing militancy of rank and file trade unionists—all these combine to provide socialists with a golden opportunity for extending their size and influence. The first task is to do everything in our power to ensure a victory for the miners, but there are important long-term objectives too.

All of the important victories notched up by the trade unions in recent years have been due to rank and file pressure and organisation. Without the rank and file there would have been no Saltley, no Pentonville, no builders' breakthrough. The reverse side of the coin—the fact that the Industrial Relations Act became law, that the postmen the power-men, the hospital workers went down to defeat and the building workers are currently on trial—is due to the spinelessness of the union leaders, left wing as well as right.

The need for a genuine, powerful rank movement in the trade unions has never been more vital. It would break down the isolation of the militants and would provide them with an effective framework within which they can step up the fight to democratise the unions and turn them into effective fighting forces against government and employers.

Such a movement would be able to act with speed and precision, mobilising support for any group of workers engaged in industrial action. It could produce facts and bulletins to help them in their struggles. It could neutralise the right wing leaders and exert tremendous pressure on the left variety. The call from several rank and file trade union papers to organise a conference next year to discuss the possibilities of creating such a movement must be backed to the hilt.

### CORRUPT

Support for a rank and file movement and for the recent Socialist Worker industrial conference show the growing awareness among militants that politics is not something that could be left to the ballot box and the Tweedledee-Tweedledum parties of Tories and Labour. Socialism has come in from the cold. It is now possible to talk and talk credibly of the opportunity to build a socialist workers party that will sweep away the tottering and corrupt capitalist system and replace it with the real democracy of workers' power.

Such a party will weld together the most tried and trusted fighters in the working-class movement. Through factory and workplace organisation it will counter to the twisted priorities of the present system the image of a society in which those who produce rule through democratic workers' councils and where there is only one priority—the fulfilment of human needs.

The possibilities of building such a party and such a society are now firmly on the agenda. It is a challenge the International Socialists willingly accept.

# Police lies exposed by builder on trial

SW Reporter

JOHN LLYWARCH, one of the six defendants in the Shrewsbury building workers' conspiracy trial, gave non-committal answers to police during an early interrogation. He then found that police questions had been put down as his answers, answers which are now a vital part of the prosecution case.

In his evidence to the court last week, John Llywarch explained that police officers asked him about several of his future co-defendants.

He was asked if Des Warren was 'always shouting and wanting violent action?' He was asked if Eric Tomlinson was 'definitely a militant, an agitator helping and encouraging pickets to cause damage?'

To all these questions, John told the court, he replied 'I don't know'. But when he was asked to sign his statement he found that the police questions had been written in as allegations he was supposed to have made. He refused to sign this so-called statement.

### Serious

John also told the court about another revealing aspect of the police investigation. He said that when police first interrogated him he was treated as a likely prosecution witness. The clear implication is that if he had signed the statement and gone along with the police, then no charges would have been brought against him.

This serious trial of trade unionists on conspiracy charges is now in its eighth week with the evidence of the defendants, John McKinsie Jones, Eric Tomlinson, Des Warren, Ken O'Shea, John Carpenter and John Llywarch, being unfolded.

On Monday Eric Tomlinson told the court that his techniques of picketing bore



no relation to the charges being levelled against the men.

He explained that he regularly took his two years old son picketing with him. (The boy had been charged with conspiracy, unlawful assembly and causing an affray).

John Llywarch was in the witness box for six and a half hours. A slim, shy Welshman the son of a farmworker, he told the court that at the start of the strike, he was working on McAlpine's Wrexham bypass contract. Pickets visited the site and asked the men to ban overtime, to support the strike fund and to join the union.

He volunteered to get the forms from the Transport Workers Union. All 200 workers joined at once so the overtime ban could be put on. After this the site came out on strike for half a day to get toilet facilities.

McAlpine's, one of the richest contractors in the land, did not provide them. They are supposed to do so by law but have not yet been charged. When the all-out strike started, the site voted to join it.

John explained to the court how the Oswestry pickets met at the Labour Club to get reports and plan picketing. He never

initiated action—ideas had to come from the floor, proposed, seconded and voted upon.

At first they used to tell their plans to the press. But when the Border Counties Advertiser carried a false and misleading article, the pickets voted to exclude the reporter from their meetings unless they were allowed to check his notes.

John said that he had always stressed the idea of peaceful picketing. The idea of the mass picket was to impress scabs with the large number of men who were actually on strike.

Cross examining for the prosecution, Maurice Drake QC suggested that John Llywarch really had wanted violence on the sites, to intimidate the scabs.

John was not to be shaken. He insisted that he had not planned or welcomed the violence that had taken place. Why had none of the senior police officers ever suggested a meeting of all the pickets, or even that the pickets all went home, he asked. It is a fact that none of the police officers mentioned such an idea in their evidence.

Alan Abrahams, a regional council member of UCATT and shop steward of the new Liverpool Hospital site, was also called by John Carpenter's defence.

Maurice Drake asked him why he had been on the demonstration on the first day of the trial to bring maximum public attention to what Maurice Drake called 'an ordinary criminal trial.'

Alan Abrahams said he didn't know if the 1875 Conspiracy Law was an ordinary criminal procedure. He said he was concerned that as a result of being involved in an ordinary trade union meeting in Chester his members were charged with conspiracy. He had been at the meeting, where the conspiracy is supposed to have occurred. He had only decided not to go to Shrewsbury to picket at the last minute and he has not been charged.

### Conspiracy

Mr Rhys-Roberts opened the case for John McKinsie Jones by telling the jury that they had to be certain that there was a conspiracy before anyone could be found guilty of it. Of 38 prosecution witnesses who had mentioned McKinsie Jones, four had insisted that he had done something wrong.

One said he saw him throw a stone through a window, another complained that Jones had threatened to beat him up, another complained of his aggressive manner, and a police constable heard him threaten someone.

It was revealed that Jones had not been at the meeting of the Joint Strike Action Committee which had decided to picket in Shrewsbury. He had been given £182 for the strike funds, and had felt it best to go straight home.

He had only learnt of the decision the next morning. He had been informed the next morning, by another of the Shrewsbury 24, who is not charged with conspiracy.

# Student rent vote rocks the leaders

MARGATE:—Delegates at the National Union of Students conference last weekend voted for a national rent strike as a central part of their campaign for an increase in grants that would enable them to catch up with the runaway in the cost of living.

And on two important votes they hammered the union executive for its weak and vacillating policy in this area.

The executive, which is dominated by Communist Party members, opposed the idea of a national rent strike by students in college halls of residence. Instead it called for local strikes without overall national co-ordination.

But militant delegates said this policy failed last year to shift the government and led to students in particular colleges feeling isolated and open to victimisation. Talk of repeating the same tactics this year was really talk of not fighting at all.

After being narrowly defeated on the rent strike question, the executive was routed on a resolution censuring it for its failure to give a clear lead in the grant campaign since the last conference. Simon Turner, an IS member who is part of the 'socialist alternative' minority on the executive, drew massive applause when he contrasted what the executive had done with what was possible.

The executive, he said, had organised a rally of two representatives from each college—but the student organisation in London had been able to pull 15,000 students out to demonstrate over grants with little help from the executive. 'If the executive had given a real lead,' he argued, 'there could have been 150,000.' Many delegates were clearly convinced by the argument: the censure motion was carried by 360,000 votes to 105,000.

But the majority of delegates were still confused by many of the issues involved in the campaign and backed the executive's approach of trying to win over the authorities by personal chats rather than militant action.

# CHILE'S WORKERS GO ON FIGHTING

by Mike Gonzalez

THE ruling classes of the West have already dried their crocodile tears over the murder of workers in Chile. Now, according to Foreign Secretary Alec Douglas Home and British Leyland boss Lord Stokes among others, the military rulers have restored normality and all is well.

British Leyland showed its gratitude with gifts of cars to the generals, the British government has announced it will resume arms sales immediately, and American banks are rushing to unfreeze the credit that they held back for three years during the government of Popular Unity.

The picture in Chile now, at least as it is presented in the press, must bring a glow to Heath's cheeks. The military junta has ignored the niceties of parliamentary democracy. Murder and terror continue in the football stadiums of Chile, and throughout the country.

The inhabitants of the town of Traiguén, for example, were called into the streets on 13 October in response to what they thought was a call to support an army unit that had risen against the regime. When they left their houses they were gunned down in the streets.

At the same time, the military regime is anxious to cover its attempt to eliminate the revolutionary left with an image of calm. It has fallen over itself to return factories to private enterprise. Workers are being forced to work extra days free or give up a day's wages and donate them to 'the task of national reconstruction'. Shop stewards, militant trade unionists and political activists have been sacked and have no hope of working again under the present regime.

## SILENCED

But the struggle is by no means over. The first resistance of workers and peasants to the coup was, of course, brutally crushed, though the army also suffered considerable losses.

Protests and resistance at every level have never been silenced by the military rulers of Chile. On 7 October a middle-aged widow burned herself to death in Valparaiso in protest. In Chillan a young conscript shot himself rather than gun down a worker.

# BRIEFING

THE US Central Intelligence Agency is reported to have gone into the computerising business in Venezuela. Customers of 'Operation Amigo', which operates from a Caracas luxury hotel, are asked to fill out questionnaires in order to be matched with compatible partners. The information—including such items as 'leisure-time activities' and political affiliation—is then added to CIA files.

EVERYBODY has heard of the plight of Russian Jews prevented from emigrating to Israel. Few except anthropologists have heard of the Falashas of Ethiopia.

The Falashas are Jews who kept their traditions and rituals for many centuries in complete isolation from other Jewish communities. They claim to have come to Ethiopia with the Queen of Sheba—more probably they went there when the Jews



During the first weeks, these personal, isolated protests may have seemed the only way—once the massive resistance had been crushed by military force. Since then, however, the picture has changed, as the political leadership of the armed resistance has been established.

In the south especially, guerrilla units in both city and countryside launched attacks on the forces of the coup in October. In the city, army officers were assassinated. In the countryside, the military met armed resistance in many places. This provided a focus for rebuilding the resistance—and incidentally a place for discontented soldiers to desert to, as a number have done. It also provided support for those large sections of workers who continue to resist in one way or another.

## LESSONS

Now a Revolutionary Command has been established, on which all the left parties, including the MIR, are represented.

It is clear that the military regime is far from destroying the resistance of the left in Chile. The resistance is spreading and the working class is actively learning the bitter lessons of the coup and the events leading up to it. It is building those lessons into a strategy of resistance.

The Chilean regime has made very clear its view of the future. The constitutional proposals it has published provide the framework for a fascist state: the complete subjection of the exploited classes, and the surrender of the Chilean economy to international capital and their representatives. If they are to carry this out, however, they have to have internal control within Chile, and an uninterrupted flow of capital and arms from capitalist governments—Britain among the first.

In Chile itself, the resistance will fight to make sure that fascism cannot consolidate itself, and international solidarity is a key to their success.

Revolutionary socialists must learn the lessons of Chile for Britain. But the struggle in Chile itself is not yet

were dispersed by the Romans.

The Falashas are also black. Although many of them have wished to move to Israel since its foundation in 1948, and although the 'Law of Return' gives the right to settle there to every Jew, none of them have ever been allowed to immigrate to Israel. There are at the moment several cases of Falashas staying temporarily in Israel who have applied to settle, but they have not been accepted.

There is already discrimination in Israel against Oriental Jews, who have darker skin than those of European origin. That this is sheer racialism, overriding even the idea of the 'Chosen People', is further suggested by the fact that Israel draws the line at black Jews.

GERMANY's decision to ban further entry of foreign workers, supposedly because



A protester against the military regime in Chile on an international student's demonstration in Turin, Italy. PICTURE: Uliano Lucas (Report)

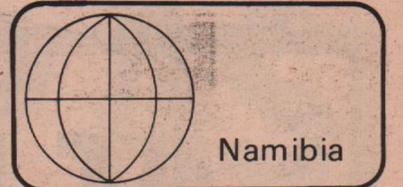
over, and if we are able to stop the transfusions coming from international capital, the military regime will never be able to implant its own brand of fascism.

British capital, for example, has already agreed to supply arms, aid and material to the Chilean regime. The working class has in its hands the means to cut those lifelines to the Chilean generals, to stop the sending of arms and aid, to stop the flow of raw materials, particularly copper, to Europe, and to give aid, both political and material, to the Chilean working-class movement throughout this phase of the class struggle in Chile.

It is important, therefore, that active solidarity should be the keynote of the campaign. We should resist any attempt to turn a solidarity campaign into a funeral dirge. The process continues, and much depends on the active support of the international working-class movement.

of the fuel crisis, reflects the complete lack of facilities it provides for immigrants. The German government prefers to have hordes of 'guest workers'—mainly from Turkey and Yugoslavia—who can be admitted in large numbers when booming German industry needs them, and 'switched off' when there is any sort of crisis.

It is extremely difficult for foreign workers to settle permanently in Germany. A Bonn city department recently estimated the shortage of houses for foreign workers wishing to settle with their families at 150,000. The Federal Housing Subsidy provides no money for such housing, and Nuremberg is the only city to make specific provision for it. Foreign workers' dwellings are on average one-third smaller than German workers', a disproportionate number live in old buildings, and the proportion of their income which goes on rent is higher than average.



# Spread of apartheid backed by bosses

by Josie Campbell

NAMIBIA, in blatant disregard of United Nations resolutions and World Court rulings, has been annexed as a fifth province by South Africa.

In spite of international pressure South Africa has consistently refused to give up Namibia, not only because of its vast mineral wealth, rich fisheries, and trade in skins, but also for security reasons. Vorster knows he cannot afford another independent black country with a long common border with the Republic.

While successive British governments have supported South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia on the political front, British capital is its main support. Though other countries, notably West Germany, are discouraging new investment in Namibia, British big business is being actively encouraged to increase its exports there.

In July the British consul visited Namibia to establish contact with local industrialists and was impressed with its 'potential economic growth'. He was optimistic that this would lead to an increasing demand for modern equipment from Britain. So far this year's exports are already up by 44 per cent on last year.

## Isolation

The latest project to come to light is a vast and sophisticated telecommunications network which will link the territory with South Africa and the outside world. Not only will this be a boost to capitalist enterprise in Namibia but it will lessen the growing isolation of the whites there.

Balfour, Beatty and Co, a subsidiary of British Insulated Callender's Cables (BICC), is confident it will win the contract to build the network, while GEC hopes to install the microwave transmission system.

Through the help of companies such as International Computers (ICL), which recently supplied a computer to be used in the administration of South Africa's Pass Laws, Plessey, GEC and BICC, South Africa is able to maintain an efficient system of repression.

The microwave telecommunications system will be virtually sabotage-proof, with no cables and 30 well-guarded transmission stations, connecting all major white centres to the Republic's network.

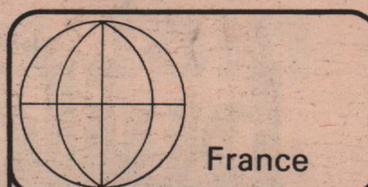
## Concern

On Balfour Beatty's own admission none of the 756,000 blacks in Namibia will benefit from this vast expenditure.

BICC relies on a large proportion of contracts from abroad since the British market is declining. It has subsidiaries operating in South Africa ('a record year'), Rhodesia ('the failure of the settlement negotiations is a matter of serious concern'), Portugal, Mozambique and Spain.

BICC is particularly heavily involved in Portugal and her colonies—mainly through close links with a Portuguese company called CEL-CAT. BICC is providing the plant machinery for a new CEL-CAT factory near Lisbon. The firms worked together on a section of the Ruacana Falls, a hydro-electric power station on the Namibia-Angola border and part of the notorious Cunene River Scheme.

Although the project is shrouded in secrecy, it appears that Balfour Beatty's power transmission division supplied equipment which CEL-CAT installed with the help of a supervisory engineer from Balfour, Beatty. This was done from the Angolan side of the border.



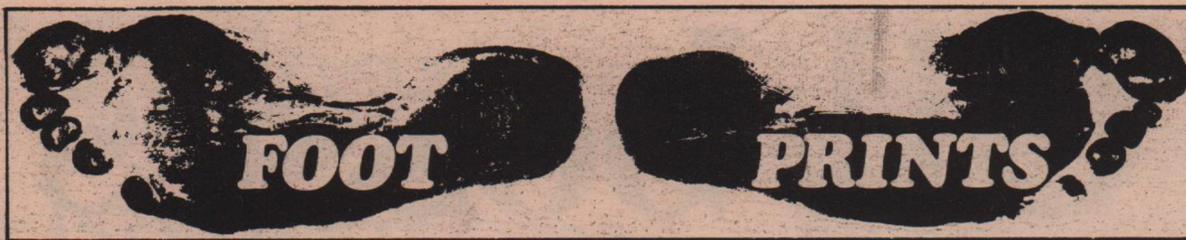
# Protest diverted

THE MOVEMENT of French small shopkeepers against the government's proposals to penalise them for rising prices has now simmered down, after a widely-supported national 'strike' on 15 November. The shopkeepers' leaders, especially those of the CID-UNATI group, have diverted attention away from the government's policies to one man, the Minister of Finance.

Two of the main trade union bodies in France, the CFDT, closest to the Socialist Party, and Force Ouvriere, a right-wing minority federation, have hurried to dissociate themselves from the shopkeepers' actions. Force Ouvriere particularly blames shopkeepers for the rise in prices and calls on the government to stand firm against them.

The CFDT leader, Maire, has declared that 'we cannot ally ourselves with just anyone,' and used this as an excuse for hesitancy in accepting proposals for a joint anti-inflation protest from the Communist Party-controlled CGT union federation.

The revolutionary weekly paper Lutte Ouvriere (Workers' Struggle) points out that small shopkeepers cannot be blamed for inflation, and that to divert workers' anger against them is to draw attention from big business, bankers, industrial monopolists, profiteers and land speculators who really profit from rising prices and actively promote inflation.



## GETTING JUMPY, FELLAS?

A MEMBER of the International Socialists who is a shop steward in High Wycombe recently visited friends in Shrewsbury and decided to drop into the Crown Court and view the proceedings in the Shrewsbury 24 conspiracy trial.

But getting in proved difficult. He was pounced on by a police sergeant, taken to a room in the court building and interrogated at length on his reasons for wishing to visit the trial. The sergeant was eventually replaced by an inspector who questioned him on his trade union activities and views on anarchism and Northern Ireland.

During a break in this third degree treatment, our shop steward calmly walked into the court room and sat down. Several large policemen came pounding in and asked him to 'come outside.' The questions continued, until, tiring of the whole tedious affair, our member gave up and went off for a coffee in the nearby canteen, forgetting that he had left his duffle coat in the court.

Minutes later a small troop of policemen came rushing into the building, disappeared into the court room and re-emerged gingerly carrying the duffle coat.

'Put it in a bucket of water,' its owner suggested. 'It will only shrink.'

## SNOW WHITE

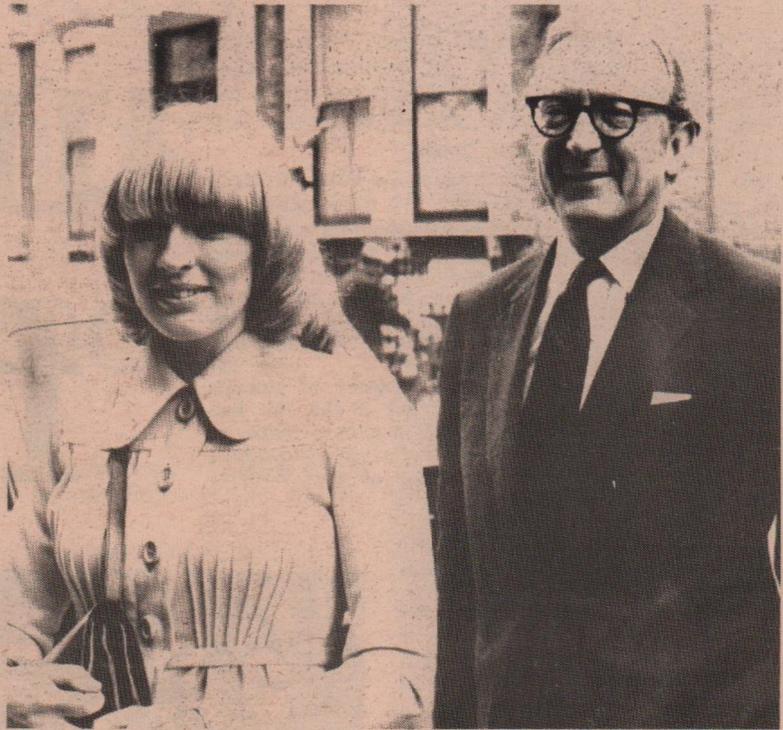
'FOLLOW CRICKET IN THE SUN' trumpeted the Daily Express last Wednesday and told its excited readers that the paper's cricket correspondent was off to 'where the action is'.

If you think that means the West Indies, where the coming series against England takes place, you don't know your Daily Express. Their man is off to that citadel of non-political sportsmanship, South Africa, where the whites, deprived of any representative cricket at international level, are busily welcoming a 'world team' organised by one Derrick Robins.

Readers may care to note the sporting Englishmen so anxious to whitewash the apartheid regime. They include fast bowler John Snow, gritty Yorkshire tyke Brian Close.

Most sickening of all, there are two black cricketers in the team that will play before carefully segregated crowds—John Shepherd, the West Indian and Kent all-rounder, and Younis Ahmed, a Pakistani batsman at present with Surrey. For his pains, Younis has been banned for life from playing in Pakistan because of his decision to tour the apartheid state.

The Express sports reporter's name: Crawford White, I kid you not.



EVERYONE has been getting steamed up about the executive jet flight from London to Pisa to ferry Lord Ashcombe, chairman of the building firm, Cubitts, and his Italian business friend back to London. The Daily Mirror, for instance, splashed the story on its front page last Thursday.

No paper pointed out that Lord Ashcombe is married to Virginia, daughter of Lord Carrington, who is Minister of Defence, chairman of the Tory Party, and a well-known property speculator in Buckinghamshire.

My charming picture shows Lord Carrington giving his daughter away, free, to Cubitts last New Year's Day.

# Don't Trust Houses Forte

OFFICIAL: It's not a crime to kill children in fairgrounds by maintaining faulty machinery which is bound to result in those children's deaths.

On 30 May 1972, Thomas Hammer, 13, of Abbey Wood, Shirley Nash, eight, of Reading, David Sait, 14, Deborah Robertson, 13, of Roehampton, and Alison Cumerford, 15, of Cookham, Berkshire, were killed after the Big Dipper at Battersea Funfair ran out of control and smashed into its structure.

At least 16 other children were maimed for life, including Shirley Nash's sister Karen, whose neck was broken.

At a recent trial at the Old Bailey, the public prosecutor said: 'Almost every aspect of the Dipper was defec-

tive, some of it gravely so. It was, quite literally, a death trap.'

Summing up the case, Mr Justice Stocker revealed: 'No mechanical examinations were ever made of the Big Dipper.'

At the trial, Mr Frank Etches, the engineer in charge of the Dipper, and James Hogan, the manager, were found not guilty of criminal negligence.

Two other gentlemen who have not even been charged in connection with the 'accident' are:

JOHN COLLINS, 80, of Blackpool, who has made a massive fortune from operating fairground machinery, and who owns the Big Dipper itself.

SIR CHARLES FORTE, chairman and founder of Trust Houses Forte, which runs the Festival Gardens, Battersea, at a hefty profit.

Trust Houses Forte must have reaped in several hundred thousand pounds from enticing children on to the 'death trap', but when the death trap resulted in death, no directors of the company, no managers were guilty of any crime.

There is no reason why they should be. After all, Sir Charles Forte is a close friend of the Prime Minister and of Mr Rippon, Secretary of State for the Environment, who refused to set up an inquiry into the scandal. And, as far as I know, Sir Charles has never been on a picket line.

He can't be a criminal.

## Ferry peculiar

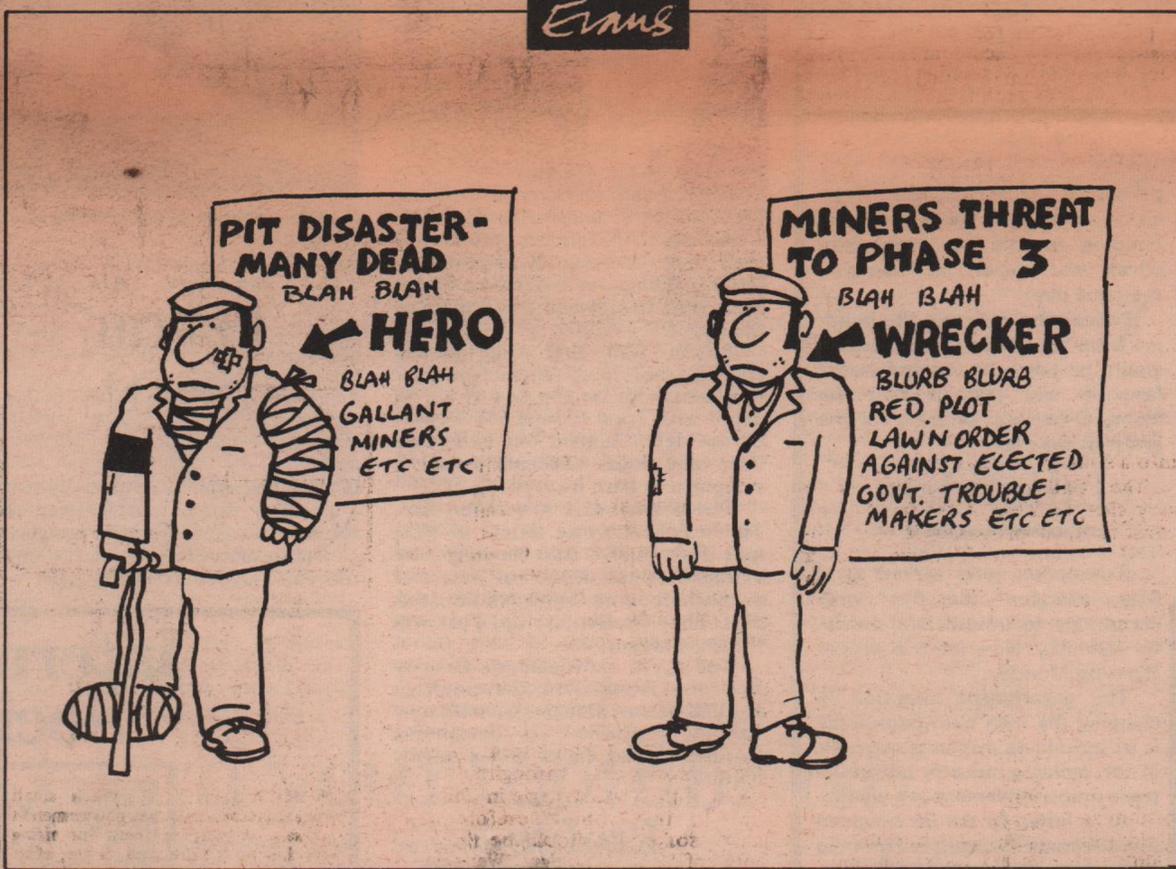
THE EDITOR has received a letter from a firm of solicitors called Hannay and Hannay, of Cramlington, Northumberland, who represent Peter Ferry, the clerk of Seaton Urban Council. The letter complains about an article I wrote which appeared on 6 October and dealt with the planned eviction of seven miners from their homes in New Hartley, Northumberland, by the National Coal Board on behalf of a property company, London and Tyneside Properties.

Among other things, the article referred to the fact that Mr Ferry was having his house built by S McCullough Ltd, of Birtley, near Chester-le-Street.

I had written: 'Mr Ferry becomes another in the long line of distinguished local government officers in the North East to have had their houses built by McCullough.' I then listed a number of such officers, including Alderman Andy Cunningham, former 'King of Durham'.

The letter from Hannay and Hannay protests: 'We are unable to understand the connection of the last two paragraphs with the rest of the sub-article and the article. Our client feels that the only possible relevance the reference to his house could have is a malicious innuendo suggesting that there may have been corrupt practices by him in connection with S McCullough-Ltd.'

Hannay and Hannay are asking us to apologise to Mr Ferry. But how can we apologise for a suggestion which, as far as I know, has been made by no one except Hannay and Hannay?



## The real gangsters

for the North Sea bonanza was being stopped.

Two things are significant about this story. First, the rig was being built for British Petroleum, a company in which the government, owning 49 per cent of the shares, has the controlling interest. Second, the Industrial Relations Act expressly forbids the movement of material during an industrial dispute.

So here we have the farcical situation of a government-controlled company breaking a government-made law.

It comes as no surprise that the National Industrial Relations Court did nothing about this infringement of the Act. Nothing was done to arraign Edward Heath and his gang

before the court. So far none of the property in Number 10 Downing Street has been sequestered.

And the reason is not hard to find. The Industrial Relations Act is crooked and Donaldson is bent. They are both there to protect the interests of capital against the interests of labour, to help the rich few against the many.

Proof of this point can be seen by leaving William Press's yards and moving further up the Tyne. Hebburn is a poor working-class district. Yet it was from here that Donaldson snatched £100,000 from the council.

Ostensibly to punish the engineers' union, the blow also hit the people of Hebburn. Either local

services will have to be curtailed or fresh money will have to be borrowed, probably at a higher rate of interest.

A few miles away from Hebburn lies the ship repair yards of A Milburn. Last month, after a man had died of asphyxia, Tynemouth magistrates fined this firm £150 for breaking the Factory Acts.

On the basis of this court case, a little calculation can be made. It would be possible for 666 workers to die through violations of the Factory Acts before companies were fined the same sum as the NIRC imposed on the AUEW for a single violation of the Industrial Relations Act. Can there be any clearer proof that the rights of property are placed well above those of protecting human life?

RAYMOND CHALLINOR

IT WAS almost like a Hollywood film. Lorries, their engines running, stood in lay-bys. As darkness fell, in they moved. Quickly they dashed into the works, grabbed what they wanted—and were off without being observed. Everything was done with the precision of a military operation.

This is what happened at William Press's Tyneside yards. In the middle of the night, a thousand tons of steel was expeditiously lifted. It was taken away to Teesside.

For the workers of William Press, the move came as an unexpected shock. They had been on strike for 11 weeks, claiming better payment for working in bad weather. Their main bargaining counter was the extremely expensive steel. As long as that stayed in the yards, a large amount of capital remained idle and the production of a new oil rig

# 'Birmingham 5' trial—new attack on union rights



Flashback to the Birmingham 5 when they appeared in court in June

**FIVE** more building workers face a conspiracy trial for fighting for trade union principles. As the Shrewsbury trial grinds on, the second group—known as the Birmingham Five—will appear in court on Monday 3 December.

They are Fred Ainslie, Gerry Kelly, Peter Davidson, Graham Stevenson and Phil Beyer.

The trial arises out of a campaign in the Birmingham area earlier this year against the 'lump'—the self-employed scheme used by the building employers to weaken trade unionism and drive down wage rates.

The worst form of the lump is operated by special agencies such as Manpower and the SOS Bureau. These 'rent-a-scab' firms hire out building workers to contractors and the rates paid are governed by a grading scheme decided by the site agent.

Men work side by side on different rates and often for a different 'employer'. The system divides the men and produces anti-union scabs.

The 'Birmingham Five' were active in the campaign against this system and they occupied the

by  
**Dave Adshead**

Union of Construction and  
Allied Trades Technicians

offices of the SQS Bureau. Television cameramen went into the building to film the occupation which was shown on television the same day.

Police who removed the builders from the office said no action would be taken but several weeks later it was learned that the Home Office was pressing for the arrest of the men.

## Intimidate

Summonses were served on 2 May, charging the five with conspiracy to trespass and unlawful assembly. Now the trial proper starts on Monday.

The government intention in charging the men with conspiracy is to intimidate militants not only in the building industry but in the trade union movement as a whole.

As a letter to the Birmingham Five Defence Committee from the National Council for Civil Liberties pointed out: 'The successful application of this law would mean that every form of meeting and protest can be regarded as "conspiracy" with unlimited penalties for the offenders.'

## Stoppage

Industrial action is the only way to free the Birmingham Five. That is why the call is going out for a stoppage and demonstration outside Birmingham Law Courts in Corporation Street on 3 December when the men appear for trial.

Requests for speakers, donations and messages of support should be sent to: Birmingham Five Defence Committee, UCATT, Gough Street, Birmingham.

# Oil bosses

# under fire

A CAMPAIGN launched in Langley, Buckinghamshire, to beat back an oil corporation that endangers people's lives in its ruthless quest for profit has already won support from one key group of local trade unionists.

The fight started after the blaze at the Total Oil Depot at Langley on Friday 5 October. The fire broke out in and around a train of tanker wagons standing in a siding.

1000 tons of petrol and diesel fuel were being unloaded and 400 tons were left in the train when the fire started. It rapidly turned into Britain's biggest-ever oil fire. Flames engulfed two tracks of the main Paddington-West Country line and roared 100 feet into the sky.

The results were almost a disaster of horrific proportions. Experts have said that if the fire had spread to any of the 900,000-gallon storage tanks, an explosion could have flattened a radius of up to a half-mile around the depot—and most of that is dense housing.

Passengers on the Plymouth-Paddington express came even closer to disaster as the train passed within a few feet of the fire just as it started.

People living in Mead Avenue were just 30 yards from the centre of the fire which was so intense that it welded the wheels of the wagons to the track.

According to Mrs Linda Smith of 87 Mead Avenue, the initial explosion sent a huge flame over the roofs of the houses, scorching plants in the gardens, cracking windows and blistering paint.

People flew out of their homes in terror, pausing only to grab children, some of whom had been playing in back gardens even closer to the fire.

## Evacuated

Many old people struggled to safety. Mrs Donna Donnelly from no 85 said: 'There was an old woman who could hardly walk, screaming: "My legs, my legs, help me." I couldn't help her—I had to go into the house to get my baby.'

Evening shift workers at surrounding factories were also evacuated.

As some 200 families returned to their homes on Saturday and Sunday, bitter meetings and demonstrations were held to demand the closure of the depot.

British Rail first told Slough council—then Tory controlled—that it planned to use the site as an oil depot with Total in June 1967. News of the depot slipped out two years later and local residents began a campaign to have it stopped.

The council said it was too late. The residents wrote letters to MPs, sent deputations, held meetings and marched to the depot but were met everywhere with bureaucratic deafness. They finally gave up. That was three years ago.

Today, in the name of Langley Residents Association, the campaign is alive again. Slough council, now Labour controlled, is demanding closure of the depot and a public inquiry.

## Profits

The government has refused the inquiry and Total Oil has turned down facilities to the council's explosives expert to investigate the cause of the fire.

On the surface it looks as though the campaign is up against a brick wall again. Everything the council does to try to stop Total operating will be overridden by the Home Office in the interest of big business and higher profits.

Total's attitude to those living nearby is quite clear: it couldn't give a damn.

People in Mead Avenue were terrified during the fire and are still living in fear. 800 letters have been sent to the House of Commons to demand a public inquiry but people involved are learning the limitations of the 'democratic process'.

Only the involvement of workers who handle Total Oil products will force the company to take notice. Already Ascot and Reading branch of ASLEF, the train drivers' union, has pledged 'any support they can and it



Angry residents demonstrating outside the Total depot after the fire

by BOB  
DEAN

support from trade unionists both at the source of supply and the point of delivery. Heathrow Airport in particular is vital as Total supplies oil there by road. It is the only firm that doesn't pipe oil into the airport.

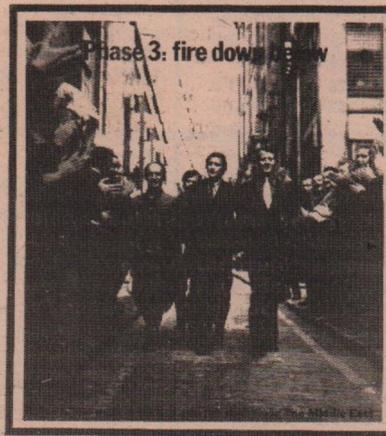
The blacking of Total at the giant airport would not only force the firm to take action but would put human interests and lives before the profits of the few.

Bob Dean is vice-chairman of Langley Residents Association.

is not impossible to eventually reach a position where footplatemen will refuse to work oil trains to Langley'.

But to succeed in getting the depot moved, Langley residents must win

## International Socialism

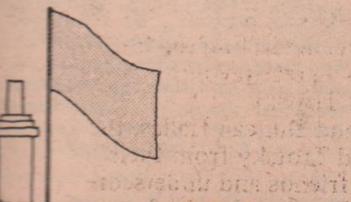


'As one embittered militant put it: "This is the end of trade unionism as we know it." The statement may sound alarmist, but in a way it is true. If the shop stewards' movement is to defend itself adequately in the present period, it must respond in new ways to the tactics of the employers and the government.' Peter Jones writing in the latest issue of International Socialism on POLITICS AND THE SHOP FLOOR, the lessons of the past 12 months at Chrysler. ALSO articles on Zionism, the Arab states, the Spanish Civil War and Heath's economic crisis.

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# Maclean: the system that drips with blood

JUST 50 years and one day ago, on 30 November, 1923, John Maclean died. He was possibly the greatest Marxist the British Isles has ever produced.

The 'Lenin of Scotland' as he was sometimes called died at the early age of 44. His contribution to the working class struggle was an heroic one. A man who worked with him in those years was Harry McShane, veteran of the labour movement who talks about him below to Joan Smith.

The first time I saw John Maclean was when he was chairing a meering in 1910, at the Pollockshaws Hall. Last Sunday I spoke there again, at a commemoration meeting. It was the first time I has been in that hall since 1910.

I was carried away by the speech he made then. I had walked all the way from Kingston to Pollockshaws for the meeting. It was worth it for John's speech.

John Maclean came into the movement in 1902-3 through the writings of Robert Blatchford. He joined the Social Democratic Federation and began to run classes on marxist economics which became famous even on the continent, during the First World War.

The classes were attended by several hundred workers from the engineers' shops and the shipyards. He did open air propaganda and during the 1908-9 he got involved in the unemployment agitation leading demonstrations.

But it was the First World War that transformed him. He became more revolutionary, more outspoken, more confident. He had lost faith in the continental socialist parties, and was a man incensed.

The war itself, the fact that men were being slaughtered and the acceptance of that slaughter was contrary to everything that the socialist movement stood for. He started an anti-war campaign, with public meetings every Sunday afternoon at Nelson's monument on Glasgow Green, and every Sunday evening at Bath Street, just facing the transport offices which had become the main recruiting offices for the armed forces.

The meetings started with hundreds of workers but got bigger. The road was blocked and the meetings became very stormy. In September 1915 at an open air meeting in Shorelands he was dismissed from the Govan schoolboard. While he was working his notice the agitation against rising rents grew and evictions became the order of the day.

## Vanguard

In November 1915 one Factor took 19 people to court including a Dalmuir shipyard worker. Shipyard workers downed tools and marched on the court and workers from Fairfields Shipyards marched to the school where John worked and took him out. From then on John was a full time revolutionary.

At the same time John was publishing the Vanguard, an anti-war paper which was under the auspices of the Glasgow District of the British Socialist Party—it was suppressed. Maclean got three years in jail in April 1916, he had been arrested for his speeches against the war.

After 14 months of agitation the authorities were compelled to release him. During his imprisonment the Easter Uprising in Dublin took place and he was inspired by the stand taken by the Irish revolutionary James Connolly.



Harry McShane today

Then came the Russian Revolution, and John saw his work as rousing the British workers to follow the example of the Soviet Union. In May 1918 he faced another 11 charges—based on the revolutionary speeches he had made. It was at this trial that he made his famous speech from the dock: "I am not here as the accused, but as the accuser of capitalism, dripping with blood from head to foot." This time he got five years.

Back in 1916 the British Socialist Party had affiliated to the Labour Party and it was possible for members to become Labour candidates. Maclean stood as official Labour candidate for Gorbals—from jail. Willie Gallacher run his campaign for him, and it built into a battle for John's release.

He came out after serving six months—a week before the election. He was so weak that he could only speak the night before the election. He got 7500 votes.

Throughout this time he was engaged in the 'Hands off Russia' campaign. British troops were fighting off the Murmansk coast and F E

## Guard your toothbrush

I JOINED the Women's Royal Army Corps when I was 17, I had spent a lot of my life in a children's home, and I didn't like that too much.

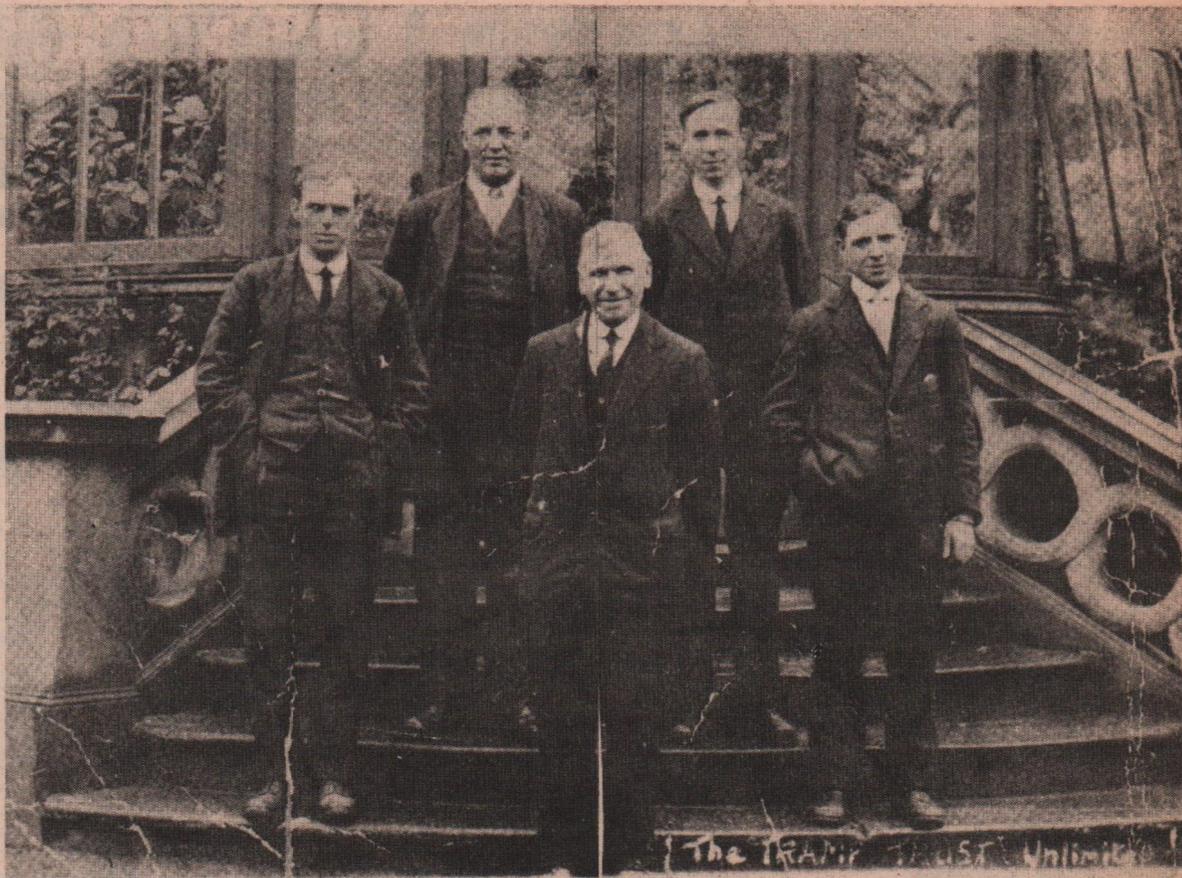
I had the choice of staying in the oppressive atmosphere of the home for another year or, as I saw it, joining up. I was young, didn't think about it too much, so there I was. Everybody makes mistakes...

A raw recruit is put through mental and physical torment in basic training. It goes on for six weeks, and between four and six hours a day are spent on the parade ground. If you faint other women think you are weak-willed.

The rest of the day is spent learning about army law and restrictions. Interesting things like how to polish shoes, press uniforms and so on.

Then comes Saturday, the high spot of the week! You learn how to clean toilets and scrub the floors. If you get through this satisfactorily then you may be allowed out on Saturday night.

This didn't always apply to me. I didn't take to the discipline and on one occasion after cleaning the toilet I was ordered to do it again. I told



The Tramps Trust Unlimited. John Maclean is centre and Harry McShane is on his extreme left

Smith and Winston Churchill were preaching hatred against the Bolsoheviks. John linked the campaign with the struggle in Ireland and in India.

The executive of the BSP offered to pay him to concentrate on the 'Hands off Russia' campaign but he refused to give up his other work and left the BSP. My branch of the BSP was sick to death of their lack of industrial and political policy. In 1920 John suggested that he and I do a campaign all over the West of Scotland. He had revived the Vanguard and had developed an industrial policy based on Tom Mann's demands.

## Broken

We distributed this policy as a leaflet at factories in every town in the West of Scotland. We then had factory gate meetings. We would then talk on the streets in the afternoon and have an evening meeting.

We distributed 150,000 leaflets on the murder of the Lord Mayor of Cork. We sold 20,000 copies of our pamphlets, including Ireland's Tragedy/Scotland's Disgrace, and we spoke everywhere against the Black and Tans in Ireland.

There were five of us in what John called the Tramps Trust Unlimited.

In 1921 John got another three months in jail for a speech to the miners at Airdrie and then in October 1921 he was sentenced to 12 months. By this time his health was broken and his fight with the BSP meant that he would not join the new Communist Party.

He wanted to build a Scottish Communist Party, because he thought

the Scottish workers were more advanced than the English and he was influenced by the Irish national struggle.

After I and another member of the Tramps Trust joined the Communist Party, John formed the Scottish Workers Republican Party in the last months of his life.

John's weakness was that he was not prepared to unite with the Communist Party. In the Tramps Trust we held meetings all over Scotland but only left the pamphlets and leaflets behind us. It was unfortunate that he didn't write much at all. He was not an orator. It was his material and the obvious sincerity of his speeches that held the audience. If he had written more we would still have those ideas.

He was a man of great confidence, of great ability. He was a working-class boy who had become a teacher at Shawlands Academy. He didn't drink or smoke and was very serious. a Calvinist atheist. He only had one joke and that was whenever he stood alone he would say "The Clan Maclean have a boat of their ane."

Maclean's daughter, Nan Milton's book on her father is available from Pluto Press (Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1) £1.25 for paperback edition up to 3 December. After that it is £2-pb and £4 hardback. Maclean's *The War after the War* (20p) is available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, and IS Books in Glasgow have several Maclean pamphlets.

Harry McShane will be speaking on 30 November at 7.30 at the Conway Hall, London WC1 on '50 years since the death of Maclean'.

the sergeant to get stuffed.

Her reaction was startling. As a result I wound up cleaning the toilet pans out with my toothbrush and toilet soap. It didn't end there. I also got three days confinement to camp for being three minutes late after a night out.

The role of a woman in the army is even worse than that of a man. They do the same work, but for less pay. For instance a WRAC clerk in training gets just over £14, while a man gets £21.

## Attitude

The men look at the WRAC as groundsheets to be used and abused. The officers think differently—they try to keep the sexes apart. This type of hypocrisy runs throughout army life. Women in the army have been sexually exploited in the past—and will be in the future, and not only by the men.

The difference in the pay-scales show pretty clearly the government's attitude to women—so much for Tory Equal Pay Acts. They can't pay their own servants decent wages—and as usual it's the women who suffer most.

On top of the man/woman divide is the class split. It is even more blatant in the forces than in the outside world. Officers are almost always middle-class, with half a dozen O-level GCEs and a couple of A-levels. It is difficult for a working-class woman to come up through the ranks.

The regimental sergeant-major of the camp where I was stationed had been in the WRAC for 18 years. She was even considered officer material—but she had a broad Yorkshire accent. So she never made it for the officers' training school.

Perhaps it didn't worry her. In the army you're not entitled to a mind of your own anyway. Express left-wing political views so that you get yourself noticed and the effect is devastating. In comes Security—and a screening, which means you do no work.

I was a fool to join the WRAC, and I found the petty restrictions were too stupid to obey—so I got out. But of course if you want to go places then sign on!

PAT BLAKER

## PREVIEW

SATURDAY: BBC-2, American writer Norman Mailer talks about his recently published biography of Marilyn Monroe in *SECOND HOUSE*, which goes on for 90 minutes but mercifully also features clips from Monroe movies.\*

SUNDAY: BBC-1, 10.20pm. The fine French film director Francois Truffaut is profiled in *OMNIBUS*. A sordid example of political intrigue is *A QUESTION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS* on BBC-1 which features various journalists and politicians wondering why nobody likes politicians. It is on because an earlier programme on a similar subject featured members of the public telling said politicians what they thought of them. Which of course was quite unfair. Impartiality is ensured this time by having no members of the public.\*

MONDAY: BBC-2. Willis Hall co-wrote the original *Billy Liar* with Keith Waterhouse. His play *THEY DON'T ALL OPEN MEN'S BOUTIQUES* is about an unsuccessful football team, due to meet Leeds United...\*

TUESDAY: BBC-1. The Tuesday Documentary is *LAST NIGHT ANOTHER SOLDIER...* which is about the lives and feelings of a group of soldiers bound for Belfast. It can be confidently predicted that there will not be any shots of the Army kicking in people's homes, putting bags over suspects heads or explaining what right they have to be there in the first place...\* During the afternoon is a documentary on rugby league, shot mainly in Wigan, Salford and Featherstone, *THE GAME THAT GOT AWAY*, also BBC-1\*.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2. The *By Way of a Change* series features *JESUS LIBERATION FRONT* who 'hold rousing public gatherings... joyful prayer meetings and talk about their faith to anyone who will listen.' Come back Nero...\* *JOLLY BOATING WEATHER* BBC-2 is Man Alive's film on the Henley Royal Regatta, which should give you a chance to see what we're up against. Also another *WESSEX TALE*, same channel.\*

THURSDAY: BBC-2. *OPINION* is on the effects of the 'Oil Boom' on Scotland.

\*Transmission time unknown at time of going to press.

## Watch it!

An excellent 30 minute socialist newsreel on Greece, including film of fighting on the street against the junta is available for showing to International Socialist branches, trade unions etc in the Greater London area.

For further information on the film, which was completed just as the events in Greece were erupting, contact the Berwick Street Film Collective, (01-240 2350).

# 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 racialism 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 land, 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**  
Basildon  
Cambridge  
Chelmsford  
Colchester  
Fakenham  
Harlow  
Ipswich  
Leiston  
Lowestoft  
Norwich  
Peterborough

**SOUTH**  
Brighton  
Canterbury  
Dorchester  
Dover  
Exeter  
Faversham  
Folkestone  
Gillingham  
Gravesend  
Hastings  
Hemel Hempstead  
High Wycombe  
Hillingdon  
Holt  
Hounslow  
Ilford  
Islington  
Kingston  
Lambeth  
Lewisham  
Mid-Herts  
North Herts  
Newham  
Paddington  
Reading  
Slough  
Tottenham  
Tower Hamlets  
Walthamstow  
Wandsworth  
Watford  
Wood Green  
Woolwich

### 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  
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

# THE UNIONS

THE CASE of the 24 North Wales building workers is of tremendous importance to the whole working-class movement.

The 24 are charged with a battery of criminal offences following picketing in last year's national building workers' strike. Six now on trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court, are accused of 'conspiracy' and face long prison sentences if found guilty. The trial is likely to conclude in roughly three weeks time, in mid-December.

This case is a deliberate attack by the Tories on the right to picket. They have picked on these 24 with the aim of making an example of them and so scare other sections of the trade union movement.

The only way this attack on picketing can be defeated and the 24 defended is by mass action. Only militancy of the type and on the scale that freed the five London dockers from Pentonville Prison last year can really aid the 24.

No matter how able the lawyers for the defence or how often they expose the lies in the prosecution evidence this skill alone cannot be relied upon to free the 24. The reason is simple. The trial is not about truth or justice but about politics, and politics will determine its outcome.

## Condemned

For many militants this poses real problems. The struggle to free the Pentonville Five was against a background very different from that to the Shrewsbury case.

The dockers were jailed for defying the National Industrial Relations Court. This court and the Act that had given birth to it had been in the public eye for many months. Hours of TV time and pages of newspapers had been devoted to it. The TUC had condemned it and—on paper at least—every union was against it.

None of this applies to the Shrewsbury case. Press publicity has been poor and television has hardly mentioned the trial. The TUC has said nothing. The leaders of the major building workers' trade union, UCATT, have refused to support the accused pickets. The role of the Tory government is far less clear.

In these circumstances the campaign to organise a wave of strike action if any of the accused pickets are jailed is going to be much more difficult. It will need a major effort. It cannot just be left to chance or until after the judge's final speeches—which is not now so far away.

The campaign needs to be stepped up now.

The first step towards this must be a wider publicity campaign to draw attention to the facts and importance of the trial. Millions of workers rely on the press and TV and so hear nothing of the trial. It is up to militants and socialists to build an alternative publicity machine. Facts on the trial and its context can be got from Pickets on Trial the International Socialists pamphlet.

## Bulletins

The Morning Star carries daily reports on the trial and Socialist Worker carries weekly summaries of the trial proceedings and reports of activities in support of the 24.

Regular publicity for the 24, starting now, fortnightly, leaflets or bulletins, are needed that explain the issues at stake in the trial and include up-to-date reports both of what is going on in the courtroom and of how solidarity is developing.

Ideally these bulletins should be issued by shop stewards' committees. But where this is not possible then either trade union branches, IS workplace branches or groups of militants should take on the responsibility themselves.

Apart from the written word, meetings are also important. The most useful are mass meetings at



Police outside Shrewsbury Crown Court: the sort of picket the bosses like

# How we must defend North Wales 24

which decisions to strike if the 24 are jailed can be taken. But shop meetings can also be valuable. Speakers can be got by writing to The North Wales 24 Defence Committee, 18 Prince's Drive, Colwyn Bay, North Wales. Phone: 0492 (Colwyn Bay) 2885.

IS branches should play an active role in this. Public meetings should be called at which an IS speaker and a representative of the defence committee share the platform.

One important job is trying to spread the campaign from those factories that are involved to those that are not. The leafletting of other workplaces and sites, selling the pamphlet Pickets on Trial in union branches and at factory gates and trying to get speakers to address other shop stewards' committees or holding factory gate lunchtime meetings are some of the ways this can be done.

## Strike

But publicity by itself is not enough. Practical demonstrations of support are also urgently needed both to give immediate help to the 24 and to commit workers to strike if necessary. Among the most important of these are collections. The Shrewsbury workers need money to cover their legal costs. Three months lost wages and the long daily travelling from their homes in North Wales to Shrewsbury.

Weekly collections are also useful for they constantly raise the issue of supporting the 24 among other workers and give militants the opportunity to discuss the trial, combat any campaign launched by the Tories and carry on the struggle to win and prepare workplaces for strike action. Any money collected should be sent to the North Wales 24 Defence Committee at the address given above.

The largest possible support for every demonstration called in support of the defendants is absolutely vital. Not only do these keep up the morale of the defendants and bring attention to the frame-up against them, but they commit more and more people to the 24.

Side by side with this is the need for resolutions and a real fight inside the official trade union movement

to commit both the TUC and individual trade unions to defend the 24.

Throughout this whole campaign the aim must be to organise and prepare for strike action. But this campaign cannot be only about organisation. It also has to deal with the fundamental political questions and anticipate the possible danger of a determined Tory counter-campaign. Nowhere is this more likely than on the issue of 'criminal' charges.

The difference between the case of the Shrewsbury 24 and the 'civil contempt' of the Pentonville Five is important. The Tories will argue that the Shrewsbury 24 are not on trial for any genuine trade union activities but because they are 'criminals'. They will imply that strikes in their defence would be as outrageous as strikes in support of the Kray twins.

A campaign along these lines would undoubtedly appeal to every right-winger. Unfortunately it could also confuse many rank and file workers as well.

This is again why we need constant publicity to anticipate and answer all the accusations and tricks the Tories might use.

The Shrewsbury 24 are not criminals but ordinary building workers selected by the state and the building bosses for a frame-up trial in which basic trade union actions are called criminal in the hope that a successful prosecution and vicious sentences will deter other trade unionists from daring to picket effectively.

The right of every worker to picket—not just 24 men or building workers—is on trial in Shrewsbury. That is why we must ensure the release and acquittal of the 24.

International Socialists Industrial Pamphlet 5p

## Defend the North Wales 24 PICKETS ON TRIAL

5p a copy plus 3p post (12 copies or more post free) from Industrial Pamphlets Corbridge Works Corbridge Crescent London E2

## Report by Roger Rosewell

# Housewives union?

MY REPLY to Lesley Graham's cry for a 'housewives union' is NO! (Socialist Worker 17 November).

The term 'housewife' is one of degradation (I never married a house) and such an organisation would only further the traditional idea of the women's role.

Lesley's basic assumption that 'only women' can bring down prices by the use of a boycott is wrong. First she should question the women's role in being landed with the shopping.

Then she should go on to examine her role in society and start to demand equal opportunities—in education, pay, choice of job, and choice of being able to share the raising the children with the man.

An arrangement impossible for most working people as few women can earn enough to support the whole family.

Boycotts are a total failure in lowering prices—we have to eat—and once they are lifted prices soar again. Indeed many of us have been forced into boycotting bacon and beef for the last two years and have seen prices soar even higher.

A women's trade union formed two years ago failed miserably because in the struggle in industry our interests are primarily as workers and therefore not separate from men. Although the trade union movement itself has always dragged its feet as regards its women members—particularly over equal pay, we must work within the individual unions and not be shunted off into sidings.

It's in demanding our rights and freedom as individuals that we must organise as women. Many slog all day in a factory for low wages coming home to a further slog while the man relaxes in front of the TV. We can all do something about that!

The success of the struggle for women's rights is a necessary prerequisite in the struggle for socialism. In the defeat of capitalism a housewives union will have no place.—LINDA FOX, Halifax.

IN THE report on the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference (Socialist Worker 17 November) and among the resolutions carried there is not one single reference to women in industry. Only one woman, Ethel Singleton, is reported to have spoken at all. And her speech was not on an industrial matter. Why is this?

I hardly dared to hope that the subject of discrimination against women would feature prominently at the conference. But that it was not mentioned at all is a bad let-down which calls for some explanation.—KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.

IT COMES as something of a shock to realise that, in an organisation which claims to 'fight for real social political and economic equality for women' there was no mention whatsoever in the resolution moved at the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference of women.

From the large number of speeches at the conference which made the

## They're thugs—but are they fascists?

WILL Socialist Worker please defend the correct and meaningful use of the term 'fascist'. As Jim Higgins reported last week, the Communist Party continue to call the military dictatorship in Chile fascist, as they do the Greek military junta. As an emotive reaction it is totally understandable. Nazi torture, legalized assassination and brutal repression of trade unionists is the same whether it takes place in Russia, Chile, Greece or wherever.

But the term properly used has a more precise meaning which if lost sight of actually obscures the nature of many different types of regimes which on a purely superficial level appear similar.

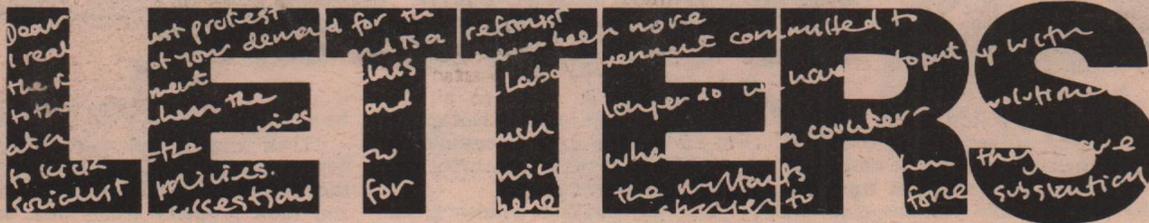
Fascism implies firstly a regime which has an established social basis, amongst the smaller capitalists and reactionary sections of the middle-class, which give it some stability.

Secondly, for this reason it tries to prop-up and perpetuate private capitalism (which is why state-capitalist Russia is not fascist). Thirdly, its stability is only assured by its ability to smash independent trade unionism, replacing it by state-run 'unions' managed by working-class stooges.

Neither the Greek nor the Chilean regimes have this social basis as of yet, despite the presence of fascist groups bidding for influence. Instead they are almost exclusively based upon the military, which is jealous for its own power. Thus these regimes are basically highly unstable.

Objectively, the situation is full of potential for the working-class overthrow of these disgusting regimes. It is the subjective failure of political leadership of Communists that bodes ill. But let that not detract in any way from our complete solidarity with all workers, peasants and students fighting these regimes.—JOHN URE, London E9.

# No, but we're not invisible



mention of 'the lads' or the 'fellows on the shop floor' it was clear that most of the people at the conference had somehow failed to notice that large numbers of women work in industry—are we invisible or something?

In view of the fact that women constitute 50 per cent of the population, and the lowest paid 50 per cent of the population, any revolutionary organisation worth its salt ought to be actively campaigning for the rights of women in industry.

I would like to see an assurance that the International Socialists will, in future, take the issues of women's rights seriously. Yours disgustedly.—PAT HUBBLEDAY, Warley.

## Don't forget the prisoners

ALTHOUGH the International Socialists are opposed to indiscriminate terror campaigns, nevertheless it claims to give unconditional support to people fighting 'the forces of British imperialism and Orange reaction.' I therefore ask you to support the Belfast Eight, now on hunger strike in prisons throughout England.

Before being sentenced, each of the Eight demanded either to be returned to Ulster, or to get political status in England. The government denies the existence of political status in Ulster, but it exists for all serving sentences of over nine months for political crimes.

The authorities call it 'special category'. Political prisoners are allowed to wear their own clothes, to have free association, to have weekly visits and as many letters each as they want.

The government will no doubt resist these demands with its usual hypocritical sophistries, arguing that

✻

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.

there are no political trials in this country, and no political crimes. But it cannot say in logic that people who commit 'crimes' with political motives in one part of the United Kingdom should have political status while those who do the same in another part of the country should not.

People must be made aware of this double standard. The government must be forced to send the Eight to prisons in Ulster. If it does not, eight young people from Ireland, some as young as 18 will die in English prisons. How can that help promote peace in Ireland?—MICHAEL HOUSE, London W4.

AT A recent meeting organised by International Socialists in London to discuss aspects of the political situation in Ireland, various International Socialists expressed support for Irish political prisoners and for the activities of the Prisoners Aid Committee.

Although the meeting was a relatively small one and the idea for a 'whip-around' for the prisoners came as the meeting was closing a generous donation of £3.30 was raised. On behalf of Irish political prisoners in jail in England and Scotland thanks to those comrades.

With over 40 Irish political prisoners in jail in England and Scotland PAC needs financial aid and support in our continuing campaign to end the political trials and for the release of all political prisoners.

We are specifically involved on behalf of those who have been imprisoned because of the political stand they have taken against British imperialism in Ireland but we do not fail to see the link between these prisoners and the attack on active trade unionists like the 'Shrewsbury 24'.

A new PAC publication on Noel Jenkinson reveals how this Irishman trade unionist and socialist was sentenced to 30 years after a blatantly political trial which had everything from press manipulation to the planting of evidence in Noel's flat.

The desire to cover up was such that Noel was refused leave to appeal. We need £2000 to take this case to Strasbourg.

10p for the Noel Jenkinson pamphlet and donations will be gratefully received.—IAN MILLS, treasurer, PAC 318 Lille Road London SW6.

## Journalists? I don't care!

YOUR article about the poor journalists who are in dispute with the Newspaper Society struck me to the core.

I am in complete sympathy with miners, bus drivers, electricians, nurses, or indeed anyone else who provides an effective contribution to society, fighting to get their just rewards.

I find it difficult, nay impossible to raise any sympathy for a group whose only contribution, in the main, is to disseminate the news, views and opinions of the barons of the Newspaper Society.

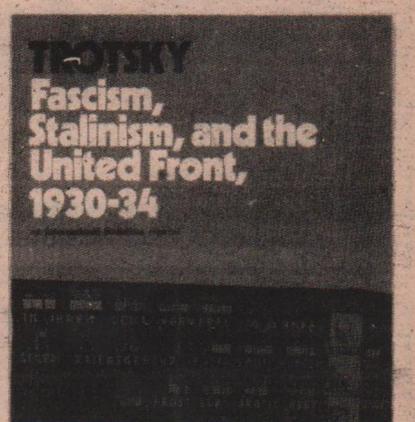
It is not members of the NUJ who are so quick to write their views on other peoples wage claims? Who are so quick to accuse miners of almost outright treachery for daring to ask for more than the permitted government levels?

What bloody hypocritical standpoint is it that makes it treasonable for a fireman or ambulanceman to ask for more than Phase Three by asking for five pounds, while it is right for a newspaperman who produces nothing of vital note to ask for fifteen?

No comrades, I beg you not to waste valuable newsprint on people, the bulk of whom (though not all) will stab the rest of us in the back when we put our own claims in afterwards by condemning us.—B J LYNCH, Brentwood Essex.

Of course some journalists use their position to witch-hunt other trade unionists. Of course some journalists are hypocrites. But a lot aren't. They are workers fighting for the same thing that other workers are fighting for. Would you refuse solidarity to munitions workers because they make weapons? Its your double standard that plays into our rulers hands. Workers learn in struggle, they grow strong through struggle. Journalists are fighting rotten conditions and bosses, they deserve support.

## Special offer



TROTSKY: Fascism, Stalinism and the United Front 1930-34

Issue 38-39 of International Socialism, out of print for some time, now reprinted, contains Trotsky's writings on the defeat of the German workers' movement before the Second World War. Their importance can hardly be over-rated.

35p, including postage, from International Socialism, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

## POSTAL POINTS

YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE . . . I'm concerned at the International Socialists not joining the demonstration organised by Liberation. I read the notice in Socialist Worker about the International Socialists being denied speaking rights but I still feel you should have gone . . . what can happen to the working-class in Chile can happen here . . . so wasn't ignoring the demonstration a bad tactical error?—H S, Reading.

HOT SHOTS AND WHITEWASH . . . At the time of the Summerland fun palace disaster survivors described how burning oroglass fell down from the roof on to milling, panic-stricken holiday makers. Yet at the public inquiry the lawyer acting for the manufacturers of Oroglass has said that oroglass was not a significant cause of the spreading of the fire.

This is another example of companies guilty of criminal negligence hiring a hot shot lawyer to do a whitewash job. These merchants of death know that anything goes in the pursuit of profit.—R GRAY, Glasgow.

MAKE UP YOUR MINDS . . . While totally agreeing with the executive committee's statement in condemning the sentences on the Belfast Nine, the International Socialists should not use the capitalist press tactics of distorting.

In March you stated 'Those hurt were not the rich and wealthy but dozens of ordinary people.' Last week however you wrote that the bombs 'did no more than wreck a few shop windows.' Such contradictions are not necessary. In fact they are damaging and must be guarded against in future.—CHRIS PORSZ, Sheffield.

THINK YOURSELF LUCKY HALLAS . . . Jim Higgins writes of the Red Under the Bed telly broadcast (Socialist Worker 24 November) that 'Duncan Hallas . . . in the 40-odd seconds transmitted from the 40-odd minutes actually filmed, managed to say three things about parliamentary illusions, the need for a revolutionary party and rank and file organisation.' Two points: firstly, though 40-odd seconds is absurdly little, there is nothing unusual in filming very much more material than is actually used in a programme. Secondly, Duncan Hallas 'managed nothing'—the film editor did. Praise to him for selecting significant statements, however brief.—TREVOR PATEMAN, Sidmouth.

A SHORTAGE OF SPECULATORS? . . . Before the 1939 war we often read of financiers cornering the market. Is there really a world food shortage or are financiers pushing up prices for profits? . . . We have seen how property speculators, with Heath's blessing, are making hundreds of millions, so why not let the public learn how Heath's government are aiding city food financiers who are profiteering?—J PREEN, London SW10.

WHEN IN ATHENS . . . I wish to point out an error in the caption of your front page photograph in the 24 November edition of Socialist Worker. I refer to the photo about the Greek events with the caption 'Drivers abandoned their trams to act as barricades.'

The vehicles involved are in fact TROLLEYBUSES, a form of transport far superior to the tram. I hope that such a grave error will not arise in the future in an otherwise fine publication.—ALBERT J THOMAS, Birmingham.



# Chrysler sparks' convenor thanks IS at mass rally

WOOLFIE GOLDSTEIN, convenor of the electricians at the Chrysler factory in Ryton, Coventry, who led the recent 14-week strike against the government's wage freeze paid tribute to the International Socialists at a mass rally in Coventry last Friday.

'I'm going to contribute to the IS tonight because during our dispute when we were under attack from all sides, the IS were the people who came to help us,' he said.

'So-called left-wing leaders of the trade unions ordered their members to cross our picket lines and work with scabs.

'We've got to thank Bro John Worth and Bro Gerry Jones who made it clear to their workers that they should not cross the picket lines.

'We've heard from so-called trade unionists that the IS were behind our strike. I say, if that's the case, let's have a lot more IS workers around who will be behind strikes. We electricians want to make it clear that we do support the members of the IS who stood by us in our fight.'

More than 200 people at the rally, most of them industrial workers, heard Paul Foot and John Glass, a miner from Daw Hill Colliery, speak on Phase Three and the way to smash it.

## Struggle

John Glass said that Heath had threatened to call a general election during a miners' strike. 'Well, let's say he has an election, and the miners are on strike. Suppose he wins an election. Well, what the hell is he going to do about the miners? They're still on strike.'

In the discussion Tony Barrow, from Fords Leamington, stressed the importance of linking the miners' struggle with that of the engineers. He ended by saying: 'Let Heath call a general election, and we'll call a general strike.'

Derek Cox, one of the AUEW members occupying the Triumph works at Meriden, reported to the meeting that the co-operative at Meriden had fallen through 'thanks to the arrangement of the full-time union officials. But there are still 200-300 of us sitting in at Meriden, and we need financial support.'

Andy Enever from Chrysler spoke about bosses' agents such as Tony Bilton, the cowboy who broke the Chrysler picket lines last summer and

was now in action once again in journalists' strikes. 'They're out to crush the trade unions,' he said.

Among other speakers from the floor were Eddie Tomlinson (Sheet Metal Workers' Union), Alex Begbie (NUT), Dave Cook (TGWU worker at Jaguar) and Brian Goodwin (TGWU).

Paul Foot, summing up, said he had been going to IS meetings for 12 years and many had dribbled away in academic questioning and sectarian squabbles. This had been a marvellous

meeting because workers had spoken out about their experiences and had called for organisation to bring their struggles together.

Just as Woolfie Goldstein had been supported by John Worth and Gerry Jones, so anyone in struggle could always rely on IS workers for support, because their loyalty was not only to their industries and sections but to the entire working class. 'We need to build an organisation where we have in Coventry 1000 John Worths and 1000 Gerry Jones,'

he said.

'Then we can expect not only to defend ourselves from the robbery of the tycoons but to take their factories and their property from them and run them ourselves.'

Roger Kline, IS organiser in Coventry, said the meeting had put heart into IS members. Workers there who were not in IS could see from the meeting who was fighting and organising in the Coventry area and should waste no time in committing themselves.

## Black workers' school success

THE first ever IS school for black people organised by the London Regional Committee was held last Saturday at the Clarion Youth Centre, Brixton. 46 black people came to the school from all over London.

Nigel Harris spoke about imperialism. Its chief function was to divide its victims country by country, religion by religion, race by race, he said.

Although imperialism had the same sort of effect on all the people it robbed, its divisive policies meant often that the people who suffered from it did not fight together against their common oppressor.

The school then broke into three groups: Indo-Pakistani, West Indian and African. The groups discussed the history of imperialism in all three areas, and came together at the end to discuss the fight against racialism in Britain. There was universal agreement that more attempts should be made to link black and white militants in the common class struggle against racialism.

Nigel Harris described the meeting afterwards as 'an outstanding success'. A substantial group of black workers had come together without any bigwigs from the Race Relations Board, to discuss their problems and relate them to the struggles in their home countries, he said.

All IS regions should consider holding schools along these lines, and the Anti-Racism Sub-Committee is ready to supply speakers.

## THE RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE

LAST WEEK'S article on the rank and file movement appeared with the omission of two sentences, which may have given a false impression of the expectations from next year's planned conference. We are therefore publishing the concluding paragraphs in the article in full.

'The spring conference will be judged on its ability to influence events, on what it will be able to do. So it is important that IS members should be clear about many of the difficulties we will face and will have to overcome.

If the conference is to be at all meaningful it will have to be for delegates

from trade union bodies. Militants who only represent themselves cannot really affect the class struggle.

It will be difficult to get such delegacies. The Communist Party and the trade union bureaucracy will certainly oppose it. The Communist Party will resist attempts to challenge the Liaison Committee. It will be essential to explain carefully the need for the conference, and to convince militants who are not members of IS.

We must also guard against unreal expectations. We cannot really expect that such an organisation will be able to deliver much to start with. It will need careful building up, step by step. The setting up of fractions inside the unions on a democratic programme must be a positive aim.

Perhaps most important of all will be the fact that the spring conference will be democratically run, with real debates and contributions, and not the carefully stage-managed affairs that all delegates to the Liaison Committee have painfully come to know.

Obviously between now and the spring much will have to be written about the conference in Socialist Worker. We intend to open the paper to discussion. We will also produce a pamphlet on the need for and aim of a rank and file movement. Our members will play a full part in setting it up.'

Roger Kline's **CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT?** draws the lessons from the antics of the Labour Party, in government and in opposition, as reformers of capitalism, and argues what we can do to bring socialism.

10p plus 3p postage (10 or more copies post free) from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## IN BRIEF

THE International Socialists sent delegates to the fourth International Conference of Revolutionary Socialists sponsored by the French Lutte Ouvriere group last week. Delegates and observers from 14 organisations met to discuss subjects varying from the international monetary and energy crises to the problems of building revolutionary organisations.

BLACKPOOL: A residential week-end school for leading militants in Lancashire was held here last Saturday and Sunday. Roger Rosewell (Merseyside IS organiser), Andreas Nagliati (industrial organiser) and Tony Cliff (from the executive committee) all spoke about the present state of the class struggle and the perspectives for IS.

GLASGOW: At the end of a Scottish tour of more than 20 meetings, Duncan Hallas, IS National Committee member, spoke to 50 IS members and close contacts in Glasgow on 'The relevance of Marxist Theory Today' and 'Building the Revolutionary Party'.

Hallas gave a lively outline of Marx's views of how societies change and are changes. He pointed out that in spite of all the books and speeches to the contrary all the elements highlighted by Marx—class struggle, a growing technology held back and poisoned by the way society is organised, the massive power of the government machine—were in evidence to this day. He stressed the importance of socialist ideas for understanding and changing into the system.

When questioned closely on Scottish nationalism, Hallas emphasised that pressure for a Scottish parliament would not advance the working-class struggle.

Turning to the subject of building the revolutionary party, he argued that the job of revolutionaries is to win the right to lead in major struggles. He vigorously attacked the idea that any socialist party could consist of a handful of leaders sitting in an office and giving instructions. The job of a revolutionary organisation was to equip each and every member with the qualities which allow them to give a lead in every situation.

TEESSIDE: 100 people crammed into the workmen's club at the County Durham village of Framwell Gate Moor last Tuesday for a meeting on Phase Three organised by Durham IS. The main speakers were Mike Atkinson, chairman of the joint shop stewards committee at Darlington Hospital, and Jim Nichol, from IS Executive Committee.

At least 40 ambulancemen, who had just finished their victorious strike, were at the meeting and the secretary of their union branch moved a vote of thanks in the local IS branches for the help given during the dispute.

SHEFFIELD: Two miners, a journalist on strike and five other people joined the rapidly-expanding Sheffield IS branch after a meeting last Thursday night addressed by Paul Foot.

## Get the troops out

IRELAND: A meeting last week of the Irish Sub-Committee of IS discussed the Troops Out Movement. Although there is no indication that the movement has any base it has shown that there is a potential for public meetings and propaganda on the role of British troops in Ireland and the demand for their withdrawal.

The committee advises IS branches to organise meetings on the role of the troops, possibly in conjunction with Republican or other Irish organisations. The Irish Sub-Committee will assist branches in finding speakers for such meetings.

A poster will also be available soon, price £1.50 for 50.

LONDON IS FACTORY BRANCH SCHOOL: Saturday 1 December, 2pm-5pm, North London Polytechnic, Holloway Road (opposite Holloway Road tube station). All members of London IS factory branches are asked to attend.

PETERBOROUGH IS public meeting: The Middle East Crisis. Speaker Richard Kirkwood. Friday 30 November, 8.15pm, The Still, Cumbergate, Peterborough.

LLANELLI IS public meeting: Kick out Phase Three. Speaker Paul Foot. Thursday 6 December, 7.30pm, Mechanics Institute, Pontardulais. Tickets, 10p each, available from Heol-y-Maes, Pontardulais, and 5 St Albans Road, Brynmill, Swansea.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT IS Social: Friday 7 December, 8pm-11pm, Caledonian Corks Social Club (junction of Coventry Road and Golden Hillock Road). Len Holden and the Harry Johnson's Oily Dogs Band. Tickets 50p on the door, or 40p in advance from 82 Haunch Lane, Birmingham 14. Phone: 021-444 5692.

KARTOON KLOWNS: Mr Oligarchy's Circus—socialist theatre plus folk group. LOWESTOFT: Friday 30 November, 8pm, Marquis of Lorne pub, Carlton Road. NORWICH: Saturday 1 December, 8pm, Studio 4 (behind Anglia TV).

NORWICH IS public meeting: Ireland—the present situation. Speaker Paddy Prenderville. Thursday 6 December, The Little John pub, off Dereham Road, Norwich.

CARDIFF IS public meeting: The Fight against Phase Three. Thursday 6 December, 8pm, The Blind Institute, Fitzalan Place, Cardiff.

COVENTRY DISTRICT IS December Social: Saturday 1 December, 7.30pm onwards. Steel band, disco, food. Commonwealth Club, Boston Place (off Luckhurst Lane), Coventry. Tickets in advance from 4 Newcombe Road, Coventry.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE: IS branches in the area meet regularly as shown below. We welcome all readers of Socialist Worker to our meetings.

EARLESTOWN: Wednesdays, 8pm, in the Victoria pub, Wargrave Road, Earlestown. LEIGH: Wednesdays, 8pm, in the Globe pub, Bradshaw Gate, Leigh. WIGAN: Thursdays, 8pm, in The Wheatsheaf pub, Wallgate, Wigan.

MERSEYSIDE IS public meeting: The Need for Politics in the Black Community. Speaker George Peake. Saturday 1 December, 3.30pm, Rialto Buildings, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool 8.

DUDLEY TENANTS AND DUDLEY IS Social: Saturday 1 December, 8pm-11pm, Hen and Chickens, New Street, Dudley. Grey Cock Folk Group. Tickets 40p in advance from 1 St John's Road, Dudley, or 50p on door.

HOUNSLOW IS open meeting: The Revolutionary Party. Speaker Duncan Hallas. Thursday 6 December, 8pm, Public Hall, South Street, Isleworth.

GLASGOW IS public meeting: Women and the Struggle for Socialism. Speaker Kath Ennis (author of Women Fight Back). Sunday 9 December, 7pm, Iona House, Clyde Street, Glasgow C1. CAST revolutionary theatre group will present Come in Hilda Muggins, Your Time is up. Admission 15p.

LONDON IS Irish Forum: The Assembly—can it work? Speaker Jimmy Grealy. Sunday 16 December, 8pm, Metropolitan pub, Farringdon Road, London EC1 (Farringdon tube).

ROCHDALE IS public meeting: The Myth of the Welfare State. Speaker Jim Kincaid. Thursday 6 December, Sawyers Arms, Industry Road (near Infirmary), Rochdale.

BIRMINGHAM IS Industrial Workers meeting: The trade unions under attack. Speakers: John Deason (SOGAT), a national committee member of IS, and other trade union speakers. Saturday 1 December, 12.30, The Shakespeare, Lionel Street (near Paradise Circus), Birmingham.

TECHNICAL AIDS TO PARTY TRAINING AND PROPAGANDA: A meeting will be held on Sunday 9 December of IS members with knowledge and interest in film, tape, video, theatre, design, etc and their use in building the organisation. Details from Chris Davison, phone 01-808 3200.

WOLVERHAMPTON DISTRICT IS, 'School for Struggle': Saturday 1 December, Speaker Roger Rosewell, 11am-12.30: The role of shop steward and trade union militant; 2pm-4pm: Building IS factory and town branches. At the Polytechnic (Board Room), Stafford Street entrance, Wolverhampton.

RUBERY OWEN IS public meeting: Politics in Industry. Speaker Roger Rosewell. Sunday 2 December, 11am, New Inns, Blue Lane West, Walsall.

WANDSWORTH WOMENS VOICE GROUP: Meeting on Why Women are still Unequal. Wednesday 5 December, 8pm, 8 Falcon Road, SW11. All welcome.

## NOTICES

IS MEMBER moving to London needs accommodation. Contact Tony Nuttall, 18 Station Road, Barnsley, Yorkshire.

POSTERS: The big red Socialist Worker and International Socialist posters that were on display at the Socialist Worker Industrial Conference are being reprinted. They make excellent display for public meetings and street meetings. 30p each, plus 10p postage. Money with orders to Socialist Worker circulation, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

LEAFLETS: The Socialist Worker advertising leaflets ('The paper you can't afford to miss') are no longer available. We hope to print a new leaflet soon which will say more about what Socialist Worker is. Anyone with useful ideas or local leaflets, please send them to Socialist Worker circulation, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

can  
Socialism  
come  
through  
Parliament?

# Airport workers may ground Phase 3

WEST LONDON:-More than 5000 Heathrow airport engineering and maintenance workers voted unanimously to reject the Phase Three offer and prepare for a stoppage with other sections and airports. They demand £10 on the basic rate, improved shift allowance, a 35 hour week and four weeks holiday.

The meeting's militancy and unity was marred only by airport joint shop stewards' committee chairman Freddie Gore's vagueness in outlining a claim-winning strategy.

The threat of a stoppage just before Christmas could hit the employers at their

most sensitive point. Yet Gore claimed it would take 'weeks' to bring the airport's other sections into line. The permanent damage done to aircraft by any prolonged stoppage of daily maintenance work and the subsequent huge financial losses would put tremendous pressure on the government.

But it seems possible that the giant meeting where the crucial strike decision will be taken may not be until the New Year.

It can be safely assumed that management's offer of a third meeting on 6

December will come up with nothing new. Last week's mass meeting made it clear that nothing short of the full claim will do.

The decision to involve other sections at the airport, from baggage men and catering staff to airline stewards and stewardesses follows a highly successful meeting of more than 300 transport union shop stewards some weeks ago. Then full-time officials recommendations were overturned and a Phase Three-busting claim agreed.

It's against this that the National

Industrial Relations Court's ruling against the TGWU must be seen. NIRC argued that General Aviation Services must be compensated for having been booted off the airport.

NIRC president Sir John Donaldson claimed the union had failed to control its shop stewards at the airport. This 'lack of control' has resulted in airport workers achieving more unity than ever before.

Airport militants stress that the TGWU must refuse to pay any NIRC fine.

# Ambulance stewards: We follow firemen

LONDON ambulancemen took the lead on Tuesday in the campaign for extra money and wage restructuring, a deal rejected by the Pay Board.

The ambulancemen's shop stewards conference voted last week by 34 to 6 for strike action. Many said London ambulancemen should do for ambulancemen what the Glasgow firemen had done for firemen.

Conference chairman Terry Pettifer warned of the danger of local settlements. Later he told Socialist Worker: 'Most of the men I represent as a shop steward are looking for and intend to get a settlement of £10 a week on basic wages.'

A national conference of ambulancemen's stewards was being held on Thursday to decide a national policy on the claim.

Not only in London are ambulancemen showing new militancy. In WOLVERHAMPTON Alan Sanders, West Midland delegate to the conference, said: 'There is something radically wrong with an organised supposedly-democratic society when a man is forced to break the law to get a basic human right.'

## Diabolical

'We work extremely hard in often dangerous circumstances, providing the public with the highest standard of emergency medical care in the world. There are only 12,000 or so ambulancemen but we will show this government we are important. We will show Mr Heath what to do with his diabolical laws and restrictions.'

The West Midlands men were to call at the conference for £1 per hour, streamlined national wage rates, a national ambulance council to negotiate wages and conditions, and ambulancemen to be elected to the committees reorganising the National Health Service.

In LIVERPOOL ambulancemen are answering emergencies only. They are particularly angry as their 180-man establishment is 40 drivers short.

Alan Shacklady, NUPE shop steward at the main ambulance depot told Socialist Worker: 'Men have to work all the hours they can to take home anything like a living wage. The service runs on overtime, men work an average 25 hours overtime a week. Sometimes men work 12-hour shifts for seven days on the run, and then probably have to work one of their two days off. All this for a living wage.'

Ambulancemen in URMSTON and SALFORD are answering emergency calls

## VICTORY FOR SIT-IN

BOLTON:-After four years of negotiations the workers at Hick Hargreaves have won a big victory after just four weeks of occupation. They have won parity within their sections of skilled, semi-skilled, and un-skilled workers.

But the compromise is that the stewards are preparing the case to be presented to the Pay Board. Originally they demanded payment 'irrespective of outside influence'. After breaking the management, it became obvious to the stewards that they would get the rest of

only in support of their claim for a £5.15 rise. These men get only one weekend off in 19 and only seven full Sundays a year. Their basic rate is £23 for 40 hours with an extra £3 for shift work.

But pay is uneven—Manchester men get £7 or £9 more than Lancashire for example. This splits the men's unity so they want all wages and negotiations to be at national level.

The men realise they are taking on the government and its Phase Three strait-jacket. NUPE steward Ivor Etherington said: 'Lancashire County Council have stopped at £2. They are one of the richest county councils in the country, yet they say they can't pay. This is ridiculous.'

The ambulancemen have taken a fantastic boost from the firemen and the Durham men who have already broken through Heath's barrier and recognise that total strike action may be necessary.

For a good week, all shift work including weekends, a West Midlands man with four children takes home £27. For a bad week he is left with £21. With hours, wages and conditions like this it is little wonder that ambulance workers are determined to win. There is no other way.

The London men have shown the way and the message is clear. Join the strikes, no retreat on the claim, national action to win total victory.

To help in the campaign Socialist Worker has produced a two-page special issue on the dispute. Copies price 2p (plus 3p postage) from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

## Phase Three is burning

BLACKPOOL:-Firemen's delegates voted overwhelmingly at their conference here last week to accept the offer of about 19.4 per cent won largely by the Glasgow firemen's freeze-busting strike.

The offer includes 'unsocial hours' payments of from £3.50 to £5.29 a week and a commitment to the 48-hour week from 8 November next year, whether Phase Three has ended or not. There were only 11 votes against acceptance—from delegates who want the 48-hour week brought forward to April. There was also concern over clauses on maximum hours and possible closures.

Tom Tucker, of Surbiton Fire Station, Surrey, said the delegates seemed to have more control over the platform than usual at firemen's union conferences and were more readily called to speak.

London firemen are still negotiating over housing, the London weighting on wages and possible closures.

their claim from the Pay Board.

Keith Jackson, AUEW steward said: 'I've worked here for 19 years and it is only in the last year that things have begun to change. We stuck together for the first time. It was through mass meetings and complete involvement'. Norman Atkinson said: 'Next time we do it we will do it a lot better because we know what it is all about. The key word is disrupt, disrupt them where it hurts. If we can keep us the organisation we have won a big victory.'



London busmen on Sunday's march. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

## TRANSPORT WORKERS' SOLIDARITY GROWS

LONDON:-250 London Transport workers marched to Trafalgar Square on Sunday to protest about pay and conditions. Though small, the demonstration was a welcome first sign of solidarity between different sections of London Transport workers.

The march, called by the National Union of Railwaymen North London District council, was officially supported by all unions with members in London Transport except the Electricians. But the Transport Union Central Bus Committee 'neglected' to inform its members of the march.

The NUR is calling for industrial action from 1 January if the claim for a 20 per cent rise on top of the annual increase is not met.

There seems little chance of the Bus

Section following suit in its present weak state. The busmen's annual claim looks to be well within the Phase Three limits.

The rally was addressed by ASLEF, NUR and Labour Party speakers. Hardly any mentioned the need for industrial action against Phase Three and many marchers found this the most depressing point of the afternoon.

Supporters of Platform, the London Transport workers' rank and file paper, distributed a leaflet calling for an elected liaison committee representing all sections, a precise money figure on the claim rather than a request for a 'substantial increase', common settlement dates, united industrial action and local meetings of bus and rail workers.

## NALGO men condemned

THE rank and file government officers' group, NALGO Action, has expressed 'total solidarity' with the councillors of Clay Cross, Derbyshire, in their fight against the Housing Finance Act and Phase Three. Its steering committee last week condemned the NALGO members employed by the council who went on strike, refusing to pay out wage rises over the Phase Three limit to council manual workers.

'The NALGO leadership's failure to fight adequately the Housing Finance Act and the government's incomes policy, despite successive conference resolutions, has led to the present situation where the Clay Cross NALGO members feel threatened by the actions of their employers', said the statement.

'They stand condemned in the eyes of the rest of the trade union and labour movement.'

## Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 5p per line, semi-display 10p per line. CASH WITH COPY. No insertions without payment. Invoices cannot be sent.

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.

COMMEMORATION MEETING: 50 years since the death of John Maclean. Friday 30 November, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Speakers: Harry McShane (fellow leader of Red Clydeside) and Walter Kendall (author of The British Revolutionary Movement 1900-1921). All welcome.

EXHIBITION of unofficial posters produced by community groups. Central School of Art (near Holborn tube station), Southampton Row, London WC1. 22 November to 6 December, Monday to Friday, 10am-8pm.

STREET RESEARCH for practical grassroots research. Issue no 2 on Researching an individual, no 3 on Researching local authorities and the legal system. Send 15p per copy plus 5p postage to SRB, 86 Raiton Road, London SE24 0LD.

PARTY to raise funds to buy record player for Noel Jenkinson (Irish political prisoner): Saturday 1 December at 117 Pownall Road, Hackney, London E8 (nearest tube Bethnal Green). West Indian food. Admission 30p.

MEDICINE AND IMPERIALISM: public meeting, Wednesday 5 December, 8pm, University of London Union, Room 2D, Malet Street, London WC1. Speakers: Joshua Horne, Malcolm Segall, Robin Stott, Basil Davidson. Sponsored by Guinea, Angola, Mozambique Medical Action (GAMMA). Info: 01-734 9541.

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND Demonstration and Rally: Saturday 1 December, 1.30pm, Shepherds Bush Green, for march to rally at Hammersmith Town Hall at 3pm. Speakers: Frank McManus MP, Jim Kemp, David Bolton (vice-president, Scottish miners), a Belfast housewife and a speaker from South Shields Trades Council. Organised by the Troops Out Movement, 28 Lammas Park Road, London W5.

LAW AND CLASS: The Attack on Law Centres. The first in a series of meetings. Speaker Peter Kandler, Wednesday 5 December, 6.45pm, Room S075, St Clements Building, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2. Admission free. Organised by the Haldane Society.

DEMONSTRATION in support of Irish Political Prisoners: Sunday 16 December, 2.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, for march to Irish Embassy. Organised by Prisoners Aid Committee, 318 Lillie Road, London SW6.

HOSPITAL WORKER Conference: Saturday 12 January, 2.30pm, in London (place to be arranged). Sessions on Lessons of the past year and Building the Hospital Worker. Hospital workers should write for details to Conference, 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2. Nursery and overnight accommodation laid on. Mammoth social in the evening. All welcome!

## TYNESIDE ANTI-INTERMENT LEAGUE public meeting

THE IRISH FREEDOM STRUGGLE. Irish, trade union and AIL speakers. Sunday 9 December, 8pm, Bridge Hotel, Newcastle. Also Grand Social Evening: Friday 7 December, 8pm, Bridge Hotel, Newcastle, John Doonan, the fabulous Beggarmen, Irish Dancers, etc. Admission at door 25p.

## RANK AND FILE TECHNICAL TEACHERS (London)

Sunday 2 December: Meeting on PART-TIMERS. The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, 7pm. Sunday 9 December, 3pm: SCHOOL for rank and file tech teachers (ATTI, its structure—the issues. How RFTT organises); 8.30pm: SOCIAL. Bar (extension), music, food. Both events at the Mother Redcap (opposite Camden tube). Admission 25p to both or to social, 15p to school. For details ring Bob Deacon at 01-388 3419.

## DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PICKET

Glasgow city-wide collection for the Shrewsbury 24. Saturday 8 December, 10am-4pm. Organised by Corporation CEW stewards committee.

## WORKERS FIGHT public meeting

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY—WHAT FUTURE? Speaker Chris Grey. Sunday 2 December, 8pm, Golden Lion Hotel, Kings Cross Road, London N1.

ISOLATED HOMOSEXUAL men and women can ring Icebreakers on 01-274 9590 between 7.30pm and 10.30pm any evening of the year to talk over their problems with other gay people.



I would like to join the  
International Socialists

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Trade Union \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

## Blacklist strike over

THE strikers at MacInerney's Finsbury Park site, one of the best-organised in London, went back to work on Wednesday after more than two weeks on strike against the sacking of two union members who were on the employers' blacklist. The settlement was forced through by top union officials. It instructed the workers to return to work pending negotiations. On Wednesday after the return MacInerney's did however agree to re-instate the two blacklisted men. Full report on this important dispute next week.

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

# JAIL THREAT TO 13 KIRKBY TENANTS

**MERSEYSIDE:**-Thirteen tenants on Tower Hill Estate, Kirkby, were due to be imprisoned this Friday for supporting the 14-month rent strike against the Housing Finance Act.

The 13—there could be more by Friday—have been found guilty of contempt for not appearing in court and for not allowing their rent arrears to be collected by confiscation from their wages. They have been told that unless they appear in court on

by Roger Rosewell

Friday the men will be ordered to Liverpool Walton Jail and the women to Risley Remand Centre. 34 children will be robbed of their parents.

The Tower Hill tenants have decided to refuse to attend and to defy this challenge to their rent strike.

Tony Boyle, secretary of Tower Hill Tenants Action Committee, told Socialist Worker: 'We will fight. We urge all workers to support us. The 13 are fighting on behalf of all who cannot afford higher

rents while prices and everything else keeps going up and up. We need everyone's support if we are to win.'

The threat to Tower Hill is part of a general attack to try to smash the tenants' movement in Liverpool. On Wednesday Don Orrett, his wife and seven children are due to be evicted from their home on South Dene Estate for rent strike.

Both these attacks have been led by Labour-controlled councils and Kirkby is in Harold Wilson's own constituency. Both

councils implemented the Tory government's notorious Housing Finance Act, which has already twice increased rents and threatens more rises.

Most rent strikes against the Act have ended but in Tower Hill it is still strong. That is why such a determined effort is now being made to crush it.

If the 13 are put in prison a tremendous protest will be needed to free them. At a special meeting of the International Socialists' Executive Committee on Monday the following declaration was agreed unanimously:

'The Housing Finance Act, despite the clampdown on wages, has savagely increased council house rents. The threat to jail Tower Hill tenants for fighting this Act is only the latest section of this government's attack against working people. With the Industrial Relations Act and the trial of the Shrewsbury 24 building workers this threat is an attempt to smash working-class resistance to Tory policy. It must be defeated.

'The IS Executive Committee congratulates the Tower Hill tenants on the magnificent fight, pledges its full support to them in this struggle and calls on all members and supporters to give them the maximum aid. Above all we call on our members and supporters to fight the jail threat by being ready and prepared to organise industrial action in the tenants' defence and to join immediately and support any protests and activities that the tenants organise.

'Only mass action by the working class can defeat this attack. We urge every trade unionist to give these tenants their maximum support.'

## WORKERS FIGHT WAGE DISPARITY

**TIPTON, Staffs:**-More than 2000 workers are now on strike or laid off at Beans Industries where men are on picket 24 hours a day determined to win.

Fred Jones, GMWU convenor at Coseley Works, explained that his members were bitter at the disparity of wages between his members and other sections under the freeze.

The Coseley men struck and were backed by the joint shop stewards committee. Coseley and Hurst Lane Workers combined to picket all gates round Beans.

The picketing was effective and the foundry men were laid off. Since half Leyland engine block production comes from there it will hit Rover and Standard Triumph as well as Massey Ferguson and Perkins.

Probably because of this management's attitude has changed and talks are being held. Meanwhile the Leyland Combine Committee has given full support. Other factories, including Simms Motors, are also backing them. The TGWU convenor at Fisher Redman, across the road, has helped on the picket.

## One-day strike call by docks stewards

THE UNOFFICIAL National Port Shop Stewards Committee is calling for a one-day strike on Monday in support of minimum increases of 20 per cent in all ports. Dockers in Glasgow, Leith, Manchester, Preston, London, Southampton and Hull are expected to stop work.

The stewards recognise that a national agreement is not on at this time. So their policy is to push for a minimum 20 per cent in all ports.

In LONDON on Monday the joint unions' 18-man committee lodged a new claim following the rejection of an earlier one by a mass meeting. The terms of the new claim are being kept secret. But it seems to be for a small increase on the basic with a new piecework agreement—making it substantial.

SOUTHAMPTON dockers are seeking 25 per cent.

Last week HULL dockers' claim for £8-a-week was settled at £3.35 at the instigation of top level Transport Union officials. At a mass meeting the men voted to pursue the rest on a national level.

In GLASGOW dockers were meeting this week to decide the next steps in their campaign to keep the Yorkhill Quay open. The Clyde Port Authority has agreed to lease the quay to Offshore Fabricators, a firm which intends to build parts for North Sea oil rigs.

Yorkhill is the best-equipped quay in Glasgow. Dockers have been asking why ships weren't being sent there. Three weeks ago they discovered that the Port Authority had secretly agreed to lease it out for £190,000 a year.

The dockers have struck and demonstrated against this, which heralds further moves against Glasgow dockers. But the Labour city council granted planning permission to Offshore Fabricators. The firm engaged in sheer blackmail when the application was heard saying that if permission was not granted in 24 hours they would go elsewhere. The Corporation planning committee immediately caved in and granted permission.

## Journalists draw first blood

THE provincial journalists' campaign for a £15-a-week pay increase drew first blood last week when the employers agreed to a meeting to discuss 'house agreements'.

Up to now these agreements—agreements negotiated at local level over nationally-agreed rates—have been refused out of hand by the employers. But three weeks of selective strikes involving more than 6000 journalists have softened their line.

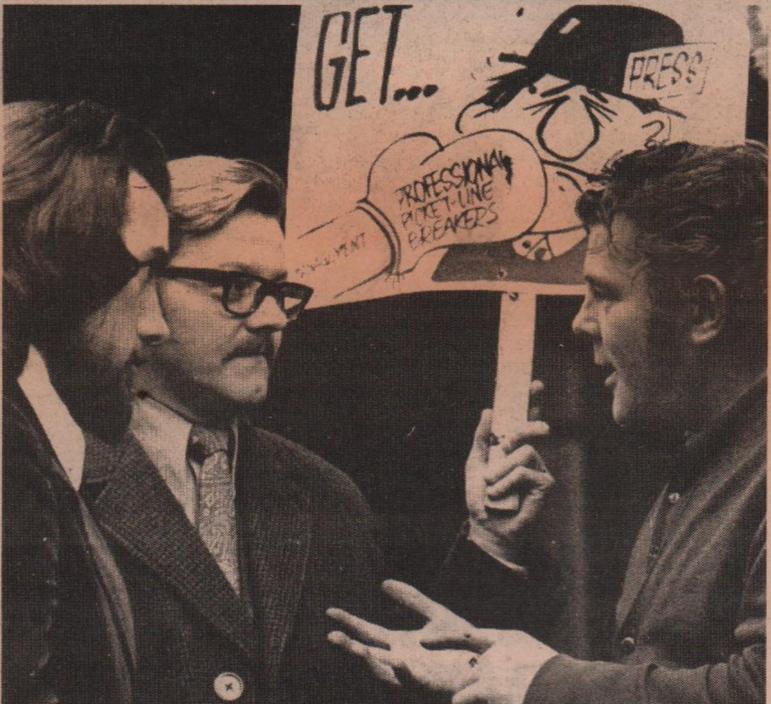
This week's strikes on 40 weekly newspapers have been postponed, pending the talks.

But the journalists will to fight is still strong. They have been hampered almost everywhere by long-standing hostility between journalists and printworkers—members of the NGA and NATSOPA.

At SHEFFIELD, the NUJ's most militant chapel, 165 journalists have been forced back to work after three weeks on strike. Six senior staff agreed to cross pickets to help the editor publish the Telegraph and Star, which had been reduced by the strike to one page of text. The local NGA chapel agreed to set any copy, even that written by blacklegs, and van-drivers refused to carry out the instructions of their local union official not to cross the picket lines. They worked overtime to bring in the necessary paper, and said they would rather tear up their union cards than support the strikers.

Faced with this universal blacklegging and a refusal by the NUJ to pay strike pay, the chapel committee recommended a return to work on even worse terms than had been offered at the start of the strike.

In PRESTON, on the other hand, local



Journalist Mike Holloway (holding poster) argues with a van-driver during picketing of the Sheffield Telegraph and Star. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

papers, including the Lancashire Evening Post, have been paralysed because of the solidarity of NGA members.

In HERTFORDSHIRE, sub-editors on the Welwyn Times and other papers in the Home Counties group refused to handle copy produced by non-NUJ members, and were supported by the NGA chapel. The employers have replied by docking the journalists' pay.

All over the country there are signs that the employers are following the lead of United Newspapers in Sheffield who hired professional picket-buster Tony Bilton to break the journalists' picket lines.

At OXFORD, last week Ann Edwards,

Mother of the NUJ Chapel, was picketing the Oxford Mail offices when a delivery van accelerated away from her while she tried to talk to the driver. Her arm was caught in the window and her shoulder was badly wrenched.

With her arm in a sling, Ann returned to the picket line, where she told Socialist Worker: 'There was no excuse. It was a peaceful picket line.'

In MIDDLESBROUGH, where 66 journalists have been locked out by their Thomson Organisation management, a girl picket was hit and hurt by a delivery van, whose driver had been urged by a management executive to 'rev up and ram the bastards.'

## GEC attack on union

COVENTRY:-Management have launched a concerted attack on trade union organisation at GEC's Stoke Works, restricting convenors and shop-stewards and threatening to lock-out manual and clerical workers.

Disputes have been provoked. When night shift checkers in the machine shop stopped work over the £100,000 Industrial Relations Court fine on the engineering union, management did their jobs. The same happened in the exchange division stores.

Many Stoke workers suspect that they are being singled out as Ruston Paxton in Newton-le-Willows was by GEC as a union-busting target.

Unfortunately the shop-stewards' committee hasn't acted.

Sectors forced out mustn't be left isolated, information and leaflets must be

available, and emergency shop-stewards meetings must be called. Levies should be taken, support called from the rest of GEC's Coventry combine. Most importantly industrial action must challenge management's right to lay off.

## Office workers strike

ORMSKIRK:-50 members of APEX, the clerical workers' union, are in the third week of strike at Hattersley Newman and Hender.

The strike began after management refused to meet an APEX national official, a clear indication that union recognition was not to be granted.

Transport Union delivery drivers are refusing to cross the picket line and the firm's vital oil supplies have been halted.

The refusal of the delivery drivers to break the picket lines means that shop-floor engineering workers have no heating.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Donations and messages of support should be sent to John Allen, treasurer APEX strike committee, 11 Rumford Street, Liverpool 2.

## Pickets on Kodak

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD:-The 150 workers locked out by Kodak, the multi-national photographic giant, have gone on to the offensive. After nine weeks of passive demonstrating while management continually stalled over talks, the men voted to start picketing on Tuesday.

The locked-out workers are members of the film union ACTT. The decision to start picketing the film processing, distribution and box-printing plants, where SOGAT members are working to rule in support of the locked-out men, was taken unanimously at the weekend. Until now the men have confined themselves to a daily 'show of strength' outside the gates.

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