

50,000 old people will die this winter

DEATHS ON HEATH'S HANDS

by Paul Foot

'THE POINT of our incomes policy,' said Edward Heath last week, 'is to protect the old age pensioners and others on fixed incomes.'

Two weeks ago, Phil Butler, a retired coach driver from Stratford, East London, was discharged from hospital desperately ill.

Last week, at the peak of the recent cold spell, Phil 'celebrated' his 73rd birthday. He had to spend most of the day in bed, not because he is ill, but because he and his wife could not afford to light the fire.

'I buy three bags of coal every fortnight,' says Ellen Butler, 'I can't even afford that—but it's not enough to keep the place warm. I have to burn potato peelings, cabbage tops, eggshells and anything else I can get hold of to keep the fire going.'

Phil and Ellen Butler, with £15.10 a week all in, including a 'heating allowance' from Social Security, are not the only old age pensioners who are freezing to death from Mr Heath's economic policies.

PLIGHT

A report from a group of old peoples' doctors earlier this year declared that:

- 91 per cent of Britain's old age pensioners cannot afford enough fuel to keep warm.

- Six million out of eight million old age pensioners in this country live during the winter in temperatures of less than 60 degrees—that's five degrees less than the 'acceptable minimum' laid down in a government report on council housing 10 years ago.

- 500,000 old people in Britain every year get seriously ill because they do not keep warm enough.

- 50,000 of them die each winter from 'hypothermia', that is, when the temperature of their body gets too low to keep up blood circulation.

In spite of last autumn's increase in old age pensions, and in spite of Mr Heath's £10 Christmas insult to pensioners, the plight of Britain's old people is in all respects WORSE than when the report came out.

MASSIVE

Each one of the five million old people who depend on social security benefits to keep up to the poverty line is colder and hungrier than last year because of the massive 20 per cent rise in basic food prices and increasing fuel prices. A bag of coal costs 3p more than last year—a three per cent increase. Electricity bills went up by 4.5 per cent on 1 October.

These are the reasons why more and more old age pensioners long ago stopped listening to Heath and his millionaire ministers, but are concentrating instead on the workers' struggles.

Jack Feeney, secretary of the Teesside Pensioners Association, was in London on Tuesday's mass pensioners' demonstration. He told Socialist Worker: 'The only road for us is through the trade union movement.'

That is the way. For old age pensioners, for miners, for engineers, for workers all over the country, nothing can come from this government but cold, hunger and pain.

But from a victory of the miners and the engineers and the whole of their class they have warmth, dignity and a world to win.

Demo backs Birmingham trial builders



Building workers in Birmingham demonstrating outside the court on Monday where five builders were on trial. Report: back page

...there goes a crisis-hit executive jet

LAST WEEK Prime Minister Heath had two vital missions to fulfill. He had to attend a choir practice in Bristol and he had to get home again.

Getting him back to Number Ten was accomplished by sending a chauffeur driven Rover car down to Bristol to meet him. The chauffeur drove down on his own.

Some unpatriotic elements in Bristol suggested it was a considerable waste of precious petrol. But a spokesman for Mr Heath stated that the Prime Minister was actually saving fuel since he normally travels by aeroplane. And, indicated one aide, no one could expect the

Prime Minister to travel by train.

So serious is the fuel shortage that only 32 executive jets whizzed in and out of Heathrow last Wednesday. Normally the slogan is one boss, one jet. But in view of the crisis, dramatic alterations have been made to the passenger loadings. An average of two men were on board each flight last week.

Rio Tinto Zinc, one of the richest companies in Britain, hit back against its critics who said it was a take-on for the rich and powerful to urge restraint when, like RTZ, they were flying six men to a plane. Rio Tinto explained that its executives were going to Anglesey 'where one of our plants is very difficult to get to.' There are four

railway stations on Anglesey all in service and with direct lines to London Euston.

A swift defensive move came from the British Airports Authority, which has now banned the release of any information about executive jet flights in and out of Heathrow. This followed extensive, unfavourable publicity about Friday's traffic. Then 14 out of the 37 executive jets which left Heathrow were entirely empty.

British Petroleum is suffering greatly in the midst of the oil crisis. This week it announced that earnings had risen by 478 per cent in the third quarter of this year compared to the same period last year.

Profits are expected to make an

equally massive jump. But, warned BP, the outlook for the future is 'uncertain'. This is because the dreadful Middle East governments are actually threatening to increase their prices yet again.

This might mean that the countries which produce the oil would take a slight increase out of BP's record profits.

The Tory government has found an unexpected ally in its fight against the miners. Large amounts of coal from that well-known socialist country, Poland, are being rushed in to give Heath, the National Coal Board and the Electricity Board some relief.

Meanwhile, the Royal Yacht Britannia steams on, using one ton of fuel oil every seven miles.

Support pickets on trial

After two months of press silence the trial of six of the 'Shrewsbury 24' building workers is coming to the crunch. Within the next fortnight the verdicts will be announced—just before the Christmas holiday period.

They are the victims of rigged conspiracy charges which could be applied to any active trade unionist involved in a strike situation. Their fate is now in our hands.

It is effective trade unionism which is on trial at Shrewsbury. If any of the six are found guilty there must be an instant response of industrial action throughout the country.

If this is to happen, the next few days are vital. Militant trade unionists should take up the example of workplaces like the London Royal Group of Docks and the direct works department of Glasgow Corporation, where the stewards are campaigning for an all-out stoppage when the sentences are announced.

To assist this campaign, and to provide much-needed financial aid for the defendants, the International Socialists are organising a rally in the Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London W1 on Monday 17 December. We urge all our members, readers and supporters to give the rally their full support. All proceeds will go to the families of the defendants.

Executive Committee, International Socialists.

- Details of rally: page 3
- Trade unionism on trial: centre pages

Leaflets in support of the Shrewsbury 24 are available from Socialist Worker, cost £1 per thousand. Branches should send orders as soon as possible.

How not to fight the NIRC

LEADERS of the Engineering Union and their sponsored MPs have discovered a new secret weapon to foil Sir John Donaldson and avoid doing anything serious about his Industrial Relations Court.

Led by the doughty Stan Orme, the MPs have been burrowing away in dusty legal tomes looking for a suitable statute to end Donaldson's merry gallop through the union's political funds.

The 1688 Bill of Rights and the 1711 Act of Settlement have been studied in a search for justification to have Donaldson sacked. Current favourite in the impeachment stakes is the Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act of 1925. Section 12, sub section 1, of this comparatively modern piece of legislation, apparently allows the Queen, after an address passed by both Houses of Parliament, to give errant judges their cards.

It is to this piece of nonsense that the AUEW and their MPs are devoting their energies. They are shocked at Sir John's partiality, disgusted at his attack on the union and, in particular his sequestration of its political funds.

One day it may dawn on these industrious law clerks that the Industrial Relations Act is meant to weaken and attack the unions, that Sir John Donaldson was chosen as a man able and willing to operate the Act, and his removal will not alter things one jot or tittle.

Judges are chosen by class, training and education to carry out the wishes of the system, not to dispense anything that could be called justice.

Last year outside Pentonville jail, where the five dockers were imprisoned, Eric Heffer, another Labour left MP, told the demonstrators that he and his colleagues would fight to replace Sir John with a more humane, liberal judge who understood the problems of workers.

The high comedy of all this is mitigated by a certain sadness that Eric Heffer does not understand that judges with the qualities he recommends do not exist. Of more concern however is the fact that Heffer was addressing the very people who did beat Sir John Donaldson and the government at Pentonville.

Labour MPs would better employ their time in organising a real industrial fight against the NIRC and advising Hugh Scanlon to live up to the logic of the AUEW's policy of non-appearance at the court.

Top job for Jones' man

LAST WEEK the TUC general council elected the successor to general secretary Len Murray when he retires in 1987.

After a long intrigue over who would take over Len Murray's old job as assistant general secretary, Norman Willis, Jack Jones' personal assistant in the Transport Union, was appointed to the job.

Jones, who is now the most powerful man on the TUC general council, originally moved against any appointment to the post. He declared he was opposed to any continuation of the 'Buggins turn' system of appointment whereby machine man succeeds machine man in sequence as people rose up the TUC hierarchy.

Jones was outvoted on this and he then supported his own candidate for the job—Norman Willis, TGWU education and research officer.

Willis is certain to succeed Murray when he goes. But Murray himself only took up the post as general secretary in September this year and has 14 years until he retires. Willis is only 40 and so will have 11 years in the top post when he takes over in 1987.

Norman Willis is not far from mainstream TUC tradition. He has never worked in a factory in his entire life. The one difference is that he is a TGWU machine man, having gone to work for the union straight from school.

On the same day as the succession was decided, the recently retired general secretary, Vic Feather, picked up his reward. The Tory government has made him trade union adviser to the National Economic Development Council, a body set up to integrate employers, union leaders and state officials.

In this Feather will be doing no more than he has always done—fixing things and trouble shooting on behalf of the status quo.

He will no longer have his cover of 'independence'. But he probably does not need this since he has so many friends and contact men on the trade union side.

Feather has also taken a job assisting the Tories in Northern Ireland where he is to be used as a figurehead in a public relations operation on discrimination against Catholics.



Whitelaw: welcomed by Jones

New tough man on unions

SW Political Correspondent

WILLIAM WHITELAW, the new Minister of Employment and the man charged with making Phase Three work, is acclaimed as one of the few success stories of the Heath government.

By success, the press means that he has spent the last 20 months presiding over the arrest and internment without trial of Irish republicans, as

the man at the top of a campaign of police and army murder and torture in Northern Ireland.

Whitelaw played his trump card when he persuaded the SDLP's Gerry Fitt, who has been sweating with anticipation of a chance to get his feet under the executive table, to join a government

with the reactionary Faulkner Unionist clique. Clearly, Willie deserves his promotion.

Transport Union general secretary Jack Jones, who like Whitelaw is a visiting Fellow of Nuffield College, thinks that the new Minister of Employment 'could be decisive in changing government policy'. Jones may think that Whitelaw is a decent chap but his record of discrimination in Northern Ireland should give serious trade unionists a quite different view.

Between January and September this year there were 218 killings in Northern Ireland, excluding police and army deaths. Of this total, 149 were Catholics and 18 were Protestants friendly with Catholics.

Of the remaining 51 Protestants killed, a number such as Tommy Herron were clearly victims of rival 'Loyalist' gangs. It is clear that the real terror campaign is initiated by Protestant organisations. Whitelaw knew of this and still refused to mount a campaign against the still legal Protestant groups.

The 'major', as Whitelaw is known to the tenants on his extensive Dumbartonshire estates, is not above taking a profit if the chance is presented. In March this year, he and his wife made three applications for planning permission for a housing estate on part of his land.

Repression

The local council planning committee, knowing better than to upset the local 'lord of the manor', agreed despite the fact that the area was designated as green belt. Two of the applications require further authority from the Minister of State for Scotland, Major Gordon Campbell. It is not expected that there will be any difficulty.

This then is the man who will be spearheading the government attack on the unions. Anyone who thinks that his landowning, regular army and Northern Ireland repression background make him the sort of chap who will sympathetically approach the problems of workers is living in cloud cuckoo land.

His task is not to dispense justice to workers in an even handed fashion. It is to solve the deep crisis of British capitalism at the expense of the organised workers.

The first big test will come with the miners' claim. Like Heath and Macmillan before him, Willie Whitelaw will find it impossible to beat the rank and file miners any more than he could beat the Northern Ireland Catholic community.

His only chance is to find the equivalent of Gerry Fitt in the trade union leadership.

Wilson uses press to hit

at the miners' wages battle

ON THE SAME DAY that the national executive of the mineworkers' union went to Downing Street to meet Heath, the Sun devoted its front page to an attack on the miners from Labour Party leader Harold Wilson.

At a time when the national press and television are mounting a sustained campaign of lies and abuse against the miners, Wilson's 'cool it' advice would seem to be particularly ill-timed.

Wilson, remembered by many militants for his own wage freeze and attempted anti-union laws during his years of office, gave an 'exclusive interview' to the Sun last Wednesday in a deliberate attempt to undermine the miners' solidarity.

He admitted that the miners enjoy widespread sympathy and added, 'But I think, of course, the sympathy could evaporate if they were to overstate their case, or if they were to be unreasonable in relation to a fair offer. Or if they were to seek to bring the government down by industrial action—when the only means of changing a government in



EXCLUSIVE Labour's leader talks to The Sun

WILSON WARNS

THE MINERS

BABYSITTER: WHY I TOLD

By ROGER CARROLL Political Editor
LABOUR leader Harold Wilson made it clear yesterday that the miners must look after their own if they strike.

- Don't go on strike
- You can't bring down the Government
- You'll lose sympathy if you overdo it

by Bill Message

this country is through action by parliament or a general election.

How is it, in relation to their present wage claim, that the miners could 'overstate their case'? The claim is for £35 for surface workers, £40 for underground workers and £45 for face-workers. Surely a modest claim in an industry which killed 80 men and *seriously* injured a further 583 last year—an industry which has produced the staggering figure of more than 43,000 current cases of pneumoconiosis.

If Harold Wilson had spent his life working on the coalface, bent double in clouds of blinding, choking dust, driven into a lower-paid surface job because of injury or pneumoconiosis before he was 50, he might be able to talk a little more sensibly about whether the miners could 'overstate' their case.

Wilson's enthusiasm to protect the Tories from the miners' anger masks his

real unease concerning the possible future of working-class action against the Tories. He knows that if the miners were to stand up and lead a real fight to kick the Tories out they would gain the support of the overwhelming majority of working men and women in this country.

He also knows that if a Labour government was elected by workers fresh from such a triumph it would be placed on the spot and would find it very difficult indeed to get away with the kind of anti-working class policies that characterised the 1964-1970 Labour government.

The truth of course is that neither Wilson, nor any of his 'shadow cabinet' pals are socialists. Socialism is about workers' power, and those are two words firmly excluded from their vocabulary.

Their place is taken by talk about the 'national interest', 'economic growth', 'voluntary wage restraint' and all the rest of the claptrap designed to mask vicious ruling-class attacks on workers' living standards.

Liberal speculator exposed

TWO WEEKS AGO, Mr Jeremy Thorpe set up a Liberal Party inquiry into the activities of Liberal councillors in Liverpool whose main activity is property speculation. Liberal Party sources put it around that press disclosures about Liberal property speculators could 'damage the Liberal image'.

This week, the truth is out about the biggest Liberal property speculator of them all: Mr Jeremy Thorpe. When Mr Thorpe joined the board of Mr Gerald Caplan's London and County Securities two years ago, he could hope for a lifetime's enrichment and not too much embarrassment.

The City and the newspapers were quick to forget Mr Caplan's past as a slum landlord in London and Liverpool. London and County's new 'money banks' in big stores were proving very popular.

Mr Thorpe got £100 a week for opening a money bank every six months. Into the bargain, he got 12,450 shares in the company. 10,000 of these shares were

given to him for the total price of 1p.

When Mr Thorpe got these shares they were valued at about £3 each, and Mr Thorpe could reasonably count his wealth in London and County at about £40,000.

Now they are probably worth less than the 1p he paid for them. For the bank is bankrupt. High interest rates forced up the cost of overdrafts on money borrowed.

And the properties the bank owns could not be sold easily or profitably. As depositors flocked to take their money

out, the bank's solvency collapsed, and the depositors' money, including £1 million from the Post Office Pension Fund (which should never have been there in the first place) were placed in jeopardy.

Terrified for their image, a horde of speculators have swarmed down from the city to 'protect' the depositors in London and County.

Pat Matthews of First National Finance, the National Westminster Bank and, most important of all, Mr Edward du Cann,

COURT PRAISE FOR POLICE WHO MURDERED 'TOY GUN' PAKISTANIS

AT BOW STREET Court on Wednesday 21 November the stipendiary magistrate, Mr K J Barraclough, made an official presentation to three police officers, Conley, Burrows and Smith, for their 'bravery' in shooting to death two unarmed Pakistanis in the Indian High Commission last February.

Mr Barraclough said that the police officers had been 'very brave'. He presented each policeman with a cheque from police funds—the exact amount was not disclosed—and read a citation of the events

last February. The citation recalled that the Pakistanis had entered the High Commission to protest about the holding of Pakistani prisoners in India.

They had stockings over their faces and they held toy guns. They had offered no violence to anyone, and obviously, had not returned any of the police fire. The magistrate repeated after his citation that the police had behaved 'with outstanding courage' in shooting the Pakistanis down in cold blood.

The police then requested a ban on

Tory MP and chairman of investment bankers Keyser Ullman, have formed a consortium to stump up the necessary £80 million.

London and County is dead. Four directors have resigned. Mr Gerald Caplan has been sacked. Only Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the saviour of the nation from the corruption and decadence of the two major parties, has 'felt it his duty' to continue to receive £100 a week by staying on the London and County Board.

reporting the presentation in the press for 'security reasons'. Mr Barraclough replied 'I'm sure the press will understand that. Meaningful nods were then exchanged between the magistrate and the press.'

The reporting ban was not to protect the police officers' identity, since their names were printed in the press on 21 February. The 'security reason' was the need to keep quiet the real role of the Special Patrol Group. The SPG has more than 200 armed policemen, each of them issued with Smith and Wesson revolvers.

Hidden truth on prices

by Duncan Hallas

A TYPICAL shopping basket of food now costs 25 per cent more than it did at the start of Heath's fraudulent 'anti-inflation policy' a year ago.

'The prices of pork pies, sausages and bacon will rise sharply in the new year,' says a newspaper report. 'More food price rises in the pipeline,' says another.

The Tory ministers cannot deny that their 'anti-inflation policy' has gone hand in hand with the fastest inflation ever known in Britain. 'But it is not our fault,' they claim. 'It is all due to world prices beyond our control.'

Don't believe a word of it. The cause of a good deal of the soaring cost of food can be summed up in one word—profiteering.

The big-business weekly, the Economist, has let the cat out of the bag. It admits that the government's alibi 'does not stand up as well today as it might have done earlier in the year.'

Some examples from the Economist: 'The import bill for animal feed has almost doubled in nine months and is now running at the equivalent of £220 million a year. . . . But is there any valid reason why the prices of homegrown cereals should be growing at the same rate?'

Imported

'Homegrown wheat for animal feed is now £20 a ton dearer than it was in April, the equivalent of a 60 per cent jump in prices and. . . it will go higher still.'

Somebody is doing remarkably well out of 'anti-inflation'. Quite a number of Tory ministers are big landowners (like Sir Alec Douglas Home) or big farmers (like Mr James Prior). Of course I would not dream of suggesting that there is any connection between these facts.

Still, I must admit that a fair amount of animal feed wheat is imported. The case of some other cereals is different.

'Homegrown barley and oats are more than 50 per cent dearer, and here Britain grows almost all its own requirements,' reports the Economist.

'This country also produces nearly three-quarters of its own concentrated animal feed' which is, of course, up in price by similar staggering figures. It all gets passed on, in the end, to the long suffering housewife who has had rather less than a 50 or 60 per cent increase in income—to put it mildly.

Or take eggs. 'Farmers' prices for eggs have trebled. . . . It is difficult to accept that it is three times as expensive to keep chickens now as it was at the beginning of the year.' The Economist, which is a strongly Tory paper, modestly concludes: 'A good deal more has been loaded onto fresh food prices than just the cost of animal feed.'

Increased

As these facts become more widely known, we shall no doubt hear that the trouble is the soaring cost of agricultural workers' wages (amongst the lowest of any) or, perhaps, the soaring cost of imported land! After all, that would be a good alibi for rocketing land prices in the cities as well. A £20 million jump in the value of Mr Harry Hyams' Centrepoint for example.

However, it would be unfair to blame landowners and farmers alone. Tesco, to take one example, has increased its profits by 20 per cent to £10.4 million this year. Sainsbury is also doing very well.

In fact everyone is doing very well out of inflation (or 'anti-inflation') except the workers, housewives, pensioners and other lesser breeds. But then, such people have never counted for much in the Tory scheme of things.

They must take such consolation as they may from the inspiring words of Lord Hailsham (Tory Lord Chancellor at £400 per week plus expenses): 'We need a return to patriotism, loyalty, public spirit and civic virtue.' And the profits come rolling in.

SOCIALIST WORKER

WHAT WE THINK

REG PRENTICE and his influential friends in the Parliamentary Labour Party and elsewhere are giving direct aid and comfort to the Tories.

Of that there can be no question at all. At a time when the government is staggering under the weight of a growing political and economic crisis, the Prentice brigade directs its fire against the left and centre of its own party. If Prentice, Shirley Williams and the rest were acting under the direct orders of Ted Heath, he could give them no better instructions, from his point of view, than to carry on as they are doing.

The government is extremely vulnerable. Its 'anti-inflation' policy (yesterday's Prices and Incomes Policy) is in ruins as far as prices are concerned. Food prices are up by a quarter in 12 months and new hefty increases are in the pipeline. All prices are rising at an all-time record rate. There is growing working-class discontent, spearheaded by the miners' pay struggle.

A fuel crisis means the certainty that whatever happens the already disastrous balance of payments deficit (another of Heath's record achievements) will get much worse in the new year. And there is the knowledge that a worldwide industrial recession is on the agenda for 1974.

The prospects for an opposition party that claims to be of the 'left' and to have new, radical solutions could, on the face of the matter, hardly be better. What then, is Labour's right wing up to? Do they actually want the Tories to win the coming election?

Some cynics believe so. The calculation is that Wilson could not survive another defeat and, with his removal, the Roy Jenkins' wing

Prentice & co aid the Tories

would come into their own. No doubt this is how some of the comically misnamed 'moderates' are thinking. But there are much more important reasons for the right-wing offensive.

The right wing senses the depth of the growing crisis. When Shirley Williams says: 'If it [parliamentarianism] is destroyed, as in Greece or Chile, there are sinister forces only too ready to take over,' she is not just trying to scare the left with bogeymen. The parliamentary game of ins and outs, with near-identical policies, is really under serious challenge. Five 'States of Emergency' in three years is one symptom of that fact.

The right wingers are desperately trying to reassure our ruling class that the Labour Party is still a safe, reliable alternative management of the collective affairs of British capitalism. And they are equally desperately trying to damp down working class action against Phase Three.

'Labour cannot support each and every industrial dispute,' says Mrs Williams. She means it cannot support any challenge to Phase Three or the Industrial Relations Act. For that would be encouragement to challenge a Labour

government pursuing similar policies. The 'Lefts' and some of the centre of the parliamentary party see the other side of the same coin. The Labour Party must restore its credibility among working class militants. Such credibility is the party's major asset in terms of capitalist politics.

It was badly eroded by the Wilson government's record in office. And, as the crisis worsens, it is more than ever necessary to present a 'left' face if working-class discontent is to be channelled into the relatively safe paths of Labourism.

The shrewder amongst the 'lefts' also see the crisis having profound political effects. They aim to ride the storm by bowing before the wind. They are, above all, concerned to check the growth of a serious political force on their own left flank.

We have been consistently sceptical about the sincerity and determination of the Labour 'lefts'. We still are. But these 'lefts' now have an unparalleled opportunity to prove that they mean business.

The right wing is on the rampage. It daily displays its contempt for party conference decisions, it recklessly hands weapons to the Tories, its policy is rule or ruin.

A serious left wing could have no choice but to use its strength, including its majority on the party's NEC, to break the right wing offensive and kick out the traitors.

The leaders of the Tribune group and their union backers know very well how many potential Dick Tavernes sit on the Labour benches. They know how many Jenkinsites there are who would prefer the Tories to even a moderately left government. If left wing policies are more than words to the Labour 'lefts' they will prove it by action now.

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HUNGER STRIKE BID BY BELFAST 9

SW Reporter

SEVEN of the nine men and women sentenced to life imprisonment at the Winchester bomb trial have been on hunger strike for 14 days.

They are demanding political status and the right to serve their sentences in Northern Ireland. They are not unreasonable demands. Even the police state of Northern Ireland permits the category of 'political prisoner'.

And a member of the Protestant UDA, found guilty of four brutal murders, was transferred at his request to England from Northern Ireland to serve his sentence. In all, some 18 people convicted in Northern Ireland have been transferred to England.

There is no reason, apart from adding to the viciousness of the life sentences, why the Belfast Nine should not be returned to Northern Ireland.

Two of the prisoners are now being force fed, involving the insertion of a long, greased tube into the throat down which liquid is poured.

The seven male prisoners have refused to wear prison clothing—something not required of political prisoners—and are therefore naked apart from a blanket. Their nudity is the excuse used to deny them visits.

None of the relatives has been able to visit the prisoners because they are split up and moved from prison to prison.

Despite all this the seven hunger strikers are in good spirits and resolved to stick it out. Hugh Feeney wrote from Wakefield Prison: 'If I am not returned home I am determined to see this through to the end. . . . All I can say is, try and understand my beliefs and principles. I can't give way on those. It isn't that I won't, I can't. . . . It is only the people at home who can help me.'

Dolours Price is equally firm in her resolve to see the strike through to the end. She writes in a letter to her relatives: 'Don't waste time worrying about us. Get marching. . . . We know you are behind us because none of our family have ever been "criminals" . . . we don't intend to be the first. Too many good men and women have died for this cause for us to give in just to have a full belly.'

The determination in these letters can be repeated for all the other prisoners.

Socialists and trade unionists can help to end this torture by flooding the Home Office with demands for the return of the political prisoners to their homeland.

Shrewsbury 24 Rally

As a socialist and trade unionist you should support the Shrewsbury Rally. 24 trade unionists are on trial on our behalf. Sympathy is welcome but action is needed. The national press has been silent, but our role is to inform and organise in their defence.

Our rally has a number of purposes:

FIRST, to bring together as many socialists and trade unionists as possible to stress the importance of the trial and to show the men on trial that they do not stand alone.

SECOND, to provide for the families of the men. It is not difficult to see the extreme hardship that they will face this Christmas.

THIRD, we need to hear from trade unionists in other industries of the support and action they are pledged to give.

At the rally there will be speakers from IS and prominent trade unionists in the building industry. Entertainment will be provided by the Combine and by Jake Thackeray.

Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London W1 (near Marble Arch tube). Monday 17 December 1973. 8pm.

Tickets 50p available from Socialist Worker (Rally), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



Sandra Kerr and John Faulkner of The Combine

IMMIGRANTS TO FIGHT POLICE ATTACKS

MAIDENHEAD: Racist action by the police is not just a big city problem, as a meeting of immigrants from India and Pakistan proved last Saturday.

The meeting was from a committee to fight back against police harassment in the town. The entire Pakistani immigrant community has been 'visited' by the police and three immigrants are in Pentonville on 'illegal' immigration charges.

International Socialist H Pasha pointed out: 'We have had a lot of myths shattered today—particularly the myth of our passivity. We are capable of fighting for our rights. The recent police action has shown us what is in store for us in the future.'

'It is not a question of legal or illegal to the authorities, but a question of black and white,' he went on. 'A piece of legislation has reclassified people as 'illegal'. How do we know they won't do it in 1974?'

'The government's plan is to set black against white, but we are in Britain and we shall stay—with respect and dignity.'

Workers who suggested appeals to the Pakistani and Indian High Commissions were told that the community had to fight in this country as part of the

British working class. 'There is no friction from my workmates,' pointed out an immigrant worker. 'The trouble came from the authorities, who are trying to divide us.'

Maidenhead has a Community Relations Council headed by a right-wing policeman, who staves off criticism by explaining that as a member of the force he is in too delicate a position to comment. The move to unite is a promising sign of the growing awareness of the immigrant population.



Palestinian freedom fighters in Israeli-occupied territory where they are still fighting despite the ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Arab states. PICTURE: Free Palestine

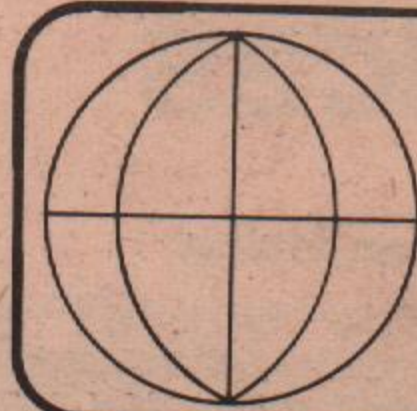
Voters asked: Wage or price curb

by Dave Nadel

AUSTRALIANS go to the polls on Saturday to decide whether to give Gough Whitlam's Labour government power to control prices and incomes. There are two questions in the referendum, one on price control and one on wage control, and a 'yes' vote would transfer the necessary powers from the state to the federal government. The labour movement, as distinct from the Labour Party, is calling for support for price control but opposition to wage control.

The referendum is being held against a background of a 14 per cent inflation rate, one of the highest in any western capitalist country. Whitlam is moving towards the sort of prices and incomes policy already discredited in Britain and the United States because it controls wages but not prices and profits.

This year Whitlam has already performed several contortions on the question of inflation. He is caught between his trade union supporters and the more progressive businessmen who supported him in last year's elections but are beginning to turn their backs as inflation climbs. Trade unions are far more powerful in the structure of the Australian Labour Party than in the British Labour Party, and Whitlam has built his career on compromises between his union supporters and the interests of capital.



Australia

But inflation is not the sort of issue that allows compromise: someone has to pay the prices, wages and profits.

Until recently, Whitlam said wage controls never worked. He was looking for other anti-inflation policies, such as a 25 per cent cut in tariffs—which angered the least efficient Australian manufacturers and benefitted nobody but their Japanese counterparts—and a bit of shadow boxing with Broken Hill Proprietary, Australia's biggest home-grown monopoly, over the price of steel.

BHP wanted to raise steel prices by 9 per cent. The Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union, which includes steelworkers, said any rise would be excessive. The government persuaded BHP to raise it by only 3 per cent and soon afterwards the company declared record profits.

Control

Meanwhile a trade union campaign in the state of Victoria, led by members of the Socialist Left faction in the Labour Party and of the Communist Party, increased the pressure for price control. They pointed out that wages are not the cause of inflation: the fastest increasing item in Australia is land, and wages make up precisely 0.05 per cent of land development costs.

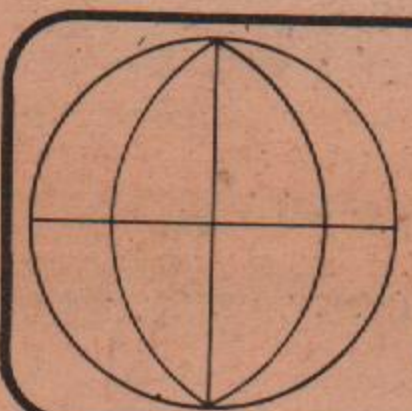
Prime Minister Whitlam and his Treasurer, Frank Crean, were only too happy to talk price control. This had been part of Labour's 1972 election platform.

They tried to get a Price Justification Tribunal approved by parliament, but in the upper house of the Australian parliament Labour depends on the support of the small right-wing Democratic Labour Party. This naturally blocked the reform unless there was also wage control.

Now it appears that far from being opposed to wage control, Whitlam is actively campaigning for it. His supporters argue that control over prices would give the government control over wages anyway because wages are the price of labour, and that incomes control is really wanted for controlling rents, dividends, speculators' profits and such items as doctors' fees.

Some Australian socialists have argued for a 'no' vote on both questions, since the Labour government is unlikely to try to put real controls on prices.

But the majority in the labour movement feel that, while Whitlam certainly cannot be trusted, the insincerity of his prices policy will only be proved when he has the power and doesn't use it. So most socialists and virtually the entire trade union movement are advocating a 'yes' vote on price control and 'no' to wage control.



Germany

Anti-torture groups formed

COMMITTEES against the torture of political prisoners in West Germany have been set up in 10 West German cities, and have published an appeal signed by the lawyers of 21 political prisoners.

The issue was raised at a recent conference in Oslo sponsored by Amnesty International, and the Union of Scientific Workers in the Netherlands has set up a committee of solidarity with political prisoners being tortured by 'refined' modern methods.

The principal method of torture to which attention has been drawn is isolation.

Measures frequently used against all kinds of prisoners as temporary punishments have become for political prisoners continual harassment, including solitary yard exercises, sometimes chained, exclusion from association with other prisoners, sound-insulated cells and blacked-out windows, constant interruption of sleep, and limitation of mail and visitors to close relatives only. Some political prisoners in West Germany have now been kept in solitary confinement for as long as three years.

Lawyers who have tried to protest at the use of these methods have been harassed by having their mail opened, being searched, and being put under investigation for 'support of a criminal conspiracy'—which disqualifies them from continuing to act as defence lawyers.

Events in Northern Ireland leave British socialists in no doubt that our 'free' and 'democratic' capitalist society is prepared to use the most brutal torture against those who oppose it. The campaign to draw attention to the plight of Irish political prisoners in Britain should make it clear that torture by isolation happens not only in Northern Ireland, but right here in 'ordinary' prisons.

The campaign against this kind of torture now being launched by West German and Dutch socialists and trade unionists should be extended to other countries.

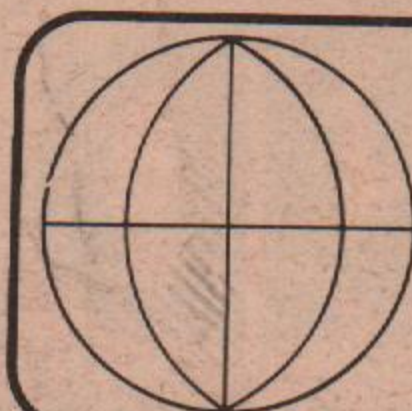
JUNTA TRIES TO HIDE ITS CLAWS

by Norah Carlin

THE military rulers of Chile, who at first appeared unconcerned about international criticism of their bloody coup, are now giving some attention to public relations.

They have appealed to all 'good Chileans' to write to their friends abroad defending the regime and denying the mass murder and torture.

Their efforts seem to be directed especially towards the meeting next month of the 'Paris Club' of Chile's international creditors. Chile's debt is enormous, and although the junta tries to blame it all on the Allende government, they are not going to be able to reduce it or even pay the massive interest charges. The balance of payments deficit, which is due especially to Chile's dependence on imported food, cannot be reversed, and the new government is piling up even more debts. It has already asked the International Monetary Fund for a 'stand-by loan' of £37 million.



Chile

The economic measures taken by the junta so far have brought the Chilean economy to the brink of a recession. The removal of price controls from everything except a few foodstuffs—whose prices also rose, but 'under control'—has led to the cost of living doubling in October alone. All except the most essential goods are now out of the reach of the pockets of most Chileans. Unemployment—which was increased at first by mass political sackings—is now on the long-term increase too.

Despite the junta's pathetic attempts at a cover-up, the continuing police brutality, torture and murder cannot be concealed. Last month police trying to remove a young Uruguayan woman from embassy protection when she was taken to

hospital beat up the Swedish and French ambassadors who intervened in person at her bedside.

A group of Chilean and foreign lawyers put the number of political prisoners throughout the country at 20,000. But political prisoners can rapidly become the victims of political murder. It is now known that in mid-October dozens of prisoners in the north of Chile who had already been condemned and sentenced to prison by military tribunals, were suddenly removed from their prisons and shot.

If the fate of prisoners in mainland Chile can be so uncertain, it is even less possible to know what happens to those sent to the notorious island prison camps off the coast. Among those transferred to Dawson Island last week were Luis Corvalan, general secretary of the Chilean Communist Party, and Anselmo Sule, former president of the Radical Party.

It is important that all socialists and trade unionists should publicise the Chilean junta's murder and repression, and demand the release of Corvalan and the other political prisoners.

BRIEFING

NEW YORK hospital workers have been in the forefront of workers fighting wage controls in the USA. 30,000 members of the Drug and Hospital Workers' Union went on strike for a 7½ per cent pay rise that their employers had already agreed but which the Cost of Living Council, Nixon's latest Pay Board, would not allow.

Well-organised and militant sections of workers in manufacturing industry have already punched large holes in Nixon's wage policy, and the government's attitude has been to allow this, but crack down hard on poorly-organised workers in 'non-vital sectors' of the economy.

Despite a vicious campaign against them by New York's daily newspaper—busy fighting off military action by its own printworkers—the hospital workers held out. Most are black and Puerto Rican. Dozens of pickets have been arrested and physically assaulted by the police. Defying a court injunction which led to a heavy fine on their union, the strikers picketed many New York hospitals, holding up all but the most essential supplies.

New York firemen have also held a 5½-hour strike in support of their pay

claim, and against a productivity deal which would have made their job even more dangerous.

THE OIL CRISIS in the United States has brought huge gains to the big oil companies. Price controls and anti-pollution legislation have been relaxed, and Nixon has announced massive financial aid for the development of oil resources within the United States—the Alaska pipeline, Rocky Mountains shale oil and offshore drilling.

But the oil companies were well on the way to screwing these concessions out of the government before the Middle East war broke out. They were particularly opposed to stricter anti-pollution laws which would have forced them to make petrol less profitably, with less lead and other pollutants. In their campaign against these laws, the big oil companies deliberately withheld supplies from the independent petrol station chains, creating an artificial shortage.

In the three months up to October,

three big companies—Mobil, Gulf and Exxon—between them made a staggering £443 millions profits. The drive to expand oil production, the extra government hand-outs and the lifting of controls means that they can hope to do even better in the near future.

THE NEW YEAR that started with an unprecedented wave of strikes by black workers in South Africa has seen state repression pick off the leaders of the effective opposition and make them 'non-persons'. So far this year 55 people have been 'banned' under the Suppression of Communism Act—including 13 from the militant black South African Students Organisation (SASO), eight from the mainly white students organisation NUSAS, seven from black workers' and community organisations. It is a process familiar from the early 1960s, being repeated as the regime feels under threat.

A banning order prohibits a person from participation in an organisation, from speaking, writing or being quoted, from attending 'gatherings'—in other words,

meeting more than one person at a time—and from communicating at all with another banned person, from moving outside a magisterial district, and orders them to report to the police daily. Many are also under house arrest from dusk till dawn at week ends.

Bannings are usually for five years and can be extended. There is no legal process involved, merely the stroke of the administrative pen, with no reasons and no appeal.

It requires a costly and efficient police state apparatus to eliminate people in that way. For this they need support from their friends and backers abroad, such as the Westland Wasp helicopters and ICL computers supplied from Britain.

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON Chile for British dog lovers: General Pinochet, defending his junta against charges of 'not proceeding by stages', said this criticism reminded him of 'the fine fellow who, when docking his dog's tail, thought he could save the animal suffering by docking a little every day'.

'Drunken' driver on the wagon

GEORGE EFTHIMIOU came to Britain from Cyprus in 1959 and worked for six years before setting up a tiny cafe in Acton. The local police didn't like the idea of foreigners running cafes in the area, and continually bothered George with irrelevant 'inquiries'.

On 13 April this year they achieved a police record. They charged him and eventually had him convicted of drunken driving—although George is a confirmed teetotaler and has never drunk a drop of alcohol in his life.

George was arrested in his car, taken to the police station and later charged with having been 'over the limit' on the breathalysers. George says the breathalysers were never used.

Evidence

When he was released five hours later George went straight to Scotland Yard and would not move until he had been given a full blood test by the Scotland Yard medical authorities. The test showed that there was no trace of alcohol in his blood. He has since produced medical evidence to show that alcohol stays in the blood for at least 18 hours after drinking.

Nevertheless George was convicted on the word of the policemen who arrested him, led by Sergeant Ronald Evans. He was banned from driving for 30 months, fined £30 and ordered to pay £50 costs.

George believed in British justice, so he sold his cafe business and hired lawyers to clear his name.

The Court of Appeal and the House of Lords refused him leave to appeal. His MP, Nigel Spearing, and Release, the legal assistance group, have tried to help him—in vain. He has spent all his savings and is now working for a minicab firm.

He no longer believes in British justice.

Just the men the British Army needs

ANOTHER exhibit for my collection of cases under the One Law for the Rich and Northern Ireland soldiers, another for the poor. On 24 September, Leonard Reed and George Stephenson got in a fight in Guildford with a couple of milkmen, and beat them unconscious. The milkmen were attacked, apparently, because they had ribbed the soldiers about their short hair.

Both soldiers pleaded guilty to affray, malicious wounding and grievous bodily harm.

Major David Bower, Commanding Officer of the Second Battalion Light Infantry, explained that the two men had served for four months in Northern Ireland.

Both men had been under 'considerable strain', he said.

Mr Justice Niel agreed, and let both men off with a conditional discharge because of 'outstanding special circumstances.'

The judge clearly holds the view that if all the thugs in Britain were locked up, there would be no one left to fight under the Union Jack in Ireland.

FLYING BLACKLIST

I WAS delighted at our industrial conference to have a chat with five members of the former committee of the famous strike at Pilkingtons in 1970. One of them, Gerry Caughey, made a marvellous speech at the conference.

They are all in different jobs now, but have kept in contact—and they told me an interesting story about a former colleague of theirs on the strike committee, Brian Woodward, one of the best known militants in Pilkingtons at the time.

After the strike collapsed, Brian was victimised and sacked. For eight months he trod the streets of St Helens and surrounding towns looking for work.

He, like the others, was ruthlessly blacklisted. Long-standing vacancies were suddenly 'filled' when Brian arrived on the scene. Broken by the prospect of what seemed like permanent unemployment, he joined the RAF.

Last June, Brian applied to stand

as an independent candidate in the Berwick by-election. Serving soldiers and airmen have done this many times before, and got their discharge as a result.

Unlike most of them, Brian could supply good political reasons for standing. In a long memorandum, which his former mates showed me, he argued that recent by-elections had shown a contempt for the two major parties and a sympathy for minority candidates. He wrote that his experience in industry had shown him the need for the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act and 'other legislation to solve the problems of the working class'. All his officers at Catterick approved the application.

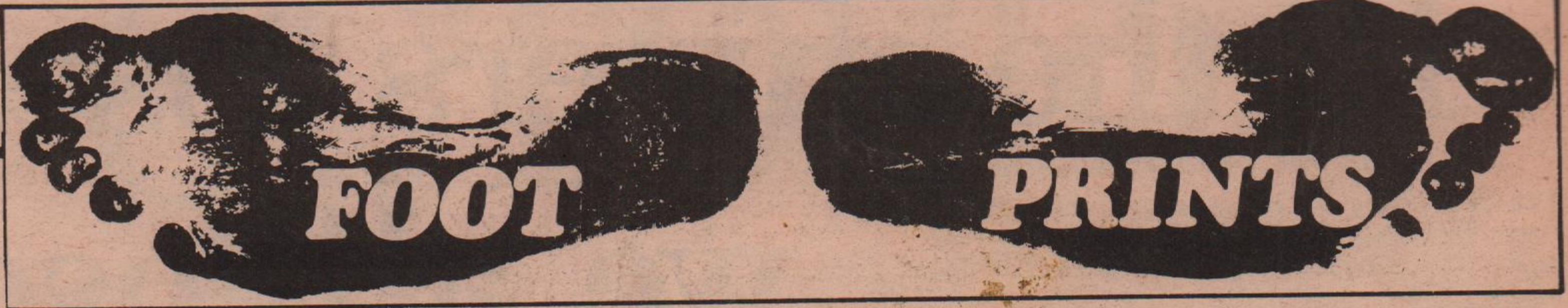
On 19 September, Brian was interviewed by an 'advisory committee' at the Home Office, consisting of Sir Hugh Mortimer QC and Lord Royle, a former Labour peer. Royle, I gather, was not at all happy about Brian's remarks about the hypocrisy of the Labour Party.

A fortnight later Brian heard the news. No, he couldn't stand as a candidate. No reasons given. I gather that a lot of his mates in the RAF, who thought they were defending a 'free country', are beginning to change their minds.

AFTER 27 years of almost unrelieved gloom from supporting Plymouth Argyle, allow me a moment's pleasure at the team's fantastic success in the League Cup.

It's due in the main to Argyle's new manager, Tony Waiters, who seems to have the right attitude to the men who make fortunes from football. Writing in the club's programme on the first match of this season, Waiters refused to make any empty promotion promises.

He wrote: 'Soccer is such an unpredictable game that nobody can say from week to week how things are likely to go. If you don't believe me, ask the Pools Millionaires—if you can afford the cablegram to Hawaii.'



Judge Lloyd, with war medals—but none yet for strike-breaking

THE JUDGE AND THE CASE OF THE BARN SCABBING

EVERYONE knows that judges are completely impartial in all industrial disputes, so it was a surprise to journalists on strike recently at the Sheffield Telegraph and Star when they found out that 'scab' paper for producing the Telegraph and Star during the strike was being

stored in the barn of a circuit judge, His Honour Judge Dennis Lloyd, who sits on the Midland and Oxford circuits.

It happened like this. As soon as the strike started, shop stewards at Bowaters, who supply paper to the Sheffield papers, agreed to black all paper bound for the Telegraph and Star works during the strike.

Pickets at the works soon noticed that paper was being delivered, so reporters and subs combed the countryside around the city to find out where the paper was being stored. The landlord of a pub told them that scores of lorries had been seen entering Brough End Farm, in the village of Brough, Derbyshire.

The farm is the comfortable home of Judge Lloyd, who was Liberal candidate for Sheffield Hallam in the 1966 General Election and Recorder of Pontefract in 1971.

Sure enough the journalists soon found out, the judge's barn was piled high with paper for about three weeks. He explained that the whole thing had been arranged by his wife Margaret.

FORCED

On the day after the journalists 'blew' the story, a fleet of vans arrived at the judge's house to take away the paper, which was eventually forced through the picket lines at Sheffield, so helping to break the strike.

I rang Tom Watson, managing director of the Telegraph and Star, and asked for his version of what happened.

'The judge has a wife', Mr Watson told me, Mrs Lloyd may be the owner of the barn. All our main warehouses were blacked against us, and this barn was very convenient. So we arranged with her to store the paper. The judge wasn't involved.'

By an amazing coincidence, Mrs Lloyd happened to be a personal friend of Mrs Margaret Hide, wife of the newspaper's editor.

Mrs Hide, incidentally, writes travel articles for the Sunday Times.

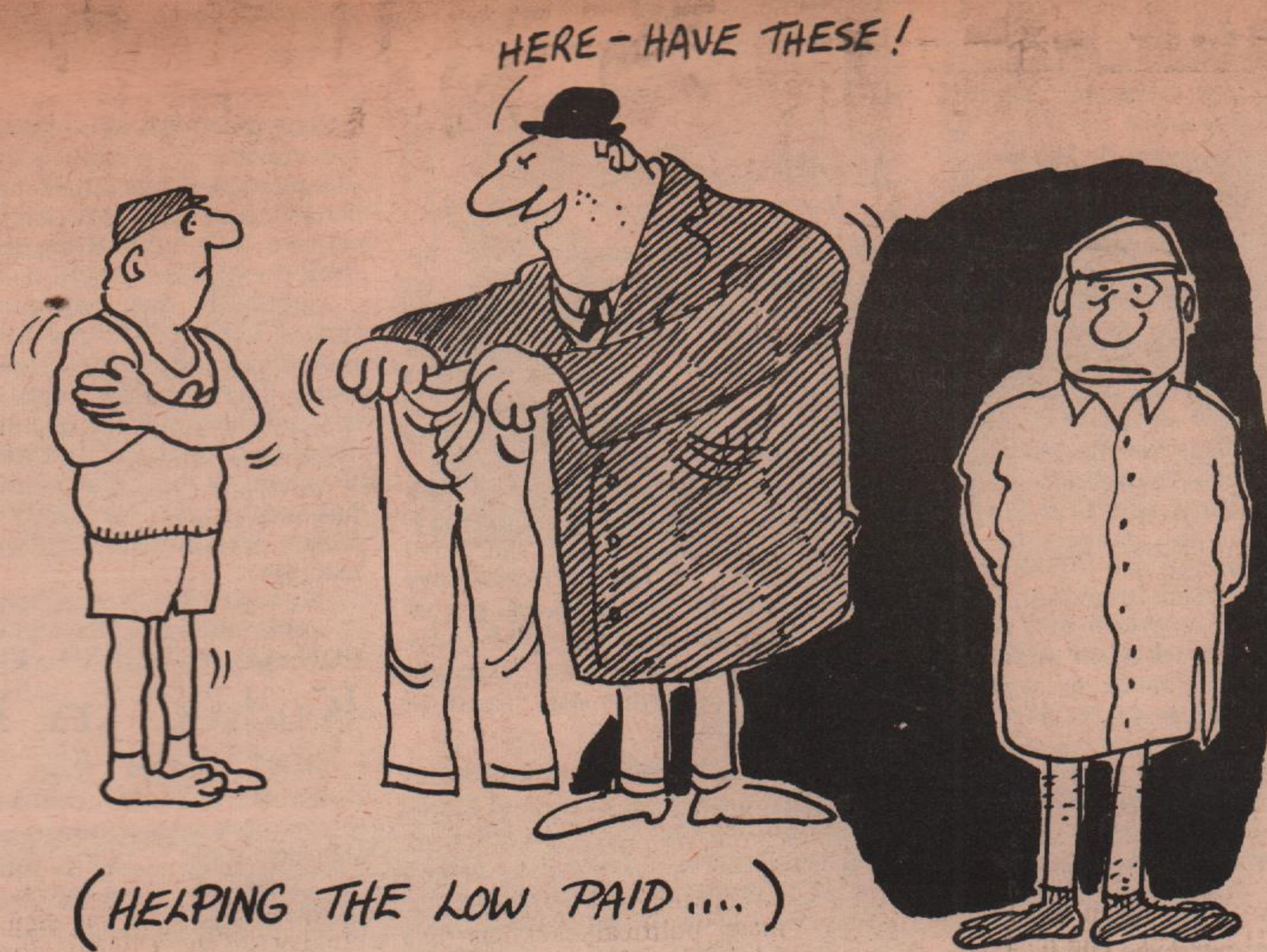
I rang Mr Hide to ask him if, as rumoured in Sheffield, he and his wife had fixed up their friends the Lloyds to store the paper. 'It's the first I've heard of such a suggestion', said Mr Hide. 'The editor is not normally involved in handling newsprint.'

Mr Watson explained: 'It was only after we had agreed to hire the barn that we realised that Mrs Lloyd was a friend of the editor's wife.'

This astonishing coincidence means, of course, that the judge himself had nothing to do with helping employers break an official strike by tactics which would have brought a flush of admiration to the cheeks of Al Capone.

Any suggestion that there was a conspiracy to break a strike between a judge, a newspaper editor and a newspaper proprietor would be irresponsible comment, contempt of court and probably treason.

Evans



Solidarity with '24'

WIDESPREAD solidarity actions took place last month with the twenty four building workers facing conspiracy charges at Shrewsbury crown court. Support and action came from building workers — the case arose from last year's national pay strike — miners, and other sections of many unions.

AT LAST! The one-and-a-half-million circulation monthly journal of the mighty, left-wing-led Transport and General Workers' Union, the Record, has taken up the question of the Shrewsbury 24. The November issue refers to the trial, in which TGWU members are involved, for the first time. I am proud to reproduce the total space allotted to the issue in the journal's 16 pages.

If the miners lose - we all lose

EVERY working man and woman in this country worth their salt should give their wholehearted support to the miners in their fight for better wages.

The miners the world over are the salt of the earth and without them we would still be living in the dark ages.

The British miners have had generations of fighting the capitalist system. Their bones and blood were ground into the coal long before light industry came into being and still they spend 40 or 50 hours a week down in that black hell for a pittance.

If the miners lose their battle, and it would be treason if they did, then all the working class of this country would also have lost.

We cannot have omelettes without breaking eggs so if we do suffer a little because of the strike then we should grin and bear it. We should think how the miners spend their lives in the cold and dark to give us warmth and light. -THOMAS MORRIS, Sunderland.

The man who knew too much

LAST APRIL I was called into the front office of my place of work, which is Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

I was told that someone wanted to interview me about my suitability for confidential work.

I told the manager I wasn't interested in this kind of work even though it carried an extra rate. But I thought it might be interesting to see this man, as I had heard of this sort of interview from a left-wing colleague in another department, so I consented to the interview.

On reflection I think I was wrong to see him, but it did give me some idea of how left-wingers are spied on.

He explained that he was from the establishments division of HMSO. Then he asked if I was still an International Socialist, I said I was.

He then told me who had introduced me to IS, that I was treasurer of my IS branch, who was treasurer before me, told me the names of various members of my branch, explained that he had a list of the branch members. Did I want him to read them out?

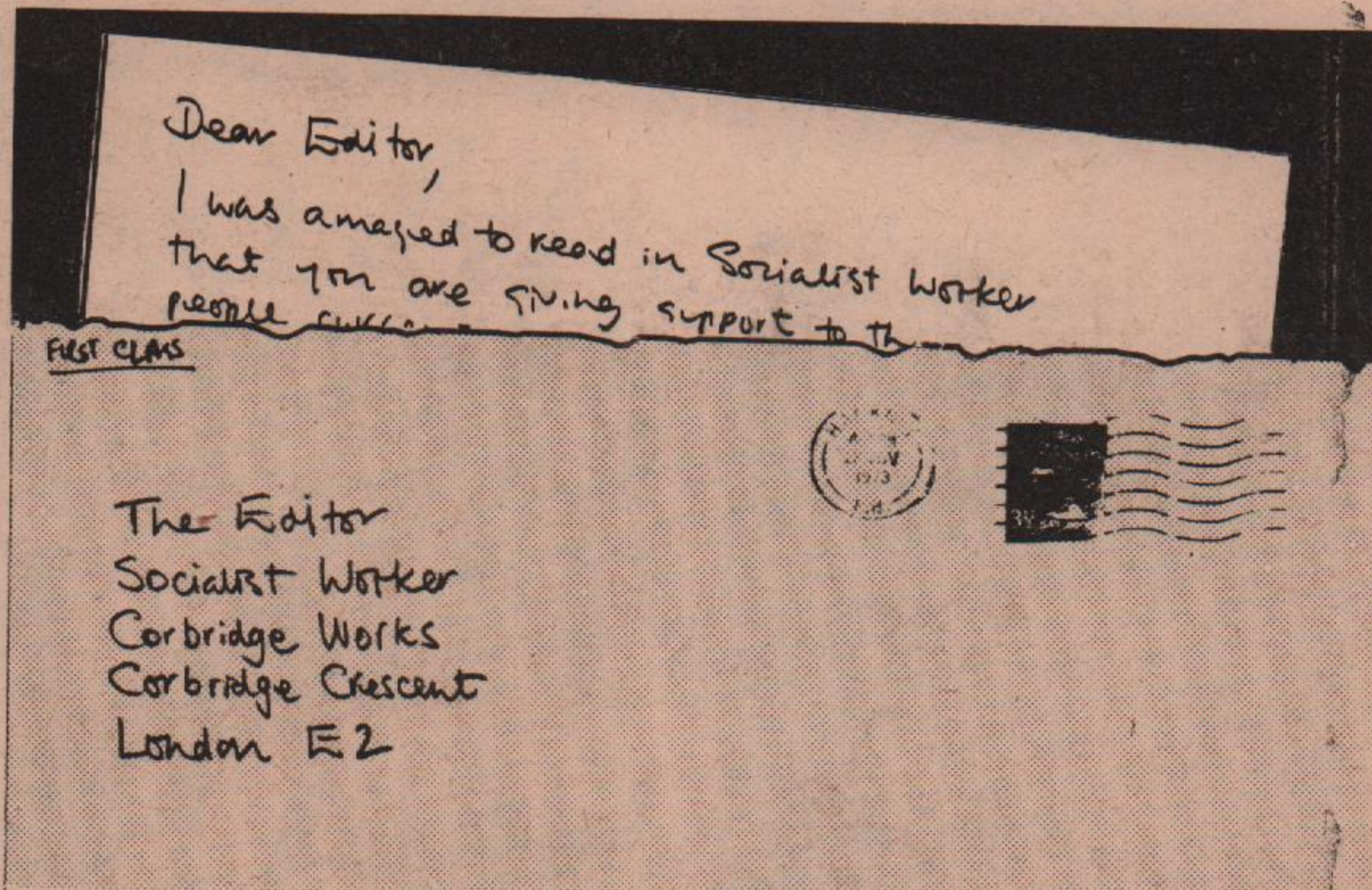
I said no. I also noticed that in a file he had a photostat of a letter sent in my name to the local paper. I remarked on this to him, and said he was well informed.

He replied that since state 'security' was involved, and that because I was a 'Trot' the HMSO couldn't take any chances and I was to be positively vetted.

He continued by asking various questions about Russia, Ireland and my political views in general. He appeared to be noting my answers.

I repeated that I wasn't interested in working on confidential work and he replied that he would be reporting his findings to HMSO.

In June I was called again and was told that it would be better for all concerned if I did not work in the confidential department, but that it would not affect me in any other way. I asked for that in writing—and got it. -NAME AND ADDRESS WITHELD.



The Govan defeat: Harry Selby doesn't agree...

IN NEITHER Paul Foot's article (Socialist Worker 17 November) nor in Jimmy McCallum's letter (24 November) was there a single word of analysis.

Perhaps the working class have rejected the Labour Party—perhaps the workers are flocking into the International Socialists in their thousands. Who am I to count them? Thanks Paul, you at least had the courtesy while in no way making an examination of the campaign, to refrain from telling lies. McCallum descends to such a travesty of truth that I can only assume by his attack that he is trying to get rid of his own guilt complex.

Let me make it clear. I defended the Glasgow firemen right from the start publicly supporting them in their demands and action. At no time did I refuse to state my position. I declared that the use of the armed forces as scabs was reprehensible and dangerous. I stated that if any person died or was hurt because of a fire then the blame must rest on the shoulders of Heath and Company. I also warned of the dangers to the working class of the use of the army at any time for strike-breaking.

I have never attacked and never will attack any worker on strike, irrespective of the cause or correctness of the action undertaken by these workers.

As to my position in the Labour Party, need I spell it out to IS? You individually or collectively have rejected the Labour Party, that is your entitlement. You wish to build a revolutionary party. You may have consciously realised the ability to do so independently of the mass of the workers.

Where did IS put up the fight around the Housing Finance Act? We in the Govan Labour Party led the political fight all the time. Right up to the end we resisted and still resist. More than 25 per cent of the



Harry Selby, Govan candidate

resisters in Glasgow came from Govan. McCallum knows how we fight. He should because he 'chucked in' the fight. He left the Labour Party without a word, without a whimper, without any attempt to convince others of the need to give up one field of activity for another.

I see the dangers of hysteria built up by the Scottish National Party. I call attention to the evil manifestation of mass psychology engendered by the type of propaganda put out by the SNP—only one step removed from outright fascism. But no—not one word in Socialist Worker

What kind of marxists are these? Like the Communist Party and Social Democrats in Germany pre-1913, ignore fascism and it will go away. How are you going to fight this nascent evil?—only by a united working class, conscious of the crisis, conscious of the rapid deterioration in capitalist society today and conscious that only by leading the working class, fighting for policies which can overcome the crisis, leading the class from among them, being of them, with them and for them: -HARRY SELBY, Galsgow.

Wrong on Scots?

YOUR coverage of Scotland has long been a complaint of mine. I would accept all that Paul Foot said about the discredited theory of entering the Labour Party to make it revolutionary from within—'entrism', only flies enter a dead carcass. Harry Selby's own election pamphlet actually stated that all his socialist activities were contained within the Labour Party—the only factual point within his campaign.

Paul Foot says he doesn't know what has been happening in Govan since his last visit and how thousands of voters supported what he calls 'Scottish National quackery'. If the Glasgow International Socialists were not such devout 'English national chauvinists' then he might have been able to spot his left foot from his right.

The IS have adapted a rigorous unionist line in supporting English imperialism in Scotland.

The Govan slum dwellers showed their disillusionment by not voting for Selby, leaving apologists to the left to contort new theories 'proving' that the Scottish working class do not want and cannot have self government.

Scotland's greatest revolutionary, John Maclean, had to fight the same intellectual chauvinism at the time he was forming the Scottish Workers Republican Party in 1920.

The British Labour Party finally dropped Scottish home rule in 1945. Significantly it was the first year that the Scottish National Party returned an MP.

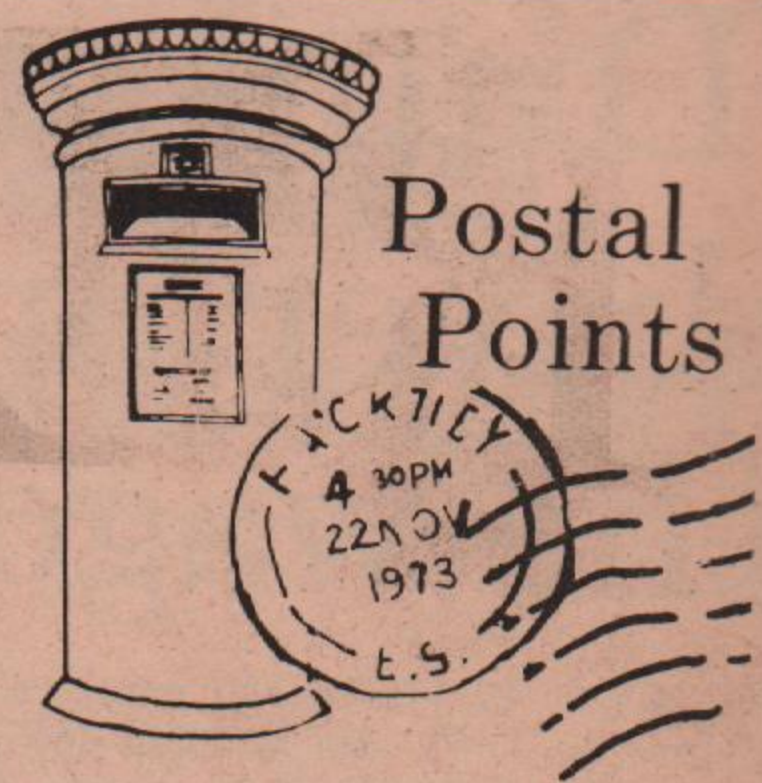
The SNP, like the Irish and Welsh movements is merely a vehicle for independence containing many diverse elements. It exists merely to achieve this end and negotiate terms until the first free election in Scotland.

Scotland has continuously returned Labour MPs and has been betrayed by them on almost every issue. The situation will determine the labour movement of an independent Scotland and there will be no need to be concerned with the Labourites who are firmly identified with Westminster unionism and reaction.

My criticism is confined to your Scottish outlook, the rest I accept. -DONALD ANDERSON, Glasgow.

Kodak? try ICI

I MUST correct your statement in the 27 October edition that Kodak is the largest company in Britain not to recognise independent trade unions. I work for ICI at Blackley Manchester and any ICI employee will tell you that ICI refuses to recognise a trade union for monthly paid staff, although ASTMS, the union to which I belong has a large membership within ICI. Keep up the good work. -JOHN W GILLAT, Heywood.



Postal Points

WOMEN ARE MASTERS TOO... The Footnote (Socialist Worker 17 November) 'Oh, O'Malley' on the National Association of Schoolmasters was ignorant... You describe the NAS as anti-feminist body... The NAS is associated with the Union of Women Teachers—their delegation to this year's TUC included three women and their membership includes 13,412 women... the allegation is based on a superficial acceptance of the 'schoolmasters' title... Representing a trade union's interest in parliament is not sinister, my own union, NALGO has similar representatives. -TONY AYLAND, Gloucester.

NO, WE ARE NOT JOINING THE RED ARMY... Russia has its faults but when you compare it with this country or the rest of the 'western democracies' then you appreciate that the Soviet Union is not a vast oriental concentration camp... Most of the Russian dissidents would like to see the return of capitalism to the Soviet Union. They are generally anti-egalitarian in outlook and would probably vote Tory or Liberal if they lived here...

One thing is certain, there is going to be a third world war and it looks like the Soviet Union will have to fight on its own. I hardly think that vast bands of International Socialists will be of any use... though no doubt a great deal of unsolicited and useless advice will be proffered... I don't see them fighting alongside the Soviet armed forces... -ROBERT BRIGGS, Hinckley.

CHILEAN DIVERSION?... Nick Howard (Letters, Socialist Worker 24 November) claims that the Chilean Solidarity Committee's demand for boycott of trade with Chilean junta is 'impractical' and sows illusions among workers about what is possible.

Could he explain this to the workers at Weirs Pumps, Cathcart, who are currently blacking pumps destined for frigates being fitted for the Chilean Navy in Newcastle; and to the shop stewards in Yarrow, Clydeside, who are discussing the possibility of blacking work on two ships being built at the yard for the Junta?

JIM MURPHY, Edinburgh Chile Solidarity Committee (in a personal capacity).

ANGER ISN'T ENOUGH... Your review of the play *Saves* was most uncritical. The play does drive home the horror of the Indians' plight, and it does lay the blame at the feet of European companies. But it also makes the British diplomat the defender of the Indians, against his guerrilla captors who are unconcerned... Many liberals the playwright included, are extremely concerned about the uglier results of imperialism: atrocity, genocide and torture. To such liberals, the struggle of marxists against the exploitation of labour seems irrelevant—they will even claim that the working class in Latin America is a privileged class. Because Hampton can see no link between the anti-capitalist struggle of the guerrillas and the anti-imperialist fight for the Indians, he can only leave us with impotent anger: -JOHN B WILLIAMS, London SW6.

WHOSE KIDDING WHO... I was surprised to read in your letters page (17 November) that there was such a thing as an impartial economics course. I had previously thought all social science courses to be either marxist, or as Marx put it, in the service of the ruling class.

By way of example, take the question is it right that, for instance, Lord Vestey should be 150,000 times better off than, for instance, myself? A marxist can give a categorical 'No' since the political power accompanying such wealth is quite unacceptable in a democracy. But such inequality is quite justifiable to an orthodox economist, indeed positively beneficial. By transferring money from my pocket (so that I won't be tempted to fritter it away on shoes for the children) to those of millionaires, it will be invested more wisely than I ever could (after all, they went to better schools than I did). And from such investment we will all benefit, in the sweet by and by.

There is nothing in Mr Kiddie's letter to convince me that anyone who rejects the prevailing economic ideology would be appointed to a Committee of Enquiry by the most reactionary and repressive government of modern times. -A G COLLINGS.

an International Socialists pamphlet 10p

ROGER KLINE

can Socialism come through Parliament?

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.

Labour: I learned in the 1930's

HARRY WICKS review of Wal Hannington's book on the struggle of the unemployed in the 1930s (Socialist Worker 24 November) stirred many memories.

I am proud to know that I was one of the branch organisers of his great movement. This was when I first realised the betrayal of the Labour Party.

We asked the leaders of the local branch for help to receive cash instead of food tickets and we were refused. We were told that all the unemployed wanted was a 4d double and a pint of beer.

The first Labour mayor of the town refused to answer my letters. Yet I got 20 gallons of milk and 400 blankets twice from the Tory mayor, for Scottish and Lancashire hunger marches.

The Labour MP at that time voted for the Anomalies Act which deprived members of his own trade union getting employment pay, although only working two nights a week.

Our only hopes lie in the rank and file, which more and more can see. If we are ever to get the full fruits of our labours we must apply the TUC slogan 'Unity is Strength'—at all times, not only at conference: -S T SMITH, West Bromwich.

RED OCTOBER!

The basic question of every revolution,' wrote Lenin in April 1917, 'is that of state power . . . The highly remarkable feature of our revolution is that it has brought about a *dual power* . . .

'What is this dual power? Alongside the Provisional government, the government of the bourgeoisie (capitalist class), another government has arisen . . . the Soviets of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies . . . a power directly based on revolutionary seizure, on the direct initiative of the people from below, and *not on a law* enacted by a centralised state power . . . This power is of the *same type* as the Paris Commune of 1871.'

A situation of dual power cannot, in the nature of the case, be a stable state of affairs. You cannot combine a Paris Commune with a centralised capitalist government.

One side or the other must give way or be smashed. Which one?

The Provisional government was weak. It existed on sufferance, because it was tolerated, indeed supported, by the majority of the leaders of the Soviets.

These Mensheviks (social-democrats we would call them today) and leaders of the peasant party (Socialist Revolutionaries) stood for a capitalist republic. In the long run that must mean the end of the Soviets.

The Bolsheviks stood for, in Lenin's words, 'Not a parliamentary republic—to return to a parliamentary republic would be a retrograde step—but a republic of Soviets of Workers', Agricultural Labourers' and Peasants' Deputies throughout the country, from top to bottom.'

The great problem was to win a majority in the Soviets for a Soviet Republic. 'The class conscious workers must win a majority to their side. As long as no violence is used against the people there is no other road to power,' Lenin said.

'We are not Blanquists, we do not stand for the seizure of power by a minority.' (Blanqui was a nineteenth century French revolutionary who advocated the capture of power by a small group of armed conspirators.)

Meanwhile the Provisional government and its 'socialist' backers were determined to carry on the war that was bleeding the country to death. The economic situation went from bad to worse.

The American socialist journalist, John Reed, described what he saw: 'On the freezing front miserable armies continued to starve and die without enthusiasm. The railways were breaking down, food lessening, factories closing.

'The desperate masses cried out that the bourgeoisie was sabotaging the life of the people . . . A large section of the propertied classes preferred the Germans to the Revolution—even to the Provisional Government . . .

'The speculators took advantage of the universal disorganisation to pile up fortunes . . . Foodstuffs and fuel were hoarded or secretly sent out of the country to Sweden . . . Week by week food became scarcer.'

A prominent Russian capitalist, Lianozov, told Reed: 'Starvation and



The storming of the Winter Palace, when the last stronghold of capitalism fell to the revolutionaries

Concluding part of Duncan Hallas' popular series

defeat may bring the Russian people to their senses.'

And if not? 'Revolution is a sickness. Sooner or later the foreign powers must intervene here as one would intervene to cure a sick child.'

Naturally the Lianozovs were foremost in denouncing the Bolsheviks as unpatriotic and Lenin as a German agent!

PEACE

The Bolshevik slogans were 'Peace, Land and Bread' and 'All Power to the Soviets'. On 18 April the Provisional government sent a note to the governments of Britain and France, assuring them that Russia would in no case make a separate peace.

It provoked a massive armed demonstration in Petrograd, supported by soldiers of the garrison and sailors of the Baltic fleet.

'That army of 25,000 to 30,000 soldiers, which had come into the streets for a struggle with the



Lenin: no return to parliament

prolongers of war, was quite strong enough to do away with a far solder government than that of Prince Lvov.'

In fact the government was helpless. The intervention of the 'socialist' leaders of the Soviet was



Trotsky: arrested in the July attack

required to persuade the demonstrators to disperse.

'The April days had unequivocally lifted the curtain on the impotence of the Provisional government, showing that it had no serious support in the capital,' Trotsky noted. Terrified, the ministers begged the Menshevik and SR leaders to join the cabinet, to provide it with some credibility amongst the workers, soldiers and peasants.

They did. The reformists lent their influence, earned in some cases by long prison sentences under the Tsar, to bolster up a government whose aim was to stop the revolution.

Gradually they lost support. At the beginning of June, at the first Congress of Soviets, the Menshevik-SR bloc still had a big majority and was able to set up a Central Executive Committee composed of its reliable supporters. But that same month saw a massive anti-war demonstration in Petrograd carrying predominantly Bolshevik slogans.

Early in July much more formidable demonstrations demanding 'All power to the Soviets' led to bloody clashes and a near insurrection in Petrograd. The Bolshevik leaders tried to control and check the movement.

Petrograd, they knew, was ready for the overthrow of the government but Russia was not yet ready. This line was badly received by many Bolshevik supporters. Necessary as it was, it produced a certain degree of

demoralisation and a growth in support for anarchist groups.

The Provisional government saw its chance and struck back hard. In what Trotsky called 'the month of the great slander', a torrent of fabricated 'evidence' was produced to show that the Bolsheviks were agents of the German Kaiser, sustained by German gold.

Reorganised under the 'socialist' Kerensky and with a would-be Russian Napoleon, Kornilov, as Commander in Chief, the government was temporarily strong enough to arrest Trotsky, Lunarcharsky and others on a charge of treason. Lenin and Zinoviev were forced to go into hiding.

The effect was short-lived. Soldiers continued to desert. Peasants were seizing the land. The economic situation continued to deteriorate.

Commander in Chief Kornilov planned a military coup. Late in August his troops began to march on Petrograd. Some, at least, of the ministers were in league with him.

The persecuted Bolsheviks threw all their weight into a temporary defence of the Kerensky government against Kornilov.

'At a night session of the military organisation of the Bolsheviks, participated in by delegates of numerous army detachments, it was decided to demand the arrest of all conspirators, to arm the workers and supply them with soldier instructors and to guarantee the defence of the capital.'

POWER

Kornilov was beaten. A tremendous swing to the left followed. The Bolsheviks gained a majority in the Petrograd Soviet.

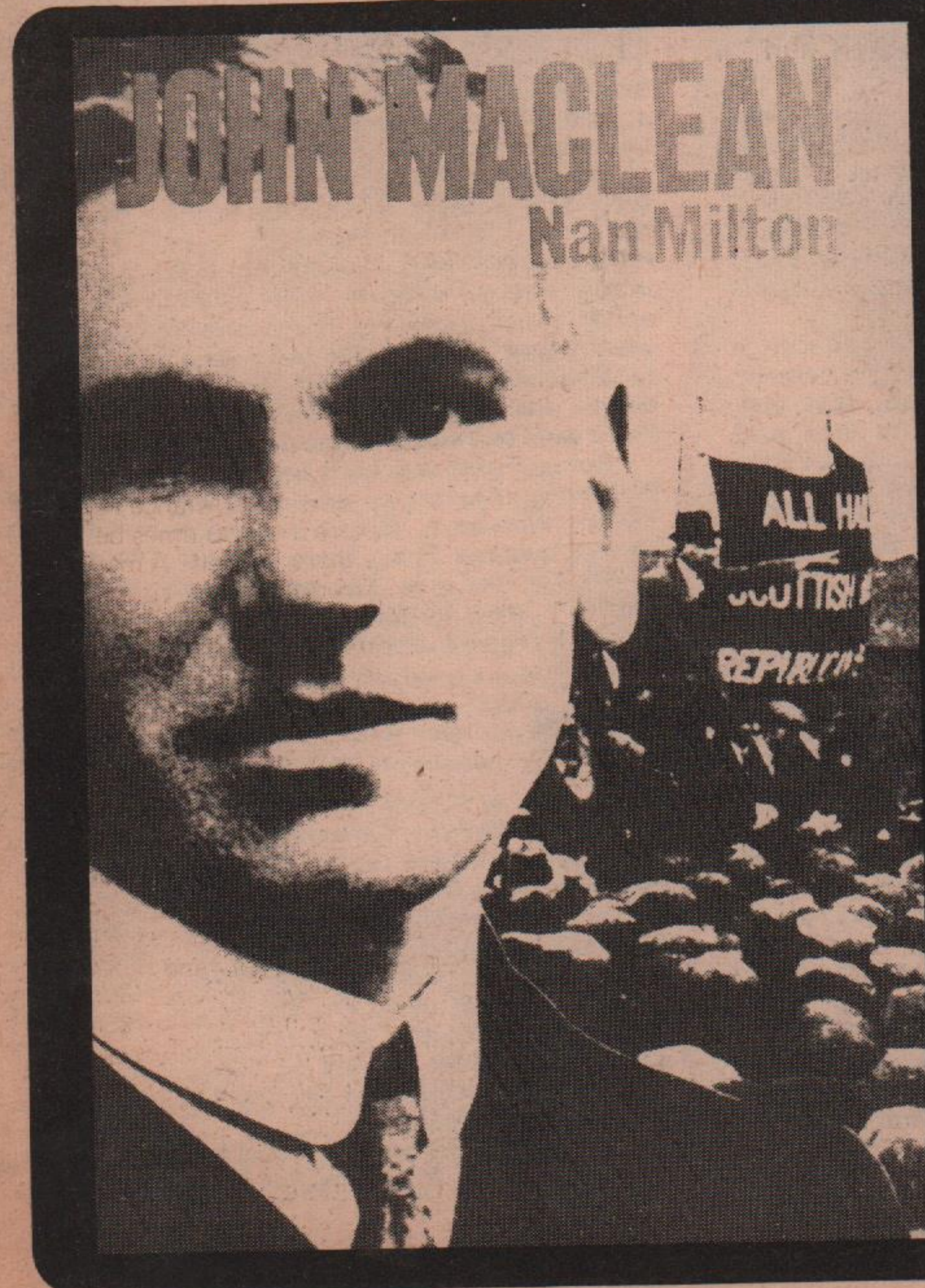
Moscow followed. Then city after city. Early in October the Bolshevik central committee decided that the time was now ripe. An armed insurrection was planned, to be carried out under the auspices of the Petrograd Soviet.

Amid rumours of another right wing attempt at a coup, detachments of soldiers and armed workers took over Petrograd on 25 October in the name of Soviet power. There was practically no resistance.

Only the Winter Palace was defended for Kerensky. The second Soviet Congress—the most democratic of all parliaments in the world's history—was assembled at the Smolny Institute.

The Bolsheviks and their allies were a large majority. The dual power was at an end. The first workers' state on a national scale had been born.

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John Maclean was regarded as Britain's greatest revolutionary leader of the time by both Lenin and the British government. He pioneered marxism in Scotland, was a major architect of the 'Red Clyde' and leader of the anti-war struggles during the First World War. He was the Bolsheviks' first consul in Glasgow.

The author, John Maclean's daughter, traces his life from 1903, when he joined the Social Democratic Federation, to 1923, when he died at the early age of 44. She uses a mass of original documents, interviews with participants and personal memories.

PLUTO PRESS

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Trade union

In the dock: six men who fight for our rights

THE VITALLY important trial of trade unionists on conspiracy charges at Shrewsbury Crown Court is now coming to a head.

This week the defence was finishing its case and next week the closing speeches for defence and prosecution are to be made.

Then the judge will sum up and direct the jury. They will go out and decide the verdict. If it is a guilty verdict then the judge will deliberate and pronounce his sentences.

One way or another the proceedings will come to a conclusion by 18 or 19 December.

Few people are aware of the time-table, let alone the issues at stake, which is an indictment of the so-called free press which has surrounded Shrewsbury with a conspiracy of its own.

Effective

This is one of silence, a silence in marked contrast to the publicity given to the dockers last year which allowed every trade unionist to know their faces, their views and their cause.

What is at stake at Shrewsbury is every bit as serious as the imprisonment of dockers under the Industrial Relations Act. Perhaps it is even more so, since six men could well be hammered with long prison sentences to discourage other workers from ever daring to organise effective picketing.

For that is why Des Warren, Ceric Tomlinson, Ken O'Shea, John Carpenter, John Llywarch, and John McKinsie Jones are on trial.

The prosecution is in deadly earnest. For with the crippling of the Industrial Relations Act at Pentonville last year the authorities are very anxious to obtain convictions against some pickets, above all on the conspiracy charges.

This anxiety led them to offer one defence counsel a deal early in the trial.

by LAURIE FLYNN

If his client pleaded guilty to conspiracy, the police would, in return, drop the other charges. The package was refused.

The prosecution case is as varied as it is remarkable. It alleges that either the defendants initiated disturbances at Shrewsbury and Telford or if they did not do that then they did not calm other strikers down, thereby condoning what went on.

This is the wonderful attraction of the conspiracy charge. It is framed so that the most dubious material, hearsay and what other people did, becomes sound evidence.

The prosecution case against the six can be summed up as follows. John Llywarch was chairman of the Oswestry Action Committee. He was at the Chester strike action committee

meeting which decided to picket in Shrewsbury.

He went to Shrewsbury by bus and picketed there. Last minute evidence was also advanced to suggest that more serious crimes had been committed. A journalist was hurriedly brought to court who said that John had called a site manager a 'fascist bastard'.

The journalist, usually a thorough man, had not seen fit to write this down in his notebook. Despite this he clearly recalled events that had taken place 15 months earlier. John Llywarch denies that he ever went into the office.

Des Warren has the distinction of being the only one of the six who was well known as a trade union activist before last year's strike. He is alleged to have thrown stones and hidden tools on one site.

He also spoke at meeting after meeting and was undoubtedly a strike leader. A lot of prosecution evidence has focussed on his 'general attitude' which is said to have been 'threatening'.

Eric Tomlinson, chairman of the Wrexham Action Committee, was active from an early stage in the strike. He is alleged to have been present when damage was done at a site in Shrewsbury.



Picture of Margaret Llywarch by Chris Davies (Report)

Anguish of the wife who waits...

He is said to have threatened scabs, encouraged violence and attacked a site door with a shovel.

Ken O'Shea, a Transport Union branch secretary, is alleged to have cut telephone wires at a site at Llansanan, pushed a breeze block off a wall and acted as a spokesman, his mates calling him 'The Mouth'.

John McKinsie Jones, treasurer of the Flint Action Committee, wasn't even at the meeting at Chester which organised the picketing. But he is charged with conspiracy. He is said to have sworn at blacklegs, threatened a manager and thrown stones.

A key part of the prosecution evidence appears to be that he called a man 'a walrus-faced bastard' and that he shouted 'Come on lads this way', doubtless a clear indication that he was a leader.

Incensed

John Carpenter, secretary of the Wrexham Committee, is alleged to have shouted 'Come on lads, smash it up' on one site. The prosecution admit that there is a possibility he said 'Break it up' which might mean cause damage or pack in in depending on your interpretation.

Another key part of the prosecution case is that the men might have actually responded to provocation, that they went to Shrewsbury after they read about the formation of anti-picketing squads by lump employers and that the pickets were incensed when they were repeatedly met with shotguns.

Last week the judge Mr Justice Mais made a point of questioning Des Warren on what was at issue. In his evidence on Friday Des Warren explained that a big picket was always more effective and less likely to lead to trouble than a small one.

Mr Justice Mais found this difficult to comprehend even after Des explained that large numbers made the picket more credible since workers could hardly tell their employer that they refused to cross a one-man picket line.

Defence counsel John Platts Mills also pushed the point. He asked his client Warren: 'If I dressed up as a miner and went to a pit and said everybody out, do you think the miners would come out, Mr Warren?' The answer was, 'No I do not'.

If the government and the employers succeed in imprisoning trade unionists for conspiracy then Mr Platts Mills will have a lot of dressing up to do.

Vill

ON 19 MAY 1968, Ronan Point, a 22-storey block of council flats in London's East End, collapsed, killing five, injuring many others and throwing 350 people out of their homes.

The building collapsed because one of the concrete slabs which served as the wall of a flat on the 19th floor was blown out of the building by a tiny gas explosion of a kind which can take place in any building at any time.

A court of inquiry found that there was nothing to link the fourteen roof-slabs with the walls, and recommended the immediate and drastic strengthening by steel loops of all other blocks in the country which were built in the same way. In other words, they found that the design and construction of Ronan Point were extremely dangerous.

Ronan Point was built by Taylor Woodrow Anglian, a subsidiary of Taylor Woodrow, Britain's second biggest building firm. There was no tender for the job. The consulting engineers were Phillips Consultants, which is wholly owned by Taylor Woodrow.

No one at Taylor Woodrow and no one at Phillips Consultants has even been charged with anything connected with Ronan Point.

On 11 November 1966 a newly built silo collapsed at Whitehaven in Cumberland. It was the first time it had ever been used. For the next two days construction workers toiled among the rubble, trying to reach two men, John Chambers and Dennis Orr. Both were dead.

The silo was designed and built by John Laing, the fourth biggest con-



Jimmy Mc...

struction f design was Laing's con which is w why two m John L uted in negligence death of t their lawyer and subcon and insured sure that n out in cour

They al Dennis Or possible of for the loss that score tenacity of Damage eventually widows, a in lawyer cover up knowledge

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ism on trial

The first day of the trial I was still in hospital in Shrewsbury. I came out of the anaesthetic in the late afternoon and I was due to have John visit me after I woke up from the operation.

'He didn't come. He couldn't. At the end of the first day's proceedings the judge told all six defendants that they shouldn't hang about in Shrewsbury. They were to go straight home from the court.

'He implied that if anyone saw them around the town, they'd lose their bail. So John had to go straight home without visiting me in hospital. That's when this whole business really hit me.'

These are the words of Margaret Llywarch, a young woman with a husband and two young sons, Charles and Clive. For the past nine weeks Margaret's husband John has been on trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court facing conspiracy and other charges because he is an active trade unionist who helped to organise picketing during the official building worker's strike 16 months ago.

Right now the Llywarchs are living in a cottage in the hills above Oswestry in North Wales. Margaret, John and the kids moved there only recently. Margaret explains:

'It's marvellous up here. Before we lived in Whitchurch with my parents. But some of the people are a bit funny down there. They just snubbed you because they knew that your man was to go on trial. It's much better up here. The people get to know you. And they respect you for what you are.

'It was bad after John was first arrested. I was working in the telephone exchange. Some of my workmates stopped talking to me and there was a lot of backchat and nastiness. They were telling me that I was a fool to have anything to do with John.

'Then at the time of the second court appearance my son Charles was in hospital. I took a week off work to be with him. The supervisor phoned me at the hospital to say that I couldn't have any

more time off. So I had to go back to work, to more silly backchat I may say.

'Some of them kept going on about how they should be locked up. One woman in particular was always at it. The big demonstration strike outside the court on the first day of the trial made her son late for work. It was his first day at a new job.

'She said that the whole lot should be put away for ten years. But she was silenced when I reminded her of when the telephone workers were on strike and how they marched through the town. Eventually I told them what they could do with the job.

'We're without a wage of course with John on trial. I went to the Social Security. I had a bit of trouble with one girl there to start with. They couldn't make up their mind which district I came under. So I got shunted around between Wrexham and Shrewsbury three or four times. It's all right now though.

'You feel it most of all with the children's clothes, and the bills for coal and electricity. Day-to-day living is not so bad. But we can't plan ahead at all.

'I wouldn't be telling the truth if I said that the whole business was not a constant source of worry for us. It's in your mind all the time, taking it out of you.

'It's a strange thing though. The trial has brought John and me much closer. I never knew anything about trade unions and what have you before all this. I know about it now.

'With the trial coming to an end, you worry more and more. You wonder and wonder what the outcome's going to be and what they will do to the men. I think it affects the children most. You're tired and irritable in the evenings and you don't play with them the same.

'They know something big is going on. But they don't know what it is or what it's about. There's a lot of people don't know what's going on. They should understand.'

Militants say...

GEORGE KELLY, electricians' convenor, Glasgow Corporation workshops: 'To be quite frank it came as no surprise to me when the Shrewsbury 24 were arrested and charged. It was quite clear after the freeing of the five London dockers that the Industrial Relations Act couldn't do the job that the government and employers so desperately wanted done.'

'And that was the control of effective picketing, picketing which had been so successful for the working class in the miners', the dockers' and the builders' struggles.'



George Kelly: Defend them

'At the corporation workshops we have kept our men informed about the trial. We raise it at every shop stewards' meeting. We've sold a good number of IS pamphlets explaining the background and we've collected money regularly.'

'We're a wee bit disappointed at the lack of initiative among some trade unionists who really should be getting stuck in. To this end our shop stewards committee has sponsored a city-wide collection in Glasgow on Saturday to get money for the defence committee and to publicise what's going on.'

'If it comes to it—and we must all prepare for this responsibility—then we're going to have to organise stoppages to defend these men. For defended they must be for all our sakes!'

LENNIE ALEXANDER, Transport and General Workers Union member in the Royal Docks, London: 'As far as we're concerned the Tories have moved against the North Wales building workers because they failed to keep our men in Pentonville last year. So now they are resorting to outlandish laws to do the same job.'

'They've picked on this 1875 job—the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act. And if that didn't fit the bill they'd have dug up something from 1375.'

'All dockers should be seriously

concerned with this serious attack on trade unionists. And that's what it is—not an attack on building workers alone. For if they get away with it on the building workers you don't have to think very hard to guess who it will be used on next. All trade unionists should do their utmost to ensure that the men in Shrewsbury are released just as the movement did with our lads last year.'

JOHN FONTAINE, UCATT convenor, McInerney's, Finsbury Park, London: 'I don't know whether to laugh or cry when I hear all this talk about the menace of violent pickets in the building industry. I'll give you an example about our own job which will tell you what this industry's really like.'

'When we came on this site in May it was unorganised and riddled with the lump. We had to go on strike first of all so that they wouldn't sack us for being trade union members.'

'Then later in the summer we struck to clear the lump off the job. Just after we'd won that one, a friend of mine got in touch with me.'

'He told me that he had been in a nearby pub having a drink one night and he got talking with this fellow about the industry. Well one thing came to another and then the man started talking about McInerney's job.'

'Then came the strong stuff. He suggested that people like me should be "rubbed out". He said that he wouldn't do it himself but he would be quite willing to pay someone else.'

'Well after this we had a word with him on the site. And we told him that there was a fellow going around pretending to be him and using his name who was threatening to do me. We said that he'd better get hold of this fellow and tell him to lay off because if anything did happen to me then the lads would think it was him and there would be trouble. He's a decent man now.'

'You see, he was a hard core lumpster then—not one of the lads who's reluctantly forced on to it, but one of the men who will stop at nothing provided the money's there.'

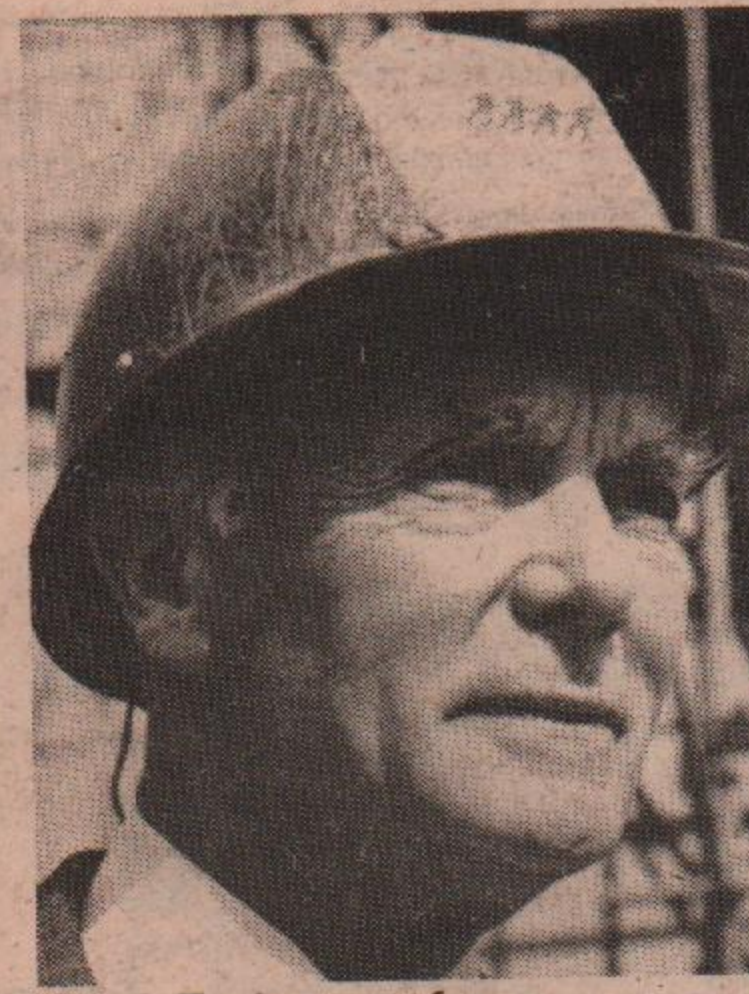
'It's obvious why the government and the employers have chosen North Wales building workers. If they had moved against Liverpool, there would have been a very big reaction immediately. They've taken somewhere out of the way and they hope that after this long trial the steam will have gone out of the campaign.'

'The most important matter is the verdict. We can't stand aside if the men are jailed. There's only one answer—the trade union movement can give—everybody out.'

ains go free



getting ready to meet some pickets?



Frank Taylor: scot free

The Wrexham by-pass site stretches over about four miles with men dispersed from point to point. McAlpine's provided only one toilet for the whole site and manual workers were expected to use the bushes or hitch a ride to the site offices if their condition was more serious.

At no time on the Wrexham contract was there any enforcement about health and safety laws. This is not surprising given the deliberate undermining of the Factory Inspectorate and the fact that the chief of law and order for the Wrexham area, the High Sheriff for Denbighshire, is none other than Mr Peter Ball. Mr Ball is married into the McAlpine family and is a director of the family holding company.

British engineering abroad to the detriment of valuable export orders.

Four months later in October of the same year, one of those valuable export orders, Yarra Bridge in Australia, collapsed during construction. It came down for virtually identical reasons and the collapse killed 36 building workers. Yarra too was designed by Freeman Fox and Partners. No one at Freeman Fox has ever been charged.

Just 25 miles away from Shrewsbury Crown Court, Sir Alfred McAlpine and Sons are hard at work on the Wrexham by-pass contract.

Conditions on the site today are little different to what they were at the time of last year's building workers' strike. Then McAlpine employers on the site joined the union and the strike mainly because of the terrible conditions on the job and the lack of basic amenities, amenities the employers are supposed to provide by law.

Another fairly typical example of McAlpine's concern to uphold civilised values was given on the huge Killingholme oil refinery near Grimsby in 1967. In August of that year all 2000 men on the site went on strike after the death of a worker on the job.

It was 20 minutes after his injury that the site ambulance left to take him to hospital 15 miles away.

There was no emergency telephone to contact the first aid post, which was why the ambulance was so slow in arriving.

And the injured man died in the ambulance because none of the people who travelled with him had any knowledge of how to use breathing apparatus. The site nurse was away on holiday at the time and McAlpine's had not bothered to replace him.

No charges were brought and a verdict of accidental death was recorded on the dead man.

in the land. Laing's grossly inadequate and seriously faulty, the silo collapsed and

ed. were never prosecuted way for their directly caused the men. Indeed Laing's, and insurers, the clients and their lawyers added together to en-

of the facts ever came

out to try and cheat widow of as much as damages she was due er young husband. On failed thanks to the Orr and her lawyer.

totaling £17,000 were out to the two tion of the sums spent consultant fees in the ick has been public ce 1970, but over

which the legal authorities have steadfastly declined to take any action.

In June 1970 the Milford Haven box girder bridge in Wales collapsed because the bridge designers, Freeman Fox and Partners of London, did not allow sufficient safety margins to complete construction successfully with the box girder technique they employed to reduce construction costs.

Even if by some fluke they had managed to complete construction, the bridge would have collapsed under the weight of the first few cars to use it.

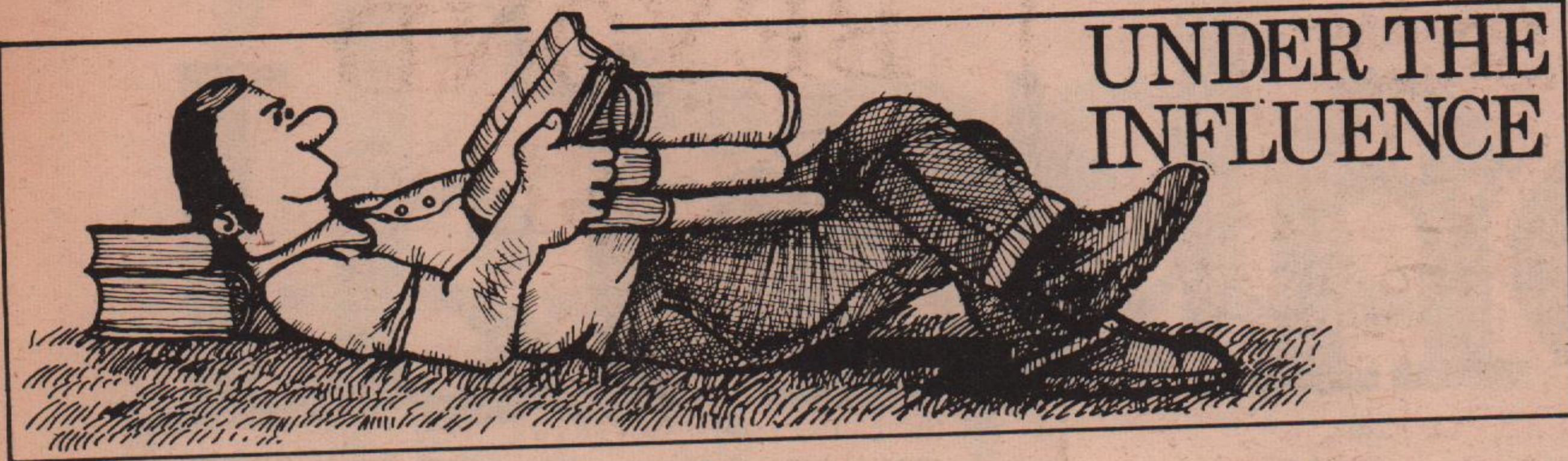
No serious inquiry was ever made into the collapse. A well-organised cover up was set in motion because it was felt that any 'revelations' would damage the reputation of

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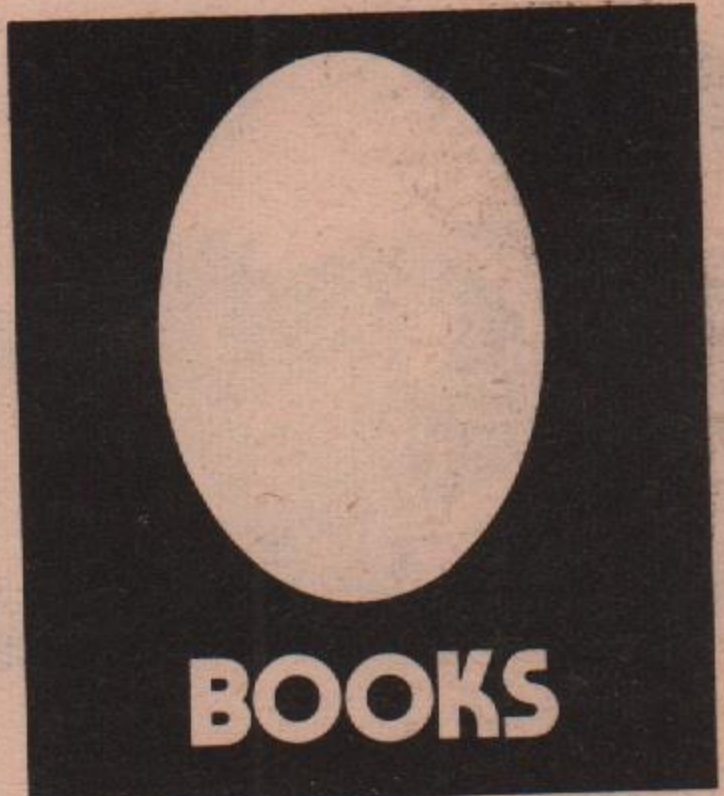
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This week London docker
Bob Light writes on the novel
SPARTACUS, by Howard Fast.



DANGER ON THE ROAD

CHILE'S ROAD TO SOCIALISM, by Salvador Allende, Penguin, 40p.

THIS is a collection of some of Allende's speeches selected in 1972, as the editor tells us, to show 'the principles which have guided the government of Popular Unity in its efforts to overcome the capitalist system and in making possible Chile's advance on the road to socialism.'

It might appear that criticism is unnecessary. The generals' coup, Allende's tragic death, the white terror now raging in Chile—these tell their own story. 'Chile's advance on the road to socialism' ended in a bloodbath.

Yet illusions similar to those of Allende and the Chilean Socialist and Communist Parties still flourish on the British left.

In his inaugural address, President Allende proclaimed: 'Today, inspired by our national heroes, we come together to celebrate our victory in Chile... The people have at last become the government. It is they who now control the destiny of the nation.'

The 'people', not the workers, and it is to be a purely Chilean affair. The same speech contains a respectful quotation from the military dictator of Peru and greetings to the ambassadors of the other South American states, most of them the representatives of right-wing dictatorships. Not a spark of working-class internationalism here.

'Control of the destiny of the nation' (shades of Harold Wilson) by the 'people' was assumed to have occurred because Socialist and Communist Party leaders held most of the posts in the government. The old bureaucracy was to remain. The armed forces were to stay under the control of the hierarchy of officers.

Everything would be all right because, by strict legal and constitutional means, a left-wing government had gained power.

Naturally, the workers must accept the priorities of the government. Working-class struggles were now quite out of place. 'Let the workers realise,' said Allende in March 1971, 'that this is their government and that, being their government, there cannot, in any way, be a sector of workers claiming to occupy a place of greater influence, nor should they imagine that we are going to grant them limitless priorities. Perish the thought!'

Yet it was on the subject of the armed forces that Allende was most eloquent.

'We are proud of the professional role of our armed forces. The great characteristic of the armed forces of Chile has been their obedience to civil authority, their unquestioned regard for the public will as expressed in the ballots, for the laws of Chile and for the Chilean Constitution.'

'It is my firm intention, as it is of Popular Unity, that the armed forces will maintain their professional attitude. The armed forces of Chile are the armed forces of the country. They are not in the service of one man nor of one government. They are of the nation and this is one of the factors which characterise Chile and distinguish it from other countries.'

The experience of the Chilean Popular Unity government and its fate is a textbook example of the bankruptcy of reformist and parliamentary strategies for social change, particularly those now advocated by the various Communist Parties. For that reason, this book can be recommended as a manual of how not to proceed.

For a more positive manual, read *Can socialism come through parliament?* by Roger Kline (International Socialist pamphlets 10p).

DUNCAN HALLAS

For the first time the common people step out of the shadows

I FIRST read Howard Fast's novel *Spartacus* just after I'd started work. Looking back, it was not a particularly great book. There's no fear of anyone accusing it of being 'literature'.

But for all that, it's the only book I've ever read that had a lasting influence on my outlook on the world.

Kirk Douglas later made the film of the book, so the basic story is well enough known. In 73BC gladiators in Capua, near Naples, broke out in revolt. This sparked a rising among slaves, first in the Naples area and then throughout southern Italy.

At its height up to 100,000 men and women had thrown off the bonds of slavery, and knew for the first time what it was to live in some kind of dignity and freedom. The slaves held on to their freedom for three years, until they were crushed by the biggest army ever massed in the ancient world.

All that was in the film. It was a good film in the best Saturday-morning-pictures tradition, but in my opinion it had none of the anger or depth of the book. Reading it, for the first time I understood what history is really all about.

In school, right from the infants, we'd been force-fed on stories about the might and the grandeur of the Roman Empire. The glory that was Rome. But *Spartacus* is about the underside of history, the people that history books choose to forget.

Like all empires, the 'civilisation' of Rome was built on the blood and bones of slavery. Without slaves, Rome would have been paralysed. Despite the grandeur, the wealth of the Roman patrician classes, common ignorant unwashed slaves could take them on, and destroy them.

Spartacus himself was the third-generation son of a mine slave. Gladiators were the lowest of the low: men kept alive to bleed their guts one day into the sand of the arena for the amusement of their 'betters'.

Yet these were the men who led a revolt that took the greatest empire the world had ever known to the edge of defeat. Their slave army won at least five battles against professional armies; on one occasion—outnumbered six to one—they took on the crack City Garrisons of Rome. And they slaughtered them. The slaves—with no training, no cavalry and with only captured weapons, were the greatest fighting force of their time.

In the end the revolt didn't succeed, but it was never a failure. For the first time the rulers of this world tasted the power of the underdog. For the first time the common people stepped out of the shadows.

I don't remember if I actually screamed out 'Eureka', but all this hit me with the power of a revelation. It helped me put the ups and downs of what went on at work into some kind of perspective. And even today whenever I get despondent about the future, whenever I think that maybe the working class is born to be ruled, I think back on this.

Society has existed for about 40,000 years or so. And for very nearly all that time the world has been infested with unbelievable exploitation and oppression. Yet in all the years, before the development of capitalism, there were only two uprisings to my knowledge that came even near to upending the state, *Spartacus* and, 19 centuries later, the great Toussaint L'Ouverture in Haiti.

Sure, there were uprisings among



slaves and peasants, thousands of them, but they came to nothing. The peasants would rise up, kill a few landlords, burn the odd manor house or two, maybe even march on the local capital. But then the revolt would either die down or be put down. Usually both. And the people would be silent for another generation.

After 40,000 years of grinding struggle, even today slaves and peasants live in conditions little better than their earliest ancestors.

But things have been different under capitalism. It dates back just over 200 years—but its history has been peppered with a never-ending volley of working-class revolt. From its origins, the working class has always come again. Because for the first time in history, the fight has been organised—through trade unions, and through the socialist movement. For all its massive apathy, there's never been a class as defiant, as organised or as successful as the modern working class.

And if only they realised it, there's never been a class with so much power.

But more than anything else, *Spartacus* changed my ideas on violence. At the time, I was hung up on the notion that violence could

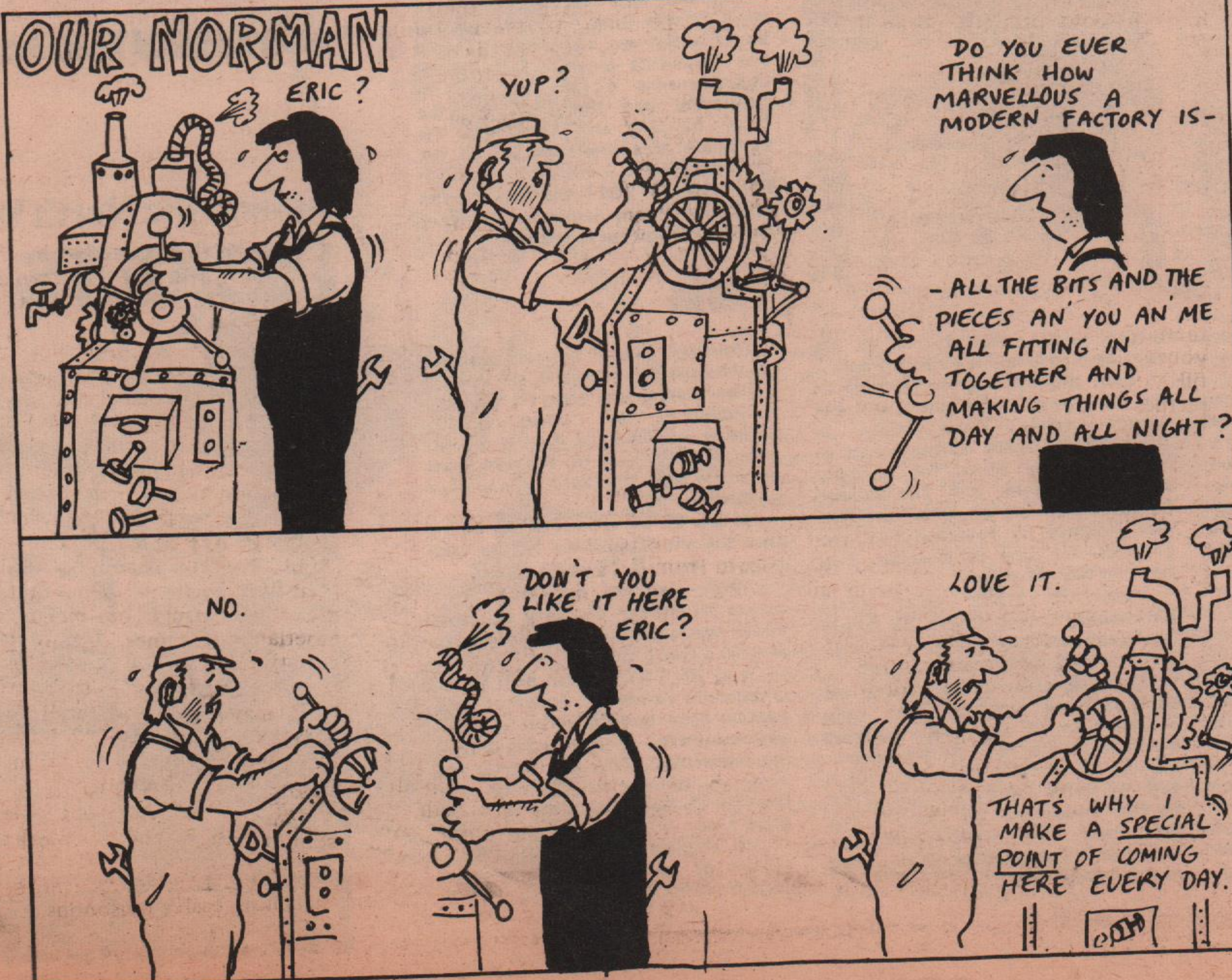
never be justified. Reading about the bottomless misery and degradation that slavery is, I realised just how sick pacifism is. Because it is a novel, and a novel about real events, you can't help identifying with the characters. Reading the book you can feel anger welling up inside.

One scene in particular hit home to me, where some litter slaves, inspired by *Spartacus*, throw over the litter and kill their master. There was no way I could tell myself that they could be wrong. How else could slaves break the hold of the man and the system that had condemned them to live like animals, harnessed to a carriage to cart around some Roman fat-cat. They were paying their debt to society.

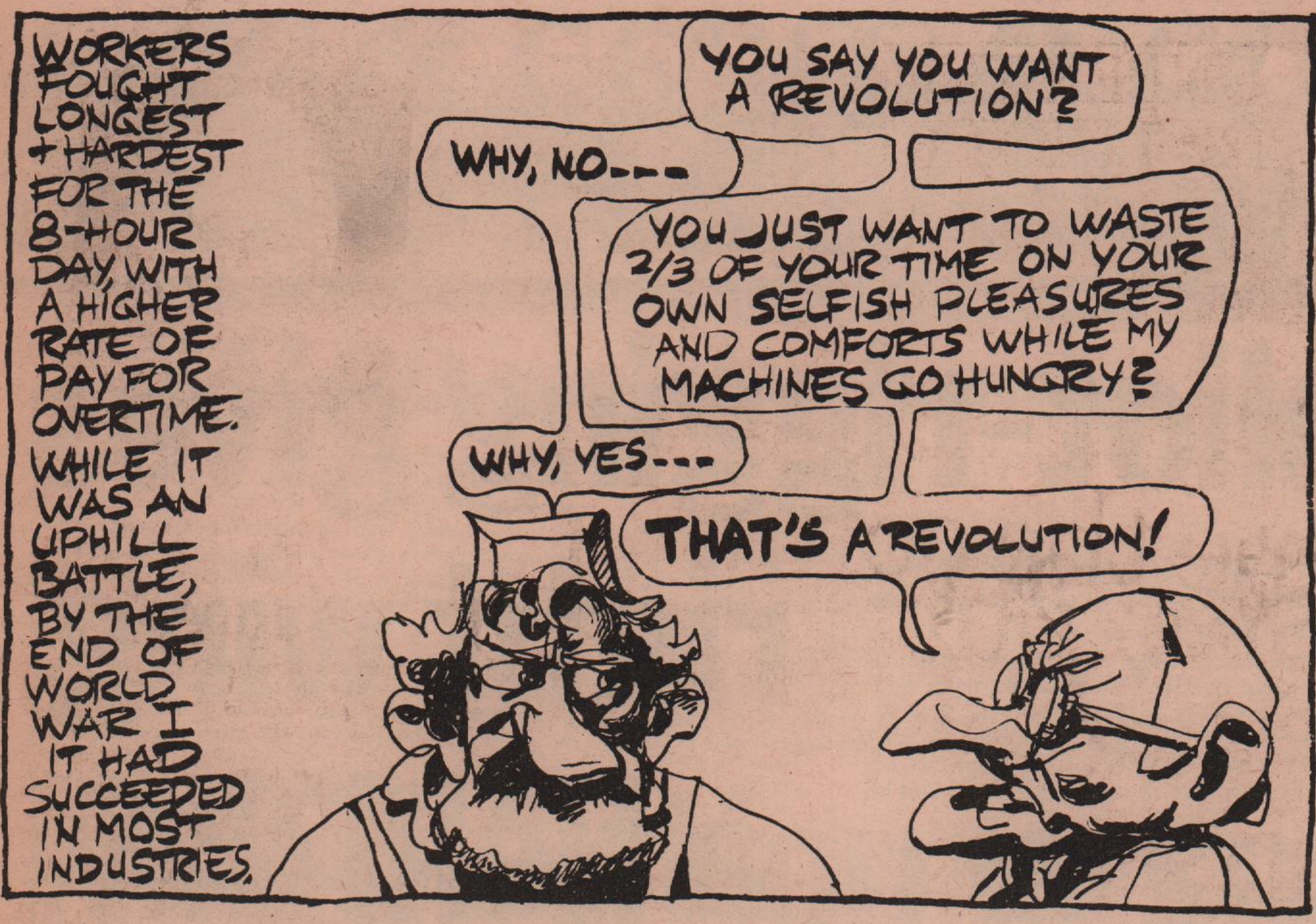
Like all societies, Rome was founded on violence. Professional violence. It was violence and nothing else that kept slaves in their 'rightful places'. Crassus, the Roman commander, once he'd crushed the uprising, put 6000 slaves to death by crucifixion. The road from Capua to Rome was lined with their corpses.

And Crassus sold tickets to watch them die slowly, to entertain ladies and gentlemen of quality. Strange, but you don't hear of pacifism amongst the ruling classes. Unless they were non-violent crosses.

The greatest mistake our class has made throughout history is to trust the 'goodwill' of our enemy. The ruling class feed on that kind of dumb faith. You might as well trust the 'goodwill' of smallpox. From *Spartacus* through to Allende, the rulers of this world have been prepared to resort to any means to keep their grip on wealth and power. *Spartacus* didn't have any illusions:



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



BEYOND MICKEY MOUSE

THE ILLUSTRATIONS come from two cartoon books, Jim Hughes' True and Barbaric History of the Benighted States of America (Quartet £1.25) featured below, and the Underhanded History of the USA published as a special edition of Radical America (on the left).

Hughes was born in the United States but now lives in Scandinavia. He came to Europe in 1944 with the US Army and never went back. 'I did the book because I wanted to read a history of the USA and I couldn't find a good one.' The book covers the period from the Spanish colonisation to Watergate, and is funny and interesting.

Hughes sometimes attacks Americans when he means American rulers. Which isn't true of the Underhanded History which is amusing and factual.

The Underhanded History is published by Radical America at 5 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass. 02140, USA and 50p should cover its cost. Jim Hughes' book will be available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

RADIO A very super crawler indeed

JIMMY YOUNG, the unseen 11 o'clock friend who tells you to leave off ironing and make yourself a cup of coffee, all alone. Jimmy Young, cheery and chuckling over the clatter of the machines at work. Even the foreman quotes his jokes.

Nice enough chap that Jimmy Young. Just a bit daft. Genuine though. Genuine Rat. Super jolly orfft we go Jim-type Rat. Stupid enough to write an autobiography and give it all away.

Jimmy Young has two main kinds of people in his book. First the batch of unfortunate women he slept with or married; every one a 'super person'—except wife number one, a nurse, who was a 'very super person indeed'.



Jimmy Young: 'I discovered I liked the life, going home to the little woman after work at the camp...'

by Judith Condon

His first taste of 'super person' home comforts was when he was in the army in India. With husbands away the camp-bound wives took in lovers, and Jim struck lucky. 'Well it saved that mile drag home across the ridge to Charkarta didn't it?'

'I discovered I liked the life, going home to the little woman after work at the camp, slippers and supper to follow. I know I'm writing lightly, but in all seriousness it was a wonderful experience.'

You bet your khaki pants it was. And our Jim has been making his living off lonely women ever since. As he says about himself: 'Even if he's not any great shakes at marriage or settling down, Jim's always good for a shoulder to cry on.' He often calls himself by his name, as if he were really someone else.

So if you're at your wits end about where the next tin of baked beans is coming from, or if your old man just came in fagged out after nights and only grunted at you, or if you're an army wife stuck in married quarters over the Rhine... then tune in to Jim. He won't solve your jolly old worries, but he may fill your head with such a load of recipes and rubbish that you lose the ability to think anyway.

Jimmy Young, baker's son, first-class crawler. He still remembers that he came second in his area in the eleven-plus, he marks off in detail which singers he overtook in the hit parade and now he has saved every sugary review written about him, from the Western Mail to the Daily Express.

But best of all he remembers those Very Important People—the ones who take up most space in the story of himself. The ones who once turned him away, but now invite

him to dinner. And the ones who helped his career—especially the ones who helped his career.

He was even first attracted to his second wife because she could 'call a lot of famous people by their first names.' So, week by week, Jimmy Young invested a share of his earnings in buying drinks for people who could advance his ambitions. As Jim-philosophy has it, 'You get what you pay for...'

Jimmy Young has never had any mates or comrades. He has always fought his own way alone, watching those who went under around him, struggling to be among the Top People. Consequently, he is reactionary through and through. Listen to his description of his first sight of Africa from a troopship.

'From the ship it looked steamy and smelly and rather undesirable, although there was some fascination about seeing for the first time native boys diving for pennies tossed overboard from the ship...'

But then there was always a welcome from the South African whites, to make up for the defects of the natives. They were extremely patriotic. 'They met all the troopships and played the perfect host during the few days allowed ashore.'

In India, 'there was the dhoobi wallah to look after your laundry and a fascinating shaving wallah. He actually barbered you while you

were asleep!... but because of the phantom barber's lack of hygiene, one could wake up in the morning with barber's rash.'

In 1972, Jimmy Young took his show to Scotland. On television you may have seen him talking to an old man on the quayside at Aberdeen, gutting fish. 'What are you doing, gutting fish? That's absolutely super!'

He did one show from the home of an Upper Clyde shipyard worker—listen to him now: 'I was much impressed with the manner of the shop stewards' convenor, Jimmy Reid, the forthright Communist who went on to be Rector of Glasgow University.'

Note that 'went on to become.' 'Forthright maybe, but a good deal more sensible, logical and moderate in his views than, I suspect, the majority of his Communist colleagues—who seem bent on anarchy and destruction of our civilised society.'

'To be replaced by what, one assumes? A Russian government? It should be fun watching them use their flying pickets against that. Their next job would be picketing the Siberian salt mines. Jimmy Reid, I got the feeling, was decidedly not their type of Communist.'

It may not be difficult to make criticisms of Jimmy Reid but anyone who's got this treatment from Young deserves some sympathy...

Jimmy Young looks harmless, sounds harmless, tastes poisonous.

SOME OF THESE RADICALS WERE DEPORTED, OTHERS WERE JAILED ON TRUMPED UP CHARGES RANGING FROM SEDITION TO MURDER.



EUGENE V. DEBS 1855-1926
LABOUR LEADER, FOUR TIMES SOCIALIST CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, CHARGED WITH SEDITION, SENTENCED TO 10 YRS. IMPRISONMENT - AS SOCIALIST CANDIDATE FOR PRES. IN 1920, WHILE STILL IN PRISON, HE RECEIVED ALMOST A MILLION VOTES (919,000)



THOMAS J. MOONEY 1823-1942
LABOUR LEADER, FALSELY CHARGED WITH COMPLICITY IN A BOMBING IN 1916 HE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH. IN 1918 THE SENTENCE WAS COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND IN 1939 HE WAS PARDONED



MAJOR GENERAL SMEDLEY DARLINGTON BUTLER USMC 1851-1940. TWICE WINNER OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

IN 1933 GEN BUTLER WROTE —
'I HELPED MAKE MEXICO SAFE FOR AMERICAN OIL INTERESTS IN 1914 I HELPED MAKE HAITI AND CUBA A DECENT PLACE FOR THE BOYS AT NATIONAL CITY BANK TO COLLECT REVENUE I HELPED PACIFY NICARAGUA FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BANKING HOUSE OF BROWN BROTHERS 1909-1912 I BROUGHT LIGHT TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FOR AMERICAN SUGAR INTERESTS IN 1916 I HELPED MAKE HONDURAS 'RIGHT' FOR AMERICAN FRUIT COMPANIES IN 1903 - WHEN I LOOK BACK, I BELIEVE I COULD HAVE TAUGHT A L CADAVRE A FEW TRIERS - HE SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING OVER HIS SHADY DEAL IN THREE CITIES - WE MARINES OPERATE ON THREE CONTINENTS'

PREVIEW

MONDAY: BBC-1, 8.00pm, PANORAMA features a film report on Chile since the coup, interviews imprisoned members of the Allende government, workers and a member of the Junta. NOTHING BUT THE BEST a 'satire' on social climbing is another early 1960s film starring Alan Bates, which ducks most of the issues it raises, also on BBC-1*. As is LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE, which has turned into a good comedy series*.

TUESDAY: ITV, 10.30pm. Granada TV is networking THE YEAR OF THE TORTURER, a World In Action special. Growing struggles equal growing repression—equals torture. World in Action have done several films on the subject, and this is the culmination. The film features Swedish prime minister Olaf Palme, ex-US attorney-general Ramsey Clark, General Massu paratroop commander and torturer of the Algerian War. BBC-1 has WHITLAM OF AUSTRALIA a profile of the Australian Labour prime minister which will doubtless show how abrasive etc etc...* On BBC-2 is THE FALLEN IDOL, based on a short story by Graham Greene and directed by Carol Reed.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2, 9.00pm, The Wessex Tales series ends with BARBARA OF THE HOUSE OF GREBE, adapted from Thomas Hardy by David Mercer.

THURSDAY: BBC-1, The Play for Today is JINGLE BELLS by Arthur Hopcraft, set at Christmas on an estate near Nottingham. It's about an examiner and his sons. Hopcraft is a good and funny writer.*

FRIDAY: BBC-1, The DIMBLEBY TALK-IN comes from Tel Aviv, where he discusses war and peace with Israelis.* BBC-2's Money Programme HOBSON'S CHOICE—THE END OF IMPERIALISM is on how Zaire (ex-Congo) has adjusted to 10 years of 'independence'.

Daylight robbery's new name

A GREAT deal of noise has been made about the wonders of the 'flexibility' clauses in the Tory government's Phase Three swindle. This offers a mouth-watering 3½ per cent above the 7 per cent Phase Three breadline so long as you fulfil certain conditions.

● You must increase productivity without payment for three months to give the Pay Board time to check that you're really flexible and to increase the ratio of foremen.

● You must accept that if your scheme doesn't measure up to the rules you don't get a penny.

● Most important of all, you must increase your productivity by at least 7 per cent in return for a 3½ per cent rise in your pay.

After all, you have to increase your production by enough to pay for the introduction of the scheme, and to make it worthwhile to the management to introduce it, before you get around to paying for your pay increase.

Among militant miners who are supposed to be filled with wonder at the delights of 'flexibility' the scheme is known as 'Daylight Robbery'. You get half what you work for—an operation known in the sanctuary of the Pay Board as 'screwing the workers.'

THE UNIONS

Ballot-rigging gives right wing a field day

A BALLOT-RIGGING case and three election results have given the right wing a field day in the giant engineering union.

John Boyd has been re-elected executive council member for Division 1, which includes Scotland and part of Northern England, by 20,554 votes. Callum Mackay, Paisley district secretary, received 11,066. Because Boyd will be over 60 when his term runs out, he will not have to face another election before he retires in nine years time.

John Carty, AUEW convenor at Chrysler Linwood, and Tommy Dunn from East Kilbride also lost fairly decisively. They were the 'broad left' candidates standing against the assistant divisional organiser and the Mid-Lanark district secretary respectively.

Moral Re-armer and Salvation Army member John Boyd was exultant. 'The three results completely explode the Communist circus who for months have been parading their three political clowns, Mackay, Carty and Dunn, throughout Scotland', he told the extreme right-wing newspaper, the Glasgow Herald.

While it is unusual for sitting full-time officials to be unseated, these results are clearly a set-back for the left. After three years of rising militancy on the shop floor, the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders struggle and ever-growing support for anti-government political strike action, the right wing should have been given a hiding.

The postal voting was much higher than it had been before under the old branch ballot system. Only about 10,500 voted altogether in the election to the executive in 1968, and only some 7000 in the 1971 election for assistant district organiser. This year the totals voting were more than 31,500 and nearly 13,000 respectively.

Reverse

But the right gained rather than the left. In the executive election Boyd's majority jumped from approximately 3500 to 9500 and that of Campbell, the right-wing assistant district organiser went up by a third.

Even worse for the left was the unseating of the Scottish delegate to the union's 11-man final appeal court, the only constitutional body in the union which can overrule or reverse executive decisions. Jimmy Callan, a Communist Party member, has been Scotland's delegate on to the court since 1961. In October this year he was declared re-elected for another term by 2472 votes to his right-wing opponent's 2336.

This result was itself poor for the left, considering this election is one of the few remaining important ones still conducted by ballot vote at branches. It suggests that not only is the postal vote system working against the left in Scotland at the moment, but that there are underlying weaknesses in the campaign for left policies in the union. Recent executive decisions and statements by Hugh Scanlon and Bob Wright have not made this job any easier.

Inquiry

But the final outcome was worse. An executive inquiry into ballot-rigging allegations made by the defeated candidate for the position on the Final Appeal Court, showed that at the Number 3 Branch at East Kilbride, scores of votes had been cast on behalf of members who did not attend the union meetings.

More than 200 names had been signed on the branch teller's sheet. But when the inquiry team contacted 11 of those supposed to have voted it turned out that none had been at the branch on either night when the voting was supposed to have taken place.

Executive council members Boyd, Edmondson, Hearsey and John then voted to deduct the branch's votes from the totals for the two candidates and declared John Byrne a

BY STEVE JEFFERYS

steward at Rolls-Royce, East Kilbride, the winner. Executive members Wright and Dixon opposed this move and Reg Brich abstained.

John Boyd then moved that steps should be taken towards disciplinary action against the branch officials involved. But Hearsey voted with Wright, Birch and Dixon to defeat this proposal.

Union ballot-rigging is a politically reactionary activity, and it is vital that socialists in the trade union movement learn this lesson.

Everything is wrong about ballot-rigging: One basic objection is that it stands directly contrary to the idea that 'the emancipation of the working class is the job of the workers themselves', as Karl Marx put it. Ballot-rigging may change the name of the person who gets the job—if



Right-winger John Boyd—his move for disciplinary action was defeated

it's not found out, that is. But it doesn't change minds.

To hold a job on a crooked vote is to hold it without a mandate, without a real base. It's got nothing to do with building an active, militant political rank and file movement that will fight capitalist corruption.

Ballot-rigging also brings working-class organisations into disrepute. As Alex Ferry, AUEW Glasgow district secretary, told Socialist Worker: 'Circumstances like this leave the whole union open to attack.'

Socialists want to extend working-class democracy, not manipulate it. Any truck with shady behaviour plays into the hands of those who oppose workers' democracy.

The Glasgow Herald's industrial editor, Ian Imrie, seized upon this case to whip up a campaign for action against the branch officials concerned. Over three successive days he used front or back page headlines to make his point. 'Communist removed after ballot-rigging' became 'Anger over rigged vote decision', and

then 'Call for action against men who rigged ballot.'

A close examination of the articles shows that Imrie's sources were the two most vehement local right-wingers John Boyd and John Byrne. But then Mr Imrie is renowned for good sources.

For years he was the Glasgow Herald's independent Scottish aviation correspondent. During this time he doubled as public relations officer for Caledonian Airways and its successor British Caledonia. When this work became too strenuous for him, Mrs Imrie temporarily took over his PR job. But now that he is the Glasgow Herald's industrial editor, Imrie has made his wife redundant and become a mere 'special consultant' to British Caledonian.

Participate

Ballot-rigging also weakens the argument for a return to branch balloting for all elections. Socialists are in favour of decisions being taken by those who *participate* in the affairs of the union and who can hear the full arguments. But participatory democracy doesn't carry much weight if any of those who participate also rig the ballot.

The right wing have of course rigged ballots in the AUEW many times more than the left. But since they controlled the AUEW machine for years this has rarely come out. In the days when Carron was president of the AUEW and Hallett was general secretary they were even more open in their manoeuvres to stop left-wingers getting elected.

In 1961 when Hugh Scanlon, then Manchester divisional organiser, defeated the sitting executive member, Cockin, a strong Carron supporter, the executive declared the first election and then the ballot void. When the second ballot showed that Scanlon had still come out on top, the executive again cancelled it and left Cockin as executive member in 'a temporary capacity'. Scanlon had to win three ballots before Carron finally accepted the inevitable in 1963.

The right wing's long history of involvement in manipulation does not mean that the left is in any way justified in using such methods. Either we win in the open or the victory is not worth winning and is also highly dangerous to the cause of militant policies.

In the West of Scotland socialists should back the demand for a new election to the Final Appeal Court rather than a simple reversing of the earlier result which the right wing pushed through. But above all a real fighting campaign must be launched among AUEW members in the factories to explain why militant socialist policies are the only ones that can take workers forward.

● Socialist Worker would like to point out that Jimmy Callan has stated unequivocally that he was in no way involved in any ballot-rigging and that no-one is more angry than he that it took place. He therefore believes that there should be a new election.

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.

FOR THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, WRITE TO THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, 8 COTTONS GARDENS, LONDON E2 8DN.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS

WHAT'S ON

NALGO members move over claim

by Geoff Wolfe

THE NALGO fraction of IS is calling on all its members to involve themselves in the build up to industrial action over the £400 London Weighting claim. NALGO members in local government will receive ballot papers this week giving them the choice of a one-day strike, a total overtime ban, or non-co-operation with agency staff. The closing date for return is 21 December.

The union's national emergency committee is to decide early in January whether to recommend industrial action. In the meantime, mobilisation among the rank and file of the union is crucial. In

several branches, steps are already being taken by IS members and supporters of the NALGO Action Group, calling departmental meetings to discuss the proposed action, setting up branch campaign committees, committing branches to call an immediate ban on extra work caused by staff shortages—which does not need a ballot—and beginning an immediate overtime ban, and calling on other local union branches in the public sector

for joint action. Links with the council manual workers, hospital workers, ambulancemen, teachers and others are essential.

A NALGO Action Group leaflet is being distributed, but local bulletins are also being produced calling on members to support strike action. The general perspectives are full support for strike action: for a total strike in the New Year, the campaign to be extended to a nationwide fight against Phase Three, and rank and file committees in branches and the district to co-ordinate action. *IS members should report on local activity to NALGO fraction secretary, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.*

CALL FOR MORE I.S. STUDENT SOCIETIES

by Simon Turner
IS students organiser

THE Student Sub-committee of IS has produced the latest issue of its Bulletin for student members. This records the success of IS members in building International Socialist Student Societies in many colleges, and describes the effective intervention IS members were able to make at the recent conference of the National Union of Students.

The main point made in several articles in the bulletin is that the IS Society is the best way for IS students to ensure that socialist policies are regularly put across to large numbers of students.

In the past most IS students were active in Socialist Societies, which were not openly linked to IS. But over the past year and more the Socialist Societies have degenerated, usually not holding public meetings, failing to put socialist propaganda across to non-socialist students.

Where IS Societies have been built, by contrast, regular meetings have been possible, students have been able to participate directly in helping to build a revolutionary organisation in the working class through selling Socialist Worker, collecting money for strikes, and so on, and membership of IS itself has grown. For these reasons the IS National Committee has instructed members to build IS Societies wherever possible.

Copies of the Student Bulletin are available, free, to all student members of IS and can be obtained from branch secretaries or student convenors or direct from the Student Sub-committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

More than 150 attend IS weekend industrial schools

THREE industrial schools were held by IS over the weekend in London, Coventry and York. They were attended by more than 150 people, almost all industrial workers.

In LONDON last Saturday 60 workers heard Andreas Nagliati, IS industrial organiser, speak on factory branches. In the discussion which followed as the school broke into groups, many workers argued for talking more in the factories and in IS bulletins about subjects such as Chile and Greece which interested workers more than IS seemed yet to have recognised. Several others spoke out about the need to combat more effectively the widespread racism on the shop floor.

In YORK, at a two-day school over the weekend, Roger Protz, editor of Socialist Worker, led off a discussion on the paper and how to use it. In the afternoon, Tony Cliff spoke about the state of IS organisation and on Sunday John Charlton spoke on industrial perspectives and IS work in the trade unions.

MANCHESTER district IS held a successful training school in Coventry last weekend. The first session was addressed

MEMBERS of the International Socialists throughout the country are throwing themselves into the miners' struggle with the government's wages policy.

The Yorkshire Regional Committee of IS, meeting last Tuesday, drew up a plan of action for branches in and around the Yorkshire coalfield. Already members from Barnsley, Pontefract, Doncaster, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, York, Dewsbury, Rotherham and Wakefield branches are taking part in Support the Miners action.

The work carried out last week included:

SALES OF SOCIALIST WORKER: The front page story on the miners greatly assisted sales at 32 pits in the county. The paper was also selling

like hot cakes in the shopping areas of the mining towns.

At three pits outside Sheffield—Steeley, Silverwood and Dillington—150 papers were sold in less than two hours.

At the same time a combined effort is being made to win support for the miners in the UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES. In 12 colleges in Yorkshire meetings have already been arranged, in which miners in IS will speak about their case, and IS student members will speak about the work which students can do to support the miners.

The Yorkshire miners passed several votes of thanks to students' unions throughout the country for their assistance during the 1972 strike, and the enthusiastic solidarity of the students impressed many miners'

pickets.

IS members in the ENGINEERING UNIONS, especially the AUEW, are being instructed by the IS regional committee to win support in their factories and union branches for solidarity action with the miners.

In other parts of the country, IS members are following the lead from Yorkshire. IS Edinburgh organiser Alice Murray says that a special action group of IS members is concentrating all its attention on selling Socialist Worker and the IS pamphlet on The Miners Pay Claim in pits in the Lothians.

Solidarity

Last week more than 150 papers were sold at welfare clubs and Labour Clubs around Newcraig, Mayfield, Tranent and Arniston.

South Wales IS members had a field day during the big miners demonstration in Cardiff last Saturday. 160 copies of Socialist Worker were sold in less than an hour—many of them to the crowd which lined the streets and which, contrary to local press reports, enthusiastically cheered the miners as they marched by. One IS member who was selling at the time reports that papers were selling 'faster than we could give them out.'

Miners' meetings have been arranged for early January in Pontardulais, Maesteg, Gursainon and Tonyrefail and solidarity meetings in Swansea, Cardiff, Neath and Clydach.

In the next few weeks, as the campaign of Tories and press heightens against the miners, the pressure will build up for political work around the miners' dispute.

Every scrap of spare energy and resources in the IS branches has to be thrown into the miners' struggle. The burst of enthusiasm among IS members everywhere for the miners' cause has to be translated into solid political work, and every IS branch must be planning new areas of activity in the mining areas in the weeks before Christmas.

TGWU orders 200 copies of IS bulletin

NEWCASTLE:—The IS branch at Scottish and Newcastle breweries has issued a bulletin about the company's plans for job evaluation which was so well-received that the local Transport branch of the TGWU has ordered 200 copies. Part of the bulletin attacked the company's plans to hold 'seminars' on job evaluation to which workers were invited, all expenses paid. The bulletin attacked the workers who had agreed to go to the seminar. One such worker is so stung by the attack that he has written to the IS branch asking if he can come and explain to them why he is going on a bosses' binge. The branch has politely turned this down, and referred the letter to the local union branch, suggesting a debate on the question.

SHREWSBURY 24 RALLY IS VITAL

THE Socialist Worker Rally in aid of the families of the Shrewsbury 24 is an extremely important event for all London IS members. The occasion should be used not only to raise money for their families but also to prepare London trade unionists to take action in the event of any of these workers being jailed. All IS members should attend and bring their friends and contacts. Organise sales of tickets through your branches and factories NOW.

Shop stewards' committees and trade union branches in the area should be approached and asked to buy tickets, and transport should be laid on for the evening.

IN BRIEF

BRIGHTON:—70 people came to hear Paul Foot speak on Phase Three and How to Fight It at a public meeting organised by Brighton IS last Thursday. A carload of workers came from Crawley, including the joint secretary of the Crawley Shop Stewards' Committee, Dave Ward.

Three people joined the Brighton branch, one from Crawley branch and two new members in Newhaven promised a branch there within three months.

DARLSTON, STAFFS:—The IS factory branch at Rubery Owen, which has doubled in size since it was founded two months ago, held a public meeting last Sunday on Politics in Industry. Jim Nichol, from the IS Executive, spoke about the need for politics in the rank and file of the working-class movement.

He was followed by a shop steward in the factory who stressed the importance of a solidarity movement with the Shrewsbury 24.

ST HELENS:—About 30 people came to an IS public meeting which had been arranged for last Saturday morning to enable shift workers to attend. The meeting was made up of mainly printworkers and engineers, and there were also several members of the Rank and File Committee in the 1970 strike at Pilkington glassworks. Tony Cliff spoke about the Struggle for Workers' Power and was enthusiastically received. Four people joined IS.

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.

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 Wheatheaf pub, Wallgate, Wigan.

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).

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.

BARNET IS public meeting: Whose crisis? Workers v the government. Speaker Roger Protz (editor, Socialist Worker). Wednesday 12 December, 8pm, Bull and Butcher (upstairs room), High Road, Whetstone (near Totteridge and Whetstone tube station).

MERSEYSIDE DISTRICT IS Social: Friday 14 December, 8pm-1am, British Rail Social Club, Ullet Road (near Dingle). Dancing, chicken buffet, bar extension to 12.30am. Tickets 75p from IS members or phone 051-427 1599.

CAMDEN IS public meeting: The struggle for workers' power. Speaker Laurie Flynn. Tuesday 11 December, 8pm, The Enterprise pub (opposite Chalk Farm tube).

NORWICH IS public meeting: Engineers and Miners v Tories. Speaker Jim Nichol. Thursday 13 December, 8pm, Keir Hardie Hall, St Gregory's Alley.

CENTRAL LONDON PRINTWORKERS IS public meeting: Fight the Tory Pay Freeze. Speaker Paul Holborow (member of IS executive committee). Tuesday 11 December, 7.30pm, The Eagle pub, Farringdon Road, London EC1 (100 yards from Mount Pleasant Post Office, Farringdon tube). All printworkers welcome.

HACKNEY IS Social: Friday 14 December, 7.30pm onwards, Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove, London N5. Licensed bar, buffet, disco. Admission 35p.

NORTH HERTS IS public meeting: Support the miners. Speaker Andreas Nagliati (IS industrial organiser). Thursday 13 December, 8pm, Bedwell Centre, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage.

NEWHAM IS public meeting: The struggle for Workers Power. Speaker Tony Cliff. Thursday 13 December, 8pm, The Castle, Barking Road. All trade unionists welcome.

WOLVERHAMPTON IS public meeting: Defend the right to picket—support the Shrewsbury 24. Speaker Laurie Flynn (Socialist Worker industrial reporter) and John Clifford (Wolverhampton UCATT branch secretary). Wednesday 12 December, 8pm, AUEW offices, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton.

WANDSWORTH IS public meeting: The Crisis, Phase Three and the Way Forward. Speakers: John Palmer, Duncan Hallas. Wednesday 12 December, 8pm, Battersea Library, Lavender Hill, London SW1. All welcome.

NOTICES

LATEST ISSUE of Building Worker, paper of IS building workers, now out. Articles on the North Wales 24, the blacklist, and reports from the sites. 3p plus 3p postage (12 or more copies post free) from Building Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

POSTERS AVAILABLE for IS Troops Out meetings. £1.50 for 50 from Irish Sub-committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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.



Pickets trial told of lumpers' attack

SHREWSBURY:—Des Warren, last of the six defendants to give evidence in the Shrewsbury conspiracy trial told the court last Friday of the several incidents of violence against picket. Two full-time union officials had been attacked with shovels, he said.

He explained that mass pickets were necessary to counter the intimidation of the employers. Men would not join a strike if they were faced with one-man pickets.

When asked about a man at the Penrhyn Bay site who had had his leg broken, Des Warren said that after a meeting on the site this man had told him: 'We're glad the pickets have come—we'll get better conditions now.' Later he had gone picketing several times.

The man had been met late one night in the streets of Colwyn Bay by some hard-core lump workers who beat him up for supporting the strike and deliberately broke his leg. No charges had been brought.

At this point the judge again interrupted and asked for the man's name and the date of the incident. Warren could not give these details—he is a trade unionist not a detective. The judge then asked him if he could remember what year this took place.

Warren also described how at Llandudno the employers had organised an anti-picket squad meeting of about 350 lumpers. 400 strikers picketed the meeting and he had asked for permission to speak. This was refused by the employers. He told some of the lump men about this and they insisted he should have the right to address the

meeting.

They escorted him into the football ground where the meeting was being held and seized the microphone so that he could speak. His speech against the lump had persuaded them to join the strike, said Warren, because no reasonable man could put up one single argument for the lump.

Defending lawyer John Platts-Mills attempted to introduce as evidence a letter signed by UCATT general secretary George Smith encouraging all pickets not to respond to provocation. The judge refused to allow this unless George Smith came to court to vouch for it. He suggested that Warren might have forged it.

● Trade Unionism on Trial—centre pages.

18,000 dockers on unofficial strike

EIGHTEEN THOUSAND dockers supported Monday's strike called by the National Port Shop Stewards Committee in support of a Phal Three busting minimum 20 per cent wage increase in all ports.

Liverpool, Preston, Hull and the Royal Group in London came out solid and were joined by Glasgow and Southampton which only recently came back into the unofficial national committee.

Even more impressive was that dockers at Grimsby and Immingham gave full support to the strike. The 1100 dockers in these two ports had not previously been involved in the national stewards committee.

Dockers from the Royal Group put up a strong picket in the West India and Tilbury docks. At Tilbury 180 men struck despite the recommendation of their stewards that they should stay at work.

Stewards from Southampton, Liverpool and London also went to Transport House to lobby Transport Union officials. At first national docks secretary-elect Tom Cronin told the dockers he was completely uninterested and that his boss, Jack Jones was 'too busy' to see any delegation.

Jones was eventually prevailed upon to meet a delegation when the dockers insisted they would not leave without seeing him. He gave his word that if any port was 'in difficulties', a strike would be made official.

Power engineers cut the volts

ELECTRICITY supplies are down by more than 4000 megawatts, about 5 per cent because 16,000 electrical power engineers are banning out-of-hours working.

Last Monday lunch-time voltage reductions of six per cent—the maximum permissible before power cuts—were ordered throughout the country. Tuesday's mild weather eased the crisis marginally, but power cuts are still likely at any time.

The government and the Pay Board are still adamant that any decent payment for out-of-hours work by engineers—agreed with the employers a year ago—would be 'intolerable'. The men's union, the Electrical Power Engineers' Association is sticking to the ban on out-of-hours working, hoping that this will force the Pay Board to include their case in its report on 'Relativities', expected in January.

Scanlon says no to joint action with the miners

LUTON:—Engineering Union president Hugh Scanlon rejected any question of an approach by his union executive to the miners' leaders for joint industrial action for the two unions' wage claims on Sunday.

At a meeting of union members he frankly admitted that the strategy of local campaigns for last year's pay claim had been a failure, and asked the meeting what he, as the union's leader, should do in the New Year towards winning this one. Several speakers from the floor at once demanded national industrial action.

Scanlon said the union had gone to the TUC to plead for a common fight against the government's anti-inflation laws, but the General Council was against it.

An IS member present said the engineers should do the next best thing—start discussions with the miners' executive with a view to making common cause over

their wages battle. This won a ripple of applause from the 150-200 members present.

But Scanlon wasn't having any. He criticised the NUM executive and its overtime ban, and repeated the need to go through the TUC, the 'proper body' for such action.

This is the policy of wait-and-see and do nothing. While admitting that the General Council cannot be won over, he denounces the miners' overtime ban as well as the strategy of an all-out strike.

'I don't want to be a general without an army,' he says, yet who could doubt that a policy of joint action with the miners would catch the imagination of workers in both industries? Scanlon's fear is not that he has no army but of what that army could do if it really started to unleash its strength.

LIGHTNING STRIKES HIT NEWS BOSSES

THE SERIES of lightning strikes organised by the National Union of Journalists against provincial newspapers has drawn blood.

Last week the Newspaper Society, the bosses' organisation, approached the NUJ and agreed to withdraw the hated Clause II from any new agreement. The clause bans all 'house agreements'—local agreements about wages and conditions negotiated over and above national agreements.

The bosses have insisted on a 'disputes procedure' in provincial newspapers to protect them from what they call 'lightning action'. But this is only a cover for a substantial concession. Talks on the crucial issue of juniors' pay start this week.

While the union progresses slowly with national negotiations, it is dragging its feet dangerously in local disputes, which could have serious consequences. There are fears for NUJ members at Middlesbrough, who are locked out by their management under threat of a £15-a-week pay cut, and are still receiving no strike pay from the union.

REFUSE

The union's 'work-to-rule' code, which has been implemented throughout the country in order to 'soften up' the Newspaper Society, was greeted with a refusal to pay any wages by the giant Home Counties newspaper group in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Journalists on three newspapers—the Welwyn Times, the Herts Advertiser and the Bucks Advertiser—continued to black non-union copy, and the bosses continued to refuse all wage payments. The NUJ waited six days before calling members out on strike. In the meantime, the journalists worked for no pay.

'By the time they finally did call us out last Thursday', said Glenwyn Benson, Welwyn Times chapel officer 'we were beginning to split. We'd been left out on a limb for so long that the enthusiasm was break-

ing up.

So when managing director William Gibbs offered to take the matter to arbitration, the chapel, on union advice, agreed to go back to work, and not to continue blacking non-union copy.

In the one day the journalists were on strike, the National Graphical Association printer workers' chapel at Home Counties print headquarters in Luton met and voted to strike in support of the journalists. At once they were contacted by NGA head office, who instructed them not to strike.

Glenwyn Williams said: 'The real lesson of this dispute is that we must pressurise our own union leadership into more militant action, and also make sure the printers pressurise their leadership. Their trouble is the same as ours. They've got a right-wing leadership, and so have we.'



Workers from Beans Industries, Tipton, Staffordshire, continuing their 24-hour picket at the Coseley Works. The dispute, over wage structure and the suspension of piece-work is now entering its sixth week.

PIRATE OF PENZANCE SUNK IN DRY DOCK

CORNWALL:—By prompt militant action, the West of Cornwall District Committee of the AUEW has won a significant victory at Holmans Dry Dock, Penzance.

Its boss, Edgar Holman, had sacked 22 workers after an overtime ban had been imposed after pay talks broke down. In an arrogant statement, Holman threatened to sack 20 workers every week until the ban was lifted.

At once the district committee called for a ban on overtime throughout the area, which includes many engineering factories, levied every member 50p to help the 22, and threatened all-out strike action unless the men were reinstated.

There was immediate pressure on Holman from other employers in the area. After less than a week Holman resigned and left his business in charge of his two sons. The redundancy notices on the 22 have been withdrawn and all the men are now back at work negotiating a new pay

agreement.

The action of the district committee is an object lesson in how to deal with a rogue employer. Similar action at Fine Tubes, Plymouth, last year, or at Footprints, Sheffield, this year would have hit hard at these two employers. Less drastic action in both cases proved disastrous for trade union organisation.

100 oppose fascists

CANTERBURY:—About 100 people formed a human wall to prevent a National Front meeting last Friday, but police charged and broke the picket to allow the fascists to reach the meeting hall. The anti-fascist picket included many trade unionists and members of the International Socialists, the Communist Party and the International Marxist Group.

BAC suspends 300 staff

BRISTOL:—More than 300 staff at the British Aircraft Corporation have been suspended after a six-week overtime ban and work-to-rule over a proposed new pension scheme.

The scheme is far worse than the present one. BAC is even demanding the right to pick the staff representatives who would help run it. But, as Ron Andrews, secretary of the Joint Officers Committee, told Socialist Worker: 'Really it's a battle about the right to negotiate.' BAC has refused to have national negotiations over

the scheme.

The unions countered the suspensions by putting the 318—members of TASS, ASTMS, APEX, EEPTU, AUEW and TGWU—on picket duty inside the factory, causing tremendous disruption. Though the pensions scheme has been accepted by the manual unions—the shop floor doesn't have one at the moment, so for them it is an advance—there is much sympathy for the staff.

The shop floor have a lay-off agreement which guarantees no loss of earnings, so some workers have taken home more pay

because of the picketing. Said Ron Andrews: 'The bonus average in the machine shop went up 12 per cent after one picket, so we've told them we won't picket unless they put something in our strike fund.'

The dispute has strengthened national links, with delegations visiting all the main BAC factories and large collections being made for the 318.

The scheme is due to begin in January so the battle will soon come to a head. Victory would break the ice that formed at BAC after 600 redundancies two years ago.



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MINES: STRIKE CALL

GROWS

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THROUGHOUT Britain's coalfields miners are growing more determined to break through the government's Phase Three restrictions to win their claim. From every region reports are coming in that the Tory campaign to blame the miners for the 'energy crisis' is backfiring.

From Staffordshire, miners say that opinion for strike action as recently as a week ago would have been evenly divided. Today they detect an overwhelming majority for strike action at the beginning of January.

From Scotland, NUM executive member Eric Clarke told Socialist Worker: 'The state of emergency is a smear tactic. We're fighting the government on this issue and they've got to be beaten.'

'The solidarity of the miners is in no doubt whatsoever. The people in the coalfields see that if we ballot the membership now we would be abdicating leadership. The people who are for a ballot on the executive are from the General and Municipal, the power group and the clerical workers. The only miner voting for the ballot represents less than 2000 miners.'

Last Saturday more than 5000 South Wales miners demonstrated and marched in Cardiff. Not only miners were on the march. AUEW, Communist Party and International Socialist banners were much in evidence. Speakers at the rally included Eric Doody (ASLEF executive) and AUEW assistant secretary Ernie Roberts, who said: 'Not just the miners but the whole working class are a "special case".'

A resolution was passed unanimously demanding that the NUM executive stand fast on the claim. Emlyn Williams, president-elect of the South Wales NUM, said: 'Let there be no divisive tactics from our national negotiators. The basic wage first, everything else is secondary.'

The audience raised the roof when Emlyn Williams went on to say: 'As a member of the Labour Party I say to the national president [Joe Gormley]: "We no longer have loyalty to any government, Tory or Labour. The day of cheap coal for industry has gone for ever."

WEAPON

South Wales NUM secretary Dai Davis, and a member of the Communist Party, showed the limitations of his militancy when he said of the overtime ban: 'We are now forging a new weapon that will bring victory.'

In the South Wales coalfield the rank and file are already organising for the possibility of a strike. The Cwm, Coedely and Wen Traw pits have formed a joint strike committee. At their last meeting the coke workers lodges were invited to join

The Coal Board has not been inactive. At the Woolstanton pit near Stoke, it attempted to get the power men in to work an hour early to offset the effects of the overtime ban. An area mass meeting of the miners was called by Roy Ottey, national secretary of the power group, and area NUM officials.

They supported the NCB, calling for the power men to work to ensure there was no closure. The miners rejected the officials' advice by an overwhelming majority.

Ottey has declared openly that miners should accept the present offer and not take on the government. He did the same prior to the great 1972 strike, recommending that the miners should accept £2.

Jack Lally and Arthur Pratt, respectively president and secretary of the Midlands area NUM, have also been at

NEWS is now beginning to filter out about what really happened when the miners' executive met Heath at Downing Street.

'I asked Heath straight away if there would be any relaxing of government policy to allow negotiations to take place between the NUM and the Coal Board. He replied "No"', Eric Clarke, one of two executive members from Scotland told Socialist Worker. 'He gave us a lecture, background information and a meal. And I didn't like his Avocado mousse,' he added.

Joe Whelan, a Nottingham miner's executive member, had a rather unorthodox greeting for Mr Heath when he first saw him at Number 10. 'Hello Sailor,' he said much to the Prime Minister's displeasure.

Whelan also read out some of the pay slips for working miners which showed underground men taking home £24 a week. He said that basically Heath was just conning the miners. Heath interrupted at this point and said rather unconvincingly: 'I have never conned anyone.'

Commenting to the press this week about what had earlier been described as 'fruitful talks', Mr Whelan said: 'We might as well have gone to Madame Tussauds. At least we could have melted the wax dummy.'

the same game. They issued letters to branch secretaries wrongly implying they had national authority for altering the shifts of shaftsmen inspectors.

Before issuing the letters, the matter should have been discussed at the Midlands' executive, but it was never put on the agenda. At the Midlands area council meeting on Monday delegates moved a censure motion against Lally. He was in the chair and ruled it out of order.

At Kellingley colliery in Yorkshire this week, miners arriving on shift found a note from management fixed to their lamps. The note accused the men of 'going slow' and threatened them with a wage cut unless productivity increased. The letters were torn up in contempt by the miners.

This is the picture: the NCB is growing desperate at the massive cuts in productivity (down by a third). The miners are more and more determined and ready for strike action in the New Year.

Other workers are increasingly recognising that the miners' fight is their fight and should not be fought by the miners alone.

There is growing suspicion of the right-wing leadership in the NUM. The key campaign now is to deepen and strengthen the overtime ban, to develop the preparations for a strike in January and to draw in other groups of workers into joint struggle.

As the spirit of the miners rises the right wing leadership will be less and less able to sell them out.



DELEGATES to a meeting of the Sheffield district of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions on Sunday were lobbied by miners calling for the engineering and miners unions to fight a united battle over their pay claim.

Mick Osborne, a miner from Maltby pit, was allowed to address the meeting and he called for unity at all levels to win the claims. The meeting called for a national engineering overtime ban from 1 January, maximum support for a national convenor's meeting in Manchester on 16 December and factory meetings to publicise the claim.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report), shows International Socialists leafletting delegates with a call for a united campaign.

Train drivers join anti-freeze battle

BRITAIN'S 27,000 train drivers will join the pay battle against the Tory government on Wednesday.

The footplatemen's union executive (ASLEF) unanimously decided on Monday to give seven days' notice of a ban on overtime, rest day and Sunday working and to impose a general policy of non-co-operation.

This move followed intensive pressure for action from rank and file drivers, particularly on Southern Region. And on Friday British Rail added the final fuel to the flames when they refused point blank to improve the pay restructuring package.

Discussions about restructuring began in the wake of last year's pay dispute on the railways when the government-ordered ballot of railmen backfired and a large wage increase was won. The discussions are supposedly aimed at consolidating bonus and mileage payments into the basic, to introduce payment for the extra responsibility of driving high-speed trains and to give some railmen staff status.

The train drivers are particularly angry at the long delay in pushing the scheme through and the pitiful amount of new money British Rail is now offering. BR has given assurance after assurance that the scheme would in no way affect the annual wage review. But in recent weeks it has become clear that the Pay Board will not allow both through.

British Rail is hoping that the National Union of Railwaymen will sacrifice the annual review to get the restructuring. But ASLEF has made it clear that it will stand firm.

The railwaymen are in a powerful position when the energy crisis. Rank and file leaders in ASLEF have been pressing hard for full advantage to be taken of this.

Railway workers are still very much among the lower paid: about 55,000 of them get less than £29 a week before tax and deductions. All other workers depend

heavily on overtime earnings to get any thing near a living wage.

ASLEF is anxious to obtain a £40 basic for drivers, particularly in the Southern Region where short distance journeys mean that no significant mileage payments are made.

ASLEF members on London Transport are pressing hard to be included in the non-co-operation policy. They too have a claim in. They generally get what the mainline drivers win and they feel that they must support the struggle.

The battle on London Transport would also be an interesting one since the ASLEF members would be pushing the Labour-controlled Greater London Council to pay a Phase Three-busting increase and defy the government.

STRIKERS SUPPORT BUILDERS ON TRIAL

AS THE five Birmingham building workers facing conspiracy charges entered the court on Monday they were greeted with rousing cheers from fellow trade unionists who had stopped work to support them.

Pete Carter, leading militant on the building sites in Birmingham explained why the five building workers and a three-man ATV camera crew were being charged with conspiracy and unlawful assembly. 'The Tories tried to use the Industrial Relations Act against the five dockers and it failed. Now they are using criminal law to frighten and intimidate workers,' he said.

On Tuesday there were dramatic developments in the trial when the judge instructed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty on the conspiracy charges against the eight men. Later in the day the judge also acquitted the ATV camera-crew of unlawful assembly.

Fighting Fund off the mark

THIS MONTH'S Socialist Worker Fighting Fund starts off as £196.35. Among the many donations received was £25 from the Glasgow Area Committee of the Fire Brigade Union in recognition of the support from Socialist Worker during their dispute.

The employers' newspapers, like The Sun, Daily Mail and Daily Express wage campaigns against trade unionists every day. When firemen, ambulancemen and miners are injured at work they are heroes, when they are in dispute for a living wage they are mindless and greedy, holding the country to ransom. Socialist Worker always gives full support to workers' fighting for better wages. It is not easy—our resources are small and we need your help.

IS branches that sent money in were Harlesden £4, Warley £2.50, Pontefract £11.50, Guildford £13, North Herts £12.85, Brighton £25. I would like to thank the riggers and scaffolders of Nigg Bay Oil Rigs for their £2.50.

Donations please to Jim Nichol, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

TENANTS THROWN OUT BY POLICE

MERSEYSIDE: More than 50 Tower Hill tenants were dragged from a closed meeting of Kirkby Council Housing Committee last Monday, where they had broken in protesting over the threatened imprisonment of 14 rent strikers.

More than 200 demonstrated outside and the Housing Committee summoned the police. In great numbers they hurled the tenants out. Councillor Jimmy Hackett, who protested at this, was assaulted himself by the police and then thrown out.

The 14-month strike against the Housing Finance Act has run up arrears of about £250,000. The Labour-controlled council started court proceedings which led Liverpool County Court to issue warrants for the arrest of the 14, for refusing to allow the rent arrears to be taken from their wages.

Earlier Tenants Action Committee secretary Tony Boyle condemned the councillors for their actions. 36 children would lose their parents if the arrests took place, he said.

300 non-striking tenants would join the strike if there were any arrests. The men are to be sent to Walton Prison and the women to Risley Remand Centre—where more than 20 prisoners committed suicide in less than a year.

Mother-of-three Dot Scott, whose husband Bruce faces arrest, said: 'Bruce isn't a criminal. He's being jailed because he opposes the Tory government. If he's put in Walton it will be because we are fighting the Housing Finance Act. He'll be a political prisoner.'

Tony Boyle told Socialist Worker: 'Every day we are busy organising. We shall continue to do this. We shall not be tricked and deceived into a false sense of security.'

Liverpool Tenants Co-ordinating Committee has pledged support while many workers are threatening strikes if the tenants are arrested.

Greek Solidarity Committee OPPOSE REPRESSION IN GREECE Demonstrate

This Sunday, 9 December, 2pm, Charing Cross Embankment, London, for march to Greek Embassy (off Grosvenor Square) London IS branches to support with banners

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