

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

**4 The miners are not a "special case".
They are a TEST CASE for all workers.
Their fight is our fight. We must win. 7**



BATTLE STATIONS!

WE ARE ALL in this together. If the miners go on strike next week, they will be fighting for all of us.

Engineering workers, car workers, railmen, postmen, dustmen, office workers, hospital workers, printers, shipyard workers—every worker in the country will be involved in the battle.

All the powers of the government and the employers are being used to convince us that this is a private affair between the government and the miners. The miners, the Tories say, are a 'special case'.

The government and their class are marshalling all the forces at their command for a united class offensive against the miners. The army and the police have been circulated with special orders about picketing.

BRIEFING

Senior police officers have been briefing special 'picket' squads.

The instructions are clear: Pickets are an offence. Where the pickets are small, and where a small number of 'politically-motivated' sympathisers can be identified, the police have orders to make arrests.

Ten editors of top provincial daily and evening papers outside London were treated to lunch and a tough talk from Employment Secretary William Whitelaw on Monday. He urged them to help the government isolate the miners from other workers.

Press, police, army—the three mighty battering arms of the ruling class—have already been mobilised.

We must now get to our battle stations. If we leave the miners to fight on their own, the battering rams might prove too powerful.



Jubilant look on the face of Haydn Matthew, secretary of Maerdy Lodge, South Wales, announcing to a lobby of miners outside their union head office last week that the executive had voted for a ballot on strike action.

His tie carries a special symbol with the words 'Saltley 1972', marking the magnificent unity of miners and Birmingham engineers that shut down the giant coke depot during the last miners' strike and forced the cave-in by the Tory government.

Such unity, on a nationwide basis, can do more than just beat the Tories this time. It can force them right out of office.

Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

And if the government beats the miners, it beats all of us. As the press is now openly saying, the Tories will move to a total wage freeze, more stringent laws against pickets and unofficial strikes.

We have the power to beat the government, to win the miners' strike not just for the miners but for all of us—but only if we mobilise our whole class as the Tories have mobilised theirs.

All Heath's laws to ban social security payments, all his police, all his armies, all his red-baiting speeches on television can be snuffed out IF...

IF the miners' pickets are

reinforced with workers from other places of work—as at Saltley in 1972.

IF the ports—registered and un-registered—are picketed by mass turnouts of dockers and miners against the import of foreign coal.

IF every trade union branch, every shop stewards' committee hold daily collections for the miners.

IF lorry drivers are instructed by their unions not to deliver coal or oil to power stations, and if the order is backed by trade union officials on the picket line.

IF other unions with claims against Phase Three—like the engineers or the printworkers or the Ford workers—press their claim

to the limit with industrial action.

That's why Frank Chapple and Max Morris, leaders of the electricians' and teachers' unions, were so wrong to 'settle' inside Phase Three for fear of a wage freeze. They have damaged the miners and damaged their own members.

The miners are not a special case. They are a test case for the whole working class.

Their fight is our fight. Together we can kick out the Tory government that threatens to slash still further our living standards and to strip away our hard won rights.

It is a fight we must not lose.

What to do now

TRADE UNIONISTS should get ready for the miners' strike NOW by:

Moving motions of support for the miners in union branches, shop stewards committees and trades councils, calling for maximum solidarity action and financial support.

Such motions should also volunteer for joint picketing with NUM members if requested and, if necessary, sympathetic strike action. Mass pickets are vital to immobilise power stations and to stop the special squads making heavy arrests.

Trades councils should be called on to set up special committees to aid miners' flying pickets when they visit different parts of the country.

NUR, ASLEF and TGWU branches should urge that their executives give official instructions to black the movement of coal. Imports of foreign coal should be blacked, too.

All resolutions carried by union branches should be sent to the NUM.

Liverpool Trades Council
RECALL CONFERENCE ON THE SHREWSBURY TRIALS
Saturday 2 February, 2pm, St George's Hall, Lime Street, Liverpool
Delegates credentials 20p each from Simon Fraser, 33 Hatton Garden, Liverpool 3.
Meeting for IS delegates: 11.30am, The Mitre Pub, Dale Street, next to entrance to Mersey tunnel.
All IS delegates to attend.



On the brink of a national miners' strike a look at solidarity, 1925, and Tory hypocrisy over the 'low paid'

**United
action
to stop
the coal**

by Harry Wicks

JULY 1925. The miners' national strike notice was about to expire.

The miners' union had called for solidarity and a total blacking of coal movements. A joint meeting of representatives of the TGWU, the NUR, ASLEF and the railway clerks was held under the auspices of the TUC.

It agreed on the following instructions which were sent next day to all branches of the four unions:

Wagons containing coal must not be attached to any train after midnight on 31 July and after this time wagons of coal must not be supplied to any industrial or commercial concerns or be put on the tip roads at docks for the coaling of ships.

All coal en route at midnight on Friday to be worked forward to the next siding suitable for storing it. Any coal either in wagons or stock at a depot may be utilized at that depot for the purpose of coaling engines for passengers and goods trains but must not be moved from that depot to another.

No imports of coal are to be handled from 31 July. Coal export, tippers and trimmers will cease work at the second shift on 31 July.

As a direct result of this the Tory government of the day retreated and announced on 'Red Friday' a subsidy for the industry and a Royal Commission. The breathing space was used by the Tories to prepare for the General Strike of 1926.

There are two lessons for today. Solidarity can cripple the power of the employers and the government. We need similar official solidarity instructions this time.

Members of the Transport Union should be pressing for them now. Officially if possible, unofficially if need be, the movement of coal must be stopped dead.

The second lesson is vital, too. Never trust Tory promises. The Royal Commission of 1925 was used as a smokescreen to gain time and to pick the best moment from the capitalist point of view to smash the miners.

That is what happened in 1926. The talk about an inquiry into the industry today, if only the miners accept the Coal Board offer, has exactly the same purpose.

No miner should allow himself to be fooled.

TORY TINSEL IN PAY REPORT

by David Beecham

'special cases'. In fact the whole report is full of Tory assumptions about what we are paid.

Presumably a relativity is what you earn compared to someone else—let's say Ted Heath or Harry Hyams. But to the Pay Board relativities are confined to workers: 'On the assumption that the

amount available for all wage increases is limited, other groups of employees must bear the cost of any special treatment.'

So now we know. If the government is kind enough to recognise that post workers have suffered a wage cut because of Tory policies over the last three years, then it will be 'other groups of employees' who will have to foot the bill.

Following the suggestions of the employers' organisations almost to the letter, the Pay Board makes recommendations about how 'special cases' should be considered. This method amounts to an inquiry, followed by government 'arbitration'.

Not surprisingly, the CBI has enthusiastically welcomed the report. If Tom Jackson thinks his members are really going to benefit by this he must qualify as the biggest 'special case' of all.

STUNNING

What the report amounts to is a bit of tinsel designed to dress up Phase Three and the wage freeze the Tories are planning for 'Phase Four'. The report is full of empty phrases about how pay differentials exist in industry, and what a good thing job evaluation is for controlling pay.

The Pay Board spent nine months and several thousand pounds discovering this.

The report also contains the stunning information that workers doing the same job often earn different money, and that workers' share of what they produce remains the same. To remedy this the Pay Board suggests that the low-paid might get more if other workers took less.

Exactly. We must fight among ourselves for the crumbs, while the employers can have their cake and eat it.

IS students on alert

MORE THAN 100 delegates attended an International Socialists' students day school in London last week. The school was addressed by Tony Cliff, who spoke on the present crisis.

Simon Turner, IS student organiser, stressed the need to build IS societies and for students to be active in their colleges.

So far 40 IS societies exist but the number could be increased. The need for IS societies to be built into campaigning organisations on issues such as the miners' strike as well as student issues was emphasised.

Last weekend also saw a conference of the Socialist Alternative, the main left wing opposition group to the official leadership of the National Union of Students. The meeting accepted a platform proposed by IS members which outlined a socialist position on many issues confronting students and agreed that this provided the basis for membership to the Socialist Alternative.

The conference saw the need to mobilise for the national strike and demonstration on February 8 working for occupations of as many colleges as possible during the Week of Action commencing on March 4.

THE PAY BOARD'S report on 'Relativities' last week produced nothing for post and hospital workers and others who had been hoping for pity from the Tories.

Mr Derek Robinson, who also wrote the previous report on 'Anomalies', was careful not to commit his government masters to paying out anything to



IS members on Sunday's march. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

Marchers remember Derry dead

MORE THAN 1500 people marched in London last Sunday in two separate commemorations of the second anniversary of Bloody Sunday when 13 peaceful civil rights marchers were murdered by British troops in Derry.

Speaking at a Provisional Sinn Fein rally, Sean Caughey, editor of Republican News, called for a campaign to highlight the plight of the Irish people now on hunger strike in British jails. Marian and Dolours Price along with Hugh Feeney and Gerard Kelly were being subjected to the torture of forced feeding, he said. A campaign to arouse public opinion on their behalf was of the utmost urgency.

Paddy Prenderville, of the International Socialists compared the outcry from British liberals against the forced feeding of Judith Todd in Rhodesia to their silence today in the case of the Price sisters. Repression was not only evident in Ireland today but was coming nearer and nearer home, he said.

The jailing of the Shrewsbury building workers and the dockers before there was evidence of the state's determination to smash opposition to Tory plans. British socialists and Irish republicans must make common cause.

A march and rally was also organised by Clann na hEireann at which Des O'Hagen of the Six Counties Republican Clubs spoke.



Irish Civil Rights secretary, Margaret O'Brien, showing the barbaric instruments used to force feed prisoners at Hyde Park Corner on Sunday before a protest march to Brixton jail over the treatment of the Price sisters. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

FEEDING GOES ON

THE HOME OFFICE has given the screw another turn as far as the four hunger-striking Irish republican prisoners are concerned.

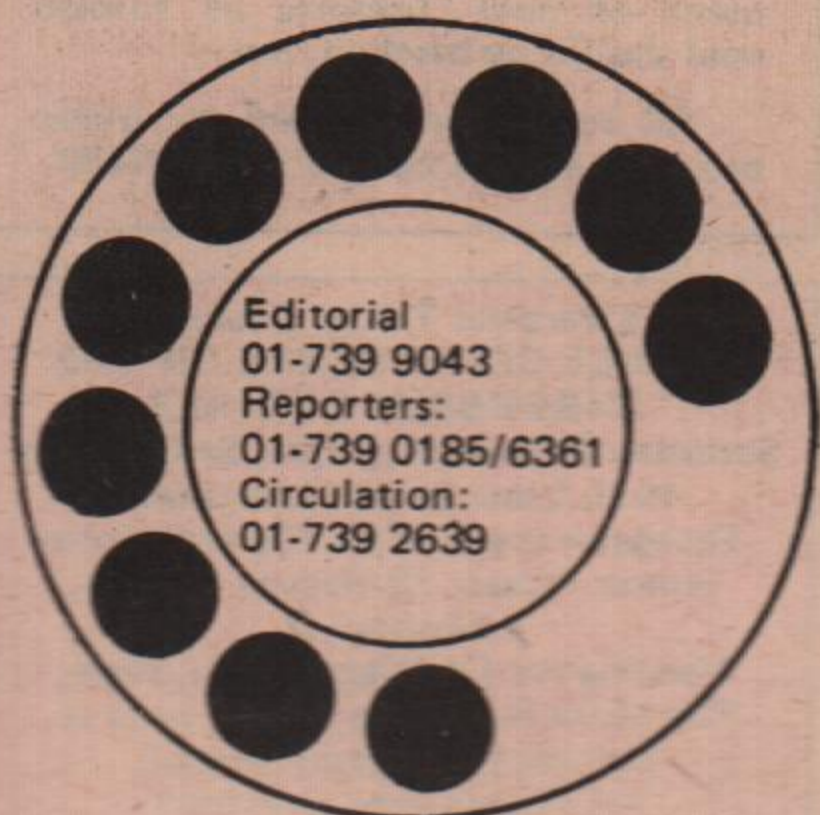
Following the publicity about forced feeding it has refused to allow the Price sisters to send out letters mentioning the subject. Already three letters have been returned to them for this reason.

Marian Price is reported to be seriously ill, suffering pains in her throat and bleeding gums. Recently, those force feeding Marian managed to insert the feeding tube into her

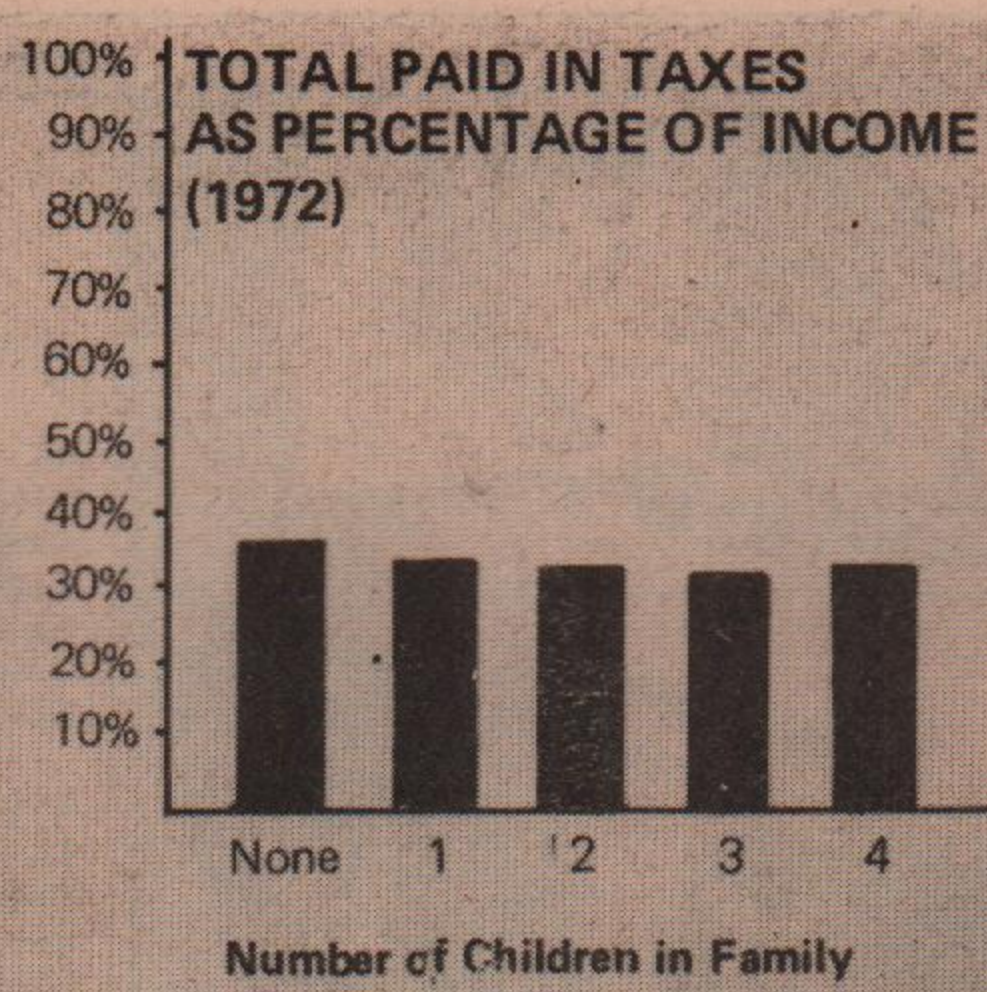
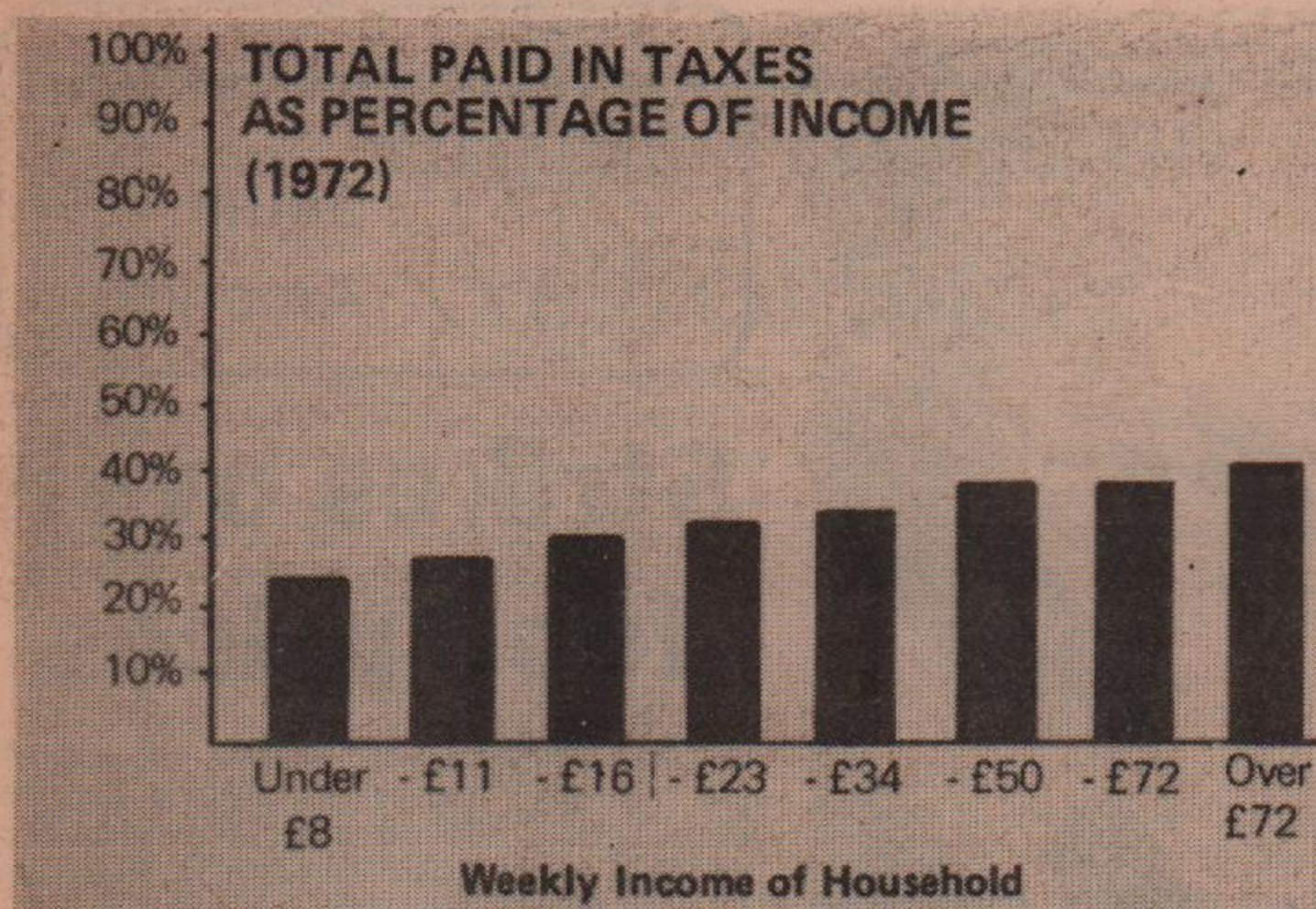
windpipe instead of her stomach, a procedure that could have filled her lungs with liquid food and possibly killed her.

The Action Committee, campaigning for the sisters' transfer to a Northern Ireland prison where relatives and friends can visit them, are holding a meeting at Brixton prison on Saturday 2 February from 1pm to 2pm.

On the same day a protest meeting will be held in Conway Hall from 7pm to 10pm. Speakers will include relatives of the prisoners, the NCCL, and the British Medical Association.



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TAX: TOUGH ON THE POOR

by Jim Kincaid

FIGURES just released by the government statistical service explode some of the widely held myths about the British tax system.

In theory, taxation is supposed to take a bigger proportion of higher incomes. In fact—as the table shows—the desperately poor pay almost as big a percentage of their income in tax as those managing comfortably on £72 a week and above.

This happens because a large part of government revenue comes from taxes which bear more heavily on lower than higher income groups.

Local rates for example took 6 per cent of the income of single pensioners living on less than £7 a week in 1972, but less than 2 per cent from those with £72 a week and over.

VAT, like the purchase tax it replaces, is supposed to be levied on luxuries. But the list of items now subject to a VAT of 10 per cent includes such items as soap, detergents, washing-up liquids, toilet paper, football tickets, toys, prams, paint, writing paper, cookers and birthday cards.

The old and the poor are also hard hit by intermediate taxes. These are taxes paid by companies and passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

Examples are the local rates on commercial and industrial property and the employers' contribution to national insurance. Pensioners lose 5.5 per cent of their income in intermediate taxes, but households with more than £72 a week only 5.2 per cent.

Among workers the national

insurance contribution is a massive source of unfairness. National insurance for a man takes 7 per cent of a wage of £22 a week, but only 3 per cent from someone earning £100

The last Budget, in March 1973, introduced a set of tax cuts which will even further improve the position of the rich. The tax rate on the first £2000 of income from investments was lowered to 30 per cent.

ILLUSION

This single cut reduces the tax bill of someone with investment income of £10,000 a year by more than £20 a week.

Similar enormous benefits have been handed out to those with high 'earned' incomes. To those earning £20,000 a year, tax cuts have meant an extra £48 a week in 1973 compared with 1971.

One further illusion about British taxation is dispelled by the official report already quoted. Supposedly the tax system is especially generous to people with children, to help with the extra expenses of maintaining them. A tax allowance can be claimed for each child.

In fact as the second table illustrates, the tax position of families with children is virtually the same as for people without dependent children.

Taverne aide jailed

AT TEESIDE Crown Court last week, David Hardwick, 28, was sent to jail for three years for fraud.

Hardwick has spent most of his adult life tricking people. In 1968—when only 23—he was sent to prison for three years for fraud.

Soon after coming out of prison he was taken on as political organiser in Lincoln for the Campaign for Social Democracy.

He was hired, apparently, on the personal recommendation of the campaign's leader and founder, Mr Dick Taverne. His pay was £2250 a year, plus a free car, plus £25 a week expenses.

Hardwick was able to present a number of references from newspaper editors, most of which appear to have been forged. Surprisingly, Mr Taverne, who gets on so well with newspaper editors, failed to check any of Hardwick's references before hiring him.

Hardwick lasted only a few weeks with the Taverne show before he was exposed and left. His defence counsel at Teesside, Mr Ian Lamb, told the court that Mr Taverne knew of all Hardwick's criminal convictions before hiring him.

Mr Taverne has strenuously denied this allegation.

Why workers need their 'general staff'

by Andreas Nagliati

IN MANY WAYS, the trade union leaders do not live in the 1970s. They are protected by the harsh realities of inflation and Tory viciousness by their high wages and middle-class living standards.

They still behave as if we were in the prosperous 1950s. The economy was booming and bosses and government, interested only in keeping production going and confident of the future of the British economy, were prepared to make all kinds of concessions to working people and their representatives.

But for the often spontaneous response of rank and file militants the government's offensive would hardly have suffered any set-backs.

The postmen's strike is a case in point. In 1971 the Tories were trying to operate a wages policy in the public sector. The idea was that each new settlement in the public sector would be settled for 1 per cent less than the previous one.

The postmen, with their low pay and poor working conditions, came up against this obstacle. They showed tremendous militancy, they received the support of workers up and down the country.

A few weeks later the postmen had gone down to defeat, victims of their poor organisation, small economic bargaining power, but most of all of the total indifference of the TUC. It was only the miners' strike that broke the government's norm and smashed, for a period, the attempt at wage restraint.

Inspire

The general crisis of the British economy has resulted in increased redundancies and closures. Again the official movement produced no policy for a fight. It was left to the workers of Upper Clyde to inspire the whole working class to fight back and to refuse to be thrown onto the scrap-heap of rising unemployment.

Even against the Industrial Relations Act, the official movement's opposition has been in words, not action. At best the trade union leaders have produced the principled pacifism of the Engineering Union.

It was the dockers who defied the

This is the second of three articles by the International Socialist Industrial Organiser. They are a contribution to the discussion preceding the conference called by several rank and file trade union papers in March to hammer out a policy to combat the Tory-employer offensive.

Act and made it virtually unworkable. All that Scanlon's opposition has been able to achieve is a series of enormous fines, legal fees and demoralisation of the members.

Yet, while praising the spontaneous response of rank and file militants, it is quite clear that more is needed. The rank and file struggle has been handicapped by two important problems.

First, it has been fragmented and temporary. A centralised, planned attack cannot be effectively repulsed by spontaneous actions, however courageous they might be.

The ruling class has a general staff. That general staff meets when the CBI meets, when the engineering employers meet, when cabinet ministers get together. A phone call to judges and top police officers is often enough to marshal all the forces needed on the employers' side.

The working class, on the other hand, has had to act through a number of guerrilla struggles, uncoordinated and unplanned. Its 'general staff' has deserted the field of battle.

But a general staff is needed and if the one existing is found badly wanting, a new one needs to be created.

The second problem is that the whole of the working class, including many of its militants, suffer from the same illusions as the trade union leaders. The reality of the crisis of British industry and of the economy as a whole has not yet really sunk in.

Launched

Often the militants, the rank and file leaders of the working class, have lacked the necessary political awareness and consciousness. UCS could have been the platform from which national movement against unemployment should have been launched.

That movement will be sorely needed as unemployment soars again in the next few months. Yet the chance to launch it in the most favourable conditions has been missed.

With the rising crisis of British capitalism, the ruling class no longer fights each claim as an isolated one. Their response is based on a consideration of their long-term strategy.

But on the working-class side, the trade union leaders are at great pains to explain that they have no strategy. Each claim is an isolated claim, each battle and each section stand or fall on their own.

The TUC leaders' conference last month could have settled the miners' claim more quickly by threatening the government with the withdrawal of their members' labour than by promising some compliance with Phase Three.

But the militants in industry fight each battle as a separate one without an overall strategy. They bring to the fight a much greater determination to win but often no greater insight than their leadership.

The conference will be held at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, Saturday 30 March, 11.30am. Full details from the conference organising committee secretary Roger Cox, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

SOCIALIST WORKER

WHAT WE THINK

WHO MAKES the more important contribution to the community, sewer-men or surgeons, miners or advertising copy writers, dockers or barristers?

Enoch Powell says that it is beyond the wit of man to decide such matters. The Pay Board says, in its report on 'relativities' that in the last resort the government should decide.

One thing that is not beyond the wit of any man or woman to understand is that all of them, Powell, the Pay Board, and the 'Labour' supporters of 'incomes policy' have one thing in common. They are talking **only** about wages and salaries.

They are talking about earned incomes, big or small. They all take it for granted that unearned income does not come into the matter. The fact that the really big inequalities arise from unearned income, from the private ownership of property, of the means of production, is systematically suppressed.

Consider, for example, the case of that enthusiastic advocate of incomes policy, the Minister of Energy, Lord Carrington. He is determined that the miners should not get a penny more than the NCB offer. But what is sauce for the working-class goose is not sauce for the Tory gander.

No question of Lord Carrington restricting his increase to 7 per cent or 13 per cent or whatever. He is currently engaged in arranging the sale of a tiny fraction of his inherited estate, 140 acres near High Wycombe, for £8½ million. Last November he raised £250,000 in a land deal involving a mere four acres. But the miners' claim of £35-£40-£45 for the various

The men who preach 'restraint'

grades cannot possibly be met. It would ruin the country!

Think about it. The total cost of conceding the full claim for 260,000 miners is £43 million. Just one Tory minister is going to get one fifth of that entire sum for his own personal use. And what is his contribution to the community?

We do not wish to be unfair to Lord Carrington. He is not exceptional in top Tory circles. Mr Harry Hyams has acquired from property speculation a fortune estimated by the press at £400,000,000. That gives him an income, before tax, of around £800,000 a week. His contribution to the community is to keep big office blocks empty.

Another Tory minister, Sir Keith Joseph, spoke last week of 'the advantages of inequality'. There is no doubt about these advantages for Sir Keith, son of Sir Samuel Joseph and husband of the daughter of US multi-millionaire Sigmar Guggenheimer. He is a former chairman of Bovis Ltd, director of Gilbert Ash Ltd and member of Lloyds of London. The advantages

for dustmen, nurses, agricultural workers and teachers are less obvious.

But what is the socialist answer? A socialist society is not organised on the basis of equal wages for all. It is organised on the basis of 'to each according to his needs'. According to a recent survey an equitable sharing of income would give the average family of man, wife and two children £4000 a year. That is on the assumption that sewer-men, surgeons, property speculators and Tory ministers all get the same.

Of course socialists recognise that there is a case for some wage differentials. To start with there is the case for zero wages for actively harmful occupations like stockbroking and speculation, occupations that would disappear under socialism. There is the more important case for a premium for particularly unpleasant and unhealthy occupations which cannot be immediately abolished.

There is no case at all for working people accepting so-called 'incomes policies' under capitalism. Their effect can be summed up in the old phrase 'unto them that hath shall be given'. Capitalist 'incomes policies' serve the interests of the rich and only the interests of the rich.

It is simply not true that, in capitalist Britain, the nurses will get more if the miners accept less. The opposite is true. Only if the strongly organised sections fight and win will the less well organised get anything at all.

Social justice is our aim but social justice cannot be got under capitalism. To reduce, to minimise, the monstrous injustices and inequalities of the system the 'incomes policy' fraud must be smashed.

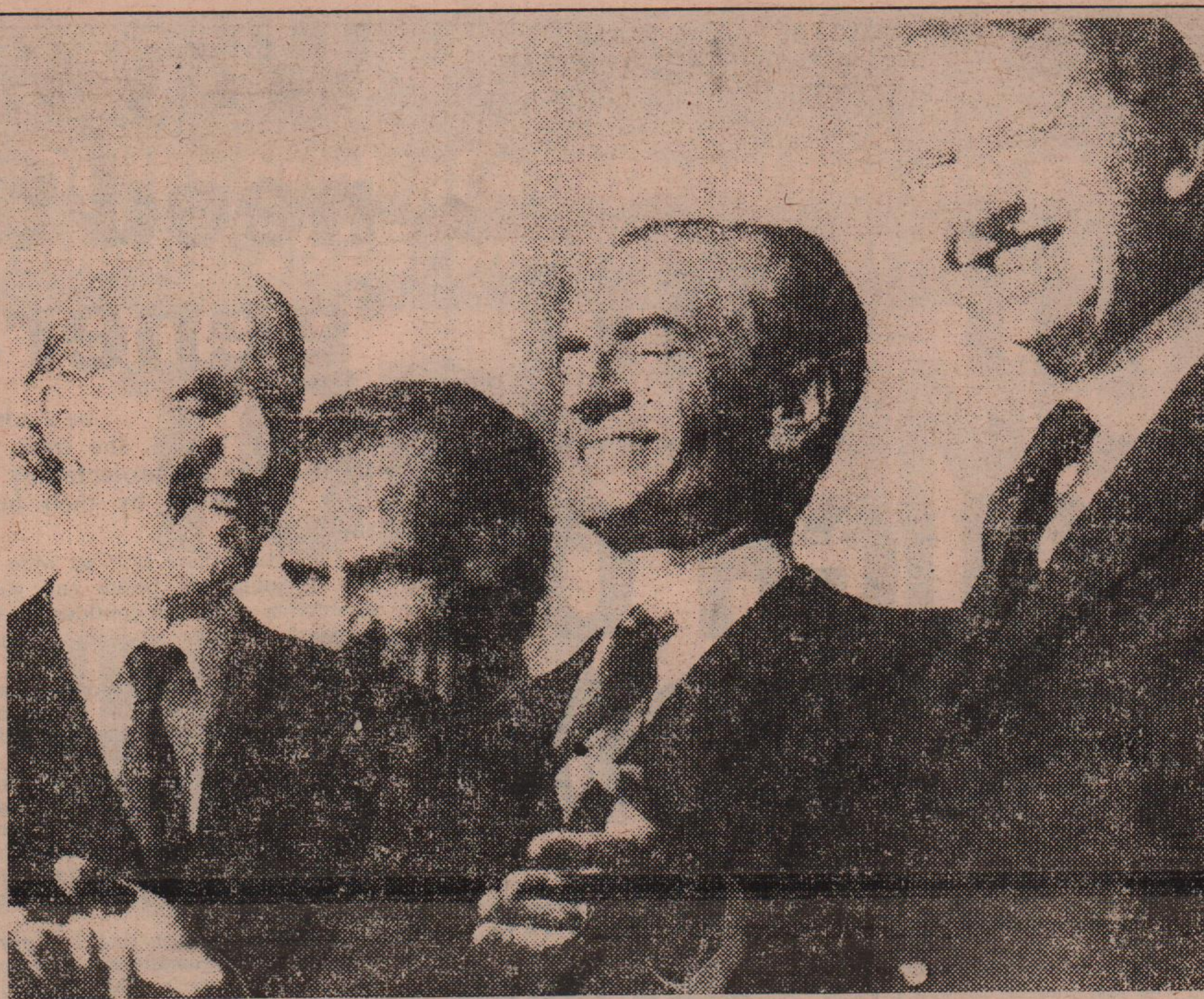
The Shah keeps good company

THE Shah of Iran, whose skis our Tory leaders have been licking in Switzerland, is one of the most repressive rulers in the world. His 'Shah and People Revolution' is enforced by a vicious police state. Last summer, for example, masses of people in Teheran were rounded up to 'celebrate' his very limited oil nationalisation measures: the celebration ended with the police turning on the crowd and shooting 30 people dead.

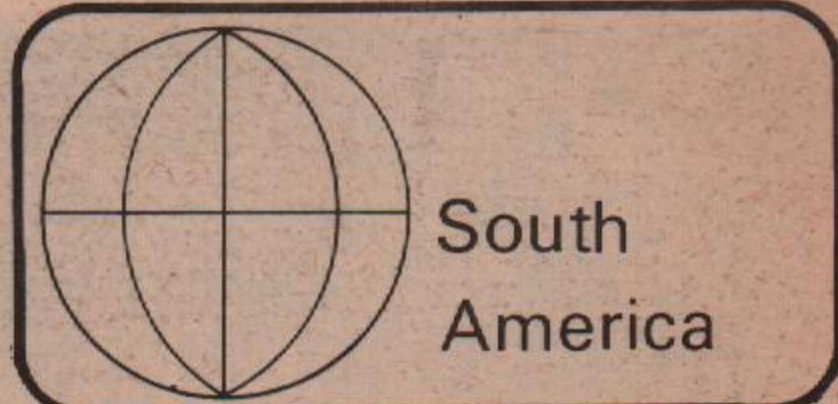
Now seven young Iranians, who had been active in the anti-American and anti-imperialist movement, have been condemned to death on trumped-up charges of plotting the Shah's death. Five more have been given heavy prison sentences.

In a recent interview with an Italian journalist, the Shah said: 'Where there's no monarchy, there's anarchy, or an oligarchy or a dictatorship. Besides, a monarchy is the only possible means to govern Iran... To get things done, one needs power, and to hold on to power one must not ask anyone's permission or advice.'

The Shah has built up his autocratic position in the past 21 years with the help of Britain and the USA. In 1951, when nationalist prime minister Mussadiq tried to nationalise oil, Labour Foreign Secretary Herbert Morrison sent a gunboat and paratroops to 'protect British oil interests'. In 1953 the American CIA engineered the coup which overthrew Mussadiq and brought the Shah back from exile.



Tory minister Barber and Walker with the Shah of Iran in Switzerland last week



Strikes over food prices

MASSIVE strikes have broken out against the military regime in Bolivia, which announced a 100 per cent increase in the price of some basic foodstuffs. Workers from more than 100 factories in the capital, La Paz, walked out as soon as the announcement was made, demanding more than the £2.90 a month they had been offered to 'compensate' for the price rises.

The next day 50,000 workers were on strike throughout the country, including the tin miners. Thousands of housewives demonstrated in La Paz, and in Cochabamba four demonstrators were wounded when police shot at gangs of protesting workers and peasants.

Peron drops the facade

ARGENTINA's president, ex-dictator Juan Peron, has now abandoned all the left-wing pretensions which led many socialists to support his election last year.

After a guerrilla attack on an army base by the People's Revolutionary Army (the ERP), Peron has asked Congress to approve new repressive laws. If Congress does not oblige, Peron has said he will crush the guerrillas 'outside the law, and we will do it violently'.

The attack on the base at Azul seems to have proved the army's incompetence more than anything else: the attackers killed the base commander and his wife and kidnapped a lieutenant-colonel. Events in countries such as Brazil and Uruguay show that left-wing guerrilla movements can be smashed, but only by a brutally effective army.

Peron's new hard line was the immediate excuse for the police to round up left-wingers in Buenos Aires and seize and burn all copies of a left-wing evening paper. More and more Peron's regime is beginning to resemble other repressive governments in South America.

THOUSANDS DEMAND 'PREMIER MUST GO'

by F Augustine

THE STAGE is now set for the final showdown between the people of the West Indian island of Grenada and Prime Minister Eric Gairy.

The latest general strike has lasted since New Year's Day and there have been daily demonstrations of up to 45,000 people demanding his resignation. The total population of Grenada is 110,000.

The open struggle against Gairy began after a congress called by the New Jewel Movement last November and attended by 10,000 people. Intimidation was used against those attending the congress: all routes leading to the race course where it was held were lined by policemen with rifles and guns, and every vehicle searched for weapons.

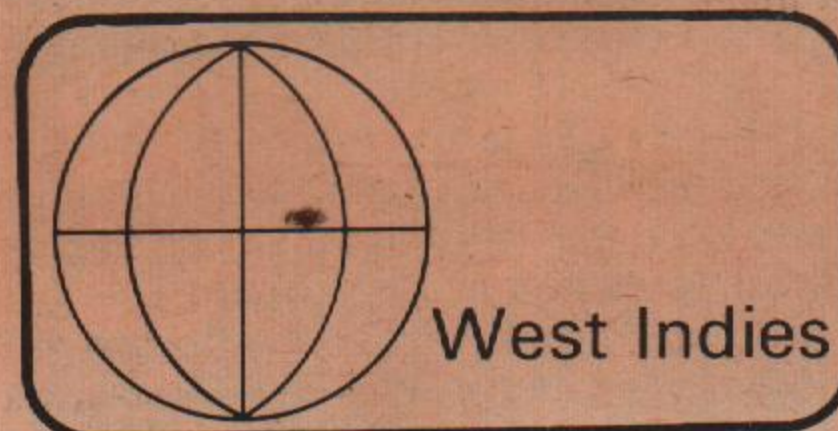
Early in November the New Jewel Movement, which is the main opposition group in Grenada, launched its manifesto. The Chamber of Commerce came out against the movement almost immediately, because the manifesto referred to taking over the banks and insurance companies and setting up agricultural co-operatives.

Meanwhile Gairy was increasing his secret police from 1000 to 1500 and issuing threats such as: 'There are many better ways to die than by police bullets.' His reply to the call to resign was a short, sharp 'No'.

INJURY

Violence erupted on 18 November when a group of New Jewel Movement members arrived to address a meeting of businessmen in Grenville, St Andrews, and found the building surrounded by secret police armed with sticks, axe handles, pistols and rifles, who first turned them away, then beat them up and dragged them off to the police station, where three suffered serious injury. They were refused all medical attention, and refused bail. Belmer, chief of the secret police, said that if they were allowed bail he would resign.

The Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union and the Commercial Workers' Union reacted by coming out on strike. Organisations of all



sorts—churches, the Law Society, the Grenada Medical Association, the civil servants' and teachers' unions and the Grenada Chamber of Commerce—met and formed the Committee of 22. They demanded the suspension of Belmer pending an investigation, the arrest of secret policemen responsible for the beatings, and the disarming and disbanding of the secret police.

It soon became clear that Gairy had no intention of meeting any of the demands, and the Technical and Allied Workers' Union came out on strike. The island was now completely shut down, there were no telephones, no electricity, no communication with the outside world. Shops and businesses which

had stayed open now closed and the secondary schools came out.

After two days Gairy relented and announced that he was accepting the demands of the Committee of 22. The strike was called off, much to the anger of the workers and the people, who had wanted the strike to go on until Gairy and his government resigned. They knew Gairy would not keep his promise.

STRIKE

The government announced an inquiry, under the former chief of police of Jamaica, Sir E Duffus. The people of Grenada had not asked for such an inquiry. It was done to help the British government get the Order for Grenada's independence through parliament. Now that the Order has been passed—the date for independence is set for 7 February—the inquiry is suspended.

Gairy did not disband the secret police, nor was anyone arrested in connection with the beatings, instead he has intensified repression.

Since 1972, hundreds of

Grenadians have been injured and more than 10 killed by Gairy's supporters. When the general strike was resumed on 1 January, he replied by increasing the numbers of the secret police again, by passing new laws against strikers, and by encouraging his secret police to loot the shut-down shops. He has deported nuns who had taught in the convent school for the past 14 years, dismissed the Governor, banned demonstrations, and had murdered the father of Morris Bishop, joint secretary of the New Jewel Movement and one of those beaten up at Grenville.

These are the desperate acts of a desperate man. But the people of Grenada have said 'Gairy must go' and will not be intimidated. Gairy came to power by violence in the 1950s, he has ruled by violence, and it appears that he will go by violence. But go he must.

For further details of the struggle in Grenada and solidarity activities in this country contact: F Augustine, Grenada: Cause for Concern, 142 Highbury Hill, London N5. (Phone: 01-226 6700).

Strike wave sweeps island

by Richard Kirkwood

A STRIKE WAVE is sweeping the French West Indian island of Martinique. Building workers have been on all-out strike for three weeks after a campaign of partial strikes since the autumn. They are demanding a 25 per cent rise to bring their wages up to 250 francs (£21) a week.

They have been going from site to site and factory to factory calling on all workers to join them in a general struggle for higher wages. Already they have been joined by workers in a paper and cardboard factory and by agricultural workers in the banana plantations. These too are in revolt against the poverty wages which dominate the French West Indies.

They have set up a joint strike committee which also includes workers from the newspaper France-Antilles, who have been on strike for almost three months, and from the four high-schools and two technical colleges, which are striking against a 20 per cent increase in residence fees.

The strikes have received general support from the workers of Martinique and a recent demonstration of support rallied more than 1000 people—which is considerable for an island of 300,000 people.

As usual the French and foreign press have completely ignored these struggles—information is reaching Socialist Worker only through Combat Ouvrier, the French West Indian revolutionary socialist paper.

Forced

The background to these strikes is chronic poverty and colonial oppression. Unemployment in the French West Indies is officially reckoned at more than 25 per cent but this doesn't count the thousands of young people who never enter register because they never start a job. The real figure is about 50 per cent. On top of this thousands of West Indians are forced to emigrate to France where they fill low-paid

jobs in service industries.

The two French West Indian islands, Martinique and Guadeloupe, are officially part of France. But the national minimum wage is two-thirds that in France. The 'builders' demand would bring their wages just up to the French minimum.

The cost of living is just as high. Like every other country there is raging inflation and prices are continually rising.

In practice the islands are a colony. Massive police and army units maintain order—in 1967 they massacred 60 people and injured many more during anti-government demonstrations in Guadeloupe. Papers and organisations fighting for socialism and national independence are arbitrarily banned and harassed. Elections to the French parliament are systematically rigged. During the latest struggles the high schools have been raided and meetings broken up by police.

But these struggles show that the working people of Martinique are intimidated.

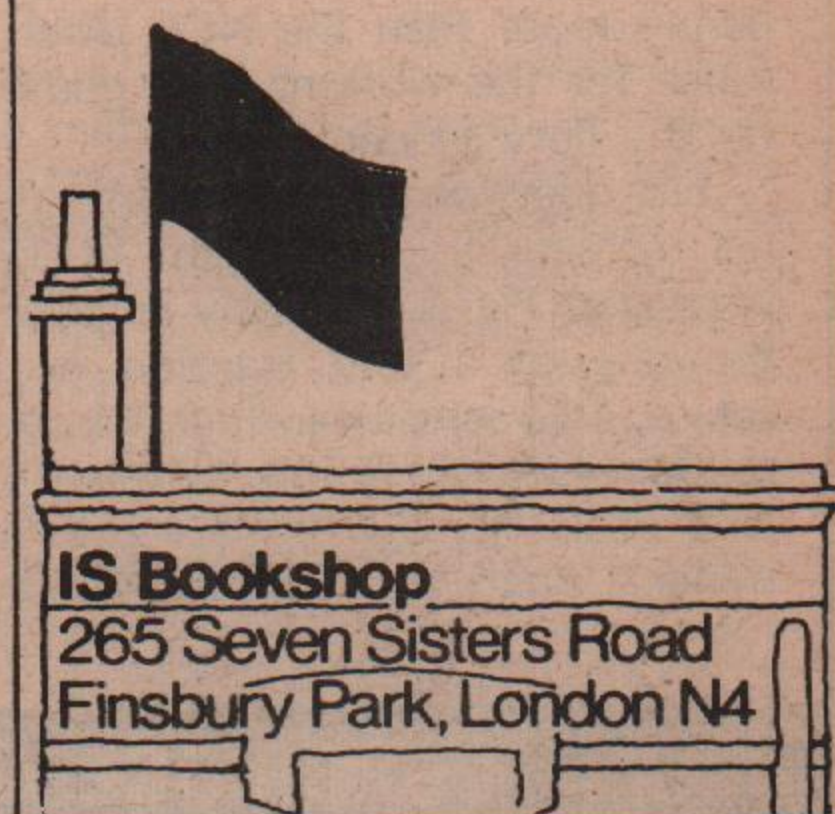
Roger Kline's CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT? draws the lessons from the antics of the Labour Party, in government and in opposition, as reformers of capitalism, and argues what we can do to bring socialism.

an International Socialists pamphlet 10p

ROGER KLINE

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Socialism
come
through
Parliament?

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Inquest opens on retired miner

A woman told an opening inquest at Wigan on Wednesday that her husband had taken an overdose of drugs about a month before his death because he was 'fed-up with pain'.

Mrs. Elsie Lancaster, of Francis Street, Hindley, said that her husband, William, 57, of the same address, was a retired coal miner. Five or six years ago he was examined by the Pneumoconiosis Medical Panel and awarded a 30 per cent disability pension. He complained of pain in the chest was short of breath and had a cough.

He retired in 1970 because of ill-health but had not worked for the previous 12 months. Mr. Lancaster had suffered from nervous trouble for the last

three years.

He was involved in an accident at work and received injuries to his legs. In October 1973 he was a patient at Wigan Infirmary but was later transferred to Billinge Hospital where his right leg was amputated.

On December 14 he was admitted to Wigan Infirmary suffering from the overdose. While he was there he had another operation on his right leg.

Mrs. Lancaster was at home on January 15, when a police officer told her that her husband had died at the Infirmary in the early hours of that day.

The Coroner, Mr. J. Hopwood Sayer adjourned the inquest until Wednesday, February 13.

Inquest on miners

Inquests on three Ince miners were held at Ashton on Tuesday when the County Coroner, Mr. Ronald Lloyd, decided on the medical evidence that two of the men died naturally and the other from an industrial disease.

The industrial disease verdict was recorded on Edward Fox, 70, of Chatham Street, Higher Ince, who last worked underground at the Parsonage Colliery.

The cause of death was broncho pneumonia with pneumoconiosis as an accelerating factor.

Mr. Lloyd was told that Robert Bradshaw, 77, of Malvern Crescent, Spring View, and William Mills, 70, of Chatham Street, Higher Ince, both died primarily from broncho pneumonia.

The Pneumoconiosis Medical Panel said that an examination of the men's lungs did not reveal significant amounts of pneumoconiosis.

Natural causes verdicts were recorded.

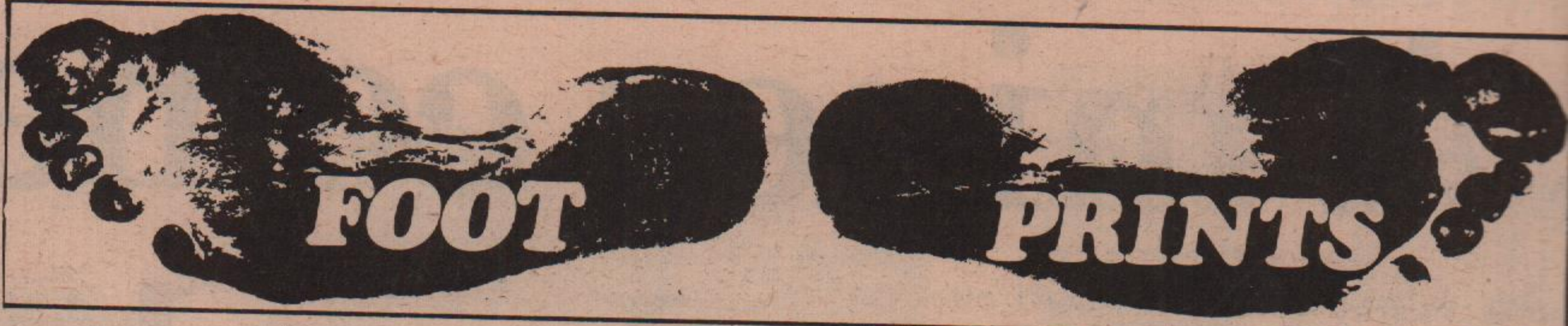
Inquest opens on ex-miner

An inquest was opened and adjourned at Wigan last week on 69 year old retired coal miner Wilfred Cowburn, of Kenilworth Drive, Hindley.

Coroner Mr. J. Hopwood Sayer said that in 1963 when Mr. Cowburn was working at Bickershaw colliery he was examined by the pneumoconiosis medical board at Manchester and was awarded a disability pension of 10 per cent.

Admitted to Whelley Hospital on December 17, he died there on New Years Day.

Three stories that appeared in the Wigan Observer within 10 days



Community hypocrites

THE SCRUPLES of the Liberal Party evaporate daily. They have agreed to take some £22,500 from the millionaire property Rachman, Tom Keen, whose shameless call to thuggery in Barnsley and outside the TUC in London have got him in

trouble with the courts.

Keen is at the moment having to answer police inquiries about fire insurance on his industrial estate at Milnsbridge, Huddersfield, where tenants are complaining that their fire insurance payments have been pocketed by Keen without adequate fire cover being provided.

Keen is not the only extremist on

the right to be attracted by the Liberal Party. I see that Alan Whereat of Brixton, who was arrested outside Lambeth Town Hall in 1962 for wearing the uniform of the British Nazi Party and who later formed the overtly fascist English People's Party, is the latest recruit to Lambeth Central Liberal Association.

Whereat hopes to stand in this spring's borough elections—in the Liberal interest. 'Liberal policies are the only ones which can save Britain from disaster,' he says.

Meanwhile one of the recently-elected Liberal councillors in York has started her own personal campaign for community politics.

Waste

Councillor Mrs Lickley's campaign is to evict a group of harmless caravanners who are parked on waste ground in the city. 'I shall fight tooth and nail,' she said last week, 'to see the last of these people who are lowering the neighbourhood.'

Permanent accommodation for the caravanners was out of the question. 'This type of person would not know how to look after the place,' she said.

Finally, good news for the Liberal councillors of Liverpool District who take control of the council this spring.

As Socialist Worker reported exclusively two weeks ago, the new council's housing policies will be far, far worse than anything devised even by the monsters who have controlled Liverpool for Labour and the Tories over the past 20 years. Fewer houses built, higher rents, less slum clearance, more houses for sale and so on.

The Liberals can expect very reasonable treatment, however, from the regional organiser for Shelter, the housing pressure group which has so pilloried both Labour and Tory housing policies in the past. He is David Mahon, whose brother, Paul Mahon, and father, Peter Mahon, are Liberal councillors in the new district and helped to draw up the new Liberal housing policies.

NOEL JENKINSON, who is in Leicester prison serving 20 years for his alleged part in the Aldershot bombings in 1972, gets a copy of Socialist Worker every week. Three weeks ago, his copy was withheld. The prison authorities' reason? 'There was too much stuff in the paper about security, prisons and trials.'

GRILLADES & HOT DISHES

Turbot £4.75, River Trout £4.75, Sole £5.00, Peas
 Chump Chop £4.50, Lamb Cutlet £4.50, Lamb Chops £4.50, Mixed
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PIES & FLAMES

Roast Beef £4.85, Jambon £4.10, Veal & Ham Pie £4.30
 Dindonneau £4.25, Terrine de Caneton £3.60, Caneton £4.60, Tongue £4.60, Pudding £1.25

For the benefit of workers who have an hour or two to spare in London, I am glad to publish an excerpt from the menu at the Connaught Restaurant, in London's Mayfair, on Sunday 9 December. Prices are for three courses. I understand they have risen considerably since then, but you can still get two ounces of Russian Royal Beluga Caviar for £8.50.

Get Carter

THERE were two toasts after the delicious 'foreman's supper' staged a fortnight ago by the Norwich-based building firm of R G Carter: one to the Queen, and one to the firm. The toast to the firm was moved by the Very Reverend the Dean of Norwich, Alan Webster. The reply was made by Mr Carter himself.

Carter spent most of his speech defending his decision to drape the firm's flag with the Union Jack, and indeed to fly the Union Jack over all his sites during the national emergency. The flag, he indicated, helped British workers work harder at a time of national crisis.

Bob Carter, who is the biggest building contractor in Norfolk and Suffolk, then launched into a long attack on 'the anarchists' who had dared to laugh at his Union Jacks. 'These men are trying to bring the country down,' he said.

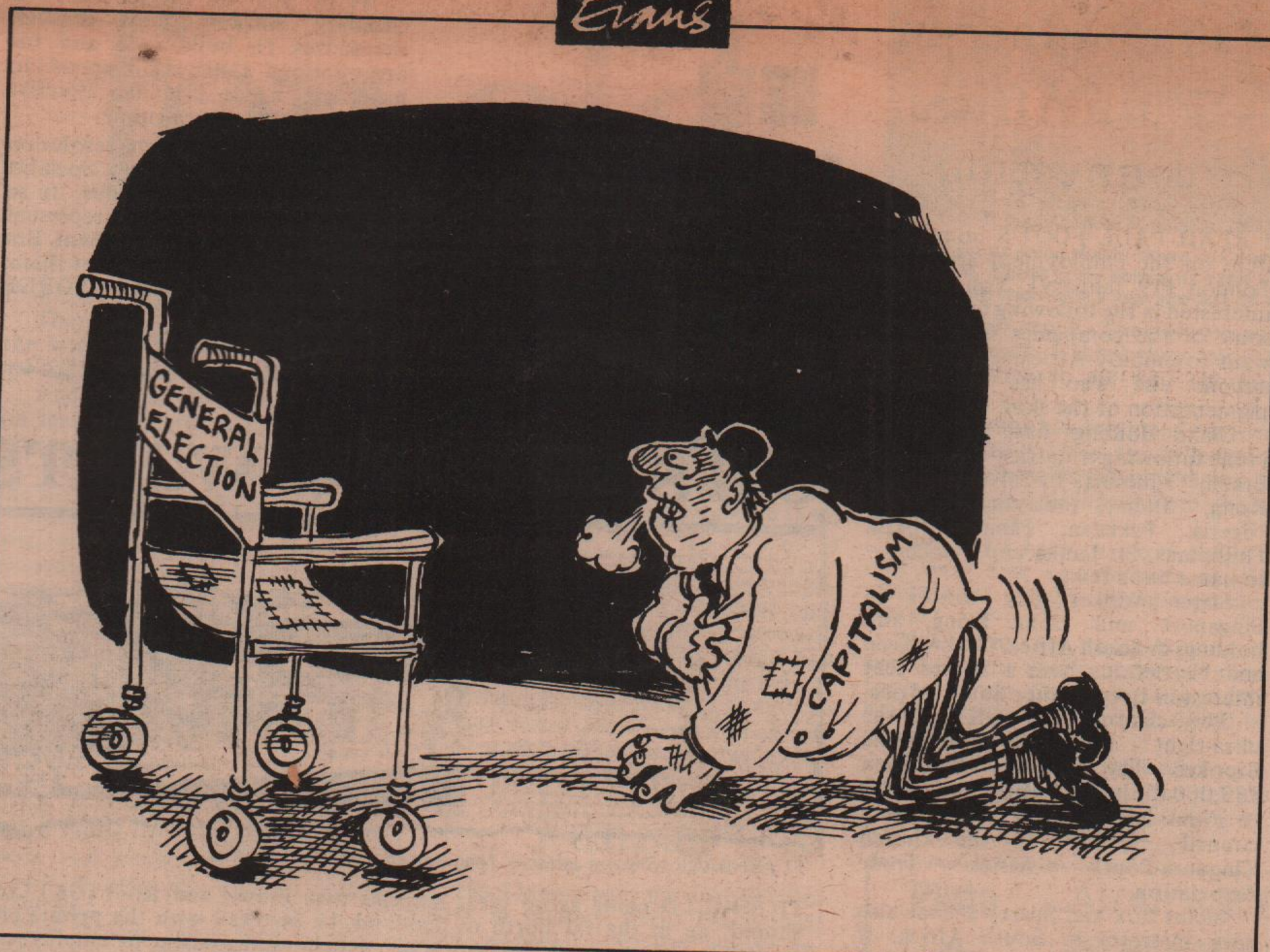
Sceptical guests at the dinner were surprised at the large number of local authority bigwigs who attended the dinner. Bob Carter's good friend, Arthur South, leader of the Norwich Labour group, was much in evidence. So was R K Binks, the Norwich City Engineer, W Hayden, chairman of Norfolk County Council, and Ted Gambling, an official of the National Union of Public Employees and chairman of Norwich Public Works Committee.

Bob Carter does a lot of work for local authorities and it would be quite pointless for him to hold an expensive binge without inviting along some of his best customers.

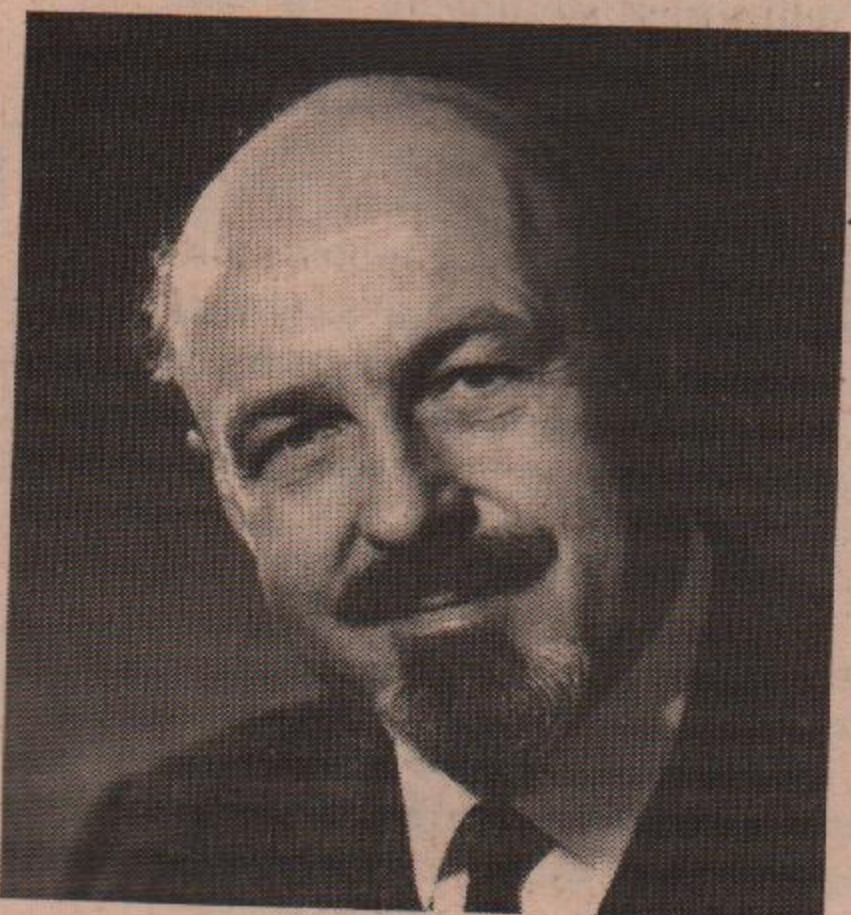
Quote

'Big strikes are not settled in public. They are settled over the telephone. If you think I don't phone up Len Murray and my other friends in the trade unions, you could be very wrong.'

Campbell Adamson, director general of the Confederation of British Industries, on the television programme First Report, 10 January.



THE GENERATING GAME



THIS is Arthur Hawkins, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, who is doing his best in the nation's hour of need to conserve fuel, and pull in his belt. Last Monday Hawkins was host at a sumptuous dinner dance for the CEB's most senior officials. The food was magnificent, the drink even better.

But Hawkins is not an ordinary man and was not satisfied by ordinary entertainment. As a special treat, he detailed one of the CEB's computer programmers to work out a detailed programme to 'match out' potential dance partners.

The names and approximate ages of all the guests were handed over

to the unfortunate programmer who then spent three days of his time and the taxpayers' money working out the ridiculous programme. Several of the programmer's mates at work were astonished at the amount of electricity that had to be used to satisfy Hawkins' ambition to become known in fashionable circles as the most original host in London.

I rang Mr Hawkins to find out more about his party but was greeted by one of his secretaries, a Miss Porteous. 'Well,' she scolded. 'Well! Well! I'm afraid that is something which is entirely private to us.'

Hawkins has little time to relax between parties. I see that next

Wednesday he is giving lunch to Labour MPs who are members of the Parliamentary Labour Party steel and power group. Special transport is laid on to take MPs all the way from the House of Commons in Westminster to the CEB headquarters near St Pauls—about a mile.

'Discussion' starts at 11, but the party will break early for lunch. Applications for the nosh are still rolling into the Labour whips' office, and I understand that Alex Eadie, mining MP for Midlothian, who is chairman of the power and steel group, is looking forward to the lunch very much.

A miner comes to London...

AS A WORKING MINER I don't often get a chance to see London. Which is just as well. The capital city with its capital prices is a bit much for me—and my £22 a week.

My attention was drawn to a steak bar, where a decent meal would cost £2.50. I had egg and chips elsewhere, far better than steak—and price indigestion.

A china pottery figure of a young lad sitting under an umbrella, fishing, cost £100 and a chinese jade pendant at £130 would fit nicely around my wife's neck—but sorry Sue, not this year anyway...

Perhaps soon the West End will have more customers from Britain's mining industry. At least when they're paid the wages they deserve. For truly at present we'd need a mortgage to shop in the London area.—TREVOR BALL, Rugeley, Staffs.

Part of a poem sent to us by Danny Hampsey of Dinnington Main Colliery.

From the top of the hill see the valley below,
There is no sign of life all covered in snow,
All the trees are denuded the skyline is bleak,
We must blame the miners and their five day week.

The economy is crumbling, the pound's going down,
The shops they are closing all over the town,
Thousands are emigrating, a new life to seek,
We must blame the miners and their five day week.

Rents are going up daily, mortgages sky high,
Any dreams of a holiday we must kiss goodbye,
We are paying out millions to each Arab Sheik,
We must blame the miners and their five day week.

Why won't the miners work overtime?
Surely they must enjoy the dust and the grime,
They should stop down every hour until they drop through fatigue,
Then we couldn't blame the miners and their five day week.

AS A SHOPWORKER, selling men's clothes I suppose I should feel grateful for at least being able to continue working a five day week thus avoiding the lock-out and its pay-cuts.

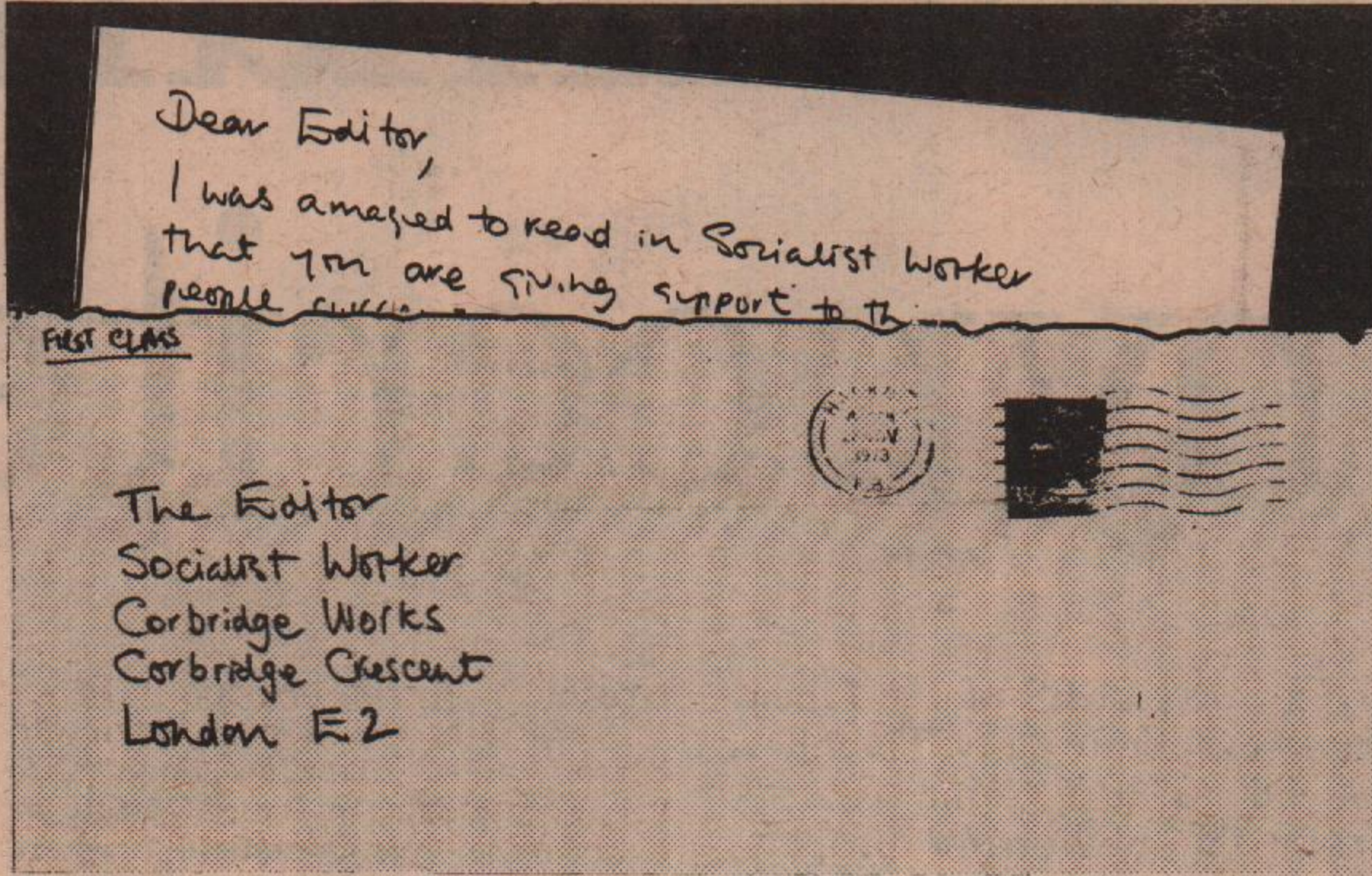
However since the three day electricity order was started these premises have not once reached the required minimum legal working temperature of 60.8F. Nor have we had any lighting most of the time.

Compared with the awful effect this order has had on productive workers, this may seem of little importance. But it is having the effect on a great many shop-workers who are blaming the miners for these conditions.

I, for one, realise who is really to blame for the plight and wish to congratulate Socialist Worker for printing the truth during this crisis.

Which I should like to point out is our crisis (the working class's) as we are the ones, as always who must suffer the cost of capitalism's problems. Keep fighting for a socialist world.—DEREK RICHARDS, Ilford.

London...



Shrewsbury Three: we're helping but where's the union

RESPONDING to a call by Nottingham Trades Council asking for financial support for the families of the three building workers savagely imprisoned at Shrewsbury, Calverton Branch of the NUM are arranging for a concert to be held in the local Miners Welfare Hall.

All proceeds from this concert will go directly to the dependents of the three.

Previous attempts to get support at Area level have been thwarted by

the fact that 'there has been no official request from the trades union involved'. It is high time that UCATT officials got off their arses, swallowed their pride and started making a few 'official requests' to other trade unionists who are eager to assist.

Once arrangements for this concert are finalised and publicised I would appeal to all trade unionists to attend if possible, thereby making it a success.—STEVE ABBOTT, Calverton NUM.

London racism —South African connection

I READ PAUL FOOT'S interesting item on the employment agency in London (19 January). You may be interested in the following facts about some of the companies who do not want to employ Africans, Indians or anyone else who has the wrong pigmentation of the skin.

Glaxo Holdings have subsidiaries in the following countries—Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, El Salvador, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Phillipines, Sri Lanka and Thailand—to name but a few.

Slater Walker has offices in Singapore and Hong Kong, and holdings in South Africa. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds have a 20 per cent interest in Borg Warner South Africa.

The chairman of GKN is the ultra-right wing Sir Raymond Brookes. The company has given £33,000 to the Tory Party and £2500 to Aims of Industry. Brookes is a council member of the United Kingdom-South Africa Trade Association.

Metal Box and Sperry Univac also have interests in South Africa. It seems these countries don't mind exploiting the black man abroad, but have no intention of employing him here.—VIC TAMBLING, Birmingham.

- ESSAYS ON THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF AFRICA, Arrighi and Saul, £1.80
- PSYCHIATRY AND THE HOMOSEXUAL, Gay Liberation Pamphlet No 1, 15p
- WHAT IS TO BE DONE? a novel by N G Chernyshevsky, 90p
- PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE—RADICAL IDEAS AND PERSONALITIES IN BRITISH SOCIAL HISTORY, ed Rubinstein, £1.00
- HOW THE MINERS ARE ROBBED, Pluto Press reprint in Labour History, 20p

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It's up to us!

WE READ in the papers that 'Conservatives in parliament are confused and divided' and with solidarity action throughout the working class this government can be kicked out once and for all.

But looking around we see a very strange thing, a small band of 'politically motivated men' rushing to the rescue of a bankrupt Tory government.

And who should they be but Scanlon, Jones, Jackson and the rest of the TUC executive?

On TV we've seen Jones and Jackson saying 'all we want to do is get the country back to work as quickly as possible'—even though this means accepting crippling price increases and falling real wages.

We've also seen the farcical spectacle of Jones and Scanlon agreeing with Lord Stokes that 'it is a priority' to get the country back to work and even offering to the bosses that if the miners are paid, the TUC promises to be 'fair and sporting' and not quote the miners' example in future wage negotiations.

Well this is understandable, after all, I suppose if the 'greedy miners' were to stop and think, they would agree that Phase Three was fair and sporting and pneumoconiosis is just bad luck.

It is absolutely clear we can't rely on the trade union leadership, even the so-called 'lefts' to agitate for solidarity action that would bring the Tories down.

We've got to do it ourselves. Ordinary workers must organise themselves to build rank and file organisations that will respond to members' needs and be effective weapons in the class struggle.

We should remember the resolution passed at last November's Socialist Worker Industrial Conference, 'In so far as the trade union leaders represent our views we will support them. But when they start to misrepresent them, we will act independently.'—GEORGE BLAZYCA, Brighton.

WE'RE getting a lot of letters in at the moment, which is fine. But we're getting a lot of long letters in—which isn't. Please try to be brief. Otherwise we may have to cut letters—or keep other correspondents out. If you can type the letters please do.

Oil's troubled waters

IT IS big business and big profits. It is that feverish drive for profits that is threatening wages and union organisation in the far north of Scotland.



Big Bay's oil platform: 'professionals' ugly construction, with a little Labour help

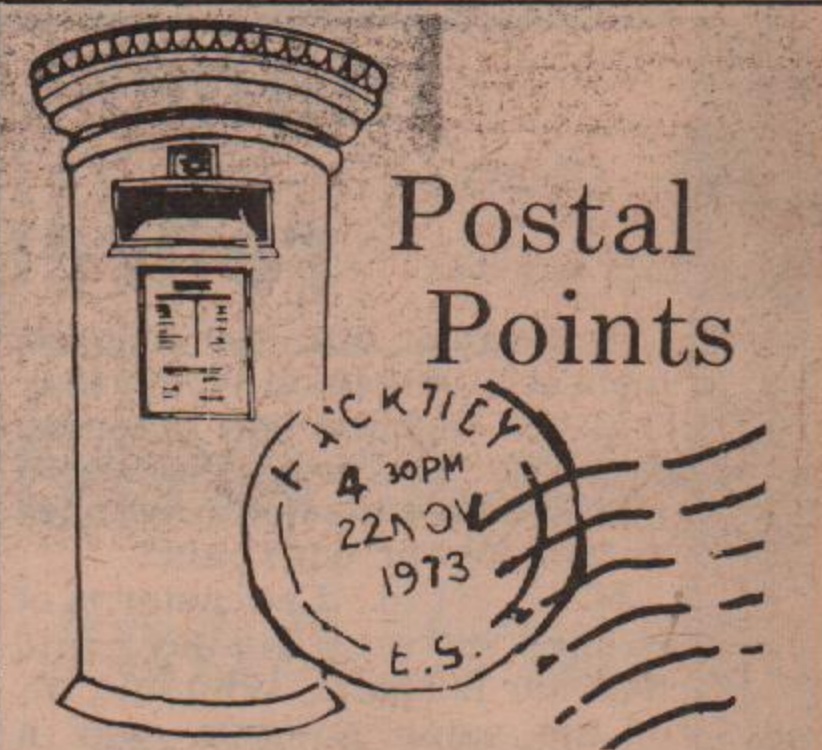
FLASHBACK to Steve Jefferys' Nigg Bay story on 19 January.

IT SHOULD come as no great surprise that Brown and Root (UK) Ltd should, up in the far north of Scotland, be involved with the private oil giants' exploitation of North Sea oil—and be antagonistic to employees' attempts to organise for decent pay and conditions. With its world-wide profit-making from human misery this American multi-national isn't going to be easily persuaded to ensure its own employees' health and safety.

For in the US this firm is part of the giant joint-venture construction conglomerate which made hundreds of millions of dollars on Pentagon contracts in Vietnam between 1964 and 1972, Raymond, Morrison-Knudson/Brown, Root and Jones (RMK-BRJ), and which received, on 7 January, 1971, a US Navy contract for 400,000 dollars to construct 384 new 'isolation cells', or 'tiger cages', for Con Son island prison off the coast of South Vietnam—two square feet smaller than the old French-built cages.

Time magazine, last year, described a number of former Con Son 'tiger cage' inmates: 'It is not really proper to call them men anymore. 'Shapes' is a better word—grotesque sculptures of scarred flesh and gnarled limbs', wrote the Time reporter. They were unable to walk or even stand. 'Years of being shackled in the tiger cages have forced them into a permanent pretzel-like crouch. They move like crabs, skittering across the floor on buttocks and palms.'

In January, 1974, one year after the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement, prisoners are still living and dying in these cages—some of the 300,000 political prisoners held by the Saigon regime at present (the Provisional Revolutionary Government believes this figure will continue to rise).—PHILIP BRAITHWAITE, Birmingham 14.



NOT FULLER NUFF... I don't completely share Chris Fuller's satisfaction (12 January) with International Socialist coverage of theoretical issues... Some things are simplified. China and the Soviet bloc are grouped together as 'state capitalist'... In the Socialist Worker Pamphlet Struggle For Workers' Power China is classified as capitalist because of capital accumulation yet Trotsky in the 1920s argued for a period of 'primitive capital accumulation' to provide a basis for the similarly undeveloped Soviet economy. One of the great merits of The Class Nature of Israeli Society (Pluto Press pamphlet) is that it describes the unique nature of Israeli capitalism without just classifying it as another agent of US imperialism. So please could there be more Marxist theory and less over-simplification.—ROB SILVERSTONE, Portsmouth.

OUR HAND IN YOUR POCKET... I have just bought your paper for the first time and was very impressed by your policies and your coverage. I enclose one week's pocket-money, I am 15, for your appeal... I realise that there is anxiety over forming a left-wing party comprising communist and socialist elements, look at the Labour mess, but your main enemies are surely the capitalists. I think you should appoint your criticism suitably. Best of luck!...J LITTLE, Bedford.

IT'S QUOTE ALRIGHT UNQUOTE... Israel is, by the standards 'of this world', nations at war, and the rest of the Mid-East, an open forum with a range of parliamentary options wide enough for voters of approximately your views on its situation, as many as there are, to carry what weight they have... You imply no real difference between the major parliamentary alliances—which is wrong... The Histadruth (TUC), has voting membership open to all worker inhabitants, and has almost draconian influence in civil life. The kibbutz folk, who, if not approached in a frenzy of ill will, might find common ground with you, are to be reckoned with in an important economic sector... It may not be wonderful, Israeli democracy, and I'll admit I've left out qualifying points (for space considerations—so you can devote more to the home front, on which you're so good). But it's not bad considering, and might be freed from those quotation marks if the word 'democracy' has any conventional value for you. Or perhaps you deem voting undemocratic unless it goes your way?—E R C PERRY, London, W4.

COUNT US OUT... You mentioned (12 January) some of our colleagues' action in providing a volunteer labour force during the Edinburgh Ambulance-men's strike... Some of us realised that these students helped prevent an early settlement of the dispute—denying the just demands of the ambulance-men and also prolonging an inefficient and potentially dangerous service to the public.—ANNE McNAIR (on behalf of the Socialist Medical Group of Edinburgh University).

GO BACK TO MOSCOW!... One question that is continually cropping up when I sell Socialist Worker is Russia. Many workers tell me that the International Socialists want to set up a system like the 'Soviet' Union. Others repeat the Tory catch-phrase about trade union leaders wanting to set up a 'dictatorship' over the people... It's not easy when militants like Mick McGahey of the NUM and the Communist Party claim that Russia and Czechoslovakia are more democratic than Western capitalist countries... So we have to put the question of workers' power right at the centre of our propaganda, and explain that, in Britain, it's the government and the bosses who have the power to lay off millions of workers or jail striking building workers—and in Russia it's the state capitalist bureaucracy... When workers go on strike they are setting up a dictatorship—but over the bosses and the government. The more the rank-and-file becomes involved in the struggle, and therefore the more democratic the strike becomes, the harder this dictatorship becomes—for the bosses... The democracy the workers will create will be based on freely elected workers' councils... In Marx's phrase, 'the dictatorship of the proletariat'—not a dictatorship over the proletariat... Socialist Worker should explain these ideas now, practically, as part of the struggle against Phase Three and the Tories.—COLIN FALCONER, Birmingham.

Judith Condon Dateline Coventry

These pictures are of Coventry: the town that has the highest average wages of any place in the country. Car City.

If you were to get out of the train on your first visit to Coventry, you might be quite impressed: no crumbling old Victorian tenements; new all-pedestrian shopping precinct; swift ringroad flying over the remains of the old terraced streets. And that Cathedral.

A series of Labour councils have planned Coventry's public image carefully. The good councillors have named schools and high-rise flats after one another in monotonous self-satisfaction.

But there is another side to the story . . .



Pictures: Stuart McPherson (Shelter)

Car city: new slums for old

AFTER THE WAR, the corporation built a series of low-cost high density housing estates.

What the war had not destroyed, the council demanded to be destroyed, although the process has not always been so speedy. Eagle Street, for instance, has been under demolition order for 28 years, and is still standing.

The displaced residents were moved into the new 'high density' pockets. In reality they were moved out of old slums into new slums, and were often much worse off.

Some of the new slums are tucked carefully out of sight, away from the eyes of visitors.

The council likes it that way. One report on the terrible social conditions on some of these estates, produced by Lisa Carpenter and Bob Holiday, was suppressed.

Now a new, very full report published by Shelter*, has given the council architect's office a lot of work—not improving the houses, but dreaming up counter-arguments.

Damp

In a survey conducted for the writing of the Shelter report, 62 per cent of tenants on the three estates covered said their houses were damp.

Mrs E Byrne wrote in a personal letter: 'My bedroom curtains are ruined. I have a four year-old son who suffers with his chest and in the bad weather we have to walk up a flight of open steps onto a platform which is full of puddles of rain water . . .

'He's ill at the moment and he's losing a lot of time at school. I'm sure between the dirt and the damp he doesn't stand much chance of getting completely well again.'

The council estates at Wood End and Willenhall are appalling examples of cheap-skate, jerry-building. For the most part the estates are made up of two- or three-storey blocks, made from a no-fines concrete mixture.

The walls have no cavity. They are 11 inches of single thickness. Because of the material from which they were made, they draw out more warmth

than they hold in.

There are no expansion joints in the walls, so they crack. The floors are solid, usually concrete.

And because the houses were built on shale foundations, old rubble and quarry waste, the floors develop bumps and collect pools of water, as the shale absorbs damp and swells.

Inside the flats, the ceilings are very low, and there are gas fires. Consequently every block suffers from condensation. Water-vapour hits the cold walls and turns into dampness or running water. Very quickly these factors produce black damp, mould, and silverfish infestation. Only a few flats in the centre of each block escape because they are insulated by the other flats around them.

The high-rise blocks at Hillfields suffer from their own outrageous design faults. In particular, the bathroom and kitchen is placed in the middle of each flat, with no outside windows.

The kitchen has a kind of hatch leading to the sitting room. Even in daylight these rooms are dark and in contravention of various public health Acts. And the steam collects and runs down the walls as it condenses.

Add to these structural and design

faults the bad amenities on these estates and you have what is an appalling place to live. There are uncovered stairs, unrepaired lights, communal waste bins in outbuildings which are never cleaned and nowhere for the kids to play.

So they become hostile to their ugly surroundings and vandalise them further as the only way to express themselves.

Those who complain are either insulted or ignored. Margaret and William Linning live at 64 Barnacle Close Wood End with their two year-old son Thomas. With the help of a community action group, they have at last taken out a summons against the council under section 99 of the 1936 Public Health Act.

Fungus

Mrs Linning told me: 'We got this place in January 1972. The council had cleaned it up, they always do. Then two months after we moved in, black patches appeared on the walls.'

'I went to report it. They did nothing. When I kept on complaining the officer there told me it was none of my business—all I should worry about is to pay my rent, the state of the house had nothing to do with me.'

'So I went on rent strike. I had a fitted carpet in the bedroom and there was white fungus coming up through it. It doesn't matter how much you Hoover. I took up another foam backed carpet and found a puddle of water underneath.'

'When I came home from hospital when I had Thomas, it was so bad we all had to come and sleep in the living room. The council say it's condensation. Three people breathing in a

* Coventry Council Houses: The New Slums, 35p, Shelter, 86 Strand, London WC2



The old slums come slowly down in Coventry—but the new high flats are a grim alternative. Above is the ceiling of a flat on the Wood End Estate mottled with damp. A complaint was made a year ago but no action has been taken.

room is too much. They always say it's your fault. I think they just tell you any tripe to get you off their back.'

Mrs Linning has developed her own form of action. Once she collected a jar full of the silverfish that breed in the damp, and dumped them at the housing office.

'Even if I have to move out, I'll still fight this case because it will effect a lot of other people on this estate.'

Mel Cairns, the man whose name appears on the Shelter report, worked for a year in Coventry as a public health inspector, until he resigned in disgust at what he saw.

Recently Mel was accepted as a research worker on the city's Community Development Project.

Then John Bennington, the project's director, received by special messenger a letter from George Park, leader of the Labour Group on the council, stating that Mel's appointment was totally unacceptable.

One of the council's proudest achievements this year has been the opening of the new Vista Housing Centre, which cost £200,000.

When you go to apply to be moved because the black damp has crept round your bedroom walls and your children have all got bronchitis, you can now do it in style, to the sound of piped music, and ankle deep in carpet.

Alternatively, if you want to cheer yourself up, you can dream about playing a few rounds on the new £138,000 city golf course:

Pluto

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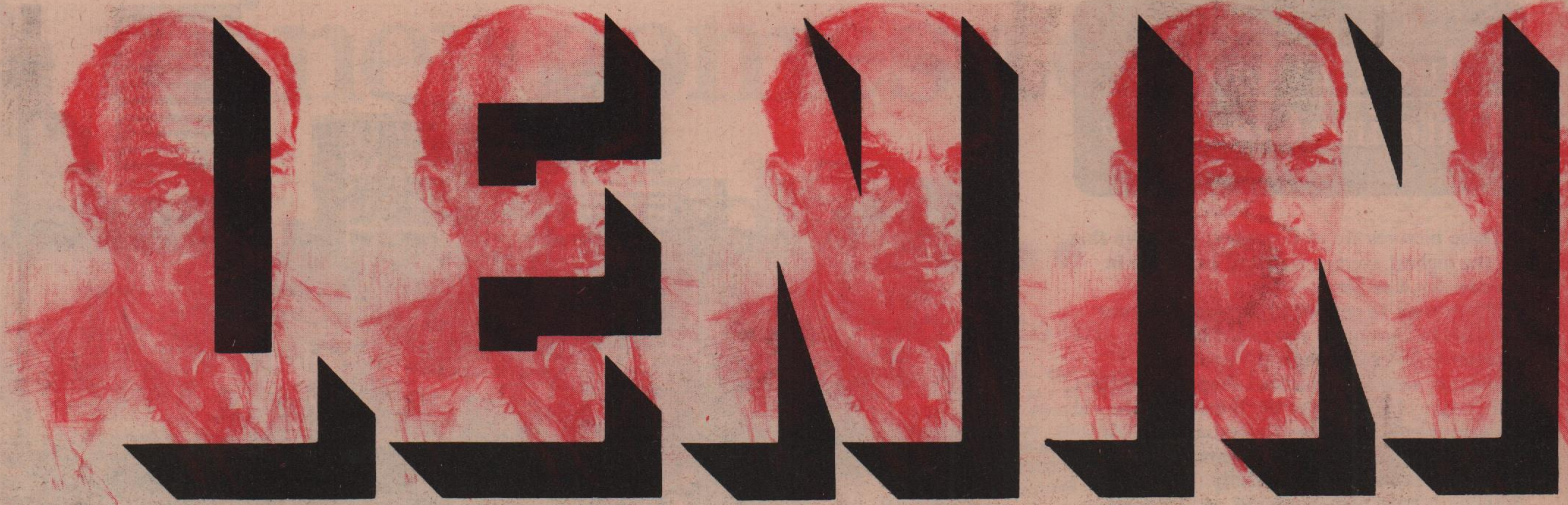
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A solution—Franco-style

Some optimistic people thought that this year's Lord Mayor, Councillor G W Sheriden, might bring a good practical approach to the city's housing problem. After all, he is a carpenter and joiner by trade, a member of UCATT.

Just this week, the Lord Mayor did come up with one idea. He had just got back from a visit to Spain, sponsored by the National Federation of Building Trade Employers.

He said: 'We went to a building site where 700 new flats were under construction, and not a pane of glass was broken. Vandalism costs us so much in this country, and it is most upsetting to do a good job and then turn up for work next day and find it has been wrecked. If the lack of vandalism [in Spain] is because the police are heavy-handed, then perhaps we need something like that in this country.'



Lenin. Turned into a peepshow and a god by Stalin and the gravediggers of the Russian Revolution. Painted as a tyrant and dictator in the west by the capitalist opponents of socialism.

He was neither of these parodies. He dedicated his life to the emancipation of working people, not only in Russia but throughout the world. He fought to build a tough party of revolutionaries to organise the struggle for power.

Above all, Lenin placed his belief in the ability of working people to throw off the chains of their oppressors. To mark the 50th anniversary of Lenin's death, **TONY CLIFF** rescues the revolutionary leader from his enemies on both sides of the 'Iron Curtain'.

FIFTY YEARS AGO the great revolutionary socialist leader Vladimir Ilyich Lenin died.

At the anniversary of his death, Moscow and its friends on the one hand and Western opponents of Communism on the other, did their best to distort the real historical role of this great man.

The legend was cultivated over a long period that Lenin was the father of Stalinism, a man that believed in totalitarian dictatorship. Nothing can be further from the truth.

What happened to Lenin was prophetically foretold by him in his brilliant work, *State and Revolution*, when he described the fate of revolutionary leaders in the past:

'During the lifetime of great revolutionaries, the oppressing classes constantly hounded them, received their theories with the most savage malice, the most furious hatred and the most unscrupulous campaigns of lies and slander. After their death, attempts are made to convert them into harmless icons, to canonise them, so to say . . . while at the same time robbing the revolutionary theory of its substance, blunting its revolutionary edge and vulgarising it.'

Progress

Above all, Lenin had supreme confidence in the creative abilities of the masses. Thus, for instance, he wrote in June-July 1905:

'Revolutions are festivals of the oppressed and the exploited. At no other time are the mass of the people in a position to come forward so actively as creators of a new social order, as at a time of revolution. At such times the people are capable of performing miracles, if judged by the limited, philistine yardsticks of gradualist progress.'

Workers learn in the struggle. They learn from their own experience in battle. The role of a really consistent revolutionary socialist workers' party is not to lecture to the workers but to learn from the workers in struggle and teach them in struggle.

'When bourgeois gentry and their uncritical echoers, the social reformists, talk about the "education of the masses", they usually mean something schoolmasterly, pedantic, something that de-



Lenin with Trotsky after the 1917 revolution

moralises the masses and instils in them bourgeois prejudices.

'The real education of the masses can never be separated from their independent political, and especially revolutionary, struggle. Only struggle educates the exploited class. Only struggle discloses to it the magnitude of its own power, widens its horizon, enhances its abilities, clarifies its mind, forges its will.'

Talent

The aim of the revolutionary socialist party is to tap the natural potential resources of energy and ingenuity hidden in the masses. The party has to learn from the workers in struggle:

'There is an enormous amount of organising talent among the "people", ie among the workers

and the peasants who do not exploit the labour of others. Capital crushed these talented people in thousands; it killed their talent and threw them on to the scrapheap.

'We are not yet able to find them, encourage them, put them on their feet, promote them. But we shall learn to do so if we set about it with an all-out revolutionary enthusiasm, without which there can be no victorious revolutions.'

TO LEARN FROM the masses the party must also be able and ready to learn from its own mistakes, to be very self-critical. As Lenin put it:

'A political party's attitude towards its own mistakes is one of the most important and surest ways of judging how earnest the party is and how it fulfills in practice its obligations towards its class, and the working people.'

Frankly acknowledging the need for self-criticism, Lenin wrote in April 1906:

'In a revolution, the present, all and tactical deviations are most ruthlessly experienced and educates the masses with unprecedented

Crit

'At such a time every socialist must ensure that the discipline within the party theory and tactics are openly, widely possible, but that does not disturb or of revolutionary Social-Democratic

'The party of proletariat is so openly criticised equivocally call for necessities by their fighting party class need not fear it should fear a mistake, refuse to correct a mistake sense of shame.'

Of course, in discipline and unity on the contrary, democracy has to for unity in action well put it:

'We have already enunciated views on the discipline and on is to be understood of the working it as: unity of a discussion and discipline is democratic party class.'

' . . . The party recognise unity freedom to discipline . . . there can no party of a clarity of essential out an open various tendencies



Two important pamphlets describing the life and political struggles of two great revolutionaries—Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky.

Written by Jim Higgins and Duncan Hallas, the pamphlets rescue Lenin and Trotsky from their political enemies and false friends and underscore the modern relevance of what they fought for: workers' revolution.

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His ideas are



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forming the masses as to which leaders and which organisations of the party are pursuing this or that line. Without this, a party worthy of the name cannot be built.

Contrary to Stalinist mythology—as well as that of liberal opponents of Bolshevism—the Bolshevik Party has never been a monolithic or totalitarian party. Far from it.

Internal democracy had always been of the utmost importance in party life. Thus for instance, when the most important question of all, the question of the October insurrection in 1917 was the order of the day, the leadership was sharply divided: a strong faction led by Zinoviev, Kamenev, Rykov, Piatakov, Miliutin and Nogin, opposed the uprising.

Unity

Nevertheless, when the political bureau was elected by the central committee, neither Zinoviev nor Kamenev were excluded.

AFTER TAKING POWER, the differences in the party leadership continued to be as sharp as before. A few days after the revolution, a number of party leaders came out with a demand for a coalition with other socialist parties.

Those insisting on this included Rykov, the People's Commissar of the Interior, Miliutin, the People's Commissar of Industry and Trade, Lunacharsky, the Commissar of Education, Kamenev, the president of the Republic and Zinoviev.

They went as far as resigning from the government, thus compelling Lenin and his supporters to open negotiations with the other parties. The negotiations broke down because the right-wing socialists insisted on the exclusion of Lenin and Trotsky from the coalition government.

Again, on the question of holding or postponing the elections to the Constituent Assembly in December 1917, Lenin found himself in a minority in the central committee, and the elections were held against his advice.

A little later he was again defeated on the question of the peace negotiations with Germany at Brest-Litovsk. He was for an immediate peace. But at a meeting of the central committee and active workers, held on 21 January 1918, his motion received only 15 votes against Bukharin's motion for 'revolutionary war', which received 32 votes, and Trotsky's for 'neither peace nor war', which received 16.

At a session of the central committee next day, Lenin was again defeated. But at last he succeeded, under the pressure of events, in convincing the majority

of members of the central committee of his point of view, and at its session on 24 February his motion for peace gained seven votes, while four voted against and another four abstained.

As a result of the weakness of the Russian working class, after nearly seven years of war and civil war, the isolation of the Russian revolution following the betrayal of the German revolution by right wing labour leaders—including the murder of the great socialist leaders Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht—the Stalinist bureaucracy rose in Russia.

Socialism

It consolidated itself after the mass murder of Lenin's old comrades in arms during the 1930s. One-man management in the factories where managers earn 100 times more than workers, where workers have no right to strike and are deprived of all freedoms, became the hallmark of the Stalinist regime.

But the future belongs to the ideas of Marx and Lenin. The basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism:

That the working class is the agent of socialism.

That the working class needs a vanguard party to lead it, to raise its combative ability, con-

sciousness and organisation.

The need to smash the bureaucratic militarist police state machine of capitalism and replace it with democratic workers' councils, where all officials get the same wages as the workers they represent, with regular elections of all officials and the right to recall them.

These ideas are of vital importance to workers everywhere, whether in Britain or Russia, the United States, China or India.

The future belongs to the ideas of Marx and Lenin.

Lenin in power—talking to a mass rally of workers in Moscow's Red Square.

Author Tony Cliff is working on a three-volume political assessment of Lenin. The first volume, *Preparing for Power*, will be published later this year.

International Socialist pamphlet by

ROGER ROSEWELL

THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS POWER

This important pamphlet is an outline of the policies of the International Socialists, the development and nature of modern capitalism—and the urgent need for a workers' party to overthrow it. Its 40 pages are essential reading for Socialist Worker readers and all IS branches.

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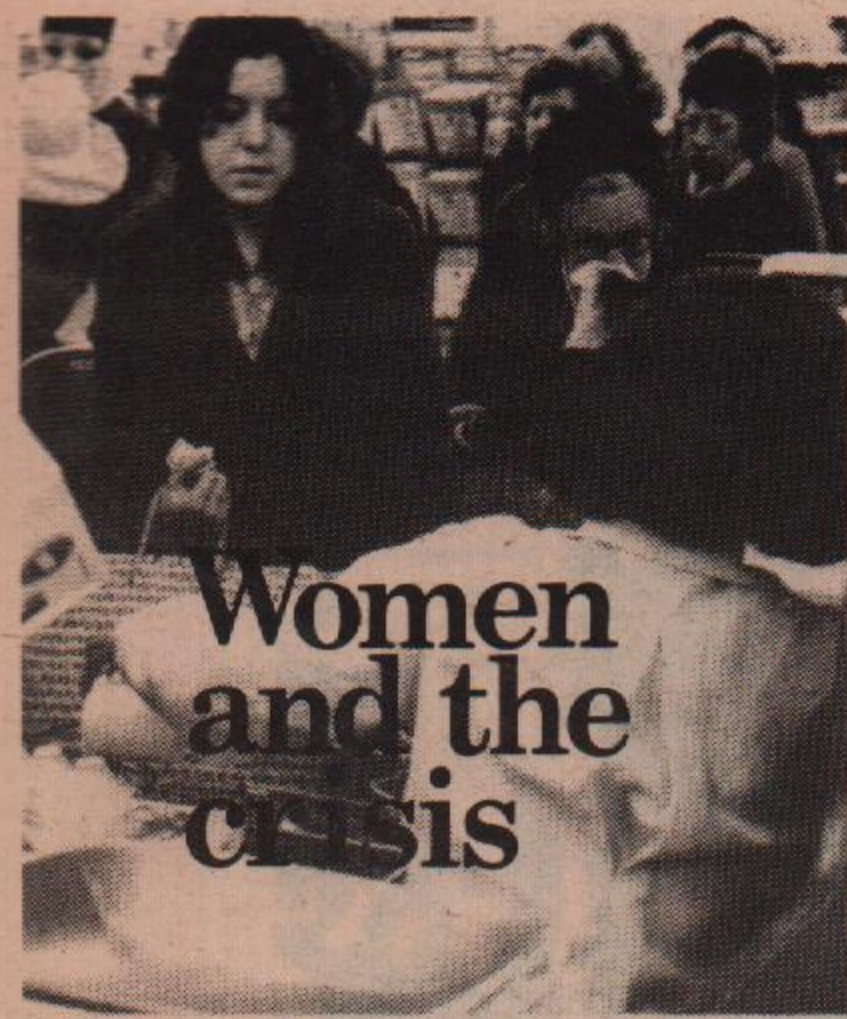
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Make the future



Bosses get away with murder

IN WORKPLACES all over the country employers are using the crisis to attack working conditions. The hardest hit are the worst organised, in particular the 8½ million working women in this country.

In factories, offices and shops, the bosses are getting away with murder. The Factories Act, which gives a limited amount of protection to women workers, is being broken time and time again.

Thousands of women are having

to work regularly on Saturday afternoons—something which is against the law.

Unfenced

Office and shopworkers are having to spend a large part of the working week in semi-darkness and freezing cold. Some employers have cut out heating altogether.

And in attempts to speed-up production, to cram five days work into three, many women are being made

to work on dangerous, unfenced machinery.

In the less well-organised factories, sectional agreements are being thrown out of the window as production is reorganised for the crisis. Women are working in corridors, straining their eyes to catch the light from small windows and skylights.

Office workers are being made to speed up their paper work and lend a hand on the shopfloor. Dinner breaks—which women need for their shopping—are being forfeited, with

tea and sandwiches snatched alongside machines instead.

But it is the completely non-unionised workplaces that are hardest hit.

One woman in an East London sweatshop told me how her firm was cashing in on three-day working by taking on extra women during the crisis for two days a week. The factory works on a piece-work system with no basic wage, no waiting time and no extra money for overtime.

In order to attract extra women, management is giving them all the good-priced material to work on. The regular women are having to make do with the rough stuff.

After watching their money whittled down by pounds every week, the women staged a walkout last week.

Many firms, especially in textiles and hosiery, have been finding their way round the three-day week by making women take portable machines home so that can work the other two days.

Not only does this keep production going and profits up but it also makes union control over the boss impossible. In some cases women are even having to pay for the electricity they use.

Leicester is one city where 'out-work' in the home has had a real boom during the crisis. The local Chamber of Commerce has been running a 'Leicester Will Make It Campaign'.

Co-operate

Businessmen have bought 100,000 stickers with Union Jacks and the campaign slogan on them. And the local paper and television are giving great publicity to workers—mainly women—who co-operate with the bosses' schemes to dodge the power regulations.

At one firm, Tailor Maid, the managing director has been boasting that women have been giving up tea and meal breaks to help the firm achieve 4½ days' production in a three-day week. Knitting machines have been speeded up to 32 rows a minute from the recommended rate of 24 a minute.

Last week women in the rag trade in Leeds found themselves taking home as little as £5 when management subtracted three days' holiday money which had been paid over the Christmas break. And some women were having tax deducted from this paltry sum.

Worst hit of all are women who are divorced, separated and bringing up children on their own. In one-in-five households in this country, women are the main breadwinners.

Even with five-day working, most women do not earn a living wage. With only three days' money, survival becomes a real struggle.

As the state of emergency continues, women workers are voting with their feet against Saturday working. Employers are reporting higher rates of absenteeism every week.

Difficult

With schools and nurseries closed, women have no one to look after their children. Shopping for the weekend is made difficult. Household chores have to be done on Sunday instead of having a rest.

And family life is completely disrupted. Women are complaining bitterly about how tired they are. Having Monday off just doesn't make up for it.

But there are many places where the bosses have not been able to have their own way. At Blakdale's in Harlow, women have successfully fought to finish work at 2.30pm on Saturdays while being paid up to 4.30pm.

At Armstrong Patents in Beverley, Yorkshire, workers are on strike in support of convenor Jean Jepson, sacked for fighting against management's suspension of the guaranteed week.

These are the examples to follow if women are successfully to defend their wages and conditions as the Tories take tougher action.

Kath Ennis

I'M LUCKY—ON £15

How the Tory lockout is hitting one working mother

Beryl Riley works at Wrighton's furniture factory in Nazeing, Essex. She lives in Harlow and has three children aged 13, 11 and 7. Her husband is a coach driver. Last week she talked to Socialist Worker about the way the crisis was affecting her and her family.

I'm quite lucky. I'm on good money and take home £15 for the three-day working. It's bad enough for me—I hate to think what it's like for people who only take that much home for a whole week.

I just don't know how families manage to live when the woman isn't working.

Everything's going up all the time—1½p on baked beans and tinned spagetti this week and they wanted to charge me 88p for four cutlets for the tea. Even breast of lamb is 50p. It's really getting frightening.



Beryl and three good reasons for not working Saturdays

by Dave Lambert and Kath Ennis

The worst thing about the crisis for me has been the Saturday working. You get all the weekend shopping on Friday night after you get paid and the shops stay open late.

By the time you get out after work on Saturday at 5 o'clock the shops are shutting. So if you've forgotten anything you've had it.

I worry about the kids all day Saturday. My husband comes home from work for four hours and the rest of the time they have to manage by themselves. The little one goes out in the coach with him when she can.

Nobody wants to look after somebody else's kids at the weekend. I'm taking Saturday afternoon off in future, even though I'll lose money.

This emergency is a load of bunkum. It's coming out now that the power stations are full of coal. It's just an excuse for a wage cut,

just an excuse to have a go at the working class.

I think the miners should go on strike. The only way they'll win is if they push out this lot we've got in power now. I think there should be a general strike call for all the unions. Stop everything working, then the Tories will have to resign.

There's no power shortage but there is an economic crisis. There's too many people wanting too big a slice of the cake. People like the property developers and the ones with stocks and shares.

They showed a conference on the telly the other night—about world crises and world shortages. The menu cost £18 a head. Yet there's a lot of blokes in this country who can only give their wives and families £18 a week to live on.

All the talk about greedy trade unionists just doesn't make sense

when these people have money rolling in all the week—not on three days like the rest of us. And then they try to tell us we're in the same boat with this crisis.

I think there should be an equal distribution of wealth and a minimum wage of £50 a week. Get rid of all this "them and us". The rich should be taxed heavily and all the land taken off the property speculators so that houses can be built for homeless people. You can turn Buckingham Palace into a block of flats and let it out to start with.

There's no justice in this country: it's one law for the rich and another for the poor. Someone stole £4.10 out of my meter but the police weren't bothered. Now if it had been Richard Burton and thousands had been stolen it'd have been a different story.

Equal

Look at the schools as well—my kids are being sent home at 3 o'clock three days of the week because they haven't got enough money to pay teachers decent wages. If it was a public school this would never happen.

It's such a rat race now and things are going to get worse. I think socialism is the only answer—a society where everyone is equal.

I used to think we were going to get it through the Labour Party. But Labour haven't made things any better for people. They started this incomes policy lark and the Tories only cashed in on their ideas. I think we're going to have to change the system altogether.

People are always calling me a utopian—they say you'll never change human nature. But going to work and being shut up like a prisoner for eight hours a day—how can that be in your nature? People have had to be conditioned into this.

Once all the selfish and greedy grabbing people were out of the way you could have an equal society. But when you know you're being conned all the time you grab hold of everything you can get.

If this had been another country—say South America—there'd have been a revolution long ago. They're always trying to keep socialist ideas out of the papers because socialism is becoming a real threat to them.

I think Socialist Worker is marvellous. And I wish more people would read it.

Me an' all me mates in a book

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The birth of a movement and The war we're still fighting...

WHEN WAS socialist revolution likely in Britain?

A lot of socialists would say 1926. But James Hinton shows in his new book *The First Shop Stewards Movement** that 1918 is a more likely date. And the workers who have led it were skilled engineers.

Surprisingly, for skilled engineers had been an 'aristocratic elite' amongst the working class. Their union, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers was almost exclusively limited to those who had served a five year apprenticeship, and was uninterested, and often hostile to attempts to unionise anyone else in engineering factories. 'A craftsman is on no account to be confused with a labourer' they used to say.

'The great labour unrest' just before 1914 had radicalised a few. The Great War radicalised many.

War speeds up economic change that might otherwise take years to develop. The Great War saw change from a situation where the bosses were free to exploit their workers without interference, to a situation where the state intervened—on the bosses side.

As the assembly line took over so working conditions got worse. Bomb shells and guns were needed—fast, and the government took over the direction (not the profits) of a vast section of the engineering industry.

Celia Deacon pointed out last week how war freed women to take factory jobs—but for the engineers this meant their old skilled jobs being lost under a tide of unapprenticed labour—'dilution'.

Strikes were illegal, and attempts were made to prevent men taking advantage of the labour shortage by moving from job to job.

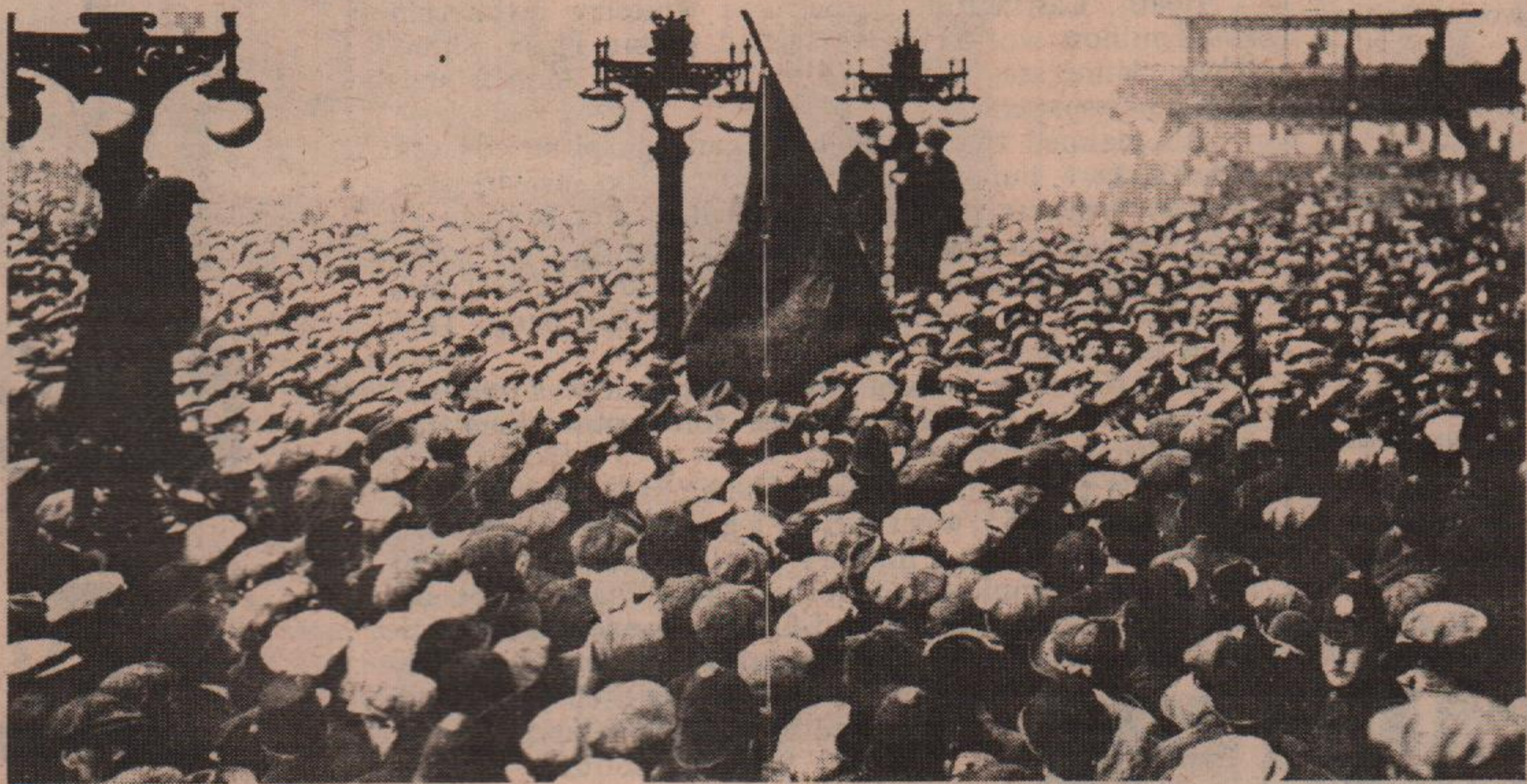
The craftsmen's world was shattered. They turned to their union. But the union had gone over to the government.

So they invented a new form of organisation, the workers committees, democratically elected rank and file organisations of shop-stewards from various factories in each area. They met together to regularly plan and co-ordinate action against both employers and government. 'We shall support the officials just as long as they rightly represent the workers, but we will act independently immediately they misrepresent them,' they announced.

Only two committees had real influence for any time, the Clyde Workers Committee, founded in 1915 and smashed by the government in 1916, and the Sheffield committee founded after the collapse of the Clyde. But others were important for a time.

Besides wages there were two main issues around which the committees fought. Dilution, and the attempts of the government to conscript skilled men into the army. This led to the famous occasion in 1916 when a general strike of engineers in Sheffield and Barrow successfully forced the government to return a conscripted ASE man Leonard Hargreaves to civilian life.

But though this caused the government great concern (the prime minister himself went un-



The Red Flag in Glasgow, 1919

successfully to Glasgow in 1915 to persuade the engineers to accept dilution) it wasn't, of itself, revolutionary. After all attempts to keep unskilled men out of skilled jobs and demands that only labourers be conscripted aren't going to increase working class solidarity.

But the leaders of the committees, able young men like MacManus, Gallacher and Murphy were revolutionaries. They did all they could to take the struggle beyond the question of 'craft'. But they had little socialist theory, and hadn't heard of Lenin until October 1917 and knew nothing of his theories of organisation.

But they fought to unite all workers. In Sheffield a very successful policy of building an all-grade factory organisation was followed.

The key opportunity for the revolutionaries came in early 1918. As the death toll at the front rose unendingly and food shortages and inflation increased at home, opposition to the war grew.



There had been a workers' revolution in Russia. The Clyde Workers Committee was back in business and in Sheffield the rank and file movement now embraced almost all the local factory workers. And there was now in existence a National Workers Committee with delegates from all the main engineering centres.

The issue that gave the revolutionaries their chance was another government attempt to conscript skilled men into the army. Their answer was to call for a national strike not just against men being conscripted but against anybody being conscripted—against the entire war. There was also talk of conscripting not men—but wealth.

Not only the government was alarmed. At the end of January the Fabian 'socialist' Beatrice Webb wrote that she was 'distinctly uneasy about the spirit of revolt amongst the rank and file, which openly declares its sympathy for the

lurid doings in Petrograd.'

The planned strike never took place. At the last moment the revolutionaries failed to carry the rank and file with them and the movement degenerated into an unsuccessful dispute about the privileges of craftsmen.

Had food shortages been worse and the general discontent with the war been a bit stronger things might have been different.

Within months peace had been signed, the armaments factories were being run down and the militants being forced out of the gates.

The ASE regained control. The last fling of the Workers Committee was during the 40 hours strike of 1919 but whatever Gallacher may have said about it afterwards it contained no revolutionary potential.

The committees remained until 1921 but no longer represented anyone. But their experience of the wartime struggle gave the revolutionaries new insights into the process of revolution. They saw that in the right circumstances workers committees could become soviets.

It was this belief in the necessity of soviets that attracted many of these revolutionaries to the Third International and resulted in them becoming founder members of the British Communist Party.

Unfortunately in the period of working class retreat that set in after 1919 soviets were not on the agenda. And so tragically these men never had the chance to implement their hard-won ideas. Indeed they soon came to forget them.

Never really understanding Lenin's theory of the Party they were easy prey to Stalin.

This is a superb book. It is also difficult—and far too expensive. There is a crying need for a paperback edition, and for a pamphlet with the guts of the argument.

JULIAN HARBER

THE FIRST SHOP STEWARDS MOVEMENT by James Hinton. Allen and Unwin, £5.95.

The private life of Adolf Hitler

SWASTIKA, directed by Phillippe Mora, now showing at the Odeon, Haymarket, London.

AN in-depth study of Hitler's private life with the Braun sisters as background—based on a collection of home-movies and propaganda films.

As the camera focuses in on Germany, 1933-9, we are given a brief opportunity to look at the reality of working class life at the time of Hitler's take-over. But we're soon caught up in the heavy round of propaganda meetings and demonstrations of loyalty to the Reichsfuehrer.

Shots of Hitler's retreat at Obersalzberg alternate with the Berlin Olympics, the explosion of the

Hindenburg airship and a celebration of German 'Art'.

At harvest festivals and Christmas celebrations, blond haired children are patted on the head by a smiling Adolf.

Young German women with Swastika armbands are caught against backgrounds of mountains and flowers, and boys are trained in play for their forthcoming military role.

The horrors which followed the collapse of the German working class movement are well known and documented. Unfortunately, Swastika concentrating on personalities, rather than how they got there, does little to develop our understanding of Nazism—in Germany or elsewhere.

JAN DRUKER

PREVIEW

SATURDAY: BBC-2. SECOND HOUSE* deals with the Russian writer Anton Chekov, with a dramatisation of one of his stories and a studio discussion including John Berger the marxist writer and critic. In the London area, Burt Lancaster, star of a new and interesting film on the assassination of Kennedy is interviewed on RUSSELL HARTY PLUS at 9.35pm.

SUNDAY: BBC-2. Arthur Hailey has written a whole string of rubbishy best-sellers. Novels like Airport, Hotel, and Wheels. The formula is a lot of research, followed by linking dialogue between the facts plus sex. The result is a very rich Mr Hailey. He is interviewed on the BOOK PROGRAMME*.

MONDAY: BBC-2. FISHERMEN OF FLOOKBURGH* is in the Look Stranger series and is about the Manning family living on the edge of the Lancastrian Lake District, catching shrimps and playing in the local brass band... BRITISH NUCLEAR POWER—THE GREAT CON-

FUSION is the subject of Panorama on BBC-1 at 8pm.

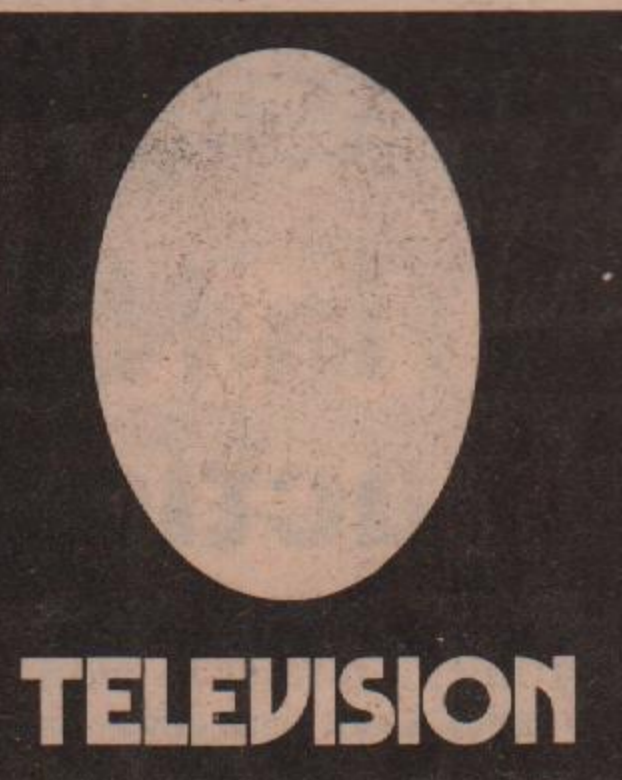
TUESDAY: RADIO-4, 7.30pm, Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC is on IT'S YOUR LINE. The strikes and battles of Grenada, an island in the West Indies have gone largely unreported in the press. It is left to Alan Whicker, everybody's favourite carpet salesman, to investigate the Caribbean island and its ruler, Eric Gairy, in EVERYBODY KNOWS THE SECRET POLICE at 2.50pm on ITV in most regions.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2. In 1972 there were 18,000 murders in the USA. More Americans were killed by other Americans in three years than were killed by the National Liberation Front in Vietnam in a decade. MURDER IN AMERICA* is an American TV documentary on the subject.

THURSDAY: BBC-1. The Play for Today is EASY GO*, which might be interesting. It was improvised by a group of children from Deptford and attempts to show 'life in South-East London from their viewpoint'.

* Time not known at time of going to press.

NIGEL FOUNTAIN



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LIKELY LADS? BBC-1. Tuesdays, 8.30pm.

THE original Likely Lads reflected typical working-class lives of the youth of the late sixties. The revival has the same humour. The cast, are not much wiser and perhaps, predictably, with the same frustrations of those of their youth.

Bob Ferris (Rodney Bewes) has climbed the ladder of middle class respectability to the world of semi-detached suburbia, drinking wine, frequenting continental restaurants, obsessed with material values, accompanied by a wife who provides him with the essential respectability and necessary partnership for the social climb.

However, something isn't right about the life-style and the development—there is no personal fulfillment in the attainment of hi-fi's, fiitted carpets, the car and the three piece suit of the up-graded working-class lad.

The thread which holds the programme together is their friendship built on a past of youthful experience and pointlessness, bailing each other out of minor scrapes. They continually fall back on illusions of the past as justification for their frustrations of the present.

Terry Collier (James Bolam) reflects the failure of perpetuating those days—he is on the dole, has a broken marriage and an aimless life. Life has no direction with the exception of a mutual interest in the past.

He almost rejects Ferris' code of living but maintains a curious respect for it on occasions, as if it were his failure to come to terms with life which has prevented him from attaining at least a similar monetary status.

Dick Clement and Ian Le Frenais, the scriptwriters, have perhaps imparted a greater social statement than they ever intended. Working-class lives reflected in the behaviour of these two, are ones of eternal money-grabbing, status-seeking pointlessness. We don't run our own lives, they argue, we are totally submerged by capitalist greed and indoctrination.

What will happen to the Likely Lads? How many more laughs can the scriptwriters conjure from living, as they do, with endless disillusionment?

JEANNE WOODCOCK

Tagg's lines

IF you live in or near London and can stand going to 'The Theatre', Trevor Griffiths' play *The Party* (The National Theatre at the Old Vic) is a stimulating two hours.

Set in the flat of a trendy television producer during the May uprising in Paris, 1968, it is a well-written debate about the future of the left in Britain.

A smarmy university lecturer, all polished clichés, argues that the working class in the west has been sapped of its revolutionary potential. Ageing orthodox Trotskyist John Tagg, (Laurence Olivier) clobbers this rubbish with a firm belief in the latent potential of British workers.

But if he believes in the need to build a revolutionary party, why is he wasting his time telling middle-class trendies how useless they are? This isn't a criticism of the play but of the John Taggs of the left who endlessly repeat the need for a party to the wrong audience, in the wrong place.

If you've been around the left for some time you will enjoy putting the right names to the characters on the stage.

Standout performance from Frank Finlay as a boozy, cynical writer drained dry by Tagg's toy Bolshevism. Check for times of performances with the Old Vic—it's not on every day. DAVID EAST

'Yes' likely in NALGO action vote

'ARE you prepared to take part in a total ban on all overtime; a refusal to work with agency staff; a one-day strike without pay; selective strikes on Association instructions, with full pay, or with part pay.'

This is the text of the ballot form to be sent to thousands of members of NALGO, the government officers' union, in London. The NALGO executive recommends a 'Yes' vote. The action is planned in support of the union's claim for a £400-a-year increase in the London weighting on wages.

At their recent meeting, the NALGO leaders also authorised another three ballots for industrial action. The other NALGO groups involved are: members in the Health Service and local government health workers to be transferred to the Health Service, members in the gas industry, telephone operators in the North East region and health workers in the London Borough of Camden.

If, as seems likely, the members vote 'yes', then thousands of NALGO members will soon be going into action against their employers.

The NALGO executive is concerned that its cumbersome strike procedure is failing to meet the demands of the increasingly militant membership. Lightning strikes were happening and the union was taking four weeks to deal with them.

Geoffrey Drain, general secretary, is reported in the NALGO journal *Public Service* as saying present machinery stemmed from a period when the members' attitude to striking was different. Some of these issues needed to be dealt with more quickly and he intended to put proposals on this before the Council for its consideration.

Another executive member, John Fraser, said that in most unions strikes were recognised retrospectively and it was important not to discourage members from taking strike action.

THE UNIONS

Tory lies over the Phase 3 pressgang

REPORT

BY

DAVID

BEECHAM

JUST how many workers have 'accepted' Phase Three? This is becoming an important question in the Tory propaganda campaign against the miners.

Heath, Carrington, Barber and Whitelaw claim that four million workers have settled within Phase Three. Their claims are backed up to the hilt by their friends in the newspapers.

It's claimed that council workers, hospital workers, farmworkers, building workers, bank clerks, hairdressers, grocery workers, dressmakers, busmen and firemen all accept Phase Three as 'fair'. The facts are rather different.

The 300,000 farmworkers—not 360,000 as *The Times* claimed—got an increase of £2.25 on the basic. That takes the basic up to a princely £21.75.

How did they 'accept' this? Simple, it was imposed by the body that fixes wages for farmworkers—the Agricultural Wages Board.

As for the 116,000 dressmakers, their new basic, a scandalous £18.55, was fixed by a government-controlled Wages Council. And nobody at all asked the 140,000 hairdressing employers whether their Phase Three increase of between £1.60 and £2.50 was enough dramatically to improve their average weekly earnings of £14. But then their pay is also fixed by a Wages Council.

About 900,000 council workers got rises of £2.32 for men and £2.41 for women. This brings the top rate up to £25.47.

The *Daily Telegraph* backed the Tory claim that this is the best increase the council workers have ever had. It's not. They got £2.50 in 1970 and £2.40 last time.

Million

The hospital workers have also been forced to accept a wage 'increase' of 9 per cent—lower than the rise in the cost of living, even before tax. The *Telegraph* claims there are 1,198,000 hospital workers. That's just a million more than the Health Service employs.

Then we come to the 800,000 building workers. They've got an increase in June. It's the last stage of the rise they won in 1972. Never mind—the Tories claim they accepted Phase Three more than a year before Phase Three was brought in.

an unprecedented number in London voted against the deal.

The firemen also 'settled'. The Glasgow men led a massive struggle against the Tories. They got an average 19.2 per cent increase. The 30,000 firemen are also included in the list of those who have 'accepted' Phase Three.

Jailed

That is the picture. Many low-paid workers have been forced to accept deals that have given them wage cuts. Of the workers the Tories claim have accepted Phase Three, 800,000 (the building workers) fought for and won their increase 18 months ago—three building workers have been jailed for 'accepting' Phase Three. Another 270,000 have their wages fixed by the government Wages Councils. Another 300,000 have their wages fixed by the Agricultural Wages Board.

Perhaps as many as two million workers—or their representatives—have actually 'accepted' Phase Three—half what the Tories claim. Half of these are the council workers, who have been conned once again.

On close examination only one thing can be said of these government and Pay Board figures. Whatever they are, they are not figures, but more like blatant propaganda designed to kid workers on and try to demoralise the miners.

It's a wonderful thing, the millionaire free press.

The grocery workers, who are represented by USDAW, the shopworkers' union, got paltry increases of £3 a week. That's if you include the extra money now conceded for Saturday working.

This is not a bad increase compared to what the employers have given before. The basic wage of a warehouse worker, the middle grade in the agreement, is now £22.05 if he works on Saturday. The deal was accepted by the USDAW full-time officials on behalf of the members.

It is true that 146,000 bank clerks, represented by the National Union of Bank Employees, which was expelled from the TUC for registering under the Industrial Relations Act, agreed to a Phase Three increase. So have most of the busworkers—though

The seamen's union, the taxi and the fake ballot papers

NATIONAL officials of the National Union of Seamen insist that the union's election for a new general secretary will still be completed and be absolutely proper and above board despite the discovery of 50 ballot papers, some obviously forged, in a Glasgow taxi.

The affair started three weeks ago when the Glasgow branch secretary of the union phoned Roy Arnold, acting general secretary of the union since the death of general secretary Bill Hogarth last year, and told him that an unknown taxi driver had just handed in a folder containing 50 NUS ballot papers. 14 looked genuine and the rest, obviously forged, were made out in favour of Jim Salter, the more left-wing of the three candidates.

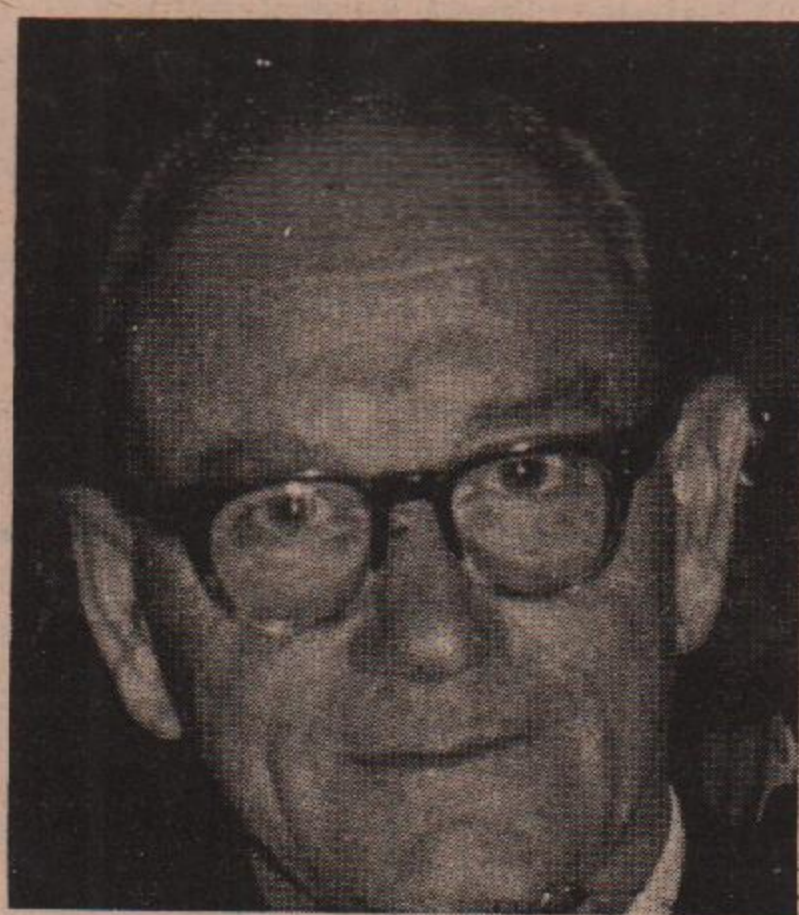
Arnold told the Glasgow secretary he should put the matter in the hands of the police so it would be clear there was no truck with intrigue. The Glasgow police have now turned the matter over to their colleagues in London.

The NUS has a sorry history of ballot-rigging much of which was exposed in the *News of the World* in 1964.

The paper's issue of 27 October 1964 included a front page interview with a former union official who admitted rigging ballots in 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964.

This man admitted he had been involved not only in rigging three executive committee elections in favour of right-wing candidates, but that he also had a hand in rigging the previous general secretaryship ballot against Jim Slater, then the rank and file candidate. Jim Slater was standing against Bill Hogarth, the right wing's man who won.

In the wake of these revelations about right-wing ballot-rigging, the NUS brought in a cumbersome though tight new system



Bill Hogarth: who's next in his seat?

whereby the whole of the ballot is handled by the Electoral Reform Society. This seemed to be going all right until the 1972 executive elections were put under scrutiny by the union after incidents in Manchester.

The latest ballot for general secretary has been plagued with intrigue from the start. A leaflet 'supporting' Sam McCluskie, the middle ground candidate, was circulated. This could well have been designed to damage his chances since the union rules forbid canvassing.

Next a leaflet purporting to support Jim Slater made an appearance. But this was written in such a way as to be extremely unfavourable to the man it supposedly supported.

After this Roy Arnold, the acting general secretary, got the union executive to approve for the first time the publi-

cation in the union journal of election addresses from all three candidates. The third candidate is Roy Sprouhan.

The election started in July last year and is finishing now. It is drawn out, partly because of the cumbersome Electoral Reform Society process but mainly because members are far flung around the globe, and can only register to vote when they come back to port in Britain.

Damage

By the time the election addresses appeared in the union journal, the election was two-thirds over. And by January only 3000 votes had been returned which indicated a close result was likely.

There are many possible explanations for the Glasgow affair. But the most obvious is that the discovery of papers, some forged in Jim Slater's favour, far from being designed to assist his cause, was deliberately calculated to do him damage and perhaps even to void the whole election.

Slater is the man Harold Wilson denounced during the 1966 seamen's strike as one of the 'tightly knit group of politically motivated men' who were, among other things, 'holding the nation to ransom'.

Slater is not exactly beloved of the shipping magnates, who take a close interest in the NUS. He is the only candidate who has stated in his election address that he is unequivocally in favour of the union deregistering and joining the TUC.

The union was suspended and then expelled from Congress after it obtained a closed shop agreement from the Industrial Relations Court after a joint application from the union and the employers' British Shipping Federation.

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.

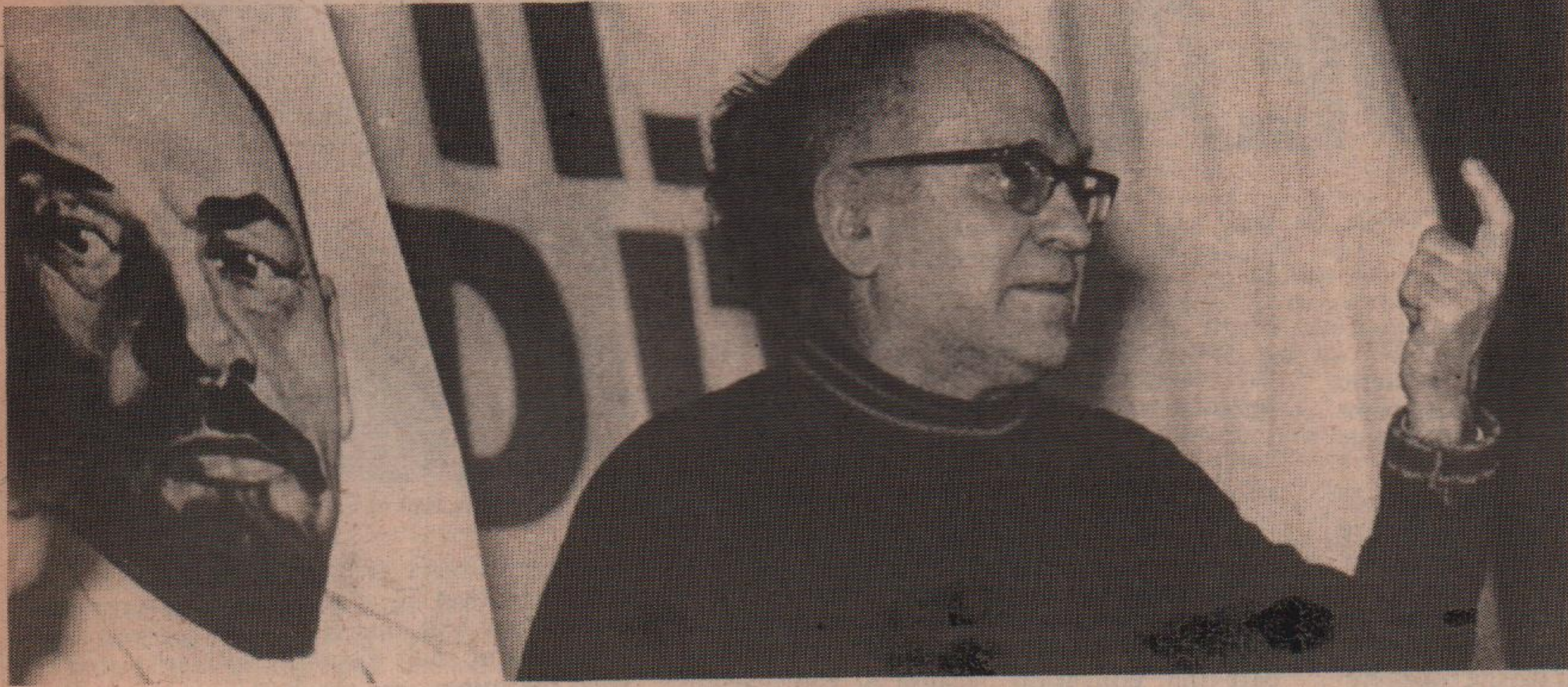
For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

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.



A MAGNIFICENT memorial meeting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the death of Lenin, the Russian revolutionary leader, was attended by more than 400 people in the Lesser Free Trade Hall, Manchester, last week. The main speaker was Tony Cliff, of IS, whose biography of Lenin is to be published soon.

Tony Cliff did much more than praise the work of a dead revolutionary. He described vividly the importance to British socialists, in this time of crisis, of Lenin's emphasis on the building of a centralised, disciplined but democratic revolutionary party. He emphasised that Lenin's greatest qualities were adaptability to the real world and his relentlessness in pursuing the goal of workers' power.

Cliff also warned all those present of the dangers of a sectarian and abstract approach to the building of socialism and

underlined the necessity for total commitment and dedication in the socialist movement.

During discussion which followed the talk, Cliff emphasised the importance of organising independently from the Labour Party and not spreading illusions in the corrupt parliamentary system. He also explained how the development of Stalinism in Russia represented the defeat of everything Lenin stood for and was due primarily to the isolation of the first workers' state.

The meeting ended with a collection to help the expansion of the work of the International Socialists both locally and nationally. More than £120 was raised. After the meeting, in which Cliff had urged the audience to buy a copy of the IS programme and appealed for new members to join one of the 16 Manchester branches of IS, 68 copies of *The Struggle for Workers' Power* were sold and 12 people joined IS.

Hundreds support Shrewsbury rallies

SHREWSBURY builders' pickets John Llywarch and John Carpenter have continued their round of massive rallies organised by IS throughout the country to win support for the jailed Shrewsbury Three.

In EDINBURGH at the largest rally yet to be organised by an IS branch, more than 400 people filled Leith Town Hall to hear John Llywarch and Paul Foot. Dunfermline Trades Council sponsored a bus to the meeting. It was paid for by the NUM lodges at Comaine and Castlehill pits.

John Llywarch was given a standing ovation after his speech, and the enthusiasm of the meeting was sustained by speakers from the floor. James Bower, an NUM member at Comaine Colliery in Fife, said that the government were asking us to unite. 'Yes, we must unite, but only in our class. Speaking as a miner, I'm going to be the first to get to the ballot paper next week to vote for an all-out strike.'

Speaking about the Shrewsbury Three, he said: 'If we don't stand by these lads in our units, we might as well close our books. This could happen to us, and probably will sooner than we think.'

Armed

Willie Black, a young shop steward in the Electricians' Union, urged the meeting to think and talk politics in the factories and work places.

'On one side in any factory you've got the scabs', he said. 'On the other side you've got the militants. In the middle you've got the conservative mass. The craws have got the Tories and their press. We've got the Socialist Worker and the rest of the left press. We've also got factory branches, collections of workers in the factories who are armed with the politics of socialism.'

'We are putting bulletins and newsletters into these factories to educate the workers. We are circulating rank and file papers written by people in the factories to link up struggles in different industries.'

'We need politics and education

so that we can learn about our history. We need to know about the Tolpuddle Martyrs so that we can understand what's happening to these lads at Shrewsbury.'

C Anderson, from the NUM, said that he was now sure there would be a miners' strike. The same tactics won't be used again,' he said. 'We need railwaymen and engineers to help us this time. The miners are not supermen, as some people seem to think. Let's all go together!'

Boosted

He announced that the NUM in the area had donated £190 to the Shrewsbury Defence Committee, and his own pit—Comrie—has given £23.

Alice Murray, Edinburgh IS organiser, who chaired the meeting, said the rally had boosted the confidence of everyone in the hall.

After an appeal from Archie Webb, convenor at McAlpine's St James' Centre site, for a collection to be split evenly between the North Wales Defence Committee and the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund. Just over £100 was collected, and 12 people joined IS.

In GLASGOW the previous night John Llywarch and Paul Foot spoke at another mass rally of more than 300 people at the Kingston Hall. It was chaired by George Kelly, Electricians Union convenor in Glasgow Corporation's direct labour building department.

In between the rallies, John Llywarch addressed 22 meetings in Glasgow and Edinburgh at building sites, railway workshops, pits and engineering factories. At last Saturday's miners' rally in Edinburgh he was on the platform to hear vice-president Mick McGahey say: 'We cannot sleep easily at night while these three lads are still in prison.'

Meanwhile John Carpenter, another of the Shrewsbury Six defendants, was speaking at large rallies of 200 people in EAST LONDON and 100 in WEST MIDDLESEX.

At the West Middlesex meeting a delegation of building workers from the multi-million pound King Edward Memorial Hospital site in Ealing, through their stewards Bob

Hamill and Pat Quinn, pledged support for any future action to release the three.

Asian workers in dispute at Perivale Gutermann were particularly interested to hear John Carpenter describe how the Shrewsbury judgment was affecting the dispute at Art Castings in Nuneaton, where 80 Asian workers have been on strike for seven weeks against victimisation. Carpenter said police activity against picketing at Nuneaton was much more aggressive than usual. It was hinted that the very formation of a picket at the factory gate could be interpreted as illegal—given the case law of Shrewsbury.

A collection for the wives and families of the jailed building workers raised £50.

In East London, John Carpenter was accompanied on the platform by Lew Adams of ASLEF, who spoke of the importance of the industrial action on the railways. Laurie Flynn, of Socialist Worker, who wrote the pamphlet *Pickets on Trial* about the Shrewsbury case, spoke at both meetings and urged people there to build a socialist party which would have the industrial strength to stop any further trials of pickets.

'Support the miners' call to AUEW

MEMBERS of the Engineering Union who are also members of IS travelled to Manchester from all over the country last weekend to discuss the national engineering wages claim and the struggle in the industry in the light of the three-day week and the coming miners' strike.

It was emphasised that the national leaders of the union had refused to take this important claim seriously. From the beginning they had allowed bosses to use delaying tactics. They have done nothing to prepare the members for a militant fight on the claim and have never moved beyond the vague threat of an ineffective overtime ban.

Several delegates stressed that IS members must tell the whole truth, however unpalatable, about Scanlon's shameful betrayal of the claim. Said one speaker: 'Scanlon has cheated

Free the Three!

TYNESIDE district IS public meeting: Free the Three! Speakers: John Llywarch (building worker convicted of picketing at Shrewsbury) and Tony Cliff, Friday 1 February, 7.30pm, Nixon Hall, New YCMA, Ellison Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

SOUTH EAST LONDON district IS

public meeting to launch a Shrewsbury 24 Defence Committee. Speakers: John Llywarch (building worker convicted of picketing at Shrewsbury), Wally Preston and a speaker from Greenwich Trades Council. Friday 8 February, 8pm, Charlton House, The Village, London SE7. Sponsored by Greenwich Trades Council.

Victory to the Miners

MIDDLETON IS public meeting: Support the miners! Speakers: Mick Osborne (Maltby NUM) and Jim Singleton (deputy convenor, Standard Triumph). Thursday 31 January, 7.30pm, Moston Labour Club, Moston Lane East (opposite Gardeners Arms).

HIGH PEAK Socialist Worker public meeting: Support the miners—kick out the Tories. Speakers: Bill Message and a member of the NUM. Sunday 10 February, 8pm, Ashwood Park Hotel, Fairfield Road, Buxton.

COLINDALE IS public meeting: Why the miners must win and how we can support them. Speaker Wally Preston. Wednesday 6 February, 8pm, Bald-faced Stag, Burnt Oak Broadway.

EAST DURHAM COLLIERIES Socialist Worker meeting: Victory to the miners! Speakers: Gerry Herron (president, Durham Miners Association) and Arthur Affleck (chairman, Lackenby Steelworks shop stewards committee), both in a personal capacity. Wednesday 6 February, 7.30pm, Murton Miners Welfare Hall. Songs by Alex Glasgow.

Their crisis—our answer

ACTON IS public meeting: Their Crisis—our answer to the Tory con-trick. Speakers: Roger Cox (AUEW) and Duncan Hallas. Thursday 31 January, 8pm, Committee Room 1, Acton Town Hall.

WORCESTER IS public meeting: The crisis—the socialist alternative. Speaker Paul Foot. Thursday 14 February, 8pm, Technical College, Deansway, Worcester.

BARNET IS public meeting: The crisis and the socialist alternative. Thursday 31 January, 8pm, Bull and Butcher, Whetstone, London N20 (near Totteridge and Whetstone tube).

NIGG BAY Socialist Worker public meeting: Oil and capitalism's crisis—our answer. Speaker Steve Jefferys. Saturday 2 February, 2.30pm, The Averon Centre, AIness.

NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES Region IS aggregate meeting: Sunday 10 February, 2pm-5pm, Bedwell Centre, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage. Speaker Jim Higgins. All IS members in the region should attend.

LANCASTER IS public meeting: Racism and the Immigration Act. Speaker George Peake. Thursday 7 February, 7.30pm, The Farmers Arms.

ESSEX IS aggregate meeting: Saturday 2 February, 2.30pm, Scouts Hall, Langton Avenue, Chelmsford. All Essex IS members should attend.

SOUTH HAMPTON IS public meeting: Why TUC leaders sell out. Speaker Duncan Hallas. Wednesday 6 February, 8pm, UCATT Hall, Henstead Road.

WOMEN'S VOICE Special Crisis issue ready now. News and interviews on Women and the crisis, and general features. IS branches please phone orders to Harlow 37205.

BRIGHTON AND CRAWLEY IS Day School: Building the revolutionary party—speaker Chris Harman (editor, IS journal), and Revolutionary work in the trade unions—speaker Roger Cox (AUEW shop steward). Sunday 10 February, 10am-5pm, Sussex University. All trade unionists welcome.

LONDON IS Irish Forum: Can the Assembly work? Speaker Jimmy Grealy. Friday 1 February, 8pm, The Metropolitan, 95 Farringdon Road, London EC1 (nearest tube Farringdon).

KINGS LYNN Socialist Worker public meeting: Trade unions and the crisis. Monday 4 February, 8pm, Kings Lynn Workers Club, Church Street.

CHERTSEY IS public meeting: Their crisis—the socialist answer. Speakers: Ron Connors and Lindsay Greig (AUEW shop stewards) and Paul Holborow. Thursday 7 February, 8pm, The Woburn Park Hotel, Addlestone (next to Addlestone railway station).

DUDLEY IS public meeting: Their crisis—our answer. Speaker Ray Osborne. Thursday 7 February, 8pm, Green Man pub, Castle Hill, Dudley.

MAIDSTONE Socialist Worker public meeting: Their crisis—our answer. Speakers: Roger Protz (editor, Socialist Worker) and a member of Kent NUM. Friday 1 February, 8pm, The Old Palace, Bishops Way, Maidstone. All welcome.

BOUND VOLUMES of International Socialism Journal: A limited number of bound volumes of issues 36-55 have been produced for those who did not take advantage of our pre-publication offer. Price including postage, £7.30 each. Send your orders in now please. Delivery will take a couple of weeks.

BOLTON IS holds regular meetings in the Spinners Hall every Friday. If interested, why not come along, or write to Paul Kennedy, 70 Stewart Street, Bolton (phone 25226).

WANTED for slide library being set up by IS Training Committee to aid public speakers: photos concerning the struggles of miners, women, blacks, building workers, and on Northern Ireland. Please contact Dept P, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

WANTED: someone with a knowledge of photography and spare time to help in making slides for IS Training Committee for a few days. Please contact Dept Q, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

STUDENT GRANTS AND THE CRISIS—a new IS Students' pamphlet. 5p each (£1 for 25 copies, cash with order) from IS Students, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

WIGAN DISTRICT IS public meeting: The Politics of Corruption. Speaker Paul Foot. Thursday 7 February, 8pm, The Market Hotel, Wigan. All socialists and trade unionists welcome.

three million engineering workers by putting in a large claim and announcing to the world, without any reference to the membership, that he would accept a Stage Three settlement.'

Reports from many areas showed that the crisis has meant the claim has lost even the limited prominence it had in the minds of most engineers. With engineers earning often only their basic rates through the guaranteed week agreement it is vital that IS members continue to push for the £35 basic wage and the 35-hour week.

It is equally important that miners on strike get massive support from engineers. The meeting agreed that maximum pressure would be exerted through district committees and the Confederation of Engineering Unions to get emergency mass meetings of

shop stewards to discuss this issue and link the engineers' fight against Phase Three with the miners' fight.

After detailed discussion, it was agreed unanimously that neither an overtime ban nor token strikes could be curtain-raisers to the required all-out industrial action but would sap the growing militancy of engineers. Therefore they should be opposed.

Looking ahead to next year, the meeting agreed that every possible step should be taken to prevent the ditching of national claims. If wages in engineering are set only by local agreements then large poorly-organised sections of the industry would suffer progressive cuts in real wages. An across-the-board claim was needed because this would mobilise all engineers in the same struggle.

TEACHERS' UNION IN SECRET DEAL

THE executive of the National Union of Teachers has joined the race of union leaders to sell their members down the river. Secretly, nine days before the scheduled meeting of the Burnham Committee at which pay is negotiated, it settled within Phase Three for less than one-third of the claim.

'We want 25 per cent,' said the executive bravely only a few days earlier, in spite of Phase Three. The settlement is about 7 per cent all round.

Even worse, the pay differentials widened considerably. The settlement gives £130 a year at the bottom, for teachers who take home little over £17 a week at the age of 21-22, and £350 at the top, to those already getting much more.

The union executive has totally ignored numerous pleas from members not to negotiate on higher scales until the bottom

by Chanie Rosenberg
secretary, Hackney Teachers'
Association

grades have had a bigger increase—a tactic successfully negotiated by some unions. Now it has accepted this grossly unfair share-out of a totally inadequate sum.

Max Morris, NUT president, merely pleads for £170 at the bottom instead of £130. 'We still have 25 per cent as our long-term aim,' he sheepishly says. When his haste and the haste of other union 'leaders' to accommodate the government have totally destroyed any hope of improving workers' conditions?

In the government's confrontation with the workers, if the best—the only—hope for teachers and other weaker sections is a victory of the miners, 'leaders' like Frank Chapple of the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union, who settled for the power workers, and Ted Britten of the NUT, are doing their

level best to see the government through. By making millions of workers bow down under Phase Three they are stabbing the miners in the back.

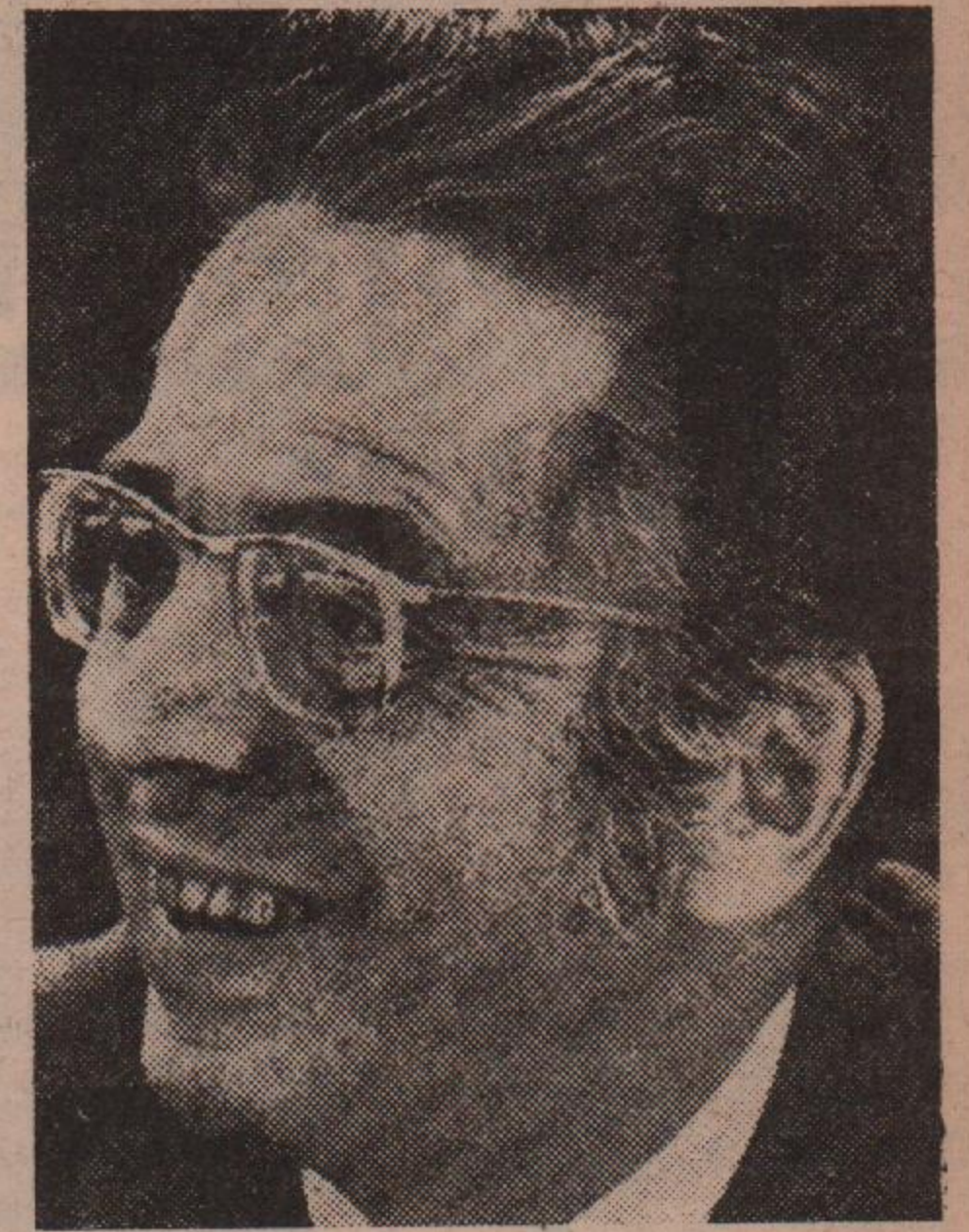
And the government loves it. Every night the television tots up the millions who are settling, leaving the miners out on a limb, so that resentment will build up against them.

The secrecy, the rush to settle, is highly suspect for another reason. The education

SHOTGUN

service is breaking down in some areas of the country, notably London, where 150 schools, involving 20,000 children, are on part-time education because of the teacher shortage. Great pressure is building up among teachers, who are overstrained and suffering a rapidly rising sickness and breakdown rate. This shotgun settlement behind our backs is no doubt calculated to leak away the pressure.

It won't. Large sections of rank and file teachers know their fate is linked with that



NUT president Max Morris

of other workers—at present the miners—and that their best hope against the government restrictions and cuts is to fight for more by all means at their disposal. Solidarity strikes with the miners are the best way to win the miners' claim and our claim. Scuttling to settle within Phase Three is calculated to help the government divide and rule.

The teachers' London Allowance is not yet settled. The staffing situation is catastrophic. Conditions are deteriorating rapidly. The NUT executive will not get away with it on the cheap like this.

POLICE AGAIN HIT PICKET

NUNEATON, Warwickshire:—A meeting of all Transport Union members at Coventry Art Castings voted by 170 to 35 to ask the management to reinstate the 83 immigrant workers on strike.

Scab TGWU members recruited during the strike were allowed to speak and vote. This was the second such meeting this year.

Despite countless promises the TGWU has still not made the strike official, blacked all goods, or called out the whole factory.

The union is frightened of the Industrial Relations Act and of antagonising white TGWU members still working.

Picketing has been very successful over the last two weeks with two-thirds of all delivery trucks turning around. But 30 police hit the picket again on 26 January. They dragged off four men and charged them with obstruction while pickets were blocking a truck's entry.

The weakness of the mighty TGWU in the face of racism and its own fear of the Industrial Relations Act is clear. Socialists throughout the Coventry District must campaign for the support the Art Castings deserve and require.

Reward for loyalty —200 face sack

KENT:—Workers at Supervents, a small engineering firm at Sidcup, right in the heart of Prime Minister Edward Heath's constituency, have been rewarded for their years of strike-free, loyal service. They are being sacked and the factory is closing down.

What has happened at the factory is a fable of big business Britain. Workers have been cutting corners, reducing their break periods and generally working like hell in a bid to make Supervents really profitable for their employers, the Crown House group. Now the company has other plans. For the land Supervents stands on is immensely valuable.

Supervents makes ventilating equipment. It took a bit of a knock as a result of the dispute in the building industry in 1972 and has since been troubled by the acute shortages of skilled labour in construction as the industry temporarily boomed.

In the interim report last autumn, group chairman Patrick Edge-Partington reported that much of the company's problems were the result of a 'management failure' and

that the company would be reorganised. Then last week came the shock announcement that the factory would be closed in April and all 200 workers sacked.

Crown House claim the closure is because the rate of profit is not high enough. But sacked workers have pointed out that the closure could hardly have been planned because the firm was still taking on new labour even as the closure decision was being announced.

Workers have also uncovered information which shows that the firm has received orders worth £500,000 since 1 January alone.

Workers at the plant, mainly members of the Sheet Metal Workers Union, have little will to resist the closure for the moment at least. They have been gradually worn down by making concessions in a bid to make the company more profitable.

Their sense of being used and abused is clear. But they are also frightened, refusing to give names to sympathetic journalists for 'fear of losing redundancy pay' or 'not getting a decent reference'.

The men's suspicions that they are being sacrificed to the god of property development have been increased by an article in the local paper, the Sidcup Times, by reporter Barry MacSweeney. He points out that the Supervents factory is right next to a site Tesco is hoping to develop as a £3 million hypermarket. Already opposition to the Tesco planning application is growing. The nearby Supervents site would be a useful alternative.

700 march for miners

LEEDS:—700 people marched last Saturday under the slogans 'Kick out the Tories, Free the Shrewsbury Three, Support the miners'. Among trade union and International Socialist banners were those of Leeds Trades Council and shop stewards' committee from West Yorkshire Foundries—a branch of British Leyland—and Jackson Boilers.

After the demonstration 300 people crammed into the Leeds Trade Club to hear John Carpenter, one of the convicted Shrewsbury pickets. Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners and a member of the NUM executive, and Terry Jacques, convenor of Crabtrees.

John Carpenter was given a standing ovation after he spoke of the frame-up trial that had jailed three building workers. He pointed out the political implications of the Shrewsbury trials and called for the setting up of a National Workers' Defence Committee, to defend all workers, for more would soon be coming under the legal hammer.

Arthur Scargill called for every worker to be prepared to strike in support of the miners. He pointed out that the flying pickets in 1972 would have been much less effective had it not been for the solidarity action of other workers, particularly at Sattley coke depot, Birmingham, which was closed by a mass picket of workers from surrounding industries as well as miners.

UNION BETRAYS MILITANT CONVENOR

BEVERLEY, YORKSHIRE:—Jean Jepson, the Armstrong's Patents convenor sacked for refusing to suspend the guaranteed 40 hour agreement, was badly let down by union officials last week.

A Department of Employment Tribunal found Jean's sacking 'for continuous and deliberate disruption' was 'justifiable'. This wasn't surprising as the tribunal consisted of four management representatives, two shop stewards who had been briefed for two hours by Armstrong's management and two workers nominated by Jean. The vote was six to two.

After the tribunal, Transport Union regional organiser Les Upfold said: 'I am disgusted with the decision. I cannot have this'. But at a union meeting the following day he backtracked completely and recommended a return to work.

When 50 strikers did report back to work it was quite clear that management were not going to waste their new strength. The strikers were warned that one false move meant the sack, and the management refused to let them go back to their old jobs. Five walked out immediately and 20 more have since left as they now find the place unbearable.

Another disgusting aspect of this strike has been management's attempts to blackmail Jean. They have compiled a 'dossier' containing slanderous personal accusations against Jean. A copy of this has been sent to the union.

In spite of this blackmail and previous attempts at bribing Jean to leave, the union is still backsliding, and is now helping management organise elections for a new convenor and shop stewards.

Other Hull workers have been showing how to fight Armstrongs. Hull dockers have blacked Armstrongs and are attempting to extend it nationally. Workers at Fenners have declared Armstrongs black and their drivers will not cross the picket.

Twenty strikers are still outside the gates and are receiving no money. Financial support is urgent and should be sent to Jean Jepson, c/o Bevin House, George Street, Hull.

Ambulance men force a retreat

AMBULANCEMEN on the day shift at depots in Northumberland were sent home last Wednesday after refusing to do extra duties such as washing their vehicles. At Wallsend, the men were given an ultimatum to do this work or be sent home. They refused, and after similar events at other depots most of Northumberland was without a full service for the day.

Contrary to local press stories, in every case, the men had turned up to provide a full service. As part of their campaign for decent wages they are refusing to do such extra chores. Management had clearly planned the move, as it was timed to coincide with a meeting of union and management.

The only ambulances on duty were driven by station officers, accompanied by women social workers, one of whom was six months pregnant. All treatment cases, such as kidney cases, had to be cancelled. So much for management's concern for the patients!

But the men's unity forced the management to back down and by the evening shift the men were back at work continuing their sanctions as before. Now they are asking who took this irresponsible decision.

On the demand that drivers do cleaning duties, one local militant said: 'It's like asking dustbin men to clean lamp posts on their way round'.

Full national union support is needed for men refusing to do these extra and unpaid chores. The result of this incident was a temporary victory for the men—since they did receive their full day's pay. The campaign for decent wages goes on.

Convenor is victimised

HULL:—Management at Hollis Bros have been heartened by their successful victimisation of convenor Colin James, an Engineering Union branch secretary and unofficial shop steward sacked for 'gross misconduct' and 'wilful damage to company property'.

Colin had sawed the legs off an old canteen chair after an argument with a workmate.

His 10 AUEW work-mates and more than 500 Transport Union and Footwear Union members struck in support of his re-instatement.

Management are taking advantage of the 'crisis' to attack the growing union organisation in the factory.

TGWU convenor John Black, twice the victims of Hollis' sackings, said that he had sensed the management were about to 'have a go at them'. They had told management that as soon as they had the chance they were going to have a slice of Hollis's vastly increased profits.

Hull dockers have agreed to black the firm's products, but the TGWU hasn't made the strike official.

Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 1p per word, semi-display 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

ANGOLA: BIG BUSINESS VERSUS THE PEOPLE. Public meeting, Monday 4 February (MPLA Day) 7.30pm, Unity House (NUR), Easton Road, London NW1. Speakers: Basil Davidson, Lionel Cliffe and others. Sponsored by Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guine. Info: 01-734 9541.

COMRADE requires room in North West/West London. Phone Kevin at 01-602 0851 (work).

IS WOMAN moving to Leeds in need of room in friendly house as soon as possible. Please contact Burg Kinsey, 104 Rosary Road, Norwich, Norfolk.

TEXTILE WORKER issue no 2 now out. Four pages, only 2p. Rank and file paper for all workers in all textile, hosiery and allied trades. Send orders to TEXTILE WORKER, 83 Staveley Road, Keighley, Yorkshire. Phone Keighley 4738 or Hebden Bridge 3662.

PUBLIC MEETING: Forcible feeding is torture. Saturday 2 February, 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Speakers include relatives of the hunger strikers—Mrs Kathleen Feeney, Miss Clare Price and Mr Liam Kelly.

COMRADE wishes to share flat in or around Central London. Phone Brian at 286-1561 or 402-6087 evenings or weekend.

THE CHINESE answer ten basic questions on China today in a 91-page illustrated booklet. 22p brings this plus a free copy of 'China reconstructs' from D Volpe, 16 Belmont Court, London N16 5DD.

SEVEN DAYS: Please offer unwanted copies to Allan, 25 Westminster Drive, Wrexham.

IRISH PRISONERS' HOSTAGES COMMITTEE: Sunday 3 February, 3pm, assemble White City for picket at Wormwood Scrubs for Gerry Kelly. Thursday 7 February, 7.30pm, meeting at Conway Hall with prominent Irish speakers. Sunday 10 February, 2.30pm, assemble Clapham Common for march to Brixton Prison in solidarity with Dolours and Marian Price.

SUPPORT THE MINERS, Smash Phase 3, Kick out the Tories. Public meeting sponsored by Stirling University Miners Support Group and Stirling Trades Council, Saturday 2 February, 2.30pm, Lesser Albert Hall, Stirling. Speakers: Will McDougall (NUM Scottish executive) and Peter Bain (Carworker).

SOCIALIST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION meeting: The EEC and the NHS. Tuesday 5 February, 7pm, House of Commons (room booked by Peter Shore). Speakers: Dr D Stark Murray, Michael Silver, LDS, Harry Daile FBOA and Avis Hutt SNO.

CONCERT in aid of families of the three jailed Shrewsbury pickets: Monday 4 February, 7.30pm, Calverton Miners Welfare, Calverton, Notts. All proceeds to one of the families.

ARCHITECTS AND SURVEYORS NEEDED to work within co-operative housing association in groups of eight to ten workers including social workers and housing management. On new work and conversions in Lewisham/Southwark area of London. Salary negotiable. Frank Vickery, Solon Housing Association, 381 Clapham Road, London SW9. Phone 274-9998.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Sunday 3 February: Marian Price, aged 21, 81 days on hunger strike in Her Majesty's Prison, Brixton. Joint Action Committee.

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

Pickets trial judge gives police the OK

SHREWSBURY:-The judge in the second pickets trial, Mr Justice Chetwynd Talbot, has now ruled that it is perfectly all right for the prosecution to prime their witnesses just before they go into the witness box.

He decided that the police were at liberty to show witnesses photographs and copies of their original statements after an angry exchange in court.

Mrs Dorothy Drake, who claimed that the pickets acted like mad people and that she was so terrified she locked herself in a lavatory, admitted she had been shown photographs. Defence Counsel Keith McHale then asked who had the impertinence to show her them. Then, after the jury was sent out of the court, the judge ruled there was nothing wrong in the practice.

Mrs Drake also admitted under defence cross-questioning that while she had stated one picket was carrying a stick, she could not really be sure. She also admitted that while she had originally picked out two men from photographs, one of the two she was now identifying was not the same man she had originally picked.

The trial of the eight North Wales building workers on charges of affray and unlawful assembly is now in its third week. The prosecution is still outlining its evidence. Most has nothing whatsoever to do with the specific behaviour of the eight men, John Clew, John Davies, Derrick Hughes, Alfred James, Arthur Murray, William Pierce, Samuel Warburton and Thomas Williams.

Armed

This is because of the nature of the charges. Unlawful assembly simply means an assembly for lawful or unlawful purposes which could turn into a breach of the peace. The prosecution therefore only has to suggest that the men were among a crowd, some of whom were doing things which did or could lead to a breach of the peace.

Affray is similar. This is supposedly a fight involving two or more people which would give fright to 'reasonably courageous citizens of the land.' The trick with affray is that people have often been found guilty of the offence without any fighting taking place at all in the incident held to be an affray.

Over the past few days the policemen who have been giving evidence at the trial have been working hard to tighten up their cases. One thing they have found rather difficult to explain is why, when there were so many police accompanying the pickets on the day the violent picketing is supposed to have taken place, not one single arrest was made there and then and why no-one was ever taken in for questioning.

In this second trial, police officers have adopted a new and, if accepted, potentially damaging line of explanation. This is that they were too terrified by the picketing to do anything at all.

Last Friday, David Price, a constable at the time of the picketing who had since been promoted to sergeant, told the court how powerless and scared stiff he felt among the crowd of pickets. Another sergeant, Michael Hartland, pursued an identical line of argument.

Affray

On Monday, Graham Marshall, a quantity surveyor who gave evidence in the first Shrewsbury trial, stated that John Clew was definitely the man who with two or three others approached him and made threats. Clew, he said, was armed with an iron bar.

Under cross-examination he admitted that his evidence in the first trial was rather different. He said then that he only thought it was John Clew. Pressed on the matter, he admitted that the reason for the difference was that the police had shown him copies of their photographs a few more times.

The tremendous pressure the defendants are under took its toll again this week. Right at the start of this second trial one of the defendants pleaded guilty to unlawful assembly. On Tuesday two more of the defendants, John Clew and

Derrick Hughes, changed their pleas.

The prosecution has offered them a deal. If they pleaded guilty to unlawful assembly, the affray charge would be dropped. The two men, who doubtless see prison sentences staring them in the face, have gone along with this scheme.

The deal damages the chances of the other defendants, against whom the prosecution is still remorselessly pressing both charges.

The appeal and application for bail of the three men jailed after the first trial, Des Warren, Ricky Tomlinson and John McKinsie Jones, was to be heard on Friday this week before Mr Justice James, the man who handled the 'Angry Brigade' conspiracy trial. Last Tuesday Rita McKinsie Jones, John's wife, gave birth to a baby daughter. Mother and daughter are doing well.

Support for the Shrewsbury defendants comes from miners, dockers—and TGWU members at Dillons University Bookshop in the heart of London. The branch has condemned the jailings and pledged political and financial support to the defence committee.

Despite management complaints over picketing and leafleting of customers the branch is pressing ahead and sending two delegates to the Liverpool Trades Council re-call conference.

MINERS CHEER BUILDER

SOUTH WALES:-Meetings on the Shrewsbury building workers' trial and picketing have attracted enthusiastic audiences in the area.

At CWM 30 miners heard John Llywarch, who received a suspended sentence, describe his experiences. 'It was clear that the trumped up charges—which should have been laughed out of court, showed the political nature of the trial.'

IS executive committee member Jim Nichol made the connections between Shrewsbury and the 1972 Miners' Strike. The 'conspiracy' had taken place in Whitehall, he pointed out, and in company boardrooms.

Later at PONTARDULAIS a packed meeting heard Margaret Llywarch and Jim Nichol. Margaret described what life was like for the wives of the Shrewsbury defendants, and reminded the audience that building workers were still on trial—or facing trial. After a tremendous ovation £15 was raised for the families.



On the picket line at Con-Mech Engineering, Woking, Surrey, where workers have been on strike for four months for recognition of their union, the Engineers. On the left is Lindsay Grieg, one of the stewards sacked by the boss when he went to ask for union recognition. Donations and messages of support please to Lindsay Grieg, Cox Hill House, Chobham, Surrey.

Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

The Magnificent Seven

PRESTON:-Seven sacked Engineering Union members have been reinstated at the foundry of W Coupe, Higher Walton.

This followed a great display of solidarity by engineering workers from nearby Leyland Motors.

The seven, the entire night shift, had only recently joined the union at Coupe's, an old 'family firm' employing a lot of non-union labour.

Their sacking a fortnight ago followed a walkout after management refused to discuss their complaint that they were being kept on three-day working while the day shift was working four days.

After a week's picketing of the foundry, Michael Potter, their shop steward, appealed for help to Leyland Motors works committee.

Within an hour, about 100 Leyland stewards had responded to the appeal and joined the picket line. Michael Potter

described the men's reactions: 'We'd been stood out there in the rain all week, like seven idiots, but when the lads from Leyland turned up, all of a sudden we were the magnificent seven'.

Twenty five day shift workers, members of the 'Foundry Workers' Union, were called out in support. Len Brindle, chairman of Leyland works committee who led the party of stewards, warned Coupe's directors that their products would be blacked if the dispute continued.

As a result negotiations began which led to the reinstatement of the seven. Unfortunately the talks, between management and AUEW district secretary Bob Crook, failed to press home the advantage gained by the mass picket.

The seven have been moved from nights on to the day shift, and have not been paid for the missing week. A further meeting will take place to discuss the main grievances.

NOW RAIL ACTION PUTS ON SPEED

THE engine drivers' union ASLEF has called region-by-region one-day strikes over the next three weeks.

The drivers will strike on Western region next Tuesday, Eastern on Thursday, Southern on 12 February, London Midland on 14 February, and in Scotland on 19 February.

As soon as the decision was announced last Monday, there were signs of widespread dissatisfaction in the engine sheds. One London militant told Socialist Worker: 'The executive should make up their mind whether they want to fight for this claim or not. If they want to fight, let's have some proper action.'

New combine backs big ITT sit-in

THE first ITT all-union shop stewards' combine meeting in Manchester last week included shop stewards from six unions and representing factories as far apart as Northern Ireland and the Home Counties.

The meeting had been summoned by the occupation committee at the Maclaren Controls Division factory in Glasgow, where management is now threatening a complete closure. The stewards heard the facts that prove ITT is involved in a systematic attempt to crush trade union organisation.

The meeting called on the whole labour movement to black all Maclaren Controls products—mainly gas thermostats—and the substitutes ITT is believed to be importing. It also recommended that meetings be held in ITT factories in working hours to explain the Maclaren workers' fight.

The combine meeting took vital steps towards building an organisation that can stand up to ITT. A steering committee was elected and a future meeting planned. The possibility of launching a combine-wide rank and file newspaper was considered.

These small but significant steps will be resisted bitterly by ITT, a giant multi-national company which employs more than 70,000 people in Britain and is known the world over for its anti-working class attitudes.

The ITT Combine will survive even if the 300 workers at Maclaren, mainly women, are beaten. But a defeat for the Maclaren occupation, now in its eighth week, would be a savage setback. A victory, a settlement within Phase Three—which is all the workers have demanded—and the reopening of the factory without victimisations or redundancies, would be a tremendous boost to the fledgling combine.

Resolutions, messages of support and donations from trade union and workplace organisations will help ensure the Maclaren workers' victory. Your support is needed. Send to V Kennedy, 4 Hollybrook Street, Glasgow G42.

'This one-day business just annoys everyone without achieving anything. It's the worst form of compromise—pathetic.'

The executive's decision came on a day of widespread unofficial industrial action on the railways. Guards, signalmen and other workers, all of them members of the National Union of Railwaymen, refused to work in protest against loss of pay on Sundays when they had been sent home.

The national press was quick to label the NUR men's strike as 'against ASLEF'. On the contrary, many saw the refusal to pay them on Sundays as an attempt by British Rail to 'save' money during the ASLEF strike. Many guards are openly voicing their anger at their union's effective acceptance of the Rail Board's proposals for pay restructuring.

The NUR leaders and the Railways Board have been spreading the lie that the ASLEF strike is an attempt to get more of the Rail Board's offered 'cake'—£52 million—for engine drivers at the expense of NUR members, who include guards, signalmen, and track workers.

On the contrary, the engine drivers' argument is with the size of the cake, not with its distribution. They argue that the amount offered by the board is nothing like enough to compensate for the enormous increases in engine drivers' responsibilities.

In 1960 there were 43,000 engine drivers. Now there are 28,000—a 60 per cent drop. Passenger traffic has fallen by only 12.3 per cent; freight by 19.5 per cent.

In 1962, there were only 12 scheduled trains running at more than 70 mph. Now almost all passenger trains go that speed, and some go up to 100 mph.

The Rail Board's offer in return is a paltry £1.50 a week increase on the basic wage. All the other 'increases' arise from 'consolidating' bonus rates and mileage allowances into the basic rate. This could result in heavy losses for long-distance engine drivers.

So ASLEF is demanding extra mileage payments after a driver has done 125 miles a day. The board is sticking to a limit of 200 miles. One engine driver told Socialist Worker that 'consolidation' on the basis of a 200-mile limit could lose him £6 or £7 a week.

Railwaymen everywhere have nothing to lose if ASLEF wins its claim. If ASLEF is driven to arbitration by the rage of commuters and by the weakness of its own leaders, the Rail Board will force its advantage, and dance all over the other grades.

High rental on Scots lentil

GLASGOW:-The 200 storemen and drivers at Allied Suppliers' Thornliebank warehouse took an important stand last week over the price of lentils.

For months the company had been telling its customers, 500 of the biggest grocery shops and supermarket chains in Scotland, that lentils—price 12p a pound—were in short supply. Meanwhile the workers in the factory were wading through piles of lentils stored in the warehouse.

Then, last week, Allied Suppliers, owners of such household names as Lipton, Maypole and Home and Colonial Stores, decided that the shortage had disappeared and it would issue the lentils to the people of Scotland at the new price of 24p a pound. It justified this increase by claiming that some of its competitors

were charging 32p a pound. Obviously there was no connection between the rise in price and the fact that Allied Suppliers have been hoarding 30 tons of lentils for up to three months.

The workers, members of the Transport Union, met and decided to black any movement of the lentils until the company came up with a satisfactory explanation and reduced the price. This is an important demonstration that workers in the food industry can take direct action against price increases.

The final outcome is still in doubt as we go to press but divine judgement may have been given. The Allied Suppliers warehouse was flooded in the big storms that struck Scotland last weekend. And when you mix lentils with water...



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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



BIG BACKING FOR BALLOT

by Jim Higgins

'ABSOLUTELY SOLID'—that is the verdict of Kent miners' leaders after last weekend's pit branch meetings.

It is the same story in every coalfield. In Scotland, South Wales, Nottingham, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Durham, in area after area, the local executives are returning unanimous recommendations for a 'yes' vote in this week's strike ballot.

Jack Collins, Kent member of the NUM executive, speaking at Betteshanger colliery last Sunday, put the issues before the miners with stark clarity: 'The miners have only two alternatives—to go forward through struggle or to go back to an era of a pittance for wages and demoralisation for company.' The meeting voted unanimously for strike action.

Arthur Davies, member of Cwm NUM Lodge Committee, South Wales, told Socialist Worker: 'Capitalism is in another crisis. This isn't an unfamiliar situation to the miners.

'From nationalisation to the present day there have been closures, more closures and impending finance cuts,' he went on. 'Funny that this never seems to hit the private contractors working in and above the colliery.'

GRASP

'Whatever happens miners must not fall for promises of "tomorrow". The full claim is here for the grasping, we must take hold of it now, the "tomorrow" will never come.'

In Derbyshire, pithead and branch meetings have been giving unanimous and enthusiastic support for the strike call.

In the Scottish area the movement is further advanced than in the other coalfields. Every shift in every mine are holding pithead meetings to get maximum support for the strike ballot.

Preparations have been made for a meeting with the Scottish NUR, ASLEF and Transport Workers to prepare solidarity action during the strike.

At the recent Scottish area delegate meeting a strong feeling developed that the deputies' union, NACODS, should be brought out with the miners. During the 1972 strike, the deputies maintained the safety and

emergency precautions in the pits. If they are drawn into the strike it will be only a short time before most pits would become unworkable.

A miner at Kellingley pit told Socialist Worker: 'We are not a special case, and we will not be fobbed off with anything less than the claim.'

'The Pay Board's relativities report is no good to us. We want cash now. We are ready and eager to fight for that money.'

Every area of the NUM should be making the sort of preparations for the strike that are being pioneered in Scotland:

- Build links with other key unions to stop the movement of coal.
- Prepare flying pickets now to shut down power stations. Set up effective strike committees in every area.
- Call on trades councils to form special action committees to back the miners and organise solidarity action.

Unity is the key to victory.

Mick McGahey (in glasses) mobbed by cheering miners at NUM headquarters when the strike ballot decision was taken. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

Poland won't stop that blackleg coal

TO DATE 27,000 tons of Polish coal has entered Britain during the miners' overtime ban. By the end of March the Polish government has signed a contract to send 500,000 tons altogether. This tasty little addition to Lord Carrington's coal stocks will be arriving almost certainly during an all-out miners' strike.

In a letter to the Polish United Worker's Party, Bert Ramelson, the British Communist Party's industrial organiser, asked the Polish party to use its influence 'to ensure that coal was not shipped during the miners' dispute.'

He later told Socialist Worker: 'The Polish government contracted to deliver the coal before the end of March long before the miners' action started'. The sanctity of commercial contracts with capitalist governments fighting miners is, according to Ramelson 'a legitimate point of view for the Polish state. They have got to honour their contracts', he said.

According to the Morning Star, the Polish party 'had not responded favourably' to the British Communist Party's representations. It is obvious that the Poles have a much closer understanding of the relationship between the party and the state in a 'communist' country.

The Polish state, staffed almost exclusively by members of the Polish

party, has a long history of helping out reactionary regimes with timely deliveries of coal. Only a few years ago they helped Franco break the Spanish miners' strike. In the next few weeks they will be doing their bit for Mr Heath.

Polish coal is entering Britain through Immingham. It is up to British workers—miners, dockers and transport workers—to ensure that not a piece of this coal reaches its destination. They can expect no help from the Polish state strikebreakers.

Thanks-but keep digging

THANKS! Last week we needed £1400 to hit our £5000 target—and we got £2173.44. You made it! The grand total for the month stands at £5773.17.

Here are just a few of the contributors: Hounslow IS branch sent £266, Camden IS sent £468.70, and Walthamstow IS sent £50. Factory collections at Askern Colliery raised £2, at Chrysler Stoke £5 and at Standard Triumph £20.

So is that it? Sorry, it's not. The working class is fighting back, but so are the Tories. For every penny we get the Tories get a £1 note. There aren't many Tories—but they've got plenty of money.

When you give to the Fighting Fund you're giving directly to fight

this government and this system—a fight we can win. Our usual appeal is for £1000 a month but there is a war on. We need £2000 by the end of February.

Every penny you give is part of the struggle against the government, the bosses, the system. Against the lies of Fleet Street, against the lies of television.

The bosses want the money to clobber you!

We want the money to help you clobber them!

So please, send your money in. However much you can afford, whether it's 5p—or £500. Send it to Jim Nichol, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Labour aids Tory witchhunt

THE LABOUR PARTY officially joined the Tory witchhunt against the miners' leaders this week.

Mortally afraid that statements by vice-president Mick McGahey—who correctly stressed the need to appeal to troops not to be used for strike-breaking—might affect Labour's chances at the polls, Jim Callaghan issued a statement on Tuesday condemning the Communist Party members on the NUM executive.

It is appropriate that Callaghan should be the man to attempt to sabotage the miners' case. It was during the Labour government of 1964 to 1970, of which he was a leading member, that 200,000 miners' jobs were lost.

Friends

Callaghan claimed on BBC radio on Tuesday that he knew hundreds of miners. He has other friends, among them his fellow director of the Commercial Bank of Wales, Julian Hodge the financier, much publicised recently for his extortionate second mortgage business.

And no doubt Callaghan's tender respect for 'law and order' derives from his long period as adviser to the Police Federation.

Another Labour politician who has been taking the opportunity to attack Mick McGahey is Willie Hamilton, MP for West Fife. Hamilton declared that if McGahey were in Russia he would be shot for his remarks about troops.

Defends

Whatever the truth of that statement, it is also equally the case that if Callaghan and Hamilton were also in Russia they would probably be signing the death sentence.

Socialist Worker unconditionally defends Mick McGahey against the attacks of the Tories and their Labour Party lieutenants. Labour's road to a victory at the polls will not be over the body of a defeated trade union movement.

Mick McGahey is right. The miners' struggle is a political one.

And if the Tories should send in troops, it will be the duty of every trade unionist to appeal to workers in uniform to refuse to carry out strikebreaking orders.

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