

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Labour rule splits families

by PAUL FOOT

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT has announced that women who are living in Britain and want to continue living here must live apart from their husbands if their husbands are foreigners.

At the same time, men living in Britain can be joined by their wives if their wives are foreign.

This crude discrimination—the first major statement of the new government's immigration policy—was made in the House of Commons on 28 March by Roy Jenkins, who classes himself as 'a liberal'.

It spells misery to hundreds of women and children all over Britain who have been fighting against the Tory government in an effort to bring their families together.

Eleni Papayianni came to this country from Cyprus as a young girl 14 years ago. She has lived in North London all her adult life, she is a citizen of the United Kingdom, and she wants to stay.

In 1970 she fell in love with Aristides Papayianni, a young Cypriot who was in Britain on a student's permit. They were married in April 1970.

Aristides applied for permission to live in Britain permanently. He had got a job and a request from his employer that he be allowed to stay. The Home Office said no.

The couple appealed to an immigration adjudicator who ruled that Aristides should be allowed to stay.

The Home Office was furious. It appealed against the decision of the adjudicator to an immigration appeals tribunal. The tribunal ruled by 2-1 that Aristides must go.

The National Council for Civil Liberties took the case to the European Court of Human Rights, where it was dismissed. On 4 June last year, when Eleni was pregnant, Aristides was forced to leave the country.

Racist

Last October, he was allowed back on a temporary permit to see his new baby. When Labour was elected, he thought he was free at last to stay with his family permanently.

Last week, their hopes—and the hopes of hundreds of other families in similar situations—were smashed.

Now, they must throw themselves once again at the mercy of racist bureaucrats in the Home Office.

Martin Loney, general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, told Socialist Worker: 'Perhaps the worst aspect of this decision is its racialism. Jenkins made it plain in the House that he was especially worried about Indian immigration.'

'He's saying that white women who want to be joined by their husbands will have a much better chance of Home Office approval than Asian women. So there's racial discrimination and anti-woman discrimination rolled into one.'

Why has Jenkins, and his newly-elevated hatchet-man, Lord Harris, decided to impose such unnecessary hardship? Borrowing his phrases from Enoch Powell, Jenkins told the Commons:

'Were I to admit husbands on the same basis as wives, in my view it would lead to a substantial and continuing new wave of male immigration, particularly from the Indian sub-continent.'

How many people are affected? In 1968, a peak year of immigration and the last year in which foreign husbands had a right to join their wives in Britain, 1676 foreign husbands came into the country.

That represents 0.003 per cent of the British population.



Littlejohn on television last week

Wilson rushes to stop big spy probe

KENNETH LITTLEJOHN, bank robber, escaped prisoner and self-confessed freelance agent of the British Secret Service, had high hopes of the new Labour government.

He hoped that Labour would recognise that he had robbed banks and let off bombs in the Irish Republic not just for personal gain, but for his country.

The Littlejohn brothers insisted that they had committed serious crimes—bombings, bank robberies and even murders—on direct instruction from Tory government ministers and state officials who wanted to promote a crack down on the IRA.

When the affair first came to a head last year, Labour MPs demanded an independent inquiry. Fred Peart, then Shadow Defence Secretary, suggested that Labour would swallow an internal, departmental inquiry, provided it was chaired by an independent person.

The Tory government refused. It was determined to ensure that no more details on the rather delicate subject of how government really works, how the state really operates, should get out.

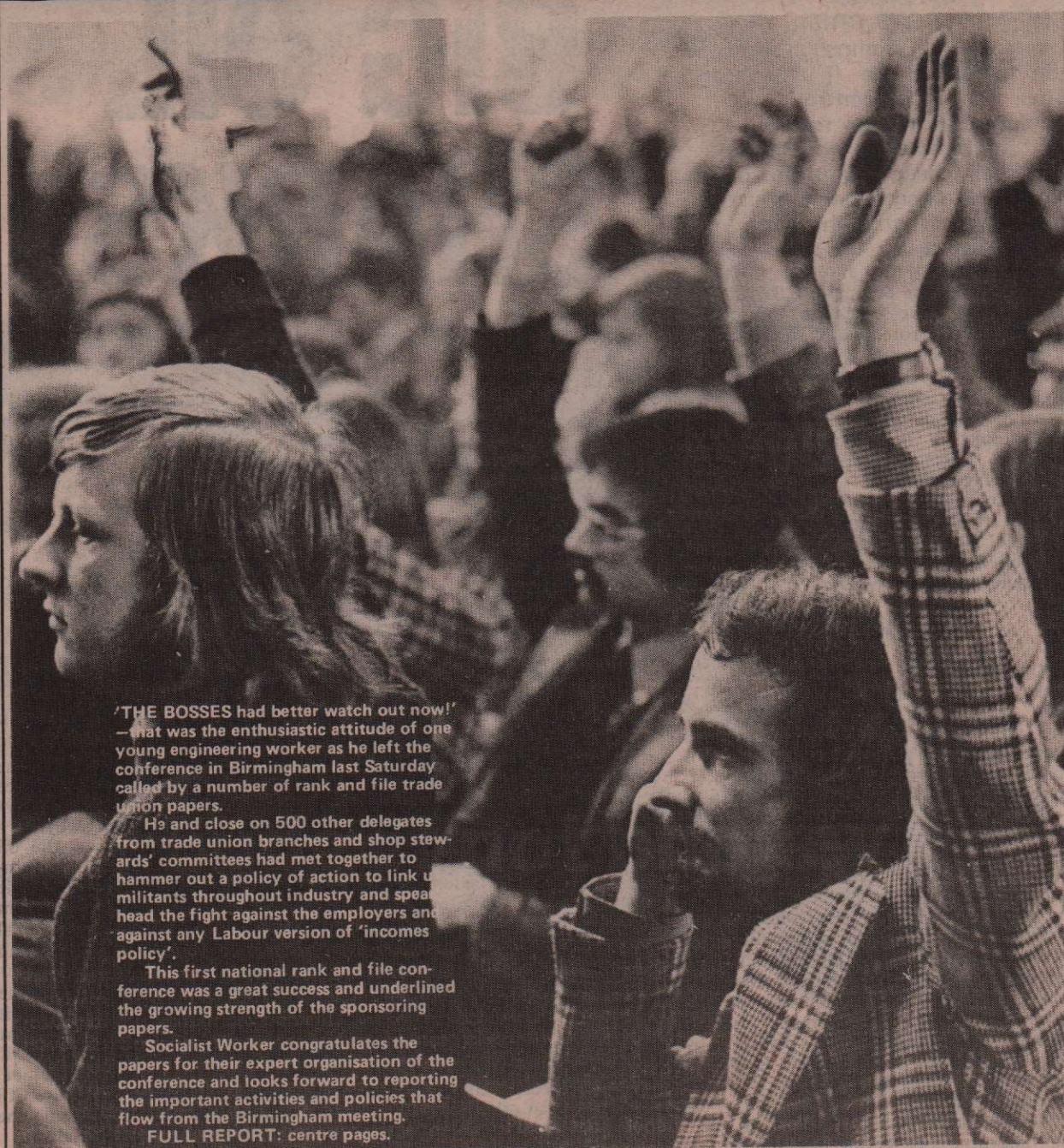
The affair went quiet for a couple of months. Then Labour was returned to power and Kenneth Littlejohn successfully broke out of his Dublin jail, and expanded on his allegations.

But on Monday this week Harold Wilson personally intervened to ensure that the Labour government would order no inquiry. More scrutiny really would be too much, too revealing and too damaging to Tory-Labour strategy in Ireland.

And after all, the Secret Service did a nice little job for Harold during the 1966 seaman's strike. Remember those reds under the bed—they're from the same stable as bombings and provocations in Ireland.

Editorial: page 2

BOSSSES BEWARE



'THE BOSSES had better watch out now!' — that was the enthusiastic attitude of one young engineering worker as he left the conference in Birmingham last Saturday called by a number of rank and file trade union papers.

He and close on 500 other delegates from trade union branches and shop stewards' committees had met together to hammer out a policy of action to link up militants throughout industry and spearhead the fight against the employers and against any Labour version of 'incomes policy'.

This first national rank and file conference was a great success and underlined the growing strength of the sponsoring papers.

Socialist Worker congratulates the papers for their expert organisation of the conference and looks forward to reporting the important activities and policies that flow from the Birmingham meeting.

FULL REPORT: centre pages.

Delegates voting at the conference. Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

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Denis: no menace for the wealthy

IF YOU BELIEVE the press and television this was the Budget that clobbered everyone. Denis Healey talked about 'fairness and equality of sacrifice from all sections of society'.

But what the Budget really did was something else again. It raised the cost of living of the average family by 3 per cent.

Average worker—married, two children, runs car, £40 a week (including wife's earnings)

GAINS	per week
Lower tax and insurance	-42p
Food subsidies	-52p
	-94p

LOSSES

Taxes on tobacco, drinks, sweets, ice cream	+52p
Higher electricity, coal bills, postage, rail fares	+54p
Higher costs which industry can pass on (eg national insurance contribution)	+70p
VAT on petrol	+41p
	2.17p

So the Budget leaves the average earner £1.23 a week worse off. To this has to be added a fat increase in this year's rates and possibly also higher mortgages.

For the low-paid worker, the Budget was a straight disaster. If he is one of the one million men who gets less than £23 a week, and has children then he probably paid no income tax before the Budget and therefore got no benefit from the tax cuts.

Help from food subsidies will be minor compared with the extras loaded on to his cost of living.

Higher

Labour's promise of an urgent increase in family allowance was dismissed by Healey in a single casual sentence. 'We are pledged to improve the present provision for children but this must wait until a later Budget.'

The pension increase was long overdue but very welcome. But food prices rose 20 per cent last year, and even allowing for food subsidies.

So, with pensions now 28 per cent up, the elderly are only just kept afloat.

The pensioners will have to wait four months to get their raise by which time higher prices will already have wiped a quarter off the value of the increase.

Benefits for the sick and unemployed went up by only 17 per cent.

Labour's election manifesto had promised the sick and unemployed the same raise as the pensioners, 'within the first parliamentary session of our government.'

The rich can breathe again. There was a lot of impressive talk from Healey about various taxes aimed particularly at the rich.

But read the detail, and you find that most of them won't come into operation until a year this spring. And the rest are pretty mild.

The Wealth Tax: postponed until the next budget.

The Gifts Tax: details to be announced later.

Tax relief on mortgages bigger than £25,000—worth £22 a week on a mortgage of £30,000—will operate on existing mortgages for another six years.

Separate taxation of husbands and wives is to continue as before. This is worth a packet on combined incomes over £5,000 a year.

Lower threshold for rates. For this year a dwelling with a rateable value of £12 a week for the full council will be unaffected.

Let's hope that the members of the Budget. Their members will not be disappointed.

Jim Kincaid

SOCIALIST WORKER

WHAT WE THINK

'THERE must be a political solution to the problem of Northern Ireland,' said Stan Orme, the new deputy-minister for Six County matters. He was replying to indignant people in Bangor who were demanding tougher action against the IRA Provisionals.

But whose political solution? The policy of the Wilson government is exactly the same as the policy of the Heath government. It is to enforce the 'power sharing' Sunningdale agreement. Socialist Worker said of that agreement: 'Britain's aim... is to stabilise British control in Ireland as a whole by giving the Catholic people of the North an alternative course to that offered by militant republicans and so undermine the anti-imperialist struggle. Another aim is to reach a closer relationship with the Southern Irish ruling class...'

That was true under Heath and it is equally true under Wilson. This policy can be enforced if at all, only by increasing repression still further. It is totally unacceptable to republicans. It is also rejected by a majority of the Protestant population, as the general election results proved.

In the last resort the Sunningdale settlement rests on the fire-power of the British army, the ambitions of a few politicians, and precious little else. Stan Orme is a long-standing supporter of the Tribune group. Tribune supporters strongly, and rightly, opposed the attempt of the Tories to impose a similar settlement by force on Greeks and Turks in Cyprus in order to keep British control there.

What is the difference? Very little except that a number of leading Tribune supporters are now in the government. It is obvious enough that, but for the interests of British big business in Ireland, British rule in the Six Counties would have ended long ago. 'Left-wingers' who allow themselves to be drawn into supporting

Mr Orme's solution—at bayonet point

are allowing themselves to become instruments of imperialism.

THE MORE THE MERRIER

THE Morning Star correctly reported that 'several hundred delegates attended' the 'rank and file conference... in Birmingham at the weekend'. Unfortunately the report was not quite accurate in some other respects.

The conference was not called 'by the Trotskyist International Socialists'. It was called, as regular readers will know, by the editorial committees of a number of rank and file papers in different industries and unions.

Certainly, IS members play their part in developing the work of these papers but their support is by no means confined to IS supporters. Labour Party members, some Communist Party members and others also participate.

There are indeed great difficulties in the path of any progressive solution to the problem of Northern Ireland. They exist precisely because of the past 'divide and rule' policy of British imperialism which has left a terrible legacy of sectarian bitterness and hatred.

But that legacy will never be overcome except on the basis of resistance to the Sunningdale fraud. Significantly, the first secret discussions between republicans and Ulster Volunteer Force men became possible because of common rejection of Sunningdale. The only 'political settlement' worth a light is one that expresses the aspirations of the working people throughout Ireland. That is not the settlement that Stan Orme and his colleagues are trying to impose at the point of the bayonet.

So it was with the conference. It was not, as the Star's headline implied, a 'Trotskyist' conference. It was a conference of bona-fide delegates of trade union organisations, of various political opinions, who were agreed on the need to build a grass roots movement in the unions to fight sell-outs and class-collaboration.

We believe that this is the most urgent need of the day and the undoubted success of the conference shows that quite a number of non-IS trade unionists share this opinion. It is a pity that more Communist Party members and supporters were not present at Birmingham.

The rank and file movement needs to be built on the basis of general agreement with its programme and not on the basis of political affiliation. We think that many Communist Party members will agree with the programme adopted, virtually unanimously, at Birmingham.

CORBRIDGE WORKS, CORBRIDGE CRESCENT, LONDON E2 01-739 9043/0185/6361

REPORT BLASTS BIG OIL SHARKS

SW Reporter THE ENERGY CRISIS has forced the oil companies into the open for the first time. Their absolute control over pricing, their refusal to submit to government directives and their cheap acquisition of North Sea concessions are just the fins which betray the sharks.

Elsewhere direct action by drivers, police investigations, and law suits have hounded the companies. But in Britain they have glided back into the shallows, protected by a press conspiracy of silence.

The new CIS Report 'The Oil Fix' breaks this silence. Its closely researched and well-illustrated 48 pages looks at the global extent of resource wastage and astronomic profiteering behind it.

The oil industry was dominated even in its infancy by big companies. By 1890 Rockefeller's Standard Oil controlled 80 per cent of the kerosene market in the US.

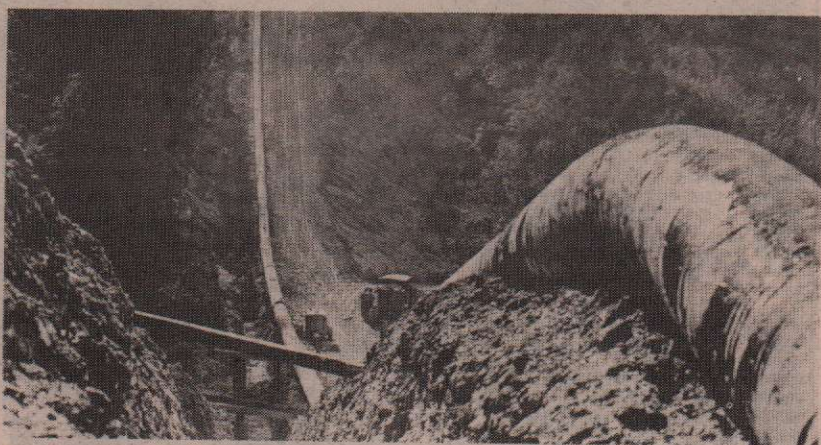
SECURE

But it began to hold the world to ransom when it adopted the 'Gulf-plus' principle in 1932. This fixed the minimum price of crude oil anywhere in the world at the top, so that huge profits could be made from the cheaper non-American extraction.

By 1946 company profits, especially from the Middle East, soared to £100 million. Since then the power of the companies has fallen away sharply at the oil-rig, but it is secure as ever at the petrol pump.

Under the cover of nationalist systems against the Arabs, much capital has been made out of the Arab states. In 1973, those carried away by the oil companies in favour of Britain, Saudi Arabia, and other oil-rich states, were bigger than the profits of the oil companies.

The consequences of this profit-maximisation is rocketing prices and the prospect of catastrophe. The capitalist system in India is already



Oil pipes ripping into the countryside

cracking since oil is the prime source of fertiliser, and this year a drop in its usage could eliminate 10 per cent of the potential grain harvest.

In an economy in which motor cars are equipped with engines of only 20 per cent efficiency in fuel burning—as in Britain—the cracks will also appear in time.

The state in a capitalist society cannot avert the crisis. In Britain it has been deeply implicated in the oil industry's growth.

It went to war in 1914 to defend the 'rights' in the Middle East, and in 1953 the Labour government, fresh from nationalising the mines, organised a world boycott of nationalised Iranian oil.

And Labour goes on aiding and abetting the companies as generously as the Tories. BP was allowed to operate at an annual £101 million

profit between 1967 and 1972 without paying a penny of tax. The mines were run down on the advice of the oil magnates. North Sea concessions were all but given away.

The truth is that when the oil companies tell the Labour government that British economic prosperity depends on their freedom to pull in big profits, it makes radical noises in public, while agreeing behind closed doors.

This report skates over the problem of imperialism which is central to the past and present practice of oil companies, and it tends to refer to 'the consumer' rather uncritically. But otherwise CIS has done a fine job in exposing the greedy giant of modern capitalism.

The Oil Fix, an investigation into the control and costs of energy, price 60p. CIS, 52 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1.

Varsity ban on 18 students

OXFORD: 18 university students were barred from university buildings for a year last week.

This was the final judgment of the show trials which, along with the Essex events, have spotlighted the discontent among students.

The trials were the university's way of hitting back at the 60 students who tried to occupy the Indian Institute as part of the movement for a central students union in Oxford.

Rod Shaeff is one of the barred students. This June he was due to take his final exam in philosophy, politics and economics. Now he will have to break off his studies for a year while he serves his sentence.

'After we'd been in the Institute for about two hours, great numbers of police appeared outside,' he said. 'Then a back window was forced open and the university's own police and various other thugs came through it.'

KICKED

'We linked arms, but they carried on hitting us and jerking our heads back for photographs. We tried to leave as one group, but we had to go through several lines of civil and university police.'

'We were kicked, punched, tripped, and sat on, and they were picking some out for arrest.'

Rod and the 17 others who were called up for trial by the university were amazed at how far it was prepared to go to try to break the campaign. All the Oxford Students want is their own union, controlled by them, and with basic facilities—just like other university students have.

Yet Oxford with its massive city interests, its huge land holdings all over the country, and its unused buildings in the centre of Oxford, will not give in.

But the university establishment is in for a shock. It hoped to behead the CSU campaign with the trials.

But new leaders are springing up. Next term will see the battle continue.

Anger mounts at Brixton sentences

ON 9 JUNE, 1973, there was a fair in Brockwell Park, South London. Mrs Sterling didn't go. She hates fireworks. But her son Robin, then 14, did, and was responsible for his two younger sisters.

Horace Parkinson hadn't intended to go. But he stopped by on the way to a party in North London, he was to drive up in his friend's car with two girls.

Lloyd James was at the fair too.

By the end of the night the three youths, all black, were in jail. A couple of weeks ago they were sentenced to three years. Their appeal is coming up.

One hundred police, with dogs invaded the fair following a stabbing incident.

Horace Parkinson's father takes up the story. 'He was getting into his friend's car. People were fighting over by the wall. One of the police shouted "Hold that one". There was no fight or struggle.

'Horace is a very outstanding dresser, he takes care of his clothes. I used to say to him, "Why wash those clothes so often?" He didn't get into fights, he didn't steal. All he ever has is girlfriend trouble.

'One of the police held on to him by the wall.'

While the one policeman held him the crowd milled round. Bottles were thrown, some shouted 'Leave him alone!' to the policeman holding Horace.

But the police didn't hurt him. Then. But when he was being bundled out of the police van he was hit on the head with a truncheon. He received a deep cut which needed stitching.

Giddy

He was stitched by a police doctor. He didn't get a local anaesthetic. The wound was in his hair, but the hair around the wound wasn't shaved. He was just sewn up, hair and all. He still has giddy spells from his experience at the station.

Robin Sterling saw the fight too. He sat on the wall to watch with his two younger sisters in front of him. Then a policeman grabbed him. A policeman had got a cut from a bottle.

'He's not the one' said another copper.

'He'll do' was the reply.

Robin is skinny, and not a fighter. 'He even comes and complains to me when his younger sister hits him' said his mother. He was actually accused of assaulting three policemen.

That night when Robin was picked up his two smaller sisters were left on the streets. It was through their phone call that Mrs Sterling found out what had happened to her son. In neither his case or that of Horace Parkinson did the police 'encourage' phone calls.

'I went down to the police station,' explained Mrs Sterling. 'The police said "You can't see him". I went back to the outside room, sat on the bench and started crying. I told them he was under age. In the end they let me in.

'I asked him what had happened. He said that he hadn't done anything. Then at about three in the morning the policeman said to me "sign this paper", I thought it was a bail sheet so I signed it. "Come on Ronnie," I said.'

'He's not going anywhere' said the policeman. What Mrs Sterling had signed was a charge sheet, which he read out to her, after she had signed.

Guilty

'I asked him "why didn't you run away when the police got you?" Mrs Sterling said. 'He replied that you only run away when you're guilty.'

Fourteen year old Robin Sterling who didn't like fighting, found himself on three charges of grievous bodily harm and a charge of affray.

Lloyd James aged 18 was charged with GBH against police officers and affray.

Horace Parkinson was charged with

sentences



Protest in Brixton last Saturday as marchers demonstrated against the imprisonment of the three youths. (Picture Peter Harrap: Report) On the right Horace Parkinson one of the three in prison.

two cases of GBH, carrying an offensive weapon and affray.

The 'offensive weapon' was a car jack. It has never been found. Horace denies ever having had one. His father points out that if he had a car jack and had wanted to escape it would have taken more than one policeman holding his arm to do so.

Fury

One of the police claimed he was hit by Robin swinging a bottle in his right hand. Robin is left-handed.

The police officer hit on the head with a bottle 'thrown by Sterling' refused to press charges.

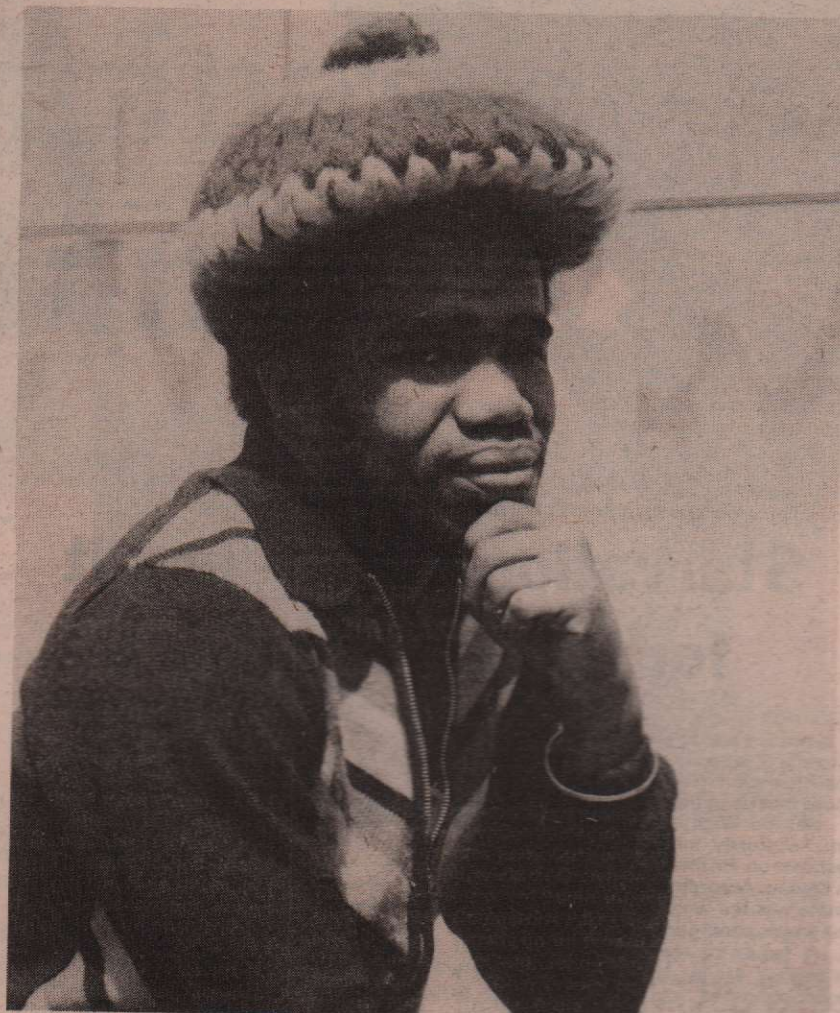
One of the reasons why the case of the Brixton Three has aroused such fury is that they were 'good kids'.

But it isn't just the 'good kids' it is the young people, particularly young blacks in Brixton and elsewhere who comes under special police attention.

'My sister lives in Brixton', said Mrs Sterling. 'But I told Robin never to go down there I'm scared of the policemen down there. He told me after he was arrested. "I don't want to stay here in London with these policemen anymore. I want to go home."'

'This place has changed a lot over the last 15 years' pointed out Mr Parkinson. 'I wouldn't go near Brixton police station.'

A fund has been set up around the



case. 'It's not really for the three who are in jail. But for cases in future' explained Mr Parkinson.

Not just Robin Sterling. At the top

of this system are the Roy Jenkins and their 'fair society'. Down in Brixton, and around Britain is the reality of the police force...

'He was a good student' said Mrs Sterling. 'He wanted to work in a bank. Now they're trying to take it all away from him.'

Shrewsbury:

We're not

interested

says Labour

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT will almost certainly *not* free the Shrewsbury Six. That was the message on 28 March from Alexander Lyon, Minister of State at the Home Office, in the House of Commons.

Andrew Bennett, the new Labour MP for Stockport North, asked Mr Lyon whether he would 'consider the possibility of freeing from prison the recent victims of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act'.

Alleged

Mr Lyon replied: 'We take the view that there should be an amendment of the law to allow peaceful picketing, which permits vehicles to stop but does not include intimidation or violence.'

'What was alleged and proved to the satisfaction of the jury in the Shrewsbury case was that intimidation and violence did occur.'

In other words, the Shrewsbury lads were found guilty, and that's the end of the matter.

No MP complained.

'STARVING'

BOSSES

SEE

PROFITS...

'CRISIS! STARVATION! We've run out of cash!' shout the city editors as they try to tell the world that the great companies and the banks which finance them are on the rocks.

The figures for profits for the first quarter of 1974, meanwhile, are buried deep on inside pages.

They show: company profits for the quarter UP 31 per cent over the same quarter in the bonanza year of 1973.

This compares with AN INCREASE of 25 per cent for company profits in 1973 as a whole.

BROKEN

Among the starvation-level companies which declared their results in the first quarter were:

LLOYDS BANK—profits UP 75.1 per cent

LONRHO—UP 63.5 per cent

TRUST HOUSES FORTE—UP 21.4 per cent.

Dividends held up well during the quarter. They were 10.8 per cent higher in March than in March last year. In January they were 8.9 per cent higher, and in February 7 per cent.

Many companies have broken the so-called 'dividend restrictions' under Phase 2. Albright and Wilson, for instance, the chemical combine, paid out 3.24p for every share held compared with last year's penny—that's a 324 per cent increase for the company's lucky shareholders.

REPORT BY NIGEL FOUNTAIN

The junta executes 50 every week

BRITAIN will not withdraw recognition from the Chile military junta. Britain will almost certainly complete and deliver the two frigates and two submarines, made in British yards, to General Pinochet. Britain will not give automatic right of asylum to refugees from the military regime.

This is clear from answers given by Labour's Foreign Secretary, James Callaghan—despite the pledge given at the Labour Party Conference last October to end all recognition and aid to the junta.

According to the World Council of Churches, more than 10,000 men and women are held as political prisoners in Chilean jails and prison camps. 1000 prisoners are crowded into the camp at Chacabuco, a disused nitrate mine. 214 refugees are trapped in foreign embassies unable to get safe passage out of Chile. Rolando Calderon, Secretary of the Chilean TUC, was shot in the head by a sniper where he had taken refuge in the Swedish Embassy.

Support

Nineteen countries have taken in Chilean refugees. France has taken 1100, West Germany 750, Sweden 600, East Germany 400, —and Britain has taken 11. All countries except Britain are providing language courses and financial support until the refugees, most of them penniless, can find jobs and homes.

A Santiago government director told the assembled workers of one factory: 'The first thing I want to get absolutely clear in your heads is that there will be no more strikes: the right to strike in Chile has ceased to exist. There is no such thing as a strike.'

The Chilean TUC was made an illegal organisation by one of the first acts of the junta.

When told that a firm had no money to pay wages, a colonel at the Ministry of Economic Affairs said: 'We'll shoot a few and you'll see how they will obey'.

More than 1000 copper miners and a quarter of the textile workers in Santiago have been declared redundant. Unemployment has reached 25 per cent. A law against strikes operates retrospectively, and allows anyone who has ever been on strike to be sacked by his employer.

Since the coup, four hours have been added to the working week and workers are 'invited' to make fixed percentage contributions to the 'National Reconstruction Fund'.

Arrested

When coal miners in southern Chile struck because their wage of 40p a day was too low and their families starving, tanks and artillery were ranged against them. A warship stood by, off the coast. 100 miners were arrested and are being held in a prison camp.

200,000 people have been sacked for political reasons since the coup.

The American Central Intelligence Agency calculates the death toll at 11,000. The US air attaché in Chile calculates the toll as 40,000. Executions are still going on at 50 each week.

The International Socialists, the International Marxist Group and the Chile Solidarity Campaign are organising a demonstration on Friday 5 May with a rally at Speaker's Corner, starting at 2pm, followed by a march to Downing Street.

Labour must be forced to live up to their pre-election promises.

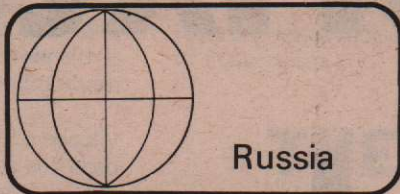
NEW STRIKES —OLD SLOGAN

WORKERS in the Ukrainian town of Vyshgorod marched through the streets behind a banner bearing the slogan 'All power to the Soviets'.

An incident from the Russian revolution of 1917? No. The year was 1969, the workers were from Kiev hydroelectric station. They were tired of living for years in leaking, ill-maintained prefabs and old railway carriages. They were tired and angry with inefficient and tyrannical managers.

Most significant of all, they said in public the fact that the workers' soviets, or councils, of 1917 had been transformed into an empty shell.

The demonstration was met by the secret police and the workers' spokesman, Ivan Hryshuk, was later arrested in Moscow when presenting a petition on the grievances. Nothing



is known of his or the workers' fate.

In May last year about 30,000 workers struck at the Kiev automobile factory. In August stories began to filter out of Russia of a massive strike at a Black Sea port, when half the workers were laid off and the rest struck in solidarity with them.

In Dniprodzerzhynsky, in June 1972, 10,000 workers took to the streets for two days. They attacked and partially destroyed the secret police building, and destroyed documents in the Young Communist building.

The secret police and militia responded with armed repression. Ten were killed and 100 wounded.

Dnipropetrovsk, a large industrial complex, was the scene of a series of strikes for better pay and conditions in September 1972. The strike movement was suppressed at the cost of the wounds and lives of many workers.

SUPPRESSED

Despite the sharp response of the secret police, within a month further strikes broke out with increased demands for better food provision, better housing and for the right to choose their own jobs. Simultaneous strikes in nearby areas were suppressed in blood.

Despite the ever-present secret police, despite arrests, intimidation and deportation, workers in the Ukraine respond to their disgraceful conditions with solidarity and direct

action, even though their trade unions are extensions of the employers and the government.

The wave of well-publicised protest in the West at the suppression and exile of Solzhenitsyn is well justified, but the far more significant workers' protest is of no interest to the capitalist press and television.

The 30,000 Kiev carworkers and 10,000 workers who took to the streets cannot leave Russia. They will have to stay and they will inevitably fight back, as workers everywhere fight against oppression and inhuman conditions.

The slogan 'All power to the Soviets' has lost none of its power to excite the Russian workers. That thought will give the Russian leaders an increasing number of sleepless nights in the future.

Facts obtained from the pamphlet *Ukraine, unrest and oppression*, by Andrea Martin, price 15p from 83 Gregory Crescent, Eltham, London SE9.



Housing for workers on a Brooke Bond tea plantation.

Starvation means profit for British tea firms

LONHRO is in the news again. This time it is not for paying their directors' salaries into the Cayman Islands tax haven, but for the starvation wages they pay to make those salaries so big.

War on Want has published a report on the grossly inadequate wages paid to workers on British-owned tea plantations in Ceylon. According to the report Lonrho's estate was the worst of a bad bunch, both for wages, conditions and housing.

A family of eight was living in a hut measuring 4ft by 10ft. All were severely under-nourished and deeply in debt to the company shop, which took what they owed out of their monthly wages.

A Lonrho spokesman told The Guardian that Lonrho's operations in the country were hardly making a profit.

Second worst company was the Scottish and Lands Company, of Edinburgh. War on Want found malnutrition on their plantations. At another British estate a water pipe had broken and workers had to walk 1½ miles to



collect water. No repairs have been carried out for 10 years.

Average wages for plantation workers are the lowest in Ceylon. The unfortunate tea workers can expect little help from their government. Mrs Bandaranike, the prime minister, has already called for a drop in living standards to avoid foreign debt. How workers already starving for the greater glory and profit of Lonrho chief Tiny Rowlands can live on less is not explained.

In 1971 a revolt of young people against intolerable conditions was suppressed: 5000 were killed and about 16,000 gaoled.



Two children of a family on an Anglo-Ceylon and General estate—owned by Lonrho. Both suffer from Kwashiorkor. The three elder children of the family have severe malnutrition.

FOOT

PRINTS

FOOT

PRINTS

FOOT

PRINTS

Looking after Sue's welfare

LABOUR Councillor Frank Kaye, of Barnsley Corporation, doesn't seem to have any control over the activities of his daughter, Susan. In 1971, Susan applied for a job as 'welfare assistant' to the Social Services Committee of which her father was chairman.

The job had been advertised at £1000 a year, for someone over 21. Susan was 18. The 14 other applicants for the post were over 21, but none of them were interviewed. Somehow, Susan Kaye was appointed.

There was quite a storm in the

Barnsley Labour Party and Councillor Kaye had to resign from the chairmanship of the Social Services Committee (though not from the council) and Susan Kaye kept her job.

Now Barnsley Corporation is changing into the much bigger Barnsley District Council, and there are some vacancies in the grade above Miss Kaye's. Once again, the applicants have to be over 21, which Susan still is not, and have to have professional training, which Susan does not have. There is also a pay rise of

£600 a year.

Susan and another qualified colleague went forward for the job. An interviewing panel recommended that the qualified colleague got the job, and recommended as such to the Director of Social Services of Barnsley District Council, Mr G S Dunn.

Mr Dunn has just moved to Barnsley from West Bromwich, and one of his first friends in Barnsley has been Councillor Frank Kaye.

He has refused to act on the

recommendation of his interviewing panel, and has let it be known that if Susan Kaye cares to apply for the job again, she may well get it.

In the meantime, Mr Dunn has confirmed the appointment of Labour Borough Councillor Mrs Margaret Slater as 'handicrafts adviser' to his department, with a jump in salary from £1300 to £2500 a year.

In case anyone should get the wrong idea, Barnsley spends less per head of population on social services than almost every other borough in the country.

Taverne's man knows what his right arm's for

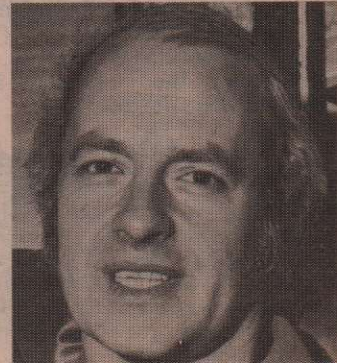
SLICK DICK TAVERNE, MP for Lincoln, really does find the most amazing people to work for him.

Hardly had the news got out that he had hired a well-known fraudsman to run his campaign in Lincoln last year than he appointed Christopher Pym to act as election agent for the 'Social Democrat' candidate in Penistone, Yorks, in the general election.

Pym, who is a cousin of the former Tory Minister Francis Pym, told reporters that he was being paid £300 by Taverne for his services. In the last week of the campaign the rumour was spread among local reporters that Labour Party workers had set fire to trees bearing posters of the Social Democrat candidate.

Pym announced that he was so angry at these reports that he was going to call in the police to deal with the Labour Party hoodlums.

Shortly before polling day, the Social Democrat candidate, Mr



Taverne: amazing helpers

Martin Eaden, told a press conference that there had been an 'unfortunate mistake' about the burning of the trees.

It appeared that Pym had set fire to them himself. Pym, said Mr Eaden, had now been dismissed from his service in the Social Democratic Party, and the press corps should ignore him.

This was easier said than done, for Pym appeared at the election count in a strikingly cheerful mood.

Hearing that his hero Eaden had lost his deposit after polling a derisory 867 votes, Pym tore off one of the hiking boots he was wearing and threw it at the returning officer. The boot missed the target, but crashed through a window, and the police were called in to 'assist' Pym from the premises.

Pym, who is a moderate and is entirely opposed to the use of violence for political ends, is now said to be resting.

REMEMBER my story in March about Barry Payne from Stock, near Chelmsford, who was sentenced to three months in prison for 'defrauding the Ministry of Social Security because he had continued to accept SS payments while being interviewed for and turning down 39 jobs (all less than £20 a week)?

I was reminded of Barry when I saw in the Daily Mail the other day that Sir William Reardon-Smith, Bart, former director of the Reardon Smith shipping line at Cardiff, was up in front of the magistrates at Barnstaple in Devon.

He was charged with applying for Social Security benefits without disclosing that his wife was making £30 a week from 'family trusts'. The baronet was asking for 'supplementary benefits' amounting to £3428.

The magistrates found the baronet guilty of this disgusting scrounging—and fined him £120.

Miner Mick and fascist Spain

THE CLOSE CONNECTION between the miners' group in the parliamentary Labour Party and the government of fascist Spain—which is particularly brutal to miners—is likely to be strengthened by the new election for the secretaryship of the group.

Ballot papers have been distributed and the 18 members of the group are voting this week.

A vacancy for the job has been created by the retirement from parliament of Elfed Davies, the former MP for Rhondda East. Hot favourite for the job is Michael McGuire, the MP for Ince. McGuire is one of the most dedicated right-wingers in the parliamentary Labour Party and the miners' union.

He is a former branch secretary at Sutton Manor colliery near St Helens, Lancashire, and worked closely during the last 1950s with that other stalwart right-winger from the Lancashire mines, Joe Gormley.

While Gormley climbed up the union ladder with help from McGuire, McGuire climbed up the political ladder with help from Gormley.

Sponsors

McGuire is secretary of the parliamentary Anglo-Spanish Group, which exists to foster friendly relations between MPs in Britain and members of 'parliament' in Spain (who are not elected).

Some of the keenest members of the group, which sponsors at least one MP's 'hospitality trip' to Spain a year, are also members of the miners' group.

Alfred Roberts, for instance, the MP for Normanton, Yorks, is a constant visitor to Spain and Portugal and it was his good relations with the Portuguese Embassy and government which made him so valuable to Yorkshire architect John Poulson.

If McGuire is elected secretary of the Labour MPs' miners' group, it is rumoured that there will be even more trips to Spain and more Spanish propaganda circulating in the House of Commons.

The secretary's job is not subject to re-election until the successful candidate retires from parliament, and the secretary sits on the NUM executive.

Joe Gormley is said to be rubbing his hands at the thought of his old friend from St Helens sitting next to him again at NUM meetings.



McAlpine's hush hush money...

REMEMBER all the fuss some months back about Sir John Stratton, who was chairman of the Fatstock Marketing Corporation and accepted a salary increase of about 80 per cent in the middle of Phase Three?

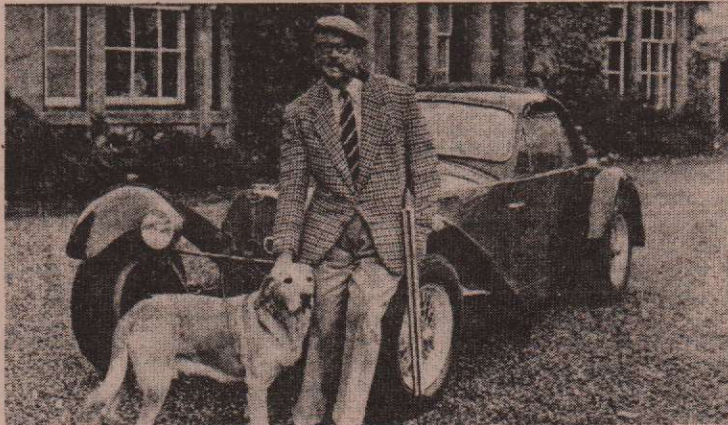
Well, here is Jimmy McAlpine (in typical pose). He is the chairman of Marchwiell Holdings, one of the master companies of the enormous McAlpine complex of building companies.

Increase

Two weeks ago, Marchwiell published its annual report. Jimmy McAlpine's salary has gone up to £67,425 from last year's £41,565—an increase of just over 60 per cent.

Two other Marchwiell directors (compared with none last year) have moved up into the over-£32,500 salary bracket.

There has been no comment about Mr McAlpine's salary increase in any



McAlpine: just try and take his rise away...

of the press.

Nor has any newspaper had anything to say about salary increases among high management in ICI. Last year, 57 top executives in ICI were paid £10,000 a year or more. This year, 112 executives fall into that category.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK.

'Thank God the government's influence is so little. I have a strong suspicion that governments are nothing like as important as they think they are.'—Sir William Armstrong, head of the civil service, BBC-2 27 March.

FOOT

PRINTS

FOOT

PRINTS

FOOT

PRINTS

LETTERS

Pensions up? We'll

I WAS VERY disappointed with the front page article 'Spoonful of Sugar' (30 March). To say the least I was flabbergasted to read about pensions.

The article stated that the pensions increase, supplementary pensions benefit increases and sick pay increases are modest enough but still a real gain to many of the worst hit sections of the community.

Tell me, and other old age pensioners, where this gain is? We have to wait four months for this increase.

Prices are still soaring, and what will they be like in four months? I'll tell you, many of us will be shoving up the daisies!

The article could have been printed in the Morning Star for heavens' sake! Don't Rock the Boat'.

There was nothing in the article that would arouse the ire of the organised working class in the interests of the pensioners.—TOM NICHOLSON, Glasgow C1.

A good budget?

THE FRONT-PAGE article on the Budget has missed the most basic point. Apart from pensioners, virtually all working people will be worse off as a result of the proposals. And the gain for pensioners is miserable and delayed.

Incredibly, Duncan Hallas doesn't even mention the increase in income tax. There are increased personal allowances—but these were necessary just to cover inflation. Even so, the 33p income tax means that workers with two children who earn over around £40 a week—average industrial wages—will be paying more in straight cash terms, next month, than they are this. Single people who earn as little as £20 a week will be paying more!

Even those whose tax stays the same, or goes down 50p—£1, are only back to where they were before inflation pushed their wages further into the tax range. And they too will have to pay the savage 30 per cent electricity rises (again Duncan Hallas missed this!), not to mention petrol, postage, phones, drink, fags etc. They too will be worse off when these are taken into account, despite food subsidies.

So this was a mean Budget for the workers. The 'nasty medicine' is not 'on the way'—it's here now! If this was a 'fair' Budget inside an unfair society, I dread to think what an 'unfair' Budget in an unfair society would be like.

So lay off the soft talk about the 'spoonful of sugar'. The rich weren't squeezed, but we were. The unions are selling us down the river. The sooner the gloves are off, the better. To hell with the social contract!

be six feet under by then

Housing we need a mass movement



Domestic bliss—Edinburgh slum style . . .

WHILE I AM in agreement with the main points in your centre-spread article on housing (23 March), its concentration on the conditions in one house let out by Castle Rock Housing Association paints a misleading picture of that organisation.

During the course of a project to examine the causes of rent arrears amongst tenants of CRHA, I visited 67 tenants. Far from the squalor and insanitary conditions implied by the article, I found that the general condition of CRHA houses was good. CRHA has little choice in the houses it can buy in Edinburgh. Because of high prices, most of them are in the poorer areas of the city, but skilled house buying coupled with a large-scale improvement programme ensures that houses let out are generally in good condition, Mr Swinbank's house is certainly not representative.

Shelter (Scotland) is concerned that the housing associations it funds are often paternalistic in structure and undemocratically run. One large association was cut off from Shelter funds for these reasons. In the case of CRHA, the investigation into rent arrears has now led to discussions on how to improve the provision of basic information to tenants on welfare benefits, and how to involve tenants in management.

But this is irrelevant to the fact that the charitable funding of housing associations is a basically conservative strategy. It in no way addresses the heart of the problem which was well expressed in Chris Gorman's article. Housing conditions will not improve until a mass movement against capitalism demands government commitment to an extensive programme of house building.—HELEN ROSENTHAL, Shelter, Edinburgh.

Let's get back to the no-nonsense defence of working-class interests which we expect from Socialist Worker.—MARTIN SHAW, Hull.

Some spoonful of sugar...

IF LABOUR'S budget is a 'Spoonful of Sugar' I'd better stop taking it in my tea. Even the most moderate people round here were furious at this budget.

I get a ninepence wage rise for National Insurance, a penny off a pint of milk, in return for 30 per cent on the electricity bill, higher coal prices, fivepence on a packet of fags, a penny on beer, sweets and crisps up for the kid. Petrol is being taxed—great, BP and Shell can well afford it—but no, it's us that's got to pay.

Of course Supplementary Benefits should go up, but even on the old rate many were working for less than they would get on Social Security or the dole—are the low paid getting a rise too? . . . the increases I have mentioned will hit us one and all.

Then come the pensioners, always guaranteed to pluck Jack Jones' heartstrings—they will still die of cold by the thousand next winter, when the last lump of coal goes, or the electricity meter runs out.

But in return the capitalists have got what they wanted, without the bother that Heath used to stir up—wage restraint with the TUC rubber stamp.

Unless we fight back, organise the rank and file movement and bring the honeymoon to a swift divorce. Expose the Labour lefts and build the International Socialists.—ANDREW WISTREICH, Manchester.

I HAVE always taken your paper and have agreed with most of your articles but I felt I just had to write and say I think Mike Miller's piece on Ireland (30 March) was rubbish and when he calls the Army 'thugs' he really doesn't know what he is talking about.

Has he been to Ireland as a soldier? I bet he hasn't. I am not putting my address as my son is still in the Army and may be going back to Ireland, oh yes he has had a posting over there and got on quite

well with some of the people but it's not the Army that are the thugs. I think it is people like Mike Miller that makes the feeling of hatred worse. Has he felt the hatred and seen his pals shot down? I bet he hasn't, my son had two friends killed and one very badly injured and they were Catholics.

If he can't write anything to improve the situation out there then he ought to keep his typewriter quiet or write about something he knows more about.—R P H, Havering.

Miners: the men who did well

AFTER THE MINERS' SETTLEMENT the press carried headlines such as 'gold miners' and cartoons suggesting 'caviar again'. Three days after starting work we heard what the members of the National Association of Colliery Deputies and Overmen had got.

We waited for the press outcry. Not a word, not even a couple of words on an inside page. Which is surprising considering the size of the award.

A Grade One Deputy (Grade Two are almost extinct) and also shot-firers get £53.57 a week. A colliery overman gets £55. Part of the payment is the anti-social hours payment which they have split between the three shifts. The NUM were refused permission to do this.

The outcome of this is a strong resentment among the NUM members. I work in an advanced heading, setting 14 feet steel arches. This involves the use of up to 50 or 60 pounds of powder, carried in containers as heavy. By custom and practice this has been carried by the men on the job, but last week we refused to do this, and this led to some of us walking out of the pit.

We realise that if the lowest paid underground worker loses a shift someone must replace him. But if a colliery overman loses a week or a month, nobody has to replace him. Considering that the miner gets £36 and the other £55 (plus one weekend shift every 21 days worth £16) the position is, to say the least odd.—BARNEY WYNNE, Betteshanger Colliery, Kent.

Pinochio lives

I HEARD TONY CLIFF speaking in Birmingham and one thing he stated was the need to turn readers of Socialist Worker into writers. Well, I'm not the world's best but I feel I must tell you of the sit-in at the Great King Street branch of Joseph Lucas.

An awakening of workers is taking place within Joseph Lucas and poor Uncle Joe doesn't know what to do.

We have seen what happened to other parts of Uncle Joe's empire, Redundancy in Aerospace, CAV people fighting back and the attitude of 'You're next' doesn't frighten people any more.

Finally the setters came out on strike and Uncle Joe decides that he won't put the pressure on, he'll get his women production workers to do it for him.

But what's this? The women can see his evil play for what it is. Trying to turn one group of workers against another has worked in the past but it won't work this time.

The women have awakened, like Pinochio they have come alive and will not be used—nor will they accept lay-offs.

Enraged they decided to sit in and are demanding the right to work. They have at last realised they must enter the struggle.

They started their sit-in on 22 March and returned to work on 25 March to continue their part in the long battle.

We don't know what Uncle Joe's next move is but one thing is certain, the factory will never be the same again.

If the women succeed in pressuring Uncle Joe into a settlement with the setters it will be a great blow against him and a great victory for all workers within the Lucas group.

They have the determination to win this time. Never before have the women been so angry. And never before has it been directed with such force against those who wished to use them.

I must insist that you don't publish my name and address. I already suffer from victimisation for being an active trade unionist.—Address supplied, Birmingham.

Healey being 'fair' to lumpers

'I WANT to make sure that every building worker on the lump pays his whack of income tax'

That was the sentiment of Chancellor Healey's budget, as he explained to us all on budget night—'fairness'.

Was he in the Commons attending to 'fairness' on behalf of the building workers on that black Friday when Eric Heffer's Bill on the lump was presented?

The bill was counted out by Labour Speaker Mallalieu, because so few Labour MPs were sufficiently bothered with 'fairness' to turn up.

So was Healey at Shrewsbury picketing against the trial? Will he be getting the trade unionists out of jail?

Socialists want fairness and justice for trade unionists, and the lump is decidedly not fair. And making lump workers pay tax won't make it fair. It is no solution to the problems which face them or their families.

Healey found that the election gave him a chance 'to travel around and find out what people are thinking'. How come he doesn't know with Socialist Worker around? Or doesn't the Commons take it?

He wants us all to work together to put the country back on its feet again. I heard it somewhere before.

Isn't that when we get on our knees and they sit on our backs?—BERN HARRISON, Manchester.



FREEDOM (SHUT UP!) OF SPEECH . . .
A Kuttner says 'no' to freedom of speech (30 March) for any counter-revolutionary group. Censorship, he says, will only disappear when socialism is firmly entrenched. His views about lack of free speech in Russia contradict his earlier point and imply that his conditions for free speech are when we all agree with him! Any socialist must condemn such a position. Who will decide when socialism is established and common liberties to be restored—Kuttner? All socialists should reject the view of free speech as 'a good ideal, but'. Socialism means putting into practice such ideals. That means groups are not prohibited from voicing their opinions. What socialists say is freedom of speech for all, but reserve the right to defend ourselves when counter-revolutionary groups actively mobilise to subvert the revolution. In short, socialists realise that the way for socialism to survive and strengthen is by standing firm to its ideals and thereby smashing most effectively the reactionaries—by isolating them from the mass of the people. We must refuse to quash free speech while the revolution is being made and leave the decision to 're-establish' democracy in the hands of the party. RICHARD SAVAGE, London W11.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA . . . Socialist Worker is giving the British worker vital information and leadership in the continuous struggle for a socialist Britain. I am constantly impressed by the depth and clarity of articles as well as the range of coverage. I find it to be indispensable even on this continent.—BRUCE TUCKWELL, British Columbia.

BUT IT'S NOT THE OWNERS, BUT THE WORKERS WHO ARE GETTING HIT . . . I was overjoyed to hear of the death of the Scottish Daily Express, I hope the London parent will soon follow. . . . The right-wing rubbish they assault our intelligence with beggars description. Let us also hope the even more dreadful Mail soon follows. Of course many thousands will lose their jobs, but how many socialist journalists are there on either the Mail or the Express? How many decent journalists at all would write for such dreadful rags?—ROBERT BRIGGS, Hinckley.

I'M (YAWN) BORED . . . The last four issues have been a bit dull to say the least . . . almost every page has been devoted to unions and factory occupations . . . there should be many more articles on bad housing, racialism, raising prices and so on . . . I'm really getting fed up with nine tenths of the paper being stuffed with union activity—although I have a hell of a lot to learn about it.—P STEWART, Norwich.

DAYS GONE BY? . . . Over the past weekend, I read a book called *Unemployed Struggles 1919-1936* by Wal Hannington. One episode described in the book may be relevant right now. In 1932, police spies 'planted' a letter on the leaders of the National Unemployed Workers' Movement, describing plans for kidnappings, violence and arson. Later on the same day police raided the NUWM headquarters where a meeting was being held. They arrested Wal Hannington and carried off every scrap of paper they could find. Fortunately, the 'planted' letter had been destroyed and so the police's plans failed. In 1933, the NUWM took the police to court, and won the case on the grounds that the police had no authority to raid a legal organisation and cart off its property, under the excuse of arresting an individual. The police had to return the documents, the NUWM's legal costs were paid and they got a further £30 in damages, quite a sum, in those days. As reported in *Socialist Worker*, police raids on socialists and trade unionists are on the increase, and this precedent can perhaps be used. I am thinking in particular of the raid on the Harlow International Socialists not so long ago.—VIC RICHARDS, York.

LITTLEJOHN AND THE TORY HOODS . . . Anyone who doesn't believe that the Secret Service employed the Littlejohn brothers would be extremely naive after last Thursday's Midweek interview with Kenneth Littlejohn . . . What is to stop them using the same methods here?—P McCORREN, Blackpool.

Public schools —for very private people



Jolly straw boater chappies: pupils at Harrow School

'THE LABOUR PARTY plans to abolish public and independent schools,' Roy Hattersley announced six months ago. He was then the Labour Party spokesman on education.

Today Hattersley is quietly tucked away in the Foreign Office and ex-public schoolboy Reg Prentice is Secretary of State for Education.

Even though Reg Prentice didn't go to Eton, his old school, Whitgift, offered plenty of amenities.

There were 45 acres of land, a good library, well-equipped science workshops, gymnasium, a language laboratory, separate schools for music and art and one teacher for every 12 boys.

This class size of 12 or 13 is typical of public schools. Most of them guarantee individual tuition and attention.

Obscene

For example at Lancing school, 'In addition to his housemaster, each boy chooses another master as his tutor whose main functions are to encourage general reading and worthwhile spare-time activities' (Public and Preparatory Schools' Year Book 1973).

In another school, Malvern College, there are only 240 boys but there are seven specialist science teachers. Within the state system four million children are taught in classes of more than 30 and a quarter million in classes of more than 40.

The lavishness of the amenities offered by the sons of the rich is obscene when compared with many ill-equipped state schools.

Abbotsholme School with a

AUDREY KINCAID

mere 200 pupils has six laboratories. Malvern College has a nature reserve of 25 acres and its own modern computer.

Mill Hill, with only 460 boys, has 100 acres and boasts two swimming pools.

Only 6 per cent of all school pupils are educated privately. Public schools, with fees ranging from £600-£1000 a year, may take in the odd scholarship boys but



Reg Prentice: one of the few

are clearly the schools of the wealthy.

Ninety per cent of pupils at public schools have parents in managerial or professional jobs. These are the places where the upper class have their children trained to take their place in society—at the top.

Naturally this training includes teaching them how to bully successfully—beating and 'fagging' are part of the tradition. If they were not it would hardly be necessary for the Leighton Park Quaker School to declare in the 1973 Public School Year Book that 'beating and fagging' is not permitted.

But the unsavoury side of public school life does not seem to disturb the upper classes too much. Once young Hugo has been signed up at Eton at birth his parents do not have to worry about his job prospects.

Careers at these schools are taken seriously. Some schools have whole houses and specialised staff devoted to careers.

There is even a limited company, 'the Public Schools Employment Bureau' whose profitable business is finding jobs for old boys.

The old school tie network is effective. In the last Conservative government 65 of the 77 members went to public schools and 21 of them came from Eton.

Even in the present Labour cabinet, seven of the 18 members are surgeons in the big London teaching hospitals, admirals, air chief marshalls, deans and professors at Oxford and Cambridge and a high percentage of company directors are ex-public school.

In 1973, out of 103 high court judges, 83 were public school trained.

What then is the Labour government likely to do about these fortresses of class privilege?

They may make very minor changes. At the moment public schools are classified as charities.

As such, in 1970, 214 of them received £6½ million from the government in the form of income tax relief.

They may lose their 'charitable' status estate subsidy under Labour. But because of the wealth of the parents and old boys network, and the backing of big business, the church and financial companies, this feeble attack won't have much effect.

For example, in 1970 the Loretto School launched an

appeal for funds and was able to build a large new science block on the proceeds.

The Labour government may stop the tax relief on school fees. Specialised insurance companies advise the rich on how to avoid paying the full amount of fees.

Attack

As one such service explains: 'It is possible for a grandfather to actually increase his disposable income by planning ahead for his grandchildren's education.'

This sort of tax fiddle might be stopped. But these are tiny jobs.

Perhaps a handful of very minor public schools may have to close, but that's all.

The Labour government certainly will not launch an all-out attack on the social system of which the public schools are such a significant part.

PLUTO PRESS

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Ian H. Birchall

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Rank and file first links

THE enormous response to the first National Rank and File Conference for trade unionists surprised even the organising committee. More than 500 delegates were signed in at Birmingham.

Conference chairman Will Fancy, a member of the government officers' union executive (NALGO) and supporter of the rank and file paper NALGO Action, said more than 300 trade union bodies had applied for delegations.

These included 40 shop stewards' and combine committees, two strike and occupation committees, 19 trades councils, seven district committees of unions. There were 239 from trade union branches and chapels: 58 from Engineering, 38 from Transport, seven from Construction, 16 from print unions, five from miners' lodges, 20 from the supervisors' union ASTMS, 14 from the public employers, 22 from NALGO, eight from the civil servants and 32 from teachers' associations.

Said Will Fancy: 'The rank and file must be organised. Constant vigilance to control the trade union leadership and militant policy are essential if we are not to lose out. We have got to co-ordinate rank and file activity across trade and industrial boundaries.'

LARRY CONNOLLY, shop steward at Lucas Birmingham, moved the first section of the resolution, on the fight against employers, and government attacks on trade union rights. Larry is on strike and had to be released from picket duties to speak at the conference.

In a powerful speech he outlined the economic background of a predicted £5000 million balance of payments deficit:

'We face cutback, rationalisation, redundancy and lower living standards. By the end of the year one million unemployed are planned. Unemployment is a powerful weapon of the employers to demoralise the workers and the trade unions.'

The Industrial Relations Act was still on the statute book, Phase Three still held force and the Pay Board was with us, just as under the Tories.

Tremble

'We need a rank and file movement to fight the proven treachery of the officials,' he said. If we do this the employers will tremble in their boots. The working class will not be hammered.'

An emergency resolution was moved by FRANK HENDERSON (Sheet Metal Workers' shop steward at British Leyland): 'This conference sends a message of solidarity to Lucas strikers and resolves to send a delegation to the picket line. This was carried unanimously and six delegates carried the message to the Lucas strikers.'

MIKE BRIGHTMAN (Cricklewood AUEW) told the conference: 'All industrial legislation, Labour or Tory, presents a sinister picture. Even under a Labour government we still have conspiracy laws. The Shrewsbury lads are still in jail.'

'Pay back AUEW'

RON MURPHY (AUEW/TASS office committee, Manchester AEI), moved an emergency resolution on the fines on the AUEW over the Con-Mech case, and called for delegates to pledge support for the union in its stand against the Industrial Relations Court. He said the refusal of the AUEW to appear before the court had been an important factor in keeping the whole trade union movement from 'sliding down the slippery slope to acceptance of the Industrial Relations Act.'

'Of course the AUEW has not fought consistently enough, but at least they had fought,' he said. He called not only for this judgment to be set aside but for the return of previous fines imposed by the NIRC and a pledge of no further seizures.

'We have real, important people here today. They must exert the maximum pressure to get the government to agree to our demands,' he said. The resolution was passed unanimously.



We need to fight the proven treachery of the officials
—Larry Connolly (Lucas)



Labour minister said firm had right to sack us —Malcolm Vass of Strachans sit-in

GEOFF WOOLF (Lewisham NALGO) said: 'When it comes to the crunch the Labour government will be no different from any other. We often hear that a voluntary incomes policy is better than a statutory policy. Well I for one am not volunteering and neither will my branch.'

'We should use this new movement to fight Phase Three and whatever follows. We will not permit the trade union leaders to do the job for the government that repressive laws could not do.'

MIKE MARRIOT (South Norwood ASTMS) said: 'We have just spent three years fighting the Tories. With a Labour government we must be prepared to fight even harder.'

In a rousing contribution HUGH KERR (North London Polytechnic ATTI) said: 'On the government's own figures, living standards will be cut by at least 10 per cent. We must reject the philosophy that rent freeze and increased old age pensions can be exchanged for a cut in wages. We want the rent rises reversed and the Housing Finance Act withdrawn,' he said to applause.

'We are going to see the finest

examples of class collaboration when the trade union leaders lie down for the Labour government.' We must involve ourselves in every sphere and level of the trade unions. We have to make it clear they cannot collaborate in the cutting of our living standards.'

This theme was emphasised by JOHN WORTH (Coventry AUEW) who said district committees and trades councils became inactive because 'we don't fight for them and give them the fighting spirit.'

Genuine

JOHN MAGEE (TGWU Holloway Bus Branch). 'We will help Heath if we do not give support to Labour. Otherwise we will dig our own graves. The most important thing is to get a majority Labour government.' He concluded by appealing to Engineering leader Hugh Scanlon and train drivers' leader Ray Buckton to co-operate with Labour.

It was clear that a large majority of delegates were opposed to the views of John Magee, but as a delegate said at the lunch break a genuine rank and file movement must take account of and patiently explain the reasons why the Holloway bus delegate's views would disarm the trade unions. Such views form the thinking of a great number of workers.

FRANK DRAIN (UCATT, Edinburgh) asked: 'What happens after this conference? I think we must take this resolution back to the factories and workshops and really fight for it.'

DAVE ADSHEAD (shop steward, Bryant's city centre development Birmingham) spoke angrily of the obstruction of union officials on the Shrewsbury campaign. Militants in Birmingham had argued for a rank and file committee with a programme of leaflets, meetings and action. Building union officials refused for fear of embarrassing the Labour Party.

'They worked actively against the holding of meetings. There were no leaflets. Of course we must work in the official union structure, but we have also got to organise mass pressure to keep full-time officials in line.'



EUROPE SINGH: 'Not enough on racialism'



JOHN WORTH: 'Fighting spirit'

Report from a sit-in

CONFERENCE gave a rousing reception to MALCOLM VASS (AUEW Eastleigh No 2) speaking for the Strachan Joint Unions Occupation Committee. Strachan's builds Ford van bodies under contract. As part of rationalisation plans the workers were given one minute's notice.

After three days of picketing they occupied the plant, to stop £2 million worth of car bodies and machinery being taken away. When management became a nuisance they got rid of them. Ford shop stewards had agreed that any Strachan vans that got out would be blacked.

A delegation to Michael Meacher, a new Labour minister, had been told the firm had a right to sack them. Said Malcolm Vass: 'Social Contracts mean nothing if they can treat workers as they have treated us at Strachans.'

'They want to get their hands on those vans and machinery,' said Malcolm. 'They bloody well won't.'



BETTY COATES: 'be accountable'



ALAN WATTS: 'left' candidates

The way forward

THE final part of the conference resolution dealt with the work which had to be done to carry the rank and file movement forward.

An amendment moved by JOHN CLOSSACK (NUT) calling for a general newsletter for the movement was clearly defeated after PETE GLATTER, a London busman, had called for more specific organisation around rank and file papers.

FRANK HENDERSON, (British Leyland, Longbridge) said that it was the job of all the delegates to involve everyone on the shop floor in the sale and production of their rank and file paper. Although he liked organising secretary Roger Cox and admired his hairstyle (laughter), the Carworker would be useless if it was all written by Roger.

'We want to have workers reading it during their lunch hours,' said Frank. 'We want to



STEVE ABBOTT: 'Fight against backward leadership'

see them jumping up, spitting a mouthful of blood and saying: "Right, I'm going to write off and let that bastard know what I think".

STEVE ABBOTT, (NUM Calverton Lodge) said all the delegates had to go back to their trade union branches and fight against the backward leadership of the trade unions.

STEVE LUDLAM (Hospital Worker) said that the conference

had meant a great struggle, we hope our claim. We had many of us asked we been sold out.

'We've found there's more to movement than we've got to or to win.'

More than unionists bought other of the rank which had called.

That figure had and trebled, he said.

An additional moved by GEORGE from the GMV Stanton Works Steel Corporation specific com racialism, abortion and expropriation defeated by more one after KEN Coventry) asked

movement: The are forged



Say to the union leaders: either do the job or get out —Joe McGough (Dunlop)



Widen the combine committees to take in all your industry —George Anderson (TGWU)

Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

Greetings from Dublin

CHRIS GIBSON, from the Irish Transport and General Workers Union No 14 branch, gave the conference fraternal greetings from the Dublin Shop Stewards' and Rank and File Committee.

He said that the committee had been set up because of the way wage settlements had been agreed every year between union leaders and employers without taking the workers' interests into account. The rank and file had organised to great effect, and conferences of up to 350 delegates had been held in Dublin.

They were not yet strong enough to combat the propaganda of the employers and union leaders but they had dented the national wage agreement, and hoped to do more next year.

He wished the conference and the British rank and file movement every success, and promised solidarity from across the Irish Sea.

AT THE afternoon session JOHN LLYWARCH, one of the six pickets in the first Shrewsbury trial, moved part two of the conference resolution, on the organisation of a rank and file movement.

After delighting the conference with some of his more juicy memories of the Shrewsbury trial, he castigated union leaders and Labour politicians for their refusal to fight to get the six men in prison for picketing released.

TREVOR BALL (NUM, Lea Hall Lodge) spoke about the economic crisis of capitalism. He said the crisis existed in all capitalist countries. Everywhere employers and government were holding wages down. It was the capitalists' crisis, and they should pay for it.

His members had shown that they were not prepared to be sacrificed to someone else's crisis, he said. The miners had used their strength and blown a 'whopping great hole' through Phase Three.

TERRY HORAN (UCATT) attacked the officials of his union for their apathy over Shrewsbury.

He said UCATT was run by men completely out of touch with the rank and file. His site—John Laings in Edinburgh—and another had come out over Shrewsbury, but had found that other protests, demonstrations and strikes were being held on different days. There was no co-ordination, and that was why a rank and file movement was so important.

Forward

ERIC BRIGHT (President of UCATT branch at Clifton, Notts) said he had asked Edward Short, Labour's deputy leader, at an election meeting what Labour would do about the 1875 Conspiracy Act which had led to the prison sentences at Shrewsbury. 'He said he'd repeal all but the conspiracy section,' said Eric. 'But that's just the bit we want scrapping.'

Eric attributed the 'massive loss of membership' in UCATT to the behaviour of the executive,

especially their 'puerile' response to the Shrewsbury case. Shrewsbury showed more than anything else in his experience the importance of a rank and file movement. 'I'll do all I can in my small way to bring this movement forward', he promised.

RAP DAWSON (EEPTU, Glasgow Corporation Central Electrical Workshops Stewards Committee) sounded a note of caution over part of the resolution which called for support for 'all candidates in union elections fighting the right wing'.

Carried

The emphasis, he said, should be on 'rank and file candidates', or delegates would find themselves supporting all forms of opportunists from the union bureaucracy who called themselves 'left' at election time.

ALAN WATTS (Ponders End No 5 branch, AUEW) put the caution to the test by moving an amendment to delete the word 'all' in the resolution. 'The rank and file movement supports those people who support the rank and file. It does not support those people who do not support the rank and file,' he said to applause.

The amendment was carried. BETTY COATES, a candidate in the elections for the teachers' union executive, was worried that the resolution said nothing about the accountability of union officials, once elected.

GEORGE POGMORE (a bus inspector from York and member of his section of the TGWU) spoke about the 'fight for militant policies' called for in the resolution. In November 1972 all bus platform staff had got shift pay, but the inspectors had been denied it, though they worked shifts, he said. A year later, the Pay Board said the shift pay was impossible under Phase Three.

'We called a national conference which told the Pay Board that unless we got the shift pay, we'd all work 8am to 4pm. Then, suddenly, a week before we took the action, the Pay Board changed their mind and paid us the shift pay.'

EUROPE SINGH (Southwark NUT) argued that the resolution's

call for action against racism did not go far enough. An anti-racist declaration on its own could be found in most TUC statements. What was needed was a clear commitment for more specific demands.

First the conference should insist on equal status and pay on the shop floor for all black workers. Second, it should call for the repeal of the Immigration Act 1971, and third, should continue the argument against all immigration controls. 'These are nothing to do with overcrowding. They are simply used by people like Powell to spread racism through the country and through the working class,' he said.

The part of the resolution calling for stronger combine committees and better links between shop stewards drew the two most authoritative contributions of the conference.

GEORGE ANDERSON, TGWU chairman of the joint shop stewards committee at Coventry Radiators, asked: 'What kind of combine committee do we want? 'Should it be based entirely on the boundaries created by management or should it be industry-wide?'

Boundaries

He had found that as long as his stewards' combine committee was based on Associated Engineering, a management creation, it served little purpose. But when they had tried to spread it, for instance, through all press-work in the components industry, its effectiveness was enormously increased.

'We try to change the concept of the combine committee. If Associated Engineering isn't drawing all the companies with workers doing our kind of work, we say we're not bound in by management boundaries like sheep. We say, why don't we amalgamate with some other combine of like workers—why don't Associated Engineering

combines link with those at British Leyland?

George was followed by JOE MCGOUGH, the chairman of the joint shop stewards committee at Dunlop, Speke, and chairman of the National Dunlop Combine Committee.

'The fact that there are 400 delegates filling this hall today shows that there's a large body of people who are somewhat disenchanted with the union leadership.

If ever there was a need for joint shop stewards' committees, it is now. We've every reason to believe that we should extend the combines across the national boundaries.

'In June 1972, we had a stoppage in Britain and Italy against the Dunlop-Pirelli combine. It made history. It showed that if the rank and file organise, they can confront the same employers in different countries.

Hardly had the cheers died down for Joe McGough than chairman Will Fancy was reading out a telegram of greetings and encouragement from the Italian rank and file movement.



STEPHEN CHILDS: 'Jobs lost forever'

Solidarity with Express

AN emergency resolution on the Scottish Daily Express closure received unanimous support. It called for condemnation of the management, all possible support for the takeover and messages of solidarity.

STEPHEN CHILDS (Sheffield NUJ) told the conference the action of the Beaverbrook management was 'the biggest scandal to hit the newspaper industry for years.' 'The NUJ has done nothing to save the jobs of the Scottish Daily Express members. These jobs are lost forever once the workers leave the plant.'



'Officials to



Beware of

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since then that a rank and file determination. anise callously

100,000 trade ht one or and file papers the conference. to be doubled d.

resolution EE BARCLAY, U branch at of the British called for more tment on n, contraception. It was e than two to ME (TGWU, conference to

concentrate on the minimal demands which could unite the maximum number of rank and file trade unionists.

JIMMY MCCALLUM (TASS AUEW convenor, John Brown Engineering, Glasgow) said that the election of a Labour government had not changed the struggle against Phase Three. In fact, the co-operation of trade union leaders with Phase Three was now even more apparent.

He reminded delegates of the strike at Maclarens factory at Glasgow, owned by the multinational giant I.T.T. The strikers had stuck fast to their objective, and had been forced to seek support in other I.T.T. factories in Britain. The result was an I.T.T. stewards' combine across the country. 'That is the sort of rank and file activity we should be fighting for', he said.

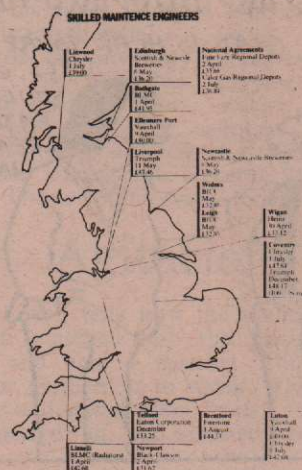
The conference resolution was carried with only a handful of delegates opposed.

PLUTO PRESS unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1

David Beecham is a one-man Pay Board, and Rates for the Job is a one-man Relativities Report

The 16 maps in the pamphlet reveal what every management and most unions try to conceal—the different rates actually paid for standard jobs in different workplaces, and the dates the agreements end. They should prove invaluable to trade unionists involved in arguing for pay claims, with their fellow workers and against employers during the next few months.

Trade unionists can do a great deal to extend the coverage of the next edition, by filling in the short questionnaire at the end of the pamphlet.



Pluto Press

David Beecham's RATES FOR THE JOB, price 20p post included (10 copies for £1 for IS branches) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Caring is whiteness, and fluffy puppies, and rich ad agents...



No, the girls selling cigars, not herself, and she isn't included with the packet. You'll find the milk maid on the tin, not down at the farm and the happy family and kitchen sink are not for class E consumers...

'For the lover in you, the Bahamas. At the end of two weeks in the Bahamas, you're guaranteed to feel like a matinee idol—and the lady on your arm will be filled with adoration. There are deserted beaches where you can walk for miles, falling in love over and over again' (Sunday Times magazine).

Yes, if you have £642 and a head full of fantasy, you, too, can woo your man or woman under the Poinciana trees.

Yes it's advertising friends. Flung at us from hoardings, bill-boards, magazines, radio, newspapers and television. But don't think that you're just sitting there eating cornflakes. You're a certain kind of person eating cornflakes. For easy categorisation so that whoever you are there's a certain way of selling to you. You are divided into six social grades.

Actors

There is A, upper middle class, B, that's just plain middle class, C1, lower middle class, C2 skilled working class, D working class and finally E those at lowest level of subsistence.

No, no, no, we aren't all E. This last group contains those of us who are classed as state pensioners or widows, casual or lowest grade workers.

The advertisement for the Bahamas

holiday was aimed at the pockets of the As and Bs and at the dreams of the rest of us. The cost of the four-colour full page advert with a further third of a page column in black and white, was in the region of £7000.

It obviously pays off, for in 1972, £83 million was spent on holidays abroad.

The money spent on persuading people to go there is a matter of small change compared with the profits of the package-tour operators.

The thinking behind advertising is almost as evil as the money wasted on producing it.

If you don't wash your kids' clothes in Persil, then you don't care about whiteness and softness, therefore you're an inadequate Mum.

If you drink a gallon of Lucozade

by JEANNE WOODCOCK

a day, devour umpteen Yeastvite and Haliborange tablets, use Persil and dish up Baked Beans and fish fingers, with a sprinkling of Oxo, you just might be that fulfilled and contented Mum of bright, well adjusted kids, as portrayed in the advertisements.

For national coverage, during peak time on the television, an advertisement costs £6,982 for 30 seconds. Add to that the cost of the production, which will include the cost of the crew, the actors, the location,

and the total will not be far below £1,000.

And it's not just TV that costs a packet. A full page colour advert in 'Woman' magazine is a mere £4,365. It costs that much to intimate that you're inadequate, that you stink, and the only solution to your particular inadequacy is their particular product.

Women have long been conned into the idea that being practically hairless, odourless and fleshless, whilst masked in layers of 'whipped creme' make-up and liberal lashings of mascara, will turn them immediately into immensely desirable beings.

Men, too, are subject to an intense amount of pressure from the media. Use a little Lifebuoy and you'll be more personable, use a particular

brand of toothpaste and you, too, can crash into a blonde, as you hurl yourself headlong into a taxi.

If you buy that particular car, you'll be that lean, hungry super-star who zooms into the sunset accompanied by a suitably upholstered female.

Well, it works—we buy the product and with it the fantasy. We justify all that useless expenditure by rising to the bait. Before denying that you'd fall for all that gimmickry, think on it.

When did you last harbour a notion that you, too, could be that snow queen, startled by a phallic flash of SR toothpaste? Or if you bought that brand of aftershave, you (and the girl that's with you) need never wear anything else?...

Mavis and her £15 a week

MAVIS comes from St Kitts, in the West Indies. But now she lives in Leeds, and works in a big department store, washing up in the canteen. She's been there six years, when she started she was on £8 a week. Things are 'better' now—she's on £15.

'It doesn't mean I have any more to spend—it even seems that when I was getting £8 I was surviving better. It takes quite a time to realise how things really are...'

'I felt kind of satisfied at first because pay was moving up. But when you look at the cost of living it's not really going up at all. It's

more difficult for women to do anything about it than men. Women where I work all have different minds.

'Some will agree to push for higher wages and others won't. Some won't strike because they feel that debts will come on top of them. So they go on with small pay because they don't want to make a sacrifice for higher pay.'

'But if you want anything you've got to make a sacrifice!'

'You can't just sit down and say you want more money. At work some women are always talking about it but they won't go forward.'

And that situation leads to splits, as Mavis points out. 'Our supervisor is our shop steward. A lot of women try to get on well with her because they're frightened of her—but she's really on the management's side.'

'Yesterday some women didn't come in for work and I and an old man had to work on our own. We did a good day's work, but at the end of the day she was finding fault all the time.'

Scared

'She treats us like we're at school, passing marks on us for our work, trying to make us feel ashamed. She makes things harder against the management, she doesn't represent us at all.'

'I'm a quick washer and I can do a good job but the supervisor will come along with one cup and tell me to bleach it. Or she'll find one fork and bring it to be washed up again. She just tries to make it harder.'

'I'm working with a deaf and dumb girl and she does the same with her—and she even makes her cry. A lot of the women are Indian and they're scared of her too, but they try to make friends with her to keep her off them.'

Mavis's work mate is an old man, who's deaf and dumb. She gets less money than him. 'I don't hold it against him, he's very helpful.'

But it's not just him... 'There's a young fellow who doesn't do half the work that I do and he gets more than me.'

'We should get equal pay but the problem comes when men do things we can't do, like carry huge sides of bacon, which I couldn't carry. So it's difficult to get them to support us for equal pay. They think they're doing a more difficult job than us, when washing up and cleaning are just as hard.'

The problem that Mavis faces, along with all the other working married women is keeping two jobs going, one being called a 'housewife'.

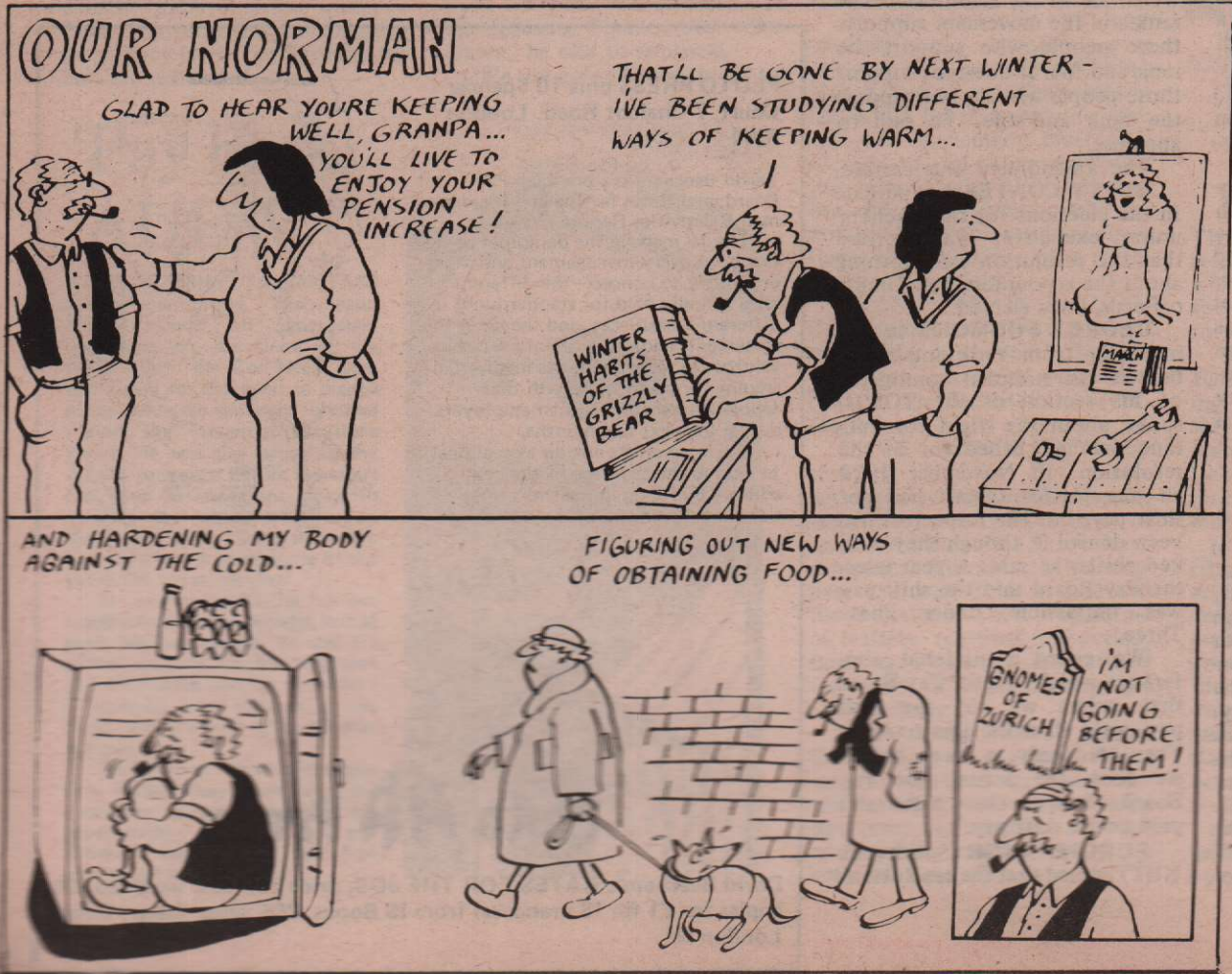
'I'm lucky because my husband helps out at home. We both have to work together to make ends meet. It's no good the man saying to the woman she's got to stay at home and do the housework because the demands are so high.'

'Even if we don't want to work we have to. Men must realise this and help at home as much as possible. The high prices affect us a lot.'

'There are certain things we used to buy, like a good bit of beef, but not any more, it's too expensive. We used to buy yams at one and sixpence, now they are 24 pence a pound, so I only use them occasionally. The same with okra, that's gone up three times.'

'I don't think that the Labour government's subsidies will help very much, we'll only have to lay it out the other end in tax. The Labour Party will probably try to look as if they are doing things for us but as far as women are concerned I think it will be much the same—hard.'

JULIET ASH



A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST MANIFESTO by Kuron and Modzelewski. The famous open letter to the Polish Worker's Party, written in 1964. A vitriolic analysis of the Eastern European regimes and a call for social revolution. 29p postage included, from PLUTO PRESS Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road London NW1.

ON STRIKE



Different workers, different police, but the same fight against the same system. The picture on the left is of police and workers at the Elephant and Castle during the 1926 General Strike, the second of police and workers during the 1972 dock dispute . . .

Bosses weren't born yesterday—nor were workers

STRIKES: A Live History, 1887-1971 (Allen and Unwin £3.75)

THE BOOKS EDITOR of the Morning Star, Bob Leeson, has had a good idea. He's brought together in this book accounts by workers of strikes they took part in. It's not often that workers have the chance to give their own their own viewpoints

on the battles in industry. Yet no one else can ever give us the real 'feel' of any battle.

Bob Stewart, a Dundee building worker, recalls the half-time system in the jute mills. At the age of 10, he was doing a 10-hour day in the mill, followed by a day at school, a system that lasted right up to the First World War.

In the mills, 'discipline' was kept by the 'Shifting wifie', who used a leather strap on the half-timers. He describes how the boys fought back, with 'a little bit of sabotage': 'put a match in the right place, get a wee fire going among the waste, then all run about for

water to put it out.'

The labour movement in Bob Stewart's youth was riven with 'craft distinctions', with labourers seen as less than human. He recalls an old newspaper headline: 'Accident: two men and a labourer killed'.

The unions often put as much energy into fighting each other as into taking on the bosses, as Frank Jackson describes. His, unfortunately is one of the few accounts in the book that tells of hostility between rank and file trade unionists and 'respectable' full-time officers.

Mallett

James Griffiths, former South Wales Miners' president, describes how, during the the First World War, strikes were illegal—and what happened. Every miner was supposed to pay £5 fine for every day on strike. But the miners struck, won their claim, and never paid a penny. (As readers of the Donovan report will know, this happened in the Kent coalfield again in the Second World War.)

Sid Fineman, a furniture worker, tells of Jewish immigrant workers in London's East End. Their branch minutes had to be in

English and Yiddish, and members would claim that the minutes said different things in the two versions. One union meeting, the chairman was accused of being a 'guv'nor's man, and knocked out his critic with his mallet!

Furniture workers in High Wycombe in 1910 set fire to an exhibition promoted by local Tories, of imported furniture, and the Mayor had to read the Riot Act. This book contributes a lot to the history of the furniture workers, who seem to have been a very militant lot at the turn of the century, with pickets jailed, battles with mounted police and all sorts. Wycombe Wanderers football club became a strike support club. Will almighty Leeds match that?

Police and troops together fought striking dockers on Merseyside in 1911. Tom Mann, to counter religious sectarian fighting among workers, marched to the strike rally wearing both green and orange sashes.

Fred Karno, hero of a soldiers' song in the War, appears here as an anti-union employer, in the Music Halls. Marie Lloyd sang a strike song about him:

'Oh Mr Karno, what are you trying to do,

Make more money from the sketches, if what they say is true, All you lads are winners, not one's an also-ran, Oh Mr Karno, don't be a silly man.'

Ben Tillet, the dockers' leader, figures here speaking in support of a shop assistants' strike in Swansea: 'I warn the police constable and his subordinates that if there is any hankey-pankey, the dockers will take a hand.' His advice to Swansea dockers: 'Arm yourselves with cudgels and if need be, use them.' The shop-owners settled next day!

Frank Jackson tells how on a building site in Chancery Lane, London, the master builder had an unpleasant habit of sneaking round in soft shoes, looking for anyone 'with a straight back'. He was invited to the Lord Mayor's banquet, and was spotted snooping round the site before going for his nosh, in frock coat, canary waistcoat and top hat. Frank Jackson tells what occurred:

... a couple of navvies waited with cement sacks, one each side of the door and when he came through they flapped them over him, and then poured on water. You never saw such a sight. He offered £60 if someone would say who did it but he was wasting his time. It cured him of creeping round the job though.'

Jackson was obviously a most enterprising militant: his recorded activities include blackmail of employers, nailing a major-general into his office, sabotage, dropping a load of bricks on a boss, putting wedges in tram lines during the General Strike, and making London policemen look ridiculous.

Agitation

Bob Lovell tells how the unemployed in Willesden marched into the British Ensign factory and held a meeting. The manager asked for permission to speak. While he was standing addressing them from a bench, the police charged in, and arrested him for agitation . . .

There are, of course, memoirs of the General Strike and the miners' lockout in 1926. Among the most interesting accounts are the stories of how the scab 'Spencer' union was defeated in Taff Merthyr and Bedwas collieries. The miners, very properly, are given more space than any other group of workers in this book. Their battles have dominated trade unionism in the course of this century. Many other trades and industries are represented. This is a book to be dipped into, often with pleasure, occasionally with frustration. Some of the entries are too short by half—an unusual complaint. All in all, the book is to be highly recommended, as an unusual introduction to the labour history of this century, or just as a very good read. A paperback edition is much needed; in the meantime get it from the public library.

Colin Barker

Getting yourself a piece of the action

SO GEORGE FOREMAN is still heavyweight boxing champion of the world. After demolishing Ken Norton he goes on to face Muhammed Ali.

It will be the most widely watched sports event of all time. Each fighter will receive around £2½ million.

'George Foreman,' said Peter Moss of the Daily Mail 'is an extremely obnoxious person.'

Gang

George is from California. He led a typical life for a young black in the ghetto, unemployment, fights, jail, boredom.

It changed when he was sent to a job training centre, set up under Lyndon Johnson's gang, scrapped by Nixon. He learned a trade—apprentice electrician, and did some amateur boxing.

Then he went back to being

unemployed. The familiar pattern, for young blacks in America.

The alternative was boxing. He won at the Olympics, he destroyed Joe Frazier, he was heavyweight champion of the world. Now the bosses wanted him—he could make money for them.

But he's still broke. His money goes to the syndicates and the corporations that own and control him. Even Ken Norton's manager owns a piece of him.

In fact things haven't changed too much. Now he's paid to get into fights—and is then robbed of it. Robbed by the same sort of man who never gave George Foreman, electrician, a job.

But now he gets recognition, for knocking out other young black people like himself. When he loses a fight, he will lose his recognition.

Obnoxious isn't it?

RON SENCHAK

PREVIEW

*Times not known at press time.

SUNDAY: ITV (Birmingham area only) 8.25pm. Humphrey Bogart in THE LEFT HAND OF GOD, directed by Edward Dmytryk, a good director, but a man who ratted on his colleagues during the McCarthy witchhunts of the early 1950s. Film matinee on BBC-1 is the quite funny ONE TWO THREE* with the other Hollywood heavy, James Cagney. At 10.15pm on ITV is ONLY THE OTHER DAY, another back to the 1950s play centred on 'left wing revolutionary Jason'.

MONDAY: ITV, 9pm, MARY, MARY is a play analysing the mentality of a 'baby snatcher'. The Philpott File is THE MOUNTAIN PEOPLE*, on the people of the High Pyrenees, that's on BBC-2 TUESDAY: ITV, 10.30pm. WHERE HARRY STOOD is a documentary on one man and his life over the last 70 years in the British Steel industry. One of the weaker film adaptations of the great American crime writer Raymond Chandler on BBC-2 is THE LADY IN THE LAKE*. WEDNESDAY: BBC-2, ANNIE KENNEY, by Alan Plater, is this week's play in the Shoulder to Shoulder series about the Suffragette movement. Kenney

was a young Oldham millworker who helped develop the movement in the North of England.

THURSDAY: BBC-2. Many people still believe that things will be better/different if they emigrate. ALL IN A DAY—THE EMIGRANTS* follows the last day in England of three families who have emigrated to Australasia. IN VISION* on the same channel is a new series which discusses points of interest from the week's TV. It starts off with the Play for Today on BBC-1 which is THREE FOR THE FANCY*, by Peter Terson, about three Leeds miners' rabbit, guinea pig and mouse who are being groomed for honours at the Bradford Show. MIDWEEK ON 'SUBMARINE' is a documentary filmed on board one of Britain's four Polaris submarines, manned by British workers with the power to murder millions of 'foreign' workers at the command of our rulers.

FRIDAY: BBC-1. Fall of the Eagles, the series of plays on the collapse of European monarchies gets to the big one. THE LAST TSAR is on Nicholas II of Russia who was replaced, temporarily at least, by the Russian workers. prizes will not be awarded to guess whether Lenin or Nicholas will be the hero . . .

SHHH

THE UNIONS

REWSBURY

...what you should know about frameup

EVERY TIME you move a motion in a union branch seeking support for the jailed Shrewsbury building workers and calling for their release, you can be sure that someone will start asking questions about the case. The chances are that they will be tough questions.

Some will say that the men were convicted of acts of violence and intimidation, so no trade unionist should support them. Others will say that no matter how much string-pulling the Tory government engaged in behind the scenes, the outcome of the trial was finally decided by a jury. And what could be fairer than that?

The best way to get at the truth about Shrewsbury is to ask a few serious questions.

Why was Shrewsbury picketed?

By 6 September 1972, the first of two days picketing in and around



Shrewsbury, the building workers' official strike was two months old.

Although North Wales was one of the most backward areas for trade union organisation in the industry, the strike had become effective there. Flying pickets had been used to shut down lump site after lump site and win the men to the union.

But the employers had prepared their own plans to undermine the success of the strike.

They banded together a hard core of strikebreakers, set them to work in Shrewsbury and schemed to keep the town free of the 'menace' of trade unionism.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We fight:

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

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

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

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

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

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

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

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

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

Against racism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

Against secret diplomacy.

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

For the nationalisation of the 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.

They organised anti-picket squads which would 'fight the pickets if necessary' (Shropshire Star, 21 August 1972).

The official joint union North Wales strike action committee met to consider the situation in Shrewsbury. They could not ignore it if the strike was to be kept solid and the lump defeated. They resolved to send in a mass picket.

What happened on 6 September?

In the early hours of the morning six coach-loads of pickets set out for Shrewsbury. They arrived just after the lumpers had started work.

The first site they picketed was Kingswood. On this site a serious incident took place. It enraged the union men and confirmed to them that they were up against employers who would stop at nothing to beat the strike.

As the pickets moved on to the site, Terence Parry, son of one of the lump contractors on the job, took a 12-bore single-barrelled shotgun out of his car boot, pointed it at the leading pickets and threatened to shoot.

Pushed

The pickets went for him, disarmed him and smashed his gun. One was later charged with damage to property. Parry became a prominent witness in the pickets' trial.

The pickets moved on to other sites. In the main they conducted orderly meetings and attempted to get the lumpers out on strike.

In some places some pickets did smash the odd window or piece of piping in the heat of the moment. Unset brickwork pushed over. This is hardly surprising as the men were angry and frustrated at building workers earning £100 a week for strikebreaking while they struggled without strike pay for a £35 a week basic.

Were there any arrests on the day?

This is probably the single most interesting question anyone can ask about the picketing at Shrewsbury. The answer is that there were no arrests at all on 6 or 7 September. Nor was even one of the pickets taken down to the station for questioning.

This is particularly interesting because all the time the pickets were visiting sites in Shrewsbury, they were being accompanied by 80 police under the command of senior officers.

Answer

At the trials police officers stated that pickets were 'rampaging like an Apache horde', frightening and terrifying dozens of workers, and committing other dreadful crimes. But none of the policemen could offer a satisfactory explanation as to why there were no arrests. The most they came up with was the notion that they were too 'terrified'.

The only answer for the police's inactivity is that they arrived at the fairly realistic conclusion that while there may have been some damage to property, the pickets had been provoked and there were no grounds for prosecuting any one party to the incidents.

So who did decide to prosecute and why?

The National Federation of Building Trades Employers was campaigning through its MPs' lobby for tough action against pickets under the criminal law.

What clinched the matter was the Tory government's need to prosecute pickets without using the Industrial Relations Act. This was in a rather tattered state thanks to the massive movement to free the five jailed dockers. The conspiracy laws were a useful alternative and Shrewsbury an obvious area for their application because the trade union movement was so weak.

Only after the go-ahead to launch an investigation was given by Robert Carr, Tory Home Secretary, did the West Mercia police force move on the track of the Shrewsbury pickets.

How did they get their evidence?

The main body of men interviewed were lump workers on the picketed sites. From these men the police got considerable co-operation. This is not surprising. Lump workers live in fear of the law.

The police also got a good deal of co-operation from the lump employers. These gentlemen of course had the greatest possible interest in contributing to a successful prosecution—the survival of the lump and assurance of their future profits.

But for a convincing case the police had to get some evidence from among the pickets. They did this in a familiar way. They blackmailed people. John Llywarch, who ended up as one of the six men to face conspiracy charges, was intended

defendant. Hearsay, gossip, totally unrelated facts, in short anything and everything, can be introduced.

So what did the prosecution set out to prove against the men now in jail?

First of all they set out to suggest that, though the defendants were not necessarily personally involved in acts of violence and intimidation, there was a pre-planned decision that pickets would use violence. This was, they suggested, taken by the leaders of the pickets.

By inference, since the men on trial were among the leaders of the pickets, the accused were guilty.

Convictions

This line of argument was shot down by the defence who pointed out that two of the six men on conspiracy charges hadn't even been at the meeting where the conspiracy supposedly took place.

So the prosecution switched tack. They said that because the accused were among the strike leaders and there were repeated incidents during the picketing, the defendants were prepared to tolerate violence. They were guilty for this reason, or, alternatively, because they did nothing to stop others using violence.

Conspiracy is the most savage weapon the law possesses. It is a catch-all designed to secure convictions which could not otherwise be obtained.

What about the other charges—unlawful assembly and affray?

The essence of these charges is identical to conspiracy. An unlawful assembly is an assembly for lawful or unlawful purposes which does or is likely to lead to a breach of the peace.

An affray is an incident where two or more people are involved in a heated scene which might cause others to feel frightened.

Clearly any member of any picket line, anyone who joined any kind of demonstration, or who went to watch a football match could be found guilty of these charges.

Yes. But what about the jury?

Members of a jury are not free agents. They are directed by the judge and the judge directs them according to the letter of the law, or his version of it.

After the sentences in the first Shrewsbury trial were announced, two of the jurors walked out in protest against them.

The two then spoke to the defendants who had not been imprisoned and to some journalists from the socialist press.

They both insisted that the jury had been led to believe that guilty verdicts would lead only to fines or at the most to suspended sentences. On this basis, and on the basis of a desire to get a marathon trial concluded without hours and hours of fierce debate, the majority on the jury caved in.

Trade unionists who want more information on the trials and who have additional questions to ask are welcome to write in to the Socialist Worker trade union page.

A trade unionists' guide to the Shrewsbury trials

BY LAURIE FLYNN

to be a prosecution witness. Because he would not sign a doctored statement, he was charged.

Were the defendants prosecuted for acts of violence?

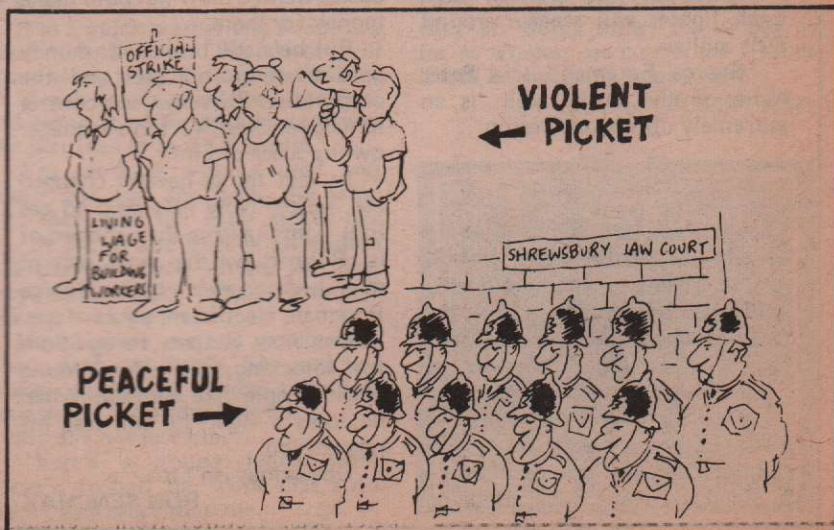
This question is the key to the whole Shrewsbury affair. Not one of the Shrewsbury 24 stood trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court on a specific charge of violence, damage to property or intimidation.

At first the men were charged on all sorts of specific counts. But the prosecution at the trials chose to whittle the charges down to three—conspiracy to intimidate, unlawful assembly and affray.

The advantage of the conspiracy to intimidate charge were two-fold. First, if the men had been prosecuted on a straight charge of intimidation, the maximum sentence would have been six months. Conspiracy to intimidate carries no maximum sentence at all.

In addition conspiracy to intimidate does not require the prosecution to prove that the defendants were individually involved in specific acts of intimidation.

For conspiracy allows a mass of otherwise inadmissible material to be brought as evidence against a





Digging foundations for a strong works branch

THE FOUNDATIONS of the Rubery Owen factory branch in Willenhall, Staffs, were dug 12 months ago during a five-week battle with the management over a wage claim and the bosses' attempts to introduce measured day work.

Until the strike we had only one IS member in the factory and he sold 30 Socialist Workers.

We made several contacts out of the strike and increased the sales of the paper to 50. After several weeks, these contacts joined IS.

With five members, we decided to form a factory branch and hold regular meetings. At first the meetings were just business meetings which were boring and unsuitable for bringing contacts to. So we worked out a branch education programme and had several excellent meetings on subjects like

The need for the revolutionary party.

The Labour and Communist Parties.

The education system.

At once, the meetings became more interesting. Members used to look forward to the meetings, and search around for people to bring to them.

Elected

At the same time, we were all intervening in our trade union branches and the AUEW district committee, where we have just had a member elected as a delegate.

We now have eight members at Rubery Owen and another three in Wilkins and Mitchell, and are making a serious attempt to provide a militant leadership in the factory and in the

by the Rubery Owen
IS branch secretary

trade union. We only have one shop steward at Rubery Owen, but we are trying to bring together a new grouping of militants among the stewards who, we hope, can start to give a new lead.

The stewards committee at Rubery Owen has lived in the past on a left-wing reputation, if almost entirely false.

Although some of the pay rates were very high—some piece workers can earn £50 to £70—other rates are also very low. Labourers take home not more than £23.

During the strike, some 400 scabs went to work and the union has crumbled without any attempt by the convenors to stop the rot. There are now rumours of a cut-back in production and redundancies in the factory and its doubtful if there will be

any official resistance from the stewards' committee if the rumours turn out to be correct.

The IS branch is determined to fight back against this decline. Our first priority is to organise against the redundancies and build up the support for a workers' bulletin in the factories.

Mistakes

We must fight for the shop stewards' position on the slogan of 100 per cent trade unionism.

We reckon that we have learnt a lot from our mistakes in the first few weeks, in which we inclined to think that an IS factory branch was just another boring meeting like a union branch meeting. We now sell more than 80 papers in the factories and are expanding every week.

We hope that other factory branches in the country can learn from these experiences.

One of Phil Evans' many amusing drawings for the new IS handbook which tells you everything you need to know about chairing a public meeting, operating a duplicating machine, printing a poster, designing a newspaper and speaking in public. The handbook costs £1 from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



Polishing up the education

THE PUBLICATIONS and training committee of IS has been investigating the possibilities of using tape recordings and projected pictures from photographic slides as an aid to education and training in IS.

There are several ways in which these technical aids could be used. Recordings of speeches to meetings on various topics will be made available to branches and could prove especially useful to factory discussion groups and small branches that cannot hold full scale meetings.

The recordings will also be available to individual members preparing to speak on a particular subject.

The committee hopes, for example, to prepare an edited version of the lectures Tony Cliff has been delivering on Lenin. This will be available in the next few weeks and potential borrowers should write to Department D, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Prepare

The committee has been building up a library of slides and has 150, so far mainly of photos from Socialist Worker. At the moment there are not enough slides to prepare meaningful sets. Pictures from branches

are needed. Any picture which you feel will help a speaker to illustrate a point—whether it's a slide or print, colour or black and white—will be gratefully received. Send it to the above address, and make sure that you say clearly whether you want it returned.

Evaluate

The committee is also looking at the possibility of using slides and tapes together as an aid to education. A pilot project is being prepared, again on Lenin, so that the committee can evaluate the usefulness of the technique, and learn from the experience.

One of the problems which will prevent the organisation from using these tapes and slides will be the availability of the equipment. The committee tried to use the most common equipment—cassette tapes for the recordings and 35mm slides for the pictures. The equipment for using them should be available in most branches.

Finally, the committee would like to hear from anyone with ideas in this area, whether they have technical expertise or ideas for the subject of recordings or slide sets.

CHELMSFORD IS Socialist Worker Rally in aid of Shrewsbury 24
Speakers: John Llywarch (defendant in Shrewsbury pickets trial) and Paul Foot. Music by The Combine. Tuesday 9 April, 7.45pm, Shire Hall, Chelmsford. All socialists and trade unionists welcome.

IS ASTMS fraction meeting: Sunday 7 April, 10.30am-5pm, Lecture Room 3, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. IS members only—all IS members of ASTMS to attend.

BIRMINGHAM and District IS members meeting: Sunday 7 April, 2pm prompt, Lecture Room 1, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Speakers: Tony Cliff on the political and economic crisis. Duncan Hallas on the rank and file movement, and Nigel Harris on the fight against Racism.

GOOD QUALITY printing paper suitable for silk-screen posters etc is available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (to callers only). Approx size 30in x 20in. Various qualities and finishes. Price 1p per sheet.

MID-HERTS IS public meeting: Why we have no illusions in Labour. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Thursday 25 April, 8pm, The Beehive, off London Road, St Albans. All socialists and trade unionists welcome.

BURTON-ON-TRENT Socialist Worker public meeting: Labour government—what next? Speakers: Roger Kline (Coventry IS organiser) and a Chrysler TGWU shop steward. Sunday 7 April, 7.30pm, Royal Oak, Horninglow Road, Burton.

TWICKENHAM IS open meeting: Women and the trade unions. Speaker: Carol Bourne. Thursday 11 April, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road, Twickenham.

WIGSTON and LEICESTER IS rock 'n' roll disco: Friday 5 April, 7.30-11.30pm, St Patricks Club, Abbey Street, Leicester. 40p at door. All welcome.

BIRMINGHAM IS social: Saturday 20 April, 8-11pm, The Mermaid, Stratford Road. Songs by Alex Glasgow, and other entertainment. For tickets (50p) and further details, phone 021-444 5692.

WOOD GREEN IS public meeting: After the election—what next? Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Tuesday 9 April, 8pm, Room 2, Woodside House, Wood Green High Road (opposite The Nightingale pub), London N22.

IS AFRICA Half-day School: Saturday 20 April, Kesidee Centre, Gifford Street, Islington, London N1 (near Pentonville Prison). 1pm: Africans in Britain, followed by discussion groups. 4pm: all-black cast play *Body and Soul*. Afro-Caribbean food and creche. Buses 14, 17, 168, 259 and 221. Tube: Kings Cross and Caledonian Road. For more details phone Martha at 01-348 9508.

CROYDON IS social and dance: Saturday 20 April, 8pm-midnight, The Wilton Arms, Thornton Heath High Street, followed by party at 137 Brigstock Road. Tickets 30p. All proceeds to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

IS IRISH FORUM: After Sunningdale— which way for Irish socialists? Speakers: Mike Miller (Socialist Workers Movement, Belfast). Sunday 7 April, 7.30pm. The Metropolitan pub, 95 Farringdon Road, London EC1.

SOCIALIST WORKER STICKERS: We have now completely sold out of these stickers but hope to be printing more within the next few weeks. All orders already received will be dealt with as soon as possible. Send orders with money to SW Circulation, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Price 15p per 100, 1500 for £1.

BRANCH BRIEFS

BIRMINGHAM: IS in Birmingham has taken another big step forward with the opening of a bookshop and headquarters in the city centre.

The bookshop is at 224 Deritend High Street, only 20 yards from the Digbeth Civic Centre, familiar meeting place in Birmingham.

The bookshop is open six days a week from 10am to 2pm, and from 4pm to 6pm—and all day Thursday and Saturdays. The shop includes a small meeting room for IS rank and file groups, available at a charge per meeting of 50p.

CHRYSLER branch, Coventry, held a very successful education meeting last week on the Life and Times of Karl Marx. Wally Preston introduced the discussion and the 20 workers present showed considerable interest and enthusiasm for the subject.

GLASGOW: 500 copies of the Socialist Worker pamphlet *The Beaverbrook File*, on the Scottish Daily Express closure were sold last

SWANSEA IS public meeting: The socialist answer to the Labour government. Speaker: Tony Cliff (IS executive committee). Chairman: Wyndham Gates (AUEW). Monday 8 April, 7.30pm, Oxford Street Junior School.

CWM IS public meeting: After the miners' strike—the way forward and the Labour government. Speaker: Tony Cliff (IS executive committee). Chairman: Arthur Davies (Cwm NUM lodge committee). Tuesday 9 April, 7.30pm, Cwm Llantwit Welfare Hall.

BUILDING WORKER: latest issue now out. Articles on Shrewsbury, property sharks, electricians, UCATT conference, the fight ahead. 3p plus 3p postage from Building Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WANTED: two London-based IS members willing to give part-time aid in planning an extensive range of summer schools. Typing an advantage but not essential. Please apply by letter to IS training committee, John Charlton, 22 Wheatwood Court, Leeds 16, or phone Leeds 782851.

DONCASTER IS public meeting: Wages and the cost of living. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 18 April, 7.30pm, Co-op Hall, Doncaster. Admission 10p.

MAIDSTONE IS public meeting: Can socialism come through parliament? Speaker: Dave Peers (IS national secretary). Friday 19 April, 8pm. Room 2, Old Palace, Bishops Way, Maidstone. All welcome.

SOUTH WEST LONDON IS day schools: Sunday 7 April, 2-7pm. Rank and file work and factory branches—at 8 Falcon Road, SW11. The party, the paper and work among immigrants—at 47 Mervan Road, SW2. Full details from IS branch secretaries.

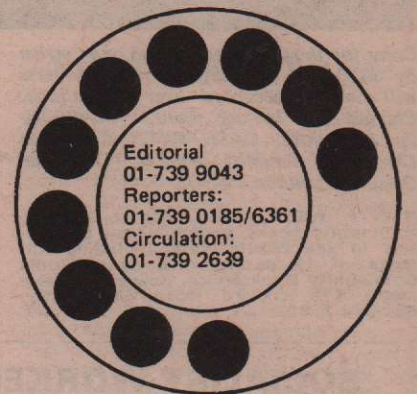
IS BUILDING WORKERS' School in Manchester: Saturday 20 April, 11.30am, AUEW Hall, The Crescent, Salford. Sessions to be introduced by Laurie Flynn, Greg Douglas (CEU militant) and Terry Horan (Edinburgh building workers' convenor).

THE IS Anti-race sub-committee will meet on Saturday 27 April, 10am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Would IS branch secretaries please send delegates and written reports.

ELECTROSTENCILS: IS Books can cut your stencils for 75p. Send art work (black and white only please) and money in advance to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Excellent for all typing, and printing. Half-tones not guaranteed. State whether for Roneo or Gestetner duplicator.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs help from IS students in London. If you have mornings or afternoons free and/or a driving licence, please phone Margaret Renn immediately—01-739 2639.

DESIGNER wanted urgently by SW (Litho). Training and/or experience essential. Must be able to handle own artwork, etc. Write, with details, to Studio, SW (Litho) Printers, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.



Editorial
01-739 9043
Reporters:
01-739 0185/6361
Circulation:
01-739 2639

Back Chile march—call by IS executive

THE IS EXECUTIVE last Friday devoted a special session to the role of the organisation in the movement for solidarity with the Chilean workers against the oppression of the military junta.

The meeting decided

1. To participate fully in the ad hoc committee which is calling a demonstration and march on 5 May around the slogans:

NOT A PENNY, NOT A GUN FOR THE CHILEAN GENERALS. WITHDRAW DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION NOW.

OPEN THE DOORS TO ALL CHILEAN REFUGEES.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHILEAN RESISTANCE.

The march will go from Hyde Park to Downing Street and will start at 2pm.

2. To send a delegation to an international conference of revolutionary socialist organisations which is being called in Frankfurt on 24-26 April.

The purpose of the conference is to discuss the theoretical significance of the Chilean events and to mobilise the maximum solidarity across Europe with the oppressed people of Chile.

week to workers at the Express, the Daily Record and Glasgow Herald/Evening Times.

WEST SCOTLAND REGION: Members are preparing for the annual membership meeting on Thursday 11 April. At the meeting discussion of perspectives for the region and the election of the new political committee will take place.

DERBY: The city's College of Art and Technology has a rule that there will be no political societies at the college. This prohibition was strongly opposed by IS candidate Bob Bagnall in the election for president of the Students Union.

The introduction of politics into the campaign ensured an unusually lively election campaign. Despite the fact that the nomination was made only half an hour before nominations closed, Bob did well to come second in the race, and in obtaining a place on the executive.

CHRYSLER: 190 ON PAY STRIKE

Students remove road block

COVENTRY:—190 workers at the Chrysler subsidiary Auto Machinery have been on strike for two weeks demanding parity with workers at the Chrysler Stoke plant—which is on the same site—and a step towards equal pay for women.

They are also demanding re-grading and more money for lower-paid workers, with a rise for women workers to give them 95 per cent of men's pay.

An open letter issued by the Auto Machinery shop stewards' committee this week demands from management a date when parity rates will be paid, scornfully rejecting the idea of 'meaningful talks on moves towards parity'.

Chrysler has insisted on a return to work before a date will be discussed 'within 48 hours'. Say the shop stewards: 'We have had this before, the 48 hours becomes two weeks, then three weeks and so it goes on.'

'Before our men and women go back to work, we want satisfactory answers to our members' demands. Until they agree, then we stay out.'

DISCUSS

The letter outlines the continuing struggle at the plant which started in 1968 with the fight for 100 per cent trade union membership, which was met with victimisations. 'Two workers were dismissed for calling a mass meeting to discuss trade union membership,' says the letter. The foreman who demanded their dismissal is now a representative for the ASTMS foremen in the plant.

Chrysler, who bought the plant in a secret deal, have constantly tried to introduce the same working conditions as at their other Coventry plants, saying parity would come

by Socialist Worker reporter

soon. The stewards have always rejected this.

'At the same time to achieve even a decent rate of pay, we have had to "sell" a lot to Chrysler, such as our teabreaks, morning and afternoon, brew-ups no longer being allowed. We have to resort to a vending system which has risen in price about 80 per cent since it was first introduced,' says the letter.

'The same goes for canteen prices.

We pay the same canteen prices as our brothers at Stoke but we have a much lower rate of pay. The Chrysler industrial relations department say, with crocodile tears in their eyes, how terrible prices are now. What they really mean is take it or leave it, but if you leave it what have you got left? NOTHING!!

'While attempting to resist our parity claim in the 71-73 agreement, Chrysler used the line that Auto only

made bolts, whereas employees elsewhere were on a higher rate of pay because they made cars. But what keeps their Avengers together? Sticking plaster? Glue?

'Of course not, bolts keep Chrysler cars together, bolts made at Auto by Chrysler employees.

'Laws introduced by the Tories have enabled Chrysler to have our labour on the cheap. Piously saying that they would pay us parity but for the law, Chrysler have secretly been rubbing their hands together in glee.'

Can engineering claim be bought to life?

by Jack Robertson (AUEW convenor, Knowsley Engineering, Manchester)

IN SEPTEMBER Engineering Union leader Hugh Scanlon told the Engineering Employers Federation that further delay on the settlement of the national wage claim would 'be disastrous to us both'.

He was half right. The six-month delay since then has been disastrous for the unions. But it hasn't done the bosses much harm.

For during this whole period the union members have been left almost completely in the dark. They have received no explanations for the delay. There has been no nationally-led campaign to support the claim.

Six months of retreat by the union leaders and their refusal of joint action with the miners has left us starting an overtime ban on Monday 15 April with growing disillusionment.

The disillusionment is not with the claim itself. Most engineers still feel the claim is fully justified. But they realise the unions' national leadership has never taken it seriously.

For example, the only information Shaw AUEW branch received was four copies of the official leaflets last November.

A few leaflets struggled into the large Gardner plant in Eccles, near Manchester, and eventually appeared on the notice board. This situation is not exceptional.

Since November things have got worse because a second section of the claim—that for reduced hours—has been ditched. The only part of the claim that could unite, in action, the labourer in general engineering in Manchester and the high-paid Birmingham worker has been dropped as it was in 1972.

The question now is will the proposed overtime ban transform this appalling situation? Was Bernard Panter, Manchester district secretary, right when he said of the ban at the last shop stewards' quarterly that 'given a few sparks it will spread like a forest fire'.

Operate

The facts don't bear him out. The shortage of materials after the three-day week means many factories can't even get overtime, let alone ban it. Because of the delay, separate agreements are well advanced in some sections of the industry and this can only undermine interest in action over the national claim.

But most important of all is the simple, uncontested fact that overtime bans in engineering are virtually impossible to operate effectively. With tens of thousands of workplaces, more than 20 unions and three million workers, how can an overtime ban be policed?

Any experienced engineer knows the danger of such a ban is that it can sap the will to fight rather than create the conditions for the necessary all-out strike.

For six months International Socialist militants in engineering have refused to rock the boat. Inside the AUEW we have repeatedly called for early and effective action but have done nothing to break the unity of engineers. Now that action has been agreed, whatever our views on the weakness of that action, we will be the ones that fight hardest to make it effective.

But the time has come to recognise that mobilising effective action means trying to bring the claim back from the grave. That won't be possible without an honest assessment of the mistakes of the past six months and a determination that they are not repeated on the next national claim.

Sit-in workers call bosses' bluff

EASTLEIGH, Hampshire:The workers occupying the Strachens engineering factory have forced management to agree to talks.

Last Thursday the parent company, Giltspur, issued an ultimatum ordering the workers to leave the factory by Friday afternoon. The men called their bluff by staying put—and on Monday management invited the occupation committee to join talks with union officials and management.

There are apparently now two prospective buyers for the threatened factory, which makes the van bodies for Ford.

The social security office is now paying full benefit to the occupiers, being forced to abandon attempts to cut benefit to men on picket duty.

Donations and messages of support are still needed to help the determined occupiers to victory. Send to Pat Doyle, Works Committee Convenor, Strachens Engineering, Chickenhall Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire.



ALAN PRICE, Wolverhampton AUEW No 7 branch president: 'We have to fight for the full claim. When Scanlon talks about settling within Phase Three, it means he has dropped the claim for shorter hours, longer holidays and equal pay. For me these are the most important parts of our claim.'

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.

NORTH WEST AREA. Widest range of community books, pamphlets and periodicals in the North West, including full range of IS publications. Grass Roots Community Bookservice, now at the basement, 178 Oxford Road, Manchester, 061-273 2180.

CARTOONS: From £1 for IS branches and rank and file papers. Send details to Phil Evans, 18 Windsor Road, St Andrews, Bristol. Phone 421956.

SOCIALIST GAY GROUP has speakers throughout the country on the gay question and sexism. Inquiries from IS branches especially welcomed. Details from 18 Dickenson Road, London N8.

LONDON Workers' Fight public meeting: Rank and file conference—report back. Speaker: Rachel Lever. Sunday 7 April, 8pm. The Golden Lion, Kings Cross Road, London N1.

GRAND SOCIAL: Joint Building Sites Committee and Building Charter. At the Metropolitan Hotel, Farringdon Road, Saturday 6 April, starts 7pm. Captain Swing, Bobby Campbell Folk Group, Ian Beddows, Christie Driscoll. Admission free.

POWERS OF GOVERNMENT. 1974 conference lecture. Friday 12 April, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (five minutes Holborn tube). All welcome. Admission free. The Socialist Party of Great Britain.

URGENT PLEA: Comrade seeks room in flat or house in N London—£5 per week maximum. Phone Jim 348 3881.

RICHARD AND AMANDA CROUCHER announce the birth of a daughter, Sarah Louise, on 27 March.

FARMHOUSE HOLIDAYS in North Wales: within easy reach of the station, fishing, friendly pubs, pony trekking, frequent transport to the coast, bring your wellies... Six-berth self-contained caravan, all mod cons, £10 per week. Bed, breakfast, evening meal and packed lunch, £10.50 per week—reductions for children. Phone Chirk (069186) 2272.

CONFERENCE ON THE ARMY. Organised by the Troops Out Movement. Saturday 11 May. Collegiate Theatre, Gordon Street, WC1. Speakers on the Army's role in Ireland and Britain. More details next week.

ROOM, FLAT SHARE OR FLAT needed in London. Phone Peter 01-733 5150.

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 racism, all war. Write for specimen socialist literature to 'One World (SW), The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

RED BOOKS
81a RENSHAW STREET, LIVERPOOL
Revolutionary Literature: Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Eastern Europe, Third World, Ireland, Women's Liberation, Tues-Fri, 12.30-3pm, Saturday 11am-4pm.

LATIN AMERICAN FRONT
Brazil—the class struggle
Sunday 7 April, 2pm, discussion, followed by film, Electric Cinema, Portobello Road, London.

SOCIALIST WORKER May Day Greetings

Socialist Worker is including a special four-page supplement for the many trade union bodies, shop stewards committees and other labour organisations who wish to send May Day Greetings.

The rates for advertisements will be:
 'Special' Classified insertion (up to 20 words) 50p
 Semi-display, per single column inch (size 1in x 2in) £1
 Display, per single column inch £2

Advance space may be booked now by telephone. Ring 01-739 2639. All copy or art work must be received by Monday 22 April.

Send to Socialist Worker (May Day) Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

Message:

Name of Organisation:
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COLCHESTER:—The barricades at Essex University came down on Wednesday morning—despite a comment from Detective Inspector Markham of Essex Constabulary that it rated as the eighth wonder of the world.

The barricades had gone up in an attempt to stop all deliveries to the university as a protest over the victimisation of students supporting the grants campaign. The university have expelled three and the police have arrested 150 student pickets.

Dissatisfaction over the handling of the dispute by the vice-chancellor, Dr Sloman, has been mounting among the lecturers. Although the result of the secret ballot on a 'no confidence' motion is being withheld, it is assumed by the students to have been overwhelmingly carried.

The barricades were also worrying university employees, who asked from them to be removed, without guaranteeing blacking. Student militants, while recognising the need for good relations with trade unionists, felt that the barricades should remain.

Jacky Sprague, an International Socialist student at Essex, argued that the barricades must remain, defended by a mass picket. After 105 arrests it is vital to defend the right to blockade the university.

Unconditional

Student members of the Communist Party, aided by the International Marxist Group, supported the removal of the barricades. A later meeting of trade unionists on the campus including members of the supervisors (ASTMS), government officers (NALGO), Transport (TGWU) and Construction (UCATT) unions, failed to support the students.

Instead a list of demands were put to both the university and the students union. Unfortunately these demands do not face up to the situation. The meeting gave unconditional support to the right of the university to academic freedom—though one student has been expelled for violating this so-called right by disrupting a lecture—but support to the students was made dependent on the students' recognition of 'civil law'.

This is rather ironic when students have been arrested for defending the right to picket and building workers are in jail for picketing. When civil law means bosses' law no student or worker can automatically support it.

Students at Essex should be supported by all workers recognising that the police operation used to smash the student picket will be used next time against trade unionists. The local trades council, the Ford Combine Shop Stewards Committee and the Miners' Union have already given support. All trade union branches, shop stewards committees and trades councils should send messages of support.

With 18 students suspended for a year at Oxford last Friday, a national pattern of victimisation is emerging. With educational cuts on the way, a defence of the right to militant protest is vital.

All students must give priority to Oxford and Essex universities. Delegations from other colleges should immediately go to Essex. The demonstration called for early May protesting over the recent wave of victimisations must receive the maximum support.

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Fight to save jobs - not Concorde

by Anna Gregson

BRISTOL:—The possibility that Concorde will be scrapped within three months means that the threat of mass redundancies hangs larger than ever over 12,000 workers employed by BAC, Rolls-Royce and hundreds of smaller engineering firms which depend on the aircraft in-

dustry.

The 'Save Concorde' call—used a year ago to justify the loss of 1000 jobs at BAC—has again been raised. It is backed by BAC chairman Sir George Edwards and other bosses

whose profits depend on the project, by MPs, by Bristol's 'City Fathers' and by defenders of 'British' technology against 'foreign' invaders.

But the call to save Concorde has also been taken up by the trade

union movement to save jobs. The BAC-Rolls-Royce joint trade unions aerospace liaison committee, set up during the Concorde crisis a year ago, has decided to fight redundancies, but is hamstrung by linking this demand to the 'Save Concorde' campaign.

Since the government announced

its plans to stop Concorde, the joint trade union liaison committee has held two mass meetings, one of which was addressed by Labour minister Anthony Wedgwood Benn, and has sent trade union delegates to lobby MPs. The committee meets weekly with delegates from all sections of the Bristol aircraft factories.

But what is needed is a clear campaign to save jobs, regardless of what happens to Concorde, pointing out that the success or failure of Concorde as a profitable venture is not the responsibility of the workers who make it.

Many BAC workers now support Concorde because they think that is the only way they can justify saving their jobs. The belief that workers have a right to jobs has been wittled away by the long history of redundancies in the aircraft industry.

Many workers are angry that demands for alternative projects to Concorde were not taken up long ago, particularly as older workers remember the production of aluminium prefabricated houses after the war, the project on plastic railway carriages and the iron lung.

Action

Speculation about alternative engineering projects at BAC is a normal topic of conversation. What is needed now is organised resistance to any redundancy. It is the company's responsibility to find the work.

Last week the AUEW East Works shop stewards' committee at Rolls-Royce passed a resolution to set up an action committee to fight redundancies in Rolls-Royce, BAC and other industries which would be affected.

The liaison committee's reply to the resolution was that all the points it raised were covered by its constitution, and that no action group was required.

But the liaison committee is banking on saving Concorde. If Concorde goes, then the ground goes from under its feet for saving jobs.

Action committees based on the demand 'No Redundancies, Work or Full Pay,' set up in every section of BAC and Rolls-Royce, would link and involve every worker in a fight to save jobs.

The case that saving jobs must not depend on saving Concorde and that Concorde workers must not be left to fight alone, needs to be argued in every stewards' committee, union branch, and the liaison committee.

Police raids on blacks

LONDON:—The Caribbean Solidarity Campaign is concerned with political prisoners in the West Indies. It had something else to worry about last week. At 6am 50 police broke in and ransacked the headquarters in North London. They claimed to be 'looking for guns and ammunition'.

None were found. Julian Monville, one of the people at the house, was taken to the police station on suspicion of being an 'illegal immigrant'. He protested his innocence, but the police weren't satisfied. He was not released until they had checked with the Home Office at 10am.

Demo lashes repression in Brazil

Supporters of Amnesty International—the human rights group—picketed the Brazilian Embassy in London on Monday in protest at the tenth anniversary of the military regime. They condemned government torture of political opponents. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)



Bosses hit new union

STOKE:—Members of the Michelin factory's newly-formed technical and supervisory section of the Engineering Union (TASS-AUEW) are on strike over the victimisation of one of their members. The man had been elected a site committee member for TASS.

Management transferred him to another department because 'his work was not satisfactory'. But his Christmas assessment showed this was simply untrue.

Management have shifted their ground and now say the man would have the same pay and prospects but that the company has the right to transfer its workers anywhere under the employment contract.

Since the Industrial Relations Act the company can no longer openly oppose union membership. Instead it says that union membership is 'incompatible' with being a technician or a manager. If you are an active trade union member, they transfer you to a department where you can do little.

TASS is new at Michelin and a great deal depends on support from other workers both in the factory and outside. Messages of support to: Barry Shaw, TASS Site Convenor, 15 Willows Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke on Trent.

GEC on march for pay claim

LEWISHAM:—'Best turn-out in 18 years' was convenor Harry Johnson's happy judgment on the march by the entire 400-strong workforce at GEC-Elliott on Thursday last week in support of their £6-a-week claim, part of the national engineering claim.

At Catford Town Hall the marchers heard speeches from Len Formby, TASS South London divisional organiser, Les Doust, AUEW London South district secretary and David Carter, Electricians Union area organiser. They unanimously agreed full support for the official overtime ban from 15 April and to take any further action for the claim called by the stewards.

The 400 workers have already rejected management's flat rate offer of £2.25 and held a 2½-hour walk-out.

They are concerned that management may be deliberately trying to run the factory down. Wage rates are probably the lowest in the district and the firm is unable to get new workers. Letters to the managing director at Lewisham and the managing director of the group asking if the factory is being run down have met with no satisfactory reply.

Staffing problems have hit management too. There is now no personnel officer at Lewisham and one comes in from Rochester once a week. He has been dubbed 'the flying doctor' and it looks as if the Lewisham workers, not traditionally militant, are going to keep him buzzing to and fro unless they get their £6.

Express jobs

are axed

by Steve Jefferys

GLASGOW:— Beaverbrook Newspapers and its principal hatchet man, managing director Jocelyn Stevens, breathed a sigh of relief on Sunday morning.

The 'Scottish' Sunday Express was printed in Manchester and successfully despatched to Scotland where it was distributed as normal. The axeing of 1872 jobs had gone ahead without any real hitches.

Several factors contributed to the ease with which the Albion Street plant was shut down.

First, the role of the trade union leaders involved was pretty disgraceful. The members of the largest and previously most militant chapel (office branch) in the building, the NATSOPA chapel, were told by their general secretary, Richard Briginshaw within hours of receiving the notice of complete closure, that 200 jobs would be found for them in Manchester and 100 in London.

Withdrawn

Any Glasgow Beaverbrook employee who was a member of NATSOPA would get his return fare to Manchester and hotel accommodation paid for—by Beaverbrook. This offer had to be taken up during the week immediately following 30 March or it would be withdrawn.

When the Glasgow Action Committee put up the idea of a 24-hour national protest strike against newspaper closures, John Bonfield of the National Graphical Association, with only 12 members in Albion Street, immediately issued a press statement condemning the move.

When the London Action Committee occupied the boardroom at Beaverbrook's Fleet Street headquarters, someone instantly contacted journalists' general secretary Ken Morgan, who phoned in within minutes to instruct the NUJ members present to withdraw.

Virtually without exception, the trade union members in Albion Street all felt that their leaders were not ready to back any serious fight to prevent the closure.

Secondly, the insulting redundancy



Stevens: blackmail tactics

terms offered by Beaverbrook inhibited all but the most militant from talking about any real industrial action.

Jocelyn Stevens had said that if there were any industrial action the workers would lose part or all of the money offered in excess of the government minimum, and that they would also proceed to the immediate closure of the Manchester and London parts of their operations.

At the end of the day, the Action Committee moved. It inserted on the front page of the final edition a moderate appeal to Express readers to watch out for the new newspaper which the workers at Albion Street are hoping to produce.

But lack of involvement of the entire workforce, the absence of transport, and cynicism about the effectiveness of this last-gasp gesture meant that it petered out. Only a few thousand copies were printed before the presses stopped for good.

And the very next day Beaverbrook management had lorries loading up every bale of newsprint in Albion Street. No one on the Action Committee was there to speak to the workers who loaded up the lorries or the transport drivers who went down to Manchester with the newsprint.

International Socialists



If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

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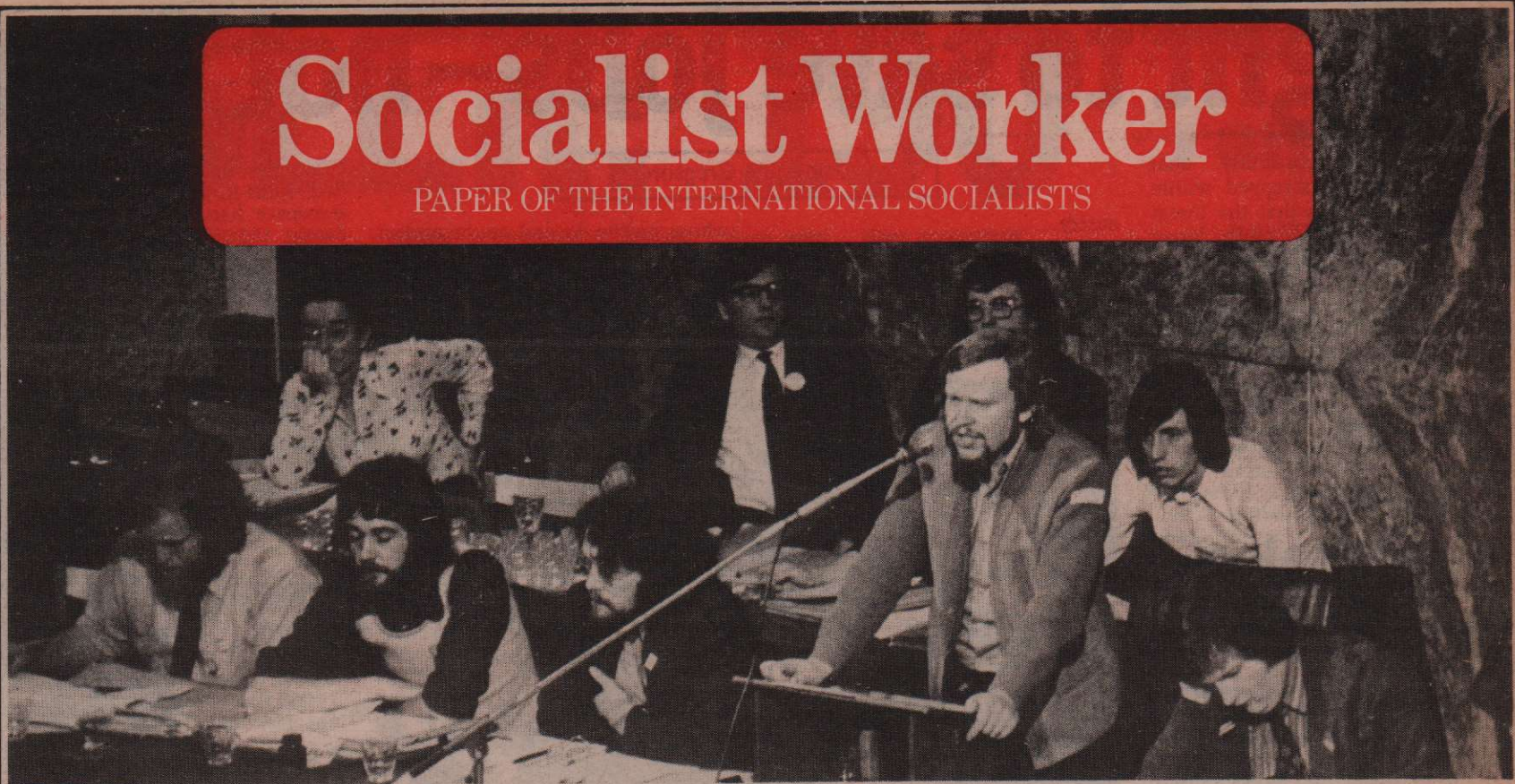
Lucas: 600 out over 'spying'

BIRMINGHAM:—600 night shift workers at Lucas's Shaftmoor Lane plant have been on strike since last Wednesday. The men have been refusing to co-operate with two supervisors who spied on a colleague and whose evidence later got him the sack.

After the refusal had been in effect for 40 hours the company refused to pay and issued blank pay slips. Since then a 24-hour picket has ensured that no starter motors have been moved or any other components brought in.

On Tuesday Transport and Engineering Union officials attended a meeting of night shift shop stewards. When the officials suggested a return to work the stewards spoke heatedly against this plan. The suggestion was that if the men returned to work they would get financial compensation, but, the officials said, the company would not discuss the removal of the two supervisors.

The Lucas personnel director has made it clear that the dispute is a challenge to management rights. Stewards are equally convinced that this is an attack on the militant night shift organisation, as part of the company's plans to make one Lucas worker in ten redundant.



Students' president John Randall speaking at the conference PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Students choose the mixture as before

LIVERPOOL:—The annual conference of the National Union of Students assembled on Monday in the shadow of victimisations at Oxford and Essex, a grants campaign that was largely a damp squib because of the executive's failure to give a lead, and a Labour government committed to keeping the Tory cut in spending.

The first two days were dominated by the election of NUS executives. Both major election machines—the Broad Left,

controlled by the Communist Party, and that of John Randall, present NUS president, swung into action.

Randall's opening speech amounted to a plea to give Labour a chance. The Broad Left advocated a campaign aimed at swinging constituency Labour Parties behind the demand for higher grants and pressuring Labour MPs. So both sides favour the running down of the grants campaign and the spreading of illusions in Labour's ability or willingness to

make concessions.

The Socialist Alternative, which includes members of the International Socialists and independent socialists standing on a revolutionary platform, ran candidates who called for a militant fight against victimisation and for the full demand of the grants campaign, and for the linking of student struggles with those of the working class.

Their candidate for president, Mike Hill, won 105 first preference votes.

With those of the candidates of the International Marxist Group (25) and the Workers Revolutionary Party (10), this shows that the revolutionary left is increasing its influence in the NUS.

But, the victory of Randall in the presidential election means there will be no radical change in the present reformist policies of the NUS. It will be up to revolutionaries to take the initiative in arguing for and organising a militant fight for students' interests.

Protest at job switch

GREAT YARMOUTH, Norfolk:—The town's Indian-born senior community worker, Samir Chatterjee, who joined the local social services department in December, is in the centre of a storm. His job has been abolished by the new Norfolk County Council and in its place he has been offered two quite unsuitable jobs.

'I do not understand why the post was advertised at all if it was not going to exist after four months,' he said.

Samir believes strongly in grass-roots politics and public participation in decision-making. This won him distrust from councillors when he first started work in the Foleshill area of Coventry.

But he got things done and wants to do the same in Great Yarmouth.

In his early months in the town he has made considerable progress and when it was learnt that his job was to go, massive support was given by his newly-formed action groups, which arranged a petition which received 2000 signatures, demanding he stay and carry on with his work. His union, NALGO, is watching the situation closely and feels he should be given a comparable job and money.

THE Labour government's servile respect for procedure and so-called due process of law has allowed Robert Dilley, anti-union boss of Con-Mech Engineers, Woking, to inflict yet another serious wound on the Engineering Union.

Dilley won his £47,000 claim for

damages for loss of profits from the union in the National Industrial Relations Court last week.

The union's policy is not to pay up and the head office is barricaded against the attentions of bailiffs and the like.

This might prevent the money being taken off the union before the NIRC is finally scrapped. But Dilley has already intimated that he will use the civil courts to obtain the money.

Dilley looks like getting away with this. For it is virtually certain that the Labour government, while repealing the Industrial Relations Act, will not put up with any defiance of

the 'ordinary' courts of law.

For similar reasons Labour ministers are backpeddling at top speed over the Clay Cross rent rebels and reassuring big business that they will do nothing to concede an effective right to picket.

They are also making absolutely no promises with regard to the repayment of other fines levied by the National Industrial Relations Court.

Perhaps, as with Clay Cross, they will organise a collection. This would do something to keep the rank and file 'happy' and do nothing to upset the men of property, their lawyers and their courts.

Threatened workers may sit in

DARTFORD, Kent:—130 workers are threatening to occupy the William Nash paper mill at nearby Horton Kirby in the face of closure plans. The 100-year-old mill, bought by Nash only in 1972, is suddenly unprofitable. The local rural council has approved plans to allow developers to use these valuable green-belt sites to build commuter houses.

The local official of the print union SOGAT has announced his full backing for his members' resistance to the closure 'by every means at their disposal'—but remains cool about the idea of a sit-in, complaining that 'it would be difficult to organise'.

But the workers are determined to meet this threat to their jobs with an occupation of the mill and already have the backing of 200 workers at Nash's other mill in nearby St Paul's Cray, who are threatening industrial action in support.

Lockout at steelworks

ROTHERHAM:—130 Engineering Union members in the stamp shop at River Don Stampings were locked out last Wednesday. The dispute is about a wage claim put in 18 months ago. After the power crisis, the men turned down an offer of more money in return for working three shifts, and worked strictly according to day work rates. Management responded with an immediate lock-out.

The men have the full backing of the workforce. If management carry out their plans to lay off other sections of the 700-strong workforce, the whole plant will grind to a halt in three to four weeks.

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That says it. Socialist Worker's budget is not phoney. We need every penny. Beer up. Petrol up. Cigarettes up. Your cost of living is soaring. So is ours.

The need is ever more urgent. We need another £2000 in April. Every donation, however large or small, will help us reach the target.

This week workplace donations came from Socialist

Worker readers at Borg Warner, Letchworth £2.45; Dudley gas, post office and foundry workers £5.85. Branches and members contributing this week include Neath £10, Tottenham £11, Lewisham £16, Stirling £10, Plymouth £5, Keighley £20, Warley £3, Southwark £28, Dudley £9, Paddington £30, Guildford £10, Portsmouth £1, North Herts £1—making this week's total £289.35.

Please send donations to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, IS national treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 9DS.