

Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

International Socialists picketing the North London Blood Transfusion Centre where Dr Tom Cleghorn, head of the centre, has come up with his own contribution to racism. The banning of 'black' blood. Cleghorn, whose previous notoriety has come from union-bashing, refuses to accept blood given by black people. He claims that such blood may be contaminated with hepatitis. All blood is tested for the infection and no overseas or immigrant donor has been found responsible for a case of transferred hepatitis. 'We agree with you,' many of the workers at the centre told the picket. PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

The Lennon murder and the Special Branch DEAD MAN TELLS A TALE

KENNETH LENNON, 33, was found shot dead in a ditch in Surrey last Sunday. Three days before his death he said in a statement that he had been pressurised by the Special Branch to take part in anti-IRA activities.

A week before he died, Lennon had been acquitted in Birmingham of offences arising from the photographing of Winson Green prison. Patrick O'Brien, who was taking pictures of the prison, was sent to prison for three years. But Lennon was acquitted despite his involvement in the affair, after police said he was 'frank and honest' with them.

Last Wednesday, after taking advice from friends, Lennon went to the offices of the National Council of Civil Liberties and spent all day giving a statement.

The statement said that he had been pressurised by Special Branch men to take part in Sinn Fein and IRA activities, and to inform on those activities.

Secondly, Lennon said that he had been encouraged by his Special Branch masters actively to encourage members of Sinn Fein in Britain to take part in illegal activities. He had, he said, encouraged O'Brien to take pictures of Winson Green prison, and had tipped off the authorities about his movements.

He had also actively participated in the building site robbery at Radlett, Herts, last year which resulted in 10 years imprisonment for the 'Luton Three.' Allegations were made in court that the money from the robbery was bound for the IRA.

QUICK

After giving this statement, Lennon promised to return to the NCCL this Tuesday to discuss what to do with the statement.

On Sunday, he met Special Branch men at Euston station. A few hours later, apparently alone and without protection, he was shot. The press were very quick to point out that the method of shooting was 'typical of an IRA execution'.

Martin Loney, the NCCL's general secretary, told Socialist Worker: 'Only one thing is absolutely certain about this case. If the brunt of Lennon's statement is true, then he would be alive today but for the Special Branch'.

Meanwhile down in Hampshire...

The activities of the Special Branch, it seems, are not limited to Irish affairs.

This week, the management at Strachans, a shut-down factory at Eastleigh, Hants, which is being occupied by its workers, admitted that it had been passing on information to the Special Branch.

The Branch, apparently, had been following up the activities of the International Socialists.

'Special Branch sources in London' according to the Daily Telegraph 'said such investigations throughout the country were not unusual. They constituted an important part of detectives' work in keeping up to date files on known agitators'.

A full report of what happened at Strachans appears on page eight. While you read it, remember all that talk about 'freedom', 'democracy' and 'subversion' from the people who employ spies and agitators from the Special Branch.

CHILE: British arms rush to rescue generals

Labour sends in the gunboats

THE PEOPLE of Clay Cross, among others, will be interested to learn that the Labour government will honour at least one 'commitment'—the commitment of their Tory predecessors to the military junta in Chile.

The junta is to get delivery of three British-made frigates valued at £70 million.

Labour's Foreign Secretary, prosperous farmer Jim Callaghan, announced the decision to Tory cheers and congratulations in the House of Commons last Wednesday. Roy Mason, Minister of Defence, went out of his way to persuade Labour MPs about the importance of 'honouring agreements'.

British miners who are concerned at the plight of Chilean miners under the junta should know that Mason is a member of the miners' union, which 'sponsors' him in parliament.

Labour's policy in opposition was laid down clearly in a motion moved by Judith Hart—now Minister of Overseas Development—in the



HEFFER: Carpeted

House of Commons last November. It demanded that the government prevent 'all sales of arms' from Britain to Chile.

It was supported by Harold Wilson and James Callaghan who are now carpeting Eric Heffer for daring publicly to insist that Labour carry out its most solemn pledges.

The delivery of the gunboats will cheer up the Chilean generals. Things haven't been going too well for them recently.

They have destroyed the trade unions, banned all left-wing political parties, murdered thousands of their opponents, mainly workers.

They have cut wages, boosted prices and inflicted unemployment on a fifth of the working population. But they have not broken the resistance of the Chilean workers.

So they need weapons—and more weapons. The more sophisticated and powerful the weapons, the better.

Junta

The British frigates are not just for naval exercises. They will be used against socialists and trade unionists fighting a life and death battle to overthrow the junta. They will be used just as they were used last September during the coup—to shell working-class districts on the coast.

They have one other major attraction for the junta and their

colleagues throughout South America.

North of Chile lies Peru, where the government has nationalised several American companies. With the frigates, Chile and other extreme right-wing regimes such as Brazil will be able to pressurise Peru to toe the line.

March

The Labour government's decision to allow the sale of the frigates must be fought throughout the working-class movement.

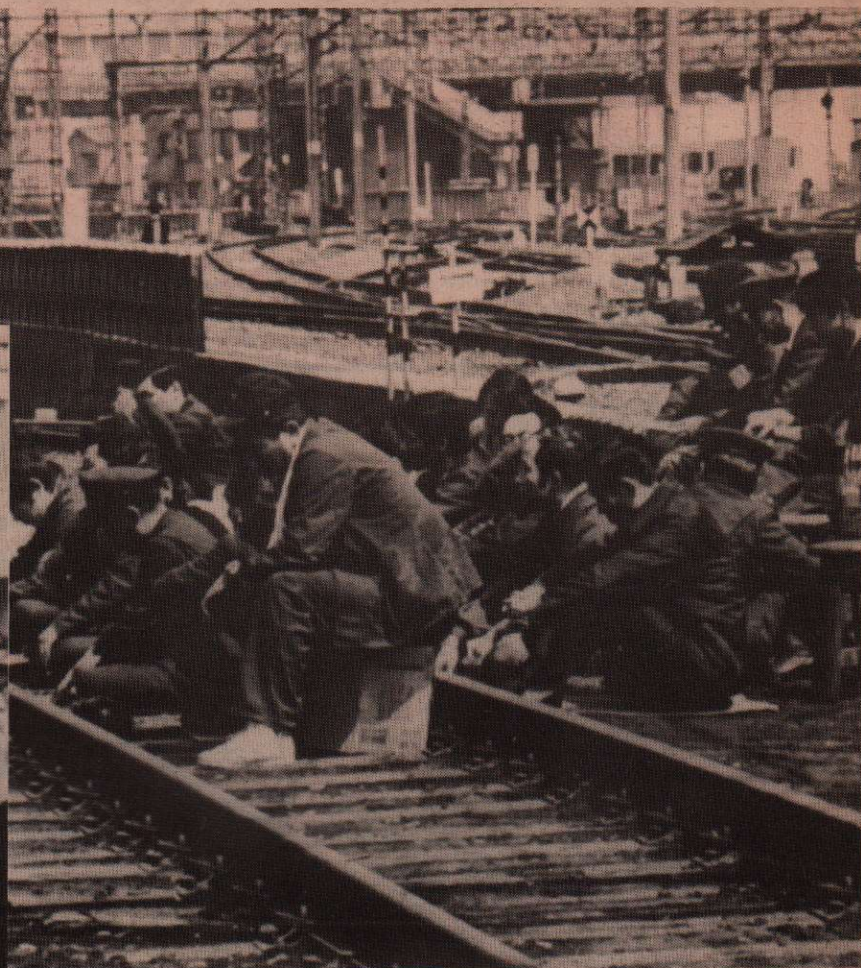
Every union branch, every shop stewards' committee, every trades council must make their voices heard and show where they stand—shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters in Chile.

A demonstration in solidarity with the Chilean resistance has been called for Sunday 5 May in London. It is vital that socialists organise now for a massive turnout on that day. That will be the first step in countering the Labour government's blatant betrayal of principle.

Japan's tame workers? Take a look...



Workers on the Japanese national newspaper Asahi Shimbun demonstrate outside their Tokio office during their one-hour strike. TOP: Railway workers stage a sit-in on the lines.



IN JAPAN, the country of the 'economic miracle' which used to regularly chalk up 10 to 12 per cent increases in output each year, six million workers have been involved in a wave of strikes and other industrial actions.

Prices are up by 21 per cent in the past year and this year's 'spring offensive' for the annual renewal of wage contracts has been the biggest ever.

Prices are up by 21 per cent in the past year and this year's 'spring offensive' for the annual renewal of wage contracts has been the biggest ever. Strikes of public sector workers are illegal but they have been happening in a big way. Railwaymen, post, telephone and telegraph workers, teachers, dockers and civil service clerks, all state employees, have been out. The right to strike has been a central demand, along

with claims for 30 per cent pay rises.

In the private sector, steelworkers have settled for a 26½ per cent rise after a month of strikes. The steel settlement usually sets the pattern for manufacturing industry.

Trade unionism has been weak in Japan. There are two TUCs, the left-wing Sohyo and the right-wing Domei, but the majority of workers have been unorganised or in company unions. This is changing fast under the impact of inflation.

For the first time the two union federations have acted together. Japan is no longer quite the Tory businessmen's paradise that it has been for so long.

WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT SAY STUDENTS

Safe at Reeds? Like hell it is!

THE BIG TEST comes for students when they return to college in the next fortnight.

Their right to organise has been threatened by the victimisation of militants at Oxford and by the arrest of 105 pickets at Essex.

Last week the Student Sub-Committee of the International Socialists met and discussed the situation. They called on all IS student societies to mobilise at the beginning of term and give a clear lead to their student unions against victimisation. Societies should table resolutions calling for solidarity and local action in support of Essex and Oxford.

They went on to urge IS societies to hold meetings on victimisation and pointed out that speakers from the two universities can be obtained through the student sub-committee.

'ALL IS societies must support the National Union of Students' demonstration at Colchester on 24 April,' they announced. 'Where term has restarted an attempt must be made to mobilise the student unions.'

Moving from the battle for students rights the Sub-Committee considered the 5 May Chile demonstration. 'With frigates almost ready for Chile it's crucial to get a large turn-out demanding that the Labour government put an immediate embargo on all arms to the Junta' said IS student organiser Simon Turner.

'We've got to get maximum attendance at both these demonstrations' Turner went on. 'IS society banners should be taken on both—and when the NUS organises a victimisation demonstration in May we will support that. But right now these actions at the beginning of term are most important.'

THERE HAS been a mill on the site of Reed International's Colthorp complex since 1492. The workers have always been exploited.

In one sector of the complex today (Colthorp Board Mills Limited) ventilation is achieved by removing the glass from the windows, and in another sector management save money by dispensing with windows altogether. The heat and humidity means that workers in the North Mill frequently suffer from dehydra-

tion, which can, and has, resulted in accidents and illness.

The low wages and shift system make it necessary for most to work large amounts of overtime. The machines themselves are also dangerous in their design.

Bob Dewey, one of the SOGAT branch secretaries, said: 'The Board Mills Chapel is growing increasingly resentful of the differences between the public facade the company attempts to put up, and the realities

of working in these circumstances.'

Reed International recently awarded the Board Mills at Colthorp their 'safest company in the group' trophy. Needless to say union representatives boycotted the ceremony, because they considered attendance to be a travesty of their responsibilities.

Pat Kinnersley's book *Hazards at Work* is strongly recommended by the SOGAT representatives, and they are now endeavouring to get properly

delegated safety committees, with trained shop-floor representatives to expose the myth of the careless worker and to look into the real causes of accidents.

Bob Dewey told me: 'On the Thatcham site alone £6000 has been paid out in accident damages to injured workers in the last few months, and it is known that in the paper and board industry only eight per cent of accidents ever result in settlements.'

Aggressive

Ever increasing speed in industry, particularly in continuous production processes, and the cheap engineering that results, causes now, and will cause in the future, more and more accidents.

Accident standards are deplorable throughout industry. This fight back by the 'safest company' in the vast Reed International Combine is a lead that should be taken up.

An aggressive shop floor organisation can investigate this. It can put forward its own standards, based on the health and safety of workers and not those of the employers, who are all too ready to skimp 'expensive' safety measures in the never ending search for higher profits. The lessons of Kinnersley's *Hazards at Work* must be used. The fight back at Colthorp is an example to us all.

by Dave Silcock, AUEW

ROASTED ALIVE!

'But child didn't scream very much,' torturers told apartheid court

AN 11-year-old coloured boy who was caught by three white stokers trying to steal coal from a railway yard in Cape Town, had his trousers pulled off and his back and buttocks oiled. He was then held over an engine fire, beaten with a piece of wire and sent home.

At the men's trial for assault the district surgeon said the 'roasting' had produced serious third degree burns over a wide area of the boy's body.

The boy's mother said that after she had laid

charges the three men had visited her and offered her 50 Rand (£22) to withdraw the case. She refused. She was then ordered by her employer to drop the case. She refused. She was sacked immediately.

The men said they did not think of the consequences of what they were doing. The child 'did not scream much' as he was being burned.

They were sentenced to six cuts of the cane and a suspended prison sentence of one year.

TORY FURY

THE Tory press is whipping itself into a fury over the government's decision to grant an amnesty to a few hundred immigrants persecuted by the former Tory government's immigration laws.

On 11 April Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, announced an amnesty for all those who had entered the country illegally before 1973.

Before the Immigration Act became law last year, these people were not liable to deportation if they had escaped capture for six months. Then, in a decision in the House of Lords last summer, it was ruled that the Immigration Act applied *retrospectively*. All the immigrants who could not previously be deported, now could be.

The decision was followed by a series of police raids on immigrant communities, especially in London.

Immigrants—especially Asians—

Labour amnesty for immigrants— but Act stays

were turned out of their beds and homes, taken to the police stations and rigorously questioned about passports and travel documents.

Home Secretary Robert Carr gave repeated assurances that the House of Lords decision would not result in a 'witch-hunt'. Each assurance was followed by another witch-hunt ordered by Carr's department.

INCREASED

Now that Jenkins has fulfilled Labour's pledge to grant an amnesty to these immigrants, the Tories have exploded in anger.

The same Tories who will not

tolerate retrospective legislation if it means wiping out fines on unions or Clay Cross councillors are determined to maintain retrospective legislation if it means increased harassment of black people.

Leading the fight against the amnesty are James Prior, a fat, rich farmer from Lowestoft, Ronald Bell, a country gent from Buckinghamshire, and the Daily Express.

The campaign is racist and repressive. The amnesty must be supported, and extended. The witch-hunts arose out of a witch-hunting Act—the Immigration Act 1971—and they will not stop until that Act is repealed.

Caravans: No hot water— just rain

by Sally Seal

FAMILIES living in caravans at the Greetwell caravan site at Thorne, near Doncaster, are winning a bitter fight for better conditions, lower rents and an end to harassment from the company which owns the place.

The battle on the site has been coming to a head since the Greetwell Caravan Company decided to put up the rents from £2.90 to £5 a week.

Some of the tenants were understandably reluctant to pay up, not least because the conditions on the site are a disgrace. They were told that if they did not pay up their gas and electricity would be cut off and their vans pulled off the concrete bases.

One family, the Eatons, got exactly this treatment. The firm's agent, a Mr Jones, knocked the family up at 8am and insisted they pay up. They refused. So he had the van hauled off its base while the occupants were still inside.

These events and the general bad conditions on the site have led to the tenants getting themselves organised.

The conditions on the site are terrible. There is no hot water supply, no showers and lousy caravans.

Typical is Number 26, which belongs to the Allens. When they first

moved on to the site, they were charged £3.90 a week. There was no rent book. Indeed this was only offered when the landlord was trying to collect the increased rent.

Part of the ceiling in the small rear end bedroom started to fall in. Mr Allen complained to the landlord who declined to do any repairs and instead reduced the rent a little. Rain still continued to come in and the ceiling has got worse and worse. The Allens have complained again, but still nothing has been done.

Carried

The fact that the tenants got organised and protested to the council led to the issue of a slum clearance order against nine caravans on the site.

The tenants have also been successful in insisting that the harassment be stopped. No evictions are to be carried out and the increased rent is not being paid.

All this was closely watched by other local tenants' associations who declared themselves ready to march and demonstrate in support of the caravan dwellers. The whole incident has taught people in the area a great lesson in working-class organisation.

Firemen refuse aid to police

NORTH LONDON:—Kentish Town firemen refused to help police to evict squatters from 220 Camden High Street last week.

Superintendent Lockyear and eight local police constables had planned to use the firemen's ladders to get into the building through the roof. But the firemen refused co-operation.

This is an excellent precedent, and will make it more difficult for police to enlist firemen's support, for instance in the use of water cannon to break a factory occupation.

Dave Chaloner, District Official of the Fire Brigades Union, said: 'When people see us in our firemen's uniform, they expect to be able to trust us.'

220 Camden High Street is owned by one of Britain's top property speculators, Mr Joe Levy. Levy has just raised the rent from £15 a week to £60.

Ian King, Kentish Town fireman said: 'We all see it as a victory of the people and common sense against property speculators and greed.'

If Pontins break your ankle... you pay

ARE you booking a holiday at Pontins this year? If so, think again, or at least watch out for the small print.

Pontins have a policy of excluding themselves from all responsibility for damage to people or property in their holiday camps, *even if the damage is Pontins fault.*

They let themselves out with a small notice in tiny print on the booking form. The form absolves Pontins of all liability for any loss, damage or injury 'resulting from or caused by the negligence, default, wilful act, omission or otherwise of Pontins Ltd.'

Signing this clause—and very few people who book even notice it—makes it difficult if not impossible to get any damages out of Pontins.

Last year a widow sued Pontins for damages after her husband had drowned in a cloudy swimming pool. She lost her case mainly because her husband had signed the booking form.

Pontins save millions by this rotten clause—not just in unpaid damages, but in unpaid insurance for 'guests' liability.

If you ever get to read your booking form, you can knock out the liability clause by crossing it out with a pen and initialling it.

But if you want to get rid of swindles on holiday, you'll have to start arguing for Pontins, Butlins and all the rest of them to be taken over and run by the workers who operate them and who holiday in them.

SNUB FOR CHAPPLE

ELECTRICITY supply workers gave one in the eye for the government's 'temporary' retention of Phase Three and one in the eye for Frank Chapple's support of Tory-Labour wage-freezing policies.

Their sectional conference of the Electricians Union, meeting at Hastings last week, voted by a large majority to call on the executive to re-open negotiations on their claim. The claim was 'settled' within Phase Three for what one delegate called 'no more than 40p a week net of taxes and inflation'.

There is no guarantee that anything at all is going to happen, no guarantee that the union will even re-open the claim, let alone take action in support of it. It is entirely up to the executive council, which meets at the end of the month.

But it is significant that even in this right-wing union there is a significant section of members who see through and reject the 'social contract' fraud.

WHAT WE THINK

Phase 3 nonsense from TUC

THE TUC has called on unions to restrict wage claims to the Tory government's Phase Three pay norms. Phase Three, you see, is still law and so according to Len Murray 'the government is strictly limited in what increases it can sanction'.

Now this is nonsense. The government can bury Phase Three whenever it wants to. It does not want to. Edward Britton, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, made this point at his union's conference at Eastbourne.

'For all the talk of freedom the present government is not exactly falling over itself to get rid of Phase Three. The only difference the present government has made is that now it is Len Murray who writes to NALGO to tell it not to strike against Phase Three, instead of Edward Heath writing to the miners telling them not to strike.'

Exactly. There you have the 'social compact' in a nutshell. The TUC takes over from the Department of Employment as chief constable in charge of arresting pay increases. Prices rocket ahead. Phase Three stays for as long as the joint efforts of government and TUC can make it stick. Result: real wages are cut.

Losses

And at the very time that this fraudulent 'compact' is being promoted by Len Murray, Jack Jones, Harold Wilson, Michael Foot and Co, the infamous Tory National Industrial Relations Court is attempting to rob the members of the Engineers' Union of nearly £50,000 to 'compensate' Con-Mech boss Robert Dilley for the losses he brought on himself by refusing to recognise the union.

A little history is in order here. There was once a firm called the Taff Vale Railway Company. In 1900 it was involved in a dispute with the railwaymen's union. It went to court, claiming compensation for losses caused by the strike. The case went right up to the House of Lords. The Lords awarded damages to the Taff Vale Railway.

And this, the famous Taff Vale case, resulted in the birth of a political party, a party pledged first and foremost to reverse this decision, which it rightly claimed could be used to cripple trade unionism, and to fight all anti-union laws.

That party was called the Labour Party. It is now in power. Yet Tory judge Donaldson is allowed to pursue his vendetta against the AUEW. Of course, 'left-wing' supporters of the government are putting it about that Employment Secretary Michael Foot is very embarrassed by Sir John Donaldson's latest outrage.

The hook

That could well be true. It may endanger his precious 'social compact'. The suggestion is being circulated that if only the AUEW would reverse its stand, recognise the court and appeal, all will be well. Using the law's delays to drag out proceedings, the union will be let off the hook by the eventual repeal of the Industrial Relations Act.

This is a contemptible proposal. Why is the Industrial Relations Act being repealed? Why has the Tory Party publicly stated that it will not vote against repeal? Why did the director of the employers' federation, the CBI, call the Act a disastrous blunder?

Because, and only because of massive (and illegal) working-class opposition to the Tory law. The AUEW, alone among major unions, has a consistent and honourable record of sticking to the original TUC policy and refusing to recognise the NIRC, its President Donaldson and its decisions.

It is the elementary duty of the TUC to rally now to the support of the AUEW and make it impossible for the latest robbery of union funds to be implemented.

Of course it will do no such thing unless there is massive pressure and protest action from below. Mr 'social compact' Murray will do nothing at all, unless a boot is applied to his bottom. Let's make it a big boot and a powerful kick.



A new pamphlet from Rank and File—the teachers' movement. **Education and Revolution**, by Chanie Rosenberg looks at how socialist ideals in education were realised in the Russian Revolution. (10p)

Teaching London Kids; No 3 from a group of London socialist teachers. A good readable magazine which deals with education inside and outside the classroom. (10p)

The Story of the Blues, by Paul Oliver—an illustrated history of the blues. Well worth buying for the many superb photographs alone. (75p)

Please add 4p for postage on pamphlets, 7p for books.

Available by mail order and direct from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, and directly only from IS BOOKS, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1, and the Coventry Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry.

Another 'plan' to fool Irish workers...



by
Eamonn McCann

'THE Provisional IRA will not be allowed to bomb itself to the negotiating table', Merlyn Rees, Secretary for Northern Ireland, told the House of Commons on Wednesday. There wasn't a murmur of dissent.

But in the Catholic community in the North there was much nodding of heads and remembering that that was, word for word, what successive Tory ministers said in 1972—just before they negotiated with the Provos.

Debate on Northern Ireland in the British parliament—indeed in Britain generally—has never been more removed from reality than it is right now. The phrases which trip lightly off the tongues of British commentators and which seem eminently reasonable to many British people—the 'horror of the violence', 'the need to press on' with 'a moderate solution which is fair to both sides', and so on—mean little or nothing to the

embattled communities of the Bogside and Ballymurphy (Catholic) or Sandy Row and the Shankill (Protestant).

What the people of such areas know is that all the solutions tried by Britain in the past five years have failed, and that something else has to be found.

Deviation

The solution to which all major British parties are committed is the Sunningdale Agreement—named after the Berkshire village in which negotiations were held last December between the London and Dublin governments and the 'moderate' Northern Irish groups. That agreement called for a 'power-sharing' administration within Northern Ireland and a 'Council of Ireland' representative of the Dublin government and the Northern administration.

The Labour, Conservative and Liberal parties are united in saying that

there will be no deviation from this agreement. Every national newspaper supports them.

But the fact is that the agreement was reached by people who, it has turned out, were not at all representative of Northern Irish opinion. So every time a minister or shadow minister pops up at Westminster to say that Sunningdale is sacrosanct he is understood in Belfast and Derry to be saying that our wishes don't matter in the slightest, that we will have to accept whatever the wise men of Westminster deem proper for us.

In this lies a major cause of the continuing violence which features nightly on the news. Merlyn Rees and Stanley Orme merely parrot the offensive 'Big Brother Britain knows best' attitudes of Francis Pym and William Whitelaw before them.

The opponents of the Sunningdale Agreement are overwhelmingly working class. Protestant workers voted massively in the general election for Unionist

candidates pledged against Sunningdale. And in Catholic working-class areas the Provos find the bases from which they are now emerging to wreak such havoc.

The problem, as has been stated endlessly in Socialist Worker, is that there does not exist in Ireland a movement or a programme around which working-class resentment can be mobilised. So Rees and Orme are able to say that, whatever the difficulties with Sunningdale, there simply isn't any alternative.

Recently, however, the desperation of Northern Irish workers' search for an alternative has led to a scheme which both the Provos and the Protestant para-military Ulster Defence Association have welcomed. This is the 'Boal Plan', about which much may be heard in the next few months.

Desmond Boal, a Protestant lawyer and former Unionist MP, put forward the idea that, since anti-British feeling was the one thing the two communities in Northern Ireland seemed to share, they should both agree to a 'Federal Ireland' with regional parliaments in Belfast and Dublin with clearly defined powers, and an All-Ireland parliament presiding over the two—something on the lines of the Canadian system.

Protestant working-class organisations welcomed this because it seemed to offer some guaranteed Protestant power in the North, which they prefer to being forced to share power with Catholics. The Provisional—and the Official—Republican movements welcomed it because its proposed All-Ireland parliament acknowledged the principle of Irish Unity.

For the past two months the 'extremists on both sides' have been holding talks about the practical implications of it all, seeking to find whether the Plan offers them a way of undercutting the moderates. Both sides, when asked, say they are satisfied with the progress of the talks.

Collapse

In the beginning the Plan wasn't taken very seriously by establishment commentators and the talks were little reported. But in the past fortnight Protestant opposition has stiffened and the Provos have daily shown that, despite all forecasts that they were about to collapse, they could strike when and where they chose. Now there are signs that this is changing fast.

In The Observer the former Ulster Premier, Lord O'Neill, wrote that Boal's ideas should not be ruled out. A columnist in The Guardian has urged the 'contingency planning unit' of Mr Rees' office to begin to work out the implications.

In other words, the establishment too is coming to see this Plan as a possible runner. Which should be enough to alert socialists to the dangers.

There is nothing in a federal, Canadian-style Ireland which runs counter to British big-business interests. Indeed, if the Provos and the Protestant groups accepted such a solution and called a ceasefire on that basis, the British might be well satisfied to get out and leave behind a tame 'federation' so pleased with its Irishness that it wouldn't think to wonder who actually controlled the wealth of the land and into whose pockets the profits from Irish labour were pouring.

For all their talk about 'standing firm' there is no doubt—as the people of Ulster sense—that Rees would abandon Sunningdale if a different scheme seemed more likely to deliver an acceptable peace.

Events could force—literally—them to recognise the unreality of struggling on with current policy. If that happens and the British government totters off the tightrope on which it has been walking, the Boal Plan could provide a welcome safety net.

That would mean that the Provo militants, who have fought a guerrilla campaign unequalled in modern times for its persistence and ingenuity, would gain nothing but the chance to participate in an up-dated and sophisticated version of continuing foreign domination. And the Protestant workers would gain nothing but the illusion that they have preserved a spurious 'heritage'.

TWO YEARS IN JAIL -FOR LEAFLETTING

by Petros Kamenos

TWO students, Panayotis Papadopoulos and Maria Hadjinicolaou, went on trial before a military court in Athens last week. Roth had been arrested for committing a serious crime—giving out leaflets.

For this offence, expressly forbidden under the laws and orders of the Greek junta, Panayotis and Maria got two-year prison sentences.

They started their jail sentences just as Greece was due for a particularly grotesque anniversary. This Sunday the Greek junta is exactly

seven years old.

Despite its seven years in power the junta relies more than ever on naked repression to prop up its shaky rule. Three times in the past two months it has resorted to mass arrests, each time claiming once again that another clandestine left-wing organisation had been liquidated. 77 arrests have been announced officially. But these are just the tip of the iceberg.

Hundreds of militants, mainly students and young workers, are being held in military and security

police stations near Athens, Salonica and Patras. Their arrests are never officially acknowledged. They are never charged or tried.

More than a hundred active trade unionists and socialist students have been carted off to Youra, a foul desert island concentration camp where their fate is supposed to be 'a restraining lesson' for others.

During the past year Greek workers, peasants and students have started a magnificent fight back against those with power, wealth and might. Bus drivers, shop workers and

printers in Athens, electricity workers in the south and miners in the north have been on strike demanding wage rises and better conditions.

For three months, despite fierce intimidation and harassment, poor farmers have been refusing to sell their wheat until they get better prices. 10,000 peasant families near Athens mobilised against the seizure of their land by Professor Stratis Andreadis, an economics teacher, merchant banker and shop owner who was planning a giant oil refinery.

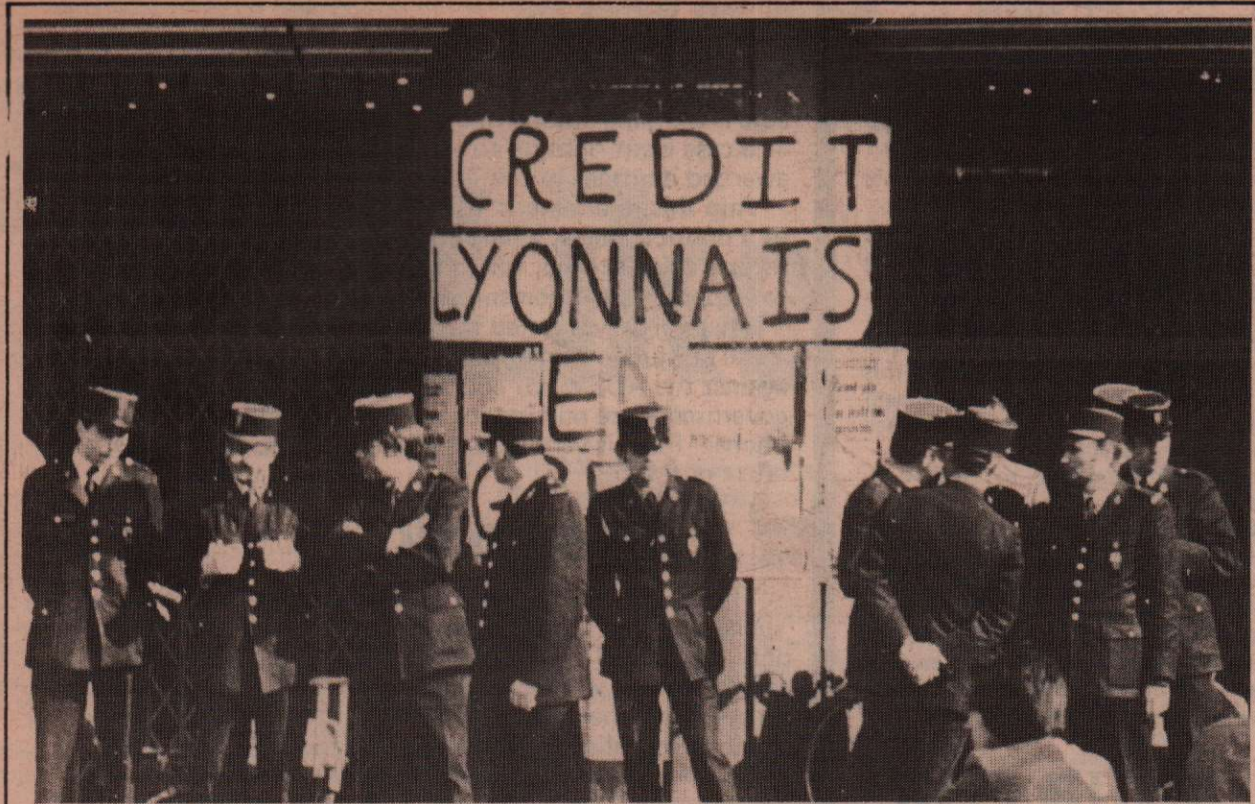
In this situation the Greek working class desperately needs the maximum amount of solidarity action. Dockers in Australia have already pioneered this. Immediately after the recent wave of arrests they decided to boycott all Greek ships until all political prisoners are freed. 29 ships have been blocked in ports throughout Australia.

BOYCOTT

This magnificent stand forced the Greek shipowners to start pressuring the junta. Now the International Transport Workers Federation have taken up the demand. The threat of a world-wide boycott has already led London-based Greek shipowners to ask the junta to close the Youra concentration camp.

British dockers and seamen can readily operate this boycott. Other British workers are in a strong position to help. The big multinationals which dominate the British economy are just as active in Greece. They are also vulnerable to pressure. You can help to apply it.

The Greek Solidarity Committee is organising a campaign in Britain for the release of all political prisoners in Greece. It includes: Sunday 21 April, 1pm, picket on the Greek Embassy, 1a Holland Park, London W11 (nearest tube Holland Park); Tuesday 23 April-Saturday 27 April, photographic exhibition at the Collegiate Building, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1 (nearest tube Euston); Wednesday 24 April, 5pm, Teach-in on Greece; Saturday 27 April, 2pm, Demonstration—assemble Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, for march to the Greek Embassy.



THESE Paris policemen are pleased with themselves because they have forced their way into one of the City's occupied banks. Strikers had held out at this bank, in the Rue Rene Boulanger, for 33 days. Many of France's private banks have given in to the strikers' demands, and the big nationalised banks may have to concede soon. Meanwhile, the police have their work cut out for them, with hotel workers and airline staff on strike as well.

Bus driver cleared of poster charge

MICK O'FLANAGAN, a bus driver in York, was acquitted last Tuesday on two charges connected with IS election posters during the election.

He was originally charged 'in that he did cause to be displayed' matter contrary to the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971. But before the case started, the prosecution lawyer was forced to ask to change this charge, after agreeing that it did not exist. So Mick was charged 'in that he displayed posters' and so on.

Once the case started, the prosecution was in immediate trouble. They tried to show that IS posters calling for 'Victory to the Miners' could be classified, as under the Town and Country Planning Act, as 'advertisements which give publicity to his [the displayer's] goods, trade, business or other concerns.'

The prosecution tried to pretend that a miners' victory was one of Mick O'Flanagan's 'other concerns' as defined under the Act. Mick's lawyer argued that 'other concerns' could only be relevant if it had something to do with 'goods, trade or business'.

In desperation the prosecution explained to the magistrates that the 'intention of parliament' when passing the Act was 'to catch just this sort of organisation.' If the court found for the defence, he muttered, 'a certain political organisation would not be accountable.'

This was too much for the magistrates, who decided that putting up the posters *did* contravene the Act. But then, when they heard the evidence, they found that Mick hadn't put them up anyway, so he was acquitted.

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT CONFERENCE

The British Army in Ireland and its projected role in Britain

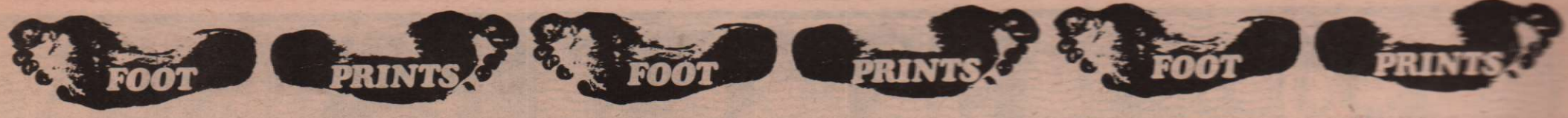
Saturday 11 May 10.15am

Collegiate Theatre, 25 Gordon St, London WC1

Speakers include: David Bolton (Vice-President Scottish NUM), Mike Cooley (AUEW-TASS), Fred Halliday, Jack Dromey, Eamonn McCann and Jonathan Rosenhead.

Creche—evening social

Programme and tickets 50p from
TOM, 28 Lamma Park Rd, London W5.



BARBER: Gone where the money is



BOARDMAN: Big salary from Allied Breweries

PROFIT AND LOSS

'TORY snouts are back in trough!' Long-time Socialist Worker readers will remember that magnificent headline after the Tories won the 1970 General Election.

Now they are back in the trough once more, in a rather different way. A few weeks ago Anthony Barber, the glass manufacturer turned Chancellor of the Exchequer who was the Tory government's most enthusiastic ruling-class hawk, said he was resigning from politics and taking up a post on a 'leading British bank'. Barber's bank has not yet been named, but the favourites are the Chartered Bank, where Barber was a director from 1966 to 1970, and the Midland Bank, where Barber's brother is a senior executive.

Other Tories have been more specific. Robert Carr, for instance, has no intention of giving up his £5000-a-year job as MP for Mitcham, nor the prestige of being Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer. Nonetheless he has jumped smartly onto the board of S Hoffnung and Co, the giant merchants who run export/import operations all over the world, especially in Australia and South America including Chile.

Tom Boardman too, the former Minister of Industry and enemy of the miners, can't survive on his MP's salary and fat business as a property lawyer, and has rejoined his old chums at Allied Breweries. His salary as an Allied director is believed to be more than double what he gets as an MP.

John Davies, former Minister for Europe, has joined the board of Hill Samuel, the top City merchant bankers known in polite circles as the 'spy bank', presumably because of its surprising reputation as an employer of British agents in other countries.

By an amazing coincidence, Hill Samuel has led the battle in British industry and finance for Britain to join the Common Market. The merchant banks, more than any other section of British capitalism, stood to gain from British entry into Europe, and are therefore more than grateful to John Davies.

Too many Cooksleys

A BIT of a scandal has been uncovered in Northumberland about the admission of an old woman to a residential home run by the council and paid for by the rates.

The problem is that the woman does not come from Northumberland, where there are about 300 old people desperately in need of places in the county homes.

The local press have reported the scandal, but for some reason they have been shy about naming names.

The Newcastle Journal, for instance, carried a report entitled HOMES POLICY REVIEW on 3 April.

This revealed three important facts. Firstly, the successful applicant came from Nottingham. Second, 'the applicant is the mother of a man

who earns £8000 a year'. Thirdly, the decision to rehouse the woman had been taken 'without any discussion by the social services committee.'

For some reason, the Newcastle Journal's pioneering editor and the editors of other local newspapers deliberately cut out the name of the applicant and her £8000-a-year son.

Punished

I can reveal that the woman's name is Cooksley, and her son is Clarence Cooksley, CBE, who is Chief Constable of the Northumbria Police Force.

In other words he is in charge of law and order throughout the whole of Northumbria. If anyone were to 'jump the queue' of the law in the county, Chief Constable Cooksley

would be the first to see that he was punished.

Now, by an absolutely lawful process, Mr Cooksley has managed to get his mother into one of the local authority homes ahead of 300 other people on the queue, almost all of whom are in worse financial circumstances than the Cooksleys, without having the matter discussed by the county's elected representatives.

Most lawful of all, however, is the amazing way the press have told the story without mentioning Mr Cooksley's name.

Mr Cooksley got the Queen's Police Medal in 1969 and was awarded the CBE in 1973. CBE stands for Commander of the British Empire, and not, as some impertinent law-breakers in Northumberland are suggesting, Cooksleys's Borough's Everywhere.

Copper sacked -I didn't nick enough people

A POLICEMAN in Swindon has been sacked—for not arresting enough people.

Dennis Joyce, 33, was dismissed after 21 months as a probationer policeman. He claims in a newspaper interview that one of the main reasons was his 'attitude to the public'.

Says Dennis: 'We were expected to average one summary offence every day.'

Dennis refused to meet his quota, and was sacked.

He says: 'All this system is breeding is a stereotyped copper, intent on reporting offences. The attitude is bringing police into disrepute with the Swindon people.'

Dennis' final disillusionment with the force came last month on his beat at Penhill and Pinehurst. He heard a senior officer describe a family there as 'the scum of the earth'.

'That sickened me,' he says. 'Nobody should be called that.'

Spot the difference

'I wanted to set up a little pot of money for my old age'—Regina Waudling MP, explaining to Oliver Warner of The Times in August 1969 why she became First President of the Real Estate Fund of America, an offshoot property society named in honour of Jerome Hoffman, who is now in an American jail for fraud. 'I became involved, nominally because it was felt that my 25 per cent interest (later reduced to 20 per cent) would provide income over the period of working which could be invested in a pension fund for my retirement.'—Marcia Williams, personal secretary to Prime Minister Harold Wilson, explaining her involvement in land deals in Lancashire.

I HEAR that the Duke of Devonshire not content with his £50 million marina at Eastbourne, has commissioned a £235,000 hotel at Baslow, Derbyshire.

I can reveal that the hotel will not be called the Devonshire Arms. That's because there is already Devonshire Arms at Baslow. Come to think of it, there's also a Devonshire Arms at four neighbouring villages—Pisley, Darleydale, Haslant and Middle Handley.

Anyone would think the Duke of Devonshire owned half Derbyshire. He does.



LOVE AND REVOLT

MY 17-year-old daughter brought home her boy friend the other day and he seemed to talk of nothing but "the revolution" and "the class struggle." I'm not particularly political but I don't want my daughter drawn into some extremist organisation. What can I do?

● Almost every young girl goes out with a "revolutionary" at some time or other and if you show your distaste it's a fair bet you'll drive her deeper into his arms. She'll probably get fed up with him soon enough if he never changes his subject of conversation. You can't survive on revolution alone.

From the advice column of the Sunday Sun (Tyneside), 31 March

Anyone for Dennis

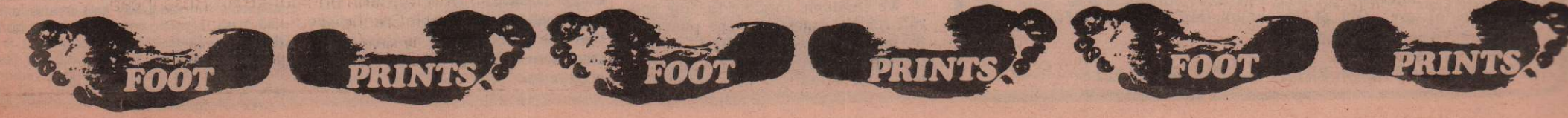
ONE reason why Chancellor of the Exchequer Dennis Healey is so reluctant to soak the rich is that he is so rich himself.

It seems that greedy Dennis is not happy with the accommodation he is provided with at No 11 Downing Street, one of the most luxurious houses in the country.

Nor with his £75,000 house in Highgate.
Nor with his £50,000 'country

cottage' in Sussex, where he was photographed in gumboots this weekend before the Budget.

Now he wants to 'take up residence' at Chevening House, a stately home in Kent, which was left by Lord Stanhope on condition that only a member of the Royal family or a Cabinet Minister could stay in it. Healey will have plenty of room to work out his plans for a soak-the-rich wealth tax. Chevening has 115 rooms



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LETTERS



Australia: land of surf, sand, inflation, racism...

IN ENGLAND I was an International Socialist, but my wife has arthritis and so for health reasons we've come to live in Australia. Here are some of my impressions.

Workers who don't see clearly the battle lines of the class war may be swayed by the offer of an easy way out. Australia advertises itself as just that. A classless society that somehow just grew.

The facts are different. It's true that you might wind up on the same beach as a property tycoon, under the same sun, in the same sea—only he'll be in his two million dollar yacht and you'll be fooling about on a 50 cent polystyrene knee board from Tom-the-Cheap.

If you strip away the veneer of prosperity you'll see that workers here face the same problems as in Britain. There's a sharp crack down on working conditions, inflation is as bad as Britain—and racialism is rife.

Many of the English migrants are racialists—and it comes as quite a shock when they realise that the 'Poms' are the 'Pakistanis' here. There's an English ghetto at Lynwood, and similar race myths are peddled about the English as are about the Pakistanis in England.

The current favourite is that 'Poms all hide their money under the soap in the shower'.

The racialism towards aborigines is particularly vicious. They are usually referred to in the press as 'natives', are openly called 'sub-human', barred from many pubs, robbed of their lands, and pushed out on to reservations or into the most degrading city jobs.

In a recent case a licensee who fired his shot gun into a group of Aborigines protesting because he wouldn't serve them successfully prosecuted them.

You can forget all the business about everybody being 'mates'. Workers can be sacked at a day's notice. 30 dockworkers were sacked in Freemantle for refusing to work Saturday overtime.

Where my wife works the senior staff have just been told 'they mustn't fraternise with working staff inside or outside working hours'. Uniforms are compulsory for the women staff (at a discount price of £11). They must be bought from a particular store, and, surprise, surprise, the bosses' wife is manager there.

The accident rate is high, particularly among building workers, who are to a large extent 'lumpers'. There's no National Health Service.

I've just paid £10 for a pair of cheap shoddy trousers. A 40p (in Britain) jar of coffee costs 70p. A basic Mini costs at least £1400 . . .

Workers here are militant, but rarely in a political way that challenges the structure of society.

The Australian Labor Party? It's to the right of Wilson. We need a workers' party. Australia is not a 'paradise' and not quite a political desert. Its workers have enormous potential. What remains is to translate their guts and initiative into political terms.—MIKE MARSHALL, South Perth, Australia.

AH, BUT LOOK AT LAST WEEK'S ISSUE . . . The average reader unsure of the internal politics of the student world, puzzled by reports that appeared in other papers about the International Socialist students' actions at the NUS conference would look forward eagerly to his favourite socialist weekly (29 March) for clarification. And what does he get? 200 words without even a mention of these events . . . Student coverage in the paper has always been dull, shallow and uninformative but that effort set a new standard in irrelevance . . . Most likely an epidemic of 'rank and filism' laid low the entire editorial board and relegated anything other than hard-core industrial news to back-page obscurity. Anyway, who cares about students? There are only 600,000 of them.—BILL THOMSON, Glasgow.

FREE SPEECH (PART 473) . . . I suggest that A R Kuttner (30 March) reads George Orwell's writings and Milovan Djilas . . . Both examined what went wrong with the Russian Revolution . . . Djilas said 'It never occurred to Marx to prevent others from voicing their ideas' . . . It wasn't until Stalin's day that the expression of ideas became solely the right of the party . . . Freedom of speech is one of the most basic human rights . . . All the arguments of the 'anti-freedom of speech brigade' destroy themselves . . . Who is to decide what is not proper? . . . The only way to oppress freedom of speech in a revolutionary state is to create a Stalinist-type police state. This will destroy the revolution, not preserve it.—PAUL CLARK, Salford.

HOWEVER, IN REPLY TO R SAVAGE (6 APRIL) A R KUTTNER HAS THIS TO SAY . . . Would he ask himself the following questions. Are IS branches correct in picketing National Front meetings? Were 250,000 workers correct in preventing Mosley marching through the East End in 1936? Was Our Norman correct on 27 Feb? I think our friend must realise that revolution is not a game, where 'may the best side win', it is a WAR, and the working class MUST win, with the knee if necessary. On his point, 'who will decide?': I will have my say, he will have his it will be a collective decision, by the workers through the Party.—A R KUTTNER, Fulham.

ASK LORD LAMBTON . . . Why hasn't the use of non-addictive drugs been legalised? Their consumption is taken for granted and is totally acceptable to most young people . . . People who become addicted do so because capitalist society so perverts the natural human desire to cherish other human beings that dangerous drugs are the only way to achieve some sense of well-being however momentary and self-destructive this may be . . . The authorities use these laws as an excuse to break the solidarity of people—like squatters or other individuals or organisations fighting to defend their civil liberties and living standards. These laws are particularly dangerous to the working class and its parties. If they don't lead the struggle against these laws then others must.—M DRINKALL, STUART GRANT (NUPE), South Ruislip.

SUBLIME MYSTICISM AND NON-SENSE . . . Cardinal Heenan thunders again against birth control and abortion. His views aren't those of Catholics in general, most of whom in Britain are working class, and know that big families mean intolerable poverty. There have been some signs that Catholic bishops are beginning to be concerned with social problems, it's time they realised that lay people are not sheep . . . The moral convictions of Catholic workers will be found in solidarity with their fellow workers in the struggle against capitalism.—E GLYN DAVIES, Wolverton.

WELL WHEN DO WE GET THE MONEY? . . . After long consideration I have decided to nominate page 14 of last week's Socialist Worker for the prestigious Red Weekly page-of-the-year award . . . When a page of a newspaper reaches such heights of unreadability and creates, with such ease, a total sense of crashing boredom . . . there is no doubt that it is a worthy competitor to every page of Red Weekly for the title of worst laid-out piece of revolutionary journalism.—GLYN CARVER, Manchester.

Rank and file—not far enough!

I WAS A delegate to the Rank and File conference and I was gravely concerned at the rejection of the Stanton Works of the British Steel Corporation General and Municipal Workers resolution. It called for the expropriation without compensation of the key branches of industry, finance, transport distribution and land, and the placing of all such industries under direct workers' control.

At the conference Ken Hume pointed out that we should attempt to unite the maximum number of workers.

But on what kind of basis?

The above resolution gave an excellent 'minimal' basis, pointing to ends, for the rank and file struggle, colliding with the incorporation of trade union leaders and putting the other anti-bureaucratic demands in perspective.

It provided a broad unity of objectives while leaving strategy, tactics and methods to be hammered out in practice by those with different political viewpoints.

The conference's refusal of this motion left it as an embryonic national rank and file movement. With a position less advanced than the sectional programmes of many of the papers calling the conference—like The Carworker—which is for the 'nationalisation of the motor industry under full workers' control.'

Worse, a motion similar to this one was passed at the Engineering Union national committee. Even worse the rejection of the motion by the majority meant that they had taken up a position to the right of many trade union rule books. And those are the bibles of the bureaucracy.

Many of these rule books call for workers' control of industry—and,

Mental
illness?
Get in
touch

come to that, what about Clause Four of the Labour Party constitution?

We fight the bureaucracy by struggling to make their formal commitments real not by rejecting them and ending up pandering to the lowest common denominator.

The job of revolutionaries in the Rank and File movement must be at all times to convince the militants who participate that only a revolutionary struggle can achieve the objects they have in view. We must not shirk political matters.—JOHNNY McIROY, Oxford.

FOLLOWING from the articles and letters you've been printing recently on mental illness and 'backwardness' readers might be interested to know of the existence of an organisation fighting against this process of psychiatric labelling and invalidation. This is the Mental Patients Union, full membership of which is open to anyone who is, or has been, confined to a mental hospital.

Not surprisingly the union is still quite small but active within it are many with a socialist outlook who argue that the question of mental illness cannot be separated from the class nature of society. The overwhelming majority of mental patients are working class and 'mental illness' is highest in areas of poverty, bad housing and unemployment.

Under the Mental Health Act patients have no rights whatsoever and are subjected forcibly to all sorts of 'treatment' such as electro-convulsive therapy and irreversible brain surgery designed purely to pacify and subdue. The MPU argues that real change can only come through the struggle of the oppressed themselves, the patients, in alliance with the struggle for a socialist society.

They demand, among other things, the right to refuse 'treatment', the right to be represented by the union whenever the Mental Health Act is enforced, anyone wanting further information should contact the MPU, c/o 37 Mayola Road, Clapton, London E5.—JILL LEE, JOHN MOLYNEUX, Southsea.

Don't forget the prisoners

HUGH FEENEY, Marion Price, Gerard Kelly and Dolours Price have been on hunger strike for over 130 days.

Mrs Price was told by Dolours and Marion on Saturday 23 March that their petition to the Home Office to be transferred to jails in Northern Ireland had been turned down.

Mrs Feeney and Mr Kelly were informed by the Home Office on Friday 22 March that on no account would their sons receive visits until they wore prison clothes—they have had one visit since 14 November

Last week the solicitor of Hugh Feeney was refused permission to visit him.

Contrary to press reports, we have no confidence that the Labour government will transfer the hunger strikers.

We condemn forcible feeding and call for the transfer of the prisoners to jails in Northern Ireland, we are therefore, asking you for your support and would be most grateful if you would attend a major demon-

stration on Sunday 28 April at 2.30pm from Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, which will proceed to the Home Office.

Forcible feeding is torture.

Looking forward to seeing you and thanking you in anticipation.—HUGH WARD, Joint Action Committee, London, NI

It isn't productive...

RECENTLY 400 engineering workers walked out of Thames Broadbent, Huddersfield, in support of a claim, by labourers, crane drivers and storemen for increased bonus payments. A ban on overtime and outwork came into effect immediately and a policy of lightning strikes is to be followed.

Labourers at present get twopence a week bonus, the employer refuses to gear the workers to a productivity scheme which would give them about £5 per week.

Somehow the employers believe that the labourers, crane drivers and storemen didn't contribute to production!—JIM SCOTT (AUEW steward) Huddersfield.

VICTOR SERGE

Memoirs of a Revolutionary 1901–1941

TRANSLATED BY PETER SEDGWICK

The memoirs of Victor Serge, revolutionary, novelist and poet, are a testimony to the experience of three successive revolutionary generations—the anarchism of pre-1914 France, the syndicalism of Barcelona 1917, finally Russia as Stalin took over. Out of the annihilation Serge himself survived as virtually a lone witness.

70p including postage, from

IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

Another bloody chapter

Braking rod checked once in 21 years

IN 73 short paragraphs, with photographs and maps and priced at £1.10, the official version of another chapter in the bloody history of coal-mining appeared last week.

It is the report of the public inquiry into the disaster at Markham Colliery in Derbyshire last July, when 18 men were killed. In the early morning the miners were being wound down to the pit bottom, the braking system failed. Their cage plummeted down the shaft.

The press were all over Markham in the wake of the disaster. Their interest lasted for precisely eight hours and then they were gone.

They haven't bothered to return since the report was published. They are only too anxious to ask poor relatives what it's like to have someone close to you mangled at the bottom of a pit shaft, but they will never ask those same people to comment on the causes of the disaster, the negligence of the Coal Board.

Failed

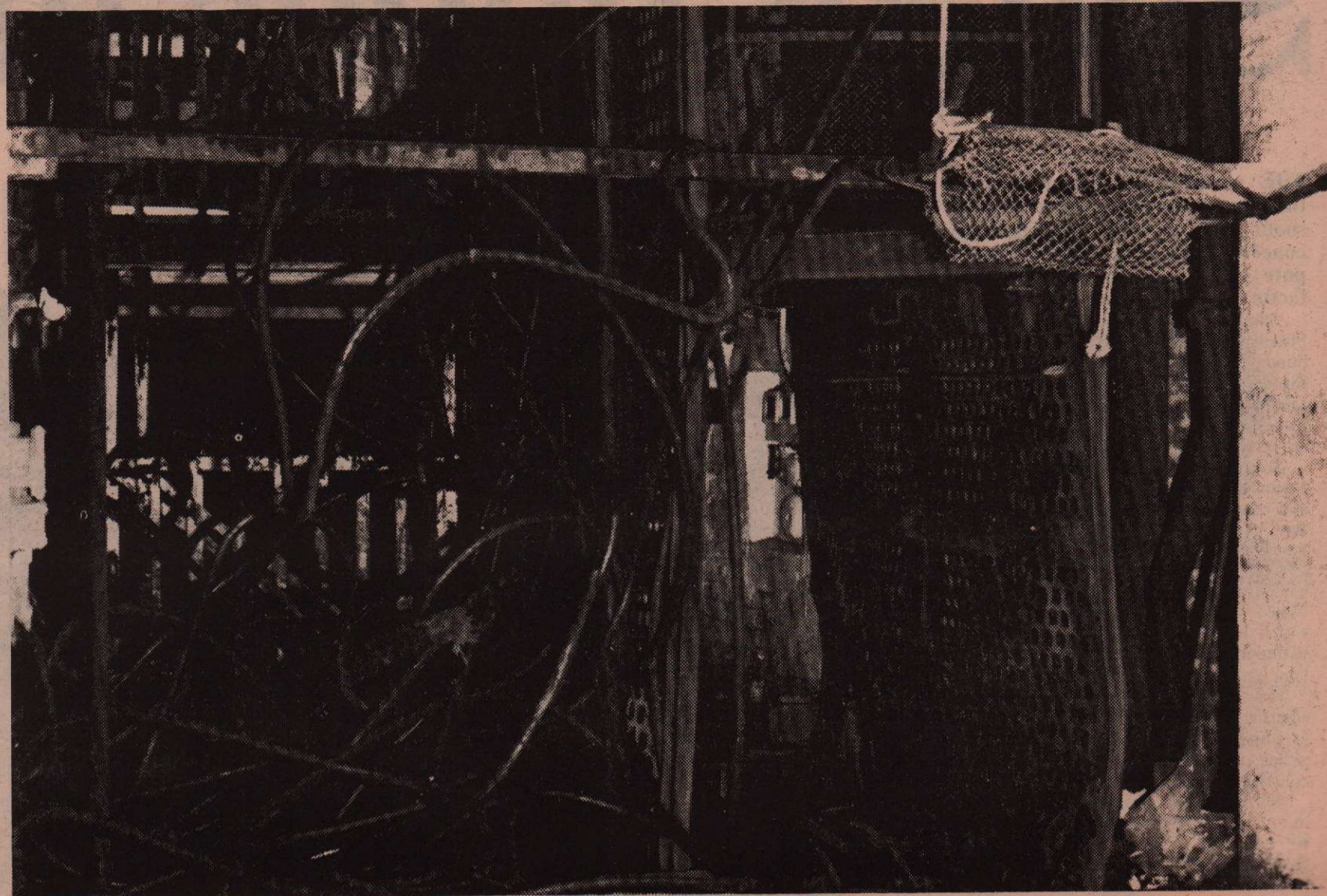
The cause is spelled out in a bald little paragraph in the report. A tiny rod in the centre of the braking system was defective. It should have been tested and checked. But it was not—or rather it was superficially tested only once in its 21-year life.

Someone looked at Markham's little rod on 19 February 1961. They looked at it after an incident at Ollerton Colliery where the same little rod failed.

Then it took the Coal Board four weeks to get around to checking the rod at Markham. Since then... nothing until the aftermath of another disaster. And now a few more things will doubtless be checked—once at least.

The report discloses other interesting facts about the National Coal Board's priorities at Markham and elsewhere.

They installed a rope speed indicator—which would have warned of impending disaster a little earlier—13 years ago. But no generator was ever fitted and the indicator never worked.



Where 18 men died: the cage at the bottom of Markham No 3 shaft

And the NCB spent little or no money on ensuring that the pit cage docked below ground in the safest and most comfortable way. At the bottom of the Markham shaft the baulks were wooden. The disaster would not have been so serious if, instead of baulks, a stopping device had been installed.

Markham was the third major disaster last year in Britain's mines. There are other less-publicised deaths and many maimings every week.

Many if not most result from the same spirit that fostered Markham—exclusive concern for the god of production, skimping and scraping on safety.

In a mining system run under worker's control, maintenance and repair of machines would be top priority, particularly where those machines are used to take men into the bowels of the earth.

Not a word about the Lump

IT IS now 18 months since the Loddon Bridge, near Reading in Berkshire, collapsed during construction killing three men and seriously injuring six others.

Since then school roofs and sports centre roofs have collapsed during construction, and the weakness of others has been discovered—after the job was finished but fortunately before they fell on schoolchildren or pleasure seekers.

So the problem is obviously serious. Serious enough to require a committee of inquiry to look into the rash of failures and collapses and to make recommendations about what can be done to prevent them.

Last week the interim report of the committee looking into these collapses was published. It is a whimper when what was needed was a scream.

Problem

The report makes some useful suggestions. These include rigorous checking procedures, the appointment of someone to co-ordinate the checking, and proper designing of all temporary supporting structures (falsework).

In itself this is fine stuff. The one slight problem with the report is that it completely ignores the reality of

the construction industry and the priorities which rule it.

There is a simple explanation for most of the falsework collapses—the pursuit of profit.

Over the past ten years design and construction have come under increasing pressure to reduce cost and achieve economies. In everyday language that means to build cheaper.

One major source of the pressure is high interest charges. The clients for bridges, schools and the like, indeed for more than half of all civil engineering works are public authorities. They borrow the money to carry out their programmes on the money market at very high rates. These are constantly rising and are in any case totally outside their control.

This pushes them to start looking for cheaper and cheaper ways to build, cutting back on spending in the one area where it should not be stinted.

Hammer

The contractor is no different. They all pay virtually the same price for labour, steel, cement and the like. So the one area where they can undercut their rivals and make a profit is on temporary supports. Once again the most vital part of the construction operation comes under the hammer.

Not surprisingly, there is no mention of any of this in the report. Nor is there any mention of several other intriguing aspects of the construction industry.

The Transport and General Workers' Union reckons that up to 24 lump sub-contractors were in use on Marples Ridgway's Loddon Bridge contract.

But the lump, the curse of the construction industry, receives not one single mention in the report.

It is unlikely that it will receive any space in the final version which is now in preparation. That will also be a nice respectable job designed not to upset any of the vested interests too much. Meanwhile the roofs will still be falling in and the toll of injured dead and maimed mounting up.

Duncan Hallas

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

'IF WE FIND, as we do, that it answers to give all judges the same income, and all navy captains the same income, why should we go on giving judges five times as much as navy captains? Equal distribution is quite possible and practicable, not only momentarily but permanently.

It is also simple and intelligible. It gets rid of all squabbling about how much each person should have.'

George Bernard Shaw, who wrote this 45 years ago in his *Intelligent Women's Guide to Socialism*, argued the case for paying the same wage to everyone who worked, regardless of what kind of job they did. It is one of the most radical ideas ever proposed.

Imagine charlatades being paid the same as High Court judges, sewer-men the same as surgeons and traffic wardens the same as the prime minister.

Poverty and wealth would both disappear. For Shaw took it for granted, as do all socialists, that unearned income must be abolished—'he that doth not work, neither shall he eat'—except of course for children and old people who would be paid for not working.

Impossible? Utopian? Well, something like this was actually operated for Communist Party members in

What if all were paid the same?

Russia after the revolution, until Stalin became the supreme boss and re-introduced inequality.

Under Lenin, the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars (prime minister), the army general, the factory director, were all paid, if they were party members, exactly the same as a blacksmith or a turner. That was not quite equality of wages—the party maximum pay was the average skilled worker's pay—but it was a good approximation to it.

This is a much more democratic notion than the 'equality of oppor-

tunity' that is preached but not practised in capitalist Britain. Clearly, it would take a revolution to achieve it.

But is equal pay for all the kind of equality that socialists are after? Leave aside for the moment objections such as 'some people wouldn't work', 'no one would accept jobs with responsibility' or 'who would do the dirty work?' Leave them aside not because they don't need an answer, but because they apply to the marxist answer as well.

Principle

Marx summed it up in two phrases. 'Abolition of the wages system', and in its place, 'from each according to his ability, to each according to his need.'

Many people think that 'to each according to his need' is such an impractical, way-out idea that it could never work. It runs counter to 'common sense'. But 'common sense' is only the generally acceptable view in our class-divided society.

As a matter of fact millions of people have direct, personal experience of this principle in action. Take the National Health Service.

Some people need costly and

complicated medical treatment, perhaps involving the services of a whole team of highly-trained experts. Others need nothing. The principle of the National Health is that you get the treatment you need, not the treatment you can pay for.

Of course the NHS is starved of funds, distorted by prescription charges and 'private' beds and so on. It is warped in this way because of the constant pressure to re-introduce inequality that is built into our capitalist society. But the principle is the socialist one and even in practice vast numbers of working people have received NHS treatment that they could never pay for themselves at its 'economic price'.

A whole host of vital services exist, even now, on this basis: water supply, roads, schools and many others. Within capitalism they are restricted and often twisted to serve the better off.

Under socialism this pressure would be destroyed and the whole of society run on the basis of giving people what they need, not just what they can afford to pay for.

DUNCAN HALLAS on the Special Branch and the Strachans sit-in

Secret police at work

THE government's secret political police, the Special Branch, has been poking its ugly snout into an industrial dispute which is concerned solely with saving jobs. The dispute is the occupation of the Strachan's factory at Eastleigh in Hampshire.

'The Special Branch has been in contact with Strachans since August last year,' reports the Sunday Times, 'and has maintained its interest throughout the sit-in which began four weeks ago after the firm announced that its two engineering plants at Eastleigh and Hamble, seven miles away, are to close.'

So the secret police started their industrial espionage under Tory Home Secretary Robert Carr, and continue it under Labour Home Secretary Roy Jenkins. Governments change, but the spying, harassment and 'red baiting' of militants goes on.

'The political group identified by the police were the International Socialists,' says the Sunday Times. 'The IS has a local branch in Portsmouth which has been distributing literature to the men sitting-in on how to claim maximum social security benefits.'

Now that is a shocking thing, isn't it? Actually advising workers how to go about claiming benefits to which they may be legally entitled! To the secret police, in their role as bosses' narks, this evidently constitutes 'political interference'.

Well, I have news for them. The IS branch more. They have actually held collections of money to support the workers sitting in. They have done their duty as class-conscious workers in trying to help their brothers engaged in this struggle.

Resources

It would be pleasing to report that the whole labour movement had taken the same position. Unfortunately it would not be true. An unnamed 'TUC spokesman' is quoted by the Daily Telegraph as saying: 'Understandably, the authorities have to take an interest in anybody likely to be guilty of violence or insurrection. Consequently they are entitled to use all resources available to collect information.'

Assuming that the 'spokesman' is neither illiterate nor an idiot, he must know that the 'violence or insurrection' amounts to a sit-in to prevent closure and unemployment. And that, in his view, justifies intervention by the secret police! This 'spokesman' would qualify for a job with the fake 'unions' of Franco's Spain.

Let there be no mistake about it. The Special Branch is engaged in anti-union activity. Nor is Strachans an isolated case. 'Special Branch sources in London' told the Telegraph that 'such investiga-



Workers in the canteen of the occupied factory. PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

tions throughout the country were not unusual. They constituted an important part of detectives' work . . .

This 'work' is helping employers by pointing the finger at militants and stimulating 'reds under the beds' scares. In a highly revealing statement, the Strachans' managing director, told a reporter from The Guardian: 'It would be going too far to talk about International Socialists. But it is true there are outside forces at work. There appears to be union involvement which I would regard as external to Strachans.'

Collections

Union involvement! Good God, what will these reds get up to next? The need is for a great deal more union involvement than has been seen so far at Strachans. The blacking of the firm's products and collections to keep the sit-in going are needed.

There also needs to be powerful pressure to get the Special Branch out of this dispute and out of industry. The government needs reminding that it claims to be a Labour government.

Mr Michael Foot, Secretary for Employment, has often spoken about civil liberty. Let him tell his colleague, Home Secretary Jenkins, to stop industrial spying and harassment by secret police.

'We've nothing to hide'

THE Joint Union Occupation Committee at Strachans Engineering issued this statement to press and television on Sunday.

With reference to the article published in the Business News of the Sunday Times today, we deny most emphatically that there is, or at any time has been, any political intrigue, or plan, to close Strachans Engineering down.

We would welcome a public enquiry into the ludicrous statement, and would welcome the opportunity of meeting Mr Grist [the firm's chief accountant] and any other member of the Giltspur board, along with a member of the Special Branch, in front of the television cameras, where we would answer any questions they would care to ask, and would also be asking some questions of them which we doubt if they could answer to the satisfaction of the general public.



MALCOLM VASS

Since the closure of Strachans, we have said and meant that the occupation of the factory is purely and simply an attempt to get this factory reopened, and to give back to our members the right to work.

We have permitted all potential customers the freedom of the factory. We have nothing to hide at all from anyone.

The statement is signed P Doyle, M Vass and C Pearson.

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International Socialism

Monthly Journal of the
International Socialists

This year's miners' strike had more political impact than any other industrial struggle for 50 years. It led directly to the general election and the defeat of the Tory government. Yet the strike itself was remarkably quiet and when it was over, a large section of the work-force, the surface workers, were left with their claim unmet. And although the miners broke Phase Three, other union leaders are accepting cuts in their members' living standards under Phase Three on the grounds that the miners were 'a special case'.

In the latest issue of International Socialism, Bill Message provides an account of how pressure for a struggle built up in the industry, of how the decision to strike came about, and how the union leaders then kept militancy to a minimum and went for a settlement that left out in the cold many of their own members and all other workers suffering under Phase Three.

The article provides all the evidence needed to prove that the words of national union officials are not to be trusted, however militant they sound. 'Fighting leadership', it concludes, 'is not a matter of personalities; it can only be guaranteed when those elected are held directly accountable to their members . . . by building a movement within the union that is capable of acting independently then leadership from above is lacking.'

Elsewhere in the journal, Kath Ennis writes on the way capitalism forces narrow and constricted lives on women, and on the way in which a revolutionary socialist organisation has to take up the issue of women's oppression. Mike Miller describes the background to the latest upsurge of violence in Northern Ireland. Duncan Hallas continues his fascinating account of the revolutionary ideas and tactics developed by the Communist International before Stalin's rise to power.

20p per copy (inc. post) £2.10 for 12 issues, from IS JOURNAL, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2

We must use violence say the

A 'seminar on revolutionary warfare' was held at Lancaster University for three days at the beginning of this month.

It was attended by:
26 army officers, including a general and two brigadiers.

Two senior naval officers.
Three senior officers from the Royal Air Force.

Nine senior police officers, including the Chief Constable of Cumbria and Mr J Haughton, Chief Constable of Merseyside.

12 'academics' from the University of Lancaster, including six professors.

Four 'academics' from other universities.

One MP—a Tory, William Deedes, who was 'Minister of Information' in the Tory government in the early 1960s and writes the Peterborough column in the Daily Telegraph.

One journalist—Robert Moss from The Economist.

On Tuesday 2 April the seminar heard lectures from two arch-right wing members of staff at Lancaster—Dr A S Cohen, on 'Theories of Revolution' and Dr Ian Bellamy, on 'The Use of Force in International Relations'.



William Deedes MP: by his deeds shall ye know him . . .

Mr M Elliott-Bateman, from the Department of Military Studies at the University of Manchester, spoke in the evening on 'Historical Trends in Revolutionary War'. Mr Elliott-Bateman wrote a long article in The Guardian after the recent military 'exercise' at London's Heathrow Airport in which he argued that the public

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When a Scottish millionaire holds a party...



HARRODS (owner Sir Hugh Fraser): Where you can buy an elephant, a £400 suit—or a political party...

IF YOU thought that the Scottish National Party were all tartan, bagpipes and demands for a fairer deal for Scottish workers over North Sea oil, then forget it.

The tartan's there. So are the bagpipes. And Scotland figures in it. North Sea oil too. But there's precious little about the lives of the vast majority of people in Scotland.

Like workers everywhere, workers in Scotland have the misfortune to labour for capitalists. They increase their profits. They enable the bosses to exist and live off their backs while the workers get a mere pittance.

Sir Hugh Fraser is one of these. He is a big capitalist, much bigger than anything the Scottish National Party chairman William Woolfe would ever normally dream of from the vantage point of his own little shovel factory in Bathgate.

Sir Hugh employs thousands of workers all over Scotland and many in England. The heart of his empire is the huge chain of stores which go under the name of 'The House of Fraser', stores which charge high prices, pay lousy wages and make lots of profits.

Tweed

Add Harrods in London for a touch of class. Sprinkle a few minor concerns like a whisky distillery, engineering works, two Glasgow newspapers, a smattering of nine farms and a tweed factory and you get a pretty big capitalist.

Sir Hugh's political leanings are exactly what you would expect from a man who did nothing more in life than be born the son and heir of Lord Fraser of Allander, founder of the vast stores empire, multi-millionaire and treasurer of the Scottish Tory Party.

The young Sir Hugh followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Tory Party just like the McAlpine's, the McEwans, the Youngers and other prominent Scottish capitalists.

At the last election Sir Hugh voted Tory as usual. But now he has changed his tack and joined the Scottish Nationalists. The SNP are very proud of signing him up. They are hoping for more converts from similar walks of life.

Shares

Indeed while thousands of Scottish workers were voting nationalist, the SNP were writing to the 350 top Scottish businessmen asking them to support the party financially.

They wrote to Lord Polwarth, Tory Minister of State in the Scottish Office, in charge of North Sea oil in which incidentally his family held many shares.

They wrote to Sir Ian Stewart of Fairfields the shipbuilders on the Clyde, of Thomson Newspapers—and North Sea oil, of Beaverbrook Newspapers—and North Sea oil, who have just sacked 15,000 workers in Glasgow.

They wrote to Sir Hugh Fraser. Now he's joined the SNP giving



SIR HUGH: A touch of class for the Scots Nats

as his reason his dissatisfaction with the Tories.

There's another reason too. Sir Hugh wants to look after what he and others like him have got.

The fact that the SNP were so anxious to get him says a great deal about their supposedly left wing aims and organisation.

They make a great deal of North Sea oil. But the one thing the Scottish Nationalists never mention is workers running North Sea oil.

The reason for that is simple. The SNP don't want workers to run anything. Sir Hugh Fraser and others will see to that.

On close examination you find the policies of the SNP are very far from being left wing. Indeed they are positively anti-working class.

In their publication 'Scots Independent' they explain at length that they are opposed to a National Health Service.

They prefer private schemes run by insurance companies. This will be very nice for Hugh Fraser who is among other things a large shareholder in the Legal and General Insurance Company.

Exploit

In addition, they are opposed to immigration into Scotland and they are opposed to English, Irish or Canadian workers living in Scotland having the right to vote in Scotland.

Doubtless Sir Hugh and the others who will now follow him into the SNP can improve on the mix.

His value to the SNP lies in giving credibility to the organisation among large sections of the Scottish business and middle classes. And in their kind of Scotland his freedom to exploit workers and accumulate capital would in no way be restricted.

Last week an SNP official told the Sunday Times that 'The Scottish Tory is nationalist in his heart but not his head. But now if they do their sums right (over North Sea oil) they will know on which side their bread is buttered.'

One thing is for certain. The future of the Scottish working class is not with the SNP. Our bread is buttered on a different side of the class divide from the Hugh Fraser's of this world.

The problems which exist in Scotland are not problems which can be solved at the expense of people like Sir Hugh Fraser. Scottish workers have more in common with one English worker than with all the Hugh Fraser's of the world.

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from industrial guerrillas organised
in trade unions.

'I am not opposed to profes-
sional anti-guerrilla squads set up
by the government,' he said.

The task of all freedom fighters
like himself, said Moss, was being
made more difficult by the
Labour government which is
'licensing intimidation by repeal-
ing the anti-picketing laws.' Mr
H T Hands, a Labour supporter
and politics lecturer who chaired
the meeting, listened to all this
without protest.

Tactics

Moss further argued, in answer
to questions, that 'limitations in
democratic liberties, especially in
the press' would be necessary in
order to 'preserve democracy'.

There was laughter when a
colonel asked what kind of 'dirty
tricks' should be used against the
industrial guerrilla, but Moss

sternly stopped the discussion on
this point.

He explained that 'tactics like
that cannot be discussed at an
open meeting'.

No one asked how it was that
such a violently repressive speech
could have been made by a repre-
sentative of an allegedly 'objective'
weekly newspaper, The Econo-
mist. Nor did anyone point out
that Moss's editor, Alastair
Burnett, the political broadcaster,
was awaiting trial on charges of
breaking sanctions against the
racist régime in Rhodesia. A week
after the seminar, Burnett was
fined £50 for printing an advertise-
ment soliciting white workers to
work for Ian Smith's racist
tyranny.

The Economist has always been
closely associated with work for
British and American government
agencies. It has also supplied one
of the most unexpected Ministers
in the Wilson government—John
Harris, now Lord Harris, Minister

at the Home Office.

Even more surprising than the
openly repressive speech of Robert
Moss was the contribution of
Adam Roberts, from the Depart-
ment of International Relations
at the London School of Econo-
mics. Roberts is a former editor
of Peace News, and was promi-
nent in the Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament and the Committee
of 100 in the early 1960s.

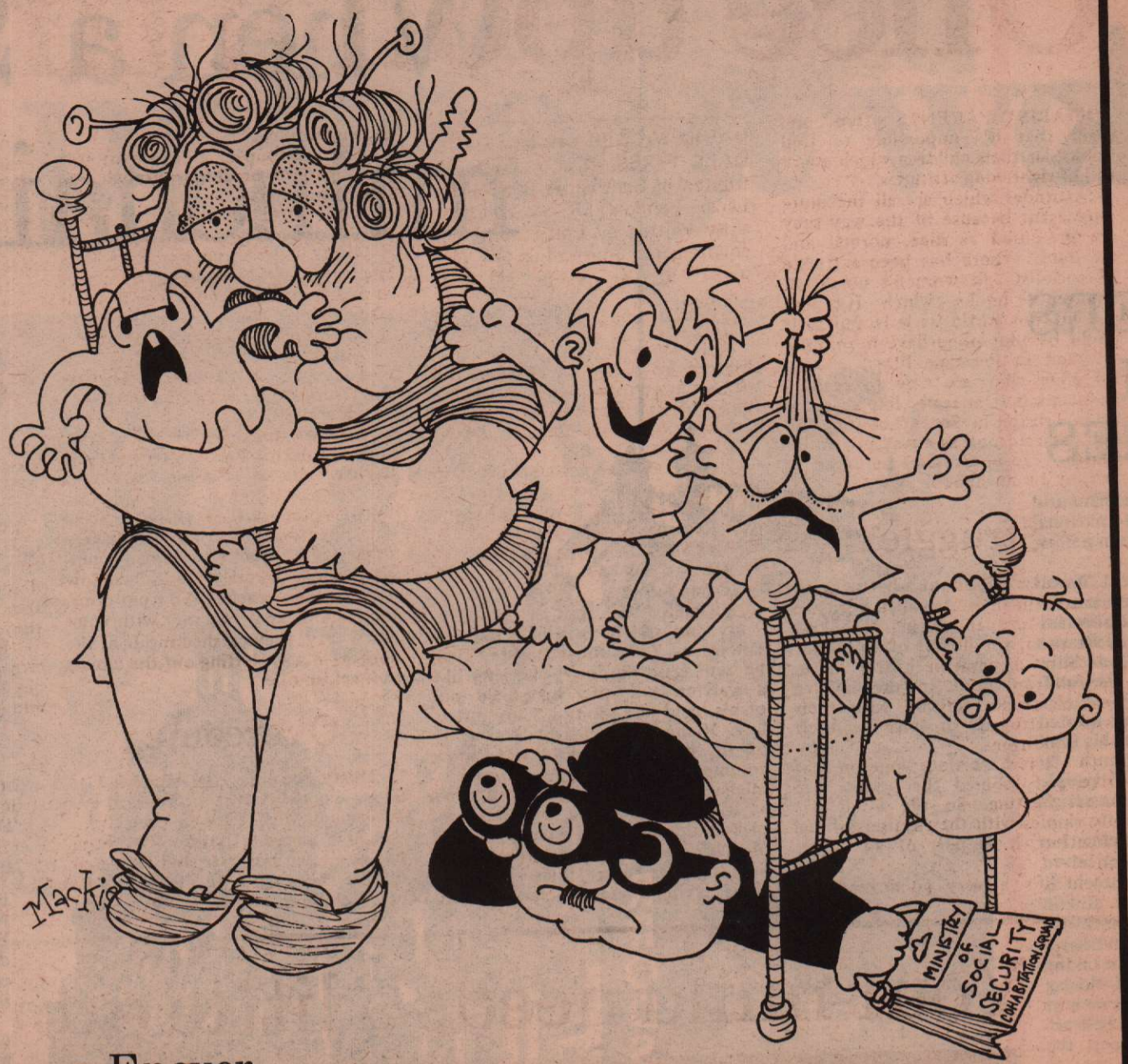
On one demonstration, he was
badly beaten up by the police,
and wrote an article in the New
Statesman complaining about it.

Roberts told the attentive army
bosses and police chiefs that it
was 'unrealistic' to attribute
Russian influence to the growth
of revolutionary groups and that
military and police would 'be
better advised' to 'look at the
situation more effectively'.

'Educational' conferences of
this kind, it was announced, will
be held every three months. Full
reports will appear in Socialist
Worker, but, in the meantime,
when you next hear a general or a
professor or a right-wing journa-
list talking about 'using violence
for political ends', remember some
of the above quotations.

Report by Alice Murray

Who was that man I saw you with last night?



AFTER living partly on Social Security money for almost a year I'd like to write of some of the things I had to face. After many trips to their offices I was awarded the grand total of £4.95. I received £4 from my husband, who also agreed to give me an extra £3 when my expected child was born. They knew about this, and took the £3 into account as part of my income despite the fact that I hadn't had the baby and wasn't getting the money then! From that day I decided to fight for anything and everything I could get out of them.

by Maureen Enever

They knew I had a little boy, but to get my butter tokens for him I had to take him along to the office, more or less to prove that he actually existed! Two months later the tokens arrived—not back-dated... One day coming home from the shops, I noticed a young bloke watching me from the other side of the road. I'd seen him a couple of times during the past two days, and I got a bit agitated. I phoned the police. They took a statement, and after a two-day wait they told me he worked for the Social Security and was only doing his job. I think there's something wrong with a society when a bloke with a sick mind is caught for watching and following a woman and classed as a peeping Tom, or stuck away for months—yet here there's somebody doing exactly the same and getting PAID for it! When I questioned this I had all the Blah Blah about co-habiting... how many women at eight months pregnant feel like co-habiting?

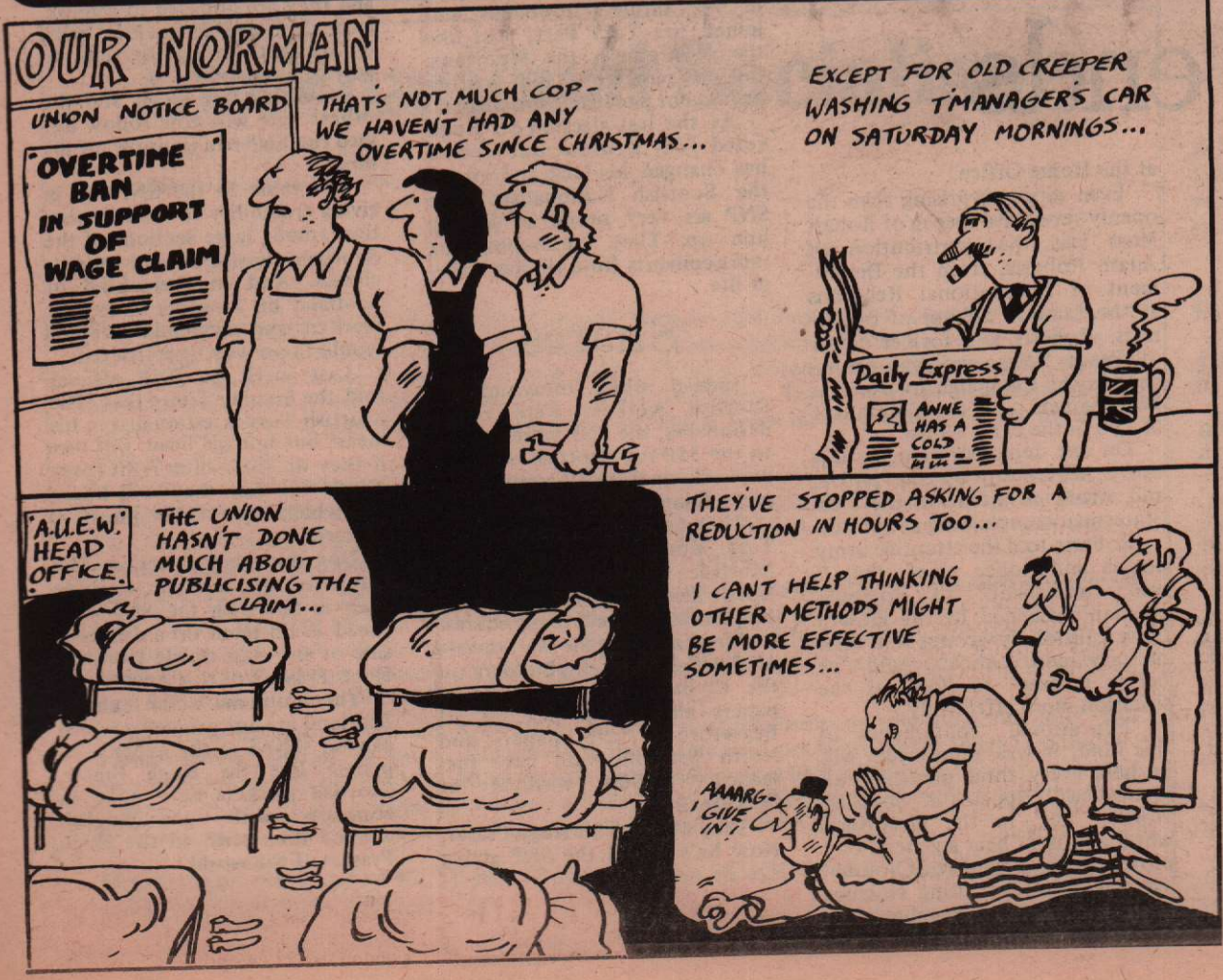
Three weeks after my baby was born the visits to my home resumed. This time I was prepared. I knew they were trying to find out if I had a bloke staying with me. So when the matronly old maid arrived I told her she was too early... the time between having a baby and having intercourse is six weeks. In an embarrassed sort of way she left! Another day a visitor came and after casually mentioning that he knew I had a man friend and what sort of car he had, he then wanted to know if he gave me any money. After I told him in no uncertain terms what to do with himself, he said he knew the bloke hadn't stayed three nights on the trot, but I was to tread very carefully. By this time my temper was boiling! The only way to fight

back was to do something drastic. The chance I'd waited for for a long time had come. I grabbed all the papers from his hands and tore them to shreds. He wasted no time picking them up, and after wishing him well with his jig-saw puzzle, I almost punched him out of the door. Sickens The next two people they sent round, one I chased out of my house, the other I didn't even let in. So I fought back in the only way I knew how, by abusing them, not letting them in and tearing up their papers. It sickens me to think that other people on Social Security are classed as liars and cheats, because believe me, no matter how genuine your case they don't be-

lieve a word you say. Another thing I'm left wondering is if they have a law about having parties. On New Year's Eve I had a few friends back to my flat. The day after New Year's Day I had a visitor! He had the audacity to ask how I could afford to have a party. That was the last straw. At that moment all I wanted to do was to get away. I was even ready to walk out on my kids. Now I think, who are they to treat people like animals, harass them and try to bring them down to the lowest grade possible? People should be treated with respect. I've come to the conclusion that that our society is all wrong. It must be, when claimants can't get what they're entitled to—yet big business men and politicians can fiddle taxes and all sorts and get away with it. The claimants' fight is a hard one. The time to start fighting is now, not just claimants but every working-class man, woman and child. Because while we've got Mr Heath, Mr Wilson and people like them in power, the working-class people will always get the bad bite of the apple.

OUR TYPE OF VICTORY

SIX TYPISTS in East Kilbride, near Glasgow, have shown just how to deal with low pay. After a five-week strike they have won increases of between £4 and £6. The six work for Carruthers, a subsidiary of Burmah Oil (1972 profits £19 million). One girl aged 20 was getting only £14 a week. The company was offering £1, with strings. First they said the pay laws meant they couldn't offer any more, then they said the wages they were paying were average for the area, but the typists, members of TASS, the technical section of the Engineering Union, asked union members on the shop floor to black deliveries. As soon as this started to bite, the company backed down.



Profits cuts? Who's kidding who

IN MARCH the Labour government's Prices Commission ordered all the big food retailers to cut their profit margins to 10 per cent. This was loudly greeted by socialists. Food prices cut! At last! When it was worked out we were told to expect cuts of ½p in the pound—about 35p a week off the shopping bill of an ordinary family. So what's happened? Have YOU noticed it? Last week the Financial Times, the bosses' paper, carried out a survey that showed how few shops had made the cuts they were supposed to. Many shops and supermarkets just continued to put prices up at the old rate. Where cuts have been made they've quickly been hidden by price rises—and most cuts have been made on only one or two items per super-

market, as '1p off Special Offer!' The favourites were bread and frozen vegetables. We rush in to take up their Special Offer and end up spending more on everything else! The same survey shows a great jump last week in the price of all canned foods, and other non-food items in our weekly shopping basket—polish, washing up liquid and such things have soared. The truth is that despite all the impressive big talk by Labour in their first few weeks of office, prices are still climbing, climbing, climbing in the same old way as under the Tories—and as always WE pay out, and Tesco, Fine Fare and the rest rake it in!

Barbara Kerr

Once upon a time? Now!

SOCIALIST PARENTS often complain that it's impossible to find books for their children which aren't full of right-wing attitudes.

Attitudes which are all the more unpleasant because of the way they are presented as nice, normal and inevitable. There has been a trickle of socialist and women's liberation children's books which try and present the world as it is and as it could be. But none have been quite as good as *Ferndale Fires*, a story for kids who are new to reading about what it is really like to grow up in Brixton in South London. The book started out as a play put on by fourth year black schoolchildren at Santley Junior School.

Struggle

The play was about a battle going on locally in an estate called Ferndale Court for proper heating. The kids wrote about the horror of an indoor fire from a paraffin heater in an over-full front room. And they involve their classroom writing with their parents' struggle to improve their living conditions.

The flats have since gone on rent strike and lobbied for proper safe central heating. So the book not only ripples with the rhythms of real living but it is part of an actual battle.

And it's a very good read for

DAVID WIDGERY reviews *FERNDALE FIRES*, Reality Press, distributed by Centreprise, 66a Dalston Lane, London E8. A children's story written by Chris Searle, and children of South London, and based on the reality of South London.

children from five to 10 years old, with good pictures, songs and music. It's published by Reality Press and distributed by Centreprise Books, 66a Dalston Lane, E8.

Here's an extract—starting with the second paraffin fire which starts while Michael and Tony are fighting over Rachel:

'Get him Michael.'

'Do him in Tony.'

'Come on boy.'

Michael took another swing at Tony, but split his stick on the iron railings as Tony moved aside. Then he ran again at Tony, charging like a warrior, knocking his shield out of his hand and sending Tony sprawling. Michael took a whack at Tony on the ground, but he saw the blow coming and rolled over quickly. Michael's stick only splintered more as it smashed on the tarmac. Tony picked up his shield and leaped at Michael again, and they were grappling together, using their shields as clubs, trying to clout each other with

the metal rims.

Then a group of girls ran towards the fighters, breaking through the ring of watchers.

'Fire! Fire!' they shouted above the din of clashing shields.

'Who is it?' someone asked, as Michael fell to the ground, his shield rolling down the court like a metal wheel.

'The new family, the Jamaicans.'

'Rachel's flat.'

Tony, about to run at Michael again, suddenly stiffened on the spot: 'What? What?'

He threw down his shield and stick and ran towards Rachel's flat, yelling. Michael left off chasing his rolling lid and ran after Tony, catching up with him as they chased up the stairs, panting and shouting, towards Rachel's flat. Smoke was already coming through the cracks in the window frames. They reached the front door, and kicking at it together with combined fury, they crashed inside as the door gave way, letting out the clouds of black smoke.

Overcome

Thirty seconds later, Rachel was down in the court, supported by Tony and Michael, one each side, coughing and spluttering. They both put her down together, and staggered up the stairs again to fetch out the other children. But that had already

been done by the caretaker and a group of neighbours. Sid was giving Rachel's little sister artificial respiration, while a bunch of people had formed at the bottom of the stairs. Michael and Tony flopped down beside Rachel, all three of them exhausted and overcome.

It was Mr Khan who brought out the cause of the fire.

'Again, these damn things!' he shouted, waving a smoking paraffin heater at the crowd.

'That's enough now, that's enough, we've got to act, got to do something,' cried Mr Quinn, shaking both his fists, turning around to his neighbours.

'We said that last time,' said Mr Johnson angrily, 'this time we got to organise ourselves properly. They go on about safety precautions, but that don't give us more heat or better flats. Living in their smart houses, they don't know what it's like here.'

'He's right man,' let go Mr Kahn. 'We can't take no more of this. We got to go and demand central heating and keep on until we get it.'

'That's just the start,' interrupted Tony's mum. 'We've got to sort out the council proper. And the government. We've got to show them we're strong.'

'She's right,' urged Mr Khan, 'we'll march down the Town Hall.'

'Hang on,' went on Tony's mum, 'we need to get support from other tenants. We'll march round the other

estates first. And get people to bring it up at their unions.'

'Right,' said Mr Johnson as ambulance sirens and a fire engine nearby drowned out his voice. 'Come on, now's the time. Get your paint out, Sid, and we'll get some placards done.'

'I'm with you this time,' said Sid. 'I've had enough too.'

As they walked off in all directions, the ambulances drove out through the gates. The children stared silently at the firemen on Rachel's landing who were hosing into the flat.

Together

'And they were only here one week,' muttered Beverley, her face set in anger.

'I know what it's like, it happened to us,' said Jimmy. 'They're right you know, we've got to fight. Why should we have to live in dumps like this? I'm going on the demo.'

'Right, right,' yelled some of the boys, 'we're coming too.'

'Let's get out there then,' said Doreen, her voice breaking into a shout. 'We're going to show them something about fire. We'll show them the fire inside us.'

And they ran off together, joining with their parents, painting slogans and gathering neighbours. And soon they were all marching out of the gate of the court.

PREVIEW

* Time not known at press time.

SUNDAY: BBC-1. One of George Bernard Shaw's contributions to the Women's Suffrage movement is the Play of the month *MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION*. About a woman of Edwardian England and one of the few professions open to her—prostitution. Childhood is a new drama series on ITV at 10.15pm, about the world of children, beginning with *SAA SAA BLACKSHEEP*, an autobiographical story by Russett Kating, could be good.

MONDAY: BBC-1. Another new series is *Success Story*, starting with *SHERWOOD'S CABARET*. Christopher Isherwood talks about the real Sally Bowles, who was not Lizzy Weill.

TUESDAY: BBC-2. A good thriller, and a good study of racism in the Deep South of the USA is *IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT** with Rod Taylor and Sidney Poitier. It probably clashes with part two of the Japanese Experience on ITV at 10.30pm *HOLY GROWTH*.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2. Shoulder to Shoulder is *CHRISTABEL PANKHURST** on the Liberal government's double-cross on women's votes and the fight back.

THURSDAY: BBC-1. An excellent writer, and good socialist is John McGrath and his play *THE BOUNCING BOY** is tonight's Play for Today. It is about a second-hand car salesman, and his wife, about work, and the role of men, and women. It was filmed in London and Preston. Red Star of the week.

FRIDAY: BBC-2. Best film of the week is *Z*, a political thriller inspired by the left-wing Greek deputy Lambrakis in 1964. When you see it remember that the hero is rotting in a Greek jail now...

Chile on film

THE REPRESSION in Chile continues, and the British government sells its government frigates. In Britain the Chile Solidarity Campaign is increasing its attempts to organise and build support for the fight against the regime.

The trade union group of the Campaign with the aid of the Other Cinema can now provide three films, plus speakers, on Chile.

'We hope to start showing the films around London, to socialist and trade union groups,' said a spokeswoman. 'Then perhaps we can extend outside to other parts of the country. We've got a conference on 20 April in Liverpool where we intend to build up the Campaign.'

'We also have a mobile exhibition on Chile, which can be mounted for any period up to a week. It'll be going to Edinburgh soon.'

The films are *When The People Awake*—which is on the development of the working class and the peasant movement during the rule of Allende's government, *Campaneto* and *The Tiger*. The third film being on the repression.

The CSC's trade union group can provide speakers to deal with specific themes—on particular unions in Chile for example. The campaign can be contacted at 129 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London (01-272 4299).

Your mind needs a little exorcise...



Well, the Devil won that one... Max Von Sydow as the Exorcist with Jason Miller—Father Karras

IT COST a lot of money to make *The Exorcist*. And the hundreds of thousands of people who go to see the film will pay plenty for the privilege.

Which is very nice for director William Friedkind, author William Peter Blatty, who is a former US army psychological warfare officer, and for Warner Brothers Communications Corporation who have been conducting another profitable form of psychological warfare world-wide for more than half a century.

The strategy for the profits prize has been well planned. There was wonderful publicity, even better than for last year's sensation *Last Tango in Paris*.

As the Daily Express put it in an article which now decorates



every London cinema showing the *Exorcist*: 'Is this the most terrifying film ever made?'

The 'product mix' also ensured other allies for the publicity machine. Festival of Light denunciations really pack them in

you know.

The *Exorcist* is about a 12-year-old schoolgirl of the best all-American breed who becomes 'possessed' by spirits.

Suddenly and without explanation the sweet, delightful daughter of a film star becomes a beast with enormous strength and a highly developed facility for cursing, attacking and murdering people.

Her wonderful mum who is making a film masterpiece about student rebels and the need to protest constitutionally, brings in the best doctors. All their science, which causes the child great pain, comes to nothing. They are powerless.

But Dimi, a Catholic priest and trained psychiatrist, can help. After some persuasion he agrees to ask the church to allow an exorcism to be performed on the child-beast.

After much swearing, murdering, vomiting—and for some of the audience at least a good laugh at the ridiculousness of it all—it works. The devil departs from whence he came leaving a nice rosy, all-American child.

You see, when science fails, when reason, or some approximation to it, fails, then return to the good old spirit feel. Perhaps this is the solution to America's problems, perhaps the world's. Really there is something in this religion business.

It is strange that a film so forcefully denounced by Christians and reactionaries should be Christian and reactionary where it's not just plain rubbish.

But that's what it is. Stay away.

Laurie Flynn

THE UNIONS

Kodak union trying to join the TUC

THE Union of Kodak Workers is a shop union set up by the company after the Tories brought in the Industrial Relations Act.

Its general secretary is Todd Sullivan. One of the most interesting things about Sullivan is where he got his wages from when he first took up the job. After all, since the organisation was brand new, it couldn't have had any funds.

Another matter of importance is who interviewed him and gave him

by a Kodak worker

the job. It certainly wasn't the rank and file workers, who would prefer to elect their officers.

The importance of these questions is clear when you realise that the UKW is applying to join the Trades Union Congress.

This was the excuse used against our attempts to send delegates to the National Rank and File Conference. The reply was that we couldn't, since this might upset the TUC.

It seems to me, as Sullivan must have known, that the UKW shouldn't have a hope of joining the TUC unless it amalgamates with a genuine union. So it's not the TUC Sullivan and Co are frightened of upsetting. It's the company.

So much for the UKW at executive level. Down at the branches there are some funny things going on. There is no combine committee and therefore little liaison between branches.

In my own branch, Kirkby, there seems to be very little liaison between individual shop stewards and in one case between a shop steward and the men he represents.

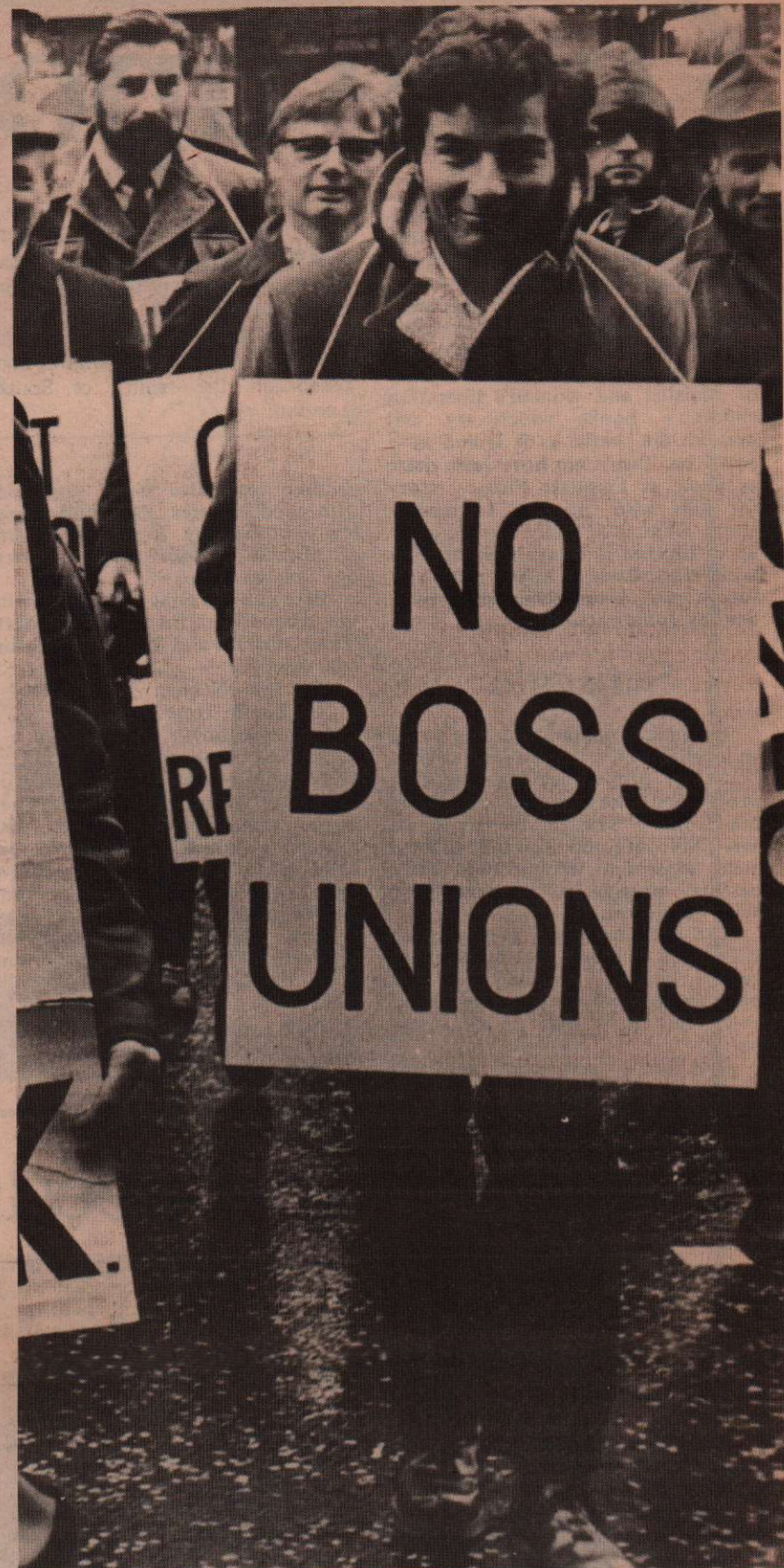
At the Kirkby branch there are eight senior shop stewards who go to make up the stewards' committee. Four of them are staff members.

Shared

These four stewards are very docile and obviously management-biased. As a matter of fact one of them shared his house with a member of the management for a while.

The branch secretary is staff and has a secretary working for him taking notes and dealing with correspondence. She is employed by the firm on a staff basis. A vote of no confidence cannot be given to these stewards. It is written into union rules that a senior steward cannot be given such a vote. His term as steward lasts for two years.

My conclusion is as follows. The company are paying me a wage and then taking 15p a week back off me, calling it a union sub.



No doubt about what the Kodak workers think: a picket during the strike at the company's plant in Hemel Hempstead, Herts, last autumn. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We fight:

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

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

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

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

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

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

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

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

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

Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

Against secret diplomacy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Challenge to NUJ leaders

JOURNALISTS will soon have a great opportunity to strike a blow for democracy against their union bureaucrats. Next week, more than 400 delegates assemble at Wexford in Ireland for the annual conference of the National Union of Journalists.

A growing number of the union's 28,000 members, working on national and provincial newspapers, magazines and books throughout the country, have become increasingly militant as proprietors have resorted to tougher methods to protect their profits.

The conference agenda reflects rank and file dissatisfaction with the union's officials and national executive committee. There are dozens of motions censuring the executive for its handling of various disputes, one of which calls for the sacking of general secretary Ken Morgan.

This motion, from the militant Sheffield branch, expresses 'grave concern at the total failure of the national leadership' and instructs the executive to end Morgan's contract at once, there being no other way at

present of removing him from office.

Because of this, one of the most important issues at the conference will be reorganisation of the whole union, which among other things, would introduce the issue of the democratic election of all paid officials.

Lessons learnt during recent industrial action by journalists have resulted in a batch of motions calling for solidarity with printers, one going further to suggest a merger with the print unions.

Exemption

Other vital motions show the increasing political awareness among journalists, such as those calling for a determined campaign against government pay laws and demanding that there be no dealings whatsoever with the National Industrial Relations Court.

A motion from the 3000-strong London Central branch, covering Fleet Street papers, instructs the executive to negotiate with the print

unions exemption for the Workers Press and Morning Star from all political industrial action directed against the government and employers. Magazine branch, the second largest, wants the exemption to extend to Socialist Worker and Tribune.

Magazine branch has also protested at the prosecution, trial and sentence of the Shrewsbury building workers, and deplores the 'anti-union sentiments in much of the press coverage'. Shields branch wants the NUJ to raise the matter at the Trades Union Congress.

One of the most heated debates is likely to come from an emergency motion calling for an end to internment and the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Journal of the International Socialists

Issues 36-55 have now been produced as a single bound volume in a limited edition. It includes Tony Cliff on China, Peter Sedgwick on Orwell, Trotsky on Fascism and Stalinism, Jim Higgins on the Communist Party, Ray Challinor on the trade union bureaucracy, Eamonn McCann, John Palmer, Paul Gerhardt and Brian Trench on Ireland. Nigel Harris on India.

Price including postage £7.30. IS JOURNAL, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS

APEX: KEEP OUT!

THE annual conference of the major white-collar union, the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (APEX), meets in Blackpool this weekend.

As far as the union leadership is concerned one of the key issues at the conference will be to ensure that the moves to rescind union rule 13 are defeated. This rule proscribes mainly communist and socialist political organisations and bars people from

holding certain offices if they are members of the CP or the IS.

During recent months the leaders of the union, Roy Grantham, the TUC general council member, Dennis Howell, MP and Minister of Sport in the Wilson government, have been increasing the use of this and other undemocratic rules.

Socialist Worker will be carrying an important article on these issues.



Socialist Worker:

Don't just read it... write it!

WE PUBLISHED on this page last week an account of the discussion at the last IS National Committee about Socialist Worker. The Committee, by a two-to-one majority, gave their support to a document calling for a paper which was in much closer contact with the who read it.

Following this decision, we have had discussions here in the office which have involved the workers on the printshop floor, the typesetters and the compositing department as well as the editorial staff.

We've been asking ourselves: how best can we ensure that the paper is more the property of the people who read it than it has been in the past?

Most of us are agreed that the problem will not be solved by changing the content of the paper or the lay-out by editorial decision. It will only be solved when we establish much better contact with the workers who read and sell the paper.

Regular

All of us—writers, sub-editors, printers, typesetters, compositors, lay-out men, sellers and readers—must break our backs to ensure that the channels are opened between the paper and its worker-readers and that the worker-readers become regular contributors to the paper.

In spite of a big increase recently in the number of workers writing in and contacting the paper there are still huge barriers between the paper and the majority of its readers.

There is the idea, fostered for their own purposes by capitalist newspapers, that journalism is something reserved for an exclusive minority of experts who produce articles and ideas for the masses.

A workers' paper can only succeed if it bases itself on the

opposite idea, that workers can and must express themselves if they are ever to take control of the wealth of the society which they produce.

Put it another way: the capitalist newspapers have their correspondents all over the country. The Daily Mirror, which sells about four million copies every day, has perhaps 1000 of them always on the look-out for news.

But Socialist Worker, which sells 35,000 copies in a good week, has more potential correspondents. There are the 3500 members of the International Socialists, for a start, people who are not in it for the money, but in it to change society. All these members should see themselves as contributors to Socialist Worker.

All of these members are organised in branches. Some of these are factory branches. We should get a report every month from every one of our factory branches. The reports should tell us what is going on in the factory, how the stewards and the conveners are behaving, whether there have been any accidents, how the workers are responding to speed-up, redundancy, calls for more overtime and so on.

But above all, the reports should

tell of the political arguments at work. What are workers talking about? What do people think about the war in the Middle East or Ireland or the budget? What are the arguments which work against prejudice on the shop floor?

These are the items which we want above all others in our pages.

That means every factory branch must appoint a Socialist Worker correspondent, encourage other members of the branch and readers of the paper in the factory to contribute to the paper.

Every area branch of IS must do the same. The Socialist Worker correspondent must be on the look-out all the time for possible contributions to the paper by workers in his area. He should read all the local papers thoroughly, follow up stories of eviction, corruption, industrial accidents and send them into the paper.

Interest

But we need more variety than that. It's not just the struggle on the shop floor and the housing estates that need reporting. We want jokes and stories, examples of sexual discrimination, or racial repression reflected in small, apparently unimportant stories.

The unfairness and brutality of capitalism shows itself in hundreds of different ways, which are usually regarded by their victims as of no interest to newspapers. Yet these are often the items in socialist papers that are read more widely, and mean more to readers, than much of the more conventional articles.

We need more about the society we want. Alan Watts, an engineering steward in North London, wrote to us a few weeks back asking us to be more specific about the sort of society we're after.

He's right. But what we need are not vague blueprints of utopia, but specific examples of how a rational system of society would work. Ron Senchak, who works in the camera room at the printshop here, put it well at our meeting last Wednesday. 'Every bus that is late is an example of capitalism. We want to get bus-drivers to explain why the bus system is so bad, and how it would run better under socialism', he said.

Capable

Workers' lack of confidence in their ability to express themselves in print is one of the most powerful weapons of the ruling class. They keep their class power by pretending that they alone are capable of producing argument and propaganda in print.

They are wrong. The workers can do it too.

We plan to gear the office to these priorities. In the past, to our shame, we have failed to reply to workers who have written in with contributions which have not been published. Now we pledge: we will publish what you send, or give a careful explanation of why not.

We can build a workers' paper which is capable of countering the lies of the capitalist press and television among large sections of workers. But we can only do it together, if the workers in and just as readers of Socialist Worker, but as critics and contributors.

ROGER PROTZ is no longer editor of Socialist Worker. After the debate last week on the IS National Committee, in which his document on the paper was defeated by 26 votes to 12, it was put to Roger by members of the IS Executive and the editorial staff that in this situation he should give up his position on the paper.

Immediately, he agreed. Roger edited Socialist Worker ever since it started as a weekly paper in October 1968. For two years before that, when the paper was a monthly, he edited it in his spare time.

Through all that time, he has put the interests of the organisation, the paper and the fight for socialism above all other considerations.

And Roger has done much more than that.

Way back in 1968, when he started as the only full-time journalist on the paper, he made it clear that he wanted to break from the narrow, sectarian tradition of socialist newspapers in the 1950s and 1960s. He wanted to build a forthright, open socialist paper which would be

available to sections of the working class who had never heard of the sectarian fetishes of previous revolutionary papers.

The figures speak for themselves. On 9 October 1968, the print order for Socialist Worker, then four pages, was 5000.

Some of us have indisputable evidence that many of those copies ended up unsold under IS members' beds!

Shackles

In the first two months of this year the average print order for the paper was 40,000. In the week of the election it was 52,000. Since then it has fallen, but it is still more than seven times higher than it was when Roger started the paper. About seven in ten copies printed are sold.

For the first time ever a revolutionary socialist paper, freed from the shackles of the Communist Party and Russian state capitalism, is selling regularly to tens of thousands of British workers.

It's a fair guess that 100,000

people see Socialist Worker every week.

That is the measure of Roger's achievement.

At the same time, Socialist Worker has won a grudging respect from professional journalists everywhere. In all sections of the profession, people have commented that the paper's lay-out and design is among the best in the land.

That design and lay-out was, almost exclusively, the work of Roger Protz.

Roger is a fine craftsman and a dedicated socialist. He is also, for all of us in the office, a good friend and comrade. Differences of opinion about the future of the paper grew in ferocity over the months, and have resulted, I think rightly, in Roger's departure from the office. But his contribution to the working-class movement and to the socialist cause is far from over.

A new editor of Socialist Worker will be elected at next month's IS National Committee.

Paul Foot



ROGER PROTZ

THE LESSON OF THE SHREWSBURY TRIALS

MORE THAN 130 people came to a public meeting called by the small IS branch at Chelmsford, Essex, last week. The Combine theatre group were in fine form with their portrayal of the Shrewsbury pickets trial.

John Llywarch, one of those tried at Shrewsbury, spoke about the trial, and concluded: 'We've got to build an organisation of working-class people. All my life,

I've fought against the bosses because I wanted something better for myself. Then this trial happened, and I met some people from IS. I thought to myself: Christ, why haven't I met these people before?'

'Before I met these people, I was doing it on my own. Well, how many of you are doing it on your own? And how many of you can be sure that you won't end up one day in the dock fighting, like I did.

Join us now, and stop it now.'

Paul Foot then spoke about the Labour government and its impotence in the face of the great capitalist corporations.

Summing up the rally, Michael Fenn, a shop steward in the London Royal Group of docks, spoke about the power of right-wing forces at work in our society, in the police and in the army.

Michael said he was 'a worker first, a docker second' and industrial militants everywhere must organise together if they wanted to beat the system.

The meeting was one of the largest socialist meetings ever held in Chelmsford. One worker was heard to mutter outside the hall: 'You got more to that meeting than Wedgy Benn got in the middle of the election campaign!'

MANCHESTER District IS May Day Rally: Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker) and Mickey Fenn (NASD London docks). Wed 1 May, 8pm, AUEW House, The Crescent, Salford. All socialists and trade unionists welcome. Admission 10p.

LETCORTH IS public meeting: Life under Labour—socialism or the social contract? Speaker Hugh Kerr (IS National Committee member). Tuesday 30 April, 7.45pm, Community Centre, Jackmans Estate, Letcworth.

OXFORD Socialist Worker public meeting: Will Labour deliver the goods? Speakers: John Palmer (IS National Committee member) and John Power (district president, Oxford AUEW). Friday 19 April, 7.30pm, Blackfriars Hall, St Giles. 10p at the door.

BRADFORD IS May Day meeting: The Labour Party and the struggle for socialism. Speakers: Duncan Hallas (Socialist Worker) and Jim Singleton (Standard Triumph, Liverpool). Wednesday 1 May, 8pm, Star Hotel, Westgate.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT IS Social: Alex Glasgow and The Razzle Dazzle Gatemouth Spasm String Band. Saturday 20 April, 7.45pm-11pm, The Mermaid, junction of Warwick and Stratford Roads. Admission 50p, proceeds to the Birmingham IS Centre and the IS Fighting Fund.

BARNET IS May Day meeting: Which road to socialism? Speakers and film. Wednesday 1 May, 8pm, Bull and Butcher, High Road, Whetstone.

IS AFRICA Half-day School: Saturday 20 April, Keskeidee 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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).

ASTON (INTEX), OLDHAM and HYDE IS public meeting: Free the Shrewsbury Six—Defend the right to picket. Speaker: John Llywarch (one of the Shrewsbury defendants). Sunday 21 April, 8pm, The Highland Lad, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

BRITISH LEYLAND IS public meeting. Speaker: Joe France (American IS—Detroit carworker). Friday 26 April, 8pm, Birmingham IS Books, near Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

COMING SOON: The Politics of Lenin. A new pamphlet which besides introducing the new reader to Lenin's life also covers several aspects of his political life—the arguments on democratic centralism, the state, imperialism, the trade unions and more. Available soon, price 20p, from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

NORTH WEST LONDON IS public meeting: The ugly face of capitalism—Can Labour change it? Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker), John Worth (AUEW, Chrysler, Coventry). Thursday 25 April, 8pm, Concert Hall, Anson Hall, Chichele Road, NW2.

Calling IS artists...

A STRONG feeling that IS has neglected the immense potential of films, theatre, poetry and visual arts for getting across our politics, and that artists and potential artists in IS are isolated and in poor contact with each other, was expressed at a meeting of the IS publications and training sub-committee last week.

The meeting set up an AgitProp committee to discuss what action IS ought to be taking to co-ordinate and promote the creative talents in IS and ensure more co-ordinated contact with sympathetic groups and artists. Among its intentions is to set up a socialist booking agency which will be able to put IS branches in direct contact with theatre groups and film distributors.

The group will also set up groups to cover particular areas of the arts and contact members with particular talents, skills and interests. Everyone interested should write to Roger Huddle at Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Ccbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

TOWN HALL STAFF ROCK TUC BOAT

by SW Reporter

THE REAL meaning of the TUC's so-called social compact with the Labour government is now obvious to thousands of government officers' union members—don't rock the boat.

Over the past week Len Murray, TUC general secretary has been repeating the message to NALGO general secretary Geoffrey Drain. He has asked the union to stop its industrial action in support of the £400 London weighting claim.

What has happened is that last winter's verbal opposition to Phase Three has given way. Now that

Phase Three is operated by Labour, the TUC is in favour of union's abiding by it.

But as Murray moves in, more local government and electricity white collar workers are involved in the strike from 17 April. This shows that rank and file NALGO members are not prepared to wait for the Pay Board's June report on London pay. They want the full claim now.

In the last 10 days the Hackney and Lewisham branches of the union have voted to support selected groups of their members in strike action. At a mass meeting last week Tower Hamlets voted for a total strike.

On 10 April a rally of 2000 members called by Islington and other branches at the Friends Meeting House was followed by the largest ever march of NALGO members. This showed the strength of feeling of these trade unionists involved in their first ever industrial action.

FIGHTING

At the meeting general secretary Geoffrey Drain said the campaign was making NALGO history. But he also argued that NALGO was a special case. Other speakers attacked this notion, insisting local government workers were fighting alongside teachers and other workers. They called for local alliances of trade unionists involved in London allowance claims. And a motion calling for further escalation of the action for the full claim was passed.

Moves to call off the strike action in line with the TUC's demands are certain to be met with an angry response in the rank and file.

Already Lewisham branch has submitted a motion to the London district council's meeting next week reiterating support for the action, calling on the TUC to support all strikes against Phase Three and calling on the Labour government to repeal the Counter Inflation Act immediately.

Geoff Wolfe, one of Lewisham's delegates to the district council, told



'We want the £400' is the message from NALGO members at the rally.

Socialist Worker this week: 'We haven't been waiting 12 months for a London increase to be told by Michael Foot, the TUC or anybody else to cool it.'

'The union's instruction to boycott voluntary election work on 2 May is seriously embarrassing the London councils. Now is the time to

press home our advantage, not to give in at the first sign of pressure from the TUC.'

'We are attempting to initiate joint action with the teachers in Lewisham. It is only strong united action by the rank and file that can stop our leaders caving in, and win the claim.'

Leyland move over leading steward

OXFORD:—British Leyland have withdrawn recognition from a leading shop steward, Alan Thornett.

The company has picked its time carefully. For two weeks Morris Marina production workers in the assembly plant were in and out of the factory as they stopped work over industrial engineers timing them with stop watches. Threats of the sack forced the production workers to return to work, but by this time the transport section had walked out in protest at being laid off.

Management then threatened the drivers with the sack if they did not return to work and withdrew recognition from Alan Thornett. Thornett, as the leading steward in the transport section and chairman of the joint shop stewards' committee, was accused of demonstrating 'his unwillingness' to 'use his best endeavours' to keep men at work while disputes were discussed.

In a letter circulated round the plant the company added: 'In view of his failure to behave with the expected level of responsibility, the company informs the trade union that it was no longer prepared to afford facilities to Mr Thornett to act in any capacity as a trade union

representative in the plant.'

This action follows a long and concerted campaign against Thornett. The local press has consistently named him in connection with the disputes in the factory, and a right-wing group in the plant have called for his resignation and pointed to his political activities. He is a member of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

The loss of wages over the past few weeks, followed by eventual acceptance of the company's terms, has left many workers demoralised. This is the second time this year that Cowley assembly plant workers have fought their management with militant action but have been forced to back down.

The company's attempt to isolate Thornett is based on what they calculate to be lack of support for further action in certain areas of the factory.

Again a company has said it will decide who is to represent workers in its factories. Alan Thornett is not the first militant steward to be victimised. If the company succeed he will not be the last, and managements will be a step nearer breaking the strong shop-floor organisation in the motor industry.

Laings victimise rigger

LONDON:—Laings' management at the Tottenham Court Road YMCA site sacked Jack Kettle because 'he did not have the special aptitude required for a job of this kind.' The 'job of this kind' is that of steel erector and rigger, which Jack Kettle has been doing for only 25 years.

The sacking is a particularly blatant victimisation. It came out at the joint

panel on the case that Laings had actually invited Jack Kettle to work for them at the YMCA site, on a previous site agent's recommendation.

The site has been on strike since 1 April.

Messages of support and contributions to Brian Craze, 59 Haden Court, Fonthill Road, London, N4.

HOSPITAL SPARKS STAY OUT

GLASGOW:—Nearly 200 hospital electricians are continuing their strike for wage parity with contracting electricians. At a meeting last week only two voted against the strike.

Full-time officials had urged a return to work—while 'allowing the union to negotiate'. The union's national officer dealing with the dispute had been reported as saying that 'if the Health Service didn't come up with parity soon' he would bring sanctions to bear on the hospital boards.

A delegate remarked: 'His kind of sanctions wouldn't open a can of peas.'

Hospital electricians came from Edinburgh, and from Guys Hospital in London. The London delegates said their meeting after Easter would probably support the Scottish action.

Plumbers too came from most Glasgow hospitals, and hospital engineers' senior shop stewards. They all pledged support and saw the move as the possible start of an action to secure an increase in basic rate for all hospital craftsmen.

The strikers are solid, and intend to spread the action. They need support from other areas—particularly London hospitals. It could be a big step forward for hospital workers.

Messages to support and cash to Strike Committee, 81 Carlton Place, Glasgow.



Jean Gerard of Tower Hamlets addresses the rally

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.

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

TWO AMERICANS looking for London flat for June and July 1974. Prefer North London but not essential. Reply to Julia Wrigley, 1217 Rutledge Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, USA.

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

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.

DEMONSTRATION and rally in support of the Shrewsbury workers jailed on conspiracy charges. Organised by Stafford Trades Council. Speakers include Elsie Warren and Audrey Wise MP. Saturday 20 April, 2.30pm, Victoria Sq, Stafford.

HARROW/HILLINGDON Socialist Women's Group forum: History of the women's movement. Monday 6 May, 8pm, Baptist Church, College Road, Harrow. For further information call Jacky, 01-204 3358.

THE WORKER (paper of the Socialist Workers Movement): April edition now out. Articles on the wage freeze, Ireland and the Labour government, Industrial Relations Court in Ireland, the Waterford glass strike, the impotency of the Northern Assembly, plus reports from Dublin, Galway, Cork, etc. Order (price 5p) from The Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

FISH OUT OF WATER. Important documents Towards the Development of The Revolutionary Movement. Pamphlet available at most left bookshops or send 18p to: Autonomous Revolution, Box Number 253, c/o Rising Free, 197 King's Cross Road, London WC1.

REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS RALLY organised by International Marxist Group. Saturday 4 May, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Further information from IMG Student Commission, 97 Caledonian Road, London N1.

JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 20 April, 2.30pm. Whittington Park Community Hall, Yerbury Road, London N19. Books, clothes, assorted jumble.

BLACK comrade needs room urgently anywhere in North London. Phone Lynford 807 4812.

ROOM, house, flat share needed urgently in North London for female comrade. Phone 485 9282.

LABOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE CRISIS—Social Contract or Social Conflict? Public meeting, Monday 22 April, 7.30pm, Small Hall, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC2. Organised by the London Group, Communist Federation of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

DARLINGTON—Marxism and Communism, a course of six meetings, organised by Darlington WEA and Durham University. Starting Friday 3 May, 7.15pm, Ingleside College of Education, Trinity Road, Darlington. Course fee 60p.

MARCH AGAINST THE HOUSING ACT: Saturday 27 April, 2pm. Assemble at Charlton House, London SE7. Clay Cross councillors and pipe band. Organised by Greenwich Tenants and Residents Campaign Committee.

FREE THE SHREWSBURY SIX EAST KENT delegate conference. Saturday 20 April, 10.30-4.30pm, Aylesham Working Men's Club (The Legion). Credentials from Southdown NUM, Snowdown Colliery, Kent, or at the door. Delegate fee 50p. Open to observers. Open to all trade unions, trades councils and political organisations. Force Labour to free the six—support the conference

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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:
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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.

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Strike forces lump boss to back down

EAST LONDON:—The 50 strikers at the Greater London Beale Road site at Bow voted to return to work on Tuesday this week after management had agreed to make important concessions. These include a phased end to lump employment, increased bonuses and new targets on the job.

510 flats are being built there, on one of London's largest sites. The Labour-controlled GLC's stated policy is against the use of 'lump' labour on their sites. But the contractors, Thomas McNemey, who have GLC jobs throughout the capital, are notorious lump employers. Seven in ten of the Beale Road workers are on the lump.

The strikers demanded the end of the lump, as well as a guaranteed £1 an hour. Their case against the lump is unanswerable. The pressure on the lump workers to complete in the shortest possible time leaves brickwork buckled, flats out of line, leaking roofs—in short—homes that become slums within months.

All the strikers say is confirmed by tenants on a nearby estate recently completed by McNemey. The tenants there have sent messages of support to the strikers, accompanied by long lists of the shoddy work in their homes.

Safety, as on lump sites everywhere,

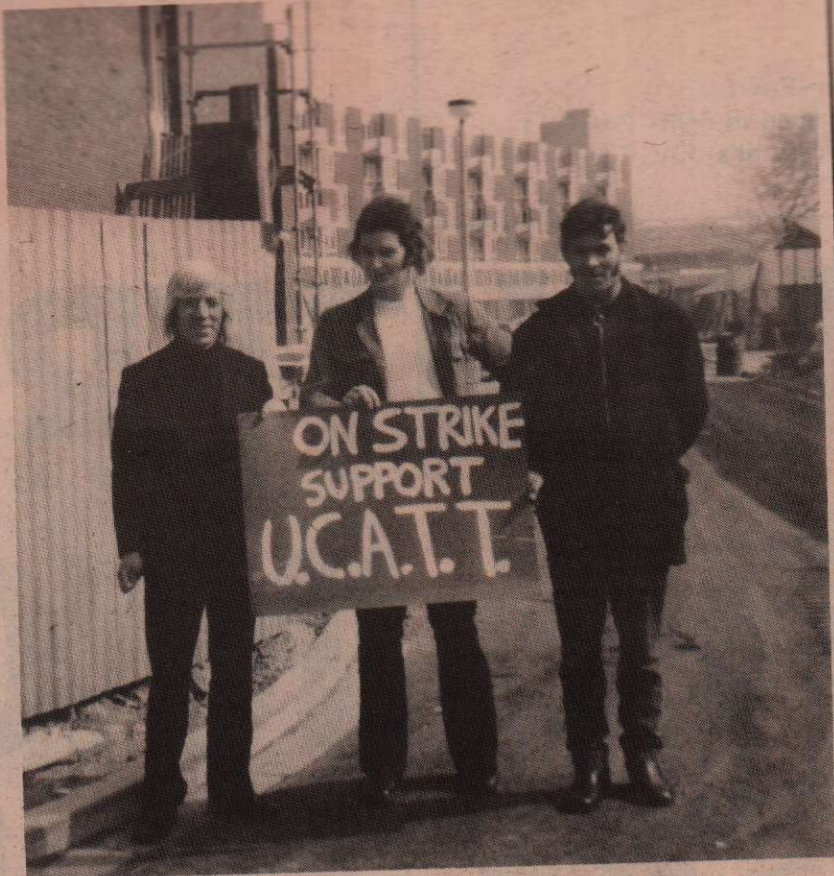
is appalling. Scaffolding is rickety, trenches left unshored. A foreman was killed last year while working at the bottom of an unshored 16ft trench. There is no permanent safety officer at the site, and first aid equipment is totally inadequate.

The need for effective union organisation is pressing. In the past four years more than 1000 labourers have passed through the site. There are different rates paid for the same job, to split the workers as they move from one site to another.

Militant

The GLC claims to be 'pressing to have some change in the situation', but so far there is no sign of this 'pressure' reaching Beale Road. Clearly, if shoddy work is to be eliminated, and the high danger level reduced, militant action is the only answer.

McNemey's, despite an employer-union joint panel recommendation, refused to negotiate until the men returned. But the men were unanimous in staying out. Dave Dobbs, the site convenor, insisted they'd stay out till a backdated bonus of £50 each is paid, till the lump is forced off the site and a guaranteed wage is assured. This policy has paid off.



Pickets on part of the GLC site last week

Militant teachers chalk up success

by Leni Solinger (NUT)

THE national conference of the National Union of Teachers began last Saturday with the biggest ever number of militant delegates. More than 100 attended the pre-conference tactics meeting organised by Rank and File, the militant teachers' organisation.

But although our strength is growing, conference is still very much dominated by head teachers and the executive, which is itself mostly head teachers.

The most important decisions so far concern salaries. Rank and File's two newly-elected executive members, Dick North and Beth Stone, moved and seconded a motion calling for an interim pay award of £500 by October 1974.

This was opposed by Max Morris, NUT president and a member of the Communist Party, speaking on behalf of the executive. He urged everyone to vote against this 'frivolous, ill thought-out' motion because the executive had a better policy.

The executive position, endorsed later in the conference, called for our claim to be referred to the Relativities Board and negotiations with management to be reopened. It mentioned neither an amount of money nor a date.

The call for an interim award was heavily defeated.

Strength

Later in the day future salary policy was discussed. Rank and File again tried to give a positive strategy. Nobby Clarke, a Communist Party member, moved a Rank and File-inspired amendment against all incomes laws and wage control and calling for local action committees, alliances with other workers and extended strike action if our claim wasn't met.

The executive again opposed this with arguments such as that some incomes legislation is 'good', a reference to Labour's pensions increases and equal pay. Local action committees, it was said, 'are potentially too militant'. Unfortunately the conference again followed the wishes of the executive.

The last aspect of salaries dealt with at conference was a report from the executive that they are calling London teachers out on a half-day strike on Monday 29 April. We will lobby parliament over the London allowance claim.

This move is in response to the massive pressure put on the executive by London teachers. The executive is also organising a strike ballot which must result in a massive vote for strike action.

Rank and File did win an important victory at the conference. A motion calling for elementary rights for union representatives—time off for union business and access to a telephone—was carried.

This is the first time Rank and File have won a motion against the combined strength of the right wing, the Communist Party and the executive at a national conference. It won't be the last.

Reg Prentice, the new Secretary for Education, addressed the conference on Tuesday. He had little to offer.

There was no promise to restore the £182 million education cuts inflicted by the Tory government before Christmas. There was no promise to meet our claim for increased London allowances or to accelerate the rate of teacher training. His only commitment was to comprehensive education, which is easily given and which will still be starved of funds.

Action over 'safety' floor

by an Evans Medical worker

LIVERPOOL:—After months of pleading, action is at last being taken to improve safety conditions at Evans Medical in Speke. The firm hit the headlines two years ago when one of its glucose products became infected and resulted in the deaths of five people in Devonport Hospital.

Management have agreed to remove a treacherous so-called 'safety floor', which is like an ice rink when wet and has been the cause of many minor accidents.

You might think this story proves that constant nagging and pleading with management pays off in the end. Not so. The day before the management decision, Chris Groome, a shop steward in the ointment department, slipped and knocked himself unconscious.

Same old bosses' tactics: wait until someone gets hurt, then clean up before the factory inspector arrives.

Step forward at Heinz

NORTH LONDON:—Last week Heinz workers in Harlesden held a mass meeting over their pay claim. International Socialists have been urging such a meeting for months to give real bargaining power to the Transport union negotiators and to the campaign to democratise the union.

For many workers it was their first time they had participated in union activities.

The Transport and General Workers Union local branch had become isolated from its membership. This was reflected in the meeting's vote for a Phase Three settlement. The original demand had been for a £7 across the board wage rise.

Inexperience left too much of the meeting's organisation in management hands. There were no speeches from the floor, and the only speaker—the convenor failed to put over the union position with any confidence.

Many at the meeting were vehemently opposed to Phase Three and the union is committed to renegotiate when it is lifted. Management is worried but we've got to keep up the pressure—and build a fighting leadership in the branch.

Rail union sticks by Phase 3

THE 'social contract' agreed between the railmen's union (NUR) and the Labour government was outlined by Sidney Weighall, NUR assistant general secretary last week.

He told the union's North London District Committee that in return for a promise to repeal the Industrial Relations Act and the Housing Finance Act and to increase pensions, the NUR had accepted a £33 million annual pay offer—within Phase Three.

The offer includes a 7 per cent increase in the basic wage (9.4 per cent for the lower grades), a threshold clause, a commitment to equal pay and an increase in the London allowance. It totals just over 10 per cent.

Weighall also called for unity over

the £52 million pay restructuring proposals. Negotiations over these have been going on for years now.

Improved

The NUR executive is willing to accept the deal with a few minor improvements, but the train drivers' union ASLEF feels the amount offered comes nowhere near to paying for the increased productivity and responsibility of the job and is refusing to sign the agreement. Unless the offer is improved, ASLEF is sure to resume the industrial action called off before the election at the request of Harold Wilson.

Because all pay offers are now

submitted jointly by the three unions involved—NUR, ASLEF and the white collar TSSA—ASLEF's stand is angering the other unions, who cannot get the increase until ASLEF signs.

By urging the unity of railwaymen without fighting for an increased offer, the NUR executive is in reality uniting with the British Railways Board against ASLEF.

Railwaymen rely on Sunday working, night-shift working and overtime to make up their wages. The chance is now there to end this and get a living wage for a 40-hour week. Unfortunately the NUR executive is more interested in solving the problems of the Labour government.

NO OVERTIME SAY ENGINEERS -BUT NO STRIKE

by Steve Jefferys

predictably told his engineering shop stewards on 5 April that his 'executive council have decided not to support the call for an overtime ban'.

This is because they believe 'the EEF has offered what Stage Three would permit'. And Hugh Scanlon, president of the AUEW, informed Minister of Employment Michael Foot last week that he would be prepared to drop the elements of the claim which did breach Phase Three if the employers would implement the monetary side.

DEMANDED

This, he has pointed out several times, would add very little to the wage bill. The vast majority of engineering workers are covered by bonus and local agreements which mean their present earnings are already above the new minimum rates demanded.

The EEF realise this is the case. But since last August they haven't wanted to reach a settlement. A majority of the employers now wish to see an end to the two tier, national and local, system of wage negotiations. Their victory in the

1971-73 plant-by-plant 'campaign' launched by the engineering union has encouraged them to think that if they stand firm now they will score another victory.

Negotiations with the EEF have now started up again under the auspices of Michael Foot who is due to speak to the Engineering unions national committee next week. Engineering workers must demand: no retreat on the full claim—spread industrial action to all engineering workers—step up the overtime ban to a national strike.

Labour blacklegs

LONDON:—Islington's Labour-controlled council is advertising for blacklegs.

The 'socialist' councillors want to break a ban by the government officers' union NALGO on election work, and have been touting in London evening papers for scab poll clerks.

Islington's NALGO strike committee has appealed to trade unionists not to touch the work. Polling day in Islington will be Thursday 2 May.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____

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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS

by Arthur Affleck
chairman of Joint Shop
Stewards Committee,
Lackenby Works, and of the
Iron and Steel Confederation
No 2 Division



Steel: Thousands face sack

A SHORT statement from the British Steel Corporation on the day before the Easter holiday will mean that more than a thousand of us will lose our jobs unless we fight.

South Teesside Works management have announced cuts in production which will mean the sacking of a quarter to a third of the workforce in most parts of South Teesside.

The Basic Oxygen Steel (BOS) plant at Lackenby is to be reduced from three vessels to two. Cleveland No 9 mill is to be cut from 21 rolling shifts to 15. Lackenby Primary and Beam Mill is also to be slashed from 21 shifts to 17.

Management have already

announced that one shift of more than 200 men will be laid off in this mill alone.

The concast bloomcluster at Lackenby will be cut down from 21 shifts to 15. Cleveland Electric Arc Plant will produce from two furnaces instead of three. Lackenby rod mills will be reduced from 15 shifts to 12.

No 2 Primary Mill is to be down from 21 shifts to 15. So is No 3 Primary Mill at Cleveland. There are also to be cut-backs at Cargo Fleet and at other mills in the South Teesside complex.

Although management refuse to

give detailed figures until 'plant-by-plant consultation' has taken place, we reckon that this means the axe for 1000 steelworkers—2000 would not be an exaggeration.

Why is all this happening at a time of acute shortage of finished steel products?

This is mainly because of the drastic shortage of iron and scrap from which steel is made. These shortages have been created by management incompetence.

In recent years, BSC have closed down every blast furnace supplying iron to Teesside except the Clay

Lane furnaces. They have closed all steel-making plants except the new BOS plant at Lackenby.

The BOS plant is not functioning properly—and in the opinion of most experts it never will—and the Clay Lane furnaces are in desperate need of relining.

We've been hanging around in the plants for hours waiting for delivery from these two plants, and up to now we've been getting 80 per cent of our earnings for 'waiting time'.

But now management want to introduce a massive relining programme, and they want to make us

pay for it. They want the same production they're getting now, but cuts of up to 25 per cent in the workforce.

And yet EVERYTHING which has caused this situation arises from their own incompetence. They make the mistakes. We have to pay for it with our jobs and livelihood.

RESISTANCE

Despite the Easter holidays, we have managed to arrange meetings of all the shop stewards involved to formulate a policy about these planned sackings.

I've called this article The Slaughter of the Innocents because last time the Corporation sacked hundreds of workers in Teesside, there was no organised resistance. Everyone just accepted what had happened as though it were inevitable. The Corporation hope this will happen again.

They hope that we will hand them their redundancies on a plate.

We must say no. We must insist that these redundancies are delayed at least until a full inquiry has been carried out into their cause and the full facts are made available at shop floor level.

Steelworkers are bitter and demoralised about the industry. There is no stability, no security and the wages are pathetic.

I think—and hope—the bosses have bitten off more than they can chew this time.

Scots TUC militancy?

Shhh...

THE 77th annual congress of the Scottish Trades Union Congress opened in Rothesay this week with the agenda brimming over with militant resolutions denouncing wage control, the Pay Board and laws against picketing.

The resolutions were framed when the Tory government was in office. Now that Labour is in power the heated opposition to wage controls and anti-picketing laws is being toned down by the General Council, which is appropriately lumping motions together through its standing orders committee.

The majority on the STUC General Council is composed of left-wing Labour and Communist Party members.

This year's president, Betty McIntyre, the Scottish secretary of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers, set the tone in her opening address on Tuesday.

'We appreciate the problems of embarking on an ambitious legislative programme. The first essential must be to secure the return of a Labour government with a substantial majority. We would then wish to see such a government assault wealth and privilege as no Labour government has done so far.'

Sit-in,
then
a lockout
-strikers
fight on



Two of the locked-out workers outside the factory. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

NORTH WEST LONDON:—200 members of the Engineers Union, mostly Pakistanis, have been battling for four weeks at Punfield and Barstow, first as a sit-in then a lock-out.

Convenor Syed Sujjad Hussain told Socialist Worker: 'After management broke off negotiations over payment for the three-day week, our members—apart from the finishing shop—sat in.' After a fortnight, the workers left the factory to see their

families at the weekend. On the Monday they found themselves locked out—except for the offices and the finishing shop.

The office workers are mainly white. The finishing shop are mainly white women members of the AUEW. Despite official district support for the dispute, the finishing shop, with their steward, have been crossing the picket line.

An Italian shop steward involved in the dispute claims management are

trying to use racialism to divide the factory: 'They are always trying to get at the Pakistanis. They treat them as second-class people.'

He is furious that the union district is keeping out of the way. 'No action has been taken against the woman shop steward who crosses the picket line and gets the rest of her shop to cross. She can't claim ignorance—her husband is an officer of the local branch.'

The workers have been sent their cards, and threatened with closure of the factory. They are very critical of the support they've had from the district. Advice has been almost nil.

Police harassment is another problem. Nasim Rajah, an AUEW member, tells the story: 'We were standing outside the factory when six

police cars came screaming up. They accused us of trying to set fire to the place. They claimed management had tipped them off.'

'They started sniffing our hands and bodies, and crawled sniffing on the ground... Before they let us go, they told us to get back to Pakistan as we were black bastards and troublemakers.'

Last Thursday the workers occupied the factory. This threw the bosses in a panic. They started talks—and called in the police, who intimidated the occupiers into leaving the factory.

Talks are supposed to start this week. Support is urgently needed.

Collections and messages to Syed Sujjad Hussain, 129 Streatfield Road, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.

FUND: KEEP THE MONEY COMING IN

MORE and more our lives are being watched over by the government. In Ireland the SAS operate secretly. Last year the Tories set up a special anti-picket police force—and it is still maintained by Labour. This week we hear of the Special Branch masquerading as travelling salesmen in the Strachans factory near Southampton.

If you try telling this to some of your workmates or friends they'll probably think you're mad. Nevertheless these facts exist. Our problem is to make sure that these scandals are widely reported and campaigned against in Socialist Worker.

For that we need your financial help. This week's postbag raised £353.24, bringing the Fighting Fund total to £877.29. This includes: Glasgow Corporation Electrical Workshops £4, TGWU Power Engineers £5, Kent miners £1, Wythenshaw IS branch £15, Heinz Socialist Worker Group £7, Tyneside IS £16, Barnet IS £27, Clydebank IS £5, Manchester IS £12, Bath IS £13, Cambridge IS £15, Bradford IS £20, Exeter IS £10, Deptford IS £20.

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