

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## 4000 engineers strike for the nurses

by John Beadle

TASS worker at C A Parsons, Newcastle upon Tyne

**MORE THAN 4000** manual workers at C A Parsons engineering factory came out on a one-hour strike on Tuesday in support of the nurses.

They were responding to leaflets put into the factory by nurses from three Newcastle hospitals. These said: 'We understand that you too are fighting for a wage claim. Why not protest at your own wages by marching with us? We should show solidarity with each other.'

The next morning one of our stewards rang the police about the march. 'Oh, that,' said the police. 'That will be nothing. There won't be anyone on the march.'

In fact well over half the manual workers walked out, and, led by nearly 100 nurses in uniform, we marched up through the Shields Road shopping centre and massed on some waste ground, where we gave a series of rousing cheers for the nurses and their cause.

It was a great demonstration—and a slap in the eye for the police, the hospital managements, the government and our management. Workers everywhere should do the same.

### COME TO THE RANK AND FILE NURSES' CONFERENCE

PAM DENARD, a state registered nurse from North London and a supporter of Hospital Worker, will be chairing the Rank and File Nurses' Conference in Manchester this Saturday.

The national conference is being called in Manchester to set up a National Coordinating Committee of Nurses. We will be trying to co-ordinate the action to be taken and to work out a national pay claim. The present pay claim of 55 per cent does not answer the needs of most nurses.

'Yes, we need more pay and we will suggest, to start with, a £30 minimum for the lowest grade of nurses, and that same increase—£12-a-week across-the-board—for all nurses.'

'We cannot afford to allow the Health Service to disintegrate in the way that it has been over the past few years. We have had no leadership from professional bodies or unions so it is essential we build a strong rank and file movement if we are to win any change.'

The conference will start in the University Debating Hall, Oxford Road, Manchester, at 1.30pm.

# TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND!

**THE COLLAPSE of the Northern Ireland Executive and the resignation of Chief Executive Brian Faulkner last Tuesday was a victory for the Ulster Workers Council's general strike. This victory brings no comfort to the mass of trade unionists in Britain or in Ireland.**

It has been a reactionary strike. The long-term aim of the Ulster Workers Council is to restore full Protestant supremacy in Northern Ireland. The Council wants to go back to the days when Protestants had first pick of jobs and houses. They want an organised system of state repression against Catholics.

That was the reality behind the appeals of Glen Barr and other members of the Ulster Workers Council to British trade unionists for support and solidarity with the strike.

They deserve no support. The society they want is one where one trade unionist is better off than another because of his religion.

## ACTION

It is tragic that a movement which has demonstrated the immense power of the working class has been directed to this reactionary end. Tragic, because the Ulster Workers Council and its supporters have proved that mass working-class action can do what all the bombings and assassinations have failed to do.

It paralysed a government which is backed by the biggest concentration of troops and police in the United Kingdom armed with savage special powers and supported by all the 'establishment' parties, Tory, Labour and Liberal. Yet this tremendous solidarity is directed towards sectarian ends. A third of the workers—the Catholics—play no part in it.

The British Labour government, whipped on by its supporters in the Northern Ireland government—the Social Democratic and Labour Party—sent in troops to distribute fuel and break the strike.

Many Labour supporters in Britain said British troops should be used to break the strike completely, and to pulverise the Ulster Workers Council.

These people argue that the religious extremism of workers in Northern Ireland is due to the 'backwardness' of the Irish people.

## PROFITS

**On the contrary. The divisions are the direct result of the exploitation of religious differences by the British rulers of Ireland over the past 200 years.**

Time and again the British have fanned the flames of Protestant extremism in order to divide the Irish people and make the plunder of Ireland that much easier.

Now there are more profits to be made in the South of Ireland than in the North. So extremist Protestant gangs on the streets of Belfast are an embarrassment to British industrialists. These industrialists supported a government of middle-class Catholics and Tory Protestants which they hoped would hold the workers down with the help of British troops.

That was the Sunningdale Agreement. That's what Wilson and Co wanted to defend against the sectarian Ulster Workers Council.

That too offered no comfort to Irish workers. It did not ensure an end to bigotry and religious differences. That is why socialists and trade unionists had to oppose the breaking of the strike by use of the same troops and governments which instituted sectarianism in the first place.

**So what can socialists and trade unionists in Britain do now?**

**They can concentrate all their efforts on getting the troops out of Ireland.**

Well-meaning people are persuaded that only the presence of British troops prevents pogroms, massacres and religious civil war.

In truth, the troops stoke up the hatred. They foster the illusion that a Protestant-dominated statelet can survive for ever. Extremist Protestants gain confidence from their presence. And the longer it all goes on, the more bitter the sectarian confrontation at the end of it.

The problems of Ireland will only be solved by Irish men and women. The one great contribution we can make in Britain is to force the withdrawal of British troops.

## ...and off the streets of Colchester too



SOLDIERS of the Black Watch Regiment getting in a little practice last week in Willett Road, Colchester, Essex.

Willett Road is just the sort of place top army leaders are paying more and more attention to—the sort of place where you live.

Last week's exercise came just 14 days after

the army promised they wouldn't stage any more of their little practice runs on Colchester housing estates.

An army spokesman had a convincing explanation for last week's outing. 'It appears these men have again unwittingly strayed off garrison land. All I can say is they are new to the area.'

## INSIDE

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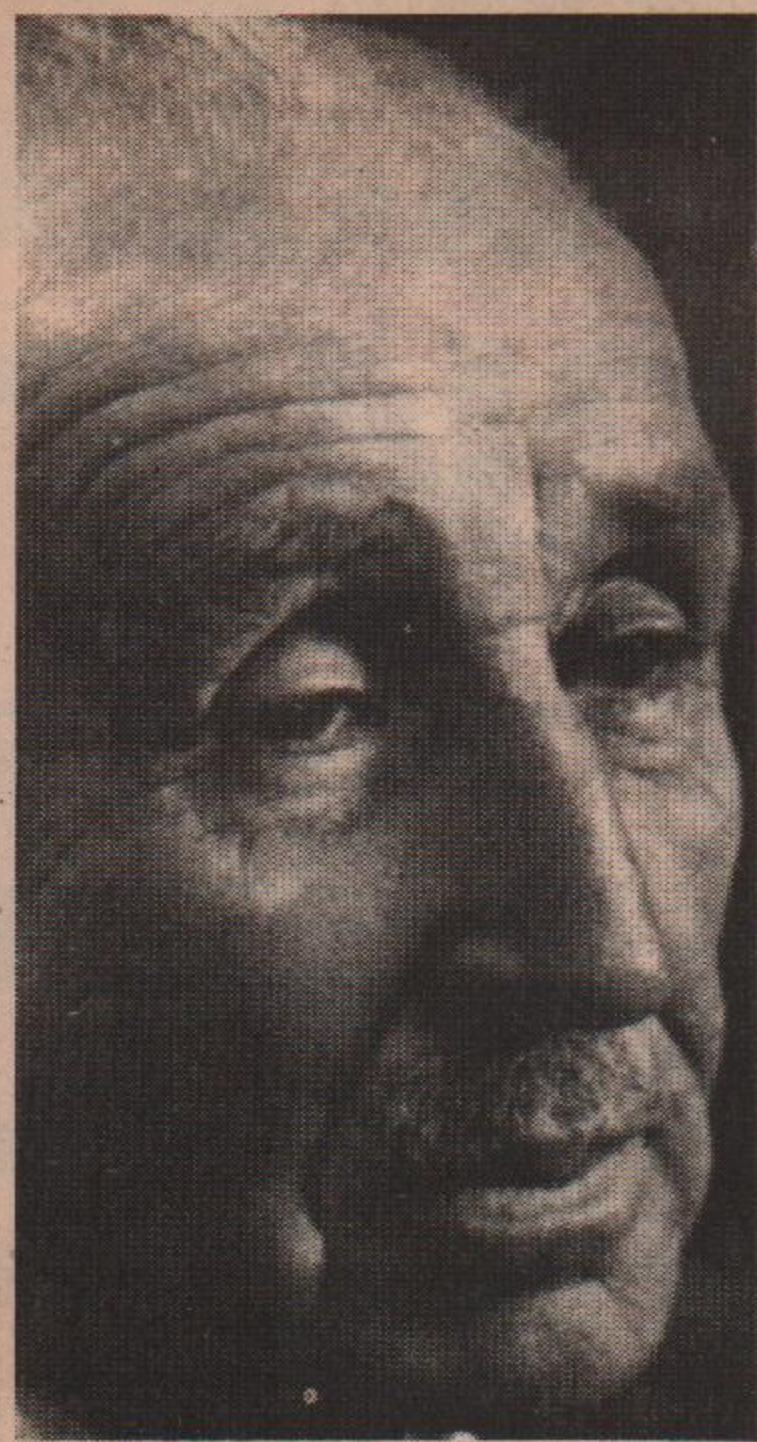
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**LORD BROOKEBOROUGH, Prime Minister 1943 to 1963:** 'There are a number of Protestants and Orangemen who employed Roman Catholics. I feel I can speak freely on the subject as I have not had a Roman Catholic about my own place. I appreciate the great difficulty experienced by some of you in procuring suitable Protestant labour, but I would point out that Roman Catholics are endeavouring to get in everywhere, I appeal to Loyalists therefore wherever possible to employ good Protestant lads and lassies.'

# The British bully in Ireland

**HAROLD WILSON, in his television speech last Saturday, said: 'We will not talk to thugs and bullies, who are trying to set up a state in which a third of the population has no say.'**

The main thugs and bullies who have consistently denied a third of the Northern Ireland people a say over the past 50 years have been members of British governments, Labour and Tory.

Religious divisions in Ireland did not arise out of the blue. They were planted, financed and fanned by industrialists and landlords, British and Irish.

Over the past 400 years, these landlords and industrialists have plundered Ireland. They have driven the Irish people to persistent poverty, famine and emigration. When the Irish resisted, no savagery was spared to put them down.

The Orange Order, and the creed of Protestant supremacy, has played a crucial role in this process. Whenever the Irish people united against the British government, industrialists and landowners, Orange supremacy was promoted by government, industrialists and landlords.

The Order was founded in 1795, four years after the foundation of the United Irishmen in Belfast whose purpose was to unite Protestants and Catholics to achieve 'the rights of man in Ireland'. With British money and

landlords' assistance, the Orange Order helped to weaken the United Irishmen in the North of Ireland.

Throughout the last century, the monied interests of Britain and Ireland put their money and their press behind lunatic parsons who stomped Belfast and the north east of Ireland with the message that Protestants were better than Catholics, and deserved privileges from them.

Every time the resistance to British imperialism threatened to sweep the North, the industrialists and the parsons whipped up religious hate and murder. It happened when the Young Ireland movement rose in 1848, when the Fenians rose in 1867 and when Michael Davitt's Land League enrolled thousands of tenants, Protestant and Catholic, in the early 1880s. Each time a holy war was sponsored in the two north eastern counties by the men of property on both sides of the Irish Sea.

In February 1886, the British Tory leader Lord Randolph Churchill came

to Belfast 'to play', as he put it, 'the Orange card'.

He deliberately incited the Protestants to violence.

'If the dark hour comes when you have to fight against Home Rule,' he told them, 'there will not be wanting to you those of position and influence in England who are willing to cast in their lot with you—whatever it may be—and who will share your fortune.'

## Law and order meant terror

**WHEN the Liberal government tried to pass a Bill to make all Ireland independent in 1912, the industrialists, landlords, and the army refused to support the government. The Tory Party and its rich financiers supported the formation of the illegal Ulster Volunteers.**

Under the leadership of a leading Tory, Lord Carson, the Protestants armed to fight for the 'link with Britain' which, they were told, was the only means of defending their Protestant supremacy. 'Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right,' said Carson, and by fight, this Tory 'law and order' demagogue meant armed insurrection.

The movement for independence could not be stopped by Britain in the South. So Britain let the South go. But by whipping up Protestant sectarianism in the North, they ensured the partition of Ireland, and the rich industries of the North were safe in the British sector.

In the South was created an 'independent' Ireland, whose government was almost entirely dominated by the Catholic Church.

In the North was created what its first Prime Minister, Lord Craigavon, called 'a Protestant Parliament for a Protestant people.'

A third of the population of this 'Protestant state' were Catholics. They were bullied and discriminated into

## IT WAS TRUE THEN... AND IT'S TRUE NOW

**WHEN the idea of dividing Ireland between the industrial, largely Protestant North and the rural, predominantly Catholic South was first suggested, many nationalists argued that it was a 'good deal' and that the North was 'better off' with Britain anyway.**

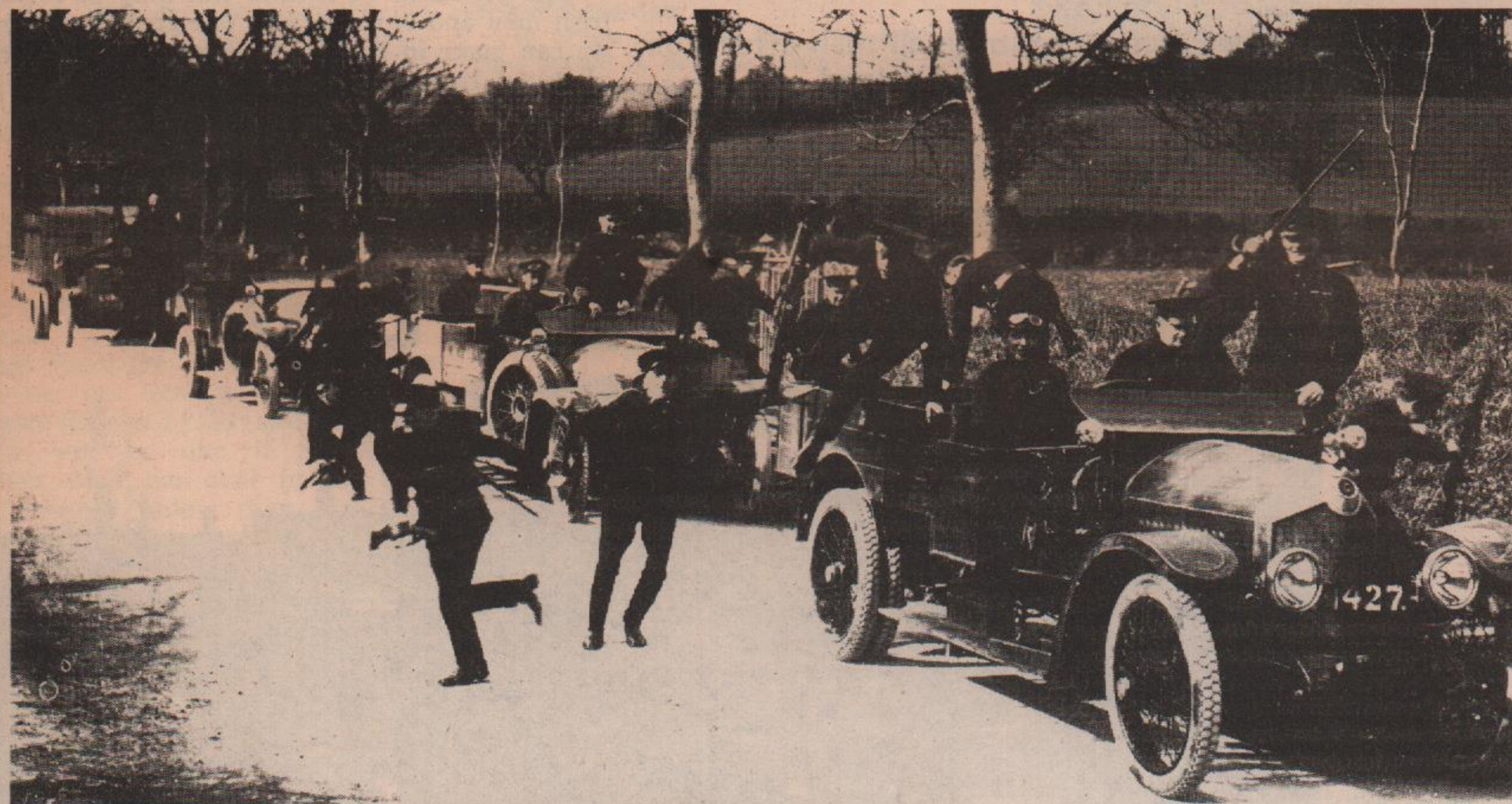
James Connolly argued passionately against this nonsense. He wrote that he would rather the whole Home Rule Bill was defeated than to see it carried with Ulster or any part of Ulster left out. In the Irish Worker of 14 March 1914 he wrote about partition:

'Such a scheme . . ., the betrayal of the national democracy of industrial Ulster, would mean a carnival of reaction North and South would

set back the wheels of progress, would destroy the oncoming unity of the Irish Labour movement and paralyse all advanced movements whilst it endured.'

And in Forward on 21 March 1914, he wrote:

'Such a scheme would destroy the Labour movement by disrupting it. It would perpetuate in a form aggregated in evil the discord now prevalent, and help the Home Rule and Orange capitalists and clerics to keep their rallying cries before the public as the political watchwords of the day. In short, it would make division more intense and confusion of ideas and parties more confounded.'



THEN AS NOW: The 'A' Specials on exercise in 1922 . . .

## Beware of the police force's new 'toy'

by Glennis Tew

THERE'S a nice new 'toy' on the market designed to 'aid the police'. It is produced by Photo-Scan of Shepperton, Middlesex, and is a small, compact photo-recorder which simultaneously photographs documents placed before it, and the face

of the person presenting the document.

At a cost of about £375—peanuts to most firms—a company can not only take a copy of, for example, your insurance cards, but can get a nice snap of you into the bargain, presumably without you knowing. The photograph can then be filed away for future reference 'for police use should a criminal discrepancy arise'—and 'no doubt' for anyone else who wants to check up on you.

The uses of the machine are endless—shops, banks, law courts, car-hire firms. It's not hard to imagine the use that personnel offices, employment exchanges or social security offices will make of this.

Each separate film can record 1500 separate pictures and the makers will process and store the photographs if required. You can just imagine the categories on this 'library' shelf—trade unionist, Irish, black, striker . . .

So don't look surprised if the authorities ask you to say 'cheese'. Just give them a few other well chosen words to go with it.

## ANOTHER CALL FOR BLACKING

**THE executive of the Transport Workers Union has been called on to start a campaign for the blacking of all exports from Britain to the military junta in Chile. The call has been made by the union's 10/39 branch, in Hull, which sent a resolution expressing deep concern at the lack of solidarity being shown to Chilean trade unionists being tortured and executed by the junta.**

A four-page leaflet on the blacking of trade with Chile is being produced by the International Socialists which includes the list of firms published in last week's Socialist Worker and putting the arguments why the blacking is so vital for Chilean trade unionists. It costs 2p per copy (postage 5p for any number of copies) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## Dockers' leaflet unmasks the racists

**THE National Front faced one major problem in their campaign for last week's Newham South by-election. A group of dockers banded together to put out leaflets attacking the Front and showing them up for what they are—a racist menace.**

The dockers' leaflet drew attention to the association of leading National Front members with various Nazi organisations and generally warned working-class people to have nothing to do with them.

The Front's reactions were near-hysterical. One young man who was giving out the leaflets was forced to get into NF parliamentary candidate Michael Lobb's white Rover car and taken down to the police station. Five NF heavies threatened one docker who was giving out the leaflets on a council estate.

Lobb also organised a vigorous protest against the 'unfounded' smears on his organisation. The support of the local newspaper, the Newham Recorder, was immediately forthcoming. Its front page lead last Thursday denounced the 'cowardly'

attacks and smears on the National Front.

'Law and order' Lobb told the Recorder that he had proof that young schoolchildren were being paid to give out the leaflets.

The reason Lobb jumped to this absurd conclusion about his opponents is simple. He uses such methods himself. He pays young schoolchildren to skip school and do his dirty work for him.

Lobb paid a 13-year-old lad from Dongola Road, Plaistow, to keep watch outside the house of Pauline and Michael Fenn, who have both been active in the fight against the Front.

The boy—whose name we are withholding so he does not get into trouble with the school authorities—admitted to Michael Fenn that he was to 'watch for leaflets' and 'look out for any coloured visitors'.

All this has been reported to the police, who show precisely no interest in the matter. But they are looking into complaints against socialists in Newham made by those law and order lovers, the National Front.

### DEMONSTRATION Sunday 16 June FULL SUPPORT TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN AFRICA

Total independence from  
Portugal NOW  
Solidarity with the  
Portuguese people

Assemble 2pm, Speakers Corner,  
march to Trafalgar Square rally with  
speakers from FRELIMO, Portugal  
and the British labour movement.  
All IS branches and IS student  
societies in London and Home  
Counties to support with trade union  
banners and placards

# boys

subservience. The electoral boundaries were rigged to ensure that even in Derry, where the vast majority of the population were Catholics, the Protestants held control. Catholics were ruthlessly discriminated against in houses and in jobs.

A terror squad of special police, called the 'B' Specials, was created in order to keep the Catholics down. In 1922, the B-men and other Protestant gangs, aided by British troops, ran riot through the Catholic areas, killing 232 people, wounding more than 1000 and causing more than £3 million worth of damage.

## Workers kept divided

EVERY TIME the workers of Northern Ireland have threatened to unite across the religious divide, the British and Northern Ireland government promoted an orgy of Orange violence.

An unemployed workers' demonstration which united Belfast Catholics and Protestants in 1932 was put down by British troops, who shot two workers and wounded 55.

In 1935, the regime again unleashed its thugs and bully-boys on the Catholic areas. Twelve Catholics were killed, 500 or more injured and 300 Catholic houses were burnt down.



JOHN ANDREWS, Prime Minister 1940-1943: 'I have investigated the 31 porters employed at the newly-opened parliament buildings at Stormont. I have found that there are 30 Protestants and only one Roman Catholic—there temporarily.' (Belfast Newsletter, 13 July, 1933)

The British Tory government refused even to set up an inquiry into these outrages.

The sectarian Orange state with its racist special police, its gerrymandered voting system and periodic mass murders was supported throughout by British governments, Labour and Tory.

In 1924, Labour's Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald helped fix the Irish border with the Orange mogul, Sir James Craig. In 1949, Labour's Government of Ireland Act wrote the Orange state into the law of the land.

Labour politicians agreed with the Tories that the people of Northern Ireland had a 'democratic right' to their separate state.

But a state which is set up on the basis of the domination of one religious group by another is the opposite of democracy. It means the permanent persecution of the minority.

## Then things changed

IN THE 1950s and 1960s, the economic situation in Ireland gradually changed. The old industries of the North started to die. The profits from linen and shipbuilding fell.

At the same time, British investment and profits in the South increased. By 1965, when British Prime Minister Wilson met Southern Irish Prime Minister Sean Lemass, there was more to be made for British industrialists and financiers in the South than there was in the North.

In that situation, the Orange Order and Protestant supremacy became an embarrassment to the British.

There was no longer any need to divide Ireland up into the rich part (British) and the poor part (Irish). Now the British government and its paymasters started to dream of a united capitalist Ireland in which men and women of both religions worked together for the benefit of their employers.

So the British government tried to contain the fury of the Catholic minority—by pulverising the IRA. At the same time it said to the Protestants:

'All this propaganda which we have given you for the past 400 years—this theory that you are better than the Catholics, that you should get better jobs and schools and houses than the Catholics—that's all a lot of rubbish. You have to get rid of that now, and learn to live together as equals.'

For 50 years the Protestant workers of Northern Ireland had been encouraged to put up with the worst wages, the worst unemploy-



LORD CRAIGAVON, Prime Minister 1921-1940: 'This is a Protestant parliament for a Protestant people.'



TERENCE O'NEILL, Prime Minister 1963-1969: In 1959, his wife advertised in the press for a 'Protestant girl' to be a housemaid.

ment and the worst housing conditions in the United Kingdom.

Their only cause of comfort was that they were Protestants and supported as such by the British government. Their bands and pipes and murders were part of being British.

Now the British government was offering them the same wages, the same unemployment and the same housing—and were taking away their privileges as Protestants.

It does not work. You cannot encourage sectarian thuggery for 400 years, and then switch it off with a tap.

You cannot underwrite an Orange statelet in which Catholics are deprived of their rights for 50 years—as the British Labour Party did—and then whine on television about people who deprive a 'third of the population of their rights'.

The Protestants want their supremacy back. They are prepared to use everything at their disposal to get it back.

This deeply reactionary movement will not be put down by hypocritical rhetoric on television. It will never be won round to 'moderate' opinion, which has nothing to offer the Protestant workers but 'moderate' exploitation.

It will only be defeated by socialist argument and organisation within the Irish working-class movement.

It will only be defeated by constantly comparing the illusory economic advantages of Protestant supremacy with the enormous advantages which can be won if the workers act together.

It will only be defeated by consistently arguing that industrial action of the type which is now being taken in the North of Ireland could win a whole new world for the Irish people.

Reactionary politics in the working-class movement will never be defeated by the state machine which promoted them in the first place. It will only be defeated by consistent socialist argument and organisation within the working class.

## A thundering silence from the Republicans

IN THE middle of the biggest political crisis in Ireland this century, the Official Republican Headquarters at the edge of the Bogside, Derry, was closed on Monday on account of the Whitsun holidays, it was explained.

A more likely explanation is that the Official Republicans have no policy whatsoever on the crisis and so no reason to open up shop.

From the socialist point of view the most significant sound in Derry is the thundering silence from the national leaders of both the Officials and the Provisionals. To date no authoritative statement has issued from either.

Half a dozen of the most active Officials in Derry have resigned in the past few weeks.

Terry Robson, the editor of the local Republican paper, The Starry Plough, says: 'The rank and file are just bewildered. We have been told for five years to campaign for civil rights. Anyone who wanted to go deeper was drummed out by the leadership. Now those who were loyal to the leadership are left to drift about with no guidance whatever. I've got out when I found I was avoiding people who might ask me what our line was.'

In a sense the Provisionals are better placed—slightly. Their fierce

# LETTER FROM DERRY

by Eamonn McCann

BARBECUED mince is not the most obvious dish for Sunday dinner but when mince is the only meat you can get and open-air bonfires the only means of cooking, you take to it quickly enough.

Around the bonfires the talk is of what will happen next, how many days the Executive has left and whether the Provos will be able to handle the situation if it comes to all-out civil war.

But Wilson's televised broadcast on Saturday night is the major topic of conversation—little of it printable. Indeed Mr Wilson is one of the few subjects about which Catholics and Protestants here seem to be agreed—Wilson's description of some of the people of Northern Ireland as 'spongers on British democracy' caused outrage.

'Sure what democracy have we ever had here, British or otherwise?' demanded Mrs Docherty, chief cook at the Lecky Road bonfire.

Indeed, Derry Catholics have had precious little for the past 50 years, and none at all for the past five. Protestants as well as Catholics are acutely aware that workers here pay taxes at the same level as in England, Scotland and Wales and, by working at cut price wages for Courtaulds, ICI and a hundred other firms, they are making a fair contribution to the coffers of British capitalism.

Catholic workers are, of course, opposed to the strikes but almost everyone in the Bogside is idle anyway. To get to the industrial estate at Maydown the Catholics have to go through the Protestant Waterside area. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week they found their way barred by UDA barricades.

Cars were stoned and some workers beaten up.

Police and soldiers stood by. Blast-bombs were thrown into factories where Catholics and some Protestants who had managed to get through were about to start work.

On Tuesday few set out for Maydown so the barricade-minders and the police, with nothing else to do, played football on the road.

Although against the stoppage, Catholic workers are learning lessons from it. The awesome power of the strike weapon suddenly revealed is food for thought and for conversation in every pub in the area.

'Christ, if we ever struck together like this,' the Du Pont shop steward still bearing the scars of battle told me. 'There isn't anything we couldn't get.'

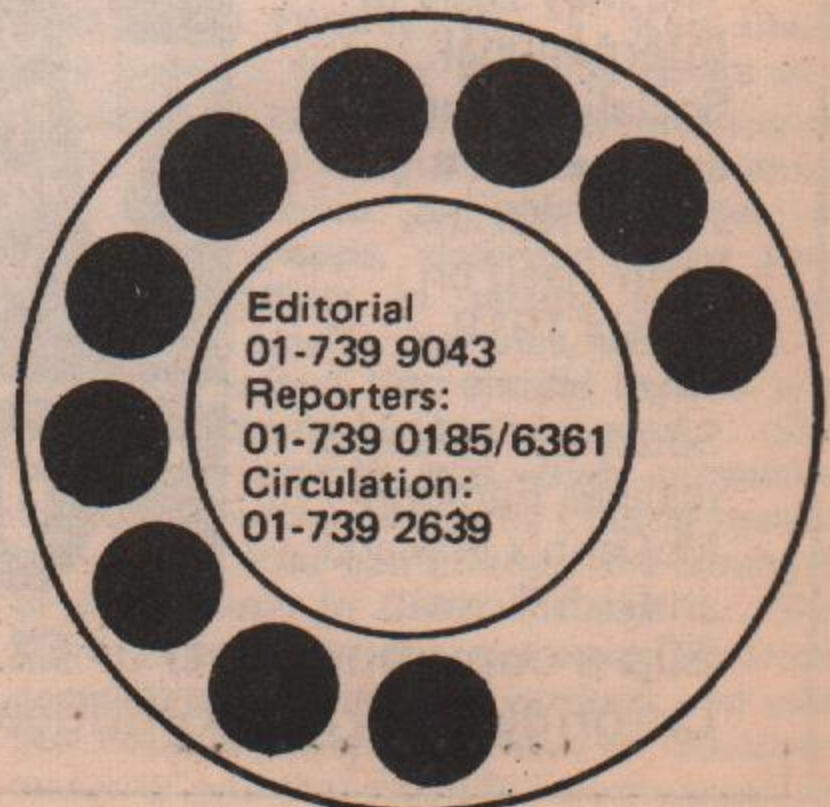
anti-British attitude at least provides a counter to the pleas of SDLP men Hume and Fitt for the army to move in and solve the problem for them.

But it does not go beyond that. As Terry Robson puts it: 'Those who have said all along that it was too early to take up the straight-forward socialist position that we had to wait for civil rights, for national unity or whatever, are completely exposed.'

'Republicans either have to fight a sharp quick battle to defeat these tendencies or do what I did—get out and look for a real socialist organisation.'



NOW AS THEN: 'B' Specials move in, Belfast 1968



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# LETTERS

## You're a wonderful fellow Mr Jones, Have a colour TV

THE EXPOSURE of Messrs Poulson and T Dan Smith was long overdue, but this type of corrupt activity is by no means confined to the 'top layer' of businessmen in this country. Working for the management of our firm (sorry, I can't mention names) has given me an insight into the devious way even small firms use their money and 'gifts' to gain contacts and work.

The rules of the 'game' are straightforward. First you entertain the customer—expensive lunches and trips to local nightclubs etc paid for by the firm to soften the customer up. Then come the favours: free repairs to his car, our lads sent to his home to carry out alterations and decorating free of charge, the list is endless. Once the contract is in the bag the gifts and favours have to be maintained or you lose the work to a rival firm who can offer more as 'inducements'.

At Xmas time, our firm looks like Santa's fairy grotto! Boxes of chocolates (for the wives), cigars, cigarettes, crates of booze, turkeys—you

name it, and we are made to wrap it up in pretty paper to send to our 'customers', and woe betide our firm if we leave someone out... it could literally break us. In 1972, our firm were thousands of pounds in the 'red', but management still spent £5000 on Christmas goodies. (The staff got a nice speech for the director and a glass of sherry!)

It's well known that a rival company secured a job by giving colour TV sets to the 'key' managers of a large local manufacturing firm. The lucky recipients no doubt treat these gifts as the 'perks' of the job.

All this may seem small fry compared to Mr Poulson and his 'friends', but even if the amounts of money differ, the principle is the same, the whole system is riddled with corruption from our boardroom to the Cabinet Office, and the jobs of people like you and me can quite easily rest on who's getting the biggest slice of the cake.—ANN WALKER, Coventry.

**Fight for the disabled in the union!**

THE RECENT article on the proposal for national insurance clerks rather than doctors to give sick notes, and the letters on disabled people in Socialist Worker show the Labour government's lack of concern for one of the weakest sections of the working class. Alf Morris, Minister for the disabled, has said *nothing* about the worsening situations of disabled and blind workers.

This resolution was passed by Bradford Trades Council in April and should be taken up by all trade unionists.

The previous government proposed, in a Consultative Document, to replace the legal requirements upon employers under the Disabled Persons' Employment Act to employ a certain proportion of disabled people, by mere regulations. The reason given, that most employers are breaking this law, is one more example of the fact that the dismantling of the 'Welfare State' is being done in the short-term interests of employers, bankers and landlords. We call upon all trade unionists to:

Ensure that employers clearly display the legally required and actual proportion of disabled workers employed so that trade unionists may enforce this law.

Ensure that in the case of the reorganisation of blind and disabled Sheltered Workshops the rates of the blind are not levelled down to those of the disabled.

Ensure that the direction of labour into or out of sheltered employment is immediately stopped.

Press the Minister for the disabled to withdraw the section of the Document recommending the replacement of the legal requirement.

Just as with the prevention of industrial injury and disease, only shop floor action and trade union solidarity, (not merely consultation and lobbying) will ensure that disabled workers can defend their wages and conditions in the present economic situation.

And only a revolutionary change in society will ensure that they get all that they need.—BOB KORNREICH, Bradford.

## Don't forget the rest of us

MAY I, as a radiographer, express my whole-hearted support for the cause of the nurses. I must, however, reprimand you for ignoring the plight of other hospital workers—for example my own profession.

Radiographers too are underpaid and often work in undesirable conditions to provide a 24-hour service for seven days a week, often having to deal single-handed with difficult and often seriously injured patients.

To earn the princely starting salary of £1343 (can you wonder we want more) we have to pass stiff exams in anatomy, patient care and electrical physics. We deal with radiation dosages and (in the therapeutic sector) radioactive isotopes. Student radiographers have a grant of £400 a year with no 'live-in' facilities.

Can you wonder we are disillusioned by the Health Service when we see the bureaucrats of the new Area Health Authorities gaining massive pay increases for no extra responsibilities? They don't have life 'in their hands'. We, like the nurses and other para-medical colleagues, do.—MRS A MITCHELL, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

# Solidarity from the hospital bed

AS A SHOP STEWARD, the present plight of the nurses has a direct impact on myself, as I'm a patient in a Coventry hospital on pelvic traction due to an injury at work. Never being hospitalised before I now have a first hand insight into what conditions nurses are working under in the wards.

It's the kind of insight that most hypocritical politicians who are always saying that the 'nurses' lot must be improved' don't get. They make sure that when they are ill, usually due to some excess or other, they are treated at private £100 a week-plus clinics with private specialists.

To say the system is breaking down is an understatement. Great modern up-to-date hospitals are built (sometimes) but they are expected to be staffed by nurses whose take-home pay, when compared with capitalism and its vast profits, are nothing more than slave wages.

While lying on my back in hospital the dialogue between patients on the whole welfare issue has orientated around one basic point—nurses' pay in relation to other sections of industry.

Mr Average Patient compares nurses' wages with miners, shift workers, car workers, etc.

But let's not fall into the trap of job content and wage comparisons. The decline of the welfare system is a direct result of the slave wages hypocritical governments have paid nursing staff over the years—indeed all hospital staff.

## A DEEP CONCERN - WITH PROFITS



The way forward is to smash the whole rotten capitalist system, and ensure that all working men and women get a fair deal.

I wonder how many MPs bother to go to mental hospitals or casualty wards to see the type of work nurses have to do? I bet you could count them on the fingers of one hand.—J McGARRY (AUEW convenor, Auto Machinery), Coventry.

I WOULD like to say something about Mr Edward Taylor's (MP for Glasgow Cathcart) opposition to Hugh Scanlon's call for blacking materials intended for the Chilean junta. He points out that the shipbuilding and aircraft industries depend on foreign orders and why should anyone place orders with a country that breaks contracts?

I would like to point out that people's lives and human rights depend on the blacking of those materials. As for breaking contracts, I imagine this would be nothing compared with the lies he told in the name of the Tory Party during his election campaign.

No, Mr Taylor, you're concerned only with profits and not with workers' security.

By the way, I see Harold Soref, vice-chairman of the Monday Club, wants to sue the National Union of Students for incitement to a breach of the peace during a talk at Oxford. I wonder if anyone will sue him for incitement to cause a riot in South Africa.—R MacFIE, Kirkby, Lancashire.

WHAT A SICK and unjust society we live in. Whilst the Labour government has agreed to increase the pay of the armed forces way and above the Phase Three norm, stubbornly refuses to pay the nurses and hospital staff a penny.

Where are the morals of these gentlemen when it appears to be easier for them to increase the pay of a professional killer than to pay a professional person to save a life.—BOB CROWTHER, Wakefield.

## A clean sheet

SIX MONTHS ago I was working as a third year student nurse in the children's ward of a hospital for the mentally handicapped. While I was there some of the kids on several occasions were unable to attend school because their knickers, trousers and jumpers were not returned from the hospital laundry.

If they were lucky enough to have some clothes to wear to school, on returning in the afternoon they would be disappointed by the fact that their beds had been made with towels instead of sheets. Towels being the only things that were returned from the laundry that day.

The next evening they would probably find sheets on their beds, but after their baths they would have to face the ordeal of being dried with sheets. Yes, you've guessed it! The sheets were the only things that came back from the laundry that day.

The nursing staff never blamed the people in the laundry for this

situation—at 55p per hour there were very few there. The ones that were working miracles getting the amount of laundry out that they did.

Working under these conditions I took home £72.00 per month. This was £8.00 per month more than the first year student working next to me doing the same work in the same situation.

That was six months ago, now we are starting to fight back. We are not asking for the world, just a living wage and some clean knickers, trousers, jumpers, sheets and towels.

Six months ago the Tories would not give us these things, and if the Labour government cannot give them to us either, we will all have to get together and run the show ourselves. It can't be that hard.—DAVE BRIDGE Southampton.

## Odd honeymoon

YES. THE nurses deserve our fullest support. As we all know Labour's continuation of Phase Three incomes policy means a reduction in all our living standards.

The 'honeymoon' period with the Labour government must be one of the oddest honeymoons of modern times—a honeymoon where rape is attempted.

And now Labour has the cheek to give the Army a £100 million pay rise. This is over the Phase Three limit and is exactly the same sum demanded by one of the nurses' unions. This only goes to show that Labour is prepared to pay more to kill people than keep them alive!—JULES TOWNSHEND, Manchester.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM  
Journal of the International Socialists



The May issue of International Socialism journal analyses Portugal. It also features John Reed on Russia 1918, Nigel Harris on Southern Asia and reviews Eamonn McCann's War and an Irish Town.

20p a copy (inc post) or £2.15 for a year from IS Journal, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

## PORTUGAL

Please keep your letters as short as possible, type them if you can, don't worry if you can't. But write on one side of the paper only, and space them wide so we can read them! Address them to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. All letters must be signed—but specify if you don't want your name published.

# Postal Points

## If this 'Mr Martin' knocks on your door...

I WAS INTERESTED to read your article (11 May) Ever Hear A Rat Speak, about the activities of people sent to spy on militants.

About 18 months ago a rather fatherly figure appeared at my door. He was in his fifties but apart from that I can't remember anything about what he looked like. He asked for Jimmy, my husband, by name.

Jimmy is senior steward at Holman in Camborne. This man said his son was a steward in Redruth, and he had asked him to come and see Jimmy.

Where we live is very out of the way, so I was pleased to have a visitor, and made him welcome with a cup of coffee. He introduced himself as Mr Martin—not saying his first name, but Mr—which afterwards struck me as being peculiar.

While we chatted he began to ask questions about Jimmy, such as what papers did he read. Then he said

'Of course, my son is very left wing'. So I said, 'Well, you can't get more left wing than Jimmy', and so we went on.

It was about 3.45pm. Jimmy was due home soon after 4.30, but the man said he couldn't stay: his wife was waiting at the end of our lane. And he couldn't call later, because they were touring. We never saw him again.

When Jimmy came home he looked completely blank when I mentioned a steward called Martin in Redruth. There is no such person.

Not long afterwards, the wife of Brian Davis, prospective Labour councillor, had a similar visit. And during a dispute at Maxans, shop-stewards' neighbours were questioned.

We can only assume now that these visitors were spies for the Economic League, or some such body, collecting information for the

use of the bosses, even in an out of the way place like this.

I'm writing this so if you find a nondescript Mr Martin on your doorstep one day, you can be ready to give him the welcome he deserves.—VAL RULE, Camborne, Cornwall.

## Africa—Portugal you must march

THE COMMITTEE for Freedom In Mozambique, Angola and Guinea in conjunction with the Portuguese workers Co-ordinating Committee are calling for a national demonstration in London on Sunday 16 June.

It is in solidarity with the liberation movement fighting in the Portuguese colonies in Africa as well as with the current struggles of the Portuguese masses themselves.

The demonstration starts at 2pm at Speakers Corner (nearest tube station Marble Arch) and will proceed to Trafalgar Square where representatives from the liberation, Portuguese, and British labour movements will speak.

We shall be marching under the following slogans: Full Support For FRELIMO, NPLA, PAIGC, Total Independence Now, Solidarity With The Portuguese People, Recognise Guinea Bissau, No Aid To Portuguese Colonialism.

As most readers will know last year's demonstrations against the then fascist dictator of Portugal, Marcell Caetano focussed international attention on the savage colonial policy of the Portuguese government in Africa.

The success of the struggle of the liberation movement against Portuguese colonialism led to the embitterment of important sections of the Portuguese population (including, of course, the armed forces) and to the realization that a 'military' solution couldn't be imposed on the African people.

Those who shared these sentiments formed the basis for the overthrow of the Caetano regime on 23 April. The present leader of the Junta in Lisbon, General Spínola, seeing that the liberation movement can't be defeated in the field would like to combat them with other tactics.

The objectives of the demonstration are threefold. To put pressure on the Labour government to implement its policy of material assistance for the liberation movement. To strengthen the progressive forces inside Portugal and to clarify for people in Britain the present situation in Portugal and the colonies and the position of the liberation movement.

We hope that as many readers as possible supporting these objectives, will participate in the demonstration.—CFMAG, PWCC, London.

## BOOKS PLEASE!

I WOULD be grateful if you could let me know if there is any possibility of finding someone who would be kind enough to lend me any books that I could use to further my studies on socialism, especially on Marx, Lenin and other leaders of this great movement. I am unable to pay for the use of the material at present, but will be glad to contribute oil-paint portraits of anybody.

Mr George Peake could vouch for my painting as I did a very good portrait of Lenin for him.

I look forward to contributing all my services to the International Socialists when I am released from this place and also look forward to being a member. I wish to thank you for the copy of the Socialist Worker which I get every week.—E P Van der SCHYFF, H M Prison, Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight.



Chevening House in Kent: An ordinary pad?

## PARASITE'S PARADISE

THE ARTICLE in the Scottish Daily Record of 17 May was headed 'An Ordinary Pad for Charles'. Thinking, perhaps, the Bonnie Prince was tired of his parasitical existence, I read on avidly.

The 'ordinary country home' as one of the rich trustees of Chevening House in Kent had the audacity to describe it, turned out to be a 115-room mansion, Charles, of course, will not use all of his gigantic pad. He will simply move into the 'ordinary main block, with its ten bedrooms, eight bathrooms and four living rooms—all fully furnished.

If the Prince should feel the need for some slight relaxation from his exacting employment of ordering working-class matelots to scrub decks, wash toilets and other menial tasks suited to their level of intelligence, he can stroll around his 3000 acres of land or even gaze on his 24 acres of formal gardens, even take a dip in his four-acre lake, which Sir John Hewitt describes disparagingly as 'more of a large pond, really'.

Meanwhile back in the slums of Glasgow thousands of members of the working class troop down tenement stairs to use the common toilet shared by, perhaps, four families. Many will have to carry

large pails of water to flush away the excrement which has accumulated in the lavatory pan due to the overworked, antiquated cisterns breaking down.

At Glasgow recently I stood within 10ft of Prime Minister Wilson and heard him say Labour wanted to establish a fairer and more just society. Is this decision to give a free home to Prince Charles, who is rolling in the old green stuff, an example of that fairness and justice? I think not! —HARRY CUNNINGHAM (Communist Party), Glasgow.

HIGHBROW? . . . I completely agree with your views . . . but you should begin to speak the language of workers, Socialist Worker is too highbrow and intellectual . . . You should have more simple articles with less abstract theorising and more exposures of capitalists like the Janie Jones and Norma Levy pieces . . . As SW is the first contact some people have with radical politics you should avoid issues that might scare them off, eg Ireland or illegal activities.—L DOSSER, Glasgow.

NOT BEFORE TIME . . . Your publication is the first I have noticed receiving unselfconscious letters from men about the repression of women. Now that men are progressing from a merely trendy allegiance to the cause of women's liberation, socialism stands to gain substantially by women's support. But you cannot expect women to emerge with their political arguments confidently polished, when they have been excluded from the debate for so long. One day they will say, maybe, that behind every successful woman . . . —WENDY HILL, Sheffield.

SORRY, FORGOT TO WIND ON . . . Have you a camera that sits in a drawer except during the summer holidays? Take it into your factory, office, school, or street. Use the photographs in socialist argument. Send them to Socialist Worker with the facts. A camera at work can create quite a stir! Hazards At Work suggests there should be a camera in every first-aid box at work. A photograph that shows the floor was covered with oil when your mate slipped and injured his back will make it that much more difficult for the boss to ignore his claim. Photographs of machinery, etc, before, during and after the Factory Inspector's tour—confront the inspector and management with their hypocrisy and collusion; photograph strike-breakers, scabs, picket breakers, police harassment, unshored trenches, unsafe scaffolding, bad housing, overcrowded classrooms, wasted and hoarded materials and food in times of 'shortage', etc, etc. We've got to use everything we can to fight the system—don't forget the camera. Start shooting! —TED HAWKE, Fakenham, Norfolk.

SUPPORT, SMASH, OUT ETC . . . I'm not surprised the Chile demonstration on 5 May went unreported by Fleet Street . . . any other demonstration as boring as that one will suffer the same obscurity. The stream of red banners may have been an excellent socialist gazetteer but it was little else. For heaven's sake, this was a protest against a massive political and social disaster; against a piece of blatantly brutal imperialism that the most politically passive could understand. Could not our banners and our chants have put across the spirit of Chile better? . . . Not surprisingly, you yourselves only managed to spin the story out to four column inches. Your photograph could have been taken any time in the past five years. Why so surprised that Fleet Street, with no socialist axe to grind, yawned and sought other diversions? —GRAHAM PARK, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

T'WAS A DIRTY JOB . . . Talking about socialism is what we need. I've been selling the paper to some workers in my factory for six months yet they still don't know why we don't support Labour. We need simple arguments drawing on workers' experience. In Who Would Do The Dirty Jobs? Duncan Hallas missed the main point. When the workers take power the hard jobs will still be there . . . all those who are able bodied will take their turn at them until the wealth we produce will eliminate more and more of them.—RIESER, Enfield.

LESSONS FROM JENKINS VICTORIAN SCHOOL . . . Clive Jenkins, secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff has just bought an old Victorian school house for £22,750. At the added bargain price of £30,000 it is to be converted into two four bed-roomed houses. Not satisfied with his thatched cottage he even had the impudence to express disappointment after Harlow council rejected his application for a £2000 grant. One wonders what the thousands of people on housing lists feel about his disappointment.—C REID, Darlington.

AND THE WRONG PLACE . . . As a worker in an international company which

does very nicely from government contracts (especially Concorde) and a socialist travelled from the North-West to join the Chile demonstration on 5 May . . . there is no doubt we made an impressive force. But to whom? Sunday afternoon in the middle of London isn't exactly crowded with workers who might be influenced by the march—most of my mates were celebrating Liverpool's return with the Cup! . . . Who did we expect to influence, Wilson and Callaghan? They probably weren't within 50 miles of Downing Street anyway . . . Can I suggest that next time we march on a Saturday and in a suitable city? Wouldn't Clydeside have been more appropriate? —J ZIMMERMANN, Skelmersdale.

DON'T BLAME THE WORKERS . . . A G COLLINGS (Postal Points, 16 May) seems to be a bit confused . . . Socialism means production for need, not profit. Work should be organised differently, and the need for a particular product would depend on its social and environmental value instead of how much money big business could make out of it. To blame carworkers for air pollution and destruction of housing and farmland caused by cars they make and the roads those cars need is quite wrong. Carworkers have to do the jobs the bosses want done for wages to support their families. The cause of the pollution, and other environmental ills, is the greed of international capitalism. The only solution is to smash this system and build socialism. If supporting the claims of carworkers, as workers making justified demands for better pay and more civilised conditions, helps break the system, then we must all support them.—DOREEN SANDERS, Exeter.

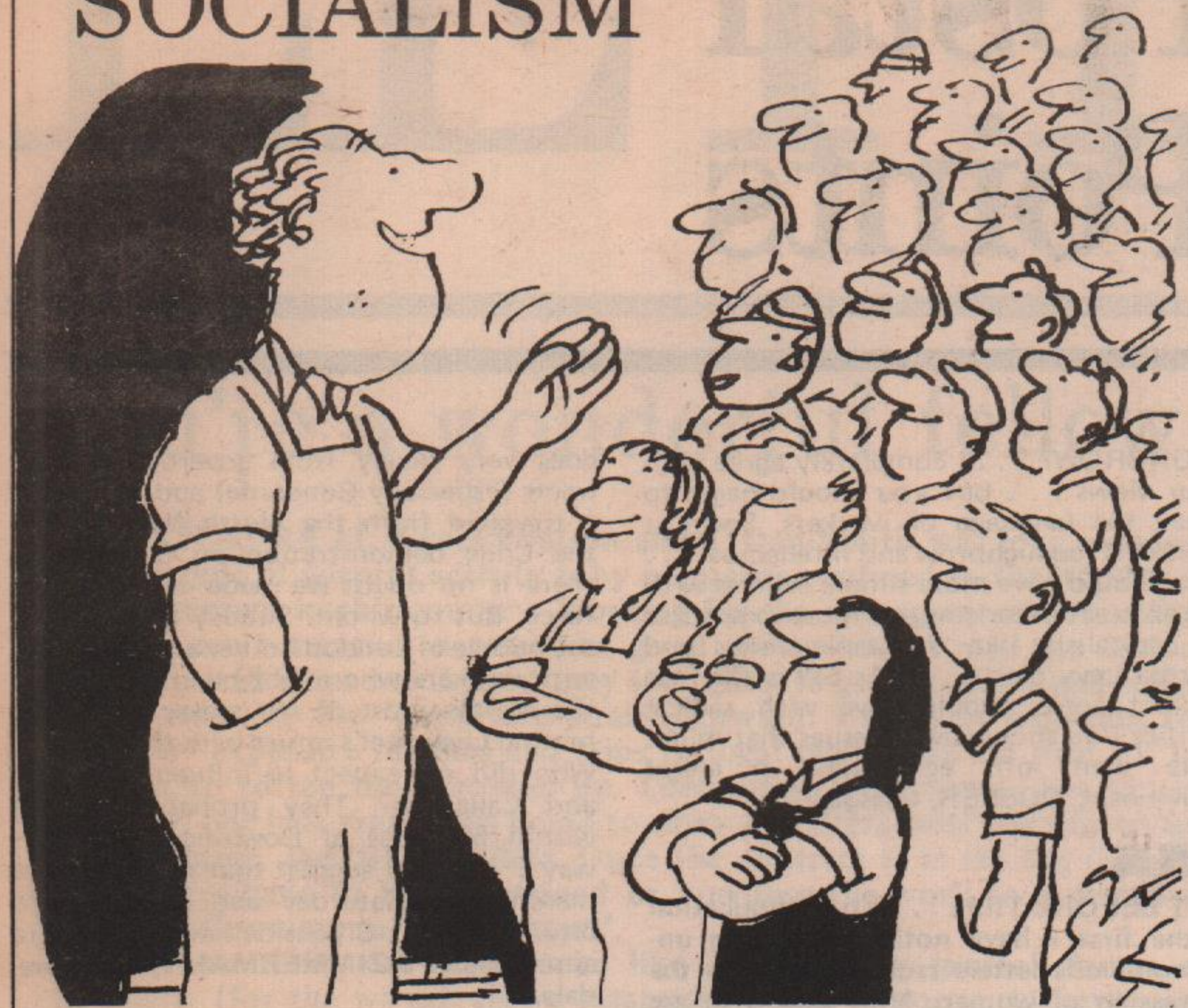
SOMETHING MESSY FROM . . . You have referred to the use of pension fund money to bail out city property companies. I'm employed by Manchester City Council in the planning department and have recently had dealings with an industrial estate owned by the Lyon Group Northern Ltd—part of the estate changed hands in March. The new owner? Plessey Pension Trust Ltd! —R HAYWOOD, Stockport.

GOT A TRANSMITTER GOING CHEAP? . . . Watching TV to find out what's going on is one thing. Watching it to find out what to do about the problems is quite another. There's always some smooth talking well-off 'gentleman' telling us that really there is nothing any of us can do, because it's quite beyond our control . . . It never seems to get over to those complacent bores that people can organise and fight back. I therefore congratulate you on your excellent paper for giving the facts hard and straight and providing clear political guides for organising and fighting back. So sod the paternalism—the fight goes on! —J WILLIAMS, Keynsham.

LOWBROW? . . . I approve of Socialist Worker's new format and correct trend towards a paper written by workers for workers. The articles by dockers Micky Fenn on Chile and Bob Light's social con trick were brilliant . . . Laurie Flynn's Asbestos Murders exposed the profit before human lives motive of capitalism . . . But too much space is wasted by big photos and I fear that theoretical and political content is being diluted as a consequence. More articles like those by the dockers should improve the balance proving that you don't have to be an academic to get the message across . . . More historical articles could prove useful.—CHRIS PORSZ, Sheffield.

TWO AND TWO MAKE . . . Kate Clark, five years a teacher in Chile spoke at a Chesterfield Communist Party meeting on Chile recently . . . She partially blamed the fascist coup on the activities of 'ultra-left' groups, describing how they assisted workers in seizing control of some of the smaller factories, shops etc . . . This aggravated the middle classes and hindered Popular Unity she argued . . . She said that morale was high especially following outbursts by the Church against the Junta 'You can't forget the strength of the Church in Chile' she said . . . She didn't think that the pre-coup situation necessitated arming the workers and said that Popular Unity didn't have an 'absolute majority' and that Allende had managed to rationalise part of the land, mines, factories in 18 months. 'What more do you want?' The real answers eluded her . . . —GRAHAM COOK, Chesterfield.

## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM



'NEITHER [Labour] Party nor unions can achieve their goals without continuous [economic] growth; and we shall not achieve that growth without an incomes policy.' So writes Mr Antony Crosland.

Because, says Crosland, the goals 'require a redistribution of wealth and resources; and we shall not get this unless the total resources are growing rapidly. I do not of course mean that rapid growth will automatically produce a transfer of resources of the kind we want... But I do assert dogmatically that in a democracy low or zero growth wholly excludes the possibility.' Any 'substantial transfer' then means 'not merely a relative but an absolute decline' in the incomes of the better off and that, according to Crosland, is out of the question!

There you have the reformist case in a nutshell. The reformists claim to want more equality, better housing, education, health and so on. But the incomes of the rich and the middle classes must not be touched. That would be 'undemocratic'. So all these desirable improvements must be paid for out of 'economic growth'.

### Candid

If there is 'low or zero growth' and that is certainly going to be the position in 1974, then it is a case of 'sorry lads, there's nowt we can do for you this year'. After all, you can't expect the Paul Gettys, Harry Hyams and Lord Carringtons to pay for social improvements.

Crosland is candid enough to say this openly, indeed to 'dogmatically assert' it. His colleagues in the government are more tactful but they agree with him all right. Dennis Healey assures the CBI that 'no one now believes that profit is a dirty word if profit

## The 'growth' fraud

is honestly earned... It is our firm intention to monitor the future movements of profits closely and to take action if we judge it necessary to see that investment is not endangered by the undue restriction of profits.'

**Crosland, Healey and the entire Labour Party leadership expect and intend that capitalism will continue indefinitely, that the rich will always be with us and that 'honestly earned' profits will be the mainspring of the economy.**

Their claim to be socialists of any kind is fraudulent. The 'economic growth' argument is a smokescreen to conceal the real purpose of their 'incomes policy', or rather the Tory pay policy they have taken over—the defence of capitalist profits.

Moreover, the argument that economic growth, even if achieved, is the way to greater equality is plainly false. All past experience points to the opposite conclusion. Harold Wilson, in one of his 'left' periods—in opposition of course—made the point clearly enough.

### True

'In any period of economic expansion, there is a law of increasing returns to the rich; of an increased proportion of newly-produced wealth accruing to the owners of property.'

Wilson said that in 1960. It was true then. It is true now. But there is a still more basic problem. Granted that economic growth under capitalism does not produce greater equality, that if anything it tends to increase inequality, what about economic growth in a socialist society?

A reader has written in making the point that 'the idea of indefinite economic growth in a world of finite resources doesn't make sense'. That is certainly true. And there are other reasons why a socialist society cannot possibly be based on unlimited economic growth as we shall see in further articles in this series.

Duncan Hallas

# Your life in your hands

FOR the past few weeks something of the terrible story of the 7/162 Glasgow insulation workers' branch of the Transport Union has been told in these pages.

It is a tragic story. It could not be otherwise when men are meeting premature and unnecessary deaths because of their employers' remorseless pursuit of profit.

But there is a much more important aspect to the story—the struggle of people who refuse to lie down. Their fight—the fight for safety at work—is the heart of the matter.

Even if widows had not been sickened and manoeuvred out of 'reasonable' compensation for the loss of their men, even if social security payments for those poisoned at work were ten times as large and rather easier to obtain, the problem of preventing death, disease and injury at work would still be there. It is a problem all workers face in one shape or other.

The conventional wisdom on the subject has always failed. Employers take their profits very seriously indeed. Factory inspectors are permissive characters to say the least.

In any case the penalties for breaches of the law are so derisory as to be meaningless.

### Battle

Safety committees mean little unless the members are thumping at the door. And while it may be part of the battle to pass resolutions at the trade unions' annual conferences or even at the TUC and to ask for changes in the law, it all means little unless the people directly affected are mobilised to protect themselves.

**The fight for safety at work depends on organising workers. That sounds easy but in fact it is an uphill struggle.**

7/162 is not untypical. At the beginning few workers even knew the hazards they faced. Alternatively they were looked on as unavoidable, part of the job. Later, as suspicions began to mount, other difficulties got in the way.

John Todd, the man in 7/162 who has made safety his life's work,



John Todd, still fighting on after 20 years. 'They keep saying: "Oh, it's terrible. We're short of Factory Inspectors." But the truth is that shop stewards are the best factory inspectors in the business. That's probably why we're always being attacked.'

## THE ASBESTOS MURDERS

Final article in the series

pinpoints one weapon the employers have always had working for them.

'The one thing that was always in the back of peoples' minds was fear for the job. The depression meant workers felt they had to keep their heads down to hold a job. In this way habits of mind got formed, habits that made it easier for the boss to cut corners to cut costs.'

People's decency and willingness to work can also be exploited, or their belief that it is 'brave' to risk danger.

Failing all this there is the cash nexus. Exposure to dirt, dust, noise or what have you can be agreed in return for 'dirty money'. In any case to step out of line is being awkward, the act of a communist.

When you organise for safety at work, whatever the hazard, it is things

like fear, bravado, fatalism, and subservience that you are taking on. In that fight you need the ability to put an issue across. You need the respect of your workmates won in the course of dozens of tests. But you also need information, reliable information so that your statements on the subject are believed, not shrugged off.

**For all these reasons the fight for safety has to come from below. It will often come in opposition to the set practices of the trade union movement which fosters compensation rather than cure.**

You need to have new materials tested before they are brought into use. If you are already working with untested materials you should get them tested now. If some toll of life and limb is already taking place you need to have exact knowledge of its extent. You need to keep records to help with claims. But most of all you need to stop it.

In the fight you need organisation most of all, starting on the job and in the company and spreading through the industry and through the union.

It is a tough fight. But the stakes are high, very high.

● Socialist Worker is planning to reproduce this series of articles as a cheap pamphlet with a guide on where asbestos is made and used and how it can be worked with safely. Watch the paper for details.

## Here's the way we'll be running things...

ABOUT two and a half years ago, my dad came home with a strong box, an adding machine and a small suitcase full of cash books and bank statements.

He was on the committee of a social club and the treasurer had been taken ill. Dad was standing in and asked me to help out with the paper work. I joined the club and was co-opted onto the committee as assistant treasurer.

I enjoyed myself so much that, when the treasurer recovered, I stayed on to help him out.

There was an atmosphere I have never found in pubs or discos. Every body knew each other and got on well together. There was a lot of drinking but I never saw a fight up there in a year.

We would go round with name-cards, raffle tickets and there was the inevitable bingo. Mostly we managed to spend what we won on drinks for family and friends. Anyone winning the jackpot made a donation to the club social fund.

For me the best time was the last hour. The stage was thrown open and up would jump the regulars to sing the old songs, the sentimental songs. Everyone would join in—me to, when I learnt the words!

Then home, drunk and merry after a good night out.

As far as I know this kind of club is typical. Yet they seem to be ignored by socialists writing about working-class culture.

While there, I was amazed to learn that when the committee had been elected the club was close to bankruptcy, with debts up to two years old and accounts that looked like the money sums in a kid's exercise book.

### Books

By the end of the year we had cleared all debts except the brewery, with whom we had an understanding. We published monthly balance sheets and the books were accurate down to the last half-penny.

Our bank balance was in the black and our cheques were once more acceptable to local traders.

Yet the whole committee was made up of housewives and workers. My dad had said, when he asked me to help out: 'I'm just an ignorant docker.'

But these 'ignorant' workers had run a business for a year in the face of impossible obstacles. (In the beginning we could only get a barrel of beer when we had sold the last one and had the money to pay cash.)

All we got out of it was two free pints at the monthly committee meetings. There was no graft. The club was run for the members' benefit and not for profit.

When we say we can, like that, run a country under socialism, we are told: 'It would not work. People are too greedy.'

This might be true of our masters, who spend their whole lives screwing people. But when we on the receiving end finally sweep them out of the way, our new freedom will be jealously guarded as something too precious ever to be lost again.

Mike Stanton  
(TGWU)

### The politics of Lenin

Paul Ginsborg



International Socialists pamphlet 20p

### OUT NOW

Paul Ginsborg's Introduction deals with the main political arguments which Lenin used in his work in the Russian and World Revolutionary movement. There are many sections, including Lenin's Life, Building the Party, Workers' Power, and Tactics and Methods.

Available from IS Bookshop, 265 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London N4.



# FOOT PRINTS

## THE TOBACCO PLANTATION

WORKERS at the Wills tobacco factory, Bristol, may like to know that the executors and trustees of the estate of Captain D M Wills, a not very significant member of the tobacco family, are looking for a buyer for the captain's 480-acre residential, sporting and agricultural estate. The estate is called Barley Wood and it is in the Wrington Vale, eight miles from Bristol. It includes a large manor house, with park, grounds and service cottage, and 38 acres of garden.

The home farm is 210 acres and there are 124 acres of woods. There are sporting rights over 500 acres.

Cluttons, the London millionaire estate agents, are advertising the estate. Only the better-off workers at Wills should apply, because the asking price is half a million pounds.

By an odd coincidence, that's exactly the price Sir Denys Lowson, the former Lord Mayor of London and one of the richest men in England, is asking for his estate at Brantridge Park, Balcombe, near Haywards Heath, Sussex. I leave the description of the place to the Tatler's irresistible Property News column by John Fanshawe.

**£500,000**

'Brantridge Park estate has a principal house dating from 1750. With additions having been made to the basic structure the accommodation now provides five reception rooms, six principal and seven secondary bedrooms and six bathrooms.

'Along with staff accommodation are a cottage flat and stable block, four loose boxes and garaging for seven cars. Immediate gardens and grounds run to 25 acres and there is a home farm, of 193 acres with farm-houses, cottages and buildings and 150 acres of woodlands, two entrance lodges and four further cottages.

'Sir Denys and Lady Lowson have asked Knight, Frank & Rutley to find a buyer for Brantridge Park for around £500,000.

Sir Denys, it will be remembered, was caught with his finger in the till last summer when a share-dealing operation in which he was engaged—and which brought him £6 million in profit—was declared to be not entirely satisfactory even by the City of London authorities.

So Sir Denys agreed to pay back a

lot of the money. More recently, a bit of a stink had been created about some land which Sir Denys owns in America.

It really is intolerable that these fine English gentlemen, whose only aim is to uphold the best of British life, should be so hounded by the media that they have to sell their houses in the country

I understand that that is not the only indignity which Sir Denys has had to suffer. There are rumours that a group of homeless people in London are getting together to occupy Brantridge Park.

*I SEE that Eddie Milne, MP for Blyth, and Danny McGarvey, the Boilermakers' Union general secretary, are calling for an 'independent' inquiry into corruption in the North East Labour Party and suggesting as the ideal impartial chairman Lord Vic Feather, former TUC general secretary.*

*This suggestion has caused a howl of laughter on South Shields Trades Council, which passed a resolution on corruption in the North East as long ago as August 1972.*

*The resolution said: 'This trades council calls upon the TUC to carry out an investigation into the financial involvement of trade union officials and their families in private undertakings, with the view of producing a code of conduct for all full-time officials.'*

*Quick as a flash, the impartial Feather wrote back to the trades council telling them that the TUC was taking no action on the matter, and advising them to shut up.*

I wonder who's Kissin him now

SOME weeks ago I wrote in this column about the men who subsidise Harold Wilson and the Labour Party. Chief among these is Harry Kissin, joint chairman of commodity brokers Guinness Peat, whose many operations all over the world include one of the biggest coffee-producing operations in the world—in Brazil, by courtesy of the right-wing military junta.

The article concluded:

Harold Wilson has already said that he will be handing out fewer honours than previous Prime Ministers. But the Queen's birthday honours are due in June, and if there are any betting men reading this column, they could do worse than wager a small sum on the creation of Lord Miller of Peachey, Lord Kissin of Commodities, Lord Sternberg of Brokerage and, who knows, even Lord Murray of St Columba (or, at the very least, Lord Briginshaw of Borough Road).

Honest, that was meant as a joke. I really didn't mean it.

There's no need for the people in Downing Street to start taking Socialist Worker too seriously. Even before the June Queen's birthday honours, Harold Wilson has announced a list of 12 new Labour peers. They include:

Mr HARRY KISSIN, 61, executive chairman, Guinness Peat Group Ltd.



## SUMMER SCHOOLS

### TRAINING COMMITTEE/STUDENT COMMITTEE

- Day 1: IS traditions/political perspectives
- Day 2: The student movement 1966-1974
- Day 3: Practical work

- June 24-26: EDINBURGH      June 26-28: YORK
- July 1-3: MANCHESTER      July 3-5: BIRMINGHAM
- July 5-7: OXFORD      July 8-10: LONDON

Attendance at ONE school is an obligation for all IS students. Number your preference of dates 1, 2, 3.

Name .....  
Address .....

Send to Ken Muller, SSC, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

# The select target of the KGB



IF HE WERE in this country, he would be organising in support of the jailed Shrewsbury building workers. He would be protesting about British troops being in Ireland.

In one way or another, and no matter the personal cost, he would be fighting for change, attacking the lies which pass for truth.

But Pyotr Grigorenko is not in this country. He lives in Russia, another place with no shortage of issues that a committed socialist must take up.

He protested against the invasion of Czechoslovakia and demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops. He insisted that the dispossessed peoples of the USSR, The Chechen, The Tatars, the Ingush, be allowed their freedom. He raised the banner of socialist democracy.

The penalties against those who stand up for freedom are steeper in Russia than those at present in use here. In Russia it is dangerous to dissent, never mind to engage in public propaganda for genuinely communist beliefs. Grigorenko is the proof of that.

He has been classified as insane and confined to a madhouse. Every six months a medical board 'reviews' his case. But Pyotr Grigorenko declines to renounce his beliefs and so the board concludes that his madness is still upon him.

## Mad

In Russia the use of mental hospitals and fabricated madness to crack down on dissent is not uncommon, though there are much more ordinary methods in use. The extraordinary methods are reserved for select targets. Grigorenko is certainly that.

Most of his life he has been an energetic servant of the Russian state, a state that he—like many, many others—believed was a workers' state, the basis of the first move towards a truly human life.

During the Second World War Grigorenko had a key position in Stalin's military machine. He was a major-general and was awarded six medals for bravery, including the Order of Lenin. Later he became a teacher of military sciences.

But in 1956 Nikita Krushchev, Stalin's heir, admitted what had previously been unthinkable: that Stalin's regime was based on monstrous crimes, on terror and on lies.

For those who really thought it through, it was impossible to believe that one evil man could be the author of it all. Nor could it be believed that one speech brought it to an end. Grigorenko thought it through.

In 1963 Grigorenko and a few others founded an organisation, the Union of Struggle for the Revival of Leninism. Through this body he and his comrades attempted to campaign against bureaucratic excesses and propagate some

by  
**Laurie Flynn**

basic socialist ideas. They even distributed some leaflets arguing for reforms. The result was an appearance before a 'medical tribunal' which declared that Grigorenko was 'insane'. He was incarcerated. That was 1964.

Grigorenko was released in May 1965. Before long he was back in the thick of the struggle.

He became friends with Alexei Kosterin, who had joined the Russian Bolshevik Party in 1916. Kosterin remained a genuine communist all his life and as a result spent 17 years in one of the regime's many concentration camps.

## Oppressed

They and other comrades took up the cause of the oppressed peoples of the USSR. And then came spring. In Czechoslovakia in 1968 workers and others were on the move.

Kosterin, Grigorenko and three other communists signed a statement of solidarity with 'the working people and all socialist forces of Czechoslovakia'. Grigorenko personally delivered it to the Czech Embassy in Moscow.

Then in August Russian troops were moved in to put an end to the Prague Spring. Grigorenko's comrades committed another criminal act. They organised a protest demonstration. Five were jailed for this.

## Withdrawal

Kosterin died soon after. Grigorenko continued to fight. When Jan Palach, a young Czech, burned himself to death in Prague in protest against the presence of Russian troops, Grigorenko and another communist publicly called on all citizens of the USSR to campaign for the withdrawal of Russian troops. Again Grigorenko was arrested.

In August 1969 one psychiatric commission ruled he was sane. Then a team from the notorious Serbski Institute was brought in and reversed this verdict. Grigorenko was too ill to attend his own trial, 'too ill' to be visited by his wife, 'too ill' to contact a defence lawyer. He just stayed incarcerated. He is incarcerated still.

Now there is talk that he is to be released, which will be a thankful relief. His health is failing, his eyesight is threatened by cataracts and the complete lack of medical attention.

If he is released he will—so far as he is able—take up the struggle again. Doubtless other methods will be used against him, or perhaps even another dose of the same.

Grigorenko is a cause for concern, his treatment cause for the most vigorous protest. So too is the system which oppressed him and an unknown number of others and which has the nerve to call itself communist.

**bookshops**

Pamphlets published by the International Socialists:

**The Struggle for Workers' Power**, by Roger Rosewell, 10p

**Can Socialism come through parliament?** by Roger Kline, 10p

**Workers against racism**, by Paul Foot, 10p

**Women fight back**, by Kath Ennis, 10p

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Recommended by International Socialism Journal—**Profit Trends and Price Control**, by John Hughes. This pamphlet looks past official information and statistics with their claims of the big business 'profits squeeze'. It shows how profits have leapt ahead to record levels while wages and living standards have stagnated. Contains a lot of good hard evidence. (24p)

**Portuguese Colonialism from South Africa to Europe**, by Eduardo de Souza Ferreira. An account of one country's exploitation of its colonies, and its results—the development of racism into apartheid, then the growth of resistance and the liberation movement (75p)

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**The Common People**, by Cole and Postgate. (£.75)

The complete text of **THE WHITE HOUSE TRANSCRIPTS**, as revealed by President M Nixon. Uncut edition of the Watergate tapes (£1.25)

Paperbacks now reprinting: **Women's Consciousness, Man's World**—Rowbotham, **Women's Rights—A Practical Guide**—Coote and Gill, **War and an Irish Town**—McCann, **Ten Days that shook the world**—Reed (Hardback available at 90p), **Memoirs of a Revolutionary**—Serge, **Western Capitalism since the war**—Kidron.

Please don't order these from IS Books until we note that they are available again. Thanks.

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# What's happened to the honeymoon

WHEN Labour came to power in 1964 Harold Wilson and his deputy, George Brown, announced to the world amid great fanfare 'a declaration of intent' by government, TUC, and CBI to collaborate in the national interest.

On coming to power a second time, Wilson presents us with a 'social contract'.

The 'declaration of intent' led to an incomes policy. This was enthusiastically defended for several years—largely by the trade unions who represent the lower-paid. In 1965-6, and even after the complete freeze of July 1966, the public employers, shop workers, clerical workers and Post Office workers unions supported the incomes policy as the best way to defend the interests of the lower-paid.

Harold Wilson, George Brown and others argued that if workers in a stronger position were to do without part of their wage rises, the money would be given instead to the lower-paid. This idea was accepted by millions of workers, who believed incomes policy was a good thing in principle.

The whole idea was based on a fraud. If Ford workers were to hold back on a claim for another £1 a week, would the Ford management transfer the accumulated pounds to help the nurses, or would they transfer it to the Ford bank account?

To ask the question us to answer it?

## Strongest

The way wages are won under capitalism is simple: workers in the strongest sections, in the technologically advanced industries where they are best organised, win increases—then it is up to the rest of the working class to keep up by comparing their own wages with those received by the strongest and best paid. If one section of the working class accelerates, this helps the others. If one is held back, this damages the others.

In other words, if the strongest and best organised workers hold back, the whole working class is held back with them.

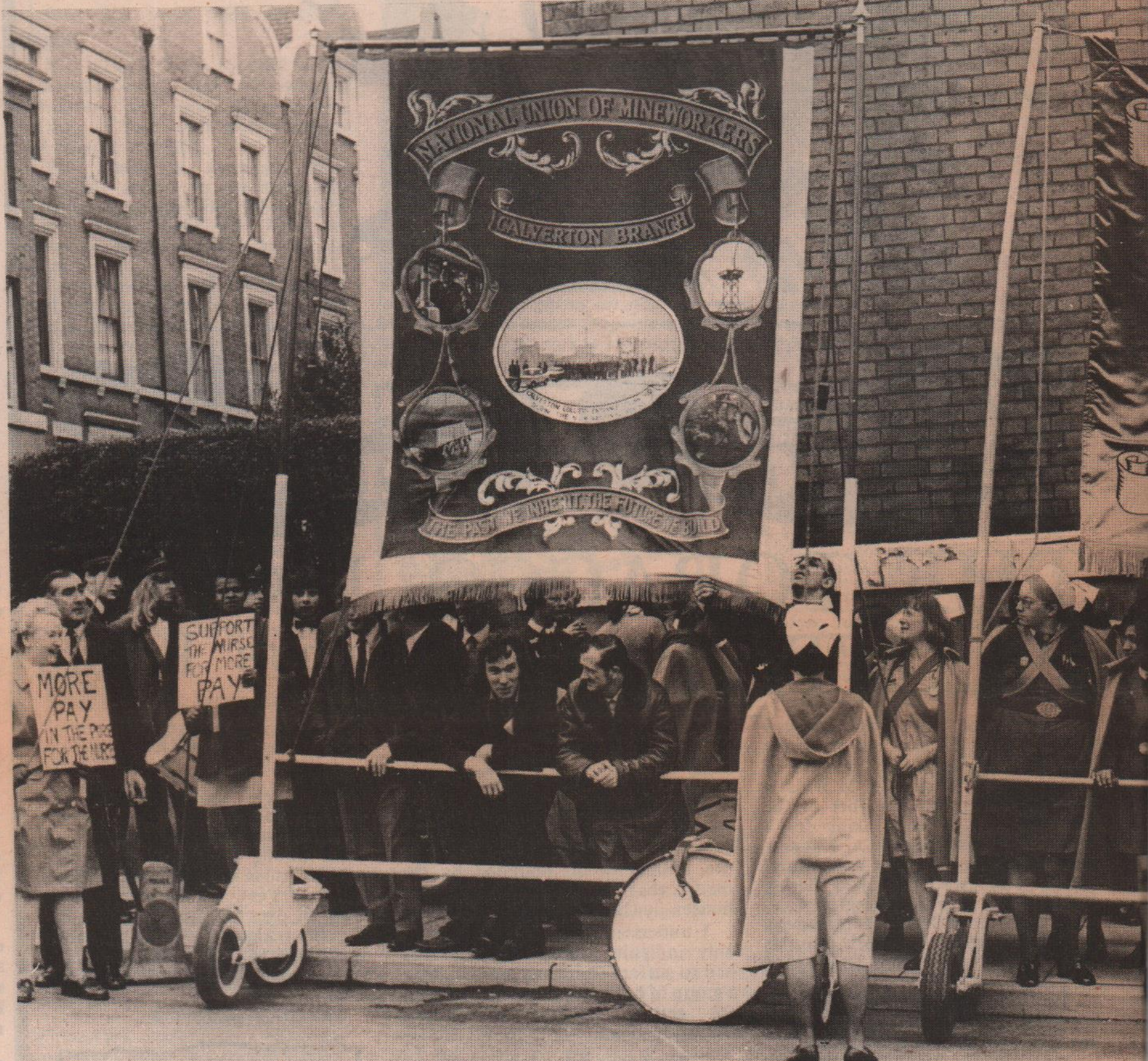
But it took several years for the lower-paid workers to learn from experience that incomes policy did not help them at all. In 1969, Wilson's incomes policy was smashed to pieces by the teachers.

## Challenged

This time things have accelerated. The ink on the 'social compact' was hardly dry when it was already challenged by the lower paid: local government workers, teachers and nurses.

The basic difference now is that the rate of inflation is some four or five times higher. The lower-paid cannot wait for wage rises. Like the Red Queen in Alice through the Looking Glass, they have to run fast if they want to stay in the same place.

So the local government workers, teachers and nurses are turning to mass struggles, to general confrontation with employers and government.



Before the ink on the 'social contract' has had time to dry: nurses and miners march together in Nottinghamshire.

## By TONY CLIFF

Against this, paradoxically, the traditionally far more militant, better organised workers—such as the engineers—are not engaged in widespread battles. Why the difference in the pattern?

First, for the relatively better-paid, the urgency of immediate battles for better wages is less.

Second, for the engineers the national wage claim is only one element determining their wage packets. To this can be added what is won in local plant bargaining, changes in piece rates, bonuses, overtime and so on.

Third, being traditionally more militant, the engineers are ideologically more affected by the government-TUC declaration of a 'social contract'. The shop stewards and convenors in the engineering industry are largely committed to the Labour Party, and many are under the influence of the Communist Party, which gives support to the 'left', Hugh Scanlon, Jack Jones and Michael Foot.

The members of the local government officers or nurses' unions have been far less political so they are far less shackled by

commitment to the Labour government.

Lastly, the engineers, being much better organised than the nurses or local government officers, are so self-confident that they feel the need for generalisation of the struggle much less. So a virtue—self-confidence—becomes paradoxically a handicap, a narrow fragmented, sectional approach to the struggle.

But we should not underestimate the important changes taking place among these same engineering workers. It is true that the leadership of the Confederation of Engineering Workers involving two million workers, signed a national agreement that gives only peanuts to workers—far less than Phase Three allows. Phase Three allows 7 per cent. The agreement gives on average only 2 to 2½ per cent.

## Hotting up

But in different factories the struggle is hotting up. Because the statistics issued by the Department of Employment always come late, the pattern of struggle cannot be gauged exactly.

The overall impression is that the number of strikes is rising sharply everywhere. These strikes are still relatively small in size and narrow in aim but they do fit into a pattern.

There have been—and some

are still going on—several strikes for wage parity—Perkins, Hawker Siddeley, Chrysler, Auto-Machinery. There are strikes for staff status—Vauxhall, the millwrights in Chrysler Coventry. There are strikes for restoring skill differentials eroded during Phases One, Two and Three of incomes policy—Swan-Hunter Tyneside, Sunderland Shipbuilders, Burroughs Cumbernauld. There are strikes for ending Friday night shifts—Ford Halewood, Goodyear Glasgow, and Dunlop Speke. All these are offensive strikes.

## Defensive

But there are several strikes where workers are on the defensive. As on the whole wages in engineering are not keeping up with the cost of living, management tries to squeeze even more from the workers by going against shop stewards' rights.

There have been important struggles over shop stewards' rights and against victimisation of militants—Cowley Oxford, Chrysler Stoke, Bryant's Birmingham, Birmid Qualcast Birmingham.

Characteristic of all these important struggles is their narrow sectional nature.

But the coming few months will prove—possibly by winter—that when inflation is 15 to 20 per cent a year, sectional struggles, even for the higher paid, for workers who can to

some extent wage rates, are. In the struggle local government teachers, a category played by organisations which struggle, which bridges not only and ancillary hospitals, but employees. At them, but also engineering, it indeed all work.

Nurses, teachers, government workers pioneer the struggle in the rank and file. From their militant leadership is the local government teachers must the much strength of the working class.

For the 'honeymoon' never existed can help disorganise more traditional sections. This battle against interest' policies ideological in working class, giving a true mass party.

Hyperinflation locomotive towards unity and to militant trade unionists to the workers in



# ...ning ...oon?



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report).

## You're sick. You're socialist. You're sacked

ALEX McGOUGH has been an epileptic for three years, since he had a head operation. He is also a socialist.

He has just been sacked after working four weeks at Heinz, Harlesden. 'There was no job available in the factory that someone with his medical condition could do,' said the company.

Because of his illness, Alex has found it hard to get work. Since the operation he has had at least ten jobs, the longest three months and the shortest three weeks, the majority boring and underpaid.

The Disablement Resettlement Office was no help, first failing to find him a single job in six months, then giving him the exciting job of sticking labels on paint rollers. They told him that due to his illness he was only being allowed to do one of two jobs, that of gardening.

Said Alex: 'Epileptics are as together as anyone else. But because they may have a fit they are looked down on by employers who know nothing about the different kinds of epilepsy. When they do give you a job they tell you they are doing a favour. Some favour! You land up doing the same job as someone else but at a lower wage.'

'They claim I'm a safety hazard but the employers' own record on that score isn't too bright. I couldn't even begin to compare with McAlpine's or the Coal Board.'

### Epileptic

So Alex didn't tell Heinz he was an epileptic. 'I mean I have to work like everyone else and my previous experience of personnel managers is that when I mention I'm an epileptic they lose their composure, regain it and it's "Well I'd like to help but don't call us, we'll call you".'

So he got the job. Two weeks later he had a fit at work which changed things completely.

The personnel officer started asking me all about my condition, very sympathetic he was. I was beginning to tell him about epilepsy when he suggested we go to the canteen for cup of tea. Very nice, but in the canteen he started talking about what was really on his mind.

'Purely out of friendship he would put me in the picture, he said. I was like a horse (his very words), whose potential he was trying to sell to management, who in turn would sell me to the shop floor, but there were certain problems—for once not epilepsy.'



A security guard confronts Alex McGough outside the Heinz factory. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

## Hard Heinz

'It had been noticed that my friends on the factory floor were socialists and militants and that didn't exactly strengthen my case. Are you asking me to give up my friends and ideas? I asked. Oh no, I wouldn't ever do that, but for a man in your position it would be better not to be seen too much in their company, he told me.'

'He went on about how lucky I was to be at Heinz, which was a caring company and had a scheme for such as me and provided I kept in mind what he said, a permanent job would be found for me in the factory.'

'Well, I was called to the office the following Monday morning and it so happened I had a badge on—so did many other workers in Heinz—saying "Free the Shrewsbury pickets"'. He remarked that I

didn't have to show my colours and asked me to take it off.

'He then offered me three jobs, one in stationery and advertising which he reckoned would be the best. Soon afterwards I was transferred to this job. It is a department normally reserved for older workers about to retire. Once again I had it impressed upon me that I ought to be very grateful. I was under the impression I had a permanent position. An old worker there was leaving and I thought I had his job.'

Then Alex joined the International Socialists.

'Well I've always been a socialist, which is why in the factory I automatically mixed with socialist workers. A number were IS members and in my opinion they were saying the right things

about what should be done. I started helping them sell Socialist Worker and going along to their discussion groups and when they decided to set up a factory branch I said I would join.

'Two weeks later I was called into the office. My shop steward and convenor were already up there. I was told I was to be sacked on disciplinary grounds. My two contracts of employment were produced. I had signed the second one after my fit, as the first one was, as I've already said, false.'

'The manager started to make out I was an unstable epileptic when even the factory doctor—and Heinz medical department are not noted for their sympathy with workers' illnesses—had said that the report from the hospital I attended would probably show that I was quite stabilised. The report was due on Thursday and the personnel department decided to wait until then.'

### 'Special Gift'

But on Wednesday Alex was called into the office with the convenor and his steward. This time he was told outright he was going to be sacked. The personnel officer said it was entirely a management decision and had nothing to do with him.

'I was being sacked because there wasn't a job for me,' said Alex. 'As a special gift they would give me two weeks pay plus my bonus and the Heinz doctor would try to get me into a resettlement centre (paint rollers again).'

Alex asked the personnel officer if he would have a job in Heinz after he had done the rehabilitation course. 'Well, there's always the possibility,' he said. But when asked for a yes or no answer, he replied: 'Well put like that, I don't like to close the door completely but the answer is no!'

### Revolutionary

'Well there you have it,' said Alex. 'I am still a revolutionary socialist and I'm still an epileptic and will be for the rest of my life. There are thousands of people with my illness and it seems capitalist society has no place for us unless we are prepared to accept job rights at the bottom of the slagheap of low pay and bad conditions and be eternally grateful for the privilege.'

This article has been prepared by members of the Heinz branch of the International Socialists.

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## Blacklegs were coming from Europe

IT STARTED, in the spring of 1871, in Sunderland. The engineers there wanted a nine-hour day. Their union, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, was weak in Sunderland but Andrew Gourlay, who had moved to the town from Jarrow, worked hard among the shop stewards, agitating for strike action.

The response was quick and sharp. The men hated the long hours worse even than the low pay. The big engineering firms in the city were paralysed by a strike. So solid and determined was the strike that the bosses collapsed within three weeks.

The bosses knew, and the men knew, that the Sunderland victory was useless unless it spread to Newcastle. As long as the engineering employers in Newcastle held to a 64-hour week, the men in Sunderland would be squeezed into line.

So the agitation shifted to Newcastle, where the union was even weaker than it had been in Sunderland. The vast majority of engineers in the city were not even members of the union. But the movement for the nine-hour day swept through the engineering factories. By early May, plans were laid for a strike across the city.

The strike leader, John



Burnett, went to see the Mayor of Newcastle with a delegation.

'Please,' begged the Mayor, 'will the engineers not consider the prosperity of Newcastle, and postpone the strike?' John Burnett replied: 'My Lord Mayor, I am a moderate man all through. But I would not dare go into my committee room tonight and advocate for an extension of time. The delegates had not agitated at all. The men have pushed the delegates forward. It was like running downhill with a force behind which could not be resisted.'

On 25 May 7000 engineers went on strike, stopping all the main engineering shops in the city. The employers, under Sir William Armstrong, sent to Scotland for blacklegs. But a series of hurried delegations from the strikers to Scottish union representatives soon put a stop to that.

Then Sir William sent to Europe. Advertisements were

placed for engineers in Holland, France and especially in Belgium. A thousand workers were shipped in from Europe. Armstrong, sparing no expense, barracked them and fed them in the city's schools, most of which he owned.

Burnett and the union were helpless. They could send delegations to Scotland, but they had no power in Europe. So John Burnett and Tom Whetstone, the union president, visited the General Council of the Workingmen's International, which had been formed six years earlier.

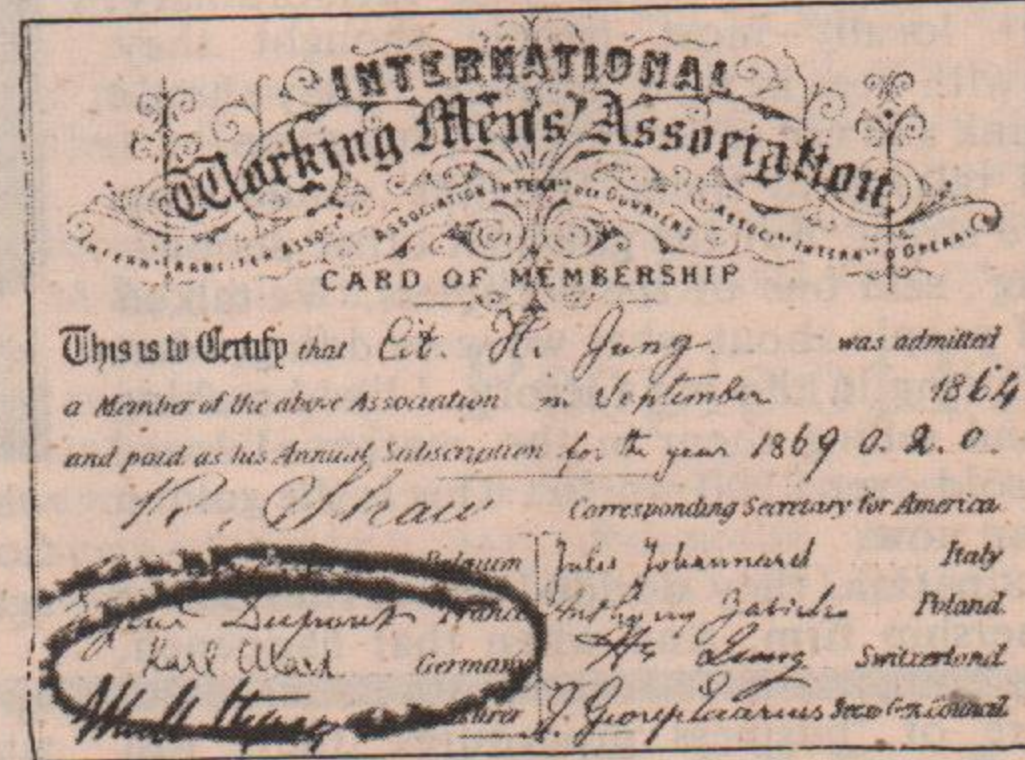
They begged the council to intercede on behalf of the Newcastle strikers. Karl Marx, who sat on the council, spoke angrily to the delegation.

### Affiliation

'You are not even affiliated to the International!' he exclaimed. 'We are desperate for the affiliation fees of your big unions, but you only come to us when you are in trouble.'

Whetstone apologised. 'The question of affiliation,' he mumbled, 'is still being discussed by my executive.'

The General Council of the International acted at once. They smuggled their general secretary,



A membership card for the First International—the circled signature is that of Karl Marx. Even after the International had helped them win the Engineers' Union refused to affiliate.

James Cohn, into Belgium. Cohn spoke about the Newcastle strike to several mass meetings of Belgian workers.

The flow of blacklegs stopped at once.

As soon as Cohn was deported, he went to Newcastle, where he spoke to more mass meetings of foreign workers, begging them not to break the strike. The foreign workers responded to his appeal. 120 German workers in Armstrong's main factory came out on strike themselves, demanding the nine-hour day! Every boat leaving Newcastle carried a large batch of foreign workers who had decided not to break the strike.

Within weeks, the factories were silent again.

On 11 August, 11 weeks after the strike had started, the owners conceded the nine-hour day.

This was the greatest victory of the workers in the North East up to that day. John Burnett gave credit where it was due. 'We would not have won without the assistance of the International,' he said.

But the engineering union leadership still refused to respond to the International's call. They did not affiliate—even when Burnett himself became general secretary three years later.

A great strike had been won—by rank and file solidarity and international workers' action. But the union leadership was terrified of the implications of victory, and refused to build on it.

# ABORTION

## SUMMING UP THE DEBATE

I WISH that the people who marched on the Society For the Protection of the Unborn Child demonstration and who have written to Socialist Worker since about the 'rights of the unborn child' would stop and think what the slogan means.

A foetus has no means of exercising any choice in the matter of its existence and before 28 weeks have passed could never survive independently of the mother. To say it has rights as a potential human being is a pretty bad argument in the face of the human misery of denying abortions.

You can take the 'potential' argument to ridiculous lengths. When does a potential life start? A fertilised egg has only a possible chance of developing into a human being. So do any group of sperm and eggs!

So the logic of SPUC's argument is that any action, like contraception—or not having sexual intercourse—denies the right of life to a potential human being.

Of course they don't argue this. And they don't argue for a better health service to reduce the rate of natural miscarriages—which are a far greater source of 'pain' to the foetus than that relatively small number of abortions.

They should come clean. SPUC's 'arguments' are based on certain religious beliefs, which they should never be allowed to impose on the rest of us who don't hold them.

Hopefully in a socialist society conditions would be such that abortions would be few. But within

this society to deny women the right to abortion is to oppress them and many children, in often appalling conditions.

As a socialist, about to become an unmarried mother, I fight to improve these conditions and for abortion on demand. There is no conflict in this, both demands are part and parcel of the fight for a socialist society where human beings are liberated.

Then the argument is put forward that there are 10 couples for every (young, healthy and white?) baby available for adoption. So what follows from that? Individual women forced to bear babies for adoption.

*On the left IRENE BREUGEL puts the socialist arguments in favour of abortion, while (right) a woman who has had an abortion tells of the abortion racketeers. Below BILL FAKES puts the abortion controversy in perspective with a look at the 14 new-born babies who die every week because of lack of hospital facilities.*

I WAS 21, and an unsupported mother when I found myself in the position of being pregnant again. I was surprised—my boyfriend claimed he had had a vasectomy. After my doctor had examined me I asked to have an abortion. He pointed out that a National Health abortion would be impossible, as gynaecologists at the local hospital were 'morally against performing such operations'.

Presumably they did not think

it would be immoral of me to bring up a child in extremely difficult circumstances.

He referred me to the Liverpool Pregnancy Advisory Service. They were understanding and I was booked into a government approved nursing home in Edgbaston, Birmingham. Their kindness cost me £6.30.

So I went to the government approved private nursing home. A porter showed me the way to reception. A lady took my particulars and £56 in cash (no cheques accepted). There were about 25 other women in reception.

I looked out of the window and noticed a new, bright yellow, Lotus Elan parked in the forecourt. I later learned that this belonged to the doctor who performed the operation.

After filling in lengthy and irrelevant questionnaires a woman dressed in a nurses uniform called me to be taken to the operating theatre. The anaesthetist approached clad in green, syringe in hand. To my horror I recognised him as the same man who had earlier posed as the porter!

He stuck the syringe in the bend of my arm and left it hanging from my arm. I had bruises for weeks afterwards.

### Satisfactory

I came to in a tiny room shared with two other women. We were packed literally head to foot. The same woman in the nurses uniform came to take our temperatures.

We were then called in to see the doctor and informed that the operation had been performed 'satisfactorily'. We were given 12 months free prescription for the pill. Well not exactly free, all included in the package deal for £56.

After a painful, uncomfortable night, we were wakened at 6.30 and told to lie on the bed because the doctor was doing his rounds to give everyone a thorough examination. The 'thorough' examination consisted at a quick glance at a soiled sanitary towel.

This over we were asked to get out of bed in order to be ready to leave by 8.30. We went out through reception. There another 30 women were waiting to go through the same process. I wanted to shout 'Go and find somewhere else to have your abortion' but knowing how desperate I had been I didn't.

### Lotus Elan

On the way home I thought about it all. No wonder the doctor owns a bloody Lotus Elan, and the nurse and porter-cum anaesthetist were smiling.

I reckoned with 20-30 abortions per day, seven days a week they were taking in between £7840 and £12,860 PER WEEK. And that's not counting the male vasectomies (£20) performed in the afternoons.

Having the abortion done privately didn't mean that the state didn't pay. Later I developed an ulcer on the neck of the womb due to infection. It entailed countless trips to my doctor and six months treatment at the local hospital before the infection was cleared.

I believe that every woman should have the right to have an abortion if she wants one. But that experience was enough to turn any one off. Abortions are legal, but it still looks as if the National Health Service is having to patch up the patients in the same way as it had to when abortions were illegal and performed for £10 in someone's back room.

Only now, women are being robbed of even more money to get what is the basic right of every woman—the right to choose. Under capitalism everything's a racket

## Death from lack of funds...

EVERY YEAR 5600 babies less than four weeks old are effectively murdered in Britain.

This makes the furore about abortion appear even more hypocritical than it already is. Mass murder on this scale is difficult to believe, but the facts come from that most sober medical journal, the Lancet.

Every year, 17,000 babies die. According to the Lancet, 'This mortality might be reduced by at least a third and possibly by half if modern knowledge and resources in perinatal care (looking after new-born babies) were made generally available throughout the country.'

In other words, if the money were

available, 5600 babies would be saved every year. The Lancet adds that most nurseries for the new-born are still without the means of monitoring oxygen 'even though the necessary equipment has been available for at least a decade.'

*This is only one part of the meaning, in human terms, of starving the National Health Service of funds.*

Today, 14 babies will be killed, tomorrow another 14, and so on and so on. The rate is almost as large as the people killed in road accidents.

Since NHS cash and resources are generally concentrated in the more middle-class areas, the overwhelming majority of the babies that are killed

are working people's.

Fantastic progress has, of course, been made in the last 30 years. The death of babies in the first four weeks of life has fallen to a tenth of what it was in 1930, when it was actually more than one per cent.

Modern technology has cut the number of deaths and the percentage of babies who are so seriously handicapped that they are consigned to institutions for life.

Yet however skilful or hard-working hospital staff are, if the tools are not available lives which should be saved are not.

**It is a monstrous crime against humanity that technological progress is not applied to the full.**

## Co-ownership? No, it isn't the answer

JUST OVER TWO years ago 59 women in a shoe factory at Fakenham, Norfolk, were sacked when the company was sold to a businessmen interested in property—not jobs. Ten of them fought back, occupied the factory and began to design and produce their own handbags, belts, skirts.

At a time of mergers, takeovers—and occupations—the experience of the battle at Fakenham is worth remembering and learning from.

JENNY HAWKE explains what happened...

The experience during summer 1972 was extraordinary. They got no support locally—most people thought they were 'just silly women with bees in their bonnets'. They should go back to the kitchen sink and not cause trouble', and so on.

Neighbours stopped talking to them. 'Friends' would cross to the other side of the street. But the girls met other people—'It was really interesting', said one of the occupiers. 'We talked to all different sorts of people about what we were doing, what it meant. It was good sitting in the old factory. I liked making the bags and skirts, and selling them in the market—I loved doing that. One day I sold over £100 worth'. This is the golden period they look back on now.

After a 17-week occupation, they decided to set themselves up legally as a co-ownership firm. And when that happened, they lost control. They sought advice from Scott Bader, a co-ownership firm. Unsure of 'business procedures' they lost confidence and relied more and more on businessmen, who were, in the words of one of the original occupiers, 'intellectual idealists' with no real commitment to making the firm work. To keep money flowing in steadily, they were forced back to shoe contracts. They hope for the day when they can produce their own line of leather goods—but at the moment they can just tick over, earning enough to pay the wages and overheads.

### Freedom

They have got rid of Scott Bader and spirits are higher—Sixteen new employees were hired and they have a bit more freedom—to go out to the shops, use the telephone, have an extra tea break, come in later if the kids are awkward.

But they are tied to the system, worry about meeting costs, keeping orders. They even agreed to a wage cut for a while 'to put their company on its feet.'

Works committee meetings were cut down drastically 'because we can't afford to lose production time'. The people benefitting most from this co-ownership arrangement are the manufacturers who 'give' them contracts and have no overheads to pay.

Nancy McGrath says, 'We still have to deal with the system



when we look for contracts. Only a drastic change like a revolution can change the system. We have to work with it and against it with all our might.

'I would advise people to think twice before trying to set up a co-ownership firm. We have so much worry. I don't know what else we could have done. We were fighting to save our jobs and we've achieved that much.'

'Occupation is necessary when redundancies are threatened. But co-ownership is no answer. It creates new problems. Workers can only play with capitalism before the day it is completely destroyed in every factory in every country.'

'You can take over the machines, hire experts to do the technical and managerial work, but to get orders you have to register as a company to appear respectable. We have some extra freedom within the factory itself. I think the fight was worth it just for that.'

The weeks of occupation are an important part of their lives. They glimpsed their real potential. They weren't just women'. They were making a stand for all workers—demanding the right to work, the right to control their own lives. 10 women defied a millionaire boss—and won the battle, within the limits they set themselves. They surprised themselves with their own collective strength. Women who had never thought about 'politics' and 'economics' began to criticise the system that was prepared to discard them. And to think of a different system. 10 women seized the opportunity to fight redundancies. Let's hope other workers will do the same, and use the experience of Fakenham to carry the struggle on further.

In the beginning. The story of Fakenham began two years ago, this picture was taken as the dispute began. Times have changed.

## Lady B... my tip for the Derby

THE TURF'S most important equestrian event is due to be decided at Epsom next Wednesday. By equestrian I mean it is mainly concerned about horses with four legs in a race named the Derby Stakes.

Ascot, which concerns mainly the two-legged horses, follows two weeks later.

Most of us will be at work in factories, offices and shops or hospitals or pits when the Derby is being run. We will, just the same, have our 10p on some nag with a nice-sounding name.

I haven't made up my mind yet what to put my money on, but I do have an idea what a certain lady will be putting her bit of house-keeping money on.

The lady concerned is Lady Beaverbrook. In fact, this first Lady of the Turf has spent a lot of house-keeping money in the last few years on horseflesh.

Her big year so far was 1972, when she spent over 264,000 guineas on just buying horses. Nearly every year has been a big year in the sales ring for this lady, who has paid out nearly a million guineas for horses over the last six years.

### 'Well bred'

Horse-racing, of course, is all about 'class' and 'breeding'. If a horse is 'well-bred' it will cost more than one that is not so 'well-bred'. Our First Lady knows this, and has spent accordingly.

She has set her sights on The Derby. If your horse just happens to win this race, your 'investment', increases in value to £1 million in under three minutes.

The £1 million is, of course, the horses' value as a stallion. Twenty mares a season at ten thousand quid a knee-trembler is a lot of money.

Geldings cannot produce offspring, so they are barred from the race. (You can't have Castrati beating the well-endowed—it's not good for business).

The Derby attracts only the best. Sir Lande-Speculator will have a runner, as well as Mr Diamond Mines, and even Junzo Japcapitalist II will fly over from Japan to see his horse participate.

Even after a horse has won the Big 'un, the owner has doubts about the horse's sexual capabilities—horses have been known to show no interest in breeding.

What doubts to have! Still, horses are strange creatures, and money talks. Junzo Japcapitalist, whose horse finished in the ruck, would like to buy a Derby winner for his stud-farm in Japan. He would like to breed his own Derby winner.

The cheque-book is opened, and the Derby winner goes to Japan. This year's race will be worth over £70,000 to the winning owner, which is enough to pay for the champagne in Bermuda next winter.

VIC TAMBLING

# The great guesthouse of all mankind

## A WORD IN OUR EAR

THE first of an occasional series featuring some of the historic speeches, manifestoes and proclamations of people who fought for freedom—and whose words are every bit as relevant to us today.

### People of France!

**F**OR fifteen centuries you have lived as slaves, and therefore unhappy. It is now scarcely six years since you have begun to revive in the hope of independence, happiness and equality. EQUALITY! First need of nature, first demand of man and chief bond of all legitimate society! French people! you have not been more favoured than the other nations that vegetate on this wretched globe!

Always and everywhere poor humanity, in the hands of more or less adroit cannibals is the tool of every ambition, the pasture of every tyranny. Always and everywhere men were lulled by fine phrases; never and nowhere did they receive the fulfilment with the promise.

From time immemorial we have been hypocritically told: 'Men are equal: and from time immemorial the insolent weight of the most degrading and most monstrous inequality has weighed down the human race. Since civilised society began, this finest possession of humanity had been unanimously recognised, yet not once realised; equality was only a fair and sterile fiction of the law.

Today when it is more loudly claimed, we are answered: Silence, wretches! real equality is not but a chimera; be content with constitutional equality: you are all equal before the law. *Canaille*, what more do you want? What more do we want? Legislators, governors, rich proprietors, listen in your turn.

We are all equal, are we not? This principle is uncontested; for without being mad one cannot say it is right when it is day.

Well, henceforward we are going to live and die as we were born; we desire real equality or death; that is what we want.

And we shall have this real equality at all costs. Woe to those who stand between it and us! Woe to those who resist so strong a desire.

The French Revolution is but the precursor of another revolution, far greater, far more solemn, which will be the last.

We declare that we can no longer permit that the huge majority of men toil and sweat for the service and at the pleasure of the tiny minority.

Long enough and too long have less than a million individuals disposed of what belongs to over 20 millions of their likes and their equals.

End at last this crying scandal, scandal our descendants will not credit! Vanish at last, revolting distinctions of rich and poor, great and little, masters and serfs, governors and governed.

Let there be no difference now between human beings but in age and sex! Since all have the same needs and the same facilities, let there

### BABEUF'S MANIFESTO OF EQUALS

Francois-Noel Gracchus Babeuf, one of the first to put forward communist ideas, went to the guillotine on 27 May, 1797 after a stooge had betrayed a planned uprising by his Society of the Equals to restore the original aims of the French Revolution—liberty, equality, fraternity.

Babeuf's ideas were summed up in the Manifesto of Equals. Extracts from it are reproduced here.

be for all one education and one standard of life! They are content with one son and the same hier for all, why should not the same portion and quality of food suffice for each?

But already the enemies of a state which is the most natural imaginable, declaim against us.

Disorganisers and factious men, they say to us, all you wish are massacres and booty.

### People of France!

WE SHALL not waste our time in answering them, we shall tell you: The holy enterprise which we are organising has for its only aim to end civil dissension and the poverty of the people.

The moment for great measures has come. The evil is at its height, it covers the face of the earth. Chaos has reigned there under the name of politics too many centuries. Everything must be in order and resume its place. Let the elements of justice and happiness crystallise at the voice of Equality. The time has come to found the Republic of Equals, that great guesthouse of all mankind. The days of restitution have arrived. Weeping families take your seats at the common table, nature spreads for all her children.

### People of France!

FOR YOU then was reserved the purest of all glories. Yet it is you that will first offer the world that touching sight.

Ancient habits, archaic prejudices again try to prevent the establishment of the Republic of Equals. The organising of real equality, the only state which answers all requirements, without making victims or costing sacrifices, perhaps will not at first please everyone. The egoist and ambitious man will scream with rage. Those who possess unjustly will cry out,



injustice! Their exclusive delights, their solitary pleasures, their personal ease will leave bitter longing in the hearts of some individuals who have grown effete by their neighbours, toil. Lovers of absolute power, and worthless tools of arbitrary authority will find it hard to bring their cheeks to the level of equality. Their short sight cannot penetrate into the near future of the common good; but what is the power of a few thousand malcontents against the mass of men, entirely happy and wondering that they sought so long for what was beneath their hand.

On the morrow of this true revolution they will say: What, was the common good so easy? We had but to will it. Ah, why did we not will it sooner? Was it necessary to repeat it to us so often? Yes, without doubt, but one man on earth more rich and powerful than his fellows, his equals, shatters the equilibrium; and crime and unhappiness arise on earth.

### People of France!

OPEN YOUR eyes and hearts to the fullness of joy. Recognise and proclaim with us the REPUBLIC OF EQUALS.

## THE 13 WHO STOOD UP TO UNCLE JOE

THE BALHAM GROUP (HOW BRITISH TROTSKYISM BEGAN), by Reg Groves, Pluto Press 75p.

'FOR THE economic storm blowing across the entire capitalist world was a mighty tempest. By January 1931, out of an insured working population of 12.4 million, Britain had 2,662,824 unemployed...

'As the numbers of unemployed rose, the Labour government, which had long abandoned its modest election programme of reform and which had almost angrily rejected plans to provide employment, now turned to the orthodox capitalist remedies for slump—massive economies in public spending at the expense of the social services, cuts in pay in public and private industries, drastic

cuts in unemployment benefit, in the period of benefit and in the eligibility for benefit...

'The crisis of capitalism was plain for all to see. That its overthrow alone could provide reasonable provision for the people could now be plainly demonstrated.

'Objectively, for the third time since the war, the elements of a potential revolutionary situation were discernible'.

That crisis, and the near total failure of the Communist Party to develop the policies needed to build the mass revolutionary movement that was necessary and possible, led a small group of Communist Party members, working men and women in South West London, towards the

policies of the International Left Opposition.

At that time Joseph Stalin had become supreme boss in Russia and in the Communist International, to which all the Communist Parties then belonged.

It was a case of 'when Joe turns, we all turn'.

### Paralysed

Stalin had imposed on all the parties 'ultra-leftist' policies which cut them off from non-Party and Labour Party workers and paralysed the revolutionary movement at the very period when its prospects were most favourable. The Party line was that Labour Party supporters were

'social fascists'.

The Balham Group challenged this line of the leadership of the British Communist Party. They challenged, too, the line of the German Communist Party for its blind refusal to develop a working-class united front against the growing menace of Hitler's real fascists.

They took up some of the criticisms Trotsky was making of Stalin's crimes and blunders.

These were unforgivable sins to the conformists, hacks and party-machine men who had been pushed into the leadership of the Communist Party after the defeat of the 'old guard' leaders in 1929.

And so the 13 members of the Balham Group were expelled from

the Party and covered with slander and abuse.

They were setting out on a road much longer than any of them could have known.

It is the road we are now travelling, 40 years on. Their tradition is our tradition. Without their self-sacrifice, stubbornness and devotion, under conditions incomparably more difficult than those of today, our task would be that much more difficult.

In telling their story, Reg Groves has performed an invaluable service. Every member of the International Socialists should buy, study and treasure this little book.

DUNCAN HALLAS

# THE UNIONS

THE General and Municipal Workers' annual delegate conference in Blackpool next week, will be mainly concerned with rules revision.

The agenda contains many propositions on how the union can be changed to allow the membership more room to move and more air to breathe.

The concern starts with how delegates are selected. From there it spreads to many other key aspects of the way the union is operated.

Three resolutions have been submitted to try to make conference more representative and responsive.

There is an attempt to stop retired members representing branches, and two motions seeking an end to the system of advance bookings of delegations by suggestion that no one should go to conference more than twice in a row.

At first sight these moves may not seem crucial. In fact they are. They represent considerable effort by the rank and file to get to grips with a union operated strictly in the interests of the leadership.

The simple fact about the conference is that there is a very low proportion of lay delegates since everything is done through the regions.

## Block votes

Dissident members of the Northern Region — the land of milk and Cunningham — recall the way their conference delegations were sewn up years in advance and how important this was to the regime.

After conference the delegates would meet in their hotel and decide who would see to the bookings of rooms for next year.

Since most of them would be branch secretaries—often of branches which rarely, if ever, met—they would dispose of thousands of block votes.

A bit of horse-trading would be done and a safe seat for next year's conference would be assured.

There is now a push to get this system changed and to open it out more. The main difficulty is that change has to be pursued through a machine carefully constructed to keep down the influence of the members.

Among other key reforms on the agenda is one which strikes at the heart of the present set-up.

Bath No 2 and Wandsworth

## Democracy - hard

## graft in the GMWU

### Child of the Union

HE WON'T be at the conference for obvious reasons. And he will be mentioned seldom, if at all. It suits other people to gloss over the whole affair.

This is unfortunate because Andrew Cunningham is no way outside the mainstream of officialdom in the G and M in most of its activities.

Indeed, he was very much the child of the union, its rules and the way it is run.

Cunningham was an autocrat, vain and ambitious, who learned his trade from other autocrats who fell from exactly the same mould.

Just like them, his power stemmed from a union rule book carefully designed to give the top officials unchallenged power.

The rule book wasn't always the way it is. The present set-up came into being after the General Strike.

The rank and file minority government had dared to run a candidate against the sitting general secretary. He and his cohorts moved to ensure

that genuine democracy did not interrupt the business of the union again.

Cunningham's business unionism was also something he learned—at the feet of the past masters of the sweet-heart deal like Charles Dukes, Tom Williamson and Jack Cooper.

Cunningham improved on their policies in the field. He used to sign deals with companies like Dunlop for a closed shop even before the factory was built. Like the others, he traded discipline for the franchise to collect union dues. That was national union policy.

Cunningham attempted to philosophise about this from time to time. In 1972 he spoke about the problems of modern trade unionism and how it wasn't the leadership which was out of touch, but the rank and file.

branches have put down amendments to the totalitarian rule 37 which, among many other repressive measures, prevents branches communicating with one another unless addresses or circulars have been approved by regional council, regional committee or general council.

### Bureaucracy

Bath's amendment would sweep this away and allow branches to communicate provided properly constituted branch meetings had authorised the circulars.

It would also take away the Regional Council's power to decide whether or not members can communicate with the press or so-called unofficial bodies.

Many resolutions focus on the way the General Council and the Executive Council the union's top two committees, are appointed.

The General Council consists of the union chairman, general secretary, and treasurer, plus two representatives from each region.

But a built-in majority of top-level full-time officials is ensured by

He cribbed this through from an earlier and tougher version propounded by the immediate past general secretary Lord Cooper, who said in 1957:

'We are all too familiar with the propaganda which fosters the unctuous philosophy that all virtues lie with the rank and file.'

Cunningham's ventures into local government, on to this public authority and that, is not something he dreamed up, either.

It is specifically encouraged in union rules. And business dealing too, is no stranger to the G and M.

Corruption has many forms and most people came in contact with one of them. For employers constantly try to buy and sell those active in the trade union movement.

Nonetheless there are ways to minimise it. The best is to have a union structure where power is decentralised, where grace and favour and fixing is at a minimum and where membership involvement is high.

the regional secretary automatically holding one of the two seats from each region.

The National Executive is very much the creature of the General Council, being appointed by it and having decisions subject to its approval.

Branches are attempting to build in at least a majority of lay members on both committees. And, indeed, almost any change would be an improvement on the bureaucrat's dream that is the present set-up.

But if the union is to take a really major step towards democracy, this whole top level structure must be recast.

### Machine

Full-time officials—national or regional—should not be given the top committees on a plate. On the contrary, there should be only one top committee—a lay, elected national executive.

The indications this year are that David Basnett, the new general secretary, will be trying to consolidate the power of the national officials over the union machine.

The Cunningham affair gives him the perfect opportunity to challenge the power of the regional barons and increase his own.

Basnett may espouse the cause of democracy but for him it still has limits, strict limits.

It will require patient work from the bottom up genuinely to democratise the union.



Lord Cooper: 'Unctuous philosophy'



David Basnett: power struggle

## HOW YOU CAN HELP JAILED PICKETS

A campaign sponsored by a number of leading trade unionists is being launched by the National Rank and File organising committee to help support the dependents of the Shrewsbury building workers and spread information and propaganda throughout the trade union movement to help build a movement to free the six jailed pickets.

In a statement the committee said: 'We are asking all our supporters to take our special collection sheets into their places of work and commit as many of their mates as possible to giving weekly subscriptions.'

'The money collected can be returned to Ossie Lewis, the fund treasurer, monthly. We will then forward it to the North Wales Defence Fund, which is now supporting the jailed men's families.'

'We undertake to supply a collector with receipts and new collection sheets. But the most important aspect of this campaign is to supply propaganda material which explains the facts of this conspiracy trial and provides the arguments to help build a movement to release the jailed men.'

'Because of the conspiracy of silence on the issue every effort must be made systematically to commit these workers to realise how serious an attack on our rights this is.'

'By such a campaign, we hope to win a greater number of workers for this crucial cause. The organising committee therefore calls on all its supporters to help in making this campaign a success among the rank and file and to help in the release of our imprisoned brothers.'

Collection sheets are available from Ossie Lewis, 25 Park Road, Cheam, Surrey.

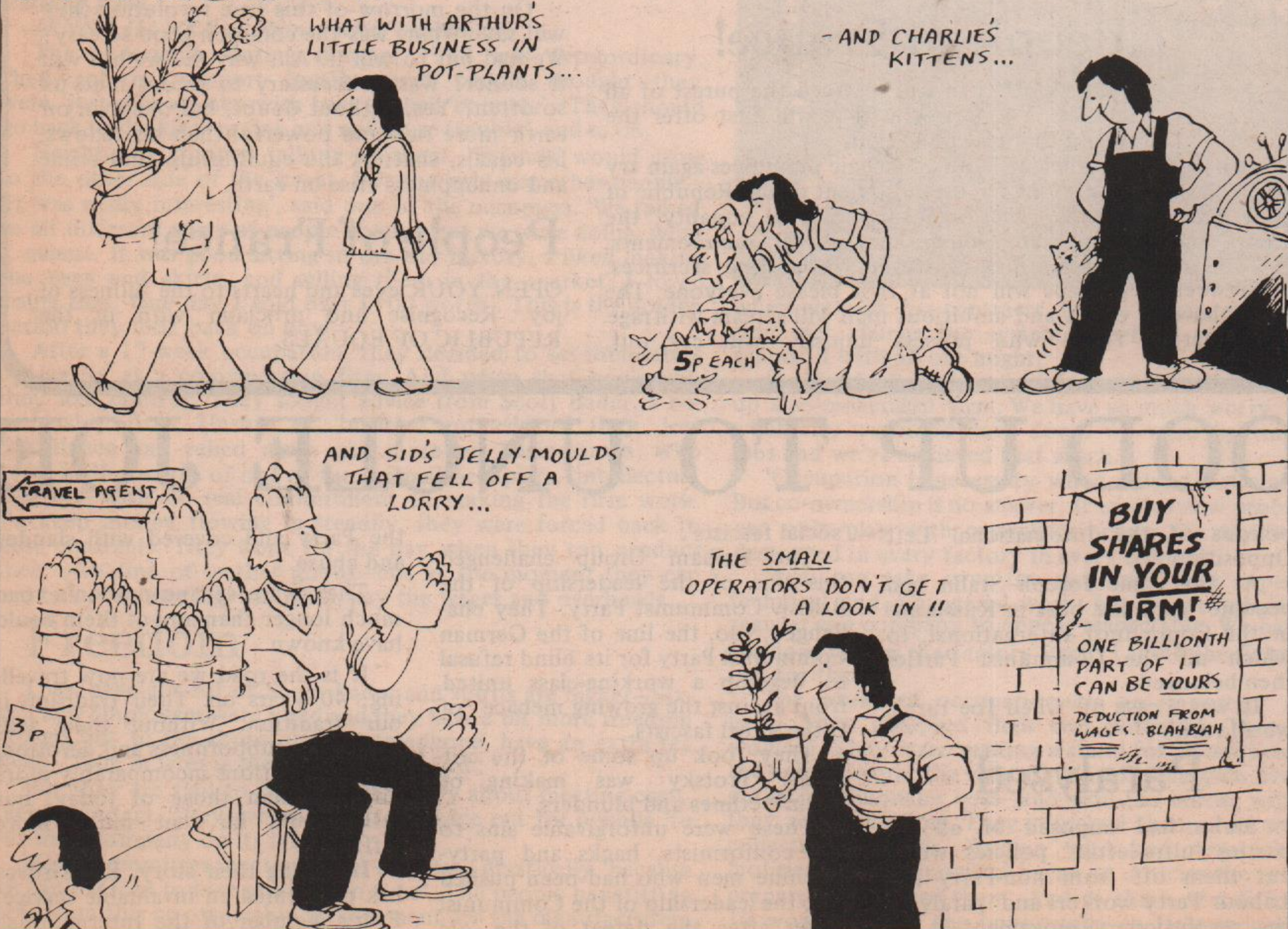
## PRICELESS MURRAY

THE ANNUAL conference of Trades Councils at Worthing has unanimously called for the release of the Shrewsbury building workers and the repeal of the 1875 Conspiracy Act.

Other resolutions called for a complete ban on the use of laminates and asbestos, nationalisation of the building industry under workers' control, the abolition of private practice and all charges within the National Health Service, total opposition to the military Junta in Chile and an end to all arms shipments there.

TUC general secretary Len Murray made a priceless contribution to the working class struggle when he spoke at the conference of wage restraint 'becoming a way of life' and of 'improved industrial performance' as the answer to all our problems.

### OUR NORMAN



Past OUR NORMAN cartoons are published in The Our Norman Book, price 40p from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



# NALGO REFUSE TO BOW TO BLACKMAIL

by Geoff Wolfe  
Lewisham NALGO

THE national executive of the local government workers union, NALGO, has refused to bow to the employers' blackmail.

In response to the employers' refusal to negotiate on the national pay claim until action for the London allowance is called off, the executive decided last week on a national overtime ban and a one-day strike on Monday, 1 July.

The proposed action is aimed at bringing the employers back to the negotiating table. But it is not seen by the union leaders as a means to mobilise the members in support of the 20 per cent claim. It is no secret that the chairman and the vice-chairman of the local government negotiating committee would like to settle as soon as possible within Phase Three.

That is why they have openly stated that they want the London action called off. But the employers' refusal even to discuss the national claim is seen as a threat to the cosy way of life of 'respectable' trade union leaders. So the executive had no option but to respond with a call for action.

During the London allowance campaign, the executive have shown their fear of full-scale action by the members. Last week, they again instructed Islington branch to end their all-out strike and return to work by 3 June. They intend to substitute a selective strike of 200 members.

The lobbies, marches and demonstrations organised by Islington and other branches proved that the members are willing to act if the right lead is given. The executive are determined to prevent a repeat of this situation.

Rank and file members will, however, see through the executive's poptun tactics. If the local government employers refuse to settle the claim soon, we must demand action at branch level, and a continuation of strike action, nationally for as long as is necessary.

Neither must the rank and file allow action in support of negotiations as a smokescreen for settlement within Phase Three.

## PROTEST AGAINST ANTI-PICKET SQUAD

by Eddie Mancktelow and Pat Clarke

DAGENHAM: The arrest of four official Engineers Union pickets at Fords during the strike against the Industrial Relations Court earlier this month is the most recent in a long line of arrests of pickets by the police's Special Patrol Group.

The SPG are now using every possible chance to flex their muscles against pickets, and to try out the common law. In the Dagenham case, the men have been charged with obstruction and threatening behaviour.

It is time we protested against the activities of this sinister group. The Shrewsbury 24 Defence Committee Barking and Dagenham Branch is calling for a mass picket of the court where our four brothers come up on trial on Monday 1 July.

We should all stop work to show our concern about picketing rights. A march to the court will start from Barking Park at 9.15am.

# How we stopped the boss putting up prices

by Yannis Psarras  
TGWU shop steward and branch secretary

AT the bakery of T Pittas, in Southgate, London, we have just won our most important victory. Our employer wanted to raise the price of the cakes we make by up to 30p in the pound. We stopped him by union pressure. As a result the increases are to be 3p to 4½p in the pound.

Perhaps other workers have something to learn from us though we have only been organised for one year. If they took the same sort of action, then we would not be suffering from the present huge rises in the cost of living.

Conditions in the factory were appalling. But since we got organised we have obtained three wage increases in a year, smashing Phase Three. We have negotiated over many unjust decisions taken by our employer.

Today our conditions and wages are better than workers who have been organised longer than us.

We have achieved this because we have organised every worker in the company, even the 278 driver-salesmen. One of these is the only exception and he is just a company man.

In our shop we have four different nationalities. Indians, Turks, Greeks and English. Our union meetings are held in four different languages. Yet we are as one and understand each other because our aim is to improve conditions for everyone.

I think all workers in Britain have a duty to follow our example. A price increase is a wage cut for us and all workers.



All in favour of unofficial strikes in schools where teachers voted for strike action—please show!

With not a vote against, more than 500 members of the National Union of Teachers voted for action at a meeting inside their own union's headquarters last Thursday. The 500 occupied their own union HQ after a lobby of the union Action Committee over the London allowance. The lobby was called by Rank and File. They were refused entry even after standing three hours outside and being drenched by a thunderstorm. Finally they got in by a side door, occupied the main hall, and held a meeting. The officers of the union refused to come. The two main speakers were the two Rank and File members of the NUT executive for London, Beth Stone and Dick North. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

## Ballot over computers strike

THE leaders of the Civil and Public Services Association are anxiously awaiting the results of a ballot which they hope will allow them to call off the five-week old strike in the Post Office computer centres. The action, aimed at securing a special 'catching up' pay award has stopped most telephone bills.

All Post Office workers have suffered badly under Phase Three. Militancy has developed particularly among white-collar staff because they compare themselves with civil servants who are getting between £3 and £6 a week more. 154 CPSA and Society of Civil Servants computer operators are on strike. They are backed by a national overtime ban and the blacking of preparatory work for the telecommunications tariff increases.

After several months the Post Office has now offered to negotiate. But there are strings.

The Post Office refuses to commit itself to the aim of parity with the civil servants and insists on an end to all industrial action before they will talk.

At the CPSA conference two weeks ago delegates rejected the leadership's recommendation to call off the industrial action. But after a day of bitter manoeuvring the post and telecommunications group executive committee persuaded delegates to agree to a ballot of the 32,000 group members. The ballot is likely to reject the executive recommendations.

Mass meetings of computer operators at Kensington and clerks at Newcastle have voted to continue the fight.

Ironically the Society of Civil Servants, representing the 5000 supervisory and managerial group, has adopted a more militant stand than the CPSA leaders. The executive of the society's Post Office group decided last Friday that the employers' offer to negotiate was too vague to justify calling off the action. The SCS decision means that the strike will go on whatever the result of the CPSA's ballot on Friday.

## 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.

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.

THE WORKER (paper of Socialist Worker Movement) May/June issue now out. Articles include: Repression North and South, Chrysler Ireland, Army life, IRA/UVF unity? Order from 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Debtors please pay.

SOCIALIST GAY GROUP has speakers throughout the country on the Gay question and sexism. Inquiries from 15 branches specially welcomed. Details from 18 Dickenson Road, London, NE.

PROFESSOR ERIC HOBBSBAWM will lecture on The Labour Movement, Military Intervention and Coups. Wednesday 29 May, 8pm, Birkbeck College, Malet St, Central London. No admission charge.

FLAT OR SHARE OF FLAT needed now for Scottish subversive on run from unemployment, coming down to work in BRISTOL. Write to Colin, 109 Ivanhoe Drive, Glenrothes, Fife.

INTERESTED in forming amateur beginners' art group. Oil-painting, water-colours etc. All ages. Phone Den. Cardiff 23610 (daytime).

JUST OUT. Minority Rights Group new report: THE NAMIBIANS OF SOUTH-WEST AFRICA, 45p (53p post free) from MRG, 36 Craven Street, London WC2.

JOURNALISTS CHARTER Meeting: Mon 6 June. Mike Bower, from Sheffield, will speak on The Strategy for the next Newspaper Society claim—7.30pm, Museum Tavern, Great Russell St, London WC1.

IRISH POLITICAL HOSTAGES CAMPAIGN—Demonstration, Sunday 9 June, 3pm. Speakers Corner. March to Harold Wilson's home to demand repatriation of Irish political prisoners.

Rank and File Teachers LONDON TEACHERS—WHAT NEXT? Public meeting, Friday 7 June, Old Lecture Theatre, LSE, 7.30pm. Speakers: Beth Stone and Dick North, NUT Executive members.

FORD WORKERS ARRESTED! Picket in support of four AUEW pickets, Monday 1 July, Barking Magistrates Court, Barking High Road, 9.15am.

LONDON WORKERS' FIGHT FORUM Andrew Hornung on THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL, REVISIONISM and THE MASS STRIKE DEBATE. 7.30pm, Sunday 9 June, Golden Lion, Britannia Street, near Kings Cross. This is the first in a series of forums which will discuss basic questions of marxist politics. For more information contact: Workers' Fight, 98 Gifford St, London N1.

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## Big claim goes in for Chrysler 7000

by Peter Bain TGWU

SCOTLAND:—Shop stewards at Chrysler's Linwood plant have now lodged the annual wages and conditions claim on behalf of the 7000 manual workers.

The claim, due for implementation on 1 July, is for the 35-hour week, more holidays and relief time, equal pay for women, abolition of the system used to calculate overtime and shift premiums and better sickness and pension schemes. It also includes the longstanding demand for parity with Coventry—an increase of approximately £9—even if the rest is settled within Phase Three.

Last year a similar claim was put forward during Phase Two of the Tories' wage policy. But it soon became clear most of the leading stewards had no intention of fighting seriously for it. Eventually £2.20 across the board, plus an extra two days holiday was accepted.

This year is different. There is widespread feeling in the plant that a fight has to be made. At a joint meeting two weeks ago our 200 shop stewards decided to campaign for the claim and to involve the shop floor from the word go.

This year, with the Labour government's adoption of Phase Three and the

unions' attachment to the so-called 'social compact', any support from official quarters will have to be fought for even harder than before.

It's now clear what the TUC leaders mean by 'voluntary restraint'—they've volunteered to restrain our wage demands. But recently TGWU Jones and AUEW Scanlon, despite their support for the social compact, have spoken vaguely about 'taking the cost of living into account when settling wage claims.'

Since the lowest estimate of the rise in prices this year is 15 per cent, the TGWU and AUEW leaders should insist their Linwood members get at least £7 a week more. Otherwise for the second year running our union leaders will be telling us to accept a cut in our standard of living.

The situation confronting Linwood workers and all other workers with claims coming up is clear. If we do nothing we know what we will get—Phase Three. In our case that's about £2.80 before and £1.90 after tax. Anything more than that we'll have to fight for. The signs are that Linwood will be putting up just such a fight.

## Black Strachans! —rank and file call

EASTLEIGH, Hants:— Workers picketing Strachan's Engineering factory have put out a nationwide appeal for blacking through the National Rank and File Organising Committee. An effective black on all the subsidiaries of Giltspur, Strachan's parent company, will cost Maxwell Joseph, Giltspur's multi-millionaire owner, thousands every week.

At a rally in support of the Strachan's workers in Eastleigh last Wednesday, Pat Farrelly, Divisional Officer of the AUEW, made it clear that the union executive had not so far issued an official blacking circular for fear of falling foul of the Industrial Relations Act.

When it was put to him that this was no excuse coming from a union that had just successfully defied the Act, he made it clear that this was not his position but that of the AUEW executive.

It is imperative that all AUEW militants pass resolutions at branch and district committee level demanding that the executive issue an immediate blacking circular on all Giltspur companies in furtherance of the Strachan's workers three-month fight for jobs.

The Transport union—who did not even appear at last week's rally have done virtually nothing in support of the Strachan's workers.

All trade unionists should be applying the black which the Strachan's workers have called through the National Rank and File Organising Committee. Lists of firms to be blacked are available from Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

Funds are urgently needed to sustain the 24 hour picket line at the factory. Send donations to P Hann, c/o TGWU, 67-75 London Road, Southampton.

## No TASS or no job

STOKE:—For the second time this year Stoke employers have launched an attack on members of TASS, the Engineering Union's white-collar section. In February the giant Michelin company victimised a TASS organiser and refused to recognise the union. Now Simplex, a firm supplying electrical components to Chile among other orders, has sacked TASS activist Frank Aston.

Frank told Socialist Worker, 'The managing director has said to members: "If you don't stop union activities I will make you redundant."'

Frank was a delegate to the recent TASS conference at Blackpool. Since he began at Simplex last November, he has refused to do the excessive overtime demanded by management.

'I was asked to explain to the management why I refused to work Saturday mornings. But I don't believe in Saturday working. I work my 40 hours a week and that's enough.'

'Workers should not be forced into doing overtime. That is my belief and I am sticking to it. This is just one of the reasons I am being sacked.'

Management claim that the sacking is on account of absenteeism. But Frank's letter of dismissal makes no mention of this.

Messages of support to c/o John Birks, 47 East Bank Ride, Forsbrooke, Stoke on Trent.

## HARRY FIGHTS ON —WITHIN PHASE THREE

by Arthur Seymour (TGWU)

CORNWALL:—At a mass meeting of the Heathcoat's Cam Brea branch of the Transport Union last week Harry (don't rock the Labour government's boat) Stephens, the union's local district officer, outlined the details of his negotiations within the Phase Three limits.

Only one shop steward, Rob Patteson, challenged Stephens about why he had not pressed for the full claim of £10 a week across the board as proposed by the branch and recommended by the shop stewards committee.

This was greeted with loud applause from the well-attended meeting. Stephens then went into a long-winded and predictable explanation of why he thought we must not try to break Phase Three. He talked of 'unrealistic demands', 'the need to obey the law of the land', and what a grand job Michael Foot is doing.

He also had the nerve to say he had been fighting Phase Three since it was first thought up, 'although' he did not

# NURSES: THERE'S NO STOPPING THEM NOW

THE historic nurses' revolt increased in intensity this week.

All over the country nurses, hospital workers and others were out, demonstrating in their thousands, showing once again their determination to end the scandal of low pay in hospitals and to halt the general decline in the health service.

Nurses in the Confederation of Health Service Employees took token strike action, adopted a general policy of non-co-operation and imposed an overtime ban.

All this is taking place despite Minister of Health Barbara Castle's attempts to buy time and cool the situation down with an inquiry.

Indeed it was the unprecedented

by SW reporter

revolt of the nurses which forced Barbara Castle to make a speedy statement last week offering an inquiry and conceding payment of threshold increases to all nurses and ordering any un-social hours payments that were held up to be paid right away.

## COLLAPSE

But the anger of the nurses has not been cooled by her moves. They are taking action to demand immediate payment of £5 a week pending the inquiry. And from the

inquiry they are looking for a very substantial sum that really will give some approximation to a living wage that will halt the collapse of the health service.

Despite all this the National Union of Public Employees' leaders continue their soft shoe shuffle on the nurses' claim. General Secretary Alan Fisher just doesn't want to do anything to upset the Labour government, even if doing nothing weakens his members' struggle.

The nurses' revolt is being backed to the hilt by other hospital workers. Their living standards too are being

cut to pieces by higher prices.

The conviction is growing that they have recovered from the defeat the Tory government inflicted on them last year largely because the trade union movement left them to fight alone. The nurses and hospital workers' pay claims should be united and pursued as one.

## ACTIVE

This week too active support for the nurses has been growing with miners and others out demonstrating. Active support from the big battalions of the working class movement will ensure the health workers victory and stop the progressive collapse of the health service.

## Action at hospitals throughout the country

SCOTLAND:—At Bangour Hospital in West Lothian nurses have pushed for and won a joint union committee between NUPE and COHSE to co-ordinate the struggle. At the Royal Scottish National Hospital, Larbert, 400 COHSE nurses have decided to strike as from 10 June if their full demands have not been met by next Monday.

In Edinburgh more than 50 nurses attended the first meeting of the Nurses Action Group organised by local nurses who support the rank and file paper Hospital Worker.

Jim Barlow, a shop steward at Ninewell's Hospital, Dundee, addressed the meeting and stressed the need for unionisation and links with other hospital workers. Fiona Ross NUPE, a student nurse, spoke on the present struggle and the crisis in the Health Service. An action committee was set up with representatives from eight local hospitals.

WALES:—More than 200 nurses and trade unionists marched through Carmarthen last Saturday. The march was organised by the NUPE shop stewards committee. In marked contrast to the march through Swansea organised by the Royal College of Nurses the previous week, the demonstration was lively, chanting slogans, and invitations had been sent out to the trade union movement to support them.

At the meeting afterwards Howard Jones of Pentremawr Colliery Miners Union pledged miners' support for the nurses. 'If the need arises we will come out and support you. If you do not work in the hospitals, we will not go underground. And you know what happens then! Close your ranks and call on the strength of the trade union movement.'

MANCHESTER:—More than 1000 nurses, radiographers, student doctors and technicians marched through the city centre on Saturday demanding the nurses pay claim be met in full. Workers from Metal Box, Westhoughton, have organised a petition in support of the nurses and are to take this to Townleys Bolton District Hospital. So far this hospital hasn't been involved in the action group which called the demonstration and it is hoped the support of the Metal Box men will bring them in.

PORTSMOUTH:—Last Wednesday nurses at St James' mental hospital staged a one-



Some of the 1000 nurses who marched in Nottingham. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

hour strike during which a mass meeting decided to step up the action by banning overtime and all clerical and non-nursing duties and halting work in admission centres on a rotation basis. Ancillary workers are refusing to carry out any of the work banned by the nurses.

On Friday nurses leafleted the naval dockyard urging the dockers to support them by staging a half-day token strike. Dockyard stewards and union officials are now moving for such a strike. One nurse told Socialist Worker: 'You may have all the public sympathy in the world, but the government does not care unless this sympathy is channelled into industrial action which hurts their pockets.'

NOTTINGHAM:—Almost 1000 nurses marched with other trade unionists through the streets of Nottingham on Saturday. The march, which was organised by NUPE, was led by the band from Calverton Colliery. The presence of the miners and the trades council was greatly appreciated by the nurses.

One group of nurses carried a coffin

symbolising the burial of the Florence Nightingale image. Other banners proclaimed the need for money on the table and not a six-month wait. The main feeling of the demonstration was one of disgust towards Barbara Castle's inquiry, which gives the nurses little or nothing at present.

The Royal College of Nurses had given support for the demonstration but withdrew it only the evening before, considering it unprofessional. Despite this, members of the RCN defied their so-called leaders and went on the march.

Token stoppages are to take place at several hospitals in the area this week. Nottingham City Hospital is staging a stoppage on Thursday, for one hour. Mapperly Psychiatric Hospital is to have a similar stoppage on Friday, with a meeting in the grounds of the hospital.

LIVERPOOL:—400 hospital workers marched to the Pier Head on Saturday and members of the public joined in along the way. At the meeting after the march a docks shop steward said: 'We are

all fighting an employer, whether it be a public or private employer, and the dockworkers hope to show their support for the nurses in the near future.'

A spokeswoman for the Nurses Action Group urged all nurses to support the stoppage on Monday 3 June. She said the programme of action should not be scrapped just because an inquiry had been set up. 'How long will a government inquiry take? What will be the outcome?' she asked.

'We want the nationalisation of the drugs industry under full workers' control and those profits pouring back into the health service.'

Bob Gregory, NUPE steward and male nurse at Newsham General, said after the meeting that the unity of nurses and ancillary workers was essential.

STEVENAGE:—Prompt action by all unions at Lister Hospital over the case of a nurse's dismissal has resulted in her reinstatement and an increase in the number of nurses applying to join the unions. Two months after starting as an auxiliary nurse in the psychiatric unit, a nurse was given one week's notice on the decision of the Hospital Occupational Health Doctor. This was because she had been honest enough to mention on the routine medical form she filled in, after starting work, that she had suffered a nervous breakdown 2½ years earlier.

The hospital management refused to reconsider their decision. A meeting of the newly-formed joint shop stewards committee at the hospital was immediately called to ask for support. Shop stewards then reported they had got total backing for action to force a reinstatement. Management was then told that a vital department in the hospital would go on strike unless the nurse was reinstated. Management quickly climbed down.

HOSPITAL WORKER—the rank and file paper which fights for rank and file hospital workers be they nurses or porters—has brought out a special issue on the nurses' struggle. Use it to argue for support for nurses in the factory, office or hospital and to build a campaign for the nurses' cause.

Orders to Hospital Worker, 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2, price 3p plus 3p postage. More than 10 copies post free.

## Sacked—for looking after sick daughter

BOLTON:—Jack Cummins, an Engineering Union member at Automotive Products, took a week off work to look after his six-year-old daughter who is incurably ill. Her mother died last October.

Last Saturday he was sacked for 'absenteeism'.

Jack had taken time off before to look after his daughter—and the management had accepted this. This time there was a difference. A fortnight ago Jack wrote a report in Socialist Worker over a strike at the factory over the management's refusal to discipline 35 workers who ignored the AUEW's national strike call.

'We won on every point,' said Jack, 'but I think the management felt a little sick over it.'

The management insist that the article had nothing to do with his sacking. But the article was brought up by the 35, who—having joined the union as a result of the strike—protested at Jack's calling them 'blacklegs'.

So anxious were management to oust Jack that he was given a week's wages in place of notice. He's fighting, and the case is likely to be taken up by his convenor.

## 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

# £1.20: GET IT NOW AND FIGHT FOR MORE

by Steve Jefferys

**FIGURES released last Friday mean that last month's increase in the cost of living was the highest for 29 years.**

But even these figures—representing an annual rate of price inflation of more than 20 per cent—don't tell the true story for working-class people. Workers spend more on basic needs such as food and housing than is allowed for in the official index. So for working-class families living costs have jumped even higher.

Those with power and wealth in this society couldn't really care a damn about what price inflation means to you. Nonetheless they have one slight problem. When the Tories were drawing up their incomes policy last year, Ted Heath wrote in a threshold clause. This gives 40p-a-week rises every time the Index goes up one per cent above six per cent.

## ENOUGH

On Friday last week the seven per cent threshold limit was smashed again and those seven million workers who had agreed threshold deals became due for payment of a £1.20 increase.

But there are 14 million workers who are not covered and are not going to get the £1.20 (and the £3.60 which will be due if prices rise another nine per cent in the next six months) unless they put in a claim and fight.

True these rises are not enough—nothing like enough. They were dreamed up by the Tories in a bid to sweeten their relations with the TUC leaders. And now they're being paid to try and stop workers fighting for the 20 per cent rises and above that would keep pace with the rising cost of living.

For each 40p increase in gross pay 13p will be lost in income tax and another 2p in National Insurance. Any worker who's getting a rent rebate will lose a further 7p a week in rebate for each 40p he gets.

The rises only apply to the basic hourly rate, and are not used in calculating overtime or shift premiums. Hundreds of thousands of families will find they lose free

school meals for one or more of their children and households getting family income supplement will find it cut by 20p for each extra 40p of threshold money.

But the employers are now on the run. Their pay laws mean we're all allowed to claim the £1.20. And they are allowed to pay us. In every factory, shipyard, office and school-room where the rises haven't yet been paid mass meetings must be held to tell the employer: Pay up or else!

## APPLIES

Remember these three key points:

It is not legally necessary for a threshold agreement to be properly negotiated—any employer can decide to pay or not off his own bat. He does not have to inform the Pay Board that he has decided to pay cost-of-living rises.

It is not necessary for your boss to have agreed to pay the cost-of-living rises before the price index trigger point (198.4) is reached on Friday. You can go in any time—as long as Phase Three lasts and Code SI No 1785 is in force—and demand that he pays up. This applies whatever the size of the company. It also applies whenever your last wage rise was paid, whether a month or a year ago, or even if it has not been signed yet.

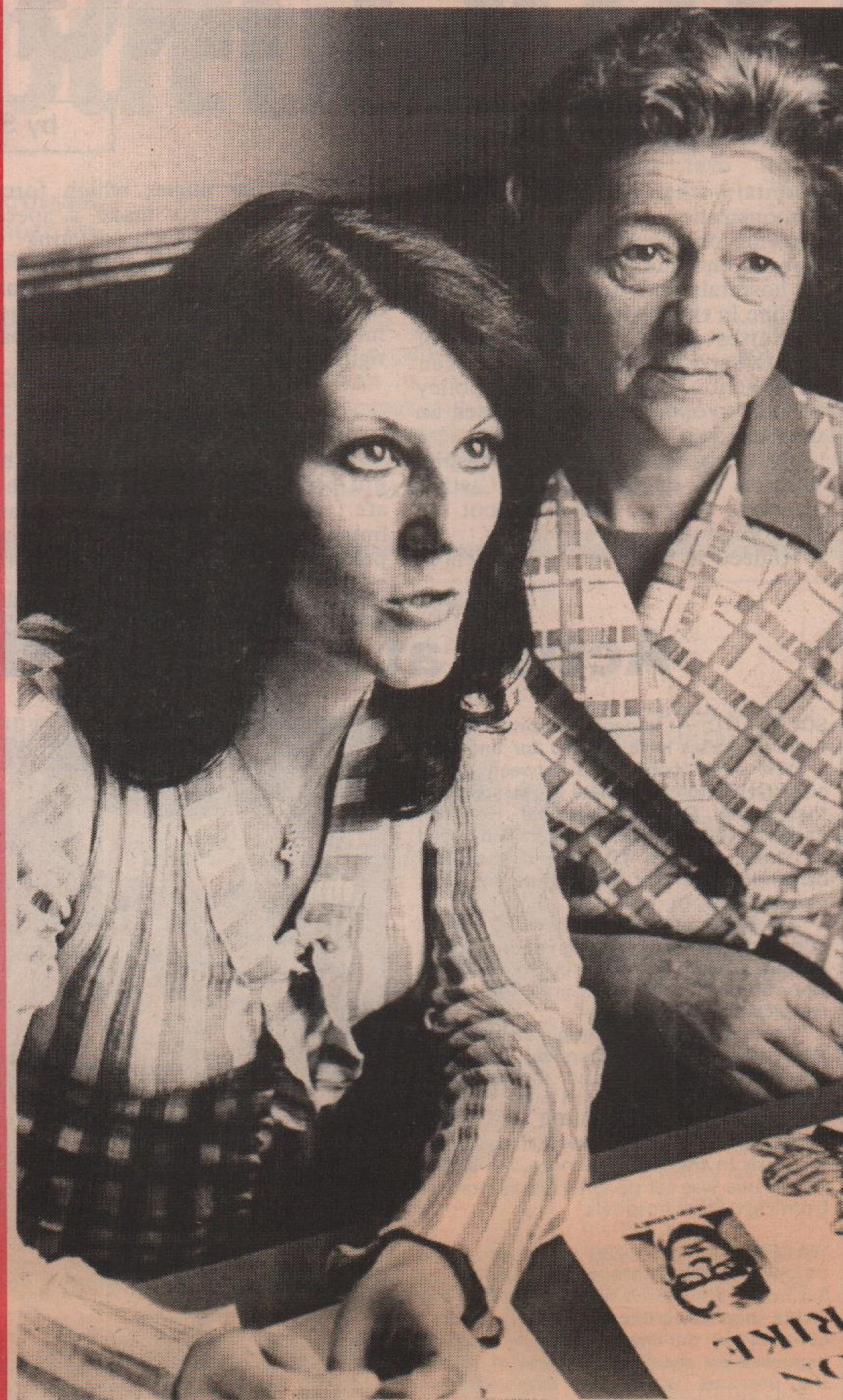
The Code says payments should be made with effect from the first full pay period after the date of publication of the retail price index (ie one week or one month), so press for payment now!

## Leyland and the TGWU: Clean-up or dust-up?

**OXFORD:**—Alan Thornett's chances of being re-instated as a shop steward in the British Leyland Cowley plant have not been increased by the findings of the union enquiry.

The Transport Union Midlands Region Number Five investigated the company's charges against Thornett and found him completely in the clear. In fact they politely suggest that the plant's record of bad industrial relations is due to the company's 'production at all costs complex'.

But that is not all they have to say. They report that the senior steward, Bob Fryer, had once 'openly encouraged minority groups of members who voted



The mother and sister of Dolours and Marian Price at the press conference. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Will Jenkins let them die?

THE four Irish republicans jailed last November after the London bombings trial have now been on hunger strike for 200 days.

Dolours and Marian Price, Huge Feeney and Gerald Kelly are demanding the right, as political prisoners, to be returned to Ireland to serve their sentences. Labour Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins has refused the request.

They are dying.

Three of the four are no longer being fed at all, the Joint Action Committee for the four said at a press conference on Monday. Doctors have refused to continue force-feeding the Price sisters or Huge Feeney.

'One of the doctors,' said Clair Price, sister of Dolours and Marian 'put his hand on Dolours shoulder, and told her the last time he tried to force feed her he had nearly killed her.'

Gerald Kelly is still being force-fed in Wormwood Scrubs by four doctors who are prepared to go on with this barbaric treatment. It entails tying the victim to a chair, clamping the mouth open, and forcing a tube down the throat. This cuts the gums and its usual result is that the liquid is promptly vomited up.

This has been sanctioned and approved by the Home Office and Roy Jenkins.

## Period

Clair Price described her sister's condition. 'Dolours hair is coming out, and her back teeth. Her teeth are rotting.'

Dolours has lost three stone, Marian nearly four stone, Hugh and Gerard three stone.

Clair said that last rites of the Catholic Church have been administered to the sisters. This has been denied by the Home Office.

'They are losing their sense of balance and their minds are drifting—they find it hard to concentrate for any period. This has got nothing to do with martyrdom, they are going back to 50 years prison in their own land.'

For the last 20 years Roy Jenkins has hawked his liberal conscience around the country and the House of Commons. He now has a chance to put the 'conscience' to the test.

It has been found wanting. He told the House of Commons last week: 'When, in the course of the next few months, a decision for a transfer from Brixton becomes necessary, I will consider then on a combination of compassionate and security considerations, weighing both together.'

The sisters are not likely to live a few months. Nor are Hugh Feeney, Gerard Kelly or the other three Irish hunger strikers in British jails, unless they are returned, as they ask, to jail in their own country.

This Sunday, 2 June, the Joint Action Committee is organising a march from Speakers Corner to Whitehall, sponsored by the National Union of Students. The following Sunday the Irish Political Hostages Campaign will be marching.

## Scabs International

DUNBAR, Nr Edinburgh:—380 General and Municipal Workers Union members at Associated Portland Cement are now in the fourth week of their strike for 'condition money' of £1 a day.

The strike, to win some relief from the foul conditions of the cement plant, is not being supported by the union.

Blackleg cement is being run in from Norway and from the Republic of Ireland and the strikers have appealed for solidarity backing from all trade unionists.

## MARCH IN SUPPORT OF JAILED BLACK

**NORTH LONDON:**—This Saturday, 1 June, black and white workers will march in protest against the imprisonment for two years of Cecil Sampson. Cecil who worked at Gestetner was assaulted by three policemen, and his wife and he were charged with assault—he was charged with attempted murder. The charges were dropped, but Cecil was convicted of grievous bodily harm.

Tottenham International Socialists are calling the march in support of Cecil Sampson. Malcolm Cumberbatch, a member of the branch outlined some of the reasons: 'If you point out you've got rights, like Cecil did, you could wind up doing a few years. All workers get the treatment from time to time—when you are a black worker you get a double dose. It is the duty of all London IS branches to get their members along. And it is essential that trade unionists support it.'

'Everyday he spends in prison his heart condition is getting worse. We must press for his release, an appeal is pending.'

The march protesting against police brutality against black people starts from Ducketts Common (Turnpike Lane Tube) at 2pm on Saturday 1 June.

The appeal for Cecil Sampson costs money. Send donations to CECIL SAMPSON DEFENCE FUND, 34 Tyne-mouth Road, London, N15

## THE SHOW-STOPPERS

**LONDON:**—More than 500 BBC staff are on strike for re-instatement of all suspended staff. The 500 are members of the National Association of Theatre Television and Kine Employees.

Several sections of other unions have joined them in this dispute. This originated from a grading claim involving the NATTKE 'show workers' section, the people who work on the sets, on the studio floor and on location.

The 'show workers' were working to a 1970 description of their job when they were suddenly suspended by management without consultation with the union.

As far as they are concerned their job description in no way reflects the job

which they have actually been doing since management enforced it back in 1970. So when their claim for re-grading was turned down they decided to work to rule.

NATTKE headquarters attempted to play the whole thing down until stewards forced them to make it an official dispute last Friday.

In addition to unconditional reinstatement without loss of pay, the strikers want an agreement to work to the 1970 terms while regrading talks continue.

The dispute may well spread to include other workers. There is growing discontent in the BBC over the management's autocratic conduct.

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