

Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Portugal's carnation begins to wilt

by Bob Light (TGWU)
Recently back from Lisbon

PORTUGAL'S government is facing a deep crisis. Some left-wing ministers have threatened to resign from the government formed after the overthrow of fascism on 25 April, while the right-wing officers in the army who support General Spínola have been deploying their troops in an attempt to frighten their opponents.

The crisis has developed out of the new government's attempt to work out policies that will keep big business happy and 'discipline' the trade union movement.

For 40 years Portugal lived under fascism. Murdering trade unionists and socialists was the national blood sport. The country was run like a massive prison with the working classes being the old lags.

But on 25 April that changed. The prison was sprung. For the first time in their lives, ordinary people are free to talk their minds, free to think, free to organise. And the red carnation has become the symbol of that new freedom.

Since 25 April the full compressed power of the working classes has exploded. Every single brick in Lisbon is coated with some kind of socialist slogan.

STRIKE

Virtually every single industry in the country has been seized up by strikes. Women workers in the electrical components industry fought a bitter battle to force their rates up from £10 for 48 hours to £24 for 42 hours. The minimum wage has been driven upwards to £15. The 35,000 post office workers have just returned to work. And now the merchant navy is on strike.

Throughout Portugal workers have been occupying the factories. Managers tainted with fascism have been removed. There was an occupation at the big Timex factory just a couple of weeks ago. There is a work-in going on at an Adidas track-suit factory outside Lisbon. Everywhere you go in Lisbon, unathletic looking youths offer to sell you track suits.

Conductors on the trams called off a strike and went back to work. But they refuse to collect fares. The trams are British-owned. And hotel waiters refused to serve their 'guests' with anything but a glass of water—and a leaflet outlining their grievances.

Most important of all, in just nine weeks the workers have rebuilt the whole trade union movement. In some cases this has meant taking over the old fascist Syndicatos and cleansing them of fascist spies and collaborators.

This is what has happened in the Stevedores Union, where the old executive is mainly the

TURN TO PAGE 9

THEIR WEALTH OR OUR HEALTH?

by Dr Gerry Dawson
LET'S have some straight talking about the Health Service. Private medicine makes no more sense than would private motorways.

Private wings in NHS hospitals should no more be allowed than private wings, with fancy food and extra teachers, in secondary schools.

There is no reason why we should tolerate a double standard within our hospitals, with a luxury service and queue jumping, champagne and carnations changed twice a week provided for those who can grease the consultant's palm.

What there is now is simply a middle-class fiddle, designed to milk the NHS to the benefit of the bank accounts of part-time consultants, a fiddle forced on the post-war Labour government by threats from the doctors' organisations not to work for the NHS.

Yet nobody got round to doing anything about this until the year-long campaign by rank and file hospital workers came a-ight last week at Charing Cross Hospital in London.

NOISY

The reaction of the Harley Street merchants has been most illuminating. Behind their suave stethoscopes and their public school manners lurk commercial principles at their worst. They can hardly conceal their fury about the revolt of the 'lower orders'.

Anyone who has any doubt about the real motives of some of the most noisy of the part-time consultants

When I first heard of the consultants' complaints about our private patient bans, I remembered what happened when the hospital ancillary workers were on strike. We were fighting to stay alive and we were attacked by the consultants. The consultants are now screaming blue murder when we want to cut down their caviar intake.

—Bill Geddes, NUPE branch chairman, St George's Hospital, London.

The private patients issue was ignored by the national leadership and the spontaneous revolt is now being headed off into another faceless inquiry. They will no doubt come up with the same grey platitudes once again to be forgotten. This is not the way to kill private practice or to fight any other battle, the way to fight is to go on with the ban and mobilise health workers themselves. We are going right ahead in the North East and we hope other hospital workers do too.

Mike Atkinson, NUPE hospital convenor for the North East.

should take a look at the British Medical Association, which takes a lot of beating for short-term selfishness. It fought tooth and nail to stop the NHS coming into existence. It lobbied vigorously and successfully to restrict the number of doctors in training to preserve its monopoly position.

When the BMA talks about freedom of choice, it really means its continuing right to coin it in comfort while for the rest of us hospital has become a nightmare of uncertainty, long waits and petty discomforts. Some freedom. Some choice.

It's not just the consultants and the BMA who have been caught with their pants down.

The Labour Party has been passing resolutions on private practice for 30 years. Some of its more ele-

vated minds have made a hobby of writing pamphlets against it. But when the hospital workers who have to lay on the luxuries while the Health Service falls apart take the initiative, just watch Labour run for cover.

Harold Wilson complained to the House of Commons of the hospital workers' action: 'I regretted it because it was wrong. It was wrong to do it. It should have been done by parliamentary procedure.'

Wilson and the newspapers that have so eagerly taken up the campaign against the 'unconstitutional' action of the hospital workers operate on a simple principle. When rich and powerful groups like the consultants threaten to withdraw from the Health Service they sanctify this as 'pro-

fessional behaviour'. But when lowly workers, hospital ancillary workers and nurses, make inroads into the privileges of the rich, that is an offence against 'parliamentary democracy'.

Such attitudes are shared by the official leaders of the trade unions.

FEAR

Alan Fisher, TV radical and NUPE general secretary, spent a year doing his best to discourage private patient bans in Portsmouth and the North East. Then he sprang on to the bandwagon, tried to take credit for the Charing Cross Hospital action and steer the enthusiasm for the ban now sweeping hospitals towards yet another faceless inquiry.

The reason for the union leaders' fear is clear. They all adore the politics of committees and procedure but are terrified when rank and file workers take action of their own on issues that affect their own lives.

They have cause to be. More and more workers are going to ignore the Labour Party windbagery and do something themselves about the factories and the offices and companies for which they work. Action such as that at Charing Cross Hospital is going to grow to a wave—and Barbara Castle and Harold Wilson are going to have their work cut out to ride it out.

Private patients, public parasites—see page 10

More Health Service workers strike—page 15



'Maybe the sun doesn't shine on the righteous, but our case certainly holds water,' convenor Len Brindle told a sodden but solid mass meeting of 6000 British Leyland truck and bus workers last Thursday. 'First we want the 7 per cent cost of living increase we are entitled to. Then we are prepared to talk about modifica-

tions in piecework payments and industrial engineering.' Lord Stokes' summer offensive is being stonewalled in Lancashire. Underneath the umbrellas there is a serious strike going on.

FULL REPORT—page 14.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

FREE SPEECH FOR CHRISTIANS

by Duncan Hallas

STOP racists and fascists speaking at universities and colleges? That is a scandalous attack on the rights of free speech and free expression, say the Tories. All right-thinking men and women should oppose it in the name of freedom.

Birmingham Tories have just struck another mighty blow for freedom. They have forced the city's education committee to drop a scheme to include some material on communism in its religious education syllabus.

Freedom for racist demagogues, that is fine. Discussion about communism in schools, that is going too far.

The Tories got their way by appealing to the Department of Education, headed by Labour Minister Reg Prentice, which ruled that the proposed scheme 'is illegal because it does not conform to the 1944 Education Act.'

SUBJECT

That Act, which was supported by the Conservative, Labour, Liberal and Communist Parties, made it compulsory to teach Christianity in schools. It is, in fact, the only legally compulsory subject in the school curriculum.

The subject is not actually called Christianity. It has been known variously as Religious Instruction, Religious Knowledge and Religious Education. But its real aim and content is clear enough from the fact that the Act allows Jewish, Moslem and other non-Christian parents to withdraw their children from the lessons. It gives no such right to the children themselves.

Why are the Tories so keen on children being indoctrinated in the dogmas of Christianity? They are not a notably godly lot. Some of them, Sir Keith Joseph for example, do not even pretend to be Christians.

The idea was, to quote the prayer book of the Church of England, to encourage kids to accept 'that station in life unto which it hath pleased God to call us.' Of course it hasn't always worked out like that. Older pupils have often not taken kindly to this brainwashing. And quite a number of Religious Education teachers have been unhappy about it too.

FREEDOM

In Birmingham, according to The Guardian, 'a 40-strong conference which included leading members of the city's churches' drew up a syllabus which included some discussion of 'non-religious stances... including communism and humanism'.

You can be sure that the Religious Education teachers, who are professed Christians, were not intending to advocate atheism or communism. Merely to indicate that such ideas exist and perhaps to criticise them. But that amount of freedom of expression is intolerable to the Tory defenders of free speech for fascists. And the Labour government comes to their aid and vetoes the syllabus.

It is worth remembering the next time some Tory or right-wing Labour MP prattles about freedom.

Chile Solidarity Campaign
PICKET DOWNING STREET IN PROTEST AT POLITICAL TRIALS IN CHILE
Tuesday 16 July, 12.30-2.30pm
Coinciding with Cabinet meeting
END THE POLITICAL TRIALS IN CHILE!
RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!
LABOUR MUST BREAK ALL LINKS WITH THE JUNTA!

The junta holds 10,000 political prisoners. The Chile Solidarity Campaign is laying special emphasis on the need for the Labour government to refuse to renegotiate the Chilean foreign debt with the junta.

Bloody Disasters Weekly!

I HAVE been off work for two weeks with first degree burns to my ankles, right knee and left arm. My mate, Tony Conroy, is in hospital with third degree burns to his left arm. The reason? Cold-blooded violence by the bosses.

We were working on a Rochdale building site for BDW Mastics, a cowboy outfit of Rishton, Lancs. The site had no union organisation, canteen or first aid kit.

Our job was sealing expansion joints on concrete sewage tanks, so we stocked the boiler with bitumen and fired the calor gas burner. Since we were new to this kind of work, we didn't realise the boiler was supposed to have a lid, a tap and a thermostat.

The boiler's contents boiled over and were set on fire by the calor burner. By the time we got to it, the flames were 15ft high and covered a distance of ten feet around the boiler.

We threw sand on the fire and contained the blaze in the boiler by throwing a metal sheet on it. Everything was under control. Then along came the site agent...

He told us to take off the metal sheet. It was expensive and the heat from the boiler was causing it to buckle a bit.

My mate knew it would be dodgy to knock the metal sheet off completely, so he moved the lid slightly with his spade to see if the fire had died down. Immediately, it exploded, splashing me and my mate with burning bitumen and enveloping us

by Les Scott, UCATT

in flames.

Tony, the nearest to the boiler, was on fire and had to have sand thrown over him to put out the flames. I was burned and had to take off my shirt and jeans.

I then had to run 300 yards to the site offices (the site agent had disappeared) to get them to ring for an ambulance, I was told by the same site agent, Mr Lobinger (lump hammer, to the lads): 'What do you need an ambulance for?'

Hospital

There wasn't time to argue, so I told him my mate was badly burned and needed treatment fast. 'Oh, get one of the lads to run him in one of the vans,' lump hammer replied. There was no mention of first aid.

None of the guys on the site knew where the hospital was and by the time I'd got back to Tony, who was sitting on the ground crying with pain, I

just wanted anyone to get him to hospital. I shoved him into our van and set off.

Both of us had no jeans on and there we were, driving round and round Rochdale, my mate's arms and legs just raw meat, having to ask pedestrians the way to the hospital.

Tony has been in Rochdale Infirmary since on pain-killing drugs and having antiseptic baths. He has to have the burns scraped three times a day with scalpels. He is in real pain because BDW Mastics use rotten, faulty equipment and because the contractor Fairclough's, reckon a £6 piece of metal is worth more than a worker's life.

It's not the first time BDW Mastics have been responsible for maiming or killing workers. On 6 April 1973, three of my mates working on a McAlpine site in Glasgow fell 80ft from a 'cradle'. One was killed, one broke his back and the third broke his ankle.

BDW Mastics were found guilty and fined... £20.

We've got to fight back, to get in the union and organise. Let's control the job ourselves.

THE WAFFLE AND THE VETO

by Eamonn McCann

THE Labour government will accept any new constitutional arrangement for Ireland—except one which might threaten British interests. That is the message of the White Paper issued by Northern Ireland Secretary Merlyn Rees last weekend.

The White Paper calls for the election of a 'Constituent Convention'. The Convention, which will probably come into being next spring, will spend six months working out a solution. The solution will then be submitted to the British government—which will have a veto.

The White Paper is the latest in a long series of Declarations, Agreements, White Papers, Green Papers and Constitutional Acts which have poured forth from Westminster in the past six years. It is also the shortest: 19 pages and only four of these about the future. The rest is waffle.

CHANCE

The brevity of the document and the banality of its contents reveals that Rees—to put it simply—hasn't got the foggiest idea what to do next. It is not a policy document. It is an admission that there is no longer any well-worked-out British policy.

Making a virtue of necessity, Rees has tried to maintain that this means the people of Northern Ireland are now being given the chance to 'decide their own future'. Even if this were true it would be unacceptable to socialists, because the right to determine the Irish future belongs to all the Irish people, not to an artificially created Northern section.

But it is not true anyway. The retention of the British veto rules out one significant option in advance—an end to British domination. That is why the document must be rejected, and why it does not point the way towards lasting peace.

The British presence in Ireland—the military presence in the North, the economic and political presence

in the South—is at the root of the Irish problem. It is the inevitable struggle against that presence, and the reaction of various groups to the waging of the struggle, which has led to the murder and destruction. The murder and destruction will continue until this is faced.

SOLUTION

In the next few months, as politicians, newspapers and television combine to put across the idea that Rees' 'initiative' is eminently reasonable and opposed only by 'extremists on both sides', it is vital that socialists in the British working-class movement constantly draw attention to the one solution which would serve the interests of the Irish working people—not a change in the way British big business exploits and dominates Ireland, but an end to the exploitation and domination.

Right again Sir Raymond

AN ATTACK on papers produced by rank and file trade unionists appears in the annual report of GKN, the giant engineering company. Sir Raymond Brookes, retiring chairman, writes: 'I have neither regard nor respect for the malicious and distorted propaganda which is circulated in many of our factories. Last year our company report invoked quite a spate of funnies, and we can expect a similar reaction this year.'

For once Brookes is right. The next issue of GKN Worker is due out next month.

Any articles, information—even about Sir Raymond—send to GKN Worker, 165 Tame Road, Witton, Birmingham.

THE CENSOR IS BACK

THE Portuguese Socialist Party newspaper Republica has been fined £500 under President Spínola's new press laws. Its 'crime' was to report a demonstration in support of two young army officers who refused to scab on the postal workers' strike. A commercial newspaper, A Capital, was fined £1700 for the same offence.

The new press censorship consists of seven army officers. They declared the reports 'susceptible to incite and provoke military disobedience.' Socialist and Communist Party members of the government have made no public protest at this return to the methods of the Caetano-Salazar dictatorship.

Picture of the demonstration—page 9.

INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION

During more than eighty years' service to industry we have so expanded and diversified our range of products and activities that we need a new name to explain it. That's why, the name of The Cape Asbestos Company Limited changed on July 1st to:-

Cape Industries Limited

The principal subsidiaries of the Cape Group include...	Their main activities are...
Building and Insulation Products Division Cape Boards and Panels Limited, Uxbridge. Cape Contracts Limited, Barking. Cape Insulation Limited, Stirling. Cape Insulation (Ireland) Limited, Dublin. Cape Universal Claddings Limited, Watford.	Manufacture of building materials including asbestos cement, non-combustible boards and panels for land and marine use, and thermal insulation products for all temperatures. Fire protection, thermal and acoustic insulation contracting.
Automotive and Engineering Products Division Cape Distribution Limited, Biggleswade. Don International s.a., Manage, Belgium.	Manufacture of brake linings, disc pads, clutch facings and other friction materials.

The firm's advert in The Economist last week

Killer by any other name

AN INTRIGUING advert appeared in several newspapers last week. Headlined 'Industrial Evolution', it supposedly explained why Cape Asbestos has changed its name to Cape Industries. Expansion and diversification were the reasons given.

There was, however, another good reason not only for the name change but for the sudden appearance of the announcements, which concluded appropriately, with the slogan 'Cape—an increasing power for safety.'

At Manchester Crown Court last week, just as the ads appeared, the case of Thomas Buick, aged 53, one of Cape's former employees at Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, was being heard. Mr Buick was seeking around £30,000 damages from Cape Asbestos ('An Increasing Power For Safety') Ltd who had given him the incurable industrial disease asbestosis.

Cape admitted liability, but contested the amount of damages. They thought they should pay a good deal less than £30,000 for stealing a man's life in the pursuit of profit.

In the course of the hearing still more revealing facts about Cape's performance in Hebden Bridge were

disclosed. Dr Bertram Mann, a chest consultant, told the court that so far he had seen 150 people with asbestosis from Hebden Bridge (population less than 5000). He stated that he expected to see at least another 150 people from the town over the next decade who would also have the disease.

Closed

Another aspect of Cape's increasing power for safety also came to light recently in Romford, Essex. An inquest last month into the death of 59-year-old Alfred Slim concluded that he died from the asbestos-induced cancer mesothelioma. He got the disease during his employment with Cape Asbestos at its plant in Barking. This is the factory Cape closed down and moved to Hebden Bridge.

The closing years of Mr Slim's life were doubly appalling. Not only was he dying from a desperate industrial cancer, but he was classified as a malingeringer by the Ministry of Social Security and received no benefits.

KILLER DUST SCANDAL—pages 8-9.

WHAT WE THINK

'Too good to hurry' Murray

ACCORDING to Len Murray there is a danger of a 'wages explosion' this autumn after the end of the statutory incomes policy. He told the miners' union conference: 'An explosion at this time would blow up a great deal more than the retail price index.'

He meant, of course, that it would blow up the TUC's 'social contract' scheme for holding down wages. That would put Murray and his colleagues on the spot. It would show just what their pretended opposition to 'unfair' incomes policies amounted to.

Now wages, in real terms, have been falling on average. Workers are now materially worse off than 12 months ago.

The official figures, produced very late as always, show that average earnings fell by 2½ per cent in the first three months of this year. If that rate continued over the whole year average earnings would be cut by 10p in the pound.

The outcome will not, in fact, be quite as bad as that. The first quarter's figures are affected by three-day working. Threshold agreements, for those who have them, are providing some limited protection against price rises and so on. But the outcome will be bad enough. A realistic estimate is that earnings, in terms of purchasing power, will be down by around five per cent over the year.

Any trade union leader worth his weight in brass washers would, in these circumstances, be urging action to recover the lost ground and to provide against the price rises to come. Not Murray. Not the TUC General Council. Not most of the 'left' leaders either.

Instead, Len Murray told the miners, 'what we have to do is to ensure an orderly withdrawal from that situation [Phase Three]. If this means anything at all, it means accept the cuts that have been and are being made by inflation and don't rock the boat.'

No trouble, now

Because, you see, we have a responsibility to 'the movement'. 'I believe,' said Brother Len, 'that the TUC has got the right, on occasion, to remind unions of their obligation to the movement as a whole.' All this in aid of the move to persuade the NUM conference not to put figures in its claim!

Now, presumably 'the movement as a whole' has a vital interest in reversing real wage cuts. Certainly the members have. And how on earth can the interests of 'the movement' be different from the interests of its membership?

They can for Murray and his friends. They want, above all, a quiet life and no trouble with the employers or the government. The membership will just have to tighten its collective belt.

Think about all the wonderful things the Labour government is doing for you, say the TUC leaders. Remember, there will be an election in October. You don't want the Tories back do you? So go easy lads, no 'excessive' wage claims. Best of all, no wage claims at all.

In 1966 the same singers sang the same song. The Labour government was duly returned with a comfortable majority. The first thing it did was to clamp down with a statutory total wage freeze.

'We were blown off course,' said Harold Wilson, so there had to be a freeze.

Today the economic situation is much worse than in 1966. Not that less is produced now than then. The opposite is true. But capitalism is concerned with production for profit, not production for use. Profits are too low, say the bosses. The Labour government, as always, goes along with them. The trade union leaders follow suit.

That is what the 'social contract' is all about. Cut wages to boost profits. The job of socialists is to stop them getting away with it.



Mrs Lamaletie with her children Janet, 12, and Richard, 18 months. She and Janet heard John screaming while in police detention. Days later, he was dead. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

MAN WHO DIED AFTER POLICE RESTRAINT



John Lamaletie

TWO WEEKS after being declared fit and well in a medical examination, 39-year-old John Lamaletie died. He had been beaten up by PCs Maund, Price, and Robbins of Highbury Vale police station, North London.

On Sunday 16 March, he and his wife Therese, who came to Britain from Mauritius 13 years ago, had an argument which ended with John walking out of their Highbury home to sleep in the car.

When Therese, annoyed, shouted to him that she would call the police, a passing couple told a patrol car. The police arrived and grabbed John from the car.

As they dragged him into the back of their car, Therese pleaded with them to let John go. Within minutes, he was silent.

Therese asked the police if John was alright and was told: 'Yes, we've quietened him down.' She went to the car and saw John held face down by the neck, his head between his knees.

Driven to the police station in a separate car, Therese and her daughter Janet sat in the waiting room and heard John screaming.

'I couldn't open the door of the waiting room. The policeman came in and told me to leave, and not to talk to my husband on the way out,' said Therese.

John returned home at 6am after being charged with assaulting a policeman, refusing to give blood and being drunk in charge of a car.

'They asked me to sign papers and they beat me till I signed,' he told his wife. 'I feel half alive.'

'He was confused,' Therese said. He didn't want to eat or drink anything. He complained about a headache, he couldn't hold his head up and his nose was swollen and red.

DENIED

On 26 March, Therese was phoned by John's firm, Moss Bros. Her husband had collapsed. He died shortly after in hospital.

At the inquest a fortnight ago, the pathologist stated that John had died of a 'progressive blood clot in an artery, or kinking of it for at least two or three minutes.'

The police denied they had held him round the neck. They claimed they had held his head down to stop him hitting the top of the car.

The jury accepted Mrs Lamaletie's version of the story and returned a verdict of 'accidental death while under police restraint'.

But the police did have a friend in court—Dr A Gordon-Davies, the coroner. He told the jury that he was striking 'under police restraint' out of the official verdict.

Meanwhile PCs Maund, Price and Robbins are still enforcing law and order on the streets of North London.

in other words, more than half as many again as Churchill's coalition did during the world war.

Nor does the contrast end there. The conditions in Long Kesh are exceptionally poor. Prisoners have to endure overcrowding, bad food, and are limited to a half hour visit per week.

By comparison, detainees in the Second World War lived in the lap of luxury. After 1942 Herbert Morrison, the Home Secretary, permitted prisoners to have their wives living with them. For Mr and Mrs Oswald Mosley, conditions were even more privileged. No battered old Nissen hut at Long Kesh, crammed with 90 other prisoners, for them! They lived in a four-roomed flat, with food specially prepared by their own servants. Mosley was leader of the British Union of Fascists.

Shame

The conduct of Mr Orme is just another indication of the political degeneration of the parliamentary Labour left. In 1940 Aneurin Bevan told fellow MPs that imprisonment without trial under 18B 'brought us to shame before decent opinion throughout the world'.

It would be nice to ask Stan Orme whether he is proud of his policy of internment? Does he relish treating Irishmen today worse than British fascists were treated in the Second World War?

The 'socialist path' to concentration camps

by Raymond Challinor

NEWSPAPERS recently carried the story of the Kennedy family, of the Falls Road, Belfast. For some time, the father—Billy Kennedy—has been interned at Long Kesh. Now his wife Mary has been put in Armagh jail. As a result, their six children are left without parents.

The Kennedys, like other internees in Northern Ireland, have been deprived of their liberty without first being found guilty of any offence. They have been placed behind bars for an indefinite period and given no legal redress.

Enlightened opinion throughout the world has condemned the tyranny of internment. Yet Stan Orme, Minister for Northern Ireland, defends it. In an article in the journal *Tribune*, he described the government's policy as the 'socialist path' for Ulster.

The obscenity of Orme's statement is clearly shown when it is remembered that the Wilson administration holds a record. It should appear in the Guinness Book of Records for being the British government that has interned the most people, for the longest time, in the worst conditions.

Even in the Second World War the numbers were fewer. After an initial panic in 1940, the figure fell until there were only 400 people detained under Defence of the Realm Regulation 18B. In Northern Ireland, Mr 'left-wing' Orme and his fellow ministers have more than 600 interned—

LETTERS

Happy birthday Banda! It's been 10 years of torture...

LAST SATURDAY Malawi in Africa 'celebrated' 10 years of independence. I'm an ex-teacher in Northern Malawi, I'd like to say a few things about that country and Hastings Banda, its leader.

Two months after independence he sacked the radical two-thirds of his cabinet. He couldn't stand any criticism of his authoritarian rule. Since then his rigid control has continuously increased. Even up to September 1964 people were wary of critical discussion. Since then all political debate has died out and spies are everywhere.

Banda's methods are modelled on the Portuguese secret police in Mozambique. Amnesty International have tapes made (but not used) by the BBC of interviews with Malawians arrested, detained and later released.

They told how they had to eat their own faeces, of their beatings and of one particular treatment. A naked woman will come into the cell and encourage the inmates to respond to her advances. As soon as the penis is erect it is whipped, and a match is stuck in the end and lighted. Any

prisoner who screams when he feels the flame is further whipped.

The press agencies ignore Malawi and Banda almost completely. He jailed eight journalists for sending out news of a clash between Portuguese and Malawi forces, a matter Banda insisted on hushing up. Two assassination attempts last year alone failed. The press in Britain didn't think it 'news-worthy'.

No-one is immune from detention. It is enough for a student to visit Tanzania to be arrested. Several of my friends in the district nearest the border were detained for visiting their parents in Dar Es Salaam. Two district MPs, three ex-MPs, and 24 fourth formers at Rumphu Secondary School were detained in 1972 for playing or being involved in a football game for a cup inscribed with the signature of an exiled minister!

What I've told you in this letter is the tip of an iceberg. It all stems from Banda's obsessive fear of his own dispensibility.-RICHARD ROBINSON, London SW15.

Gately march we were right

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS have been denounced as 'Sectarians', 'harming the image of the left', 'helping enemies and disillusioning friends' for carrying a banner and placards on the demonstration against the death of Kevin Gately at Red Lion Square.

Is one to assume we will get a 'good press' in Fleet Street if only we say nothing? I have been told that we should have 'compromised'.

There is all the difference in the world between a tactical compromise and a betrayal of duty to raise the political questions in the name of unity at any price.

Lenin put it best: 'In order to get away from an armed ambush you might give away your money, your car, your weapons. That is a compromise. To give these up and join the band is a sell out.'

IS had something to say on that march and we said it very effectively. I think of the words of Joe Hill just before he was executed: DON'T MOURN: ORGANISE.-JOHN BURTON, London SW1.

A pinch of salt for us and sweet FA for them

THEY'VE STARTED putting sachets of salt and pepper, instead of pots on the table of our works canteen at Jaguar Cars in Coventry. We're not being charged for them—yet.

These little sachets come from the Sutcliffe Catering Group and I asked two Sutcliffe employees, just back after a fortnight's strike what they thought of them.

One explained how the mangress said 'it was going to make your job easier. Just think, you won't have to fill any more salt and pepper pots.'

I asked how the strike went. Some women are now earning up to £22 for 40 hours. One of Sutcliffe's women directors flies from Scotland in a private plane and stops at one of the better class hotels in Coventry. She's been there quite a lot lately, because these wretched women will go out on strike.

Some of these women got a rise of £2 a week! Not bad when you consider Sutcliffes charge 2½ pence for a bread roll at Coventry Radiator and fourpence at Jaguar. Something to do with subsidies I hear... -NAME SUPPLIED, Coventry.

Safety: not just factories

A LOT HAS appeared in Socialist Worker about safety (or lack of it) in workplaces. Mostly about factories or building sites. Most white collar workers reading the paper probably don't realise that workers in offices and shops also face a number of safety and health hazards.

My union branch arranges regular visits to our members' offices. Recently when one of our accommodation reps visited one office they discovered the fire escape route involved climbing walls! Doors on the escape route were locked, the fire bell couldn't be heard in some rooms, and most staff didn't even know how to get out in the event of a fire. No fire drills were held.

Another office nearby was infested with rats and mice.

We got all this cleared up. In these days of cut-backs in the public sector and increasing use of machines in offices, safety and hygiene are vital issues for office workers.

It is constantly organising around these issues that's building up an interest in the union in the office I work in. I hope this encourages other white collar workers to get organised and take up the safety issues in their work-places.-R HART, Swansea.

Cops: wonderful to me too

I WAS interested in 'Wonderful our Police,' (6 July). Due to an incident on Thursday night I believe that the Liverpool force deserves a niche in your hall of infamy.

I was waiting for a bus with two work mates, Noel O'Keefe and Ken Gallagher. A constable approached us and said, 'What are you doing Paddy?' We told him and he walked away.

Seconds later a Land Rover pulled up and five police surrounded us. A sergeant accused Ken of giving the V sign to the constable as he was walking away. When this was denied two police grabbed his arms and twisted them up his back, two grabbed his feet, and they threw him into the van. Noel and myself then received the same treatment.

Two police got into the front and the other three and the constable who had first approached us climbed in the back on top of us. During the journey to Bridewell police station they stopped us resisting arrest by kicking and punching us. When we reached Bridewell we were dragged in feet first and an inspector asked us if we had had enough or were we going to resist some more?

I asked if I could phone a solicitor, and a doctor for Ken, whose eyebrows were split and his forehead cut. They seemed surprised that I was English.

The shouting stopped, our names were taken, and we were locked in the cells.

At five am we were charged with being drunk and disorderly and bailed, after which Ken had to receive hospital treatment for his eye injury.

Noel and myself had received numerous bruises to the body and legs.

We were subsequently found guilty and each fined £5. As we were neither drunk nor disorderly I can only surmise that it was a case of 'paddy bashing', or the particular officers involved wished to boost their arrest quota that night.-ANTHONY JACKSON-BROWN, Glossop.

NUM: You may be up but we're in the pit!

THE MINERS CONFERENCE decision to press for 'substantial increases and improvements in conditions' instead of a clear wage figure backed by industrial action is a serious setback for other workers without such militant tradition.

This is especially true in the case of civil servants who only started developing militancy in the last few years.

All through the last miners' strike I argued with the people in my office that miners were showing us the way—clear demands and a willingness to fight. Now what have we?

No clear demands and an indication that many of the leaders of the NUM aren't prepared or haven't the guts to fight.

What it means to me is that if the rank and file follow Gormley and Co the job of convincing less militant members of my union to fight for their wages and conditions is that much harder.

I hope the rank and file of the NUM do decide to fight. So doing they help me and thousands of other trade unionists to argue for fighting alongside them next winter.-BRYAN REES, Swansea.



The NUM's Gormley—a lot of people lost in his fog

Housing the Pennys won't drop

THE PROVISION of decent housing is one of the most destructive aspects of the operation of the 'free' market.

Local councils stumble along trying to deliver the goods better than the property companies and successfully manage to suck council tenants and ratepayers into the high interest loan repayment game.

Lewisham, where I live, is just another piece in the property jigsaw. The local council together with

Grosvenor Properties is busy developing and promoting a grandiose shopping and leisure scheme, together with an office block and car park.

Over the road, Argyle Securities Ltd who own a local department store, Chiesmans, is busy buying up houses surrounding the store, leaving them empty and tempting the council with a £6 million office block, super store scheme.

Meanwhile the council buys up

houses under its 'new homes from old' scheme, often these houses remain empty for a year or so. The council says its architects department is understaffed and it can't get local builders to do conversion work.

Why? Low pay leads to council staff shortages. Office building creams off local builders and inflation makes conversion work unattractive.

Recently the South East London Housing Action Committee squatted the Penny family in a council flat in Greenwich. Mr Penny had served two years in Northern Ireland.

He had to leave the army because his wife's health was suffering. Having out their two kids in care the housing families officer told the parents 'as far as we are concerned you are now a childless couple we can do no more for you'.

The Penny family are fighters. Not everyone who is homeless has any fight left in them. The danger with the squatting movement is often a failure to link the housing struggle with clear political perspectives.

On the shop floor there is strength by the way workers organise. When workers get home they are often rendered vulnerable in small family units. International Socialists cannot ignore the housing crisis. We need clearer perspectives.-D.WIGGINS London, SE 13.



INDUSTRIAL WEEKEND SCHOOLS

FIVE weekend schools are to be held next month for members of the International Socialists in industry. Each will include sessions on Incomes Policy, Working as a revolutionary on the shop floor, IS and the Rank and File Movement, and Ireland, plus two other sessions of special interest.

ENGINEERS: Saturday-Monday 27-29 July
Saturday-Monday 24-26 August
(Special sessions: The Broad Left, History of the Struggle in Engineering.)

WHITE-COLLAR: Saturday-Monday 3-5 August
(Special sessions: The Emergence of White-Collar Trade Unionism, The Role of White-collar workers in the Revolutionary Party)

GENERAL SCHOOL: Saturday-Monday 10-12 August
(Special sessions: Fascism and the Working Class, Councils of Action)

CARWORKERS: Saturday-Monday 17-19 August
(Special sessions: The Multinationals, The Fight against Redundancies)

These will be held in London, with accommodation arranged. Members who have joined IS in the past year are particularly urged to attend. Details and enrolment forms from IS branch secretaries or direct from IS Industrial Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Phone 01-739 6273.

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

£10, the price of death in 1875 - and 1974...

IT IS with burning anger that I write to Socialist Worker about the £10 fine on IMI following the death blast last November.

Even the Tory Birmingham Evening Mail can find no way to disguise the truth. Therefore rather than suppress it (as no doubt it would love to) it relegates the matter to its obscure middle pages.

Yes, it's all so different now, seven months onward. How well we in Birmingham remember the news from our free and unfettered press. The blood-scattered horror of it all made banner headlines upon the Mail's front page, and no doubt the circulation figures went

upward accordingly.

After that, virtually nothing, we in this city like other working people the world over have been treated to our share of news which the capitalist press considered *good for them*, then the perverted news flow virtually ceased.

The real and ugly truth never gets an airing, but irrespective of the Birmingham Mail and its ruling class cohorts the truth is plain enough to see. Six workers have been blown to kingdom come and 16 more seriously injured in order to line the pockets of the greedy few.

Yes of course the press bleats about the old law under which the case was brought against IMI. Yes, I will bet the law concerned dates back to 1875, such old and decrepit laws are made to suit the book. No wonder it is still on statute. The law is rarely changed unless it suits the vested interest of its originators, the ruling class.

How very handy this 1875 law is now. IMI, part and parcel of that giant monolith Imperial Chemical Industries, are fined £10.

Can anyone seriously believe that capitalism gives a damn for the amount of working class blood upon its hands? A century ago it cost a tenner to mutilate workers. *It's the same price today.*

How long must we suffer the contempt showered upon us by this iniquitous system? Socialist Worker proves more right every day, nothing less than the destruction of capitalism and its replacement by socialism can bring about the unqualified justice that all of mankind are entitled to by natural right. Only the building of the socialist revolutionary party can spur this day forward. The need stares us all in the face.—NORMAN GOODWIN, Birmingham 37.

Who's inquiring?

THERE'S another lesson concerning the Featherstone disturbance of 1893 than the one that Ray Challinor drew (29 June). Home Secretary H A Asquith shouldn't be condemned as much for the dispatch of troops to the Yorkshire village but for his choice of commissioners who looked into the disturbance and their terms of reference.

The Featherstone situation developed quickly and the Home Office secretariat didn't hear about it until after Duggan and Gibbs were dead.

But the commission he chose to look into the situation were all personal friends, unlikely to condemn him or his office. He conned the public into thinking the commission was fair. But it was loaded and operating in the context of the old boy network.

It wasn't as blatant as the 1972 Widgery Enquiry into the Bloody Sunday Derry shootings, or as gross as the Childers enquiry into the West End Riots of 1886—but it was biased all the same.

When Jenkins announces the nature of his enquiry into Kevin Gately's death the credentials of the enquiry will have to be scrutinised. It is also necessary to ensure the terms of reference consider the illegality of National Front operations and demonstration strategy in Red Lion Square.—BRIAN LEWIS, Pontefract.

The wrong variety at Heinz

I WORK at H J Heinz Harlesden factory and until recently my job has been stacking up on the tomato ketchup line. Ever since I started work on the line there were three men keeping the job going.

But last week one man was removed from the line without any regard for the men involved. No adequate explanation was given, the shop steward approached the management and was told the 'job was overstuffed'.

In this instance the convenor completely failed in his responsibilities. He let the management remove one man from the line.

He shouldn't have done so, at least until the job had been assessed. As usual profits is the game and my work mates and I are being made scapegoats. I'm a member of the Transport Union and of the International Socialists and if there is no suitable answer then I'm moving a motion through the union branch.—NAME SUPPLIED, North London.

NO WHITEWASH FOR RED LION SQUARE... The Left should conduct now an enquiry with police witnesses invited, into Kevin Gately's death... We mustn't allow any more whitewash jobs.—JIM BLAKE, Brentwood.

THE GNU'S RETURN... Ruling class representatives like Maurice Macmillan MP are worried that the Labour government can't protect capitalism... and are calling for a Government of National Unity... Capitalism could rely on ex-Labour Prime Minister Ramsey MacDonald to attack working class living standards during its last crisis... Socialists must ensure it doesn't happen again... What's needed is rank and file action.—JOHN OWENS, Coventry.

BIG FEET... No, I totally disagree with anyone who wants to have fewer Footprints... We must have a regular space to show how fantastically rich the rich are... Footprints keeps its eye on the enemy, and in short easy-to-read paragraphs, spells out their arrogance and corruption... none of us can tell from our own observation what an enormous amount of wealth has been seized by our ruling classes, and the splendour they live in, and the enormous powers of corruption and political influence that this wealth gives them. It is very important to go on stressing the figures of the distribution of wealth—84 per cent owned by seven per cent of the people—but figures are a barren abstraction till they are filled in with descriptions and pictures. Footprints tells us a little of this. More, please; never less!—E DYER, London WC1.

SO WHAT'S NEW?... You comment (29 June) that 'not even the cabinet knew in advance' of the latest British nuclear test. This is a typical example of the cabinet's functioning... All major decisions are made by 'the leaders'. The history of 'our' A-Bomb is a perfect illustration... The cabinet weren't informed in 1943 when Churchill and Roosevelt decided to make the bomb... Defence minister Emmanuel Shinwell recorded how he wasn't told of the decision to make the British bomb... The Labour leaders' contempt for their own cabinet hardly encourages us to believe they might be interested in our opinions!—BOB POTTER, Hove.

I'LL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN... I've just read my first Socialist Worker and am surprised at the detail which appears in SW but not in the national press... Your paper is very thought provoking and I believed up to now that political was an alternative word for hypocrisy and cynicism... It looks as if it's time I got interested... one of the attractions is that SW is very readable and has a sense of humour.—R FROW, Basildon.

NOR WILL I... Your report on Kevin Gately's death (22 June) was deliberately misleading. Anyone who read any other account of what happened would have expected either a denial or a repetition of the story that the demonstrators attacked the police first. This omission was cowardly. You've strained my loyalty as a SW supporter very badly indeed.—BILL FAKES, Cambridge.

MORE SPACE ON RACE... We have tremendous appreciation for your stand on the racial question... We think that black and female workers are a sub-proletariat, subjected to a peculiar method of oppression and exploitation... You should devote a page each week to news of black and female workers... We feel the unemployed, the young, the untrained and specially underpaid should be more in the news. To build a combat party SW must go further to engage the advanced political workers in the task of identifying with the most oppressed sections.—TWO ASIAN WORKERS, London, SE.

ALL THE WAY WITH RICHARD NIXON?... If, as Arnie Prout writes

about Medvedev (22 June) 'the liars and criminals who govern the USSR are brought to justice' who is to replace them? The capitalists I suppose? Your constant anti-Soviet line mars an otherwise useful paper, surely whatever is happening in Russia crime-wise can be matched 10 times over in any capitalist state... I never hear you running America down... Keep your vituperation for the capitalists.—A TELFORD, Crook, Co Durham.

Read the various International Socialist pamphlets on Lenin, Trotsky and the Soviet Union (available from IS bookshops). We are opposed to ruling classes of the Soviet Union and the United States both of which we regard as capitalist. And who will replace the liars and criminals? The workers of Russia, that's who! We will return to the subject later...

FIRST THERE WAS THE IRA, THEN SUPPORT FOR THEM, THEN OPPOSITION, THEN LETTERS, THEN OPPOSITION TO THE LETTERS... It was wrong to print so many letters on Ireland that were chauvinist or pro-imperialist... One of these is enough and needs an immediate reply... If SW had consistently raised the issue of Ireland in the correct way then large numbers of readers wouldn't be writing. SW must argue the need for Ireland to be free. Until the British working class realises this and fights we'll remain in our chains. The Provisional IRA regardless of its politics is the only organisation fighting the activities of the British state. As socialists we must support them, we must join and lead the campaign to end British domination of Ireland.—D SILCOCK, P LEOMTIVITCH, Reading.

THEN MORE LETTERS ON THE IRA... It's not enough for socialists to bypass the question of support for the IRA by merely calling for troops out. SW hasn't consistently called for the defeat of the British Army. All the wrong-doings of the Army can't do justice to an understanding of the unconditional but critical support position... It's a sad reflection on the paper when readers are entreated to mostly arguments either of sympathetic misunderstanding of the issue or support for the Army. The former have to be taken up, the latter can be read in the Sun. Neither are forgivable without the paper arming its readers with the necessary arguments in support of the IRA.—BERNIE McADAM, Harrow.

CHILE ISN'T A LONG WAY AWAY... After reading the Monsters (29 June) about the torture of women in Chile there are still people who'll say, 'It can't happen here'. Let them remember Chile was called the 'England' of South America. It can happen here, Kevin Gately's death is an indication of this. It's the duty of socialists wherever they are, to start fighting this by crippling the Junta's confidence and economy by a total black on all goods for the Junta and by making fellow workers aware of the happenings in Chile.—R MacFIE, Kirkby.

LET GO OF MY ARM! FASCIST! I MOVE THE CHAIRMEN BE REMOVED!... There is no reason why some kind of forum for revolutionary groups shouldn't be created where delegates could discuss strategy, co-ordinate activities, and exchange ideas and information... True it would simplify the Special Branch's work but we must show brotherly concern for our flat-footed friends.—JOHN MARAIS, London N16.

VARIETY ARTISTES FEDERATION (3 July)... Further to my report on Equity I'd like to point out that you incorrectly called Equity the actors union. In fact, as I stated, incorporates the Variety Artistes Federation. I stress this point because variety artistes often feel neglected by Equity, as if they were second-class citizens. So, for their sake and for the sake of accuracy could you please refer to the union as the actors' and variety artistes' union in the future.—JOHN GILLET, London N16.



What a night that was! Air Commodore and Mrs F J Wentworth Rump, Miss Olivia Wentworth Rump, Mrs Jeremy Worthington and Mr and Mrs Robert Conkling seen at the Hurlingham Club earlier this year...

I simply MUST make the 27th at Hurlingham!

THE TIMES newspaper has been good enough to publish a list of all the best dances and cocktail parties which will be taking place this year.

Many Socialist Worker readers will be sorry to have missed a cocktail party given in London on 8 July by Mrs Michael Telfer-Smollett, for her daughter, Miss Alexandra Telfer-Smollett.

To avoid further disappointment I've made a note in my Big Red Diary of an important political event not to be missed: the Westminster Young Conservatives Ball on 27 July, where else but at the Hurlingham Club?

I've put a big ring around 28 September, and sent my suit to the cleaners, because Lady Brinton and Mrs Robert Smyly are putting on a dance for Miss Valerie Brinton and Sir Alexander Muir-Mackenzie.

Inflation, dividend restraint and the rents freeze may have undermined confidence in the City, but do not seem to have done anything to curtail the enjoyment of the rich.

There is hardly a day between now and Christmas when someone isn't planning an expensive blow out somewhere.

Even if they do begin to feel the pinch, they can always learn from Lady Crawley, Mrs Greville Gidley-Kitchen and Mrs John Marsden who have all clubbed together to put on a dance for Miss Virginia Gidley-Kitchen in October.

Although we have all missed the Telfer-Smollett's cocktail party we need not despair; they are giving a dance in December. See you there!—PETER DAVIDSON, London SE5.

Wall to knock down

MRS JUNE WALL of the National Association has written to the TUC, reports The Guardian newspaper, urging them to co-opt women into the union leadership to reduce the number of strikes!

She said, in a letter to Len Murray: 'I feel that women would bring some sanity and responsibility to union negotiations. They would not be so quick to start or condone strikes. They have better understanding than men of how strikes affect families.'

This is also a slur on the growing militancy by a lot of women workers—nurses in particular.

Certainly there is a crying need for more women to work in their trade unions because they do know how a pittance of a wage and long hours of work by a woman—or a man—affect family life. Especially when a woman still comes home to another job of caring for her children and doing the part of the houseworker.

It should be pointed out to Mrs Wall that housewives also know what

it is like to try to make ends meet when their husbands come home with a wage which is constantly losing value in the shops.

Far from setting men against women, socialists should support struggles by the working class as a whole to take its rightful share in the wealth that they produce.—MOIRA GARLAND, Leeds.

INFLATION

What the hell is going on?

THE PAPERS are full of talk about economic crisis. Is this the usual con-trick to get the workers to tighten their belts?

There really is a crisis. Apart from the propaganda put out by the employers representatives, the facts speak for themselves. Inflation is running at 20 per cent a year, Britain has a staggering £400 millions balance of payments deficit and there is bad recession coming. But, of course, the employers would like the working class to pay the price for the crisis by taking a big cut in living standards.

But how true is all the talk about a profits crisis and stock market talk about a collapse? The share pushers won't be on the breadline, will they?

Judging by the money being splashed around at Ascot, Henley and other upper-class jaunts this year, many of them are doing very nicely, crisis or not. The big sharepushers have got a lot already salted away in works of art, land, commodities and other forms of savings they need not worry too much.

Some will go bust, however and the stock market slide will have wiped out much of the life savings of some lower middle class and working class people.

Gobbled

But about the decline in profit there can be no argument. Measured either as the rate of return on capital invested, or the share of profits in total output, profits are under heavy pressure.

So what? Does it really matter?

In a capitalist society, it is all important. Unless they can stop the decline in profitability—or, rather jack it up substantially—whole firms and even industries will go under. They will be driven out of business by more profitable sectors, particularly abroad, or they will be gobbled up in take-overs etc.

Profit is the mindless motive of the system—and the only guarantee of survival in the jungle warfare of competition.

So there is a profits crisis. Why?

Two basic reasons. One is inflation.

Over the seven-year life of an investment, the real value of paper profits at the present rate of inflation could be reduced to almost nil. Secondly, the total world economy is no longer growing as fast as it did through most of the 1950s and 1960s. Markets are getting increasingly competitive and this puts another pressure in profit margins.

Bigger

For British capitalism, matters are made worse by the fact that British industry is far less competitive than much of foreign industry as can be seen by the tendency for the UK foreign trade gap to get bigger and bigger.

But the politicians, the employers and the media say this is the fault of the workers.

That is balls. Workers have no influence over the growth of the world economy. The slow-down was originally caused by the cut-backs made by the Americans and others in the astronomic sums spent on armaments for much of the post-war period.

This arms burden was cutting in on America's ability to invest in civil industry, so they started economising almost seven or eight years ago.

But this has reduced the availability of guaranteed markets for those firms which had supplied products to the so-called defence industries. In turn this showed over-all economic growth.

But is it true that wage demands cause rising prices?

The lie was given to that one last year. Everyone could see that wages played a negligible part in inflation. Real wages—money wage rises less prices—have actually been falling.

Costs

Part of the reason for the present inflation crisis lies in the world-wide cost of raw materials, commodities and oil. But the underlying reason is the response of big business to the simultaneous slow-down of the world economy and the inability to pay for rising costs by increasing productivity—that is, raising the level of output per worker.

What has productivity to do with it?

Since the Second World War, the main way the system prevented increases in costs, including wage costs, from eating into profits was by ever-faster rates of productivity. But this was only possible for as long as there was a rapid rate of investment in new products and production methods.

For years, this investment was boosted by the side-products of military research. When that started to dry up—partly because of the arms economies in the late 1960s—the system lost an important safety valve keeping inflation down to the two or three per cent a year.



But stagnating markets also meant idle plant and machinery and industry passed on the cost of this in higher prices.

How did this increase in inflation become a world-wide tidal wave?

Because, mainly, of the huge balance of payments deficit of the United States. American control of the capitalist world's banking set-up meant that other countries were obliged to hold a growing mountain of US dollars because of the trade gap and overseas investment in the multi-nationals.

These dollars acted as a conveyor belt feeding US inflation into the world economy. The oil and commodity producers saw this inflation slashing the real value of the currency they were getting in return for their products. So they shoved up prices to try and maintain the real value of export incomes. But that only gave another savage twist to inflation internationally.

Where does the money supply come in to all of this, as Powell and others keep mentioning?

The stock of money in each country is both the barometer of inflation and the means by which it is passed between countries. In addition governments have tried to deal

with stagnation in investment and production by increasing their total spending. Although this has helped some industries some of the time it has increased the level of inflation overall since the rise in government spending has not been covered by comparable increases in productivity.

But is this all really because of capitalism? Some people say there are absolute natural shortages which put a limit on economic growth and which force up prices.

This is an influential but very reactionary argument. For 200 years, some ruling class economists have predicted disaster because of shortages. This ignores two things.

The first is the vast reserves of most basic materials in existence. This is just as true of oil (look at the oceanic deposits discovered) as it is of other resources.

Secondly, the ecological doom merchants never allow for man's ability to innovate—that is, find new products and substitutes. The real problem is not natural limits, but the capitalist system of production and distribution. Take food for instance.

The main reason for recent shortages of wheat and meat products lies in the deliberate limitations on output by the US govern-

ment and others in earlier years in the interests of holding up the level of world prices.

And the shortages in the Russian and Chinese state capitalist economies are not so much because of natural factors as of the whole system of bureaucratic economic planning.

Are you really saying that there need be no absolute limits to growth under socialism or no problems of rising prices?

That's right. If socialism cannot release society's capacity for growth, the objective of equality, liberation from mindless labour and the abolition of poverty are ultimately pie in the sky.

The profit system prevents the harnessing of society's ability to increase productivity. Under a system of democratic planning (ultimately internationally) we could achieve growth and higher real living standards for all.

Decide

That would involve surpluses being produced over and above what is consumed privately or collectively. But, these unlike profits, would belong to society as a whole—and working people could decide how best they are employed.

But what answer is there for inflation now?

The bosses have only two answers. They can try drastically to increase productivity and so absorb rising costs of materials etc. Productivity deals, alone, however vicious, are not enough. Without massive new investment it is not on.

But with falling profits and economic stagnation, they are not likely to get the investment. The only other way is by cutting real wages across the board.

That is easier said than done. Working people are not likely to take kindly to having to pay for the mess and chaos of world capitalism. And the labour movement is still too strong to lie down under huge wage cuts.

This has led some Tories (and others) to say that what is needed is a controlled recession with higher unemployment to break the will of trade unionists to resist cuts in real wages.

Future

But this could be explosively dangerous. A recession could turn into a slump and, even more importantly, working class anger could bring a determination to get rid of the whole system. In the meantime every national capitalist economy is trying to export its problems to the other by trade curbs and other measures which threaten trade war.

But what about a total collapse because of inflation?

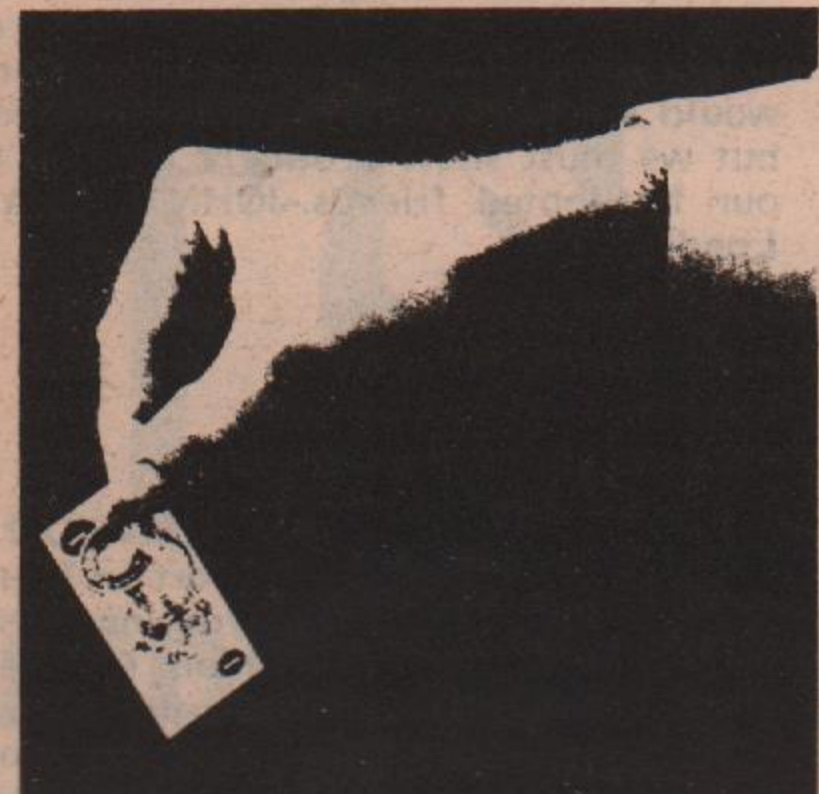
The system will never simply collapse of its own will. It will have to be scrapped from top to bottom and replaced. But we could be getting close to a real inflation explosion and a recession at the same time. That is why there is talk about a national coalition government and the rest.

The strong arm men in the Tory party and elsewhere are preparing for a showdown. It may not come in the next few months. There may be short-lived periods of partial recovery.

But without a showdown there is no way out for the system. That is why the battles over the next few years are going to be decisive for the whole future of society.

What's happening to your wages?

A Socialist Worker pamphlet 3p



Available, price 3p, from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Add 4p for postage.

JOHN PALMER answers the nagging questions

Howard's gonna keep him down on the farm

I CHALLENGE anyone to think of anything more repulsive than Mr Eldon Griffiths, Tory MP for Bury St Edmunds.

Since being appointed Tory spokesman on Industry, this un-speakable charlatan has been going on the telly and shouting about the 'dynamic' of private enterprise and how horrible it would be if all his friends and supporters, who make money-for-nothing in dividends, were expropriated.

He has been appointed an 'adviser to the board' of Howard Machinery, a farm machinery firm which employs more than 3000 people in four factories up and down the country, and which is about to open its headquarters in Saxham, Suffolk, (which by the purest coincidence is in the heart of Mr Griffiths' constituency).

Four weeks ago, Ivan Crane, an engineering worker at Howard's factory in Halesworth, Suffolk, wrote an article for Socialist Worker about an expedition he and other stewards made to a local firm called Leefords, which is part-controlled by Howards.

There are no unions at Leefords so the Howard stewards circulated leaflets urging the workers there to join unions and press for wage parity with Howards.

Ivan Crane's article continued:

'A wild scene followed. In a fit of rage this gentlemen from the management snatched a leaflet and started threatening the four.

After threatening an employee talking to the four with the sack, the 'uninterested' management man locked the factory gates, so the workers inside could not get the leaflets. Then he phoned the police.

I promise further news in Socialist Worker about the 'non-violent' and 'responsible industrial relations' practised by the firm for which the Tory spokesman for Industry is now the paid adviser.



BURKE ON TRENT

WORKERS in Burton-on-Trent, Staffs, are holding collections everywhere for their Lord Mayor, Bro Alec Young.

Bro Young is in terrible trouble. His Mayoral Daimler has been taken off him by the Tory leader of the East Staffordshire District Council.

The Tory claims that he has precedence for use of the Daimler because of local government reorganisation.



The plight of Bro Young knows no bounds. He told the Daily Express: 'Unless something is done very quickly, it will be impossible to uphold the dignity of the office of Mayor. It was embarrassing enough when I was 20 minutes late for the Rotary Club ball because the chairman was using the car I needed.'

'There are likely to be occasions when we both have to attend official functions at the same time. I'll look a bit stupid turning up in my own 987 cc Continental Mini'.



Just a decent British Tommy



Tommy Simpson: I'm all Wight, Jack

MY FIRST experiences of the Labour Party in action are all bound up with a man called Tommy Simpson. When I joined the Young Socialists in Glasgow in 1961, Tommy was the Glasgow City Party's full-time secretary, and a lot of his time was spent trying to 'keep control' of the wild ones in the Young Socialists.

At meeting after meeting of the Party, in which we beat our heads against the massive Right-wing majorities, Tommy would put the case against us (while tipping us the wink, when he came to our meetings, that he was 'really with you young com-

rades all the way').

I read somewhere many years later - I think in 1969 - that Tommy had been sacked from his job in Glasgow after an internal inquiry by Labour's national executive into the City Labour Party and its activities.

Tommy went back to his native Stirlingshire, and joined the Grangemouth Labour Party. He rose rapidly up the hierarchy, became a councillor and is now the Provost.

The Scottish Sunday Mail on 30 June revealed on its front page that in June 1970 - only a few months after leaving his job in Glasgow - Tommy was taken on as a 'public relations adviser' to the building firm of Wight Construction, a subsidiary of the big Edinburgh property combine, Earlsgate Holdings.

Wights specialise in building contracts for councils in Stirlingshire, especially in Grangemouth. At the moment, Wights are building houses for the council, an indoor sports complex for the council and part of the town redevelopment centre for the council.

Tommy Simpson has been getting £2,250 a year for his 'public relations' services to Wights.

The story in the Sunday Mail comes at a crucial moment in the career of Tommy Simpson. He's just been appointed leader of the majority

Labour group on the huge and powerful Central Region in Scotland. Last week, he became chairman of the Land and Buildings Committee, which will be responsible for awarding construction contracts.

If only the Scottish Press would leave him alone, Tommy would be in his best ever position to carry out unstinting service to the Party - witch-hunting the few remaining socialists in the Grangemouth Labour Party and carrying out public relations for local building contractors.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'You can't say that they (black South Africans) are cheap labour. They're just a lower grade of labour... Take your garden 'boy'. You buy him a new lawn-mower and inside a year it's chewed to pieces.'

'You can't say that's cheap labour. So far as South African blacks are concerned give them a monthly wage of R8 (under £5), and a bowl of food, some clothes and some entertainment and that's all they'll ever need... Provided he is well fed, well housed and has basic human requirements he doesn't need much more in life.'

Dr. Bensusan, former Mayor of Johannesburg and a member of South Africa's 'liberal' United Party.

Sieg along with Tyndall

BELOW is a booklist issued by the National Socialist Movement in 1962. The Phoenix Bookshop was run at the time by John Tyndall who, as chairman of the National Front, is now constantly reassuring everyone he has nothing to do with Nazism. Tyndall's pamphlet is underlined on my copy.

PHOENIX BOOKSHOP 74 Princedale Road, London, W.11. Tel. PARK 3214.

A wide selection of books on National Socialism, Fascism, the Jewish Question, and other subjects of nationalist interest on sale at our H.Q.

Open Mon.-Fri. 7-10 p.m. Sat. 2.2-10 p.m.

List No. 3.

Adolf Hitler	"The Testament of Adolf Hitler" 1962 Paper. 123 pp. 3/6d.
Kegs, Rudolph	"Prisoner of Peace". 152 pp. card. 15/-.
Leese, Arnold	"Out of Step". 74 pp. cloth cover. 7/6d.
Jordan, Colin	"Fraudulent Conversion". 152 pp. cloth cover. 8/6d.
Marsden, V.	"World Conquest through World Government". 108 pp. card. 5/-.
Donville, Admiral	"From Admiral to Cabin-Boy". 164 pp. cloth. 7/6d.
Tyndall, John	"The Authoritarian State". 23 pp. paper. 1/6d. (N.S.M. publ.)
Gerr-Ritchie, R.	"Evil is their End: The Jews in our Midst". 180 pp. paper 5/-.
Brough-Scott Lt. Col. J.	"Hidden Government". 76 pp. card. 5/-.
Young, Wing. Cdr.	"Deadlier than the H. Bomb". 88 pp. card. 6/6d.
George, Prof. W.	"Race, Heredity and Civilisation". 18 pp. paper. 1/-.
Ford, Henry, Sr.	"The International Jew". 231 pp. cloth. 25/-.
Chesterton, A.K. & Leftwich, J.	"The Tragedy of Anti-Semitism". 296 pp. cloth. 10/6d.
Keale, J.P.	"Crimes Discreetly Veiled". 254 pp. 15/- cloth.

The same circular included the following advertisement:

NATIONAL SOCIALIST RECORDINGS

Available on tape or disc: Wonderful series of recordings from Nazi Germany! Hours of glorious listening!

Speeches by Hitler, Goebbels, Goering, Himmler, Hess, Heydrich, Doenitz, and others.

March music, band and vocal; battle-hymns of the Wehrmacht, Hitler-outh, S.A., & S.S. Many of high recorded quality.

More material of fascinating historical interest, dealing with the National Socialist era of 1933-45, including the march against Russia, the French campaign, etc.

All these were available on application to the NSM's national organiser, John Tyndall. I really don't know whether they still are.

In 1917, for the first time in world history, a workers' government took power in Russia. Out of the bloodbath of the First World War an alternative and better society was born. Within 20 years it was dead, murdered by a new class, a new despot - Stalin.

RUSSIA

How the Revolution was lost

Chris Harman

15p.

FROM: IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Please add 4p for postage

This man has a handful of death



One of the workers at the Gleno factory takes a handful of asbestos dust from the tip where it lies in heaps, open to the wind. A speck of dust in your lungs can cause the fatal asbestosis.

TODAY and every day a whole community run the risk of contracting asbestosis because of one firm's cynical violation of the safety rules and regulations for the storage and handling of asbestos.

This appalling situation came to light only when members of the International Socialists and a worker at the factory, in Livingston, West Lothian, invited Jim Heggie of 7/62 Glasgow insulation workers' of the Transport Union to look at the factory and speak to workers there.

Gleno Asbestos make asbestos cement roofing sheets. When you go to the factory the first thing you see is a rubbish tip. On it are empty asbestos bags. None are completely empty. Asbestos is lying about everywhere, the bags are all torn open. It's a windy place and asbestos and cement dust are blowing about freely.

There are houses less than 50 yards from this tip. Whenever the wind is in the wrong direction the people who live there are breathing air containing asbestos dust.

I was able to walk on to the tip, pick up and take away a bag with asbestos still in it. I could have been a child looking for something to play with.

The recommended safe procedure for bags that have contained asbestos is to place them in sealed containers and bury them at least 30ft underground. For asbestos is a killer. If you inhale this dust it can slowly destroy your lungs, leaving you too breathless to work, to walk, even to dress yourself. Asbestosis is incurable.

Horror

This factory has been in operation for six years. The chances are that already people living close by, possibly including children, have contracted asbestosis.

When Jim Heggie spoke to some of the workers the full horror of the situation became clear. For if people living near the factory are living with the risk of contracting asbestosis, the workers in the factory are living with the certainty. Here are the stories of three workers. They don't want to be named for fear of victimisation.

Worker A is 19 years old and has been at the plant for ten weeks. No one told him asbestos

from Chris Stephenson, Livingston New Town, in Scotland



Burst sacks in the factory show that Gleno Asbestos supplies come from the American firm Johns-Manville. At Manville, New Jersey, the company's payroll accounts for more than 60 per cent of the town's total income. It pays more than half the taxes and makes judicious gifts to hospitals and schools. The Washington Post has exposed the terrible deaths from industrial disease that had resulted in Manville. The firm had warned 'improvements are costly and will lead to plant shutdowns.'

was dangerous when he started work there. 'For the first three weeks the only protective clothing I had was a pair of gloves. I now know that this put my whole family at risk.'

'My job is to open the sacks of asbestos with a Stanley knife and feed the asbestos into the mill with my hands. There is a tiny printed notice saying that the sack should be opened under an extractor fan, but that's impossible because the edging round the hole where you put your hands into the extractor is all broken off and you would cut yourself.'

'In my case this is the way I was told to do the job when I started.'

Crawl

'When we're doing one special job involving putting amosite (asbestos wood) into the mixture, we have to open up a door into the mill where the asbestos is being mixed up. If you put the stuff into the normal feed it won't go because it's too soft.'

'We aren't allowed to put the whole bag in at once, so you have to keep the door open and feed the amosite in a bit at a time. This takes about two minutes and the air fills with asbestos dust all round.'

'Every now and then, if the machine gets too full with asbestos, the feed can jam. The last time this happened the general foreman ordered us to go in and dig it out. This meant climbing through a hole about 2ft by 2ft into a space about 8ft long, 4ft wide and 4ft deep with asbestos about 2ft 6in deep in it. You had to crawl about on your hands and knees in the stuff and shovel it into bags.'

'The only extra protective

clothing we got was wellington boots. When I went off and got a mask, the other men asked me where I got it from. They had never seen one before and didn't know where to get one.'

'I didn't know there was such a thing as asbestosis. We were told that only blue asbestos was dangerous and white asbestos was safe. There is a union here, but they don't seem to bother. Most places I've worked at they come up with a form and ask you to join, but not here.'

Worker B is 18 years old and has worked for Gleno for one week. He has no protective clothing except gloves. No one has told him anything about the dangers of asbestos.

Worker C is 21 years old and has worked for Gleno for 18 months. 'I still haven't got overalls. The ones they supply are useless. You are supposed to have them elasticated at the wrists, neck and ankles to keep the dust out, but these are just ordinary overalls. They charge 10p a week for cleaning them and if one goes missing they deduct £7 from your wages. They go missing all the time.'

'No one in there wears a mask, if they do, I've never seen them. The only protection you get is a pair of gloves. There is no changing room and no shower.'

The cover-up starts

SINCE members of the Edinburgh branch of the International Socialists started campaigning about conditions in and around the Gleno Asbestos plant in Livingston, management have installed new gates, cleaned up part of the tip and put out statements claiming that Gleno is 'the safest factory in Scotland.' The photo-



SCANDAL

Sometimes when you leak the whole pile of cement dust—you get more than a few feet, it goes on.

'Whenever you see a production manager you should count because at the end of the day there's a queue of the gates waiting.'

'In all the tips there I've not had up of any sort of protective clothing for it and you have to pay for it if the convenor says that it is safe and it's stuff that's dangerous people ordered to clear it out when I'm a member but in the 18 months here, there's not a word for shop steward to negotiate, but no one done about safety threshold money.'

Challenge

The union at the factory may not be about asbestos plant but when Jim Heggie comes to the workers he complains of 'interference' from the Glasgow District of the TGWU.

Already a few have started in Livingston. How people have the discipline to a living Heggie said that of fighting the danger he has never seen so appalling.

The Socialist challenge to the management and the inspector and the answer for their meeting which in Livingston will not allow the situation to continue longer.

The local paper Post, headlined the cover-up 'Angry trap' claim. The Scottish daily paper similar story. Socialist Working further reporting factory in Scotland



ASBESTOS

The dust that kills in the name of profit

A new Socialist Worker pamphlet that tells the story of the Glasgow insulation workers' union branch, of the men who have died because of asbestos—and of their fight to save others from it. To the series of articles originally published in Socialist Worker has been added a guide to where workers are likely to encounter asbestos, what laws cover its use and how to force management to keep to them.

10p plus 4p postage (10 copies or more post free) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



OF THE TOWN WHERE KILLER DUST BLOWS IN THE WIND

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FROM PAGE ONE

same minus a few quislings. In other industries entirely new fighting unions have been forged.

In the post office, just 10 days after the coup, there was a nationwide mass meeting. 15,000 workers elected a temporary committee of 22 to run the new union and draft a constitution. It is also agreed on the 16-point claim that led to the recent strike. But that committee of 22 is controlled by a larger body of delegates from all grades of post office workers throughout Portugal. It has a quorum of 250 delegates and meets once a week.

In the electronics industry it's the same story. Next month there are to be across-the-board elections. There is a complete slate of rank-and-file candidates standing on a militant socialist platform. They could sweep the board.

Arrest

Politics are alive within the army too. Not just the radical officers, but rank and file soldiers as well. An entire company in Guine-Bissau, the Portuguese colony in West Africa signed a letter to the Junta declaring their support for the coup and saying that they were no longer prepared to obey orders to fight on.

Two weeks ago I was on a demonstration against the arrest of two socialist officers outside the Campo Grandio Barracks in Lisbon. There were threats that the whole barracks would be brought to a standstill so that the soldiers could join the demonstration. The authorities took it seriously enough to confine all ranks to quarters to shut the barracks completely.

And to mount two tanks outside the gates.

With their cannons facing inwards.

As we marched past the barracks there were soldiers hanging out of the windows giving the clenched fist salute. Sights like that have probably not been seen in Europe for 40 years.

The atmosphere in Portugal today is raw excitement.

I had the experience of attending a mass meeting of the Communist Party in Lisbon's bullring. It was held in a terrible thunderstorm—but still 40,000 people were crammed inside with

This country is like sweating gelignite...

by BOB LIGHT, recently back from Portugal

thousands locked outside the gates.

All right, so the politics were an abortion of socialism, but I've never in my life experienced the sheer fervour and determination of that meeting. 40,000 workers singing the Internationale is a moving experience in any language.

You can't touch it, you can't see it—but you can feel the charge running through the Portuguese working class.

Portugal today is a nation in the melting-pot. Thus far the majority of the capitalist class and the officer corps have supported the coup. But their fear is that events will get completely out of hand. Or out of their hands. The parasites are now approaching panic stations.

Investment has seized up. Inflation is running riot. And in the wake of the strike wave, industrialists are threatening to withdraw altogether. After the successful strike by women in

the electronics industry ITT are talking of closing operations. As they proved in Chile, firms like ITT don't abandon their money. They fight for it.

So the provisional government is walking along a knife edge with no shoes. The government, to reassure its financial backers has been gradually tightening its grip.

Censorship has been re-introduced. First the army blacked out a live TV play that they considered insulting to the Catholic Church.

Seized

Already Ribeiro Sanches, editor of the paper Lutta Popular, is in jail for offending the government.

The government is also moving against strikes and occupations. Troops were sent in to break the Timex occupation. The navy has seized four tankers to break the merchant navy strike.

And the post office strike was called off under the threat that the army would be used.

Now the government is trying to tame the army. Two socialist army officers, Carlos Marvao and Joas Anjos, have been arrested for refusing to order their troops to break the post office strike. They are to be court-martialled, and it is reported that the authorities will be demanding three years imprisonment for both.

It is this situation that has made the collaboration of the Communist and Socialist Parties in the government so disgusting. The Junta desperately need an insurance policy against the groundswell of working-class militancy. That is why the two parties have been in the government. To constrain the working class.

So far they've done a fine job. The Communist Minister of Labour has a record Ray Gunter would be proud of. When stevedores in Lisbon threatened to

strike to reduce their working day of seven in the morning to eight at night, the Communist Party accused them of treason. O Seculo, a paper controlled by Communists, claimed that the post office strike was led by fascists. When I met members of the strike committee, it turned out that in fact the majority were either members or supporters of the Communist Party.

This is not a question of political dogma. Or of personal courage. It is a question of life or death. There is no doubt at all that the showdown is coming in Portugal.

The country is like sweating gelignite. The question is whose face it blows up in.

Portugal is not stable enough to support the weight of a parliamentary democracy. If an election were held today, my impression is that the Communist Party would win with embarrassing ease. The ITTs of this world and their hirelings in the army would never allow that.

Rampage

On the other hand if the Communist Party are kept in the cold, the working class will no longer be checked by any feelings of loyalty to the government. Then the dogs of class war would be on the rampage. The ruling class of Portugal will counter-attack.

It might be a month. It might be six months. Maybe a year. But the showdown is coming in Portugal. It will be an all-out war between labour and capital. And they won't be taking prisoners.

The working class have got the power. In my opinion they have got the will. The decisive challenge will be whether the working class has the political organisation and the self-confidence to fight the class war through to victory and take power. And whether the working class can arouse the army rank and file to turn their guns on their officers.

There is no other way in Portugal. Despite all the elation Portugal is a country living on borrowed time.

Either the working class will deal a death blow at the capitalist system or the ruling class will ride roughshod over them again. If that happens then all the constitutions and all carnations in the world won't help or protect the working class.



L EFT: A demonstration in Lisbon against the arrest of two socialist army officers. RIGHT: Revolutionary slogans on a bank wall.

Menu

Enough to make you sick: the Harley Street Clinic's cuisine.

We're hoping to rid ourselves of this weeping sore of private practice in under a year. Not the 25 years Barbara Castle said it would take. But banning private patients is only the beginning of the battle to save the health service. We must nationalise the private hospitals and the drug companies. We're fed up with waiting for others to do things for us. We have shown that working people can work in their union and do things for themselves.

IF THERE'S one place where we are fed up with private patients, it's where I work in the catering department. Workers are really resentful to the different standard and quality of meals given to these people.

We don't get any extra pay for making up their ward trolley, nor for occasionally preparing individual meals.

A few days ago, over and above the choice of NHS patients, they had fresh salmon salad, cod au vin and grilled fillet of dover sole. 'Ordinary' patients had to make do with cottage pie, liver and bacon and pilchard salad.

Charged

Other extra choices included grilled steak, grilled gammon, roast duck in orange sauce and a wider choice of vegetables. From discussions with catering management it doesn't seem as if they are charged for the full cost of this international cuisine.

It really gets us when it takes as long to prepare the private ward's trolley as it does the other 12 trollies.

The trouble started back in 1948 when Nye Bevan gave the first concessions to the consultants. Since then many consultants have been running the health service for their own economic benefit.

The fact that we have private

practices in a free health service is ludicrous for a start. When the NHS started consultants threatened that if they were not allowed their private perks they would not work in the health service.

And right up to this day they have kept up this threat. They are saying to the sick, 'now get on with it on your own'. This is their hypocrisy.

Now they have the cheek to accuse trade unionists fighting to improve the service for the majority of people in the country of the same thing.

Decide

They tell nurses, who after much soul-searching have taken action for the first time, that they are using

Luncheon THREE COURSE		Dinner THREE COURSE	
APPETIZERS Orange, tomato, grapefruit or pineapple juice, half fresh grapefruit, coupe Jamaica, Florida cocktail. All served chilled with appropriate garnishes. <i>Salami de Milan</i> served on bed of lettuce, garnished with tomato, brown bread and butter.	Grilled Lamb Cutlets Cutlets of prime young lamb, seasoned, grilled, served with mint sauce or redcurrant jelly and butter. Steak, Kidney and Mushroom Pie Tender pieces of steak and kidney combined with butter mushrooms in a delicious gravy and covered with a delectable homemade pastry. Calves Liver and Bacon Thin slices of calves liver seasoned, grilled and accompanied by tender, grilled rashers.	APPETIZERS Tomato, grapefruit, pineapple or orange juice. All served chilled. <i>Smoked Salmon</i> Served with lemon quarters, black pepper, brown bread and butter. <i>Potted Shrimps</i> Served on bed of lettuce heads, garnished. Brown or white bread and butter on request. <i>Melon Wedges</i> Served chilled with castor sugar or ground ginger. <i>Minted Grapefruit Petals</i> Grapefruit segments macerated in mint flavoured juice and served with sprigs of fresh mint.	GRILLS AND ENTREES <i>Grilled Scotch Sirloin Steak Garni</i> Tender cuts of steak, seasoned and grilled, served with grilled tomatoes and mushrooms, with a light oignon sauce. <i>Entrecote Brochette</i> Diced Sirloin steak, combined with tomatoes, bacon, mushrooms and peppers, cooked on a brochette and served on a bed of rice with chutney sauce. <i>Supreme of Chicken a la King</i> Choice portion of chicken cooked in a rich white wine sauce and garnished with peas, peppers and mushrooms. <i>Aylesbury Duckling, Sauce Bigarade</i> Selected young duckling, roasted and served with a rich orange sauce. Garnished with julienne of orange rind. <i>Pork Chop Parisienne</i> Boneed choice pork chop, dipped in egg, breadcrumbs, cooked in oil and butter, served with a rich cream mushroom sauce. <i>Seafood Vol au Vents</i> Selected small fish cooked in wine sauce and served in fluffy pastry cups garnished with lemon and parsley. <i>Chicken Cacciatore</i> Supreme of chicken, cooked in spiced tomato sauce and served on a bed of rice, garnished with parsley sprigs. <i>Braised Ox Tongue</i> Slices of tongue braised in a red wine sauce, served with a garnish of seasonal fresh vegetables. <i>Escalope of Veal Holstein or Vennoise Holstein</i> Escalope dipped in egg and breadcrumbs sautéed in butter, served with fried egg on top garnished with anchovy fillet and capers. <i>Vennoise</i> Escalope cooked as for holstein, placed on dish for service with the following garnish - fried chopped parsley, chopped white and yolk of egg and golden fried breadcrumbs.
PATES <i>Chicken</i> pheasant or country style. Served on bed of lettuce, garnished with slices of tomato, cucumber. Toasted brown or white bread as required.	SOUPS <i>Soup of the Day</i> (see chef's special) or cream of tomato, chicken or asparagus.	CONSOMMES AND SOUPS <i>Consomme Julienne, Paysanne or Printanier</i> Served containing the appropriate fresh vegetable or garnitures. <i>Vichysoise</i> Creamed potato and leek soup. Served hot or cold on request. <i>Jellied Consomme</i> A double strength consomme allowed to set. Served with Melba toast.	EGGS <i>Omelette Plain</i> Filled with sliced haddock and gratined Ham, asparagus or prawn. PASTAS <i>Macaroni Au gratin</i> Macaroni in rich cream sauce, topped with grated cheese and toasted under salamander. <i>Jette-Promenade</i> Macaroni cooked in light cheese sauce with cream, mushrooms and julienne of chicken.
EGGS <i>Omelette Plain</i> Fine herbs, tomato, cheese, mushroom. <i>Scrambled with shrimps</i> <i>Scrambled with chicken livers</i> .	PASTAS <i>Spaghetti Neapolitaine</i> Spaghetti cooked in a rich tomato sauce with pieces of fresh tomato, served with parmesan cheese. <i>Spaghetti Bolognaise</i> Plain spaghetti cooked in season, buttered water and dressed on the plate with a garlic flavoured fine meat sauce, served with parmesan cheese.	EGGS <i>Omelette Plain</i> Filled with sliced haddock and gratined Ham, asparagus or prawn. PASTAS <i>Macaroni Au gratin</i> Macaroni in rich cream sauce, topped with grated cheese and toasted under salamander. <i>Jette-Promenade</i> Macaroni cooked in light cheese sauce with cream, mushrooms and julienne of chicken.	FISH <i>Dover Sole Meuniere</i> Cooked in butter and oil, served with rondels of lemon and beurre noisette garnished with chopped parsley. <i>Grilled</i> Seasoned, buttered and cooked under salamander, served with lemon and parsley. <i>Fried</i> Dipped in egg and matzo meal and fried in corn oil, served with sauce tartare and lemon. <i>Poached Turbot or Halibut with Lobster Sauce</i> Prime cuts cooked in court bouillon and served with a cream lobster sauce. <i>Shrimp Creole</i> Shrimps in a rich tomato sauce and served on a bed of savoury rice. <i>Braised Haddock Fillet</i> Tender fillets poached in milk, cream and butter, served with garniture of Duchesse potatoes. <i>River Trout Pan fried</i> Young trout fried in oil and butter, served with lemon and beurre noisette. <i>Grilled</i> Trout seasoned and cooked under salamander, served with lemon quarters and parsley.
FISH <i>Fillets of Sole or Plaice</i> <i>Deep fried</i> Dipped in egg and matzo meal, cooked in corn oil and served with sauce tartare. <i>Grilled</i> Buttered, seasoned and grilled. <i>Mornay</i> Poached fillets covered with a rich cheese sauce and gratined. <i>Bonne Femme</i> Poached fillets in white wine sauce with butter mushrooms, garnished and glazed under grill for service. ROASTS AND ENTREES <i>Roast or Grilled Chicken</i> Prime cuts of chicken roasted or grilled and served with bread sauce, stuffing and appropriate garnishes.	COLD BUFFET Chicken, gala pie, York ham, ox tongue or assorted cold meats. SALADS French beans, petit pois, buttered greens, macedoine, grilled tomatoes. POTATOES Fondant, creamed, jacket, new boiled, saute. DESSERTS Apple, mincemeat or blackberry pie, fruit compotes, pears, apricots, mandarins, pineapple, rhubarb or plums, fruit cocktail, fruit jelly, various milk puddings. ICE CREAMS Vanilla, strawberry, chocolate, coffee and Cassata Denise. CHEESES Cheddar, Stilton, Danish Blue, Edam, Brie, Cottage, Smoked Austrian.	FISH <i>Dover Sole Meuniere</i> Cooked in butter and oil, served with rondels of lemon and beurre noisette garnished with chopped parsley. <i>Grilled</i> Seasoned, buttered and cooked under salamander, served with lemon and parsley. <i>Fried</i> Dipped in egg and matzo meal and fried in corn oil, served with sauce tartare and lemon. <i>Poached Turbot or Halibut with Lobster Sauce</i> Prime cuts cooked in court bouillon and served with a cream lobster sauce. <i>Shrimp Creole</i> Shrimps in a rich tomato sauce and served on a bed of savoury rice. <i>Braised Haddock Fillet</i> Tender fillets poached in milk, cream and butter, served with garniture of Duchesse potatoes. <i>River Trout Pan fried</i> Young trout fried in oil and butter, served with lemon and beurre noisette. <i>Grilled</i> Trout seasoned and cooked under salamander, served with lemon quarters and parsley.	COLD BUFFET Roast beef, turkey, chicken, loin of lamb, pork. Special salad of assorted cold meats. Mixed salad. SALADS Russian, lettuce, tomato, polonaise, beetroot, endives. VEGETABLES Broccoli spears, cauliflower, runner beans, Vichy carrots, creamed sweetcorn, garden peas. POTATOES Jacket, creamed, new boiled, Duchesse, or French fried. DESSERTS Creme caramel, pear melba, fresh fruit salad, various mousses, baked egg custard, meringue glace, fresh fruit in season. ICE CREAMS Strawberry, vanilla, chocolate, coffee or tutti frutti. CHEESES Camembert, Cheddar, Brie, Stilton, Edam, Gruyere, Cottage or Smoked Austrian.

In all main dishes, i.e. fish meat or poultry, state size of portion required. Rolls, sliced French bread and butter state number of pieces required. Melba toast available from floor kitchen on request. With all orders Tea or Coffee is of course available.

Private patients, public parasites...

by ALAN ELLIS, NUPE
Branch Secretary St George's
Hospital, Hyde Park Corner

patients as pawns in a political battle. Let the hypocrites speak for themselves.

Some private patients are anxious workers who can't put up with the long waiting of having their pain relieved. They have to spend their hard-earned savings for the privilege of staying alive.

But the majority are the very wealthy who include oil millionaires and exploiters of workers from fascist countries. Recently the Turkish Chief of Police was over here using the specialised knowledge of our nationalised eye surgery.

These spongers are paying the consultants to jump the queue and have the comforts of luxury hotels. They have personal telephones, colour television, private bathrooms and unlimited visiting and privacy.

And they got all this on the cheap. When the charges are assessed for staying in a private wing they do not cover the capital cost of the buildings or complex medical equipment often needed.

Anxious

Where I work it is £130 a week for a pay bed. Perhaps £252 charged at a private London clinic is more like it.

Private hospitals even charging this could never buy the sort of machinery available at NHS hospitals. They could only function knowing they had the NHS to back them up. If complications arise, they know they can send them down to one of the London teaching hospitals.

Some people have rightly argued that it's not right to have a public school on the top floor of a comprehensive. To follow this analogy, we don't want public schools either in the health service. A parasite is a parasite wherever he feeds.

While these men are lining their own pockets, the crisis and decline of the NHS is accelerating because of the shortage of staff. Who would want to work on our appallingly low wages?

Today many hospitals, never mind odd wards, are being shut down because of these shortages. In my hospital, out of 14 wards, two have been shut since the beginning of the month. Private wards, of course stay better staffed.

Control

Wages are as low as £20 a week because government after government has put the NHS far down its list of priorities. It is always the sick who have to suffer and pay for the bosses' economic crisis.

The Tories last year cut the planned budget for the NHS by £111 million. It has been calculated that that just to keep pace with inflation would mean another £125-£130 million.

If we ever had a chance to say where the money went, we would have spent twice as much as present. Only when workers decide the priorities will we have really decent social services.

Argued

The consultants also have full control over the waiting lists. The longer the lists, the more people will be persuaded to go private. We have to take control of the waiting lists from the hands of consultants who have anything to do with private medicine.

£500-FOR A FEW HOURS' WORK

SIX out of every ten consultants work part-time for the health service. A tenth of the consultants (there are 11,000 in this country) work as little as they can for the NHS and do all the private work they can lay their hands on.

47 per cent need only work 9/11ths of their time with National Health patients. The rest of their time is spent in reaping the rich rewards of treating private patients.

ONE in a hundred beds are 'officially' private, yet consultants spend more than 15 per cent of

their time on private patients.

The biggest subsidy to these consultants is the use of National Health equipment, operating theatres and staff. They can get £500 from an afternoon's work. The back-up team—nurses, technicians, porters and domestics—don't see a penny of the fee, though the nurses sometimes get a box of chocolates and a pat on the back.

FOUR hours' work can earn a consultant more than a nurse gets in a year.

WOMENS VOICE



LATEST ISSUE NOW OUT

Articles on: Two women fighting the threat of exile under the immigration laws, the nurses, child care on the cheap, shopworkers, and a strike by women on behalf of men.

5p (plus 3p postage)/50p for the next six issues (postage included) from WOMEN'S VOICE 61 Tynley Croft, Harlow, Essex.

FIFTY YEARS ON

LABOUR's first-ever government, in 1924, was in office for just over nine months.

Brief and undistinguished and heavily outnumbered in the House of Commons—258 Tories, 158 Liberals and eight Independents to Labour's 191—it was quickly forgotten, its wan, unlovely visage blurred in the memory as the years passed by the more firmly delineated countenances of later Labour governments.

It took office with Liberal Party support and Tory acquiescence. Tory Neville Chamberlain agreed with Liberal leader Asquith that to have kept Labour out of office then would only make it stronger in the long run. Given office immediately as a minority under control of the other parties, it would be too weak to do much harm, but not too weak to be discredited.

At the time, Beatrice Webb and others were grooming the wives of Labour MPs in correct behaviour for high society: now Labour Ministers were to be groomed in the ways of 'responsible' and conventional government.

Some socialists were opposed to Labour taking office without power. Others wanted it to do so, but only so that radical reforms and socialist measures could be put before parliament, and, if defeated, taken to the country. The party leaders answered both views by insisting that here was a chance to show the electorate that Labour was neither a party of Bolsheviks, nor of 'wild men' and could be trusted to administer the affairs of the nation soberly and safely.

TIMID

'Write me a prologue,' commanded Bottom the weaver of his fellow 'mechanicals', in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, afraid that a show of sword play on the stage might scare the ladies in the audience, 'and let the prologue seem to say, we will do no harm with our swords... this will put them out of fear.'

Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald and his followers wanted to put top and middling people 'out of fear'. They attempted to do so by following conventional procedures, by weighting the Cabinet with titled ex-Liberals and Tories, former colonial governors, top civil servants and diplomats, so that, in the words of Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Snowden, 'the most timid Conservatives and frightened capitalists took heart (and) could not believe that these men would be instruments for carrying out the Socialist Revolution.' And by putting forward, for legislation, modest proposals of social reforms mostly acceptable to the enemy.

RIOT

King George, though impressed by his new Prime Minister, was uneasy nevertheless. About George Lansbury's recent warning against anti-Labour intrigues at the Palace: 'some centuries ago,' said Lansbury, 'a king stood against the common people and lost his head.'

About the proposed recognition of Soviet Russia: it would be abhorrent to King George to receive any Russian directly or indirectly connected with the murder of his cousin, the Czar, and of the Czar's



RAMSAY MACDONALD, Labour's first Prime Minister: To reassure the ruling classes he weighted his Cabinet with titled ex-Liberals, top civil servants and diplomats.

REG GROVES was 15 when the first Labour government was elected in Britain. He was working as a messenger boy with the Post Office's outside telephones.

He joined the Independent Labour Party the same year, and stayed a member until he could stomach it no longer in 1927. That year he joined the Communist Party and within a few years became one of the best-known propagandists on the Communist Party's London District Committee.

Reg broke from the Communist Party in 1932. He joined the tiny band of British revolutionaries who supported Leon Trotsky. He remains today at 66 a committed revolutionary socialist.

Reg has written several books—all about rebels and

family, so, if recognition there has to be, let the representative be a minister, a charges d'affairs, not an ambassador!

And about an 'unfortunate incident at Labour's Albert Hall victory rally, presided over by MacDonald himself. The *Red Flag* had been sung. MacDonald explained that had he tried to stop it, there would have been a riot. 'They have got into the way of singing this song,' he said, 'and it will be by degrees that I hope to break down this habit.'

A few days later, there arose the seemingly trivial matter of ceremonial dress. The King, as we now know, though it was not known at the time, did not insist on his new Ministers wearing court dress and all the trim-

mings.

The Labour Cabinet Ministers chose to wear the uniform, but for some, however, the cost, £72 2s 6d was too great. The King's secretary, however, made enquiries, and wrote to the chief government whip, Ben Spoor: 'Messrs Moss Bros have in stock a few suits of Household, Second Class, Levee Dress, for £30 complete. This comprises trousers, coat, cock hat and sword, and is the regulation dress.'

Cock hat, sword, coat and trousers! How, at work, we gaped at those pictures, so triumphantly displayed in the Tory and Liberal newspapers, and what unease they brought to Labour supporters among the workers.

The minority Labour premier who said when his party sang *The Red Flag*: 'I hope to break this habit'



KING GEORGE V: The Bolsheviks had executed his cousin the Czar—but the Labour ministers came to him in court dress

sign of an inward corruption, a prior acceptance by the Labour men of social and political values alien to socialism and inimical to the party supposedly engaged in sustaining and speaking for the working people in their struggles for a better life.

In the workshops, the Labour men had insisted that Labour, as a workers' party, was different from the parties of Capital. 'You'll see,' they said again and again, 'you'll see,' and even those who voted for the others, or who didn't vote at all, appeared to hope at times that it might be.

PRESSURE

How vivid still, 50 years, two world wars and a great depression afterwards, is the memory of those pictures, and of the sensed but not understood changes of mood in the workshop—the Labour supporters puzzled, excusing, explaining, the scoffers and sceptics bolder and cockier, seemingly relieved and rejoicing that there was, after all, no danger of them being freed from poverty and oppression.

Of course the Labour men went on hoping that the matter of the uniforms meant little or nothing—that pressure from union men and more militant MPs would compel the Cabinet to screw its collective courage to the sticking point and legislate boldly for the working people.

ON THE BOX

○ SATURDAY: BBC-1, 6.40pm. John Wayne, in *THE SEARCHERS* directed by John Ford.

○ SUNDAY: BBC-1, 8.15pm. *PLAY OF THE MONTH* is Henrik Ibsen's *HEDDA GABLER* with Janet Suzman.

○ MONDAY: BBC-1, 8.10pm. Yes it's Harold Wilson! Live on *PANORAMA*!

○ TUESDAY: ITV: A good night for ITV. At 10.30pm is *GOSLING'S TRAVELS* where Ray Gosling, who did a good programme on Old Trafford, looks at Cambridge.

At 11pm John Bird and John Wells star in and write *LEEDS ATHLETIC*.

BBC-2 is *A ROOM WITH A VIEW* taken from E M Forster's classic Edwardian novel, at 9pm...

○ WEDNESDAY: BBC-2. 10.10pm. The film *A TASTE OF HONEY*.

○ FRIDAY: BBC-2. The second part of the documentary on *EISENSTEIN*, the Russian film director is on at 8.10pm. Same channel has *A LAND IN TORMENT* at 9.5pm, a feature film drama about Brazil.

Reg Groves

The Balham Group: how British Trotskyism began

75p paperback, £1.80 hardback, 5p post and packing

Forty years ago it took enormous courage to be a revolutionary. Capitalism had survived war and attack. Communist Parties were becoming Stalinist machines. Few people were up to the task in Britain—less than a dozen, centred on Balham in South London.

Reprints from Labour History

A pamphlet series of important writings in the history of the British labour movement.

The Workers' Committee (1917) 20p
J T Murphy

8 Hour Working Day (1886) 20p
Tom Mann

Direct Action (1919) 20p
William Gallacher and J R Campbell

The Miners' Next Step (1912) 20p
The South Wales Miners' Unofficial Reform Committee

PLUTO PRESS Unit 10,
Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road
London NW1.



THE UNIONS



Lawrence Daly: Can the miners afford to share his confidence in Labour?
Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Anger over ban on Socialist Worker

THE Springfield, Glasgow branch of the engineering union passed a motion last week against the ban that Hugh Scanlon and the engineering section executive have imposed on Socialist Worker reporters.

The ban is on the paper sending a reporter to the union's national committee. The Springfield branch has deplored this ban and expresses its concern that papers like the Daily Express and the Daily Telegraph have ready access while SW is banned.

Acted

Socialist Worker first started to experience difficulties last year. The union's president declined to give Laurie Flynn credentials for the 1974 national committee on the grounds that he was not a member of the industrial correspondents lobby, the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group.

The National Union of Journalists does not recognise this body, over which it has no control. It has in the past acted contrary to NUJ rules.

It was stated that this decision to exclude the paper was taken by the AUEW engineering section executive. The decision was re-affirmed despite pleas from Kenneth Morgan, NUJ general secretary, who informed the AUEW that the NUJ was opposed to any such restrictions.

Control

Socialist Worker had one option open to join the lobby. This was rejected on the grounds that we should be able to attend without restriction and because joining the lobby involves agreeing to a confidentiality gag used by the state authorities to control the dissemination of information.

Last month, the paper again applied for credentials, this time for Steve Jefferys, who before joining the NUJ had been a member of the AUEW engineering section. Again credentials were refused.

Socialist Worker needs your help, if you are an NUJ or AUEW member, in putting this deplorable situation to rights.

Resolutions and pressure in every branch and district committee are the only way to overturn this undemocratic ban. If your branch passes a resolution in support of Socialist Worker please let us know.

The miners' conference surprised many people, not least two observers...

by Dick Hall, Warsop Main, and Steve Abbott, Calverton

IT WAS our first visit to conference. The gun-boat anchored just off Llandudno, considering some of the decisions made, may have had some influence on the delegates.

The conduct of conference was democratic, as far as Joe Gormley allowed it to be. In one of many incidents, a delegate wishing to raise a point of order was told there would be no points of order 'when I'm speaking'.

Joe Gormley also had two watches to time delegates—one for the right wing and one for the left. You can guess which one was fast. He also dropped little hints about it being his birthday on the Friday (between 20 and 30 times) and how he did not intend to work on his birthday.

Mick McGahey sarcastically remarked: 'Maybe we should make it an annual holiday.'

Delegations voted against their area mandates, notably the Midlands area on Yorkshire's wages resolu-

tion. Their vote would have tipped the balance in favour of an exact money figure on the claim.

The Notts area also did this on incomes policy. Then, however, the resolution against incomes policy was carried.

These scandals really hammered home the point that 33,000 Notts mineworkers who voted against an incomes policy were openly and unashamedly sold down the river because a bastard like Len Clarke thought fit.

As the week progressed, it became obvious that the real purpose of the conference was not to decide union policy (though that did come out as a secondary priority) but to have a social jamboree.

Most nights some kind of func-

tion was scheduled. It came to a head on Wednesday when delegates were given a whole day off to go touring round Wales, all paid for by our lads' money.

We thought it was bloody disgraceful for union funds to be squandered in such a manner. But it seemed that the majority of the old boys club (sorry, delegates) thought it was a grand idea.

The conference reached such an extent that, had the Labour Party conference been held next door, many delegates would not have known which door to take.

The question now is how can we fight against such blatant disregard for the feeling of the membership. Only strong rank and file organisation can combat the bureaucracy.

For, sadly, until we have a really effective rank and file group in the NUM such sell-out merchants as Clarke, Lally and Smith will continue to sell us down the Swanee.

What happened at Llandudno

by Bill Message

THE National Union of Mineworkers is at a crossroads. The apparently contradictory votes on various issues at last week's annual conference in Llandudno reflect this.

Over the last four years, during the period of Tory government, the broad left alliance of Communist Party members, ex-Party members and Labour Party left-wingers has grown from strength to strength.

After two and a half decades of subservient leadership, the rank and file revolt of 1960 and 1970 pushed the broad left machine towards action on pay as well as revolutionary and electoral moves.

Rank and file pressure helped to weaken the resistance of the right wing and brought support from several hot so far left officials. In just four years, wage increases of around £25 were won. All this was done against a background of a fight against the traditional enemies—the Tories.

Now the situation has altered some-

what. There is a Labour government and the ups and downs of the voting at this year's conference reflect the dilemma of the broad left.

The sharpest illustration of this was Lawrence Daly's defection to the 'moderates', shown by his support for voluntary wage restraint, the social contract and his uncanny confidence that if the next election produces an overall Labour majority all the problems of the miners will be solved.

In his presidential address, Joe Gormley returned to his familiar theme of co-operation, the dangers of confrontation and the need for a productivity deal. This time he went further, spelling out exactly what he wanted.

He praised threshold agreements as a way of life and proposed the setting up at each pit of joint productivity committees to fix a 'productivity norm'.

Since the end of the 1972 strike, both NUM and Coal Board have been committed to negotiating a productivity deal. The NCB wants local pit agreements to destroy the unity that a national wage structure has built, whereas the official

union policy has been to countenance only a national scheme.

The dangers involved in Gormley's proposals are several. They destroy the unity of the national wage structure. They ignore pits with bad geological conditions, out of date machinery and insufficient manpower, which could never achieve their productivity norms.

They would increase the manpower drift away from the low production pits into the high production pits. This would help the Coal Board to close many of its so-called uneconomic collieries.

Lawrence Daly, traditional pillar of the left, gave unqualified support to Gormley's proposals calling them a 'desirable objective'.

After the defeat of the militant wages resolution, the left came bouncing back with a resolution opposing all forms of incomes policy, voluntary and statutory.

Opposed

In a forceful speech, David Bolton, vice president of the Scottish miners, pointed out that we have had over ten years of incomes policy but there was still inflation and huge profits and dividends being made.

'Labour and Tory governments alike have sought to make the working man carry the burden,' he said.

Daly opposed the resolution on behalf of the executive saying that it would be totally unprecedented for the NUM to reject a voluntary incomes policy. He claimed that the social contract and the government's proposed Royal Commission on the Distribution of Wealth would take us forward rapidly to the 'creation of a genuine socialist society in this country.' He praised the 'flexible terms' of the social contract.

Replying, David Bolton, warned that some areas might vote against their members on this resolution. 'I hope their own conferences will severely reprimand them', he added.

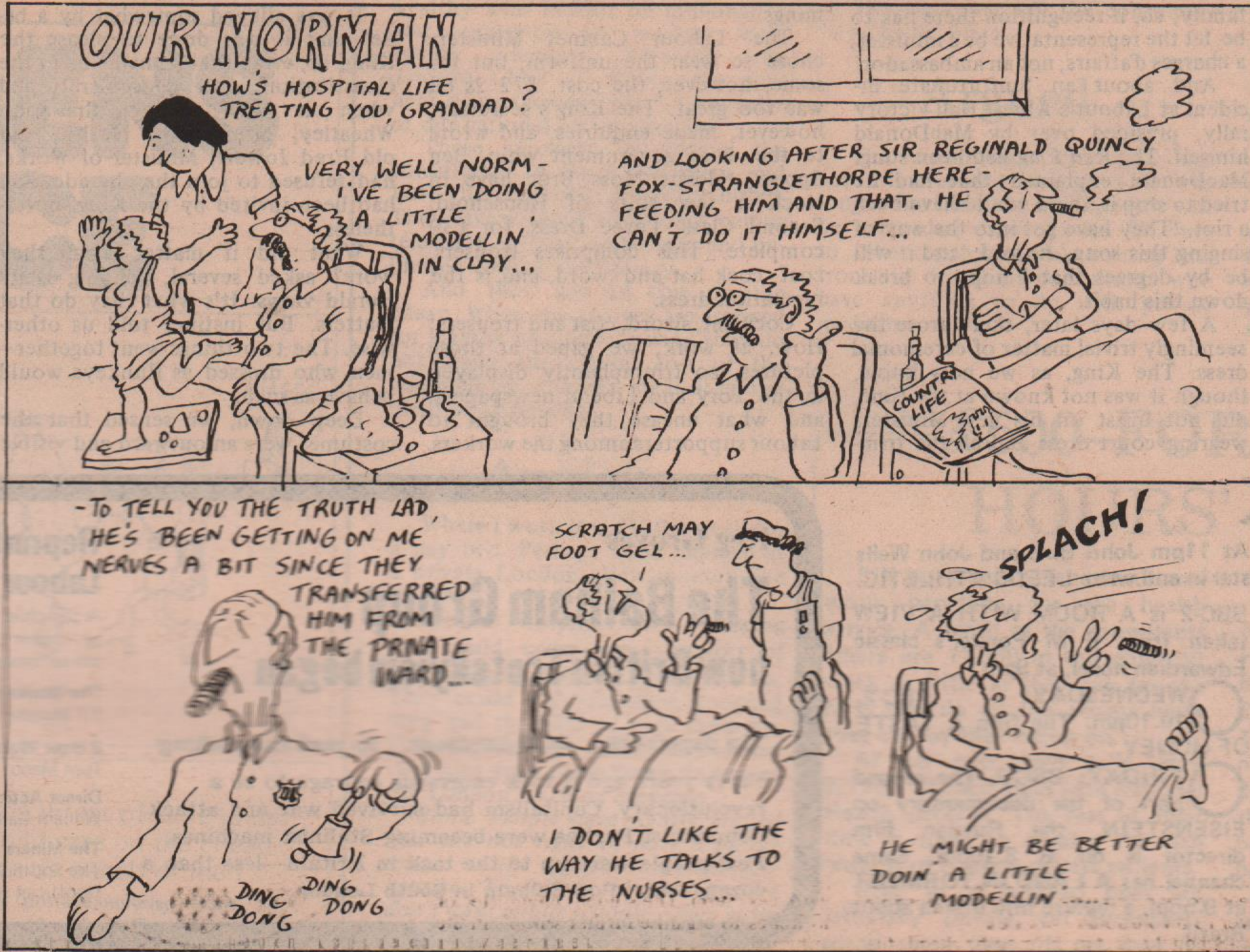
This was greeted with cries of rubbish from several of the Nottingham area officials. The resolution was carried on a card vote by 150 to 121 votes, each vote representing approximately 1000 members.

Len Clarke of Nottingham cast his area's block of over 30 votes against the resolution, contrary to the mandate of his area council. Joe Whelan, fellow NEC member for Nottingham, then stood up and dissociated himself from this action.

The broad left leadership in Scotland has just published a New Miners Charter. The left would be foolish to concentrate now on simply pushing the demand of this largely excellent charter over the next 12 months.

There is an urgent need to mobilise and fight now against the productivity deal, to tie specific demands to the 'substantial' wage claim due to be presented and to insist it is only a twelve month agreement to run from November 1 this year.

Otherwise they might find that by next July the conditions in the union for pushing the Charter through could be rather unfavourable.



WHAT'S ON

ENTRIES for this column must be posted to reach Socialist Worker by Monday morning—and remember the 'first class' post takes two days as often as one. Due to pressure of work we cannot take What's On entries over the phone. Entries here are free for IS branches and other IS organisations.

IS public meetings

PORTSMOUTH IS public meeting: British Troops out of Ireland. Speakers: Neil Davies (ex-army) and Mike Heym (IS Irish Sub-committee). Thursday 11 July, 7.45pm, The Wiltshire Lamb, Hampshire Terrace.

MANCHESTER District IS invite you to a Great Night Out, with music, floor show, rocking disco, bar extension, and COME IN HILDA MUGGINS, an entertainment presented by CAST Theatre Group from London. Friday 12 July, 8pm, Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford 3. Tickets 30p single, 50p double. Nurses free! Tickets from Geoff Brown, 465a Bury New Road, Salford 7. Phone 061-792 5780.

CROYDON and District IS public meeting: Support the Nurses, Save London's services. Monday 15 July, 8pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Bishopsford Road, St Helier Estate.

TWICKENHAM IS open meeting: The developing economic crisis. Speaker: Ted Crawford. Thursday 11 July, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road.

GLOUCESTER Socialist Worker public meeting: Social contract or socialism? Speaker: Tony Cliff (Member of IS executive). Thursday 18 July, 7.45pm, Wheatstone Hall, Brunswick Road, Gloucester. Organised by Gloucester and Cheltenham IS.

ECLES IS public meeting: Socialism versus fascism. Speaker: Steve Jeffrey. Thursday 11 July, 8pm, The Duke of York.

PORT TALBOT public meeting: Whatever happened to the New Jerusalem? A Socialist Worker meeting. Speakers: Bob Dumbleton (Cardiff IS and town planner) and Charlie Clutterbuck (British Society for Social Responsibility in Science). Tuesday 16 July, 7.30pm, Tirmorfa School, Sandfields. Organised by Neath/Port Talbot IS.

ILFORD and DAGENHAM IS picket on Dagenham Town Show: PICKET THE POLICE! DISBAND THE SPECIAL PATROL GROUP! Saturday/Sunday 13/14 July, 2pm, Dagenham Town Show, Civic Centre.

TWICKENHAM IS open meeting: The Struggle for Socialism in India and Pakistan. Speaker: Nigel Harris. Thursday 18 July, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Rd.

Meetings for IS members

NATIONAL IS NALGO Fraction meeting: Manchester, Saturday 20 July, 11am. ALL IS members of NALGO to attend. Committee Room 1, Manchester University Students' Union, Oxford Road, Manchester.

THE 20 JULY CONFERENCE in Birmingham is open only on production of IS membership card, or letter from IS district or branch secretary. Meeting starts 12.30pm at IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham 12.

IS ANTI-RACE sub-committee: Saturday 27 July, 11am, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS notices

SOCIALIST WORKER Builders Special: Out next week. Major coverage of UCATT Conference, pay claim (£1.50 an hour/£1.40 for labourers), plus coverage of all major resolutions passed. Analysis of latest moves by the state against the Lump, and many other articles on the super-slump, Ireland and racism. Price 2p (5p postage any number of copies) from IS Industrial Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. All IS branches to sell on sites.

PARTINGTON and SALE IS now meet in The Bull's Head, Sale (junction of School Lane and Chester Road) every Thursday. All welcome.

BIRTH: Joe Blair 5 July 1974. Celia and Gordon deny any political significance in his first name.

LEAFLETS and POSTERS for IS Troops Out meetings: Master leaflet for reproduction by electro-stencil 25p, posters 50 for £1—with space left for branches to fill in their own details. From John Houston, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Speakers' lists available from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, and IS district organisers.

PART-TIME ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER: for SW circulation office. Five half days or three full days per week. Clerical experience necessary and typing an advantage. The job will require someone capable of dealing with SW organisers and districts. Apply Jim Nichol, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs a writing journalist to start full-time at the beginning of September. Qualifications and experience as a journalist welcome but not essential. Lack of either should not deter applicants. Job will entail living in or within commuting distance of London. Apply in writing, giving qualifications and reasons why you want the job—and if you've written anything before send examples of your work. Applications by mid-July at the latest to Editorial Board, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

by Andy Johnston
Member of the Socialist Workers
Movement, Belfast

ARMED members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary tried to break the pickets on an electronics factory in Newry, Northern Ireland, where workers are on strike demanding the recognition of their union, the Irish Transport and General Workers, and a £1.20 threshold payment.

The 40 RUC men appeared on the picket line to support some men who are still going into the Osborne Electronics factory on the pretext of being 'staff'. Most of the pickets are women.

The RUC superintendent told two union officials to 'Get the girls removed', but they both refused and stayed with the pickets until 10.45 that night.

When British soldiers patrolling Tora Park, about a mile away, were involved in a shooting incident, both the BBC Irish News and the Irish Times attempted to connect the shooting with the picketing, to blacken the trade union militants with the image of the 'IRA behind the pickets'.

This confused the pickets and showed again the futility of substituting armed violence for the workers' own growing collective strength.

The dispute started five weeks ago over the demand for the £1.20

threshold payment, to which the workers are entitled under Phase Three.

None of the workers were then in a trade union because the factory has an anti-union boss. But most have since joined and the dispute has broadened to include a demand for union recognition.

The basic wage rate for the factory is £16.40 for a 40-hour week. Paddy Markey, ITGWU official in Newry, says the rate should be £5.40 higher. Bonus rates have been set so high that many of the women start work early and work part of the dinner break to reach the target. There are no overtime rates.

No wonder turnover per worker is claimed to be higher in Newry than in the company's factory in the Isle of Wight. No wonder the boss refuses to negotiate through the union.

Rejected

But the way the union officials have run the dispute so far leaves much to be desired. They called a secret ballot on whether to go back to work—on the basis of mere promises from the boss of the Newry factory. But the workers rejected this.

They then set up a workers' committee which put three

demands: All workers to get their jobs back, an agreement on threshold payments within a day of the return to work, all workers who were getting production bonus to continue doing so. These modest proposals were rejected by management.

The pickets have had support from workers at Franklin Mills, Glen Electronics and Metal Spinners, while collections for the strike fund have raised £340 from local workers—including the Labour and Official Republican clubs. Workers at Bessbrook Products have agreed to black enamel wiring from Osborne's—though the ITGWU officials did not take up this offer, and need pushing by the workers.

The day after the RUC tried to break the pickets, the strikers were told they were all sacked—meaning that after the strike they would all have to re-apply for jobs, giving the boss the chance to weed out militants.

The strikers then agreed to send a deputation to meet Ministry of Manpower officials in Belfast. Paddy Markey fought to be given a clean sheet for this meeting. He said the officials would not meet the deputation if the workers made any conditions on going back to work—such as union recognition and the threshold payment!

These two demands are basic to the dispute. There is also a danger the firms may threaten to close down the factory in Newry altogether, so the strikers should be ready to occupy it if necessary.

IS meeting banned from trades club

by Bob Sharpe (TGWU)
Huddersfield busman and
Trades Council delegate

WHEN Paul Foot spoke to an audience of 70 people in Huddersfield last week about the bankruptcy of the Labour Party and the need to build a socialist alternative, events had already shown the significance of his speech.

The meeting was to have been held in the Friendly and Trades Club and a room had been booked weeks in advance. Leaflets and posters were widely circulated and the local paper, The Examiner, carried three adverts.

But the room booking was cancelled at the very last moment by the chairman of the club's board of management, after prompting by an 'anonymous fellow board member' who 'phoned to complain that certain procedures, previously unknown to anyone, had been ignored'.

Chairman of the board is Maurice Garner, secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union 9/6 branch which covers local authority haulage workers. Brother Garner, obviously a staunch trade unionist, has consistently opposed his branch affiliating to Huddersfield Trades Council, who meet in the club. While members of Huddersfield IS were hurriedly scouring the town for another room, and coming up with four offers, Brother Garner insisted that people waiting for the meeting cleared out of the club. To press the point home he called in the police, who tried to take names and addresses of comrades directing latecomers to the new meeting place.

It is only recently, after a long campaign by the Trades Council, that



socialist groups have been able to meet in the Friendly and Trades Club. The board of management reluctantly lifted its ban under pressure from trade unionists. Now they are trying to do an about-face, and squeeze us out again.

The meeting took place in the sports centre across the road from the club. Paul Foot started his speech with a sharp attack on the management of the Friendly and Trades Club. He said that the chairman of the club had said that there could be no political meetings in the club.

He told the meeting: 'There wouldn't be a Friendly and Trades Club if socialists and trade unionists had not held political meetings in the past. Political meetings in the working-class movement won trade unionists the freedom they needed to form their clubs. Now the hacks who run the clubs forget their origins and are content to make a profit from filling their members up with drink.'

'Trade unionists in Huddersfield must make a stand against this anti-political hysteria among the hacks of the movement.' The meeting was reported in the Huddersfield Examiner and was instantly pounced on for another campaign against free speech by the leader of the Tories on the local council, Councillor T Cliffe.

Councillor Cliffe attacked the management of the sports centre for allowing the

meeting to take place. 'The centre is not a place for political meetings. I agree that there ought to be facilities for free speech, but not in the sports centre,' he said.

Many local trade unionists, including some Labour Party members, are indignant at the treatment of Huddersfield International Socialists by right-wing members of the local Labour Party. They feel that a club founded by the trade union movement and able to accommodate carpet salesmen, karate clubs, slimming classes and the Fenton Ladies Choir should also find room for working-class socialist meetings.

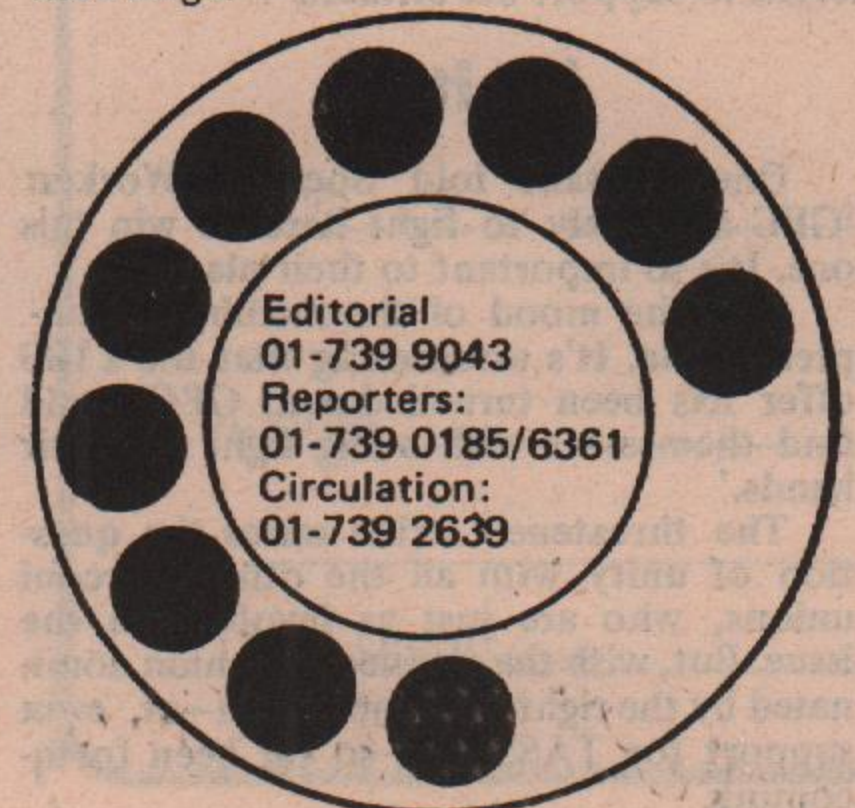
Letters of protest from individual trade unionists, from trade union branches and from trades councils must be sent to the club's board of management. The issue will also be raised at the next meeting of Huddersfield Trades Council, backed by resolutions from local trade union branches.

Also causing some concern in the local labour movement is the decision of Kirklees District Council—that's the new name for Huddersfield under local government re-organisation—to ban political meetings from the Piazza, the walkway outside the new market hall. Kirklees Council has a Labour majority, and the decision was taken by 49 votes to 4.

Councillor Miss Agnes Sykes, pressing for the decision, said: 'While I firmly believe that it is important that there should be freedom of movement for an individual to go about his or her business.' The Piazza is 20 yards wide at its narrowest point, broadening out to 40 yards wide.

It is feared that the council may go on from this decision to try to drive sellers of Socialist Worker from their pitch on the Piazza, where they have been selling for four years, and other political groups who now sell in the same area.

● Bob Light and Nigel Harris have just returned from Portugal and are available to speak at IS branch meetings.



STUDENT'S HOLIDAY

MORE THAN 100 student members of the International Socialists have attended five training schools in the last fortnight. The schools covered some of the basic ideas of the International Socialists and aimed to equip members for intervention in student struggles in the coming year.

Two things in particular were emphasised by speakers at all the schools. The first was that although IS sees the development of a revolutionary organisation within industry as its main task, that does not mean that IS students should neglect possibilities for agitation and recruitment within the colleges. We still need to win as many students as possible over to revolutionary politics.

Secondly, that in the months ahead, the government's cut-backs on education spending and the rapid increases in prices will provide socialists with ample opportunities for campaigning. Already many colleges have announced 25 per cent increases in food prices and others are trying to put up student rents. Rent strikes and occupations will be needed to fight these at the beginning of next term.

Each school ended with a session in which those who had attended discussed how effective they thought the school had been. There were some criticisms, but the overall feeling was that the schools had provided a valuable preparation for student work next term. The student committee of IS hopes to organise further schools in the autumn.

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.

ENFIELD and EDMONTON Troops Out Movement public meeting: Speakers: Alistair Renwick (ex-British Army, TOM), Alan Watts (local AUEW convenor, IS), Stephen Allman (ex-Labour councillor, Kilburn). Jock Stallard (MP for St Pancras North) invited. Tuesday 16 July, 7.45pm, Edmonton Green Swimming Baths, London N9.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX Red Circle: IRELAND—why the troops should be withdrawn. Wednesday 10 July, 39 Kennel Lane, Billericay, at 8pm.

LONDON BENEFITS for 'Spare Rib' magazine: Sunday 14 July, 1.30pm, at the Electric Cinema Club in Portobello Road, Notting Hill Gate. An afternoon of feminist films, including Nelly Kaplan's 'Dirty Mary'. At 8pm at the Half Moon Theatre, 27 Alfie Street, E1. The Paradise Foundry—Micheline Victor's play about women and families 'Friends and Stranger's Alike' presented by the Paradise Foundry. Both events 60p admission.

SOUTH AFRICA—BLACK TRADE UNIONS and the BRITISH TUC. Will the comrade who wrote to me on 5 June 1974 in connection with the proposed conference on South African Trade Unions please send me further details to 55 Oldfield Road, London NW10. I am unable to assist with preparatory work because I shall be in Europe till mid-August, but will be pleased to participate in the conference in September. George Peake.

WANTED: Poems, songs and prose works of the working class, from medieval times to modern, for comrade who wishes to make a compilation. Please write to P Mullady, 35 Poulton Street, Preston, Lancs.

GIVE BLOOD to the wounded in struggling areas in Africa—Guine-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique, 10am-4pm, 14 July, Province of Natal Clinic, Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1.

UNIQUE SILK-WOVEN portraits of Engels, Lenin, etc. 30in x 20in £1.12 each; 16in x 9 1/2in 75p each. Art colour paper poster—portrait of Lenin, 42in x 30in 35p. K Marx's famous 'The Civil War in France' (paperback) 296pp, 32p. V Lenin's 'What's to be done?' 260pp, 26p. Immediate delivery. D Volpe, 16 Belmont Court, London N16 5QD.

First issue of **THE NORTHWEST PLATFORM** Rank and file paper for all busworkers in the North West—OUT NOW, price 5p. Copies from 99 Tintern Crescent, Blackburn, Lancs (cash with orders, please).

SOCIALIST GAY GROUP has speakers throughout the country on the gay question and sexism. Inquiries from IS branches specially welcomed. Details from 18 Brisbane Rd, Smethwick, Warley, Worcs.

FELLOW BOLSHIE is desperate for accommodation in city (anywhere). Please write Tony Barrs, 53 New Street, Holt, Norfolk.

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

Hotel workers step up fight

CATERING workers picketed the Henekey's Bar in Leicester Square, London, the Trust House Forte head office, in solidarity with THF workers sacked at Ipswich.

Ninety strikers at THF's Post House Hotel in Cardiff were reinstated last week after being sacked when management refused to recognise their right to negotiate a threshold payment.

Trust Houses offered to take them back in return for a 'trouble-free' six months at the hotel. But on returning, the strikers found they had all been given the worst jobs. They walked out and the strike is continuing.

On Sunday, 17 shop stewards from the hotel industry met in London to discuss plans to link up rank and file workers

It was also decided to continue the running of the rank and file magazine, *Hotel and Catering Worker*.

There are plans to hold a hotel workers' conference in the next few months and to draw up a hotel workers' charter

Copies of the first issue of *Hotel and Catering Worker* can be obtained from 345 Hangleton Road, Hove, Sussex, price 2p each, plus postage.



PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

BRITISH LAY-OFF'S LATEST MIRACLE

Prepare to meet thy doom —again

by Peter Bain, TGWU

WORKERS at Chrysler's Linwood Plant went on holiday this week with their wage claim unresolved.

Chrysler have offered 8 per cent, £3.19 across the board, 5.3p on the Consolidated Time Rate, and a 33 1/3 per cent movement towards parity with the Ryton assembly plant, when legislation permits. They have also offered to pay the first £1.20 threshold payment backdated to 1 June, and the 80p payment to 1 July, to be paid quarterly.

Nothing has been offered on reduction of hours, an extra week's holiday, equal pay for women, more lay-off pay, shift allowances and release time.

Linwood currently has five grades with less than £5 between the top and the bottom, while Ryton has seven grades with £13 between the top and the bottom. The movement towards parity is conditional upon our acceptance of the Ryton grading structure. And Chrysler have said that whenever any Linwood grade reaches the 33 1/3 per cent threshold payment will stop.

The offer has been dressed up to make it look as attractive as possible.

Parity

The most divisive and therefore the most dangerous aspect of the offer is the movement towards parity when legislation permits, conditions on acceptance of the Ryton grading structure. Linwood grades 1 and 2, about three-quarters of the work force, would gain substantially from this.

The other grades would receive an extremely small rise or no increase at all, since they already have parity with the Ryton plant.

After our return to work on 5 August, a letter from Chrysler to our homes seems likely, setting out the offer and predicting doom for us all (for the third time in a year) unless it's accepted. Also, with the back pay mounting up, the offer's attractiveness will grow.

After we return the shop steward's organisation will have to start campaigning for its declared policy of a substantial across-the-board increase plus improved conditions.

NO SAFETY, NO JOBS

by Colin Clader, EPTU

MORTLAKE: Following a threat of over 50 per cent redundancies, we electricians employed at the new Watney brewery site in London by Balfour Kilpatrick Installations, part of the BICC group, are on strike.

BKI's excuse for the redundancies is that the client, Watney's, had altered the work programme because of the fire last month that damaged the new fermentation building.

Watney's say the responsibility for site labour is the contractor's. No matter who is lying, we cannot accept the need for redundancies, as only part of one building was affected and electrical work is still to be finished on the remaining five buildings.

We consider the redundancies a direct attempt to break our union organisation and that this victimisation is a direct result of our demands for safe working conditions.

Messages of support and donations to Barry Jones, 41 Chiswick Common Road, Chiswick, London W4. Phone 01-994 8833.

THE BRITISH LAY-OFF MOTOR CORPORATION has picked a new target. After the eight-week carve-up at Cowley, Leyland's industrial engineers have turned their attention to the Lancashire truck and bus plants, core of the combine and one of the few sections still making money for Lord Stokes and his shareholders.

The five factories at Leyland and Chorley, which started in 1898 making steam lawnmowers to keep the grass trim at Eton, are now the last remaining bastion of piece-work in Leyland. But the management's summer offensive, based on a new scientific miracle called 'Methods Time Management', (MTM) and masterminded by Musgrove, Leyland hatchetman, aims to steamroller over the gains in cash and conditions built up since the 11-week strike in May 1969.

Convenor Len Brindle said: 'This is not just about wages but the very conditions of work Leyland workers will be subject to.

'It's about flexibility, it's about work practices, it's about representation. Management are asking for a fundamental and irreversible change in working conditions.

'But what they are offering doesn't even come up to the cost of living increase which most managements have paid up without strings. If they give us the 7 per cent, we'll talk alright. But we have a price.'

UNSAFE

The bus and truck management are under heavy pressure from Stokes to get quick results. Brindle says that during the ten weeks of pointless negotiations which led up to the stoppage, management took an attitude of 'obvious and un concealed contempt, as never before'.

They have tried to tie every plant issue to acceptance, without alteration, of the MTM proposals. The normally staid AUEW District Official Bob Crook is outraged that Leyland have attempted to 'prostitute the National Agreement' and have used their private police force to make tape-recordings of the mass meetings.

All of a sudden there is management talk of replacing the old and unsafe machinery in Leyland. The foundry is the most dangerous workplace in the whole of British Leyland with a 'record' count of

DAVID WIDGERY reports from Leyland, Lancashire

63 accidents per thousand workers in 1973. But it is only to be replaced if MTM is accepted.

Brindle said: 'We've been arguing for ten years for increased investment. We want a new engine test bed, new foundry, new assembly area. Now all of a sudden they are saying yes, yes... if you accept MTM.

'Well we are not responsible for management's inefficiency. And I deeply resent this idea that Leyland workers are scavengers. It is management who are offering money on false pretences.'

But the overwhelming strike vote last Thursday indicates that management have badly misjudged the mood of the 9000 workers. 'They're pushing alright' said another steward, 'only this time they have pushed a bit too bloody hard.'

As far as the stewards committee is concerned, the change from piecework is inevitable. They have already announced that they will accept industrial engineers and sit down right away to talk on modifications to the present payment system with a view to a brand new agreement from next January.

The feeling seems to be that since the rest of the combine has been forced to drop principled opposition to MDW, the Lancashire workers can't act like King Canute and just tell it to go away.

DRIFT

'But if we accept,' says Brindle, 'every stage must be mutually acceptable. We want to separate issues on conditions, especially flexibility and multi-manning from the question of the wage packet.'

The stewards committee, after an indecisive start, seem dead set to build mutuality into the new agreement from the bottom up. 'I will never kid a labour force back to work on a false premise,' Brindle promised the mass meeting. 'They are getting a cheap commodity off you, your labour.'

Brindle's members are even more wary of the wonders of MTM. The carrots are looking decidedly stale these days. The £104 cash payment is scarcely the big time (the Oxford Maxi workers got £225 to accept MDW and that was in 1971), the word has got around that measured earnings may look good at first but soon drift downwards.

And the solemn pledge of the company of 'continued security of employment into the future' sounds pretty hollow with the redundancies now taking place on the car side.

Many Lancashire workers do see the new payment system as an issue of principle. 'It will take away your rights as

a free man,' said a young assembly worker. 'If we get this new MTM, it will be do as you're bloody told.'

'I'm not signing away my rights and my steward for a lousy £104. It's in two parts, anyway, and it will be taxed to pieces,' said another. A few workers still favour outright opposition, saying that the stewards are just arguing about the length of the rope.

No one has any great love for the piece-rate system which has been allowed to leave several sections of the factory marooned in low rates and which has been frozen since last December anyway. But better the devil you know than the Methods Time Measurement and Leyland Synthetics you don't.

DECISION

Now, despite the rain, the strike has a holiday atmosphere. They are not due to meet again until next Wednesday, the day before the holidays start.

There is a feeling that the stewards are simply going through the motions, appealing to management's reason and good faith. Picketing is half-hearted and the apprentices are still going in.

Despite the Cowley fiasco, there has been no organised attempt to get strike issues over to the wives although management has already posted out individual letters designed, as Brindle says, 'to get over to the wives.'

It takes some effort to appreciate the seriousness of the situation. But for Lancashire, 1974 is clearly the year of decision.

The result of this opening truck and bus battle will echo throughout the motor industry.

And given the intensity of the economic pressure on Leyland's management, passive resistance is a recipe for defeat.



Delegates from IS factory branches and cells in the British Leyland Combine in England and Scotland met in Wigan last Saturday. After a long discussion of the current situation inside the plants, they agreed to produce a national pamphlet about the crisis in Leyland, the state of the trade union movement in the combine and how carworkers ought to be fighting back.

They also decided to produce an up-to-date and truly comprehensive listing of wage rates throughout the combine. Leyland carworkers not in touch with IS and interested in this work should contact the Industrial Department, International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



Convenor Len Brindle: 'No kidding the workers' Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

'SOFT TOUCH' WORKERS GIVE GEC A SHOCK

CHELMSFORD: About 300 members of TASS, the white-collar section of the engineering union, are due to strike on Monday in what could become a crucial battle against GEC's back-door plans to increase the working week.

A mass meeting of workers at Marconi's Radar and Communications factories voted two weeks ago to put in strike notices after management failed to make an acceptable pay offer.

Six weeks ago, TASS became the last union locally to accept Marconi's strategy of increasing the working week by two and a half hours. The engineering union had accepted it some months before, allowing the week to be pushed up to 42½ hours at a time when the union was fighting nationally for a 35-hour week.

GEC seem intent on introducing the move in one of the weakest trade union areas in the country so as to extend it elsewhere later.

But TASS, who received increases of up to £7 a week in their part of the deal, are now demanding a return to a 37-hour week

and payment of a sizeable amount of the £7. Already they have turned down a £180 a year increase.

The strike, which has official backing, would hit Marconi's big order book at Radar. 200 other members at Communications will continue to work but will be levied to support the strikers.

Unity

One militant told *Socialist Worker*: 'GEC are likely to fight hard to win this one. It's so important to their plans.'

'But the mood of the members is unpredictable. It's astonishing that the £180 offer has been turned down. GEC could find themselves with a big fight on their hands.'

The threatened strike raises the question of unity with all the other Marconi unions, who are just as involved in the issue. But, with the engineering union dominated by the right wing, no action—or even support for TASS—has so far been forthcoming.

The battle over the threshold

Great-on the Lump!

by Dave Gallard

AUEW night shift shop steward LETCHWORTH:—After threats of industrial action management at Herberts Controls and Instruments conceded the threshold payment to all hourly paid workers.

Management had pleaded that they were too poor to make the payment.

We've now found out that the sub-contract labour has been given an increase of between 12p and 20p an hour. Sub-contractors were sworn to secrecy about this.

So sub-contract labour (who since arriving at the company have contributed to its slow deterioration) have been given between £4.80 and £8 a week increase while we unionists had to fight for £2.

When Phase Three wage restrictions are lifted the company will be faced with a massive pay demand and excuses of poverty will be laughed at.

AEC stay out

SOUTHALL:—The week-old official strike of AEC's technical staff at British Leyland's West London plant looks like continuing. British Leyland have refused negotiations over the strikers' demands for a pay increase to compensate for not getting the threshold allowances.

However, there's no support from the factory floor. A worker pointed out that 'Brother Warburton, the Engineering union convenor, and his right-wing colleagues on the negotiating committee don't consider it our business to look for threshold payments or to support our brothers on official strike.'

'His attitude is summed up in a nutshell when he said "They wouldn't support us, so why should we support them?"'

Warburton was referring to the national AUEW stoppage in protest against the sequestration of union funds by the Industrial Relations Court. 'When the right time comes,' he said, 'we'll take action.'

How about now?

A Socialist Worker leaflet *Our Fight Against Inflation* argues for action to get the full £2 cost of living rise, explains the effect of price rises on wage packets, and shows how 'moderate' wage claims mean cuts in living standards. It is available from the International Socialist Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. (01-739 6273). Price £1.50 for 1000 leaflets.

Oil giant forced to shell out

by Fred Green

TGWU, Carrington, Manchester

THIS has been a great week for oil and chemical workers. Shell may be making record profits but they're no sugar daddies.

Forcing them to shell out is a terrific victory for the unofficial national shop stewards committee which was started only a year ago and the rank and filers who voted for the first ever Shell-wide stoppage, from the Ardrossan refinery in the West Scottish coast to Shellhaven on the Thames Estuary.

The Ellesmere port men went out on strike last week, sealing up the massive Stanlow complex and in 11 days drying up petrol stations in the North West. But we all got stuck in, first by blacking the naphtha from Liverpool and getting the extra tankerload from Holland turned away from the Manchester and Scottish ports, then by voting for a co-ordinated national strike.

We've shown we can organise nationally. We've shown we can force these profiteering multinationals to cough up realistic wage increases, despite the social contract and the TUC's backsliding. The sites will never again be split up and isolated.

Modest

This settlement is something we should have had years ago. It's the first straight increase, without productivity strings and without having to sell anything, that we've had since 1970.

It gives operatives a 9 per cent increase worth about £8.50 a week. Shiftworkers get an extra £125 a year, dayworkers an extra £35 for Christmas, and holiday bonus goes up from £7 to £22. We've signed away the possibility of any further threshold until January 1975 for £2.50, really quite modest as things stand.

At Stanlow, where they have a Phase Three payment added in, it adds up to 25 per cent. In Manchester it's more like 17 per cent, about £8.50 a week. Even then the package has been cautiously received.

In many ways the recognition of the national negotiating committee is more important. It has come to life over the past few months. To start with it had little help from Transport Workers Union officials. But it was backed wholeheartedly by mass meetings.

At Manchester we were told by convenor Bill Brown when we first discussed coming out: 'This is the most important vote you have ever taken.'

He was backed overwhelmingly. At all Shell plants similar meetings backed their stewards and convenors and pledged themselves to a national, co-ordinated strike.

Once the national solidarity of the Shell workers was so magnificently displayed, management had no alternative but to give way. The national committee has passed its first real test with flying colours.

Technicians out in NHS

by Ron Singer (ASTMS)

Yet another section of the Health Service went on strike for a basic living wage this week. The technicians who run and service the complex hospital machinery demanded a 30 per cent increase in basic wage with a complete career restructuring. This claim went in three years ago and even after an arbitration board recommended the 30 per cent the official offer is still only 12½ per cent.

Over the past six months overtime bans, private practice bans, token stoppages have been tried. Last month several one-week strikes were mounted, with effective picketing. The message was clear: All-out strike action was the only way.

The 12 London hospitals have set up a joint inter-union strike committee. In Manchester technicians are on indefinite strike and a flying picket has been started. In Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow the picture is the same.

Radiographers from London's Royal Free Hospital walked out last Monday.

At Guys Hospital, also in London, ancillary workers have decided to support the technicians with strike action if requested. This sort of solidarity is essential: for the technicians, for other health workers and for all of us to defend our Health Service.

SWANSEA:—More than 100 trade unionists, including 35 nurses, met on Monday to organise action in support of nurses and other hospital workers. The meeting, sponsored by NUPE members in two hospitals, several union branches and Swansea International Socialists, included delegates from local pits, factories, union branches and the Trades Council.

June Morris, national nursing officer for NUPE, said the inquiry set up by Barbara Castle would produce nothing unless tremendous pressure was put on it, especially 'if those who can really hit profits fight alongside us.'

A committee was set up to launch a campaign in the trade union movement and nurses are to visit local union branches, pits and factories to get industrial action in support of their demands.

by John Spalding

MANCHESTER:—350 nurses and shop stewards marched through the city centre on Monday in a demonstration organised by the Manchester and District Nurses Action Group to protest against pay in the Health Service, the delaying tactics over the nurses' pay claim and the run-down of the NHS.

Shop stewards and convenors were on the march from Gardner's, Chlorides, Scraggs, Lancrose Chemicals, Ward and Goldstones, and Massey Ferguson. The Manchester and Salford docks were on strike for the third time in support



WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION

We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM

We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

INTERNATIONALISM

We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country. Revolution is defeated by isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

WE ARE

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials. No secret negotiations. All settlements to be voted on by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against anti-trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of incomes policy under capitalism.

Against unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

For militant trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union movement.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Against all forms of imperialism, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers' revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

The day buses stopped...

by George Fuller (Brighton TGWU)

BUSWORKERS from Conway and Whitehawk garages are exuberant after the success of our recent one-day strike. With the Brighton races on, it was a particularly good day to choose, and effective picketing made sure no buses left either garage.

This has left management in no doubt as to our determination to change the appalling conditions and pay described in a recent SW article. We are now ready to fight for £35 for 35 hours plus one hour's paid meal break.

It was the first time any kind of solidarity has been shown between busworkers in this town. The other branch of Southdown operated an overtime ban, carried no standing passengers and withdrew their busiest service while the Corporation busmen refused to cover our Race Specials.

A mass meeting attracted over 250 busworkers, plus contingents from both Southdown and the Corporation. After

hearing from two local nurses, the meeting pledged its unanimous support of their claim, including support of the coming nurses' demonstration in the town.

The mood was of militancy and the necessity of spreading the struggle to other garages was clearly understood. Speeches which pointed out the need to work towards a total stoppage of buses on a national scale was greeted with cheers and applause.

Full authority was given to the shop stewards committee to call any action necessary during talks with the management, short of one week's total stoppage, which would need the approval of a further mass meeting. This action would include an overtime ban and running all the buses in for one hour's break.

The lessons are clear. Bus workers are ready and willing to fight. It is crucial that this impetus is maintained and developed through effective action.

IMPERIAL FIGHT IS NATIONWIDE

AS THE strike of 500 Asian workers at Imperial Typewriters in Leicester moved into its eleventh week, a series of mass pickets are being mounted outside Litton Industries' premises throughout the country. In London, pickets were joined by workers from Lovells site in Guilford Street, Portuguese workers from the hotel industry and striking hospital workers.

Litton International, the American multi-national with interests in defence, office service, electronics and engineering, bought up Imperial Typewriters in 1968, and started employing Asian labour at

cheaper and cheaper rates.

The strikers walked out after two years of racist harassment and bonus agreements which meant that they had been fiddled out of £500 worth of wages. They are receiving no strike pay, and the TGWU still refuse to make the strike official.

Regional Officer Brian Mather has conducted an investigation into the T&G locally after a mass lobby by Asian workers of Transport House. Meanwhile the strike committee and the mass general meeting have been meeting daily to broaden the

base of their support. Four local factories with Asian T&G stewards have collected £300 but the need for money is desperate.

The strike committee have called for a mass picket on 16 July and a national Leicester demonstration on Sunday 21 July, Tolpuddle Martyrs' day. They are demanding official backing, democratic union elections and that the factory take back all the strikers.

Messages of support to 24 Garfield Street, Leicester. Tel: 0533 537159.

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 _____

£400:

FIGHT FOR THE LOT!

London allowance boost for teachers

by Ruth Nelson, NUT

LONDON teachers have won a great victory. Through unofficial action, meetings and lobbies, we have forced our union executive to give official recognition to Thursday's strike for full payment of a London allowance claim.

Last Thursday, 500 teachers lobbied Hamilton House, NUT headquarters after a call by the Rank and File group. The executive were meeting to discuss the Pay Board's offer of a two-tier London Allowance for all teachers—£400 in a tiny Inner London area, and £200 for most teachers in the rest of London.

The teachers, many of whom had been on unofficial strike on Wednesday and Thursday, carried banners and placards rejecting the offer and demanding a London allowance of at least £350, a uniform allowance for all London teachers and back-dated to November 1972.

A meeting of lobbyists passed a resolution calling on our executive to call us out on a one-day strike if the negotiations on the Pay Board offer were not successful.

The motion also provided that, if the executive were not prepared to make this action official, we would take unofficial action.

Speaker after speaker stressed the need for militant action, the urgent need for links with other workers—particularly in the public sector—and our determination to go ahead with the action.

On Friday, more teachers on unofficial strike met to lobby the meeting of the Burnham Committee negotiating on the Pay Board's offer.

The results of the Burnham committee are not yet known, but our union's Action Committee has voted to make Thursday's action an official half-day strike.

This is a resounding victory for London teachers and for Rank and File. We have shown that militant, unified action can force our union to act.

THE Pay Board's report on London Weighting, far from correcting any anomalies, creates new ones. It allows for an allowance of £400 a year for four miles within Charing Cross, and £200 for the rest of London. This ridiculous distinction must be answered by a fight for the full allowance right across London.

Until now the teachers and local government workers have forced the pace. But all Londoners must push for it.

The report specifies that Weighting should be the same for all public sector workers, white collar and manual alike. For workers in the private sector, it is more ambiguous and states that only those sections on a national wage structure are covered.

Interpretation as to who is entitled to the allowance and how it is to be distributed is somewhat open. The Labour government's reaction has been to throw the onus on negotiators rather than directly tackle the obvious failings of the report.

Most London workers have never had a separate London allowance. Now is the time to put in a claim and get what you can.

Airport workers show the way

by Ian Morris AUEW shop steward Heathrow IS Branch

ENGINEERING and maintenance workers at Heathrow Airport have won a London allowance of £4 a week for the first time with the threat of strike action. And we have foiled management's attempt to wreck our 1 July mass meeting to discuss the claim.

Management had refused to open a large security gate, which would have prevented the overseas division from joining the European division at the meeting. However, the gate was 'mysteriously' removed from its hinges and the overseas division streamed through to join the meeting.

After an excellent statement from Fred Gore of the Electricians Union, the 5000 present voted overwhelmingly to strike from last Monday if the claim was not conceded in full.

Stony-faced national officials met a strong lobby of shop stewards before the 4 July meeting with management.

They had not intended to lodge the Weighting claim before August, but faced with strike action, they agreed to put the matter on the agenda. This resulted in the claim being conceded in full from 1 July.

There has been a movement at Heathrow for limited strike action while the Pay Board were deliberating. Most wanted to 'wait and see', but this time the gamble paid off.

NALGO SAY 'NO'

NALGO has turned down the Pay Board's recommendations on London weighting and is pursuing the £400 plus claim. The staff side of the National Joint Council has come out against the redistribution method of giving Outer London a little more.

But they look set on trying to wean the employers back to their March offer of £186 for outer London rather than fighting for the full claim for everyone.

They also say they won't be pressing negotiations until the Pay Board has been scrapped, another delay. Wandsworth NALGO struck on Monday to lobby the NALGO negotiators.



NUT executive member Beth Stone addresses the lobby of the Burnham Committee. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

THE RECENT moves against Socialist Worker represent one of the biggest threats against the left wing press for a long time. If the Director of Public Prosecutions agrees to the police going ahead with criminal libel charges, we could be faced with serious fines or prison sentences for criticising the violence of the police Special Patrol Group which led to the death of Kevin Gately four weeks ago.

But the criminal libel accusation is not the only threat we face. Paul Foot and Jim Nichol are due in court soon to face charges of contempt of court arising out of the printing of the names of two prominent figures in the Janie Jones case.

Meanwhile, Labour councillors in Glasgow are taking the International Socialists to court in two weeks... for flyposting. The posters, put up before the general election, said: Kick out the Tories.

Those who have the power in this country don't like Socialist Worker. They don't like what we say. They don't like the truths we tell. They don't want the paper to sell widely.

We are not going to be intimidated. But we cannot fight such attacks by ourselves. We need the support and help of every one of our 30,000 readers.

One way every reader and member of IS can help is by ensuring that our fund is more successful than ever this month. We need money urgently. Send donations to: Jim Nichol, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Last week the fund brought in £263. We thank all readers who contributed.

Steelworkers lock-out set to spread

by Rob Clay

LACKENBY:—500 craftsmen at the British Steel Corporation works have now been locked out for three weeks.

The dispute could spread this week to other workers at Lackenby and to other works in the North East.

Frustration began to build up over pay with BSC's attempts to force through stage two of their 'Red Book' productivity deal.

On top of this, the official union National Crafts Co-ordinating Committee recently sold the craftsmen's national £10 a week claim for a 7 per cent Phase Three deal, despite strong support for the claim at plant level.

Shop stewards representing the AUEW,

Boilermakers, UCATT and the British Society of Roll Turners at Lackenby submitted their own local £10 without strings claim in April. Sanctions, including an overtime ban, no shift flexibility and no holiday relief, were imposed six weeks ago.

The men also started periodic sit-ins. Management threatened to take everyone off pay if there was no return to normal working.

The craftsmen stood firm and the lock-out began on 27 June. A mass meeting

on Monday decided to stay out and not to meet again for another week.

Meanwhile, some branches of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, which represents production workers, are considering placing a similar £10 claim and reviving their campaign for parity with South Wales workers. ETU shop stewards at Consett are recommending, at a mass meeting this week, the placing of a similar claim.

There is a real chance of uniting all steel workers on a progressive claim.

The British Blackout Corporation

THE GLOVES are off in the BBC. As the strike of TV production assistants moves towards its fifth week, Michael Swann, the director general, has been denouncing militant trade unionism but claiming his remarks do not refer to the BBC.

The dispute centres on unpaid overtime. Production assistants are supposed to get time off in lieu but can never take it because they have so much time 'owing'.

The Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs is still unwilling to escalate the dispute. It instructed its members to oppose the initiative of the ACTT, the Electricians and NATKE members in trying to spread the strike. Action continues and there is a growing awareness that more pressure is needed for victory.

Bonus fiddle

SCARBOROUGH:—30 men walked out at the Pick-ups factory, where there is no union organisation, over management's manipulation of bonus payments. Support is growing for the bonus scheme to be scrapped and basic rates increased.

A STRIKING VICTORY

WANDSWORTH:—The threat of fire or an explosion at Garton's glucose plant has helped to frighten management into conceding even more than the whole wage claim after a five-day strike by 300 continuous process workers.

Given nine days' notice of our first strike for 20 years, management did not shut the plant down, so dry feed in hoppers stood a high risk of spontaneous combustion.

We work an average of 3½ twelve hour shifts, six till six, and had claimed a 20 per cent increase in shift allowance, plus a basic rate increase making a total claim of £5½-£6 per week. This is within Phase Three under the unsocial hours clause.

Annual wage negotiations had included basic rates and shift allowances. But this year the managing director (recently transferred from Manbre's in Hammersmith where 55 drivers were sacked and their work sold to contract), refused to negotiate on this basis and offered £3 only on basic after an attempt to get the recent £2

threshold rises included in this figure.

Four men picketed each gate on a full rota. Support from transport drivers at this and other plants was arranged by the stewards through rank and file contact and almost all movement in and out of the plant was stopped.

Solidarity from drivers also prevented other companies from supplying Garton's customers. However, lorries from Crowe Scaffolding and Sun Asphalt crossed the picket line.

Apart from gaining even more than our original demands, two great things have emerged from the strike—the fantastic solidarity of the whole workforce, black and white workers acting as a class, and the big boost to the morale of the young militant workers.

Joe 'Ninety' Green, the 'chargehand picket', told us: 'Next time the stewards are elected I want to be nominated so I can learn the job of steward to do my best to lead the lads in struggles to get decent conditions and show them they can control their own lives.'

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