

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

MAKE THE RICH PAY!

BRITAIN'S employers are worried. Worried about Wedgwood Benn? The economic crisis? The Labour government? That's what they say . . .

Forget it. It's not nationalisation or creeping socialism that keeps them up late at night. It's YOU.

They have asked for wage cuts and redundancies to solve their crisis. But millions of workers are saying NO.

Refinery workers at Stanlow have stuck out for a wage rise which keeps up with the cost of living. Fisher Bendix workers at nearby Kirkby want jobs not redundancies—and have occupied their factory. Health workers all over the country have begun to ban private patients from National Health hospitals.

It's outrageous! These actions might spread, the employers might get blamed for the crisis! Workers might take matters into their own hands!

But the rich and the powerful have one distinguishing feature. They are not inclined to stand by and watch such challenges to their plans. When they get the wind up they turn nasty.

They are turning very nasty in Britain today. They are searching for any weapons that will enable them to force the rest of us into line.

Look at the hospital consultants. They're appalled at the thought of losing the extra few thousand they squeeze out through private practice. Their salaries would no longer be quite so massive. And, as everybody knows, it's impossible to get along on less than £15,000 a year.

For them there's a simple solution. Sabotage the Health Service.

Look at the well-to-do family doctors in the British Medical Association. Their considerable salaries are not considerable enough apparently. So they are putting the black on free contraceptives. To hell with the fact that this imposes hardship on millions of working-class women.

Yet such people are small fry compared with the really rich and the really powerful. In Britain today 1500 men, sitting in a hundred or so boardrooms, control half the wealth. These too are on the warpath in its defence. They are launching a vast propaganda campaign through the Tory Party and Aims of Industry,

If the bosses won't pay, kick them out the way

costing hundreds of thousands of pounds, designed to justify 'free enterprise'—by which they mean their own unfettered control over the wealth we produce.

They have told newspaper men that if a government emerged which seriously threatened to nationalise the odd firm, then they would sabotage its operations by refusing to operate the tax system

ACTION

These are not the only threats. More serious is that big businessmen have told the government that if profits do not increase they will not invest.

When workers take direct action to defend their wages or conditions, the response of politicians, Tory and Labour, is to preach about 'unconstitutional action' and to tell us to do it through the ballot box.

There is no such reaction when

the rich and the powerful take direct action. They, we are told, are merely protecting their property rights, or their professional standing.

The 'law' and the 'constitution', it becomes clear, is only meant for us, not them. They are entitled to place the burden of the economic crisis on our shoulders and we are not supposed to fight back.

The Labour government completely accepts this state of affairs. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Dennis Healey has been boasting that real wages have fallen by 2 per cent in the past year and that the 'social contract' will keep things that way. He has also told businessmen that controls on dividends will soon be relaxed.

Every worker needs to learn the lesson. Fine words, nice speeches, 'social contracts' are no way to respond to the direct action of the ruling class. What we need is action of our own.

For we do have an answer to the

crisis. It is to refuse to accept any of the burden and, if the capitalists cannot put up with that, to replace them.

● **30 PER CENT WAGE INCREASES.** These are the only way to keep ahead of price rises of more than 20 per cent.

● **NO TIME LIMIT ON WAGE AGREEMENTS.** The right to renegotiate when workers decide.

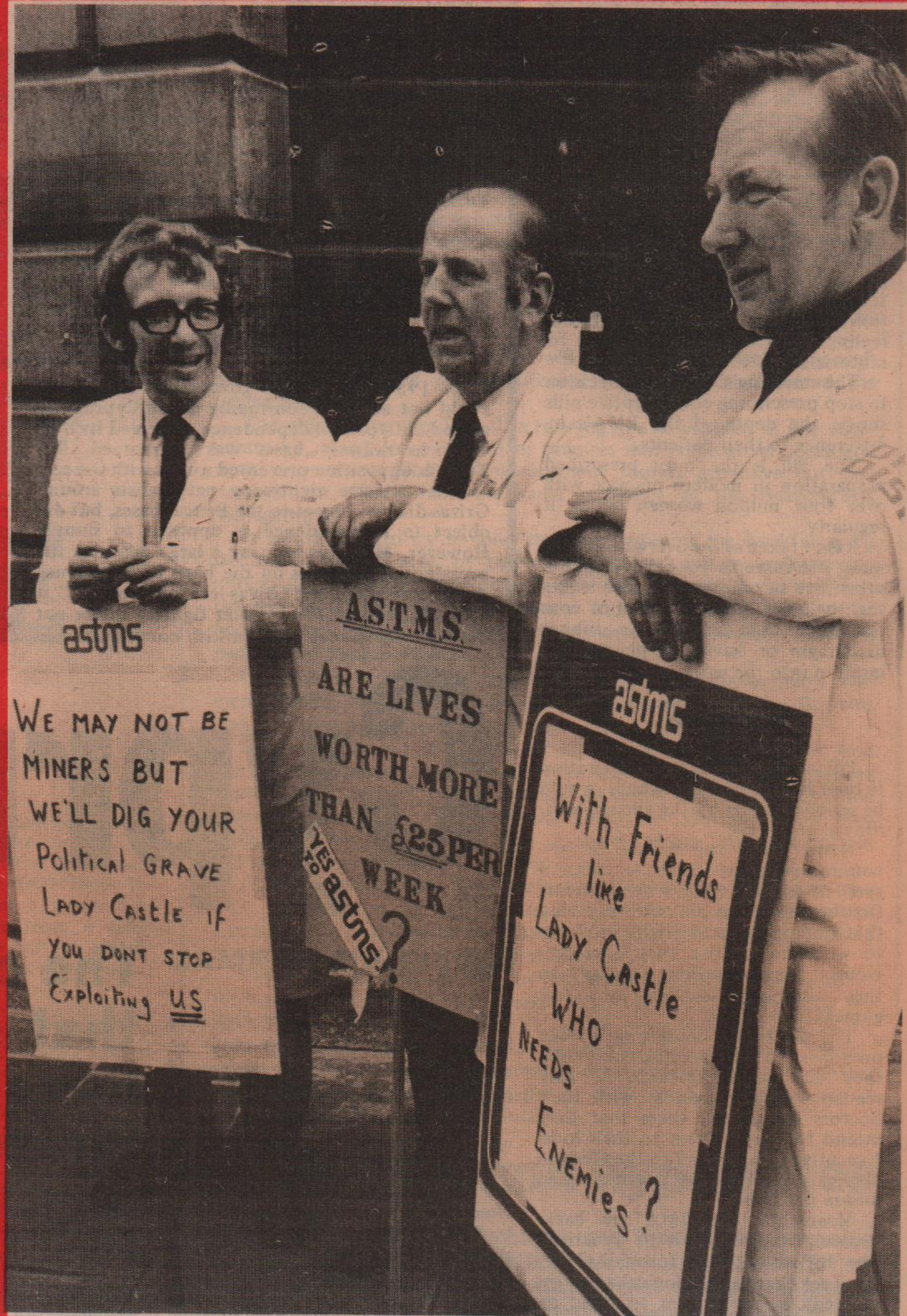
● **EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN.**

● **A MINIMUM WAGE OF £35 A WEEK.**

● **FIVE DAYS WORK OR FIVE DAYS PAY.** It is the bosses' system which closes factories and causes unemployment. They should pay for it.

● **THE 35-HOUR WEEK FOR 40 HOURS WORK.** The easiest way to force employers to mop up unemployment by taking on more workers.

● **NATIONALISATION UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL AND WITHOUT COMPENSATION.** If employers cannot guarantee full employment and a living wage, then they have to be forced out of the way.



Hospital technicians picket outside Bart's Hospital in London. Full story of health workers' action — page 15. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

FIGHTING FUND

THIS WEEK more than £500 came in to help defend Socialist Worker. Even readers who do not wholeheartedly agree with us have seen the need to contribute.

This week the London Evening News has made a major attempt to discredit Socialist Worker. The Janie Jones case may yet go ahead on 26 July. And with the inquest on Kevin Gately 'misadventure' the police may well be after us on that score too.

Readers should ask themselves: 'What happens if the prosecutions are successful?' It's no good waiting until we are put out of business and then wishing you had helped.

Already our own branches are holding meetings, social evenings, and other fund-raising schemes. Trade unionists are collecting in their factories: We are particularly grateful to supporters from TGWU 9/24 branch for £2.55, Heinz factory workers for £9, Gardeners workers in Manchester for £1, Glasgow Corporation workers for £7.

The fund stands at £757.

Thanks to Norwich £50, Neath £4, Keighley £5, Cricklewood £4, Camborne £1.70, Lambeth £40, Wandsworth £6.75, Cambernauld £2.70, Stockport £8, Leeds £23.70, Walthamstow £16.55 and Barnet £5.

Contributions and collections to IS National Treasurer Jim Nichol, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 9DS.

INSIDE BRITAIN'S BOMBS FOR DESERT OIL KINGS—PAGES 8-9

FISHER-BENDIX SIT-IN, ROUND TWO—PAGES 9 and 16

WHAT JACK JONES HASN'T DONE FOR THE TGWU—PAGE 12

CYPRUS: BEHIND THE COUP —PAGE TWO

BMA: The British Medical Abomination

by Dr Gerry Dawson

AS an International Socialist doctor, and a reluctant member of the British Medical Association I was proud that fellow IS members in Hull picketed the BMA's annual meeting this week with leaflets calling for trade union action to end pay beds now.

They're quite right to attack 'the prostitution of medicine to wealth, a degradation of the care of the sick which we are sure must sicken many doctors as it does trade unionists.'

There is no better place than the BMA to start demonstrating. For most doctors, forced to join the BMA to get their names on the Medical Register, the organisation is an abomination which no more represents our feelings than Henry Ford speaks for motorists.

The meeting's off-hand decision to stop prescribing contraceptive pills shows the depth of the BMA's indifference to their patients.

The Pill is the most prescribed preparation in modern practice with over four million women taking it regularly.

It isn't taken as the overwhelmingly male BMA seems to believe, like a substitute sweetie but because it is a slightly less unpleasant form of contraceptive than inserting a rubber diaphragm or having a plastic coil inserted into the womb.

Massive

Pill users undergo an alteration in their hormonal cycle which would be seriously upset by the abrupt withdrawal of the Pill.

Never mind the danger of becoming pregnant—there is often a spell of high fertility when patients first come off the pill—the very idea that doctors have the right suddenly to withdraw a drug, they have previously been prescribing regularly so they can raise their fees by a few guineas is revolting.

The BMA are victimising women on a massive scale because they think they can get away with it. Any reader who has trouble with their doctors should tell them that they intend to report them to their local Executive Council and to the General Medical Council for unethical and unsafe practice.

Meanwhile the BMA are backpedaling fast on private practice. The British Medical Journal admits this week that 'technological advances in medicine have been so rapid recently that it is no longer possible to offer patients the best possible treatment in a nursing home or private clinic' and that all private hospitals 'would not be economically viable'.

In short, private practice couldn't exist without pinching equipment and technical skill from the National Health Service.

As the Economist magazine admits, relatively few consultants really benefit from private practice. What the pay beds issue really boils down to is the right of the consultants in a few favoured specialities to argue their incomes out of the unfortunate tendency of the British people to develop varicose veins in their legs and their anuses'.

MRS GANDHI WAGES WAR

IN INDIA, where prices are rising at 36 per cent a year, Mrs Gandhi's Congress government has brought in a near total wage freeze. All wage increases for workers in both state and private employment are to be held by the government in a compulsory 'savings scheme' for one year. Half all cost of living bonuses are to go the same way for two years.

It adds up to a massive cut in the already desperately low level of real wages—lower than ten years ago according to the unions. It was made possible by the smashing of the railwaymen's strike.

The 'progressive' Congress govern-

DIVIDE AND RULE IT'S THE OLD, OLD STORY

CYPRUS, formerly part of the Turkish Empire, was taken over by the British. But the Greek population came to resent being a British colony. They felt like the other Greek populated islands in the Mediterranean, that they should be part of Greece, and a movement developed for Enosis—union with Greece.

In 1954, however, the British Tory government announced that Cyprus could never be allowed self-determination. It was too important as a military base.

It used physical repression in an attempt to destroy the movement, and deported Cypriot leaders, including Makarios, to the Seychelles islands. At the same time, the British authorities used the same 'divide and rule' policies they had pioneered in Ireland, India and Palestine, deliberately encouraging hatred between the Turks (a fifth of the population) and the Greeks.

A long guerrilla campaign against the British troops was waged by Eoka led by General Grivas, an extreme right wing Greek nationalist who had previously been a member of a vicious anti-Communist organisation in Greece itself.

INTENTION

In 1959, the British government decided it could not afford a continuing war in Cyprus and agreed to Cypriot independence, provided its own right to military bases was guaranteed. But Turkish opposition prevented union with Greece.

The extreme right-wing nationalists around Grivas did not object to the British bases, but did object to independence as opposed to Enosis. However, Makarios won by a large majority the presidential elections on the basis of acceptance of the agreement and Grivas left for Greece.

In November 1963, bitter fighting broke out between the Greek and Turkish communities in



the island. On the suggestion of the British Tory government, British, Greek and Turkish forces were stationed on the island to maintain 'peace'. A few months later United Nations troops arrived with the same intention.

Makarios, now presented by the left in Cyprus as their hero, seemed at that time to have been intent on balancing between the different forces involved to bolster up his own position.

In 1964, he invited Grivas to organise the irregular Greek Cypriot forces into a regular force, the National Guard, under Greek officers. This National Guard, and these officers, have staged the present coup.

When, in the early 1960s, his ministers urged Makarios to send Grivas back to Greece, Makarios refused.

The same attitude was displayed by Makarios earlier this year. Grivas reformed Eoka a couple of years ago as a terrorist organisation aimed at bringing down the Cypriot government.

But after Grivas' death early this year, Makarios released from prison those terrorists who had been captured.

Far from being a dedicated opponent of the right wing, Makarios in fact has displayed all the normal characteristics of any capitalist politician. He has occasionally opposed the extreme right, but has also been prepared to use it for his own

purposes.

In international affairs, he has displayed the same manoeuvring.

He has prevented the Americans directly using Cyprus as a base and has maintained friendly relations with the Russians, but has never hidden his pro-western views and has been even friendlier with the British.

The biggest popular political force in Cyprus is the Cypriot Communist Party, AKEL, which has 12,000 members and received 42 per cent of the Greek Cypriot votes in the last election. AKEL controls the main trade union body with 45,000 members.

IMMENSE

Despite the fact that Cyprus under Makarios remained a capitalist state with British bases on it, the organisations controlled by AKEL, as the Morning Star puts it, 'whole-heartedly supported the policies of President Makarios'.

One result of the policy of the left has been that the extreme right have been able to gain a little support among some sections of the peasants and workers by blaming Makarios and the left wing alike for rising prices.

Another result of the attitude of the left has been a reliance upon the police to deal with the threat from the National Guard and the right, rather than pushing for the arming of the workers.

AKEL views were summed up in an article in the Morning Star last Monday, printed a few hours before the coup. It saw the answer to the threat from the right in 'strengthening the police' and the 'special police force' and said that 'the unbound Cypriot people

The initial successes of the coup show how dangerous such a policy has been.

As in Chile, the price which the working class will have to pay for that belief can be immense.

Cyprus

By CHRIS HARMAN

THE OUTCOME of the fighting in Cyprus is far from clear as we go to press, but a number of important points stand out.

The coup has been the joint work of the most extreme right-wing elements inside Cyprus and of the reactionary military regime in Greece.

Between them they hope to rob the Greek population of Cyprus of the most elementary rights, which have been denied in Greece itself since the military takeover there in 1967. If the coup is successful, trade unions will be smashed and working-class militants will face jail, torture and murder.

There can be no doubt that one of the first targets of the coup will be the main left-wing organisation in Cyprus, the Communist Party (AKEL) and the unions, peasant unions and youth organisation which it controls.

Nor can there be any doubt that a successful coup would help bolster the regime in Greece, which has been floundering since last November's student-worker uprising in Athens underlined its complete lack of popular support.

It has been unable to solve any

ment sacked 15,000 railwaymen, arrested 50,000 and imposed loss of seniority on more than 100,000. The rail union leaders were all jailed. When the strike crumbled the Bombay Economic and Political Weekly reported 'government spokesmen are gloating'.

The same paper also reports increased government spending on 'superior furniture, furnishings and electrical appliances at the residences of judges of the supreme court' and the refusal of the government to bring in an income tax for rich farmers. These men dominate the Congress Party and are India's new rich.

The coup that spells terror for workers

of the major problems facing Greece, but has instead hung on to power by using the most vicious forms of repression.

If Cypriot resistance succeeds in thwarting the coup, there will be visible proof that, even in military terms, the Greek regime is not all-powerful.

For these reasons there would be no doubt as to the attitude of socialists and trade unionists: complete opposition to the coup and full support to the Cypriot resistance to it.

Safeguard

However, in our support for the Cypriot resistance, we have to be wary of certain false friends.

Much of the British right wing press and a number of Tory politicians such as Julian Amery have condemned the coup but not because they support the workers' movements in Greece or Cyprus.

Although Cyprus under Makarios has been nominally independent for 14 years, it has continued to allow the British government to use the island as an armed base from which to safeguard the interests of British big business throughout the Middle East.

Cyprus was used as a staging post for the attempt to smash the independence of Aden and is used in the same way against the independence struggle in Dhofar.

The Cyprus economy also continues to be profitably dominated by British big business with 41 per cent of exports going to Britain. It is hardly surprising that much of the right wing in this country prefer Makarios to the political uncertainty represented by military rule and a



The man behind the coup: Nicos Sampson, pictured during an anti-British demonstration ten years ago.

government led by a man who boasts that he used to shoot British soldiers.

Many of these elements want prompt action from the British government to stabilise the situation. They would prefer this to take the form of a United Nations action, which would guarantee to the great powers the continuation of the advantages they have gained from the Cyprus regime over the last 14 years.

Some sections of the left in this country are putting forward the same demands. The Morning Star, for instance, has said that 'Britain should take the lead in calling for United Nations action to stop the aggression and safeguard Cypriot independence and democracy'.

This approach is mistaken. The UN is merely a joint meeting representing the different ruling classes of the world. Its troops have been in Cyprus for the last eight years. It has solved none of the problems facing the Cypriot people.

And during that period 'independence', as we have pointed out

above, has meant British bases and British economic control.

What we should be demanding is the cessation of the arms and aid which the Greek regime gets via NATO, from Britain and the other western powers.

Without that aid the Greek military could not last one day, let alone launch coups in Cyprus.

Full support for the Cypriot resistance

End support, via NATO for the Greek military Junta

Oppose attempts by the western governments to impose their own policy on Cyprus through UN intervention. Withdraw British troops from Cyprus.



ON Tuesday, the London Region of IS handed out leaflets in Greek to a demonstration outside the Greek Embassy. The leaflets called for support for Cypriot resistance against the Greek military junta.

WHAT WE THINK

An island of socialism, a sea full of sharks

WHAT is the correct policy to fight closures? First, of course, a refusal to accept the management decision. Then the takeover of the plant to get the leverage to make that refusal matter. But what then?

Two cases going on now are instructive. At the Scottish Daily Express in Glasgow, the employer, Beaverbrook Newspapers, offered to sell the plant to the workers—more exactly to give them first refusal provided they raised enough money to meet the asking price.

The cash was to come from redundancy pay, government money if possible and collections. The paper would then be re-launched under workers' management.

It looks as though this scheme will fall through for lack of enough money. But suppose it had succeeded, would it have solved the problem?

The object is to save jobs. The running of a newspaper, or any other enterprise, along commercial lines requires that commercial considerations come first. Workers' management sounds attractive but that management would face the same problems as the Beaverbrook management.

It would have to try to solve them by trimming the workforce, by jacking up productivity, by pushing 'flexibility' and generally undermining the conditions that union action has achieved in the industry. On top of all this, in the newspaper industry there is the conflict between the politics of a 'workers' management' newspaper and the demands of the advertisers.

Of course it may be argued that the old management was incompetent, that the workers can do it better. Probably. But this does not alter anything fundamental.

You cannot build islands of socialism in a sea of capitalism. And workers' management of a commercial concern operating in that sea deprives the workers of the strength of union organisation directed against management. The National Union of Journalists has now recognised this and has adopted, in words at any rate, the correct demand: nationalise to save the jobs.

At the former Fisher-Bendix plant at Kirkby near Liverpool, now IPD, the workers are holding up £2½ million of tools for British Leyland. The Department of Industry is reported as 'urgently looking into the possibility of a government takeover'.

This is the demand to hold out for. Not 'feasibility studies' to see if the operation is 'commercially viable' but state action to save jobs. We demand the right to work and if private firms producing for profit cannot give it, then nationalisation is essential. So is workers' control. But workers' control under capitalism means encroaching on management rights, in this case the right to shut up shop. Real workers' management is for the socialist future.

Bombs and hypocrites

THE BOMBINGS in Manchester and Birmingham are being blamed on the IRA. Whether the IRA is responsible or not we do not know. In any case the many letters that have appeared on our Letters pages over the past few weeks indicate that it is essential to make clear, once again, the International Socialists' attitude to the tactic of bombings and shootings for political ends.

We are not pacifists. We live in a world where the ruling classes take it for granted that it is necessary for them to use violence for their political ends. It is childish to suppose that, under certain circumstances, working people are not compelled to use violence in their own interests.

The official condemnations of violence are entirely hypocritical. The leaders of the Tory and Labour Parties take it for granted that they need the army, the navy and the airforce, not to mention the police. But these are institutions whose whole purpose is the use of violence for political ends. An army is trained and armed for the violent defence of the interests of its political masters.

This week armed soldiers have again occupied London's Heathrow Airport. Is there anyone so foolish as to believe that the weapons are carried to provide a spectacle for tourists or that the ammunition is blank?

The same political leaders who condemn the violence of the IRA support the maintenance and development of British nuclear weapons, weapons by their nature of wholesale and indiscriminate destruction. The Labour government has just tested yet another nuclear bomb. A Labour or Tory minister denouncing violence is Satan condemning sin.

Our objection to the tactics of the Provisional IRA is quite different. It is that the bombing tactic does not help to develop a united movement of working people for the liberation of Ireland, an aim we support, but hinders it. Far from tending to overcome the sectarianism of the Protestant workers, it reinforces that sectarianism. Far from winning the support of British workers, it alienates them.

As the Ulster Workers Council strike, reactionary as it was, proved yet again; a mass movement of workers can change society. Heroic individuals with bombs cannot achieve the ends we seek.



THE PC WHO GAVE THE GAME AWAY...

FLASHBACK to Red Lion Square: Even the police gape when the truncheons first start flying.

THE MOST revealing part of last week's inquest into Kevin Gately's death wasn't given in evidence. It was a sigh from Det Chief Supt Roy Habershon.

Habershon, veteran of the Angry Brigade hunt, is conducting the police conduct in Red Lion Square—while simultaneously gathering information to prosecute Socialist Worker.

PC John Hare-Brown, who was in the front row of the police cordon told St Pancras Coroners Court in London how the order was given to 'let the horses through.'

He said: 'We broke the cordon and ran round behind the mounted police. As the crowd drew back I saw two legs exposed. I ran forward between the horses to get the body.'

It was at this point that Habershon's face fell—as well it might. For Hare-Brown had contradicted the main police evidence presented by Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Gerrard—who was allowed to groom other police witnesses in a back room after giving his own evidence.

Gerrard was concerned to establish that Gately had collapsed before the mounted police charged, and had been pulled out of the crowd at the south end of the cordon and carefully conveyed to medical care.

Hare-Brown wasn't the only one who contradicted the 'official' story. Two Guardian newspaper reporters,

otherwise sympathetic to the police insisted that Gately's body appeared much later than Gerrard claimed—after the mounted police charge.

Gerrard, shown a Press Association picture of the mounted police in action, commented that 'the body was found before that'.

It was then pointed out to him that Kevin Gately, alive and well, was clearly visible in the photograph...

His attempts to make the police action sound like a dignified piece of crowd control wore thin as others gave evidence of how Kevin Gately's body was handled after the blow was struck.

INTERESTS

Margaret Forley told how she saw two policemen kneeling on the unconscious Kevin's chest. She heard one of them shout 'Have you calmed down now?'

A St John's Ambulance man described how Kevin's body was dumped on the ground. The policeman said: 'I think this one's for you, mate.'

There was also doubt over where the body was found. It shifted, de-

pending on the policeman concerned, 30 feet up and down the cordon.

The police had briefed QC Donald Farquahson to safeguard their interests. He produced a baten captured by the police from a small group of Maoists which he clearly wished to suggest was the murder weapon.

None of the witnesses saw the blow which killed Kevin Gately. But medical evidence established that it was inflicted by a round-tipped instrument, travelling at considerable velocity and clipping the six foot seven inch demonstrator behind the ear.

James Meiklejohn saw Kevin collapse. 'His eyes were closed,' he explained. 'I assumed he had fainted but he was totally unconscious before he hit the ground he fell sideways as his knees buckled.'

Evidence on his transfer to hospital showed that he was deeply unconscious from the time of the blow. There was no sign of other bruising—which would have suggested trampling or kicking on the ground.

The police admitted that the mounted section had used their long round-tipped batons. City Road mounted PC Roger Parry admitted 'making contact.'

The jury were clearly considering an open verdict. They took 75 minutes to return and inquired on the exact meaning of 'misadventure.'

Eventually a majority verdict of misadventure was given, with one juror clearly very unhappy and the other 10 fairly reluctant.

The inquest established that political demonstrations can indeed be extremely hazardous, especially when the Special Patrol Group go on the rampage.

It will be interesting to see if Justice Scarman's public inquiry will swallow the police story at its present level of inconsistency.

'Step up the fight' call

CAMDEN Trades Council has condemned in the strongest possible terms the police action in defending the fascists of the National Front on Saturday 15 June at Red Lion Square. The Council noted that the attack of the police on the left-wing counter-demonstration and the murder of Kevin Gately represented a serious escalation of police violence against the Labour movement.

The Council has agreed to support all future mobilisation against fascist organisations such as the National Front. Specifically it calls upon its affiliated branches for the most massive mobilisation of the labour movement to prevent fascists from demonstrating and meeting, whether the

Labour government bans such fascist activity or not.

Two London branches of the building workers' union (UCATT), the Hampstead branch and the Camden branch Woodworkers, have passed motions condemning the police Special Patrol Group, and called for its disbandment.

The Camden Woodworkers branch also calls upon the union's London Regional Council to support all anti-Fascist marches and demonstrations.

The Derbyshire Miners' Delegate Conference unanimously carried a motion of condolence with the Warwickshire students on the death of Kevin Gately.

PAY LAWS MYTH EXPOSED

OVER the past ten years the lowest paid workers—those covered by wages councils—have become worse off in relation to other workers. That is the conclusion of the report of the Low Pay Unit to Employment Secretary Michael Foot. The process was speeded up by the successive Incomes Policies of Tory and Labour governments.

For example, male agricultural

workers got £11.90 less than the average industrial wage in 1970. By 1973 they were down to £16.10 less. Milk delivery men got £5.30 less than the average in 1970. In 1973 they were down to £8.40 less.

The position of some women workers is even worse. Women in hairdressing were getting £5.70 less than the average in 1970, £10.60 less in 1973.

The gap is growing fast. Not one of the wages council agreements included a threshold clause and the report states that out of 28 settlements recently reported, 23 were for less than the Phase Three norms.

Socialist Worker has always argued that Incomes Policies under capitalism at best freeze inequality and under conditions of inflation increase it. This report proves this to the hilt.

LETTERS



Powell: Anti-black, anti-Irish, anti-union, anti-worker, anti-life...

Powell: don't just slag him, explain him!

ON PAGE two (29 June) you showed Enoch Powell and Jack Jones sharing the same platform. You missed a great opportunity to expose the dangerous hypocrisy of this pair, for, having pointed the finger of shame, you said *nothing*.

You have got to tell us why you think Enoch Powell is a racist, and why his ideas are a real danger to the working class. You can't just assume we know.

The paper is read by all kinds of people for all kinds of reasons. Some of the people who read it are going to

be good shop floor militants, and racist.

They're going to be against immigration. They're going to believe all the lies of the mass media about black people. They're going to be taken in by Powell's propaganda and think he's a great man.

It's precisely because they don't realise what these attitudes mean for the working class that you have to spell it, give the information, show the prejudice. They'll not get the truth anywhere else!

OK Powell is a racist, what's he done that makes you say that? What does racism mean to the working class in the long term, why are we opposed to these views? That's got to be answered not once but again and again.

But Powell isn't just a racist, he's also completely in favour of maintaining capitalism at any cost to the working class. That's why he has spoken out against any attempt by the working class to defend their working conditions and standards of living.

That's why he's against trade unions and anti-strike and that's why he's a racist. You've got to quote his many speeches on these issues. Slowly and consistently you've got to build up a real understanding of what Powell really stands for.

The world he wants is one where the interests of the bosses are of paramount importance and we are just the mindless robots who salute the flag, and with stiff upper lip, work to keep the rich man rich. NIKKI MELLOR, London SW11.

Workers+slump
= revolution?
You must
be joking!

THE CONCLUDING parts of John Palmer's article on inflation (13 July) is typical of the increasing shallowness with which Socialist Worker deals with questions of vital importance to the working class.

Although his statement 'the labour movement is still too strong to lie down under huge wage cuts' is not too exceptional, he follows up with what can only be described as crude economic determinism.

Commenting on a possible Tory strategy of a 'controlled recession with higher unemployment', he says '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.'

What amazing optimism! How marvellous if revolutionary consciousness was formed in such an easy way. It is a far greater danger that inflation and slump (because they now go together) will cause widespread demoralisation of many sections of workers.

The idea that revolution springs from crisis has been disproved many times in the past, and in our own conditions completely underestimates the hold of the trade union leaders and reformism, plus the fact that it completely nullifies the need for revolutionary politics and the party that fights for them.

The conclusions of the article are no slip—they are characteristic of the very simplistic statements in SW that substitute for a serious revolutionary strategy.—MIKE ROOKE, Nottingham.

Miners: we are with the nurses

ON BEHALF of many miners at Houghton Main we would like to endorse the action by hospital workers who are, after many broken promises by different Labour governments, implementing a ban on private patients.

We also deplore the attempts by so-called Socialist ministers and councillors to whip up a campaign of hate against hospital staff like Heath did with the miners.

The Yorkshire Area of the NUM was due to have a one-day strike in support of the nurses on 10 July. It was eventually called off because of the lack of action from the nurses' unions.

At our branch some of us tried

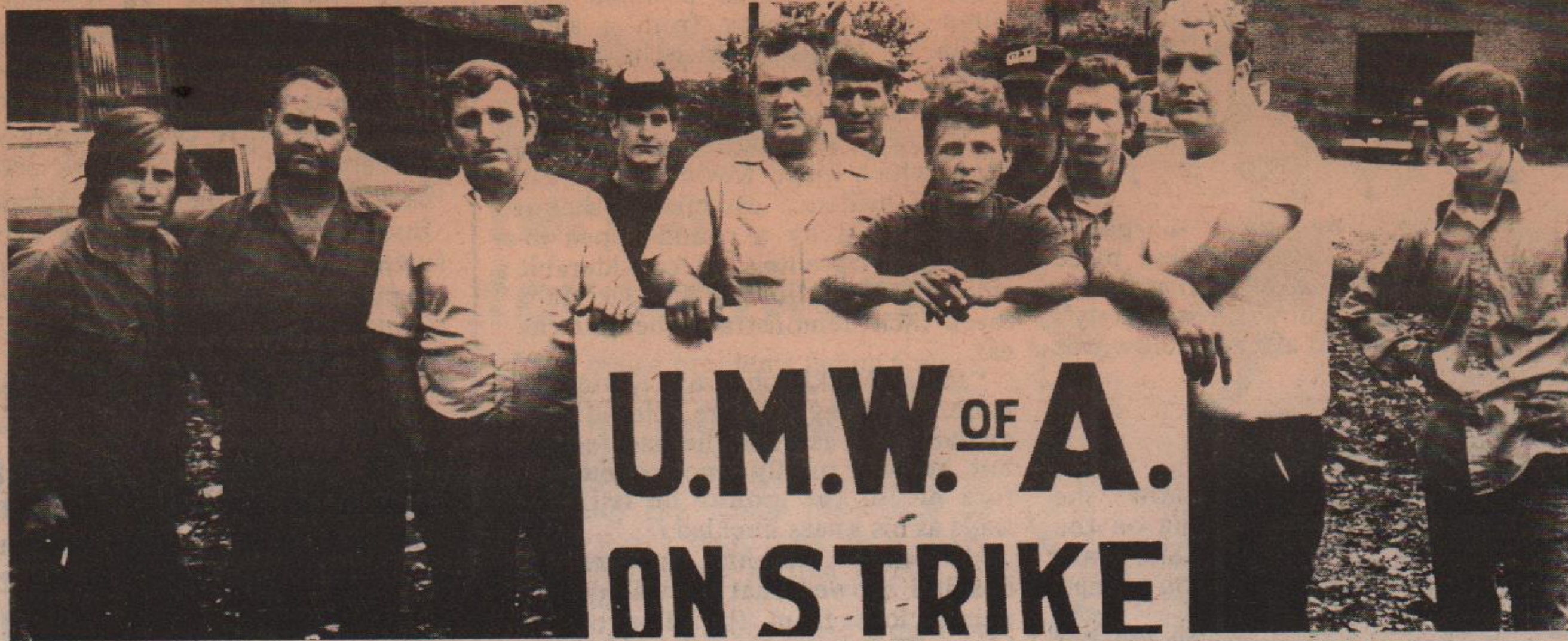
to step this up to a total overtime ban and non-co-operation but non-participation was the order of the day from Area HQ on such attempts at policy making by the rank and file.

We would also like to draw attention to the necessity of the rank and file organisation. It must be built in the hospital service between all the different sections, after seeing the betrayals by national union officials in their attempts to impose the social compact on all its

members for the sake of the capitalist Labour government.

We had similar treatment from our own officials and miners' MPs in their shrieks and screams that miners were a special case.

That excuse was even used against the surface worker to keep their wages below the claim of £35 per week to prevent other workers using the figures with the relativities board.—TREVOR BROWN, ALBERT WILKINSON, JOHN OWEN, Barnsley.



The miners of Harlan County. They're getting generous strike pay at present and aren't in dire financial need. But they would deeply appreciate motions and messages of solidarity from mineworkers in Europe. These should be sent c/o Elmore Houston, United Mine Workers of America Organiser, The Jones Motel, Harlan, Kentucky. If the UMWA go on national strike in October, as is likely, the Brooksidiers will have their present strike benefits cut off and will then be in urgent need.

HARLAN—NOT ALONE

I MUST congratulate you on your revealing article concerning the Harlan Miners strike (6 July). I believe it is essential for the left if we are to progress and conquer capitalism to illuminate the truth of the vile and disgusting way the lust for money and complete disregard for humanitarian principles occurs in the heart of capitalism.

A great many workers in this country still believe that the USA is the 'land of the free', where every man is equal, poverty is non-existent and the wages are fantastic. This myth must be exploded and the true picture of mass exploitation, corruption and the use of gangster type terror by the authorities and big companies must be shown.

It is also imperative that the Harlan miners know that they do not stand alone in their struggle that we in this country do not just pay lip-service to the cause of international socialism. All too often we see the self-centred attitudes of our big unions and their leaders who are too involved with their own self-importance with not an ounce of

feeling in them for the socialist movement as a whole.

Pressure from branch level must be brought about to show that, we the workers and students care about our fellow men that we feel for their suffering and lack of basic rights that we take for granted.

Let us crush this lethargy abundant in our working class movements and make an effort to show support to these miners and their families who for 11 months have faced a strike of intolerable hardships, riding high over the threats of violence and murder.

Are we to let them fail? or can we help to bring about an awareness in the workforce that all is not lost to greed?

I appeal to your readers to write and donate personally at branch level and to pressure the union leaders to let those heroes and heroines know that we sympathise with and support them.

I also appeal to you to give us a lead and publish where we can channel this support.—RAY LAWRENCE, NUM, Celyn South Lodge, Monmouthshire, South Wales.

In spite of a protest by the patient's son before the transfer took place the patient was taken. It was pointed out to the consultant and the hospital secretary that the patient could in no way afford the private nursing home fee of £25 a week since he only received a pension of £7.75 a week (now £10.00) plus a small income somewhere in the region of £4.00 a week.

The patient's son also objected to the fact that as his father had contributed to the NHS for a great number of years it was intolerable that he should now be forced into paying this sort of fee.

The son also challenged the right of the consultant to make the transfer without proper consultation. The consultant and the hospital secretary maintained that they did, but of course they have not produced any tangible evidence to prove their case. In the correspondence between the hospital and the patient's son the secretary has been unable to satisfactorily answer any of the points raised.

The patient's MP has been informed of the situation but to date only an acknowledging postcard has been received. The patient is still at the nursing home (Hilldene Clinic, Tan-y-Bryn Road, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay) and the matron of the nursing home is in possession of the patient's pension book. The Director of Social Services for North Wales has written to the patient's son asking him to arrange payment of the clinic's fees.

The nursing home is registered at Companies House and one of the directors lives in London. It is estimated that the 50 or so patients at the nursing home would be paying a combined fee of something in the region of £70,000 a year for their upkeep.

In conclusion I should like to add that for the North Wales Hospital Consultant to transfer a patient to a private institution and then for the hospital to state that it has no responsibilities is an indictment against the whole concept of the National Health Scheme. I believe that there is a question of principle involved in this particular case which might concern a great number of people.—DAVID WHITELEY, London SW16.

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.

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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

SAS: they're trained

IN A train in Lancashire last month, I got talking to an NCO who has been to Northern Ireland on two duty tours and is scheduled to return later this year. Towards the end the soldier volunteered this about the Special Air Services.

'The thing about the SAS is this. The SAS are special forces.

'A mate of mine is one of them. He'd think nothing of stabbing you in the back with a pencil. You see, anything sharp is a weapon as far as he's concerned. He knows how to use them.

'They're trained to kill in every way there is. He knows judo, karate, all that sort of thing. He's trained in all kinds of weapons. They're issued with any weapon they want. Their favourite weapon—they ask for it and they get it.

'If there's any trouble, he's got his card, and there's some other papers I've seen but I'm not allowed to say. He just pulls them out.

'I've seen him sort out three blokes. Blood pouring out of one bloke's ear. Broke the other one's nose. The other one he broke his jaw and cheekbone with his hand, like this. You know, karate. He's like that.

'His ideas about sorting out an argument are different from the average Englishman, you might say. When the police came he just pulled out his papers. Right, no questions. "How'd it happen, then? Just put your signature here, at the bottom." That's all.

'The thing about the SAS is that they get around the regulations. That's what it's all about. They do things that are extra legal, you might say. Not exactly illegal. *Extra legal*. You know?'

I asked him if there 'really' are SAS men in Ireland.

for terror



Happy go lucky soldiers round the old camp-fire. Another part of the Professionals life is less merry...

'I've known a few who were there,' he said. 'They're often attached to units as intelligence officers.

'That's one way it's done. Some of them that's been over there three or four times are very hard. There's no wasting time when they want information from you.

'They just get it. They can hurt you pretty bad without leaving a mark. No kid gloves. Then they

hand you over to the Special Police.

'I've seen blokes blindfolded, with their hands tied behind them to their feet, you know? Then they're taken up in a helicopter. Anyway that's what they thought. And they're thrown out. Of course they were only three inches off the ground!

'It's all part of breaking them down, you know? That was at Long Kesh. They're hard men, some of them.'-JR, Oxford.

They come they suffer...

'SUFFER little children to come unto me', is a well-known quote, which with some alteration would suit London teachers. Our version would be: 'Those little children who come unto us, suffer.'

How they experience their suffering differs. The younger kids seem to see nothing unusual in what happens. They find a situation where they are regularly sent home from school, where when they are at school they don't get taught the lessons they're supposed to. Quite normal. Working class kids in London get used to second-best early on.

The older kids at least notice that something's wrong. Teachers just don't seem to be bothered any more, only one or two of them bother to teach us at all. They just wander in, stay for a few minutes, then wander out again.'

They exaggerate of course. Most teachers are still trying, but who could blame them, if faced with the deplorable background situation the kids don't see.

The background is one of insufficient resources to teach with, insufficient pay to live on and no place to live in. No wonder that according to the NUT official version 'morale is low'.

Choice

What can the teacher do? We're faced with a difficult dilemma. We're a bit like relief workers in one of the famine areas of Africa. They know they haven't got enough resources, and that no more will be forthcoming unless they fight for them.

But to fight means to stop administering aid. Their choice is to fight for the future whilst watching the present die or to do nothing.

Not an easy game this, playing god. We get bewildered at times. It's

just this kind of confusion that allows the NUT leadership to blind many of their followers and lead them where they will.

They blind them because they accept and exploit this dilemma—that exists only when one forgets that the present is dying already in London.

Dying from starvation.

In our society money is what education feeds on and in London we haven't got much. Not enough to provide adequate facilities in schools not enough to provide sufficient homes for teachers and not enough to pay them a wage which will attract them here.

So London education is dying. Without action, the future is like some areas of Africa—an educational Sahara.

At the minute teachers who don't open their eyes and see what's facing them and their pupils and the need to do something are guilty of culpable negligence. Those who advise them to continue their action are guilty of something rather worse.-JOHN WATSON, Newham NUT, London.

Don't shoot! I didn't mean you!

I WROTE a letter (27 June) about the situation in hospitals from the patients' viewpoint. Most nurses reacted violently to the statement that 'patients were treated as animals to be fed and cleaned twice daily'.

Far from being a condemnation of nursing standards I was condemning the conditions with which nurses are expected to deal while being short-staffed. Only basic nursing can be undertaken while there's a chronic staff shortage—and this gives rise to frustration on the part of the nurses who feel they can't do the job as they would like.

Apart from the understandable reaction of the nurses the hospital's hierarchy also took umbrage. I was told I had no right to express an opinion, and that my opinion was no use to the nurses' case. I wish they would write and give their view of the situation.

I'm 100 per cent behind the nurses in their struggle for a decent salary and conditions. I'm also grateful for the nursing care that I received—particularly under the conditions nurses work in. The struggle will be a long and difficult one.-KATHLEEN DOOLEY, Ipswich.

STARVING? THE DOGS ARE ALRIGHT... I was told that cereals will probably be in short supply because so much is used in dog food. The remark reminded me of a Burke Special TV show where the tonnage of cereal used in petfood was quoted. Tonight on TV Winalot announced that our dogs enjoy the full benefit of wheat in their diet... It would be interesting to learn more of how while much of the world starves, precious wheat is used in dog food.-T A CURRIE, Whitchurch.

AND NOW FOLKS, BACK TO THE GENERAL ELECTION... I'm surprised that you continually play away at the need to return a Labour government at the next election. What makes you think that if Labour were returned for the next 20 years we would be nearer socialism? What's the betting that the four eyed pharisee Michael Foot is not cooking up some deal with the confederation of British Industry and TUC leaders to screw down the workers? The only chance for real socialism—soon, would be for the Tories to win the next general election, then the working class would be ready for a spell of riot. Your paper should be striving for this, not harbouring illusions about Wilson and his pack in the government.-KM.

SORT IT OUT... Some socialists have held that socialism can come through parliament... Philip Whitehead MP and Paul Foot debated in Derby last January. The interesting point about this meeting was the message put with conviction to revolutionary socialists by the rank and file of the Labour Party... We are all socialists, we simply have different opinions about which road to take, to achieve socialism,' they said... In the Guardian (15 May) Chancellor Healey, socialist, was quoted that he will see that there is no 'undue restriction on the level of company profits... Either Denis Healey is not a socialist as he claims to be, or there are two Labour Parties, one for trade unionists and those convinced of the parliamentary road to socialism, and a separate one for 'socialists' who lead and govern. Any Labour Party members who have difficulty in solving this problem should read, buy and sell Roger Kline's International Socialist pamphlet, Can Socialism Come Through Parliament?... The road is clear, socialism is the self emancipation of the working class, it cannot be introduced on our behalf, handed down from parliament only through the building of a revolutionary party can the immense power of the class be harnessed to build socialism.-DAVE FOX, Nottingham.

PLEASE LEAVE ILLUSIONS OUTSIDE POLLING BOOTH... At the last election, the International Socialists said 'Vote Labour without illusions'. Our emphasis in posters and leaflets was on the 'Vote Labour' part. But because of the changed circumstances, Socialist Worker should emphasise 'No illusions' this time... IS election posters could stress that we do not elect the civil service, police chiefs, army commanders, judges, boardroom men, Eurocrats, etc etc. Who really rules the country? They do!-TOM HOLZINGER, London N17.

UP AND DOWN... Surely IS should call for a rising scale of wages in opposition to the argument that threshold agreements compensate for the increase in the cost of living... Such a rising scale should be based on a working-class cost of living index prepared by committees elected by trade union branches and would provide for adequate increases in take-home pay. This policy would put the responsibility for inflation where it belonged—on the shoulder of the capitalists' system... It would unite workers of different unions and workers and housewives, pensioners, unemployed etc.-LESLIE HEARN, Croydon.

WE'LL STARVE TOGETHER... The poverty of the world constitutes a direct drain on our own relative wealth, and makes us poorer. Consider the amounts shelled out by the British government to keep corrupt, pro-Western cliques in power, the vast sum spent on arms and armies to suppress native workers and peasants or to perpetuate mini-wars which act out the rivalry of the Big Power. That bill in the end is paid by British workers... Huge areas of natural resources lie unused because the technology required to exploit them is owned by a

few. Labour is wasted: a quarter of the world's adult population is permanently unemployed—and those people have to live, however miserably. World poverty is a major cause of overpopulation and in the present conditions that is a vast drain... In the long run our development is tied to world development, just as the development of urban industry in Britain during the Industrial Revolution required the increase of productive forces in the countryside. As things stand at moment the cost of world poverty is paid for by European and American workers as well as by the 10 million people who starve to death each year and the countless millions who live in the abject misery imposed by world capitalism. 'A society which oppresses others cannot itself be free'.-KEN MONTAGUE, London NW2.

PROVOS AND OFFICIALS... The IRA is the Official Irish Republican Army who've never engaged in terrorism... They struggle for a democratic non-sectarian socialist republic... In May 1972 they halted all aggressive military action and only take action on defence of the working class and as retaliation for particular army outrages... It's the Provos (Provisional Alliance) who're responsible for the bombing campaign... The Official Republicans are Europe's only revolutionary organisation that tries to balance economic, political and armed struggle. The International Socialists should support the Official Republicans... The very least you can do is stop attributing the actions of the Provos to the Official IRA.-NICK HEGARTY, Fakenham.

PROVOS AND SOCIALISM... Paddy Prendiville (6 July) expresses reservations about the Provos political stand. He criticises them for an unfortunate lack of 'socialist class politics'... This is the point, for as British working class socialists how can we support this reactionary militia?... The fight against imperialism in Ireland can only be won with socialist politics and guns—but not one without the other... How can we condone the murder of working class shoppers?-TONY BARRS, Holt.

NOW IS THE TIME... The working class will soon be in need of an organisation to protect it. The Labour Party haven't the will to do it, the Communist Party is just about incapable of doing anything. The revolutionary left must strive for unity... You say you strive to build a revolutionary workers party and support the unity of all revolutionary groups. Let's see some constructive building towards this.-RICHARD P CLARK, Manchester.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST, ACROSS THE ROCKIES TO... Socialist Worker has two major jobs... Informing working people of other working people's successes and failures... Secondly articulating and organising the ideas people have on what's wrong with the system, what a better one might be like and how to get it. Judge the progress of the paper by two things the letters and the articles written by workers which articulate clearly why militant socialist alternatives should be followed.-JIM EDMONSON, British Columbia, Canada.

MISSING THE POINT... As a socialist and supporter of women's and Gay Liberation I think you miss the point about sexuality... The basis of capitalist society is the buying and selling of commodities for profit... To rich peers and business men and women are merely commodities... Why are women forced to sell their bodies? For the same reason people have to sell their labour, (lives) in order to keep the ruling class rich and satisfied. The only cure for prostitution is socialism.-A R KUTTNER, Fulham.

THE OTHER WAY ROUND... I had to go into a psychiatric ward and the treatment was excellent... Not only did the doctors restore my sanity but did their best to turn me out a responsive citizen... Unfortunately for them I did retain some 'irresponsible' opinions... In other countries the conditioning is more explicit. Take Russia, if the sophisticated treatment given to me had been used to *damage* instead of repair... H J, Wigan.

FIFTY

Reg Groves on
Labour's first
government

YEARS ON

'ONE STEP enough for me,' Ramsay MacDonald told the cheering crowd at Labour's Albert Hall post-election victory rally in 1924. He was quoting from a hymn much favoured by Labour folk, Lead Kindly Light, but omitted, significantly, the first part of the line, 'I will not ask to see the distant scene'. He omitted also to say in what direction the step was to be taken.

The post-First World War slump, with its high unemployment and widespread wage cuts, was showing apparent signs of slight abatement. Trade was a little brisker, chiefly because of Germany's economic collapse, and the French occupation of the Ruhr.

But registered unemployment stood at 1¼ million, and real wages had fallen below pre-1914 levels. A rising trade union membership, a larger Labour vote, and a splattering of strikes, showed that after the doldrums of the past three years the workers were beginning to press for betterment.

They certainly expected some help from a Labour government, though they were aware of its limited circumstances and powers—were indeed, as one sympathetic observer noted, 'not merely tolerant; they were anxious not to notice anything wrong...'

It was hoped that something would be done for the miners; that the unemployed would be found work, or, pending that, given adequate benefit payments; that the old people would be given higher pensions; that a massive programme of low-rented, council house building would be launched; and that Soviet Russia would be given full recognition, and the necessary credits provided for trade between the two countries.

Over-riding all, of course, was the hope that the Labour government would champion the cause of the poor in pocket against their traducers and exploiters on all occasions and in all legislation.

First shocks came when the Labour government faced the locomotive drivers, already on strike over pay reductions.

Labour ministers talked of the men on strike just as the Conservatives had done before them; and during a national dock strike that followed, the government threatened the use of emergency powers, and the calling out of the army and navy to maintain supplies.

The dockers stood firm, and made some gains, but Ernest Bevin exclaimed: 'I wish it had been a Tory government. We would not have been frightened by their threats. We were bound to listen to the appeal of our own people.'

Strike

Ben Tillett, veteran of many bitterly-fought dock strikes, spoke indignantly of 'menacing tones' and 'expressions of fear' from Labour ministers, made worse, he said, than any heard previously from Tory or Liberal men.

More of this was to come. A strike of 16,000 tramwaymen in the metropolitan area for a pay rise and a 48-hour week, began on 21 March, after protracted negotiations; 23,000 busmen came out in sympathy; the locomotive men's union, ASLEF, instructed its driver members on the Underground to stop work on 28 March; and electricity workers announced that they would cut off current for the Underground, and much else besides.

The government ordered the refurbishing of strike-breaking machinery created by the Coalition government in 1919-20. A state of emergency powers proclaimed, a Commissioner with wide powers was appointed, troops were to be called out to protect 'blackleg' buses, and 800 naval stokers were to keep the power stations going.

Warned

At this point, a joint statement was issued by the General Council, TUC, and the EC of the Labour Party, protesting the use of state power against the strikers, and urging the government to use its power to take over London's passenger transport—a tangle of private and public interests—and run it pending complete reorganisation, and grant the workers their demands.

The General Council is said to have warned the government privately that if it went ahead with its proposed use of troops and navy men as strike-breakers, a general strike would be called.

MacDonald now summoned a last-minute conference of the parties concerned in the dispute, on the

evening of 27 March. It went on through the night, and agreement was not reached until the following morning.

The tramwaymen made some gains and, with the busmen, returned to work. Most socialists were shocked at the behaviour of the government, and probably more at the way that ministers such as J R Clynes (Lord Privy Seal), Tom Shaw (Minister of Labour), J A Thomas (Colonial Secretary) and Philip Snowden, (Chancellor of the Exchequer) boasted of their anti-strike measures, of having shown the Labour government to be a 'national' not a 'class' government.

Disavow

'We must carry on the King's government,' said MacDonald more than once. 'You should carry on the People's government,' retorted James Maxton.

What began as comedy ended as farce. The government leaders, always anxious to disavow any tolerance of Bolshevism, sanctioned the prosecution of J R Campbell, editor of the Communist Workers Weekly for publishing an article urging the armed forces to use their arms not against but on the side of the workers.



THE HOPE OF MILLIONS: Ramsay MacDonald acknowledges the cheers of workers who believed everything would be different under Labour.

As it was in the beginning...



THE REALITY FOR MILLIONS: The 1924 Labour government did nothing for its supporters. The next one tripled unemployment...

A pandemonium of protest from Labour supporters was met first by a shuffling defence, then to the case being dropped completely.

On 8 October, the Tories moved a vote of censure on the government for dropping the prosecution. The Liberals offered a way out by proposing an inquiry which MacDonald rejected scornfully, made the vote of one confidence and, when defeated by 364 to 198, went to the country.

MacDonald and the other Labour upholders of the King's government, 'Law and Order' and the rest of the mumbo-jumbo now found themselves accused of undermining the 'Laws of the Land' and though anti-Bolsheviks, of being sympathetic to Communism, a charge swollen to monstrous proportions a few days from polling when MacDonald fell for a Foreign Office trick, and certified as genuine a forged letter supposed to be from Zinoviev, the Russian Communist leader.

Out came the Union Jacks, posters of bewhiskered Bolsheies with knives in clenched teeth and bombs in clenched hands covered the hoardings, electors were warned that voting Labour was voting 'for handing the country over to the Communists and Moscow.'

Frightened Liberals rushed to vote Tory. The Liberals slumped to 44 seats, Labour to 151, and the Tories emerged with 415.

Though disappointed in Labour, Tory lies and deceptions close on an extra million workers to vote Labour.

Nothing is left of it all—the storms and convulsions of 50 winters and summers have washed away all traces of that first Labour government.

Jingoes

Nothing tangible or visible remains—except an inscription on a statue in St Martin's Place, round which the busy, unheeding crowds swirl daily, a statue of Nurse Edith Cavell placed there by triumphant and vengeful world war victors in 1920, as an indictment of a defeated and enslaved enemy nation.

In 1924, old Fred Jowett of Bradford, occupying the minor post of Commissioner of Works, had carved on that statue, to the distress of the jingoes and false patriots, Edith Cavell's last words before her execution by a German firing squad:

Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness for anyone.

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A severe case of greed

DOCTOR Walpole Lewin believes in freedom. That's why he is the chairman of the British Medical Association Council.

That's why he is leading the consultants in their fight to defend the freedom of choice purely and, incidentally, the ability to rake in a few thousand a year on top of their not ungenerous salaries.

This is understandable because,

after all, Doctor Lewin has a standard of living to maintain. And it's a pretty nice one though it costs the odd bob or two.

Just recently Lewin had to go all the way to Paris to attend a medical conference. And—generous man that he is—he took his wife and secretary with him.

All three stayed for a week at the exclusive Georges Cinq hotel. It costs

£28 a night. So the good doctor's bill must have been around £450.

Still the Trust House Forte management knew they had quality on their hands. They laid on champagne and bouquets of roses for the Lewins.

Probably Lewin treated a Forte director privately—for greed or something familiar like that.



TRUST House Forte, by the way, are really playing their part in the inflation battle.

This is particularly clear to members of the Pontefract branch of the International Socialists. They have had the Forte world revealed to them by Neil Pepper.

Neil worked until last Sunday for Forte's at their Excelsior Motor Lodge on the A1 just outside Doncaster.

One of his jobs was to take the original wrapper off Walls' delicious pork pies. These have a 10p price tag on them and Neil had to replace them with plain cellophane plus a new Forte price tag of 18p.

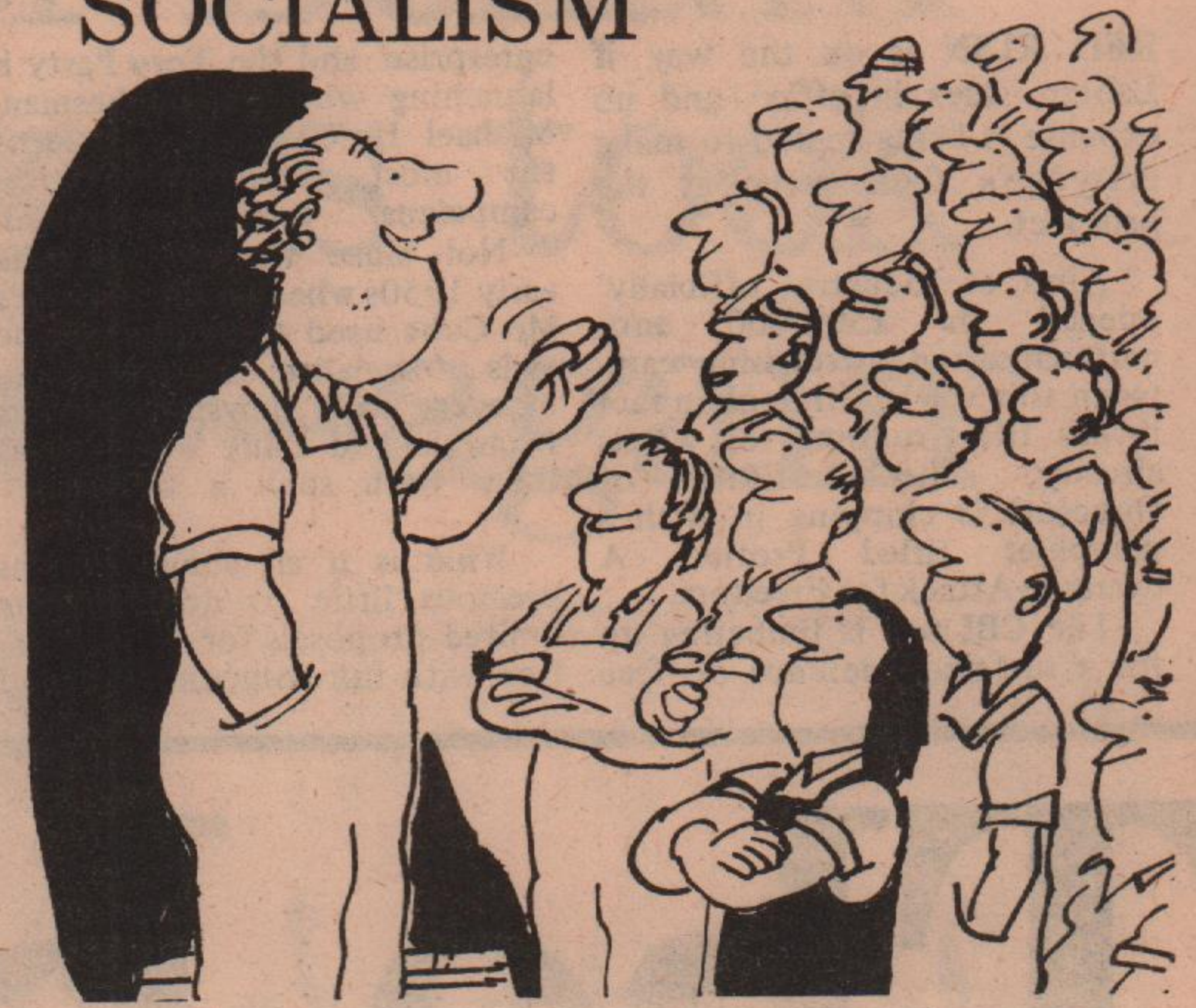
Forte's paid Neil 25p an hour just a little more than the retail price of one pork pie. Anything more would clearly have been inflationary.

It's fair Dews

LABOUR Councillor Colin Dews was recently charged in connection with the Poulson corruption trials, and is on remand. But this is not interfering in any way with his active public life.

Just last week it was disclosed that for the month of May he claimed £300 in attendance allowances for serving on the Wakefield District Council. The attendance allowance is £10 a day and there are 31 days in May. Which means that Councillor Dews was so busy he only took one day off in the whole month.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM



IN A REASONABLE world men would choose to live in societies only because by co-operation and joint industry people are able to live better than by their own usual unaided efforts.

Look at mankind today. Despite all the advanced methods of production two-thirds of humanity are having a hard time of it, to say the least. Yet the forces of production are there, capable of fulfilling the needs of mankind.

Why then are they not used to see that starvation and poverty are abolished?

Most of the energies of the working class under capitalism are engaged in making rubbish, goods designed to fall to pieces in a short time so that we will buy more. They are made of inferior materials yet use up as much of the resources of the planet as would properly made goods. More in fact—for who doesn't know that one good pair of shoes outlasts three cheap pairs?

The result is that the planet's resources are being turned into a vast scrapyard of raw materials that capitalism finds it uneconomic to use—it cannot afford to pause in the headlong race to make a profit.

Capitalism is fast using up the irreplaceable wealth it took the earth millions of years to produce—the coal, oil, gas, copper and other metals. It is polluting the planet with its man-made chemicals and gases which it pours unceasingly into the rivers, seas, land and the atmosphere, chemicals and gases that are not only poisonous to mankind but to all life.

Now we hear that the latest gadgets for sale—the rockets, supersonic airliners and aerosol sprays—are destroying that part of the atmosphere that prevents the ultra-violet rays from the sun killing us all.

How would we, the working class, run things differently in the interests of mankind as a whole?

Take a look at any town or city. More than three-quarters is shops and offices. The people are being driven further and further away from the centre. Socialism would make all these shops and offices redundant, opening up the towns and cities for the places of living, resting and entertainment of the people.

Need

What would replace them? Well, first we would have done away with competition, and then with money too, and we would have huge hypermarkets where the best mankind could produce would be on display to be taken according to need.

The goods we need to make for ourselves would be fantastically cheap. Gone would be the crap materials and 'fashions' of competition—here today and fallen to bits tomorrow. Who of us would settle for making less than the best?

Would our furniture-making comrades make their products out of hardboard? Or our building comrades build rubbish houses? They would be designed and made by people who use them. Every car

JUST WHIP THEM...

EARLY this year, Yorkshire West Riding Chief Constable Richard Gregory was entirely preoccupied with one matter—the miners' strike.

According to the Sunday Times (3 January 1974) he had 'a special squad of more than 800 policemen... ready to be moved from one part of the country to another at any time.'

In addition, 'Continuous watch was kept on known extremists in areas such as Stanforth, near the militant Haltfield Main Colliery, and Cadeby near Mexborough.'

Since the miners' victory Gregory

has found a refreshing way of filling in his time before his next practical outing. He has put together a foreword for a new edition of the 1939 book Punishments of Former Days

The book lovingly chronicles the various vile techniques used in the good old days to maintain 'order'. Among those detailed are whipping, flogging, branding, transportation, hanging and the like.

It really is good to know that Gregory is combining the latest advanced anti-picketing techniques with such a sense of tradition.

So sad... life at the top

ONE myth about the pressures of business life is that top executives die young from worry, anxiety and strain. Some embarrassment has been caused among rich men in America by the revelation in this month's Fortune magazine that 'executives live longer than other people.'

What's more, 'top executives, the men' presumably coping with the most pressure, live longer than other executives.'

The figures emerge from a detailed study of the careers of 1078 former chairmen, vice-chairmen and executive vice-presidents of America's top 500 companies.

By comparison with 'white males

with the same age distribution', these gentlemen lived no less than 37 per cent longer. No one even bothered to ask how much longer they lived than black men.

'Why do top executives live longer?' asks Fortune, worried at the smashing of the businessmen's favourite myth. 'It is possible, of course, that their companies provide them with superior medical service,' it answers.

Oh, no, surely not. Fortune reassures its readers quickly:

'It is possible that physical vitality is such an important prerequisite of life at the top that men with disabilities tend not to get there.'

THE OTHER AMERICA

A PICTURE of the Other America—where millions are too poor to eat—has emerged in a survey by a US Senate Committee. Amid a society of fabulous wealth, 40 million of the world's freest people live in poverty. They are, however, enjoying the freedom to become even poorer.

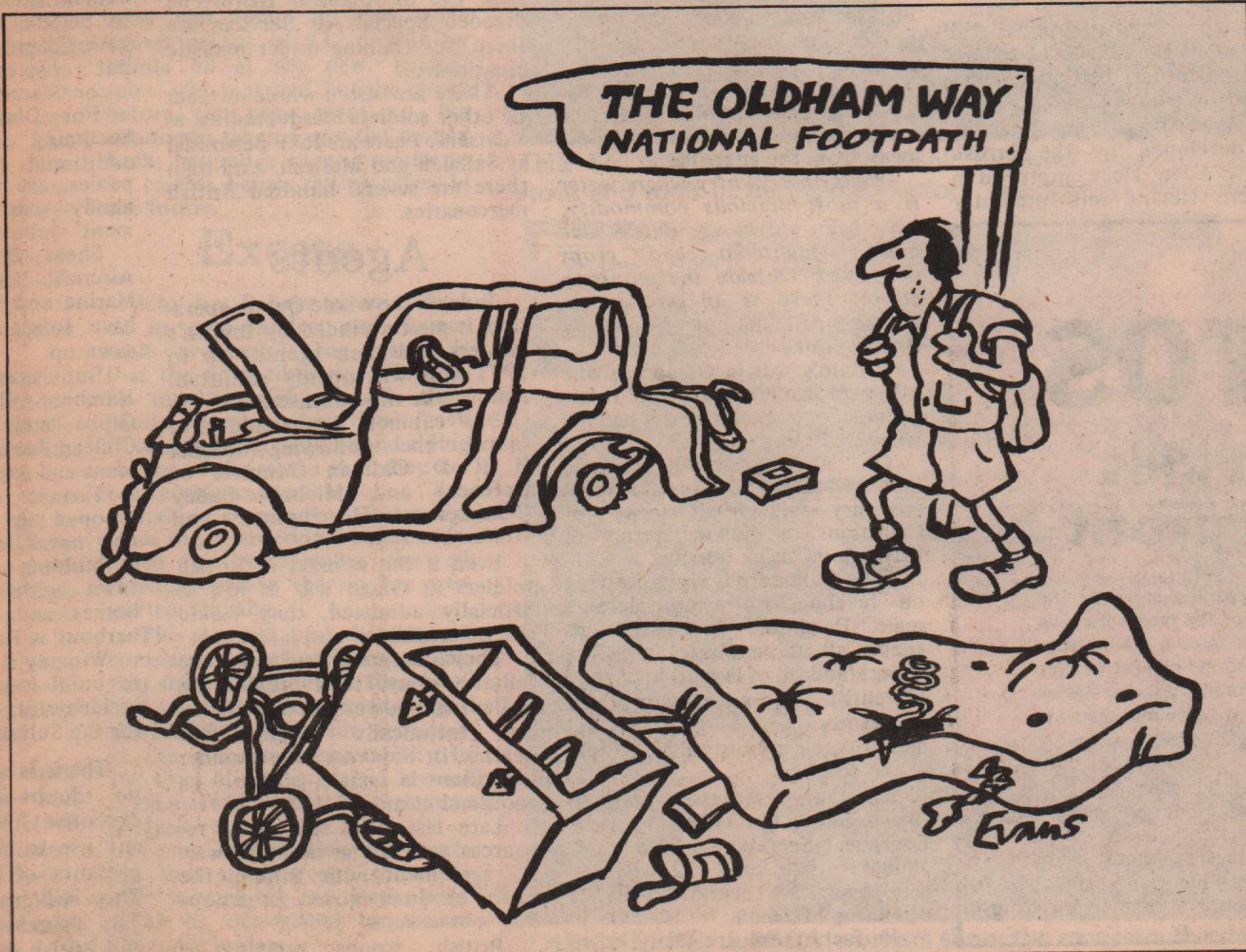
Inflation, the survey reports, has pushed up the price of food 22 per cent faster than the deeply-concerned government has pushed up the value of food stamps.

The food stamps, a sort of all-American soup kitchen, are received by only a third of those eligible. They offer crumbs from the rich man's table. The government's lowest-priced Economy Food Plan—the poor only need the lowest-priced food of course—does not provide an adequate diet, the report says.

The survey makes some interesting points about equality in capitalist society. It emphasises that 'five years after President Nixon's promise to end hunger in America... the nation's needy are hungrier and poorer.'

And it adds: 'In a nation in which the wealthiest one per cent possess more than eight times the wealth of the bottom 50 per cent, in which the percentage of national income going to the lowest fifth of the population has remained the same for 45 years, and in which 40 million people remain poor or near poor, more than a food stamp... or child-feeding programme is at issue.'

'The food programmes cannot end their poverty, and fundamentally people are hungry because they are poor.'



To compete or to cooperate?

would be of the standard of a Rolls-Royce—could we spare our valuable labour making rubbish that would drop to rust in a few years? We would want the pride in our labour the maker of a Rolls-Royce has.

Once the profit motive has been abolished we could stop the headlong rush and take a look at our resources and at pollution. How can capitalism do this when the most wasteful solutions are the most profitable and when any pause in the profit means the financiers, banks and shareholders will take their money elsewhere?

Would we stockpile beef and butter while some of us were starving? Would our farmers have to kill their milk herds because profits on milk were not high enough? These things happen today.

Wasted

Think of all the labour that would be saved from all the counting of money, the clerks, bus conductors, cashiers, post offices, you name it! Why, most of today's computers are working full-out making out invoices and bills!

Think of all the resources wasted in advertising and packaging, while our health services and schools are scrimping.

Under socialism, as techniques advanced, so hours of work would be reduced. Nowadays when production advances you end up doing overtime just to keep up.

Socialism means mankind co-operating in fulfilling the needs of mankind as a whole. Socialism would free the factories, the means of production, so they could be tuned to fulfilling the needs of people. No more unemployment. It would mean the end of a situation where one half of the world is starving, the other half is destroying food.

Socialism means the people themselves—those who create the wealth—enjoying the benefits. Socialism means the people themselves running the world and having a direct say in what the priorities are.

Dave Hallsworth

BENN: RED RUIN OR RED HERRING

RED RUIN is on the way if Labour stays in office—and no expense is being spared to make everyone's flesh creep at the prospect.

Aims of Industry 'officially' opened its £500,000 anti-nationalisation advertising campaign this week, although in fact it has been running for weeks already. The Institute of Directors is chipping in with a pamphlet titled *Profits: A Counter-Attack for Freedom*.

The CBI too is limbering up for a sustained defence of 'free

enterprise' and the Tory Party is launching what its spokesman, Michael Heseltine, calls 'one of the most intensive political campaigns ever conducted'.

Not since the days of the early 1950s when Tate and Lyle's Mr Cube used to denounce the evils of socialism from the pages of every daily newspaper—apart from the old *Daily Worker*—has there been such a torrent.

What is it all about? It has precious little to do with the limited proposals for nationalisation with full compensation and

under orthodox capitalist management that the Wilson government is toying with.

There are indeed some differences between Tory-Liberal and Labour on the issue. Take the aircraft industry, or rather the airframe industry since the aero-engine makers, Rolls-Royce, were nationalised by the last Tory government. Airframe manufacture depends on massive state subsidies. That £1000 million white elephant, Concorde, is a most graphic illustration of this.

The £1000 million comes out of public funds. But the British

Aircraft Corporation, which could not survive without state military orders and state hand-outs, is 'private enterprise' and the men who run it naturally want to keep it that way.

Since they and the directors of firms in other industries are the paymasters of the Tory Party, the Tories will help them if they can.

Labour, on the other hand, is not tied to particular groups of capitalists. A Labour government finds it much easier to disregard sectional capitalist interests and to nationalise when the interests

of British capitalism as a whole seem to require it.

Labour leaders nationalised the mines and the railways on this basis. But this is not the main factor behind the present big business campaign.

What the Tories and big business really fear is a wave of demands to nationalise to save jobs as the lay-offs and closures really get underway this winter.

They fear a wave of factory occupations on this basis. They fear that the speeches of Wedgwood Benn and other 'left' ministers are encouraging workers

to demand jobs as of right the nationalisation of firms that impose mass employment. The anti-nationalisation propaganda is intended to counteract any such move.

The Labour government red menace: that is a job demands of workers for take-overs to save jobs: the important and progressive element.

Without having any ill-effects the sort of nationalisation produced the NCB and the Rail, the International Support to the hilt all

The black, black

OMAN A refinery of British terror

NORTHERN Ireland isn't the only place where British troops are hard at work 'defending civilisation.'

For the past ten years, starting under a Labour Government and continuing under this one, soldiers seconded from the British Army, working on contract or disguised as 'advisers' have been in the Gulf state of Oman and Dhofar.

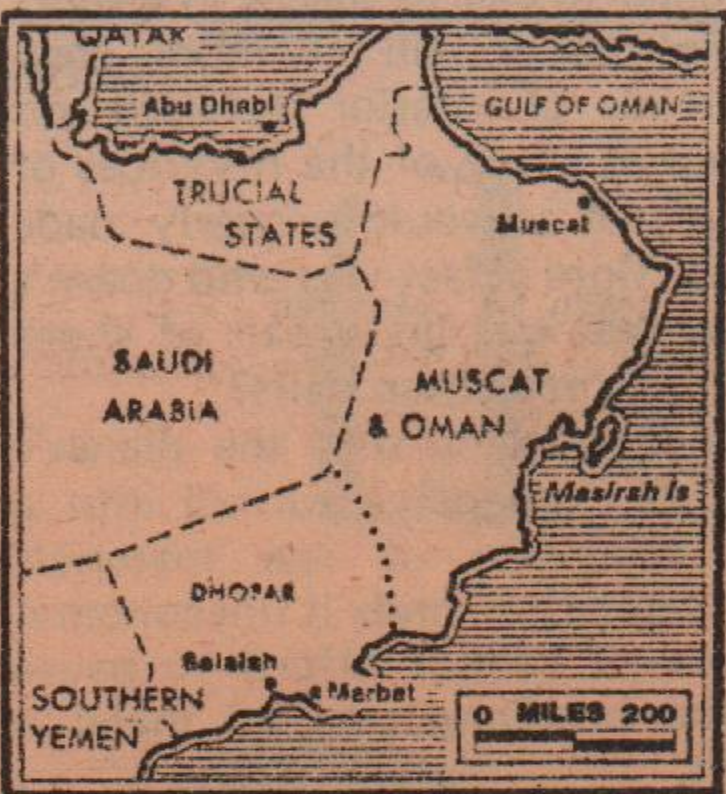
They have been there for a familiar reason—helping a rich tyrant continue his regime.

This regime inflicts remorseless poverty, misery and disease on the population. It also lines the pockets of the tyrant's clique, of the oil companies and of the international arms and construction firms who make his weaponry and build his playthings.

Force

Of course, none of this is new. British businessmen, officials and troops have for a long time been in Dhofar and Oman, a semi-desert about as big as Britain, where the population of less than a million scrape a living from the soil or from the sea.

They came in force last century after those pioneer exploiters, the East India Company, opened their trading routes. And they remain even after Britain withdrew East of Suez and handed over the burden of policing this part of the Middle East to the Shah of Persia.



By LAURIE FLYNN

Last century, Oman was a vital staging post for maintaining British business's control of the seaways. Today's refined version of the same operation finds Oman still crucial for only slightly different reasons.

Oman provides an important strategic base linking the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. But there is one other vital consideration—the black, black oil.

There are deposits in Dhofar and Oman. And British interests in the interior of Oman and Dhofar has increased greatly since they were discovered.

But Oman and the puppet United Arab Emirates next door are important for another reason. The Gulf is at its narrowest at the Point of Oman. One oil tanker

every 12 minutes passes through there.

If the dreaded guerrillas controlled it, they would obtain a tiny piece of the economic power Shell BP or Esso dispose of. Now that, clearly, just could not be allowed.

From 1964 to 1970 British troops helped Sultan Said bin Taimur lord it over the people of Oman and Dhofar. But he was a bit too much of a feudal despot. Britain's rulers, preparing for the East of Suez disengagement, connived against him.

His son Qabus (Arabic for nightmare) was installed. He had been educated at Britain's top military academy, Sandhurst, and better appreciated modern methods.

Tinker

Qabus made a few token changes.

He did not, of course, tinker with the essentials of power—interrogation, torture at will, a ban on any freedom of speech or association and capital punishment for anyone who 'proved' to be a member of the rebel organisation, the Peoples Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf.

But repackaged tyranny is still pretty much the same. The rebels, based in Dhofar, battled on and the war was stepped up.

Much of it has been along the lines developed by the British Army in Aden, since employed in Northern Ireland and presently



Honour among thieves: Edward Heath with Sultan Qabus (Arabic for nightmare)

scheduled for adaptation for use in Britain. It is, in short, the Kitson brand of counter-insurgency warfare.

In Dhofar and Oman, this has involved British soldiers in the usual methods of 'winning' support away from the guerrillas.

Wells, in a country where water is a most precious commodity, have been blown up. Cattle have been slaughtered and crops destroyed. Outside the monsoon season there is an air war in British-made planes flown by British pilots.

Britain's war in Oman has one other distinguishing feature. It has been accompanied by new heights in official lying.

On 4 May 1970, Michael Stewart—then Labour foreign secretary—told the House of Commons in glowing terms of Britain's civilising mission.

'The Sultanate is now receiving oil revenues on a considerable scale. It should be possible to enable all its people to enjoy the rising standard of living which they are entitled to expect. Our policy is orderly progress and development for the welfare of the people in the area.'

His Tory successors refined the deceit. Ian Gilmour, Tory Defence Secretary, said last January that only 123 British servicemen are acknowledged as operating in Oman.

In fact, there are many more

than 123 in operation there. The dreaded Special Air Services are there 'for training under realistic conditions'.

There are also a whole number of other soldiers masquerading as 'advisers'. There are RAF personnel at Sallah and Masirah. And then there are several hundred British mercenaries.

Agents

Indeed, the whole Qabus operation is masterminded by Britain's masters and their agents. Up to 1971 this was openly admitted. Among the nine ministers then in Qabus' cabinet, you would have found the following—Colonel H R D Oldman (Minister of Defence) and Michael Bailey (Minister of Development and Welfare).

Even if the number of British soldiers in Oman was as low as officially admitted, they would still be crucial.

They command and train the Sultan's army. They provide the skilled manpower needed to lay on technically sophisticated deaths. In any case, the number guerrillas is small—probably a thousand at most.

Late last year still more resources were flung into the war. By agreement with Britain, the Shah of Iran moved in troops and paratroops.

British troops remain, of

NO

The drow

OIL SHARES move stock exchange last minister Eric Varley the government's North sea oil. Yet represent a water Labour's opposition concession to the national companies.

Not that Labour plans were as red painted. Labour's pur forward after Commons commit April 1973.

This revealed scandal by which North Sea had been away to the oil. Tory and Labour Tax loopholes were the oil companies being no tax at all on.

Even the Tories some action on the vowed to go further nationalising the

course. Indeed then to believe that government will do put a stop to this war is considerable protest.

For Dhofar and becoming important additional reason. Companies are picking handy share of warment' Qabus is carry.

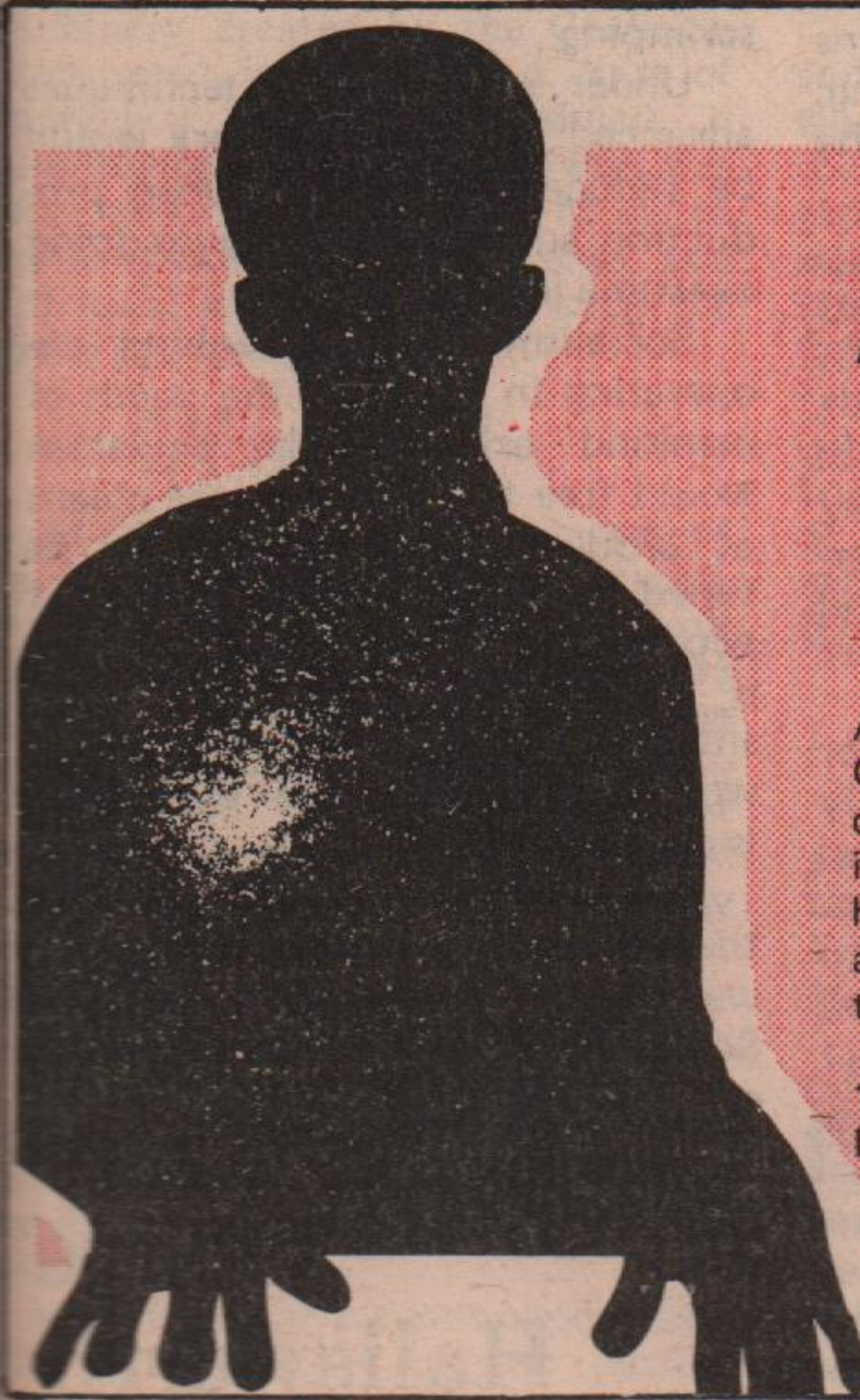
Short Brothers, Aircraft Corporation Marine and Vosper have long had the sewn up.

But now Mor Hambros Bank and Gibbs (merchant bank Chilean Junta) are loans and expertise.

Tarmac Const scooped up the new naval base. Tay is building an £8 town with 400 homes and is to harbour at Raysut.

Wimpey's have to build four luxury incidentally, a £4.5 for the Sultan's artill.

There is more no doubt—more executive homes, any use to the peasants of Oman. They will just go TB, chronic anaemia and British shells and



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.

ING?

ht and private... nationalisation to stop closures and protect jobs. The big business bosses are looking ahead. So must we. The last serious rise in unemployment produced the UCS work-in and a rash of other occupations. This time there will be far bigger lay-offs, far more closures. Nationalisation and no redundancies is the answer. Workers' control is vital to enforce job protection where the state is forced to step in. And why should compensation be paid for the takeover of bankrupt concerns?

Oil NORTH SEA

giant companies n Labour's plans

and ahead on the... week as energy... they announced... new plans for... gain, the plans... ing down of... a talk, and a... e big multi-

our's original... as they were... ans were first... House of... ee report in

the great oil... blocks of the... n almost given... companies by... governments... so broad that... oked like pay-... their profits... had to promise... But Labour... her and also... il companies'

Share

The only obligation to give the government a half share will come in future concessions to drill in blocks of the ocean bed not yet allotted. As no oil has yet been found there, and the companies already have the choice parts, there's nothing to worry about in that. And if necessary, negotiations can be spun out till a Tory government comes back.

Labour's grovelling to the oil giants should come as no surprise after the Price Commission's tender dealings with Shell. The company was found to have made excess profits of £32 million by selling oil at the new, tripled, price which it had bought cheap before the price went up. No action was taken to get the money back, beyond a vague promise to be careful before raising prices in the future.

Excess

Why has Labour given ground on its own modest and respectable proposals? One reason is that the oil sheikhs can afford to be tougher with the oil companies, because they don't have to convince the bankers and ruling classes of the world that they are respectable and 'safe'.

Labour's massive borrowings from the international bankers are based on mortgaging the oil revenues before the oil has even started flowing.

The slightest hint that any oil company may slow down on getting the oil might make these loans dry up. With an economic gale threatening to hit the economy in the autumn, respectability in the eyes of world capital is once again more important than election pledges.

Come the election it's a safe bet that at least one threat to 'the sovereignty of Parliament' won't be denounced by any of the party leaders.

How Fisher-Bendix workers took over—again

Pictures
by Ron
McCormick
International Freelance
Library



THE VOTE: Convenor Jack Spriggs has addressed the mass meeting. Now the 1200 workers—most of whom took part in the 1972 sit-in at Fisher-Bendix—vote to take over its successor, IPD Industrial.



THE SHOWDOWN: Barclays Bank receivers, eager to protect the £2.5 million worth of stock and tools in the Kirkby factory, are ordered to get out.



THE CHEERS: Jubilant workers show the receivers the door.

What
International
Socialists
have written
on
**TRADE
UNIONISM**

THE FIRST SHOP
STEWARDS MOVEMENT,
by Duncan Hallas

THE MINORITY MOVE-
MENT, by Jim Higgins

THE TRADE UNION
BUREAUCRACY TODAY,
by Tony Cliff

TOWARDS A RANK AND
FILE MOVEMENT, by
Andreas Nagliati

Articles in four previous
issues of International
Socialism journal—numbers
45, 48, 65 and 66.

70p for the four, including
postage, from
IS JOURNAL, Corbridge
Works, Corbridge Crescent,
London E2.



DIVIDE AND FOOL

policies protecting, and even discriminating in favour of women, and for additional democratic machinery which will give a voice to rank and file women and enable them to co-ordinate their action nationally.

It was clear that women's demands for such policies and organisations will meet with considerable opposition. Socialists active in the trade union movement will have a special responsibility to win the active support of their fellow

by Jill Lovecy (ASTMS)

workers for our demands.

The trade union movement must recognise that the discrimination we experience as women serves to divide the working class against itself—to the continuing benefit of the employers.

Many unions, like ASTMS are committed to progressive policies voted in at annual conference,

equality of pay, training and job opportunity. But delegates argued that these basic demands weren't enough.

They don't deal with discrimination operating against women coming from their role in the family.

Women workers need a whole programme of related demands. Like paid maternity leave which is not dependent on being married, creches and nurseries at the workplace, and equal pension rights with men. They will have to organise

massive propaganda within the trade union movement on these issues.

Women need new machinery to bring them together as rank and file trade unionists. This is crucial. It will take the collective action of women workers themselves. Only they have a direct and immediate stake in winning these rights, and only their activity will deliver.

The workshop delegates supported this. They voted overwhelmingly to recommend to the union's lay executive committee that women's advisory committees be elected with one delegate from each division.

The proposals were criticised by some male ASTMS members. They saw our demands as a form of separatism, which would split the movement.

Undoubtedly this will be the reaction of many trade unionists. But as the delegate from Ireland, Pat Redlich put it 'In the final analysis discrimination against women is only a special kind of discrimination against the working class because a divided working class can never free itself.'

At the workshop, even when delegates asserted the right of women to organise separately to ensure that our needs are taken into account they did so in terms of the very real benefits our struggle will bring. For example, we fight for *paternity* leave as well as *maternity* leave and for the adult rate of pay at 18 instead of 21 as at present applied to men.

CAMPAIGN

As the South Wales delegate pointed out: 'If equal pay is not to mean equally low pay in the predominantly female labour sectors women workers will have to push for united action by all trade unions against the scandal of low wages and for across the board flat rate increases to prevent a widening of existing differentials.'

But above all women workers are recognising that they will have to fight to democratise their union. Our campaign will be an essential part of building a militant rank and file movement.

For this is at the heart of the issues raised at the ASTMS workshop. Women workers are coming to recognise that only their own collective effort will win their rights. And this means finishing with a system outside and inside the trade union movement which offers positions of extra privilege and power to a minority to act on behalf of others.

All trade unionists should campaign for similar conferences to be held by their union, they should also take up the call of ASTMS number 11 division for trade unionists to hold similar conferences of their members who suffer racial discrimination.

LEGAL SLAVERY

by Chantal Peraire and Veronique Dos WE CAME to England as au pair girls eager to improve our English. An agency asked us a lot of stupid questions and then put us in contact with a family in the North-East.

We signed a contract which is almost as attractive as it is dishonest. The au pair is supposed to help with housework; in reality she has to take it over. She is to help with the children, but ends up looking after them all day.

She is to be treated as a member of the family, who in practice see her as a convenient 'thing' serving their interests. She is supposed to have one day off a week, when she usually ends up having to buy her own food. She is to work only five or six hours a day, but works regular unpaid overtime.

The au pair system is legal and smarter than slavery, but it is much the same.

Elizabeth, a 21-year-old Parisienne, has had to change families three times. From Middlesbrough, she went to Newcastle, where conditions were even worse. She had a tiny room and had to work from 7pm to 2am.

After a week, she phoned the agency and received a most helpful reply. 'You again, what's the matter now?' She left and tried to find another family. The agency does not know where she is now... neither do they care.

We want between £5 and £7 a week, no more than five or six hours' work a day, the same rights as all other students, and the freedom to join political groups.

We want more honest and fair treatment in this society run by sharks without pity for the workers.

NEARLY 100 delegates attended a national women's workshop organised by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staff (ASTMS) in London on 6 July. This was possibly the first time any major union has held a national delegate conference of this kind.

Elected from, and responsible to, divisional meetings of rank and file women trade unionists, this conference had the task of recommending additional policies to defend the interests of women members of ASTMS.

The workshop showed the growing awareness in the trade union movement of the need for special

Me Tarzan, you Jane, they rake the lolly in

'A WOMAN who starts her day on a black coffee and a cigarette is asking for trouble if she marries a man who regularly breakfasts on porridge and kippers—unless she loves her man enough to cook the porridge and the fish.'

This advice, and many other gems like it comes from a booklet called *Marriages Are Made* produced by London Rubber Industries. They're the firm who make Durex contraceptives.

Anyone who marries a man who has porridge and kippers for breakfast needs clothes pegs and an iron will rather than a martyr's desire to serve her master's needs. But this is a handbook that poses as a 'scientific and sensible' guide to contraception and marriage.

And as such it's given out by doctors to people asking for contraceptive advice.

You may think the statements in the pamphlet outrageous, corny or ridiculous, but they're common ideas, and ones that keep going the indignities and inequalities in the relationships between men and women in this system.

And the pamphlet has got lots of respectable allies...

You might have thought contraception is about 'freedom' and 'choice'. The right to decide what you do with your body. But pay attention! This is what the booklet says...

'Furthermore in this age of overpopulation, they not only have the power to make this choice, but it is their Christian duty to exercise this. At the Lambeth Conference of Bishops in 1958 family planning received official religious sanction.'

Problems

Phew! that's a relief isn't it? Yes every London Rubber sheath is blessed.

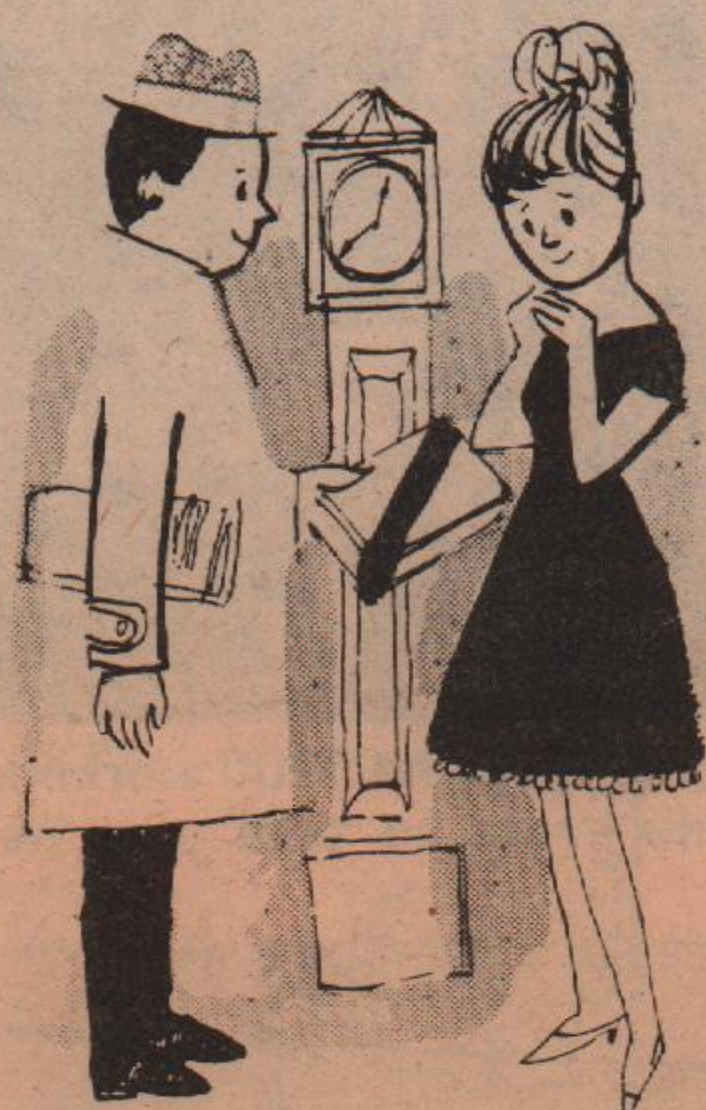
There's the standard diagram of ovaries and the uterus which should be thoroughly illuminating for the untutored reader—aim for the ovaries, straight up, they're at the end.

But the text does offer a little more detail on this subject: 'It is largely accepted that it is just as instinctive for a woman to resist physical union as it is for a man to seek it.'

That could be disconcerting information for all those lassies who like a bit of a frolic of a Saturday night. And there's more to come.

'Women are contrary creatures and not content with the obvious... and even when a man thinks he knows his wife she may surprise him because women are notoriously illogical... she may greet him with passion just when he expected her to be cold.'

Though why this should pose any problems is hard to explain because we are also told that a man will learn: 'Very early on in his marriage that there is an enormous difference



How Durex see women: 'If you are inarticulate, buy her a box of chocolates and get as near her ovaries as possible.'

By ANNA PACZUSKA

between his sexual desire and that of his wife.'

All this drivel stems from the basic assumptions made at the beginning of the pamphlet—that men and women are different and that they must play different roles in the family—which is a god-given institution that never changes. The role of the husband is: 'That of main provider, lover and potential father.'

The role of the wife is: 'Usually a curious blend of mistress, friend and mother.'

It's all a touch of the 'me Tarzan—you Jane' specially lubricated to overcome vaginal dryness, world without end, amen, bit.

These assumptions deny men and women any possibility of control over their own lives.

Men after all are here to rule the world sexually and aggressively.



Sheer Enjoyment

What Manikin think of women: Sheer enjoyment and a packet of five...

Manikin CIGARS

Sheer Enjoyment with Manikin from Britain's leading cigar makers

Women are here to serve and be lubricated. And London Rubber's teat runneth over.

The whole thing is an insult to the women and men it is aimed at. We're not standard products whose sexual and emotional needs conform to geometric laws.

London Rubber tell us that: 'Sexual life is the pivot on which the well-being of the husband and the marriage will resolve.'

That means we must all become obedient consumers of the 'fun without consequences' sheath as they rake the lolly in.

Socialists know that this is just a profiteering perversion of sexual love. Relationships between human beings are not a case of babies versus bed.

They are much more directly determined by the way that employers like London Rubber

(Durex to you) regard the working class as a bunch of idiots that they can feed their glamourised tripe to.

And they are the same class who introduced shift working, speed up, and ask workers to travel many miles to work, resulting in marriage difficulty and sexual misery for millions.

'Marriage is made'?—who are they trying to kid? They exploit us, and they make our marriages. Cosy dreams of sexual bliss thanks to Durex may suit the shareholders, but those shareholders and employers who are the people who determine how human beings relate to each other in capitalism.

Socialists are fighting to build a society where people's roles aren't determined by sex. Socialism will allow us, and not the London Rubber Company, to decide what kind of people we want to be.



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.)

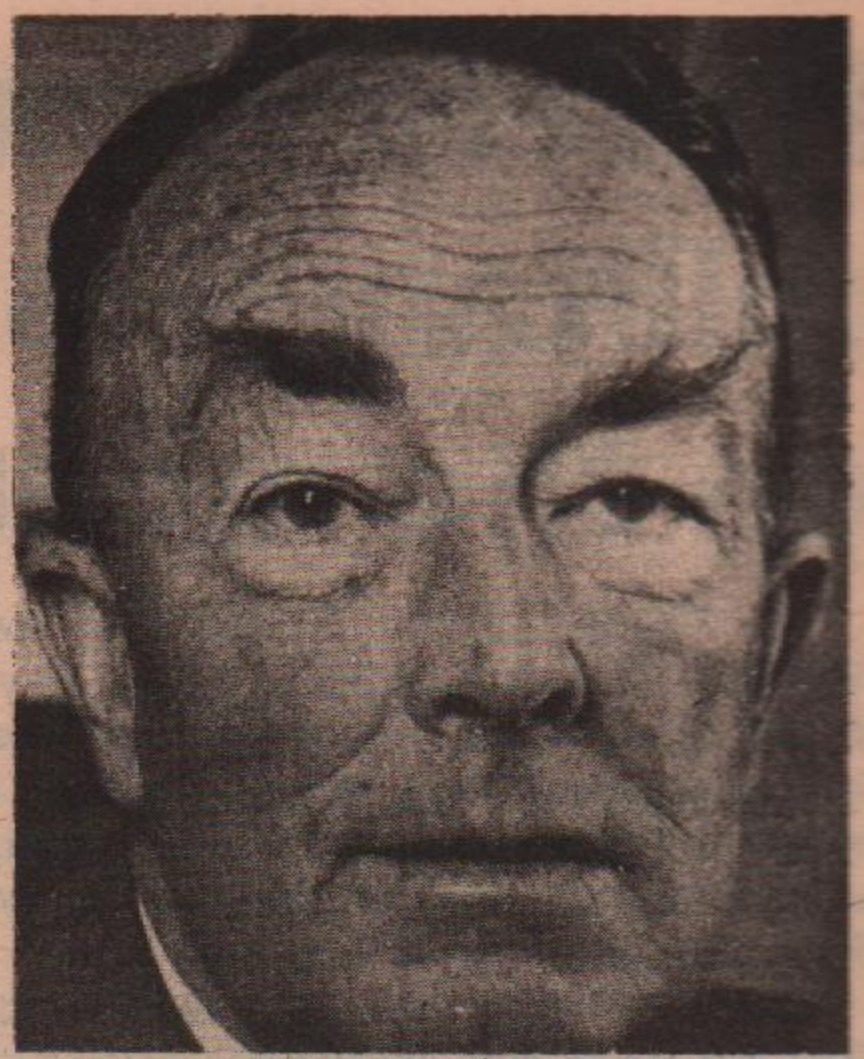
WHITE-COLLAR: Saturday-Monday 3-5 August
(Special sessions: The Emergence of White-Collar Trade Unionism, The Role of White-collar workers in the Revolutionary Party)

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.

It's not only Granada who've got us under their spell...



LORD SHAWCROSS, Chairman of the Panel of Takeovers and Mergers, a subject he should know about. He sits on the Board of EMI, is a Director of Times Newspapers and Chairman of Thames TV. His buddies on the EMI Board also believe in keeping up their cultural links. Sir Joseph Lockwood also sits on the boards of Hawker-Siddeley, Smiths Industries and Beechams. Bernard Delfont links EMI with Associated British Cinemas, Trust House Forte and the Grade Organisation.

ONCE IN a while the Labour Party gets worried that there is not enough culture about, that Robin Day is being rude to Harold Wilson again and that, with nine national and 15 evening papers having closed in the last 20 years, there will very soon be no newspapers left to issue press denials to.

So they set up an inquiry made up of leftist academics, MPs and journalists who draft a 'discussion document for the movement'. These documents are usually a mixture of highminded platitudes and bright little ideas. Nobody discusses it, it gets submitted to a Royal Commission and everybody forgets all about it.

Meanwhile a few more newspapers close, a few more cinemas get knocked down for car parks, and a few more leftwing newspapers are taken to court.

Last week the Labour Party published *The People and the Media*. It is the usual hotchpotch. It contains some good ideas like the scrapping of the Official Secrets Act, the relaxation of the contempt laws and a new Freedom of Information Act which would at least remove the excuses used for the extreme journalistic cowardice of Fleet Street.

Hand-outs

It has some harebrained schemes like the plan to merge BBC and the commercial stations into one giant public broadcasting commission. It contains some schemes for democracy on the cheap, like the idea that papers for pensioners and trade unionists could be subsidised from a central fund financed by advertising.

Pensioners' and industrial militants anxious to launch new independent organs of struggle financed by hand-outs from big business should start queuing now.

As for workers in films and newspapers who are quite literally watching their jobs fold up before their eyes and who are starting to campaign for effective nationalisation under trade union control, the Labour Party's advice is 'Wait for a Royal Commission.'

The most interesting part of the pamphlet is its appendix. Here at last are the facts and figures about who owns and controls the media.

'Culture' is not some kind of fragrant, improving smell coming from the arms of men of taste and culture, it's very big business, run in exactly the same way as General Motors or I.T.T.

EMI's Chief Executive puts in bluntly 'I firmly believe that running a business in the leisure industry is basically no different from running any other'. EMI started in 1898 making gramophones, now it employs 46,000 people in 32 countries and declared a pre-tax profit of £27,272,000 in 1973.

EMI is a major force in records and tapes, sharing the bulk of the LP market with Decca and owning Music for Pleasure which takes about 40 per cent of the budget LP trade. They acquired the Associated British Picture Corporation and Anglo Amalgamated in the Labour Party's late 1960s merger boom.

Golden Egg

This gave them control over one in four of all cinema seats in Britain. They have a controlling interest in Thames TV, they have factories producing commercial and military electronics as well as domestic appliances.

They own Elstree Studios, the New London Theatre, the Selfridge Hotel, the Empire Leicester Square, Mecca dance halls and Swindon cable TV.

Their empire stretches from music publishing to the Golden Egg restaurants.

Rank-Xerox is another cultural corporation that has successfully devoured everything from holiday camps to stereo sets. They employ 30,500 workers and had a pre-tax profit of £139 million in 1973. The core of their operation is their monopoly on

A GROAN BY ANY OTHER NAME

SOMEWHERE in Tellyland there is a man who is paid to do nothing but look through telephone directories. His job is to look for names that sound good, and if they sound good enough they use them as titles for TV detective series. Banacek, Colombo, Ironside, Cannon, McCloud, MacMillan and Wife, to name but one.

Get a name and you've got a series. Or is it that they've already got the series and just need a name?

In any case, whatever the name, each episode is virtually the same and the characters are interchangeable. Occasionally they are ingenious and entertaining, but that does not mean that critical judgement should be suspended.

The time to be most on your guard is when you find yourself

being lulled in front of the telly and the glossy, superficial characters who are the TV coppers are specifically designed so that the viewer does not respond with anything apart from approval.

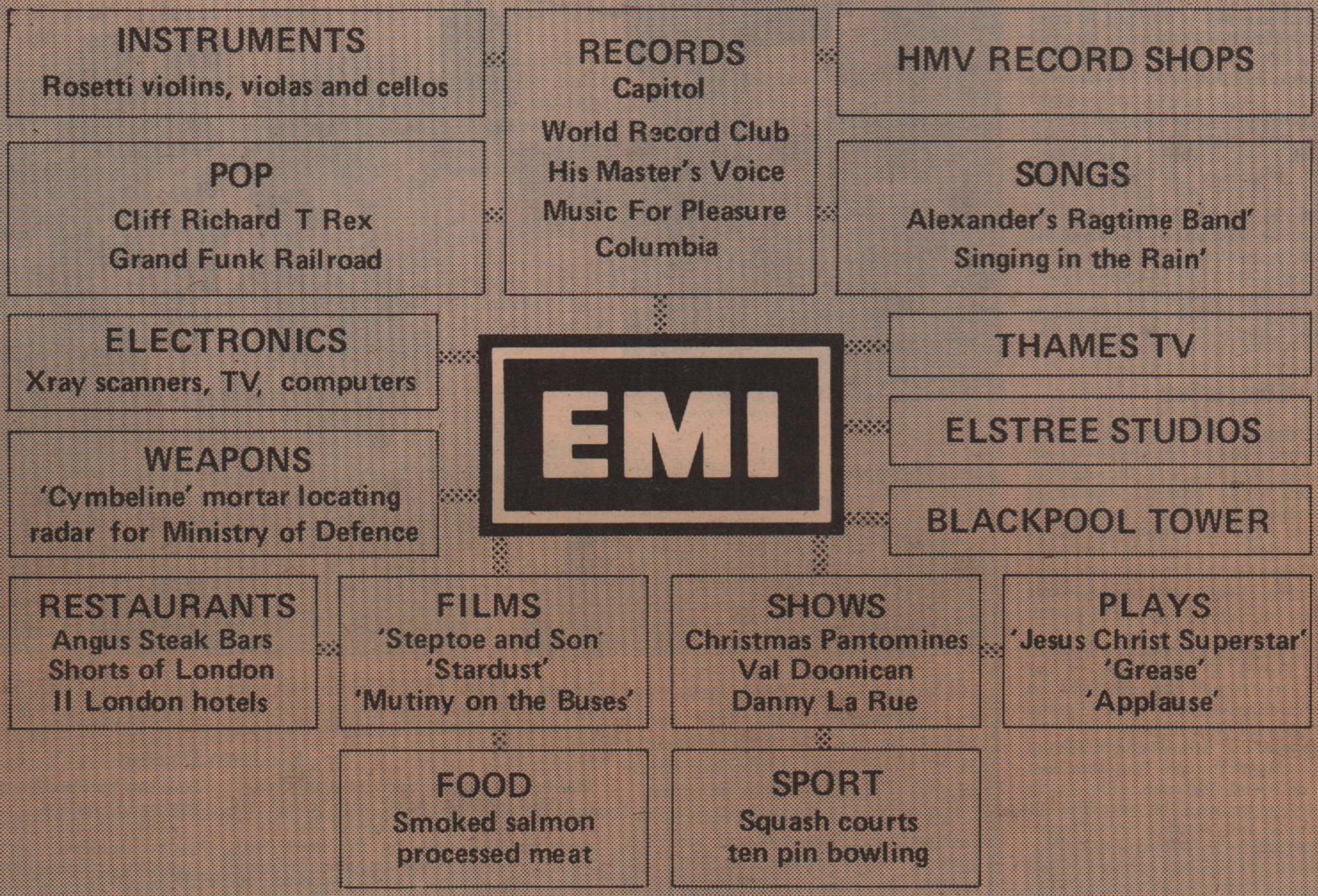
CRIME

In all of these stereo-typed, made-for-TV movies we are presented with the same set of assumptions and values. Namely that these agents of law enforcement, self-employed or state-employed, are glamorous people (glamorous meaning worthy of envy) who are the sole bulwark against a rising tide of crime which threatens our lives, property and

civilisation itself. Other things they have in common are their infallibility, their incorruptability and their 100 per cent efficiency.

The real-life police aren't like that at all. Private detectives are rather unpleasant, seedy people who spend most of their time hanging around cheap hotels. CID men are not infrequently arrogant, bigoted racists whose ideas on justice do not extend beyond simple savage retribution: they are not above using unscrupulous methods to boost the low percentage of crimes that can be marked 'cleared up'—not solved, mark you—on their books.

If the real extent of corruption



By DAVID WIDGERY

Xerox photostat equipment. But they also control Butlins, TV and radio set manufacture, Leak Wharfedale stereo, motorway hotels and restaurants, Top Rank dancing and bingo and most of Southern TV. The Thomson Organisation produce The Times newspaper as a side-line. Increasingly their profits come from their control over package holidays, property, specialist magazines and trade exhibitions. Granada depend on their TV rental service, their profitable TV company plus bingo and motorway snacks. Did you know that the fiercely competing paperback imprints Mayflower, Panther and Paladin on your station newstand are all in fact owned by Granada? They also own most of Cape, Chatto and Windus, and Hart Davis MacGibbon publications. As the Labour Party pamphlet blandly puts it:

'A few corporations dominate the national, regional and local press and magazine market, and they have extended their influence into other media, with a significant share of commercial television and now radio.'

The top five companies literally dictate the terms of our leisure, controlling 86 per cent of the morning papers, 88 per cent of the Sunday papers, 86 per cent of all paperbacks, 79 per cent of cinema seats, 69 per cent of long playing records.

If you have ever wondered why your motorway sandwich, your summer holiday, your evening TV programmes and your night out at the pictures all have a mysteriously similar plastic sensation, try asking Sir Joseph Lockwood, Chairman of EMI (annual salary £30,000).

But don't bother to ask the Labour Party. The one thing John Grant MP showed any energy about at the press conference launching *The People and The Media* was his speed at denying that the Labour Party would do anything about nationalising or interfering with the real controllers of our culture at all.

ON THE BOX

■ **SATURDAY:** BBC-2, 8.45pm. H G Wells' novel *LOVE AND MR LEWISHAM* begins serialisation. John Osborne changed from 1956's angry, mildly left, critic of Britain, to an angry right-wing cynic. Half way comes *INADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE*, which is on, in the film version, in the London area ITV at 11pm.

■ **SUNDAY:** ITV (London area) 11.20pm. The Campaign for Homosexual Equality is featured in *SPEAK FOR YOURSELF*.

■ **MONDAY:** ITV, 8pm. *WHICKERS WORLD* returns with RIO. Alan (would you buy a used TV programme from this man?) Whicker looks at Brazil and might get round to mentioning it is one of the most vicious military dictatorships in the world. On BBC-1 at 10pm is *HOW TO IMPEACH A PRESIDENT*, which re-enacts the last US presidential impeachment in 1868.

■ **TUESDAY:** ITV, 11pm. LE PRIX DE LEEDS, is about a mythical Leeds International Festival of Television, and should be good. It is preceded by *GOSLINGS TRAVELS*, looking at the army town of Aldershot, at 10.30pm. *TOWARDS JERUSALEM* on BBC-2 at 7.35pm is on the impact of the Industrial Revolution on Britain.

■ **WEDNESDAY:** BBC-2, 9pm. *THE LONELINESS OF THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER*, about how and why a Borstal boy says sod off to the Borstal governor, with Tom Courtenay, should be seen.

John Prance reviews Television

and incompetence in the CID was public knowledge then perhaps the police force as an organisation would not survive in its present form.

However, when the occasional scandal does get to see the light of day and the public feels twinges of unease about our wonderful policemen then there is always the reassuring TV image of the steadfast, stainless copper in the background.

DRIP

Every time you switch on he's there, and no matter how incredible the situation or implausible the story the constant drip-drip of each endless series provides the myth that supports the illusion that there's really nothing to worry about. It is this illusion that TV exists to maintain.

Hotels: Now militancy is on the menu

by George Lambor, GMWU shop steward
WHEN I started working in hotels 20 years ago, I was paid £2.50 for an 84-hour week, living in. Accommodation was the corner of a furniture store. When I went to the cinema in my own time, but on a day that wasn't my day off, I got the sack.

The 1954 Catering Act changed that, but the bad old days still colour the attitudes of half the hotel workers.

Today the 600,000 workers in hotels are a happy hunting ground for member-hungry unions. Six have recruited 82,000 workers—and have split us almost as thoroughly as the bosses. Time and again we find hotel workers in the same town are in different unions without knowing of each other's existence. Workers in the same company, doing the same work but in different parts of the country, are in different unions.

Co-ordination between unions is a dirty word. Contact between members of the same union in different regions can be made only under threat of expulsion.

The hotel industry is difficult to organise, anyway. Half the workers are seasonal or part-time—they make useful scabs. Few hotels outside London have as many as 100 workers.

Many profitable restaurants and boarding houses have fewer than 12 workers, and often they are part of a massive combine such as Wimpy or Trust Houses Forte.

Many hotel workers, after years of hob-nobbing as servants to the capitalist class, feel they are above trade unions.

In the past two years the unions have pushed hard for new members, with encouraging results—though in many hotels unions have found a toe-hold only to lose it.

Disputes

The International Workers Branch of the Transport Workers Union has set up some strong branches and the fighting Turks of the Wimpy Bars are now strong enough to support other hotel workers.

But with a few exceptions the unions have done little in return. There have been few disputes. The latest ones with Trust Houses Forte are management manoeuvres to stop the growth of the unions.

These disputes are important because they have shown up the failure of the unions to understand the problems of hotel and catering workers. They're going to have to do a lot of re-thinking.

The news-sheet *Hotel and Catering Worker*, produced for the first time last week by rank and file trade unionists in the industry, is proving the only link for shop stewards and activists in different parts of the country.

As a result, 17 activists met in London recently and set up a Hotel and Catering Workers Joint Trade Union Committee. They are now working towards a national conference of activists in the industry.

The committee has taken on responsibility for the news-sheet and for joint action in support of the victimised Trust House Forte workers at Ipswich and Cardiff.

Copies of *Hotel and Catering Worker* news-sheet from 345 Hangleton Road, Hove, Sussex, price 2p each plus postage.

THE UNIONS

Why does this man need convincing?



MANY people still think Jack Jones is a militant left wing trade union leader. He has built up a reputation as a consistent conference campaigner on issues such as pensions.

He demonstrates his power by casting 1 3/4 million votes at the TUC against entry into the EEC. In reality, he is neither consistent nor a campaigner.

Pensioners are now worse off than ever. Yet Jack is silent, presumably for fear of embarrassing the Labour government. When the situation calls for something more positive than fine speeches, Jack is nowhere to be seen.

One of the leading verbal critics of the Industrial Relations Bill, his opposition

has been tempered since it became law. The indecent haste with which the TGWU rushed to recognise the NIRC was matched only by the speed with which they hastened to pay subsequent fines. This grovelling before the NIRC by one of the giant 'left' wing unions lent credibility to the Act.

One of the worst aspects of the Act was the burden it placed on individual lorry-drivers confronted with a picket line.

One statement from Jack Jones instructing TGWU lorry drivers to honour picket lines would have achieved more than any conference rhetoric. But 'left'

registered ports and wharves. Jones, trying to re-assert official control, served an official 28 days' notice of a national dock strike. Press reports of 'encouraging' talks between union officials and employers were enough for Jones to postpone the strike and issue an unsuccessful call to lift the blacking. On 18 June, Jones postponed the strike a further six weeks. Stewards were outraged. As Walter Cunningham from Hull put it: 'It is absolutely diabolical, we have to get rid of Jones and O'Leary. All the major ports voted for a stoppage.'

by John Deason

Jack was apparently unwilling to oppose the law in practice.

When another law was used against trade unionists, including his own members, at Shrewsbury, he did nothing.

Many trade unionists believe, mistakenly, that Ford workers are well paid. Ford's were the first carworkers to be forced onto Measured Day Working and are consequently the poor relations of the car industry. At present workers in the lowest of the five grades get £33 for 40 hours and those in the top grade get the enormous sum of £39.40.

In 1971, a growing determination to improve wages led to a strike for parity. The initiative came from the rank and file. By early February, workers throughout the combine were involved and 44,000 were on strike.

Jack Jones, Hugh Scanlon, president of the AUEW, and Leonard Woodcock, president of the American United Auto-workers, visited Prime Minister Heath and took part in secret talks on 29 March with Stanley Gillen, chairman of Ford Europe, and a Ford industrial relations 'expert'.

No-strike

Shop stewards, convenors and full-time union officials involved in the dispute were excluded. This negotiating body produced the notorious two-year deal with a no-strike clause.

At the same time, the press began to talk of splits in the strike. On 31 March, at a secret meeting of convenors, Jones and Scanlon recommended acceptance of the proposed deal, an immediate return to work and a secret ballot.

The ballot was forced through despite opposition from Dagenham, Halewood and Woolwich.

The ballot was successful in confusing and demoralising the strike. About half the workforce voted and gave an overall majority for acceptance of the deal. Halewood and Swansea plants stayed out on their own. But by mid-week the return to work was complete.

The aftermath of the 'secret' dealing by Jones and Scanlon was speed-up, clamp-down on the activity of shop stewards and a vicious tightening of discipline.

Jones played a similar role in wrecking rank and file unity and confidence during the docks dispute in 1972. Dockers in most major ports took part in the shop stewards' blacking campaign against un-

registered ports and wharves. Jones, trying to re-assert official control, served an official 28 days' notice of a national dock strike.

Press reports of 'encouraging' talks between union officials and employers were enough for Jones to postpone the strike and issue an unsuccessful call to lift the blacking. On 18 June, Jones postponed the strike a further six weeks. Stewards were outraged. As Walter Cunningham from Hull put it: 'It is absolutely diabolical, we have to get rid of Jones and O'Leary. All the major ports voted for a stoppage.'

Massive

The NIRC was threatening to jail the shop stewards. Rank and file dockers countered with an all-out one day strike. Meanwhile, left-wing Jack was drawing up the Jones/Aldington agreement for rationalising and containerising dockland.

This Jones/Aldington commission was naked class collaboration to devise ways of making dockers redundant—painlessly. Then five dockers were jailed.

Strikes by dockers and massive solidarity action got them freed. Jones' role was to be party to the TUC call for a one-day national strike the day it was all over.

From the beginning of the dispute, Jones saw himself as a conciliator, an 'arbiter of reason'. Instead of fighting for his members' jobs, he co-operated with Lord Aldington to get the report of the commission accepted.

The hypocrisy of trade union leaders such as Jones, who parades left-wing policies at conference but sells out rank and file workers in struggle, is only bettered by his talent for latching on to issues over which he can appear very left-wing.

At the moment Jones is against the Common Market. His opportunism on the issue is indicated by the disgusting recent spectacle of him sharing a platform on the issue with Enoch Powell.

Jack Jones is in the job for life. His left-wing reputation comes in handy and yet is belied by his actions. Rank and file militancy is an embarrassment to him.

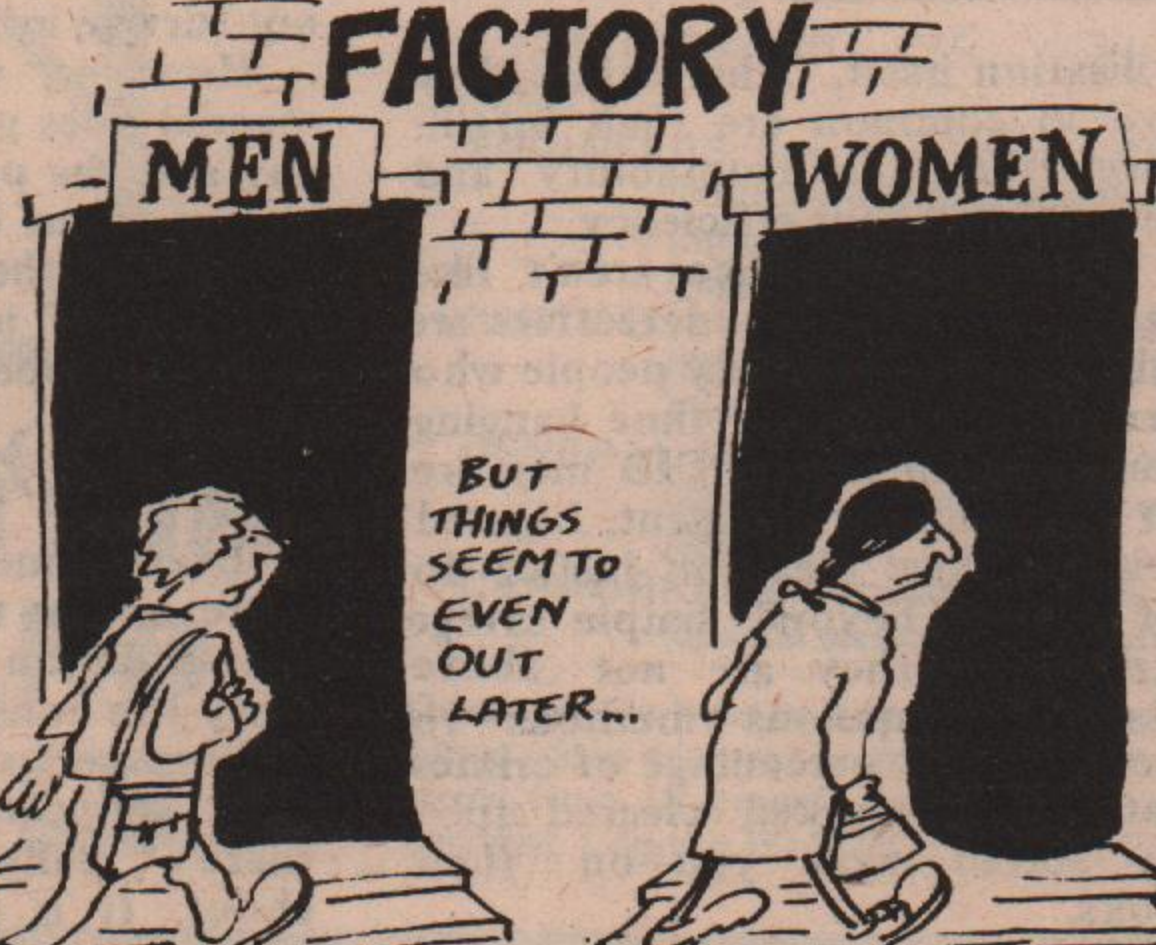
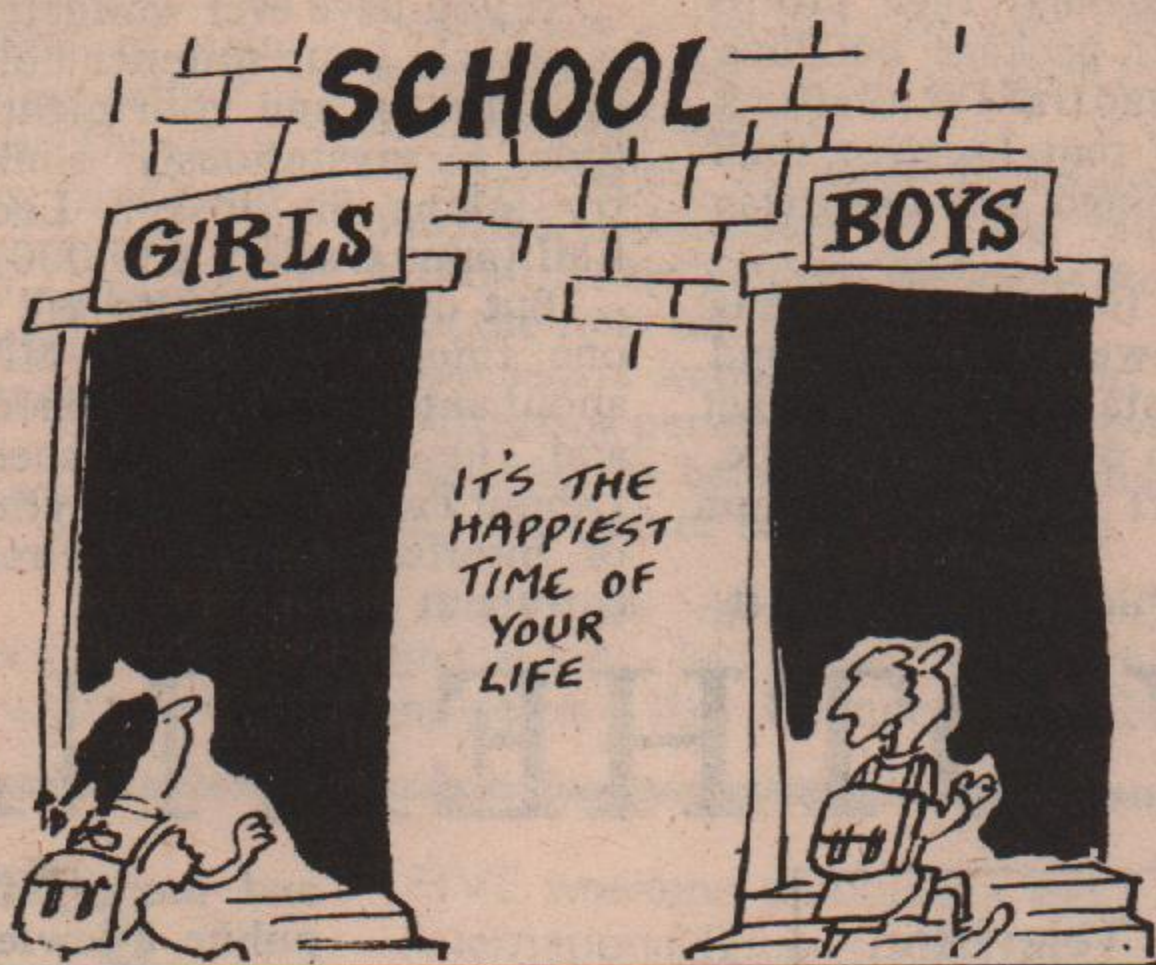
These are precisely the qualities of an elitist who intends to do things (gradually) on behalf of the rest of us, if he intends them to be done at all.

Above all he believes in being reasonable, and doing things through the proper channels. So much so that even if nothing is being achieved at least the sanctity of the channels is preserved intact.

OUR NORMAN



FOR SOME REASON I DIDN'T LEARN MUCH AT SCHOOL - I MUST HAVE BEEN UNINTELLIGENT





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

TEESSIDE IS public meeting: The World Struggle for Socialism. Speakers include Nigel Harris (recently returned from Portugal) and a Chilean refugee. Thursday 25 July, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Borough Road, Middlesbrough.

HARROW IS public meeting: Crisis in London—public services speak out. Speakers: Pete Glatter (London bus-worker), Nigel Currie (London teacher) and a local hospital worker. Thursday 25 July, 8pm, Victoria Hall, Sheepcote Road, Harrow (opposite Granada Cinema).

BARNET IS public meeting: The Police—the long arm of the ruling class. Wednesday 31 July, 8pm, Bull and Butcher pub, High Road, Whetstone, tube). All welcome.

KINGSTON IS public meeting: Solidarity with the workers of Chile. Film and speakers on the Chilean struggle. Thursday 25 July, 8pm, Castle Pub, Fairfield, Kingston.

GLOSSOP AND HYDE IS public meeting: Are we getting the Health Service we deserve? Speaker Judith Jones (secretary, Manchester Nurses' Action Group). Sunday 21 July, 8pm, Labour Club, Chapel Street, Glossop.

BRIXTON IS Day School for black workers (for IS members and black people close to IS): Sessions on black workers in the unions, the police, the law and black workers. Saturday 20 July, 1.45pm-6pm. Social at 8pm, 1 Gresham Road, Brixton, London, SW2. For more information phone 01-767 0796.

TWICKENHAM IS public meeting: Ireland. Speaker Carole Bourne. Thursday 25 July, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road.

Meetings for IS members

AUEW-TASS IS fraction: Northern Day School. Saturday 27 July, 11am, Newcastle Polytechnic Union (off Sandford Road, opposite Civic Centre). Important that all Northern IS members of TASS attend.

BIRMINGHAM District IS meeting for members only: pre-conference discussion on industrial perspectives introduced by Ken Appleby (member of the national committee). Sunday 4 August, 2pm-5pm, Lecture room 2 Digbeth Civic Hall. All members must attend.

NORTH LONDON District IS half-day school (for geographical branches): Sunday 21 July, 2.30-6.30pm, The Nightingale (small hall at side), High Street, Wood Green, London, N22. Sessions on IS perspectives and organisation (Speaker: Mike Caffoor), Selling *Socialist Worker* and making contact within factories (speaker: Pat O'Keefe) and group discussion.

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 notices

IS MEMBER urgently seeks furnished room in North West or North London. Ring Penny at 01-959 5671 (evenings).

WANTED: One copy of Russia: A Marxist Analysis, by Tony Cliff. Price paid subject to negotiation. Phone 01-254 7761 after 6pm.

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.

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 as important as experience of the working-class movement. Lack of qualifications should not deter applicants. Job will entail living in or within commuting distance of London. Apply in writing—giving experience and reasons why you want the job and sending examples of anything you may have written. Applications by 31 July to Editorial Board, *Socialist Worker*, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

TWELVE weeks outside the gates with management and union against you is no easy life. Life has been hard for 500 Asian strikers at Imperial Typewriters in Leicester. Though negotiations look like bringing some sort of settlement, their problems are by no means over.

'When I joined the factory,' said one woman striker, 'I never knew what a union was, nor a shop steward. Now we want to select our own shop stewards. We have so many grievances and the foreman never listens.'

Low wages, racial discrimination and continual cheating over a bonus scheme proved too much for 500 Asian workers at the factory and in a spontaneous outburst of rage they determined to organise themselves against their ruthless penny-pinching management.

Forty strikers, led by 27 women, came out demanding £500 they had been swindled of under a bonus scheme. They were soon followed by hundreds of other Asians who struck with a host of complaints against both management and the union.

Until then all shop stewards had been white and normally appointed by Reg Weaver, who has been Transport Workers Union convenor for 22 years. He supports the management sacking of 270 of the strikers and has even threatened a strike by some of the white workers if the strike leaders are allowed to return to work.

Station

George Bromley, TGWU district secretary, is a principled and long standing trade unionist. He too vehemently attacks the strike and supports the management. He complains that there had never been any trouble until 'this lot' arrived with ideas above their station.

So the Asians never knew when meetings or elections were. Many had difficulty distinguishing the union from management and so they wanted their own representatives. Weaver wasn't having that. He brushed the cobwebs off what is generally considered an obsolete rule and refused to accept the stewards

Asbestos action committee formed

SCOTLAND:-50 people braved pouring rain to come to a meeting on Asbestosis organised by Socialist Worker in Livingston New Town last Wednesday. The speakers were John Todd, a sufferer from the disease, and Jim Heggie. Both are members of the 7/162 branch of the Transport Workers Union.

The meeting had been called as a result of revelations in *Socialist Worker* about the health risks at the factory of Gleno Asbestos in Livingston. John Todd pointed out the extreme dangers of asbestos and it was clear that Socialist Worker's aim in exposing conditions at the factory were not to have it closed down and put 130 men out of work.

If this were to happen, the company would simply get another government grant to start up somewhere else and poison more people before they were found out again. The only lasting solution was for residents and Gleno workers to fight together to make the factory safe—for a week, with the workers on full pay—while the place was cleaned up.

Jim Heggie said one steward had denounced him and John Todd as a 'bunch of communists': if fighting for workers' rights and exposing the dangers of asbestos made you a communist, he was proud to be one. He exposed the uselessness of the factory inspectorate. The best factory inspector there can be is the worker on the shop floor—first he must have the knowledge of the dangers, then he must have the organisation to enforce safety, said Jim.

Several local residents complained of the dust blowing from the factory,

Black workers betrayed again ...and again ...

as they had not been in the factory for two years.

In racist Leicester it is not easy for Asians to get strikes made official. So the strikers by-passed the local union leaders and took a fleet of buses to Transport House in London. Jack Jones was embarrassed at the publicity and offered an internal union inquiry—but said nothing about making the strike official.

Still the 500 stayed out, determined but unpaid by the union and unable to get social security. They are demanding a new wages system where they are not cheated over the bonus and underpaid, equal opportunities with white workers and no discrimination. They are determined that there will be no victimisations.

Imperial Typewriters is not the first strike where black workers have seen the need for union organisation and where union officials have hardly lifted a finger.

The recent strike at Art Castings in Nuneaton was made official by the TGWU but only after many weeks, and the union did nothing to make the strike effective. Workers at Chrysler and Alvis in Coventry blacked the factory's products but this was the work of the factory leadership, not the local officials.

Nor did union support prevent blatant strike-breaking. Newly-recruited blacklegs were allowed to vote at vital meetings on whether the strike should continue.

The story was the same at Punfield and Barstow, North West London. The Engineers Union steward for the white women in the finishing shop crossed the picket

line. The local AUEW district committee didn't lift a finger.

To stop blackleg production, the strikers took over the factory. Around an occupation, rank and file militants can replace the failure of the trade union leaders. Blacking can be organised, money raised for the strike fund, solidarity action campaigned for and agitation organised to get the union officials to move.

Sadly, the Punfield and Barstow workers allowed this valuable weapon to be snatched away. After a fortnight they went home to see their families and the management swooped in to lock the plant.

Bitter

At Perivale Gutermann, West London, the managing director had laid plans six months beforehand for mass sackings to get rid of 16 key militants. Management had stockpiled thread in and successfully challenged the right of sacked strikers to receive unemployment benefit.

The response of the union was passive at best, obstructive at worst. The TGWU delayed recognition for many weeks and through ten bitter weeks, while pickets paced the gates, there was no blacking of Gutermann goods.

In the end the local officials, despite the ban on recognising the Industrial Relations Court, urged the strikers to go to its tribunal. In effect, the officials urged the workers to trade their power to stop production for a fight in the courts where management is strongest. Underestimating the ruthlessness of

management meant a legal case which was predictably dismissed on trivial technical grounds.

All these strikes by black workers have been criminally betrayed by the unions and the inexperience of the strikers has been unable to make up for this betrayal. But the leading militants have learned a great deal. At Perivale Gutermann, the convenor stressed this: 'We are upholding the banner of working-class rights. If this management can break the union here, the precedent will be used in many other places.'

These strikes are not just about money but about workers' rights to organise themselves, whatever their race.

But above all, these strikes show the need for an organisation of rank and file trade unionists which can take up the issue of racialism with speed and effect. Only this massive support in the trade union movement can avoid the gruelling war of attrition that happens when help doesn't arrive.



The International Socialists have called on all their members to organise support for the Imperial Typewriters strikers as a matter of urgency by:

Drafting resolutions for union branches condemning the racism of the Leicester union officials, demanding the strike be made official, that black workers be entitled to nominate shop stewards—even where they have been in the union less than two years, demanding a full inquiry into the position of black workers in the TGWU and that union meetings and publications are, where necessary, bilingual.

Sending messages of support and donations to the strike committee and asking its members to speak at shop stewards' committees, union branches and trades councils. Write to 24 Garfield Street, Leicester (phone 0533 537159).

Approaching shop stewards' committees at other Litton Industries factories and picketing salesrooms where Imperial Typewriters' goods are sold and approaching Asian organisations for joint meetings about the strike. The national campaign is being co-ordinated by the Imperial Typewriters National Solidarity Committee, c/o Race Today, 184 Kings Cross Road, London WC1.

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.

SOUTH LONDON Troops Out Movement public meeting: Ireland—Troops out now! Speakers: Gery Lawless and Anthea Jones. Thursday 25 July, 8pm, Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Walk, Brixton (behind the Astoria, two minutes from Brixton tube).

PORTSMOUTH Chile Solidarity Campaign demonstration against the presence of a warship for Chile in Portsmouth dockyard. Saturday 27 July, 2.30pm, assemble outside St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Portsmouth.

BETHNAL GREEN public meeting: Film show and discussion on educationally subnormal and other special schools and how they affect black kids in particular. Monday 22 June, 8pm, St John's Church Hall, Roman Road. Parents, teachers welcome.

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).

WORKER COOPERATIVE: Young expanding housing association working as cooperative under worker and tenant controlled architect/building surveyor for conversions and new work: flexible hours: £2340 (under review). Write to Southwark and Lewisham Group, Solon Housing Association Ltd, 381 Clapham Road, London, SW9 8BT

GKN WORKER, paper of rank and file trade unionists in GKN combine, will be appearing at the beginning of August. Any news, information, to GKN Worker, 165 Tame Road, Wiltton, Birmingham.

The Editorial Collective of RED RAG was not invited to a meeting of the B&ICO on Monday 15 July, held at the Conway Hall, and did not attend. Red Rag has no connection with the B&ICO.

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.



NEWS

especially the sawing shed. One woman had to dust her furniture three times a day and woke up in the night with burning sensations in her throat.

An apprentice at another local factory told the meeting that when he was 11 years old he had been up at Gleno playing in some boxes of dust. The following day he had come out in a rash all over.

Messed

Other workers backed up the allegations that have been made by *Socialist Worker*, but one shop steward, Robert Sinclair, who made the original 'bunch of communists' allegation to the Livingston Post attempted to defend the actions of the management. He described Gleno as a 'happy and safe factory'.

He said that sometimes 'lazy and apathetic' workers did dump unsealed asbestos bags on the tip. The contents of the tip were removed every 9-10 days on an open lorry.

As a parting shot he said he had been 'just about to do something' about conditions in the factory when *Socialist Worker* had jumped in and messed things up.

Two Labour councillors were pre-

sent and are raising the question of the health risks at Gleno on the district council and pressing for an 'inquiry'. Councillor John Hoey said that he had been 'meaning to do something about Gleno for six years'—a glowing example of the dynamic attitude of the Labour party to industrial safety.

The meeting closed with the formation of an action committee to co-ordinate a campaign to get Gleno cleared up. Some of the Gleno shop stewards, including the convenor, have agreed to join this committee.

After the meeting, in the pub, the apprentice who had played on the Gleno tip as a child was talking to John Todd. It turned out that in his factory, a soap works owned by BP, he was being made to remove asbestos lagging from pipes—without protective clothing or any instructions in the dangers involved. No one working for a capitalist employer is safe.

DATE FOR ENGINEERS

ENGINEERING workers from Bradford and Sheffield are among those who have applied to attend the coming IS Industrial Training School for engineering workers in London on the weekend 27-29 July. Speakers include Larry Connolly, AUEW convenor at Lucas, Birmingham, Jimmy McCallum, a leading Glasgow militant who will speak on incomes policy, and Steve Jefferys on the history of the struggle in engineering. A social has been arranged with the singer Alex Glasgow.

It is still not too late to apply. IS members can apply to the Industrial Department 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

Watching we don't disturb the profit

by members of the IS factory branch,
Pirellis, Burton-on-Trent

'WE KNOW this is a democracy, we're not concerned about your politics, but we're here to prevent a breach of the peace.'

These words were spoken to Bill Buxton in his own kitchen by Detective Constable Walklate of Burton-on-Trent CID. The detective and his mate were there to see that Bill did not disturb the peaceful profit-making of the shareholders of Pirelli, the tyre manufacturers.

Bill was for many years a member of the Burton branch of the Construction Engineering Union and held the posts of chairman and secretary. After a building site accident he went into local government and is now a member of the local executive of the government officers union NALGO.

He is also chairman of Burton International Socialists and his address was put on a Socialist Worker bulletin handed to workers in the giant Pirelli plant last week. The bulletin, written by members of IS who work inside Pirelli, compared—very unfavourably—the wages and working conditions at Pirelli with those elsewhere in the rubber industry. Bill's address was there as a contact to shield the authors of the bulletin from victimisation inside the factory.

Claimed

Wisely, it seems. For on Saturday the police paid Bill a visit.

They told him they had a complaint, no more bulletins were to be distributed, or Bill would 'come up against' the CID. They mentioned no charges and refused to reveal the nature of the complaint or its source.

The police implied that persons unknown would become so incensed at the contents of the bulletin as to try to 'hang one' of the people distributing the bulletin outside the gate, or to 'smash up' their cars.

Although he claimed to wish to prevent a breach of the peace, Constable Walklate told Bill Buxton: 'If someone chucks a brick through your front window, don't come running to us'.

And although the police claimed to have no concern with Bill's politics, it is a fact that, at every meeting of IS in Burton since the formation of the branch in April, two suspicious characters have been seen hanging around, one of whom has been identified as Detective Inspector Brown of Burton CID.

THE OFFICE'S TURN

COLCHESTER:—An all-out stoppage at Colchester Lathe, part of the George Cohen 600 Group, began on Monday in support of clerical workers' demands for a wage increase outside Phase Three. Negotiations broke down on Friday when management said their offer was final and would be put in staff pay packets whether they accepted them or not. Members of TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineers' Union, began picketing on Monday morning and at a mass meeting members of the Transport Workers, Engineers, Electricians and Plumbers voted to strike in sympathy.

Union victimises steward over leaflet

by Arthur Seymour (TGWU)

CORNWALL:—Transport Workers Union district officer Harry Stevens has threatened that the union's regional committee might withdraw credentials from one of our stewards at Heathcoat's factory in Carn Brea. Because, he alleged, shop steward Rob Paterson had been responsible for the publication of an International Socialists' leaflet. Rob had also been against Harry Stevens' policy of accepting Phase Three.

But the regional committee is not going to withdraw Rob's credentials. They are just not going to give him any. Apparently he never had any from them although he has been a steward for six months.

VICTORY ROLLS

SUNDERLAND:—600 Engineering and Electricians Union members at Rolls-Royce Engines Division factory have returned to work after a successful seven-day strike. The strike started when management suspended a machine operator after a blatant attempt on their part to break an agreement and force full mobility of labour.

STRIKE SHOCKER FOR BBC BOSSES

by Dave Widgery

BBC management are rolling up their sleeves to break what is becoming the most important dispute in BBC history.

The 81 Production Assistants (PAs) in light entertainment and drama, who fix up everything needed for the programmes from catering to safety and from wigs to stuntmen, just want to be paid for the massive amount of overtime they have to work. They want payment by the hour, in cash instead of the present 'time in lieu' which they are seldom able to take. They have been on strike for four weeks now.

In 1968, without being consulted, they were 'upgraded' to a management grade. In gratitude for entering television's boss class, they were supposed to forget nasty greedy trade union demands about such things as lunch times, overtime and holidays.

Like the junior hospital doctors and classroom teachers before them, the production assistants are weary

of sacrificing themselves before the altar of 'professionalism'. They want to be down-graded, to rejoin the working class.

As the BBC management digs in its heels, they are turning from being passengers in a staff association into determined, if rather reluctant, militants. 'The goodwill has just run out,' said Val Sheppard, a drama PA picketing the BBC Television Centre in West London.

BULLETIN

'We're supposed to be the Ladies and Gentlemen of the BBC aren't we? Grateful just to be there,' said Graham Benson, another PA. 'They don't mind trade unionism as long as it's not effective.'

The picket line has a slightly arty atmosphere, with a lot of embraces and 'Dahlings' flying about, but it is tightly run. The strike committee issues a daily bulletin for all TV Centre staff and

they have raised enough money from their unions and fellow trade unionists to pay out £20-a-week strike pay. They have been supported on the picket line by many other TV workers, from electricians and carpenters to film editors.

When more than 4000 TV workers crammed into a joint meeting of the TV unions ACTT and ABS at the Hammersmith Palais, it was not only a record attendance but the first time officials from ACTT, the militant film technicians' union which the BBC refuses to recognise, have shared a platform with the 'official' staff association ABS.

An ACTT shop steward told me: 'People are at last waking up from a dream of "professionalism"'. But they are very new to trade unionism and many of their motives are quite sectional, at least at first. It could go in any direction.'

The BBC management are acting rather like a 19th century aristo-

cratic factory owner facing his first strike. They can't really believe it's happening.

The BBC executives want to be liberal, decent people. But they face simultaneously the Tory pressure for open government censure, Wedgwood-Benn's latest brainwaves and now the spectre of real trade unionism. Their paternalism could easily collapse into viciousness.

Strike breaking is a lot less unpleasant for them than doing something about the legions of dozing BBC administrators waiting to be retired, the crates of 'hospitality' Scotch that their creative geniuses on expense accounts hoof through and the infamous expense account taxi bills.

The BBC didn't hesitate to go to the Industrial Relations Court in March to get an injunction against the ABS and ACTT, and makes things as hard as possible for the unrecognised ACTT, forcing it to hold meetings off the premises. Many BBC employees are literally terrified of trade union activity. Victimisation is easy in an industry where contracts expire quickly and promotion can mysteriously never appear.

DRAGGING

Nevertheless the strike has overwhelming support. If the ABS explained the importance of this strike for the future of TV trade unionism they could undoubtedly pull out their members in the film and the production departments to finish things off. Then a call to the more militant ACTT shops would undoubtedly be answered. Otherwise there is a real danger of the dispute simply dragging on until the strikers become demoralised and settle for a slightly increased BBC overtime 'allowance'—which would be a defeat.

Rank and file unity has never been stronger at the TV Centre. Union meetings which used to attract 20 people now draw 200 and there is a chance for trade unionism to overcome the paternalism and the hierarchies and talk about what television ought to be about.

But that means not a bevy of resolutions containing the words general strike, but leading and winning of apparently small disputes... before TV becomes one endless repeat of old Z-Cars' adventures.

BBC workers interested in contacting members of the International Socialists who work in television and radio should write to the IS Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



A picket at the BBC television centre, where 81 production assistants (PAs) are on strike. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

PICKETS ANGRY AT UNDERHAND BID TO BEAT STRIKE

WEST LONDON:—The 143 technical staff at the AEC bus and truck plant in Southall are in the third week of the strike called in support of the threshold wage claim. Pickets have been successful despite frantic attempts of management to break the strike.

The attitude of the men outside the gates has hardened due to the underhand methods used by management to ensure the uninterrupted flow of production and make the picket ineffective. Letters and telegrams have been sent out to material suppliers falsifying both the position of the strikers and the 3000 workers inside the factory. The shop convenor's name has been used in these deceitful communications without his consent or his approval.

This dishonest tactic encouraged delivery drivers to disregard the picket line on the grounds that the shop-floor workers were giving management 'full co-operation'—a blatant exaggeration. Another lie put out was that the strike was unofficial.

Inside the factory managers are attempting to do the strikers' jobs. Material is being passed to the machine lines without having been tested by the metallurgists—ignoring the most elementary safety standards, exposing the machine operators to the danger of serious injury, and leaving them without adequate insurance protection.

Lorry drivers fight union steamroller

MANCHESTER:—John Stevenson has been sacked as regional official for the United Road Transport Union for 'failing to give satisfaction to the executive committee.'

He was called to an executive meeting on 8 July. He wasn't given notice of the charges despite four weeks attempt to discover them. His 'dossier' was only shown to him when executive member Brian MacDonald gave him his copy.

Ninety per cent of the charges were from management complaining of his 'aggressive attitude' and 'constant refusals' to stick to Phase Three.

The executive paid more attention to these than to URTU stewards' support for John as a tough negotiator.

John's request for 14 days to prepare his defence was denied. His dismissal was agreed by six votes to three. Those voting against his dismissal were Dennis Jones (Bridge End), Brian MacDonald (Region 13: Stockport and High Peak) and Eric Chadwick (BRS Manchester).

URTU president Len Bateman, who took a leading part in advocating John's dismissal, was elected contrary to the rule book—he didn't have an overall

majority of votes.

The votes were announced at the URTU annual conference by general secretary Jackson Moore. He then briefly stated that Bateman had been elected.

The situation was raised at the executive by the candidate who came a very close second. But he didn't press for a second vote to be organised, as the rules demand. Demands from the branches were ignored.

John is resisting his dismissal and taking legal advice. His post has been advertised amongst URTU members. The tactic being adopted now is for plenty of members to apply, they all have to be interviewed, thereby the whole process will take weeks.

A defence committee will organise fund-raising activities and is calling a public meeting. Cyril Kick (shop steward at Tibbett and Britten) says, 'This not only helps John, but keeps the movement alive. And if other trade unionists want to hear the truth, arrange for a speaker to come down to your union branch or shop stewards' meeting.'

For speakers, more information, or sending donations, write to: Cyril Kick, 52 Curzon Road, Offerton, Stockport. Tel' 061-487-1791

Making London allowances

ONE WAY London workers can get some compensation for inflation is to exploit the London allowance formula. The Pay Board and the Labour government have been forced to agree a £400 payment to some workers, but only those who live within four miles of Charing Cross. This is a lot of nonsense. The cost of living doesn't rise any slower more than four miles from the centre.

Teachers and local government workers are fighting for a uniform across-the-board allowance of £8 a week and more.

Every other worker in London should be after the same.

And life is just as hard out of London. The Pay Board has no formulas you can use. There is a formula though—straight increases for every penny you can get.

Chanie Rosenberg, Secretary of Hackney Teachers, writes:

The NUT Executive finally gave way before the growing support for teachers' unofficial strikes over the London Allowance and called an official half-day strike and lobby on Thursday, the day already fixed for the next unofficial strike. Even so, at least 70 schools came out for the whole day, and used the morning to leaflet parents and set up

market place stalls for leafletting and petitioning.

Education Minister Reg Prentice is taking a hard line. But there is growing momentum for action in September if there is no settlement satisfactory to London teachers, which means £400 for ALL with no two-tier system for Inner and Outer London.

The date of 9 September has already been fixed for the start of a sustained strike campaign. The executive has given in to the widespread demand for a strike ballot early in the next term.

The education system in London is cracking up. If the government doesn't care, the teachers, parents, the pupils themselves and other workers have to fight to save it. A decent London Allowance is the first step in keeping teachers in London. A fight to restore the £182 million Tory education cuts is the next.

Geoff Woolfe, Lewisham NALGO member writes:

Despite the attempt of our union leaders to minimise local government workers' action over the London Allowance, the response of the rank and file has been magnificent.

The Greenwich Computers Branch has

been out for four months and the South East London Electricity Branch has been striking for seven weeks.

And the strikers have learnt that they can have an effect. Refuse is beginning to pile up at Newham and Tower Hamlets. Rates and rents are not being collected in Lewisham, Havering, Bexley, Greenwich and Kensington. £5 million has been lost in four boroughs alone.

Picket lines at Thurrock and Tilbury power stations have exerted a stranglehold on supplies and both face possible closure.

Since the Pay Board reported, the Metropolitan District Council has firmly rejected the idea that Outer Londoners should receive less money. But the danger now is that the union will negotiate on the 'interim offer' made in March and rejected by Employment Minister Michael Foot.

Since the national negotiators have rejected the Pay Board figures many branches are considering increasing the action. The campaign so far has shown that NALGO members can take effective action—many councils are panic-stricken. The time is ripe for stepping up the action for the full £400 claim.

INQUIRY DROPPED SO PICKET RESUMES

SOUTH LONDON: Members of the white-collar union ASTMS are picketing the Institute of Psychiatry over victimisations and demanding union recognition.

In February this year management suspended six workers at the Institute and gave them notice of dismissal. The result has been that the major part of drugs research in Britain has come to a halt. Up to £500,000 is being wasted.

Management refused to settle by negotiating with the union. In April the ASTMS group at the Institute took industrial action and after ten days the Institute conceded the suspended workers' right to a fair hearing, agreed to an independent inquiry and agreed not to dismiss them until the outcome of the inquiry.

Struggle

They have now gone back on this saying there would be no independent inquiry, and that the six would not be paid after 10 July.

The action has been declared official and is backed by ASTMS branches throughout London. Iain Crow, one of the sacked workers, said: 'We are fighting an autocratic management who are sacrificing six workers to cover up for one man's mistakes. We ask fellow trade unionists to support us in this struggle to establish rights which have long been accepted in other work places.'

Since last Thursday the Institute has been picketed by those in dispute and members from other ASTMS branches in London. This has effectively stopped all supplies. Local dustmen are co-operating to ensure that no refuse is collected.

The pickets need support—both practical and financial. The Institute is at De Crespigny Park, London SE5.

More pay - or no X-rays!

by Ron Singer, ASTMS

THE REVOLT in the health service is still rolling. Now the technicians, on strike since last Monday week, have been joined by a national strike of radiographers, the people who take the X-rays. The medical physics and physiological measurement technicians are still waiting for a 30 per cent rise to give them parity with other NHS technicians.

Ray Waterman is the secretary of the London Joint Strike Committee and has been involved with the claim for three long years. 'I never thought I'd be out on strike . . . What we are doing is in the patients' own good in the long run.'

Five London hospitals have extended their strike—Harefield, Middlesex, Guys, National Heart and Charing Cross. Gerry Lindley, senior technician at Guys, said: 'We're all angry and feel we should stick it out for the full offer.'

Technicians are realising the only way to improve their own pay and conditions and save the NHS is to take all-out industrial action.

Strike Action

'The Whitley Council meeting (on 17 July) has only been brought forward by the threat of indefinite strike action,' said Bill Appleton, NUPE technicians' shop steward at Charing Cross. Only mass strike action will get us anywhere. Now they can see we're serious.'

They are fed up with the Whitley Council sham, radiographers too want their wages to be negotiated. Strike action started last week at the Royal Free Hospital group.

The radiographers there, as in the North East are providing emergency cover only for patients already in the hospital. They will not be servicing new admissions. This is because the casualty doctors have been abusing the emergency cover arrangements.

From these activities the pattern is clear. If you work in the NHS you need to get in the union, organise locally and nationally and be prepared to take all-out indefinite strike action for your own sakes. Your action is also the only thing which will save the NHS.

Young — not cheap!

GLASGOW:—100 young workers at Barr and Strouds came out on strike last Wednesday to force management to pay them the full 40p threshold instead of only a percentage of it. The firm's latest offer is 20p for 16-year-olds and 35p for 19-year-olds—an increase on their offer before the strike.

The strikers, members of five different unions, are determined to hold out for the full 40p.

The decision to strike was taken after a meeting of all workers in the factory decided to accept a management package which included the percentage award for workers under 20. The junior workers' committee had decided to abstain from the vote and take action on their own.

Lay us off? We'll sit in

NORTH LONDON:—Workers at Smiths Industries MA1 factory in Cricklewood started a sit-in on Tuesday in response to the laying off of 177 women without pay. Management claim that a go-slow by foremen has caused a shortage of castings for the speedometer movements, which in turn caused the halting of several assembly lines.

Stuart Ferguson, chairman of the committee, said: 'There is no reason why we should get a penny less than other workers in cost-of-living increases. Price rises are just as high for workers under 20 as they are for those over the magic age.'

The young workers in Barr and Stroud have shown the way to those elsewhere who have had a percentage settlement forced on them. Not only should these strikers be supported by all trade unionists, but they should be joined by all young workers who have not been given the full threshold.

Donations and messages of support to Stuart Ferguson, 33 Lilytown Place, Glasgow G15 8HN.

In fact management is trying to rationalise its production between Watford, Cricklewood and other plants at the expense of the workers.

The timing of the lay-offs—a week before the annual holiday shutdown—suggests that management have been planning this move.

FORTE WEAKEN

THE LONG fight for trade unionism in the hotel and catering industry took another small step forward on Monday when Trust House Forte contacted the General and Municipal Workers Union with an offer to re-employ—as opposed to reinstate—23 of the workers from the Crown and Anchor Hotel, Ipswich, who have now been out for six weeks.

But THF will not take strike-leader Stuart Bloomfield back and the 'offer' has been rejected.

That THF made an offer at all is due to the strikers' extension of their action to London. Pickets are outside THF head office, at the Hennekey Inn in Leicester Square, each evening from six to eight.

They need and will welcome support on the picket line. The workers see victory in their sight now, and victory in this dispute would be an enormous encouragement to others struggling against the odds to win basic rights in an industry which is still a by-word for rotten conditions and blasphemous rates of pay.

For further details of the strike and times and places of picketing, phone Ipswich (0473) 212671.



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.

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 _____

It's justice Jenkins -style

IAN GIBSON, member of the executive of ASTMS, the white-collar union, for East Anglia and the Northern Home Counties, has been barred from holding office in the union for three years for writing an article in Socialist Worker that was critical of the union leadership.

This attack on a trade unionist's right to express himself freely reached its conclusion at last Saturday's meeting of the ASTMS national executive, which voted to go ahead with a case against Ian after hearing a report from its investigating committee. In a four and a half hour session interrupted only by 45 minutes of Anthony Wedgwood Benn explaining his schemes to shore up the British economy, the executive voted to bar Ian from office and kick him off the executive.

These moves are the climax of a long campaign against Ian, who is a member of the International Socialists, for being critical of the ASTMS leadership.

He was censured earlier this year for criticising the way minutes of executive meetings were compiled and set out and saying they were not accurate. Previously he had been done for breaking the executive confidentiality gag. He was done this time after a stage-managed denunciation of his Socialist Worker article at the union's conference in May.

The rule that Clive Jenkins and his assistant secretary Muriel Turner brought against Ian is an umbrella rule providing for discipline for acting 'against the interests' of the union.

Those in control in ASTMS are highly selective about how they use this rule. No such charges were initiated against those in the Boots Nottingham branch who defied specific union policy, went to the Pay Board and made a mockery of conference decisions.

Publish

The ASTMS leaders are also highly selective about which newspaper articles they dislike. Ian Gibson wrote another article in the 6 July issue of Socialist Worker on how APEX was concluding sweetheart deals in the insurance industry. ASTMS bureaucrats heartily approved.

Ian Gibson's 'crime' was to publish an article in Socialist Worker stating that the officials and executive of ASTMS were not always sensitive to the needs of the members and did not give the kind of lead required during pay freezes, social compacts and the economic crisis.

Witnesses sent by the divisional council, whose members elected Gibson, substantiated some of the claims in the article. One of them said: 'The majority of the national executive had their minds made up. They were judge, jury and hangman. Even though an appeal is pending the executive say he cannot hold office.'

The attack on Ian Gibson is an attempt to muzzle any opposition developing in ASTMS. Jenkins and Co may talk about participation, but they fear any moves towards rank and file organisation and control in ASTMS.

Socialist Worker would be pleased to receive reports of any resolutions passed in support of Ian Gibson.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

FISHER-BENDIX -ROUND TWO

by an AUEW member, IPD Radiator Department (formerly Fisher Bendix), Kirkby

THERE was simply no alternative. When faced with the cold-blooded determination of the management to close Fisher Bendix again, we just had to sack the management and throw out the liquidator.

But to understand what's going on now, we have to take a look at the history of this somewhat notorious factory and try to analyse the events which have led to this situation.

The factory, a taxpayers' gift, opened in 1961. It housed some of the British Motor Corporation's most obsolete machinery. After a few years they sold it off to raise some cash.

The new owners and our new masters were Parkinson Cowan, who developed a remarkable new line in business. Whenever something looked viable they would sell it off to their rivals. The Moulton bicycle went to Raleigh. Then the single sheet Fisholow sink was sold off.

All irrelevant, some would say. But when you're talking about a factory being shut down you have to put the blame where it belongs—with the owners and their management.

In 13 short years we have been honoured with the presence of 14 different managing directors. We have accepted annual redundancies, numerous shift patterns and a continuous nagging feeling of insecurity. Then Sir Jules Thorn, of the Thorn electrical empire, took us over. There was a brief honeymoon. Then he declared his intention to make half the workforce redundant.

PREPARED

Again he decided to remove a viable product from the factory. It was cheaper still to make it in fascist Spain. That—and the one-million-long dole queue at the time—was just too much. We struck for nine weeks and achieved a total victory.

Success was shortlived. It soon became apparent that Thorn had made up his mind to close the factory completely. But this time we were prepared.

We took stock of events in other areas, such as the UCS work-in. We learned from their mistakes.

On 3 January 1972, while management were telling our stewards we were all sacked, we invaded the boardroom, secured all the keys and gave the management five minutes to get off the premises. The mass meeting that followed was the most



Welding the gates for the second occupation in two years. Picture: Ron McCormick. More pictures — page 9.

electrifying, exciting and stimulating experience anyone can imagine.

The details of that occupation are probably well known. Free meals in the canteen were the order of the day. Free entertainment and stimulating educational discussions became a daily event. It was one of the best run occupations ever.

But we made mistakes. A certain degree of isolation developed between the occupation committee in the admin block and the workforce in the factory.

We also let Thorn off the hook. We had got their goods blacked at every dock and airport.

Then Harold Wilson intervened. This resulted in an agreement to allow the factory to be taken over yet again.

The new owner was Hal King of IPD, a property developer and conspicuously unsuccessful businessman. Our pressure had been so great that Thorn was prepared to give the factory away.

If King hadn't taken it off him, the Thorn group would have had to make Fisher Bendix viable or pay up and keep us in work.

Convenor Jack Spriggs was on a pedestal during the occupation. He had been paramount in making decisions, including the decision to accept King's takeover. But Jack was becoming aloof from the workers

he so ably represented. In the two years since, this isolation has increased.

King's press campaign cited the new-found co-operation between management and convenor as a fine example of a well-run business. This helped to give us a false sense of security. Trade union organisation in the factory deteriorated.

The past two years have seen not a single penny invested in new plant and the business is in a state of collapse. But progress has been made in limited areas. King has a new Rolls-Royce, an XJ Jaguar, a large house and the money to sponsor Tony Jacklin in a golf tournament.

CONTROL

He has made his money from 'developing' the land next door. He is making more in the West Indies. Nevertheless he has declared that our factory will close unless the government coughs up £1 million.

The new crisis produced a belated reaction from Jack Spriggs. At the mass meeting he said the situation showed 'the capitalist system in its worst form.' He spoke about 'rats crawling out of their holes'. We threw out one lot—the liquidators. But King still comes and goes as he pleases.

But we are fighting, though with grim determination rather than the fantastic enthusiasm of last time.

There is a general reluctance to work for the liquidator. People are saying there are plenty of radiators in stock and once we've sold them we will produce more. In short there is a lack of unifying purpose in the occupation that springs from the lack of control over events by the shop floor.

There was due to be another mass meeting this week. But it was postponed because the senior stewards went to London to meet Industry Minister Wedgwood Benn. Surprisingly, this meeting can be used to point the way forward. The only real solution for us now is to wage a political campaign to force the nationalisation of the factory under our control.

There can be no more gimmicky solutions worked out with the Labour Party leaders, no talk of co-operatives or new owners. That could only lead to disaster. There must be nationalisation, with no loss of jobs and conditions and firmly under workers' control.

Without a clear political fight for this without support from other workers, there is a danger the dispute will degenerate into a fight over redundancy pay. The past two years have taught us what it means not to have control... it wasn't an easy lesson but it's one we can't forget.

Going well against Shell

by John Deason

ELLESMERE PORT:—Despite official union pressure, the 1800 Stanlow refinery workers narrowly rejected the 25 per cent deal offered by Shell last week. But this same offer was accepted in confused votes at the Carrington chemical plant and the Shellhaven, Ardrossan and Teesport refineries.

What the national press presents simply as a 25 per cent settlement is in fact a complicated package. This includes rises already paid under Phase Three, plus a future 9 per cent on the flat rate and increased shift allowances.

Militants throughout Shell object to the way the threshold payment is being included in this package. This means that the threshold is being swallowed rather than consolidated. They also object to the £2.50 ceiling on the payment.

As we go to press the unofficial Transport Union National Shell Committee

is renegotiating the 25 per cent package, and threatening to extend the strike should the offer not be improved.

The Stanlow strikers have clearly understood what a con Labour's social compact represents. As one of the picketing stewards put it: 'Shell, like any other company, always hides behind government legislation. They can easily pay because they're profiting from inflation. It's not our claim but company policies that's inflationary—eightpence on a gallon of petrol for a start!'

In any case if we accepted wage restraint it wouldn't help the lower paid like the nurses—it would only help Shell boost their massive profits further.'

The five Shell sites represent 30 per cent of UK oil refining capacity. It is amazing in view of this immense industrial power that the TGWU have in the past manoeuvred through crippling productivity

deals, rather than harness this power into forcing Shell to cough up from their consistently high profits.

The strikers refer to this productivity dealing as 'the one way deal', always the way of the company. It has led to vicious cutbacks in manning, anti-social shift working (four shifts!) increased work discipline, lower wage costs and weakening of shop steward organisation.

The extent of this one way dealing is shown by the shift change rulings. In the event of any worker not turning up, the worker due to come off shift has to work an extra four hours.

Worse still, this isn't even paid at overtime rates, only with time off in lieu, and that only when 'free time' is available.

But now these workers have tasted their ability to organise and the potential of their power. The social compact is no compact. Shell and the docile one way dealing TGWU officials will never have it as easy again.

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