

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

WHAT SUGAR SHORTAGE?

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S SOCIALIST WORKER

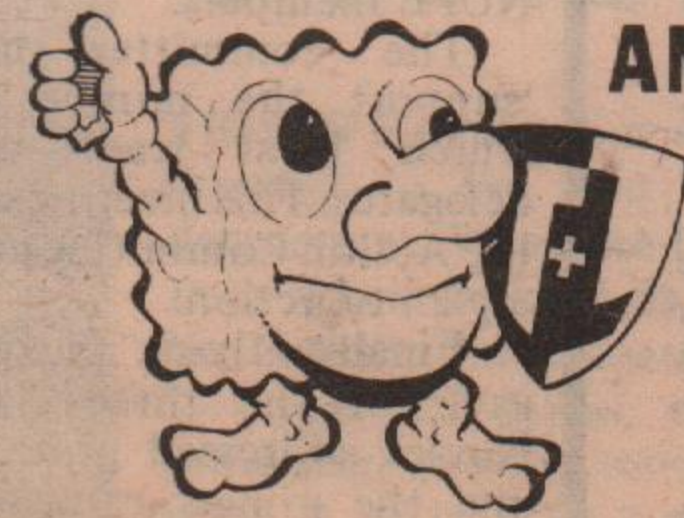


Nationalisation:
State profits line
private pockets
PAGE SIX



The Amazing Adventures of Flowerdew
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Greece: Has the Junta really gone - Centre Pages



A Message from Mr Cube.

Don't buy me now. Buy me next month, when I'll cost twice as much.

THERE's a sugar shortage, so we're told. Newspapers, shopkeepers and sugar companies are queueing up to warn us of a 'grave situation in sugar supply'.

But there is no real shortage—only an artificial one created by the

sugar companies to push up their prices and profits.

Tate and Lyle claim there is a 'shortfall' in supply from the West Indies. So there is—to the tune of 300,000 tons this year: only a tenth of the total amount consumed in this country.

But that shortfall has already

been made up from other sources.

More than 100,000 tons of sugar have been released on the market from the Government's secret 'strategic reserve'. Sugar has also been bought in large quantities from Europe to help fill the gap.

So why have the supplies from the sugar companies to the shops

been cut—in many places by as much as 40 per cent?

And why have the sugar companies sponsored yet another 'Mr Cube' campaign which begs the shoppers to go easy on buying sugar?

Answer: they want to push their prices—and their profits—up.

The Sunday Telegraph reported this week: 'Major sugar refiners, including Tate and Lyle, are negotiating with the Government about raising sugar prices, probably by 1p to 2p a lb in an attempt to end 'panic buying' in the shops.'

Tate and Lyle know that if 'panic buying' leads to hoarding and shortages in the shops, demands for increased prices will be difficult to resist.

How easy, then, to create a little panic buying by artificially cutting supplies to the shops.

A spokesman for the Price Commission told Socialist Worker:

PASSED

'We're not allowed to tell you whether we've agreed to any applications from the sugar companies for price increases. But they have made a number of applications and none has been modified or rejected.'

In other words, all the applications have been passed.

Remember the petrol shortage last year? Remember how allegations of hoarding by the oil companies were 'laughed out of court' by oil company spokesmen?

Remember the panic buying, and the shortages? Remember how the price went up and up and up?

And remember the Price Commission report which revealed the oil companies had made £52 million extra profit by selling at a higher price petrol hoarded when the price was low?

Well, now it's happening with sugar. During the petrol racket we had a Tory Government. During the sugar racket we have a Labour Government. Both are impotent to intervene.

SUCCESS

In the first half of this financial year—to 31 March—Tate and Lyle made a profit of £14.2 million, compared with £6.7 million for the same period last year.

The chairman, whose name is Lyle, said: 'The successful first six months should be more than matched in the second half year.'

While pensioners are refused sugar at supermarkets the Lyle family and the Tate family and a handful of other profiteers are doubling and re-doubling their loot.

And they ask us, who buy the sugar and pay for the profit, to honour the social contract and to 'take it easy on wages'.

Our answer cannot be published in a family newspaper.

You Lone Ranger, me finished

THEY got Texas 'Big John' Connally on Monday. Spiro Agnew is with the great taxman in the sky.

John Dean went off to join the Red Indians. Gerald 'slowest brain in the West' Ford awaits the call in some Washington honky-tonk...

And now Richard Nixon, the man who made Billy the Kid seem like a welfare worker, hears once more the call of destiny.

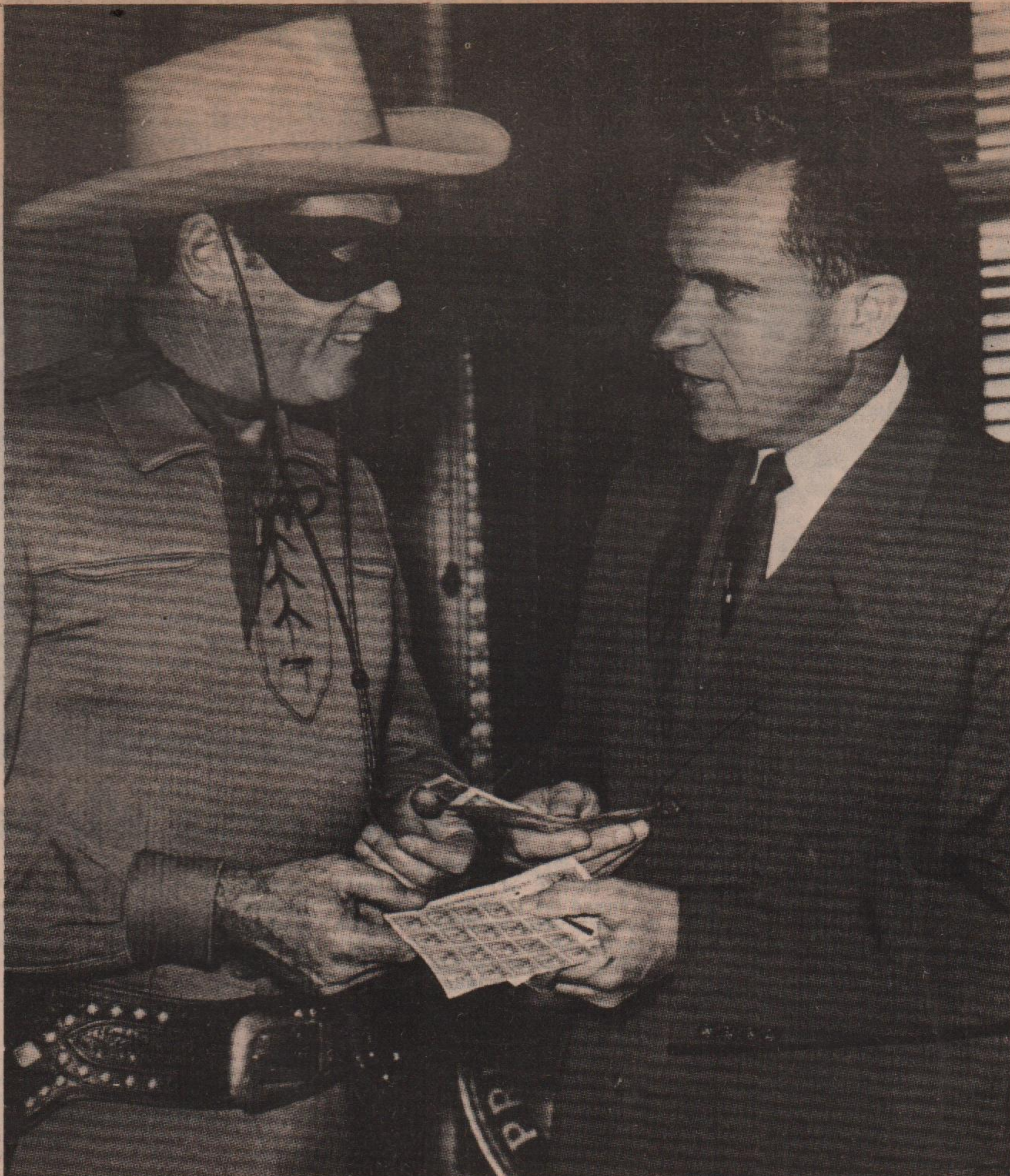


This time joined by his greatest law and order ally, a Mr L Ranger.

Will green stamps and a black mask be sufficient to buy off the Judges' posse?

Will the judge be arrested? Will General Haig's Fifth Cavalry arrive in time?

But Richard M Nixon isn't worried. He knows that if he falls in the fight to keep America violent, corrupt and dangerous, there are plenty of others who can carry on the battle, and who are ready to step into his shoes...



Million dollar butchers

SOUTH Korean court-martials handed out 19 death sentences last month to opponents of President Park's dictatorship.

14 of the 19 were for supporting agitation against the emergency decrees introduced by Park earlier this year—that is a capital offence in South Korea.

The merciful President has commuted five of the death sentences, including one of the country's leading poets, Kin Chi-Ha, to life imprisonment.

Trials now pending include those of former President Yun, who was in office at the time of Park's coup in 1961, opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung, who ran against Park in the fraudulent presidential election in 1971 and was kidnapped from his refuge in Japan, and a leading Roman Catholic Bishop, Monseigneur Chi.

President Park's regime is propped up by 40,000 US troops and is to get 416 million dollars under the latest US 'aid' programme.

THE German section of Amnesty International has issued an appeal on behalf of 55 Chilean Air Force officers now being tried by court-martial as 'enemies of the fatherland'.

The prosecutor is demanding the death sentence for Squadron Leader Galaz Guzman, Captains Carvacho and Vergara Meneses and two Sergeants, Constanzo and O'Ryan.

As Socialist Worker reported last week, the junta is to get 85 million dollars of US aid to help its 'defence of the free world'.

Ken Price, NUPE convenor in West Wales

My members were fed up with the lack of official leadership. We liked the idea put forward at the IS meeting about getting solidarity action. Maybe the action committee and flying pickets were pretty daring. But we've proved it's a good method. The impact on the hospital has been tremendous. Recruitment is on the up and up, and so is our self-confidence. Two days after the strike we heard a private patient was being brought in. We wouldn't put up with it and management backed down straight away. They know we mean business now.

Jean Thomas, Nurse

Even on the morning, we didn't believe we could do it. I was very scared about making a speech. The miners were a marvellous bunch of lads. I told them we'd got the flying pickets idea from them. They showed us what trade unionism can mean. We were elated. Back at the hospital, some Royal College of Nursing stalwarts were shocked, but our members thought it was great. Recruitment is going well. People keep asking when the next action is. We've made nurses realise they can fight.

How we won over the miners

LAST WEEK 1200 miners in three Swansea pits came out on strike after nurses' flying pickets called for solidarity.

How did the nurses, new to trade unionism, come to take such dramatic action? What was the impact of success on trade unionism in the hospital? What happens next?

The strike was organised by an Action Committee set up seven weeks ago at a meeting called by Swansea International Socialists and NUPE members.

The committee held a big 'support the nurses' meeting to which local trade unions sent delegates. This meeting strengthened the Action Committee and approved a plan of action.

Finally, flying pickets went to each of the three Swansea pits. Nurses addressed pithead meetings and the miners came out, in one case against the opposition of lodge officials.

Gareth Williams, IS member and Lodge Secretary Morlais Colliery

One of the nurses hit the nail on the head: miners are some of their best customers. We believe in solidarity, asking for it and giving it. There's the bigger question of the Health Service as well. The capitalist class is deliberately destroying it. The hospital workers are leading the fight there and we've got to give them every help. New layers of workers must be brought in: the engineers, steelworkers and carworkers. Because of the flying pickets, there's to be an NUM Special Conference for South Wales. That Conference must launch action that will provide a lead for the rest of the country. The flying pickets will have shown the way.

Geoff O'Malley, Nurse

Everybody's been talking about it ever since. I got five membership applications straight away. Even the patients and visitors keep talking about what we did. It's put us on the map, and it's proved where the power is. The next step is to spread it to other workers. I'm so encouraged it's unbelievable.

IVOR DAVIES, Labour MP for Gower

Their action could have put the pit in real jeopardy and will certainly do nothing to help the nurses' case.

BRITISH TERROR IN CATHOLIC GHETTO

by Eamonn McCann

THE CREGGAN Estate in Derry, a depressing sprawl of post-war council houses on a bleak hill overlooking the Bogside, is probably the worst place in these islands to have to live.

It contains about 14,000 working-class people, all of them Catholics. They were put there in the Forties, Fifties and early Sixties because the Unionist Party, to maintain itself in local power, had to corral the Catholics into a single electoral ward. The male unemployment rate is about one in three.

Since 27 March, when the Grenadier Guards were posted to the area, more than 2,000 people have been arrested in their homes, most of them in the middle of the night, taken to Piggery Ridge Camp to the west of the estate, questioned, abused, photographed and fingerprinted. Many have been badly beaten up.

In the same period over 1,000 homes have been raided and searched. The procedure is this:

Soldiers enter a house at night, either by beating on the door to wake the residents or breaking the door in with boots and rifle-butts.

SEARCHED

Everyone sleeping in the house, be they week-old babies or pensioners, are assembled in the kitchen or living-room and put under armed guard.

The rest of the house is searched. Sheets and mattresses are pulled off beds, wardrobes and drawers are emptied, floor-covering and floorboards are taken up.

On average, this takes 90 minutes to two hours. When they leave the soldiers usually take one or more members of the family with them 'for questioning', most commonly a teenager.

The rest of the family tidies up and goes back to bed. If the person detained has not come home by the morning they go to a local councillor or community leader and ask for representation to be made for his or her release.

One such teenager is Edward Patrick Moore. On Monday last week he was charged at Derry Court with striking a corporal in the Grenadiers.

BLOOD

It emerged during the hearing that this was the 28th time he had been arrested in the last few months. He was fined £25.

Meanwhile in London, Belfast and Dublin the endless talk about new initiatives and new constitutions, and the endless televised moralising about five years of blood in the streets goes on and on.

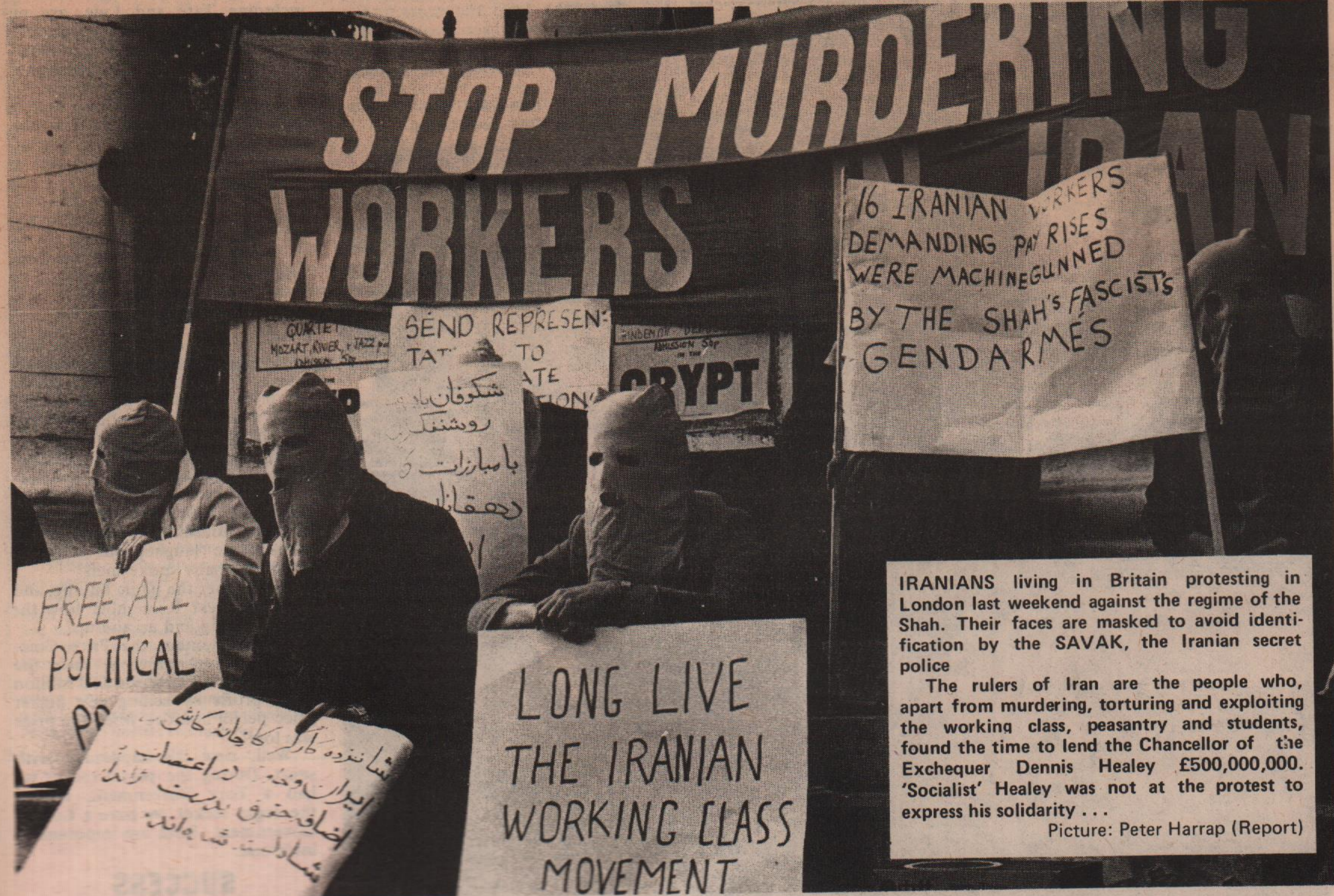
Viewed from Creggan, little of it is meaningful, because little of it faces up to the issue which confronts the people day after day.

The theory that the British Army is in Northern Ireland to keep the mad Catholics and Protestants apart collapses in Creggan.

There are no Protestants in Creggan. The Unionist Party has seen to that.

Yet the estate has suffered more sustained assault from the British Army than any other single area.

Anyone who believes there will be lasting peace in Ireland before the Army gets out should come here and see.



IRANIANS living in Britain protesting in London last weekend against the regime of the Shah. Their faces are masked to avoid identification by the SAVAK, the Iranian secret police

The rulers of Iran are the people who, apart from murdering, torturing and exploiting the working class, peasantry and students, found the time to lend the Chancellor of the Exchequer Dennis Healey £500,000,000. 'Socialist' Healey was not at the protest to express his solidarity...

Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

NATIONAL UNITY, TILL DEATH DO US PART

FARMWORKERS have a higher fatal accident rate—19 per 100,000 each year—than coal miners. The non-fatal accident rate is one of the highest

The new safety authority, proposed in the government's Safety and Health at Work Bill, would have plenty to concern itself with on the farms. It is not going to be allowed to do so.

Farm work has been excluded from the scope of the Bill by a House of Lords amendment.

Moved in the Lords by Lord Middleton of the Country Land-

owners' Association, it was carried in the Commons by what Reg Bottini of the Agricultural Workers' Union calls 'an unholy alliance of Conservative, Liberal and other MPs.'

This is a small indication of what to expect from a Tory-Liberal 'government of national unity'

Not that the farmworkers have much to thank the Labour Party for. The government has just told them that its pledge to abolish the tied cottage 'cannot be carried out in the present parliament.'

This pledge was first made in 1906

THE HOUSE of Lords has voted to amend the Labour Government's Industrial Relations Bill so as to ban the closed shop.

When Len Murray of the TUC attacked their Lordships as 'people who have never done a hand's turn in their life,' he was answered in the Daily Mirror by two peers.

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale said: 'This chap is talking absolute rot. I have earned my living for 50 years and have worked jolly hard. The trade unions think they're God Almighty.'

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale is one of the richest men in the country.

Most of his vast wealth is put together from dividends and property, most of which originates in South Africa, where the Lord has a second home. He is a director of Sun Alliance, Capper Pass, Bass Charrington and about 50 other companies

Effete

Lord Fraser is the House of Lords' most hysterical supporter of South Africa and its racist Government.

The other peer who attacked Murray was Lord Gowrie. He left Oxford, where he established a repu-

tation as an effete poet, in 1963 and has spent a few hours since then teaching poetry at a girl's public school and writing the odd sonnet.

In 1971, he suddenly became a Tory Minister in the House of Lords.

Lord Gowrie is heir to an enormous estate in Ireland and has so much money he doesn't know what to do with it. He said:

'It is nonsense to say that members of the House of Lords have never seen inside a factory, firm or trade union.'

Except, of course, in the case of Lord Gowrie.

Two Lords a'bleating

THE SUN this week emphasised its backing for the Tories in the coming election campaign. The paper's industrial correspondent, Keith Mason, filled a page of the paper on Monday with an article entitled *Six Roads to Nightmare on Wages*.

The article by Mason, who has, in the past, written in the engineering union's journal on the need for immigration control, was accompanied by an editorial which openly called for statutory wage controls.

The editor, Mr Bernard Shrimley is a long-standing member of the Labour Party. He has written a book about Labour candidates. His brother, Anthony Shrimley, political correspondent of the Daily Mail, has written a sycophantic book about the first 100 days of Harold Wilson's 1964 Labour Government.

Now Mr Shrimley, no doubt under the order of his boss, multi-millionaire Rupert Murdoch (a former officer of the Oxford University Labour Club before he made his

millions) is giving maximum publicity and support for the Tory drive against the unions.

The Sun has an enormous working class readership. It sells 3,500,000 copies a day. The articles below reply to the Sun's Tory propaganda—and answers the outbursts of those in the Labour Cabinet who play into the Tories' hands.

The articles also point the way ahead for workers in the period following the death of the Pay Board.

MILLIONAIRE MURDOCH

WAGES WAR

KEITH MASON'S article began: 'This week, for the first time for nearly two years, there are no legal curbs on pay increases.' It went on to summarise six ways to get an increase:

Thresholds, delayed rises ('some workers accepted . . . Stage Three curbs but craftily made agreements giving future rises when the pay restraint period ended'), catching-up rises ('postmen have just been offered 11½ per cent though they had their ordinary Stage Three 7 per cent rise from last January'), special-case rises, London Weighting, strong-arm rises ('most ominous of all').

The Sun, mouthpiece of millionaire press baron Rupert Murdoch, does not like this situation. It shrieks about 'six roads to nightmare', 'six roads to national suicide' and predicts that if workers' wages are not kept firmly down 'this proud nation will become a banana republic'.

Every argument used by The Sun to put the blame for inflation on the workers is false. Each flies in the face of the facts. Each conceals a lie.

SUNLIE: 'The unions are inflating wage packets.'

FACT: Wages are *not* keeping pace with prices. The government's own figures show that average real take-home pay, pay in terms of what it buys, fell by 2½p in the pound in the first part of this year. It is still falling.

MASSIVE

SUNLIE: 'One man's pay rise means another man's price rise.'

FACT: The main cause of price increases has nothing whatever to do with wages. It is the massive increase in import prices.

The big business weekly, the Economist, which is certainly no friend of working people, writes this week 'Mr Heath's success in holding them [wages] back with his counter-inflation policy . . . was striking. 'But as wage increases slowed down, import prices took off.'

The Economist calculates that 80 per cent of last year's inflation was because of import costs and that a similar proportion of this year's 20-25 per cent inflation will have the same cause.

SUNLIE: 'We wouldn't be on the cadge from His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Iran if the till wasn't empty.'

FACT: More wealth is produced by the workers of this country than at any time in the past. More, in fact, than five years ago, much more than ten years ago and vastly more than 20 years ago.

The inflation is *not* caused by shortage of goods, by an 'empty till'. It is caused by the crazy working of capitalism.

SUNLIE: 'If Britain goes on dish-

ONE MAN whose wage increases weren't referred to in Keith Mason's article on the 'wages nightmare' was Keith Mason.

He belongs to a militant chapel of the National Union of Journalists which is not afraid to use its strength to get some of Murdoch's millions for its members.

The wage rises which Keith Mason has enjoyed this year already in spite of the Pay Board are:

1 FEBRUARY: 10 per cent increase to compensate for the bringing forward of edition times.

1 JULY: 7 per cent increase plus 1 per cent flexibility—the Sun's house agreement for wage increases under Phase 3.

NOW: At least another £250 a year to pay for bringing forward 'closed copy times' by half an hour.

So if Mason was earning £6000 a year at the beginning of the year (a conservative estimate) he would have got £12 a week extra in February, £10 a week extra in July and another £5 a week extra now.

In other words he'd have got more in increases this year than *more* of the workers he's complaining about get altogether.

ing out money we haven't got, we have had it.'

FACT: As it happens, the money supply is fairly stable at present for the first time in several years.

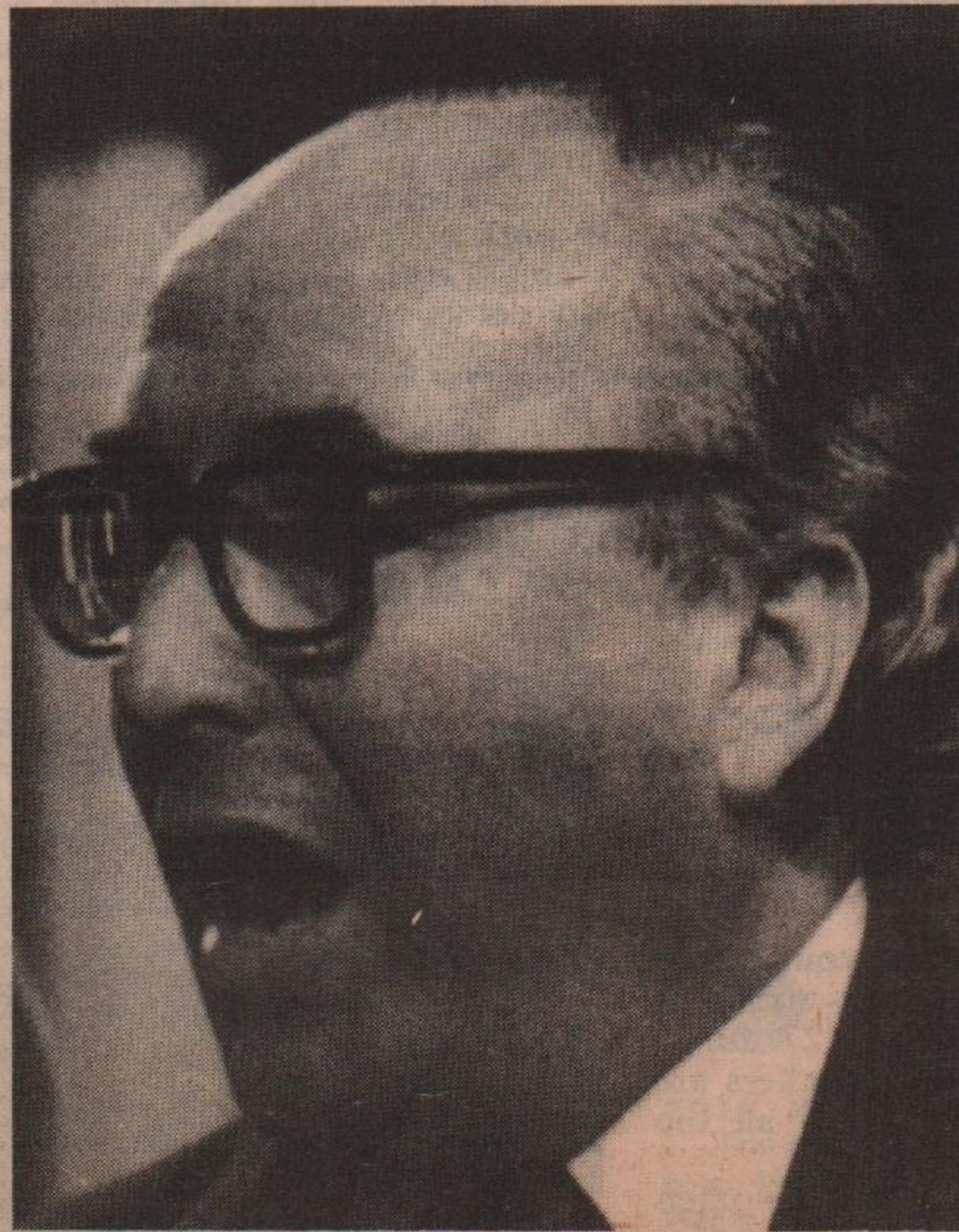
It is not at all the case that the printing of 'more and more paper money that buys less and less' is the problem.

But The Sun isn't interested in inconvenient facts like that. Above all, Rupert Murdoch and his hired hands want to conceal two simple facts:

All wealth is produced by the workers, who receive only part of it back in wages (that is why Rupert Murdoch is a rich man).

Real wages have been falling.

What can be done about inflation? In a rationally organised society, where goods were produced because they were needed and not because it



Dennis and Roy - the Tories' joy

THIS IS Roy Jenkins speaking: 'First, we are a party devoted to the rule of law and to parliamentary democracy. What the law says, even if we don't like it, is what we have to accept until we can change it by constitutional means.

'I am in favour of a healthy, vigorous and profitable private sector. We do and shall depend upon it to provide a great part of our jobs and our exports.'

Jenkins was appealing to what he calls 'the great body of moderate, rather uncommitted opinion.'

The Labour Party's left-wingers are understandably furious with Jenkins.

Not that there is all that much difference between the Wilson government's actual policies and those advocated by Jenkins.

Maybe Jenkins has given up hope of purging the Labour Party of those uncouth fellows who insist on talking about socialism.

Maybe he contemplates joining his friend Mayhew in the Liberal Party. Maybe he should be helped on his way.

DENNIS HOWELL, Labour's Minister of Sport, has given us a lesson in 'sporting behaviour'. It is disgraceful to play rugby with white South Africans. There is absolutely no excuse at all—except one: Winning.

Howell, ex-footballer referee, is president of APEX the white collar union. There aren't unions like it in South Africa. In that country the vast majority of workers are 'defended' by the police, who use guns, clubs and machine guns to conduct negotiations.

It is against this background of murder, terror and starvation that the morons of the British Lions ran around their South African rugby pitches. 'Bridges' were built alright. Those 'lonely' white South Africans with only the highest living standard in the world, gained a fraction more comfort.

While more black people were being arrested in the cities of South Africa, and more children were dying of starvation and disease, Dennis Howell was having his glass of champagne at the Lions' reception on Tuesday. We hope he chokes on it.



Strikers? We'll have to starve them out

was profitable, there would be no problem.

Planned production for use would eliminate inflation. But that is socialism and we haven't got there yet.

As of now, under capitalism, there is only one remedy available to workers.

It is to use their organised industrial strength to get compensating pay increases and to force concessions for those, like pensioners, who have no such strength.

Make no mistake about it. Without a hard fight we shall all be much worse off.

DEMANDS

We need:
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.

THE 35-HOUR WEEK FOR 40 HOURS PAY. The easiest way to force employers to mop up unemployment

THEY are at it again. Scarcely has the Industrial Relations Act been consigned to the dustbin than the Society of Conservative Lawyers propose a new attack on the working class.

This Society, of which the notorious Sir John Donaldson used to be a leading light, produced the first plan for the Tory Act and the NIRC.

Now it wants to punish the wives and children of workers who go on strike.

'The present system of benefit payments is unfair to non-striking taxpayers,' says their latest pamphlet called *Financing Strikes*.

These well-heeled Tories would like to see benefits to wives and children abolished altogether but regret that this 'is not yet politically possible,' (note that 'yet').

So they propose what they are pleased to call 'more moderate remedies'.

These include 'requiring repayments of social security payments, either by deductions from tax rebates made after the strike is over, or by some form of direct deductions from wages.'

Naturally this scheme, if it could be enforced, would pave the way to total abolition of benefits at a later stage.

Vicious

It is quite likely that a new Tory government or, what amounts to the same thing, a 'government of national unity' would try it on.

The way to beat this vicious plan, if it is introduced, will be the way the Industrial Relations Act was beaten—industrial action every time an attempt is made to enforce it.

The whole trade union movement needs to be alerted to the danger and committed in *advance* to resistance by direct action.

A NOBLE SACRIFICE

READERS will be pleased to learn that MPs are not overlooking themselves in their fight against inflation. They are to get an increase of £1,055 a year in their tax-free allowances as well as a 7.7p a mile car allowance.

The increase is equivalent to a £28 a week increase to those of us who pay tax. The noble peers are not forgotten either. Their attendance money goes up from £42.50 to £55 a week. It is supposed to cover their luncheon expenses.

LETTERS



No they're not going off on foreign leave. Army scout cars holidaying at Heathrow Airport.

LEAVING SCHOOL? HAVE A GUN...

I AGREE with 'ex-soldier' (27 July). A fortnight ago 685,000 young people of 16 left school, and are now out on the capitalist labour market ready to be used and exploited, like their parents and grandparents before them. A large majority will end up in some dead end job, with next to starvation wages and no future or security.

Even with these abominable prospects they are a lot more fortunate than the thousands who will eventually end up joining one of the military services. To these unfortunate future workers in uniform the army is portrayed by the TV, Press and school career's masters as the only alternative to a life on the dole, with

all this garbage about an army career being one with a future, security, good wages, great promotion prospects and plenty of opportunity to travel around the world; seeing interesting places and people.

They had forgotten to mention that one would be required to destroy some of these interesting places and murder some of the interesting people in the process of sustaining British imperialism, which is the sole purpose of the army, and all the other military and para-military forces.

Well, as socialists (and in my case an ex-soldier) we all know that these promises are all lies and tricks used to lure young people into the armed

forces, where they will be trained and prepared to be used against the working class in the interest of our enemy, the ruling class in protecting their privileges, property and profits.

It's the duty of everyone of us to point out to these school leavers and young people in general what they're really letting themselves in for, and to use every single means at our disposal in discouraging them from joining up, also for those unfortunate ones who are already in we must do the same, in trying to get them to take up the socialist struggle.

It won't be an easy task, but it's imperative.—LLOYD HAYES, Norwich.

Them Tarzan —us? We're socialists...

CONGRATULATIONS to Anna Paczuska on her article Me Tarzan, You Jane (20 July). The makers of Durex are on to the same sort of good thing as those companies which produce deodorants, make up, hair dyes, and such drugs as Valium and Librium (for when you've tried all the others and are still miserable).

They have all discovered a 'problem' that everybody has and that everybody thinks they should 'solve' individually. Doctors give out not only books on contraception written by Durex salesmen, but books on slimming written by food companies, books on spots and dandruff written by pharmaceutical firms and so on.

All these publications are likely to be read by people who turn to their doctor in great personal unhappiness, and they ruthlessly exploit the way we are alienated from one another in a capitalist society.

However, I do not think we on the left should feel complacent. Why are there few working women in our ranks, and fewer in our leadership? I've heard comrades remark: 'Of course women are more prone to nervous depression.' Why?

Have men any idea how humiliating it is when they make those little jokes about women, when they pass remarks about women's appearance, when they give new women converts to socialism the impression they're not really expected to be able to do anything very well, except perhaps type?

And those women with whom we stand shoulder to shoulder in political struggles, how many of us bother to find out how much work awaits them at home when they get back to hubby and kids, or whether they suffer the creeping guilt feeling that their children will suffer from not having mum around every minute?

Women who are not married face

Strike made them part of the union

IT WAS GOOD to see your report of the canteen workers strike at Birmingham University (27 July). This group of women workers are really exploited and need all the support you can give them.

During the events many women joined the union so that from a situation of very poor organisation now nearly 100 per cent are unionised. Many of the women really enjoyed the demonstration against the charade of the degree ceremony, one said to me 'It was marvellous, when are we going to do it again?'

The women have also had a very fruitful discussion on the 'Women Workers' Charter'. The joint union committee is planning to organise further action, if no satisfactory response is forthcoming from the university, at the beginning of term to link up with student protest over the enormous increase in hall fees.

I was disturbed by the number of factual errors in the report.

As a member of the joint action



Learning the hard way. Refectory workers at Birmingham University giving their opinion of the degree giving ceremony.

union committee assigned to co-ordinate action by the canteen workers I would like to note the following corrections.

The 'recognition of shop stewards' is not a demand since they are already recognised. 'Women losing fingers because no first aid was available'—the joint union com-

mittee representatives have asserted that a woman worker had the top of a finger cut off and no first aid was available. On a more minor point the joint union committee was set up 12 months ago, not eight months ago.—S E RICHARDSON, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

other problems, it's hard not to feel a freak if you're still single at 30, even if you have chosen this course after seeing what it's done to your friends... I suspect the attitudes of Durex Ltd are not limited to the ruling class, and that these attitudes are wasting a great wealth of talent and energy that our socialist movement badly needs.—MB, London International Socialist Hospital Workers Branch.

WE NOW have it from the horses mouth, why the ruling class wants trades unionists sitting on their boards of management.

Sir Frank Figgures gave the game away in a radio interview on the Today programme. He said, 'I only wish we had had trades unionists on the Pay Board. It would not have made the decisions of the Pay Board any different, but it would have made them look different.'

Silly Sir Frank! As Chairman of the Pay Board, he ought to know rule number of the bosses code of practice. Namely, if your policies are aimed at taking the working class for a ride, so that Labour's chiefs and the trade union bureaucrats can sell their supporters down the river more easily, then never give the game away. You'll get put out to grass, Sir Frank, for grassing.—NICK HOWARD, Sheffield.

Engineers and the tightly knit group

THE FOLLOWING resolution was moved at the Walkden branch of the Engineering Union.

'This branch deplores the refusal of press credentials to Socialist Worker. We are particularly concerned that the basis of the refusal is that only correspondents in the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group are given press credentials. We would point out that the LICG are not recognised by the National Union of Journalists.

'We further deplore the situation where papers like the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Express have ready access to credentials whilst a paper like Socialist Worker is refused credentials.'

Speaking on the motion the mover, myself, pointed out that the LICG was a self-selected body which is bound to secrecy and their policy of selective reporting of strikes etc could very well account for lack of publicity of strikes in which members of the branch may be involved. That despite the NUJ General Secretary approaching the AUEW the reply was, only members of the LICG were recognised by the Executive of the AUEW.

The fact that LICG now will allow no more correspondents from weekly papers could in fact result in other left wing working class papers being refused credentials while anti-working class, anti-trade union papers are granted credentials freely.

After some discussion an addendum of 'and other weekly papers' was accepted and the branch carried the motion unanimously.

The resolution was forwarded to the Bolton District Committee where again it was unanimously carried and will go forward to Divisional Committee.—FRANK BROOKES, Gardner IS branch, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester.



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.

Tired, overworked? Join the wreckers

FOLLOWING a series of newspaper articles entitled 'The wreckers' published in that well known champion of workers' rights, the London Evening News, my workmates decided it was about time that Caren Meyer, who wrote the piece, became acquainted with the views of some of her readers.

After a discussion lasting approximately 10 minutes my mate who will answer to the name of Jock had all the appearances of a man preparing to jump down the mouthpiece of the phone to try and throttle our Caren.

The Evening News article in question evolved mainly round one well known member of the International Socialists who happened to have changed his name and the inference was that this was all very sinister. People change their name for all sorts of reasons; my missus did when she married me. And if I'd been christened Perigrene Archibald Marmaduke I'd bloody soon change mine, but it would have nothing to do with my beliefs or principles.

Anyway I thought she might appreciate a call from me to let her know what I thought of her journalistic prowess. After thanking her for the article I told her that the effect it had on me was to convince me to join the International Socialists...—AKL, Chelmsford.

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

On the buses—bad pay and punch-ups

I AM A London busman and a transport union member. For years our union has steadfastly refused to put in a London allowance claim on the grounds that we get much more than our provincial brothers anyway.

We have behaved so 'responsibly' in this respect that we now earn less than West Midland and Midland Red. With a staff shortage of 5000 London Transport was able to make a profit of £10 million last year just by carrying the same amount of passengers on less vehicles.

Going out on the road with four or five buses missing in front of you is no joke. Conductors live in fear of assaults—1000 last year—from passengers enraged by long waits.

The continual speeding-up of schedules, increasing traffic, late finishes and a shift system that robs you of your weekends, sleep and health makes London Transport look like a penal colony.

The Pay Board's idea of a differential between Inner and Outer London is particularly ridiculous. Where do I work?—Tottenham Garage, well over the four mile boundary from Charing Cross. But I actually spend more time working in the West End than anywhere near Tottenham.

Perhaps the members of the Pay Board are so well-heeled that they have forgotten that buses and trains—just like chauffeur-driven cars—move from one place to another.



Don't complain about the traffic jam, the bus may not be there much longer . . .

Our self-respect demands that we avoid being outflanked from the left by the Pay Board. Two can play at that game! All trade unionists in London Transport should demand £8 now or we shut London down. —PETE GLATTER, Tottenham, London.

And for our next trick, we'll nationalise the National Coal Board...

THE MAIN EDITORIAL (20 July) was about tactics for fighting factory closures and redundancies. It stated nationalisation is 'the demand to hold out for,' and concluded: *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.

This raises more questions than it answers. We have to recognise that a very significant proportion of industry in Britain is already nationalised, from mines and railways through to the National Health Service.

We have to realise the way these industries have been used by Tory and Labour governments. They've realised that for their incomes' policies and wage freezes to work through the whole of industry, they have had to apply them rigidly in the nationalised sector.

The nationalised industries are the ultimate puppets of the capitalist state. What are miners to do when faced with redundancies? Presumably if the crisis in British capitalism means that the employers are going to shut factories and throw workers on the scrap heap in the private sector, then they are also going to do it in the 'public' sector.

A careful reading of the interim report on the future of the coal industry, produced by the government, the Coal Board and NUM officials, leads to the conclusion that coal production is going to be concentrated in the big pits and that by 1985 there will be 100,000 fewer miners than there are today.

So what are miners to do about it?

Are we going to advise them to demand state intervention to save

their jobs when we know that the state, through the Labour government is determined to chop them?

Nationalisation is not enough. Of course the fight for jobs in the mining industry means 'encroaching on management rights', but then to add simply that 'real workers' management is for the socialist future' is to imply that at the moment it can be little more than a pipe dream, since it is stated, quite correctly, that this is not possible under capitalism.

Even more dangerous than that, it could be taken to imply that there are separate stages to go through—first nationalisation, then the socialist revolution and workers' management.

If we adopt that kind of approach then we shall never win, because it spreads the illusion that nationalisation is *in itself* 'progressive' and does not make it clear how we fight for the kind of demands that raise the question of state power and workers' control in those industries, and there are many of them, that are already nationalised.

What I want is a series in Socialist Worker which explains why the ruling class were prepared to see such industries as coal and the railways nationalised, but why they are mounting such a huge campaign against the nationalisation of certain other enterprises. In other words, the role of the state in capitalism today.—BILL MESSAGE, Pontefract.

ASTMS: kick the bosses—not Gibson

HAVING just read your report on the decision of the national executive of the ASTMS to bar Ian Gibson from holding office in the union for three years I feel that the time has come for trade unionists everywhere to remind top leaders that they do not own the trade unions.

There is a growing tendency on the part of trade union bureaucrats to show greater hostility to critics inside their own ranks than towards the class enemy. It is intolerable for anyone to think that a critic of trade union leaders is out to work against the interests of the unions. Trade union history has shown the opposite to be the case.

As one who has been a trade unionist all my life I hope that this attack on Ian Gibson by the trade union bosses will put all trade unionists on the alert. It must not be allowed to pass quietly. It will be disastrous for the whole movement if the trade unions are controlled from the top.—HARRY McSHANE, Glasgow.

STOCKS ON ROCKS . . . The antics of Baroness Stocks deserve some publicity. Recently on *The World at One*, she said that she thought that some form of dictatorship would be finally necessary to get Britain out of its present financial embarrassment. When pressed she went on to say that this saviour would come from one of what she called one of Britain's fighting services. Anyone who has any knowledge of this particular class will tell you that they are not even fit to organise an orgy in a brothel. Coming as they do from the middle-classes they either have suffered a public or a grammar school education . . . They are incapable of leadership of any variety at all . . . What I have found rather disturbing has been the fact that no one has bothered to comment on what must on the surface be regarded with some degree of alarm.—ROBERT BRIGGS, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

LIGHT ON SUN . . . In the continuous battle to discredit the popular press it would be useful to have some ammunition. We know the national presses are effectively owned and controlled by the capitalist class if not by prominent supporters of the Tory Party. An article supplying facts and figures to prove it would be useful and much appreciated.—DAVID HOWE, Doncaster.

WELL, IT WAS A ROTTEN HEADLINE . . . The headline on 20 July shouldn't have been *Make The Rich Pay but Capitalism Wants You To Pay—But Millions Of Workers Are Saying No* . . . International Socialist Policy is opposition to ruling class parties and ideas. The Labour government is putting through ruling class policies and IS should give a clear and consistent class lead and attack the Labour Party . . . Socialist Worker has to cease concentrating on trade union consciousness and put forward class conscious ideas which will attract the class conscious worker.—ARTHUR JOHNSON, Exeter.

THANKS, IT'S THE SUPPORT WE GET FROM THE READERS THAT MAKES IT ALL WORTHWHILE . . . Recently long tedious articles, not in the main written by workers have predominated in Socialist Worker. If you want to find out how to change the paper ask the editors of *Womens Voice* (the International Socialist women's paper). The latest issue contains some of the best working class articles in the last 10 years . . . Our IS branch will be doubling its order . . . The only article in SW which approaches *Womens Voice's* lively clarity is Dave Hallsworth's *Talking About Socialism* (20 July).—SANDY ROSE, Middleton, Manchester.

BEEN TO MIDDLETON LATELY? . . . May I suggest the International Socialists scrap *Women's Voice*? *Women's Voice* having a separate paper seems to indicate they speak a different language. Surely it would be better to encourage women to write more for SW. I have asked a few women about this and they agree.—ROD MacFIE, Kirkby.

ADOLF'S INFANTS . . . Last night John Tyndall of the fascist National Front was on the radio . . . Why don't you remind people of the way the German fascists acted? . . . Let the public realise what fascism really means.—J PREEN, London SW11.

CALIFORNIA STRIKING . . . The problems in the struggles of the farm workers' union in California are enormous. The pickets face the brutality of the American police and thugs hired by the Teamsters Union. Scabs are brought in by labour contractors from the interior of Mexico. The Mexican scabs are willing to work at cut rates because of the high unemployment and extremely low wages in Mexico, they enter under cover of darkness and are taken to the vast fields where they live and work, they are intimidated because

they have entered the country illegally. Picketing cannot be fully effective due to the size of the fields, hence the tactic of boycotting the shops. The struggle is a long hard one, but very important for a country that needs to re-learn that working class solidarity is the only way forward.—LAURA COLEMAN, Southampton.

WELL THIS IS PARA TWO . . . When is Socialist Worker going to devote more space to the National Front? If we get half a dozen paragraphs a week we're lucky . . . Socialist Worker is wrong to shy away from this.—P STEWART, Norwich.

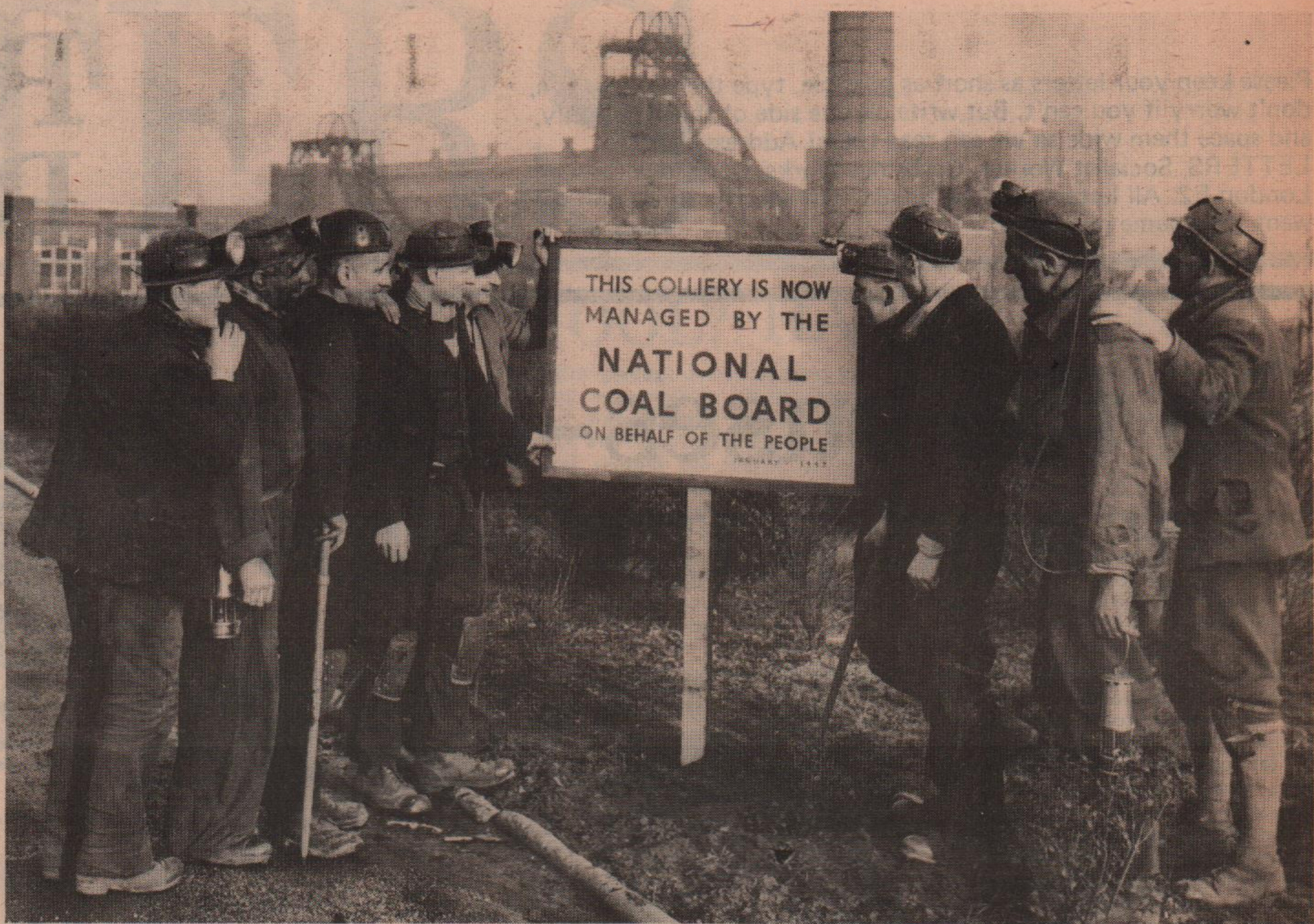
BUT OF COURSE IT'S COINCIDENTAL . . . It's always amusing to listen to captains of industry on TV expounding on the need for everyone to work harder to get the country back on its feet. The fact that the captains would benefit from increased production by way of bigger cars, finer houses etc is purely coincidental . . . The fact that the bosses are expendable and workers are not and that if there were no bosses the workers could provide their own jobs and divide equally the fruits of their labour is ignored.—AB

CYPRUS . . . Your first account (20 July) of the Cyprus coup failed to take notice of the Turkish factor . . . The Turkish army intervention was spurred on by Turkish public opinion's opposition to the union of Greece and Cyprus . . . It was this that threatened to start a bloody conflict against the interests of American imperialism and NATO . . . Turkey's importance in the NATO alliance is far greater than Greece, with an army three times as big. Of course the Cyprus coup was a blow against working class organisations, when the crunch came the division wasn't between right and left but between Greek and Turk . . . There is no such thing as a 'Cypriot'. They are either Greeks or Turks.—L HOLLEY, Bath.



END OF THE PARLIAMEN-TARY ROAD, by Ian Birchall and Chris Harman
THE PARLIAMEN-TARY ROADERS AND THE CHILE DEFEAT, by Chris Harman
THE WORKERS' STRUGGLE UNDER ALLENDE, by Luis Angel Fernandez Hermana
Articles in three previous issues of *International Socialism* journal—numbers 62, 63 and 66.
55p for the three, or 20p each, including postage, from IS JOURNAL, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

How State profits reach private pockets



ABOVE: New Year's Day 1974, as miners at Williamthorpe Colliery, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, are released from the private owners—so they thought. But the table (below left) shows that in the next 22 years £578 million of the wealth produced by miners went into private pockets as compensation and loan interest.

MANY professed socialists see the proposals of Industry Minister Wedgwood Benn as a panacea for all the ills of working under the capitalist system. Some even see them as a 'step on the way' to its destruction.

WHAT TRIPE! The most he advocates is 'government participation' in industry and 'worker participation' in the running of industry. This is even less than the present nationalised industries and in no way resembles a real socialist industrial policy.

It can only be seen as a sop to those pale pink (or is it pale blue?) 'socialists' who bletcher on about the 'virtues' of a 'mixed economy', or a panic measure designed to put the burden of extricating capitalism from the mess on to the working class. The 'nationalised' industries we have today are only props for the capitalist system, providing fat profits for private industry.

A prime example of this is undoubtedly the mining industry. From nationalisation in 1947 to the present day, the sweat and blood of miners has been converted into cash for fat-arsed capitalists, many of whom have never done a day's work in their lives.

When the industry was nationalised and the National Coal Board formed, the old coal-owners rejoiced. Gone was the ever increasing burden of trying to make the mining industry pay. Already grown fat off the backs of the miners, they were compensated with millions of pounds for the loss of 'their' assets. This money they promptly invested in much more profitable enterprises, among them the increasingly profitable mining machinery firms.

Lord Alf

The increase in mechanisation of the mines was no accident. The old coal-owners—and many directors of the NCB—had considerable holdings in the engineering firms supplying machinery to the pits and therefore a vested interest in the use of these machines, most of which were bought at vastly inflated prices.

The same applies today. The industry is still run on capitalist lines by a capitalist-oriented management with the resulting inevitable corruption. For example, examine the record of Bonser Engineering, a mining machinery firm with close connections with Lord Alfred (call

'National' Coal Board—Prop for capitalism

me Alf) Robens, one-time chairman of the NCB.

In 1967, his son Alfred joined the board of Bonser, later proving his loyalty to the firm by marrying the boss's daughter. He was put in charge of marketing. When Bonser went public in 1964, four and a half million of the six million shares issued went to the Bonser family and directors. Of the remainder, 35,000 or so were snapped up by senior NCB officials at 6s each—by 1968 each share was worth 13s 9d.

In 1960, before Bonser started doing business with the NCB, their annual profit was £13,362. By the financial year 1967/68 the figure had risen to £404,292.

It is the same with the coal distribution industry, which still lies almost exclusively in the hands of private enterprise. In 1970/71 the average price of coal sold by the NCB was £5.54 a ton. The cost of coal from the private merchant to the householder was nearer £15 a ton. However the NCB was able to sell coal to its friends in industry at ludicrously low

	NCB profit or loss after payment of interest £m	NCB profit before payment of interest £m
1948	+ 2.5	+ 17.6
1949	+ 17.8	+ 31.2
1950	+ 11.5	+ 26.2
1951	+ 3.8	+ 18.5
1952	- 7.4	+ 7.5
1953	+ 5.6	+ 22.7
1954	- 1.9	+ 16.2
1955	- 19.3	+ 2.0
1956	+ 17.8	+ 39.7
1957	- 5.3	+ 19.9
1958	- 13.5	+ 19.1
1959	- 24.0	+ 13.1
1960	- 21.3	+ 20.2
1961	- 13.8	+ 28.6
1962	+ 1.4	+ 45.4
1963	+ 19.6	+ 72.5
1964	+ 0.1	+ 42.8
1965	- 24.8	+ 0.2
1966	+ 0.3	+ 28.5
1967	+ 0.4	+ 34.6
1968	- 8.9	+ 28.6
1969	- 26.1	+ 8.8
1970	+ 0.5	+ 34.1

prices—50p a ton to the power stations for example.

All the nationalised industries combine to subsidise the private sector. By buying cheap coal, the electricity industry is able to sell electricity at 'special' (cheap) industrial rates to its big customers, so giving private industry the double benefit of cheap coal PLUS cheap electric power. Cheap transport is provided by the nationalised British Rail, ensuring that shareholders' dividends will not be eaten into by such nuisances as power and transport costs.

Another of Labour's big deals is a so-called 'plan for industrial democracy'. They talk of 'worker participation in management' and 'worker directors'. How obscene can they get? To talk of democracy in such a light is nothing but an insult.

Control

The objectives of socialists must remain clear. We cannot fully support any plans for nationalisation—with or without compensation—unless they also provide for the immediate and complete control and administration to be in the hands of the workers in those industries. This will ensure that production will be geared to suit social needs rather than the greed and avarice of a few jam-strangling money merchants.

One of the main objections



Nationalisation 'vesting' day at Murton Colliery, Durham.

raised by the supporters of capitalism when the issue of workers' control is raised, is that workers are incapable of running industry EFFICIENTLY.

The key word here is efficiency—the big difference between capitalist efficiency and socialist efficiency is one of definition and means of measurement. Capitalists define efficiency as that which gives the maximum profit regardless of the cost in human life and suffering, and measure it as such.

The socialist concept of efficiency is entirely different. If production is satisfying the needs of society and at the same time maintaining the highest possible standards of safety and health in industry, then that is an efficient industry.

One way of achieving this aim was outlined in the pamphlet, *The Miners' Next Step*, published in 1912 by the Unofficial Reform Committee.

'Our objective begins to take shape before your very eyes. Every

industry thoroughly organised, in the first place, to fight, to gain control of, and then to administer that industry. The co-ordination of all industries on a Central Production Board which, with a statistical department to ascertain the needs of the people, will issue its demands on the different departments of industry, leaving the men themselves to determine under what conditions and how the work shall be done.

Democracy

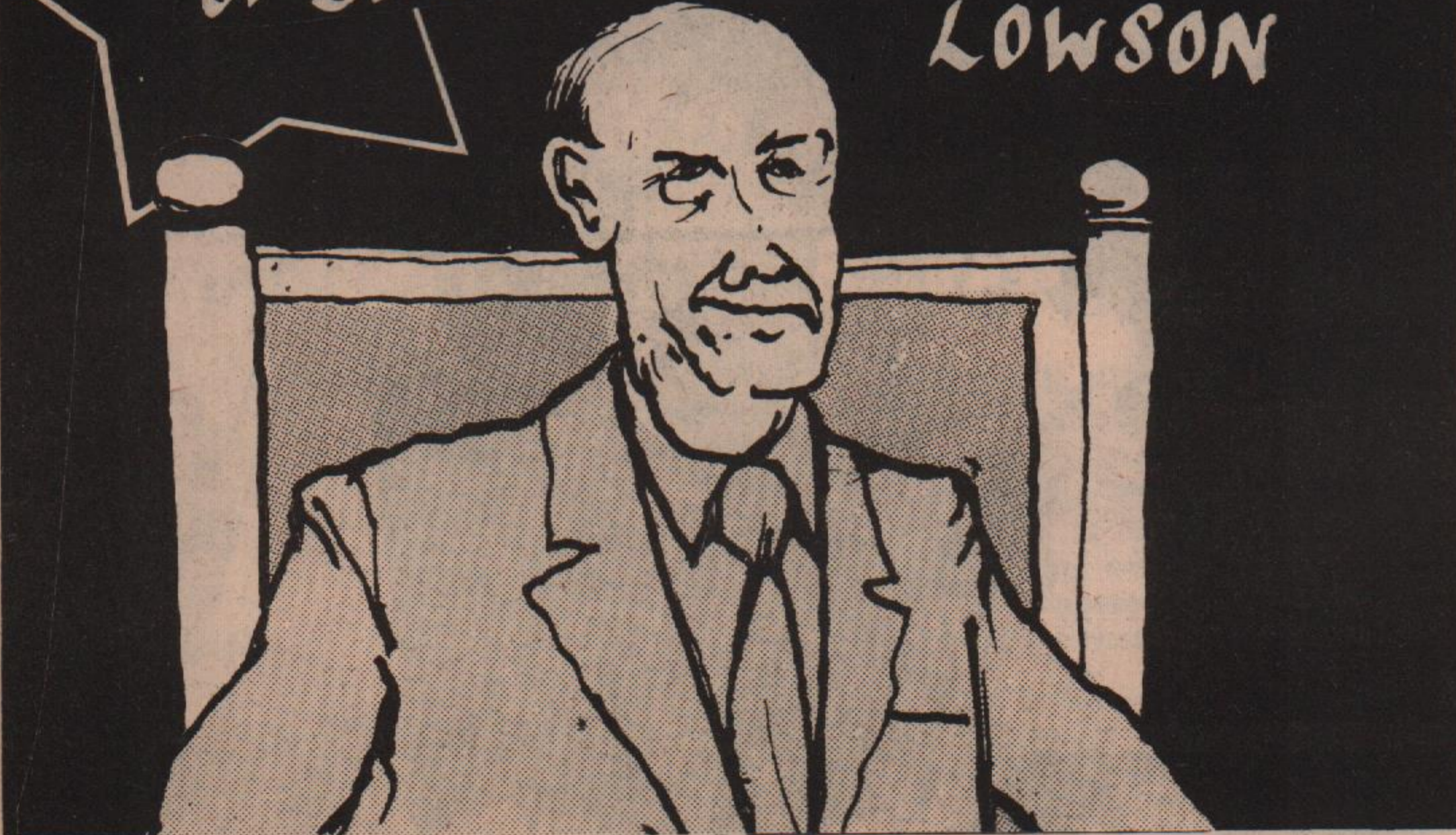
'This would mean real democracy in real life, making for real manhood and real womanhood. Any other form of democracy is a delusion and a snare.'

This is the sort of objective we should be fighting for, NOT the wishy-washy pseudo-socialist nationalisation plans put forward by Wedgwood Benn on behalf of the Labour government.

by STEVE ABBOTT, a miner at Calverton, Notts.

HOW TO STEAL £5,000,000 WITHOUT GETTING TRIED

THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF SIR DENYS FLOWERDEW LOWSON



SIR DENYS Colquhoun Flowerdew Lawson is the perfect Christian gentleman. You might meet him on the magistrates' bench sending you down for stealing 10p worth of sugar at Sainsbury's, or you might hear him in church on Sunday preaching decency and humanity towards his fellow man. Sir Denys was the youngest-ever Lord Mayor of London and had one of the most brilliant minds ever known in the city. With that mind, Sir Denys became chairman of a huge unit trust empire called the National Group of Unit Trusts...

IN 1963, the train robbers stole £2½ million. They were sent to prison for 30 years. In 1973, Sir Denys Lowson stole £5 million from small investors and pension funds connected with his

unit trust empire. He is paying the money back, and is going off in a huff to his shooting estate in Scotland. That's law and order. That's the social contract.



ONE DAY in June 1972, Sir Denys went along to a board meeting of the Nova Scotia Bank. After a chat with some fellow directors, Sir Denys borrowed £427,000 from the bank...



THE NEXT MONTH, Sir Denys went to a board meeting of the companies which controlled National Group of Unit Trust shares. He suggested National wasn't doing too well, and they should sell all their shares. The directors, who thought Sir Denys was the most brilliant man who ever lived, agreed at once. They offered their shares for sale at the price suggested by Sir Denys—62p. They hadn't any idea, of course, who was going to buy them...



SIR DENYS then set up some front companies which bought up all the National shares with the £427,000 he'd borrowed from the Nova Scotia Bank. Then he sold Tom Whyte of the Triumph Investment Trust all his shares in First National—for £8.67 each. This brought a profit to Sir Denys and his family of rather more than £5 million. The money came straight out of the pockets of small investors and pension funds. Sir Denys was only found out after a year's hard work by one journalist. Now he is very sorry and is paying the money back again.

Meanwhile, down in Knoxville, Tennessee...

SIR DENYS LOWSON is not content with companies in Britain. He heads the massive American Association which controls, among other things, 15 per cent of mining land in Knoxville, Tennessee County, inhabited by some of the most poverty-stricken people in the United States.

A Senate Sub-Committee under Senator Muskie is investigating complaints from the area that the American Association has avoided paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in property taxes which should have gone to the isolated valley communities.

In 1973, the company, which pulls in millions every year from the profitable coal mines, paid less than two per cent of the property taxes. The Senate charges are:

THAT Lowson's company has let the tenants' houses in the Appalachians fall into complete disrepair, and kept the tenants in constant terror of eviction.

THAT the area has been laid to waste by 'strip' mining of coal.

THAT the company has not carried out any of its obligations to the communities, refusing even to build one health centre.

THAT the area is held by the company in a 'truly colonial grip'.

Mr B H Morgan, Lowson's managing director in America, was quoted last March as saying: 'The population in these filthy shacks pleaded with us to be allowed to stay so we let them at a peppercorn rent. We had no responsibility for them.'

Mr A E Funke, general manager, put it more bluntly: 'We will not order repairs. The people who are making these allegations are Commies with funny ideas.'

THE WAY in which your mighty Republic and our Royal Commonwealth can best serve the advance of civilisation and the larger purposes of humanity is not by imitating one another but rather by developing to the utmost the special qualities that are native to us.

However much those special qualities might diverge the only resolution should be that we will always watch one another and think the best of one another. That is the way of untrammelled progress. It is a way possible only for free peoples. Indeed for people who value freedom more highly than any worldly good.

Sir Denys Lowson, speaking at a Pilgrims dinner in New York, 18 September 1951.

ONE MAN who learnt his unit trusts from Sir Denys Lowson is Edward Du Cann, chairman of the Conservative MPs' 1922 Committee. Last week, Du Cann made a speech in which he called on politicians to 'tell the truth'.

Du Cann learnt his trade working for Lowson in the 1950s. He then hived off and made a fortune for himself in his own Unicorn outfit.

But when he heard Sir Denys was selling his National shares, Du Cann whipped round to make an offer.

But one unit trust twister can tell another. Du Cann soon found out what Sir Denys was up to, and walked out before any deal was clinched.

Freedom until further notice



JUBILATION outside the Polytechnic in Athens: but has the Junta surrendered . . . or beat

Q. What has actually happened in Greece during the last few days? Has the Junta fallen?

A. No. In fact, with the Junta on the brink of collapse, a compromise has been struck between the military and most of the bourgeois politicians in order to stabilise the situation.

This compromise leaves the Junta in control of the Army and the Presidency, while the Government has been handed over to the country's conservative politicians, with a few liberals added to prop up the 'National Unity' image.

Karamanlis himself is an old expert in presenting a repressive regime as a 'democracy'.

In 1956 he took over from Marshal Papagos, the victor of the civil war in Greece and, through rigged elections, police intimidations and political assassination, managed to hold on until 1963.

The key posts in the cabinet have gone to politicians who have long records of service in the

Socialist Worker interviews CHRISTOS PATRAKIS, of the Greek organisation Socialist Revolution

interests of the Greek bankers and shipowners.

Q. How did this situation come about? Why was the Junta on the verge of collapse?

A. The military regime has been in open crisis during the last year and a half at least. The Junta had been helping the Greek and foreign capitalists boost their profits so unashamedly that it had to rely on repression as its main support.

With the US Sixth Fleet home- porting in Athens, with the ship- owners getting bigger and bigger concessions and 'incentives' every day, with every single working class gain coming under attack, even the most apolitical workers were beginning to realise what the Junta was there for.

During the summer of 1973 there were strikes by printers,

airport workers, Athens transport workers and department store workers.

Building workers and electricity workers also mobilised. There were peasant rallies against land expropriation outside Athens.

In November, students at Athens Polytechnic began a sit-in demanding free elections in their union, freedom to organise and the dissolution of the security police.

They were joined by workers demanding increases in wages and pensions and the removal of the Junta's appointees from the trade unions.

Strike

The joint student-worker co-ordinating committee called on the working class to mobilise towards a General Strike for the overthrow of the Junta. Thousands took to the streets, and the demonstrations were only suppressed with the use of tanks. Hundreds were killed.

Despite its 'success' in butchering the demonstrators, the Junta was badly shaken. In a show of unity the various military factions co-operated in getting rid of the discredited leadership of the Junta and staged a coup on 25 November.

Since then, however, they were caught between two conflicting needs: for a wave of repression to root out the militants in the working class and student movement; and for a compromise with the politicians, to provide some popular support for the regime.

Thus, while the military police were doing the dirty job with mass arrests and torture of hundreds of militants, the army's top brass were keeping in constant touch with the politicians, trying to work out a 'normalisation' plan.

In these circumstances the coup in Cyprus was, from the Greek Junta's point of view, a desperate gamble. They hoped, by beating the nationalist drum, to strengthen their position in Greece, to boost the morale of the officer corps and to side-track working-class militancy into military mobilisation.



THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE: New Premier Karamanlis, no stranger to tyranny, with President Guisikis.

150 years of Greece

1821-1830: After nearly 400 years of Turkish rule, Greek independence was established with the help of the British, who were anxious to get their fingers into the pie. The new state was very much under the thumb of Britain.

1910: Venizelos became Prime Minister and introduced land reform and legislation recognising trade unions.

1918: The General Federation of Trade Unions and the Greek Socialist Party—later to become the Greek Communist Party—were created.

1936: After a general election in which Communists held the balance of power, General Metaxas was appointed Prime Minister. He smashed a general strike in Salonica: 30 workers were killed and 300 wounded.

A national general strike was called for August, but Metaxas suspended the Constitution, and hundreds of trade unionists were arrested and deported.

Under the Metaxas dictatorship, a regime modelled on fascism was set up. 50,000 communists were arrested and deported. Books were burned, concentration camps and torture

were commonplace. **1941:** Greece was occupied by German forces. Communists and others established the National Liberation Front (EAM), and its military wing (ELAS).

EAM controlled large parts of the countryside and had overwhelming working class support. **1944:** In October, Churchill and Stalin agreed that Greece would be part of the British 'sphere of influence'.

The British government was determined to restore the discredited monarchy and install a right-centre government.

Greek workers thought otherwise. In November, Athens textile workers took over their factory and set up a management committee.

And on 3 December, a mass unarmed demonstration was called to protest at the decision by General Scobie, head of British forces in Greece, to disband ELAS. British troops opened fire, killing 28 people.

1945: Following the Yalta carve-up between Britain, the US and Russia, the fighting came to an end. ELAS surrendered its weapons, including over 50,000 rifles and 100 pieces of artillery. The Communist surrender was

followed by a

wing terror. Between Feb- March 1946, 84, arrested, 1289 right-wing gangs 3000 condemned

1946: Electi- The left abstain- wing governme-

Civil war bro- August. The Brit- gave massive mil- right wing.

1947: Britain- was unable to co- support to the- though it contin- the Greeks wit-

But the Unite- in. In 1947, th- approved a sum- dollars 'aid' to G-

1948: In Febr- Yugoslav leader- rising in Greece m- and as quickly as- Yugoslavia split- Yugoslavs also cu-

1949: Guerr- fered severe d- interned Greek re- taking refuge the-

In October, - with right-wing- Greeks fled to B-

Instead, they met with wide- spread opposition. It became clear that war with Turkey would lead to a collapse of the Greek army. It was time to bring on the 'saviours'.

Q. Is what happened in Greece the same as what happened in Portugal?

A. In many ways, yes. There is the same sudden liberation of forces. The jails have been emptied of political prisoners.

People feel free publicly to raise demands on the government. Communists and others on the left have been welcomed back from exile by exuberant crowds.

But there are also major differences. To start with, there is no radical movement comparable to the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal.

And the extent of the collapse of the junta is far smaller than the collapse of Portuguese Fascism.

For example, the security police have not been sacked. Far more of the junta's oppressive machinery is still in force in Greece than was the case in Portugal last April.

Q. What is the new Government trying to do?

A. First of all it is trying to stop the workers, peasants and students from making any gains out of the Junta's retreat: the powers of the military police have been curbed but martial law remains.

Political prisoners are released but their torturers and murderers are pardoned.

More long term, the Junta-Karamanlis regime will be trying to sell a legalised version of the Junta's restrictions on the workers as 'constitutional democratic rule'.

All the 'Emergency Laws' of the Junta will be used by the 'civilian' Government to coerce the workers, while making promises of a 'better democracy'.

And, of course, will be made to in- active role of the- as king makers.

Q. How is the po- fighting back and prospects?

A. Although the- tried to make ou- in Athens took- welcome Karama- that the mood is- not euphoria.

The biggest ra- side the Polytechn- thousands of stud- gathered to dem- their brothers kill- The main slogan- fascists', 'Down- SS torturers.'

The crucial fa- revolutionary ma- this mood and sp- before the new- chance to settle d-



retreat?

is naven't got

ve

Harlan, Kentucky

RUIN'EM

BLOODY HARLAN GOT ITS NAME

DUKE POWER CO. OWNS THE BROOKSIDE

Flashback to last month's SW article on the Harlan strike: Now another miner has been critically wounded

The land of liberty, where strikers are free to be gunned down

ANOTHER MINER has been gunned down in Harlan County, Kentucky. On 8 July, Minard Turner, 66, was critically wounded as he joined 150 Brookside miners and their supporters at the High Splint Mine, another Harlan mine owned by the Eastover Mining Co. A company security guard shot Turner twice in the chest.

The Brookside strikers, with their wives and a number of pensioners, went to High Splint in an effort to force Eastover and the powerful Duke Power Co of North Carolina to recognise the union—the United Mine Workers of America—at Brookside. They set up a picket-line, which most High Splint miners

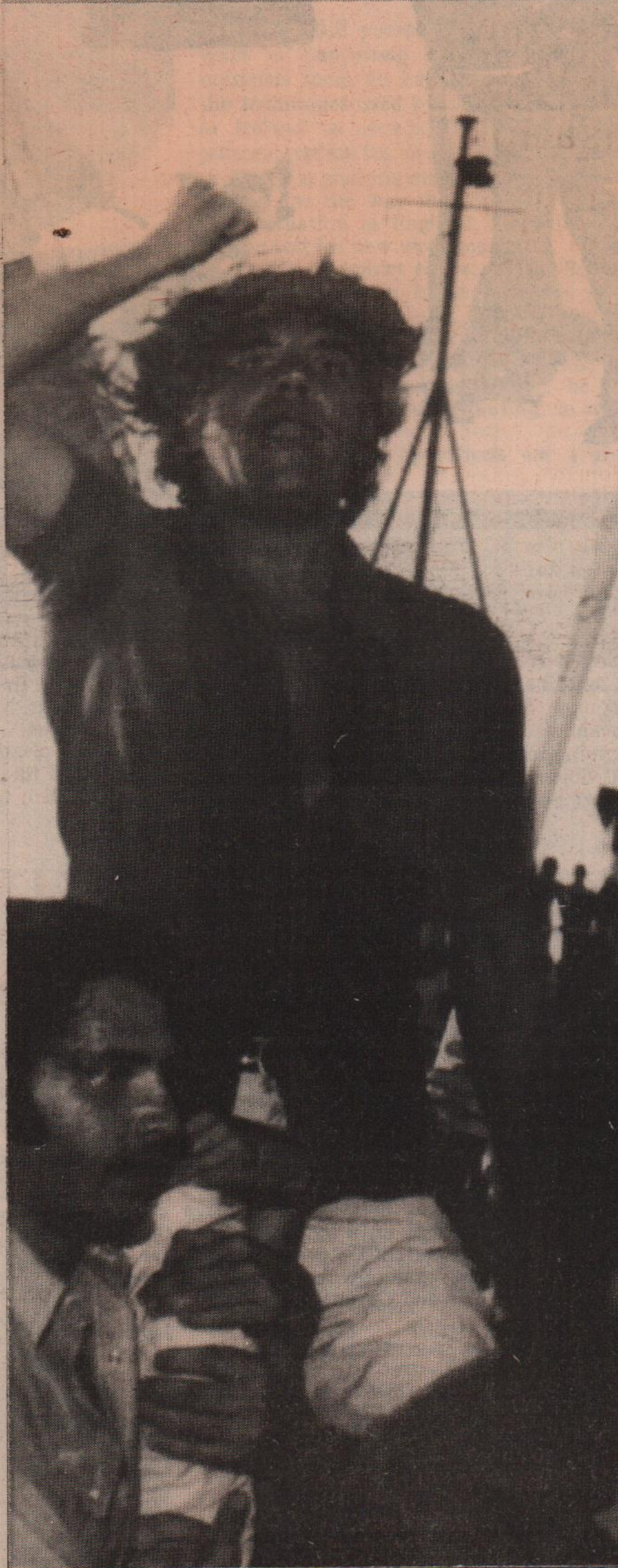
refused to cross. Then, in true Harlan fashion, the shooting started. On the same day that Minard Turner was shot, seven other UMWA pickets narrowly escaped death, when, with the cover of darkness, Eastover security guards sprayed their picket station with machine gun fire. The pickets were pinned down for hours. The next morning union investigators found more than 50 bullets in the ground surrounding the station. At the same time, the miners at High Splint set up their own picket line in protest at the sacking of two miners for supporting the Brookside strikers. Bob Davis, one of the fired miners, said that Norman Yarborough, the President of Eastover, had personally fired him 'for being up there with the mob'. The solidarity of the High Splint miners ensured that the mine would be closed, and despite the shootings and 15 arrests in the first week, the High Splint mine stayed closed, the third Eastover mine to strike since the Brookside miners walked out more than a year ago.

Troops

At the end of the first week, however, the Governor of Kentucky intervened, sending a regiment of State Troopers to High Splint 'to keep the peace'. The fact was, of course, that the troopers were sent in to open the mine. And that they did. On their first day of duty, the troopers met with the scabs and the company officials in a secluded spot, four miles from the mine. There they secretly organised an armed convoy, with which they took some 60 miners through the picket lines. At that point, Arnold Miller, the President of the UMWA, went to Harlan. He called a demonstration to protest at the actions of the police and the coal operators. More than 5000 miners came to Harlan County for the rally, at which Miller said the UMWA would call a nationwide strike if the police were not withdrawn, a strike which, in the words of Houston Elmore, the UMWA organiser in Harlan, would cost the nation's coal producers 1.84 million tons of coal a day. The following day, the Governor agreed to call off the troopers, though not until Miller agreed to limit pickets at High Splint to six at a time. Most High Splint miners are still honouring the pickets, though the mine is operating. About 60 of the 200 men are working, though these, according to Elmore, are 'professional scabs', men who scabbed at Brookside, as well as miners brought by the company from other parts of the country. Despite this agreement at High Splint, however, there may yet be a national miners' strike this summer. According to UMWA contracts, the union is allowed a Memorial Day each time a miner is killed on the job.

Protest

The Union Executive is now considering taking this year's ten Memorial Days for a strike not only to protest the police harassment and company violence in Harlan County, but also to demand the enforcement of safety regulations. The union also wants to draw attention to the fact that no steps have yet been taken to prevent a repetition of the 1972 Buffalo Creek Disaster. In the flood which followed, 125 people were killed, 1000 injured, more than 500 homes destroyed and many more damaged. Some 4000 people, including many miners and their families, were made homeless. Today there remain countless coal waste dams in the mountains of West Virginia and Kentucky and, when it rains, the swollen rivers remind the residents of Buffalo Creek. Nevertheless, the mining companies continue in their blind disregard for human life.



CELEBRATION for former MP Ioannis Charalambopoulos, freed from the prison island of Yaros.

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bookshops

- Pamphlets produced by the International Socialists:
- The Struggle for Workers' Power, by Roger Rosewell, 10p
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 - Workers against racism, by Paul Foot, 10p
 - Women fight back, by Kath Ennis, 10p
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 - Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism, by Richard Kuper, 10p
 - The Politics of Lenin, by Paul Ginsborg, 20p
 - Russia: How the revolution was lost, by Chris Harman, 15p
 - Two pamphlets from the International Socialists in the USA.

THE EMERGING CRISIS OF CAPITALISM reprints some of the most important articles from International Socialism journal: Nigel Harris on 'Imperialism Today', Michael Kidron on 'Arms Economy', John Palmer on 'The Inevitability of Inflation and 'The Disintegration of the Monetary System' and Tony Cliff's 'On Perspectives,' which links these analyses to a strategy for revolutionary action. This is an invaluable collection and should certainly be acquired by every serious socialist. 30p. (Please give us advance notice for bulk orders.)

TOWARD TEACHER POWER by Steve Zeluck deals with the experience of the American teachers' movement in the 1960s, when rank and file activity was most successful. It draws the lessons for militant trade unionism in the future, 25p

An addition to the Penguin Marx Library—**THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL AND AFTER**. This contains documents relating to the International Working Men's Association, founded in 1864, with which Marx was concerned as an active revolutionary. It also contains many of his most important writings on events of the period, including those on the Paris Commune, Ireland and The Critique of the Gotha Programme. A long introduction examines Marx and Engels' involvement in the International. £1.

DIRECT FROM: IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4; 64 Queen Street, Glasgow, C1; 224, Deritend High Street, Birmingham; 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough; the Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry; and Angle Books, 4 Roseangle, Dundee.

ANOTHER East London street is to be depopulated. The occupants have been issued with a third court summons for eviction. Yet another row of houses will be bricked up.

The Town Hall will eventually renovate and then 'gentrify' the area. The working class, as usual, will not be able to afford the higher rents.

No tenants are consulted. Whole streets of council houses on Mercers Estate have been bricked up for more than two years and, all the time, the Greater London Council's Housing Committee insists that renovation follows immediately after evictions.

Essential supplies, such as gas, are suddenly cut off. Few people know what is going on, least of all the many Bengalis who live in the East End and who suffer most from GLC harassment and discrimination.

Bahar Ali Miah, a labourer at the

Royal Mint, was one served with an eviction order. Maybe tomorrow, maybe next month, the bailiffs will be at the door to turf him out and wreck his home.

Break a few pipes and slash the loo to pieces, then brick it all up—such is the way the GLC 'preserves' its property.

The GLC even charged two Stepney squatters with criminal damage after they tried to unbrick one of the many empty houses. Another squatter, who was also ar-

rested, was charged with assault against the policeman because he closed the door in his face.

The house was, nevertheless, occupied by a desperate Bengali couple.

Bahar Ali Miah and the three other tenants haven't the slightest chance of being rehoused by the council. Gladys Dimson, chairman of the Housing Committee, has promised to rehouse families and old people.

Bahar and his friends have families but they cannot afford to bring them

here from Bangladesh and so they lack even Dimson's flimsy guarantee. 'Single' people are not entitled to a roof over their heads.

Bahar, who has been living in Matlock Street for five months, has lost £900 in trying to find a home to share with his family and his brother's family.

He said: 'Last year I was staying with relatives when I met Sammy and he offered to sell me 15 Matlock Street for £55. I didn't know it was a council house and so I bought it.'

The house was a shambles but Sammy and his friend Mr Lewis guaranteed to make it as good as new for £100.

Weeks went by and the figure for repairs kept rising when the 'owner' of No 16 appeared on the scene.

'She offered to rent her house for £10 a week and key money of £150, so I paid her because the house was in working condition and she gave me a letter, fully stamped, that she said was from the council.'

Bahar, sadly, could not read English.

He was robbed by 'illegal' landlords. Tenants are robbed by 'legal' ones. Once he was vulnerable to trickery. Now he and his friends know their rights.

They are determined to stay in their home or squat in one of the other 140 empty houses on the estate. 'Even the council has robbed us,' said Bahar.

'Councillor Harris came to see us three months ago and assured us that as long as we pay our rates, £36 for six months, we could stay here for six months. But now they order us to leave and even demand £15 costs to the court.'

So far, only the immigrants on the estate have had the gas cut off. We can easily guess how much more racism and bigotry will be shown when the bailiffs arrive.

There will be even more if the Law Commission's proposal to make squatting a criminal act is carried. Already, the Housing Department discriminates against Asians. It crosses their names off the waiting list when they visit friends and families for short periods.

Brutally

Khalique, a Bengali machinist who is squatting, was recently brutally attacked in his home by a white tenant living down the road. Khalique's nose was severed and he could only breathe with great difficulty. He was in hospital for three days. Meanwhile the police have done nothing.

Local shop stewards are now being approached so workers will be able to hear the squatters' argument and refuse to assist in the rundown and depopulation of Stepney.

The long-haired and the foreigners are the ideal scapegoat for the GLC's bungs and downgrading of the area.

We will not break this myth until the tenants are involved in action against the inhumanity of GLC bureaucrats.

LASH FOR STUDENTS

THE SECOND group of Essex University students felt the lash of the law last week. Three got two-year conditional discharges for obstruction during the anti-victimisation picket last term.

These sentences, extremely heavy for an obstruction charge, are clearly designed to deter students from political activity for the rest of their university careers.

The cases of 16 other students who denied the charge have been adjourned until October. Other students face trumped-up malicious damage and theft charges.

'Preserving property' by destroying lives

A dog's dinner... your child?

TWO WEEKS ago two alsatian dogs mauled and killed a ten-year-old child in Glasgow. Little Peter Whyte was out playing in Alexandra Park, not far from his home, when the dogs attacked.

They dragged him into a nearby pond, and were only driven off when two golfers let fly at them with golf clubs and stones. But by then it was too late. Peter was dead.

The dogs had escaped from a yard in Blochairn Lane where they were protecting the property of MacBrayne Haulage, one of Scotland's biggest haulage contractors, into which large amounts of government money have been pumped over the last ten years. The outfit which owns and supplied the dogs is Guard Dog Services, run by a man called Danny Anderson.

GDS is one of more than 800 private police forces currently operating in Britain. They are opening up at the rate of one a week.

Had Mr Anderson decided to become a news vendor or a window cleaner, he would have needed a special licence. To train and hire out killer dogs he needed none.

Scared

Guard dogs are used in two ways—either with a handler or let loose within a boundary fence. Securicor alone have five training schools for guard dogs in Britain.

They train only alsatians, because they believe, rightly, that people are more scared of them than of any other breed.

There are no special controls, only the ordinary regulations covering pets. Even so, the RSPCA have successfully prosecuted four firms in England this year for ill-treating or starving guard dogs.

Mr John Nicoll of the Glasgow and

West of Scotland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals told me:

'There is no doubt that these dogs are not what you would call over-fed—they are given the minimum of food, or else they are no good for the job. But it is very difficult to prove in court that an animal is being starved.'

'No vicious dog should be let loose inside a fence. There have been incidents where children have been pulled inside. No dog without a handler can work under control.'

One of Mr Anderson's rivals in the security business is Leigh Williams, manager of a tough set-up called K9, which operates in the West Country.

Like most security men, Mr Williams' employees wear a paramilitary uniform—in the case of the senior officers a studded leather jacket and an SS-style cap.

Last year, the stately residents of St Ives were upset when a number of hippies camped out in their town. K9 were called in, and given power to remove the offenders. They promptly set their alsatians on the hippies in scenes St Ives has been trying to live down ever since.

Of course, the police have turned a blind eye to such strong-arm tactics. Firemen have, however, protested about the use of guard dogs. They often have to waste time fighting off a guard dog before they can rescue someone trapped in a fire.

Increasingly, Securicor and the more 'respectable' security firms are used as a back-up force for the police. They are permitted to stop, search



and use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Under the Protection of Aircraft Act they can frisk and detain air passengers. And Securicor are employed at airports to guard people waiting to be deported.

Young Peter Whyte was an innocent victim of the capitalist's determination to protect his property with violence. The legal niceties of whether to prosecute and who to

prosecute have yet to be stitched together.

But clearly the security firms, the people who drew on its services, and the authorities who turn a blind eye are equally responsible.

Peter was not the first child to be mauled by guard dogs. Nor is this the first time that business interests from Securicor to the alsatian breeders club have protested they are terribly sorry, but it's not their fault.

Canteen food: The mice give their verdict

By a member of the British Leyland IS branch, Coventry

SUTCLIFFE's, the multi-national catering firm, make millions of pounds every year. They also make thousands of workers sick in the stomach every day.

Last month, they were fined after mouse droppings were found in the 'food' they serve up at extortionate prices at the Jaguar Daimler works in Coventry. This unpleasant fact was not mentioned in their glowing Newsletter, Contact.

Neither did Contact mention that three canteens have been condemned as unfit by the health authorities. Nor does it mention Sutcliffe's prices. I can't give them all, but take a few examples from just two Coventry factories, Jaguar Cars and Coventry Radiator:

	Coventry Radiator	Jaguar
Buttered roll	2½p	5p
Cheese roll	5½p	7½p
Steak & Kidney pie	11½p	12p
Pork Pie	10½p	12p
Potatoes per scoop	1½p	4p
Chips with meal	4p	5p
Chips separate	5p	8p

Sutcliffe's also don't mention how they exploit their staff, and how they now have a new typed menu. Last

year, you could have a set meal for 16p, this year the new prices will be on an 'a la carte' basis, each item charged for separately.

Meals now start at 18p with extras separate, veg at 4p, potatoes at 4p and so on, which eventually makes your meal not 16p but as high as 30p to 40p.

How many of our members work in factories with Sutcliffe canteens? Aware of the conditions the canteen staff have to work in, we have boycotted the canteen at Jaguar several times, but unless we can achieve a united effort in all factories, Sutcliffe's will always be in a position to raise prices, playing us one against the other, and then always coming out on top.

On 25 March 1973, management at Jaguar's told us all canteen prices were to be increased by 10 per cent as from 1 April, because of the introduction of VAT. We told the company that 10 per cent VAT levied on all restaurants and catering organisations was replacing SET levied at 12½ per cent. Therefore prices should come down 2½ per cent.

While we this year were MADE to take £1 + 7 per cent without thresholds being paid, Leyland workers are being pushed further down the wage scale.

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

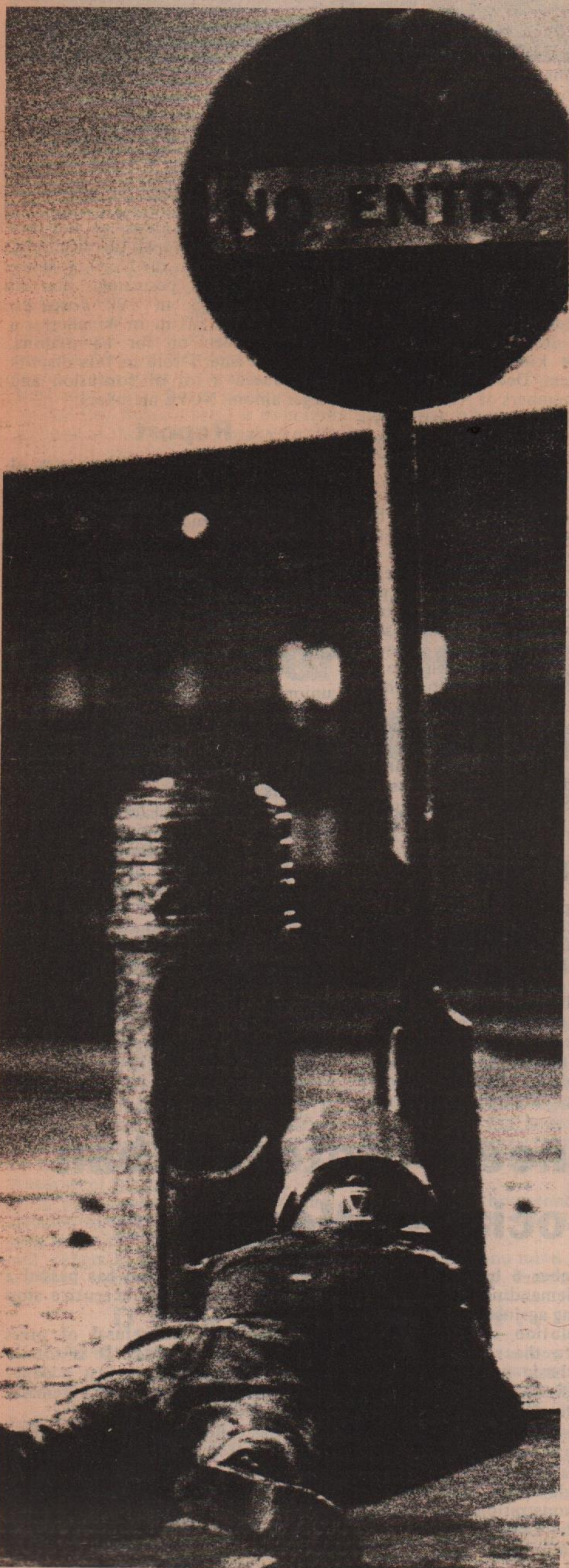
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The shape of things to come?



THIS LITTLE pamphlet brings home important issues about what is happening in Ireland, issues which most trade unionists seem to have largely ignored. It examines clearly the techniques used by the army, police and the welfare state in Ireland to counter 'insurgency', and so should be compulsory reading for all socialists.

There is growing evidence to suggest that Ireland is a testing ground for the way the forces of the state will operate in a crisis situation in England, like Hitler used the Spanish Civil War to test his new weapons.

As the pamphlet states: 'Every British Army line regiment has now served in Ireland, gaining experience which could prove invaluable.'

For Brigadier Kitson, Commandant of the Army's School of Infantry at Warminster, the army has a role in all stages of a developing crisis, including what he calls 'non-violent subversion' strikes, sit-ins, picketing, in other words trade union activities!

The Heathrow operations are a good example of how

BRENDON SALISBURY, an AUEW shop steward in Letchworth, Herts, reviews *The New Technology of Repression—lessons from Ireland* (British Society for Social Responsibility in Science: 30p)

police and army can operate in England without any public uproar. The police chief in charge of the Heathrow operations was also responsible for setting up the special anti-picket intelligence unit.

These facts are all detailed in the pamphlet which goes on to show how the Special Patrol Group, provocateurs—as in the Littlejohn affair—and special assassination squads are all now used in Ireland.

For the first time, the British Army has been in operation in an advanced capitalist country, part of the UK, and in very similar conditions to those which would apply in any future operations inside Britain. The Left here must look closely at what is going on.

As well as explaining how water cannon, CS Gas and rubber bullets have been used and developed in Ireland the pamphlet also shows how when 20,000 people went on rent strike in Ireland, the welfare state tried to stop benefits such as those for unemployment, pensions and industrial injury to try to weaken the strike.

Order

As Britain enters a period of crisis with economic confrontation building up and political conflict sharpening, the BSSRS should be congratulated for this well-timed publication.

All IS branches should order copies now. Militants must use the information here as a handbook for the Left.

We must explain the implications of what has been going on in Ireland. As the pamphlet states:

'There is a great danger of a gradual rightward shift in which no particular action or event is seen as sufficiently drastic to produce a major mobilisation of the working class'.

From Vidal de Nicholas' poem 'When I love freedom', written in a Spanish jail.

The sea is always suspect and subversive
Who knows? The gulls may organise a strike.
The pinewoods must be watched for fear they harbour
the illicit duplicators of the spring.
The whisper of the cornfields may be treason.
There is danger in the peace talk of the doves
Or in the dog-eared pages of a book,
In human laughter and in human kisses
and in
The multitudinous hopes of man
Prisoner as I am I burst out laughing
How will they manage to arrest and torture
the sun
Now on its way from my home town?

ON THE BOX

SATURDAY: ITV (London area only). 10.30pm. HOW I WON THE WAR, the 1967 Dick (Hard Days Night) Lester film with Michael Crawford and John Lennon.

SUNDAY: BBC-2. 8.10pm. KING CARNIVAL is a film about the Trinidad Carnival. The new Sunday Serial on RADIO-4 at 9.30pm is THE SWORD OF HONOUR, written by high Tory Evelyn Waugh, and one of the best English novels about the Second World War. At 10.15pm on ITV is THE NEARLY MAN by Arthur Hopcraft, about a fading Labour MP back in his constituency. A ridiculous plot of course, whoever heard of a drunken, seedy Labour MP?

MONDAY: BBC-2, 9.35pm. LISTEN AND BE LOYAL should be fascina-

ting. It's about the wartime propaganda campaign to keep up British morale. 'The Englishman is basically lazy, can't be persuaded to act against his common-sense and needs legal compulsion to get the desired action,' a quotation from a wartime document prepared for government propagandists, they probably kept it for reference during the late E Heath's government. TWO WEEKS CLEAR at 8pm on ITV is a documentary on miners on holiday. RADIO-4's BOOK AT BED-TIME at 10.45pm is George Orwell's BURMESE DAYS.

TUESDAY: ITV 9pm. FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER by Willis Hall is the play in the VILLAGE HALL series and the last of GOSLINGS' TRAVELS is about a North Wales caravan site. At 10.30pm.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-1, 9.55pm. THE MAKING OF A NATURAL HISTORY FILM is said to be excellent.

THURSDAY: BBC-2, 9.55pm. THE SHIP OF GOOD HOPE is about the fortunes of some of 500 Commonwealth immigrants who arrived in 1948. The nearest thing to a decent film ever made by Julie Andrews is THE AMERICANISATION OF EMILY set in World War two at 9.25pm on BBC-1.

FRIDAY: BBC-2, 7.55pm. British documentary maker Humphrey Jennings who died in 1950 is profiled in HEART OF BRITAIN. The Indian film THE MUSIC ROOM directed by Satyajit Ray on at 9.30pm same channel.

The man who thinks inquiries will get rid of this...



The newly opened Wellington Hospital in London, private patients only. RIGHT: Part of Queen Mary's Hospital, East London. While the rich pay £50 a day, the National Health Service is falling apart. TOP: Alan Fisher, who called off the ban on private patients.

NO SOONER had hospital workers at Charing Cross Hospital in London taken action against the treatment of private patients last month, than NUPE general secretary Alan Fisher was on the television denouncing the menace of private hospital treatment.

Now this is all very nice, but rather puzzling. Hospital workers in Portsmouth, for example, are amazed at Fisher's belated conversion to direct action to ban private patients. For 18 months ago, when they imposed a ban on the rich queue-jumpers themselves, they got no support from Alan Fisher—who wanted to leave the matter to Labour Party

THE UNIONS

Conference resolutions.

There was not a paragraph in the union newspaper, not even when theatre porters at St Mary's Hospital were threatened with the sack.

The silence continued while workers at Brook Hospital in South London started banning private patients a few months later.

When more than 200 hospitals in the North East took action, NUPE's position was made clear by press officer Bernard Dix. 'It's potty for any one union to take on the private system. Any long-term plan to end

this private business, which is loathed by the unions, must be co-ordinated to be effective. Everybody must keep in line,' he said.

Dix's statement was in fact backbiting in the campaign between NUPE and COHSE, the Health Service Employers' Union, to recruit most members in the nurses' dispute. Little did Dix know that his boss Alan Fisher would do a complete turn-about before the week was out, such was his desperation to catch up with COHSE's recruiting figures.

Before the nurses' dispute ex-

ploded both unions were running level with 70,000 nursing members. But COHSE, by initiating militant action, caught the imagination of nurses around the country and had increased its membership by more than 14,000, winning the recruitment stakes hands down.

NUPE played the 'moderate' game as 'the responsible union'. An official leaflet argued: 'NUPE is not prepared to be dragged into an all-out strike of the kind dreamed up by COHSE leaders. Decisions on action by nursing members of NUPE will be taken through the traditional democratic trade union process, it will not be decided by a handful of COHSE leaders.'

Instead the decision was to be taken by a few NUPE leaders. But the approach didn't attract the recruits.

Then COHSE called off its action on the promise of an interim pay award if the Halsbury Inquiry into nurses' pay was delayed and as Fisher saw it the two unions were on even terms again. Here was a chance to restore prestige and do something about those recruitment figures. He seized on the private patients issue.

Five and a half days of negotiations and a great many TV appearances later he could again see himself as the saviour of the Health Service—except, of course, that it had not been saved.

Played

The hospital consultants were sharpening their daggers and preparing to defend their right to make money. As they banned free contraceptives and applied other sanctions to hit working-class families, Fisher called off a movement which could have rid the NHS of this parasitic business in a few weeks.

He has played straight into the hands of the part-time consultants.

These men are ready to disrupt indefinitely the Owen 'working party' set up by Health Minister Barbara Castle to take the heat out of the situation.

Many NUPE members are not prepared to put up with this situation. Health workers in the North East are continuing their permanent ban on private patients in 200 hospitals. They will not lift it. In Winchester a ban has been on for 18 months.

Alan Fisher's role in this dispute has caused a lot of confusion and anger among NUPE members.

Report

The words Alan Fisher uses at union conferences are increasingly being called into question. At the NUPE Conference last year he argued 'There are too many people in the trade union movement today who are waiting for others to do the job they should be doing themselves. Instead of setting an example by the actions of their own union, they sulk in the corner and blame the TUC or this, that, or the other union.'

These words do not apparently apply to the man who spoke them. He is waiting for the Halsbury Inquiry and the Owen report on private patients.

He also promised he would finish the business of the hospital ancillary workers' pay claim. Last year's strike had been called off on the promise of a further campaign last December.

Yet the ancillary workers' pay is still 'unfinished business'. Weeks before the miners won their victory against Phase Three and without most ancillary workers being told the details of the claim, a Phase Three settlement was pushed through.

No fight was to be allowed against Phase Three of the Tories' Incomes Policy. Alan Fisher was waiting for it to end. He still is.

How a union official and the social contract saved Shell

by John Deason

ONE aspect of the sell out at Shell's Stanlow Refinery in Cheshire two weeks ago that has received little attention is the role of Transport Union full-timer John Miller.

Miller was until not so long ago a partisan of workers' control, who in company with others from the union flirted around the Institute of Workers' Control.

But such is the nature of the TGWU and such is the passion with which Jack Jones is committed to the social contract that the aim of the TGWU operation in the Stanlow strike was to undermine everything the stewards were doing.

The Shell workers were poised to extract a wage increase from their employers which would have kept pace with the rocketing cost of living. Shell, one of the richest and most ruthless of multi-nationals, was at long last being squeezed hard enough to make them pay up. But that's where John Miller and the 'social contract' came in.

Instigate

The Tuesday before the final 'settlement' negotiations with Shell broke down. Lay delegates from Ardrossan, Carrington, Teesport, Shellhaven and Stanlow refineries, unanimously agreed to extend the Stanlow stoppage to an all-out national stoppage. Shell's number was finally up.

But the very next day John Miller was on the move, trying to instigate fresh talks. Shell wouldn't bite.

On the Thursday shop stewards' meetings at Carrington and Shellhaven

endorsed the strike call. That same day Shell suddenly wanted to talk to John Miller.

Miller used Shell's telex system to send a message to senior stewards that arbitration had been agreed to by the company. Since the Stanlow men were on strike they never got the telex message. The first the stewards heard of the goings-on was from a local newspaper reporter.

In the confusion the Stanlow stewards postponed their meeting until the Saturday. The other refineries met on the Friday.

Resigned

Miller put on the pressure to get these meetings to vote against the stewards' national call for strike action. At Carrington, near Manchester, he sent the local TGWU official to ensure that the convenor, Bill Brown, read out Shell's letter 'accepting' arbitration. So disgusted were the stewards that 28 of the 32 resigned on the spot. Fred Green summed up the militants' disappointment: 'If we'd only stuck to our guns and not been outmanoeuvred by Miller, we'd have scored a real victory. Instead, it's a shambles.'

At Teesport there was only a majority of 17 for accepting Miller's arbitration manoeuvres. TGWU member Russell Libby, reports that the rise was portrayed as an 'interim' payment until 1 January and it was stated that strike action would jeo-

pardise this payment. In effect many of the lads were frightened off.

The 1800 Stanlow strikers were left high and dry. Yet 700 voted the next day to continue the strike. The meeting unanimously passed a resolution strongly disapproving Miller's action and demanding that he be brought in front of the TGWU executive to explain his behaviour.

Ernie Twigg, senior shop steward at Stanlow and delegate to the Shell National Committee, summed up it up:

'We could have beaten the economic power of Shell with the support of the other locations. The role of the full-time officials made it impossible to get this support. This could have been a great victory. The reason it wasn't isn't lack of fight in the rank and file, but the antics of full-time officials at national level.'

Upholds

Without doubt the Stanlow strikers gained the confidence to flex their muscles when they saw Shell's gigantic profits and realised what a fraud the social contract is. The power of these workers is potentially colossal, but the TGWU leaders, rather than assist their developing confidence and organisation, upholds the social contract.

But Shell workers still have their power. The stewards must swallow the bitter taste of disappointment, stand again and strengthen their organisation through the combine ready for the battles ahead.

Engineers protest at ban on Socialist Worker

LEEDS number 6 branch of the Engineering Workers Union has passed a resolution demanding that the union's Engineering Section executive stop discriminating against Socialist Worker.

The resolution says that the branch 'deplores the refusal of press credentials to the reporters of Socialist Worker,' and adds: 'It is totally against the basic principles of our union to discriminate against a paper which consistently fights in the interests of the working class. We demand that this state of affairs be rectified immediately.'

The Kirkstall no 2 branch, also in Leeds, has called for more information on the dispute from the union executive. The Bolton AUEW district has also come out against the ban and called for it to be lifted.

Many trade union branches have also passed resolutions on the Red Lion Square demonstration and calling for working-class mobilisation against racialism. The London Region of UCATT, the building workers' union, has come out in support of a mobilisation against the National Front. This followed the passing of resolutions in London branches of the union.

TONY CLIFF examines the Pay Board report on London Allowances

Get that £400... for everyone

THE REPORT can be used in the fight to improve wages, despite its distortions and contradictions.

First, the report admits that workers in Inner London need the £400 allowance. We should demand this for all London workers.

Second, it says: 'We recommend that London Weighting should be the same throughout the public sector for all categories of employee, and that there should be no differentiation between individual parts of the public sector or between manual and non-manual workers.'

Good! £400 for all public employees in London, white collar or blue collar.

Third, if public employees are entitled to the allowance, workers in the private sector should be, too.

The report quotes without comment the argument of the CBI against 'the inclusion of labour shortage as an additional factor in establishing London Weighting: ... labour shortages in London are caused by factors other than pay.'

And then it quotes the Institute of Personnel Management to say 'it is neither socially nor economically

acceptable to attract additional labour to London as its transport facilities and housing market appear to have reached saturation point.'

What arguments! As labour shortages in London are not only caused by low pay—no reason to raise the pay! As higher pay will increase the number of people moving to London, pay should not be raised!

Why does not the Institute of Personnel Management go one step further and suggest that workers in London should have a wage cut of, say, £400 a year. This will make more of them move away from London.

The conclusion of the Pay Board is that London Allowance should be paid in the private sector only where wages and salaries are determined nationally.

By this logic, Ford workers in

Dagenham should be entitled to £200 as there are Ford factories outside London. But any factory next door, whose workers have to pay the same rent or mortgage, the same fares, the same food prices as Ford workers, should not be entitled to the money, if the firm that employs them has no factories outside London.

Beside the one million public employees in London, there are another 2.9 million workers in the private sector.

A victory for an army of workers numbering nearly four million in the battle to win a £400 a year London Weighting allowance would be a fantastic breakthrough.

A victory for the campaign for London Allowance will be not only a victory for London workers, but a victory also for the whole working class.

What you're not 'allowed'

WE ARE told workers in London suffer from extra stress. The Inner London Education Authority submitted that 'the strain on individual teachers in Inner London is greater than the strain on the run of teachers in the provinces

The Pay Board comments: 'Some organisations argued that there should be payment to compensate for urban stress of a generalised kind associated with a deterioration in the "quality of life" in London.'

The Pay Board decided against this. First, because 'no serious attempt was made to show how this might be quantified.

Second: 'The most effective way of dealing with generalised problems of stress is to improve the environment and so lessen its causes.

'The Government's major infrastructure programmes are designed to do this, with special emphasis on the problems of inner cities.'

Instead of an allowance let London workers be satisfied with the promise that things will be better later!

Again, on payment for overtime we are told: 'Normal practice in both public and private sectors is for overtime pay to be based on pay which includes London Weighting.'

But this should cease, says the Pay Board. 'We ... recommend that London Weighting should be excluded from the rates of pay which are used for the calculation of overtime and shift pay and of bonuses and incentive payments.'

At the same time the report recommends that in calculating the deductions for superannuation the London Weighting allowance should be included!

LIES, DAMN LIES...

THE Pay Board is dead. 'Free bargaining' is the order of the day. Labour's social contract depends, however, on maintaining wage restraint with employers and trade union officials collaborating to hold the line on established wage norms.

The Pay Board report on London Weighting recommended a £400 a year allowance for those working within four miles of Charing Cross and £200 for the rest of London. This ridiculous distinction can only be answered by all London workers demanding an £8 a week (£400 a year) increase now.

The four mile limit, the Civil Service definition of Inner London, contains most government offices. Why this definition should apply to local government workers or teachers or busmen or postmen the devil alone knows.

The only real explanation, not stated in the report of course, is that this way the number of people getting the £400 is kept as low as possible.

LOGIC

The four-mile limit means a teacher living in Hackney and teaching in Newham is entitled to £200 to cover travel and other expenses, while one who lives in Newham and teaches in Hackney is entitled to £400.

The Pay Board's logic is even more transparent when we look at the way they make up the figures.

	Inner London	Outer London
Housing	141	80
Travel to work	73	15
Other costs	81	81
Wear and Tear and Housing Standards	105	24
	400	200

HOUSING: Should a worker be paid for the expense

of buying a house? The report says NO.

'We do not consider that it would be right in principle to base the house purchase element in any London Weighting allowance on current house prices.' At a time of rampant inflation wouldn't all employers be happy to pay the workers not for the current price of food, let us say, but for the price a few years back!

Will the allowance be enough to at least compensate for the capital repayment of a worker who takes out a mortgage? The answer again is NO. 'We consider ... that the cost of a house in Newham or Haringey is only 56.8 per cent of that in neighbouring Hackney or Tower Hamlets. Hence the allowance for housing should be £80 for the first two boroughs and £141 for the second two!

SHARING

TRAVEL: If you work in Haringey you should get £15 a year travel allowance. If you work in neighbouring Hackney, you are entitled to £73! To explain this statistical hocus pocus is too much even for the Pay Board.

WEAR AND TEAR AND HOUSING STANDARDS: We are told of 'a general impression of somewhat lower standards of housing for those working in London and particularly in Inner London. There is more sharing of facilities such as kitchen and bathroom, fewer bedrooms on average, more older houses, fewer detached houses and fewer garages or car ports.'

To compensate for this, and for the wear and tear involved in travelling to work, 'London Weighting should include £105 for Inner London and £24 for Outer London.'

£105 or £24, not a penny less, not a penny more. Lies, damn lies, and statistics ...

Workers fight back over police blitz on paper sellers

by Steve Abbott (NUM, Calverton Colliery, Notts)

SIX PEOPLE have now been arrested in what seems to be a concerted effort by Nottingham police to drive left-wing papers off the streets.

For some time, sellers have been harassed outside the Victoria Centre shopping complex but, until recently, it was confined to vague instructions to keep moving or to stay well apart.

But now three people selling Socialist Worker have been arrested for obstructing the highway.

Thirty minutes after a sergeant and then an inspector had told them to stay five yards apart and keep moving—instructions which were promptly complied with—the sellers were bundled into a police van, taken to the police station and charged.

The Nottingham South Branch of EPTU passed a resolution calling on Nottingham district trades council to take action against this attack on freedom of speech and the press.

A public meeting was called and decided to make a firm stand against this intimidation by continuing to sell papers at the same spot, where we have been selling for about two

years. A mass sale with placards was arranged for Saturday 27 July, as well as a lobby of the City Council and attempts to enlist trade union support.

On Saturday 20 July, normal paper selling began outside the Victoria Centre, starting as usual at 11am, with two people selling SW and two selling Red Weekly. The first two hours passed without incident although there did seem to be a more pronounced police presence.

At about 2pm, a police inspector and sergeant stood watch but made no comment and soon left. About 30 minutes later, three constables approached. Each went to a different seller.

As one of those concerned, I can tell you exactly how the conversation went.

PC: Would you mind moving away from the main thoroughfare? Me:

IS, Cliff argued, can now draw on the support of a small but important number of workers. By attacking Socialist Worker, the law attacks this determined group of workers.

Cliff concluded by speaking of the special struggle of black workers. In North London they are cruelly exploited.

Cliff again stressed the need to organise at work and in the unions.

Where is that, then?

PC, pointing to the specific spot: Over there, if you stand there you will be all right.

I immediately moved to the spot he had indicated. After they had left it became apparent that each of the three coppers had given different instructions.

Mike Lee, who was also selling Socialist Worker, said he had been told: 'Keep moving about and you'll be OK.'

The cruncher came from a Red Weekly seller, who had been told that if there were more than one paper-seller when they returned in ten minutes we would all be arrested and locked up until six o'clock.

We decided to carry on as we were. Sure enough, ten minutes later two of the coppers returned and arrested three of us.

As we were lifted, we passed our papers to other comrades who continued selling. Sales continued until the normal time of 5pm without further harassment.

We were charged at about 4.30pm. We were told we would be given bail at 6pm.

When we complained, we were told that if we didn't shut up we would be kept in for the whole weekend.

On our release, we saw a bloke selling the Nottingham Evening Post outside the Victoria Centre. We didn't see any police harassing him.

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.

THE COLLIER: July/August issue now out. 5p—now 8 pages! All orders to 29 Station Road, Dodworth, Barnsley.

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).

NEW PAMPHLET: Why socialists should support Ireland's struggle for freedom. Authors: Finnbar O'Doherty (Derry) and Fran Bodie (Women's Lib). 15p post free from Polytechnic Troops Out Movement, c/o Grass Roots, 178 Oxford Road, Manchester.

THIRD WORLD PUBLICATIONS are looking for a marketing manager. A challenging job for an enterprising person who is politically and socially aware, in a three-person workers' co-operative. Working conditions informal but efficient. Previous marketing experience valuable but not essential. Must be able to plan and carry out an imaginative and effective marketing strategy, produce promotional materials and expand contacts with people interested in development/liberation of the Third World. TWP markets a wide range of mainly low-cost, readable and attractive publications about the Third World and its relationships with the West. More details from TWP, 67 College Road, Birmingham B13 9LR (phone 021-777 9644).

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

FULHAM IS public meeting: The falling National Health. Speakers: Bill Geddes (Hammersmith NUPE chairman), Melanie Bartley (London nurse) and Dr Dave Widgery. Chairman: Gordon Blair. Wed 7 August, 8pm, The Swan, opposite Fulham Broadway tube.

BLACKBURN IS public meeting: The role of the Police. Speaker: Michael Fenn, (London docker). Thursday 8 August, 8pm, Mid-Pennine Arts Association Gallery, King William Street.

BARNET IS public meeting. The Police—the long arm of the ruling class. Speakers: Ian Ollie (London Royal Docks) and Jim Nichol (Socialist Worker). Wednesday 31 July, 8pm, Bull and Butcher, High Road, Whetstone. (near Totteridge and Whetstone tube).

LAMBETH COUNCIL WORKERS IS inaugural meeting. Inflation and public sector workers. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thurs 8 August, 12.30pm, Lower Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2.

LAMBETH IS public meeting: Women in society and industry. Film plus woman speaker. Lambeth Town Hall, Wednesday 7 August, 8pm. All welcome (nearest Tube, Brixton).

TOWER HAMLETS IS film show and Asian music: Cry of the People (struggle of Brazilian people against oppression). Half Moon Theatre, Alie Street, E1. Sat 3 August, 8pm. Admission 30p. In aid of Socialist Worker defence fund.

Meetings for IS members

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.

YORKSHIRE AND NORTH DERBY IS MINERS meeting: Saturday 3 August, Masons Arms, Market Place, Doncaster, 12 noon. Including a session on the case for a national rank and file movement (Speakers: Roger Cox, secretary, Rank and File Conference Organising Committee). Non-IS miners welcome.

IS notices

YORK TUC SCHOOLS. All IS members who will be at any of this year's remaining schools please ring Peter Household, York 51501.

COMRADE needs own room in house or flat in North London (Finsbury Park area). Phone 739 2639 daytime/450 2976 evening.

IS INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT requires full-time admin. assistant/typist. IS members only. Apply to Steve Jefferys, Industrial Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

SOCIALIST WORKER PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS needs a carpenter (experienced craftsman, no amateurs please) for four weeks, cards required, and a full-time driver. Both to start as soon as possible. Write or phone Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 (01-739 1870).

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.

DEMONSTRATE against Mujibur Rahman's regime in Bangladesh. Sunday 11 August, 2.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park.

SUPPORT WANTED for Islington Tenants Campaign picket on Prebless Estate Agents. Meet 9.30am-12.30pm every Saturday, 82 Parkway Camden Town, 109 Upper St, Islington and 564 Tottenham High Street.

STRIKE BENEFIT in aid of contracting electricians on strike at Watney's Brewery, Mortlake, South London. Ten Nights in a Bar-room, an American melodrama on the evils of drink, at the Unity Theatre, 11 Goldington Street, London NW1. Sunday 4 August, 7.45pm, Tickets £1 from the Strike Committee, 41 Chiswick Common Road, London W4 or at the Unity Theatre, address above (phone 01-387 8647).

BOOK RED LADDER THEATRE for your trade union branch, weekend school, trades council, school, tech, community associations, shows available: A Woman's Work is Never Done, Happy Robots? The National Cake. Book soon for autumn. We're touring north in early October. Midlands early December. West Country in January. For information ring 01-263 1053 or 01-730 5396 or write to 58 Holbein House, Holbein Place, London SW1.

GOOD DANCE GROUP Available for IS and trade union socials in London—£20 but negotiable. Phone Mike at 01-567 2028.

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

Union democracy under fire ... in the NUT, and in ASTMS

EDWARD Britton, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, claimed last Saturday that 'any talk of our imposing an "Official Secrets Act" is absolute nonsense.

Is it? The executive has resolved that all its members will be asked to sign a declaration undertaking 'to respect the confidentiality of documents classed as private'. Those refusing to sign the declaration will not get the documents.

There is one difference between this and the similar procedure under the Official Secrets Act. NUT EC members are given the option of remaining in ignorance. But the aim is the same, to prevent those with a vital interest in the information, in this case the ordinary members, knowing anything about it.

There has always been a 'confidentiality' rule. What has produced this new 'taking the oath' procedure is the presence on the executive of two supporters of the organisation Rank and File who believe strongly in union democracy.

'All members of the union have a right to know,' said Dick North, London executive member and editor of Rank and File. 'I will not sign a carte-blanc declaration on confidentiality.'

The issue is an important one, and not only in the NUT. If union members are to have any chance of influencing union policy they must know what their leaders are up to.

The argument that disclosure and discussion 'help the employers' is largely spurious. Certainly, in the NUT, those most anxious to 'keep it in the family' have been those most anxious to avoid action against the employers.

The ten EC members (out of 44) who voted against the 'declaration' procedure deserve the support of all NUT members.

MEMBERS OF ASTMS from division five (East Anglia) are being urged to join a protest picket of the union's national executive meeting on 10 August.

The protest is against the executive's decision to suspend NEC member Ian Gibson from holding any office in the union for three years.

This sentence on Ian for writing a critical article in Socialist Worker, has been acted on even though an appeal hearing had been requested.

The divisional executive are angry at the delay in calling together the Appeal Court since it leaves the members without representation on the NEC. Branches from East Anglia and other areas have passed resolutions demanding that the article from Socialist Worker be published in the ASTMS journal, that a defence fund be started in the division and that only the members should dismiss or elect a NEC member.

The July NEC minutes of the issue have just appeared and were described as a 'blatant distortion of what happened' by one of Gibson's witnesses. 'You would think we had never been there' he said.

If the Appeal Court fails to make a decision in the interests of democracy, members of ASTMS in East Anglia are considering further action.

One thing seems certain. A demand for greater local control of decision-making in ASTMS will now take place.

Members of ASTMS who wish to record their anger at the NEC decision should be at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington on 10 August at 9 o'clock.

... and how about BALPA?

MARK Young, former leading supporter of the Cannon leadership in the EEPTU and more recently a convert to the cause of democracy in the union, has left for greener pastures.

He has been appointed as General Secretary of the British Airlines Pilots Association at £7,000 a year.

Young quarrelled with Frank Chapple, Cannon's heir, over Chapple's bid to be both General Secretary and General President of the EEPTU and the consequent stalling of elections.

He took legal proceedings to force an election for the general secretaryship with inconclusive results. No election has been held and boss Chapple continues to hold both top jobs.

It remains to be seen whether Bro Young's attachment to the principle of elections for union officials will stretch far enough to make him campaign for the right of BALPA members to vote for or against their new general secretary.

Busmen's one-day strikes

DERBY:— Corporation busmen have launched a series of one-day strikes in pursuit of a £4-a-week pay rise and better conditions.

The management refused to make an offer and Brother Reg Harris, the area organiser of Notts-Derby TGWU, was called in.

At a mass meeting last Tuesday, Brother Reg claimed that the £4 increase was out of the question because the Corporation couldn't afford it! Several militants asked about a £2 increase they were supposed to be getting at the end of 1973. Reg explained that the Corporation had offered £1.60 and he thought that could get £2.

To conclude the meeting, Reg began to talk about... productivity agreements. However, as most of the blokes have to do well over 40 hours to get some sort of living wage this wasn't exactly popular.

Most of the blokes were disillusioned, but the strike action continues and Derby busmen—who are bottom of the Midland busmen's wages league—will continue to fight until they get a decent offer. As we went to press, there was another mass meeting coming up. The offer has been slightly improved, but is still not good enough.

ROTTEN FOR WHITES, TOO...

IT'S GOING to be an uphill struggle to cut away the prejudice, fear and sense of frustration which clogs up the minds of the white workers at Imperial Typewriters.

But there are indications that it is a struggle which will succeed.

The situation is a tough one. The 300 white workers struck last week as the Asian workers in the Imperial plants went back to work after 11 weeks of struggle.

The white workers went out the gate for a day against the reinstatement of all the Asians. Their spokesman raised the cry that 25 of the strike leaders be sacked.

Now, more than a week later, there is still a lot of talk about 'the troublemakers' though rather less about doing anything to get 25 people sacked.

In the pub across the road from the works, it's not long before someone will make the statement about this being 'our country'.

The question of how much of it they own—a few thousand acres or the 'right' to pay massive interest on a mortgage for 30 years—works wonders, however.

But there is some enthusiasm for the 'Put Britons First' poison of the National Front.

Underneath it all, there is also a clear recognition that the Asian strikers have pulled something off.

This comes across in a strange, half resentful, half jealous way. One young worker (nameless, since all the whites I spoke to refused to be named) put it as follows:

'Now that they're all back inside, they walk like gods.'

Certainly the Asian workers, are proud now, very proud.

And that does show, particularly to workers who have never taken on the people who really determine the nature of their working lives

After a discussion with some young white workers, it was clear

Laurie Flynn reports from Leicester

that they were dissatisfied with the union organisation in the plant.

They didn't have union cards despite asking for them time and again. They had tried to get meetings and been refused.

They wanted wage increases, but there was no way of building up steam. They wanted threshold payments

These resentments are there. But a combination of management tactics, rotten trade union organisation and reactionary ideas has prevented any clear appreciation that these are exactly the things the Asian workers have been fighting.

Before the Asian workers struck on May Day they had two shop stewards out of a total of more than 20.

Yet the Asian workers are in an overwhelming majority at Imperial Typewriters.

Exploitation

Hasmukh Khetani and N C Patel, two of the Asian workers who helped to lead the strike, had been trying to get representation and become shop stewards for two years.

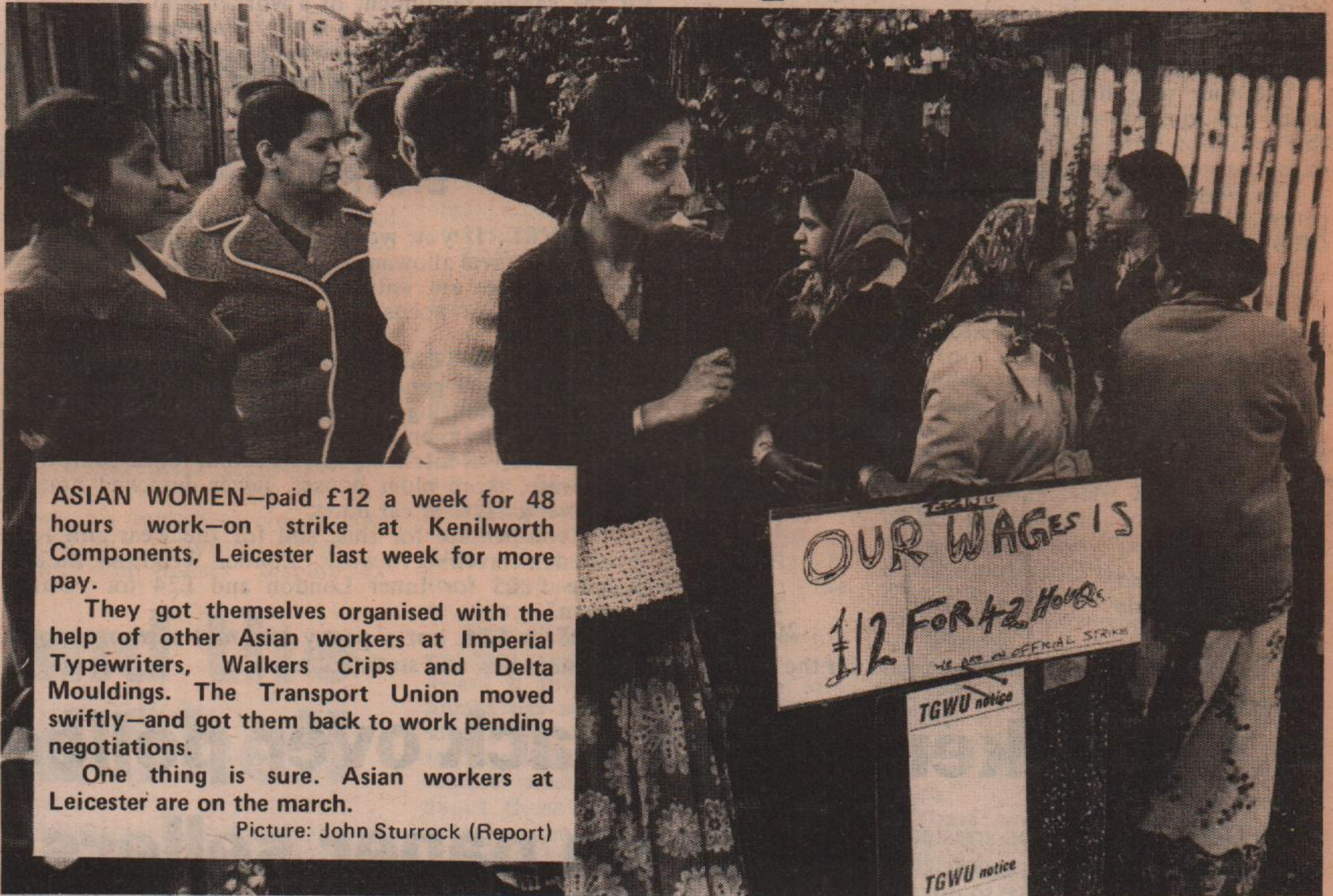
Transport Union convenor Reginald Weaver wouldn't go along with that.

The result was the fantastic exploitation of the Asian workers which led to the strike.

Women assembly workers in the Copdale Road plant found that they were being swindled on bonus payments to the extent of £4 a week over two years.

They should have been getting bonus on more than 168 machines. They were only getting it after 200.

This was not the way Imperial's management or their loyal friend Reginald Weaver put the issues over to the white workers. The way they had it was that the Asian strikers



ASIAN WOMEN—paid £12 a week for 48 hours work—on strike at Kenilworth Components, Leicester last week for more pay.

They got themselves organised with the help of other Asian workers at Imperial Typewriters, Walkers Crips and Delta Mouldings. The Transport Union moved swiftly—and got them back to work pending negotiations.

One thing is sure. Asian workers at Leicester are on the march.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

wanted a 160 per cent increase in bonus backdated for two years, clearly ruinous for a poor struggling multinational like Litton Industries.

Though they were not subjected to the same trickery as the Asians and did not get quite the pittance paid to the Asian women, the white workers are far from well off.

The basic rate is upwards of £26, with those not on piecework relying on long hours of overtime.

When the strike was on, and the white workers were crossing the picket lines, management stopped overtime, doubtless a gesture of how much they appreciated loyalty.

The absurd idea that this was the Asians', not the management's fault,

was of course put about.

Nonetheless some of the white workers are absolutely clear that the low basic is the problem. One young man with a deep admiration for the miners worked 86 hours to earn the princely sum of £32.

He had supported the white workers' strike but thought that when the first Asian strikers came out everybody should have come out.

Now this might have been only a remote possibility at the beginning. But it was a possibility.

It wasn't entertained because of the regime of Reginald Weaver, former Transport Union executive member.

The one-day strike was his idea. He summoned the first meeting of white workers and decided the direction it would take.

He got up on the platform and asked what the men were going to do about the troublemakers. He declared the union was right behind the men, though later he informed Litton Industries that the strike was unofficial, quite spontaneous.

The '25 troublemakers' formulation had two obvious attractions for Weaver. First it is not directed against all Asians and is not openly racialist.

It pretends to be aimed only at supposed 'troublemakers'.

And to get rid of 25 of their leaders would eliminate a lot of rivals. Even to frighten them would be of assistance.

The notion clicked with the white workers, but for rather more complex

reasons.

When you go over the matter with them it is clear that a sense of having been used fuelled the strike, as much as prejudice and fear.

One worker explained it as follows: 'We were the loyal ones, thanked by the management for coming into work during the strike.'

'Then the company decided they had to back down. So they dumped us.'

Alternative

The Asian workers have shown that there is an alternative to being used for all Imperial workers.

Their strike has forced management to change tack, to resort to more 'up to date' methods of exploitation. It has also begun the change so long needed in the union structure inside and outside the plants.

At their meeting last week the Asian strikers resolved to do everything in their power to win over the white workers.

They want to continue the process of forging a union controlled by its members.

Success will mean a new regime in Imperial Typewriters and a new atmosphere in Leicester itself.

For it will open up the prospect of getting rid of the ideas and the sense of powerlessness and frustration which is the seed bed of racialism.

Welders fight on - without AUEW

EDINBURGH:—All 58 welders at the Parsons Peebles engineering plant have now been on strike for six weeks.

The dispute is over payment for welding tests which management insist every welder should undergo every year. The welders want a special payment for the test, which the management have refused.

Negotiations had been dragging on since last year. Then the management struck—they paid off five welders just two weeks before the annual trades holidays. Of course, the welders immediately went on strike.

The AUEW officials who have handled the dispute have come under a lot of criticism. They didn't go out of their way to fight the decision of the Ministry of Social Security not to pay unemploy-

ment benefit, which is causing a great deal of hardship.

Last Wednesday the AUEW District Committee, on the recommendation of the officials withdrew official sanction from the strike and asked the welders to accept a so-called reasonable management offer. The firm was to pay the welders something for stricter quality control, but not until March 1975. The welders tossed out the offer and decided to stay out for another month.

Stubborn

Throughout the dispute the management have remained stubborn. They are prepared to suffer losses and to cause a

lot of hardship to laid off men in an attempt to show the welders who is the boss. The dispute could have been settled before the strike for an annual payment of about £15.

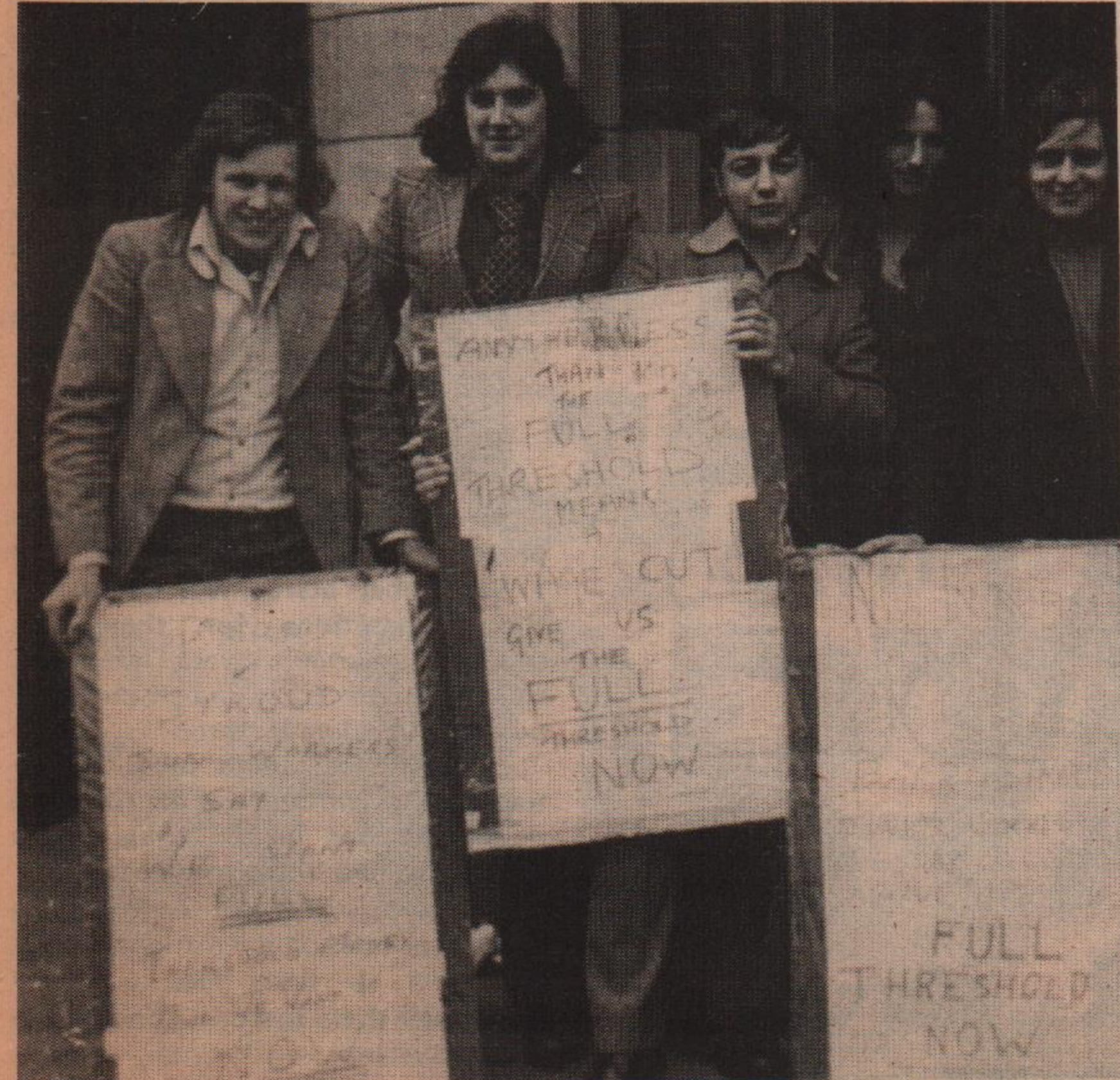
The welders are getting support from local trade unionists, including the NUM branch at Monktonhall Colliery. The Combine Committee of the Reyrolle-Parsons group is raising money in the Newcastle and Birmingham factories, the first time it has given support to one section in a struggle.

The background to this dispute lies in the vast differences in pay in the engineering industry in the east of Scotland. The skilled rate at Parsons Peebles is £34.60, compared with £54 at Motherwell Bridge, on oil rig fabrication yard in Edinburgh.

Young strikers: We need help

GLASGOW:-The young workers at Barr and Stroud's are keeping up their picketing during the works' holidays. They are determined to turn back lorries delivering new equipment.

And they are setting up a fighting fund to finance their struggle—which is over the payment of the threshold. The employers believe a defeat for the young workers would enable them to impose their limit of £2.80 on all the workers.



The threshold, the full threshold and nothing but... Young strikers at Barr and Stroud

Stuart Ferguson, chairman of the junior workers committee, told Socialist Worker that morale among the 100-plus strikers was good, but money was badly needed.

Another striker, Donnie McLeod, who is a member of the AUEW junior workers' committee in Scotland, said: 'This dispute should be supported by everyone, especially young workers.'

'There are hundreds of places where management has got away with this type of deal. Young workers cannot win by themselves. But unless we show how determined we are to win, our cause will always be the first to be dropped.'

'We have a whole range of claims we must pursue—the full rate at 18, representation on negotiating committees with full voting rights, equal pay for girls.'

Jim Heggie, T&GWU Youth Delegate to Glasgow Trades Council Executive, said: 'The junior workers have shown the way. They deserve and need support from other trade unionists and in particular those places where young workers are organised.'

'A successful conclusion to this dispute will demonstrate that young workers can prevent the sort of sell-out that was attempted. Young workers need to be organised at every level throughout the union movement to make sure their claims, right across the board, are fought for vigorously.'

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

£400: Now let's get it together!

by Steve Ludlam

THE £400 PAY BONANZA headlines following the Pay Board Report have made London Weighting a bigger issue in hospitals than ever Phase Three was. By contrast, the silence from NUPE head office has been deafening, with not a word on the 'zoning' lunacy.

Since our claim went in unannounced last November, we've had only one circular—a copy of Len Murray's 'don't rock the

boat' ultimatum to the NALGO strikers in May. It took a bitter exchange between delegates and the Divisional Officer at the May divisional conference to even get confirmation that a claim was in.

This fantastic chance to build a common front of all London NHS workers is one we can't miss. After a year of sectional struggles inside the NHS, we can build up a movement for joint national claims.

Docks back X-ray workers

by Adrian Sugar

NORTH-EAST:-With the full support of the dockers on the Tees, hospital radiographers are stepping up their fight for better pay and conditions.

Dockers heard speeches last week from local nurses and radiographers and promised to strike for half a shift on Tuesday and every week until their demands are accepted.

More than 200 North East radiographers met on Monday and voted unanimously to continue their all-out strike into its third week. There is pressure from radiographers in the North West and in South Wales to join the strike.

The vote persuaded the national executive of the radiographers' union—ASTMS—to grant strike pay, which has so far been withheld.

Strategy

The NEC, while opposing one-day token stoppages, is sticking to a strategy of strikes in key hospitals. Members in the North East support the opposition to token strikes, but want to see rolling, regional strikes or a national strike.

All attempts to break the strike have been defeated. At the new North Tees General Hospital, Stockton, students and part-timers were tricked into working.

Mass pickets on Monday of all the region's radiographers closed off all supplies

into and out of the hospital's four gates. The management threw in the towel. They withdrew all the students, and promised no victimisation. The part-timers decided to join the strike.

Our members have shown the way to get union organisation in the National Health Service and to end low pay. With the announcement that the Halsbury recommendations on nurses' pay won't be published for at least six weeks, this battle takes on a greater urgency.

Barbara Castle has refused any interim rise until then—but the size of the rise will only be as big as our militancy.

The day of action called by the NUPE North East Nurses Advisory Committee last week received only limited support. Nurses and radiographers from South Shields, Darlington and Aycliffe took action and were supported by Civil and Public Services Association members from Mowden Hall computer centre, sections of council workers in the NUPE County Branch and the AUEW TASS Teesside division.

This was the result of the drop in activity by the nurses who after three months of industrial action, found it hard to keep it up.

Nurses are waiting for the Halsbury report due out on September 16. NUPE must not be allowed to sell out its declared intention of fighting for an interim payment if no award is made by 23 August.

DRIVING FOR VICTORY

WEDNESBURY, Staffs:-The two-week unofficial strike by TGWU drivers at Coopers Transport has been backed by effective picketing. Senior Steward Stan Priest believes Coopers are making a stand to prevent what could be an important victory for TGWU drivers in the West Midlands.

Letters of support and collections to Stan Priest, c/o Strike Fund Committee, District Office, TGWU, Bury St, Wolverhampton.



International Socialist hospital workers in London plan to campaign on these points:

REJECT 'zoning'. For the full £400 claim across the board, backdated from November when the claim went in. The £400 to be consolidated into the basic and enhanceable for all purposes.

DEMAND the National Executive of NUPE organises joint action on London Weighting with other State Sector unions involving. Support for all initiatives from trade union bodies aimed at united action by all London workers.

FOR an emergency London Region Conference of all NUPE members, NHS, local government, water and sewage workers, schools and colleges ancillaries. This conference should be open to all members and branch officers.

Get that £400 for everyone: Tony Cliff breaks down the London Allowance Report—page 13.

Negotiations

NATIONAL negotiations on NALGO's London weighting claim were due to take place on Friday.

NALGO militants, fearful that a deal would be struck short of the full claim and all action suspended, have called a demonstration outside NALGO head offices on Saturday. The lobby will start at 9am, in Harewood Road, London NW1, near Marylebone Station.

Overtime ban

S. LONDON:-Workers at U. G. Glass, New Cross, have been banning overtime in support of an £8 a week London allowance payment. The ban has forced management to start local negotiations.

The workers, mainly West Indians and Asians, are determined to fight the issue to a finish. Convenor Mike Rodda told Socialist Worker: 'The Pay Board confirms the need for realistic allowances. Now it's up to us. All London trade unionists should be pushing for the biggest allowance they can get.'



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 _____

ANTI-INTERNMENT DEMONSTRATION

Sunday 11 August
Speakers Corner, 2.30pm
March to Westminster
Speaker: Michael Farrell (PD)
Organised by Irish Political Hostages Committee
All London IS branches to support

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Act now to stop the fascists



Statement from the IS Executive

THE National Front is planning two more marches in the next two months—in Leicester on 24 August and in London on 7 September.

IS, along with other organisations on the left, will be mobilising to stop these marches, which are a symptom of the growing confidence of this fascist organisation.

Some sections of the trade union movement, such as the London regional committee of UCATT, have already pledged support for a counter-demonstration. Our aim must be to spread this support as widely as possible over the coming weeks.



IS branches should regard this preparatory work as a priority. The 7 September march will cut across the preparations for the Chile solidarity march a week later, but we must push for a maximum turnout for both demonstrations.

IS branches should take the initiative in organising support for these demonstrations in the trade union movement and in the localities.

Socialist Worker will be printing a series of articles on the National Front and how to fight fascism. They should be used in conjunction with these activities.



Leicester IS press release

WE GIVE notice of our intention to organise locally and nationally against the proposed march through Leicester on 24 August by the fascist National Front. We call upon all socialists and trade unionists, shop stewards committees, trades councils, trade union branches to march against the fascists.

In Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain and Chile, the fascist record is one of smashing all independent workers' organisations and killing minorities, either on grounds of racial or political difference. The National Front have the same politics.

**Defend shop floor unity!
Defend the Unions!
Workers Unite against Fascism!
March 24 August**

STOP THE CYPRUS CARVE-UP!

NO PARTITION is the slogan of these Cypriot demonstrators outside the American embassy in London last Sunday, and of demonstrators of all nationalities in almost every capital in the world.

No Partition is the slogan of the vast majority of the people of Cyprus. But in Geneva, the governments of Greece, Turkey and Britain have decided to carve up the island. The people of Cyprus are not represented at the conference.

The only consideration of the three NATO powers is the division of the island to their best advantage. The interests of the Cyprus people are not considered.

'SOVEREIGNTY'

The British Government wants to ensure the 'sovereignty' of its two vast bases on Cyprus—at Episkopi, near Limassol and at Dhekelia, near Larnaca.

The new Greek Government wants to show it can beat the national drum every bit as fiercely as its Fascist predecessor.

The Turkish Government cannot move an inch without looking over its shoulder at the brutal generals whose regime it replaced last November, but whose power and influence is every bit as strong.

WITHDRAWAL

So there is to be a 'phased' withdrawal of troops without a commitment from any Great Power to remove all its troops forever. On the contrary. Despite the Geneva agreement, Turkish troops will stay in Kyrenia. The Greek National Guard which overthrew the elected Cyprus Government last month will not be instantly withdrawn. Above all, the British 'sovereign bases' will remain.

Nothing will stop the greed and cynicism of the NATO powers towards Cyprus except international working class action in solidarity with the working people of Cyprus.

There can be no solution while Greek, Turkish and British armies remain on the island. We must argue with every means available in the British working class movement for the immediate removal from Cyprus of all troops, especially British troops, NOW.

Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)



CONTRIBUTIONS to the fighting fund this week included 50p from Lowestoft. 'I regret,' said the accompanying letter, 'that I can't contribute more from my earnings of 62p to help defend Socialist Worker.'

The contributor is a prisoner at Lowestoft jail. We'd like to thank him and hope he joins us when he gets out.

Though, if the authorities have their way, some of us will be joining him...

Two International Socialist dockers from the Royal Group in London have just been interviewed by Scotland Yard over the IS campaign against the National Front during the Newham by-election.

The police indicated that the investigation was at the National Front's request. Apparently the Front don't like being called fascists and racials.

Your paper needs money to go on fighting for socialism every week, to fight the attacks of our rulers.

We received £622.25 this week, making a total for this month of **£1722**

Thanks to all contributors, among whom were the Babek Iranian Revolutionaries £45, Albion Motors £8.50, London Hospitals £50, Hills and Hill Son and Compton £3, Gardiners Apprentices £2, Aylesbury Estate £4. And from these IS branches: Exeter £10, Lewisham £10, Luton £8.50, NE Manchester £10.60, Leeds University £19, Cardiff £12, Cambridge £54.10, Birmingham £6, Canterbury £5, Southwark £26.

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

'Justice' jeers at a dead man

LORD Chief Justice Widgery gave judgement on Monday on appeals by two members of Luton Sinn Fein, Jeremiah Mealey and Philip Sheridan, against conviction and sentences for conspiracy to rob.

The two men told the court they had been led by a self-confessed police provocateur into a plot to commit a robbery.

This man, Kenneth Lennon, had done a deal with the police and gone free while they were convicted on his evidence.

Widgery said their ten-year jail sentences had to stand. They had not established that Lennon was a 'true provocateur'. He was just a spy and, said Widgery, it was 'quite legitimate' for the police to use spies in 'the fight against terrorists'.

Terrorists

His attitude was somewhat different ten days earlier when he heard an appeal from two genuine and quite unrepentant terrorists, Miss Valerie McGraw and her boss Basil Marks of 'Brampton', Bishops Avenue, London N2—otherwise known as 'Millionaire's Row' where no house costs less than £150,000.

These two creatures wanted to get rid of one of their tenants, 68-year-old Bill Quinn, a retired brickie so badly crippled with bronchitis he could hardly walk.

When Bill withheld his £3-a-week rent for his room in Saltram Crescent, West London, on account of the

blocked drains, Miss McGraw arrived to encourage him to pay up. She was accompanied by two hefty men and an alsatian.

On 29 January, 1973, Miss McGraw again arrived at Bill's flat accompanied by two men. Bill was out. They pulled the gas fires from the walls, threw all the furniture out and fitted new locks 'to protect the property from vandals'.

The police had to let Bill Quinn into his room when he returned. The old man, already greatly upset by the notice to quit Marks had sent him some two months earlier, was shattered. He gave up the ghost.

The following day 30 January 1973 a neighbour found his body. Bill Quinn had committed suicide by taking an overdose of barbiturates.

He left a suicide note for his landlord, which read: 'You can take my dead body now, you thieving bastard.'

The inquest received some publicity. Westminster Council prosecuted Basil Marks and Miss McGraw for harassment and illegal eviction.

They appeared at Marylebone Magistrates Court on 6 September.

Even before leading counsel Michael Sherrard spoke for his vile clients, the magistrates announced there was no case to answer.

They added for good measure

that the suicide note 'gave no indication that his death had anything to do with this case.'

Westminster Council decided to appeal. And the death of Bill Quinn came before Lord Chief Justice Widgery, Lord Bridge and Lord May.

They upheld the decision. The landlord was clearly not responsible. He only benefitted from the harassment. He did not carry it out.

Forgotten

There was some evidence that Miss McGraw had performed actions which could amount to an eviction.

It wasn't that she had changed the locks. That's quite legal. She changed them hastily.

So while they didn't uphold the appeal, they did say her case should be heard again. In the unlikely event of the magistrates convicting the second time around the maximum penalty she faces is £400.

Lord Chief Justice Widgery and his colleagues have done their duty.

Clearly a landlord could not be held responsible for the act of his agent.

And the agent? She was only doing her job, a bit hastily perhaps.

As for Bill Quinn, he's best forgotten.

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