

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

FORD: 'NO WAGE CUTS HERE'

A FORD WORKER spelt out this week the issue that faces every worker in Britain:

'We work for a living—we do our best, and we do that for less money than in the rest of the motor industry. We do not want this to continue. If the social contract means that our lads have got to work for less money, it means the social contract has got to go.'

Those are the words of Arthur Flicker, Engineering Union press shop steward at Fords, Dagenham, and Socialist Worker.

The faint-hearts at the top of the trade unions, who want us all to cut our wages to save the country and the Labour government in their hour of need, got a rude answer from 1800 Ford workers in London and Liverpool.

Unanimously, mass meetings of press shop workers at Dagenham and Halewood voted to stay on strike in support of their demand for £4 NOW on the shift allowance.

Fords and union leaders Moss Evans (TGWU) and Reg

Birch (AUEW)—both alleged left-wingers—had cobbled up an arrangement over the weekend. Without putting any money on the table, Fords agreed to renegotiate if the men returned to work. Evans and Birch agreed to recommend this.

As a result, the Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee, which is composed of full-time officials and plant representatives, recommended the men return to work.

NONE OF IT

The men would have none of it.

The facts of their situation were far more powerful arguments than anything offered up by Birch, Evans or the employers.

FACT Prices will continue to go up for the five months after the threshold agreement ends in October. Without an immediate pay increase the workers will be defenceless against inflation.

FACT Fords are still making enormous profits. The Sunday Telegraph said last Sunday of Ford's record profits over the past two years: 'Fords of Britain is now the most profitable production centre Henry Ford has. Ford of Britain cannot produce enough cars, lorries and tractors to meet demand, and now has orders for 3000 vehicles a day for as far ahead as Ford can see.'

As one steward told Socialist Worker: 'If Henry Ford wants cars so badly, he must pay decent wages for them.'

FACT Ford workers are at the bottom of the wages league in the British car industry. A Ford worker gets £41.80 for 40 hours. Chrysler (Coventry) pay £54.77; Chrysler (Linwood) £49.18; British Leyland (Cowley) £49.40; Jaguar £53. Under a new agreement, British Leyland workers at Longbridge will get £55 next November.

FACT Ford workers have many bitter experiences of trusting their trade union leaders. In 1971, for instance, after a nine-week strike for parity with Midlands car workers, Jack Jones, TGWU general secretary, and Hugh Scanlon, AUEW president, secretly met the company and agreed a pay offer over the heads of the national negotiating committee.

The offer, eventually accepted by the workers, fell far short of the parity demand. Ford workers are still paying for that deal.

RANK & FILE

These are the facts which moved the Ford workers to vote against the 'social contract' theorising of their well-paid union officials, against the witch-hunting of the Tory press and against multi-millionaire Henry Ford.

The Ford workers have shown the way for workers throughout the country who are being battered by high prices, but bemused by the pleas of their Labour and union leaders to 'hold back' while the employers reap it in.

They have shown that a comparatively small group of workers, if they stand fast, can force massive multi-national companies to make substantial concessions.

The strike at Fords shows the need for workers all over the country to start fighting NOW for wage demands which can keep them ahead of rocketing price increases. It shows the need for wage agreements with no time limit.

It shows, above all, that militants who are prepared to fight must get together across industrial boundaries to forge their determination into a common offensive. That's the purpose of the National Rank and File Conference of trade unionists' delegates, to be held in Birmingham on 30 November.



No, we can't afford the social contract. Ford workers at Dagenham after the vital meeting on Monday.

PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

The icing on the cake

THE sugar shortage doesn't hurt everyone. The shareholders of Booker McConnell, for instance, which owns four-fifths of the sugar estates in Guyana, as well as a chain of shops, ships and engineering factories in Britain, are cheering. Profits are up from £1.7 million last year to £5.8 million this year.

Dividends paid out to shareholders are up from £592,000 last year to £2.5 million this year—an increase of more than four times.

One man who is cheering these figures is Joseph Godber, defending Tory candidate in Grantham. Godber is a director of Bookers. He joined the board only three months after leaving office as Tory Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Sugar. Read his story on PAGE SEVEN.

FUND: £577—AND NICK OUT OF JAIL

LAST WEEK Nick Pitt, a young International Socialist printworker was sent to prison for four months at Bow Street magistrates court for assaulting a policeman at the anti-National Front demonstration at Red Lion Square. Nick denied the charge, and said that he had been badly beaten up by the police.

On Friday, Nick applied for bail pending appeal, which was granted. He sends this message to all Socialist Worker readers.

'After three days in Pentonville I am out on bail until the appeal is heard. Despite the benefit of a free subscription to SW I am hoping that I won't have to return! With luck, all our comrades involved in legal proceedings will be fined at

worst.

'The magnificent response to last week's appeal raised £577.92. But we urgently need more. We must be able to pay all fines and this has to be a collective effort from all IS members and SW readers.

'When one anti-fascist is attacked by the state, all anti-fascists are attacked. Our only defence is our collective strength. We must all dig as deep into our pockets as we possibly can. Every penny sent is a blow to the state in its attempt to control us and to silence us.'



An International Socialist Social at Newham raised £57, we'd like to thank the following for their contributions:



FIFTY Asian workers in Leicester are in the sixth week of strike against appallingly low wages, vile conditions and their bosses' ruthless treatment. Again Britain's biggest union is pussy-footing. These men and women need your help, in donations, messages of support, demands in Transport Workers Union branches that the strike be made official. They need help on the picket lines. Otherwise the profiteers will score another victory. Contact Safdar Asrar, 13 Freeman Road North, Leicester.

Full report PAGE 14

Private armies Here's the danger

'The strike-breakers are too well-organised and too disciplined to be just in it for the money. This is the beginning of the private armies. If they have a victory here they'll go straight to the employers for funds to finance bigger and more extensive operations.'

Those are the words of an AEUW shop steward. They spell danger for all trade unionists. See PAGE SIX

The food they threw away

THE Beef Mountain is official policy. Your taxes are being used to put beef in cold storage to stop prices falling—so YOU have to pay more. Last year tomatoes were being dumped in France. In 1971 Canadian farmers were being PAID to destroy grain. It's the madness of capitalism.—see centre pages.

Bradford YEB £4.50, Carly Estate Cowley £1, Socialist Worker Readers Eastmore Estate Wakefield £2.05, Thamesmead Estate Readers £1.80, Cumbran Meeting at Cardiff £12, ATTI fraction £4, Cambridge Anti-NF £12.44, Grimsby Anti-NF £3.50, Guildford Legal Defence £5, Mayfield Labour Club Socialist Worker Supporters £1.50, Service College Site Electricians £4.45, Tottenham Anti-NF £8.50, Houghton (Hove) Readers Group £1.

Our thanks to the following IS branches. Wandsworth £8.25, Maidstone £3.50, Bath £5, Burnley £2.70, Southwark £6.20, Harrow £5.50, Cricklewood £10, Croydon £9.70, Hackney £7.60, Walthamstow £20, Leith £5.80, Oxford £20, Birmingham District £30, Barnet £5.65, Edinburgh £15, Tottenham £4.50, West Surrey District £6.89, Brighton £3.34, Fulham £5.20, Blackburn £9.

Goodbye Good Lord and Good Riddance

IT WAS a shock to many Labour Party members to hear that Lord Chalfont had resigned from the Labour Party. No one was aware that he had ever joined it.

Chalfont was a non-union journalist on The Times who 'advised' the Liberal Party on defence matters when Harold Wilson made him a Lord and Minister of Disarmament in 1964.

The Ministry of Disarmament was soon abolished and Chalfont lingered on drawing his salary until Labour lost the 1970 election.

He then joined the board of Spey Investments, a company formed to gamble in shares with the money of pension funds and life insurance companies.

Its property subsidiary bought properties worth £36 million in its first year. Chalfont became the chairman of the banking subsidiary, Spey Finance.

The gamble didn't work and before long the Spey empire was being sold off. No one bothered to tell Chalfont, who was always considered

a front man.

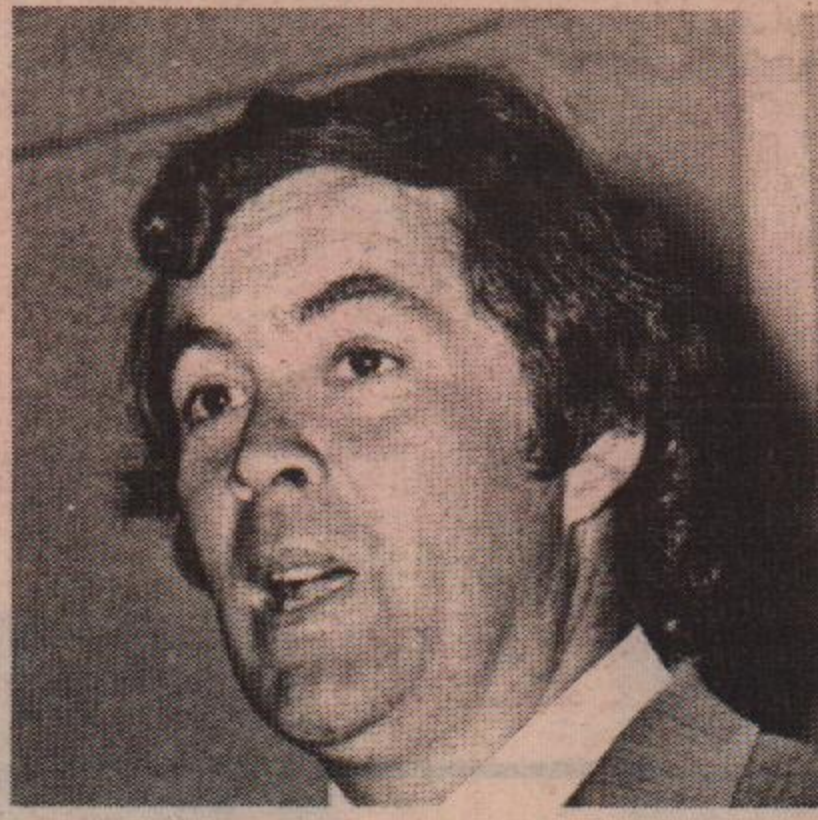
One Monday morning he arrived in his office to be told that the firm had been sold and he was out of a job. Since then he has been scrapping a living writing reactionary, red-baiting articles for The Times.

Chalfont has never had a socialist thought in his life. He is a born reactionary, dedicated to the capitalist system.

His resignation is carefully timed to do the maximum electoral damage to the Labour Party. But the Labour Party have only themselves to blame for accepting such a weasel as a Minister in the first place.

P.S. A lot of fuss has been made about the fact that Lord Chalfont has not paid his annual subscription to the Labour Party this year, and was therefore not a 'member' when he resigned.

What, then, is the position of Mr Roy Jenkins, who has not paid his annual sub to the Harwell Labour Party, part of the Abingdon Constituency Labour Party in Berkshire.



PARDOE: Well-heeled



CHALFONT: Red-baiter

Pardoe. A Liberal way with unemployment

SCRATCH a Liberal and you will find a Tory. A very right-wing Tory, too, in the case of Mr John Pardoe, official Liberal Party spokesman on economic affairs.

Pardoe has been rabbiting on about 'a real sense of grievance and deep suspicion about the extent and nature of unemployment as officially measured.'

He is not complaining about the fact that British unemployment statistics underestimate unemployment, which they notoriously do.

Not at all. The 'grievance and deep suspicion' he has in mind is that felt by well-heeled middle-class voters.

They think that too many people are able to draw the benefit for which they have paid by their weekly contribution. Pardoe couldn't agree more with these unpleasant reactionaries.

'The unemployment figures should include only those actively seeking work... only these people should receive unemployment pay as a right.'

'Generally speaking, state help for the rest of the so-called unemployed

should be made much more difficult to obtain and should be granted only on strict conditions.'

One of the conditions this nasty piece of work has in mind is that unemployed workers should be 'available' for 'social duties'—unpaid, which would put some other workers out of a job.

Dole

Pardoe wants to revive the infamous 'not genuinely seeking work' clause which was used before the war to deprive hundreds of thousands of workers of the dole.

It is not surprising. Like his leader, 'London and Home Counties' Thorpe, Pardoe is never likely to have to sign on at the Labour Exchange.

He is a member of the London Metal Exchange, a director of William Schlackman Ltd and Gerald Metals Ltd. He owns an 'elegant home' in Hampstead which was worth £18,000 in 1966 and two or three times as much today.

The very model of a modern Liberal leader...

SNP: THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

LIMBERING UP for the General Election, the Scottish Nationalist Party was proud to announce the recruitment of another rising star in Scotland's money-making and business firmament.

He is Ian Noble, one of two young entrepreneurs behind Edinburgh's oil rich merchant bank Noble-Grossart. Ian has now stopped playing any practical part in this operation. He has, however, left its affairs in good hands.

His friend and fellow Scottish Nationalist Sir Hugh Fraser, whose main contribution to the creation of wealth in recent months was to lose £144,000 in one night at a London gambling club, is also a director of Noble-Grossart.

Noble, however, has an appropriate sense of national pride and duty, as well as an ability to help the oil companies (and himself) to make a fortune from North Sea Oil.

With his spoils, he has bought a 20,000-acre estate on the Isle of Skye, and it is reliably reported, is to turn it into 'a self-sufficient Gaelic-speaking community'.

This doubtless will be one of the wonders of the world. Until of course someone discovers that there are still lairds and tradesmen in Noble's Hiellan Hame.

OPPRESSED

The SNP policy for the mainland is even less 'radical' if that is possible. It is however equally remote from the needs of working people, Scots or otherwise.

Stephen Maxwell, the SNP Press Officer, explained to Socialist Worker that the SNP was 'not in favour of getting rid of the monarchy'. He added: 'We assume its continuation in Scotland, though there would be a Scots Privy Council.'

This surely is a joke nationalism if ever there was one—a nationalism designed as much as anything else to fool a people oppressed in the main by brewery kings, shipping and shopping czars.

The Scots Privy Council would provide more jobs for the careerists and creeps who cluster round the upper echelons of the SNP.

So too would the scheme to work hand in hand with the world's oil monopolies to secure Scotland's future. There would be plenty of Scottish and local boards to get seats on while real power and wealth, not the appearance of it, remained in the hands of the moguls.

Opportunities would also arise from a sovereign or even not so sovereign Parliament in Edinburgh.

No matter that such a Parliament would be every bit as remote from the lives, the problems and the aspirations of the working people of Drylaw Muirhouse and Pilton a couple of miles down the road.

Still, it might just take the installation of a carbon copy of Westminster's sham democracy to prove that Scottish Nationalism, like Socialism through Parliament, is a scheme for childbirth without pain, and worse, without a child.

Heath's man 'in the know'

AFTER a long flirtation with the Scottish Nationalists, Sir William Lithgow, chairman of the Scott-Lithgow shipbuilding and engineering group, has accepted the post of personal adviser to Edward Heath on Scottish industrial matters.

The appointment which followed a two-hour meeting with Heath, was announced by George Younger, chairman of the Scottish Tories, who said:

'Bill Lithgow is a doughty fighter for Scotland. He has a long and detailed knowledge of Scottish industry.'

Sir William has displayed his 'long and detailed knowledge, on a number of occasions. In 1966, General Sir Gordon MacMillan (cousin of Harold) needed extensive joinery work done in the library of his Renfrewshire home, Finlayson House.

Sir William, always eager to help a neighbour and co-thinker, arranged for the job to be done by joiners from his firm, Caledonia Joinery Ltd.

Rumours—completely without foundation, we are sure—abounded that the cost was charged against HMS Maidstone, which was being re-fitted in Lithgow's dry dock at the time.

But Sir William's experience in handling uppity workers will also prove valuable to the Tory leader. In the autumn of 1972, building workers employed at Sir William's farming company, Langbank Farms Ltd, had the cheek to go on strike for a month.

Sir William dealt with this wicked act by bringing in a team of his shipyard joiners and transporting a squad of 'lump' brickies 60 miles from Fife to scab on the strikers.

It's men like Sir William Lithgow, dedicated to such ideals, that have made the Conservative Party what it is today.

Fascists flounder

In a useful example of united front activity, about 60 socialists humiliated John Tyndall on Saturday when he tried to stage a National Front meeting in Stevenage, Herts.

Front chairman Tyndall's 20-minute speech to shoppers was drowned by the barracking of the anti-fascists, members of the local Trades Council, Communist Party, and IS branches. One CP member was arrested and charged with criminal damage. £14 was immediately raised to help his defence.

THE RED LION SQUARE INQUIRY Eamonn McCann reports

'I TURNED round and saw that someone had fallen. The others then yelled for those behind to ease back to allow the person on the floor to get up again.'

'I then heard a shout from a policeman who said: "Over here. Quick push. One of the bastards is down. Let's trample him." Those were his exact words. I am sure of them.'

This was given in evidence to the Red Lion Square Inquiry by Nick Mullen, Vice-President of the Middlesex Polytechnic Students Union.

Nick said the victim 'may have been Kevin Gately', who died of a head wound on the demonstration.

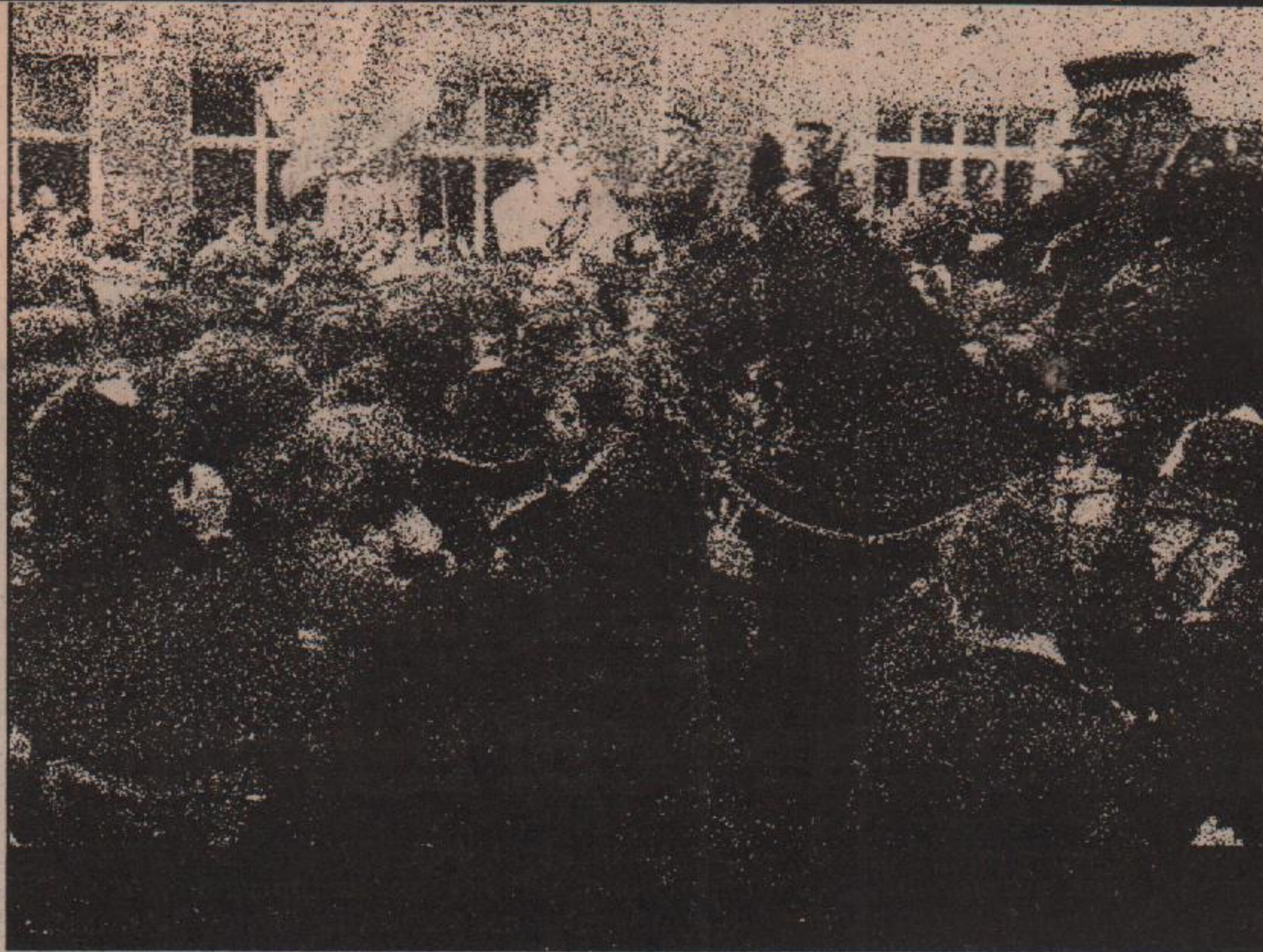
Last Friday Mr Mullen, who was injured in the police attack, and was taken to the same ambulance as Gately, gave a valid description of events.

DRAGGED

He described how the police in Theobald's Road 'marked time in unison to gather momentum and charged forward into the back of the crowd... They grabbed hold of people from behind... I saw one police officer knee someone in the testicals, who then collapsed and was dragged off by other police.'

As the Inquiry proceeds, the case against the police mounts—and police evidence becomes more and more clearly in conflict with the recollection of everyone else concerned.

On Tuesday, journalist Stephen Peak described the charge by the mounted police: 'Without a warn-



KEVIN GATELY AND THE 'TRAMPLE HIM' ORDER

ing being given, they came forward at a trot and drove into the crowd.

'As they came towards us I saw that a number of the police officers had out their truncheons—the short ones—and were bringing them down on the heads of the demonstrators.'

Peak gave an account of an attack by about 25 police on a group of 35 members of the International Marxist Group who were attempting to leave the vicinity.

'There appeared to be no lawful reason why the police behaved in

this manner. The police behaved violently.' He told how the police kicked, punched, pulled hair and twisted arms, making indiscriminate arrests.

The story which is emerging from the Inquiry is of a determined police attempt not only to break up the anti-fascist demonstration but to do it in such a manner as to persuade people not to come back for more.

Whether this is reflected in the official report, is of course, another matter entirely.

TAKING THE BISCUIT

ONE of the more unpleasant aspects of general elections is the appearance on television of Mr James Prior, the red-faced, fat-walleted farmer who, when he is not making money for nothing in some boardroom, is the Tory spokesman on employment.

Prior's latest attack this week is on the Ford workers for breaking the social contract with their new wage agreement.

James Prior is a director of United Biscuits, the country's biggest biscuit manufacturer. Last month, Mr Hector Laing, chairman of UB, announced profits of £4.34 million. He also made a hysterical attack on Phase Three of the Tory Party's former incomes policy—on the grounds that it 'interfered' with the 'right' of the employers to put up prices.

Mr Laing admitted that he had postponed building a new factory in Hull, and made it clear that he was withholding other industrial investment until the government lifted price control.

In other words, he indulged in a nasty little piece of blackmail in the interests of his shareholders and directors, including Mr James Prior.

FARES PROTEST: PUPILS WALK OUT

by two IS school students

PUPILS walked out at West Park school, South Shields, last Wednesday in protest at the cost of bus fares. They have been having to pay to travel to other schools since their own lower school was burnt down.

The walkout prompted pupils from four other local schools to come out in sympathy. They demanded better school conditions and meals, as well as free bus fares. At one school, the headmaster tried unsuccessfully to use sixth-formers to block the exits.

WHAT WE THINK

The only answer to the crisis

THERE HAS never been so much crisis talk. Indeed, a lot of people are probably not paying too much heed to it any more.

All the parties stress the seriousness of the economic outlook. 'Britain faces its most dangerous crisis since the war,' says the Labour manifesto.

'The dangers now facing Britain are greater than any we have seen since the war,' says the Tory one. And the Liberals chip in with 'the greatest peacetime crisis we have known since the dark days of 1931'.

Diagnosis is one thing. Cure is another. What do the parties offer? We need not waste words on the openly capitalist parties. They remain what they have always been, the direct political representatives of big business and the middle classes. What matters is that the Labour Party's 'solution' is, at bottom, the same as the Tory-Liberal one.

There are indeed differences about tactics, about how to enforce 'restraint' on the working class, how to push up profits, how to get what Harold Wilson calls 'a vigorous, alert and profitable private sector'. There is no difference at all about the end. Tory, Labour and Liberal alike put capitalist interests first.

If we take the crisis talk seriously, and we should take it seriously, it follows that **whoever wins the election** will try to solve the crisis at the expense of working people. Wage 'restraint' and unemployment are the prospect whoever occupies 10 Downing Street.

What can be done about it? Clearly, there is no electoral solution. That is not to say that there is no political solution. There is. It is the replacement of capitalism by planned production for use under workers' control. It is socialism. That is the **only** long-term alternative to an increasingly crisis-ridden capitalism.

But we are not going to get that in the next few months. What then, is the next step?

An aggressive, uncompromising defence of working-class interests is what is immediately practicable and necessary. That, in turn requires a tremendous struggle to develop solidarity with workers in struggle, to link up militants and to fight the treacherous Social Con-Trick policies of the union leaderships. It requires a massive expansion of the activities and influence of the Rank and File Movement.

Nothing is more important than this. The real struggle will centre on wages and resistance to closures and unemployment in the next few months. That is not our choice. It is imposed on us by the employers and their politicians.

The Rank and File Movement is absolutely central here. Its growth is the key to successful resistance to the employers' offensive. And successful resistance is an essential springboard for socialist advance.

Whatever else is done in this election period, the preparation for the Second National Rank and File Conference on 30 November must come first.

Spread the literature and the ideas. Win delegacies. Draw in new forces. Make 30 November a turning point on the long road to the rebuilding of a revolutionary socialist movement rooted in the working class.

Why we're not standing

WHY ARE the International Socialists not running their own candidates in this election?

Revolutionary socialists take part in elections, in suitable circumstances, with two ends in view.

First, to use the electoral situation to make propaganda, to win new contacts and members and so to strengthen the **non-electoral** work of the organisation.

Second, to win a foothold in capitalist parliaments **not** with the illusion that there is any parliamentary road to socialism but to use parliament as a forum for revolutionary agitation and propaganda.

The first of these ends would be immediately practicable. The second would not. The IS decision not to contest the election was taken because we believe that the resources required for a **serious** intervention are better utilised **at this time** in non-electoral work, in expanding the industrial base of the organisation.



The strength of the Portuguese Communist Party: Now the Party is attacking strikers

AN unprecedented wave of strikes is shaking Portugal's employers and Government.

In late August, workers on the Lisbon daily paper *Journal de Comercio* voted to strike over a series of demands, chief of which was the sacking of the editor, a former sympathiser of the Fascist Caetano regime.

The workers occupied—and produced a special 'strike' edition of the paper. The Government called in the army, which took over the building and evicted the workers.

The Communist Party, which is represented in the government, accused the workers of 'threatening the unity of the people' and the armed forces of 'violating the right of the Portuguese people to information'. The workers have continued with their strikes.

On September 4, workers in all national newspapers went on strike for 24 hours in solidarity. They, too, were denounced by the Communist Party.

On 11 September, 10,000 workers in the Lisnave docks stopped work in support of outstanding wage demands and the sacking of Fascist administration. The government banned the strike, and the Communist Party supported the government.



Action call to students

By IS Students Sub-Committee

WITH the new academic year about to begin, IS students should be preparing to launch an intensive campaign to build IS societies in their colleges.

Every college where we have members should run a series of well-organised public meetings, which should continue throughout the year but be at least weekly for the first four or five weeks of term. Students attending should be immediately drawn into functioning IS societies so that they can learn about IS, help to build it and lead the coming struggles over issues such as increased hall fees, refectory prices and discretionary awards.

IS members must take the selling of

STRIKES SWEEP PORTUGAL

The strike, said a Party statement, was 'a show of hostility to the government and of disrespect for the democratic order'. When the dock workers marched on the Ministry of Labour, they found it sealed off with troops and tanks.

At the end of August, 4000 airport workers voted to strike until a wage agreement was implemented. Once again, troops were sent in to break the strike.

The airport was surrounded and the workers placed 'under military

control'—that is, they were forbidden from talking to one another, and each man was shadowed by a paratrooper with a sub-machine gun. Not turning up for work meant a court martial for desertion!

SABOTAGE

Whose side was the Communist Party on? An official statement said: 'The strike is not only against the interests of the majority of airline workers, but of the whole of the Portuguese people.'

'It has forced a confrontation with the armed forces which could compromise their alliance with the mass of the people and sabotage the national economy.'

In the last two weeks, the strike movement has gathered tremendous force. Hotel catering workers, textile workers and agricultural workers have come out.

A recent estimate puts the number on strike at more than 50,000.

The attitude of the Communist Party to these strikes is not yet clear, but is unlikely to be friendly. All the strikes list among their demands the repeal of the anti-trade union Labour Law passed on 5 September with the help of Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist Party's Minister in the Government.

Green puppets dance Orange tune

IN THE MOST significant development in Ireland since the collapse of the 'power-sharing' Executive in May, Dublin Justice minister Patrick Cooney urged last Friday that a referendum be held to delete Articles 2 and 3 of the Southern Irish constitution.

These Articles embody Dublin's territorial claim to the North. What Cooney was suggesting, in other words, was that after 53 years of controversy and intermittent warfare, the partition of Ireland should be recognised and accepted as permanent.

Predictably, his speech was given an ecstatic welcome by Northern Loyalist spokesmen. 'It could open up a whole new ball-game,' said Official Unionist leader John Laird.

Cooney's speech indicates that a strategy, uniting the Dublin and London governments and the Ulster Loyalists, may be emerging from the ruins of the power-sharing experiment.

In return for Dublin recognising partition, a few token Catholics would be given minor positions in a

By Eamonn McCann

Northern administration. Britain's economic and political interests would be secure. But the Northern Catholics, now abandoned by Dublin, would be at the mercy of triumphant Orangeism.

At the same time, talks are going on about a 'joint command' for the British and Southern Irish armies in border areas. This would allow British units, as of right, to thrust into Southern territory to strike at republicans.

The Orange and Green Tories are getting together, under British sponsorship, to stamp out all dissidence, North and South. This emphasises the futility of any republican strategy based on the North alone. And it emphasises the necessity for the pressure to be stepped up in Britain for an end to British influence and interference in Ireland. If the puppet-master left, puppets like Cooney would collapse in a heap.

LETTERS

THEY CRIPPLE TOO!

THE HIGH INCIDENCE of deaths caused by tractors overturning and exposure to dangerous chemicals (Chris Thompson 14 September) aren't the only hazards facing British tractor drivers in pursuit of their £27 basic weekly wage.

Research carried out in the early 1960s revealed that less than three quarters of all tractor drivers aged 10-29 suffer from spinal deformation. The cause of this is the high frequency of tractor vibration and the inadequate seating provided. The condition is not helped by the necessity for tractor drivers to spend much of their

time sitting sideways and looking backwards at their implements.

In addition great discomfort is caused by bad air circulation between driver and seat. While in some countries worker protection organisations are succeeding in enforcing improved standards of design, farm workers in this country look like being dependent on the consideration and thoughtful regard of British farmers and tractor manufacturers for some time to come.—MICHAEL DALEY, London N8.

ICI: Jack gives us a goldmine!

WRITING of the letter from the chairman of ICI, Jack Callard, sent a shiver down the spine of all ICI employees, Andy Smith (7 September) says that it is a disgrace and that we should condemn

Until recently I was a General and Municipal Workers Union shop steward in the Hexagon Works of ICI and I only wish that the Callard letter had been issued in my time. For the first time Callard has gone against the company policy and brought politics and ICI out into the open.

This provides socialists within ICI with a golden opportunity to bring the politics of capitalism and working class struggle into the working lives of the ICI workers and it also denies the arguments some workers use that you 'should keep politics out of work'.

Virtually since its formation ICI has pursued a personnel policy of creating an image of being a benevolent paternalistic company as much interested in the welfare of its workers as in making profits.

How different is the truth? ICI were one of the first major companies to introduce work study—

the Beddow system used was accepted as one of the standards for work study—with all the exploitation that goes with it.

They have always been in the forefront with brainwashing having firstly developed the Works Council system to divert the attention of the workers away from the trades union and towards the company. Some years ago they employed Fred Hertzburg an American behavioural scientist to help sell the Weekly Staff Agreement. More recently since the Works Council system fell into disrepute they have developed the Joint Consultation system that will go down in history as one of the classic ways of involving the worker in his own exploitation.

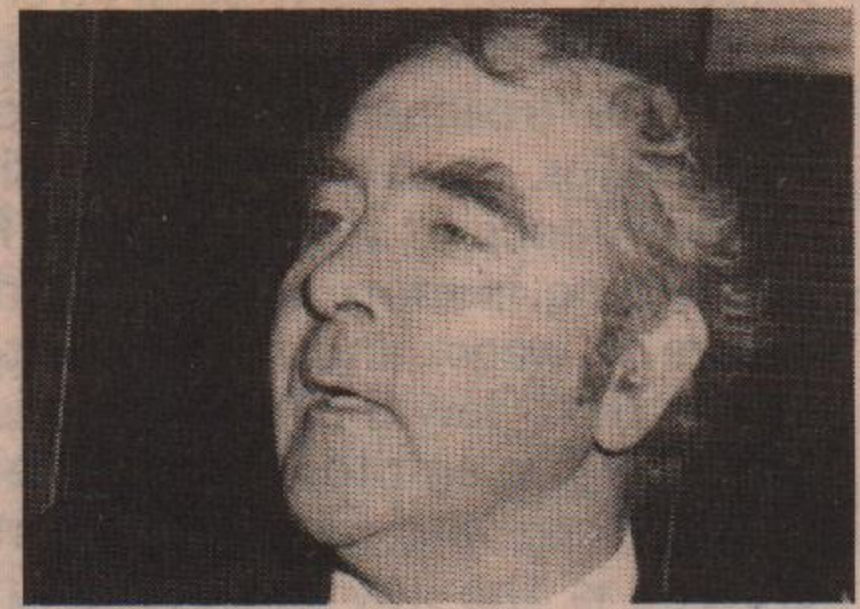
The letter and leaflet, of which I have copies, mentions the good industrial relations in ICI but of course does not mention its true

attitude towards unions, but they have of course been demonstrated time after time.

The propaganda issue doesn't mention the thousands of redundancies over the last few years. In mentioning the welfare of its workers it does not mention Papilloma—cancer of the bladder—and ICI's responsibilities for this dreadful disease and its part in the cover up of the facts about it between 1940-1954. (See Pat Kinnersly's book Hazards of Work).

Jack Callard's letter is a golden opportunity for all militants in ICI to capitalise upon this and to do all in their power to awaken the workers to the facts.

Andy Smith talks of putting resolutions through union branches and I hope that one of these resolutions will be that all unions support the ICI Combine Shop Stewards Committee.—TONY RICHARDSON, Manchester.



Joe Gormley: laying it on the line

Retraction

IN YOUR issue (7 September) you state that Mr R W Briginshaw, General Secretary of NATSOPA, is looking for another job and is retiring this year. I am to inform you that both statements are untrue. I look forward to a retraction in the next issue of Socialist Worker.—Anne Harte (Press Secretary), NATSOPA, London SE1.

Fascists and the unions: we're puzzled. . . .

WE WERE rather puzzled by John Deason's call (14 September) for socialists to campaign for the sacking of fascists and their expulsion from the trade unions.

As we understand it, the traditional socialist position is that the trade union's importance is that they organise all workers, regardless of political allegiance.

This view seems to argue against

calls for union pressure on the bosses to sack workers and against moves to expel fascists from unions.

Telling socialists that they should call on the unions to expel fascists also seems to go against IS's trade union programme, which calls for an end to bans and proscriptions.

We certainly agree with John Deason that the movement should be made a hostile environment for the

fascists. But for it to be hostile for them, they have to be in it.

Surely a better way would be for the IS and its supporters in the unions to follow a policy of showing up the fascists in our ranks—particularly those who are shop stewards—as bad trade unionists, whose ideas hold back workers' ability to resist the employers?

Indeed, given the inveterate scabbing tendencies of National Front supporters, a campaign to force them to join, not leave, the unions might be more effective in exposing the anti-working-class effects of their philosophy.

It may be that we have misunderstood Deason's article in the paper; but whether we have or not, we think further debate in Socialist Worker on this topic is most important.

What is the best way to combat National Front influence in the movement?

Is it by political exposure of the shallowness of its 'trade-union' face, or by administrative measures that pander to liberal-bureaucratic ideology and do nothing to smash the Front in the most important way—the appeal of its ideas to backward and confused workers?—PETER SMITH, JULIAN WELLS, Twickenham.

YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THE WAGES—IT'S EVEN WORSE . . . Chris Thompson (14 Sept) is wrong, the basic agricultural wage for craftsmen isn't £27 plus threshold but £25 plus threshold . . . It's hardly surprising there's an acute labour shortage when a school-leaver can expect £13.08 plus threshold and adult workers earn £21.80 (male) or £17.44 plus threshold (female).—STEVE BROOKS, London, NW5.

THEY'VE GOT TO NOTICE . . . Many congratulations on the centre page article It Couldn't Happen Here (14 Sept). A superb piece of perceptive journalism. The parallel with events in Chile was frighteningly accurate. Keep up the good work. People will notice.—J CADDEN, Weybridge.

THEY HAVE NOTICED . . . In response to the Rank and File Organising Committee's call for action over Chile the Nottingham South Branch of the EEPTU has unanimously agreed to adopt an imprisoned Chilean trade unionist. The branch delegate to the Rank and File Conference explained the situation in Chile and drew the lessons of what could happen to active trade unionists in Britain given a similar situation.—MIKE HAMILTON, Nottingham.

WHERE THERE'S TROTS THERE'S BRASS . . . BANDS . . . The time has come for the International Socialists to get together a marching band. Just imagine the pride of playing the Internationale down Oxford Street followed by the grateful hordes of IS. So get that old instrument out of the attic, regain your confidence. Having done so rush a letter to the IS March Band Movement, 11c Cabbell Street, London NW1.

REMEMBER SOUTH AMERICA . . . We need to be reminded that workers and peasants in many South and Central American countries are suffering greatly for their beliefs or simple way of life, under their various regimes. In Guatemala particularly the situation is very bad, much misery including torture and death is being inflicted on ordinary people who find themselves in the impossible position of being repressed and tortured as well as trying to survive the usual struggle for existence of the poor. Kidnap and disappearance is not uncommon, and with great courage a committee for the relatives of disappeared persons has been formed. The Guatemalan government shows a completely negative attitude to repeated requests for information on these disappearances, but may we always remember, and hope that continued publicity will eventually bring about a more enlightened rule in this and similar countries.—PAM GREEN, Epsom.

BLOWN . . . I think your account of the film Blow for Blow was most misleading . . . It is women workers who take over their factory . . . They fight back against their exploitation as workers and their oppression as women. They begin to change not only their work situation but also their family relations . . . The film makes the very important political point that women's oppression divides the working class and retards its struggle.—STEVE SMITH, Birmingham 12.

A MODERN CRINGING MS . . . In an August film review you criticise various films for their chauvinist portrayal of women. You rightly condemn the female stereotypes in these films as 'a sickly version of male fantasies'. Such criticism is to be expected in the newspaper of an organisation which claims 'We are for real social, economic and political equality for women.' To the box-office stereotypes you oppose 'your average liberated lady' and 'your modern miss . . . cringing in front of the carefree flapper in The Great Gatsby.' How many women are cringing in front of the 'modern miss' in Socialist Worker? As socialists we know that the liberation of women is impossible under capitalism: 'your average liberated lady' is a creation of the media-supported, it seems by the socialist press. As you say in your review: 'We should be organising against the morality that allows women to be degraded in this way' . . . But in the same issue of SW there's a notice of a Women in Struggle day school which includes a session with John Deason of the IS Industrial Department. Doubtless John Deason is admirably qualified to speak on IS perspectives; but were the working-class women IS members who attended content to sit back while a man tells them where the struggle's at? Maybe IS should start organising against

the oppression of women with an examination of its own attitudes and assumptions?—SUSIE PARSONS, London, W11.

ALL SISTERS AREN'T BROTHERS . . . I received a reminder about renewing my subscription to Socialist Worker. I renew it gladly . . . But I feel entitled to raise what will doubtless appear to you to be a superficial point. Signing a letter 'yours fraternally' has rather greater implications than you possibly realise . . . I am a woman and also a trade unionist. If I were a man I would simply say I was a trade unionist. A huge number of women in trade unions feel they are quasi-'brothers' because of the masculine terminology which persists in trade union meetings . . . I'm in the film union ACTT, which is male dominated in terms of numbers. Members who address meetings as 'Brothers' and not 'Brothers and Sisters' get booed by the women present. We are then accused of being over-sensitive. We've also objected to letters expressing the collective view of the ACTT being signed 'yours fraternally' and we are laughed at for being ridiculous. But are we wrong? Women are notorious for being uninterested in politics and lethargic about trade unionism but I feel that this is not entirely surprising when they are continually made to feel they are gatecrashing some man's club. Language is a tool which unconsciously reflects a society's values. It is, more often than not, a reactionary tool. Women have already been absorbed as part of 'mankind' and we may want to belong to a 'brotherhood of man' but it would be helpful if we didn't also feel we should have to change sex as well. If I were to sign this letter 'yours sororally' it would be ridiculous, so Yours in comradeship, BRIGID SEGRAVE, London, EC2.

CASTING OUR GLOAT . . . The International Socialist activity against the National Front in London was good but the gloating report in Socialist Worker (14 September) was counter-productive. A situation where IS alone attack a fascist demonstration doesn't call for boastfulness on our part . . . IS can't substitute itself for a united front . . . which a non-sectarian policy can bring about . . . We don't care if they are Stalinist, Social Democrats or Jewish ex-servicemen so long as they are prepared to stand beside us . . . The fascists will not smash a working class determined to drive them from the streets.—S CUSHION, F PHILLIPS, Birmingham.

APPALLING, DRUNKEN, ARROGANT, MALICIOUS . . . Socialist Worker (14 September) was pretty appalling by any standards. Apart from the drunken gibberish on the centre pages, bearing scarcely any relation to the events either in Britain or in Chile, the paper also presented a malicious distortion of the Communist Party's position on the Social Contract . . . you suggest that the Party supports the Social Contract, and Duncan Hallas' article even goes so far as to imply that a deal was struck at the TUC whereby opposition to the Social Contract was dropped in exchange for a Communist—Ken Gill—gaining a seat on the General Council, an assertion, for which Hallas offers not the slightest shred of evidence. Hallas then claims that 'the Communist Party, not Ken Gill as an individual, made the decision not to oppose the Social Contract outright'. Hallas knows perfectly well that this is a lie . . . for months now the Morning Star has been repeatedly attacking the Social Contract, as simply a 'rehashed Phase III . . . on the day of the TUC debate on the subject the Star published Emyln Williams of the South Wales Miners' savage denunciation of the Contract . . . You had the arrogance to quote with approval, Jimmy Reid on the Social Contract, and then claim that this is not the CP's 'real' line . . . You don't of course, mention that Reid is a member of the Party's Executive and is therefore in a reasonably good position to know what the line is. The idea that the CP is a schizoid animal with one set of policies for public consumption which appear in the Morning Star, and a completely contradictory set of 'real' policies concocted by sinister men in smoke-filled rooms in King Street is a fantasy which has no reality outside the fevered minds of those who write for Socialist Worker . . . I suspect that in order to establish yourselves firmly in the labour movement, you have to first of all discredit the CP. You want to win as many militants influenced by the party, and Party members themselves, away from the Party and into IS. And in order to do this you don't care how many lies you have to tell, how many slanders you have to spread.—PAUL FAUVET, Wallington.

Tony Cliff:

STATE CAPITALISM IN RUSSIA

Russia today is a centre of reaction as vicious and almost as powerful as the U.S. and as capitalist.

What is state capitalism? How did it come about? Why is Russia not a workers' state? Are there economic crises? Does the law of value operate in Russia? Does class struggle threaten state capitalism?

Tony Cliff answered these questions and more when he wrote this book more than twenty years ago.

Published in three previous editions, under three different titles, it has become a marxist classic as well as a basis for political organisation.



Please send us your letters. 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.



Colonel Stirling: let him show his worth...

We will fight them in the sewer

I THINK we are wrong to attack the scabs in Unison and GB75. Why not organise a rolling general strike and give them a chance to show their worth?

Let them start with a fortnight down the mines (best to break them in gently), followed by a month on the car assembly lines. Special suicide squads will have to take over from the ladders and other asbestos workers and ex-army tank officers can form tractor regiments to run the farms.

By this time we will have to call off the docks strike as all the volunteers will be needed on the building sites, working flat out to finish new hospitals for their casualties: bronchitis, asbestosis, chemical poisoning,

The threshold: It's just not enough

I HAVE NOTED with interest since taking your paper the number of disputes that have been fought over the question of the threshold payment.

In view of the fact that many thousands of workers up and down the country have been brought into conflict with their employers possibly for the first time ever I would be most interested to know what is the policy of the International Socialists on the question of the threshold.

Also what if anything happens in October when thresholds cease to be paid over and above what is already agreed under the Tory legislation of Phase Three.

The impression I get when talking to people on the left is that they seem to be against the acceptance in principle of threshold because it takes away the motivation to fight for your annual wage award. And this in turn would reduce the need to belong to a trade union.

I see the question of thresholds somewhat differently. Firstly we must safeguard what we have already got. Secondly we should try within our own factories to get our own improved domestic threshold agreements and then make sure contacts know.

Thirdly, I do not think that any factory which fights to get the thresholds would not also fight over a national wage claim within its own

mental breakdowns, etc.

To make matters worse their strained resources are further stretched by an un-scheduled strike in the manufacturing industries after complaints that too many volunteers are dropping dead in the soup in works canteens and kitchens.

The crunch comes during a strike by public employees. Riots break out in all the major cities between Unison and GB75 over who should go down the sewers. An attempt to settle the dispute with a duel between General Walker and Colonel Stirling is inconclusive after both men are mortally wounded.

But, like all fairy tales, this one has a happy ending. As they lie, bleeding to death in the waiting room of a local casualty hospital, both men sign an agreement and die in each others arms.

Hidden

A tearful Geoffrey Rippon reads this statement to the nation in a broadcast heavy with emotion: '... and finally with deep regret we dissolve our organisations. They have served a vital role in demonstrating to the British people the hidden dangers within our society. We appeal to our supporters to take up this challenge and fight against the reactionaries and fanatics like ourselves, who preach law and order but only bring anarchy and destruction.'

The following day the survivors of the private armies will march off to join the International Socialists—and we will all live happily ever after.—MIKE STANTON, Grimsby.

industry or an annual wage claim.

It would also need to be spelt out that even an improved threshold would in some cases only be a question of standing still. And unless everything that increases the cost to workers is taken into account such as rents and mortgages charges it would not even allow us to stand still.

Although for my sins I am a member of the Labour Party I think a lot of party members agree with the point of view that the social contract is a new name for a wage cut and must be exposed.—E JACQUES (Engineering Union district committee), Leeds.

QUESTION OF POWER

YOUR LEADING article (7 September) about the Hull dockers and the rank and file movement seemed rather misleading.

You quite rightly put the blame for the approaching slump on the economic system and stress the need for workers to fight unemployment, wage freezes and contrived 'shortages' with the policies of the rank and file movement and the initiatives shown by the Hull dockers. We can expect no lead from the dead-heads who are in control of our unions now, as the support for the social con-trick shown at the TUC congress shows.

But you should not appear to imply that the important struggle ahead to defend our living standards will in itself destroy capitalism. Only political action and ultimately seizing state power will accomplish this. This is what 'fighting capitalist society all the way' really means. The Rank and File Movement should be seen as a very necessary means to defend our rights and living standards now, and not, as your editorial suggests as a means to achieve socialism on its own without the guidance of the revolutionary party.—PAUL CUNNINGHAM, Norwich.



WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our 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 SMASHING OF 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 _____

How you could free a political prisoner

JUST over a year ago Alejandro Alarcon was working at the Bellavista-Tome textile factory in Concepcion. He played a leading role in the occupation which forced the Allende government to take over the factory. As an active trade unionist and a member of the Revolutionary Workers Front (the FTR—organised by the revolutionary organisation MIR, he led a series of struggles to unionise new sections of workers and fought to involve the rank and file of his union in the struggle to democratise the CUT, the Chilean equivalent of Britain's TUC.

In 1972 he was elected president of the FTR and was elected as a national delegate to the CUT. During the bosses' strike that October he worked to set up the industrial 'cordones' in Santiago and fought the bureaucratic control of the Popular Unity parties. At the same time he criticised the leaders of the MIR, saying that they had failed to democratise their own organisation and had refused to build a working-class revolutionary party capable of leading a struggle for workers' power.

The MIR leadership expelled Alarcon in May last year and connived to have him removed from his posts in the FTR and CUT.

With other groups of isolated workers Alarcon tried to continue his organising work among Chilean workers right up to the day the Generals moved in. As a known militant he was near the top of the list for the prison camps, and unlike many others had no organisation which could hide him from the Junta's bloodhounds.

Desert

His comrades advised him to get out of the country. With a few others he went to the Swiss Embassy. The ambassador told him to wait in the hall—and within five minutes a police patrol arrived and arrested them. They were all taken to the national stadium in Santiago, where they met other people who had been handed over to the Junta by the Swiss ambassador.

One of Alarcon's friends, Helios Prieto, was later released as he was an Argentine citizen, but Alarcon was not so fortunate. He was last heard of in the prison camp, set up at an abandoned mine at Chacabuco, in the middle of a waterless desert.

His only 'crime' was to be a politically-conscious worker who was prepared to fight for the rights of his class. For that the Military Junta will 'try' him as they have tried and shot thousands of others.

The future of Alejandro Alarcon and the thousands whose names and stories we don't know hangs in the balance. It is vital that the call from the National Rank and File Conference Organising Committee is taken up in every trade union branch and shop stewards committee in Britain.

If the prisoners can get jobs abroad they stand a chance of release. The Organising Committee is urging trade union branches and stewards committees to adopt Chilean prisoners and press their employers to get work permits for them.

A list of prisoners is available from the Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

The blacking of Chilean trade is vital, not only because it hits the junta where it hurts, but because it gives a real solidarity boost to the Chilean resistance. The four-page Socialist Worker leaflet, 'Does your firm trade with the torturers?' lists firms which trade with Chile and outlines how to go about blacking their goods.

Copies 2p each (5p postage for any number of copies) from IS books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Scabs' army

MASS PICKET AS POLICE PROTECT PROFESSIONAL STRIKEBREAKERS



A picket accuses the police as they protect the strike-breakers

TWO shop stewards were arrested when nearly a hundred workers, many from nearby factories, tried to stop a mini-bus full of strike-breakers from entering Combined Optical Industries in Slough on Wednesday last week. Mick Case and John Ryan are both in the Engineering Workers' Union.

The employer has been organising systematic scabbing for three weeks after locking out 32 Pakistani workers. These workers had been earning 55p an hour for a 57½ hour week. They had joined the AUEW and begun an overtime ban to demand more money and a 40-hour week.

Combined Optical has been making a fortune out of this vicious racist exploitation, getting 63p in profit for every £1 they invested. Their defence of the obscene length of the working week

'The view of the Slough AUEW District Committee is that the strike-breakers are too well-organised and too disciplined to be just in it for the money. This is the beginning of the private armies. If they have a victory here then they'll go straight to the employers for funds to finance bigger and more extensive operations.'—DEREK HOWES, AUEW shop steward, Omes Faulkners.

is that it gives the Pakistanis an opportunity to earn 'more to send home'!

Since the lock-out the Pakistanis have been on the picket line from seven in the morning to eight at night.

The company turned to Industrial Personnel Services agency, of Hogarth Road, Hammersmith, West London, to supply strike-

breakers to smash the union. They come in two shifts a day, early morning and early evening.

These are not 'innocent' Australian students, as was first reported. They are too old and they are extremely well disciplined. They have been described by Derek Howes, member of local AUEW district committee, as 'more like mercenaries than students.'

They are thought to be earning as much as £1.50 an hour. Pickets have been astonished at the amount of alcohol and food that has been brought into the factory for them. Last week the Slough Observer reported that South Africans were among the strike-breakers.

This must count as one of the most blatant acts by an employer to break a union for a long time.

Last Wednesday the Slough AUEW district committee organised a mass picket when the evening scab shift was due to arrive. About 60 white militants, mostly shop stewards from local factories, turned

up to join the Pakistanis.

A human cordon was thrown across the entrance to the factory when the mini-bus first appeared. It drove right up to the cordon and to the anger of those involved, began slowly forcing its way through. Police also began pushing at the cordon while the police inspector shouted warnings to the pickets to avoid violence!

The mini-bus went through but was chased up the yard by the pickets. It was surrounded and heavily rocked. It would certainly have been toppled over but for the intervention of the police who began making arrests. Under a police escort the scabs managed to get to work.

But they have been badly shaken. Since then they have daily switched their time of arrival to avoid another confrontation.

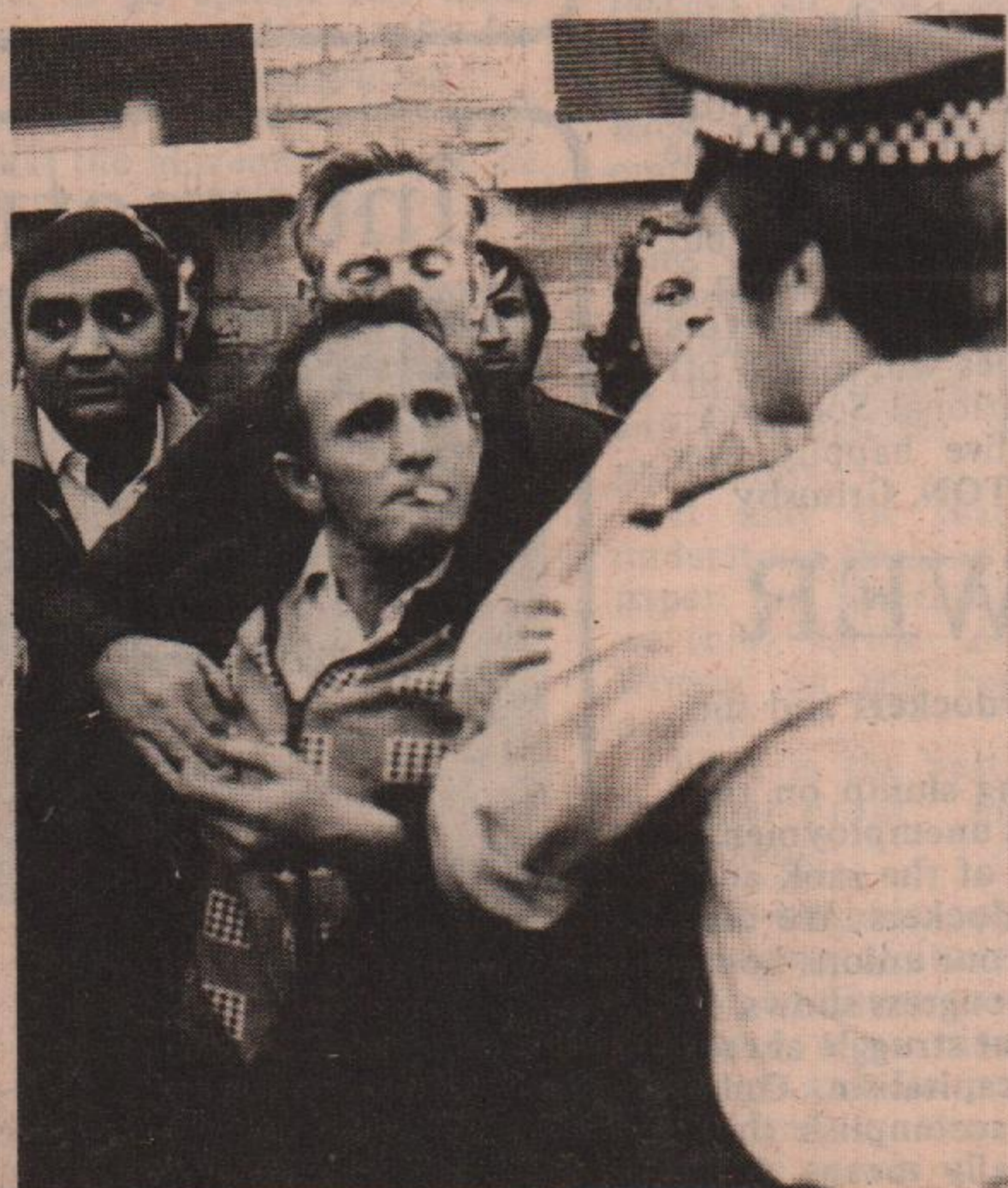
Combined Optical make plastic components for cameras. Its main customer is the Timex factory in Dundee. Dundee AUEW district committee have told Slough that their members in Timex will start blacking Combined Optical's components.

John Rose

Middlesex organiser for the International Socialists

'We will stay on the picket until we win. We have tremendous support from white and Asian workers in Slough. The employer is not going to be allowed to break our union.'—ALIASGHAR SHAH, chief AUEW shop steward, Combined Optical.

'The police charged me with behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. The strike-breakers are the breachers of the peace. We are not going to let them get away with this.'—MICK CASE, AUEW Shop Steward, Ford, Langley. (One of the arrested shop stewards).



Shop steward John Ryan confronts police just before his arrest



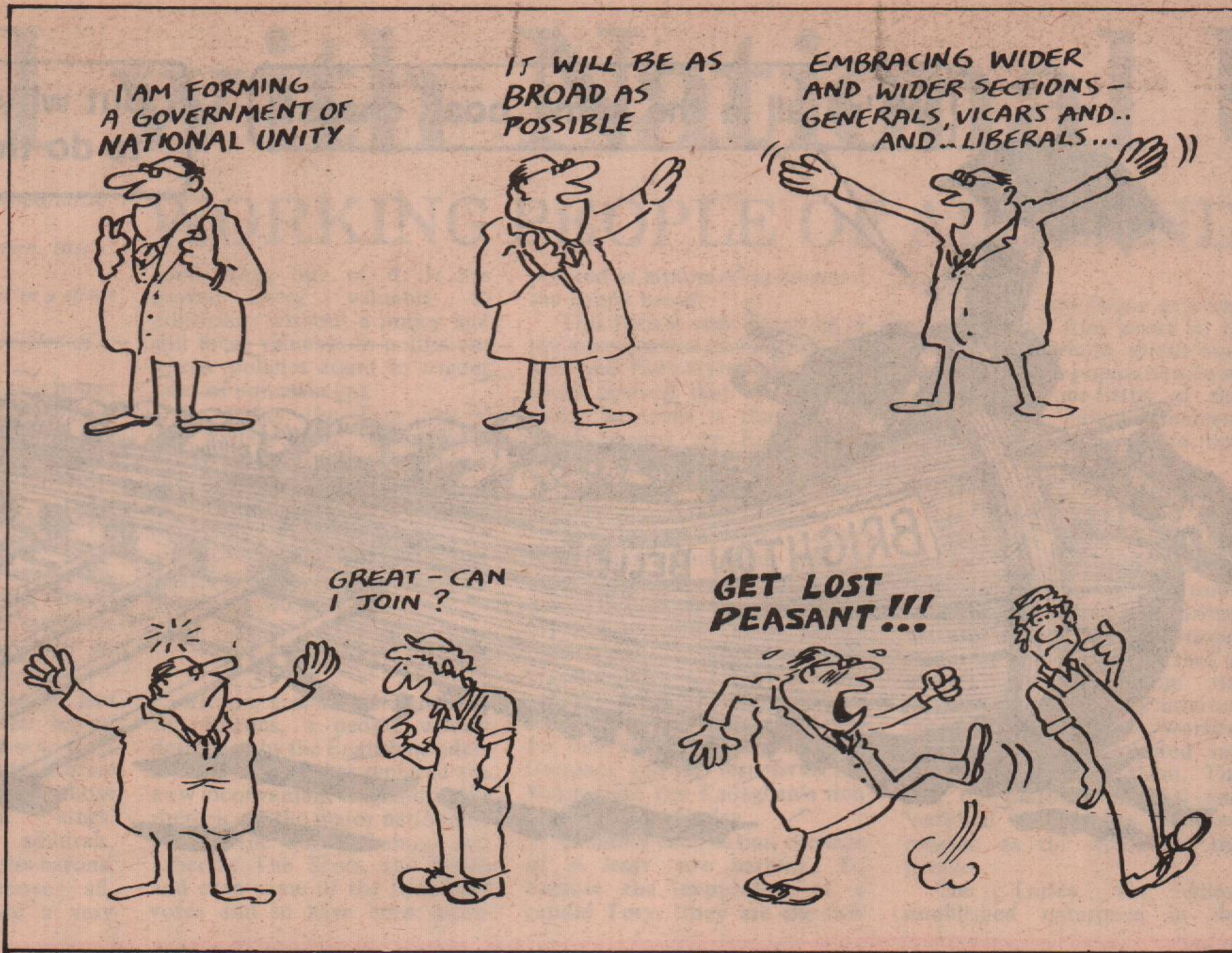
Police search Mick Shelley, one of the pickets. PICTURES: Harvey Clegg (Slough Observer)

HAIL HAILE SELASSIE

THE departure of the Ethiopian tyrant Haile Selassie and the revelation that he has stolen around £100 million from the starving Ethiopian people and salted it away in European banks put me in mind of the visit by the Emperor to the People's Republic of China in 1973, when Selassie was treated almost as royally as that other friend of the Chinese workers, Richard Nixon.

Later in 1973, one of Selassie's daughters paid a further visit to Peking to celebrate the inaugural flight of Ethiopian Airlines to China. Again she received red carpet treatment.

At a magnificent banquet in her honour, the toast was drunk to the following words: 'We admire the Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie. We raise our glasses in a toast to commemorate the struggle by him against colonialism, racialism and imperialism.'



Dear Godber, where will it end

READERS will remember the story a couple of weeks ago about the £5 million 'sugar windfall' which found its way from the government into some section of the sugar industry.

In October 1972, according to a House of Commons Public Accounts Committee Report, when the Tories introduced their pay freeze, they decided to hold down the price of sugar at least until January 1973. So

they allowed for a massive subsidy to the sugar companies of £33.4 million.

Later the government's auditors found that the subsidy necessary to keep the price down was £26.3 million. After racking their brains, they were able to explain another £2 million in 'shipping delays'.

This still left £5 million. Where had it gone?

The committee members interviewed a lot of witnesses, but couldn't find out. 'We are concerned,' they

said mildly, 'that by an unfortunate conjunction of circumstances, the Exchequer should have lost so much money. We can only regret that the Minister did not approach the refiners to discover whether, and if so to what extent, they had benefited from the windfall.'

That, of course, will be the end of the matter as far as the Public Accounts Committee and the newspapers are concerned. What's the loss of £5 million of public money, after all, so long as it ends up in the right

place? But where *did* the money go?

The Report had said: 'The money must have entered the chain of distribution but we are unable to analyse how it was shared out between merchants, wholesalers, retailers and consumers,' said the committee.

The sugar refiners in Britain, led by Mr Cube of Tate and Lyle, have issued a strongly-worded denial that they had seen any part of the £5 million—in spite of the fantastic increase in their profits last year.

If the refiners didn't get the loot, who did?

One man who might be able to answer that question is Joseph Godber, Tory MP for Grantham. Godber became Minister for Agriculture shortly before the £5 million bonus was paid into the sugar business. He presided over the scandal, and refused to order any form of inquiry.

Extended

When the Tories went out of office last February, Godber started looking around for jobs to supplement his income as MP and prosperous farmer. In June he joined the board of Booker McConnell, one of the biggest sugar firms in the country. Booker McConnell own four-fifths of the sugar estates in the former British colony, Guyana, and have recently extended their sugar operations all over the world.

Does Godber know anything about the missing £5 million? Did any of it go to Booker McConnell?

I understand that these questions are likely to be asked with increasing force over the next few weeks.

CID : Caught in Debenhams

ANYONE who doesn't believe in the fine old principle of British justice that the accused is innocent until proved guilty should read this story.

It is about a 17-year-old trainee hairdresser who was caught, almost literally, with her hand in the till. She is Shirley Ann Raven, and her father is Detective Chief Superintendent Raven, head of the CID and the man in charge of law and order in

Chelmsford, Essex.

In June, Shirley Ann was learning to be a hairdresser at the Robert Singleman hairdressing salon in the Debenham store in Chelmsford town centre.

When Gerald Finsilver took over the management of the salon that month, he noted that some money had vanished. He thought nothing of it until, a few days later, some more

money vanished. So he called in the local police. The police marked the notes in the till by pricking them with a pin.

A few days later, when another pound note went missing, the police were called in. They searched all the staff, and, hey presto, there was the marked pound note folded up in the purse of the daughter of the town's most senior detective.

The young constable in charge of the raid was frightfully embarrassed when he found who his suspect was.

So he rang the police headquarters and told the deputy head of the CID, Detective Inspector Mike King, what had happened. King then immediately took control of the case (a bit odd in such a minor theft case) and charged Shirley Ann with three offences under the Theft Act.

Well, the case came to court last week, and was reported in the Essex Chronicle. Shirley pleaded not guilty. She had, she said, imagined that she could take money out of the junior's box 'for models'. This, she said, had been allowed by a former manageress of the salon who had left a week before the new manager had arrived.

The ex-manageress was not called as witness in court. But another trainee hairdresser said that under her sway hairdressers could take money out of the junior's box 'for models'.

The magistrate took the view that this defence left a 'reasonable doubt', and he dismissed the case.

Yet another example of how prompt-action by the police, ruthless detective work and sympathetic, firm justice from the magistrates' bench can keep down the crime rate.

MAUDLING WRIT FOR GRANADA

Solicitors for Mr Reginald Maudling, MP for Chipping Barnet and former Conservative deputy leader, yesterday issued a writ against Granada Television claiming damages for libel in a "World in Action" programme last May. It concerned a hospital design contract for the Maltese government in 1966.

A spokesman for Granada said: "We stand by the programme, but have no other comment to make."

ON MAY 6, World in Action transmitted a half-hour programme on the business ventures of Mr John Poulson (bankrupt and imprisoned architect) and Mr Reginald Maudling, MP for Barnet.

On May 8, Mr Maudling made a statement to the House of Commons. 'There comes a time', he wailed, when one can no longer accept this sort of thing.'

He promised 'I am instructing my solicitors to bring proceedings against those who were in any way connected with it (the programme).'

If I lived in Barnet, I would ask my prospective Conservative candidate, Mr Reginald Maudling, why no proceedings have been issued against Granada TV or anyone else connected with the programme, although four months have passed since the proceedings were promised.

REGGIE MAUDLING would deny that these two cuttings—from Socialist Worker of 14 September and the Daily Telegraph of 19 September—were in any way connected.

International Socialism

Monthly journal of the International Socialists



IS Journal September issue now out
20p or £2.30 for 12 issues (including postage)

What the International Socialists have written on Revolution

LENIN—FROM MARXIST CIRCLE TO AGITATION, by Tony Cliff

LENIN AND THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY by Tony Cliff

SOVIETS IN ACTION by John Reed

Articles in three previous issues of International Socialism journals—numbers 52, 58 and 69.

60p for the three, or 20p each, including postage.

There are still a few copies left of the bound edition of International Socialist Journal issues 36 to 55 (April 1969–February 1973). It includes articles on Ireland, fascism, the Communist Party, women, racism, the Minority Movement and many other important issues.

Price £7, plus 35p postage (UK) or 60p postage (overseas).

IS Journal, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

London Transport's Acton works where he is shop steward.

● Ex-policeman Walter Edward Castleton, 60, of 208 Westbury Avenue, Wood Green, has been adopted by Tower Hamlets National Front to stand as their Parliamentary candidate for Bethnal Green and Bow.



bookshops

Pamphlets produced by the International Socialists:

- The Struggle for Workers' Power, by Roger Rosewell, 10p
- Can Socialism come through parliament, by Roger Kiine, 10p
- Workers against racism, by Paul Foot, 10p
- Women fight back, by Kath Ennis, 10p
- Trotsky, by Duncan Hallas, 5p
- Lenin, by Jim Higgins, 5p
- The Meaning of Marxism, by Duncan Hallas, 25p. 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
- Asbestos, the dust that kills in the name of profit, 10p
- National Front: The new nazis, 10p
- The Struggle in Ireland, by Chris Harman, 15p

A new complete edition of William Morris' **NEWS FROM NOWHERE** is available. This is Morris' well-known trip to the future socialist utopia and makes enjoyable reading especially for those familiar with the river Thames. (£1)

MARXISM IN OUR TIME, by Isaac Deutscher, in which he considers the relevance of Marxism today. (£1.25) and, now reprinted, **MARXIST ECONOMIC THEORY**, by Ernest Mandel, (now in one volume £2).

Now in paperback—**WOMEN, RESISTANCE AND REVOLUTION**, by Sheila Rowbotham. a study of the relationship of the women's movement to the revolutionary left in history (60p) and the complete **GOOD SOLDIER SVEJK AND HIS FORTUNES IN THE WORLD WAR**, Jaroslav Hasek's immortal tale with the original illustrations. (£1.25).

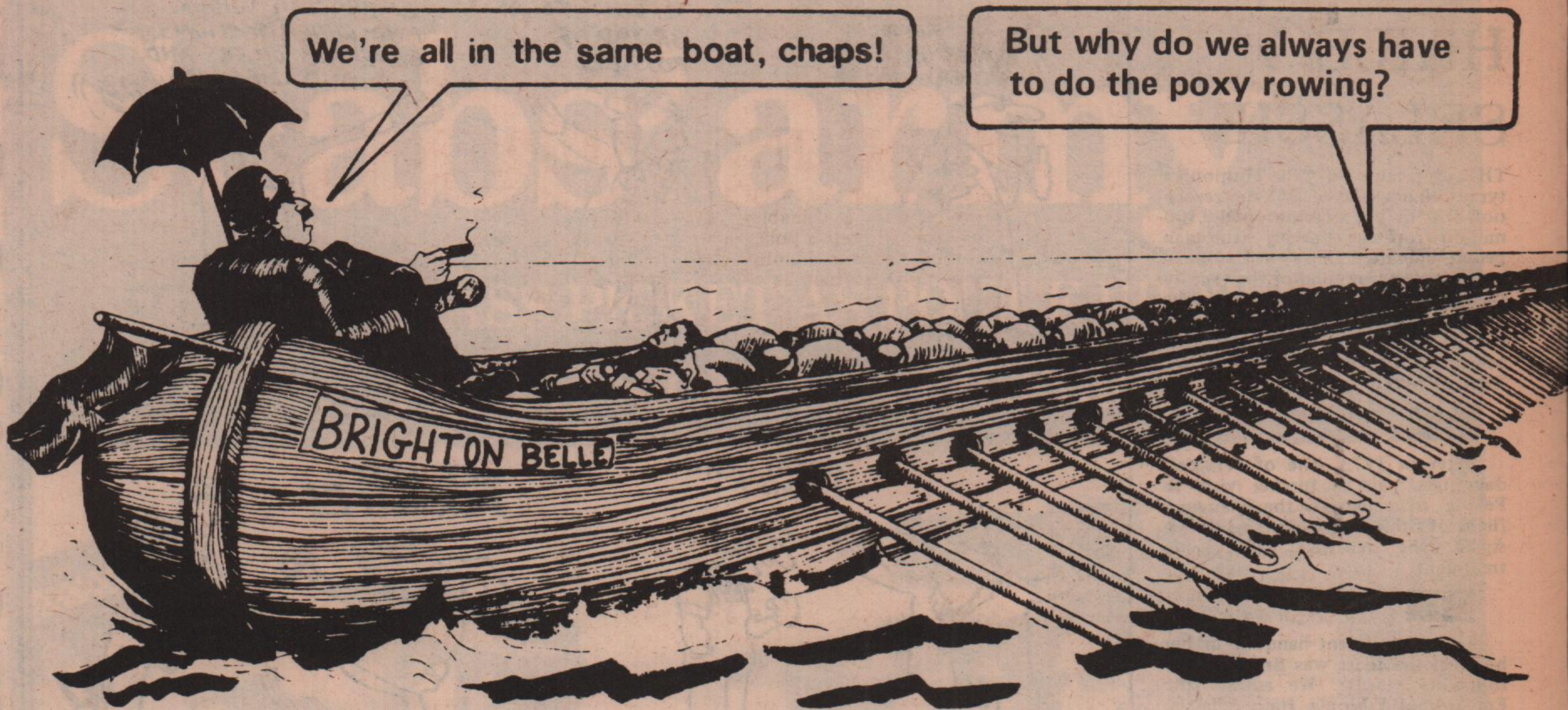
Also back in print at last, **THE JUNGLE**, Upton Sinclair's classic exposure of the meat packing trade of Chicago before unionisation (65p).

IS CONFERENCE

The Bookshop will have a big display of books at Conference on Sunday and Monday. Come prepared with money and orders.

MAIL ORDER FROM:
IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Please add 4p for postage on pamphlets, 7p on books.

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.



Cartoon from

Enough to turn your stomach...

LAURIE FLYNN ON FOOD SHORTAGES



Not so funny when you remember your taxes are paying to keep the beef mountain in cold storage—so that prices stay high

WHILE we don't face famine like the poor of Africa, India and South America, the food situation for working-class families in Britain and other industrialised countries is getting serious.

People who never had an adequate diet are now unable to afford those foods which prevented their health being damaged. Beef and other meats, including bacon, are going by the board as prices rocket. Eggs and cheese, once renowned as cheap sources of protein, are becoming costly.

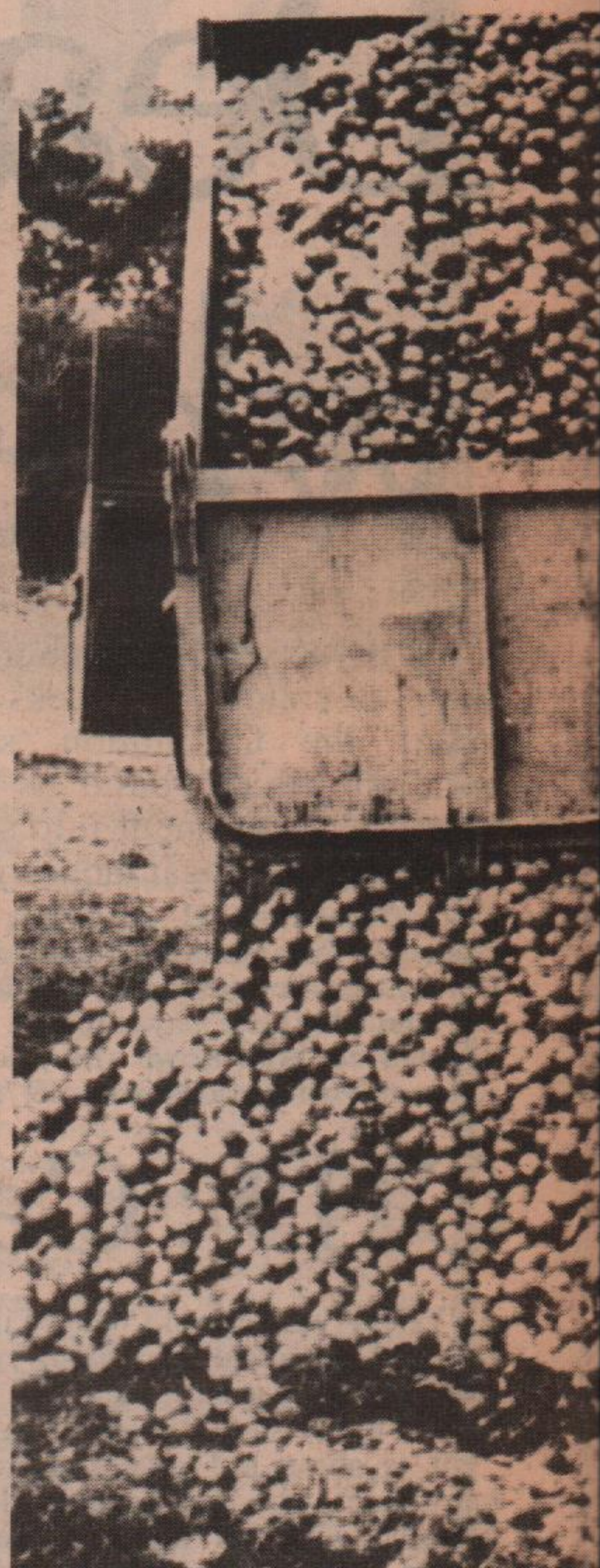
There are sudden inexplicable shortages in the shops, first of lavatory paper, then sugar, now salt. These go hand-in-hand with rumours of shortages to come, which—to the profit of the retailers and all the many others along the line—prompt people to store and hoard.

Not only are we having to pay more, a lot more, but we're getting less. The government's annual food survey published in July showed that on average we're getting 7 per cent less energy value from food that's costing us 14p in the pound more.

More serious, the food bought by families with more than four children is now 10 per cent below the meagre energy value level recommended by the Department of Health.

'Average', for the government, includes rich and poor. You can bet your next bag of sugar the rich aren't going short of food, so those at the bottom must be doing even worse than the figures seem to show.

Responsibility for this grim situation is easily placed. It is due to 'inflation', 'world prices' or some other anonymous, even mystical, source. The solutions are patently obvious, say our



'Destroy wheat' farmers told

In a move to slash a record wheat surplus, the Canadian Federal Government today offered the country's Western farmers 100 million dollars (£39 million) or more to destroy most of the 1970 crop. The emergency programme was described in Ottawa by Mr Otto Lang, minister responsible for wheat, as an initiative which should help international efforts to stabilise the grain economy.

—Press Association report

rulers.

They are the familiar 'Pull in your belts, let's all stand together in the nation's time of need' variety which put at its crudest amounts to 'Eat less and keep your mouth shut.'

Certainly inflation, world prices and the like are part of the picture. But only part. Of themselves they tell us little or nothing about why this situation exists or about how we, and millions of other working people in the world, can get out of it, once and for all.

The present crop to have got under two years ago was balance of the world grain changed.

Until then, capitalist countries longed sway of market. There were Farmers in the US even paid not to grow

Balan

Meanwhile millions of people, unable to demand effective money, were left with unthinkable that should be given away. Far that prices be kept levels guaranteed.

But the balance was changing. Japan began to buy on longer did one of countries domina

This coincided disastrous harvest forth a familiar res profit-oriented ma Feed the hungry prices.

Surpluses disappear sudden there was petition over even

To hell with National Unity

'This other Eden, demi-paradise

*This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in a silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall,
Or as a moat defensive to a house,
Against the envy of less happy lands,
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England.'*

WHEN William Shakespeare wrote this extravagant nonsense, and much more in the same vein, he knew very well what he was doing. Beating the patriotic drum was the royal road to financial and social success.

Patriotism has always had cash value, if not to the 'happy breeders' then at any rate to their masters and to the drum-beaters and flag-waggers who serve those masters. Armament kings, empire builders, admirals, adventurers, peers, press-barons, profiteers and, above all, politicians have made a very

WORKING PEOPLE OF ALL LANDS UNITE!

good thing out of it. It has proved very valuable to politicians without a policy and still more valuable to politicians whose policies stand in urgent need of concealment.

So today the Tory cry is 'Put Britain First', the Labour Party tells us 'Britain will win with Labour', the Liberals want to 'Unite Britain' and the National Front wants to repatriate some of the 'lesser breeds' who have got a foothold in this blessed plot.

Rhetoric

Britain, a name derived from the Britons, a people utterly destroyed by the English invaders in the dark ages, has replaced the now inconvenient England in the rhetoric of the major nationalist parties—the Tories, Labour and Liberals. The Scots, the Welsh and even some of the Irish have votes and so have been incor-

porated as honorary members of the happy breed.

This trick is very annoying to the minor nationalist parties, the SNP and Plaid Cymru. Gwynfor Evans protests that the national unity he seeks is that of the Welsh against the English and the SNP heads one of its posters 'Where has Scotland's money gone?'

The short answer, of course, is nowhere. Scotland has no money, any more than England does. These are mere geographical expressions. But some Scots, like Hugh Fraser, the SNP tycoon, have a lot of money, others have precious little. Similarly with the English and, for that matter, the French, the Germans and the rest. Even the Welsh have Jim Callaghan's rich pal, Sir Julian Hodge.

In short, each nation consists of at least 'two nations'. To borrow the expression of a candid Tory, 'they are the rich

and the poor'.

This is as true today as it was when Disraeli first wrote it. In the UK as a whole, about one-twentieth of the population owns more than four-fifths of the wealth. The other nineteen-twentieths have to share out what is left over.

Opium

The great thing about 'national unity' from the point of view of the rich, be it British national unity, Welsh national unity or any other, is that it diverts attention from the fundamental conflict of interests between poor and rich, workers and bosses, the exploited and those who exploit them. The cult of 'national interest' and 'national unity' has replaced religion as the opium of the people.

The Tories, the oldest established enterprise in the

business of peddling patriotic poppycock, now take the argument further. Like those second-rate Tories, the Liberals, they speak of a 'national' government. It is a well-worn theme.

'There should be a coalition government. This is the time for all good men to stay together, the best brains of all parties. Put the nation first, patriotism before party.'

As a matter of fact this is not a quotation from a current Tory or Liberal election speech. It was written in 1944 by Michael Foot, who was thought to be some kind of left-winger in those days, as a summary of the arguments being put forward by some far-sighted Tories who thought they might lose the next election, as indeed they did.

For this particular horse only runs when the Tories anticipate defeat. But what is the answer? If you swallow the 'national unity' fancies it isn't easy to answer. The Labour Party is reduced to saying in its manifesto: 'The government is pledged to the service of the nation. Only the nation, working with the right leadership [in other words the present lot], can solve its problems. We believe it will.'

Opposed

The International Socialists' call to people to vote Labour is made in spite of this nonsense. It is a tactical vote, a vote to expose in practice the capitalist policies that lie underneath the rhetoric.

National unity means international disunity, the disunity of the working class. National unity means putting capitalist interests first.

We are irreconcilably opposed to all 'national unities', whether British, English, Scots, Welsh, Irish or any other. We are internationalists. We believe, as Karl Marx wrote: 'That the emancipation of the working class is neither a local nor a national, but a social problem, embracing all the countries in which modern societies exist.'

To hell with national unity. Working People of all Lands Unite!

Duncan Hallas

Community Action



These tomatoes are being dumped because there is no profit to be made on them

Tomatoes being dumped in France last year. If they had been put on the market the surplus would have brought prices down.

is really seems way just over when the whole world market in

the Western countries had unchallenged the world's big surpluses. The United States were growing crops.

ce
ons of hungry people to make their money as they had no money to starve. It was surpluses should be more important than up and profit

of the market in the United States and Russia in the market. No single block of

with several countries, which called for a response from the market economy. No, jack up the price. All of a sudden an intense competition of grain.

The market became a profit-maker's paradise with prices going ever upward. The reaction of the farmers was predictable—get into grain.

To do this they had to stop producing something else. Something less profitable, such as cattle, sugar beet or vegetables.

This increased the farmers' profits—and guaranteed other crops would be in short supply in the future.

This process has been working itself through the world food market over the past few years, exaggerated by other developments, like increasing oil prices, higher interest rates and increased speculation in food as the crisis deepened and the profiteers strove to maintain and even increase their more than generous share.

When this crisis is under public discussion you hear plenty about the plight of the poor food manufacturers and farmers.

Some are under pressure, particularly those who run corner shops or who do not own the land they farm and have to meet the demands of the mortgage companies or big landlords. But for every farmer and food company under pressure, there are others doing splendidly, very splendidly.

For the past few years have been the most profitable in the whole profitable history of those who have grown, dealt in and retailed cereal crops. Much of these are sold to other farmers to feed their cattle and pigs.

The food companies and farmers who complain they are suffering sharp increases in the cost of animal feed—and who are passing them on to the consumer at top speed—are also those who are making the fortunes in cereals. The big boys in agriculture, as in every other industry, are 'diversified', with a finger in every pie.

Taste

Even the 'poor' smaller farmers who are bewailing their plight so loudly are not doing so badly. Indeed they are taking effective action to ensure that within 18 months beef and other meat prices will rise to still greater peaks and put them in clover again.

They are simply slaughtering their herds so as to produce a shortage next year. Naturally this means that everyone will have to pay, and pay heavily, for beef and bacon, if, that is, they even remember the taste. Not only that, the increases could well be

followed by a flight out of cereals into beef, which far from leading to lower cereal prices would only add another twist to the spiral.

The short phrase that describes this insane situation is 'Free Enterprise'. The truth is that the shortages, profiteering and crisis which are its distinguishing features will continue until serious inroads into the 'freedom' of the farmers and the food monopolies are made. This means something a little more radical than subsidies or the occasional food token for old age pensioners.

You need to interfere with the absurd free market system of thousands of farmers producing for profit and slaughtering their herds when their expectations look as if they're going to fall a little short.

You need to take steps towards control of food production, distribution and sale. You need to move away from the intricate anarchy of the present world market system towards planned production for need.

For this you need a movement. If that movement was big enough and strong enough there is little doubt it could succeed.

You would even be able to eat what you need, and enjoy it.

The struggle in Ireland



Chris Harman

The aim of this pamphlet is to give a brief history of British domination, to show its effects on Ireland today, to show that the problems of the people of Ireland will not be solved until the domination is ended, and to indicate the way this can be done.



An International Socialists pamphlet 15p

Available from IS books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4.



FACT

In 1973, 47 per cent of boy school-leavers got apprenticeships. For girls, the figure was 5 per cent.

PROPOSAL

Single sex schools to continue.

FACT

In 1971, less than 100,000 of the 2,700,000 children eligible got nursery places. More than half of married women go out to work full-time.

PROPOSAL

No mention of nursery provision for working mothers.

FACT

In 1973, more than half all small firms made no progress towards equal pay for women.

PROPOSAL

Provisions of the Equality Act would exclude firms employing less than ten people.

FACT

In 1971, the gap between the earnings of men and women in teaching was £8.

PROPOSAL

NAS, male supremacist union, not immediately outlawed. Individual claims of discrimination would have to be proved first.

FACT

Women's inferiority is influenced by social attitudes.

PROPOSAL

The Act would not apply in the area of 'private relationships'

Your X

is the letter of this law

THE PUBLICATION of the government's white paper on equality for women came just in time. Just in time to impress women voters before the general election. The proposals are there to impress women, and not to change their lives, and so duck the real problems. If the government wanted real equality, then it would have to launch a campaign

against the discrimination which is built into the way women are educated at school, exploited at work and cooped up in the home. That fight has started—but it comes from the grass roots—not from Labour Party window dressing. Four women look at four aspects of the white paper, four aspects of the fight...

By Sandy Rose

THE PROPOSALS are a huge con. They exclude pensions and social security, and do nothing about providing the means for housewives to be independent and go out to work. Inflation makes it unlikely that we will be able to use the proposed new rights to buy things on HP. Even worse, there are so many exceptions written into the Bill that the whole thing becomes ineffective. Complaints can only be taken to the court the Commis-

sion sets up. If they reject your complaint, you've had it. It is no use saying there will be no discrimination on mortgages, if full-time housewives are denied the facilities to have a job and an independent income. It's a case of DO NOT PASS GO for housewives, because the government is clearly unprepared to do the two things

essential to release women from the monotonous struggle to bring up a family on a husband's income. A massive injection of money is needed not only for day nurseries but for cash discrimination in favour of women, which will be illegal. This would have to go hand in hand with a challenge to attitudes and practices in an area the government says it is not prepared to invade—'private relationships'.

The position of women in the home can only be altered by a change in private relationships. Attitudes to the roles and functions of women must be changed. This is an essential part of the struggle for socialist ideas and something that housewives must fight for. The proposals will only allow me to drink in the public bar of the local pub—if I can find a baby sitter. That's hardly equality.

WHITE PAPER RUNS UP THE WHITE FLAG

by Jeannie Holborow, NUT
THE white paper implies that single sex trade unions such as the National Association of Schoolmasters and the Union of Women Teachers would be illegal. The NAS fights for the sectional interests of male teachers at the expense of the vast majority of low paid teachers. Founded after the war to fight against equal pay for women, the NAS say that men, because they do not have babies, can offer continuous service to schools and so should be entitled to posts of responsibility and more money. But the white paper does not clearly oppose the NAS. Roy Jenkins will not say definitely if they are illegal—and the complicated process involved in bringing a complaint ensures they face little danger. Meanwhile single sex schools are allowed to continue. The NAS says 'boys should be taught by men and girls by women'. The NAS is perniciously anti-female. The white paper does nothing to change that. Only rank and file pressure can.



Women on the march: office workers head for Downing Street in last week's demonstration to demand the banning of temporary workers—or the nationalisation of their agencies.

A woman's work is never fun

By Maggie Newall, TGWU, Heinz IS
IN OUR factory men and women do different work. Women are tied to the conveyor belts, which control you. They stop only at lunch-time, so if you want to go to the toilet or take your tea you have to get a relief. You feel hypnotised and exhausted. Your movements become like those of the machines. It is irritating to see the performance of the men workers who service the lines. They seem to have it easy. We resent them for their privileged position. But what we should be doing is attacking the idea that some jobs are men's and some women's. The white paper proposes to make such discrimination illegal. But it does not outlaw the anti-female bias of job evaluation schemes which will tend to reinforce job categories.

Banished

Conditions for men are different. In one department, men are issued with protective gloves for stacking boxes. Women on the same lines are expected to buy their own. This is because men know their rights and have the confidence to demand them. Legislation won't change that. Women must realise that the improvement of our conditions depends on our initiative and organisation. Supervisors treat men and women differently. Women are treated like school children. If a woman annoys a charge hand she is put on a miserable job or banished to another department for a time. We must refuse to be trampled on. This is the first step in strengthening our self-respect and winning the respect of our fellow workers. Improvements in women's conditions can only be won by the combined confidence of men and women trade unionists.

BOSSSES GET READY, SO MUST WE

Nancy Hall, ATTI, delegate to TUC Women's Conference

EVERY YEAR, thousands of working class kids leave school for lousy jobs. For girls, the outlook is particularly grim. Less than one in ten get day-release training compared with two in five boys. The training the minority do get is kept very much to traditional fields. One Yorkshire Tech even has a Department of Women's Subjects. Most day-release courses for girls are in shorthand and typing, and apprenticeships are in hairdressing, catering and nursing... jobs notorious for poor pay and conditions.

No matter how highly-trained, a woman who doesn't have maternity leave, job security and decent nursing facilities is handicapped. School careers teachers often accept the traditional roles of girls and boys. Instead of allocating money for the retraining of these teachers, the White Paper proposes to keep single sex schools. This is no solution to the problem. So far employers have been able to cock a snook at previous anti-discrimination legislation, such as the Equal Pay Act. Employers are already preparing for the Anti-discrimination Act. Only rank and file unity among men and women can ensure equality.

WOMENS VOICE

LATEST ISSUE NOW OUT
Articles on: Equal pay, battered wives, women in Derry, racism, the slimming industry.
5p (plus 3½p postage)/50p for next 6 issues (postage included).
WOMEN'S VOICE, 61 Tylney Croft, Harlow, Essex.
15 Branches phone orders to Harlow 37205



An Election Almanac

By Nigel Fountain Drawings: Phil Evans

NATIONAL RECOVERY: A good day on the stock exchange.

DIVISIVE AND UNPOPULAR (as in socialist measures): Taxation of national recovery.

APPEASEMENT OF TRADE UNIONS: Hugh Scanlon eating sandwiches at 10 Downing Street.

LABOUR'S FAR LEFT: Collective term for a species that hibernates during periods of Labour government but barks at newspaper editors during elections. Can be recognised by their bright red glossy coats during periods of activity (elections) which fade to merge perfectly with background during hibernation. Friendly and timid creatures, they are much misunderstood.

GRAVEST CRISIS: Bad day on stock exchange.

HARSH SACRIFICES: Workers starving for Lord Stokes.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES: Lord Stokes' expense account.

INTERESTS OF WHOLE COUNTRY: Interests of the seven per cent who own 84 per cent of wealth.

SOCIALIST DREAM: Lord Stokes doing a day's work.

FRONTIERS OF TECHNOLOGY: Lord Stokes doing two days' work.



MASSIVE PAY OUT: A penny on the old age pension.

ALL PARTY GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY: A Liberal looking for a job.

WRECKERS: Workers asking for wages

MILITANT: Another worker asking for wages

MODERATE: Trade union bureaucrat selling out wage demand

THOSE LEAST ABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES: Groups of poor people discovered by governments during strikes and forgotten immediately afterwards.

HOUSEWIVES: Female bus queue observed from limousine. Labour, Tory and Liberal politicians believe that cut-price tea bags lead bus queues to vote for price-cutting party.

INDUSTRIAL DISRUPTION: Worker asking for more money

PUT ASIDE PARTY CONSIDERATIONS: Leave your wallet at the door

INVESTMENT INCENTIVE: Boss getting more money

BACKS TO THE WALL: Stop asking for more money

NOSES TO THE GRINDSTONE: Stop looking at profit figures.

ANGELS: Nurses from Florence Nightingale to 1974.

HEALTH SERVICE WRECKERS: Nurses, 1974.

WAGES POLICY: Wage cut

PRICES POLICY: Prices rise

FM GLAD YOU ASKED ME THAT: How dare you!

STATE GRAB: Nationalisation of the South Sea Bubble Company

MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH: Unemployment.

LAME DUCK: Company a week before bankruptcy

VITAL NATIONAL ASSET: Company week after bankruptcy

NATIONAL INTEREST: Lord and Lady Stokes.

ALL REASONABLE PEOPLE: Lord and Lady Stokes

THIS WAY LIES ANARCHY: Democracy

SPONGERS: The poor

DUNKIRK: Holiday resort in Northern France



DUNKIRK SPIRIT: Liquor sold in N. France holiday town, much drunk by journalists

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION: You're not paid to ask me that (OR, you're paid NOT to ask me that)

WE ALL KNOW: You're too stupid to understand.

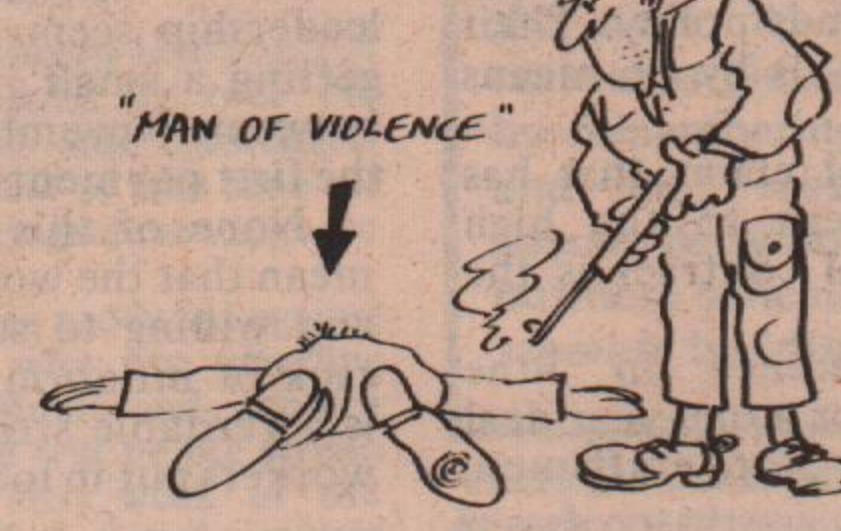
ALL REASONABLE PEOPLE: Lunatics

SCOTLAND THE BRAVE: Tory, Labour, Liberal or SNP politicians with shares in oil company.



OLD AGE PENSIONERS: Rare species discovered during miners' wage demands

MINERS: People who steal old age pensions.



MAN OF VIOLENCE: Dead Irishman

WILD MEN OF THE LEFT: Anyone carrying a banner or placard

THE COUNTRY EXPECTS: Edward Heath says

DETERMINED LEAD: Edward Heath in power cut

NEED FOR NEW CHURCHILL: Weed for old swindler.

MAN OF PRINCIPLE: Middle-aged swindler.

And what is the result of grave crises? Socialist dreams? Industrial disruption? Massive Pay Outs? Simple. **THE END OF SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT!**

TWO BOOKS about the women's struggle take a step nearer mass circulation this week. Both show how the struggle against women's oppression, against the divide-and-rule tactic of the system that exploits both men and women, is a necessary part of the class struggle for socialism.

Sheila Rowbotham's **Hidden from History**, which focuses particularly on the struggle of working women in England, has been reprinted by Pluto Press at 75p—half the original paperback price.

Women, Resistance and Revolution, also by Sheila Rowbotham, takes an international viewpoint and deals particularly with the part of women in the revolutionary movement. Until now available only in hardback at £2.95, it has been published by Penguin Books at 60p.

ORDER FROM: IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Please add 7p for postage.

SATURDAY
BBC-2. Nazism was a creed that offered racial dreams as an escape from reality. The dreams were imposed on the real world and became living nightmares. **OF PURE BLOOD** is a French documentary on the SS Lebensborn, an organisation concerned with breeding the new super-race. Mothers were encouraged, as human battery hens, to produce super-children but unfortunately the production rate was too low. So the SS went to the conquered territories of the East and stole children to bring up as Germans, 200,000 were taken from Poland alone. The film deals with what happened to some of the children and some of the parents still waiting to get their children back.

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY
BBC-2: 5.30pm. **OPEN DOOR**, the 'access' TV programme features the Nite Blues Steel Band from Stoke Newington. At 6.15pm on ITV Dennis Mitchell talks to artist Theodore Major in the **PRIVATE LIVES** series. Major paints his home town Wigan and says that he's been 'striving all my life to show the beauty of Wigan, and industry, and the skies, the dark skies, and the rain coming down and the light.'

MONDAY
ITV: 9pm. A belated plug for **SOUTH RIDING** the series taken from the 1930s novel about dirty dealings in Yorkshire, and a school-

teacher's struggle for change. They don't write 'em like that anymore.

TUESDAY
BBC-1: 9.35pm. The **TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY** is **IN THE MIDST OF LIFE**, dealing with the various ways we die and bury ourselves, from three day funeral parties in Ireland to the less cheery affairs of Britain.

WEDNESDAY
Europa was a series using film from various European TV companies—and was sometimes good. **WORLDWIDE** does the same globally. It starts with four films celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Peoples Republic of China, made by Peking Television. The first is a dance and mime featuring sideswipes at Mao's favourite politician of five years ago the late, Lin Piao.

banned in France.

Blow for Blow

Socialist Worker benefit performances
 Sunday 29 September, 7.30pm, Camden Town Hall, London. 30p
 And in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham, Coventry, Swansea, Bristol, Derby. Dates to be arranged.

Social Contract? Where do I sign?



Miners' Union leaders Joe Gormley and Lawrence Daly—they've already signed a report that will mean job cuts. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

by John Owen

NUM, Houghton Main Colliery, Yorkshire and member of the editorial board of The Collier rank and file paper.

SO THE productivity deal is to be put to the rank and file miners. The union's executive wants the members to decide for or against a deal so overwhelmingly against the interests of miners that it should never have even been considered.

The fact that the government and the Coal Board have been trying so hard to force this deal on us should make us suspicious. Since when has the NCB, or any government for that matter, had the best interests of the miners at heart?

There is also independent evidence that says that under no circumstances can a productivity deal benefit the miners. Yet our leaders have deliberately negotiated a deal that will set the NUM back for decades. It is not enough that they signed the Interim Report, produced jointly with the government, on our behalf, which will bring the chopping of manpower in the industry and pit closures on such a scale that Lord Robens will seem like Peter Pan.

The miners have been conned before. It seems we are about to be conned again.

We are told the coal industry is entering a period of expansion and the future for miners has never been brighter. After the Interim Re-

port was published NCB chairman Derek Ezra said the economic conditions for a thriving industry were right for the first time in nearly 20 years.

What about this so-called expansion? What does the future hold for the miners? The fact is that production is now several million tons below the target of 120 million tons of deep-mined coal a year. If we look forward to 1985 we see that the target is still 120 millions of deep-mined coal. Is this expansion? The Interim Report predicts the total energy demand will increase by 10 per cent up to 1980 and by a further 10 per cent by 1985.

If the total energy requirement is to increase over this period by 20 per cent, and the production of deep-mined coal is to remain at 120 million tons, you don't need to be a genius to realise that coal's share of this demand will decline. Is this expansion?

Since the Interim Report discounts any marked increase in nuclear energy, where will the extra energy come from? There is only one source—oil.

It is unbelievable that our executive should have agreed this report without consulting the members, when resolutions passed at NUM Conference called for an integrated fuel policy on coal, not oil.

Report

The proposed productivity deal calls for an increase in output of 4 per cent a year.

If the Coal Board plans to increase output per man, yet the total output is to remain the same, this can only be achieved in one way, by cutting jobs. In other words more work by fewer men. It has been estimated that by the early 1980s there will be fewer than 200,000 miners.

In 1972, NUM general secretary Lawrence Daly told the Wilberforce Tribunal: 'I would certainly not commit myself specifically to a 4 or 5 per cent increase in productivity.'

Yet our national leaders have done just that in signing the interim report.

The rundown of the coal industry in the past was largely to safeguard the interest of the oil companies. It looks as though this is about to be repeated.

But first the miners must be beaten. The establishment know to their cost that this can't be done while we remain united. So we must be divided, and this deal is the most devisive weapon imaginable.

This is the issue the miners are to be balloted on. The truth is that it should never have been considered.

Nevertheless, we must not be conned into accepting a long-term deal at a time when inflation is eating away at the spending power of our wages at the rate of 16 to 20 per cent a year. The truth is we will need wage rises of at least 30 per cent a year just to cover inflation and tax, never mind increase our standard of living. We can't afford productivity deals, or long-term agreements.

THE UNIONS

WHERE THE ACTION IS

THIS TIME last year there was a distinct possibility the engineering workers' pay claim could turn into a serious challenge to the then current brand of incomes policy, the Tories' Phase Three.

The miners were limbering up for an overtime ban which was to turn to strike action, smash through Phase Three and bring down the Tory government.

Big national issues were the focus of the class struggle. As if to underline this, the Shrewsbury building workers were being prosecuted for daring to adopt the tactics required to win a strike.

This autumn—with a Labour government and its rather more sophisticated form of wage restraint—involving the wholehearted agreement of the trade union leaders—the situation is very different.

The last engineering pay claim resulted in a pathetic settlement. The second stage of this is due in March next year, but the AUEW is to recall its national committee in November to frame its claim, which will not come to fruition until next year if at all.

Local struggles grow as big guns stay silent

The miners too are in a very different situation. At their conference in July they voted to put in for a substantial increase. But they voted down an attempt to put a money figure on their claim. This was the secret of their success in the past few years.

The Coal Board and the Labour government, and their devotees in the NUM leadership, are united in trying to push through a productivity deal designed to split the miners' unity.

They see this as the way to stop the miners spearheading opposition to the social contract, or indeed any other form of incomes policy. Their success, fortunately, is by no means assured.

One big national claim that has been causing concern to the high priests of the social contract is the building workers'.

UCATT's conference in June settled on a claim for a one-year deal of £1.50 an hour for craftsmen,

£1.40 for labourers, five hours off the working week, and no grading.

TUC general secretary Len Murray has repeatedly expressed his concern about the size of this claim and the fact that it could upset the social contract if at all seriously pursued. But the builders' agreement expires in November. The winter is not the best time for building workers to stage a fight.

SUFFER

Meantime some sites are putting in the claim locally, and the UCATT leadership seem to have resolved on getting a small interim sum payable between November and the time of the first payments on the new claim.

None of this should be taken to mean that the working class is inactive and willing to suffer silently on the rack of inflation. Far from it. There is a veritable strike wave going on as workers put in local claims for interim

wage rises of £8 and more a week. Many are succeeding.

The truth is that if rank and file trade unionists were strong enough nationally, then the social contract fraud could be met head-on and wage increases enough to keep everyone ahead of the rising cost of living could be won for all workers.

This is not yet possible. But in the meantime there is plenty of scope for strengthening links between local struggles. This depends on the intervention of socialists and militants in every local wage dispute, assisting in the struggle, winning support elsewhere and pushing for active support for national rank and file organisation.

Before long the local struggles will be joined by national struggles. The hospital ancillary workers will soon be lodging their claim. With nurses winning half-decent wage rises for the first time in their history, there is every sign that the ancillary workers will be prepared to fight.

And fight they will have to, because whichever government is returned to office in the coming election, there is going to be a wage freeze.

When that happens the rank and file must not fail them or whoever else is in the firing line.

AUEW hides behind correspondents

THE Engineers' Union executive is to continue its ban on Socialist Worker from attending engineering section national committee meetings.

A letter from union president and acting general secretary Hugh Scanlon (left) makes it clear that Socialist Worker needs the help of all AUEW members to get credentials for these meetings, meetings to which journalists from such newspapers sympathetic to trade unionism as the Daily Express and Telegraph have immediate access.

The last paragraph of the letter is the most amazing. It states that the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group is the body that the AUEW deals with 'out of trade union spirit'. Yet this outfit is not recognised by the National Union of Journalists.

Hugh Scanlon's letter does suggest that if Socialist Worker joined the correspondents' group we might have access to the committee. But there is no trade union reason why we should be compelled to join this body, and in any case, we understand that they do not admit weekly newspapers. So in effect the AUEW is discriminating against Socialist Worker, but hiding behind the correspondents to do it.

Mr. H. Foot,
Editor
SOCIALIST WORKER
Corbridge Crescent
London E2 9DS

Dear Mr. Foot,

We acknowledge receipt of your communication dated 4th instant and regret the delay in replying, which has been due to the absence of officers attending union conferences etc.

We note your request for credentials in connection with future conferences, but must advise you that, in the first instance, we must reserve the right to determine who shall attend our conferences and whether the Press, or any member, shall be admitted.

We feel, however, that we are acting in the true spirit of trade unionism in saying that the Group of Labour and Industrial Correspondents, who have no connection with our union, should be the body with whom we correspond and whose members should be admitted to our conferences.

Yours sincerely,
P. H. SCANLON
PRESIDENT AND
GENERAL SECRETARY

Available from Business Manager, The Collier, 29 Station Road, Dodsworth, Barnsley, Yorks.
Price 10p plus postage.



Sikh busmen and their wives demonstrating in Leeds last week

BUSMEN SAY KEEP TURBANS

BUSMEN in Bradford, Huddersfield, York, Blackburn and Burnley are supporting Leeds busmen Gian Sing Riyat and Kewal Sing Rehal who are being prevented from wearing their turbans at work by branch officials of the Transport Workers Union.

This week meetings will take place to discuss supporting action and busmen plan to visit Leeds garages to argue the case with Leeds busmen. This is the outcome of the picket staged last week

at the TGWU headquarters in Leeds by members of the Sikh community, busmen from Bradford, York and Huddersfield and other supporters.

Union secretary David Allison, saw briefly, a Sikh delegation and announced that the best he could offer was a branch ballot on the issue—despite an insistence that the union had absolutely no right to ballot on what was essentially a religious matter.

The attitude of the Leeds branch officials is to be condemned out of hand. Their negative stand has permitted the worst kind of racist response among some Leeds busmen. It is a real gift to management at a time when coming pay and conditions struggles requires maximum unity.

LONDON TEACHERS PICKET RACIST PUB

Thirty teachers walked out of the Railway Tavern, Mile End, East London, when they found that the publican is to appear before the Race Relations Board for refusing to serve blacks. After talking to local black people in a nearby pub, the teachers and black people there went to the Railway Tavern to demand to be served. The publican's response was to call the police.

A picket was mounted outside the pub. One teacher, Blair Peach, was arrested and charged with 'threatening behaviour' for picketing the pub.

A mass picket is being called outside the Railway Tavern, corner of Grove Road and Morgan Street, Mile End, London E3 on Friday 27 September, 9pm.

Fighting racism

BLACKBURN:—Last Saturday 15 Asian workers attended an enthusiastic meeting called by the local International Socialist branch on how to deal with the problem of racist harassment of the Asian community. Jeff Ali, a busman from Burnley introduced the discussion and argued that Asians needed to organise together to tackle the problem. Racism was dividing the trade unionists where he worked. He argued that all workers should join trade unions and that rank and file organisations such as the busmen's Platform group should campaign for black and white workers to support each other against harassment.

Rohana Minhas, spoke in Punjabi also on how to deal with harassment from the police and with assaults by white racist thugs.

The meeting decided to set up an anti-racist committee which would have legal and medicinal advice available for Asians who were physically attacked. A campaign would be started to end the harassment.

A meeting is being held on Saturday, 28 September, to set up a regular bulletin in the Asian community to provide information and to campaign against harassment. The meeting is at 3pm in Khans Cafe, 83 Victoria Street, Blackburn.



Workers picketing Kenilworth Components

The best the union can do: 17 sacked and 3p rise

by Soonu Engineer

LEICESTER:—After the Imperial Typewriters strike, no Asian militant in this town has any illusions about the Transport Workers Union. Now as if eager to outdo its previous disastrous record, the union's district office has negotiated a sell-out at Kenilworth Components—a sell-out unanimously rejected by the strikers at a mass meeting last Thursday.

Meanwhile district organiser Ken Hempstead announced a return to work and pleaded that these were the best possible terms he could get. The best he could do? The Asians had struck in support of seven sacked women. They looked to the union they had recently joined to protect their jobs. The union was recommending that they accept not seven but 17 sackings!

The sop offered was that the men were to get a 3p-an-hour 'good will' rise. If they worked quietly for three weeks, management might consider negotiating new terms and conditions—but not before they had put through a job evaluation scheme.

That is a joke for men who already earn only a miserable £23 gross for a compulsory 60-hour week. 'As if this 3p insult was not enough,' said Mr Patel, 'they've said there is no guarantee that we can keep our jobs. With the threat of sackings hanging over us, who will dare to ask for better pay and conditions?'

Management's dirty tricks to divide the men and women have not worked. 'We don't accept there isn't enough work when seven out of 12 machines are kept

running by scabs and delivery vans go in and out', said one woman steward. 'We need help to make the picket line effective.'

Offers of support have come from Asian workers in other factories. An appeal for money has been sent out. Asian stewards from several Leicester factories have met to discuss the strike.

'This is a fight we can't afford to lose. We want to organise other sweatshops in Leicester and if the word gets round that joining the union means losing your jobs and a cut in your wages because of productivity deals, there's just no hope,' said a shop steward from Walkers' Crisps.

Refused

'If the TGWU wanted to it could break the backs of this management.'

Workers at Delta Mouldings, also in Leicester, went on strike on Friday last week when a worker who refused to accept a verbal warning was sacked. Nearly 100 walked out demanding his reinstatement and the sacking of the foreman. They have been joined by two smaller Delta factories. The handful of white workers, mostly maintenance workers, have threatened to strike if the foreman is sacked.

Management have agreed to reinstate the worker, but negotiations over the foreman are continuing.

All workers in Leicester should support these struggles. If they are allowed to fail, attempts to unionise other Asian workers will be held back. Donations and messages of support to: Safdar Asrar, 13 Freeman Road North, Leicester.

Glass workers out

SOUTH LONDON:—The battle for London weighting by workers at United Glass Containers in New Cross was stepped up on Monday when one shift walked out. Other shifts were expected to follow.

More than 200 members of the Transport Workers' Union have been banning overtime for six weeks following a management offer of £1 and further payments tied to a productivity deal.

Not a bottle is being made on the shop floor following the collapse of part of one of the furnaces.

MONTHS OF LUMP, NOW 60 STRIKE

by Mick Grogan, (T&GWU convenor)

LIKE IT or lump it—this has been the line of Higgs and Hill management on the St George's Hospital building site in Tooting, over nine months of negotiations with site stewards.

It is not clear how many workers on the £13 million project are on the lump but some definitely are.

Our patience ran out last week and 60 labourers and carpenters are now out on

strike in support of the demand for a 100 per cent unionised site.

The site is being picketed on a rota basis and drivers are respecting the picket so that virtually no supplies are getting in.

There is no point in further talks with H & H (nicknamed Hunger and Hardship on the site) when their attitude is 'if you don't like things as they are, go somewhere else'.

Meanwhile 60 labourers, TGWU

The lid blows off Gormley's deal

OPPOSITION to the scandalous productivity deal manoeuvring of Joe Gormley and Co in the National Union of Mineworkers was building up this week just before the special reporting conference called for union delegates on Thursday.

Last weekend miners in Lancashire and Nottingham added their voices to the mounting storm against the new Coal Board productivity deal. This is particularly important since Len Clarke, one of Nottingham's two members of the NUM executive, Lancashire executive member Sid Vincent had both voted for the deal to be accepted.

In Lancashire a clear decision against the deal was taken. But in Nottingham, Len Clarke would not allow a vote to be put. It if had been it would certainly have come out clearly against.

Scotland, South Wales and Kent have already decided to campaign against the deal, and on Monday the Yorkshire miners met to consider their position. They decided to lobby the special reporting conference which was dreamed up by Gormley and Co and railroaded through the union executive to avoid a delegate conference taking a vote on whether to recommend rejection in the ballot. Such a vote would almost certainly result in a clear majority against.

Yorkshire and the other areas opposed to the deal will be trying to force a conference vote recommending miners to vote against what must rate as one of the biggest sell-outs in the bitter history of mining.

Any form of productivity deal would be bad for the miners, since it would split their ranks at a time when they can use their strength and unity to get the kind of lives they and other workers have so long been denied.

Further, any productivity deal in the mines would not only set pit against pit and coalface against coalface, but it would lead to more redundancies and closures of supposedly 'uneconomic' pits. It would also lead to an increase in the hazards of work since more mechanisation means more dust and more danger.

The NUM leaders are doing everything in their power to force the scheme through. The miners are asked to approve the scheme in general and then the Coal Board will send its method study men. They will then decide the production norms and that will be that.

John Owen on The Productivity Con-trick—page 12.

WOMEN WIN

GLASGOW:—The 200 shop assistants in Woolworths, Argyll Street, went on strike last Friday over the payment of thresholds—and won a resounding victory.

The workers, overwhelmingly women and members of the shopworkers union USDAW, refused to accept management's decision to stop paying the threshold when it reached £2 and demanded an open-ended agreement.

After a one-day strike management agreed to pay the full amount.

Women who see at first hand the massive rise in prices, some of whom have to change the labels on the goods in the shop, have shown the way to any other group of workers who are being denied the 40p threshold payments by penny-pinching employers. The threshold might seem small beer in terms of 20 per cent inflation a year and it is, but this strike shows that women shopworkers are beginning to get organised to fight in a way they haven't done in the past.

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.

LENIN AND TROTSKY POSTERS, 21" x 16" for sale. 30p each. Proceeds to SW Fighting Fund. Apologies for delay on Lenin posters—available soon. Orders with money to Mick Calvert, 83 St George's Road, Hull.

NOW IS THE TIME to try the Socialist Leader, fortnightly paper of the ILP. price 30, annual subscription £1.50, from 23 King Street, Chambers, Leeds 1.

FEMALE COMRADE wanted to share mixed household. Own room at £3.50 p.w. Call or write immediately to Moira Garland, Richmond Avenue Leeds LS6 1BZ.

COUPLE WANTED to share large flat above shop in Leytonstone, London E11 with others—own room. Rent £22 a month plus £20 deposit. Ring 01-556 6552.

GIVE BLOOD for the wounded in the liberation struggles in Mozambique and Angola: 11am-5pm, Sunday 6 October, Province of Natal Centre, Guildford St, London, WC1. For appointment, contact Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea, 12-13 Little Newport St, WC2 (01-734 9541)

HOSPITAL WORKER HALSBURY SPECIAL now out. The Halsbury Report—a nurses' charter or the greatest con of all time? Analysis, news from radiographers and nurses up and down the country. 2p plus postage (10 or more post free) from Hospital Worker, 8 Beverstone Rd, London SW2.

Solidarity Open Meetings THE THREAT OF FASCISM 1930s AND 1970s

Speaker: Joe Jacobs (secretary of Stepney Communist Party during Cable Street riots) **SHEFFIELD:** Monday 30 Sept. Hallamshire Hotel, West Street, 7.30pm. **LEEDS:** Tuesday 1 Oct, Trades Council Club, Savile Mount, 7.30pm. **MANCHESTER:** Wednesday 2 Oct. West Indian Centre, Cartmoor Rd, 8pm. **LIVERPOOL:** Thursday 3 Oct, Rialto Community Centre, Upper Parliament Street, 7.45pm.

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

Come to sunny Cornwall -and suffer

by Judith Condon

DONALD YEO is a 72 year old retired London taxi driver, crippled by osteoarthritis. He and his wife Doreen have a 26-year-old autistic son, Nicholas. In spite of all their previous troubles and tragedies, the Yeos have just been through the worst year they have ever known, with only the prospect of further misery and homelessness unless help comes fast.

At the beginning of last year, the Yeo family were living in Durham. They read a brochure put out by a firm called Eastern Green Caravans, of Penzance, promising 'sited caravans' in

Cornwall, with all mod cons. The Yeos decided to sell their home and move south.

It was a decision they have bitterly regretted from the moment they arrived. They wanted a peaceful retirement. What they got was abuse and harassment. They found themselves living in a place more like a concentration camp than a home, were kept all winter without heat or light, and have had to fight against eviction and the most aggressive exploitation.

The first person to greet them after

their 540-mile drive in May 1973 was Cirenio Sciuto, manager of the North Roskear Caravan Park, Camborne. As Donald Yeo got out of his car to open the site gates, Sciuto tried to bar his way. 'You're a cripple,' he yelled, 'I don't want cripples here.'

Sciuto then followed them into their caravan, and insisted they sign a contract. When Mr Yeo asked to have time to read it first, Sciuto snatched it away, said that without it they were not legal tenants and he would not connect their power supply.

Later, when the Yeos heard from other tenants what was contained in the contract, they weren't surprised. Sciuto had refused to let them read it. For this was the sheet of paper on which the others had signed away their few legal rights.

There can be no doubt Sciuto and Eastern Green between them are up to a profitable piece of exploitation. Their business is not covered by the Rents Acts, nor covered by the rent freeze. Yet under the 1968 Caravan Act, they can evict for any reason.

Most tenants are powerless to resist. Many are old people, and the rest are intimidated. As far as Sciuto is concerned, the North Roskear camp is private land and the council have no right to interfere. He patrols the site at night with a shot gun.

The electricity runs, very fast, through Sciuto's own meter. He sells you a meter when you arrive, then takes it back and re-sells it when you leave. He insists you buy your butane gas only from him, at his prices.

You can't have a telephone, because he won't allow the wires to cross his land. You can't have visitors drive on to the site, not even a doctor in an emergency. For all these restrictions and extra payments, what do you get at North Roskear Camp? A high wire fence and a view over the council tip down a disused open quarry. No storm drains, only inadequate unplastered sewage pipes. Electricity wires draped at head height over the gardens. Unmade roadways, and plenty of mud.

Misery

Mr Yeo says that during the local council elections no candidate dared canvass the camp. The tenants would have given any canvasser a rough time. They pay £86 rates for nothing except to have their bins emptied. 'And we're so near the council tip, we could do that ourselves.'

Having spent the winter relying on a paraffin lamp for light, the Yeos were taken to court by Sciuto for repossession of their plot. When a local solicitor told Mr Yeo nothing could be done, he was sharp enough to realise that local solicitors were on the side of local site owners.

So Mr Yeo hired a London lawyer and won a counter claim of harassment. For his winter of misery he got £250 plus costs.

At this point the Yeos expected the council to step in at last. Instead the Yeos are now due to be evicted on 3 October, and the council has to find them a home.

This will not be easy. They have built only 46 council houses in Cornwall in the past year, and 900 people are on the waiting list. It is precisely this that leaves the door open to the sharks of the 'mobile-home' racket.

People like Sciuto produce nothing. They are only parasites, good at intimidating and exploiting people. The only thing they do provide is an obscene picture of naked capitalism, before it has been curbed and beaten by the force of ordinary people banding together against it.

SUNBLEST BAKERS KEEP THE HEAT ON

by John Taylor

BRADFORD: A packed meeting of workers from Sunblest (Newboulds) Bakery voted unanimously last week to continue their strike action in defence of jobs.

They also sent a delegation to the Bakers Union executive council meeting on Friday to get official backing. Unfortunately this was not given. After a four-hour discussion the matter was left 'on the table', pending urgent negotiations with the employer through the conciliation procedure.

This is a setback to the strikers as they had been promised that flour deliveries to the bakery would cease once the strike was made official. But convenor Terry O'Neill told Socialist Worker: 'I am not too depressed at this decision and the fight is going to go on.'

The latest move by management to reduce manning levels was the climax of a long series of attacks on working conditions at the Newbould plant, one of the best organised in the Sunblest chain.

Over the past four years the workforce has been reduced by half, sometimes by shutting down a whole line as when the

confectionary workers were all laid off a few years ago.

Wage levels are fantastically low given the hours worked. The six-day week—ten-hour shift—is normal and for this you get £51 gross if you're one of the higher paid. If you decide not to work overtime, working 'only' 50 hours, your take-home pay is down to £29. The canteen staff, who are backing the dispute fully, are even worse off.

Sunblest also exploits their workers as landlords. They charge £3.15 a week rent (rates extra!) deducted directly from wages, for old houses that are rarely repaired. In a couple of minutes I had heard complaints about electrical wiring, guttering, badly fitted windows, damp and mould on walls. If you are laid off you are given only two weeks notice to quit.

With all this, it is not surprising that when the bosses said they were going ahead with the cuts there was a strong response from the workers. Only three of 350 union members are working. The non-union supervisors also working are being helped out by scabs brought in from other allied bakeries in Sheffield, Wakefield and Glasgow.

As well as picketing, strikers have visited the Wakefield and Sheffield bakeries and addressed meetings of workers. Despatch steward Tommy Frane told the mass meeting that the workers in these plants were giving full support by refusing to send confectionery into Bradford and insisting management withdraw the strike-breaking supervisors.

One picket said, 'We hear plenty about flying pickets but nothing about this gang of flying blacklegs.' The scabs are being put up at a hotel at a cost of £10 a night to management.

All Bakers Union branches should help the strikers by calling on the executive to make the strike official. Messages of support and donations to: Tommy Kyle, (branch secretary), 47 Ambler Street, Bradford 3.

CAMDEN BAKERS TEACH THE ABC

NORTH LONDON:—About 30 workers at the ABC bakery in Camden Town are now in the fourth week of a strike for increased wages and better holidays. The men are seeking a basic one pound an hour for skilled workers, an extra weeks holiday, and a five per cent increase in shift premiums.

At present the fitters receive 75½p and the electricians 78½p. The company, part of the giant Associated British Food Empire, have offered 90p and 93p respectively, provided that the men drop their demands for the extra weeks holiday.

The men, many of whom have over 20 years' service at the firm, have been amazed by the company's hard stand over this dispute. Mr Springall—the area wages negotiator for ABF—has turned his back on further negotiations, saying that the firm could keep the men out till Christmas.

Local ABC manager McGhee has also been ready to throw down the gauntlet by refusing to deal with the local Engineering Union officials and bringing staff workers to carry out maintenance.

The shop stewards have been trying to gain support from other depots in the group. The engineers in Stevenage are working to rule whilst the drivers at Camden are backing any vehicles repaired by the scab staff workers.

Although the strike has been made official by the AUEW (the Electricians and Plumbers union is expected to follow suit soon) the men still need help.

Messages of support to, and donations to the strike fund should be sent to Mr Jack Wood, 107 Petherton Road, Highbury London N5.



Pickets at Sunblest, Bradford: Their jobs are threatened

TOOLROOM BATTLE AT CHRYSLER

by Chrysler Coventry IS branch
COVENTRY:—A big toolroom confrontation is on the cards at Chrysler. They carried out their strike mandate last Friday as the workforce started their week's September holiday. The company announced that they are closing down the plant on 1 October because of the strike.

There are fears that this could turn out to be another battle on the scale of the electricians' strike last year and that the company could start redundancies due to the economic situation.

The dispute started over the annual pay negotiations. The toolroom are not in the plant's pay deal. After production workers settled with rises up to £10 a week, the toolroom were offered 7 per cent. They demanded the restoration of differentials. They also argued that they are well behind the rates in other Coventry toolrooms.

The tactics of the toolroom since the abolition of the Coventry toolroom average have left a lot to be desired. With their craft traditions, they have always made the mistake of alienating the support of the production workers. Obviously, the argument to restore the differential got little sympathy from the shop floor.

The Transport Workers convenor has been arguing that Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon's redefinition of blacklegging, when they told production workers to cross the pickets during the Chrysler electricians' dispute, should be implemented again. The AUEW officials who led the scabbings against the electricians are now trying desperately to avoid the same thing happening to their members.

There is a danger the production workers will be diverted from the real fight. The company have already announced major cutbacks affecting all Chrysler plants. We need to turn our attention to preparing the fight against possible redundancies. Whatever the weakness of the toolroom argument, they are striking for higher wages, and whatever happens no trade unionist should allow himself to be used against fellow workers.

Boyd gets brush-off from Hoover strikers

GLASGOW:—The 3000 strikers at Hoover Cambuslang, are still out. Their determination is still unshaken after a visit by the Engineering Union executive member for the area, right-winger John Boyd.

At a meeting of the local district committee, with the Hoover shop stewards present, Boyd roused the anger of the Hoover workers by his arrogance. He attempted to order them back to work. He also predicted that, whatever they did, they would in the end be forced to go back to work on the management's present terms, because the AUEW executive would not give them support.

Management's offer is about £3.50 on the basic rates and the agreement would be binding for an incredible 15 months. An increase in the bonus rate is tied to a weakening of the sick pay scheme and other items which the workers find totally unacceptable.

That Boyd is trying to force what amounts to a massive wage cut on the Hoover workers comes as no surprise to many. After all, his election address in the current AUEW election for national secretary is his usual stock in trade of anti-communist and anti-militant hysteria.

But the fact that the instruction to return to work was a unanimous decision of the AUEW executive council should

not be forgotten. Left and right, the bureaucrats are anxious not to rock the boat. The good ship Social Contract must not be troubled by any stormy strikes, even if this means that the members suffer a catastrophic fall in living standards—and that's what a 15-month wage settlement inevitably means in a situation of rapid inflation.

Some of the workers thought that Hugh Scanlon and the 'left' on the executive must have been misled by Boyd. If that is the case then we should shortly see the executive change its mind and make this vital dispute official. It seems unlikely.

DOCKERS - NO DEAL

HULL:—At a mass meeting on Monday dockers rejected an offer of between £5 and £6 which included the present £2.80 threshold as totally unacceptable.

The dockers decided to stay out for the rest of the day on Monday to show they mean business. The claim submitted to the employers totals about £25 a week. So the employers' offer would only bring about £2.60 more because they already have £2.80 in thresholds.

At the mass meeting on Monday the dockers passed a resolution reserving the right to take further action.

VICTORY FOR CLEANERS

LUTON:—38 women evening cleaners under sub-contract to Vauxhall Motors have won an important three and a half week strike against their employers, South Midlands Maintenance and Cleaning Contractors.

The dispute started when the contractors threatened to reduce women's hours, having previously scrapped the £1 weekly 'good work' bonus and turned down a claim for a rise of 30p on the ridiculously low 50p an hour wage rate.

Pleading poverty, the company—already understaffed by seven cleaners—offered up to 9p an hour on condition the hours were reduced from 20 to 15 a week. This

would have meant a loss of up to £3 a week for some of the women.

Convinced the deal would be accepted, the company stood firm. But solid picketing right through afternoon and evening forced the company to concede there would be reduction in hours, a 10p an hour increase, a week's paid holiday and full union recognition.

This is an important victory as it will give the women added confidence in themselves and vital experience for the future.

It is a first step towards reversing Vauxhall's policy of replacing their own cleaners with sub-contractors.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

A NATURAL DISASTER

- NATURAL for profiteers to carve up Honduras
- NATURAL for their victims to be left to die...

Fords: what to demand

THE EXAMPLE set by the press shop stewards at Fords must be followed immediately by all Ford workers. On Monday night, the Ford shop stewards' committee at Leamington unanimously agreed that the next wage claim should include:

- A 33 per cent wage rise—£14.
- 35 hours with no loss of wages
- Consolidation of the threshold on the basic rate.
- A three-tier wage structure—skilled, semi-skilled, labourers.

These demands should be pursued by all 52,000 workers. The settlement which is finally agreed should be open to renegotiation at any time.

Full support should be given to the press shop workers at Dagenham and Halewood. All Ford workers, three-shift and two-shift together, should fight for this claim now:

Turn the lay-offs at Halewood and Dagenham into an all-out strike for £14.

Spread the strike to all plants. Organise flying pickets to persuade all plants to join the pay fight. Immediate collections should be organised for the press shop workers.

Pay talks lobbied

LONDON: More than 100 members of NATSOPA, the print union, lobbied Monday's wage talks with the Newspapers' Proprietors' Association.

They were demanding that their branch policy be implemented in pursuit of an across-the-board wage claim rather than a percentage one.

A FEW tears have been shed in the British and American newspapers over the tragedy of Honduras.

Relief agencies have been rushing around trying to get vital food transport and medicine to the survivors of Hurricane Fifi, which devastated the country last weekend.

Some 10,000 people were killed. About one in seven of the country's three and a half million people are now without their homes. The bulk of the banana crop, the basis of the country's economy, has been wiped out.

Lloyds of London, the biggest insurance operators in the world, are not worried. 'This is one hurricane which will hardly touch us,' a Lloyds spokesman told the Daily Express. The Express city correspondent went on:

'Lloyds will escape heavy claims because few expensive industrial complexes would have been destroyed—unlike the damage which is caused when hurricanes sweep the United States.'

The Honduras hurricane will not bother the rich insurers because it only killed people and poor people at that.

The 'lucky' ones: these children only lost their homes. 10,000 lost their lives...



The Standard Fruit Company and the United Brand Company, which between them own almost all the country's banana plantations, coffee produce and wood forests, will collect their insurance money for the obliterated crops.

But for the starving peasantry robbed by these companies over the last 50 years there is no recompense, no release from the certainty of homelessness, starvation, disease and early death.

Hurricanes cannot be avoided, but their impact can be minimised. When hurricanes just as powerful as Fifi sweep the United States, comparatively few people die. Hurricanes can be forecast, well

in advance. Preparations can be made to protect people from wind and flood.

But in Honduras no such preparations can be made. Because Honduras is the poorest of the Central American banana republics. Its agricultural wealth is held by five families, all of them tenants of Standard Fruit and United Brand.

It has no capital at all—no industrial investment. 85 per cent of its industry is beer, soft drinks and cigarettes. All its hundreds of millions of surplus wealth from banana or coffee is taken out of the country.

There is nothing left over for education—half the people are illiterate.

The only railway in the country runs between the banana plantations and the coast.

There are no tarmac roads or effective telephones.

Many people, though by no means all, knew Fifi was coming. Only a tiny minority of parasites were able to make any preparations.

As with the Nicaraguan earthquake last year or the Pakistan floods earlier this year, Press fascination with the isolated, natural disaster will rapidly subside.

The permanent, man-made atrocity of Standard Fruit imperialism in Central America will be left in obscurity.

Ferranti: promises promises...

by Ferranti (Hollinwood) IS Branch
THE DUST has temporarily settled on the Ferranti issue. Many workers are beginning to feel their futures are no longer in danger following the famous guarantees that came out of

last week's meeting with Wedgwood Benn.

What isn't generally realised is that the no-redundancy, no-closure pledge was only to cover the period of the government investigation of the company.

AUEW shop steward Gerry Walsh put it this way: 'All we have got out of Benn is a job until 10 October.'

The general attitude in the factory is one of wait-and-see. A motion at the shop stewards committee calling for outright nationalisation as the only way of safeguarding jobs was defeated on the basis of waiting to see what the government report had to say.

As an IS branch we have decided we can't afford to wait and have already begun to put out a series of bulletins, not just in Hollinwood but at other Manchester factories as well, explaining the issues involved and why nationalisation is the only answer.

Workers must prepare their case, because you can rest assured that Arnold Weinstock is already pushing hard to get sections of Ferranti's into GEC, and will be poised with the knife as soon as the election is out of the way.

It is also clear that the Ferranti brothers hope for business as usual on

the taxpayers' money. In his message to employees given out on Monday, Sebastian de Ferranti talked about 'long-term arrangements which will enable us to continue in the forefront of this country's technological capability'. What he is really after is 'arrangements which will enable us to carry on like before'.

It is vital that we are strong enough to prevent any of these alternatives. Ted Jablonski, the EEUU Chairman of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee, summed it up when he said: 'We have got to realise that the only long-term solution is getting the Ferranti brothers off our backs by insisting on the total nationalisation of the company in the interests of the workers.'

CHEERS! WE FIGHT ON

By Heinz IS branch
NORTH LONDON:—Members of the Engineering union at Heinz rejected, with loud cheers, an offer of £5.30 and consolidation of the threshold into the basic rate at a mass meeting last Friday.

Management know the economic crisis will hit profits unless wage levels can be kept down.

Let us hope the other unions at Heinz learn from the AUEW and begin the fight to defend their members' living standards.

SUSPENSION SPARKS STRIKE

by an EEUU member at Ranks
BRENTFORD:—More than 200 shop floor workers at Rank Pullin Controls stopped work last week.

Early this year, union pressure backed by a work-to-rule forced management to go to the Industrial Arbitration Board and accept an award of over £3 for the two top skilled grades.

This award, of course, increased differentials, and Rank Pullin's workers have come to recognise differentials as a bosses' weapon.

For management, apparently, the Arbitration award is a chance to play the differentials game again.

'Robbing Peter to pay Paul' is what Eddie Bennett, the Engineering Union convenor calls it.

When, on 13 September management refused to confirm an agreement, covering all grades, worked out between the union and management's own negotiator, a mass meeting agreed to start a work-to-rule from Monday. When management next tried to fight the work-to-rule by individual suspensions, another mass meeting voted solidly for indefinite strike action.

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