

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

The junta claims another victim

MIGUEL Enriquez, one of Chile's most heroic fighters for socialist revolution, was butchered last week by the uniformed assassins of the Chilean military junta.

Miguel was general secretary of the Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). While many other Left-wing leaders fled the country after the military coup last year, and many others gave themselves up to the junta, Miguel Enriquez stayed in the working class areas of Chile and kept the resistance alive.

The junta tortured captured MIR members in an effort to root out Enriquez.

It didn't work. But a neighbour squealed. And last Saturday a vast contingent of police and army units raided a house in a working class district of Santiago where Miguel was in hiding.

Murdered

In a two-hour gun battle, the socialists kept the police at bay. But the odds were impossible. Miguel Enriquez was shot dead.

The following declaration was made last week by Edgardo Enriquez, brother of the murdered man, and also a member of the Political Committee of the MIR:

Miguel Enriquez leaves behind him an example of a struggle and a party which will survive him; and which is a nightmare to Pinochet and his collaborators. The work of the general secretary of the MIR does not end with his death.

Another member of the political commission has picked up the gun of the general secretary, and has taken over the leadership of the Party.

The party of Miguel Enriquez has comrades who will know how to follow him, and remain loyal to his example and his memory.

We've kept the Tories out!

NOW GET READY TO FIGHT!

THE TORIES are out. We've shown what we think of their policies, their press and their coalitions.

Labour is back in office, but NOT in power.

The decisions which affect all our lives will still be taken by capitalist corporations and their class allies in the courts, the police stations and the officers' messes. These decisions will be made for profit. All that matters to the employers is the leisure, privilege and power of their class.

Their mad rush for profit forces them into crisis. Then they try to get the workers to pay for it.

Labour's social contract fits neatly into their plan. While Wilson and company, with the agreement of trade union leaders, try to hold down our wages, capitalist wealth and power will grow.

In the first three months of the minority Labour government, our living standards went DOWN by four per cent. All the experts predict even bigger cuts under a majority Labour government.

The social contract means unemployment and cuts in our standard of living. We must fight it. We must use our industrial power to defend every job: to maintain and raise our living standards.

When the employers close down factories or sack workers, we must OCCUPY until they are nationalised without compensation.

We want 30 per cent wage increases and equal pay for women. Every strike in support of either must be supported.

The election must not be the end of politics for another five years—as Labour Ministers hope. It must be the start of a great workers' fight against capitalism.

That's why workers must support every initiative to bind that fight together. That's why they must seek delegacies to the Conference of the Rank and File Movement in Birmingham on 30 November.

That's why we need a real socialist party which will fight against capitalism where there is power to fight it: not in parliament but among rank and file workers.

YOUR PAPER IS ON TRIAL

NEXT Wednesday, the Attorney-General will be seeking a committal order for contempt of court against Paul Foot, editor, and Jim Nichol, publisher of Socialist Worker.

Why? Because we printed an article last April naming two witnesses in the Janie Jones blackmail case.

The case will be heard before Lord Chief Justice Widgery and two other Lords in the High Court in the Strand.

It is likely to prove a big drain on our funds. If we win, some of the costs may be paid by the Attorney-General. If we lose, we will have to pay huge costs—and possibly a big fine, too.

That's why this month is the most important yet for our fighting fund. We've started it in fine style. You sent in £426.26—nearly a record for the first week of the month—and we're well on the way to our £2000 target this month. But keep it coming. Our thanks to all who sent money.



Giving them a big hand . . . pickets at Salford Electrical Instruments clapping in scabs. Full report on this important strike on Page 14. Picture by John Sturrock (Report).

GUILDFORD: I KNOW

By Mike Brightman, AUEW

I WAS in Guildford on Saturday night and saw how five people died. I was standing outside the Horse and Groom just after the first bomb went off—and what I saw shook me rigid.

It always seems to happen somewhere else, doesn't it? When you see it face to face, and not through the pictures they show on press or television, the real mess is like a bloody nightmare.

The media has done its job very well, convincing everybody the IRA are responsible, even though no proof of that exists. It's just as possible that an extreme fascist organisation was behind it. They have more to gain by terrorism.

Bombs serve fascist elements very well in creating the mood of hatred in which they flourish. But if Provo cells are responsible, we condemn them for it.

The Press and 'civilised' politicians are predictably outraged. And they have an even more predictable and 'civilised' solution. Hang the culprits.

They were rather less outraged when British Troops killed 13 Irish men and women in Derry on Bloody Sunday, 1972.

They are not outraged at all by the daily, beating up or killing of Republicans in Northern Ireland by their troops, events which produce not a word in their Press or their Parliament.

INNOCENT

They either forget or don't realise that IRA bombs are not the work of madmen but the result of people frustrated and embittered by years of atrocities by British troops.

And yet bomb terrorism does nothing to get the troops out of Ireland. It kills innocent people. It leads to a witch-hunt against all Irish people. It increases support for those who want to smash the IRA—by calling for more power for the army and the police.

I want a free Ireland. I want the British troops out. But I know you can get that only by united working class action. That is the only way to genuine workers' power.

When bombs go off the issues for a free Ireland can become confused. But we must not let this detract us from the call to get the troops out. This is the only way the problems of Ireland will be solved.

That is why I will be supporting the Troops Out demonstration in London on 27 October, in the knowledge that although I have experienced bomb terrorism, it will not detract me from the belief that peace will only come when British soldiers leave Irish soil.


Now act to get the troops out!

SUPPORT is growing in the trade union and labour movement for the demonstration in London on 27 October being organised by the Troops Out Movement and the British Peace Committee. It is being supported by Barnet, Kensington and Hammersmith and Hackney Trades Councils, and eight branches of the T&GWU and AUEW. Socialist Worker will print more details of support as they are confirmed.

Five Labour MPs in the last Parliament have agreed to sponsor the demonstration. Four of them have signed an appeal calling for the labour movement to take up the question of the British presence in Ireland. The appeal reads:

We, the undersigned, consider it essential that the Labour Movement takes up the question of the British presence in Ireland. And, in view of the fact that the British presence denies the right of the Irish people as a whole to self-determination, we support the call by the British Peace Committee and the Troops Out Movement for a demonstration calling for the 'immediate implementation of a policy of political and military withdrawal from Ireland' and having the leading slogan 'British Troops Out of Ireland.'

—WILLIAM WILSON, MP for Coventry South East, JEFF ROOKER, MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, MAUREEN COLQUHOUN, MP for Northampton North, STAN THORNE, MP for Preston South.

 THE TROOPS OUT demonstration leaves Clerkenwell Green, London EC1, at 2pm on Sunday 27 October. The Executive Committee of IS is calling on all London branches to give total support.

Student members are being urged to campaign nationally for substantial support for the demonstration. Where feasible, delegations should be sent from provincial branches.

The EC point out that already 12 trades councils, many trade union branches and five MPs have given support. Industrial members of IS should 'raise the possibility of delegations from appropriate bodies.'

Next week posters for the march will be sent with Socialist Worker orders to the appropriate branches. The EC urges an extensive sale of the Struggle In Ireland pamphlet, which will shortly be reviewed in Socialist Worker.

'Where possible the pamphlet should be used as a basis for meetings—which should be advertised in the paper', they point out.

Branches planning such meetings should contact Wenda Clenaghan, 28 Manor Road, London, N16 (phone 01-802 2961).

THE REAL CULPRITS



MEANWHILE, 180 workers escaped this terror blast. There were no arrests

THIS WAS a Loughborough factory this week after being swept by fire. Night shift workers escaped possible death only because they were on tea break at the time.

And still more workers living nearby would have died had the fire not stopped short of the chemical store at the plant, Lacey's dying and finishing factory.

Lacey's, which is owned by Courtauld's, has always been considered dangerous by the 180 workers. Six months ago, the factory was classed as a high fire risk by an insurance company.

A new manager from Courtauld's pressed for a sprinkler system but a Phase Three victory by the workers changed the firm's mind...

□□

There was no massive police investigation to find out who and what was responsible for this disaster. Not likely. The incident at Lacey's was just another one of those routine events on the industrial battlefield where the carage is quite acceptable because it is in the cause of profit.

Shop stewards from the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Leicester Society of Dyers, Bleachers and Scourers are insisting that all employees are given similar jobs in Loughborough.

And, not surprisingly, local residents are concerned for their safety in an area of dark, airless sweatshops. There was an explosion at John Jones Foundry a few months back—100 yards from Lacey's.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report).

'We won't work with death'

BRADFORD:—Scaffolders at Higgs & Hills site in Kirgate refused to work last week while Asbestolux sheets were being sawn. These insulation boards—thought to be 'safe' by most building workers—contain in fact deadly asbestos fibres, which are released when the boards are cut.

Work resumed when it was agreed that boards would not be sawn. Shop stewards are now trying to enforce the asbestos regulations.

The work must be done in a confined space with proper dust extraction, and carpenters must be provided with clean overalls each day.

Site foremen were annoyed at the loss of production and the slowing down of work under conditions insisted upon by the men. Asbestosis—see page 6.

The face of apartheid

MORE than 120 people were flogged today in the prisons of South Africa.

Recent figures published by the South African Department of Justice show that floggings are on the increase. Between 1 July 1972 and 30 June 1973, 45,233 people were flogged—compared with 39,654 for the previous year.

People can now be flogged for motoring offences. Standard speeding offences for black drivers bring a sentence of six lashes of the whip. White offenders are fined £10.

READ THIS ... IT'S 'HARMFUL'

by Bob Edwards

STRESS is good for you, says Professor Gordon Stewart of Glasgow University. He's not talking about the stress of living in a tower block. Or the stress of working on a production line. Or the stress of trying to bring up a family on £25 a week.

The professor (probably on £140 a week) was talking about sailing a yacht. So next time you're tearing your hair out trying to buy a bag of sugar, remember that 'the stress of sailing a boat in stormy weather is affirmative and productive'.

BRAIN

The professor, Size Ten head and Size One brain, just can't understand why children in Glasgow damage their schools and pull up newly-planted trees.

After all, he writes, they are 'generally well-fed, well-shod and have plenty of opportunities for recreation and information'. Which sums up why kids in Glasgow rip up

trees and smash schools.

What does he expect if all people can expect from life is a good pair of shoes, as many fish fingers as they can eat, a game of table tennis and details of Celtic's next game? Not every child even gets this.

But what does that mean to our smart professor? He neither knows nor cares that all working class kids have to look forward to is a poxy job for a poxy wage and a home in a tower block—if your luck's in.

But that wasn't the best gem from this very clever man. According to him, the stress of 'sitting helplessly reading about strikes is very harmful'.

The very intelligent professor, who

obviously comes from another world, doesn't mention the stress of not having any wages when you're on strike, or the stress that makes people go on strike. He probably thinks strikes are caused by reds like us.

He doesn't understand that workers don't strike for the fun of it.

STRESS

He doesn't understand that workers strike to defend or improve their standard of living.

It's time we got rid of the stress in society—the stress caused by not having control over our own lives.

It's time we solved the problem of stress for people with yachts by taking over our factories and running the system to suit our needs and not theirs.

Turbans: 'We'll fight to the end'



KEWAL Singh Rehal, one of the two Sikh busmen suspended in Leeds for wearing his turban at work, told a local solidarity meeting on Sunday: 'We are going on till we win our rights. We will not give in now.'

He told the audience of more than 100 trade unionists, housewives and students that by no means all of the white busmen were opposed to him and Gian Singh Rayat, the other suspended Sikh.

The meeting, organised by the Leeds branch of the International Socialists, also heard a powerful speech, in Punjabi, from Amarjit Singh Anand of Southall IS. He said:

'Black workers in Britain will no longer lie down and accept disgusting and degrading conditions. All over Britain in the past few months—Burnley busmen, Imperial Typewriters, Art Castings, Kenilworth Components and Combined Optical—black men and women are showing an example to all workers.

'The way forward for all blacks is to fight in the factories and the unions. But to defeat capitalism, which breeds racialism, we need a political party.'

John Charlton, of Leeds IS, paid tribute to Gian and Kewal Singh.

Ashamed

He told of a local factory where four out of five workers were black—and no black man had ever been promoted. There were hardly any black shop stewards.

Dulip Singh Sohal, president of the Sikh Temple, explained the importance of the turban to the Sikh. He said Sikhs had died for the right to wear it and would do so again if necessary.

Speaking from the floor, John Reynolds, a TGWU shop steward, said he was ashamed of the actions of his brothers in the T and G bus branch. He and many other members were taking every step possible within the union to reverse this disgraceful ban.

The meeting was closed by Rehana Minhas, who spoke of the necessity for people of all races and religions to put aside their differences and join in the creation of a workers' party which could lead the whole working class to a fundamental change in society.

20 workers joined IS and £20 was collected for the Combined Optical workers in Slough.

■ ■ ■
The 7/13 Newlands Garage Glasgow branch of the TGWU this week passed a resolution condemning the attitude of racialists in the Leeds bus depot. The branch also called for an inquiry into the behaviour of branch officials in the Leeds depot, but declined to support the call for National Front members to be expelled from the union and the industry.

STEWARDS TURNS PICKET-BUSTER

PETERBOROUGH:—While TASS members manned an official picket outside Perkins Engines last Tuesday the senior TGWU steward Derek Pritchard climbed into the cab of a lorry waiting outside and encouraged the driver to go through.

Five other lorries followed and since then a picket has been injured by a lorry owned by J Jamber of Kings Lynn.

Up until now drivers have been coming down to the gate willing to turn away. But after ringing their own firm they have been put in touch with Brother Pritchard.

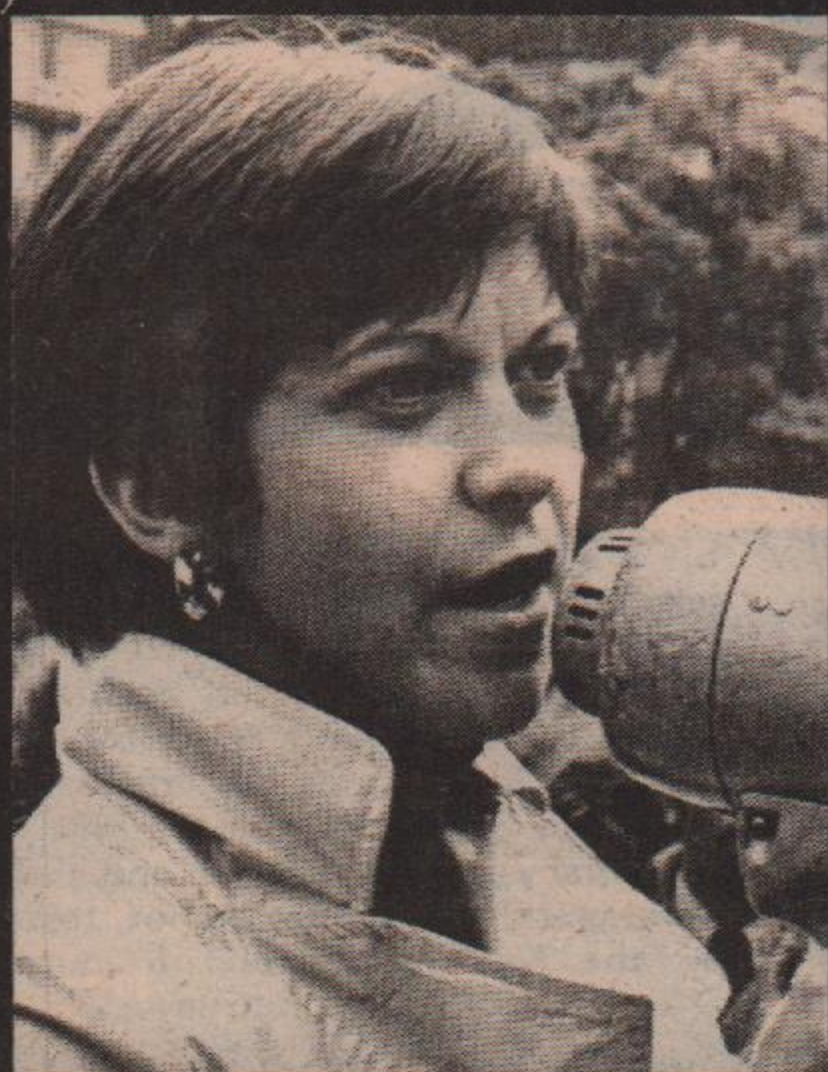
This man claims he has been working under the company's instructions. This was later denied by management. He is telling drivers that the dispute is unofficial.

Misunderstandings have arisen because the strike does not involve the entire TASS membership on the site. Only the engineering drawing office has been taken out.

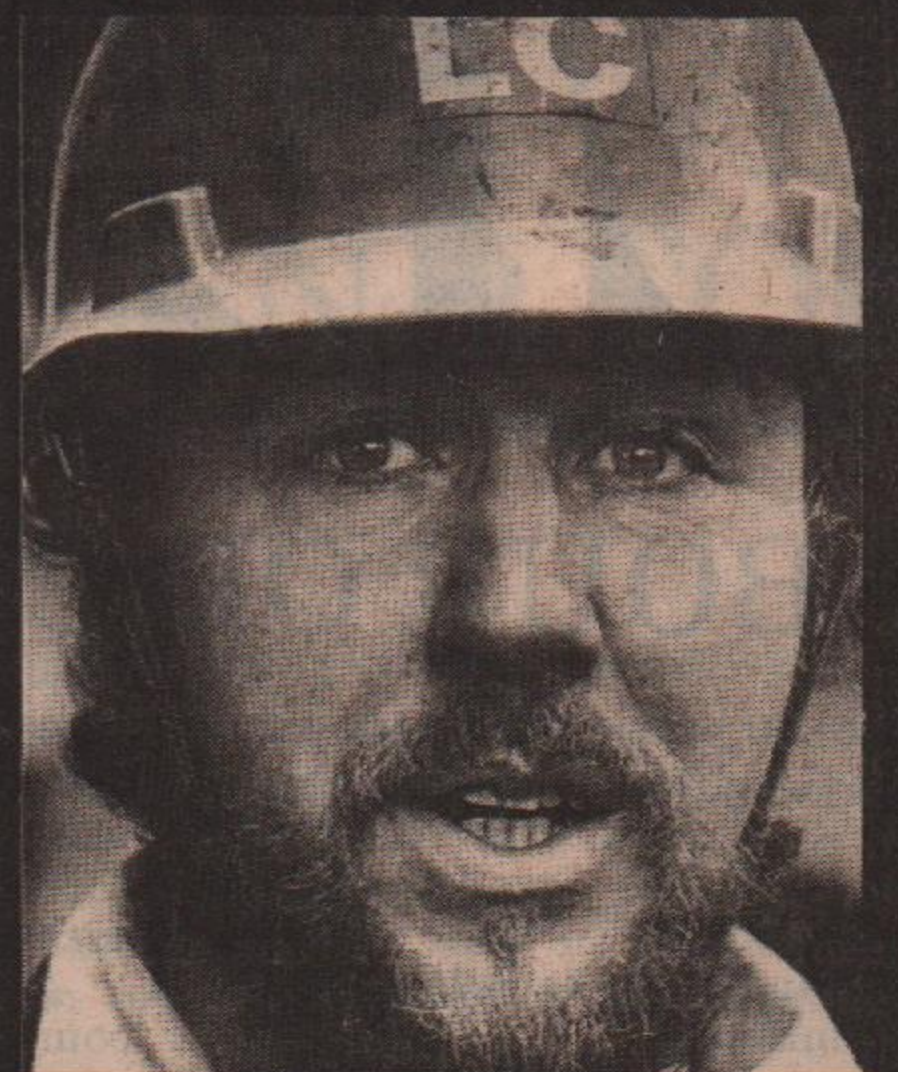
But the strike is nonetheless official. Over the last ten years our department has been the poor relation on the staff. As one of the members put it 'we have been devalued quicker than the pound.'

Please send all contributions to The TASS Strike Committee, AUEW House, 49 Lincoln Road, Peterborough

RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE . . . BIRMINGHAM . . . 30 NOVEMBER



After the election: The way forward



CONFERENCE DETAILS: PAGE 12

BETH STONE, executive member of the National Union of Teachers:

'We face further attacks on our pay and standards of living. Working people, including teachers, are going to have to fight extra hard just to stand still.'

NUT members have suffered a succession of defeats in salary negotiations. The employers have been helped by 'leaders' more concerned with keeping the members in line than with mobilising them.

We can sit back and accept deteriorating conditions and wages. Or we can make a fight of it. We have to take matters into our own hands and remind our leaders that it is OUR union.

We have to strengthen the links between rank and file trade unionists. The Conference provides a focus, forging real links—but it mustn't just be a talking shop. It will only be worth achieving if it is going to be a fighting movement. This is what we must all work towards.'

GREG DOUGLAS, a steward on Brown Bayleys' site in Sheffield and president of Rotherham AUEW Construction branch:

'The Conference is going to be a success for me and for other construction workers. I have not always been impressed by the outcome of such conferences, but this time we must make sure we put our influence to work.'

Militant workers can sit down to explain their immediate and foreseeable problems and how they think others can give assistance. I intend to seek a commitment by all delegates to renew their efforts to keep lump labour out of their factories and workplaces, and to give assistance to blacklisted stewards.

These are the types of issues that are going to strengthen the ties between our industries. The Social Contract will need to be exposed by a united effort of all sections of the working class. See you at the Conference.'

OCCUPY! FRANCO ON THE RUN

THOUSANDS of workers are striking against British firms in Spain—even though strikes are illegal. And they are not only striking but occupying the factories too.

British bosses, who for so long have profited from Franco's brutal repression, are now trying to make the cheap labour he offers them even cheaper. At the GEC plants in Galindo and Trapana, 3300 workers occupied until ousted by armed police. Now GEC has suspended 800 workers indefinitely without pay.

Two thousand workers at the Babcock and Wilcox plant in Sestao are out and at one of Pirelli's subsidiaries, Pirelli-Moltex in Cornella Barcelona, 475 workers have been on strike since 20 September.

The strikers' immediate demands are for far higher pay, fewer hours of work, freedom of assembly and no victimisation.

ARREST

For 38 years Spanish workers have been denied the right to form their own trade unions or even have a meeting. Imprisonment without trial is often the result if a worker so much as hands a leaflet to his mate. The strikes are therefore political actions of great courage and call for the support and solidarity of British workers.

They are getting solidarity from fellow workers. The Renault workers' demand for a 44-hour week for £35 has been supported by solidarity strikes of 30,000 other workers and public demonstrations through the town of Valladolid. Twenty people were arrested on the demonstrations and, at the other Renault subsidiary, 16 of the many workers arrested for striking in solidarity with Valladolid are still in jail without trial.

While 10,000 workers in Spain's largest car plant, FIAT's subsidiary SEAT, are also striking, 47 were arrested in Friday for holding a

meeting in a church. During a similar church meeting 200 electrical workers were taken into custody in Madrid.

In many workplaces, such as the shipyard plants in Galicia, any excuse is being sought to join the general strike movement. In many areas the Spanish Communist Party (PCE), which has been primarily responsible for building the illegal 'workers commissions' in factories all over Spain, now finds that it is tail-ending the working class movement.

The PCE is organising for a one-day general strike around the economic demands for higher pay and a lower cost of living. Other left-wing groups such as FRAP (the Patriotic Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Front), OSO (the Workers' Syndical Opposition) and MCE, the Spanish Communist Movement which split from the PCE in 1967, are calling for a revolutionary general strike.

Franco is dying and so is the ruling class faith in a fascist Spain that is deprived of participation in the European Capitalist Club.

In this situation the beginnings of a general strike movement has fantastic potential.

In the multi-national interest...

PORTUGUESE workers answering a call from Prime Minister Vasco Goncalves to work one day a week for nothing—in 'the national interest'.

The Catholic Church, after long consultations with the Almighty, granted dispensation to 'break Sunday rest.'

Goncalves, described in the British press as a 'Portuguese Lenin', is seen by the Portuguese bosses as a potential saviour of their profits.

On 3 October, the Confederation of Portuguese Industry, representing 47,000 employers, sent him a telegram praising his 'integrity and

honesty' and pledging full support for his government.

General Costa Gomes, who succeeded General Spínola as president, has been welcomed by the Portuguese Communist Party, who mobilised 35000 for a demonstration of 'support and gratitude.'

The PCP, underground fighters against fascism for 48 years, are the only party with a mass base in the working class. But since the April coup, they've taken cabinet posts and collaborated with the ruling class, denouncing every major workers' struggle.

A delegate at a recent meeting

of Lisnave (Lisbon) dockers said: 'Our job is to rectify the Party which purports to be communist. Since 1956 it had ceased to defend the working class like all the Communist Parties throughout Europe. They are opportunists, they need to be shown up.'

The meeting, reported by the paper Voz do Trabalhador, heard another worker state that the April coup had been to guard capitalist interests.

'The Communist Party is a traitor to the working class' he said. 'Many workers who gave their lives in the struggle must be crying with rage.'

LETTERS

LABOUR OR COMMUNIST?

I WAS disturbed at the International Socialists policy of voting Labour regardless of what other candidates of the Left are standing in the general election. To write off Communist candidates as reformist is a serious mistake.

How can any revolutionary urge

workers to vote for a right-wing Labour candidate instead of a man who's helped organise and fight hard for strong working class organisation such as Jimmy Reid?

As socialists we must follow the course that will best serve the interests of the working classes and

of uniting it. Capitalism is attacking the workers and if the left attacks each other what chance have we got?

I'm not advocating sacrificing principles, but saying we shouldn't dismiss Communist or other revolutionary candidates out of hand.-R WARDEN, Woking.

You gave me hope John

I'VE ONLY seen a delegate conference on television and I must say how impressed I was, as the Burnley delegate, by the International Socialists Conference. Impressed with the organisation of the conference itself, with my fellow comrades, with the very impressive speakers and with the total impartiality of the various chairmen.

After all that, what impressed me most of all was the courage of John Ramosa, a black worker.

He was a man who gave me hope for the future of black people everywhere. He got up to speak at conference, tried to say what was in his head to say, but it wouldn't come out of his mouth. The fantastic sympathy of all his fellow comrades who sat quietly, as myself wishing that words would come out of his mouth.

The chairman, after John's long silence, said, very sympathetically, 'Thank you John.' He cut short that

agony that many of us have felt at one time or another until the experience comes in speaking.

Then the following day the courageous John gets up to speak again, improving greatly on his previous speech. This is what International Socialists are all about. If you fail once, then try, try and try again. John has certainly taught me something, my wrists are still hurting from clapping for him.-JEFF ALI, Burnley.

Portugal: more analysis please!

AS BOB LIGHT suggested at the International Socialists National Conference, Socialist Worker may be the best paper in the left, but it does not measure up to the task of preparing us for fighting against, and ultimately, overthrowing capitalism.

The article on Portugal (6 October) palced, in its headline and text, far too much emphasis on the political background of the new President, Costa Gomes. In doing this the article



The armoured car is with the people now, but for how long? Portugal in revolution.

almost overlooked the fact that the events leading up to his appointment represented an important victory for the Portuguese working class.

The development of the class struggle in Portugal is of central importance to the world working class. Ideally the International Socialists should be able to intervene in Portugal with a view to building a

revolutionary movement. The very least we can do is to have a permanent correspondent in Lisbon who will enable the British working class to benefit from the experiences of its Portuguese counterpart.

Readers of Socialist Worker will learn nothing, however, if the paper continues to substitute the 'nasty bosses' approach for serious analysis. Marx himself proved that marxist analysis does not have to be boring or difficult.

Above all else the working class needs to understand. The capitalist press excels at keeping us in the dark. At the moment Socialist Worker is failing to penetrate the gloom.-CHARLES KREEGER, Harrow.

They backed out - we're back to work

FOLLOWING FROM the report (5 October) of the strike of women Lastonet workers here at Heathcoats we are now back at work again, the same as before with nothing gained because of a load of gutless scabs who backed down. Why? Because of a ballot vote that shouldn't have been taken.

The vote had already been taken once and unofficial action agreed on. No co-operation, an overtime ban and a work to rule. This was to back up an across the board pay claim of £7.25 and payment through meal breaks for shift workers. The claim was refused by Heathcoats who pleaded poverty—as usual even though they're part of the giant Coats-Paton group whose profits were more than £50 million last year. Broke? What a laugh!

For the shop-floor to back down on this claim makes a mockery of unity and we deplore this attitude.—A considerable number of Lastonet workers, Carn, Brea, Cornwall.

MAY WE once again invite readers to send Christmas and New Year Greetings to the many victims of apartheid and racism in South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia—the families of political prisoners and detainees, those awaiting trial and the banished.

Lists with names and addresses of the above are available on request from our office.-ABDUL S MINTY, Anti-Apartheid Movement, 98 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2DQ.

NATIONAL FRONT the new nazis



organise against them

ORGANISE AGAINST THE NATIONAL FRONT NAZIS IN YOUR AREA. ORGANISE MASS SALES OF THIS PAMPHLET NOW.

The National Front are trying to build a base from which, using the same methods as Hitler, they can take on and destroy the organisations of the working class.

THEY MUST BE STOPPED

IS BRANCHES MUST SEND IN THEIR ORDERS NOW.

Bulk orders post free. Single copies: 10p plus 5p postage. Write to Is Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

LIFT IT! The following resolution was sent to the executive of the Engineering union from the Burnley No 1 branch. 'This branch is disturbed at the bar on Socialist Worker credentials for National Conference and asks for the ban to be lifted in keeping with trade union democracy, as the Labour and Industrial Correspondents group is not recognised by the National Union of Journalists.-DAVE HARTWELL, Burnley.

LOVED BY THE RICH, HATED BY THE POOR . . . Readers will have heard of Robin Hood, well I've had the misfortune to meet Robin Sod who's a dentist. I went to have some teeth filled—just one visit . . . On the way out I was asked for £9.88. 'I'm National Health and a student,' I replied, 'not a merchant banker.' 'You're only paying half the cost,' I was told, 'you're lucky, the charges will be going up shortly.' . . . A quick calculation told me that under the NHS a dentist can make £40 an hour . . . When politicians tell you about the need to fight inflation by restraining wages remember the estate agents, bankers, speculators, consultants and dentists who can make more in an hour than you can in a week.-TERRY WARD, North Walsham, Norfolk.

BOILING CABBAGE . . . I completely agree with J Worth's letter a couple of weeks ago . . . As one of a great many of Industrial Rehabilitation Trainees I particularly feel the effects of being unemployed and used as a cheap source of labour and having it retitled as 'realistic work' . . . The GPO, EJ Arnolds and other firms appreciate our usefulness, they know they'd have to pay their overworked workers three times as much to do the same boring and tedious jobs. Being treated like a cabbage and receiving a wage about equal to the value of one I object to . . . Not only are the ruling class eager to exploit healthy workers, they're eager to exploit the physically disabled and mentally ill ones.-COLIN RICHERT (IRU Cabbage) Leeds.

MISLEADING ON CHARTER . . . Anna Paczuska's report of the Working Women's Charter (21 September) was misleading. She complains the charter provides no basis for organising yet the very meeting raised £90 supporting striking women in Manchester, Luton and Colchester, and organised the picket in support of women on strike at SEI, Manchester. She says Manchester Trade Council adopted the Charter but didn't support SEI . . . This isn't an argument for not raising the Charter in trade union bodies, and isn't counterposed to rank and file action. Camden Trades Council, affiliated to the charter, as a direct result raised £15 for SEI. The Charter aims to provide a focus for women's struggles at the rank and file level, it's extremely valuable and is proving its worth.-IRENE BRUEGEL, London, NW5.

FALSE ON CHARTER . . . We're members of the Ad-Hoc London Organisation Committee of the Working Womens Charter Campaign . . . We'd like to correct some of the false impressions in your report. . . . It's ridiculous to talk of the Charter's petitioning tactics. The experience of working women in struggle around the Charter will lead to a development of a level of self-organisation and activity in the life of the Labour movement—this can in no way be described as 'petitioning'. We agree on the need to build an organisation capable of effective action—which is why there's a London Delegate Conference for all groups involved in the Charter Campaign on 26 October . . . The charter has been greeted with enthusiasm and interest by women in the Labour movement, tenants unions, anti-racists committees and Womens Liberation groups . . . The Charter's not perfect but can draw women within and outside unions into the Womens Liberation struggle and bring home to male trade unionists the often neglected problems facing women.-KAREN MARGOLIS, PAT MASTERS, London W2.

ANNA PACZUSKA REPLIES . . . The sentiments behind the Charter are admirable and most of it is TUC policy . . . But 90 years of TUC decisions failed to inspire self organisation among women, because organisation is built not out of good intentions but out of struggle. Women workers are currently involved in unprecedented activity over a variety of issues. Raising money is fine but anyone seriously interested in womens' struggle must base themselves on this not just by raising money but by organising meaning-

ful solidarity action for these struggles. This can only be done by building a rank and file movement in the factories and trade unions involving both men AND women workers. It won't be achieved through pious resolutions in trades union branches.

SEEING THE LIGHT . . . At the first meeting of the Broad Left here with 10 people present they admitted that sectarianism had been present in the past and suggested the International Socialists, the International Marxists Group and Trotskyist organisations be invited to attend future meetings.-C WALING, Accrington.

BOMBS AND LIVES . . . Although supporting the IRA in their struggle, I object to Jeff Long's attitude (21 September) to workers' lives in Northern Ireland . . . The continued use of bombs will mean the brutal and premeditated murder of hundreds of workers. The role of the IRA is a struggle against British imperialism—which means support from the people. The IRA would be better employed meeting their opponents directly.-J A SIME, Grimsby.

20,000 GALLONS PLEASE . . . Recently I flew to Detroit on a British Airways Jumbo, the plane was less than a third full . . . When we stopped at Boston almost everyone got off. There were 36 people in those 358 seats from Boston to Detroit . . . When I came back on a Monday there were three people in my section of 114 seats! (this was the peak summer season). At Boston we picked up some more but the plane was less than a third full. Pan Am also do a daily Detroit-London flight, with seats to spare, and other airlines fly daily from Boston to London with many empty seats. You'd think in the 'energy crisis' they'd get together to save fuel. A Jumbo burns up 20,000 gallons on a Boston-London flight. But that's not the way free enterprise and capitalism work. Oh no! It's got to be competition, waste, and 20 per cent fare increases to pay for this stupidity. Who says we couldn't run the show better than they do now?-JENNY HAWKE, Norfolk.

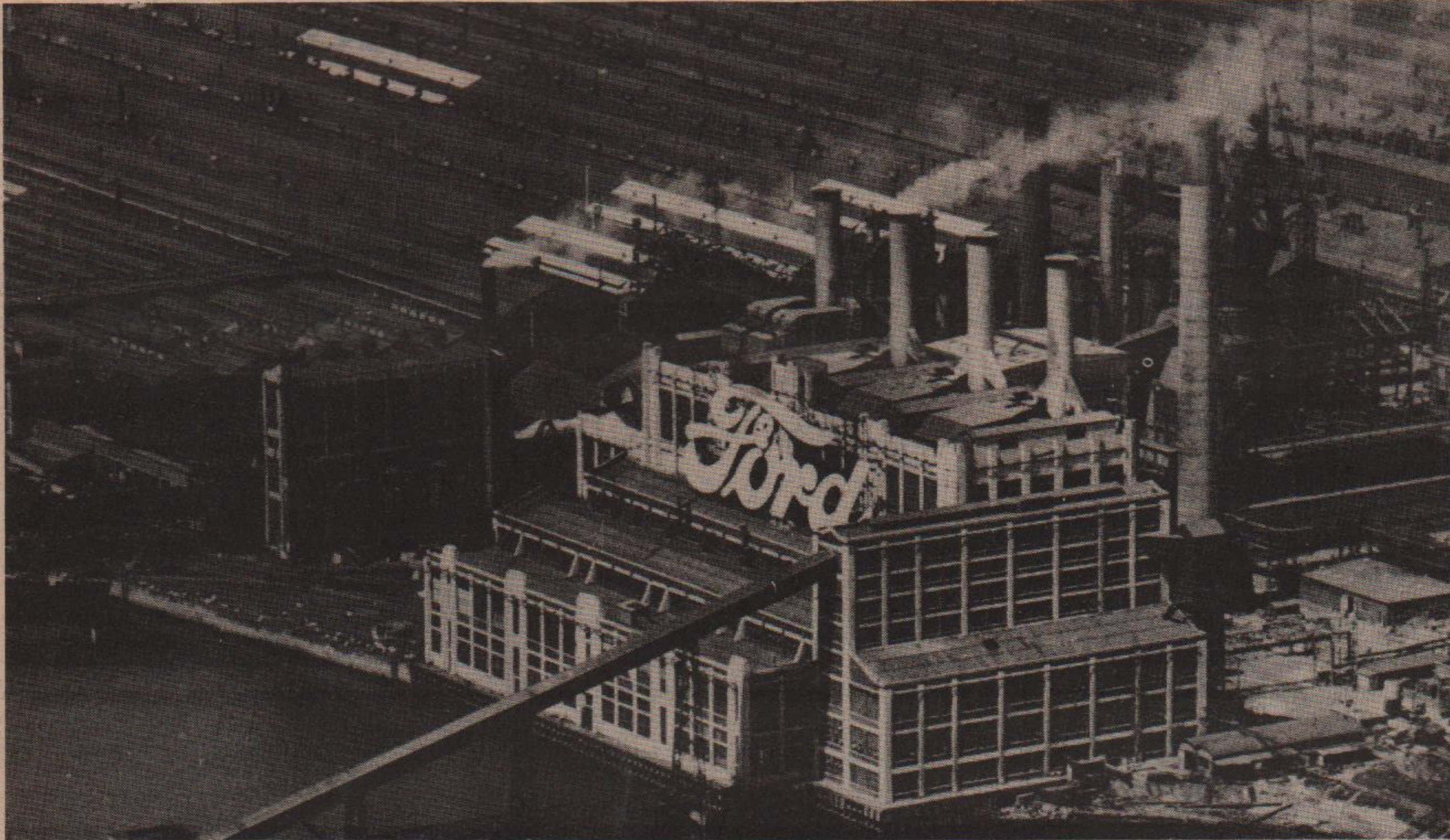
LARGE CUT FOR BARBER . . . We've all got to take cuts because of the economic crisis they say. But some don't seem to be prepared to make these patriotic sacrifices—like the Duke of Devonshire . . . In the interests of the British people (of course) he's building a yachting marina for a mere £50 million . . . Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer Tony Barber is making £28,000 a year on the board of Standard and Chartered Bank—double his salary as Chancellor—how's that for breaching the Social Contract? . . . So next time you hear Willie Whitelaw or Dennis Healey telling us to tighten our belts, ask them about Denis Lawson, Tiny Rowland, the Duke of Devonshire etc.-CD, Sheffield.

UNITY IN DEATH . . . Socialist Worker should ram home the fact about white scabs who object to working with black people that nobody objected to black New Zealand Maoris, Indians, Gurkhas and Africans dying alongside white men in the Second World War.-J PREEN, Battersea.

WHO'S HE? . . . According to Paul Fauvet (28 September) Jimmy Reid knows Communist Party policy because he's a member of the executive of the CP. This reminds me of a conversation I had with a CP member in Leicester. I'd just read an article in the Morning Star which contained the gem, 'there is nothing wrong with parliament except that we're not in it.' I pointed out that parliament is part of the bourgeois state which oppresses the working class and that we'd have to destroy the state machine. He replied that what John Gollan had written wasn't CP policy and that he wasn't very important in the Party! Even the General Secretary can get the line wrong!-DICK PITT, Chesterfield.

YOU SHOULD SEE THEIR BATS . . . Trying to buy a cricket box in a sports shop in Kilburn I was told that they'd had them on order for nine months—but, 'the police are taking them all' . . . Clearly the police have taken up cricket in a big way and they must play in teams with very fast bowlers. Or maybe they're buying them for other reasons—like protecting the National Front.-NIGEL CURRIE, North London.

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.



The old family business by the Thames. Fords Dagenham, where the Social Contract became a little frayed at the edges . . .

We're not here to save their faces

IT IS NOT a deep political secret what the Ford workers think of the Social Compact. The Social Compact is rather like a powder compact—a way of saving face. The Ford workers are under no illusions, it is not their faces they are worried about, or the faces of the TUC or the Labour Party.

The battles they have been fighting are vital to their survival. Not only are they the lowest paid in the motor industry, but they also have to put up with appalling conditions. It is little wonder that Mr Flicker makes the observation that if the Social Compact means a cut in the living standards of the Ford worker then the Social

Compact must go. The Ford workers are not going to be left high and dry as they have so often been in the past.

But it is not only the Ford worker who will suffer if these mystical policies are adhered to. It is every worker in the land, and especially the really badly paid. How many more times are we to be asked to take a tuck? When did the ruling class ever take one in for us? No, it is always those that produce the wealth of the world who must always make the sacrifices for those that have plenty and desire more. Who are they kidding?

Did any one member of the working class cause inflation? How could they? The worker is not yet master of what he or she produces, has no control over what it is to be priced at. So when anyone shouts about greedy workers asking for bigger and better pay deals let us remember who these people are.

They are the parasites who live off the backs of the workers and would suck them dry if they could. All political parties, and the TUC talk about the grave crisis we are in. Well, brothers and sisters, it is their crisis, they created it, and they expect us to bail them out again. Not this time brothers and sisters, let them bloody stew in it, we have suffered enough. To this end a very important conference takes place in Birmingham on 30 November. It is the Second National Rank and File Conference, organised by a number of Rank and File papers. Get your Trade Union bodies or Shop Stewards committees to delegate you. Write for details to 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

But don't come if you think that the government or the trade unions can get you out of this mess we are in, because they can't. We can only help ourselves now, so let's get to this conference and do it. The ruling class only understand strength, let's show them who we are.—TONY BARROW, Leamington.

You've got problems? Come to Liberal Australia

BRITAIN HAS GB75 and other middle-class strikebreakers. Here in Western Australia the state government has decided to go one better.

Liberal premier Charles Court has announced the Energy, Fuel and Resources Bill which is a recipe for virtual martial law. It was drawn up by the previous Labour government who were scared to go ahead, the bill is intended to smash working class organisation in the state. It allows the state governor to declare a state of emergency at the request of a minister whenever 'essential supplies' are threatened. Essential supplies aren't defined.

Under a state of emergency, national and common law and the Constitution, trial by jury, court appeals and industrial awards are suspended. It removes the right to strike, makes it illegal for anyone not to do work if conscripted by a minister—anyone could be made to work 24 hours a day for nothing!

Penalties for refusing forced labour are £350 fine or six months' imprisonment for each day not worked. Fines on unions are unlimited. Still you can appeal—to the minister who enforces the martial law. And the law expires after six months—unless renewed . . .

The government claims the law isn't to break strikes, just to make sure genuine cases of emergency are supplied. The lie behind the claim is shown by the fact that in the last two major strikes in Western Australia, a milk delivery strike and a fuel strike, the strike committees themselves organised milk for expectant mothers and fuel for emergency vehicles.

It's just this element of dual power which scares the Liberals and makes them provoke a stand up fight with the union. Except that workers, as in Britain know the union leaders have no stomach for a fight. They simply want to get the Law Society on their side. As usual the real fight will come from the rank and file.—MICK MARSHALL, Western Australia.

ACTIVE UNIONIST? DISGUSTING!

WHEN I went to work for the local corporation I also joined the government officers union NALGO. It might not have existed as far as the membership were concerned. The official union paper was so bad it usually went straight into the nearest bin. We have two union meetings a year, with little advance publicity and usually stage managed by the executive.

Half the people I work with aren't in the union which doesn't bother the executive who make no attempt to recruit these people. Of course it's hard to recruit to a union which

sells its members down the river year after year, and which is generally undemocratic with inadequate representation for the members—the only people you have to prove yourself to are the bureaucrats.

I decided to do something about it so I joined NALGO Action, the militant rank and file organisation. I started to promote the policies of the group and sell the rank and file paper. It was a hard slog at first since most members having been spat on for so long, regarded any union publication with suspicion—even one

produced by rank and file members.

A union executive got hold of a copy of Nalgo Action News and was so disgusted that he rushed down to see me. He threatened to summons me on behalf of the Executive since it wasn't an official publication. He was followed by a member of the management who cross-examined me and tried to intimidate me into inactivity.

Nevertheless sales have started to improve and I hope to increase the group's influence in the union.—DAVE WILLIAMS, Birkenhead.



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 _____

ASBESTOSIS

TYNESIDE is rotten with asbestos. It's everywhere.

It's in public toilets in Elswick Road, Newcastle, under a coat of plaster. It's in Pooley Street School, in the changing rooms where it has already been repaired once after damage.

It's in Swan and Hunter shipyards in the form of maranite, and the joiners who cut it have some form of protection, the other finishing trades working alongside them wear nothing. It is on the ceiling of Whitley Bay swimming baths.

It is at Stella North power station. Recently we visited the power station and after waiting in vain for the security guard headed for a nearby cabin. We asked to see the ladders. A painter said he knew where they were. He took me to the boiler house and up two floors in the lift.

When I got out of the lift, the floor was metal grating, and about 20 yards away was a ladder stripping the No 2 boiler wall. There was a cover on the floor immediately under his work, but nowhere else.

The boiler walls were dry. As he pulled down chunks of grey coating it crashed to the floor and produced billows of dust which enveloped the entire space around him. The painter, without a mask, walked through the dust to the other end of the lagging. The ladder, who worked for Darlington Insulation, wore only a gauze mask as protection.

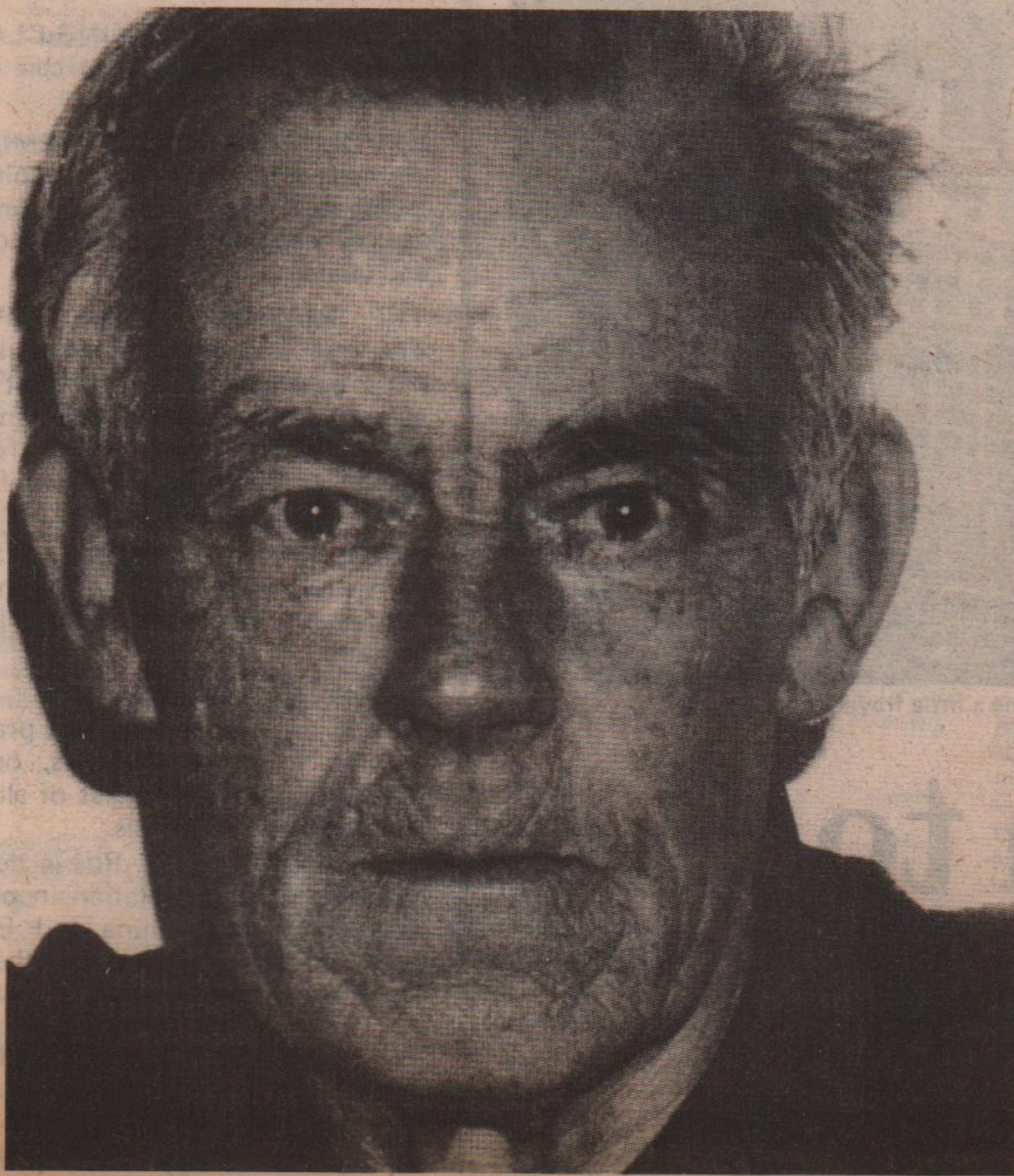
Material

I phoned Mr Crossfield, the plant superintendent, to ask if the Electricity Board intended to replace asbestos by asbestos-free material. This he confirmed. I asked him if it would mainly be the boilers. 'Well, yes', he said. 'So that's what you are doing now, stripping and replacing?' I asked. He said yes.

I then went to see Jack Carter, who used to be a representative for Darlington Insulation, to see if he knew what the stuff was. He said that it was capacite, pure asbestos, and that they would be stripping it off to replace it by asbestos-free material.

Asbestos, and the money-grabbing firms that used it, have claimed the lives of many ladders on Tyneside. Denis Gray, secretary of the Tyne and Wear Thermal Insulation and Engineering branch of the General and Municipal Workers Union, can remember 21 deaths from asbestosis in the past 15 years. Many more have died from lung diseases without being tested for asbestosis. In every case, the ladders that we talked to were first treated for bronchitis or the

The man who has got the disease...



Taffy Wales: he mixed asbestos straight from the bag with water on the floor

...and the man who gave it to him



Ralph Bateman, boss of Turner and Newalls, the firm Taffy worked for

By STEVE WALDIE

like before tested for asbestosis.

One ladder we saw was passed as fit for the army, when he was 16. He left 14 years later and spent eight years working for local asbestos firms. He developed chest pains and was treated for 'chronic bronchitis'. But when his father, aged 69, and then his brother, died of asbestosis, the doctor checked the other two brothers who were asbestos workers. He found both had '30 per cent asbestosis. Often whole families have their men in the lagging trade.

Accounts of how asbestos was used by ladders in the past show the companies' attitude towards the men. Taffy Wales worked for Turner and Newalls in Washington,

County Durham. He mixed asbestos straight from the bag with water on the floor.

Jack Carter remembers emptying bags of asbestos into a trough and treading raw asbestos with water like treading grapes. Other workers were given raw asbestos to use in bags with 'pig food' written on them.

Three of Taffy's mates, John Gaughan, Paddy Sweeney and Joe Falcus, suffer, like him, from varying degrees of asbestosis. All get pains in the body and perspire a lot. Their compensation—ranging from £670 to £1,500—is a disgusting insult to the slow death they have contracted.

There are many firms, who by

dealing indiscriminately with asbestos, have claimed workers' lives. Some now have the airtight equipment required by law to deal with asbestos stripping. Others are not so strict. When masks were first given to the men in the 1950s they were of gauze. They made it difficult to breathe and afforded no protection at all.

The reason these firms are responsible for stealing workers' lives is that they exposed men to a material they knew was deadly, in the pursuit of profits.

Insidious

Bobbie Cantwell is a General and Municipal Workers Union shop steward in the forefront of the fight for unionised labour and safety on sites. He showed me a copy of the branch bulletin. Often the bulletin records the death of yet another member.

The asbestos firms in the area make it obvious that they are unconcerned by the whole sordid business. They do this by flagrantly avoiding the regulations on the one hand, and making workers go through the legal jungle of fighting for compensation on the other. In any case workers with the death kiss of asbestosis can never be repaid by these profit sucking companies.

The real insidious nature of these firms has changed little since the years when Bobbie Cantwell's father used to line up at Newcastle Central station in the hope of getting a lagging job. If he was chosen he would be called to collect a ticket from the foreman. As he approached the foreman would drop the ticket on the floor in front of his feet and watch him pick it up.

FACT

ASBESTOSIS is an incurable disease. Victims feel as if they are being strangled from inside. Unable to walk, eat or breathe, they meet a premature and ghastly death.

ASBESTOSIS has been inflicted on thousands of workers throughout the world by employers who have sacrificed elementary precautions in the name of profit.

THE Central Asbestos Company of Bermondsey, South London, killed at least 15 workers by numerous and persistent breaches of the Factories Act.

The Factory Inspectorate surveyed that factory for at least 15 years while this was going on. It prosecuted only once. The company was fined £170 with 50p costs.

JAMES P McKenna is secretary of the 7/162 Glasgow insulation workers' branch of the Transport Workers' Union. One of his main duties is attending his members' funerals.

Since 1965, 82 members of the 900-strong branch have met a premature, tragic and unnecessary death from 'causes associated with asbestos'.

MANY of those who died worked for Turner and Newall. Their policy statement, 1973, says the firm 'is conscious of its responsibilities as an employer and lays great emphasis on the need to create a harmonious working environment . . . A company has a social duty to allow employees to realise their full potential and T and N accepts it'.

ASBESTOS

The dust that kills in the name of profit

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

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





LORD Lambton, the Tory who was caught with his pants down in 1973, is putting his London house up for sale. It is in fashionable Hamilton Terrace, St Johns Wood, London, and Lord Lambton is hoping to get £250,000 for it.

Lady Lambton points out: 'We find it difficult to use all the rooms'—not to mention the garden and the swimming pool as well.

Lord Lambton will still have his mansion in Northumberland—and half the county to go with it.

PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)



International Socialism

Monthly journal of the International Socialists

The two faces of the social contract...

Viscountess Long of Wraxall, quoted in the Sunday Telegraph, 29 September:

IN THE eyes of the unions I suppose I am non-existent as a real or a nice person, and to the Government I don't fit into any white paper.

Housewives like me are not necessarily wealthy, though we have a stately butler to answer the door because the distances from one end of the house to the other are so great that walking about is a part-time job in itself, and one has to be stately in keeping with the architecture, I suppose...

Cannot the politicians understand that we, too, serve the country? We spend all our available money, not on bingo, but on maintaining something which we feel is important to England's heritage and worth preserving.

People use our houses for meetings, fetes, charity functions, education outings and so on. We ask for no allowance and we make no charge.

I appear officially as a Viscountess when I am asked to, trying to make last year's mini-skirt look like the current calf-length.

I am president of one or two fund-raising charities because it seems to help, but as an ordinary housewife in an election I don't seem to exist. And my husband, as a peer, doesn't even have a vote.



The hole in the ceiling of John and Julie Woollard's council house bedroom

From the Daily Express, 30 September

SOCIALIST SHACKLES

FROM: The Earl of Bradford, Weston Park, Shropshire.

I WONDER if I am alone among your readers in being unable to distinguish any substantial difference between the aims of the Communist party and those of our present Left-wing-dominated Socialist party, except that the latter appear to favour a rather more gradual expropriation and confiscation of private property and cloak their aims in more mellifluous and soothing verbiage?

Do we really want Communist-type shackles imposed on this fair country of the hitherto free?

A very large hunk of this fair country of the hitherto free is owned by the Earl of Bradford. His three estates in Shropshire (Weston Park, Leaton Knolls and Knockin estates) make up about a quarter of the county. Into the bargain, he has 10,000 acres in his Dell estate in Inverness-shire and two massive estates in Devon and Cornwall.

THAT'S THE WAY THE MONEY GOES

ACCORDING to The Times of 21 September, 'another believer in the effect of the proposed wealth tax on holiday-making is Mrs Wendy Jolly London representative for a number of eastern Caribbean islands.'

She said: 'People with money in the bank are deciding to have a good holiday before the Government takes it.'

But she explained that the shortage of aircraft seats was curbing traffic in that direction, too. 'We are experiencing a 35 per cent in-

crease in traffic to St Lucia, for example'. However, British Airways say they have no empty seats to the Caribbean generally after October.

The Times goes on to ask: 'But where does the money come from for such long distance tours?'

The answer seems to be that no matter how much unemployment rises or how low the stock market slides there are always people around with spare funds. They are not—to use trade jargon again—'wage or salary earners or totally dependent on such income'.

By Lloyd Hayes, TGWU

JOHN and Julie Woollard and their six-month-old son Sean are no longer part of Norwich Council's housing problem. They have been found a 'home'—a house once boarded up and condemned as unfit for human habitation.

They had returned to Norwich after John, a building worker, had tried unsuccessfully to find a job in Birmingham. He is still out of work.

The Norwich housing committee greeted John's appeal for accommodation with indifference—until he told them that 19-year-old Julie was expecting a second child.

The committee came up with a 'solution'. Julie should stay in a hostel until she had had the baby.

When John, not surprisingly, refused, they came up with another 'solution': the condemned house in Mancroft Street.

To justify charging rent, the committee claim they are now renovating the houses. Which means they are re-connecting and re-wiring the electricity and cold water, and splashing a bit of paint on the walls. The wiring is so bad that the light bulbs are forever blowing.

John said: 'The kitchen leaks like a tea strainer, there's a three-inch gap at the bottom of the front-door and a 12-inch hole in the bedroom ceiling.'

'There is no bathroom so we have to go to relatives for a bath. To top the lot, there are rats all over the place.'

Julie pointed out that baby Sean has a weak chest which isn't helped by the draughts.

John, Julie and Sean are not the only family in Norwich to be made this insult of an offer by the housing committee. More and more couples unable to find a roof over their heads are being forced into the same position.

Some might say that the £5.56 rent is not much. But then they don't get much for it either...



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.

حیرت کا مظاہرہ کیا لیکن بات نہیں ختم ہوئی۔ کیونکہ آپ کی طرح بے شمار اور کالے مزدور برطانیہ میں جگہ جگہ ایسی ہی مشکلات میں جبراً جبراً کر رہے ہیں!

لیڈز کے بس مینو، کینسلر ڈھکی مزدور پنہ اور سلاؤ کے مزدور بھائیو، انٹرنیشنل سوشلسٹ کے ممبر اخبارات میں لیکے اس لیے آپ کے پاس پہنچے ہیں کیونکہ ہم مزدوروں کی جبراً جبراً حمایت کرتے ہیں۔ سوسائٹی میں مزدور طبقہ واحد طبقہ ہے جس کے بل بوتے پر پیداوار ہوتی ہے۔ اپنی فیڈریوں کو پی ٹی جی جی: فیڈری کی عمارت کی ایک ایک اینٹ مزدوروں نے اپنے ہاتھ سے رکھی ہے۔ فیڈری میں مشینوں کا ایک ایک پرزہ مزدوروں نے اپنے ہاتھ سے بنایا ہے۔ فیڈری کے باہر کھڑی ہوئی کاروں کے اجن اور ماڈیاں سب مزدوروں نے بنائی ہیں۔ لیکن ان فیڈریوں ان عمارتوں کی ملکیت تو ایک جگہ رہی، ہم مزدوروں کو ایک ایک پیس سیدھے جھنڈنا پڑتا ہے، ایک ایک پیس کیلئے پڑنا پڑنا پڑتی ہیں۔

مزدور بھائیو! اس صورت حال کی طرف ایک وجہ ہے اور وہ یہ کہ اجماعی ہمت نے اپنی طاقت کو استعمال کرنا نہیں سیکھا۔ سلاؤ کے دلیر مزدوروں کو خوب علم ہے کہ مزدوروں کی طاقت کس بات میں ہے؛ جیسا کہ طاقت صرف مزدوروں کے اتحاد اور آگے تہمتیم میں ہے۔ اس کا مطلب یہ ہے کہ مزدور نہ صرف اپنی فیڈری میں منظم ہوں بلکہ جہاں تک ہو سکے دوسری فیڈریوں کے سرگرم مزدوروں کو امداد اور حوصلہ دے سکیں۔

سلاؤ کے فاتح مزدور! ہاں آپ کو اپنی جبراً جبراً میں جیت ہوئی لیکن برطانیہ میں دوسرے ایشیائی مزدور جبراً جبراً جاری ہے آپ کو دیکھو، یہ بڑا بڑا پکار رہے ہیں۔ آپ کی جیت نے ان کے حوصلہ بند کیے لیکن انہیں آپ کے تجربے اور آپ کے اتحاد کی ضرورت ہے۔

انٹرنیشنل سوشلسٹ ایک تنظیم ہے جسکی رکنیت ان تمام مزدوروں پر رکھی ہے جو نہ صرف اپنی فیڈریوں میں جبراً جبراً کر رہے ہیں بلکہ تمام مزدوروں کی جبراً جبراً میں جہاں تک ہو سکے، مدد کرنے کیلئے تیار ہیں جو کالے اور کالے مزدوروں کی جبراً جبراً کو اپنی جبراً جبراً سچتے ہیں۔ انٹرنیشنل سوشلسٹ تنظیم کو آپ کی ضرورت ہے کیونکہ مزدور طبقہ کو آپ کی ضرورت ہے!!

In Urdu . . . why IS intervenes in Asian disputes

کئی ایشیائی مزدور برطانیہ میں جگہ جگہ جبراً جبراً کر رہے ہیں۔ سلاؤ میں ایشیائی مزدوروں نے ایک منظم اتن جبراً جبراً کام مظاہرہ کیا۔ جن لوگوں کو ایشیائی مزدوروں کے حوصلہ اور تاباوت پر شک ہے، ہم اس اخبار کے ذریعے ان لوگوں کو دعوت دیتے ہیں کہ وہ سلاؤ میں آکر ان تمام مزدوروں کو میں اور سیکھیں کہ حوصلہ اور تاباوت کے عملی معنی کیا ہیں!!

لیکن ہم کینسلر ڈھکی کی بہتوں سلاؤ کے مزدور بھائیوں سے یہ کہنا چاہتے ہیں کہ اگر یہ اپنے اپنی جبراً جبراً میں 'اپنی پڑتاوں میں منظم اتن

وہ ایشیائی مزدور جن کی پڑتاوں کو یونین کی حمایت حاصل ہے۔ ایسا اوقات ایشیائی مزدور بغیر یونین کی مدد سے، بغیر سلاؤ کے کے منف اپنے حوصلے اور اپنی حیرت پر جبراً جبراً کرتے ہیں۔ جس میں کسی کو اس بات کا شک ہے وہ یونین میں جا کر کینسلر ڈھکی کی ایشیائی صورتوں سے جا کر ملے جن کو حال ہی میں اپنی جبراً جبراً میں شکست ہوئی۔ لیکن کینسلر ڈھکی کی دلیر بہنو! ہم گورے اور کالے مزدور آپ کے حوصلے کے سامنے اپنا سر جھکتے ہیں۔ ہم نے آپ سے بہت کچھ سیکھا۔ ہم آپ کو یہ بتانا چاہتے ہیں کہ آپ کی طرح

آپ کے ذہن میں یقیناً یہ سوال ہو گا کہ آپ جب پڑتا کر رہے ہیں اور پکٹ لائین پر کھڑے پڑتا کر رہے ہیں ان کے حوصلے کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہیں تو انٹرنیشنل سوشلسٹ کے ممبر سوشلسٹ وہ کراہتے ہیں؟ آخر یہ لوگ وہاں کیوں پہنچ جاتے ہیں؟ کیا یہ قدرتی خدمت گار ہیں؟ کیا یہ لوگ سوشلسٹ ہیں؟

مزدور بھائیو! ہم اس اخبار کے ذریعے ان سوالات کا جواب دینا چاہتے ہیں۔ یہ درست ہے کہ آپ انتہائی مشکل حالات میں جبراً جبراً کر رہے ہیں۔ خوش قسمت ہیں



By John Rose

PAKISTANI workers at a Buckinghamshire factory this week won a magnificent victory against a sweatshop employer and an army of scabs.

The firm, Combined Opticals of Slough, called off their six-week lock-out on Saturday and admitted defeat. They agreed to pay the 32 workers 11p an hour more and to cut the working week from 57½ hours to 40. They were also forced to lay off the blacklegs they had specially hired in an attempt to smash union organisation. But the triumphant workers—members of the Engineering Union—weren't prepared to let the firm off that lightly. On Monday they rejected the pay offer—and sent their full-

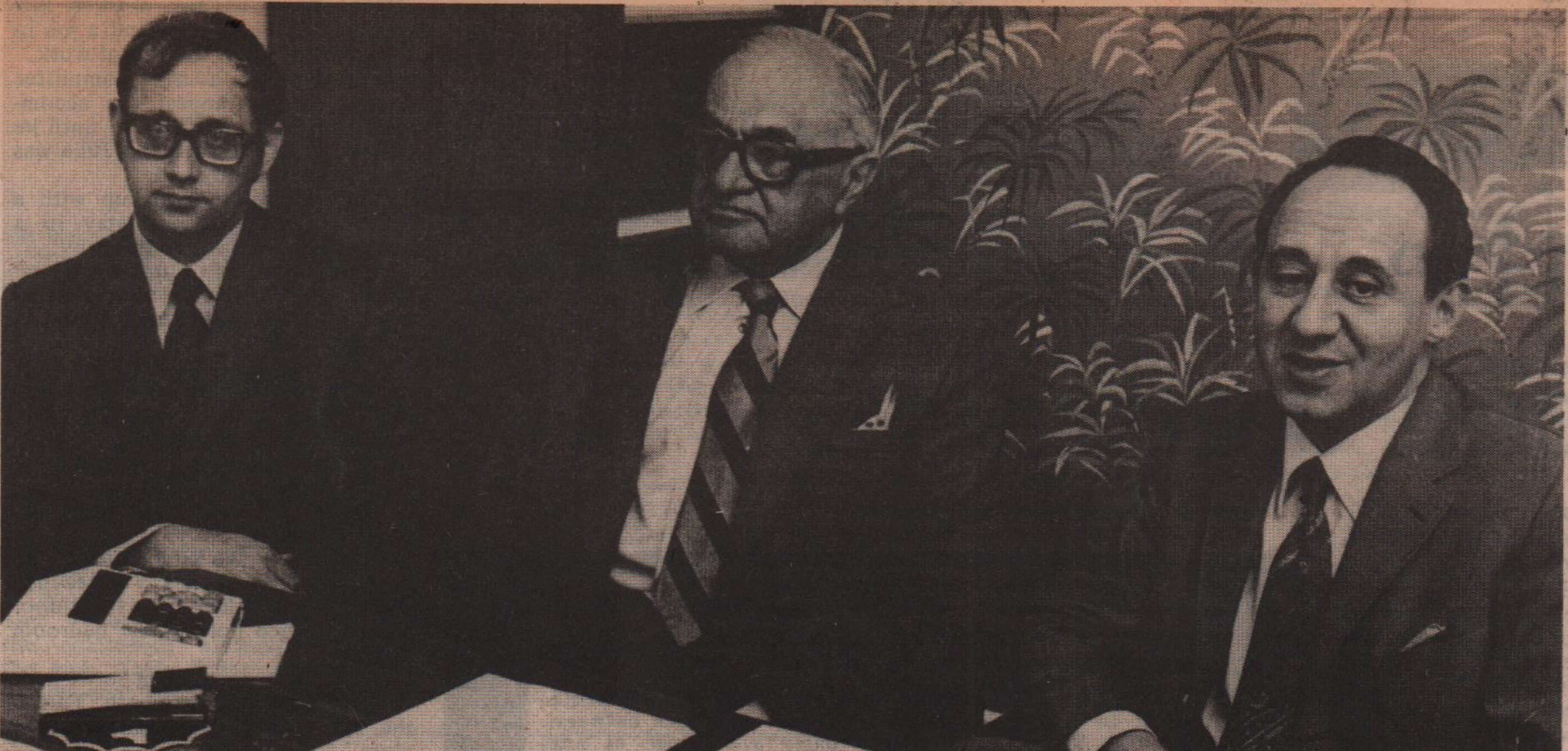
ROUTED—scabs' army

time union officials back to get more. And more they got . . . another 2p an hour, bringing them up from 55p to 68p an hour, with a promise of another 2p by January. Combined Opticals, the firm that paid 55p an hour for a 57½ hour week, the firm that locked out workers who complained about such conditions, the firm that thought they could

smash the union with blackleg labour, were thoroughly beaten. The key to the victory lay in the hands of a section of the factory still at work until last week. AUEW shop steward Shoukat Kaini explained: 'In our section, the Optical Department, some of us were union members, some were not. We produce expensive glass lenses for medical prescriptions, sun-

glasses and magnifying glasses. 'We also supply the Ministry of Defence with lenses for pathfinders and goggles. This work is extremely profitable to the company and customers would be lost if we stopped work. 'The turners in our department, who cut out the lenses from glass sheets, cannot be replaced by blackleg labour. At least two months' training is required.

The management could avoid a strike in the department in a straightforward lockout started, a in the factory we an hour pay rise. Second, there union members departments, none had But solidarity with the picket upset calculations. Most workers department stop week. They include are still not union strike forced man cede within two d



The most unsuccessful works director in Slough: Bob Roote, with Combined Opticals' deputy chairman Miroslav Sigmund (centre) and managing director David Stern (right).

Trap

The firm's attempt to strike-breaking—by Slough AUEW did as the 'first of the follows some imp by Asian workers the last few years. Asian workers themselves trapped type cheap labour many of the hi small firms on Sl estate. Typically they hour shift system low rates of pay separation betw (Asian) workers office (white) staff. But Asian work back. In factory they have organ and struggled to ditions. This week inspire many more

The struggle in Ireland



An International Socialists pamphlet 15p

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



Chris Harman



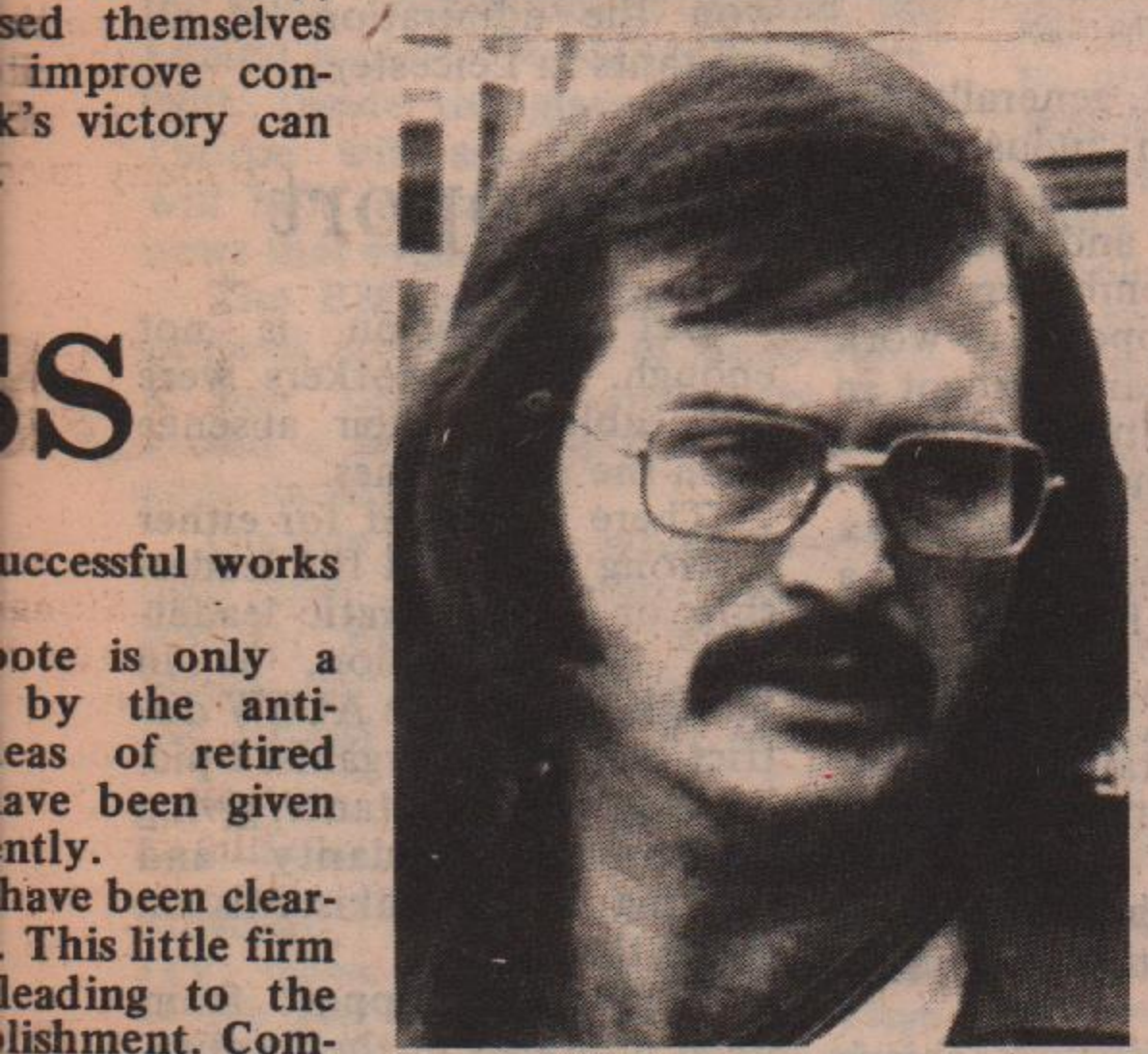
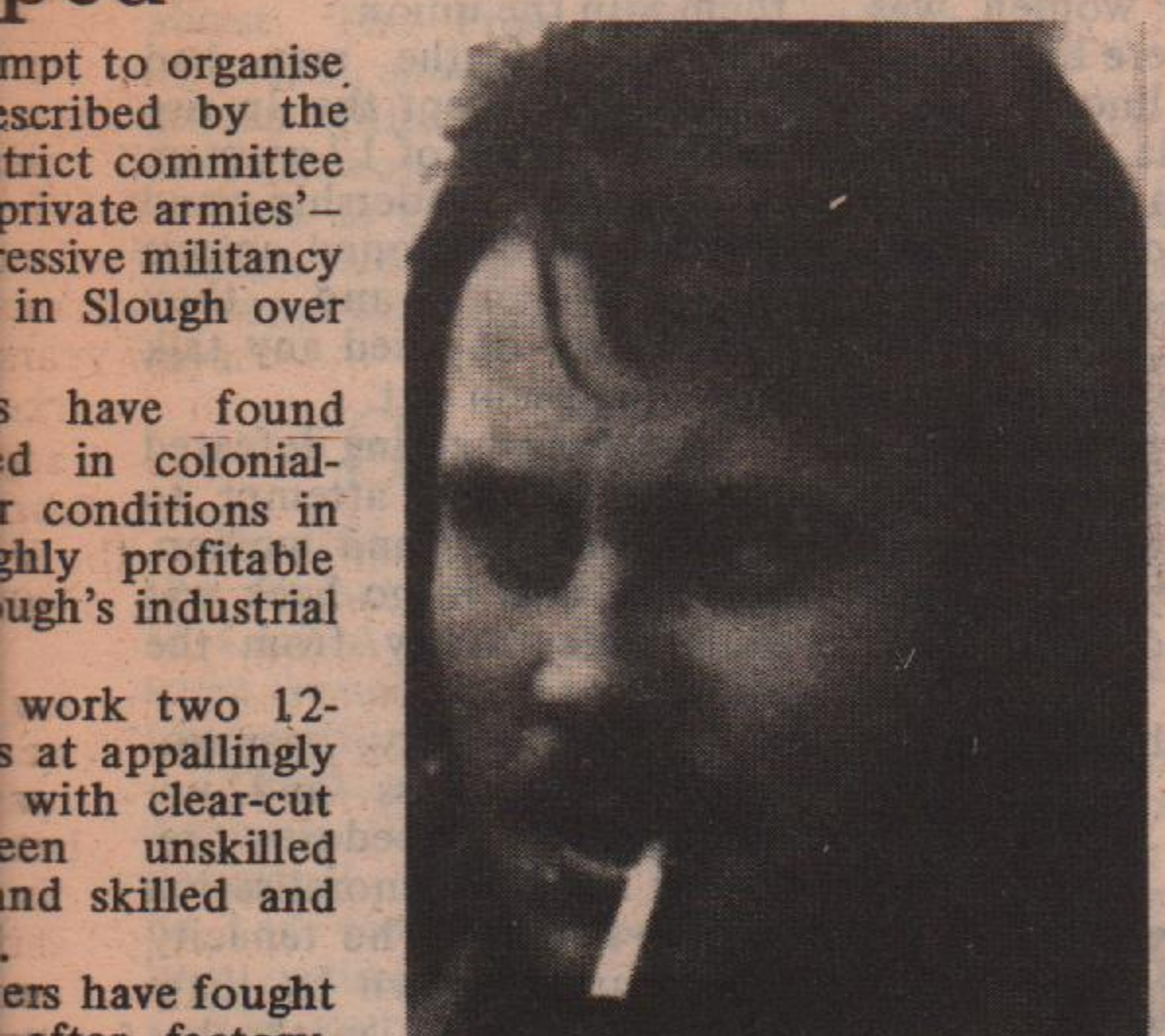
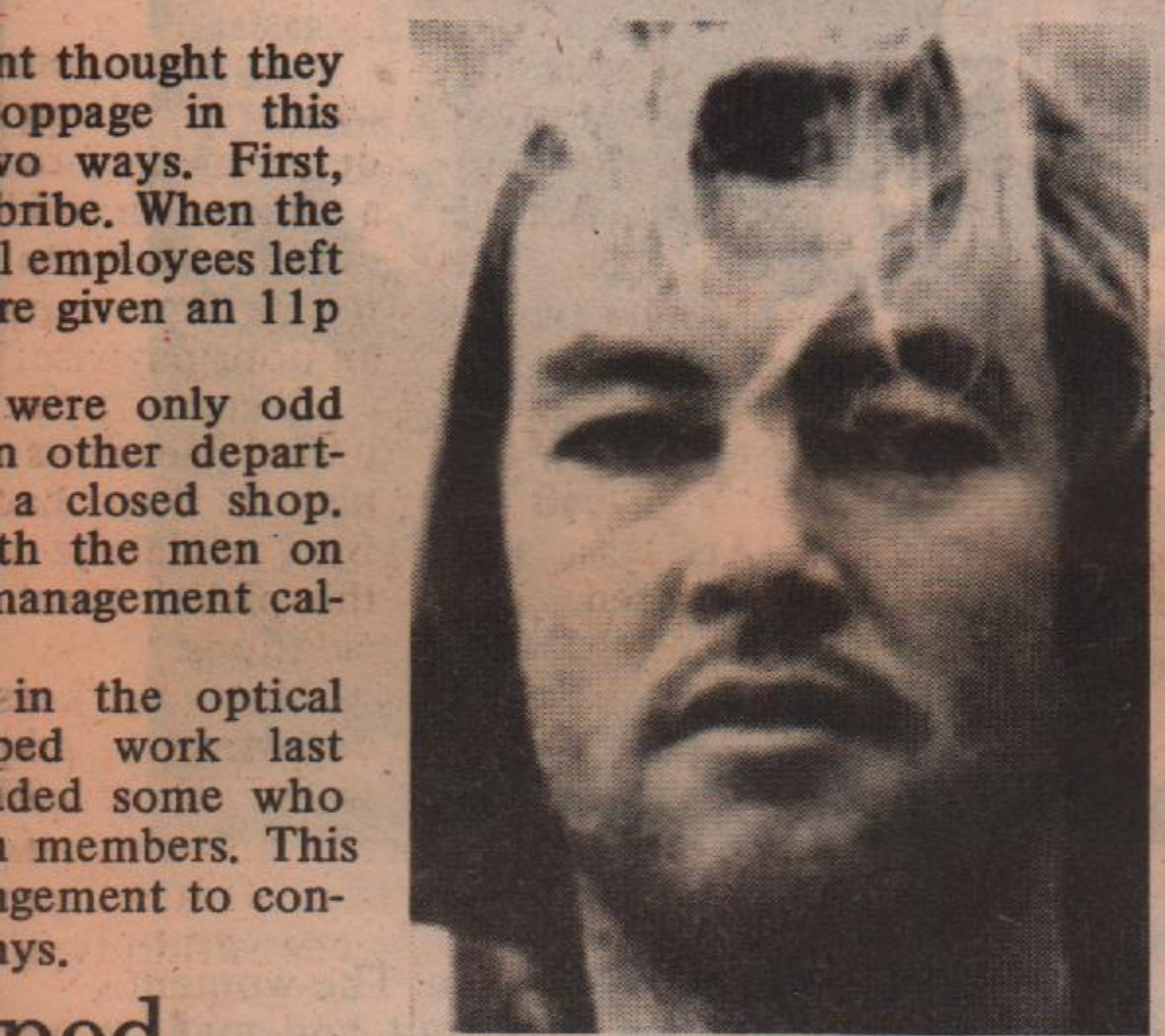
As a boss, he's a dead loss

ONE MAN who knows just how hard the Asian workers have fought is Bob Roote, works director at Combined Opticals and one-time works director at Roots Plastics in Slough. Rabinda Dutta, ex-AUEW convenor at Roots Plastic, takes up the story. 'Nearly 100 Asian injection moulders at Roots organised themselves into the AUEW about two years ago. 'We then began to fight for better wages and conditions. We were earning £27 for a 40-hour week on a two shift 12-hour system. 'We won more money but then had to strike for sickness benefit scheme and cost of living increases. After two weeks, Roote told us

the firm would concede our demands. When the pay freeze was over. 'Shortly afterwards he was fired for 'mishandling' our dispute!' It was a bitter experience for Roote. He would not make the same mistake again. One year later, he was at Combined Opticals supervising the lock-out—and the recruitment of blackleg labour. With Industrial Personnel Services of Hammersmith, he recruited 32 blacklegs, many of them white South Africans. When the blacklegs first started work, Roote drove them past the pickets in a hired mini-bus. Exactly how the blacklegs were recruited remains unclear. IPS told the Slough AUEW district com-

mittee that after the first week they no longer had anything to do with Combined Opticals, that the people they had helped supply were now directly employed by Roote. They told the Slough Observer newspaper that records of the blacklegs' names and addresses were 'unreliable as far as tax and insurance was concerned.' Other employees say the blacklegs always kept themselves to themselves and refused to talk to anyone. This extremely expensive attempt to smash the union (the blacklegs were paid three times the rate, according to office staff) has ended in abject failure and the second defeat in 18 months

for the most un director in Slough. Of course, Ro minion, inspired working class in Generals which a public airing rec His plans were ed by his 'batters has connections heart of the Estab ined Opticals owned by the Dav of investment bro pre-tax profits mo Among others board are Lord governor-general Peter Parker, a La porter who is hea Glass combine.



RATTLED – a racist police state

WHILE the South African blacklegs at Slough were failing to keep Pakistani workers in line, their rather more efficient policemen back home were busy keeping black South Africans in their place.

ABOVE, 500 demonstrators in Durban brave the brutality of apartheid's hired thugs to show their support for the new FRELIMO-dominated government in Mozambique. The demonstration, organised by the militant black South African Students Organisation and the Black Peoples Convention, defied a police ban.

RIGHT: Police film the demonstrators to keep their records on 'dangerous elements' up to date . . . and then set about them.

BELOW: Demonstrators disperse as the police wade in. Later 300 police dogs were unleashed . . . and many people—including police—were bitten.

It was all rather disconcerting for the police—and the South African government, which fears more and more the growing ferment among militant black workers and students, fuelled by the events in Mozambique.



Pictures
by Harvey
Clegg (Slough
Observer)

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It costs no more to be sold down the river...

by
Soonu
Engineer

THE STRIKE at Kenilworth Components in Leicester has ended in defeat for the newly-organised Asian women.

They—and Asian male workers—had struck over the sacking of seven women.

The main responsibility for the defeat, which has serious consequences for all low-paid unorganised workers in the city, lies squarely on the shoulders of the district office of the TGWU.

The strike was official—but strike pay was never handed out.

Union bureaucrat Ken Hempstead hid behind the 26-week rule, which can and has been waived in disputes up and down the country.

A district levy was promised but never carried out. No appeal for financial support was sent out by the district office.

In short, the workers were starved for six weeks. The TGWU did nothing to make the strike effective. White scabs crossed the picket line every day.

Token

The union did not investigate claims that management were sub-contracting work to other small factories. No attempt was made to discipline TGWU lorry drivers who ignored the picket line.

Union indifference towards 50 Asian men and women strikers came to a head when Hempstead pressed the workers to accept the sacking of not seven but 17 women with a 3p an hour token good will rise for the men.

Having negotiated a sell-out, Hempstead was bent on forcing it upon the workers. Despite the fact that a mass meeting on 19 September unanimously refused to accept the 17 sackings, he made a statement in the right wing Leicester Mercury the next day that the strikers would return to work.

This public attack on the strikes continued, with consequent demoralisation of the strikers and confusion among their local supporters.

Enraged by the continuing militancy and the rank and



Women workers picketing Kenilworth's: another Asian dispute, another T&G debacle

file support from other Asian workers in the town, Hempstead launched an attack through the columns of the Mercury, threatening to make the strike unofficial (which was a sick joke).

He blamed 'outsiders' and pleaded that management just couldn't afford to employ all the women and that a 3p rise was all they could afford for the men.

The employer put out similar statements the following day...

Unfortunately for Hempstead, the very day that he

was defending the capitalist, management went directly to the men and offered them a £5 rise.

Despite union indifference, the women and men stuck it out for six bitter weeks. Their lack of organisation before the strike and their inexperience resulted in a weak picket line.

More experienced militants in their local TGWU branch gave invaluable support and leadership. But here lay the weakness: the women were not allowed to develop their own leadership as the strike

progressed. All initiative was taken from them.

The situation worked against the women in several ways. The shop stewards were picked on the basis of their ability to speak English. The real leaders and militants among them were therefore ignored.

This practice must be rooted out. Shop stewards must be elected on how well they reflect the views of the membership, not on how well they can be understood by management.

Another fact that lessened the involvement and hence the initiative of the women, was that meetings were held away from the picket line.

'It is difficult enough for us to argue with our families about having to be on the picket line,' said Champa Behen. 'But it is quite impossible to come to a meeting at a pub, late in the evening.'

The final decision to call off the strike was taken in just such a way, with only one woman and seven men present.

It had always been difficult

to hold the men. The women had led them out and made them join the union.

Some of the men had wanted to accept the 3p rise and the sacking of 17 women. A genuine leadership and confidence developed among the women, and they ferociously opposed any talk of selling them out.

The mass meeting defeated the management attempt to divide the men and women. The decision to go back was taken later, away from the picket line.

Union hostility, management ruthlessness and undemocratic procedures resulted in the demoralisation of the strikers. The tenacity and courage shown by them over the last six weeks has won the admiration of all militants in Leicester.

Expect a baby—and the sack



EVERYWHERE in the Common Market women face the same problem. Discriminated against on pay and grading, penalised when pregnant or bringing up children, they face the attitude that a woman's place is in the home.

In Belgium, a married woman needs her husband's permission to go out to work. In the Netherlands, a woman can be sacked simply for being pregnant.

The proportion of women over 14 who are workers varies from more than a third in Germany, France, and Britain, to about a quarter in Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy. Clearly a woman's place is not natural but depends on the country you live in.

In France and Italy where there are large farming populations, 'family helpers' and self-employed women make up a large part of the female work force. But many of these 'self-employed' women are, in fact, wives who run the farms while their husbands work in the factories.

Women's wages everywhere are lower than men's. Equal pay for equal work was to have been implemented under the Treaty of Rome

by Norah Carlin

in 1961—but discrimination still continues.

The biggest obstacle to equal pay is that men and women do the same work. Work done by women is graded lower. The category of women's work was outlawed in the Common Market—but this only led to a spate of re-naming. In Germany, it was 'light' in Italy 'simple' and in Belgium 'asexual'.

Forbidden

Local custom and practice dictates what is man's and what is a woman's work. This varies from country to country, and from region to region. Men and women are paid differently in different places for doing exactly the same job.

Most restaurant workers in Germany are women, in Italy men. In Germany teaching is mainly a man's job, but a woman's in France and Belgium.

All countries have some legislation limiting women's hours and

conditions. Night work, generally forbidden to women in industry, is between 6pm and 7am in the Netherlands, 10pm and 5am in France, Italy and Luxembourg, while in Belgium no one is supposed to work between 10pm and 6am, except in certain limited occupations, (the list grows longer all the time.)

In Italy, a mother can take six months leave after the birth of a child without losing her job, four months in Germany or a year in Italy. Nursery facilities, though better in France than in Britain, still only accommodates a fraction of those under school age.

One lesson of all these facts and figures is that legislation by itself is virtually useless.

Women can obviously achieve equal pay and equal rights only where they fight for them.

One useful move would be to set up an exchange of information on all these things, so that when women do go out and fight they can demand the best conditions available and relate themselves to the best organised and most highly-paid sectors.

Support

But admiration is not enough. White workers were noticeable by their absence from the picket lines.

There is a need for either a strong rank and file leadership or a democratic leadership in the union, as in Slough, where the AUEW district committee organised pickets by white militants, giving tremendous solidarity and backing to the Pakistanis on strike there.

There was support from local militants in the locality, but it was not organised.

In future, local stewards must get together to form a body capable of pressurising union officials. They must organise support for the picket lines, collect funds, and appeal for support to other representative rank and file bodies in the country.

A WORD IN OUR EAR

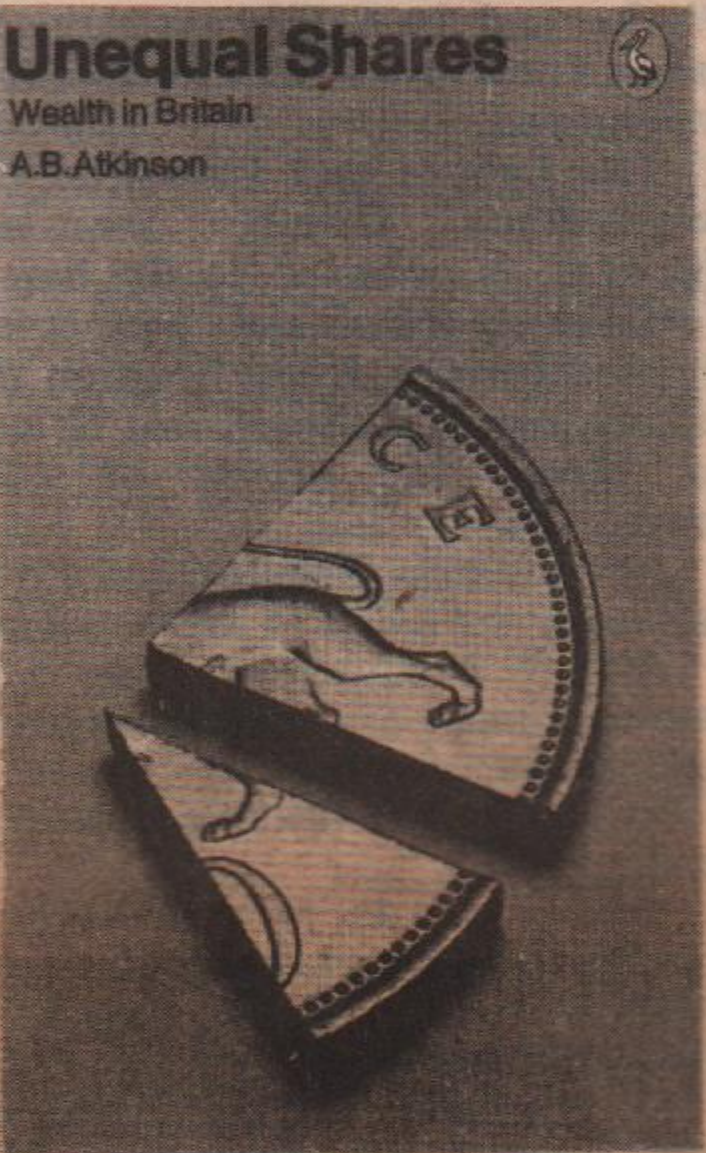
IT WAS the first time that I had ever been in a town where the working class was in the saddle. Practically every building of any size had been seized by the workers...
 Every shop and cafe had an inscription saying that it had been collectivised; even the bootblacks had been collectivised and their boxes painted red and black. Waiters and shop-walkers looked you in the face and treated you as an equal. Servile and even ceremonial forms of speech had temporarily disappeared.
 Nobody said 'Senor' or 'Don' or even 'Usted'; everyone called everyone else 'Comrade' and 'Thou', and said 'Salud!' instead of 'Buenos dias'. Tipping was forbidden by law; almost my first experience was receiving a lecture from a hotel manager for trying to tip a lift-boy.

There were no private motor-cars, they had all been commandeered, and all the trams and taxis and much of the other transport were painted red and black.
 Down the Ramblas, the wide central artery of the town where crowds of people streamed constantly to and fro, the loudspeakers were bellowing revolutionary songs all day and far into the night. And it was the aspect of the crowds that was the queerest thing of all. In outward appearance it was a town in which the wealthy classes had practically ceased to exist.
 Except for a small number of women and foreigners there were no 'well-dressed' people at all. Practically everyone wore rough working-class clothes, or blue overalls, or some variant of the militia uniform.
 —George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*.

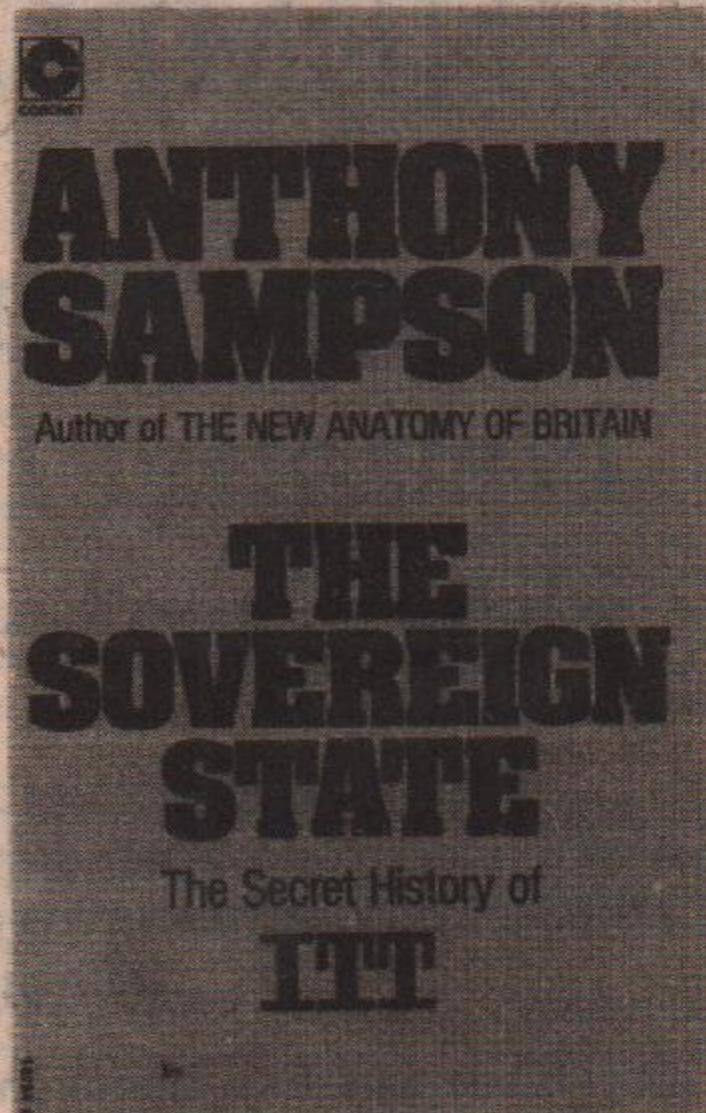
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 All available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Add 7p for postage.

Pumping up the politicians

By **NIGEL FOUNTAIN**

FOR THE LAST couple of weeks, until Wednesday, 200 journalists made their way to Whitehall to begin their day's work: marketing the General Election.

With most people indifferent to the activities of the three parties, it was their duty to provide the image, if not the reality, of something happening.

Clock-in time was 9.45 am at the National Liberal Club in Whitehall place. Here the image of the new, classless, Liberal Party was manufactured.

Upstairs at the Club is the 'reading room' a large hall like a 19th century gentleman's swimming bath, with tiled walls. The 200 sit down in straggly rows in front of the representatives of the new, classless Party.

These include Lord Holt, chairman of Holt Hosiery, educated at Mill Hill public school, Lord Avebury, director of some five companies and educated at Harrow School, Lord Byers, educated at Westminster Public School and prominent shareholder in Rio-Tinto Zinc, and the Right Honourable Jeremy Thorpe, educated at Eton College and a businessman.

Thorpe does the talking. Unfortunately he has nothing to talk about. The Press ask him about Concords, should perhaps 19 of these golden white elephants be built, or less? Or more?

This is clearly a serious matter. Thorpe wears a serious expression. 'A long cold look is called for', he says.

Shuffle

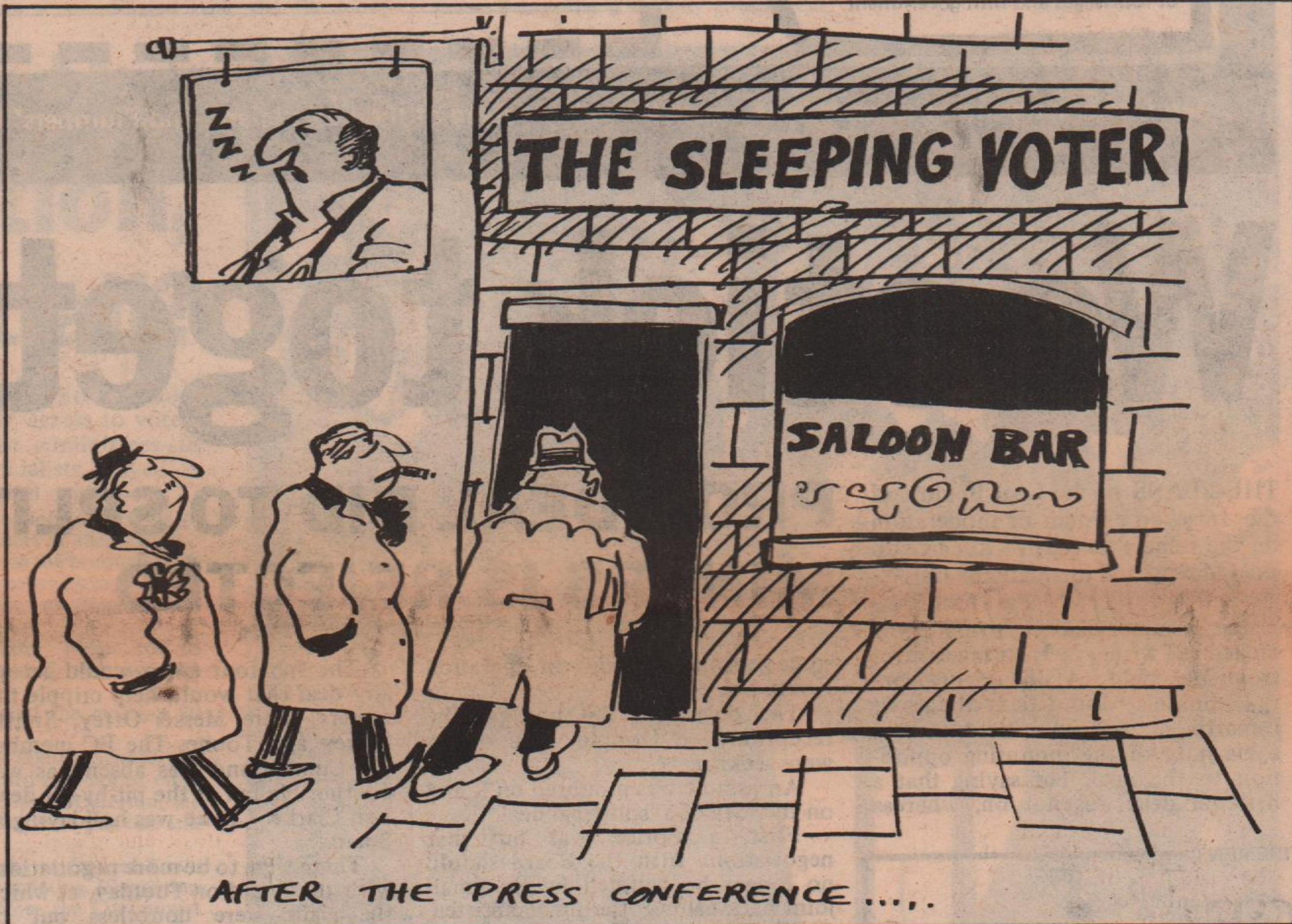
He doesn't know anything else on the subject so he passes the matter to Lord Avebury, who went to see some people at the British Aircraft Corporation the previous week.

'Thank you Jeremy', says Lord Avebury. 'We have to make detailed decisions'. The noble Lord said that he had found the people at BAC 'very optimistic'.

The journalists shuffle and gaze at the blue bound books behind the Liberal leaders. Outside is bright sunlight. Inside the glare of TV lights. Thorpe will say something which will hold a two-minute slot on the news that evening.

The BBC news that is. The ITV cameras are shrouded in green baize, a sign that their operators have joined a part of the real world and gone on strike.

Outside are two works buses to take the 200 on to their next session. Politics, the method by which our affairs are governed by the richest in society, is neatly re-



duced to the bus-ride from the Liberal Club, past the Houses of Parliament, to Smith Square, home of the Tory and Labour Central Offices.

Only when one sees Edward Heath in the flesh does one realise the lunacy of a world that can push such a figure into prominence. Plump, pink and blue-suited, he looks as if he has been slightly over-inflated with a bicycle pump. He speaks in his familiar flat monotone.

He kicked off with travel arrangements. He was going to Manchester, journalists who wished to accompany him could contact the relevant people at a Tory Central Office, and get on the plane that evening. He was going to give another press conference in Manchester...

'The new government of national unity we are going to establish after the election...' The voice drones on, he reads a set of strike statistics. 'We've got Robert here to talk about economics'.

The three on the platform look like Bailiff Whitelaw, Solicitor Carr and Squire Heath lecturing the peasantry about their imminent eviction from their land.

Carr talks. 'Consensus... aggregate totals... facts... cover

up of real situation from Labour ministers... moderate in all things.'

'Some years of austerity are now inevitable' says plump pink Heath.

A girl starts to ask a question. 'Mr Heath?'

'Stand up and speak up' says Head-boy Heath. When Heath or Thorpe know the journalists, which is often since they are all part of the same travelling show, they will refer to him by Christian name.

System

So it's 'Bob' Carvel, of the London Evening Standard, 'Ian' Waller of the Sunday Telegraph. The journalists inhabit a strange world, continuously trying to edge these colourless and faceless men to become people, rather than cyphers for capitalism, attempting to make them say something which will add up to some kind of headline.

This, in a world where people work, sweat and die for Heath's system. But that isn't news.

Over the road troop the 200 to Transport House, and the Labour Conference. Ron Hayward, secretary of the Labour Party, sits down alongside James Callaghan and Harold Wilson. These are men of the people.

'Fred Peart and I went to Luxembourg yesterday', says Callaghan, making it sound like a day trip to Southend.

The Labour leaders wanted to go into the Market, when in power, in opposition they opposed it. Now back in government they are seeking a way of being in favour of it, without making it too obvious.

So Callaghan talks of the EEC as if it were a drunkard thought to be past redemption but, who with the work of James Callaghan, may be saved after all.

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY
 ITV: Noon. WEEKEND WORLD looks at the post-election situation. At 11pm on BBC-2 is an important episode of the OPEN DOOR series, presented by the British Society For Social Responsibility in Science. It deals with the funding of science research, riot control technology in Ireland and industrial hazards—featuring an interview with Pat Kinnersly author of Hazards at Work. Worth staying up for.
TUESDAY
 RADIO-4: 8.30pm. The Mafia and Coca Cola could probably have made it without

prohibition but the legislation banning alcoholic drinks passed by the US Congress in 1917 and not repealed till 1933 certainly helped those two great American institutions on their way. The period is examined in THE NOBLE EXPERIMENT.

THURSDAY
 BBC-1: 11.38 pm; THE UNSETTLED PEACE, a 10 week series on the Cold War starts. There will doubtless be plenty on the blood-thirsty Russians, but the blood-thirsty Americans will doubtless come out rather better...

Scanlon tries a sidestep over ban

THE LEEDS NO 6 branch of the AUEW has again come to the defence of Socialist Worker.

In a resolution passed at its last meeting, the branch noted that the response to their earlier resolution calling for the union executive to lift the ban on Socialist Worker has been 'totally inadequate'.

The motion continues: 'It seems our union is giving unquestioning support to a veto imposed by a clique of journalists who are unrecognised by the National Union of Journalists or any union body.'

'It is disgraceful that we should submit on this very important issue to the rulings of a self-appointed journalistic hierarchy. The NUJ does not support the ban on Socialist Worker.'

'We demand that our union allows a paper which fights in the interests of the working class to attend and report its meetings.'

The dispute between Socialist Worker and the AUEW executive has taken a new turn since this resolution was moved.

The Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group, we now discover, is opposed to the ban on Socialist Worker and has several times informed Hugh Scanlon that its organisation should not be used to block the access of other journalists.

Nevertheless, Scanlon and Co are still using the LICG to do just that.

AUEW headquarters has, however informed Socialist Worker that credentials would be issued if Socialist Worker became a member of the LCIG.

This amounts to a manoeuvre. For the Group operates a ban against weekly newspaper journalists becoming members.

So Socialist Worker could not join even if we wanted to. The activities of the AUEW executive amount to a piece of victimisation.

One can only wonder just what they fear from Socialist Worker.

Members' attention is drawn to the following holiday scheme which is specially arranged between the E.E.T.P.U. and Thomas Cook Limited. We hope you will take advantage of this special Union scheme, which is the first of its kind to be offered to members' of the E.E.T.P.U.

Low-cost do as you please

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Specially arranged for members of the EETPU by Thomas Cook **8 days from £36**

Mail the coupon today for details of splendid low cost holidays in Spain's famous Costa del Sol. See the jails where Spanish trade unionists are incarcerated. Meet the secret policemen who spy on illegal workers' meetings. See the strike-free factories where moderation rules. Visit the Spot where Franco Chapple, EETPU general secretary, first conceived his historic mission to combat extremism. Come to Sunny Spain, the land of low wages and firm government.

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Reprinted—with minor amendments—from the current issue of the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union journal Contact.

We stick together

PROD DEAL BID TO SPLIT MINERS IS REJECTED

THE PLANS of the Coal Board and the treacherous men of moderation on the miners' executive to carve up the industry and dissipate the union's strength have received a set-back.

Last Thursday's executive meeting kicked off with a familiar manoeuvre from the right. A document from the union's Industrial Relations Department was submitted, taking some note of the mounting opposition to the deal, but saying that a national deal was not on, whereas

some version of the current operation would be.

The document did not get the reception Joe Gormley and others were seeking.

An assault was mounted on it and on the idea of a 'splitting' deal.

First, a motion was put that negotiations with the Board should no longer be handled by the small joint national negotiating committee, which has a built-in right wing majority.

Its standing orders include a cabinet responsibility clause which means that those outvoted on the committee have to vote with the majority when the executive considers the committee's decisions.

Output

The move to put future negotiations in the hands of the whole executive was carried.

Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire miners president, then moved that the executive reject the proposed NCB scheme and go on record that the NUM would only accept a National Productivity scheme based on output per man shift with the same bonus going to all workers in the industry.

At this, the hard-line right wingers headed by Roy Ottey tried to initiate a ballot on the present offer.

Gormley tried another tack. He pushed a resolution which talked of 'trying' to get a national deal. His phrasing clearly opened the way to a manoeuvre—more negotiations, a hard line from the Coal Board and another bite at a pit-by-pit scheme.

Gormley insisted that his motion be put first. It was defeated by 11 votes to eight. Scargill's motion, with an added preamble about doing everything to achieve set production targets this year, was then put. It was carried with four votes against.

The fab four (who would accept any deal that would help cripple the miners) were Messrs Ottey, Smith, Storey and Toone. The EC member for Cumberland was absent, as was another big fan of the pit-by-pit deal, Len Clarke. Clarke was holidaying in Spain.

There were to be more negotiations with the Board on Tuesday, at which the right were doubtless out to prevent the deal falling if no national scheme resulted. But there were clear indications that they would fail.

This will not be the end of the story, however.

Gormley is likely to brew another scheme to split the miners' ranks.

For this, effectively, is what has been going on in the union since the 1972 strike.

The most interesting feature of the deal is its almost uncanny resemblance to an NUM discussion paper produced in November 1972.

This document—JNNC/US/7.11.72 talked about a productivity scheme in three phases.

It compared mining to the Post Office (where thousands of jobs were sold) and said with approval: 'additional work undertaken by the same number of men produces a "saving" in terms of less new labour being employed'.

Payments

The basis of the deal is virtually identical. Later in the document we even hear about the possibility of 'the introduction of a threshold agreement as Phase One gets under way'.

Funnily enough, the Board has just received a letter from the industrial relations officer concerned—Trevor Bell—asking for the continuation of threshold payments. It's all part of Phase One.

THROUGH CELL BARS

THE Maidstone branch of the printworkers' union SOGAT passed a resolution calling for action over Chile last week. It read: 'This branch condemns the continuing murder, torture, and imprisonment of trade unionists in Chile. We agree to take up the case of one of those imprisoned brothers with the foreign secretary and the Chilean Embassy. We call upon the SOGAT National Executive to persuade other branches to take similar action.'

Phase One was just to be an increase in speed, coupled with 'clearer lines of responsibility and authority'. Phase Two involved the extension of machine running time'.

Perhaps four-shift working would provide the necessary overlap giving a 24-hour cover, a system which may involve a close examination of man-riding methods in the shaft and underground'.

One advantage of this would be—according to a union document, remember—that management would not have to pay weekend premium for maintenance.

Cripple

Finally, Phase 3 would be the extension of the Board's activities into other parts of the coal industry—assuming there was any coal industry, or miners left.

That is what the NUM executive was discussing at the end of 1972 and there is little reason to believe it no longer is.

The delegate conference and EC decisions have stopped Gormley and Daly from rushing headlong into the Board's arms. But the rank and file has a breathing space to organise against any new proposals or 'amendments' of the present version.

But the same forces will still be at work trying to cripple the union, to evade another even half adequate wage claim and to block any possible national mobilisation to achieve it.

With a Labour government in power, a massive rank and file groundswell will be necessary to set aside the social contract fraud and maintain living standards.

The company he keeps

ONE explanation for NUM general secretary Lawrence Daly's enthusiasm for prod dealing and the social contract is that he is also a member of the executive of a totally pro-capitalist organisation.

This is the sweetness, light and high productivity—pushing Industrial Society.

The executive also includes several other 'responsible' trade unionists and powerful big businessmen. Among them is Lord Robens, the man who has always had the miners at heart, particularly when he was giving NCB contracts to firms in which his son was involved.

ADVERTISEMENT

FIGHT WAGE RESTRAINT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Support the Second National Rank and File Conference

Saturday 30 November, Digbeth Hall, Birmingham

Make sure your shop stewards committee, union branch or district committee is supporting this important conference.

Delegates' credentials 50p

The Rank and File Conference Organising Committee has compiled verifiable lists of imprisoned Chilean trade unionists in all the main industrial and service sectors for adoption by British trade union bodies. Copies of these and a covering letter can be obtained from the secretary.

If you want credentials, get your trade union branch or shop stewards' committee to fill in this form and sent it to the Secretary, Rank and File Conference Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

Send us credentials for _____ delegates to the Rank and File Conference on November 30.

NAME OF TRADE UNION BODY _____

ADDRESS _____

MAKING THE LINKS INTERNATIONAL

LAST week's IS Conference was followed by a meeting of the various fraternal delegates to exchange experiences.

A representative from Avanguardia Operaia (Italy) said the crisis there had been going on for six years already.

The ruling class wanted to enforce stabilisation at the workers' expense, and so were attacking wages and jobs. For the moment they would find it hard to stage a coup, but things could change rapidly.

The Communist Party believed it was possible to have an alliance between classes for reforms. Avanguardia was calling for the 'revolutionary road to reform', fighting around specific problems for which there was no solution within the system.

A delegate from Lutte Ouvriere (France) said their comrades had played a leading role in the Paris bank strike and succeeded in establishing a democratic strike committee against the wishes of the unions.

One of the leaders of the struggle, Arlette Laguiller, had run as presidential candidate, giving the revolutionaries a chance to reach a wider audience.

The experience of the Lip occupation was an inspiration to struggles against

unemployment such as the occupation of the ship France. Big wages struggles were expected in the coming winter.

A comrade from the MIR (Chile) talked about recent developments. The demoralisation that had followed the coup was coming to an end, even though the repression was tougher than ever. The resistance committees were beginning to organise strikes and sabotage.

The MIR had secretly produced its paper Rebel, and distributed 20,000 copies. The comrade appealed to those working in the solidarity movement to give priority to the boycott and blacking.

Delegates from the Socialist Workers' Movement (Ireland) told of the sharp impact of the recession in Ireland. Despite the high strike level there had been few national strikes, and little fight against closures.

The Southern ruling class might try to sell a social contract. The only answer was a co-ordinated rank and file move-



ment.

A docker from FK (Communist League) said there was rising militancy in Sweden, but it was still fragmented. But it was necessary to turn this into political action, otherwise it could be contained by the system.

A delegate from the Danish International Socialists spoke about the national strike last May. Although initiated by the Communist Party to back up its parliamentary strategy, the strike had got out of CP control, with workers on the streets demanding a workers' government.

The SAG (Socialist Workers Group) delegate talked of cases in West Germany of so-called 'workers' control', where shop stewards' committees ran bankrupt factories.

MESSAGE

But this could not work under capitalism. The workers had to work unpaid overtime to pay off the debts.

Other speakers at the conference included representatives from FK (Communist League, Denmark), FK (Communist League, Sweden), Revolution (France) and Socialist Revolution (Greece).

A message was received from the International Socialists (USA) who could not attend. The political crisis and economic recession in the US were opening possibilities for a real rank and file movement, and they hoped for rapid growth of their organisation.



WHAT'S ON

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

IS public meetings

PRESTON IS now meet every Thursday, 8pm, at The Jutland, Jutland Street, off Meadow Street, Preston. All SW readers welcome.

KINGSTON IS now meet every Thursday at the Three Tuns, London Road, 8pm. All SW readers welcome.

Tottenham IS Jumble Sale: Saturday 26 Oct, Earlsmead School, Broad Lane, N15. If you have any jumble, bric-a-brac, etc., will arrange to pick it up (within reasonable distance). Phone 808 8553.

WEST BROMWICH IS public meeting: After the election—the way forward for socialists. Speaker: Arthur Harper (con-venor, AUEW, British Leyland Transmissions). Thursday 17 October, 7.45pm, White Hart, Walsall Street, West Bromwich.

CROYDON IS public meeting: Law and Order. Speaker: Laurie Flynn (Socialist Worker reporter). Thursday 24 October, 8pm, Ruskin House, corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane.

Meetings for

IS members

IS SCHOOL ON ITALY: Saturday 26 October, 2pm-5pm, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. For further details phone 06284-2671.

IS AND EAST EUROPE: A meeting will be held on Sunday 27 October to set up an IS East European group under the International Sub-committee. The agenda will be in three parts: 1. East Europe in Crisis—Chris Harman. 2. The politics of the Russian opposition—D Hughes. 3. Practical proposals and organisation. All comrades fluent in East European languages should attend. All other interested comrades welcome. See next week's Socialist Worker for time and place.

NALGO IS Fraction meeting: Friday 18 October, 9.15pm. The Lass O'Gowrie, Charles Street, Manchester. All IS members in NALGO to attend.

ATTI IS Fraction meeting: Sunday 13 October, 11am-5pm, Mother Redcap pub, Camden Road, London NW1 (opposite Camden Town tube). Comrades stopping over from ATTI Rules Revision Conference should phone Ian Birchall at 01-807 1741 or Gareth Jenkins at 01-856 6143 for accommodation.

MEETING of ex-servicemen in IS: Saturday 19 October, 12.30pm, Manchester University (Oxford Road, 2 mins from city centre). Accommodation provided, showing of film Blow for Blow in evening. Agenda being circulated.

ATCOE: Will any IS members in this union contact ATTI fraction secretary re joint work after merger of two unions. Write to Vince Hall, 24 Estcourt Terrace, Leeds 6.

AUEW IS fraction executive: Saturday 12 October, 12 noon. IS Books Digbeth, Birmingham.

AUEW weekend meeting: Blackpool, Friday 25 October, 6pm, to Sunday midday. All IS AUEW shop stewards, convenors and district committee delegates should attend. Accommodation and meals £3.50. Wives and families welcome. Bookings and further details from fraction secretary, 25 Selborne Road, Birmingham 20. Phone 021-554 1193.

IS Notices

IS INDUSTRIAL DEPT urgently require volunteers to help generally in office, typing a great advantage (IS members only). Please phone Maggie Rutter on 739 6273.

VOLUME of IS articles by Nigel Harris on India, China, Marxism and the revolution in backward countries has been published in India under the title India-China: Underdevelopment and Revolution. It will be sold here from 1 October by Prentice Hall, 66 Wood Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts for £4.50. Why not get your library to order it?

Canterbury IS wants jumble. Anyone with any jumble to give away for a 'Defend Socialist Worker Jumble Sale' please contact Canterbury IS, 1 St Thomas Hill, Canterbury.

POSTERS and leaflets for IS Societies available from John Cox, c/o Dundee IS Society Bookshop, 4 Roseangle, Dundee.

THE AGITATOR, new journal for students produced by National Student Committee of IS. Articles on grants campaign, fascists, crisis in education, 10p from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

OUT-OF-PRINT pamphlets and books by International Socialists: a few copies of each available. The Struggle for Socialism (5p), Unemployment and How to Fight it, by Chris Harman and Dave Peers (5p), The Employers' Offensive—Productivity Deals and how to fight them, by Tony Cliff (30p), The Fight against Racism, by Mike Caffoor (5p), The Postal Workers, Strike, by Paul Foot (5p), The Struggle for Bangladesh, by Nigel Harris (15p). Post free from Peter Marsden (treasurer, Mid-Herts IS), c/o Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

IS COMRADE needs room in flat or house with other IS comrades, North or East London. Phone 274 2405.

WANDSWORTH IS SOCIAL with Kartoon Klowns (political theatre) + Disco + Raffle + Extension. All proceeds to Socialist Worker Defence Fund, 50p admission, 8-12 at The Fountain Garratt Lane, SW17 (few mins from Tooting Broadway tube). Don't miss it—THIS SATURDAY, 12 OCTOBER.

Enjoy the election, Mr Tyndall?

NATIONAL FRONT candidates throughout Britain had a rough time putting their poisonous 'ideas' across to voters during the election campaign. Anti-fascist committees—in which branches of the International Socialists played a prominent part—harassed Front meetings and candidates.

IN HACKNEY, East London, the NF tried to hold a meeting at Haggerston Girls Comprehensive School. Teachers at the school—and from nine of the ten other comprehensives in the borough—joined teachers from local primary schools and 200 other pickets.

They prevented the Front holding a public meeting. Only a handful of their members dared to brave the picket.

Meanwhile, unknown to the picket till later, about 200 IS members had outwitted the police and made their way into the building. They calmly took over the hall.

The Front gathered in the hall foyer, started the meeting 90 minutes late and ended it rapidly.

IN OXFORD, a Front meeting at Headington Middle School was closed by IS comrades and others in the Oxford anti-fascist committee. All Front literature and flags were destroyed. Anderson, the Front candidate, and his steward fled. The lights were put out and the meeting closed.

Anderson, scheduled to speak the next night at Oxford Town Hall, found 200 anti-fascists had taken over the meeting. IS member Jock Wight chaired a meeting with speakers from the Communist Party, the IMG and IS. The meeting closed with a rousing rendering of the Internationale.

IN BIRMINGHAM, one socialist was arrested at a Front election meeting in Handsworth to have been addressed by Front chairman John Tyndall and their local candidate.

A group of 20 IS members and others arrived at the school, while more were kept waiting outside by police.

Frogmarched

20 Front 'stewards' lined one side of the room, and as soon as an IS member got up to speak they set upon him. They grabbed chairs and hurled them at the demonstrators.

The police poured in to defend the platform, and then frogmarched the demonstrators out of the building. They arrested one demonstrator and later charged him with conduct likely to lead to a breach of the peace, and with malicious damage—a photographer claimed his camera had been slightly damaged.

When the case came up in court the next day a policeman started his evidence with the words: 'This man is a socialist, your honour'. He also demanded that the accused should not be allowed to contact witnesses, that is, he should be prevented from preparing a defence!

Panicked

This was rejected by the magistrates and the case will be heard next week. No Front member was arrested, despite their violent tactics.

IN BRIDLINGTON on Humberside, IS and International Marxist Group members and supporters disrupted a Front meeting.

North Humberside IS are calling, through the local trades council, for a ban on fascist meetings by the Humberside County Council.

IN BRISTOL, 150 anti-fascists confronted National Front heavies and police when Tyndall tried to speak at Victoria Park school.

After a Front member told the demonstrators they could enter the meeting, the

The task for students

by Simon Turner,
IS student organiser

IS STUDENTS must aim to set up IS Societies, as the focus for the left in their college, and to recruit the best students to IS. We will have to play leading roles in the coming student struggles and carry out consistent agitation and propaganda.

Students must not be isolated from the main work of IS Student cells and branches will need to play their part in building our industrial work. Many of our factory and area branches need help in strengthening our roots in the working class.

Students will have to work under the direction of district committees and earn their right to be branches of the organisation.

The test for IS students will be a double one. They have to lead in their colleges and help to build IS as a working class organisation.

The coming year will see many bitter student struggles. Rent strikes have already started in some colleges.

IS Conference provided us with a firm perspective for building IS among students, and it is up to our members to make sure it is carried out.

senior police officer panicked and gave orders to block the door.

An impromptu public meeting was called by the International Socialists in the playground. £8 was collected for the Bristol Anti-Fascist Committee.

This makes the score 2-0 to the anti-fascists in Bristol this season.

IN KEIGHLEY, IS members and other socialists shouted down the Front candidate at a meeting organised by local churches for all the parties.



A DAY OF RECKONING

CAPTURED in pictures—the humiliation of the National Front in Hackney last Friday.

TOP, IS members surge through the rear gates of the school where Front chairman John Tyndall and the local NF candidate were planning an election meeting.

The hall was occupied—forcing the Front to hold their meeting in a school corridor, with many of their supporters

listening, aptly enough, from lavatories.

ABOVE, Tyndall (centre) and fellow fascist Kingsley Reid are comforted by the law.

Tyndall, increasingly rattled by anti-fascists up and down the country, said afterwards: 'We must be restrained. But it is only a matter of time—when the reckoning comes there will no longer be any International Socialists ...'

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.

ACTION COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENCE OF JOURNALISTS: Picket the Home Office in protest at growing police action against left-wing journalists and the left press. Tuesday 15 October, 12noon-2pm, outside the Home Office (opposite the Cenotaph in Whitehall). Bring your NUJ chapel or branch banner. For further information write to ACDJ, c/o London Freelance branch NUJ, Acorn House, 314 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP.

INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL FOR CHILEAN RESISTANCE: Organised by Artists for Democracy. Opens Monday 14 October, 8pm, at Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London. All welcome. Donations/messages of support to Artists for Democracy, 14 West Central Street, London WC1A 1JH. Support the international struggle against fascism!

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE on Sex Discrimination and Social Security: Saturday 19 October, John Cass College, Whitechapel, East London. Organised by National Federation of Claimants Unions. All welcome. Full details from CU, 207 Railton Road, London SE24 (phone 01-733 8663).

NALGO ACTION GROUP Annual Conference: Weekend 19-20 October, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Sackville Street, Manchester. Admission by Supporters' Card only. Further details from NAG, 212 Camden Road, London NW1.

SCIENCE FOR PEOPLE: Organisation for Health and Safety in the Workplace. The latest issue of the journal Science for People includes articles on how to organise and politicise around the occupational health issue, plus one on the history of VCM, the new-found hazard of plastics production. Dr Berry Beaumont describes the process of forcible feeding and condemns it and other forms of torture. Future issues will be emphasising the need for solidarity between scientists and the shop floor and an analysis of the problems in occupational health. Copies from the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, 9 Poland Street, London W1 and many IS bookshops.

INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES IN NORTHERN IRELAND: Patrick Shivers, an ex-internee, will be interviewed on his experience of the infamous 'hooding' interrogation procedure used by the security forces in Northern Ireland on an Open Door programme presented by the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science at 11pm on Sunday 13 October (and again at 4.30pm on Sunday 20 October). The programme will have three sections: 1. Science and politics. 2. Health hazards in industry. 3. Interrogation techniques in Northern Ireland. Besides the interview with Pat Shivers there will be an interview with Pat Kinnersly and one with four men working at the BP Baglan Bay plant.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS of South Africa: International Bazaar, Saturday 12 October, 11am-5pm, Holborn Assembly Hall, John Mews, Holborn, London WC1. Fruit and veg, preserves, tombola and other games, carvings and handicrafts from Africa, hundreds of gifts to choose from, fun for young and old. Lunches 12noon-2pm. ANCSA, 49 Rathbone Street, London W1.

NOW IS THE TIME to try the Socialist Leader, fortnightly paper of the ILP, price 3p, annual subscription £1.50, from 23 King Street Chambers, Leeds 1.

COLLEGIATE THEATRE, 15 Gordon Street, Euston, London WC1 (phone 01-734 8508). Sunday 13 October only: 6pm Wiseman's documentaries BASIC TRAINING (US Army) plus ESSENE (Anglican monks); 9pm Ziewer's DEAR MOTHER, I'M ALL RIGHT (English subtitles)—the most acclaimed of the recent fiction films about the working class—in this case, redundancy and solidarity in a factory in West Berlin. Phone for programme to 3 November.

MONTHLY BULLETIN on Portugal and the Portuguese workers' struggles published by the Portuguese Workers' Committee. Subscribe now, 18 Fleet Road, Road, London, E3. Annual Sub: 70p.

OCTOBER 8th
All the proletariat sing
Happy Birthday Doris King

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT
Prepare for October 27 National Mobilisation of Ireland
Demand: British Troops Out Now! Self-Determination for the Irish People as a Whole. Smash British Imperialism in Ireland. Rally at Clerkenwell Green, North London, 2pm, Sunday 27 October. March to Fleet Street, Whitehall, Smith Square. Sponsored by five Labour MPs. Bulk orders of leaflets and posters from Ad Hoc Committee, 84 Claverton Street, London, SW1.

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

200 PICKETS: THIS STRIKE GOES ON

HEYWOOD, Lancashire:—After seven weeks on strike for equal bonus rates 400 women workers at SEI have been offered a mere 62p increase.

A mass meeting on Monday overwhelmingly rejected the offer on a show of hands. But a small minority in favour of acceptance marched out of the meeting, saying they intended to return to work.

Some of these women have said they are against equal pay. They claim that the management is really offering £2.65 not 62p. They base this on an unsigned leaflet which gives specimen wages calculated on the new management offer. The calculation assumes a bonus rate of 127½ per cent and the consolidation of threshold payments into basic pay.

This is deliberately misleading. Such a bonus rate is rarely achieved by women in the plant. As one striker said: 'If we consistently made that kind of bonus, management would be asking to retine the jobs!' The consolidation of threshold payments has not been agreed either.

by Anna Paczuska

But the leaflet has successfully confused and divided some of the workers as its anonymous author doubtless intended. The majority of the women, however, are determined to continue the strike. Since last week the strikers have occupied the porters' lodge.

The picket line was manned by more than 200 women on Tuesday morning. Despite lies in the national press reporting that hundreds were returning to work only 16 actually went back.

The women are going to continue until a better offer is made, but it will be a hard fight. Men workers in the plant have so far ignored AUEW district appeals to come out in support. But support is coming from the white-collar workers and from APEX members at the SEI factory in Eccles.

More support is needed. SEI is part of the giant GEC empire, which has firmly opposed equal pay in all its plants. It is vital that this strike is won to set a precedent throughout GEC.

The strikers have appealed for SEI products to be blacked. The firm makes oscillators, valves and filters which supply Plessey, Thorn, Rank, Bush, Murphy and Decca. The goods are normally stamped 'GEC subsidiary SEI'. Messages of support and donations to SEI strike committee, c/o Bella Fullard, SEI Times Mill, Gee Street, Heywood, Lancs.

WAREHOUSE SIT-DOWN

PETERBOROUGH:—About 600 members of the Transport Workers Union, mainly women, have been sitting down at Freemans mail order warehouse since last Wednesday. Although many non-union members are still working the general feeling of solidarity is so strong that the women are far less willing to go for pass-outs now than when they were being paid for being in the warehouse. They are saying: 'We're here ready for work, as long as you pay us.'

Their claim is for £10 on the basic, with a fallback bonus rate of at least one third of the base rate and four weeks paid holiday. Like the staff workers now taking action in the Combe toy factory in Peterborough, the shop floor in Freemans is particularly strong because the Christmas build-up has now started. Normally negotiations are in March, but there is far more pressure on the management to settle now.

Hospital workers put weight into campaign

by Steve Ludlam,
NUPE shop steward,
Moorfields Eye Hospital

LONDON:—25 Public Employees Union branches in London Hospitals struck and demonstrated in support of our London Weighting claim last Friday. With eight branches staging 24-hour stoppages, we achieved in a few hours what Whitley negotiators had failed to do in 11 months: we got an offer the same night. It's a rotten compromise, but we'd have got nothing otherwise.

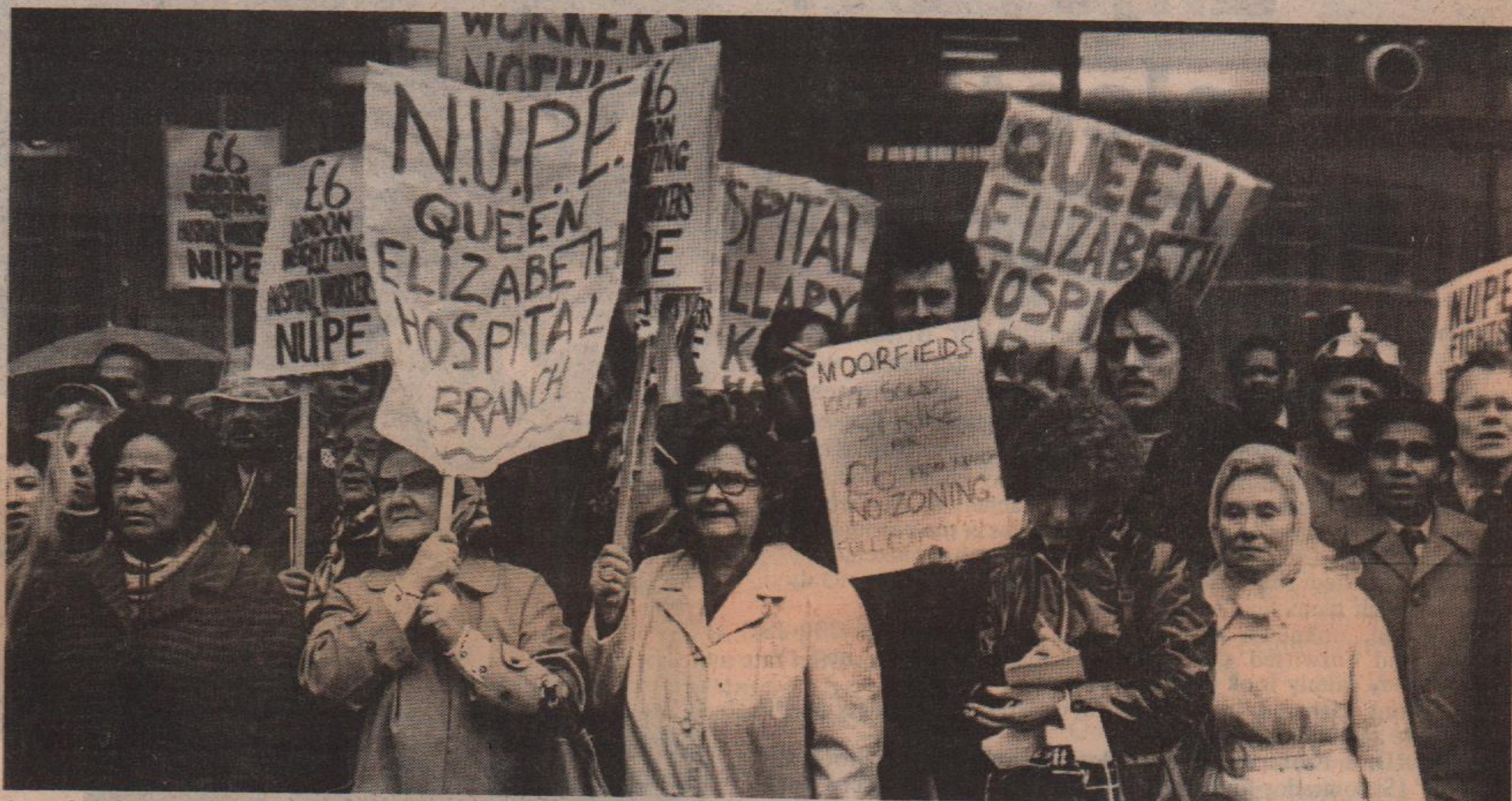
Our members have been treated to another valuable lesson in the behaviour of our self-appointed 'leaders'. Many more militants are realising that rank and file organisation based on stewards' committees is not just an 'optional extra', but a crucial extension of our work as trade unionists and socialists. A look at the progress of our claim makes this clear.

The original claim, for £400 with no 'zones' and full consolidation into basic rates, was lodged in secret last November. Between then and June we heard little or nothing.

Then came the Pay Board's London Weighting report, with screaming 'Pay Bonanza' headlines in the press. Our members began to demand action. In July Hospital Worker, the rank and file trade unionists' paper, demanded an emergency Divisional Conference to discuss the issue, in accordance with the NUPE Rulebook. But this was prevented by various devices.

By the end of August, Harry Hutchinson, the NUPE divisional officer, had got so many phone calls, letters, and resolutions, that he felt forced to issue a circular. We were simply informed that waiting for the admin and clerical staff to settle first.

Two weeks later the negotiations col-



London hospital workers marching on the Ministry last week. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

lapsed. We discovered that the admin talks had floundered on the 'zoning' question, and the Department of Health was refusing to make us an offer or continue talking while they thought they could force 'zoning' on the admin. We also discovered that our claim had been reduced to £312!

Now the union bureaucracy really panicked. The election was less than three weeks off, they could be caught with their trousers down by a wage freeze and forced to call an expensive strike, as in 1973, but at the same time they were terrified of being accused of damaging Labour's chances of picking up the floating union-bashing voters by closing down the capital's hospitals. A few branches were told by phone to call protest meetings on Friday 29 September in working time.

A meeting of City and East London hospital stewards was held. Branches were being told to keep it cool and just take four hours off for the demonstration. That stewards' meeting produced seven of the eight 24-hour strikes which took place last week, the eighth being the unstoppable Hammersmith branch. 1200 workers massed outside the negotiating rooms on Friday afternoon.

Nurses' reluctant 'Yes'

SWANSEA:—'The NUPE regional recall conferences have been a farce.' That was the verdict of Anne Addie, nurse shop steward at Morrision Hospital, after the regional conference here on the Halsbury recommendations on nurses' pay.

The Swansea area conference has agreed to 'reluctantly accept' Halsbury, with a whole list of conditions. The vast majority of delegates objected to nearly every section of the report. They are demanding a greater share of the money for the lower-paid, in fact for the nurses who share the burden of work in the hospitals.

They want a reduction to a 38-hour week and parity with hospital ancillary staff in the rates paid for unsocial hours. Amid a list of other demands they are adamant that charges for lodgings should be reduced and that they will refuse to work with agency nurses.

With such widespread opposition the report was only accepted thanks to the carve-up by NUPE executive member D I Davies, a hospital secretary and a member of the Communist Party. The meeting was

run like a seminar rather than a conference and he had to be reminded to take a vote!

The vote was put in such a way that many delegates voting for the resolution thought they were voting against the report.

Ken Price, the convenor of Swansea and Neath hospital stewards, said afterwards: 'We must now make sure that our union fights seriously for these conditions decided today. Halsbury will no doubt claim that money is not available, but then you can hardly expect the chairman of Distillers to recommend the nationalisation of the drugs industry! We have to fight to smash the social contract.'

Jean Thomas, a state-enrolled nurse and shop steward at Morrision Hospital, explained that she would now get £31 a week after five years nursing.

Anne Addie added: 'Halsbury, like the Whitley Council, has only the interests of the nursing hierarchy in consideration. We must extend our trade union organisation and smash the Royal College of Nurses hierarchy.'

Accompanied by 200-odd uniformed officers of the new Conciliation and Arbitration Service (formerly the Metropolitan Police) we marched off to the Department of Health and six of us went in to meet a representative of Barbara Castle.

But the strikers proved more persuasive than our officers' attempts to defuse the day's action. An offer was made that night:

- A £3.60 increase, in addition to the present £2.40.
- Backdating to 1 April.
- No 'zoning'.
- A compromise on consolidation. The £2.40 will continue to be consolidated until 13 December, the settlement date for the 1974 national claim. The £3.60 increase will not be enhanceable for overtime or other plus rates.

A further meeting was to be held on Thursday, when the offer was almost certain to be accepted.

Increase

Hutchinson has stated that no Divisional Conference will be held to discuss the offer, because 'we feel it is unnecessary as we have got what we were asking for, and if people don't like it they have had plenty of time to complain to us before now.'

The facts are that a month's back-dating worth £14.40 has been traded for another two months consolidation of the £2.40, worth much less than £14 for most of us; and an increase of about £2 after tax off the non-consolidated £3.60 is a far cry from the claim for £5.60 consolidated.

The offer is a victory for rank and file solidarity, but the contents of the offer force us to take up some questions.

Why do we have more control over management than we have over our own union? Why do we tolerate a situation where unelected officers have the power to call a Divisional Conference when elected delegates do not, where stewards' committee resolutions go straight in some bureaucrat's wastepaper basket along with Divisional Conference resolutions?

Unless we fight for a democratic union with full-time officers elected and subject to instant recall by members we'll always be demo-fodder for panic-stricken negotiators.

MORE MEN OR NONE - RAILMEN

GLASGOW:—Members of the National Union of Railwaymen at the High Street freight depot have been on strike for more than two weeks to compel management to man the place up to agreed levels.

The branch signed an agreement on 21 May 1970, more than four years ago, that stipulated 134 men were required to run the place efficiently. Since then there has never been a full complement, even though the branch have raised the issue time and time again.

Just before the strike started on 23 September the roster was 83. But allowing for sickness, holidays and the like this is equivalent to a roster of 70—half the agreed total.

Inevitably inefficiency has resulted and no less than 23 firms have switched to road transport. These include Rolls-Royce, Chrysler, the Scottish Gas Board and Caterpillar.

Despite this, the management simply refuse to negotiate. There is more than a suspicion that this could be yet another back door hive-off operation.

Now here you might think is a good straightforward issue for the union. They don't even have to set aside suggestions of 'greedy workers demanding yet more money' and coming up against the beloved social contract. This is just a request that a signed agreement be honoured.

But the strike is unofficial, local delegate Brother J McKelvie has ordered the members back to work and in his own words 'put the block on' an article which was to have been published in the Glasgow Evening Times for fear it would embarrass the Labour Party.

So far there has been one single communication from union head office—an order to get back to work as the strike would jeopardise NUR-sponsored Labour MP Tom McMillan's chances in the election.

Donations and messages of support to: G McDonnell (chairman) and J Forbes (secretary) NUR, c/o Labour Party Rooms, High Street, Glasgow.

ENGINEERS OCCUPY

WEST HOUGHTON, Lancs: Workers occupied the Metal Box plant on Wednesday night following police moves to break their picket line.

The 500 engineering workers had been locked out for refusing to work 'normally'.

They had been working to rule to back a claim for a 40p an hour increase, consolidation of the threshold and payment for essential and safety maintenance time.

As they were picketing the plant on Wednesday, police moved in to carry out their familiar strike breaking role. Accompanied by police dogs, they escorted six Metal Box drivers, all members of the Transport Union, through the picket lines and out of the plant.

The locked out workers, faced with the fact that the law were making their picket lines ineffective, then occupied the plant.

SOUTHALL:—3000 workers at British Leyland's AEC bus and truck plant sat in at the factory earlier this week after management called

Busmen pull out the stops

BUSMEN drivers and conductors in the Mansfield area have been on token strike since last Saturday for an increase of £8 on their £22 basic.

The strike has been 100 per cent, stopping all unionised buses in the area. Nottingham drivers have been expressing solidarity by terminating buses at the Mansfield boundary.

Many non-unionised private bus companies have been operating works and school services. This has led to many bitter clashes between scabs and the strikers' efficient flying picket.

This has resulted in an 'agreement' by the scab firms not to operate on top of those for which they already hold contracts.

A disturbing aspect of the dispute has been the use by the National Coal Board of mini-buses driven by NUM drivers to ferry miners to and from work in the area and to lessening the effects of the strike.

Strikers smeared

COVENTRY:—Chrysler toolroom workers returned to work on Monday on the promise of Conciliation and Arbitration Service inquiry into their wages dispute.

This followed a week of full-scale layoffs and inter-union friction, including demands that the strikers' jobs be manned up as in the electricians' dispute last year.

The AUEW district committee fully endorsed the strike against the wishes of the local engineers' union official. But the right wing and the Communist Party convenors of the Transport Union of both Coventry plants exploited the weakness of the toolroom's argument about restoring differentials.

Although the toolroom decided to return, the T and G went ahead with a mass meeting of members of both plants. A resolution that there should be no increases in the differential under the term of the present agreement was carried. Less than half the T and G membership was present.

Eddie McCluskey, the deputy convenor, likened the strike to the dockers' strike in support of Enoch Powell in the late sixties and to the Protestant strike in Northern Ireland this year.

This disgraceful attitude and the demand to the company to bring in scabs is an attempt to isolate any section of workers who strike, whatever the merits of the case.

'NO' to prod deal

THE Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority has been at a standstill for the past week. 600 tugmen, members of the Transport Union, are on strike demanding that the £2.80 threshold be consolidated into their basic. The men voted against an alternative productivity deal prepared by management.

The Port handles the third highest tonnage in Britain and many ships are now being diverted. Watch out for them coming your way.

Baird switched off

BRADFORD:—Workers at Baird colour television, part of the Thorn Consumer Electronics empire, came out on official strike on Monday for £7 across-the-board increases, consolidation of threshold payments and a cut in the working week to 35 hours.

production to a halt.

After last week's breakdown of negotiations over the annual pay claim between management and union officials, the convenor, Tom Warburton, and the chairman of the negotiating committee, Brother Brown, explained to a mass meeting how the management, in their usual arrogant fashion, had offered derisory increases of £3, £4 and £5 a week for different grades—in response to a claim for £15 across the board.

This insult included British Leyland's national threshold payment of £1.80. By

a unanimous vote, it was agreed to ban overtime and withdraw all co-operation. Production ground almost to a standstill. Management then announced that all production would cease from 5pm on Friday—in other words a lockout.

The joint shop stewards committee advised members to report for work normally on Monday, which they did. Unable to work, they sat in.

On Tuesday, a demonstration was organised around the plant as union met management. Their latest offer of £4, £4.50 and £6 was thrown out.

14000 OUT AS STRIKE WAVE HITS SCOTLAND

by Mick Napier

A WAVE of unofficial strikes swept the West of Scotland in the run-up to the election. The 3000 Hoover workers, now in their fourth week of strike action for an across the board rise, have been joined by 3500 road haulage drivers, 1000 Western SMT bus drivers, 600 dustmen, 120 sewage workers and 2000 teachers.

3600 Distillers Company workers in Glasgow, Markinch and Perth are also on unofficial strike for a straight increase and consolidation of the threshold. They were to meet on Wednesday to hear the pleas of their union officials to return to work, and observe the social contract with the fabulously wealthy Distillers.

All the unions involved in this strike wave are operating in the same way—attacking the workers and trying to get a return to work. As Jack Jones put it at a recent T and G stewards meeting in Glasgow: 'At this point in time I believe a vote for Labour is more important than a wage claim.'

RECOMMENDATION

But this sell-out approach is being decisively rebuffed. At Hoover this week, the workers once again voted to reject the company's offer and continue their strike. They accepted convenor John Tynan's recommendation virtually unanimously despite yet another vicious attack from AUEW executive member John Boyd, this time using the local press.

The busmen also defied the pressure of their union executive. They are firm for £35 for 35 hours. They are

TEACHERS: WE'VE HAD ENOUGH

GLASGOW:—2000 teachers came out on unofficial strike on Tuesday and Wednesday this week in support of a £15 a week flat rate increase.

This is a historic decision. Glasgow teachers are in effect saying they've had enough, that they are not prepared to wait for the Government's Houghton report on teachers' pay.

The vote was also a clear indication that the teachers consider the proposals of the union, the Education Institute of Scotland, for a one-day strike for an interim increase are derisory.

Discontent over pay and conditions among Scottish teachers has been rising rapidly over the last year. The final straw came two weeks ago when the

by Ronnie Smith
EIS Council and Craigbank School
Liaison Committee

EIS failed in any way to fight the authorities attempts to attach strings to the payments, which to teachers in schools which are chronically short staffed.

The Scottish Education Department refused to renew the payments unless the union agreed that teachers working to rule in these schools should lose the allowance.

The EIS resisted but made no attempt to mobilise the members. The threat

SOCIAL CONTRACT HITS BUSMEN

BUSMEN struck throughout Central Scotland and West Fife last week after management tried to break an overtime ban at the Kilsyth depot in Stirlingshire. The ban launched in early September by 14 garages, followed a demand for £35 for 35 hours and improved conditions. The drivers' basic rate is only £28.80, for 40 hours.

A call by the busmen's rank and file committee for a return to work pending official negotiations was accepted by some garages. But others in the Midland area stayed out.

The TGWU's lack of support may be a result of the social contract. One driver said: 'The social contract is just a piece of paper and it's being stuffed down our throats.'

'NO MORE JOBS FOR SALE HERE'

LEITH:—Workers at Rank Hovis McDougall have decided the time has come to call a halt to the productivity deals whittling away jobs in the industry.

150 workers at RHM's Caledonia mill are now in the fourth week of an unofficial overtime ban in support of a straight £5 a week across the board rise for all workers—millers, drivers, engineers, sparks and other maintenance men.

Management, who made £14 million last year, have offered another productivity deal. These have cost 500 jobs in the area over the last ten years according to USDAW members and Caledonia convenor Donald Brown.

He said: 'In the past, settlements have usually meant £1 a week in return for the loss of a man's living. What kind of a deal is that?'

The fight is coming to a head with management threats of a virtual lock-out. Usually ships carrying grain for Chancelot Mill, the next door flour mill owned partly by the Scottish Co-op, are unloaded by RHM workers. In return Chancelot store RHM grain in their silos.

But RHM workers blacked the grain ships when they heard Chancelot were trying to poach customers during the overtime ban.

Three ships are now idle in Leith docks

and a fourth is waiting to come in. RHM management have told the shop stewards that unless the blacking is lifted Chancelot will not release grain—and lay-offs could follow.

The dispute at RHM has not been made official. 'We feel the union officials are letting us down,' said Donald.

'It's the same as when they have negotiated wage rises for us in the past,' he said. 'Offers made at the National Joint Industrial Council for the Flour Milling Industry were accepted without consulting the workers themselves.'

Redundancies threat

by a GMWU shop steward

PETERBOROUGH:—British Domestic Appliances and Schreiber Furniture have merged—and made 60 staff redundant in their Cannon gas cooker plant. Some estimates put the overall redundancy figures at 1000.

With cuts in consumer spending, the future looks bleak for workers in most of the eight factories Schreiber has recently

Wingrove and Rogers: All out on Monday!

LIVERPOOL:—The AUEW shop stewards' quarterly has called on all members in the city to stop work on Monday in support of the women workers at Wingrove and Rogers. 200 women at the factory have been on strike for 16 weeks for threshold payments.

The strike is crucial for all workers in the area—specially for women workers. If the scabs and employers beat the strikers, many other employers will be encouraged to try and stop all threshold payments.

WALK-OUT AT 'NO STRIKES' FIRM

by Sammy Morris

MARYHILL, Glasgow:—Manual workers at Alexander Ferguson's the paint manufacturers struck on Thursday after management refused to recognise a shop steward.

The strike has spilled over to the questions of lousy wages and conditions and the right to representation according to the members' needs and wishes, not those of management and union officials.

Ferguson's, a firm with no tradition of militancy, has never had a strike before. But now they have found themselves, with an almost total walkout on their hands.

At a mass meeting, workers drew up a list of demands: £30 basic now (present rate is £22.60), full threshold backdated, recognition of the shop steward and no victimisation.

The shop steward was sacked during the holiday weekend but was reinstated when the women in the filling department came out in support.

DECENT

Immediate assurances that fire precautions will be brought up to standard are also being sought. One worker said: 'The last time there was a fire, the only thing I could do with the fire extinguishers was to throw them at it.'

The workers also want decent canteen facilities and half an hour to clean machines after each shift. They want goggles, masks, gloves as they handle hundreds of gallons of xylene daily, which causes cancer, blood, liver and kidney disease and is also a narcotic.

They want regular removal of the supposedly empty red lead bags which at the moment lie a few yards from the local canal.

A successful picket line has been organised which is affecting orders for Northern England, Northern Ireland and North Sea Oil rigs.

The strikers, members of the GMWU, are showing an example to all low paid workers, not only in the fight for a decent standard of living but also in the fight for a safer working environment.

Blow for Blow

Socialist Worker benefit performances

BRADFORD
Monday 14 October, 7.30pm,
Bradford University, Great Horton
Road, Bradford.

SWANSEA
Tuesday 15 October, 7.30pm,
Oxford Street School, Swansea.
Speaker: June Morris (NUPE Nurses
Organiser). Tickets 40p on the door.

BRISTOL
Wednesday 16 October, 7.30pm,
Room Cl.I, Bristol Polytechnic,
Ashley Down. Tickets 40p on the
door.

DERBY
Thursday 17 October, 7.30pm, St
Helens House, King St, Derby. Tickets
40p on the door.

OXFORD
Sunday 13 October
4pm: Lecture Room 23, Balliol College
7.30pm: The Cape of Good Hope, The
Plain.

COVENTRY
Friday 18 October, 8pm
Room F107, Lanchester Poly. Tickets
40p on the door.

Thirty minutes to the scrapheap

LEICESTER:—300 workers at the G Stibbe plant were asked last week to stand by their machines. Thirty minutes later, redundancy notices were handed out. One miller with 45 years' service was reduced to tears.

The engineering union organised no opposition. Workers were left demoralised and resigned to 'their fate'.

and a fourth is waiting to come in. RHM management have told the shop stewards that unless the blacking is lifted Chancelot will not release grain—and lay-offs could follow.

Unfortunately, the union has always been weak here. Many stewards, instead of leading the fight against redundancies, are frightened to commit themselves in case they lose their cushy jobs.

FORD'S:

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THE DOOR IS OPEN

THE FORD strike is over. The press shop workers have forced the company to pay an increased shift differential of about £4 a week.

Ford's have agreed to pay time and a third only for the night shift, and still refuse to pay holiday money at average earnings. Press shop workers, like all Ford workers, take a drastic cut in wages when on holiday.

Had the advice of the full-time officials and the Ford national negotiating committee been taken,

PRESS SHOP MEN SHOW THE WAY

the press shop workers would have gone back to work with no money at all on the table.

Determination and militancy changed that. The strike smashed the 1974 wage agreement and now gives all Ford workers the chance to get decent wages. But the agreement now under negotiation is completely unacceptable.

Negotiations on the new offer continued this week. But already it

is clear the company are pushing for improved efficiency—speed up, lower manning levels and more work. They are also after utility men... spies.

Ford also want a long-term agreement. But with inflation eating away at wages, workers need to be able to re-negotiate whenever they need.

The money in the offer is also a

sore point. Less than half the £10 is new money. It includes £2.80 threshold and £3 for clean up and preparation time, which is already paid. With tax and deductions, and the squashing of future threshold payments, there's not much to be excited about.

The Ford Leamington stewards committee have put in for an immediate £14 a week increase and a 35 hour week. This is what all Ford workers should be fighting for.

The press shop lads have won an important battle. Only by following their example can the war over the agreement be won.

We must beat them at their own game

by Gareth Williams, AUEW

AT 4am on Monday, Ford's told the Body Plant that we would be laid off from the end of the shift. We had been at work for three nights after lay-offs lasting nearly four weeks.

There was no lay-off pay from the company or unemployment benefit. Those few who did get social security have now been told to pay it back.

Department meetings were held in most areas in the Body Plant to report back to the lads on the situation and to carry out plant policy of 'No lay offs—occupation'.

5510 A shift voted to report to work as normal and occupy the plant. On arriving at the gates, we found they were locked and guarded by additional security heavies, who were insisting there was no work.

Although they were stopping us earning a living, management simply refused to talk to us. A short meeting took place and the lads decided we could not occupy alone, and so the matter should be put back to the department the following night. The response of the security men was to call the police.

If other departments had occupied, we would be on the way to defeating the company at their lay-off game. It is intolerable to have to go on being laid off at the company's convenience.

Only the Body and PTA plants are affected by these lay-offs. So we must push for an independent lay-off agreement to protect us.



PICKET OVER VICTIMISATION

SOGAT members and supporters from other unions picketing the Woking Addressograph Multigraph factory on Wednesday in support of strikers in the firm's Admel subsidiary in Hartlepool.

The SOGAT FOC there has been victimised in a bid to break the union.

Picture: PETER HARRAP (Report).

OCCUPATION FLOORS COURTAULD'S

SPENNYMOOR, Co Durham:—The 1600 textile workers occupying the Courtauld's plant won a tremendous victory on Wednesday when management climbed down and agreed to restore five day working.

The two-week occupation followed an attempted management showdown with the best organised workers in the Courtauld's chain.

The dispute began when manage-

ment told stewards they needed to cut production by 14 per cent because of lack of orders. A few weeks earlier they had wanted to increase it with a productivity deal.

When management refused to end a temporary work-sharing scheme, a mass meeting voted to do it for them. Seven men who declined to be moved on to other machines were suspended and a sit down strike began.

The occupation was a fantastic display of united working class activity. The plant was held 24 hours a day on a shift-by-shift basis with everyone clocking in and out. At-

tendance on some shifts was higher than for normal working.

Courtauld's have imposed four-day working throughout the combine. This victory shows that their schemes can be resisted. The right to work—and at trade union rates and conditions—can be defended.

Technicians out

MANCHESTER:—Technicians at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, who have had no major wage increase for four years, struck for one day on Tuesday in support of a 30 per cent claim. Technicians at Salford, also ASTMS members, struck for three days on the same issue.

'Whose side are our leaders on?'

BRADFORD:—Workers at the Newboulds/Sunblest bakery are fighting on against 'flying blacklegs'—and sickening attacks from their union.

They voted at a mass meeting on Saturday to continue their four-week unofficial strike against redundancies and attempts to wipe out all previously negotiated conditions.

Sunblest, part of the Associated British Foods empire, have sent in the 'flying blacklegs', supervisory staff used to break strikes and given every comfort—including £10-a-night hotel rooms and three weeks' paid

holiday after every 'assignment'.

Meanwhile, the executive of the Bakers Union has denounced the strikers in the local press and tried to get TUC pressure put on Bradford Trades Council, which has supported the strike.

It refused to make the strike official because 'urgent negotiations' were pending. Then, when those broke down, general secretary Stan Gretton refused to call another executive meeting.

The union leaders have been looking over their shoulders at the

MASSIVE CLOSURE THREATENED

CONSETT:—Electricians at the Steel Works struck last week over the suspension of four men in a dispute overshadowed by the threat of massive redundancies.

The four had refused to work after a cable fire unless they were paid another 25p an hour.

The management then threatened to close the works. With the Hownsgill Works and 800 jobs at risk, some stewards suspect this will be the first step towards the closure of the entire complex.

Bakers Federation, which has told them it would 'view with grave concern' any decision 'to make the strike official'.

As one striker said at the mass meeting: 'You begin to wonder which side some members of this union are on'. The meeting unanimously passed a resolution condemning Gretton's inaction and attacks on their own efforts.

All Bakers Union branches should follow suit, calling on the executive to reconvene immediately and make the strike official.

Donations and messages to: Tommy Kyle, 47 Ambler Street, Bradford 3.

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