

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Defend your paper!

### £5000 APPEAL

LAST WEEK Socialist Worker was found guilty of contempt of court for naming two wealthy witnesses in the Janie Jones blackmail case. The paper's editor and publisher were fined £250 each.

After hearing that we had no money at all, the Attorney General asked the court that we be ordered to pay his costs. The judges promptly granted this.

This was a clear act of political victimisation. It added a huge burden to already enormous defence costs. For a newspaper like ours, which survives from week to week on the pennies of trade unionists, it was intended as a death blow.

It is further proof of interference by the law courts and the police into the activities of the Left. It is another link in the chain which includes the prosecution of London dockers for contempt of court in 1972, the prosecution of building workers for conspiracy in 1973, the use of Special Patrol Group policemen to defend fascist marches in 1974.

The costs of the case are estimated at £5000. We do not have £5000. The governments and the judges know we have not got it. As one old age pensioner wrote this week when sending £10 from himself and his wife: 'It will appear that the Lord Chief Justice and his watchdogs have resorted to selective savagery to silence the expression of views which they detest.'

That is exactly right. That is why we cannot let them have their way. That's why you, members of the International Socialists and Socialist Worker readers, have to raise their enormous costs. That's why we've opened a special fund—the Socialist Worker Defence Fund—with a target of £5000. We must raise this £5000 over and above the £2000 we need each month to keep our paper going.

The response in the first few days after the case has been encouraging. Money has come in from all over the country. Already we have collected more than £750. Five pounds came from a Socialist Worker seller in Bolton, who writes: 'It was given to us during town sales on Saturday by an 84-year-old man who has bought the paper on and off for a year or so. He told us that although money was tight he wanted to show his respect for Socialist Worker. He was an Independent Labour Party member in the 1920s and knew Bevan. He once said to me: "The only thing that's kept me alive is fighting this bloody evil system".'

Please send cheques, postal orders, etc., payable to the Socialist Worker Defence Fund, to Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Donations already received include: Southampton International Socialists £2.75, Lewisham IS £10, Central London Print IS £7.80, Wood Green IS £16.90, Lambeth Council Workers £38, Lambeth IS £6.40, Newcastle IS £1, Wandsworth Social £32.75, Paddington IS £19.50, Manchester Students £10.59, Socialist Worker Readers David Browns ASTMS £5, Yeovil Workers Association £1, SW Readers Howard Rotovater, Lowestoft £1, Lowestoft IS £5, Hull IS £19.50, Ideal Standards, Hull £3, Widnes and Runcorn Trades Council £2.10, Teesside IS £30, SW Readers Shephed Loughbrough £2, North Herts IS £9.53, Dudley IS £5, Glasgow IS £13, Accrington IS £5, TGWU 7/266a Renfrewshire £10, SW Supporters Bowyers Liverpool £1, Collegiate Theatre/Other Cinema Collection £21.50, Newport Trades Council £3, SW Readers Chelmsford £4.50, Birmingham District IS £13.31, SW Readers Colchester £2.08, SW Collection R&F Tech Teacher School £17.13, Burnley IS £26.80, Birmingham City IS £10, Sussex University IS Soc SW Supporters £19.50, Pontefract IS £28, SW Readers Wakefield £3.86, SW Readers Old Red Lion Bradford £10.78, MK Electric SW Supporters £2.50, LSE Students Meeting £51.

Speakers from Socialist Worker and the International Socialists National Committee are prepared to speak anywhere in the labour movement about the paper. Please write or telephone 01-739 9043.

IF THE LAW DOESN'T FIT,  
MAKE IT UP—page seven.

# SCOTTISH STRIKERS SHOW THE WAY

ONE of the most powerful strike movements in years is building up in Scotland. The strikers are almost all low-paid workers, asking for large pay increases.

Employers and union leaders (left, right, and centre) have united to call for a return to work. Jack Jones of the Transport Workers Union has attacked the strikers for breaking the social contract. The strikers reply that they cannot eat the social contract. And their families cannot eat unless they get more money.

Tory MP Edward Taylor calls for troops to be used to do the strikers' work. Already the Highland

Fusiliers through the local press are offering to help people 'with transport problems'.

But with inspired solidarity, the strikers are standing firm. The strikers in Scotland have paved the way for thousands of trade unionists harassed by inflation. If they stand firm, if they form combine committees, if they link their fragmented battles and call for solidarity action with other workers south of the border, they could light a flame which can burn the social contract and everything it stands for.

SCOTTISH WORKERS ON THE MOVE:  
Full report on pages 14 and 15.



Pickets at Tulse Hill School, South London, last Friday were demanding the immediate sacking of maths teacher Richard Edmonds, who is a member of the National Front. Half the children at the school are black. The Inner London Education Authority still argues that Edmonds should be free to hold his fascist views. Gloster Samuel, a parent who supports the school's

Parent-Teacher Association's call for the sacking of Edmonds, told Socialist Worker: 'We are sure that a pornographer would not be allowed to teach at the school. Edmonds is a social pornographer. His racist philosophy is obscene.'

PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)



IN SUPPORT  
OF THE  
IRISH STRUGGLE

March on Sunday 27 October,  
1.45pm

Rally at Clerkenwell Green, London WC1 (nearest tube Farringdon) for march to Fleet Street and Trafalgar Square

Demonstrate for the right of the Irish people for self-determination and against the presence of the British army in Ireland.

Parallel demonstrations have been called in Paris, Brussels and Berlin. Pickets will be held outside the British Consulate in Frankfurt, the Embassy in Rome, the Consulate in New York, the Embassy in Washington and the British Airways Office in Philadelphia.

All London IS branches must support. Provincial IS branches to send delegations where feasible. IS Student Societies to raise the maximum support.

# Why Long Kesh was burned down

This is an extract from an article by a young Provisional internee published in *Republican News* the week before Long Kesh camp burned.

THERE are four corrugated iron huts, tarred black, with grey brick facing, three for living in and one for eating in. There are also two wooden huts, the larger for washing, also as a latrine, and the smaller for hobbies, where at most two men can work at a time.

These are the only buildings within the cage. The space between them and the wire is the recreation area—no more than a narrow tarmac gangway . . . and a space at the front barely manageable for a game of five-a-side football.

Ten seconds walk brings you the length of the hut and less than a minute it takes you to walk round the perimeter of the cage.

To walk outside the cage to the doctors is a god-send!

The whole structure is jerry-built of the cheapest materials. From top to bottom everything leaks, creaks and is inefficient . . . When it rains everything is so damp, uncomfortable and infuriating, so the best thing is to take to bed, wrapped up in blankets.

For heat we have hot, dry air blown out by rattling antique machines which leave us puffed and dry faced, but with our feet still wet. The cage may find the mildness of summer manageable but . . . winter is approaching dismally fast.

A prisoner is entitled to a 30-minute visit per week. Before the actual visit your people must wait for up to five or six hours in dirty, insanitary huts in the prison car park. The visiting boxes are dirty, filthy places where no privacy whatever exists.

Before the visit, both visitors and prisoners are subjected to a degrading body search (that is, stripped naked) by English and Scottish soldiers over here for the large bounty the dirty job carries . . .

## Blacked

One horrible development . . . is the way maggots have infested the huts. What happens is that mice and rats crawl in between the tins of the hut and die there. Then the maggots appear and soon are dropping in clusters on to men's bedding, into the food, on their bodies.

Truesdale (the Governor) knows the situation. He has seen the maggot-infested huts. Perhaps he considers it a refinement of torture . . . We have not had a clean sheet on our beds now for three months . . . When the food reaches the compound it is always cold, the potatoes are always dirty and gritty, the meat often rancid.

For more than three weeks now, every prisoner in the camp has gone without food and in return the prison administration banned our food parcels and prevented us from using the prison tuck shop. The men are growing progressively weaker.

Our requests are genuine. They are neither excessive nor exorbitant.

What is wrong in men asking for an improvement in food and living conditions? Does there exist some strange, secret reason which prevents the British government representatives from granting us our demands?

Do they take some strange, sadistic delight in depriving men of food? They have taken away our freedom, do they now want to starve us into submission?

Is the preparation and distribution so difficult, so politically controversial that by acceding to our demands the whole structure of British domination of Long Kesh would be brought into doubt?

We do not want pity. We don't need Bishops or SDLP representatives after their flying visits to pity us or to use our plight to make political capital. We already know all about the terrible conditions . . . they are damnable . . . What in God's name can men do?

But it is useless to talk of conditions. Rather talk of the system which perpetuates them. Long Kesh is the Six Counties in microcosm. We are all of us, the people of the Six Counties, engaged in a huge concentration camp. Break the British connection and you break Long Kesh.



The wreckage at Long Kesh: each cage—a wire enclosure with four nissen huts—is 38 yards long by 50 yards wide.

# Murder morning

## ARMY TURNS BLIND EYE TO SECTARIAN KILLINGS

From Frank Drain (TGWU and member of Socialist Worker editorial board) Belfast, Monday 21 October

### FACT

IN Newry, Royal Marines murdered a young Catholic man they claim was hijacking a vehicle. From a secret hiding place they opened fire without warning, ignoring, as has become standard military practice here, the 'yellow card' instructions for soldiers in using their weapons. There are calls for their trial. They have little to fear: in the past few months several British soldiers facing charges for killings have been freed by the courts despite overwhelming evidence against them.

In the village of Jonesborough, Co Armagh, troops rounded up a third of the population, 74 people in all, and handed them to the police for questioning in connection with the hijacking of a lorry with £20,000 cargo.

TWO Catholic workers, Eric Morgan and Michael Loughran, who were half brothers, were shot dead at 7.30am on the Falls Road. The gunmen drove their car back in the direction of the Shankill Road, a route which is 'guarded' by the British army.

Had this sickening incident happened in England, the area would have been swarming with cops and murder squad detectives.

But this is Belfast. What has happened in just a rerun of yesterday, a week ago, a month ago.

Sectarian murder appears here to stay, and with the sanction of the British army. Councillor Jim Sullivan explained to me: 'The people here are in a state of terror. We believe that the army turns a blind eye on these murders in an effort to frighten the minority into accepting some political solution from the British Government.'

This statement was backed up by

events in the Lower Falls last Thursday. After the riots in Long Kesh internment camp (now named The Maze), British troop carriers raced through the streets in a mass arrest operation for the second successive night.

One man told me: 'It reminded me of films I saw of the Germans rounding up the Jews.' A woman added: 'Young boys (one no more than ten years old) and men were marched in formation through the streets with rifles pointed at their heads, with the situation if anything worse than when they declared the now infamous Falls Road curfew.'

### Brutal

People who had tuned into army radio confirmed the troops' instructions as 'Arrest a quota per hour and if they are not on the streets, then go into the houses and get them.'

The arrests have been numbered at several hundred. Several women were injured as they protested at the brutal treatment of husbands

and sons. A local priest asked an officer in charge: 'What about some justice?' The reply: 'We are not here to see that justice is done.'

'We're here to keep violence at a minimum.'

The only violence to be seen was that of the British army's uniformed thugs.

The British press, keen to give front page coverage to the jail riots at Long Kesh, Magilligan, Armagh and Crumlin Road, were not so keen to cover the indiscriminate brutality against the inmates. A few examples: Hugh Walsh was hit in the face at point blank range with a CS gas canister and had to wait for three hours in the hospital for treatment, where it was discovered that three of his teeth were lodged in his palate.

Three other men were treated in the same hospital. They had cuts and lacerations received when barbed wire strands were used to loop round the necks of prisoners trying to escape their British tormentors.

More than 200 prisoners have been treated at hospitals, at least three being flown to Derry for specialist treatment.

Contrary to some British press reports only a few Loyalists, from the extreme Red Hand Commandos, took part. The UDA made their position clear when all food supplies were stopped. 'Once again Loyalists are suffering for Republican crimes,' they said.

### System

At the women's prison in Armagh, UDA and UVF prisoners joined in the occupation of the jail, and to some extent stopped the army, after they suffered vicious army assaults, from freeing the hostages. In the Crumlin Road jail and at Magilligan, the same pattern emerged.

One question I was asked in Belfast was: 'What is the British trade union movement doing about it? After all, it's their army. And we are workers as well.' I would say to British trade unionists, study that question well.

There is something we all can do to stop oppression and brutality in Northern Ireland: we can start this Sunday by supporting the Troops Out Movement demonstration in London. Remember, it's a small commitment, but it means a lot to some family in Ireland.

## Loyalists rush to join RUC

by Mike Miller

LOYALISTS who had been busy setting up a 'third force' to deal with the opponents of imperialist rule here, quietly dropped their plans when Merlyn Rees, the Labour Party's ineffectual boss in Northern Ireland, announced an expansion of the already existing reserve police force, 90 per cent Loyalist.

Since then thousands of applications have been received for the RUC reserve. Most come from Loyalist para-military armies such as the Orange Volunteers and the Down Orange Welfare. The British government is thus arming and training the Loyalists in huge numbers. It doesn't take a crystal ball to predict who those guns will be used against in the future.

The Loyalist right-wing politicians, after their massive victory in the recent election, are attempting

to weld together again the all-class alliance which made up the Unionist monolith for fifty-odd years.

In this situation maximum unity of those who oppose British domination in Ireland is essential, but there are no signs that the leaders of either the Officials or the Provisionals are prepared to work together or with the socialist organisations here. Although the present upheaval has been massive and widespread it has been more spontaneous than planned, and neither wing of the Republican movement seems to have much of a clue as to how to direct and deepen the renewed working-class militancy.

The Belfast branch of the Socialist Workers' Movement distributed hundreds of leaflets calling for the establishment of workplace committees to direct the struggle from the base and prepare the ground for unity.

In a further statement it pointed out that the increasing repression came at a time when the Labour government in Britain was involved in a major attack on working-class living standards. There have been hundreds of redundancies in Northern Ireland and thousands in the south in the past few weeks.

By linking the struggles against these attacks on the Irish working class with the struggle against repression and the military occupation working-class unity could be built and British imperialism finally driven out of Ireland.

## TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND! March

Sunday 1.45pm, Clerkenwell Green, EC1

AT THE first whimper of distress from the captains and the kings of industry, the Labour Government has moved into action. The only question now is how much they are going to give the employers in next month's budget.

Mind you, the employers have put up a tough campaign to get still more public money pumped into their operations. They moved into action straight after the election. Five days later, success was in the bag.

The campaign really got under way when multi-millionaire Sir Alastair Pilkington announced a blow as devastating as a miners' strike. Pilkington's £150 million expansion programme was to be shelved until 'industry' (he means himself, his kind and his class) got the tax cuts and price-increases it needed.

Harold Wilson got the message. In a televised speech that evening he attacked the big battalions (for which read trade unions). He insisted that workers would have to accept reduced living standards and, incidentally, gave the nod and the wink on price increases.

The next day, the chairman and deputy chairman of the CBI (Confederation of British Idlers) nipped round to Downing Street to run over the text of the agreement. Dennis Healey went over it yet again at a Bankers Beano in London's Mansion House on the following Thursday night. After that it was just a question of waiting for the money to roll in.

The most remarkable thing about the operation was the ease with which it was accomplished. There were no lobbies of Parliament, never mind flying pickets. It was all over in a flash. For the captains and the kings wield decisive economic power and know how to use it at no cost to themselves.

Reports indicate that they have promised around £2000 million—enough to settle 15 miners' strikes, enough to give all the Scots' workers now on strike £10 a week tax free and still have enough left over to rebuild a good part of Glasgow.

But that, according to the press, would be totally unreasonable, inflationary and contrary to the national interest.

### INVESTMENT

The Confederation of British Idlers, of course, claim that it's all for our benefit to safeguard our jobs. But unemployment is already high—and rising. And the employers have plans for another wave of sackings. These are also in our interest, no doubt.

In any case, more investment does not mean more jobs or job security. Most investment today is in big lucrative projects like chemical plant and North Sea Oil.

These projects create few permanent jobs and generally do away with a good many other people's work.

Nor is there any guarantee that the £2000 million will be productively invested.

The government already gives industry £750 million subsidies each year—a rebate amounting to half of all the tax they pay.

And that subsidy in turn is half of the total dividends paid out to shareholders by British companies.

So you could say that Government subsidies mainly go to shore up the rate of dividends received by those notably productive human beings, shareholders. Doubtless Healey's handout will go the same way.

Indeed, the CBI are quite open about this. Their £3000 million shortfall is not all or even mainly designed to pay workers' wages.

### CONTROL

It is designed to restore profit levels to an 'acceptable margin' and to allow the usual dividend cheques to be made out to shareholders.

They will also be using Healey's handout so they can keep on paying very high interest charges to the banks.

Not that these charges are much of a source of complaint. Which is not surprising. For the same big businessmen control the banks and reap the crisis-swollen profits.

Take bankrupt British Leylands, for example. Lord Stokes could easily nip round to National Westminster (profits up 50 per cent last year) and insist they cough up for British Leyland in its time of need.

He could ask them to make new interest free loans, and cancel existing ones and their interest payments on them. It would be dead easy. For Lord Stokes is a director of National Westminster.

The press, the experts and the pontificators see nothing wrong or hypocritical in the fact that the Banks can salt away these millions and make still more in this time of crisis.

They have far more important things to attend to—like browbeating Glasgow dustmen into accepting a wage of £25 a week while the cost of living rockets.

# BOSSES CRY... ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK

Company	Pre tax last year	P/C increase on previous year	P/C increase on 1969	Total pre-tax 1969-73
Pilkingtons	£ 43.7 m	29%	100%	£147.5 m
ICI	£ 388 m	105%	105%	£995.2 m
BP	£ 310 m	442%	312%	£ 717 m
Unilever	£ 138 m	44%	133%	£436.4 m
Shell	£1912 m	90%	240%	£5700 m
Turner & Newall (excludes massive Rhodesian profits)	£ 29 m	82%	250%	£ 86.6 m
Beecham	£ 60.4 m	25%	140%	£239.7 m
GKN	£ 70.6 m	40%	100%	£246.4 m
GEC	£ 120 m	57%	333%	£ 354 m
Tate & Lyle	£ 17.9 m	11%	120%	£ 46.1 m
British Sugar Corporation	£ 11.9 m	4%	91%	£ 45.4 m
Glaxo	£ 38.7 m	33%	71%	£141.5 m
National Westminster	£189.53m	50%	300%	£ 470 m

THE Confederation of British Industry claimed last week that big business was £3000 million short of cash. Unless this was forthcoming within a few weeks, it indicated, hundreds of companies would go bankrupt and tens of thousands of jobs would disappear. The claim received massive support from the papers.

This £3000 million, it said, was needed because of massive increases in the costs of companies. It implied that, otherwise, all of industry would go broke.

But a quick look at the CBI's figures shows that the shortage of cash only exists because of the massive sums paid out in dividends, and interest payments.

As the Economic Editor of The Times put it last week: 'Financial deficit' is made up of 'gross trading profits . . . less dividends and debenture, loan and other interest payments . . . less taxes, less capital expenditure, less stock appreciation.'

But last year the total paid out by companies in interest and dividend payments was no less than £4,966 million—that is £2000 million more than the alleged sum they so desperately need to stay in business.

When they demand £3000 million off the government, and the government agrees to hand over something around £2000 million, on top of the £705 million a year it already gives as grants to industry, it is effectively handing industrialists money that they can in turn give to share-holders and money-lenders.

## Jones: Take it lying down

JACK JONES, general secretary of the transport workers' union, visited Scotland for five days last week.

His purpose was not to co-ordinate support for the tens of thousands of his members who are on strike to keep ahead of the cost of living.

Instead he delivered a much publicised speech calling on workers to hold back wage claims and to avoid strike action.

'The growth of unemployment,' he argued, 'is the main danger and we in the unions must play our part in fighting it. A wonderful wage agreement is of no value if the firm with whom we have negotiated the agreement doesn't employ people any more . . . Difficult times lie ahead and some austerity measures may have to be attempted.'

This is a message we've heard in the past from many quarters. Edward Heath always used to claim that if workers did not accept Phases One, Two and Three, the prosperity of the country would be ruined.

### Chopped

There is a danger that many workers will fall for such arguments. After all, it is true that in the last few weeks a number of companies have gone bankrupt, leaving their workers without jobs.

It is also true that other companies, like British Caledonian, are being chopped down in size so as to stay in business. That has already cost 800 people their jobs.

The question is how to prevent such redundancies occurring.

The cause of the cutbacks and closures is certainly not high wages. Living standards have been held back for two years by Phases One, Two and Three. According to the government's own figures, they are four per cent lower now than six months ago.

The profits, after tax, of British industry were nearly twice as high last year as in 1970. And so far this year, they have been up another 25 per cent.

The problem for companies such as Ferranti or British Caledonian is that they are having to spend an ever greater chunk of these profits on raw materials and on interest rates for

SOME SOCIALISTS were genuinely shocked by Jack Jones' speech. It sounded so much like the argument put across by the right wing in the trade union movement for so many years. The speech must have caused some consternation in the office of the Communist Party paper, the Morning Star.

For years the Star has presented Jack Jones as the ideal, militant trade union leader. Never would you read there, for instance, any demand that he should be subject to democratic control by the rank and file and not elected for life.

The Star, however, seems to have developed an easy way to deal with awkward speeches—pretend that they mean the opposite of what they say. So with Jack Jones.

The Star headline said: Raise real wages to fight inflation says Jack Jones.

You had to read a long way down the page to find out Jones' real words defending the social contract and opposing any militant struggle for wages.

If you want to find out what the trade union leaders are really up to, you will have to look beyond the pages of the Morning Star.

borrowed money.

Those sections of big business which sell raw materials, like the giant oil companies, or lend money, have taken a bigger and bigger share of the profits of industry, until some industrialists can no longer keep going.

Shell, for instance, last year made more than three and a half times the profits it made in 1969. In the same period, the profits of banks and insurance companies rose from £780 million to £1991 million.

When people such as Harold Wilson, Edward Heath, or, for that matter, Jack Jones, tell workers not to put in for big wage increases in case the company goes bankrupt,

what they are saying is that wages must be sacrificed to keep the banks and the oil companies happy.

Instead of trying to make the big business system work by accepting wage restraint, the trade union movement should be insisting that if the bosses cannot provide jobs and living wages, then they should get out of the way.

That means an all out fight to keep ahead of the cost of living, opposition to the Social Contract, and insistence on nationalisation, without compensation and under workers' control, of any firm which claims it cannot afford to employ all its workers.

The strikes in Scotland have shown that there is a willingness on the

shop floor to step up the fight on the wages front. The Jack Jones of this world, by contrast, opt for futile attempts to make the present system work through holding back wages rather than any sort of fight to replace it by a system of socialist planning, in which there could be higher living standards and full employment.

There is a lesson in this for all workers.

The leaders of the big unions have shown that they have no answer to either wage restraint or unemployment.

If that fight back is going to take place, it is going to depend upon unofficial initiatives, as in Scotland at present. The urgent need is for a rank and file movement that co-ordinates these unofficial actions into a national movement against wage restraint and unemployment, and for the democratic control over the unions which would prevent the sabotage of the struggle by the union leaders.

That is why every militant should work to make a success of the conference called by the Rank and File Co-ordinating Committee for 30 November.

Rank and File Conference details: Page 15

## Prices? They'll still go up

By Jim Kincaid

family.

Another of their subsidiaries is Midland Cold Storage. The picketing of this firm in 1972 landed five dockers in Pentonville Jail.

Union International also control Britain's biggest chain of butchers—Dewhurst's, with 1500 shops. The latest profit returns for the combine show an increase from £7 million to last year's £14 million. This year they should do even better.

The other big operator is the Fatstock Marketing Company, which became famous last year when it defied the Tory wage freeze and awarded chairman Sir John Stratton a wage increase of £16,000 a year.

One of the directors at the time

SINCE April, the prices which farmers have got for cattle sent to slaughter have plummeted by a third. Yet the price of beef in the shops has scarcely dropped at all.

Some of the more popular cuts cost even more than a year ago—rump steak up 5p a lb and sirloin up 2p a lb.

It is clear that the wholesalers in the meat trade are making a bomb. Labour's Prices Commission says that the situation is unfortunate, but has no plans to take action, apart from setting up a leisurely committee of inquiry.

Britain's wholesale meat trade is dominated by two of the greediest firms around.

One is the British Beef Company, a subsidiary of the mammoth Union International run by the Vestey

was Fred Peart who was still on the Board in February when Wilson made him Labour's Minister of Agriculture.

Since taking this office, Peart has done nothing for the consumer, except arrange a cheap beef scheme with the other Common Market countries.

Under this, pensioners and families on supplementary benefit will get a pathetic beef token worth 5p a week. The scheme won't start till December anyway.

As with the butter tokens, the point is that a handout of free beef will make it easier to keep high prices for the rest of us.

The meat racket is currently the most glaring example of profiteering in the British food industry. The Labour government sits back and lets it happen.

# LETTERS

## Works wonders? Yes, it wreaks havoc...

I WORK in a brewery and was asked to check the bottles as they marched out of the wash. The machine that is meant to scan dirty bottles is never used since the management refused to put an extra man on the job.

Staring at the bottles as they flowed along the conveyor belt I found, to my naive amazement they were nearly all filthy. Big black blobs of slime were visible. They were being filled with beer.

I asked the charge-hand why he hadn't stopped them because they were poisoning the population. He replied 'I'd rather die that way than from a car bomb.'

I agreed—but suggested that debating the best forms of death was somewhat immaterial as the bottles were

still being filled up. He said it had been reported an hour ago—and just to throw the dirty ones away.

The foreman agreed with him. I pointed out that there were too many to throw away. Eventually the machine was stopped and the pipe repaired.

Everything was now OK, the bottles were now coming out with the familiar slippery film that you get when they aren't being rinsed properly after being washed in caustic acid. But that's alright, you can't see caustic, so its clean.

The reluctance to stop the machine was because of the idea that output, not quality is what counts. We bottle Guinness, Ind Coope Special Light Ale and Double Diamond. Remember this next time the TV tells you it works wonders... S JOHNSTON, Ilford.



Flashback to the last Rank and File Conference.

## He's got me fighting!

AS A COMPARATIVELY new reader of Socialist Worker I've been very impressed with many of the articles I've read but your article Harold Wilson, Social Con-Man (19 October) excels them all.

I believe the Social Contract is a menace to every working class man and woman. I can see little difference

between the Conservative incomes policy and Labour's Social Contract.

Mr Wilson deceived all those who voted for him in his speech, which was a swing to the right-wing. His present policy will lead to wage cuts and a lowering of our living standards.

Every worker must unite and

fight against wage restraint, in whatever form it comes. The only way that this can be done is through the working class standing together against capitalism. I and my friends will be supporting the Second National Rank and File Conference on 30 November.—ALF HARDS, Leeds.

THANK YOU for the article on Tony Benn (19 Oct), one of the arch-frauds of the Labour Party. I remember well the time he spoke at Bristol Trades Council. It was during the last miners' strike, and in the course of a long speech, and with two miners' leaders sitting next to him on the platform, he managed to mention the strike *not once*—let alone declare solidarity with it.

And then I also recall that, years ago, Socialist Worker ran a slot called Ratbag of the Week. You published a Commons statement by him from 1968: it went, 'It is not the fault of this government if in the white heat of technological revolution a man loses his job to a machine.' —MARTIN BARKER, Bristol.



Campaigning Benn... Picture Chris Davies (Report)

THERE WAS an error in the article about the Carib Club fight (19 October). The sentence that read 'Racist insults were hurled by the women in the club, black and white,' should have read, 'Racist insults were hurled at the women in the club, black and white.'

## Colour bar in the clubs

THE DECISION by five Law Lords that a colour bar can be operated in a working men's club is despicable. But it is not enough for the working class movement to attack the Lords for their decision. They were, after all, giving support to the racist members of the Preston Dockers Club.

While we fight the Law Lords' decision, and demand its smashing by the Labour Government we have also to demand that Preston Dockers Club be boycotted. No member of that club should be permitted to use CIU facilities elsewhere, until the club changes its policy. We urge all readers who belong to the CIU to move resolutions to this effect in their clubs.

Transport union members should send a sharp message to their brothers in Preston.—COLIN AND EVA BARKER, Manchester.

... NOT JUST the 'law lords' should be condemned but the the virulent racism demonstrated by working men's clubs should be vehemently attacked.

There are no excuses to be made for the illogical and immoral decision and talk of working class unity is a sham if efforts are not made to reverse this.—MS PAT HARRIS, London N22.

A TOUCHING STORY... It is general election day. The scene, a classroom of 10 year olds... A mock election is being held. A little girl takes the platform, arms waving. 'I'm the National Front candidate, I hate all blacks and I'm going to send them home where they come from! Vote for me! There's a stunned silence, then a little boy stands quietly and calmly declares, 'I'm an International Socialist and I'd like to ask Shirley where she intends sending all the blacks who were born here?' Little girl looks up, stops, thinks and is ashamed. Head hanging she retreats to her desk and sits down, defeated. Out of the mouths of babes!—ENID KHAN, Leicester.

ER... Following the letter from Danny Harmston (5 October) may we take it that the slogan 'No Platform For Fascists' will now be changed to include 'except in Socialist Worker'?—MARK ROBOTHAM, Lampeter.

SAVIOUR HAROLD?... The victory for Labour with so slender a majority could well herald a crushing defeat next time and put Labour out of office for years... The economic situation is going to get worse, unemployment will rise and all that stands between Labour and the next election is a majority of three. The Tories will be ready and without the fruits of Labour's cautious steps to the left, steps they cannot now take without handing the Tories the next election on a plate, what do they fight with?... the end of the three day week! Labour has been denied a positive chance to show that left wing policies will work and that they are the only logical direction the nation can take. They have been denied power for the sake of 30 marginal seats. For the sake of 30,000 extra votes they face a hiding to nothing situation. And what were our other brothers doing to secure those 30 seats? Precious little... I trust that when Labour goes back to the country, as go it must, all degrees of the left will fight to stave off the final victory that the Tories will be looking for. There will not be the policy, there will not be the record, there will only be the people.—PETER COX, Maidstone.

WATCH OUT... A word of warning to the NALGO member's letter (12 October). Keep your head down till your probationary period is up. I went to work for the council, joined the government officers union, NALGO and found our branch had one general meeting and no departmental meetings. I joined the NALGO Action Group and tried to persuade others to play a more active part... At the end of six months I was sacked—having thought that the probationary period was a technicality. My departmental head (a Tory) told me, 'We're not at Fords here my girl, when I asked for his support. The person who sacked me was a NALGO member! I now have a temporary appointment elsewhere.—NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

ACCUMULATION, NOT GREED... I'm fed up with the 'greedy bosses' approach in Socialist Worker... In an otherwise excellent article on stress it was written, '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.'... Capitalism is the first and last truly inhuman system, the aim of production isn't to satisfy the needs of any class but accumulation for its own sake. Any other approach leads to reformism.—JOHN PAPADACKI, Norwich.

WE WILL... The issue of Ireland like racism, is a political issue and shouldn't be just fought at a physical level—your approach to the National Front, but also at a political level... You in the International Socialists have the physical strength and capability to fight the political ideology of anti-Irish chauvinism. I hope you'll take up the questions of Irish self determination, and will be at the demonstration on Sunday 27 October, calling for immediate British withdrawal from Northern Ireland. Troops out now, self determination for the Irish people.—MARK TRAQUAIR, London NW12

ALL IMMIGRANTS... Dupican Hallas, in his article, 'To Hell with National Unity' (28 September) stated that the original British 'people' were utterly destroyed but the essential truth is that there is no

such thing as 'the British people'. There is no racially pure British stock and never has been. The phenomenal shifts in population around the European continent over the centuries has meant that what we refer to as 'the British people' is a group of people separated *not racially* from the rest of the world but only through a political division, ie that of nationality. We are 'British' because we all live within an area of territory known as the British Isles and we are all ruled by a government calling itself 'the British government'. So next time you hear a National Front bigot arguing that we should 'send the immigrants home' we should say to him—going to be a bit difficult isn't it?—because we are all immigrants!—SUE BRULEY, London, SW17.

FUEL FOR THE FIRE... Congratulations on pointing out the inefficiency of the National Coal Board (5 October)... But there's a serious point you missed. The NCB sells its coal to the Electricity Board at just over £7 a ton when the pithead cost is £10 a ton... If it was sold even at cost price the NCB would never be in debt again, despite the disgusting compensation payments made to the old owners... If the Labour Party wishes to retain even the grudging votes of socialists they should take a hard look at this which only adds fuel to Tory propaganda about nationalisation.—MARK SCRIMSHAW, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

OBSERVING OTHER WAISTLINES... Reading through the Observer newspaper colour supplement I came across a full page advert recommending a particular non-calorie sweetener to perform the essential Western function of weight reducing. The same papers front page had a photo of a West Bengali who'd found an alternative method, eating nothing but grass, when he can find it. Many of his fellow countrymen go to the extreme of eating nothing at all. This must surely be to reduce weight, since there's enough resources in the world to feed everyone... I slim by reading the Observer which advertises the greedy life-style which is integral to the international economic system, which requires that some must starve while others gorge to over-kill. This never fails to make me vomit which is why I recommend it as an effective slimming method. Perhaps I could call it the 'West Bengali look' and get the Observer to advertise it next week.—JOHN MARAIS, Cambridge.

SOME TIME, IT WOULD SEEM... The managers of the local Co-op sell single bags of sugar only to buyers who spend over 50p... How much longer must pensioners and poorly paid suffer acts like this?—M J BALL, Sandy.

YOU carry a letter (12 October) criticising your reporting of the Portuguese situation, and run an item on Portugal which outdoes the previous one in stupidity... You quote a docker as saying that the Portuguese Communist Party ceased to defend the Working Class in 1956. The speaker must obviously have been a member of the Stalinist MRPP which believes that the CP has gone soft since Uncle Joe's hand passed from the tiller. Do you agree with that? If not, why print it? I have no doubt that the Portuguese CP will be found wanting when the crunch comes, but the recent events have been a success for workers in Portugal: the charismatic Spínola out of office; 100 or more former Caetano supporters in gaol; a popular mobilisation against the demonstration by the so-called 'moderates'. Most important of all, the former Caetano supporters on the ruling Council of State forced off. The PCP made a mistake, of crucial dimensions, in taking posts inside the government with these former fascists. But it appears to have at least moved to oust them. Readers need some hard analysis of... how the workers' movement can take power in a situation like Portugal where the bourgeois government has collapsed through its own inability to rule, but the state machine is still intact, and not yet under the control of the workers.—J R WILLMAN, London SW6.

We believe that the leadership of the Communist Parties went 'soft' in the 1920s. The comment from the worker was information, not our view. For more on Portugal see pages 8-9 of this issue and the International Socialism Journals for May and November.

The Black Worker in Britain  
 ब्रिटिश वाशाली कामि  
 Anwodudu To Wa Ni Iru Oyibo  
 O Trabalhador Português em Inglaterra  
 पिलायत मां गुजराती मजदूर  
 O Κύπριος Εργάτης στην Αγγλία  
 ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰ  
 Ndi Ojie No Na Obodo Oyibo

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want your name published.

# Ireland: the testing ground

IT IS our understanding that the International Socialists give unconditional but critical support to the IRA. In short, IS fully supports the IRA's fight against British imperialism but reserves the right to criticise the tactics of the IRA in carrying out this struggle.

Mike Brightman's article (5 October) now states that we do support the IRA. Neither does it mention the main enemy involved, ie British Imperialism. The failure to clearly state our support for the IRA while reserving the right to criticise their tactics, undermines our expressed support for the Troops

Out Movement.

Our attitude to the Irish national struggle is a key test of our internationalism. Ireland is being used as a testing ground for repressive techniques. One example of its implications is that by 1976 every police officer in Britain above the rank of superintendent will have spent two months in Ireland absorbing tech-

niques of counter insurgency and joint planning with the army.

We must fight against popular prejudices regarding the Irish question and wholly support the Troops Out Movement even if this means unpopularity in the short term. Part of this entails adhering to our political position of unconditional but critical support for the IRA. **MIKE FOLEY, MIKE ROOKE, PETER BINNS, ADRIAN RICE, RICHARD HYMAN, ANNE NETHERWOOD, Coventry.**

## NAS: The wrong way?

JEANNIE HOLBOROW's article (28 September) on the white paper on women's equality and the teaching unions cannot be dismissed as simply getting carried away by one's own enthusiasm.

Holborow starts by correctly pointing out that the white paper implies single-sex unions like the National Association of Schoolmasters and the Union of Women Teachers will be made illegal.

But instead of condemning this legal threat to workers' right to organise themselves as they choose, she has the gall to complain that right-wing Labourite Roy Jenkins won't make a definite promise to use the capitalist state machine to close the unions down!

Now it's true that the single-sex unions represent a divisive trend that holds back the teachers' struggle.

But she completely leaves out of account the significant fact that the NAS was the first teachers' organisation to affiliate to the TUC—so she can't claim it isn't a real trade union.

The way to fight the reactionary ideas of the NAS is to build the NUT into the best fighter for all teachers.

We're shocked that an International Socialist should subscribe to the thoroughly pernicious notion that we can settle political questions in the labour movement by appealing to the bourgeois state to deal with those we disagree with—even when some of their views, like the NAS's, are extremely backward.

It also gives aid and comfort to the NUT bureaucracy. Max Morris and Co will be only too pleased to head off rank and file discontent with their regime by a campaign to get the NAS and UWT banned.

For if such a campaign succeeded, it would almost certainly create a bog pool of non-union teachers—which would weaken the NUT's fighting ability and strengthen the bureaucrats' grip on the union.

We hope the IS women's committee and the IS teachers will fight against the spread of ideas that are, essentially an accommodation to reformist ideology.—**PETER SMITH, JULIAN WELLS, Twickenham.**

They disallowed any further discussion.

Any comments? **TONY HODGES, Cambridge.**

*IS isn't proscribed by the TUC. Plenty of Trades Councils have had collections for SW and other non-Labour Party papers of the workers' movement. They've also backed appeals to local trade union branches. Congress House frowns on this since it officially supports the Labour Party and nothing else. Attempts by Congress House to pressure local trades councils should be resisted!*



They sling it in—and we pull it out. Workers removing dumped chemical waste . . .

## Pollution—and fighting it

**SHEFFIELD** Science for people is holding a meeting on Wednesday 13 November on Air Pollution at Work. Invited to speak will be Charlie Clutterbuck of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science who will be discussing his work with shop stewards on pollution hazards. He is also intending to demonstrate various types of personal monitors that works can use

to help them detect potential health hazards.

Readers of Socialist Worker will be welcomed to participate in the meeting and we would appreciate it if any can help circulate details to their shop stewards and work mates.—**DAVE HAYES** (member National Committee BSSRS) Sheffield Science for People.

## WIN THE ARGUMENT

LIKE MANY other International Socialist comrades I was drawn from the Communist Party through the gravity of IS arguments. Vital questions of the role of the union bureaucracy or the building of the revolutionary party cannot be asked at Communist Party conference.

The Communist Party's definition of ultra-leftism is much too broad to let those questions through. I was denounced as an ultra-leftist long before I understood what the word meant, merely for criticising Textile Union leader Jack Peel in a rank and file paper.

In contrast it is evident from the IS conference report that we deal with these questions thoroughly and are relating them to the new opportunities that lie ahead. No worker honestly believes that the TUC will organise national demonstrations against wage restrictions or unemployment under a Labour government, no matter how bad it gets.

The truth is they're organising a national betrayal. This makes it all the more important for us to win the argument for rank and file leadership in the factories. We need more IS shop stewards, more factory branches, and more support for rank and file papers.—**KEITH GRIFFIN, Keighley.**

## A whip-around in Cambridge

AT A RECENT meeting of the Cambridge Trades Council the question of the Socialist Worker Defence Appeal was brought up. It was announced and circulated amongst the delegates without any comment from the Secretary, D Millard.

A National Union of Journalists delegate brought up the question, pointed out the class nature of the legal action. He pointed out the implications of a judge being able

to tell journalists what they should print and what this meant for left wing publications.

He proposed that the Trades Council should raise funds for Socialist Worker. He wasn't allowed to go any further. The Secretary and Tony Carter the acting chairman, and a member of the Labour Party made it clear that the Trades Council had been informed by the TUC that the International Socialists were a proscribed organisation.



# 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**

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# How the bosses bash Labour

WITHIN a week of the election the pattern is emerging.

By Monday morning last week the Labour government was preparing plans to let 'ailing industry' have an extra £2000 million to boost profits and 'encourage investment'. Where was the money to come from? Why, by letting prices rise.

And what about the wages of those who have to pay those higher prices? Well, there was Harold Wilson on the telly Monday night warning that wages were going to have to be kept down.

The reason? There's a crisis on.

Every time Labour has won a majority in parliament there's been a financial crisis, forcing Labour to rat on its policies.

'A palace revolution'—that is the best term to describe the way the first major financial 'crisis' was resolved—and the 1929 Labour government destroyed.

For bankers in the City of London know well enough how to use economics to ruin the kind of politics they dislike or fear.

Quite suddenly in mid-summer 1931, the Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, was told that the Treasury and the Bank of England, then still a 'private' institution, were in trouble. An economic depression which had begun two years earlier was getting worse.

There had been heavy demands made on the Unemployment Insurance Fund, and it may also have been mismanaged by civil servants in Whitehall. A run on the pound was under way—as foreign speculators and bankers 'lost confidence' in the Labour government's capacity to control the financial situation.

Something drastic had to be done. American bankers were ready to provide a big loan to Britain but only on certain conditions. The most significant was that unemployment pay must be reduced.

MacDonald's Cabinet voted by eleven votes to nine to comply with the terms laid down by the foreign bankers. This margin was too



## by RICHARD RADEX

narrow for comfort, especially as the government depended in the House of Commons on the support of the Liberal Party, which might lay down additional terms of its own

'The pound in danger'; high spending on the social services to be reduced; shock to an unbalanced budget; big loans urgently required from abroad—by 1974 we have heard this story in painful detail over and over again. But in 1931 it was an unfamiliar yarn and people were more easily taken in by the economists and the City gents who spoke so gravely of national bankruptcy.

To this day nobody tries to call this bluff about bankruptcy. There is in fact not a single example in modern history of a state going bankrupt.

Going back to MacDonald, we find him badly unnerved by the crisis. His vanity was such that he hated the thought of giving up high office. So he did what a prime minister can always do in a crisis—consult the monarch!

King George V, who had been at his job for more than 20 years, was equal to the great occasion. From sources such as biographies and memoirs we know what happened when MacDonald hurried to Buckingham Palace that summer evening in late August 1931.

The King and he quickly agreed on a new plan. MacDonald would not resign. Instead he accepted the King's invitation to form 'a national government' with the help of the Conservative and Liberal Party leaders, Baldwin and Samuel.

This was a wonderful manoeuvre. For MacDonald had in effect deserted the Labour Party (which later expelled him) and became a prisoner

of the Conservatives.

The strategy worked. A new Cabinet was formed, unemployment pay was cut, American bankers came to the rescue of the pound with a loan.

A general election followed in October 1931. The Labour Party, led by Arthur Henderson, suffered a shattering defeat—they lost 241 of the 287 seats in the House of Commons.

The Labour Party denounced MacDonald for his political treachery. Although he remained Prime Minister for another four years, everyone recognised that Britain was again ruled by the Tories, much to the relief of the financial pundits in the City of London. The Tories won the 1935 general election and remained in office until 1945.

## Moderate

The third Labour government, elected in 1945 with a majority of nearly 200, reformed the Bank of England in a mild and half-hearted way, but neither this nor any other moderate measure was enough to avert the financial crisis in 1949.

All the same old arguments were trotted out about the danger to the pound, and the rest of the supposed dangers facing Britain or its upper classes. The pound was duly devalued—pushing up prices—and Labour first saw its majority chopped in the 1950 election and then lost its majority in 1951.

Most Socialist Worker readers will know the rest. Back in office in 1964 and in power with a majority of a hundred by 1966, Labour was soon confronted with... guess what! Yes, a financial crisis over the balance of payments. This was duly followed by devaluation and by defeat in the 1970 election.

There is really nothing new under the financial sun.

The pattern is repeating itself now. Labour is again rattling on the working class. Why? Because of the crisis.

And the pattern will not change until we do something about the system that produced the crisis: capitalism and the rich bankers and industrialists who control it. For parliament always dances to their tune, like it or not.

*The International Socialists' pamphlet CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT? draws the lessons from the Labour Party, in government and opposition, and argues what we can do to bring socialism. Price 10p (plus 3p postage) from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.*

## How I failed last time—by Harold Wilson

IT IS difficult to describe what it means to live against a background of this persistent speculation in the main made possible only by the balance of payments deficit... Until we were in surplus it meant that every action we took had to be taken against the background of the confidence factor, particularly against our assessment of what the speculators might do.

It means, and this is not only inhibiting but humiliating for any government, that things we had decided to do, right in themselves, for example an increase in old age pensions, even as late as 1969 when we were moving into a strong surplus—had to be timed in such a way as to minimise possible speculative consequences.

That is why we had to listen night after night to demands that there should be immediate cuts in government spending, and particularly in those parts of government expenditure which related to the social services. It was not long before we were being asked almost at pistol-point to cut back on expenditure, even to the point of stopping the road-building programme, or schools which were only half constructed.

Was it in his view, I asked him, that we should cut them off half-finished—roads left as an eyesore on the countryside, schools left without a roof, to satisfy foreign financial fetishism?

Not for the first time, I said that

we had now reached the situation where a newly-elected government with a mandate from the people was being told, not so much by the Governor of the Bank of England but by international speculators, that the government was to be forced into the adoption of Tory policies to which it was fundamentally opposed. The Governor confirmed that that was, in fact, the case.

I asked him if this meant that it was impossible for any government, whatever its party label, whatever its manifesto or the policies on which it fought an election, to continue,

unless it immediately reverted to full-scale Tory policies.

The question was a difficult one for him to answer, but he answered 'Yes'...

He had to admit that that was what his argument meant, because of the sheer compulsion of the economic dictation of those who exercised decisive economic power.

Harold Wilson, in his book *The Labour Government 1964-70; A Personal Record*.

## Who the 'speculators' are

HAROLD WILSON, in his book and in speeches then and since argues that his government was brought down by 'speculators', people outside the system.

The truth is different. The main speculators can be identified as huge financial institutions, whose directors are among the best-known men in our society. Anthony Sampson, in his book on the American giant ITT, put it very well: 'The British like to blame the gnomes of Zurich for each new run on the pound, but they need look no further than the gnomes of ITT.'

ITT made huge profits on British devaluation in 1967 and the floating of the pound in 1971. So did General Motors. So did many British financial giants. These companies switch money from country to country but not only in order to make a profit. They operate politically—to protect the fortunes of their class against the reforms of Labour governments.

They are not a gang of irresponsible gnomes on the sidelines of the system. They are the corporations who run it.

## By Paul Foot

I CONFESS, to my shame, that I thought we had a good chance of winning the case brought against us by the Attorney General.

The fact that there was no law giving judges power to prevent journalists naming witnesses in blackmail cases, the fact that the Janie Jones blackmail trial judge gave no direction that the witnesses' names should be known by letters (and never ordered the press not to name them), the fact that the judge himself admitted: 'I have no jurisdiction over the press'—all this led me to believe that he had no jurisdiction, and that even the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, would be hard put to it to ignore that.

From the moment we walked into court, of course, I realised what a fool I'd been. The attitude of the judges, sitting way up on their pedestals, almost in heaven, was clear from the outset.

As Lord Widgery said on one occasion: 'But we've always not named people in blackmail cases. Surely we must take notice of that practice.' Later, he pleaded with the Attorney General's Lawyer: 'I'm surprised you can't find even one case to give the practice an aura of respectability.'

No, the embarrassed lawyer couldn't find one case, so there was nothing for it. The judges had to make the law up, and apply it retrospectively.

One of the arguments was that it was absurd that blackmail victims should be protected by anonymity and rape victims not. Said Widgery: 'We may be wrong to name rape victims, but we must deal here with blackmail, however illogical that may be.'

In his summing-up, Widgery argued that the question of rape victims should be settled later by parliament, while he and his two colleagues would settle the question of blackmail victims there and then.

### Power

Sam Silkin, the Attorney General, is a Labour lawyer who has spent a lot of his life pretending to be interested in law reform.

As Attorney General in a Labour government, he has more power than anyone else to put law reform through parliament. He thinks there is a gap in the law about the naming of alleged blackmail victims in newspapers.

So what does he do? Does he go to parliament, which, so he and his fellow Labour MPs tell us, is the fountain of all power? Does he try through the elected assembly to pass a law which clarifies the matter?

No, he goes to the judges, who are not elected by anyone, and asks them whether they have the power to order journalists what to print about public proceedings in court.

When the judges find (not surprisingly) that they do have the power, and when those judges assess the penalty against us at £500, this same snivelling Attorney asks the judges to increase the



**WIDGERY**, Baron *cr* 1971 (Life Peer), of South Molton; John Passmore Widgery, PC 1968; Kt 1961; OBE 1945; TD; Lord Chief Justice of England, since 1971; b 24 July 1911; s of Samuel Widgery, South Molton, Devon; m 1948, Ann, d of William Edwin Kermodie, Peel, Isle of Man. Educ: Queen's Coll., Taunton. Solicitor (John Mackrell Prizeman), 1933. Served War of 1939-45. Roy. Artillery, North-West Europe. Lieut-Col. 1942; Brigadier (TA) 1952. Called to Bar, Lincoln's Inn, 1946; practising South-Eastern circuit; QC 1958; Recorder of Hastings, 1959-61; Judge of the High Court of Justice (Queen's Bench Division), 1961-68; a Lord Justice of Appeal, 1968-71. Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, 1961. Chairman, Dept Cttee on

**MILMO**, Hon. Sir Helenus Patrick Joseph, Kt 1964; DL; Hon. Mr Justice Milmo; Judge of High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, since 1964; b 24 Aug. 1908; 3rd s of late Daniel Milmo, Furbough, Co. Galway, Eire; m. 1933, Joan Frances, d of late Francis Morley, London; two s three d (and one d dead). Educ: Downside; Trinity Coll., Cambridge. Barrister, Middle Temple, 1931; Bencher, 1955; QC 1961; Dep. Treasurer, 1972; Treasurer 1973. Civil Asst, General Staff, War Office, 1940-45. Dep. Chm., West Sussex QS, 1960-64. DL Sussex, 1962. Recreations: hunting, fishing, wine. Address: Church Farm, Shipley, near Horsham, Sussex. T: Coolham 261. Clubs: United Oxford & Cambridge University, Pratts, MCC.



**ACKNER**, Hon. Sir Desmond (James Conrad), Kt 1971; Hon. Mr Justice Ackner; a Judge of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, since 1971; b 18 Sept. 1920; s of Dr Conrad and Rhoda Ackner; m 1946, Joan, d of late John Evans, JP, and widow of K. B. Spence; one s two d. Educ: Highgate Sch.; Clare Coll., Cambridge. MA Economics and Law. Served in RA, 1941-42; Admty Naval Law Br., 1942-45. Called to Bar, Middle Temple, 1945; QC 1961; Recorder of Swindon, 1962-71; Judge of Courts of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey, 1967-71; Mem. Gen. Council of Bar, 1957-61, 1963-70 (Hon. Treas., 1964-66; Vice-Chm., 1966-68; Chm., 1968-70); Bencher Middle Temple, 1965; Mem. Senate of the

The three judges who imposed the estimated £8000 penalty on Socialist Worker—and their ruling-class membership cards from Who's Who

# IF THE LAW DOESN'T FIT, MAKE IT UP

penalty by 15 times—by asking them to make us pay for all his costs! Naturally the judges oblige. I assumed that Widgery and Co would rule that naming witnesses was against the law in blackmail cases only. But they went much, much further. They ruled that any publication of names in any case where the judge had directed that the names should not be given is now contempt of court.

A magistrate who rules that his brother, a witness in a corruption case, should not be named is now supported by Lord Widgery.

A judge who protects a dinner party friend who is a witness in a prostitution case can be certain now that no journalist can challenge his ruling.

Why? Because such a challenge, says Lord Widgery, is 'an affront to the court'.

This was not even argued by the Attorney General! It was added by the Lord Chief Justice by way of further increasing the judges' power.

Again and again, throughout the case, reference was made to a case in 1913 called *Scott v Scott*, in which the problems of secrecy in court cases were thoroughly discussed. In that case, the House of Lords came down firmly on the side of publicity, and limited their powers to hear their cases in camera. One Lord Fletcher Moulton waxed eloquent on the principle of curtailing judges' power.

### Fear

Another, Lord Dunfermline, spoke about the insidious way in which legal practices can be accepted for so long that they grow into

judges' power.

Then, the ruling class fear of State control over industry extended to a fear of over-powerful judges, and the judges themselves were the first to take notice of it.

Now, the division of these powers is no longer a preoccupation of the ruling class. The press, the judges, the civil service, the police, the employers are too busy propping up each other and preserving their overall class power to worry too much about such things.

That is why the capitalist press has almost unanimously welcomed the limiting of its own powers by Lord Widgery. That is why innocents who imagine they can win a legal case just because the common law or statute is on their side are living, as I was this time last week, in fantasy land.

### WHO IS THIS Mr S?

THE man below was appearing in the High Court last week. We cannot give his name. That would be to flout the authority of the court and would put off others who seek justice at the hands of government law officers.

He was known in the court alternatively as 'Mr S' and 'Mr Attorney'. From his medals it is clear that he is a war hero. He is also a property speculator and a rich lawyer. In other words he is the class of person who should never be named in a court of law.

CAN YOU NAME HIM? 1st prize: £7,500 in costs.



## 'I have no jurisdiction...' said judge

HERE IS part of Paul Foot's statement to the High Court last week:

'My understanding as a journalist is that the trial judge merely directed that the relevant witnesses in that trial should be permitted to withhold their full names and that counsel in the trial should refer to them by letters...

'This is borne out by his words to the representatives of the Press... "May I say, before the jury comes in, that if by accident any Counsel happens to mention the name of a witness other than by letter, I hope that—I have no jurisdiction over the press, but I hope they will not mention the name if it slips out accidentally as sometimes it does happen."

'I have been unable to find any evidence that the trial judge gave any direction in relation to the later trial of Miss Janie Jones on five counts of blackmail and two counts of obtaining property by deception.

'When I wrote the article, my object was to criticise informal agreements, of the kind I have described, to preserve the anonymity of witnesses in court. My argument was that arrangements of this kind appear to have no justifiable rationale and tend to protect people who should not properly be given this protection, often to the detriment of the accused.

'I regarded this trial of Miss Janie Jones as a glaring example of the unfairness of protecting rich and disreputable witnesses by such informal agreements, particularly when contrasted with the absence of anonymity for less well-connected witnesses in rape and other cases.

'It has been put to me that all witnesses who come forward to the police with allegations of blackmail should be afforded the protection of anonymity. This argument cannot apply to the facts as I understand them of the prosecution of Miss Janie Jones for blackmail. To the best

of my knowledge, information and belief, neither My Y nor Mr Z went to the police to make complaints against Miss Janie Jones.

'My understanding is that they were interviewed by the police as potential material witnesses in the course of the investigation into the prostitution offences alleged to have been committed by Miss Janie Jones. They were compellable witnesses and were required to disclose to the police details of their behaviour with prostitutes and of their financial transactions with Miss Janie Jones.

'There is no basis, as far as I am aware, for any suggestion that they were witnesses who came forward of their own free will and agreed to give evidence in reliance upon a promise that their anonymity would be preserved. If any promise of anonymity was made in the course of the investigation, it was not given as a result of witnesses coming forward voluntarily.'



1889—THE 'ENGLAND ADMIRIED THE WORLD OVER'

# The authentic face of Tory Britain



SIR KEITH Joseph has discovered that the moral fabric of Britain is rotten. Readers of Socialist Worker have been saying that for years.

The only thing we might disagree with him about is who are the immoral ones.

He speaks of the Tory approach to the family and civilised values. But every Tory who can afford to gets his kids looked after by a nanny or au pair, then packs them off to prep school, then to public school (Eton and Harrow, don't you know), then if they are too thick for anything else, into the army.

## Rotten

So much for them giving 'the stable emotional background, and consistent combination of love and firmness which are much more important than riches' that the 'lower classes' are supposed not to give.

He is also very disturbed about the commercial exploitation of women and crimes of sexual sadism. Could he have been thinking of some well-known exponents of these activities and in his own party, such as Lord Lampton, Lord Jellicoe and Mr Y, who have been shielded by the press.

This hypocrite would probably applaud the £8000 penalty imposed on Socialist Worker for naming one of these fine examples of Tory morality and virtue.

## Admired

What about drugs, drunkenness and teenage pregnancies? Well, Sir Keith, they have been going on for years, but mainly with Bertie Wooster types and their gay young ladies who with Harley Street at their disposal, could well afford to have an unwanted pregnancy terminated. It was only the 'lower classes' below stairs who had no access to abortions.

We must, says Sir Keith, return to 'the standard aspirations which made England admired the world over'.

SIR KEITH JOSEPH has made an all-out attack on unmarried mothers and single parent families. I'm the mother of a so-called illegitimate child born nine years ago, three years before I married my husband.

I never considered my child's birth immoral—but some of the things we suffered were. It would appear that I'm to expect to be the parent of a 'degenerate, illiterate delinquent'. Or, if he managed to gain some sort of 'education', he will become a 'bully boy of the left', 'lacking in the old values of patriotism and national pride.'

My father was told to believe in these values. He died for them in 1941. He was killed three months before my birth—leaving my mother a widow at 21.

I was very poor when Alan was born and our life was harsh. At first I tried to work, avoiding the humiliation of being called a 'social security scrounger.'

When I'd paid for my baby to be minded, and for my rent, I didn't have enough money left to pay for food and heating. I decided to stay home and care for my child and exist on social security benefit. Even when I

By  
MICHAEL FEN  
Social Class Five

But the times he is talking about, the Victorian, Edwardian eras and the Twenties and Thirties may have been a time of greatness for Sir Keith and the upper classes with their fine moral family standards.

They weren't for the children working in the mines and factories, crawling up chimneys, for the working-class, starving and demoralised and living in misery and poverty. These are the standards Sir Keith would like us to return to.

His problem seems to be that the 'lower classes' are not content to remain 'lower classes' any longer.

He is appalled that we will no longer put up with convicted, perverted Lords who run car museums and stately homes; a society that sees nothing wrong in Tory Cabinet ministers like Duncan Sandys paying no tax on their millions in the Cayman

Islands.

For Sir Keith the old Tory philosophy do as we do, do as we are done by.

He is, according to the Telegraph, the 'face of Tory Britain'. about his idea of One, Two and should be allowed that it comes from the Jewish race.

## Crimes

If Adolf Hitler had similar views, Sir Keith would have finished up in the gas chamber.

Yes, Sir Keith, the politics of Britain are a mess of maggots, the likes of Lord Jellicoe, Sandys, the Whitehouse and Class One people yourself.



# Portugal: The first links are forged

By ALICE  
MURRAY

MOVES are underway to establish links and solidarity between British and Portuguese workers.

A mass meeting of Plessey workers in Portugal has elected a delegate to visit Plessey shop stewards in Britain.

Dockers in Lisbon are organising an international seminar on 4-8 November. London dockers are participating.

Standard Electric (ITT) workers in Portugal have sent messages to STC workers here and are now awaiting a reply.

During the strike at the Lisnave shipyard, last month, workers at Yarrow's in Scotland send pledges of solidarity. Yarrow's are already blacking goods to Chile.

During the strike at Timex in Portugal, workers at Timex in Dundee pledged their solidarity.

that big business is not seriously challenged and that the working class, in its new found freedom, does not develop into a serious threat to the whole fabric of capitalism.

To curtail the new threat from the working class the government has enacted a strike law. It outlaws political and solidarity strikes.

Portuguese workers are not taking the repressive measures lying down. In several places they have defied them.

At the Sogenthal factory at Montigo, near Lisbon, the 48 women workers responded to the factory's closure by occupying it and making track suits which they sold in the streets.

One worker said: 'When we began to sell the suits, we were one month behind with our wages. Now we have recovered everything.'

The women have placed the factory under workers' control. They organise the production and sales.

## Survive

The 'workers assembly' is the decision making body, the executive is the 'workers committee' and they have a 'sales group'.

The women are calling for nationalisation as the only way they can see themselves being able to survive.

For the first three months they had pickets during the occupation. Later they took on a caretaker. One Saturday afternoon the owner came to the factory with 14 men, tear gas, pistols and two big guard dogs.

The alerted workers called in the National Guard and the owner was taken into custody.

The Sogenthal workers are continuing their struggle. But when workers in bigger industries begin to use the same tactics we can rest assured that the National Guard and the Government will not be so willing to imprison any of the really big bosses.

● The army recently broke up an occupation of municipal buildings. 380 workers were fighting for more pay, shorter hours and the removal of the old fascist administrators.

This is the first strike and occupation since the defeat of the attempted coup on 28 September.

The role of the army is being seen ever more clearly as the protection of the interests of the bosses and their state—and not the workers.

If the slogan of the Lisbon shipyard workers 'Down with Capitalism'—is to be realised, the tremendous spirit and determination of all these workers will have to be linked up and channelled into a serious revolutionary party.

Such a party would unite these struggles and set in motion the only course that will ensure fascism never returns to Portugal.



By  
**LILIAN LANGAN**  
**Social Class Five**

every effort to support myself and it wasn't possible.

women do not live on SS because we to—we are forced to. Sir Keith says: 'You take responsibility from people make them irresponsible.' Could I be dered irresponsible when I'd have ngly faced my 'responsibilities' if I'd allowed to?

iving on Social Security is being de- d. It means bread and scraps, and me-down clothes. It is dreading tmas, avoiding toy shops with your It's being isolated. It's going to bed at so you don't have to put the fire on.

aring this time I tried to get additional es grants. When I didn't receive help I

took a temporary job to buy clothes, blankets, and floor covering.

I had two friends who came in and baby-sat at night. I worked night shift for two weeks. The SS threatened to prosecute me for working and accused me of co-habiting with one of my baby-sitters who happened to be male!

They agreed that they had a 'special investigator' watching me. However, their charges were dropped when I argued a strong case against them. I stated that they had forced me into this action by not allowing us the basic necessities we were entitled to.

This is the way the women and children Sir Keith talks of are treated. He asks for a return to 'basic Tory ideals'. But just what sort of people are these ideals intended for?

Does he intend to have two laws? One for his sort of society and one for the working class.

But perhaps I'm too sensitive to Sir Keith's remarks. My son is blond, blue-eyed and handsome—he could almost pass as one of the Herronvolk. With a bit of luck we'd manage to fall through Sir Keith's net.

## Basic ideals? Basic for us, ideal for them

Advertisement

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Legitimate  
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IF YOU CAN ANSWER  
'YES' TO ALL THE  
ABOVE QUESTIONS,  
YOU'RE JUST  
THE MAN THEY WANT

The experience of the past few years has meant that more and more **white collar workers** are turning to militant trade unionism and to rank and file activity. In this month's issue of

## International Socialism

Monthly journal of the International Socialists

**Duncan Hallas** shows the way ahead in this sector for the future. Also two articles on the exiled Russian author **Solzhenitsyn** plus a report on **Portugal: the first six months.**

15p plus 5p postage.  
Copies from International Socialism Journal, 8 Cottons  
Gardens, London, E2.

Joseph is stating philosophy: 'Don't as we tell you'. g to the Daily authentic voice The ironic thing hat only Class Three people d to breed, is om a member

, who put for- s had been vic- Joseph would n the gas cham-

h, 'the body is rotten, full es of Lampton, s, Maudling, all the other e. People like

# That's

by Andy Reilly

NOW FILMING  
FANTONILLINI'S  
THE GENERAL STRIKE



I WAS born in a trunk in the Princes Theatre—so sung Judy Garland in A Star is Born. You need look no further than this two and a half hours of celluloid to find all the myths that surrounds performers.

The myth of the entertainer born into a theatrical family—touring from town to town always poor, always cheerful, sudden discovery leading to overnight stardom—is widely believed. The ultimate myth is that the high life is the order of the day—glamorous, sexy, boozy parties.

For most of Equity's 23,000 members the reality is somewhat different. Talk of artistic excellence is just rubbish. An actor has the unpleasant task of putting over every prejudice in the book . . . nationalism, racialism, sexism, every ism you can name is there. How many plays or films have you seen which don't glorify the war effort, cover up for the police, applaud the system, or humiliate women?

## Production

For the comedians, dancers, actors and singers who are at your local club or theatre in summer and Christmas show or on constant tap through TV or in the films, are workers in a vast leisure industry trying to make a living. Like other workers, we have no say over

what we produce. And our employers main concern is the profit margin to be seen in the production of a record, play or film.

In any year, EMI employ many Equity members. But this multi-national corporation's 1973 pre-tax profit of £27,272,000 wasn't only made on the backs of Equity members. It was helped along by their holdings in processed meat, bowling alleys, restaurants, film studios and hotels. And you can bet that if the profit from producing little pots of meat paste is more than from producing a play or film, a company like EMI isn't going to waste money employing Equity members.

We are totally casually employed—and the brutal fact is that at any one time 70 per cent of Equity's members, 16-17,000 people, are unemployed.

The lack of security and the bad pay leaves many members confused, demoralised and fatalistic. Stardom seems the only way out. This lonely and competitive outlook doesn't of course lead naturally to unity. Indeed, the only sense of unity many members have is one brought about by common experience of bad pay and conditions and constant unemployment.

Not surprisingly, many artists are confused.

# Put two fingers up to Churchill —and win a prize

THE Post Office have issued a series of stamps to commemorate the centenary of Winston Churchill's birth. Socialist Worker is celebrating this great occasion with a competition.

Readers are invited to send in an assessment of up to 250 words on Churchill's contribution to history.

The prize is a bound copy of IS Journal 36-55 autographed by (all) its editors. Closing date, 13 November, best entries published, cartoons accepted. Mark envelopes 'Churchill Competition'.

Our first entry is from North London:

The man was a butcher and an obstinate, stupid one too and not enough people know it. Churchill is one of the most successful myths ever. He started life sowing wild oats in the colonies or, to be more accurate, murdering blacks for fun.

## Talents

He was in Cuba as a soldier of fortune destroying the guerrilla rebels, over in the North West Frontier of India shooting tribesmen from horseback and in South Africa fighting as a mercenary.

His skill with the pistol made him an ideal Tory MP where he at once turned his talents to suppressing British workers.

When the Cambrian Combine

*Working man, I have faith in you,  
Tho' you're such a damned fool  
in my eyes,  
I know, full well, how they've  
wasted you,  
And clotted your brian with  
their lies.  
I've heard the sleek parsons  
preach to you,  
I've studied the dope of the  
Press,  
And tho' they have made such a  
mess of you,  
I have faith in you, nevertheless.*

*For working man, there is none  
but you  
Can think in the vital way,  
Can look at life from the level  
of you,  
And fight for equality.  
There's that which I find in the  
soil in you,  
That brings the seed to flower,  
And, working man, I have faith  
in you  
In this world's most piteous  
hour.  
—Joe Corrie, Scottish Miner*

## CHURCHILL FIGHTING FASCISM

I COULD not help being charmed by Signore Mussolini's gentle and simple bearing and by his detached poise in spite of so many burdens and dangers. If I had been an Italian I am sure I should have been wholeheartedly with you from start to finish in your triumphant struggle against the bestial appetites and passions of Leninism. Italy has shown that there is a way of fighting the subversive forces . . . She has provided the ultimate antidote to the Russian poison.

The Times 21 January, 1927

## CHURCHILL ON HITLER

THE STORY of his struggle cannot be read without admiration for the courage, the perseverance and the vital force which enable him to challenge, defy, conciliate, or overcome all authorities or resistances which barred his path. If our country were defeated I hope we should find a champion as admirable to restore our courage and lead us back to our place among the nations.

Hitler and his Choice, Winston Churchill, 1935.

mine-owners locked out 12,000 miners who were ungrateful enough to retaliate, Churchill ordered into South Wales some 800 Metropolitan police and 3000 troops.

When he moved the army in on the 1911 dock strike, which was supported by the railmen, two railwaymen were shot dead on his orders and five more were murdered when the troops scored a direct hit on a rail truck which contained gelignite.

When the police trapped two immigrants suspected of a bloody jewel robbery in an East London street, Churchill came down personally to supervise the police's armed siege and the burning down of the house and its occupants.

He loved guns, especially when they were directed against foreigners, and blood, when it belonged to workers.

## Thuggish

He could combine the two interests in smashing the 1919 demob riots in Belfast and Calais by internment 3000 people and proposing an independent military raid on Bolshevik Russia, the 'deadly snakes' he called them.

All his life he was vicious, called in by the ruling class when they wanted a tough operator.

Whether it was Stalin carving up the world at Yalta or Baldwin doing in the General Strike, there was Winston doing his thuggish bit and dressing it up as a patriotic triumph.

He knew exactly what the political score was, that the real enemy of his class and his power was revolutionary socialism and the workers' movement.



Churchill: a typical pose

In 1949 he reflected: 'the strangling of Bolshevism at its birth would have been an untold blessing to the human race.' He had a deep respect for Stalin, of course.

He spent the last 20 years drunk out of his mind and being occasionally wheeled out putrid

with brandy to dignify state spectacles.

I only wish I had been among the Dundee workers who reduced him to silence by singing the Red Flag in 1919 or the East Londoners who booed him in the street in 1945.

## ON THE BOX

### SUNDAY

BBC-1: 10.20pm. OMNIBUS marks the fiftieth anniversary of the death of JOSEPH CONRAD the Polish emigre who, writing in English, became one of this country's finest writers. BBC-2's OPEN DOOR at 11.20pm has film made by, and about anarchists.

### MONDAY

BBC-1: 8.10pm. PANORAMA ON KING COAL is a report on the British Coal industry. BBC-2 at 9.25pm has the return of HORIZON with YOU DO AS YOU ARE TOLD, which deals with why people obey orders—like killing six million in concentration camps, or 300 at My Lai village in Vietnam. Questions like this always bring out the slide rules and sociologists in the Liberal conscience. The examinations centre on the act of killing—and ignores the society that consciously orders it. Like examining a knife under a microscope rather than enquiring of the butcher how he came into the meat trade . . .

### TUESDAY

ITV: 10.30pm. In Iraq the Kurds have been involved in a 14-year battle against the Iraq government. That government has used bombs, napalm, tanks and men to smash Kurdish resistance. They've failed. PESHMERGA looks at this war, which bears similarity to the struggle in Bangla Desh. In that country the struggle for independence from Pakistan was cynically used by India. In the case of the Kurds the role of India is played by Iran, who, while suppressing their own Kurdish population back the Kurds in Iraq. Iraq is backed by the USSR . . . On RADIO-4 is THE LAST SECRET at 8.30pm which deals with the fate of a group of Cossacks who had fought for the Nazis and their return to Stalin by the British. In the vast catalogue of Stalin's crimes, the fate of Russian Nazis, would, one would have thought, have occupied a fairly low place on the scale . . .

### WEDNESDAY

BBC-2: 9.55pm. The cinemas of Britain are dominated by ABC and Rank, if a film doesn't meet with one of the two circuits' approval—then you aren't likely to see it, unless it comes round on TV. One film which has is CHARLIE BUBBLES, starring, and directed by Albert Finney. It's worth seeing.

### THURSDAY

BBC-1: 9.25pm. The most important programme of the week is LEEDS UNITED a play written by Colin Welland and directed by Roy Battersby. It's about the 1970 strike of 30,000 clothing workers, mainly women in Leeds. 'The script, like the strike itself depended on the people in it,' says Welland, and the crew spent months interviewing the people involved in it. 'Its style,' says the BBC blurb, 'owes more to older cinema classics than to either so-called "drama-documentary" or to most TV drama.' On BBC-2 the return of Monty Python at 9pm.

### FRIDAY

BBC-2: 8.15pm. THE MONEY PROGRAMME ON THE GREAT CRASH examines the Stock Market's recent collapse. IN VISION at 11.15pm on BBC-2 has a discussion on Leeds-United. In the Scottish TV area at 9pm is WHY—DEFENCE? which, going on for at least 2½ hours, examines the Cold War, NATO, and the concept of defence our rulers have developed for themselves.

# entertainment

## Lousy pay ...if you can find a job

A friend was lucky enough to get a good part in a TV film after being out of work for eight months—seven day's filming at £50 a day and a chauffeur-driven car to work and back. After it was over, he was back down the Labour to 'sign on' for another long period on the dole.

The State-subsidised employers are no better than commercial managements. The subsidised Provincial Repertory Theatres are overseen by a remote and bureaucratic Arts Council. The BBC is the worst of all, with a long history of fierce anti-union activity.

The trouble with Equity is that it's not really a trade union. It originated as a guild of West End actors and still has a jealously maintained constitution which allows the big names to run the union from the top down.

Until recently, an annual postal vote to elect the Council was about the only involvement allowed to members unable to attend the annual jamboree held in a London theatre. This Annual General Meeting clearly would have little chance of seating the 20,048 members who have the right to attend.

Within this rather theatrical structure, there have been considerable lurches leftward, first in the fight against the union's registration with the NIRC and then the campaign to renegotiate contracts in the provincial reps.

The danger is that left-wing actors can become as mesmerised by the delights of debate and motion passing as the Right.

But motions mean nothing when the bulk of the membership still sees the union as just a ticket for the job, where the average wage in 1971 was £20 for men and £12 for women, when the feature film contract hasn't been altered since 1948, when actors are on average out of work far often than in it, have to sign a NO STRIKE pledge in most of their contracts and are incredibly prone to victimisation.

### Contract

An important step in really building up a union which can defend its members and fight effectively to hold our own, let alone improve our wretched position, was taken at the last AGM.

Despite the gerrymandering of the old guard, the meeting called for the setting up of a real branch and delegate structure locally which would start fighting for 100 per cent trade unionism, the right to strike, and the termination of all contracts with new ones to be reviewed six monthly.

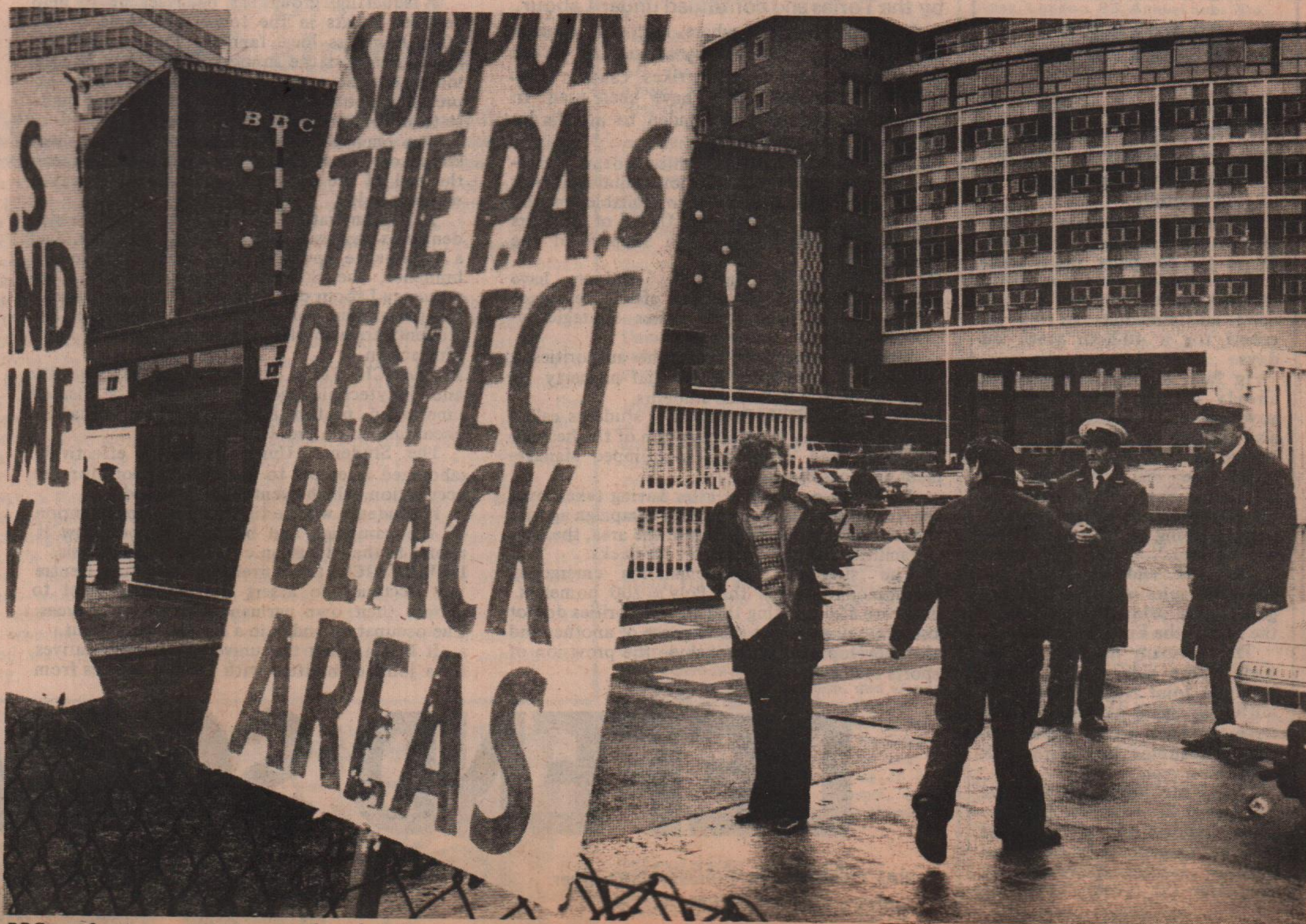
Fighting locally on conditions and wages is not as uplifting as making revolutionary speeches in a London theatre—but it has to be done if Equity is to become a union in more than name.

With a real organised base in every theatre bar variety show and pier end, we can talk about a delegate conference, elected full-time officials and a change in the whole way theatre is financed and run so that actors and theatre lead political change in society and don't just prop up existing stereotypes.

IS MEMBERS in the Association of Cinematograph Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT), the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees (NATKE), the Association of Broadcasting Staffs (ABS), Equity and the Musicians Union are starting an information bulletin for union activists which aims to concentrate on news and ideas on organising in studios, dressing rooms and labs.

The first issue will be out in November with notes on the BBC annual settlement and the parity strikes, how de Lane Lea beat redundancy, the NFT lockout and unionising Fringe Theatre.

Any trade unionists interested in writing for or reading the bulletin should write to Andy Reilly, 120, Horn Lane, Acton, W3 for details.



BBC production assistants on strike: their 'leaders' wasted their militancy. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

# Will we be Left in the lurch?

by John Barnes.

Technicians are laid-off, studios and equipment sold off. Film technicians' well-negotiated agreements still give them sizable wages when they are in work . . . but they don't protect against the unemployment which has become a way of life for many members.

The left-wing facades have come under attack as the right-wingers look for quick solutions to make us as attractive a proposition as possible in a falling market.

With some success, they are suggesting we should do our bit to help the National Effort by accepting 'all-in' deals which undercut the agreements on overtime, length of working day and travelling facilities.

The union's excellent policy of banning members working in South Africa is in shreds after being openly defied. The defaulting members were merely given a fine which was lifted on appeal!

In the Independent TV companies the union is probably at its strongest, mainly because wage negotiations are carried out by a majority of elected shop stewards with the officials in basically an advisory role. Negotiations have to be ratified by a full shop meeting.

It is extremely difficult for a full-timer to waltz on the deals. A 19 per cent across-the-board settlement has just been concluded which has already raised some eyebrows in the BBC. A £450 weighting deal is being pursued.

But in the BBC, ACTT is still unrecognised and the official Association of Broadcasting Staff is only slowly emerging from a

extreme light conditions and spend most of their day handling chemicals.

The union has been slow to take up health issues here and to extract a wage in keeping with the key position the film processors have in production.

But the lab workers' ability to act in a disciplined and thoroughly praiseworthy way has been demonstrated in the bitter recognition battle at Kodak Hemel Hempstead and the May Day stoppage last year which the labs fully supported.

### Links

The problem remains one of serious and consistent work in the rank and file of the studios and labs, who are generally open to revolutionary politics and militant trade unionism but cynical about resolution mongering and partisans of workers' control who, once elected behave as undemocratically as the Right.

There is a need for links with the other unions in the entertainment industry and beyond, not just Media Conferences where Labour MPs and union barons spout and TV directors nod approvingly.

But at present the union leadership is so terrified of setting off a right-wing backlash among its silent members that it has just 'postponed indefinitely' a proposed one-day conference on nationalisation and is talking instead about short-term policies to re-attract investment into the business. And that way is no way.

### Extreme

Still solid after seven weeks out, their ABS leadership settled, wrapping up and losing the PAs in the general yearly pay deal, which gave vast increases to senior management, leaving middle grades where they were without threshold and the low paid worse off than they would have been under Phase Three.

In the laboratories, the union has 100 per cent membership in the relevant grades. But surprisingly wages are low for some of the people who process film under

THE ACTT—Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians—organise more than 18,000 film and TV workers.

We're divided roughly into the process workers in the film laboratories who print and manufacture film, and the cameramen, sound recordists, script-writers, editors and designers working for television and films.

Our union, on paper at least, is on the far left of the TUC spectrum and has a fairly democratic structure. What other union has a monthly General Council meeting to which all shops can send delegates and on which all trades have elected representatives with full voting powers?

But as the squeeze on the industry tightens and our members have to fight for their jobs, as at Elstree and De Lane Lea, the gap between the policies dished out on high, which centre on the excellent demand of nationalisation under workers' control with no compensation, and the workers, who are supposed to be doing the controlling, has become painfully apparent.

### Motions

In some ways in our supposedly militant and Left union there is an even greater need for a rank and file movement than in some of the 'backward' unions.

It's all very encouraging that Marxist freelance film directors get marvellous motions through the Council—but they have to be fought for and given practical meaning by the process workers, cameramen and knob twisters who make up most of the union.

The situation in film production is bleak. The economic crisis has cut back feature films and the property sharks have moved in on what was once a booming industry.





## 'WE'RE GOING FOR THE TEN POUNDS!'

An anonymous trade union official quoted in the Glasgow Herald bemoaned the fact that 'workers in the West of Scotland appear to have a £10 mania.'

Among those on strike are:—

3000 busmen on Central Scottish buses are on a work to rule in support of a claim of £35 for a 35-hour week.

6500 Rolls-Royce workers out at Hillington, Blantyre and East Kilbride for a £10 increase.

6000 lorry drivers out for £1 an hour.

3000 Glasgow bus and underground workers out for £5 interim payment and a 'substantial increase'.

300 Glasgow Corporation cleansing drivers and 120 sewage workers out for a £10 increase.

# SCOTTISH WORKERS

## Breakthrough for lorry men

THE STRIKE of 6000 lorry drivers in Scotland is a magnificent demonstration of rank and file initiative and strength.

For years the haulage men were badly organised and poorly paid. The basic rate varies from company to company but the average is under £30 per week. To get a living wage drivers have to work 70-80 hours a week and stay in atrocious digs.

But now the lorry drivers have realised their economic power things will never be the same again. In just over a fortnight the strike has spread from the Greenock container terminal to the entire general haulage industry in Scotland.

The drivers are out for a basic rate of £1 an hour, an extra week's holiday and a £4 subsistence allowance—and most of Scottish industry is beginning to feel the effects. Foundries, glassworks and a tyre factory have already closed down, and if the strike goes on another wee up to 100,000 other workers could be laid off.

### Newspaper barons

Newspapers have been reduced in size and will soon close down altogether through lack of newsprint, and so desperate have the newspaper barons become that they have promised extra coverage to the drivers if they will allow their papers to get through.

Like every other strike in Scotland at present the haulage dispute is unofficial, although Transport Workers Union officials take part in all the negotiations.

TGWU general secretary Jack Jones' sermons about high wages driving companies out of business cut little ice with men on a basic rate of £28 in an industry where a firm charges up to £600 for the use of its containers and can shift 300 containers a day.

The decisive force in this dispute is the rank and file strike committee of delegates from all over Scotland, which has spread the strike throughout Scotland and organised hundreds of picket lines in a matter of days. This in an industry with hardly any tradition of trade militancy or experience of struggle.

Several haulage companies have already said they will pay the full claim, but a spokesman of the strike committee assured Socialist Worker there would be no return to work by any drivers until a general settlement with the Road Haulage Association. There will be no more divisive company-by-company agreements, but one rate and one agreement for the whole industry. And the rank and file committee will continue after the strike to ensure this.

### Boost

There is every sign that the lorry drivers can win their struggle within the next few days if they keep their nerve. If they do win it will give a boost to all the other Scottish workers engaged in the fight for a living wage, and stimulate a similar movement among English drivers.

There has been picketing throughout last week in Edinburgh and Leith. Road haulage depots and docks have had lorries turned away by picket lines of up to 70.

Donations and messages of support to Haulage Strike Committee, TU Centre, Carlton Place, Glasgow.

### SEWAGE STRIKE

WITH millions of tons of untreated sewage being poured daily into the Clyde, the Glasgow sewage workers' strike enters its fourth week. The workers, mostly GMWU members, who do the dirtiest and most dangerous jobs at Glasgow's three main sewage works, are demanding a £10 increase on their basic wage of £26.

The Labour-controlled council has so far refused any increase, saying negotiations must be at national level. The sewage bosses seem determined to fight on whatever the health hazards.



Pickets on the depot demanding British Rail keep to its agreement. Picture: Ron McKay

## Railmen defend jobs

SEVENTY members of the railmen's union at the High Street freight depot, Glasgow, have been on strike now for more than a month to get management to honour a signed agreement on manning. They are on strike because they fear management are deliberately running down the depot with a view to closing it entirely or opening it up to private contractors because it is 'inefficient'.

Although the strike is to save the men's jobs, the attitude of the local NUR official, McKelvie, has been totally negative. The strike is unofficial.

George O'Donnell, strike committee chairman, told Socialist Worker: 'I have learned more in the past month by being on strike than I would have in ten years normally. Most of the people we have approached have given us the cold shoulder and various excuses have been used to justify this. The main one is that the dispute must be official before they can become involved.'

'The Labour Lord Provost, who has a reputation of fighting for jobs in this area, declined to help us in our fight to secure our jobs in this depot. Tom McMillan, the local Labour MP, who is sponsored by the NUR, also said that he couldn't possibly move until the NUR officials gave him the go-ahead.'

Donations and messages of support to James McHugh, 36 Dunning Street, Glasgow, G31 4RS.

## SOCIAL CONTRACT: WE WEREN'T ASKED SAY ROLLS MEN

THE strike wave was joined last Wednesday by the 6,500 workers at Rolls-Royce in Hillington, East Kilbride, and Blantyre, all around Glasgow. Their claim is for £10 across the board and consolidation of the threshold payments.

George McCormick, convenor at Hillington, told Socialist Worker he expected that John Boyd, Scottish divisional member on the AUEW national executive, would try to sell out the Rolls-Royce workers as he had attempted at Hoovers, Cambuslang.

'If Scanton recommends we accept a settlement within the social contract, then we will recommend that our workers stay out for the full claim. We can't accept the social contract, we were never asked for our view on it,' he said.

Management have offered a 'substantial amount' but twice have promised and then refused, to name a figure. At the mass meeting in Hillington on Tuesday the call for strike action came from the floor.

Like the other unofficial strikes in Scotland, the Rolls workers are being forced to fight their own union leaders. One thing that hold the men together is the knowledge that only they can represent their interests.

## Why the nationalists are keeping silent

THE one noticeable thing about the Scottish National Party in the present 'Scottish' strike is their silence. SNP's press officer told Socialist Worker that no 'blanket' comment could be made about the strike wave and that each strike had to be judged on its merits.

Anyone who has been following the development of the SNP can guess why they are silent just now. They have to be. SNP is a movement of Scottish capitalists and middle class careerists which has been given a material boost by the discovery of oilfields off the Scottish coast. Hugh Fraser, former high Tory and employer, Ian Noble, director of Seaforth Marine Investments and nephew of a former Tory Scottish Secretary, and Ronald McNeil, director of Dalscott merchant bank, are typical examples of the industrialists and Edinburgh financiers who have jumped into the lifeboat of Scottish nationalism from the sinking ship of British capitalism.

If Scottish employers and financiers can control their own state, then North Sea oil will make them temporarily the richest section of the British ruling class. But they need the support of Scottish workers to achieve this—so they cannot come out publicly against the 'Scottish' strike wave any more than they can support it.

Nevertheless, the practical politics of

the SNP is anti-working class. Their performance in the last parliament could not be described as anything other than anti-working class: they voted to keep the code of practice from the Industrial Relations Act, including the 60-day cooling off period, compulsory ballots and the outlawing of unofficial strikes. The seven SNP MPs also voted against the refund of the £10 million plundered from the trade unions that had refused to register under the Industrial Relations Act.

### Bogus

But the SNP may unwittingly have helped bring the strike wave. While every other party offered 'doom and gloom' during the election campaign, the SNP was offering Scottish workers a rosy prospect of rising wages, better housing, increased pensions, and security from inflation.

Although these were bogus promises, they made it clear the crisis can be cured.

But the crisis will not be solved by SNP policies. It can only be solved by a real transference of wealth, and that cannot be achieved through any Scottish parliament, but only through the complete transformation of society by the working class, not only in Scotland but throughout Britain, by the struggle for a socialist Britain.

## Rubbish piles up in streets

IN THE side streets of Glasgow the piles of rubbish mount up as the corporation cleansing drivers' strike enters its third week. The 300 drivers are out for a £10-a-week increase on their basic rate of £25.07 and the right to negotiate locally.

On the picket lines there is a mood of determination to win and bitterness at the hypocrisy of the Labour-controlled council. For while one councillor has said on TV that the dustmen deserve the increase, the corporation is making every effort to beat the strike. The Clean Air Act has been deliberately shelved as householders are officially encouraged to burn their rubbish. The drivers convenor, Archie Hood, said that nearly £70,000 has been spent on plastic bags. Add to this the costs of delivery and the income lost to private contractors, and the corporation could have paid the drivers their claim money many times over.

But the council know that if the drivers win the right to negotiate directly with them and a substantial wage increase, then every other section of corporation workers will follow their lead—and the Social Contract will be dead and buried.

The drivers see this clearly enough. Archie Hood put it simply: 'If the Social Contract means we have to live below a decent standard, then you can forget it.'

The same attitude prevails on the picket lines. The cleansing drivers, like other corporation employees, have seen their living standards steadily falling behind.

Harry Campbell and George MacDonald, two of the pickets on duty at the Dawsholm Refuse Works, told Socialist Worker: 'We think £10 will provide us with a reasonable standard to bring us up to other workers. A loaf costs us the same as anyone else, and £10 will bring us off the bottom of the bottom. Give us a decent standard of living, then we'll talk about a Social Contract. If we work from 6.30 to 5.30 every day and a Saturday morning we get £32 take-home pay—would you work for that.'

'Part of our argument is with the Transport and General Workers Union. It's out of touch, and the national negotiations just consist of some guy coming from London to tell us: "That's your whack. There's your £2."'

'We've had enough of all that—we want to negotiate locally. The union is sitting on the fence in this strike. They say they will negotiate with the council if there's money on the table, but they won't make the strike official. They're just hiding behind the national agreement. We're out now for £10 and we're not going back for less.'

## WE WON'T TIGHTEN OUR BELTS SAY HOOVER STRIKERS

THE strike by 4,500 workers at Hoovers, Cambuslang, and two smaller factories in East Kilbride and Blantyre has continued into its seventh week. The workers, mainly AUEW members, have been on the receiving end of vicious attacks not from the management but from their union leadership in the unpleasant shape of John Boyd.

Boyd has been encouraged in his efforts to drive the workers back to work on management terms by a vote of confidence in his handling of the dispute from the AUEW executive council.

Less than three years ago more than half the workers at Cambuslang were non-union. The unity forged over the past couple of years and especially during the strike is cynically being placed at risk by the manoeuvring of the AUEW executive council.

Eddie McAvoy, a senior steward and a member of the plant's joint negotiating committee, challenged Boyd that if the AUEW executive council's policy was successful, then the EETPU, a minority union at the plant, would be excluded from negotiations. Eddie says Boyd replied: 'If it has to happen, it has to happen—these things have to be done.'

It seems now that the social contract is to be policed by trade union leaders. Instead of doing their jobs as representatives of the workers they are carrying out the policies of the Labour government and the CBI. There is nothing new about the social contract: it is no different from George Brown's famous contract with the unions in 1964—which worked against the workers.

Wilson has no right to ask us to tighten our belts while some people still make millions without any effort. It's not on—and anyway people won't put up with it like they did before.

GLASGOW CORPORATION WORKERS  
International Socialist Branch  
public meeting  
**20 PER CENT INFLATION: FIGHT FOR £10**  
Speakers: A cleansing depot driver and a busman  
Chairman: George Kelly  
(ETU convenor, Central Electrical Workshops)  
Tuesday 29 October, 7.30pm,  
The McLelland Galleries.

2800 teachers in 90 schools staging snap strikes in support of a £15-a-week interim increase.

70 members of the railwaymen's union at the goods depot in High Street, Glasgow, out for increased manning levels.

94 maintenance men at Wills cigarette

factory, Glasgow, out for negotiating rights. 3000 laid off.

600 workers still out at Haig's distillery at Markinch for a substantial increase and consolidation of the threshold payments.

4500 workers on three Hoover factories in Lanarkshire out for a £10-a-week increase.

300 workers out at Mines Safety Appliances factories in Glasgow and Coatbridge for a £10 increase. The Coatbridge factory hasn't yet been officially opened.

**Reporter:  
Dave Peers**

**Busworkers  
unanimous:  
We strike!**

# ON THE MOVE!



Edinburgh teachers demanding a £15 increase

## Teachers' anger boils over into widespread action

by Ronnie Smith,  
(EIS Council member)

THERE IS anger behind the one-day unofficial strikes now taking place among Scottish teachers.

There is anger at the wretched state of the education system in Scotland with its massive teacher shortages and the resulting overwork for existing staff. There is anger at the failure of the main teachers' union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) programme which would guarantee its members decent working conditions.

Above all there is anger at the miserable wages paid to classroom teachers—and a new determination to do something about it.

A government committee is investigating teachers' pay. Its report might be ready by December. Its recommendations might favour the lower-paid teacher. They might be implemented by about February. Or they might not.

The EIS thinks this commission is a wonderful idea, but reluctantly admits that teachers need something to tide them over. So it is requesting an 'interim' award of 10 per cent—a bit on account.

But classroom teachers have no faith in government promises of a 'fair deal' this year, next year, sometime. Unlike the headmasters and deputy headmasters of the EIS executive they cannot afford to accept 10 per cent.

10 per cent of a primary teacher's £30-a-week before tax is an insult.

Teachers know that they need a large increase now. So they are demanding an immediate increase of £15 a week for all.

That would be just enough to restore teachers to their 1971 standard of living, never mind covering them for the next six months' inflation.

The £15-a-week demand has caught on everywhere. It has focussed the discontent felt by teachers and given them something to fight for. It has been carried at EIS general local association meetings from Lanarkshire to Invernesshire.

But the EIS leadership refuses to listen. It calls on the membership to be 'militantly moderate' and at the same time tries to threaten the membership into accepting the 10 per cent demand. 'It might be that or nothing', they say.

So teachers in Scotland have begun to organise unofficially. Action committees have sprung up, one in the west,

based on Glasgow, one in the east, based on Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Each school is invited to send a delegate. Each step is discussed democratically, voted on, and delegates then go back to their schools and argue for the decisions. People are elected to posts of responsibility by show of hands and replacements can be elected at any time.

The teachers are learning the ABC of trade unionism fast. The idea of a break-away Strathclyde union of teachers, strongly supported at first, has fallen away as the movement spreads and people realised that teachers can best be mobilised through EIS meetings.

### Crunch

Selective departmental strikes, working to rule, administrative non-co-operation and other dead-end options have been ruled out in favour of concerted one-day strikes. So far teachers in 43 schools in the west, 48 in the east, have stopped work for the day, demonstrated, handed out leaflets, picketed schools and union offices, taken their case to parents' associations.

But the crunch is coming soon. On 28 October the Scottish Teachers' Salaries Committee meets again and the management side is likely to offer 10 per cent. The teachers' side will want to accept. Only massive pressure from below will make the teachers' negotiators hold off and increase the demand.

EIS members throughout Scotland are asking for a national recall conference on salaries. This could make the £15-a-week demand official. But in the meantime the action committees must put all-out strike action on the agenda.

THREE THOUSAND bus and underground workers in Glasgow began an unofficial strike on Saturday at midnight, bringing the total of those fighting for better wages in Glasgow and the West of Scotland to more than 23,000.

The bus crews are demanding a rise of £8, the 35-hour week, increased shift allowance, free travel out of uniform, and a 40 per cent differential for one-man buses. The present basic is £24.60 for conductors, £25.53 for crew drivers and £31.49 for one-man bus drivers. The busworkers had a rise six months ago, but rapidly worsening inflation will cancel this out.

The anger of the crews was shown by the unanimous vote for strike action. For the first time in years all the bus garages voted over-whelmingly for an all-out strike.

Their determination stands in stark contrast to the antics of the full-time officials. Phil Jenkins, the TGWU passenger transport secretary in Scotland, has made it plain that the demands run contrary to the social contract and will receive little or no support.

The recent strike of busworkers in Central Scotland and Fife prompted TGWU officials to urge the strikers back to work even when the employers had put nothing on the table.

General secretary Jack Jones urged trust in the Labour government. He told TGWU stewards in the Glasgow area: 'A vote for Labour is as good as a wage claim.'

But the massive strike vote in the Glasgow garages has shown the workers are not being taken in by the social contract. The attacks on the strikers have won the union officials an ally in Teddy Taylor, the right-wing Tory MP for Glasgow Cathcart—who has also called for the use of the Emergency Powers Act against the strikers.

So far the strike is solid but a mounting campaign of hysteria in the Scottish press can be expected, and the group of busmen organised around The Platform, the busmen's rank and file paper, have an important role in challenging the distortions and slanders.

The other danger is of a sell-out. Though the garages have struck for £8, Jenkins has made it seem we are willing to accept an interim £5 and is now negotiating on this basis. If his ploy succeeds then Glasgow bus workers will have suffered another serious fall in their living standards.

It will be the job of The Platform to try to ensure that the ugly face of the social contract does not get a look in. Otherwise there will be no victory.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ TRADE UNION STAMP

## We must link these strikes —that's why we need a Rank and File Movement

ALL THE disputes reported on these two pages have one thing in common. Not one is official. A parade of senior trade union officials, particularly from the Transport Workers' Union, have come to Scotland to tell their members about the virtues of the social contract and to instruct them to get back to work.

General Secretary, Jack Jones put it over himself when he told TGWU stewards they would have to be prepared to accept austerity measures if the social contract was to work.

Jones has been followed by TGWU official Alex Kitson, urging the lorry drivers to scale down their activity. Larry Smith telling the SMT bus workers to go back to work.

Fortunately, the workers in Scotland know more than their union leaders about the way inflation is eating into our wage packets. They have little faith in the social

by Jimmy McCallum  
(TASS, John Brown Engineering, Clydebank)

contract and are taking their action now before the freeze. They are rejecting their officials' advice because they know from bitter experience what the Labour government's promises can mean.

The problem is this: because the strike movement is unofficial, each group of workers see themselves as fighting their own battle. The lorry drivers think they will win on their own. The corporation bus workers have not linked their fight to other local authority strikes such as the sewage workers, the dustbin men and the teachers.

Only the weakest sections on strike see the need for concerted action, because they need it most.

This fragmentation in the strike movement must be overcome. Links must be built between each

dispute.

The fragmentation of these disputes and the hostility of the trade union leadership towards this strike movement underlines the need for rank and file organisation. If a powerful rank and file organisation of trade unionists existed, each of the disputes could have been connected together, and given solidarity and assistance.

The opportunities for building a rank and file organisation have never been better. That is why the Second National Rank and File Conference is so important. Every militant has a direct interest in supporting and working for the conference.

Extend the fight for £10 now Build combine committees, in local authorities and small factories as well as in the big companies.

Support the Second Rank and File Conference, build the rank and file movement.

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## £10 STRIKE

# WAVE ROLLS ON

THE FIGHT for wage increases big enough to keep pace with the rocketing cost of living has been stepped up yet again this week.

The most crucial development is the spreading of the unofficial strike of lorry drivers south of the border to Hull.

This shows the potential for cross-country rank and file organisation in the face of the union officials' surrender to voluntary incomes policy.

The 1000 Hull drivers are on strike for an increase of £12 a week. Their demand, for a basic wage of £40 for 40 hours, is the same as the Scottish drivers'.

British Road Services shop stewards from all depots in South East England are also calling for strike action from next Monday, again in support of the claim for £40 for 40 hours.

### GRADING

IN WORCESTER, workers at Great Universal Stores' massive Kays mail order warehouse have walked out in support of their claim for £10 a week. Those workers scabbing were laid off thanks to the action of the maintenance men, who promptly switched the power off.

Management want to push through a tough grading system and put strings on the threshold. The strike is unofficial, and opposed by TGWU full time official Massey, who has urged a return to work and acceptance of a derisory offer.

Although Worcester is traditionally a non-militant area, workers are beginning to see the need for militant rank and file action to safeguard living standards.

IN HARLOW, Essex, 300 AUEW members at British Oxygen are on strike for a £10 a week increase on the basic.

Management came up with a miserable £3 a week which they want to make dependent on the operation of a bonus scheme which Aircraft and Medical Section workers have already rejected.

The workers have set up a strike



Two of those 'sold down the river'—Nicky Penney (left) and shop steward Bella Fullard. Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

committee and are operating a 24 hour picket.

IN BRADFORD, workers at Bairds colour TV factory voted overwhelmingly to continue their three-week strike.

They are demanding £7 across the board rises and the reduction of the working week to 35 hours.

### UNORGANISED

The strike has the full backing of the union district and there are plans to send pickets to depots in Manchester and Enfield that have stockpiles of sets from Bradford.

Already the transport workers in Bairds—who have themselves got strike notice in—are refusing to cross the picket line. And Hull dockers have agreed to black all goods for Bairds.

The plant was virtually unorganised a few years ago—and has come a long way since. Now about 70 per cent are unionised with a fine record of militancy this year.

One steward told Socialist Worker: 'It is vital for the future of union organisation here that we win this one.' The rest of the strikers are determined to do just that.

## WOMEN GET A BITTER LESSON

HEYWOOD, Lancs:—The SEI strike is over. The women decided by a small majority to go back to work on Monday after ten weeks on strike.

Tuesday's decision followed a successful rally on Saturday in support of the strike and a meeting on Monday outside the gate at which the women again showed their determination to win.

This about-turn was the direct result of the negotiations with management carried out by Bury AUEW district secretary Peter Bramah.

Little gain has been made. There is no increase in the basic rate. And while an 80p increase on the threshold has been extracted, no further payments are to be made.

Management have however agreed to pay bonus equal to the semi-skilled men's rate, though for

women on fixed rate bonus there is nothing. And the evening shift has been lengthened by one hour a week so the workers qualify for redundancy pay.

The tragedy of the settlement is that it was put through just when support for the SEI women was building up.

Peter Bramah, a Communist Party member, soon forgot his fighting speech at Saturday's rally where he announced a half day district strike in support. On Tuesday he told the women they had gone as far as they could.

The women are really angry with the union officials. As one of the strike committee said: 'We thought the film Blow for Blow was wrong about the union officials when we saw it. But it was right. They've sold us down the river.'

## Don't forget our Fighting Fund!

OUR legal defence fund is doing well. But we still have to maintain our Fighting Fund to help us fight against the many other attacks on us.

Members of the International Socialists have, for instance, been arrested while organising against the fascist National Front.

And the progress of Socialist Worker must be maintained. The fight for socialist ideas, the fight

against the Social Contract and for a democratic trade union movement are tremendously important.

This week we received £312, bringing the total to **£1607**

Send your donations and collections to: Jim Nichol, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

## Parity battle goes on

BIRKENHEAD:—The strike of Cammell Lairds Outfit Trades and Ancillary workers is now entering its second week. The strike is over a claim for parity with the platers.

The claim has been pursued since 1965. But weak organisation and management's pleas of poverty have always won the day. Two weeks ago, management agreed that stagers in the Society of Boilermakers be made a skilled section with parity with packers and sheeters from 2 December. This sparked an immediate reaction.

The confed stewards are at pains to explain that in no way do they object to the improvements the staging department has won. They feel that if the money is available, as it clearly is, there is no reason why the workers they represent should wait a further 14 months.

At last Tuesday's meeting the stewards proposed a strike for parity from 1 November. This was amended from the floor to an immediate walkout.

Three ships have been blacked and impounded though they are ready for sea trial and delivery. The picket is well supported in the Basin Gates.

## Brewery workers are sold short

by an S & N worker

EDINBURGH:—Transport union officials have sold short an £8 a week wage claim by workers at Scottish and Newcastle Brewers.

The workers were going to strike but the Edinburgh T&G branch secretary called together the stewards and got them to call it off without reference to the members.

A new offer of £6 a week was subsequently accepted at a mass meeting after more negotiations.

This is not the first time militancy in the union has been averted by the union officials. Two years ago, S & N brewery workers nationally rejected acceptance of a £3 rise.

Instead of organising and mobilising on this initiative, the Edinburgh district officers instructed all branch secretaries to arrange meetings recommending acceptance of the £3 offer.

Even before voting had taken place it was printed in The Record, the union paper, that the £3 had been accepted.

## Support grows for occupation

WEST HOUGHTON, Lancs:—AUEW and Electricians Union members at Metal Box are continuing their occupation of the factory.

They occupied two and a half weeks ago after police broke their picket lines. They had been picketing after a lock out imposed on them for working to rule for a 40p an hour wage increase.

Management's pleas to reclaim the offices have been ignored. They are still paying the Transport Union members a full wage for sweeping the floors, painting machines and playing cards in the canteen.

With production nil, they are losing about £25,000 a week.

The transport workers will only be working a four hour shift each day, not out of management generosity but out of fear that they will unite with the engineers and renegotiate their own recent miserly

settlement.

Support for the occupation is beginning to filter through. A nearby Heinz factory is blacking all Metal Box products.

And because of the article in last week's Socialist Worker there has been a collection of nearly £40 from workers at Shipley Metal Box. Metal Box Combine stewards at Shipley have passed a resolution

### Publish—and banned

JOHNNY JOHNSON, SOGAT father of the chapel (shop steward) at Joseph Caustons, Eastleigh, has been suspended from work following an article he wrote in the SOGAT Journal.

He had warned that behind the scenes financial dealings could threaten workers' jobs at Caustons. He was first sacked, then reinstated after negotiations between union and management, then suspended again pending further negotiations.

warning management that unless the lock out at West Houghton is lifted there could be repercussions at their other plant.

A Shipley shop steward told Socialist Worker: 'We will call a factory gate meeting as soon as our brothers come down'.

Messages of support, news of action and donations to: 5 Manley Crescent, West Houghton, Lancs.

North London IS Black Workers Group public meeting: The Struggle in Africa

Speaker from FRELIMO and showing of the film The Struggle Continues Sunday 27 October, 5.30pm, Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, All comrades welcome.

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