

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

ACTION DAY TO FREE THE TWO!

TUESDAY
14
JANUARY

EVERY active trade unionist and socialist in Britain must take part in protests called for next Tuesday by the TUC against the continued imprisonment of the Shrewsbury pickets.

In the past few days the prison authorities have been making every effort to break the spirit of Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson, who were sentenced to long jail sentences under the Conspiracy Act of 1875 for picketing during the national building workers' strike two and a half years ago. They have been confined to their cells without clothing, deprived of the right to see visitors and lost 35 days remission. Ricky Tomlinson was even refused permission to have a photo of his baby son in his cell. All because, as part of the protest against their imprisonment, the two have refused to wear prison uniform or do prison work.

In the past year the TUC, all the major unions and the Labour Party Conference have passed resolutions denouncing the prison sentences and demanding that the Labour government release Des and Ricky.

HAMPER

Yet the government is refusing to do so, and instead is allowing the prison authorities to take vicious punitive measures against the two. Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary, has defended this by referring to the rule of law.

But Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, let the cat out of the bag about this law when he confirmed the sentences on the pickets in the Court of Appeal. The sentences were, he said, to 'deter' other people from doing the same thing—in other words, the sentences are meant to hamper the ability of all trade unionists to picket.

But the responsibility for the continued imprisonment of Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson lies not only with creatures like Widgery and Jenkins. It also lies with

the official leadership of the trade union movement and the TUC. They have been prepared to make speeches and pass resolutions against the sentences, but have waited a long 13 months, during which the pickets have passed two Christmases in jail, before calling for any action.

Even now, instead of organising for the sort of industrial action which destroyed the Industrial Relations Act, they have issued a quiet call for a lobby of parliament.

No doubt they are afraid that militant action against the sentences would upset their friendly relations with Harold Wilson. No doubt they hope they will be able to forget about Shrewsbury once they have gone through the motions of protesting next Tuesday.

However, we have seen in the past that action by rank and file trade unionists can

stop the TUC getting away with such tricks. The TUC wanted to restrict opposition to protests, but action by rank and file militants turned token gestures into the campaign which finally defeated the Act.

Such efforts are even more important over Shrewsbury.

- Organise one-day protest strikes and work stoppages where possible next Tuesday.
- Get large delegations from factories where stoppages are not possible.
- Get as many individual activists as possible to join the march on parliament from Euston Station at 1pm.

Shrewsbury: The Truth—page 9.

And they're still arresting pickets...



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

POLICE arrests of pickets are not confined to Shrewsbury building workers. On Thursday night at Intex, Ashton-under-Lyne, a mass picket called on the initiative of the Rank and File Conference Organising Committee was met by more than 100 police. Two pickets, one an Intex shop steward, one from a Manchester plastics factory, were hauled out and charged with assault.

This attempt to intimidate the mass pickets at Intex continued in court on Friday morning. Although it was a first offence for both, although a number of sureties were offered, magistrates remanded both pickets in Risley Remand Centre.

In spite of this, on Friday night another mass picket successfully turned back several scabs' cars and helped disrupt the Friday night shift.

The arrested pickets will need financial help. Please send aid to the Secretary, Intex Shiftworkers Strike Committee, 186 King's Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs. (Phone 061-330 7231).

Intex return to work—page 16.

Wilson: Cash for oil men, abuse for workers

ANY lingering doubts about the government's attitude to the economic crisis were settled by Harold Wilson last week.

On New Year's Day he hurried back from his holiday in the Scilly Isles to deal with the bankruptcy of Burmah Oil. The bankruptcy had been caused entirely by the greed and incompetence of a handful of power-crazed capitalists. Wilson agreed at once to bale out the Burmah shareholders with a massive Bank of England guarantee of £280 million.

Two days later Wilson travelled to his constituency in Huyton after tipping off the television and the press that he was to make a 'major policy speech' about the crisis.

The speech did not mention Burmah Oil. Instead, Wilson launched a vicious attack on Britain's carworkers.

Conveniently forgetting his own arguments during last year's election campaign—that the car industry's problems were chiefly the result of the three-day week caused by the Tories' attack on the miners—Wilson whined that an 'important contribution' to the car industry's lack of competitiveness was 'avoidable industrial disputes'.

Hero

As proof of this assertion, Wilson singled out for special abuse the British Leyland workers at Cowley, Oxford, where there has not been a major strike for eight months!

Wilson went on to warn that government money would not be available to failing sections of industry where the workers had gone on strike. The £50 million which the government are planning to pump into British Leyland—only a fifth of the public money pledged without any government control to Burmah Oil—is to be hedged about with all sorts of anti-worker conditions.

Needless to say, Wilson, so often the butt of the capitalist press, became its hero overnight. Even that loathsome upper-class warrior, James Prior, Tory spokesman on Employment in the House of Commons, praised him to the skies. So did Margaret Thatcher, who is preparing her campaign for the Tory leadership, and whose husband is planning director of Burmah Oil.

No wonder they are delighted. Wilson is playing the Tory game as shrewdly as any Tory Prime Minister ever did. He is offering unlimited sums of public money to any company whose bankruptcy threatens the stability of capitalism. On the other hand, he intends to use public money to bribe or bully workers into lower living standards, harder work and no-strike guarantees.

What's more he has the full support in all this of his 'left-wing' Industry Minister, Wedgwood Benn.

We can rely on Wilson and Benn for nothing but abuse and blackmail.

If we are to save our jobs and our standard of living, we have to call their bluff: to increase our militancy, strengthen our combine committees, and our ability to fight across the divisions of factory or firm. Keeping quiet and working harder, giving no-strike guarantees—none of these will stop the ravages of capitalist crisis.

THIS WEEK'S COVERAGE OF THE CRISIS:

The Burmah Road to Ruin—and our cash—page 2

Leyland Jobs: Is Wilson Right? by a Leyland worker—page 16

The Jobs Crisis: How to fight sackings and short time—by Willie Lee, AUEW press shop steward, Chrysler, Linwood—page 15

The American Car Industry in Crisis—page 7

Advertisement

Support the lobby!



The Rank and File Organising Committee call for full support for the 14 January TUC Lobby for the release of the Shrewsbury pickets.

Turn the lobby into a day of action. The order of the day should be stoppages, mass meetings, demonstrations. Organise delegations to London. Bring trade union banners.

Assemble 1pm, Euston Station, to march to parliament.

Rank and File Organising Committee public meeting: Tuesday 14 January, 4.30pm, Assembly Room, Central Hall, Westminster (across the road from House of Commons). Speakers: Ken O'Shea (tried at Shrewsbury for conspiracy) and Steve Ludlam (NUPE steward, member Organising Committee).

A must for every worker

ONLY the most short-sighted people cannot see that something is radically wrong with the economic system both in this country and in countries of the 'economic miracle' like Germany and Japan. Internationally we can see the prospect of recession side by side with inflation.

What people aren't clear about are the causes and consequences of the crisis, and most important what can be done about it, so that workers throughout the world do not become again the sacrificial lambs to the chaos of capitalism.

Tony Cliff's book, *The Crisis: Social Contract or Socialism*, is required reading for every worker. Within it are a battery of facts and arguments to equip us to diagnose the sickness of the system.

The book compresses a fantastic amount of information and analysis

by Larry Connolly,
AJEW convenor, Lucas BW3,
Birmingham

within its 190-odd pages, and while many active socialists will find some of the ground familiar, it draws together many strands. For my money the chapter on 'The call for a strong state' is the one that socialists and trade unions should heed most urgently. In it there are many examples of the way the crisis will force the ruling class to ever more repressive measures.

Range

Inevitably among the range of information there are some small but important factual mistakes. For example Cliff mentions factory occupations at Pressed Steel Fisher at Washwood Heath, and BSA in Birmingham. They never happened

—and the result was several thousand jobs lost.

This doesn't detract from the main argument that the occupation of factories in the fight for jobs can be a fantastic weapon, and one that must come to the fore again as unemployment rises.

Someone once said: 'The pen is mightier than the sword'. I don't believe that. I think the pen is useful if it can mobilise people with swords. That's the job of this book—to arm workers with the ideas and courage to build a revolutionary workers' movement to change our bankrupt society.

For that urgent reason the book must get the widest sale and discussion in the labour movement. So buy, read it and start selling it amongst your work mates and fellow trade unionists.

TONY CLIFF THE CRISIS SOCIAL CONTRACT OR SOCIALISM

The cover of Cliff's new book. Copies 75p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. (Bulk orders 50p a copy from Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.)

THE BURMAH ROAD

THE successful BBC television series *The Troubleshooters*, which told the ridiculous story of an oil company called Mogul, was based on the boardroom at Burmah Oil. Brian Stead, the no-nonsense capitalist in the programme played by Geoffrey Keen, was based on Nicky Williams, the tough, blunt, rigger-playing managing director of Burmah.

And no wonder. Throughout the last ten years, Burmah Oil has represented everything that was exciting, adventurous, competitive, dynamic, chunky and abrasive about British capitalism.

When Williams became managing director, Burmah was a small oil company with lots of assets. Williams had seen *The Power Game*—the BBC's big business saga which preceded the *Troubleshooters*. He yearned for the Big Time. He wanted to buy up oilfields all over the world. His problem was that Burmah didn't make enough profits to offset taxes on interest on money borrowed for expansion.

Burmah needed more profits. So Williams set out to buy firms which were making profits. Any firms anywhere. 'Buy, buy, buy!' he would shriek round the boardroom whenever a proposition came up. So Burmah bought Castrol Oil, Rawlplugs, Halfords the bicycle salesman, Quinton Hazell, a seat belt firm, and a series of garage and spare parts chains.

Towards the end of the 1960s, Williams and the no-nonsense brigade he had gathered about him, were gripped with mogul-mania. No luxury, no waste was too extravagant for their ambition.

An entire oil refinery was built at a cost of £40 million at Ellesmere

...to chaos, waste — and £298 million of our money

Port to refine Castrol's limited oil supplies—which could easily have been dealt with at existing refineries. The company's tanker fleet was handed over to a sleazy shipowner called Kukulundis, an expert in tax evasion, who had already gone bust with a very dubious tanker enterprise in the 1950s. To feed Kukulundis' ambition, Williams built another massive oil terminal—in the Bahamas.

Pyramid

All sorts of deals were invented to squeeze money out of gullible investors in the market for a quick buck. The 'offshore property swindle'—so adroitly exploited by Bernie Cornfield, Jerome Hoffman, Reginald Maudling and other pillars of society—was used to the full.

Even the old management at Burmah could see that the fatuous pyramid which Williams was building was bound to collapse. A series of critics resigned from the company and tried to stop Williams before his megalomania got out of control.

Who came to their assistance? What about the 'free press' which so frequently proclaims itself as a 'watchdog' against excess and waste?

The critics hawked their argument round the press. They showed that Burmah Oil, even as early as 1971, was destined for collapse, and that the collapse would have disastrous effects for public money.

Only *The Observer* dared to print a word of it. An article was published on 19 November 1972 outlining some of the criticisms. Burmah acted fast. The top City public relations firm



Burmah's chief executive Nicholas Williams—from troubleshooter to troublemaker

Charles Barker, which acted for Burmah, immediately cut *The Observer* out of all Burmah's advertising schedules. Charles Barker represents a large number of other wealthy advertising clients and the freedom-loving *Observer* never mentioned Burmah's problems again.

Neither did anyone else. The credibility of Fleet Street's City correspondents knew no bounds. On 30 December—six days after Burmah's bankers had crept secretly to the government to admit that the company was bankrupt—Kenneth Fleet, City Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, who was on a courtesy visit to America, wrote a long rave article about Burmah which started: 'A fraction more confidence, with justification, is creeping back into Burmah Oil shares...' and ended: 'Whatever else is happening, the Burmah Oil Company is again what its name says it is.'

High Court

What about the law? Surely the judges, independent, so they tell us, of all business pressures, could stop the catastrophe.

In May 1973, a detailed critical report on the lunacy of Williams' business decisions was prepared by one of Burmah's senior employees, who was silly enough to send one to Williams. Williams phoned his lawyers, who rushed a copy immediately to the High Court.

Before you could say 'independence of the judiciary', the judge granted an injunction restraining publication of the report. Any comment or repetition of any of the contents of the report would, said the judge, be 'the grossest contempt of court'.

The Bank of England now discover that everything in the report was completely accurate.

Unimpeded by press and law,

Williams careered on, buying up Signal Oil of the United States with £208 million he did not have. Kukulundis boomed on one or two tanker tricks. Share prices zoomed downwards in the crisis. Burmah Oil was left with £300 million debt and no money.

Almost all the popular myths about private enterprise die with Burmah Oil. The tough, no-nonsense private enterprise heroes turned out, like so many such heroes in the past, a bunch of greedy adventurers, making use of other people's work and money to satisfy their pride and greed.

Burmah Oil has major stakes in two of the most successful North Sea oilfields and have joined with other oil companies in condemning proposed nationalisation of the North Sea on the grounds that only private enterprise could find the know-how and the capital equipment necessary to get the oil out.

All that is now proved false. As the *Sunday Times* put it last week: 'Burmah has been unable to mount a team anywhere near strong enough in terms of planning engineers, planners, operators—or any other department.' The lust for profit has motivated against the necessary skills and equipment to get the North Sea oil out.

'Anxiety'

Yet in spite of this massive indictment against private enterprise, Wilson, Healey and the rest of the Labour government have refused to nationalise Burmah. They have allowed the Bank of England to guarantee all Burmah's debts with public money—and have left the company in the hands of its shareholders.

The *Sunday Times* reported on their 'anxiety' in case any members of the Cabinet should demand nationalisation—which would 'bring major international complications'.

In other words, nationalisation of Burmah would terrify all the other oil freebooters who operate on the North Sea and elsewhere.

When Labour ministers call for sacrifice or moan about the lack of resources for health or education, they should get their answer: *Who gave three hundred million to Burmah Oil?*

Oh, and by the way. A new series starts on television this week.

It's called *The Venturers*, and it's about life in the boardroom of a British merchant bank. The managing director is played by Geoffrey (Brian Stead) Keen, who has just spent two days inside one of Britain's top merchant banks preparing for the role.

Keen told *The Sun* this week: 'It is inside these doors that the fate of great companies, even nations, is decided.'

Which goes to show that even a managing director isn't always wrong.

PAUL FOOT

THATCHER ON THE SLY...



An informal shot of Major Dennis Thatcher, Planning Director of Burmah Oil entering his office on the morning his company went bust. The Major, husband of grocery hoarder, MP, and candidate for the Tory leadership, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, seemed to have forgotten to use the spacious front entrance...

WHAT WE THINK

'Peace'—but for how long?

OVER the last couple of weeks, Northern Ireland has been enjoying its first spell of peace for several years. But none of the problems that gave rise to the years of fighting has been solved. That is why it would not be at all surprising if the truce broke down in the next few weeks or even days.

A recent government publication showed that in virtually every respect the workers of Northern Ireland are worse off than workers in Britain. 'Northern Ireland's unemployment situation has been the worst of any area in the United Kingdom . . . The general housing situation in Northern Ireland is worse than in any other United Kingdom region . . . Recent surveys have suggested that goods and services may be more expensive in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain . . . Average earnings in Northern Ireland are lower than in the United Kingdom as a whole'

The publication went on: 'Of all the manufacturing firms in Northern Ireland employing 500 or more workers, Great Britain is the country of control of about 45 per cent:

In other words, not only are British troops in Northern Ireland, but British big business is also there. And, under the control of British big business, there are miserable living standards for the majority of workers

The hatred of Catholics by Protestants which is the dominating feature of politics in Northern Ireland has little to do with religion as such. It has its roots in the way in which successive British rulers of Ireland deliberately encouraged such hatred by giving marginal privileges to Protestants at the expense of Catholics

These facts explain why the present truce is so fragile. For if the British government merely releases internees from Long Kesh, or even announces that it will eventually withdraw the troops, it will not in any way stop economic conditions in Northern Ireland getting worse and Catholics, on the receiving end of discrimination, suffering most as a result.

Nor will it stop sections of Protestant workers from taking out their resentment against deteriorating conditions on the Catholics, as they have been taught to do in the past.

Sectionalism is built into the very core of the Northern Ireland state and will persist, truce or no truce. It will only end when the foundations of that state are undermined.

The military campaign of the Provos over the last five years has recognised this. But their politics have been nationalist and not socialist.

But with two-thirds of the population in the Six Counties against them (including most of the workers) and no more than spasmodic support from workers in Southern Ireland, they have never been able to go beyond military actions to any sort of victory. That is why they now find themselves at a dead end.

They are now faced with an almost impossible decision: to call off the truce and lose support in the Catholic areas—or to keep the truce and give up the physical fight against the Northern Ireland state.

There is an alternative. But it is one that seems beyond the leaders of the Provos. It is to replace a purely military struggle by one which, above all, relates to the interests of workers of Ireland as workers. The Protestant workers of the Belfast area will only be won from their allegiance to their British masters when they are drawn into a fight against them in defence of jobs and working conditions.

This is not an aim that is going to be achieved overnight. But as the economic crisis deepens, Protestant workers are going to be forced to fight on the economic front, regardless of their present reactionary, sectarian ideas.

The real problem is to create a socialist organisation that can relate to their struggles, showing them that the British occupation of Northern Ireland and the division within the working class is not in their real interests, despite the small advantages it gives them over Catholics.

That does not mean abandoning the fight against British control, still less signing a formal truce. But it does mean changing the form of that fight—from one involving direct military conflict, to one which uses socialist politics and class struggles to broaden its base of support.

Unfortunately, the politics of the Provo leadership prevent them seeing this. If they sign a fully fledged truce with the government, it will be necessary for socialists to argue for a continuation of the struggle along socialist lines.

But we also have to be clear on our attitude if the truce collapses. We should not drop our socialist arguments. But we still have to defend the right of the Provos to fight physically against British control over Ireland—even while criticising their ideas and those of their tactics which involve attacks on civilians rather than on military targets.

CR - 'Civilised' Repression

THURSDAY 2 January: American lawyer James C Heaney announced an investigation into the use of CR Gas at Long Kesh concentration camp on 15 October. He intends to raise the matter at the European Court of Human Rights.

'American medical authorities', he said, 'have stated that CR gas tests cause a sudden rise in blood pressure, instant strokes, respiratory complications and loss of vision. Short-term effects are severe.'

Mr Heaney went on to quote the British medical journal *Lancet*, which in its issue of 24 November 1973, had strongly condemned the use of CR Gas. The journal pointed out that

the Government's Himsforth Report, which had authorised the use of CR Gas, was a secret document never released to medical authorities.

The research has been done in a 'military straitjacket' with little concern for the effects for those exposed to the gas.

The gas, he said, had caused a succession of serious injuries at Long Kesh. Many internees had been knocked unconscious with high blood pres-

sure, and others had been totally paralysed for long periods. Tests had been carried out on the victims but the results have been withheld from the public.

Mr Heaney pointed out that Britain was the only country in Europe which approved of the use of the gas, though its use was restricted to Northern Ireland. The Irish Government, in Dublin, he went on, had not objected.

The life of Tony Devine: Freed and arrested four times, deported twice...

FRIDAY 3 January: Sergeant David Newsham of the 2nd Parachute Regiment was found guilty by the Belfast City Commission of assaulting an innocent civilian.

Martin Kelly had been arrested outside his girlfriend's home in South Armagh in May last year, and was told to drive to Crossmaglen police station. Newsham was on guard duty at the station and, as the car stopped at the gate, he hit Martin Kelly on the jaw through the car window.

He was then taken inside the station, where he was systematically beaten up by Newsham and other British soldiers. After leaving the station, where he was not charged or suspected of anything, Martin Kelly spent nine days in hospital with a fractured jaw and bruising. He was off work for nine months.

Mr Justice Gibson said he was shocked by the Sergeant's behaviour and gave him a suspended sentence of one year in prison and a fine of £100.

Urgent

SATURDAY 4 January: Unemployment figures for November published. Male unemployment was more than 10 per cent in 12 local areas. In Strabane it was 23.6 per cent, in Newry 18.5 per cent, in Dungannon 15.6 per cent, in Cookstown 14.3 per cent and in Omagh and Limavady 14.0 per cent.

On the same day, urgent talks were requested by trade unions representing workers in the man-made fibres industry following rumours that ICI was planning mass lay-offs in its factory at Carrickfergus.

ICI and Courtaulds employ more than 15,000 workers in the Six Counties, and both firms have warn-



THE WEEK IN IRELAND

NEWS THE BRITISH PRESS DOESN'T PRINT

ed of heavy lay-offs with the possibility of a complete shut-down in the summer.

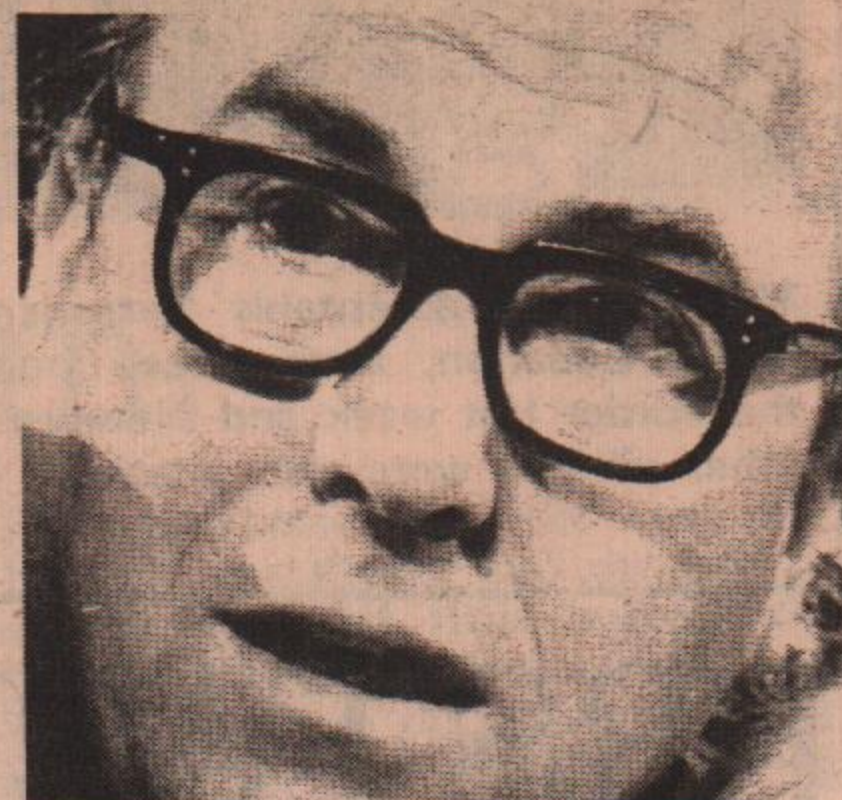
SUNDAY 6 January: The latest victim of the British government's Anti-Terrorism Act is Tony Devine. Tony, a 23-year-old swimming instructor from Derry, was arrested in the town in March 1972 and charged with the murder of Major Hackney of the British Army.

The case was thrown out after the only prosecution witness, a soldier admitted that at no point did he see the defendant holding a gun.

Discharged, Tony Devine was re-arrested on the courthouse steps and held for membership of the IRA. That case was also dropped for lack of evidence. Tony was discharged again, immediately rearrested and interned in Long Kesh concentration camp without trial or charge.

Escorted

On 16 December he appeared before a tribunal at Long Kesh. They offered him his freedom if he would leave Northern Ireland. He agreed to stay with his sister in Liverpool until the New Year, and then to take up a job in Germany. On 18 December he was escorted from Long Kesh to



Roy Jenkins: legalised savagery

Belfast airport by Special Branch officers, and put on the Liverpool plane.

On arrival he was arrested under the Anti-Terrorism Act, held without trial until last Monday, when he was 'deported' back to Northern Ireland under an exclusion order signed by the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins.

He will be met again at Belfast by Northern Ireland Special Branch who will try to work out what to do with him.

Not for the first time, Jenkins' Act is proving even more savage than the common practice of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

IT'S NOT ONLY IRISH WORKERS

FRANCO Caprino, an Italian worker, has been held in Pentonville prison since 18 December without even being charged. He is threatened with deportation under the Tories' infamous 1971 Immigration Act (which the Labour Party opposed while in opposition).

This Act gives the Home Secretary fantastic powers to deport anyone who is not a British citizen 'if the Secretary of State deems his deportation to be conducive to the public good'—in other words, in the interest of the ruling class.

This is the first time the Act has been used in this way against a legal immigrant.

Franco, a member of Lotta Continua, an Italian revolutionary group, has lived in this country for six years. He has been involved in community politics in the Notting Hill area and in the recent disputes in the hotel and catering industry, which is notorious for employing immigrants on very low wages.

The Guardian has suggested he is being deported because Lotta Continua has been responsible for bombing incidents in Italy. This is not true, and Lotta Continua denies any connection. It also suggests that the group has had connections with the Price sisters—the only connection being that Dolours Price spoke at a meeting organised by Lotta Continua in Italy in 1972.

The use of this Act seems to threaten any immigrant worker involved in left wing politics. This is part of the Labour government's campaign of repression against immigrants and militants in this country. It thinks it can get away with the victimisation of individual workers without too much protest. It's up to us to show they are wrong.

Already an action committee has been set up to protest against Franco's deportation, and demonstrations and pickets are being planned. Notice of these will appear in *Socialist Worker*.

After 20 years, Egypt's workers erupt

THOUSANDS of Cairo workers celebrated New Year's Day by taking to the streets in the largest anti-government demonstration since the fall of King Farouk more than 20 years ago.

The demonstration, which soon turned into riots, was sparked by the use of troops to prevent a 100-man delegation from the Helwan steel workers entering the national assembly.

The delegation was complaining about the draft laws which discriminate against workers. But the grievances of Egyptian workers go much deeper.

The key problem, as in so many other countries, is inflation. In the last year prices have gone up by about half while the often-evaded legal minimum wage of about £20 a month has gone up by less than 25 per cent.

Rationed

Key commodities such as tea, sugar and cooking oil are strictly rationed and can only be obtained after hours of queueing.

But Egypt has many other problems, including massive rural overpopulation caused by the distintegration of the traditional peasant economy. This, in turn, has led to a huge influx of people into the towns, specially Cairo.

The problems in the city are enormous. The population has more than doubled in the last ten years and, with refugees from the wars with Israel, now stands at about seven million.

Buses and trams are crowded to overflowing, with people having to ride on the roofs to get to work. People sleep in the river banks and in the streets. Even the grave yards have been taken over.

Jobless

There is no unemployment pay, although the number of jobless is very high, and there are no pensions, except for government employees.

It was not surprising that the key workers involved in the demonstration should have been from Helwan, a huge steel complex 15 miles south of Cairo with the biggest concentration of workers in Egypt.

Conditions there are appalling. Workers are made to run complicated machinery without training and without any safety devices. As a result, the place, as some engineers told me, 'is more like a slaughter house than a factory'.

Trouble has been brewing for many months. Egypt president Sadat recognised it by holding his May Day rally there this year.

Egypt, which claims to be socialist, has much of its industry nationalised. But the nationalisation has not been carried through in the interests of

A lesson for us all

WORKERS in the American colony of Puerto Rico were recently involved in a major battle, with the local administration. 3000 workers employed by the Water Board voted to strike when offered five dollars a year in reply to their claim for 119 dollars.

As soon as they struck, the government declared the strike illegal and called out the National Guard to scab. The 11 leaders of the union involved, the Employees Union, were jailed for 30 days and each fined 200 dollars.

The jailings produced an angry response from other workers. Teamsters, boilermakers and electrical workers were among the unions who called their members out. The government, faced with the prospect of a General Strike, backed down within five days and found a legal pretext for releasing the strike leaders.

In Puerto Rico, as in Britain when the Pentonville Five were jailed, strike action is what forces governments to back down. The 'legal case' in Puerto Rico was about as solid as the case against the Shrewsbury Two. We have a lot to learn from our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters.

by Julian Harber

Egyptian workers or under their control.

Decisions in the nationalised industries are made by members of a highly privileged ruling class, who use the nationalised sector of the economy to feather their own nests.

Meanwhile, the workers are left on miserable levels of pay, without the right to form proper trade unions and with all political parties banned except for the government party.

Their problems are made even worse by two other factors. The first is the continual military threat from the massive supplies of arms given to neighbouring Israel by the United States.

The second is the high price the Russians charge Egypt for the weapons for defence against Israel. For instance, there is a shortage of sugar for Egyptian workers, even though the country produces a large amount. Most of the sugar is shipped out by the Russians to pay for the arms.

Crude

Caught between these different pressures, the Egyptian ruling class can no longer do anything to deal with the problems of the mass of the population, and is reduced to protecting its own massive privileges by the crudest forms of repression.

It has been fearing a movement from the Helwan steel workers which would unite with the unrest among Cairo students. It has long known that such a combination would really threaten its rule.

The first steps towards creating such a movement took place last week. The long term consequences, not just in Egypt but throughout the Middle East, could be immense.



The face of 'acceptable' terrorism: Yarin, in the South Lebanon, after Israeli commandos crossed the border last week and blew up ten houses. Two other villages were also attacked, five people killed

and several more kidnapped. The outrages on defenceless villagers brought not a whimper of condemnation from the British mass media, which is, of course, totally opposed to violence and terrorism.

WORKERS FACE GUN COURT

From our correspondent in Jamaica

by ITT) that 'only socialism can prevent anarchist revolution'.

That must have been most reassuring for the small minority of very rich Jamaicans, who between them hold about 39 million dollars in US banks. It must also have been reassuring for the three giant US corporations who control Jamaica's main raw material—bauxite, the basis for aluminium.

One of them, Kaiser Aluminium, announced a 460 per cent increase in profits last year from six million dollars to nearly 29 million.

The Jamaican government has shown clearly where it stands if workers try to challenge those who control the wealth. When hospital workers struck last month, troops from the Jamaica defence force took over the hospitals.

Terror

The government has introduced an Industrial Relations Act, modelled on that of the British Tory government to smash strikes such as this and the dock strike a month before and a strike of sugar workers in Frome and Monymusk.

Another measure directed against workers has also been introduced—the Gun Court.

The Court compound is really a concentration camp, surrounded by

a huge barbed wire fence, with continually manned machine gun towers at the four corners. It is designed to strike terror into those outside the prison as much as those inside.

The Court was set up because of an increasing wave of gun crimes such as robbery with violence. Guns are tied up with the ganja (marijuana) trade.

Ganja is sold, not for money, but for guns, and Jamaica is full of them. Many prominent businessmen and politicians are making a fortune from the guns-for-ganja trade, and others are getting money to keep quiet.

It is always the little guy who gets caught with the gun, and the the Court is full of teenagers on their first or second offence. The trials for the Gun Court are not public, and the Court has the power to sentence people to 'indefinite detention'.

It is a marvellous way of getting rid of workers' leaders—you just have to plant a gun on them, and then you can lock them away indefinitely.

If there are protest demonstrations, the authorities can bring in the Suppression of Crimes Act. This is a State of Emergency without saying so.

It is used quite often. Under it, whole areas—usually, the working class areas of Kingston or Montego

Bay—are sealed off, armoured cars go in, manned by armed police and troops in full battle order with machine guns at the ready. They have the power to search any houses without a warrant, and take away any people or articles they want.

The two main union organisations—the BITU and the NWU—are both corrupt. They are linked to the two main political parties and not only divide the workers, but also tie them to the establishment.

What happens when workers try to defy these unions was shown last month. Trade union leader Trevor Munroe and other union officials were attacked and seriously injured as they were signing up Kingston dockers for membership of the University and Allied Workers Union.

There were no soldiers or police in sight when the UAWU started signing up workers—but four truck-loads of thugs with many more on motorbikes, suddenly turned up. Armed with machetes, pickaxes, knives and bottles, they set upon the union officials.

The UAWU is one of several small new unions trying to break the monopoly of the two long-established and highly reactionary unions.

The new unions are co-ordinated by the Independent Trade Union Action Council. It is militant and aggressive, so it has inevitably come under fierce attack, not only from the State and its police, but from gangsters in the pay of the politicians.

fifth column

THE QUIET MAN

MANY are the moving tales of men and women, sickened by the repression of the Eastern European regimes, who have chosen freedom in the West. They've dug tunnels, swum rivers, hijacked aircraft.

One man who came to the West was Professor Jan Gross of Prague, Czechoslovakia, but at rather an odd time, when the Dubcek regime had come to power briefly and opened the way, until the Red Army arrived, for a more liberal regime.

Why then? Well the professor's work in Prague didn't make him all that popular with his fellow country men.

Professor Gross was involved in 'experimentation' with sensory deprivation—locking people in rooms, cutting them off from all sound, all contact with other people and driving them round the twist.

But Gross realised that the Czechs might object to his experiments, so off he went to freedom. And a new career in West Germany.

So what did he go into? Antiques? The second-hand car business?

No. He now lives in Hamburg and works at the Laboratory for Clinical Behavioural Research at Ependorf Hospital. He's got a lovely new 'silent room' which, as Franz Olaf Radkte of the Amsterdam-based Union of Scientific Workers points out, contains a vast amount of technical apparatus which allows 'isolation and deprivation of the "subject" to such a degree that even any sound generated in the room itself cannot be heard within this chamber.'

It's been such a success that the German prison authorities have opened a nice new prison near Frankfurt using techniques developed by the worthy professor—and paid for by the West German government and the American Central Intelligence Agency...

Which shows that you can't keep a good man down, even if he was a

Socialist Worker Guide to Good Business Number 1: BEGGING



rotten Commie. If the CIA can do this for Gross, just think what they could have done for that other distinguished East European scientist, Mr Frankenstein...

Can we afford Prentice?

THE Labour Party's plan to take over the fee-paying public schools has met a serious setback. The public schools, so named because members of the general public have never been to them, will have to continue 'for some years to come', said Reg Prentice, Labour's Education Secretary.

He was speaking last week to the National Association of Schoolmasters, who were taking time off from their more normal discussions on interesting ways to practice bondage and flagellation on classroom hooligans.

Prentice explained: 'It would be an expensive business to take over these schools and would pre-empt resources for other things... We will have to live with the independent sector for some time to come.'

The news that fulfilling a Labour Party pledge would be 'expensive' has worried many people. Prentice receives £13,000 a year to carry out Labour Party policy but apparently he is also 'too expensive' to do anything about and we'll have to put up with him for some time to come.

Stop hitting that man!

THERE is a scene in the film Ireland Behind the Wire showing a dishevelled man in his mid-thirties surrounded by six soldiers in the courtyard of Divis flats, Belfast. One of the soldiers hits the man in the side with his baton.

The man backs away saying: 'I'm looking for my son'.

The soldier hits him again. The man falls. Holding up an arm to ward off further blows he repeats: 'I'm looking for my son'. He gets up. An officer shouts: 'Take him away'. The soldiers crowd in on the man. He falls down, gets up, falls down again and again.

All the time the soldiers keep beating him and he keeps saying 'I'm looking for my son'. Off screen Belfast voices are heard screaming 'Leave that man alone, stop hitting that man'. In the end he is dragged away by the feet, still repeating 'I was looking for my son'.

The sequence lasts about 90 seconds and it explains better than any cold print analysis why the Provisionals exist, and why, whatever results from the present truce, there is a reservoir of bitterness in the Catholic ghettos in Northern Ireland which will not dry out for generations.

Behind the Wire was made by the Berwick Street Film Collective and consists of footage they shot themselves during three years in Belfast and Derry, plus additional material from television news services. The first half is a montage of faces, voices and events, not the well known TV faces and voices, but of people in the streets and in their homes, queuing up for unemployment pay and standing around the corners, talking about their lives and arguing about what, if anything, could be done about it.

What was done about it, of course, was the barricading of the Bogside in 1969, triggering the chain reaction which led to the destruction of Stormont, the fragmentation of the Protestant monolith, the long war between the British and the Provos, and the confused, fitful hopes of the present. The film makers stayed close to the people as the stakes mounted steadily from 1969 until 1971, talking to the Free Derry Vigilantes, filming inside the headquarters of the Bogside Tenants Association, interviewing members of the Ardoyne Peoples Assembly, recording family arguments.

It is a vivid, if slightly bitty, portrait of a community slowly realising that what it has on its hands is something like full scale war, and that old methods of political procedure no longer apply.

Close

In the second half of the film, which concerns internment, there is a brilliantly mounted sequence using original film, TV news clips and stills, which gets as close to the terror of Bloody Sunday as it is possible for a reconstruction to do.

It is a propaganda film, but has none of the defects usually associated with such films. The commentary is anyway mercifully sparse, allowing the people to speak for themselves.

The film opened in Derry last Thursday to a packed audience in a tin hut in the Bogside and it was clear that not only had it enabled people to relive recent memory but had, by the immediacy of its impact, made them more determined than ever to hold out against the bluster and blandishment of those who want a settlement at any price.

Behind the Wire begins a national Socialist Worker tour on 17 January and is not to be missed.
EAMONN McCANN

BARNSLEY: Thursday 23 January, details next week.
BRADFORD: Friday 24 January, 8pm, Room N3, Main University Building, Great Horton Road.
BIRMINGHAM: Monday 27 January, 7.30pm, Assembly Hall, Digbeth Civic Hall.
BRISTOL: Tuesday 28 January, 8pm, Room C1 1, Bristol Poly, Ashley Down
SWANSEA: Wednesday 29 January, 7.30pm, Oxford Street School.
OXFORD: Thursday 30 January, 8pm, Clarendon Press Institute, Walton Street.
COVENTRY: Friday 31 January, 7.30pm, Room LL13, Library Block, Lanctester Poly.
WEST LONDON: Monday 3 February, 8pm, Queens Hall, Ealing Town Hall.
CHELMSFORD: Wednesday 5 February, 8pm, Shire Hall.



Lord Chief Justice Widgery (left) and criminal John Mitchell at the conference

Chief justice, chief criminal

IT'S not all framing building workers and playing with tape recorders! Here's a friendly informal shot of Law and Order's big two; Lord Chief Justice Widgery and ex-US Attorney General John Mitchell, at the 1971 American Bar Association Assembly in London.

Last week Mitchell was convicted at the Watergate cover-up trial and stands to get a sentence of between five and 20 years. But Honest John still has plenty of time for his latest hobby, which his wife describes as getting 'blind drunk in front of the TV' since he's out on appeal. Informed sources say the appeal may take at least a year.

But will John be happy about this delay in US justice? At the London conference in 1971 he made a moving address criticising the 'infection' of delays in criminal cases in the US. 'It is a caricature of justice', he said. 'There is a hydra of excess proceduralisms, archaic formalisms, pre-trial and post-trial motions, appeals, postponements and so on, which could have the effect of dragging justice to the death and stealing the very life out of the law.'

Moving stuff John. When are you taking your toothbrush down to Attica State Jail?

Just why were such distinguished crooks gathering in London anyway? The New Yorker magazine explained that the 'shoddy' affair was 'an outing at the average tax-payer's expense' which enabled delegates to combine a holiday abroad and a "business" trip' and to thus deduct it from income tax...

WE reported last week that Sir Denys Lowson, ex-Lord Mayor of London, speculator and crook, had gone off on a £28,000 world cruise with his wife. Perhaps we were a bit harsh. He was trying to pull in his belt after all.

If he'd booked a penthouse on the QE2's 92-day world cruise it would have set him back £42,000. So he's saved £14,000. Mind you he could have really got his hands dirty by booking into a mere berth on the QE2, which costs only £2,300.

Too late if you were thinking of booking in—the ship sailed last Saturday with all 1400 places booked. The loss of these 1400 people for three months is expected to have a catastrophic effect on the crisis-ravaged, belt-tightened economy.

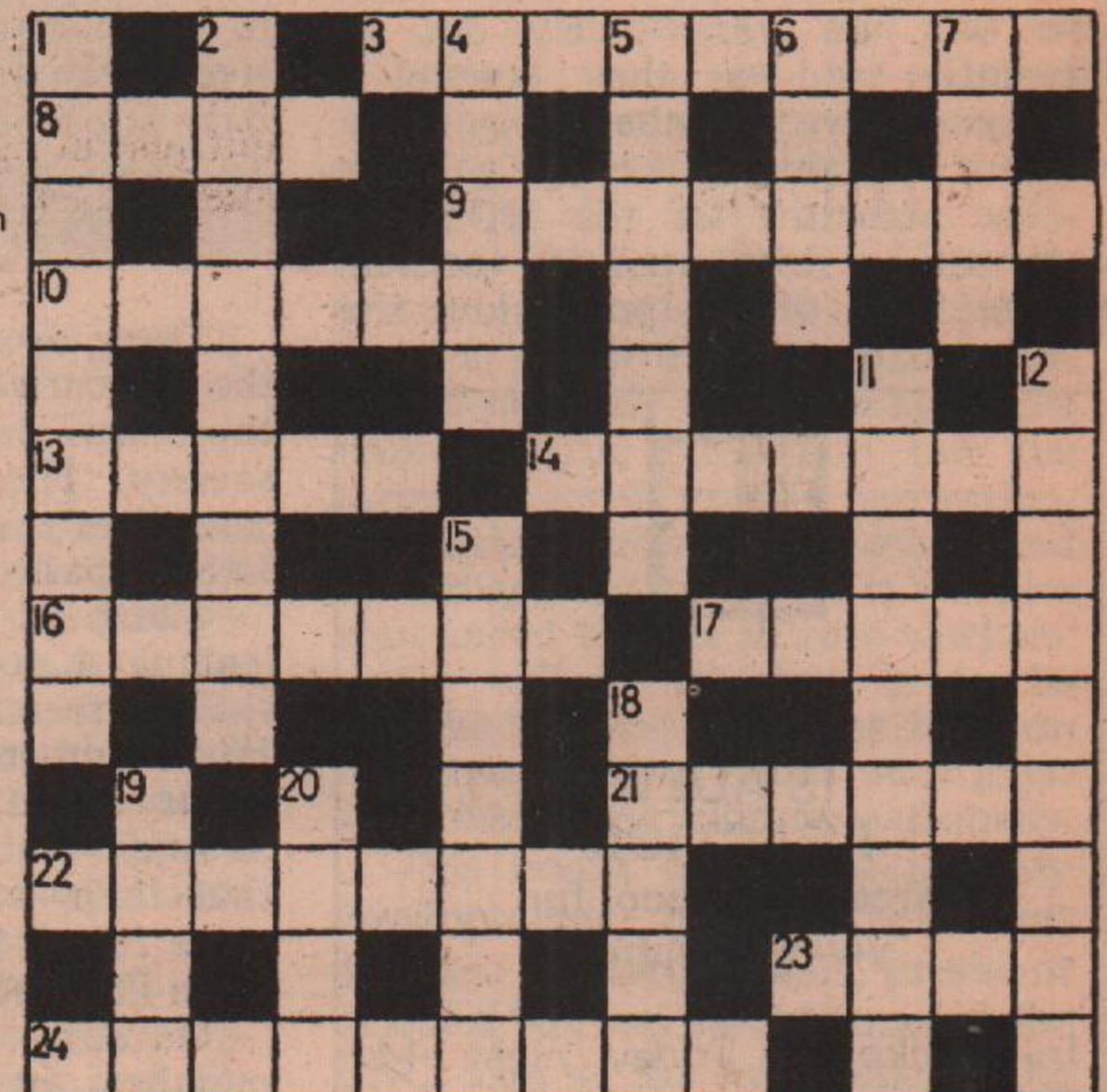
Socialist Worker Crossword No 8

ACROSS

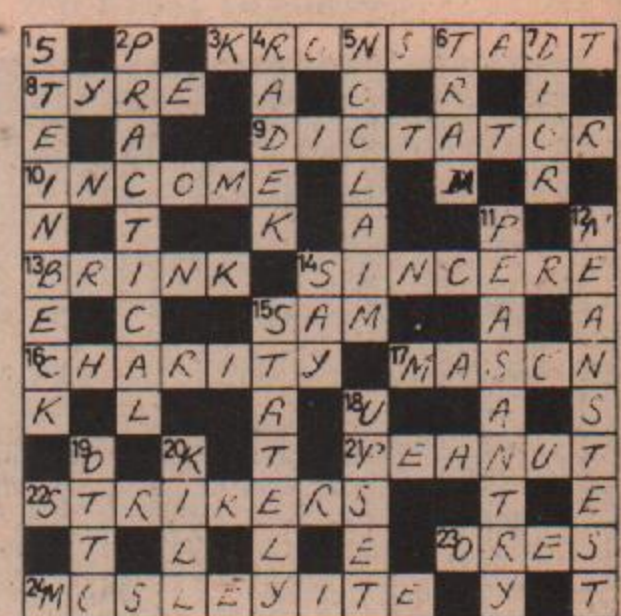
- 3 'Umble villain in David Copperfield (5, 4)
- 8 Forename of male star of Dr Zhivago (4)
- 9 Burrowing South African native (8)
- 10 Ex-transport minister Marples was recently convicted of being a drunken one (6)
- 13 Name of eight Popes between 222 and 1644 in the City (5)
- 14 Punishment inflicted on Daniel Defoe in 1702 and abolished 1837 (7)
- 16 Easy to fall into these days (7)
- 17 Used by French policemen and conductors (5)
- 21 Could be the acid test! (6)
- 22 1968 in France, for instance (8)
- 23 ... particles have a velocity approaching that of light (4)
- 24 Clearing up nice slang (9)

DOWN

- 1 Noble commander of murderous charge of the Light Brigade (4, 5)
- 2 Robert Arthur Gascoyne Cecil, third Marquis of ... was prime minister 1886-92 (9)
- 4 Cries emitted by cheated holidaymakers and lions (5)
- 5 The ill-fated R.101 for instance (7)
- 6 Conservative Sussex seaside resort (4)
- 7 Canine appendages used by Presidents to lift dogs (4)



- 11 Horatio ... crooked proprietor of John Bull during 1st World War (9)
- 12 Expiring bird, once believed to sing (5, 4)
- 15 Jewish officer exiled to Devil's Island but released after campaign by Emile Zola (7)
- 18 ... Terry, beautiful actress, died 1928 (5)
- 19 'The King's ...' was early name for glandular disease of scrofula (4)
- 20 '... Karenina' Tolstoy novel of woman's love for caddish Count Bronski (4)



WHERE TO SEE THE FILM

IRELAND BEHIND THE WIRE will be showing in the following towns. Tickets 40p in advance from local IS branch, 50p on the door.
MANCHESTER: Friday 17 January, 8pm, University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology, Students Union Building, Sackville Street.
GLASGOW: Saturday 18 January, 3pm, Queen Margaret Hall, Glasgow University.
TEESSIDE: Monday 20 January, 8pm, Coatham Memorial Hall, Coatham Road, Redcar. Tickets from IS Books, 14 Grange Road, Teesside.
HULL: Tuesday 21 January, 7.30pm, Stevedores and Dockers Club, Posterngate.
LEEDS: Wednesday 22 January, 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Savil Mount, Chapeltown.



URDU CHINGARI

The Urdu edition of Chingari is now out. Branches of the International Socialists that receive their parcels by train should have collected them by now. Branches who want to order more copies should write to: Urdu Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

THE UNIONS

Would you let your boss

A LESSON IN DEMOCRACY

SOME teachers say the NUT Executive is responsible to the members and that the democratic annual conference lays down salary policy. Is this true?

Each local branch is entitled to two reps at conference and then one extra for each additional 300 members with a maximum of 12. A branch ten times bigger than another might have twice the number of delegates.

At the 1972 conference there were 776 delegates from the smallest rural associations, one for every 74 members. There were 339 delegates from the big city associations, one for every 241 members.

With all votes taken on a show of hands, there is a fantastic weighting against the big towns with the largest membership. The small associations usually send only two delegates—the secretary and treasurer—and they are usually head teachers.

run YOUR union?

by Jeannie Holborow Redbridge NUT
THE Houghton Report gives newcomers to teaching a measly £4 extra a week—and the head of a large comprehensive a rise of £2,237.

The most accurate summing up of what will happen to these proposals was made by Terry Casey, the general secretary of the reactionary male only union, the National Association of Schoolmasters. Speaking of the leadership of the majority teachers union, the NUT, Casey—a head teacher himself—said:

'There is bound to be some doctrinaire egalitarian talk from the basic scalars—but the people who do the talking are usually heads or senior teachers and in private they'll be thanking their lucky stars that no one is going to take much notice of them. They would be terrified of winning the argument and losing their £40 a week extra.'

Passive

The National Union of Teachers which represents the vast majority of teachers, will make some noises about the low increases at the bottom of the scales. But most of the Executive will do very nicely out of Houghton and, as they control a largely passive membership, they will not lead a fight.

The structure of the NUT has come to be dominated by teachers at the 'top' of the profession, the

The teachers do—and just look at the price they pay

heads. Their interests are very different from those at the bottom.

Head teachers represent about 3½ per cent of the union's membership, yet they are in a majority on the Executive. That is just one example of how representative the Executive is.

Women outnumber men in the NUT by three to one—but only five of the 37 Executive members are women.

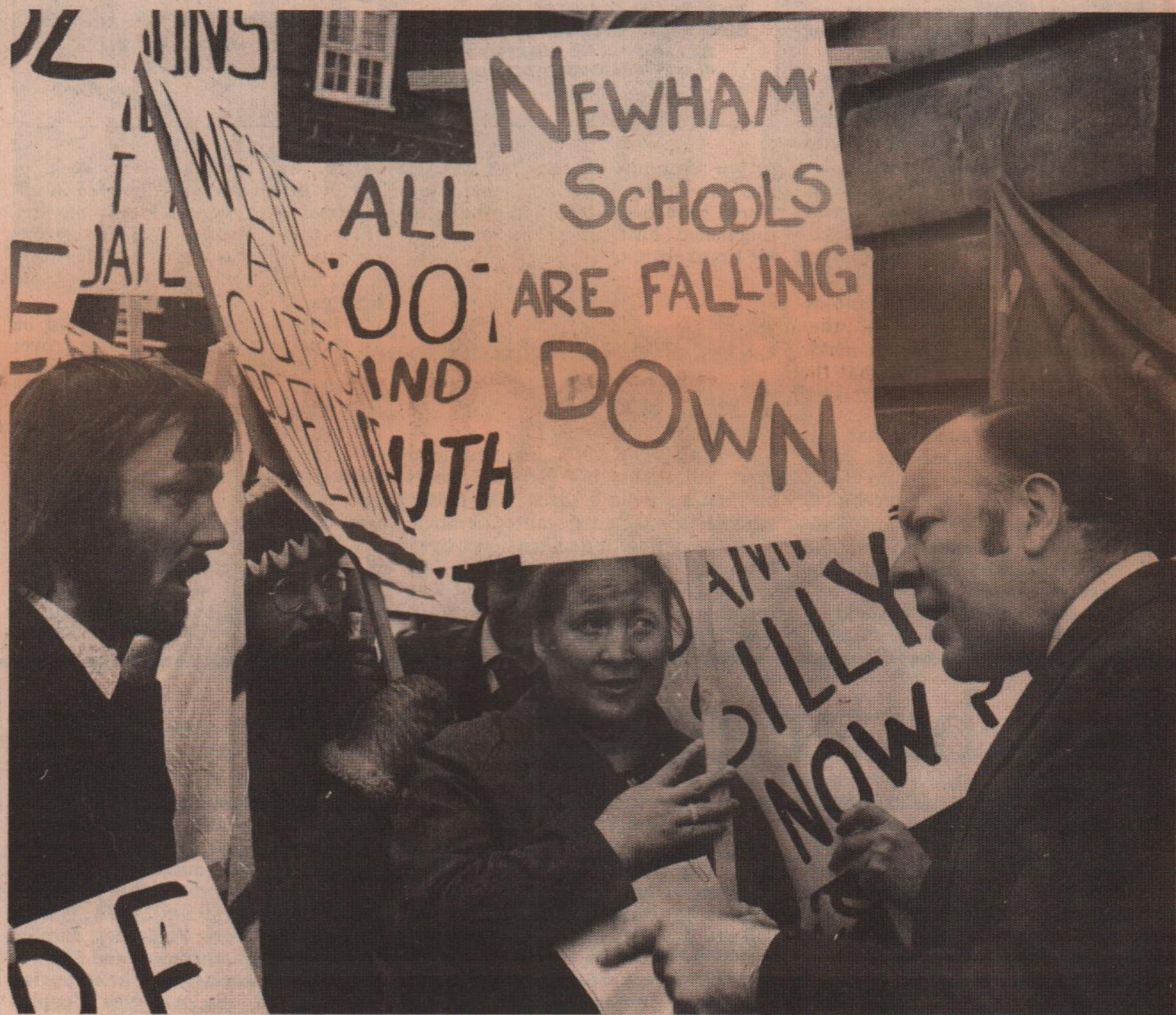
In March 1973, there were 189,019 teachers in primary schools, 197,004 in secondary schools. On the Executive, there are twice as many secondary as primary school teachers.

Support

There are no major divisions on the Executive. Most members accept the status quo in the schools and in society. There's the odd tinge of 'socialism', ie the right wing of the Labour party.

There is little commitment to leading a struggle which will unite the members. Only the two Rank and File members, Dick North and Beth Stone, voted for real support for the Scottish teachers' strike by arguing that their demand for £15 a week extra for all teachers should be taken up in England.

On some issues, there are a few members of the Executive with a 'conscience', who are aware that they represent the membership and not themselves. Eleven voted against the recent imposition of 'confidentiality' on Executive members. But the



When Education Minister Reg Prentice (right) visited the education disaster area of Newham, he was shown the borough's sole new school. The teachers there promptly came out on strike in protest. That sort of militancy is beginning to shake up the NUT.

majority accepted former union president Max Morris's position that 'secrecy' was in the best interest of the members.

A vote on changes in conference procedure saw only six members prepared to oppose special privileges for the Executive over the rest of the membership.

The head teachers, who dominate the union, is the 'boss' in the school. In law, he or she has total respon-

sibility for running the school, with a major voice in hiring and firing and discretionary power for allocating extra pay.

What manual workers' union would allow their management to run the union?

The school rep. or shop steward often faces a fellow union member when taking up problems within the school. The head represents the employer (the local education

Who's backing Britton?

THE LEADING NUT official is Edward Britton, who made a Knight Bachelor in last week's honours list. He is also a former head teacher

His job, general secretary, is probably the most important in the union yet he is not elected. He is always the union spokesman, he always reports on negotiations at salaries conference and can influence the attitudes of the members.

He is retiring this year and will be followed by his deputy Fred Jarvis, who has never been a teacher. His salary will put him among the top 10 per cent of salary earners!

The local officials are usually former teachers but increasingly the key departments in the union are filled by 'technicians'. They are able to speak at the executive, for example on salaries, in the guise of giving information. The salaries department is firmly committed to the idea of a 'career' structure for teachers.

Undoubtedly some of these officials are more powerful than the members. We should demand that they are elected and given the average teacher's salary and that they are subject to recall by the membership.



Edward Britton: Just call me Sir

It's bad—but it can be changed

THE NUT needs to change from its 'professional' passive role where teachers join because it has the best 'insurance policy'.

It needs to be an active, fighting union which will defend the interests of the majority of teachers. We, the classroom teachers, are the majority. We need to ensure our views are heard and felt.

It is not just a case of getting Heads out of the union. The Executive is less Head teacher dominated than in the past but it still has not improved fundamentally. We need to have an alert and active membership. Rank and File is trying to build such a membership. It has grown to over 1,300 paid up supporters and a circulation of 10,000 for its paper.

It organises in the local branches to challenge the established order and put the interests of the mass of teachers first. At a national level, it has two members on the Executive.

It needs to turn the union in the school into a real shop floor organisation which will deal with the day-to-day conditions of teachers and challenge the power of the Head Teacher and the Authority.

The London Allowance campaign showed that the school union can be effective and strong. Rank and File works within the NUT but sees the need for the members to be able to act 'independently' if and when the leadership misrepresents its views or wishes.

Rank and File fights for a single salary scale

for all teachers, for democracy in schools and for democracy in our union.

We also need to face up to the massive cuts in education spending. They will mean a worsening of conditions for teachers but also a decline in the general level of education given to children unless the cuts are fought.

This needs a political reply. Teachers in the International Socialists have to be ready to lead this and to say that the real answer to attacks on the education service is not only more militancy from the teachers but also the building of a political organisation which will overturn the priorities of the present system and put the education of children first, and reward properly the mass of teachers who work in the schools.



IS AUEW FRACTION
Weekend school for young members

In Blackpool, Friday night 14 February until lunchtime Sunday 16 February

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1: Youth work in the AUEW
2: Tactics and strategy
3: Marxism and the trade unions
Cost for accommodation and meals £3.50

Name

Address

IS branch

Age
I wish to attend the above school

Return to Fraction Secretary, 25 Salborne Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 20 or 'phone Admin Sec 021-327 3156

WHAT THE CARWORKERS FACE: Chrysler called in a county judge, pictured right flanked by sheriff's deputies, to deal with a 100-strong picket during a strike at their Warren Truck Plant during the summer. He ordered them to disperse, then ordered the arrest for contempt of court of 20 who refused.

Report by Glyn Carver, recently back from Detroit

ALREADY more than 70,000 American carworkers are on permanent lay-off—more than 100,000 when you add the lay-offs in industries related to car production. These figures are expected to double in the first few weeks of this year and one carworker in three will be unemployed.

Economists in the White House agree that when the American auto industry sneezes, it is not long before the whole American economy catches a cold—and international capitalism contracts pneumonia.

American car workers have no choice but grim reality. Enid Eckstein, a member of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) in Detroit, told me about conditions for carworkers just up the road in Flint, where less than 40 years ago the UAW was founded after long and bloody occupations of the General Motors plants.

'In Flint depression-like conditions already exist. Many car workers have been unemployed for more than a year. People who have been in the plants for 27 years are on the streets,' she said.

Official statistics show that American workers are now worse off than in 1965. It is this cut in real wages, allied to the increase in petrol prices, that has reduced car sales by two-fifths in the past few months and created heavy unemployment.

In Detroit itself Chrysler have been the worst hit. They laid off all their employees for the entire month of December. Incredibly Chrysler are not even making a loss... They consider that their profits of £5 million in the past three months are too low and must be boosted by stealing the workers' Christmas holiday pay.

Forced

This is the situation for workers in the richest country the world has ever known. They are being forced to carry the can for the losses and Chrysler have made in Britain and other overseas plants. A confidential Chrysler report has named Linwood in Scotland as the most militant Chrysler factory in the world, drawing the conclusion that it was better to 'make economies' in the American plants where they would expect less resistance from the work-force. Who says militancy doesn't pay?

The lack of fight-back against these indefinite lay-offs is mainly because the bureaucrats of the AUIW act as police over the workers for the car companies.

Truth

Dave Brice, a district committee-man from UAW Local (branch) 235, put it this way: 'The leaders of this union, the people that control this union, live in the rich suburbs with the bosses. They eat with the bosses, drink with the bosses, sleep with the bosses and think exactly like the bosses.'

This is no more than the truth. In all the weeks since the lay-offs started the UAW haven't done a single thing. When the Chrysler Jefferson Avenue assembly plant, with 5000 mainly black workers, got notice of closure, their inaction was so complete that a local bible-bashing, liberal Democratic black politician, the Rev Jessie Jackson, was forced to call a combined protest rally and prayer meeting to give at least the impression that something was being done.

On the surface it is a very depressing picture. The United Auto Workers makes Britain's General and Municipal Workers' Union look positively democratic and open to the wishes of the members. Its vice-president, Doug Fraser, suggested speed-up of the line from 40 to 60 cars an hour

Enid Eckstein: 'Some have been unemployed for a year'



Dave Brice: 'Union leaders 'live like the bosses''



Nate Mosley: 'Chrysler own you all the way'



and the sacking of only half the workers as the answer to the closure of the Jefferson Avenue plant.

The UAW signs three-year legally binding contracts and works hand-in-hand with the corporations in driving the militants out of the industry, while the massive multinational corporations work together to enforce a system of labour discipline which exactly suits them.

Nate Mosley, a UAW committee-man from the Corvette plant in St Louis, put it much simpler: 'Once you come into that plant you leave your manhood and womanhood out there in that parking lot. Because once you hit that time clock General Motors, Ford and Chrysler own you all the way.'

Fight

On the surface it is depressing. But no working class has ever accepted conditions such as these without a fight.

There is an opposition, a rank and file movement fighting back. It is a growing movement that is already making the bosses think twice about the rundown in some areas of the industry, that is forcing the UAW bureaucracy to calculate how much longer they can maintain their dictatorship over union members.

In many plants there are now rank and file committees, 'caucuses' as they are known, which are waging not only an economic struggle against the corporations but also a political struggle to democratise their union.

At the Chrysler Mack Avenue plant in Detroit not long ago they faced up to a thousand-strong armed mob of union officials who came in physically to break-up a wildcat strike.

The members of these caucuses constantly risk victimisation to teach their fellow workers the lessons of working-class struggle and give a lead in the struggle against unemployment. Through the United National Caucus, to which many belong, this can have an impact in plants right across America.

They are demanding that every plant be kept open with a full workforce, with work-sharing and the shorter working week without loss of pay.

They also demand that the 95 per cent lay-off pay be guaranteed throughout the lay-offs and available in full to all members no matter how long they have been working. At the moment full lay-off pay is available only to those who have been working two years and is paid only from a separate fund which is already virtually bankrupt.

Their programme also includes

total opposition to increases in the line speed, and against all overtime working, and calls for compulsory overtime to be taken out of the contract. It calls for the establishment of official unemployment committees in the union locals (branches), and for the UAW to call massive protest demonstrations backed by one-day strikes.

Around this programme the United National Caucus is attempting to build a mass rank and file movement in the American car industry. Pete Kelly, the Belfast-

born co-chairman of the UNC, sees the leadership of the UAW as the main barrier to mobilising workers against the lay-offs.

This is what socialists and militants in the UAW are trying to do. Members of American International Socialists are playing a leading role. They are in the leadership of several of the local caucuses and play an important role in the United National Caucus. Their influence is growing in the auto industry.

At an IS auto workers conference held recently in Detroit, which I attended, 80 carworkers from a dozen different plants discussed not only the building of the rank and file movement but the economic crisis, racial oppression, the position of women workers and the struggle for socialism. It was also announced that an IS auto workers' paper called Network is to be launched, which, from the reaction of those present, could be a great aid in organising militants nationally.

This could be one of the key developments of the next few months. As Jordan Sims, president of Local 961 and co-chairman of the UNC, said at the conference: 'The corporations are already after us at 100 mph. We must organise.'

Tony Cliff:

STATE CAPITALISM IN RUSSIA

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

What is state capitalism?
How did it come about?

Why is Russia not a workers' state?
Are there economic crises?

Does the law of value operate in Russia?

Does class struggle threaten state capitalism?

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

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The US car industry sneezes

Don't let them

make profit out of our

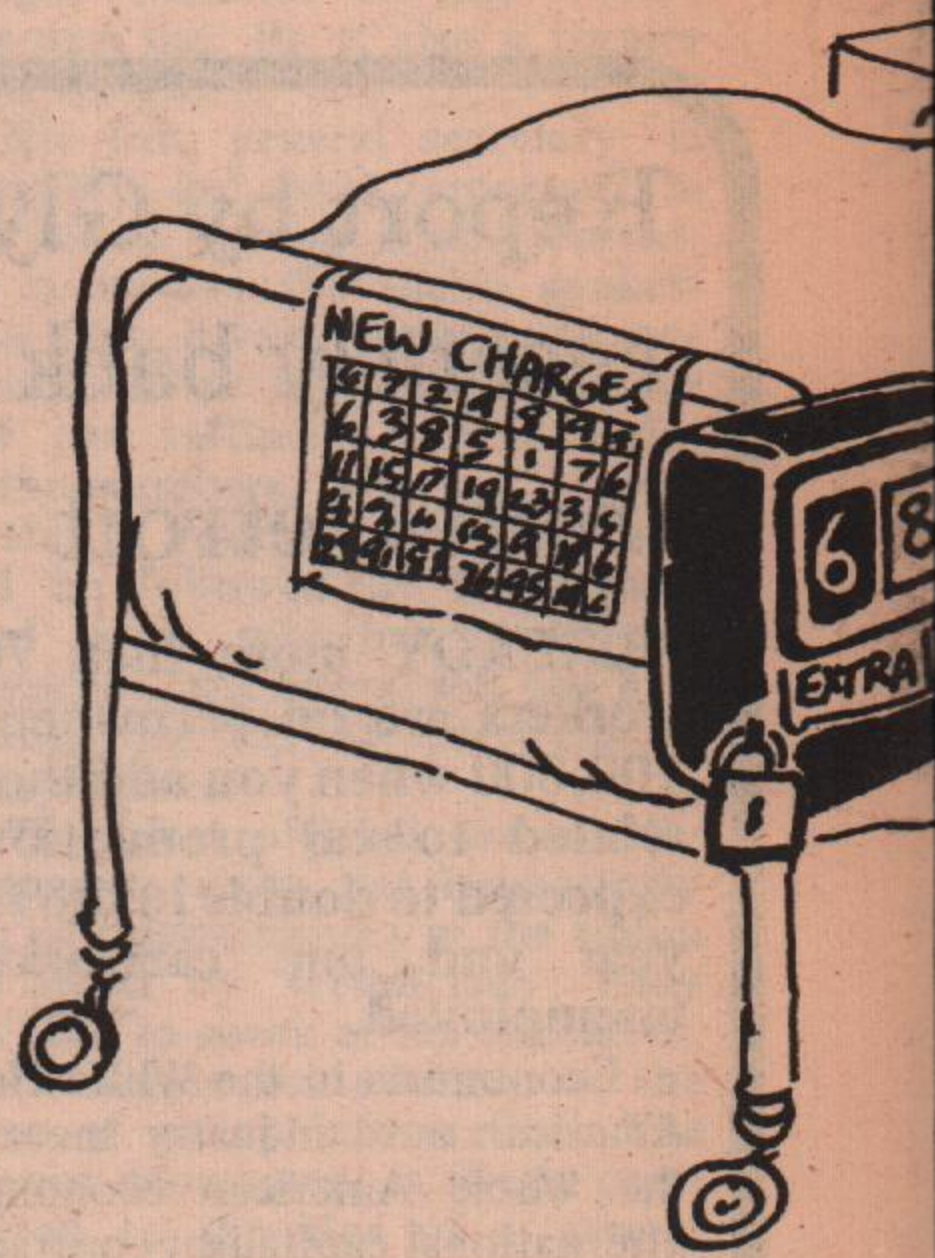
LEADERS of 5000 hospital consultants (lowest salary £200 a week) are advising their members to 'work to contract'. Although few of the consultants have followed their lead, the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association claim that their call is 'paralysing' the work of many National Health hospitals.

The consultants are demanding the right to continue with private operations and consultancy. For that, National Health Service patients can suffer.

How different was the attitude of consultants nearly two years ago in March 1973, when hospital ancillary workers staged a work-to-rule to improve their earnings. Most were earning less than £20 a week.

On 13 March 1973, 300 consultants in Birmingham wrote a letter to the chairman of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board: 'The hospital strike is threatening permanent ill health or disability for some patients and premature death for others . . . ' they said.

A new version of the Hypocratic Oath, the oath of service taken by doctors, is being circulated to all consultants by their representatives. It reads: 'Any industrial action by trade unionists to improve their standard of living and the National Health Service is a gross violation of medical duty to patients. When our right to wreck the National Health Service in the interests of our own insatiable greed is threatened, any strike is justified, and the patients can bloody well lump it.'



AGAIN the National Health Service has apparently reached the point of no return. Journalists who couldn't tell a heart attack from a hangover and the medical politicians are having a field day.

Meanwhile fears about the decline in medical care are being unscrupulously played on by private insurance schemes who are taking full page ads not in the top people's papers but in the Daily Mail and the Sun.

Only this time it's the consultants, the richest and most powerful people in the Health Service pyramid, who are stirring it up. Socialists who have been heartened by the rapid spread of militant trade unionism inside the hospitals need to look closely at this Establishment revolt.

The British Medical Association (BMA), which does the talking for the doctors' side, is fighting ruthlessly because its ability to represent the medical elite is being challenged. But it is fighting for commercial not professional principles.

It is fighting for private health—for the right to continue to use NHS equipment and

by
DR GERRY DAWSON

staff for private staff, for the right to organised queue jumping, for the right to spend even less time on patients who do not pay a fee. It is fighting for the right of 'consultants only' committees to continue to make secret 'merit awards' to other consultants which add up to £4,000 a year to already substantial salaries.

Health Minister Barbara Castle is suggesting a new consultants' contract which seeks to turn the merit awards into a subsidy for those doctors who choose to specialise in the unpopular but essential and demanding areas of medicine such as the care of the old, the mentally ill and handicapped and those millions who suffer from disease of the joints such as arthritis.

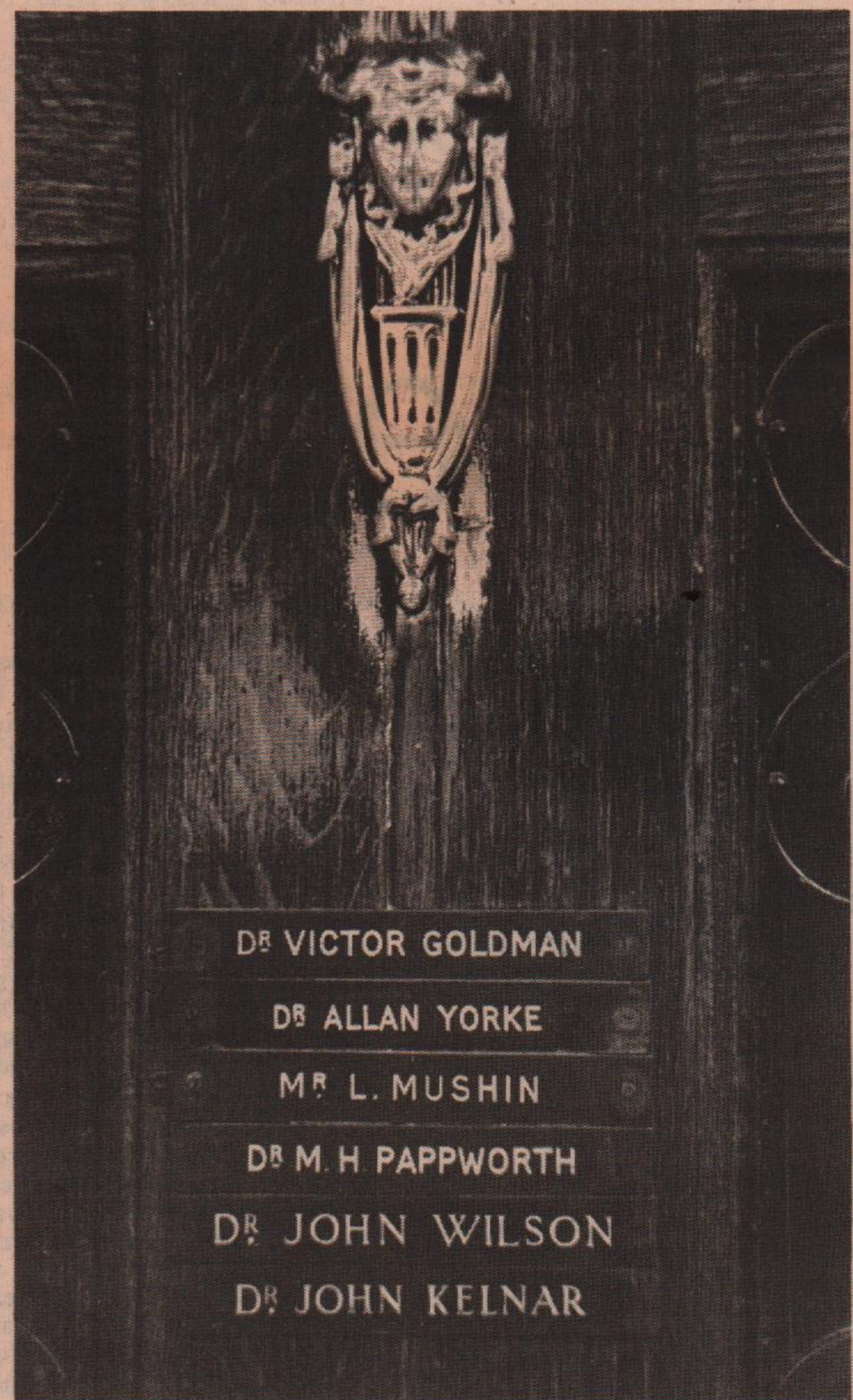
Whole-time consultants committed to the NHS and not the private health market are essential and in fact relatively badly paid. Outside London full-time consultants have much the

same work load as doctors (GPs) in other conditions—which patients as much as hospital doctors.

But as long as they are to be represented by right-wing organisations, health consultants will do whatever.

When hospital doctors offered a merit award should be sheered away from extravagance to the second class doctors' news about the plight but their backs in 'Madrid out' ted schemes of

Inside the support for among the cor log of resentment and off-handed medical business



Name plates on a door in Harley Street, London, the Mecca of private medicine. PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

The danger to your health

THE results of a system based on private medicine and health insurance can be seen in America. Until recently it was the individual's responsibility to negotiate insurance to cover hospital and doctors' expenses. Not only is this cover expensive but it soon runs out and serious illness means bankruptcy too.

For example in Ohio in 1972 Mrs Harold Wagner was presented with a bill for more than £3,000 to cover 12 hours of emergency hospital treatment which ended in her husband's death and left her destitute.

The De Witt family in Colorado thought a £200 a year health insurance had them 'pretty well covered' for the birth of twins. When one had a ruptured bowel requiring £2,000 worth of surgery, they discovered a clause excluding from benefit any treatment in the first 15 days of an infant's life. The insurer contributed £380 towards costs and then left the De Witts to fend for themselves.

BBC TV recently interviewed a company director who, after being diagnosed as suffering from a rare but operable cancer, spent his entire savings, sold his house and left his family to live alone in a two-room apartment, all to pay his medical bills.

The results of cash medicine are not just individual shock stories but a very poor national health record in the richest nation in the world. The US ranks 14th in the world in infant mortality and 12th for mothers dying in childbirth. The average American man lives five years less than his

Swedish counterpart.

These statistics are, in a relative sense, getting worse. Although the horrors of American medicine forced the US government to provide Medicare insurance for the old and Medicaid for the poor, in the teeth of doctors' opposition, 24 million Americans still don't have any cover at all.

Devoid

The absence of a national health service crowds medical skill into the cities where the money is and leaves the Americans in Appalachia and Nebraska to travel 200 miles even to find a doctor. There are 130 rural counties in America completely devoid of any kind of medical facilities.

The insurance-based system also encourages doctors to bring in their specialist friends for unnecessary consultations, to order too many investigations and to be over-enthusiastic in surgery, especially gynaecological operations, simply to put up their earnings.

One thing no one denies. The system has made American doctors the richest single group in American society, earning an average £18,000 a year (many as much as £40,000 or £50,000) for an average 50-hour week.

In the Beverley Enterprise's Encino Hospital in California physicians have installed a TV next to the operating theatres permanently tuned to a UHF business news channel. 'We like to see how our stock is doing,' they say.

What we think: Down

Where the pickings are

ONLY one in 20 of the population can afford private treatment.

THE United States—where private practice rules supreme—spends proportionately more on health care than Britain but has the highest rate of perinatal, infantile and maternal mortality of all the industrialised countries.

MORE THAN half the 12,000 NHS consultants profit from private practice. The workers who make this possible—junior doctors, nurses, radiographers, ancillary staff and others—get nothing.

THE NHS subsidises private practice to the tune of £25 million a year, but the Exchequer (and not the NHS) receives only £12 million for pay beds.

AS government spending cuts devastate the NHS, private companies such as BUPA and American Medical International have moved in to exploit and worsen the crisis. Their aim is to make big profits out of ill-health by carving out a market among those rich enough to by-pass the NHS.

force well paid, with plenty of funds to keep their technology up to date. The main function of the police is to protect property. The army isn't short of the odd bob or two either. And their main job is to destroy human life.

The truth is that health is a very, very low priority in capitalist society. In fact it is just enough of a priority to ensure that enough workers turn in for work regularly.

The National Health Service was supposed to change all that. Certainly it changed some things.

It meant that work could call an ambulance having to worry about

But the Health Service subjected to the tions of the drug building and corruption as well as the hospital. It is now being profits crisis. The it is now near to r

Politicians don't They can nip off t And in any case victims of the sa work and at ho class people. The



Junior hospital Chris Davies (Re



Why doctors are so awful

BY A DOCTOR

THERE are few spectacles in Britain more disgusting than top doctors shouting for more money and threatening to go off to Canada or confine themselves to treating the rich if they don't get it.

The average GP makes more than £7500 a year, and consultants and specialists make even more. Your local surgery may be threadbare and shoddy, but your doctor almost invariably lives in a big house in a posh neighbourhood. It's true they often (not always) work long hours, but so do lots of other people.

Yet if any of the middle class are in a position to know the realities of working-class life, it is

doctors. I spend a large amount of my time with old age pensioners, un-married mums and families where dad works continental shifts. A lot of my work involves illness which is the direct or indirect result of overwork, industrial diseases, the lack of decent housing, homes for old people, and the mass murder campaign carried out on behalf of the shareholders in tobacco companies.

Every day I get a sharp reminder that there are lots of houses with no bath or inside toilet (one in four round here), and that there are housing estates where no-one has so much as thought of planting a tree. The humble deference with which most of my patients treat me brings home with a bang the huge gulf between the classes in our society.

Yet many of the most skillful doctors who have real sympathy for individual working-class families have highly conservative views. The majority of doctors are completely apathetic about the shortage of houses.

The proportion of doctors who are turned into socialists by what they see is tiny. When they write to the Daily Telegraph it is to denounce strikers, scroungers, terrorists and the rest of the riff raff who have less than three bedroom semi—or to demand more money for themselves.

The main reason why doctors are so reactionary lies in the system of medical education. This starts off with the careful selection of the 'right sort of chap' to become a medical student.

Posh

When I first tried to get into a medical school I started off with an interview at one of the poshest London medical schools. Apart from my A-levels the only thing in my favour was that I went bike racing—which is an almost 100 per cent working-class pastime.

My interviewers took one look at me and reached the brilliant and correct conclusion that I would not be the sort of young man their daughters should know. They proceeded with a sniggering discussion of the price of second-hand bicycles. (Few works canteens would tolerate the manners of top doctors.)

The next college where I had an interview was much less posh. A nice old buffer discussed my very modest achievements as a cross-country runner and I got in. A year later I discovered that he turned out every Saturday afternoon to run for a West London cross-country club.

Hatred

But 21 per cent of medical students' daddies are doctors; 54 per cent of medical students are from public schools, 33 per cent come from upper-class homes. Consultants who are admired by students, either because of their learning, or because of their extrovert personalities, set examples of arrogance, male chauvinism, hatred of the working class and general pig-ignorance.

Rugger-playing and beer-drinking are actively encouraged in medical schools, as a means to stop students thinking for themselves.

If any medical school has ever supported a Socialist Society or even a proper Students Union I have yet to hear of it.

A course in sociology often seems to turn apathetic students into socialists—but medical schools are designed to do the opposite. By the time a medical student becomes a doctor he has been so brainwashed that he is very unlikely to find socialist answers to the enormous crisis that confronts him every working day.

our illness

as their registrars and some family are doing long hours in bad need changing for the sake of the as the doctor. Above all, junior are hideously exploited.

as these doctors allow themselves ed by the BMA, an undemocratic, nisation controlled by the private nts, they deserve no sympathy

tal ancillary workers are being £3.32 on their basic, no tears d for doctors so accustomed to at they are now indignant about and the au pair problem. The apers are full of horror stories ht of living on £4,500 a year pages are still advising holidays of Season', and providing complica- tax evasion.

hospitals, at least, there is little he part-time consultants, even sultant ranks, because of a back- ent of their arrogance, opulence nness. In a great many hospitals s will go ahead surprisingly well

without them, as it does most of the time anyway. For some registrars it will mean the removal of a considerable nuisance.

What is Barbara Castle's approach? Instead of out-facing the Harley Street elite in whose interest the BMA is run she compromises and concedes the principle of private medicine. That is no less outrageous than a Labour minister accepting the principle of public schools.

If the consultants carry out the BMA's threat of a work-to-rule and of resignations, then it should be broken. The best way, the way that started off the private patients issue last year is by the rest of hospital workers refusing to handle the private patients.

The Health Service's salvation lies in democratic hospital trade unionism fighting, not against other health workers to widen privilege and protect abuses, but alongside them to force the government to spend more on the NHS and bring our own working conditions into the 20th century. Only then will doctors be seen as they ought to be, medical workers with particular skill, and no longer as the rather sleazy businessmen with stethoscopes operating from BMA House.



Doctors picketing the BMA in December calling for an end to private practice. PICTURE: (report)

with private medicine!

ing-class people ulance without out paying Service has been rapacious atten- companies, the struction firms, ital consultants. ravaged by the e result is that ins.

t give a damn. e private clinics. hey aren't the e ill health at e as working- don't get lung

diseases from cutting coal or mil- ling asbestos. They don't suffer mental stress from living in cramped housing conditions.

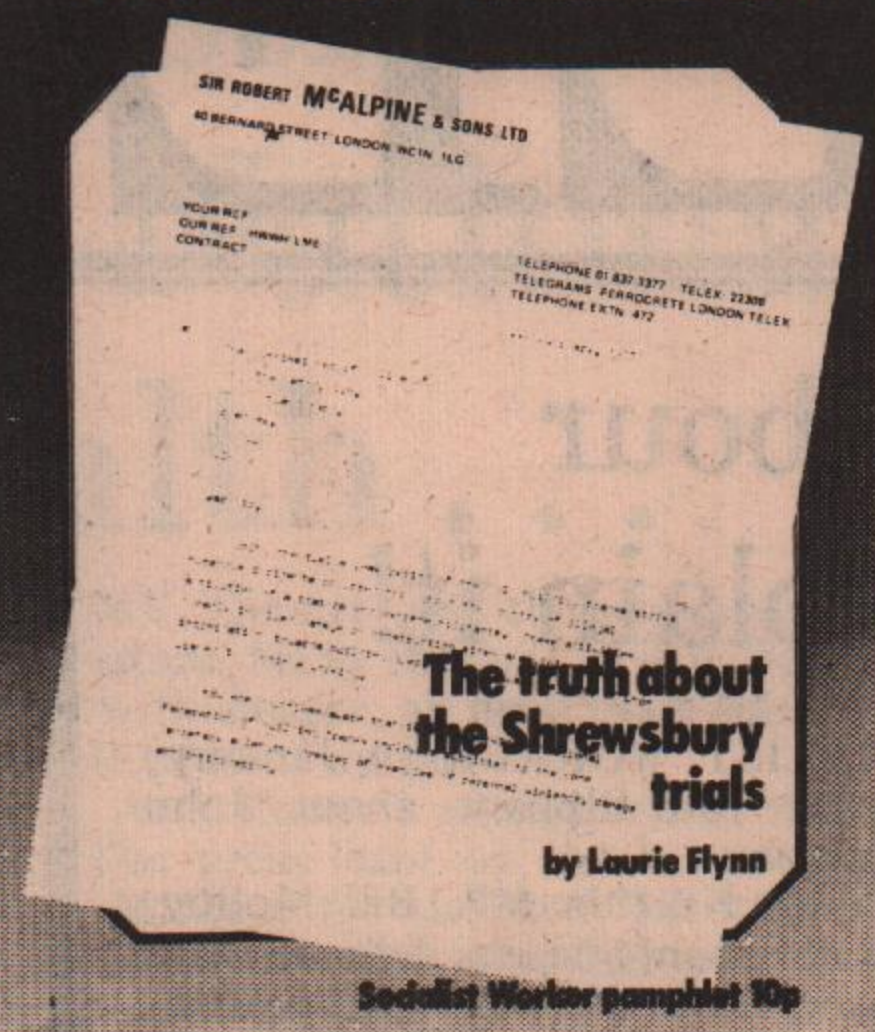
The truth of the matter is that health for the mass of working people will never be a priority in a system which stakes every- thing on the production of profit. Sweep that away and we will sweep away the conditions that give rise to most illness, physical and mental.

In the meantime, organised workers must take up the issues of health and the Health Service again. It's not good enough to

wait till one of your family or workmates has to go to Casualty or hospital to get indignant. There is a fight on for more money for the NHS, for better wages for those who work in it (as opposed to those who sponge off it like the private practice consultants) for new hospital, clinic and doctors' surgery facilities in work- ing-class areas.

These issues are not resolution fodder for the Annual Conference but at the heart of local trade union organisation. Health is simply too important to be left to doctors.

WORKERS AGAINST THE LAW



Shrewsbury: The truth



CONTRARY to all the press propaganda, Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson, the two building workers' pickets still in jail after the Shrewsbury trials, were never prosecuted for one single specific offence of violence to property or person.

Throughout the time the pickets were—in the words of the prosecution—'on the rampage like an Apache horde' they were accompanied by a sizeable detachment of police. Now clearly if terrible crimes were committed on 6 and 7 September, 1972—as the police and prosecution claimed—you could be forgiven for thinking the police would have charged someone right then and there. Or, at the least, that someone would have been taken in for questioning.

In fact not one single picket was either charged or taken in for questioning on either of the days the picketing took place.

INDIVIDUAL employers also got stuck in during the strike. Frank Taylor, multi-millionaire chairman of Taylor Woodrow and lifelong Tory, wrote personally to Ted Heath urging firm and immediate action in terms that indicate just how high feelings were running in sections of the employing class. Taylor urged Heath to use troops to break the builders' strike. He also called for the complete abolition of the right to picket.

NORTH WALES, where the Shrewsbury pickets came from, is Jimmy McAlpine's home territory. There he is master of Gerwyn Hall and lord of all he surveys. There his brother-in-law was High Sheriff, chief of law and order for the county at the very time the Shrewsbury prosecutions were being mooted. And McAlpines had their placemen in the very force that carried out the investigations into the pickets.

Mr George Richards, chief inspector in the Gwynedd specials, is their man. They printed election addresses for him in the County Council elections. He concealed this.

IT is impossible to escape the fact that in campaigning for the release of these two men, you are fighting for the release of two prisoners of war, prisoners of the class war that government ministers, top policemen and judges, as well as employers, are fighting against our kind.



These quotes are from Socialist worker's new pamphlet: **WORKERS AGAINST THE LAW: The truth about the Shrewsbury Trials**, by Laurie Flynn.

The pamphlet is indispensable for every trade unionist. It blows away the lies of the press about the jailed Shrewsbury pickets. It exposes the conspiracy which put them behind bars. It points the way towards militant action to get the men out of jail.

'This pamphlet lays it on the line how the establishment fixed it for us. They can deny it all they like. But this was a highly political trial designed to attack every worker's right to picket. If you want to know the truth about the Shrewsbury case then read *Workers Against the Law*.'—Ken O'Shea, one of the six men tried at Shrewsbury for conspiracy.

Get it. Distribute it in your workplace or union branch. Available from Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Price (including postage) 15p.

LETTERS

Send your letters to **LETTERS**, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Please try to keep them to not more than 250 words. Let us have your name and address but specify if you don't want your name published.

Labour explain it!

SOCIALIST WORKER (4 January) was far too flippant about John Stonehouse.

Ealing North's MP, Bill Molloy, leapt to Stonehouse's defence with indecent haste after he 'disappeared'. Molloy was parliamentary private secretary to Stonehouse when he was a minister in Wilson's last government and claimed on TV that the poor fellow may have been 'killed by the Mafia' and that he was 'the great friend of millions of people in Asia and Africa.'

Molloy has recently angered a number of militants who canvassed for him in the election by the cursory way he has treated their strikes.

It is clear that Stonehouse was known as a wide boy from the very beginning of his parliamentary career. His 'business abilities' took him to the top of the Co-op as well as accumulating for himself a personal fortune in overseas deals.

Precisely for these abilities Wilson chose him as a minister. Wilson perfected the technique in the 1964-1970 government of using Tribune MPs for those ministerial positions associated with trades union expectations of a Labour government and of using Labour's 'business MPs' for ministerial positions associated with big business demands.

In the recent strike wave many industrial militants turned to their local Labour MPs for support. One result for industrial militants who are being forced to become more political is to take a *greater* interest in the Labour Party and how to change it. One response to Stonehouse is the importance of strengthening Labour's left wing, asserting the authority of the Labour Party Conference decisions, encouraging workers to come back to the wards etc.

At the last Labour Party Conference Wedgwood Benn spoke to a big Institute of Workers Control meeting, attended by many leading shop stewards

The most eloquent and uncompromisingly revolutionary speech—and one that received tremendous applause was from Mike Cooley of the Lucas Combine. But Cooley said he was pleased to know there was at least one minister with a 'sympathetic ear'.

The International Socialists must catch some of these militants before they go back to Labour. The recent magnificently successful defence fund proved the strength and support in the Labour movement of Socialist Worker.

This means that every opportunity to argue against social democratic ideas must be ruthlessly yet sensitively exploited. Labour's scandals must be explained in their political and historical context. The December issue of International Socialism journal on redundancies was the best demolition of Bennery without resorting to slogans and sneers.—**JOHN ROSE**, Ealing.



These children are from Bangladesh, a country our rulers do not want. From which there is no profit to be made. Therefore they will be allowed to die.

They are being murdered

THERE IS a famine disaster in Bangladesh that seems likely to reach unprecedented proportions.

There is only one reason why this famine rages: the ruling classes and the governments they maintain in the industrialised countries and the oil-states have decided that it shall run its course without their intervention.

That, in a century of total wars, this constitutes a 'peace crime': the continuance of genocide by other means.

Bangladesh has become an open concentration camp for the extermination of an unwanted race.

The workers of the industrialised countries have it in their power at this moment to overthrow the governments responsible for this atrocity.

So far, these workers have stood by, and show every sign of continuing to stand by, without lifting a finger.

'Socialism Within A Decade' is not good enough. The conditions in

Bangladesh are those of total emergency. Every day that this crime is allowed to continue, hundreds of human beings will die of starvation.

All those who have it in their power to stop this massacre, but who do not use that power, are guilty of direct complicity in the crime of genocide.

All those who attempt in any way to suppress or distort this set of facts are guilty of an equal complicity.—**CHRIS EDDY**, Burton-on-Trent.

GET THEM OUT!

IT IS important to remember the political prisoners both in Ireland and Britain. The prisoners' revolt at Long Kesh, Magilligan, Belfast and Armagh in October were for a general unconditional release of all political prisoners, tried and untried, and an end to British ruling class interference in Irish affairs.

There are more than 30 Irish political prisoners in British jails serving sentences up to 30 years. Frank Stagg is hunger striking against the strip searches he's been subject to, and he's been refused visits by his wife.

I've witnessed the prison system's inhumanity on my visits to Noel Jenkinson. He was given 30 years with the help of planted evidence and a well known agent provocateur for planting a bomb at Aldershot barracks in 1972. He's incarcerated in the high security wing of the medieval fortress known as Leicester prison. I have to go through nine doors to get to get to him. The whole place smells of age and dampness.

The Prisoners Aid Committee is bringing the Jenkinson case to the Human Rights Court at Strasbourg where it's hoped the obvious injustice of his case will be exposed. This will help all other prisoners, many of whom have been convicted on flimsy and fabricated evidence as we've seen in the revelations of Kenneth Lennon to the National Council of Civil Liberties two days before he was murdered by the Special Branch.

Marx was fighting for the release of Fenian prisoners 100 years ago, we must continue the good work and demand withdrawal of British troops from Ireland, self determination for the Irish people and an amnesty for all political prisoners.—**JIM BLAKE**, Brentwood.

Just what we need

AS A trainee in marxism (although progressing rapidly) I congratulate Tony Cliff for his brilliant analysis on 'The Crisis' (21 December).

It was clear, precise, easy to read and digest and just bloody well written. I was most pleased with that excerpt from his book because it's good ammunition against the droves of pro-capitalist Tories I have to argue against.

My work-mates are shocked to find a 'red' reading subversive newspapers in their midst. Better educated marxists please take note! If you hope to enlist thousands to revolutionary politics and lead us to revolutionary politics write more of this type of analysis. It's a clincher for those with left leanings and in the right hands it is absolute dynamite.—**C P FELLOWES**, Manchester. See page 2 . . .

LESBIANS-'DERISION & SCORN'

ALTHOUGH we welcome the article on homosexuality (14 December) it is not immediately clear from reading it that gays are fighting not just male gay oppression but also discrimination against lesbians.

Lesbians are not liable to prosecution as male homosexuals are, but they face very real oppression in housing and employment. How many people realise that a lesbian mother may be deemed 'unfit' by the local authorities and have her children taken from her?

A lesbian teacher who 'comes out' is faced with the sack for 'gross moral turpitude'. The Inner London Education Authority are the only local authority to state that they will not discriminate on grounds of sexual preference when employing teachers, but whether this will make any real difference remains to be seen.

Gay women are an important part of the women's liberation movement. We support and fight for the six demands of the movement, but for us equal pay and opportunity is especially important. The average woman's wage is half that of the average man's wage, so two women living together only have a joint income equal to that of one man. In comparison, two

gay men living together are relatively secure financially as they usually have two wage packets coming in and no family to support.

Many working class lesbians lead lonely and frustrated lives, channelled into marriage before they are out of their teens, they usually find it impossible to break out of an unfulfilling and oppressive heterosexual relationship because they have no means of financial independence for themselves and their children.

Our society finds that women who live independently of men, drawing emotional and sexual satisfaction from each other and not the opposite sex, a real threat. Presumably it scares them because it challenges their male servicing and reproducing unit known as the nuclear family, which serves the interests of capitalism so well.

As objects of derision and scorn, denied a real identity, lesbians have no reason to support capitalist society and as such have much to contribute to both the socialist and the women's movement. This support will not be forthcoming if the socialist movement itself discriminates against lesbians and pushes them back into the ghetto.—**SUE BRULEY** and **SIRI LOWE**, London SW17.

POSTAL POINTS

WELSH ILLUSIONS . . . Huw Philip's letter (7 December) shows how revolutionary socialists have failed to combat the illusions that many left-wingers harbour about the Welsh nationalist movement . . . The role of Welsh socialists . . . is to work within the Labour movement (not the Labour Party) and build the revolutionary party—not support a bourgeois party with the sole aim of setting up a Welsh capitalist state . . . The nationalist movement is right-wing and racist—anyone who has clashed with Welsh Language Society bully-boys will agree that there is little difference between them and their methods and those of the National Front. I hope that International Socialists will produce a revolutionary socialist programme concerning the particular difficulties of some areas of Wales.—**GRAHAM COLDWELL**, Peniarwaen.

BETTER NOT TRY . . . with reference to the compensation paid to the relatives of the victims of 'Bloody Sunday'. If I pay £16,000 now to his relatives can I have the pleasure of shooting Lord Widgery?—**SEAN GORT**, East London.

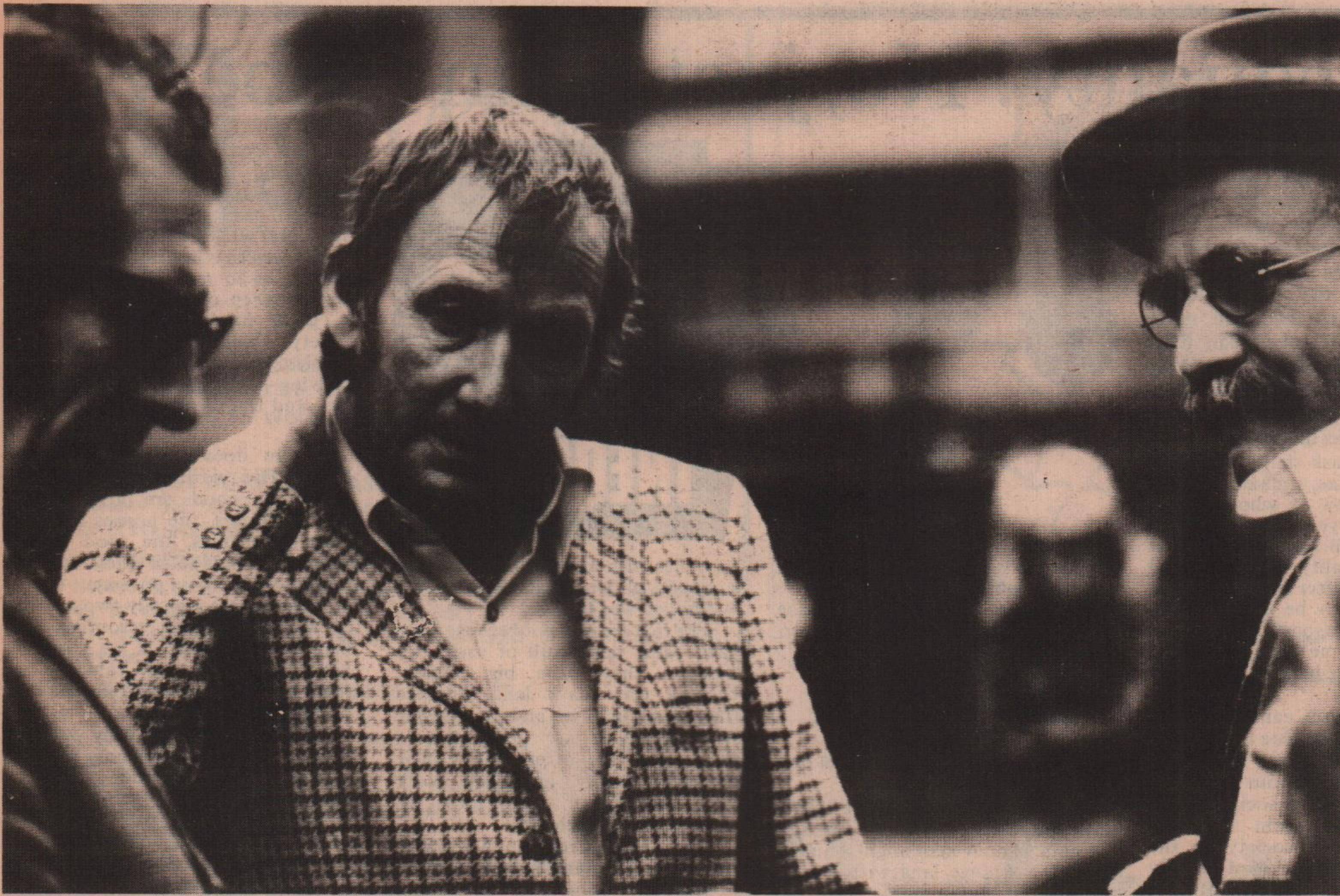
MORE FACTS . . . I was pleased to read in Kathy Tait's letter that busmen in Brussels are beginning a Rank and File group. As a bus driver with Edinburgh Corporation I welcome this news . . . I was disappointed that, when she was talking about her father's experience as a bus driver she didn't explain about the political leadership of the union, productivity deals, one man bussing, the position of shop stewards etc.—**BUS DRIVER**, Edinburgh. The January issue of International Socialism journal has an article on the early bus drivers rank and file movement.

FUEL PLEASE . . . Socialist Worker has too long been lacking in its coverage of the Middle East situation . . . The Arab oil price rises have had serious repercussions on Western economies and have forced a definite change in US policy towards the Arab states. The analysis that the US sees Israel as its only ally in the area and is prepared to back it infinitely is no longer totally satisfactory. We are given no information about the politics, successes and failings of the Palestine liberation forces or the nature and organs of the Zionist state. Adequate coverage of the Middle Eastern situation would be considerably more useful than the dregs dug up by Wally Belper every week.—**ROB SILVERSTONE**, Portsmouth.

THE UNEASY ALIBI . . . After your article on Rhodesia there should be a similar one on South Africa's 'bantustans' . . . The regime may be using these soon to give itself a liberal image to survive the present Southern African crisis and save the profits from the region.—**L HOLLEY**, Bath.

LIBERAL? . . . Socialist Worker on broaching the subject of homosexuality (14 December) collapses into the most abject liberalism . . . Legal discrimination against gay people is merely a concrete manifestation of the much deeper oppression suffered by gay people . . . It has its roots in the family, not in the law . . . The family is a vital economic and cultural support to capitalism . . . where we learn the behaviour and attitudes expected by the ruling class. By challenging the bourgeois family, gay people challenge the ideological hold of the bosses, indirectly increasing working class revolutionary potential by fighting male chauvinism and encouraging the self-concious of the female half of the class . . . Gay oppression can only be ended through socialist revolution, not through law reform.—**STEVE SMITH**, Birmingham.

THANKS . . . At the November meeting of the Irish South-East branch of the National Union of Journalists a motion of support for any action which the NUJ may take on the Paul Foot/Socialist Worker issue was passed unanimously.—**TONY O'BRIEN**, Branch Secretary, Wexford, Eire.



End of the road? Writer Johnny Speight and actor Warren Mitchell as Alf Garnett, who have threatened to walk out of the series because scenes are being cut out. The BBC is paranoid at any mention of Harold Wilson; says Speight.

No truck with the censor

THE probable death of Till Death Us Do Part, BBC's longest running and funniest comedy series, was announced last week. Writer Johnny Speight and Warren Mitchell, the actor who plays Alf Garnett, announced that they will resign from the BBC Light Entertainment Department in protest against persistent censorship.

Last week David Widgery talked to Johnny Speight about why the show will not go on.

Well, we have really got sick of having scenes cut out without even being told about it. The New Year's Eve show had a scene about the bombings and the IRA removed and the BBC are completely paranoid about any mention of Harold Wilson.

The attitude seems to be that you are not allowed to joke about anything important.

The programmes are censored by a man with the mind of a ten-year-old. If he doesn't understand it, it goes. The danger is that behind these men with no minds there are people with minds who are using the imbeciles to make sure nothing decent or controversial gets done.

And then behind them is Mary Whitehouse who I think has a great deal more effect than she is credited with.

Politics

The point about the BBC is that it's supposed to be the people's property and there are still an awful lot of really bright people working for it. But they have to fight 24 hours a day with the half-wits who run it.

It's run like a left-over of the British Raj by fools from public schools. It's as if the bright boys go straight into the City to make a fortune robbing us and the not so bright ones go into politics or the army or the church or the BBC . . . in that order.

The point is this lot know that the working class aren't taking this rubbish any more, that is apparent even to simpletons. They are watching the working class really asking for a piece of the action, using their power . . . and they don't like it. They see their privileges going.

So there's a very strange atmosphere. They can't face reality any longer. So you get light entertainment like Lulu and Ken Dodd stuff, about a world that doesn't exist. And a lot of 19th century costume dramas.

What they should be doing is putting on Bernard Shaw and H G Wells—truly great writers who are really relevant today and who really got to the heart of things.

With Alf I was just using Shaw's methods really: praise for all the worst things. The people who laughed at Alf were laughing at the whole of Tory policy. Alf was pathetic really, because he was a worker who had sacrificed his life for his betters and then it turned out they let him down too and that there were no leaders any more.

He was getting to the point of saying Hitler wasn't all bad and come back Powell. But what I was doing was negative education, showing people how their own attitudes were daft. The programme had an audience of 20 million at times, people who really liked the show and were really laughing in the right way.

But you just can't work if you have people looking over your shoulder and cutting bits out. You just lose your vitality. I think this is what was happening to Monty Python too and probably John Cleese left because he couldn't put up with it. I'd really like to continue with Alf if we could do it properly because I'm a propagandist by nature. But I'm not going on like it is.

WHEN TO SWITCH ON

SUNDAY
ITV: 10.15pm. Stan Barstow's novel *JOBY* is dramatised by Granada TV
On BBC-1 a new series on British newspapers, *INSIDE THE PRESS* starts with the Daily Mirror at 11pm.

MONDAY
BBC-1: 8.10pm. PANORAMA reports from Rhodesia.

THURSDAY
ITV: 8.30pm. The last of the current *PILGER* series is on *MR NIXON'S SECRET LEGACY*, the gift of total nuclear devastation courtesy of the USAF's Strategic Air Command. At 9.25pm on BBC-1 *THE AFTER DINNER GAME* is a comedy about a broke university. Same channel's *MIDWEEK SPECIAL* at 10.35pm is about the drug trade and corruption

of Hong Kong. Earlier at 8.30pm, BBC-1 looks at another growth industry of that city, Kung Fu movies and their maker Run Run Shaw.

FRIDAY
BBC-2: 9.25pm. Question, why can't worker co-ops function under capitalism? Well, Grasshopper, because they are remorselessly sucked into the world of capitalist competition and exploitation, and because none of the workers can ever get anything done because of tripping over the wires of BBC and ITV film crews filming real live workers fighting on the frontier of Wedgwood Bannery to find a new meaning to their lives. *THE MONEY PROGRAMME* tours the newspaper co-op in Glasgow and engineering workers in Liverpool in *THE WORKER BOSSES*.

PANTO, ANYONE?

ANYONE who lives in London and fancies a good night out should go to see Cindy Ella at the Half Moon Theatre. It's the world's first Cockney pantomime, not very deep but lively, funny and the actors are nothing short of brilliant. The kids would enjoy it too. What makes it so refreshing is that this is a play about the East End by a boy who comes from the East End, Johnnie Clarke from Canning Town. And it shows in his sharp observation of East End people. And the language is genuine, which is very rare.

A final plug: the Daily Telegraph hated it. That's got to be the best recommendation. **BOB LIGHT**
CINDY ELLA: Tickets 50p. Tuesday to Saturday until February. Cut-price kids' matinees. Half Moon Theatre, 27 Alie Street, Aldgate, London E1. (phone 480 6465) Whitechapel tube.

It's time to redistribute the National's wealth . . .

A SHORT STORY. Theatre—and the arts generally—has been hit by inflation. Many theatres have deficits, some are threatened with closure, all need more subsidy next year to maintain present output.

The recent Arts Council annual report raised the hue and cry. The press leapt on the bandwagon and Hugh Jenkins, Minister for the Arts, has mustered an extra £6 million to save the arts. Sigh of relief over closed book. End of story.

Or is it? The Arts Council is to allocate its funds this month, and a lot of questions have been left unanswered. Like which theatre is dying and why? Which theatre needs more money, how much and why?

The new National Theatre—being built as part of the concrete jungle of the South Bank Arts Complex at a cost of £12 million—is at the front of the queue. The present grant is about £500,000 but running costs for the new theatre are estimated at £3.5 million a year, which means, allowing for box office receipts, the new grant will have to be increased to at least £2 million—the same as that epitome of elitist arts, Covent Garden opera, now gets.

Yet the Arts Council grant for theatre as a whole for 1973-74 was only £3.5 million. You don't have to be very good at sums to see that the budget isn't going to balance.

What does all this money pay for? The building will include three theatres: the Olivier, seating 1165, the Lyttleton, seating 900, and the Cottesloe, seating 400, seven bars, a restaurant, two self-service buffets, 135 air-conditioned dressing rooms and an underground car park! All of which has to be maintained as well as used.

Maintained

According to artistic director Peter Hall it 'will be the most extraordinary bombshell to hit the English theatre since the Globe . . . I want this to be a unique facility for the public, open round the clock. As well as the productions in the main auditorium, there will be lunchtime, late night and other performances on the terraces and in the foyers . . . open all day every day.'

To some this may sound like a dream come true, but to me it sounds more like a nightmare, like a 24-hour supermarket for those theatre shoppers who can afford the luxury. With tickets at £5 a pair, with a policy of producing plays chosen very cautiously from a traditional repertoire, not written for the masses of today, to call this a 'national' theatre is a monumental hypocrisy. There are two nations and the new National Theatre will be catering for only one of them—the affluent middle and upper class.

If there weren't any alternative to the National, we might quietly forget it and worry about more pressing issues. But there *are* alternatives—more than 60 alternative theatre companies, also subsidised by the Arts Council to the tune of £250,000. Not £250,000 each, but half the amount of the present National Theatre grant, just about the amount required to subsidise one department of the new National, divided between 60 companies each receiving between £150 and £14,000.

Where the Royal Shakespeare Company, for example, spends £45,000 per production including up to £12,000 on sets and costumes, an alternative company will spend about £500 with about £50 on sets and costumes—and my estimates are generous. While the National is costing £12 million to build, I know a fringe theatre company with realisable plans to build from scratch a new community theatre with three theatre spaces for £50,000 (about the cost of one RSC production).

Alternative

I'm talking about theatre companies that take theatre to the people: pioneer agitprop company Red Ladder, Cartoon Archetypal Slogan Theatre (CAST), John McGrath's 7.84 Company which tours the Scottish Highlands, and the Wakefield Tricycle Company which recently toured pensioners' clubs, tenants' associations and prisons with a show on housing.

These are professional companies with professional standards, socially and politically committed, performing entertaining and informative plays to the 98 per cent of the population who don't go to the National Theatre and whose work proves that good theatre can be done on a shoestring.

I don't doubt that theatre needs more money; but some theatres need more money than others. How arts reflect society! By all means let the Arts Council lobby for more money, but before they blithely spend it on perpetuating the subsidy status quo, let them also give priority to redistributing the National's wealth.

Catherine Itzin

International Socialism

Back numbers 35-55 (April 1969 -February 1973), which include major articles on China, Labour 1964-69, the trade union bureaucracy, the British Communist Party, are available in a bound volume
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Normal price ISJ £1.50 for 6 issues, SW £2.50 for six months.

address

IS Journal, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

WHAT'S ON

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

CENTRAL LONDON WORKERS IS public meeting: The Crisis—Social Contract or Socialism? Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thurs 9 January 6.15pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road (near Warren St. tube).

WIGAN IS public meeting: The Crisis—Social Contract or Socialism. Speaker: John Deason (IS Ind Dept). Monday 13 January, 8pm, Wheatshaf Hotel, Wallgate.

S W LONDON DISTRICT IS public meeting: The Crisis—Social Contract or Socialism. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 30 January, 8pm, Co-op Hall, 180 Upper Tooting Road, SW17. (near tube, Tooting Bec).

CRICKLEWOOD IS public meeting: The Crisis—Social Contract or Socialism. Speaker: Ken Appleby (IS Industrial Organiser). Thursday 9 January 7.30pm. York Room, Anson Hall, Anson Road, NW2.

BARNSELY IS public meeting: The Crisis—Social Contract or Socialism? Speakers: Paul Foot (editor, *Socialist Worker*), Terry Bristowe (NUM, Dodworth Branch Committee) and Dave Rhodes (Intex Strike Committee). Chairman John Owen (NUM, Houghton Main). Thursday 16 January, 8pm, Yorkshire Miners Hall (NUM offices), Huddersfield Road.

CAMBRIDGE IS public meeting: Who Runs the Country? Speaker: Phil Evans (SLADE). Monday 20 January, 8pm, Duke of Argyll, Argyll Street (off Mill Road).

SOCIALIST WORKER JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 18 January, 2pm, Public Hall, South Street, Isleworth. Offers of help or jumble, ring 01-567 7175.

WARLEY IS New Year Party: Supparang Indian rock band and other sounds. Bar extension. Saturday 11 January, 8pm, Red Foot Social Club, High Street, Smethwick. 60p on door.

SOUTH WEST LONDON IS JUMBLE SALE: This Saturday (11 Jan) 2.30pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Beechcroft Road, SW17. We still need jumble/helpers. Please ring 673 6500.

MEETING for IS members in British Leyland Plants: Saturday 11 January, 2-6pm in Birmingham. Everyone should make an effort to attend. Agenda and details from IS Ind Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, E2. All comrades should send as soon as possible details of wage agreements to the Ind Dept so they can be made available in compact form at the meeting.

IS National Student Advisory Committee: Saturday 11 January 11am, North London Poly, Holloway Road (nearest tube Holloway Road). All student cells to send one delegate. Agenda: Discussion on last term, perspectives for this term, NOISS perspectives.

IS Latin America School 25-26 January. Venue to be announced.

NORTH LONDON DISTRICT IS Half-day School: The Social Contract and unemployment—how to fight them. Speakers: Jim Nichol and Frank Henderson. Important that all members attend. Creche and refreshments. Saturday 11 January, 2pm, Earlsmead School, Broad Lane, N15 (near Seven Sisters Tube).

IS Trades Council Delegate Conference: Saturday 11 January, 10am-5pm in London. Details from Ind Department.

IS AGIT-PROP needs help from van or car drivers with own vehicle during Socialist Worker Irish film tour. Full expenses. Must be available for all or part of 17 January-1 February period. Write at once to Dave Widgery, 2 Chapel Market, Islington, London, N1.

BIRMINGHAM DIST. IS Intermediate Education School: The British Labour Movement and the Revolutionary Tradition 1900-1974. Speakers: Harry Wicks on 1900-1921 and the background to the formation of the CPGB, Duncan Hallas on 1921-45 and the defeat of the revolutionary movement, Tony Cliff on 1945-1970s and the re-building of the revolutionary tradition. 10am-6pm, Sunday 12 January, Students Union building, Aston University.

ACCOMMODATION available to IS member in North London. Write to Socialist Worker, Box number 5.

MALCOLM GARFIELD

FRIENDS and comrades of Malcolm Garfield in London and Manchester were shocked and deeply saddened to learn of his sudden death in hospital in London on Saturday 4 January after a brief illness.

Malcolm was a dedicated member of IS for eight years and his loss will be greatly felt in the Manchester district. We all express our deepest sympathies with his wife Chrissie and his family.

The cremation will be this Thursday at 12 noon at Golders Green Cematorium, London.

Inequality? No, just plain robbery

THE TASK of a socialist is not simply to expose the inequality of society. Inequality is after all plain to see when lords can own thousand-acre estates and hundred-room mansions while working men struggle to pay the rent on two-up two-down homes they will never own, when stockbrokers can make thousands of pounds with a couple of phone calls from a plush office while workers sweat in factories and fields for less than £25 a week.

Nor is our task simply to brand this inequality as 'unfair'. Millions of people—many of whom would be horrified if you described them as socialists—will agree at once that society's inequality is unfair, and then say: 'But after all, why should people expect to be equal? We're not born equal: some are stronger than others, some can run faster, some have better hearing. We live in an unfair world.'

After that, you can expose inequality till you're blue in the face, and you'll not convince them they should do anything about it.

No, the task of a socialist is to show again and again that the inequality of our society is the result of the exploitation of man by man. That the rich are not rich because they're born with a natural ability to create wealth, but because they take the wealth created by others. That the inequality of

society is based, in fact, on organised robbery.

Then we can say to those millions: Come, help put a stop to this robbery.

Symbol

Who then creates the wealth in our society?

Of course, by wealth we don't mean pound notes, or even diamonds and gold bars. A man might wander through a strange land with a suitcase stuffed with pound notes and starve—unless he can find someone who'll exchange his pound notes for food. For money, whether it's pounds, pennies, francs, lira, dollars,

or stones with holes in them, is only a means of exchange, it is only a symbol of wealth.

The rich are rich not because they have bank vaults full of cash, but because they have big houses, because they have land, because they own factories and machinery. And the poor are poor because their roofs are often leaky, their stomachs empty, and they don't own a backyard or a set of tools—let alone land and factories.

And wealth is relative. A wealthy man today is a man who has a couple of houses, a couple of cars and a part-share in a factory. In the middle ages a man who owned a plough and a team of horses was considered rich, though he probably walked

with his feet bound in sackcloth. In prehistoric times, no doubt, the wealthy man was the one who had a store of berries to last him through the winter while others starved.

For wealth is basically that which enables us to stay alive, such as a roof to keep off the rain and land to grow food. In our advanced society, wealth is that which enables us to have a good standard of living—the washing machines, the cars, and the factories that produce them.

Where does this wealth come from? The wealthy people today say all the goods are produced by their factories, the houses built by their companies, the food grown on their land—so if they weren't around we'd live in poverty.

In fact there are only two sources of wealth: natural resources and man's own labour. If we consider how prehistoric man came by his store of nuts, roots and berries this becomes clear.

This food was his only way of staying alive, it was his only wealth. It was purely the fruit of nature, but two things combine to produce it: the natural food itself, and man's labour in collecting it. And labour is the most vital of these, for berries on the bush are not wealth: the caveman will starve unless he is strong enough to go out and collect them.

Weapons

But man did not remain a collector for long. Soon he learnt to use weapons to hunt animals, and tools to dig the earth, sow and reap crops. These weapons and tools were at first merely sharp sticks and stones that he happened to find, but soon he was sharpening sticks, shaping stones and smelting iron and bronze.

The prehistoric farmer who used tools to grow crops would have much more food than his neighbour who depended entirely on finding berries and nuts. He was in fact more 'wealthy'. Now three things combine to produce this wealth: the natural resources of soil and seeds, his labour in digging, sowing and reaping, and the tools he used. The tools are important because it is precisely these that enabled him to produce more food.

But these tools were themselves produced by taking natural resources (wood and iron ore) and working on them, carving and smelting. So the source of these tools was again that combination of natural resources and man's labour—and the farmer's three sources of wealth are again reduced to the original two.

Complex

The tools we use today are more complex, but this basic 'economic equation' is the same.

A tractor needs not just the natural resources of wood and iron but also oil, copper, aluminium, rubber, tin. To make it calls for the skilled labour of many men in refining the oil, smelting and alloying the copper and aluminium, moulding the rubber. It also calls for the use of many other tools. But still the tractor is the product of that combination of natural resources and man's labour, for so are all the other tools used to make it.

The same goes for all the machinery, for all the factories, the lorries, the power stations, that we use today to produce the wealth of society. They are the product of that same combination of natural resources and man's labour.

Who then creates the wealth? Those natural resources are not wealth in themselves. Just as the caveman had wealth only if he expended labour to collect the berries and nuts, so today we only have wealth if we labour to transform those natural resources into the complex tools of today.

Wealth, therefore, is created only by man's labour. NEXT WEEK: Why tools are the key to inequality.

Pete Marsden

Shrewsbury: IS action call

THE IS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE are calling on all IS members to do their utmost to take up the call from the Rank and File Organising Committee for action over the Shrewsbury Two on Tuesday 14 January. The TUC have called a lobby of Parliament for that day.

The Committee is also calling for a march from Euston station to Parliament at 1pm and is organising a meeting in the Assembly Rooms, Central Hall, Westminster at 4.30pm.

● All IS members should try and organise a stoppage where possible, for either the whole day, a part of the day or an hour. If this is not possible a mass meeting should be argued for, or at least a delegation to the lobby.

● IS members unable to commit their trade union bodies to any of these actions should at least make every effort to be at the lobby themselves, and bring with

them any others from their work places who would be prepared to come.

● Students should argue for union delegations and in any case the IS Society must come and bring as many supporters as possible. Students not with a delegation must meet at the London School of Economics at 11am to help with the selling of *Socialist Worker* and the new Shrewsbury pamphlet. We need as many sellers as possible. The pamphlet is available from IS Books, 01-802 6145.

● Everyone travelling to London by train or coach should sell SW and the pamphlet. Extra copies will be available in London.

● Trade Union and student society banners should be carried.

Every IS member should consider it obligatory to make some commitment on that day.

HOW TO FIGHT ON EQUAL PAY

by Pauline Lumb and Carole Dale, Sheffield IS

ALL socialists know that 1975 is supposed to be the year of Equal Pay. But most of us are also aware that the Equal Pay Act will by no means ensure an improvement in the lot of women at work and may lead to a decrease in standards of working conditions with, for example, the threatened introduction of night work for women.

It must therefore be clear that little progress will be made without hard struggle by and on behalf of working women.

It is of vital importance that all *Socialist Worker* readers and members of IS work towards developing organised programmes of action both in local IS branches and trade unions to demand that the equal pay issue and the related problems of working women are taken seriously.

Sheffield IS has formed a sub-committee to co-ordinate this work and ensure that all members of the branch, men and women, are involved.

The National Rank and File Conference on Equal Pay, planned for the Spring, gives us an ideal focus. But if it is to be a success, work towards obtaining delegations must start now.

In Sheffield we are planning a series of posters and leaflets (on equal pay, trade union organisation,



etc) to be distributed in all main workplaces which employ women, in addition to selling *Women's Voice* and *Socialist Worker*.

A film show (probably *Blow for Blow*) is planned for early February and a public meeting on Equal Pay and the Struggle of Working Women will be held at the beginning of March.

Our current emphasis on working women is not an indication that we ignore the problems of women at home. It is clear that the struggles of women at work must lead to greater

questioning of our roles as wives and mothers.

But it is only through the successful experience of fighting at work, where the basis for organisation already exists, that women can gain the confidence to extend the struggle to other areas.

THE first monthly issue of *Womens Voice* will be out on 17 January. It will contain a review of 1974, news of current struggles and articles on equal pay. Orders must be sent in now to the Business Manager, *Womens Voice*, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Because of rising costs, the paper will now cost 6p, and a monthly paper means that branches must be even more responsible about distributing copies and collecting in money.

IS DOCTORS ANSWER CONSULTANTS

IS DOCTORS met in London last week to discuss the consultants' strike action and the NHS crisis. They called for complete opposition to the BMA action and drew up plans to campaign against it in the hospitals.

Instead of being drawn behind the private consultants' fight to maintain their privileges, hospital doctors should fight independently through the medical section of ASTMS for the 40-hour week and a full pay rise.

The IS doctors have also asked IS branches to raise the private practice issue in the local Labour movement, hold meetings on the crisis, and make renewed sales of the *IS Healthworkers' pamphlet* on the NHS.

Information from the Doctors group from Zambiz Boomla, 11 Hubert Grove, London SW9. (01-274 6912)



WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION

We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM

We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

THE SMASHING OF THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

INTERNATIONALISM

We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country. Revolution is defeated by isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

WE ARE

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials. No secret negotiations. All settlements to be voted on by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against anti-trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of incomes policy under capitalism.

Against unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

For militant trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union movement.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Against all forms of imperialism, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers' revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

International Socialists

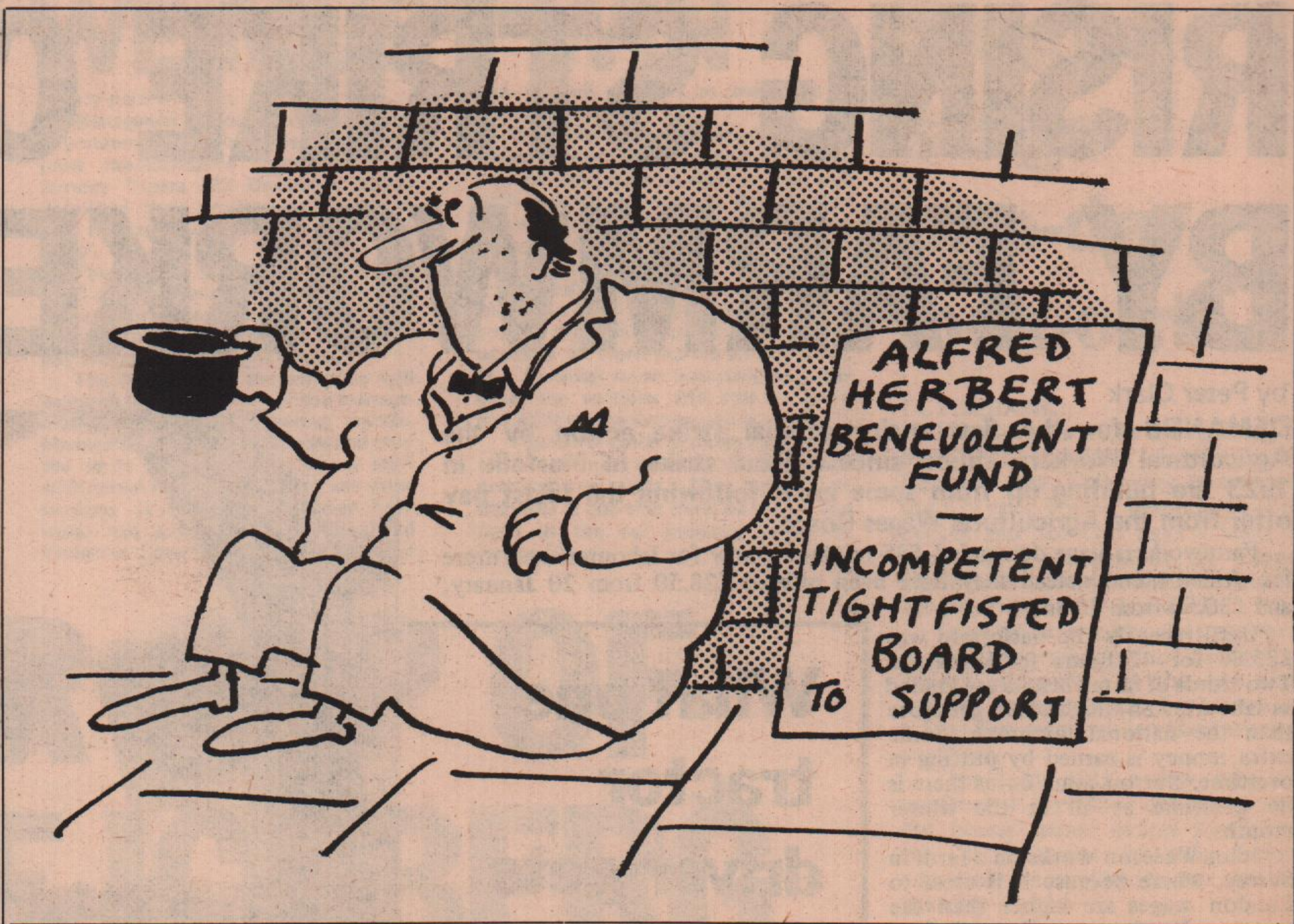


If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____



Herbert strikers show way

EDGWICK, Coventry:—Manual workers at Alfred Herbert's site celebrated the arrival of 1975 by walking out.

The New Year marked the end of the current wage agreement and since management had refused to improve on a miserly offer, the joint shop stewards' committee successfully proposed a policy of sanctions.

The wage offer—£5.20 for skilled men, £4 for semi-skilled and £3 for labourers—is so ludicrous in the face of at least 20 per cent inflation in the coming year that for the first time in several years the whole work force is united in its determination to get more.

So when, after only one hour's work, a progress chaser refused to give information on blacked work and was suspended, a works meeting was called and an indefinite strike began—with only two votes against.

Locked-out engineers get vital support

OSSETT: 160 AUEW members have been locked out at Jonas Woodhead's since the middle of December. The plant makes parts for the car industry and clearly management are hoping to get in early in the crisis and wear down the labour force.

After a breakdown on bonus talks a vote for an overtime ban and work to rule produced an interesting reaction from general manager Mr Walden.

He burst a blood vessel, cursed and swore and said: 'All you're getting is work study.' He added that we were all thick.

Within ten minutes, two senior members of management were on the shop floor trying to provoke a strike.

Withdrew

They withdrew supervision at 11.30pm on the night shift on Friday 13 December. We couldn't work without it. During the period up to 11.30pm, one of the lads fell and injured his knees. They refused him aid. So one of the stewards had to give it to him.

Over the weekend, management were out distributing leaflets in local pubs and clubs attacking the stewards' committee. The leaflet said unless 'normal' working (ie including overtime and mobility of labour) was returned we would be locked out.

We arrived for work on the 6 o'clock shift on Monday 16 December to be met by three coppers and a senior member of management who asked if we were prepared to work 'normally'. When we said no, he said: 'The place is closed.'

We've since been to the Employment Exchange to sign on. But we

weren't allowed to. We were told we were on strike. We now have a test case pending.

The local press talked about 'hot heads' and 'extremists'. And there has been an attempt to do a 'Cowley wives' on us. This has been defeated by bringing it out into the open and arguing the case. Our dispute has now been made official.

Neil Raine, the managing director, has gone to Industry Minister,

At the same time they have been preaching worker-management co-operation to save the Herbert Machine Tool Group. 'We all have to pull together', they say. For the shop floor, this presumably means a rapid deterioration in their standard of living.

At the same time they have been preaching worker-management co-operation to save the Herbert Machine Tool Group. 'We all have to pull together', they say. For the shop floor, this presumably means a rapid deterioration in their standard of living.

Last Thursday we met the Hull docks shop stewards who gave us support. Anyone crossing our lines would be blacked, they said. Pressure is on for support from other Jones Woodhead plants at Sheffield, Aycliffe, Co Durham, Leeds and in Ossett.

But support is needed most of all from the car plants, which use Woodhead Coal springs, leaf springs and shock absorbers, torsion bars, track rod ends and block lock washers.

Donations and messages of support to Colin Moore, 1 St Johns Crescent, Ossett, West Yorkshire.

WE WON'T FORGET ...

GRIMSBY:—The first of the 1100 Courtaulds workers laid off two weeks before Christmas returned to work on Thursday following an agreement between the management and union. Had the Courtaulds plant remained closed for another two weeks the workers would, of course, have been entitled to redundancy payments.

The temporary shutdown was an obvious attempt to bring the workers to heel after the refusal of part of the workforce to work overtime at a time when the rest were on short time. At the time of writing it is not clear whether the local officials have sold out this basic union principle.

Not surprisingly, Grimsby MP Anthony Crosland, who only a week ago was describing the shutdown as a cynical manoeuvre to break the union, is now urging the workers not to recriminate and let bygones be bygones—a sentiment endorsed no doubt by Lord Kearton. However, 1100 men and their families, having just spent a less than happy Christmas, will not forgive and forget.

Wedgwood Benn for a £2 million government hand-out to prop up the company against a financial crisis, brought on with no small degree of help by managerial ineptitude.

Herbert's have had plenty of free hand-outs. But, of course, such government aid is never forthcoming for workers facing declining living standards.

The precarious financial state of the company and the traditional image of 'passive' workers at Edgwick, must have encouraged a hard and fast move from management to rid themselves of the 'non-sensical' talk of a £10-for-all claim.

There is likely to be a marginally improved pay offer tied to lifting the suspension which caused the strike. This increase the differential between the skilled and other workers.

Such an offer must be rejected. All workers face the same price rises, all need the same substantial increase. Any increase in the existing differential can only damage the solidarity there now is across all sections.

Demands

The dispute should not be confined to the Edgwick site. The site at Lutterworth is guaranteed any increase gained at Edgwick over and above its own settlement.

And the Red Lane site in Coventry will obviously base its demands on whatever is achieved at Edgwick. The best and quickest agreement will come with a united fight of all these sites.

To achieve this solidarity would put us well on the road to success, a success that would not fade quickly in the memories of the workers.

RIISING STRIKE CALL BY FARMWORKERS

by Peter Clark

DEMANDS for the first major official strike action by the Agricultural Workers Union since a local strike in Norfolk in 1923 are building up from some areas following the latest pay offer from the Agricultural Wages Board.

Farmworkers have demanded £35 minimum now for labourers and more for skilled men. Instead they have been offered £28.50 from 20 January, and £30.50 from 20 July.

Until recently the basic rate was £23.80 for 42 hours for labourers. Two-thirds of farmworkers are graded as labourers although some get more than the national minimum. Some extra money is earned by putting in overtime. But on some farms there is no overtime at all in the winter months.

John Wheaton works on a farm in Surrey, where because it is close to London wages are higher than the average. He has a wife and four children. For 45 hours work in winter his take-home pay is £32. His job is graded as skilled.

He also has the dubious privilege of getting a free house with the job. But as he explained to Socialist Worker: 'I have to keep the job to keep the cottage. If I lose the job I lose the cottage. If we take any industrial action there is always the worry of dismissal and being out on the streets.'

Thousands of farmworkers live in these 'tied houses' across the country and face similar problems. John Wheaton argued that this was all the reason for fighting harder.

'We need a campaign in the membership. The big farmers are the same as industrial bosses. Farmworkers have got to learn it is their right and duty to take action to protect their families.'

In South Devon, the union's county organiser, Colin Down, explained that the executive had called on each area to discuss recommendations for action. His area had been pressing for action in January. Now they were coming out in favour of a national one-day stoppage in February, with a warning of further action to come.

'A stoppage will be effective if it's national. If we call it you can be sure

What one tractor driver gets

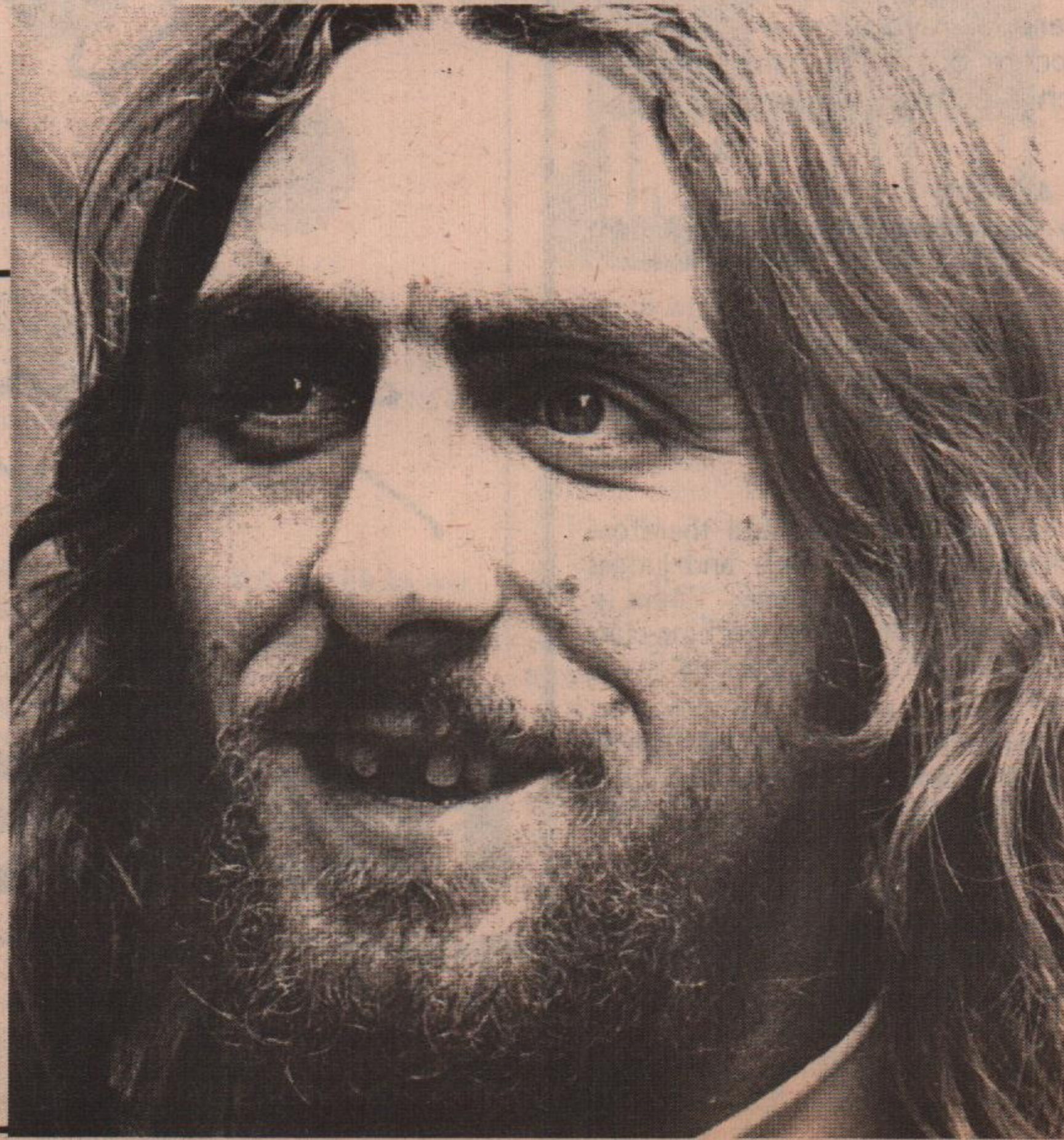
Chris Thompson is married with two children. He drives a tractor on a farm in Suffolk and is graded as a skilled man. For the week ending 20 December his wages worked out as follows:

Basic	£29.40
Four hours overtime	£ 2.82
Gross	£32.22
Deductions:	
National Insurance	84p
Graduated pension	£ 1.24
Tax	£ 2.30
Rent	.50p
Leaving take-home pay:	£27.34

it will happen. Members are very angry at the last meeting of the Wages Board. This way we prove to the farmers and the members that it's possible to hold national strike action.'

Barry Leatherwood, the Somerset county organiser, spoke of the need to get a strike fund organised for the first time in the union. 'We've got no right to ask for help from other unions until we show what we can do. We will want the Shopworkers and Transport Workers Union drivers who come to the farms to refuse to cross our picket lines.'

Some areas have already sent in motions to the union executive calling for rejection of the latest offer



Hoover: 'We had to sell ourselves out'

WEST LONDON: 'We had to sell ourselves out and allow an alarming widening of the differentials' was how General and Municipal Workers' Union steward Alan Pledge explained the shop floor acceptance of a guarantee not to chase the toolmakers' settlement at Hoover Perivale.

This acceptance was the only way of breaking the deadlock between the toolroom strike and management. The three-month old toolroom strike, which resulted in the lay-off of the production workers, ended this week with a settlement that takes toolmakers from £42 to £57 plus £100 compensation in line with the best craft rates in the West London area.

In addition to their 1975 deal all the shop got was a £3 increase for shop floor militants. The need to break the deadlock was the overwhelming desire of the production workers. At Christmas management began sacking workers and threatened to continue until a settlement was reached.

Meanwhile at the Cambuslang plant in Scotland more than 500 of the 3000 workers were laid off. The management has used the opportunity to try to weaken trade union organisation and divide one Hoover plant against the other.

Six lorry-loads of parts from Perivale, part of a batch of 12 loads, appeared at the gates of Cambuslang and management told shop stewards that if they let them in the lay-off could end.

The lorries were blocked and the parts returned to London. Mick Garity, shop steward at Cambuslang, told Socialist Worker: 'The shop stewards took the only possible decision when they unanimously endorsed the blacking.'

'Moves were made a couple of years ago to strengthen links between the three Hoover plants in Britain, but they came to nothing. The Merthyr convenor didn't even attend. I think the time has arrived to set up a strong combine committee so that the Hoover management can't try the same thing again.'

and demanding firm action. Brian Card's branch in Somerset has passed a motion rejecting the offer and condemning the executive for 'its pliant attitude'.

Like other farmworkers he believes that a one-day stoppage would be the beginning of the struggle

'We will picket the farms and the markets. We'll feed the animals but nothing more. We must hold out for the full £35.'

But the farmworkers cannot win without the help of other groups of workers. Bodies like the Rank and File Organising Committee have the power to organise help in enforcing picket lines and blacking.

Teachers could have £15 each

LAST Monday, after seven hours of shadow boxing, the leaders of the teachers' unions agreed to the Houghton pay package with no improvements.

There had been a lot of talk on the NUT executive of trying to improve the starting salary offer. General secretary Edward Britton had described this as 'totally inadequate', but the majority union in the negotiations is the NUT and they accepted it.

The Report gives massive rises to those at the top and precious little to the mass of working teachers. If the total sum in the package were divided equally then every teacher would get £789 a year more.

The table below shows how much you lose thanks to Houghton's method of pampering those at the top at the expense of the mass of teachers. Come to think of it, it's rather like society as a whole. The 80 per cent of teachers on salary grades 1 to 4 are all losing money compared to what £15 flat rate would have given.

Old Scales	Houghton Rises	Loss or gain compared with equal distribution
1	Min £228 Max £516	Lose £561 Lose £273
2	Min £513 Max £671	Lose £276 Lose £118

3	Min £444 Max £654	Lose £345 Lose £135
4	Min £441 Max £816	Lose £348 Gain £ 37
5	Min £621 Max £999	Lose £168 Gain £210

It is clear that only strong determined action by the mass of members in the union will get this sell-out rejected. We should organise now.

● Motions should be passed in schools and local teachers' associations, rejecting Houghton and calling for £15-a-week increase for all teachers.

● Motions should be passed in schools and associations for unofficial strike action co-ordinated on a local basis early next week.

● All delegates to the special salaries conference on 25 January should be mandated to vote NO to Houghton and YES to equal distribution.

● Only a massive response before the 25 January can ensure that Houghton is rejected and justice is done for all teachers.

Inside the Teachers' Union—page 6

Classified

Open Letter for a Revolutionary Regroupment

The Open Letter calls for a revolutionary regroupment, lays down 12 points as political guidelines and maps out practical steps towards unity. Copies from Workers Fight, 98 Gifford St, London N1 0DF. Please enclose 4½p stamp.

Farmhouse holidays in North Wales. Reduced winter rates. Children welcome. Phone 069186 2272.

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

All you want to know about inflation. 11 January. The Road to Socialism—political NOT industrial action. 18 January. Saturday evening series. Full discussion. Start 7.30pm at 52 Clapham High Street, SW4. The Socialist Party of Great Britain.

DEMONSTRATE in support of arrested Kensington/Chelsea dustman. Old St magistrates court, Monday 3 February, 10.30am.

WANTED: IS members or contacts who play either guitar, banjo or accordion to form folk-based group to play at IS socials etc. Contact John, Marlow 72685 or High Wycombe 26324.

GEC Rank 'n File Conference for all trade unionists working for GEC. Saturday 18 January 2.30pm at AUEW House, 129 Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton (five mins walk from station), credentials 50p.

SHREWSBURY: public meeting: Tuesday 14 January, 8pm, Enterprise pub (opposite Chalf Farm tube). North London. Speaker: Ken O'Shea (building worker tried at Shrewsbury for picketing).

RANK AND FILE TECH TEACHER meeting: Houghton and After. Speaker: Merrilyn Moos. Sunday 12 January 7.30pm. The Roebuck, 108a Tottenham Court Road, London, W1. Nearest tube Warren Street.

TYNE SHIPYARDS LOCKOUT 7000

SOUTH SHIELDS: Most of the workforce—more than 7000 workers—in the Swan Hunter yards on Tyneside have been locked out by management after the electricians' strike and an attempt has been made to use the payment of dole money to isolate the electricians.

Bob Stidolph, Boilermakers chairman, and John Branda Cauker, steward from the Redhead yard in South Shields told Socialist Worker what happened.

First the local dole office refused any

money at all, saying this has been ordered by their regional HQ. So the two went to see the regional insurance officer who, when threatened by further action, suddenly changed his tune and agreed to pay up. The threat of militant action is the only language the Department of Social Security understand.

Swan Hunter are now saying that they will put the laid-off men on holiday and

We're no stage army — airport strikers

WEST LONDON: Five groups of shift workers in the European division of the engineering base at Heathrow Airport called a one-day protest 'roll-up' strike last week. This is a strike where one group of shift workers follows the next with industrial action. The strike is the expression of frustration at the way the annual pay claim is being handled. The claim is for a 20 to 25 per cent increase, four weeks annual holiday and shift premiums tied to a percentage of the basic rate. It was due for settlement on 1 January.

A resolution passed at the second mass meeting in December committed airport workers to a full-scale strike early in the New Year if management's offer was unacceptable. In a pamphlet issued by members of the International Socialists who work at the airport we warned that whatever were the wishes of the rank and file, it has become second nature to the airport trade union leadership to treat us like a stage army.

Our worst fears have already been confirmed. In December the first mass meeting agreed a one-day strike to back up negotiations. The new offer of ten per cent now and five per cent in May was unacceptable. But on the eve of the one-day strike 200 very angry stewards were gathered together to hear Billy Benson smooth-talk a small majority into agreeing to call off the strike.

Benson is the grand old man at the airport. He has the reputation for having developed trade union organisation there. But the executive of the shop stewards' committee rarely use him these days.

The last time he appeared at a mass meeting last summer, was to persuade air stewards and stewardesses to call off their strike. He has a vested interest in sabotaging the present wages struggle to protect his own credibility.

In the overseas division he floated £5 across the board as an acceptable settlement 'because the airport cannot afford more'. This even turned the stomachs of some national officials.

It is difficult to imagine how similar to management the top layer of airport organisation has become. In the two division many of the members of the leading committees have full-time positions paid by the corporation. And the leadership are proud of a style of organisation which allows them to decide what is good for the members without consulting the members.

Unbelievable

In the overseas division, Benson and Co formulated the £5 demand without any discussion among the members. Unbelievably this style of leadership is graded with the title 'democratic centralism'.

This was the description Lenin gave to the political organisation workers need in the struggle to overthrow capitalism: strong centralisation where all members have the confidence to be leaders. He would revolve in his grave if he knew that some of those purporting to be his present day followers are using his phrases to justify what is little more than blatant class collaboration.

Meanwhile airport workers' fury with the ten per cent now and five per cent in May has been contained with a new trick from the airport leadership—ramped thresholds.

In management's latest offer a new threshold would be triggered after the cost of living has risen 20 per cent this year, the final possible trigger being the publication of the Retail Price Index in November.

Present estimates suggest that it would be unlikely to be triggered before then. Not even the executive can sell this one. Unfortunately the idea has caught on and negotiations are dragging on to find a new threshold formula.

But as members of the International Socialists keep repeating: Even a threshold triggered by next autumn, ten per cent now and five in May amounts to a pay cut at the present rate of inflation.

threaten their dole money that way. Many workers suspect that Swan and the Department are working together to pick on one yard and try to drive the rest of the workforce against the electricians.

To fight against the new attack, Red-head workers have decided to form a rank and file committee to 'co-ordinate activity'. As one of the laid-off men told Socialist Worker: 'I would rather see Swans go bankrupt than go back to work before the electricians had a fair offer.'

THE STRUGGLE WE MUST WIN

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, management at Chrysler announced short time working among the plant's 5000 manual workers. They're in trouble not because of high wages or anything like that. They're in trouble because they're big capitalists operating in a chaotic world market.

The present cuts at Linwood, and the three-day week at Ryton, Coventry, are only the start. In the US, they have laid off 70,000 of their 86,000 workers. Production at Linwood of 45 cars an hour for three days is the equivalent of 27 an hour for five.

The situation where the need for an assembly plant at Linwood and another at Ryton producing below capacity begins to look like an expensive luxury to the profit-conscious men in charge of Chrysler.

In France, Chrysler have been un-

successful in trying to sell off Simca. And one of the auctions being considered in the operation to bail out British Leyland is for them to take over Chrysler UK.

Hourly-paid workers at Linwood have heard no mention of redundancies. Management have employed a completely different strategy. They have tried to demoralise completely the workforce by management-provoked disputes—one a week on average.

Workers were lifting their books and leaving on a level unknown before, at least three times as many as usual. In the last few months hundreds of men have left, so allowing management to avoid actual redundancies.

The present situation, where track speeds have been reduced and short time introduced, is a further attempt to undermine the fighting spirit of the

hourly-paid workers.

Management have refused to make any statement on the crisis or meet the joint representative committee. The Sunday Times (22 December 1974) described their strategy as 'lying low and hoping their problem would go away'.

The lay-off agreement in Chrysler is 20 days a calendar year, ten days for disputes or 16 on short-time working. If the short time continues, the lay-off pay will run out in eight weeks.

The fight against the company will be much harder because of the management's strategy of lowering morale. Management have so far threatened only the white collar and supervisory staff with actual redundancy. They see these sections as the weakest. They have never had a history of fighting and therefore have been seen by most of

the manual workers as the tools of management.

But they have not named names in these redundancies. Instead they axe two of the janitorial staff in such and such a section when in that section there are only two janitors anyway. So everybody knows who's going to be made redundant.

The other foremen know it won't be them. So there is no fight. The white-collar workers should be totally opposed to work-sharing of any kind. If a foreman or an industrial engineer goes, the sections will still be there and all it means is more work.

The white-collar workers must prove to the manual workers that they are prepared to fight. The struggle at Chrysler is one that must be won if the fight in the car industry is to be successful.

Singer stage one-day lock-out

CLYDEBANK:

THE employers' crisis is beginning to bite into workers' jobs in the Glasgow area. Following quickly on the Chrysler bosses' decision to lock people out for two days a week at Linwood, management at Singer, Clydebank have put 4000 workers at the plant on a four-day week.

To some extent, the shop stewards have a responsibility for this one-day-a-week lockout. For the last four months, some workers have been on a four-day week while others worked overtime.

This time only a few jobs are unaffected by the cut-backs and the bosses' panic makes it obvious that it will not be long before wholesale redundancies are on the agenda.

Need

Unfortunately, the shop stewards still haven't seen the need to fight back before the economic crisis throws them on to the dole.

Too many of them see it as just another temporary downturn. The shop stewards in the West of Scotland need to act in a more political and daring way now than during the fight to save jobs at UCS.

Jobs were lost during that fight. We must not lose them now.

CHRYSLER - TIP OF THE ICEBERG

by Willie Lee, AUEW Chrysler
Linwood Press Shop Convenor

THE 'greedy car workers' who have been slaughtered by the capitalist press are now the first to feel the real brunt of the economic crisis. The lay-offs and short-time working which have been introduced so far are only the tip of the iceberg.

Harold Wilson has issued a warning cry to the rest of the working class. And the carworkers the section he has signalled out are, thanks to the Tory press, probably the least popular section of the working class.

On behalf of the bosses, Wilson is throwing down the gauntlet to the working class. And it is a challenge we must take up.

At the moment we are not just fighting minor battles for wages and conditions. We are at the beginning of a long struggle against the multi-national companies which, unless we organise and win, will mean the complete erosion of working class organisation and the loss of our jobs and conditions.

Defend

The deepening economic crisis is revealing itself in each new declaration of lay-offs, short-time working and redundancies. If management succeed in breaking any major section of the working class then the struggle ahead will be made much easier for them.

They will try to use this situation to weaken the defences of the working class. To defend ourselves in this period we must go on the offensive.

The stronger sections of the working class and those not already on short-time working or faced with redundancies must make it their business to begin now to mount the offensive.

All shop stewards, committees should make it policy to commit themselves to total opposition to redundancies of any kind in the future.

Handshake

Mass meetings should be called immediately to explain to the workforce the seriousness of the situation. Voluntary redundancy should be opposed outright.

Men and women who accept this or the golden handshake are walking out of the door and onto the dole. No worker should leave his or her job at the moment. That job will not be filled.

The boom in industries such as shipbuilding, machine tool engineering and the oil-related industries is only temporary. There is a shortage of skilled workers in these industries because of cut-backs in apprenticeships.

We now have to hang on to what-

APOLOGY

WE wish to make it known that our correspondent Steve Waldie's implications in the article entitled 'Asbestosis' in our issue of the 12 October 1974 that he had seen asbestos insulation being stripped at a power station without proper precautions were incorrect.

We are satisfied that the requisite precautions are fully observed on those occasions when asbestos is

How they 'execute' thousands of workers

... it was executed enormously efficiently. We worked on it, very few of us, in this room at night after we had done our day's work and every single detail was foreseen and planned. Nothing happened in the fortnight between the announcement and the moment it closed that we hadn't foreseen despite the fact that we were dealing with a very wild political situation.

I don't really care about history too much. And so not having those sentiments I find it gave me no pain to cut great swathes through this organisation.

—Jocelyn Stevens, managing director Daily Express, on the closure of the Scottish Daily Express Quoted in the Sunday Times, 5 January 1975.



Picture: Christopher Davies (Report)

ever we have got and insist at all times that manning levels are maintained.

The campaign against redundancies must begin by the fight for five days' work or five days' pay. This should be fought for at all levels. No agreements should be signed which do not commit management to such a policy.

Linked to this is the demand for the 35-hour week, which is the national policy of most of the large unions. It must now be made a reality.

Not only would it increase the amount of work available, it would improve the social and working conditions of our members.

The fight for a policy of factory occupations of any firm which threatens closures or redundancies is crucial. This should be fought for

immediately as shop and union policy through stewards' committees, combine committees, district committees and any other channels.

These struggles will enable us to force nationalisation without compensation and under workers' control.

Links between workers should be formed nationally and locally throughout the same firm. Pressure must be brought to bear on the trade union leaders, full-time officials and through the union branches to campaign for these demands.

No-one can now sit back and say 'I'm alright'. It's happening in the car industry, the textile industry and coming in the building industry.

It's not a few jobs now—it's all our jobs. We must take this fight seriously and begin to build the rank and file movement that will deliver the goods.

This is a crisis that the employing class cannot get out of short of smashing the working class. For us however there is no solution to this crisis in the confines of this system of society.

All that's been covered in this article are the ways to fight. But these fights have to be seen as part of the fight to end this chaos and get a just society.

Boost for locked-out 600

By the Associated Automation Lock-out Committee

WILLESDEN:—Workers at Associated Automation, locked out now for eight weeks, scored an encouraging victory on Tuesday.

A vote was taken (above) to occupy the factory unless five scabs were sacked—and management quickly agreed.

The 600 manual workers were locked out following an overtime ban in support of demands for the full threshold of £4.40, instead of the £2.40 we have been given, and for a London Weighting Allowance.

Management appears to be reluctant to negotiate with the union and restart the production line. Brother McLoughlin, the Divisional Organiser of the AUEW, met management on 20 December when an offer of 40p, payable from 20 January was made.

The offer was put to workers at the meeting that night. It was regarded as an insult and rejected.

Last Monday, the shop stewards put pickets on the gates for the

first time. However, members of TASS and APEX crossed the picket line and went into work.

Although TASS members have helped us in other ways we would like them to respect our picket lines. The APEX representative, Mrs Mander, incidentally, is a Labour councillor.

Our shop stewards at Associated Automation would like to form a link with all GEC stewards throughout the country and are appealing to all GEC Convenors to contact them at Willesden Trades and Labour Hall, 375 High Road, Willesden, NW10.

The dispute has now been made official by the AUEW. The shop stewards Lock-out Committee are making an appeal to all fellow workers, especially in the GEC Combine, for moral and financial support.

All donations and messages of support to Shop Stewards Committee, A E Ford, 21 Stanley Park Drive, Wembley, Middlesex.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



**FREE
THE
TWO**

OUR TARGET: WE NEED £1545

THIS WEEK the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund has raised £455.04.

If we'd been given an oil well in the North Sea by the Tory government and bailed out when we failed to make a fortune out of it by the Labour government, then we might be able to get along without the money you're sending us.

But we haven't. And the pipeline from you, our readers, to the paper is a bit leaky right now. We need £1545 to reach our January target of £2000.

Manchester Poly Students Union £50; Readers, Yardley Wood Birmingham £2.25; Dodworth NUM members £18.85; Readers Moorfields Eye Hospital £7.56; Chrysler Linwood Paint Shop £2; West London Hospital £15; North London Hospitals £22.50; Ruston Paxman Shop Stewards Committee £5; Cannon Industries AUEW Stewards £5; Wakefield TC £5; Shrewsbury TC £1.

Lambeth IS £10; Hyde £3.30; Maidenhead £5; Woolwich IS £84; Newham £12; TGWU No 5 Birmingham £5; Atherton Trades Council & Labour Party £2.

Send your donations to Mel Norris, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

LEYLAND: THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER

By John Cullinane, TGWU, Austin Longbridge
TWO WEEKS ago, we were given a pep talk by the foreman. Management wanted more production. Yet the Mini blocks are on short time. Why? Because they produce too much.

Every day we read about carworkers getting the sack or going on short time. Aston Martin, Chrysler, Jensen, Reliant in this country, Fiat and Volkswagen in Europe, General Motors in America and Australia—the list is endless and neither the Austin Longbridge nor any other British Leyland plant is immune from this recession.

Our jobs, wages and standard of living are threatened as oil prices continue to rise while demand for cars falls.

The answer isn't, as Lord Stokes would have us believe, to produce more cars and stop strikes. A few months ago, Jensen workers were told: 'You are lazy, you must work harder or you

WHAT WE MUST DEMAND

100 PER CENT nationalisation without compensation

SHOP STEWARDS' control of manning, track speeds and working conditions

NO redundancies

NO short pay—five days' work or five days' pay

NO hiving off so-called unprofitable sections of British Leyland.

will be out of a job.' They did work harder, and now 500 of them are getting the sack because there is no market for their product.

Nor is government intervention the answer. Anyone who saw Wilson's speech last Friday can now see what we can expect from Sir Don Ryder and the Labour Government. Anyone

who is aware of the government-backed GEC/AEI merger in 1967, when 67,000 workers lost their jobs, should also know it.

We have to have a completely different approach to the threat to jobs in the car industry. As workers at Chrysler Ryton go on a three-day week, they will probably be told that fewer workers are now needed and that wage claims cannot be met, even though inflation will continue to rocket.

Ford workers will be told that if they keep producing, their jobs will be safe. And British Leyland workers will be blackmailed: produce more, don't strike, don't put realistic wage claims in or we'll close plants down if they don't make a profit.

Instead of planning we get the anarchy of competition with each firm urging workers to greater efforts. If they are successful, other car workers lose their jobs.

Our answer is simple: nationalise the car industry without compensation. We've got to argue and explain that this is the only realistic course.

Workers' participation, or government appointed boards, won't guarantee our future. Only we, through taking clear action to fight for our jobs, wages and working conditions, can do that.

We know real workers' control won't exist this side of a socialist revolution. You cannot have the car industry under workers' control while the banks and the other car component companies and suppliers remain under their existing ownership.

Nationalisation wouldn't mean the new Jerusalem. British Leyland run by a government-nominated board would still operate under the same priorities as the present management Wilson has made that clear in his speech.

We call for nationalisation as the best policy to defend jobs and fight for the maintenance of pay and working conditions. It's up to British Leyland workers to compel the management and government to face up to their demands.

ADVERTISEMENT

SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

Weekend School at the Norbreck Hotel, Scarborough, 25-26 January.

Sponsored by Flixborough TGWU Shop Stewards Committee, CEU Rotherham Branch, UCATT Wolverhampton Branch, TGWU 3/83 Avonmouth Smelter Branch, Pat Kinnersly (author of Hazards at Work), the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science and the Rank and File Organising Committee.

The school includes a comprehensive background to the dangers from dust, chemicals, noise, asbestos, lead and petro-chemical products. It will show how to identify dangerous substances, how to take samples, measure noise and dust levels etc, and how to use the equipment to do this.

The cost, £9 a head, includes all meals and coffee breaks from Saturday lunch to Sunday lunch inclusive. For delegates wishing to stay Friday night as well we have arranged Bed and Breakfast at £3 a head.

All hotel accommodation and all booking through the Organising Committee. Please fill in the form.

Name and address of delegating body

Name and Address of Delegates

Money enclosed

Please return to R Cox, Secretary, 214 Roundwood Rd, London NW10.

INTEX STRIKERS GO BACK

by Dave Hallsworth, the shop steward whose victimisation led to the strike

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE: The Intex strikers have decided to return to work this Friday after eight weeks on strike.

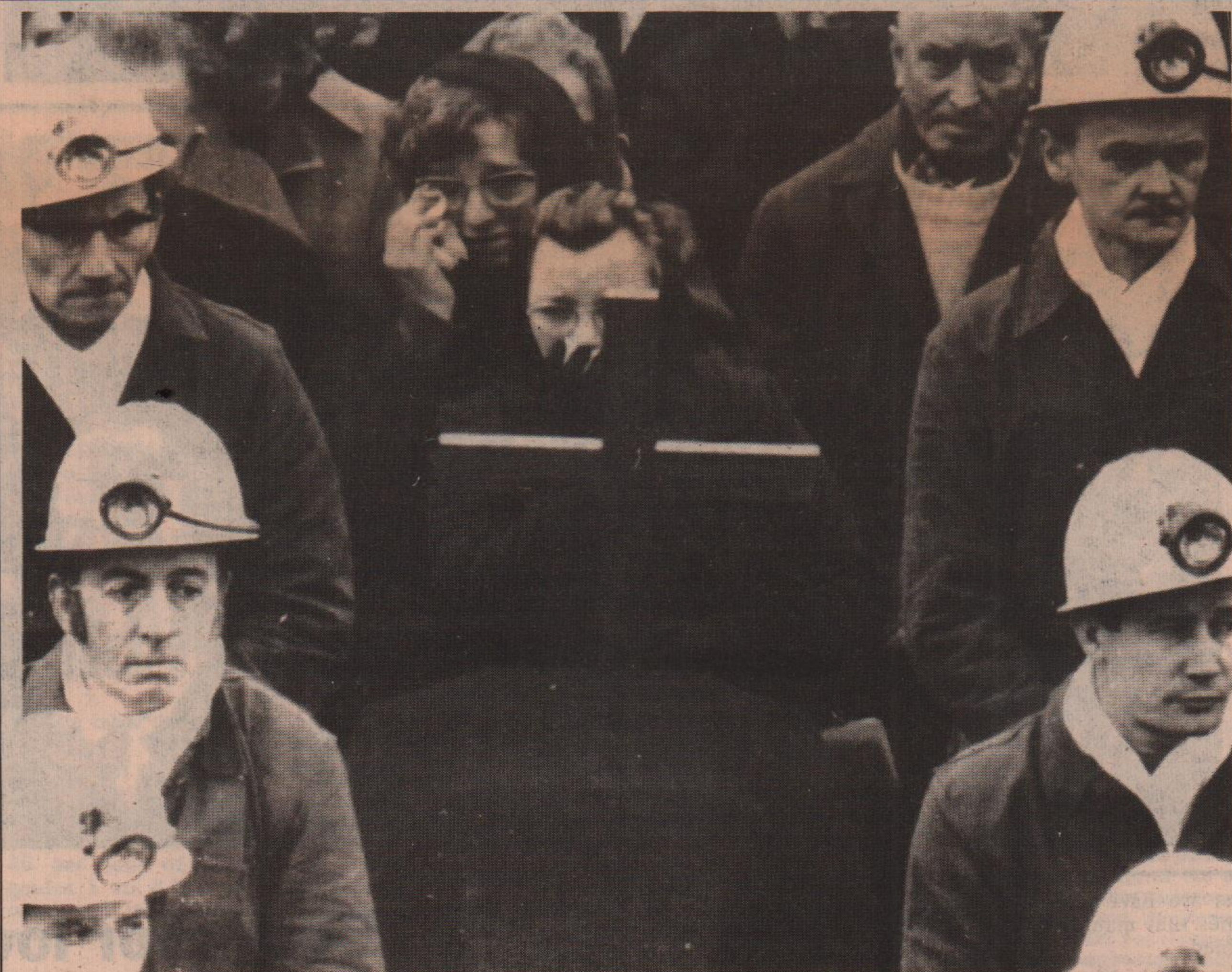
Without strike pay, the strike was beginning to slip badly. Faced with the problems of the militants being isolated outside the factory, with one strike leader in Risley Remand Centre for alleged assault, together with a solidarity picket from a Manchester plastics factory, it was very difficult to continue.

Management has agreed there will be no further victimisations, and that Dennis Bridges will be allowed to return to work.

If this agreement is broken, the meeting agreed to leave the factory and deprive ICI of a skilled work force.

We faced enormous difficulties. The factory was divided between men and women, between craft and non-craft unions, between Asian and white workers. One of the great achievements of the strikers was the solidarity between the black and white workers.

Our defeat was not an inglorious one. Both the ICI bosses and the Dyers and Bleachers Union have lumps on their faces. And the workforce has gone back together after a proper mass meeting.



LIEVIN, France:—Quick money and death-trap coal mines go together—and are international. Relatives of one of the 42 miners killed on 27 December mourn at his funeral on New Year's Eve.

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Journalists strike to stop sackings

E LONDON:—34 members of the National Union of Journalists in the Stratford Express group went on official strike this week in defence of five of their members who have been declared redundant.

All five were active in the NUJ national dispute before Christmas and, with further action over London Weighting in the pipeline, management have seized the opportunity to weaken the growing organisation of the NUJ members at Stratford.

Management have refused to allow an independent accountant to look at the books. A sub-editor has also recently resigned and as the sacked Mother of the Chapel is also a sub-editor it leaves that department hopelessly under-staffed.

Laurie Upshon, assistant editor of the Stratford Express and one of those on strike, pointed out that before Christmas he had written a short article on the redundancy issue which the editor had refused to publish. Two weeks earlier, the editor had published an editorial on the importance of the 'Freedom of the Press'.

An action group of journalists in East London and Essex issued their first bulletin last week calling for full support by all journalists against these sackings. Already the Kentish Times have given £25 and the East London NUJ branch £40.

The action group are holding their second meeting on Thursday 9 January, 8pm, at the Cauliflower in Seven Kings High Road.

The sackings won't end with the Stratford Express unless there is a determined fight by all journalists in the area. They should also force the NUJ executive to escalate the action in defence of their members.