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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THE GREAT MARCH



Some of the thousands of trade unionists who marched from Euston Station to the lobby.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

TUESDAY was a great day for rank and file trade unionism. More than 10,000 trade unionists turned the TUC's call for a lobby of parliament to free the two jailed Shrewsbury pickets into a mighty demonstration of working-class strength.

From Euston Station, thousands of workers responded to the call of the Rank and File Organising Committee to march to the lobby.

An even larger march started from Tower Hill.

The marches were broken up by mounted police before they could meet, but the trade unionists pressed on to Parliament Square where they formed a mighty sea of working-class anger. The

Now strike to free 2

proceedings at Westminster had to be stopped while the workers thronged round the building and in the lobbies.

Every trade unionist who took part in the day of action can feel proud of themselves. But pride will not free our jailed brothers.

The next step is to force the TUC to call for official action to free the Shrewsbury Two. In every trade union

branch, on every shop stewards' committee, and at every higher level in the trade union movement, district, region and national executive committee, every trade unionist must demand that the TUC acts now. Resolutions must flood in to the TGWU, UCATT and the TUC demanding that the next step, strike action, be taken if Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson are not freed immediately.

In every area where delegates report back from the lobby the message must be:

Let's get action committees going again.

Let's call local meetings to give trade unionists the ammunition on Shrewsbury.

And let's demand that the TUC calls strike action now!

HEALEY'S ANSWER: 'Squeeze workers till pips squeak'

'DELIGHTFUL' was the comment of asbestos king and head of the Confederation of British Industry Sir Ralph Bateman last Friday after a meeting with the Labour government.

What he was so delighted about was revealed by Chancellor Dennis Healey a couple of hours later. Remember Healey? The man who spoke of 'Squeezing the rich till the pipe squeak'? But that was a year ago, and Healey was in opposition then...

Now the tune has changed. He told a meeting in Leeds that workers are going to have to accept lower living standards and the government was going to do everything short of a statutory incomes policy to pull wages down.

Before Christmas Healey gave industrialists £1000 million in tax refunds and £500 million in government loans. The government have told the oil bosses that the proposed 51 per cent state holding in North Sea oil won't affect the profits they were planning to make.

Someone's pips are squeaking all right. But the noise doesn't come from Bateman's orange plantation.

Engineering Union leader Hugh Scanlon has written that he doesn't accept that if pay rises are limited below the cost of living this will somehow help reduce unemployment. 'I reject it completely,' he said. His words were echoed by David Basnett of the General and Municipal Workers.

But don't get too excited. The trade union leaders may be angry, they may be disturbed—but that's a lot less painful for them than having to do something.

Bandwagon

What worries them is that Healey is triggering unofficial strike action as the government loses popularity with trade union activists. They want to jump off that part of the government's bandwagon.

But they can't. Because they're playing in the same ball game, a game they play with the big business system. They have no desire to stop it—or even change the rules.

What's true of Basnett and Scanlon is even truer of Michael Foot and Wedgwood Benn, the left wing of the government. By a vague series of smoke signals they've indicated they don't agree with open anti-working class policies.

Foot says he will probably resign if a statutory incomes policy is introduced, while Benn speaks of 'workers' participation'.

Participation in what? Healey's policies?

For Benn urges British Leyland workers to hold back wage demands and Foot used almost the same words as Healey on Monday. 'Wages should not be pressed to such a degree that they would increase the risk of unemployment,' he said.

Benn and Basnett, Scanlon and Foot, the names may change but Labour's message remains the same.

There is an alternative to living standards and jobs going out the window. But it won't come from those four.

It comes from the shop floor. It means fighting every wage cut and every redundancy. It means building a fighting socialist organisation that puts the real alternative to wage cuts and redundancies: nationalisation under workers' control, without compensation.

And wiping the smile off Bateman's face.

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PVC: HOW MANY MORE MUST DIE?

ON Christmas Eve a 37-year-old man died in South Wales. He had been in hospital since November with 'liver trouble', but the cause of death has now been established as angiosarcoma, a rare liver cancer.

Just one of those quirks of nature, you might think, until you know that from 1965 to 1974 this particular worker was employed at the Barry works of BP Chemicals. During his time there, he worked for three and a half years as a 'poly-cleaner' in the PVC plant—one of the men who went inside the production vessels to clean them out between batches.

He probably didn't even know that while he worked he was inhaling a gas so dangerous that the only safe level is when it is not present at all.

The gas is called vinyl chloride monomer—

By Bryan Rees

VCM—and it is converted in the vessels he was employed to clean, into PVC plastic. Up to the beginning of 1974 the legal limit for VCM was 200 parts per million (ppm) and the main producers of PVC in this country—BP Chemicals, ICI, Vinatex and British Industrial Plastics—have been frantically trying to reduce this to 50 ppm. They have now set a target level of 25ppm, which they are spending £4 million to try to achieve.

At the moment about 5000 workers are involved in the production of PVC but since the plastic boom took off in Britain after the war many thousands of workers have been exposed to VCM and at levels much higher

than 200 ppm.

It is only since workers in American PVC plants were found to have angiosarcoma that producers in Britain have taken any steps to protect workers from VCM. At Hillhouse in Lancashire, ICI has been producing PVC since 1944 and the BP works at Barry has been producing PVC since 1948.

In America, experts who advise the Occupational Safety and Health Agency—the body responsible for setting permitted safety standards—are in favour of introducing a standard of less than one part per million. At the moment this is not in force in America because several manufacturers have objected.

In Britain the legal level is still 200 ppm and a representative of the PVC producers has said that VCM levels will not fall below 20 ppm.

The companies argue that to get down to 1 ppm would be impossible to produce PVC in existing plants—ICI Hillhouse could certainly not meet this standard.

They said the same in America but the US Department of Labour chose to believe otherwise. Indeed if new technology and methods were introduced most plants would be safe for most of the time.

The point is that at the moment the big chemical companies face a recession and are not prepared to invest in the new plant and processes necessary. Their profits would suffer—so the health of the workers they employ can suffer instead. The question is how many more men must die painful and unnecessary deaths before something is done—and it will be up to workers in these plants to do it.



PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Roger Cox (Right), Secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee, and a delegation from the committee in discussion with Luis Figueroa, exiled president of the Trades Congress of Chile, last Wednesday about Rank and File's campaign for the release of trade unionists imprisoned by the Chilean junta.

Brother Figueroa has been speaking to British trade union leaders about the situation in Chile, and gave up a good deal of his time after the meeting to discussing the Rank and File campaign.

The Organising Committee delegation explained that they had already got work permits for some of the trade

unionists in prison, and asked whether Brother Figueroa would be able to organise reception demonstrations when these trade unionists arrived in Britain. The meeting ended with promises of more contact as the Rank and File campaign builds up.

Trade union branches and shop stewards committees are being urged by the committee to step up the campaign for the 'adoption' of trade unionists in Chile jails. Names of prisoners can be obtained from the Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

ANTI-FASCIST DEMO: STUDENT IS JAILED

JUST before Christmas Ian Coleman was jailed for 18 months by Leeds Crown Court. He is a student, a member of Sheffield Polytechnic Students Union executive, and a member of the International Marxist Group.

The lead-up to this vicious sentence was last June when a small demonstration was held in Leeds to counter a meeting of the National Democratic Freedom Movement. The NDFM, a breakaway group from the National Front, are fascists and admit to it. Last year they smashed the Bradford Trades Council banner and attempted to break up a local nurses' demonstration.

Ian Coleman, who was part of the anti-fascist demonstration, was carrying out the policy of the National Union of Students. At the time of his arrest some members of the NDFM were wearing helmets and

chanting provocative slogans accompanied by Nazi salutes. A scuffle inevitably broke out and some people were arrested.

Ian had no previous convictions and was charged with causing actual bodily harm to a police officer—he is said to have broken a policeman's toe. The members of the NDFM, who had previous convictions for incitement to racial hatred, were fined.

The NUS is supporting a demonstration on Saturday (18 January) in Leeds. Assemble Leeds Polytechnic car park, Woodhouse Lane, 2pm. As universities will only just have started back it is important that members of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies (NOISS) organise for the demonstration to make it as big as possible. Further information from Sheffield Polytechnic Students Union or Sheffield IS.

Thirteen rent strikes start in colleges

STUDENTS have been returning to their colleges after the Christmas vacation to find that there has been no let-up in the government's attack on education. The recently announced £15 million supplementary grant to help compensate for the effects of inflation in no way softens the impact of the original £182 million cut.

Last term thousands of students went into action in defence of their conditions at colleges and universities, including Birmingham Poly, Portsmouth Poly, Edinburgh University and Sussex University. There were 140 disputes during the term.

This term, already 13 rent-strikes are in progress. At Warwick University, £10,000 has been collected for the rent strike fund and this is growing all the time.

But the cuts will not be easily

defeated. Already, one college, Alnwick, has been closed down completely. In scores of others, staff-student ratios are being reduced, campus workers are being made redundant, hall fees and canteen prices are rocketing and building programmes are being slashed. At Furredown College of Education a packed meeting of students resolve to fight a proposed merger with Phillips Fawcett College, which would result in a cut by two-thirds of teacher-training places in the area.

Students have to be vigilant about these cuts. They are insidious. Reduction in staffing levels, for instance, remains often hidden until too late. Local education authority and college authority meeting minutes are a good source of information on this score. They should be watched carefully.

WARNING!

Yet another law is being used against workers

by two immigrant hotel workers

FRANCO CAPRINO, the Italian catering worker being held in jail in London threatened with deportation as 'a threat to national security', warned workers in Britain this week that his arrest is simply another step in the increasing attack on trade union militancy.

He said in a statement to a visitor at Pentonville Prison: 'It's no coincidence that at a time of growing crisis, when immigrants, the weakest section of the working class, are beginning to unite and find some confidence in their struggles, I am sitting here in a prison cell trying to fight a deportation order.'

'I've been active in the International section of the Transport and General Workers Union, trying to organise immigrant workers, and that's why I'm here.'

'There is no charge, no hint of why I am in prison except a short statement from the Home Office that I am a threat to national security. What does that mean? It means that I am a militant trade unionist. My arrest is yet another example of the tightening up by the ruling class in order to repress militancy.'

'They told me here that if I signed a statement refusing to appeal against deportation I could have been back in Italy by Christmas.'

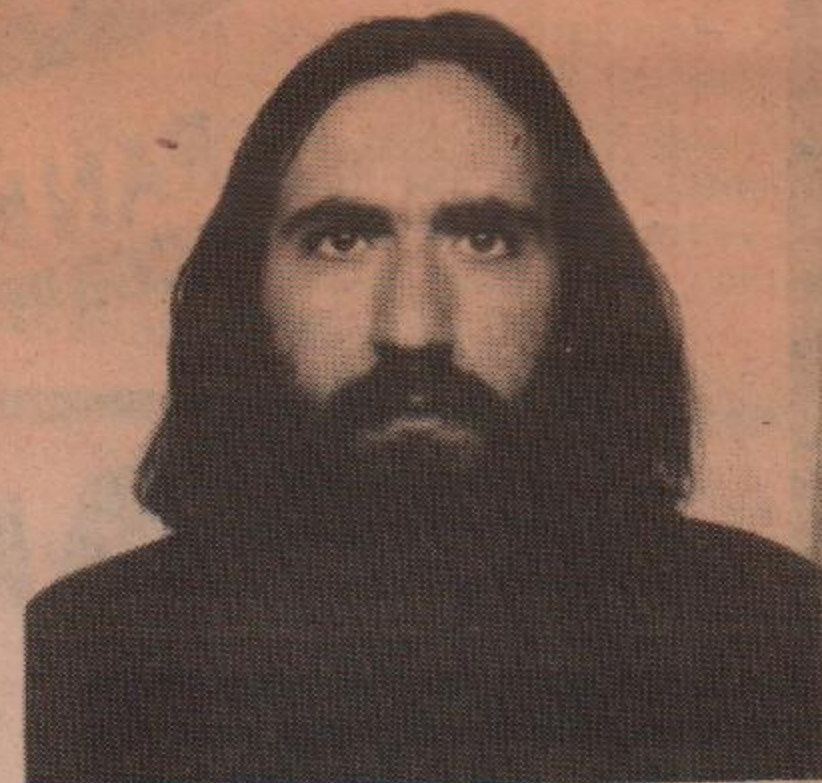
Struggle

'But I am appealing because I see my struggle as part of a general working-class struggle and of a particular struggle by immigrant workers.'

Franco Caprino, a member of the Italian left-wing group Lotta Continua, is being held without trial under the infamous Section 42 of the Tory Immigration Act, which allows the deportation without trial of any foreigner in this country just because the Home Secretary thinks it is 'conducive to the public good' and 'in the interests of national security'.

This section has not been used before, and it is no accident that it is being used now.

Immigrant workers, influenced by political developments at home in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and other countries, and driven by the comparison between their terrible wages and working conditions and those of the unionised British workers, are beginning to fight back. Especially in hospitals, where a rank and file paper for Spanish hospital



Franco Caprino

workers is being started, and in the hotel and catering industry, immigrant workers are forming into unions for the first time, striking for the first time, and improving their standard of living for the first time.

The bosses will now try to use the 1971 Immigration Act to decapitate this movement. Spanish militants report increasingly open intimidation by management. If Franco Caprino is deported this will inevitably increase.

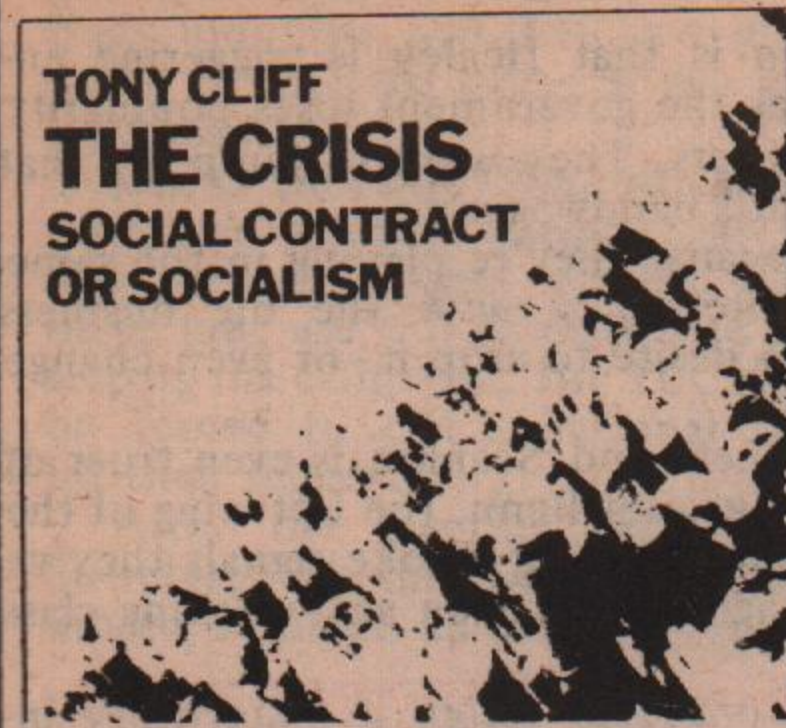
Support for Franco Caprino has already come from the International branch of the TGWU, several trade councils and union branches, and from the National Council for Civil Liberties. **More support is needed.** We urge you to raise the case in your union branch, or shop stewards committee, explain its importance for the working-class movement, and send telegrams demanding his release to your union executive, the TUC and the Home Secretary. Time is short—we only have until 27 January.

A Franco Caprino Support Committee has been formed in North Kensington, where Brother Caprino was active in community politics. Further information can be obtained from them at: 11 Acklam Road, London W10 (phone 01-969 9105). The committee has called for a picket of Roy Jenkins' home in Ladbroke Square, London W10, this Saturday (18 January) from 3.30pm to 8pm.

What we think—page 3.

What workers are saying about ...

TONY CLIFF
THE CRISIS
SOCIAL CONTRACT
OR SOCIALISM



Tony Barrow, plant convenor at Ford Leamington, writes:

'Tony Cliff's latest book is a brilliant expose of the tottering system and the Labour government's ineffectual attempts to prop up ailing capitalism. It is a book for every worker, white-collar or blue, young or old, a book which shows workers that the defence of their standard of living and of themselves is entirely in their own hands. Not to be missed at any price.'

Perhaps my only criticism is that section one, *The Crisis of British Capitalism* should have been later in the book, rather than as a front piece. Read it last! Copies 75p plus postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4, from Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London, NW1, or direct from book-shops.

Bulk reductions for trade union branches, shop stewards committees, etc.

The 'socialism' of Stanley Orme

FRIDAY 10 January: At a press conference in Derry, Minister of State Stan Orme announced the closure of two local shirt factories owned by the Ben Sherman group. Two other Ben Sherman factories will remain open and are to be run by the Government-funded Northern Ireland Finance Corporation. More than 200 workers are to be made redundant.

Shirt-making, the staple industry in the Derry area, employing upwards of 5,000 people, has recently been unable to compete with imported products mostly from the Far East.

The reaction of management and union officials has been to organise speed-ups, short-time working and wage cuts. In some factories union officials have offered workers two choices: work harder for less money or go on the dole.

SAVAGERY —AND TWO SOLDIERS ARE FINED

MONDAY 6 January: The Irish paper Hibernia reported the case of Ronald Travers, who was jailed some months ago at the Old Bailey for causing an explosion. Travers appealed against sentence. His lawyer's only plea to the court ran as follows: 'My client is not Irish and does not take sides in the Irish struggle.'

The Appeal Court, very impressed, cut his sentence from seven years to four.

TUESDAY 7 January: Edward Forrest, 29, was discharged by Clerkenwell Court after the prosecution dropped an explosive charge against him for lack of evidence. Edward had been in prison since last November on a charge of possessing nitroglycerine. He comes from Limavady, Northern Ireland.

As he left the court, Forrest was arrested again, taken to Brixton prison, served with an exclusion order under Jenkin's Anti-Terrorism Act, and deported to Northern Ireland.

His solicitor, in a formal protest, pointed out that there was no charge which could be stood up in open court.

WEDNESDAY 8 January: Sapper Robert Gillies and Driver Stephen Thornhill were up in Newry magistrates court on charges of assault and grievous bodily harm. Both men work for the British army dog unit, stationed at Long Kesh.

They had been on duty at Newry Ulster Defence Regiment on 10 August when two young Irishmen, Gerald McMahon and Kieran Fegan, were brought in for questioning.

The two lads were made to stand facing a wall with their legs apart. The dog handlers then let loose the Alsatians on the two men, while beating them with batons.

Gerald McMahon was savaged by a dog for half an hour, and Kieran Fegan was bitten on both legs and hips and hit on the back, legs and head with a baton.

Queens Counsel for the soldiers told the court that the men were being retained in the army. What happened was 'possibly due to many factors'.

The magistrate, Mr John Petrie, said: 'People in the security forces are in a very difficult position. Because of their training they become involved in an aggressive attitude towards things. This attitude tends to make them act more violently than civilians...'

'The appropriate way to deal with these offences is to send you to prison but, having regard to all the circumstances, I won't do that. I impose a fine of £50 on each of you'.

THURSDAY 9 January: Two members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the breakaway group from

Orme continued this theme at his press conference when he warned workers it was up to them to make the new arrangement work. By his side was the local unionist MP ultra-Rightist William Ross. Mr Ross concurred in Mr Orme's stern warnings to the workers. Mr Orme is a member of the Tribune group.

SATURDAY 11 January: The Sinn Fein branch in the St James district of East Belfast protested to the British Army about the Green Jackets regiment. A detachment of Green Jackets had gone on New Year's Eve to the home of Daniel Rooney, who had been shot dead some time ago by plain-clothesmen from the regiment, and stood outside the house, laughing and jeering and playing the Last Post.

The incident, said the Sinn Fein, 'created a riot situation'.



Official Sinn Fein, were shot and wounded by Official Republicans in Belfast, reflecting the readiness of the Officials to 'settle' their disputes not by political argument but by physical violence.

The danger now is that the new group will be tempted to reply in kind.

FRIDAY 10 January: JENKINS' Terror Act states that people who have lived in this country for 20 years cannot be deported. Now someone has been deported under the Act who has lived here for 22 years. Danny Ryan, national organiser of Clann na h'Eireann, the British wing of the Official Sinn Fein, which has consistently and powerfully opposed the Provisional IRA's bombing campaign.

Danny falls outside the 20 years exemption because he kept his Irish passport for the 22 years he has lived in England.

The police persecution of Ryan beats anything, even under this monstrous Act. They held him for seven days in solitary confinement without consulting the Home Secretary and without telling his family.

Danny Ryan has seven children. He is the third national officer of the

Clann to be deported, which proves that the police and Home Office are victimising Official Republicans because they are more easy to find and argue their politics openly.

SATURDAY 11 January: In a lonely farm house just over the border from County Armagh, Irish police found the body of John Francis Greene, a Provo officer. He had been shot through the head.

Greene escaped from Long Kesh 18 months ago disguised as a priest and has since been living in Southern Ireland. Irish police say they are not ruling out the theory that Greene has been killed by an SAS unit of the British army in an attempt to disrupt the ceasefire.

At the time of the killing, a British army road block had been set up on the border 800 yards away.

SUNDAY 12 January: The Ulster Workers Council, which organised the Loyalist strike and wrecked the power-sharing executive last July called on the leaders of a three-week-old strike of milk workers to come before them and explain their case.

The UWC said it was not satisfied about the 'nature of the strike and the intentions of the unofficial strike committee'. UWC spokesmen Jim Smyth referred to 'rumours concerning the involvement of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union'.

The significance of the UWC statement is that the Dublin-based ITGWU has a large Catholic membership. The UWC intervention is clearly intended to split the strike along religious lines.

It follows demands by Unionist leaders that the army move in to break the strike.

What has really upset the establishment is that, with no official backing, the men have held out for three weeks in the face of denunciation and slander.

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

Shrewsbury: What we must do now

WHAT next in the campaign to free Eric Tomlinson and Des Warren? Having been pushed unwillingly into calling a mass lobby of parliament, the TUC chiefs will now try to forget about the whole unpleasant business as quickly as possible. 'We did our best' will be the tale, 'now it is up to the government'.

On the contrary, now it is up to the TUC, which resolved last autumn, on a campaign 'by all means necessary' to free the Shrewsbury pickets. And it is up to the UCATT leadership which moved that resolution (and saw it carried without opposition) both at the Brighton TUC and at the Westminster Labour Party Conference.

Naturally, no militant in his right mind will rely on the TUC General Council or the UCATT Executive. The campaign has been organised from the grass roots upwards and it must continue that way. But that does not mean allowing the union chiefs to escape their responsibilities.

They—Len Murray, George Smith and the rest—are on record as saying that the use of the conspiracy charges against the Shrewsbury men was an attack on fundamental trade union rights, a precedent for future attacks and a gross injustice. They have tried to persuade Home Secretary Roy Jenkins to release the two on these grounds. They have failed.

Why? Because to Roy Jenkins and Harold Wilson the unanimous view of Trade Union Congress and of their own party conference is less important than the opinions of the Police Federation and the Tory judges. The police bosses wouldn't like it if Warren and Tomlinson were freed. Lord Chief Justice Widgery wouldn't like it. The right-wing 'law and order' rabble would scream with fury if these two remaining victims of the Tory conspiracy at Shrewsbury were released.

It all throws a very revealing light on the Labour government. But, of course, the government can be forced to act. All the 'constitutional' clap-trap about the difficulty of releasing Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson will disappear like snow in summer as soon as there is serious industrial action to free them.

The five dockers were got out of Pentonville by a widespread strike (or was it all due to the conscience of the Official Solicitor?). Tory judge Donaldson's attempt to grab the assets of the AUEW last May was beaten by a widespread strike.

Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson would be released tomorrow if the TUC called on affiliated unions to take industrial action to free them. But, of course, the 'general staff of Labour' is terrified at the very thought of using the strength of the movement to free these class-war prisoners. Murray and Co have not even told the government that there will be no more meetings with ministers on the economy or anything else until the two are freed!

It must not be allowed to go on. The campaign must be broadened. Unofficial action and massive pressure for official action need to go hand in hand. Every day our brothers remain in jail for their trade union activities is a disgrace to the whole movement. Don't leave it to others. Every serious trade unionist must play his or her part. Free the Two.

A dangerous man?

ROY JENKINS' department is at it again. Fresh from its use of his fraudulent Prevention of Terrorism Act, fraudulent because it is not directed against so-called terrorists but against political opponents of British rule in Ireland, the Home Office is now seeking to deport an Italian trade unionist.

This time the notorious Tory Immigration Act of 1971 is the chosen weapon. Franco Caprino, a catering worker, has now been in jail without charge or trial for nearly a month awaiting deportation as a 'threat to national security'.

Not even the Home Office claims that Caprino has committed any crime. He has, however, offended the bosses in a super-exploiting industry—the catering trade. Even the Sunday Times commented: 'Thus, to many people it must appear that Mr Caprino has been arrested not because he has been involved in any terrorist activity but because he has been energetic in organising immigrants in the catering trade.'

So now we know what Roy Jenkins, his faceless bureaucrats and policemen mean by 'national security'. They mean the peace of mind of the bosses.

Franco Caprino is a victim of police intimidation and legal harassment. All socialists and trade unionists should demand his release and the withdrawal of the deportation order.

IT'S EASY to write about the violence of the British Army in Ireland—and easy to sit at home and be shocked by it. It's more important to get out and voice your feelings on the streets.

You'll get a chance to do that at the

TROOPS OUT RALLY, CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, LONDON WC1, Saturday 1 February, 2pm

We urge all readers of Socialist Worker in the London area to attend.

Vietnam: Why the war goes on

by Ian Birchall

FROM 1965 to 1972 the war in Vietnam made the headlines. Thousands upon thousands of people around the world marched and demonstrated against American aggression. A whole new generation of socialists were inspired by the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese.

Then, just two years ago, the Americans, faced with the fact that they were never going to win and worried by growing economic and political troubles at home, gave up and got out.

American boys were no longer dying in Vietnam. Everybody assumed the war was over and forgot about it.

Everybody, that is, except the Vietnamese. For them the fighting has continued. The South Vietnamese government claims that 67,000 soldiers from the two sides died in 1974. How many civilians died, directly as a result of the war or indirectly from starvation, nobody knows.

What is the reason behind the continued fighting? Is it because, as the South Vietnamese allege, the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) have broken the peace agreements made two years ago? The answer is much simpler. The war is about land, about food, about starvation.

Ruins

The Americans left South Vietnam a country in ruins. Crops were destroyed, livestock killed. In 1960 there were 70,000 buffaloes in Quang Tri province; now there are 2000. Yet for a Vietnamese peasant, to be without a buffalo is to be unable to plough the land and so be condemned to starve.

Even where the land has not been made uncultivable for generations by chemical warfare, there are thousands of unexploded bombs. To clear one acre of rice-field of mines is 40 days work.

In those areas the PRG controls, there are at least efforts to solve the problems. Revolutionary committees have been set up to cover health, education, defence and so on. Emergency rice supplies have been arranged to tide over the starving till the next harvest.

But in the areas controlled by the Thieu government in Saigon, corruption and brutal repression dominate. It is small wonder that

more and more territory is falling to the PRG.

The world recession, inflation and the oil crisis have hit South Vietnam even worse than most countries. While the Thieu regime is supporting an army of a million men, it also has a million and a half unemployed to deal with. Many sections of industry are working at less than half capacity; the price of rice has tripled over the past two years.

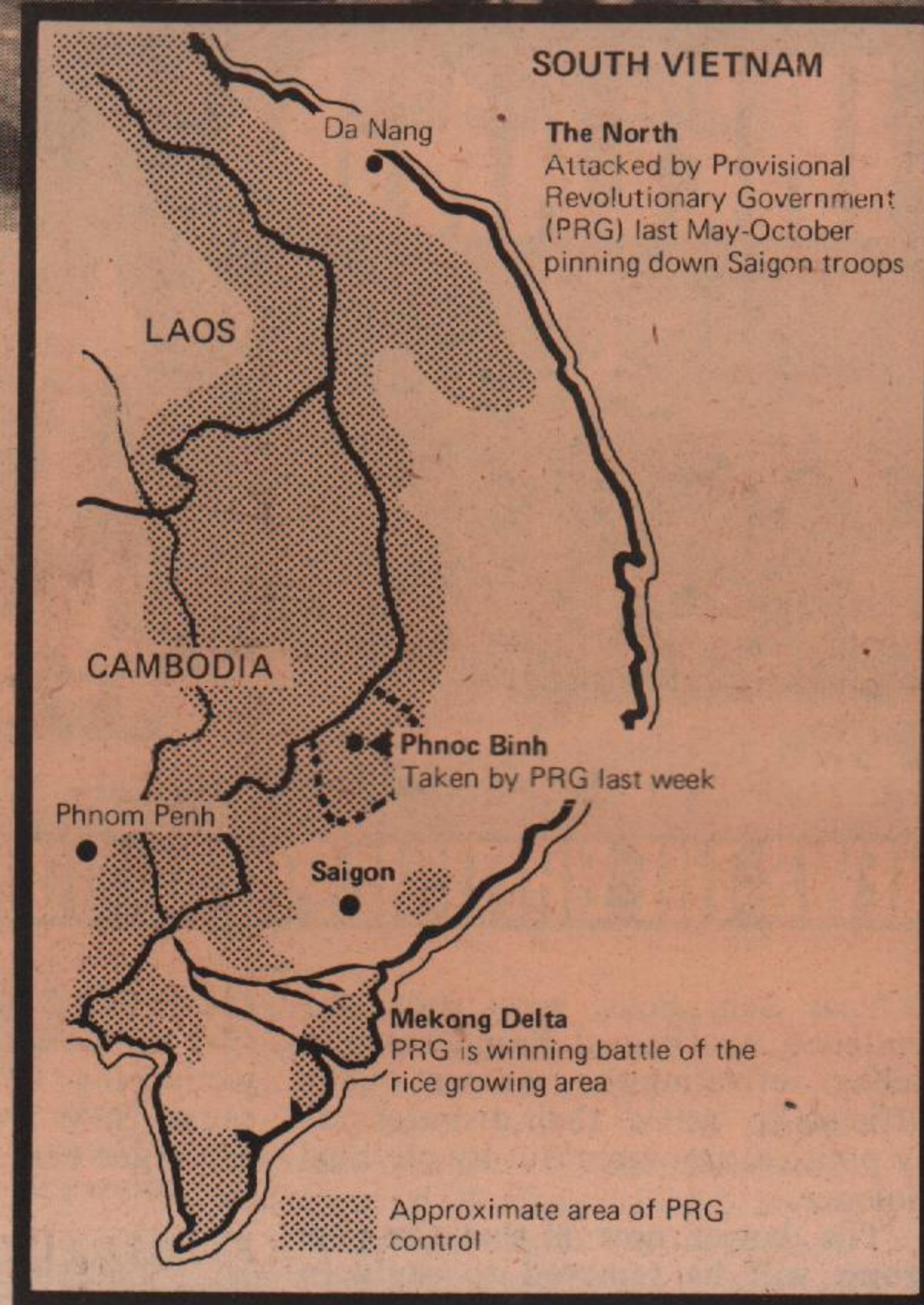
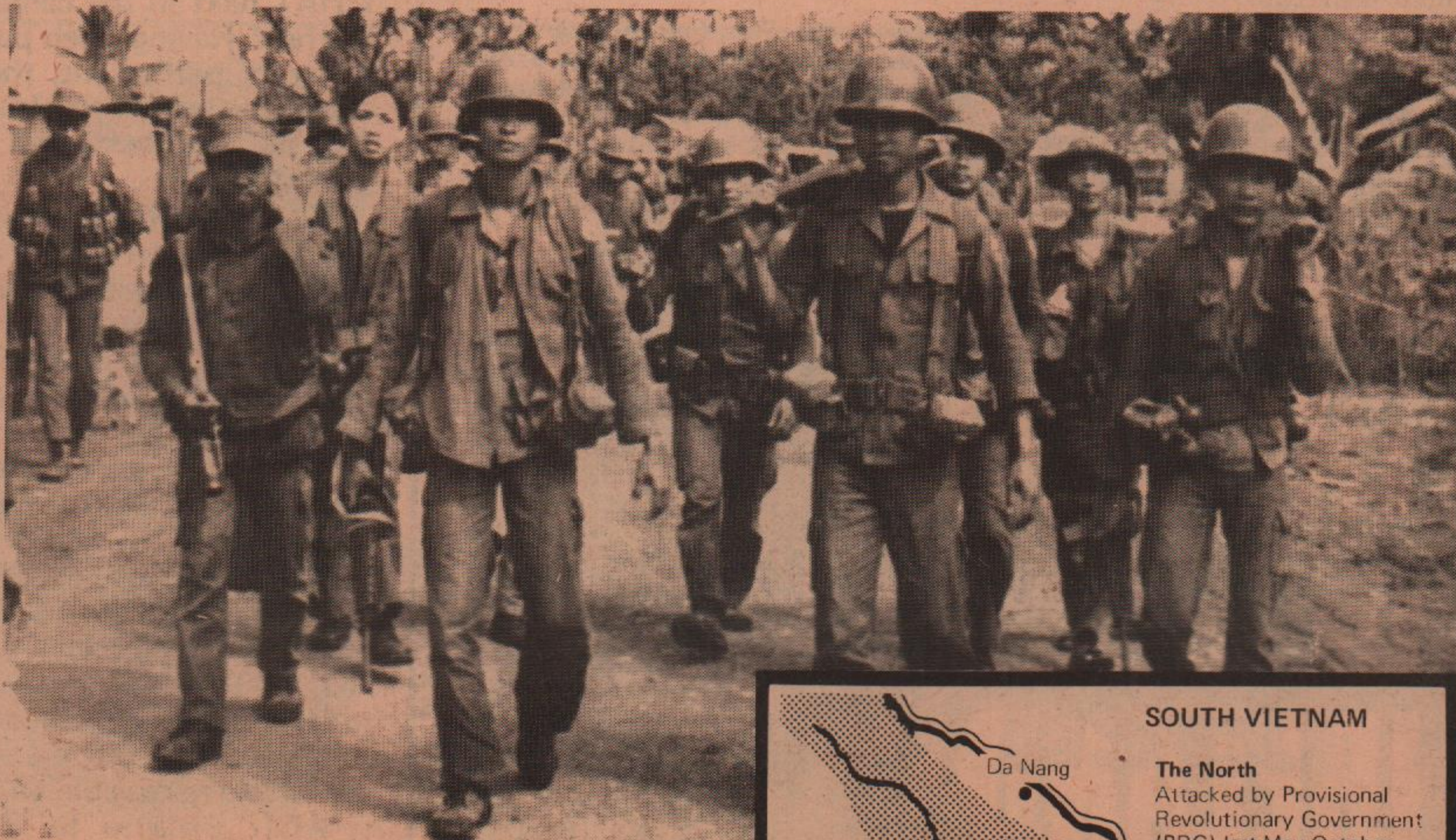
The Thieu regime is based solely and entirely on corruption and repression. Any opposition is labelled 'Communist'—though even right-wing Catholics are now criticising the regime—and subjected to bullying tactics. The closing down of newspapers is an almost daily occurrence, and thousands of political prisoners—some reports say as many as 200,000—rot in jail.

Support

Thieu could not survive at all were it not for financial support from the United States. For 1975 military aid will be only—only—700 million dollars, a cut of about a third on last year's figure. Moreover, in 1974 about 500 million dollars of the 'Food for Peace' programme—nearly half—went to South Vietnam and Cambodia.

It may well be that Washington itself will decide to bounce Thieu and replace him by one of the corrupt politicians of the so-called

ABOVE: A South Vietnamese patrol moving north of Saigon to meet PRG forces pushing south from Phnuc Binh last week



RIGHT: The growing area now controlled by the PRG

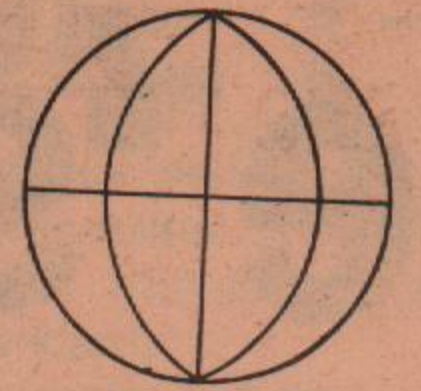
'Third Force'. If so, it is unlikely that the workers and peasants of Vietnam will notice much difference.

In the short term there is no alternative for the people of South Vietnam to the PRG.

It has no magic cures for the terrible poverty of South Vietnam. Its programme makes no claim to be socialist: it speaks of 'protecting the right of private ownership of the means of production' and of 'encouraging the industrial and com-

mercial bourgeoisie'. But at least it offers the possibility of a Vietnam free from the military and economic grip of American imperialism, and an end to the corruption and brutality of American puppets such as Thieu.

Socialists throughout the world should be supporting the PRG in the present fighting. The best way to do this is to demand the end of all military, economic and political support for the Thieu government.



SPAIN: Car firm locks out 21,000

THE industrial struggle in Spain reached a new peak last week when the centre of Barcelona was the scene of running battles between police and about 4000 demonstrating carworkers after the management at the giant SEAT car firm announced it was sacking 400 workers for 'indiscipline' and locking out another 21,000 for a week.

In Navarre police opened fire to disperse more than 1000 potash miners who had just been locked out for two months. In Bilbao thousands of steelworkers struck in protest at a wage deal.

Meanwhile further evidence emerged of the splits among Spain's rulers. Army Minister General Francisco Coloma issued a stern warning to officers against taking part in politics. His views were backed up by the Navy Minister. It seems there are secret 'juntas' (councils) of junior officers debating political issues and coming out in opposition to the dictatorship.

WEST GERMANY: A million out of work

IT WAS officially admitted last Thursday that there are now a million people out of work in West Germany. This is the highest since 1959 and has doubled since last July, rising 200,000 in the past month.

But really the situation is much worse. Foreign workers on contract from countries such as Turkey and Yugoslavia are being forced to return home when their contracts are not renewed, so that their unemployment figures do not appear in German statistics—and of course they do not draw the dole in Germany. They have always had a higher unemployment rate than German workers, but it has been hidden.

There are also half a million carworkers on short time or laid off, as well as many workers in such industries as building and textiles.

Inflation has risen by 6.5 per cent and total economic growth has slowed down to 0.4 per cent, from 5.3 per cent in 1973. The government is hoping to raise it to 2.5 per cent by injecting about £2,800 million into the economy this year.

PAKISTAN: New paper opposes Bhutto

READERS of Socialist Worker who have an interest in Pakistan should read a new publication designed to break through the censorship imposed by the Bhutto government and provide reports on the national liberation struggle in Baluchistan. It is called Democratic Pakistan, and is obtainable from M K Janyua, PO Box 769, London W2 1YA, price 15p.

Although IS members will not agree completely with its political standpoint, the information it provides is invaluable.

South Africa on the hook

ATTEMPTS to arrange a settlement in Rhodesia between the Smith regime and the leaders of the black nationalist movements seem to be faltering, despite all the efforts of British Foreign Minister, James Callaghan, in his visit to Africa last week.

Behind the attempts at a settlement lies a growing realisation among the big Western companies that control the wealth of Zambia, Angola and Mozambique, as well as South Africa and Rhodesia, that the days of white rule in Rhodesia must be numbered. The freedom fighters in Rhodesia have been enjoying successes in guerrilla battles with Rhodesian troops and South African police.

Rather than face overnight collapse of white rule and the emergence of movements that might threaten to take over their investments, the Western powers prefer the

prospect of forcing Smith to come to an agreement leading to majority rule.

The South African government has been forced to the same conclusion by the losses of its police in Rhodesia. It knows that if the Smith regime were simply to collapse, the effects on the 80 per cent of the population of South Africa who are black would be immense.

Oppose

Socialists must oppose any idea of an arrangement which gets the South African regime and Western big business off the hook.

Without an agreement white minority rule in Rhodesia may last a little longer. But the fact that South Africa is so keen for an agreement shows that it believes in the long term Smith is doomed. The question is

who replaces him—a government that works hand in glove with South Africa, or a revolutionary regime that fights to extend the struggle into South Africa itself?

This is crucial, not only for black workers of South Africa but for the mass of the people in the northern, black-ruled states as well. For the black states are relatively backward economic areas which are in no condition to stand up to the economic power of the giant international companies.

Only a revolution in much more economically advanced South Africa can provide them with the means really to improve conditions for the majority of their people. That is why the struggle for socialism of the black workers in South Africa is a central part of the alternative to the agreement which Callaghan and Vorster are trying to get.

International Socialism 74

Monthly Journal of the International Socialist League, January 1975, Price 20p

Rise and fall of a rank & file movement



JANUARY ISSUE NOW OUT

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The press: Not free, securely tethered

ONE of the most enthusiastic fighters for the 'freedom of the press' in the recent dispute with the National Union of Journalists was M H 'Freddie' Fisher, editor of the Financial Times.

The Financial Times has the smallest circulation of all the major national newspapers in Britain. But it makes the biggest profit, because it sells to the richest readers and attracts the most profitable advertising.

Fisher and most of the senior staff on the paper take the view that the Financial Times should never do anything to upset its readers and advertisers in the City of London.

That is why Fisher was appointed by his proprietors, the vast Pearson Longman combine. That is why he joined the other Fleet Street editors in the hysterical campaign over the past two months to stop the closed shop for journalists. If the closed shop was allowed, he trumpeted in a Financial Times leading article headed 'Freedom of the Press' on 18 November, 'there will be a potential threat not only to the personal positions of newspaper editors but to their ability to ensure that news and comment are presented free from outside interference.'

Combat

At the same time, Fisher was locked in combat with one of the 'outside interferers' he was so terrified of: namely C Gordon Tether, who joined the staff of the Financial Times in 1946 and has been writing a daily column on the back page of the paper for nearly 20 years.

In all that time, all Gordon Tether's articles were printed as he had written them. But suddenly last year they started to be censored. When he complained, the editor offered no explanation for the cuts and changes. He said only that he did not like the articles, or that they were 'intemperately written'.

The only common aspect of all the articles which were cut or changed by the editor was their criticism of the City of London establishment, and of similar establishments abroad.

One article noted that the City had engaged a public relations firm, and argued that another firm should be set to work to put the case against the City. It was not published. Another argued that the 'moderates' in the City were extreme in their methods of argument. It was not published. Another pointed to the economic incompetence of the Nixon administration, and suggested that the Chase Manhattan Bank had more economic power and influence than the elected American assemblies. It was not published.

Excesses

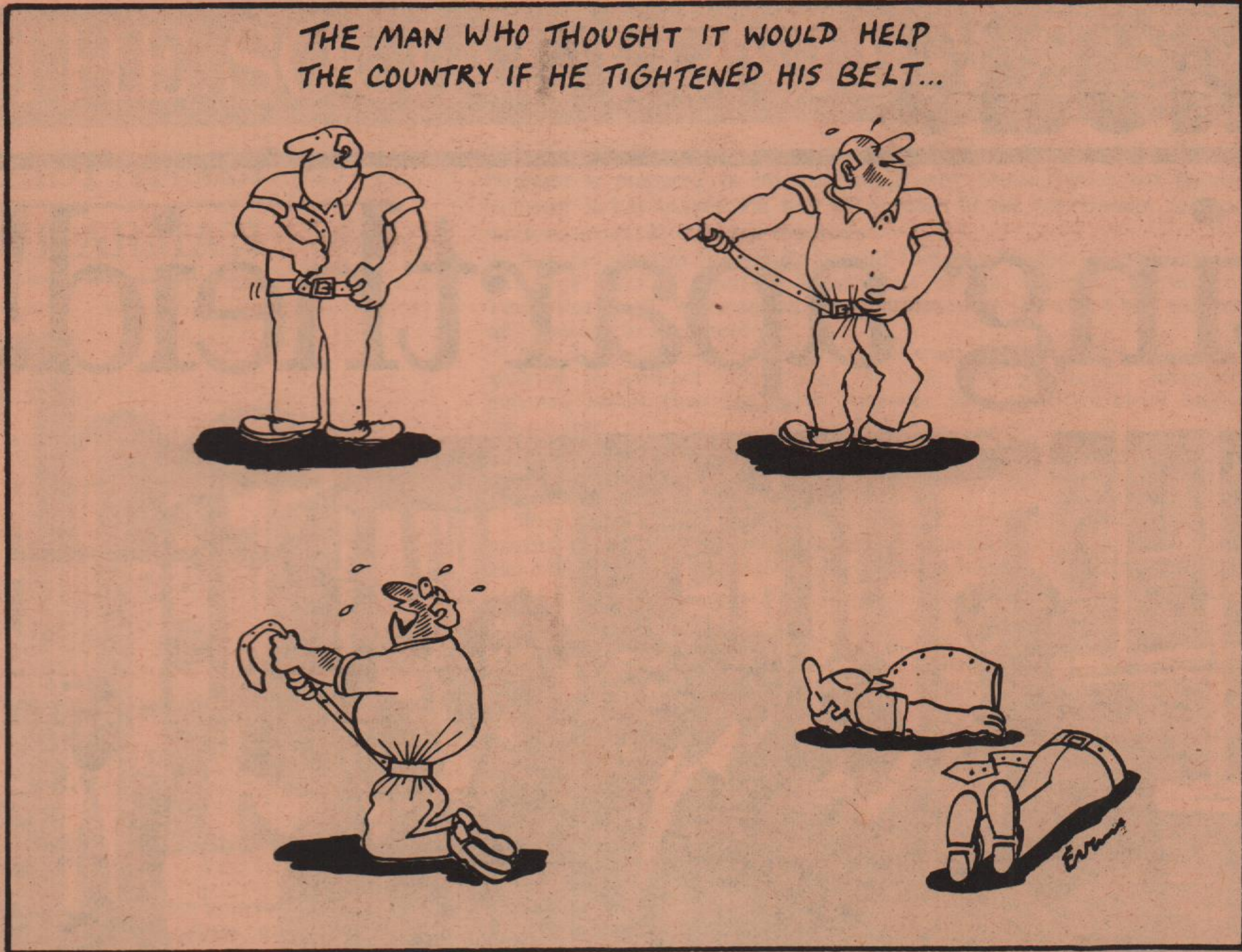
When Gordon Tether protested, the freedom-fighting editor replied: 'You are subject to the directives of the editor who alone decides what appears or does not in the Financial Times.'

Gordon Tether wrote back: 'I am not going to see my rights swept aside on the manifestly absurd argument that an editor has such absolute and unquestionable power as a dictator that he can perpetrate any excesses he likes against a member of his staff even to the point of assassination of that member's professional reputation.'

The National Union of Journalists chapel (office branch) at the Financial Times has taken up the Tether case, and demanded of the editor that the independence of the Tether column be maintained.

Representatives of the chapel met Fisher, who told them to mind their own business. So the chapel have agreed to do nothing more about it.

The Tether column has been shifted off the back page, and the censorship continues.



TEN YEARS ON

ON 22 January 1965 Patrick Gordon Walker, Labour's Foreign Minister, lost the Leyton by-election in East London. At the beginning of the year the Daily Telegraph had reported that: 'It is inconceivable that Gordon Walker will fail to win this seat.'

The Times had reported of the Foreign Secretary's campaign that it consisted of 'a voice from an old furniture van' saying 'I am Gordon Walker'.

On 23 January, Edward Du Cann, new chairman of the Tory Party, was interviewed in the Daily Telegraph. 'I am a Heath man and a Maudling man too, I am also an Iain Macleod man, and I am an Alec Home man as well.'

An advertisement in The Times showed two smiling faces and the blurb ran: 'People like us are discovering Europe's unspoilt holiday playground... Wish we'd tried it before. No passport or currency problems—so near, yet so completely different.' It was sponsored by the Northern Ireland Tourist Office...

fifth column



Honour among thieves

CRITICS said of Richard M Nixon that he was a dirty, lying, cheating, red-baiting crook who'd sell his own granny if she wasn't rented out to the Almighty. So it's good to see that some kind people have at last tried to put the record straight.

'Mr Nixon', they write, 'helped to achieve a positive turn' in Soviet-American relations, steering clear of all that nasty stuff about Watergate and saying merely: 'By force of internal political circumstances related to the so-called Watergate case he resigned.'

Who are these decent all-American writers? None other than the compilers of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia. So keen were they to get the record straight that they forgot to mention the precious proprietor of USSR Inc, Nikita Krushchev.

If you're planning to invest in this new work you'll be pleased to know that Trotsky, leader of the Red Army, chairman of the Petrograd Soviet in 1917, does get a mention. He is featured as a 'speaker on the Red Army.'

Fifth Column is preparing its own encyclopaedia, inspired by this effort, and this will include 'Robin Hood—lecturer on Forestry' and Florence Nightingale 'National Union of Public Employees shop steward (deceased).'

Ring a Bell?

TOM ELLIS, Labour MP for Wrexham in North Wales, launched a vicious attack on the jailed Shrewsbury pickets last week. He said on television that they deserved everything they'd got and should stay in jail.

Ellis was speaking on behalf of a small but important section of his constituents—the employers. Our picture shows how closely he associates with them.

COURT IN THE ACT

THE strike at Intex may be over but the local police force have kept a memento of the dispute. After a successful appeal to a judge the strikers succeeded in getting the release of two of their comrades arrested after a picket outside the factory.

Off they went to the magistrates court to complete the formalities. When the 20 or so strikers emerged from the building they found a photographer. One by one, he took pictures of the strikers, following them down the road.

He then made off in the opposite direction. And the strikers turned and followed him... to the local nick. In he went and in they went. But he disappeared through the 'Police Only' door. Another policeman confirmed that he was indeed one of theirs.

Perhaps the 20 should order a souvenir set, signed by the local force...



MP for Wrexham Tom Ellis and friends. See story RING A BELL?

It shows Mr and Mrs Ellis thoroughly enjoying themselves at the September 1973 'At Home' of Peter Bell. Bell (second from the right) is a director of various McAlpine companies—he married Sir Alfred McAlpine's daughter. As High Sheriff of Denbighshire he was chief of law and order for the county throughout the run up to the Shrewsbury trial. This was most fortunate since it was a McAlpine site at Telford that the striking builders of North Wales picketed—clearly intolerable.

A NEW series on the press starts on BBC-TV this week. It is a follow-up to their recent series on television news. Let's hope it can continue the informed analysis that Nigel Ryan, head of ITN's News at Ten, managed on the last episode of the TV series.

'Balanced coverage is very important,' he told viewers. 'When we were dealing with the Yom Kippur War last year we took care to give a rounded picture.'

He explained how the intrepid ITN newsmen had given plenty of action coverage of Israelis and Arabs blowing each other up. 'But to balance it we showed people's homes in Tel Aviv.' Home life in Cairo and Baghdad were apparently ignored.

Private menaces

A READER, inspired by the tenacious fight of the hospital consultants to maintain their living standards in a changing world, has suggested ways that other groups of workers can learn from their struggle.

'Busmen can issue half their passengers with private tickets. Teac-

hers should start giving private lessons in school, and why couldn't physiotherapists run massage parlours in hospital?'

'Dustmen could ask for perks for collecting extra rubbish? Of course 32 Kensington dustmen are being charged with just that, 'demanding money with menaces'. Still, knowing the impartiality of British justice, I feel quite assured that the hospital consultants will find themselves on similar charges.'

Well they would, but the judges have banned overtime working...

RON HAYWARD, general secretary of the Labour Party and a man often depicted as holding the red dagger of Labour Party militancy at the throat of the helpless Labour government, has found a new home. A weekend cottage in Woodchurch, Kent. A place to retire from the bustle of Transport House, and paid for by grateful Labour Party supporters.

Or rather supporter. The house belongs to industrialist Sir Rudy Sternberg, another man who has just arrived in the House of Lords, another old friend of Harold Wilson.

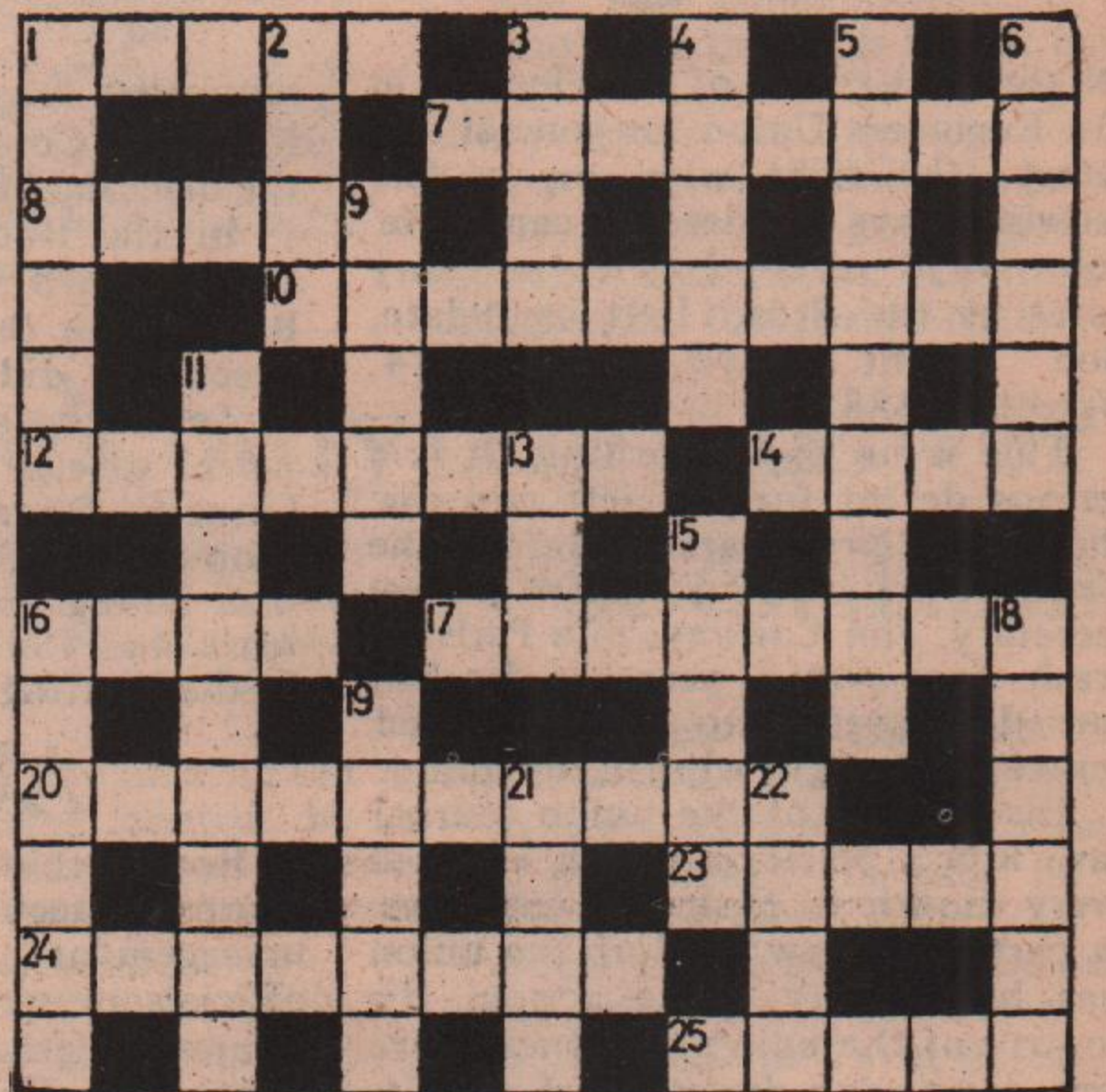
Socialist Worker crossword no 9

ACROSS

- 1 Sells—dead horse? (5)
- 7 Professor and author of report 'Traffic in Towns' (8)
- 8 Fat Labour lord noted for alcohol (5)
- 10 Capacity of Darwin on research ship Beagle (10)
- 12 Sub-anarchist movement responsible for assassination of Tzar in 1881 (8)
- 14 Unpalatable drink advertised as having 'a kick' (4)
- 16 'Seven maids with seven...' as the walrus said (4)
- 17 Clear pant-rape! (8)
- 20 Insurance giant with only one rep (10)
- 23 Australian famed for paintings showing Ned Kelly (5)
- 24 You pay it to rent site! (8)
- 25 20 million Russians liberated in 1863 (5)

DOWN

- 1 Society founded to promote 'gradualist' road to socialism (6)
- 2 Garment worn by debs and beaks (4)
- 3 Tribe massacred by British in 1879 (4)
- 4 East radio home of Hancock (5)
- 5 Islands underside of Britain (9)
- 6 Off-hand—like nose (6)
- 9 On hand (5)
- 11 Northern delicacy high on carbohydrate (4, 5)
- 13 Drain coming up in wood (3)
- 15 Reactionary general recalled by De Gaulle to deal with 1968 crisis (5)



Solution to last week's:



THE UNIONS

Floating apartheid!

THESE MEN FACE WAGES OF £8 A WEEK - BECAUSE THE SEAMEN'S UNION GETS A PAY-OFF OF 29p FOR EACH OF THEM



THE Labour Party and TUC are committed by a ton of conference decisions to uncompromising opposition to racialism and apartheid. The whole trade union movement is firmly opposed to rate cutting, cheap and sweated labour as a menace to all workers.

The National Union of Seamen not only goes along with these ideas, it is committed to the rate for the job policy by decision of the union executive late in 1973.

So what are the various bodies ostensibly charged with upholding principles and conference decisions

going to do about the deplorable agreement endorsed by the last meeting of the outgoing National Union of Seamen executive?

This deal gives the wealthy and powerful employers grouped in the British Shipping Federation the right to employ black and Asian workers at a fraction of the wages paid to other workers.

This piece of floating apartheid has another even more disturbing aspect. The union is to be paid off by the employers for sanctioning their sweated labour policies.

The NUS will get £15 a year for each Indian or African seaman the members of the British Shipping Federation employ. This will boost

the union's funds by an estimated £300,000 a year—'blood money' as one militant seaman described it to me.

The advantages to the employers are immense. For a payment of 29p a week per victim they get an agreement that the union will tolerate the employment of Asian and African workers at £8 a week, a quarter of the miserable rates paid to NUS members.

This appalling agreement was endorsed at the December meeting of the union's executive by 15 votes to 3. The new 'left-wing' general secretary, Jim Slater, the man who led the campaign to get the NUS back into the TUC, voted in favour

of it. Slater is a member of the TUC General Council.

The deal has been pushed by another NUS man who serves on top committees in the labour movement, Sam McCluskey, one of the defeated candidates in the recent election for general secretary. He was recently elected to the national executive of the Labour Party.

McCluskey was one of the NUS leaders who fought for the union to register under the Tory Industrial Relations Act. One of his arguments was that the union had to have the state-approved closed shop to prevent the undercutting of union rates by cheap labour. McCluskey has clearly changed his tune.

The deal is yet another revamp of the miserable manning policies concluded under the pro-employer regime of William Hogarth, the previous general secretary.

The excuses used by the new NUS general secretary, Jim Slater, are truly pathetic. In his article in the union journal he argues that the Indian government, for example, operates an incomes policy and is fearful of any imported wage inflation. Slater appears to have forgotten that the job of the British trade union movement is to assist Indian workers to better their wages and conditions and not to help the Indian government and its wages policy.

Undercutting

He justifies the pay-off by saying it's a penalty on the employers. 29p a week! When they are undercutting wages by £24?

The executive's decision is against the interests of all their union members. By collaborating in such a scheme they are helping the employers maintain a pool of sweated labour. This in turn helps them to keep all seamen's wage rates down.

The policy of the minority on the union executive and the left in the union is one of resisting this deal, of opposing such collaboration with 'floating apartheid' and of pushing for the rate for the job for all seamen working on British ships. They should be supported to the full by all trade unionists in the fight to smash the deal.

supported surrender to the Industrial Relations Court, and was silent over the blacking of goods for Chile.

In the Hoover strike in Lanarkshire, which ended in December, Boyd, with the endorsement of the executive, did everything he could to force the strikers back to work. At a special meeting of the Mid-Lanark District with the Hoover shop stewards, Boyd began by saying: 'I'm telling you now to get back to work and I'm telling you at the end of the meeting.'

Abject

Boyd broke all procedure in the plant by negotiating with the local management himself with only officials present. Stewards from the joint negotiating committee were kept next door. Boyd occasionally went to ask them how the bonus operated in the factory. But when they attempted to join the negotiations, he physically barred the way.

Finally the executive instructed the members to return to work. Boyd summoned a mass meeting at which the local officials spoke. Management won a major victory, but the Social Contract was preserved.

In the second ballot Bob Wright

Wrong turn for Engineers

IN the first round of the election in the Engineers Union for general secretary, the right wing—or, as the television says, 'moderate'—candidate John Boyd received twice as many votes as the Broad Left candidate, Bob Wright. Boyd got 89,514, Wright 42,388.

This is no paper election. It is a serious defeat for the left and the shop floor organisation. Before the death of the previous AUEW general secretary, Jim Conway, in a Paris air crash just over a year ago he had turned himself into the organised centre of the right wing in the union.

His control of the union journal gave him a platform which he used every month to push his own views, in particular how hard-up the union was before any strike action. His control of the union machinery gave him day-to-day direction of the decisions of the national committee and executive.

Officials operated through him, their contact with the union was through him. Decisions could be delayed or simply interpreted. And he held the controlling role over the annual final appeals court.

Boyd is an old colleague of Conway's. His election will allow the right to reassert control. He is a firm supporter of the Social Contract,

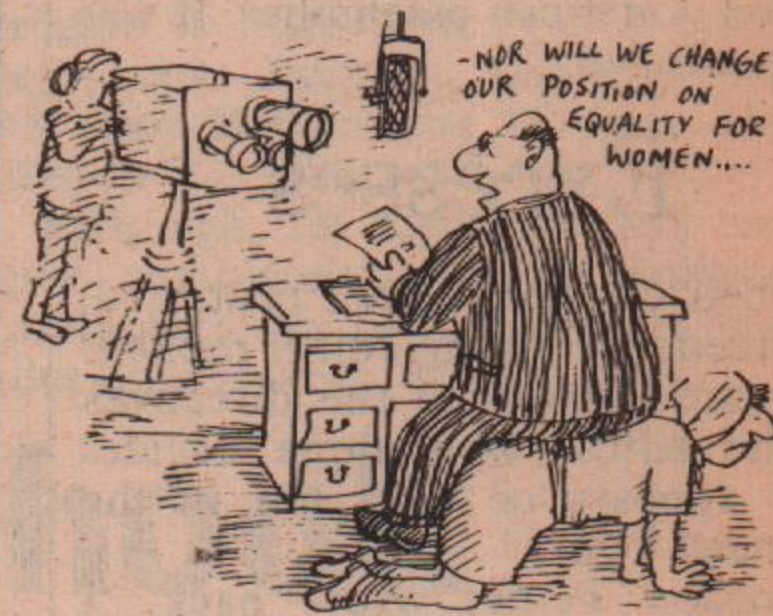
Flashback to March last year, when Zulu seamen walked off the British and Commonwealth Shipping Company's ship *Clan Robertson* in protest at the appalling wages—£10 a week. They were supported by dockers and seamen all over the world. Now their cause has been sold out by the National Union of Seamen.

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A pamphlet written by members of the International Socialists who work in the National Health Service.

10p (plus 4p postage) from Industrial Department, International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

CAN THE SOCIAL CONTRACT SOLVE IT?

A SOCIALIST ANALYSIS

BY CHRIS HARMAN

The Crisis

DENIS Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, made it clear last week that the Social Contract means lower wages.

'It is far better,' he said, 'that more people should work, even if it means accepting lower wages on average, than that those lucky enough to keep their jobs should scoop the pool while millions are living on the dole. That is the meaning of the Social Contract.'

The official trade union leaders use the same argument. They warn that to break the Social Contract

is 'to price yourself out of a job'.

If workers tighten their belts for a year or two, they argue, the crisis will eventually pass and we will be able to return to the sort of prosperity known in the Fifties and early Sixties.

But the present crisis developed precisely in a period when wages were very tightly controlled. In November 1972, the Tory government imposed a complete freeze on wages.

In April 1973, this was replaced

THE LABOUR government's answer to the crisis is to boost profits until big business is prepared to invest. That is why Denis Healey cut taxation on industry in his budget and why all sections of the government demand that workers accept lower wage increases.

It is also why Sir Donald Ryder and Anthony Wedgwood Benn are handing out large sums to private industry even though, according to the Financial Times last April, 'government has been financing just about half the payment of dividends to shareholders.'

But increasing profits will not automatically solve the crisis. There is nothing to compel industrialists to use their profits for investment in industry rather than for other purposes, such as office block building or speculation.

When profits were high two years ago, the National Economic Development Office pointed out that record profits had not meant record investments.

Why should things be any different if, tomorrow, wages were cut and profits raised? As in 1972, big business might prefer to waste something like £1500 million on property development instead of putting it in industry.

Indeed, there are reasons to believe that big business would demand massive wage cuts and increases in profits before they would start investing on any scale.

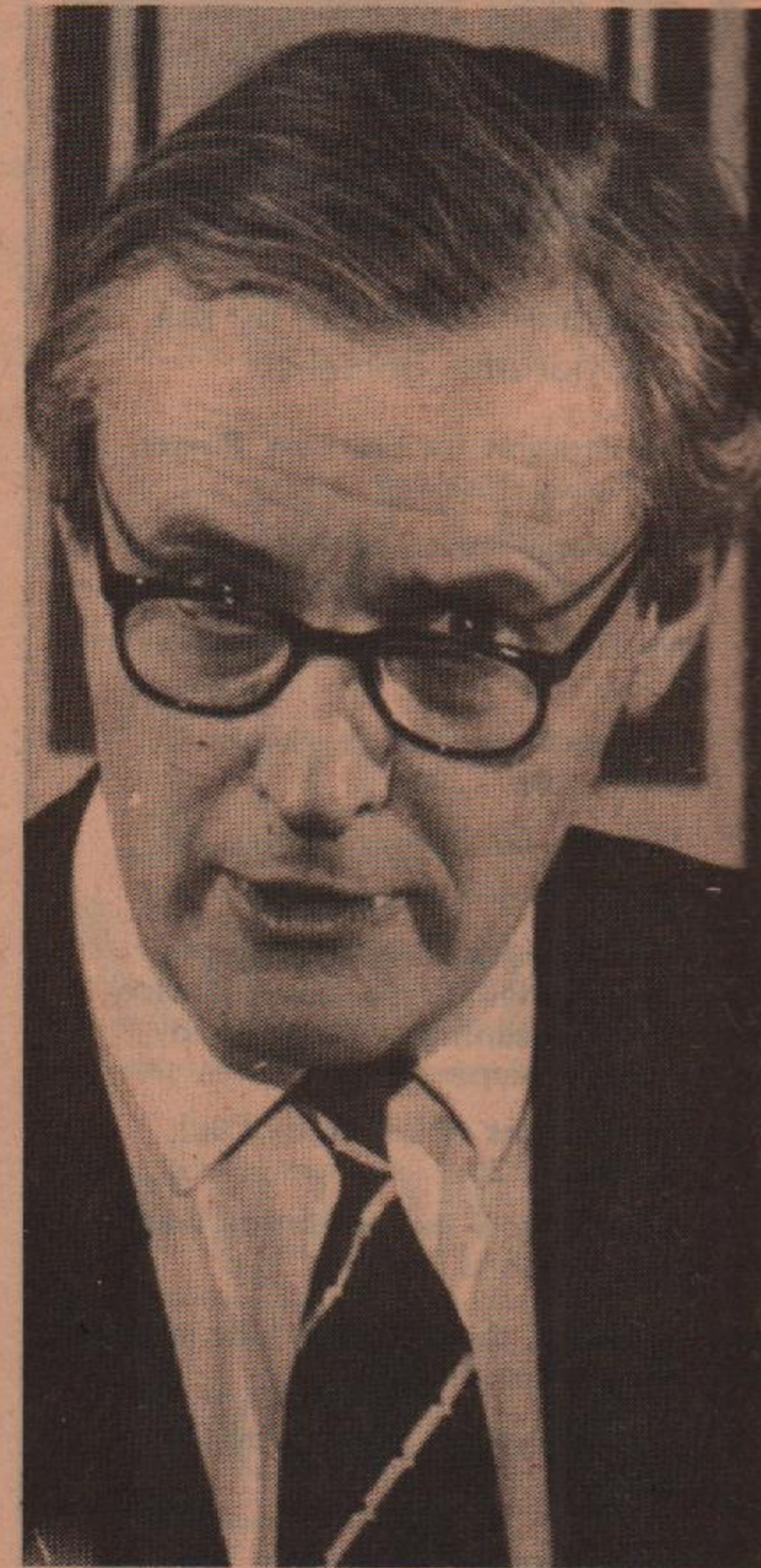
Such is the size of the biggest modern factories that only the guarantee of enormous profits will bring businessmen to invest in them.

RIVAL

The other argument used for justifying cuts in living standards is that with lower wages it will be easier to sell the goods being made.

But this can only be true for a few workers, and then only briefly. Assume workers in British Leyland were to accept wage cuts. The managers of the company might then be able to sell more cars. But the total amount of money available for buying cars would not go up.

Leyland cars would be sold instead of Chryslers, Toyota and Fords. The jobs saved by one group of workers would be lost by others. No doubt, the management at Ford or Toyota would then demand that



Benn: His hand-outs keep the shareholders happy

their workers in turn accepted wage cuts, to recover their markets from Leyland.

The workers in the different car companies would become involved in a Dutch auction over wages from which the only beneficiaries would be their employers.

Wage cuts cannot stop unemployment. All they can do is shift it from one firm (or country) to another.

At the same time, wage cuts necessarily increase the overall total of unemployment. If car workers accept cuts in their living standards, they will be able to buy fewer other goods—shoes for instance. That means redundancies in the shoe industry, so that shoe workers have even less money to buy cars with.

PROFIT

The social contract does not provide a means for solving the crisis. Instead it ensures that those who suffer from the crisis are those that live off wages, not off profits.

The present recession will not last for ever. In a year or two, big business will probably expand industrial production again, giving jobs to some of the workers it has sacked this year.

But that will not be the end of the crisis. Prices will then soar even faster than at present, and the same shortages of essential materials will develop as 18 months ago.

The next boom will be even shorter than the last—and produce an even greater slump, with even greater levels of unemployment.

The real condemnation of the Labour government is that it has no policy whatsoever for dealing with this prospect. Its attempts to hold back wages and to bribe big business leave completely untouched the capitalist organisation of production that gives rise to repeated crises.

ARE THE ARABS TO BLAME?

POLITICIANS often try to blame the crisis on the forcing up of oil prices by the Arab rulers 14 months ago. But the crisis was already beginning to develop before that.

Its real cause lies elsewhere—in the very nature of capitalist society. Crises such as the present one occurred roughly every ten years from the beginning of industrial capitalism 150 years ago until the outbreak of World War Two. For 25 years since then massive arms spending prevented this.

But now we are experiencing a recurrence of the same phenomenon. Crisis is inbuilt into capitalism, because goods are not produced to satisfy human needs but to make profits. If there is no profit to be made by keeping factories open and employing workers, then those who control the wealth will close down the factories and declare redundancies.

DEMAND

But the very process of making profits creates a problem for the capitalist economy. Look what happened throughout the world 18 months ago.

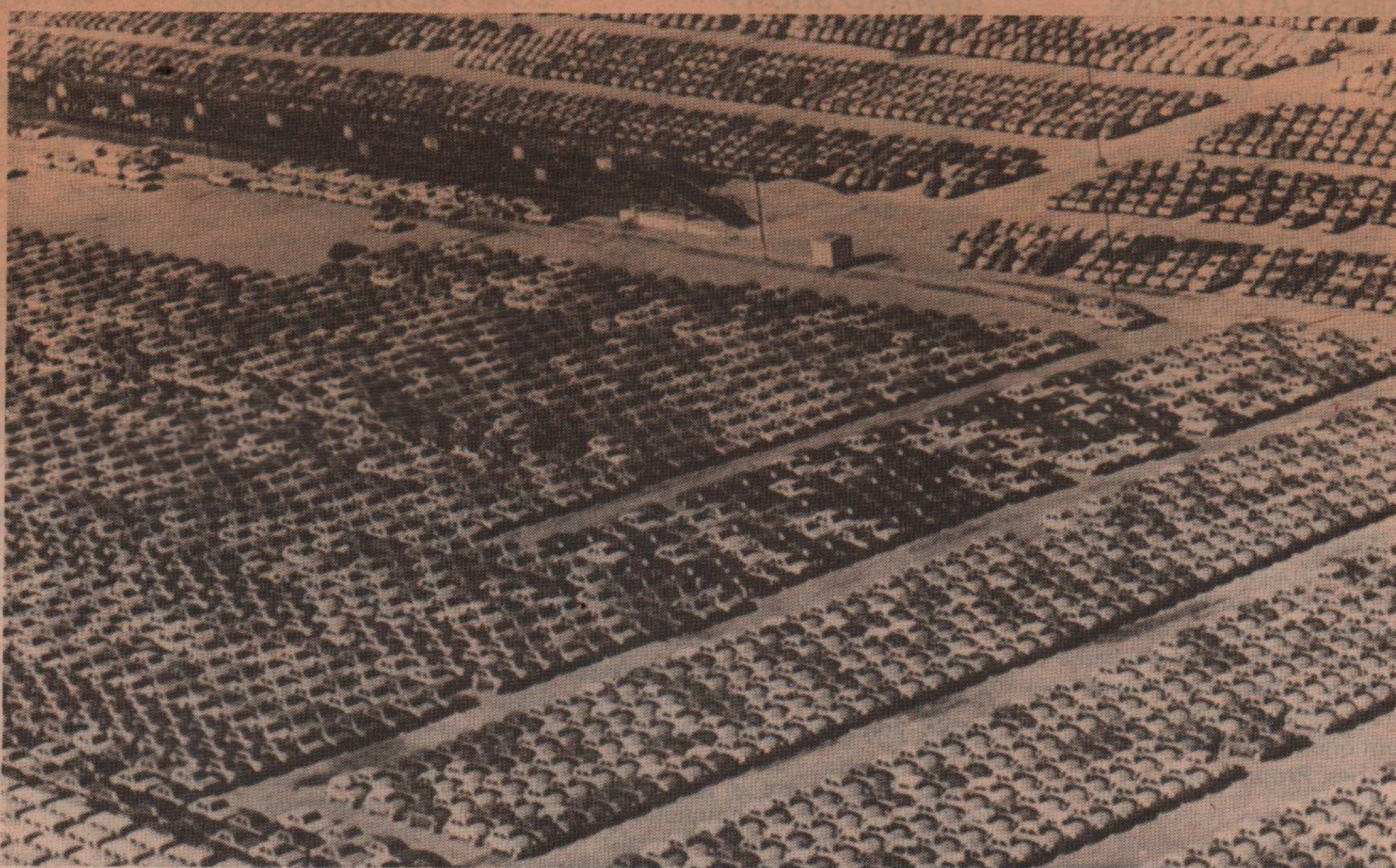
Big business saw opportunities for making profits and expanded the output of industry as fast as possible. Production shot up at tremendous speed for a few months. But because it was based upon competition between rival capitalists, no-one worried about whether the materials existed to maintain the boom.

The result, inevitably, was shortages. Things like paper, plastics, copper, tin, could not be produced as quickly as industry demanded them. The competition for them between rival industrialists caused their prices to shoot upwards.

This also caused the oil crisis. Consumption of oil throughout the world shot up by seven per cent in a year. But the giant oil companies had been deliberately holding down production for two years.

The shortages that resulted enabled the oil producers to jack the price up massively overnight.

The boom also produced a shortage of funds for many of the big



The anarchy of capitalism: thousands of Volkswagens—but no buyers. Now the car firms want workers to pay for their crisis with lay-offs and short-time working.

companies. In their desperation to make profits as quickly as possible, they borrowed massively—and the banks were able to increase their interest rates.

The increase in prices and interest rates were the result of industrialists' blind drive for increased profits.

But their effect was to threaten those profits, as industrialists found they were having to pay much of their increase in profits to the bankers and the suppliers of materials.

SACKED

While the profits of the banks and the oil companies have been shooting up over the last year, some industrial companies have been driven to the verge of bankruptcy.

At the time of the budget in November, industrialists claimed they were £3000 million short of cash. Yet the profit of the banks

were £1991 million (£1200 million up in four years) and the combined profit of BP and Shell £2200 million (up 100 per cent on the previous year).

The response of big business to this is simple. If there are few profits to be made out of investing in industry, those with the wealth will not invest.

The result, in any case, is the same: unemployment and factory closures.

That is what we face now. Building and construction workers cannot get work, because big business has stopped building new factories.

But that means there is less money around to buy the goods turned out by other industries.

As they, too, get the chop there will be a decline in the amount of money to buy what further groups of workers produce. A vicious circle follows that ruins the lives of large numbers of workers.

There's only one answer —socialism

THE ONLY answer to the crisis is to take industry out of the hands of big business and replace production for profit by production for need.

But none of this can be achieved by slowly increasing control by State take-over of industry, as some left-wing Labour Party and Communist Party supporters believe.

The moment this increase in control begins, industrialists will cut back investments, creating more unemployment. Vast sums of money will flow out of the country.

The only way to stop them would be to spread control rapidly over every section of the economy. But this cannot be done just by a government giving a few orders.

It requires the intervention in every factory, dock and office of rank and file trade unionists, taking control from the employers to prevent factory closures or the export

of money.

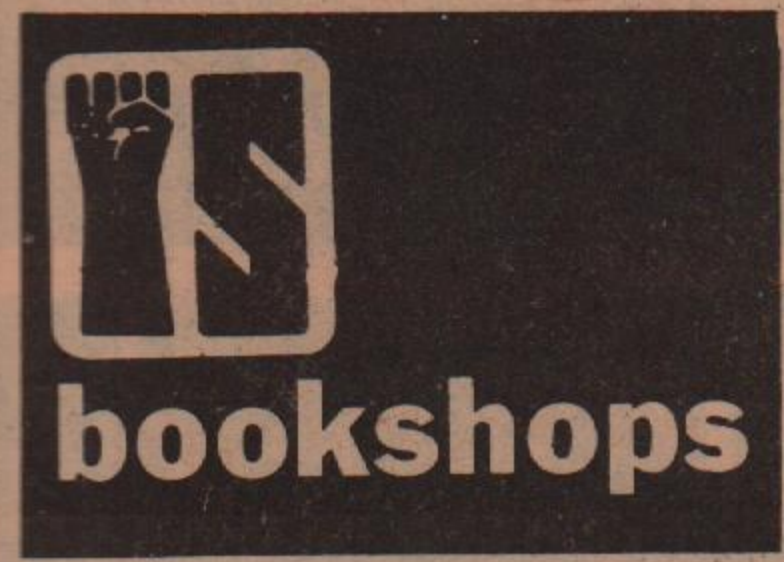
Such ideas are anathema to all sections of the Labour government.

Yet the working class movement has the strength to take on big business and win.

What it lacks is an understanding of its own strength, an awareness of what it needs to do to defeat the crisis, and an organisation to lead

The job of militants is to create this understanding and awareness

This means using the shop floor strength of workers to ensure workers do not pay the price of the crisis, by fighting for nationalisation under workers' control and without compensation as the immediate alternative to wage cuts and redundancies and the first step towards a confrontation with the system as a whole.



bookshops

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What's happening to our Health Service? by IS health workers, 10p

Crisis in British Leyland—our answer, 10p

Workers against the Law: The truth about the Shrewsbury Trials, by Laurie Flynn, 10p

The best book on the events in Northern Ireland since 1968, Eamonn McCann's **War in an Irish Town**, is out of print, so try your library.

But the IS pamphlet, **Struggle in Ireland** by Chris Harman (15p) does cover all the relevant aspects of the situation as fully as possible in a pamphlet.

For a history of the IRA read Bowyer Bell's **The Secret Army** (60p).

The Socialist Workers' Movement pamphlet **The Working Class and the National Question** (10p) discusses the situation in Ireland and proposes the Socialist solution (read also their paper **The Worker** (5p)).

Divided Ulster by Liam de Paor (40p) is a recent history of Ulster and **Labour in Irish History** by Connolly (30p) is one of the most readable of the 'Classics' and essential for Socialists.

Connolly's **Selected Writings** are available in a Penguin edition (50p).

Strumpet City by Plunkett provides a savagely realistic panorama of Dublin life in the tumultuous years of the early 20th century (50p).

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Stonehouse?

They all do it

By PAUL FOOT

A FEW weeks before he took his sensational swim off Miami beach last October, the Right Honourable John Stonehouse, MP, helped to found the Manifesto Group, a right-wing pressure group in the Parliamentary Labour Party whose purpose was to rally the 'moderates' against the 'Left'.

This fact has caused considerable jubilation among left-wing Labour MPs. Stonehouse, they claim, was 'just another right-wing crook' in the mould of Andrew Cunningham, former North East boss of the Labour Party, who is now in prison for corruption.

One brave left-wing MP claimed that

Harold Wilson was shielding Stonehouse from publicity because Stonehouse was an embarrassment to the right wing.

Others have had the nerve to suggest that the Stonehouse affair strengthens the case for socialists to join the Labour Party and fight right-wing corruption from within.

The truth about John Stonehouse, however, is different. He got into Parliament only because of his claim to be an unrelenting left-winger.

In 1956, the Tory government led an imperialist expedition into Egypt in a pathetic attempt to stop the nationalisation of the Suez canal.

The Labour Party, in opposition, roundly attacked the invasion. But one back-bench Labour MP, a peculiarly horrible reactionary called Stanley Evans, MP for Wednesbury, supported what he called 'the British Lion' at Suez.

Monster

The Wednesbury Labour Party, which included a number of socialists, demanded—and got—Evans' resignation as MP. A by-election had to be held to find a successor.

Mr George Lindgren, at that time general secretary of the Transport and Salaried Staffs Association, was looking for a nice safe seat for the President of the Union, Ray Gunter.

The left in the constituency party, however, had done its homework. At the selection conference, one member read out a Gunter speech on the British military intervention in Abadan—which showed that Gunter was even more of an imperialist monster than Stanley Evans.

Terrified of selecting yet another right-winger, the selection conference chucked Gunter out,

and chose instead a young left-winger spoken about the new society.

He was a little-known nominee from Southa John Stonehouse.

For several years, stayed loyal to the Wednesbury activists. Labour Party Conference moved his party's which demanded that Party policy should be by Party Conference Parliamentary Party.

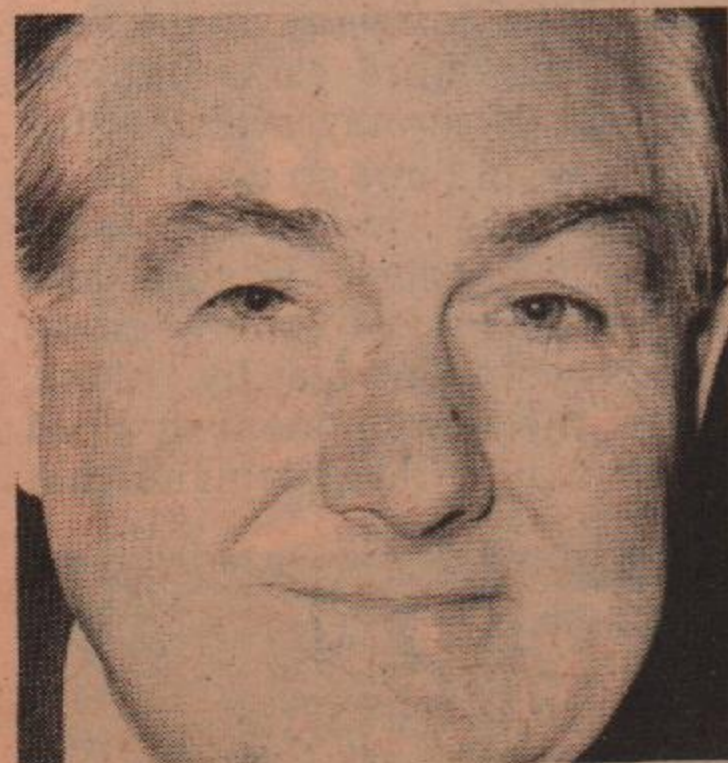
In an eloquent speech

As a result of a reply, he received a letter signed "John Stonehouse, M.P." which outlined his wide range of business interests and invited him, that is, Sir Eldred, if he wished to make use of his services, to reply to the House of Commons.

No fair-minded person would criticise the hon. Member for undertaking a tour which combined an interesting journalistic assignment with some private enterprise, but I think that the House—

Mr. Aneurin Bevan (Ebbw Vale):
They all do it.

—From Hansard, 4 March 1959



JAMES CALLAGHAN

Assistant secretary, tax officers' union (IRSF), 1936-1947. Labour MP, Cardiff, since 1945. Chancellor of Exchequer 1964-1967. Home Secretary 1967-1970. Foreign Secretary 1974.

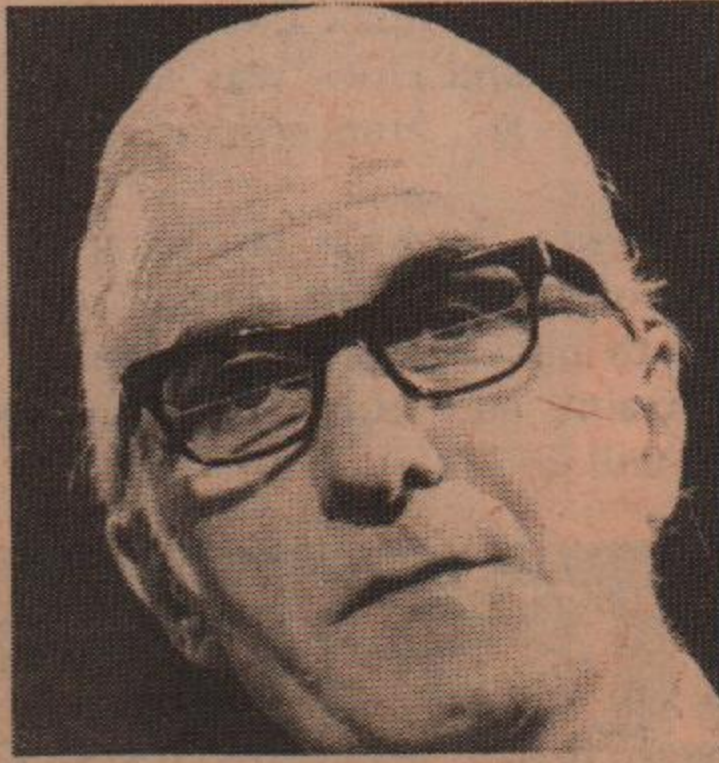
Close friend and business associate of Julian Hodge, who runs banking and second mortgage financial empire. Callaghan was a director of Hodge's Commercial Bank of Wales 1972-1974. At least ten other Labour MPs hold shares in it.

1972 also became director of Italian International Bank, salary undisclosed. At 1971 Labour Party conference, Callaghan as Party Treasurer moved acceptance of a scheme whereby Labour Party members got cheap car insurance from one of Hodge's subsidiaries. Proposal lost on a card vote.



RAY GUNTER

Branch secretary, railway clerks association, 1929-1941. Labour MP from 1945-51, and from 1959-72. Minister of Labour, 1964-68. Bitter opponent of all strikes and socialists. 1969, joined Board of Securicor and Industrial Communications Ltd. Estimated income, £300 a week.



EDWARD SHORT

Labour MP for Newcastle Central since 1951.

Close friend and business associate of T Dan Smith during 1950s and 1960s. Smith now in jail for corruption in connection with John Poulson, architect. Smith paid Short £250 in 1963, shortly before Short publicly defended housing contracts given by Newcastle Corporation (chairman: T Dan Smith) to Crudens Ltd (paid consultant, T Dan Smith).



LORD GEORGE-BROWN

District Organiser Transport and General Workers' Union, 1937-1945. Labour MP, Belper, 1945-1950. First Secretary, Economic Affairs, 1965-68. Foreign Secretary, 1967-1968. Lost seat, 1970. Became productivity and labour relations director, Courtaulds. Recently defended company's low-wage policies in South Africa. Chairman, Texas-based house conveyancing firm. Estimated income: £500 a week.

WHAT is the most common reaction to the Stonehouse affair? 'He was a rotten apple: you always get one or two in the barrel'.

But Stonehouse is not an exception. Few Labour MPs or councillors in recent years have been able to resist the innumerable temptations offered them by capitalism.

It wasn't always like that. The Labour Party was founded by working men and women who wanted to change society—by electing Labour Governments.

Most workers at the time voted Liberal or Tory. So the Labour pioneers had to win an argument among the workers. That meant organisation.

It meant Independent Labour Party branches in the factories. It meant a daily newspaper—so the Labour Party and TUC bought the Daily Herald. The Co-op Party took over Reynolds News.

It meant independent education among the workers: which is why the TUC founded the National Council of Labour Colleges.

It meant also strict discipline for elected Labour members. When Labour first won control of the London County Council in 1934, their leader, Herbert Morrison, laid down anti-corruption rules for Labour councillors, who were banned even from friendly drinks with council officials.

'The only thing for which I would preserve capital punishment', said Morrison, 'would be jobbery, bribery and corruption in public services'.

From 1945 onwards, workers voted

Labour en masse. Majority Labour Governments were elected.

The central Labour argument was that elected Labour Governments had the power to change society to the workers' advantage—and would in the long run bring socialism.

It followed that once the votes were there to elect Labour Governments, there was no further need for rank and file organisation.

The old slogans—Educate, Agitate, Organise!—were embarrassing to the new Labour Governments. They could lead to strikes, and other workers' activity which could threaten the power and influence of the people who really mattered, the Labour MPs.

BETRAYED

So Labour started to dismantle its rank and file organisation.

The Daily Herald was sold to the press barons. Labour Party branches in the factories were disbanded. The National Council of Labour Colleges was closed down. So was Reynolds News.

Most local Labour parties stopped producing papers. The flow of propaganda from Transport House changed to a flow of non-agitational information. The socialists left in the constituency parties and co-operative branches could do nothing to halt the drift.

They watched, impotent, while the Wilson Government of 1964 to 1970 betrayed everything they had stood for.

At Party Conferences, they voted

IMPOTENCE CORR

against the wage freeze, against the American army in Vietnam, against health charges, against racialism in Rhodesia.

Then they went home to watch Harold Wilson declaring on television: 'The Government has a right to govern'. That meant frozen wages, support for imperialism in Vietnam and racialism in Rhodesia, increased health charges, and so on ad nauseam.

These socialists could not challenge any of this because they would not challenge the Parliamentary base of the Labour Party.

They believed that democracy meant electing MPs by people of all classes: geographic constituencies, once every five years.

They believed they had no right to dictate to the Government. So they were helpless. They left.

Everywhere the numbers of active constituency party members went down and down.

Labour Governments and Labour councils still got office. But they became totally isolated from the workers who elected them.

The rules which Morrison had so strictly observed were torn to shreds during the 1960s. MP after MP, councillor after councillor, union official after union official, succumbed to the 'business pressures' of capitalist society.

Their life-style became totally removed from the people they represented.

One 19th century capitalist hack once wrote: 'Power corrupts'. Many Labour

By two IS lawyers

LORD ALF ROBENS never did much for workers. In fact, he's done about as much as Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, did for the Shrewsbury Two. In 1970, the Tories asked him to investigate the law on health and safety at work.

He gave his answers two years later and they gratefully drafted a Bill on the subject. Fortunately they lost the next election and it never became law.

But last March Michael Foot proposed what is now the Labour Government's Health and Safety at Work Act. He took all his ideas from Robens. The Tories were delighted. The Act was passed. The trade unions said nothing.

In 1973 about 3000 workers were killed. Some 10,000,000 were injured. And another 1,000,000 were seriously sick through industrial diseases.

The law is not really concerned with preventing accidents, and disease. Its only interest is whether the employers or their insurance companies must pay compensation to sick or injured workers.

To get compensation (damages) the injured worker must show his employer was at fault in not complying with a duty imposed on the employer by the law.

These duties are set out for most industries in Special Acts of Parliament and Regulations which cover a wide range of matters in great detail—the guarding of dangerous machines, the cleaning of gangways, the maintenance of cranes

Sometimes they say the employer shall take all reasonable steps to do what is required, sometimes they order the employer to do what is required regardless of whether it is reasonable.

For example, if part of a machine is dangerous, it should be fenced and guarded until it is safe. The employer can't say that it costs too much to make it safe. Or even that if it was really safe it would be impossible for anybody to work it.

Work

The employer has to make it safe. Of course, most of the time he doesn't. But at the very least a worker would get paid for an injury that was not his fault.

Robens had one good point—the law was useless. It didn't stop employers killing, maiming and poisoning.

Some 5,000,000 workers were in industries not covered by the Acts and Regulations, which were full of loopholes.

Compensation was at the discretion of lawyers and judges. Only a fifth of all cases fought by workers were successful.

The Labour government had a marvellous opportunity to stop all this. They didn't. The Health and Safety at Work Act—hailed by many trade unions as a step forward—may even be a huge step back:

Under the Act, employers only have to make machines, dangerous substances, work places and systems of work as safe 'as is reasonably practicable.'

This means that a judge can let an employer off paying compensation to an injured worker if the employer can show that taking the necessary safety precautions would cost too much.

What they really mean is not 'practicable' but 'profitable'.

Safety: This Act can cripple you

Under the new law there are no absolute duties employers must obey.

Robens insisted that workers must make greater efforts to keep their own workplaces safe rather than relying on the law.

The new law therefore says that workers MUST (not a question of 'reasonably practicable') co-operate with their employers in fulfilling employers' safety rules.

This has frightening consequences. It gives the employer the chance to escape liability by saying the worker has not co-operated even where it may be the shopfloor practice to ignore certain rules (to make the job easier or faster), or even where management has threatened anyone working strictly to the safety rules.

Under the new law, the Secretary of State can make arrangements for the appointment of safety representatives and safety committees whom employers must consult. This sounds good, but there are hidden dangers.

Consultation is not control, and worse still, employers are going to try to avoid responsibility by saying that the safety representatives and committees are just as much to blame as them.

Lose

As a result, an injured worker might lose compensation. There is even a possibility that these committees and representatives might be partly liable for compensation themselves.

The Act also fails to impose a clear duty on employers to tell their workers exactly what substances or other articles or machines they may come into contact with.

This is vitally important with highly dangerous chemicals. It is important also for safety representatives and committees to know what they are dealing with.

The Act doesn't only deal with compensation. If an employer breaks the new regulations he commits a crime. But the penalties are laughable.

The maximum fine for most offences of £400. As under the old law, few cases will go to court and the average fine will be (as now) less than £40.

It's not too late to do something. Although the Act is already law, most of the detailed regulations have still to be made by the Secretary of State.

Shop-floor safety committees should investigate the standards of work and press for the enforcement of all safety rules. Organised strength can prevent accidents. They must make sure that the new Act is in no way worse than the old law.



“ We are involved in the struggle to change society. We are not playing politics within the capitalist system: we are seeking to destroy the ”

—John Stonehouse, Labour Party Conference 1960

1960-style rhetoric, 'that the Labour Movement will put its full force behind a great campaign now to secure a United Nations Relief Force going in with all the support it demands, including military support, to ensure that food is distributed and also the recognition of the democratic will of the people of East Bengal so that they can have freedom from colonialism.'

Stonehouse's own contribution to this fight for freedom from colonialism was to set up a private bank, with himself as chairman and his business associates of former years as directors, which invited funds from people anxious to invest in Bangladesh.

The government and state banks of Bangladesh specifically opposed the venture on the grounds that it would compete with the state banks.

What's more, Stonehouse managed to persuade some of his old cronies from his days at the Post Office—notably Plesseys—to invest in the bank.

The bank raised many hundreds of thousands of pounds from well-meaning East Bengalis in Britain. Stonehouse, it now appears, stole a lot of this and salted it away in Geneva for a rainy day.

Thus the man who set out in 1960 to change society ended up only 12 years later robbing his own bank of money which had been subscribed to help the most poverty-stricken country in the world.

He pursued these disgusting activities without a word of protest from the Labour Party, locally or nationally.

In 15 years the Labour Party, locally and nationally, had declined from a body which insisted on the removal of a reactionary MP and his replacement by a left-winger into a miserable haggle which could only watch from the sidelines while that same 'left-winger' engaged in one of the most contemptible corruption orgies of modern times.

speech in favour of black majority rule.

When Labour leaders protested at the ban, they were embarrassed to discover—from the Tory Minister, Alport—that Stonehouse had been in Africa furthering his business interests, which he had advertised anonymously in the Press.

Stonehouse's passion for big business grew considerably when he joined Wilson's government in 1964.

His experience in the board-rooms earned him rapid promotion to Postmaster General in 1969, where he masterminded the transition in the Post Office from public service to capitalist corporation.

The businessmen who make most out of the Post Office—the computer firm ICL and Plesseys—were delighted at Stonehouse's ability to 'co-operate'.

In six years' hob-nobbing with the business world, Stonehouse never bothered to speak at Labour Party conferences. The constituency party at Wednesbury grew smaller and smaller.

Revolt

Report-back meetings, which even Stanley Evans had made a necessary part of his work in the 1950s, were not held.

When Labour lost the 1970 election, Stonehouse quickly found himself a few business posts, notably with his chums at ICL, where he got a £4000-a-year consultancy.

But he still longed to mastermind and control a big business corporation.

He saw his chance in 1971 with the revolt of the people of East Pakistan (Bangladesh) against their oppressors in West Pakistan

Stonehouse visited the stricken areas as part of a Parliamentary delegation. He longed to do something positive to help the newly-independent Bangladesh—and he longed to make some money out of it.

So he made one last sortie to the Labour Party conference, where he moved the delegates to another ovation.

'I hope,' he shouted in his best

handsome who had d to change

own Co-op mpton called

Stonehouse s left-wing At the 1960 erence, he resolution, at Labour e laid down not by the h, he threw

down a challenge to the party leadership:

'Are you prepared to jettison the tested democracy of this movement and replace it with the esoteric wisdom of a small elite? I say that if the democratic Labour Movement does that, it will commit suicide.'

But there was another side to John Stonehouse which quickly revealed itself. He was greatly interested in the high life.

In 1959, he travelled to Central Africa, and was banned from Southern Rhodesia after making a

RUPTS

supporters believe that is the reason for the widespread corruption of their representatives over the past decade.

It is not power which corrupts the Labour politicians, however, but impotence. The theory which instructs them that parliamentary government elected every five years, is powerful enough to defeat capitalism, instructs them also to cut themselves off from the only political force which can: the organised strength of the working-class, the ability of workers to organise their power to strike.

WEALTH

Isolated from this power, strung up in parliamentary mid-air, they are easy prey to the pressures of a capitalist society which is founded on corruption—on making wealth for nothing at the expense of others.

Real workers' power is utterly different to parliamentary office. Workers' power ensures against corruption by ensuring that the wealth and aspirations of the representatives cannot be parted from the wealth and aspirations of the people who elect them.

We cannot get that workers' power through a political organisation like the Labour Party, whose central theme is that well-educated intelligent people can get it for us by Acts of Parliament.

We can only get it through socialist organisation where the strength of the workers can be used against capitalism, on the factory floor, in the rank and file.

Pluto Press
Workers' Handbook No.1

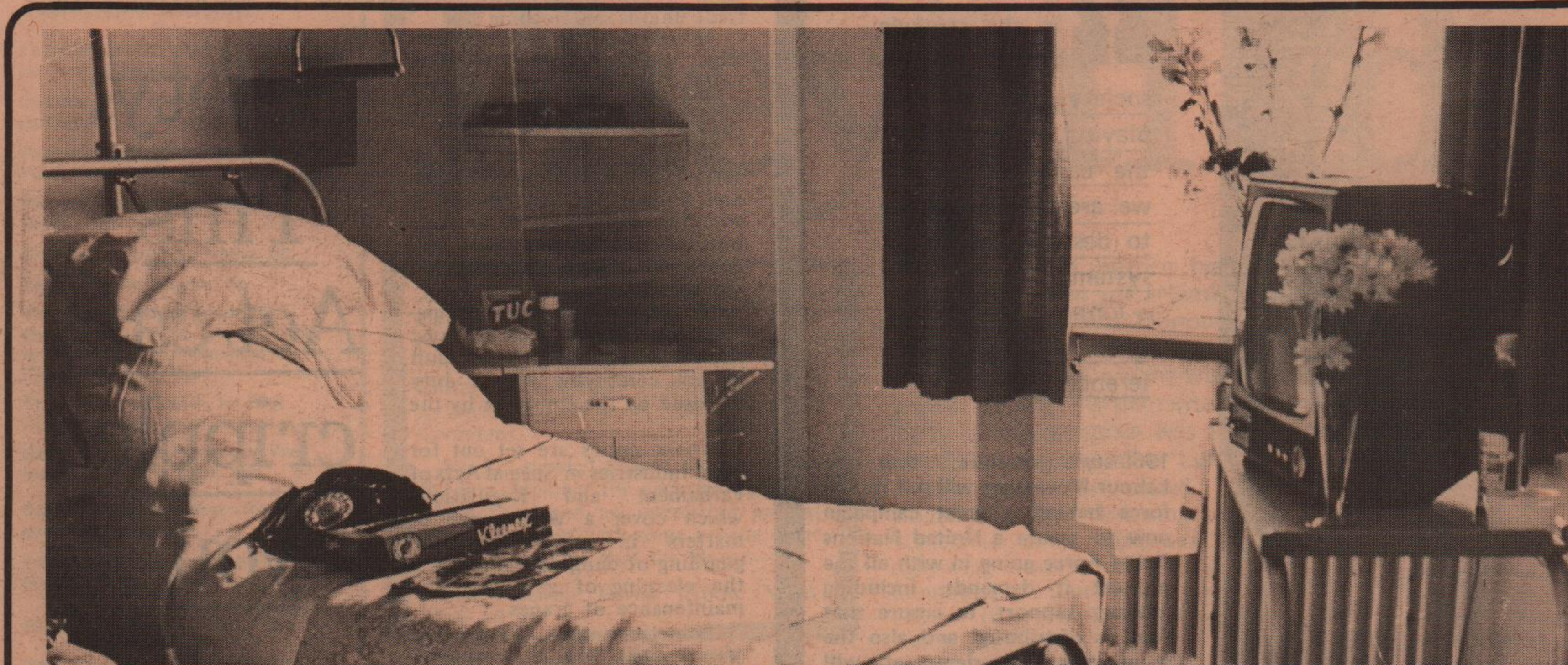
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Patrick Kinnersly

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.



Nice ward if you can get it—and you could get it if you paid . . . A private ward in a public hospital, a private cash-till for some consultants. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Winning over professionals

IN THE GENERAL hospital where I work a number of consultants, mainly surgeons, are refusing patients and cutting down their operations in line with their 'work to contract'. If they really worked to contract they'd probably have to work hours more!

The registrars and house officers unfortunately, have voted to support them. A meeting of about 40 of them a couple of weeks ago pro-

duced only two doctors who voted against the consultants.

The present work to contract isn't to maintain their independence as they claim. It is no more than action by those who have always controlled the hospital services to try to ensure they continue to make money out of private practice.

They are objecting that their new contracts include a 40 per cent bonus for consultants who opt to

work full time for the National Health Service and do no private work.

This might seem quite fair to us—especially since consultants start on £8000 a year anyway. But a large number of more junior doctors have been won over to the consultants' side by appeals to their 'professionalism'.

Many of these young doctors support the NHS underneath it all

and it's up to other trade unionists who work in hospitals to explain to them how damaging private practice is to the NHS and what the NHS actually means to working people.

To counter the consultants' action workers in hospitals must organise blacking of private patients, as has been successful in a number of London hospitals to show we're prepared to defend the NHS.—**MEDICAL STUDENT, Birmingham.**

Big, Bouncy, and Bloody - Butlins

NOW THAT the holiday advertisement season has arrived, I'd like to give any readers planning to go to Butlins a word of advice—DON'T.

I worked at the Pwllheli camp last summer and was disgusted at the conditions there. Almost every entertainment building is a serious fire risk, with large areas of painted plywood panelling, and the suspended ceiling of the largest bar, seating nearly 2000 is made of a wooden lattice-work covered in polythene sheeting.

No fire drill was taught to the staff, and there was no trained fire-fighting team on stand-by in a camp that holds over 10,000. The 'Gaiety' complex burn down, and a similar building was gutted by fire at Skegness in June 1974. (As many of Butlins' buildings are of a similar design, it should come as no surprise if another disaster occurs this year.)

In the kitchens and restaurants, food was reheated every day until sold. The frantic scramble for profit by managers produced the most cynical attitude towards the campers

—anything that could be gotten away with was tried. 'Inspections' by the local health inspector, Mr Jones, were always known about the day before. Once I heard a senior manager boast to another that Jones was 'in our pocket'.

Around the camp many chalets were flooded in heavy rainfall, and some chalets were closed because of rats.

Other conditions were those of the staff; most worked a six-day, 44 hour week for £14.25, (£13.25 for women) and lived in cramped, unheated chalets. Dismissal was instant for the slightest infringement, and of course no union was permitted.

One last myth about Butlins must be exploded, and that is the belief that it's a cheap holiday. Prices are extortionate—a salad consisting of a slice of ham, a tomato, some lettuce and cress would set you back 50p. So if you're still planning to go there, bring plenty of money. And please, tip well—the staff need it!—**F WARD, Liverpool.**

BALUCHISTAN - IS IT BANGLADESH OF '75?

I READ the letter from Neil Rogall (22 December) about the situation in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan. His views were really those of the Afghanistan government, which attempts to divert attention from the conditions of its own working class towards the dream of a state including the North West Frontier provinces of Pakistan. The guerillas of Baluchistan are the result of Afghan government interference.

It's the same as the 1971 situation when Russia was able to use India to dismember Pakistan. Now Afghanistan is the platform. The working class of all Pakistan is struggling against the capitalists both in government and opposition.

In Baluchistan there's a battle between the political parties. There is Prime Minister's Z A Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party, which came to power as the party of socialism. There is none of it in Bhutto's government.

The second is the National Awami Party, of Abdul Wali Khan, which is alleged to work under Afghanistan government direction.

Both these parties consist of big landlords, and industrialists and their efforts are always against the working class, whenever they challenge the system. The same as is happening now in Baluchistan happened in 1971 when Bangladesh was born. The mass struggle was against capitalism in East and West Pakistan. But a divide and rule policy was adapted and the struggle against the bureaucracy was derailed. Now Indian industrialists have a firm hold on the Bangladesh economy while the inhabitants starve.

The working class believe in one Pakistan and their struggle is for independence from capitalism and imperialism, and for equal prosperity for their Baluchi brothers.—**PAKISTANI, Name & Address supplied.**

How Les Logan got rolled..

FOLLOWING a recently introduced workers bulletin the management at Rolls Royce 1971 Ltd Barnoldswick, suspended Les Logan who was seen handing out the bulletin.

Mr Logan is a shop steward and district delegate for his Engineering union branch but isn't a member of any left wing group or party. He's been fighting for socialist ideas for many years. The management informed him that he would only be re-employed if he agreed to vacate his post of steward and not stand again.

The AUEW district secretary and the works convenor who were present allowed this to occur—why? Is the union going to allow management to dictate who should and who should not stand for steward? We say no, and call on all AUEW Burnley District members to press for a full investigation into this action by the union.

It is disgusting that Mr Logan, a good union member and a good steward has not received the support and backing in his hour of need that he has always given fellow workers and shop stewards in the past.—**THREE ROLLS WORKERS.**

APOLOGIES . . . My article (4 January 'Take This Law Into Your Own Hands' contains an error. It shouldn't have read 'with health and safety at work legislation now in force' but 'which comes into force in April 1975'.—**IVAN CRANE, Beccles.**

TRADE UNIONS AND STARVATION . . . Having just sat through the John Pilger programme on Bangladesh I'm filled with a seething impotent rage over my inability to make any significant and meaningful contribution. I have no doubt many others have been left with a feeling of 'How terrible, but what can I do? Surely as revolutionaries and socialists the International Socialists should be giving a lead by suggesting methods of putting through resolutions at trade union branches condemning the lack of action on the part of the Western World? All that Socialist Worker has published on the subject has been holier than thou attitudes.—**H Y, Halifax.**

IRRELEVANT NAPPY WASHERS? . . . Women have a lot to contribute if men would give us a chance and stop treating us as irrelevancies. Most men are too pig-headed to contemplate that women think! . . . Women are to sit behind the teapot, look after the kids and provide the home comforts. That is man's outlook on womanhood. You would be surprised what one can think and fathom out while washing dirty nappies! If women had freedom from chores and more scope in life free from home-making entanglements we could certainly show you men something! Unfortunately we're limited by our own natures and too frequently by petty jealousies. Incidentally I'm not a frustrated women's liberation member but a happily married housewife with a husband who listens to what I have to say, even if he doesn't agree, which is more than some men do.—**Y HAYS, Telford.**

LORD LENIN OF PETROGRAD? . . . New Year brought the usual flood of honours . . . For the Daily Mirror and the Sun it was Sir Charlie Chaplin—but a closer look reveals the worms in the woodwork. Finiston, the butcher of the steel industry, McFadzean of Shell, the multinational oil company. Martin Jukes of the Engineering Employers Federation . . . Sir William Armstrong, ex civil service chief who took a cushy job in a bank long before retired civil servants are supposed to. To crown the lot P G Wodehouse who broadcast for the Nazis during the war. So much for the Labour Party, Wilson and their socialism.—**BRYAN REES, Swansea.**

GAY CONFERENCE . . . The first conference for gay working people will be held in Leeds in March . . . It is hoped that the conference will feature lively discussions on the problems facing gay working people. What's needed now is publicity and support for the conference. The more trade union and labour movement bodies that declare in favour of building this conference the more likely it is that the working class will be able to start coming to grips with the problem, and that homosexual workers will be able to shed their fears and play a full part in the workers' movement. Enquiries and messages of support please.—**c/o MARTIN O'LEARY, Conference of Gay Working People, 32 Hartley Grove, Leeds 6.**

SHUNT THE SHIFT . . . I agree with Bruce Scott (23 November) that he was surprised there haven't been more letters on shift working . . . Until one has done it it's impossible to understand how physically and mentally damaging it is . . . One of the blokes on my section decided to go on nights to get some extra Christmas money. He came off after four weeks last week. He's lost a stone in weight through loss of appetite, is on tranquillisers, is tired and depressed . . . I've asked the shop steward why the union allows us to be forced to do night shift, but since none of them do it they're not too concerned . . . If they attempt to introduce shift work in your factory fight it. You don't know what you're letting yourself in for.—**S MASCARENHAS, London NW2.**

UNITY . . . At a time when various right wing forces are mobilising against us it is not conceivable that we forget our differences with the other existing left wing revolutionary groups and set about forming a united front against the common foe? How can we preach unity to the working class and at the same time practice what amounts to no more than sectarian chauvinism? 'Link up' is the call to the Rank and File. I suggest we start doing that very thing, now.—**T RAMSEY, Cumbernauld.**

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I tried to scrub myself white

'I used to avoid the sun in case I became any blacker. I was so ashamed of my colour I used to hide in shop doorways...'

UNDER THE INFLUENCE



I WAS born in 1938 in a tough area of Stepney to an Indian father and Welsh mother. My father was killed during the war and our home was blown up, putting my mother into a state of despair.

She married again soon after to a black African, a racist who kicked me to the floor every time my mother sent me off to the local chapel.

My mother was continually beaten, day after day, and when I cried for her I got myself a hiding too. He slept with a large truncheon by his bed, with the telephone locked up for his use only.

My mother, in daily arguments, was always calling him a black bastard. She was not allowed to cook for him as he was afraid she would poison him. I had to wait in Cable Street at 5am every day to wait for fresh bread, the only food he would eat at home.

He had a rag merchant's premises behind our house, employing seven or eight people and treating them as badly as my mother and me. He was on the black market, forever bribing coppers with pounds of butter and tea and sending me out to sell coconuts for him.

Different

The only toys I remember having were when his black countrymen used to take the clips out of their guns and throw them to me to play with. One night he smashed my mother over the head with a flagon bottle and dragged her up the gutter in our street. This time he wasn't able to bribe the police and went to prison.

My mother, when well enough, went round to the various hotels where he kept his money and used it for us to get a train to her relations in South Wales. There my bedroom was a cellar with no lighting.

My mother used to go out to enjoy herself, not coming back until two or three in the morning. I used to stay awake until she came home. Sometimes I was so scared of the dark I would sit out under a street lamp.

When my mother did get home she would beat me with fire sticks. I began to realise I was different. My uncle had called me a black bastard and my mother used to call me blacky or nigger.

At school the Welsh kids made fun of my Cockney accent. I managed, after a while, to invent a valley accent to stop them making fun of me but I just could not scrub myself white, though I secretly tried it many times.

I used to avoid the sun in case I became any blacker. I was so ashamed of my colour I used

By JEFF ALI

a member of the Transport Workers' Union, an International Socialist and one of the leaders of the Burnley busmen's strike last August.

to hide in shop doorways waiting for the picture house queues to go down first, to save myself being called names. When the light went out in the interval, I used to near enough hide myself under the seat.

I was always fighting kids in and out of school for the normal things, but when the word blacky or nigger was mentioned I'd go all weak, as I do even now.

I was sent away to a school by a cruelty inspector who looked like the Gestapo officers I'd seen in the pictures. It was military, scrubbing the floors, bulling your boots and saluting anything that moved. We had to march everywhere. Church every morning and twice on Sunday. No girls or smoking. Always in trouble.

I got charged for swearing in church when someone in front of me pushed his chair back on my nose while I was praying for a letter from my mother. I was punished with the dreaded six cuts. I was beaten along with a 14-year-old boy who got six cuts for smoking. We called them cuts because they ripped your skin, bit terribly and left you black and blue, turning yellow. It was done with a bamboo cane an inch in diameter.

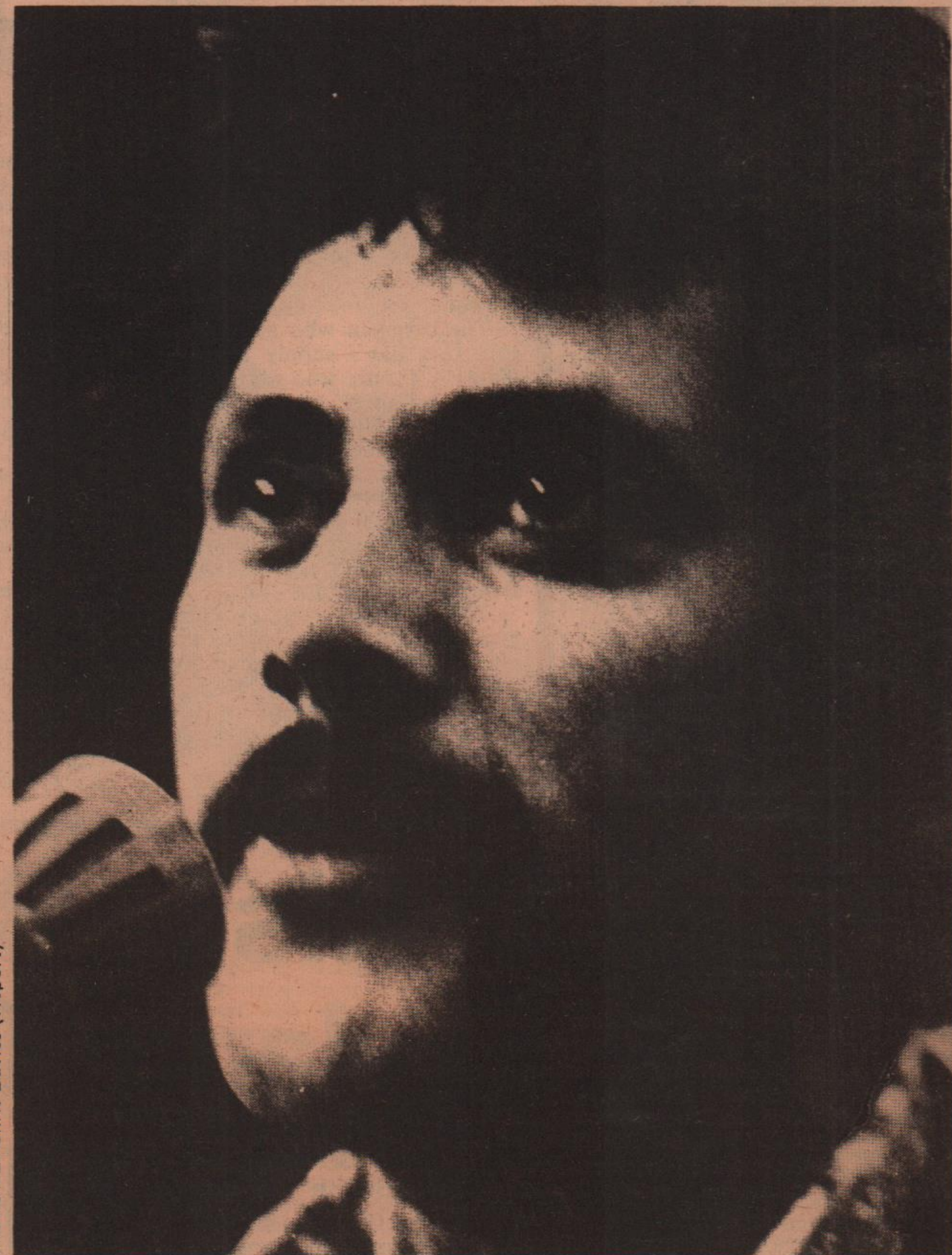
Volunteer

I always wanted to be a drummer. They said I was too small, but to me I couldn't because I was too black and not wanted along side a lot of Scots boys wearing kilts.

The cruelty inspector and the Assistant Commandant eventually arranged it. But then I developed the 'Yes sir, no sir, three bags full sir' attitude to save me getting into trouble. My brain was on the way to being completely washed. I just wanted to get a rank to skive out of scrubbing floors.

I became a National Serviceman, with the same yes-sir, no-sir tactics and the aim of becoming a drill instructor. But instead I got posted to Cyprus.

None of us wanted to go because the EOKA were knocking off soldiers but I ended up having to volunteer, thinking that if I didn't I would be called a coward. My main worry was that some stupid soldier would mistake me,



PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

with my dark skin, for a Cypriot and blow my head off.

I learnt the ropes, being a bastard, shouting in people's ears to frighten them. I still knew I was different from the other Drill Sergeants, because I used to feel sorry for the soldiers, specially the little ones.

The prisoners used to be put in lined tin cells with wooden beds and mattresses. They were not allowed to wear belts or bootlaces and were marched at 160 paces a minute holding their trousers up and scraping their feet on the ground.

After one lad tried to commit suicide by drinking a few tins of Brasso, they made him strip naked and call himself all sorts of names.

I used to ask myself why one person should be allowed to treat another badly because of rank since we were all from the same sort of backgrounds. The only reason soldiers do it is to have a lot of medals on their chest.

People in the services are trained, like me, to act like robots with no thought of thinking why they have to shoot at someone who they don't even know. When one of their mates is shot their only response is revenge. When will it end?

I believe it will. But only when workers and soldiers everywhere realise they are being used and exploited to safeguard their rulers, interests.

I left the army not totally brainwashed but with a feeling that I could not trust anyone—until I joined IS. I had been an international socialist for years and not known it.

A party can show you wonderful people, trustworthy people, people I didn't know existed. A party that has given me hope and a world where people can have contentment and peace.

We only become brainwashed because of the physical and mental force of our rulers.

WHEN TO SWITCH ON

SUNDAY
BBC-1: 11.5pm. INSIDE THE PRESS examines FLEET STREET IN CRISIS, with John Bonfield and Lord Briginshaw from the print unions and Tony Miles of the International Publishing Corporation. On BBC-1 at 8.15pm the PLAY OF THE MONTH is George Bernard Shaw's THE APPLE CART, written 50 years ago and set in 2020, in the reign of King Magnus... Back on BBC-2 THE CLAIMING OF THE AMAZON is about the building of the Trans-Amazon Highway and the driving out of the Indians, in the WORLD ABOUT US series at 7.25pm. At 10.10pm on BBC-2 the 1948 Hitchcock thriller STRANGERS ON THE TRAIN.

MONDAY
BBC-2: 9.25pm. HORIZON is THE KILLER-DUST, an inquiry into asbestos dust—and asbestosis.

TUESDAY
RADIO-4: 8.30pm. He may be a doom laden gloomy liberal, but he's a fine journalist, James Cameron's IN OUR TIME is a new 13 part series on the inter-war years. Bernard Shaw's PYGMALION (later slaughtered into My Fair Lady) is the first in a series of old films of Shaw's plays at 9pm on BBC-2.

WEDNESDAY
BBC-2: 9.25pm. THE LOVE SCHOOL is the first of a play series on the Pre-Raphaelite movement, the primary Victorian art influence of Britain. Same channel profiles brush, abrasive go-getting Freddie Laker in WHO WANT'S TO BE A MILLIONAIRE at 8.10pm. An outstanding British capitalist, bets can now be taken on the date of his empire's collapse... Same channel's IMAGES FOR SALE—THE HEROINE, looks at the use of women in advertising at 7.5pm.

FRIDAY
BBC-2: 9.25pm. THE MONEY PROGRAMME is WHAT HAS CAUSED THE PROBLEM FOR BRITAIN AND THE WORLD? Answers to the BBC...

from 17 January IRELAND: BEHIND THE WIRE

Socialist Worker film tour

MANCHESTER: Friday 17 January, 8pm, University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology, Students Union Building, Sackville St.

GLASGOW: Saturday 18 January, 3pm, Queen Margaret Hall, Glasgow University.

TEESSIDE: Monday 20 January, 8pm, Coatham Memorial Hall, Coatham Rd, Redcar. Tickets from IS Books, 14 Grange Road, Teesside.

HULL: Tuesday 21 January, 7.30pm, Stevedores and Dockers Club, Postern-gate.

LEEDS: Wednesday 22 January, 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Savil Mount, Chapel town.

BARNSELEY: 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 St.

COVENTRY: Friday 31 January, 7.30pm, Room LL13, Library Block, Lancheater Poly.

CENTRAL LONDON: Sunday 2 February, 7.30pm, Camden Studios, Camden St, NW1.

WEST LONDON: Monday 3 February, 8pm, Queens Hall, Ealing Town Hall.

CHELMSFORD: Wednesday 5 February, 8pm, Shire Hall.

Tickets 40p in advance from IS branches, 50p on the door.

WHAT'S ON

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

IS public meetings

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).

BARNSELEY 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).

LAMBETH COUNCIL WORKERS IS public meeting: The Lump in local government. Speakers: Frankie Drain (UCATT) Wednesday 22 January, 7.30pm, Brixton Training Centre, London SW2 (opposite Lambeth Town Hall).

SUNDERLAND IS public meeting: The Crisis—social contract or socialism. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 20 February, 7.30pm. Wheatshaf public house.

HARLOW IS public debate: Can Labour solve the crisis? Paul Foot (editor, *Socialist Worker*) against Stan Newtons (Labour MP for Harlow). Friday 24 January, 7.45pm, AUEW Hall, Harberts Road. All welcome. Questions and discussion.

ISLE OF WIGHT Inaugural IS public meeting: The Struggle for Socialism. Speakers: Mike Hodges (convener, Vosper Thornycrofts, former Labour Party councillor) and John Deason (IS industrial department). Tuesday 28 January, 7.30pm, The Calverts, Newport.

SOUTHAMPTON IS public meeting: The Crisis—social contract or socialism. Speaker: John Deason (IS industrial department). Thursday 30 January, 8pm, UCATT Hall, Henstead Road (off Bedford Place).

NORTH HERTS IS public meeting: The Crisis—social contract or socialism. Speaker: Roger Cox. Thursday 16 January, 8pm, AUEW Hall, Nightingale Road, Hitchin. All trade unionists and socialists welcome.

CROYDON IS public meeting: Labour—the parliamentary road to socialism? Speaker: Sue Banks. Thursday 16 January, 8pm, Ruskin House, corner of Park Lane and Combe Road, Croydon.

CROYDON IS public meeting: Is Russia socialist? Speaker: Tony Corcoran. Thursday 23 January, 8pm, Ruskin House, corner of Park Lane and Coombe Road, Croydon.

PADDINGTON IS public meeting: Defend the dustmen! Speakers: Tony Sweeney (Chairman, Kensington No 1 GMWU branch, one of the 70 dustmen who face a political trial) and Gordon Peters (NALGO). Thursday 23 January, 8pm, Workers Musical Association, corner of Westbourne Park Road and All Saints Road (Westbourne Park or Ladbroke Grove tube).

TEESSIDE IS public meeting: The Crisis—social contract or socialism. Speakers: Paul Foot (editor, *Socialist Worker*) and leading North East trade unionists. Thursday 13 February, James Finegan Hall, Eston. Licensed bar. Tickets from IS Books, 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough, from IS members or at the door.

EAST ANGLIA IS rally: Build the Rank and File Movement. Saturday 1 February, 2.30pm, Lamb Hotel, Norwich. Evening disco. All trade unionists welcome.

CLYDESIDe DISTRICT IS public meetings: British Army out of Ireland. Speakers: Neil Davis (IS National Committee member and former paratrooper). **CUMBERNAULD:** Monday 20 January, 7.30pm, Alder Road Community Centre. **COATBRIDGE:** Tuesday 21 January, 7.30pm, Carsewall Street Community Centre. **CLYDEBANK:** Wednesday 22 January, 7.30pm, Douglas Hotel, North Douglas Street. **GLASGOW:** Thursday 23 January, 7.30pm, City Halls (Lesser Halls), Albion Street.

EAST KILBRIDE IS public meeting: The Crisis—social contract or socialism. Speaker: Tony Cliff (IS Executive committee member). Monday 27 January, 7.30pm, The Murray pub.

CHRYSLER LINWOOD and PAISLEY IS public meeting: The Crisis—social contract or socialism. Speaker: Tony Cliff (IS Executive committee member). Tuesday 28 January, 7.30pm, Paisley Town Hall.

Meetings for IS members and IS notices

PORTSMOUTH IS: Would all comrades please note that after 16 January branch meetings will be held on Mondays. The first of these altered meetings will be Monday 20 January at 7.45pm.

IS Training School on the Communist Party: Saturday 25 January in Manchester. Speakers: Jimmy McCallum and Andreas Nagliatis. For further details contact Geoff Brown at 061-792 5780.

IS LATIN AMERICA School: Saturday-Sunday 25-26 January, Central London Poly, New Coventry Street. Speakers include: Vic Richards on Brazil, Danny James on Argentina, a Chilean comrade on Chile since the coup, Mike Gonzalez on Revolutionary perspectives in Latin America, plus working session. Saturday 10am-5pm/Sunday 11am-5pm. Further details from Colin Sparks, phone 01-969 1758. IS members only.

Tools that do magic—for the few

PREHISTORIC man was completely at the mercy of nature, for he depended on finding wild berries and roots enough to keep himself alive. His first step towards civilisation was learning to cultivate the land, establishing some control over nature and growing food for himself.

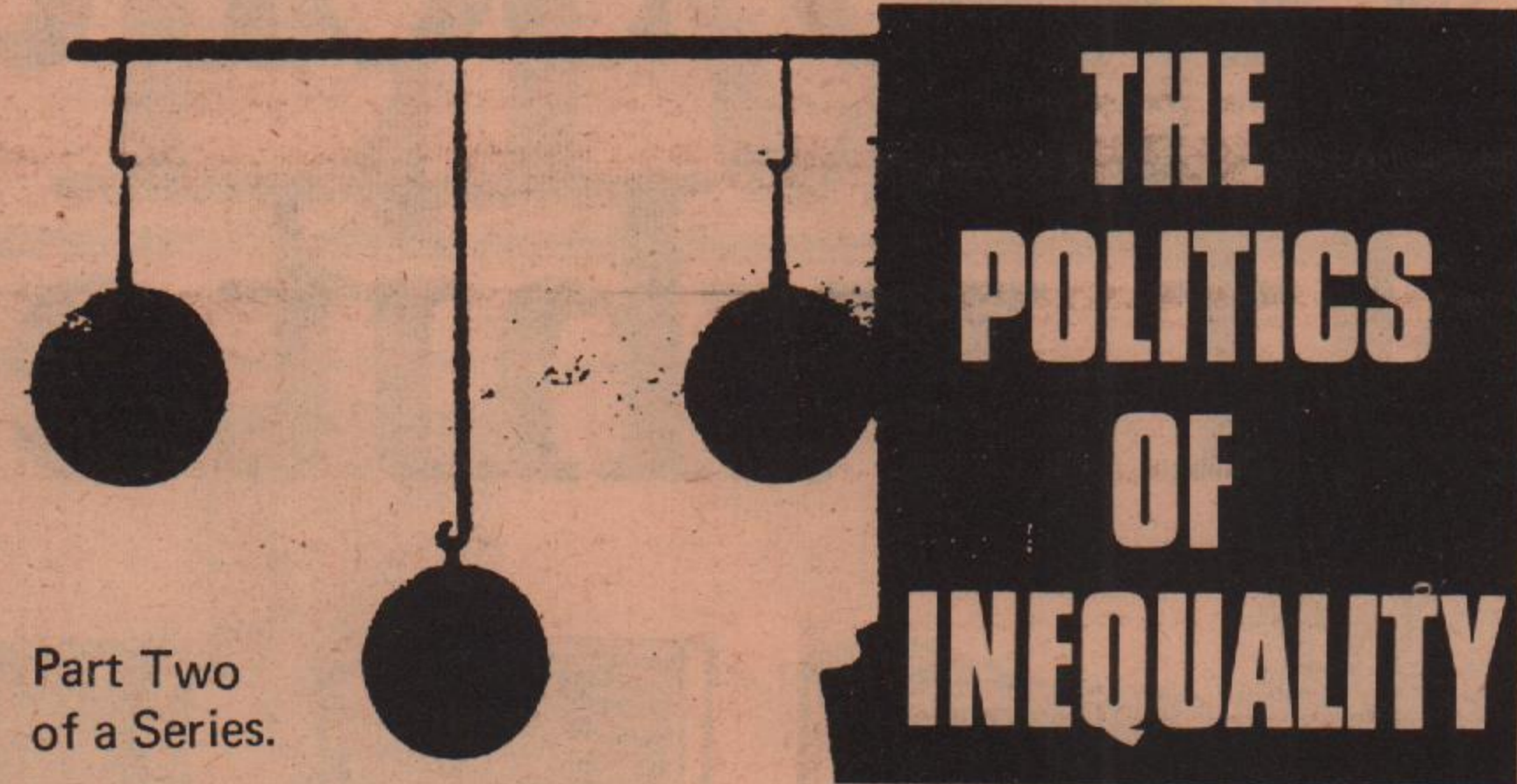
In this he quickly learned the value of tools. With his bare hands he could shift perhaps two pounds of earth at a time. But if he first worked to shape a piece of wood into a spade, he could shift ten pounds of earth.

All other things being equal, the man using the spade would produce five times as much food as the man without. In relative terms, he'd be five times as wealthy.

But the early farmer is wealthier not merely because he has more food. Far more significant is that he now has land and tools, what Marx was later to call 'the means of production'.

The caveman who goes out and collects a day's supply of berries, the early farmer who sits down and makes primitive tools—both have laboured, both have produced wealth, but their products are fundamentally different. For the caveman will consume his berries and tomorrow he'll be back at square one. The farmer's tools will increase his food production for several months, if not years.

There's a fairy tale in which a man finds a magic spade which sets to doing all the digging by itself while he just sits back and watches. To prehistoric man, the effect of using tools must have seemed almost like magic. Their use must often have tipped the



Part Two of a Series.

balance between starvation and survival.

The source of the new-found wealth was of course still man's own labour: he had to work to make the spade, he had to work to dig the land. The use of tools simply multiplies the value of his labour. That goes for all tools; as the spade enables him to dig five times as much earth at a time, so the bicycle doubles his speed, so the press increases the force he can bring to bear on metal, and so on.

But for all these, man has to put in his own labour.

For the rich today, however, tools do seem to perform magic.

The rich landowner today doesn't have to go out and till his fields with a tractor, never mind his bare hands. He gets others to do that for him. He just sits back, giving orders that potatoes be planted here, cows pastured there, and takes the wealth that results. The richest landowners don't even do that; they employ

farm managers to give the orders.

For them tools perform magic because they own them, and we don't.

If tools made the difference between starvation and survival for prehistoric man, they are just as essential to our society today.

Berries

As a journalist, I depend on printing presses. Without them my skills would be useless. Without the track and power tools of the factory, the skills of a carworker would also be useless. In fact, except for those concerned with 'management' of society, you'd be hard put to find anyone whose job didn't depend on tools of some kind.

And rarely do those who use these tools own them.

Those who say we live today in a far more equal society ignore this. Look how well off the workers are, they say. They all have cars, washing machines, fridges,

television sets . . . Everyone's rich now, they say.

But we're like the caveman with his store of berries. We've a bit of wealth, yes, but deprive us of access to the tools on which we depend and we'd soon go hungry. Not straight away, it's true: there's about a fortnight's food in the larder and I suppose my savings would last a month or so beyond that. I could sell the fridge and my books, but the telly's hired, the house is mortgaged.

The wealth that counts isn't cars, washing machines, fridges, but the land that produced the food, and the complex tools—the factories and machinery—that go to produce our standard of living.

One stark figure shows this wealth is in the hands of the very few. All these things are owned by companies, which are in turn owned by their shareholders. The book *Unequal Shares*, published in 1972* shows that the richest 5 per cent of the people own 96 per cent of the personally-held shares in Britain.

These few who own the tools, the means of production, control far more than inert machinery. Without their tools, the rest of us would starve. Because of this they are able to demand a share of the wealth only the workers can create. Through their tools they control us too.

NEXT WEEK: Our Work, their Wealth.

**Unequal Shares*, by Anthony Atkinson, Penguin Books 50p.

Pete Marsden

Crisis in British Leyland—Our answer

THE crisis in British Leyland, the biggest British car firm at the centre of the economy, gives us tremendous opportunities, Saturday's meeting of members of the International Socialists who work for British Leyland was told.

Granville Williams, introducing the discussion, pointed to the causes of the crisis: the total lack of real social planning in capitalism, the existence of monopolies, steadily rising prices, and the consistent failure of British Leyland management to invest in its mass production plants.

'Harold Wilson's attack on the Cowley engine tuners proves what we know already,' he said. 'British Leyland is at the centre of the arena



of the class struggle in Britain. Just as the employers are desperate to beat down the workers' organisation and militancy, so we have to present the policies that will lead British Leyland workers in the fight back.'

At present there are two main alternatives being put to Leyland workers: either wait to see what the Ryder Report brings, or campaign now for 'workers' participation' in the running of British Leyland. But

LOOKING EASTWARDS

AS part of the extension of IS international work an Eastern European sub-committee has been set up. At present our political contacts in East Europe are few, which forces us to concentrate on simply monitoring events. To improve our work the committee wishes to contact all comrades with an interest or connection in East Europe. Particularly we need help from anyone who can read and/or speak Russian, Polish, Hungarian and other East European languages.

We are building up a speakers' list so that branches can contact the committee when meetings are planned.

Any individual contacts which members make should be passed to the committee. We would also like to be informed of any planned visits by comrades to Eastern Europe. All enquiries, information, offers of help, should be sent to: Christine Gunter, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Ryder will inevitably end up attacking the workers, and the idea of 'workers' directors' can only mean the involvement of senior shop stewards with management in disciplining the rank-and-file.

One shop steward who had attended the previous day's talk-in by the Leyland directors highlighted some of their most significant comments. John Barber, now clearly the top Leyland director, said that it could be '1978 or 1979 before any significant improvement, if any at all' in the car market. His main conclusion was there could be 'no guarantee on redundancies.'

Director Pat Lowry summarised the day's proceedings as: 'We must advise each other, we must assist each other, and then we must measure you.'

The IS Leyland workers' meeting concluded by adopting a detailed programme of demands and by deciding to fight on four main principles:

No redundancies—no short pay.

For 100 per cent nationalisation of British Leyland.

Against the consultative document and for strengthening the control over wages and conditions exercised by the shop stewards at factory level.

For a rank-and-file Leyland workers' paper.

During the meeting a report was given of the picket-busting activities of the Jonas Woodhead firm of coil and shock-absorber makers. An on-the-spot collection raised £22 for the strikers and members present agreed to take appeal sheets back to their factories, where they will also campaign for the blacking of all Woodhead products.

CRISIS IN BRITISH LEYLAND—OUR ANSWER is a pamphlet written with the aid of International Socialists working for British Leyland. It is available price 10p plus 4p postage, from Industrial Dept, IS, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

SEVENTY AT TRADES COUNCIL CONFERENCE

MORE THAN 70 IS members attended last Saturday's conference on Trades Council work. Sessions were included on building trades councils, increasing their activity and importance in the localities and their possible role in the fight against lay-offs, redundancies and factory closures.

What became clear was that in general trades councils were not taken at all seriously by the majority of trade unionists, mainly because they seemed to spend most time on endless discussion of minor community issues—such as where to site the latest bus stop—while allowing major issues like strikes or closures to remain unsupported.

The campaign to free the Shrewsbury pickets was discussed—and it was obvious that while trades councils had played some part in publicising the issue, that in general their role had not been as active as it should have been.

Most delegates had some horror stories to tell, mainly about those bureaucrats who see trades council office as a stepping stone to becoming college governors or JPs. Despite that, it was agreed that trades councils had potential, provided they are seen by the working class as truly representing their interests.

The outcome of the conference was that a programme of possible trades council activity will be circulated, so that IS members can begin to argue in their trade union branches and on their trades councils for a meaningful role to be adopted.

It was agreed that one person should co-ordinate the trades council work of IS members. Contact through the IS Industrial Department, phone 01-739 6273.

CZECH SPEAKERS

THE IS International sub-committee is able to provide speakers to talk about the present situation in Czechoslovakia, the repression against Czech socialists and the ideas and activity of the socialist opposition to the regime. Any branch, district or IS student society wishing to hold a meeting on this topic should contact Ian Birchall, 109 Croyland Road, London N9. Phone 01-807 1741.

Please give plenty of notice (at least two to three weeks) and if possible suggest two or three dates that would be suitable. All requests will be forwarded to the speaker.

IN DUPLICATE

ALL duplicating facilities have now been transferred from Cottons Gardens to IS Books, where branches and fractions are welcome to use them. IS Books is at 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. (01-802 6145)



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 _____

INTEX: THE LADS ARE READY FOR NEXT TIME

by Dave Hallsworth

'IT was better than going to college. Now I know the bosses and the union! Before I knew nothing. I know about it now!' Haroon Rashid told lower management at Intex (ICI), Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, on returning to work last week after the strike.

The Intex strike is ended. After eight weeks of solidarity in the face of attacks by ICI, the Dyers and Bleachers Union, National Front thugs, the police and finally the law courts, the lads went back last week.

They had struggled through the week after Christmas, but money and hope ran out and they voted at a mass meeting to go back together with their leaders and re-build shop floor organisation.

ICI had planned the strike to achieve a cowed and disciplined workforce, a workforce with all ideas of fighting speed-up and demanding a wage increase to combat inflation beaten out of it. They have been cheated of that victory.

The lads involved in the strike were amazed at the ferocity and savagery of ICI and its puppet the Dyers and Bleachers Union. It isn't a very large factory, only 150-odd were involved in the strike. Yet ICI was prepared to reveal all its true colours, prepared to reveal the true colours of its puppet union, the police, and its law courts, prepared also to lose over £2 million in lost production.

Elected

It revealed to Haroon and his mates the boss class and its state machine. As the lads said though: 'We lost now, but we'll know what to do next time. Next time it will be their turn'.

Why did ICI turn so savagely on the strikers at Intex? It wasn't only because they made £4 million profit last year on a working capital of £16 million. Working-class action and experience in one factory can become the example of the working class generally. Look at the flying pickets and occupations, for example.

Should racial solidarity be shown to

The case of the miner, the union, and the barred claim

by Steve Waldie

SOUTH SHIELDS: Until 1969 Mick McCann was a deputy at Westoe Colliery. During that year a conveyor belt seriously injured his head. Although he tried to continue working he was forced to stop because of the effects of his injury.

Mick then followed the normal procedure of submitting a common law claim via the union, the Colliery Overmen and Deputies (NACODS), against the Coal Board. The union had to start the case within three years or else the law would prevent it from being taken at all.

The claim was presented to Benham, the branch secretary. Periodically thereafter Mick asked Benham how his claim was progressing. He was constantly assured that things were being well taken care of. Towards the end of the three years, however, Benham asked McCann for a copy of his claim. Then in October 1972 a letter from Benham said his claim had failed because it was beyond the claim period.

After some difficulty, a meeting was arranged between McCann, Benham and NACODS area secretary Irwin. There Irwin restated that Mick's claim was 'statute barred'.

What was not explained to Mick was a letter from Irwin claiming that 'in 1970 even though a year had elapsed from the date of the accident . . . we contested the case and obtained for him the right to be compensatable.'

Mick has a letter from the clerk of the medical tribunal stating: 'I have no record



Dennis Bridges, one of the Intex strikers, being arrested. He had been kicked by the police and was arrested when he kicked back. He is himself an ex-policeman. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

work in the workers' favour in one factory, then the whole of the textile industry would tremble. Should the Asian workers gain confidence and organising ability, then all the big profits and cheap labour in thousands of factories would be threatened, and another division in our class be healed.

The strength of the workers at Intex had been the organisation of the production workers—the crimpers and winders—who included both Asian and white male workers. After a prolonged struggle, solidarity had been built across the races, and shop floor organisation strengthened.

The Asians had stopped just voting for white shop stewards and started to throw up their own leaders, who were accepted by both white and Asian workers. Shop stewards were starting to report back to their members, or get kicked out and replaced.

The weakness was the division between the shiftworkers—all men—and the women day workers. Time after time ICI were able to use women workers, who were in a majority in the factory, to vote down any attempt at advancement by the shop floor. They could be trusted to vote down

any proposed action to fight speed-up or to win wage increases after a few threats from officials that they might be losing their jobs. This of course increased the division.

The second division was between the craft unions (AUEW and EPTU) and the Dyers and Bleachers members. ICI had taken on the fitters and electricians a month previously. Refusing to speak to the Dyers and Bleachers members or put up a picket line, they had struck for three weeks for a wage claim of £5 and settled for 60p. This even though the shiftworkers had solidly blacked all work done by their brothers, allowing only 26 out of the 107 machines to be running, the number running when the fitters went on strike.

Yet in the face of this display of solidarity, which involved at least three sit-down strikes to enforce the blacking, the fitters and electricians gave no support whatever to the strikers.

Involvement

The third weakness was the lack of involvement of the workers in their local Dyers and Bleachers branch. The white militants who were attempting to bring a smattering of democracy and shop floor involvement were forever beaten back by the right-wing officials, who were able to mobilise the women workers for crucial meetings by threats of losing their jobs if the militants won control.

The production workers saw Dyers and Bleachers as a bosses' union it was impossible to change. The Asian workers saw it as a white man's organisation.

The strikers had revealed to them during the strike the need for a rank and file organisation across the unions. Indeed when they crossed over to Barnsley to see the lads at Shaw Carpets, where Claude Lavender is convenor—or was before the union attacked and expelled him for supporting the strikers on the executive of the union—they encouraged Asian shop stewards at four factories in Barnsley to establish links with which to render mutual assistance.

The strikers saw immediately the effect of the North West Rank and File Support Committee in the mass pickets that ended the National Front attacks on strike leaders.

The Rank and File committee, alas, was involved in as much of a struggle to gain experience as were the strikers themselves. As Lenin said though: 'Little but good!' Just as the strikers we hope will learn from their mistakes so we can see the Rank and File committee learning from theirs, which bodes well for future battles.

One thing that really stood out was the magnificent response of the hospital workers to the Intex strike. Those workers most recently in struggle respond quickest. Our deepest thanks.

Thanks also for the collections from all over the country, and the resolutions of support, a special mention for the Pochins building site lads in Manchester who gave a 50p a head levy. Thanks brothers.

CORRECTION

IN last week's report on the settlement at Hoover's, Perivale, West London, it was stated that 'shop floor militants got an increase of £3.' This should of course have read that production workers got a £3 a week rise. The rise only starts after the annual summer break.



The strike that concerns every trade unionist: the Yarnold's women at a strike meeting in the local T&G offices. Picture John Sturrock (Report)

This strike is crucial

WOLVERHAMPTON: Josie Bradley and Carol Price decided £13 for 40 hours' work was not good enough and that they must organise the union in their workplace, Yarnolds, a small textile firm in Wolverhampton which employs about 80 women in making curtains to supply their 12 shops around the country.

The management refused to recognise the union, the TGWU, and sacked Josie and Carol, who had been elected as shop stewards. A few white women came out in protest, and when the Indian Workers Association explained the situation to the Asian women, they also came out.

The strike is official and the union has made one emergency payment to the women. Last week, however, the women received a letter from the management warning them that if they did not return to work on Monday 13 January they would all receive their cards. A mass meeting voted to stay out.

This strike is important, since a lot of the industries of the Black County employ Asian and white women at these pitiful rates. The unity of the Asian and white women on the pickets and their determination to stick out is an example to the rest of the Labour movement.

The strikers urgently need cash and messages of support. Send them to Yarnolds Strike Committee, c/o Mr Tudor, TGWU Offices, 33 Berry Street, Wolverhampton.

The management would be very embarrassed by any publicity. We should picket the 12 Yarnold shops which sell the factory's output. Organise a picket between 11am and 1pm on Saturday outside Yarnolds shops in: Wolverhampton, Dudley, Stourbridge, Walsall, Coventry, Solihull, Perry Barr, Hanley, Gloucester, Worcester, Chester and Bristol.

Classified

CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST ECONOMISTS: Saturday 25 January, 10.30am, Birkbeck College, Gresse Street, London W1 (Room 401). The Current British Crisis—papers on inflation and Ireland.

THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM—Political NOT industrial action. 18 January. **TIME AND LIFE OF ROSA LUXEMBURG.** 25 January. Saturday evening series. Full discussion. Start 7.30pm at 25 Clapham High Street, SW2. The Socialist Party of Great Britain.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE SOCIALIST SOCIETY: Professor E J Hobsbawm on The Crisis and the Outlook. Tuesday 21 January, 9pm, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1.

MANCHESTER BLOODY SUNDAY RALLY: British Troops Out of Ireland! With Joan Maynard MP, Ernie Roberts (AUEW), Eamonn McCann, Alasdair Renwick (TOM). Sunday 26 January, 2.30pm, Small Hall, Barnes Wallis Building, UMIST (near Piccadilly Station). Details from Troops Out Movement, c/o 178 Oxford Road, Manchester.

BLACK GROUPS UNDER ATTACK: Defend the Cricklewood 12. Postponed trial is now on, on Thursday 23 January at Hendon Magistrates Court, The Hyde, Edgware Road, London NW9. Picket the court from 10am onwards. Called by Cricklewood 12 Defence Committee and supported by North West London District IS.

COLLEGIATE THEATRE, 15 Gordon Street, Euston, London WC1 (734 8408): Sunday 19 January, 6.30pm, **IRELAND—BEHIND THE WIRE,** second and last screening in this series of this important new film on Northern Ireland: 9.00pm Fred Wiseman's **PRIMARE.**

BENEFIT FOR SHREWSBURY TWO: Half Human Band and Disco. School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, London WC1, Friday 24 January, 7.30-10.30 pm.

WANTED: Comrade(s) to share house purchase in East London, East Ham, West Ham, Upton Park, Plaistow area preferred. Phone 590 5846.

COMMUNITY PROGRESSIVE BOOKSHOP

Atlas Books, The Broadway, Southall, Middlesex (01-571 1096). Second-hand books sale. Saturday 25 January, 9-5pm. General literature available, plus political Left Book Club, periodicals pamphlets etc.

TWO IS COMRADES urgently need flat or to share a house in East or North East London. Ring 739 1870 and ask for Ian or Pete.

Mass paper sale to protest against arrest of Morning Star paper seller in Ilford, 12 noon Saturday 18 January outside W H Smith, Ilford High Road.

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 GDF. Please enclose 4½p stamp.

LATEST ISSUE of GKN Worker out now. Copies 2p plus postage from IS Books, 224 High St, Deritend, Birmingham 12.

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.

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

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

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 ISWP, The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London SW4.

The battle against redundancies

CHRYSLER PUT BOOT IN

1600 axed by 'hard up' Wall's

by Andy Enever, TGWU Shop Steward, Chrysler Stoke

COVENTRY:—After laying off or putting on short time thousands of workers, Chrysler bosses are now stepping up the attack to unprecedented levels. Mutual agreements on speeds and labour loading are now being unilaterally scrapped.

As hundreds of Chrysler workers face the prospect of the dole queue, management propose to threaten hundreds of other jobs by taking men off sections and increasing track and line speeds.

It is not clear yet what action will be taken to resist these moves. But there is a total lack of leadership. The Ryton convenors have been laid off. The Stoke convenors have been told to get out of their offices and work on the sections.

Sections who have been told for the last 18 months that Friday night working Saturday and Sunday overtime, swing shift working and the farming out of components were all necessary to maintain the 'bread and butter' Iran order, are now being faced with lay-offs and speed-ups.

The convenors' policy has finally come home to roost. The work force at Stoke has co-operated in every way possible. We scabbed on the electricians and millwrights. We worked all the hours the company requested. We have sacrificed conditions to avoid disputes. This was all done 'to protect our jobs'.

It's come home to everybody that it hasn't. All that has happened is a weakening of our organisation. What we get in return are lay-offs of up to three weeks and an attack on our whole organisation. Now the company want more men doing less work. Now men are being disciplined or sacked for what were once trivial offences.

What is needed is a set of policies to safeguard both the immediate and long term interests of Chrysler workers. In the coming days, any attempt by the company to impose speed-up or any other infringement of conditions must be answered by sit-in strikes.

The ability to resist these attacks will determine whether we can resist the real crunch that is coming. Our long term future can only be safeguarded by nationalisation of the car industry, but to protect our jobs this must include a guarantee of mutuality on all aspects, as well as a decent living wage.

CHRYSLER: WHAT WE SHOULD DEMAND

NO redundancies or concessions on working conditions
FIVE days' work or five days' pay
FACTORY occupations and a rigorous offensive against the company if it tries to carry out sackings
NATIONALISATION of the car industry without compensation
SHOP stewards' control of manning, track speeds and working conditions.
JOINT action with other workers threatened with redundancy
ACTION by the whole trade union movement in support of these demands

We won't carry the can

by Peter Bain, TGWU Shop Steward, Chrysler Linwood

LINWOOD:—Nobody would guess the seriousness of the situation here from the behaviour of the plant's union leadership. When the company went back on its pre-Christmas guarantee of five days' work each week until March, and changed to a three-day week until the end of January, the Joint Convenors' Committee failed to call a stewards' meeting or a mass meeting. This increased uncertainty and frustration in the workforce.

Chrysler have been taking a hard line inside the factory, knowing that either they will make inroads into working conditions or a strike will take place, saving them lay off pay.

They've used the millwrights' refusal to work during the holidays as an excuse not to pay a day's lay-off pay to 800 men in the body-build. In the car assembly building, the management docked 20 minutes' pay from 650 track workers after a section, which hadn't had any relief, stopped to take relief. In the machine shop the company are crudely trying to victimise a shop steward.

The question of Chrysler's survival is now being openly discussed in financial circles. Caught in the middle of

capitalism's worst recession since the war, they've embarked on a world-wide programme of rationalisation.

It is essential for Chrysler workers to put forward clear alternative policies. We are not responsible for the shambles of the car industry or the economy generally. There is no reason why we should continue making sacrifices so that a handful of rich men can go on being rich.

BUILDING WORKERS OCCUPY OFFICES

MANCHESTER:—The 70 building workers on the Pochins Polytechnic site—the best organised in the city—came out on strike last Friday when 14 men were declared redundant. And on Monday they occupied the agent's offices, which administer all Pochins' work in the North West.

The redundancies are clearly being staged to smash organisation on the site, which has led recent stoppages in support of the Shrewsbury pickets and Intex. Nine months behind schedule, the site has enough work to employ an army.

MINERS: WE'LL FIGHT PIT CLOSURE

by Bryan Rees

S WALES:—The Coal Board announced last week that Ogilvie Colliery near Bargoed would close in the next two months. Last Saturday, a pit-head meeting voted overwhelmingly—against the advice of the South Wales NUM and their lodge officials—to fight the closure.

There is enough workable coal at Ogilvie to keep the pit at full production for the next 15 years. But the miners have been forced to work poor and unproductive seams and have seen the machinery they need deliberately moved out by the NCB.

The NCB are doing this partly because there is still a shortage of miners in South Wales, despite the wage rises won in 1974. They find it easier to transfer men between pits than to pay redundancy money.

But more important is the long term effect. In the next ten years the NCB will make up to 100,000 miners redundant and

it is clearing the ground now. If Ogilvie is closed, at least 12 other pits in South Wales will shut.

The men have suggested a work-in as one of the ways to keep the pit open. But lodge officials have not been available to elaborate, and the NUM is maintaining a diplomatic silence.

There is a great deal of bitterness. The men felt the NCB had been pushing them around for the last 18 months as if they were cattle. They are angry when they see the Labour government pouring cash into the lame ducks of private industry but refusing them help. It is all the more disturbing when you know that industry in South Wales is crying out for coal and is being forced to import it from American and Poland.

If the men at Ogilvie are to win they need the support of miners in other coalfields and from trade unionists in general. Messages of support to Evan Jones, NUM Lodge Secretary, c/o Ogilvie Colliery Bargoed, South Wales, [Pontlottyn 068-583] 205).

N W LONDON:—Wall's Meat Company are to shut down their Willesden factory and make at least 1600 people redundant, it was announced last week. Wall's, a subsidiary of the giant Unilever group, are pleading poverty. They do not mention that Unilever's profits for 1974 will be about the same as for 1973—£339 million.

The Wall's chairman, Mr D Angel (an unlikely name) has issued a letter saying that he wishes the closing down to go through with the 'minimum hardship'. This touching concern for Wall's workers will not be of much good when it comes to finding a job. 1600 people (and likely it will be more than that) cannot find jobs just like that. This is why the redundancies must be fought.

Nor will redundancy money get anyone a new job. Even if Wall's give the Unilever redundancy scheme, which pays a bit more than the government scheme, it will just take a bit longer to run out.

Strong support from local factories should be organised. Factory gate meetings, strikes and local demonstrations can mobilise the trade union strength.

Wall's workers have something to fight for. With wages a good bit above the local average, those who now feel like accepting the redundancy money will soon look around at future job prospects (if there are any) and have another think.

Shop stewards' committees must appeal to the Wall's factories at Hayes and Southall to refuse to take the work which the company intends to transfer from Willesden. Clearly Wall's wants to use such a 'transfer' to put the squeeze on working conditions at Hayes and Southall. But what the company wants and what it gets need not be the same thing.

The Burmah road to the dole

by Angela McHugh, AUEW

THE Labour government may have underwritten Burmah Oil with millions of public money but that will do nothing to stop the crisis at Rawplug, Glasgow, a Burmah subsidiary.

Rawplug has been running short of work for the last two months because of the crisis in the building industry in this country and abroad.

The women, who make up 60 per cent of the 700 workforce, have been suffering wage cuts because the bonus system does not operate when there is no work. Now redundancies and lay-offs are being announced.

The twilight shift has already been paid off. And workers who leave voluntarily are not being replaced.

The 'difficulties' of Burmah Oil provide an excuse for the firm. Meanwhile the workers, who are all AUEW members, have approached the shop stewards only to be told that our jobs are safe—and that they couldn't do anything about redundancies until we are made redundant.

MOUNTED POLICE SMASH PICKETS

OSSET:—Workers locked out at Woodhead's turned away about 70 vehicles in a few days of picketing. Then the police arrived . . . They lined up three wagons in a convoy, brought them up to the gates, but we linked arms and stopped them.

Then they brought in mounted police and two busloads of police. We were outnumbered and they managed to get the vehicles through. Since then when the management have wanted anything through, they've simply lined the vehicles up in convoy and fetched the police.

We are having something like a 50 per cent success now in turning them away. The role of the GMWU shop stewards in the Woodhead shock absorber plant next door to ours

has been treacherous. They went round the factory with the management asking for volunteers to escort the vehicles through our picket line. They didn't get any.

We were called to a meeting on Friday 10 January which went on for 9½ hours. The net result was an insult. Management offered to bring forward, on a resumption of work, £20 holiday bonus plus £5 Christmas holiday bonus as a payment for time lost. But this will be subject to us not being involved in any unofficial dispute until Christmas next year. We would also have had to accept work study immediately.

The officials put the derisory offer to a meeting of the men on Sunday morning. With the shop stewards' com-

mittee recommending rejection, the offer was defeated overwhelmingly.

Pickets have since been reorganised on a rota basis and we are touring the car factories asking shop stewards' committees to give their support with blacking of Woodheads products.

We appeal once again for support, with action and cash, to all car workers and transport drivers. Coil springs, leaf springs, and shock absorbers should be blacked. But, during the Armstrong dispute over the victimisation of Jean Jepson, Woodheads' packing cases were used to move Armstrong shock absorbers, so look out.

Send messages of support etc to Colin Moore, 1 St Johns Crescent, Ossett, West Yorkshire.

2000 busmen strike

ESSEX:—2000 busmen throughout the county came out on a one-day unofficial strike last week—and ran straight up against the Social Contract.

Within days of announcing that they would strike for one day every week in support of their demand for £5 on top of the national settlement, their union officials moved with unusual speed.

Len Hanks, district organiser of the TGWU, the union whose grovelling support for the Contract goes hand in hand with its eagerness to crush strikes by its low-paid members, said:

'We shall be advising that the unofficial action cease. We shall also be discussing ways of avoiding difficulties in the future.'

And Larry 'the Lamb' Smith, fresh from carving up the Glasgow and Fife busmen in his role as secretary of the Passenger group of the TGWU, was also quick on the scene.

Intolerable

His eagerness to deflate the militancy of the Essex busmen, whose rejection of the national settlement—£30.60 for conductors, £31.30 for ordinary drivers and £35 for single drivers—is obviously intolerable to any Social Contractor, has not gone unnoticed.

Bill Horshan, chairman of the Chelmsford busmen's branch and a member of the local negotiating group elected this week, told Socialist Worker:

'The Social Contract is supposed to help the low-paid workers, such as ourselves. But it clearly operates against us.'

'We're fighting our own officials, who seem more interested in backing up the Social Contract than in helping us get more money—the job they're supposed to be there for.'

But Smith's intervention helped block this week's planned stoppage. Meanwhile the busmen's demands will be put to management by the new rank and file negotiating group. But if the management refuse to recognise the group, more strikes are almost certain to follow.

Houghton: Kick it out!

THE campaign of opposition to the Houghton review of teachers' pay started last Tuesday with strike action from 15 schools in Leicester, four in Liverpool and several in London. There have been threats of victimisation from the employers and the union in Leicester. The only way to support these teachers and to win a rejection of the Houghton Report is for the strike action to spread.

North London Teachers' Association passed a motion on Monday night rejecting the Houghton Report and calling for an equal distribution of the global sum. The motion, moved by Rank and File supporters, also gave support to all schools taking action.

The focus for action next week should be Thursday 23 January, when Burnham is meeting to discuss 'stress school payments'. Rank and File is also calling for massive support for a lobby of the Special Salaries Conference on Saturday 25 January at 8.30pm, Central Hall, Westminster.

THE IS pamphlet on the NHS, *What's Happening to Our Health Service*, has now been reprinted. Branches should make sure they order copies and sell them to hospital workers involved in the present disputes.

Orders to Sue Baytall, IS Pamphlets, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Magnificent! GEC take a beating

WILLESDEN:—The nine-week lockout at GEC Associated Automation has ended in a magnificent victory for the 600 workers. Management, who withdrew all clock cards to provoke the dispute and just two weeks ago tried to settle with a miserable 40p, finally conceded the full threshold and agreed to negotiate the rest of the claim, including a demand for London weighting.

The workforce was united throughout. Men and women workers, and Asian, West Indian, Irish and English workers, have kept together under the Asian convenor. The GEC collapse is total. The director in charge of the firm resigned the day the workforce returned.

From being a low-paid, badly organised factory, Associated Automation enters 1975 with a real chance to help lead the struggle in North West London. More than 100 new members have joined the AUEW and there is nearly full union membership. Office staff in TASS organised a levy which yielded £70.

Stewards went on delegations to numerous other factories, including some in Birmingham and Coventry. G&E Bradley (Lucas), GM Frigidaire, Smiths Industries Cricklewood and Witton-James, to name a few among many, gave generously.

Taking on the mighty GEC and winning can't be done on your own. That is why stewards attended last Saturday's GEC Combine Committee meeting in Wolverhampton, and why they have committed themselves to organising the Telecommunications side of GEC to strengthen the national combine.

In the last few weeks we learnt the sort of treatment we can expect from the employers. Locked out just before Christmas, refused payment by the Social Security, we learnt to rely on our brother and sister workers. That is why we are appealing to all shop stewards and works committees to attend the next GEC Combine Committee meeting in Wolverhampton on 5 April at the AUEW Hall, Worsley Fields.

ENGINEERS STAGE SIT-IN

By Alan Herriott, AUEW

MANCHESTER:—We have been on a sit-in at Parkinson-Cowan, Stretford, for a week for 80p backdated to 1 October. The dispute started when management at the Farmworth plant paid 80p for skilled men.

The skilled men at Stretford then put in a parity claim and got it backdated to 1 October. Management were then told by the stewards to give it to all sections. This they did, but without back-pay. A series of one-day strikes by other sections followed and then the semi-skilled men and labourers staged a sit-in.

The officials came in after a meeting with management and reported a failure to agree. After that, management threatened to close the factory.

We're still strong, because we know that if we back down this time, management will use the threat whenever we strike.

Messages of support and donations to A Herriott, 398 Wood Lane, Partington, Cheshire.

NOT ENOUGH PROFIT—SO 40 AXED

by Paul Taylor

BARRY, South Wales:—Ray Hawkins, lorry driver and Transport Union shop steward, went on holiday last Monday. On Tuesday morning he got a phone call and was told that he and 39 of his mates who work for Geest Food Holdings no longer had jobs.

Geest is owned by Leonard and John Van Geest. They operate a fruit import organisation supplying chain stores such as Marks and Spencer and Fine Fare.

One year ago they brought in management consultants who advised them to split the firm into smaller units. One unit was the food group at Barry docks where Ray worked. To increase profit they lowered the quality of the fruit and increased the prices, despite warnings from the men that they would lose customers.

Last week Ken Hughes, who is managing director of the Barry group, decided that the Barry operation no longer made

DUSTMEN LAUNCH NEW STRIKE

by Jimmy McCallum

500 GLASGOW Corporation lorry drivers, mostly dustmen, struck on Monday—for the second time in three months.

The drivers' claim is for parity, £37.50 for 40 hours, with the HGV drivers working with private hauliers.

Last September, they came out on strike for four weeks and sparked off the wave of strikes that paralysed the employers in the West of Scotland. But they went back after promises from the Labour-dominated council of special consideration from the National Joint Council and parity with the HGV drivers. The council have now, of course, gone back on their word and deny they ever promised parity.

The council will try to dig their heels in, knowing that behind the drivers are another 20,000 council workers waiting to press their claim.

Defend

Already the council are faced with the drivers' strike spreading to the 160 school bus drivers and a strike by electricians and plumbers in the Corporation workshops. And the white-collar workers in NALGO have moved towards a fight for a Glasgow claim of £400 a year for 4000 members.

Disputes are breaking out in several local authorities in Scotland. In Dumbartonshire, 300 council workers at Vale of Leven are on strike and pressure on Labour-controlled authorities is mounting in other areas.

And so the Glasgow dustmen's dispute is vital. They can win their own case but their strike could do more by uniting council workers into local authority combines.

Wages apart, there is a struggle to come on jobs when the cuts in government spending hit home.

All donations to: Len Ferguson, c/o TU Centre, 81 Carlton Place, Glasgow.



Flashback to the Glasgow dustmen's strike before Christmas: now they're out again. Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

The Corporation made a firm commitment to local negotiations if the national settlement did not provide for an increase in the HGV allowance. There will be no return unless there's a cash increase. As far as we are concerned, £37.50 is the minimum basic pay. People will volunteer to drive ambulances, but you don't get volunteers to empty dustbins. There's plenty of them about if they want to try. During the last strike there were several attempts at strikebreaking. Various different places organised to uplift bags of rubbish for the duration of the strike. With one ratepayers' association in Hillhead we retaliated by threatening to cut off our services permanently, even after we went back to work. We have found the council are prepared to spend a lot of money. Last time they spent £2½ million to beat us. So much for the Labour Council.

—ARCHIE HOOD, one of the strike leaders

Hospital workers answer the consultants

LONDON:—Workers at Moorfields Eye Hospital have scored a tremendous victory against private practice.

In protest at the consultants' action, they threatened to withdraw laundry and portering service from private patients. Immediately, the governors took steps to remove all the private patients from the hospital. As soon as the private patients were moved out, sanctions were lifted and NHS patients moved in.

This victory should be spread everywhere. Already trade unionists at the following hospitals and in the following areas have decided to ban all private patients: London Hospital, Sutton General, Whittington, Royal Northern,

Hammersmith, Westminster, St Georges, Atkinson Morley, Tooting (all in London); the United Liverpool Group; St Helens group; United group, Manchester; Mansfield group and all hospitals in the following towns:

Basingstoke, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth and the following hospitals; Christies, Manchester, Royal United Hospital, Bath and Oldham.

The North Eastern Region, which operated a ban on private patients during the nurses' dispute, has never allowed them back in. This must be spread, if the NHS is to survive.

We are totally opposed to the consultants' actions. We do want a proper wage scale for consultants, but we want full-time NHS consultants dedicated to the mass of the people, not to the few who can pay massive sums for their services.

Playing

The consultants are playing on the fact that they are at the very top of the hospital hierarchy. They are regarded as the most revered and accomplished of all workers in hospitals.

As socialists we say that all hospital workers are skilled workers. If the boiler-men don't do their jobs properly, the hospitals would cease to function.

Lives depend on theatre porters, ambulancemen, the workers in the blood bank. If the cleaners don't clean properly, the hygiene of the hospital is at risk.

A surgeon is no more than a highly

skilled manual worker. So is the anaesthetist. But they could not do their jobs at all without the so-called unskilled worker who operates the heart and lung machines, the nurse who checks the drips and the cleaner who disinfects the theatre.

The maintenance of health and the prevention of disease are one of the most vital services to humanity. All should benefit equally from this and we must oppose by every means possible those who are trying to smash the Health Service by plundering it for their own private profit.

DEFEAT AT DELTA

LEICESTER:—The strike of 88 TGWU members at Delta Mouldings is over. Three shop stewards have been sacked and little progress made on the wages issue.

After the defeats at Imperial Type-writers and Kenilworth Components, this is a serious blow. Lessons must be learnt if this is not to happen yet again. As in the other disputes, the T&G was decisive in undermining the strike.

After every major success in picketing or winning support, the union officials, Hempstead and Bromley (both JPs), moved in to hold the strike back. They refused to give official support, providing cover for AUEW members to work on.

Support did come for the strikers from collections and the Trades Council. Support for mass pickets was important in keeping up the momentum of the strike. But support from the organised Asian factories

was not forthcoming on the picket line. If management in Leicester, and elsewhere, is not to pick off sections of Asian workers one by one, solid support from the trade union movement and the Asian community is vital.

The Crisis: Socialism or Social Contract. Posters for IS meetings. £1 per 100. Phone orders to SW Circulation, 01-739 2639

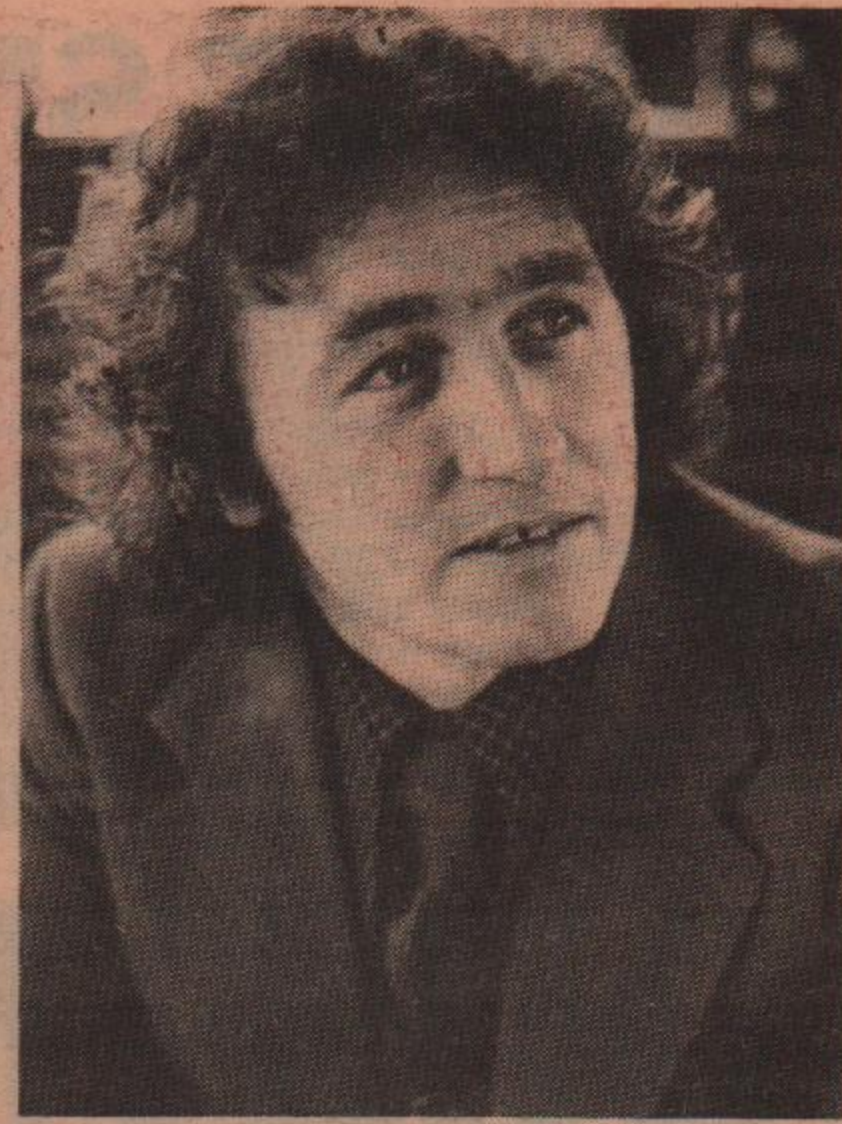
LONDON IS STUDENTS Public Meeting Solidarity with the Chilean Resistance

Speakers: Micky Fenn (London dock) and Tony Cliff (IS Executive) Thursday 23 January, 7.30pm LSE, Houghton Street, off Aldwych All London colleges to support

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THEY CAME TO FREE THE TWO



'It could have been us'

TONY BURKE, shop steward, IPD (formerly Fisher Bendix), Kirkby: Two of us were sent down as delegates from the IPD to show solidarity. We're involved in our own fight against the establishment and we see a moral victory here if we get these people released. There's people here from all political parties and one. The Shrewsbury case unites all trade unionists, because it's trade unionists that have been jailed, and it could have been any one of us.

A MASS meeting organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee and attended by more than 800 workers rounded off a marvellous day of action in London on Tuesday to Free the Two.

The TUC had booked the large hall at Central Hall, Westminster, to enable workers to lobby their MPs. But the heckling against the TUC bureaucrats on the platform was so ferocious that the TUC closed the meeting down.

The hall was immediately taken over by the Rank and File Organising Committee which had been holding a post-lobby meeting in a smaller hall upstairs.

That meeting had heard two fine speeches from hospital workers. Steve Ludlam, a member of the organising committee steward, at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, stressed the need for rank and file activity. He pointed to his fellow-workers' success in ridding the hospital of private patients.

Bill Geddes, chairman of the NUPE branch at Hammersmith Hospital, told the meeting that many of his members had come out on strike to support the lobby. 'We support the Shrewsbury pickets for practical reasons,' he said. 'Because we too need trade unionists' support in our struggles.'

In the large hall, the meeting heard two of the original defendants in the Shrewsbury conspiracy trial. John Llywarch, who welcomed the wives of the two jailed pickets to the meeting, said: 'We've got the campaign going again. It's been lying fallow far too long. It is our duty to get these lads out. They are fine trade unionists, and they have done a lot to further the cause of the working class.'

Ken O'Shea said: 'The Shrewsbury case was a clear example of how class law is ranged against us. If these lads are not released, we must step up the campaign. The TUC should be forced to call a national strike for their release.'

After the meeting, Roger Cox, Secretary of the Organising Committee, summed up the meeting: 'The

Interviews on the Liverpool-London train by Helen Cramer (USDAW) and Tommy Douras (TGWU building worker)



GEORGE FRANK, UCATT, William Townsons, Birkenhead:

Them lads shouldn't be inside there at all. I don't think the lobbying will have a great effect. The Labour government is letting the workers down terribly. They said they would free them as soon as they got in power. But them lads are still inside. We should be doing a lot more.

Violence for a cause is right. Most violence from our class is to defend our living standards, our jobs and our rights. Depriving people of their rights is criminal. Me, you, all of us could be in the same position ourselves.



ANNE WILSON, SOGAT, Dickinson paper factory, Kirkby:

Picketing is our right and they've got no right to take it away from us. We should fight and fight and fight. We hope that this mass protest today will snowball into mass industrial action. We'll do a Harvey Smith to them.

I'd like to see more women become much more involved, because it could be their husbands, their sons, their dads who are being lifted. How would they feel? If they get away with this, we must as well lie down and do what they want with us. It's not just for us. It's for our kids as well.



GORDON LAING, secretary, Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, Cammell Lairds

The result of the trial was a foregone conclusion. The fact that the lads could be picked up six months after the event shows how anti-democratic the institutions of this country really are.

This should not be the end of the line as far as the TUC is concerned. The TUC should call a one day general strike.

They've organised this lobby, but even this weak-kneed attitude has been forced on them by the militancy of the shop floor.

THERE was standing room only on the Trades Council train organised from Merseyside, despite the cancelled buffet car to allow 50 more seats. There were building workers, but more than that—electricians, SOGAT members, TGWU members, almost every major union was represented.

The feeling was fantastic—that this was the beginning, but only the beginning, if necessary, of the fight to get the Shrewsbury lads out of jail where they've been allowed to stay for too long. 'It should be up to the TUC, should be, but the push is coming from the rank and file on the shop floor.' That just about sums up the general feeling.

People were talking about one-day national strikes, escalating if necessary into indefinite strikes. The type of action that got the Pentonville Five out of jail.

The Labour Party tried to palm us off with election promises. The Labour Government is trying to ignore its Conference decision to free the two pickets. We can't rely on the Labour Party, in or out of office. It's up to us to force the official trade union movement, through organised action, to recognise that it's the workers, not the bosses, that they represent, Labour government or no Labour government, and get our brothers out of jail.

temper of the lobby was entirely different from most others. There was a keen assessment that the official movement is doing very little.

'The response to our meeting and the response to our initiatives shows that many more workers are understanding that what they do at shop floor level is what really matters. We have to help translate this into a continuing active campaign on Shrewsbury and for support and participation in the Rank and File Organising Committee.'

The address of the Rank and File Organising Committee is 214 Roundwood Road, London, NW10.



THE International Socialists executive committee issued this statement after the march:

Today the Morning Star, newspaper of the Communist Party, published a report which included the following: 'UCATT London Region Chairman Terry Heath yesterday urged all trade unionists to join the Tower Hill rally if possible and to ignore attempts by sectarian groups to organise other meetings.'

It was reported yesterday that the International Socialists group planned to meet trains at Euston and appeal for

attendance at a meeting elsewhere. 'Anybody who acts out of concert with the official trade union movement is damaging the cause of Des Warren and Eric Tomlinson,' Mr Heath said.'

This statement is untrue. The International Socialists supported both the march from Tower Hill and that from Euston, and IS members and supporters marched with their banners on both.

The National Rank and File Organising Committee took the initiative in planning the march from Euston before any other march had been called. It is a pity that the bodies responsible for calling a second march from Tower Hill did not also decide to march from Euston. For most workers coming by rail to London, Euston provided the best starting point for a united march.

Stratford journalists fight on

by Phil Wagstaff (deputy FoC, Havering Express)

EAST LONDON: Management at the Stratford Express newspaper group, where 34 journalists are on strike following the singling out for redundancy of five leading chapel (office branch) members, finally condescended to talk to us this week.

They invited two chapel negotiators on Tuesday to listen to seven proposals to end the strike.

But their proposals were later rejected

by a long chapel meeting, which recognised that management had merely embarked on lengthy negotiations to spike our industrial guns. We had planned to picket their Milton Keynes print works the same day and the talks delayed us.

Some of the proposals were accepted. But the most important were thrown out.

Messages of support and donations to: Stratford Express NUJ Strike HQ, Newham Labour Club, Romford Road, London E15. (Phone 01-534 3170)

FIGHTING FUND: £419 THIS WEEK

'CUT your living standards!' shrieks Dennis Healey and the other charlatans in the Labour government—and judging from the latest price increases, he's doing just that. It hasn't stopped your willingness to keep the money rolling in for Socialist Worker though. This week we got £419.54, which means that half way through the month we're at £865: still not quite up to our £2000 a month target, but not at all bad for the first two weeks of the New Year.

Healey's policies are hitting our costs

too—just at a time when we need to expand the influence of Socialist Worker. More and more workers are seeing that what we've been saying about the Labour government is absolutely right. We must build a paper which can take the government on.

So keep it flowing. Get your union branch to make a monthly donation—like the Transport Workers' No 5 Region, which sends us £5 this week. Go short on those extra couple of pints to keep our paper expanding.

Anger in Scotland too

by Dave Kerr (UCATT)

DUNDEE: 300 trade unionists attended a meeting on Tuesday calling for the release of the Shrewsbury Two. It was called by the trades council, but because of the response of local officials, many factories and sites knew nothing about the meeting or were not called out to support it.

Trade unionists at the meeting had the same problem if they were looking for action from the officials. A UCATT official ended a speech in which he attached the conspiracy laws and the Tory government by calling on the meeting to send a telegram of protest to the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins.

The only speaker who called for strike action was a rank and file hospital worker and member of the International Socialists, Jim Barlow. 'If the two are to get out, it will need more than a lobby of parliament or resolutions to the Home Secretary. It will need strike action throughout the Labour movement,' he said.

DUNDEE IS public meeting: Release the Shrewsbury Two. Tuesday 21 January, 7.30pm 4 Roseangle.

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