

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



THIS WEEK Socialist Worker publishes an article which really shows what the British troops are doing in the North of Ireland.

Its writer, Claire Griffin, was born and raised in Crossmaglen. She moved away, but returned for two weeks last summer—to find an occupied town. Her first-hand account of life under an army occupation is on pages 8-9.

Every reader of Socialist Worker should read this article. And every reader should be on the demonstrations in Manchester and London this week to commemorate Bloody Sunday 1972, when British soldiers shot dead 13 demonstrators in Derry, to demand TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND!

MANCHESTER: This Sunday, 27 January, at 2.30pm.

Rally: Small hall, Barnes Wallis Building, University Institute of Science and Technology (near Piccadilly Station).

Speakers: Joan Maynard MP, Eamonn McCann and Alastair Renwick (Troops Out Movement).

LONDON: Saturday 1 February, 1.30pm.

Rally: Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 (nearest tube Holborn)

Speakers from the International Socialists, IMG, Labour Party, Mike Cooley and Bernadette McAliskey.

5pm: Torchlight procession from Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park.

As 3000 Imperial Typewriter workers face the dole:



Jobs: Stop the slaughter

THREE THOUSAND workers in Hull and Leicester learnt in the crudest possible way last week what the crisis means. They were told by their employers, Imperial Typewriters, that their factories are to close and they will have to join 700,000 other people in the dole queue in a few weeks time.

The head of Imperial Typewriters, Raymond Beecham, said: 'This is a very sad day in many ways.' Similar words can be heard from bosses in every section of industry and from government ministers.

Imperial Typewriters, like many of the places facing closure, is not an isolated factory. It is a tiny part of a giant company—in this case Litton Industries, an American-based multi-national corporation with assets

of 2000 million dollars.

Behind the closure is the determination of the company to maintain its profits despite the international economic crisis and regardless of the effects of the lives of thousands of workers.

This was admitted in Litton's last company report. 'The decision to phase out our operations last year was part of a continuous and deliberate process of reshaping Litton's activities in order to concentrate our assets and strengthen in those areas of greatest profit potential,' it said.

Intolerable

The workers at Leicester and Hull are the latest on the list of thousands of workers to suffer from this 'continuous and deliberate process'.

Littons claim that Imperial was never profitable. Yet their own figures show that in 1973 they made an operating profit of £186,000—and what made this into a loss was a massive £1,317,000 (£8 per week per worker) that had to be paid out in interest to banks and money lenders.

Many Imperial workers in Leicester are blaming last summer's long strike by Asian workers for the closure. Nothing could be further from the truth. A Littons letter to shareholders last July outlines the company's 'determination to close some plants' long before the strike began.

The truth is rather that the disunity in the factory caused by the failure of many white workers to support their Asian fellow-workers' strike strengthened the arm of management in bringing down the axe.

But the bosses have not won the battle yet. The workers *can* fight for their jobs.

As Tommy Hall, who has worked at Imperial in Leicester for a long time, told Socialist Worker. 'If the government can spend £20 million closing the Channel Tunnel, they can certainly keep this place open. Wedgwood Benn should nationalise the firm to save our jobs.'

Defend

That's the right answer. But Benn will not come in like a fairy god-mother unless the workers force him to act.

There are lots of ways to defend jobs. Littons are still using the British market for their goods, and they're hoping to make a hefty profit from the £1.7 million worth of plant machinery which they own in Leicester and Hull.

Workers in both cities should hold the machinery as hostage for their jobs. They should make sure that no machinery leaves the factories until their jobs are guaranteed.

They should demand that their union—the Transport and General Workers—orders all its members to black all Litton goods until the Imperial jobs are safeguarded.

This sort of fighting policy *can* save jobs. But it needs a lead from the shop floor.

If the stewards won't give a lead, the workers must elect a new rank and file committee to fight for their jobs. This committee should insist on unity between black and white workers and on linking the struggle between the workers in the two cities—and between workers across all industries in both cities.

- Occupy to force nationalisation without compensation.
- Link the struggles in Leicester and Hull.
- Black Littons until Imperial workers' jobs are guaranteed.



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Fund: £224 this week

EVERYONE knows people are poorer in the first weeks of January than at any other time in the year, but that hasn't affected the Socialist Worker readers at Cwm Colliery, South Wales. We had a letter last week from the lodge secretary enclosing £10 for the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund and wishing us 'every success in the future.'

YOU can get your lodge or union branch to send us money too. And it couldn't come at a more important time. The financial situation gets increasingly serious every week. Every possible bill seems to be up by more than a fifth since last year, and just to keep the paper at its present level costs more and more every

month. So all you readers who are trade unionists: raise the question in your branch at the next meeting—or at your chapel or lodge or shop stewards' committee.

We are still a long way off the £2000 target this month. This week we collected £224.00, which brings the total for January to £1089.20. So follow the example of The Cwm miners.

Donations from: Leeds IS £100, Croydon IS £6, Aberdeen IS £9, NUM Cwm Lodge, Maesteg £10, Univ of York Students Union £25, Tottenham IS £8.50, Newcastle IS £1.50, West Middx District £7.45, Wigston IS £9, Paddington IS £11.10.

THIS STRIKE MUST BE WON:

Women strikers from the Yarnolds factory in Wolverhampton picketing one of the firm's curtain shops last Saturday. They made the curtains for 40 hours a week for a wage of £13 until they came out on strike seven weeks ago for union recognition. The women need your support. Picket the shops next Saturday: Help on the picket line. Send financial support. Details—page 15.

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FREE THE TWO

THE Rank and File Organising Committee met on Sunday after the lobby of parliament over the Shrewsbury pickets and agreed that Des Warren and Eric Tomlinson will be freed only through mass strike action called by the TUC.

The Committee are calling on all trade unionists to force the TUC into naming the date for national strike action. To further such a campaign, it suggests that all trade unionists take these steps:

PASS a resolution calling on the TUC to take strike action, and send copies to Congress House and to your own union's Executive.

CALL a mass meeting to clarify further the issues involved. The Organising Committee can provide speakers, if necessary, through Roger Cox, the Secretary. Two of the Shrewsbury defendants (John Llywarch and Ken O'Shea) have stated that they will do what they can to help the campaign.

SELL the Rank and File Shrewsbury Fact Sheet as widely as possible. If you have not yet ordered copies (25,000 have been distributed already) now's the time. Orders from Roger Cox, 214 Roundwood Road, London, NW10. 50p for 75 copies.

SEND a donation to the Shrewsbury Dependents Fund, which has now been re-opened to help the families of Brothers Warren and Tomlinson. You should specifically consider adopting one of the families and giving them regular support through the Fund. The Treasurer is Mr Ossie Lewis, 25 Park Road, Cheam, Surrey.

CALL local conferences of trade unionists to co-ordinate this campaign in every locality and, where possible, organise local marches and pickets. The 20-minute Shrewsbury film is available for these and other meetings and can be booked through Roger Cox.

THE MIDDLESBROUGH branch of the AUEW Construction Section voted at its meeting just before Christmas to call a one-day strike of members in support of the immediate release of the Two. The precise date has yet to be fixed, but is expected to be later this month or early in February.

100 PEOPLE attended last Friday's South London Shrewsbury Defence Committee meeting at Lambeth Town Hall. Platform speakers included Sid Easton, Transport Union executive member, Jack Henry, of the UCATT general council, Sidney Bidwell Labour MP for Southall and a member of the Tribune Group, and Marcus Lipton, local Labour MP.

But only Lipton, who is a right-winger, stated that industrial action 'of the sort that freed the Pentonville Five' was what was needed to free the pickets.

Bidwell, meanwhile, claimed that the basic problem was Roy Jenkins' 'lack of understanding' of the issue. Jenkins was, he said, a decent man with 'an excellent record of race relations.' The Tribune Group would keep pressing the issues and 'if need be go direct to the Queen herself.'

From The Times, last Tuesday:

Although it is true that a small minority at some ports went too far, the great majority of farmers conducted themselves with restraint and good humour. So did the police, who showed a characteristic understanding of protest stemming from a genuine sense of grievance. Mr Hooper asks why the law appears to have dealt more leniently with protesting farmers than the Shrewsbury pickets. The answer surely lies in the tolerance of a police force able to distinguish between the spontaneous protest of normally law abiding citizens and the calculated defiance of a minority.

Most farmers, in Wales and elsewhere, know very well that picketing is illegal. They also respect the rule of law and its impartial application. Perhaps we should all be thankful that we live in a country where the law is still able to distinguish between those who would destroy the system and those whose emotions lead them to occasional protest. Yours faithfully, G. H. B. CATTELL, Director General, The National Farmers' Union, Agriculture House, Knightsbridge, SW1. January 20.

Thanks for nothing, Dr Murray

By Bob Light, TGWU

SOCIALIST Worker last week reported the killer effects of PVC and highlighted how men who work in PVC-making plants die of liver cancer. But PVC doesn't only affect the men who make it.

On 8 January, two gangs working on aboard the Rumanian ship Calassi, berthed at 9 shed in London's King George V Dock, were asked to load 530 tons of raw PVC. The PVC was first imported into this country, but because of the state of the market, it was to be re-exported. The men loaded seven tons and then called in their shop stewards to investigate the health risks.

They stopped work while the stewards pursued the matter. None of the trade union officers wanted to know. They all told the men to work the PVC. So the stewards took it higher. Eventually, on 16 January, 20 of the 24 men involved voted to remain loading.

They did so against the advice of the stewards: who did a fine job throughout. But they were swayed by a letter sent from

Dr Robert Murray, medical advisor to the TUC, who said: 'There should be no difficulty in the cargo being handled.' And on Murray's assurances the men loaded the PVC.

Now this is very interesting because the same Dr Robert Murray was involved in another dispute about hazardous cargo in the docks some years ago. Men in the West India Dock were refusing to load asbestos. They said it was a killer.

Trade union officials urged the men to work it. They included Tommy Cronin, now the TGWU National Docks Officer. They assured the men they wouldn't let anyone touch asbestos if they thought it was in any way dangerous. And to back up their claims, they produced another of Dr Murray's letters. No, no, no, said Dr

Murray, there should be no 'difficulty' in handling asbestos.

Today we know the result. A good number of men have some 'difficulty' in breathing because their lungs are full of asbestos dust. Some had too much 'difficulty' to stay alive. How many men will suffer the same fate, by listening to Dr Murray's opinions on PVC, only time and their livers will tell.

But Dr Murray isn't in any danger. Last week he retired from the TUC. His next job will be very interesting. Maybe he'll go onto the payroll of Cape Asbestos, or BP, who make PVC in this country. Maybe he'll go the whole way, and set himself up as an undertaker.

But one thing you can guarantee: Dr Robert Murray will never have to work on the line in a PVC factory, or work down a ship's hold loading the stuff.

FOOTNOTE: The Rumanian Trade Mission threatened to take the line out of London if the PVC wasn't handled.

THE BUTCHERS OF CHILE REJOICE...

WORK HAS STARTED again at Rolls Royce, East Kilbride, Scotland, on the eight engines for Chilean fighter planes which were blacked by the engineering union's works committee last May. The works committee have agreed to accept an instruction from the AUEW executive to work on the engines—an instruction which makes nonsense of the union's decision to black all arms for Chile.

After the ban was imposed last May, the executive agreed that it

was carrying out the policy of the union. The abject about turn in policy was taken last October after John Boyd, Scottish executive member, moaned about the 'danger to jobs' if this 'crucial work' was not continued at East Kilbride.

The executive agreed, apparently unanimously, to instruct the Rolls Royce workers to lift the ban. The instruction was received on 15 October, the day before the Rolls Royce workers engaged on a long and successful strike over wages. The works committee asked the executive to reconsider its decision—which the executive duly did—and reaffirmed it.

So the works committee, without taking the instruction to a mass meeting, have agreed to work on the engines—with the proviso that any worker who doesn't want to 'for reasons of conscience' need not do so.

This wretched defeat for international solidarity, which will be widely celebrated by the Chilean junta, is a grim pointer to the weakness of the AUEW Executive and of the works committee at East Kilbride.

The works committee have had two months to take the issue to the members. Had it been posed in terms of the reality of life for trade unionists in Chile—and the damage to the junta which the blacking created—the workers might well have carried a decision not to obey the executive instruction.

As it was, they behaved throughout like Parliamentarians for their members, legislating for them without involving them in the decisions.

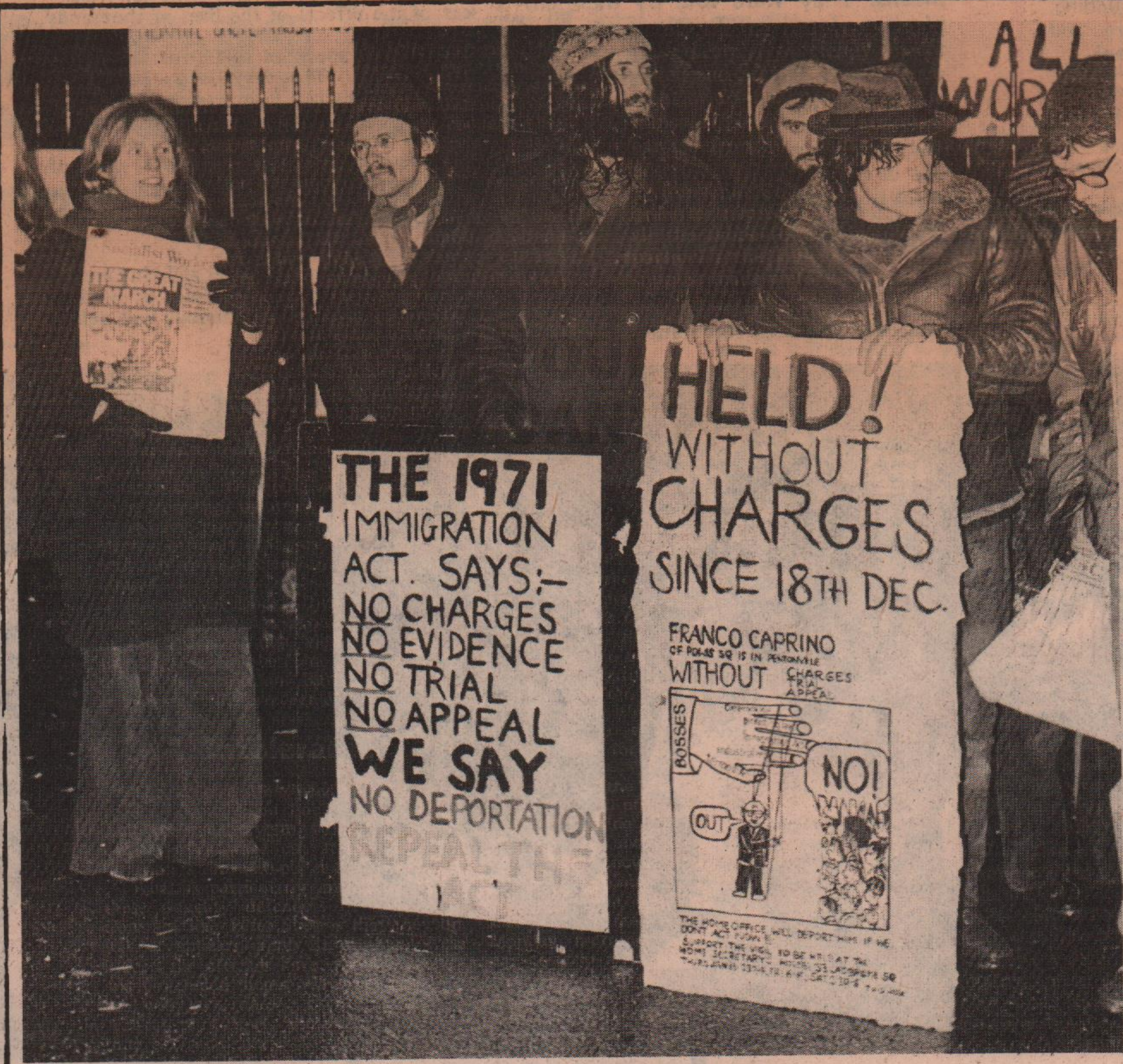
JOURNALISTS WIN

EAST LONDON:-Journalists on the Stratford Express newspaper group went back to work with their heads high on Monday after a two-week strike had forced management to accept their demands.

The strike, which was official, followed management attempts to make five journalists redundant. Under the settlement, management agreed to withdraw the redundancy notices and allow the National Union of Journalists to appoint an accountant to examine all the firm's accounts in depth.

But despite the magnificent stand by the NUJ chapel (office branch) which brought the first victory of its kind by NUJ members in provincial difficulties, the chapel is prepared to accept sackings.

Few, if any, chapel members would accept that they are the cause of any 'financial problems'—so they should not accept that the loss of any of their jobs is the solution.



Hands off, Jenkins!

PICKETS protesting outside the house of Labour Home Secretary Roy Jenkins last Saturday, at his attempt to deport Franco Caprino, an Italian trade unionist active in this country.

Under the Immigration Act he will be deported without being told the charges against him. He is appealing to a Home Office Advisory Panel, which has no powers, meets in secret, and will hear Franco Caprino's defence without telling him what he is supposed to have done.

The Franco Caprino Support Committee has called two vigils. The first is at 6pm, this Thursday, 23 January, at the Home Office, London, SW1. The second between 1pm and 2pm during the appeal on Monday 3 February, outside Thanet House in the Strand, London, WC2.

All trade unionists and socialists should support these vigils against the Immigration Act's arbitrary powers.

Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

Not a book for armchair socialists

by Steve Ludlam
NUPE shop steward, Moorfield's Eye Hospital, East London, and member of Hospital Worker editorial board.

THE majority of the family men and women I work with would be better off signing on for a week at one of Barbara Castle's Social Security offices than clocking in every day in one of her hospitals. Even the TUC £30 minimum is £1.50 below the Social Security subsistence benefit level for a two-child family.

Mrs Castle makes a righteous fuss over pay beds in the National Health Service to obscure the fact that she's presiding over savage cuts in health spending and strangling what's left of the NHS.

The National Union of Public Employees calls itself the union 'that fights for the low paid'. Alan Fisher, director of British Airways and general secretary of NUPE, has written a book entitled *Low Pay and How to Fight it*. Last month NUPE's leaders accepted a 12-month agreement for hospital ancillary workers giving £3.32 extra a week, with no threshold payments. It will cut our wages by

at least a third by the end of the year.

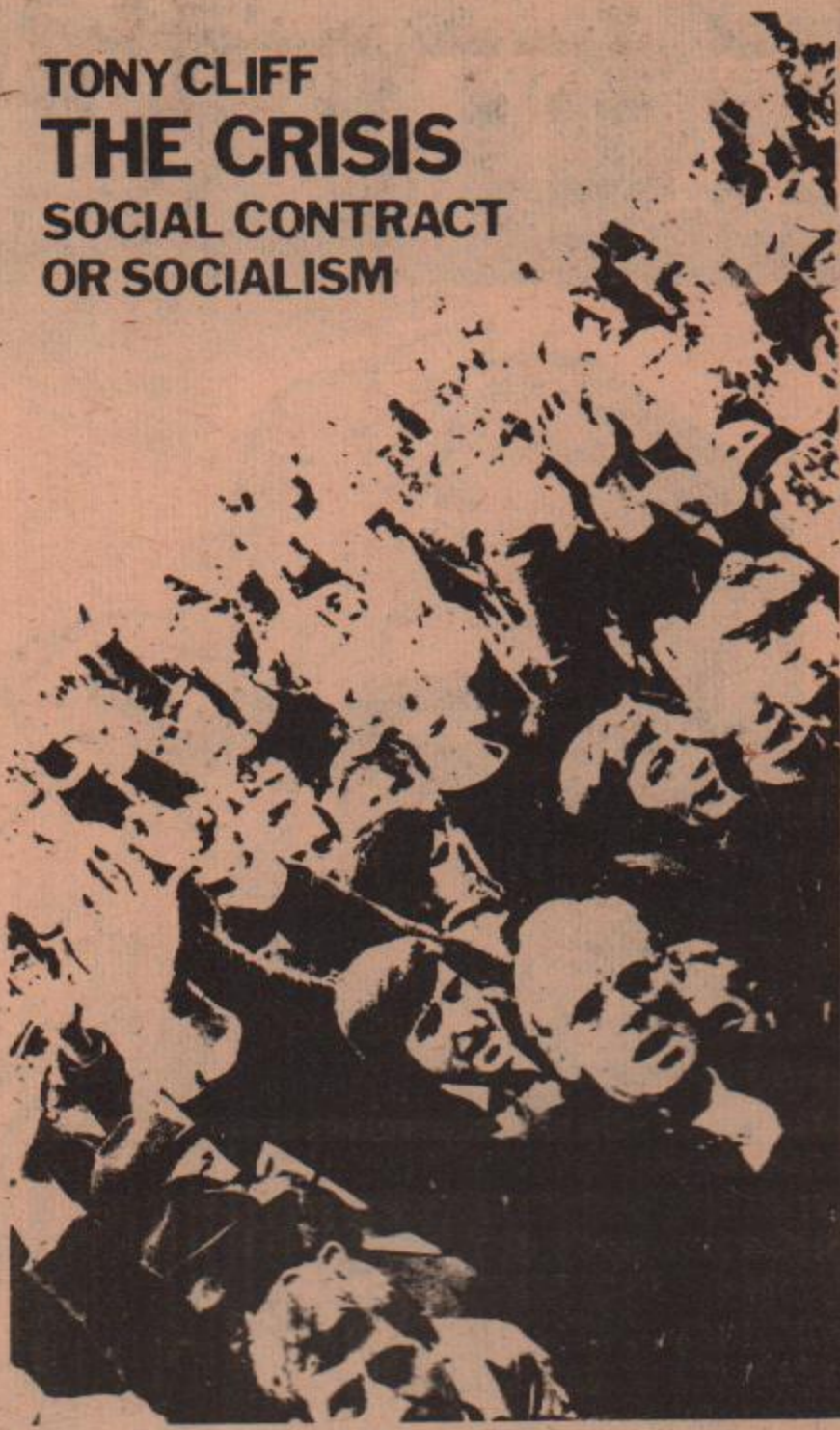
The president of the other hospital union, COHSE, called it a 'victory for the Social Contract'. It is.

My union, the TUC and my direct employer, the Labour government, have one answer to capitalism's crisis. Link arms, prop up capital, screw workers and sing the Red Flag.

The tasks facing socialists today need a much broader understanding of capitalism and of society than we needed under the Tories. Cliff's book *The Crisis—Social Contract or Socialism*, provides the analysis, the socialist arguments, the facts and illustrations needed to fight the economic crisis, and the job crisis and the crisis of leadership in the working-class movement.

This is not a book for armchair revolutionaries. It's a handbook for revolutionaries on the shop floor. Everyone should read it carefully and use its arguments at work.

TONY CLIFF
**THE CRISIS
SOCIAL CONTRACT
OR SOCIALISM**



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 bookshops.

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

THE WEEK IN IRELAND column has been held over this week. Instead we publish TWO WEEKS IN AN OCCUPIED TOWN, one woman's account of a visit to Crossmaglen—see centre pages.



THAT'S YOUR LOT! Eric Heffer, Minister for Industry, telling the workers at IPD that the £4 million government grant will be the 'very last' help which they can expect from the government PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

International Profiteers and Diddlers

THE government is giving the workers' co-operatives at International Property Development (formerly Fisher Bendix) at Kirkby, Liverpool £3.9 million.

It is a highly satisfactory outcome for the businessmen who have bought and sold Fisher Bendix and its workers like houses on a Monopoly board. They have made a good profit.

THORN ELECTRICAL, bought Parkinson Cowan, owners of Fisher Bendix in 1971. Their first attempt in June 1971 to shut it down and transfer the production to Spain was frustrated by a strike. They tried again at the end of the year but were faced with a sit-in. By April 1972 they had sold the factory for £1.2 million and the business for £405,000.

So anxious were they to get rid of the business that this price included £50,000 for plant and machinery worth £1.1 million. Thorn also gave the purchaser £500,000 in cash, a £600,000 interest-free loan, and £218,000 to offset any losses. So they only pocketed £900,000. These rather unusual arrangements—companies do not give away £500,000 every day of the week—were recently published in the Sunday Times. They were first reported in Socialist Worker in April 1974.

IVOR GERSHFIELD was the lucky buyer of the factory and owner of Clohurst, the company which bought the Fisher Bendix business and received the cash and interest-free loan. He quickly sold the factory for £800,000 profit to International Property Development—where he instituted Harold King as chairman. He swapped Clohurst for 5.5 million IPD shares, which he has since sold for an estimated profit of

£1 million.

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT bought the factory and Clohurst, which was soon renamed International Property Development Industries. IPD Industries is now being sold to the workers' co-operative at a maximum loss to IPD of £1.3 million. But IPD still owns the factory—let to the workers at £207,000 a year. IPD shareholders were pleased to learn at the company's annual meeting last week that the factory is now worth £4.2 million.

Profit

IPD also owns the adjoining land which it is developing as an industrial estate, which will help it clear a near £1 million profit, even after the losses at Fisher Bendix.

BARCLAYS BANK provided IPD Industries with a loan while Harold

APOLOGY

In our issue of 3 August 1974, under the headline 'Millionaire Murdoch wages war', certain false suggestions were made about the political and editorial independence of the editor of the Sun. In fact Mr Bernard Shrimmsley, the editor of the Sun, has never been a member of any political party, and we apologise for any imputation the article may have carried against Mr Shrimmsley's independence and integrity as a journalist and editor.

King tried to persuade the government to give him first £850,000, then £1.25 million, then £1.5 million. Because he did not succeed, Barclays moved in to get their money back, and £1.8 million of the government's money will go to repaying them.

The remaining £2.1 million will go to the co-op itself but at a high price. When the workers occupied the factory in 1971, they wrote: 'We are challenging a boss and his government who deny us the right to work. Redundancies have been declared, because we are refusing to accept the sack.' Now 400 of the 1200 workers have gone and 700 of those remaining have agreed to work only four weeks in every six.

Where Thorn failed, Wedgwood Bann succeeded.

The co-operative has some chance of success because of these sacrifices and the workers' enthusiasm. This enthusiasm is something that the businessmen and merchant bankers who advised Bann and who wanted the factory closed and the workers on the dole cannot understand. But success will only be achieved by the workers at the co-operative making sacrifices that most employers would never dare to ask for. And if it fails the workers will feel it is their fault.

The government knows this. They hope the workers will then obediently troop off to the Labour Exchange instead of fighting for their jobs. But if the workers fail it will not be their fault. One workers' co-operative is powerless against capitalism as a whole.

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WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE CALL FOR: Nationalisation under workers' control

UNEMPLOYMENT is not caused by workers fighting for wage rises. It is the product of a crazy, unplanned economic system—international capitalism.

Ruled over by a handful of men, this system is driven by their need to make a profit from the rest of mankind. Periodically, the competition between the giant multinational companies leads to more goods being produced than workers' wages can buy. Profits fall and the ruling class responds by seeking every means possible to cut real wages and so keep up or increase the share of wealth under their control.

So the ruling class pay for their crisis by sacking 'unprofitable' workers, cutting our living standards and putting workers on short pay.

The Labour government, committed to making their system work, want us to accept this.

But if we accept that any part of the crisis is our responsibility, we will have savage unemployment and strict wage controls. Against those like Transport Union leader Jack Jones who said last Friday: 'There should be equality of sacrifice,' we say: **NO SACRIFICE BY THE WORKERS!**

The first step in the fight against short-time and sackings is to argue that 'falling order books' or a 'cash liquidity crisis', are the responsibility of the employer, the government and the way they run their system.

Three years ago the millions of workers who supported the UCS fight to keep jobs on the Upper Clyde understood that the sackings were caused by Tory government butchery on behalf of the bosses. Today, in an even deeper economic crisis the blame must be placed still more clearly on the bosses.

Fight every closure

Every closure of a factory, be it large or small, must be fought.

Ban overtime, end mobility and flexibility.

Occupy as soon as sackings are announced.

No goods to leave the factory or warehouses.

Press for support from other plants in the same firm and industry, build a combine committee.

Launch flying pickets and a blacking campaign.

Build a local rank and file action committee to fight the sackings.

The demands raised in the fight will vary according to the situation, but two demands are common to all.

A full week's work or a full week's wages.

A shorter working week with no loss of wages.

But the crisis pushes us further than these demands.

That is why we call for: Nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

Why nationalisation? If private firms can't survive without money from us, the taxpayers, then the state should take them over. Or, if they can't survive without depriving us of our livelihood, the state must guarantee our jobs.

Why without compensation? We created the wealth which is being nationalised. What could be more absurd than to pay the capitalists for it when the state takes it over?

What do we mean by workers' control? We do not mean that it is possible to establish islands of socialism in a capitalist sea.

On the contrary. The fight for higher wages and better conditions must go on after nationalisation. By workers' control we mean shop stewards' control over hiring and firing, the pace of work, safety, and other matters affecting working conditions.

We are against workers' participation in management, which means accepting capitalist priorities, policing production and so on. We are for strong shop stewards' organisation to challenge management's 'rights' on the shop floor.

A BODY BLOW FOR THE LEFT



These candidates were beaten

PHIL HIGGS: Rolls-Royce convenor, lost National Organiser vote by 82,608 to sitting right-winger Bob Lloyd's 156,680.

PAT FARRELLY: Communist Party member, Divisional Organiser in Basingstoke/Reading/Southampton area for 20 years voted out by George Else, 4731 votes to 4301.

LEN BRINDLE: British Leyland convenor, polled 36,247 votes as Broad Left candidate for National Organiser against right-winger John Weakley's 48,876. But Laurie Smith, little-known candidate from a small area (Erith), stood on revolutionary socialist platform and got 51,092 votes. Second ballot to be held.

CYRIL MORTON: Communist Party, convenor at Ambrose Shardlows in Sheffield, failed to get into second ballot for National Organiser. Robert Walmsley topped poll with 53,753 votes, just ahead of right-winger Gina Morgan (52,076), who comes from a small area.



BOB WRIGHT
Beaten 89,514-42,388 in first ballot for general secretary by arch right-winger John Boyd.

These survived to fight again

JOHN FOSTER: Communist Party, sitting National Organiser, 89,039 votes but failed to get majority against little-known right-winger Patrick Gregory (55,205). Second ballot to be held.

There will be second round balloting for several local positions. In Leicester, it will be between right-winger Bridget Paton (1695 votes) and William McMillan (1111). In Oldham left wing candidate Ray Seddon (693) is opposed by J W Jones (597). In Glasgow, Broad Left candidate Jimmy Hamilton, who polled 1522, faces J McKenzie (1904).

Other right-wing victories:

BILL JOHN: returned as executive member for West of England and South Wales.

WINNING of district positions in Wolverhampton, Birmingham East and Blackpool. In Wolverhampton, all six left-wingers on the District Committees had already been replaced by right-wing organisation at the district quarterly meetings.

WHY IS THIS MAN NOW ON THE VERGE OF SO MUCH POWER? ▶

THE FIRST spate of results in the Engineering Union elections has shown the increasing strength of the right wing and the disarray of the Broad Left.

The right wing moved into full swing and were aided by sections of the Tory Press, notably Woodrow Wyatt in the Sunday Mirror and, more importantly, the Daily Express, which urged support for the recommended list of the right under the banner of 'moderation'.

In areas such as Birmingham, the right wing have mobilised their forces, going to shop stewards' houses and collecting ballot papers on the shop floor. It is being rumoured that John Boyd's campaign cost £10,000.

The left wing did not show the same amount of administrative fervour. In one case, Vaughan in Birmingham had 250 supporters on his election address and polled only 3500 votes—clear evidence of lack of organisation.

Beaten

In Glasgow, Hamilton was beaten in the first round after a Broad Left meeting attended by more than 400 AUEW members and addressed by Bob Wright, Jimmy Reid and Jimmy Airlie.

Some AUEW members argue that if only the Broad Left supporters were as hard-working as the right to ensure the return of the ballot forms, everything would have been alright.

But efficient administration cannot conceal that the Broad Left strategy of reliance on the electoral machine has nothing to do with real and effective democracy, and full membership participation. The history of the Broad Left bears out this fact.

At the beginning of the sixties, Bill Carron, later to be Lord and a Papal Knight, dominated the union, having succeeded in playing on anti-communist feeling during the Cold War.

The leadership of the union had been wrested from the Communist

ALICE MURRAY on the AUEW election results

Party. And, with the atmosphere in the union bitterly anti-communist, militants were constantly denounced and wages battles strictly avoided.

But the rise in strength and confidence of the shop stewards organisation, led militants to look for a union leadership that would fight for their demands.

In 1961, Engineering Voice was set up as the paper of the rank and file in the union. The Broad Left began to take on a public shape.

But the whole idea of the Broad Left was trapped in a defensive stance. When the big names of the left, such as Claude Berridge, Ernie Roberts and Hugh Scanlon, spoke out, it was always with a weather eye open for Carron's comeback. None openly spoke out for the militants. It was all done behind closed doors.

The Broad Left finally made it when Scanlon beat Boyd in the elections for President after Carron's death.

They then pursued their electoral objectives with even less concern for rank and file participation. They concentrated on getting majorities in the branch ballots, without making genuine efforts to involve the rank and file in union affairs.

When Scanlon was elected, he polled 50,000 votes out of a possible 500,000. The Broad Left stuck to the idea that the battle for the union was in effect, won or lost among the minority and turned away from the tougher business of organising and involving the majority.

They preferred to cling onto their offices with a small electorate, for fear of losing with a larger one. In a number of areas (for example Liverpool, Coventry, Cornwall, East of Scotland) the Broad Left does not effectively organise at all.

As a result, the union's switch

to postal ballots last year saw the Broad Left unable to carry the argument that such ballots worked for passivity in the rank and file.

They used the postal ballot in the same way as they used the branch ballot.

The patient work necessary for involving the mass of union members was never done.

This, however, is not how the Broad Left operates. It is controlled from the top by the full-time officers who decide which area a candidate will come from. Then a meeting of the Broad Left is held—the word goes out and is obeyed. The whole organisation is on an ad hoc basis.

Worse

But an even worse indictment than the failure to organise the left effectively in electoral terms is the failure of the Broad Left's politics.

They have failed the rank and file of the union. Scanlon was elected on a platform of one-yearly agreements with substantial increases. But the smaller factories, who rely on increases in the basic rate, have gained virtually nothing from the last four sets of wage rounds.

In the last three wage deals, the Broad Left was unable to mount a genuine offensive against Tory incomes policy and the left leaders refused to mount any campaign against Phases 1, 2 and 3.

In 1972, the wage claim was sold down the river—and the rank and file in Manchester had to fight a rearguard action for a claim deserted by the leadership.

In the 1973 wage round, the left officials were even worse. They did not even countenance a fight. The 1974 wage claim was thrown into the bucket.

Bucket

The failure of the Left wing in the leadership to mount any real opposition to the Social Contract in the face of the unofficial strike wave in Scotland indicates the further shift to the right of Scanlon, Roberts and Wright.

This shift has gone unchecked and uncriticised by the Broad Left, and it is hardly surprising that many militants do not feel able to argue convincingly for their candidates.

In the recent elections, the Broad Left have failed to link up the election issue with this year's pay claim.

This would have meant a meaningful and active campaign against the supporters of the Social Contract and other anti-working class policies.

But the leadership of the Broad



John Boyd: Salvation for the bosses?

Left is firmly in the hands of the Communist Party, and quite clearly they will now have to rethink their position and strategy.

Their industrial strategy is based upon the belief that if you elect left leaders, they will fight for policies for the membership. They have unashamedly watched Scanlon sell out on almost every issue and witnessed their own members on the EC do no better.

The whole method is based on the electoral machine and not the involvement and activity of the rank and file.

Militants in the Communist Party should now be asking whether that strategy is right. If the right wing win in the second round of these elections, the union machinery will fall into the hands of Boyd, who will probably be better at the right-wing job than Conway ever was.

Round 2 is in March. All militants should fight for the left-wing candidate without reservation—but on the clear basis of opposition to the Social Contract and for a new wage rise.

They should oppose Boyd and his cronies, who are backed by dubious financial sources, and who were in favour of the Industrial Relations Court.

They should campaign for a fighting, democratic union.

A massive campaign is required. There should be meetings of all shop stewards. Mass meetings, factory gate meetings. Pamphlets and leaflets should be produced to in-

form the rank and file of the serious danger of voting for the right.

But what this really means is taking seriously the urgent need to build a genuine rank and file movement in the union so the members will control the officials they support instead of the officials controlling the members.



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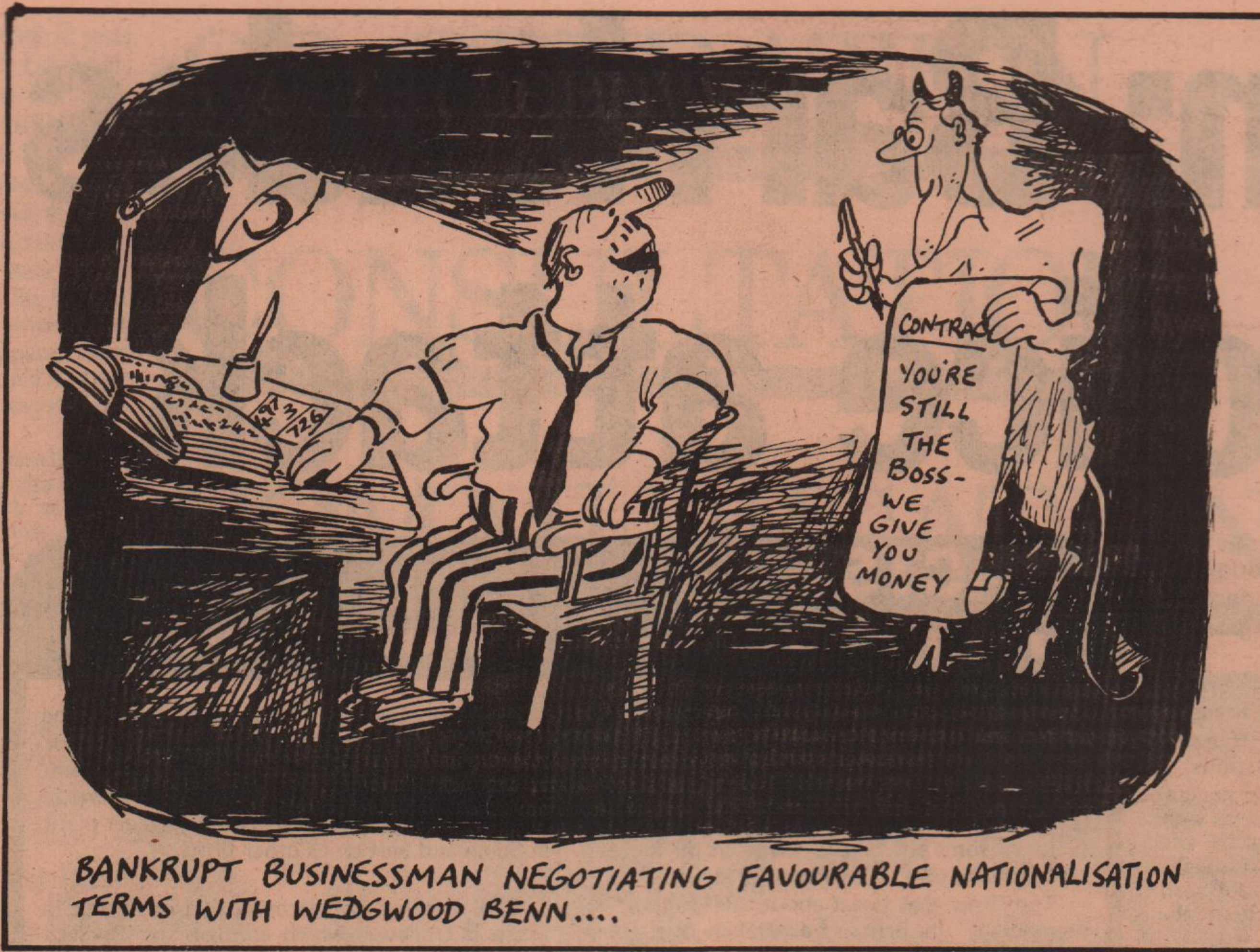
Return to Fraction Secretary, 25 Selborne Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 20 or 'phone Admin Sec 021-327 3156

'We must learn from what went wrong... and prepare now for the second ballot'

TEN YEARS ON

FOLLOWING the meeting between Terence O'Neill, prime minister of Northern Ireland and Sean Lemass, prime minister of the Irish Republic, Andrew Boyd of Tribune, the left wing Labour Party paper commented on 22 January 1965 that 'No-one can doubt that for Ireland a new era has opened in which there will be economic progress and better relations between North and South.'

On 4 February 1965 the Daily Mirror reported that 'The government announced yesterday the establishment of a sports council to advise them on the development of amateur sport. Its chairman was Dennis Howell and among its members were four minute miler Roger Bannister and Alderman T Dan Smith, at that time a prominent Labour politician in Newcastle.'



Danger! Falling windows above!

THE second-floor tenants in West Point on the City of London Corporation's Avondale Square Estate must be very glad they were out on Boxing Day.

Two windows fell out, pulling down some of the kitchen wall with them.

This block and the two other tower blocks nearby are 19 storeys high and tenants—most of them old or single or with babies—have been complaining to the landlords for years about badly fitting windows in these jerry-built blocks. Some weeks ago he said the work was being done, and cradles were indeed set up on one or two of the buildings. But it was only to clean rust off the window frames and even this stopped when the weather got bad.

The firemen who evacuated West Point are concerned that the window frames in the other flats are also getting loose and have told tenants to look out for anything suspicious. But no experts have come to examine the windows in the three tower blocks at the time of writing and tenants are frightened that they may find their windows falling out.

The lifts have also been a subject of many complaints from tenants. The Sunday before Christmas Mrs Saunders, an old age pensioner, stepped into one lift to find that it had stopped well below floor level. She had to be taken to hospital with a dislocated shoulder from her fall and spent a painful Christmas.

Tenants of the three tower blocks are meeting this week to decide what action to take to force the corporation to deal with the windows before any further tragedy occurs.

The worst aspect of this affair is clearly the use of lump labour, cheap methods and materials by local councils such as the City Corporation, so as to conform only to the minimum standards laid down by the government, and sacrificing tenants' safety to cheapness.

MARY PHILLIPS

fifth column



The man with a Silver gun

BACK IN 1971 a wave of outrage rippled through the British press after the killing of three Scottish soldiers just outside Belfast. A woman had lured them from a pub and they had been shot. 'A classic example of IRA savagery' ran the stories. 'The killers must be found.'

But they weren't. Last December a curious side-light on the case was cast by the latest News Of The World 'Vice King Exposed' story. The case was about 11 men accused on prostitution charges. Among them was Bernard Silver, an ex-paratrooper, who was one of the seven convicted, he was sentenced to six years plus a £30,000 fine.

It had been a profitable business while it lasted, both for the proprietors and, the court heard, for a local policeman and a 'high up official in the Home Office' who ironed out any difficulties for the Emperors of Sin.

The News of the World neglected to mention that the Munificent Seven's chain of strip clubs were re-opening even as the case concluded.

The press was also quiet about the evidence given by Detective Chief Superintendent Kenneth Etheridge, deputy head of Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad. It was only mentioned in a Dublin paper, the Sunday World.

Mr Etheridge is currently in Australia investigating another businessman whose career has hit a rough patch, a Mr John Stonehouse. Previously he has been assigned to the Poulson case.

Mr Etheridge told the court that Silver had helped the police in their investigation of the deaths of three soldiers back in 1971. In 1971 Superintendent Etheridge had been one of the yard men assigned to help the Royal Ulster Constabulary in their investigations of the killings.

'I can't see what he was doing over there,' said a spokesman from the Yard. 'He was on the Poulson case, of course he might have been second-



Briginshaw: Off to the rest home for fighters against working people, the House of Lords.

ed to the Murder Squad ...'

The three soldiers were picked up in a Protestant area of the city. It has been plausibly argued since that the murders were the act of the Ulster Volunteer Force. But the file is sitting on an RUC shelf in Belfast. Bernard Silver is sitting in jug, Frank Etheridge is sitting in Australia.

The only open connection between Silver and Ireland is through one Frank Mifsud, another of the 11 defendants in the vice case. When the case came up he skipped off to his Dublin home. Little serious effort was made to arrest him.

Mifsud, an ex-Maltese policeman, has since moved to Switzerland, where he is awaiting the results of extradition proceedings. He is sitting in detention in a Swiss mental home...

It is surprising how many criminals have developed such a keen interest in Ireland, apparently through the auspices of British government agencies. Perhaps Kenneth Littlejohn could explain. But then he's back inside too...

THE recently ennobled Richard Briginshaw, now Lord Briginshaw, General Secretary of the printers' union NATSOPA has run into criticism.

The arrival of yet another principled fighter for the rights of working people in the rest home of fighters against the working people follows a long and dishonourable tradition. Some members of his union would like to see the tradition broken. They include the Observer newspaper

NATSOPA machine chapel who have passed a motion condemning Briginshaw's acceptance of the baronetcy, and pointing out that his action is incompatible with socialism, and socialist principles.

Barber the Goldsmith

'WHAT I don't understand' said Little Grey Rabbit, 'is why no kind bankers help Aston Martin to keep going. After all they only need £600,000.'

'Simple' said the Hare, 'the bankers haven't got any money either. You see the other week the United States government sold off 2,000,000 ounces of gold. It was a very important sale, all the bids had to be made in sealed envelopes. Some people got gold some didn't.'

'Did anyone we know win?' asked Little Grey Rabbit.

'Yes I'm happy to say that they did,' replied the Hare. 'Our friends up in London at Kleinworths have friends in America called Sharps Pixley, and they bought 21,000 ounces at 161 dollars an ounce, which cost them £1,436,000. And Rothchilds bought 6000 ounces at 169 dollars an ounce and 9000 at 172 dollars an ounce. That cost them £1,088,000.'

'That's a lot of lettuce!' said Little Grey Rabbit admiringly.

'It is, and there were lots of other of our friends involved too,' con-

NEXT TIME YOUR CAR DOOR JAMS

TIMES are hard for Chrysler, the third largest motor company in the world. This is doubtless why Coventry magistrates court only fined the company £1300 for 11 offences against factory safety plant laws the other week. Eight of the offences were so serious that the factory inspector considered banning some of the machines in use at Chrysler's Stoke plant.

Eight conveyor belts were inadequately guarded, complained the

Safety Officer to the management. 'There was a risk of serious injury to and loss of limbs to anyone caught in them.'

We're very sorry, said Chrysler at the end of 1973. We'll do something about it. Eight months passed, the inspector returned—and nothing had changed.

'There was a slip-up,' said their defence lawyer, Mr Roger Coates. 'These conveyors have been operating

quite happily by themselves subject to maintenance since before the war.'

The company was also fined for its 'deplorable' exhaust ventilation used to remove sand and dust. 'You can't wave a magic wand and produce something the next day' said Mr Coates.

And if you do the wand will doubtless get jammed in the conveyor belt...

tinued the Hare. 'Some very old friends like Mocatta Goldsmid who are so old they are older than the Bank of England. Well they are owned by a bank called Standard Chartered which is run by a famous man who used to give us talks on cutting down our lettuce eating. Mr Anthony Barber. They bought 7200 ounces at 172½ dollars an ounce. That cost £528,000.'

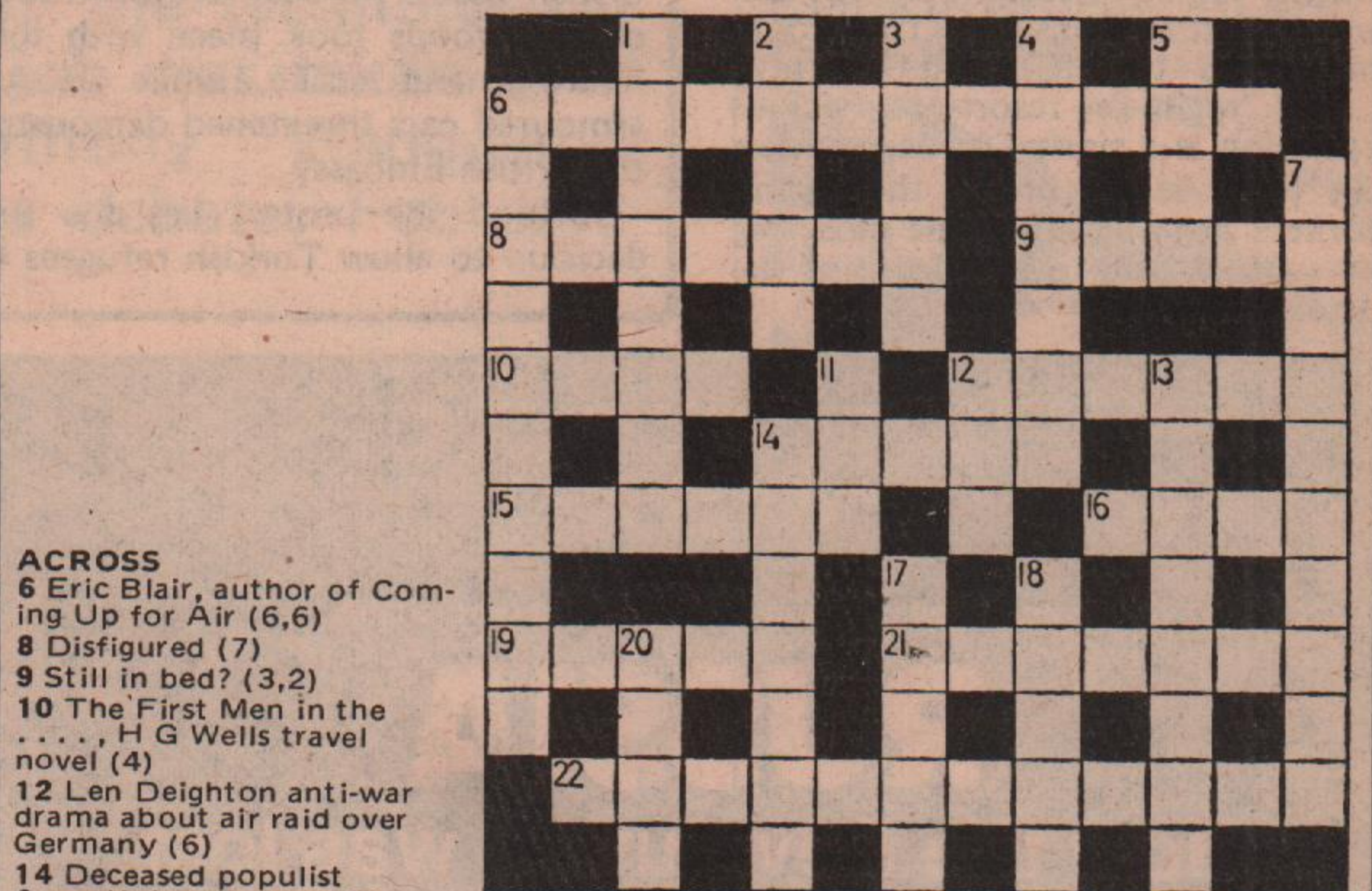
'Why that comes to a grand total of £3,052,000' announced Little Grey Rabbit.

'Good arithmetic Little Grey Rabbit' congratulated the Hare. 'Now you can see why the banks couldn't afford to give Aston Martin £600,000 although all the bankers like Aston Martins a lot. They had to spend it on all this gold to cheer up some gnomes they know.'

'These poor bankers', cried Little Grey Rabbit, reaching for her cheque book. 'I'll send some money off to them right now!'

And the bankers, and Mr Barber, lived happily ever after...

Socialist Worker crossword no 10

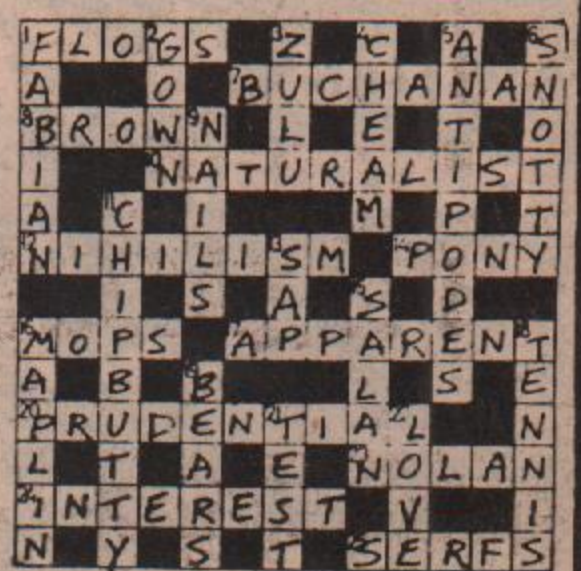


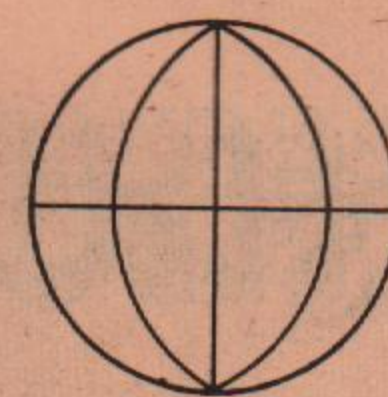
- ACROSS**
 6 Eric Blair, author of Coming Up for Air (6,6)
 8 Disfigured (7)
 9 Still in bed? (3,2)
 10 The 'First Men in the ...', H G Wells travel novel (4)
 12 Len Deighton anti-war drama about air raid over Germany (6)
 14 Deceased populist Argentinian dictator (5)
 15 Where the mad hatter and March hare put the dormouse (3-3)
 16 Break cards! (4)
 19 James Dean, for instance (5)
 21 Short-lived title assumed by King of Italy over Abyssinia in 1930s (7)
 22 Protection for armadillos and pigs in Northern Ireland (6, 6)

- DOWN**
 1 Insidious US national beverage (4,4)
 2 Bover (5)
 3 Surname of personable female lead in Kluge (5)
 4 Wiltshire home of Great Western before nationalisation (7)

- 5 Cilla Black's front rooms (4)
 6 A reet smog's swirled round fuel store! (10)
 7 Sought by motorists and Dr Barnard (5,5)
 11 Check Dr Doolittle perhaps? (3)
 12 Pseudonym used by Dickens (3)
 13 The Governors' great interest! (4,4)
 14 Architect who designed Newcastle police station (7)
 17 Northern Ireland town where Catholics repulsed 1969 B-Special attack (5)
 18 Fruit awarded to Aphrodite inscribed 'To the most beautiful' (5)
 20 The Severn has one, Michael Parkinson is one (4)

Last week's solution:





Spain: Barricades as police attack

BARRICADES were thrown up in the northern Spanish town of Pamplona last Wednesday after police attacked demonstrating workers with firearms, teargas and rubber bullets.

The next day the management of British Leyland hastened to give its support to Franco's police by locking out 2000 workers at its Authi plant who had taken part in the demonstrations.

Pamplona was paralysed by a near-general strike, in solidarity with 116 potash miners who had been staging an underground sit-in and another 1000 who have been locked out for eight weeks. The Spanish government had to rush police from elsewhere in Spain to crush the demonstrations.

Protest

But the workers' struggles have by no means been confined to Pamplona. There were also clashes between workers and police on the streets of Barcelona last week, where 400 militants had been victimised at the giant SEAT car factory and another 21,000 locked out for a week. Police arrested 40 people, shooting one through the hand, as attempts were made to hold protest meetings.

Many other factories in the city held protest stoppages in solidarity with the SEAT workers. The Hispano-Olivetti plant is shut by another dispute, and the entire 400-strong workforce of the Cumbre plastics factory have been sacked.

Meanwhile the 5000 workers at the Altos Hornos steel plant in Bilbao have been continuing their strike and the telecommunications group Citesa has sacked 400 workers for refusing to work normally.

Effect

The militancy of Spanish workers is partly a response to the crisis. Unemployment has been rising, and the increase in the cost of living in November was officially admitted to be 'the highest in recent Spanish economic history'.

But something else is also at stake. Spanish workers know that Franco's regime is weaker than it has been at any time since the civil war. There are deep divisions within the ruling class on how to deal with the workers' unrest and these have had the effect of turning against the government sections of its traditional foundation—the officers in the army.

The regime's resort to vicious repression is a sign of its desperation and there is no doubt that many workers now feel that one more big push could lead to a collapse of the dictatorship.

FACTS: Firms that benefit from Franco

STRIKES are illegal in Spain and genuine trade unions are banned. Despite this, the strike rate last year was among the highest in the world. These strikes are usually led by groups of rank and file militants in each factory, some of whose members have been sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.

The firms that boast about their support for 'democracy' in Britain have fallen over themselves to take advantage of the denial of workers' rights in Spain. Of Spain's 100 biggest business, 49 are wholly or partly owned by large foreign-based companies. The American-based companies have the lion's share, followed by British, German, French, Italian and Dutch.

US steel owns a 27 per cent share in the Altos Hornos steel plant. ITT owns the major share in Spain's biggest electrical equipment company, Standard Electrics, and a share in the other companies. Chrysler owns a car plant in Spain and part owns other firms.

The leading British company operating in Spain is Unilever, which controls two Spanish firms and part owns seven others. British Petroleum (BP) has a Spanish subsidiary, while ICI has a share in 13 Spanish companies, controlling two of them. Of the 20 biggest companies in the Common Market, at least 16 have Spanish subsidiaries.



AN effigy of the Queen is burned by students at Greek and English schools in Nicosia, capital of Cyprus, last week. British troops on the island killed an 18-year-old student during demonstrations at the British bases. Further demonstrations against the role of the troops took place with the calling of a two-hour general strike, while in Athens police with armoured cars threatened demonstrators who picketed the British Embassy.

Behind the protest lies the British government's decision to allow Turkish refugees to move out of the

British base area in Cyprus. This may seem to many people a simple humanitarian gesture, but the Turkish government intends to move the refugees into the northern third of the island which it has occupied since its invasion of Cyprus last summer, driving out tens of thousands of Greek inhabitants.

In this way, Turkey hopes to achieve its long-cherished aim of partitioning Cyprus, regardless of the wishes of four-fifths of the island's people. This aim fits in neatly with US plans to open part at least of Cyprus for NATO bases.

SOUTH AFRICA: Mine workers' revolt grows

THE revolt of South African workers against the migrant labour system in the mines has been continuing, with further clashes with the police last week. The giant British-owned Anglo-American Corporation has retaliated against strikers by sacking 2400 workers at the President Brand gold mine.

The scale of the revolt of black workers over the past year is shown by the death toll of 80 murdered by the police in 12 months. This is ignored by the British press and by those politicians who are loving up to the South African prime minister, Vorster, in an attempt to get a deal over Rhodesia.

INDIA: 200,000 dockers on strike

MORE THAN 150 ships were idle in Indian ports, including Bombay, Madras and Calcutta last week as a result of a nationwide strike of 200,000 dockworkers.

The Indian government crushed the national strike of railway workers last May by imprisoning 30,000, calling in troops to man trains, and cutting off water and gas supplies in areas where railway workers lived. After inflicting this crushing defeat on the railway workers—one of the best organised sections of workers—the ruling class was confident that other workers would be frightened from taking action.

But the dockers called the government's bluff and seem to have forced the authorities to make some concessions, despite attempts to use troops in the docks.

FRANCE: Soldiers defy their officers

A HUNDRED and fifty French soldiers defied their officers and staged a demonstration through the German town of Karlsruhe last week. They were protesting at the conviction the week before of soldiers who staged demonstrations in the French town of Draguignan last summer.

Behind the protests lies discontent at the low pay and miserable conditions which face conscripts. There is also a growing awareness among many soldiers that it is not their 'country' that they are defending, but its employers, who will use them to break strikes like those of the postal workers and dustmen before Christmas.

Within the French military establishment there is real fear of the discontent, which could leave the government without one of its main weapons in any future strike wave.

Greece veers back towards the days of fascism

From a Greek correspondent

THE fall of the junta in Greece has been followed in recent weeks by the end of the monarchy, with Greeks voting 60 per cent against the King. But the forces of reaction are far from defeated. They are lurking in the party of Prime Minister Karamanlis, in the navy, in the air force and in the police.

Just before Christmas villages throughout the country got a nice present from the police. Vans drove up to the main squares, loaded with rifles, bullets and bayonets.

The policemen then called together the local right wingers, and gave them back their guns. These people were armed by the junta and supplied with lists of their fellow villagers to execute summarily on a given signal. They had lost their guns just before the elections in November. Now they got them back

again.

On New Year's Eve, members of the Greek Royal Constabulary arrested and interrogated a student. Just to emphasise the psychological violence, they gave him a rough beating and falanga—beating the soles of the feet—after which he had to go to hospital.

Karamanlis, new constitution gives the police many of the powers they had under the junta, including the right to imprison without trial for up to 18 months, the right to dissolve trade unions and political organisations and the right to censorship 'to protect the young'. It also bans political strikes and strikes

or demonstrations by public employees.

Greek workers face massive redundancies and growing unemployment. The building industry, for example, is 73 per cent down from last year. Prices here match those in Britain, while wages are only two-thirds as high.

Tension is rising. At a 3000-strong demonstration in support of some medical technicians, police intervention started a pitched battle, with stones, sticks and oranges on one side, and clubs, tear gas, and armoured vehicles on the other.

The medical faculty at Thessaloniki has been occupied by students to force the dismissal of professors appointed by the Colonels and the protests to force the government to 'cleanse the state' are spreading.

In 1917, for the first time in world history, a workers' government took power in Russia. Out of the bloodbath of the First World War an alternative and better society was born. Within 20 years it was dead, murdered by a new class, a new despot—Stalin.

RUSSIA

How the Revolution was lost

Chris Harman
15p.

FROM:
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265, Seven Sisters Road,
London, N4. Please add 4p for postage



SINCE the government announced it was going to pump money into British Leyland, the company seems to have been bending over backwards to involve workers in 'decision-making'. More than 400 blue and white-collar union representatives were called together for discussions with top management in Birmingham two weeks ago.

Trade union officials, including Bob Wright of the Engineers' executive, have met Sir Donald Ryder, who was appointed by the government to inquire into the affairs of the company. Now there is to be a meeting of stewards and district officials to elect a committee to represent them at the Ryder Inquiry.

British Leyland workers must be bewildered. There seems to have been a magic change of heart by the management. Words such as 'consultation' and 'communication' are now being bandied about all the time. In fact, the next few months will see a serious threat to the jobs and shop floor power of British Leyland workers. There has never been greater urgency for clear thinking and the right policies.

The basic ideas underlying the approach of the Leyland management to the crisis were contained in a White Paper by Anthony Wedgwood Benn last August called The Re-generation of British Industry.

Though the National Enterprise Board recommended by the White Paper will not be set up for a few months, it is clear that Ryder is conducting his inquiry into Leyland along the lines suggested by it.

None of the things the White Paper talks about are new, but in a period of unemployment and redundancy they are dangerous to trade union organisation.

The first is 'planning agreements', which the government will discuss with major and strategic firms to establish their aims over two to three years.

On the basis of such agreements, the government will make finance available, partly through the National Enterprise Board.

Result

In this role the Board's job is specific. 'It will have the role of the former Industrial Reorganisation Corporation in 'promoting industrial efficiency and profitability by promoting or assisting the reorganisation or development of an industry, and to safeguard against the 'uneconomic use of resources'.

It is worth spelling out exactly what this means. The Industrial Reorganisation Corporation was set up by the last Labour government to use government money to 'enhance efficiency' in industry. The result was considerable redundancies in every industry where it operated.

The Times described the role of the IRC in September 1968: 'Factories will be closed and men made redundant. But the result, hopefully, will be a company that makes profits . . . It is to achieve this kind of change that the IRC exists.'

The effect of the IRC can be seen in the case of one firm which got money from it, GEC. In four years 64,000 jobs disappeared, half of them through direct redundancy.

At British Leyland it is claimed that the intervention of Ryder and the government is 'to save jobs'. But they admit they are modelling themselves on the IRC, which destroyed jobs.

However British Leyland, Benn and Ryder are claiming that this time there will be another great advance. 'Continuing discussions between management and unions will constitute an important advance in industrial democracy, and the NEB will 'provide for the full involvement of employees in decision making,' says the White Paper.

These proposals are vague and tentative, but trade union leaders are lapping them up. Information

CO-OPERATION

CONSULTATION

COMMUNICATION



'The strong will love our methods, the weak will hate them.'

Sir Don Ryder, on taking over IPC, 11 April 1970

Where does it get you?

They run—so that Lord Stokes can walk it. This was the launching of British Leyland's new export-only Triumph TR7 Bullet. The image is happy workers all pulling together, and it was sold to American journalists flown from Florida last weekend for a drink and eat-in at BLMC's expense. The reality? The same old track, and if Stokes, Ryder and Benn have their way, the same old dole queue . . .

'It was not the government's fault when, in the white heat of the technological revolution, a man's job was taken over by machinery'.—Anthony Wedgwood Benn in a Commons debate, February 1970.

has been presented to British Leyland workers on the company's problems, and people such as Eddie McGarry, convener of Triumph Coventry, have been calling for union directors on the board.

But the question Leyland workers have to ask themselves should be: Will this consultation alter the way in which the company basically operates? The answer is that it will not.

The motor industry faces a crisis internationally. Leyland management want to restore the company to profitability, despite the crisis, by a programme of closing this factory, cutting back production at that one, forcing through speed-up at a third.

Ryder and the NEB, committed according to the White Paper to 'promoting industrial efficiency and profitability', will want to behave in the same way. They operate

according to capitalist priorities, and, in a crisis, that means cutting real wages and slashing back the work force.

They want to treat the workforce of a British Leyland dependent on government money in the same way that previous governments have treated the workforce of the nationalised railways or the nationalised mines.

They see consultation as useful, if it can lead to some union representatives participating in the decision to do away with their own members' jobs. After all, the IRC, which destroyed so many jobs in GEC and elsewhere, also always recommended 'consultation'.

The NEB and Ryder are going slightly further than the IRC. They want to involve convenors and stewards in plans to cut back on jobs, not just national union officials, by making them identify with the company and its problems. In this way they hope to undermine shop floor union organisation.

The one thing they will resist to the end is any demand by workers'

representatives that 'workers control' means the workers' right to stop redundancy and defend living standards.

What Leyland workers need is not vague 'consultation' but real control over those things which affect their lives and working conditions. To get that they will have to fight all the way against the company, Ryder and the government and against any attempt to replace a fighting union organisation by 'consultative' bodies.

The policy that is needed would include the following points agreed at a recent national meeting of members of the International Socialists who work in British Leyland.

Nationalisation of British Leyland without compensation.

Shop stewards' controls over manning, track speeds and conditions.

No redundancies.

No short pay: five days' work or five days' pay.

Rank and file organisation and a rank and file paper to counter the government management proposals.

CRISIS IN BRITISH LEYLAND OUR ANSWER



Crisis in British Leyland—Our answer

Written with the aid of International Socialist members working in British Leyland and of supporters of CARWORKER, the paper produced by rank and file trade unionists in the car industry.

10p plus postage from Industrial dept, International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



ASBESTOS

The dust that kills in the name of profit

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

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

I WENT to Crossmaglen on 20 August travelling from Skerries with Kathleen Murphy McKenna by train to Dundalk. She had come up on the Sunday and told us about the behaviour of the troops—those infamous men of the 45 Marine Commandos.

I, quite frankly, took her stories with a grain of salt, not that I ever classed her as a Provo lover, but simply that I couldn't accept that there could have been such a change in 12 months.

My first shock was the darkness. I was told the soldiers had been systematically smashing the lights over a period—and I could feel the brooding tension.

Anthony Murphy was my second shock. He is quite old now, and just pays a short visit each night.

He still is opposed to violence—but is fearful of the recruiting drive for the IRA being carried on by the soldiers, as a result of casual frisking and kicking and generally abusive manner of the troops.

Identical

On Thursday morning we found the letters or rather figures—45—daubed on the front of the house and also on the footpath.

Across the road at the old school, at the barrack corner and right across the wall of the old house MacDonalds beside the old Belfast Bank, was painted in high letters 45 RULE.

The paint was identical to that on the new ramps on the Dundalk road—though the officer insisted that they had no paint of that colour—later the ramps on the Castleblaney Road were also painted in the same strong yellow colour.

The people have been lighting up their rooms so as to lessen the darkness. And the problem is that children are afraid of the dark now.

People are nervous at night. On Friday the screaming of a woman shattered the quiet. It was ghastly, eerie, terrifying. I ran into the WC where the window looks out on Newry Street. I could see nothing except light in McAlister's window—and I was afraid Mrs McAlister was getting the works.

There was plenty of noise and screaming of the woman. I met Roseleen on the stairs in her dressing gown. There was banging on the hall door. Roseleen ran down.

Angela Reel (nee Clarke) was there shouting for Paddy to come down as the soldiers were killing Paddy Fitzpatrick and wife. I ran back to my room (I had no dressing gown with me) pulled on a pair of slacks and a jumper and shoes, ran down to the hall—the house in darkness and on the footpath I stood listening to the shrieks and shouts and chaotic noises coming from Fitzpatrick's corner.

I could see nothing. I was petrified—I didn't know I could be so cowardly—there was no sign of Roseleen, Paddy or James and I know they must have gone to the melee.

I went back into the bar to get a cigarette and to listen if the

'TO PUT A STOP TO WHAT GOES ON HERE.'

CLARE GRIFFIN returned to her home town of Crossmaglen, Northern Ireland last August for a two-week holiday. What she saw astonished her—and prompted this long letter, reprinted here, to her brother in Birmingham.

The letter gives a vivid picture of life in an occupied town. It is a familiar picture to me. As a member of the paratroop regiment, I helped to do exactly the same kind of things in Aden.

Since 1945, the British Army has been involved in 55 different operations abroad—53 of them admitted to be 'counter insurgency'. These are officially defined as actions against 'a movement with popular support aimed at overthrowing the established rulers'. In Crossmaglen, just as in Aden, the people being harassed, questioned,

searched and searched again, the people whose houses are ransacked night after night, are ordinary working class people.

They are people exactly like you or me. But the Press mentions that, though they never stop telling you that it is the 'lads' who are out there 'fighting the good fight' against the 'starts'.

They are our lads, or some of them are. They are recruited in deprived areas, with bad housing, low wages and unemployment places just like Northern Ireland, which used to be a plentiful source of recruits.

But once you are in the army those with power and influence systematically strip you of your individual personality. They hammer home the values of capitalist society, in a particularly vicious form. They feed you ideas about duty, nationalism,



CROSSMAGLEN: 'These soldiers did not know how to handle the situation.'

By CLARE GRIFFIN

Two weeks occupied

children—Oliver, Eillean and Aiden—had awakened. I saw white faces staring at me through the darkness from the lounge.

I was terrified, thinking the soldiers had broken in—but it was a few men who had been there with two women and they had just stayed and told me Paddy was a fool to get involved.

The kids were still asleep and I kept running in and out. I suddenly saw some soldiers at Moynes next door and a shadowy figure of a soldier at the kiosk opposite.

There was dim light from some upstairs window and as I peered I saw the soldiers cock their guns at us—but one fellow across the street had his pointing towards

Fitzpatrick. I knew there were plenty more in the shadows.

I hesitated, thinking of the children—of the people in the lounge—of the open door which I daren't close as I had no key.

I went back into the hall—there seemed to be a lull in the fighting and shouting and Roseleen ran up the street. She said the soldiers wanted to arrest Paddy Fitzpatrick—the Saracen was there—but that Paddy had, she thought, persuaded the officer to wait till morning. He was promising that he himself would escort Fitz to the barracks.

Then smashing of glass began. I thought they must have stove in Fitzpatrick and McArdle's windows. It sounded like that. The next minute the shooting began.

I never heard shooting before—but it seemed to all come from the same area and the reports were the same rat tat . . . rat tat . . . rat tat.

I don't know how long it lasted or how many rounds were fired. I am no judge . . . but it seemed an eternity. Roseleen ran to pull the children's beds from the windows and I heard James shouting, he appeared at the door shouting 'Get Doctor Fee!'

Drawn

Paddy was with him, covered with blood—literally—his whole front from waist to neck, right out to his shoulders.

I shouted 'You're shot!'. He said 'No—just glass' and kept talking nineteen to the dozen, explaining that he had it all settled when this lunatic of a soldier started smashing the headlamps of the cars that had drawn up.

Some equal lunatic of a civilian had jumped on the soldier and the officer said 'Don't move or I'll fire' and the firing started almost with the word 'fire'.

We talked a little, and wee Michael decided to go home. As we reached the hall, the savage kicking of the hall door started.

James then suggested leaving Ann home. I objected and said I would go with her as I was still

afraid of 'them' lurking in the dark. Roseleen insisted on coming too.

As we stepped off the footpath on to the road, the helicopter turned on its searchlight right full belt on us. I had never seen it before and was startled. I paused and involuntarily stepped backwards.

James hissed 'Go on! go on!' and cursed, which was such a shock I moved. And we three walked slowly, diagonally across the street and entered Rodgers—the outside door was ajar. Ann had left it so—but the really beautiful inner glass door was smashed and when we opened it the room was covered with broken glass.

We stayed awhile trying to persuade her to go to bed—then left—closed the outside door carefully and as we walked across the street the searchlight beamed on us again and stayed with us as before.

I never had any idea before of being a rat in a trap or a human target—I should have said of how it felt being on the edge of a cliff waiting to be pushed over. We went to bed at 4am.

NEXT DAY outside there was great cheering and whooping. We dashed to the door. Mrs Lyons, aged 74, was in the middle of the street shouting abuse at the soldiers, who were on their usual prancing patrol.

Someone had cheered her and the crowd gathered. The soldiers

stood. Then a man joined Mrs L. They were in the broadest part of the street equidistant from Murtaghs, McArdles and the chemists.

The people from the Park arrived. Then Joe and Rosie Fitzpatrick took the lead and walking up close to the nearest soldier, ordered him to move on. We all joined in and the troops kept backing away. We chivvied them right up to the middle of the square.

Orders

It was no mob—people walked quietly and briskly and literally gently pushed them on. The women were constantly and instinctively hurrying ahead—there were no orders given—but they wanted, I feel, to be in the front line.

After that we drove them up twice more then right into the barracks. On the third march some missiles were thrown from the back of the crowd—I saw two—a reliable witness told me he saw five.

They did not go near the soldiers, rather they were a danger to the children at the head of the procession. We couldn't keep them back.

I disarmed a man who was coming out of McConvilles with empty bottles and Petey McAlister swung him round and marched him down the street.

We were described as a store.

There was another woman in hospital—he had the X-ray things. On the troops photograph who were delighted for pictures.

ON SUNDAY we woke up to find Fitzpatrick had around 6am, brothers called Comber who and would you poor little M ville.

The others went to the barrack about but Michael, tripped and door.

They dragged tance by the hand enough for a go buttoned his s collar at the b him to the barrack.

I suppose we too heavily—cer have gone up l but one woman too frightened to

Old Patsy, marched into h to open every first and search in case there w men.

Patsy knew v —they have nev

The struggle in Ireland

Chris Harman



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

An International Socialists pamphlet 15p

Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY'

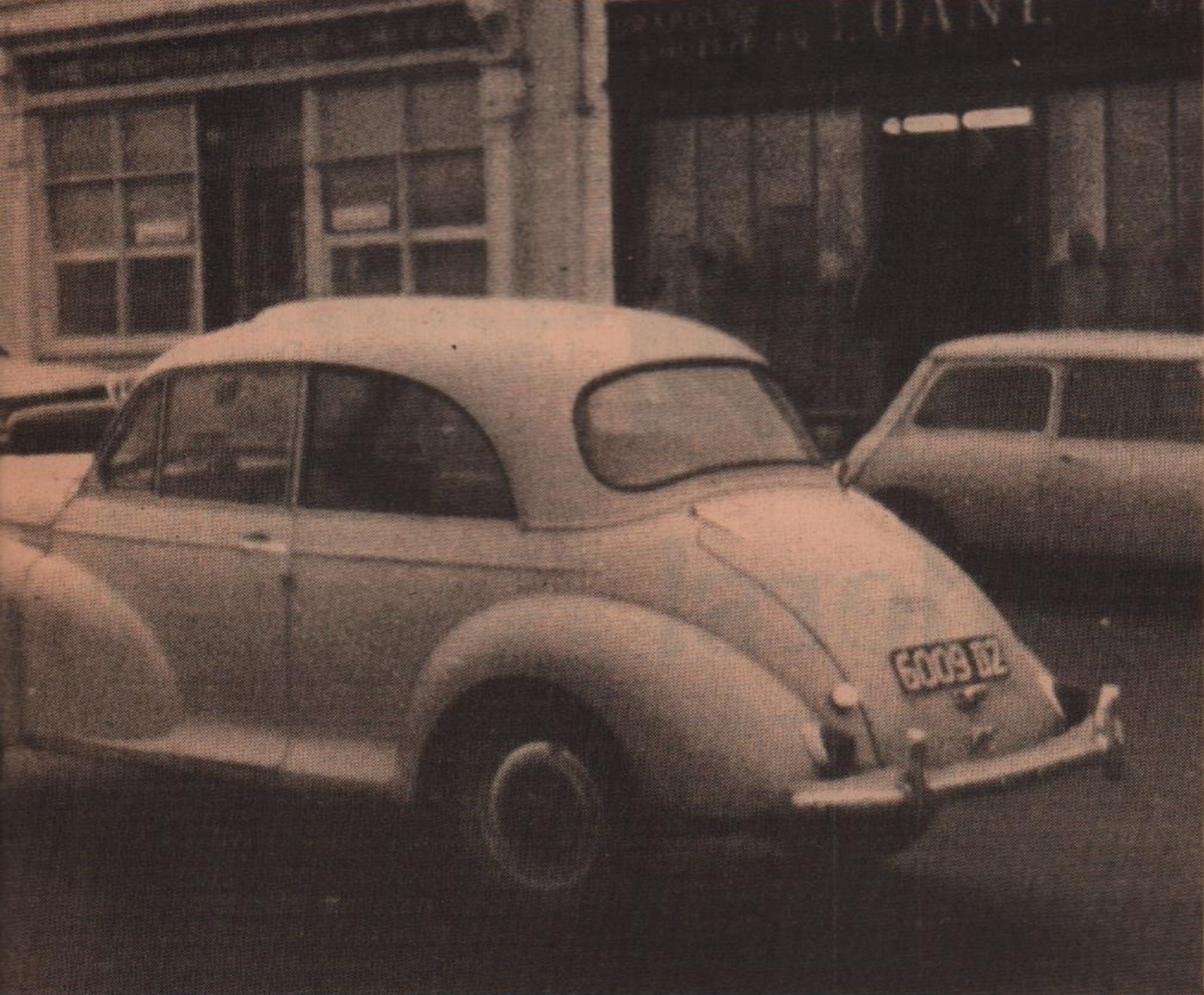
threat to democracy. They train you to accept physical hardship and blind obedience.

As a para in Aden, the shock of being fired upon, and accepting the fact that we represented an authority that created the violent conditions of extreme poverty, took nightmare experiences and a total break with accepted values and thinking.

The end of British rule in Northern Ireland means a step forward for the working class, striving for a human solution to the waste of materials and life. If the violence is to end, if a solution is to be worked for it will be by the action of the people of Ireland. The troops must be forced to withdraw with pressure not only from the Irish people but of working people in this country.

To put a stop to what goes on in Crossmaglen is our responsibility.

NEIL DAVIES



ment contempt of the people'

ks in an town

bed on Radio e-throwing mob. her march while re leaving Paddy had come back to settle a few last march the shed the crowd, ted—and posed

morning, we ad that Paddy been arrested as had two Conway from re squatters, believe it?— Michael McCon-

lked up quietly No one was l, who has had fell outside his

him a short dis- but he hasn't d grip, so they rt, twisted his ck and dragged s.

ere all sleeping inly we known— did see but was all for help.

ged 79, was yards and made use and go in nder gun orders e bombs or gun-

ll there weren't found any arms

etc in Cross—but he thought the troops would plant something and shoot him.

It is, as you well know, a very big place, so the old man was in a state of collapse when the ordeal was over.

The people wanted to have a protest meeting after last mass about Paddy etc, but Roseleen said to do nothing until the four were out.

Any locals who are held while a protest takes place get severe beatings.

Rory rang later. He had contacted the RUC in Bessbrook but they knew nothing of any arrests, though according to some sort of 'law' the troops are not supposed to hold anyone for more than hours.

The police promised to ring him back and did so after the four were let out.

Refused

Michael was in a bad state—I went to see him on Monday—he had a horrible red weal along his neck where the collar had rubbed as he was dragged.

Paddy Fitzpatrick said he was terrified that Michael would die in the barracks. He (Paddy) was just kicked into a cell—and Michael was thrown in afterwards.

He asked for a drink of water but was refused. Michael thinks Paddy Fitz saved his life. He massaged him and helped him get breathing again.

EVERY DAY was a nightmare—but Wednesday beat the band. Paddy was told he could leave hospital. Roseleen collected him and, of course, the place was overflowing with people when the news got round he was home.

The troops had walked into the shop and asked Rosie her name. She announced that she was not going to give her name any more—she had been giving it to the same men several times a day for weeks now—and wasn't going to do it any more.

They called her a so-and-so old bag and immediately her two sons ran to defend Mama—but after a loud shouting match the 'protectors' withdrew.

They must have enormous volumes of note books. The 'law' is that you are not obliged to give your age or religion. But if you don't you are taken to the barracks for the customary four hours and you are kicked in earnest.

These troops are really trying hard to drive the youth into the IRA and to crush the rest economically.

I'm trying to get this posted—I have more to say—and I'm sorry my 'style' is so poor. I haven't time to read over this and check misprints etc, so I hope you can get the picture.

They really are torturing 'Shorts' since the shooting. Peggy Martin, among others, is convinced that they want Paddy out of the way.

He has too much influence for peace and moderation. Then the hot-heads will get over-excited and the soldiers will have an excuse for a bloody day in Cross.

On Wednesday Kathleen Murphy called—she lives in the Park (Rathview). The soldiers are always particularly aggressive there, claiming that houses are used to attack the barracks.

She saw soldiers in the street and immediately showed herself clearly at the window as shadowy figures are at risk. There was loud knocking at the door. She dashed down the stairs—it was about 11 a.m.

The soldier outside demanded to know if she was looking at them. She replied 'No! I'm tired looking at you.'

She was told to keep away from the windows or she would get a bullet through the head. Mrs Macken (a sister of Kevin McMahon who was interned, now released) came up to tell of her experience.

Blown

She has a young baby and the soldiers called to ask why her light was on upstairs at 4 a.m. She did not mention the baby but said it was for her family's protection as they (the troops) had smashed all the street lights. She was told it would be blown out by them.

Father Moran was worried stiff about the reaction to the violence of the soldiers. The people had been magnificent and he wanted a return to their previous methods. He had a good case.

He told me that on one occasion when he was visited by the 'real' chaplain (army) the latter complained bitterly about the behaviour of the Crossmaglen people to his men.

They wouldn't speak, serve or acknowledge their existence. These men had been trained to deal with violence, stone-throwing and all the usual reactions of Bogside and others, but they did not know how to handle the 'silent contempt' of the people in Crossmaglen.

There had not been a stone thrown or a word spoken to them for over three years—and they would prefer to be stationed anywhere but there.

Protest

Of course it is too late now, but it would have been wonderful if all the anti-unionists had behaved like this.

ON SUNDAY night, Roseleen rang to tell me about the big all night raid on the town. Hundreds of soldiers, UDR and police started searching around 4am.

They were very rough in places, gave Paddy McArdle's a bad doing (they have never been associated with any protest or march)—and dug up Mrs McArdle's lovely garden.

Then a few weeks later there was a small attack on the barracks and the troops came down and arrested old Patsy McConville (79 they said—I think he's older) and his son Michael.

They then took over the property, smashed the hearse and all the coffins—ran off all the oil—burst open all the sugar and tea stores flour etc. wrecked and pilaged and stole.

The McConvilles were removed from the Cross barracks to Bessbrook and late that night the old man was released. Michael was freed the following day. (I got this story Sunday night last when I rang.)

A reporter and photographer came from the Sunday World and photographed etc and, when they were about to go to press, Michael phoned to say not to publicise as they would only get more abuse and were not fit for it.

A committee has been formed in Cross and every attack is being documented and a dairy kept. I'm promised a copy of it.

THE CAMPAIGN to free the Shrewsbury Two, writes Bernard Levin, the former satirist who now finds it more profitable to philosophise on behalf of the beleaguered middle classes, is being waged 'on behalf of two brutes who are in jail for their responsibility for what one of the Appeal Court Judges called "acts of personal violence and threats of personal violence."'

The Sun, that other self-confessed campaigner for civilised standards of behaviour, agreed. The march to lobby parliament 'was a cynical exercise in power politics.' Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson are, says the Sun, 'arrogant, vicious and violent thugs.'

There is one slight problem with these particular pieces of character assassination. They have nothing whatsoever in common with the facts.

In court, Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson never faced any charges of violence to property or person.

There is a simple explanation for this. The prosecution knew there was no evidence which would convict the Shrewsbury pickets on specific charges.

They knew further that the Shrewsbury pickets would argue that throughout the time they were supposed to be rampaging on the building sites of Shrewsbury 'like an Apache horde', they were being accompanied by a sizeable detachment of police, who made no arrests on the day or immediately after.

The police knew, too, that the pickets were subject to an immense amount of violent provocation by the employers in the region and this probably accounts for local police decisions to take no action.

Basis

All this means that Shrewsbury was a very special kind of prosecution. It was very special in that it was only initiated on the direct orders of Tory Government ministers who wanted new ways to attack picketing rights and to make it more difficult for workers to win strikes.

But even more importantly, the Government decided that the prosecution would go ahead on the basis of three charges which are specifically framed to guarantee convictions and to allow deterrent sentences to be imposed, charges which allow innocent men to be found guilty.

Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson were convicted by a device used regularly against trade unionism in the last century—the conspiracy charge.

This allowed the prosecution to argue that even if the defendants had no direct part whatsoever in pushing over the odd brick wall newly-built by blackleg labour (one of the events said to constitute intimidation), they were still guilty of conspiracy to intimidate because they had not ordered those who had pushed them over to stop.

This heads they win, tails you lose quality of the conspiracy charge suggests that it is of roughly the same order as the Dark Ages water test for witches, a device which no doubt Levin and The Sun would have supported without question had they been around at the time.

Battle

Levin and The Sun deliberately disguise these simple facts in their desperate bid to help keep the Shrewsbury pickets in jail.

But there are even more interesting aspects to The Sun/Levin 'analysis' of the Shrewsbury case.

The Sun editorial piously denounces violence. Yet day in and day out The Sun supports and justifies the violence of the British Army in Ireland.

Printworkers who produce The Sun have waged a long battle to get their employers to take the steps necessary to reduce the number of avoidable 'accidents' in the printshop. The Sun perpetuates this regular violence.

Levin, an even more nauseating specimen, writes as if he were a pacifist, stating that violence for political ends is inexcusable. Mr Levin, however, is very keen on violence in support of certain political ends.

He unconditionally supported all aspects of the

There's one thing new under The Sun ...LIES

American war in Vietnam throughout the late 1960s. The Vietnam war was, of course, the most grotesque example of highly-organised violence in the last two decades.

In concluding his article, Levin argues that the real menace of the Shrewsbury campaign is that it is really about trade unionists being above the law.

What lying bullshit. Is Mr Levin blind? Doesn't he even notice that trade unionists have been pursued and harried by the law over recent years?

He must know that the law he so much admires is used to deprive widows of even a few pounds compensation for husbands slaughtered in the war to produce profits for employers or crippled, diseased or killed at work.

Has he never heard of Mr Justice Fox Andrews, the judge who, it was admitted last year, could not be prosecuted for fraudulent tax evasion 'for fear of reducing public confidence in the law.'

For the same reasons, big business swindlers like Sir Denys Lawson and Duncan Sandys are never prosecuted. Fear of damaging public confidence in big business means that there is one law for the poor, and no law for the rich, at least as far as the making of profits is concerned.

Smash

The truth is that the Shrewsbury pickets were struggling against highly organised violence—the violence of the lump, the violence of employers who are so pressed for profits that they cut corners on safety, resist the most elementary demands from workers and call the police to enable them to smash their way through picket lines.

Underneath it all what the employers, the police, Bernard Levin and The Sun want us to do is to submit, to turn the other cheek and accept without question the superior force that they have at their disposal and are only too willing to employ.

Are we to do that? Or are we to defend the victims of capitalist law and order and do what we must do to sweep away this system of society and replace it with another—one where there is more honesty than hypocrisy and where violence of every sort is cast aside.

Trade unionists who want to know the truth about the Shrewsbury trials will find the new Socialist Worker pamphlet *Workers Against The Law* indispensable.

It's available, price 15p (inc postage) from: Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

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.

UCATT's pay retreat

LAST WEEK the building construction workers union, UCATT voted on the new pay offer to the building and construction industry.

The turnout at our UCATT bricklayers branch at Lowestoft was disgraceful. Barely 20 per cent turned up to vote on their most vital issue for years. The attitude of most of those present was 'We have to accept the offer, it's the best we can hope to get under present circumstances.'

The officers of the union, by virtue of their executive positions tried to put my comrades and myself in order when we pressed for a no vote. They didn't want the Building Workers Charter on display on the table as it was 'politically biased'—not that the UCATT paper Viewpoint isn't.

We don't think that a 25 per cent increase before tax is good, especially with inflation at 20 per cent in December 1974 and 30 per cent forecast for late 1975. On these figures we think a rise of 75 per cent is necessary to cover tax and inflation over the next 18 months. This will barely hold a poor wage level at best, in an industry that is underpaid and grossly exploited.

All we want is a fair, decent, basic wage and not a conglomeration of bits and pieces aimed at keeping the hourly rate down and encouraging overtime.

This year is the first year I have personally worked an eight hour day, that it is because the capitalist system is taking a hammering, and in retaliation is taking it out on the workers, who because of poor wages rely on bonus payments and overtime to make up a living wage.

But the important point in the UCATT Executive Council's statement was this. 'The operatives have reserved the right to re-open discussions if there should be any deterioration of the agreement resulting from a rapid escalation in the retail price index beyond what could be reasonably foreseen.'

The key phrase is 'what could be reasonably foreseen'. Considering the employers haven't offered enough to cover inflation at the present rate after tax and regarding their intolerable attitude in the past, how can we trust them to offer more later? We don't believe in the good fairy in the construction industry.

The final insult to all UCATT members in that the union executive in 1974 decided to go for a 100 per cent rise to bring wage rates in line with lump labour and a 12 month agreement. All the union eventually asked for was a substantial increase and they accepted this offer over an 18 month period.—ED MYNOTT, STEVE HOOK, Lowestoft.



'So what have you done?' UCATT General Secretary George Smith meets the mass movement to get the Shrewsbury Two out, last December in Clapham. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

Look at your leaders!

IT WAS INTERESTING to read in last Tuesday's Morning Star that the UCATT London Region Chairman Terry Heath had a go at the International Socialists.

Before slugging the International Socialists or the Rank and File Organising Committee Mr Heath should look at what his own union leadership did for the Shrewsbury pickets. If they had done half as much as the Rank and File Organising Committee then I am almost certain the pickets wouldn't be in jail now.

NEW BOSS

PERHAPS JACK SPRIGGS is making a better boss at IPD than the former private capitalists. After all he was quoted in the Sunday Times as saying 'They said we could only sell 1500 radiators a week. In fact we have been getting rid of 7500.'

The Sunday Times is totally unafraid of any implication that the 'workers' co-operative at Kirky might be a going concern. The Money Programme on BBC-2 on the subject of this baby of Benn and the Tribune left of the Labour Party gave the game away as to why the ruling class will be willing to prove the ability of shop stewards movement to run capitalism better than conventional directors.

Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Walton (where Towerhill rent striker Brian Owens was jailed) explained at a meeting to the workforce that various forms of worker participation in industry will be attempted.

Jack Spriggs is works convenor and director of the company. Like his counterparts on the Labour left he is paid to straddle both horses—he has a foot in both camps of the class struggle. This is where the ruling class want us.

Spriggs is just a puppet in a game which the official movement, sections of the shop stewards movement and both right and left of the Labour Party are playing—the Social Contract.

At the end of the televised meeting from IPD, one militant worker demonstrated the gulf between the convenor/director with his Labour left friend and the real working class interest. 'You are not stopping the lay-offs!' he accused the platform.

He was correct—workers co-operatives within the capitalist system are no solution to unemployment. In fact there is no way that workers and bosses can co-operate to solve the economic crisis.

The mobilisation of the shop stewards movement for a real fight against unemployment means a real fight against capitalism, and will give rise to a form of workers control beside which the IPD co-operative will appear a pathetic pretence.—ANDY WISTREICH, Manchester.

As for the Communist Party one has to draw the conclusion that their members on the Liverpool-London train don't read the Morning Star, or don't go along with the divisive smear campaign, as most of them marched from Euston Station.

I spoke to Simon Frazer of Liverpool Trades Council who organised the train. He told me that marchers from Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester were meeting at Euston and marching to parliament. Does the Morning Star call the trades councils of the three cities sectarian?

NHS: I was the crisis!

HOW REAL the crisis in the National Health Service is was forced home to me by my experience as a nursing auxiliary. Totally untrained I was put on night duty in what's the most chaotic department of any hospital—the Accident and Emergency Unit (Casualty) and left to get on with it.

The increased use of auxiliaries is one of the ways that the NHS copes with the chronic staff shortage. Auxiliaries, and student nurses are used as a source of cheap labour.

Patients don't know this. The only thing distinguishing me from a trained nurse was the different colour of my hat band. Nobody died while I was there but all that would have been needed would have been two simultaneous cardiac arrests and one patient would have been sure to go.

Auxiliaries are necessary to take over routine procedures and leave trained nurses for more complicated tasks. But I was shocked at the way I was sent off to do quite complex jobs.

I'd often be left in sole charge of the Observation Ward not knowing what the hell I was supposed to be 'observing'.

With the patients I would often find myself in a very awkward position. Under socialism the NHS would be patient orientated. At the moment they are a troublesome 'nuisance', their questions ignored, particularly by doctors. So they turn to me, sometimes I know enough to

I SEE from Socialist Worker (19 January) that you show the meeting between Roger Cox and the representatives of the Chilean TUC. In fact your picture shows the vice-president Brother Rojas, and not Luis Figueroa as you state. Both were in Britain at the invitation of the TUC and are returning for a speaking tour in February. We were able to tell Brother Rojas a good deal about our Committee's work, and the fact that we are working with over 60 union branches for adoption of Chilean prisoners. We have not yet secured any work permits, however.—National Rank and File Organising Committee.

Mr Heath should throw his stones elsewhere. What's needed now is massive pressure on official trade union leadership for more action—and more unofficial action. Mr Heath should remember that it was the UCATT General Secretary George Smith who said: 'If these lads are innocent then British justice being what it is will find them innocent.'

That must have Lord Chief Justice Widgery bursting his seams with laughter!—T HEALEY, Merseyside.

console them, but often not, how could I tell them they were in the charge of someone who knew as little as they did?

A tragedy of the hierarchical anti-trade union attitude of nursing is that nurses and doctors are often good and dedicated, but won't strike—for 'the sake of the patients'. Yet it's the patients who suffer, through lack of beds, facilities, the short temper of the health workers—and the existence of private practice.

This came home to me when I realised that despite my socialism I was often guilty of the crime I accused others of. I treated drunks, overdoses, hysterics as mere human debris, taking me away from more vital work. They were but the fault lies in the staff shortage, the bad housing, grotty jobs and rotten lives these victims of capitalism were invariably living.

Again and again their addresses would be from the same working class ghettos, the same concrete prison housing estates. They didn't need stomach pumps or tranquilisers, but a revolution.

Again and again they would be battered wives, lonely housewives with too many kids, victims of the sexism that props up capitalism. 'The boss takes it out on me, so I'll take it out on you'.

The problems of changing it all are many. Snotty nosed doctors and nurses, false ideas of 'professionalism' and inter-union rivalries don't help. Ironically it was the rivalry which first made the unions take recruiting nurses seriously. Any motive is better than none, but the National Union of Public Employees stewards were lacking in any motive. Sexist and condescending, they found the idea of 'militant little nurses' a huge joke.

Nowhere is a rank and file grouping more needed than in the NHS. The nature of health work makes industrial action difficult (unless you're a consultant) the support of other workers is therefore crucial.

It's your health service and it's dying. Do something now before you die because you've been careless enough to have a heart attack at the same time as Fred Bloggs down the road.—NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

A SPATE OF SHAW . . . Johnny Speight (12 January) says the BBC should put on Bernard Shaw because he was a truly great writer whose material is 'really relevant today and who really got to the heart of things.' Shaw and Sidney Webb were among the founders of the Fabian Society successfully capturing the minds of the British Labour movement . . . The Fabians believed that marxist ideology was intellectual 'bondage' . . . Shaw rejected marxism for a system which in its essence upheld the capitalist free enterprise system . . . Shaw and his Fabian associates polluted the British Labour movement with their forelock tugging brand of socialism . . . Their political heirs still advocate the same policies with catastrophic results for the working class . . . It's bad enough having to have Fabianism being legislated without having it pumped out of our TV sets.—HARRY CUNNINGHAM, Glasgow.

Whether Shaw was or wasn't a Fabian doesn't destroy the value of his plays. Much of his work is subversive, funny and showed an understanding of class that many marxists have not achieved. If art was to be reduced to just that produced by overt marxists then most of world culture—which is the heritage of socialists and the working class, would go out of the window . . .

BACK TO ADOLF . . . At their annual meeting on 4 January the National Front voted to expel 20 to 25 of their members because they were 'of mixed race, non-European ancestry or coloured'. The proposer said 'We have to be 100 per cent racist in the NF'. The Policy Director, Martin Webster called for 'ethnic homogeneity'—roughly translatable as 'whites only'. Another supporter said that 'These people come from the jungle and their primitive tendencies come back to them after a while' . . . If the NF expels its own members it must be clear to everybody that expulsion from the country would be the fate of all non-whites in a NF Britain . . . Or perhaps they'd impose their own 'final solution'.—DAVID HART, Manchester.

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK? . . . Wives who should be attending trade union meetings are often at home doing housework. So there recently appeared in Socialist Worker a letter from a man jeering at women for being badly organised . . . Housework should be treated as a social service to be paid for by the state . . . Women who should be in the lead are refusing to place payment of house workers in the forefront of demands . . . As a result women in this country as in Stalinist countries are worn out with a daily double shift of work outside and (unpaid) inside the home—a condition which men wouldn't tolerate.—KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.

WELL, ER . . . The letters' column (11 January) raised some interesting points concerning socialism and the family, especially the claim that socialists want to destroy the family . . . Marx pointed out in the Communist Manifesto, this is a lie—the family is already being destroyed very efficiently by capitalism . . . capitalism leads logically to the destruction of all human relationships . . . To a world of warped and alienated human beings, totally dedicated to individual money-making, with no relationships to each other apart from those provided by the cash-nexus. Proof of this can be found by browsing through any book on development economics. Sooner or later, the author complains about the 'irrational value system' of the poor—they prefer to spend any extra income on food for their families, rather than investing it to make more money to be reinvested to make more money etc . . . Socialist Worker has printed many articles on the destructive effect of shift work on family life, and the worker's opposition to this. But, from the views expressed in the letters' column, it would seem that some socialists regard such views as the vapourings of social reactionaries, rather than as a principled resistance to the demands of an anti-human system. To answer the letters of M's Bruley and Lowe, and Steve Smith, challenging the bourgeois family does not necessarily pose any sort of revolutionary threat to capitalism. What, I wonder, is the IS position on this point?—R LLWYD VICKERS, Bradford.

WOMENS VOICE

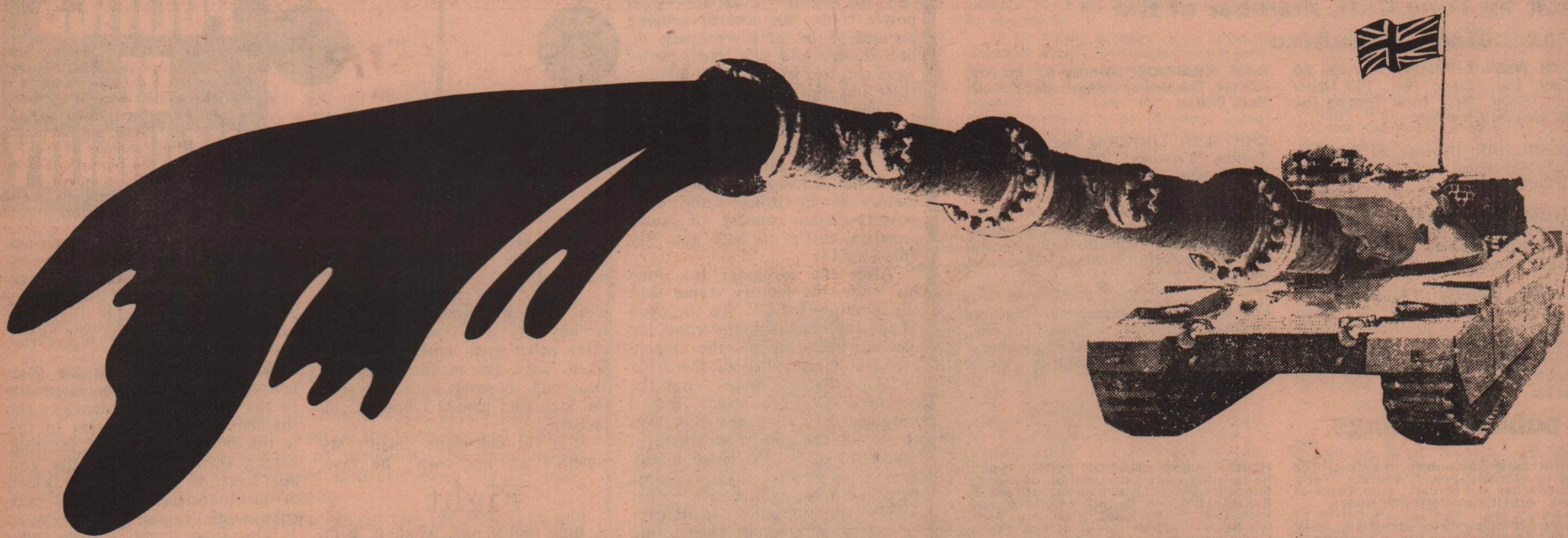
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OIL

IF YOU THINK 'THE ARABS' ARE HOLDING US TO RANSOM, OR THAT 'OUR BOYS' ARE DOING A DIFFICULT JOB IN TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES, READ THIS



THE NEXT time someone tells you that 'the Arabs' are 'holding us up to ransom', hit them on the head with this 500-page book*. It shows that the real war in Arabia is not the 'oil war' but the class war.

It documents the hidden struggles of the workers, nomads and peasants of the oil states, and exposes Britain's role, together with America, in propping up some of the most villainous tyrannies in the world to keep the people down and the oil profits flowing.

At this moment, British troops are in action in a 'secret war' against guerrillas in the oil state of Oman, reinforced by soldiers of the Shah. The author of this book, Fred Halliday, was the first Westerner

By STEVE MARKS

to report on this vicious war, which is fought in defence of a slave-owning British puppet Sultan by methods such as the destruction of crops from the air so as to starve the tribesmen who support the liberation forces.

This is nothing new for a Labour government. In Aden, the last Wilson government carried on the Tories' war of repression against the independence struggle which was based on the workers of Aden port. The methods of torture and 'deep interrogation' now used in Northern Ireland were pioneered in Aden and the Gulf.

And today the Oman war offers oppor-

tunities of battle experience for the SAS and other regiments under less 'restrained' conditions than Northern Ireland. With fewer Pressmen around, full-scale Vietnam-style tactics can be applied, with liberated areas designated 'free-fire zones' where anything moving can be shot.

One can see why one mercenary serving with the Sultan's forces called the country 'one of the last places in the world where an Englishman is still called Sahib'.

The book gives a detailed account of the political and economic set-up in all the major Arabian oil-states, showing that 'those

who complain only about the fate of the car-owners of the advanced capitalist countries should remember the more brutal fate reserved for the working classes of Arabia by the local tyrants and the oil companies.'

The guns that shoot down the workers demanding trade union rights in the oil refineries are supplied by the same hypocrites who denounce the 'Arab oil threat'. The newly-rich oil tyrants are part of the system, wanting a bigger share of the oil profits for themselves.

But they know the importance of not rocking the boat. As Sheikh Yamani, Saudi Arabia's oil minister put it: 'We are very much concerned with the economy of the whole world, and we don't want in any way to destroy it.'

But while the sheikhs join the world capitalist class (despite the haggling over the entry fee), more and more of their subjects are joining the world working class.

The war in Oman started in the poverty-stricken and oppressed province of Dhofar, from where many men emigrated to work in the oilfields of the Gulf states.

These workers were active in the liberation movement when they returned.

Contact with these islands of the modern world in a feudal sea, contact with the port of Aden, with the refineries of the gulf, with the military bases, was one of the ways the germs of revolt spread to even the most 'backward' parts of the Arabian peninsula, replacing traditional tribal forms of revolt with national movements of a modern type, using the language of Nasserism, and then later of Marxism.

In the process, the most oppressed layers of these oppressive societies—women, slaves, and other chattels—stood up for the first time and fought back.

The detailed chronicling of this process is sometimes hard for non-specialists to follow, but it should smash the myth of 'the changeless desert' and other ideological hangovers from the days of Lawrence of Arabia.

It also tells us where our masters get their wealth, and how they behave when they feel no one is watching.

*Arabia without Sultans: by Fred Halliday (Pelican, £1)

IT'S COMING YET FOR A' THAT

TODAY, Saturday 25 January, thousands of Scots will gather to celebrate the 'Immortal Memory' of Robert Burns.

Burns was born in 1797, the son of a tenant farmer, on 70 acres of barren soil in Ayrshire. His early life was hard.

By a colossal effort, Burns had by the time he was 15 read a great deal of English and Scottish literature, as well as being one of the foremost authorities on folk-tales in his district. It made him a poet and a rebel.

Scotland of the late eighteenth century was a hard place to be a rebel in. The peasant community had been destroyed to make way for sheep in the Highlands, and industry and enclosure in the lowlands. People were driven into the towns

to be swallowed up by the Industrial Revolution.

Scottish mine-workers, (men, women and children) were literally slaves, bound to their masters for life. Factory work meant 14 hours a day in dangerous and unhealthy conditions.

The alternative was beggary or to sell yourself into slavery for five years in return for a passage to America. Over all this the iron hand of the Church enforced a grip on the country that Stalin would have envied.

Burns attacked them all. As a poet, he was a master of satire and description.

Burns' life was desperate, as he he battled to keep one step ahead of poverty. Twice we see him preparing to emigrate to the West Indies.

For a short time he was taken up and lionised by the Edinburgh bourgeoisie as the 'ploughman poet' or, as he himself wryly remarked: 'They think of me as somewhere between the eighth wonder of the world and the educated pig in the Grassmarket.'

The infatuation did not last long. Burns was a harder man than the 'peasant Byron' they thought they were patronising.

It was now the 1790s and Burns was living in Dumfries working as an excise-man, having finally given up tenant farming as a hopeless, back-breaking business, but now his consorting with radicals and support for the French Revolution was beginning to get him into serious trouble.

Here is his comment on the Industrial Revolution, written while

visiting Carron Ironworks in Falkirk:

*We cam' na here to view your warks
In hopes to be mair wise,
But only, lest we gang to hell,
It may be nay surprise:
But when we tirl'd at your door,
Your porter dought na' bear us;
Sae may, should we to hell's gates
come,
Your billy Satan sair us!*

Similarly, there is his great anti-imperialist poem, Scots Wha Hae, which was set historically on the eve of the Scottish victory over the English at Bannockburn. But Burns himself told his trusted friends to substitute George III (the ruling king) for Edward II, and they would get the message of it.

As in the second verse:
*Now's the day and now's the hour:
See the front o' battle lour;
See approach proud Edward's power,
Chains and Slavery!*

TOUGH

In 1792, Burns purchased three cannonades from a confiscated smuggling schooner and sent them to the revolutionary government in Paris. In 1793, there was an official inquiry into Burns' loyalty. Burns was forced to deny his politics.

He deeply resented this victimisation, but there was no alternative. He had a wife and six children to support, and the threatened loss of his job would have meant destitution.

Burns died in 1796 of a heart disease, the result of overwork and undernourishment in his youth. At his funeral, people came from as far as the West of Ireland to pay their respects.

Burns was one of us and probably the least 'romantic' poet who ever lived. He was a tough man in a tough world, and he fought to the end.

He died believing that a better world could be created, as he says in 'A man's a man for a' that!'

*For a' that, and a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That Man to Man the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that.*
HARRY TAIT and BRIAN LAVERY

IRELAND: BEHIND THE WIRE

Socialist Worker film tour

It explains better than any cold print why the Provisionals exist and why, whatever the result of the present truce, there is a

reservoir of bitterness in the Catholic ghettos in Northern Ireland which will not dry out for generations—
Eamonn McCann.

This Executive Committee indignantly condemns the illegal action of the Ministry of Defence in taking from the laboratories a copy of 'Ireland, Behind the Wire' without the knowledge or permission of the makers. We demand an open and official investigation of this incident so that the culprits are identified and punished—Executive of ACTT, 18 Dec, 1974

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.

OXFORD: Thursday 30 January, 8pm, Clarendon Press Institute, Walton St.

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

SWANSEA: Wednesday 29 January, 7.30pm, Brynmill Junior School, St Albans Road.

EAST LONDON: Sunday 9 February, 8pm, Half Moon Theatre, Alie Street, Whitechapel.

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.

THE CRISIS—SOCIAL CONTRACT OR SOCIALISM Public meetings around the new book by Tony Cliff, member of the IS executive committee

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thursday 30 January, 8pm, Co-op Hall, 180 Upper Tooting Road, SW17 (near Tooting Bec tube). Speaker Tony Cliff.

EAST KILBRIDE: Monday 27 January, 7.30pm. The Murray public house. Speaker Tony Cliff.

SUNDERLAND: Thursday 20 February, 7.30pm, Wheatsheaf public house. Speaker Tony Cliff.

CHRYSLER LINWOOD and PAISLEY: Tuesday 28 January, 7.30pm, Paisley Town Hall. Speaker Tony Cliff.

SOUTHAMPTON: Thursday 30 January, 8pm, UCATT Hall, Henstead Road (off Bedford Place). Speaker John Deason (IS industrial dept.).

CARDIFF and EASTERN VALLEYS: Thursday 23 January, 7.30pm, Rhymney pub, Adams St, Cardiff (opposite the prison). Speaker Jim Nichol (IS national secretary).

TEESSIDE: Thursday 13 February, James Finegan Hall, Eton. Licensed bar. Tickets from IS Books, 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough, from IS members, or at the door. Speakers: Paul Foot (editor, Socialist Worker) and leading North East trade unionists.

EDINBURGH: Wednesday 29 January, Edinburgh and District Trades Council, Picardy Place, 7.30pm. A vital meeting for all trade unionists. Speaker Tony Cliff.

IS public meetings

CAMBRIDGE IS public meeting: The Road to Workers' Power. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Monday 3 February, 8pm, Duke of Argyll, Argyll Street (off Mill Road).

NORTH WEST LONDON District IS public meeting in commemoration of Bloody Sunday: Ireland the way forward. Speaker: Eamonn McCann (author of War and an Irish Town). Thursday 30 January, 8pm, Willesden Junction Hotel, Station Road, Harlesden, London NW10.

CROYDON IS public meeting: The Rank and File and the Trade Union Leadership. Thursday 6 February, 8pm, Ruskin House, corner of Park Lane and Coombe Road.

PRESTON IS public meeting: Crisis in British Leyland—OUR ANSWER. Speaker: Mick Pedley (AUEW, British Leyland Tractors and Transmissions, Birmingham). Thursday 30 January, 8pm, The Unicorn, North Road (roundabout at junction of North Road and Garstang Road), Preston. All welcome.

DUDLEY IS public meeting: Redundancies and short-time working—how to fight them. Speakers: Local trade unionists who are members of IS. Wednesday 29 January, 8pm, Castle and Falcon, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley.

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

BEANS INDUSTRIES, Tipton, East Midlands: IS meeting for all Beans workers: The Crisis in British Leyland—How to fight back. Saturday 1 February, 12 noon, Doughty Arms, Five Ways, Tipton.

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

MANCHESTER HOSPITAL WORKERS IS public meeting: The Crisis of Capitalism and the NHS. Speaker: Paul Kennedy. Thursday 30 January, 8pm, The Ancoats pub, Great Ancoats Street, Manchester.

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

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 St (off Aldwych). All London colleges to support.

Meetings for IS members

IS LATIN AMERICA School: Saturday-Sunday 25-26 January, Central London Poly, New Cavendish Street. Speakers include: Vic Richards on Brazil, Danny James on Argentina, a Chilean comrade on Chile since the coup. Mike Gonzales 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.

IS Training School on the Communist Party: Saturday 25 January in Manchester. Speakers: Jimmy McCallum and Andreas Nagliati. For further details contact Geoff Brown at 061-792 5280.

CONFERENCE for IS factory branches and groups: Saturday 22 February. Details from IS industrial department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

IS Youth Sub-Committee: next meeting Saturday 1 February. Any comrades wishing to attend contact M Murphy, 31 Carsick View Road, Sheffield. The committee would like to hear from individuals or branches doing any work around youth. Contact your IS branch secretary if you want to go.

IS STUDENT Cadre School (invited members only): Weekend 24-26 January (starts 10.30am Friday), Room 3:12, Central London Poly, New Cavendish Street.

NOISS: Second Conference of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies will be held at Leeds University Students Union on 15-16 February. Registration details from Steve Cass, 13 Cliff Mount, Leeds 6.

WEST YORKSHIRE District IS aggregate meeting: All members of Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Keighley branches must attend. Sessions on Economic and Political Perspectives, and Building IS in the coming period. Speakers: Chris Harman and Tommy Healey. Saturday 25 January, 2pm, Central Library, Bradford.

NORTH WEST LONDON District IS Bloody Sunday Commemoration: Saturday 25 January—day of activities. 11am: Street meetings and leafletting at the Jubilee Clock, HARLESDEN, The Square, KILBURN, and The Crown, CRICKLEWOOD. All IS members to attend. 2.30pm: Propaganda School—writing leaflets and factory bulletins, led by factory branch members; Producing silk screen posters, led by Jonathan Zeitling (author of forthcoming book, Print: How to do it yourself).

IS notices

WEST MIDDLESEX IS Social: West London theatre group and guitarist Leon Rosselson. Booze and food. Saturday 2 February, 8pm-midnight, The Albany, Station Approach, Twickenham (opposite Twickenham Station).

CHELMSFORD IS urgently need jumble and helpers for Saturday 15 February, Phone 0245-52009 or 0245-59129.

All members of Prestwich IS wish to express our shock and sorrow at the sudden death on 4 January of our comrade Malcolm Garfield, who was a member of the branch. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Chrissy and his parents.

Our work, their wealth

CONSIDER a carpenter who works in a furniture factory. In a week he makes a set of table and four chairs.

The raw materials—wood already roughly cut—cost £40. The electricity to run his lathe and other power tools, the cost of keeping his area of the factory properly lit, heated, dry and safe, the cost of wear and tear on tools and factory, these add another £5 a week.

Then there's the cost of the carpenter: at the barest minimum he needs food, clothes, a roof over his head and warmth so he won't die of hunger or cold. If the factory is in Hong Kong or a poverty-ridden country of South America that's all he'll get. Say another £15.

After the carpenter has done his work, the factory owner sells the furniture for £75. To the value of the raw materials—the wood, the electricity and so on—the carpenter's labour has added another £30.

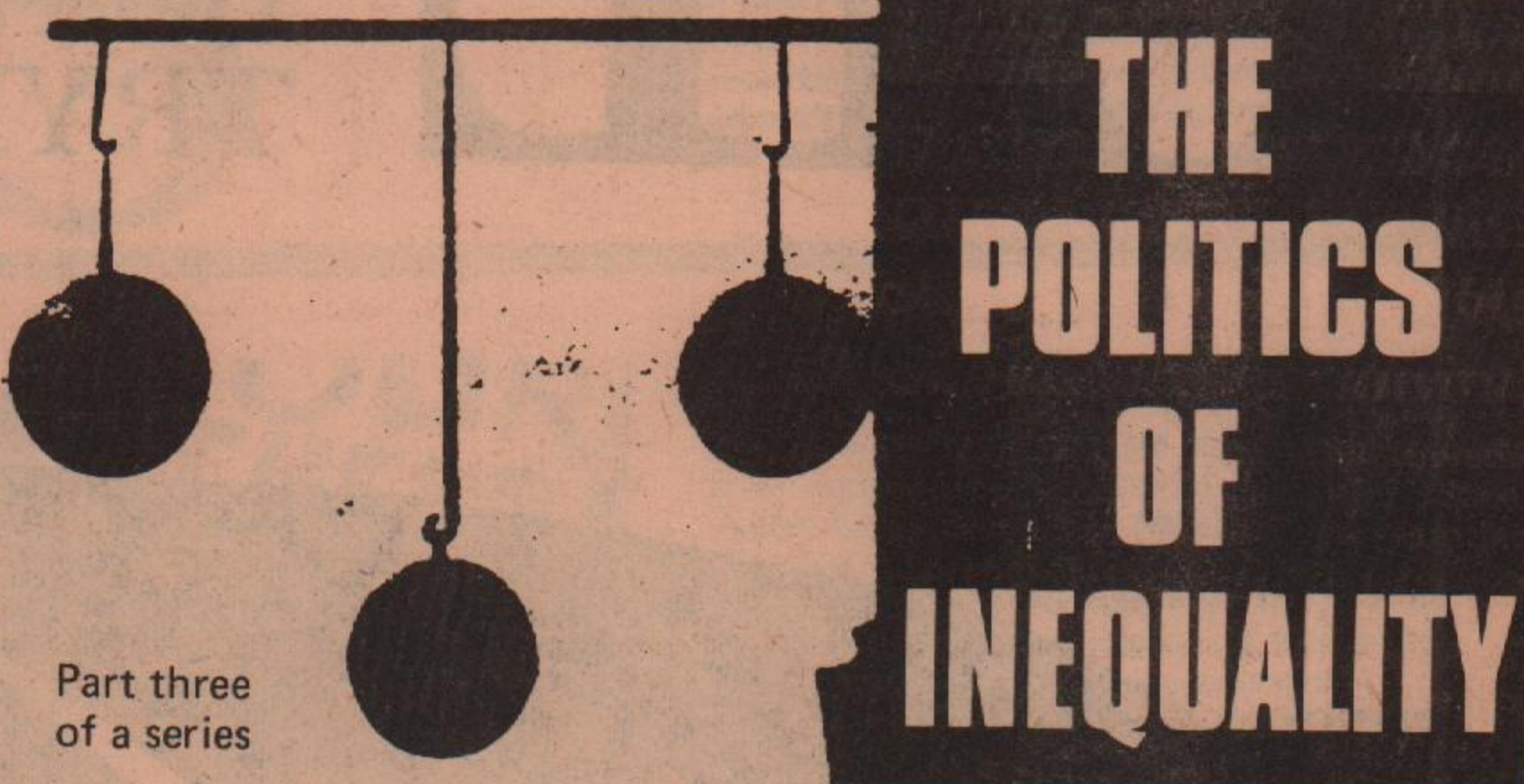
'Hang on a minute', cries the carpenter. 'Thirty quid! But I only get £15, and the boss says that's all the job is worth! If I asked for £30 he'd laugh in my face—then give me the sack, more than like. What's going on?'

What's going on is exploitation. One man is creating wealth, and another is taking it. For only the labour of the carpenter can produce the surplus wealth or value symbolised by that £30.

Now it's the factory owner's turn to protest.

'But he couldn't have made those chairs and table without my factory and my machines! I put up the capital, the money to pay for them. I've a right to the £15 profit I make after paying his wages, in return for risking my money.'

OK, it is the use of tools that enables the worker to produce a surplus, to produce more than the bare essentials he needs to keep himself alive. But by what right



Part three of a series

THE POLITICS OF INEQUALITY

does the factory owner control the tools while the carpenter has nothing?

'I saved up', he says. 'First I worked as a carpenter, and saved to buy my own workshop, with three other men working for me. Then, with the profits of that, I expanded to seven men—and with the increased profits I bought this factory.'

'I'm a self-made man! My wealth's all my own', he says.

Fight

But that's just what it isn't. All those profits he used for expansion were the surplus produced by the labour of other men. The factory, the tools and machines in it, the wood used to make the furniture, the finished furniture—all are the products of labour. Effectively they are accumulated labour, the accumulated surplus that men have produced over the ages.

The same goes for all factories, workshops, machines, offices, lorries, ships and so on.

Workers have produced all the 'capital' there is in the world—the farm land is there only because they cleared it of forest, jungle or swamp; the villages, towns and

cities only because they quarried the stone and clay, and so on.

And after giving their lives' work—sometimes their very lives in mine and factory accidents—they got wages more often than not barely enough to stay alive.

But always the surplus their labour created has gone in profits to the employers, dividends to the shareholders, interest rates to the banks—people who, far from risking their lives (when did you last hear of a shareholder killed in an industrial accident?), contribute only 'capital'.

The final irony is that under capitalism the dead rules the living. Listen to the owner of that furniture factory:

'OK, then, so what if I didn't put my money into building a factory and buying machines? I could live a nice easy life on it instead. But where would your carpenter by then? Hed be out of a job, wouldn't he, he'd be going hungry.'

And because he controls the accumulated labour of the past, he can in this way blackmail the living labour of the present—he can blackmail us into handing over the wealth we create today.

Pete Marsden



Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

Tony Cliff from IS speaking at a well-attended meeting in London last week to commemorate the Palestinian revolutionary Jabra Nichola. Cliff said that he had been a member of a revolutionary organisation in Palestine for six years with Jabra and had never in a lifetime of revolutionary activity met a more principled fighter for the working class.

'Jabra was an Arab,' said Cliff. 'He detested Zionism, but he also hated anything to do with Arab nationalism. He was an internationalist to the core. He felt, as we all should feel, that the workers' struggle in all countries is as much to do with us as is the workers' struggle in our own country.'

'It was a tragedy that Jabra died only a few days before the signs of workers' revolt in Cairo, something he longed to see all his life.'

Workers need free socialist press

SOCIALIST WORKER organisers and treasurers from 18 branches in Scotland met in Glasgow and Edinburgh to discuss the importance of raising money for IS and for Socialist Worker.

Mel Norris, the IS national treasurer, outlined the problems facing us as a self-financing organisation at a time when real wages are falling and prices rising, and emphasised the importance of regular fund-raising activities which can also draw in our supporters, such as socials and jumble sales.

However, regular financial donations from members and supporters demand a commitment to our politics and paper, to enable us to produce more leaflets and agitational literature, and to pay for more full-time organisers in order to draw together those sections of workers involved in industrial action so that their militancy does not dwindle after one victory or

defeat.

Christine Smith, assistant treasurer, emphasised to branch treasurers the political importance of a sustained and growing income for the organisation, and also the political commitment which giving money actually demonstrates, and that in terms of the future work of the organisation their job is crucial. As the group grows, the district committees will be forced to take much more responsibility regarding subscriptions payments.

Liz Balfour, Socialist Worker business manager, outlined the job of Socialist Worker organisers as one of the most important in the branch. If Socialist Worker is to be used to greatest advantage to gain support for our politics in the areas where branches operate, they must respond to the local and national political situation, and use every avenue to expand the sales of Socialist Worker

and find workers who are ready to support the paper.

The best way to increase the income for Socialist Worker, which depends entirely on sales and donations from supporters, is to increase the level of sales; at the same time we will increase our influence in the local factories and community, and in the labour movement as a whole.

The fantastic response from the organised labour movement and from individuals to the Socialist Worker Defence Fund appeal proves that as workers we recognise our own interest in a free socialist press which can print the truth about the conditions in which we live. Socialist Worker supporters should be encouraged to extend this financial support with weekly contributions to the paper.

Branch and district committees were asked to take the Socialist Worker sales and subscription payments far more seriously, as both are real reflections of the work being done and the activity of the memberships in the districts.

More such meetings have been planned:

Leeds on 25 January, for Yorkshire branches; Manchester on 1 February, for Manchester and Lancashire; Birmingham on 2 February, for Birmingham and Coventry branches; Teesside on 8 February, for Teesside and Tyneside branches.

ACTION TO GET THE TROOPS OUT

IT IS clear that significant numbers of workers are for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. The reasons are varied and often nationalistic. But there is no organised movement to match this intensity of feeling.

The International Socialists executive committee considers that during the coming months IS should lay the basis for mobilisation within the labour movement around the issue of: Troops out of

Ireland, self-determination for the Irish people.

IS is not in favour of running headlong into local committees of people who represents only themselves, but seeks to campaign systematically in factories, offices and colleges. To this end the national committee of IS endorsed the following proposals:

1 London and Home Counties IS branches and student cells should seek

to win support for the 1 February demonstration in commemoration of Bloody Sunday.

2 We should make the maximum effort to support a delegate conference of trade unionists to be organised by the Troops Out Movement in April.

3 We should campaign seriously to win support from trade unionists, trades councils and union branches, etc, for a demonstration



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 _____

TEACHERS' GROUP CALLS FOR ONE WAGE SCALE

by Chanie Rosenberg
(Secretary, Hackney NUT)

THURSDAY'S strikes in protest at the National Union of Teachers executive acceptance of the Houghton package are to be followed by a lobby of the special NUT conference today.

Houghton offers 29 per cent to make good the past erosion of salaries. But the money is divided with £40 per week increase for top school Heads, (salary now £164 per week), whereas working teachers on the bottom of the scale get £4 rises. The strike is for a redistribution of the money on the basis of about £15 per week for all teachers.

Against this background the new Rank and File Teacher pamphlet: *Teachers'*

Salaries—The Fight For A Single Scale will be very useful.

It is widely accepted that separate, widening scales for teachers create a pecking order which harms a united effort to promote a good education for the teachers who 'chase the scales' from school to school to try to earn a decent living. Often the children don't even know who their teacher is. It puts money, status and power in the hands of those who do the least (or no) classroom teaching.

How does such a harmful set-up get

accepted by teachers' unions?

The pamphlet shows in detail how the NUT executive operates against the interest of its rank and file members. Heads, who don't teach, have time and facilities at their disposal and make sure they use them to control the 250,000 members.

The pamphlet has a wealth of detail on how this works.

The pamphlet also shows how a militant struggle over a demand such as for a flat-rate rise raises membership by thousands, while sell-outs lose them by thousands. And how strikes over a popular demands have led to the most successful settlements ever.

The pamphlet calls for elimination of the differentials and for a single scale for all teachers, with responsibilities shared and Heads elected. This pamphlet is essential reading for all classroom teachers—and for other active trade unionists who may find their unions suffering from a similar 'democracy.'

**Teachers Salaries—The Fight for a Single Scale, published by Rank and File, 30p. Obtainable from M Hurford, 18 Williamson Street, London N7. Please add 5p for postage.*



Pickets persuade a lorry driver to turn back from the site

Scots 'yes' to schools deal

by Jennifer Ross (EIS)

SCOTLAND: 31,500 teachers have voted in a referendum to accept the Houghton package deal on teachers' pay. Only 2,500 voted against.

The package gave an increase on the minimum rate of £7.70 a week—compared to £4.50 originally offered. The increase on the minimum was achieved by redistributing the total money offered. This redistribution represents a victory for the unofficial strikers last October.

But the settlement is still a sell-out of the original claim for £10 a week by the union—the Educational Institute of Scotland, the main teachers' union. It gives the majority of unpromoted teachers nothing like that. While many promoted teachers get this and more.

The sell-out was accepted because of the confusion of the action committees. There was no clear strategy to win the £15. All-out strike action was rejected. This let EIS off the hook, and gave the union leaders back the initiative.

The next task facing Scottish teachers is urgently to reform the union.

The events of the past month have shown the unrepresentative nature of the national leadership. Their interests lie with the upper sections of teachers. They are not answerable to the membership except at annual meetings, which are also weighted heavily in favour of the executive. Full-time officials are appointed, not elected.

In February a national Special General Meeting will formulate the April pay claim. We have to argue for a single salary scale, and a substantial pay increase.

Scaffolders take on McAlpines

by Steve Waldie

NEWCASTLE-upon-TYNE:—At the McAlpine's site at Eldon Square 30 scaffolders are on unofficial strike in support of 14 who have been locked out.

The men met in November to discuss a management offer of two hours time allowed for a mobile towers job, when Bovis workers on the same complex were given 12 hours. The meeting spilled over into the afternoon, and while some men decided to go back after an extended lunch break, 14 took a half day's holiday. The next day the 14 were refused work.

It was no coincidence that the 14 included some of the most active in building the Transport Workers' Union site membership from 8 to 88 over the past 12 months.

Fight

The scaffolders have led the fight for 20p-an-hour bonus rises for labourers, the reinstatement of sacked UCATT joiners, and the improvement of the disgusting conditions—such as only three toilets for 300 men on the site.

So McAlpines have decided to crush the union here just as they decided to crush the Shrewsbury building workers. They can't take the scaffolders to court for taking a half day's holiday, so they have simply locked them out hoping

the union will crumble.

The TGWU has removed the credentials of the shop steward and told the men to go back to work without the 14, but this has largely failed. Recently 30 labourers from the site walked out in sympathy.

Now the asphaltting firm is moving out and some joiners are also leaving. UCATT officials rushed to the site to stop their members from joining the unofficial strike.

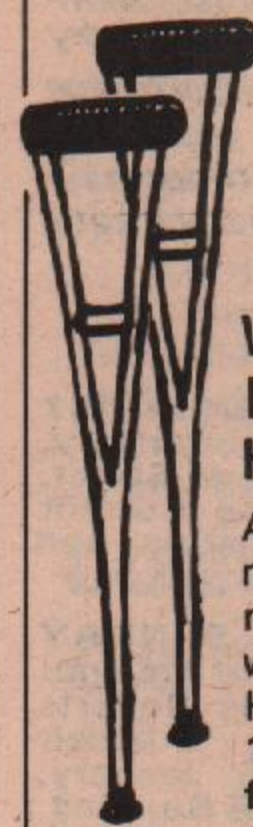
'Secret'

Now McAlpines have brought 40 highly-paid scabs to the site as scaffolders. These men live in 'secret' hotels and are conveyed in by rented vans at high speed. Recently a passer-by was nearly knocked over by one driver. The police did nothing. Later the van hit a bus in the centre of Newcastle.

As many as eight uniformed and four plain-clothes police patrol the picket line. A Socialist Worker photographer was threatened with the confiscation of his camera for photographing a detective at a range of 35 yards.

When credentials were checked one scab said that his union was the 'TUC'. Now all the scabs have new TGWU cards, which the site manager keeps.

The men have been out for 10 weeks. They must beat McAlpines. Messages of support and donations to E Brady, 86 Benwell Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne.



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR HEALTH SERVICE?

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.

a Revolutionary Socialist Manifesto

written in a Polish prison

Written by Kuron & Modzelewski, two Polish marxists imprisoned for 'activities against the state', this book is a damning indictment of the 'Industrialised Czarism' of present day Poland. Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4. Price 25p, 75 pages.

GUESS HOW MUCH IT COST LEYLAND TO CON SIR DON

OXFORD: Thursday 16 January has gone down in British Leyland Cowley as the great whitewash. That day local management tried to con Sir Don Ryder into believing that they could run production efficiently. Several hundred thousand pounds worth of production was lost as management made sure everything seemed to be running smoothly as Sir Don walked round.

In the body plant night shift production stopped at 4am—three hours before the end of the shift. Banks of car bodies in between conveyors were emptied. Bodies on the final lines were pushed together with none of the usual gaps.

Some shops agreed to move their tea breaks so they would be working when Sir Don came round. Foremen with holiday due were asked to take the day off so that Sir Don didn't get the impression that

there was serious overmanning in supervision.

At the same time as this deliberate stoppage of production—which the national press didn't mention—management have been trying to penny pinch at the workers' expense. They are recycling washed cotton gloves which have already been worn. These gloves are a lot weaker than new ones, and as much of the work in the plant consists of handling razor sharp metal, they represent a serious hazard if workers agree to wear them.

LAY-OFF

Meanwhile the assembly plant tuners are still out over their regrading claim. After an initial lay-off, the company decided to keep the rest of the plant in by slowing down the tracks and getting extra 'co-operation'.

Pay cut? You've got it wrong

LEICESTER: 'They are the best bunch of people in Leicester,' says Tom Moody—and he should know. He owns Checkmate Fashions and Tom Moody and Co and was talking about his workers, who have agreed to go without their pay rise of £2.80 to save the firms from increasing prices and laying workers off.

The workers were worried the firm would go bankrupt. The management had suddenly confided in the 320 workers how bad everything is. It was doubtless a new development. How many times had the workers in these factories been brought together before?

How many times were they told how good the order books were? Or how much profit had been made in the years and months past? And because they are such a 'fine bunch', how many times had they been invited to share out the proceeds?

Doubtless never. But now times are hard, and bosses try new methods.

There's a real threat of redundancy. Not just in Leicester, but throughout Britain and the world. The solution gone for by the 320 knitworkers, mainly women, all members of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers, is wrong.

So why have they done it? Their union is a by-word for bureaucracy, the rank and file have never been involved in any battles, never encouraged to participate on the shop floor and union leadership has floated away into an administrative machine.

It is a machine programmed to parrot, the answers that the bosses, TV and press provide. And those answers are that it's us, the working class, who must sacrifice our wages, then our jobs, our schools, our Health Service, our housing. Everything we went to work for in the first place!

Crisis

And that won't even solve their crisis. Low wages means you can buy less—and that means more redundancies in some other industry. For the root cause of inflation is the price of raw materials, rocketing as competition among the bosses gets more intense and they seek to preserve their profits.

Preserving those profits means workers producing more for less money.

'If circumstances improve we shall certainly pay the increases as soon as possible,' says Tom Moody. Fine words, so why in periods of boom have hosiery workers had low wages? Because nobody fought for high wages, because the union didn't fight—and bosses don't make payouts from the goodness of their hearts.

For those workers in Leicester the solution isn't self-mutilation. It's a fight against wage freezes and the sack. It means rank and file unity across the industry. It enables the demand for nationalisation, under the control of the workers who produce the wealth to be put.

It's a hard fight, but it's the only real alternative, and it is called socialism.

When under attack... occupy!

by Pochins site shop stewards committee
MANCHESTER: When building contractors Pochins issued redundancy notices to 11 labourers and three scaffolders on their Oxford Road site—clearly sackings engineered to break site organisation and cut the bonus—the lads replied with a strike followed a few days later by an occupation of the site. The dispute is now being taken to a National Dispute Panel.

Pochins have always paid low bonus in Manchester but on this site they have been forced steadily to increase it. Now they have decided to force a showdown.

They have sacked hod-carriers without sacking bricklayers. In other words there will be just as much work but fewer men to do it. This is typical of all redundancies on a site where there are not enough men as there is. If redundancies were allowed then conditions would suffer and the site would become completely unsafe.

If these men were allowed to go up the road they would find it virtually impossible to find jobs in an industry with 200,000 already unemployed and worse to come.

We refuse to allow Pochins to make these men and their families suffer considerable hardship in order to safeguard Pochins profits. But so far management have refused point blank to negotiate.

The issues over which we are fighting here are the same for building workers throughout the industry. So it is essential that we get support from other sites. You can be sure that the employers are watching this dispute carefully. A victory for Pochins is a victory for all building workers.

Wherever possible collections should be held. Send the money to Ian Hayes, 45 Heathfield Drive, Bolton, Lancashire.



One of the workers occupying the site reaches down to take provisions brought by workers outside.
PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

CHRYSLER THREATEN LINWOOD

by Willie Lee, AUEW shop steward, Chrysler press shop

SCOTLAND:—Chrysler's statement that there will be lay-offs and redundancies in its plants in the next three months amounts to notice that the company intends to pull out of car production in Britain, 250 shop stewards and staff representatives at Chrysler Linwood were told last Saturday by stewards committee chairman John Carty.

Chrysler have announced that their next European model would be built by Simca in France and no new models are planned for the British plants. There will be redundancies at component factories and at the research centre, and another 42 staff workers at Linwood would have to go, making a total of 220.

The number of finished cars needing the attention of the tuning department has been considerably reduced and that plant has kept going—the limit is the amount of storage space for defective cars.

The strike itself is part of a divisive attempt at Cowley by the Engineering Workers' Union to put skilled grades above production workers currently on the same rate and therefore cannot be supported. But neither can strikebreaking be supported even if the strike is unpopular.

The company's divide-and-rule tactic could well win the day—especially as the AUEW executive is dragging its feet over whether or not to make the strike official.

The battle to create differentials is a reactionary one. Nonetheless if management succeeds in forcing the tuners back to work through strikebreaking by other workers, management will soon use the same tactics against workers pursuing a completely justified case.

The Linwood toolroom would be put on three days a week and gradually run down and the majority of workers at Linwood would be laid off for 27 to 30 days in the first three months of 1975, said the company.

To oppose redundancies, the convenors' campaign will include meetings with the Scottish TUC, Scottish Labour MPs and Industry Minister Wedgwood Benn. Despite arguments from Linwood, Luton and Dunstable representatives, the Coventry convenors were not in favour of a combine meeting.

Pat Devine, TGWU convenor, argued that we should demand the nationalisation of the car industry.

Peter Bain, TGWU, said that meetings with MPs and the Scottish TUC were fine but it was the Linwood workforce that would have to do the real fighting. It was essential a mass meeting be called to spell out the stewards' total opposition to redundancy.

Also what were the convenors going to say to the government—that more public money should be poured into Chrysler? Any takeover by Fords, General Motors or Leyland would be with a view to closure. The only way to defend our jobs and conditions was to campaign for nationalisation.

Right now Chrysler would not be sitting back. They were already on the warpath.

The only way to counter this was by treating disputes as factorywide issues. It was necessary for the workforce to go on the offensive and that meant stating that we intended occupying the plant to counter the company's provocations.

Eventually a motion to call a mass meeting for Thursday was defeated by 100 to 150 after the convenors had stated that this wasn't ruled out but they believed the stewards had first to go back to section meetings and argue there against any redundancies. The stewards then agreed to issue a statement saying that notwithstanding the decision taken if necessary they would take industrial action to fight redundancies.

This was agreed because, firstly, there is universal disbelief in Chrysler's assurances about future employment. Lay-off pay will last most workers until the end of February but many people expect the company to move before then.

Secondly, the tactic of occupying the plant is gaining widespread support. No shop steward who spoke at the meeting opposed this.

Thirdly, the political implications of the situation are becoming clearer to more and more workers.

Chrysler IS/Paisley IS public meeting on the crisis. Speaker Tony Cliff. Tuesday 28 January, 7.30pm, Paisley Town Hall.

Classified

Entries for the Classified column must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 1p per word, semi-display 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS. Adverts that arrive without payment will be charged at double the rate.

MEETINGS

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.

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.

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

EAST LONDON Chile Solidarity Committee. Music, film and poetry at the Half Moon Theatre, 27 Alie St, E1, Sunday 26 January, 7.30pm.

Carole and Ross Hill now have a young comrade-in-arms, Alastair Craig, born 4 January, at Corbar Hall Maternity Hospital Buxton.

CAMPAIGN FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES: Meeting to discuss significance of Jenkins' repressive legislation. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, Saturday 2-3 Jan, 8pm.

RADICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON Meeting: Andrew Mann of the Children's Rights Workshop talks on Schools as Prisons. Sunday 2 February, 3pm, New Horizons, 1 Macklin St, London WC2.

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT showing of new film on Ireland. Friday 24 January, 7.45pm, The Small Hall, Hammersmith Town Hall. Speakers, including ex-soldier, and a discussion led by Claire Walsh, secretary of Hammersmith and Kingston Trades Council (in a personal capacity).

MEDICAL COMMITTEE AGAINST PRIVATE PRACTICE meeting: To discuss and organise action against consultants' work-to-rule and all private practice. All health workers, especially doctors and medical students, invited. Speakers: NUPE shop stewards from hospitals now banning private patients. Wednesday 29 January, 8pm, Duke of York pub, York Way, London N1 (Kings Cross tube).

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION Rally and Procession: Saturday 1 February, 1.30pm, rally organised by Troops Out Movement in Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Speakers from the International Socialists, IMG, Labour MP, Mike Cooley and Bernadette McAlliskey 5pm: Torchlight procession from Speakers Corner, Hyde Park.

DAY CONFERENCE: Socialist Perspectives on Ireland. Wednesday 15 February, 10am, Chelsea College, Manresa Road, London SW3. For further details contact the Socialist Society, Chelsea College. Organised with the help of the Troops Out Movement.

ABORTION UNDER ATTACK: The London Co-ordinating Committee of the Working Women's Charter Campaign has called a demonstration on Friday 7 February, when a Private Member's Bill to prevent abortion on social grounds will have its second reading in parliament. We invite everyone interested in planning this demonstration to a meeting on Friday 24 January at 7pm, University of London Union (Room 3a), Malet Street, London W1.

FREE GEORGE LENNOX Demonstration: Saturday 1 February, 1pm-3pm, outside Wandsworth Prison, South London. Don't let the Home Office silence truth with internal investigation. For details phone 01-731 1145.

WEEK OF ACTION ON CHILE: Monday 27 January onwards, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, London WC2 (Holborn and Temple tubes). Monday 27th, 1pm, Film—Venceremos Solidarity (documentary about Popular Unity government and the coup). Old Theatre, 7pm: Public meeting on The Future Role of Resistance in the Armed Forces. Speakers: A Chilean docker, Micky Fenn (NASD, London docker and member of IS), Mike Gatehouse (secretary, Chile Solidarity Campaign) and a speaker from MIR, Old Theatre. Tuesday 28th: 1pm

Old Theatre: Film about Victor Jara, Chilean folk singer murdered during the first days of the coup, and World in Action film about Chile; 12 noon-2pm: Picket of Chilean Embassy for release of Chilean sailors, 12 Derbyshire Place, London W1. 7pm: Disco, Chilean group, wine and food, Concourse area, St Clements Building. Money to be raised for Chile Human Rights (CSC) Committee, also for campaign to release Chilean sailors. Week of Action organised by LSE Chile Committee, for further details phone 01-405 7686.

IS THERE A SOCIALIST SCIENCE? Two-day conference to be held by British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, Friday 31 January, 7pm-10pm, Saturday 1 February, 10am-6pm, and Sunday 2 February, 10.30am-1.30pm. Entrance fee £1. Creche available. Further details from BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London. Phone 01-437 2728.

Workers' Fight Forum WHAT IS ORANGEISM? Guest speaker: Geoff Bell, Sunday 26 January, 8.30pm, The George, Liverpool Road, London N1.

NOTICES

SITUATION VACANT: Chile Solidarity Campaign requires a full-time organiser to expand campaign work with trade unions. Office skills and speaking experience an advantage. Apply in writing before 21 February to The Secretary, CSC, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 9QG.

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 4/2p stamp.

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

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

Here's the way to fight

LOUGHBOROUGH:—Engineering Union members at the William Cotton factory, owned by multi-millionaire Charlie Clore, whose numbers have been cut from 1800 to 200 in four years by redundancies, have shown the way to fight the Social Contract. They have slapped in another pay demand.

They have learned that being nice to the gaffers doesn't get you anywhere. Dropping orders for knitting machinery, not pay increases, have caused their redundancies.

But workers at Messengers Engineering, frightened by management threats of no orders and subsequent unemployment, have agreed to a wage freeze.

Two years ago a management bluff about bankruptcy was broken by the local branch of the International Socialists who looked up the company's accounts to show a large profit. Engineers at Messengers should learn from those at Cottons that redundancies come in spite of low militancy. All acceptance of wage freeze gets you is less money first—and then redundancy.

TUBE MEN BEAT LUMP

WEST LONDON:—The third strike in two years on the construction of the extension of the Piccadilly tube line to link Central London with Heathrow Airport, has forced contractors Taylor Woodrow to agree not to employ lump labour. The one-week strike ended on Monday when eight steelfixers were reinstated.

Taylor Woodrow had hoped to replace the directly-employed steelfixers with lump workers. Their hopes were dashed when the rest of the site walked off the job. But Taylor Woodrow are learning—the first strike that Transport union steward Peter Dolan led against the lump lasted seven weeks.

Another Social Con-Trick

TGWU officials get 30% rise—and then squash dockers' claim

by Eddie Prevost, TGWU

TRANSPORT Union officials who, it is understood, have just secured themselves Social Contract-busting wage rises of around 30 per cent, have been involved in completely undemocratic and unconstitutional intrigue to prevent London dockers pushing for a similar settlement.

The officials, headed by London docks group secretary Peter Shea, made their move at the 8 January Enclosed Dock Committee meeting. Two days before the meeting, the employers had thrown down the gauntlet of resistance against the constitutionally decided claim of £9.60 a week plus London weighting.

The employers, who dug in from the beginning on three various permutations on a £4 a week offer, said they were not even prepared to discuss making more money available.

At the Enclosed Dock Committee, a Royal Group delegate moved a resolution totally rejecting the employers' terms and calling for a strike vote to be put to a mass meeting.

His motion, after being properly seconded, was accepted for debate by the chairman. But as the mover tried to speak to his motion, he was interrupted by Peter Shea, who insisted that neither he nor the other full-time officials would be party to the resolution. If it was even debated, he stressed, the four officials would walk out of the meeting.

Initiative

The chairman then pointed out that at a meeting nine days previously the Royal Docks delegates had moved an almost identical resolution without protest from the officers.

Shea and the other officials were adamant. They would not allow the elected delegates even to discuss a strike resolution. The situation grew increasingly heated and the Royal Docks delegates walked out.

The officials' tactics are obviously enough. They allowed the resolution to be put at the 31 December meeting because they were confident it would be beaten. But after the employers' refusal to negotiate any further they could not be so sure.

So these people, who are not elected by anyone, who are in their jobs for life and who most important of all do not have to live on the wages they force others to accept employed a dirty manoeuvre to win their way.

The last thing they or their superiors wanted was an official strike in the docks. Bill Munday, one of the full-time officials at the meeting, explained the reasoning.

He said the officials were under orders from the union executive not to embarrass the Labour government and not to upset the Social Con-trick.

But since there was no meeting of the executive between 31 December and 8 January the order could not in fact have come from the executive.

It came down from still more full-time elected officials in Transport House and probably from elected-for-life Jack Jones himself.

The Royal Docks Division has now lodged a complaint about the conduct of the officers which will be dealt with through the Number One regional committee of the union. But by that time the damage will have been done.

Intolerable

The wage deal has been virtually rail-roaded through and London dockers are well on the way to being the proud owners of a wage cut at a time when inflation is above 20 per cent a year.

What is particularly interesting about these doughty defenders of the Social Contract like Peter Shea is that they do not, it appears, apply it to themselves. Indeed the officials have, we understand, just concluded themselves a nice fat wage deal with Jack Jones.

Transport House admits that the full-time officials have been negotiating their wage claim. But they will not confirm that the claim has been settled.

Nevertheless it appears that the settlement is around 30 per cent.

The whole episode shows once again the chronic lack of control that dockers and all other TGWU members have over their union. Rank and file initiatives on a concerted basis and involving all possible sections of the union could put an end to this undemocratic set-up. Otherwise we will be struck down section by section by the same basic faults in TGWU organisation.

Combine meeting

SKELMERSDALE:—The shop stewards committee at Courtaulds has called a meeting for all the firm's workers in Wigan on Saturday 1 February to discuss and help build a combine organisation, 12 noon to 4pm, AUEW House, Chapel Lane, Wigan.



A picket turns back another lorry. In the first two and a half days of picketing, more than 70 lorries were turned back, and the picketing was 100 per cent successful. Support like that helped win the dispute.

Your support: They got it

—and won

THE LOCKOUT at Jonas Woodheads coil spring factory in Ossett, Yorkshire, has ended in complete victory for the 160 AUEW members. After six weeks, management gave in on Tuesday when another mass meeting completely rejected the company's offer. The settlement includes a new bonus system, which had previously been rejected, the withdrawal of threats to introduce work study, a cash payment of £54.40 to every man locked out, three weeks stamps and three weeks holiday credits. Two transport companies who consistently broke the picket line at a neighbouring Woodheads factory are banned from the plant for seven days while management and shop stewards discuss what action to take.

Convenor Colin Moore told Socialist Worker: 'They are paying us compensation, £54, they don't call it compensation, but that's what it is.' He added: 'On behalf of the shop stewards committee and all the work force, I would like to thank every trade unionist who helped us in our dispute. In particular the Hull dockers, the carworkers, the miners of this area, as well as many others. Their support made victory possible.'

Delegates from the work force toured as widely as possible, Colin Moore told Socialist Worker: 'The Hull Dockers decided to block everything from all Woodheads plants, and any lorries that crossed our picket lines. The telegram we got from them lifted all of us.'

Collections were held around the docks and over a dozen pits were visited. 'The response was overwhelming,' added Colin. 'We've had immediate donations from funds and collections at pit heads.'

'One pit, Kellingey, is holding mass meetings on all three shifts, as well as giving us £25 straight off. They even offered help with picketing if we needed it. We visited the North Yorkshire Council of the NUM, representing over 20 pits, and they're raising money for us.'

'We've visited local engineering factories as well, and we had a good reception at Vauxhalls at Ellesmere Port.'

Withdrew

The lock-out was part of an attempt by the Company to break the Combine organisation and Joint Negotiating Body set up by shop stewards in the five plants of Woodheads Springs and Forging Section. The Osset factory, one of the strongest parts of the group, was occupied for six weeks over the 1972 Engineering Pay Claim while in 1973 three victimised men were reinstated after a three-day strike.

Just before the lockout, Osset members picketed another part of the section in an effort to enforce a one-day stoppage across all five plants in support of a claim for consolidation of the threshold and an across-the-board rise.

Demands

The Company managed to divide the Joint Negotiating Body over the five plants. In Leeds, their offer was accepted, while in Sheffield the shop stewards' committee resigned after officials from the boilermakers forced through a ballot.

The company then decided to take on the Osset factory. Negotiations broke down as management withdrew recognition of the Joint Negotiating Body. In local negotiations they refused any change in the offer or to discuss the bonus payments. Instead they wanted to introduce work study. 'All you're getting is work study,' said the general

manager, Eric Walden.

A mass meeting rejected this and decided to bring in an overtime ban and a work-to-rule, a fortnight before Christmas. Management withdrew supervision and even refused to administer first aid. On Monday morning at 6.30 police and higher management met the work force outside a locked factory, and told the workforce they were on strike.

After three weeks, management were still demanding work study, and no increase on the bonus. A mass meeting decided to picket the most profitable factory—the shock absorbers plant next door in Osset which is not part of the Springs and Forging Section.

More than 100 police, some mounted, met 40 pickets and broke a way through for certain lorries. The police inspector claimed that the mounted police were on a 'normal routine patrol'.

Lorries without any markings or with the markings painted over have been escorted through. One came through without number plates. The GMWU shop stewards committee inside was not prepared to take any action.

CONSULTANTS

ON THE RUN

by Dave Pinnock,
MATSA shop steward

LONDON:—A joint shop stewards' meeting representing nurses and other hospital workers unanimously agreed to ban private patients from the Whittington and Royal Northern hospitals as an answer to the consultants' work to rule.

Royal Northern workers have given almost total support, but unfortunately this is completely under the control of one senior steward, with the obvious danger of the whole thing collapsing if he changes his stance.

He has however ensured that no more private patients will go into the two private wards at the Northern by threatening to withdraw all services (something he is in a position to do) and so far, the consultants are admitting defeat.

At the Whittington there was no organising between stewards and almost no publicity for a mass meeting. Fewer than 30 workers, and only three stewards, turned up.

The lesson is obvious. Shop stewards must to their job or private patients stopped at the Northern will be farmed out onto general wards at the Whittington to the detriment of NHS patients who will have to wait even longer. And, what's more, the credence of the trade unions within the hospitals will disappear.

YOUR SUPPORT: SHE CAN'T WIN WITHOUT IT

by Mary Larkin

WOLVERHAMPTON:—The strength and solidarity shown by the Asian and white women throughout the first six weeks of their strike at Yarnolds has finally impressed the local trade union movement into supporting them. The women came out on strike before Christmas for the reinstatement of their two victimised shop stewards and for union recognition.

Last week the Wolverhampton Trades Council promised full support in blacking goods, help on the picket line and raising money.

An emergency meeting of the executive committee of the Wolverhampton TGWU branch pledged a mass picket for Monday morning, 27 January, and to help maintain the picket after 5pm, when the women need to go home to their families (management are trying to bring in supplies in the evening).

Pickets outside some of Yarnolds shops throughout the country last Saturday had some effect in embarrassing the firm and disrupting business.

The women are also being helped by their families, with the husbands and fathers of many of the Asian women arguing with them not to return to work until their fight is won.

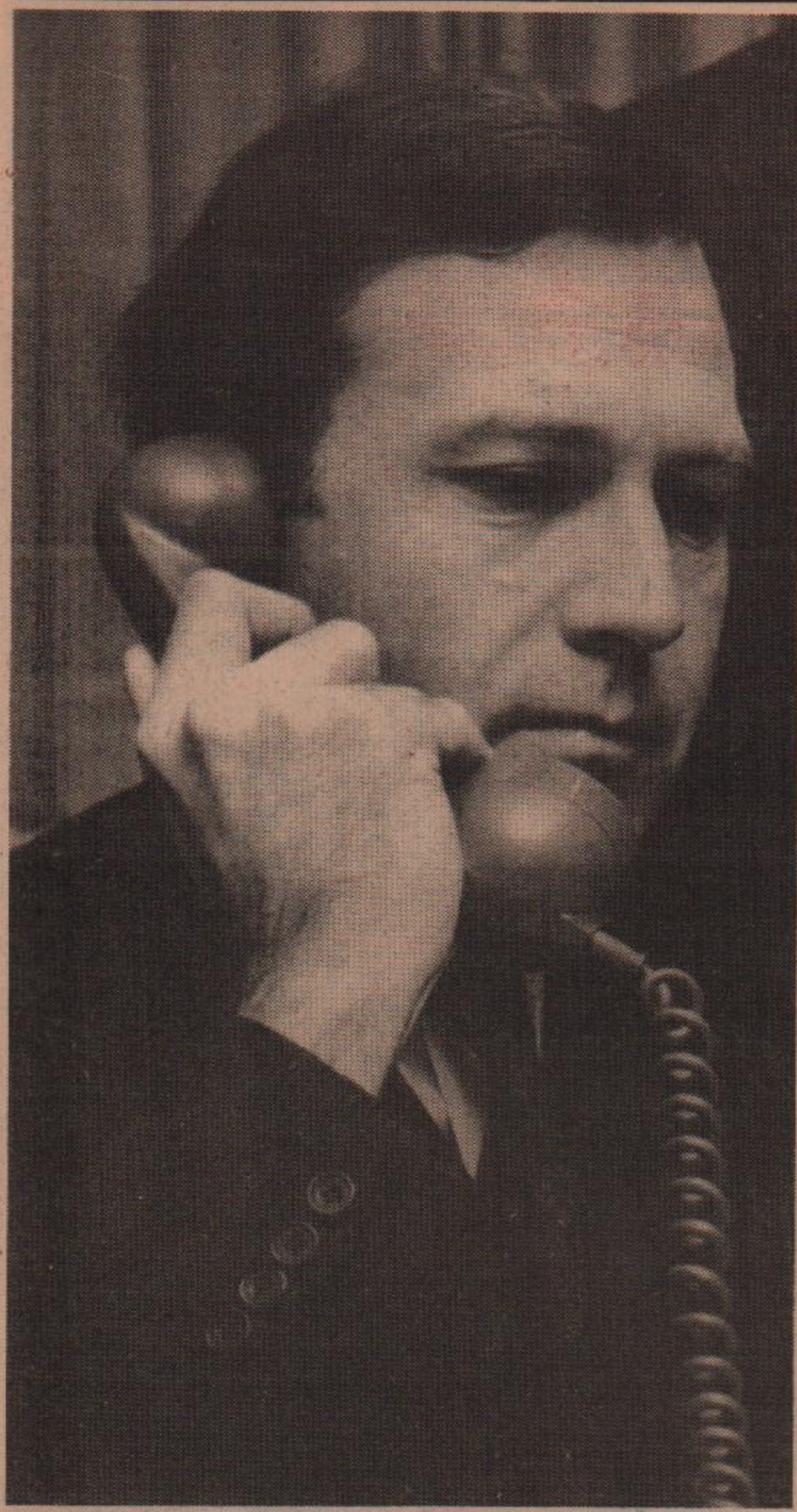
The women can't win the strike on their own—but a victory for them will do more for women workers everywhere than any number of resolutions and good intentions. Now they need: Help on the picket line Pickets at Yarnolds shops next Saturday, in Wolverhampton,



Coventry, Solihull, Perry Barr, Hanley, Gloucester, Worcester, Chester and Bristol.

Donations and messages of support. Write to Yarnolds Strike Committee, C/O Mr Tudor, TGWU Offices, 33 Berry Street, Wolverhampton.

Pictures:
John Sturrock (Report)



THESE MEN COST YOU £200 A WEEK

THESE two gentlemen are representatives in parliament. They get £100 a week plus expenses for 34 weeks a year hard representing.

JOHN STONEHOUSE (left) represents the working-class people of Walsall North. He recently forged a passport of a dead worker in his constituency and hopped it under a false name to Australia.

The reason for this unparliamentary behaviour was that Stonehouse's attempts to become a millionaire had gone astray. In 1971 he hoped to make a million out of a bank he set up to get money subscribed to help the poverty-stricken people of Bangladesh, the poorest country in the world.

Not enough people put up enough money for Stonehouse—perhaps because the plan was denounced by almost everyone in Bangladesh. So Stonehouse set about speculating in Romanian cement. That failed too, so Stonehouse robbed what was left of his bank, and did a bunk.

Now everyone is wondering what to do about it. Several Tory MPs say that Stonehouse shouldn't be expelled before he's proven guilty of something. (Only a week ago a lesser-known gangster was sent to prison for four months for forging a passport). Bernard Levin of The Times, fresh from attacking the Shrewsbury pickets, speaks up sharply for his

old friend John Stonehouse.

Only one group of people are not consulted: the voters of Walsall North. They elected Stonehouse, but they cannot sack him.

The same goes, for that matter, for the people of Hexham in Northumberland who are represented by a former Foreign Secretary, GEOFFREY RIPPON (right).

Rippon is the 'Shadow' Foreign Minister for Her Majesty's Opposition—in his spare time. This brings him in a mere £5000 a year—which is chickenfeed to what he can earn as an international lawyer. At present for instance, he is retained as 'legal consultant' by the confectionary and soft drinks firm, Cadbury Schweppes—chairman: Lord Watkinson, former Tory Minister for Defence.

Only this month Rippon has been swanning it in the luxury hotels of Mexico City where he has been looking into 'a legal matter connected with a new business' on behalf of Cadbury Schweppes. 'He knows a lot about Mexico and is very interested in it', said a Cadbury spokesman.

Did the electors of Hexham choose Rippon so that he could represent Cadburys in Mexico City? If not, there is nothing they can do about it.



Scots strike on again

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Why the figures are a fiddle

by Jim Kincaid

THIS WEEK the government launched another blast of propaganda on wages with official figures suggesting that while prices went up by 19 per cent last year, earnings rose by 25 per cent.

The figures are certainly a fiddle. The earnings estimates conveniently ignore tax and national insurance. Take-home pay has been lagging well behind price rises.

Anyway, for workers the cost of living, goes up faster than the official index, which includes the luxury spending of the wealthy. A recent report by the Low Pay Unit concludes that since 1970 the cost of living has risen 3½ per cent faster for the low-paid than for the rich because price increases have been faster for necessities.

Need

In any case statistics about 1974 are a useless guide to what is happening now. This month many workers have had their overtime and bonus sharply cut. Many are no longer getting the high wages the government criticises because they are queuing for unemployment benefit. For much of last year the earnings of ten million workers were propped up by automatic threshold payments. These were terminated in November and workers are now having to fight hard for every extra penny.

The really important government announcement last week was made with minimum publicity and rated only a short paragraph in most newspapers. Shirley Williams, Minister of Prices, stated that food subsidies are to be frozen at their present level of £500 million—chickenfeed compared with the £15,000 million Denis Healey recently gave to big business in tax refunds and loans.

But the food subsidies have given some direct, and useful help to low income groups. The decision to freeze them will really hit hard since food prices are beginning to soar again. Last week, The Gorcer magazine recorded 1,027 price rises, including 6p on a pound of tea. Bread is also expected to go up soon.

CLEANSING DRIVERS DOUBLE-CROSSED

by Mick Napier.

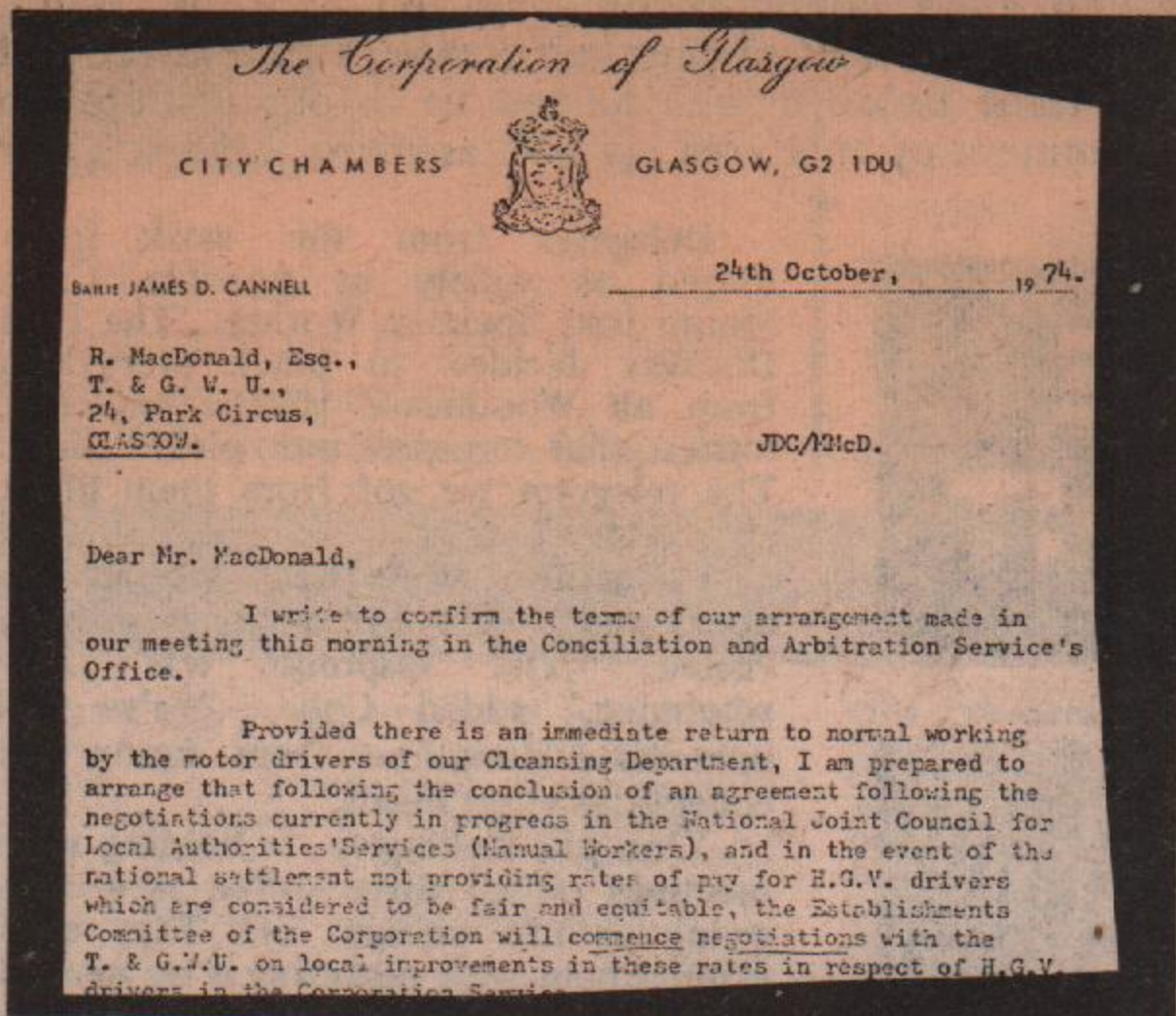
DUNBARTONSHIRE: More than 300 manual workers employed by the county council have been on strike for three weeks for a 25 per cent wage increase.

The strikers are nearly all members of the 7/169 Transport Union branch and cover a wide range of services—cleansing, sewage, street lighting, cemeteries, crematorium, parks, baths, roads. The strike is virtually total throughout the county—a great success for such a spread out group of workers in a weak sector.

The pressure for strike action to win a wage increase started almost immediately after the national negotiations awarded them £3.38, said branch secretary George Wilmshurst. With basic wages of between £30.40 and £32, these workers are among the lowest-paid in the country.

The Labour controlled council has hidden behind the argument that they can't negotiate basic rates locally—so the issue is vital for council workers everywhere.

If this strike wins, then every local authority in the area and probably nationally will be inundated with claims from



Proof of double-cross. Part of a letter from Bailie James Cannell that states clearly that his authority will renegotiate with the drivers for a separate local agreement. Cannell's committee is now arguing that separate local wage rises for drivers are 'out of the question'.

their low-paid manual workers said George Wilmshurst: 'We won't win this one by lying in bed but only through active picketing. The parks department originally did not intend to come out but we went up there and now they are involved in the strike and enthusiastic.'

The strikers need support. Donations and messages to: George Wilmshurst, 206 Middleton Street, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire.

COUNCIL WORKERS OUT OVER PARITY

GLASGOW:—The Labour-controlled Glasgow Corporation has double-crossed the city's cleansing drivers and is still refusing to pay them the money which was promised last November to get them to call off their strike.

Archie Hood, chairman of the strike committee says: 'They have offered us absolutely nothing. The national talks did fail. The only reason we did go back was because we were offered negotiations for money locally. Otherwise we would never have gone back in a million years.'

'We are out for £37.50, which is parity with the HGV men in road haulage. We won't tolerate a situation where the corporation contracts outside drivers to do the same work as corporation drivers at a higher rate—usually £5 and as high as £6.75.'

'The strike is still 100 per cent. The vast bulk of the public who take their rubbish to the incinerators in cars have turned away at the picket. Yesterday only three went through out of well over 100.'

'It tells a lot about the Labour council that the men who usually work in one incinerator have been sent to a local golf course to clear away the paper which blows on to it from the local rubbish tip. This is paid for by the ratepayers.'

'I think that in the next couple of days the union might tell us to go back to work. They're not on.'

Money is urgently needed. Please send to: Len Ferguson, c/o Trade Union Centre, 71 Carlton Place, Glasgow.

ELECTRICIANS DEMAND PARITY

by Scottish local authority electricians

SCOTLAND:—More than 1000 electricians employed by local authorities in Scotland's four cities—Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen—and many smaller authorities went on strike on Monday demanding parity with contracting electricians.

Council sparks have always been paid the same rates as contracting sparks, but now the council bosses have refused to pay the increase of 25p an hour due three weeks ago.

West of Scotland shop stewards representing electricians decided to recommend strike action to their members and later reported complete support among the membership for a strike.

The officials then told the stewards that union boss Frank Chapple wanted them to stay at work while the 'legal implications of the employers' action were examined. The stewards decided to continue with strike action.

For far too long local authority sparks have operated as separate units, rarely if ever in contact with one another. This dispute has brought us together.

We must not lose the opportunity to forge permanent links between rank and file electricians in all parts of Scotland. Now is the time too to link our action with those of other council workers in dispute. How about a council workers' rank and file committee?

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Attacked busman dies

LONDON:—The tragic death on Monday of black bus conductor Ronald Jones following an attack by a passenger is likely to lead to widespread industrial action on London Transport.

Platform staff already fed up with the regular toll of assaults feel that this is the last straw and are taking action to get something done.

But the key question in this sad situation is what to demand. A policeman on every bus is not on and is not exactly a pleasant way to travel in any case. And the cancellation of late night bus services would be of little value. It would play into the hands of London Transport who are always looking for new ways to cut back.

Rank and file busworkers are calling for the London Transport Board to take a few elementary steps. They could cough up with free life insurance. They could take the squads of inspectors with radio cars off spying on the crews and put them to a useful purpose. The inspectors could patrol troublesome routes and act as back up to the crews.

This would mount a real challenge to the priorities of London Transport. It's not only drink that causes passengers to jib at conductors or even to lash out. Sometimes it is sheer frustration at the at the decaying service provided by the London Transport Board.