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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

PAY-OFFS FOR THE PARASITES

LAY-OFFS FOR THE WORKERS

'SMILE AND BE HAPPY' shouted the Daily Mail last Friday. 'We are £7,713 million better off than on 6 January.' £7,713 million! That's £1,500 for every man and woman in the country.

Have YOU noticed it? Did YOU find in your factory that production suddenly shot up by more than 70 per cent in those three weeks?

When the Daily Mail says 'we', it means the parasites who gamble on the Stock Exchange in the wealth which we produce. Those people were £7,713 million better off because share values rose by that staggering amount.

RECESSION

The Daily Telegraph last Tuesday explains: 'The City and the investing community have arrived at certain fundamental truths . . . Mr Healey and others formerly of the same mind have reached and passed the critical point on the way to realistic government.'

From all over the country comes the news of more of our brothers and sisters laid off in the recession caused by Mr Healey's 'realistic government.' 2000 workers at Ferodo, 1200 at Goodyear Tyre, hundreds of others at the Bidston Shipping Company, Economic Stampings, Decca Reid and Sigrist, and Tubes of Oldbury.

It's not like last year when a shorter working week was introduced for a few weeks. This time, it's likely to last for several months if not longer—long after any lay-off agreements have run out.

The trade union leaders are still refusing to organise any fight back. Last week, in a crucial speech, Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, argued that trade unionists should not seek wage rises which would 'make up for the extra income tax'.

In other words, trade unionists should accept wage cuts of up to ten per cent. That sort of talk will bring still more comfort to the gamblers in the City, but it won't solve unemployment.

USEFUL

Less spending money means less goods bought, which means more redundancies.

So what can we do about it?

On page seven this week we print an article by Gerry Jones, a shop steward at Chrysler, which is ravaged by short time. He shows how the weakness on the shop floor has led to acceptance of the lay-offs—and he argues a strategy over lay-off pay and lay-off agreements which is founded on strong shop floor organisation.

It's a useful article which should be discussed everywhere workers are on short time or threatened with it.

It should start a real fight-back on the shop floor against lay-offs.

I HOPE Merlyn Rees is properly appreciative of Jimmy Moyne.

Rees did not have to search his heart or wrestle with any tortured conscience deciding whether to include Jimmy in the last batch of internee-releases. Jimmy died in Long Kesh on Monday two weeks ago and came home to Cable Street in the Bogside in a coffin.

Jimmy Moyne campaigned for me in an election in 1970. He was about five and a half feet tall with long hair and a broken nose. He lived with his parents in a council house, worked as a dental mechanic, drank at weekends in the Rocking Chair bar and stopped off in a fish-and-chip shop on his way home at night.

In short, there was nothing remarkable about him. And, being what he was and where he came from, nothing remarkable about that fact that, in the aftermath of Bloody Sunday, he joined the Provos and in March 1973 found himself, with more than a few of his neighbours, in a cage in Long Kesh.

He had bronchitis. In July 1973, he was taken from the Kesh to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, where he spent two days in an oxygen tent.

Then he was taken straight back to the Camp. He was still there in November last when the huts were

burned down in a riot. He, like everyone else, spent the next weeks huddled under makeshift shelters in the mud.

Two weeks ago, at one o'clock in the morning, he was taken suddenly, seriously ill. The other men in the hut rang an alarm bell, but no-one came.

In the end, as he worsened, they smashed down the door of the hut, put him on his mattress on a trolley and wheeled him through the mud to the gate, shouting to attract attention. But it was too late.

Outside his family and those who knew him, it is unlikely that many people will remember Jimmy. But it

By Eamonn McCann

is worth noting that he would hardly have died had he not been in Long Kesh. And it's worth asking why, then, was he there at all?

Why, indeed, are any of them there, neither charged nor tried; Phil McCullough, for example, or Kevin Hannaway or Sean McKenna, who have been in since 9 August 1971?

Thus the vicious circle of repression, resistance, intensified repression

The only way ultimately to break that circle is to break the link between Britain and Ireland. That means getting the troops out, and in marching for that demand on Saturday, we should be mindful that all the Jimmy Moyne's have already paid for it in advance and over the odds.

■ Stop the Bombings ■ Troops out of Ireland ■ Release the Internees

MARCH from Speakers Corner, Hyde Park. Torchlight Procession, 5pm, SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY. All London, Home Counties and IS Student Branches to support.

(All London Branches must send two Socialist Worker sellers to Speakers Corner by 4.30 to sell before and during the march. Extra papers will be available there and at Conway Hall.)

RALLY at 1.30pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1. Speakers from the International Socialists, IMG, Labour Party and Mike Cooley and Bernadette McAliskey.

They frightened the pants off Geoffrey Rippon



GEOFFREY Rippon, former Tory Foreign Secretary, who supported fascism in Portugal for the last 25 years and who wined and dined the Portuguese Fascist dictator Caetano when he came to London in 1973, is suddenly terribly worried about the survival of democracy in Portugal.

On his way back from a luxury tour of Mexico as 'legal adviser' to Cadbury Schweppes, Geoff the Ripper popped in to a conference held by the Portuguese 'Democratic Centre' Party in Lisbon.

He—and the whole of the British Press—exploded in righteous indignation because the conference was disrupted by 'mobs of Communists'. This was a 'threat to democracy'.

Who are the defenders of democracy in the Democratic Centre Party?

The party chairman, Professor Freitas do Amaral, was a member of the Portuguese fascist party and a close collaborator of the dictator, Caetano.

The other main leader of the party is Xavier Pintado, who also held many official posts under Caetano and Salazar.

Portugal: Moves By The Right—page 4

WHY WON'T LABOUR CONDEMN THIS?



FREE THE PICKETS!

SUPPORT IS growing for the release of the two jailed Shrewsbury pickets. A Scottish Area conference of the National Union of Miners last week called on the TUC and the NUM executive to call a one-day national stoppage. The Kent area of the NUM has also called on their executive to call industrial action to free the Two.

The NEC of the print union SLADE has called for a one-day national strike. Other bodies calling for action include Birmingham Trades Council, UCATT Midland Region, Medway District Trades Council, Trowbridge and District Trades Council.

70 MPs have also signed a motion calling for the pickets' immediate release, and two MPs, Martin Flannery (Hillsborough) and Stan Thorne (Preston S), have called on the TUC to organise a one-day stoppage.

The East Anglian Regional Council of the TUC is also calling on the TUC to organise a one-day stoppage.

BY
LAURIE
FLYNN

IT'S AMAZING what rank and file activity can do. It can even get the general secretary of the TUC a full page in last week's Sunday Mirror to plead his version of the case for the Shrewsbury pickets.

But before you jump with joy, ask yourself a few questions. Was it not the Sunday People, a paper which, like the Sunday Mirror, is owned by the International Publishing Corporation, printed a scandalous article about Des Warren in 1972 which helped to kick off the prosecution?

And how is it that Len Murray, Jack Jones and the other so-called big guns of the TUC have waited the best part of two years to come to the defence of the Shrewsbury pickets?

Hypocrites

Predictably, Len Murray's arguments in the Sunday Mirror give a great deal of ground to the hypocrites of the law and order brigade.

He wrote: 'Trade unions themselves were for a long time judged to be a conspiracy. So were strikes. An Act of Parliament 100 years ago put an end to that legal nonsense. But that Act clearly said that intimidation in an industrial dispute is an offence.'

'The Shrewsbury pickets could have been charged under that Act... If they had been found guilty, they could have been sent to prison for three months at the most.'

Having let them rot in prison for more than a year, he clearly believes they've done their bit and should now be released. He makes no mention of the real intimidation that goes on on picket lines, from scabs being driven through in security vans, to mounted police with batons and Special Patrol Groups.

And throughout the article he assumes that capitalist law is good law.

Len Murray's sudden conversion to the cause of the jailed pickets should not let anyone forget that only pressure from the rank and file forced the TUC to even talk about the issue.

Nor should we forget the hundreds of resolutions which have been thrown in his bin on the issue. They have done their year in jail and in his eyes that's enough for any trade union criminal.

LET US know what is happening about the Shrewsbury Two in your area. Write to Socialist Worker Editorial, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

THE LABOUR government has bluntly refused to make even one public statement condemning the brutal military dictatorship in Indonesia.

Just before Christmas, the Under Secretary for State at the Foreign Office, Lord Garonwy Roberts, saw a delegation of religious leaders headed by fervent Labour supporter Lord Soper.

Soper outlined some of the facts about Indonesia's regime—70,000 political prisoners held without charge or trial, forced labour, no free trade unions, mass murder of villagers in Irian Jaya—and asked for some public statement or condemnation from the Labour government.

Roberts claimed a public condemnation would 'make things difficult' for 'sympathetic' members of the Indonesian government. The Labour government, he said, had to take a 'studied view' of repression wherever it occurred. While it condemned the 1965 coup, he said, 'it is not important to dwell on past history.'

The situation in Indonesia was improving, he claimed. The British government would not withdraw aid or technical assistance. It was 'important to allow President Suharto to stabilise the country, since without such stability the Indonesian situation could easily become chaotic.'

President Suharto and his associates have been 'stabilising' the country since they seized power in 1965.

To consolidate their power, they slaughtered anyone and everyone who was or might be a supporter of the Indonesian Communist Party. Between 500,000 and 1 million were butchered.

Time magazine (17 December 1966) described the new 'stability': 'The killings have been on such a scale that the disposal of corpses has created a serious sanitation problem in East Java and North Sumatra, where the lurid air bears the reek of decaying flesh.'

'Travellers from these areas tell of small rivers and streams that have been literally clogged with bodies. River transportation has at places been seriously impeded.'

This barbarism—about which the last Labour government said little and did nothing—was of considerable comfort to those with wealth and power in other lands.

Squeeze

The previous regime under Sukarno had taken steps to bolster Indonesian capitalism at the expense of foreign varieties. Dutch-owned industry was taken over in the late Fifties. British-owned industry went in 1964. Shell and Unilever, in particular, felt the squeeze.

Once the rivers had run with blood, however, things began to change. The country was opened up to foreign capital under the direction of the International Monetary Fund, the Ford Foundation and other such impartial bodies.

In 1967, the £150 million worth of nationalised British investment was returned to its previous owners.

Great was the joy in the boardrooms of Shell and Unilever. Rio Tinto Zinc moved in to explore for minerals and oil. The functionaries in the Export Credit Guarantees Department and the Bank of England, as ever anticipating the needs of big business started to love up to the regime of Brigadier General (now President) Suharto.

£36.9 million in government aid has been pumped in since 1969, £12 million of it interest free over 25

years. This operation has enabled British Leyland to move in and sell buses and commercial vehicles. And last year the Queen was shipped out for a state visit.

The reason for all this, of course, is that Labour accepts the rules of the game. They want to work with big business, not organise against it.

But Indonesia isn't only revealing about the Labour government. It speaks volumes about the Labour left, who are faced with two clear choices.

They could speak out against the whole nauseating process, explain why it happens, and move out into the labour movement and try to rouse ordinary workers on the issue.

They could. But they don't for it would take them out of the comfortable haven of the House of Commons and the Labour committee rooms, where they are important people.

Alternatively, they can protest now and again, lamely, by putting down an early day motion or a parliamentary question.

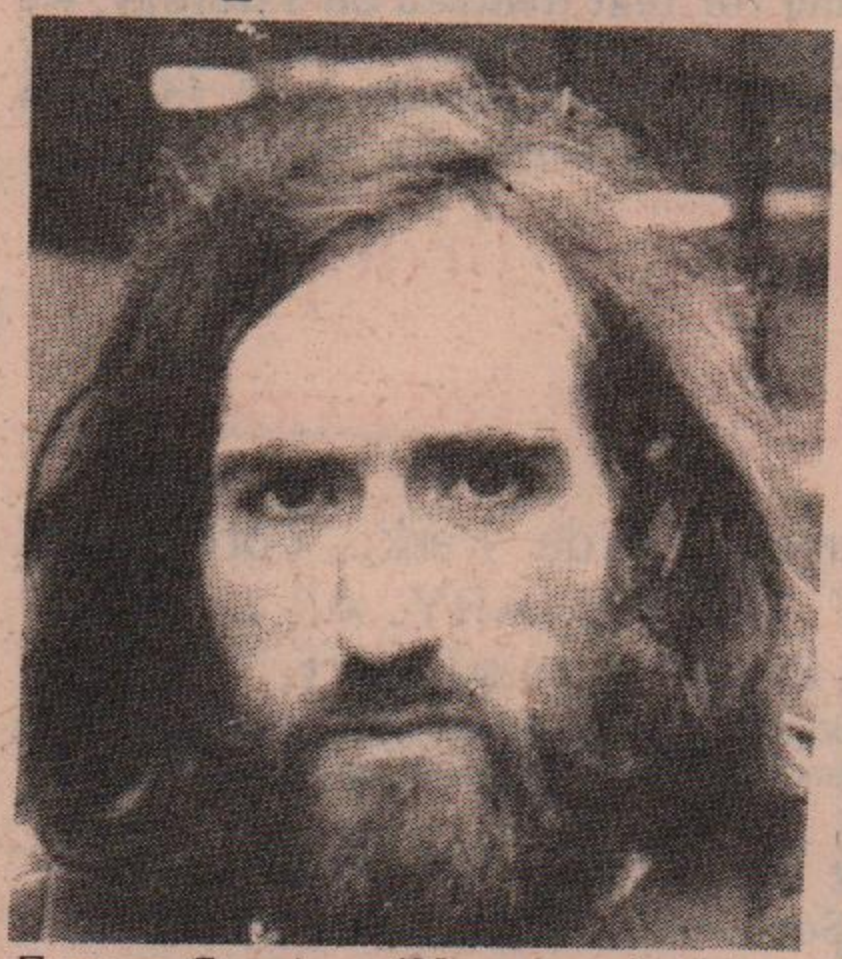
An early day motion asking the government to condemn publicly the Indonesian regime is down right now. It would cost the 80 Tribune MPs absolutely nothing to sign it.

Only 22 have done so. So much for the brotherhood of man.



An Indonesian political prisoner, one of many thousands. He might as well be dead as far as Labour are concerned.

Caprino's out—but Danny Ryan is deported



Franco Caprino: 'Now smash this Act'. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

FRANCO Caprino is free. After 40 days in Pentonville prison, he was let out two days before a mass demonstration was planned by London trade unionists to demand his release.

Franco had been locked up without charge or explanation under the infamous clause in the Tory Immigration Act, under which anyone whose presence is 'not conducive to the public good' can be deported.

ACTIVE

Franco was an active trade unionist, specially among immigrant workers, which was not at all conducive to the good of hoteliers, restaurateurs and shopkeepers. Franco told Socialist Worker: 'I

am glad to be out—though I've lost my job as a salesman at Selfridges and my union, USDAW, won't lift a finger to help me get it back.

The only reason I'm out is because trade unionists and Labour Party rank and file members organised a campaign for me.

'Eventually, some MPs also asked questions about me, and the government was embarrassed. That's the answer to people who say 'picketing will do no good'. Sometimes it does. But the campaign must go on.

'Unless we get this Immigration Act off the statute book, immigrant workers will face the same repression and intimidation which I felt.'

Another, even more savage law, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, took its toll again last week.

Danny Ryan, who has been living with his family in England for 22 years and is an organiser for the Official Sinn Fein movement in Britain, was deported under it.

SECRET

On leaving Britain, he said: 'No charge to answer, no evidence to refute, allegations made by secret police to a secret tribunal at which the accused is never present...'

'The new laws on terrorism are being used against the Irish community today. They will be used against the labour movement tomorrow if the government decides a strike is a threat to the nation's economic security.'

PETROL

It may be bad for you-but it's alright for some

THE PRICE of petrol is forcing thousands of workers to take their cars off the road. The result is hardship—for workers who can't get to work, for families who find travel almost impossible, and for old people in rural areas.

At 72p a gallon, petrol is now out of the reach of workers who have got used to car travel. But how many workers realise that, by deliberate decision of the Labour Government, almost half the people driving cars do not have to pay a penny of the recent Budget increase on petrol? In effect, they are still paying the old price of about 50p a gallon.

Who are these lucky people? First, anyone who drives a company car. Petrol used by companies is exempt from the latest price increase. About 40 per cent of all new cars registered are bought by companies for extravagant use by their executives.

The Greater London Council recently announced that more than half the private cars driving about London are company cars. They are, said the GLC, the chief cause of traffic congestion, and the biggest waster of petrol. Yet petrol for them is 20p a gallon cheaper than for us.

Second, anyone who drives a commercial vehicle. Third, 1,200,000 self-employed people who are earning more than £5000 a year.

Why is it that the people who can most afford the increase manage to dodge it? Simple. Almost all the increase is on Value Added Tax. If you're registered for VAT, you can claim every penny you pay in increased VAT on petrol back from the Customs and Excise department.

That means all companies and individuals with a turnover or income of more than £5000 a year. There is no restriction on the use of two or even three cars a family. Petrol is cheap for the lot of them.

Of course, if the government really wanted to save petrol they would first penalise the company cars and the rich families with more than one car. That would also be the best way to cut out traffic congestion.

But they don't do that. They penalise the workers who can least afford it and clog up the traffic least. Denis Healey told the House of Commons on 12 November: 'I have chosen to use VAT rather than the revenue duty on oil since this will ensure that the increased tax does not in general add to industrial costs and give a further upwards push to prices in the shops'.

In other words, to save the bosses putting up prices in the shops, Healey is putting up prices in the garages.

SUGAR

THE MOTTO of Mr Cube, the cartoon creation of the multi-millionaires who control Britain's biggest sugar company, is derived from the famous saying of Robert the Bruce: 'If at first you don't persuade, lie, lie, lie again.'

Last week we had another spate of lies to celebrate the announcement of Tate and Lyle's profits—which are up from £17.1 million on the record-breaking year of 1973 to an unbelievable £40.8 million in 1974.

The biggest lie of all is the suggestion that, though Tate and Lyle did very well out of their subsidiary operations, like shipping, they did not profiteer from the rise in the sugar price.

One ad shows Mr Cube bewailing the fact that profits on UK sugar refining are down—by 36 per cent.

Why are these profits down? Oh, answers Mr Cube, 'as a result of the sugar shortage'.

It's true Tate and Lyle ran down its sugar refining in Britain last year—to create the shortage which has resulted in one of the most amazing price rises in modern times.

The price of sugar has doubled from last summer—up from 15p a two pound bag to 30p today.

As soon as it was sure the price

IT'S THE BIGGEST SWINDLE FOR YEARS

would rise, Tate and Lyle set about making profits—not from refining more sugar (that means paying wages to workers)—but on speculation on 'futures' in the European Common Market.

Under a system recently set up by the EEC, the Common Market offers European sugar to the highest bidder.

In the last months of last year, Tate and Lyle bid for 157,000 tons of the stuff, all at a price which worked out at about 15p a bag.

These purchases were helped by money lent to Tate and Lyle by the Labour Government at interest rates of 11½ per cent—about three

per cent lower than was available on the open market.

Now Tate and Lyle is selling us that same sugar at 30p a bag. According to the Sunday Times Business News last Sunday:

'These EEC deals means that its trading profits on sugar have probably already topped the £5 million earned in the whole of 1974.'

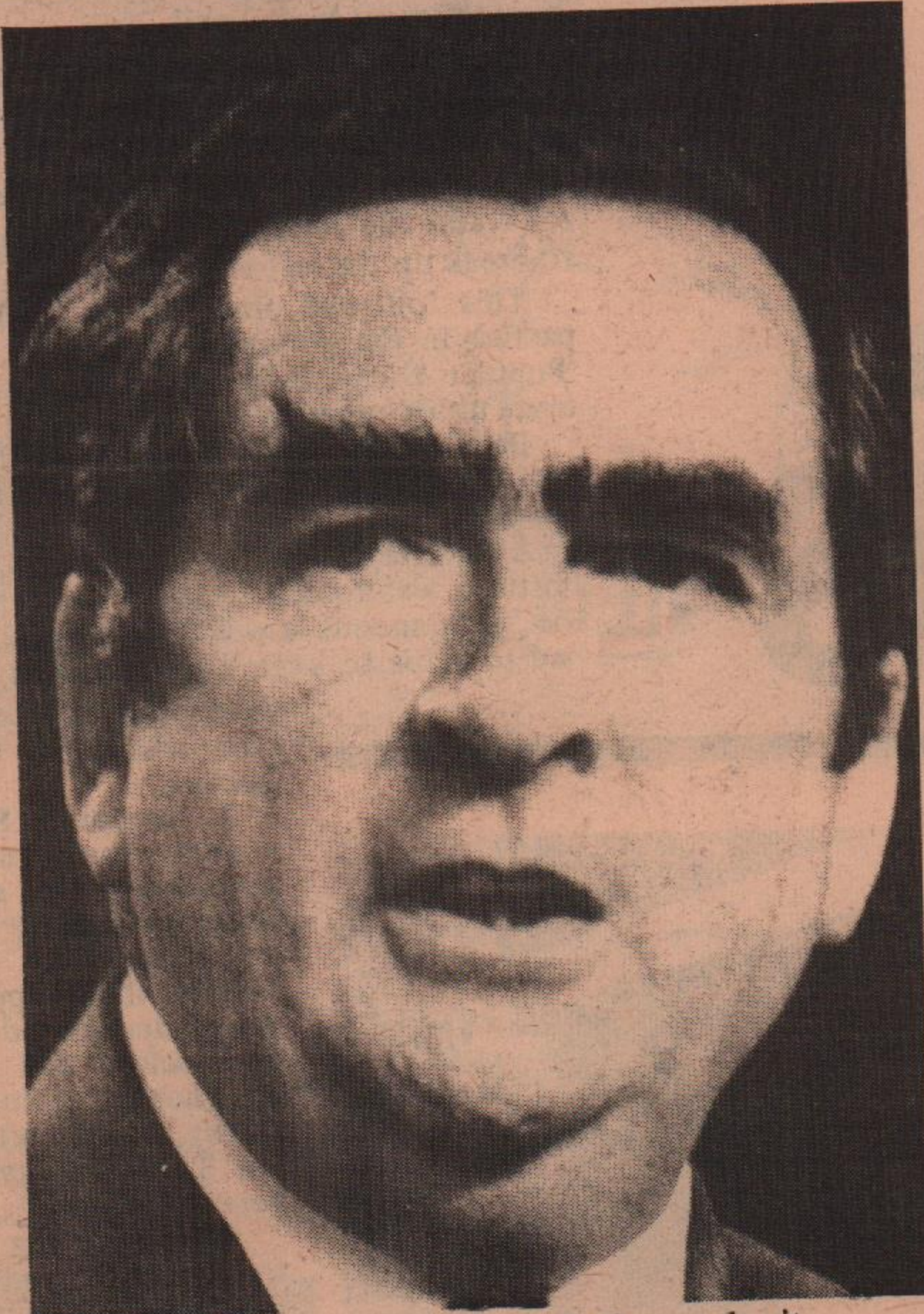
These fantastic profits were made without Tate and Lyle refining a single bag of sugar either here or in the West Indies.

They are money for nothing for the fat shareholders of Tate and Lyle—from speculation on our gullibility in agreeing to pay prices for sugar which have nothing to do with the cost of it, nor of the wages paid to sugar workers.

This is one of the biggest swindles of modern times. It shows clearly why Tate and Lyle, which has always refined mainly in the poor countries of the Commonwealth, was such an enthusiastic supporter of the 'rich man's club'—the Common Market.

It also explains why Sir John Lyle—Sir Mister Cube himself—is the Big Boss of that other famous lie machine, Aims of Industry.

PAUL FOOT



Healey: Making us pay more, so the bosses don't...

BP: Bloody Pathetic, Labour

THE LABOUR government last week bought the second biggest company in the country—British Petroleum. But they immediately made it clear that it belonged to the private shareholders, who owned fewer than a third of the shares!

When Burmah Oil went bust last month, the government rushed in and guaranteed all Burmah's debts—to save the private shareholders.

To help pay the debts, they bought up Burmah's shares in BP, so increasing the government's share-holding to 70 per cent. But the government has made it clear it doesn't want control of the company.

As The Times explained: 'Behind the scenes, the company continues to insist that the government should, in effect, be a sleeping partner, because otherwise it would be internationally embarrassed.'



A Message from Mr Cube.

Don't buy me now. Buy me next month, when I'll cost twice as much.

As Socialist Worker predicted, 3 August 1974

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1 FEBRUARY 1975

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Bloody Sunday and the State

THERE IS ONE THING the press will do their utmost to make you forget this week. It is the third anniversary of Bloody Sunday, when British paratroopers shot dead 13 unarmed demonstrators in the streets of Derry.

Many British workers think that the incident is of little concern to them, since it happened in Ireland. But there are very good reasons why no worker in Britain should forget Bloody Sunday. For, on that day, those who control the army showed that they will go to any lengths to destroy a movement, however peaceful, that challenges the power of the authorities.

It is a lesson which they at least have recognised cannot be confined to Northern Ireland. In the year of Bloody Sunday, Brigadier Kitson, former British commander in Belfast, published a book aimed at army officers with an introduction from the head of general staff, in which he called upon the army to be prepared for action at some point in the future against strikers in Britain.

The period since has seen growing evidence of the preparedness of the military authorities to take up the lesson. There have been army exercises in the working class streets of cities like Hull, in which the army had practised rooting out civilian 'enemies'. There were the preparations for the miners' strikes, with police and army together being taught how to deal with pickets. There have been the joint army-police manoeuvres at Heathrow. There has been the distribution within the armed forces of text-books like 'Land Operations; Counter-revolutionary Operations,' aimed at teaching officers to 'destroy subversives'.

Shrewsbury

A recent army recruiting advert even went so far as to call for recruits prepared to 'defend the country' against 'internal threats'. Nor have the authorities confined themselves to preparations alone. The police and the courts acted upon instructions from the building employers and Tory MPs to arrest and imprison the Shrewsbury pickets, even though they could not prove that any were involved in acts of violence.

The Littlejohn brothers were sent to Ireland to rob banks and set fire to petrol stations. The special patrol group has attacked picket lines and demonstrations even going as far as to kill Kevin Gately.

Such activities from the forces of 'law and order' is not as surprising as it may seem. A quick look through 'Who's Who' will show you that the people who make up the generals and colonels of the armed forces are the relatives, friends and ex-public school pals of the owners and directors of big business. They move in the same social circles as the big employers, the top judges, the dukes, the property speculators.

The result is that the armed forces, far from being in some way 'neutral' or 'impartial', constitute a powerful and dangerous weapon in the hands of that class which owns the wealth.

The presence of the Labour government in no way has changed this fact. The army has continued to train in the tactics needed to break the workers' movement. The police have continued to break picket lines at factories like Intex Manchester or Woodheads Ossett.

Clutterbuck

At present, what stops the employing class from using the massive military power at its disposal against workers is not principle, but a tactical judgement that there are other, more effective means of keeping workers in check. A friend of Kitson's, Major Clutterbuck, recently explained that while the working class retains its present industrial power, to use military force against it would be counter-productive.

But the army, the police and the state machine in general remain a powerful weapon in the hands of the employers for use at some future occasion, as the crisis weakens workers resistance and drives big business to ever more desperate measures. Then the experience of Bloody Sunday could well be the experience of workers in Britain as well as in Ireland.

There is only one way to prevent that, and that is to build now a movement within the working class that has at its conscious aim the destruction of the state machine, and once and for all the power of the army officers and the police chiefs. Only by building such a movement, that does not restrict itself to economic questions, but confronts directly this most important political question, can we fully learn the lessons of the massacre three years ago in Derry.

MOVES BY THE RIGHT 'Now the wars in Africa are over, big business feels it can move on to the offensive'

THROW PORTUGAL INTO CRISIS

PORTUGAL is facing its third major political crisis since the dictatorship of Caetano was overthrown last April.

An attempt by former Caetano supporters to reorganise in the guise of a 'democratic centre' party was prevented at Oporto last weekend by a mobilisation of workers and students led by the revolutionary left. And rank and file infantry soldiers refused to allow cavalry to break up the left-wing demonstration.

This followed close on an attempt by two of the parties in the government, the Socialist Party and the 'Popular Democratic Party', to divide and weaken the trade union movement.

Behind all these manoeuvres lies an attempt by Portuguese big business to reassert its political hold on the country.

After the overthrow of Caetano, the ruling class in Portugal was forced to make all sorts of concessions by the spontaneous development of the mass struggle. It had to agree to large wage increases, to cut the working

week, and had to sack many managers who had been tainted with fascism.

It accepted Socialist and Communist Party ministers into the government so as to prevent the situation getting right out of hand. In return the 'left-wing' parties ordered their supporters to return to work, denounced unofficial strikers as 'fascists' and accepted a labour law (not to be confused with a more recent union law), much worse than the Tories' Industrial Relations Act here in Britain.

Meanwhile big business continued to dominate industry, the courts, the police and important sections of the army. This was shown recently when the government arrested a number of prominent businessmen for economic sabotage. They were released by a judge who condemned their arrest as 'illegal'.

Protest

But attempts by big business to regain complete control over the government in the summer and autumn were defeated. To a large extent this was due to the scale of popular protest, but also important was the fear of many sections of the army—including prominently placed officers—that a right-wing government would continue the immensely unpopular colonial wars in Africa.

Now the wars in Africa are more or less over and big business feels that it can really move on to the offensive.

Shortly before Christmas right-wingers took complete control of the Socialist Party, with a third of the members splitting away to the left. Since then the Socialists have been given a donation of nearly £250,000 by the Dutch Social Democratic Party. In the past the original source of such funds has often been found to be the CIA.

The Socialists and the Popular Democrats have been hoping to weaken the trade unions by forming right-wing split-offs, as in France and Italy during the cold war.

The Communist Party is now frightened it is going to be kicked out of the government and lose control over the unions. So it has been attempting to resist these manoeuvres.

But at the same time it is still refusing to mobilise the rank and file of the workers' movement for an

all-out struggle. The Party refused to take part in the demonstrations in Oporto last weekend.

Instead it has placed most of its hope in a continuing alliance with a section of officers in the armed forces. That is why the trade union law it supported provides for unity at the top of the unions, but opposes attempts to form united rank and file organisation between workers in different factories in any town. That is why the row over the union law has not led it to campaign against the labour law.

Even if the Communist Party were successful in its approach, what would result would not be a socialist regime run by the workers. It would be a military government like that in Peru, which has taken certain measures to the benefit of the local middle class while breaking strikes and shooting trade unionists. Communist leaders might get ministerial posts, but workers would continue to suffer.

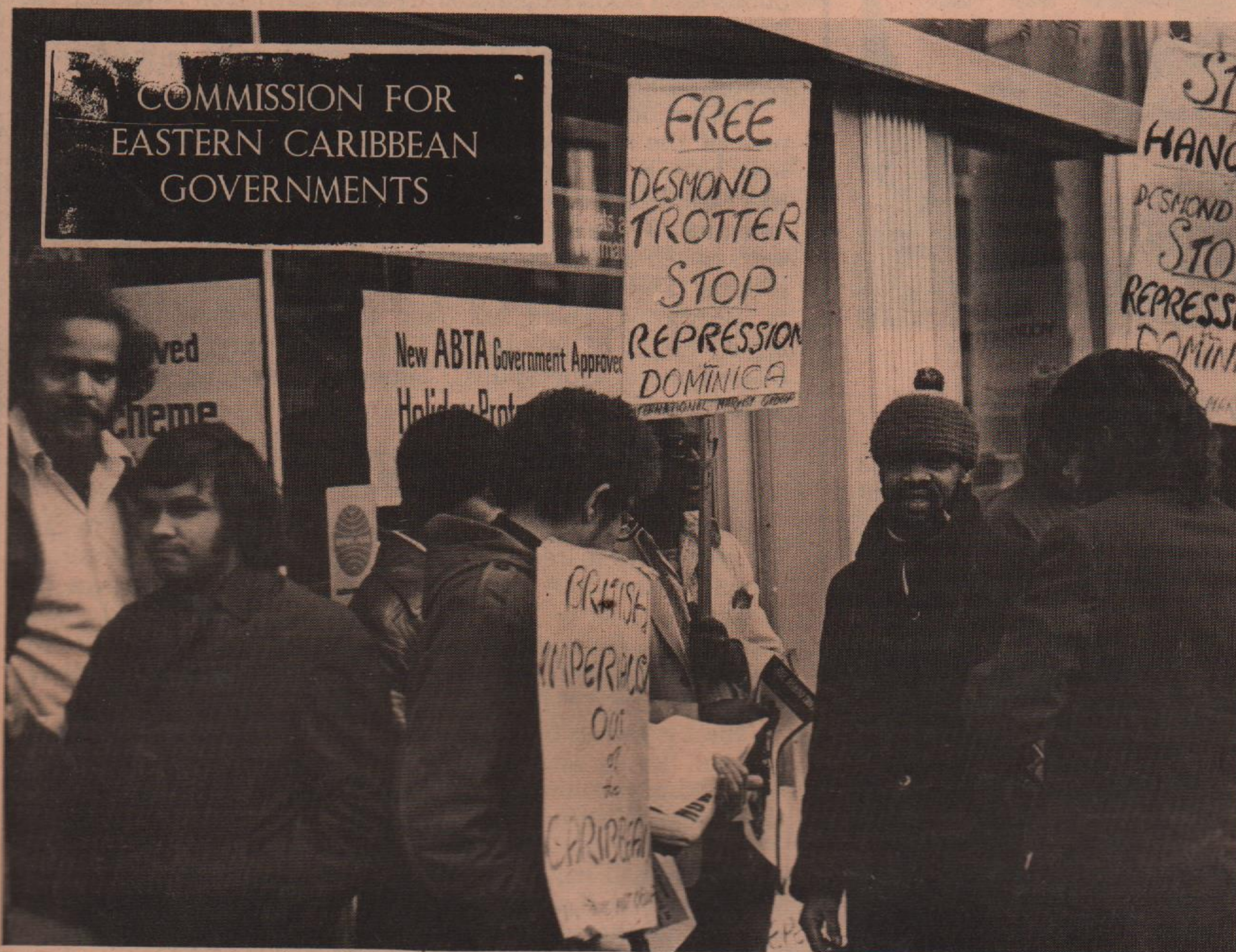
Compromises

However, there is little chance of the Communist Party being successful. Its army officer allies depend for their power on compromises with officers who support the Socialist Party, the Popular Democrats or even the right-wing CDS. That is why the same reactionaries hold power in the police and many sections of the armed forces as under Caetano.

It is clear from last weekend's events, that whole sections of the rank and file in the armed forces are sympathetic with the fight against the right wing. The future of Portugal depends on whether these soldiers are now organised so as to destroy the power of their own officers.

There are signs that many Portuguese workers are beginning to see the need for genuinely revolutionary politics. Revolutionary candidates have been successful in a number of trade union elections.

For a long time, the bulwark of the compromising politics of the Communist Party in the trade unions was the bank workers' union. Yet a couple of weeks ago revolutionary candidates defeated Communist Party members in election for that union in Oporto, which is Portugal's second largest city.



Pickets in London last week outside the office of the Commission for Eastern Caribbean Governments.
PICTURE: Mike Sheridan (IFL)

Leaders of unemployed condemned

PICKETS in London last weekend protested at the death sentence passed on Desmond Trotter, a young civil servant in the small West Indian island of Dominica. He has been convicted on a trumped-up charge of murdering a white American civilian. He was sick in bed at the time of the crime.

Behind the conviction lies a wave of repression by the government of Dominica, an 'associated state' (upgraded colony) of Britain.

Sixty per cent of the population of 70,000 are unemployed, and most of the homes have no running water or proper sewerage system. Those who can get work get 50p a day for toiling from dawn to dusk on plantations owned by Van Geest, the fruit company.

In the past year, however, there has been a growing refusal to accept these conditions. Last February the workers on the Geneva Plantations in Grand Bay rebelled, taking over the estate, killing stock for food and barricading themselves in. The authorities responded by arming all property owners and giving them a licence to kill any 'subversives'.

There also grew up a movement among unemployed youth in the towns. Desmond Trotter was a leader of the movement, and that is the real reason for the death sentence.

Trade unionists in this country should express their solidarity with those struggling against oppression in Dominica. Send protest messages to the Dominican premier and to Reuters Office, Bridgetown, Barbados. Send money for the Fund to Free Desmond Trotter to 37 Tollington Park, London N4.



Military discontent grows

by Neil Davies

discipline.

The conscript system is defended by all the parliamentary parties, from the Gaullists to the Communists, on the grounds that it creates a 'citizen army' that cannot be used for coups. But in fact the conscripts are given all the menial jobs, while most of the highly expensive weaponry is in the hands of elite groups of regulars.

French soldiers have seen trade unionism push the pay of Dutch conscripts to nine times their own.

The discontent is part of a general movement among soldiers throughout Europe. Swedish and Danish soldiers have been striking over rules about hair length. American service-

men staged a strike before Christmas in Berlin over racialism. A recent conference of rank and file servicemen from different NATO forces spoke of the election of officers, ending their privileges, getting troops out of foreign bases. The British government too has admitted that 800 soldiers are absent without leave.

Such developments are going to be increasingly important in the period ahead, not just for soldiers but for all workers. For as the crisis deepens, our rulers will give increasing thought to using their armies against strikers and demonstrators. Rank and file organisation within the armed forces will then be of immense importance in every country.

THE French army is upsetting military chiefs in Western Europe. Its rank and file has been rebelling against the conditions under which they have to live. After a 100-strong demonstration in a French provincial town last summer, a military court tried to placate protests by giving only lenient sentences. But that did not prevent further demonstrations in the German city of Karlsruhe a fortnight ago.

A secret report to Defence Minister Jacques Soufflet talks of dangerous discontent among conscripts, while the morale of regulars is at an all-time low. Behind the discontent lies the way army conscripts are treated. They get less than £7 a month and are subject to harsh military dis-



BUREAUCRACY AND REVOLUTION IN EASTERN EUROPE

For 20 years the workers of Eastern Europe have fought, fallen back, and fought again—for food and workers' power. Their victory would shatter the oppressive regimes they live under and ignite revolution in Russia itself. This book on their struggle is by Chris Harman, a member of the executive committee of the International Socialists.

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TEN YEARS ON

ATTACKING aircraft workers complaining about loss of jobs, George Brown, Labour's Economics Minister, was reported in The Times, 8 February 1965, as saying that 'Without bitterness the mines labour force has been cut from 750,000 to 480,000 with increases in efficiency and prosperity. Workers in other industries can learn from this.'

The same paper on the same day quoted Education Secretary Anthony Crosland, 'I shall not be content until all our teenagers are enjoying full time education or its equivalent up to the age of 17.'

On 9 February the US Air Force launched its first raids on North Vietnam. The Daily Telegraph commented that 'Reaction at the Foreign Office was vigorous and forthright and clearly reflected the personal views of Mr Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary.'

Stewart told the House of Commons that 'I do not think it can be held that recent action of US forces has increased the danger in this part of the world.' He was congratulated by 50 Tory MPs.



Housing: The need is there - so are the bricks

THE REAL housing problem is capitalism, there is no other cause. House building is extremely low. Yet brickmakers have enough material in stock to build 50,000 new houses. We have the ridiculous situation where there are now more than 600 million bricks in the stockyards and brick companies are worried that they will run out of space.

According to the Brick Development Association, 'The market situation at the present time is unprecedentedly bad.' The members of the BDA were not talking about the closure of 20 brickworks, or the 2000 redundancies among brickworkers, or even the problem of homeless. No, they are concerned about their profits.

Slums

The housing market has always been 'unprecedentedly bad'. The families who are separated by the local authorities because they have nowhere to live, put in hostels and living for months in one hotel room. The young couples who have to live with their parents or relatives.

No one knows how many cases like these there are. Then there are those still living in slums. It has been estimated that 9,000,000 people live in houses that are without an inside toilet and bath.

Centre Point

Homelessness is increasing, in London the number of families applying for help doubled from 6632 in 1967 to 12395 in 1972. While Centre Point still stands empty, making a nice profit (1962-£3.2m to £32m in 1972) the 1971 census found there were 75,000 empty houses in England.

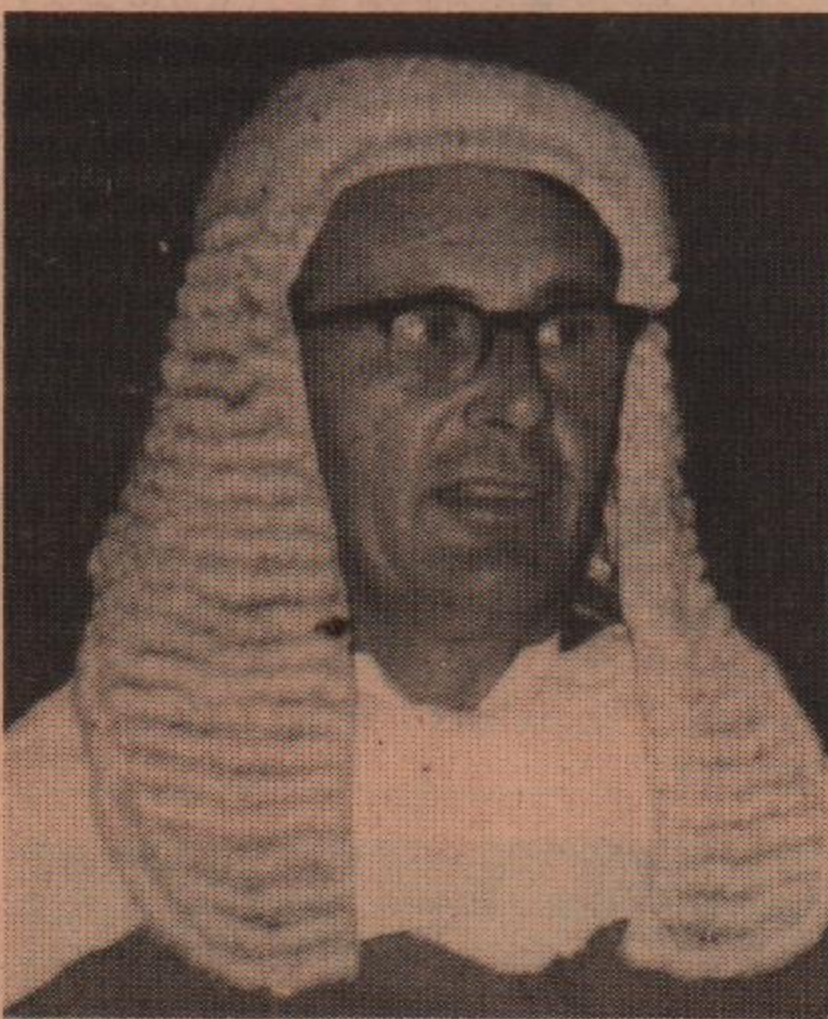
With capitalism, shortages are rarely natural, the housing shortage is caused by building houses for profit, not for social need. The working class will always get the worst of everything, in housing, jobs, health service or education. We produce the wealth of society, we build the houses, it'll need a revolution by us to really change things and get that wealth and the houses.

BRENDAN SALISBURY

fifth column



Sir John Employersman



IT is some time since Sir John Donaldson moved on from impartial law enforcement at the National Industrial Relations Court to impartial law enforcement elsewhere. But, you will be pleased to hear, this has not interfered with the maintenance of his deep and rewarding relationship with the docks and shipping industry.

Two weeks ago in the High Court the good Sir John presided over the case of London docker Alfred Satchell against his employer Scruttons Maltby. Mr Satchell suffered a serious industrial injury while employed by the firm. As is his right, he went to law to try and obtain some compensation for his wounds. Mr Satchell and his workmates had been working down the hold of a ship, stowing away sets of cargo dropped into the hold by crane. In a bid to stow the cargo in the most thorough fashion, the men were obliged to push one load out of

plumb and into the corner before setting it down. But before they could do this, the load got out of control and the men scattered. In his bid to get out of harm's way Mr Satchell fell and badly injured his foot.

His case for compensation was worth some £2000. That is, until Sir John Donaldson pronounced.

Sir John, in a judgement which

must have caused intense delight in the boardroom of Scruttons Maltby, found that no negligence had been established and that Mr Satchell should not therefore get compensation. Mr Satchell is to appeal.

This is not the first time Sir John's decisions have brought joy to the shipping and docking employers. After all in 1972 Sir John obligingly clapped in jail five of the dockers who had the nerve to defy the dishonest intriguers of the Vestey Union International company, who were conspiring to steel their jobs.

In truth the shipping and docking employers grouped in the ruthless British Shipping Federation had good reason to expect such consistent behaviour from Sir John Donaldson. They knew him well, because as Fifth Column can now reveal, he used to work for them.

As a barrister in the commercial courts in the 1950s John Donaldson's most regular and profitable cases came from the Shipping Federation.

This was a singularly fortunate coincidence when Midland Cold Storage, owned by the Vestey family who are a major force in the Shipping Federation made their application to have Sir John deal with the five London dockers in 1972.

In the light of this information it is possible for Fifth Column to reveal another closely guarded secret about the law. When you're in the know you still use the word 'impartial'. Only you punctuate it differently and say: 'I'm partial'.

IT MAY be cold over here but it's warm in South Africa. And three Labour MPs have just gone over to check. Hugh McCartney, a consultant for GKN, except when he takes time off to be an MP, (sponsored by the TGWU) Gordon Bagier, public relations man for the collapsed Greek Junta, and Albert Roberts; crawler to the Fascist regimes of South Korea and Spain (from whom he received a medal) and recipient of £11,508 from John Poulson, have been winter-time guests of Vorster's government.

United Enoch stands

THE ANTI-COMMON MARKET campaign bandwagon is getting on the road. Donations have been received to the Get Britain Out Referendum Campaign from the transport union, the technicians' union ASTMS, the printers' union NATSOPA, the railwaymen's union ASLEF and sections of the AUEW. Jack Jones is chairman, Clive Jenkins is vice chairman.

The money will be used to send

various speakers round the country to publicise the anti-market campaign. Outstanding spokesmen for trade union rights like Enoch Powell, and Tory MPs Neil Marten and Richard Body.

So what kind of campaign are trade unionists going to get for the money being spent on their behalf?

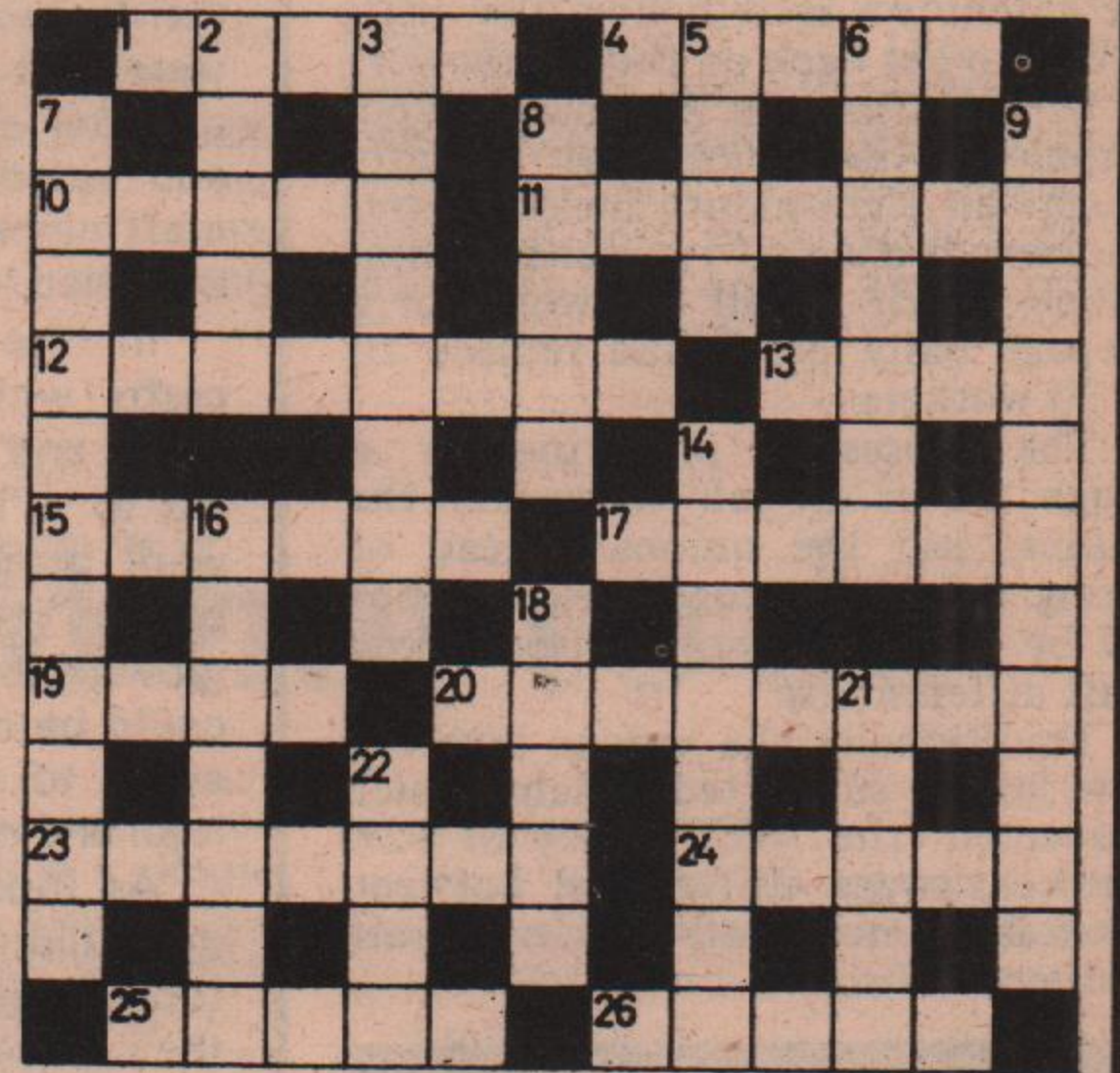
They are getting a narrow, nationalist, 'bosses and workers are altogether because they're British' campaign. That Jones and Jenkins can sponsor Tories in their battle is a comment on the depths of their commitment to socialism.

Why isn't the money being used to fight a real battle? A working class battle? Why aren't trade unionists from other Common Market countries brought over to speak on the realities of the European Economic Community? Why isn't the campaign fought to show that the EEC is no great internationalist movement but a squalid alliance of businessmen and bureaucrats?

Why is Enoch Powell preferable to a French, German, British or Italian worker?

Socialist Worker crossword No.11

- ACROSS**
- 1 'People of the ...', powerful Jack London book on slum-dwellers (5)
 - 4 London playhouse burnt down during a performance of Henry VIII in 1613 (5)
 - 10 Main ingredient of German wartime 'ersatz' coffee (5)
 - 11 Organ mislaid by Long John Silver (7)
 - 12 Bullet-proof outlaw (3,5)
 - 13 Roman water (4)
 - 15 New, inexperienced—with a habit perhaps—but no bad ones! (6)
 - 17 Sock retailer! (6)
 - 19 Chinese secret society which seems to have branches in Glasgow (4)
 - 20 Pre-Raphaelite painter fond of women with ginger hair (8)
 - 23 P G Wodehouse character with Lord Lucan life-style (7)
 - 24 Unpleasant British empire-builder in India (5)
 - 25 'Lend me a fag till the ... shut'; phrase ascribed to dishonest policeman (5)
 - 26 Joints used by trade union leaders in presence of employers or Her Majesty (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Colonel Thomás.... stole the Crown Jewels, but because of extreme public admiration was pardoned by Charles II with a £500 annuity (5)
 - 3 Phrase could mean life or death! (8)
 - 5 Allium porum is seen in Wales on 1 March (4)
 - 6 French revolutionary believer in coup d'etat who spent half his life in jail and died in 1881 (7)



- 7 East London district including Victoria and Royal Albert Docks (7, 4)
- 8 Whisky—with clappers (5)
- 9 He puts on small jumpers (4, 7)
- 14 Napoleon's nationality (8)
- 16 Now priceless post-impressionist master who sold only one painting during his lifetime (3, 4)
- 18 Dutch colonists for whose benefit the British invented the first concentration camps (5)
- 21 Commodity on which Fosdyke family fortune is founded (5)
- 22 Pace at the front door! (4)

Last week's solution:



To be a farmer's joy

THE SYSTEM known as the 'freedom of the editors' is taking another battering, this time on TV. Inside Story, a series transmitted on Saturdays on BBC-2 featured on 17 January 'To Be A Farmers Boy'.

It focused on the plight of Dorset farm-worker Victor Chaney and his wife. They have been evicted four times from tied cottages and were living through the nightmare yet again. The film showed the devastating effect this situation had on the Chaney's marriage and tried to make some general points about the appalling tied cottage system by presenting statistics on the nationwide scandal.

This was done by fading the film away at certain points to the sets of statistics. These spelt out the number of farmworkers in tied cottages, their average weekly earnings, their hours and the number of court hearings involving evictions.

AGONIES

This highly successful and moving attempt to analyse a general problem through the specific agonies it caused met with total disapproval from the BBC bosses.

Aubrey Singer, controller of BBC2, feeling that the subject was 'too political' insisted that it was quite improper to draw general conclusions from the purely specific events of the Chaney family's life. Despite the reasoned arguments of the director of the film, the executive producer of the series, and the head of the documentary unit, Singer stood firm. Supported by Desmond Taylor, the editor of News and Current Affairs, he insisted that the statistics be cut out.

As a result on transmission the film faded away to black six times and then came back, telling those with trained eyes, if no one else, that something strange was going on.

The fate of some of the other films in the series will be interesting. One of these centres on the plight of an immigrant worker who, as is his right, tries to get his wife and children into this country and comes up against the trick questions and generally sub-human treatment of the British authorities. Another film called Z Charlie Four is about the reality behind Z Cars. Keep your eyes skinned for the fade outs.

THE UNIONS

Sack 'em all say the courts



Officials of the NGA at the courts last week

LAST WEEK Mr Justice Megarry refused to issue a court injunction restraining the Newspaper Publishers Association from sacking 7000 printworkers' members of the National Graphical Association.

His ruling was in response to an application from six NGA members, whose union is fighting to maintain craft differentials in the print industry on Fleet Street. Their appeal against his ruling was also turned down.

The obvious danger in this situation is the use of precedent. The Daily Express, Evening Standard, Evening News and The Times had said they regarded all their NGA employees as having 'terminated their employment' because of industrial action taken by the union. The judges came firmly down on the side of the employers. This now effectively means that employers can sack all their union members and have the power of the courts to uphold that decision.

What makes this case particularly scandalous is the attitude of the union itself. It is clear that Fleet Street bosses are preparing to introduce massive rationalisation in the next two years, and the employers are intent on introducing new machinery to cut back on the manpower.

In the USA the American Typographical Association has recently fought an eight-month lock-out over the introduction of typesetting computers which do all the work for a 50-page daily paper and replace 20 to 30 workers.

The bosses are preparing for a tough 'do or die job' to weaken the unions, and the unions instead of facing this threat together, are being led by the NGA into a dispute over craft differentials.

Traditionally the unions involved have jointly submitted a claim which 'respected' the NGA policy of 12½ per cent wage differential between what is termed craft and non-craft workers.

When the NGA registered under the Industrial Relations Act it was justifiably given the cold shoulder by the other print unions. NATSOPA and SOGAT no longer recognised the differential.

Nor were they prepared to enter into joint negotiations with the NGA.

The result was that in the last negotiations the NGA lodged a separate claim. While the other unions settled for 6 per cent, the NGA claim for 8 per cent and a reduction in the working week was met with a blank refusal from the employers to settle for anything more than 5 per cent.

The NGA immediately dropped its claim and asked for 40p more than the others in order to protect the differential. The bosses refused to give this knowing that if they did they would be forced to give the other unions the same amount.

Where there was a possibility of mobilising support for the original claim even from members of the other unions, there is an obvious lack of enthusiasm among NGA members to get locked out over a few pence.

This split in the unions can only aid the bosses.

The rationalisation of the industry and the consequent redundancies the bosses want will be easier to push through in this situation.

It is essential, whatever the criticisms of the NGA claim that other unions do not scab. The future for printers in Fleet Street will depend on their ability to move towards solidarity in the coming struggles. It will be necessary in the process to fight to change our leadership and the divisive craft attitude of many of the members. That is the struggle socialists must take up urgently.

NUJ GIVES BLESSING TO 'DIVINE RIGHT OF EDITORS'

BEHIND a huge smokescreen of propaganda about 'press freedom' from the nation's 'fearless' newspaper editors, moves to restore workers' legal rights to closed shops are being destroyed.

Last week the government changed its own Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill, now on its way through parliament, with a clause which allows any group of workers to stay out of a closed shop if they could show some 'common characteristic'.

Newspaper editors, for instance, could argue that they all edited newspapers! But the principle could no doubt apply to any workers who disagreed with striking.

The Trade Union Bill was introduced by Labour's Employment Secretary Michael Foot to restore the right of workers to form closed shops, which was taken away by the Tories' infamous Industrial Relations Act. The Tories blocked a previous effort to do this last year.

The government's latest move will delight newspaper editors, who have been waging a considerable campaign to convince parliament that the 'democratic fabric of our society' will be put at risk if they are forced to obey instructions or abide by the policy of the trade union representing the vast majority of journalists.

Strength

They ignore, of course, the fact that press 'freedom' is controlled by a tiny minority, the newspaper proprietors, who rigidly control the editorial lines of their papers.

Leading the campaign in London is Alistair Heatherington, editor of The Guardian. So concerned is he about the rising tide of militancy in the National Union of Journalists that he recently wrote to the union's general secretary, Ken Morgan, asking him, 'nicely', if the union would be prepared to make some guarantees in the name of press freedom.

Could Morgan assure him that 'neither the union nor its branches or chapels (workplace branches) will seek to give instructions or directions to individual editors or to put pressure on them or their deputies on matters of editorial policy or on the conduct of their papers.' Would he be sure that 'the recent "blacking" of non-union copy during the Newspaper Society (local newspapers) dispute was a temporary measure and will not be repeated except in the context of industrial disputes?'

Morgan told him that he thought the NUJ executive council would oblige. And it did—by 14 votes to 10!

This disgraceful undertaking cuts right across the union's policy of 100 per cent closed shops and strikes at the ability of members to bring complaints against editors under union rules, for instance if they are censoring or distorting news. It also contradicts the union's declared policy of seeking workers' control of the means of production.

The blacking of copy during the local newspaper wages dispute was a highly effective tactic which prompted the bosses to declare lock-outs. It has also been used in Fleet Street to stop 'non-journalists' such as football managers and MPs, from stealing NUJ work by writing regular columns for big money.

Now it seems that editors can continue to use their 'divine right' to edit papers with the full approval of an unquestioning NUJ.

The Magazine branch of the union has tabled a motion of censure on the executive council which is to be put to the union's annual conference in the spring.

WHAT WE THINK

CRAFT trade unionism and craft consciousness is a poisonous and weakening influence on the working-class movement. It divides workers and in the end benefits only the employers.

The skilled craftsmen who organised themselves into guilds hundreds of years ago—engravers, printers, jewellers, for example—were like small businessmen. They themselves employed labourers and apprentices. The traditional arguments used in favour of craftism were that exclusiveness maintained a better standard of workmanship and acted as a protection against craft jobs being taken by the unskilled.

In the last century exclusive crafts which had long apprenticeships and were difficult to enter led to a 'labour aristocracy'. They were probably closer to the employers than to the rest of the growing working class. Their labour could be made scarce by restricting entry to the craft, just as in the legal and medical professions.

As industry grew, the railways, shipbuilding and heavy engineering took pride of place and developed their own craft consciousness.

While much craftism has been whittled away by the growth of completely unskilled industries, it still rules in some.

In the National Graphical Association apprenticeships are strictly limited. At the moment it runs one to every eight qualified men, and there are strict demarcation lines with the so-called 'unskilled' workers of NATSOPA and SOGAT, the two other print unions. There is no likelihood of a 'machine assistant',

Patternmaker

The Association of Patternmakers and Allied Craftsmen January 1975

*The Union which
Organises and Negotiates
Exclusively
for Skilled Craftsmen*

This cover appears every month on the journal of the Patternmakers' Union and is typical of the sectarian attitude peddled by craft unions. The Patternmakers once got to the stage of amalgamating with the Engineering Union but then split off the better to preserve their beloved status.

THIS CRAFT POISON

for example, moving up to the higher grades.

Craftism in the building industry has gradually been cut away by gerry-building and pre-fabrication. The ornate plastering and wood-carving that once decorated the houses of the rich and led to craft consciousness among plasterers and joiners now comes ready-made.

But many of the old craft attitudes cling on. On building sites you see bricklayers refusing to sup-

port victimised labourers, plumbers crossing joiners' picket lines. In shipbuilding boilermakers frequently dissociate themselves from industrial action by electricians.

Nothing serves the bosses better than this disunity. The worst elements of craftism showed in the recent strike at Hoovers, West London, when 150 toolroom workers were laid off. When the production workers picketed to fight the lay-offs, the toolroom workers first refused to join it, then set up their own picket and told the production workers their support was not needed.

Trade union organisation among the unskilled and women workers had been strengthened, but the toolroom workers—members of the AUEW—didn't want to know. They didn't see that Hoover's £21 million profits were the main enemy.

On Fleet Street there have been similar goings-on recently with the NGA and their beloved pay differentials.

Craftism can spell the death sentence for solidarity action. As the economic crisis deepens it will rear its ugly head in the mistaken belief that this is the way to protect jobs. It isn't. If a car plant is to close, it matters little how skilled the workforce is, and skilled men cannot operate the plant without the production workers.

Only unity between skilled and unskilled, men and women, can fight increasing sackings and closures. Militants must argue against craftism. At the same time, though, there should be no scabbing. This only further increases the divisions between workers. If we do not fight together, we cannot win.

THE MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP'S 1974 REPORTS:

- 18—Montagnards of South Vietnam
- 19—Namibians of South West Africa
- 20—Selective genocide in Burundi
- 21—Canada's Indians
- 22—Race and law in Britain and the USA

All available from MRG, 36 Craven Street, London WC2. Price 45p each plus 8p post and packing.

LAY-OFFS

WORKERS in every sort of industry, in every sort of job, are facing lay-offs. This week Chrysler has laid off the whole of its Linwood plant in Scotland for seven days, at the Ryton plant in Coventry there is a two-day week, and more than 1000 men are laid off at the nearby Stoke plant.

Every day the press and television tell us that this is inevitable. The crisis means that some of us have no alternative but to sit at home for half or even all the week until 'the tide turns', they say. Everything we read and hear pushes this idea that something quite beyond our control has led to our being laid off.

Money problems make it worse. If you are lucky enough to get lay-off pay it is only 60 or 70 per cent of what you normally get. And that means some bill, the hire purchase, rent or mortgage is not going to be paid. Or you might be on the dole three days a week or on top of a redundancy list.

■ ■

All these pressures add to the gloom inside the factory. Management say that it has nothing to do with them. For the workforce the question is whether to accept what has been imposed and all the problems it means or to organise back.

There is only one real answer. We have learnt to our cost in Chrysler what it means to give way to every management demand. Every concession they win from us because of the 'crisis' is a weapon in their hands in the next round of the struggle, whether it is redundancy or closure or more lay-offs.

In our plant, Chrysler Stoke, the big lay off threat is forcing us to reorganise our tactics and strategy towards management. The old plant leadership is under pressure to reverse the failures of 18 months and defeat Chrysler's plans.



Chrysler have the answer? Not to the problem of these, and the other 41,000 unsold cars the company has accumulated around the country. PICTURE John Sturrock (Report).

What happened at Chrysler

THE rot started with the electricians' dispute in October 1973.

The executives of the Transport and the Engineering Workers unions instructed us to cross the official picket lines of the Electricians' Union. The company threatened redundancies. The right-wing convenor in the plant used the double pressure from the company and the union executives to persuade two mass meetings to cross the picket lines in spite of the opposition of the shop stewards committee.

Many of us held out for several days, but the company threatened to sack everyone who failed to return. They would have sacked every militant in Stoke and there was little guarantee of support.

Anyone who hasn't crossed a picket line can't begin to imagine what effect it had on the shop floor activists.

Workers began to leave the factory. For the first time the turnover of labour was high. The traditions of labour and organisation were stretched to their utmost. Truck drivers, the toolroom and other sections were

by Gerry Jones

TGWU shop steward
Chrysler Stoke plant

threatened with the same treatment as the electricians. The millwrights were on strike for three weeks while the plant worked with scab labour.

All the time the plant leadership argued at shop stewards committee after committee that jobs had to be protected. We accepted unheard-of overtime, swing shifts, the farming out of work. John Worth, the ex-deputy convenor, was finally sacked after management worked to isolate him for months.

Cars

Rumours of massive lay-offs and redundancies were continuously used to stop any dispute.

Now the lay-offs have happened anyway. Don Lander, managing director of Chrysler UK, explained that lay-offs are worse in Chrysler than any other British manufacturer because Chrysler have 41,000 cars in stock. The reason for this is 'the relatively high level of production during the Tory three-day week' and that there haven't been any major disputes since.

That's it—out of the bosses' mouth. *There haven't been enough disputes*, and we've been working ourselves out of a job.

Lump sums

The 18 months of co-operation have left us wide open. But the effect of the past few weeks is proving what all our warnings couldn't. That every time you surrender on some small question when you don't have to—for the sake of 'job protection' or 'good relations with management' or to 'help keep the plant profitable'—then you are just that little bit weaker next time. The plant allowed small infringements to go unchallenged, major principles of trade union organisation to be broken.

Now we have to rebuild. Chrysler

are denying that they will close any of their British plants. It would be criminal of us to believe them. Like every manufacturer they are desperate to cut back everywhere.

They are certainly using the present situation to weaken us, but we must use it to rebuild so that we can resist their plans with the strength of the shop floor, whether they try closure, redundancies or just an attack on wages and conditions.

A clear policy is emerging from the bankruptcy of the past 18 months, the sort of policy militants and socialists have always argued for on the shop stewards committee.

With so many men laid off, any sectional walk-off could easily lead to scabs being introduced, as well as raising all the problems of the lay-off agreement. To prevent this, and to prevent any attempts at lock-outs, we must be ready to sit in and occupy sections of the plant.

Support for industrial action in-

side the plant can only be won by spreading information and ideas, with regular meetings and bulletins, and developing rank and file papers such as Carworker.

In every battle we must work to enforce shop stewards control over line speeds, manning and hiring and firing.

Control

The struggle needs to be nationally co-ordinated on the shop floor as well as on the company side. We need a national meeting of all Chrysler shop stewards to settle our plans for Chrysler and how we intend to safeguard our jobs. Only this meeting of all shop stewards can really bring together our experiences and ideas.

In particular we need to fight for a guaranteed minimum wage every week, so that we don't have to pay for the bosses' economic problems.

But to guarantee our jobs, even with shop stewards' control over line speeds and manning, we must organise for nationalisation of Chrysler and the rest of the motor industry. The shop stewards combine meeting must prepare to argue this with members across all the plants.

But we must also meet French shop floor workers in Simca, Chrysler's French company, who are facing similar problems. We are not fighting redundancy in Britain just to have it shoved off on workers somewhere else.

Different policies over the past 18 months would not have prevented the present economic problems of Chrysler. But they would have left us with the strength to avoid being forced to pay for their problems. Now we must begin to build the sort of strength both i. the plant and across the combine which can protect our jobs.

LAY-OFF PAY: What to do

LAY-OFF pay was the shop floor's answer to frequent short-term working and the general insecurity of working in a car plant. The idea was not to get paid for being laid off, but rather to make it so expensive for management that they would hesitate to lay us off at all.

In fact the agreements have been used, particularly in Chrysler, as a weapon by management to destroy and split trade union organisation.

All the agreements have penalty clauses which list the conditions under which management are not obliged to pay out the lay-off money. The most common is that if there is an overtime ban, a work-to-rule or a stoppage anywhere at all in the factory, even if it involves three men, then in the event of lay-offs, however caused, there is no lay-off pay.

Because the company always

know when lay-offs are coming, or when they want them, it is a simple matter to provoke some dispute in a small part of the factory and then refuse to pay anyone lay-off pay.

If the section concerned is not prepared to lose the lay-off pay for the whole factory, or if the plant convenors, all too often, put pressure on the section to stay at work, then some small infringement of conditions, which management never expected to win, is given away, all because of the lay-off agreement.

Provoked

At the moment any section, however provoked by the management, has to accept whatever management tries on. Otherwise they will lose the lay-off pay for thousands of their fellow workers. The pressure to accept anything, however out-

rageous, is enormous.

There is only one answer to this. The penalty clauses in the lay-off agreements must be wiped out.

But even more than this is at risk. In the 'shoddy work dispute' at Ryton, when the whole factory came out, the rest of the Chrysler combine took no action because they preferred to wait for the inevitable lay-offs and the money that would come with them.

To break this attitude we need to work for agreements which ensure that the remainder of the amount of money put aside for lay-off payments during a year is paid out as lump sums at the end of the year. Then no one would lose their lay-off pay by coming out in support of other groups and every infringement of conditions tried on by management could be resisted.

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MONDAY 13 January. Unemployment figures published for the South of Ireland. 93,388 registered as unemployed on 3 January, the highest total since 1942 and 21,411 more than for the corresponding date last year.

TUESDAY 14 January. British government figures about troops in Northern Ireland published. They show that in 1974 the British Army carried out armed searches on 71,914 houses.

FRIDAY 17 January. Merlyn Rees, Northern Ireland Secretary, boasts that he has not signed a single internment order since the IRA ceasefire was announced on 22 December.

According to the Irish Times: 'He did not mention, however, that a number of men were detained during the ceasefire period but have not yet been served with interim custody orders.'

TERROR...71,914 T

Mr Rees has yet another boast. He claims 'only' 19 people of the 900 rounded up in the first internment offensive in August 1971 were still being held. In other words, 19 men have been held without charge or trial for three and a half years.

MONDAY 20 January. Reggie and Ronnie Kray, who were convicted three years ago of murder during their reign as East End gang leaders, are moved from the maximum security block at Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight.

They have been transferred to a more comfortable wing which specialises in psychiatric cases, and where most of the staff are not prison wardens but medical orderlies.

A senior medical officer at

the prison explained that the decision had nothing to do with the condition of the Krays.

'There has', he said 'been no decline in their mental condition. It appears that the authorities are making space for the arrival of IRA terrorists'.

TUESDAY 21 January. At the Northern Ireland Winter Assizes in Armagh, a British army Sergeant, who told the court he had been mentioned in dispatches for outstanding bravery on the field of battle, pleaded guilty to indecently assaulting a 23-year-old Strabane girl in an army lock-out post while he was on duty.

The prosecution accepted Sergeant Peter Dudley's plea of not guilty to rape.

The sergeant was fined £50,

and given a 18-month sentence.

No guesses were made by the court as to the sentence if a known RUC officer had been found guilty of such a crime.

WEDNESDAY

bad day for the officers of the Third Royal Dragoon Guards, Lieutenant Eveleigh, and on Mainwaring-Smith criticised by a Belfast City Council member.

They had, so it was alleged, obstructed the inquiries of officers inquiring into an engagement watch during the Ballymurphy riots in October 1973.

The police, who had arrested the thieves immediately

NO to the Common Market YES to a socialist Europe

TWO FUNDAMENTALLY different sorts of opposition to the Common Market exist. Many people within the working class movement confuse them.

The first has come from certain sections of big business and those who accept their ideas. When the Common Market was first suggested in the 1950s most industrialists in Britain opposed it. They had built up their wealth by using the British armed forces to control an empire covering a third of the earth's surface and saw no reason to change.

In 1950, 51 per cent of Britain's exports went to the Empire and only ten per cent to the main western European countries. It was no wonder that the Federation of British industries wrote that 'Britain could not join this Common Market... this would mean the end of the imperial preference system.'

However as the years passed, it became clear that the profits of the future lay in Europe, not in the countries of the old empire. One by one, the big firms changed their line on the Common Market.

But many of those brought up on the political ideas of the empire did not change their views as quickly. This was particularly true of the extreme, racist right wing of the Tory Party.

Many of its members had substantial business interests in the remnants of the empire, in South Africa, Rhodesia, etc. And they had made their political careers by poisoning people's minds with nationalism and saw no reason to stop.

For people like Enoch Powell or the National Front, talk of 'national sovereignty' continues to provide a useful political device. When their friends in British big business do something unpopular, they can always blame it on the 'foreigners' who 'dictate' to Britain from Brussels.

This approach has been taken up by the trade union bureaucracy and the 'left wing' defenders of the present government. Instead of leading a fight against the attempts to hold back pay and increase unemployment, they have tried to divert attention by complaining about the 'threat to sovereignty and democracy' from Brussels.

Such people claim it is necessary to unite

'everyone' in opposition to the Common Market. What that has meant in practice is unions forking out money to pay for the wages of an open racist like Powell and left wingers giving the National Front other extreme right wing groups a respectability by working with them.

People who are serious about socialism must reject such an approach. Victory for the 'yes vote' in the referendum will aid capitalism. But it will not aid as much as allowing racists and fascists to address meetings organised by trade unions.

The aim of voting 'no' in the referendum is to weaken capitalism. The only way to ensure that is to fight the Common Market from an internationalist, working class position.

Instead of putting Tories or National Front supporters on the platform at meetings, socialists should insist that workers from elsewhere in Europe speak, as part of the process of building up international working class links that will strengthen whoever wins the referendum.

by Chris Harman

THE government's decision to hold the Common Market referendum in June has pushed the issue back into the centre of politics.

But the debate is remarkably confused. On the one hand, we have the extreme right wing of the Labour Party pretending it is 'internationalist', talking of 'unity with European socialists'.

On the other, left trade union leaders opposed to the Common Market dole out workers' money to organisations which arrange meetings for Enoch Powell.

It is vital for socialists to cut through this confusion and understand what the Common Market is really about.

What is the Common Market? It is precisely what its title says it is—a 'market', a business arrangement between the different capitalists of Western Europe.

After the war, the key sections of big business in each country found they could no longer operate effectively within national borders.

The ruling class in countries such as France and West Germany each with populations of about 50 million, knew they could not overcome the disruption caused by the war unless they could approach the scale of industrial operations of the US with its 200

million people.

So the Common Market was, from the first, an attempt by European capitalism to strengthen itself. In the early years, its efforts were very much directed against Russia and Eastern Europe. More recently, attention has also been directed towards ways in which European big business can stand up to American competition.

That is why ardent supporters of the Common Market have been the giant firms such as ICI, which already operate on an international scale. They see the boundaries between the different European states as barriers to their operations.

Their interests find a reflection in the views of the most extreme 'Europeans'. These go so far as to envisage a European state, with its own government, its own armed forces, its own nuclear weapons which would be able to stand up for the interests of the whole of European big business.

Despite the claim of the pro-marketiers to be 'internationalist', they stand as much for the existence of national division as do the older-style nationalists.

The nation they dream of is not the 'British nation', but a European nation state which, they hope, would be able to threaten the world with nuclear destruction just as the American and Russian states are.

The reality of their 'internationalism' is shown in practice when they do their utmost to drive hard business bargains with impoverished, underdeveloped states, or when they deny the most elementary rights to Greek, Turkish, Yugoslav or African immigrants who work in the Common Market.

The Common Market is as far away from 'socialism' as it is from internationalism. When the Tory government entered the Market, they put out massive publicity, pointing out that welfare benefits were higher in Europe than here, that holidays were longer, wages higher. The implication was that these advantages would soon be enjoyed by workers in Britain.

But things are working the other way round. Governments, Tory and Labour, have used the Common Market as an excuse to bring in a number of reactionary measures, while doing nothing to spread to Britain those welfare advantages which European workers enjoy.

But that is not all. The Common Market cannot even end the conflict between the different national capitalist classes in Europe. British big business continues to call upon workers to accept cuts in their living standards so it can compete with German big business, French big business etc.

At best, the EEC provides a framework within which the competition between the industrialists of the different states takes place. It does not end that competition, or the fact that it leads to immense suffering to the workers.

The 'international co-operation' within the 'European Community' is rather like the 'co-operation' of a poker game—and in this case the stakes involve the livelihoods of millions of workers.

Socialists would be all in favour of a 'united Europe' if it was based upon the principle of socialist planning.

But the Common Market is the opposite of this. It is an attempt by the different sections of European big business to strengthen themselves, to prop up a system that means unemployment and wage freezes in every country.

There can be nothing progressive in such an endeavour. Were it successful, it would merely mean the addition of one further super-

power, willing to threaten mankind as a whole with nuclear destruction.

For these reasons, in every country in Europe socialists must be opposed to every attempt to strengthen the Common Market. And socialists in Britain must vote 'No' in the referendum.

However, in doing this, we must not fall into the trap of believing that an independent capitalist Britain outside the Common Market is preferable to membership.

The fact that big businessmen throughout Europe are forced to try to unite shows that their system can no longer operate within the framework of individual national states.

Industrial production now takes place on too large a scale to be constrained by narrow national boundaries.

We oppose the Common Market because it is an attempt to bolster up an out-of-date and destructive system.

What we counterpose to it is not an even more out-of-date 'national sovereignty', but the building of a united struggle of workers in every country for a united socialist states of Europe as the first step towards an international workers' republic.

TIMES

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ch an offence.

2 January: A
Ficer command-
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e of his Majors,
t. Both were
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mission.
id the judge,
quiries of police
into the theft
at ring and a
army raid of
y estate in
old about the
y after the raid,

went to the barracks to inter-
view the soldiers who had batter-
ed down the doors of three
Ballymurphy homes. The Colonel
and Major promptly ordered all
soldiers not to answer questions
from the police.

The police brought charges
against the two officers, but
these were later dropped. The
judge described the officers' be-
haviour as 'absolutely out-
rageous'.

He has sent the papers to the
Director of Public Prosecutions.
The DPP is expected to take no
action 'in the interests of the
maintenance of law and order'.

FRIDAY 24 January. Unem-
ployment figures for Northern
Ireland, 34,407 registered unem-
ployed—the highest for two years.
25 out of 27 districts showed
increase in unemployment.

THE WORKER, paper of the
Socialist Workers Movement of
Ireland (the fraternal organisa-
tion of IS) should be sold in all
IS branches. Comrades with Irish
contacts should order more.

Those intending to return to
Ireland will find the paper in-
dispensable in understanding and
involving themselves in the rev-
olutionary way forward for the
working class in Ireland.

The January/February issue,
out now, includes articles on the
Ceasefire, the split from the
Official IRA (the IRSP), factory
sit-ins, the Irish motor industry,
the EEC, redundancies and the
Church.

5p a copy (add 1p for pp).
Branches should bulk order from
8 Cottons Gardens, London E7
8DN. Cheques or POs should be
made out to SWM. Individual
subscriptions, 80p for one year,
from The Worker, Top Floor,
95 Capel Street, Dublin.

“ ‘FABULOUS’ is a word
that most people use,
and is a word that is
widely misused. We use it to
describe a ‘fab’ night, especially
when no one wanted the last
round which would have been
yours.

Fab this, that and the other,
everything is fabulous. Even a
week in a caravan in Cleethorpes
in a caravan is fab.

There is a relationship be-
tween the word ‘fabulous’ and
the word ‘moderate’. ‘Fabulous’
really means ‘things that are
false’. Which is exactly the de-
finition of the mods in the
National Union of Mineworkers.

This time last year, these
hypocritical creatures were belly-
aching, they were pleading to
heaven and hell-fire for us to call
off our overtime ban. Yes, they
were really worried, these mods,
at the damage we were doing to
the nation by working a five-day
week!

They were appalled also at
the amount we were claiming at
that time. So think what agony
the poor things must have been
in when we slapped a £30 de-
mand in.

It stunned the mods—stopped
them dead in their tracks. It was
ridiculous, ordinary miners
wanting a £30 a week rise, wasn't
it? After all, they only suffer
the hazards of the industry—the
broken bodies, the pneu-
moconiosis...

Yes, it was an outrageous
claim. You miners ought to be
ashamed. And just to show how
moderate they were, our leaders
then performed the act of
'levitation' so they could raise
their arms and legs in favour of
a £30 a week rise for them-
selves.

Boasts

They got the rise—plus no
broken bodies, no pneu-
moconiosis. And they changed
our claim from £30 to 'sub-
stantial', whatever that may
mean.

Another well-known 'mod'
springs to mind. Gentleman Jack
Peel, late of the Dyers and
Bleachers Union. The only
thing he ever bleached was his
own members.

A real nice lad is Jack, oozing
goodness and moderation out of
every pore. One thing that did
not ooze was money into his
members' wage packets.

They were just about the
lowest-paid workers in the
country. Jack Peel moderately
kept them that way, and when
his chance of being a
Eurocrat came his way he could
hardly turn down the £10,000 a
year which went into the job.



This speech was made by TERRY BRISTOWE, a Yorkshire
miner, at an International Socialist meeting in Barnsley on
16 January.

FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T REMEMBER BEING DISTURBED BY NURSES IN FLEETS OF ROLLS-ROYCES...

And so it goes on, mods all
through the structure of the
unions, all through Parliament.
I wonder if it ever crossed their
minds that our wage demands
are not made so we can sit and
gloat over a heap of notes. We
want to go on living. So we
need the money.

Fined

The mods are terrified at the
thought of the Reds wrecking
everything they have fought
for all these years. But a glance
backward shows us the kind of
struggles they have been involved
in.

What is vividly clear are the
heaps of wreckage piled up on
the rocks of moderation. All
the back-stabbing, all the sub-
ordinancy to the state machine,
all the poverty, all the disease.

Here's another argument of
our friends the mods. Hold back,
they shout to the stronger unions.
Give the low-paid a chance.

Well we the miners did just
that for 36 years up to 1972.
We slept peacefully in our Rip
Van Winkle era, and for the
life of me I can't remember being
disturbed by fleets of Rolls
Royces, Aston Martins, driven
by nurses, agricultural and
hospital ancillary workers.

They didn't benefit one iota
from our stupor. They only
started fighting when we showed
them how.

And the same old clique, the
same old money bags is behind
the wheels of the Rolls, just
as they always were.

We are often told that we are
living beyond our means and
can afford the 'luxuries' such
as houses, hospitals. Hold on, we
say, surely we spend too much
on arms, and what about another
thousand million spent on
Concorde (otherwise known as
the supersonic henhouse)?

Concorde must look really
wonderful to the people living
in diabolical housing conditions
with their own private view
through a hole in the roof. And

I am sure the pensioners are
extremely grateful for the im-
mense sum spent on arms to
protect their right to die in
their beds from the cold.

'We put Labour in' say the
Mods. 'It's our Government'. It's
not. It's for 'all the people'.
Isn't Harold always telling us
that? In this 'all' bracket we find
everyone from worn-out workers
to multi-millionaires.

All the signs point to the
fact that however many pledges
Labour makes they are bound to
kow-tow to the system's crushing
power.

The Governor of the Bank of
England blew this in Wilson's
ear during Labour's last spell
of parliamentary 'power'—forget
your hospitals, better education,
more houses, cut, cut, cut, put
up prices of health charges,
prices of school dinners, knock
off school milk etc, etc, that
when we change governments
we don't change the speculators,
the investors, and the rest of
the owners of vast fortunes.

Obstructed

A man whom we consider
an arch enemy at least tells us
why things are as rotten as they
are and what we can do about
it. Reg Maudling stated in 1973:

'The capitalist system has led
to wide disparities in living stan-
dards and to the concentration
of a large amount of wealth in
a fairly limited number of hands.

'We must recognise that this
has only persisted because the
majority have not been prepared
to use their potential economic
and political power against the
minority'.

At one time the English
workers were asked to 'fill the
holes up with their dead'. The
Social Contract is asking us to
sprag up the system with our
working class backs.

It's time we heeded
Maudling's rare spell of truth
and kicked out the
sprags, and let this rot-
ten mess collapse. ”



There's unity—and unity. The kind we don't want is above, with Jack Jones
dozing next to Enoch Powell, as part of the anti-Common Market campaign.
The unity we need? It's shown below by these Italian workers demonstrating.



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.

'The chasing of witches'

WE IN PORTUGAL are asking for your help! To celebrate International Women's Day we tried to demonstrate on 13 January. We intended to burn all the objects with which women have been oppressed like feminine toys (dolls, pots and irons) and masculine toys (guns, 'action man', etc) pornographic magazines, all sorts of books where women are treated as inferior beings.

There were 15 of us. We were dressed as a bride, a typical sexual object, a housewife, one of us was covered with a sheet with a naked body drawn on it with prices on it just like a cow. We also had 10 children with us.

A crowd jumped on us and we were surrounded by thousands of men. They separated us and after much struggle destroyed our posters. We heard all sorts of insults. 'Women only in bed', 'Go home and do your cooking', 'Burn them'.

This lasted longer than two hours, on our way home we saw they were trying to destroy the car which the children were going to be taken away in. They tried to turn it upside down. Everything was stolen. We had to face them till the car was removed. There were about 5000-6000 men and about 200 women.

The only thing we can compare it with is the Roman Coliseum or the chasing of witches in the Middle Ages.

The conditions of working women is worst than before due to the unemployment. None of the work contracts giving equal pay to women have been enacted. Letters in newspapers call for the firing of women to give places to the 'chiefs' of the family.

The only way to do something here is with strong international help. Please publicise this and demonstrate for us.-TERESA P CALDAS, Lisbon, Portugal.

Has IPD been 'sold out'?

I, LIKE Andy Wistreich (26 January) watched the Money Programme on BBC-2 about the Fisher Bendix (IPD) workers co-operative which the government has graciously allowed to have £3.9 million in controlled grants (as opposed to £300 million hand out to Burmah Oil).

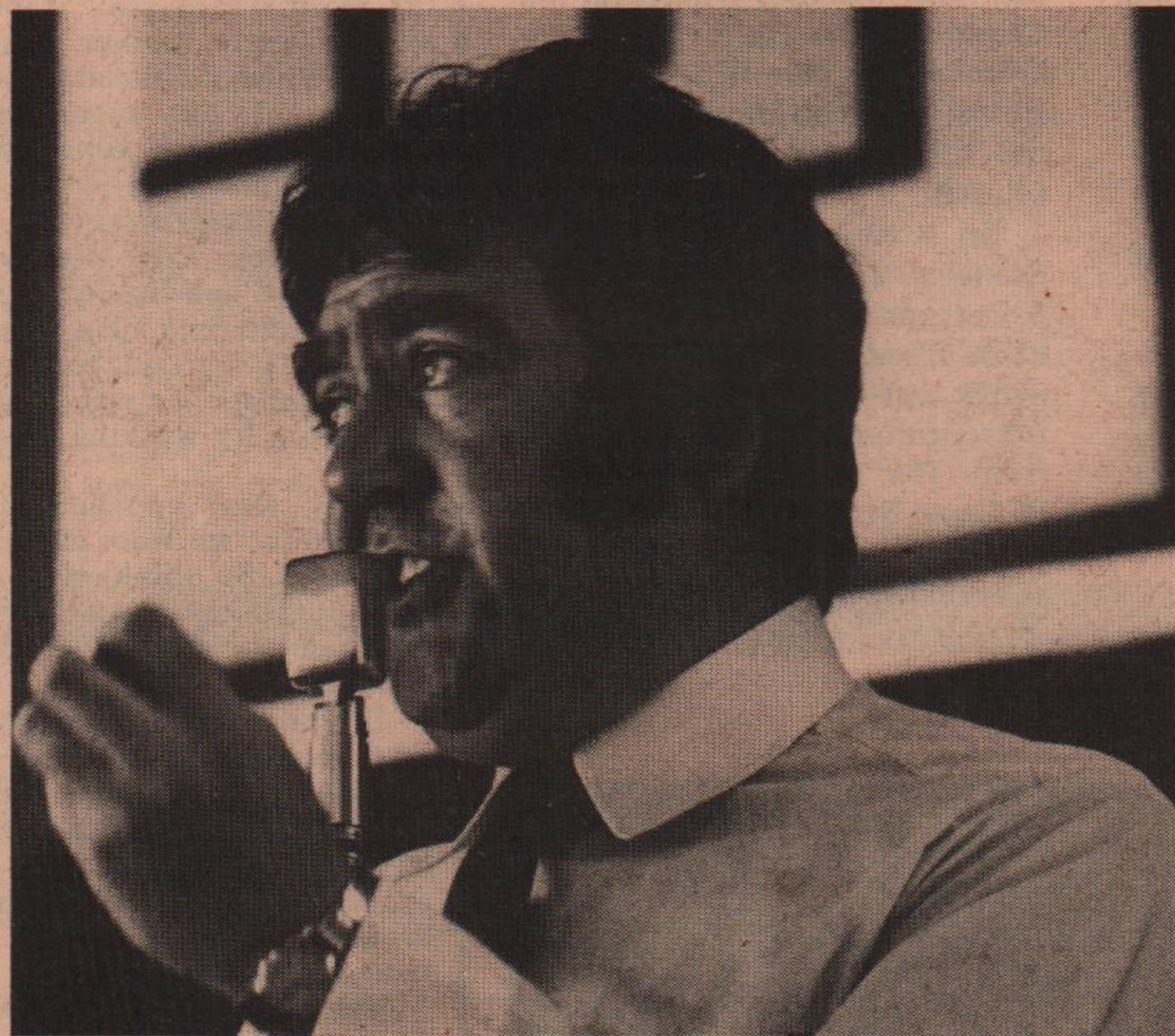
I was disgusted with the programme. It proved to me that the work force at the factory had been sold out before it had even had a chance to prove itself.

The shop-floor had been conned by its own stewards (with Labour Party connivance) into accepting three basic principles of capitalism to prove that it is a 'viable' proposition.

Firstly the management still deserves to earn far in excess of the shop-floor producers, Secondly the management still have the right (indeed one manager demanded that right as a condition for his continued co-operation) to fire personnel without consultation with the shop-floor.

Finally, Jack Spriggs, the convenor, now promoted to director has already accepted the capitalist principle of lay-offs in order to remain viable.

No doubt there are several other capitalist principles being put into practice (at the workers' expense of course) which were not publicised so I can't condemn strongly enough



Down the wrong road? The convenor who became a director, Jack Spriggs of IPD. Picture Ron McCormick

this apology for socialism.

I demand that the International Socialists start a campaign to get correct socialist principles put into immediate operation at IPD in order

to show the bastards who run this country that we can and will win, and that their days of exploitation of the working class are numbered.-EDDIE BOOTH, Oswestry.

UPAL: 'ONE SIDED'...

YOUR report on the dispute between S W Litho and Up Against the Law was, in our opinion, rather one sided. Alexis Grower, your lawyer, before the copies were pulped retracted his statement about the presence of 18 'flagrant and unsubstantiated libels.' The figure that he eventually quoted was four. Our reply to this was that they were fair comment on a matter of public interest. Further, it is not true that the alleged

libels against the cops could not be substantiated. Surprisingly, at no time did S W Litho or the International Socialists' lawyers ask us about the evidence behind our claims of police corruption. We could have revealed a series of statements and documents to back up our allegations, but S W Litho lawyers, Seifert, Sedley & Co. never even took the trouble to find out. And that comrades, is a fact! The printers had the responsibility to clear the copy before printing, and this you failed to do.

Surely it's time for the S W printshop to concede that somewhere along the line either the printing or the pulping of 10,000 copies was a mistake.-UP AGAINST THE LAW COLLECTIVE, London, NI

Mel Norris, IS printshop manager, writes: The copies of UPAL were printed under an express agreement by UPAL Collective that all the copy would be read by their lawyer and passed for libel. All the copy for that issue was not read by a lawyer (on the lawyer's own admission) and was not passed for libel. Most of the passages which worried us were deleted from the issue of UPAL which eventually was published-including the libellous part of the passage which was not read by a lawyer.

Nothing in the UPAL letter contradicts these simple facts, which justify our action absolutely.

Untouchables fight back

CONGRATULATIONS to the International Socialists for the recently published Chingari pamphlet 'Black Workers in Britain' and for the consistency of both the Urdu and Punjabi editions of the paper.

But we feel the issue of untouchability both in the Indian sub-continent and Britain has been neglected. All over India, but especially in Bihar, Madras and Punjab untouchables are beaten up, insulted by mobs incited by Hindu bosses.

Last month in the Amritsar district of Punjab untouchable peasants working for a big landlord asked for an increase from three to four rupees a day (from 15 to 20 pence). They were rewarded by bullets. A pregnant woman, two children and an old man were killed.

The old man, a veteran of the Indian struggle for independence was leading the struggles for untouchables in the area to form trade unions. That's why we had a demonstration last Sunday in London. The Indian government has taken no action and couldn't care less.

The demonstration was to show untouchables are no longer passive and are ready and willing to fight if need be.-RAM SUMMAN, BILL BEER, MATHEW SALISBURY, Letchworth.

SILENT STRUGGLES IN THE USSR...

I READ with interest Chris Harman's book 'Bureaucracy and Revolution in East Europe'. Perhaps not surprisingly he excludes reporting on mass working-class opposition in the Soviet Union.

Such information is patchy and notoriously difficult to obtain, since Soviet workers are completely isolated from any open and direct contact with the workers of neighbouring state-monopolistic countries in East Europe and in the capitalist west.

Soviet workers living in the thousands of small towns and rural communities in the USSR rarely meet foreign travellers. All workers require a special permit and passport in order to visit or work in other areas away from their home. And the workers neither possess nor control their own press: for this, like the control of production, is the captive of the Stalinist bureaucratic elite.

This makes it difficult to realise the extent of the class struggle. However, I disclose some valuable



Leonid Brezhnev, current boss of USSR Ltd. Some of the employees are less cheery...

information which I learnt from a Russian comrade following my recent visit to the country.

He said that while, as far as he knew workers don't strike since these are illegal and strictly repressed, protest is manifested in other ways. Like non-cooperation with the management over the Five Year Plan, or deliberately slowing down production.

BRICKS

I HAVE a daughter who lives at Whittlesey, near Peterborough which seems to be the home of brickworks, hundreds of them, all with several very tall chimneys.

Now, in all the fields surrounding these brickworks are miles and miles of colossal stacks of bricks. Millions and millions of them, which no one seems to want. The chimneys no longer belch out foul smoke and thousands of workers are being laid off.

And yet we have tens of thousands of homeless families needing houses. Why?

Surely it cannot be because we have not the workforce, for we have nearly a million workers on the dole and I understand half the building workers are in that queue? Why?

Perhaps it is because we have not the money needed to utilise these stagnant resources to fill the urgent need? Yet I have difficulty in believing this when I read of all the millions of profits being made by giant companies and the millions being dished out by the government to all sorts of projects which to my simple mind seem less deserving than housing.

Can anyone tell me why?-L S CHELL, Brighton.

See page five...

A CHANGE OF NAME... If the letter (18 January) from Y Hays which started 'Women have a lot to contribute if only men would give us the chance...' had the word worker substituted for women then see how it would have read, it would have wound up with 'I'm a happily employed worker with a boss who listens to what I say even if he doesn't agree...' Why do you print such individualist reformist rubbish on women?... You wouldn't have accepted such attitudes on the working class from a worker... Also you had a woman trade unionists urging women to strike for their husbands, sons and fathers right to picket. What about our right to picket? Many women who'd join the International Socialists are repulsed by your line on women. You seem to forget that one half of the working class are women... You're as reformist on women as the Labour Party is on workers.-MARIA JASTRZEBSKA, EILEEN FAIRWEATHER, Brighton.

No we aren't. You seem to forget that the letters page doesn't put the IS position, but that of readers. You mention Anne Wilson's comments on picketing-as a SOGAT member (and on this occasion a striker she should be qualified to talk about picketing, male and female. That happened to be the way she chose to phrase her comments. We don't divide the rights of workers between men and women, nor do we believe that the exploitation of workers generally and the oppression of women particularly can be separated.

THE LANGUAGE OF NON-VIOLENCE... Graham Coldwell (11 January) refers to the Welsh Language Society as 'bully boys'... The WLS is pledged to non-violence. Their most violent act was probably the overturning of tables at an auction of cottages as second homes for the wealthy... It's their opponents, the police and agents of second home owners who've attacked groups occupying such homes... Also the letter accuses the WLS of being 'racist'... It contains people of Welsh, English, Indian, Irish, Polish and Jewish origin.-Hardly racist.-HUW PHILLIPS, Tregaron, Dyfed.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE... Socialist Worker preaches that the workers should demand a living wage yet you attack the National Theatre... which uses talents from all walks of life. Are a few redundancies advocated?... Give it some praise and support.-MARY PICKERGILL, Stevenage.

MORE THAN THE FACTORY... As socialist women we were concerned with the article about the International Socialist women's paper, Women's Voice... (21 December). If the factory, as the article reported, is most important what is the role of women in non-industrial work. Of the housewife who feels the weight of the economic crisis at the supermarket? What other campaigns are there besides equal pay? Theoretically, what's the place of the women's movement in left-wing politics?... There should not be a total concern with industry... What about child upbringing problems? the history of the women's movement and women's position in society?... Their relation to political action is complex... but we must use our resources and experience to be aware of, and change the situation... Certain men, because they're good trade unionists are allowed to let their chauvinism off as an unfortunate inevitability (racism is not!) When are we going to activate our marxist theory?-MARY EAGLETON, PAM JOLLEY, GAIL CARTMAIL, Stevenage.

HELL AND CIGARS... As a Communist weary for the day when the left becomes welded together into one dynamic political entity I pass on the thoughts of a dying German Army officer stumbled on by a British Army sergeant during the darkness of night during World War One-or diabolical hell as it should've been called... 'Fat men-smoke big cigars-Berlin, Washington, Paris, London-They laugh, we die.-STANLEY L HALE, Petersfield.

HELP!... I would be grateful to people who could help me fight a deportation recommendation for July when I am to be deported to South Africa. As a person opposed to all sorts of discriminations, I will, if returned to South Africa be imprisoned for my beliefs. I have been refused legal aid and have no friends in Britain to call upon. If anyone can help me I would appreciate it if you could contact me through Mr Davis of Docwra Jones and Co, Solicitors, 75 Falcon Road, Battersea London SW11 2PF (01-223 5471) who have agreed to act for me.-E P VANDER SCHYFF, Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight.

WOMENS VOICE

out now!

Articles on Equal Pay, Women in the Trade Unions, Birth Control and Sterilisation. 6p plus postage from WOMENS VOICE, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Subscriptions 75p for six months or £1.50 a year, including postage.



THE THIRTIES, when the struggle our parents had against the ruling class produced lessons for the struggle we are about to face,



The blighters... While millions went hungry, the ruling class wined and dined—and looked down their nose when the unemployed protested. But, as at this Allied Breweries dinner in London's Grosvenor House, they always had the police on hand to keep the class enemy in their place.

AS THE DOLE QUEUES GROW, REMEMBER THIS...

By
ROD MACFIE

1975 SEES the start of a period of recession such as the world has not seen since the Thirties. Workers throughout the world are going to be thrown on the dole queues in their thousands.

The capitalists and the trade union leaders are going to blame the workers. The fascists are going to rear their ugly heads on the streets.

It's all happened before, and it's described extremely well in a book called *Britain in the Nineteen Thirties*.* Written by Noreen Branson and Margot Heinemann, it is detailed but not unreadable and tells of the disgusting wages and conditions in the Northern cotton mills.

Weavers were forced to work six looms instead of four—and on top of this they had their wages cut.

The mill-owners bought cheap yarn and when it snapped on the loom, the weavers' wages were docked for the time the loom was out of action. He was also fined if there was any imperfections in the cloth.

The book also tells of the miners in their fight against suicidal conditions and greedy mine-owners. It gives an insight into corruption in government and the union hierarchy.

It tells of the penny-pinching petty officials who operated the most vile and humiliating means test.

In the words of Ramsay MacDonald, then Prime Minister: 'Unemployment benefit is not a living wage. It was never meant to be.'

In September 1931, the government announced cuts in the wages of men in the services. For naval ratings, this meant a cut in their daily pay from four shillings to three.

The ratings weren't having it. They went on strike. The defenders of the British Empire, the pride and glory of the capitalist system, staged the Invergordon Mutiny.

The book also shows the rise of that despicable excuse for a man, Oswald Mosley, and his British Union of Fascists.

But most of all it gives an account of the struggle our parents had against the ruling class and an insight into the struggle we are about to face. It is a book I found difficult to put down.

**Britain in the Nineteen Thirties* by N Branson and M Heinemann (Panther, 76p)

A short story
by LL Law

The Shotblaster

THE FACTORY stands at the end of a long concrete road just south of the town. Travelling along the road a visitor would first pass the furniture factory on his left and then, a little further on, the tractor factory on his right.

Next the visitor would pass a large compound filled with an assortment of industrial scrap; piles of timber, broken doors, pieces of concrete piping, a rusty old crane and a stack of bricks left over from the building of some extension or the bricking up of windows.

The concrete road doesn't come to an abrupt end

WHEN TO TURN ON

SUNDAY
BBC-1: 11.5pm. *INSIDE THE PRESS* is part two of a profile of Robert Fisk's work as The Times' correspondent in Belfast. At 4.40pm on BBC-2 is *THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST MATHEW*. This film isn't like standard 'God' epics. It portrays Christ as a revolutionary, and was made by Pier Paolo Pasolini, who at time of making was a marxist.

MONDAY
BBC-2: 9.25pm. In *POWER FROM THE SEA*. Horizon examines the possibility of energy being derived from sea water. At 11pm the same channel's *OPEN DOOR* features the London Women's Film Group, excerpts from their *Amazing Equal Pay Show* film, plus a studio discussion on women in the film unions.

TUESDAY

BBC-2: 6.40. *THE ECONOMICS OF THE REAL WORLD* asks whether 10 per cent of the population really own 60 per cent of the wealth. Well, no... seven per cent own 84 per cent.

THURSDAY
BBC-1: 10.20pm. *MIDWEEK SPECIAL* includes an interview with that well known progressive Robert Mark, Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police in a documentary on *THE DETECTIVES*. It clashes in the Birmingham area with John Osborne's whining but good play/film *INADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE*, starring Nicol Williamson at 10.30pm (ATV).

FRIDAY
BBC-2: 10.15pm. *SIX SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE*, a tv drama series made by Swedish director Ingmar Bergman.

but curves quite sharply into the car-park of The Factory. The car-park, like the road, is surfaced with concrete and, like The Factory, is bordered by a high chain-link fence. Open fields spread out beyond.

Those of us who work in The Factory don't consider it anything special. It's not as clean as the furniture factory and it's probably a bit noisier than the tractor factory. The other factories, on the other hand, seem friendlier than ours because they organise things together. The tractor factory has its own darts team and the furniture factory runs trips to the coast in the summer. We don't organise much at The Factory.

There are three factories in the town, but we are always referred to as The Factory. It's easier, you see, to describe the other factories.

The furniture factory makes furniture and the tractor factory makes tractors. We don't make anything. That is, we don't make any one thing.

We make bits of things. Bits for ships, bits for cars, even bits for tractors but most of the time we have no idea what we are making.

Sometimes we can guess from the name of the firm on the job sheet what final use our bit will serve. If we get three or four bits on the same job sheet the old men will sometimes lay the parts out on the ground as they imagine them to be in the finished product.

One will lay the pieces out and say, 'There are two large bearings either side, here and here,' and making shapes in the air with his hand will add, 'and it's all covered in up to here.'

Another will interrupt and say, 'No, no. It rides vertically on a shaft'. A third will give another theory.

Mask

In our section of the works, we do most of the small jobs and special orders and from time to time I have to take a trolley full of bits down to the Shotblaster.

The Shotblaster works in a small room cut off from the rest of The Factory. Everything in the Shotblaster's room, including the Shotblaster himself, is covered in a dark grey dust.

The Shotblaster never says much when I go in, he just lifts up his face mask and says something like, 'Dump it over there', or 'I can't do it until this afternoon.' This said, he pulls down his mask again and goes back to his work.

When the bell sounds for meal break he is always first in to wash his hands and run across the yard to the canteen.

The problem is that if you don't get in near the front of the queue



"THE SHOTBLASTER USUALLY EATS ALONE"

it can be ten minutes before you get your food. By the time you have eaten it and smoked a cigarette it is time to go back to work.

The Shotblaster likes to eat his food and spend the other 15 minutes or so sitting outside in the fresh air.

The Shotblaster usually eats alone. The other men don't like sitting at the same table with him because every time he moves grains of dust and grit fall from his overalls. When he leans forward to eat, the dust falls from his hair and shoulders onto the table and into his food.

One day last summer I sat outside the canteen with the Shotblaster. From time to time as we talked, he pulled out a grimy handkerchief and coughed into it, great uncontrollable heaving coughs which strained his whole body and turned his face red.

He said it was the dust which made him cough. For weeks now, he said, the foreman had promised him one of those cotton gauze face masks which the sprayers use.

Not that he thought it would be of much use because he was always having to talk to people who brought him work.

He told me that sometimes he woke up in the middle of the night

unable to breathe and had to go downstairs and sit on the back doorstep in the night air.

'Is it worth it?', I asked him. He joked that he wasn't going to make it his life's work but, just while the kids were growing up, the extra £2 a week meant the difference between one night out for him and his wife instead of seven nights in front of the telly.

Telly

Two Mondays ago, the Shotblaster didn't turn up for work and hasn't been in since. As we weren't very busy in our section the foreman asked me if I would take over the Shotblaster's job, just temporarily, until they found a new man.

I agreed when he promised me the extra £2 over the rate. They haven't found anyone permanent yet, but I don't mind.

Any job is as hard or easy as you make it and, just while the kids are growing up, the extra money means the difference between one night out instead of seven nights in front of the telly.

The dust lays a bit heavy on the old chest but the foreman has promised to get me one of those gauze masks which the sprayers use.

Socialist Worker film tour

IRELAND: BEHIND THE WIRE

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.

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.

EAST LONDON: Monday 17 February, 8pm, Half Moon Theatre, Alie Street, Whitechapel.

Tickets 40p in advance from 15 branches, 50p on the door.



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 _____

NO PAY CUTS HERE!



Pickers in the rain. Some of the 35 strikers at Saadet Clothing in Bethnal Green, East London. PICTURE Martin Adams.

BETHNAL GREEN, East London: 35 workers, mainly Turkish, at Saadet Clothing have been on strike for ten days over a management attempt to cut pay by ten per cent. The Inland Revenue had found out that the bosses have been skipping tax payments.

'We didn't even get pay-slips' explained one of the strikers. 'We had been trying to get them, but the company was avoiding tax. Now they're trying to make us pay.'

The owners have a record of setting up clothing firms—and then having them declared bankrupt when the tax authorities have caught up with their fiddles.

This time the owners have offered a ten per cent pay rise—while taking 20 per cent off in tax. The workers, and the local National Union of Tailors and Garment workers' officials, aren't having it. On Tuesday of last week the management told four workers—who were trade union activists—to go home. 'It was more or less a sacking' a striker told Socialist Worker. 'At that point we all walked out.'

Not only have they tried tax fiddles but the bosses have also refused to pay holiday money to the piece-workers, about half of the 35 strikers, and to some of the time workers.

The police, slow to move on the tax question, have been faster against the pickets. Two were arrested and fined £10 each last Friday. 'They've had police vans round' said another striker. 'Last week it seemed like they wanted to try a mass arrest.'

The strikers have successfully stopped about ten people who came for jobs advertised in the local paper. Only about two broke the picket line. The pickets hope to extend their action to the company's suppliers. Some of the workers are worried that the owners may try their familiar tactic and close the firm down.

The strikers need money. Send donations and messages of support to S Ural, Central Shop Stewards Committee, 125 Whittington Road, London N22.

Strikers win vital backing

BRISTOL:—The 34 AUEW members at Samco Strong are in the eighth week of an official strike for a £6 across-the-board wage rise. They have turned down an offer of £2.

The management are trying to smash the AUEW closed shop and are paying overtime rates to the scabs who are crossing the picket line. There are only 63 workers in the firm, 20 of whom are non-union.

Despite the strike being made official, the workers realised their weaknesses and that these could lead to the kind of situation which developed at Fine Tubes. They contacted the National Rank and File Organising Committee, who helped them get contacts at Avonmouth docks, where the dockers are now blacking the firm's goods.

The firm is a subsidiary of the parent American company, British United Shoe Machinery, Leicester.

The men at Samco Strong make hydraulic cutting machines for printing and all their goods are for export to America, South Africa and Australia. Their goods pass through Newport docks and Liverpool docks.

Blacking

Bristol Trades Council is supporting the strike and is advocating blacking of all goods.

These workers were on overtime ban for six weeks before the strike began which makes 14 weeks in all that they have been in struggle. It is now vital that they succeed.

They have received no press coverage. Their smallness should not prevent them from winning. The Rank and File Organising Committee is endeavouring to obtain the maximum support for this strike.

Any militants who work for any of the above places should ensure that collections are taken and that blacking is carried out. It is particularly vital that Newport and Liverpool dockers follow the examples set by the Avonmouth dockers.

To contact the strikers and to send donations, write to: Bro S Holly, 18 Mayfield Park North, Fishponds, Bristol.

Communist students split

THE PRESS reported very fully that the Broad Left in the National Union of Students have chosen right-wing Labour careerist Charles Clarke as their candidate for the Presidency, but the way in which he was chosen has had less publicity.

The main political grouping in the Broad Left is the Communist Party. Before the meeting, Sally Hibbin, who chairs the Communist Party's National Student Committee, announced that Steve Parry, the only CP member standing for the nomination, had not got the official backing of the Party.

This led to some confusion among CP members as to which of the two remaining candidates—Charles Clarke and Al Stewart—they should vote for. In the event, most CP members voted for Stewart, but several spoke and voted for Clarke. Clarke won by 49 to 47—and would not have won without the CP votes.

The CP candidate, Parry, got only nine votes and was eliminated in the first round.

THE official NUS demand for proper creche facilities for student families is

HOW NALGO SABOTAGED A STRIKE

LAST November, 40 site clerks of the Scottish Special Housing Association NALGO branch, from ten different sites in Scotland, went on strike to claim parity of conditions with the NALGO staff working the SSHA head office in Edinburgh.

The men went out on strike on full pay, confident of winning because the strike was official.

But fellow members in the head office scabbed and did their work, despite instructions from union headquarters.

Blacklegging is unforgivable, but Les Finmore, the Senior District Officer, and the local branch leadership must be criticised for failing to inform and involve head office staff and also for allowing such anti-trade union activity to continue.

being put to the test at Chorley College of Education, Lancashire, where students have occupied an annexe and demanded its continued use as a play centre for children.

The students have been given 14 days to leave, or be evicted. The building they have occupied has previously been used as a play centre, but the College is due to merge with Preston Polytechnic and has thrown the kids out without alternative accommodation so as 'not to set a precedent' for future mergers.

When the students occupied in protest, they found in the building a purpose-built playroom which had not been fully used! This steered their determination to challenge the eviction.

The National Organisation of IS Societies, is calling for a national mobilisation in defence of the Chorley occupation.

The student women's campaign for proper creche facilities is a serious and crucial demand, and is being tested at Chorley. Coaches should be organised. As soon as the day of threatened eviction is known, NOISS will be calling for national students' mobilisation in defence of the occupation.

The right wing element at head office got enough signatures to call a Special Branch meeting, where they criticised the branch executive and asked for a full report.

The strikers continued and were successfully turning away lorries from building sites. Meanwhile, two site clerk delegates, the local branch secretary and Les Finmore had attended a meeting in London of NALGO's Emergency Committee to consider the strike. As a result, the strikers were told to continue indefinitely and that the picketing was to be stepped up.

At a meeting on 7 January they were told the truth. The Emergency Committee had, in fact, decided that in their opinion the strike was 'ineffective' and they were only prepared to give it till 13 January.

The stunned strikers realised they had only four working days to make the strike

effective. The cruellest blow of all was delivered by Les Finmore, who offered union backing to any of the strikers prepared to return to work.

Completely demoralised, the clerks returned, saddened by the fact that the only real gesture of solidarity came from lorry drivers in another union who refused to cross their picket lines.

After eight weeks on strike all they had achieved was the improved sick pay scheme.

It is not the first time that a small group of workers isolated and with no real traditions of militancy, have been abandoned by their leaders. Unless we organise for rank and file control of the union to make our leaders accountable to the membership that they claim to represent, then we can all look forward to similar defeats.

The bombings: What we think

WE DO NOT know who planted the bombs in London and Manchester this week. We do not approve of such bombings no matter who carried them out. But we decline to join with the hypocrites of the millionaire press in ranting and raving about the IRA.

We believe that for as long as the British government continues its bloody way in Northern Ireland, then ordinary Irish people, driven by anger and frustration, will entertain the thought of striking back by planting bombs in places frequented by ordinary working people.

In the period that the Provisionals suspended their military activities, the British government did nothing which in any way got to grips with the conditions which produced the last five years of bloodshed in Northern Ireland and the half century of poverty, oppression and misery that went before then.

Instead, Merlyn Rees, Minister in charge of Northern Ireland affairs, haggled over the question of how many internees he would release until the truce broke down. He left uncounted the high level of unemployment.

He has left intact the sectarian Northern Ireland police force. He has made it clear that for him, 'peace' means leaving the conditions of the mass of people no better than they were before the war started in 1969.

He has hammered home the point by insisting on going ahead with his scheme for a Northern Ireland convention, that will give the political initiative to the sectarian loyalist politicians who have dominated the province and divided the workers for more than 50 years.

Against such a background, it is hardly surprising that many of the most militant elements in the Catholic population, who support the Provos, have pressed for an end to the truce.

That is why, while we condemn the 'bombing' tactic adopted by the Provos, we also recognise that their attempt to fight sectarian rule in Northern Ireland and to drive out British troops is quite justified.

The only way to end the bombings is to end the source of Ireland's problems, by campaigning for the withdrawal of British troops.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

NEWCASTLE:—Massive police protection is now being used to guard the London based scabs on McAlpine's Eldon Square site. More than 200 scaffolders from all over Tyneside are now on strike against the victimisation of 13 TGWU members.

Eddie Brady, the TGWU shop steward for the scaffolders, was warned by McAlpines that they were 'out to get him'. He was sacked for alleged bad time-keeping along with 12 others. The real reason is the fast expansion of the TGWU organisation in the last few months and the success of the men in improving their conditions.

The bad time-keeping allegations are completely false. None of the victimised men has received any verbal or written warnings about time keeping before being sacked. McAlpines ignored the procedure agreed to and went straight in and sacked them.

Foremost

The scabs come from a Brixton, South London firm called Foremost Scaffolding Supply Limited. This firm has been used before by McAlpines. All the scabs are members of the TGWU. They joined the union on 24 November in London and were brought up specially for this job. Union officials are demanding that the men be taken off the job.

Socialist Worker reporter Laurie Flynn rang Foremost Scaffolding Supplies to ask about the circumstances in which the strikebreaking employees joined the union. Foremost director Mike Kelly said the company abided by the building industry working rule agreement. Its employees were not, he said, all members of one London TGWU branch.

Links

He was then asked whether Foremost had any links with McAlpine's. Mr Kelly replied as follows: 'If you print anything I don't like, I'll tear your guts out.' Asked to repeat his statement, he declined and said: 'You're trying to suggest something. You're trying to make something out of this.'

Socialist Worker was interested in precise information about Foremost because it is common

'If you print anything I don't like, I'll tear your guts out'

The rule of law, McAlpine-style

practice for big construction firms to set up or fund small, nominally independent sub-contracting outfits. This enables them to pursue the most blatantly anti-union policies, while pretending this is not their responsibility.

Normally, some basic information can be gleaned from Companies House. But while Foremost lodged a certificate of incorporation as a company when it was set up in March 1972, no further returns have been made. This is illegal but, like breaches of the Factories Act, it only results in a petty fine in the unlikely event of a prosecution.

Scaffolders from other sites and shipyards in Newcastle have come out on solidarity strike. And, with the scaffolders out, pressure is beginning to grow on McAlpines, particularly as the contract is now months behind.

Capital and County Securities, who are financing

the job, are worried about their money. McAlpines have reacted by calling in the police. On Monday night, more than 70 arrived after the scabs had gone home to intimidate the men on the picket line. Even the local press called it 'over reaction'.

The strike committee have asked Socialist Worker to appeal to all TGWU members to raise the strike in their branches and on District Committees and to ask for financial and moral support. The strike committee is also appealing to Trades Councils.

Appeal sheets and signed letters of request for support are available from Eddie Brady, 86 Benwell Lane, Newcastle on Tyne. Phone Newcastle 32365. TGWU members have it within their power to ensure that Foremost's scabs are drummed out of the union and that tighter control over the issuing of cards is exercised.



The picket's solid—and the strikers are determined to stop management destroying their union organisation.

Bosses get a shock as convenor is fired

BRENTFORD:—Workers at Rank Pullins Controls, part of the huge Rank Organisation, struck last Monday over the sacking of AUEW convenor, Eddie Bennett. Eddie, who has built a militant union organisation in the two years since he became convenor, led a successful nine-day strike last September.

And with wage increases of £10 won in the last year and a swingeing productivity deal resisted, management clearly felt it was time to be rid of him.

A month ago, Eddie started getting verbal warnings. He ignored them. They tried to hand him a written one. He refused it, because the whole timing system violates union principles.

On 24 January, he got the sack from a personnel officer specially brought down from Rank's central organisation.

The shop stewards made the mistake of calling a mass meeting in the canteen, without Eddie,

instead of around him at the gate. And the meeting made the mistake of voting to wait for official AUEW intervention instead of walking straight out.

Incredibly, top management marched in to address the meeting, which booed them. They made the significance of Eddie's sacking very clear by coolly announcing that future shop stewards' committee meetings would be attended by management representatives.

But if they thought the delay in action meant they'd won, they got a shock first thing on Monday morning. Eddie and other stewards held a mass meeting at the gate, which voted unanimously for all-out strike action, which now has

union backing.

A works superintendent, sent out by management, tried to interfere, physically attacking Eddie and trying to push him into the busy road.

It wasn't this, of course, that interested the police when they arrived by management request. They just objected to more than six pickets.

After two years of successful struggle, Rank's workers don't mean to let their union die and have management walk all over them.

They know the battle for their convenor is their own battle. What they need above all is support from other factories in the area and in the Rank organisation.

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