

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Healey's Budget SHEER BLOODY ROBBERY!

EVEN in the worst days of the Tory government, we never had such a vicious budget as Denis Healey's.

Healey, who boasted only a year ago that he would 'squeeze the rich until the pips squeak', has now turned the full force of his squeeze on the workers who voted for him.

The budget brings:

Purchase tax increases—which hit the poor hardest of all—beer, cigarettes, cars, fridges, washing machines, television sets and a wide range of other goods.

Income tax increases of about 50p a week for many workers.

Subsidy cuts for nationalised industry which will mean higher prices for electricity (again), gas (again), and higher fares (again).

Stricter controls on local councils—which means cuts in housing and cuts in education.

No wonder Campbell-Adamson of the Confederation of British Industries approves. No wonder Tory MP and millionaire banker Edward du Cann awards it 'seven marks out of ten'.

DELIVERED

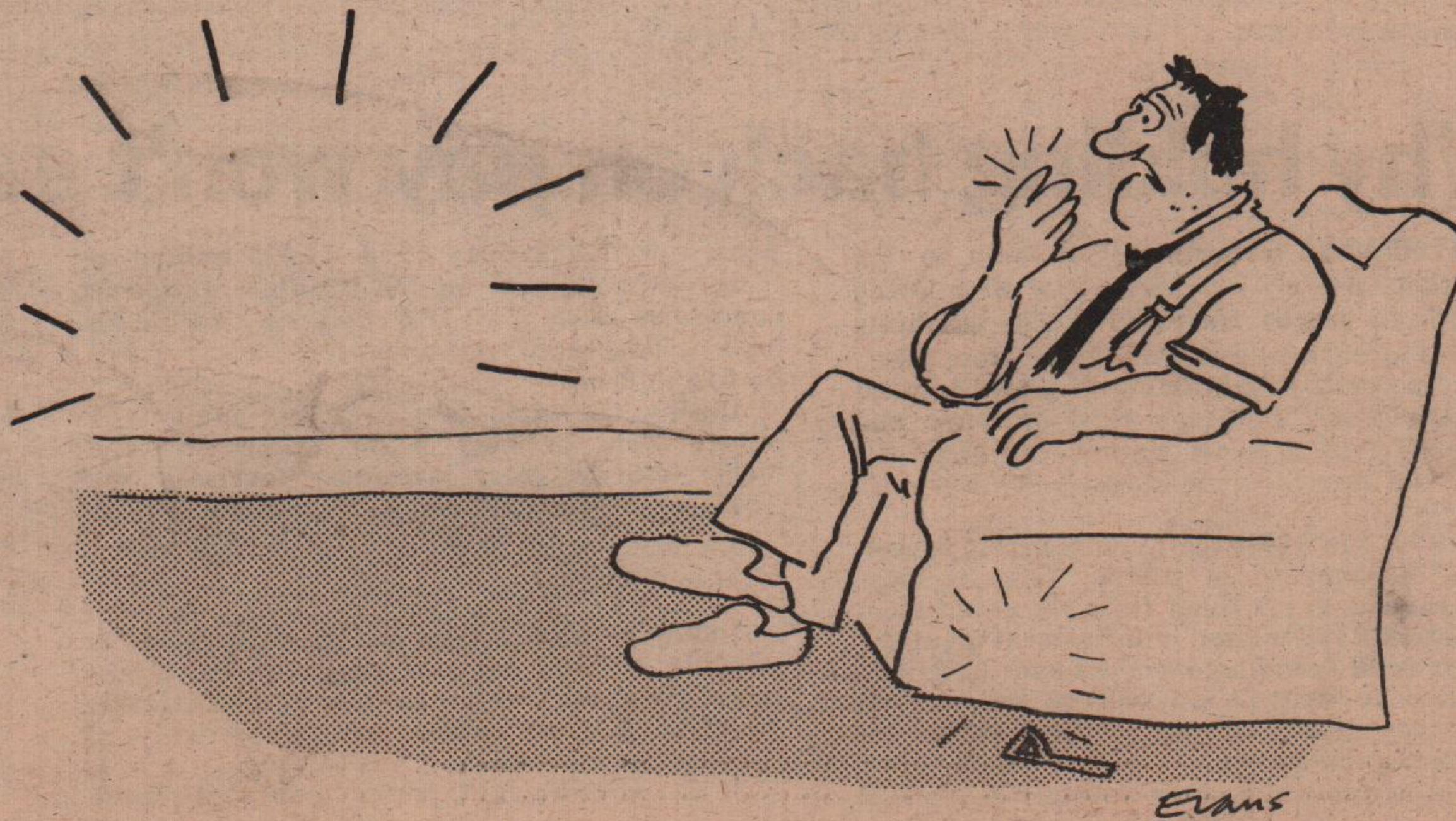
These men and their backers claimed they hated Healey a year ago. They called him Healey the Red Chancellor. Now it's Healey the hero, the most sought-after Guest of Honour at every city banquet.

So much for the government's Social Contract. So much for their appeal to workers for 'sacrifices' in the nation's hour of need. So much for Transport Union leader Jack Jones' assertion this week that 'the government have delivered their side of the Social Contract.'

'Their side of the Social Contract' is just another round of price increases—without even the slim safeguard of automatic threshold rises.

There is only one real protection against these attacks: Take the gloves off over wages! Every worker in the country should be demanding meetings on the shop floor this week to get moving on the wages front. Every worker in the land needs to demand wage rises to compensate for the immediate price and tax increases Healey has imposed upon us.

WHAT THE BUDGET MEANS page 2



Wimpy workers show how we could free the 2

EIGHT HUNDRED and forty workers in the London Eating Houses chain of Wimpy Bars have chosen May Day to mount one of the most impressive demonstrations for the release of the Shrewsbury Two in the whole history of the campaign.

They are to strike on Thursday 1 May for the immediate release of Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson and for the repeal of the conspiracy laws. Their action will shut down all Wimpy Bars in the London Eating Houses chain.

The decision to strike was taken by the London Eating House shop stewards' committee and endorsed by the International Branch of their union, the Transport and General Workers.

Ilyas Kostekli, secretary of the TGWU International Branch, explained to Socialist Worker why the London Eating Houses workers, most of them Turks, were taking the initiative over Shrewsbury.

'The Shrewsbury Two are a symbol of the working class movement. If we get them back, it will be better for every worker in the land. It will be more difficult for the bosses to imprison other workers.'

Struggle

'When we were on strike to win union recognition at London Eating Houses we learned all about the police and picketing. We had five of our brothers arrested during our struggle.'

'That is why we are for the release of these two brothers. We are also for getting rid of the Conspiracy Act, This anti-union law is also the enemy of immigrant workers like ourselves.'

'There are two other reasons why we are striking on May Day', added Ilyas.

'In Turkey May Day is a Public Holiday but we are not allowed to celebrate it as a workers' day. No marches are allowed. So we Turkish workers here in Britain will be taking action as a moral to the Turkish working class.'

'Our other reason is that we want to show our solidarity with all our British brothers and sisters, and with workers throughout the world. That is what May Day means to us. That is why we are on strike.'

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Nixon's doctrine falls apart...

THE INVASION of Cambodia by the US Army in 1970 was, as Richard Nixon said at the time, 'the Nixon doctrine in its purest form'. And that is just what it has turned out to be.

While, in Vietnam, the forces of the Provisional Revolutionary Government close in on Saigon, the struggle in Cambodia is nearly over—with the forces of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla liberation army having cut off the airport and moved into the capital city of Phnom Penh.

The troops that Nixon had backed to hold the country for the US have started turning their guns on their officers.

From 1954 to 1970 Cambodia



Sihanouk: ousted

was free from the Indo-Chinese holocaust. Its government, led by Prince Sihanouk, balanced between the peasantry and workers on one side and the pro-American sections

of the Army and business on the other.

Then, in 1970, the American army and airforce invaded to cut the Ho Chi Minh trail, the supply route for the guerrillas in South Vietnam.

Sihanouk, already ousted by the Americans, was replaced by a wealthy general, Lon Nol, as Nixon imposed a corrupt and tyrannical regime.

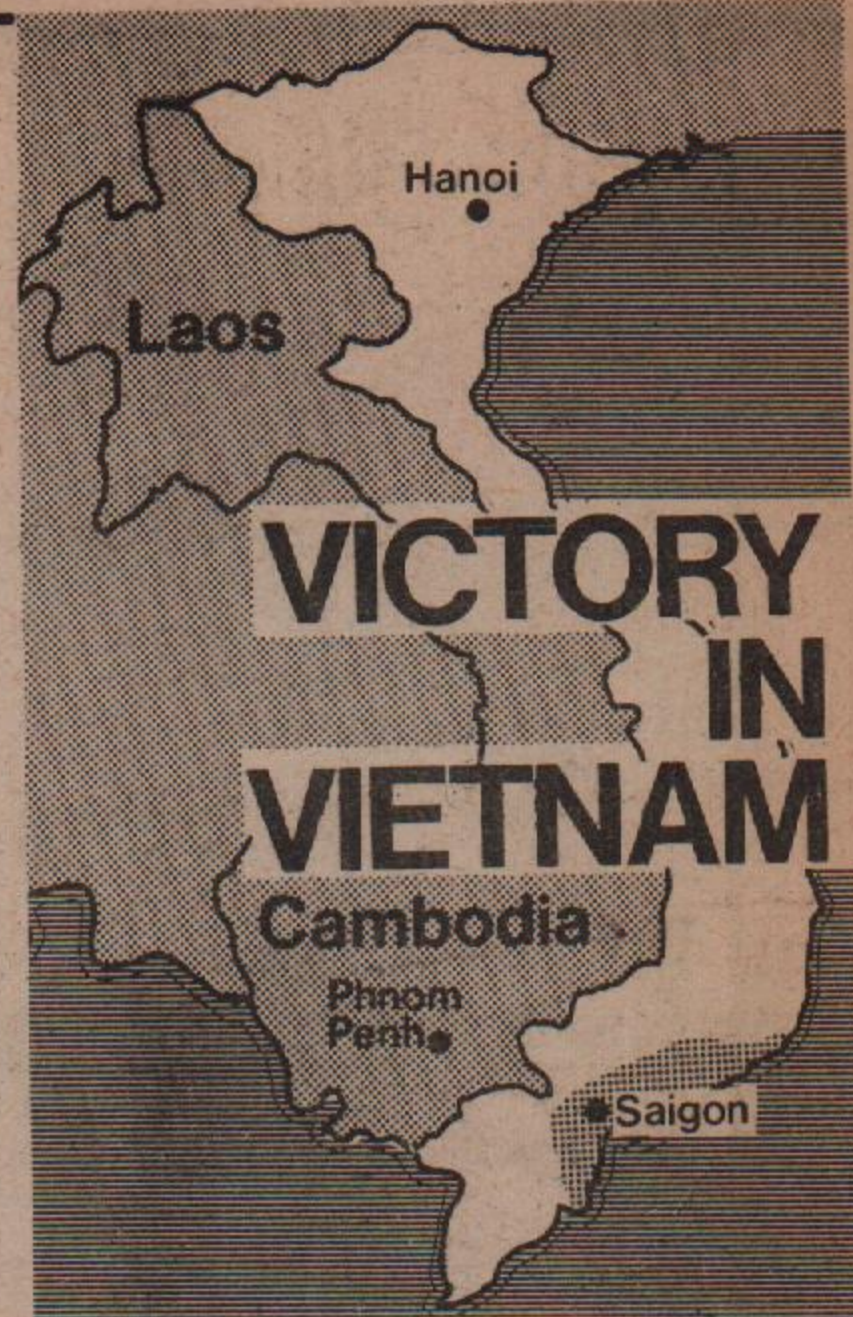
What was, under Sihanouk, a happy-go-lucky country was quickly turned into a hell-hole. One tenth of the population was killed or maimed by the war machine which had already wreaked havoc in Vietnam.

Now the Cambodian people have reclaimed their country.

While President Ford recalls the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a desperate attempt to salvage something for his Party's barbarous escapades in South East Asia, his lapdog, Wilson, obediently refuses to recognise the revolutionary governments of Cambodia and South Vietnam.

But he, and Ford, cannot hold out much longer. The ordinary people of two of the world's smallest countries have taken on the government and army of the United States—and won.

Even France, under Giscard d'Estaing's right-wing rule, has withdrawn recognition from the corrupt regime that has withered under the Khmer Rouge onslaught.



THE BUDGET THE BOSSES

By CHRIS HARMAN

THE BUDGET, the economic editor of The Times predicted last week, would 'mark the formal end of the era of full employment'.

For 30 years, Labour and Tory politicians alike have preached that capitalism did not necessarily mean unemployment, that up-to-date 'Keynesian' techniques provided an answer to redundancies and factory closures.

But now we have a Labour government in power that has admitted it is helpless to control a capitalist economy. Denis Healey said on Tuesday unemployment would rise to a million by the end of the year and that he would do nothing to stop that.

GOODS

Indeed, the very measures he has taken in the budget are intended to push it still higher. The aim of his tax increases was, he said, to 'take demand' out of the economy.

In other words, he is deliberately trying to cut down the number of goods which people can buy. That—inevitably—means increased unemployment for those who make those goods.

The main problems which face working class families—increasing unemployment and endless price rises—will both get worse because of the budget.

Healey even admitted that it will cause price rises that add 2.75 per cent to the government's cost of living index. But those increases are of the sort that will hit the lower-paid more than the better-off. So the real impact will be much greater than this figure suggests.

REALITY

He has tried to justify his budget by saying wages have kept ahead of prices in the last year. In reality, after taking account of tax and national insurance deductions, workers have at best seen their wages just keep abreast of prices.

Healey is really saying that the

LOVE

big business system will not work unless he can somehow cut workers' living standards. The government hoped to do this through 'voluntary' wage restraint and the Social Contract.

Now it is resorting to other, still more vicious means. Last week, the troops finally broke the dustcart drivers' strike in Glasgow. This week, the budget has aimed to force up prices and unemployment.

Even Healey cannot pretend that, by forcing up prices and unemployment, he is somehow going to solve the main problem facing ordinary people: prices and unemployment.

Instead, he is spreading a different story. If only, he says, 'we all make sacrifices' then when world trade picks up, the problem will be solved.

But world trade is not expected to pick up until late next year, or even the year after. Until then, Healey expects us to suffer in silence.

What is worse, he cannot guarantee an end to unemployment and rising prices even then.

Why holding back on pay won't save jobs

DENIS HEALEY'S argument amounts to the claim that, if only workers allow their living standards to be cut, increased profits will bring increased investment and, eventually, more jobs.

Yet in 1972-3 British big business enjoyed what the stock exchange firm of Drew and Phillips referred to as an 'unprecedented profits boom'. Did investment in industry shoot up as a result? No.

In 1972, the 840 largest companies in Britain kept £3400 million in profits. They received £1090 million in tax relief from the government and another £321 million in investment grants.

Their total spending on investment in Britain amounted to only £1526 million. Instead they poured their profits into the property market and into overseas investment.

When in opposition, even Harold Wilson could

point out that in May 1973 '£1498 million of bank advances were in the hands of property companies alone . . . from February to March bank advances to manufacturing industry fell by £14 million . . .'

During the same period, a vast amount of money went overseas in the search for still higher profits: total investment overseas was £1472 million in 1972 and £1382 million in 1973.

So high profits in no way led to high investment in industry.

Industry tried to turn out as many goods as possible, without any real expansion of investment. Firms out-bid one another in their attempt to make a quick profit, leading inevitably to rising prices and crisis.

If the government's present policy of raising

profits and living standards through the Social Contract leads us out of the present crisis, it will not prevent a new crisis or an even bigger crisis in a couple of years time.

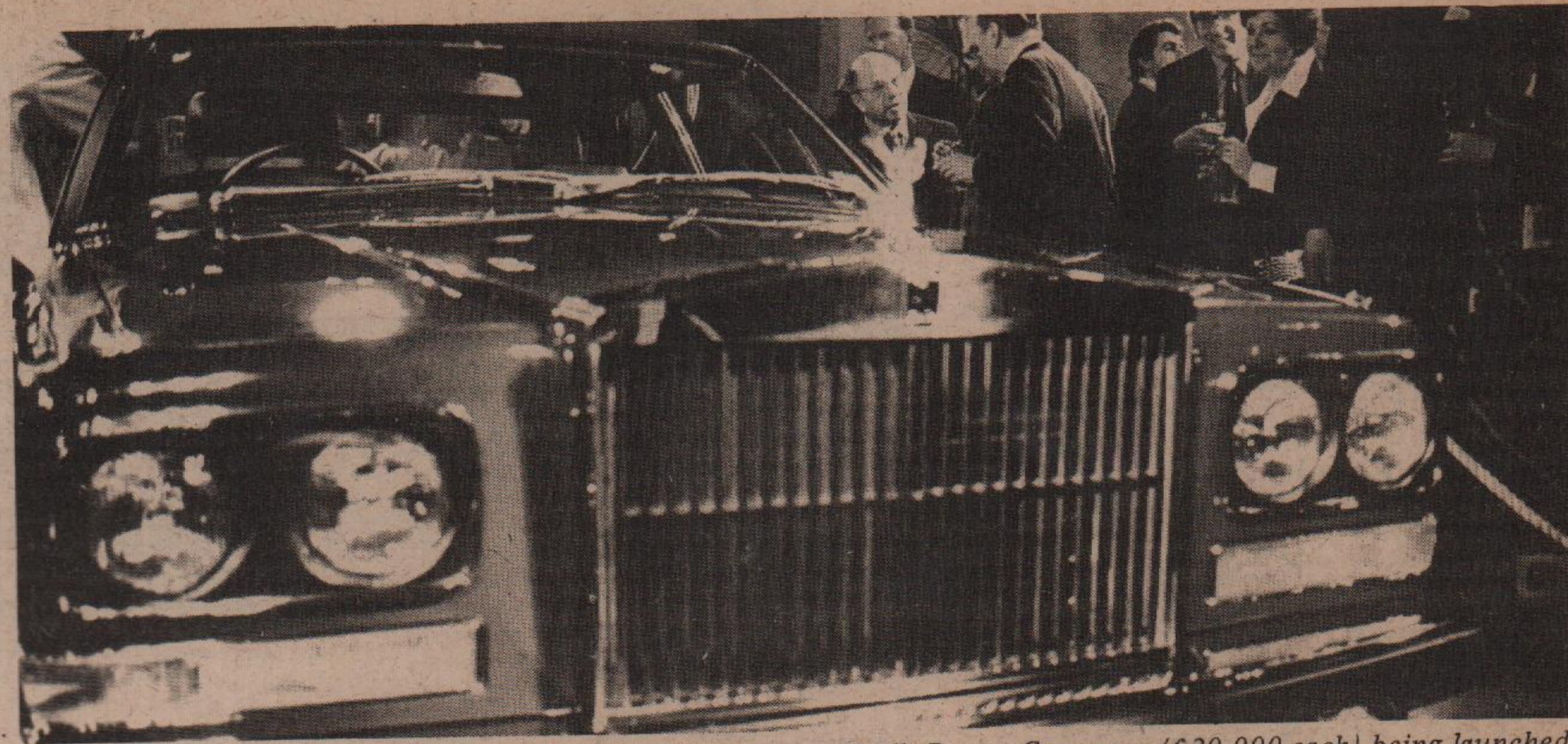
Already the Economist is warning that 'the 1977 boom may reproduce all the worst features of the previous one . . . the 1977 boom is very likely, in turn, to breed another big slump'.

In other words, despite all the government's grand words, it knows no way of breaking the slump-boom-slump pattern that is ruining the lives of so many workers.

As the big business system more and more wrecks the lives of the millions of people, Labour, like the Tories before them, know only one answer: attack the workers at the beck and call of the Campbell Adamsons and the Edward du Cans.



In an English country garden, an elder statesman, his adoring wife by his side, smiles in the afternoon sunshine, content in the knowledge that the day's work is done, the nation's problems are solved and the working people who elected him have been kicked savagely in the teeth . . .



One of the things we all have to accept sacrifices for: the new Rolls Royce Camargue (£30,000 each) being launched at a reception last week. Notice the atmosphere of austerity and hardship. The Camargue is, of course, one luxury on which the rate of tax has not shot up. But its infortunate owner will have to find another £15 a year road tax—just the same as for the overpaid worker with a third-hand Mini. Unless, of course, like half the new cars sold in Britain, his firm buys it.

THE PRIVILEGED, the powerful and the wealthy have few doubts on what is involved in the campaign over the Common Market.

The 'top people's paper', The Times, wrote last Friday that a Yes would be a vote 'to repudiate the left and thereby preserve Mr Wilson'.

It added: 'The left want to smash the control of the Labour government by moderates, that is to say by Mr Wilson, Mr Callaghan, Mr Healey, Mr Jenkins, Mr Crosland, Mrs Williams, Mr Lever, Mr Prentice, Mr Mason and the people who share their views. That is what the battle is about, and nobody can be sure who is going to win it.'

The Financial Times wrote on the same day that 'the EEC issue has become a symbol of a split which divides the Labour Party on a number of general political issues...'

Senator Hubert Humphrey, former US vice-president and Vietnam hawk, said at Easter: 'It is known that America has for long been in favour of the expansion of the Common Market.'

The Economist reports that American diplomats would see British withdrawal as another blow to the policy of the US government 'especially now that Mr Kissinger's policies have been dented in the Middle East, Cambodia, Vietnam and Portugal.'

Alleged

'British withdrawal would be interpreted as yet another failure'.

Finally, Mrs Thatcher has pointed out that in his support for the Common Market, Mr Wilson is in fact forming an alliance with the Tories against the majority of his own supporters.

'At present he has to rely more on his political opponents than on his alleged political friends,' she said.

The Tory Party in the Commons underlined the point, when fewer than a dozen of its members voted against Wilson's line.

This alignment of the Tories, the state department, the CBI and the right-wing in the Labour Party is not accidental. The Common Market is, and has been all along, an attempt by the rulers of Western Europe to strengthen one another by a pooling of their resources.

Rulers

Insofar as they are successful, and the Common Market strengthens them, they use their strength to worsen the conditions of workers.

That is why the entry of Britain into the EEC was accompanied by the introduction of VAT, which for the first time taxed necessities at the same rate as 'luxuries', and by a change in the system of subsidising farmers, which means higher food prices.

Today, the price of wheat, and therefore of bread, is kept deliberately high by import levies.

The Common Market has also enabled the rulers of Europe jointly to impose harsher terms in trade agreements with the Third World than they could individually.

The Overseas Development Institute has noted of the recent agreement reached by the Common Market with a number of Third

World countries that 'the aid provision of the Rome convention represents a worsening of the position... in purchasing power there will be a decline, given the rapid inflation of recent years.'

The backing given by the Harold Wilsons, Roy Jenkins and Reg Prentices to such arrangements is hardly surprising.

Their support for the Common Market is part of their attempt to provide British capitalism with a solution for its problems in other spheres.

Provide

Just as they have used troops to break the Glasgow dustcart drivers' strike, just as they have kept the Shrewsbury pickets in jail to please the building bosses, so they are campaigning for a Yes vote.

The Labour Party conference, the TUC, the majority of trade unions, and even the majority of Labour MPs, may think otherwise, but that is less important to Wilson

Common Market referendum: What we think



A standing ovation for Eric Heffer at last week's anti-Market meeting in Manchester: but even he rates Wilson the best possible Prime Minister...

NO!

and Co than the views of big business.

In opposition, Harold Wilson was prepared to make anti-Market noises to win votes. Now, in government, he is only too ready to succumb to the pressures of his friends in the board-rooms.

These friends are quite clear about the connection between the Market issue and things nearer home. McAlpine's, the building employers directly responsible for the case against the Shrewsbury pickets, have given free office facilities to the

main 'Keep Britain In' organisation.

A successful No vote in the referendum would not merely be a rebuttal for the Common Market. It would represent a slap in the face for a whole range of policies dictated to the Labour government by big business.

It would prove that workers are not prepared to accept Wilson's alliance with the Tories.

That is why we have no hesitation in advising our readers to campaign for a No vote, especially in the factories and workplaces.

Not that we agree with all, or even most, of what is said by those in the Labour Party who are opposing Wilson's line. All too often they are putting forward a nationalistic opposition to the Common Market.

Instead of talking the language of working class struggle, they employ the terminology of a narrow chauvinism. Some even go so far as to parade with Tories and racialists—a move which can only divide and confuse rank and file workers.

Nor is that all. The official opponents of the Common Market within the Labour Party say they

agree with Wilson on things other than the Market, that they have no intention of challenging his other policies.

Eric Heffer was the only Labour minister to defy Wilson's ruling and speak in the Commons against the Market. And even he said that he still regarded Wilson as the best possible prime minister.

The other ministers, with Wedgwood Benn to the fore, pretended to applaud Heffer, while carefully preserving their own positions and their own loyalty to Wilson's other policies.

The NEC of the Labour Party, with its anti-Market majority, refuses to break with Wilson, despite his pro-Market stand.

Struggle

One cannot help getting the feeling that they want to gain easy popularity through limited opposition to the Common Market, while carefully avoiding the risks which an all-out struggle against Wilson and his big business backers might bring.

We will be working alongside the supporters of such people in the campaign for a No vote.

But we will be arguing that the fight against the Wilson-Thatcher alliance is not only about the Common Market, but about all the attacks of the Labour government on the working class.

And we will be arguing that the real alternative to the Common Market is not more nationalism, but a struggle for a socialist Britain as part of a socialist Europe.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

THE FOLLOWING resolution was passed by Portsmouth AUEW (TASS) branch and then by Portsmouth Trades Council, which has set up a committee of ten delegates to organise the campaign against the Common Market:

This branch believes it is important that the trade union and labour movement should take the initiative in campaigning for a 'No' vote in the referendum on Britain's membership of the Common Market.

The Common Market is a thoroughly capitalist organisation designed to strengthen European big business against the working class. At the same time we must make it clear that our opposition is not on a nationalistic basis of hostility to foreigners (as is the case with the National Front) and that we are in favour of unity with

the workers of Europe.

We therefore call on Portsmouth Trades Council to launch a campaign in the Portsmouth area on the basis of 'No to the Common Market of big business—For a socialist alternative'.

The Trades Council should set up a Committee to run the campaign, establish contact with all labour movement organisations, organise public meetings, leaf-letting of factories, and any other appropriate forms of propaganda and action.

The campaign should avoid collaboration with Tories, National Front, fascists and any other extreme right-wingers who, though they oppose the Common Market, are enemies of the trade union movement and the working class.

Calling all AUEW members

HELP US FIGHT BAN ON SOCIALIST WORKER

THE ENGINEERING Union's refusal to allow Socialist Worker to report its National Committee meetings has now been clearly exposed as a pathetic political ban.

Last week, the union's president, Hugh Scanlon, re-affirmed the ban. But the AUEW's justification—that it sends out press invitations only through the Industrial Correspondents Group, which is not recognised by the National Union of Journalists—was exploded by the Group's secretary, David Young.

He told Socialist Worker: 'It is not the group's function or intention to decide who should be invited to conferences . . . The

group has no objection to anyone else getting credentials to any union conference.'

And many journalists who are not members of the group have attended National Committee meetings in the past, and are expected to do so again this year.

We have been refused credentials, and yet they have been sent to correspondents representing anti-trade union papers such as the Daily Telegraph and Daily Express. The AUEW leadership cannot

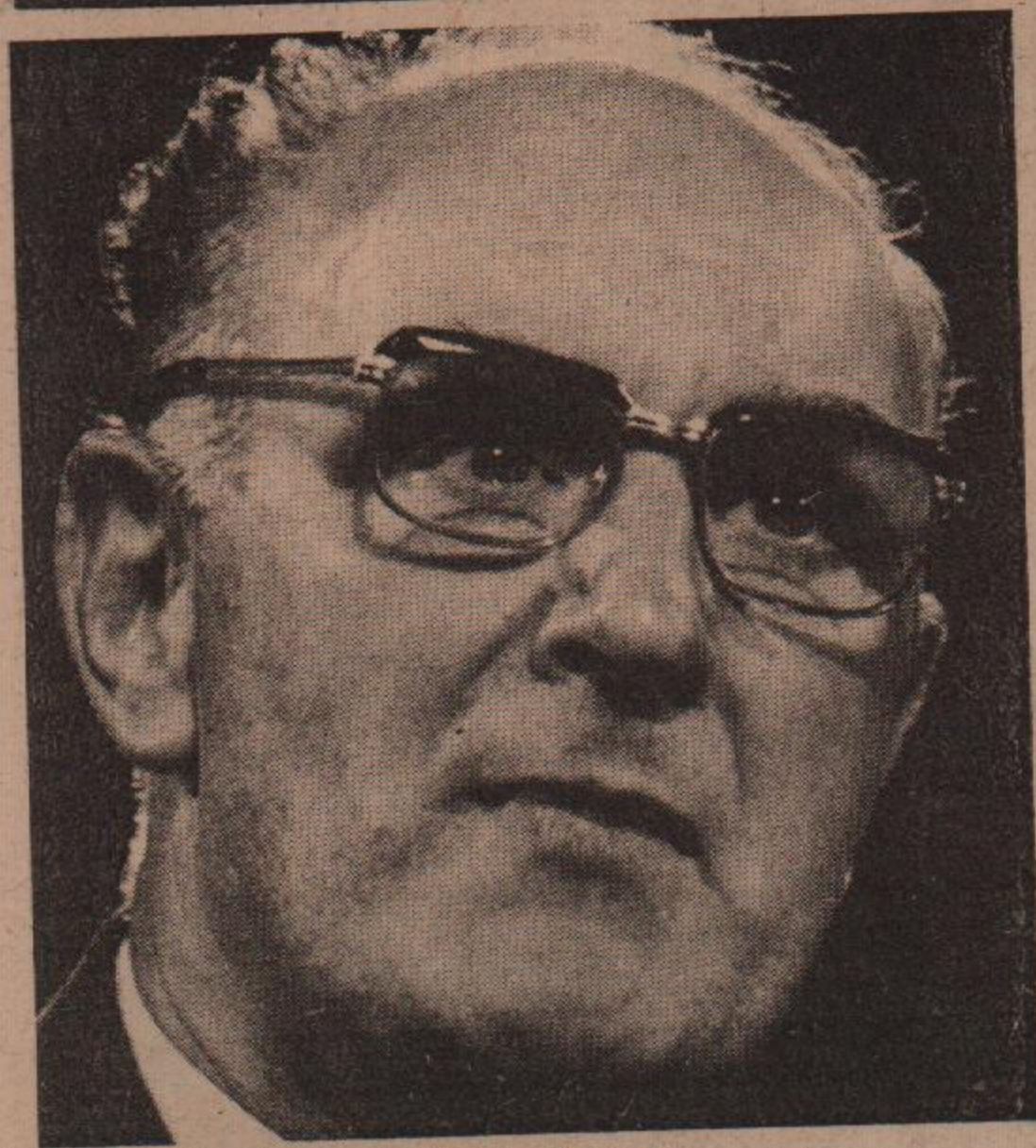
be allowed to ban us simply because they do not like our politics. Branches must protest. Before the last meeting of the National Committee, several branches and district committees sent in resolutions objecting to the ban. They included:

Thornbury, Shipley, New Southgate No 1, Glasgow Springfield, Leeds Central, Keighley TASS, Chippenham No 1, Sheffield 9, Sheffield 10, Partington 97ME Branch, Walsall Central, Coaseley

No 2, Burnley TASS, Kirkstall No 2, and Bradford, Enfield, Leeds, Bolton, Wakefield and Dewsbury and Newton and Warrington District Committees.

The IS AUEW Fraction Executive calls upon all socialists and militants in the AUEW to pass resolutions condemning this ban to the Executive Committee direct, and to the National Committee. Socialist Worker should be notified of such resolutions and other acts of support.

Socialist Worker is willing to provide speakers to any AUEW body to explain the case. The paper has played a valuable role in the union.



Hugh Scanlon: pathetic excuse

THE UNIONS

Democracy—a lesson for every teacher

THE NATIONAL Union of Teachers—made up, by and large, of young women—has once again seen its annual 'democratic' conference made up, by and large, of old men.

Three out of four NUT members are women, most of them under 35. Yet three out of four delegates at the conference, held in Blackpool over Easter, were men.

And many delegates were head-teachers. Birmingham, for example, had a delegation of five heads, three deputy heads, two college lecturers and two classroom teachers, both members of the Rank and File group. Coventry's six delegates included five heads.

Yet 97 per cent of NUT members are class teachers.

The small rural associations were wildly over-represented. Associations with fewer than 100 members got 268 delegates at the 1972 conference, for a total of 8189 members. The four associations covering Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester and Liverpool got 48 delegates for 14,916 members. It was about the same this year.

Agenda

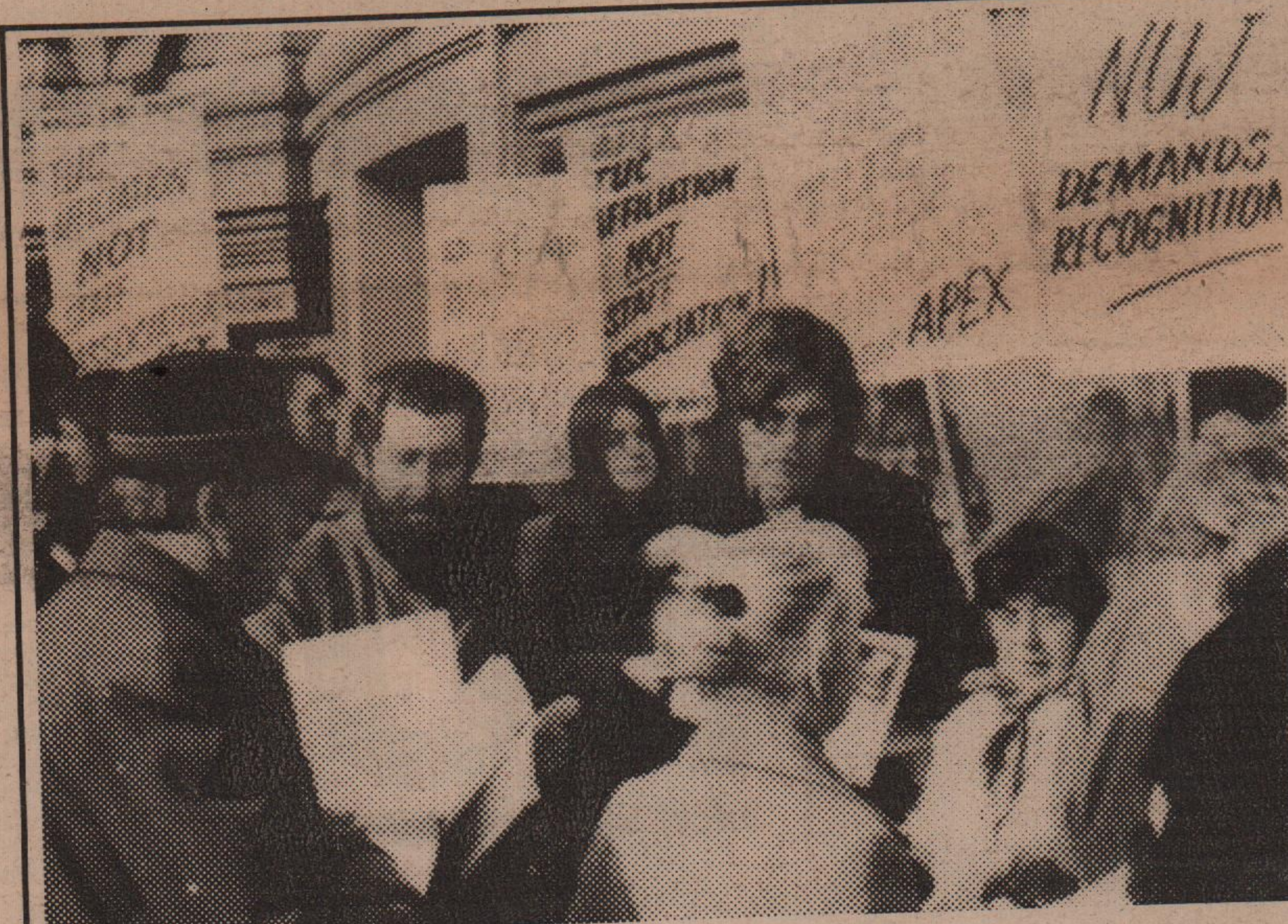
This explains the close accord between the Head-dominated union executive and conference. It also explains the contradiction that Rank and File-inspired motions reach top places on the conference agenda—through priority voting at local associations—but get heavily defeated at conference.

Any executive member carries probably 120,000 members' votes. This was most clearly seen when the chairman read by number, very quickly, a list of amendments accepted by the executive, and immediately took the vote on them all—without time for anyone to see what they said.

All were overwhelmingly passed. The executive speaks all the time. For fixed speakers, the chairman calls 'Mr . . . for the executive'. Bang go 120,000 votes. For voluntary speakers, the chairman calls 'Mr . . . of the executive.' It's normally the same line, and the same result.

Only once did this not happen. The chairman called 'Mrs Beth Stone of Newham.' And Mrs Beth Stone had to use up valuable time to explain that she was in fact 'of the executive'.

Was that error calculated to ensure for the uninitiated that Mrs Beth Stone, who happens to be a



APEX and NUJ strikers leafletting a NALGO meeting last week

Unions? We can't allow that

WORKERS at a London office have been refused union recognition by their employers—a trade union!

And they have been told that they must, instead join a staff association which the TUC have twice barred from affiliation.

The workers, members of the white-collar union APEX and the National Union of Journalists, make up a third of the staff at the head-quarters of NALGO, the National and Local Government Officers' Association.

The NUJ has had 100 per cent membership among the journalistic staff for five years. But, like their APEX colleagues, they are now having to fight against the threat of a NALGO staff association closed shop.

In protest at this move by NALGO's national executive, which ironically has successfully fought staff associations in local government, health, gas, electricity and universities, the NUJ and APEX members last week staged lightning strikes to leaflet two national NALGO delegate meetings.

They are considering an appeal to the TUC and are seeking the support of NALGO members. NALGO branches can help the fight for trade unionism in their own headquarters by passing resolutions condemning the NEC and calling for the recognition of APEX and the NUJ.

NALGO must be forced to educate its own members in trade unionism. The staff are having to fight for basic trade union rights as hard as workers in private or nationalised industries.

The division at headquarters into clerical, typing and professional jobs means that, for some of the professionals, NALGO is simply a good career. They tend to put their own 'job security' before the rights of the NALGO membership to control their own union.

The fight for trade union rights at NALGO HQ is part of the fight by NALGO members to democratise their own union.

The staff and rank and file of NALGO have much to gain by enforcing trade unionism there and lessening the influence of those who see trade unions as a good career.

By CHANIE ROSENBERG

Secretary, Hackney NUT

member of Rank and File, should not reap the 120,000 votes? One wonders!

Executive member Betty Coates asked why all executive speakers on the women's question were men when the executive women had early on put in cards to speak.

Impact

The chairman's answer was that they should have arranged for themselves to speak at the previous executive meeting when the speakers' list was being fixed up. Indeed! The rules of conference allow speakers' cards only after conference starts.

In spite of the way the conference is organised, Rank and File had as many delegates as last year and had a considerable impact.

It fought for a single salary scale

with shared responsibility, against the widely-differentiated seven scales now prevailing.

Max Morris of the NUT executive said this policy of Rank and File's was 'designed . . . to create the maximum dissension.'

Rank and File also fought for local autonomy on industrial action, and for positive steps on the size of classes. And Rank and File pressure forced the adoption of a contract of service for teachers. The executive had originally opposed this.

The biggest defeat for the executive came on the question of the special allowances for teachers in Social Priority schools—'dirty money', as one delegate put it.

Teachers were given £10.8 million to be shared among teachers in certain schools. But how the money was shared out has been a bone of contention ever since.

Worse, the money does nothing to sort out the state of the schools. Paying extra money in a factory for a certain job is one thing, but in a school the product is children.

Rank and File successfully argued that the money would be much better spent on smaller classes, extra teachers and better facilities—and not in paying teachers to tolerate the appalling conditions they and the children suffer.

Major

Meanwhile, in the months ahead, we must sort out the contradiction between the resolutions that come to conference from big local associations, which often support Rank and File, and what happens at conference itself.

That means campaigning for a rule change to take away the numerical advantage in delegates given to tiny rural associations.

And we need to make major efforts to break the heavy weighting towards Heads in the conference and in the union in general.

Belfast: Generals

WELCOME TO IRELAND REES. JUST REMEMBER THE RULES. I GIVE THE ORDERS, AND YOU CARRY THEM OUT

Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, being greeted in Belfast on his appointment last year by General Sir Frank King, chief of the British troops in Ireland.

King is a KCB (Knight Commander of the Bath) and an MBE (Member of the British Empire) and so feels perfectly free to tell his nominal boss, Rees, that he's being too soft on the IRA. A few MPs protested about this rather curious interpretation of military discipline, but Rees told the House of Commons that he had 'nothing but respect for the general' and didn't mind him shooting his mouth off. The general apologised, and is still in charge.

If a rank and file soldier mutters a word of public criticism about his superiors, he is on a charge and in the guardhouse.



cry for blood

THE ceasefire here, in the North of Ireland, fragile from the beginning, is now in tatters. In his speech at the weekend British Commander Sir Frank King made it clear that army officers are thirsting for renewed action. While in Belfast Protestant murder gangs continue to massacre Catholics at random.

As fear thickens in the Catholic ghettos the last dregs of hope that a solution might come from the Convention are draining away. There is a fatalistic acceptance that no matter what the Convention decides, the army and the murder gangs are hell-bent on the physical suppression of all Catholic aspirations.

And in that situation the resumption of war by the Provisional IRA is simply inevitable.

The case that King put forward was built around the British propagandists' central lie about Northern Ireland: that the violence here stems solely and directly from the IRA and that to achieve peace it is only necessary therefore to eliminate the IRA and to suppress what it stands for. The events of the past two months disprove that absolutely.

The present Provisional ceasefire began on 10 February. Since then 45 people have been killed. None of them was killed by the Provos. More than 30 were killed by Protestant para-military groups.

Two Saturdays ago, for example, the UDA bombed a Catholic pub on the New Lodge Road: two killed, 18 injured. A few hours later the same

by EAMONN McCANN

organisation bombed a Protestant pub on the Shankill Road which was frequented by members of the rival UVF: four dead, 30 injured. Almost unanimously British papers gave the impression that the second bomb was the work of a vengeful IRA, despite conclusive evidence that the bombers came from and returned to a Loyalist stronghold.

Last Saturday the UDA was back in action, killing five and wounding 20 in a Catholic pub in East Belfast. Rescue workers were still sifting through the rubble as General King stood up in Nottingham to plead for tougher action against 'terrorists'.

But not, of course, for those who bomb Catholic pubs. Indeed on Saturday UDA boss Andy Pyrie, while his men were out blowing Catholics to bits, was chatting amiably with the Belfast correspondent of the Sunday Observer and explaining that 'at least every fortnight' he had meetings with army officers 'from major to the very top'. The very top is of course General Sir Frank King.

Private

Pyrie and his kind are not included in King's definition of 'terrorists', because, in large measure, the two men are in agreement about the nature of the Northern Ireland problem and what should be done about it. The UDA want an authoritarian right-wing regime with all dissidents snuffed out. They are passionate not only against the IRA but against 'communists' and other 'subversives'.

It must all seem like sound commonsense to Sir Frank.

This is not the first time the army here has asserted its politics. During the Loyalist strike last year army officers in effect mutinied, refused to move against the Protestant para-military groups, and left Rees and Wilson no option but to ditch the power-sharing executive. The fact that they got away with that possibly emboldened King now to challenge his political 'boss' in public.

King's speech was no spur-of-the-moment affair. It has been evident in Catholic areas during the past few weeks that the deployment of the army was in stark contradiction to assurances given both privately and publicly by Rees about army reaction to a Provisional ceasefire.

At the beginning of the ceasefire there was a deal of speculation in the press about whether the Provos could deliver the goods: whether they were disciplined enough, whether the political men could sufficiently control the military wing to prevent the truce collapsing. In the event, the Provos have managed well enough.

It is on the other side of this war that politicians are having trouble staying the hand of their military associates. British workers should think long and hard about the implications of that.

Motor stewards' meeting vital

ONE of the most important meetings ever in the British motor industry will be held in the Midlands on Wednesday. It is a national meeting of shop stewards throughout the motor industry, called for by the stewards at Chrysler Linwood and supported by the British Leyland Combine Committee.

With more than 100,000 workers in the industry on short time and at least 50,000 jobs disappeared since last summer, the situation is already dangerous. More cuts are coming.

The meeting could be the start of a united fight back. But there are already signs that some want to turn it into a meaningless talking shop, with 'major' speeches from Tony Benn and Jack Jones—and little else.

Politics

The meeting must offer a fighting programme against redundancies and short-time working. Directly and indirectly, the motor industry gives nearly one million workers a job. So when the track speeds are cut and fewer cars get made it hits hundreds of thousands of trade unionists.

At Chrysler Linwood there were 7000 hourly-paid workers last August. 450 left between then and 10 January—since when two months of nearly continuous short-time working has meant another 678 hourly-paid workers have gone.

Of the 5900 manual workers left, some 200 are still in a labour pool, swimming from job to job in total insecurity. Some 220 staff also lifted their cards.

Most successful from Chrysler's viewpoint was that these workers all left of their own accord. Chrysler didn't even have to offer voluntary redundancy payments. They just sickened the workers off with heavy doses of insecurity and short time.

The trade union organisation at Linwood could have fought Chrysler's

WE MUST CALL FOR:

1. For a factory-wide response to all threats. Don't leave any section to be picked off alone.
2. Campaign against losing any jobs—and decide on action before the company starts putting up notices.
3. For an immediate overtime ban and withdrawal of all co-operation when the company even talks of short time or voluntary redundancies.
4. Weekly mass or section meetings to keep the rank and file fully involved. For regular shop stewards' meetings. No 'secret diplomacy' by the senior stewards.
5. No starts for anyone who has taken a voluntary redundancy.
6. Militant action to force the company to pay maximum lay-off pay for as long as short-time lasts.
7. For work-sharing and a shorter working week against any threat of redundancies.
8. No worker to do the job of anyone who leaves. For full job replacement.
9. Occupation of the factory immediately compulsory sackings are announced.
10. For active shop stewards' combine committees throughout the industry to exchange information and organise support.
11. For regular national delegate shop stewards' conferences to strengthen rank and file unity, and action through the whole motor industry.
12. Nationalisation of the whole motor industry without a penny compensation and with shop stewards' control over track speeds, manning and conditions.

strategy by giving a clear lead on how to fight for security of jobs and wages. But one Linwood shop steward told me: 'We've been back three times to mass meetings and have got unanimous decisions for a fight. But twice so far these decisions have been reversed by the senior shop stewards.'

The third time was only last Friday. The workers voted for a complete ban on overtime around the plant until all sections are back on full time. This

continued rank and file confidence must not be broken yet again by the weakness of a handful of senior shop stewards.

The national shop stewards' meeting can play a powerful role in rank and file confidence and in presenting a clear political alternative to redundancies and short time.

To do so it must become a regular national delegate shop stewards' conference rather than just a gathering of convenors, as the Leyland Combine Com-

mittee has proposed. There's some truth in what one shop steward told me recently: 'Every convenor in the motor industry I know of is one of two things—a potential full-time official or a potential politician.'

The conference should also be held at weekends to avoid the problem of loss of earnings.

The national shop stewards' meeting should also make up its mind about Wedgwood Benn's Industry Bill. We must defend anyone attacked by the bosses, as Benn is, but we must also be clear that there is nothing in that Bill that answers our problems.

In their negotiations to get an increase on a £6 offer, the Glasgow shop stewards at Albion Motors were surprised last Wednesday to hear the BLMC bus and truck division executive Fairfoot request an adjournment. His reason? To telephone Wedgwood Benn.

When he came back half an hour later he told the shop stewards that Benn had said they couldn't get a penny more than £6.50, even though management agreed that under the Social Contract they were entitled to £10.30.

Fewer

As long as the capitalist class is in power then this is all that 'partnership' with 'professional management' means—lower wages and increased production.

We must spell out what we mean by nationalisation. We don't mean jobs going down the road, low pay, a workers' co-operative or the injection of public money into private purses.

We must fight for nationalisation to guarantee no loss of jobs, with no compensation to those who have profited off our backs all those years, five days working for five days pay and shop stewards' control over track speeds and manning.

The national shop stewards' meeting is the most powerful rank and file meeting to have taken place in Britain for 50 years. All socialists and trade unionists in the industry should ensure it lives up to its potential.

FIFTH COLUMN



An early call, a long fight...

EARLY on the morning of 23 March at 77 Shepherds Bush Road, West London came a knock at the door. It wasn't the milkman, but the police. It is a big house which meant a big haul for the police—28 people were arrested.

They included Tommy Higgins, Transport and General Workers Union steward at a bit Monument office site, and James O'Rourke, a TGWU member and chargehand. Roy Jenkins' Prevention of Terrorism Act had hit trade unionists yet again.

A week later all but six including Tommy and James and all steelfixers had been released. So the six were being charged? No. 'They had been transferred to Brixton prison to await the serving of an exclusion order', explains Hammersmith and Kensington Trades Council chairman J Gould.

They were told that appeals would lead to a prolonged stay in prison. Five of them agreed to go to Ireland. The other, James O'Rourke, appealed and was seen by Lord Alport, a former Tory Minister, last Monday. Alport decides whether James can stay in Britain. There is no right of public hearing.

Hard

Had it not been for active trade unionists in the West London area, no one need have known about these arrests and deportations. Nearly a week after the raid, the news got out on the building workers' network. Sonny McGowan and Sean Campion, chairman and secretary of West London branch of UCATT, tried to find out the facts.

After a lot of telephoning and hard work by the two trade unionists they forced the Home Office to allow visits and interviews with the arrested men.

A petition was hastily organised around trade union branches, building sites and pubs in West London calling for the release of O'Rourke. More than 200 signatures were collected in one day.

Sonny McGowan says: 'This is going on all the time. Lads are being arrested, and there's no way that any of us can even find out about it except by luck. We need a broad-based trade union committee which is widely known and which can act quickly when trade unionists are arrested.'

'We've got to get the Act off the statute book. We need to get every trade union branch committed to repeal.'

Campaign

The O'Rourke case might have some good results. A meeting last week of Hammersmith Trades Council committed itself to campaign against the Act. All trade union bodies are being circulated with a view to setting up a committee against the Act.

A recent press report that Home Secretary Jenkins has privately decided to renew the Act after seeking advice from army officers and police chiefs was denied to Socialist Worker by the Home Office last week. A spokesman said: 'No decision has been taken.'

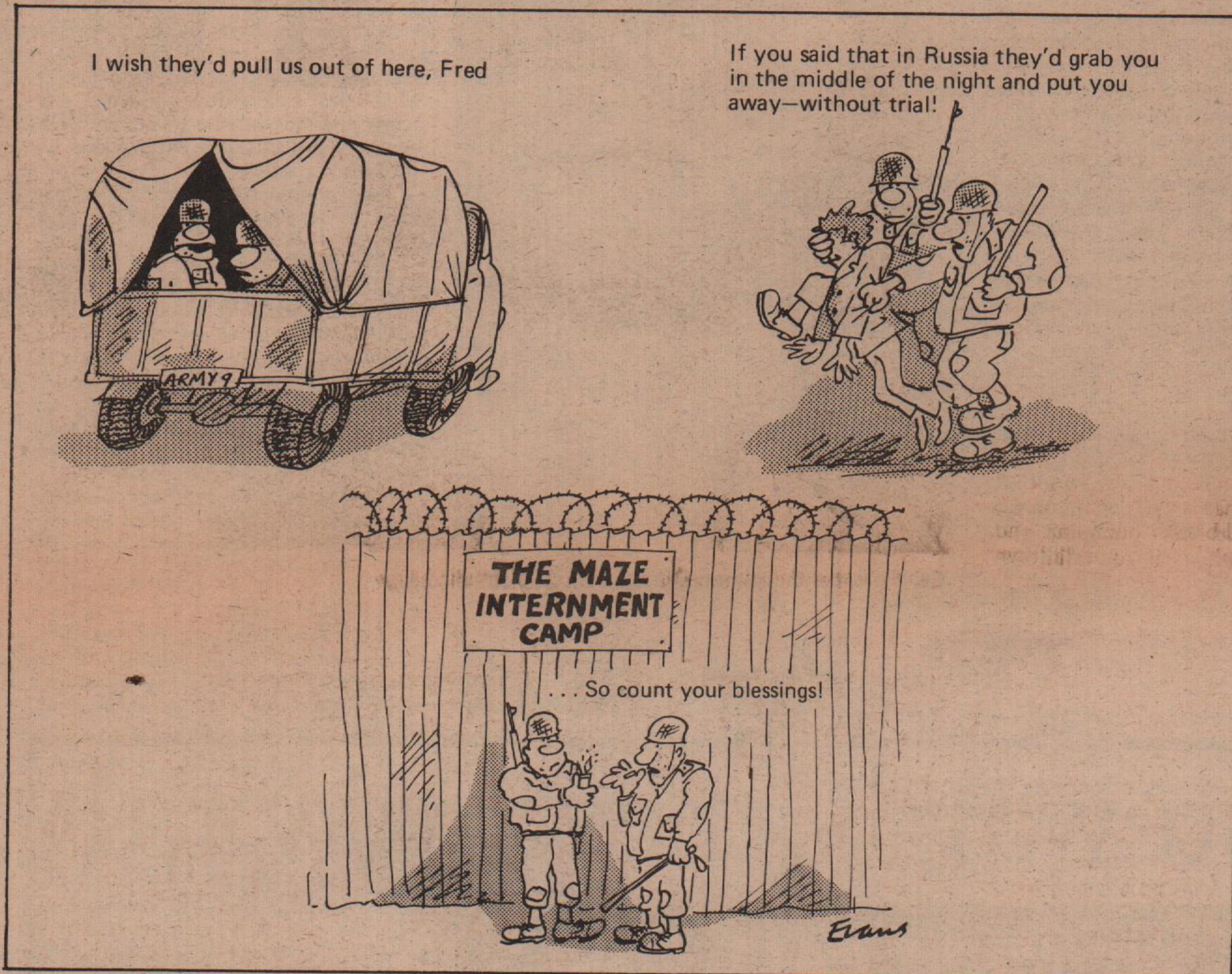
The Act runs until the beginning of June. Now is the time to campaign for the repeal. The Transport and General Workers Union in particular must be pushed into carrying out its executive's declared opposition to the Act.

In the 21 weeks of the Act, 44 exclusion orders have been signed—32 of them resulting in deportation without trial. 87 people—that's more than four every week, have been locked up for seven days without charge or trial by order of our liberal Home Secretary.

This must stop. Only the trade union movement can stop it.



Sonny McGowan and Sean Campion: 'We must get an organised trade union opposition to the Prevention of Terrorism Act'.



FOR CENTURIES the rich have puzzled over the problem: If it is as difficult for them to enter heaven, as for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, then how can they manage it?

Now that go-ahead oil company, Gulf, with big holdings in the old Portuguese fascist colonies in Africa, have stumbled on the answer, in the shape of Ms Jane Scully.

She is a nun. And she has just been appointed to Gulf's board of directors.

Jack-out 'of harm's way'

SOME SOCIALISTS from Denby Grange Colliery have told Fifth Column the story of Jack Ribbins, a miner.

Jack is a middle-aged family man. He is in hospital at the moment with six fractured ribs and a punctured lung, courtesy of the National Coal Board. He was travelling underground in the mine from his place of work, about one mile. Transport is a truck, pulled along rails by wire ropes.

The truck doesn't conform to safety standards, it has neither sides nor roof. Mind you there is one truck which does conform. Unfortunately it has such a long wheel base that it can't get over the bumps in the rails. Still that truck is useful for the occasional tours by distinguished visitors and safety inspec-

tors; it's wonderful to look at.

As the rails twist and wind pulleys are necessary to stop the ropes fouling the truck. The pulleys are fitted so close to the rails that the man in the end seat has to lean over the next seat to avoid hitting them. Unfortunately Jack forgot—and ended up in hospital.

After that the Denby Grange management moved the pulleys 'out of harm's way'. Everyone had known about this hazard, including the manager, but Jack had to make his own contribution before anything was done about it.

What disgraceful people miners are. They put in for pay rises then get themselves in hospital, just because the NCB haven't the time to make irrelevant safety improvements.

SHOCKING NEWS has arrived from Delhi. Rajeshwara Devi has fired God. She is the mother of big, bouncing Guru Maharaj Ji, the 17-year-old Donny Osmond of Divine Light.

Well, his conversion of the United States went wrong. He got converted instead. 'He's a playboy not a holy man,' said the angry mother. She has disowned him because of his 'despicable' way of life.

Master Gi married his American secretary last May. There are also mutterings about various divine contributions to the divine cash till which seem to have gone astray. Still, in his own immortal words, 'Why look through the keyhole when you can open the door?' Especially when it's a safe...

Against racialism and discrimination in the workplace, the union and the community.

The Rank and File Conference Organising Committee invites all trade unionists to a conference on racialism. Saturday 14 June, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

Credentials and details from Roger Cox, Secretary, Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London, NW10.

In 1919-1920 a revolutionary wave was sweeping Europe. In the factories of Italy, Germany and Britain battles over wages detonated a political struggle—for control over society itself.

The workers lost that battle. But in struggle new ways of organisation were thrown up, new ideas about how to fight, new weapons in the struggle for workers' power.

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The condemned

'MOVE... AND WE'LL BREAK YOUR SPINE'

A prison letter from Spain

FRANCO'S DICTATORSHIP, now in its biggest political crisis, is again viciously attacking left wing opponents. In the next few weeks, Eva Forest, a psychiatrist, Antonio Duran, a worker militant, and a number of other people will stand trial for their lives on a charge for which no evidence has been presented.

They are accused of having been involved in the assassination of the former prime minister, Carrero Blanco. A year ago, after a similarly rigged trial, the anarchist Puig Antich was garrotted to death. Only an international campaign of solidarity can prevent Forest, Duran and the others facing a similar fate.

In a letter which has received no publicity in the British press, Eva Forest has described how she was tortured after her arrest:

I was arrested at home on 16 September. I was at once taken to the Security Headquarters where I was shut away in a prison cell... Immediately a group of young men from the PBS (Spanish Secret Police) came to my cell. They talked amongst themselves, making comments like: she must be killed, finished with, no point in interrogating her, etc.

Horrible

They threatened and insulted me, calling me murderess, bitch... saying 'we are going to make you tell us the truth and afterwards we will throw you from a window and say that you committed suicide'. Then they began to punch me in the back, saying 'if you move again we will break your spine, and if you vomit we will make you lick it up'... 'if you fall down we will make you get up by kicking you'.

I remember thinking I was dying, when someone hit me painfully in the back. I lost consciousness... When I came to... I was shivering. I was unable to get up, so they kicked me... and twisted my arm... 'If you carry on with these stories we will finish you off.'

I lost consciousness once more and they became worried... I saw that they were nervous. I was lying on the ground and a 'doctor' came to take my pulse, laughing cynically: 'You can continue. Come on, there is no reason for stopping the interrogation.'

Then the doctor said to me: 'You need a tranquiliser, talk, talk, talk, answer the questions they ask you and I will give you a coffee.'

During my nine days in the secret police headquarters, I endured seven interrogations, in every one undergoing torture, except the last... Four took place in Sainz's office in his presence.

Vomit

The interrogators passed from paternalism to brutality without stopping (threats with a pistol, punches in the stomach, pulling my hair).

Afterwards, they put me once more in the hands of the 'young athletes' who said: 'We are not like the old ones'.

On returning from these interrogations I saw Antonio Duran, who had black eyes and his face was all swollen. He walked with difficulty.

From my cell I have seen... they have badly tortured Carmen Nadal, Lydia Falcon, who has just had hepatitis (illness of the liver), received punches in the abdomen, and in the stomach.

Rosalía Lopez Pedrot has suffered horrible mental tortures, when the police threatened to bring our children to the Headquarters.

Of all these tortures, the worst was when they told me that my husband was wounded... and if I did not talk they would bring my daughter of 12.

I have had nine days in the secret police headquarters. My isolation, up to now, has lasted some 26 days... the prison 'doctor' diagnosed a depression.



Eva Forest and Antonio Duran: on trial for their lives

Portugal's 'terror': The truth

WHILE ignoring the situation of people like Eva Forest in Spain, the British press has once again been stepping up its campaign of hysteria over Portugal.

The Times and The Guardian are painting a picture of a country gripped by a reign of terror with 'more political prisoners than under Caetano'.

The Times correspondent, for instance, has written of 'arrests often carried out in an arbitrary way', 'people taken from their homes often at night, frequently without a warrant'.

Such descriptions do not, however, correspond to the real experiences of the mass of Portuguese people.

Even The Times has been forced to recognise that 'the majority of those held, between 1500 and 2000, were former members of the hated secret police or the Portuguese Legion or other fascist organisations', and that 'the biggest number of detainees since 11 March has come from the armed forces'.

Accept

11 March was the day on which senior generals tried to stage a coup so it is hardly surprising that some have since been arrested.

Who are the remainder of the prisoners? Again, the press gives the game away.

Antonio de Figueiredo writes in The Guardian: 'There are several men, who happen to be rich bankers, who have been arrested by unauthorised groups of marines or sailors and kept in jail in spite of orders for their release... a bank tycoon, the Count of Caria... has been arrested and rearrested seven times.'

People who quite happily accept several hundred ordinary workers imprisoned without trial in Northern Ireland, get quite upset when a few bankers are held for a few days in Lisbon.

That is not to say that Portugal at the moment is a socialist state. Far from it. Power is held by a smallish group of army officers prepared to hit out at the left as well as the right.

They have forbidden two Maoist organisations, the MRPP and the AOC, to stand in the elections or make political propaganda before the elections.

Those who have disobeyed the ruling have been held briefly by the police or military police, usually to be released shortly afterwards. The officers have also banned political broadcasts for another five days by another Maoist group, the FEC, for criticising the power of officers in the armed forces.

The leaders of the Armed Forces Movement hope to maintain their power by balancing between left and right, between the capitalist class and the working class. Some hope, in the process, to establish a new sort of organisation of industry, run along state capitalist lines, with themselves in control.

To reinforce their position, they made the leaders of the main political parties sign statements last week saying that whoever won the

elections, real power would remain with the Armed Forces Movement for some years to come. Only the parties of the revolutionary left refused to sign.

Some key officers also indicated that they would like to replace the existing political parties with a one-party system controlled by themselves.

But their dreams are likely to be short-lived. Big business is determined to restore its unfettered control and its efforts will have the full backing of the NATO powers.

Struggle

On the other hand, the movement in the factories and among rank and file soldiers is probably now too powerful to be restrained by the Armed Forces, even with the help of the Communist Party.

So neither the elections nor the pact between the parties and the Armed Forces Movement will be able to postpone indefinitely a further massive clash between big business and workers.

Socialists in Britain must prepare now to show solidarity when this struggle comes.

LEBANON SET FOR CIVIL WAR?

THE KILLING of 17 people in Lebanon on Sunday in fighting instigated by the extreme right-wing Falangist party could be the prelude to a bitter civil war.

Tension has been building up for several months as the Falange and their big business backers have sought to build a movement to drive the Palestinian refugees and their guerrilla army from the country.

But the guerrilla organisations have built up considerable support from workers, particularly in the south, where the Palestinians are concentrated.

Fishermen in the town of Sidon were recently fired upon by the right wing while demonstrating against a government decision to give fishing rights to a company run by a former right wing president.

Guerrilla organisations then fought alongside fishermen and workers against the army and Falangists, and a one-day general strike paralysed three towns.

Unfortunately, the right-wing are still strong. They are able to exploit religious differences and so win support from some of the most oppressed sections of the population

ADVERTISEMENT

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE WORKING CLASS
For 48 years, Portuguese workers fought a consistent battle against the fascist regime. Now, one year after the coup, which toppled the dictatorship, the working class are struggling for socialism in Portugal.

We urge all trade unionists to support this struggle: to campaign in their workplaces and localities for solidarity with the Portuguese revolution: to affiliate their shop stewards' committees, trade union branches and trades councils to the Solidarity Campaign for the Portuguese Working Class.

This campaign has been launched by the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee and is sponsored by British trade unionists, including Ken MacMillan (secretary, Lanarkshire Trades Councils Joint Committee) and Jack Collins (Kent miners' leader).

Trade unionists can support this campaign by passing resolutions through branches and trades councils calling for support for the Portuguese working class in their struggle for socialism and calling on the union's national executive to

DEMAND that the British government acts to prevent imperialist intervention in Portugal and avoid 'another Chile'.

INVITE a speaker from the PWCC to address the union's annual conference.

Annual affiliation fee (includes subscription to the monthly bulletin, Our Common Struggle): trade union branches and trades councils £5, districts and regional organisation £10, national organisations £25. Send all copies of resolutions to the PWCC, 18 Fleet Road, London NW3, who will forward them to the relevant address in Portugal.

**NATO AND BIG BUSINESS:
HANDS OFF PORTUGAL!**

GLASGOW: WHAT WENT WRONG



THE ROLE OF THE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION

The defeat underlines the need for rank and file organisation

THE Glasgow dustcart drivers have gone down to defeat. Last week's vote to return to work meant an unconditional surrender.

Archie Hood, chairman of the Strike Committee, said: 'We were forced back through poverty and eviction notices. For most of the drivers, the strike has lasted 17 weeks and it has taken its toll. We have been starved into ending it.'

Only 20 of the 5000 drivers voted to continue the strike, but their arguments were telling. An incinerator worker from Govan, Gerry Rogan, put it bluntly:

'This is a sell-out and a disgrace to the trade union movement. There is no other way about it. The union have done the drivers down—Jones has a lot to answer for.'

Indeed, Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport Workers' Union, does have a lot to answer for. Throughout the strike, he avoided any contact with the drivers, even though he knew Glasgow's Labour Council were out to make an example of this dispute.

Dispute

When the drivers' committee went to lobby the TGWU officials in London, Jones was unavailable. Instead, the drivers met Alec Kitson, TGWU national officer, who had already made it clear that he would not make the strike official.

At every stage of the dispute, officials told the men to go back to work. When the troops were brought in, they made noises in protest but did nothing.

Kitson had said: 'If the troops are used, the trade union movement will not stand idly by.'

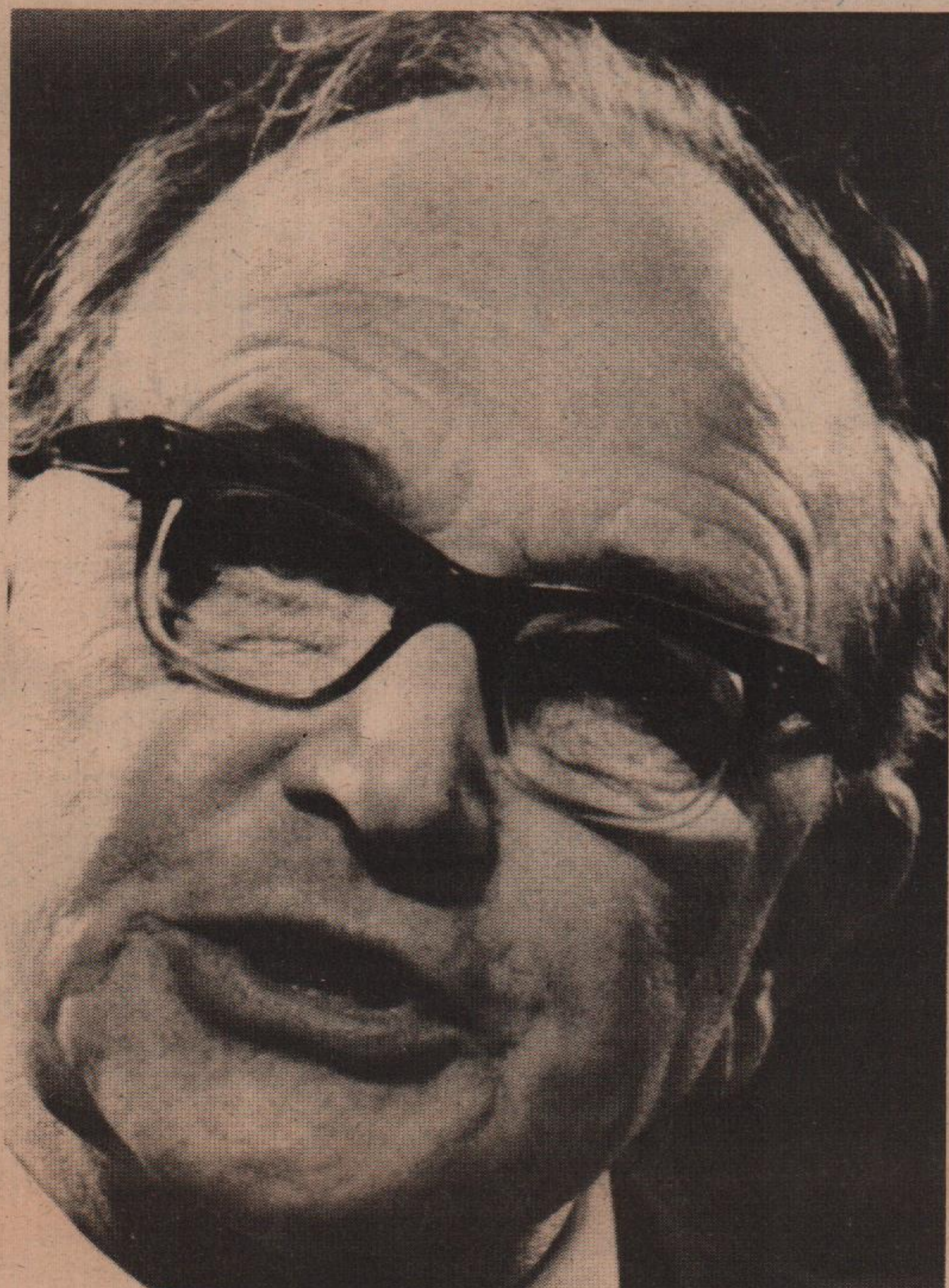
When it came to putting some weight behind the statement, he forgot it.

In fact, the TGWU made no effort to stop the troops by encouraging their members not to co-operate with the soldiers.

So TGWU drivers got the troops through by bus from the barracks in Edinburgh, TGWU drivers delivered supplies to the barracks and, worse, TGWU lorry drivers broke the picket line and helped the troops to move the rubbish.

One lorry driver picking up rubbish from one tip said: 'I would not have broken a picket line, but since there isn't one at this dump, what can I do?'

Other TGWU card-holders didn't even give a second thought to what they were doing. By far



Jack Jones: a lot to answer for

the biggest effort in clearing the rubbish was made by TGWU lorry drivers, working for private contractors.

The responsibility rests squarely with the union's local and national leadership. Incredibly, the Heavy Goods drivers working for private haulage contractors—who themselves had to fight through unofficial strike action to win their claim last October—were not involved in solidarity action with the Corporation drivers.

A simple instruction not to scab on the dustcart drivers was all that was needed. The HGV drivers would clearly have supported the Corporation strikers had the union officials asked them.

Instead, the officials insisted the strike was unofficial and so made the lorry drivers' decision to give solidarity action a personal one.

The drivers were never in a strong position. The effect of their strike was passed on to the public and hostility towards them was encouraged by the press.

Weight

They needed the sympathy and support of other trade unionists. When the troops were brought in, the whole weight of the organised working class should have been mobilised. Yet all along, the leadership of the trade union movement in Glasgow played it down.

The drivers were defeated because trade union leaders refused to stand by elementary trade union principles.

The right wing on the TUC had no wish to fight, the left wing like Jones had tied themselves to the Social Contract, and the Communist Party had tied themselves to Jones.

The only people to fight consistently for sympathy action were IS members. IS stood out in opposition to the troops being used and were attacked.

Many militants watched this attack and measured it against what was organised in support of

the Glasgow strikers. It is becoming clear to them that there is no point in relying upon the full-time officials.

More and more militants are becoming convinced that rank and file organisation is the only answer.

The dustcart drivers' defeat underlines the need to build a rank and file organisation that can begin to defend trade union rights.

We were forced back by eviction notices



Breaking the picket line at the Dawsholm incinerator: one word from the TGWU leadership would have made all

FOR MANY years, revolutionary socialists have a Communist Party was counter-revolutionary. Individual Party members may want to fight for revolution society, but the Party's policies, when translated inevitably place them on the side of the status quo.

The Communist Party has a perspective for social that a majority of Labour and Communist MPs have and that they will carry out socialist policies for

Labour Party. The Communist Labour Party to lift prevents their role in the Labour

And through the trade union Labour Party hope to change Labour generally.

What this leads is a tremendous importance of the leaders and a cordency to 'snuggle' people in the Labour Party.

Any theory has in the real world. The Party is its role in stop the army from Glasgow dustcart

Troops

The Communist 2000 members in have convenors largest factories, siderable number union officials.

The General Scottish TUC is un of the Broad Left General Secretary is a Communist P

After the troc 19 March, the ST its proposal for receive a bonus backlog of rubbish a way out.

The Labour lea Corporation, Dic called on the ST



Reports by Jimmy McCallum and Peter Bain

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THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY

They said all the 'right things' and did nothing

repeat in public what they had been saying in private to the drivers: 'Get back to work.'

The drivers' union, the TGWU, adopted a similar attitude. The dispute was not made official and prominent Labour lefts such as Alec Kitson, Assistant General Secretary, and Raymond McDonald, Regional Secretary, also advised the men to return to work. They opposed any settlement outside national negotiations.

When the troops came in, there was a widespread feeling among trade unionists that action would be organised to demand their removal.

On the first day, shop stewards from Rolls Royce and Sparrows were delegated to the rubbish incinerator picket lines. Two hundred pickets stopped every army lorry and argued with the troops who were also handed leaflets.

That night, a special meeting of Glasgow Trades Council was called to discuss the situation. About 240 delegates unanimously agreed to call a demonstration—described by the Executive Committee spokesmen as 'the first shot across the bows'—and passed a resolution condemning



James Milne: CP member and the general secretary-elect of the Scottish TUC.

the use of troops and calling on trade unionists to refuse to cooperate with them.

Although a delegate was assured that discussion would be allowed after questions, 'if time permitted', the chairman took the unprecedented step of closing the meeting at twenty minutes past eight.

The Trades Council Executive, who decide on the agenda, is controlled by the Communist Party.

Organise

On the demonstration, 1000 workers were kept away from the picket lines despite the appearance of pickets who confirmed that the army had started using the incinerators again.

Instead, the demonstrators were marched to a meeting in the City Centre which dwindled to 200 before it ended.

When the Trades Council EC met again on 26 March, it was faced with a number of problems. The Glasgow District TGWU Shop Stewards had called for a mass demonstration during working hours, and a number of branches had submitted resolutions calling on the Trades Council to organise a West of Scotland Shop Stewards meeting. The EC decided to support a shop stewards' meeting.

Ended

When the Trades Council met the following Wednesday, it emerged that the Secretary was proposing to write to the Clyde Committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, suggesting a shop stewards' meeting.

The secretary, John Reidford, a member of the Communist Party, failed to answer questions about why the EC's proposal hadn't been made at the meeting that had been hurriedly ended two weeks before, and about

when the meeting was to take place.

Approaches were also made to the Heavy Goods Vehicle drivers' strike committee by the striking local authority electricians suggesting joint sponsorship of a shop stewards' meeting.

Despite apparent agreement from the drivers, nothing concrete emerged. One member of the strike committee is also a member of the TGWU General Executive and of the Regional Committee and close to Broad Left supporters.

But the only action which could have won the dispute was a campaign across Clydeside, involving widespread strikes, mass pickets at the incinerators and factory collections for the strikers.

Normally, when widespread action and support is necessary, a West of Scotland meeting is called.

Favour

But the Communist Party machine effectively blacked it, knowing it was crucial. At the same time, many individual Communist Party members and supporters were in favour of it and were puzzled at its failure to be called.

The forces within the working class movement opposed to such a meeting were Glasgow's Labour Corporation, the Executive and Regional Officials of the TGWU, and the Scottish TUC General Council.

Those Communist Party members who determined the policy on this issue did so with their eyes open. For them, and for official Party policy, it was important to ensure nothing was done that would jeopardise their relationship with people in high places in the STUC, the Labour Party and the TGWU.

They said all the 'right things' and did nothing, hoping the men would return to work.

Fifty years on ... and look at the difference

By LAURIE FLYNN

THE USE of troops to break the Glasgow dustcart drivers' strike 'could damage industrial relations'.

This remark, akin to stating that a snakebite might at the very worst cause an outbreak of the common cold, could have been made by Vic Feather, who described the jailing of the Pentonville Five as 'unhelpful'.

But the statement wasn't made by Vic Feather. It was made by James Milne, assistant general secretary of the Scottish Trades Congress and a member of the Communist Party.

If Milne's statement was one lapse among a welter of otherwise militant Communist statements and activities against the Labour government and its use of troops to break a strike, it might perhaps be forgiven.

Issues

But it was not. It was one of the very few public statements on the Glasgow situation by leading Communist Party members.

In any case, the character of the coverage in the Party's daily paper was little different from Milne's statement. It was low-key from the start, with scarcely an attempt to raise the immensely serious political issues at stake.

In dramatic contrast to this is the performance of the young Communist Party 50 years ago in the wake of the first world war when similar principles were at stake.

In July 1924, the Communist Party staged an Anti War week. They intended to campaign up and down the country against the dangers of war, the use of troops to break strikes and other immensely serious class issues raised by the miserable performance of the first Labour government.

The Party paper, the Workers' Weekly, for 25 July 1924 accordingly carried a splendid agitational article called The Army and Industrial Disputes—an Open Letter to the Fighting Forces.

Action

The piece, in the best traditions of the 1912 Don't Shoot leaflet that got Tom Mann six months' jail, concluded with a direct appeal to rank and file soldiers to refuse to shoot down fellow workers and to get themselves organised into soldiers' committees.

For this 'crime', the full power of the state moved into action against the Workers Weekly. Their offices and the Party offices were ransacked by police who took away vanloads of 'evidence'. Acting editor J R Campbell was arrested and charged under the Incitement to Mutiny Act.

But before he came to court, the Communist Party Executive strongly defended the article and called for massive solidarity action.

That solidarity was forthcoming. So the Labour government

retreated. When Campbell came back to court after one week's remand, the prosecution announced that the case was being dropped.

What accounts for the staggering difference between the Workers Weekly of 1924 and the Morning Star of today?

A different situation, you might suggest. Different yes, but not all that different.

After all, this Labour government actually used the troops against strikers. This Labour government is going to preside over the prosecution of 14 pacifists for offences under the Incitement to Disaffection Act.

So the situation is not so very different.

What has happened? In 1924, the young Communist Party was a genuinely communist organisation straining every muscle to increase socialist conviction among working people and to strengthen their abilities to win struggles.

Fifty years on, it is not like that at all. Today the leaders of the Communist Party have as their top priority making friends and influencing people. This source of decay is complemented by another.

Despite

In 1924 international communism was a source of inspiration. Today it is a source of reaction, urging 'moderation', 'compromise' and the fraud of the 'peaceful road to socialism'.

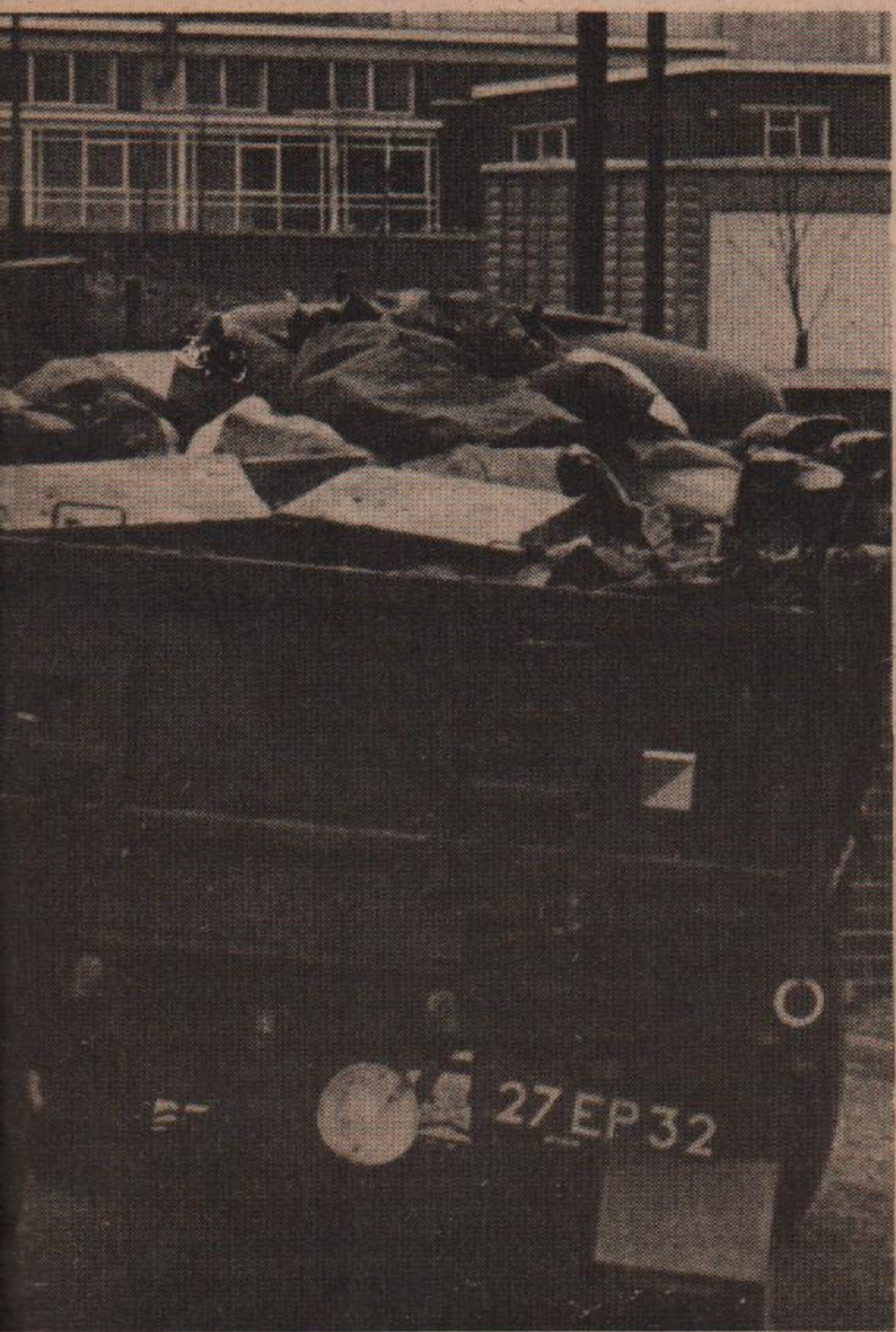
Fifty years ago, the Left of the Labour Party were rather more energetic characters, too. In opposition before 1924, they regularly moved amendments designed to give soldiers trade union rights. But they, too, have decayed beyond recognition, until despite all the Communist Party leaders' talk of the major 'progressive developments' not a single one of them has a word to say about the use of troops in Glasgow.

Not that the fact that the Labour left were better then caused the Communists to falter. J R Campbell himself summed up what it was all about. He wrote:

'Many Labour people are defending the government's action in the Campbell case on the grounds that I am a poor innocent wounded soldier, who has fallen among [the] wicked . . . The real vital issue of the case is that there are on the Statute Book numerous Sedition Laws, Mutiny Acts, and other forms of anti-labour legislation which, while they are allowed to be dormant in periods of social calm, can always be revived and used against the Labour Movement in a period of crisis.'

He might have been writing about Glasgow today.

ces...



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

the difference.

Postal Points ON THE COMMON MARKET

THE ABSTAINERS seem blind to the extent of the crisis and to the practicalities of a socialist solution. The next few years could well see revolutionary situations, but it is highly unlikely that revolutionary or Left Labour governments would be carried to power simultaneously in London, Paris, Milan etc. The most likely prospect is an isolated workers' government.

Last November, Socialist Worker said: 'The first need would be for a workers' government to take control of foreign trade . . . and it would stop rich people taking their money out of the country.'

These vital measures are fundamentally opposed to the philosophy of the EEC. We must oppose the Market, campaign for full employment policies, and mobilise the Labour movement behind such a campaign, wherever individual closures or short-time are being fought.—GORDON BLAIR, London SW6.

THE NO brigade in IS are taking off into fantasy. Vote Yes, they say, if you want a wage freeze (1 March) as if there won't be a wage freeze if you vote No . . . Don't vote. Boycott the referendum.—MIKE KIDRON, London NW3.

JIM HIGGINS, Hugh and Barbara Kerr and Michael Kidron have failed to explain how IS can abstain on the Common Market vote any more than we can abstain in a factory on a wage claim or a victimisation . . . All are issues where workers try to win some control from the employers, with the consequent boost to their confidence and decline in bosses' morale. Victory for one side, however large or small, is defeat for the other.—MIKE CARVER, Wandsworth.

ONCE AGAIN the Communist Party's policy on the Common Market has been misrepresented. Alan Barclay's letter (5 April) derides a CP member for stating that the sovereignty of our parliament is important, carelessly concluding that it is foolish for us to believe that 'workers in Britain could better their lot by putting pressure on parliament'.

The Vietnam movement, the Saltley Coal Depot blockade, the Troops Out movements, (Northern Ireland and Glasgow), the anti-Industrial Relations Act movements, Chile Solidarity, Shrewsbury Two . . . the list could go on and on. Who the hell are these groups trying to put pressure on? Of course, our 'democracy' is in many ways restricted to putting a cross on a form every five years, but as socialists we must attempt constantly, to influence this powerful body on issues that concern us.—ALEX WOOD, Northampton.

THE ONLY concern for socialists is the organised strength of the working class, in Britain and all over Europe, against the entire capitalist Common Market system . . . Stay in or get out, the burden of the crisis is going to fall on the workers . . . There's only one way out: organise and fight for socialism. And there's only one way to vote . . . write on the ballot paper United Socialist States of Europe.—HUGO DEWAR, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Ireland...Glasgow...you could be next

WE ARE six of the 14 people victimised by the government over an information sheet produced by the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign for the benefit of British soldiers serving or likely to serve there. We have been charged with conspiracy to contravene the Incitement to Disaffection Act.

We are living in a time of increasing government oppression. The law is being used more and more to deal with progressives and activists who exert their rights as trade unionists or who challenge the state. Not so long ago, the five jailed dockers were released only in response to

the threat of a general strike. Now the Shrewsbury pickets languish in prison.

The Incitement to Disaffection Act is a threat to free speech; it also denies soldiers the right to receive information and engage in political discussion. The use of the British army in Northern Ireland can be seen as a preview of how it may be used here.

All trade unionists should remember that if troops are brought in to break strikes and are given leaflets urging them not to serve in this way, those leafletters could find themselves charged.

We urge all our fellow trade unionists to

campaign in every possible way, on the shop floor and at branch, district, regional and national level for the immediate dropping of these iniquitous charges and the abolition of the conspiracy laws and the Incitement to Disaffection Act.

We should be glad to hear from any trade unionists who wish in any way to support the Defend the 14 Campaign—Bill Hetherington, NALGO, John Hyatt, NUJ, Frank Keeley, NALGO, Paul Seed, NUS, Bob Thomas, TGWU, Gwyn Williams NALGO, Box 69, c/o 197 Kings Cross Road, London, WC1.

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 'ethics' of private practice

RON PEARSON, NUPE convenor at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, has become the victim of a massive witch-hunt after speaking at a public meeting on the crisis in the National Health Service.

He told the meeting how his five-year-old son had needed his tonsils out but the doctor had said that, unless Ron was prepared to pay privately, his son would have to stay on the waiting list for three years.

Ron was describing what we know to be obvious. If you're rich, you can get health treatment; if you're not, you can rot a few years.

The next day saw the beginning of a week-long victimisation campaign by the local press and the British Medical Association. Some of their statements were so libellous that NUPE is now taking legal action.

But the campaign reached new depths when Ron was told that he, his wife and his family were to be struck off the local GP's list.

Here we see how the 'ethical' and 'moral' medical profession are prepared to deprive a man and his family of basic health care just because he is prepared to speak out against the obscenity of private practice.

We need no better example of the hardship caused by private practice and of the 'humanity' of those who defend it. Trade unionists inside and outside the NHS must organise for its abolition.—ROB SILVERSTONE, NUPE, Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

NO TO THE COMMON MARKET

Posters and leaflets available for local propaganda. Send orders to Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Leaflets—25p per 100, posters—75p per 100. Money with orders please.

SOME GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BUY AND READ INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 77. ON SALE NOW.

The Common Market? I know where it is, I know we're in it, but what is it? The new issue of the International Socialist Journal gives a comprehensive run down of how the Market works—and why our rulers are so anxious for us to stay in.

Wonderful, but when did it start?

ISJ 77 gives its history from 1945. It goes further, explaining how workers from outside Europe have been drawn in and screwed even more effectively than the poor so-and-so's there in the first place.

I am gratified. But surely there's more to life than the Common Market? How true. There's Portugal: ISJ 77 explains what's been happening.

I'm almost speechless with admiration. What kind of organisation could put together such an impressive journal?

Who else but the International Socialists? Part two of the history of that worthy organisation is to be found in ISJ 77. Plus book reviews and a survey of the building industry.

How can I share with you this moving experience?

Simple, send 28pence to IS Journal, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.



Dave Ward after the hammer attack: no charges were brought against the National Front.

CRAWLEY Trades Council member Dave Ward was coshed with a hammer when, with many other trade unionists, he picketed a National Front meeting in Horsham last November. Five demonstrators made statements to the police that they could identify his attacker.

Many weeks later some NF members appeared in court—not as defendants, but as witnesses in the prosecution of three socialists from Brighton, two of them IS comrades.

Rick Noss, George Blazyca and Kev Snape were advised to plead guilty to charges which included insulting behaviour. With heavy costs, each had to pay out £38.

No charges have been brought against the NF for the hammer

The two faces of 'law and order'

attack. An object lesson in how the law works—and doesn't work—in cases involving the Front . . .

RICK NOSS, Brighton.

IS members and supporters are urged to contribute towards these comrades' fines and costs. Send cash to 114 Upper North Street, Brighton, Sussex.

IRISH FILM 'BIG SUCCESS'

THE DERBY IS Branch Committee's warning (5 April) against Ireland; Behind the Wire should not go unchallenged. I saw the film in Derby AND in Nottingham—and it was like seeing two different films. Derby's, the original version, was a rough copy because of difficulties at the film laboratories.

The new version was a great success in Nottingham. It is well filmed and edited and a lot of commentary has been added to

bring out the politics.

Although it does not go in for a deep political analysis, it does give a genuine and moving picture of the lives of Irish people.—FRANK ABBOTT, Nottingham.

WE THINK the Derby IS branch committee have given the wrong impression. Despite some faults, the Troops Out Movement have found the film useful in building our

campaign.

With press, radio and TV censorship, the film shows people what's really going on in Ireland. We urge all organisations concerned to end the British military and political occupation of Ireland to organise showings.

If you want to follow it with a Troops Out speaker, contact us at 103, Hammersmith Road, London W14.—ALAN THOMKINS, Press Officer, Troops Out Movement.

SOCIALISM OR BARBARISM?

I WAS LUCKY enough recently to catch the final performance at London's Unity Theatre of the *Kartoon Klowns'* latest play *Muggins No Longer*. If only the place had been filled with fellow trade unionists.

Newcomers to this type of theatre can at first be slightly confused. Then you realise you are not part of a passive audience watching a conventional play but you are taking part in an experience that compels you to think continually during—and after—the performance.

Red Saunders was, as usual, excellent, playing the many and varied faces of the ruling class: the United States president, manipulating whole countries; the symbolic ventriloquist, implanting reactionary words in the mouths and heads of workers; the High Court judge, venting his verbal fury on the gagged worker who had dared to challenge the power of his class and had come too close for his Lordship's comfort.

These and many more portrayals were

By IAN MORRIS

sometimes serious but more often hilarious. In between times, he bribed and cajoled his traditional lackeys to divide and control the working class.

The rest of the cast—Sandra Shears, David Courts and Peter Bruno—discharged their demanding roles perfectly, as did the hero of the working class, Jo Wreford as Lofty Muggins, all five foot of her.

With a minimum of straight dialogue, the message—*Socialism or Barbarism*—came through with the utmost clarity. In fact, the most impressive scene had no dialogue at all.

The ruling class had failed in their attempts to contain the workers, so they launched their Final Solution, unleashing the mad dogs of fascism.

In a fantastic scene of movement, noise and brilliantly-executed lighting effects, I actually experienced what fascism is all about. For four or five spine-chilling minutes,

I could feel what the workers in Chile must have felt when the Junta struck.

During this scene, a Union Jack with a steel-tipped pole waved slowly from side to side at the rear of the stage, providing the law and order brigade with the excuse, and the spur, for their barbarity as they masturbated away all their pent-up self-interest by frenziedly trying to destroy anyone and anything that stood in the way of that self-interest.

You will never be able to see this play in the West End, not because it isn't good enough—it is—but because it is not the sort of play the establishment wants you to see. So make a date for its return to the Unity Theatre on 19 and 20 April.

Come along in small groups as the discussion after the show is almost as rewarding as the show itself.

IS and trade union branches wanting to book the *Kartoon Klowns* can contact them at 41 Great Windmill St, London W1 (01-734 9083).



The law—and a worker up against it: a scene from *Muggins No Longer*

What really happens in a revolution...

WHAT really goes on in a revolution? What happens when a whole society is shaken from below like a dirty mat, so that centuries of grime and filth are beaten out?

What becomes of workers suddenly freed from oppression by their own efforts? What do they make of themselves, how do their organisations grow?

If we lived in Portugal, we would know some of the answers. There, workers and peasants have been pitched into just such a revolutionary situation, and many of them are taking mighty strides into self-activity and self-confidence.

Reading the new book *Six Red Months in Russia** is like being taken into the middle of the action—only the year is 1917.

A young American, Louise Bryant, set out early that year for Petrograd. She had stopped at a New York news-stand to buy an evening paper and seen the headline news: Revolution in Russia. She made up her mind on the spot to go and witness it herself.

She arrived in Petrograd at three in the morning to the sound of church bells.

Flowers

In a city where you could buy diamond-studded dog collars, tight-waisted corsets and false hair, the customers for such high-class fripperies had disappeared so fast that the shop-keepers had been left in a state of shock. They were clinging to their old habits of trade, unable to understand that their time was up.

So, along the streets where the most bitter fighting took place, next to shops where you could not buy blankets or bread at any price, there were still displayed for sale a beautiful array of rare flowers and orchids. Petrograd was full of contradictions.

Hotel commissioners still pranced, decked with braids, at hotel doors, though there were no longer any aristocratic ladies to help into their carriages. They were helpless and confused. The class they served had fled.

The Prime Minister, Kerensky, was fighting for the representation of businessmen and the right-wing Cadets in the new government. The right wing socialists sided with him in support of the middle class.

Only the Bolsheviks stood firm, saying that the propertied classes were trying to take over the revolution.



1917—and Lenin addresses a big meeting. Thousands of workers come over to the Bolsheviks' ranks

By JUDITH CONDON

Thousands of workers came over to their ranks under the slogan All Power to the Soviets. Their brothers in the army came with them.

On 25 October, the All Russian Soviets were due to hold their congress in Petrograd. Kerensky wanted to stop them at all costs. He tried first to move the pro-Bolshevik Petrograd garrison away to the German front.

But they resisted, elected their own Military Revolutionary Committee, and tipped off the workers.

Louise Bryant spent some time at the Bolshevik headquarters, the Smolny Institute, meeting Bolshevik leaders who worked, ate and slept there for weeks on end. 'I saw it change', she says, 'from a lonely deserted barracks into a busy humming hive, heart and soul of the revolution.'

All the world seemed to have business at Smolny. The once-polished floors became stained by the boots of thousands of soldiers, sailors and factory workers coming and going.

There were volunteer guards on every door. And if you were poor you were always welcome. Long wooden benches and tables were laid out on the ground floor for eating the only food available... cabbage, soup and black bread.

Trotsky and Kollontai and other Bolshevik leaders were always to be seen, meeting delegations, drinking tea, and looking pale and drawn from lack of sleep. Lenin was more aloof, always occupied.

Control

Delegates of the soviets met in all night sessions, and peasants marched to Smolny to show their approval. The trams never stopped running to Smolny—however late the sessions ended the transport workers saw that you could get home.

And even in the heaviest snowdrifts the women workers and the soldiers laboured with spades to keep the roads to Smolny open.

Millions of lives depended direct-

ly on what could be achieved in organising efficient welfare, in spite of civil war raging all around. There were seven million sick and wounded, two and a half million maimed, 350,000 war orphans.

Old people's homes and charitable institutions were turned over to the control of the people who lived in them. Private schools were abolished and massive new fostering schemes for orphans arranged.

Women workers were to be allowed four months' pregnancy leave, with special consideration when they returned to work. In the early days of the revolution, Kollontai told Louise Bryant, with the country under siege, and food scarce, you could only really give people a choice between having thin or thick cabbage soup; but even that choice meant something, when they had had no choice before!

With Portugal now the setting for the most exciting revolutionary developments in Europe for many years, the book sets the imagination working.

It has been done: it can be done.

* *Six Red Months in Russia*, by Louise Bryant (Journeyman Press).

ON THE BOX

SATURDAY

BBC-1: 11.40pm. There aren't many good British film directors, one of them is Karel Reisz, who made *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* and *Morgan—A Suitable Case for Treatment*. He talks about these and his new American film—*The Gambler*.

SUNDAY

BBC-1: 10pm. Sean O'Casey was a marxist, and a playwright. His classic, *THE SHADOW OF THE GUNMEN*, set in Dublin during 'The Troubles' of 1920 is the *PLAY OF THE MONTH*. ITV's *WEEKEND WORLD* at Midday remains the most intelligent and comprehensive current affairs programme on TV.

MONDAY

BBC-1: 10.10pm. CHURCHILL'S *PEOPLE* continues on its uncertain way with *THE PURITAN REVOLUTION* on Cromwell's suppression of the radicals of the English revolution. Same channel's *CHOICES FOR TOMORROW—THE MENU* 'looks at the problems of feeding the population' and pinpoints nutritious food at 11.5pm. On BBC-2 in the *HORIZON* series is a dramatised documentary on the nineteenth century engineer ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL with Leonard Rossiter as Brunel, at 9.30pm. The Meriden Motorcycle Cooperative is the subject—inviting critics—of *OPEN DOOR* on BBC-2 at 11pm.

TUESDAY

BBC-1: 9.25pm. That peculiarly reactionary and evil regime that rules Saudi Arabia is the subject of *TUESDAY'S DOCUMENTARY: TOMORROW'S SAUDI ARABIA* which, says the BBC 'takes a searching and at times critical look at the effect progress is having on this deeply traditional and religious society'. The most useful thing that 'progress' could do would be to run over the regime's leaders with their own Cadillacs... *THE REBEL ANGEL: J M W TURNER, 1775-1851* on BBC-2 at 8.10pm is about that great painter, and examines his work. On ITV at 10.30pm is a *WORLD IN ACTION SPECIAL. THE PSYCHIC SURGEONS: MIRACLE OR ILLUSION?* about the healers of the Philippines who cure without scalpels, drugs or training—but with the injection of large sums of money from patients.

WEDNESDAY

BBC-1: 10.49pm. *MIDWINTER* is about supertankers, and the dangers they pose on their oil runs.

THURSDAY

BBC-1: 9.35pm. *PLAY FOR TODAY: CHILD OF HOPE* is about the 1967/8 trial of 37 Namibians (South West Africa) under South Africa's terrorism act. It's based on defence lawyer Joel Carson's book *No Neutral Ground*.

Why the union leaders back down

I agree with a lot that Socialist Worker has to say, but it spends too much time attacking trade union officials. Although they have their faults, they are basically on our side.

THIS argument is often raised by militant trade unionists, many of who have fought for a long time to rid their own unions of right-wing control. How can socialists justify what we say?

Although socialists work for and welcome any victory in the trade unions by left over right, we believe that at all critical times the trade union officials will back away from a

confrontation with the employers and the government, and will seek a compromise even though against their members' interests.

The failure to act over the strike-breaking by troops in Glasgow, over the jailing of the Shrewsbury pickets, or to fight the fraud of the Social Contract are just three examples. Not only has Frank Chapple, the right-wing president of the Electricians Union, failed to do anything on these issues, but so has Hugh Scanlon, the left-wing president of the Engineers.

Why do they behave like this?

Trade union officials have gained privileges because they occupy a unique position in our society. They are neither workers nor employers.

Their main job is to negotiate between the two sides in industry. They are the brokers between the working class and the employing class.

Though they represent the workers, their role is vital to the employers — note that Tory measures concerning the trade unions have aimed to strengthen the control of officials over members.

Perks

If anyone doubts the privileges of trade union leaders, take a look at the pay and perks they get.

The president and general secretary of the AUEW, for example, earn more than £100 a week, executive

council members about £90 a week and local officials just under £80 a week. On top of this they are entitled to a new car every year, expense accounts and cheap mortgages. The vast majority of AUEW members of course never approach this standard of living.

The salaries of AUEW officials are modest in comparison with other unions. Immediately after the last miners' strike, the NUM executive agreed a £40-a-week rise for their national and local officials. This means a national NUM official now earns £140 a week.

This divorce from the membership is further increased by the circles trade union leaders move in. They sit on a host of advisory committees to the government and are continually rubbing shoulders with employers and management.

This has led trade union officials to see themselves as more and more separate from their members, no longer as one of the players but more like the referee. A survey shows that a great majority of them consider their jobs as middle class and that of their general secretary as close to the top of the social scale.

Pressure

Look where they go when they cease to be union officials. How many go back to be shop floor workers?

Some join the employing class directly, such as Ron Smith, former general secretary of the Post Office Workers Union who became a director of British Steel.

Others carry on in the same role — as Jim Mortimer, former left-wing official of the draughtsmen's union TASS, who went to run the government's Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

A perfect example is Eric Blott, the full-time official of the National Union of Journalists who resigned last month because of growing pressure in the union for regular election of officials. Now he's openly keeping the workers in line as personnel manager for the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo.

The union officials' privileged position depends on performing this role and anything that upsets this is regarded as a threat. So trade union leaders view any independent action by the rank and file members with the utmost suspicion. That is why Jack Jones gave no support to the London dockers who recently took action to defend their jobs or to the thousands of workers in Scotland who last year tried to defend their standards of living against the Social Contract.

Strength

After all, is there not a danger that trade unionists who discover the strength of rank and file action will ask why they need to pay officials large salaries to do things for them?

As the crisis deepens this problem will bedevil the trade union leaders. To head off independent action from the rank and file trade unionists, the leaders need to be seen to be doing something about unemployment and inflation.

Yet they cannot go too far along this road, as it would involve beginning to challenge the very basis of capitalist society. It would mean unleashing a movement they could not control and thus threatening their own positions as privileged negotiators.

The General Strike of 1926 had among its leaders men who stood far to the left of Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon today. Such men spoke in terms of destroying capitalism and the wage system itself. Yet at the decisive moment they retreated and opened the way for a period of bitter poverty and unemployment for millions.

As the crisis gets worse, trade unionists ignore the experience of the past at their peril. For socialists it makes the building of a rank and file movement within the trade unions, to fight for democratic control over the policy and officials, a vital part of everyday activity.

PAUL HOLBOROW

a
question
of
socialism

STUDENT CHEERS FOR STRIKER



Students at the NUS conference last week. TOP: NOISS candidate Pete Gillard. PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

by Jim Montgomery (LSE)
THE National Union of Students conference at Llandudno last week was a major advance for the National Organisation of International Socialists Societies.

NOISS fought for a speaker from the striking Glasgow electricians. When Hugh Higgins, treasurer of the strike committee, spoke he was given a standing ovation and nearly £300 was collected. This was one of the high points of a conference which otherwise reflected the demoralisation many students feel in fighting the education cuts.

The conference was as usual manipulated and controlled by the Labour and Communist Party alliance that dominates the NUS executive — the Broad Left. The Broad Left won the majority of the elections to the executive. That's what they came for anyway. NOISS member Pete Gillard was elected as executive officer representing a significant minority of the conference.

The executive tried to prevent delegates focusing on political issues concerning students. The Broad Left controlled the conference organisationally, that is undeniable. Their inability to raise the political questions surrounding the cuts in education and student grants revealed the way in which they mislead students.

WON

NOISS challenged the Broad Left politically throughout the conference. A major victory was won in the Common Market debate. The proposal by the Broad Left that student opposition should be made through broad-based committees (including Tories) was defeated.

The conference saw the Broad Left in their true colours on the grants question. Desperately attempting to cover up their incompetence and lack of leadership, they lashed out at all opponents with sectarian attacks. Al Stewart, the re-elected deputy president, was censured

for his attack on the rent strikers at Surrey University.

All criticisms of their failures were met by carefully rehearsed speeches that boiled down to saying that NOISS was just a lot of splitters. They whined that NOISS should not attack them but the right wing. What they fail to realise is that for years within the NUS there has been no need for a right wing because the Broad 'Left' have so effectively poured cold water on every militant campaign.

This trend is continuing. No longer do they call for a 'week of action', it's down to days of action now. They accuse NOISS of being utopian. But they will achieve nothing unless they are prepared to take direct action. Negotiations with the government will get us nowhere. Students can only change the nature of education in alliance with the working class. The Broad Left encourage illusions that education can be reformed when

capitalism is dismembering it wholesale.

So what can students expect in their colleges? Well, in addition to the threats of closure be ready for some political changes. Students may well have noticed the growth of the right — under the guise of the Radical Action Group, heavily supported by the press, and the Young Liberals, experts in left-wing phraseology and right-wing politics. This is spreading in the middle class colleges and winning away the old Broad Left supporters.

The only major left group confronting this growth is NOISS. The Broad Left are neatly falling down the crack in the middle as education begins to split on class lines.

We can have conferences until we are blue in the face. What is more important is what happens at local level.

Conference debated a resolution on the Lancaster dispute. The Broad Left resolution omitted to call for action in

colleges all over the country in support of Lancaster and to pay for a speakers' tour for Lancaster students.

Indulging in disgusting sectarianism he has now made it far harder to beat the attacks of Carter, vice-chancellor at Lancaster. Standing ovations at NUS conferences are not going to impress him very much.

It will now be up to NOISS members and supporters to lead on the Lancaster dispute at local level. This is exactly where the Broad Left has no capacity to lead. They have no grasp of what is happening to education or the way to combat it. NOISS has the strength, the understanding and the policies to fight for student conditions.

NOISS National Committee meets on Saturday in Lancaster. IS Student Conference 17/18 May, details will be circulated.

NUJ retreat must be stopped

by Roger Protz*

'NO RETREAT' — that must be the clarion call as delegates assemble in Cardiff next week for the vital annual meeting of the National Union of Journalists.

Last year's NUI conference decided to campaign for closed shops that would include newspaper editors. Provincial journalists involved in strike action in recent years have been angered by editors — either non-union or 'associate' members of the NUI — who sabotage their action by working to produce strike-breaking editions of their papers.

The conference decided to abolish associate membership and to make editors full union members, subject to democratic control by chapels — the workplace units of the union.

But the union executive retreated and compromised under the press tycoons' barrage. Last month, the executive abandoned the conference decision by deciding that editors would have a 'free choice' to join the union or not and that they would be allowed to work normally

during an industrial dispute.

It effectively sabotages any future strike action by journalists.

The executive has also proposed drawing up a 'charter of press freedom' with the employers, a suggestion akin to a condemned man signing a non-aggression pact with his hangman.

Fight

Delegates must repudiate the retreat by their executive and reaffirm their determination to fight for closed shops that include editors. A defeat on this policy will seriously undermine the NUI's industrial strength in the struggles ahead.

Other crucial issues will be — AMALGAMATION: Several branches are calling for one union for the printing and media industries, with unity with SOGAT, the major print union, as a first step.

ELECTION OF OFFICIALS: NUI officials are either appointed or elected for life. Demands for the regular election of all

officials have been defeated for the past three years. Now is the opportunity to give democratic control to the members.

FINANCE AND UNION STRUCTURE: A committee has recommended a major reorganisation of the union based on an industrial council set-up. The executive is opposing this important shake-up on the grounds of cost — and the same argument will be used to oppose the election of officials and to support moving to a conference every other year. The union is in debt and its finances must be strengthened — but not by cutting back on members' control and participation.

The results of these important debates will determine the shape and fighting trim of the union for years to come and its ability to ward off the attacks of the employers.

* Roger Protz, who writes in his personal capacity, is chairman of the NUI's Magazine Branch and joins the union's executive council next week.

Classified

Entries for the Classified column must arrive by first post Monday. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 3p a word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Adverts that arrive without payment will be charged at double the rate.

ONE YEAR AFTER THE COUP: Workers' struggles in Portugal. Public meeting organised by the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee. Speakers: Jack Collins (Kent miners' leader) and Oscar de Figueiredo (PWCC). Friday 25 April, 7pm, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 (nearest tube Euston Square or Euston).

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN: Meeting to form a Central London group, Monday 21 April, 6.30pm, ULU, Malet Street, WC1. Further information from Charlotte (01-370 3645) day, or Angela (01-226 7512) evenings.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK: Conference for workers in and around Newham, East London, Saturday 26 April, 10am, Lawrence Hall, Cumberland Road, E13. Speakers include Pat Kinnersly (author of *The Hazards of Work*). Sponsored by West Ham Trades Council and others.

CHILE—LESSONS FOR THE LABOUR MOVEMENT: Public meeting. Speakers: Duncan Hallas (IS), Steve Hart (CP), John Ross (IMG) and a Labour Party speaker. Friday 18 April, 7.30pm, Mountbatten Theatre, East Park Terrace, Southampton. Organised by Southampton Chile Solidarity Committee.

MANCHESTER Socialist Rally against the EEC. Speakers: Ernest Mandel (Fourth International), Ernie Roberts (AUEW) and a Tribune MP. Chair: Bernard Panter. Friday 2 May, 7.30pm, Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate.

NO to the Common Market. Public meeting. Speakers: Jack Jones, Ron Leighton. Thursday 24 April, 7.30pm, North Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road, South East London.

YOUNG WORKERS' CHARTER has been set up in Glasgow, open to anyone interested in fighting for the rights of young workers and apprentices. Next meeting: Saturday 19 April, 11am, Iona Community House, 241 Clyde Street, Glasgow (near St Enoch's Square). All welcome.

GENERAL WILL, Bradford-based touring socialist theatre group need immediately two politically-committed actress/singers. One to be a musician (piano essential). One to be a driver. Must be prepared to live in Bradford. Apply 25 Blenheim Road, Bradford 8.

BENEFIT for the Solidarity Campaign for the Portuguese Working Class: Tuesday 6 May, 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Red Ladder theatre group: A Woman's Work is never done. A woman worker from Portugal will speak on the situation there. Tickets 50p from the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee, 18 Fleet Road, London NW3, from 15 Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, or on the door. Organised by the PWCC.

BENEFIT FILM FESTIVAL for The Other Cinema: 14-23 April at The Collegate Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1. Phone 01-734 8508. Programme available and advance booking from The Other Cinema, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2, Monday-Friday 11-4. Films include: Berwick Street Film Collective's NIGHTCLEANERS part 1, Cinema Action's THE MINERS' FILM, London Women's Film Group's THE AMAZING EQUAL PAY SHOW, Chile etc.

ICA, The Mall (930 2868) April 21 at 7pm, Subs evenings (Tues to Sat 7.30) until May 10. Joint Stock in David Hare's FANSHEN.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION: Three letting rooms, self-catering, full facilities, no colour bar. Apply 22 Highfield Road, Ilfracombe, North Devon.

DEFEND THE 14 CAMPAIGN public meeting: Saturday 3 May, 2pm, NUFTO Hall, Jockeys Inn Field, London WC1. Speakers include: Joan Maynard MP, Ernie Roberts (AUEW), Maureen Colquhoun MP, Ossie Lewis (CPSA), Paul Oestreicher (Amnesty International).

JOHN AND MARGARET LLYWARCH invite you to enjoy a North Wales farmhouse holiday. Clean air, mountain streams, country rambles, fishing, wild-life galore. A children's paradise and only two miles from a mainline railway station. Room to put up weekend schools of up to 20 people. For terms ring 069-186 2272, or write to Bryn Iddon, Bron y Garth, Oswestry, Salop.

The Socialist Party of Great Britain says there is no physical reason why there should be wars, poverty, starvation etc on this earth today. The reasons are political and economic. Any reasonable person would pursue further enquiry. Write to Dept SW, The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UN.

International action wins £12 out of STC

EAST KILBRIDE: After six weeks 150 workers voted to return to work last week after winning increases of up to £12.47 on the basic rate from the STC subsidiary of the giant ITT Corporation. This is up to £10.45 new money to be paid in two stages.

This size of increase will have repercussions at the East Kilbride plant where 450 women workers were laid off and will receive the increase through the implementation

of Equal Pay. Also affected will be the company's Northern Ireland factories. The money will also have repercussions in the staff grades.

This victory should give heart to workers outside ITT as well. In nearby Rolls-Royce workers at East Kilbride, Hillington and Blantyre have just lodged a £12 a week claim.

There is no doubt that STC were prepared for a much longer and harder fight, with the threat that work will be moved from Scotland and Northern Ireland as their trump

card. Because of the co-operation between ITT workers in various countries the company was never in a position to implement this threat. Indeed the vulnerability of the multinationals was exposed: the complexity that is their strength can also be their greatest weakness in the face of workers' unity.

Disrupt

Portuguese workers, who are fighting massive redundancies as ITT withdraws its investment, and Irish workers, who were prepared to ac-

cept lay-offs rather than do black work, made a tremendous contribution to the strike.

It is a sign of the growing awareness among the rank and file that as the company moved from country to country in an effort to maintain production, the workers were able to follow them and disrupt it. This was done with little reference to the official union machine, which as usual remained passive throughout.

The workers return to the factory strengthened in both their internal organisation and in building up the ITT Combine Committee.

Scaffolders hit by TGWU inaction

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: The lack of action by Transport Union regional secretary Dave Shenton is hitting the scaffolders' strike at McAlpine's Eldon Square site against the sacking of 14 scaffolders last November.

Shenton has stood by while McAlpines have continued the onslaught against the men. Local scabs have been employed on the site and deliberately provoked the strikers by walking through the picket

The drivers of ready-mixed concrete refuse to drive through the picket line. So McAlpines have acquired their own concrete van and hired scab drivers.

McAlpines are now sending labourers on scaffolders' courses. When the TGWU branch on the site originally requested this before the dispute management told them it was too expensive—£200 per man.

There are several labourers doing scaffolding after taking only part one of the course and without satisfactory supervision—this is against the working rules agreement.

The dates for the trial of the ten arrested pickets have not yet been fixed. There is probably some substance to the rumour that the trial will be held not in the County Hall but in a new civil servant block at Kenton Bar, because it is out of town, difficult to find and surrounded by barbed wire fences—so making picketing difficult.

Shop stewards' committees and union branches should send as many delegates as possible to the picket when the trial date is announced.

The Durham miners and the Ambergate shop stewards committee, Derby were the first to promise delegations this week. Details from Eddie Brady, 86 Benwell Lane, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.



Pickets outside the gate at London Rubber Industries. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

NORTH LONDON:—250 workers are on strike at London Rubber Industries, makers of rubber gloves and Durex contraceptives. They are fighting management's stated aim that they are out to smash their union, the Transport Workers.

The management have a history of vicious attacks on union organisation. It has been their boast that two years ago they broke the Engineers Union. More recently they called in the police to remove an ASTMS official visiting his shop steward.

Now it is the turn of the TGWU—and management are not kidding. To show how serious they are they have stopped the union check-off dues from the pay packet, and refused to allow shop stewards time or facilities to collect on the shop floor.

But this is not only a fight for workers' right to organise. Most of the strikers are immigrant workers. Their basic wage is less than £30 per week. For this they work 12-hour shifts—four days on, four days off. But supervisors and foremen are on weekly rates of £68. Black workers do not become supervisors, even though, as the strikers point out, many have applied

RUBBER WORKERS IN FIGHT FOR UNION

for such jobs.

Racism is at work at London Rubber, dividing workers one from another. Management can get away with paying derisory rates to the black workforce, and help weaken the fight for union rights.

In addition management have for years treated the workers with contempt. They keep filed information on the workforce, and the telephone numbers of workers they expect to respond to management's every demand—even when phoned through to their homes. As one of the pickets commented: 'It's just like slavery. They don't consider you a human being.'

This is the company which is so sensitive about its advertising image, so keen to prove that its Durex contraceptives are safely, carefully produced to ensure the most perfect family planning.

It is the same company found guilty by the Monopolies Commission of making excessive profits. This is the company that can even afford to plan to run a racing car in big international events in order to

advertise its product.

Workers in the automatic glove section, the male quality control staff, and the electronic testing night shift are on strike. Their picket is preventing the movement of fuel oil—management's most desperate need. Some part-time production workers and those in the compounding plant are still working.

The strikers are expecting the compounding workers, who mix latex, to join them this week. Their support is absolutely crucial.

Last week the strikers were asking an interesting question. With much less than half the quality control staff working, how is that carefully created Durex image being preserved? The automatic plants are still producing. But who is testing those thousands of contraceptives?

The strike committee needs maximum support. Resolutions of support and donations to M Khan, c/o 'Broad House', 205 Fore Street, Edmonton, London N18.

Watch out for this safety trap!

SHEFFIELD: In Easterbrook and Allcards recently one of the shop stewards accepted a management job in the personnel department. I wondered at the time what his job would be, because as far as we knew on the stewards' committee, all the jobs were filled.

A few days ago it became clear what this man, well trusted by the stewards' committee, to quote management, would be doing. For the past three months our management has been studying the proposals in the new Health and Safety at Work Act. Last week they presented the stewards with a 'Statement of Intent'.

It was an enormously long document, the kind of thing you normally can't be bothered to read to the end. But as I suspected something was up, I kept on reading until I got to the last paragraph which read something

by Sylvia Greenwood, TGWU convenor, Easterbrook and Allcards, Sheffield

like this:

'Management will give fullest co-operation and help to the employment officer who in turn will maintain fullest co-operation with the Health and Safety Commission, co-operation with the employees on the new safety equipment, and unions.'

Suddenly it clicked. The ex-steward, who was just about to take up the post of employment officer, was intended to be the union representative on the new safety committee in the firm. Management, instead of allowing us our right to elect our own union representative through the normal channels, was selecting a representative for us by trying to get the shop

stewards to accept their statement of intent.

If we'd signed this statement, they would have argued we had a representative on the committee in the person of this ex-steward.

We soon put a stop to that little plan by sending their Statement of Intent back and demanding a simple statement from management stating that they agree to comply with the Act. Then we will tell them what they have got to do.

The TUC has only just started to organise courses round the new Act and prepare stewards on their rights. I wonder how many other stewards are going to fall into the traps like the one set up for us at Easterbrooks. We were lucky because we spotted it soon enough to stop it.

Rank & File Safety School

SPONSORED BY:
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Pat Kinnersly, author of *Hazards of Work: How to Fight Them*

SUBJECTS COVERED:

Noise—Dust—Chemicals—Shift work

Saturday 3 May, 10am
Stephenson Room, Euston Station, North London

Credentials, 50p each, from R Cox, Secretary, Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.



NO to contract by NALGO members

THE NALGO Local Government Group meeting in London last Thursday voted overwhelmingly against further support for the Social Contract and rejected the NALGO executive committee's position on the next claim in favour of a clear demand.

A thousand delegates from all parts of Britain, representing 400,000 local government white-collar workers, voted almost unanimously for a claim for £10-a-week plus 15 per cent salary increase to operate from 1 May, two months before the present agreement expires.

The union's negotiators were instructed to put the employers' final offer before the June group meeting, and to draw up proposals for industrial action for consideration if necessary at the same meeting.

The meeting then voted against a motion reaffirming support for the Social Contract, with only five votes in favour.

From the outset, Fred Jex, chairman of the National Local Government Committee, argued that the negotiators' hands should not be tied. But one Gateshead delegate argued that many members were already only just above the subsistence level. Other delegates argued that only an exact claim which had members' support could generate the campaign necessary to win.

The executive is now under considerable pressure. At the TUC last year they voted to support the Social Contract. Only last month they refused to sanction industrial action by NALGO gas members who voted for it. The executive said such action would be 'against the Social Contract'.

For the annual conference the executive has tabled a resolution of support for the Social Contract.

But now the largest section of NALGO has tabled a claim which is bound to be resisted by the government and the employers. Supporters of the NALGO Action Group of rank and file activists will be pressing in branches for a campaign in support of the claim, and for a commitment for industrial action if necessary.

The battle of NALGO members in the coming months will affect all public service workers and all others fighting against the Social Contract.

Union recognition battle at NALGO London HQ—page 4.

These trawlers are impounded by the workers until our jobs are secure.

That's the message from Albert McAnally (right) (AUEW) and Jim Smith (Boilermakers) shop stewards at Smith Hutton ship repair yard, Dundee. The 35 workers have occupied the yard and are holding one big trawler engine and two trawlers for fitting out until they are guaranteed their jobs. The management closed the yard suddenly on 7 March—after announcing that they were bankrupt.

Bert told Socialist Worker: 'There is plenty of work here—enough to last us at least until the winter. But management overspent and underpriced. We know how to do the work—and we don't see why we should suffer for their mistakes.'

The occupation needs help. Shipyard workers all over the country should invite speakers from the occupation and send money to: John Smith, 20 Derwent Avenue, Kirkton, Dundee.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

RANK AND FILE LINKS FORGED BY SPARKS

AS the Glasgow dustcart drivers are forced back to work striking corporation electricians are still hold out all over the country.

In Glasgow the dustcart drivers are bitter and are blacking incinerators at Dawsholme and Polmadie normally worked by the electricians. With other Scottish corporation sparks the Glasgow lads have been out for more than three months—they too have seen troops breaking their picket lines.

The Scottish electricians have set up a rank and file steering committee with two delegates from each main region which meets regularly to discuss the strike. Rank and file electricians, such as Frankie Graham from Dundee, are increasingly frustrated by the 'complete lack of leadership' from their union, the EETPU.

'They want complete control of the strike', says Frank. 'But they do nothing about it'. Strike pay, for instance, has still not been paid.

Council electricians in England and Wales are also fighting for parity rates with

SUPPORT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTRICIANS

Send resolutions and messages of support, and strike fund donations, to: **CARDIFF:** 12 Coburn Street, Cathays, Cardiff.

GLASGOW: Hugh Higgins, 2 Primrose Street, Glasgow.

SHEFFIELD: Sheffield Electricians Strike Committee, SWD Depot, Worthing Road, Sheffield.

LEEDS: Dave Shillinglaw, 14 Kingsley Gardens, Outwood, near Wakefield.

DUNDEE: John Reilly, 10b Ancrum Court, Dundee.

private industry. Last week, sparks at Manchester and Swansea joined those at Hull, Sheffield and Cardiff in the strike.

These men are in the firing line for tens of thousands of council workers all over the country whose agreements are about to be torn up by councillors—Labour and Tory. The government have singled out the council workers as 'easy meat' for Social Contract bashing, and the Labour councillors have slunk into line.

In Dundee 90 corporation electricians have been on strike for 13 weeks in defence of an agreement which they won 19 years ago. Provost Moore, head of Dundee Council, is determined to smash them. 'This is a political battle', he says, 'It's about the Social Contract.'

In 1956 Dundee's Labour council first hired its own electricians. Like good municipal socialists, who believed that council employees should be paid as well as workers for private industry, they agreed to pay rates negotiated by the Joint Industry Board for Scottish electricians in private industry.

Councils all over Scotland agreed to do the same. In 1967, they signed an agreement promising to pay these rates.

The £9.20-a-week rise recently negotiated by electricians in private industry has been refused to council electricians, who have been offered half as much.

So the electricians in Dundee—and in Glasgow, East Kilbride, Edinburgh,

HOPKINSONS 1200: WE STAY OUT

HUDDERSFIELD: At a mass meeting last week of the 1200 engineering workers at Hopkinsons valve manufacturers overwhelmingly rejected a pay offer of £7 now and £3 at the beginning of November for skilled workers and reaffirmed the decision to stay out with an almost 100 per cent vote in favour.

The workers took the decision to strike six weeks ago after management refused

Larnarkshire, Fife and Aberdeen—are on strike. Lifts are breaking down, and a hysterical press campaign has been launched against the strikers.

Dundee electricians' steward, Charles Abernethy, told Socialist Worker: 'There is no hope of a return to work until we get the promised rates. I can't understand how these councillors can make agreements and then break them so easily.'

The reason, according to Tom Moore, is simple: The Social Contract.

Who is Tom Moore? He is a millionaire plant hire contractor. His Trojan group of companies regularly gets the contracts for all the main demolition jobs in Dundee. Its turnover has risen in a few years from £5000 to more than £1 million.

Tom Moore has also been a highly successful land speculator. In one day in December 1972, he bought 25 acres of land at Berry on the outskirts of Dundee for £46,530, and sold it again for £71,058. In one day without producing anything at all, he made a profit of £24,528.

FIGHT

In 1970 he bought some land in West Bell Street for £39,000 and sold it a few weeks later for £60,000, on condition his company could do the demolition work: a profit of £21,000.

On these two deals alone—and there have been many others—Tom Moore made £42,528 clear profit, without producing anything at all.

Total settlement of the electricians' dispute on the electricians' terms would cost Dundee corporation £45,000.

Land deals of the Tom Moore variety are within the Social Contract. Paying agreed rates to electricians who do vital work for a public authority is not.

The electricians on strike urgently need financial support. They are all willing to put their case to other electricians anywhere in the country and should be invited to every factory and workshop where electricians are organised.

to pay anyone who would not drop the work to rule sanctions, which AUEW convenor Stephen Grant said was the tantamount to a lockout.

The workers are determined to stay out until their demand for parity with other factories in the area are met.

Messages and donations to L Rolinson, 159 Almondbury Bank, Huddersfield.

Hull: 300 on strike

HULL: About 300 workers at the Simon-Rosedown factory struck last week over a pay claim after negotiations broke down. Management offered a £46 basic plus £4 bonus—providing the men achieved a quarterly increase in production of 15 per cent. This was turned down.

The men, members of the AUEW and Boilermakers Society, are demanding a basic of £50 with a pro rata increase throughout the grades. Technical and clerical workers at the factory organised in TASS in solidarity with the shop floor have refused to cross the picket line.

Gloucester dispute

GLOUCESTER: 48 TASS members at the Simon Barron factory are out on official strike in support of their demands for rises of more than 20 per cent. Instead they have been offered rises of between £2.50 and £4.40 all less than ten per cent. One of the strikers said to Socialist Worker: 'We're out for a decent rise and we're sticking out until we get it.'

In an area like Gloucester with little tradition of strike action this is an important battle, particularly for TASS members who have been facing redundancies in the area.

Pressure on Staveley picket

STAVELEY: The strike by 60 women at Wallers and Robsons has entered its sixth week. The strike is over management's refusal to pay the second instalment of the last national engineering agreement. The women are £2.75 below the £26.50 national minimum basic wage.

Support from workers in Staveley and Chester for the strike is growing. Money, moral and physical support have all come in. Last Tuesday 12 workers from Markham engineering works joined the picket. In about the time it takes to get on the phone and summon help the police arrived. Four carloads arrived, including a local CID man.

The police infuriated the women by saying things like: 'You're not real

pickets, you're only women!' They demanded that pickets should be reduced to three per gate and informed the convenor that she would be held responsible for anything happening on the picket line whether she was there or not. There is always a police car present when scabs are leaving the factory.

Management hysterically claim that the women are pawns of the International Socialists, and seemed upset when someone cut down the Union Jack from the firm's flagpole.

The women do get strike pay but are offered only loans from Social Security, so money is needed. Please send donations and messages of support to C Smith, 20 Clarendon Road, Inkersall, Chesterfield.

Socialist Worker MAY DAY GREETINGS

Socialist Worker is including a special four-page supplement for the many trade union bodies, shop stewards committees and other labour organisations who wish to send May Day greetings.

The rates for advertisements will be:
 'Special' Classified insertion (up to 20 words) 50p
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 Advance space may be booked now by telephone. Ring 01-739 2639. All copy or art work must be received by Friday, 18 April.

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NATIONAL RANK AND FILE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The date has been put back for organisational reasons. All those who have already applied will automatically get credentials for the later date.

The shop floor fight—Equal Pay, No redundancies.
Saturday 21 June 1975
University of Manchester
Institute of Science and Technology

For further details of the conference and for forms for credentials write to Roger Cox, Secretary, Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

Police aid machines snatch at sit-in plant

NORTH LONDON: On Monday night 50 police moved in around the Crosfield Electronics factory. For four hours they were on guard 'just in case of trouble', while vans and loaders from Vanguard, a scab trucking company, removed equipment from the factory's number two shop. 17 machines worth £54,000 each were taken out.

For the past three weeks workers fighting in defence of jobs have been in occupation of the number one building. They are in possession of over £1 million of equipment. Management are clearly horrified by the effectiveness of the workers' action, and unwilling to take risks with other sections of the factory.

But the presence of police at the dead of night around an unpicketed part of the factory served not simply to 'protect' scab labour. It was a reminder from Crosfield bosses that threats and intimidation will be used to try and break the solidarity of the workers' occupation.

Last month Crosfield bosses sacked 350 workers. Many left in confusion. Those who remain are fighting for their jobs. In a part of London where the flow of jobs has dried up to just a trickle they are fighting for every worker's right—the right to work.

It is now clear that they are also fighting for another basic right: the workers' right to organise.

Crosfield's sacked employees were told that costs in London were too great and production was to be moved to a Peterborough subsidiary. Now this explanation looks more and more like an excuse.

The fact is that Westwood of Peterborough simply do not have the technique or skilled workforce to produce Crosfield's complicated electronic equipment. It takes months to train even a small skilled workforce.

Yet the company have £2 million of orders on their books, and a planned output of nearly £7 million for the



Securicor men with dogs guard one entrance to the factory as the £1 million worth of equipment is moved.

coming year. So what are Crosfield bosses playing at?

Over the past five years Crosfield workers have built up one of the best factory organisations in North London. Are the De La Rue Corporation of which Crosfield is a part, now willing to lose an estimated £300,000 in production in order to smash the union organisation?

More than half the joint shop stewards' committee has been included on the list of those for the chop. Management are now refusing to negotiate with the workers' elected representatives. Convenor Frank Gore, for example, who has been sacked is now said to be 'trespassing'.

A leading shop steward described the situation: 'The way things are going I'm bloody sure it's their ambition to crush the union. They have an out and out policy to finally smash a good active

trade union organisation inside the factory.'

But the workers' fight-back through occupation has been an outstanding success. The key to solidarity has been the workers' refusal to allow their fight to be smothered by any outside organisation. While fighting in the local union organisation for maximum support they have stressed the role of rank and file workers at the factory as the centre of the struggle.

The whole workforce is being involved. All those not sacked are contributing a weekly levy to the occupation fund, and operating a continuous nine-hour picket. In addition Crosfield speakers have been attending factory and union meetings all over North London in their attempts to involve rank and file workers and ensure the maximum financial support.

Convenor Frank Gore summed it up: 'We have no illusions. We want as much support as possible. But this is our fight. When we win, it will be a victory for the

rank and file.

'All workers have got to start resisting redundancy. If occupation is the only tactic that will save jobs, it is occupation that we will have to use.'

Please send donations to W Hayward, 34 Dresden Road, London, N19.

COLES OCCUPIED

DARLINGTON: 80 workers, members of the Engineers' and Electricians' unions, have occupied Coles Cranes to protect their jobs. Management have offered a 7 per cent rise in exchange for sacking half the workforce. The 80 are demanding that all jobs be guaranteed and that all are paid the 7 per cent. The factory is already some 10 per cent below the average district wage.

The occupation is completely solid and the factory is being manned 24 hours a day.

Dyers expel militant—again

BRADFORD: Just four weeks after winning reinstatement in the union after the Dyers and Bleachers executive conducted a vicious operation to expel him. Claude Lavender, convenor of Shaws Carpets, has been victimised again.

On 10 March the national union executive agreed to an injunction which quashed the expulsion altogether.

But last Wednesday the executive met again. This time, doubtless drawing on the careful advice of their solicitors A V Hammond and Co of Bradford, who spend much of their time defending insurance companies against workers' claims for compensation for injury, they moved strictly according to the rule book.

It's quite a rule book too, and could well have provided the inspiration for the novel Catch 22.

Under Rule 58—the catch-all of 'acting contrary to the interests of the union', with the union executive as judge and jury in its own case, Claude Lavender was found guilty on one 'charge' and expelled once again. Originally there were nine 'charges', but these were later whittled down to one of technical assault on Bill Lomas, assistant general secretary.

The reason the executive moved so speedily to expel Claude again is clear. He had been nominated for re-election to the executive. The election is due soon and the right-wing intriguers in the union are desperate to avoid a situation where the membership would have the chance to vote

Lavender back in again.

The reason for this totalitarian operation was Lavender's defence of the striking Intex workers. Last winter they took on ICI in defence of their shop steward, Dave Hallsworth.

Hallsworth and 40 other Intex workers were also expelled from the union on trumped-up charges. But they have now been reinstated in the union, though in their cases too an interesting sense of timing was shown. They were readmitted one week after elections for shop stewards, a coincidence which allowed the right wing to sweep in.

But the executive of the Dyers and Bleachers appear to be determined to carry their victimisation of Claude Lavender to almost any lengths.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Fighting Fund nears the target

WE'RE NEARLY there. Another magnificent effort by our readers, supporters and members has pushed our Fighting Fund to within reach of the £10,000 target.

With £1263.23 in this week's post, the total now stands at

£8711.18

We've got another ten days to raise the last £1300. With the great effort you've made in the past few weeks, we can do it.

Our thanks to:

Young SW supporters, Coventry £1.40, Middle East comrades £15, Beckenham SW readers £2, East London Hospital Workers IS £27, Prisoner, Liverpool Jail, £1, Finsbury Park IS £3, Imperial College IS £2.25, Warrington SW reader £10, Sheffield IS £11.24, Paddington IS £12.92; Crewe SW reader £2, Glasgow SW reader £5, Durham SW reader £1, Hounslow IS £8, SW supporter, Cov Rad, £4.

Members' Special Levy:

Kingston £18, Oldham District £9.30, N London Hosp Workers Cell £9, Oxford £34, Bristol £11.75, Bolton District £12, Harrow £12, Pontefract £18, Coventry West £15.50, York £8.50, Northampton £15, Bootle £54, Leeds £25, Sheffield £3, Merton £6, Ealing £150, Newcastle £108.87, Coventry East £8, Loughborough £20, Newham teacher £20, Paddington ATTI member £100, two Walthamstow teachers £70, Other individual contributions £325.

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

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