

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

MAY DAY: THE FIGHT IS ON

Inside your May Day Socialist Worker Special:



HOW WE OCCUPIED:

Swansea

Page 9

Dagenham

Page 15



Common Market:
How 'democrats'
switched the vote
Page 2

LEYLAND TAKEN
FOR A RYDER
Page 8

Ireland: Why
the Convention
won't work
Page 7

VICTORY
IN VIETNAM
Page 3

Portugal: CP
reaps the
whirlwind
Page 5

FREE THE TWO! Four pages of May Day Greetings: Centre Pages

I don't think we're going to be kicked around for much longer.

—TONY BARROW, convenor, Ford's Leamington (1,200 workers locked out).

Crosfields, NORTH LONDON

Imperial Typewriters, HULL

Coles Cranes, DARLINGTON

Ford, DAGENHAM

Courtauld's, FLINT

Howard Rotavators, SUFFOLK

Smith Hutton shipyard, DUNDEE

Cammell Lairds shipyards construction site, BIRKENHEAD

OCCUPIED!

WANTED! A REAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MARKET, WILSON AND THE TORIES

VOTE NO TO COMMON MARKET SOCIAL CONTRACT UNEMPLOYMENT WILSON'S TORY POLICIES

OUR poster, new this week, sums it up. The referendum on the Common Market on 5 June is not just about a free trade area in Europe, manufactured for the bosses' pleasure. It's about the whole politics of the Wilson government and its supporters in the Tory Party.

It's about higher prices, speed-up, redundancies and lay-offs. It's about wage restraint, otherwise known as the Social Contract. It's about the grinding, desperate struggle to keep up with inflation.

As long as Wilson and the Tories can keep the campaign cool, they can win it. As long as they can separate the Common Market from all their other policies, then they will get their Yes vote because large numbers of people will feel they don't know and don't care.

The No vote can win—but only after a campaign, a fighting campaign in the Labour movement which seeks to ignite the simmering resentments and frustrations of the vast masses of workers with Wilson's policies.

It follows obviously, that any anti-Market campaign which links with Tories and Liberals is nonsense. Nonsense not only because it is unprincipled to campaign with such people.

But nonsense because, that way, the anti-Market campaign becomes a quiet peaceful affair, an old pals and politicians act which ensures workers' abstentions.

In many towns and cities, Labour committees against the Market have been set up.

These committees must be pressed into action. There should be meetings against the Market, against Wilson and the Tories, in every factory floor and in trade union branches. There should be posters on the streets, rallies and demonstrations every week in May.

If the committees refuse to campaign—then even a few socialists and trade unionists can organise their own Socialist Worker campaign against the market. All the evidence shows that the issue is attracting wider and wider interest.

The bosses have the money and the newspapers. Their campaign for a Yes vote will be one of the most expensive and hysterical ever. The whole future of their profit system depends on it. But we have the numbers. We can and must be organised.

Copies of Socialist Worker's posters against the Common Market are available from SW Circulation, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Leaflets are also being printed, price 15p for 100.

Socialist Worker meetings

EAST LONDON: Tuesday 13 May, 8pm, Princess Alice, Romford Road, E7. Speaker: Steve Jefferys (IS industrial organiser).

BEDFORD: Tuesday 13 May, 8pm, Labour Party Rooms, 6a St Mary's Street. Speaker: Ian Birchall.

CUMBERNAULD: Tuesday 20 May, Cumbernauld Town Hall. Sponsors: by SOGAT Thames Case. Speakers: Tony Cliff and an international speaker.

EDINBURGH: Wednesday 21 May, 7.30pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

GLASGOW: Thursday 22 May, AUEW Hall, West Regent Street.

ALL LONDON: Tuesday 3 June, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square (Holborn tube).

Labour Right rediscover socialism!

CONVERSION ABOUT AS POLITICAL AS NORTH SEA GAS

HAVE you read about the 'adventure of Europe'? The 'exciting vision of an old continent harnessed for a new vision'?

You have? Well forget it. Any idealism you might have had about the Common Market would have evaporated rapidly at the Sobell Sports Centre in North London last Saturday, at the special Labour Party Conference on the Common Market.

There they were—the pro-Market-teers of the Labour Party—an old

gang with a new hat.

The Gaitskellites—such as Roy Jenkins, making one of his rare conference appearances.

The academics for a more 'efficient' Britain, such as John Mackintosh MP.

All the people who've spent the past 20 years announcing the death of socialism, campaigning for right-wing policies, attacking any workers who've fought back, had suddenly rediscovered their faith.

One after the other they rose to make their declarations about internationalism, about wresting the

'commanding heights of the economy', about their dream of a new, socialist Europe.

It was about as political a conversion as adapting your cooker for North Sea Gas.

Disastrous

The most sickening of the new idealists was John Mackintosh. 'We can't stop at the English Channel,' he declared in ringing tones. 'We sing the Red Flag—not Land of Hope and Glory.'

This from Mackintosh, Professor

of Politics at Strathclyde University, who has devoted his career in the Labour Party to attacking any trace of socialist politics, any battle by workers, any example of true internationalism that his party has manifested.

Among other yes-men who discovered their conscience last Saturday was Tom Jackson of the Post Office Workers Union. He spoke movingly of the 'bloodbath' that had 'stained European soil' twice this century. He neglected to add that the industrialists of all lands who had profited then—support the Market now.

He did manage to slip in a reference to the exploited tea workers of Sri Lanka—although how they would benefit from British membership remains unclear.

Above the delegates hung the twin slogans THE CONFERENCE WILL ADVISE, THE PEOPLE WILL DECIDE. They were the escape hatch for Harold Wilson and the government. For the referendum is a mandate for Wilson to side with the Tories—and, unlike his predecessor Ramsay MacDonald in 1931, to get away with it.

Evildoings

The conference voted against the hypocrites and demagogues of the right by 3,724,000 to 1,986,000. But it told us little about how to fight. Speaker after speaker, both pro and anti, marched to the rostrum and brandished their special Common Market fact, whether it was about the price of sugar or the evil doings of the Brussels bureaucracy.

Lawrence Daly of the Miners' Union touched on it when he announced that the NUM was launching a publicity campaign 'at every pithead in Britain'. But for most it was news of meetings in Labour branches, of resolutions at national union conferences.

A Scottish delegate summed it up afterwards: 'This vote here doesn't count for anything. We've got to go back and fight for it.'

'We've got the Communist Party, the International Socialists and the Labour Party all fighting against the Market up in Darlington,' said another. 'We've got to fight it as socialists and as trade unionists. You take that bloke Mackintosh—well, when the miners' strike was on he was telling everybody how "We mustn't support the miners". Well, everyone knows him, and as soon as he gets up you know what miners will think of him.'

'It's the same with Wilson and Jenkins. What has staying in grand hotels in Brussels got to do with ordinary people?'

NIGEL FOUNTAIN



Frank Chapple and other members of the EETPU delegation at the conference. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

FRANK CHAPPLE, leader of the Electricians and Plumbers Union, wrote in *The Sun* last August that his union was a 'bastion of democratic values which will preserve our way of life.'

'But even within the labour movement', he went on, 'there are those who seek to undermine our resolve, who would push us a little further down the slope which leads to chaos and dictatorship.'

In 1972 the EETPU sponsored a ballot of its entire membership—then about 370,000—on the Common Market. The ballot was held in August when many members were on holiday. The response was fantastic.

Explaining the results to the union's conference later in the year, executive member Eric Hammond said: 'This is the largest return ever recorded in our union for a ballot election—or indeed for any other union in this country, with well over 100,000 members participating in our decision.'

The result of the ballot was: FOR THE MARKET: 35,002 AGAINST: 68,792.

Last Saturday, 350,000 EETPU votes at the special Labour Party Conference were cast by Chapple FOR the market.

Union leaders who voted against their members

Billy Williams, convener of the corporation electricians who are now on strike in Cardiff, told *Socialist Worker*: 'We can't believe it here—that they voted differently to the ballot. It just shows that they'll have a ballot when it suits them, but if the result goes differently to what they want, they'll just ignore it. All the blokes I know down here are against the Market, all of them.'

The National Union of Railwaymen, at their annual general meeting in 1972, called on the next Labour government to renegotiate the Tory terms for the Market. Since then its leaders have not consulted the membership. Yet now they cast all 164,000 railwaymen's votes FOR Wilson and the Tories.

George O'Donnell, chairman of the NUR shop stewards at the High Street Freight Depot, Glasgow, told *Socialist Worker*: 'The Common Market is against the interests of working people. I've never heard of the Common Market uniting workers and trade unionists but I do know the hierarchy of this country has been completely united in favour of staying in.'

The NUR decision has been taken without the consent of the members—we've never been asked. This is not any different from the Tory government, which joined the Common Market without bothering about our opinion.

Career

'The NUR should ask for a vote of confidence from its members. They wouldn't dare. In this union even the branches are not representative and are run, as a general rule, by cliques. Our divisional organisers are elected for life. Nothing this union did would surprise me.'

The executive of the Union of Post Office Workers voted against the Market in 1971. Conference endorsed their policy.

Norman Stagg, deputy general

secretary, shouted at the 1971 TUC: 'I marvel at the faith of my friends who advocate entry into the Six. I find their faith touching. But faith which ignores fact can lead to disastrous consequences.'

Now the UPW executive, without consulting its members, have voted FOR the Market, for Wilson and the Tories.

Don Failes, secretary of Croydon UPW branch, told *Socialist Worker*: 'It's ridiculous. We haven't even had our conference yet. The only decision they've ever had before was against the Market. They should have made up their minds on the basis of the vast opposition throughout the trade unions to the Common Market.'

Perhaps most surprisingly, the building workers' union leaders (UCATT) decided at the last moment not to vote in the debate, despite a clear lead from its conference in 1971—against the Market.

Members of these unions must not let the matter lie. Almost all of them have conferences in the next few months. The rank and file must ensure that the support of their leaders for the Common Market is overturned, and that their union is thrown into the great working-class campaign against Wilson, against the Tories and against their Market.

MAY DAY 1975

EIGHTY-SIX years ago, the International Working men's Association put out a call for a one-day strike in support of their call for the eight-hour day and for international solidarity by workers all over the world against international capitalism.

The day chosen was 1 May. Ever since, workers everywhere have celebrated it as a day of inter-

national workers' solidarity.

This year, we celebrate one of the greatest victories since the war: that of the Vietnamese people against the largest and most powerful imperialism in the world. We celebrate Victory in Vietnam.

We also remember the worst defeat since the war:

the massacre and imprisonment of thousands of socialists and trade unionists in Chile following the Pinochet coup in September 1973.

Pinochet is still there, but he can be rocked from office—IF workers everywhere, including workers in Britain, take action against Chilean goods.

VIETNAM: Defiance and victory

NOTHING became the Americans in Vietnam so much as the manner of their leaving—in desperate, pell-mell panic to be gone from the war which had once been presented as the last of the great crusades, ditching dignity and erstwhile allies in the mad scramble for the helicopters and a passage back home.

Appropriate enough that it should come to this contemptible close...

The beginning could be dated from a crisp and well-remembered morning in January 1960 when John F Kennedy made his inaugural address, a series of elegantly phrased banalities about 'going anywhere, shouldering any burden, confronting any foe' in defence of what he was pleased to call 'freedom'.

HORDES

So Kennedy committed combat troops to Vietnam, which few in the Western world could then locate readily on a map but where, so the Pentagon propagandists had it, democracy was threatened by Red hordes from the North.

In reality, the Red hordes were the people of the place, who were concerned to rid themselves of the latest in a long line of corrupt cliques which had been foisted upon them.

But Kennedy, and Johnson after him and Nixon after that, were not interested in the wishes or the interests or even the continued existence of the people who actually lived in Vietnam. Their minds were occupied entirely by the military, economic and political interests of the United States.

So the most powerful nation the earth has ever known went to war against a tiny peasant people, committing all its resources, its conscripted manpower—and its prestige. Its leaders must have believed that it would surely be a short war and that there could be no rational doubt about the outcome.

But the resistance of the Vietnamese did not, as expected, crumble at the impact of American firepower. Rather did each new wave of American weaponry break on the rock of resistance.

PUPPET

The Americans tried every tack. They set up and then knocked down one puppet dictator after another in an endlessly unsuccessful effort to find some measure of local support.

They were more successful in the councils of the world, where they sought and received the backing of the more sordidly servile of national leaders, such as Wilson of Britain.

They sent B52s out to bomb in such numbers that they blackened the sky. They sprayed poison on the



General Pinochet of Chile: his thugs have inflicted the worst defeat on any working-class since the war.

by Eamonn McCann

crops in an attempt at starvation. They sent down sheets of petroleum jelly to roast villages alive.

But none of it worked. Still the peasants fought on, indomitably persistent. So that, in the end, the propaganda ceased to have effect even in America itself. Young people refused to go and fight in a war they didn't understand half a world away from home.

The White House and the Pentagon had no choice but to get out...

Even then they tried to salvage something, funnelling billions of dol-

lars to 'President' Thieu in the hope that he and his henchmen could still act as their commission agents. But when the encirclement of Saigon was complete, that tactic, too, became useless.

AGONY

As the agony of Vietnam comes slowly to an end, let us remember that when it was at its unimaginable worst, there was not a single national newspaper in this country which supported the campaign to have it stopped.

HOW WE CAN ANSWER THE JUNTA

LES FORD, NUR steward at Newhaven docks and secretary of the local trades council, heard ten days ago that the Bette Bewe, a Danish ship with a cargo of Chilean onions, was heading for the port.

He and some militant stewards in the docks published a leaflet, setting out the facts about the Chile dictatorship and reminding dockers and NUR members, who work the cranes on the docks, that Chilean goods are blacked at Liverpool and London docks.

The NUR crane-drivers agreed to black the goods. When the ship arrived last Friday, it sat in the dock unloaded. Unhappily, the dockers then voted to work on the ship, and were forced to unload it with their smaller cranes.

The job is going on as we go to the press, with the NUR men refusing to work and the big cranes kept off the ship.

The story has a happy ending. The onions are rotting.

Nor did the leadership of the Labour Party utter a single syllable of protest. Now, with the same nauseous hypocrisy which enabled them to support the war in the first place, they all welcome its end while describing its beginning as... a mistake.

The American war in Vietnam was nothing as innocent as a mistake. It was a coldly deliberate attempt to defeat, and if necessary to destroy entirely, the people of a small country so that the whole world would know the cost of defying the edict of all-powerful America.

The attempt failed. And from that we can—all of us—take heart.

CHILE: It's time to put Jones to test

A CONFERENCE of union executives last week heard speakers from nearly every union present support a call by Luis Figueroa, President of the Chilean TUC, for boycott action against the military junta.

Brother Figueroa has just completed a tour of British trade unions made at the TUC's invitation.

Jack Jones winding up the conference, called for action in the trade union movement. Chile should be high on the agenda, and we must 'strengthen direct action and the boycott and refuse to handle goods bound for Chile'.

Statements from such as Jones are, of course, not new. But now rank and file trade unionists are beginning to take the leadership's statements more seriously and put them to the test.

At union conferences this summer, there are a variety of motions on Chile. The NALGO conference, for example, is being asked to support a campaign of adoption of trade union prisoners similar to that being run by the Rank and File Organising Committee.

Talk

At the TGWU conference on 30 June, delegates have three motions on Chile for consideration, and Jack Jones has a chance to show whether all the fine talk means anything.

The London vehicle builders (1/1946 branch) are calling for 'a complete boycott of military weapons or replacement of equipment'.

The most significant resolution from the London docks (1/6 branch), demands that conference 'instructs all members of the TGWU to black all goods, cargo and materials originating from or destined for Chile'.

The T&G executive—and Jones—who have submitted no resolution on Chile, fortunately have the chance to make the union's policy clear by supporting these resolutions—especially the last. The effect would be enormous and potentially destructive of the Chilean regime.

As the Chile resolutions are some way down the conference agenda, Jones also has the opportunity to put forward his own suggestion to 'put Chile high on the agenda'.

SIXTY trade unionists attended a meeting last Thursday called by South Notts rank and file teachers and the Nottingham Chile Solidarity Committee.

Chilean refugees spoke of the achievements of the Popular Unity period but pointed out the failures in the Allende government in preventing workers from organising against the military.

Workers of the world unite!

SAFETY

A night's sleep—in a polythene bag

By Martin Upchurch

IMAGINE a chemical plant, next door to a residential area, constantly emitting a mixture of vapours and gases which can be tasted in the food of families living two miles away, and which blackens the sides of houses with the occasional release of hot, black filth.

Sterling Organics, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne is such a plant. But now the workers, members of the engineering, electricians

and heating and domestic unions, are on strike for conditions money.

They handle a number of hazardous chemicals, including phosgene, bromine, cyanide and phenols. Management refuse to tell them exactly which chemicals they are touching and breathing.

Sterling Organics operates two plants: Fawdon, in the middle of a housing estate, and Dudley, opposite the part of the village where there are old people's homes. Bronchitic and asthmatic retired workers have to breathe the waste all day.

It's worse if you work at the plants. Workers with dermatitis, a skin disease, have to sleep with polythene bags up to their knees to avoid rubbing their legs together. Headaches, watering eyes and nausea are common.

But the worst fear is that an explosion will one day turn their workplace into another Flixborough. They are now on strike not just for conditions money but to force the company to tell them just what they are working with and take responsibility for plant safety.

The company are prepared to pay production bonus, shift bonus or any other sort of bonus—but they are refusing to give the strikers one penny under the label 'conditions money'. That would mean admitting there are hazards.

Queen

The publicity which would follow would embarrass this profit-conscious firm, whose directors include Sir Derrick Dunlop, Physician to the Queen in Scotland and former chairman of the Ministry of Health Committee on the Safety of Drugs, Nigel Fisher MP, and Lord Porritt, ex-civil consulting surgeon to the army.

While the strikers are mounting a 24-hour picket to stop deliveries of caustic lime, hydrochloric acid and liquid nitrogen, they are being attacked as irresponsible and told there is no danger of explosions at the plant.

In fact, there have been a series of minor explosions and fires over the last few years.

The strikers have produced leaflets for local people and the Tyneside trade union movement, outlining the dangers in the plants. They will need to gain support from chemical workers and other trade unionists throughout the North East.

All chemical workers should demand to know exactly what chemicals are being handled. Managements must be forced to take full responsibility for providing safety measures.

In every plant, shop stewards' committees must constantly monitor the level of hazards on the shop-floor and demand improved safety levels to meet every change.

Sterling Organics bring to the world Milk of Magnesia, Delrosa Rose Hip Syrup, and Andrews Liver Salt. They also put profits before safety.

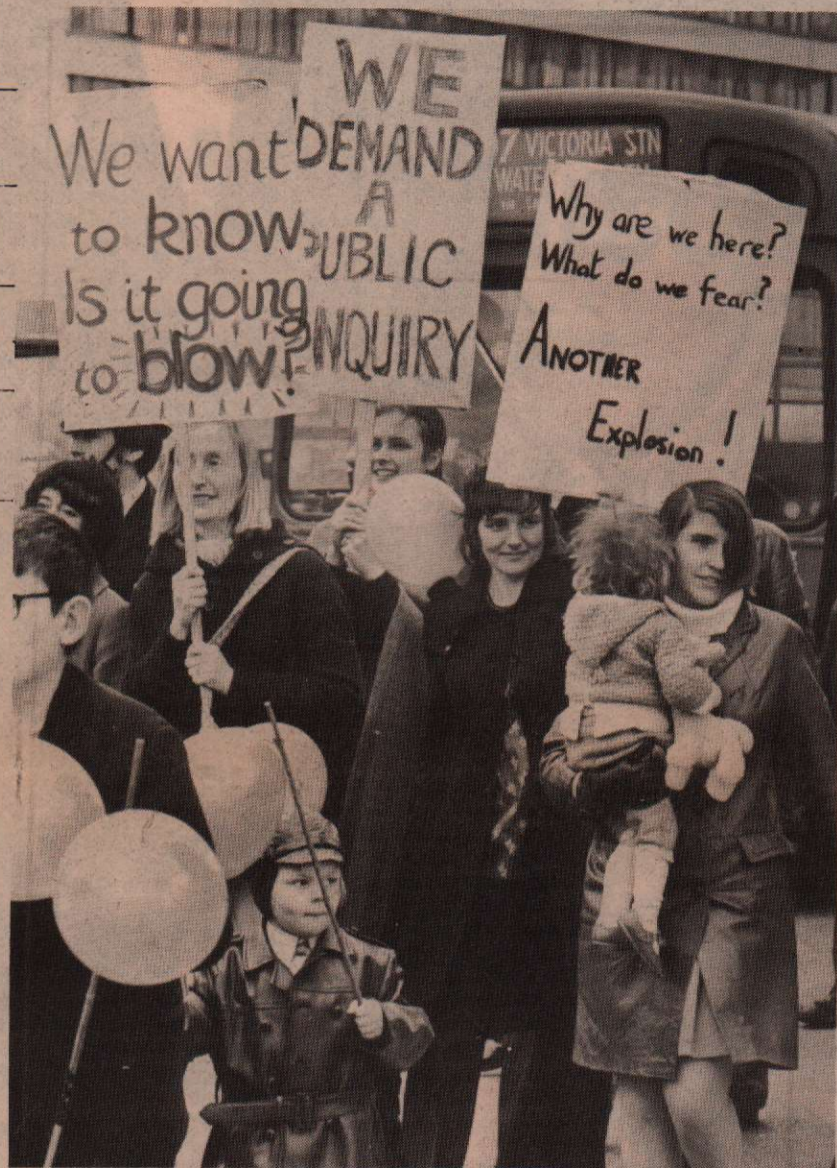
A school in the shadow of another Flixborough

TEACHERS, parents and children from Uphall school in Ilford, East London marching to Westminster last week.

They want a full inquiry into the adjacent Laporte factory where a worker was killed last month in a mini-Flixborough explosion.

Management assurances that the plant no longer processes cyclohexane, the cause of the Flixborough disaster, don't convince the newly-formed Roding Environmental Safety Group.

They have seen cyclohexane tankers going into the plant—and they know the chemical is stored there.



A KILLER—BUT TWO MEN ARE SACKED

TWO PORTERS at Tynemouth Infirmary were recently sacked for refusing to work with a killer: asbestos.

Kevin Patterson and Bill Weightman decided to boycott the incinerator room, basement and boiler house, where asbestos lagging on pipes was ripped, until the amount of asbestos in the air was examined by a factory

inspector.

For this they were suspended. And when they put out a leaflet in the hospital pointing up the dangers of asbestos in the air, they were sacked.

A factory inspector then pronounced the area 'safe'. But tests showed he had underestimated the level of asbestos.

The area was considered 'safe',

even though any amount of asbestos fibre is a health hazard.

Management were quick to have the pipes re-lagged, though they still maintained there was no danger.

A successful appeal by their union, the National Union of Public Employees, was later made for the re-instatement of the porters.

Here's what you can do about it

RANK AND FILE SAFETY SCHOOL

This Saturday, 3 May, 10am, Stephenson Room, Euston Station, N London.

Sessions on Noise, Dust, Chemicals, Shift Work.

Sponsored by Flixborough TGWU shop stewards' committee, BSSRS, Rotherham CEU branch, and Pat Kinnersly (author of Hazards of Work—How to Fight Them).

Organised by Rank and File Organising Committee.

All trade unionists welcome. You don't need to be delegated. Last minute credentials, 50p, on the door.

Rank and File Organising Committee pamphlet no 1

A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The new Health and Safety at Work Act

Sponsored by: Flixborough TGWU shop stewards committee, Rotherham Branch, Construction Section, AUEW, Haiman's, Cambridge AUEW shop stewards committee

5p (plus postage) from Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

PAKISTAN: TEXTILE WORKERS FIGHT ON

WORKERS in Britain's textile industry who call for import controls to protect their jobs can learn a lot from their fellow-workers in Pakistan.

In Hyderabad and Kotri alone, 90 workers have been sacked. Thousands more are suffering lay-offs and short-time working. Bonus payments have been stopped, and in some cases workers have been paid at all.

A national conference of textile workers in January gave an ultimatum to the government: unless it took action, they would strike from 1 March. In Hyderabad the workers demonstrated almost daily.

The workers duly struck and assembled outside the union office for a demonstration. The police and Federal Security Forces charged them with truncheons and tear-gas.

Police fired on the demonstrators from a nearby hotel, and then stormed the union office. Workers inside were seized, stripped and assaulted, and some were pushed out of windows.

More than 100 workers were seriously injured. Many were afraid of going to hospital in case they were arrested.

Police then went on a rampage working-class areas. Wives of textile workers were assaulted, and their property confiscated.

At the moment, Hyderabad's industrial estates are cordoned off by troops and police. All over Pakistan, workers' leaders have been imprisoned or shot. But despite the repression and terror, workers are more united than ever. Last week, workers occupied factories in Lyallpur.

In working-class quarters, there is a forest of flags—red for workers' struggle, black for death to Bhutto's regime and white for capitalist backers.

Dictator Miller on the run

STUDENTS at North London Poly scored a major victory last week when the Court of Governors voted 16-9 to suspend the Director, Terence Miller.

Since Miller's appointment, NLP has been a centre of opposition to autocratic administration. Previously the Director of University College, Rhodesia, Miller recommended himself for the job on the basis of work for the Ministry of Defence on non-conventional warfare.

From the moment he arrived, Miller made clear his opposition to the Students Union. Within three days, he had illegally frozen its funds. A two-year fight followed for a students union free from his interference.

Miller tried everything to break the union. Funds were frozen three times. He tried to set up an alternative union and offered it finance. He waged a never-ending fight against student representation on the academic board.

But Miller didn't confine himself to the Students Union. He suspended one of the leading members of the lecturers' union ATTI, in the Poly for, among other things, alleged sympathy with his students.

A year ago, Miller escaped a no-confidence resolution from the Governors by five votes. He had tried to overrule the academic board, of which he is a member.

He has now repeated exactly the same offence in his desperate bid to cut student representation. The Inner London Education Authority wanted to cut student representation from a third to a fifth. But Miller wanted it down to a tenth. Now he remains as Director only because the chairman of the Governors has refused to enact the resolution.

LANCASTER:—ASTMS members, mainly non-academic staff, voted 11-9 this week to cross the student picket lines, even though the strike was officially called by the Students Union. Two members of the Communist Party voted with the majority.

NORWICH:—Students at the University of East Anglia have voted to occupy the university on May Day in support of the victimised Lancaster students. This solidarity action can create enough pressure to make the Vice-Chancellors give way.

Portugal: CP reaps the whirlwind



Soares: a vote for socialism?

BIG BUSINESS interests throughout the world received a boost with last weekend's announcement of the Portuguese election results.

The Socialist Party, whose leadership has right wing, pro-NATO policies, received 38 per cent of the votes, and the main capitalist party, the Popular Democratic Party, 26 per cent.

By contrast, the Communist Party and its allies got nearly 17 per cent of the votes, and parties to the left of the CP about five per cent.

The blow for the CP was particularly severe, as it did badly in industrial centres like Marinha Grande, Sacavem, Almada and only just held its own in its stronghold of Barreiro.

But the elections cannot bring to an end the revolutionary process which has been developing.

The elected assembly will not even choose a government. Instead, it will merely draw up a constitution to form the basis of further elections later in the year.

And so governmental power will remain with the army officers who overthrew fascism 12 months ago. More importantly, the elections cannot deal with the crisis that has been developing in industry and in the army barracks. Many factories continue to be occupied in the fight against unemployment, which is now more than ten per cent.

Jobs

Large numbers of workers have wage claims pending in the fight to keep up with prices. Some key sections of workers are pushing for a cut in the working week as the easiest way to provide jobs for the unemployed.

And many of the key barracks in the Lisbon

area are effectively under the control of rank and file soldiers and left-wing officers, who will refuse any commands from the majority of right wing officers.

This crisis can only be solved either by a crushing physical defeat for the working class, or by the final overthrowing of Portuguese capitalism.

The elections are a rebuff for the policy of the Communist Party leadership. Over the last year it has condemned most of the major struggles of workers for higher wages, shorter hours and the removal of ex-fascist managers.

Instead, it has tried to bolster its own power by secret manoeuvring behind closed doors. This has enabled it to gain control over the trade union bureaucracy, important sections of the media and some key ministries.

But it has lost the party support as workers have become bewildered and confused over political issues.

The right wing is now reaping the dividends of the CP's policy of refusing to unify the economic struggles of the workers into a massive challenge to capitalist power.

Members of revolutionary socialist organisations, such as the PRP (Party of the Proletariat), point out that the situation could be very dangerous indeed.

There is a possibility that the capitalist element in Portugal and their NATO backers will claim that the elections provide them with justification for overthrowing the government.

As in Chile, that would be the prelude to massive repression against the working class.

Factories

The Communist Party leadership may respond by drawing closer to the pro-big business policies of the other governmental parties.

But many rank and file Communist militants will draw a different conclusion. They will begin to see that the way to develop the workers' movement is not to rely on the ballot box, or manoeuvrings with the military, but to build up a democratic, rank and file movement where it really matters—in the factories and barracks.

Certainly, that is the only way to defend the revolution. Most of the workers who voted for the Socialist Party want socialism, but believe that somehow they can get that from the pro-NATO policies of Soares.

The way to disabuse them of that belief is through the fight of the rank and file in the factories over jobs and pay and through the rank and file struggle in the army to stop right wing officers re-establishing their sort of discipline.

The approach which is needed was laid down by the congress of militants from 150 factories and a number of military units which called, a fortnight ago, for the creation of revolutionary councils in the factories and barracks.

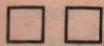
If such councils are built, many of the workers who voted for the Socialist Party in the confusion of the election campaign, could join in the real fight for socialism—a fight which Soares and his party reject.



The IS Portugal Group has produced a draft resolution of solidarity with Portuguese workers for use in trade union branches, trades councils and combine committees and a list of British companies with their Portuguese subsidiaries.

For copies, send a stamped addressed envelope to Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

A VICTIM of the Greek Junta, Major Moustaklis, being carried shoulder-high last week by students at the Polytechnical School in Athens, scene of the bloody resistance to the Junta 18 months ago.



Moustaklis was arrested and tortured by the military police until he became an invalid.

The students organised the massive ceremony in memory of all those who died at the hands of the Junta.

After six years, Dubcek speaks out

ALEXANDER Dubcek has ended his six-year silence and confronted the leadership of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

In a recent open letter, he called for changes in the country's present system, which he says is incompatible with Marxism-Leninism.

Dubcek, replaced as secretary of the Party under Russian pressure in 1969, also complains of police surveillance.

But under his leadership, there was police surveillance of those who refused to compromise with the Russian occupation: the Prague students, the Movement of Revolutionary Youth and militant trade unionists.

Letter

The letter, which was published in the Western press, would almost have you believe that Dubcek is the most persecuted person in Czechoslovakia. It forgets to mention the imprisoned Communists and socialists or the thousands of people who have lost their jobs and are without any income because they stuck to their belief in socialist democracy.

In the winter of 1969, the Czech Student Union made firm agreements with the industrial trade unions against the tendency of the Party leadership to make concessions to the Russians.



Dubcek: open letter

The Party leadership has never forgotten its fear of that alliance, and Jiri Muller, who was chairman of the student-worker co-ordinating committee, was later sentenced to five and a half years in prison, and his deputy Jaroslav Jira to 27 months.

Muller is still in prison, faced with long spells of solitary confinement and allowed visits from his parents only, once every four months. Although his eyesight is deteriorating, he gets no proper medical treatment.

Ivan Djemal, a member of the underground group, the Revolutionary Socialist Party, was sentenced to two years in prison in 1969. A few days ago he was condemned to another two-year sentence, this time for 'undermining the fighting morale of a military unit' by his remarks about the invasion, the present regime, and

the health of the president.

Hundreds of worker militants are jobless and many are reported to be in jail. They have little chance of ever being brought to trial, since sentencing workers would be too embarrassing for the Communist leadership, which claims that the Socialist Opposition is 'only a handful of dissatisfied intellectuals.'

Now a new clandestine workers' group has emerged, The Party of Workers Councils. It declares:

Our aim is to overthrow the bureaucratic power apparatus and to end the direct influence of the Soviet occupants... Disagreeing with the Great Power policies of the USA and the USSR... we shall fight against them.

Our aim is to regain our civil rights, extend the freedom of the individual and establish government by the people. We shall not be fastidious in our choice of means, as Soviet troops were not in Budapest, the GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

New

Once the sovereign power of the communist parties has been limited and democratic principles have been established, our Party shall not make claims to a position of power...

We have no intention of restoring the factories to private owners. We do not intend to return to capitalist industrial relations...

The factories will have to be delivered from the clutches of the vast administrative personnel, ministries, committees and all parasitical organisations.

We shall prepare for the establishment of workers' councils. When the workers take over power in the factories, we shall not wait for the workers' councils to be confirmed by the Ministry of the Interior or any other organ of the present regime which has been imposed upon us by the occupants...

Councils

Protest strikes have been only sporadic up to now. As they have received no publicity, even people in the immediate vicinity are unaware that they have taken place.

The following are a few examples: Skoda workers, OSPAP drivers and drivers' mates, civil engineering and industrial construction workers in Prague-Vrsovice, drivers of the Railroad Construction Company, workers of the East-Slovak Steelworks.

It is a shattering fact that the trade unions are often harsher and more negative in their attitude to employees' problems than the management.

Our first stage will be to bring unity to the strike movement. This stage will eventually culminate in a general strike in protest against the policy of the ruling bureaucracy.

Moorgate: 'Acceptable risk' that killed 42

SO THE Moorgate tube disaster which killed 42 people, was an 'accident', the authorities have decided.

The trains on that line are 1938 vintage. They were to be replaced several years ago, but have not been because of economic pressure. They are graciously described by London Transport as 'in the evening of their days'.

There are no speedometers on those trains. There is a 15 mph speed limit over the crossover points just outside Moorgate Station. The motorman and guard have to use 'experience and educated guesswork' to determine the speed.

Edward Phillips, London Transport's Chief Instructor, said he could see no purpose in providing a speedometer for the guard, although the guard is supposed to apply the emergency brakes if the train is going too fast.

No trip

The trains have not been overhauled as often as scheduled, because of lack of maintenance engineers.

There was no trip mechanism installed at that terminal. The head of the inquiry, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian McNaughton, has admitted: 'It doesn't require anything which is not available in the normal armoury of signal capability'.

So why wasn't a trip mechanism fitted?

London Transport has been well aware that accidents occur regularly—and they know the safety mechanisms needed to prevent them. An August 1973 London Transport memorandum listed all the incidents 'in which trains entering sidings and terminal stations had overrun the signals and entered a sand drag or collided with the buffer stops. The average number of such incidents was 18 per annum'.

And an October 1974 memorandum states: 'The accidents at Tooting Broadway (a fatal crash) and Rayners Lane are extreme cases of this type of incident'. Presumably, they would describe the Moorgate crash as 'a very extreme case of this type of incident'.

As a result of the Tooting crash, London Transport decided to spend £80,000 'for the protection of trains entering sidings in Tube tunnels on various lines.' London Transport admits that seven of the 19 sidings needing attention have not been completed. It has taken two years to install ten of the trip mechanisms since the Tooting Broadway accident.

Shaky

The inquiry—especially as reported in the press—didn't focus on London Transport's responsibility in the case.

Instead there were headlines like—'Disaster driver on full power', and 'Crash driver drinking'—seeking to put the accident down to human failure. The scientific evidence that the driver might have been drinking was very shaky. A second pathologist and the coroner explained how the bacteria that grow in dead cells produce alcohol.

But the idea that Newson was a 'drunk driver' was implanted in the public's mind.

There were also attempts to discredit the guard as a 'reckless and irresponsible youth'.

All of this is disgusting. What's more, it's irrelevant.

London Transport knows what safety devices could prevent such accidents. The trouble is that they cost money. And there appears to be an acceptable level of risk which London Transport will accept rather than spend that money.

Jenny Jackson

5 FIFTH COLUMN



IN SOUTH WALES various Labour councillors are contemplating the possibility of an indefinite holiday, courtesy of HM Government. They have been accused on corruption charges.

In CLYDEBANK Councillor Robert Calder is being investigated. He's the housing convenor for the town and it has been revealed that he has received nearly £1000 from a local building firm.

In GLASGOW the vice-chairman of Glasgow district council, Gordon Kane has been arrested on a fraud charge.

In DUNDEE three prominent members of the local council, the Lord Provost Tom Moore, the leader of the council James L Stewart and chairman of the Dundee planning committee Harry Dickson have starred in their own half hour TV spectacular.

The programme examined a series of building contracts in the city. It showed that the three had failed to reveal their various interests in the projects, through a property company (partly owned by Moore), an electrical company partly owned by Stewart and a heating firm (owned by Dickson).

The programme also demonstrated that by an amazing coincidence the principal building contractors on all these projects was Crudens, for whom Moore was for five years an employee.

Crudens had earlier achieved widespread publicity through their contacts with Mr T Dan Smith.

Some years ago the Labour Party carried out a 'national investigation' into the three. It lasted two hours. No action followed it.

TROOPS

Another councillor who has been going through a difficult period recently is Dick Dynes, leader of the Labour group in Glasgow. He is the man who helped bring troops into Glasgow to break the dustbinmen's strike.

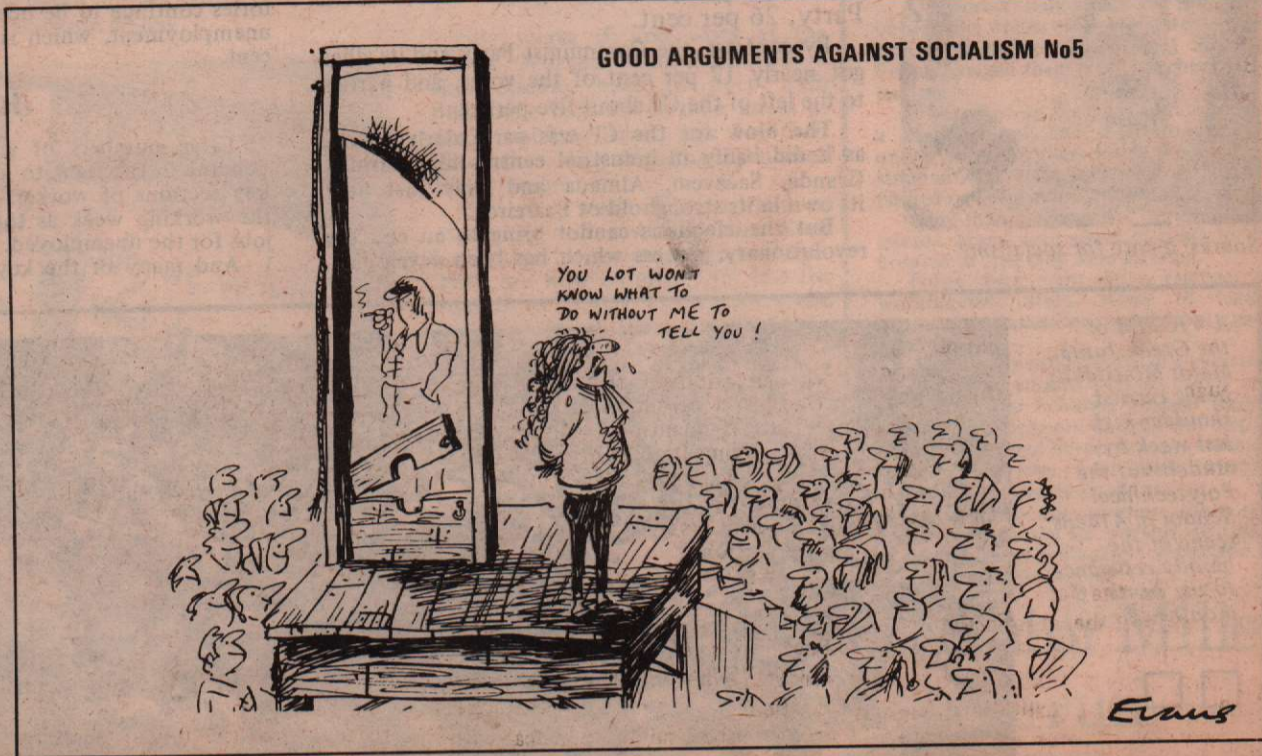
The city he presides over has just been featured in a government report, the Census Indicators of Urban Deprivation. This announces that of 121 districts suffering from 'severe multiple deprivation' 115 of them are in the Clydeside area.

For Mr Dynes, Mr Moore and other Labour stalwarts of Britain like Sir Lou Sherman of Hackney and representatives of other big cities like Birmingham, the chance to get away from it all and discuss the problems of 'urbanisation' in other surroundings must have been welcome.

So they have just been off to a conference on the subject in Teheran, capital of Iran. Land of oil, torture, and possessing slums to match the best that Glasgow can offer.

From around the world there were 600 delegates. They stayed for a

CORRUPTION AND LABOUR: MOORE THE MERRIER



week, and met for just 15 hours—giving them one and a half minutes each to discuss 'urbanisation'. But not to worry, there were compensations for the lack of debate, as the Glasgow Sunday Mail explained:

'All the delegates had been met by waiters handing out full tumblers of whisky... whole lambs had been slaughtered and were placed at ten yard intervals... champagne flowed like water.'

Each delegate cost the taxpayer more than £500. But one man didn't waste his time at these vulgar eat-ins, Mr Moore. He wasn't seen at the festival, much to the surprise of the citizens of Dundee. 'This is no junket trip' he had announced before departure.

What it was for Mr Moore remains uncertain. He spent his time in

Bahrain and Abu Dhabi claiming on his return that he had been trying to 'raise money for Dundee'.

His fellow TV stars, Messrs Dickson and Stewart were expelled from the Labour Party after the programme. They haven't been able to deal with Mr Moore yet. He has been called away to an 'oil conference' in Houston, Texas.

Without comment

THE QUEEN graced Peterborough with her presence last month, arriving on the Royal Train. The platform on which she alighted had been specially renovated at a cost of £500... even though it is due to be demolished next year.

BRITISH JUSTICE, THE BEST THERE IS

TWO YEARS ago the Sunday Times reported that Purl Brothers, waste disposal operators, had been paying lorry drivers to dump toxic and dangerous waste on housing estates, public parks and the like. It was highly profitable, and illegal. The case was referred to the Director or Public Prosecutions. Nothing has happened.

In 1971 the Vehicle and General Insurance Company collapsed after

several major shareholders had got out, cutting their losses.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is still considering whether to take action.

The Clay Cross councillors have just been presented with a £50,000 bill for sticking to their promise of paying increased wages and providing free school milk.

In 1973 Lachmandas Bassi was ordered to pay £800 legal costs after

being found innocent in an Old Bailey immigration case. He's blind and unable to work. His only income is social security. He has just been jailed for non-payment of the £800.

Simone, Countess of Suffolk, a 'public relations consultant' pleaded guilty to 19 charges of fraud, in obtaining credit totalling £13,792. She was given a 15 month suspended sentence.

The moral, if not the morality, of all this is simple. The law operates better for you if you aren't poor, blind, and immigrant, or a working class councillor. Make sure that next time you appear in court you have a title, or are covered by the magic of 'limited liability'.

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS...

'TUC general secretary Len Murray said today he wanted to see a union movement which would 'bring in damn great wages claims' and 'put the screws on' businessmen

'The wage claims however would have to wait until the end of the present exceptional circumstances.'

—London Evening News, 19 April.

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.

Dear comrades,
Can you
find out about
a firm called

Introducing the Socialist Worker Information Service...

MAYBE you need to know more about your firm, its profits, its directors. PERHAPS you're worried about the chemicals you're working with. OR you want advice on legal matters such as the health and safety legislation.

Then get in touch with the Socialist Worker Information Service and we'll try to help.

Our aim is simple. To set up a service for all workers on all problems facing them.

We haven't got big resources—but we're setting up a panel of experts in different fields to do the job.

And that's where you can help US. If you've got specialised knowledge in any area—or you know someone sympathetic to IS who has—get in touch.

We want economists, scientists, engineers, the lot.

Write to: Alan Deneen, SWIS, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

All inquiries by letter please.

Q The Daily Mirror has described the Convention as 'Northern Ireland's last hope'. Is this so?

A The quotation tells you more about the Daily Mirror than about Northern Ireland. The hopes of British newspapers may be very different from the hopes of many Irish workers. You have to define whose hopes you are talking about.

Q: For a start then, what does the British government hope will come out of the Convention?

A: The British government, in fact the British establishment as a whole, sees the Convention as the beginning of yet another attempt to solve the 'Northern Ireland problem'.

Ideally, they would like to see a big vote for the 'moderate parties' so that some sort of coalition administration could eventually be formed. But they are realistic enough to know that this is very unlikely.

Paisley, Craig and the right-wing Protestant parties are against any co-operation with Catholics in government and they seem set for a majority.

Q: But on the face of it, should socialists not be at one with the government on this? Wouldn't it be a good thing if the unexpected happened and a coalition of both Catholics and Protestants could be formed? Wouldn't that be a step away from sectarianism?

A: It might appear like that and, indeed, this is the way the Tribune group sees it. But, in practical terms, the only coalition that could possibly be formed in the Convention would comprise the Catholic and Protestant middle classes and would be based on a mutual agreement to ignore or, at least, postpone

Why the Convention won't work



AS the people of Northern Ireland voted for their new Convention, the Orangemen paraded through the streets of Belfast this week in an open demonstration of how they will not allow the Convention to affect their sectarian domination of the Six Counties. Here EAMONN McCANN writes on why the Convention can only fail.

consideration of the actual issues that divide people here.

Such a coalition would crumble the first time it collided with reality. That is what happened to the 'power sharing' executive last May.

Socialists should avoid spreading the illusion that a new coalition would suffer any different fate.

Q: If that is so, and if Craig and Paisley seem likely to get a majority anyway, what will the government do then?

A: Almost certainly do a deal with them. That would mean allowing Catholics a few positions in an administration but denying them any real influence.

Some of the less principled members of the main Catholic party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, might accept that.

Q: When you think about it, what would really be wrong with that? If Craig and Paisley get most of the

votes, why shouldn't they form a government? After all, that's democracy.

A: It is no such thing, as any Catholic in Northern Ireland could tell you. We had rule by the Protestant majority for half a century and it meant the systematic denial of basic democratic rights to the Catholic population.

Bigotry

That is institutionalised bigotry, not democracy. And it's exactly what we will return to if Craig and Paisley get their way. They are quite explicit about this, about their desire to turn the clock back.

Q: Then what chance is there of any workable democratic system emerging from the Convention?

A: None at all. Which is just another way of saying that democracy cannot work within Northern Ireland.

This brings us to the heart of the matter.

Socialist Worker has been saying for years that Northern Ireland is inherently and unreformably undemocratic. We would argue that the events of the last few years confirm this.

Northern Ireland was never intended to be a democracy. Its boundaries were drawn and its institutions constructed so as to perpetuate a Protestant ascendancy.

This was done by British big business, whose leaders believed that only by setting up this artificial state as a bridge-head in Ireland could they defend their parasitic interests.

Earlier this century, when the argument was raging whether Northern Ireland should be established or whether there should be a united Ireland, Unionist leaders were fairly open about their basic motivation.

As Lord Londonderry put it: 'The opposition to home rule is the revolt of the business and industrial community . . . the united Irish cause is remarkably lacking in the support of businessmen, merchants, manufacturers, leaders of industry, bankers . . .'

Q: But that was all in the past. You cannot really say that British big business is passionately committed to partition in Ireland in 1975. Most capitalists couldn't give a hoot.

A: True enough—up to a point. British capitalists now have massive investments and many friends in high places in southern Ireland as well as in the North.

Monstrous

And, on principle, they are no longer opposed to a united Ireland. But they cannot simply dismantle the monstrous sectarian machinery they constructed in the North.

Nor are they willing to risk total chaos by trying to smash it up. So they have to accommodate to it.

And accommodating to it, and to the ultra-reactionary attitudes that go with it, is becoming steadily more enticing for them as the economic crisis pushes them steadily to the right.

The Labour government's probable willingness to do a deal with Paisley and Craig is a reflection of this.

Q: What is the role of the Army in all this?

A: The Army is there to back up the British government's veto on the Convention's deliberations, to see to it that nothing harmful to British political and economic

interests develops.

If some deal is, in fact, done with the Loyalists, we can expect vigorous reaction by the Catholic working class. It would be the Army's job, by using internment etc, to suppress that reaction.

Q: What can we in Britain do about this?

A: It is necessary to get across to as many workers as possible why the Convention will not work. Pressure for an end to internment and repressive legislation must also be maintained. We must not be lulled into complacency by the slow release of internees.

If the situation warrants it—and that is entirely possible—Long Kesh and the other internment camps will be filled overnight.

General Sir Frank King has already made it clear and his fellow officers are itching to do just that.

Most important of all, since the Army is the final physical guarantee that the interests of the British economic establishment will take precedence over the interests of the Irish people as a whole, the Troops Out Movement must be supported, expanded and stiffened with socialist politics.

THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT AND IRELAND

National Labour Movement
Delegate Conference
Saturday 24 May, 10am-5.30pm,
Collegiate Theatre,
Gordon Street, London, WC1.
Creche available

Speakers include Senator Michael Mullens (General Secretary, ITGWU), Eamonn McCann, Joan Maynard MP, Harry McShane and Michael Knowles (Secretary Hackney Trades Council).

Sponsors include: Joan Maynard MP, Jeff Rooker MP, Frank McGuire MP, Maureen Colquhoun MP, Syd Bidwell MP (chairman of Tribune), Jo Richardson MP (secretary Tribune), Dennis Canavan MP, Stan Thorne MP, Leo Abse MP, William Wilson MP, Andrew Bennett MP and Marcus Lipton MP.

Delegates allowed only from trade union branches, Trades Councils, shop stewards' committees, Labour Party and LPYS branches and NUS branches.

Organised by
Troops Out Movement
Credentials from TOM, 103
Hammersmith Road, London,
W14. Delegation fee 75p.

**Over 120 delegates have already
applied for credentials.**



Counter-demo opposes Front

THE demonstration by the National Front in Bradford last Saturday met a counter-demonstration called by the trades council, but poorly-led. The best part of the counter-demo was the large numbers of black workers who supported it. The largest section was the International Socialists.

There were scuffles as the Front entered St George's Meeting Hall. On seeing a young anti-fascist demonstrator being bullied by police, another counter-demonstrator, Bill MacDonald, shouted to him the phone number of a local lawyer. He was rewarded for this by kicks and punches from the police. The heavy police support for the Front shows the need for the fullest working-class mobilisation wherever the fascists march.



John Taylor, an IS member, speaking to the counter-demo

THE FIGHT TO SAVE CAR JOBS

LETTER FROM CHRYSLER

We must demand they nationalise the industry

NOW that the government has published the Ryder Report on British Leyland, which of course has found in favour of the shareholders and against the workers, we feel that several points need to be stated clearly.

The fact that the Labour government is prepared to subsidise the rich (just as it did in its budget) by paying British Leyland shareholders 4p more for each share than even the stock market sharks are prepared to part with, underlines the fact that we have only ourselves to rely on.

Those who have put their trust in lobbying MPs and creating committees of inquiry have never been more positively proved wrong. All the pressurising and lobbying has meant that shareholders are about to walk away with a fat killing, parasites like John Barber, former Leyland managing director, will get their golden handshake of £200,000, while 20,000 jobs will disappear.

PRICE

As if that wasn't a heavy enough price to impose on workers who have had no hand in creating the crisis, the government is determined to rub salt in the wounds by handing out the money in stages, and only as productivity rises. If this is accepted by British Leyland workers then it can only be because of a death wish. What it means is 'Don't carp about money. Don't carp about conditions. Just shut your mouth and watch the jobs being destroyed round about you.'

If we need further proof that we can only rely on our own strength, just look at the officials in the different unions. Not one has rejected Ryder. In fact one, Chater, the AUEW divisional organiser, has welcomed it as a great step forward. The only possible answer for any trade unionist is to reject it outright and with contempt.

But if we only have ourselves to rely on, what do we have to fight for? We think the answer is straightforward.

PENNY

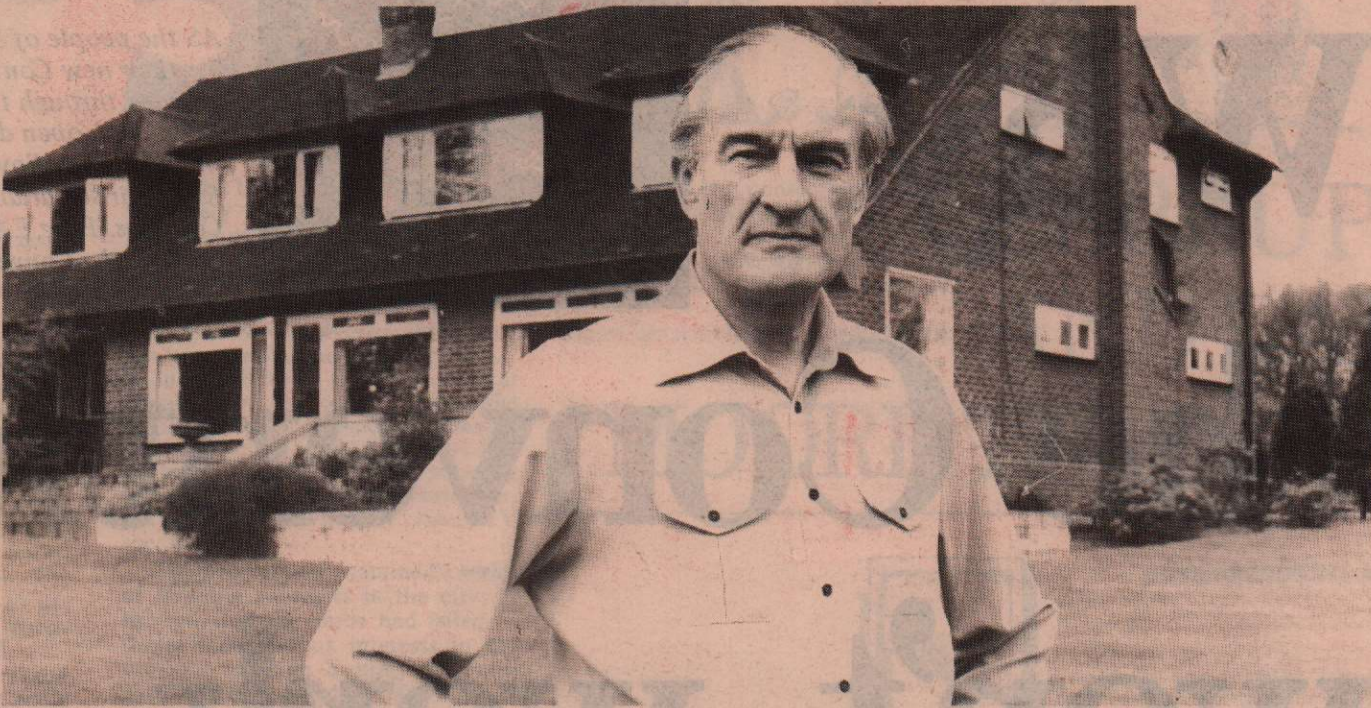
First, we have now to demand, louder than before, the nationalisation of the whole car industry without a penny compensation. If the rationalising of jobs at British Leyland goes on unchecked, then the job of every other car worker is put at risk. Just as co-operative workers at Meredith put NVT workers' jobs in Birmingham at risk, just as Scottish Daily News manning levels puts Fleet Street jobs at risk, so the story is the same for British Leyland and the rest of the industry.

Second, along with the demand for nationalisation we must protect every job. What this means is shop stewards' control of jobs, manning, track speeds and conditions.

We see these demands as the ones that have to be fought for now. Only those who wish to protect vested interests, or who have illusions in either the Labour government or in parliament can oppose them.

Gerry Jones, Andy Enever, Bob Parker, Paul O'Brien, Dave Edwards and Alan Wright (TGWU stewards), Roy McLaney and Dave Nisbett (AUEW stewards), Chrysler Stoke, Coventry.

This man's life has been made an empty place. For years he toiled for British Leyland, making it into the proud British institution it is today. And how has the nation rewarded him? With the bitterness of the dole queue. But there are compensations, like the humble back-to-back behind him. British Leyland let him buy it for £47,000 (it is worth £100,000) and they are paying him £200,000 redundancy money. But for John Barber, ex-managing director of Leyland, what consolation can this be?



Leyland workers taken for a Ryder

THE Ryder Report on British Leyland has been presented in the press as some sort of massive gift to Leyland's 170,000 employees.

But Ryder's main concern can hardly be the workers, when he wants many of their jobs to be destroyed through 'voluntary' redundancy and increased flexibility.

Ryder is extremely damning of the old management of Leyland when it comes to assessing what went wrong. He complains that since the company was formed in 1968 'nearly all the profits were distributed as dividends instead of being used to finance new capital investment . . . British Leyland's levels of capital expenditure and working capital were far too low'.

What is more, the Report hits the press myth that somehow the workers were to blame for this state of affairs. 'We do not subscribe to the view that all the ills of British Leyland can be laid at the door of a strike-prone and work-shy labour force.'

But if workers are not to blame for the state of Leyland, the Report wants them to pay for solving those problems. Again and again it insists that there must be 'more realistic manning levels and more mobility and inter-changeability of labour'. There must be 'a gradual reduction in the number of workers required.'

It says that most of this can be done through 'natural wastage' and

WE'RE TO PAY ARE WE?

FRANK HENDERSON, a member of the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers at Austin Longbridge, told Socialist Worker:

'When it comes to saying why Leyland are in a mess, the Ryder Report says what trade unionists have been saying for months. Basically, the Report blames management for paying out to shareholders instead of investing. This has long been obvious to most shop stewards.'

'But Ryder's solution is the same as in any of these reports. Practically the whole of the burden for solving Leyland's problems is to fall on the shoulders of the workers, even though the Report admits they were not to blame in the first place. Acceptance of sackings is to be part of the price. Any restrictions on mobility built in any agreements are to be thrown out.'

'Implied in the Report is the threat that government support will depend on workers being "good boys" in future. The way in which they want workers to be "good boys" is through workers' participation at every level. What they mean is castrating the shop stewards and the rank and file by drawing the shop stewards in as management consultants and messenger boys.'

'voluntary redundancy', but then goes on to hint at something else as well: 'particularly in areas where some major rationalisation of production facilities is undertaken.'

What is in store for Leyland workers is a cut in the manning levels in whole sections through natural wastage and voluntary redundancy, followed by threats of sackings if the remaining workers do not agree to increased workloads and flexibility, and to forego the wage increases needed

The aim of this whole operation is spelt out simply in the Report. It is to produce bigger profits from

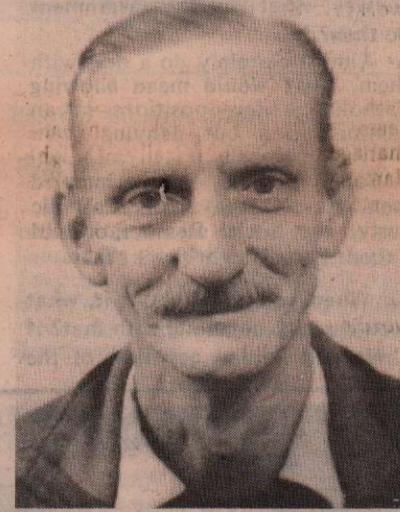
the workers than any other car firm in Europe. The return on capital employed, it says, should 'improve to 19.6 per cent in 1981/82.' The only British-based car firm ever to approach this target in recent years was Fords—and then only once, during the boom year 1973.

But how are the new management ever going to persuade Leyland workers to accept such 'flexibility' and to slave harder than car workers anywhere else?

Vaunted

This is where the much vaunted talk of 'participation' comes in. 'The contribution which we are seeking to the reduction of industrial disputes and the improvement of productivity can only be made in an atmosphere of joint problem solving by management and unions.' This means a new structure involving stewards and particularly senior stewards 'removed from the normal arrangements for collective bargaining.'

In other words, the senior stewards will be taken away from the shop floor and made to feel that they have more in common with management and its problems than with the workers. Ryder hopes that they will begin to see the problem of raising the profit rate to 19 per cent as their problem and sacrifice their members' control



on manning levels and flexibility to achieve this.

Leyland workers must prepare now to fight any attacks on their wages, conditions or jobs. That means

Make the combine committee act as a proper combine committee for all four sections of the firm, with reports back at all levels down to the shop floor.

Leyland workers must refuse to bear any of the cost of solving the firm's problems, for which they were not to blame. No participation by any stewards in any bodies that discuss how to increase the company's profits at the expense of the workers.

No acceptance of reductions in manning levels. No increase in flexibility.

No loss of mutuality. For a strong shop stewards' organisation that can fight management attempts to increase track speeds, cut manning levels and worsen working conditions. Control over these must be kept on the shop floor and not allowed to disappear upwards into committees removed from the workers they affect.

No to the Ryder Report. For nationalisation without compensation of the whole car industry to guarantee jobs and living standards.

WHY LEYLAND'S IN A MESS

1968-74	
Pre-tax profits	£200,147,000
Paid out in dividends	£ 60,883,000
Paid out in interest to persons	£ 38,332,000
Paid out in interest to banks	£118,699,000
Retained profits for investment	£ 14,090,000

Before the Ryder Report was published Leyland shares were worth 6p each. Now shareholders are to be offered 10p a share—a 66 per cent profit for those who bought shares last week expecting nationalisation.

1000 occupy to save one job - and win!

MONTHS of frustration among the 1000 workers at Ford's, Swansea, over redundancies and lay-offs, splitting of workers into sections and harassment by supervision burst into a mighty explosion last week.

A two-day occupation united the workforce, won important concessions from management and left the workers stronger and more confident than at any time since Christmas.

Factory convenor Rob Stern said: 'Make no mistake. This is the first round in what could turn out to be long battle over jobs. And we won.'

The men were first alerted last December when the staff were asked to accept 11 per cent redundancy by 9 January. They were told that if they did not accept voluntary redundancy, it would be compulsory and the ones to go would be picked by management.

Uncertain

On 1 March, the shop stewards were suddenly summoned by management and told of lay-offs and short-time working in all the big assembly plants. The workers realised this meant a threat to component workers, too, but they were uncertain on how to fight back.

It looked as though management might welcome a strike. Morale was low because of the threats of lay-offs. Management were trying to split the union by putting some departments on very high schedules, and others on very low schedules.

They were told there was no demand for Granadas or Consuls, but Cortinas, the new Escorts and gear-boxes for commercial trucks were needed.

There followed a big efficiency drive, partly because management were trying to hold the same profit margins on drastically reduced



Occupying workers bar the gates at Ford's Swansea plant

working. But the unions thought it was also designed to break the spirit of the men.

The shop stewards began to discuss an occupation. A strike didn't seem to fit the bill. It might suit management economically, it might damage morale and it would almost certainly lead to victimisations.

So they began to talk among the men about the possibility of taking over the plant. Then, last week, a man was suspended for allegedly not working up to standard.

His shop immediately sat down

and refused to work for two hours. The shop stewards recommended that they continue working until a mass decision was made.

On the night shift of Tuesday-Wednesday, a mass meeting of 800-900 men decided unanimously after long discussion to take over the plant.

No one could find a lock at 5.30 in the morning so the gates were blockaded with 40 ft trucks. At 6am the next shift came on but management were kept out. That shift was amazed by what had

happened but was all for it and, after a full discussion, unanimously endorsed the decision of the night shift.

At 7.30am, the big day shift joined the occupation. The night shift manager's office was commandeered as an operation centre. The canteen women agreed to continue providing service on all shifts.

After the men had sorted out their own business, management were told the factory was in the hands of the workers, who were not prepared to negotiate with local bosses. They demanded that someone from the top should be sent to talk to them.

Later on Wednesday, John McGuire, senior Labour Relations manager from Dagenham, arrived in Swansea and talks began. They broke off seven hours later and were reconvened on Thursday afternoon. Meanwhile, all the men were turning up to man the occupation. Games of cricket and football filled the gaps between discussions.

At 8am on Thursday morning, a bus-load of women from the Swansea Mettoy factory turned up at the barricades and handed out cups of tea and sandwiches to the men on the morning shift.

The Thursday afternoon meeting with management finally produced a settlement in which McGuire agreed that there would be a serious

attempt to improve industrial relations.

There would be regular joint meetings to discuss production targets and the machine operator who had been suspended would be immediately re-instated.

In return, the men would begin working on Monday. Convenor Rob Stern said: 'This has been a victory. We have managed to get some sense out of management. Production targets will no longer be just the province of management. They have agreed to hold joint discussions on all these matters.'

'We won the right to be treated like human beings. Now they will have to prove that they can improve on the running of the plant.'

He added: 'The men have learned to respect their own strength and dignity in this fight. Their unity in the sit-in was what made the occupation strong—there was no sectionalism and no divisions between the unions.'

'We don't see why we should have to put up with any redundancies or lay-offs—we aren't to blame for their cock-ups.'

'All the shop stewards here feel that Ford workers in the rest of the country might well consider taking a leaf out of our book after this occupation. And the same applies to workers in other industries in South Wales, particularly steel.'

The crucial convenors' meeting - which decided to lobby parliament!

THERE WAS a lot wrong with the National Motor and Allied Industries Conference of Convenors on 23 April. But the important thing was that the meeting took place.

Speaker after speaker mentioned the common thread that had pulled the convenors from British Leyland, Ford, Vauxhall, Chrysler, Lucas, Rubery Owen, Smiths Industries etc together.

'What we've got to get down to,' said John Powers, a Leyland convenor, 'is how to get a nationalised motor industry. How to get rid of competition between different workers.'

The feeling was certainly there. And the decision to have a further delegate meeting, on Monday 12 May at 10.30am in the TGWU House in Birmingham, with two stewards from every factory shop stewards' committee in the industry, was a positive step forward.

All suggestions that future meetings or activities should be limited to convenors only were shouted down.

Party

The Leyland Combine Executive's politics dominated the discussion. Derek Robinson, newly-elected convenor at Austin-Longbridge and a Communist Party member, opened the meeting.

'The time is ripe for action,' he said. Good. Everyone waited to hear what would be proposed. Then it came out:

'It is our considered view that the membership in the industry is

not prepared to fight on the principle of voluntary redundancy in the same way that we believe they are prepared to oppose compulsory redundancy.'

In other words: no action at all on the enormous loss of jobs now taking place or against short-time working, the two things that are steadily demoralising workers in the industry. Just the promise of action later.

In the meantime, Robinson believed, there was no reason to stand idly by. Maurice Edelman MP, had actually promised to book the MAIN COMMITTEE ROOM (1) in the House of Commons.

Motion

The convenors could all go down there 'to discuss those problems with which we're confronted. If we start on this basis,' Robinson concluded, 'we feel that we will get the consideration we need.'

Bill Mollins, a shop steward from Rover Solihull, seconded a motion from the shop stewards' committee calling for a national strike throughout the motor industry on Monday 19 May.

'I agree with Brother Robinson that the time is ripe for action,' he said. 'The call going from this meeting should be quite clear: a mass lobby of parliament supported by thousands of workers on strike and on demonstrations in all the major cities up and down the

country.'

The need for more militant action and for more militant policies than the platform proposed was echoed time and again from the floor.

But, at the end of the day, there was no clear policy on how to resist redundancies here and now.

After the meeting, one TGWU delegate summed it up well: 'Lobby my MP? He's in bloody Australia! The only way to change their minds is to use this,' he said, pointing to his elbow.

WHAT WE MUST DEMAND:

ALL SOCIALISTS in the motor industry must ensure that their factory sends delegates to the 12 May meeting. Don't wait for an invite. And make sure your delegates have thought about this programme:

FOR a factory-wide response to all threats. Don't leave any section to be picked off alone.

CAMPAIGN against losing any jobs—and decide on action before the company starts putting up notices.

FOR an immediate overtime ban and withdrawal of all co-operation when the company even talks of short-time or voluntary redundancies.

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.

NO STARTS for anyone who has taken a voluntary redundancy.

MILITANT action to force the company to pay maxi-

mum lay-off pay for as long as short-time lasts. **FOR** work-sharing and a shorter working week against any threat of redundancies.

NO WORKER to do the job of anyone who leaves. For full job replacement.

OCCUPATION of the factory immediately compulsory sackings are announced.

FOR active shop stewards' combine committees throughout the industry to exchange information and organise support.

FOR regular national delegate shop stewards' conferences to strengthen rank and file unity throughout the whole motor industry.

NATIONALISATION of the whole motor industry without a penny compensation and with shop stewards' control over track speeds, manning and conditions.

Victory No 1!

POLICE FORCED TO PAY OUT £100 OVER NIGHT RAID

THE Essex police have paid £100 in settlement of a claim for trespass against two of their officers who raided the home of the Harlow IS branch secretary Dave Lambert.

Dave was arrested for fly-posting during the election campaign of February 1974. The two arresting officers forced their way into his home at 2.40am, woke up his wife

Sue and their child, searched the house and took away a number of IS documents.

In a legal action against the Essex Chief Constable, Dave and Sue demanded, and got, an injunction that all documents be returned to them, and all copies of documents be immediately destroyed.

They also alleged trespass against

the police. The police pretended that they had been allowed into the house—but after several months complaint they have stumped up £100. This is as much, if not more, than might have been awarded by the courts in a straight trespass action.

It shows that legal action against the police excesses can sometimes pay off.



THE large hall at Hulme Labour Club, Manchester, packed out last Thursday for a West Manchester IS meeting at which Paul Foot spoke on 'The First Year of Labour Government'. The size of the meeting—conservative estimates put the attendance at 280—and the large numbers of young workers there has given a big boost to the new, streamlined district organisation in the Manchester area. The meeting was arranged exclusively by two of the five Manchester districts. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report).

SELLERS OF Socialist Worker have won against the ban imposed upon them by Labour-controlled Sunderland Council.

The decision of the council's public health committee not to allow Socialist Worker to be sold in any part of the half square mile of the town centre created a minor stir locally, with articles in local papers and letters from local trade unionists. The ban was opposed by NUJ, TASS, AUEW and ASTMS branches, and the Sunderland Trades Council.

A local socialist lawyer, Dave Gray, then discovered that by the original bye-law the council was allowed to restrict sales, but not ban them.

So in the face of predictions that untold calamities would befall Sunderland town centre, according to council witnesses, the magistrates have on appeal, given us the right to sell Socialist Worker there.

by Bruce Scott (Kirkby IS)

SELLERS of left-wing papers are also being harassed in Kirkby on Merseyside. Two Morning Star sellers were arrested after police had cautioned them that the law prohibited selling in the Market Place. Socialist Worker and Morning Star sellers have been selling there for the past four years!

They are attempting to hound us off the streets and from outside the factories. Such is the sham of the free speech we hear a lot about.

Victory No 2!

COUNCIL FORCED TO BACK DOWN OVER BAN ON SOCIALIST WORKER



What we stand for

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

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

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

The smashing of the capitalist state The state machine is a

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

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

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

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

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

WE ARE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

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

Name

Address

Trade Union



WHAT'S ON

IS public meetings

INNER WEST LONDON IS public meeting: The Crisis. Speaker: Tony Cliff (author of The Crisis—Social Contract or Socialism). Wednesday 7 May, 7.30pm. The Distillers Arms, Fulham Palace Road (1 minute from Hammersmith station).

CAMBRIDGE IS public film night: Blow for Blow, about a group of women workers in France who take over a factory. Thursday 8 May, 8pm, The Auditorium, Cambridge Technical College, Collier Road, Cambridge. Admission 40p.

BRISTOL IS public meeting: No to the Common Market—Yes to international socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot (editor, Socialist Worker). Thursday 8 May, 8pm, Shepherd's Hall, Old Market.

BRISTOL IS public meeting: The workers' struggle in Portugal. Speaker: Chris Harman. Thursday 22 May, 8pm, Shepherds Hall, Old Market.

COVENTRY District IS Saturday morning discussion meetings: Fortnightly—all welcome. Saturday 3 May: **SOCIALISM AND THE IRISH STRUGGLE**, 11.30am at IS Books, Queen Victoria Road.

HYDE & GLOSSOP IS public meeting: Labour—Party of Socialism? Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 8 May, 8pm, The Railway Hotel, Simpson Street, Hyde (3 minutes from bus station).

OLDHAM District IS public meeting: The Crisis and Redundancies—how we fight back. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Friday 9 May, 8pm, Abbey Hotel, Middleton Road, Oldham (opposite Oldham Tech).

WANDSWORTH AND MERTON IS public meeting: Revolution in Portugal. Speaker from Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee. Wednesday 7 May, 8pm, Forrester's Arms, Mitcham Road, Tooting Broadway.

IPSWICH IS public meeting: Health and Safety at Work. Speakers: Laurie Flynn and Ivan Crane. Monday 12 May, 8pm, Town Hall.

WOOLWICH IS May Day Rally: With CAST play 'Meet Samuel Keir Hardie Muggins MP', followed by discussion on 'Could Labour achieve Socialism?' Thursday 1 May, 8pm, Charlton House, Hornsair Road, London SE17.

WATFORD IS public meeting: The Revolution in Portugal. Thursday 1 May, 8pm, Watford Trade Union Hall (upstairs room), Woodford Road, (near Watford Junction Station).

COVENTRY District IS public meeting: Revolution in Portugal. Speakers from TAP (Portuguese Airlines) and Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee. Wednesday 7 May, 7.30, Lanchester Polytechnic (Library block).

DARLINGTON IS public meeting: Abortion—a woman's right to choose. Saturday 10 May, 2.30pm, Public Library, Crown Street, Darlington (gallery entrance). Creche facilities available—2 Blackwell Lane (phone 56728).

MEETINGS FOR IS MEMBERS

MANCHESTER IS discussion meeting: Lenin and IS today. Discussion led by Tony Cliff. Friday 9 May, 2.30pm-5pm, Manchester Polytechnic, Aytoun Street. All IS members and sympathisers welcome.

IS TGWU members' national fraction meeting: Saturday 7 June. Keep this date free.

COVENTRY District IS members' aggregate: Monday 12 May, 7.30pm, Lanchester Library. John Deason on Industrial perspectives.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER District IS Socialist Worker School: How to sell, write for it, build around it! Introduced by Andy Wistreich. Saturday 2 May, 2.30pm, details from IS Books, Manchester. All cells and branches to send members,

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

CENTRAL MANCHESTER District IS training session:

The Revolutionary Party and Marxism. Introduced by Brian Rose. Sunday 11 May, details from IS Books, Manchester.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER District IS aggregate. Thursday 15 May, 8pm, prompt. Details from IS Books, Manchester.

IS YOUNG WORKERS CONFERENCE (for IS members and close contacts only). Weekend 7-8 June. UMIST Students Union. Granby Row, Manchester (five minutes from Manchester Piccadilly Station). Saturday 2pm-6pm. Debate on draft IS young workers pamphlet. Saturday evening: Social at The Maypole, Ford Lane, Salford. Disco and socialist theatre group. Conference fee of 60p will cover entrance to social and food. Sunday 2pm-5pm: Which way forward for IS among young workers?

All districts and branches should make sure that young worker members and close contacts can attend by paying their fares and conference fee. Accommodation in Manchester is being arranged by the IS District and can be booked by writing to Laurie Flynn, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

IS STUDENT CONFERENCE: Weekend 17-18 May. Small Assembly Room, Students Union, UMIST, Manchester. Registrations as soon as possible to Pete Gates, 20 St Mary's Hall Road, Crumpsall, Manchester. Motions and nominations to the NSC by 14 May. There will be a social on the Saturday night.

IS SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOLS: Eight schools for IS members to be held in July and August. Sessions on Revolutionary prospects in Southern Europe. What's happening to the Labour Party? The Capitalist Crisis: what next? and Building IS. NORTH LONDON 12/13 July, SOUTH WEST (Cardiff) 2/3 August, SCOTLAND (Glasgow) 9/10 August, dates not yet fixed for SOUTH LONDON, YORKSHIRE, MIDLANDS, NORTH WEST and NORTH EAST. Attendance at each limited to 30, so book your place now by sending 50p registration fee (to cover cost of duplicated notes and of room) to Pete Marsden, training organiser, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

NOISS Day School: Perspectives for IS/ the student movement today. Sunday 4 May, 11am, Portsmouth Poly, St Pauls Road, Southsea. Further information from Andy Durgan at the Poly.

HULL District IS day school: Saturday 10 May—NOTE CHANGED DATE, 11am-1pm: The early development of IS. 2pm-4pm: Building a workers' organisation. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Hull University Students Union, Cottingham Road.

IS notices

COVENTRY DISTRICT IS social: Sunday 11 May, 7.30pm, Harland Heart, Gosford Street. The General Will pub show, late bar. 50p.

BRIGHTON IS jumble sale: Saturday 3 May, 2pm, St Martins Church Hall, Lewes Road. Proceeds to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

RANK AND FILE REBELLION: IS (Canada) pamphlet on class struggle and trade unionism in Canada. Copies 25p (post paid) from Box C, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Speakers' notes on THE REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL: Send 2p plus stamped addressed envelope to Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Now includes list of British companies with factories in Portugal, and draft resolution of solidarity for trade union branches, trades councils, etc.

WORKERS POWER, fortnightly newspaper of the American International Socialists (ISUS), now has a UK distributor and will be available same week as publication. Individual subs £4 a year. All information, including details of bulk orders etc, from Workers Power, c/o IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

IS Afro-Caribbean May Day social: Saturday 3 May, 7pm-1am, soul food and music. The KesKidee Centre, Gifford Road, London N1. Tubes: Caledonian Road and Kings Cross. Buses: 29, 14, 17, 168, 221, 259. Tickets at the gate.

OLDHAM IS students social: Friday 2 May, 7.30pm, Bath Hotel, Union Street, Oldham. Three Jolly Men (folk act) and TYAS disco and other attractions. Tickets 45p in advance, 50p at the door.

TEXTILE MEETING in Manchester for IS textile workers and sympathisers. Contact Dave Hallsworth for details.

MANCHESTER IS members are urged to intervene at the Common Market meeting organised by the trades council on Sunday 4 May, 2.30pm, Free Trade Hall. Asamblee usual place 1.45pm.

LUTTE OUVRIERE FETE: Enjoyment and politics near Paris, 17-19 May. Discounts available for IS members and Socialist Worker readers. Help needed for IS stall. Write now for full details to Box F, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

BUILDING WORKERS' SPEAKERS: IS branches, fractions, districts etc wanting speakers on the Lump, unemployment in the building industry, or particularly on the Shrewsbury Two for May Day, contact the London IS Building Workers Branch. Write or phone Jan Goleb, flat 12, 45 Broadwick Street, London W1 (01-437 3978).

WORKERS ACTION: Monthly paper of the Ontario (Canada) IS. Subscribe by sending £2.40 for 12 issues or £1.20 for six (airmail) to Box C, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Please make postal orders/cheques payable to IS Books.

The International Socialists need an administrative assistant in London. A knowledge of office procedure and an ability to type will be an advantage. IS member only. Telephone Mel Norris 01-739 1878.

MICK DUNGWORTH: Reading IS has suffered the tragic death of a comrade, Mick Dungworth, an active and competent member of the IS Society and last year's Student Union President.

by John Wright
(Redbridge NUT)

HOW MANY children know the struggle of ordinary working people for basic trade union and political rights?

History is usually about kings and queens, international diplomacy and wars, but never about the men and women who did the fighting, or who struggled to organise and force some reforms from the employers and their governments. It is never a history of class struggle. Working-class heroes are not the subject of school syllabuses.

In the same way, black children learn little of the injustice and agony suffered by their ancestors at the hands of imperialism and colonialism.

White man

Where slavery is touched on in history lessons, black children learn about a white man called Wilberforce who campaigned for them, but not about the many black heroes who led slave revolts in the plantations and who gave their lives in the fight against colonialism and slavery.

These subjects are beginning to be taught in schools, mainly by committed teachers. 'Black studies' are creeping in. The truth about Britain's 'civilising empire' is important for black and white children to learn.

An English schoolboy wrote of the 'black studies' lessons he had had: 'One thing I've learned is that we white working class kids are the blacks of this country.'

The way schools work leads a lot of black children to reject their colour, themselves, their people and their history.

Ugly

In tests carried out with five to eight year-olds, all the white children said they liked being white. Only one-fifth of the black children were happy to be black. More than seven out of ten of the 'Afro-Caribbean' infants thought black was 'bad' or 'ugly.'

Malcolm X wrote: 'When you select heroes about whom black people ought to be taught, let them be black people who died fighting for the benefit of black people.'

The main difficulty facing teachers and pupils who want to get a black studies course off the ground is knowing where to start.

An information pack which should help has been brought out by NAME (National Association for Multi-Racial Education).

It contains discussion papers, topics discussed by children in classrooms, Specimen Mode 3 CSE syllabus and bibliographies and is available from Ken Forge, 14 Thornton Road, Bromley, Kent, price 30p.

ON THE BOX

SATURDAY
BBC-2: 9.10pm. THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER in SECOND HOUSE is devoted to British radio comedy. THE GIRLS OF SLENDER MEANS, a three part adaptation from Muriel Spark's novel of life in a middle class girls' hostel in 1945, could be interesting (8.20pm).

SUNDAY
BBC-1: 3.55pm. THE COUNTRYMAN is about Danny Boyle, a Donegal small farmer, who alternates life there with work on a London tunnel rock face—a hidden agricultural subsidy. . . THE WORLD ABOUT US: THE ROMANCE OF INDIAN RAILWAYS examines the history of the vast and crucial sub-continental network, at 7.25pm on BBC-2. On Birmingham area ITV at 7.55pm is the classic western SHANE. At 10.15pm on RADIO-4 is LENINGRAD SPEAKS, a chronicle of the appalling siege of that city, 1941-44.

MONDAY
BBC-1: 10.10pm. Almost every paper, including this one, has knocked CHURCHILL'S PEOPLE but the episode on the English Civil War was extremely good, and this week's THE DERRY BOYS by Dominic Behan looks interesting, so it could be time for some word-eating. It is about the siege of Derry in 1689, the myth at the root of Ulster Protestantism. 11.00

What didn't you learn in school today?



The savagery of Britain's ruling class: the bones of some of the 2000 rebels slaughtered at Lucknow in India in 1857. Eight years later, the Morant Bay rebellion in Jamaica met a similar fate.

A 'civilising mission': 500 killed

by Lloyd Hayes, TGWU

MOST West Indians living in Britain, especially the young, know little of their own national history. Why?

Have things changed that much for the better since their parents' time? Little has improved the social condition that caused the 1865 Morant Bay rebellion in Jamaica, the subject of this pamphlet*.

Poverty, drought, unemployment and the tyranny of the local white magistrates fuelled the revolt, and Paul Bogle, a black clergyman, led it.

When police tried to arrest him, they were overcome and tied up. Bogle and his followers marched on Morant Bay, recruiting support along the way.

Seven of them were shot down after soldiers were ordered to open fire but the rebels rushed the courthouse and set it ablaze.

Soon, Morant Bay was in the hands of the black peasants—and the white governors were soon declaring martial law. Warships were dispatched and more troops moved in.

The result was a rout. The retribution, as with any frightened ruling class, was swift and barbaric.

Captain Ramsay, the Provost Marshal, unleashed a reign of terror in Morant Bay, hanging one rebel, for instance, because he had glared at him while being lashed.

Flogged

Between four and five hundred men and women were either shot down or executed, 600 flogged, and 1000 houses and cottages burned to the ground.

Apart from a handful of people murdered by Bogle's followers on the first day of the uprising, and a few others killed on outlying estates, no soldier, sailor or special constable received any injury.

The rebellion had started as a local rebellion against the magistracy and had spread into a revolt against British rule.

This pamphlet tries to tell the story as it has never been told in the history books. And this is important.

PUBLIC SALE!

AS TRUSTEE FOR JAMES VANMETER, I WILL SELL ALL OF THE PROPERTY OF James Vanmeter at his residence, known as the Wright place, on the Hornback Mill Road, on Friday the 11th day of September 1863.

CONSISTING OF

THREE SLAVES

Charles, Mary and her child, the man is about 34 years old, a good farm hand, the woman is an excellent cook and washer.

HORSES, MULES, CATTLE, SHEEP, HOGS

AND CROP. CORN IN THE FIELD,

OATS, WHEAT, TOBACCO

Wagon Furniture, &c., Farm Implements of every kind. Terms of Sale, 6 months credit will be given on all sums of \$10, and over carrying interest from day of sale. The purchaser to execute Notice with good security.

Winchester August 24th 1863.

JAB. H. C. BUSH, Trustee.

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.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN Labour and Trade Union Movement meeting: Fight the reactionary attack on the basic right to abortion—build the campaign to smash the James White Abortion Amendment Bill. Saturday 10 May, 10.30am-6pm. NUFTO Hall, Jockeys Fields, London WC2. Speakers from National Abortion Campaign, Working Womens' Charter, trade unions, Labour Party Young Socialists, and women Labour MPs, Creche available. Details from 14a Hurst Street, London SE24.

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

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT AND IRELAND: Troops Out Movement public meeting: 7.45pm, Tuesday 6 May, Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road, N7. Speakers: Tom Scanlon (chairman TGWU 1/281), Alderman Paddy O'Connor (GLC), Alistair Renwick (TOM).

NEW EDINBURGH REVIEW—The third issue of the Gramsci trilogy—comprising the papers contributed to the national Gramsci conference by Professor V G Kiernan, Professor Gwyn Williams, Anne Showstack, Stephen White, C K Maisels. Only 15p plus 8p postage from EUSPB, 1 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh 8.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ON IRELAND: Speakers from Ireland, video, workshops, creche. Saturday 10 May, 10am-5pm, North London Poly, Holloway Road, N7. Women only.

BENEFIT FILM SHOW for the London Women's Film Group. Film: The Amazing Equal Pay Show, followed by discussion. Sunday 4 May, 2pm, Electric Cinema, 191 Portobello Road, London, W11.

DEMONSTRATE TO FREE GEORGE DAVIS, sentenced to 20 years in jail for armed robbery after only five of 43 witnesses picked him out. Sunday 4 May, 10.30am, assemble Tower Hill, London.

RADICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON: Public meeting Sunday 4 May, 2.30pm, New Horizons, For details phone 01-981 0041 (office hours) or 01-947 0489.

SCOTLAND: International Marxist Group public meetings: No to the Common Market, Yes to a Socialist Europe. Main speaker Ernest Mandel. Glasgow—Partick Burgh Halls, Monday 5 May, 7.30pm. Edinburgh—Assembly Rooms, George St, Tuesday 6 May 7.30pm.

SOCIALIST WOMEN FORUM: The fight for free abortion on demand. Speakers include IMG representative on NAC steering committee, report from international meeting on abortion. University of London Union, Malet Street (Goudge Street tube) 7.30pm, Thursday 8 May. Room 3C.

West London Co-ordinating Committee of NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN hold weekly meetings. Ring 229 3350.

Fight the Immigration Act! Fight the victimisation of immigrant workers. Public meeting called by All-National Workers' Committee: Sunday 4 May, 5pm, Westway Luncheon Hall, Ladbrooke Grove tube, West London. Speakers from TGWU International branch, IS, Joint Council for Welfare of Immigrant Workers and ANWC. All trade unionists and immigrant workers invited.

THE RED PAPER ON SCOTLAND: A collection of 28 essays giving socialist perspectives to the debate on Scottish finance, politics, devaluation, oil, poverty, housing, land ownership, workers' control. Contributors include Tom Nairn, John McGrath, Jim Sillars MP, Robin Cook MP, Ray Burnett 'A DEVASTATING DOCUMENT'. Available from EUSPB, q Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh 8. 368 pages, £1.60 plus 20p postage.

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

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

London Revolutionary Communist Group public meeting: David Yaffe on Inflation, the crisis and the Social Contract. Friday 9 May, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square (Holborn tube). The second issue of the RCG's theoretical journal, Revolutionary Communist, is out now, with articles on Ireland, the International, and the Labour Party and the EEC. Price 40p. Annual subscription £1.60 (published quarterly). Cheques to RCG Publications Ltd, Ground Floor, 78 Parkhill Road, London NW3 2YT. Also RCG Social, Saturday 3 May, Clerkenwell Tavern, Farringdon Road, All welcome.

The Socialist Party of Great Britain 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 inquiry. Write to Dept SW, The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, SW4 7UN.

EAST KENT Science for People group: One-day school on Industrial Health and Safety. Delegate conference for local workers and interested groups. Sunday 4 May, 10am, Rutherford College, The University, Canterbury. Speakers include Pat Kinnerly (author of The Hazards of Work) and Charlie Clutterbuck (BSSRS). Films. Further details from Chris Pitts, 27 St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, Kent.

SPECIAL OFFER: Political Undercurrents in Soviet Economic Debates, by Moshe Lewin. Published price £3.95. SPECIAL OFFER until 20 May: £3. Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1.



Paul Bogle: he led the revolt

West Indian workers, young and old, like their English brothers and sisters, are taught nothing in school about their real history. They learn only what suits the ruling class.

But, though the pamphlet rightly condemns, for instance, American and foreign imperialism and the pro-capitalist Jamaican Labour Party, not a word is said against the equally traitorous People's National Party, whose aim is to replace foreign exploiters with equally exploitative and oppressive nationals.

It seems the YFNL are concerned only with the skin colour of those who exploit the people. But even with these political shortcomings, this pamphlet is worth reading.

*Paul Bogle and the Morant Bay Rebellion 1865: Youth Forces for National Liberation pamphlet.

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.

YOU'RE MUCH TOO SOFT ON HEFFER

I'VE JUST read the interview with Eric Heffer and your reply (26 April). Congratulations on opening up this debate; here's hoping there will be more stuff on the same lines.

But I think you're too soft on Heffer. He puts himself out as a real socialist in opposition to Wilson and Co. Well, he may be in opposition to Wilson over some things but this doesn't prove he's a real socialist.

Look at what he says about the use of troops to break the Glasgow dustcart drivers' strike. 'You cannot allow garbage to build up until the health of the community is threatened. If you can't get a settlement then I suppose you have to do something.'

But the whole point was the Glasgow Labour Council wouldn't give a decent settlement! It seems that Brother Heffer's loyalty to his Labour Party friends in the Council is much stronger than his loyalty to ordinary workers fighting for a decent living, no matter what his differences with Wilson may be.

And if Heffer lets you down over an issue like that, what's he going to do when the going gets really tough?

Obviously, it's important to speak to workers influenced by Heffer and others like him. But we can expect nothing that's any good from Heffer himself.—BRUCE YOUNG, Oxford.

Yes, that's the NUT

CHANIE Rosenberg's article, (19 April) does not surprise me in the least. The National Union of Teachers, the executive in particular, is undemocratic—and that's a reflection of lack of rank and file activity.

The NUT's bland acceptance of the Houghton pay rises and their acceptance of the cuts in education following the James Report (Tory measures adjured to by a Labour government) make joining the NUT for a progressive teacher like myself difficult.

Allowing head teachers to be delegates and representatives for their own staff is like saying foreman (chosen by the management) are to be spokesmen for shop-floor workers.

Most teachers are middle-class and right wing. They join the NUT simply because of the insurance cover.

Some join the reactionary NAS or UWT because those unions are far more militant than the NUT in certain areas. But while most of the NUT's members prefer not to strike or do anything which might be considered 'unprofessional', the union will remain headed by smooth administrators enjoying their perks.

Why teachers consider themselves 'professional' and not workers baffle me. Our training is two years less than that of a shipyard apprentice, so it appears Rhodes Boyson may have a point in saying that teachers need more education . . . but in the field of trade unionism!—BOB STOTHARD, Students' Union, Alnwick College of Education.

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.

HECKLING FROM THE TOUCHLINE NOT ENOUGH

MICHAEL Kidron's boycott position on the Common Market is wrong. The working class are going to be subjected to increasing attacks on their living standards, coupled with increased exploitation, whether or not Britain remains in the Common Market, and this we must make plain in our propaganda.

IS is concerned to make people aware of their potential and ability to change corrupt, competitive, exploitative capitalism for a socialist society organised on a co-operative basis for the benefit of everyone. We cannot duck attacks on the working class whether they be directed from Brussels, London or New York.

By opposing the Common Market on a principled basis, IS can only win increased support and credibility among the working class.

If Britain withdraws from the Common Market, the CP and Labour Left may find that 'national sovereignty' has become an albatross around their necks, when they seek to explain away the increased attacks on the working class.

Revolutionary socialists cannot remain spectators in the class struggle. Heckling from the touchline is not enough.—TERRY WARD, York.

Still in jail

ACCORDING to a recent Hsinhua News Agency dispatch, war criminals just released by special amnesty in China 'numbered 293 in all, including 290 war criminals who originally belonged to the Chiang Kai-shek clique, two war criminals from the Japanese puppet regime in Manchuria and one war criminal from the puppet Inner Mongolian Autonomous government. This means that all war-criminals held in jail have now been released'. (19 March 1975, Peking).

But no similar amnesty has ever been declared in the case of those revolutionaries, particularly the Trotskyists, who were arrested in the course of a nation-wide raid in December 1952.

Altogether 200 people were seized. No indictment was ever made public. No public trial was ever held. Those arrested were refused contact with their relatives and friends.

It is therefore impossible to say with any certainty what happened to those Trotskyist militants, except that most of the younger ones are now living under supervision after five years or more of imprisonment, and are barred from employment. The older comrades continue to rot behind bars.—NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

POSTAL POINTS

THE BUDGET . . . I think most socialists and trade unionists realise that the Labour government has completely betrayed the working people, and even watered down their 'moderate' enough policies . . . we must now urge all trade union leaders and left-wing MPs to make known their total opposition to the budget.—STEVE STANNARD, Clapham London.

A ZIMBABWE Solidarity Committee has been formed on Merseyside . . . we are looking for organisations and individuals to help us in our campaign. Anyone interested should contact us at: 215 County Road, Ormskirk, Lancs.—STEVE THORNTON, Ormskirk.

I AM a strong supporter of the International Socialists . . . but why call yourselves International when there are

Accident? Don't bother the boss with trivialities

IT GAVE ME great pleasure to read this advertisement in the pages of those tireless fighters for truth and safety before profit, the Sunday Times.

In essence, it means that should I become another unfortunate statistic in the Factory Inspectorates' annual count of killed or maimed, or just a minor accident requiring just three or more days off work, I won't be an added worry and burden to the gov'nor, who now has the problem of how to get round the Labour government's anti-Lump bill and does not want bothering with trivialities like collapsed scaffolding.

Having worked in the construction and building industry for 20 years without any serious injury (something of a record) it has been my experience that, faced with accidents of any kind, say nothing to any company solicitor or insurance investigator and refer them to your union solicitor for any information they may require. GREG DOUGLAS, Executive Council, AUEW (Construction Section).

Against the system

IT IS NO coincidence that the report on yet another 'baby battering' incident has been released to the press at a time when public spending, particularly in the area of social services, is being viciously attacked.

The scandal in the papers suggests that if we had more child care facilities, better housing, and medical services this kind of incident would not happen so often.

Quite true, but these same newspapers scream the loudest about the great burden of government spending, and the greedy workers who demand more money.

Everyone involved is all set to

When the scaffolding crashed down the
gov'nor was on to his broker immediately.
The broker was on to his insurance
company immediately - and didn't worry
any more.

There are liability policies and liability policies, and precious little to choose between them. Except when a claim comes up. Then Excess expertise gives a fast investigation service that is second to none.

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turn the case into a full-scale witch-hunt. Some Lambeth councillors have already virtually said 'don't blame the system', we want the social worker involved named, so that he or she can take individual blame.

These people who are now putting the knife in our backs are in fact the social workers' employers.

As social workers, we know great changes are needed. Most working class people in towns would never need to see a social worker if there was decent housing, adequate nursery facilities, or a living wage either from their jobs or social security.

Instead, we fight battles every day with the system, we do what is humanely possible to prevent child battering.

Both social workers and the people they visit are not going to take the rap for this inadequate system any longer. Local government workers at the moment are heading for a collision with the government over the next wage claim.

If we are beaten, there may be even fewer social workers to clear up the mess. Can we expect the London Evening News to rush to our aid. Somehow, I can't see it.—A LONDON SOCIAL WORKER.

Repression that must be fought

REPRESSION is growing against the Irish Solidarity Movement here in Britain, with the Official Republicans taking most of the brunt so far. Their national organiser Danny Ryan was deported despite living in Britain for the last 20 years. The Special Branch tried to force Brendan Phelan to spy for them and then had him deported from Bristol. More recently they tried to deport another Official Republican organiser and he was born in London.

This growing repression must be fought now, next in line will be British socialist organisations who campaign on the Irish issue. Let's flood our trades councils, shop stewards committees etc with the details of these cases. An injury to one is an injury to all. Messages on action taken, plus messages of support to Clann na hEireann, 7 Highbury Villas, Bristol 2.—FRANK CONWAY, Manchester.

THE BIG QUESTION FACING THE FIREMEN

THE MAJOR question facing delegates to next week's conference of the Fire Brigades Union in Bridlington is how to survive under the Labour government.

The employers have recently rejected the union's claims, which are: a cut in hours from 48 to 40 a week; productivity payment in lieu of fire prevention inspections *already* being carried out by firemen; withdrawal of whole time retained system, under which firemen are on call all the time they are 'off duty'; increasing leave for firemen and junior officers in line with that granted last year to officers.

There are already signs that the union's national executive recognise that the government's

public spending cuts rule out any possibility of local authorities making concessions even if they wanted to.

Conference delegates will be presented with proposals for action by the executive which will include fighting for an immediate pay increase in view of increases in the cost of living since the last pay settlement in November 1974.

It is encouraging that at last the union leadership seem to realise that there is no alternative for trade unionists under any incomes policy, Labour

By Terry Segars, FBU

or Tory, voluntary or statutory, but to fight it or go under.

To make that fight successful, any action must involve all sections of the membership. And it will have to go beyond the traditional one of 'emergency calls only' to be really effective.

The clause allowing firemen to seek interim pay settlements in 'exceptional circumstances' (massive price increases) was included in many pay agreements last year to make the abolition of indexing under the Social Contract more palatable.

We must press for a united effort by all local government workers to make the government live up to this promise as well.

THE UNIONS CPSA: No turning back!

THE ANNUAL conference of the Civil and Public Services Association at Margate next week will be the most controversial for years. Two issues will dominate it: pay and trade union democracy.

Until last year, the union's national executive was dominated by a right-wing majority. But the new militancy of many of the members, and the disclosure by the rank and file paper Redder Tape of secret right-wing election lists, led to the Broad Left gaining a majority on the NEC.

Many militants believed the main obstacle to progress had been overcome. But the illusion was soon shattered.

In the Department of Health and Social Security and the Post and Telegraphs Sections of the CPSA—both of whose section executives are, by and large, controlled by leading members of the Broad Left—industrial disputes over pay and allowances were sold out.

THE AIMS OF IS IS Public Meeting

Speakers: Duncan Hallas, Mike McGrath (Branch chairman, CPSA, British Library).
The Old Council Chambers, Margate.
Tuesday 6 May, 8.15pm.

Despite the preparedness of the members in both sections to fight (unofficial action followed the sell-outs) the Broad Left leadership capitulated abysmally to the employers, leaving isolated militants in the DHSS to face disciplinary charges without official union support.

Redder Tape played an important role in both disputes, collecting money for strikers in the P and T group and campaigning in the DHSS for a special delegate conference.

Anonymous circulars from a group calling itself the 'moderates' then appeared, slandering the International Socialists, Redder Tape, and various full-time CPSA officials.

It soon became apparent that the 'moderates' were, in fact, the right wing faction and their supporters, now in a minority on the executive. Their campaigning issues do not mention the fight for better pay and so on, but instead condemn the 'jobbery' of the new, left executive majority.

CPSA members will recall that the right-wing were very good at 'jobbery' during their 25-year control.

The fight for membership control of the union machinery and officials, and the struggle to commit the CPSA to militant action in support of pay and conditions, will be uppermost in the minds of conference delegates.

The true nature of the Broad Left

was most clearly shown over the 1975 pay claim. An offer which amounted to an average of £5 before tax was recommended to the membership (the previous pay increase had been 15 months before) in the most cowardly and devious fashion.

The only trade union that had voted against the Social Contract at the TUC had offered its members a cut in real wages! The new pay agreement means the next pay increase will be operative from 1 April 1976—12 months away.

Juxtaposed

This attack on wages is accompanied by a political attack by Bill Kendall, the general secretary, on IS and Redder Tape. Quotes from IS internal bulletins have appeared in the union journal, juxtaposed so as to give a false picture of IS's involvement in Redder Tape.

Kendall has also accused IS and Redder Tape of dividing the union and acting unconstitutionally. But the facts are different.

IS supports the fight for trade unions to be controlled by the membership and so supports Redder Tape, whose history in the CPSA is viewed with a considerable amount of pride by those who have fought for its policies.

Redder Tape has always fought to unite the membership in a struggle for democracy and adequate pay and conditions.

At this year's conference, IS members and Redder Tape supporters will be fighting for democracy and unifying militant policies.

They will also be backing four Redder Tape supporters standing in elections for the executive. These will be the only four candidates prepared to put their policies to the membership.

Redder Tape meetings will be held at the conference to discuss the agenda from day to day.

Despite the lack of leadership by the Broad Left since 1974, despite the inadequate pay lead, we must realise that the 'moderates' and their supporters offer no alternative.

The 'moderates' cannot, and do not intend to, build the fighting spirit of the CPSA. It is vital that we do not allow the right wing to regain control.

THE MAN WHO SAID 'YES'

THE EXECUTIVE of the Confederation of Ship Building and Engineering Unions recently turned down the employers' offer. The London No 8 Committee of CSEU has also called for rejection, but with one dissenting voice—George Anthony, President of the North London District of the AUEW.

Anthony is convenor of Ship Repair, where average earnings for engineering workers is £49, £10 below the London average. Any improvement on the employers'

offer of £42 would show up his leadership in the factory.

When Eddie Bennett, convenor of Rank Pullin, was victimised after winning a £10 rise for his members, Anthony demoralised those striking in his defence and helped end the strike in defeat.

At the next elections for District President, AUEW members will have to look for someone prepared to fight in the battles in North London.



ABOVE: Socialist Worker editor Paul Foot lobbies Bob Wright—but it was the young workers (BELOW) who raised the question of the ban on Socialist Worker.

NOW HELP US TO FIGHT AUEW BAN!

By Paul Foot

LAST WEEK, reporters from the Daily Telegraph and Daily Express, among other national newspapers, were allowed in to the National Committee meeting of the Engineering Union.

I travelled to Blackpool but was turned away. The National Committee standing orders committee upheld its decision not to grant press credentials to Socialist Worker because we are not members of the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group.



Outside the conference hall, I distributed a letter to all delegates outlining the case against this ban: the fact that the Labour and Industrial Correspondents group is not a trade union body, that the general secretary of the National Union of Journalists strongly supports our right to report the meeting.

Reid

I spoke to a number of delegates, including the Union's President, Hugh Scanlon, the candidate for general secretary, Bob Wright, and other well-known left-wingers on the committee such as Jimmy Reid and Jimmy Airlie (UCS), Len Brindle (Leyland) and Sid Harroway (Fords). All expressed sympathy—and some embarrassment. Yet the only people to raise the matter with the standing orders committee were the delegates from the union's Junior Workers Committee. They were told the executive had taken their decision on press credentials, and that standing orders committee could not alter it.

I waited outside the hall for three hours before being told of the standing orders committee's decision.

Club

This matter must not be ignored. It is disgraceful that right-wing newspapers have access to a trade union meeting—which is denied to a socialist paper—and even more disgraceful that we should be excluded because we will not join a 'club' of chosen journalists.

Every district committee and branch in the union (including TASS, construction and foundry sections) must now protest in the strongest possible terms about this ban.

We will try once again to gain access to the union's National Conference in Hastings in three months' time. Send your resolutions in—and let us hear about them.

Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

IN BRIEF

BLACKBURN FASCISTS DIG FOR DIRT

THE National Front in Blackburn have reached a grubby new low in ways of stirring up race hatred. They have lighted on the traditional Muslim burial. Like most religions, Islam has rituals based on a combination of tradition and the practical needs of their countries of origin. Muslims must be buried within 24 hours of death, generally without coffins.

Local gravediggers have complained that this sometimes makes the digging of new graves unpleasant. They also object to the weekend working necessitated by the 24-hour limit for burial.

The problem could be resolved by getting local Muslims and the gravediggers together to discuss the matter. One answer might be the employment of a Muslim gravedigger, a solution already adopted by several local councils.

The National Front have succeeded in blowing the issue up with skillful use of local press and radio. The local council first banned coffinless burials, then withdrew the ban. The gravediggers then vetoed Muslim burials. There are rumours that the National Front is organising a major demonstration in Blackburn on Saturday 10 May against Muslim burials.

The local IS District Committee have called for a massive counter-demonstration. Full details in SW next week.

BUILDING WORKERS OUT IN NORTHAMPTON

THE official strike at Henry Boots Exeter Road Site by members of UCATT is now in its second week. A handful of sub-contractors have crossed picket lines but due to the co-operation of delivery drivers they were effectively starved of materials.

The strikers have been critical of the attitude of their local full-time official, who at one time said he could not come down to the picket and countered criticism by pointing out that the strikers had not been in the union long. This site is a job being undertaken by the local Labour council which has also come in for criticism.

Messages of support and donations to: M Dunkley, 51 Holly Road, Northampton.

LONDON DUSTMEN

400 Southwark dustmen were told they would not be paid until they crossed a Greater London Council contractors' picket line three weeks ago. Then on 16 April, the men's TGWU, GMWU and NUPE shop stewards got a letter from the Southwark Council's Chief Management Officer offering all the back pay owed plus bonuses plus £50 to clear the excess rubbish. Then the next day they got another letter withdrawing the offer. A mass meeting decided to stay out. Last Friday the GLC disputes committee recommended the council to pay 80 per cent of the back pay, plus bonuses. The men want their full pay owing but the unions recommended a return to work from Monday. Some depots are still staying out for the full amount.

ALFRED HERBERT, COVENTRY

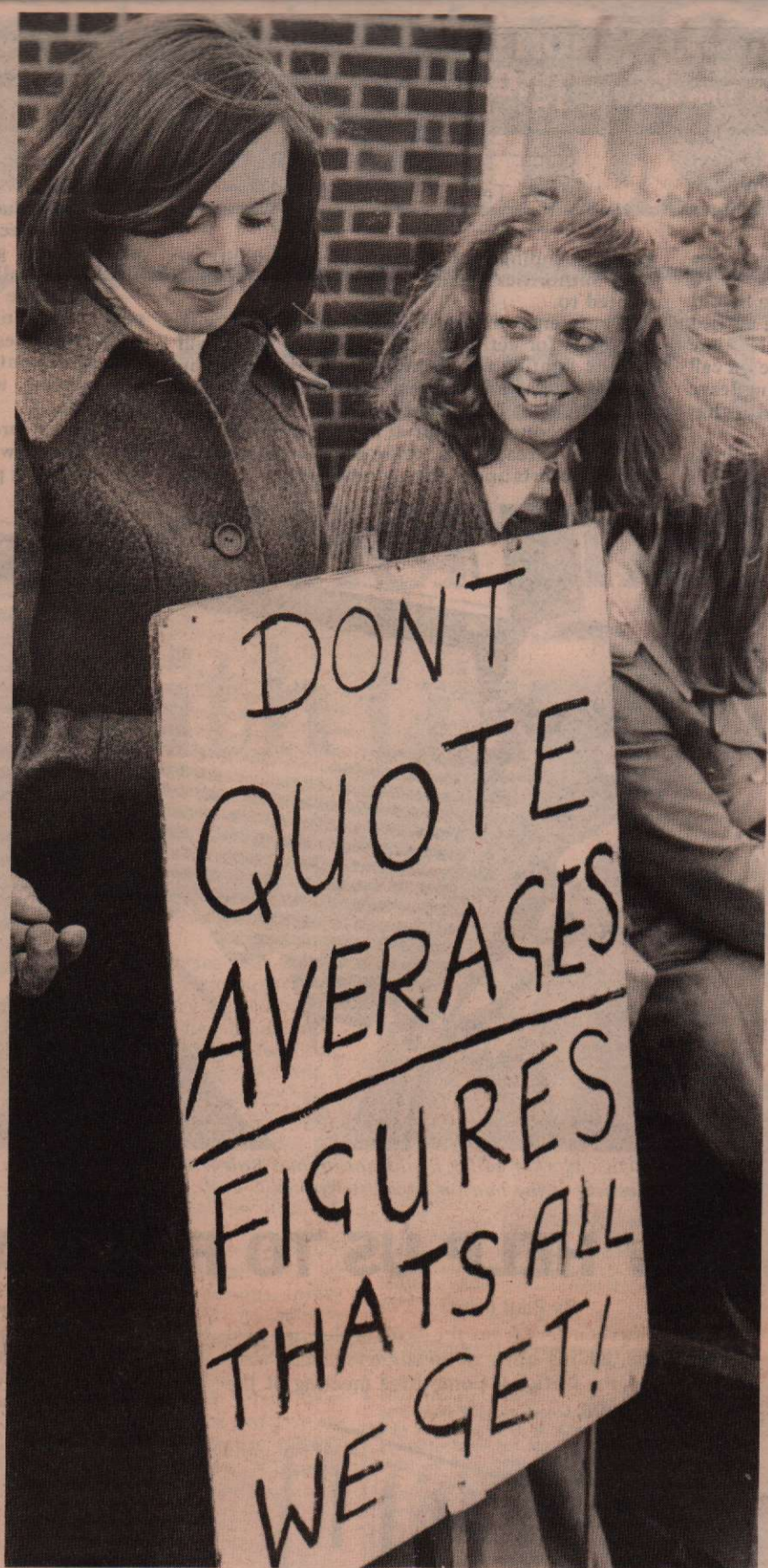
ALFRED HERBERT Machine Tools workers have had a plan submitted to Wedgwood Benn on their behalf which they had virtually no say in. Workers' representatives had rejected a government consultants' report and produced a plan based on no cutbacks. The Board of Directors then offered to take all these plans and prepare a 'joint' plan. The result? A company plan—is 'jointly recommended'. At best it means the sack of 500 staff workers and the closure of the grinding business at the Red Lane site.

LONDON MATCHBOX TOY WORKERS FIRED

ALL 28 setters at Lesney's Lea Conservancy plant in Hackney have been sacked after refusing to accept vicious shift working proposals. They include the AUEW convenor, deputy convenor and branch secretary.

LONDON JOURNALISTS WIN

A SHORT, sharp official strike of NUJ and SOGAT members at Time Out Magazine, London, was enough to bring proprietor Tony Elliott to heel. Janet Street-Porter, a London Evening News columnist, was appointed deputy editor of Time Out by Elliott without the agreed consultation with the workers. Now she has resigned from Time Out and from its sister paper Sell Out. So the strike's over.



On the picket line at Pegsons. Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Office workers out for £8.50

COALVILLE:—About 70 members of the clerical union APEX are on strike at Pegsons. More than half the strikers are women. The strike is over parity with other workers in the firm.

Management has agreed to pay the technical staff a wage rise of £6.50, with £2 later in the year. A similar agreement has been reached with the shop floor. But when it came to the APEX members, they were offered only £3 plus £1 later. Said one striker: 'Management have treated the clerical staff with contempt'.

So they are out for the full £8.50. On the picket line the women are determined. Said one: 'We are not going back till it's settled, even if we're here till the July fortnight'. They are keeping a score card of how many lorries they've turned away—it was 55 when our photographer called. Little has gone in or out since the strike began three weeks ago.

The wage rates for clerical staff are low, with a £23 minimum for women; for men, £26.30, and that includes £4 threshold. Said one woman striker: 'The men's rate is being kept down, just because they

are in the same union as us. That's what equal pay means to this company—bringing down the men's wages, not raising the women's to the men's rate.'

Pegsons is in the Bentley Group, owned by Sears Holdings. They claim the clerical staff got increases between £10 and £14 as a result of regrading in September. The strikers point out this includes people such as the managing director's secretary who are not in the union and negotiate their salaries. 'Don't talk to me about averages—I got 7p out of it' one striker said.

This is the first strike by APEX members at Pegsons apart from one half day. The women have been quick to draw the conclusion: 'We've been passive—too passive—in the past. They didn't believe women would ever come out. But this strike will show the managing director he can't treat us with contempt.'

Half a mile down the road at T Grieves, also part of the Bentley Group, APEX members are considering strike action over a similar offer. It seems clear that Bentley group policy is to offer derisory increases to clerical staff.

STAVELEY: HEALEY MUST ANSWER FOR THIS

STAVELEY:—Seven more of the women strikers at Walter and Dobsons went back to work this week. The strike, now in its ninth week, is for the second instalment of the last engineering industry agreement, which would bring their wages up to £24.50, the national basic minimum.

Management have argued that the money should come out of the threshold payments. Since the budget the management have taken their text from Dennis Healey, arguing that denying the women their £2.75 that would bring their wage up to the basic minimum is part of the battle against inflation.

The Managing Director said: 'Mr Healey said that wage increases were a major source of inflation, and we think that the

claims of our workforce are against the country's interest'. In keeping with the government's policy, six part-time workers have been sacked.

The strike is by no means over yet. The AUEW district secretary has praised the spirit of the women during the longest strike the Chesterfield area has known for years. But fine words and a paternal pat on the back are not helping to win the strike.

Apart from some lightning pickets by local engineering workers and collections, action by the union machine has been slow in materialising. Indeed, it is only since last Tuesday that a national blacking campaign has been launched and local firms successfully approached—seven

HAMPTON WOMEN WIN FOR THE UNION

BIRMINGHAM:—The official strike of 30 women at Hampton Stampings, Stirchley, has ended in victory after seven weeks.

The strike, over recognition of the Engineering Workers Union, began when, after weeks of organising within the factory, one of the women was sacked and seven others made redundant.

Hamptons is a small family firm employing about 50. Wendy Shields, shop steward and one of the sacked women, told Socialist Worker: 'We know that it was because the women joined the union that they were made redundant. Someone tried to get the union in two years ago and she was sacked on the spot.'

'We kept our efforts secret until we were well organised because if it leaked out we also would have been sacked and couldn't have done anything about it. Until now we haven't felt strong enough to challenge the management.'

Rates of pay and conditions of work in the factory are appalling. The basic wage for 30 hours work is supposed to be £12.75, but if a woman does not earn this amount on her piece rate, she does not even get this. If a machine breaks down, the women do not get paid waiting time.

One of the strikers told Socialist Worker: 'This is why we want a union—we've been treated like dirt. It's a well-known fact that small firms like ours are reluctant to recognise trade unions, and it's obvious why. The management try all the time to divide us and rule us, by giving different prices on their work and favouring some with the good jobs.'

The strike was made official by the AUEW West District Committee and the women received strike pay. The strike fund was swelled by donations from many factories and delegations came from Rover, Wilmott-Breeden, Austin, and Tractors and Transmissions to help on the picket line.

Stopped

Most deliveries to the factory were stopped, despite a scab lorry driver still working in the factory, and all the strikers were fully involved in the running of the dispute. Groups of strikers addressed meetings, visited local shop stewards and convenors, and gained much practical support. One group spoke to the meeting of car factory shop stewards in Birmingham last Wednesday.

Many strikes by women in the past year have been isolated and ignored. Many ended in defeat and demoralisation. Women in struggle face many obstacles, not least their home commitment. They often have no trade union experience. So it is vital they get positive rank and file trade union support and encouragement to be involved completely in their own dispute.

The women at Hamptons, after a meeting arranged by the government's Conciliation and Arbitration Services between management, union officials and strike



AUEW shop steward Wendy Shields

representatives, have won union recognition and the reinstatement of the seven who were made redundant. But the woman sacked for bad time-keeping has lost her job.

The women were to return to work on Thursday after laying the foundations for a strong organised shop floor.

Women's conference date changed

THE date of the conference on women in industry, called by the Rank and File Organising Committee, has been switched to 21 June. It will be at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

Said a spokesman: 'The conference has been put back to give plenty of time to women workers to get delegated. The main business of the conference will be on the problems of organising on the shop floor, which means it will need to hear and discuss experiences not just from well-organised workplaces, but from groups of women not yet in a union or who are fighting for organisation.'

'The Organising Committee therefore hopes to encourage delegates from groups of women in factories facing the problem of creating union organisation.'

The committee is also welcoming delegations from male shop stewards' committees and union branches.

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

Demo day: 25 May

THIS YEAR is Equal Pay Year, Anti-Discrimination Bill year, a year in which the Abortion Act may be changed against the interests of working-class women—and International Women's Year. As part of the TUC's programme of events for this year it is organising a demonstration in London on Sunday 25 May.

weeks into the strike—and no district levy has yet been made. But the district committee was holding an open meeting for shop stewards on Tuesday when local action to support the strike was to be discussed.

LEVY

A solidarity strike in the district, a mass picket at the factory and a district levy are what's needed.

More than a straightforward pay claim is at stake. The women are leading the fight for recognition of women as workers in their own right and against deteriorating standards imposed by the unholy alliance of the Labour government and

their puppet masters in industry and the City.

Some of the women strikers have been forced back to work by their husbands or parents. One was escorted over the picket line by her parents in a car. Pressure is building up on the strikers.

This dispute cannot be regarded as of little significance because it's only a small factory of women. The tendency to adopt this view of the strike must be fought, especially when some of the husbands are miners and trade unionists. Support is urgently needed.

Messages and donations to: Mrs C Smith, 20 Clarendon Road, Inkersall, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Scottish Cables: 500 fight redundancies

RENFREW: For three weeks 500 workers at Scottish Cables have been out on strike fighting against redundancies. Until last Friday the strikers, all TGWU members, had the support of the AUEW and EETPU members in the factory, who had refused to cross the picket line.

But under pressure from union officials the sparks and the engineers have now decided to break the picket.

The dispute arose out of a management attempt to sack 40 workers. At first the workers accepted the voluntary redundancies but BICC, who own the factory, felt this wasn't enough and said they wanted selected redundancies for at least 20 of the 40. This was unacceptable to shop stewards and the workforce.

John White, the senior TGWU shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'We made mistakes at the beginning of the dispute in accepting voluntary redundancies, but everyone has learned. We now see what BICC were up to and a great many can see just what the management in this

place are like. There is no possibility of a return to work until the redundancy notices are lifted.'

At the picket line the general mood was bitterly opposed to BICC. One picket Jimmy Docherty, said: 'One of the problems in this factory is that it has never been well organised. The management have been able to get away with murder.'

'But now the situation is changing quickly and there was even a sit-in at the factory at Christmas when the company failed to pay us. A lot of workers can now see past the paternalist attitude of the company and realise that their wages are among the lowest in the area.'

That the workers at Scottish Cables are now prepared to take action to protect their jobs shows how hard unemployment has hit the area. Many workers now realise they have got to make a stand against cutbacks and sackings. They have also learned, as they saw officials advise workers to cross the picket, that if a fight is on it will have to be carried by the rank and file.

PRINTWORKERS CONFERENCE TO DEFEND JOBS

THE cutting back of printworkers' jobs that is going on at the Daily Mirror is only the tip of the iceberg of redundancies in the print and broadcasting, where the economic crisis and the introduction of new technology are combining to throw workers on the scrapheap all over the country.

But trade unionists are fighting back—and to spread this and build links between the various unions, a group of rank and file trade unionists in London have called a delegate conference on The Fight against Redundancies.

The conference, which has the backing of the Rank and File Conference Organising Committee, is to be held at the London College of Printing on Saturday 17 May, with sessions on Tactics in a Redundancy Situation, Closures, 'Natural wastage' and The Way Forward.

For delegates' credentials contact the conference convenor, Aiden White, 61a Farleigh Road, London N16 (phone 01-534 4555 daytime).

Threat to journalists' closed shops victory

A MAJOR victory for trade union independence was notched up by the annual delegate meeting of the National Union of Journalists in Cardiff last week. In spite of months of hysterical campaigning by newspaper proprietors against the closed shop provisions in Michael Foot's industrial relations Bill, the NUJ delegates voted to campaign for 100 per cent membership.

But the right wing in the union, supported by massive press propaganda, is now calling for a special conference and a ballot of the membership to overturn the decision. The importance of the closed shop must be argued in chapels and branches across the country.

The vote was a snub for the NUJ executive, which had bowed under the employers' lash and agreed to give editors 'discretion' on joining the union and the right to work during industrial disputes. General secretary Ken Morgan attacked 'unrepresentative minorities' in the union who, he said, did not believe in press freedom.

But a Magazine Branch delegate, mov-

ing the successful motion, censured the executive for 'selling some of the union's independence'. The newspaper proprietors had no right to speak as the champions of press freedom: 'They have systematically crippled the press by their policies of monopolisation and closure and their slavish devotion to advertising revenue.'

The motion demanded that the executive give full backing to chapels (workplace groups) that fight for closed shops and demanded that editors take part in official industrial action. It also rejected the idea that the NUJ should join the proprietors in drawing up a 'charter of press freedom' and called instead for action with other print unions for a genuine free press.

Strenuous

The conference started a day late when the union delegates refused to cross an official electricians' picket line at Cardiff Town Hall. Alternative accommodation was found in a hall not controlled by the council, which is refusing to pay the electricians a wage increase.

Strenuous efforts were made by the platform and the right wing to cut back the union's organising ability and grassroots democracy because of financial difficulties. But a major analysis of the union's finances had been made by the rank and file group Journalists Charter, whose supporters convinced many delegates that the annual accounts exaggerated the true position.

The conference rejected a call for a rank and file inquiry into finances but voted down a platform call to move to less frequent conferences.

But there were some serious setbacks for the left. A resolution calling for the regular election of full-time officials was heavily defeated and last year's policy of nationalisation of newspaper plant, and machinery was overturned with the aid of some platform witch-hunting against the International Socialists.

London Rubber: Convenor hits out

NORTH LONDON: 'They make me sick. I am ashamed of the white workers inside. None of them have the right to call themselves men.' That's the opinion of Mrs Lillian Carter, convenor at London Rubber, where more than 200 workers are on strike for union recognition.

Part-time women workers and some of the men are still working and management is using this as an excuse to spread the story that the strike is being run by a tiny group of black militants.

The strikers' solidarity needs backing from other trade unionists prepared to help their fight. The strike committee is organising visits to local factories, and efforts are being made to establish links with other organised Asian workers, particularly in West London. The strikers also want to hold the local TGWU official to his word and to organise a mass demonstration of members to show that the union will not take 'union bashing' lying down.

The strike committee appeals to all trade unionists to help with strike fund and on the picket line. Speakers from London Rubber are available to visit factory and union meetings. Write to: London Rubber Strike Committee, c/o M Khan, Broad House, 205 Fore Street, London N18.

Twenty Pakistani and Indian workers from London Rubber came to a meeting organised by Walthamstow International Socialists. The meeting had been advertised in the special Socialist Worker Chingari edition on the strike. Regular meetings are planned.

Elektron: 'We'll win'

MANCHESTER: 'Poor conditions, poor wages and ever rising prices. Something had to give. Now that it has, I'm sure we'll win', said Tony Tyrell, GMWU convenor at Magnesium Elektron, near Manchester, where 450 workers are out on strike in pursuit of their wage claim.

The AUEW convenor, Paul Dickenson, added: 'This is the first strike for 30 years at this factory and we are determined to hold out for a good and realistic wage. If we get the full 30 per cent increase then even that will be wiped out by inflation.'

But there is more than money at stake. After negotiations with the joint shop stewards committee, and an initial offer of 12 per cent, the company promised further negotiations with the full-time union officials, flatly refusing to agree to agree to the principle of full negotiations at factory level.

The strike is 100 per cent and as another GMWU member said: 'They're going to learn the hard way—we are out to win the full 30 per cent.'

OCCUPATIONS!

DAGENHAM: Following the successful Ford's Swansea occupation—reported on page 9 this week—the A shift Body Plant workers have barricaded themselves in here at Dagenham on Tuesday.

There had been repeated attempts to cut manning levels and increase work schedules. The issue was brought to a head last week when Ford's announced to B shift Body Plant workers that 137 men were to be moved to form a 'labour pool' to be used to replace leavers as they 'terminated'.

This would have meant an increased workload of up to 50 per cent for some of those remaining on the line.

Eighteen doorhangers and fender fitters refused to accept this and struck last week. There was a feeling of support for this stand in many other departments, but the plant convenor at that

Ford: Dagenham plant barricaded as lock-out hits Leamington

time refused to call a plant meeting. He later persuaded the company to send telegrams to strikers calling a meeting at which he was to propose a 'solution'.

This turned out to be that the doorhangers and fender fitters should submit themselves to the 'impartial' stopwatches of the company time and motion men! This advice was wisely rejected by the men, whereupon the company, immediately sent home the entire B shift from the Body and PTA plants, some 3200 men, until 6 May. The company hoped to use this punishing lock-out to disci-

pline the workforce into accepting all their 'efficiency' proposals.

This time the plant convenor was obliged to call a plant meeting which ended with a vote for indefinite occupation until the company agrees to no manning cuts. The meeting finished with the plant being barricaded with oil drums and pallets.

But it's no use relying simply on a sit-in by those laid off—those still working must be persuaded to join the occupation. As at Swansea the whole

plant should be involved in the occupation is a speedy victory is to be gained.

Throughout the Ford plants in this country, the management are ramming home the implications of the increased efficiency clause in last October's pay clause and the renegotiation of the deal.

Manning cuts must be stopped. As at Swansea, shop stewards control, through full mutuality, must be sought over manning levels, work schedules, track speeds and working conditions. Full-scale occupations are an immediate means to secure such job protection.

The whole Ford plant at LEAMINGTON has stopped working because workers on the shipping deck are demanding that three scabs who worked while the rest were on strike are moved. They want two of the scabs put on days and nights like everyone else on the section and the third scab moved off the section altogether.

Convenor Tony Barrow told Socialist Worker that the whole shop stewards committee was backing the demands of the shipping deck. Management have now locked out the entire workforce but Tony Barrow made it clear that if this hadn't happened they would have come out on strike to make it clear that are not prepared to tolerate scabs.

'We work on'

LOWESTOFT: Workers have occupied the foundries and are working in to prevent management enforcing a three-day week. They are making castings for the outside contracting work done by Howards but are refusing to touch work for Howards itself.

Much of the foundry work is contracting for firms such as Perkins of Peterborough. Stewards were worried that the attempt to introduce a three-day week was part of a management attempt to introduce redundancies by claiming there was not enough work because of outside contracts being lost. This has been forestalled and now the contracts are being preserved while Howards' own work goes undone.

1700 sit in

NORTH WALES: 1700 workers in the Courtauld's complex in Flint have occupied their plants in support of their demand for a £6 a week pay increase. Courtauld's have offered £3. This will be the first major test for the Courtauld's Combine Committee which met last month in Wigan.

CROSFIELDS SIT-IN NEEDS AID

NORTH LONDON: Workers at Crosfields engineering factory are still in occupation in defence of jobs. Forty workers have been occupying for a month now after the management sacked 350. The No 1 building is occupied and they are calling for the withdrawal of all redundancy notices.

Crucial to the success of the occupation is the help Crosfields workers get, particularly from other trade unionists in North London. Crosfields was the first

factory in North London to mobilise for the marches in support of the jailed Shrewsbury pickets. The workers' record in contributing to the strike funds of the miners and other groups has been second to none. And in 1972 they were out in force at the demonstrations at nearby Pentonville Prison where five dockers were jailed by the Industrial Relations Court. Now it is Crosfields that needs support.

The local officials have given support,

but they have not been allowed to bury the occupation beneath the red tape and promises of bureaucracy. AUEW full-time officials and the North London district committee must now make every effort to secure financial and backing support.

The financial response from other trade unionists has been good. Without this aid the occupation could not continue. But management too have money. They will be backing their calculated gamble against the workers with hard cash.

Other workers in the De La Rue group must offer concrete support and argue for stoppages. Their union organisation and jobs could be next under the De La Rue axe.

All trade unionists who are asked to handle De La Rue Products—including the huge Formica range—should regard them as blacked until the Crosfield jobs are restored.

The Crosfield workers need maximum support from the whole movement. They have laid the basis for a successful struggle, but a speedy victory also depends upon the extent of support from the rest of the trade union movement, official and unofficial. The fight for jobs is everyone's fight.

Press barrage over Coles

DARLINGTON: The three-week-old occupation of Coles Cranes, part of the Acrow group, by the AUEW and EETPU workforce continues. They have had to face divisive reporting in the local press. One paper printed a story saying that the men had refused help from the International Socialists, quoting a shop steward as saying that IS had offered to pay their wages and help them picket.

All of which is untrue.

Another paper printed a story on its front page headed STRIKE PAY LEVY NEW ROW. 'A new row blew up in the eight-day sit-in at Coles Cranes when

union members throughout the town were ordered to pay 50p a week levy to keep the 75 strikers in pay. A levy has been secretly imposed by the AUEW on its 400 members but was revealed exclusively to the Evening Dispatch'.

The district committee did decide to organise a levy but no figure was mentioned and it was to be voluntary. The story was based on an anonymous phone call and not confirmed. But with talk of a 50p levy from the 4000 (not 400) AUEW members in the area the men had great difficulty claiming Social Security money.



DES WARREN and Ricky Tomlinson were in jail last May Day—and they're still there today.

Thousands of workers struck this week as part of the movement to free them. That was marvellous.

Meanwhile, Elsa Warren and Marlene Tomlinson must bring up their families.

Every trade unionist can help them—by supporting the Rank and File Organising Committee's dependants' fund, the only fund for the families of the Shrewsbury Two.

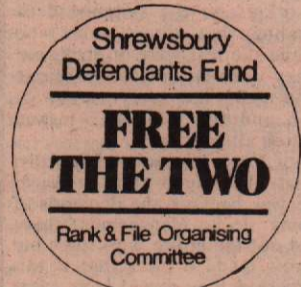


Socialist Worker urges every trade unionist this May Day to start regular weekly collections in their shop or trade union branch.

Sell the Rank and File sticker. Any amount of money will do—there's no fixed price.

Both families are in desperate straits. The Committee have set a target of £1000 NOW to meet their immediate needs.

So make that resolution—and get the money flowing in to the Shrewsbury Dependants' Fund, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10. (stickers from the same address).



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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

VICTORY!

After 14 weeks, Scots sparks win

THE SCOTTISH local authority electricians' strike has ended in complete victory. After 14 weeks strike, the men have won the SJIB rate of £1.23 an hour, which the councils had refused to pay gives them an increase of £9.20 a week and parity with sparks in the contracting industry.

Only a couple of weeks ago, the Glasgow dustcart drivers' strike was smashed. Yet the sparks have won despite army blacklegging in Glasgow, which broke their picket lines as well as those of the drivers. It shows what can be done and how it can be done.

Just to rub it in for the employers, the electricians refused to settle until the local authorities backed down on the conditions of agreement.

From the beginning of January—before the strike started—Glasgow's Labour council had insisted that the electricians must come off the SJIB agreement.

The councillors' refusal to meet their commitment to pay SJIB rates led to the sparks going on strike. So when the employers put the money on the table the strikers stayed out for another week to push the council into accepting a form of words that did not tie the electricians.

CAVED IN

On Friday, the local authorities caved in and withdrew their insistence on the ending of the SJIB. The sparks are now in a better position than ever before. They have an open-ended agreement which allows them to follow the contracting industry while pushing their own claims.

The importance of this settlement cannot be overestimated. The local authority sparks have won a victory over their own employers, the government AND over opposition from inside the EETPU.

It was, above all, a victory for the rank and file, a perfect example of what can be done on their own initiative.

In the first weeks of the dispute, the leadership of the union, particularly Frank Chapple, were hostile. When it became clear that the sparks would not be bullied by them, they made the strike official.

Just give the word, Chapple

THROUGH all-out strike action by all Corporations, the Scottish sparks have won. Delegations of striking sparks from Manchester, Leeds,

THANKS— from man who led the strike

WE WON because of the effort put into the fight by the rank and file.

The union executive asked to be given control of the strike but proved incapable of leading it. In fact, they left it entirely to the shop stewards and rank and file to win.

The West of Scotland Strike Committee wishes to thank every group of workers and trade unionists who gave support and wishes every

By George Kelly,
chairman, West of Scotland
strike committee and convenor,
Glasgow local authority
electricians.

success to the local authority sparks in England and Wales still fighting. We would also like to thank Socialist Worker for the tremendous support given during our dispute.

If anything forced Chapple and Co to change their tune it must have been the way the dispute spread to other areas.

The Scottish strike was followed by strikes in Cardiff and Leeds—and almost immediately a whole series of local authorities were hit by strike action.

That was the decisive factor. Although the issues were not exactly the same—the Scottish sparks were out for the implementation of a standing agreement, while the lads in England and Wales were after parity—the solidarity was clear.

CRUCIAL

The leadership from the strike committee and shop stewards was crucial for the Scottish sparks.

Hounded by the press, the sparks held their ground. IS comrades involved in the strike committee played a decisive role in pushing the dispute forward and demanding link-ups between electricians on strike.

Now the real possibility exists of a national local authority shop stewards' committee. If the opportunity is taken to build it, the situation in the local authorities and in the EETPU will be decisively changed for the future.

SHEFFIELD: WE WON'T GIVE IN

by the Sheffield sparks
strike committee

WE ARE now in our 11th week of dispute and, despite severe financial straits, are united in our support for our claim of £1.23 an hour.

A certain amount of demoralisation has set in, especially after seeing our brothers in Leeds facing possessions and the cutting off of gas supplies in their homes.

If our EC meeting sends a directive to continue the dispute, we resolved to put all our efforts into making the strike more effective—stepping up our action, if necessary outside our union's bounds.

We must bring home to our employers, the local council, that as skilled craftsmen, we are entitled to the rate for the job.

If we fail in our fight, it will be due to lack of effort. The blame will lie on the shoulders of the Labour Party and the union leaders who have given no real lead.

This is our first strike and the union have given us no help in how to organise and run a strike to make it effective.

We've learnt quickly, and see the need for spreading the strike and the solidarity which is lacking in our fight. But we are willing to stick to it and fight on.

Moral and financial support Sheffield Electricians' Strike Committee, Worthing Road, Sheffield.

Our fighting fund: We made it

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS. Last week we told you we needed £498.12 to hit our £10,000 fighting fund target. Well we made it—easily with £924.46 boost the grand total to: £10,426.34

A worker in Albion in Barrhead explained how his factory had settled a wage demand. 'I took this opportunity to get some of the SW readers to put something to the Fighting Fund, about £12 gave something.'

That was the kind of action that got us the money—and brings us to the back news.

We still need money, every week to sustain the fight. So please keep it rolling in!

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