

Socialist Worker

Number 425 17 May 1975

Price 7p

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

As Wilson and Murray slam Chrysler strikers

BIG BUSINESS LAYS DOWN THE LINE

What it means to be a fascist

A CRIMINAL trial which finished in Glasgow last week gives a terrible insight into the consequences of the perverted and brutal mentality encouraged by fascist and racist organisations such as the National Front.

The trial, in the High Court, was of four men on charges of murder, rape and extortion. Brian Hosie, one of the three men convicted, was a National Front member.

Hosie and Co had set up a protection racket among Glasgow prostitutes. The revenue from the racket was used to buy guns and clothing for the UDA sectarian murder gangs in Northern Ireland.

Hector Smith, the man Hosie killed, was married to one of the prostitutes they approached. He opposed Hosie's scheme. So Hosie, lover of authority, law and order and all the rest, shot him dead.

Hosie boasted about the murder. He said: 'Niggers mean nothing to me. It's just like shooting a dog. Niggers make good fertiliser'.

For the killing Brian Hosie got a life sentence—15 years or less.

That's rather less than the sentence imposed on Mathew Lygate, the Workers Party of Scotland member who was held to have been involved in bank robberies. Lygate picked up a 24-year jail sentence in 1972 on the flimsiest of evidence because of his left-wing politics.

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COMMON MARKET
SOCIAL CONTRACT
UNEMPLOYMENT
WILSON'S TORY
POLICIES

INSIDE: Behind the employers' offensive

THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST CUTS and how workers are fighting against them

PAGE 2

WHY ARE THE BOSSES OUT FOR BENN'S BLOOD? and his 'workers' participation' is a fake

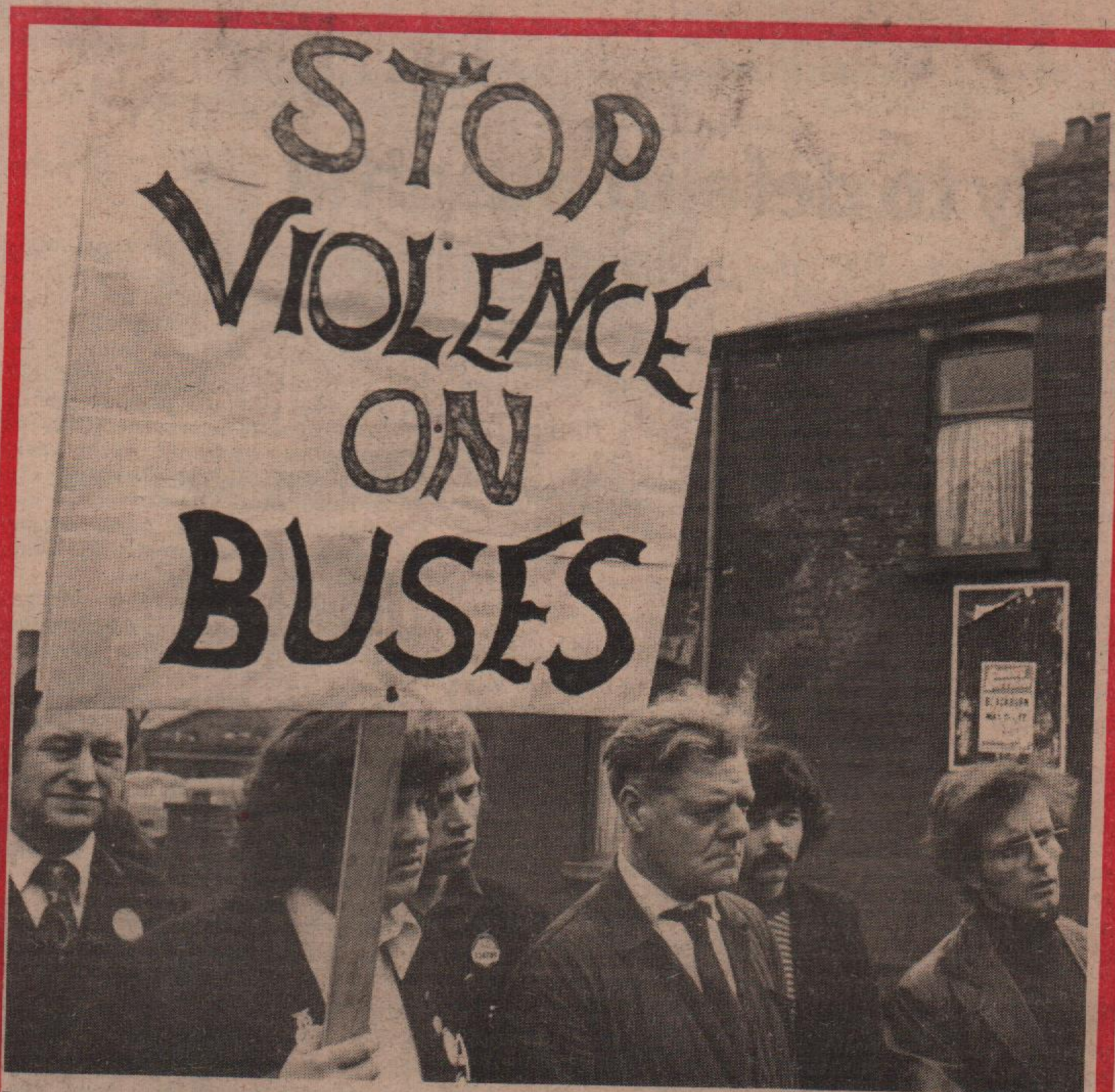
PAGE 3

WHAT CAUSES THE CRISIS and the workers' answer to it

PAGE 4

COMMON MARKET: WHY THE BOSSES WANT A 'YES' and how we campaign in the factories for NO

PAGE 5



Busmen in Blackpool who went on strike last Saturday in protest at the beating up of an Asian driver and conductor from Intake garage. The conductor was shouted at by a group of racist thugs, and, when he went to get help from the driver, beaten up. The driver came to help, and was beaten up too. The strike has stunned the local council into agreeing to a joint meeting with the busmen on Monday.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

SHOP STEWARDS at Chrysler's Stoke factory, Coventry, decided by 130 votes to 11 last Friday to continue their strike for more pay. Immediately there was a howl of press abuse against the 'wreckers' of the British car industry.

Two days earlier Lord Watkinson, boss of the huge food corporation Cadbury Shewepes, a former Tory Minister of Defence and next year's president of the CBI, told the House of Lords that 'businessmen' were getting ready to take action against the government, unless the government did what businessmen told them.

'Businessmen will be driven to develop industrial muscle and with it, however reluctantly, confrontation and non-cooperation,' he said.

No one talked of blackmail. Instead, Watkinson's speech was greeted as the height of statesmanship. It was taken as the cue for a fantastic press outcry demanding the sacking of 'left-wing' ministers, more cuts in public spending and a wage freeze.

Why are these people creating the balance of payment crisis they complain about?

Because they see a chance of forcing the government into line and 'dealing with' their sworn enemies in the trade unions.

Because they are excited by the alliance on the Common Market and on economic policies which has grown up between the Labour right-wing and the Tories. They want to forge that alliance into a permanent fighting force against the working class.

Because they want a coalition, official or unofficial, to make workers pay for the crisis which refusal to invest and the chaotic profit system has created.

This grim strategy is assisted by Harold Wilson, whose television speech last Sunday had not a word of criticism for Watkinson or the other big business investment strikers. Instead, he reserved his venom for the Chrysler workers.

Similarly, the TUC is falling into line. This week they anxiously discussed new ways to 'vet wage claims'.

For rank and file workers this means further hardship.

There is only one way to face up to the new employers' offensive. It is to build out of the anger and militancy of workers at Chrysler and hundreds of other factories all over the country a socialist organisation which can lead the counter-offensive and fight for the only real alternative to the crisis.

● For nationalisation without compensation of industry and under workers' control.

● For a NO vote on 5 June.

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Social workers hit out at cuts

by Sally Laver

ON Monday social workers in Lambeth, South London, carried out a 'day of action' to inform the people of Lambeth about the state of social service in the borough.

They had been incensed by a campaign led by the London Evening News and supported by some Lambeth Labour councillors to place the responsibility for a battered baby case on individual social workers.

The Evening News, of course, supports cuts in public spending and supports the homelessness, lack of day nurseries and split families which are the main cause of battered babies.

The social workers distributed a leaflet throughout the borough. Here is what it said:

WHY ARE BABIES BATTERED?

An open letter to the people of Lambeth

Two babies are battered to death in Great Britain every day. The press points a finger of responsibility at social workers, but here are some facts the press didn't point out:

600 children are on the priority waiting list for council day nurseries in Lambeth.

1500 children are in the care of Lambeth Council.

Approximately 15,000 families are on the housing waiting list.

Approximately 130 families are in bed and breakfast accommodation.

And there are thousands of families under stress.

IN THIS BOROUGH ALONE.

As if this isn't bad enough the government has now cut back all local government spending.

Coupled with the cutbacks in our already inadequate health services and education, this means far fewer resources . . . houses, day nurseries, schools, hospitals etc, and even larger waiting lists for what already exists.

This affects every single one of you!

Social workers are not miracle workers. What we need are:

Increases, not cutbacks
Changes, not individual blame.

The leaflet was published and printed by Lambeth Social Workers with the backing of Lambeth NALGO.

1300 WORKERS PROTEST

by Ian Wall (NALGO)

MORE than 1300 local government workers, most from Manchester local government NALGO branch, demonstrated in Manchester last Friday to show Crosland that they are not standing for any government interference in their pay claim for £10 a week plus 15 per cent.

Posters demanded no cuts in public spending, control of prices, not pay, and 'NALGO: Do it the miners' way'.

THE GOVERNMENT CUTS: WON'T THEY MEAN LOWER LIVING STANDARDS?



Crosland dressed to kill—for a press conference

Ladies and gentlemen, that was the best wine I've had since yesterday. Now I've got a message for everyone: THE PARTY'S OVER (except of course for you and me and our rich friends everywhere)

TONY CROSLAND, sleek and slick, Labour's leading intellectual, and Environment Minister, went to lunch with Manchester City Council last Friday.

Everyone who's anyone in the city was there: bishops, lawyers, army officers, police chiefs, businessmen, trade union leaders, even the odd Labour councillor.

The wine was Chateau Latour 1969, priced on the open market at £6.34 a bottle.

But the wine didn't cost Manchester City Council a penny! When Sir Stanley Holt, former Tory leader in the city, died recently, he left his wine cellar to the council. Instead of selling it, the council decided to pour it down the gulleys of Labour's leading intellectual and his lucky guests.

After the banquet, Crosland told the Manchester feasters: 'The party's over'. More massive cuts in public spending are on the way, he said. Pay rises in local government will be bitterly resisted.

Some newspapers are openly predicting a stop to all future council house building.

Fight

At the first shout of 'crisis' ALL the Labour promises of a more efficient, better-paid local government staff, of better public services and of reasonable rents have been abandoned.

The people who voted for Crosland last year will have to organise now to fight against his cuts.

The lowering of living standards which Crosland and Co are pushing through doesn't only mean lay-offs and redundancies. It doesn't only mean wage control. It means, above all else, cuts in the 'social wage' in those services which workers rely on to make life tolerable: schools, hospitals, meals on wheels, social work, public transport.

The fight against cuts is one of the most difficult to organise. But it can be organised as the other stories on this page show.

Mass rally to defend hospital

CALLS for a mass rally against the closure of Poplar Hospital in East London and against cuts in public services when Harold Wilson visits Limehouse on Monday, and for a trade union and tenants campaign committee against the cuts were issued by Saturday's East End Conference to save Poplar Hospital and Stop the Cuts.

The conference, sponsored by the Public Employees' Union (NUPE) and Hackney Trades Council, was attended by about 50 representatives including four shop stewards, NHS trade unionists, teachers, postal workers and bus workers.

Cyril Bales (TGWU), chairman of the four-year-old Save Poplar Committee, told of the many petitions, lobbies and demonstrations held. The present Health Minister, Barbara Castle, was being even less responsive than the Tories' Sir Keith Joseph. It now looked like the Ministry had decided to close Poplar.

NUPE shop steward Steve Ludlam explained the severity of the cuts

nationally and locally. Nationally only £47 million of Barbara's £111 million cuts had been restored—the City and East London Health Authority, which wants to close Poplar, had a budget of £48 million last year.

It has asked for a further £4½ million, less than 10 per cent to meet 20 per cent inflation, but expected to get only £100,000, and had already overspent £192,000 from last year.

Taxes

Chancellor Denis Healey's threats to cut social spending if future wage claims were reduced were downright lies. The cuts had started long ago. The Social Contract had not increased the 'social wage' but savaged it. NUPE officer Jim Bewsher said one third of our wages went straight to the government in taxes for public services, which are no longer being fully provided—that is effectively a wage cut. Trade unionists should

respond as to any other wage cuts—by traditional trade union activity.

A member of the teachers' union (NUT) proposed a committee of public sector and other trade union and local organisations to campaign against the cuts, to provide public information and work for a day of protest action by public sector workers. This proposal was welcomed.

A Ford shop steward called for a campaign to increase public awareness and a large protest rally when Wilson visits Limehouse.

A NUPE branch secretary pledged to fight for an area one-day hospital strike against the cuts to mark Wilson's visit.

At the end of the conference an interview committee was formed to organise the rally and to call an inaugural meeting of the delegate committee against the cuts demanded by the conference. The committee can be contacted through Jim Bewsher (NUPE), phone 01-720 7844.

DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY to save Poplar Hospital and stop the cuts Monday 19 May
—when Harold Wilson opens the National Museum of Labour History at Limehouse Town Hall
Assemble 4.30pm with banners in Newbury Place, London E14 (near All Saints, off East India Dock Road) to march to Limehouse.

A second answer came that night at a meeting called by the Manchester Education Working Party sponsored by NUT, NUS, ATTI, AUT, NALGO, NUPE, ACTS and Manchester Trades Council, where 200 public sector trade unionists passed a motion setting up a joint action committee which was instructed to collect and publish information on the cuts to contact other public sector unions, to reconvene a further meeting in six weeks time and to present recommendations for action.

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

DON'T BENN'S WORKERS' PARTICIPATION PLANS OFFER A WAY FORWARD?

Daily Mail WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1975

Steel chief Sir Monty sends an icy reply to Minister

DON'T INTERFERE MR BENN!



Lever attacks Benn as Wilson takes back-seat Benn's wings

Chrysler tries crude deception to stall strike

By Paul O'Brien (TGWU steward, Chrysler Stoke)

CHRYSLER'S 'revolutionary proposals for worker participation and profit sharing' are a crude deceit. Their aim is simple: to stall the strike action at the factory at Stoke, Coventry, and to shatter our power on the shop floor.

The same proposals were put forward by Chrysler in 1969—and rejected by the workers on the advice of the same two local union officials who are now advising us to sit and look at the company's latest offer. The difference between the 1969 plan and this one is a 'profit sharing' scheme which will give all workers a share of some of the profits which Chrysler claim they don't make.

Chrysler have generously agreed to 'open their books' to us. They are also 'prepared to consider' ap-



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

pointments of workers to the board, workers' access to plans and workers' access to scheduling committees.

All we have to do is accept the new procedure agreement—and promise not to go on strike.

The scheme also gives us every opportunity to participate in speed-up. We are bound to accept the industrial engineer's figures. This would mean that the control of manning and track speeds which we have built up over years on the shop floor is to be surrendered. That is what they mean by participation.

The shop stewards are expected under the scheme to be much more involved in the day-to-day supervision. They will change from workers' representatives into shop floor policemen.

The most dangerous part of the whole scheme is about jobs. Redundancies are necessary, the company says. The present rate of 'attrition' (their new, charming word for 'natural wastage') must be maintained.

Chrysler are also floating again the proposal for a National Negotiating Body as at Ford. They hope this would transfer power from the shop floor to full-time officials and convenors, and bring the highest pay rates down to the latest.

All this is necessary, Chrysler tell us, to get £35 million of the government's money. This loan would offset previous losses, and would go straight back to Detroit.

The Industrial Relations Act attempted to control the shop floor and failed. The Social Contract attempts to control the shop floor through the trade union officials but clearly is failing.

The new effort to do the same thing is called 'participation'.

Far from standing back and allowing our power to be eroded we have vigorously to oppose Chrysler's Bennery, and in its place we must guarantee our jobs and living standards:

- Nationalisation without compensation—NOW!
● Shop stewards' control of manning, track speeds, and hiring and firing.
● No redundancies.

THE SUN SPEAKS ITS MIND SACK BENN! MR HAROLD Wilson arrived back in London last night with one headache more acute than all the others. The problem: What to do about Her Majesty... VOLUNTARY BENERY

Why are they after Benn's blood?

ONE of the foulest hate campaigns in the history of Fleet Street is now being waged against Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry.

It is impossible to open a newspaper without reading an attack on him—either direct, like the Sun's headline last Saturday SACK BENN, or indirectly through gossip columns and cleverly-slanted headlines.

By all accounts, the prime minister is sympathetic to these attacks. Almost all the Sunday newspapers last weekend predicted that Benn would be transferred after the Common Market referendum into a 'less dangerous' job.

What lies behind these attacks? Socialist Worker has argued before that Benn's actions do not represent any real threat to those who own British industry and who are responsible for the present crisis. His solution to this crisis is to pump enormous government funds into industry, much of it into the hands of these very people, though with increased state shareholdings in private companies.

So £60 million of government money is to be offered to British Leyland shareholders as 'compensation'. That is rather like paying burglars to stop thieving.

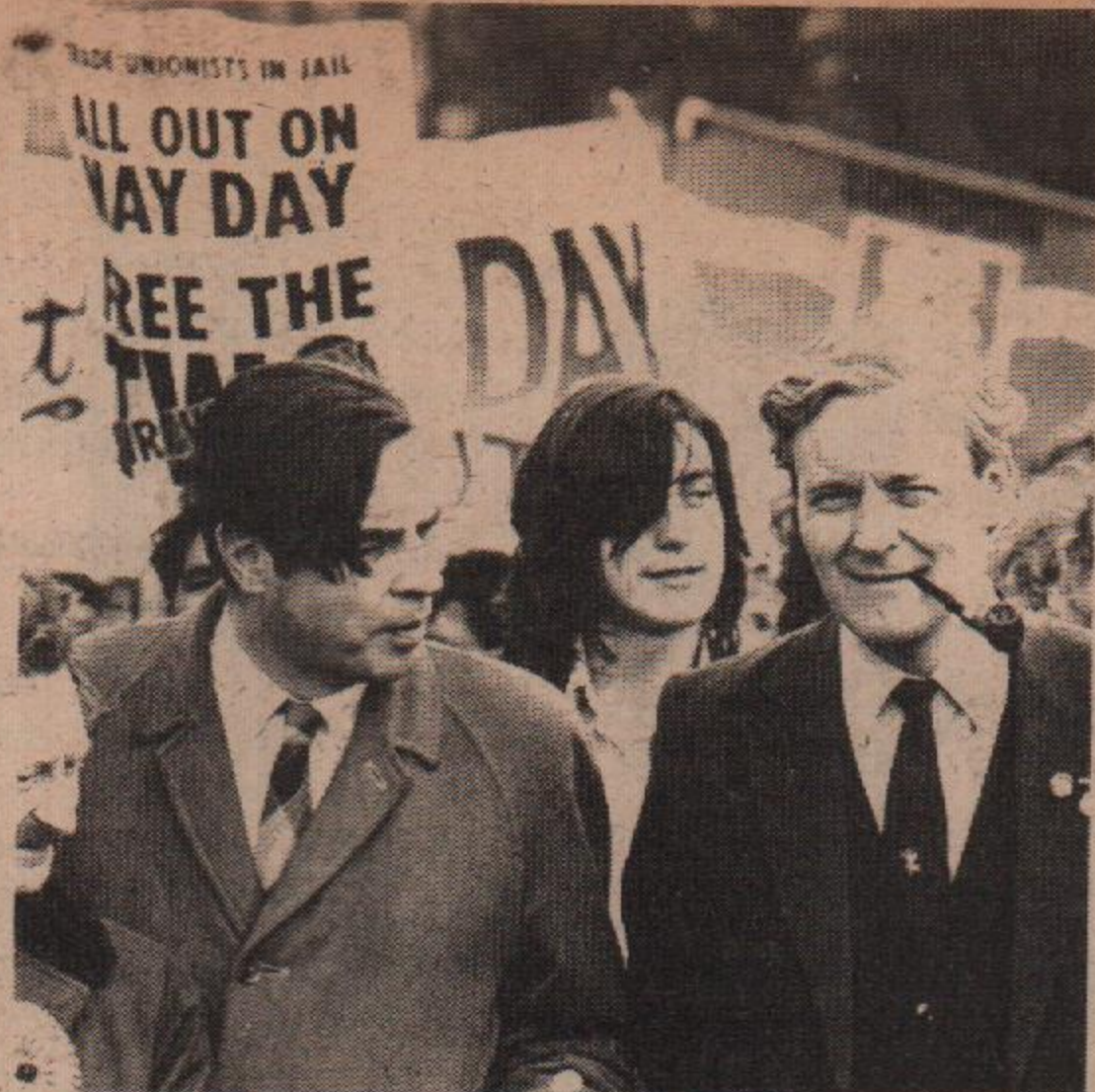
The Industry Bill makes it clear there will be no compulsory state takeover by Benn's National Enterprise Board. In the same way the 'planning agreements', by which employers, state and unions discuss investment plans and manning levels, will be completely 'voluntary'.

These proposals do not represent any real threat to big business. They leave the real power, the power of deciding on investment and profit levels, in the hands of the employing class.

Ownership

It is no wonder that The Guardian last Friday could report: 'The Conservative members of the committee examining the Bill have been notably conciliatory... Indeed Tory MPs complain that the real opposition has come from left-wing Labour MPs who claim the Bill does not go nearly far enough in the direction of state ownership and control.'

Benn is not taking measures to end the present control of industry by a small and wealthy minority interested only in profits. He



Wedgwood Benn marching on May Day: The slogan says 'Free the Two, but Benn's government keeps them in jail. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

WHAT WE THINK

is trying to operate within that minority's system, hoping somehow to use state assistance and workers' participation to make it function in a slightly more efficient and slightly less vicious manner.

That is why he always talks of collaboration, not conflict, between workers, employers and the state; 'the three sides of industry'.

That is why, when it comes to the question of wages and manning levels, his approach is hardly different to that of his right-wing critics. Last week he was urging the leaders of the iron and steel workers' union to lodge a low pay claim, within the Social Contract.

Why then the hate campaign against Benn from sections of big business and from the press?

They are not frightened by what Benn proposes. They are frightened by the ideas and actions which his speeches might unleash.

When Benn goes on about a 'measure of public control' he means a safe government appointee on the board and a lot of free government cash. But workers might take him to mean that they can kick the boss out and run the job themselves.

When Benn goes on about 'workers' participation' he means a trade union leader on the board and workers discussing how to solve their employers' problems. But workers might take him to mean that they should have total control of manning levels and track speeds, and that unemployment should be banished for good.

For other sections of big business, much more is involved.

In the past big businessmen were willing to accept talk of collaboration between the 'different sides of industry', and pay the price for getting workers to accept such talks—the odd job saved here, wage rises that nearly kept abreast of price rises, food subsidies, the existence of at least some welfare services. Now, however, they feel that the only way they can protect their profits and survive the crisis is to replace class collaboration by class war, to mount an onslaught on the gains workers have made in the past.

Conditions

They are demanding from the government many more redundancies, much more vicious cutbacks in public spending, a quick abolition of food subsidies, and a much harder wages policy.

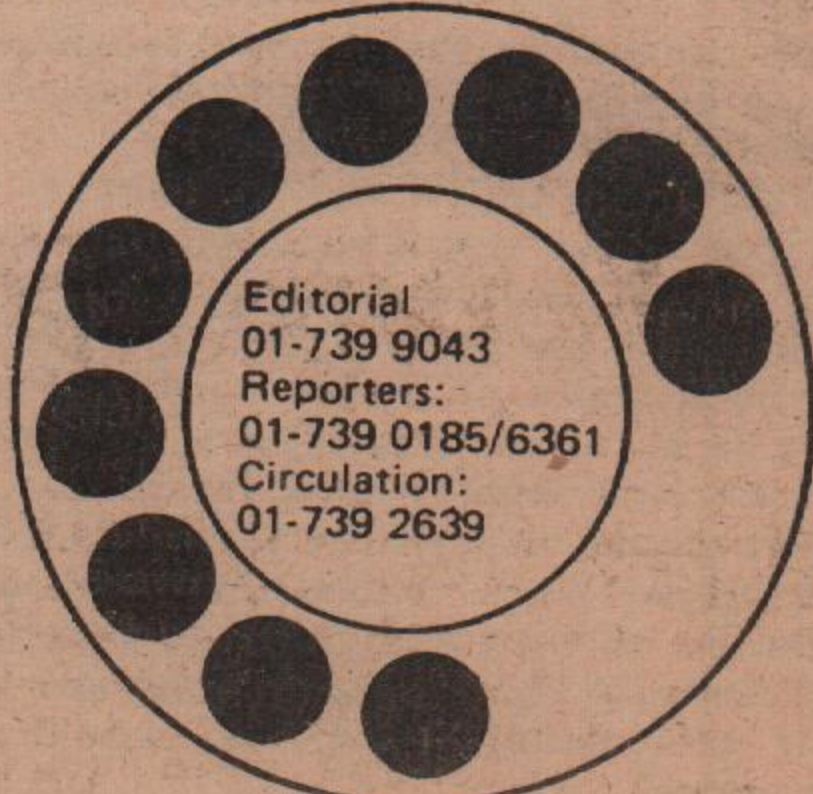
They see ministers such as Benn or Foot, who pursue the old class collaborationist policies and engage in left-wing rhetoric, as an obstacle to their plans. They want Wilson to rely more and more on Tory support.

In such conditions, any moves by Wilson against Benn or Foot will be a clearing of the ground for a much harder attack on workers' wages and conditions—which is why workers in the unions and on the factory floor must oppose these moves.

The irony is that Benn and Foot will shun the only force which can protect them—the power of workers on the shop floor—their central political belief is that things are decided by debates in parliament.

We must keep up the shop floor campaign against Wilson's policies. We must help organise on the shop floor to fight against the drift to the right of Wilson's government. We must show by the effectiveness of that fight that the only road to socialism is by socialist organisation on the shop floor.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)



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WHY IS THERE A CRISIS? WHAT'S THE WAY OUT?

CAPITALISM: The one thing we'll 'sacrifice'

By **CHRIS HARMAN**

THE CRISIS of the British economy, we are told again and again, is our fault. The only cure can be to cut our living standards, tighten our belts and work harder.

This is the message that the press, the radio, the TV, the Tory Party and Labour Ministers hammer home all the time. It underlines Wilson's plan for meetings of trade union leaders, industrialists and the government to discuss, every year, the division of the national cake. Yet there are massive holes in the argument.

Ignore, for a moment, the way it assumes everyone, from the richest millionaire to the poorest pensioner, has the same interest.

It used to be taken for granted that the economy grew larger every year, by at least two or three per cent. In the last 18 months, the crisis has meant that it has stopped growing.

If it hadn't stopped growing, if the million people at present unemployed were able to work, they would all be turning out more goods, and there would be much more wealth available. Instead of 'the country living beyond its means', it would be more than breaking even and no 'sacrifice' would be needed.

Inflation and unemployment: The way out...

THERE IS a way out of the crisis without cutting workers' living standards and increasing unemployment. But it is a way open only to those prepared to break completely with capitalism and fight for a socialist transformation of society.

Despite all the talk of crisis, there are vast amounts of wealth available in Britain. In 1973 the total amount paid out to individuals as rent, interest and dividends amounted to £4,419 million.

Most of this was used up by the very rich on their own personal consumption. They spent £145 million on domestic servants—the same amount as the total expenditure through the Stock Exchange on new shares.

And these figures only indicate one part of the wealth of the rich. They ignore the massive salaries the directors of companies pay themselves and they take no account of the expenses fiddles of companies so huge that half the new cars bought in Britain are paid for by companies.

There is also a fantastic waste of resources. The press harps on about 'public expenditure'—meaning spending on essentials such as education, hospitals and welfare services. They hardly mention the £4000 million spent on the armed forces or the way in which spending on the police has doubled in three years.

Then there is the waste within private industry—the £800 million a year that goes on advertising, the £1000 million spent on Concorde, the £6000 spent every year on running the banks and insurance companies, most of it concerned merely with calculating exactly how much profit and interest are to be distributed among different members of the employing class.

Next time you hear complaints about the scale of government spending, remember that the banking system costs as much to run as the education system and the health service combined.

Such scales of luxury consumption and waste enable us to see clearly how a genuinely socialist state would begin to solve the crisis.

It would abolish the privileges of the rich, re-organising those industries which produce real luxuries to turn out goods to satisfy the needs of the mass of the people. The import bill would be cut immediately, as luxuries would no longer be imported.

All the talk of 'sacrifice' obscures this basic point. It diverts attention from the real question which workers should ask: why shouldn't industry be working as it used to, why shouldn't the unemployed have jobs?

And it is no good replying, as some politicians do, with talk of oil. The increase in the cost of oil to this country last year amounted to 3-4 per cent of total economic production. Had production grown at its old rate, the increased cost of oil would quickly have been paid off.

The real cause of the economic crisis does not lie in workers spending too much. It lies instead in the present organisation of the economy, which prevents continual economic growth and drives us into repeated crises.

A brief look at the history of the last four years proves the point. In 1972-3 the British economy grew very fast, at about six per cent. Every section of industry was working flat out. Some firms were so short of workers that they paid bonuses to skilled men who joined them from neighbouring factories.

There was talk then about the need for

'sacrifice'. The Tory government, with Phases One and Two of its wages policy, forced workers to make that sacrifice. Profits rose by about 60 per cent in two years, while wages stagnated.

But instead of getting the 'unparalleled period of prosperity' which the Tories promised us, all we got was the crisis at the end of 1973.

This was not some natural occurrence. It was a product of the chaotic organisation of the economic boom. Businessmen made their factories turn out as many goods in the quickest possible time so as to be the first to get at the massive profits. That not only happened in this country, but in every country in the world.

Driven forward by blind competition and the lust for profits, there was a huge expansion of industrial output.

But there was no planning, no co-ordination between the different sections of industry within Britain or internationally to ensure that the supply of raw materials grew at the same speed as the demand of industry for raw

materials.

Indeed, sections of industry saw that their interests in profits could lie in holding up the supply of raw materials.

The giant paper manufacturers, like Bowaters and Reeds, for instance, deliberately did not expand their productive capacity. Instead, they let the increased demand for paper push the price up. Other firms and wealthy individuals bought up supplies of wheat, copper and tin, forcing their prices up.

Above all, the American oil companies held back the production of oil at a time when the demand for it rose nearly ten per cent. The result? At the end of 1973, the oil states were able to push its price up.

These increases in the prices of raw materials caused the lunge from boom to slump. And the price increases were an inevitable product of capitalism, of the control of industrial wealth by a few competing individuals.

In the case of Britain, the problem has been made worse by the behaviour of the capitalists. Instead of investing their profits in new machinery and factories, as many of their foreign rivals did, they preferred to speculate on commodities, on land or on office building, or simply to increase their own private consumption.

In three years, no less than £4000 million poured into speculation in land and office building in London alone. Another £3000 million was sent out of the country, for foreign investment—much of it in land and office speculation in other European capitals.

The Ryder report on British Leyland complained that the company had given its profits away to its shareholders instead of investing them in re-equipping the factories.

But British Leyland was not unique. In 1972, the 840 largest kept £3,400 million of profits and paid out £956 million in dividends and interest, but spent only £1,526 million on investment.

Control

That is why British big business finds itself at such a disadvantage compared with its foreign competitors, with nearly 38 per cent of new cars imported.

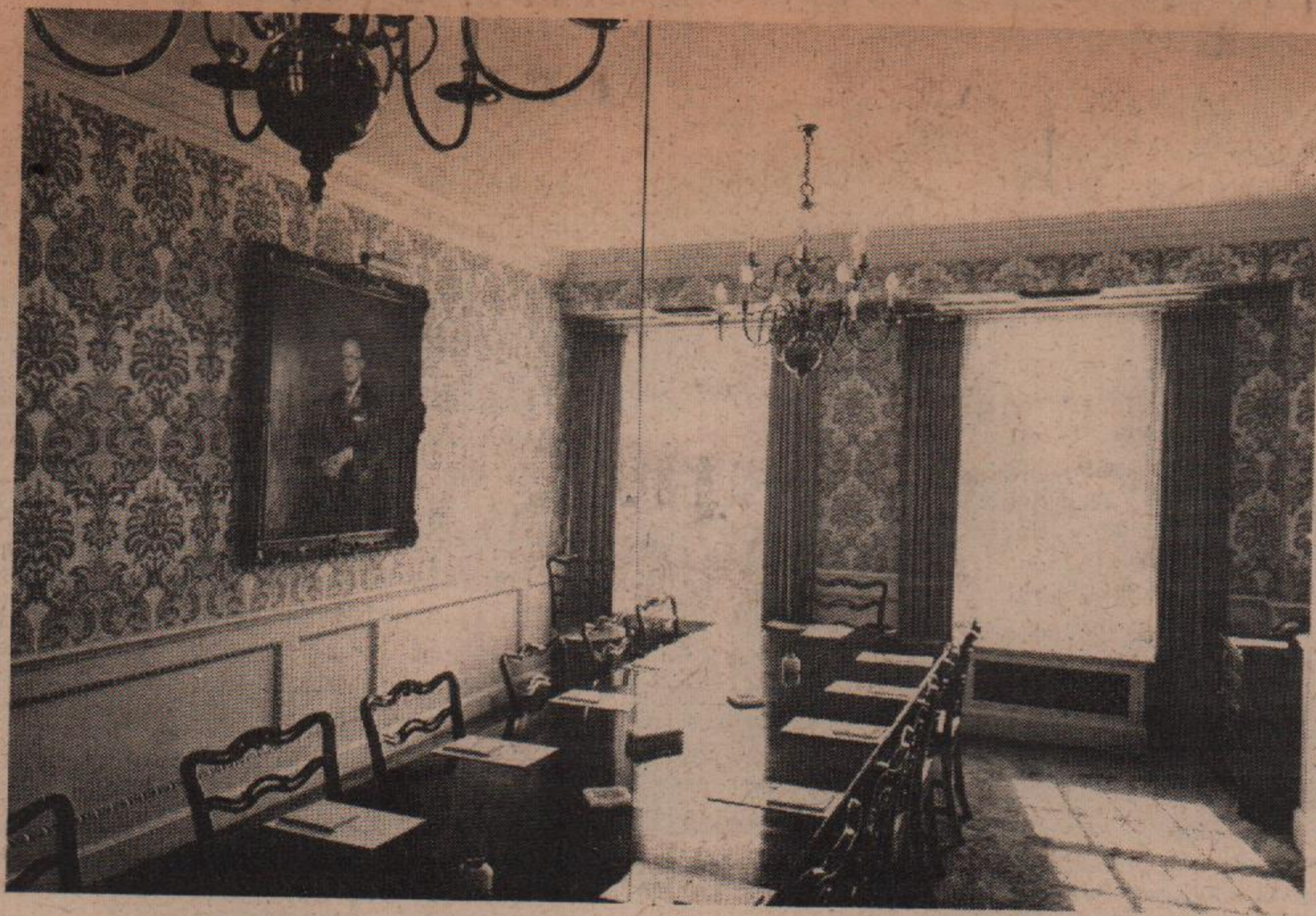
Big business will not, however, accept peaceably changes in the system, despite its clear failings. Look, for instance, at their reaction to Anthony Wedgwood Benn's recent suggestion that there should be limited government control over the funds of financial corporations to ensure that they go into industry, not speculation.

The proposal does not challenge the fundamentals of the capitalist system. It accepts the profit motive and the organisation of production on competitive lines, and it does nothing about individual, as opposed to corporate, holdings of wealth.

But it has been enough to drive whole sections of big business into hysterical rage. For the one thing they will not agree to, despite all their talk of 'sacrifice', is any loss of their holy right to do what they like with their massive concentrations of wealth.

Wilson, Healey, Prentice, and the rest have accepted this

They are doing their utmost to 'harden' the Social Contract, even though they themselves know it cannot do anything about the anarchy of the system and the drive to crisis.



The sumptuous boardroom of Cedar Holdings, one of dozens of fringe bankers who cashed in on the boom only to collapse when it ended.

At the same time, the ban on the movement of funds overseas could contribute mightily to solving the balance of payments problem.

The takeover by the state of all concentrations of wealth above a certain level would ensure that investment took place in industry rather than in office building or speculation.

Necessarily, there would be planned reorganisation of production, so abolishing the absurd situation where workers in one car factory are told to accept lower wages so as to drive workers in another car factory out of their jobs.

Insufficient

The pre-conditions for any such change must be: NATIONALISATION without compensation of all the major companies, banks and financial institutions.

WORKERS' CONTROL of overall economic planning to ensure the reorganisation of industry to produce the goods that the mass of the population needs.

STATE CONTROL of foreign trade to prevent the wasteful import of luxuries for the rich and the export of capital.

THE SLASHING of the arms bill.

Anyone who disagrees with Wilson's policies but talks of changes less far reaching than these, is in reality talking of leaving capitalism as it is, but trying to run it more efficiently than Wilson.

Indeed, even the measures outlined here would

be insufficient if they merely relied upon some governmental decree for their implementation. Those who run industry would simply refuse to co-operate with any such decree, and would move their wealth out of the country at top speed, wrecking the economy.

British workers would have experiences similar to those of many workers in Portugal today, with the funds of companies simply disappearing, with money moved abroad through inflated invoices, through the selling of goods at reduced prices to the friends of businessmen abroad, and so on.

Such a programme, laying the basis for socialist planning of the economy, cannot be carried through without massive, powerful and organised rank and file activity from workers, taking over control of factories and offices, and imposing detailed control on the activities of managers from below.

Leading figures on the left of the Labour Party are unhappy with Wilson's policies. But unless they learn the lessons of why Labour behaves as it does, they can offer no real alternative.

If they were serious about wanting a different sort of policy, they would have to go beyond criticism of Wilson, to building a movement for nationalisation without compensation and under workers' control.

And they would have to mobilise massive rank and file strength to fight for such change where it matters, not in parliament, but in the factories.

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WHY IS A YES VOTE SO VITAL TO THE BOSSES? AND HOW CAN WE FIGHT IT?

THE Common Market referendum is now only three weeks away. Already the political right is making it clear that it sees 5 June as a decisive date in British politics.

The reason is clear enough. A big Yes vote would cement the agreement between the Tories, Labour right wing, press and big business which

has waged the pro-Market campaign.

That is why the rumours refer to Benn being sacked from the government after 5 June. That is why Shirley Williams, the right-wing Minister responsible for prices, has spoken openly about the Tories joining in government planning through the National Economic Development Council.

That is why the Financial Times could report: 'CBI representatives on the Council were understood to have expressed the view that if there were a Yes vote in the Common Market referendum, the Confederation would have great difficulty in restraining its member companies from refusing to co-operate with the industrial legislation...'

JULIAN GOSS, senior shop steward at Stelrads, Monmouth, explained last week at a public meeting in Bristol some of the important points which socialists have to get across in the anti-Market campaign. This is part of his speech.

A COUPLE of weeks ago at the annual conference of the Welsh TUC, we debated the Common Market and were stunned to hear some of the most notorious boot-lickers in the trade union movement tugging our heart strings with speeches about internationalism and brotherhood, in their attempts to make the Common Market seem attractive.

On the other hand the left, including many Communist Party members, were extolling the virtues of 'our' parliamentary democracy and appealing to us to preserve the 'sovereignty' of parliament—the same parliament that keeps the Shrewsbury pickets in jail.

This isn't a debate, it's a ritual. The two sides, circling each other like praying mantises, never come near the central issues affecting us on the shop floor. They are happy to do the job of the ruling class, diverting our attention from the Healey budget, the Social Con-trick, and the redundancy offensive. The vital issues are lost in a spurious argument about the 'internationalism' of the Common Market.

Leaders

Divisionary tactics like these are well-known to militants on the shop floor. When you ask for a £10 rise and the boss offers 15 per cent, many trade unionists will be side-tracked into arguing the relative merits of a percentage wage rise as opposed to a rise across-the-board. They become trapped in an argument about two things they *don't* want. That is what we are getting from many of our leaders at the moment.

The choice between preserving the sovereignty of the British parliamentary or embracing the international ruling class in the Common Market is no choice at all. It's up to us to reassert what we *do* want.

Socialists fight for unity, not between the ruling classes of Europe, but between rank and file workers wherever they are. We fight to defend and improve living standards, and to strengthen our organisations.

In the Common Market migrant labour is shunted into the bottleneck of production and channelled into the most filthy, dangerous and low-paid jobs, Foundry work, con-



Tory Whitelaw, Liberal Steel and right-wing Labour Jenkins—coalition for one issue, coalition for all?

Stop the ritual, start the fight!

struction and catering are obvious examples. These are migrants from the poorer regions of the Market, from Ireland and the South of Italy, as well as from Africa and Eastern Europe.

And what happens when the economy slumps? They are the first to get the boot, and they are shunted right back to the depressed areas where they come from.

To workers, the market means rationalisation, racialism incorporated into the state planning, and jobs and capital disappearing from traditional areas of strong working-class organisation and surfacing far away.

Sham

The bosses are already organised internationally in their multinational companies and their military alliances. This is the internationalism that Ted Heath and Reg Prentice believe in.

The job of the working class is to organise harder and better, linking up with rank and file workers in all industries and in all countries. We reject absolutely the sham democracy of parliament, and we reject the Bosses Market on *any* terms.

FOOD — WHY THE SILENCE?

THE pro-Market coalition of Tory and right-wing Labour is still claiming that the Common Market has nothing to do with food prices. But glance through the back pages of big businesses' own papers and you find a different story.

Take, for instance, an article by the agricultural correspondent of the Financial Times last Friday. This points out how the high price policy of the Common Market has led to large amounts of milk products that consumers cannot afford to buy. So there is a stockpile of half a million tons of skimmed milk, which is expected to grow to a million tons by the end of the year.

Says the article: 'In Britain Mr Healey has announced that some of the consumer food subsidies are going to be phased out. A reduction in these, plus the establishment of the

Common Market level at the end of the transitional period, would probably double the retail price of butter by 1978'. At the same time the correspondent expects measures to be taken up to keep out butter and cheese from non-Common Market countries such as New Zealand, because they are being offered for sale 'at a lower price'.

Avoid

On the same page, the Brussels correspondent of the paper reported on discussions within the European Commission on future plans for mutton and lamb. At the moment, mutton and lamb prices in Britain are not affected by the Common Market arrangements. But pressure is building in a 'common lamb regime', a move which 'would put up lamb prices in the shops'.

This move would be welcomed by British sheep farmers, because it would 'lead to a marked rise in their prices'. But of course, it would be unpopular with workers in various countries including Britain.

So 'officials are avoiding even talking about the subject until after the referendum on 5 June.'

Bosses organise...

THE pro-Market European Movement last week refused to say which multi-national companies were financing it. A spokesman said they would only publish their finances at the end of the campaign.

The Confederation of British Industry is throwing its weight behind the 'Yes' campaign. It will be spending £50,000 in the next few weeks trying to persuade workers to vote in the interests of their bosses.

But the actual sums spent by big business as a whole will be much greater. The Economist reports that 'individual companies will themselves be spending a fair amount of effort, and some money, to get their workers to say Yes to the Market...'

All this makes it imperative that trade union bodies, at both national and local level, start arguing for a NO vote now, with factory meetings, leaflets, and calls for stoppages to go to vote on referendum day.

...BUT SO CAN WORKERS!

THIS is how to get the NO campaign going. North Hertfordshire joint trade union and trades councils anti-Common Market Committee have organised six lunchtime factory gate meetings in Stevenage and Letchworth between 30 May and 5 June. Members of the International Socialists are active in the committee and are the principal speakers at two of the factory gate meetings.

The meetings are:

JONES CRANES, Dunhams Lane, Letchworth: Monday 2 June, 1pm. Speaker: Bro K Jones.

MORSE CHAIN, Works Road, Letchworth: Tuesday 3 June, 1pm. Speaker: Bro A Evans.

INDUSTRIAL AREA, Letchworth: Thursday 5 June, 8am-1pm. Speakers: Bro K Jones and Bro Simon Madison.

ICL, Icknield Way, Letchworth: Wednesday 4 June, 1pm. Speaker: Tom Badstevener (AUEW district secretary).

TAYLOR INSTRUMENTS, Stevenage: Friday 30 May, 3pm. Speaker: Tom Badstevener (AUEW district secretary).

□□

Of three posters, only one mentions even food prices. Another merely says 'Vote, Get Britain Out'. The third shows an absurd picture of Nelson's column with a bubble saying 'England Expects every man shall do his duty—Get Britain Out'. And some trade unionists were even expected to carry this one on a demonstration in Edinburgh!

Such propaganda is not going to win people who have been subject to the daily barrage of pro-Market argument from the press.

Socialists need to show the effects of a Yes vote on the lives and struggles of working people, how a Yes vote will strengthen those who are pushing for higher prices, higher unemployment, more wage restraint, cuts in welfare, education and the Health Service. Unless the campaign is carried on all these fronts, then many workers will lose interest in it, or even vote Yes out of boredom with the rhetoric of many anti-Marketees.

□□

Socialists who are serious about a fight against the Wilson-Tory alliance, have only 20 days left to build up a real campaign.

That means getting a leaflet out to every one in your workplace *now*, arguing why trade unionists must vote No. Do this through your shop stewards' committee or your union branch if you can. If you can't, groups of socialists in the factories must go ahead themselves.

Plaster the factories with posters which give workers arguments against the Market. Call on your stewards' committees to organise factory meetings on the Market and the alliance of the Tories and the Labour right, within worktime if possible.

Use factory and union organisation to spearhead the campaign within working-class districts.

TWO MEN WHO SUPPORT JAMES WHITE'S FORTHCOMING ABORTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975



JAMES WHITE, M.P.
MANAGING DIRECTOR



CHARLIE STOKES:
BACK STREET ABORTIONIST.

QUESTIONS ON THE CRISIS

SIR MONTY Finniston wants 20,000 redundancies in the British Steel Corporation over the next few months.

What is more, according to one of those bootlicking articles that our 'quality' newspapers produce in such cases, 'his method is scientific' and 'he cannot, for the life of him, understand' why anyone should make a fuss about it.

Let us see what his 'science' amounts to. British steelmaking, he says, is uncompetitive. It has too many workers.

So ten per cent of the workers must go in short order and 'uncompetitive' plants must shut up shop.

Of course, this will have a devastating effect in South Wales and elsewhere. Massive and prolonged unemployment, the decay of whole communities, enormous social costs.

Never mind, says the 'scientific' Finniston. That is not my business. Someone else will have to pick up the bill for all that. BSC must be run on sound commercial lines. It must become 'profitable' at all costs.

It is always easy to talk about something being done 'at all costs' when you are not going to be the one to pay.

But aren't redundancies inevitable?

To start with some facts. Last year there was an acute shortage of steel in Britain. With all its plants going full-blast and with its labour relations helped out by one of the most docile, right-wing unions in existence, BSC simply could not satisfy its customers.

About £500 million worth of steel had to be imported. This had nothing at all to do with costs or 'uncompetitive' prices. Nothing of the sort.

Every ton BSC produced was snatched up. It simply could not produce enough. Obviously, more capacity was needed.

BSC has known this for years. Its long-term plans call for an increase in capacity from the present 25 million tons a year to at least 35 million by 1980.

But last year the effects of the world boom were still being felt. Now the slump is on.

'Demand for steel has turned down more rapidly than the industry has ever before experienced, with Europe's steelmakers hardest hit' says an article in a recent issue of *The Economist*.

'They are leading a price war, cutting list prices of many products by at least half, and are pleading with Brussels (ie the EEC Commission) for protection. The Japanese have large tonnages ready to export... The Americans have simply cut back all round.'

This is a world crisis. The Japanese industry, said to be the most efficient in the world, is currently running at heavy losses.

Planned

Indeed, just because it is based on super-modern, giant capacity, high productivity plants (whose unit costs rise very rapidly as output falls) it has been *harder hit* than the less modern British industry.

This is not an argument for out of date methods as such. It is a statement of the basic truth that our press and TV are desperately anxious to conceal, that *under capitalism* more productivity, more efficiency is not the slightest protection against economic crisis.

So long as production is carried on for profit—Finniston's 'sound commercial lines'—the boom-slump cycle with all the misery it entails is inevitable.

We say that workers should refuse to pay the price of capitalist chaos, should refuse to accept closures, should seize the plants to defend jobs.

Our 'scientific' management experts and their kept press say this is 'Luddism', obstructing progress and so on.

Not at all. Under a planned economy, based on control by the actual producers, the workers, with production for need and not profit, there would indeed be a need to phase out old plants as newer replacements became available.

But it would be done on the basis of long-term plans that would ensure that no-one became redundant.

They speak of efficiency. But the source of all production is work. It is far, far more 'inefficient' to have workers on the dole producing *nothing* than to have them working in an old-fashioned plant producing *something*.

Under capitalism, profit is king and the crazy notion that unemployment is necessary for 'efficiency' is the received wisdom.

Under socialism, the necessary work is shared out according to what is required. As productivity rises, the working week is cut without any loss to the workers.

The present crisis is *their* crisis, the crisis of *their* system. Not one sacrifice should be accepted to keep this rotten system afloat.

DUNCAN HALLAS

You were saying, Comrade Wilson?

THE NEED for a strong British computer industry has been one of the few planks of Harold Wilson's 'technological revolution' to have weathered the storms of the last 12 years.

Millions of pounds have been poured into ICL—the only computer company owned by British capitalists—by successive governments.

Workers at ICL have, consequently, been rather taken aback by the decision of the Labour Party HQ.

After years of national flag-waving by Wilson and Benn, the HQ have just invested £40,000 in a new American IBM computer.

What particularly surprised them was the HQ's failure to put out tenders for the contract. Apart from ICL, other companies such as Burroughs and Transport House's previous supplier, NCR, were ignored.

This is especially annoying for NCL workers, since the success their 2903 computers have achieved over the last few years has been at the expense of the IBM System Three—the model chosen by the Labour Party.

In tests, the ICL product has been shown to be considerably more efficient—and cheaper.

Workers at ICL have started to move on the issue. 'What makes it particularly annoying,' said one, 'is the proud record IBM have—for keeping trade unionism out of their company.'

But the story remains a mystery. For the Labour Party are financing their IBM with an anonymous £40,000 donation. And the conditions laid down by the worthy benefactor remain unknown.

It would be distressing to think that patriotic tub-thumping was merely for Party conferences. But doubtless the decision was made on hard, gritty, technological grounds, although all Transport House was prepared to tell ICL questioners was that the decision was made 'for good reasons'.

What these were should occupy the attention of ICL workers over the next four months. Many will have ample time for thought, since redundancies are in the pipeline...

5 FIFTH COLUMN



How British justice robbed this man of £600,000

ROY STEPHENS couldn't believe his luck. The accumulator bet he had placed at his local William Hill betting shop in Liverpool had come good to the staggering tune of £600,000. But there was a problem: the William Hill limit on winnings is £100,000.

Still, even that's not peanuts. And so Roy went to the shop to pick up his money. He was asked to go back the following Monday.

He did—and was sent to the Liverpool head office. But if he expected a bottle of champagne and the congratulations of a starlet, he was soon to be disillusioned.

Roy explains: 'On arrival, I was greeted with introductions to William Hill's security services and some members of the local police force. I was questioned about the placing of my bet and then asked to accompany the police officers to the police station.'

They grilled him for eight hours. He was then charged with 'deception'. When his case came up in court, the betting shop manager admitted taking the bet, but claimed he had failed to record it on the firm's photostat machine. According to William Hill's rules, that made the bet invalid.

Mr Stephens was acquitted, but he has not had a penny of his winnings.

How clumsy of the manager not to have recorded the bet. How surprising of the Liverpool police to have subjected Mr Stephens to such treatment.

And how unfortunate for Mr Stephens. Still there's nothing like a bet to take your mind off everyday problems is there?

Except in Liverpool or with William Hill's, or when, like Mr Stephens, you are black...

A MILD DOSE OF PARANOIA...

THE RECENT appearance in Cardiff of that world-famous mass murderer and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Henry Kissinger produced a remarkable sight—an eight-ton armour-plated Cadillac.

Seems he goes nowhere without it. One special feature is an air-filtering device so efficient that Kissinger can be driven without harm through clouds of poisonous gas.

Now who would want to be so nasty to such an outstanding peacemaker?

The land of plenty

MOST PEOPLE believe the United States is the land of plenty. Most people can't imagine poverty, let alone starvation, in the midst of so much wealth. Most people don't read the New York Times...

FOOTNOTE to the stable lads' pay claim and the 'bankrupt' racing industry:

Lady Beaverbrook, the toast of British racing, whose spending at world bloodstock sales has reached epic proportions and whose charm never falters...

Ruff's Guide to the Turf for 1975 estimates Lady Beaverbrook's spending on racehorses to date as £3,750,000, only a fraction of which has ever been recovered (in prize money).

Ravi Tikoo, chairman of Globtik Tankers, whose spending at bloodstock sales has now probably passed £2,000,000.

'When I look at a horse,' says Mr Tikoo, 'money has no meaning. £2,000,000? It's nothing.'

These interesting facts appeared in the Financial Times on 22 March.

A recent issue described the death in St Petersburg, Florida last October of Elsie DeFratrus, a 79-year old widow:

... she chose to attempt to manage on her Social Security cheques of less than 100 dollars a month, and with the cost of her room, 15 dollars a week, and her transportation to and from the Post Office to pick up her cheque, her food allowance was down to less than 65 cents a day.

'She had survived somehow for a long, long time on her meagre widow's pension, frugally measuring it against the rising prices, scrimping and scraping and skipping meals, making do with less and less each day until finally, on a recent morning at an ancient hotel in this city, she crumpled quietly to the floor of her dark and tiny apartment.

... An autopsy found no trace of food in her shrunken stomach.'

The web of lies behind the Phnom Penh 'massacre'

THE RIGHT-WING PRESS has been waging a hysterical campaign in a desperate attempt to justify its ten years of support for the war in Indochina. The Daily Mail, for instance, has been talking of the 'horror' of Phnom Penh, of the 'looting, rape and terror' that allegedly followed the collapse of the US's puppet government of Lon Nol.

Horror

But the evidence it produces to back up this picture is virtually nil. The French doctor Bernard Piquart, who was quoted as describing killings by the Khmer Rouge, later denied making any such statement. The only British reporter who remained in Phnom Penh after its liberation has written that 'in two weeks in the country I found no evidence to prove that there had been a massacre'.

In other words, the press has been deliberately lying so as to paint a picture of

horror, just as it lied for years to cover up what the Americans were doing as they bombed the country and killed one in ten of its population.

The only thing we know for certain about Cambodia is that the two million population of Phnom Penh has been forced to leave the city. The reasoning behind this policy of the Khmer Rouge seems to be that the US-backed war has so devastated the country that there will be mass starvation unless every person who possibly can, gets to work planting rice.

Of course, driving people from the cities is a far cry from the policies that socialists active in the working class movement in this country talk of. So, too, is the role of King Sihanouk as head of state. But the people who have been fighting in Cambodia have not claimed that

'massacre'

they were building socialism. They have been fighting a struggle for national liberation against US domination.

Unity

Similarly, the liberation forces in Vietnam did not fight on a socialist programme. Their programme, adopted in 1967, said that:

'The National Liberation Front consistently

advocates unity of all social strata, all classes, nationalities, political parties, organisations, religious groups, all patriots and progressives, irrespective of their political views, in order to fight jointly against the US imperialists and their lackeys, win back our sacred national rights, and build our own state'.

The programme promised to 'protect the right of ownership of the means of production and other property rights of the citizens in keeping with the laws of the state'.

The liberation movement did not give any special place to the working class.

During the American occupation there were many strikes by South Vietnamese workers over wages and conditions. But the National Liberation Front were not able to relate its programme to these struggles.

Basic

The new government has appealed to the city officials of Saigon to assist with reconstruction. These are the very people who administered the corrupt and brutal regime of Thieu.

Contrast this with the way Portuguese workers have realised that, if things are to change, a basic demand must be the purging of those who ran the old regime.

There are no workers' councils in Vietnam, no democratic bodies whereby workers can control the process of industrialisation. And so, inevitably, there will be a clash of interest between those who control the economy and those who do the work. Class differences may have been blurred over by the common struggle against the Americans. But they will not remain blurred.

Defeat

But this cannot detract from the tremendous achievement of the peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia in throwing out the Americans. By doing so, they have shown oppressed people everywhere that the most powerful regime in the world can be defeated.

And the fight against oppression and exploitation in Indochina itself will be a fight against the local oppressors only, who will not be able to rely on massive foreign forces and funds to smash the workers and peasants.

ANGOLA: THE PROFIT MOTIVE FOR MURDER

MORE THAN 1000 people have been killed in fighting in Luanda, the capital of the former Portuguese colony of Angola, in the last few weeks.

The western press explains this in terms of 'in-fighting' between the liberation movements'. But the reality is much more ominous.

The most popular organisation among the mass of Angolans, particularly in Luanda, is the MPLA, which bore the brunt of most of the fighting against the Portuguese until the Portuguese acknowledged defeat. But it is threatened by the much greater military force of another movement, the FNLA.

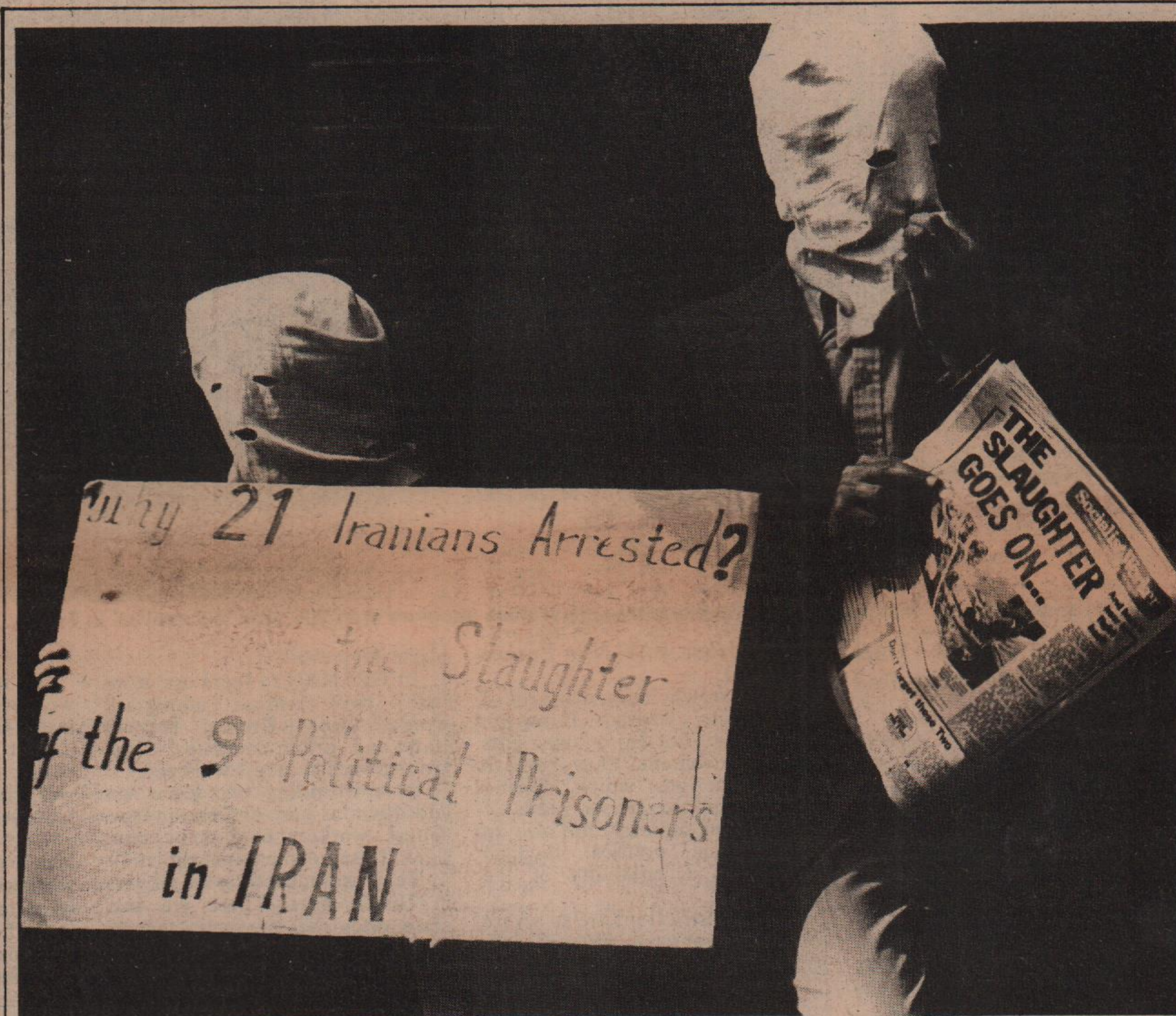
The FNLA began life as a tribalist, racist movement 14 years ago, which massacred members of rival tribes and whites. After that, it played a low-key role.

Its leaders concentrated on building a strong, regular, standing army inside neighbouring Zaire (formerly the Congo). There they received protection and funds from the government of Mobutu, who was brought to power by the CIA after the killing of leaders such as Lumumba who resisted foreign pressures.

Now the Portuguese have been defeated, the FNLA is moving into Angola, hoping to take control of that country's massive resources for its patrons in Zaire and the US. Its efforts are being aided by many right-wing officers with influential positions in the remaining Portuguese army units.

It is no mere coincidence that the 12 months since the defeat of the NATO backed Portuguese armies in Africa have seen the appointment to key US diplomatic posts in Zaire, Malawi and South Africa of a team of officials previously prominent in South American countries such as Guatemala and Chile.

The same methods that protected US big business interests there are now being used against the people of Angola. The corpses now piling up in Luanda are testimony to the vicious ruthlessness with which they pursue profit.



Two Iranian students picketing Bow Street magistrates court last week, when 21 of their comrades came up on charges of conspiracy to trespass in their own embassy last May Day. The 21 had been held for eight days in Brixton prison after police refused bail. Their

homes were raided and searched.

Now the 21 have been released on bail of £250 each. Each has to report to the police every day, and cannot leave London or go near the embassy.

Picture: Angela Phillips (IFL)

The soldier who confessed...

A FORMER British army lieutenant has admitted that he murdered a young Catholic in the Ardoyne area of Belfast in October 1971.

The confession blows the official British statement on the killing to pieces. That statement, issued immediately afterwards, insisted that 22-year-old Michael McLarnon, the murdered man, was a 'terrorist' who was seen 'organising an ambush near his home'.

Now this statement, a typical product of the British Army whitewash machine, has been disproved by the soldier who fired the fatal shot.

This man, former Green Howards lieutenant Clifford Burrage, made his confession in a letter to the McLarnon family.

The letter reveals that because Burrage was hit on the head by a flying bottle, he decided to take his revenge.

Three days after, Burrage picked on Michael McLarnon and shot him dead. Burrage was able to do this because he was confident that the army propaganda machine would cover up his murderous activities. After all, they probably encouraged them in the first place.

After the murder, the McLarnon family protested vigorously against the British army statement. They maintained that their son had just

gone outdoors. Then he staggered in saying 'I've been hit by a rubber bullet.' In fact, it was a live bullet.

Burrage, who is studying to be a clergyman, now says the murder has been troubling his conscience. But, he told the News of the World, if he was back in uniform he would to the same again because he would only be doing his job.

This is typical of the mindless militarism which the British army encourages to justify murder.

Delegates

Now the McLarnon family will probably get a few pounds compensation for the loss of their dead son. And then the British army will return to their murderous activities.

Remember Michael McLarnon the next time you hear someone on about the British army's 'peacekeeping' activities in Northern Ireland. Remember former Lieutenant Burrage and his fellow officers who encouraged and covered up his deeds next time you hear about IRA gangsters.

Support for the Troops Out trade union conference is growing. The following union branches have already agreed to send delegates:

AUEW—Chiswick 5, Marylebone 18 ME,

Cricklewood, Letchworth; AUEW/TASS—18 Divisional Council, 16 Divisional Council, 8 Divisional Council, Cheltenham.

TGWU—Fulham 1/504, Sussex District Committee, International Workers Branch; UCATT—Brixton 1, Nottingham General BE 265, Stepney; ASTMS—Colchester 5, West End, NW London Medical, SE London Medical, NE London Medical, Bristol.

NUPE—Bristol Health District; COHSE—Whipps Cross Hospital; NUT—Hackney, Lambeth, NALGO—City Poly, NUR—Manchester.

The following Trades Councils are also sending delegates: Hackney, Luton, Harrow, Oxford, Barnet, Yeovil, Leeds, Greenwich, West Ham, Battersea and Wandsworth, Kingston.

Doncaster, Crawley, Huddersfield, Cannock, Hounslow, Selby, Coventry, Southport, Trowbridge, Enfield, Edmonton, Warminster, Bath, Congleton.

Among other organisations delegating are St Pancras North and Camden, St Pancras South and Holborn, Islington North, Hendon South, Bristol NW, and Vauxhall, Labour Party Branches, Hornsey and Wokingham Labour Party Young Socialist branches and the Students Unions at Ruskin, Middlesex Poly, Ealing Tech, Teesside Poly, Central London Poly and Cambridge.

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

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

Slave labour in the Market

SAY NO TO THE BOSSES COMMON MARKET

Recently a German employer denounced his 17 Moroccan workers to the police as illegal immigrants. It was then discovered that he had not paid them for a whole year. He denounced them to the police when they raised the question of wages...

You won't read about this side of the Common Market in the capitalist press. You will read it in

international Socialism 77

- The journal answers the questions so many socialists want to know.
 - What is the Common Market all about?
 - How did it begin? Was it formed to benefit you—or big business?
- Read IS 77, 28p (inc postage), from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS

NORTH WEST LONDON: Thursday 29 May, 8pm, Anson Hall, Anson Road, NW2. Speakers: Chris Harman and international speakers.

LEEDS: Thursday 29 May, 8pm, The Peel, Boar Lane, City Centre.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Thursday 29 May, 8pm, Co-op Hall, Upper Tooting Road, Tooting (Tooting Bec Tube). Speakers: Duncan Hallas and member of Danish revolutionary group. Tickets 5p.

BRADFORD & KEIGHLEY: Thursday 22 May, 7.30pm, Star Hotel Westgate (opposite Morrisons), Bradford. Speaker: Dave Hallsworth (victimised Dyers and Bleachers militant).

WALSALL: Saturday 17 May, 12 noon, Red Lion, Park Street, Walsall. Speaker: Frank Henderson (shop steward, Austin Longbridge).

DERBY: Saturday 24 May, March 4.30pm, assemble in Willow Row. Rally, 5pm to 9pm, Queen's Hall, London Road. Speakers: Nigel Harris (IS), Gurnam Singh (IWA), Farouk Nawaz, (Chingari), Viplov Das Gupta (Association of Indian Communists). Organised in conjunction with the Indian Workers Association.

PETERBOROUGH: Thursday 15 May, 8pm, The Greyhound, Cathedral Square. Speaker: Paul Foot (editor, Socialist Worker).

CUMBERNAULD: Tuesday 20 May, Cumbernauld Town Hall, Sponsored 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.

LIVERPOOL: Thursday 22 May, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant. Speaker: Duncan Hallas (editor, International Socialism journal).

ALL LONDON: Tuesday 3 June, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1. (Holborn tube). Speakers: Tony Cliff and members of European revolutionary socialist organisations.

NORTH LONDON: Wednesday 28 May, 8pm, Lord Morrison Hall, Chesnut Grove, Chesnut Road, N17

VOTE NO! posters available from Elana Dallas, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Phone 01-739 1878.

VOTE NO! leaflets available from Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Phone 01-739 8600. 15p per 100.



This shanty town is 'home' for thousands of immigrant workers: there are more than 200 such 'bidonvilles' in France. Above right: living conditions for Turkish workers.

'WE DON'T sing Rule Britannia. We sing the Red Flag.'

Thus John Mackintosh, a backbench Labour MP and a rich lecturer from Scotland, arguing at the Labour Party conference last month that 'all true internationalists' should support the Common Market.

He was followed by Tom Jackson, the Post Office workers' leader, who pleaded for conference to remember their responsibilities to people throughout the world.

The government's own document, circulated to every household, says one of the 'aims' of the Market is to 'help people all over the world.'

This sort of talk has some effect. Socialists and trade unionists up and down the country become ashamed at taking a line which, they are told, is anti-internationalist.

Many black workers, seeing the National Front ranged on the anti-Market side, are inclined to say: 'This anti-Market campaign is just a lot of anti-foreigner, racist nonsense'.

Control

One simple fact explodes all this hogwash. The Common Market runs on contract labour. The profits of almost all the big manufacturers of Europe, not to mention the bankers which finance them and the speculators which feed off them, have depended on the continuous supply of foreign workers at cheap rates, who can be kept thoroughly under control.

In terms of the rate of exploitation—the amount of profit per worker—the exploitation of foreign workers under Common Market rules has been conceivably the worst in the whole wretched history of industrial capitalism.

A book published last year

about foreign workers in Europe concluded:

'The overwhelming majority of migrants to Western European countries do not enjoy any rights of free movement. They have to face restrictions which depend not only on the labour needs of the receiving country, but also on the personal, political, medical and ethnic acceptability of the immigrants.'

'Entry restrictions are so severe that immigrant-smuggling rackets have developed...'

'Even after they have secured entry, most immigrants remain second-class citizens, lacking political rights, and frequently not enjoying equal treatment on the labour market or with regard to social security.'

Legal

In FRANCE, there are three and a half million foreign workers. Many are illegal immigrants from Africa—subject to periodic witch-hunts from the racist police force, notably in Marseilles, but otherwise tolerated provided they demand no rights in housing, education, elections or trade unions.

The rest are legal, contract workers. They have no rights to vote, no rights to any form of housing. In Paris alone, 60,000 of these workers live in bidonvilles, great shanty towns without sewerage or running water.

In an old suburb of Ivry, for instance, 541 Africans share 11 rooms in one tenement. There are two taps on every floor—five lavatories and one kitchen.

The total rent income to the landlord from the tenement is 21,640 francs a year.

In 1970, five of the Africans were killed in a fire. In 1972, French Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas said he would clear the bidonvilles. Today the tenement is still there, and the bidonvilles are

bigger than ever.

In GERMANY, there are more than two million immigrant workers from Greece, Turkey, Italy and other countries. They are regarded as 'guest workers'.

A court ruling two years ago laid down as part of German law: 'Guest workers cannot be considered part of the population.'

They are housed by employers in Nissen huts. There are two main rules. No brothels—and no politics.

Any form of political association among these foreign workers is illegal, and treated with the utmost severity by the constantly

interfering police force.

It is also illegal for a guest worker to hold any form of office in the German trade unions.

But there are many other rules which are made to irritate foreign workers so they are discouraged from settlement.

Suitcases and belongings, for instance, can't be kept in the workers' camps. When the workers went on rent strike in 1971 over this, their leaders were victimised and hounded out of the country.

Moreover, the families of all these guest workers are not allowed in to join their spouses.

The same rules, with varying

degrees of savagery, apply in other Market countries.

In 1971, the Irish introduced the Act which brought British law into line with Common Market.

The Act lays down that workers come in with rights—such as wages—which they were forbidden to demand.

All the paraphernalia which previously applied to immigrants in the Commonwealth—such as the ban on movement

IT'S SIR MONTY FINISH 'EM

By Richard Jones

AFTER the British Steel Corporation chief's announcement that he planned to destroy 10,000 jobs in South Wales, angry steelworkers have dubbed him 'Sir Monty Finish 'em'.

The jobs massacre was a shattering confirmation of the prediction, made in a local IS steelworkers' leaflet, that cuts in the order of 12 per cent were in the offing.

Local BSC officials have been quick to try to cushion the effect of the announcement by pleading that the statement was not yet finalised policy.

But even as they did so, leaflets appeared on notice-boards throughout the giant Margam steelworks revealing that the £20 million tidal harbour, specially built at Port Talbot to service the works, will close later this month for a period of not less than three months because of the recession in steel. Management deny all knowledge of these leaflets.

A feeble BSC denial that 'no decision has been taken on this as far as BSC is concerned' will give no comfort to the threatened local community. They have seen such statements before—at Ebbw Vale—and they know just how much faith can be put in them.

Last month, nearly 60,000 people in Wales were registered as unemployed. Even

without adjusting the figures to take account of all the women who have been laid off without registering, and all the part-time workers in a similar position, this is the highest figure since 1946.

The unemployment rate now stands at 4.7 per cent in Wales. John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, says: 'I have a magic wand.'

Only last week, he proclaimed the Social Contract as the solution to all our problems. He obviously has a very short memory.

Reaction from the local trade union movement has been mixed and confused. Morris has sought to use the confusion to divide one plant from another.

He has echoed proposals to save jobs at Margam at the expense of workers at Shotton. On the cuts, he said: 'There is a link between proposals for expanding Port Talbot and the question of modernising Shotton.'

'No decisions can therefore be taken until the latter possibility is fully examined. That is not to say that development at Port Talbot is at a standstill—'

r
et...

For politically active immigrant workers, Mercedes Benz have a novel system of discrimination. They send you to an isolated part of the factory, such as the furnace room, where it is too hot to talk.

—Francesco Genio, immigrant worker for Mercedes Benz, Stuttgart, 1971.

Immigration is a means of creating a certain easing in the work market and of resisting social pressures.

—President Pompidou of France, 1972.



Immigrants in Germany.

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country, the registration with the Home Office—was applied.

The last vestiges of 'rights' were taken away. Black worker-immigrants were 'brought into line' with alien worker immigrants in Britain—and with the ten million foreign workers in the 'internationalist Common Market'.

There is also a myth that the Common Market gives free movement rights to workers inside the Common Market.

Now it's true that workers can move from one Common Market country to another if they've got a job to go to.

But it's also true that those

workers have to register with the authorities, and are subject to the same rights of deportation for political offences which apply to all other foreign workers.

You have the right to move. But the right to organise in your class interest is denied. That's what the Common Market is about.

The great mass of contract labour in Europe has enriched the bosses and their parasites. It has not enriched the workers of the country of origin.

On the contrary. Again and again, the existence of contract labour has been used to weaken trade union organisation for all workers.

In 1965, for instance, Erhardt, the German Tory leader, started a campaign to get German workers to do two hours extra work a day for no extra pay!

Protect

The reward? Less foreign labour. Similar racist campaigns directed against foreign and indigenous workers have taken the front of the political stage in other European countries, notably Holland.

The 'internationalist' Common Market upholds all this criminal repression and exploitation of foreign workers. The departments of the Brussels bureaucracy, which are so well-staffed when it comes to hand-outs for industry, have no room or time for the plight of immigrant workers.

The laws and regulations of the Treaty of Rome, designed in such detail to protect the profits of manufacturers and farmers, say nothing to protect the starving, hunted foreign masses in Europe which create those profits.

That's the Common Market.

PAUL FOOT



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

What's going on at Imperial Typewriters?

THE OCCUPATION in defence of 1200 jobs at Imperial Typewriters, Hull started ten weeks ago. 300 workers took part at the beginning and the first two weeks went really well. Now only 200 are inside and many of the more militant stewards no longer go in.

Many still inside are convinced the occupation is being run in the right way. Helen Charlesworth, TGWU senior steward before the occupation, has other ideas.

At the very beginning, we should have elected an occupation committee from the occupation as a whole. We should have then elected different committees to deal with things like fund-raising, publicity, the running of the factory, etc, and got everyone involved.

An occupation is everybody's achievement and everyone should be equally involved in running it.

The problem was that everyone took the advice of the union officials, mainly Peter Grant (TGWU local full-time official) and David Cairn (TGWU regional officer).

These officials argued that we shouldn't let outsiders in, as it was 'our' fight and we shouldn't be dictated to by 'outsiders'. As a result, any delegation bringing money was only allowed as far as the gates.

The only delegation allowed in was one from UCS, organised by Peter Grant. We even had to take a vote about whether to accept money from outsiders.

It would have made a big difference to us if we had taken up the suggestions from the Hull International Socialists. If we had invited delegations in, and travelled round the country building support from fellow trade unionists, people would have seen our problems and responded better.

Decried

We should have taken up the idea of running play-groups for the kids. A lot of women had no money to pay for baby-sitters, so they didn't come into the occupation. With play groups, they'd have flocked in.

The day after I'd spoken at an International Socialist public meeting about the occupation, David Cairn attacked me at a mass meeting. He said I was 'mixing with people who decried the union.'

He tried to denounce me for going beyond the officials and taking support from other people. He didn't name me, just pointed at me a couple of times.

I immediately stood up and demanded that people who agreed with Cairn should stand up and support him. No-one did and I got a great cheer.

After the meeting I didn't

Sheila McGregor
International Socialists
women's organiser
interviews
Helen Charlesworth
TGWU senior steward,
Imperial Typewriters, Hull

push it. That was a mistake. I should have organised a fight for control over the occupation by the people inside. It's alright for the officials, they've got a job. We were fighting for ours.

They said we shouldn't step outside the law. But we already had by occupying!

Too many union officials are con-men. They wouldn't be where they are otherwise.

Guarantee

Another problem is that many of the workers aren't clear about the difference between nationalisation and workers' co-operatives. I pushed for nationalisation to protect all our jobs with us having the right to fight over decisions made inside the factory affecting us.

A workers' co-operative wouldn't guarantee all the jobs and you'd have the position of workers as management sacking workers on the shop floor. Look at Fisher Bendix.

Tony Benn hasn't got anything to offer. At first I thought he might have done something, but now I'd be very surprised.

It's only a matter of time before the occupation finishes. Already 1000 jobs have been lost even if they do keep it open

ADVERTISEMENT
NATIONAL RANK AND FILE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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

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



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

for the 200 left.

The lessons are clear. An occupation must be led and democratically controlled by those involved. Only if workers fight for themselves and campaign for support from rank and file workers round the country, can we force the government to nationalise a firm and guarantee the jobs. Relying on Tony Benn doesn't get your jobs back.

Helen Charlesworth will be going to the Rank and File Women's Industrial Conference on 21 June. Not only has she the experience of the occupation behind her, she was also involved in building a strong shop organisation in the factory.

Learning from such experience will be a central feature of the conference.

The last few months have seen an upsurge of women's strikes. The issues vary from wages and equal pay to working conditions, domestic leave and victimisation.

The strikes often involve small numbers of women in sweat shops and poorly organised factories.

And with short-time working and redundancies on the increase, women workers are often the first to go. When redundancies are announced, even some militants feel that women 'who supposedly only work for pin money' should be the first to be sacked.

According to such trade unionists, women therefore have no right to work.

The recent militancy, the varied resilience of the strikes and the resilience of the women involved, point to a change in the role of women in industry.

No longer prepared to accept a role as second class workers, women are awakening to their potential as an organised workforce.

Unfortunately, however, the strikes all too often remain isolated and are defeated. All too often the trade union movement ignores the problems and rights of women workers.

The Conference on 21 June should be seen by all Rank and File supporters as a step towards changing the isolation of women workers.

PICTURE: Andrew Ward (Report)



Asian strikers from the London Rubber factory carry the Chingari banner on last week's march. (Report page 13). Chingari, the Asian language sister paper of Socialist Worker, has played an important role in raising support for the strike. At an IS meeting in Walthamstow on Sunday, 15 strikers joined in a discussion on the importance of building a fighting socialist organisation.



WHAT'S ON

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

IS public meetings

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

NORTH LOWESTOFT Socialist Worker readers' meeting: The Crisis—social contract or socialism? Speaker: Robin Doughty. Friday 16 May, 8pm, Northfield Junior School, St Margaret's Road, Lowestoft.

IS NORTH AMERICA GROUP public meeting: Revolutionary Prospects in North America. Speakers: Gay Semel (editor, Workers' Power, newspaper of ISUS) and Don Lake (executive committee member of IS Canada). Friday 23 May, 7.30pm, The Plough Pub, 27 Museum Street, London WC1 (corner of Little Russell Street between Tottenham Court Road and Holborn tube stations). All welcome.

HIGH WYCOMBE IS public meeting: The Crisis—Social Contract or Socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 22 May, 8pm, Guildhall.

N W LONDON DISTRICT IS public meeting: For the right to work—the fight back against redundancies and closures. Speakers: John Deason, Jim Ryan (TGWU Halls, Harlesden) and a speaker from the Crossfields occupation. Thursday 22 May, 8pm, Willesden Junction Hotel, Station Road, NW10.

DARLINGTON IS public meeting: Redundancies and how to fight them. Speakers: Helen Charlesworth (Imperial Typewriters, Hull), Martin Shaw (ASTMS). Thursday 22 May, 8pm, Travellers Rest, Cockerton.

LEEDS DISTRICT IS public meeting: Revolution in Portugal. Speaker: Nigel Harris. Thursday 22 May, 8pm, The Peel, Boar Lane, Leeds City Centre.

MERSEYSIDE IS District Social: Friday 16 May, 8pm, The Mona, James Street, Liverpool, near Pier Head. Disco and bar extension till 1am. Tickets 50p. All welcome.

LEEDS IS Hospital Workers grand jumble sale in aid of premises fund. Saturday 24 May, 2pm, Chapeltown Community Centre, Reginald Terrace off Chapeltown Road. Admission 2p. All District IS members to be there by 11am with any uncollected jumble.

For meetings on the Common Market, see page 8 this week.

Meetings for IS members

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.

WEST YORKSHIRE District IS aggregate: Saturday 17 May, 2pm, Central Library, Bradford. Pre-conference discussion meeting on The Class Struggle, Building the rank and file movement, anti-race work and the election of delegates.

IS ITALY GROUP Day School: Saturday 14 June, 11am-5pm, North London Polytechnic. Further details from Mike Balfour phone 06284 2671.

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 are to be held in July and August. Sessions on Revolutionary prospects in south Europe, What's happening to the Labour Party? The capitalist crisis: what next? and Building IS. **NORTH LONDON 12/13 July, SOUTH LONDON 19/20 July, SOUTH WALES (Cardiff) 2/3 August, SCOTLAND (Glasgow) 9/10 August, NORTH WEST (Manchester) 16/17 August.** Dates not yet fixed for YORKSHIRE, MIDLANDS and the 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 8DN.

ESSEX IS Conference Aggregate: Saturday 17 May, 1.30pm, Chelmsford Labour Party HQ, London Road. All members to attend.

MERSEYSIDE IS District Aggregate: Sunday 18 May, 1.30pm prompt, Stanley House, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool 8.

N W LONDON DISTRICT Conference Aggregate: Saturday 17 May, 1.30pm-5.30pm. Anson Road Primary School, Anson Road, NW2. All district members must attend.

EDINBURGH IS DISTRICT Conference Aggregate: Election of delegates, amendments to resolutions. Sunday 18 May, 3pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place.

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

IS STUDENT CONFERENCE 17-18 May. University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (walking distance from Manchester Piccadilly Station). Small Assembly Room, Students Union. Registration 10.30am. Agenda: Building the Party (Jimmy McCallum), IS Societies and student branches, International and Women, Direct Action. All IS student groups to send delegates. Register immediately with Pete Gates (061-795 7230).

CENTRAL LONDON DISTRICT IS conference aggregate: Thursday 15 May, 7pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road. Election of delegates and resolutions.

GLASGOW AREA IS Aggregate: Saturday 17 May, 11am-6pm, Glasgow College of Technology. All members to attend.

IS notices

IS needs a fast, accurate typist for an administrative position. IS members only. Phone Mel Norris, 01-739 1870/8.

AMERICAN AND CANADIAN members of IS, specially those who have settled here permanently, should contact Jeff Jackson, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN as soon as possible.

FOUR SEATS in car leaving London for Rome on 12 July. One way. Share expenses. Ring Mike 06284 2671.

PORTUGAL: Draft resolution of solidarity with the workers of Portugal, and lists of British companies and their Portuguese subsidiaries—send stamped addressed envelope to IS Portugal Group, c/o Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

PORTUGAL FACTSHEET no 1: On the struggle of textile workers in Portugal, many of who work for British firms—Coats Paton, ICI, Singers, Smith and Nephew, Courtaulds, K O Boardman. Use the factsheet to win solidarity among British textile workers. For copies, send stamped addressed envelope to IS Portugal Group, c/o Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

SOCIALIST WORKER BENEFIT Evening at Theatre Royal, Stratford, East London. Kartoon Klowns' new full-length play: Socialism or Barbarism, Sunday 15 June, 7.30pm, tickets 60p. Bar. A great night out in the East End. Organised by East London District IS.

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.

BRADFORD IS jumble sale: Jumble, old books, clothes, records, furniture, anything you have for a jumble sale to raise money for the SW Fighting Fund. Phone Bradford 55913 to get it collected.

SHEFFIELD IS Day Out to Bridlington on Sunday 1 June. Phone Steve Smith (Sheffield 303211) for details.

ACADEMIC STAFF IS members: Please send your address to Dept B, IS Books, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry, with a view to forming a working IS fraction.

GETTING STRIKERS INTO PRINT

WHEN the Dundee Corporation electricians needed their strike leaflet printed they went to the local Communist Party—who sent them to see the International Socialists! With access to a small printing machine, the IS comrades in Dundee were then able to print 10,000 leaflets for the strikers.

A little story that shows the advantage of having known IS premises in a town. Which is why 20 members of IS gathered in Birmingham last Saturday to discuss the prospects of setting up IS bookshops, meeting rooms, offices and possibly small printshops in other parts of the country. IS already has bookshops in London, Glasgow, Birmingham, Coventry, Dundee and Middlesbrough, with two more to open soon in Liverpool and Manchester.

The meeting discussed the political side of book-selling as well as the nuts and bolts of setting up shop, and heard John Cox and Mel Norris speak on the possibilities of small scale printing. Comrades travelled from as far afield as Cardiff, Edinburgh and Southampton to represent their districts at the meeting.

IPSWICH SAFETY

IPSWICH International Socialists organised one of the most successful meetings in the history of the branch on Monday when Laurie Flynn, from Socialist Worker, and Roger Cox secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee, spoke on the fight for health and safety at work to a meeting of more than 60 workers, mostly shop stewards.

The most important thing to come from the meeting was the promise of a sponsorship from Howard Rotavator (Ipswich) shop stewards committee for a Rank and File school on safety in the town.

Many workers left the meeting armed with Pat Kinnersly's book, The Hazards of Work and the new Rank and File pamphlet on the Health and Safety at Work Act.

ਸਰ ਸ਼ੀਲਿੰਗਾ ਹਾਈਡੀਲਡਮ ਕਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਸੇਂਟਰ, ਮੈਲਬੌਰਨ ਰੋਡ, ਲੀਸਟਰ ਸ਼ਿਰੋ	ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂਤਰੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ- ਭਾਰਤ, ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ, ਦੱਖਣੀ ਅਫਰੀਕਾ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ	ALL MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN HIGHFIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE MELBOURNE ROAD, LEICESTER.
20 ਮਾਈ-ਏ: ਭਾਰਤ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਮਿਊਨਿਸਟਾਂ ਕਮਿਟੀ: ਕਮਿਟੀ ਮੈਂਬਰ	ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂਤਰੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ- ਭਾਰਤ, ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ, ਦੱਖਣੀ ਅਫਰੀਕਾ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ	APRIL 20TH THE CRISIS IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN SPEAKER FAROOQ NAWAZ
4 ਮਈ: 'ਰੋਜ਼ੀਮੀਆ' ਅਤੇ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂਤਰੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਦਾ ਸੁਲਤਾਨ ਸਿੱਦੀ ਦੇਵ ਸੋਲੰਗਾ ਕਮਿਟੀ: ਕਮਿਟੀ ਮੈਂਬਰ	ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂਤਰੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ- ਭਾਰਤ, ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ, ਦੱਖਣੀ ਅਫਰੀਕਾ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ	MAY 4TH RHODESIA, S. AFRICA - HOW LONG CAN THE WHITES LAST? SPEAKER BASKER YASHI
15 ਮਈ: ਸਪੇਨ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ, ਭਾਰਤੀ ਕਮਿਊਨਿਸਟਾਂ 3 ਵੀਂ ਵਾਰੀ ਕਮਿਟੀ: ਕਮਿਟੀ ਮੈਂਬਰ	ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂਤਰੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ- ਭਾਰਤ, ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ, ਦੱਖਣੀ ਅਫਰੀਕਾ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ	MAY 18TH THE DREAM MACHINE - A LOOK AT THE INDIAN FILM INDUSTRY SPEAKER MR GIEL
8 ਜੂਨ: ਕਮਿਟੀ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਅਤੇ ਕਮਿਟੀ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਕਮਿਟੀ: ਕਮਿਟੀ ਮੈਂਬਰ	ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂਤਰੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ- ਭਾਰਤ, ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ, ਦੱਖਣੀ ਅਫਰੀਕਾ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ	JUNE 8TH THE COMMON MARKET - AND THE ROLE OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS SPEAKER NIGEL HARRIS
15 ਜੂਨ: 'ਦੀ ਕਮਿਟੀ' ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ ਦਾ ਕਮਿਟੀ: ਕਮਿਟੀ ਮੈਂਬਰ	ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂਤਰੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ- ਭਾਰਤ, ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ, ਦੱਖਣੀ ਅਫਰੀਕਾ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ ਮਿਲਾ ਕੇ	JUNE 15TH THE CHANGING ROLE OF ASIAN WOMEN AT HOME AND AT WORK SPEAKER DARSHNA TOMPKINSON

THE programme of meetings prepared by Leicester Black Workers IS branch. The fortnightly meetings cover India, Pakistan, Southern Africa, the role of immigrant workers in the Common Market, the Indian film industry and the changing role of Asian women. At the meetings in intervening weeks, the branch discusses topics from the recent issues of Socialist Worker. The whole programme is duplicated in three languages.

Meetings for the IRSP

THE International Socialists and the International Marxist Group are jointly sponsoring and organising a speaking tour of England and Scotland for Mick Plunkett, the Irish Republican Socialist Party's national secretary. The meetings will be an opportunity for the IRSP to explain the policies and perspectives of their organisation.

The meetings will be:
MANCHESTER, Sunday 18 May, 2.30pm, Polytechnic Union, Cavendish House, Cavendish Street, All Saints.
MANCHESTER, Monday 19 May, 12.45pm, University Union (Meeting room 2), Oxford Road.

BIRMINGHAM, Monday 19 May, 7.30pm, Lecture Room 1, Digbeth Civic Hall.
GLASGOW, Tuesday 20 May, 7.30pm, Patrick Burgh Hall.
NEWCASTLE, Wednesday 21 May, 1pm, Students Union, Newcastle University.
COVENTRY, Wednesday 21 May, place to be announced.
OXFORD, Thursday 22 May, place to be announced.
BRISTOL, Thursday 22 May, 7.30pm, Shepherds Hall, Old Market.
LONDON, Friday 23 May, 8pm, Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, WC1.



What we stand for

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:
Independent working-class action We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.
Revolution not reformism We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.
The smashing of the capitalist state The state machine is a

weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.
Work in the mass organisations of the working class We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.
Internationalism We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls. The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

The revolutionary party To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.
WE ARE
For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials. No secret negotiations. All settlements to be voted on by mass meetings.
For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against anti-trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.
Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of incomes policy under capitalism.
Against unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

For militant trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.
For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union movement.
Against racialism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.
For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Against all forms of imperialism, including Russian imperialism.
For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.
For the building of a mass workers' revolutionary party, organised in the 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 _____



LETTERS

I WAS pleased to see the article about South Wales in last week's Socialist Worker. It's about time somebody said what's been going on in this area.

The leaflet that IS have put out locally is also very good. I hope this letter will add to what you have already printed.

The Labour government was elected on a bogus claim of controlling inflation, reducing unemployment, ending short-time working and securing 'industrial harmony'. All this was supposed to be achieved with the magic of the so-called Social Contract.

Well, we have already begun to see just what this marvellous Social Contract means—wage freeze, policed by the trade union bureaucrats, and ever-increasing unemployment.

Here in Wales there is already a gap in wages and unemployment compared with over the border. In Wales the recent figure for average wages of all employed men was £46.2 as compared with £48 in Britain as a whole, and here the Labour Party has been especially anxious to make sure we tighten our belts. It is easy to understand the attitude here that if there is going to be any belt tightening, then everybody should be in the same boat.

But what do we find? The Social Contract has been smashed! No, not by greedy workers. Colossal rate increases coupled with the highest water charges in Britain have made it a nonsense, and that is before we even look at the wage increases that some of the strongest supporters of the contract have paid themselves.

Do we now hear the Welsh Labour Party cry out against this? No, not a whimper. They are prepared to sacrifice working people in Wales to keep their party in power.

They remain silent about the unemployment situation that existed even before the present proposed cuts in steel, 60,000 people out of work! They have not a word to say about Healey's massive cutback in public spending



From the Sunday Times, 29 March 1970. Now Ebbw Vale is for the chop

S British Steel Corporation will spend £45 million on its Ebbw Vale plant as part of its reformation of the steel industry

Wales: Don't trust Labour...

of £17 million. This is bound to bring even more redundancies in the construction industry.

We are fast returning to the 1920s and not one of the Labour leaders will call a halt. The working-class movement in Wales must quickly turn out these fakes and replace them with leaders who are concerned with the people, rather than men who spend hours arguing whether a 'socialist' Mayor should ride around in a Rolls-Royce or a Daimler while Welsh workers are having to cut back on essentials to pay off the government's and bosses' bad debts.

That is what the Social Contract really means to us.—ROY JONES, AUEW convenor, Louis Marx, Swansea.

...OR THE MAN WHO 'SAVES' STEELMEN'S JOBS

COULD I warn steelworkers to beware of the man who is going to lead the fight to save 20,000 jobs BSC is going to axe in the next ten months?

Mr Bill Sirs is leading the team from the TUC's steel industry committee, which has been to see the Industry Secretary and BSC officials.

In 1970, Mr Sirs was 'area organiser' for BISAKTA, the steelworkers' union, in the North West. In his never-ending struggle to save

jobs in the area, he presided over the closure of Irlam steelworks (4,250 jobs).

At the Rialto Cinema, Irlam in about 1971, Mr Sirs, together with leading Labour MPs, explained how he could save our jobs.

Under no circumstances, he said, 'would I advocate taking direct action. The way to save jobs is to show people how reasonable and hard working we can be.'

The result? The complete closure of all steelmaking in Irlam.—TERRY TAYLOR, Hindley Green, Wigan.

Miners: Inflation means £100 is not enough

THIS past week I have been attending the South Wales area NUM annual conference as a delegate from my lodge. The conference decided to support the Yorkshire area resolution to the coming NUM annual conference which calls for £100 a week for face workers. However, as our president Emyln Williams pointed out at the conference, with the present rate of inflation this demand may become outdated by the time we come to negotiations with the board!

Therefore, this demand should be seen as a minimum. As for the Social Contract, well, conference overwhelmingly rejected it and any other form of wage control a Labour government chooses to use to make the workers pay for the serious crisis capitalism now finds itself in.

There was a mood of quiet confidence at conference about the future, but also a determination to fight. But we must begin to prepare now to fight for the new wage agreement, and crucially we must demand that the new agreement reverts to the pre-Wilberforce November-to-November period.

But first let's make sure that all miners vote NO to continuing membership of the bosses' club, the Common Market, which threatens the whole future of the British coal mining industry.—GARETH WILLIAMS, lodge secretary, NUM, Morlais Lodge, South Wales.

WE'RE ALL INVOLVED

ANYONE who is active in fighting the Abortion (Amendment) Bill in the trade unions will know that the statement in last week's Socialist Worker that only IS members will take the initiative on this issue, is rubbish. Men and women from all left groups have been actively involved. In ASTMS it is two executive members who are proposing an emergency resolution to conference. This approach avoids the real question we must face, of how to work alongside other individuals and political tendencies who are active at a rank and file level on women's issues.—IRENE BRUEGEL, London NWS.

The point we were trying to make is that IS members and readers of Socialist Worker must take the initiative themselves and raise this issue in the trade union movement now. We have precious little time.

ON THE BOX

SATURDAY

ITV (Birmingham area only): 6.45pm. WILL PENNY is an unusual Western, made in the late 1960s, which centred on life in rural America in the nineteenth century.

SUNDAY

BBC-2: 10pm. The habit of premiering feature films on TV peaks with STAVISKY, by the French director Alain Resnais, starring Jean Paul Belmondo, released in France last year. Certain scandals become symbols of societies and historical periods, and what Watergate is to the USA of the 1970s the Stavisky affair was to 1930s France. He was a swindler whose connections with the particularly corrupt regime of the time, explains much of how France collapsed into fascism a few years later. Red Star viewing of the week. On BBC-1 at 8.15 is John Galsworthy's 1909 play STRIFE, about a strike at a tin plate works, may be interesting.

MONDAY

ITV: 10.30pm. INSIDE THE BRUSSELS HQ: SEE HOW THEY RUN IT is another of Granada TV's political epics, this time on the working of the Common Market bureaucracy. On BBC-2 at 9.30pm is HORIZON: BENJAMIN, following the birth and first six months in a baby's life. Same channel's RUTLAND WEEK-END TELEVISION with Eric Idle is at 9pm.

TUESDAY

BBC-1: 9.25pm. TUESDAY'S DOCUMENTARY: KGB—THE SOVIET SECRET POLICE is an updated version

of an earlier documentary. As much is revealed about the BBC as about the KGB in the blurb for the programme which labels the KGB as 'an organisation that controls the lives of and behaviour of 250 million Soviet citizens' a beautiful example of the theory of manipulation. The KGB (which needs no lesson from the CIA—or the BBC for that matter) may be efficient, ruthless, totalitarian, but it cannot 'control' behaviour, human beings are rather more complex and resourceful than our rulers would like us to think... on BBC-2 at 8pm economist Andrew Schonfield explains why the Common Market is a good thing in CONTROVERSY.

WEDNESDAY

BBC-2: 9.25pm. WESSEX TALES IS A TRAGEDY OF TWO AMBITIONS. At 11.15pm on BBC-2 DON'T QUOTE ME confronts industrial reporters with 'the people they have written about' by rights it should, but probably won't, end in violence. Same channel at 8pm has political scientist William Pickles explaining why the Common Market is a bad thing in CONTROVERSY.

THURSDAY:

BBC-1: 9.35pm. PLAY FOR TODAY: BRASSNECK is a comedy on the rise of property emperor Alfred Bagley, could be good. On BBC-2 at 9.35pm MAN ALIVE: MURDER WEAPONS is a US documentary on the private ownership of guns in the USA.

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

Stop these submarines for Chile!

CHILE'S military junta suffered a serious blow when Britain gave a lead in refusing to renegotiate Chile's foreign debt.

This provoked the cancellation of a World Bank loan to the Junta, and aggravated its economic crisis. As a result, the entire Chilean cabinet resigned.

While the repression is stronger than ever, so is the resistance. Increasingly, workers are able to take strike action and to win partial victories which break down the Junta's draconian wages policy.

The Chilean people will need our solidarity more than ever in the coming months.

Last year the British government decided to proceed with the delivery of two submarines and two frigates to the Chilean Navy.

The frigates have already been sent, but the submarines are at Scott-Lithgows yard in Greenock, Scotland. Work on them is almost complete, so employment would not be affected by cancelling delivery now.

Resolutions are urgently needed from Labour Parties, trade union bodies, etc, urging cancellation of the delivery of the submarines and the suspension of all trade with Chile's military junta.

Send copies to the appropriate Ministers and to the Campaign.—MIKE GATEHOUSE, Secretary, Chile Solidarity Campaign, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7.

Kurds

OUR COMMITTEE wishes to convey the appreciation of many Iraqi democrats, Arabs and Kurds, for your solidarity with the Iraqi Kurds, expressed in the article of 15 March.

We note the positive character of your review, which links the struggle of the Iraqi Kurds with the general democratic movement in Iraq.

We firmly believe the Kurds are willing to continue the fight in spite of the collapse of the Kurdish Nationalist leadership. This new revolutionary phase will more closely bind together the Arab and Kurdish struggle in Iraq.

We look forward to the continuing solidarity of progressive elements in Britain.—COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE.

Moorgate

AFTER the article on the Moorgate disaster (3 May), I felt you would be interested in London Transport's latest safety improvements.

At an interview for a job on London Transport, the interviewer told me to get my hair cut in view of the adverse publicity over the guard's role in the disaster.

No doubt the nation's commuters will sleep a lot sounder now I have carried out these stringent safety precautions.—LONDON TRANSPORT WORKER (name and address supplied).

Classified

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (3p a word) with copy to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

Chelmsford National Abortion Campaign public meeting: No Return to Back Street Abortions! Speakers: Margaret Renn (NAC steering committee) and Hermin Whitfield (SRN). Thursday 22 May, 8pm, Civic Centre.

CONFERENCE TO FIGHT REDUNDANCY IN THE PRINT, PUBLISHING AND BROADCASTING INDUSTRIES: Saturday 17 May, 10am-6pm, London College of Printing, Elephant and Castle, SE1. Help thrash out a policy to fight unemployment. All trade unionists in these industries welcome. Supported by the NUJ. More details from Carl Gardner at 01-837 9987 (daytime).

ANTI-FASCIST MEETING: URGENT. Thursday 22 May, 7.30pm, Town Hall Basement Theatre, Manchester. Speaker: Maurice Ludmer. Chairman: Phil Widdall. Organised by Manchester Anti-Fascist Committee.

THAT'S NO LADY, a new play written by the General Will and performed by Chain Reaction. **IN BRADFORD THIS WEEK.** Thursday 15 May, 8pm, Bingley Arts Centre. Friday 16 May, 8pm, Textile Hall, Westgate (Women's Aid Benefit). Saturday 17 May, 8pm, Textile Hall, Westgate (Benefit for occupation of Imperial Typewriters, Hull). Further information from The Fellow in the Theatre or the Fellow in Issues, University of Bradford, phone 33466.

DEFEND THE HEALTH SERVICE: Picket of BUPA hospital in London, Saturday 17 May, 11am, outside Florence Nightingale Hospital, Lisson Grove, NW1. Speakers include Jamie Morris (NUPE Westminster Hospital) and Joan Mereton (Labour councillor). Organised by the Medical Committee against Private Practice, with Marylebone AUEW branch, Steve Johnson (NALGO Health Services Officer) and Alan Ellis (NUPE, St George's Hospital).

WORKERS FIGHT meeting: Ireland—after the Convention elections. Speaker: Sean Matgamna. Sunday 25 May, The George, Liverpool Road, N1 (Angel underground).

NOTICES

ANARCHIST INFORMATION BULLETIN and notes for library workers. SAE to Martyn Everett, 11 Gibson Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex.

COMRADE NEEDED for flat, Seven Sisters, North London. Phone 800 8550 evenings.

JOHN AND MARGARET LLYWARCH invite you to enjoy a North Wales farmhouse holiday. Clean air, mountain streams, country rambles, fishing, wildlife galore, barbecues. A children's paradise and only two miles from main line station. For terms ring 069-186 2272 or write to Bryn Iddon, Bron y Garth, Oswestry, Salop.

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

MAY DAY GREETINGS from Jennifer, born May 1st in International Women's Year to Helen and Rab Jefferey, Edinburgh.

FOREST SCHOOL CAMPS wants leaders for mixed groups of children of wide age range. Two weeks, summer or Easter, fares and keep, but not pay. Light-weight camping, building non-authoritarian communities. Experience not essential. Hard work! Write to Aaron Thatcher, 45 St Helens Gardens, London, W10 6LN.

SEARCHLIGHT—ANTI-FASCIST PAPER. May issue on sale (25p) at IS bookshops. Contains a review by Paul Foot of the new biography of Mosley, plus features on the British Nazi underground 'Column 88' and visiting American racists.

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

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN—Haringey Branch: Benefit Disco on Friday 13 June, 8-12pm (Bar extension to 12pm). Small lounge, University College, off Gower Place, WC1 (Entrance in Gower St). 75p, 50p NUS.

THE UNIONS

around the conferences

Dustmen bad for image—Chapple

by Tom Sullivan (EETPU)
THE tone of the electricians' and plumbers' union conference last week was set by general secretary Frank Chapple when he bemoaned the fact that the Glasgow dustmen had been on strike at the same time as the electricians.

Bad for the electricians' image, he said.

So much for trade union solidarity.

The conference voted to accept the EETPU executive's neutral stand on the Common Market, to support the Social Contract and to oppose a campaign to free the Shrewsbury pickets.

On the Common Market, Chapple argued that he would rather prop up capitalism and take it over bit by bit than take to the revolutionary road. Using his usual 'redscare' tactics, he claimed that pulling out of the Common Market would put Britain at the mercy of COMECON. The minority of people who attended branch meetings, he said, should not be able to force decisions on the majority.

Which means, presumably, that conference is unrepresentative on every issue!

On Shrewsbury, the executive asked conference to reject motions which called for a trade union campaign to release the pickets. Their own motion, which was carried, made no mention of a campaign, but asked instead for government 'clarification' on picketing law.

ASTMS: A lesson in evasion

THE conference of the last weekend managed to evade almost all the major issues. Every time there was a crucial question of policy the executive either asked for the motion to be referred to them, or used procedural manipulation to prevent the discussion.

Clive Jenkins, the general secretary, claimed that the executive opposed any form of wage restraint, but would not allow a motion to be passed opposing the Social Contract.

He attacked as 'wild excesses' a policy of factory occupations as an answer to redundancy, stressing that the union had an alternative economic policy. Said Mick Bunting of Northampton: 'Do members want to wave their policy documents on the way to the dole?'

The main motion on women's equality, proposed by Irene Breugel of Charing Cross, was referred to the executive even though the chairman had to defy the evidence of his eyes to see the vote carried. The

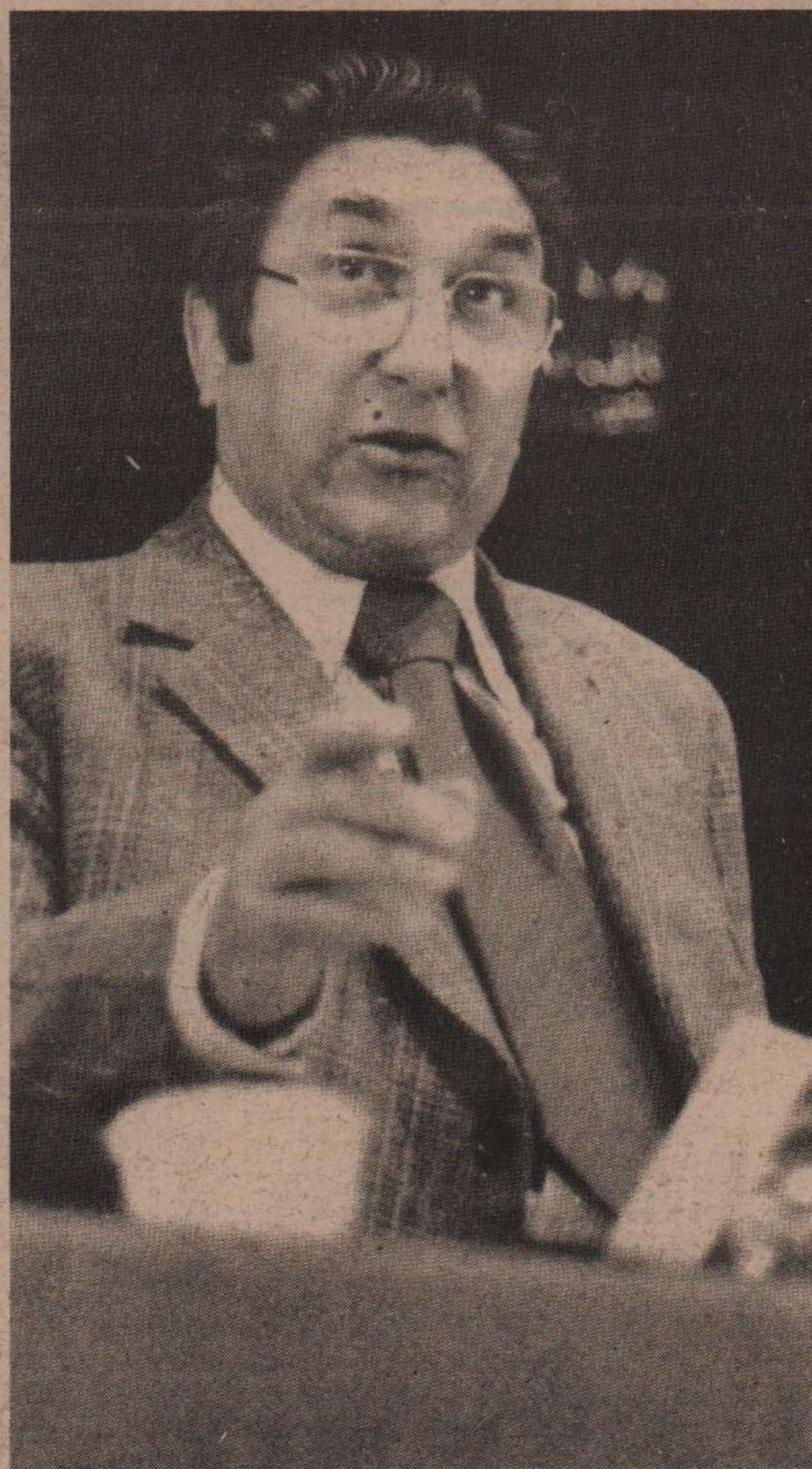
resolution on Troops Out of Ireland was simply not put on the programme of business.

Discussion of the major problems facing some of the main sections of ASTMS members, such as in engineering and universities, were given even shorter shrift. The Common Market followed the same fate, with no discussion.

The only good thing in the women's debate was an emergency motion from the executive opposing the Abortion Amendment Bill. But it proposed no action.

Rigged

ASTMS claims to be a democratic union, but many delegates came away feeling that the conference is rigged by Jenkins and the executive. ASTMS members certainly need strong rank and file organisation if control of their union is not to be taken away from them altogether.



Frank Chapple: Prop up capitalism

It contained references to 'mindless thuggery', 'personal violence' and the breakdown of law and order.

But the conference was not all defeats for the Left. A motion calling for cuts in military spending of £1000 million a year in spite of executive opposition was passed.

And some interesting points arose in the discussion. A delegate pointed out that the union has share holdings in Brooke Bond Liebig, the company which subjects its tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka to appalling wages and conditions, as revealed by television's World in Action team.

Another delegate claimed that non-union labour had been used on work on the union's convalescent home.

But the conference was in general very satisfactory for Chapple and his henchmen especially as there is no other conference until 1977. Even the Sunday Times correspondent was moved to comment on the way the debates were rail-roaded.

The fight for change in the union is a long hard one. We must start now to fight for:

- Annual policy-making conferences, with conference decisions binding on the executive. (At present conference can only advise.)

- An annual rules revision conference.

- Rank and File representation on the standing orders committee.

- Fairer rank and file representation at conference.

Danger, bonus scheme!

by Bill Geddes
NUPE chairman, Hammersmith Hospital, London

THE Executive of the public employees' union (NUPE) is trying to push bonus schemes on to its members again. At the last union conference two years ago all officials were instructed to stop all negotiations on bonus schemes—but at the conference this weekend the executive is again recommending these schemes.

CRUCIAL ISSUE FOR POST WORKERS

PROPOSALS for all letter sorting to be concentrated on 80 fully-mechanised postal sorting offices are the crucial issue facing the Postal Conference of the Union of Post Office Workers (UPW) this month.

The conference is to be held in the two days before the main UPW Conference.

For years the Post Office and the UPW executive have been pushing the mechanisation scheme against resistance from many local branches and district councils. Among those opposing the scheme are branches where mechanisation and code sorting has already been introduced.

They have found that their members were expected to acquire new skills to operate coding desks, sorting machines, automatic letter-facing machines and segregators, and were subjected to warning bells, flashing lights, buzzers, klaxons and clanking conveyor chains. But only one grade received any pay allowance and that only while operating coding desks. Another grade performing the same job received nothing.

ESTIMATE

The new proposals say this work should now become proper to the Postman Higher Grade along, which is the grade that receives no allowance.

The UPW's 1972 Conference brought a halt to the piecemeal introduction of mechanisation by carrying a motion, against the platform, calling for the publication of the full plan. In return for a lead-in payment of £1.15 plus 20p savings, the UPW Executive Council are now recommending acceptance of a scheme which they estimate will cut out 8700 jobs.

Many branches fear the actual total could be as high as 20,000. For example, Edinburgh would take work from Galashiels, Bathgate, Jedburgh, Kelso, Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline.

Another important issue will be a plan agreed with the Post Office Engineering Union to put union representatives on to the Post Office Board and at lower levels. Apart from providing jobs for tired union officials, it is difficult to see the advantages of this for the membership. Plainly it would compromise the union's ability to oppose board proposals when union officials are party to them.

As long as the Post Office operates within a capitalist system it will have to play by the rules of the game and this sort of 'workers' control' is a mere fig leaf for the same old policies.

In fact in the past two years NUPE full-timers have pushed bonus schemes as hard as they dared, especially in poorly-organised branches or where the shop stewards were inexperienced.

It would take a whole issue of Socialist Worker to list all the arguments against bonus schemes. But one reason above all others makes it vital to fight bonus schemes—the spectre of unemployment. There are 900,000 on the unemployment scrapheap now. We don't want NUPE members to add to this.

The public sector is heavily labour-intensive. More than two-thirds of the Health Service budget goes on wages. Chancellor Denis Healey wants savings—and the easiest way in the Health Service is a job shake-out.

The bonus scheme motion is to be NUPE's contribution to the Social Contract. The executive is determined to help the Labour government. This is how they want to do it. We will have to fight at conference to reject bonus schemes and instead fight for a decent living wage.

INDEX to this week's industrial news

PAGE 13:

Henry Boots, Northampton (UCATT)
Kirkby Trade Union Action Committee.
Coalite, Yorkshire.
Sterling Organics, Newcastle.
British Aluminium, Fort William.
Dyers and Bleachers Union.
London Rubber.

PAGE 14:

Magnesium Elektron, Manchester.
Massey Ferguson, Coventry.
Mabbutt and Johnston, London.
Stewart Plastics, Croydon.
ICL, Manchester.
Kimbers, Staffs.
Building workers, Thamesmead.
Bricklayers, Luton.
Bakers, West Bromwich.
Cardiff electricians.

PAGE 15:

Chrysler, Stoke.
Dunlops, Coventry.
Fords, Dagenham.
Walter and Dobson, Chesterfield.
Levi Strauss, West Lothian.
British Mail Order, Wigan.
Electrolux, Luton.

A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The new Health and Safety at Work Act



Sponsored by the Health and Safety Commission

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

Kirkby rank and file committee formed

by Ray Long, Secretary,
Kirkby Trade Union Committee

MERSEYSIDE:—The first successful meeting of the Kirkby and District Trade Union Committee was held on Sunday—the next has been arranged for Sunday 8 June. A smaller defence committee was arranged to meet more frequently in order to initiate speedy action in the event of any emergency.

The meeting was called around the issues of factory closures, redundancies, lay-offs and short-time working. Kirkby is badly hit by all these, with unemployment at 20 per cent. It was felt that as trade unionists we had a duty not only to our members, but to the whole community.

Resolutions were passed that we should fight for:

- Retirement age to be reduced from 65 years to 60 years with no loss of jobs.
- 35 hours work for 40 hours pay, and work or full pay.
- We aim to unite all trade unionists in the area to make the fight against unemployment our common struggle.

The meeting was attended by 30 delegates from Massey Ferguson, Kodak, Yorkshire Imperial Metals, Ward and Goldstone, Connollys (Blakeley), Frigoscandia and Speke Area Trade Union Committee. Apologies and support came from GEC, East Lancs Road, Knowsley Works Depot and NUPE Branch.

Coalite lock out 2000

YORKSHIRE:—2000 men, members of the Transport Workers Union, have been locked out by Coalite, the coke firm, at plants in Grimethorpe, Askern and Rossington for nearly a month. The dispute is over a £10 wage claim which management is refusing to pay.

Engineering Union members are respecting the picket lines but members of the white-collar union ASTMS are scabbing in defiance of official instructions from their union. They are working a continuous coal belt which it is vital for the management to keep running. The management is paying scabs £3 an hour plus bonus.

The fourth plant in the group, at Bolsover in Derbyshire, went back to work last week. Flying pickets from Grimethorpe have been travelling down every day and have brought the plant to a standstill again.

Men from the Grimethorpe plant also picketed Grimethorpe NUM last week. The miners voted to organise collections and give every assistance on the picket lines. Similar motions are being moved in other branches.

BACKSTAIRS BID TO CUT BUILDERS' PAY

NORTHAMPTON:— Building workers employed by Henry Boots on a council site are determined to win after four weeks strike action over a bonus scheme.

Our earnings are £15 below other sites in the area. We feel this is an attempt by employers to lower

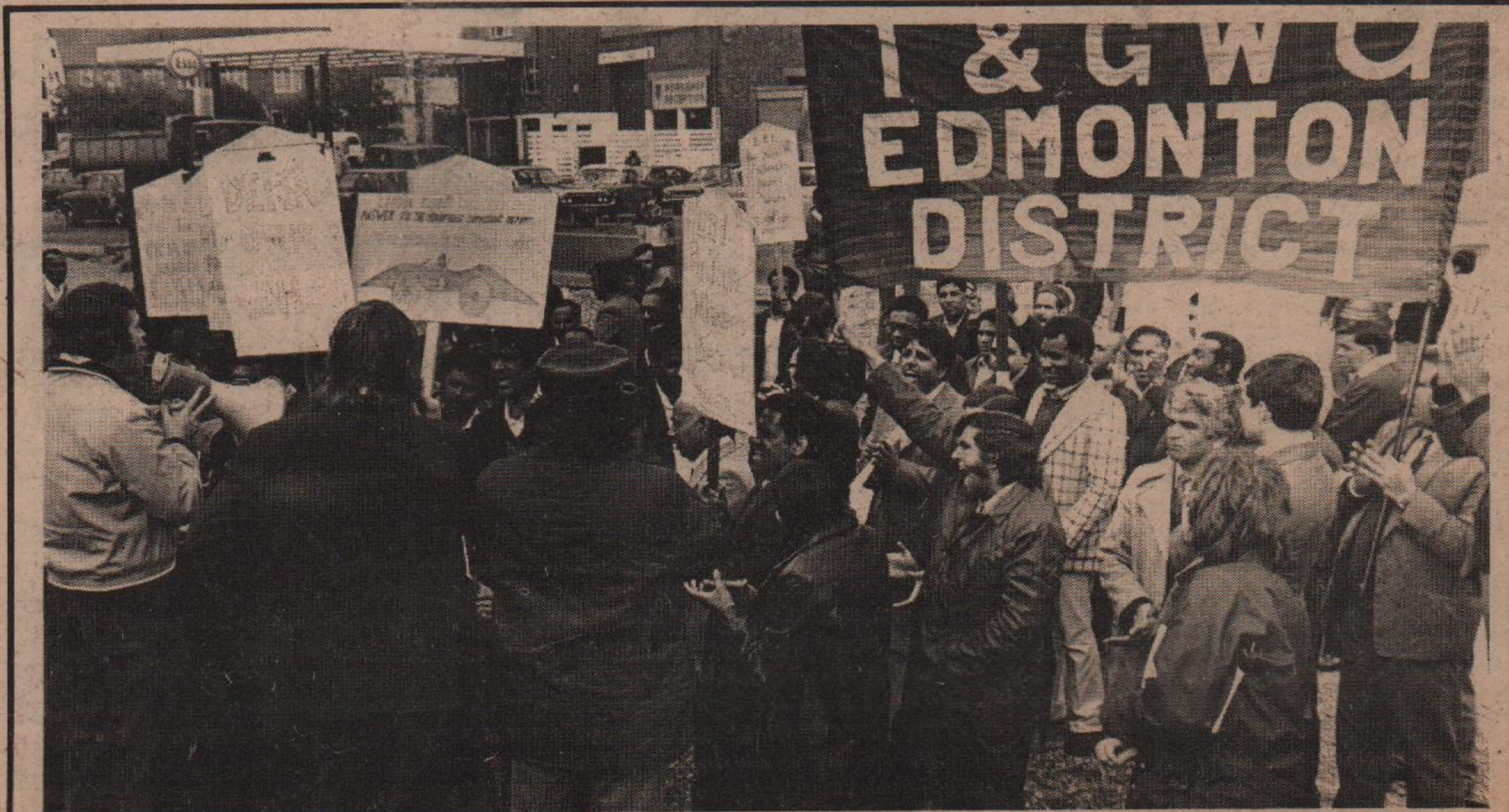
wages in the area, where jobs in the construction industry are few.

The employers have used every means to put pressure on the men, including police intimidation and the use of scab haulage contractors in

an attempt to break the picket lines. But so far the pickets have successfully turned back all materials for the site. The management's answer to this was to close the site.

The biggest victory for the men

by Martin Dunkley
UCATT shop steward, Northampton



Demonstrators shout their support for speaker Eddie Prevost after the march of London Rubber strikers. PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Docks steward speaks up for LRI strikers

NORTH LONDON:—Docks shop steward Eddie Prevost addressed strikers at the London Rubber factory after their second protest march against management's attempt to smash the Transport and General Workers Union in the factory.

He recalled how he had once worked in such a factory. 'Believe me I know the conditions you are forced to work in, and I know how vital it is to build a union which will fight to really change things,' he told the strikers.

The march came at the end of a week which saw more gains for the 200 strikers. Supplies of fuel oil and latex are running out rapidly—only three out of eight of the vast latex tanks are in use. The picket line is clearly being effective.

Dockers have refused to handle any goods bound for London Rubber factories.

Inside the factory management are using any available tactic to keep production going. Part-time scab workers and even some engineers are being paid huge sums to do the

strikers' jobs.

Yet this has not affected the strikers' solidarity. Members of the strike committee have been visiting local factories, winning support. Much of this is financial support, which needs to be turned into solidarity action.

The strikers are putting up a magnificent fight in defence of every workers' right to organise. The strike committee has called for a mass picket this Friday (16 May). We must all give them maximum support.

● **MASS PICKET**—London Rubber Industries, North Circular Road, Chingford, London, E4, 4pm to 6pm.

The following resolution was passed at 1/6 branch TGWU, London Docks:

● All branches in No 1 region to give financial and moral support to the workers at London Rubber. The collection to be organised by the Regional Committee and all branches to be circulated.

Dyers and Bleachers: Thuggery and racism

FRED DYSON, national secretary of the Dyers and Bleachers Union, has got some explaining to do.

HOW is he going to explain the vacant seat on his union's conference platform? It belongs to Claude Lavender, who was unconstitutionally expelled for supporting the occupation by union members at Intex last year.

HOW will he explain away the racist thugs armed with crowbars who attacked the strikers?

HOW will he explain the assistant general secretary's laughter and racist abuse while the thugs were doing it?

HOW will he explain why they expelled Intex strike leader Dave Hallsworth?

Perhaps he won't find it too difficult. Explaining away unpleasant facts is the one full-time occupation of the union's officials.

The textile industry is poorly paid and decaying. Take an example from my old branch. There are plenty of others.

It comes from Timothy Hird's Keighley Mill, where the management decided to sack all the night turn—who were all Asians. Along came Jack Malone, local official, to tell the men. He explained to the Asian shop steward that the company was being 'rationalised' with new machinery, and that they'd probably be back in a few months. He consoled them with the news that the day workers would be the best paid textile workers in the town.

Matt Dunne was day shop steward and went to the local union branch to get help to fight the sackings. In front of the committee Malone told him they weren't worth fighting for. He said he knew these

The conference of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers opens in Bridlington today. **KEITH GRIFFIN** has had considerable experience of the union. He was secretary of the Keighley branch. Now, like many other militants in the union, he's on the outside, expelled by the union leadership.

Here he writes about the union, its record as a fighting union, its record on racialism. It isn't a stirring story—but it is a shocking one...

people better than the branch and most of them had two jobs!

What had really happened? The mill had been bought by a property company. Two weeks later the whole mill was closed and 250 jobs lost.

And what happened to Matt Dunne? He's been out of work for nine months now—and he's bitter...

Defeated

Horror stories like this aren't new, as Les Hird should remember. In 1963 he led a battle against a lock-out at Denbys in Shipley, an attack on the closed shop. For weeks on end the union refused to give support, refused other workers' demands for an all-out strike. The battle lasted two years—and was defeated. It had been the most militant shop in the Bradford area.

Now? There isn't one trade unionist employed there...

And Les Hird? Well he's changed too. He's on the Dyers and Bleachers executive.

He once had a reputation for fighting corrupt officials. He's still got a reputation, but now it's for expelling members who've

written in the rank and file paper Textile Worker.

I was expelled for writing an article supporting the Intex occupation. Now I've been refused Shipley Trades Council credentials as an Engineering Union

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.

was in forcing a sub-contractor who employed lump labour to leave the site. This has all been achieved by the men themselves, as full-time union officials have taken no effective official action. This attitude has been echoed by the local branch whose only response to the men's call for support was to write a letter deploring the situation to the local council.

The men themselves have had to do the work of the full-time officials, visiting other sites for support. We've been disgusted by the lack of union organisation on other sites in the area. In this time of capitalist-caused recession union officials should be encouraging trade unionism and organising support for brothers in action not watching the struggle from the sidelines.

The employers are using shortage of work as an economic weapon against workers. We should all join together to counter such attacks.

All messages of support and financial assistance should be sent to Martin Dunkley, 51 Holly Road, Northampton.

Aluminium Fumes shock

FORT WILLIAM, Scotland:—Factory inspectors have announced that the concentration of fumes in the British Aluminium plant is far too high. Tests they carried out in April show that fumes from tar and pitch in the furnace rooms are four times the 'acceptable' level. In some parts they are ten times the acceptable level.

The maximum concentration should be 2.2. On the floor of the furnace room it is 8, above the furnaces 24.

Fumes from another chemical, whose name is being kept from the workers, are also far in excess of the acceptable level of 40. The levels are between 58 and 240.

Most of the workers in the furnace rooms at the plant are issued with paper face masks which are totally ineffective in stopping tiny particles from entering the lungs. If fumes from tar and pitch are too high they cause irritation to your eyes, throat and nose irritation. Prolonged exposure can lead to cancer of the skin or lungs.

British Aluminium have just received The Queen's Award to Industry for pioneering new chemical methods of manufacture.

TYNESIDE SAFETY STRIKE OFFICIAL

TYNESIDE:—The strike for safety and conditions money at Sterling Organics, Newcastle, is in its sixth week. The AUEW has now made the strike official and the EEUPTU and the Heating and Domestic Engineers Union are likely to follow suit soon.

This has given a boost to all the strikers, who have now stepped up the picketing at the plants. Maintenance workers at Tyneside Printers and Winthrop Laboratories, both subsidiaries of Sterling Organics, have now come out in support of the dispute and have joined the picket lines.

The Sterling Organics management are trying to bring in scab labour from local firms. A letter has also been sent to all the company's 3800 workers in Britain 'explaining' the management's line on the dispute. The letter hides behind the Social Contract, claiming that any money given to the strikers for conditions would breach the contract guideline of one principle increase a year.

The strikers have said No to both the Social Contract and Sterling Organics productivity schemes and are stepping up their fight for safety. Delegations are being sent to factories throughout Tyne-side and appeals have been made to chemical plants in Teesside. The strike can be won if support is obtained from chemical plants throughout the country.

Messages of support and donations should be sent to J Bullivant, Secretary, Strike committee, 39 Alexandria Way, Cramlington, Northumberland.

OCCUPATION: IT'S A SORE POINT WITH THE BOSS...

By the Occupation Committee, Magnesium Elektron, Manchester.
THE 450 chemical engineering workers occupying this factory have unanimously rejected an offer of 12 per cent plus £1 in return for flexibility and more work study. GMWU convenor Tony Tyrell said: 'We want the full 30 per cent—money on the table—before we talk, let alone go back.'

A scare ran through the factory this week when four managers broke in. One was left impaled on the fence while the others locked themselves in the managers' bungalow. All essential services were immediately cut off from the bungalow. And these men, together with the rest of the management, have since been banned from the site.

'We're united at Stewart Plastics'

By Soonu Engineer

CROYDON: TASS shop steward Pete Pratt has been sacked at Stewart Plastics for organising the union. The strike for his reinstatement, a 30 per cent increase and recognition of the union, has been joined by AUEW shopfloor workers, mainly Asians.

AUEW convenor, Brother Gromayo, said: 'They have tried to frighten our Asian brothers. So I'm here to make sure it doesn't happen again. They say the Asians are trouble-makers.'

'The truth is that they are black workers and poor while management is rich and earning big profits. And this isn't a black people's strike. We are all united here.'

The 230 strikers have organised a strong picket. Only a couple of private vans have managed to get through. Unfortunately, 120 white part-time women workers are crossing the picket line.

Women

When management first started taking on part-time women, the convenor insisted they should get the same rate as the men but the management bought them off with a small increase.

The women agreed this week to come out for one day with the men, but have again been bought off by a 5p an hour rise.

The workers have approached other factories for support. £300 has come in during the last three weeks. A mass picket has been called for this Friday.

Financial support, messages of support to: AUEW District Office, 8 South End, Croydon.

Garton's: 200 fight on

By Bill Brady (TGWU Convenor)

BATTERSEA: 200 process shift workers at Garton's have been on strike for two weeks against attempts to introduce short-time working. The factory works on a continuous 12-hour shift system producing starch, glucose and animal feed. Management were proposing to cut out the two Saturday shifts and cut pay by about £5 a week.

The men are demanding management stand by signed written agreements on pay and maintenance of the status quo clause.

Management say short-time working is necessary as starch is not selling. But half-year trading figures showed a 36 per cent increase in profits, a trend which the directors say is expected to continue. On the strength of these figures, £5.3 million was raised on the stock exchange—to expand starch production at Battersea.

Workers

The process workers feel they are being victimised because of our strong union organisation, which management are trying to weaken before the summer pay claim. We also feel disillusioned by the lack of help from the district office of the TGWU, who are so far standing by while management throw signed agreements out of the window.

Cash and messages of support to: Bro W Brady, 82 Mayford Road, London SW12.

Social, financial and security committees have been set up. Delegations have visited shop stewards' committees in local factories and collections are being held. Local meetings and demonstrations are also planned.

GMWU shop steward Peter Noon said: 'We have had a good response so far but we have a long way to go yet. The common bond with the workers we have visited seems to be their willingness to fight.'

This is one of the first occupations in Manchester this year. But it won't be the last, I'm sure. We will help them when their turn comes.'

The spirit of the men is personified by all the banners and slogans covering the front of the occupied factory and along the nearby railway lines.

One of the best says: 'S B Hirst—Your bubble's burst'. Hirst is the managing director.

More than 260 men are actively involved in the occupation and more are joining each day.

Paul Dickenson, AUEW convenor, said: 'The way to win this struggle is to involve as many people as possible. We are going to spread this strike as much as we can.'

'With good financial support and help from our brothers at Chloride nearby I am sure we will win. The trade union organisation in our factory will be ten times as strong when we return.'

Send donations and messages of support to Tony Tyrell, 113 Falcon Crescent, Clifton, Manchester.

HEINZ, HARLESDEN

FOR THREE months, Heinz have not been replacing workers who leave their Harlesden factory—but production stays the same. The factory manager has made it clear that he expects increased 'efficiency'.

As in many factories, the shopfloor is worried about loss of overtime and redundancies. There have been two walkouts recently over cuts in manning and a third over an unfair suspension. The hardening attitude was reflected in the last T&G branch meeting.

It was agreed to demand a ban on flexibility and an immediate shorter working week. The attitude of our own union officials is a major obstacle. Brother Dean, the convenor, and some stewards have plotted to defy the branch and prevent a serious fightback. They want to veto the flexibility ban which, if operated, would make it impossible for management to run undermanned departments.

Brother Lucas, the Region 1 TGWU Organiser has backed these moves by instructing the branch that the flexibility ban is out of order because it breaks the procedure agreement with management!

SCOTTISH CABLES, RENFREW

500 TGWU members have voted unanimously to continue their six week strike against redundancies.

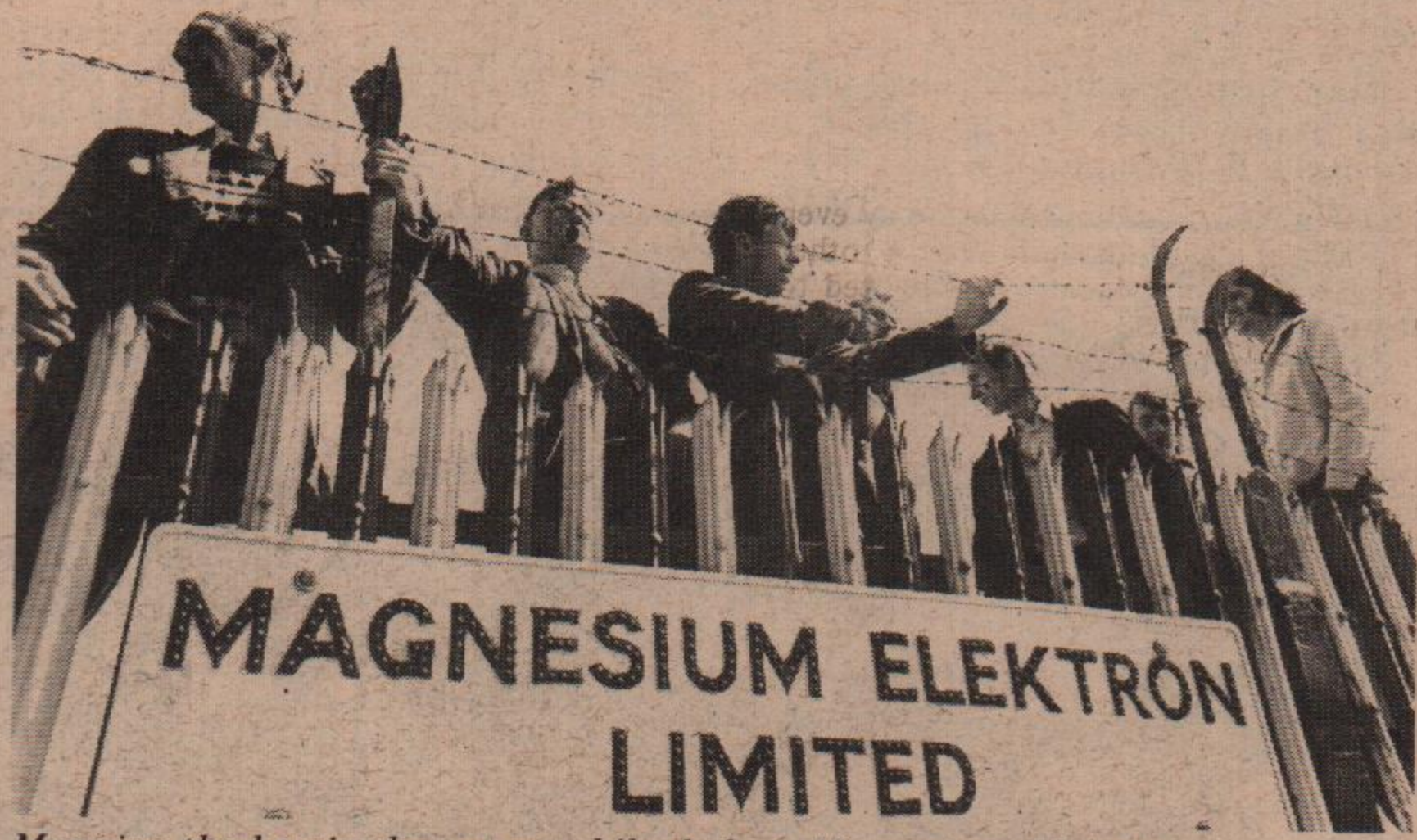
After the mass meeting, Convenor John White said:

'After five weeks in dispute, the men are becoming more bitter as the original number to be made redundant has been well over-subscribed by the amount of people who have left the factory since the strike began.'

'The deadlock is the management's refusal to employ the four remaining men on the redundancy list. As the strike continues, the workers are beginning to question the validity of the word redundancy.'

The factory is part of the BICC group. The shop stewards feel the redundancies are part of a much bigger offensive.

Last week the convenor at Renfrew said: 'We're considering a request from some shop stewards in the BICC group



Manning the barricades; meanwhile, below, Magnesium Elektron workers occupy the Weighbridge office.



Cardiff sparks turn down £40-a-week offer

AFTER the Scottish Corporation sparks' victory in maintaining JIB rates at £1.23 an hour, the English and Welsh sparks are continuing a work-to-rule and overtime ban while their claim for the same rates goes to arbitration.

But the Cardiff sparks are still out on strike and are negotiating with the local council, which has already offered a guaranteed £40 a week, plus £2.50. This offer is £5 above the national offer.

Amid the confusion of other corporation strikes being called off as the EETPU Executive's line of arbitration was pushed through, the Cardiff strikers cannot find out if their strike is still official. Even the Area District Office claim they do not know!

This has caused some confusion but the lads remain solid—wisely trusting in their own strike power than the manoeuvring of union officials and the Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

The Cardiff sparks desperately need financial support. Send donations to: 12 Coburn St, Cathaye, Cardiff.

5,000 SHOCK MASSEY FERGUSON

COVENTRY: The determined stoppage of 5,000 workers at Massey Ferguson's is making management squeal. All key points in the three factories were occupied last week and flying pickets sent to various tractor depots in the Midlands.

Massey's plans have backfired. Six weeks ago, they were prepared for a stoppage throughout May. They didn't want it, but if four weeks lost production was the cost of keeping to their ridiculous £4.13 (six per cent) wage offer, they were prepared to see us all outside the gate.

But their last-minute effort for further talks showed they would have preferred a settlement. This brinkmanship almost worked. But the shop-floor over-ruled the shop stewards and went for an indefinite strike.

Despite smuggling some documents out of the plant, management have been badly shaken by the shop-floor tactics. Managers have been politely booted out of their offices and massive world-wide sales operations disrupted.

Telex messages arriving daily indicate lost sales by panic-stricken overseas agents.

Managers are spread around the Warwickshire countryside in hotels and Nissen huts trying to keep operations going. One industrial relations manager who refused to leave his office was barricaded in. He later decided to leave.

After seven days of what Massey's call 'illegal action', they asked for talks—the first time in Coventry they have ever agreed to talk during a strike.

Some stewards are arguing that the battle is three-quarters won. But the only way to make sure a just settlement is reached is by continuing and extending the picketing. Management's double dealing in the past should be a warning against any easing off until the cash is on the table.

Mabbutt and Johnston's: 37 occupy

LONDON: The 37 printworkers at Mabbutt and Johnston's have occupied after the owner, Hill Samuel merchant bank director John Alexander, tried to shut down the print processing firm.

Last week a 120-strong demo marched to Hill Samuel and staged a picket. SLADE, one of the two unions involved, has made the dispute official, and the NGA is expected to follow. The workers are planning a second march from Ironmonger Row, EC1 to Hill Samuel on Thursday 22 May, at 2pm.

Pressure is building up on Alexander to re-open the company.

Donations and messages of support to: D Boa (SLADE trustee) and G Kipling (NGA regional president), Joint Treasurers, Mabbutt and Johnston, c/o 54, Doughty Street, London, WC1

IN BRIEF

to call a combine meeting on redundancies. The shop stewards in some of the English factories feel we at Renfrew could take the lead in this fight.

Donations to John White, T&G Office, 129 Renfrew Road, Paisley.

WEST BROM BAKERS

'YOU HELPED organise the strike—that's why you're out'. With those words the production manager at Allied Bakeries (Bradford) Alan Stanley explained the sacking of Kewal Singh, a shop steward at a bakery in West Bromwich.

It was a sacking which cost Allied £780 at the Birmingham Industrial Tribunal—but it was cheap at the price. Management have brought trade unionism at Bradfords, who were in the forefront of the bakery workers strike last year to its knees.

And the method was a classic of cashing in on human misery. Kewal had been informed of the murder of his father in India—and the suspected murder of his brother. He appealed to the management to let him go to the country to find out the truth. They stalled claiming only the absent chief executive could make the decision. Kewal couldn't wait, and left for India, leaving his wife expecting their baby at hospital.

Fortunately his brother was still alive. But when he returned he found that his wife had lost their child—and that he had lost his job...

LUTON BRICKLAYERS

A GO-SLOW by 30 bricklayers working on homes at M J Shanley's Marsh Farm site has heralded a campaign to organise the site. Shanley's contracts for Luton corporation has meant lump work, and at Marsh Farm lump labour is being used to 'improve bonus targets'. The 30 have given Shanley's two weeks—or stronger action follows...

BUILDING WORKERS MARCH

FROM THAMESMEAD to Woolwich marched 400 building workers last week. 'Homeless people, jobless builders—some-

body is mad' said their posters. Government cuts have paralysed the massive Thamesmead housing project. 70 men to be fired by the end of the month, and 200 more soon after.

They're supposed to wait for the next stage of the project in 1976, and the design is to fit in with the government's economies—which means 'a radical re-design of the scheme into a monotonous and barren sprawl' slammed the Thamesmead Committee.

'They're going to build shacks, not homes' claimed works convenor Bob Gordon. The march was part of the campaign to stop them getting away with it.

ICL WORKERS

MANAGEMENT tried a lock-out and to use members of the white collar union ASTMS to break shop floor organisation. But it didn't deter more than 900 Engineering and Electrical unions' strikers at ICL plants in West Gorton and Dukinfield.

They've gone back after partial success—with management conceding consultation, no victimisation and other issues. A sour point was the failure to involve the strikers fully—although they showed an impressive unity. This was highlighted by the decision to return to work.

Most strikers wanted it—but at West Gorton officials didn't give any option. 'Before we go, I'll tell you the recommendation of your stewards and officials, that you report for work at 8am tomorrow morning. Now please disperse.'

KIMBERS STAFFORDSHIRE

IT started on May Day—and for 75 Engineering union members at Cradley Heath's Kimber Die and Tool factory the official strike is going on.

'This is only the second strike in 15 years but we are determined to keep ahead of the cost of living' said a shop steward. Their strike sprung from management's refusal to stick to a six monthly pay deal.

The 75 are fighting a management which is driving Kimber's lorries across the picket lines—and 20 non-union scabs who're still working and are going to be blacked, say the strikers when they go back.

Send them money and support to, David Peplow, 262 Stamford Road, Brierley Hill, Staffs.

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 work with.

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

Write to Alan Denean, SWIS, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Dunlop: No sell-out on equal pay!

By C J Benton, ACTSS branch secretary

COVENTRY:—The 700 clerical workers at Dunlop voted almost unanimously at a mass meeting on Monday to continue their strike.

The new management offer didn't even meet the reduced claim of £10, and was conditional upon accepting a new grading structure, with a 'zero' grade, which would ensure that the women's wages would stay below those of the men.

Even the full-time officials wouldn't wear this and advised the strikers to reject the offer. All their talk about equal pay, and how that is where the fight is, may be laudable. But at the same time they are laying the foundations for a sell-out on the original claim.

Denis Adler, ACTSS district organiser, claimed no pressure was coming from Dunlop management to settle the strike. The reality is that all the Dunlop factories in Coventry are at a standstill. 12,500 Leyland workers are laid off, and the effects of the strike are snowballing.

There isn't likely to be any strike pay because, as APEX official Reg Edwards said, the Executive 'don't throw away

money like an octopus.'

Another meeting has been called for Friday afternoon. We must demand: no return to work unless offered £10 across the board; pressure to be brought on the unions to pay strike pay; an escalation of the strike to make it hit harder.

Janette Crutchley, ACTSS steward at Dunlop's, spoke to Socialist Worker about the strike:

'This offer the company has made to us is centred round job evaluation. What that means is that equal pay for women is effectively to be scrapped. This is simply an attempt by Dunlop's to throw out real equal pay, and at the same time

divert us from our flat-rate claim.

'We shocked them, you know. They didn't think clerical workers would strike. We accepted everything that was going for over ten years.

'This is our first strike, and we're learning. We've learned that the press is doing everything to make us feel guilty about all the lay-offs, especially the Leyland workers.

'When we go back, it will be different in Dunlop's, as far as clerical workers are concerned.'

Donations and messages of support to C Jacques, 7 Sycamore Road, Camphill, Nuneaton, Warwick.

LEVI STRIKERS GET A BOOST

WHITBURN:—The five-week strike by 350 women at the Levi factory over the re-instatement of convenor Flora Flynn has been made official by the Garment Workers' Union.

The company refused on Monday even to consider reinstatement. Levi's other factories in Scotland are not expected to come out in support.

Management have been trying to disrupt the union organisation in the factory,

eventually organising a ballot to decide for or against a union. The women in the union objected and, in an argument with one of the managers, Flora threw a ballot box out of the factory window. She got the sack.

If this strike is won, it will be a tremendous victory in the campaign of women workers for higher wages and equal pay and against redundancy.

Donations and messages of support to Mary Porter, 132 Fallas Place, Fauldhouse, West Lothian.

WALTER AND DOBSON WOMEN WIN SUPPORT

INKERSALL:—The strike at Walter and Dobson's is entering its eleventh week. Although some have broken the strike and some have handed in their notice, 28 women are still solid in support of their claim for the second instalment of the last engineering industry agreement, which would bring their wages up to £24.50, the national basic minimum.

The strikers have realised now that the local AUEW officials won't give them a lead, so they have leafleted local factories and addressed a mass meeting at Markham's Engineering Works. There were demonstrations of support on the picket lines last week by local miners and the Markham Engineers.

The strikers have lobbied Labour MPs Dennis Skinner and Joe Ashton. Skinner said he would take the issue up with Michael Foot's ministry, while Ashton suggested the possibility of cancelling Walter and Dobson's War Office contract.

The strikers have also addressed the AUEW Sheffield District Committee, winning financial and picketing support. A

special sub-committee was set up to consider action against Walter and Dobson's factory in Sheffield.

Management have agreed to talk with the strikers through the Conciliation and Arbitration Service. After ten weeks, one week's militant action has brought about a major shift in the management's attitude.

The AUEW district secretary has constantly failed to initiate any action which would bring pressure on management. Only after seven weeks of the strike did the District Committee agree to national blacking but even that move was made useless because of the District Secretary's failure to send out official letters.

The strength and courage of the strike leaders has maintained the struggle, encouraged by support from the engineers of Markham

Effective blacking of all Walter and Dobson's goods and supplies is essential. Donations and messages of support to Mrs C Smith, 20 Clarendon Road, Inkersall, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

2000 out for equal pay at Electrolux

By Keith Butterfield, AUEW, and Pete Fysh, MATSA

LUTON:—2000 production workers are on strike at Electrolux to win equal pay for women production workers.

The women had been offered only 84 per cent of the men's rate, and the strike vote at last Friday's mass meeting showed that many wanted to accept it and carry on negotiating in the hope that more could be won by the end of the year.

The stewards' committee and a mass meeting of men production workers saw the danger of such a deal. If the women's rate was not effectively raised to equal the men's, the company might try to recruit women next January at 84 per cent of the rate currently operating.

Meanwhile staff, who signed an equal pay deal in February, are allowed to cross the picket line by their stewards' interpretation of a national agreement which says that staff must not become involved in production workers' disputes.

So far the strikers have elected a strike committee and picketed the factory gates and the transport depots of Freeman Brothers at Marlyate and Woodrich Transport at Henlow. As we go to press, they are expecting the strike to be made official by the AUEW.



Pickets on the gate at British Mail Order in Wigan: police limited their numbers to 20

Wigan Mail Order women walk out over pay deal

WIGAN:—500 workers at the John England British Mail Order Corporation walked out last Wednesday in protest at a wage rise foisted on them by USDAW officials.

The men were offered £1.89 and the women £2.20. At the moment the women earn £23, including threshold. Most of the strikers are women.

USDAW say the rise was negotiated by officials and local representatives and

accepted unanimously. They also say there has been a ballot.

But the only people known to have had a ballot have been the office staff. They accepted the rise, and are breaking the picket of their fellow USDAW members.

The strikers have been picketing other warehouses in the combine in Bolton and Eccles.

The union issued a statement to the strikers on Monday saying the strike was unofficial and telling them to go back to work. The local USDAW official, however, is backing the strikers against other union officials.

He thinks they are right to reject such a miserable increase. A mass meeting on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly to stay out and continue sending out flying pickets.

AUEW branches back S W

MORE AUEW branches have joined the large number who have already passed resolutions condemning the refusal of the Union Executive to grant Socialist Worker press credentials for its National Committee meetings. Papers such as the Daily Telegraph are freely admitted.

These branches have passed resolutions in the last few weeks: Ossett, 560E, Shipley No 1, Shipley No 2, Walkden (Bolton). The resolutions will now go before the Wakefield, Bradford and Bolton District Committees.

All AUEW members should fight to have the ban on Socialist Worker lifted. Please tell us of resolutions passed by your branch or District Committee. Socialist Worker is ready to send speakers to any AUEW body to explain the case against the ban.

CHRYSLER: THIS STRIKE IS SOLID

By Gerry Jones, TGWU Shop Steward, Chrysler Stoke

WE HAVE decided there will be no return to work until Chrysler offer us £8 without strings as the basis for negotiating further increases. We took this decision after attempts over the weekend by union officials to get us to return to work.

A mass meeting agreed last week to give seven days' strike notice over a £15 increase, consolidation of the threshold, two days' extra holiday and equal pay for

women. We need £15 just to keep pace with inflation over the last year.

In the past three years, we have fallen from first to 18th in the Coventry wages league. If we fail to secure a rise at all, which is what Chrysler are after, we will have suffered a drop in wages of £19.18 between 1972 and 1975.

I can't remember the plant being so united over a claim. There is tremendous support for Transport Union convenor Bob Morris in his stand. The new 'workers' participation' scheme doesn't enter into the problem of our standard of living.

But the strike needs to be active. The stewards' committee has decided not to picket Stoke in the first week and drivers and security police have promised that nothing will leave the factory. But Chrysler have over 20 storage depots for CKD packs up and down the country. These are loaded with cars for Iran. We need to picket these depots and send delegations to all the ports.

The press, Wilson and the Tory Party will do all they can to try to destroy the unity of Chrysler workers. We can counter this by involving the members as much as possible. Flying pickets are one way.

We will also need to get more involvement at the top. We need, as well as the four man negotiating committee, sub-committees in finance, social security, transport, publicity and picketing. And we need an elected strike committee to co-ordinate these activities.

Page 3: Paul O'Brien, Chrysler Stoke shop steward writes on the plans for workers' participation.

Watch out, lads

EDDIE PREVOST, London Docks shop steward, paid tribute to the determination of the shop stewards at Chrysler and said: 'There's no doubt the workers at Chrysler and in particular the shop stewards will come in for the same stick from our "freedom-loving press" as did their brothers in the London Docks when they were recently on strike.'

'We have already seen in last week's Socialist Worker how those "guardians of free speech" who reside in Fleet Street and the so-called independent TV companies are nothing more than an expression of big business interests. They are controlled by their financial connections with industry generally.'

'It is therefore of extreme importance that workers counter press propaganda by producing their own newspapers and fact sheets explaining the facts the "free press" will not print.'

This breaks the previous agreement and is an obvious attempt to divide the workforce. The company want to set the rest of the workers, who have now worked only two days in three weeks, against the strikers.

If they can defeat a militant section like the door-hangers, the rest of the plant can expect to suffer from even greater speed up in the future.

With everyone laid off and sitting at home, there seems little we can do. This, our present weakness, highlights the strength that an occupation would give us.

While the Body Plant was occupied, we had real bargaining power and could organise a fight back. An occupation is still our best defence.

DAGENHAM: FORD'S TRY TO DIVIDE WORKERS

DAGENHAM:—Door-hangers, fender fitters and welders in the Body in White section at Ford's have now been on strike against manning cuts and speed-up for more than two weeks.

The company say the return to work must be with reduced manning levels and additional work study. The men refused to accept these new manning levels, seeing no reason why jobs established by custom and practice over many years should now suddenly be speeded up by as much as 40 per cent.

The company have now told the 6,000 laid off from the Body and PTA that no more lay-off money will be paid.

Broad Left candidate deserts AUEW

By John Deason

BERNARD PANTER, a leading Communist Party member, has resigned membership of the AUEW and accepted an appointment as full-time official for the Electrical Power Engineers Association—although he was still convenor at Scraggs, Manchester and the Broad Left candidate in the election for National Organiser.

Presumably, he is also going to publicly renounce his membership of the Communist Party as the EPEA bars CP members from holding office.

Until last year, Bro Panter was the long-standing Manchester District Secretary, but failed to get re-elected against right-winger Walter Mather. Straight after this defeat, Panter told the Morning Star: 'I will be returning to the shop floor, where I will continue to work to improve wages and conditions.' That resolve has not lasted very long.

Broad Left candidates within the AUEW are doing badly. This 'desertion' comes at a time when the right wing is gaining ascendancy.

Broad Left-supported officials have been seen to fail over crucial bread and butter issues. Bro Panter was one of the leading architects of Broad Left strategy within the union. His departure will be an unwelcome boost to the right wing's confidence, who will see it as confirmation of the Broad Left's inability to fight them.

As South England Area Organiser in the EPEA, his salary will be £3700 rising to £5325 a year plus expenses.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

**It's not
just
pickets
they're
after...**

IT'S BOOM week for bosses in the courts. Three rulings from the Appeal Courts have hit workers fighting to save jobs, students fighting rent increases—and tenant campaigners fighting property speculators.

The 30 workers occupying CROSFIELD ELECTRONICS in North London were ordered to end their six-week occupation. They had been campaigning to save their firm shipping their jobs out of London. That was on Monday.

On Tuesday, the Appeal Court heard an appeal from nine members of the ISLINGTON TENANTS CAMPAIGN. They had been prevented from picketing outside Prebbles estate agents in North London.

Their fight has been against the housing rackets that have driven hundreds of families out of the area over the last few years. The Law Lords rejected the appeal 2-1.

The Appeal Court backed away from Justice Forbes' interpretation of the law in the hearing of the case last year. Forbes had single-handedly reduced the right of peaceful, non-industrial picketing to a shambles.



Tuesday's judgement has left the matter a shambles—but also left the right to picket open to further, future battles in the law courts.

The dissenting voice on Tuesday belonged to Lord Denning. He had no such qualms last weekend when he presided over the dispute between WARWICK UNIVERSITY and students who had occupied the administration premises to fight university rent increases.

The authorities wanted—and got—an eviction order against the students, which had earlier been rejected by a lower court.

When applying for a High Court injunction of this type it has always been necessary to name the individuals referred to. Warwick had named five—but there were many more occupying.

So they appealed to the court, claiming that an order naming some should apply to all. And Denning agreed.

This ruling hits us all. If you were occupying your factory to save your job, your boss could name one of your fellow occupiers to get a re-possession order, put it through the courts—and you'll all be out on your ear.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Warren's sixth month in solitary

JAILED Shrewsbury picket Des Warren has now been in solitary confinement for five months.

And it appears that this particularly revolting form of prison torture is continuing even though there is no longer the slightest pretext for it.

Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson were first put into solitary in November last year. The prison authorities said that by refusing to wear prison clothes the two men were flouting discipline. In retaliation, all visits were banned and the two men were split up and put in solitary.

In mid-April both men decided they would wear prison clothes. Immediately, Ricky Tomlinson was taken out of solitary confinement.

Des Warren was allowed visitors. But solitary was continued—and goes on to this day, though Des is no longer in breach of some petty part of prison discipline.

Billy Byrne, a friend of the jailed pickets, has described in some detail the vile conditions now being imposed on Des.

He is kept alone in his cell for 23 hours a day. The floor of the cell is six feet below ground level. The only view of the outside world is through the top of the window aperture, which is of course barred. The view, obtained with consider-

able difficulty, is of a brick wall.

For some hours of the day 'useful work' is imposed on Des. He has to sew mailbags. He is allowed one hour exercise a day—with a warden for company. Enormous steps are taken to ensure that he never meets any other prisoners.

Elsa Warren has tackled the governor of Lincoln Prison about the continuing torture of her husband. She has been told that he cannot

order the solitary confinement to be ended. He says it is a matter for the Home Office, which indicates that the continued persecution of Des Warren is being orchestrated at a fairly senior level.

Socialist Worker approached the Home Office for a statement about who was responsible. No reply was forthcoming by the time we went to press.

The authorities are practising another form of persecution besides this one.

For some time before May Day, officially inspired hints were made that Des and Ricky would be shortly released, courtesy of the Parole Board.

The purpose of these hints was to get the TUC to back down once again from doing anything to secure the immediate release of the men.

This tactic, which worked only too well on the bureaucrats of the TUC, has wreaked havoc on the Warrens and Tomlinsons.

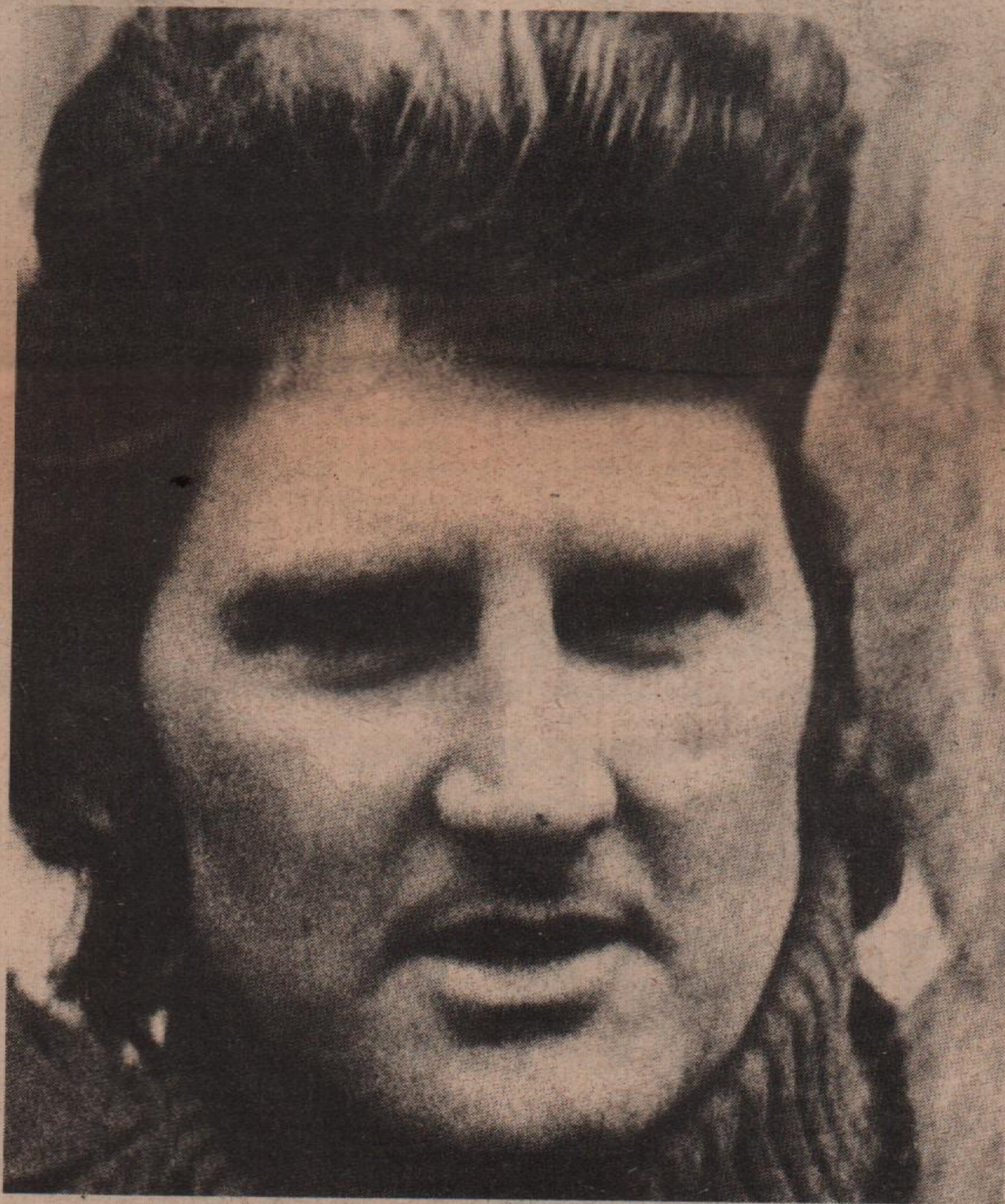
YES, YOUR CASH IS IMPORTANT

'MORE donations are urgently needed', Ossie Lewis, honorary treasurer of the National Rank and File Organising Committee's Shrewsbury Dependants' Fund, told Socialist Worker. He said:

'A measure of the ruthlessness of the authorities is the callous way the wives have been treated. Elsa Warren has told me that she was actually in telephone contact with Lincoln Prison and nobody bothered to gently break the news to her that her husband might not be coming home after all.

'Marlene Tomlinson, who lives with her two young sons some 20 miles away from the Warren family, had an equally shattering experience. She writes: 'Reporters came to tell me Rick was on his way home, so you can imagine how I felt...'

Mrs Warren told Socialist Worker that she thinks the Rank and File Fund and all other initiatives are of immense value in the campaign to release Des and Ricky and to help the families.



Des Warren: victim of Home Office persecution



Ricky Tomlinson: cruel trick

The jailed men and their wives all had their hopes built up only to have them dashed by the Parole Board, an organisation dominated by colleagues of the same judge who put Des and Ricky into prison in the first place and who have campaigned so hard to keep them there.

Rank and file trade unionists will have to redouble their efforts to put an end to this terrible campaign against Des Warren and step up the fight to secure an immediate release of both jailed men.

Otherwise, if the captains of the TUC have their way, Des Warren will be incarcerated for another seven and a half months.

International Women's year demo

ALL London branches of the International Socialists will be supporting the International Women's Year demonstration on Sunday 25 May, which starts with a rally in Hyde Park at 12.30pm, followed by a march to Trafalgar Square.

Branches are to bring IS banners and organise sellers for Socialist Worker and Women's Voice. There is still time to raise support on trades councils and in trade union branches, which will have been notified about the demo.

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Chile Solidarity Campaign
Picket United Services Club, 116 Pall Mall, corner of Waterloo Place, London, on Wednesday 21 May (Chilean Naval Day), 6.15pm.

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