## Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

PRICES are rising faster now than ever before in Britain. The government's own figures show a 3.9 per cent rise in the single month of March.

April's figures are likely to be even worse as the budget and increased fares, power and phone charges take effect.

The Tories and the press have one simple explanation for these figures. They blame wages. They keep repeating that wages are rising far faster than prices.

But when the effect of increased tax and national insurance contributions are taken into account, even the best-off workers have only just been keeping abreast of prices until now. As the new price rises take effect even they will begin to fill behind unless they fight for more pay.

Wages are not responsible for the tax rises and the rent rises announced by the government. Workers are not to blame for meat prices being kept artificially high by the Common Market. Workers have not caused the massive rises in interest charges. Workers are not benefitting from the soaring share prices this week.

It is not only the Tories who are blaming wages. On Monday Harold Wilson joined in the chorus. He said that 'the big battalions' must not hog the 'national cake'.

#### Blame

But workers are not responsible for the crisis, for the fact that the cake is getting smaller. Our wages were squeezed in the vice of Phases One and Two of the Tory wage freeze when the symptoms of crisis first developed.

Even Jack Jones, of the Transport Workers Union, seems to accept that high wages are to blame for the crisis. He is talking about a new form of incomes policy which would peg everyone's pay, just as the Tory '£1 plus 4 per cent' limit did two years ago. But such a scheme could only mean increased profits for the employers, who would be under no compulsion whatsoever to use those profits for any useful purpose.

If the wages at, say, GKN are frozen, the directors and shareholders of GKN benefit, not other workers, old age pensioners or the unemployed.

What is most absurd about plans for wage restraint is that they cannot deal with the crisis. They cannot impose order on those who run the

# their crisis

economy-the small minority who own and control the commanding heights. So they cannot end the sequence of boom and slump that has led us into crisis.

In the past trade unionists have been pressurised by the press into accepting such arguments. So we had a 'pay pause' in 1961, a Statement of Intent in 1964, a wage freeze in 1966, an 'nil norm' in 1970, a Phase One in 1972, Phases Two and Three in 1973.

None of these measures stopped the rising trend in prices, nor the demand of the Tory press for still

further attacks on wages.

Only one thing could do that-a workers' onslaught on the present system, to take economic power from the ruling minority and to reorganise the economy on a rational basis.

Until we reach that point, there is only one answer to rising prices-to step up the fight for higher wages, against the cut-backs in government spending and against redundancies, and against the Labour government that depends increasingly on the Tories to protect it from its own supporters.

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# TROOPS

#### Come to Saturday's labour conference

THE House of Commons has renewed the Prevention of Terrorism Act, by which more than 100 Irish workers in this country have been held by the police without charge and without trial. Half of these workers have also been deported without trial.

Only ten Labour MPs had the guts to vote against Congratulations to them. But what about the 300 others who say they believe in civil liberty but do nothing to stop an Act which threatens the liberties of every Irish worker in Britain?

The Act's renewal underlines the importance of the Labour Movement Conference on Ireland this Saturday, which will campaign to get the troops out of Ireland to to repeal the Terrorism Act.

This week five members of the strike committee of Glasgow Corporation electricians, which has just led a victorious 14-week strike for pay parity with electricians working for contractors, issued the following appeal to their fellow trade unionists in Britain:

The present government has shown that they are prepared if need be to break official strikes by the use of troops. This was shown recently when they moved in troops against the Glasgow Corporation HGV drivers and electricians.

By the use of the Army in this manner many of our members were able to relate more clearly to the role of the British Army in Ireland. The troops in Ireland are there purely to protect the interests of British big business and there can never be a solution while they are present.

It was once said: "No nation which oppresses another, can itself be free". This is the position which the British working class will continue to find itself

in as long as we do nothing or little to alter it. The undersigned members of our committee fully

support the conference on Ireland on 24 May and recognise the right of the whole Irish people to national selfdetermination. The delegates we send will be calling for the withdrawal of troops now. We also urge all trades councils, shop committees, etc, to send delegates, as this conference must be the springboard for the Labour movement's campaign for Irish national self-determination.

Signed: John Glen, J Wing, G R Kelly, James Peterson, D Morland.

Already more than 200 delegates have registered to attend the conference. There could be more than 300 by the time it opens. This will be the largest delegate conference on Ireland to take place in Britain since the war.

You can still go. Delegates with a letter of authority from a trade union body, student union or Labour Party will be admitted at the door of the conference on payment of the fee (75p). It is at the Collegiate Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC2, starting 10am.

Observer tickets for the gallery are still available at 75p. Phone Troops Out Movement, 01-602 1899.



Workers at Chrysler Stoke voting this week almost unanimously to continue their strike for a decent living wage. The reporters and television couldn't claim that this vote was unclear or fiddled. FULL STORY: page 15. Chrysler wives support the strike-page 2. Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

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SEE CENTRE PAGES

## WHAT WE THINK

A MIGHTY press campaign is being waged to reverse the decision of the **AUEW National Committee that voting** for officials should take place in the branches, not by post.

A postal ballot for AUEW union officials must be supported, claim the leaderwriters of our newspapers, in the interests of 'union democracy' and 'fairness'.

Needless to say, the press devotion to these principles is sudden-and hypocritical. The same leader writers are the first to campaign against the regular election of trade union officials. They are the first to support those unions, like the General and Municipal Workers Union or the steelworkers' union, which have no regular election at all.

Their sudden obsession with democracy in the unions does not extend to democracy in the boardroom, where far greater economic power is wielded than in union offices. Who elects managing directors and chief executives? Nobody. By the way, who elects newspaper editors? Nobody.

#### Destroy

The truth is that the newspapers are interested only in union democracy in order to destroy it. They prefer no union elections. Where there are elections, as in the country's most democratic union, the AUEW, they

## AUEW WOTES: A good decision-but what a way to take it!

want the elections to be carried out in the most undemocratic way possible.

They want the postal ballot because it is more undemocratic than the vote in the branch-even though more people vote by post than in the branch. Why is this so?

Because the postal vote isolates workers from one another when taking their decisions. The only public discussion on the issues facing them in the election will then be in the press or television-which are owned and controlled by the employers. All the propaganda in press and television works against strong, militant trade unions. If votes are left to individuals in their homes, the press and TV have a free run on the discussion.

Discussion and debate in the branch or shop floor meeting, or union conference,

leads to decisions taken by trade unionists as trade unionists. It provides a different form of discussion to ranting in the press and television.

After discussion in the branch, the names on the ballot paper are connected with known faces, known policies. Election addresses can be read out and openly discussed. If the ballot comes by post, there is nothing but a name.

### Encourages

The same newspapers which howl for a postal ballot are not in favour of proper election addresses being circulated. They 'can't be afforded', they say.

A postal ballot encourages votes for a candidate who lives in the same place as the voter.

A postal ballot gives full reign to the Woodrow Wyatts and the Robert Maxwells, employers who have the money to finance right-wing union campaigns. The man with the most money can make the most propaganda.

The postal ballot kills branch life. What's the point of going to the branch if you can't choose who makes the decisions there? So the number of people who play a part in the union goes down and down. More and more power is handed over to a handful of irresponsible officials.

The decision of the AUEW National Committee to go back to the branch vote was right. But the way the decision was taken-by the dubious disqualification of right-wing delegates to the committee-was bureaucratic nit-picking of the worst kind.

> This sort of manoeuvre plays into the hands of the press and the right wing. They argue that voting in the branch will be used by the Left to establish minority control, with small meetings whose style is deliberately set to 'freeze out' the union's rank and file. The rotten manoeuvre at Blackpool gives all this talk credibility.

So does the main argument in the Broad Left of the AUEW against the postal ballot-that the union 'can't afford it'.

### **Expense**

Already, Tories in the House of Commons are demanding government money to pay for postal ballots. If the main argument against the postal ballot is expense-what will the Broad Left say if the government stumps up the money?

The argument for the branch vote is not about money. It is not, as the Broad Left spokesmen sometimes argue, for control by an 'informed' clique so that 'important offices' in the union can be won for the Left.

It is that the branch vote opens the door to genuine rank and file participation in the union's affairs.

The only real antidote to the right wing and their friends in the newspapers, the only road to strong, democratic trade unions is an informed rank and file membership which takes part in union discussion and decision.

We argue for the branch ballot, the branch debate, the branch discussion: to build the rank and file in the union, a rank and file which will have no truck with careerists and officehunters on the Right or Left.



Why we stand beside our husbands in this strike -by Chrysler wives

WHY did you decide to demonstrate?

Well, it was all over the Coventry Telegraph that women would be demonstrating to get the men back to work. We thought we should show the men that not all women were against them. We support the

men up. How did you get organised?

pay claim and wanted to back the

After I read the headlines in the paper about the 'back to work' women I was so angry that I thought straight away something had to be done. I remember when women from Cowley hit the headlines. The press had a field day and tried to break the strike. I thought it was about time that those in support of the men had a say too.

I went to see some of my mates, the ones whose husbands were out on strike. There were only a few of us, but we all agreed there and then to go and show these other women they had some opposition.

We made a few placards to take along, and we wrote the letter to Eddie McClusky, the secretary of the joint shop stewards' committee. He was overjoyed to see our



Maureen Enever (right) arguing for the Chrysler strikers against the 'back to work' wives.

The press last week was full of a 'confrontation' outside the gates at Chrysler Coventry between wives of Chrysler strikers.

The newspaper editors were bitterly disappointed. They had hoped to mount another Wives Against The Strike campaign such as the one which broke the drivers' strike at British Leyland, Cowley, last year. Their hopes were dashed by a new Support The Strike Group, which turned up to put the strikers' side of the argument. Among the organisers of the new group is Maureen Enever, interviewed for Socialist Worker by Gail Armstrong.

support. And that was all we really did to start with.

What happened at the picket itself?

When we arrived with the kids the place was mobbed with reporters and TV crews. But I don't think they expected to see us turning out. To my mind they were hoping for another Cowley wives field day. They were amazed to see any opposition.

At first they were falling over themselves to take pictures of the kids. The poor kids didn't know what was happening, but that didn't stop the press. They were more interested in dramatic pictures than what we had to say.

They couldn't believe we had done it off our own bat and they were convinced our husbands had put us up to it! I ask you! We don't need our husbands to tell us the price of food.

#### Hardship

We didn't go for a confrontation with Mrs Willis and Co. Strikes cause hardship all round, and they are worried that Chrysler will pull out and leave us all on the dole.

But if management are talking about an offer on the 23rd and workers' participation, to me they look like a firm that's ready to pull out. The bills can't wait till the management thinks fit to pay us out. The men in Detroit earn twice as much as Chrysler workers here. They would be mad to pull out when they can get away with these slave wages.

What we want is a fair wage for everyone, that will bring us

back to the standard of living we've

What effect do you think your action has had?

Well, we showed Mrs Willis and Company and the press that we won't stand aside and watch our standard of living cut. It was great to see the number of wives who turned up at the mass meeting on Thursday to support us. We will stick by our husbands until they get a decent settlement.

Well, where do you go from here?

We have now got the basis of a Chrysler Wives Support Committee. We will make it our business to demonstrate our support of the claim at all the mass meetings. We will have to stick together to help each other through the strike.

Also we want to tell other Chrysler wives why we demonstrated and why they should join us. Most women only know what they read in the papers about the dispute. Well, we've just found out you can't expect a fair hearing in the press. The men have also got to tell their own wives about what's happening in work. If they did there would be many more of us!



## District calls factory 'NO' meetings



by Mick Brightman
AUEW North London District Committee,

IN keeping with AUEW policy, the union's North London District Committee is pursuing the NO campaign by arranging a series of factory meetings—to be called by works' committees in leading engineering factories in the area.

The first after-work meeting has been called by the Acton Works LTB factory and jointly sponsored by the Ealing Get Britain Out Committee. It is being held at Acton Town Hall, Acton, at 5.15pm on Thursday (22 May).

Speakers include Bill McLaughlin, AUEW divisional organiser; Ray Buckton, general secretary of the engine drivers' union ASLEF, a Labour Minister (as yet unnamed) and Sir Ian MacTaggart..

Congratulations to North London District Committee for arranging these meetings—but this meeting will be hopelessly marred by having MacTaggart as a speaker.

#### Speculator

MacTaggart is a slum landlord and property speculator. He is a former chairman of the Society for Individual Freedom, a front for extreme right-wing politics, and has given money to the Monday Club.

It is only to be hoped that the next meeting organised by the district committee in North London, which is expected to be at Frigidaires (General Motors) in Hendon, will not have such a speaker on the platform.

The working class are being deceived enough by the right-wing Keep Britain In campaign. Don't let's confuse the NO campaign even more by sharing platforms with extreme right-wing slum landlords.





Arch-Tory Geoffrey Rippon and Labour Minister Shirley Williams share a Pro-Market platform. They also share procapitalist policies.

WITH two weeks to go to the referendum, the big business pro-Market machine is really rolling. Every major daily paper is pumping out propaganda for a Yes vote. Barclays Bank has sent a letter to everyone who holds an account there urging them to vote Yes.

The Economist reports that most major employers are producing special issues of their company journals, urging their workers to vote for the Market- and in most cases they are so arranging things as to prevent any letters to the journals from shop stewards replying to this argument.

For the first time too, the popular press is beginning come clean about the real significance of the referendum. Last week the front pages were covered with pictures of the Common Market 'coalition' of Heath, Jenkins and Thorpe—and by hints that all three would consider a coalition on other things as well if they got a big enough Yes vote.

It is this which makes the campaign for the No vote so important to the rank and file of the labour movement.

Yet was the same that it is the sam

ground. The official campaigners of the Get Britian Out Campaign and the Common Market Referendum Campaign hardly seem to have started moving. They hold the occasional public meeting, they put up a few posters of Union Jacks, but they do little else. Maybe they are afraid to embarrass Wilson, Jenkins and their friends by a real campaign.

The future of the Tory-Labour Right alliance depends on the activities of rank and file trade unionists. It depends on propaganda in every factory to counter the cosses' propaganda. It depends on the organisation by shop stewards' committees of mass meetings, in work time if possible, to explain the need for a No vote.

#### Socialist case

It depends on union branches, trades councils and show stewards' committees using the factories as a base for taking the campaign into working-class areas.

The No vote can be won in almost any factory. But only if the real socialist case against the pro-Market coalition is put, by pointing out how a Yes vote will strengthen the alliance of the Tories and the Labour Right, an alliance which not only means remaining in more uncarriagnment, wore public sponding cuts.

### Young European Scabs

AMONG the organisations campaigning for a Yes vote, and financed by the European Movement, is a body called the Young European Left, and its affiliate the Young European Socialists.

It proclaims that it stands for a policy by which 'democratic socialists in Britain, in collaboration with their socialist comrades on the Continent, can fight for a socialist society throughout Europe'. To this end it has produced many posters which it has put up particularly in colleges and universities, saying that a Yes vote will aid the unity of Europe's workers.

But last week it proved how hollow is its internationalism and its socialism. 250 workers, many of them Asian or West Indian, have been on strike for five weeks at the Chingford factory of the London Rubber Company. Their fight is for an elementary defence of trade union

Last week a van from the Young European Socialists, complete with Yes posters on the side, turned up at the factory to collect a consignment

Faced with a picket line, the socialist internationalism of the Young European Socialists was immediately put to the test. They could either show their real solidarity with the workers from different countries who were on the picket. Or they could prove that their alliance with Tories and big business for the Yes vote was more important to them

than anything else.

They did not hesitate in showing where their allegiance lay. They drove straight through the picket line.

Effectively they proved that their initials, Y.E.S. do not stand for Young European Socialists, but Young European Scabs.

## We need WORKERS' links, not bosses,' to fight unemployment

LABOUR ministers who oppose the Common Market have been arguing all week that the Market is responsible for higher unemployment in Britain. They claim that since Britain entered the Market, imports have risen sharply, leading to a loss of jobs in some industries.

They also point out that direct investment by British firms in the other Common Market countries rose by £300 million in the first year of Market membership, compared to a rise of only £70 million in investment by other Common Market countries here. The argument is that but for the Market, there would have been more investment in Britain and less unemployment.

However much we may sympathise with such people in their desire to drum up the No vote, we have to say that the argument, the way they put it, is wrong.

Unemployment is a result of the international capitalist crisis, not the Common Market as such. A capitalist Britain would have had as much unemployment outside the Market as in.

The real fault with the Market is not that it is a conspiracy by 'foreigners' against British people, rich and poor alike. It is that it is a capitalist institution and so cannot deal with the problem created by the international crisis, in Britain or anywhere else in Europe.

That is why there are 1,500,000 unemployed in West Germany, 1,000,000 in France, another 1,500,000 in Italy, as well as the 900,000 unemployed here.

One aim of the Common Market is to allow the employers to move their investments from country to country. When they find profits too

low in one part of the Market, they can close shop and move. They hope that such a movement of capital will increase unemployment and force workers to accept lower wages, until profits in the low profit areas rise.

But the way to fight this is not by talking about protecting 'British jobs' against 'foreigners'—not by nationalistic flag-waving, but by forming links with the workers of the same companies in other countries.

We are against the Common Market because it strengthens the employers in every European country, and that increases their ability to make workers pay for the crisis. That is why we are for a No vote. But the alternative is not to get out of the Market and leave everything else as it is, but to build international links between workers and to fight for a socialist Britain as part of a socialist Europe.

## Socialist Worker meetings against the Common Market



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

May, 8pm, Lord Morrison Hall, Chesnut Grove, Chesnut Road, N17.

NORWICH: Wednesday 28 May, 8pm, The Cock pub, King Street. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

DUDLEY: Thursday 29 May, 8pm, Smiling Man pub, Hall Street. Speaker: Local trade unionist. KINGSTON, Surrey: Thursday 29
May, 8pm, Kingston Library meeting
room, Fairfield Road. Speaker: John
Palmer.

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

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

LEICESTER: Wednesday 28 May, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Vaughan Way, Speaker: Chris Harman (political editor, Socialist Worker).

SOUTHAMPTON: Thursday 29 May, 8pm, UCATT Hall, Henstead Road (off Bedford Place). Speaker: Paul Holborow. May, 8pm, Co-op Hall, Upper Tooting Road, Tooting (Tooting Bec tube).

Speakers: Duncan Hallas and a member of a Danish revolutionary group.

Admission 5p.

GRIMSBY: Thursday 29 May, 8pm, Darleys Hotel, Cleethorpes, Speaker: Tommy Douras.

BARNSLEY: Tuesday 3 June, 8pm, Lecture hall, New Library, Shambles Street. Local speakers.

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. 4 SOCIALIST WORKER 24 May 1975

## Labour and the £



COALITION 1931: Labour's Snowden and MacDonald, and (centre) Tory Baldwin

## 1931: Class treachery

THE ARGUMENT for a National Government and a coalition of Labour and Tories have been heard in the Labour movement before. In 1931, it was put into practice.

In the May 1929 General Election, the Labour Party under Ramsay Mac-Donald emerged the largest party in the House of Commons.

Although the Labour Party did not have an overall majority, the leadership agreed to form a government. From the start, it was obvious that there were only two things they could do:

#### Central

Either fight for socialist policies and, when defeated, mobilise a massive campaign in the working class; or trim their policies to suit the Liberals and Tories.

The party was elected on a programme which was far from socialist, but it was pledged to a number of substantial reforms: notably to raise the scale of unemployment benefit. Unemployment was the central issue.

Since 1921, there had never been less than a million unemployed and in some areas of the country unemployment was half the total workforce.

inthe national interest'

Unemployment was rising rapidly. In December 1930, it reached 2,500,000. By July 1931 it had reached 2,800,000. Only a far-reaching change could overcome a massive slump.

The Labour programme had called for an increase in unemployment benefit to £1 a week for a man plus 10 shillings for a dependent wife and five shillings for each child.

The first proposals put forward by Jimmy Thomas, the notoriously right-wing Minister in charge of unemployment, failed to meet even these modest targets. The male unemployment benefit was left at a beggarly 17 shillings a week and the rate for a dependent wife was raised from seven to nine shillings.

Even these minimal reforms were too much for big business. While unemployment continued to soar, the pound

sank on the foreign exchange markets: The government moved sharply against its own supporters. To solve the financial crisis, an 'impartial' committee under Sir George May of the Prudential Assurance Company and containing four Tories, Liberals and two Labour representatives, recommended massive cuts in government spending.

The publication of the report only made the financial situation worse and the government went on to make even more massive cuts, including a ten per cent cut in unemployment benefit.

#### Coalition

These cuts proved too much for the bulk of the Labour Party and the government was forced to look to the Liberals and Tories for support. The Tory and Liberal leaders were keen to form a coalition.

One told the King: 'In view of the fact that the necessary economies would prove most unpalatable to the working classes, it would be to the general interest if they could be imposed by a Labour government.'

Failing the consent of the Labour Party, MacDonald was quite happy to serve the 'general interest' by leading a coalition government.

The National Government which came out of this treachery continued to pursue viciously anti-working class policies, cutting unemployment benefit and pay in the public sector.

#### Lesson

When MacDonald, Thomas and the rest had served their purpose, they were soon ditched in favour of openly Tory ministers.

The lesson of 1931 is plain. A government in the 'national interest' is a government pledged to capitalist policies and can only attack the working class.

The situation today is different. Although there are those in the Labour Party who want to follow in the footsteps of MacDonald and Thomas, the working class today is far stronger than in 1931.

Then the trade unions were still staggering under the defeat of the General Strike and the rank and file were weakened and demoralised.

Today we can pose a real alternative. It is possible to build a fighting workers' party which can lead the fight back against capitalist policies.

## 1966: Wage freeze and witch-hunt

THE LEADERS of the Labour government of 1964-66 did not, like Ramsay MacDonald and his friends, go into a formal coalition with the Tories. But they were just as much subject to blackmail from big business, and responded to it by turning on their own working class supporters.

Almost as soon as Harold Wilson's government was formed in 1964, there was a flight of money out of Britain. Businessmen, bankers and currency speculators did not trust the new government and exchanged their sterling funds for the currencies with governments they did trust.

The result was a growing balance of payments crisis.

Wilson describes in his memoirs how the governor of the Bank of England told him he would have to adopt Tory policies.

#### Forget

Wilson eventually agreed, saying it was necessary to forget Labour's election promises while the immediate economic crisis was solved.

Richard Crossman, then Minister of Housing, describes in his diaries the reaction of the Labour minis-

One could see at Cabinet how, whether they belong to the Right or Left of the Party, they can be terrorised, and how weak and pliable they are in the hands of the City and the Bank of England when a crisis of this kind blows up and they must put the country before their class . . . '

#### Chance

The reversion to Tory policies only suceeded in alleviating the crisis temporarily. In the spring of 1966 Labour went for another election, which it won overwhelmingly.

Most workers felt they still had to give the government a chance. To many it seemed that, with one of the largest Labour majorities in history, the reforms longed for were going to be granted. They got a rude shock:

The crosses which workers had put on ballot papers were almost immediately proved to be much less important than the control



'COALITION' 1975: Liberal Thorpe, Tory Heath and Labour's Jenkins

which the very wealthy had over economic powers.

From May to July, there was continual selling of sterling by the giant corporations and the big banks. Again, the government ignored the direct action of the employing class, and instead blamed its own supporters for the crisis.

In the third week of May, the National Union of Seamen began a strike for a wage of £20 a week. At a meeting of the Labour cabinet, Ministers were agreed that they had to resist 'to the death' this challenge.

If, at any point in the weeks that followed, they were tempted to give in to this pressure from the seamen, their resolve was strengthened by pressure from big business, as money continued to move out of the country.

James Callaghan, for instance, bitterly attacked the seamen in a speech on 26 May. 'The seamen,' he declared, were 'imperilling the government's policy on full employment.'

Harold Wilson appeared on television. He attacked a 'small group of politically motivated men'. He meant the seamen's leaders, not the

business interests forcing the government's hands.

The TUC backed Wilson to the hilt, telling the seamen that it would not support them if they refused to accept the employers' terms.

The seamen were forced back to work, but that was not the end of the matter. On 22 July, in a final, desperate attempt to placate those who held real economic power, Wilson did something the Tories, until then, had never dared to do: he introduced a wage freeze.

#### Protest

Only one Labour Minister made even a half-hearted protest at this drift in Labour policy. On 4 July, Frank Cousins resigned from the Labour Cabinet over incomes policy.

His place was taken, without a qualm, by a young, ambitious, junior minister with fewer working class links: Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

Unlike the crises of 1931, the crises of 1964 and 1966 did not lead to the Labour leadership going over to the Tories. Partly this was because the crisis was not as great as in the Thirties, partly because working class organisation was still very strong.

Indeed, some sections of the employers saw a Labour government that obeyed their will better than the Tories because it could more easily gain trade union support for anti-working class policies.

In real terms, today's crisis is much more severe than that of 1964 and 1966. That is why much of the press and much of the Labour right wing would like a formal coalition.

But the working class movement is even stronger than in 1964-66. And so big business and Harold Wilson himself doubt if a formal coalition would work.

The Financial Times noted a fortnight ago that many Tory MPs feel their party would be no better at solving British capitalism's problems than is Wilson.

So, for the present, many prefer a Labour government that kowtows to big business and depends on Tory votes to an open coalition.

But their views could change overnight if the crisis gets much

## BY PAT

Author of The Hazards of Work

IN Birmingham one Saturday evening last year 20 people died as explosions ripped through the bars in which they were drinking.

The law of the land left no room for doubt that this was murder, yet within a week the House of Commons had rushed through a new law giving the state unprecedented powers against anyone it suspected,

In the parish of Flixborough one Saturday almost exactly a year ago, as people in nearby houses made their tea and watched the end of the Youth International football match on television, a huge cloud of escaping vapour exploded above the Nypro chemical plant. Twentyeight workers died as the blast flattened the whole site

The law of the land had nothing to say about the killing of the 28.

The House of Commons did not tax the energies of its members with late sittings to push through new laws to hound any employer who might possibly pose the slightest threat to workers' lives.

The worst the honourable ladies and gentlemen had to endure on this occasion of harmonious sympathy for the bereaved was the jarring note struck by the member for Scunthorpe, John Ellis, who actually suggested that the lives of his constituents had been sacrificed 'on the altar of profit.'

When the ruling classes feel threatened they get new laws; when workers feel threatened they get a public inquiry. A court of inquiry was duly set up

#### Lives

That inquiry has now reported its conclusions on 70 days of eye-witness and technical evidence. It had to choose between two explanations put before it. Both agreed that the collapse of Nypro's bodged up bypass pipe caused the fatal explosion. But they disagreed fundamentally on what caused the pipe to collapse. the Factory Inspectorate and the court's advisers said that internal pressure caused it to jack-knife-the 'one bang' theory.

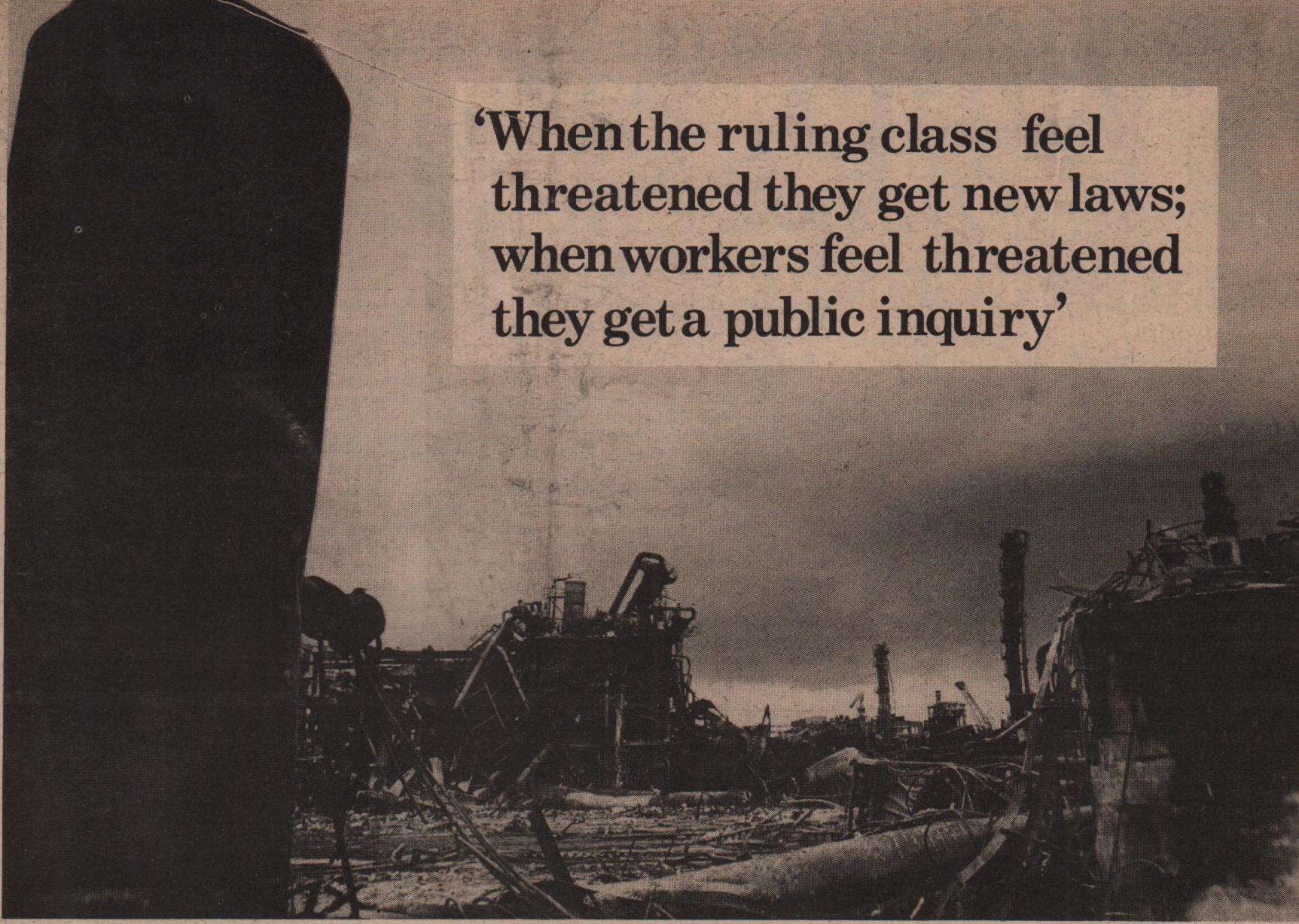
Although the report admits that failure solely due to internal pressure wasn't very probable, even theoretically, it gives hardly more than a page to its reasons for thinking that's what happened. Instead it concentrates its energies-and 12 of its 38 pages-to an attack on the alternative theory put before it by two highly qualified chemical engineers-

the 'two bang' theory. The two engineers challenged the establishment explanation of the disaster by suggesting that there was a small explosion before the main one. They pointed to two loose bolts on a flange and, right next to it, a burst in a permanent pipe. The burst was caused by a high temperature flame and they thought the flame might have come from a leak in the flange.

#### 'Two bang'

Their theory fitted eye-witness accounts of events before the big bang. It fitted with ionosphere pressure readings taken at Leicester University showing two blasts. And it would explain why scientists couldn't get their replicas of Nypro's bodged pipe to collapse anywhere near normal operating pressures.

There's no doubt their theory had its technical difficulties. But its real stumbling block was political and economic. Like most courts of inquiry the unwritten duty of this



Where 28 men died-the Flix borough Nypro plant after the blast. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

## The Hixborough whitewash cloud areas.

one was to reassure-to convince the public that the chemical emperor was wearing a fine suit of safety clothes and that this was just an embarrassing little tear which would soon be stitched up.

The 'one bang' theory enabled them to conclude that' 'The disaster was caused wholly by the coincidence of a number of unlikely errors in design and installation of a modification'. To accept the 'two bang' theory centred as it was on an unmodified part of the works, would have meant admitting that these plants were much more dangerous

It was therefore much more important to prove than an ordinary pipe couldn't have failed than that a bodge-up did.

Having got that out of the way, the court was able to get out the big whitewash brush:

Nypro was to blame (the company had already admitted as much so this was a foregone conclusion). But they didn't deliberately put lives at

It was just that the desire to get the plant back in production 'led them to overlook' the hazards of not doing a proper design or carrying out any safety checks. Try that one on the police if you're caught driving to work in a car without

MOT: 'So sorry, officer, I was so keen to get to work I overlooked it. Pity about all those dead people in the bus queue.'

Nypro was very safety conscious. The court had heard that the company removed a cracked reactor and bridged the gap without finding out why the reactor cracked or if the other five were damaged.

Nypro was storing more than a quarter of a million gallons of inflammable substances on site which hadn't been licensed by the local authority

#### Offence

The company didn't employ a full-time safety officer on site.

The court had heard that leaks discovered on a shift shortly before the disaster couldn't be fixed because all the spark-proof tools were locked up and no one had the key. • The chemical industry is safety

conscious.

The court says it heard nothing to the contrary. In fact such evidence was outside the court's brief, having been hived off to a separate 'committee of experts' on major hazards, and such evidence was therefore ruled out. Since Flixborough there have been several deaths, the most recent at Laporte Industries in Ilford

The plant as originally designed and constructed didn't create any unacceptable risks.

The court itself gives the lie to this one when it says that 'no one concerned in . . . design or construction . . . envisaged the possibility of a major disaster happening instantaneously.' When the plant was being built there were already many accounts of this kind of explosion in the technical literature. Were the reports not read-or were they ignored?

In fact the inquiry revealed many possible routes to disaster which the industry was taking no steps to block

The urgency of these discoveries is not conveyed by the inquiry's report. None of its recommendations force any immediate action on the industry. Instead problems are passed on for consideration by other parts of the bureaucracy.

In reality it is the industry which is given a second chance after what should have been its Ronan Point. It will not be ordered to take any of the following urgent actions:

1. Fit automatic isolation valves in systems like the one at Flixborough where hundreds of tons of hot pressurised liquid were free to escape if one part of the system was breached.

2. Install dump tanks. 3. Get rid of all galvanised parts in contact with stainless steel pressure components. It was shown that this combination could produce almost instant ruptures in a fire.

4. Install fire detectors and deluge systems that really work.

5. Protect thin pressure elements, like stainless steel expansion bellows, from fire. They too could fail in minutes in a major fire, producing a Flixborough-scale vapour cloud.

6. Fit steam or water jet vapour curtains around all potential vapour

7. House control room and other workers in blast-proof structures. The 18 lives lost in the crushed control room could have been saved.

8. Employ safety engineers qualified in chemical and mechanical engineering and allow no work on pressure systems without their signed authorisation.

Workers should not be surprised that the court ducked its responsibility to warn workers and to impose costly limitations on the freedom of the chemical barons. It made much play with the idea of 'acceptable risk' but it's real job was to see that the current high level of risk remained acceptable.

It is not. If the industry does not radically alter its approach another Flixborough is inevitable.

#### Risk

Only workers have the power to force the industry to divert its massive profits into new standards of safety engineering.

Oil and chemical workers in the US showed the way with their fivemonth health and safety strike against Shell in 1973. In this country workers at Shellhaven are now forging the essential rank and file links with all oil workers in the area, plus national links with other Shell plants.

The Sterling Organics strike on Tyneside has shown that we are ready for the fight on hazards. Militancy and organisation can force management to concede health and safety contracts

But we shouldn't delude ourselves that this is more than a small step towards ridding ourselves of the underlying hazards of a system which locks up pickets while companies that kill go unpunished.

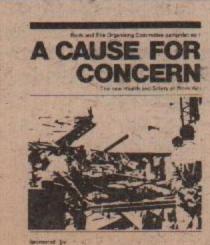
Nypro didn't even have to pay for the cost of the inquiry. The court decided that the government should pay. You and me. Congratulations, brothers and sisters, you've just bought a bucket of whitewash.

### The Hazards of Work

BY PAT KINNERSLY

Your job is dangerous, but will your boss tell you? He might then have to pay out extra money for safety . . . But this book will, the first in the Workers' Handbook series, and it will show you how to fight the dangers too.

90p (plus 10p postage) from Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.



The Flixborough TGWU shop stewards' committee is one of the sponsors of this pamphlet which points out the faults and dangers in the new Health and Safety at

Work Act—and suggests some

Copies 5p each (plus postage)

from Rank and File Organising Com-

mittee, 214 Roundwood Road,

remedies.

London NW10.

# IFTH COLUMN on the Yes-men Questions on the crisis

## 'SOCIALIST' CASE: NO QUESTIONS ASKED

UNDER the European banner are gathered all those people and groups so loved by Fleet Street. 'Europals' blazons the Sun over a picture of Heath, Thorpe and Jenkins. 'The Coalition' splashes the London Evening

Standard over the same picture.

The traditional source of funds for the Labour Party has been the trade union movement. Since the Party is opposed to the market the Yes-men and women have had to go elsewhere. So the kind of political backing they've got, and the kind of politics they are presenting is the product of the people behind the Yes campaign. And despite the talk of 'donations flooding in from far and near, great and small' it is quite clear that the selling of the market takes the same style, and the same costs, as the selling of petrol, cameras, or paint.

For the big corporations the benefits seem clear cut, so it is unsurprising that upwards of 30 multinationals, who have invested heavily in Europe should

be subscribers to the EM.

## **BIG MONEY**

## **BRITAIN IN**

THE campaign to keep Britain in the European Common Market is under the umbrella of an organisation called Britain in Europe

BIE operates from Park Lane, and through the European Movement, from la Whitehall Place, London, SW1

Recently the BIE and the European Movement have been incensed by unkind accusations of their lavish spending on advertising.



'We aren't ashamed-we will have to account for our money, and we will, after the campaign is closed' said a spokesman. 'It's normal policy for a political campaign. It is a huge mixture of donations, large and small, I don't even know where it's all coming from.'

It has however been adequate to employ 16 regional organisers for the campaign, and to sustain a series of large adverts in the national press -like a half page in The Times last

week

They have been accused of outlaying £135,000 for their TV promotions which have been on over the last few days. The spokesman 'had no idea' how much they had cost but was distressed over the comments which had been made over the employment of a Mr Guggenheim as a public relations

'It distresses the people we have working on PR' said the spokesman. 'All we did was have Guggenheim advise us on our special TV slots. I don't know how much they cost, or

how much he was paid.'

Guggenheim has a considerable reputation in his field. He was a PR man for the Kennedys in the USA. A speciality of his was the filming of his subject over a long period, and the judicious cutting of this down to a few minutes of lively, abrasive quotation, argument, cut and thrust.

This gives the useful impression of a man not afraid to tackle the rough questions, and with the aid of a pair of scissors, ensures that no wrong impressions are created.

A technique like this costs a lot of money, but doubtless the BIE and the European Movement hope it will be worth every penny. It has been suggested that Guggenheim himself got at least £20,000 for his services.

These include ICI, Dunlop, BP, Esso, Metal Box, Reckitt and Colman and ITT, of Chilean fame.

'There is no such thing as a national solution to the problem of the multinationals' claims a YEL pamphlet proudly. Well that's certainly true, but when it comes to getting money, their Big Brothers in the European movement have certainly found them a very useful solution indeed.

'By 1971 the European Movement's budget was in the vicinity of £500,000' reports 'While Britain Slept'....
'in the first seven months of 1971 its budget was

£40,000 on press advertisements.'

One of the European Movement's claims in the past has been that individual contributions have been greater than corporate ones. Well if they were on the lines of that received from Michael Sobell (of TV fame) then this is understandable. He forked out £300,000. Then happily he received a knighthood.

ACCORDING to Tory spokesman Peter Walker, Wedgwood Benn compares 'with some of the most dangerous figures in history'. Harold Wilson referred to him as 'an oldtestament prophet' and hardly a day passes without fresh abusive attacks on Benn on TV and in the press. The Tories are really working themselves up into a lather about 'Bennery' and their indignation is not all faked.

One thing this campaign has already achieved. It has made Anthony Wedgwood Benn the undisputed leader of the Labour Party left. So it is not surprising that thoughtful people in the working class movement are wondering if Benn's ideas are perhaps what they are looking for. At any rate the ideas of a man so violently attacked by the gutter press must be worth some consideration.

Benn stands for two things, more state intervention in industry and 'workers' participation' in management. Neither of these is particularly new or particularly radical so why all the fuss? Partly because the way

### BENN: WHY ALLTHE HYSTERIA?

Benn advocates them, partly because of the political situation.

Introducing the Industry Bill in parliament, Benn said, 'Another criticism is that this is a socialist measure. It is: and who is to argue that where public money goes in there should not be an equity stake and public accountability? Public sector investment-now 28 per cent -is one of the major sources of continuing confidence, even during the period of recession.'

Of course big business would like to get public money on a big scale without having to concede a state shareholding but, in practice, they are not too unhappy about state participation. Ferranti have just got £15 million from Mr Benn in return for a third of the shares in a deal put through on the basis of legislation introduced by the Heath government. 'The two main shareholders, the Ferranti brothers, Sebastian and Basil, are happy with what they have got from the government,' reports the Guardian.

So they ought to be, having got what no bank would lend their shaky business in return for shares that were probably unsaleable. But that will not alter the hostility to Benn.

#### Risk

That is because Benn has said repeatedly that he is out to save jobs. He said it about the Ferranti deal. He says it about the Industry Bill-'I see no prospect whatever of reversing an even sharper downward trend in job opportunities in the development areas during this recession . . . unless we have the power through the National Enterprise Board to act directly on the problem.

This is what upsets the CBI, the Tories and the right wing of the Labour Party. They all want a sharp rise in unemployment. That is their 'cure' for inflation. And Benn's 'job saving' interventions encourage workers to resist closures if not lay offs. Working class resistance is what the unholy alliance of big business and the Labour bosses really fear. So Benn, because he goes out of his way to talk about saving jobs, is a menace in their eyes.

Whether Wedgwood Benn is sincere or not is not really the point. His record in the previous Wilson government was a very bad one in just this field. He was the 'Technology' Minister responsible for pushing through mergers that cost many thousands of jobs.

Perhaps he has had a change of heart. In any case he is arousing just the sort of expectations that can lead to more and more resistance to the wave of shut-downs now in the pipeline. That is why Harold Wilson is going to appoint a different Industry Minister once the Referendum is out of the way.

#### DUNCAN HALLAS

### The independence of Young THE European Movement operates European Left

from 1a Whitehall Place SW1. The offices are an annex of the National Liberal Club, traditional home of the Liberal Party leadership and friends through the ages. The Liberals are doubtless gratified to have been able to lease off the premises to such 'moderate' tenants, and ones with which they have so much political sympathy.

But what about the Labour Campaign for Britain in Europe, and its youthful counterpart the Young European Left? Where do they live?

In keeping with their position on the right of the Labour Party they operate from Attlee House. Where's that?

It is at 1a Whitehall Place, London A walk around a is an introduction to the Coalition-pushers dream. On one floor, the European Movement, with its posters, its Liberal stickers, Tory stickers, and Labour stickers. Then go along the corridor, down a short flight of stairs, and there is the Labour Campaign for Britain in Europe and the YEL, with its own pair of offices. On the walls are charts, showing the progress of Tory, Liberal and Labour promarketeers around the country. So where exactly is Attlee House?

This is Attlee House. A basement suite in the National Liberal Club.

Didn't the YEL feel rather uneasy about the choice of name for this office? 'Well it was rather bizarre' said Julian Priestley the secretary. 'It isn't at all clear how the name was arrived at, or what Attlee's line on Europe was. I think he was opposed. You should ask Dickson Mabon or Shirley Williams.'



Dr Dickson Mabon MP was the founder of the right-wing Labour MPs' Manifesto group, and he was less than forthcoming.

'It was unanimously agreed by the council. Attlee was a very good European.'

Wasn't he worried that the fact that the campaign operated from the European Movement offices and this might throw doubts on its independence?

'No, we're quite separate. We could have got offices elsewhere, but we have got these offices, we have our own separate entrance, and our own separate postal delivery.'

Didn't the European Movement Campaign pay for the premises? After all the Campaign received cash dona-

tions from the EM? 'We pay our own rent. I don't see

why I should answer these questions, particularly hostile ones over the phone. You should do it in the proper journalistic way, I don't want to answer these questions.'

On the financial question Priestley was slightly more helpful.

'We do get campaign funds from Britain in Europe. There's help for particular projects'. He wasn't clear exactly where the money came from. but BIE stressed that it was taken from the government donations to the BIE, and not from the lavish corporation contributions.

But even if the money did come from corporations Priestley didn't see any contradiction in taking money from the people the Labour yes campaigners claim to be anxious to

have under European socialist control. 'It is in their short term interests to get Britain in Europe.'

Nor that the name Attlee House might strike some unkind people as a shoddy and inefficient piece of public relations designed to sell the credentials of the Labour Campaign.



### Labour con-trick for Europe

'JOBS for the boys' say Britain in Europe posters around Britain, showing happy healthy children smiling into the camera, 'Vote YES for Europe'.

Are you so cruel that you could dash the bread from these infants' lips by voting No?

Other posters show serious looking workers, clearly gravely concerned that you should even think of giving a V sign to the Common Market. Why, if you said No to that lot they'd probably go on strike! And over all these posters flutters a pretty little dove, tastefully kitted out in a union jack.

The Labour Campaign for Europe misses out the dove. EUROPE YES proclaims their new four page tabloid, and a hand grasps an unidentifiable flower, red on the edges, and appropriately, white in the middle. Below it is Harold Wilson gazing out at you with all the integrity and singlemindedness for which he is justifiably famous.

It is stirring stuff. It is also part of the longest, most heavily plugged, well financed confidence tricks which our rulers, who have had plenty of experience, have pulled on us . . .

BBC-2: 7.15pm. BY VIOLENT MEANS

is a documentary on the West German

Baader-Meinhof anarchist group, on the

reasons that they have operated as urban

guerrillas/terrorists, the background to

their trial, and West Germany's rulers'

reaction to them. LOOKING FOR

CLANCY (BBC-2, 8.10pm) is a drama-

tised novel in five parts about two

journalists' journey from youthful

idealism to, in one case sell-out and

corruption. Time span is from the General

Strike to 1960s' Vietnam demonstra-

tions, SECOND HOUSE SECOND RUN

(BBC-2, 9pm) is a 45 MINUTES EACH

WAY, a 'documentary entertainment'

about football, with playlets by Willis

Hall, Alan Plater, and Gordon Williams

BBC-2: 10.25pm. Should there be such a

thing as tastefulness then Mel Brooks,

director of the recent 'Western' Blazing

Saddles, doesn't have it. One of his

earlier films, shown tonight, THE

and Terry Venables.

SUNDAY

SATURDAY

ONE interesting effect of the Common Market Campaign has been the silence of J Enoch Powell. Not a self-imposed silence. A fortnight ago, Powell made a big anti-Common Market speech, yet it went almost unreported by the Fleet Street press.

Bloody good thing too you might think. Quite right-but what a strange development that when Powell attacks black people, the struggle for Ireland or the poor he makes the front pages, and is given star billing.

PRODUCERS, centres on the production of a musical, 'Springtime For Hitler' complete with an SS chorus line . . . THE MOVING TARGET (ITV, 7.55pm, London area only) is a good, Raymond Chandler style private eye film with Paul Newman. The great French writer, Stendhal's novel THE CHARTER HOUSE OF PARMA (RADIO-4, 9.30pm)

MONDAY

begins serialisation.

BBC-2: 8.35pm, Eric Idle continues RUTLAND WEEKEND TELEVISION. Thames' SADIE IT'S COLD OUTSIDE (ITV, 8pm) on one viewing, seemed far. above the average of TV situation comedy, being both funny and having some grasp of the lunacy of marriage, work, authority. TUESDAY

On BBC-2 (9.10pm) is the much

commended Russian film on the writer of revolutionary and Stalinist Russia. THE CHILDHOOD OF MAXIM GORKY, probably the best view of the week. Same channel's THE TRIBAL EYE (8.10pm) is a new series on 'the World's tribal art'-the cultures it sprang from, the thinking behind it, now that it fetches vast sums in Western dealers' showrooms. WEDNESDAY

BBC-2: 8.15pm. Claire Bloom stars in AN IMAGINATIVE WOMAN in the WESSEX TALES series. Also on BBC-2 are WORLDS WITHOUT SUN: THE BUFFALOES OF ALTAMIRA (7.5pm) about the 15,000 year old cave paintings of France and Spain, and CHRONICLE THE CELTS (8pm) examines that prehistoric European culture and tribe. Author of the excellent 'Victory In Vietnam', Richard West, narrates IN-SIDE STORY: LIZ THOMAS (BBC-2 9.40pm) on a nurse who runs an orphans' home in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, or as it was known, Saigon.

## US shows its claws are still sharp

A FORTNIGHT AGO Henry Kissinger was making statements about 'atrocities' in Cambodia in which he claimed 'thousands of people' were being killed. He could provide no evidence for these claims.

Last week there were atrocities-organised by Kissinger. For the behaviour of the US government over the case of the freighter Mayaguez was a natural continuation of its previous actions in relation to Cambodia-actions which killed or maimed a tenth of the country's population in less than five years.

The US claimed that its action had only one aim, to release the crew of a ship which had been

seized by an 'act of piracy'.

But the facts of the case point to a different conclusion. Firstly, the Mayaguez was not an 'innocent' victim. It was sailing within sight of Cambodian territory and was carrying supplies destined for US military forces in Thailand. Given that these forces had been aiding the bombing of Cambodia only a few weeks earlier, it was hardly surprising that the Cambodians were not willing to let the ship proceed un-

Secondly, the actions taken by the US were not by any stretch of the imagination designed merely to release the ship's crew. US war planes strafed every fishing boat in the vicinity. We know this because a fishing boat which, unknown

to the US air force, contained the Mayaguez's crew, was subject to rocket and machine-gun fire, and to gas attacks which burnt the skin and caused vomiting.

US bombers continued to hammer the Cambodian mainland, including the city of Sihanoukville, long after the crew had been released. They continued bombing even when the crew were back in the hands of the US Navy.

This was not a rescue operation, but wanton murder. The aim of the murder was simple enough-to prove that the US war machine is still powerful enough, despite its defeat in Indochina, to inflict terrible carnage on any country in the world where people dare defy US orders.

BUT THINGS ARE NOT GOING SO EASY BACK HOME

GROWING numbers of workers in the US are no longer prepared to sit back and accept that they should suffer because of the capitalist crisis.

This was shown dramatically at the end of last month when the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO (the American TUC) organised a 60,000-strong rally against unemployment in Washington. The union bureaucrats put up former Vice-President Hubert Humphrey to speak. But the demonstrators refused to listen to

Several thousand demonstrators broke through a cordon of stewards onto the field of the giant football stadium chanting: 'No more promises! We want jobs!'

Congresswoman Bella Abzug appealed to demonstrators to return to their seats 'so that we can continue with our programme'. No one listened to her. The demonstrators shouted down every speaker until the rally ended an hour early. Although most of the audience remained in their seats, they applauded those demonstrating.

#### Protests

The union bureaucrats later blamed the demonstrations on 'neo-Trotskyists taking advantage of the legitimate anger of workers'.

In fact the protests started spontaneously. But the first organised group to take to the field was a 500-strong contingent from the Rank and File Coalition, a recently formed group of rank and file bodies in several different unions, which is supported by the American International Socialists. Its contingent included carworkers, lorry drivers, steel workers and teachers, from as far afield as Chicago, Detroit, Winsconsin, and Indianapolis, as well as the East Coast.

The Rank and File Coalition was able to hold a very successful meeting after the rally, attended by about 500 workers, including many it had not had contact with before.

Speakers emphasised the need for Carworker George Bowen, of the United Black Workers, told the crowd that his local union's leadership is pushing the divisive idea of 'Buy American'.

#### Ability

'But 25 per cent of the vehicles we make are exported,' Bowen said. 'What if British or French workers said the same thing? Our workers would then be out of work. The problem is not foreign workers, but the capitalist system.'

Fred Hobby, of Workers for Collective Progress, a group of black workers in Louisville, said: 'For the rank and file movement to be successful, it will have to demonstrate its ability to take the lead in the struggles of all workers, regardless of race and sex. We realise a class divided against itself cannot move forward, just further apart.'

Other speakers at the rally included: Ken Doran of the Rank and File Team, United Steel Workers; Bob Grant of Concerned Truckers for a Democratic Union, Chicago Truck Drivers Union; Tom Mullen, President of AFL Local 280; and Barbara Winslow, secretary of the Cleveland Coalition of Labor Union Women.



## Stalinist thuggery against Irish socialists

Ireland are under attack not merely from the state forces north and south of the border, but also from the Stalinist leadership of the Official IRA.

days' pay to those made redundant after five years in the same factory.

The Socialist Workers Movement, the fraternal organisation of the International Socialists in Ireland, issued the following press statement on 8 May, after a machine gun attack on a car in which Seamus Costello, of the recently organised Irish Socialist Republican Party, was driving.

The Waterford Branch of the Socialist Workers Movement today stated that some of its members had helped in organising the meeting in Waterford last night after which an assassination attempt was made on Seamus Costello. Members were also in the car which was shot at.

As the press chose not to report the meeting, making clear, however, confusion as to their involvement. At that meeting it was stated that we had agreed to help in organising

our political independence from the IRSP. We have held joint meetings with other left-wing organisations before this; we have been consistently in favour of socialists and republicans co-operating in the fight against repression.

Right

The present feud between the Official Republicans and the IRSP arises, we believe, mainly from a conscious and deliberate decision by the Officials not to let the IRSP organise. We have defended the IRSP's right to exist and will continue to do so, whatever our criticisms of particular positions they may take.

For this attitude and for daring to criticise the Officials we have earned threats from Official Republicans on a public platform. They have organised a campaign of slander and terror against the IRSP and yet, for all this, they still claim to be in favour of leftwing unity. The hypocrisy of that

a shower of machine-gun bullets.

... and being arrested by the police

We were among the first to propose that Michael Mullen (head of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union) act as mediator in the feud. But his efforts have been frustrated by the Officials' refusal to co-operate; the IRSP have always been prepared to meet and talk about the feud. We call for an immediate end to the dispute before it destroys both organisations and the hopes of spreading the socialist movement in this country for some years.

The Waterford attack was not the first attempt by the Officials to intimidate members of the SWM. In the current issue of the SWM's monthly paper, there is a condemnation of earlier threats made by the chairman of the Waterford Official Sinn Fein: he objected to articles in The Worker that criticised the Officials' support for the crushing of the 1956 Hungarian Uprising and the Officials' attacks on the IRSP.

Since the machine-gun attack,

REVOLUTIONARY socialists in the meeting making clear, however, claim was shown again last night in further physical threats have been made against the Waterford SWM. And nationally, the leadership of the Officials has indicated that anyone who associates with the IRSP is at risk.

> The executive committee of the International Socialists condemns the Official IRA's resort to Stalinist thuggery in an attempt to prevent the spread of revolutionary socialist ideas in Ireland.

#### Demand

Socialist Worker supporters have often worked alongside supporters of the Communist Party and the Official IRA in opposing imperialism in Ireland. Now we must demand of such people that they oppose their leadership's attempts to prevent physically the propagation of ideas similar to our own.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the International Socialists, the planned series of meetings for the IRSP in Britain due to begin this week has had to be postponed.

# Stonehouse:

THIS WEEK John Stonehouse, the strong swimmer and former Labour Minister, announced plans to return to Britain. He would face 21 forgery and fraud charges. Many people in this country who have dealt with Stonehouse in recent years, including a large number of Bengalis, think the charges don't go anything like £500,000 question the police won't ask



Five Bengalis who gave to the Bangladesh Fund: Mohammad Abdul Zabbar (left) gave a total of £125, Mohammad Abdul Rahim, £58, Mohammad Abdul Hye, £25, Haffiz Rahman, £61 and Mohammad Haque, £15.

far enough—and that Stonehouse is being protected from high up.

The Pencelis comple

The Bengalis complain about Stonehouse's involvement in money-raising activities when Bangladesh was fighting for independence in 1971. In January 1971, the Awami League,

which stood for independence, won 167 out of 169 seats in the National Assembly. In late March, the military dictatorship in West Pakistan responded with a brutal invasion.

In the first week, a quarter of a million Bengalis were killed. The bloodshed and famine attracted large numbers of world charities, notably War on Want, which takes its name from a book written by Harold Wilson in the 1950s.

Its chairman at the time was Donald Chesworth, a Labour Party politician who, like Stonehouse, had been active in the National Association of Labour Students at the London School of Economics, in the International Union of Socialist Youth, and in East Africa.

Chesworth is now in Mauritius, where he is the government's adviser on labour matters, and where John Stonehouse was hoping, until recently, to join him.

**Vastsums** 

In April 1971, Stonehouse, who was getting a consultancy fee of £4000 from International Computers on top of his MP's salary, was taken on at £2000 a year as a consultant to War on Want on matters relating to Bangladesh. During 1971, Stonehouse made at least two visits to the stricken areas.

The terror in Bangladesh caused consternation among the 80,000-strong Bengali community in Britain. Many Bengalis were prepared to give money to help their countrymen, but were worried about handing over vast sums of money to one or other of the warring political and business factions among Bengalis in Britain.

The arrival in Britain of a senior East Pakistan judge, Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, seemed to solve the problem. He agreed to become trustee of a relief fund. So did John Stonehouse and Donald Chesworth.

The formation of this respectable trio of trustees was quickly broadcast across the Bengali communities. Official receipt books were distributed. Collecting committees were set up. Collectors went round the houses and factories. Mass meetings were held to collect money. At one emotional meeting in Birmingham £2500 was collected.

Each Bengali worker was expected to give a minimum of £10 to save his country. Many gave much more.

#### Paid more

Haffiz Rahman, a garment worker in East London paid £50 out of his savings to the fund, and £1 a week for 11 weeks after that.

Mohammad Abdul Rahim, a London underground train driver, paid the same sum. Mohammad Abdul Hye, a worker at Standard Telephone Cables in Colindale, North London, paid £25. Workers were expected to pay a minimum of £10, and a weekly payment after that. Most paid more.

Soon things began to look wrong. Haffiz Rahman told me: 'It looked to us as though the money was not being used in the proper way. We had no accounts. So we stopped supporting the fund.'

IN SEPTEMBER 1972, the trustees finally published their accounts. They were audited by a chartered accountant called Quazi Muzibir Rahman, who has since left the country.

The accounts are, by any standards, a disgrace. The most blatant error concerns 'missing' receipt books. A summary at the end of the accounts states that 153 receipt books were lost.

Yet a simple addition of the receipt books reported lost in the body of the accounts shows that 356 receipt books were lost. The account committees—Isli Oldham, for ex receipt books a them. There is a such books were or returned.

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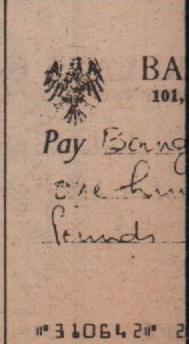
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John Stonehouse and lawyer: only 21 charges—and he's still smiling

the Relief Fund. Using his influence as a former Postmaster General, Stonehouse was able to get the stamps published in quick time.

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Only £450.13 is shown in the accounts as having been transferred to the fund from sale of the stamps. The Times reported on 5 April that the big British stamp dealers bought enough of the stamps to provide at least £3000 in clear profit more than the fund received.

The Times report suggests that 'even further inadequacies' could result from sales to 'smaller and unknown stamp dealers'. The stamps were sold all over the world.

The money did not pass through the hands of local Bengali collectors. It went straight to a Stonehouse company.

Another considerable benefit to Stonehouse from the fund was the list of names and addresses supplied to him of Bengali donators. This list inspired Stonehouse to set up a fringe bank, British Bangladesh Trust, in November 1972.

#### Top up

The bank's main object was to attract the savings of Bengali workers in Britain. Stonehouse managed to get about £600,000 from various companies-GKN, Plesseys, De La Rue, Trust Houses Fortenot to mention £350,000 from the government-controlled Crown Agents.

He hoped to 'top this up' with Bengali workers' money. He told the Sunday Times on 19 November 1972 that his bank had the 'wholehearted approval of 85 per cent of the Bangladesh community in Britain'.

Mass meetings were arranged of Bengali workers all over Britain to explain the virtues of the bank.

Fortunately for the workers, the Sunday Times article exposed the bank as a fraud. As a result, Stonehouse got only £15,000 from Bengalis in this countrywhen he hoped for over £1 million.

Despite constant complaints about all these matters, it appears that no charges are to be lodged in connection with any of them. In November 1974, after Stonehouse 'disappeared' in Miami, Scotland Yard started an inquiry into the

If Stonehouse is being protected in high places, it is not the first time. From as early as 1954, the Labour Party was keeping a 'secret file' on Stonehouse as a result of 'doubts' about accounts for a Labour students hostel in London.

Ever since, leading members of the Labour Party and of the Co-operative Party have suspected Stonehouse of unusual financial dealings. None of this was made public.

Most remarkable of all, however, is the story of the £25,000 overdraft which Stonehouse got from the National and Grindlays Bank in 1971 when he was first thinking of his Bangladeshi bank.

The overdraft, according to the Sunday Times, 'would normally have been turned down. But Mr Stonehouse got the loan thanks to the backing of a political colleague'.

The Sunday Times was told that this 'political colleague' was, in fact, a member of the Tory Cabinet. No names were given.

Why should a member of a Tory Cabinet sanction an overdraft from a bank chaired by Lord Aldington (a former Tory MP) to a former Labour Minister? Why should Stonehouse climb to the top of the Labour tree, though his Party knew he was untrustworthy?

Why should the police inquiries into the Bangladesh Fund and the stamp scheme have resulted in no charge against Stonehouse?

How embarrassing it would be for the authorities if it were to emerge that The Rt Hon John Stonehouse had been for many years a minor agent for British intelligence. Such a revelation, of course, would be most unlikely if the charges against him are limited to the odd passport forgery and false overdraft claim.

#### Gangsters

All Bengali workers who gave money should now start to ask questions-of their local collection committees, of their MPs, of their trade unions and councillors. Socialist Worker is happy to publish any more evidence about this fund.

In two months last year, 150,000 people in Bangladesh died from starvation. The new, independent government of that country has turned into a bunch of gangsters.

Bengali workers in Britain are among the poorest and worst-housed in Europe. They work hideously long hours, often in non-unionised sweat shops.

Any filching of money from these workers by appealing to their concern for their starving and brutalised countrymen in the poorest country in the world must rank as one of the most loathesomely corrupt operations of recent years.

It must be exposed and rooted out. Bengali workers-if they act decisively—can do both.

बाह्नाफिश बिलिय

युक बाजाय मध्य वा शानी रिन्त खोर्नश ड्रेमें क प्रत्न जा ए । देश ग्रिगा व वाये-नौत् जा अपरनत मा एव मात्र-इ जिनि वार्ता (मर्ग याना अप्तरमञ्ज शाली प्राप्ते वा ध्ना-দেশকে সাহাযা করার জন্য यदनक वर्षा पन । वार्ना प्तन विनिष्ण का त्त्र हामी रह्य वास्ता (नरगत् मार्था নতার জনা গ্রচুর টাকা श्रामा प्रश्तृ केरत्न । ्रथन क्यानश उप

ज्यानेयाय। এइ प्रदात श्रीनग जारक रही जना वो जनवास प्रमान क्वाव जना ७ प्तर्ग मित्रिया আনতে চেষ্ঠা করছে । ১৯१२ प्रतन अका निछ विशास्य ८५२,००,०० भार সংগ্রহ করা হয়েছিল এবং ०१७, ०००. ०० माः वारना

किनु आपदा वृन्धि ए क्य न एक प्रोनेयन नाः তঠান হয়েছিল। এ সব তাকার হিন্দাব কোখায়? धकाउँदने एत्थान छा य ००७ कि वनीम वह शादिया शिया छ। पाछि ४४ कि कमिकित मासा ३३ कि कमिकि करू नाउन, उठी

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र्माण गाठाला द्योदिन ।

ना। जावि छित्रेव वास्म दिन विकिथ की भी है है। का प्रश्तृह कर्त्र । अरम भारत द्वा गानी अधिकता एवं किपिंग एउ किपिंग एउ कि जा जिया निश्चिष्ट , जाद अपान जापा (मद्र कृष्ट आहि। किनु धरे को पाँउ Tजान<sup>े</sup> कारने, कात क्ये ज्ञा प्या नाइ। वालापन प्रशामी हाथ प्रश्नाह था। निजाबन्त, मर्गाम नाविष्ठम जातक वर्षे प्रश्वह कर्त थाक

#### A SUMMARY IN BENGALI

लिए देशा जमा प्रा

নাই

এ ধরনের গাজাখার হিসা व खोक्रश के क्रिक्त मिल-हि । त्या प्रतानित् किन्न वालन नि । जिनि अ द्वारि शका छ होका उठान द्वा प्रश्त र स्मिन् जिने वा ला पिर्वे प्राधी नजात जना ज्याक विकित श्रीभेद्यार ७ व्यत्नक होका उठाद्या ছেन । क्य भूष्ट्र Q.000 পাউনের ভাক্টিকিট विक्रिक्ता इस्मिष्ट किन छा त, प्राय ८०० भाः जपा त्या या।

श्रीनेग ध प्रव वार्गाव किर्मिन अनुप्रमान जानिए।-छिन किन् किन वक्य अञ्च गन एक (न्या हा नाह । अधान प्रति, उद्देनप्रन

ह्य प्रव क्रानादा कान इनकाग्रादी वप्राक्त वाजी इन नाई। अवर स्थान-श्राष्ट्रेमक वार्त्या प्रमा मारत् व बाकाव अज़िपाल्व जना কোন অপরাধে অভিযুক্ত করা या नाइ

प्राजायं नाकांत्रनक या नात्रम स्थरित श्राह्मा वार शानी प्रत क्यक्रती क्य क्थन-है वार्लापिया लिखा नार् प्या पत विश्वति ध्वात विक्रा य जान्यामा नीन मारियादा ७ अर ४एगन अ-কালে কোনরগ গদক্ষেপ গ্রহ करत ने । अता । के अत वागात नाज्यान् ध्याष्ट्?

स्मानिस् सार्वास प्रमम् वा शानी भाठेक एम इस् जनाना प्रमप्त प्रमाजन्त्री एन प्राप्य गिर्मानं इस्य धेई घुना मान्जित अकारमत जुना गावानिक इनकाग्रादी मार्व क्वात जना आखान जानाछ

वामार्पित मार्थ वार्गनात वांच्छात वाार्गा त्व यानायान क्वम प्रवा अनाना मुक्न वार्शानी प्रव प्राष्ट्र कार्य व्याका अप्र. नि एवं द्वेष इंडेनियन तिज्ञात्पत निक्छं धह वरामा मावी ज्लूम।



Fazlul Huq: 'At least £1 million was collected . . .

fund. It has come to nothing.

On 21 April this year, Harold Wilson wrote to Lena Jeger MP after she had protested to him about the fund following complaints from several of her Bangladeshi constituents in London.

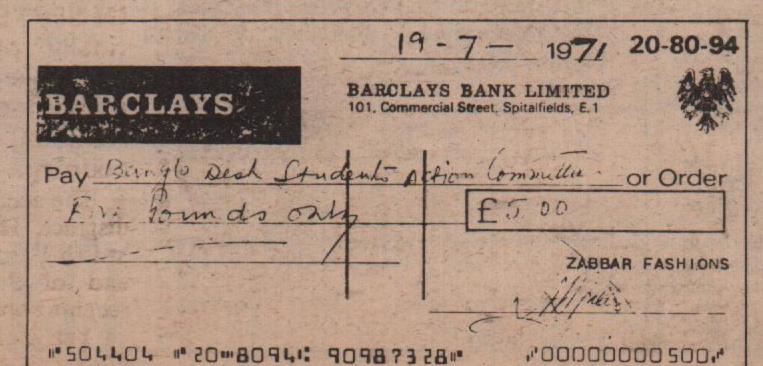
'I have looked into this,' he wrote, 'but there does not appear very much that can be done.' The fund was neither a charity, nor a company, so 'none of the powers of inspection and investigation exercisable by the Department of Trade are available in respect of it.'

In the same letter, Wilson turned down the demand for a public inquiry into the

fund.

At the same time, it became clear that none of the allegations about the running of the fund, the stamp scheme or the prospectus for the British Bangladesh Trust, are contained in the 21 extradition charges against Stonehouse. This amounts, according to Faslal Huq, to 'protection of Mr Stonehouse'.

or Order M.A. ZABBAR -8094: 30987131P "O0000 1 5000"



to two committees—which paid nothing to the fund

## Danny Fox, safety representative-held under Terrorism Act

**YET ANOTHER REASON WHY YOU** SHOULD SUPPORT THE TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT'S **LABOUR** CONFERENCE IN LONDON THIS SATURDAY

by Jeff Shaw (UCATT convenor Bradford Interchange site

FOLLOWING the Birmingham bombings and the Prevention of Terrorism Act, many workers expected drastic action against 'mad bombers'. What really happened? Here is one example:

Danny Fox, a member of the building workers' union UCATT working at the Bradford Interchange site, left three weeks ago to visit his ailing father in Armagh, Northern Ireland. The old man's health improved and his son returned home, but on Thursday 8 May he received the news that his father had died.

The lads on the job had a whip round for the air fare and Danny set off to Ireland and his father's funeral.

#### Crime

He got as far as Yeadon Airport, between Bradford and Leeds, where a plain-clothes man stopped him. He told Danny he was to be held under the Terrorism Act. An interrogation followed. It appeared that the crime was going too often to Ireland.

The plane left-without Danny. He was on his way to the local police station, and thence to Bradford police station. Fingerprints and photographs were taken, and further interrogation followed: Do you go to the Jacobs Well (a

building workers' pub)?

No. Do you know people who go there?

My name is Danny Fox and I'm going home to my father's funeral. You must know the big knobs

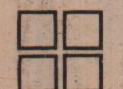
around Bradford.

Yes. Mr Gardner. Who's he? Project manager on the site where

Clever c . . . From there Danny was taken home in the care of plain clothes officers Smith and Townsend. They searched his house, and then left.

The next flight was Friday. Danny Fox arrived one hour before the funeral. British soldiers with Bren guns were in attendance.

A letter of protest, so far signed by 16 building workers on the site, is to be sent to the Home Secretary. Danny is no terrorist: he was recently elected Site Safety Representative under the new Health and Safety Act. His crime is being Irish and militant.



Paul Foot bringing solidarity greetings to a big demonstration last Sunday called by the General Council of Arab and Palestinian Students. The demonstration was called on the 17th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, described by Paul Foot as 'the most cynical act of American diplomacy in the whole history of the Middle East'.

PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)



#### List growing for Young **Workers' Conference**

YOUNG workers from Bradford, Derby, Durham, Glasgow and South London have so far booked to attend the IS Young Workers Conference in Manchester on Saturday and Sunday 7 and 8 June.

The conference, which will be crucial to the development of IS work among young workers, is to be held in the UMIST Students Union near Piccadilly Station. The first session starts on the Saturday at 2pm.

The purpose of the conference is to ensure the fullest possible discussion of a draft Young Workers pamphlet and to consider how we should move ahead after this is published.

The agenda will be organised so that there is a full debate on the following subjects: Young workers and the unions, Young workers and unemployment, Young women workers, Young workers and socialism. The exploitation of the young by the pop and clothing industries,



discussion on why gangs form and on youth clubs and social control, plus debate of a draft programme of demands and on which way forward for IS among young workers.

Every IS district should ensure that their young worker members-male and female-can attend this important conference by paying their fare.

Accommodation overnight Manchester can be arranged by writing to Laurie Flynn at Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

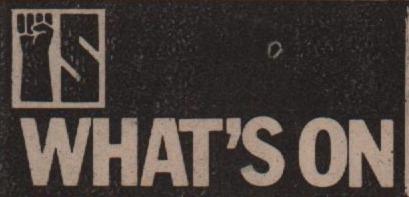
#### **The NO campaign**

THE East London District of the International Socialists have thrown themselves into the Common Market 'No' campaign. Large areas are plastered with IS posters, and mass leafletting is being arranged in the factories.

A well-attended district meeting last week heard Steve Jeffery's give a spirited and detailed explanation why there should be a massive 'No' vote on 5 June against the Common Market.

In the discussion, Tom Wheeler, AUEW convenor, announced that the stewards' committee in his factory was calling a mass meeting on the Common Market. Arrangements have also been made with the shop stewards committees of two large engineering works in Hainault to sponsor an anti-Common Market meeting on Monday 3

A PORTUGUESE revolutionary will be speaking and arguing the revolutionary workers' case in Portugal at IS-organised meetings in Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool and London next month.



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

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 and Holborn tube stations). All welcome.

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 Crosfields occupation. Thursday 22 May, 8pm, Willesden Junction Hotel, Station Road, NW10.

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 un-

SOUTH EAST LONDON District IS public meeting: The Revolution in Portugal. Speakers: A member of the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee and a British Socialist recently in Portugal. Tuesday 27 May, 8pm, Charlton House, Charlton Village, SE7 (buses 53, 54, 75).

BRISTOL IS public meeting: The Workers' Struggle in Portugal. Speaker: Chris Harman (who visited Lisbon last month). Thursday 12 June, 8pm, Shepherds Hall, Old Market. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.

NOISS (National Organisation of IS Societies) Day School on Women. Sessions on Women and the Family, the Women's Liberation Movement, and Abortion. Thurs 19 June, 10am, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC2 (near Aldwych). Organised by LSE IS Society. Further details and registration from L German, c/o LSE Students Union.

NOISS Day School: Prospects for Revolution Today—The Third World, Eastern Europe, The Prospects for Britain, Friday 20 June, 10am, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC1 (near Aldwych). Organised by LSE IS Society. Further details and registration from Jim Montgomery. registration from Jim Montgomery, c/o LSE Students Union.

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

## Revolution in Portugal. Speaker: Nigel Harris. Thursday 22 May, 8pm, The Peel, Boar Lane, Leeds City Centre.

**Meetings** for **IS** members

IS TGWU members' national fraction meeting: Saturday 7 June, 1.30pm-5.30pm. Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham (lecture

For IS meetings on the Common

Market, see page 3 this week.

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 for of 600 will cover out to the foreign out to the foreign of 600 will cover out to the foreign of 600 will cover out to the foreign of 600 will cover out to the foreign out to the foreign of 600 will cover out to the foreign of 600 will cover out to the foreign of 600 will cover out to the foreign out to the foreign out to the foreign of 600 will cover out to the foreign out to the fore ference 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, Landon E2 9DS.

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

IS SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOLS: Eight schools for IS members are to be held in July and August. Sessions on Revolution-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 FAST Attendance at each 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.

IS TASS Fraction: National Meeting, Saturday 7 June, 11am-5pm, IS Bookshop, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry. All members to attend.

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 I class.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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

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 secre: 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 picket-

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' con-

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	Miller a	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.
Address		oris we have and
		四四
Trade Union		

#### **IS** notices

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

THE WORKER, paper of the Socialist Workers Movement, the fraternal organisation of IS in Ireland: May/June issue out now. Articles on the Convention, IRSP. the National Wage Agreement. IS branches please order from The Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

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.

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.

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.

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 E28DN.

THE AUEW

AND THE

POSTAL

BALLOT

WHAT better cure for a hangover than last Sunday morning's news

## Sothis is progress...



On the march in Blackburn: 'progress' means demolishing working-class homes

WHO SAYS we can't fight against big business attacks on working class communities? Three weeks ago, plans were announced to spend £50 million on a motorway through Blackburn.

Lower Audley, a working class district with many immigrant families, would be demolished if the central route is chosen.

We immediately called a protest meeting, attended by white and Asian families from the surrounding streets, which agreed to start a campaign called SOS, Save Our Streets.

An anti-motorway petition in English and Urdu brought in 300 signatures and was presented to a Department of Environment official after a protest march through the town a week last Saturday.

Some white families blame the run-down state of the area on the immigrants but successive local councils—formerly Labour and now a Liberal—Tory alliance—are really to blame. They deliberately neglected Lower Audley for

## IRITERS

years, knowing the motorway would eventually knock our homes down.

Mrs Cutler, who is 72 and fought for shorter working hours for the weavers back in 1923, put the next stage in the campaign. 'We need a residents' action group', she said. 'If making life harder for ordinary people is progress, we want none of it.'

Other residents' groups are springing up to fight the motorway. To be successful, they must involve as many people as possible and elect

street representatives. All the groups must get together to fight a united campaign. Transport union members are also taking up the issue.

At a time when public transport and other social services are being slashed to pieces, the priorities of the system which is willing to spend £50 million on a motorway for big business, with the noise and pollution workers in other cities already suffer from, must be challenged.—PENNY PARKES, Lower Audley SOS, Campaign Secretary.

## USDAW: Help us to organise

THE REPORT (10 May) of the shopworkers' union conference clearly shows signs that the task of the rank and file in USDAW has become increasingly important.

The union executive were defeated over the Common Market and clearly rattled on the Social Contract.

These encouraging signs must not be forgotten. They must be stimulated in readiness for next year's conference.

We say we can do even better next year, but only if there is an organised and progressive rank and file movement within our union.

There are several ways to achieve this. The most important is to organise a national rank and file meeting of shop workers every quarter to exchange ideas and plan strategy to bring down the right wing 'leadership' and build a movement which will fight for real socialist policies.

Any USDAW member willing to contribute to this movement should contact us at 64 Queen Street, Glasgow (041 221 3426). JIMMY RAE and WILLIE SOLAM, Glasgow.

THE CUTS in the social services and house spending implemented by our Labour government and councils shows clearly the priorities that Wilson and Co give, when big business is threatened, to the working people who elected them.

In Greenwich, our Labour council has increased the charges for old people's lunches, old people's and physically handicapped people's holidays, and hostel accommodation for working lads.

We are told the solution is to employ more social workers. This is nonsense. Most social workers come from middle class backgrounds and have no real understanding of working people's problems.

How much effort does our Labour council give to employing working class people on the estates to act as social workers for their community?

The structure of local authority social work more and more reduces social workers to the role of glorified clerks, spending 70 per cent of their time fighting their own bureaucracy and filling in forms.

The only alternative is for rank and file social workers to link up with people to fight, not only their local authorities, but the political system. There must be a joint fight against the cuts, which can best be achieved by local authority union shop stewards' committees being set up and, with the support of local tenants' groups, leading the fight back.

In the end, however, only political change brought about by workers themselves, led by a revolutionary party, will allow us to tackle our social problems, and allow social workers to help and not hinder their clients.

The CASE CON conference for radical social workers, in Bristol from 30 May to 1 June, should be of invaluable assistance. Contact Harry Fletcher 01 555 0542.—NEIL WILLIAMS, Social Worker, Greenwich; Case Con Editorial Collective.

## Union's full-time officials will be elected by votes at local branch meetings and not by postal ballot! Already the papers are talking about a 'powerful backlash' by the 'union moderates' We may soon see the logical extension of their argument . . . all elections by postal ballot. At least

in the AUEW, 180 officials are elected every three years—which is more than one can say about any government institution or the Sunday Express.

The Sunday Express had a particularly nasty little cartoon on its front page—showing Communist

Party members jumping up and

down with joy, saying 'Brothers! The greatest news since we put down the Hungarian rising!'

Abolishing the postal vote will help us strengthen the AUEW branch. Members of IS would rather be defeated in elections where there are healthy, well-attended union

branches, than win in branches

which are not much more than a

Worst of all, is the ballot by post. These elections, in the name of democracy, attack one of the important weapons of our class—our ability to discuss, debate and decide. PETER ROBINSON, Manchester.

## What the Healey cuts mean to me

SINCE Denis Healey hit us with his budget, he's said that workers who win pay rises to reduce its crushing effect were stealing the plums, while other workers were getting the crumbs.

Healey also threatened that if workers persist in defending themselves against the cost of living and the budget there will be unemployment and cuts in the social services.

It seems the cuts to the social services have already been worked out. Plans to help children handicapped by spina bifida are being scrapped in September for the want of £6000 of government money. How can any government throw out such spite onto handicapped children?

Spina bifida is a malformation of the spine that mostly working class babies are born with. At best, it is an embarrassment, at worst a crippling disability that causes pain and misery, and often death.

My own wife had spina bifida slightly, until she died of kidney failure, aged 17. In her last few weeks I saw her suffer the pain that spina bifida causes.

So it's up to us. We can't and shall not tolerate unemployment and cuts in the social services. We must defend the handicapped against Healey's spite. PETER SHELLEY, Silkstone Common, Barnsley.

Send your letters to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Let us have your name and address, but specify if you don't want your name published. Please try to keep letters to not more than 250 words.

## -POSTAL POINTS

IN YOUR editorial Vietnam Victory for Solidarity . . . you nowhere defend the right of the people of Vietnam and Cambodia to purge the parasitic administrators of the old regime . . . this reinforces the illusions of the peaceful road to socialism . . . the true revolutionary position is to defend unconditionally the right of the oppressed to shoot their old masters.—MIKE WOODS, Stratford, London.

A NUMBER of young people give up a lot of time to help in charity work. They feel something must be done to help the casualties of the capitalist economy . . . Every one would agree that something should be done to help . . .

Socialism means precisely this. It would be a society that would produce for social need, and not for vast profits for the few. We should work for social-

lism and change, not for charities, which cannot.—BRENDAN SALISBURY, Hitchin.

HAROLD WILSON recently became the longest serving, and by implication, best Prime Minister Labour has ever had. He has another record: he is the best leader and uncrowned Prime Minister the Tories have ever had.

As the superior alter ego of Heath, Wilson has rendered valuable assistance to the Tory Party over the past ten years, both in office and in opposition. When the sum total of human gratitude is recounted, it will be seen that Harold Wilson is deserving of his share, from the Tory Party and from capitalism in general.—SW READER, Bolton.

THE ARMED Forces Movement is moving in a paradoxical fashion . . . If they have bourgeois elections they should honour them. If they take a revolutionary line . . . they should follow the revolutionary process by setting up their own forms of government.

If the AFM is a truly socialist revolutionary force it should arm the working class to defend itself.—JOHN BIRKS, Hillington.

AN ACQUAINTANCE has just returned from Hungary . . . tailors take cloth over there, get a suit made up for £5, sell it to Burton's for £12-£17, and Burton's then sell it for £40 . . .

Willerby's, the tailors, have just closed a factory in Britain to move production to Hungary, where Russian tanks can guarantee a firmer Social Contract than we have here.—JILL BRANSTON, Swansea.

By James Ryan, NUJ, Penguin Rooks

THE DEMAND 'Open the Rooks' has a long history in the trade union movement. In disputes, and particularly when redundancies are threatened, many stewards call for the books to be handed over as fast as Jesse James drew his gun. Rut, in a number of recent redundancy disputes, the demand has directly contributed to disaster.

In a time of booming profits, workers confidently expect management pleas of poverty to be lies or the result of incompetence or crooked dealings. To expose your boss as a rogue or a cretin doesn't raise very deep questions about the capitalist system.

But in a period of economic crisis, many companies are in trouble. A lot of managements are happy to let workers see this for themselves, in the hope that we will be 'more reasonable' once we know the facts.

Even now, though, most managements obviously prefer not to have us prying into their secrets if they can help it. So what can happen when redundancies are announced and the workers demand to see the accounts?

Workers at Penguin Books took this demand a long way, and something can be learned from their experience.

Last December, management announced that they wanted 54 redundancies from 1 May 1975.

The stewards' committee called a mass meeting, which totally opposed redundancies, called for the books to be handed over to the workers, and called on the government to investigate the financial dealings of Pearson Longman, the massive empire of Lord Cowdray and the parent company of Penguin Books.

#### Control

The stewards also organised a publicity campaign around the loss of jobs and 'the responsibility of the state towards the cultural life of the country'-an attempt to confront thirst for profits with non-commercial values.

Inside Penguin, a big debate began on every aspect of the company's activities, including editorial policy and the general competence of the management.

Quite rapidly, and to a certain extent without the stewards intending this, the argument turned into an overall question of control: 'Who runs the company, the management or the unions?'

The stewards weren't able to develop this argument in a positive direction. Detailed ideas and criticism tended to provoke disagreement among the workers themselves. And the management, while retreating rapidly after the shock of this attack, still refused to hand over the current accounts and the 1975 corporate plan.

Meanwhile, the stewards were feeling acutely in need of expert advice on the information they already had. They found an accountant prepared to act for them, and demanded that management allow him complete access.

This was refused and another mass meeting was called at which the question of the accountant and the books dominated the discussion.

#### Action

It soon became clear that many workers were alarmed at the way the dispute had developed into a battle for control. And they were, anyway, unclear why an accountant was needed.

The meeting voted to take the issue to the government's Conciliation and Arbitration Service, and only if the management refused to do this would there be industrial action.

The CAS move was disastrous. It was agreed there that, apart from the unions' accountant, there was to be another accountant, appointed by the CAS. The accountants were to be paid jointly by the unions and the company, and they were to report to

We demanded it to save jobs—and just look how we came unstuck...



Penguin boss Lord Cowdray-the richest peer in Britain



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

both sides, as 'independent' arbiters.

This meant that the workers lost all control over the investigation. Worst of all, the accountants' brief was to decide whether the management's plans were 'realistic to ensure the financial stability of the company'.

They took a month to reach their verdict, not that there was really any doubt as to what it would be. During this time, there were bitter arguments between the accountants and some of the workers about how to interpret the financial data.

The accountants shrugged these arguments off, saying they were 'politics' and nothing to do with them. And meanwhile, all momentum was lost. A mood of defeatism set in, and those threatened with redundancy began to think about where they could get another job.

The accountants' report was catastrophic. They spent a lot of time stressing 'management's right to manage', and gave us a little homily about how the 'long-term interests'

of workers and management were and workers as a direct blow against identical. This raised a hollow laugh among those about to join the dole queue.

They ended by saying that cutbacks were essential and that 'it is an inevitable and unfortunate consequence of this decision that some redundancies are necessary'.

Only a handful of the 54 jobs were saved. Management emerged stronger than they had been for a long time.

#### Demand

Why the defeat? Obviously, mistakes were made. Going to the CAS was the biggest. But this decision was taken by a mass meeting in the face of strong opposition from the stewards, and it was taken because most workers were not prepared to enter a long struggle over the demand to open the books.

Again, this was not primarily because the demand was thought to be irrelevant. The demand to open the books was seen both by management

the bosses' control.

And in the absence of the strength and determination to push this right through to a full-blooded demand for nationalisation under workers' control, destroying management's control would only leave a frightening

Many other firms are in trouble. To challenge redundancies in this situation is to raise the question of private ownership and nationalisation. To demand that the books be handed over to the workers is to raise the question of workers' control.

For workers to turn a gloomy balance sheet to their advantage, they must be in a position of strength (probably already occupying) and they must be able to call on expert advice without handing the initiative over to a capitalist accountant.

Even then, there will be no easy answers. This is only to say that the battle for socialism will not be easybut it can and must be won.

### **Demo after** police smash student occupation

STUDENTS marching through Coventry on Saturday in support of the Warwick University occupation.

750 police-some armed with riot shields-had earlier invaded the campus to end the threeweek sit-in. They surrounded the building and climbed on roofsonly to find the students marching out peacefully and so embarrassing this hysterical display of force.

The rent strike is continuing, however.

This is the second time in two months that police have broken an occupation. Lord Denning's recent High Court ruling makes it possible to clear occupations within a few days.

With savage education cuts coming in the autumn, students may well find themselves in confrontations not seen since the late Sixties.

AN IS STUDENT expelled from Lancaster University toured Scottish universities last week on a successful speakers' tour organised by the National Organisa-

tion of IS Societies. At many universities, students were thinking not only of solidarity with the Lancaster students but how they were going to fight the cut-backs next year.

NOISS organised the tour because of the failure of the NUS executive to implement a resolution instructing them to do so.

-Calls have been made for an emergency NUS conference on Lancaster and Warwick. NOISS opposes this since it can only descend into executive-bashing and abstract resolutions.

Until the vice-chancellors' strategy for next term is clear, a conference will serve no useful purpose. The fight back against the cuts will be built up in the colleges and not declared in a motion at conference.

**DEFEND THE 21 IRANIAN STUDENTS** ON CONSPIRACY CHARGES MARCH to Downing Street and the Iranian Embassy, Monday 26 May. Assemble 2pm, Bull Ring, near Waterloo Station. PICKET Bow Street Magistrates' Court, Thursday 29 May, 9am. All London IS Societies to support.

A vital AUEW election—and a Broad Left candidate hands it to the right wing on a plate

By Willie Lee, senior AUEW shop steward, Chrysler Linwood BERNARD PANTER, Broad Left candidate for the post of AUEW National Organiser and a leading member of the Communist Party, has applied for an appointed position as a full-time organiser in the Electrical Power Engineers' Association.

Since the EPEA bans Communist Party members from holding positions, Panter gave up his membership. But after accepting him, the EPEA has now changed its mind and turned him down. Panter's withdrawal from the AUEW election which he must have foreseen months ago, has come too late for another Left candidate to be found. The right have been given the election.

The affair comes as no surprise. It shows the real weakness of the Broad Left inside the AUEW. Like many other members of the union who have continually supported the Broad Left, I think it time to take stock of what is going on. In Linwood, the shop stewards committee gave full support to the Broad Left candidate in the second ballot, and circulated a list to all AUEW members in the plant giving the names of the Left candidates, including that of Bernard Panter.

#### Failed to give lead

We encouraged members to vote for Panter and other Broad Left candidates because they were 'more progressive' than rightwing alternatives. Even though these Broad Left candidates have consistently failed to give any lead over national wage claims and the defence of jobs, they at least stood for the election of full-time officials.

But Panter's application for an appointed job in a viciously anticommunist union makes even that look sick. He was paraded as the ideal image of what the Broad Left stood for. At the CP controlled Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions conference in March, Panter was the key platform speaker to lead the attack

on the National Rank and File Movement and what he called the 'sectarian splitters who divide the movement.'

He had already applied for the security of this appointed position in the EPEA when he made that speech. He'd also already resigned from the Communist Party.

It is an ironic justice that after all the fuss in the press, the EPEA have now changed their mind and turned him down.

#### Needs

These manoeuvrings left the position of AUEW National Organiser uncontested by the left. At a time when the Broad Left is getting electorally hammered by the right wing, this gives the right a further position on a plate.

But it also raises the question: is the Broad Left in any state to fight the right?

It's not enough to denounce Panter personally, although he deserves at least that. His manoeuvrings are a sorry reflection on the Communist Party and Broad Left's pre-occupation with capturing union positions without concern for the development of an active rank and file movement around a series of fighting policies.

Those policies would relate to the needs of the rank and file, in-

cluding the need for meaningful national wage claims, defence of jobs, control of officials, increased

militants

rank and file control of internal union life. Such a movement would control the Panters of this world and provide

the basis of keeping the right wing

at bay. The Broad Left notion of con-

tinued appeals for voting for the 'good progressive' lads without the development of a rank and file movement has proved disastrous. These leading figures within the Broad Left

have consistently attacked the poli-

cies outlined here.

All principled AUEW members must now seriously question the past advice of these 'left' leaders.

#### The Social Contract? Perhaps it'll go away By Jimmy McCallum SPINELESSNESS by the AUEW National Committee means the country's second biggest union has no policy on the Social Contract.

gamated Conference. So Hugh Scanlon can say what he likes about the Contract while John Boyd can say that he supports it. Both officials are now free to say what they like and Boyd will make full use of the opportunity.

The discussion was deferred by the

Committee's recent meeting in

Blackpool to next month's Amal-

#### Rightward

This year's National Committee has in fact closely mirrored the rightward slide that has hit the AUEW in the last 12 months. The fact that Boyd's moderates held a sufficient majority to defeat the amalgamation proposals put forward by the left underlines the setbacks that came in the union's recent elections.

Clearly the vote for Boyd against Bob Wright in the ballot for General Secretary was not an isolated incident. The re-emergence of the right wing is based on something more than just organisational effort.

It is true that the Boyd campaign is much more serious and well organised than the Broad Left campaign of 'he's a good lad and a progressive', but-that doesn't explain the shift in the union.

MORE AUEW branches have passed resolutions condemning the decision of the Executive to refuse Socialist Worker press credentials to report the meetings of its National Committee.

Socialist Worker urges all AUEW members to raise the question in their branches and district committees. Let us know about resolutions passed.

This week we have heard of resolutions from Wythenshawe No 1, Chiswick 5, Cricklewood 4, Oldham 9, and Stratford No 2 branches.

The wages debate at Blackpool resolved to instruct the EC to push for substantial increases in wages at the next round of negotiations in May 1976. That's right, May 1976, not May 1975.

A whole series of brave, outspoken speeches were made in the three and a half hour debate. Most of the delegates demanding large increases pointed to the futility of putting figures on wage demands in a time of massive inflation.

It must have pleased the engineering employers to know that the claim was going to be substantial and not for a £60 a week national minimum rate and a £20 a week across the board increase.

#### Disillusioned

For the second year running, the National Committee has ducked the issue of wages and rejected the possibility of leading the membership in a fight. This, more than anything else, has a decisive effect inside the union.

If the National Committee cannot make a clear stand on a wage claim then the rank and file will inevitably become disillusioned.

The overwhelming weakness of the Broad Left has been their inability to come to grips with what a wage fight really means. The issue has been shuttled back and forward betweek national claims and plant-byplant initiative until it has been lost.

In the process, the importance of the AUEW's stand for the rest of the trade union movement has declined. Most of the struggle against lay-offs, and redundancies and for wages have found no reflection inside the AUEW.

## How we beat a victimisation

Bernard Panter: the man who

attacked 'splitters' and

'wreckers'-and then des-

troyed the work of so many

NICK RILEY, EETPU shop steward at Rotary Electrical, Sheffield, writes about the attempt to victimise him for helping to organise the union in his workplace, and about the lessons for other trade unionists:

The trouble started in January when a handful of militants began to reintroduce trade unionism into the firm. The response was fantastic.

The workers, fed up with being pushed around by management and supervision, saw the union as a means of getting together to fight them. Before long the membership in our department was nearly 100 per cent.

#### Action

Things remained relatively quiet until 6 May. Then management went into action. About 10am myself and a workmate were called into the manager's office to be told we were to be made redundant.

The reason they gave was a shortage of work

and yet, that same day, half the shop were on overtime. I called a union meeting and explained what had happened. We decided a delegation, one man from each shop, should confront management that afternoon.

Management bombarded the men with figures that meant nothing to them. We had another meeting when the delegation came back. It was clear that we would not get anywhere talking.

We passed a resolution against accepting this as a redundancy. It was a clear case of victimisation. Yet another meeting was held that night at a pub, a committee was formed and plans drawn up for strike action. As one of the committee, Kev Hinchcliffe, said: 'If we let them get away with this, who knows who will be next?"

By Thursday morning, the managing director was worried. He contacted the union full-time official, who turned up at 4pm and went into a conference with Walker, another director and the other steward.

I literally had to fight my way into the room.

Once there, I argued that the workers were not prepared to pay for the mistakes of the management and unless these notices were withdrawn they would have a strike on their hands.

After a while, the directors left the room. Once they were out, the official told me he agreed with what I had said but there was a way to say it and a way not to say it. Management came back and announced that they had withdrawn the notices unconditionally.

#### Solidarity

This victory goes to show that you can talk till the cows come home but it is rank and file action that gets results. The solidarity of the men and women in our works was fantastic, that's what won us the victory without the help of union officials.

We are not kidding ourselves that management will lay down and die but this has made us all the stronger to face any more attacks.

## Stable lads send out flying pickets

NEWMARKET:-The hostile campaign in the press has consistently misrepresented the claim of the 200 stable lads, now in their fourth week on strike. The claim amounts to roughly £5 on a minimum basic of £23.50-which in real terms puts them back to the standard of living they had 12 months ago. The strike is solid and the strikers determined to win.

As many of them have said, this strike is really about the fight to establish trade unionism in the racing industry, and to win the respect stable lads have never had.

Despite arrests and fines and with little outside help, the stable lads have gone on to the attack. The men organised for mass meetings in Newmarket and have sent coachloads of pickets to racecourses all over the country.

At York last week TV coverage was halted when Yorkshire TV crews refused to cross the picket line set up by 50 lads who came up on each of the three days.

In the Newmarket area collections have been organised at local factories and union branches with the help of the local trades council. One factory gave £100.

Last Friday the strike was boosted by the news that 100 lads at Lambourn had joined the strike. Dockers and airport workers are blacking Newmarket horses going abroad for races.

The prospect of a strong picket at Epsom on Derby Day is beginning to worry the trainers and owners. They would hate to see the high point of the season ruined by strikers reminding everybody that all is not well in the rich man's playground.

There are stands at York which charge £6 a day for the August meeting and which boast a champagne bar. This is all very well for the Earl of Scarborough and his aristocrat friends on the committee, but without the work of the stable lads and the course maintenance workers and without the betting profits-which come largely out of workers' pockets-they would have no racing.

The strikers need support from Socialist Worker readers and other trade unionists wherever the pickets need it, and in the form of fund-raising at local factories, union branches and colleges. Donations and messages of support to Newmarket Strikers, c/o Sam Horncastle, TGWU District Officer, Newmarket.

### 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.

#### MEETINGS

FIGHT THE ABORTION (AMENDMENT) BILL: Planning meeting to set up National Abortion Campaign group in Enfield area Enfield College, Queensway, Enfield, Thurs 29 May, 7pm, Room 525. All welcome.

SOCIALIST SUNDAY SCHOOL reading 'Capital' starting Volume 2 in June invites participants. Details 01-274 0238.

COMMON MARKET OF COMMON OWNERSHIP. Does it matter? In/Outwhat difference to you? World Socialism will abolish all markets. Put questions Trafalgar Square, 1 June, 3pm. Investigate the real thing. Send 15p for Socialist Standard with feature article on Common Market and leaflet giving socialist attitude. The Socialist Party of Great Britain (Dept 1SW), 52 Clapham High Street, London

STRIKE: 1926, a musical show by POPULAR THEATRE, on the theme of the 1926 General Strike, appearing at Unity Theatre, Goldington Street, London NW1 from Thursday 29 May until Sunday 1 June . . . the collision of class conflict that led to crisis.

COUPLE SEEK shared accommodation. North London, for one year from September. Write Southern, 6 Summerhill Terrace Newcastle upon Tyne 4.

ROOM WANTED, East London, for comrade. Can do swop with room in South London, Phone Ron 01-732 9016 or via IS Books.

JOHN AND MARGARET LLYWARCH invite you to enjoy a North Wales farmhouse holiday. Clean air, mountain streams, country rambles, fishing, wild-life 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.

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 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.

## MASS PICKET BACKS LONDON RUBBER

NORTH LONDON:-Despite appalling weather conditions 150 workers gathered at London Rubber for a four-hour mass solidarity picket last Friday.

Workers from MK Electric, Thorn, STC, Whipps Cross Hospital, from TGWU, AUEW, CPSA, COHSE, NUT, ACTSS and NUJ branches and from Waltham Forest Trades Council brought messages of solidarity to the strike.

A speaker from STC summed up the pickets' feelings: 'We know that this is a strike to defend the union from a really vicious management attack. So we know that it's a strike which concerns us all. As the bosses' crisis gets worse they will set up more and more attacks on our unions.

We must all be prepared to give support. Otherwise we'll find ourselves without our unions and without our jobs.'

Pressure has been building up on management, with oil and latex supplies dwindling. But earlier in the week the strikers had suffered a blow when scab trucks brought in oil and chemicals. Pickets refused to move from the path of a pirate tanker, but management called police who threatened the pickets and eventually escorted the oil through.

Police have also been regularly visiting the picket line to 'check', and to call in for tea with supervisors and security guards.

The guards have been playing a particularly dirty role in the strike. Using a cine camera they are filming the picket line and paying special attention to all those who come to stand in solidarity with the strikers.

#### Indefinitely

The strike may move nearer resolution this Wednesday when the case goes to the Conciliation and Arbitration Service. But unless management are willing to restore facilities for collection of union dues in operation at all their other plants, the strike will continue indefinitely.

London 'Robber' Industries, as the strikers have renamed it, have shown they are willing to use any tactic. The strikers need more of the support local workers have provided.

More than £1200 has been collected for the strike fund, but more is needed. Send donations to M Khan, Broad House, 205 Fore Street, London, N18.

A 24-hour picket is being maintained. Local factories and union branches should send a delegation to strengthen the picket-it's outside the London Rubber Factory on the North Circular Road, (Near Angel Road), London, E4.



PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

## Dunlop strike sold out by officials

LEVI'S VICTIMISATION

DISPUTE MADE OFFICIAL

by Chris Benton ACTSS shop steward, Dunlop COVENTRY:-Dunlop clerical workers have just received an object lesson in what happens to a pay claim when full-time trade union officials become involved. Last

#### **Electrolux:** Women want £8, 'no strings'

LUTON:-The two-week strike by 2000 workers at Electrolux is still solid. The main demand is for an interim pay award without strings for the 600 women direct workers, to bring them up to equal pay.

The 'no-strings' demand is crucial, as the company has made its £8-a-week offer on condition that the unions-the AUEW and GMWU-sign what is effectively a new job grading scheme. Semiskilled jobs have never been graded before in the factory, so the company is trying the usual trick of getting round equal pay by introducing job evaluation.

Management has sent dubious documents to the homes of all employees saying the men are stopping the women having their rise by refusing to sign the deal. The deal would make it possible for the company to recruit men after 1 January 1976 on rates which are 84 per cent of what they are getting now.

This is a factory-wide issue and the stewards' committee could not possibly agree to such wage cuts.

The misprint in last week's Socialist Worker which said there was a danger of women being recruited at 84 per cent of the present rate was misleading. With this offer, there is no way women can get anything but 84 per cent-and that is reason enough to sling it out.

Despite the total shutdown of production, there is still no all-out strike. many strikers are arguing for other unions to join the strike, especially the staff.

Friday, after an appeal by Ray Edwards, assistant general secretary of the white-collar union APEX, a mass meeting voted to accept the company's latest pay offer.

Although claiming £15 across-theboard, the majority were persuaded to

WHITBURN, Scotland: For six weeks

now 350 women workers at the Levi

Strauss factory have been fighting for

their sacked and victimised convenor,

Flora Flynn. The strike has now been

made official by the Tailors and Garment

through,' said strike committee treasurer

Mary Porter. 'Even a murderer gets a

trial but Flora was convicted and con-

demned without even a chance to give

'guilty of assaulting a supervisor' during

an argument. The argument was

sparked when management tried to in-

troduce a ballot over the existence of a

the premises,' Flora was told, after she

had been sent up to the management.

'You've got three minutes to leave

Management said that Flora was

'We're determined to fight this one

Workers Union.

her side of the story.'

union in the factory.

accept between £7.35 and £8.51 for men, and £7 now, £1 in June and a further sum in November for women. This last sum will depend on a new grading structure.

Clerical rates now vary from £41 to £51.50. As we entered the meeting we were presented with a five-page document

The speed of management response

was easy to understand. Flora was a

troublemaker'-which means an excel-

Her cards and money had atready been

One worker spent 44p on fares for a

visit to the Social Security. She is

divorced, with a child and a house to

keep. 'Your ex-husband must be giving

you money.' the officials insisted. She

assured them she'd had nothing since

Eventually they coughed up-79p!

They've got little strike pay, their funds

are low, they need money for transport

to get support from other factories.

They need it now. Money to, and col-

lection sheets from Mary Porter, Fallas

Place, Fauldhouse, West Lothian.

That's why they need money.

Management isn't the only problem.

lent convenor

made up.

January.

explaining the new offer. We were given less than an hour to study it, so had to rely heavily on the advice of officials and trust in those who had signed the document. On the previous Monday an almost

identical offer had been rejected on the union officials' advice. Most people felt that if they were now recommending it there must be some substantial difference. The only difference is that on the Monday the lowest grade was called zero and on Friday it was called 'a'.

During the meeting full-timers waxed eloquent on how we had achieved the £40 minimum we had set out for. This confused some of the audience, who had struck for£15 across the board.

They also told how we had achieved equal pay. Yet when 'equal pay' becomes operative in November women on the bottom grade will get £2.50 less than men on that same grade.

That a strike which was 'bringing the car industry to a halt' should be sold out for so little is a scandal. The burden of responsibility rests on the officials of ACTSS and APEX. But it is unlikely that they will be able to do the same again. After a weekend's study of the offer most people could see that they had been let down. Over the coming months all will come to see this.

The workers have proved their strength. Next time they will also have to prove their self-reliance. The only assistance received was from other rank and file workers, especially in Coventry. These links must be strengthened to provide mutual help and develop genuine rank and file organisation.

### £7m profit-but Gartons demand short time

SOUTH LONDON:-Garton's Glucose workers, Battersea, are holding out in the third week of their unofficial strike against attempts to enforce short-time working, minimal pay rises and higher productivity. Profits for the company were a record £7,432,000 last year, and the starch side of their operations, which includes the 200 men at Battersea, went up 69 per cent.

On Tuesday last week management met the TGWU officials-without any shop stewards present-after making and ignoring a written agreement with the officials to maintain the status quo for 30 days while 'official procedures' are followed.

The strike has still not been made official, and the 1/49 TGWU Battersea branch has called for support from the trades council and deplored the lack of assistance from the full-time officials.

The Evening News reported that Gartons' workers make £65 a week-they make £10 less-and suggested that political agitators were behind the strike. A member of the International Socialists who had only been with the firm for seven weeks was sacked on the morning of a mass meeting without grounds being given.

Trade unionists are blacking Manbre Garton trucks throughout the British starch and glucose industries to force the action to a quick and fair conclusion. Liam Toomey summed up the mood of the strikers when he said: 'If we don't get what we're asking for I'll never go back through that gate.

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.

#### ROLLS WOMEN BATTLE FOR EQUAL PAY

COVENTRY:-Women workers at the Parkside and Anstey Rolls-Royce factories have begun a real fight for equal pay. Last Friday the 60 canteen women struck over a pay claim which includes upgrading. The women want to be included in the same grades as the manual workers in the plants.

They had been offered £6, which would bring their wages to £38 by the end of July. But they are determined that equal pay is met in full. A spokeswoman said they were 'the Cinderellas of Rolls-Royce'. They were due to meet again this

#### ELEKTRON MANCHESTER-STILL OCCUPYING!

IT'S Week Four of the Magnesium Elektron occupation at Clifton. At national negotiations the bosses have upped their original 12 per cent pay offer to 17 per cent for craftsmen, 19-21 per cent for general workers. But the occupiers aren't having it-and are building their fighting power over Greater Manchester.

'The union officials have told us they have taken away the offer for consideration,' said Engineering union convenor Paul Dickinson. 'The only consideration as far as we're concerned is that we get our full 30 per cent and full negotiations at local level. Otherwise we, and the barricades stay."

General and Municipal Workers Union shop steward Stan Walton summed up the attitude of these workers, men who handle poisonous, inflammable material everyday.

By the time they take the tax out of the offer we will be left with little more than half of what we asked for, which is a downright insult. The lads won't stand for it."

So what they're doing is fighting-and winning support. The entire CIBA-GEIGY (Trafford Park) Branch Committee brought down their collection, watched the occupation in action, exchanged experiences, and their convenor addressed the occupiers.

## RBREE

In nearby Bolton the workers at Hicks until 1 October. Hargreaves with their own past experience of occupation have pledged £15 a fortnight.

The strikers' wives are organising a jumble sale, and are planning support activities at the occupation. A march through Swinton and Pendlebury is planned

Money remains a key to success, as GMWU convenor Tony Tyrell emphasised. 'There are 450 men and our wives and children to support, I appeal to all sections of the trade union movement to help us

Send donations, and support, to Tony Tyrell, 113 Falcon Crescent, Clifton, near Manch ester.

#### RENFREW SHIPBUILDERS-STILL OCCUPYING!

THERE were five naval vessels and a trawler on the order books of the Argyll Ship and Boatbuilding Company-but the company was liquidated. The trawlers' owner appointed a temporary manager to complete it. He demanded maximum flexibility-and guaranteed employment only

So the 41 workers occupied. They are militant-and solid, and the move is similar to the Smith Hutton shipyard occupation at Dundee. It is hoped this week to hold a joint meeting of the two works committees.

There's just one weak-spot-they are. looking at the occupation as a UCS style work-in, Argyll convenor Jimmy Kernahan was employed at UCS-and declared redundant. The answer is to hold on to the bosses' property-threaten the management's rights, not the workers!

Support and donations to: The Works Committee, Argyll Ship and Boat Building Company, Kingsinch Road, Renfrew.

#### LONDON PRINTERS-STILL OCCUPYING!

'JOBS not dole' is the slogan on the leaflet being handed out by 35 printers in the NGA, SOGAT and SLADE from Mabbutt and Johnston as they continue their job fight at the central London printing company. The company was shut down, locked and filled with security men on 2 May.

This Thursday they are marching from Mabbutt and Johnston to Hill Samuels, Merchant Bank-masterminds of the closure at midday to protest against the attempted closure.

Donations and messages to Joint Treasurer, Mabbutt and Johnston, c/o 54 Doughty Street, London WC1.

#### CROSFIELD LONDON-OCCUPATION OVER ...

AS reported last week the two month North London occupation at Crosfield Electronics is over. Seven of the 32 threatened jobs were saved as the stewards' committee reluctantly accepted a management offer.

The key ingredient in the bosses' attack were High Court injunctions charging the occupiers with illegal possession. Police plus judges proved too much. But the local Engineering union bears blame toowhy were they so unwilling to build rank and file support-the lifeline of fights like Crosfields?

#### **COALITE BARNSLEY**

THEY'VE been locked out for six weeks and for Transport and General Workers Union members in Grimethorpe fighting for a £10 rise, the heat was on the picket line last week.

The bosses are determined to keep the batteries running at the plant-and they've relied on scabbing members of the white collar union ASTMS to keep the plant open. They're being paid £23 a shift-£13 more than the TGWU members are claiming!

They've hit back with effective mass picketing-and the police hit them with threats against branch officials and the arrest of one picket, 'No more than 12 on the picket the police demanded. But the men are confident, they've resumed picketing at Bolsover Coalite plant-where some of the ASTMS scabs come from and money is coming from local pits.

Send your support and money to TGWU branch secretary, 63 Corporation Street, Barnsley.

#### KIMBERS STAFFORDSHIRE

MANAGEMENT at Kimbers Die and Tool Ltd at Cradley Heath tried a new offer on the 75 Engineering union strikers there last week. It was £2.50 from July-and £2.50 in January. It was adding insult to the bosses' original refusal to stick to their regular six monthly pay deal.

The strikers aren't buying-they're sticking out for their original demand, £7,

#### SOUTH LONDON DUSTMEN

THE SOUTHWARK dustmen strike committee were recommending a return to work on Tuesday after an arbitrated offer of £200 from the council for clearing the refuse backlog. The original offer had been £70. They are continuing holiday pay talks.

The council's final fling was at 7.30am, Sunday. Private contractors arrived at Goose Green Depot to clear the five weeks' garbage mountain. Dustmen's pickets spoke to the contractors' drivers, 'We're union men,' pointed out the drivers. They told the dustmen that they'd been informed that their operation had been cleared with the strike committee!

It hadn't been-and they went on their way, leaving a bulldozer which succeeded in ripping up the plastic rubbish bags, leaving a naked rubbish mountain . . .

#### HENRY BOOTS. NORTHAMPTON

THEY want a workable bonus echemebut after five weeks building workers at the Henry Boots site still haven't got it. The employers' federation secretary agreed to meet the UCATT members' demandbut their hopes were dashed when they asked for a firm offer.

At which point higher management withdrew their proposals! Leaving disgusted workers-and union full-timers. What it didn't do was demoralise the strikers who are now being backed by other local trade unionists, UCATT and white collar members of ASTMS are tabling motions for this week's Trades Council.

It's an official dispute—but the strikers are getting no strike pay. Send your messages and donations to M Dunkley, 51 Holly Road, Northampton.

#### HOWARD ROTAVATOR, SUFFOLK

NINE days of 24 hour picketing was the recipe for success for 300 foundrymen at the Howard Rotavator plant at Halesworth. The picket begun on 28 April after a management announcement of a three day week for the foundrymen-who are 66 per cent of the workforce.

The men wanted 40 hours for all workers, no redundancies, no cancellation of outside workers-and no victimisation of the strikers.

The bosses hit back-with lay-offs against the shop-floor. But it didn't weaken them, they stood by the foundrymen although unaffected by the three day week move.

Last week the workers voted to accept one or two weeks holiday for the foundrymen, paid at MT rate, instead of the three day week.

#### STEWART PLASTICS, CROYDON

'WE have proof that you are causing discontent and interfering with the company's affairs.' Those were the ominous words from Stewart Plastics' chairman, Charles Dougan-Chapman before he moved to sack Len Pratt six weeks ago. That, plus a demand for a 30 per cent wage increase has meant strike action from 230 workers at the factory, for the last five weeks.

Len had been recruiting to the Engineering Union's white collar section TASS.

Management have increased their wage offer from 21/2p to 10p an hour-and a few strikers have gone back. But Transport Union drivers and postmen have refused to cross the picket lines, and the backbone of the strikers, the mainly Asian machine operators have stayed solid.

Send donations and messages of support to Stewart Plastics Strike Committee, c/o AUEW District Office, 8 Southend, Croydon.

# 1500 23 11 11 11 11 11 11

**ABOUT 1500 members of the National Graphical** Association have been locked out this week following sanctions put on by the union's 60,000 members covered by the British Printing Industry Federation agreement.

The print-workers are fighting for a £10 increase and a 35-hour week. The employers have offered £4.36 now, and £2 in November-and

4000 CHRYSLER workers voted

almost unanimously last Thursday to

continue their strike in support of

and the attacks from the government, are

favour of open-ended talks with the com-

pany on workers' 'participation'. This was

done to dispel press stories that workers

participation proposals had been turned

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: - The

Eldon Square scaffolders are still on

strike over the victimisation of 14

men by McAlpines. Dave Shenton,

the Transport and General Workers'

Union regional secretary, has been

hostile to the strike, which is now in

officials at the beginning of the strike.

Recently, in an attempt to split the

branch, he offered them back to those

not on the strike committee. This under-

secret negotiations throughout the strike

and arranged to take the matter to arbitra-

tion. The scaffolders decided unanimously

against putting an issue of such gravity

before a tribunal. Nevertheless, Shenton

the scaffolders, Shenton wept crocodile

tears and stated in the local press: 'Well,

of course, I wish the decision had been in

favour of the 14 but unfortunately we

the scaffolders to explain their case,

Shenton instructed the TGWU delegation

to withdraw and said the invitation was 'a

gross interference in the domestic affairs

blacked the Eldon Square site, but

The scaffolders' branch have now

When Newcastle Trades Council invited

must abide by the decision.'

of an affiliated union.'

When the tribunal decision went against

McAlpines and Shenton have held

hand move was thrown out unanimously.

He removed the credentials of branch

its six th month.

went ahead.

only increasing the men's determination.

The onslaught in the press and TV,

There was also an overwhelming vote in

Newcastle scaffolders

still out after six months

a £15 a week wage claim.

Chrysler: Wefighton

down flat.

the NGA aren't having it.

By Bob Parker, TGWU shop steward,

Chrysler, Stoke

Transport Union convenor Bob Morris

The company's proposals were out-

pointed out that it would take months of

negotiations to sort out the proposals. For

lined at a hastily-arranged meeting held

with all the unions on 13 May. It was

obvious that the company had not thought

McAlpines have got scabs and labourers

employers on other sites and finding it

arrested in February during a picket of the

site is still not set. It is vital to show

support for the scaffolders by sending

delegations from shop stewards' com-

mittees and union branches to picket the

fence of these men-we can't afford

Send for details to Eddie Brady, 86

The movement must rally to the de-

The scaffolders are blacked by

The date for the trial of the ten men

doing scaffolding work.

impossible to get work.

another Shrewsbury.

Benwell Lane, Newcastle 5.

the present pay claim, they were irrelevant.

They've hit back with an overtime ban, a policy of non-flexibility, union meetings during working hours and other measures aimed at restricting production.

The employers have refused to reduce hours now, or in the future, and are beginning to take a tough line. Hundreds of printers are locked out in Kent and Yorkshire for 'not working normally'. The giant Westminster Press group is adopting a 'take the unions on'

It has already made it plain that it will

be expecting a complete review of pro-

cedure agreements so as to incorporate

'no strike clauses' and 'compulsory and

binding arbitration'. This would effectively

will be sticking out for national joint

negotiations, with all plants and unions

negotiating wages and conditions together.

By the time this is in print, Chrysler may

well have made an offer to all UK em-

ployees which will attempt to force them

is that they want their wages aligned with

the Coventry average. Stoke is now the

lowest paid of the big Coventry car plants,

and 18th in the Coventry wages league

with Coventry wages. In other words, if

the men don't get a good wage increase

this year they can expect to fall further

The men have given their leadership a

solid backing. The shop stewards have

ing is still needed, particularly after the

news that 10,000 cars are waiting to leave

Southampton Docks for Iran and that

component packs are being hastily de-

livered to Felixstowe for shipment and

organised a claimants committee.

eventual assembly in Iran.

The strike looks like being a long one.

But a campaign of blacking and picket-

The company has said it can't compete

The argument of the Stoke workers

The impression is that the company

cripple the unions.

table.

and further behind.

Faced with the possibility of the dispute escalating, the NGA executive are putting the offer to ballot with a recommendation that the members reject it and take all-out strike action.

Many shop-floor workers are cynical about the ballot. They see it as a right-wing move to get the offer accepted. The right wing are hoping its acceptance by the executive of two other print unions, NATSOPA, and SOGAT, will swamp the NGA's call for rejection.

> But meetings around the country last week showed solid support for strike

There is a possibility of the membership surprising their leaders-by the unusual method of supporting their stated policy!

Forty members have been sacked on the Peterborough Standard following a sit-in protest against management's proposals to by-pass national agreements and bring in new productivity methods. Another print union, SLADE, has agreed to support their 24-hour picket.

They need money-and support. Send it to Brian Harris, Mid Anglia Graphical One Society, 147 High Street, Huntingdon, Cambs.

Meanwhile, in North London at the Hornsey and Camden Journal management have moved to sack two journalists who led the fight in their chapel to support the NGA strikers.

A fortnight ago, the paper's NGA printers at Nuneaton were sacked for their action. The Journal's National Union of Journalists passed a motion condemning this move. Father of the chapel (shop steward) Howard Hannah and another journalists, Chris Watkins, told the editor they were going to Nuneaton to pass on the message of support.

The following day management threatened sackings if they did so. The chapel went ahead-and on Wednesday last week the two were sacked.

The chapel is fighting the move-and have turned down a management offer to 'suspend' the sackings. They want them withdrawn completely.

by Aidan White, conference organiser

and Group FoC, Stratford Express

AN INTER-UNION committee was set up

at a London delegate conference on Satur-

day to fight sackings in the print and

media industry. 180 workers from eight

unions covering newspapers, printing, pub-

lishing and broadcasting hammered out a

policy to tackle the growing threat to jobs.

full day of discussion on the lessons of

earlier disputes, includes tactical ideas for

union members to apply at all levels of

co-ordinating rank-and-file activity within

the industry and for providing support for

chapels and branches fighting redundancies.

organisation to resist redundancies.

The policy declaration, made after a

The committee will be responsible for

**Print conference** 

## **AUSTIN WANT US TO PAY**

by John Knowles, NUSMW shop steward MANAGEMENT'S intention to try to make Austin Longbridge workers pay for the mess the bosses have made was spelt out clearly at a recent shop stewards' m eeting.

Because of lay-offs and short time working, they think the time is ripe to push through measures such as cutting the manning on jobs, increasing production (even where a standard has been mutually agreed) and getting full mobility of labour.

As soon as workers return from the

present lay-off, the number of Allegros produced will go down 27 per cent and we will be on short time till at least October.

must immediately demand:

Replacement of workers who have accepted voluntary redundancy. No to increased mobility.

Alex Park, the new acting managing director, has said 17,000 jobs have gone since the beginning of last year and that there would be further cut backs to reduce British Leyland's £43 million halfyearly loss. This means a sharply reduced labour force with the remaining workers subjected to a much harsher regime. We must prepare now to see that they don't get away with it.

If the workforce are not to be hustled

into accepting these measures, we must prepared to put the boot in first. We No scrapping of mutual agreements

for jobs. No speed up.

#### 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.

meeting on Tuesday, only one striker voted in favour of a return to work.

The meeting demanded an independent inquiry into Ford's breaking of domestic agreements. The strikers also decided to picket Jack Jones at Transport House on Wednesday to demand that the strike be made official.

FORD STRIKERS TO PICKET JACK JONES DAGENHAM:-Doorhangers and fender fitters in the Body in White section at Ford's are now in the third week of their strike against manning cuts and speed-ups. At a mass

## Socialist Worker

By SW reporter WORKERS occupying Massey Ferguson's Coventry complex have stumbled on documents which show the company has been preparing for a dispute for 13 months.

The information contained in a captured memorandum from Massey Ferguson production director H J Hebden and dated 2 April 1974. has astonished many of the workers. 5

Like all of us, they have been assaulted by years of Fleet Street propaganda about militants wrecking industry and causing strikes. So they find it almost incredible that those militants are, in fact, the employers.

## Secret memo exposes firm's plan to force a strike

The secret memo was first disclosed at the workers' mass meeting last week. Then, on Tuesday, management sent out a letter to all hourly-paid employees headlined: The disputes at Coventry. It makes a pathetic attempt to explain away the document and says:

'At your mass meeting, reference was made to a company document from which it was alleged that the company had picked this

dispute. That document refers to a theoretical study made 13 months ago and has been quoted out of context.'

The 'explanation' has boomeranged. Workers who were sceptical about the authenticity of the document simply do not swallow the 'theoretical study' line of argument. As far as they are concerned, all Massey Ferguson's explanation has done is to admit that the

captured document is genuine. The plan to hold out for a fourweek strike has boomeranged, too.

The workers have adopted new tactics, occupying the plants, stopping all operations and sending out flying pickets to visit the hotels where the displaced management have tried to camp.

But why should one of the most profitable firms in Britain plan for a four-week strike and then ensure it took place by offering a pitiful six per cent wage rise out of their £168 million profit? There appear to be two reasons.

Two years ago, after a bitter struggle, Massey Ferguson were forced to concede parity with Coventry at the Perkins plant in Peterborough.

#### Starve

But it appears they resolved to give Peterborough parity at Coventry's expense, by holding wages down and planning for a strike.

Furthermore, shop-floor organisation in Coventry is extremely powerful, with the assembly workers in particular resisting lay-offs to the hilt. Naturally Masseys are rather keen to do what they can to weaken this organisation.

In two weeks management's plans have been turned upon them. They are prepared to starve the strikers for a month, but not at the cost of disruption to sales. They are reported to be deeply worried at further tactics being discussed-in particular the suggestions of restarting the tracks and selling tractors and spares for strike funds.

The strikers, backed by the District Committees of all three unions, can be sent messages of support at: Secretary, Joint Shop Stewards Committee, Massey Ferguson, Banner Lane, Coventry.

### How you can help the Two

WE'VE HAD a number of letters since our story last week that Shrewsbury picket Des Warren is in solitary confinement.

One letter from the Prisoners Wives and Families Association asks to be put in touch with Mrs Warren because they want to organise a picket outside the Home Office. 'A prisoner is a human being,' says the letter, 'and should be treated as such.'

The Rank and File Organising Committee's Dependants' Fund reported a steady trickle of money over the last week-and they've now had more than £500. BUT THIS IS NOTHING LIKE ENOUGH.

The wives and children of the two jailed pickets are in great distress and need. They can and must be helped by the trade union movement. Send money and organise collections now.

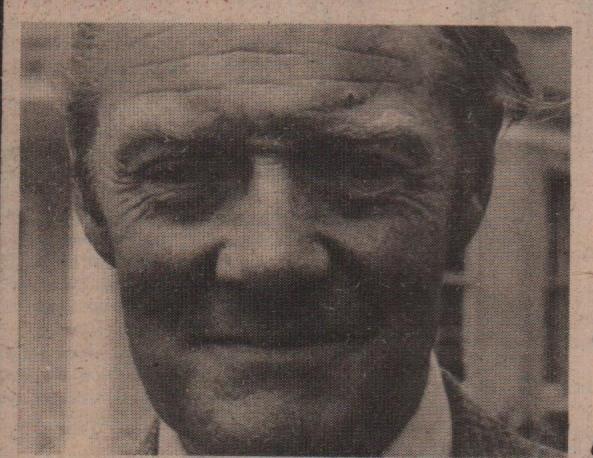
All contributions to RANK AND FILE DEPENDANTS FUND, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

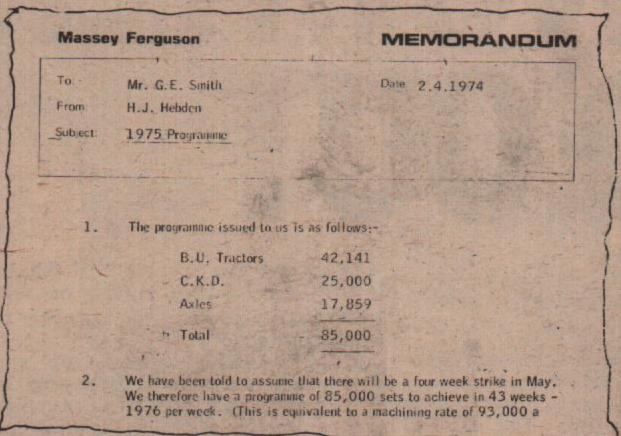
#### GRAND NATIONAL IS SOCIAL Saturday 31 May, 7.30pm

St Pancras Assembly Rooms, London N1.

Cheap 'n Nasty rock band, disco, bar extension till midnight. Tickets 50p on the door or from IS secretaries.

## 







Two of the idlers who sit on Massey's board-and the memo that exposed their plot. Left, the eighth Duke of Wellington and, right, Lord Crathorne.

### **About this** overmanning, Sir Monty Finished...

PART OF the large delegation of steelworkers from Scotland and Wales who marched through London last Monday in defence of their jobs.

The steelworkers gave a black eye to Sir Monty Finniston's plans for 20,000 instant redundancies-but the small print in the 'agreement' between the British Steel Corporation and the steel union leaders needs reading carefully.

It could mean almost as many sackings-'agreed' over a longer period. Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)



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#### **OUR FUND: KEEP IT UP!**

OUR FUND topped the £1000 mark this week-but we're still a long way from our monthly target of £2000.

We received £394.21 to push May's total up to £1153,55. Now help us push for that extra £850.

We need your pennies-and poundsto keep ahead of inflation and to strengthen the paper that fights for every worker.

Our thanks to: Huddersfield IS £25, Wakefield supporter £1, Southampton IS £20, Portsmouth IS £8, Grimsby IS £2.50, Bangor IS £3, IS Students Cambridge £1.14, Manchester West Dist IS £8, Newham IS £3.50, A supporter £150, Paddington IS £5.30, Newcastle Wolverhampton IS social £10.

Members' special levy: Edmonton £1, Triumph £5. Portsmouth Poly £3, Ipswich £6, Members' special levy: Brighton £43, £8.77, Leeds ATTI £40, Coventry ATTI £1, Lampeter £15, An individual mem- lecturers £535.

Acknowledgements omitted from the Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

May Day issue: Reader £5, Anon £3, Widnes IS £3, Ferrier Estate readers & supporters Kidbrooke London £4, GLC Branch IS 50p, Clapham readers £1.30, Reader £5, York IS £10, Woolwich IS £3.25, SW reader Clapham 75p, Stevenage Trades Council £2, SW readers Burnage Estate Stockport £1,70, Crook Building Workers £1, From a Stalinist who lost a bet on his party's history £1.

Cornwall reader £5, Albion SW Supporters £11, W London Hospital workers £19.65, A NUPE comrade £100, Darlington SW Supporters £1, Walthamstow IS £3, Reader £10, Cardiff IS £11.21, Durham IS £4, IS members and supporters in PTA Ford's Dagenham £10, subscriber £4, Chesterfield IS £20, Subscriber in Sweden £2, SW reader Devon £1, SW Supporters Standard

Croydon £10, Teesside £3, Oldham Dist Tottenham £5, Manchester students £36, Manchester IS teachers £30, Bangor £6, £10, Reading £10, Lewisham £10, Heinz 3 Brighton teachers £45; teachers &

Send donations to Mel Norris, IS National