

Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



India in crisis

بھارت میں حالیہ بحران

भारत में "क्षुधिरसिद्धि"

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How bosses forced Healey's hand

PAGE THREE

Labour retreats on all fronts

PAGE FIVE

Demonstrate to free the Shrewsbury Two

Demonstration outside Nottingham Prison, where Des Warren is now serving his three-year sentence for picketing. Saturday 19 July

Organised by Nottingham Trades Council
All Midlands and Yorkshire branches of the International Socialists to attend, other areas to support as possible.

Prices up 25 per cent Shares up £2,000m But wages held at 10 per cent

TELL THEM TO STUFF IT!

CHANCELLOR Dennis Healey has launched the most savage attack on the living standards of working people since the war. His limit on all wage increases in the coming wage round to 10 per cent is WORSE than the last Labour wage freeze in 1966 and WORSE even than the Tory wage freeze in 1972-1974.

Roaring price inflation means that the cuts in workers' living standards proposed in the Healey plan can be anything up to 20 per cent. For hundreds of thousands of low-paid workers the new measures spell grinding poverty.

By next October, when the hospital workers' wage claim comes up again, they will be nearly £10 a week worse off than they were last year. Healey will allow them another £3 on the top line, more than half of which will be taken away in tax and national insurance payments.

There are at least 750,000 people who, according to a report out next week, are having to go without food in order to feed their children. The Healey plan will mean that now the children too will have to go without.

Will Healey's measures stop unemployment? Listen to Dr Paul Nield, of the stockbroking firm Phillips and Drew, who is regarded by the government as one of the most accurate economic forecasters in the City.

'With a 10 per cent norm the numbers out of work might rise to more than one and three quarter millions next year.'

One and three quarter millions! That's right up to the levels of the 'dark days' of the 1930s. That's where this new wage restraint will get us.

WHY have the Labour government launched this attack on the people who put them in office. 'To restore confidence', says Healey.

Whose confidence? The confidence of the bankers, speculators and industrialists who caused the run on the pound in the first place. The confidence of the shareholders whose dividends are 'limited' to 10 per cent (compared with 12 per cent up to now), but whose share values will simply rise instead as the money is paid into the companies.

Shares rose £2000 million on the Tuesday afternoon of Healey's announcement alone.

These are the people who have forced Labour into

scrapping its election promises and attacking working people.

Any lingering doubt that this is our government, that its heart is among the working class, can now be dispelled. This is an anti-working class government, determined to defend great propertied interests at the expense of wages and jobs.

IT MUST BE FOUGHT. The entire working-class movement has to unite to defeat this new plan.

The trade union leaders will be reluctant to lead any fight. Their shilly-shallying over flat-rate rises and Social Contracts has opened the door for Healey's new plan.

Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, said on the radio immediately after Healey's speech: 'We have to fight this wage restraint under this government just as we fought wage restraint under the Tories.' We have to build a rank and file movement to ensure that such words are turned into deeds.

We must fight for

ROGER COX, secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee, called on all trade unionists to resist Healey's package with a campaign in the unions to:

1. No wage restraint of any kind. No union negotiations with CBI or government while Healey's threats remain in force. No more talk of 'voluntary restraint'.

2. Full support for all workers who fight the 10 per cent limit. The local authority manual workers are likely to be first in the firing line. Don't let them be beaten, as the postal workers in 1971 were beaten by the Tories. Powerful groups such as the miners must pledge support for weaker groups now. Powerful unions such as the TGWU must throw support behind their own weaker sections.

3. Shop stewards' committees must call factory meetings now to explain how a 10 per cent

limit means both cuts in living standards and higher unemployment. In unions such as the AUEW, district committees should convene special shop stewards' meetings.

4. Demand official TUC industrial action if compulsory wage restraint is introduced.

5. Resist the government's blackmail in threatening the jobs of workers who do manage to protect their living standards. Full union strength to defend every job. The force that threw out the Tories 17 months ago can force the government to drop redundancy plans in the public sector. Demand nationalisation without compensation of private firms that cannot guarantee jobs and a living wage.

6. Build a rank and file movement that can fight around these issues, despite the hesitations and betrayals of the union leaders.

No to wage cuts and unemployment

The champions

of 'sacrifice'



£100,000 FOR DOING NOTHING

CAPTAIN Jack Dennis was a loyal soldier in the Life Guards. He married Joan Clarkson, an actress, in 1941. Joan Clarkson was the mistress of Sir Harold Wehrner, a millionaire racecourse owner and a friend of the Queen.

Sir Harold continued to keep his mistress in the manner to which she had become accustomed. He bought the newly-married couple a nice £60,000 house in Sussex. He paid Mrs Dennis pocket money of £5000 a year. He bought her two houses in Bermuda and jewelry worth £140,000.

Captain Dennis didn't have to do anything at all because he had £100,000 a year in income, which he'd inherited from his father, who in turn had inherited it from his father, who had stolen it from some Africans about 80 years ago.

Captain Dennis and his wife didn't seem to get on too well. In fact they were always having rows. The captain found an interesting new method of making these rows up. In March 1967 he stormed out of the house after a particularly bad row and went to the Clermont Club, where he lost £40,000 gambling 'on a game that was not legal then'.

NOTE: Captain Dennis' solicitor was J Elliott Brooks. Remember him? The legal representative of the Most Noble and Worshipful Company of Bottom Spankers. The spanking colonel.

A PAIR of William III silver-gilt wine bottles came up for sale at Sotheby's saleroom in London last week. The auctioneers estimated the value at £20,000. The bottles sold at £62,000. The reason for the difference was explained by a Sotheby's spokesman: 'The bottles belonged to the Duke of Kent.'

THE Duke of St Albans, who made £800,000 from selling shares during the take-over of the Grendon Trust two years ago, has a plan to buy Maxims, the famous Parisian society restaurant. Price of a meal for one there is double the average industrial weekly wage and the turnover last year was more than £1 million. The Duke wants to broaden the restaurant's scope so that its delights can be available in other cities, including especially Teheran.

SPEND IT, EXPERTS SAID

ROBERT WOODS told a court last week that he managed to lose £3 million in four months. His company, Norbury Insulations, had been built up on the basis of ICI contracts secured as a result of 'a phone call from a friend'.

'I worked hard and lived reasonably hard', Woods told the court.

In five years he spent £440,000, including the following outlay on 'necessities': £199,000 on Sussex mansion, £91,138 on racehorses, £75,914 on gambling, and £10,000 on a bank overdraft for Sara Leighton, who was described in the court as 'an artist who is currently painting sheikhs in Bahrein'.

This was not extravagance, said Woods. 'It was capital depletion to avoid taxes—a deliberate policy of spending advised by financial experts'. Woods explained that 'capital depletion' on a grand scale was carried out by all the successful businessmen of the time.

In 1972, Norbury Insulation employed 2070 workers, who were paid an average of £42.05 a week each. It would have taken one of those workers 201 years to earn the £440,000 Woods spent in five years—and 920 years to run up Wood's £2 million debts.



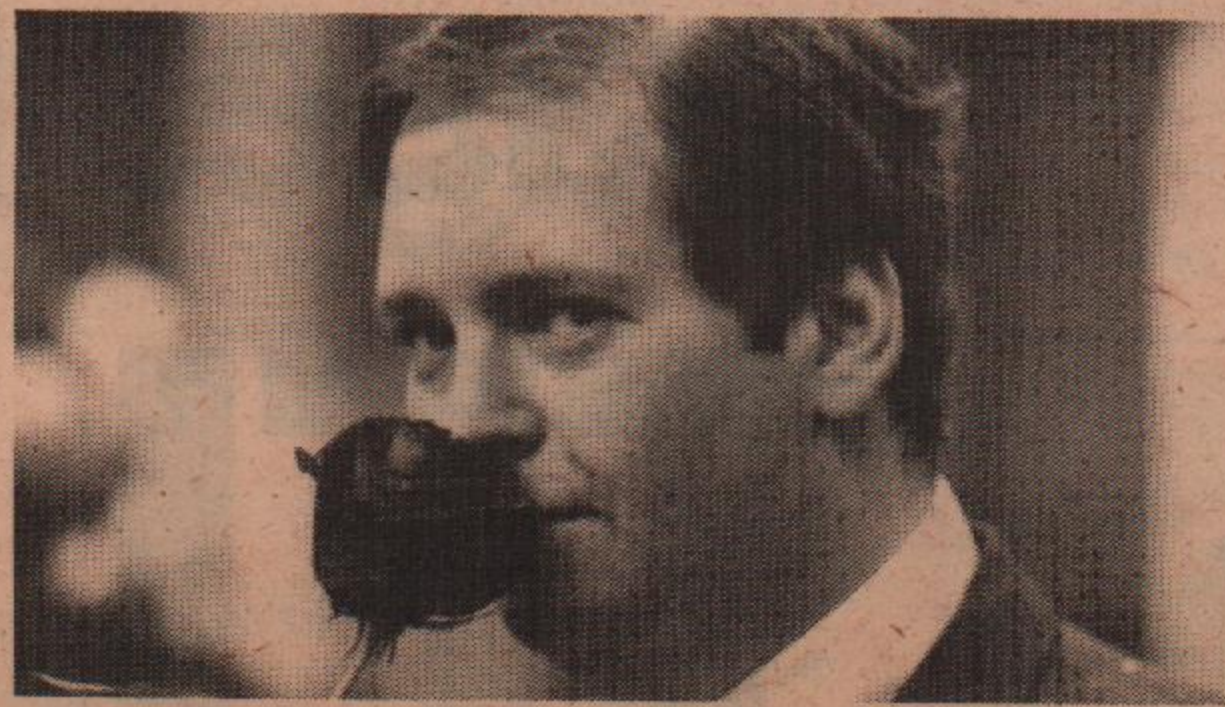
PONIES — BUT HE COULDN'T PLAY

CHRISTOPHER ALLEN was a self-made man, the sort of fellow Tory leader Mrs Thatcher has described as 'the corner-shop man: the stuff of Britain'. He made a fortune from two companies called Crisco and Crial Properties.

He borrowed money to 'deal in property'. When the deals weren't too successful, he went on borrowing.

Allen couldn't play polo, but he wanted to be as good as Lord Cowdray, the richest man in England, whose name is attached to the country's finest polo park.

So he bought 18 polo ponies for £12,000 and stabled them at Cowdray Park. He didn't need them all himself, but his friends could use them as they please. 'It's normal practise', Allen told the bankruptcy court last week.



WASTERS' GRAND PRIX

LORD HESKETH (above) inherited £3 million from his father, who inherited it from his father, who inherited it from his father... He's spent about £500,000 so far on his own motor racing outfit, which last week swept to glory at the Dutch Grand Prix: Lord Hesketh does nothing except eat and drink and wander from motor racecourse to racecourse. 'I am', he explained recently on television, 'doing it for Britain'.



£200,000 GAMBLLED AWAY

PETER ROTHENBERG, aged 31, appeared in a bankruptcy court last week with a heart-rending tale of how he couldn't give up gambling. 'I had easy access to money when I was young,' he said sadly. 'That leads to boredom and boredom leads to gambling.'

Peter inherited £68,000 from his accountant father when he was 24 and promptly spent it all on the gambling tables. By the time the Heath government was returned—with the help of the votes and money of the wealthy Rothenberg family—Peter had been declared bankrupt.

The great Heath boom was a godsend to men like Rothenberg. A bank agreed to lend him the money to pay himself out of his first bankruptcy—and then more money to go on gambling. This was at the time of those Heath wage controls.

Rothenberg spent his days moving around from dog meetings to race tracks to casinos. He lost £200,000 and he's now bankrupt again.

...and those who suffer—

'HUNGRY BRITAIN' blazoned Monday's Daily Mirror, commenting on information from the Child Poverty Action Group which highlighted what is happening to the poor in Britain today.

The CPAG is in regular contact with 60 families all over the country who tell the group how they are surviving with rotten social security payments and massive inflation.

The answer is a lot more horrific than the Daily Mirror revealed.

'First of all there aren't 60 families anymore,' said CPAG director Frank Field. 'A couple of mothers have actually killed themselves since we questioned them—and we're not surprised. They told us that their children would have a better life if they were taken into care.'

Behind the Mirror's campaign is a simple message. It's the workers' wage demands that are condemning 700,000 people to hunger, says the Mirror. Frank Field doesn't agree.

'It's absolute nonsense to ask working people to hold back. If you had people at the top making real

sacrifices then maybe you'd have a chance with the rest. But I was on TV last night and there were people like William Deedes, ex-Tory MP and editor of the Tory Daily Telegraph, telling me that he 'couldn't take any cuts', that you had to have 'incentives'.

The CPAG had tramped Whitehall to get action from the government. The response?

From Social Services Minister BARBARA CASTLE. Said Frank Field: 'You never know what mood she's going to be in.' WILSON? 'He's very bland, he'll say the right words—but he doesn't deliver.'

Lost

'We went to see the Chancellor, DENNIS HEALEY. We pointed out that inflation would totally wipe out any increase in benefits that they were giving us. He told us that this statement was "totally unacceptable" because they were going to halve the rate of inflation in six months!

'When CROSLAND says the

party's over he doesn't point out that a very large group never got an invite in the first place. If anything they should be getting a larger slice of the cake right now.'

So what's left for CPAG? 6000 families every year contact the group, a tiny minority of those with real problems. 'Eight out of ten of them are worried about their fuel bills—they are just about to be, or just have been disconnected. We've asked for things like concessionary tariffs for poorer families.'

But they haven't got it. What the government has provided instead has been demands for wage cuts—and ballyhoo about the fight for price restraint, from Prices Minister SHIRLEY WILLIAMS.

£550 million was allocated for food subsidies, and then amid a fanfare of publicity a further £1000 million was promised. 'What's happened to that second £1000 million?' asked Frank. 'My guess is that it hasn't even been drawn on. Shirley Williams has allowed bread prices to go up and there's been nothing done on cheese and tea.'

'YOU CAN'T PRINT FOOD' said the Mirror on Monday. But you can print promises. You can print demands for workers to cut their wages, you can print pious words about prices, and sob stories about bankrupt tycoons who lose £3 million in three months.

Meanwhile parents kill themselves. Because it's better for their children.

As we said last week



Lebanon: Another fruit of 'divide and rule'

THE British press has presented the civil war in the Lebanon as being a religious conflict between Christians and Muslims. But, as in Northern Ireland, religious sectarianism is a cloak for much deeper issues.

Lebanon is a country with a huge contrast between the wealth of its upper classes and the poverty of vast numbers of its people. This contrast has been increased in recent years by the existence in the south of the country of large numbers of Palestinian refugees, driven out of their homeland by the Israeli army. They resent the way the Lebanese government has acquiesced in American plans for the Middle East, and has refused to support the fight for a Palestinian state where Arabs would have equal rights with Jews.

In the past, the deliberate cultivation of hatred between Christians and Muslims has divided the mass of the Lebanese workers and peasants and enabled the upper classes to retain their power.

The strongest support for the upper classes has come from the openly fascist Phalange party, made up exclusively of Christians. By using religious sectarianism it has been able to gain support for big business interests from many Christian workers and peasants.

In recent months there has been growing popular opposition to the corrupt, anti-working class nature of the government and its support for US policy.

Earlier this year there was a general

strike throughout the south. This followed protests at an attempt by a leading government figure to establish a fishing monopoly at the expense of local people. Protesters were attacked by the army and the Phalange.

Bitter

In an attempt to increase religious hatred and strengthen its own hold, the Phalange ambushed buses carrying Palestinian civilians in Beirut in April, killing 27 men, women and children. But the Palestinian population has the support of armed guerrilla groups and of the poorer Lebanese and has proved well able to fight back.

Middle-class politicians from both the Christian and Muslim communities have been trying to patch together a new coalition government. But this would in no way end the sectarianism. Each group of politicians would still stoke up religious hatred in order to maintain support for their pro-big business policies within their own communities. The vicious attacks on those who oppose US policies would continue.

Only the revolutionary overthrow of the Lebanese ruling class can open up real progress for the mass of the population, provide support for the Palestinians and destroy the base of the fascists. That is why socialists must give full support to the fight against the Phalange and the Lebanese army.

THE BOSSES' PLOT

CONSPIRACY. That is the only word to describe the background to Chancellor Dennis Healey's wage cuts announced on Tuesday. A conspiracy designed to force many trade unionists into accepting the arguments for those cuts before they were announced.

When the pound plunged in value last weekend, top Labour and Tory politicians warned that unless quick action were taken, the paper money in our wage packets would rapidly lose its value. Jack Jones, head of the Transport Workers Union, joined in their chorus on Tuesday morning, just before the announcement of Healey's measures.

All told us there was no hope for the economy unless 'confidence' was restored. All agreed that restoring confidence meant cutting living standards. The argument was accepted by Jack Jones, who said that initially wages would have to fall below prices, and by Len Murray, head of the TUC, who declared: 'There will be some reductions in living standards.'

But what none of them said was that the whole argument about 'confidence' was an argument for letting the most wealthy and most privileged have a

WHAT WE THINK

permanent veto over economic policy. For, it was their 'confidence' that was being talked about.

Neither did anyone point to the conspiracy by which leaders of big business had imposed their control in recent weeks. You would not find the truth about it on the front pages of the popular papers that were demanding sacrifice. The rich men who own those papers were too deeply involved in the conspiracy themselves. But the story has been told in the small print of the posh papers.

A fortnight ago, at an earlier point in the sterling crisis, the Financial Times pointed out that the pound was being sold not by foreign speculators, but 'by big corporations, including UK companies'. It hinted that there was connivance in this by top civil servants. There are those in Whitehall who argue that alarm about the pound is a

necessary ingredient in negotiating new wage guidelines.'

On Sunday, tucked away in the business section of the Sunday Times, was an account of the most recent crisis which bears this out. 'There has been no massive build up of speculative dealing,' it said. But there had been a willingness of the top people in the City of London and the top civil servants in the Treasury to let the pound lose value.

'Instead of the Treasury and the Bank of England valiantly arguing the virtues of the pound... the authorities seem anxious that no one should miss the gravity of the situation and the need for action...'

'The sterling crisis is the logical climax to the mood of hysteria necessary to produce an agreed incomes policy. Students of the 1964-70 Labour government will recall that sterling crises had a magical effect in producing economic policy changes that were resisted against any other event... As one perspicacious follower of exchange markets put it, "It looks as if they are putting the

frighteners on".'

Healey's measures represent a complete surrender by the government to this conspiracy. Instead of attacking those who have been causing the crisis, he has turned on those who are the victims of it, even though it was they who voted Labour into office last year.

But even before Healey made his announcement, most of the trade union leaders had also made it clear they would not fight seriously against the conspiracy. Instead of drawing up plans to resist any attack on living standards, social services or jobs, they began to discuss ways of holding back wages themselves. Instead of warding off Healey's attack, they only made it more likely.

Big business knew the union leaders would not put up any real resistance, and so increased its demands, just as any other blackmailer does when faced with a victim who accedes to the initial demands.

In the fight back against Healey, workers cannot depend in any way on such leaders. What is needed is a rank and file movement that will respond to the conspiracy of the bosses with a unified struggle of its own.

Parliamentary democracy

ON all sides, the Labour government is being told to 'act' to 'deal with the crisis' and 'to save the pound'.

Policies exactly opposite to those on which Labour fought the last election, or the one before that, are recommended to the elected parliament by people who have never been elected by anyone: big businessmen, financiers, editors of newspapers.

They are proud of their influence on parliament. They openly boast, as Lord Watkinson, deputy chairman of the Confederation of British Industry, did in May of their 'industrial muscle' and their ability to engage in 'confrontation with the government'.

Its own attitude to parliament is different. MPs must be constantly sensitive to the whims of financiers and businessmen, but must resist any interference whatever from miners, local Labour Party members or any other group of working people who suggest, recommend or (horror of horrors!) force policies upon them.

The Yorkshire miners say: Why should we ensure the selection of people as Labour candidates, pay for

A PUSHOVER FOR THE PARASITES, A FORTRESS AGAINST THE WORKERS

RIGHT: Reg Prentice picketed outside his local Labour Party headquarters. Labour Party members can't stomach him any more. They want him to resign—but that, according to the newspapers, is a 'threat to democracy'.

their election campaigns and encourage our union members to vote for them if they vote against our policies when they go to parliament?

Labour Party members in London's East End say: Why should we work ourselves to the bone at election times to get men like Reg Prentice elected who then abuse every principle we ever stood for?

The press shrieks: How scandalous! How undemocratic! What an interference in the 'freedom of the representative'.



Picture: Angela Phillips (F.L.)

This is the philosophy behind the moves this week by the Attorney General, Samuel Silkin, to seek a court ban on the diaries of Richard Crossman, a former Labour Minister. Silkin is quite frank about his motives: The way our representatives make decisions cannot possibly be public knowledge within the lifetime of people affected by those decisions.

Crossman's diaries show how the decisions of Labour Ministers were taken by civil servants, businessmen and military men. That, says Silkin—who will do anything he's told by the

legal establishment, is intolerable. It is a threat to democracy to prove that democracy does not exist!

When we say that parliament is not democratic, we do not mean that parliament is not elected, or that it would be better without elections

We mean that in a class society, the ruling class will impose its will on an elected parliament. Every instrument of propaganda, influence and power will be used by the society to ensure that the ruling class is over-represented and that the working class is not represented at all.

Real democracy depends on the co-operation of workers in the workplace. It depends on elections there, elections which have their roots in constant discussion and argument. It depends on the right to recall delegates elected at whatever level.

It depends above all on delegation. This does not mean the intellectual castration of the person elected. It means that the elected person feels permanently responsible to the people who elect him, and, if he disagrees with them, he must argue with them and persuade them otherwise, or get out.

A workers' democracy is quite different to sham democracy in parliament. There is more democracy in one occupied factory in Lisbon today than there is in every parliament in Europe. It is this sort of democracy we are going to need if the crisis is ever to be solved in the interests of workers.

Opponents of abortion put stress on guilt

by Jill Brownbill

WHILE we are campaigning against the 'Back Street' Abortion Bill, its supporters are campaigning too. They are directing their propaganda at the weakest, most isolated sections of the working class, at housewives and young mothers. One way is through the women's magazines.

The June issue of Mother magazine contains an article 'Abortion—what is really involved?', taken almost verbatim from an anti-abortion leaflet and full of uncorroborated 'facts'. It advocates sterilisation for women who continually become pregnant. It waxes emotional about cuddly babies, big brown trusting eyes, and fetuses screaming as they are ripped from the womb and dropped into buckets.

The publishers are trying to foster guilt in every woman who reads the article.

The National Abortion Campaign is organising a picket of IPC Magazines, who publish Mother, at 189 High Holborn, London WC1, on Friday 11 July, from 12 noon onwards. They are demanding an editorial retraction of the article, the right to reply, and a policy from IPC against the Abortion Bill.

Attitude

Printworkers and journalists who work for IPC should argue against IPC's propaganda at union meetings and make it clear to management that one-sided journalism of this sort can't be tolerated.

The Archbishop of Canterbury too is trying to encourage guilt. Yesterday he spoke in support of the Bill. 'The enormous figures for abortion reflect an attitude to creation, and to the destruction of human life that leads to a tragic trivialisation of the power of procreation,' he said.

He will be disappointed to learn that the 'enormous figures' are on the decline. According to government statistics the total number of abortions is continuing to fall, mainly because the number of foreign women wanting abortion has dropped—and that's because more progressive legislation is being introduced in other European countries. The total number of abortions notified in May of this year was 12 per cent lower than in May 1974 (9993 compared to 11,395).

The loss that strengthens Labour

THE best comment on the Tory victory in the Woolwich by-election came from the Sunday Times' right-wing political commentator, Ronald Butt.

'The message of Woolwich', he wrote, 'is hardly less useful for Mr Wilson than it is for Mrs Thatcher. Indeed it is perhaps not going too far to suggest that it has come at precisely the right moment to give him a sense of security in bargaining with the unions and the Labour left, as he seeks to tie up an economic package which includes an attempted new deal on wage control...'

In other words, the loss of the by-election for Labour strengthens Wilson's ability to proceed with his Tory policies.

Perhaps that's why the Labour Party adopted so low a profile during the election campaign.

No effort was made at all to mobilise one of the strongest local parties in the country. The Labour candidate a right-winger, was portrayed as 'a family man'. Meetings were small and dull. Political propaganda was kept to an absolute minimum. The way was left clear for Thatcher and her hordes of campaigning stockbrokers and accountants.

Whole

The biggest and liveliest meeting during the whole campaign was held by the International Socialists on the Monday before polling day. Ninety people crammed into the upper room at the Carpenter's Arms in Eltham High Street, to hear Paul Foot of Socialist Worker and Laurie Smith, recently elected organiser in the ABEW.

Laurie said he was not a member

of IS, but was glad to speak at such a meeting. He said that in recent years the whole economic and political climate in Britain had changed.

'In the past we could fight a number of independent battles and win them. That is not the situation now. Now a number of individual battles are being defeated, and we have to broaden our outlook beyond the day-to-day struggles. Each section in struggle has to be supported by other sections, which means we must have disciplined political organisation in the working class'.

Laurie Smith urged the meeting to build a party 'like the one Lenin built in Russia' which could lead the workers in the fight against the system. His speech and his powerful answers to questions, were well received.

CHALLENGE TO ASTMS TALKING SHOP

by Jill Lovecy (ASTMS)

LOOK at the resolutions passed at their conferences of ASTMS, the supervisors' union, and you'd think our union was really concerned about its women members. Of its 310,000 members, 45,100—about 14 per cent—are women.

Only one of its 23 executive members is a woman, but what the union lacks in women's representation it makes up in resolutions. Every radical demand you can think of—from equal pay to abortion on demand—has been enshrined in near-unanimous resolutions and ovations at union conferences.

The union recently established a rank and file delegate 'national women's workshop', the second meeting of which took place the Saturday before last. The union leaders expected the 90-or-so delegates to sit attentively while Muriel Turner, assistant general secretary, talked about her new 'programme for women members' and MPs and dignitaries had their say.

Muriel Turner and all the other officials were rather disappointed when the delegates started to insist rather rudely that the resolutions and the programme should be carried out.

There was a motion from the South Wales division that the union should set up a national advisory committee on women which would co-ordinate the work of the advisory committees in the divisions. The motion had been carried the year before—and not recommended.

EVENT

This resolution provoked intense hostility from the executive and officials who thought that the 'existing machinery' could be relied on. There was also opposition from Judith Gray, a Communist Party member from the Manchester division, who argued that the new committee should be composed entirely of women. Other delegates pointed out that most of the issues at stake—job evaluation, pensions, creches, maternity and paternity leave—were issues that closely affected men workers, and to build a 'union within a union' on women's issues could only prove disastrous.

In the event, the motion for a national advisory committee open to men and women delegates was passed with only two votes against.

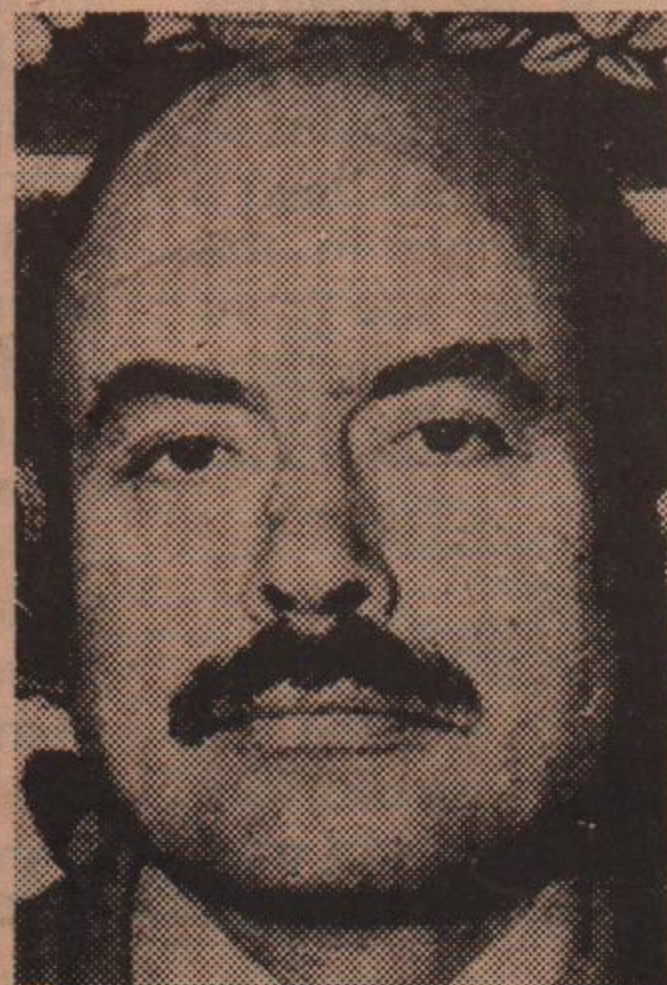
Unhappily, the agenda was so crammed with official speeches that we never even got round to discussing the shop floor implementation of all the union's policies on women.

The conference was summed up by the fact that one delegate who was a member of the occupation committee at Imperial Typewriters never got round to speaking about the occupation!

A national advisory committee on its own is not enough to make sure that the union carries out its policies. The enormous gulf between resolutions and reality will only be bridged when the rank and file of the union understand what the union is committed to and actively campaign for implementation. One real fight against regrading where women ASTMS members all find themselves in the same—the lowest-grade is worth a thousand resolutions.

But we need to use the machinery of the union to the full to co-ordinate and encourage this rank and file action.

Meet the ten MPs who voted for back street abortion against the policy of their union—and the lefty doctor who voted the same way just to get a seat on a Parliamentary Select Committee



Cocks (Bristol S)



Duffy (Sheffield)



English (Nottingham W)



Johnson (Hull W)



Peart (Workington)



Hattersley (Birmingham)



Grocott (Lichfield)



Rose (Manchester Blackley)



Miller (E Kilbride)



Mabon (Greenock)

We take the union's subsidy - and vote against their policy

HOW much of your union subscriptions are going to MPs who are voting in parliament against union policies?

Some MPs think it's a 'breach of privilege' to bring pressure to bear on MPs to vote one way or the other.

Many trade unionists think it's a bloody scandal that MPs who are rich enough already should have their campaigns subsidised by trade unionists, and then vote against their trade union's policies.

A good example is the James White 'Back Street Abortion' Bill. Ninety Labour MPs voted for this disgusting measure. Most of them are sponsored by trade unions. Most of the unions are on record as against the Bill.

Vote

Last week the third biggest union in the country, the General and Municipal Workers Union, which has 269,000 women members, issued a forceful statement against the Bill, written by Pat Turner, the union's woman's officer. She said:

'The fact is that this Bill will bear most harshly on working class women and working class families. It will lead us back to the era of the back street abortionists, with all the attendant dangers and corruption.'

She should tell that to these MPs: Michael Cocks (Bristol South), Patrick Duffy (Sheffield Attercliffe), Michael English (Nottingham West),

James Johnson (Hull West) and Fred Peart (Workington).

Why? Not because any of these elderly gentlemen comes from the working class. They left it long ago. But because each of them gets money from the GMWU to help them into parliament, and each of them voted for James White's Bill.

ASTMS, the big scientific and supervisory staffs union, goes even further than the GMWU in its radical line on abortion. The union is officially committed to abortion on demand.

Decade

Which is more than you can say for Roy Hattersley (Birmingham Sparkbrook), Bruce Grocott (Lichfield and Tamworth), Paul Rose (Manchester Blackley), Maurice Miller (East Kilbride) and J Dickson Mabon (Greenock). All get some sort of financial help from ASTMS—and all voted for James White's Bill, which if passed would put abortion on demand out of reach for another decade at least.

Notice, in particular among these, Dr Maurice Miller, who likes to be known in the Glasgow area

as 'the radical doctor'. He has championed a good many left causes in his day, and can now be heard saying some quite progressive things in the Parliamentary Select Committee on Abortion on which he sits. Yet he voted for the Bill. How does the radical doctor explain this odd contradiction?

Quite simply. He tells his friends that he voted for the Act in order to get a seat on the Select Committee!

Apparently, seats on the committee are allocated according to the numbers who voted in the House. Miller reckoned that if he voted against the Bill, he might not get a place on the committee because of the few places allocated to the 'antis'. So he voted for the Bill and got a place among the 'pros'. ASTMS members throughout the country, especially in Glasgow, might like to write to Dr Miller with a few comments on parliamentary cretinism.

Active trade unionists in either of these trade unions should do more. They should organise in their branches to warn the MPs that if they persist in supporting reactionary legislation they can get out of the union—and lose its sponsorship. Any resolutions along these lines will be published in Socialist Worker.

womens voice

JULY ISSUE OUT THIS WEEK

Equal Pay—how far have we got?

Kath Ennis analyses some recent equal pay strikes in Coventry

Sex discrimination—will the new law make any difference?

Hester Blewitt talks about what the law will mean.

PLUS articles on Abortion, the Family, the NALGO Conference and others.

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The Industry Bill: Labour cave in

IN THE PAST WEEK, the Labour government have taken another two giant steps backwards. Both steps, to the government's delighted surprise, have been almost overlooked by Labour's left in parliament and the trade unions.

The first major change concerns the Industry Bill—the so-called 'jewel' in Labour's crown.

According to the then Industry Minister Tony Benn, who introduced the Bill last February, its main purpose was 'to help

bring about a shift in the balance of power towards working people'.

The main part proposed massive state investment in private industry without any extra state powers for taking control of that industry. This did not shift power in any way.

But another section, of which Benn spoke most proudly, sought to force firms to disclose information.

Clauses 22 and 23 gave power to the Industry Minister to force a firm to disclose information about investment, jobs, sales, productivity and property.

The information had to be disclosed not

just to the Minister but also to the relevant trade union.

Many left-wing Labour MPs found this clause exciting. Mr Brian Sedgemore, for instance, one of the more articulate of the Tribune MPs, said in the Commons debate on 17 February:

Spread

'The Bill will transform and transfer industrial economics and ultimately social power in Britain. These changes will come about not through some complex political theory... nor even through the NEB or even Planning

Agreements. They will come about through one simple concept—the spread of information.'

The Confederation of British Industry were worried by these clauses.

Although there was a right of appeal to an 'independent' committee against any information order from the Minister, the employers feared that the real information about the extent of their robbery could leak out in dribs and drabs to the people who were being robbed.

They didn't mind the Ministry knowing the facts—the Minister knows many of them already. But the automatic, mandatory transfer of information to the workers' organisations could not be tolerated.

They conducted an hysterical campaign against the clauses. Last week they won.

The government announced amendments which wiped out the automatic, mandatory transfer of information to the trade unions.

The information required will now only be given to the Minister, and then only after three months' notice has been given to parliament.

If the Minister wants to tell the unions what their own company is doing, he has, again, to seek special permission from parliament.

In other words, the industrialists can now be certain that information about their own operations will be kept secret from their workers.

'I think,' said Sir Maurice Laing, deputy chairman of the construction giant Laings and a leading CBI campaigner against the clauses, 'it is a great step forward.'

The more militant Lord Watkinson, chairman of the CBI's economic policy, announced that he was 'not satisfied'. His full demands had not yet been met. He had drunk Benn's blood, and he liked the taste. He wanted more.

From the Labour left, there was hardly a whisper of protest at this mangling of their precious Bill.

Eric Heffer went on television to say the changes 'are not as bad as we had feared'.

He and his colleagues had fallen for the old Wilson trick by which 'drastic changes' are forecast and slightly less drastic ones introduced.

CLAY CROSS: SILENCE OVER ANOTHER SELL-OUT

EVEN GREATER silence has greeted the week's second major sell-out—over the former Labour councillors at Clay Cross who defied the Tories' Rent Act and refused to put up council rents.

They were fined and disqualified under the Tories, but, at the 1973 Labour Party conference, Edward Short promised that a future Labour government would remove the fines and the disqualification.

Soon after Labour were elected, they broke the first pledge. They refused to remove the fines. As a sop, they introduced a Bill to remove the disqualification.

The Bill passed through the House of Commons earlier this year. Lord Hailsham, the Tory Lord Chancellor, launched a concerted attack on the Bill in the House of Lords. Using the Tory majority among hereditary peers, he helped to vote it down.

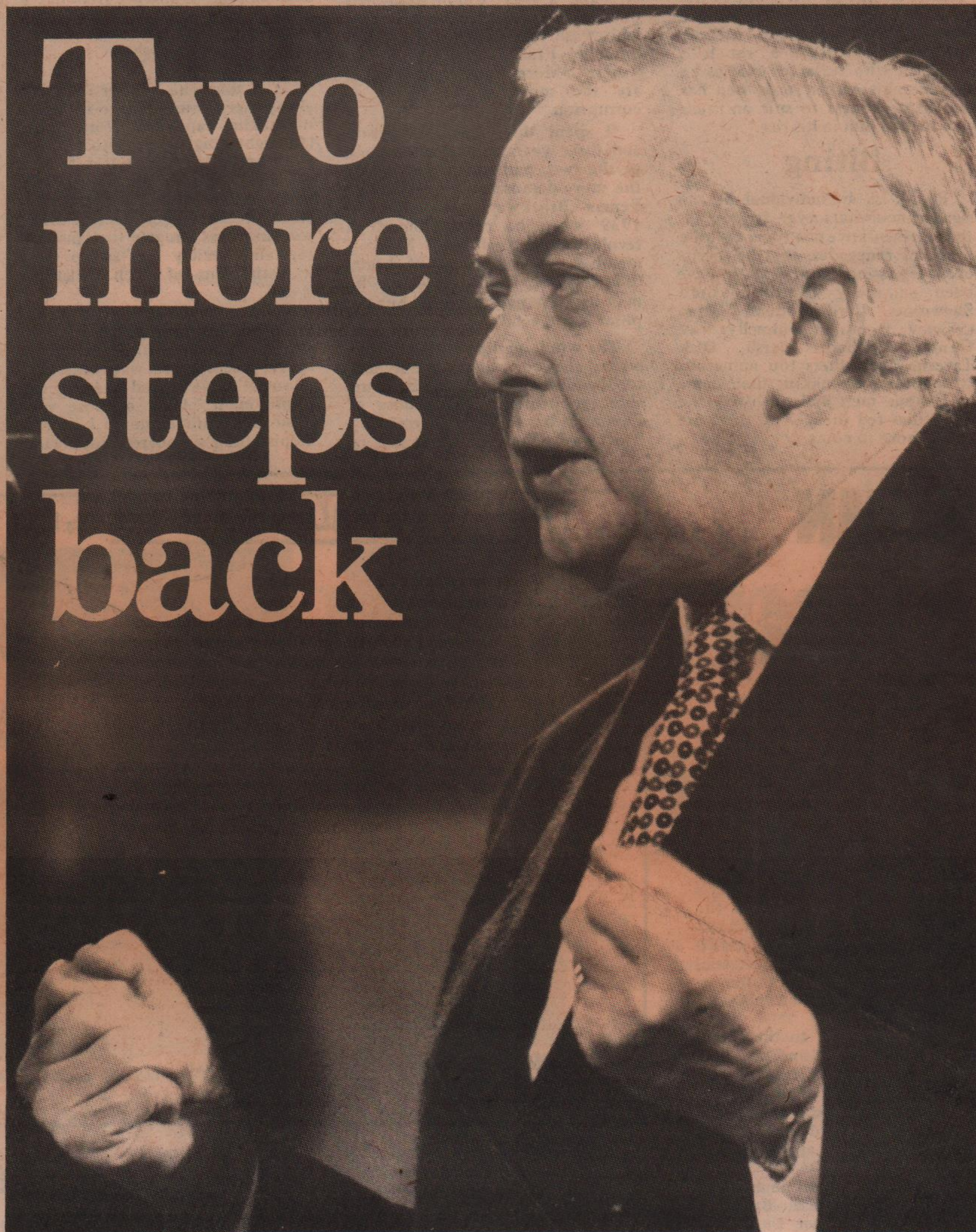
LAW

Now the government are openly boasting to lobby correspondents that they have ditched the Bill. They will not reintroduce the offending clauses into the Commons.

The most reactionary elements in the country have been allowed to dictate to a Labour government that 11 working people in Derbyshire may not stand again for election because they dared to challenge the law and sacrifice their livelihood for the Labour cause.

Once again, a strange silence depends on all those Left campaigners in and out of Parliament who were telling us two years ago that the Clay Cross councillors had proved how much you could achieve inside the Labour Party.

Two more steps back



WHY WILSON SURRENDERS

EVERY WEEK brings new examples of how men like Lord Watkinson, Sir Maurice Laing and Lord Hailsham are controlling the policies of the Labour government.

The excuse is the same as ever. 'The economic situation is desperate' pleads the government. 'The pound is falling. Let's get Britain out of her difficulties, and then carry out our promises to the people who elected us.'

The 'falling pound', we are told, is beyond anyone's control. It is an automatic barometer of the economic climate.

When the economic situation is bad, the pound falls, and we have to take measures to get it up again.

In fact, the pound 'falls' because of specific actions taken by specific men. Sterling is sold, not by gnomes in Zurich, but by human beings in banks and foreign exchanges all over Europe, including Britain.

Sterling deposits are transferred on the orders of real men in the boardrooms of big multinational companies. Payments in foreign currency for British goods are delayed by the same sort of people.

Those who sell sterling and make the pound

fall are part of a closely-knit community. Their aim is not simply to make a quick killing out of currency speculation, though they do that into the bargain.

They are intensely political people, who judge politics by one criterion: does this government, or this Bill, help their class to maintain their tight control over wealth and power.

If a government or a Bill threatens, in however small degree, that control, these people declare 'a lack of confidence'. They sell sterling and create a balance of payments crisis.

INTENT

They then demand, in return for buying sterling and replacing their deposits, specific government measures designed to weaken the power and living standards of the working class.

In 1966, Henry Brandon, then Washington correspondent to the Observer, published a book which explained how, by constant selling of sterling, the international bankers and industrialists forced the Labour government to 'toughen' its incomes policy.

The Declaration of Intent of December 1964 was 'toughened' into the Prices and Incomes Board of the summer of 1965.

Brandon's book ends there, but the process went on. A Labour government was re-elected with an enormous parliamentary majority in 1966, but the selling of sterling continued. In July 1966, it reached such a pitch that the government tore up all its promises and introduced a year-long wage-freeze.

The history of the Labour government is a history of dictation of policies to the government by the men in charge of industry and finance: the men who 'sink' the pound.

The Labour government is trapped into this subservience. Its intention is to run the capitalist system more 'fairly' than the Tories, but the capitalist system cannot run at all without a 'strong pound'.

Capitalists can quickly put an end to the Labour government's attempts at fair policies by weakening the pound. Each time, the government meekly complies.

There is an alternative. It involves the mobilising of working class strength to change a system of society which is based on the wealth and privilege of an irresponsible minority.

Labour is terrified of such a course, and so jettisons its policies and principles to placate that minority.

PORTUGUESE SOLIDARITY FUND

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QUESTIONS ON THE CRISIS By DUNCAN HALLAS

WHY does the Labour Party produce so many rats? So many who climb into high office on the backs of the workers who support Labour and then, having got well-paid jobs with big business, kick those same workers in the teeth?

The thought is prompted by George Brown's recent outburst on TV. 'They (the government) must announce now that we have got to have a freeze—against all the undertakings they have given,' said the despicable creature.

'Secondly, they must announce cuts in government expenditure—and they must be very large indeed. They must hold up hospitals, schools, roads and the things we would like to have dearly. They must reduce subsidies (!) for over-manning and keeping people who have no jobs. If someone decides to take them on, then they must use troops.'

Now there is nothing remarkable about these notions, in and of themselves. They are just the sort of thing you might hear from pretty well any stockbroker or top-hatted parasite at Ascot. But the man who expressed them was once a serious contender for the leadership of the Labour Party—and come near to getting it.

He held a series of top cabinet posts in the last Labour government. And nobody would have even heard of him, let alone appointed him to the boards of sundry companies,

How do Labour's rats climb on to our backs?

but for the efforts of countless working men and women to build a political machine which they fondly imagined would advance the cause of the working class.

Lord George-Brown is one of the rats. I use that word in the precise sense that it was used by the historian Macauley, 'a rat is a politician who turns his coat as he advances his career, and then has the shamelessness to spit on those who helped him in his rise.'

Biting

Brown as an individual has no significance whatsoever. It is only as the representative of a type, a whole breed of renegades, that he merits even a passing notice. There have been so many of them. Lord Shawcross, Lord Robens, Aidan Crawley, Desmond Donnelly, Ray Gunter, Richard Marsh, Dick Taverne and others too numerous to mention; all making their name as Labour men and all biting the hand that fed them. And there are many more to come.

Why? One explanation is corruption. The straightforward offer of money to buy Labour MPs is probably rare—although when you remember that at least one Labour MP, and a trade union sponsored one at that, has done his best to whitewash the regime of the fascist butcher Franco, you begin to wonder. More important though, are the more subtle forms of corruption.

'I spent three years in prison and three years in parliament and, of the two, parliament was by far the more demoralising experience.' Fenner Brockway wrote that in 1939 when he called himself a revolutionary socialist. Now a member of the House of Lords (courtesy of Harold Wilson), he may have changed his mind but the point is still valid.

The whole parliamentary atmosphere, the compulsory references to 'Honourable' or 'Right Honourable gentlemen', the House of Commons bar (a factor stressed by Brockway), the fake camaraderie of

MPs; all these things and more tend to pull the Labour MP away from the people who elected him and towards the people he was elected to fight. And the prospect of ready money—not as a bribe of course, but by way of state jobs, company directorships, free trips abroad and the like for 'right-thinking' MPs—exerts a strong pull.

But this will not do as a general explanation. Moral weaklings, of which any institution has its share, may be seduced by such means. Large scale renegacy—so characteristic of the Labour Party—has a different cause.

Sweep

It is this. The Labour Party has always been committed to the cause of making capitalism work better (the right wing) or making capitalism work better in order to transform it gradually into socialism (the 'left' wing). All of them, 'left' and right alike, have finally rejected the direct working class struggle to transform capitalist society and sweep away its institutions—of which parliament is one.

Making capitalism work means accepting capitalist policies—otherwise 'confidence' is lost. It means, today, accepting real wage cuts, cuts in social services and massive unemployment. And so those who tread this path come to hate and despise their supporters, supporters

who still have the illusions in reformism that the reformist leaders have shed, supporters who still expect something better, supporters who raise inconvenient questions.

The Wilsons and the Callaghans, who still need votes, are forced to conceal their feelings. The Browns and the Gunter, failed Labour politicians who have openly entered the service of the boss class, are under no such necessity.

They can speak their minds. They can express their hatred and contempt of the class from which they have sprung, and which gave them the opportunities they have misused.

But make no mistake about it. What Brown says openly is what the big majority of Labour MPs feel in their hearts. That is why they are potential Lord George-Browns. Not individual corruption, but the political corruption of reformist politics explains why they act as they do.



TONY CLIFF's *The Crisis: Social Contract or Socialism* is available for 75p plus 8p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Bulk reductions for trade union branches, shop stewards committees, trades councils etc.—inquire Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Rd, London NW1. A SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLICATION.

5 FIFTH COLUMN



Oh! What a (Bradford) North and South

BACK in March we commented on Tribune Labour MP Tom Torney's role as 'political consultant' for International News Service. This is the public relations company that handles Bristol Channel Ship Repairs Ltd.

BCSR has mounted a vigorous campaign to resist nationalisation with adverts claiming that 'Like you Tony (Benn) we believe in industrial democracy'. At the recent special Labour conference on the Common Market a BCSR bus arrived and glossy little cards were distributed to delegates.

Times have changed. Tony Benn has been shipped off to the North Sea Oil rigs (Wilson's answer to a Siberian power station?) and our Tom has seen the error of his ways and packed in his public relations—image projecting being bad for his image. BCSR have furthered their commitment to industrial democracy by laying off 80 workers. And they've got themselves a new MP. The lucky winner this time is Ben Ford, also Labour, but this time a supporter of the right-wing Manifesto group, and sponsored by the Engineering union.

Mr Ford has a distinguished record of interest in industrial democracy. He holds posts within the Anglo-Portuguese, Vietnamese, Brazilian, Argentine and Venezuelan parliamentary groups. Whether the recent increased industrial democracy in Portugal and Vietnam has affected his membership is not known.

What is known is the strong similarity between Bradford and Bristol. One is inland and in Yorkshire and the other is a West country sea-port. Tom Torney is MP for Bradford South, Ben Ford is MP for Bradford North.

'It's a sheer and utter coincidence', said Mr Turnbull of INS. 'I didn't even think of it.'

This commendable example of work-sharing among two MPs of differing political views should be a lesson to us all? Perhaps the 80 at BCSR might be able to arrange something similar in Bradford...

GODFATHER (3); LSD, DEATH & DANCE TROUPES

THE US government report, and the senate investigation into the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency make a good read.

The CIA is shown to be an agency with an unparalleled range of services to offer.

You want some LSD? Well the CIA had plenty. They were worried about its effect way back in 1963, so they summoned some of their agents to a discussion on the subject. Just to make everything authentic they dosed one of the agents—but didn't bother to tell him. He jumped out of a skyscraper window 10 days later.

The CIA's involvement in assassination plots is confidently alleged to include Lumumba of the Congo (successful), Diem of South

Vietnam (successful), Trujillo of Dominica (successful), Nasser of Egypt (flop) and repeated attempts on Fidel and his brother Raoul Castro and Che Guevara of Cuba.

The Castro attempts included shooting and poisoning. To get people with the right background knowledge of the country the CIA fell back on friends in its sister organisation the Mafia. These worthy gentlemen had lost a lot of business with the arrival of Castro and were very unhappy about it.

So they fixed up a deal with Mr Giancana, Mr Cain and Mr Roselli of the Mafia. Recently the Senate have been interested in talking to these gentlemen to ask them the details.

Sadly only Mr Roselli could

make the hearing. Mr Cain had an unfortunate accident in a cafe in 1973 when he swallowed a mouthful of shot-gun bullets which blew his head off. And Mr Giancana? He had worked his way up the Mafia from the Capone days, but a day before his planned testimony had the misfortune of being shot six times while watching the TV.

Still some people are still doing well. Like Richard Helms, ex-CIA boss who is now US ambassador to Iran. He's very popular out there, and has provided the Shah with a lot of advice on how to run his own secret police.

Must have been quite good, for the SAVAK's reputation for murder and torture is now well up with the rest of the big league. Why, this

week the head of an Iranian dance troupe in Venice was revealed to be a SAVAK agent, which shows what versatile and artistic people these agents are.

If the CIA gets too depressed about unkind criticism they could take a leaf out of the French security police's book. The head of their agency the DST, Henri Canouet recently kidnapped a taxi driver and accused him of being a Russian spy.

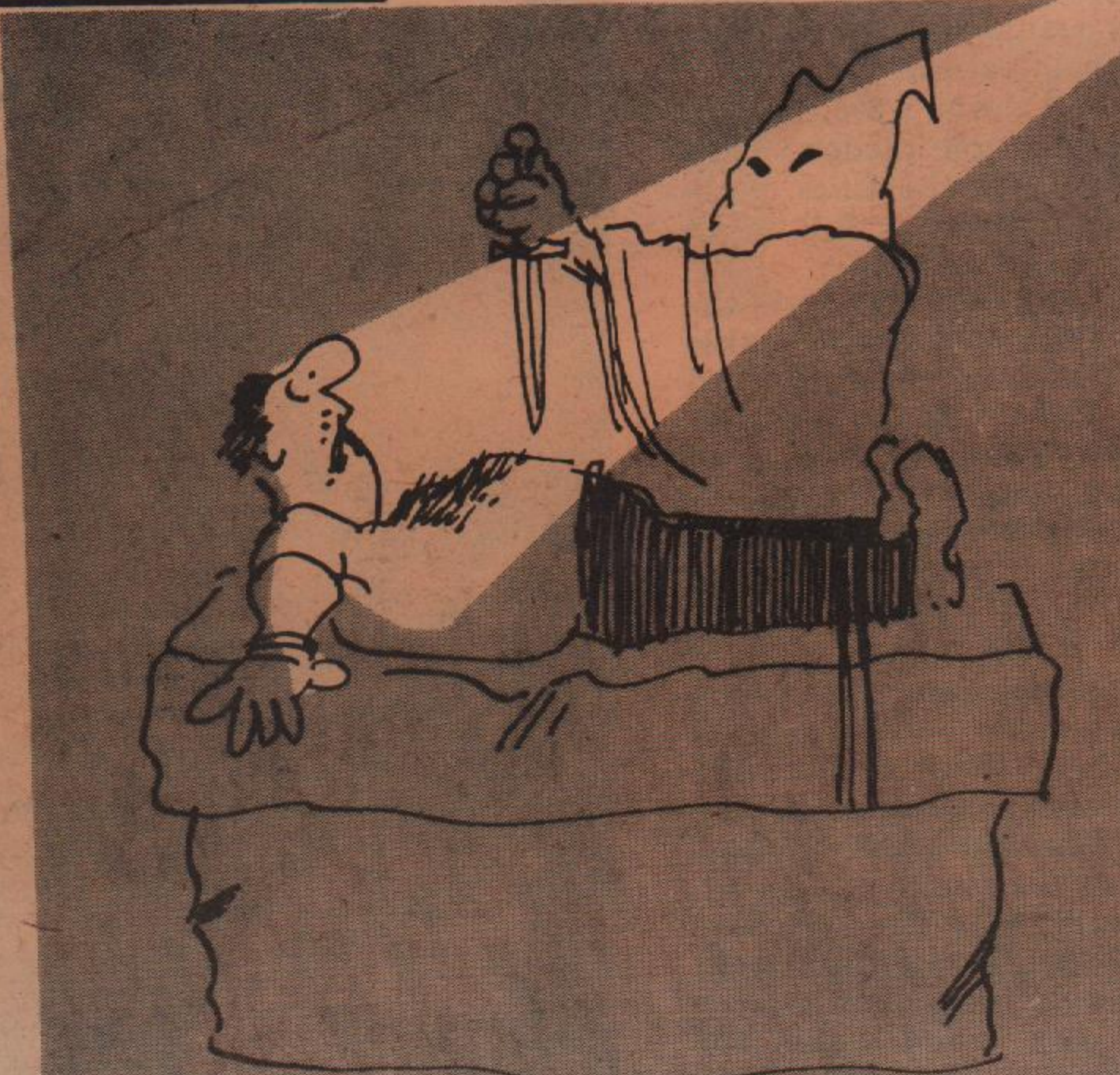
He followed this up by locking himself in an upper storey room and shooting at other DST agents while shouting out the names of top DST leaders to the live TV cameras who were covering this event.

The battle for law and order is a difficult and tiring business.

THINGS WE'D ALL LIKE TO SEE No.1



THE MAN WHO SAYS SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE ...



SETTING US A GOOD EXAMPLE ...

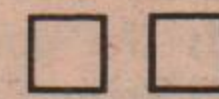
Bored with your tea break? Here's a thought from the Queen's racing manager, and chairman of the Hampshire County Council, Lord Porchester. He is annoyed over criticism that he's spending his £5000 council allowance on champagne soirees.

'It is the emotive word "champagne" that annoys people,' he claims. 'This costs £26.50 a case and I don't think you can get it any cheaper than that. In fact it's much cheaper than bothering to serve whisky, gin and beer and stuff like that.'

The Short memory...

LAST week's comment on Renee Short and the National Abortion Campaign was singularly ill-phrased. It was intended to imply that for Mrs Short 'writing to your MP' represented the high point of the democratic process. In fact in this case writing to your MP over James White's bill is essential.

Still another swipe at her is hard to resist. 'I haven't seen anything like this since the CND days' she said surveying the massive and impressive gathering of women's groups, trade unionists and political organisations. Well, one might like to know where she was at the time of the late 1960s Vietnam demonstrations, the anti-Industrial Relations Act march, the Shrewsbury marches, etc.



FOOTNOTE to last week's story revealing Kenneth Kaunda's secret discussions with white racist Rhodesian farmers.

Rhodesian emissaries Firks and Strong noted that 'Luncheon was served in the state dining room and was just as in colonial time days. The manners and service of the servants was good and they were well trained. The china and table appointments were of a high standard.'

Aaron Milner, Zambian minister of Internal Affairs told the two that Vorster, the South African prime minister, used to be regarded as a devil but now 'because of his recent actions and speeches was regarded by black Zambia as a great man.'



‘THE REASON FOR KILLING HUGH DUFFY WAS TO TERRORISE CATHOLIC WORKERS... AND SO TURN YET ANOTHER WORKPLACE INTO AN ALL-PROTESTANT PRESERVE’

Masked members of the UDA at a secret training camp in Northern Ireland.

Sectarian murder is political murder

From **EAMONN McCANN**

HUGH DUFFY, 28, a Catholic, married with two children, who lived in Arram Street in East Belfast and worked as a loader in a depot of the Scottish and Newcastle brewery a few hundred yards away, was walking home a week ago last Friday when two men ran up behind him and shot him three times in the back. He died two days later.

Merlyn Rees, Secretary for Northern Ireland, told Radio Ulster that such killings were the work of ‘small groups of a most criminal kind’. ‘There was no political motive involved’, he went on. ‘It represents gangsterism at its worst.’

Over the past year, Rees has set himself up as something of a phrase-maker, babbling incessantly about ‘motiveless murders’, ‘random killings’, ‘travelling gunmen’—politically neutral phrases designed to drain all political content from the savagery and so shift responsibility away from those in political control.

But any examination of who has been killed—and where and when and how and by whom—makes it clear that the murder campaign is fundamentally and inescapably a question of politics.

There were 17 Catholics among the 87 workers in the East Belfast depot of Scottish and Newcastle. They met the day after Hugh Duffy died and against the advice of their

union, the Transport Workers, voted to ask the management to transfer them to another depot or pay them off. In the circumstances it is difficult to blame them, but their decision was a victory for the assassins.

Because the short-term reason for killing Hugh Duffy was precisely to terrorise Catholic workers out of Scottish and Newcastle and to turn another workplace into an all-Protestant preserve.

Dole

This murder fell into a well-established pattern. Of the 300 victims of sectarian killings more than two-thirds have been Catholics and of these about half have been killed at work or on their way to or from work. The understandable effect has been to deter Catholics from working outside their own ghetto areas or in firms with a mixed labour force. In this way many hundreds—in the nature of the thing it is not

possible to be precise—have been driven on to the dole.

There is another clearly-definable category of Catholic victims: those killed in their own homes in mixed areas. On 20 June, Tony Molloy, an 18-year-old trainee bricklayer, was shot dead in front of his wife and child by two men who burst into his home in Ballymena Street, in North Belfast.

There have been about 50 such killings in recent months. The result, in the words of a report by the government-appointed Community Relations Commission last year, has been ‘the largest forced movement of population in Western Europe since World War Two,’ as Catholics have fled into the slums and the security of the ghettos. 50,000 have moved house in Belfast alone in the last five years. 48,000 of them are Catholics.

In other words, one noticeable effect of the sectarian assassinations has been to deprive Catholics of houses and jobs.

The Loyalist assassins’ belief that in doing this they stand in time-honoured Ulster tradition is in no way fanciful. They can, and frequently do, point to the fact that it was the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland—Lord Craigavon—who in 1920 called for ‘a show of revolvers’ by Protestant shipyard workers and explicitly urged them to drive the Catholics out.

Share

His successor Lord Brookeborough was proud to proclaim that on his estate: ‘I wouldn’t have a Catholic about the place’. One could go on and on quoting, not ‘small groups of a most criminal kind’, but the established political leaders of Northern Ireland, spelling it out that the place for Catholics was on the outside looking in.

Catholics had to be browbeaten into subjection for Northern Ireland to be brought into being in the first place. They have to be kept in subjection for Northern Ireland to continue in existence: deprived of jobs, houses and any share of real power.

In that sense there is a certain grisly truth to the Loyalist assassins’ constant claim that their activities are designed to ‘save Ulster’.

It is impossible to deal with the sectarian killings without confronting the question of Northern Ireland’s existence as a state.

The establishment of a special anti-assassination ‘task force’, the ‘A’ Squad, announced by Rees last Thursday is no more than a gimmicky gesture. As long as Labour backs the sectarian state, they can do nothing effective to stop the sectarian murderers.

None of this is to say that the sectarian killing is one-sided. Increasingly it is not. Catholic gunmen, including apparently some Provisional IRA supporters, have now begun to strike back. For example two Protestant youths aged 20 and

21 were gunned down from a passing car in the Old Park area of Belfast on 22 June, possibly in ‘retaliation’ for the death of Tony Molloy.

These activities, which have been condemned outright by all socialists, here revealed the total political bankruptcy of traditional Republicans. The established Republican groups have been able to arm young men with pistols and rifles but have proved themselves utterly incapable of arming them with the political weapons which can win their struggles. So with passions run high, when they feel their community under attack, they tend to react not by mobilising the mass of the people, and seeking through the trade union movement to build a bridgehead to the Protestant working class, but by matching murder with murder.

Basic

The retaliatory killings not only move Protestant workers still further to the right, they help Rees off the hook. They enable him and the press to suggest that ‘one side is as bad as the other’, that some black madness—nothing to do with politics—has gripped all Irishmen in the North.

The explanation is more basic. Sectarianism is the irreformable essence of the Northern Ireland state, and the recent killings are simply a particularly fierce expression of that sectarianism.

However terrible the tool in human terms and however tempting it is to take Rees and his press mouthpieces at their word and dismiss it all as a ‘throwback to tribalism’, it is crucial that British socialists strive to understand the politics of what is happening here, and step up the campaign for the only solution which holds out any hope of ending savagery for ever: an end to the guarantee of the Sectarian State of Northern Ireland, and a withdrawal of the troops which are sustaining it.

International Socialism

80

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The struggle in Ireland

Chris Harman

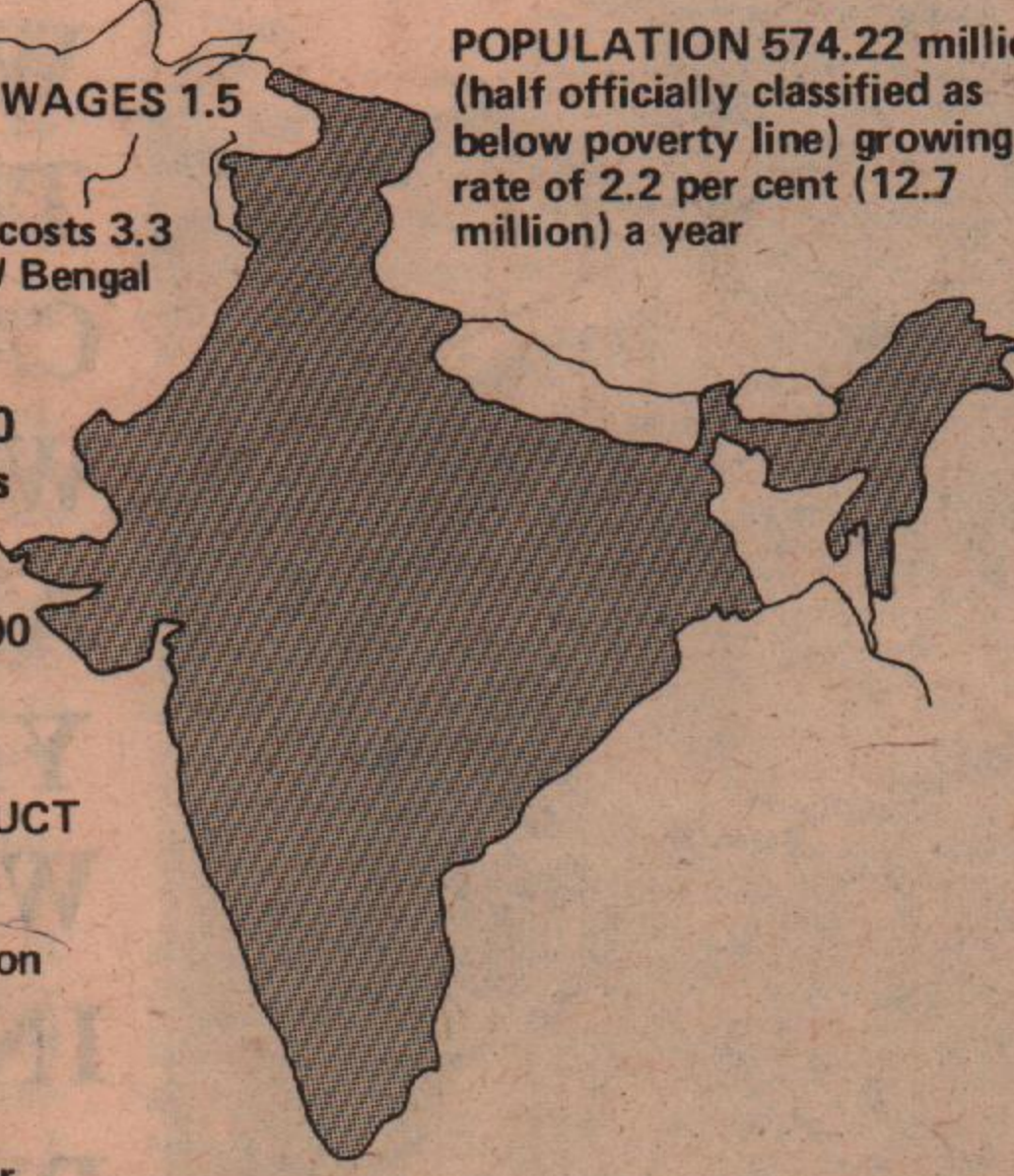
The aim of this pamphlet is to give a brief history of British domination, to show its effects on Ireland today, to show that the problems of the people of Ireland will not be solved until the domination is ended, and to indicate the way this can be done.

An International Socialists

pamphlet 15p

Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

INDIA



POPULATION 574.22 million (half officially classified as below poverty line) growing at rate of 2.2 per cent (12.7 million) a year

AGRICULTURAL WAGES 1.5 rupees (6p) a day

FOOD Kilo of rice costs 3.3 rupees (13.3p) in W Bengal

POLICE SPENDING £170 million a year (three times that spent on health)

MILITARY SPENDING £800 million a year (one-fifth of national budget)

GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT £34 per head

UNEMPLOYMENT 50 million

AVERAGE INCOME £30 a year (and falling)

INFLATION RATE 31.1 per cent a year (and rising)

LIFE EXPECTANCY 41.2 years

From corruption to catastrophe...

By LAURIE FLYNN

THERE HAS always been corruption in India. But it is not that which has now brought Indira Gandhi's government to the brink.

The cause of the increased popular discontent is simple enough. The economy is being devastated by the world economic crisis. Food prices are rocketing.

The poor can no longer afford the cost even of a starvation diet. Agricultural wages, already miserably low, are being slashed.

Unemployment, already around 50 million, is increasing fast.

Famine and disaster are living reality for the masses in South Asia.

Even when world capitalism was booming, the economies of the countries of South Asia delivered nothing for the broad masses of people. The economies, pillaged and then carefully contained by the forces of world capitalism, could not deliver.

So the poor Indian peasant just about staggered through in 'the good old days'. Now that capital-

ism is in crisis, he can no longer stagger.

Oil prices have shot up. Demand for the raw materials and textiles that undeveloped countries produce has collapsed.

The Indian economy, in common with others, is under terrible pressure. Mrs Gandhi and Co have given up trying to plan for development and turned their attentions instead to screwing the poor even more, expanding the machinery of repression and

THERE WAS an unusual demonstration in Delhi, the administrative capital of India, last week. So unusual that the police didn't rush in to club the demonstrators down. But, for once, the demonstrators weren't starving peasants or hungry workers whose miserable standard of living—if it can be called living—is getting worse every day.

These were sleek businessmen who had come out of their air-conditioned offices and gathered 500 strong to beg Indira Gandhi, the Indian premier, to stay in power.

And remain in power she has, proclaiming a state of emergency, jailing nearly 1000 more of her political opponents and promising tough measures to prop up the desperately decayed frame of India's economy.

It was a strange sequence of events which led Mrs Gandhi to make these moves and intern her right wing political opponents.

The stage had been set with several years of growing repression against the hungry and the exploited.

Then on 12 June, as her government became increasingly

unpopular, Mrs Gandhi was found guilty of corrupt electoral practices during the 1971 election. She was barred from office for six years and given 20 days to appeal. The next day, her ruling Congress Party took another election hammering, this time in the state of Gujarat.

Before her 20 days were up, Mrs Gandhi had resolved to do rather more than lodge an appeal.

The slide into political crisis greatly disturbed India's ruling class. This amalgam of big landlords, industrialists and political speculators who have enriched themselves by one means or another, sees no alternative to the Gandhi regime. Congress, its party has ruled without interruption since independence 28 years ago.

Since she came to power in 1966, Mrs Gandhi has broken all opposition to her rule within the Party. She had no challengers left and Congress no alternative. So, in the wake of the election scandal, she was free to move. Now she has got rid of the Indian Lord Chief Justice and confidently expects to overcome her little difficulty over the 1971 election.

generally trying to hang on.

That it is the crisis which underlies everything is clear from what happened in the states which neighbour India.

In Pakistan and Bangladesh, some sort of democracy was also said to flourish while the people starved. But in Pakistan, even before Mrs Gandhi's onslaught, President Bhutto had taken similar powers. In Bangladesh, Mujibur Rahman has done the same.

The situation for the poor peasants in India is almost indescribable. Last year there was already crisis. So they sold their seedcorn or their little parcels of land to get food. Now they have nothing. Now they must starve. Now they must die. Their masters hope they will do so quietly.

Poisons

None of this is inevitable. India could produce more food. It could double production readily if fertilisers could be obtained in the quantities needed. But ICI, Dow Chemicals, Fisons and the rest of them will only supply India with fertiliser at enormous cost.

They are not in business to cater for human need. They supply only those who can pay. They exist to profit from desperation, not to halt it.

And capitalism maintains its grip on India not just from the outside. It poisons it and strangles it from within.

A century ago the British

empire developed big landowners, to obtain delivery of the cash crops its manufacturers required. These lords of the land are there still, and it is they who stand in the way of the most elementary social progress.

It is they who have benefitted from the agricultural development, the Indian government has unleashed with the assistance of the so-called international aid agencies.

The enormous majority, the small farmers, get nothing, no assistance. More and more of them become landless and are driven into beggary.

International aid, as it is laughingly called, perpetuates the whole system. It is unquestionably designed to do so. For the aid is tied. It is designed to open up profitable markets for ICI, Massey Ferguson, the makers and traffickers in arms.

So disgraceful is the situation that it is the most momentous task for the Indian government just to pay the interest on the money borrowed. As a result the economy goes backward, becomes more undeveloped so that the loansharks can obtain their tribute, so that the rights of private property can be defended.

The Financial Times has described the situation with regard to aid from Russia:

'Though terms were quite generous to start with the Russians gradually hardened them to the point where India now actually repays five times more each year than it receives.'

The western capitalist powers

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A victim of the plunder of India: The Times reported last year that thousands of people were living on weeds and leaves. This year will be worse... Pictures: Robert E Wilson (Report)



GANDHI'S HARDEST GRAFT... COVERING IT UP

THAT THE FOCUS for India's present crisis should be a minor piece of electoral corruption is an interesting irony. The country is choking with corruption, licensed and organised by the Congress Party.

The Times of India summarised the general situation in an editorial last March when the government's schemes to deal with the latest famine were providing remarkable new opportunities for the bounty-hunters:

'Everyone knows that corruption is rampant in almost every department of the government, that the ministry's food procurement has been miserably poor and that unscrupulous elements have been freely exploiting the shortages to make windfall gains.' (22 March 1974).

Later this year political corruption became an even hotter issue, as Jayaprakesh Narayan, an old time associate of Indira Gandhi's father Nehru, latched on to it.

The response of the Gandhi government was predictable. A theatrical anti-smuggling crusade was launched last September. The government extended its detention without trial laws to cover people suspected of 'economic crimes'. Previously these laws had been used solely against the left.

Immediate arrests were made. Among them were several gentlemen who had long been associated with fund-raising for the Congress Party.

Rumours immediately began to circulate about the VIP treatment those government guests were getting in prison. And one of them, Haji Mastan, made the simple point that there would be a 'political explosion' if he 'named the names of those who had fought and won elections at my expense and

became ministers'.

Pressure still mounted on the corruption front. Last October, some members of the Congress Party demanded an inquiry into kickbacks for Congress ministers and MPs who helped businessmen obtain import licences, a sure ticket to good fortune.

The Gandhi government refused any such inquiry. A government minister, a whole system of spoils, had to be protected.

Indira Gandhi's son Sanjiv is in on the racket. He has been awarded the franchise, and suitable state assistance, to become the country's only independent car producer.

His consortium is to make a 'People's Car', just what the average starving peasant with an average annual income of £20 is desperate for.

But why is corruption so widespread? It chokes economic and political life in India precisely because life is so poverty-stricken

and uncertain. The escape—for those few who can get out—is through links and contacts with the state and the functionaries who can provide capital or permission or both.

There is traffic in gold and silver, crops and import licences. There is traffic in everything. When the government steps in to control the situation, there is traffic in evasion.

The spirit of the operation was of course introduced by the plundering and looting that distinguished the early British Raj, the empire beloved of British patriots and businessmen. It is continued to this day by the Raj's successors, the multinational companies, who offer substantial pay-offs to obtain construction contracts or get their petrol sold.



Some of India's 170,000 railwaymen during their strike last year: the Gandhi regime arrested thousands of their leaders and called some of them up into the army to break the strike. There have since been strikes of dockers, jute and textile workers. In India, too, the working class is strong.



HOW WE MUST

ORGANISE

THE POLITICAL crisis in India is of grave concern to Asian workers in Britain. It is important that we involve ourselves in political activity and agitation which will inevitably be organised over the next few months.

IS branches in immigrant areas should take the initiative in contacting the various Indian organisations to offer support and co-operation.

Socialist Worker will be covering India's events in full. We must make a determined effort to sell it in Asian areas and workplaces. Local events and local solidarity actions should be covered and reports sent to Socialist Worker.

The next issue of Chingari will be out soon. Preparations for selling it need to go ahead now. There will be special articles on the Indian crisis.

Branches intending to hold public meetings in mid-July or August should advertise them in both Socialist Worker and Chingari. Leading militants in the Indian communities should be approached to speak.

Speakers' notes and other

background material will be available soon from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS branches who need help in translating leaflets into the Indian languages should ring 01-739 6273.

The Indian Workers Association called a demonstration at short notice last Saturday in protest against the state of emergency. 350 Indian workers, mainly from the Midlands, supported the call and demonstrated outside the Indian High Commission in London's Aldwych.

Another demonstration, also outside the Commission, was attended by 350 people on 23 June. Organised by the Indian Workers Association (GB), it was called to protest against the death sentences imposed on two Indian militants, Kishta Gowd and Bhoomia, for leading peasants in struggle against the big landlords in Andhra Pradesh.

The Black Worker in Britain

वृष्टि वांगाली अमिक

Anwodudu To Wa Ni Iru Oyibo

O Trabalhador Português em Inglaterra

વિસાયત માં ગુજરાતી મજૂરો

O Κύπριος Εργάτης στην Αγγλία

ਬਰਤਾਨੀਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰ

Ndi Ojje No Na Obodo Oyibo

برطانیہ میں پاکستانی مزدور

Essential reading for all immigrant workers, the new IS/Chingari pamphlet in English. Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4. 15p plus 4p postage.

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They're not traffic cops, either. Their business is to look after the spoils made from operations like 'The People's Car'.

As such, they moved into action against demonstration after demonstration in 1974. Their colleagues in the army moved against the strikes, strikes of railwaymen, smashed by 20,000 arrests, strikes of dockers, strikes of textile workers.

The British press may believe that the 'light of democracy' in India went out just last week. For the vast mass of the Indian people democracy was never more than a sham, though a sham infinitely preferable to the emergency regime and the dictatorship that could well follow it.

The 35,000 political prisoners rotting in jail without even a trial, those shot dead in food riots, and those just starving and suffering have never known democracy, just as they have never known even the slightest approximation to freedom from want.

And they never will until, in India a mass revolutionary socialist organisation is built, rooted in the industrial working class who alone have the capacity and the cohesion to lead the struggle to reconstruct society.

Such an organisation could chart the beginnings of a way out of the chaos, the mass murder and the avoidable misery that capitalism, home based and foreign, has made out of India's noble mansion.



Abortion: It's still the vital issue



BLACK DAY

NORTH LONDON District IS ran a day of activity concentrating on black workers and the fight against racism. An afternoon school heard speakers from North London factories on the struggle in the workplace, then broke into small groups to discuss specific issues—a really successful method of involving everyone on the discussion.

After a further session on the West Indies, and briefly on India and Pakistan, comrades left to join the demonstration which marched to India House, calling for the registration of Indira Ghandi and the release of political prisoners in India.

In the evening a packed social enjoyed superb Afro-rock music and Martha Osamor's authentic soul food. £74 was raised to help fund an IS black workers' newspaper for London.

WOMEN'S VOICE

THE next issue of Women's Voice is being printed this Friday. The papers will be put on trains for the regions the same day, while London branches can collect theirs from the IS bookshop on Saturday.

STUDENTS

ALL IS student branches and cells that have separate orders for Socialist Worker must phone the circulation office, 01-739 2639, to make arrangements for the summer. Students should also contact their home town IS branch now to plan the work they can do over the summer months.

YOUNG WORKERS

SPEAKERS for the IS Young Workers sub-committee cadre schools have now been fixed. Leading off the first session on Saturday 19 July will be Neil Davies on The Struggle for Socialism. Tony Cliff will start the second session on The Russian Revolution: Lessons for Today. Then on Sunday, dockers' steward Eddie Prevost will introduce a session on how to build at work and in your union branch. In the afternoon Steve Jeffreys will be speaking on IS, the crisis and the way ahead for Young Workers!

Members and close contacts who wish to attend should write to Colin Speller, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Accommodation is being arranged.

SOCIALISM'S LOSS

KEIGHLEY IS mourns the loss of a much-loved comrade, Matt Dunne, who died suddenly last week.

Matt will be remembered for his stories about his early life in Dublin. He would tell us how once as a boy he saw Big Jim Larkin. He was leading some striking workers. They were going to hold a meeting in a park. But when they arrived the gates had been locked. A worker told Larkin that the park belonged to an employer who didn't want the meeting to be held.

Larkin reached over for a boulder, lifted it high over his head, and shouted: 'And who told him he owns the park?' Smashing the lock with one blow.

Matt said he thought it was 'the Lord Almighty himself'.

Another time in the 1930s Matt was

by Sheila McGregor

THE 'Back Street' Abortion Bill is not dead yet. We had a marvellous demonstration two Saturdays ago, but that is not enough to kill the Bill. The government have promised its supporters that it will be reintroduced in one form or another either at the end of this parliamentary session or at the beginning of the next.

The National Abortion Campaign is calling another demonstration for the autumn. We need to start working for that now. The abortion issue is important for all IS members and Socialist Worker supporters. It identifies clearly the importance

of specific struggles for women's rights. It leads naturally to arguments about the way in which women are exploited as society's child-minders—and why we must fight for equal pay, nursery facilities and the right to work.

We need to turn what has been so far a defensive campaign against the Bill into an attack. We have to fight not just for repealing the Bill, but for extending the existing legislation into allowing abortion on demand on the Health Service. You can't stop back street abortion until you get rid of all the restrictions on abortion.

It's our job as socialists to raise these issues in the places of work and in the unions. We can still use the petition. It helps to get the argument started. But we must organise Women's Voice and Socialist Worker meetings at work to discuss what can be done.

If you work with women, get them to join in writing leaflets on abortion. Explain how trade union-sponsored MPs voted for James White's Bill. Get women along to the next union branch meeting to censure these MPs. Get your union executive to support the National Abortion Campaign and the autumn demonstration.

If your workplace is all men, try to get support from shop stewards' committees for the campaign, raising it in the trade union movement.

Portugal: We must join the revolution now!

ONE call rang out clear from the IS national day school on the revolution in Portugal held in Manchester on Saturday: the urgent need to build a campaign of solidarity and action among trade unionists and socialists in Britain.

After hearing Colin Sparks of the IS Portugal Group, Bruno da Ponti of the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee and a comrade from Spain, the 65 IS members split into four groups to discuss four aspects of building the campaign. Here are some of their conclusions:

IN THE TRADE UNIONS: The main activity should be in winning support for the Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese Working Class, which has been started by the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee in this country. Read Our Common Struggle, the PWCC's monthly bulletin of information on Portugal (from PWCC, 18 Fleet Road, London NW3). Affiliate your branch, trades council, shop stewards committee to the PWCC. Invite a PWCC speaker.

Because of trade union support during the Spanish Civil War, many trade unionists are more conscious of Spain than Portugal—so link in the growing struggle of Spanish workers.

IN YOUR WORKPLACE: Workers in Portugal face the same international crisis as workers here, fighting unemployment

and redundancies with revolutionary weapons: not just occupations, but workers' control. Use this to raise the issue here.

Many British firms have links with Portugal: find out if yours does, contact its workers out there, bring one over to your factory. One IS member working in a factory which regularly sends goods to Portugal said he was going to ask the driver who delivers the goods to take a letter to the factory's workers' committee.

The capitalists are tightening their boycott on Portugal, cutting trade, increasing unemployment, delaying deliveries. Plessey, Leyland and Fords are among these. Workers should fight this. As one comrade put it: 'We make the bloody stuff... we've got the right to say where it goes.'

THE PORTUGUESE SOLIDARITY FUND: This fund, launched by Socialist Worker, is to send money to the PRP, a revolutionary socialist organisation in Portugal, to support the PWCC in this country, and to aid IS work such as bringing speakers from Portugal and translating our pamphlets into Portuguese. Collection sheets have been produced—in using them every member needs to argue the political reasons for supporting the Portuguese revolution.

Other fund-raising proposals include: 'Support the Portuguese Revolution' badges and posters, socials, a slide and tape show on the revolution, even a raffle with first prize a holiday for two in a Portuguese hotel run under workers' control!

IS AND THE CAMPAIGN: District committees are taking direct responsibility for the campaign, linking with the national IS Portugal Group. The group has already produced speakers' notes on the revolution and a factsheet on the struggle of textile workers there. Other factsheets are to be produced on the electronics industry, health workers and teachers. For these and others we need information about the capitalist links with Portugal: if your company has such links, contact the IS Portugal Group at the address below. Above all, send reports of the campaign to Socialist Worker.

IS PORTUGAL GROUP, c/o Joanna Rollo, flat 112, 45 Broadwick Street, London W1.



Every IS district and branch should make one person on the district or branch committee responsible for the work locally, discussing the possibilities of setting up Women's Voice or Socialist Worker groups to draw women into activity.

In local National Abortion Campaign groups, Socialist Worker supporters should be active in taking the campaign into the labour movement: organising factory gate meetings, finding the hospitals which refuse to do abortions, the gynaecologists who try to impose their morality on the rest of us. Organise pickets like the one at Hammersmith Hospital. Try to involve the hospital unions in the campaign. Raise the question of special abortion units in hospitals.

The National Abortion Campaign is holding a conference on 18-19 October to discuss the campaign.

National IS Women's Advisory Committee: Saturday 26 July, 11am, 8 Cottons Gardens. Each IS district and trade union fraction to elect a delegate. Expenses will be met locally.

RAIL MEETING

PAUL FOOT of Socialist Worker was guest speaker at the Paddington No 1 Branch meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen last Friday. He spoke about the recent sell-out on the railways, and the increasing demands of trade union leaders that workers should cut their own living standards to pay for capitalist crisis. He urged on the meeting the importance of socialist ideas and organisation and newspapers in the working class movement.

After a long discussion which included many friendly criticisms of Socialist Worker, the branch agreed to continue taking 20 copies of Socialist Worker, as they had done during the run-up to the pay sell-out.



What we stand for

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

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

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

The smashing of the capitalist state The state machine is a

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

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

Internationalism We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls. The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

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

WE ARE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____

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

BIRMINGHAM WOMENS VOICE public meeting: Cuts in the Public Sector. Wednesday 19 July, 7.30pm, Wellington Pub, Bristol Street. Speakers include social worker and local teacher.

HACKNEY IS TEACHERS public meeting: The Labour Movement before 1914 in Britain. Speaker: John Whelan. Monday 7 July, 5pm, Duke of Wellington, Balls Pond Road, Hackney.

PORTSMOUTH IS and Gosport Labour Party public meeting: Which Way to Socialism. Monday 14 July, 7.45pm, Forrester's Hall, Fratton Road. All welcome.

CENTRAL LONDON IS Portuguese Solidarity Benefit. Kartoon Klowns in Socialism or Barbarism. Friday 18 July, 7.30pm, St Pancras Assembly Rooms. Tickets, 60p, available on the door or from IS Books.

INNER EAST LONDON District IS Day School on Portugal: Saturday 12 July, 2-6pm, Task Force, 34 Dalston Lane, near Dalston Junction. Speakers: Joanna Rollo, Colin Sparks, and representative from Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee.

Meetings for IS members

W MIDDLESEX DIST IS Day School: Saturday 12 July, Ealing Technical College (5 mins from Ealing Broadway), 10.30am-1.30pm. Noon to 1.30pm—Public speaking practice (Duncan Hallas). 2.30-4pm—the Lessons of Portugal (Chris Harman). Party in the evening—details at the day school.

IS NALGO fraction conference: Weekend 5-6 July (starting 10.30am Saturday). Small assembly hall, Barnes Wallis Building, UMIST, Sackville Street, Manchester. All requests for accommodation to National NALGO Fraction secretary, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

NORTH EAST Region IS summer weekend school: For IS members in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham and Cleveland. Tony Cliff and Jim Nichol introducing discussions on Revolution in Europe, What's happening to the Labour Party etc. Saturday/Sunday 5-6 July, Newcastle Polytechnic Union, Refreshments available. Social Saturday night. Further details from branch secretaries. Attendance limited to 30.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER DISTRICT IS: training session on the other left groups. Sunday 13 July, 2.30pm. Details from the bookshop.

IS notices

FOUR GERMAN COMRADES arriving approx 15 July need two rooms in London at low rent for about a month. Phone Mary Phillips. 01-237 6869.

IS TRIP TO PORTUGAL: The IS Portugal Group is planning a cheap charter flight for two weeks in Portugal: one week on holiday, one week of political activity in support of the PRP. First two weeks in August. Families can be catered for. Rough cost £70. IS members only. Anyone interested please write giving name, address and trade union, to IS Portugal Group, c/o Flat 12, 45 Broadwick Street, London, W1.

TYPEWRITER NEEDED: Manchester IS need a second hand electric typewriter (with a carbon ribbon attachment) for their bookshop. Will collect from anywhere. Phone 061-832 8102.

THE BATTLE. Australia's revolutionary monthly paper produced by the Socialist Workers' Action Group. For subscription and more information, write to Geoff Goldhar, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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

WANTED, any broken, damaged or working but unwanted 8mm and 16mm cine equipment. Also tape recorder same. Lowest prices paid, if at all. Write to Camera Department, SW (Litho) Printers, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Cresser, London E2.

Midsummer Party and Disco: Saturday 12 July, 8pm. Late bar, raffle. The Three Blackbirds, Leyton High Road (half way between Bakers Arms and Leyton tube). Proceeds to Portugal Fund and East London IS District.

West Yorkshire IS Social: Saturday 5 July, 8pm, The Star, Westgate, Bradford. Drink, disco, and the General Will. Positively the last performance of 'The Dunkirk Spirit'.

IS NALGO Fraction Social: Saturday 5 July, 8pm, The Black Lion, Chapel Street, Salford.

New set of speakers' notes on abortion. 2p a copy from Julia Halls, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Small room to let in IS house. NW London. Ring Liz, 01-739 2639 (weekdays 9am-5pm).

GLASGOW AREA IS Education Meetings: IS Bookshop, 64 Queen Street, 11am, Saturday mornings. 5 July: Incomes policy and wage control; 12 July: Nationalisation; 19 July: Abortion; 26 July: Capitalist press; 2 August: Labour Party.

SHOCK FOOTBALL RESULT: Socialist Worker Printshop 3, London Building Workers 4.

COLIN SPARKS TAKES A LOOK AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE campaign against the James White Bill on abortion has led to many violent arguments in factories and offices.

Some of the most bitter rows have been with men and women who are good militants, but as Roman Catholics, see abortion as directly contrary to their deeply-held religious faith.

The reactionary stand of the Catholic Church on abortion and contraception is not the result of an obscure theological point. However militant working-class Catholics may be, policy is made by the hierarchy—Pope, cardinals and bishops—and the hierarchy is deeply committed to maintaining the present social system. So are those of other churches, particularly where they are openly state bodies such as the Church of England.

On 18-19 June the Catholic hierarchy made three statements.

- The Pope denounced violence in Ireland, without making any distinction between the British Army and the Protestant terror gangs and those, including the IRA who are fighting to free Ireland from British rule.

- The Vatican denounced the Italian Communist Party after its electoral victory.

- The hierarchy in Portugal denounced the gains made in the Portuguese revolution and set the church against the struggle for workers' power.

Highest

The hierarchy plays a reactionary role all over the world. On the other hand, many sincere Catholics are also good militants and socialists. Some, like the priest Camillo Torres in South America, have died fighting for socialism.

The reasons for this split have nothing to do with theology. On money matters at least, the teachings of the church have always been extremely flexible.

In the middle ages, the main form of wealth was land and the Catholic Church was one of the biggest landowners. In Britain it owned about a third of all land. Usury—the lending of money at interest—was seen as a major threat to the power of the landowners. The church duly obliged with denunciations of money lending. The Council of Lyons, held in 1274, refused confession, absolution and Christian burial to all money lenders.

But as capitalist society developed, money took the place of land as the major form of wealth, and the church quietly dropped its opposition to usury. Today the Vatican itself contains a bank, called the Institute for Religious Works, which lends money at interest like any other bank.

Usury is no longer a sin.

Split

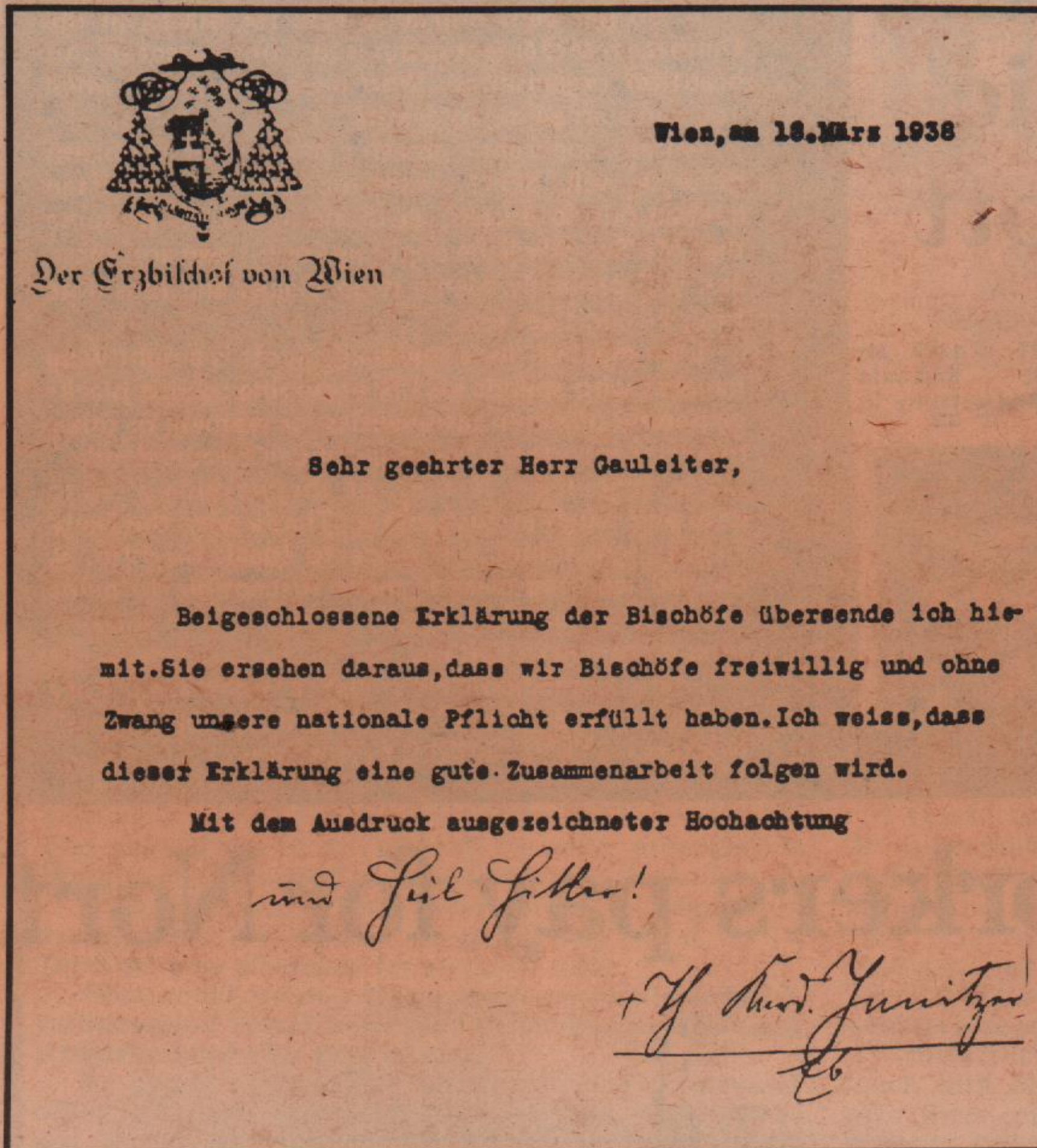
This 'development' of the teaching of the church has nothing to do with divine inspiration. It has everything to do with the fact that the church was and is enormously wealthy. Although the Catholic clergy are bound over by vows of poverty the church itself has devoted enormous energy to acquiring wealth.

The Vatican alone, without counting the wealth of the religious orders or the local bishops, controls one of the largest most secret and corrupt financial empires in the world. It is impossible to work out what the size of this empire is, but in 1968 the Italian Finance Minister estimated shareholdings in Italy alone at

As it is in heaven?



The signing of the 1933 Concordat, the Catholic Church's deal with the Nazis, by Nazi Foreign Secretary Von Papen (1) and Cardinal Pacelli (2), later to be Pope Pius XII. The photograph has been damaged.



£66 million.

Among other exploits, a Vatican-controlled company, Generale Immobiliare, built and owned until recently the Watergate Centre in Washington. The Vatican was a major shareholder in the Istituto Farmacologico, Sereno, Italy's largest manufacturer of contraceptive pills. In the 1960s the Vatican tried to blackmail the Italian government into further tax concessions, threatening to wreck the Italian Stock Market if the demands were not granted. For years it was successful.

For many years, the Vatican's vast wealth was largely run by three brothers called Pacelli. They happened to be brothers of Pope Pius XII.

The ordinary lay Catholic, worker or peasant, and even some of the parish priests, have quite different motives for their faith. The belief in a divine saviour and a life of peace in another world, the ideal of brotherly love, are understandable reactions to the poverty, misery and

exploitation which people suffer in in this world.

The belief may move some people to work for a change in this world but fundamentally it is a belief of despair, a belief that the poverty, misery and exploitation can only be changed by 'God's Providence', not by man's own struggle. The hope of a better world to come is too often a substitute for changing the bad in this one.

The church teaches people to kneel and pray humbly. Socialism teaches them to stand and fight proudly.

Accept

Marxists believe there is no god, that the future of the world is in the hands of the working class. But at the same time we believe that religious faith is a matter for the individual conscience. If a man or a woman wishes to believe in this or that religion we are prepared to accept that belief. We judge people by their actions in the class struggle, not on their private prayers.

We will continue to fight for our beliefs in atheism but there is no obstacle to the religious believer who wishes to join the International Socialists. All we demand is that he or she carries out the policies of the party in the working class.

We think marxists have more in common with the Catholic worker than either of us do with the hierarchy. It says in the Bible that a Christian cannot serve God and Mammon. The profits of the church have made the hierarchy's choice clear.

LEFT: The letter from Cardinal Innitzer that accompanied the Austrian Catholic hierarchy's declaration of loyalty to the Nazis in 1938. It reads: 'Dear Herr Gauleiter, I enclose herewith a declaration by the Bishops. You will see from it that we, the Bishops, have done our national duty voluntarily and without coercion. I know that this declaration will be followed by satisfactory co-operation. With best respects. Heil Hitler!'

We, the Bishops, give this work our blessing..

ONE of the most sordid pages in the history of the Catholic hierarchy is its long record of support for fascism. The Vatican blessed Mussolini, Franco and Salazar.

Much more revealing were the close relations between the Vatican and the German Nazis. Many leading Nazis held the deep anti-Catholic prejudices of the most bigoted Protestant sects.

The Vatican moved quickly to placate them. On 20 July 1933 Cardinal Pacelli, Vatican State Secretary and future Pope Pius XII, signed a treaty with the Nazi Foreign Secretary, Von Papen. The treaty recognised the Hitler regime, ordered the bishops to support it, instructed the clergy to stay out of politics and agreed to the destruction of the Catholic Centre Party and Catholic trade unions. In return the Vatican gained a promise that the Nazis would not attack the church and that the subsidy of 800 million marks a year would continue to be paid by the state.

Nazis

The murders and persecutions in Germany mounted. Catholic workers went into the cattle trucks along with socialists and communists. The Nazis turned their eyes towards Austria. Here the Catholic Church was well entrenched and had long supported its own local brand of fascism.

A struggle developed between the Catholic fascists and the Austrian Nazis. It was settled by the invasion of Austria on 13 March 1938. All opposition to the Nazis was smashed. Again the hierarchy reacted quickly. On 18 March the Austrian bishops met and issued a 'Solemn Declaration'.

In this, they declared that the Nazi movement 'has achieved and will achieve outstanding successes in national and economic reconstruction', and that its work had 'warded off the threat of the destructive and atheistic doctrine of Bolshevism... we, the bishops, will, in future, give this work our blessing and will instruct the faithful accordingly'.

The 'outstanding successes' went on to include further millions of murders and the savage persecutions of the Jews.

On 1 September, 1939 the Nazis invaded Poland, a country where the Catholic Church had massive support from workers and peasants. The Nazis treated these workers and peasants as animals, subjecting them

to forced labour and systematic murder. The Vatican remained in league with Hitler.

The Nazi terror was so great that many lay Catholics and even priests defied their hierarchy, and more than 1000 Polish Catholic priests were sent to Dachau concentration camp, where many were brutally murdered.

The Vatican restricted itself to a few protests about Nazi interference with church property and the arrests of priests. It never even considered the sort of all-out campaign it has been waging in recent weeks against the Portuguese revolution.

The only time that the church hierarchy has ever moved into opposition to a reactionary regime has been when that regime is about to fall and the masses are about to overthrow it. Then the hierarchy tries to lead the opposition in order to turn it away from the ultimate capitalist sin—socialism. That is what is happening in Spain today.

When the Nazis were clearly beaten the Vatican looked round for another ally. The new bulwark against the working class was America.

America was ready to barter too. The bombs which Cardinal Spellman blessed fell like rain on Vietnam. Like rain, they fell on the just and the unjust alike; on Catholics and Communists. The Vatican's gold reserve is kept at Fort Knox, the US government vaults.

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY
BBC-2: 10.10pm YESTERDAY'S WITNESS: COMING OUT IN '39 is on The Lucan equivalent's world of 1939 — 'The fairytale world of the debutante'.

THE LAST ACT (BBC-2; 10.40pm) features film on the last days of Hitler.

MONDAY
BBC-2: 9.50pm. HORIZON' HOW DO YOU READ? on children. CENTRE PLAY: POST MORTEM possibly good play about a secretary and her dead boss. PANORAMA (BBC-1, 8.10pm) IS BUDDY CAN YOU SPATE A HOME? on US and Vietnamese refugees.

THURSDAY
BBC-2: 9.25pm. MAN ALIVE SOMETHING IN THE AIR is on Swansea radical paper 'Rebecca' and local Labour Party corruption.

FRIDAY
BBC-2, 8.10pm. THE RISEN PEOPLE on the 'tensions between constitutional and revolutionary traditions in Irish political life.'

Where to find out...

A LOT of information about the Catholic Church's big business interests is to be found in VATICAN FINANCES, by Corrado Pallenberg (52p including postage), though it should be read with caution as it is very sympathetic. Rolf Hochhuth's play THE REPRESENTATIVE is about the Vatican and Hitler—the author sees it as a moral problem but it is powerfully written and well documented. It was banned in Rome. It seems to be out of print, but your local library may have a copy.

On religion in general, read Karl Kautsky's FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIANITY (£2.95 plus 24p postage), and on the church's role in Ireland, James Connolly's LABOUR, NATIONALITY AND RELIGION (22p including postage).

All by post from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, or direct from any IS bookshop.

LETTERS

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.

WHY WE MUST FIGHT THE FRONT

YOUR report of the Rank and File Conference against Racialism missed out an important item in the discussion. We talked at some length and with some purpose about the National Front.

The connection goes deeper than the fact that National Front members are racist, that by elevating racism to a political creed they seek to divide the working class.

As capitalism goes into crisis so whole sections of the working class will be thrown into the maelstrom of political and social conflict. Unless the trade union and socialist movement can provide the mass of working people with a total alternative to capitalist crisis then the prevailing confusion will, with the help of the press, become an anti-working class hysteria from which fascists in the Front can only benefit.

So long as the trade union movement is compromised from top to bottom by racialism it can never provide that alternative to fascist demogogy.

The discussion and resulting programme passed at the conference recognised that the struggle to commit trade unions to an open and honest stand against racialism was part and parcel of the struggle to win rank and file control of the unions. Just as resolutions at branch or national level committing unions to socialist change are meaningless without rank and file control of those unions, so a paper commitment to fight racialism is mere shadow-boxing without the active involvement of black workers in union affairs.

Our task as socialists and militants is to encourage that involvement by making damn sure that shop stewards committees and branches will support the trade union activity of their members.—MAL COLLINS, Coventry.

Abortion: A great demo, but...

THE massive demonstration (21 June) against the Abortion Amendment Bill left me with two strong impressions. One was elation at the size of the demo and the number of trade unionists present.

The other was frustration and anger at the appalling organisation. Of course everyone who worked at getting people there must be applauded but many people must have shared the feelings of the NUM lodge members who packed up their banner and went home in disgust at the chaos at the beginning, not to mention the number of tired and fractious children there were waiting for two hours before even starting.

Impressive though it was, Saturday's demonstration was only the start of the campaign. The National Abortion Campaign must not make the easy mistake of being complacent with the successful turn-out.

Nor must it be seduced into allowing celebrities and friends in high places to substitute for mass action. The campaign must be based on the organised strength of the working class and many lessons will have to be learnt in a hurry if that is to be achieved.—SALLY BARRETT (ASTMS), Brighton.

Apartheid isn't funny, Mr Scott

I'm quitting Red Britain, says comic Terry Scott

By Judith Simons

OUTSPOKEN comedian Terry Scott made an astonishing attack on Britain yesterday... and said he was thinking of leaving for good and settling in South Africa.

The reason: he feels this country is being run by "left-wing nobodies and communists."

As he arrived at London's Heathrow Airport from Johannesburg, he said: "You have no idea how difficult it is for me to come home."

"Every step from the aircraft to the customs hall is agony."

Later, at his home near Godalming, Surrey, the 48-



The Daily Express article

COMIC Terry Scott claims that the country is run by 'left-wing nobodies and communists'. His solution to this is to emigrate to South Africa, which he claims is a beautiful and organised country, 'organised by English people'.

A 50 per cent mortality rate for blacks in the Dimbaza resettlement camp is just one aspect of this beautiful organisation. Who needs gas ovens when you can starve kids to death?

Britain apparently doesn't handle her problems quite so well. Scott claims that pensions are often handed out to drunks, sluts and idiots. We presume that Mr Scott will be applying for his pension soon, and will probably blame it on blacks and reds if he finds he can't get one.

Like most of our comedians, Scott is a right-wing racist who spends his life preaching against blacks or people of other nationalities, or women, or other minority groups that his bigotry can't understand.

He encourages sections of the working class to hate and laugh at each other. That's why the Daily Express gives him the space to speak his filth. A divided working class is more susceptible to being ruled by a dictator, which is what Scott suggests should happen in Britain.

Some comedian! He's just a right-wing Tory politician and should be treated as such by all workers.—STEVE EMSLEY, Durham.

More on the family

I HOPE that Chris Harman's article on rape is the first of a number of articles about the way we are all oppressed by the ruling class's use of the family and sexuality.

While the struggle around such issues must be integrated into the fight to seize power from the ruling class, revolutionary socialists must do more than say this in the occasional article. We must involve ourselves in the struggles too.

The intervention of the International Socialists in the National Abortion Campaign is a good example of the kind of activity necessary.

We should also be giving some support to campaigns in support of battered wives and for homosexual law reform.

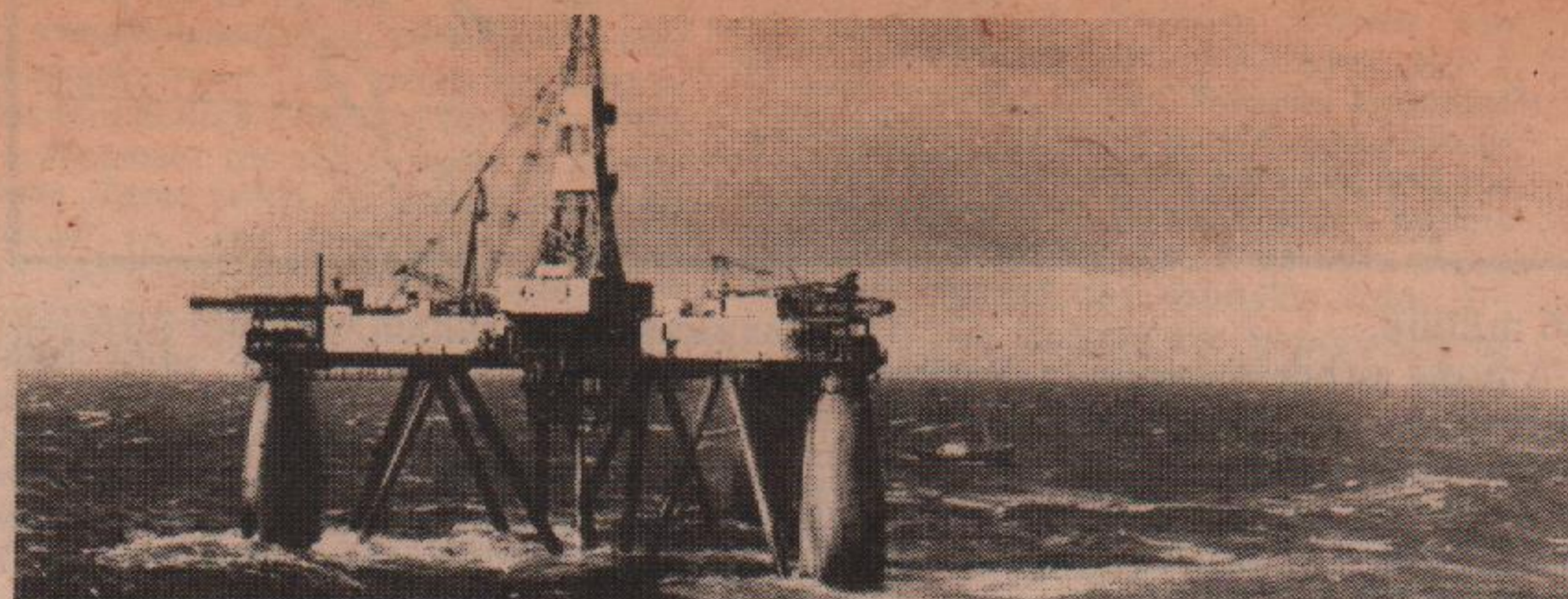
We should also consider women's groups and gay groups in trade unions. Because of years of conditioning at home, in school, and through the press and television they often lack the confidence to take an active part in their unions. Such groups would give them the kind of solidarity they need.—BOB CANT, Tottenham, London.

Prices workers pay for North Sea oil

READERS may be interested to know how the great oil boom (which means so much to all our futures) is affecting Scottish workers.

To the background of the compulsory 12-hour shifts, the disgusting safety conditions, the work camps of single men, separated from families, and the massive lay-offs when jobs are over, comes a new story from the Western Islands of Lewis and Harris.

Two years ago, representatives from the rig construction sites on the Scottish east coast came to job-starved Lewis and Harris and offered the work. The local dole office acted as agent—even cutting benefit to men who would not



leave their homes.

Today Lewis men are wanted back to work on a site on their island, and they want to go home. Unfortunately they are being offered half the wages that they receive in the unionised yards in the East.

A company spokesman in Lewis said the men could stay in the East, that he didn't want any 'film stars' on his site.

North Sea oil is going to make us all rich—well, perhaps not all of us. And, in the meantime, Scottish workers are moved about like cattle.—IS MEMBER, North Scotland.

READERS may or may not know that a man 'went missing' in the North Sea and another was seriously injured when an oil rig crane fell into the sea recently. Last year I worked as a painter on an oil rig—12-hour shifts, seven days a week, enforced overtime occasionally—for which roustabouts and painters were paid the princely sum of 68p an hour.

While I was on board there were several accidents: one man lost two fingers, another was knocked unconscious for two days by a drill pipe, another broke a leg, another fell in the water, was in for seven minutes and his legs were numb.

DIVER WHO DROWNED

JOHN CLARK, a diver aged 31, of Bathgate, West Lothian, was killed in a fatal accident on board the oil rig Waage Drill 1.

John Clark died from drowning. He also had five fractured ribs, which could have been caused by being struck against an underwater obstacle or when he was being pulled from the sea. When they examined the equipment he was using they found that: the rubber mouthpiece had perished; a spigot attached to the mouthpiece was bent; the manifold control valve, which controls the supply of air from the bottles, was faulty.

The diving superintendent on board the rig said that he did not know when the breathing set had last been thoroughly checked. 'It could have been months,' he said.

They have had ten years of diving experience in the North Sea, yet they still have no formal Safety Rules Book. Wouldn't the shareholders get upset if they ran their finances in the same way?—LORNE ANTON, Garve, Ross-shire.

Socialist Worker Information Service

MAYBE you need to know more about your firm, its profits, its directors. PERHAPS you're worried about the chemicals you work with.

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

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

SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOLS

for IS members

Sessions on: Revolutionary prospects in Portugal, Italy, Spain and Greece. What's happening to the Labour Party?

The Capitalist Crisis—where to next?

Building the International Socialists

NORTH EAST (Newcastle): 5-6 July

NORTH LONDON: 12-13 July (full up)

SOUTH LONDON: 19-20 July (full up)

SOUTH WALES (Cardiff): 2-3 August

SCOTLAND (Glasgow): 9-10 August

NORTH WEST (Manchester): 16-17 August

MIDLANDS (Birmingham): 23-24 August

YORKSHIRE (Leeds): 30-31 August

Attendance limited to 30 at each.

Registration: Send name, address and 50p to Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons

Gardens, London E2 8DN.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR HEALTH SERVICE?

A pamphlet written by members of the International Socialists who work in the National Health Service.



10p (plus 4p postage) from Industrial Department, International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

No one said death was part of the job

NOBODY bothered to tell electrician Peter Harnden about the dangers of working with asbestos. For four years between 1954 and 1959 he worked on an assembly line drilling holes through asbestos-lined panelling.

He wasn't given any protective clothing to wear. There was no respirator or even a simple mask.

Peter Harnden left Cravens of Sheffield, the railway carriage builders, in 1959. Earlier this month—20 years after he had first come into contact with asbestos—he died from a cancer directly linked by doctors to asbestos. He was 45.

His widow, Joyce, says: 'The doctors didn't know what was wrong with Peter until they did an exploratory operation. When they said it was asbestosis, they also asked whether he'd worked at Cravens as I think they'd dealt with several cases from there before.'

'The hospital found that the whole inside of his chest was lined with cancers. There was nothing they could do.'

So he was allowed out of hospital

ASBESTOSIS is a disease caused by asbestos fibres being inhaled into the lungs. It is a killer and is taking an increasing toll of British workers. Sixty-four are known to have died from it in 1965, 113 in 1971. In the last decade asbestos has been increasingly linked with cancer and other diseases.

Doctors have noted the direct connection between asbestos and cancer growths called mesothelioma. They have found that almost all these cancers—like the one that killed Peter Harnden—are caused by asbestos. Unlike normal asbestosis, they are usually the result of only small exposure to asbestos dust. They usually take years to show up and can even kill their victim 20 years afterwards.

Little wonder then that Pat Kinnersly, in his excellent book, *The Hazards of Work*, concluded: 'Asbestos is emerging as the all-purpose killer, versatile in the ways of death.'

to return home.

'It was terrible watching him slowly dying. He literally wasted away into a bag of bones. Just before he died, he could only have weighed six stone.'

'I wouldn't want anybody else to go through what we did. I hope the publicity about his death will save other lives. It shows just how dangerous this stuff is. There could be lots of other blokes walking around with these cancers inside them, waiting to develop.'

Cravens has been taken over and is now called Cravens Homalloy. They were prepared to take over the old business and are making millions out of it. They aren't prepared to try to find the workers who were with Peter Harnden when he caught asbestosis between 1954 and 1959.

But the AUEW convenor and chairman of the joint shop stewards' committee, Ted Cusick, has started an investigation to try to trace the men who worked on the assembly line at the time.

Already workers who remember the old plant have told him: 'It used to be terrible. We were choked with the stuff sometimes.'

'DANGER' TAX BUILDING EVACUATED

THE evacuation of Inland Revenue workers from the 11-storey building at New Malden, Essex, has uncovered a major safety hazard in multi-storey buildings where the 'cheap and quick' woodwool method of floor construction has been used.

Air pockets in the concrete filling leave the steel reinforcements exposed. At temperatures easily reached in the average fire, the steel rods would give way, followed by the immediate collapse of the floor and perhaps the entire building.

According to Ken Adams, a senior designer of the company that built New Malden, there are hundreds of other large buildings up and down the country—

'SOCIALISTS' WHO CUT OUR CHEAP BEEF



by Les Collett
USDAW shop steward,
Sansinenas meat depot

THE WORKERS at Sansinenas meat depot at Dunton Green, near Sevenoaks, Kent, cannot by any stretch of the imagination be described as militant. We have been on strike for six weeks because we have been pushed beyond endurance by an arrogant management.

In those six weeks some very ordinary people—young lads of 20 and old ladies over 70—the sort of people that the papers describe as 'moderate'—have come to realise that the union, the shopworkers' union USDAW, is useless when workers are in struggle, and that we have to organise in the rank and file if we are to get the unity we need to win disputes.

We are on strike because one of the biggest and richest multinational companies in the world cut our meat allowance.

These people have been making enormous profits out of meat for years. Until May this year they kindly allowed us to buy their beef at 30p a pound and a whole chicken for 60p. This concession was worth quite a lot—and there was no tax on it. Many of us took the job in order to get it.

Well, on 7 May the company put up a notice raising meat prices for all staff. This took away about £2 a week for most of us. The management refused even to discuss the increases with us. So a week later we came out on strike just to get them to talk with us.

Claims

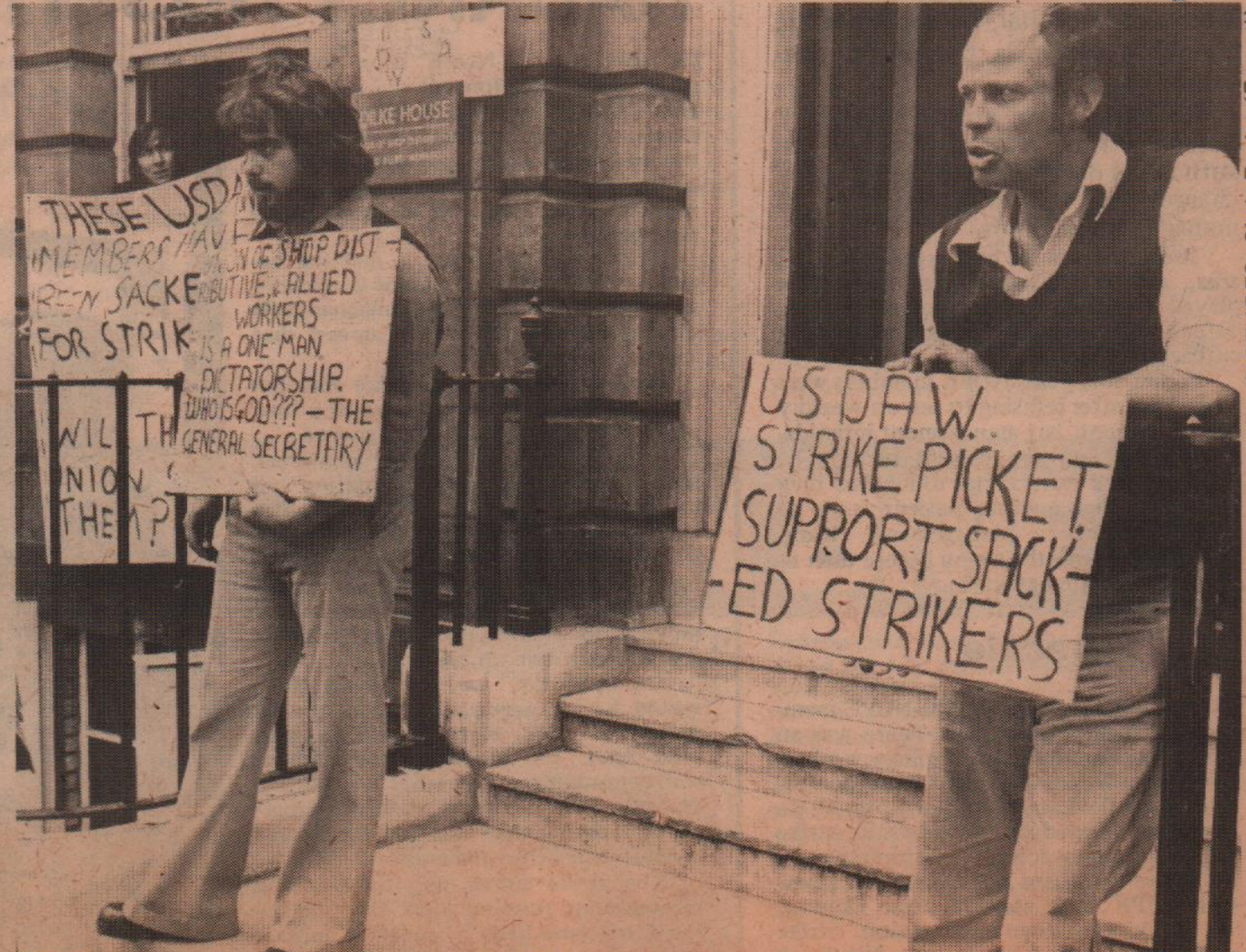
All they would say was that they were supporters of the Argentinian government and so they were socialists!

On 4 June we got a letter from the local official of our union saying he expected that our strike would be made official by our union executive. But at the executive meeting, our union's general secretary, Lord Allen, personally vetoed the move to make the strike official. The union tried to get us back to work, promising us that the management had agreed to go to arbitration.

A few days later they were forced to admit that management had refused to go to arbitration. On 14 June, we were all sacked for going on strike.

What could we do? Where could we turn? We had a ruthless set of bosses who called themselves socialists and a trade union leader who's a lord!

We decided to continue the struggle and went round other Sansinenas depots and union offices. Right away, we started to meet members of the International Socialists. Twice, when we were picketing, IS members



The Sansinenas workers picketing USDAW head office in London last week

came up and asked about our strike, took names and addresses and offered help. When our members went to picket in Liverpool, it was IS members who put them up and linked them with militants in USDAW and in other industries.

Until I met IS, I didn't know this sort of thing was going on. There's thousands of good militant workers outside IS who are carrying on in their factories without knowing about it, and without uniting with other militants. We've got to get all these people together, and then nothing at all can beat us. But if we stay divided in different factories, when these big multinational companies will wipe us out.

I think that one of the dangers is that I and some of the lads around me see all these things clearly now.

But when the dispute is over, and we start work again, in the same place or in a different place, it's easy to fall back again into the same rut as before: to become apathetic, not caring about other workers' struggles. That's what happens over and over again, and it's why workers lose so often.

I think the answer to this is organisation, keeping in touch with other people in the same situation, linking with them, organising with them. I tell you that my name is down permanently to keep the struggle going wherever I am.

How to make your factory safe

GIVEN THE choice between a fall-off in profits and workers falling off scaffolding most bosses opt for the money. That's why the Rank and File Organising Committee's day school on health and safety at work are crucial to your site and factory organisation. The first two, in Birmingham and York, were held last weekend. The next is this Saturday in Manchester.

The school at YORK was sponsored by the Henry Boots building site committee. 'We all agreed the meeting was a big success' said a London delegate.

The school was centred on the building industry—with delegates from as far away as Lowestoft and Southampton.

The key discussion 'Dangers at work—how to fight them' was introduced by shop

steward Alistair McSween of London's Lower Thames Lawrence site who told how a string of accidents had made the shop stewards committee start fighting on safety.

Now the stewards have insisted that every phase is completed to the safety stewards satisfaction. And the result? A safety conscious management—for a simple reason. No work starts until the stewards have checked for safety, and men waiting for proper scaffolding costs more money to the bosses than their skimping ways could have saved them.

Alistair's point was emphasised by London and Teesside stewards. An Electrician and Plumbers Trade Union steward explained how the workers had wanted a new system of support for the site.

'We refused to work till management

had designed and built them. It was costing £400 a hour for us to stand idle. The next day a designer was at work making plans for the new supports. Direct action made that site safe.'

And Eric Golding from the Boots occupation in York explained with photos and diagrams how they were using direct action to do the same. 'All the experts hired by management claimed there wasn't any real danger. The chairman himself is on the regional safety committee. But the building workers knew different.'

'We've now proved that the building is in imminent danger of collapse. By direct action, relying on rank and file trade unionists the occupation brought to light an avalanche of evidence which proves conclusively what the workers themselves have been saying all along.'

The school's success has led to moves to set up a Yorkshire health and safety committee.

York chairman Jeff Shaw, the convenor of Taylor Woodrow's Bradford Site, summed it up: 'We have to build these committees to protect our own safety and show other workers that we no longer have to accept injury as part of the job.'

In a fortnight his site is adding to that campaign. They too are sponsoring a safety school.

ASBESTOS: THE DUST THAT KILLS IN THE NAME OF PROFIT. Originally a series of articles in Socialist Worker, Laurie Flynn's pamphlet is vital for any worker in contact with asbestos—and remember that could mean the roof over your head or the insulation inside the wall beside you. 18p including postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

ADVERTISEMENT

Health and

at Work

Day schools arranged by the Rank and File Organising Committee and sponsored by local shop stewards' committees and union branches:

MANCHESTER 5 July

AUEW Building, The Crescent, Salford, 10.30am to 5.30pm, Saturday 5 July.

Contact: Gerry Davidson, 75 Lylac Court, Salford 6. Phone 061-737 7828.

Discussions are also taking place on holding day schools in Hull, Teesside, Liverpool, Coventry, Ipswich, Glasgow, Newcastle and Bradford. Dates will be announced as soon as possible.

Why not raise it at your next meeting and contact the Rank and File Organising Committee for a school in your area?

The safety pamphlet *Cause For Concern* is now being reprinted so further supplies can now be ordered from the new address:

Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16 8BY. Phone 01-249 1207.

A CAUSE FOR CONCERN



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 remedies.

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

by Bernie Wilcox (TASS)

including office blocks, multi-storey flats and public buildings—with this defective flooring.

What has been done to identify these buildings or prevent the future use of woodwool flooring? According to the New Civil Engineer: 'A dense smokescreen has been laid down by the parties involved which threatens to hide the potential dangers... Engineers for the two known buildings are silent and appear to be bound and gagged by financial ties.'

A report commissioned by the manu-

facturers will not be made public for some time. There is to be no independent inquiry. It is unlikely that the report will help identify buildings now at risk.

The lives of thousands of office-workers don't really come into this—they only complicate matters! They are trivial to the barons of big business when compared to the millions of pounds they would have to fork out to get the buildings in a safe condition.

So just think of it: You don't have to be a Bloody Sunday martyr to be a victim of capitalism, you don't even have to live in a Salford slum. All you have to do is put on your blue suit and tie and go down to your nice, spacious office and a woodwool floor.

Swansea: 400 strike over victimisation

SWANSEA:—In a determined effort to destroy union organisation at Morriston Hospital, management are trying to victimise the NUPE convenor, Ken Price.

He is accused of not providing sick notes on time and of working unauthorised overtime. But these flimsy charges are not what is really in management's minds.

The hospital is the best organised in the area, and NUPE members there have played a leading part in the campaign to defend the National Health Service from cutbacks.

Earlier this year, NUPE members were locked out after refusing to serve a wealthy private patient, but management intimidation failed and the patient had to be removed in a hurry. The union has now been told that another patient is to go next September. Management clearly intends to smash the union before then to allow the private patient in.

Decide

The response of the 400 NUPE members has been tremendous. There was an immediate walk-out of all ancillary workers at work on Wednesday and a mass meeting held in a field next to the hospital on Thursday decided on an indefinite strike until disciplinary action was withdrawn.

'If we let them get away with this,' said NUPE shop steward Jean Thomas, 'we can kiss goodbye to our union.' Strike action will spread to nearby Neath on Monday. Members there have already met and voted support. Other hospital workers are meeting early in the week to decide on support.

HACKNEY HOSPITAL WORKERS WIN

by John Clark, NUPE shop steward, Queen Elizabeth Hospital
HACKNEY: Porters and telephonists at Queen Elizabeth Hospital have done themselves proud. By going on indefinite strike, they have broken through 18 months of stalling and obstruction by management.

This time last year, a meeting between NUPE and the Board of Governors, whose chairman is Audrey Callaghan, wife of the Foreign Secretary, agreed that 'things would improve soon'.

Nothing happened. NUPE's demands—recognition and the setting up of proper negotiating procedure—were ignored.

Other grievances, foul linen allowance, certain upgradings with backdating and the provision of a union office, have also been outstanding for more than a year.

Then, after the latest physical assault on one of our members on the switchboard, we demanded its immediate removal to a safer area of the hospital and an extra man on nights.

On Saturday, we were told there would be no negotiations until we returned to work. But our strike was so solid that, by Monday, management had conceded most of what we wanted. We still refused to go back. An emergency meeting then had to be called to consider our other demands.

The strike shows two things: keep management running until they deliver the goods, and keep in constant contact with your members. They took the initiative and because we were all solid we won.



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Dagenham: Ford's turn the screws

DAGENHAM:—'We don't have a steward on this section, we don't believe in them,' a foreman at Ford's told a shop steward being transferred to another section. The steward had been put on the section just two days before as part of management's clampdown.

After being laid off for eight weeks, workers are now finding the company are doing everything to increase the workload. One complained of having to 'run all day to keep up with the line', another said he never had the chance to talk to

his mate on the same section. Older men given jobs off the line are now back on it—and sweating. Everyone is complaining.

200 men have been transferred from one shift to another. 150 trim line workers refused to start work on Monday night because they were 'being treated like cattle'.

Some stewards have had their sections shut down, others have been moved to the opposite shift. Other stewards have had their jobs 'rationalised' and been put in the labour pool.

As soon as we went on the three-day

week in March, they began to introduce speed-up, knowing we would be less likely to resist. Then they provoked the door-hangers' dispute and, after an eight-week strike, forced them to accept the loss of ten jobs.

Production has been cut back by 30 per cent. 2000 men have left the Body plant and the PTA since the start of the year without being replaced. Hundreds of others will leave as a result of the latest increase in pressure.

The company may then be in a position to end the night shift, put everyone on days and cut average earnings

by £7 a week. As one man said: 'We're sweating for nothing.'

To meet these threats, we need to elect stewards who will keep their sections informed of events, hold regular meetings, stand up for our interests and lead the fight for better pay and conditions.

The company has now launched a savage drive to boost productivity, cut the labour force and erode conditions. Nominations for new shop stewards take place this week. Those elected must be prepared to take up the arrogant challenge of the Ford Motor Company.

LUCAS: FIGHT BOSSES' DIVIDE AND RULE BID

BIRMINGHAM:—Lucas Industries recently announced upwards of 2500 redundancies in the electrical side of the company, offering attractive sums to those who volunteered to go.

The joint staff union decided on total resistance. They made it clear to management that no union members would accept flexibility or mobility and would not cover for jobs made vacant. The deadline for voluntary redundancies has already passed and it is likely that management will now try to force redundancies to achieve the required cutbacks.

In preparation for this, staff unions have issued a statement to members repeating their policy—against flexibility, mobility and enforced redundancies.

But the manual unions at the Great King Street Lucas plant have failed totally to put up a fight. The manual union's

By Bernadette Montgomery, APEX, Lucas, Birmingham, and Roger Griffiths, AUEW steward, Lucas BW3 Shaftmoor Lane

leadership are often isolated on the shop floor, many are more concerned about Lucas profitability than their members' job security and in the main they want a peaceful life. Many manual workers have put in for voluntary redundancy. There is little or no resistance to the movement of machinery, job re-allocation and speed-up on the lines.

FORM

But in the BW3 Shaftmoor Lane plant there has been strong resistance from the well-organised and militant leadership. The joint shop stewards' committee passed a resolution against any form of redundancy,

stating that anyone taking voluntary redundancy would be blacked from working at any Lucas factory.

They also spelt out a policy of no mobility or flexibility. A leaflet stating this policy and the reasons for it was circulated on the shop floor and several mass meetings took place.

Despite this solid action, stewards on the night shift have failed to implement the policy and some have volunteered for redundancy themselves. Combined with the management's threat of a reduction in the amount of severance pay for enforced redundancy, this has prevented any real chance of a fight by the night shift.

The company announced their redun-

dancies at the time when the annual wage claim was due for negotiation. Despite roaring inflation and Lucas' £13½ million in the first half of this year, the offer was insulting. Management again adopted the old strategy of divide and rule by offering most manual workers a rise of £5.10 from 1 July, with £2.50 from 1 January 1976. But the skilled section were offered £6.25 now and £3 in January 1976.

SHIFT

The Senior Stewards Committee, which covers all Lucas factories in Birmingham, turned down the offer on behalf of the direct workers. They argued correctly that there should be no differential increase. But they are not prepared to fight for this or for the full claim of £15. They have successfully stifled a demand by the BW3 day shift joint shop stewards' committee for a meeting of all shop stewards in the group to discuss the claim and ways of fighting for it.

The only way for workers at Lucas to maintain their living standards is for all sections, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled, to fight for

No differential

The full £15 now

No time limit to the agreement.

There have been moves over the last 12 months to build an electrical combine organisation. It is still in its infancy. To prevent the fragmentation of struggle where management are able to play off some section against the other, the Lucas workers need to build a strong, united combine organisation.

CHRYSLER HILLS BACK DOWN

COVENTRY:—Workers at Chrysler Hills Precision Plastics plant returned to work last week with a victory under their belts. The company conceded a lump sum payment of £70 which, although they claim it was not for payment for days lost during the Stoke strike, is clearly a major climbdown.

Jim Sweeney, TGWU convenor, told Socialist Worker: 'It's just a bluff by the company. They didn't want to publicly concede our demands, but we've won this one. The talk of the money being for 'future co-operation' is phoney. We've promised nothing and we've signed nothing.'

THOMPSON AND CAPPER STRIKE VICTORY

by Gerry Dean, convenor Thompson and Capper, Speke, Liverpool.

THE flying pickets from the T&C strike committee have won our strike. Previously it was threats of sacking and factory closure from the bosses.

The strike began over our demand for a £4 interim payment until the August yearly settlement. Management told us this claim 'would be looked at sympathetically' if we lifted the overtime ban and withdrew the threat of strike action.

We did—and the company stripped the warehouse, and threatened sackings and closure if we went on strike.

A mass meeting voted unanimously to strike. With the closure threat we asked for assistance from the Speke Trade Union Committee. This came from two demonstrations and financial support which was greatly needed as well as sound advice on the tactics to be used to help us win the strike.

After four weeks the company began talks and offered 23 per cent in August. We said we wanted it now. The company withdrew the offer, and closed the factory on a temporary basis. After the following mass meeting we sent a flying picket to London to the main offices, and warehouses, of Sanitas Limited, which, like our factory, is a subsidiary of the notorious London Rubber Company.

We put in leaflets and asked for support. The workers promised to black our products.

Two days later Thompson and Capper called us in and said 'let's talk'. They offered the money on 9 July and asked for the demonstration called for the following Friday to be cancelled. We agreed to the 23 per cent minimum across the board and to further talks when we returned to work.

And the demonstration? It was still on. We turned it into a victory demonstration instead.

We learnt many valuable lessons from this strike, about the need for committees like the Speke committee to unite all workers in the localities, and that the flying picket can be a real winner in a strike. And we've now got links with other workers in the London Rubber combine which we would not have without this strike.

Triumph: £6.50 deal a disaster

COVENTRY: Triumph workers voted last week to accept an offer of £6.50. The offer, recommended by Transport and General Workers Union convenor Eddie McGarry, was only 50p better than that we had rejected the week before.

It included a £50 lump sum to buy out all bonuses and the loss of eight days lay-off entitlement a quarter. Worst of all, the company is only committed to a pay 'review' in nine months, while the deal is to last 18 months to two years.

This disaster is the result of the shop stewards' refusal to prepare for the strike from 30 June, which they had recommended. Having allowed the company two weeks in which to move cars out of the plant, no plans were made for flying pickets to the stockpiles and main dealers.

McGarry, co-chairman of the British Leyland Combine committee, argued that with the economy and British Leyland in their present state, this was the best that could be obtained, although less powerful groups had done better. Faced with this, many workers were angry with the stewards' inactivity, but lacked the confidence to organise the strike independently of McGarry.

Jim Griffin, the AUEW convenor who is standing for divisional organiser in the union elections, has been making militant sounding statements. But he gave no practical lead. Rover stewards have said the Triumph decision was influential in Rover settling for a similar figure.

Triumph workers—and Leyland workers generally—must start to rebuild shop-floor organisation and build a combine committee which does more than boost McGarry's ambitions if they are to avoid further defeats in the future.

Classified

PUBLIC MEETING: The crisis in the print and the fight for the right to work. Friday 11 July, 6.30pm, St Bride's Institute, Bride Lane, (London EC1). Speakers: Bill Freeman (NATSOPA, The Observer); a speaker from Sharmans, Peterborough. Chris Wright (vice-president, London SLADE). Organised by the Media Industries Redundancy Committee.

N Sithole, president of ZANU, speaks about Zimbabwean national liberation. Thursday 17 July, 7.30pm, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1. Advance tickets 20p, from Zimbabwe Solidarity Committee, 31 Braydon Road, London N15.

ALL NATIONS Workers' Committee Conference for launching campaign for repeal of 1971 Immigration Act. Friday 4 July, 7.30pm, at the London University College Students Union, Malet Street, London WC1.

HAMMERSMITH HOSPITAL picket: 2 July, 4pm-7pm. To protest against the anti-abortion policy of the hospital. Organised by Hammersmith Hospital Joint Shop Stewards Committee and West London NAC.

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

SOCIALIST RESEARCHER investigating problems of redundancy struggle would like to hear from anyone who has been involved in an industrial work-in or sit-in. A Mills, 5 New Road, Oakenshaw, Crook, Co Durham.

Open Conference for Socialist Teachers. Saturday 12 July, 11am-6pm, NUFTO Hall, Jockeys Fields, off Theobalds Road, London WC1. Discussion around the central issues facing teachers—salaries, education cuts, social contract, equality of women, teachers and the labour movement. Tickets 50p, Bernard Reagan, 24 St Agnus Close, London E9.

ROOM desperately needed in SE London for IS member. Contact Ralph 29-25186.

PORTUGAL—A Blaze of Freedom. New Big Flame pamphlet. Direct reports from workers, soldiers, housewives and others directly involved in the struggle. From all good bookshops, or 20p plus 10p postage from Big Flame Publications, 32 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham 29.

Public Meeting organised by Medical Committee against Private Practice. Socialist Health Service—pie in the sky or the only solution? The Russian and Chinese health services. Thursday 10 July, 7.30pm, Duke of York, York Way, London N1.

HOUSE available from July, for IS comrades. Fairly low rent. Good job prospects in the area. Write C Porsz, 5 Ledbury Road, Peterborough.

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT and BWNIC picket for Alix Otten during her trial in Manchester under the incitement to Disaffection Act. Picket starting at 9.45am 7 July, Crown Square, Manchester. All support from Socialist Worker readers is welcome. Financial aid to 186 Hamilton Road, Manchester 13.

We don't betray our mates

MANCHESTER:—'We're good, simple trade unionists and we do not under any circumstances betray our mates, would you?' So says the appeal sheet from the 20 Woodall Duckhams construction workers at Partington Gas Works.

The 20 are members of the Boilermakers, Construction Engineers, Electricians and Plumbers, and Heating and Domestic Engineers unions. After a five week strike they won a wage rise, negotiating rights, and returned to work.

Then the bosses hit back, firing welder Peter Singh. The three other welders downed tools, the riggers and pipe-fitters levied £5 per week in support. The bosses fired the lot—with two hours' notice. So now they're all in the same boat—and all fighting.

Support is mounting with Shell Covington stewards calling a meeting for this Friday and planning a mass picket if scabs are brought in. Not everybody is so enthusiastic, as a pipe fitter pointed out.

The day before we were sacked Ron Howe the H and D area official accused Cyril Lea (H and D steward) and myself of being the "instigators". He threatened if we didn't pressurise the boilermakers back to work then when the firm sacked us—he obviously knew it in advance—then he'd bring in a "local team".

'Since then he's been spreading gossip around the branches and discouraging support.'

The 20 come from all over the country—they have to keep two homes in a notoriously insecure industry. 'Every job is a fresh battle to get organised, push up the bonus, and screw what we can,' explained an EETPU member.

'The officials are out of touch with our working conditions,' argued striker Larry Hurst. 'They should be elected every year, and forced to work with us on the tools for three months every year. They're so out of touch they couldn't pass a driving test—let alone a trade test!'

Peter Singh agreed. 'I saw a copy of "Engineers Charter" in the Manchester International Socialist Bookshop, and that had a good idea for controlling officials—that they should get the average wage of the members they represent. You can bet your life they'd fight harder for our, and their wages. They'd be the raving militants then!'

After last week's Socialist Worker coverage some of the strikers sold 62 SWs at the site—and some have joined the International Socialists. 'They're the first organisation I've come across since travelling that relates to the rank and file,' said one EETPU member. 'SW is an eye opener that everyone should read.'

The 20 can win, but they need your support, send donations, collections, levies to Woodall Duckham Strike Fund, Midland Bank, Urmston, Manchester. Messages of support to Woodall Duckham Strike Committee, 11 Lime Ave, Urmston, Manchester.

RECOGNISE OUR UNION!

SLOUGH:—At Burtons Biscuits, the boss declared a 'closed shop' the personnel officer obligingly recruits workers into the union. But the workers aren't too enthusiastic about it. They see it as a cosy deal between the Bakers' Union and management, with new workers being forced to join if they want the job.

Only 17 of the 500 workers are in the Bakers' Union. Yet union official Bob Land, has negotiated a wage rise for all 500. And what does he have to offer? £2.40, or an 8 per cent rise!

'We are furious' said shop steward Rosina Nicholls. 'We want £12.50 for all workers, men and women. And we want management to recognise our union—the Transport and General. We walked out last week, but we'll do much more next time.'

But TGWU official, Hinckley, hasn't pleased the workers either. 'For four months he's been negotiating. "Leave it to me, lads", he says, drives up for a slap-up lunch with the boss, and comes back empty-handed', is how one worker described it.

Now the workers have decided not to leave anything up to anyone else. They've set up their own negotiating committee with two shop stewards from the factory and four each from the four depots.

Last week the committee called a successful one day stoppage. Rosina Nicholls was very enthusiastic about the kind of support they got from the Asian women workers.

'They gave 100 per cent support and joined the union there and then. It was fantastic. We used to be quite prejudiced, in this factory but you won't get any of that now.'

Welsh iron men deserted

WEST WALES: The battle of Engineering union members for an £8 rise has come to a halt. The AUEW's fight was part of the battle for the Welsh Iron founders agreement for rises which would mean more cash for all grades and seven unions in 50 plants.

The heat came out of the dispute at a meeting between the West Wales Allied Trades Committee and management on Thursday last week. The full-timer dominated WWATC agreed to a pay deal which leaves the bulk of money in the bosses hands until October. That means three months for inflation to rip through the worker's wage packets.

The settlement is for 10p an hour back-dated from April, 7p an hour from July and 3p in October. It has left workers furious at their leaders' turn-around.

One side were happy with the deal—the bosses, as AUEW convenor Clive Tribble of Signode explained. 'They are laughing all over their faces. They can't believe their luck that our side didn't stand firm for the whole claim to be paid retrospectively from April.'

Only a minority of union full-timers abided by rank and file mandates. 'They've gone back on everything', said Ray Jones, AUEW convenor at Louis Marx. 'The instruction not to settle below the claim, the democratic decisions of the Swansea AUEW quarterly meeting, the AUEW district committee, and demands from at least four AUEW branches that any settlement be referred back to the rank and file for a final decision. It's a complete sell-out.'

Behind the sell-out is a picture of scattered action—but a fatal lack of co-ordination. Why? Because of the tactics of union full-timers which meant plant by plant battles and general guidance not to settle for less than £8.

The results were that three plants held short occupations, and nine have taken

strike action. At Tom Smith and Clarke in SWANSEA the strike lasted for four weeks, at others the action was for a couple of days, while some settled for work sanctions.

Jim Lilley of the Tom Smith and Clarke AUEW shop stewards' committee underlined the fatal flaw. 'If there was more unity and all the plants had taken direct action like us we could have finished off the fight in a fortnight.'

Wage

It wasn't just a question of scattered action—the reaction of full-timers to the workers' battles was also crucial. 'It's been bloody ridiculous what they've done', said Swansea's Unit Superheaters AUEW shop steward Dai Lewis.

'One minute they were telling you to go out on your own then they were telling you to get back. It's hard to believe it's us that pays their wages.'

The workers have been confronted by officials who've repeatedly hammered efforts to get the rank and file's muscles

behind the claim. That's meant the officials have been referring disputes to arbitration—and not telling the strikers, telling strikers to go back, and, to cap it all, resurrecting the dying Welsh Engineers and Founders Conciliation Board.

The battle hasn't all been defeat. True, some badly organised plants are now so demoralised as to be eager to settle, but the majority of men are bitter—and angry.

It is a bitterness directed as much against union officials as against the bosses, as Jim Lilley pointed out. 'We've got enough to do fighting the management, never mind the unions.'

How the anger is going to channel itself is vital. That's why the unofficial shop stewards meetings which have taken place are so important. More than 30 stewards, from 15 plants have attended them, and the latest, on Tuesday discussed the settlement.

They've been the real bonus from the battle. If they can be cemented then it spells out a real fight for future claims—and a guarantee that full-timers learn not to underestimate the rank and file...

IN BRIEF

BRISTOL STUDENT RENT STRIKERS

UNIVERSITY vice chancellor Alec Morrison has threatened rent strikers with court action here. Some paid, but others have vetoed Student union plans to compromise, or scrap strike action.

CORNISH WHITE COLLARS BLACK LEG

'YOU can stay out until December and I won't talk to you,' said Cornish Signs Manufacturing boss to shop-floor strikers demanding union recognition.

The strikers' spirits are high—and pathetic attempts at skilled sheet metal work by white collar blacklegs are cheering them up. But they desperately need support.

Send money and messages to Jim Shackell, Foye, Old Road, Liskeard, Cornwall.

LEICESTER—WHITE COLLAR SOLIDARITY!

WHITE-collar ASTMS members at Elliot Automation staged a one hour solidarity stoppage last week for GEC telephone installation engineers. They've been striking for 13 weeks for parity with the Post Office Engineering Union members. GEC have refused arbitration.

BOOTS BUILDING WORKERS, YORK—BACK TO COURT...

HENRY BOOT building workers here were back in court last week, with bosses trying for a possession order. The case was adjourned for 'talks'. At these management appeared to accept reinstatement for the men sacked for joining the union—so the occupying strikers left the site, and returned last Monday to start work.

The bosses arrived at 2pm—said the building may have to be demolished, and that they 'didn't know' how many men they need for demolition work. So the workers are back on the picket line...

KENT OIL RIG BUILDERS

400 riggers at Strood's Steel Structures have rejected Labour MP Bob Bean's advice to lift the blacking of the steel on the site. Their move was sparked by the dole threat posed by the withdrawal by Phillips Petroleum of a Norwegian oil rig contract.

'We have got to keep hold of the steel until we have a written guarantee that all the men are going to be re-employed,' said a worker. The blacking is working—the Phillips bosses are meeting trade unionists this week.

ESSEX COURTAULDS WORKERS

IT'S the first strike by production workers at Courtaulds-owned Reads and Drums in Grays since 1963. The 117 Transport and General members' unofficial dispute was triggered by a bosses' 'no' to a wage claim, after lengthy negotiations.

BRADFORD ENGINEERING WORKERS' STRIKE, WEEK FOUR

THE 2000 striking workers at three



MANCHESTER:—Some of the 25 electricians sacked last week at T Clarke's Arndale Shopping Centre site. The firm had agreed that all job applicants should go through the union area office, to give the longest unemployed the first chance. Said shop steward Kevin Burke, 'There is high unemployment among sparks here. So when someone who was unemployed for only a week turned up, we told him to go to the area office.' He agreed—but Clarke's sacked the 25. 'No sparks will work here till we get our jobs back,' says Kevin. Messages and money to B Walsh, 87 Light Oak Road, Pendleton, Salford 6, Manchester. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report).

Renolds owned factories, Carter Gears, Holcroft Casting and Crofts—whose demand for 30 per cent rise triggered the battle—are getting organised. Stewards are meeting, and committees are covering social security claims, propaganda, and blacking—more of which is needed. These joint meetings are going to be one great bonus for the workers when the battle is over.

Money and messages of support to N Brook, 52 Acre Drive, Bradford 2.

LONDON TV WORKERS LOSE JOBS—AND GAIN PAY

400 jobs are to go out the window at Decca's, Battersea TV plant by December. According to the management, 'attempts will be made to re-employ workers' outside London. The staggered job-loss is seen as an attempt to head off militancy in the partly unionised factory, many of whose workers are Asian women.

But at BRITISH RELAY TV engineers and wiremen have won £4.50 a week following their strike six weeks ago for a London weighting allowance.

TEESSIDE ICI—BACK TO WORK

CRAFTSMEN at ICI's Wilton plant voted to return to work by 900 to 548, against the shop stewards' recommendations. They also voted to accept £12.50, plus a new threshold clause.

It was an unfortunate result—but the new unity of the tradesmen spells more trouble for ICI...

ESSEX OIL WORKERS SEAL OFF REFINERY

JUST 36 pickets, quality controllers and members of USDAW, have nearly totally sealed off the Shell Haven refinery at Corringham. The strike followed the bosses winking on a productivity deal at the beginning of May.

The 36 have had strong support,

through the inter-union liaison committee. The bosses have refused to go to arbitration. Why? Some suspect that they are trying to spin out the dispute to lay off men—and save money.

They need money—and support. Send it to P Harben, 173 Lonsdale Road, Southend.

STAFFORD GEC WORKERS

'OH we're only asking for a £10 rise They said try out £4.50 just for size, We said this time we'll pass, 'Cos it's just another farce and stick your extra 10p...

That's the song of the 2500 hourly paid workers from eight unions here who've been striking since 6 June for a £10 rise. 'We're saying that everybody is having the same rise,' said Engineering Union deputy senior steward Bill Hughes. 'This stand has gone down well and kept us together. Also the staff unions are giving us support with a levy on their members.'

It's the first strike for 14 years, and in the last four years the workforce has dropped from 11,500 to 5000. Other trade unionists are supporting it—and the bosses are worried.

EAST LONDON EQUAL PAY STRIKE

'IF we worked for pin money we wouldn't be on strike now' said a Hale steward here in Walthamstow. More than 100 women and some men are locked out in an equal pay dispute. The bosses have phased out male workers—and now say that there are no men to compare women's pay with!

The Engineering Union have made the strike official—and it's now 100 per cent. Send these women some support. Money to Mrs H Simmons, c/o AUEW District Committee, 260 Fore Street London N18

LONDON SPARKS 'PARTIAL VICTORY'

AFTER four days out Rashleigh Phipps electricians at Fleet Street's new Daily

Express site have won a partial victory in the fight to get the foreman and charge hand transferred.

The strike followed the electricians discovery that the two were thwarting an overtime ban. The foreman threatened the steward that he'd 'never work in electrical contracting again'. The strike was supported by 150 other building workers. The result? The bosses have brought in a senior foreman to supervise the two.

PETERBOROUGH PRINTERS

THE fight at Sharmans' Printers is getting bitter, with the 39 pickets, from the print unions the NGA and SLADE, seeing too much of the police on the line—and seeing ex-Labour mayor Roy Topley driving his car through. The strike began with a dispute over the introduction of new printing techniques.

Solidarity is building up—with journalists picketing the Peterborough Standard offices, and with a public meeting with International Socialist, and member of the NGA executive Ross Pritchard speaking with Dispute Committee and the Inter union committee speakers. Sharmans will go to any length to break the dispute, but the printers are determined to win.

SALFORD WORKERS BACK TO WORK

AFTER four weeks out 400 common craft workers at Ward and Goldstones returned to work last Monday. The majority of the joint shop stewards committee backed the return.

The return to work was neither a defeat nor a victory. In next week's Socialist Worker there will be a full analysis of the lessons of the first strike at Wards.



The man who sold the NALGO deal—General Secretary Geoffrey Drain. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

NALGO MEMBERS 'NO' TO STRIKE ACTION

DELEGATES from the government, officers' union NALGO have voted to accept a pay deal giving nine per cent (for the lowest paid) and 19.5 per cent (for the highest paid). They voted 874-152 against a strike referendum.

This setback followed leadership arguments that members would get nothing if they didn't settle before the feared pay freeze. So the old pay claim—for £10 plus 15 per cent was scrapped. 'We've got to halt the demoralisation that this settlement's going to cause,' said a NALGO militant, who called the settlement 'abysmal'.

Better news came from NORTH LONDON where NALGO members scotched plans to 'freeze' (ie lose) one of their jobs by threatening strike action. The bosses backed down within 24 hours.

Spain: Another 17 face trial

ANOTHER crucial political trial was due to start in Spain on Tuesday. This time R Pisado Lista and 16 other workers face charges of disturbing the peace, and illegal association—that is being members of independent working class organisations. The prosecution is asking for sentences totalling 117 years.

The 17 men are leaders of the Bazan shipyard workers who, in February 1972, launched a wages struggle in defiance of the law. In so doing, they sparked off one of the biggest and most memorable working class mobilisations against the fascist regime for years.

The struggle erupted in March 1972 after a lock-out was imposed and workers were expelled from the yard by the police. On 10 March 1972, the workers grouped outside the factory and, all of a sudden, the police opened fire on the assembly of 2000 workers killing two, Amador Rey Rodriguez and Daniel Niebla, and wounding 15 others.

Such was the outrage throughout El Ferrol, the massive industrial complex which surrounds the state-owned Bazan yard, that a general closure of factories markets and shops was imposed.

The army was then brought in to stop the fast-spreading movement. El Ferrol is Spanish dictator Franco's home town. The army had to mount a particularly heavy guard on the house where Franco was born.

The movement of solidarity with the workers of Bazan spread to involve workers throughout Spain.

After a ferocious counter-assault from the forces of the state, the workers of Bazan were forced back to work under military discipline.

The solidarity movement went into a down-turn and the fascist regime staggered through. Military discipline has been imposed on the Bazan workers ever since. Their leaders have been tortured and held in jail.

Now, more than three years after the police had brutally murdered two of their comrades, they are to be charged with disturbing the peace. It's exactly like charging the Shrewsbury Two with violence, when they were struggling against the most violent of industries.

The Spanish Solidarity Committee in Britain is organising a campaign against this and a whole series of other political trials in Spain, and against the massive repression in the Basque provinces of Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa.

In defence of the heroic Bazan workers, they are calling for a picket of the London Coliseum Theatre where the Spanish National Dance Company is running a season.

Picket this Saturday 5 July, Friday 18 July, the anniversary of the fascist uprising, and Saturday 26 July from 6.30-9.30pm.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Campaign for Solidarity with the Portuguese Working Class
PORTUGAL: THE STRUGGLE AT REPUBLICA

A delegate from the Republica workers committee speaks on Press Freedom in Portugal, Tuesday 8 July, 7pm, Large Hall, St Brides Institute, St Brides Lane, off Fleet Street, London.

Organised by the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER...

IF, LIKE the Shrewsbury Two, you picket an unsafe building site, you get hauled up in the High Court on conspiracy charges and put in jail for two to three years.

If, however, you own or control a company that operates an unsafe building site and your corner-cutting in the pursuit of profit kills a building worker, you most certainly won't feel the lash of the law. You'll only have to put up

with the minor inconvenience of a magistrates court appearance and pay a petty fine.

And that's official, as Marples Ridgway's court appearance in Portsmouth last week proves. What's more, you are free to kill and kill again—and all that will happen to you the second time around is that one of the company directors will have to pull out his cheque book and write a cheque for a slightly larger, but still very petty, fine.

Marples Ridgway suffered the inconvenience of a magistrates court appearance in Bracknell,

Berkshire in April 1973 after their Loddon Bridge collapsed during construction, killing three men.

Then they pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking the safety regulations, said they were sorry and that it wouldn't happen again and were fined the princely sum of £150 (£50 a life).

But Marples Ridgway, like every other contractor, have to compete. So they go on cutting corners to make and maximise profits. As a result, the standard of housekeeping on their sites, like thousands of other sites, is appalling.

The methods they use when they're building bridges, are like other contractors', the cheapest possible. And so it does, and did, happen again.

It happened to 19-year-old Martin Everett, who had his life brought to a tragic and premature end on Marples Tipnor Lake motorway project in Portsmouth in April.

As Marples men tried a tricky but doubtless cost-cutting method of positioning a second outside beam, the beam fell into the lake. Two of the three workers on the beam fell into the lake.

SAVED

A site official ran to the nearby rescue boat. Thanks to bad house-keeping he found that it was eight inches deep with water, that it had no front rowing seat and no oars. He paddled out with two pieces of timber.

Four workers dived in and saved one of their workmates. The other, Martin Everett, had disappeared. His body was found later by children.

In a hypocritical attempt to defend themselves, Marples have claimed that the reason for the missing oars and the apology for a rescue boat was 'vandalism'.

The site, defending counsel had the nerve to say, 'was near a council housing estate'. He ought to be sued for slander, except of course, that council house dwellers couldn't afford the lawsuit.

SACRIFICE

It's not of course vandalism for Marples Ridgway to provide no toe boards or guard rails on the Tipnor site as the law requires. It's not vandalism to 'avoid taking all practical precautions to prevent the concrete beam toppling', as Marples Ridgway admitted in court.

Nor is it vandalism, or murder, manslaughter or even grievous bodily harm, to kill in the pursuit of profit.

It's entirely acceptable in this system of society, just another part of the privilege of keeping Marples' directors and big shareholders in the circumstances which they, in common with others in their class, have become accustomed to enjoy.

FOOTNOTE: The jury at last Tuesday's inquest returned a verdict on Martin Everett of accidental death by drowning. They were out for four minutes...

Nottingham District Trades Council is calling a march to Nottingham Prison, where Des Warren is held, on Saturday 19 July. It will be preceded by a meeting in Old Market Square. All trade unionists and socialists who can should support this important demonstration which has been called not least because the TUC and the men's unions are doing absolutely nothing.



Workers at Tfms, Manchester at a meeting on Monday. Nearly 400 workers have been locked out after working day work in support of their 25 per cent wage claim. The local Boilermakers' union official told one of the stewards: 'You're aiming a bit too high' and tried to get the workers to return to work. Messages and donations to Jim Owen, 78 Oldwood Road, Newall Green, Wythenshawe, Manchester.

Journalists fight victimisation

By Graham Wilson, FoC, Stratford Express

E LONDON:—Journalists at the Stratford Express have entered their third week of strike action over the victimising of Aidan White, group FoC (shop steward) and chairman of East London branch of the National Union of Journalists.

This is the fifth major dispute the chapel has fought in eight months against the management of Purbrick and Vicary.

Journalists from all over London were involved in a picket last Tuesday night. Then, two days later, 100 police turned out to an NUJ picket of 30.

SOGAT drivers, distributing the paper, failed to support their NUJ colleagues and drove through the lines. NATSOPA nationally have given in to the weakness of their local chapel at Milton Keynes. The printers have not supported the dispute.

Management talks with the NUJ have ended in deadlock. Picket lines are planned for Tuesday evenings and early Thursday afternoons. Money should be sent to Stratford Express Contingency Club, 14 Beaconsfield Road, London N11.

EDITORIAL staff at Sterling Publications, London, have been locked out for four weeks. The dispute began when they were sacked ten minutes after finishing the book they were working on. Despite repeated promises of further employment, they were told their department was closing. They reported for work the next day but were physically ejected by the police.

Support and blacking has already been obtained from local branches of SOGAT, NGA, Slade, UPW, POEU, NUPE and TGWU. We would like to extend backing to the printers at Advertising Printing Works in Newport and to the parent company, Midland New Association and the Express and Star, Wolverhampton.

Individual pickets are welcome at 86-88 Edgware Road. Names of companies associated with Sterling Publications, messages of support and donations to Mike Lazenby, c/o Book Branch, NUJ, Acorn House, 314 Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

THE FUND

AFTER our appeal last week for people to remember our fighting fund, the money has come in much faster. We got £459.52 this week, which brings the total for June to £1421.72. That's still nearly £600 short of our target, and it can't all be put down to holidays and one bad week.

We must meet the target each month through the summer. It's vital to our survival. Why not follow the example shown in the letters here, and get some people around you to send in a regular donation?

Our thanks to: SW Readers Nelson £4.12; Aberdeen IS £7.05; Coventry Trade Union & Socialist Bookshop £2.50; Sale of set of Marx & Engels complete works in German donated to SW Fund £35; IS Books London £2.23; North London Hospital Workers £6.20; Manchester Conference delegates £3; a member £25; Oldham Dist IS £9.50; Newcastle IS £4; Swansea IS £4.25; Portsmouth Poly IS £3; Conference Social £4.50.

Exeter Revolutionary Socialist Society £15; Grays SW reader 50p; Hull IS £10; Morden SW reader £2; Chorley Lincs reader £2; Moston SW reader £1.77; Manchester Town Hall IS £5; Manchester students IS £6; Iranian Students £30; M K Electric IS £3; North London Immigrant Hosp Worker £5; SW Readers Nelson £2.44; Burnley IS £10; SW Reader Canterbury £5; SW reader Clapham £1; Reader £3; Anon £1.

Members & readers in Scotts Shipyard, Greenock £8.50; SW Supporters £8; Lowestoft SW Supporters £5; Dundee SW Supporters Ninewells Hospital £2.30; Leicester IS £11; W London Hospital Workers IS £14; East London Dist £73; Heinz members & supporters £10; Lowestoft £11; Wakefield £6; Wolverhampton supporter £1. Members' Special Levy: Aberdeen £1.95; Reading £10; Maidstone £3; Finsbury Park £3; RFTT Outer London member £50; Cardiff £23.31; Central London £5.40.

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

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