

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THROW OUT THE FREEZE!

IF you want to tell a lie, tell a big one. The words of Hitler's propaganda chief, Goebbels must have been running through the brain of Harold Wilson when he spoke to the miners' conference on Monday.

For he told the biggest lie of them all. He blamed workers for the present crisis of rising prices and rising unemployment. And he claimed that the wage cuts his government is enforcing can solve that crisis.

Harold Wilson knows that his words are lies.

He knows it because while in opposition, he himself used to point out that the present crisis began in the Tory profits boom of 1972 and 1973, when wages were controlled by law.

He also knows it because he himself introduced a wage freeze in 1966, claiming it would avoid unemployment. Instead unemployment nearly doubled.

Harold Wilson knows, and so does every member of his Cabinet, that wage controls mean less money to buy what is produced, and therefore *more* unemployment.

The trade union leaders also know this. But in the past week they have been trying to find their own scheme to hold down wages, in other words to cut living standards. Their difference with Wilson is that *they* want to be the policemen.

CUTS

Two weeks ago Transport Workers' leader Jack Jones said £10 a week rise all round would protect living standards. Suddenly it has become £6. The missing £4 might not mean a lot to Jack Jones but it does matter for the vast majority of members of his union and other trade unionists.

Jack Jones' £6 is supposed to cover 10 per cent of the wages bill. But prices have risen 25 per cent in the past year. So the £6 means a wage cut.

Not that wage cuts will stop inflation anyway. In West Germany, Japan and the United States real wages have been forced down in the past year. Now every economic expert is predicting more inflation if the economy picks up next year.

British workers are blamed for inflation. So are the workers in every other country. But in Chile, for example, inflation is running at 400 per cent a year. Real wages there have been cut by half in the past two years. Yet inflation is speeding up.

Far from being the cause of inflation, workers are the real victims.

ALERT

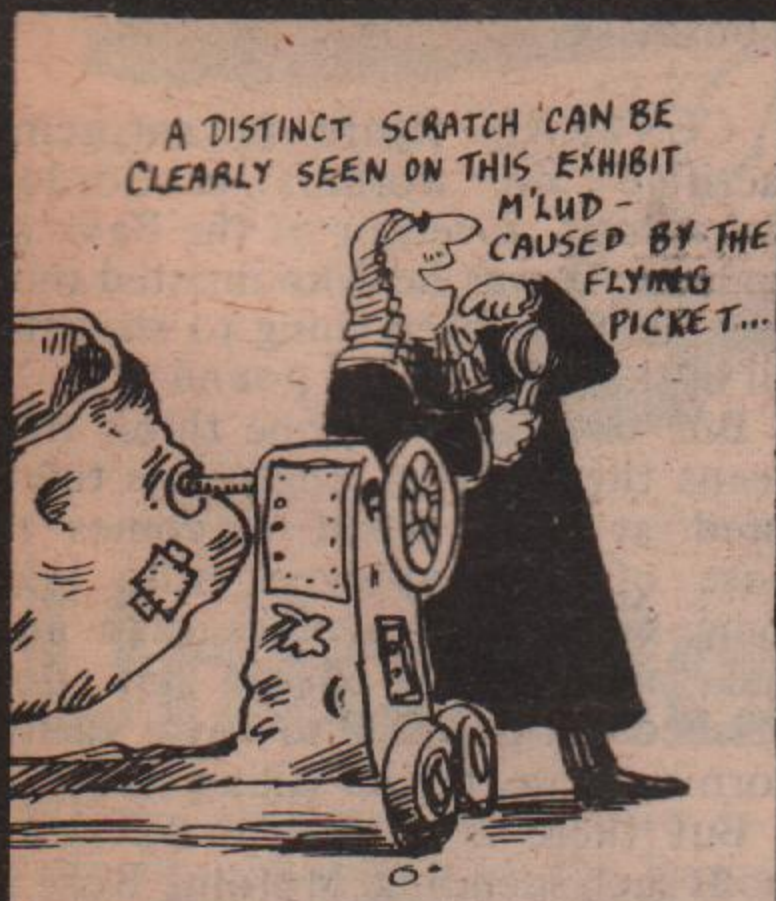
When Harold Wilson says inflation is threatening democracy what he means is that it is threatening the continuing of economic power in the hands of one per cent of the population. Because his government accepts this, it attacks the right of workers to defend their own standards of living. It knows no other response when the bankers sell sterling abroad, as they did last week.

The attempt to cut wages can be fought. But a massive campaign is necessary to alert trade unionists everywhere to what is happening. Jack Jones will not lead this. Nor when it comes to the crunch will Arthur Scargill—as was shown by the compromise at the NUM Conference on Tuesday.

Rank and file trade unionists, in every factory, office, mine and school will have to take the initiative.

It is vital that every trade unionist is prepared for what the government's plans will mean. More than ever it is vital to build a revolutionary socialist party linking every workplace, which can unite groups of workers in defence of living standards and fight for a complete destruction of the power of the employing class.

**Demonstrate
to free the
Shrewsbury
Two**

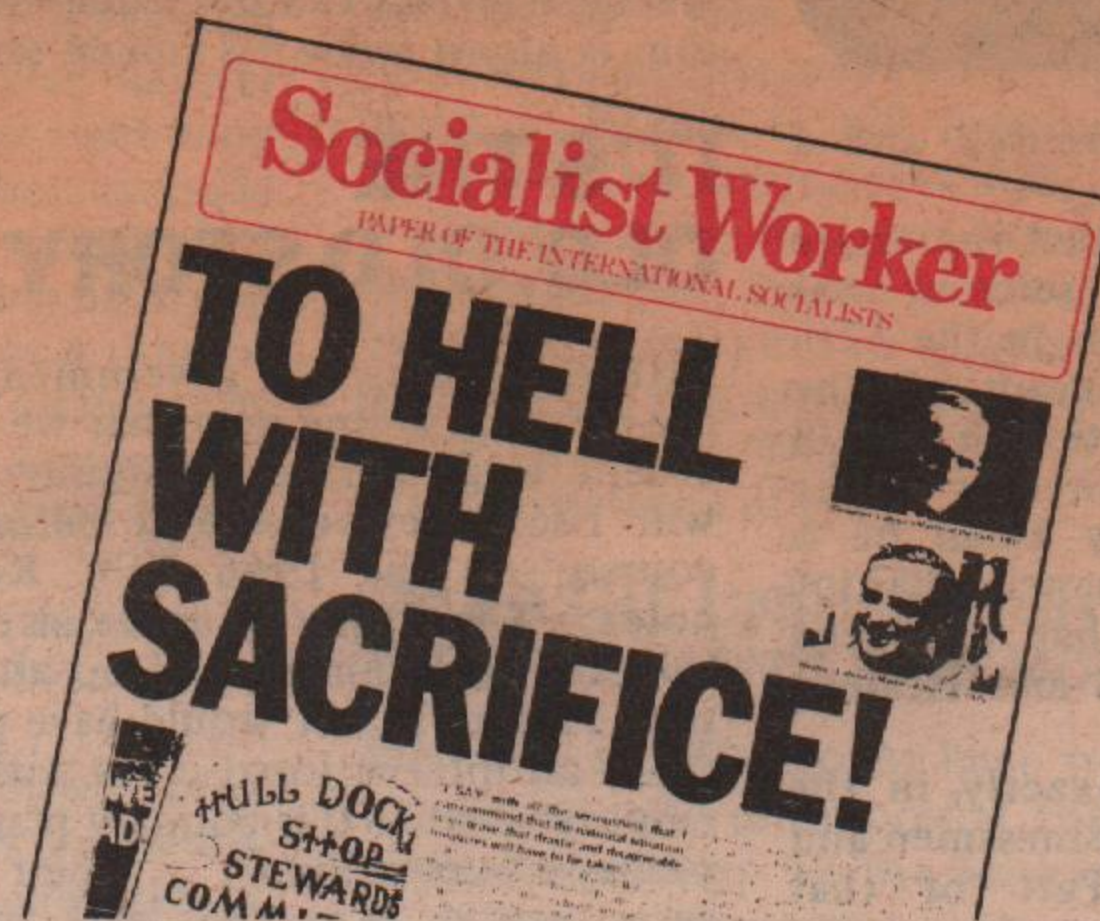


Demonstrate outside Nottingham Prison, where Des Warren is serving his three-year sentence for picketing.

**Saturday
19 July,
10.30am**

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

**INSIDE
this week's
special
issue**



The 'We're all in the same boat' Show **PAGE TWO**
Fight Wilson's Tory policies—**PAGE THREE**
The shop floor answer to Healey **PAGE FOUR**
The Socialist Alternative—**PAGE FIVE**
The conspiracy to sink the Pound **CENTRE PAGES**
Argentine workers fight their freeze **PAGE SEVEN**

Fight unemployment!

THE 'We're all in the same boat' SHOW



'It's all right, old bean. No need to rush back to the City yet. Joe Gormley's told those bothersome miners to think of the country, so our shares are still rising'

Some of our ruling class at Henley Regatta last week.



paid in foreign currency to protect it from inflation. Hill Samuel are, of course, well in the forefront of those asking us to make sacrifices 'for Britain'. No wonder The Economist could point out last week that: 'The wealthy would be untouched by a salary freeze, as they have been by most of the Labour Party's equalising zeal in the past 11 years.'

GARRARDS, the Crown jewellers, are offering a nice present for any company director who is bored after toiling long hours on the golf course. It is a solid gold putter with a built-in snuff box. The price is a mere £2000. Garrards do not expect a run on them from 'overpaid miners'.

'A DEVICE TO FOOL THE TUC'

DENIS HEALEY has claimed that the dividend freeze will compensate for his wage freeze. Tim Simon, chairman of the Association of Unit Trust Managers, takes a different view. He told the Daily Express last Thursday:

'The dividend restraint is purely a cosmetic device, drawn up to fool the public and placate certain ignorant members of the TUC.'

The reason for all this talk of sacrifice and generosity is not hard to seek. The dividend restraint is meaningless. If dividends were held to the Healey limit, it would still be possible to pay out more than companies paid out in dividends this year.

Dividends have gone down only marginally this year on the great boom of 1973, when companies paid out £2,421 million. In 1975, this dropped marginally to £2,295 million—still enough to pay all 250,000 miners about £10,000 a year bonus.

REWARD FOR 'SACRIFICE'

MR S Gray, a farmworker of Harcourt in Oxfordshire, recently had an accident at work according to the Journal of the agricultural workers union. While dehorning bullocks for his employer, Lord Harcourt, he suffered serious injury which forced him to give up his job.

Lord Harcourt have quick recognition to the physical sacrifices Gray had made on his behalf. His lordship took legal proceedings to evict him from his tied cottage.

Lord Harcourt is chairman of the British Commonwealth Insurance Company, the Legal and General Accident Assurance Society, the Gresham Fire and Accident Insurance Society and the Gresham Life Assurance Society. He is also managing

director of Morgan Grenfell and a director of Plessey.

His family have owned the estate at Stanton Harcourt since it was stolen off local peasants in the 12th century. As former head of the British Treasury delegation in the US and an ex-executive director of the International Monetary Fund he is clearly an expert on financial manipulations of the sort that produced the run on the pound and Healey's wage freeze plan.

In fact he is the exactly in the traditions of British businessmen and country gentlemen. Part of that tradition that when someone has made sacrifices for you, you kick them in the teeth.

NO COMMENT

IF you divide the total national income of Britain equally among the population, it works out that the average family of four should get about £100 a week. Even if you make a deduction for investment on new plant and equipment for industry—including spending on such useless things as Concorde or advertising—the average is nearly £90 each. (Source: National Income Blue Books, HMSO).

Who says the miners are asking for the moon?

What you get from 'voluntary' agreements

NOT only in Britain are workers being squeezed to pay for the bosses' crisis. In Ireland, where wages have been restricted by a National Wage Agreement for years, the coalition government has succeeded in persuading trade unions to accept a tightening of this voluntary agreement.

The present agreement was only two months old. It offered workers a minimum wage increase of 4 per cent every three months, with a maximum of 24 per cent in a year. Now the unions have agreed to drop the demand for a minimum quarterly rise of 4 per cent.

The government have demanded the changes in the agreement in return for a budget which, they claim, will hold down the prices of selected food items, transport, fuel and electricity. But these measures will not stop the upward surge in prices more than temporarily.

FRED HARRIS has just been forced to give up his job after 40 years, because of ill-health. With five years to go before retirement age, his prospects might seem harsh in Healey's Britain. But don't pass the hat round for him too quickly. For Fred Harris is MR Frederick Harris, former Tory MP and managing director of Marshall's Universal, a trading company. The grateful shareholders are giving him £40,000 as a retirement present.

As chairman and managing director he was paid £21,656 a year in this country and another £7390 overseas. Was this to avoid tax, we wonder? Clearly, he is well qualified to support demands for 'sacrifice', which means holding back wages to provide more loot for people like him.

Even Frederick Harris must feel a bit envious of Juan de Liedekerke, who recently resigned from merchant bank Hill Samuel after two years as vice-chairman. He's just been given £125,000 compensation for resigning. The sum is about twice his annual salary, much of which was

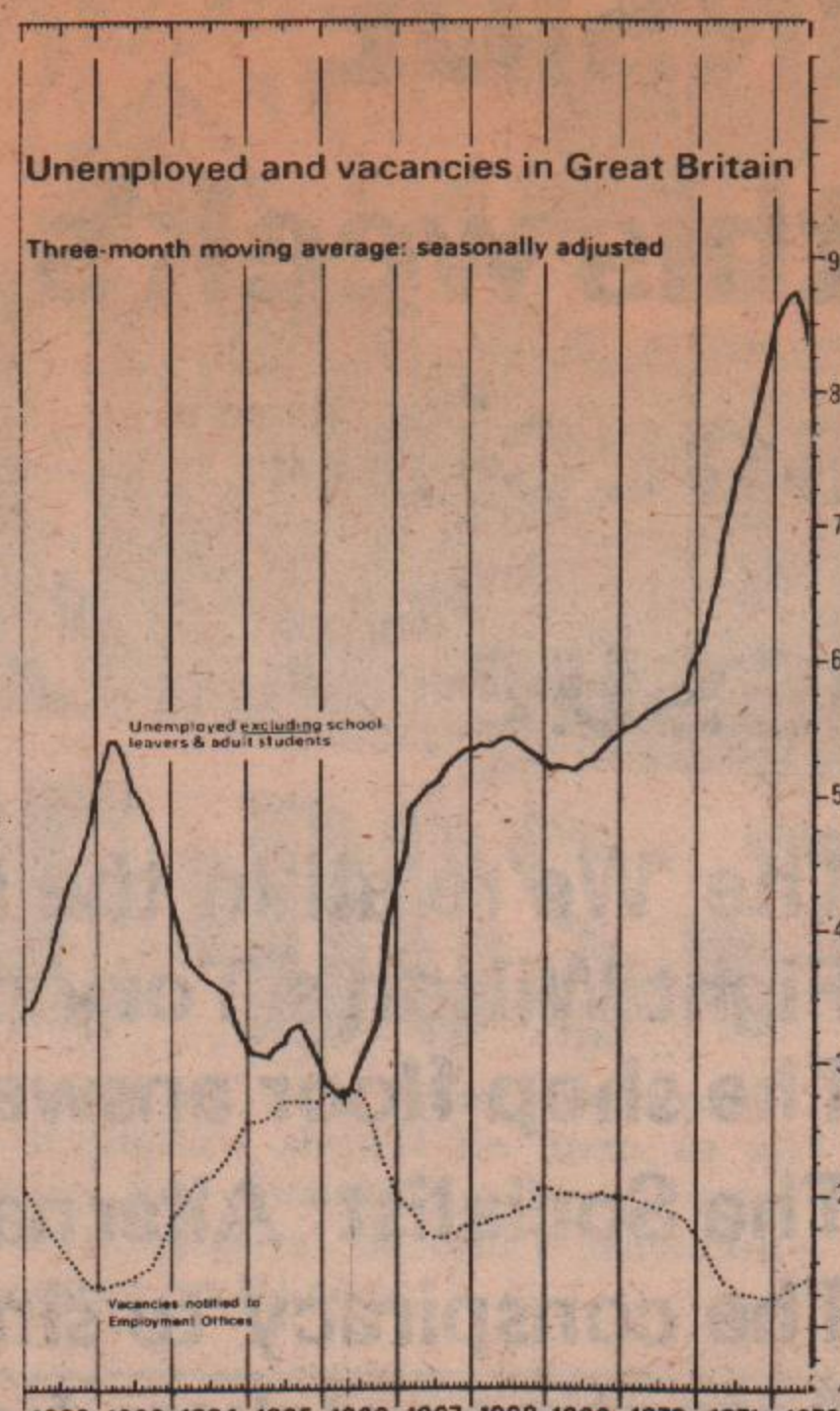
IT'S THE OLD, OLD STORY

THE employers, the government and the press are saying now that we must accept wage cuts or unemployment will rise. They've said it before of course. As the 1966 TUC Report notes: 'The Prime Minister stressed that the government had no alternative. Failure to act would have precipitated an international crisis with unemployment in this country reaching perhaps two million... Their measures would raise the level of unemployment in this country reaching perhaps two million... Their measures would raise the level of unemployment to about 450,000'.

Or as Vic Feather, then general secretary of the TUC put it: 'Who would gain, and who would lose if the government reversed its policies? You know who would be the losers. The odds are that we would get massive unemployment.'

As a result of this line of argument the trade union movement accepted wage restraint and cuts in living standards. And as the graph (right) shows the result was massive increases in unemployment.

Unemployment rose from just under 300,000 when Wilson's freeze



came in to nearly 600,000 in the winter of 1967. It has never been below that since.

The truth is that if you accept wage cuts to stave off more unemployment, you get wage cuts and more unemployment.

What is more, there is no compulsion on employers to pay the wage increases. While the unions can stop workers fighting for more, the agreement enables employers to claim 'inability to pay', which a growing number are doing.

In a press statement issued last week the Irish revolutionary organisation the Socialist Workers Movement said that negotiations to change the terms of the National Agreement would be held 'under duress' and should not be entered into. The SWM called on rank and file trade unionists to press for the chance to decide democratically on any new terms which might be produced and to throw them out. In similar circumstances in the past few years the union leaders have agreed measures of this sort with the bosses and then rammed them down the throats of a reluctant rank and file.

HAVE you read in the press about the financial plight of Eton college? If so you might not have noticed the fees which are being paid by the upper classes to educate their offspring—£1575 a year. Hospital workers and others who earn less than £30 a week should remember that the sacrifices the government and TUC are trying to force on them are designed to ensure that old English institutions such as Eton can remain in business.

A CENTRAL figure in enforcing 'sacrifice' on workers is Gordon Richardson, governor of the Bank of England. It was he who insisted on a freeze before intervening to stop the fall in the value of the pound.

But don't let anyone think that means the Bank of England is tight-fisted—at least when it comes to those of its employees who take home several times more than any coal miner. The Bank has just splashed out £10,000 to buy a yacht, Morning Rose, for its sailing club.

But there is nothing extravagant about such spending. Morning Rose is the sister ship to Edward Heath's first Morning Cloud. Since then he has moved on to £40,000 yachts

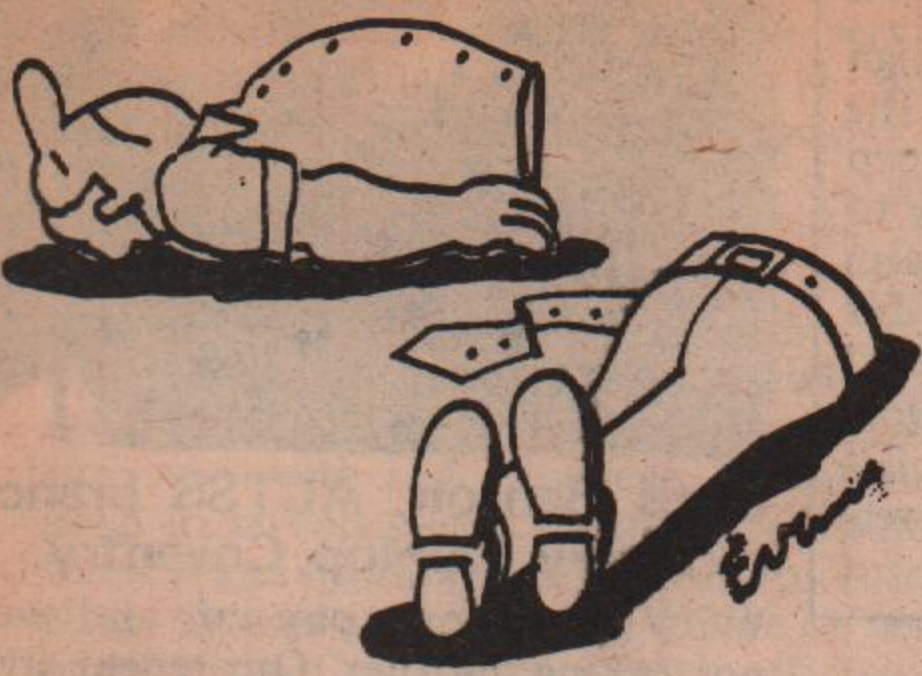
BIGGER profits will give firms the confidence to invest and so create more jobs. That myth, as beloved of politicians and the press as the myth that wages are to blame for inflation, was exposed last week by one of Britain's biggest firms.

GEC announced profits of £174 million, compared with just £49 million six years ago. In that time they have not only created no new jobs, they have put 60,000 men and women, one in every four of their workforce, on the dole...

'Britain is now a cheap labour country and fast becoming cheaper.'

—The Economist, 28 June 1975

THE MAN WHO THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP THE COUNTRY IF HE TIGHTENED HIS BELT...



How we must fight Wilson's Tory policies



'THE Macdonalds, the Snowdens, the Jimmy Thomases are lurking around. Their names don't need to be spelt out. Some of them, including a few in high places, are ready to stick the dagger into the heart of the Labour government.'

This is Jack Jones, speaking at the Transport and General Workers Union conference in support of the new 'Social Contract', in support of a policy of 'sacrifice' in the interests of a supposedly 'left-wing' government.

But it is not just the right-wing extremists in the Labour Party—'moderates' as the capitalist press and TV call them—who are now insisting on cuts in working-class living standards, conditions and welfare. So are Harold Wilson, Jim Callaghan and Denis Healey. So is the Labour government as a whole, including, so far, the 'left-wingers' in it. It is not the desertions of Jenkins, Prentice and Williams to the Tory Party—their natural home—that has produced the most right-wing government since the war. It is the stampede to the right by the whole Labour leadership.

The government policy of cutting back pay rises to a maximum 10 per cent at a time of 25 per cent inflation, a policy of vicious cuts in real take-home pay, is a more savage anti-working class policy than anything the Heath government dared to attempt.

Naturally its announcement produced a jump in share values by £2000 million in half a day.

Cut workers' real pay, drive down living standards, slash social services. That is now the programme of the Labour government—a programme of Tory policies, and more extreme Tory policies than we have seen since the war.

LESS REAL PAY EQUALS LESS JOBS

'ACCEPT cuts in your living standards or face mass unemployment,' say the Labour ministers, the capitalist press, the TV, the Tory

WHAT WE THINK
STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS CENTRAL COMMITTEE

and Liberal Parties and even some trade union leaders. A most impudent, lying and utterly false claim. Exactly the opposite is the case.

Lower real wages mean higher unemployment. The more successful the government's wage-cutting policies are, the more workers will lose their jobs.

The reason, the only reason, that unemployment in Britain is still lower than in most other Western countries is that, until recently, militant action has prevented wages from falling too far behind soaring prices. As a result, the market for goods produced by workers did not fall as quickly in Britain as in other countries. The defence of real wages is also the defence of jobs.

MAKE THE UNIONS FIGHT: BUILD THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT

WILSON and Co would have no chance, no chance at all, of imposing their right-wing capitalist policies on the working class if the trade union movement were geared up and organised to resist. The trade union movement destroyed the Industrial Relations Act and brought down the Heath government. It can smash through the anti-working class measures produced by this or any other government.

That is why it is false, as some people do, to pretend that we have to accept 'voluntary

restraint' as the only way to prevent a worse government being imposed on us.

But the trade union leaders are refusing to fight seriously. The long charade of talks with the government over 'voluntary' sacrifice—'Let us do the wage cutting for you'—proves that to the hilt, if proof were needed.

Jack Jones tries to scare workers with talk of a coalition government, as if the coalition would have policies different than those of the present Labour government. Indeed, the government, relying on Tory votes when necessary, is an informal coalition.

Yet the TUC, instead of mobilising its members against the government's demand for wage cutting, has been attempting to persuade them to accept voluntary wage cuts. If there is a wage freeze law, then the TUC may make verbal protests. But it will not, without tremendous pressure from below, go beyond words.

The indisputable need is to organise that pressure, to build the rank and file movement of resistance, not apart from, but inside the official movement. Above all, to build it on the shop floor, where wage cuts, redundancies and closures can be fought directly. The struggle against the right wing in the union machine, essential as it is, can only succeed to the extent to which it rests on a real shop-floor base.

A UNITED FIGHT BACK

THE present crisis calls for the broadest unity among all those who recognise the need to fight wage cuts, unemployment and welfare cuts. Irrespective of political differences, we pledge ourselves to fight alongside everyone in the working-class movement who will resist the capitalist offensive now being directed by the government.

There is an alternative to capitalist chaos, waste and attacks on those who actually produce the wealth—the workers. It is the alternative of the socialist planned economy. There are big differences on the left as to the means to achieve this. There can be no difference about the need to fight the Wilson-Callaghan-Healey measures.

A united front inside the working-class movement, bringing together Labour Party supporters, Communist Party supporters and revolutionary socialists can not only defeat the right-wing offensive. It can lay the basis, by unity in action, for the advance to socialism.

Union leaders' scandalous retreat

'WE are asking conference to declare its opposition to the freeze

The prime minister in his speech on Monday trailed some old bogeys that have been put forward by Conservative ministers and by industrialists each time we have tried to emancipate ourselves.

'Our responsibility is to maintain an income for our members

We are told that we should accept the freeze on a voluntary basis. What a queer kind of voluntary stuff it is. We are told by everybody that if we do not accept it on a voluntary basis in its entirety, we shall get it imposed on us. That is not my idea of voluntary.'

Whose words were these? Arthur Scargill's?

No. They were in fact spoken nine years ago by Frank Cousins, then leader of the Transport Workers Union. Cousins was regarded by the press as a good deal more 'moderate' than his up-and-

coming lieutenant, Jack Jones.

Yet this week it is Jack Jones who has been running about trying to whip up support for 'voluntary' acceptance of the government's freeze.

Jones has not been alone in reversing his principles. Len Murray for instance, told the TUC conference last September: 'The doom mongers who wail that living standards must be axed in order to put Britain back on its feet are profoundly mistaken.'

Claim

Now he has told reporters: 'There will need to be some reductions in living standards.'

Rank and file trade union activists have to protest, and protest loudly, at such betrayals by those who claim to lead the movement. But we also have to understand why they happen.

Len Murray gave the game

away in the speech we quote above. 'We want to work with management and with the government to deliver the goods and services, the exports—yes and the wages too.'

Deals

The assumption underlying the trade unionism of Murray, Jones and the rest is that you can improve workers conditions by collaborating with the employers within the present system. Indeed, even nine years ago, when Jones and Cousins were opposing a freeze, they saw the alternative as being through productivity deals with big business.

But today the employers will only consider collaboration on one condition—that union leaders join them in working out plans to save their system through cutting living standards. That is why, to fight consistently against the be-

trays of Jones, Murray and the others, you have to break completely with their approach to trade unionism.

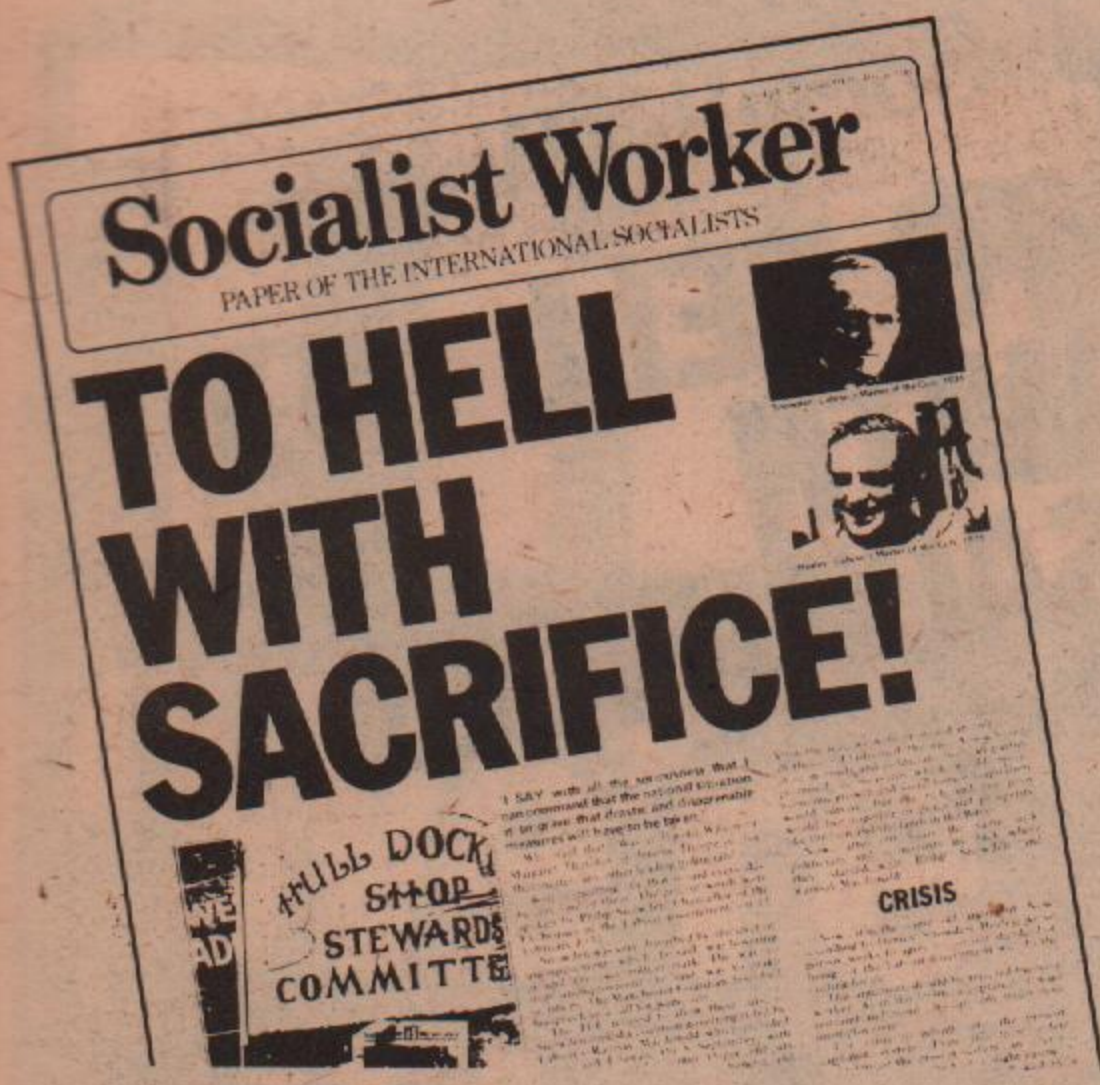
It is no good pretending that Jones' conversion to wage cutting is a personal aberration on his part, as do those in the Communist Party and in the Labour left who for years portrayed him as the great defender of workers' interests. Such thinking can only lead to a search for yet another saviour, who will make a few militant speeches before being forced by the development of the crisis to follow in Jones' steps.

The only way to defend workers' living standards at a time like the present is to go beyond trade unionism pure and simple, and see every wages struggle as part of the fight for the revolutionary rebuilding of society. That is the lesson that every worker needs to learn from the events of the past few days:



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THE SHOP FLOOR ANSWER TO

HEALEY'S 10%

The printable comments, that is...



Helen McAteer, COHSE shop steward, Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry:

I'VE never heard so much hypocrisy about 'sacrifice' as now. Wilson and Healey preach on about sacrifice for the good of the nation—but who's making all the sacrifices already? We are—and I don't just mean hospital workers. I mean all workers.

Take wages. They say that wages cause inflation, but you show me anyone who isn't just trying to keep up with inflation. A trained nurse, for example, takes home about £25 a week. By next April that'll only be worth £19. And Healey says he'll 'allow' us 10 per cent.

What is more we know that this government is prepared to sacrifice the health, education and welfare of working-class people, because of the cuts in public expenditure. It's that sort of thing, even more than wages, that get nurses really angry.

Take Walsgrave Hospital, the one I work in. It was one of the last 'prestige' hospitals built before the cut-backs began—but it still can't be used to its fullest.

It really is maddening when you see the number of young people on the dole queues, and at the same time see the amount of work that needs to be done.

TONY BARROW: convenor, Ford Leamington:
TO Healey I say: 'Bollocks!!' 10 per cent of nothing is still nothing.

We have an 18-month agreement in Fords which has to run till next October, and even the money promised in that is nonsense next to the rate of inflation. I gave notice at the combine committee over two months ago of my intention to move for an interim claim of £5 over and above the £3 we are due, and I won't see that cut to 10 per cent.

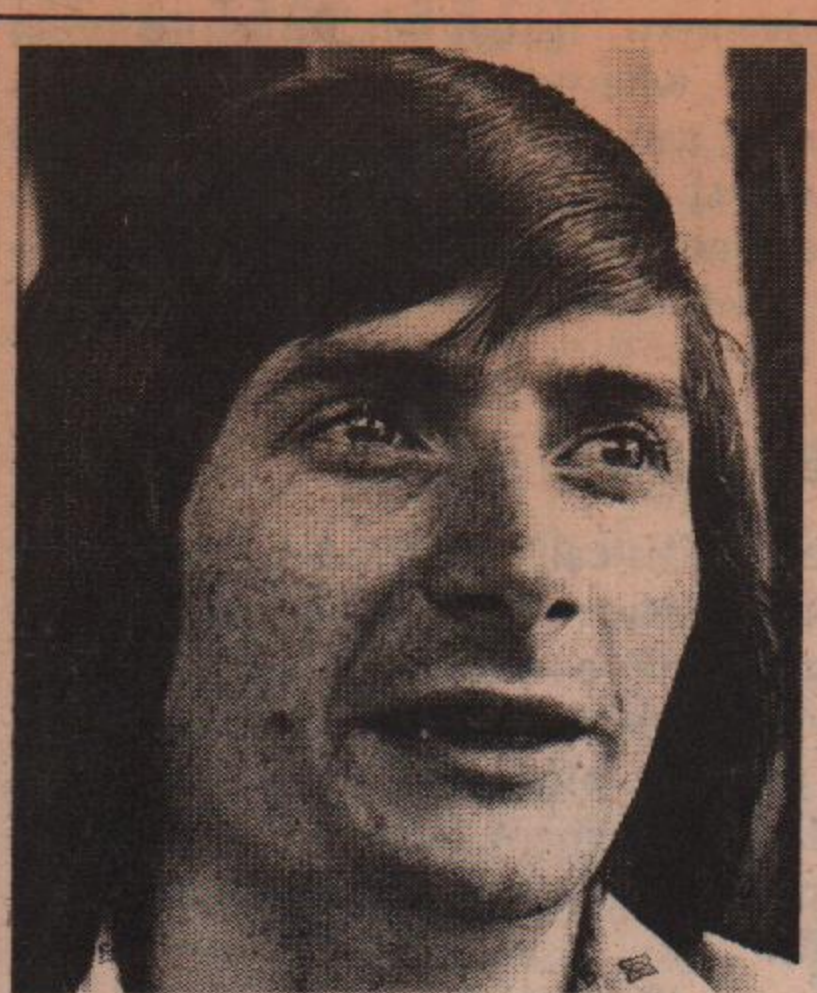
The sweet reason behind Healey's incomes policy is the same one that's behind them all. The idea is to let prices rise faster so that money is switched from wages to investment, and people like Henry Ford will be persuaded to invest to keep us in jobs and pay us lousy wages.

In fact what happens is that the buggers in the City and in the multinationals do exactly as they please. They invest in property or in anything else, or anywhere else, that brings a fast buck and jacks up profits.

That doesn't help pensioners or anybody else. All it does is makes sure that the rich on the top stay on the top. For the rest of us it means at least a 15 per cent cut in our living standards with prices, rents, and everything else rocketing on.

In the end the solution to the crisis is a political one which requires that this rotten system is replaced by a sane, socialist society, where our lives are under our own, democratic control. No amount of sacrifice to Healey and the bosses will achieve that.

Only a determined fight to maintain our living standards now, and an equally determined fight to build the revolutionary socialist party that can lead the fight, can solve the crisis for us.



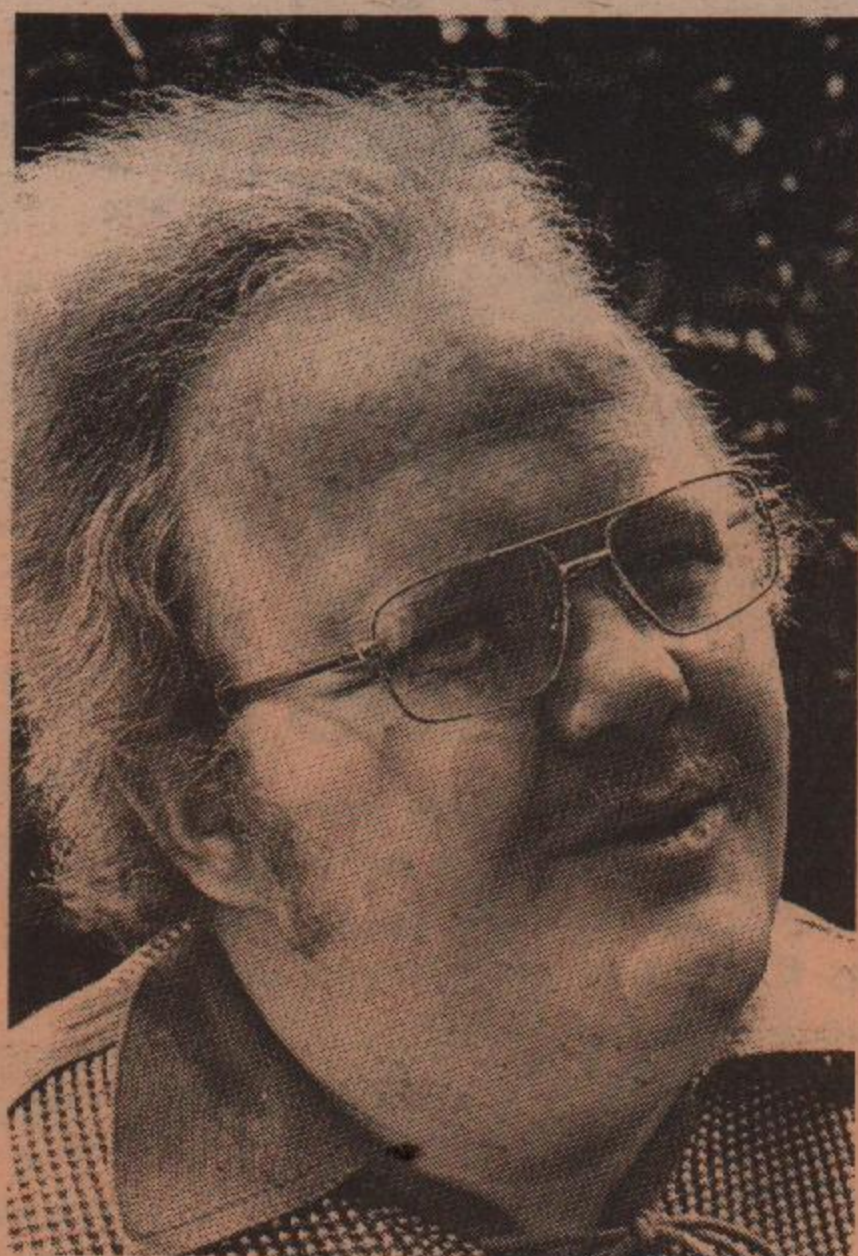
Jim Sweeney, TGWU convenor, Hills Precision (Chrysler subsidiary) Coventry.

THIS piece of wage legislation is being imposed just as the Tories' legislation was. It was us who suffered under that and it'll be us who'll be made to suffer if Healey gets away with it.

The Tories didn't act to curb the power of capitalists, and neither has this government. They can provide their bread and butter guidelines for workers but it doesn't stop them making increases in profits.

Look at Chrysler's £83 million fiddle that the Labour Research Department uncovered last week. If

ROY McLANEY, AUEW steward, Chrysler Stoke, Coventry



HEALEY'S wage controls, whether they are voluntary or statutory, are still wage controls. Anyway only a fool would call this policy 'voluntary' when it's backed up by threatening behaviour. The fact that they've put the legal obligation on the employer doesn't make any difference, in fact it gives the employers further strength to refuse wage demands.

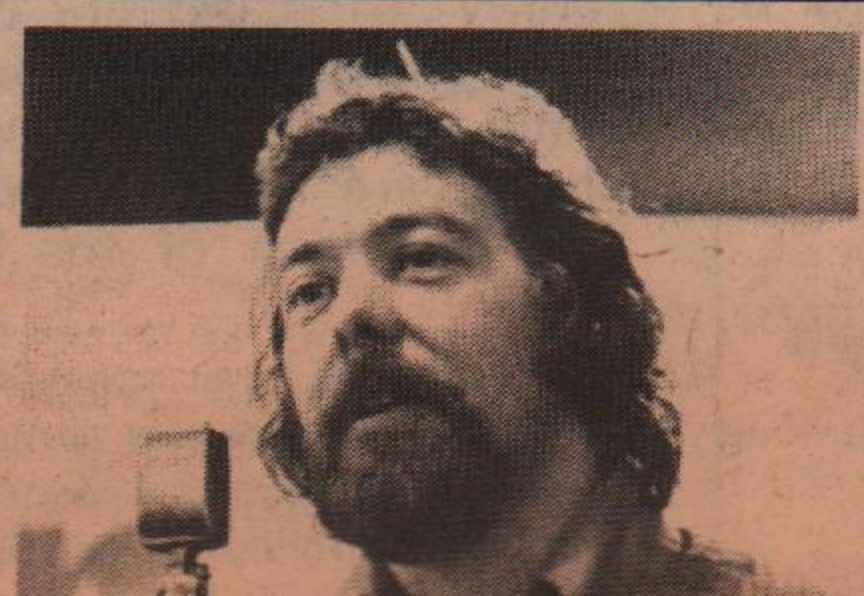
As far as the idea of a flat rate increase goes, this is just another of the same. Instead of levelling up though, it's a levelling down, something that no decent trade unionist would give a moment's thought to.

Every system of wage controls that we've experienced so far has taught us the same thing—it does nothing for the working class and everything for the employers.

that's the kind of profit they can make (and hide) while there's no wages legislation, just imagine how much more they'll screw out of us with legislation.

I can't accept that we are the root cause of our problem. It's not our wages that cause inflation. Lads can't manage on the money they've got.

I'd like to see every shop steward in this town, and everywhere else, agree to fight together. Get a general meeting together to hammer out a policy, not just for ourselves, but for teachers and nurses and other government workers, for old age pensioners, and all those people who don't have the strength that we have.



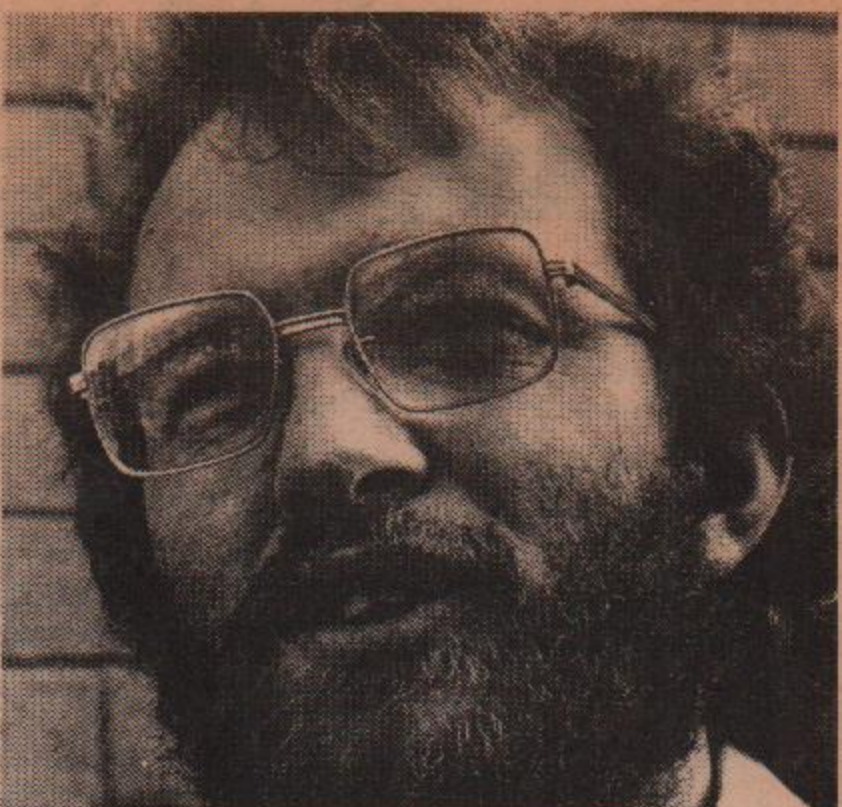
WILLIE LEE, AUEW senior steward, Chrysler, Linwood:

FOR A couple of years now it has been easy for the leaders of the AUEW to make a statement against any kind of wages policy. They were never put to the test of mobilising the union members in a fight against pay laws.

Now that a Labour government have decided on a 10 per cent limit backed up by some kind of legislation then they will have to do something about Healey's threat.

The chances are more likely that the AUEW leaders will only talk about fighting and leave the real battle to the workers on the factory floor—to get what they can. We have no wages policy at all in the AUEW and we are at present tied to an agreement that won't end until May 1976.

We need to build a real campaign against incomes policies and the notion that higher-paid workers keep the lower-paid back. The only way to do this is to spell out a wage claim that begins to mean something for all AUEW members—the poorly paid and the very poorly paid. Scanlon Wright and other AUEW officials, are only talking. What we need is real rank and file mobilisation.



Chris Benton, ACTSS branch secretary, Dunlop, Coventry.

WE'VE had one pay cut and we're not taking another. Our recent strike resulted in what amounts to a pay cut for us. It was around 20 per cent for the men and a bit more, because of the equal pay fiddles, for the women. But with inflation at the level it is just now, that really means a 10 per cent cut for us—that's when you take into account tax and insurance deductions.

If Denis Healey expects us to pay for the crisis, that isn't ours then he's got another think coming. By next March, when our claim is up again, we'll be about £10 worse off than we are now.

Whether it's Healey's system or Jack Jones' system it all amounts to the same thing—wage cuts!

One thing is clear. We are going to have to fight. We know that we can win—we had the whole car industry at a standstill before—but we were sold out by a combination of trade union officials and the propaganda about the 'Social Contract'.

Next time will be different. On the one hand we're much stronger, and on the other hand the Tory policies of Wilson's government can't be disguised any longer.

Rank and File: 'Mass action is the way to win'

THE fight back against Healey's package has to be based on unity between different sections of workers. Socialist Worker spoke to Roger Cox, secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee and a member of the AUEW, about how he saw this could be won.

We need to be clear about what the Rank and File Organising Committee can and can't do.

What will break the freeze is mass industrial action, by thousands of trade unionists, often in support of other groups of workers. The miners won at Saltley in 1972 because the Birmingham engineers marched to join the picket.

But we know from what's happened in the past that the leaders of the trade union movement won't do anything unless they're pushed.

Many workers are half-convinced that in some way they ought to pay for the crisis. We have to get the unions to take up the issue and argue it with millions of workers. Excellent points about the Social Contract were made at the AUEW

National Conference, but the members never hear the arguments.

We are going to have to fight to mobilise unions against the freeze and therefore to put out information to all their members on what it means. Not just national unions, but divisions, district committees, branches, shop stewards' committees.

We are going to hold three local Rank and File Conferences, one in the South, one in the Midlands, one in the North and Scotland. These can discuss and learn from the tactical lessons of the past six months, from the occupations for wages as well as jobs.

Could this be done through local committees of rank and file trade unionists, delegates from various bodies meeting together?

The freeze will only be beaten when the muscle of the movement is used. Ad hoc bodies cannot do this by themselves. Look at Saltley again. Rank and file engineers did it, because a fight was made on the AUEW district committee, through the machinery of the movement, to get everyone out. We forced some life into the bodies

which existed.

At Intex in Manchester there was a vicious strike, management and the union were working together against the strikers. We got together our local supporters, bodies which had sent delegates to our conferences, and got them to push in the local movement for support. This included collections, resolutions, a mass picket of more than 200 trade unionists.

Of course they were a committee to get everything organised. But they weren't independent of the movement.

Strength

It's not a question of operating outside but of getting a better attendance at the branch to take action, and of forcing and arguing with the stewards' committee to get a move on and help. The strength is there if we can bring it out.

Very often instead of operating as a local committee, trade unionists who support us should push the trades councils and similar bodies into action. They are only as moribund and pathetic as the people who

attend them. One good effect of a local committee which exists for the period of a strike, might be that it brings together half a dozen delegates from a trades council or union district committee, who then can act together on these bodies.

Over a single issue, trust and confidence can emerge. But it works because there's an issue. After the strike or whatever there's no point continuing to meet for the sake of it. It's much better to get local official bodies to establish a tradition of supporting groups in struggle. It takes time, but it pays because of the strength of the official movement.

The real test of the National Rank and File Organising Committee will be how far we've got across to the trade unionists who've come to our conferences, how many delegates are fighting on their shop stewards' committees, branches, districts and trades councils against the freeze, and against the betrayals of the national union leaders. If these delegates take up the fight, then our committee will have proved its worth.

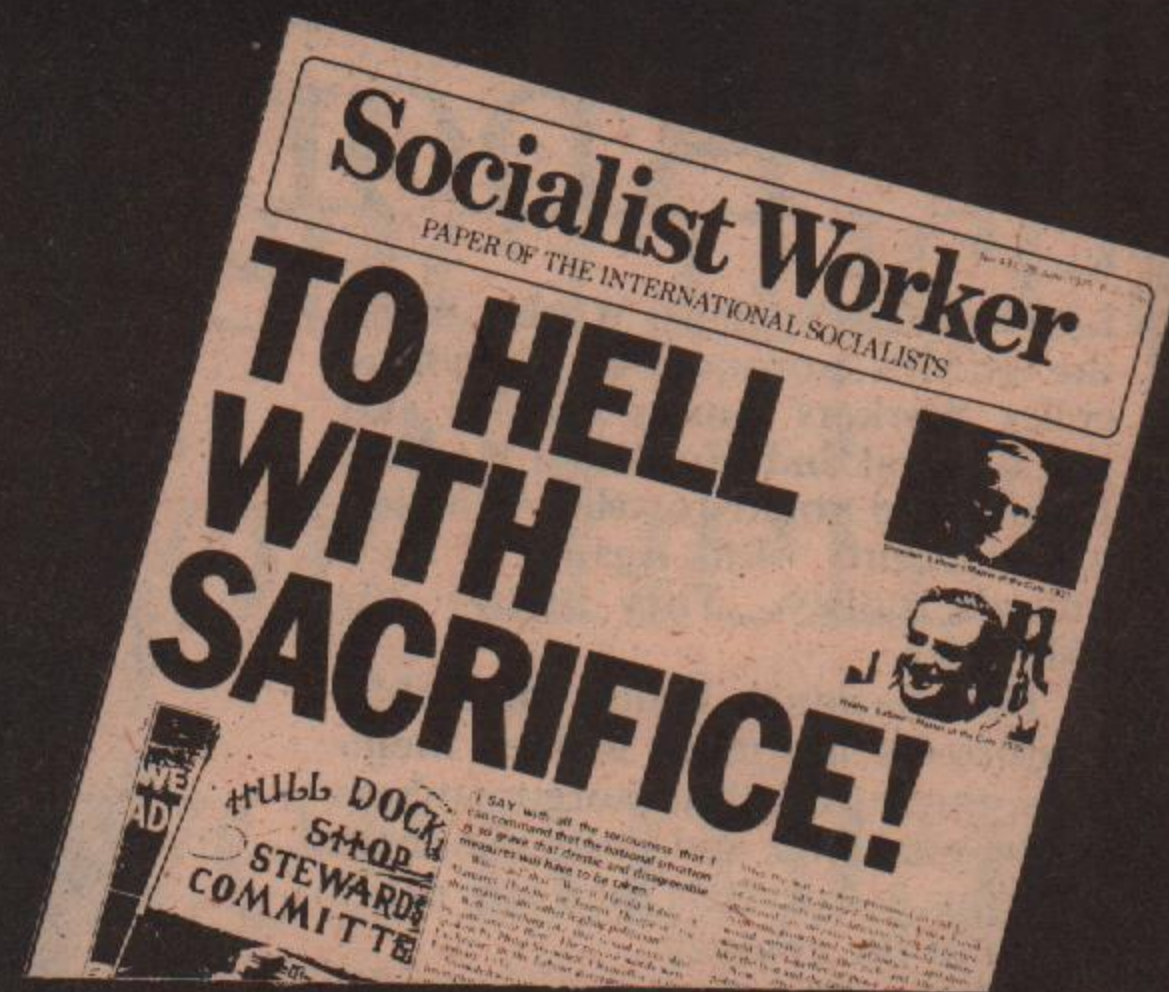
PICTURES: John Sturrock and Chris Davies (Report)

What is the alternative?

DO we have to suffer a cut in living standards, see our jobs threatened by rising unemployment, watch the Health Service, education, social services being cut back, to 'solve' this economic crisis?

The crisis they talk about is real enough. It is a crisis of the capitalist system. The government's policy is the traditional capitalist policy—hit the working class.

There is an alternative, the socialist alternative. It is the only sane, rational, long-term solution. The Labour government's 'solutions' will not only not 'solve' the crisis, they will make matters worse from a working class point of view.



WHAT IS WRONG?

ACCORDING to Harold Wilson the cause of the crisis is that wages are too high. They need to be kept down to 'what the nation can afford', which means cutting them by holding pay rises below the level of price rises.

Do that and after a while inflation will die away, the pound will be 'strong', industry will boom and everyone will be better off, he says. Then 'the nation' will be able to afford to spend more on hospitals, schools, pensions and so on. Then the gross inequalities in Britain can be tackled, then poverty can be abolished.

Indeed! Take a look at a very important capitalist country—the most important—where the policies Wilson and Co are pushing have been 'successfully' implemented. In the USA in the past two years a combination of 'restraint' by right-wing trade union leaders and a lower level of trade union organisation has kept average pay down.

Depression

The results? Eight million out of work—the number is still rising—and a fall in output of at least 10 per cent over the past 12 months, adding up to the biggest depression since the 1930s.

True, the rate of inflation has fallen, and this is the condition, we are told, for defending and expanding social services. What has actually happened to social services in the USA? The Tory paper, the London Evening Standard, wrote last week:

'New York contains some of the most prosperous citizens in the world, many of them concentrated in Manhattan Island but still more distributed elsewhere. It contains Wall Street, a legendary concentration of wealth and resources. Yet it cannot keep its streets clean, it cannot renovate its schools and housing stock, it cannot enforce clean air and it can barely police or tax its population. Corruption among officials has led to sensational inquiries and disclosures. Now the crisis has reached a point where it can no longer be ignored, and the response has been to balance the books by cutting public expenditure.'

Sack

The services are falling apart—so cut public expenditure. The streets can't be properly cleaned—so sack more dustmen. The New York City Council is trying to sack 19,000 of its employees altogether, just as 'the nation' (the American one in this case) has 'got on top of the inflation problem', or so they claim.

But it will be different in Britain, we are told. Will it? One thing is quite certain. The more that real take-home pay is cut, the more workers will lose their jobs. They will lose them for the simple and obvious reason that as prices outstrip wages—and that is the government's plan—the less goods people will be able to buy. So the depression will deepen, output will fall and unemployment will rise.

And as these things happen—a million unemployed this year, a million and a half or more next year—it will be discovered that 'the nation' simply cannot afford the present 'excessive' level of spending on

social services. It will have to be cut again to 'relieve the burden on industry'. That is what is happening in New York today. That is what will happen in London tomorrow—if the government gets its way.

Which takes us to the heart of the problem. Not 'high' pay, not lack of wealth, not shortage of resources, cause the crisis. What causes it is the way the wealth produced is *distributed* and, more basically still, on the way production is *organised*.

Think about it. The USA, the richest country on earth, a country with less than a tenth of the world's population producing two-fifths of the world's total output of goods and services, 'can't afford' to keep the streets clean in its largest city. But it can afford mass unemployment, industry running far below capacity and the most expensive military establishment in the history of the world.

Similarly in Europe. 'By the end of May, steel production in the non-communist world had dropped by 17 per cent on the same month last year, and in the EEC by almost 30 per cent... May was worse than April—western world production dropped five per cent—and reports suggest that June is worse than May. Many steelworks are now operating at around half of nominal capacity,' wrote The Economist.

Why?—Because wages are too high? Because workers 'are living beyond their means'?

Rubbish. It is a consequence of un-planned production for profit, a consequence of the boom-slump cycle built into our 'mixed economy'. It is called a 'mixed economy', by the way, on the same principle that immoderate right-wingers like Reg Prentice are called 'moderates'. Its proper name is capitalism.

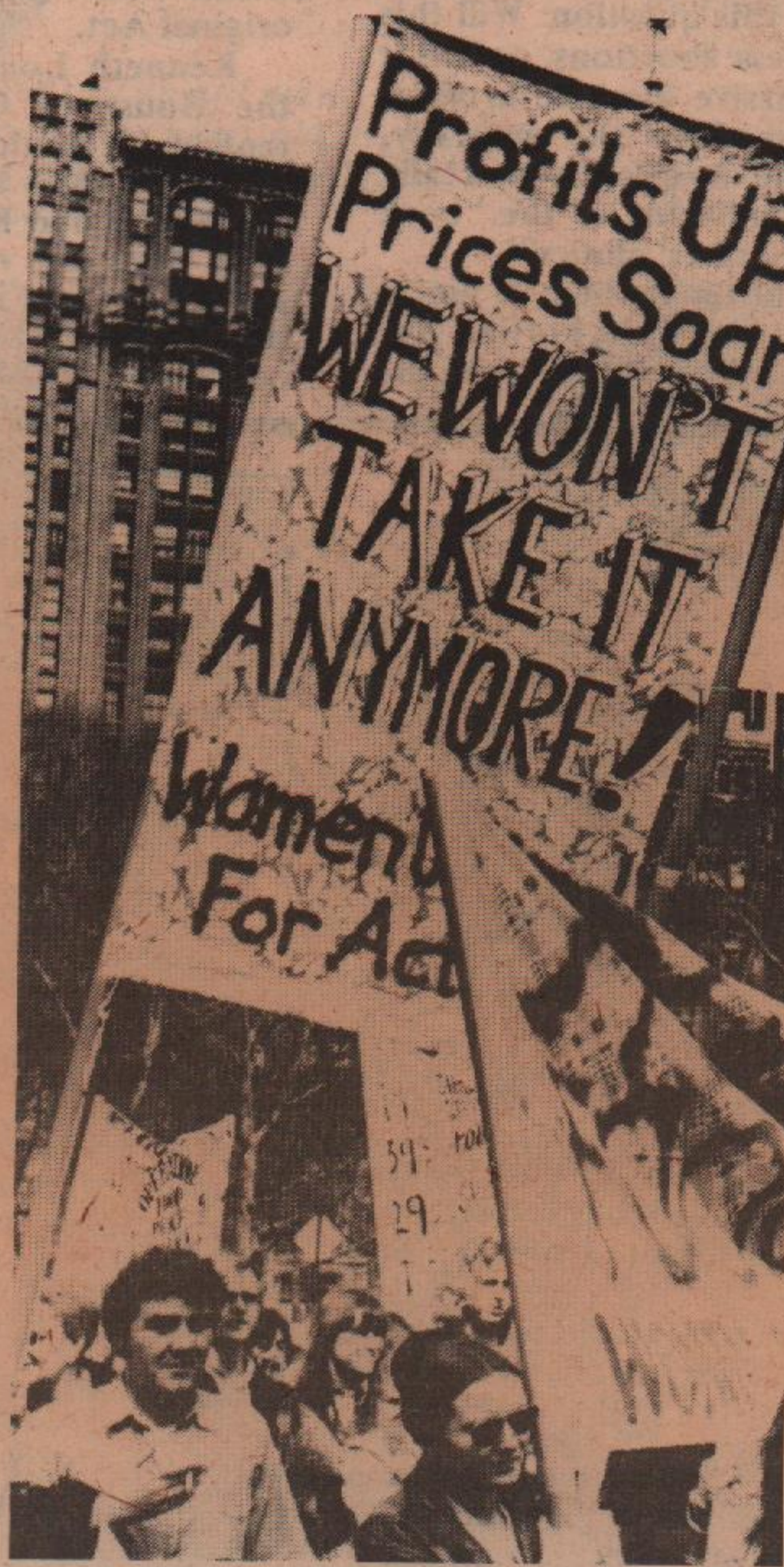
THE MAN FROM MARS

PUT yourself in the place of the mythical man from Mars, recently landed on our planet.

You see, on the one hand, inflation, plants running at well below capacity and rising unemployment; on the other hand poverty and want, 700,000 parents going without enough to eat in Britain in order to feed their children, 800,000 empty houses and thousands of homeless families (and thousands of building workers out of a job). You see pensioners who can't afford a decent meal and you see a man called Heath who can afford to spend £50,000 on a new yacht. You see the Glasgow slums and you see Royal Ascot.

And you see a 'Labour' government which is busy trying to 'cure' the crisis by making the workers get even less and the rich more, by increasing unemployment and by cutting the already hopelessly inadequate public services. They are like men trying to put out a fire by throwing petrol on it.

Obviously, you conclude, they are mad. In some inexplicable way the lunatics have got control of society. Clearly it is necessary to remove them into a modern, efficient and humane institution where, hopefully,



Demonstration in New York, home of the world's richest companies, but where the city council is bankrupt and is sacking 19,000.

they can be cured, and to set in motion a plan to re-organise society.

This plan will organise production on the basis of what is needed, giving priority to the basic requirements of providing adequate food, housing, sanitation, education and medical care for all. It will greatly increase the available workforce by abolishing unemployment—both the involuntary unemployment of working men and women and the voluntary unemployment of the former rich—and by diverting people from useless work such as advertising, salesmanship and the production of Concordes, into the production of goods and services that people actually need.

At a stroke, as somebody once said, it will increase the available wealth and make it possible to abolish want.

Naturally, to achieve all this it will be necessary to abolish so-called 'private ownership' of the factories, the land, the financial institutions and so forth. In other words, it will be necessary to take the power of economic decision-making out of the hands of the small minority of capitalists, bankers and bureaucrats who run the lunatic system, and transfer it to democratic, collective institutions of producers—of workers and technicians.

If you are a fairly sophisticated Martian, you will also realise that the lunatic fringe is likely, in its blindness, to resist these long overdue and beneficial changes. You will see that they have equipped themselves with institutions to defend the lunatic system, with military and police forces. It will be obvious to you that these must be removed and the actual producers armed

and trained to defend the sane and rational organisation of society against those whose mental condition is such that they cannot recognise its immense superiority to the lunatic system.

All this will be so obvious to the intelligent Martian that he will be puzzled to know why the necessary changes have not been made before. And his puzzlement will increase when he discovers that quite a number of the obviously backward species Homo Sapiens, people called socialists, have already come to the right conclusions about what is needed. Why haven't they done it?

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

THE Martian sees what is needed. It will take him a little longer to see the obstacles to achieving it. Because, of course, the defenders of capitalism are not lunatics. The system may be mad, but they fight tooth and nail to keep it for the eminently sane reason that they benefit from it. It is the source of their power and privileges.

As to the 'Labour' politicians who currently administer it, and have even been known to talk about socialism on occasion, they have been co-opted, as junior partners, into the web of power and privilege, they have absorbed the outlook and the prejudices of the capitalists, bankers and bureaucrats. They have the special job of selling capitalist policies to workers, while deceiving them into believing that they stand for something different.

To overcome these obstacles, to expose the 'Labour' politicians for what they are and to destroy the whole system of privilege, inequality, want and economic lunacy, we need a mass movement of working men and women who understand what is needed and have the will to fight for it.

Headfixers

The way, and the only way, that this movement can be built is by root and branch, tooth and nail opposition to each and every one of the policies of the capitalist class and its 'Labour' lieutenants. Against all 'incomes policies', voluntary, half-voluntary or compulsory, against redundancies, closures and unemployment, against any cuts in public services, against all the effects of the system—and against the 'headfixers', paid and unpaid, whose job in life is to throw dust in our eyes, to make what is indefensible seem plausible and what is necessary seem impossible.

But Britain is only a tiny part of the world. We depend on world markets, on exports and imports. Surely you can't ignore that?

You can't have socialism in an isolated Britain. True enough.

But you can go a long way, you can make a good start. You can create the basis of a socialist society and you can influence workers in other lands to try to do the same. This is the alternative, the only real alternative, to increasing capitalist chaos and misery.

Abortion: NUPE's renegade MPs

LAST week's Socialist Worker listed the ten MPs sponsored by the white-collar workers' union ASTMS and the General and Municipal Workers Union who voted for the Abortion Amendment Bill—against their union's policy. They aren't the only ones.

The National Union of Public Employees has more women members, most probably more members in low-paid jobs, and more members working in hospitals than any other union in the country.

Taking that into account, the union's executive council issued a statement in June explicitly against any changes in the Abortion law. It also asked its six sponsored MPs to oppose the Bill.

But two of their sponsored MPs, Ted Leadbitter (Hartlepool) and Tom Pendry (Stalybridge), voted for the Bill.

The NUPE stewards' committee for the City and East London Area wrote to Leadbitter and Pendry, and to Kenneth Lomas, MP for Huddersfield West and secretary of their parliamentary group, explaining their opposition to the Bill:

'It was felt that any restriction of the right to abortion would hit the working class hardest, since the rich would continue to receive treatment outside the NHS in expensive private clinics. So we felt that trade union MPs should oppose it not only on the grounds of attacking individual liberty, but also because it



LEADBITTER: Poor excuse

would destroy one of the most important and fundamental rights won for working-class women in this century.

Massive

'We urgently ask you to set aside emotional or religious considerations and ask this question: Will this Bill lead to less abortions, or will it lead to a massive increase in abortions performed in the mentally, physically and frequently mortally dangerous conditions of the "back street" abortionists' clinics?'

Ted Leadbitter replied: 'I am in fact a supporter of the Abortion Act. My reasons for voting for the



LOMAS: 'It would be improper'

Amendment Bill was purely on the grounds that the Act does require some modification in the light of experience—but not in the direction of deviating from its original objectives.'

Which is a pretty poor excuse for voting for a piece of legislation which will greatly weaken the original Act.

Kenneth Lomas, who wasn't in the House of Commons to vote, replied: 'It would be quite improper for me to raise the matter with Mr Leadbitter and Mr Pendry as it has long been the view of parties and parliament that issues of this nature should be left to the individual consciences of MPs.'



PENDRY: Hypocrisy

Which is exactly where they disagree with the other members of NUPE, who pay towards their election expenses, and expect that as the MPs are members of the same union they should vote according to union policy. Lomas' letter goes on to make it clear that had he managed to be in parliament that day, he too would have voted for the Amendment Bill.

Women

But from Tom Pendry came the biggest piece of hypocrisy imaginable: 'I would like you to know that I was instrumental in getting more women on the select

committee than was originally intended, for I think it is only right that women should have a very major say in the workings of this Act.'

Which, presumably, is why Pendry is voting for an Amendment Bill which will deny women a say in whether they can have abortions or not.

Of the other three NUPE MPs, two couldn't make it to vote—Peter Hardy, MP for Rother Valley, and Arthur Bottomley, MP for Middlesbrough East. Only Roland Moyle, MP for Lewisham North, voted against the Bill.

NUPE members are urged to campaign to make sure these MPs don't vote for the Bill, or any other similar legislation, when it comes back to the House of Commons for another vote. We should demand an end to sponsorship which becomes meaningless as soon as the personal views of MPs come into conflict with trade union policy.

Send Socialist Worker copies of resolutions so that we can publish them to show how the campaign against the Bill is gathering momentum in the trade unions.



Duncan Hallas' QUESTIONS ON THE CRISIS column has been held over. It will be back again next week.

5 FIFTH COLUMN



Dublin's justice

BACK in January 1972 Rita O'Hare jumped bail in Northern Ireland. She is a Republican, who, on 25 October 1971, was shot in the head, leg and stomach by the British Army. She had been charged with attempted murder of a British soldier.

After her escape from the North repeated attempts were made to extradite her by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and backed by the Southern authorities. This was despite the fact that this is against the laws of the Irish republic.

Having failed to extradite her, Dublin decided to do the job for Belfast and London instead. On 24 February she visited a prisoner in Portlaoise jail. After she had left the prisoner was found to have dynamite on him—and conveniently an attendant at the prison claimed later to have seen her pass it to him.

She was arrested—and brought to trial. A wonderful thing is Irish justice, for there was no jury at her trial, she appeared before a Special Criminal Court. These institutions, composed of full time legal functionaries, get rid of the inconvenience of jury acquittals. 'The evidence was so flimsy that you couldn't even do a carbon copy on it,' claimed the Irish liberal paper 'Hibernia'.

'On Saturday 26 April,' say the Women's Collective on Ireland, who have been campaigning on the issue, 'her three children went to Limerick (jail) to visit their mother.'

Box

The authorities constructed a special wood and perspex box with six small holes about the size of a halfpenny into which Mrs O'Hare was put. The children on seeing their mother became very distressed, whereupon the prison officers announced the visit was finished after about five minutes, and proceeded to knock the children about and manhandle them out of jail.

'Mrs O'Hare, trying to intervene to protect her children from this violence was seized by a prison officer and knocked forcibly to the ground.'

Since then there have been no more family visits. And Rita has been refused visits by her solicitor—who is trying to appeal against her sentence. The WCoI suggest that sympathisers should write to her: Rita O'Hare, Political Prisoner, Limerick Jail, Limerick, Eire.

The WCoI have been holding protests over Rita's imprisonment in Britain. Her treatment is part of a package, prepared in London and Dublin to bring peace, justice, law and order to Britain's Ireland.

UNIVERSAL MR STAMP

'THE strike weapon has to be blunted before it severs the head of the body corporate,' says the Hon Maxwell Stamp in the Daily Telegraph.

Well Maxwell has certainly been doing his bit to keep his head. He suggests that the government 'should build up stocks of materials and fuels to resist strike action.'

He also wants them to train a body of 'special workers' to drive lorries or man power stations 'during an emergency'. Perhaps he might be able to offer jobs to some of the people who've suffered from his previous adventures in industry.

Like the printers at Mabutt and Johnsons for example. They occupied their plant to try and hold their jobs. They were beaten thanks to the intervention of the merchant bankers Hill Samuel. The Hon Mr Stamp is a director of same . . .

Or to the workers of Crosfield Electronics, who occupied their plant to save their jobs. They were beaten by the owners of the firm. The De La Rue Company. The Hon Mr Stamp is a director of same . . .

Or if he went up to Lancashire he could try around St Helens, and the Pilkington Glassworks. There are still workers there who have been blacklisted since the Pilkington strike of 1971. The Hon Mr Stamp is a director of Triplex, a subsidiary of Pilkingtons . . .

WE WILL NEVER NEVER NEVER
NEVER NEVER NEVER
NEVER NEVER NEVER
NEVER NEVER NEVER

- INTRODUCE A
COMPULSORY WAGE FREEZE ! EVER.

- UNLESS WE HAVE TO

Evans

REGRETTABLY, violence has erupted on a picket line in East London, claiming an innocent victim: Chief Superintendent Conboy, no less.

Seems he was knocked over by his own men in their rush to protect a scab lorry entering the Stratford Express newspaper building.

Whereupon, according to subordinates who loathe the Super even more than the journalists whose strike he has been helping to break, a large and flat-footed boot was applied to his prostrate body.

The boot, belonging to a sergeant who can't stop bragging about it, has had the desired effect. Conboy has been off sick ever since . . .

The old art of making money

IN THE latter part of the nineteenth century various people had a vision of a new kind of art, a new kind of painting, Impressionism. Scorning the conventions of the time they put down their vision on canvas. They were rejected by the ruling class of their time.

Ninety years later, on Tuesday of last week, various people had visions of a new variant of an old art, screwing the workers. Their vision was put forward in the House of Commons, by Dennis Healey. It was his wages policy, designed to cut your standard of living.

On that Tuesday evening the nineteenth century vision of the painters

met the twentieth century at Sotheby's (the London art auctioneers) impressionist sale. And the descendants of that old ruling class spent £2,500,000 buying up some of those paintings. They were by artists like Renoir, Corot and Manet.

The only people at the sale left with any vision were the TV cameramen, one of whom recounted his experiences to Fifth Column. 'They haven't really got much vision left either,' he said. 'They're so used to these capitalist atrocities their only reaction is cynicism, they're dead to the whole thing.'

'But anyone who thinks that the ruling class is being hurt by the crisis must be out of their minds. You can see the money oozing out of them—out of their skins, they've all got this lovely colour—all straight back from Nice and Cannes and Monte Carlo.'

I couldn't understand why there was this one girl on the phone at the back for 90 minutes. I asked about her. 'Oh she's relaying the bids from New York' they told me . . .

THEY'VE come a long way from George Washington (and it's all been downhill). 'Advertising's one of the few good, wholesome things left in this country that people can believe.'

Ed McCabe, of Scali McCabe Sloves advertising agents, Chicago, 26 June 1975.

Our rulers in a new light...

'GROWING unemployment means even more discontented and resentful individuals wandering about with nothing to do. People who begrudge your position, your possessions.'

Part of a new right-wing manifesto? Well, not quite, it comes from an advert for H Walton Ltd's new SR 302 which appeared in a recent issue of 'Investors Chronicle'. What does it do? Give you a job? A slap up meal with a choice of fine wines and a selection of Van Goghs to take home?

No, it's a light which switches itself on and off around the worried investor's house. This is supposed to delude the discontented footpad into thinking the occupant is in, when in fact he or she is hard at work at the office sacking lazy workers.

Shrewd people these capitalists—but not quite shrewd enough. Fifth Column will soon be marketing sets of 50 clockwork gnomes who will enter the investor's house, brutalise the inhabitants, and return all valuables to you. Powerful fibreglass wings also make them ideal for flying picket duties . . .

No wage cuts here!

ANGER-THEN ARGENTINA WORKERS STAGE GENERAL STRIKE

by Danny James and Laurie Flynn
THE DENIS HEALEYS of Argentina have had their wage-cutting plans rammed down their throats. A massive series of spontaneous strikes forced the resignation of the cabinet on Sunday, just before a 48-hour general strike began.

The Cabinet's aim was to allow president Isabel Peron more room to manoeuvre now that working class opposition has exploded.

The government's measures, as viciously anti-working class as the Labour government's in Britain and announced at roughly the same time, included a 45 per cent limit on wage rises. Prices rose 30 per cent last month alone.

The response by Argentina's four million workers drove the corrupt trade union bureaucracy to act. They called the general strike in a desperate bid to retain their authority.

A spontaneous and unlimited general strike paralysed the key car industry city of Cordoba, and other major industrial centres, La Plata, Santa Fe, Rosario, San Lorenzo and Bahia Blanca, ground to a halt.

In the capital, Buenos Aires, thousands of workers who had gone on strike marched into the city centre to press their demands.

This action was of immense symbolic importance. It was a march of Argentinian workers which confirmed the power of Mrs



The hands of an old man... but this boy is five years old. He works cutting sugar cane in the Jujuy province of Argentina

No sacrifices for 'their' government

THE PACKAGE which triggered the explosion in Argentina contained more than just a wages ceiling. It also included a 50 per cent devaluation of the peso, a threefold increase in petrol prices, the doubling of fares on the Buenos Aires public transport system and a free hand for international and home-based capital to boost prices and profits. Consumer price controls have been almost completely jettisoned.

But workers are no longer prepared to make sacrifices for what many of them had thought would be their government.

The ruling class brought Peron back from exile and made him president again in 1973. The struggle against the military regime had grown into an explosion in 1969 with the workers of Cordoba staging a week-long insurrection against the dictatorship.

But unlike Peron's first spell in power, there was now little or no room for manoeuvre thanks to the world economic crisis. This meant that while Juan Peron and his third wife and successor Isabel indulged in rhetoric about improving the lot of the people, they were unable to deliver.

Not all workers accepted that the Peronist government was 'their government' in the period of calm before the storm. But those who did fight for higher wages, better conditions, or for genuinely independent organisation were isolated and crushed with the assistance of the national trade union bureaucracy.

Among the workers who have been done down in this way in the last 18 months were the Renault workers (who formalised opposition to Peronist trade unionism with their 'class unionist' position) power workers in Cordoba, printers in Buenos Aires, and, most recently the steelworkers of Villa Constitucion.

Solid

The Villa Constitucion steelworkers had developed their own elected factory committee in defiance of the first principle of Peronist unionism, which has always fought shop-floor organisation.

The government then obliged the bosses and the national trade union leaders by arresting the entire factory committee. The 6000 workers then staged a strike which they kept solid for two months.

They organised the neighbourhood to support the strike. Food was distributed communally and frequent meetings to take democratic decisions were held—despite the occupation of the town by the army and the murder of activists by right wing terror squads, who have been operating on licence from government ministers and top policemen.

The Villa Constitucion struggle showed the heroism and organising ability of the workers. But they were eventually forced back to work by their isolation.

Real

But Mrs Peron's economic package has provided the background for the development of a class-wide movement strong enough to challenge the government and the corrupt trade union leadership.

Just how fearful Argentina's rulers are of the real power of the working class can be seen not only in the government resignations.

Mrs Peron has also backed off from her closest advisers' demands to appoint state administrators to run the CGT, Argentine's equivalent of the TUC.

The significance of the present struggle is that it could well be the beginning of a real break from the 'left wing Peronism' which has held whole sections of the Argentinian working class in thrall.

Hopefully, this spirit will grow to full flower before the military and the extreme right have the power or the confidence to try and re-impose a military dictatorship.



Bank workers marching against the government in Buenos Aires last week—just one of dozens of spontaneous strikes

Peron's late husband, General Juan Peron, as boss of Argentina in 1945.

But in 1975 the workers' marches have been met by massive displays of police power. The city centre has been sealed off to prevent marchers crossing the bridges

and reaching their destination.

The struggle in Cordoba, began when 8000 Renault workers walked out and were immediately joined by workers in surrounding plants like Massey Ferguson's Perkins Engines.

Perkins' workers have not pre-

viously been militant. Like the Ford workers in the giant General Pacheco plant in Buenos Aires, who led the first march into the city centre, they have previously been a bit cowed by tough factory discipline, factory police and relatively high wages.

PORTUGUESE SOLIDARITY FUND

This fund has been set up to send money to the PRP (Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat), to help finance the Portuguese Workers' Coordinating Committee in Britain, and to help pay towards the cost of IS's work on Portugal organising speaking tours for Portuguese revolutionaries and publicising our pamphlets in Portuguese.

Get your workmates to make a donation big or small. Use this slip to send to:

Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

Donate by bankers' order for six months...

It's painless and you never miss it—that's the £2 a month for the next six months that you can donate to the Portuguese Fund to help our comrades in their fight.

Note to branch and district finance organisers: funds are urgently needed to continue our work. Every effort should be made to use the collection leaflets that have been sent out, in particular, members should be encouraged to send in bankers' orders as soon as possible.

PORTUGAL CRISIS SHARPENS

THE POLITICAL crisis in Portugal was becoming sharper again this week as one government minister after another went on TV to announce that there were no serious splits inside the ruling body of the Armed Forces Movement.

The best indication of the seriousness of the splits is that while Prime Minister Vasco Goncalves was announcing that the government would hand back the occupied Radio Renascenca to the Catholic Church, other ministers were deciding that no such thing would happen.

Indeed, less than 24 hours after Goncalves' speech, the government announced that it would be nationalising all radio stations in Portugal.

While the nationalisation indicates the desire of certain elements in the army to control the radio, the move is also the fruit of determined struggle.

At Radio Renascenca and Republica, the Lisbon newspaper which has been made an international issue by the pro-capitalist Socialist Party leadership, the workers have engaged in bitter

struggles against capitalist control of the media.

But the nationalisation moves came in a week that saw the first instance of army strikebreaking for eight months.

Telephone workers occupied the main Lisbon exchanges in a claim for higher wages for the poorly paid and a narrowing of differentials. Then last Wednesday the army moved in and expelled them.

CALL

The strikers have now returned to a go-slow. But first they staged a massive demonstration demanding the freedom of arrested workers and the removal of the Transport and Telecommunications Minister Oliveira, a Communist Party member.

The struggle at Renascenca also met with massive support initiated by the workers committee at the Siderurgie Nacional, the massive

steelworks

The steelworkers' committee, having assisted the Renascenca picket line, decided to call a demonstration in support of wider nationalisation against the Catholic Church and against the right in general.

30,000 workers turned out in the biggest demonstration since the march in support of revolutionary councils three weeks ago.

But the hysterical press editorials against the phone workers, the airline workers now on strike and the so-called ultra left, show that the Communist Party is fighting hard to maintain its influence.

The Communist Party put its members on the alert last Friday as if in expectation of a coup. Moves against their closest associate, Premier Goncalves, also seemed likely as the power struggle inside the Armed Forces Movement continued.



The Bilderberg Conspiracy

WHO 'SUNK' THE POUND last week, and brought about new panic measures to freeze wages the day after Harold Wilson promised that panic measures would not be introduced?

The newspapers continue with the myth that the fall in the value of sterling was an inevitable consequence of the economic climate—that no one brought it on and no one could do anything about it once it started.

The truth is more down to earth. The pound was sold by bankers, speculators and industrialists. It was sold in small quantities. The selling could easily have been offset by the Bank of England intervening to buy small quantities.

But the governor of the Bank of England did not buy. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, did not order him to buy. International currency dealers, who behave just like bookies, marked the pound down.

Why did the Bank of England hold back? Why did Healey allow it to? The answers to both those questions, and many more besides, may

By PAUL FOOT

well have been available on the week-end of 25-27 April in the holiday village of Cesme, Turkey, where 100 of some of the most powerful people in the world gathered for a secret conference.

This was the Bilderberg Conference, which takes its name from a luxury hotel in Oosterbeek, Holland, where the first conference was held in 1954. Its founder and chairman is Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Its richest supporter is David Rockefeller—chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank and brother of the present US vice-president.

Its object is to bring together, once a year, the most powerful men in finance, industry, politics, the armed forces, the universities and the press internationally for (to quote an official communique from the Palace Hotel, Buxton, in 1958) 'informal discussion to find ways and means of helping the peoples of the Western World to smooth its rough edges'.

This was not just a businessman's conference. From the start, the organisers made a bee-line for the most articulate right-wing leaders of the Labour movement in Europe.

Which is why a founder member was an up-and-coming young Labour MP called Denis Healey. Healey has since attended more Bilderberg conferences than any other British politician.

The chairman of the American steering committee of the Bilderberg Conference was Bedell Smith, the first director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the American spy operation which has specialised in overthrowing democratic governments and assassinating political leaders.

The Bilderberg Conference is entirely secret. No reporters are allowed.

Secret

This year, the huge new Golden Dolphin hotel at Esme was vacated for the conference. Prince Bernhard gave a press conference at Izmar, 60 miles away.

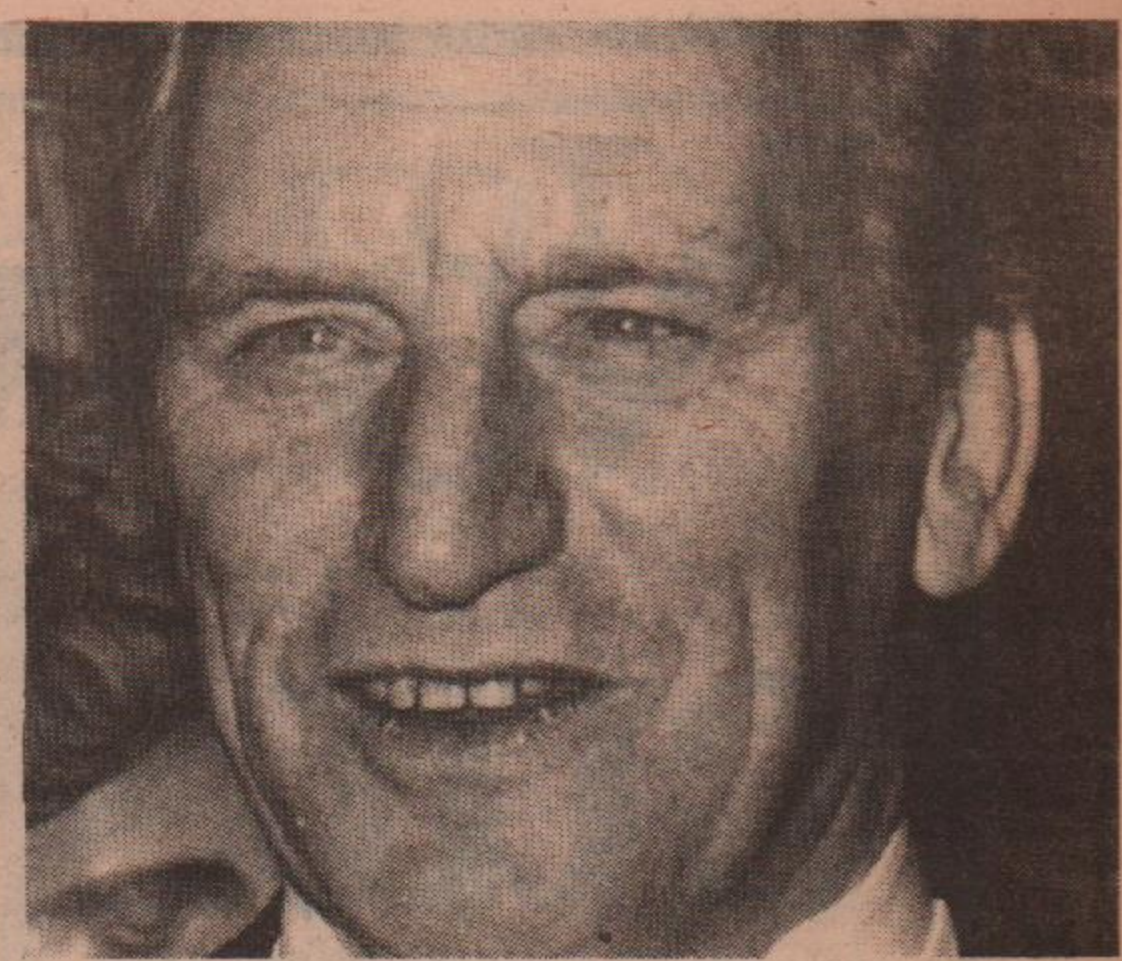
Asked by a Turkish reporter why the press weren't allowed in, the Prince replied:

'Reporters are barred, but we always invite some of the top executives of the press in Europe and America. We've noticed that the ideas which are discussed in the secret conference are later reflected in the media which they control.'

The Turkish conference was one of the most star-studded in history. From America came David Rockefeller, and a clutch of advisers from President Ford's office.

Then there was Richard Cooper, President of Heinz, Emilio Collade, chief executive vice-president of Exxon Oil (Esso), Robert Hubner, senior vice-president of IBM.

The governor of the Bank of Italy was there. So was the secretary general of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation



GORDON RICHARDSON

Governor of the Bank of England during Labour Government, 1974 and 1975

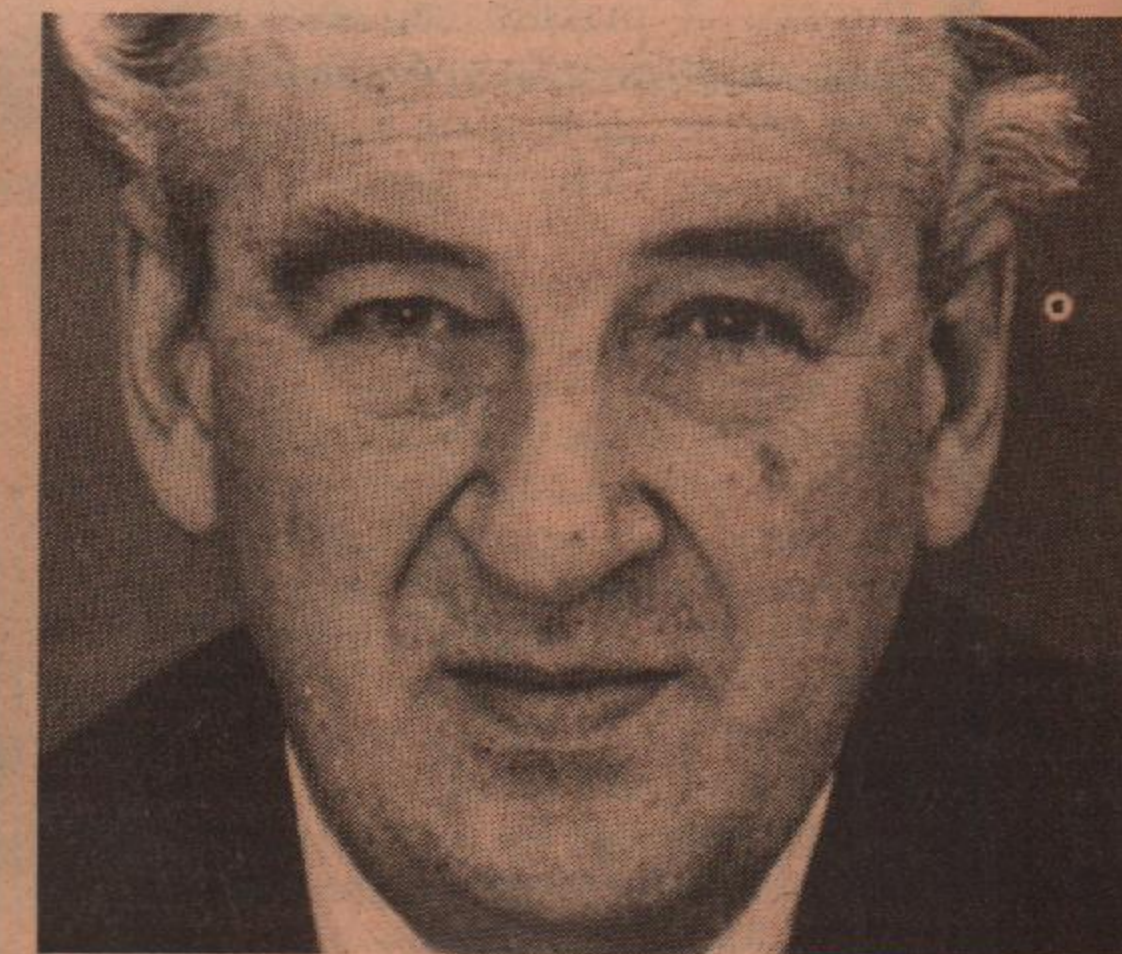
Told Harold Wilson, Prime Minister and Denis Healey, Chancellor, that the way to solve the economic crisis was to cut public spending and hold down wages.

Labour replied that they had won two elections in 1974 with firm pledges against any form of statutory wage control. Voluntary wage control, they assured Richardson and Co, could best be achieved through the Social Contract.

Healey's Budget in the spring of 1975 cut public spending still further and shoved up prices. But the government continued to ridicule the idea of a statutory wages policy. Richardson and Co became increasingly insistent that there should be such a policy.

Deadlock was reached. In June, selling of sterling started without any control by the Bank of England. On 30 June, Wilson said there would be 'no thrashing around with panic measures'. That day the pound dropped a full percentage point.

Richardson went to see Healey and told him to introduce wage controls. The next day, Healey announced a ten per cent wage freeze, which would be enforced unless the unions agreed within a week to operate their own freeze.



LORD CROMER

Governor of the Bank of England when Labour took office with small majority in October 1964

Told Harold Wilson, the new Prime Minister, that the answer to Britain's economic crisis lay in high interest charges, massive cuts in public spending and a firm 'incomes policy' based on controlling wages. Wilson replied that he had won the election promising low interest charges, an increase in public spending and an incomes policy based on controlling profits and dividends. Deadlock was reached.

Cromer's buddies in the banking world sold sterling. First Bank Rate went up, bringing high interest charges and a cut in public spending. Then the increase in pensions was postponed. Then the international bankers coughed up a loan to pay for the sterling they had sold.

But Cromer wanted more cuts and, above all, a 'strong' incomes policy.

Then sterling started to be sold. On 16 July, 1965, the pound fell to its lowest level since the previous April. On 27 July, the government announced delays in public spending and HP cuts.

This was still not enough. Cromer wanted his incomes policy. So did all the other spokesmen of international finance. Sterling flooded out of the country.

George Brown, Secretary of Economic Affairs, was told to get an agreement between the CBI and the TUC for a strong voluntary incomes policy. On 1 September, the government introduced the Prices and Incomes Board to 'vet' wage and price increases.

and Development, the secretary general of NATO, the vice president of the European Economic Commission, the chairman of the Dresdner Bank in Germany, the President of Fiat in Italy, the chairman of the Bank of Brussels, the chairman of the biggest bank in Denmark, and various representatives of the Rothschild family.

The British delegation was important, because the state of the British economy was one of the main subjects for discussion. Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was there, of course. So was Sir Frederick Bennett.

There were four other British guests: Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party, Sir Eric Roll, chairman of Warburgs, the most prestigious of the City Banks and a director of the Bank

of England; S chairman of who has never he deceived the paying about profits to Engines from last but not Richardson, the Bank of England

According to has been public Rockefeller America, the co the problem economy in Labour governm against a wage f

How, it was government be its commitment face? The answer run on the pound

Did it sink the £



LORD O'BRIEN

Governor of the Bank of England in 1966, when Labour Government was elected with Parliamentary majority of 98.

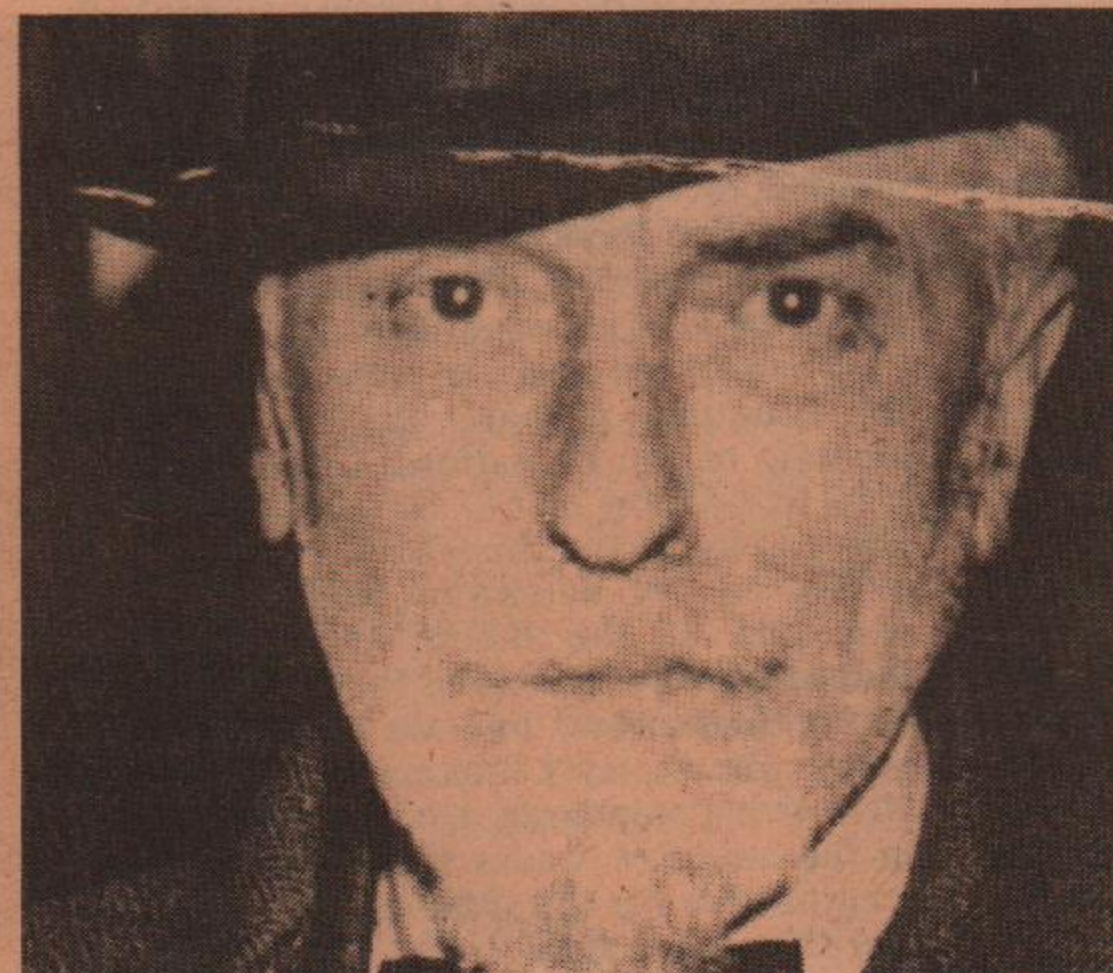
Told the government that the way to solve the economic crisis was to cut public spending and freeze wages. He was told the big Parliamentary majority had just been won on promises of increased public spending and 'a planned growth of incomes'. Deadlock was reached.

On 11 July, 1966, sterling started to be sold in huge quantities. Prime Minister Wilson left on a scheduled trip to Moscow, telling a television interviewer: 'There will be no scratching together of panic measures.'

The selling of sterling, hardly checked by the Bank of England, rose to record proportions by 19 July. On 20 July, Wilson announced a 'package of measures' to the House of Commons which reversed all Labour's promises in the elections three months earlier.

Public spending was slashed by £500 million — and Wilson announced a full-scale legally-binding wage freeze for six months, to be followed by a further six months of severe wage restraint.

The same pattern persisted through 1967 and 1968. Selling of sterling forced the government to devalue the pound in 1967—and, early in 1968, to cut back still further on public spending.



SIR MONTAGUE NORMAN

Governor of the Bank of England during the Labour Government of 1929 to 1931.

Told Philip Snowden, Labour's Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the way to solve the economic crisis and unemployment was to cut public spending and wages.

Snowden agreed at once. He described Norman as 'one of the kindest natures and most sympathetic hearts it has been my privilege to know'.

All through 1930 and the first half of 1931, Snowden cut public spending and wages. Unemployment kept going up and up.

The more Snowden cut, the more Norman and the bankers wanted cuts. By the midsummer of 1931, they were demanding cuts which the Labour Party outside Parliament and the TUC were resisting. So Sir Montague Norman ordered a wave of sterling selling, which started on 16 July, and went off on a long summer holiday.

The selling of sterling grew frantic. In the four weeks ending 6 August, the Bank of England lost £24 million. Snowden and Ramsey MacDonald, the Prime Minister, met a deputation of bankers. The bankers told them to cut the dole and teachers' pay.

MacDonald and Snowden tried to force the cuts through the Labour Cabinet, failed, and immediately formed a coalition government with the Tories and Liberals. The cuts were then forced through—and unemployment quickly rose to three million.

ir Arnold Roll, Hawker Siddeley, looked back since government into 7 million excess Bristol Siddeley 1959 to 1963; and east, Mr Gordon Governor of the

o a 'leak' which cised by an anti-news-sheet in nference discussed of the British of the light of the ent's commitment eeze.

asked, could the hifted away from without losing er was simple: a d.

A sharp depreciation of sterling it was argued, would leave the government with no option but to introduce a wage freeze.

There were, of course, more than enough people at the conference to promote a run on the pound. If only a handful of the corporations represented there started to shift a small number of deposits from London, a run could be ensured, provided that the Bank of England did not intervene.

Did Mr Gordon Richardson give his assurance that the Bank of England would not intervene? Did Mr Healey promise not to instruct the Bank of England to intervene?

And did Mrs Thatcher promise the Tories' full support for 'tough measures' and protection to the

“

Thus was Wilson's government trapped by the capitalist device which has trapped every Labour government before it.

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government against its left wing? After discussing other important matters, notably Portugal and Italy, the guests left for home.

What happened then? Throughout April, the pound had been rock solid, showing a devaluation of only 21½ per cent from 1971. In the first week of May, however, as the Bilderberg guests returned from Turkey, it took a sharp, sudden drop—to 25 per cent.

On 5 June, the country voted Yes, and the pound started to slide irretrievably. It slid all through June. Only once in June did the Bank of England intervene to stop the slide—with a hundred million dollars—immediately after Denis Healey made a speech promising strong action to curb inflation.

'Otherwise' reported the Financial Times on 3 July, 'the signs have been that support has been, at most, modest'.

Speech

Modest (or non-existent) support meant that small-scale selling assumed large-scale proportions in the currency market. Tiny movements in sales were reflected by mighty falls in the value of the pound.

Thus was Wilson's government trapped by the capitalist device which has trapped every Labour government before it.

The men and women who attend functions like Bilderberg are experts on 'conspiracy'. Their newspapers and television warn us almost every day of the 'dark conspiracy' of 'subversives' in our midst that is ready to 'tear apart the fabric of our national life'.

Yet they are the conspirators. They conspire to disrupt the economy, change the political course of Labour governments and drive down the living standards of working people in all countries.

On whose behalf do they engage in these monstrous plans?

On behalf of a small ruling class, elected by no-one and responsible to no-one.

They want to keep power and wealth in their class, and are prepared to use all the power and wealth that they can muster—in industry, finance, the armed forces and the press—to do so.

They must not get away with it this time.

A WORKERS' revolution can only succeed if the ruling class army is broken and replaced by a workers' army. Revolutionaries in Portugal are now fighting for just that.

One of them, CARLOS SILVA, the conscript sergeant who recently visited Britain, describes here what has been happening:

BEFORE the coup of 25 April 1974, there were 150,000 men in the armed forces out of a population of fewer than ten million.

All privates and some of the NCOs were conscripts, but others were workers forced to remain in the army because they could not get any other jobs.

Many officers were professional soldiers from the ruling class, particularly in the higher ranks, but the lower officers were also conscripts.

Life for the conscript soldier was very hard. Food and living conditions were indescribable, and the pay of the conscript private was 80p a month. Often he would never even see that, as debts and deductions would wipe out a whole month's pay.

Discipline was harsh. Training was designed so as to turn men into unthinking, obedient machines. In the crack fighting units discipline and training were designed to make the men into brutes.

In the Commandoes, the officers would often hand a man a forged telegram telling him his father was dead.

Live

If the soldier showed any emotion, he was confined to barracks for two weeks and cut off from all communications. At the end of the two weeks he was allowed to go home to see his family, where he would finally find out that it was a forgery.

Training was conducted with live ammunition, and deaths from 'accidents' were so frequent that everybody believed they were part of a plan.

Inevitably, with a conscript army, some young workers would come in with political ideas. The rigid class lines, petty rules and inhuman treatment forced us to think more and more politically.

And with the long and unpopular wars in Africa draft-dodging and desertions became common.

Some units mutinied only to be savagely repressed and the news kept secret.

The hard conditions of the wars and the realisation of defeat began to effect even the officers. Many sons of the bourgeoisie refused to make the army a career and more officers began to come from the middle class.

Lead

Some of these professional officers came together to discuss their problems and founded the Armed Forces Movement. They carried out the April coup.

Immediately, the junior officers and soldiers saw the chance of organising to improve their conditions. They took up basic demands like discipline, food, pay and saluting. And the officers who carried out the coup were ready to make concessions.

But most soldiers still had few political ideas.

When the right wing tried a coup on 28 September, few units were politically advanced enough to disobey the orders of their officers.

But constant involvement with the class struggle and fraternisation with workers began to take its effect.

The attempted counter-coup of 11 March was a turning point. The right wing officers could find support only in the highly

Portugal: Which way will the army go?



Which way will the army go? These telephone workers marched in protest through Lisbon last week after troops smashed their occupation, the first strike the army have broken for eight months.

disciplined units like the paratroopers.

The coup came as a sharp shock to many soldiers, who had come to think of the Army as the vanguard of the revolution. They began to feel they had been manipulated by their officers and that if they were to continue to lead the revolution they would have to challenge their officers more openly.

The demands of the rank and file soldiers have since become more and more political. There have been two key demands: the right of all soldiers to have full information on all political and military matters, and the right to build links with rank and file soldiers outside of the normal military channels.

We have forced through the demand that the soldiers have the right to call general assemblies. But the power to call meetings is not enough.

How much power the soldiers have depends on their organisation and political consciousness. The officers have the right to send one delegate to these meetings and in the more backward units his presence is enough to intimidate the men and to leave real power in the hands of the officers.

In the more advanced units, the situation is very different. Often the assembly has objected to the officer delegate and expelled him from the meetings.

In some units, committees have been set up which discuss all political and military issues. They are in a position to enforce the demand that every time the unit is ordered out, the men must know exactly what they are going to do and have the right to refuse any action that they decide is against the interests of the working class.

This demand has not yet been officially recognised, and so far no-one has had to put it to the test, but the principle is firmly established.

In some units, the different messes for officers, sergeants and men have been abolished and everybody eats the same food together.

There are many cases of right-wing officers being thrown out on the initiative of the rank and file, and a few units have voted for the promotion of particular left-wing officers and forced the military authorities to agree.

The situation is delicately balanced. We are not yet able to elect our officers, and the day-to-day running of the units is shared between officers and men.

Link

It is not yet possible to say the rank and file control the army. But we are constantly fighting in the assemblies to win the mass of soldiers to the idea that we must never allow ourselves to be used against the working class. To ensure this, we must build links with local factories.

We have to develop the power of the assemblies to the point where we can say to the officers: 'You have to make a choice; are you with the working class or against it?'

We have to link up with the workers' councils which are growing in the factories and draw the soldiers and rank and file workers into joint democratic bodies.

If we can do this, we can begin to arm the workers, destroy the power of the traditional military hierarchy and move towards working class power with a national co-ordination of soldiers' and workers' councils.

Those officers prepared to stand for election and submit to the discipline of the soldiers and workers we will welcome. Those who will not, will have to go.

Only with this sort of organisation can the working class achieve power and defend itself against the threat of reaction inside Portugal and the plans of NATO and imperialism outside.

WHAT'S ON

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.

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. Cartoon 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, and a representative from the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee.

LOWESTOFT IS public meeting: Redundancies, wage restraint—how to fight. The way forward. Speakers: John Deason and a local trade unionist. Thursday 17 July, 8pm, The Norfolk (upstairs room), Denmark Road.

STOCKPORT IS public meeting: No to Labour wage cuts. Speaker: Tommy Douras. Thursday 17 July, 8pm, Royal Oak, High Street.

SHEFFIELD CHINGARI public meeting: Oppose immigration controls. Speakers: Shakoor Doudpota (Urdu) and an English speaker. Sunday 20 July, 8pm, Vestry Hall, Attercliffe Common, Sheffield.

NORTH LONDON DISTRICT IS public meeting: Welfare cuts, wage cuts—The government declares war on workers. How we can fight back. Wednesday 16 July, 8.00pm, Lord Morrison Hall, Chesnut Grove, Chesnut Road, N17.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT IS Social: Friday 18 July, West Indian Club, Attercliffe Common, featuring steel band and disco. Dancing till midnight. Starts 8pm. Tickets 50p. All welcome.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER DISTRICT IS auction for district funds. Thursday 10 July, 8pm, Black Lion, Chapel Street, Salford. All welcome, specially with auctionable objects such as books, records, cars etc! Stuff can be collected; phone 736-6890.

Meetings for IS members

W MIDDLESEX DIST IS Day School: Saturday 12 July, Ealing Technical College (5 mins from Ealing Broadway). 10.30am-Noon—How to be a shop steward (Ian Morris). 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.

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

CENTRAL MANCHESTER DISTRICT IS Aggregate: Monday 14 July, 8pm sharp. Details from IS Books.

INNER WEST LONDON District IS half-day school on IRELAND: Saturday 12 July, Blyth Hall, Blyth Road, W14. (nearest tube Hammersmith Broadway). All members to attend. Members from other districts welcome.

IS HEALTH FRACTION Conference: Sunday 20 July, 10.30am, Committee Room, Cavendish House, Manchester Polytechnic Students Union, All Saints Square, off Oxford Road.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT IS School on Ireland. Speaker Paddy Prendiville. Monday 14 July, 7.30pm, IS Books, Digbeth.

SOUTHWARK IS Education Meeting: Spain in Crisis. North Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road, Wednesday 16 July 8pm.

IS DAY SCHOOL ON THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT IN EUROPE—The latest developments. 1. Portugal. Speaker Colin

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.

Sparks (just back from Lisbon again). 2. The revolutionary Left in Europe. Speaker Chris Harman. 3. The IS Portugal Trip. Speaker Paul Harrison. Sunday 27 July in Manchester. All IS members going on the trip or going to Portugal by themselves to attend. Pooled fare system (under new management!)

YORKSHIRE Regional IS summer school: weekend 30-31 August (starts 11am Saturday). Trades Club, Saville Mount, off Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7.

SOUTH WEST LONDON DISTRICT IS meeting for members and close supporters: The struggle in the Caribbean and of Blacks in Britain. Speakers: Martha Osamor and a West Indian militant. Tuesday 15 July, 8pm, Children's Library, 31 Jeffreys Road, SW4.

BUILDING WORKERS: All IS branches and districts which have not already sent the names of IS building worker members of UGATT, TGWU and EETPU to the national fraction secretary must do so immediately. Contact Building Workers IS Fraction secretary, flat 12, 45 Broadwick Street, London, W1. Phone 01-437 3978.

MIDLANDS REGION IS building workers' fraction meeting: Sunday 13 July, noon-3.30pm, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham (20 yards from Digbeth Civic Hall). All IS building workers and EETPU members working on the sites in Birmingham, Northampton, Leicester, Coventry, Oxford and Black Country IS districts to attend. District secretaries please note.

IS notices

HELP US GET THE DIRT ON THE BOSSES. Socialist Worker Information Service needs a comrade with spare time to work one or two days a week during August digging out company profits, director's salaries etc. Phone Alan Denean 01-739 9043

ANY IS MEMBER with knowledge of German or Germany contact Alan Miles, 01-639 3043, immediately with view to setting up German group.

THE BATTLER, 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.

BIRMINGHAM IS District Social: Saturday 12 July, 8pm till late, New Inns, Moseley. Admission 30p.

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 Crescent, London E2.

SOCCER RESULT: Socialist Worker printshop 6. South East London District 3. Man of the Match: Pete Walters (SW).

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.

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.

SUMMER SCHOOL SUCCESS

IS members in the North East attended a successful summer school in Newcastle last weekend. The school was primarily for newer members. The first session on Saturday morning was introduced by two local speakers who talked about the history and traditions of IS. Even some of the older and more experienced members agreed that most of our members knew too little of the history of our organisation and the political arguments we have used over the years.

John Taylor, from Bradford, then led off the discussion on revolutionary prospects in Southern Europe. The discussions highlighted the need for members to be much better informed of the important and exciting events happening in Portugal, Spain and Italy. When arguing in your workplace or talking to pickets, socialists can use what's happening in Portugal as an example to workers here in Britain. Three concrete suggestions were made:

1. More coverage in Socialist Worker of events in Southern Europe.
2. Wherever possible IS members should push for trades councils, union branches and shop stewards' committees to invite members of the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating committee to speak on the events in Portugal.
3. IS members should use the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund to raise money and introduce the issues involved in Portugal in their workplaces.

On Sunday Elana Dallas spoke about the economics of the crisis and covered briefly the causes of inflation—why capitalism booms and slumps—and the role of arms spending in the economy. The school then broke up into discussion groups where the topics of nationalisation, the myth of the national cake and Healey's 10 per cent or £6 incomes policy were hammered out.

More of these weekend schools are being planned during the summer in different parts of the country. IS members, particularly newer ones, should make sure they attend. Newcastle IS.

Film tour ends

THE latest Socialist Worker film tour reached a successful conclusion in North London on Sunday when 140 people attended the final showing of Last Grave at Dimbaza. The film has been shown in 11 towns up and down the country.

For those interested in the workings of international capitalism in South Africa, but have been unable to reach one of the showings, the film can be hired from Morena Films, 607 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London WC2. Posters advertising the film are available to IS branches from Pete Marsden, at Socialist Worker (Phone 01-739 9043).

Link with Italian socialists

MEMBERS of the Central Committee of the International Socialists met last weekend with representatives of the leadership of the Italian revolutionary socialist organisation Avanguardia Operaia.

The first discussion was on the nature of the world crisis. There were considerable disagreements between the two organisations, particularly over the role which the working class has to play in struggles in the Third World. But it was felt on both sides that the discussion was well worthwhile. In the second session, on the question of building revolutionary parties in Italy and Britain today, there was much more agreement.

It was decided to continue the discussions in various ways, and to work out more fully methods of practical collaboration between the two organisations. A meeting will be held later this year between worker militants in the two organisations to discuss the experience of the fight against redundancy and unemployment, and it is hoped to print the transcript of last weekend's discussions in English and Italian. It is also planned to print the account of the Italian situation made by one of the AO speakers in a coming issue of International Socialism journal.

The freeze sets the first test

by Jim Nichol
IS National Secretary

IN the next few months most of the new IS district committees will be put to the test. The fight against Healey's freeze requires political insight and flexibility.

We expect the freeze will mean many workers will look for new ideas and a revolutionary strategy to fight its effects. We should now test and gauge that feeling by stepping up our sales of Socialist Worker.

The past year has seen massive concentration by IS members towards political activity where they work. It was not an easy shift, it has taken a long time, it is nowhere near perfect, nor is it complete. A major problem has been that the shift has not been accompanied by a comparable sale of Socialist Worker in the workplace. District committees should now see as a priority the development of such sales. District Socialist Worker organisers should produce for discussion at district committees, detailed breakdown of who sells where, and how many copies, at places of work.

At the same time we have to test the feeling on the High Streets and estates. This again is not easy. Having spent so much time turning members towards the factories it seems contradictory to argue now for aggressive sales in the High Street.

This is not an activity to be left to those with nothing else to do. Our best members should be out showing the importance of such work. Still over half of our new members come from contact made by street sales.

The freeze will result in massive unemployment. Unemployment can only effectively be fought from within the trade union movement. Each district committee will have to ask how our policies can win within the movement. This means that each trade union fraction within the district should consider how to tackle the problem locally.

How should we fight for our policy on the trades council, in the union branch, the district committee, the shop stewards'



committee? Certainly serious consideration should be given to the production of local Socialist Worker factory bulletins.

The fight against the freeze, unemployment and redundancies is a political fight. We should be clear in our own minds that we cannot fight alone. This means that we have to see as a priority the winning of all those workers willing to fight alongside us. The building of Socialist Worker supporters' groups, who support us politically and financially too, is crucial. IS district committees should also discuss the organisation of supporters and try discussion meetings.

During the next few weeks all our national trade union fractions will be spelling out policies for fighting unemployment and the freeze. These will be printed in Socialist Worker. District committees should see these are discussed and implemented.

Socialist Worker should be fed with ideas and reactions about what is happening in the localities and factories.

There is no easy formula for tackling the situation. A major part of the first meeting of the IS National Council—held in London on 6/7 September, will be devoted to discuss the freeze.

We cannot determine what the exact reactions of the labour movement, or indeed exactly how long they will take to show themselves, but we do know the results of Healey's measures for working-class living standards. District committees in the next few weeks should prepare our membership for the fight back.

For Discussion at IS district committees:

- 1 The effects of the freeze, the possible extent of unemployment, and the likely reaction of the local labour movement.
- 2 Sales of Socialist Worker in places of work.
- 3 Sales of Socialist Worker on High Streets, Estates etc.
- 4 Discussions on district policy for fighting within the trade union movement.
- 5 Organisation of Socialist Worker Supporters groups.
- 6 Socialist Worker Factory Bulletins.
- 7 Specific implementation of national IS fraction policies.
- 8 Regular articles, information, letters to Socialist Worker.

Agitprop conference

AN Agitprop Conference for IS street actors and silk screeners, designers and printers, singers and musicians, projectionists and poets everyone interested in art and how we use it to build the workers' movement is to be held in Manchester in September. It will include practical workshops, a planning session for autumn film and theatre tours, and discussion sessions on Agitprop in the Thirties, Art versus Propaganda, and the Entertainment Unions.

The conference will be in Manchester on the weekend 27/28 September, with a Grand Agitational Social. For details send £1 registration fee to Roland Muldoon, 11 Cabell Street, London NW1. Accommodation can be arranged.

School students

A LONDON IS School Students committee has been set up and aims to initiate action on various demands in September—plans are under way for a pamphlet on the education cuts and how to organise them in school, which would be sold at the beginning of term.

The committee has organised a day school for school students on Sunday 20 July. It will cover the traditions of IS, the Revolution in Portugal, a history of the student struggle, and the fight back against the public spending cuts—how school students can take part.

All IS school students in London are urged to attend. All IS district committees to support. Names of those wishing to attend to School Students Committee, c/o Liz Balfour, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



What we stand for

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

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

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

The smashing of the capitalist state The state machine is a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

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

Name

Address

Trade Union



LAURIE FLYNN reviews a revolting book on General Amin by the deputy editor of PUNCH, a magazine with a long tradition of racism...

THREE weeks ago, BBC TV news devoted about 15 minutes to an interview with Idi Amin, President of Uganda and a favourite long-standing target of the British media.

The interview came at the height of the dispute over the fate of lecturer Dennis Hills. Amin used the occasion to attack British diplomats and their drinking habits. The BBC used the occasion to attack Idi Amin. The attack, of course, was not on his reactionary politics. It was on the fact that he was black.

Throughout the interview, Amin spoke English with a fairly heavy accent. That's not surprising since English is not his native tongue.

Nevertheless, throughout the interview, I couldn't help but think: 'Why doesn't he speak English properly?'

Butt

I suppose it could be argued that my motives were half decent. If only he spoke English 'properly', I was thinking, he wouldn't be quite such an easy butt for the racism that permeates our society.

Interesting that you want him to change his ways, as if it was the responsibility of black people to halt the disgusting business of reinforcing racist ideas. As if they were the cause of it, instead of the victims.

Alan Coren, deputy editor of Punch, the so-called humorous magazine available in every dentist's waiting room and about as funny, has written a book on Amin's 'improper' English.

It has sold a lot of copies, and Mr Coren has made a lot of money, which is what he set out to do.

He has also done a great deal to make it easier for the middle class reader to feel free to make racist jokes and remarks.

There is not the remotest sparkle of humour in the book unless you find it amusing that Amin (and other blacks) speak funny.

Five

Amin speaks five languages, Kakwa, Luganda, Swahili and Nubian Arabic, as well as English. But all that can be safely buried under the racist caricature of the black man speaking the Queen's English with an accent.

The back-page blurb for Coren's revolting little book spells out the racist assumptions very clearly.

As de magnificent prose unfoldin', wid its smart sentences, many o' dese put into convenient paragraphs an' covered in top punctuation, we seein' not only a unbiased insight into de emergence o' de great Ugandan nation, we also privileged to watch de worl's foremost soul gittin' it all off o' his chest, settin' down de innermost thoughts in a vocablerary wot runnin' into hunnerds, many wid up to two syllables.

It got adjectives, it got verbs, it got many o' civilisation's mos' famous nouns. It a combination o' Marcel Proops an' Harold Robbins an' Arthur Mee...

So not only do Africans speak 'funny', but Punch's reviewer suggests they're a bit short on vocabulary, a bit 'thick'.

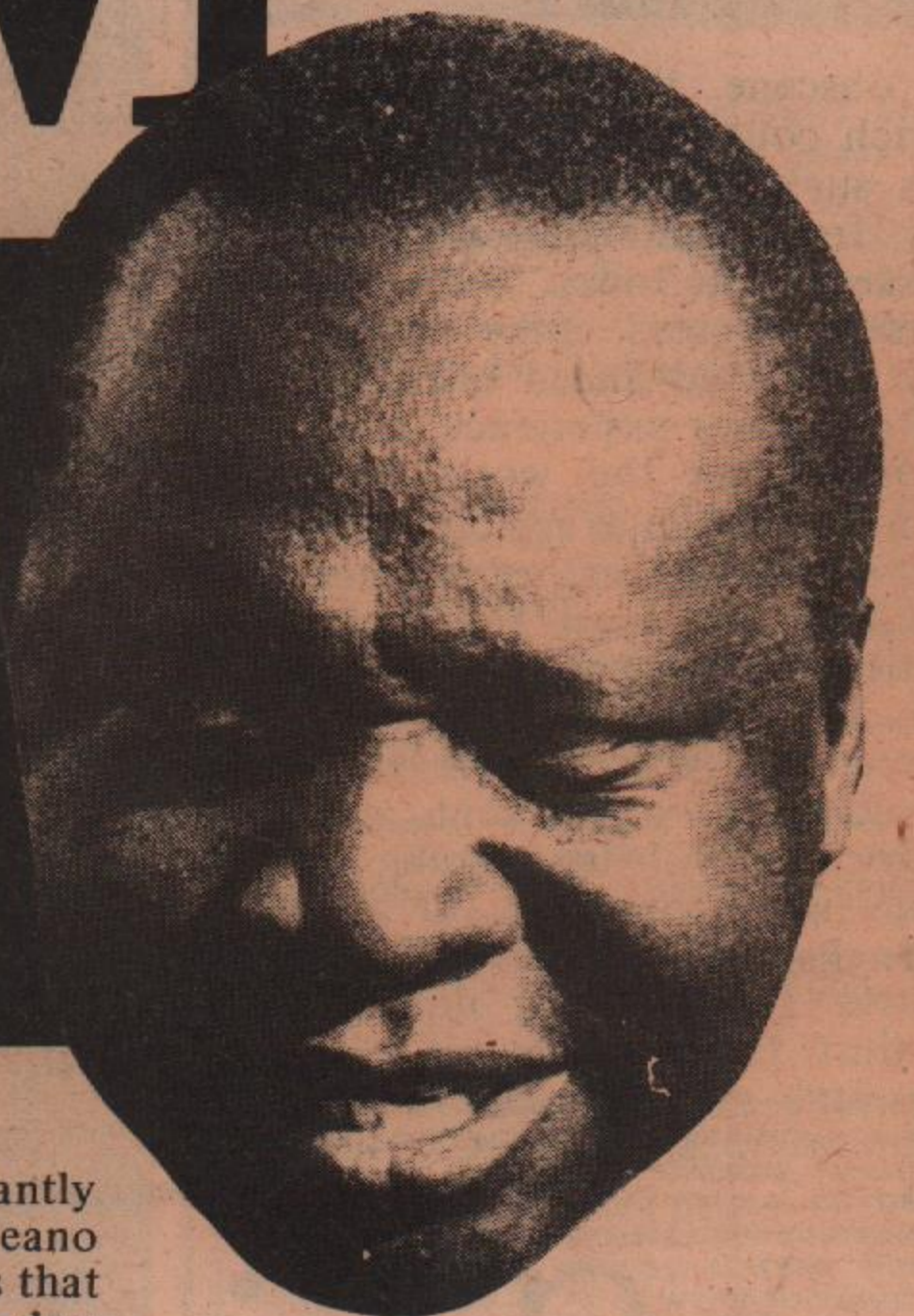
And then Amin is mocked for a



Throughout the late nineteenth century, Punch depicted Irish men and women as apes; today Amin—and black people generally—get similar treatment

RACISM

Amin is attacked, not for his reactionary politics, but because he is black and therefore 'inferior' . . . so re-assuring for the junior executive class of pisspots who read and write Punch and who also jeer at workers . . .



whole number of other 'peculiarities'. He loves uniforms and medals—a sure sign that he is the creation of the British ruling class.

But it's not medals and uniforms that are absurd for Mr Coren. It's that Amin doesn't bother about the niceties. He doesn't know when to wear tails and when a morning suit. Poor fellow, obviously he never went to Eton.

The political assumptions behind racist ideas are also clearly set out in the book. The very first sentence of the introduction reads:

'Lotta people gonna be wonderin' about how de cornerstone o' Ugandan literature gettin' laid.'

Mere Ugandans don't have any literature or culture. That is the clear assumption.

Well they may be without the great intellectual achievements of an Alan Coren. They may not be on the same 'level of civilisation' as Chalfont St Giles, where every household has a set of Punch bound

volumes. But, by Christ, they're not without culture, spoken and unspoken.

The masters of the British Empire have long tried to pretend they were. They stole the treasures of Africa and India not only to enrich themselves or to make bequests to the British Museum.

Victims

They stole to degrade and dispirit their victims, to make it easier for the chosen people to rule. The poison also came in handy to divide British workers from their brothers and sisters in Africa and India.

If you force yourself to read the dreadful bullshit of Alan Coren, you'll find that the connection between Idi Amin, Ugandans and other supposedly inferior beings, other people with funny accents, is explicitly drawn.

There are drawings aimed at Italian waiters. And Amin's

supposed inferiority is constantly associated with reading the Beano or the Hotspur or other things that are associated with working-class life.

Up in Chalfont St Giles they laugh at Cockney accents, too. As for Glasgow, why that really makes them hoot.

Coren's market is middle class. He wants to re-assure the junior executive class of pisspots that read and write Punch.

They are being reassured that they still are, as their school books, The Young Winston and endless Observer Colour Magazine series on two million years of Bwewish History have always argued, uniquely fitted to rule over mere human beings.

If you're feeling rich, buy up a few hundred copies of this book, dig a hole in your back garden (if you've got one in this country of yours) and spade them in. They might make tenth rate compost, if that is, it doesn't poison the soil.

By Europe Singh

perate for cheap labour—and how they are driven back again once those economies slip into recession.

The most serious weakness of the book is its failure to give any guidance in the fight back. The chapter on this has some useful examples of black struggles but the lessons of the battles won and lost are never drawn. The reader is left with the feeling that somehow spontaneous struggles will win the day.

The author seems completely unaware of the work done by white and black IS members, by the Rank and File movement, and even ignorant of the existence of the newspaper Chingari, which appears in two Asian languages.

Nevertheless, buy the book, read it and use it. The struggle against racism is not solely the concern of black workers, as the book implies. It must be a central concern of all class-conscious militants.

RACISM is not merely the product of individual prejudice, a question of psychology. It is locked into the very fabric of this society.

In this new book* Robert Moore traces the roots of racism in British society. He explains why black people came to Britain, as many other groups had come before, and details the oppressions they face once here. His book contains all the arguments that white militants and socialists need to combat the lies and distortions of racists.

The section on immigration policy and its link with the policies of other European countries is the best part of the book. It shows how masses of people are herded across the world like cattle in the interests of profit-hungry economies des-

**Racism and Black Resistance in Britain* by Robert Moore, 85p (inc postage) from Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY
BBC-1: 6.15pm. THE SUNDAY DEBATE features Tory Geoffrey Howe and the Transport Union's Jack Jones plus two vicars to put God's two points of view on 'Should There Be An Upper Limit to Personal Incomes?' THE WORLD ABOUT US: THE UNOFFICIAL COUNTRYSIDE (BBC-2, 7.25pm) is about London's wildlife. YESTERDAY'S WITNESS is on the development of X-RAYS—THE EARLY DAYS (BBC-2, 10.15pm).

MONDAY
ITV: 8.30pm. A WORLD ON ITS OWN is a documentary on 100 years of Stratford's Royal Shakespeare Theatre. THE KNACK (BBC-1, 9.25pm) the 1965 British film comedy full of white back drops and pregnant pauses, ok at time . . .

TUESDAY
BBC-1: 9.25pm. SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS? featuring Clement Kennomeat, Anna Raeburn of Woman magazine's agony column and Alfred Hinds on what our rights are.

WEDNESDAY
BBC-2: 9pm. DIE ROTE KAPPELLE—THE STORY OF THE RED ORCHESTRA is a West German documentary on the Russian spy ring in Nazi Germany. THE ASCENT OF MAN: THE MAJESTIC CLOCKWORK (BBC-2, 8.10pm) on Sir Isaac Newton and Dr Albert Einstein.

THURSDAY
BBC-2: 9.25pm. MAN ALIVE: PROBATION—CARE OR CONTROL? 'on the work and attitudes of a group of probation officers in West Yorkshire during a typical working day'.

FRIDAY
BBC-2: 9.50pm. HANNA REPORTS: SAMURI—SUMO—SURVIVAL is about the Sumo wrestlers who get themselves 'enormously fat so that the physicans can be moulded into human battering rams'. Part of the 'Japan as a Freakshow' syndrome the BBC seems increasingly obsessed with.

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

RACISM

THIS BOOK CONTAINS ALL THE ARGUMENTS TO COMBAT THE LIES

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.

Postal Points

DOCTORS: IN ANY LANGUAGE IT'S RACISM

THE PRESS has been full of reports about hospital doctors who can't speak English. Last week the results of the first test in English and medical knowledge for overseas doctors in Britain revealed a 60 per cent failure rate.

25,000 overseas doctors, mainly from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, work in Britain, and are indispensable in running our hospitals.

Employing overseas doctors has considerable advantages to the National Health Service management. Training a doctor in this country costs at least £20,000, so they must save about £100 million a year on training.

No wonder the General Medical Council is worried about the results of the tests. While these doctors are working in this country, their countries of origin lose that money.

INTENT

It's obscene that a comparatively rich country such as Britain extracts such a scarce resource as doctors from countries with so much disease, like India.

Overseas doctors come to this country to get advanced qualifications. But, in our experience, overseas doctors get the worst jobs, in the most unpopular regions, with the worst educational opportunities, and in the most unpopular specialities such as venereal disease.

Like all migrant workers they are forced to accept jobs their white colleagues won't accept.

IS doctors will be arguing in our trade union branches for adequate English and educational opportunities for overseas doctors, and against the racialism of consultants and management in the allocation of jobs.—IS DOCTORS, London.

The Dimbleby Talk-In: How they fixed it

IF YOU watched the Dimbleby Talk-In on BBC last Friday, you may have been surprised that so many of the workers in the studio audience supported the wage freeze.

I was there—and I'd like to tell you about the other Dimbleby Talk-In... the one they never put on the air.

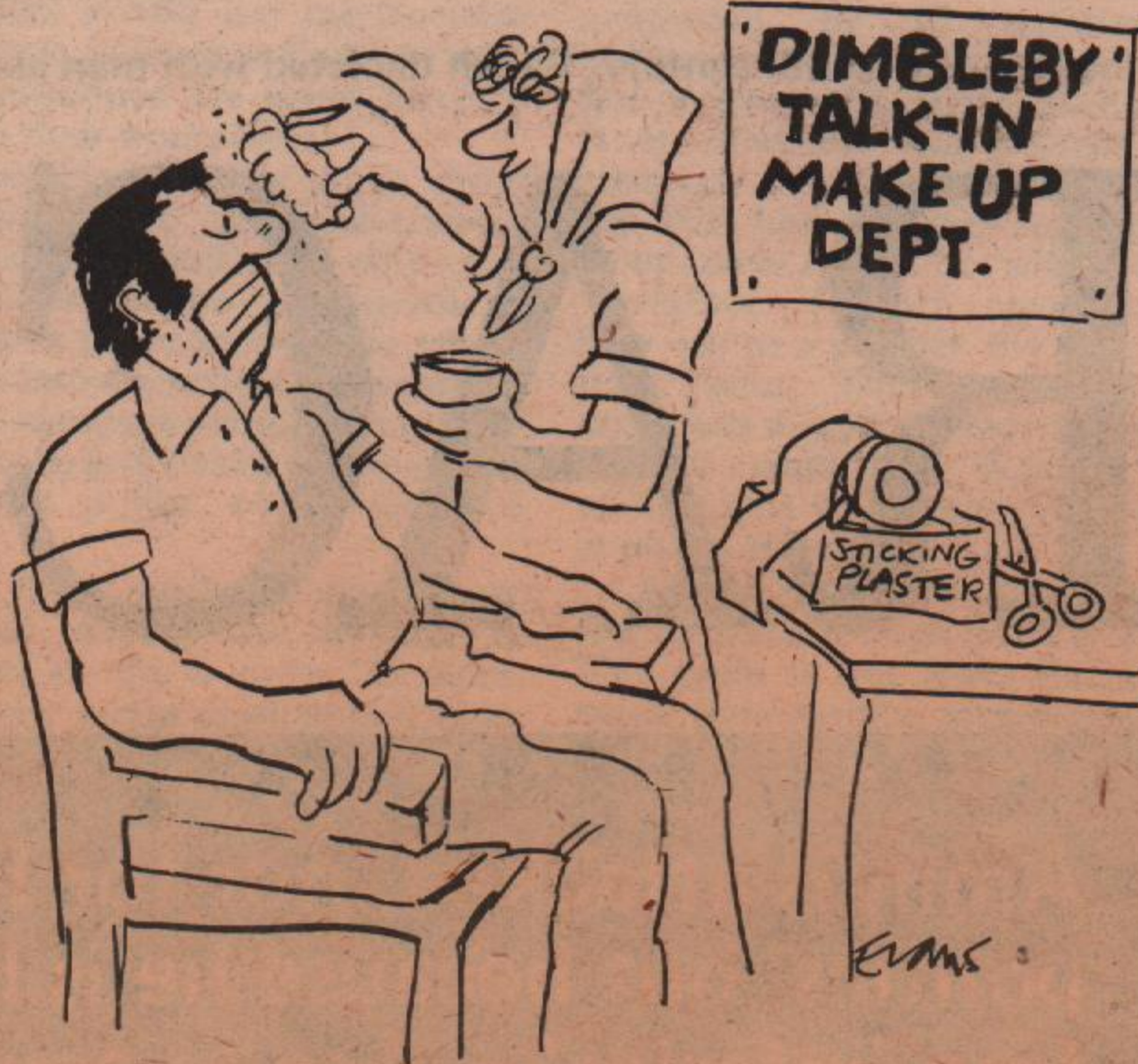
After the two guest speakers—Labour MP and Scottish land-owner John Mackintosh, and TASS general secretary Ken Gill—had said their bit, the audience waded in.

Workers told how the wage freeze was being used in addition to unemployment and cuts in the social services. One teacher said she was firmly opposed to the freeze but couldn't fight it because she was being made redundant.

The debate was white hot. Mackintosh's arguments were being made to look pretty tatty. The workers came across as full of fight and impatience with his phoney arguments.

As we got ready to go, an excited fellow leapt into the studio. The programme was, apparently, 'bad television', full of people interrupting. It simply couldn't go out.

He explained that if we were all a bit calmer and agreed to do a second run it would be much better. So the cameras started all over again.



There were still plenty of interruptions—but, this time, the moderates hogged the screen. The rest of us never got called. We waited impatiently to get in, but all too soon it was over.

That programme went out after the news that a recent opinion poll had found four-fifths of the public

were in favour of a wage freeze. That would have been challenged by the programme. But it never went out.

The reason? Not because it was bad television but because it was bad for business and politicians. That programme was rigged.—ANNA PACZUSKA, Hackney, London.

Socialism and the family

A BYRNE'S letter, (28 June) is a little misleading. Where did Chris Harman's article on rape state, or even imply, that 'to establish socialism, the family as a unit must be destroyed'?

He merely points out the hypocrisy of institutions such as the Church putting the family on a pedestal while supporting a system which, by its nature is bound to lead to strains and tensions, and thus mar the picture of the ideal family which these institutions paint.

When a marriage breaks down and the members of the family are

involved in emotionally destructive struggles with one another, what have these institutions done?

They have supported and maintained a situation where it is extremely difficult for that family to dissolve itself and relieve some of the tension, by making life physically difficult for the one-parent family.

The family is of the greatest use to capitalism. But the mythology surrounding the family, and not the family itself must be destroyed to achieve socialism.

However this does not mean the family will be ideally suited to socialism. We cannot produce a blueprint for any institution under socialism, but we must recognise that there are obvious deficiencies in the present family set-up. Children are dominated by their parents, for instance.

Under socialism, as under capitalism, the family will be geared to the needs of the economy, but then production, and thus the economy, will be geared to need and not profit.—KEITH RANDLE, JUNE HARDY, Bath.

ALL TRUE socialists should applaud Chris Harman's attack on the family.

Every member of a working class family is exploited through the family system. The onus is placed upon the 'head of the family' to provide for all its members.

A working class wife who goes to work is doubly exploited because she has to work two shifts a day, one unpaid. The children, the workforce of the future, are almost entirely dependent upon their parents' resources.

Socialism would substitute a system which would enable people to live together from choice not, as now, from necessity.

When women achieve economic independence and equal rights, and children are regarded as a communal responsibility, the family will cease to be an economic unit.

It will consequently break up, just as the tribe or clan did. It will be replaced by individual liberty, possible only under socialism.—KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.

One way to fight racism

AN ENGINEERING union branch has sent a resolution to the local district committee calling for a ban on immigration because of the high unemployment rate. This was noted by the district committee.

My branch sent a resolution strongly criticising the district for not condemning this racist resolution.

Since then my branch has nominated and won, an election for a black shop steward on the district committee.

Other branches should support black militants. Through pushing forward black workers in this way the racist attitudes of white workers can be exposed and defeated, in the interests of unity.—PAUL BOLTON, AUEW, Tipton, Staffs.

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.

6p plus 5½p postage from WOMEN'S VOICE, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Abortion: The pioneers
Spain: The gathering storm
The views of a PRP leader
Oil and the crisis
Pictures from Portugal

International Socialism 80

Available, price 28p (inc postage) from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

SOCIALIST Worker is giving good coverage of political trials in Spain and India... So how come we've forgotten the Shrewsbury Two... We should concentrate on collecting money for the Shrewsbury Dependants Fund—for the obvious reason, and also as a way of keeping the issue and its lessons alive.—MEL BARTLEY (NUPE), DAVE BLANE (ASTMS), GORDON DAVIE (COHSE), NELL HIRST (AUEW).

THE RAILWAY workers have been discriminated against by the recent settlement... Even if we could have got what we asked for, our lowest paid would still not have reached the pit workers' minimum. We have been called greedy and irresponsible, but we were clearly not demanding more than others were given freely.—J B WALTERS, Freight Train Guard, Knottingley.

AS A DEFENDANT in the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign conspiracy trial, I thank you for your article on our case. I was grateful that you included a quotation about our political aims, as these are so often misrepresented by the media. We would be glad to communicate with other organisations or individuals concerned about Northern Ireland. Write to us, c/o 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.—GAVYN WILLIAMS, London NW10.

I WAS recently made redundant from a small transport firm in Eastleigh, near Southampton. They lost a few contracts, so a few people had to go. Now business is back to normal. They have three Manpower men in regularly. I have repeatedly tried to tell my workmates that we're just pawns to be played with by the bosses. They believe me now. But they certainly didn't before.—SW READER, Southampton.

YOU STAND for nationalisation without compensation under workers' control... In my opinion, you should be advocating socialisation of industry... Nationalisation is what they have in the Soviet Union. It's time nationalisation of industry was given the go by being supplanted by socialisation of industry.—R DUNLOP, Edinburgh.

THE ARTICLE on Dimbaza (21 June) makes it clear that we in the International Socialists think it is industrial power which can end apartheid. On the next page, there is an apology for all the articles about strikes—in other words about the use of industrial power—that have had to be cut out or excluded because of lack of space.

Nearly every week there are long, often boring, irrelevant review articles which take up valuable space. Don't cut them out, but do cut them down.—SANDY ROSE, Manchester.

Putting the record straight...

THE REPORTS in local and national newspapers of a 25 per cent increase in salaries for local government staffs are erroneous. The settlement consolidates threshold payments which the staff are already getting.

It also fails to equate with the increase obtained earlier this year by the civil service staffs, and does not even fully compensate for the increase in the cost of living over the past year.

In other words, local government staffs are taking a cut in their real standard of living!

It is unfortunate that the media does not take more care to give a true picture of such settlements.—NALGO members, Suffolk County Council Social Services Department, Ipswich No 7 District.

BETTER OFF ON THE DOLE...

SO WE are staying in the Common Market. How confusing a vote it must have been for most workers. These are the sort of views I have heard:

A worker unemployed for some time said: 'These are now possibilities of a job somewhere in Europe for me.' A Pakistani, who also voted yes, said: 'Racialism may be a little more difficult to use now; the difficulty in getting into this country and other European countries, where I have to wait for years for my family to join me, will not now be so difficult.'

A bloke looking at his pay slip shouts out after looking at his tax deductions, 'I've worked three days for bugger all. I'm better off on the dole with my wife and kids.' Little does he know there's more to come. Anyway it may cause tempers to become so frayed generally—and, who knows, the revolution may only be round the corner.—JEFF ALI, TGWU, Burnley.

Beware this 'wonder fibre'!

by John Morser (IS Science Group)
CARBON FIBRE, the British wonder-fibre of the late 1960s, was introduced with a lot of fanfare: 'Stronger than steel and lighter than aluminium'. But, as is usual in the chemical industry, nothing was said about how carbon fibre production might effect the health and safety of chemical workers.

Manufacture of the fibre was begun without an inquiry into the possible long-term health hazards and operating conditions were not designed to minimise already known dangers.

Courtauld manufactures carbon fibre from 'Courtelle' at one of its Coventry plants. At first sight, the material and its production seem harmless, but in time several potential hazards have been discovered by the workers.

As the Courtelle is heated to reach a temperature of more than 2000 degrees C, poisonous gases are released. These gases are mainly cyanide and ammonia, yet no samples are taken of the exhaust. There is an additional hazard in the heating process: the danger of explosions. There have already been several minor explosions in the plant.

The main problem is the dust particles which fill the air all around. When the stewards questioned the company about its effects, the answer was not to worry, because the big particles would be safely trapped in the workers' noses!

Lungs

Many miners and chemical workers can testify, that small dust particles, such as coal-dust, asbestos and silica, entering the lungs over a period of time, can cause pneumoconiosis. We certainly hope that in a few years time there is not a new industrial disease called 'carbon fibrosis'.

The final stage of production, which consists of treating the fibre before it is stuck to a tape with epoxy resin, produces a new set of ailments, mainly skin burns and dermatitis.

TGWU steward Chris Smith told Socialist Worker: 'After I started working in this department, I developed a rash on my arm and neck. The burn on my neck disappears when I'm away from work, but returns as soon as I am in contact with the tape machine. My hands feel rough as though the glass fibre splinters are between the fingers. Off and on, everybody has these symptoms.'

'We get a burning sensation around our eyes when we work on the tape line. The burning lasts until we leave the plant. After working we feel abnormally tired—much more than you would expect from just standing, with no effort.'

Chemical workers are familiar with the symptoms that arise from work in the industry: continuous coughs, skin rashes, tiredness, dizziness, not to mention serious illnesses. Many workers accept this as part of the job.

But it is possible to fight back by calling for regular health checks paid for by the company, union scrutiny of medical files, safety officers elected by union members, training courses in health and safety run by the union for shop-stewards and members, and periodic inspection of the plants by union-nominated industrial consultants.

THE HAZARDS OF WORK—AND HOW TO FIGHT THEM: Pat Kinnersly's Workers' Handbook on dangerous chemicals, pollution, industrial hazards and how to stay alive among them. £1 including postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

THE MACHINE WITH A DEMOCRATIC FACE

Andy Enever (TGWU shop steward, Chrysler Stoke) reports from the TGWU

NOT ONE of the 38 main resolutions presented to the Transport Workers' biennial conference in Blackpool last week was defeated. Every one was carried unanimously or overwhelmingly.

You might be forgiven for thinking this is a sign of a united trade union. In fact, it is a sign of a bureaucratic machine with a democratic face.

418 resolutions were presented to conference. Obviously there has to be a lot of compositing to get through the business.

The standing orders committee which composites the resolutions is run by the union's full-time legal officer, A C Blyghton. He is the conference dentist. He takes the teeth out of the resolutions, and leaves nothing but harmless composites.

When your toothless resolution reaches the floor, each speaker is allowed three minutes, except for the full-time national officer who is allowed to speak 'at the chairman's discretion', which means that he can go on for as long as he wants.

The resolutions, when passed, give the executive a free hand to 'interpret' the

policy contained in them. Policies are so vague that few can ever seriously vote against them.

In the Social Contract debate, the teeth were pulled out of the opposition's numerous resolutions, so that even if the contract had been defeated, the resolution could have left the executive free to do almost anything they wanted.

The conference has a democratic face, all right. It's not difficult for rank and file workers to speak, and they can say what they like.

Troops

Several delegates gave the officials quite a roasting. One from Glasgow savaged the executive for their role during the dustmen's strike earlier in the year, which was broken by troops.

A delegate from Walls, Willesden did the unmentionable. He attacked Jack Jones for writing a letter, which he said, 'knocked the stuffing' out of the fight in Walls against redundancy.

Many such critical speeches were listened to patronisingly by the platform, but none of them found their way into resolutions or instructions to the executive.

The argument in the rank and file about the direction of the union or the power of the officials never comes out in the conference conclusions.

So the executive, and especially Jones, who stands supreme, are allowed to go their own sweet way for two years almost without worrying about the conference. It's more like a display of executive ability rather than a conference which controls the union.

However, the conference is important. It is possible to get good socialist arguments on political questions across to the delegates, most of whom are convenors and shop stewards.

Shop-floor socialists should redouble their efforts to involve themselves in the union at all levels, including conference. We must fight to make the conference properly democratic and the ruling body of the union.

This means annual conferences. It means strict limits on the speeches of executive members and full-time officials. It means complete lay control of the standing orders committee.

Above all, it means the regular elections of all the union's officials—including the general secretary.



Action now or starvation tomorrow, says one placard on the CSM workers' picket line

Cornwall: 34 strike in heart of Tory land

LISKEARD: 34 sheet metal workers at the Cornish Sign Manufacturing factory are in the third week of their strike to get union recognition and decent rates and conditions. The bosses have refused to talk, but their strike-breaking tactics have come out loud and clear.

White-collar workers gave been roped in to man the expensive machines. Jim

Shackell, strike organiser, reckons that the wages of the 26 blacklegs comes to more than the total wage bill of the 34 strikers.

Another trick is to by-pass the tough picket line by getting deliveries made in small parcels to the shop next door.

For larger deliveries, the boss himself jumps into the lorry and drives it through

the picket line.

The strike committee has started producing a rank and file paper for distribution around the area. The paper aims to build up solidarity in the area, and a fight against wages and conditions.

This strike is in the heart of Tory land and desperately needs support. Messages and donations to Jim Shackell, Foye, Old Road, Liskeard, Cornwall.

'Poverty-stricken' Chrysler hides its profits

FOR YEARS, Chrysler (UK) have pleaded poverty. They have met each pay claim by threatening to leave Britain. They are now asking the government for financial aid.

Many Chrysler workers have remained sceptical about the company's lack of profitability. That suspicion has been hardened by a recent Labour Research Department fact sheet, which says: 'An examination of the prices Chrysler UK charges for vehicles sent overseas suggests that part of the company's recent 17.7 million pounds pre-tax loss may be a result of artificially low export prices.'

Chrysler UK has been the only big car company in Britain to have reported any trading loss between 1969 and 1974, £4.5 million in 1970 and £6.6 million in 1974. Trading profit on each vehicle is around half that of Chrysler's nearest rivals.

Higher wages are not the cause. In 1973, average wages at Chrysler were £7 a week lower than at Ford and only £2 a week higher than at Vauxhall. Nor is Chrysler's productivity lower than its competitors. There is however, according to the fact sheet, a sharp difference when the average price per exported vehicle is examined.

	PRICE PER VEHICLE EXPORTED			
	Chrysler	British Leyland	Vauxhall	Ford
1972	£593	£817	£1064	£1493
1973	£621	£1050	£1184	£1801
1974	£629	£1248	-	£2035

Labour Research comments: 'Thus Chrysler's price per vehicle exported in 1973 was around £400 less than the price British Leyland was charging. By 1974, this had increased to £600.'

Kit

Despite difficulties in comparing these figures (some vehicles are exported in kit form) these figures raise embarrassing questions for Chrysler. The average price of vehicles sold in Britain is similar for all four companies.

The report adds: 'The American-owned Chrysler Corporation would gain nothing from these low export prices if overseas sales were outside the company. But, in almost all export markets, Chrysler UK's sales go in

the first instance to other subsidiaries of Chrysler Corporation.

'Since 1968 Chrysler International SA, a subsidiary registered in Switzerland, have handled the marketing of UK products in 140 countries... This Company have not, despite an apparent legal requirement to do so, filed any accounts for inspection since 1969. But in that year it showed a trading profit of around £12 million, twice that of Chrysler UK. Taxes on profits are only ten per cent in Switzerland.'

If export prices have been kept artificially low, then the sums involved are very large indeed. In the last three years Chrysler UK have exported some 390,000 vehicles. In the light of these facts, Chrysler UK could be £93 million better off.

They are exporting cheaply from Britain and selling from Switzerland at much higher prices to benefit from Swiss tax laws. And so they can claim poverty in Britain while making millions out of the work we do here.

At the same time Chrysler are trying to get a hand-out from the Labour government. They are threatening our jobs and conditions.

There is a simple answer: Nationalise Chrysler. There should be no question of compensation. They have been making millions for years and disguising it.

Classified

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

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.

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.

HOSPITAL WORKER CONFERENCE: Manchester University Students Union, Meeting Room, 1 Oxford Road, Saturday 19 July, 11.30-5pm. Agenda: Crisis in the NHS, Attacks on trade unionism, Bonus schemes and wages, Hospital Worker, Election of committee. Social in the evening.

Drop all charges on the Iranian 21! Picket Bow Street magistrates court, from 9.30am Wednesday 16 July. Nearest tube Covent Garden.

North London Troops Out Movement public meeting: Why the troops should be withdrawn from Northern Ireland. Speakers include Mike Knowles (secretary Hackney Trades Council). Chair: Councillor Val Vaness. Thursday 17 July, 8pm, Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London, N7.

Two comrades urgently need two rooms in shared house/flat or a small flat in W/SW London at low rent. Ring 01-689 1337 (evenings).

Middle East Research and Action Group workshop on Zionism—the failure of Jewish nationalism. Saturday 12 July, 3pm, Centre Iberico, 83A Haverstock Hill, London, NW3. All welcome.

SPECIAL OFFER: Fascism in Germany, by Robert Black. This two volume, 1200 page work is now available at the reduced price of £6.50, postage and packing included. Written from a Marxist standpoint, Fascism in Germany is the most comprehensive study in the English language of Hitler's rise to power. It also documents, and makes a highly critical analysis of, the policies of the leaders of the German workers' movement, policies which, in the author's view, alone made Hitler's victory possible. Those subscribing now will receive by return of post Volume 1, which is already available. Write to Steyne Publications, 32 Prince of Wales Road, London, NW5. Money order payable to K. Blick.

The Forgotten Literature of Bolshevism: I would be pleased to meet anyone interested in regularly collaborating on research, editorial or translation work in this field. Knowledge of Russian (or German) helpful. R Chappell, 6 Spenser Road, London, SE24 (01-261 4409, before 4PM).

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, 632 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham 29.

The fight against the spending cuts

Battle to save four E. London hospitals

EAST LONDON:—Four local hospitals face closure because the Area Health Authority cannot 'afford' to keep them open.

First there was Poplar Hospital, now the Invalid and Crippled Childrens' Hospital (ICCH) is for the chop. Recently the neighbouring AHA, City and East London, published its plans to 'reorganise' its health services. The promised new District Hospital has been cancelled, but plans to close two hospitals (Eastern and Metropolitan) go ahead.

Trade unionists have begun to fight back. The Save Poplar Hospital Committee has been extended to fight the closure of the ICCH and the other hospitals, as well as opposing the cuts in education and social services.

The renamed East London Action Committee Against the Cuts plans a march to the ICCH on 26 July. Letters are being sent to local trade union branches asking them to affiliate to the committee, to help fight the cuts and to support the march.

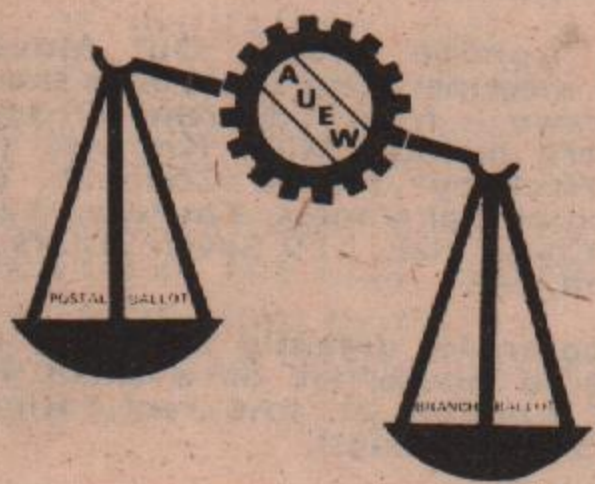
Your schools and health services are also under attack. Watch out for local Consultative Documents, cuts in teaching staff in your area and organise now to fight the cuts.



THE IS District Committees of Inner and Outer East London ask all IS members and Socialist Worker supporters to support the ELACAC march to the ICCH, 26 July from East Ham Town Hall, at 11am. Further information: S Ludlam (Secretary), 77 Mount Pleasant Road, London E5.

THE NEED FOR AN ENGINEERS CHARTER

by Willie Lee
Senior Steward
Chrysler Linwood
A Socialist Worker
pamphlet



THE CASE AGAINST THE POSTAL BALLOT

Vital reading for every AUEW member

1p each. Bulk orders for shop stewards committees, branches etc. 75 copies for 50p.

Send to Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

IS CIVIL SERVICE FRACTION MEETING

Saturday 2 August, 11am, Cottons Gardens, London E2. Pooled fare system will operate, accommodation will be available. All comrades in the civil service must attend. Further details from Mike Healy, 135 Bourne Terrace, London W2.

A MAJOR CRISIS has hit New York which could produce a public sector general strike, a rallying cry to an American labour movement faced with nine million unemployed and further savage cuts.

Savage is the right word. The authorities are demanding the sacking of 40,000 city workers so as to bail out the corporation's debts and keep up the interest payments to the banks.

Already the city is poor and badly run. The sackings will make a bad situation catastrophic. For example, the sacking of 65 bridge operators has closed seven of the bridges off Manhattan Island.

The dustmen have struck to prevent the 3000 sackings demanded by the city corporation. 2300 firemen have been given their cards, and 26 fire stations are to shut. 5000 police have been chopped. Some of them barricaded Brooklyn Bridge in protest.

500 policewomen have taken the Corporation to court on the grounds that three out of four of them have been axed, and that this is straight discrimination. Some of

Another 'Glasgow' 4,000 miles away

From Nigel Harris in New York

the coppers have new ambitions—'If I can't make it on welfare, at least I know how to use a gun. They promise you a job with security, and then kick you in the teeth.'

In welfare, health and hospitals, nearly 21,000 sackings are ordered, and the queues of poor and sick will swamp this city.

In education, 17,000 jobs are at stake. As the cuts grow, the teacher shortages in poor and black areas will make any schools impossible. Already, schools are not much more than prisons, with teachers as wardens.

The dustmen have taken the lead for all corporation workers. New York's summers are hot and humid and,

because of the five day go-slow, the pavements are already heaped with rubbish. Now 28,000 tons a day will pile up, and the rats will come out of the sewers in armies to spread disease.

The counter-attack has begun. Union leader De Loury has ordered the end of the unofficial strike—and been ignored. The city medical authorities have started the campaign about health risks. The corporation is starting court action to sue the workers for striking.

There is much talk—memories of Glasgow—of the National Guard being brought in. But the men on the picket line are solid. 'It's a shame' one said, 'we have to resort to tactics like this to save our jobs. We have to demonstrate in the streets like this because politicians are playing games with our lives.'

They are the leadership of a working class that might all agree to what one of the pickets said: 'We may be garbage men. But we will not be treated like garbage.'

The same fight is now developing in Britain against public spending cuts and the chopping of local council spending. The City of New York sanitation men will get great encouragement from messages of support from Britain, especially from the Glasgow dustcart drivers.

WOODALL DUCKHAM: WE FIGHT ON

MANCHESTER: 'We have now been out for three months and we are prepared to go on for another three!'

So says Billy Gowans, a welder at the Woodall Duckhams site at Partington Gasworks, one of 20 workers who came out in support of victimised welder Peter Singh.

They were immediately given support by the pipefitters and riggers on the site with a levy of £5 a man. Faced with the prospect of a strong and well organised shop floor management sacked the whole site, even though the contract had just started.

'I have been in Manchester since April and I have only drawn three small wage packets', says pipefitter Jim Wallace. But the lads are making sure the strike continues till they win by sending out dele-

gates to get support.

Three stewards travelled last week to the Woodhall Duckham's sites at Scunthorpe and Redcar. The stewards at both promised full solidarity and have already shown it.

Scunthorpe, where there are 200 men working, have a £1 a man levy for the duration of the strike. At Redcar, a collection has been guaranteed.

The Scunthorpe site have carried their solidarity further by coming out for half a day token strike on Tuesday. Redcar stewards were meeting last Monday to discuss a proposal for similar action.

Locally the boilermakers' full-time official, Les Froggatt, has circulated the

strike appeal sheet to all the local branches to the Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers. Support from the other full time officials in the EETPU, H&D and CEU has been slow in coming. But the lads are not relying solely on the officials to win their struggle.

Shell Carrington have supported the boilermakers with a £25 a week donation which has paid for their lodgings. They have now been approached for further support.

The L&G site connecting with the gasworks were approached for support. But a steward with William Press said the men were outraged by the strikers selling Socialist Worker at the gates. Until this

was stopped, they could not support them.

However, Bob Buirds, PTU steward and one of those selling at the gates, says he cannot really believe this is the feeling of the men on the site, since out of a workforce of up to 50, 25 buy the paper each week!

Delegations have been sent to local factories and financial support has been promised so far by Gardners, Magnesium Elektron, Pochins Polytechnic site, Taylor Woodrow Town centre site and Fram Gerrards Shambles site.

'But we are not stopping at that' says Cyril Lea H&D steward, 'Our fight today is yours tomorrow. Help us win and then we can help you.'

Although there have been promises, at the time of writing the lads have received only £5 in hard cash (from Glasgow Electricians) so please rush donations to Woodall Duckhams Strike Fund, Midland Bank, Urmston, Manchester. Messages of support to Woodall Duckham Strike Committee, 11 Lime Ave, Urmston, Manchester.

Wickmans: 'No betrayal' on jobs

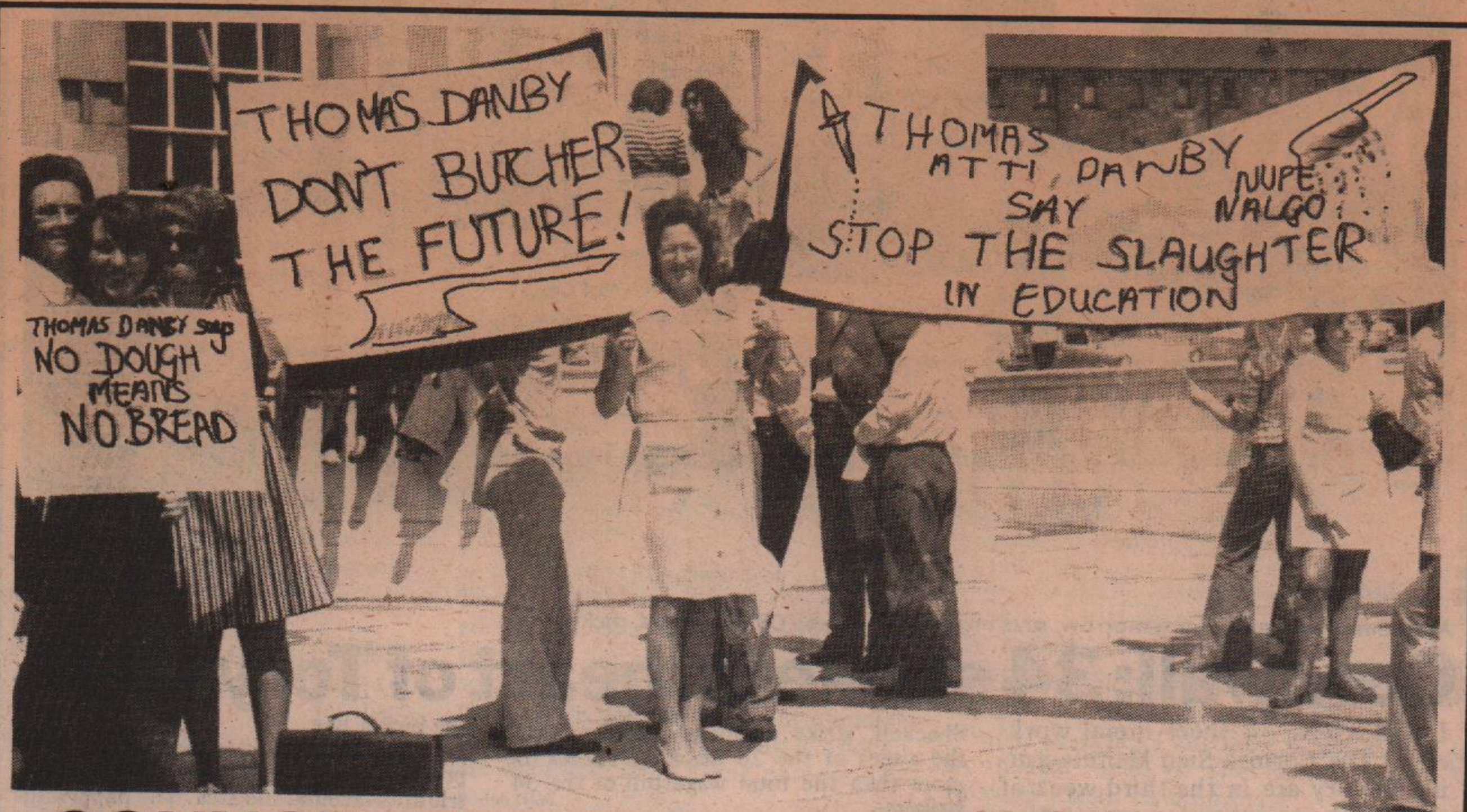
COVENTRY: Four weeks ago the annual wage review gave workers at Wickmans machine tool factory, part of the John Brown engineering group, a £12 across-the-board rise. Now has come the follow-up—short time working until March 1976.

All production fitters are to start four day working in three weeks. The bosses claimed that cancellation of orders plus the introduction of work study, leading to a production slump in heavy and light machine shops were the reasons.

At shop meetings the joint shop stewards' committee told workers that to oppose redundancies no-one was to approach the management on the question.

'This was a crucial decision', says a Wickmans worker. 'It's imperative that workers defend their jobs by every possible means.'

'In 1958 Wickmans workers were faced with redundancies. The shop-floor's answer was a five week strike. To accept redundancy now would betray past struggles—and those who fought them.'



COUNCIL FORCED TO THINK AGAIN

LEEDS:—Some of the 800 trade unionists who successfully protested at the Civic Hall against Tory proposals for 30 per cent across-the-board cuts in council spending.

Most Further Education colleges stopped work for the afternoon and a mass delegation marched from the Polytechnic to lobby the council. Delegates from each of the city's 400 schools and

other council workers attended.

Police guarded the council meeting while delegations of union members against the cuts addressed it. The council voted out the Tory proposals.

A 7 to 1 vote by teachers for a half-day stoppage was reversed by right-wing heads at a poorly-attended NUT Metropolitan Divisional Committee meeting.

Cuts would have meant 346 fewer

teachers, sacking of part-time staff in adult education and youth service, a 20 per cent cut in further education resources, closing of many courses and raising of fees by 67 per cent (despite the 20 per cent government limit).

Tories and the local press are furious, but public sector trade unionists are aware this is only the first round of the struggle.

Tilghman's struggle fizzles out

MANCHESTER:—The dispute at Tilghman Wheelabrator has fizzled out. The 300 workers went back on Monday after accepting a marginally improved offer by management.

The previous week, on pay day, management had locked them out for declaring day work, their recognised right under the Manchester Piecework Agreement.

The agreement has been a thorn in the flesh for the Manchester Engineering Employers' Federation. At Gardners, workers retaliated against the bosses' breach of the agreement with an occupation. More recently, management at Ferranti's Hollinwood told one section they would go down the road unless they resumed piecework.

This was the first time that the workers had been on the cobbles for any length of time. An informal meeting with stewards from Magnesium Elektron was held to discuss tactics. Moves for a meeting of the Broad Heath Forum of Convenors and shop stewards only just failed. Appeals were issued and pamphlets on Social Security for Strikers pamphlets obtained.

The fuse had been lit. Yet it failed to ignite the charge. Why? Mike O'Neill, AUEW convenor, told Socialist Worker he felt 'as sick as a pig' because, although the shop stewards had decided to continue on strike, they had left it to the mass meeting to put the recommendation.

This was the first prolonged dispute for many of the members. The shop-floor were fragmented because of the different

unions, off-site workers, and the differential of nearly £17. When confidence is wavering, the lead has to be hard and clear.

As one leading shop steward told Socialist Worker: 'After being in full negotiation with management, the officials got the wind up and tried to convince our lads to go back rather than telling the meeting that the stewards were personally in favour of staying out.'

Because all the full time AUEW officials were in conference at Hastings, Dougie Daniels, a member of the District Committee, was called in to negotiate and report to the mass meeting. Dougie is a deservedly well-known member of the Broad Left. Chloride, his factory, is one of the best organised in the district.

He told the meeting that, in negotiations, 'somewhere along the line you've got to decide whether you can believe the people you are negotiating with... whether there is anything left at the bottom of the barrel... and that in my opinion we had got as far as we could. The only alternative is a long protracted struggle.'

Negotiations mean nothing unless muscle is built, but while Dougie Daniels correctly emphasised that 'the differentials are ridiculous', the mass meeting was not the time to say, 'If you want my view, some of you lads may have to take a cut.'

As one shop steward put it: 'Maybe because Dougie was on neutral ground he didn't try as hard as he would have on his own ground.'

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.

Tyneside: 'No' to Healey!

10,000 WORKERS on Tyneside this week gave Denis Healey a clear answer: no more wage restraint—and start the fight against the 10 per cent pay plans now.

C A PARSONS

4000 manual workers decided almost unanimously on Saturday to strike for £10 across the board. The rise is needed to bring wages up to the level of other large firms in the area, and to compensate for the increase in the cost of living.

The company's first offer of £3.50, equivalent to eight per cent of the wage bill, was rejected by the Works Negotiating Committee on behalf of the various unions on the shop-floor. The latest offer is an attempt to confuse the issue by spreading the increase over the next year—£6 now and £4 next January. The claim is not for

£10 for a year, but £10 to cover the last six months.

Management have been able to curb wages in the past, but this time they have underestimated the feeling on the shop-floor. One worker told Socialist Worker: 'I am no militant, nor are my mates. But this time we are determined to get a proper settlement.'

The workers have proved this by rejecting the latest offer which came just before strike notice expired. They have ignored company threats of redundancy, and have remained unmoved by last week's national campaign to get workers to accept settlements which savagely cut their real wages.

If staff unions, who are already working to rule, follow the shop-floor, it could bring Parsons' low-wage policy to an end for all time.

SWAN HUNTERS

5000 ancillary workers and finishing-off tradesmen voted unanimously to strike after an insulting £2 pay

offer.

The men want £8.30 to keep up with prices and to close the differential gap of as much as £20 between boilermakers and ancillary workers.

Unionised apprentices at Swan's called a mass meeting for Wednesday morning and are demanding a walkout in sympathy with the strikers. A leaflet was put out explaining why they should express solidarity in the fight against wage restraint.

CLARKE CHAPMANS

400 boilermakers are on strike for a cost of living increase. Their January negotiations stipulated that if inflation rose at the same rate there should be a new increase in the middle of the year—but management have refused to renegotiate.

North East Workers are in an angry mood. These 10,000 workers have given the lead—many thousands more may be out over the next few days.

IN BRIEF



Imperial workers marching last February. Now they are facing a crucial test. See story below. Picture Chris Davies (REPORT).

ADDRESSOGRAPH MULTIGRAPH, LONDON

NEGOTIATIONS dragged on for six months—but ended with such a ridiculous management offer at this firm that 30 members of the white collar union ASTMS have joined the national, official strike against AM.

An ASTMS member points out that 'If you work with AM machines please prevent any blackleg servicing or repairing.'

Donations and support to Addressograph Multigraph Ltd, ASTMS Service Engineers Official Strike Fund, 'City Office', ASTMS c/o Dave Barr, 5a Wardrobe Place, Carter Lane, London, EC4 5AH (Tel: 01-248-3445/6).

UNIVERSITIES' ASTMS—A SPANNER IN THE COMPUTERS...

ON 25 June computer operators, members of ASTMS at Edinburgh, Newcastle, Birmingham and Strathclyde universities started striking for their national restructuring claim, to put them on parity with technicians.

It was the end of four years of negotiations—punctuated by a seven week Scottish university computer staff strike in 1974. That year in EDINBURGH operators reached agreement with the university—but the employers never implemented the deal. So the workers used lightning stoppages, and were rewarded with sacking threats and peanuts from the bosses. So the current strike started—and the workers want support from other universities.

EAST LONDON EQUAL PAY STRIKE—WEEK SEVEN

THE lockout/strike at Halex, Walthamstow of 120 women (and some men) continues. 'We're the working class. There's no comparison with Denis Healey' said one of the strikers, after the Chancellor's call for sacrifices. They want their pay for 'very hard and hot work' based on male rates.

'The women are in no mood to give in now' said one steward. 'They offered us 3p more—and we told them what they can do with it.'

Money and messages of support to Mrs H Simmons, c/o AUEW District Committee, 260 Fore Street, London, N18.

BLAST FURNACEMEN—THE LONG SEVEN MONTHS...

by an NUB Member (Teesside)
LAST week the Blast Furnacemen's union (NUB) and the British Steel Corporation were near agreement on an 18 per cent rise plus cost of living clause to last until January 1976. Then BSC announced they wanted the agreement to last until January 1977—19 months instead of seven!

Several South Wales lodges have called for strike action after this breakdown. If more calls don't follow then the union leadership will probably settle for a work to rule—which won't work. We should demand our original claim, 35 per cent—and go for an all out strike.

GLASGOW BETTING SHOPS STRIKE

EVERY punter knows that gambling's a mug's game, but it's a safe bet that most of them don't know how low wages are for betting shop employees. 280 Glasgow strikers could put them wise. The battle began 14 days ago when Ladbrokes made them an offer—but refused to negotiate with their union, the Transport and General. They offered the sack as the alternative to acceptance.

The bosses want to use blackleg staff to break the strike—some of whom earn only £18 for a 40 hour week.

They need your help. DON'T use Ladbrokes's shops, and send donations to TUBE Strike Committee, 81 Calton Place, Glasgow G1.



FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS—'OUR PAY'S BEEN CUT'

by Jean Michel Lonfroy & Nadine Le Rouzo

WHILE British teachers have received pay rises and threshold payments these have been denied to us—who teach in British schools—and this means a wage cut. Our British counterparts in France get £180 a month, we get £89—and we're not allowed to join the national union of teachers.

Preston, Liverpool and Birkenhead pickets have called for a backdated threshold payment, the right to join the NUT and for our salaries to be linked to British teachers.

Support to JM Lonfroy, 8 Greenway Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside. Assistants who want help send names and addresses to C Erswell, C/O Rank and File Teachers, 6 Breckside Park, Liverpool 6 (051-260-8378).



These were International Socialist students on the march earlier this year, against education cuts. But the fight is just beginning—see below. Picture Chris Davies (REPORT).

STUDENTS PLAN AHEAD

SOME of the smoke has cleared over the student movement over the last week. At SURREY university the court test case over their rent strike has ended in failure for the students. At WARWICK the Vice Chancellor has celebrated the summer break by threatening rent strikers with expulsion. But at LANCASTER students appealing in the courts have won their battle against victimisation.

A spokesman for the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies pointed out that 'The tactics of direct confrontation haven't been fully accepted by the educational establishment.'

'The Broad Left National Union of Students leadership says we haven't a chance of fighting the government's educational cuts—that we must spend the next two years building trade union links. 'But it's essential that NOISS doesn't hold back from the struggles coming out of rent rises, inflation and the cuts. We in NOISS must use these opportunities to get across our politics.'

VICTORY FOR EAST LONDON NURSERY STAFF

HACKNEY'S Labour council have given in to 85 nursery workers, mainly members of the government officers' union

NALGO after a 15 month battle. 'The key to our success was our ability to organise ourselves and take the fight to the branch and local trade union movement', explained one of the nursery staff.

The council had refused to implement an agreement for pay rises. The workers began on 1 April working shorter hours, refused to collect fees from mothers, and struck on May Day. The threat of full strike action led to victory.

'We are grateful for the support of other workers, including NALGO branches, for which supporters of the NALGO Action Group can take the credit' said one of the victors.

BOOTS BUILDING WORKERS YORK. VICTORY!

THE bosses used the courts, police, aliation dogs, security men and private detectives to break the building workers occupation of their Coney Street site—and they've failed. The workers have won their jobs back and got guarantees of 'trade union labour only' on the site.

York council have finally moved to avert the danger of the site buildings collapsing. Only repair work will be done until safety is ensured.

It was a victory for the men and their families—and a triumph for the occupation tactic. They say 'thanks' to everyone who supported their struggle.

With renewed trouble at the Henry Boots NORTHAMPTON site the fight against this employer isn't over. Attempts are being made to set up a Henry Boots stewards' national combine committee. Is there a Boots company where you live? Do you work for a Boots company? These are some of their other trading names:

Aylesham Investment, Banner Plant, Banner Scaffolding, First National Housing Trust, Rothervale Joinery, Rothervale Manufacturing, Rothervale Trading. Name and information to IS Building Secretary, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

LONDON DECCA TV WORKERS—THE FACTS

by Mike Carver

AFTER last week's report on the projected closure of the TV plant here—with 400 jobs to be lost I've been investigating the bosses' promises of jobs in other Decca plants. And I've found a job lost at Battersea is lost for ever.

At MALDEN no vacancies at one plant, 'a few wires' needed at the other. WOLVERHAMPTON? A 'four day week' at both plants. LEICESTER? 80 workers sacked at Easter—and no vacancies. Fat chance of getting a job—even if you wanted to travel 100 miles to work.

And it's not just at Decca. More than 1000 jobs will have gone from Philips by the end of 1975—including 150

NORTH LONDON BLACK YOUTH—£10 TO BE BEATEN UP...

by Martha Osamor

FOR black parents and students the time they spent at Highgate magistrates court on 26 June was an eye-opener. They saw our rulers' justice in action against 17 year old black youth Cliff McDaniel.

Cliff was fined £10 and bound over for one year for 'insulting behaviour likely to lead to a breach of the peace' and for alleged assault on PC Ryan David.

On 17 April during a lunchbreak from Hornsey's Stationers Company School Cliff pointed out a car driven by PC David to his two friends. He had reason to know the policeman—having been beaten by him in the past.

The car reversed—and David got out, pinned Cliff to the wall and searched him. Meanwhile two other policemen pushed away Cliff's two friends and other students who had gathered—while Cliff was being punched and kicked.

Four more police arrived and Cliff, in handcuffs, was dragged into the police van. They refused to allow a school welfare nurse to accompany them. The beating continued at Hornsey police station—and Cliff was charged.

This, and other incidents sparked by police activities against black youth had led to the formation of a Black Parents' Movement and Black Students' Movement. They are appealing against the court verdict, and are co-ordinating their work with members of the Rank and File teachers group.

A defence fund has opened. Send donations and messages of support to the Black Parents' Movement, 57 Victoria Road, London, N4.



One British soldier, Belfast 1975—one of the many. East London teachers have joined the chorus to get the Army out of Ireland, now!

LONDON TEACHERS SAY 'TROOPS OUT'

'THIS ASSOCIATION will fully support any member who refuses to co-operate with recruitment to the armed forces in schools. We instruct the Inner London Teachers' Association council to enforce a total blacking of all such recruitment in schools.'

That's part of a motion put by members of the Rank and File teachers' group to the East London National Union of Teachers. Additionally it backed the Troops Out Movement's demands for the army's withdrawal from Northern Ireland, Irish self determination, and the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. It called for East London NUT's affiliation to TOM—and it was passed overwhelmingly.

'We had to meet the argument that these demands are too extremist', explained a Rank and File teacher.

voluntary redundancies at CROYDON. At Pilkington's RAVENHEAD plant 700 workers will lose their jobs.

What have Decca workers got out of it? During the last year they've had an average wage of £34 a week—and the bosses made £36 a week out of each of them. Over the last five years profits have trebled—while wages rose by 50 per cent.

If Deccas close then the alternative is the dole queue. So the demand is for a right to the job they've got now, and five day's work or five day's pay. Meetings should be held to plan the fight—and prevent the closures.

Portuguese Fund-Raising Social
Kartoon Klowns in
Socialism Or Barbarism
Friday 18 July - 7.30pm. St Pancras
Assembly Rooms, Camden Town Hall,
Bidboro Street (off Euston Road).
Nearest tube Kings Cross. Followed by
KK Disko Show. Bar, extension.
Tickets 60p from IS Books.
Organised by Central London IS

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

RELEASE ALL POLITICAL
PRISONERS IN SPAIN
Spanish Solidarity Committee calls
on all trade unionists to support
Labour Party Young Socialists demo,
Saturday (12 July). Demonstration
leaves Charing Cross Embankment,
2pm, for Speakers Corner.

MINERS LEADERS

HAROLD WILSON (£400 a week), Derek Ezra (£300 a week) and Joe Gormley (£150 a week) have got their way. The miners will not get £100 a week—or anything like it.

But Tuesday's bitter debate at the National Union of Mineworkers' conference ended not only with a major retreat on the Yorkshire resolution to demand £100.

GONE is the demand for the claim to be met by 1 November. GONE, too, are the demands for £80 for surfacemen and £85 for other underground workers.

GUILTY

Yorkshire miners' president Arthur Scargill spoke of how the surfacemen were sacrificed in March 'on the altar of the social contract' and added: 'The working class are not responsible for the crisis. The guilty men are the capitalists.'

Scargill won the battle of rhetoric. But the right-wing won the tactical battle hands down.

As one of their number, Nottingham area's Len Clarke, happily and pointedly put it: 'You don't remove the word 'demand' and put in the word 'seek' and mean the same. We'll get the £100 when the country can afford it and not before.'

DUCK THE CHALLENGE

From Dave Gibson in Scarborough

Clearly the right-wing intend to interpret this composite-passed unanimously—as falling in with whatever wages policy the TUC and Labour government concoct. So-called left-wing general secretary Lawrence Daly echoed this in a vicious attack on Scargill. He also spoke up in a virulent defence of the social contract fraud and a voluntary incomes policy.

Norman West who moved the original £100-£85-£80 wage resolutions in his Barrow, Yorkshire NUM branch, told Socialist Worker: 'When

you have friends like Lawrence Daly stabbing you in the back, you don't need enemies.'

The Yorkshire delegation caved in to the right-wing blackmail, hysterically whipped up by well-paid newspaper editors, by agreeing to alter their motion.

The scene was set by the Midlands NUM area, who once again threatened to break their mandate to vote with Yorkshire. But this and the suspected dithering of other areas, should not have led Yorkshire to back off.

This is not a complete defeat

for the left and for the working miner. The executive will have to submit some sort of wage claim.

But it is an enormous encouragement for the right to go for the old unstated 'substantial' increase which turns out to be a very unsubstantial rise and collaboration with the government's wages policy.

A campaign is needed now to rouse the rank and file for big demands, to keep up with inflation.

Who says miners—or any other workers for that matter—can't have £80 to £100 a week when stockbrokers, newspaper editors and their like get much more for doing jobs that have little or no social value!



A section of a huge demonstration in Lisbon a fortnight ago demanding the formation of a revolutionary government and the creation of councils of workers, soldiers and sailors. The second banner in line is that of print workers from the newspaper Republica.

Rui Domingues, a delegate from the Republica workers' committee, has been in Britain this week to campaign against the distortion of his brothers' struggle by the British and international press.

'What we want is a truly independent paper. We believe Republica should be open to all political parties. But essentially it should be for and of the working class', he told a press conference in London on Monday.

Marvellous! Express journalists win

E LONDON: striking journalists at the Stratford Express have won their four-week struggle to have group FoC (shop steward) Aidan White reinstated.

The tide turned when the print union SLADE decided to black the Express.

This and the marvellous solidarity of the National Union of Journalists chapel at The Teacher, which is printed by The Stratford Express parent, forced management to cave in.

Express FoC Graham Wilson told Socialist Worker: 'This is a tremendous victory. The chapel is over the moon.'

This is the fifth struggle the Express journalists have won in nine months. Aidan White's re-instatement is unconditional. But 'labour relations' at the Express are now to go to arbitration in the wake of this successful strike.

Shrewsbury Two: What you can do

THE NATIONAL Rank and File Organising Committee this week issued a call for renewed support for their Shrewsbury Dependents Fund.

The fund is the only one still paying out every week to the hard-pressed wives and families of the Shrewsbury Two.

Fund treasurer Ossie Lewis told Socialist Worker the committee would be doing everything in its power to keep up its work. 'Success,' he added, 'depends on the help of every rank and file militant.'

This week newspapers were once again suggesting that Ricky Tomlinson might now get the parole dangled in front of him and then taken away last May.

But even if he does, he's not going to walk into a job, since the blacklist is rife in the building trade and unemployment is high. So parole for Ricky is no reason to let up.

What's more, the signs are that Des Warren is going to be kept in prison at least until December.

There can be few trade unionists not now aware of the implications of the Shrewsbury case. But just in case the 'one law for the poor, another for the rich' reality of so-called justice has escaped someone you know, it might be worth drawing his or her attention to the case of stockbroker Francis Dodgson.

Mr Dodgson, of East Bergholt, Suffolk, appeared in court last week for jumping on to the railway track to stop an express.

His activities were no threat to property, just to train drivers and human life. What's more, he told the court, he was 'fed up with delays, cancellations and rail strikes'. He was fined a mere £100.

Fees

But you will be glad to hear, Mr Dodgson won't have to pay either the fine or the costs. His employers, a City firm, have said they'll meet all the legal fees.

And, the Daily Mirror reported last Saturday, Dodgson has received scores of financial donations from fellow members of the upper class who feel the same way.

Two donations came from former Tory ministers, men who, no doubt, worked overtime to see that dockers and builders were hunted down by the law.

Donations to the Shrewsbury Dependents Fund should be sent to Ossie Lewis, Honorary Treasurer, 25 Park Road, Cheam, Surrey.

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£366 FOR OUR FUND

THE FIRST week of July has brought our fighting fund £366.63 towards our £2000 monthly target. It's a good start but we still need much more.

Some of your letters give us an idea of how to collect money: 'I enclose a cheque for £26. It represents my back pay (after tax) from a recent pay rise.'

'An anonymous donation from a Labour Party member who thinks Socialist Worker is by far the best paper in Britain.'

From an immigrant hospital worker in North London: 'I enclose a donation because, after having been reading the paper for quite a long time, it has reformed my outlook on the society.'

There are two ways of collecting money for the fund—giving it yourself, or collecting it from other people. So if every reader and IS member does a bit of both this week, we should have no need to fight Healey's freeze.

Our thanks this week to: Regulars at the Cricketers, Chessington £1, Brighton reader £1.50, Coventry teacher £80, Womens Voice meeting,

London £13.08, Holmfirth reader £1, Labour Party supporter £10, Peterborough IS £7, Pontefract and Knottingley IS £40, Wandsworth teachers £5, Brighton reader £5, Gloucester SW supporter 30p, Member Acton IS £20, Southwark IS £7.03, Leicester IS £13, Pontefract IS member £26, Paddington IS £3.07, Mid Herts IS £3.70, NUPE member £3, Cambridge Road Estate, Kingston £2, Chessington SW supporter £2, Gloucester reader £1.15, Hitchin reader £10, N Herts IS £17.20, Burnage Estate Manchester, SW reader £1, Central London Civil Service IS £54, SW reader £5, Cambridge IS £4.20, SW reader Triumph Coeuvre £10, Leicester IS students £8.60, N London Hospital worker £3.60, Manor House Hospital SW supporters £2.70.

Members' special levy: Pontefract and Knottingley £4, Cambridge £2.50.

Send donations and collections to Mel Norris, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. If you're going on holiday, send a little extra before you go, just to ensure we'll still be here when you get back!