

Wilson's year for 'Britain'

WAGE CUTS AND DOLE QUEUES

UNEMPLOYMENT
FIGHT LABOUR'S FREEZE
EMPLOYMENT

Four-page special on the freeze starts on Page Two

'GIVE A YEAR for Britain', demanded Harold Wilson last Friday, introducing the most severe wage freeze this country has known. His words have been echoed by every national newspaper.

The message is that sacrifice over wages can save 'Britain' from catastrophe. But the catastrophe for nearly a million people, the unemployed, is already here. Nothing in the government's package will change that.

In fact, by cutting back on pay and public spending, the government will reduce the money available to buy what is produced. This in turn will mean many more jobs lost.

The catastrophe for the old and the sick is also here already, with social services starved of money, the health service falling to pieces, and pensioners waiting month after month for an increase to keep up with prices.

For the homeless, for those in slums and overcrowded flats, catastrophe is never far away. Government policy has cut house-building to an all-time low and yet 800,000 houses are empty, either because people are too poor to buy them or because their wealthy owners live elsewhere. Nothing Wilson has done for the 'nation' is going to solve this problem either.

PARASITES

And prices? They will go up and up. The government has admitted as much by saying that to freeze them—even at ten per cent—is impossible. It is also continuing to cut food subsidies.

But some people will gain from the government's measures. They are the people who do not depend on a wage or public pension. They are the people whose shares have doubled in value since January. They are the owners and directors of industry.

Much light was thrown on them when Labour was in opposition. Remember the property speculators, the Duncan Sandys with their tax-free hand-outs in the Cayman Islands, the devotees of Poulson and the friends of Maudling? Remember how Denis Healey spoke of 'squeezing the rich until the pips squeak'?

Now he ignores them. Yet these people will benefit from any sacrifice workers make for 'the country'. Their profits will grow and their shares will increase in value. These are the seven per cent of the population who own 84 per cent of the wealth, who own, in fact, the country.

If you 'give a year to Britain', you will be giving it to them. They will become even wealthier.

And they will continue to treat the unemployed, the homeless, the old, the sick and the lower-paid with the callousness that comes so naturally from their class.

Demonstrate to free the Shrewsbury Two

Peter Fallon, TGWU district committee member and Labour councillor, Nottingham

Des Warren is in jail for political reasons. The law under which he was sentenced puts us back to the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

I'm surprised the TUC has not maintained its efforts to release the Shrewsbury Two. They would do well to remember that blokes like Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson are the very backbone of the movement which has got them their fancy jobs.

—Brian Crosland, works convenor, Plessey, Nottingham

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.

'We're in a beautiful form to fight'

STRIKING Asian women making their feelings clear at London's Heathrow Airport this week. In all, 400 immigrant catering workers stopped work to demand parity with other ground services staff.

But their union, the Transport and General, is once again stabbing Asian strikers in the back. Its full-time official has tried—unsuccessfully—to get them back to work and is now allowing other union members to scab.

The workers, the lowest-paid at Heathrow, are far from despondent, however. One steward, Rashir Bhatti, said: 'Our people are in a beautiful form to fight.'

Full story—Back Page



Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

IT'S ONE LAW FOR THE RICH...

THE STARVING BUSINESSMAN'S GUIDE TO AVOIDING THE ANTI-INFLATION LEGISLATION

by Alan Denean, of the Socialist Worker Information Service.

I AM happy to report that Britain's hard-pressed businessmen have at their disposal any number of ways to get round their friend Harold Wilson's wage controls.

As the Sunday Times pointed out last Sunday: 'In the private sector free cars, low interest mortgages and other perks can be offered without increasing the cash wage. The White Paper does not mention non-cash benefits for the high paid, let alone discuss effective ways of freezing them.'

Just lean a little heavier on your expenses account. Eat more meals on account. Take your wife with you and charge for her. Give the Diners Club card a caning and pass the good word on to your friends in top positions in the unions.

Get another company car—and if you're not already charging petrol and maintenance, then wake up. And are you getting tax relief for those school fees?

MONEY

Then there are share options, though this is no longer as easy as it used to be. You pay a nominal sum for a nice juicy block of shares, on which you start drawing dividends. This should give you enough to do a little speculation on the stock market, recovering strength at the moment, and a useful source of pocket money.

Then, following in the footsteps of Tiny Rowlands of Lonrho and dozens of other worthy businessmen, you can arrange to live in a house owned by the company. With a little co-operation here, you don't even have to pay the electricity bills.

Then you can obtain a low interest loan from the firm. This is much better than a straight pay rise. You don't even have to pay tax.

If you're really clued up obtain a nice flat mortgage from the company. You get positive tax relief on this.

If you run your own limited company then after you've taken your fees, expenses, cheap loans and company car and house, you should just have doubled your standard of living. If so, take Denis and Harold out for a celebration dinner.

If you're self-employed—and as the Financial Times has pointed out, this can be readily arranged—you can laugh all the way to your tax advisor. Your home becomes your office, your wife your secretary, at a tax deductible salary. You offset the car against tax. So if you have any sense you'll get a new one every year.

If all else fails, try Jersey.

WHERE is it all going to end? people ask. There's a simple answer—it isn't going to end. Prices are going to go on rising, after the wage cuts imposed in Wilson's so-called anti-inflation policy.

Butter prices are rising already, and there is another rise in the Common Market pipeline for September. Cheese will go up too. So will milk—by 2p a pint by next year—eggs and beef. All the increases will be passed on to the consumer because there are to be no extra subsidies.

Worse still, the government is going to agree to the devaluation of the 'green pound', the currency used for agricultural trading in the Common Market. This alone could mean a rapid increase in food prices of around 10 per cent, according to agricultural journalists.

Economic forecasters are already spelling out that, overall, prices are going to rise faster than 10 per cent, no matter what Wilson and Healey state. Philips and Drew, the city stockbrokers, say inflation will be 16 per cent by mid-1976.

The Economic Model Group of Companies has stated that between autumn this year and autumn 1976 there will be a 15.7 per cent rise in consumer prices.

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGHT LABOUR'S FREEZE

The sheer weight of increases already in the pipeline would force prices to rise 12.5 per cent in the second half of this year alone, said the group.

Eric Heffer and the Tribune MPs too have got their way. The first dose of the import controls they've been demanding are to be imposed.

The target is Portuguese textiles. The consequence—higher clothing prices in Britain and more unemployment in Portugal, in itself a serious blow against the Portuguese working class.

The import controls have been imposed following extensive pressure from British employers who can now charge higher prices and make more profits.

THE government claims that its wage freeze measures will hold back unemployment. But evidence produced over the past few weeks suggests that unemployment is going to rise a lot more soon.

A survey of industrialists carried out by the Financial Times shows that nearly half of them expect to be cutting the number of workers they employ in the next year. Only one in ten expects to be taking on more workers. And the Institute of Directors is still predicting, after the announcement of the freeze, that the number of unemployed will rise to two million.

THE day the government announced its £6 limit on wage rises it made another announcement you may not have noticed because it was ignored by the press. The Department of the Environment disclosed that chairmen and members of rent tribunals and rent assessment committees were to get pay increases of between 40 and 66 per cent.

These committees are usually chaired by retired lawyers, who are to get a rise of £17 a day to take them to £44 a day. The other members are usually valuers and surveyors, who will be getting rises of £12 a day to take them up to £35 a day.

When some miners demanded a £100 a week last week they were called lunatics. Clearly, wages on such a scale are being kept by the so-called Labour government for safe, middle class occupations of the sort preferred by government ministers and their friends.

THE Labour government is to set up a propaganda unit to boost its wage policy. Geoffrey Goodman, Daily Mirror industrial editor, has copped the job. Goodman is of course out to set an example to all greedy miners and other wreckers. His salary is expected to be £200 a week.

JUST in case the propaganda doesn't work, the Labour government is encouraging the Confederation of British Industry to set up a strike-breaking fund.

According to The Guardian (10 July) Labour ministers welcomed the idea in Cabinet, provided they did not have to pay for it. But other reports have suggested that the government is willing to provide some financial backing to the fund in the form of indemnities or tax relief. This operation is called saving the nation from the people.

STABLE lads at Newmarket have been on strike for three months now. Their demands are clearly inflationary. They are asking for a £5-a-week rise, which would take their wages up to the cost of keeping a horse in stables.

What's the country coming to?

CHANCELLOR Denis Healey has the cheek to be speaking at the rally this Sunday (20 July) to commemorate the Tolpuddle Martyrs, the 19th century Dorset farmworkers who were transported for daring to set up a trade union branch. All readers of Socialist Worker and members of the International Socialists in the South West—including Poole, Plymouth, Exeter, Bristol, Bath, Southampton and Portsmouth—are urged to go to the rally to demonstrate disgust at Healey's hypocrisy and sell Socialist Worker. The rally is at 1.30pm at Tolpuddle, near Dorchester.



THIEVES fall out. At the British Leyland shareholders' meeting on Monday Lord Stokes was shouted down and other directors abused. Not by angry carworkers, not by any of the 20,000 men who have lost their jobs in the past 12 months at British Leyland. The abuse came from the respectable, law-abiding, middle-class shareholders.

They were upset because the government is only paying them 10p for each of their shares in British Leyland. The day before the government's Ryder Report the shares were worth 6p each. Even Lord Stokes said: 'The 10p is a gift. The shares are worthless.'

Between 1968 and 1974 Leyland made £200 million pounds profit before tax. Of this only £14 million went on reinvestment. The rest went to the bankers, investors and shareholders.

Lord Stokes' deputy, John Barber, sacked for being more useless than anyone else in higher management, stands to get £370,000 in compensation.

QUOTE

THE Chancellor is also believed to have shocked many of his colleagues by proposing that all Cabinet ministers should take a £2000 cut in their £13,000 a year salaries (£20,000 for the Prime Minister) to set an example to the nation. This was greeted, it is said, by a stony silence.

—Financial Times, 11 July 1975.

People who are making sacrifices

AN interesting commentary on the upper classes and the counter-inflation legislation was provided at the various London salerooms on Monday. The salerooms were, in the nation's time of need, 'sparking with action', as Times saleroom correspondent Geraldine Norman put it.

Cinzano Limited forked out a mere £20,000 for a glass goblet at Sotheby's, for example. This will make a nice egg cup for the chairman. And London socialite Oliver Hoare paid a mere 5200 guineas at Christies for a Mamluk glass vase. He intends to keep his false teeth in it.

Lord Barnard also had a little number on sale there, a Mogul white jade jar for which he copped 4800 guineas. It is thought this will keep him in pocket money for a week or two.

Lord Barnard, a former Tory councillor and Lord Lieutenant of Durham, is an ardent supporter of incomes policies.

THE Sunday Times small ads again offered a whole selection of premises for those without a house or home. Choices range from £75,000 for a small country mansion near Wells, in Avon, to a £50,000 bungalow with a nice view of Henley.

If these won't do you could always bid for an attractive family residence or hunting box at Whaddon Chase. The cost? A mere £75,000.

If you would like something in a higher price range, write to One

Nation Enterprises PO Box 93, The Cayman Islands. All replies sent under plain cover.

SIR William Pigott-Brown, the amateur jockey who inherited £750,000 on his 21st birthday, has made his secretary, Vanessa Grant, an interesting little present.

It's his London house in Chapel Street, Belgravia. It's worth £100,000 with contents. But Miss Grant, who has been with Sir William for seven years, got it for a mere £7000.

The three Annigoni lithographs, the 7ft square bed, antique mirror, peacock chair, Victorian love seat and massage couch that were thrown in with the deal should go a long way to take Vanessa's mind off the sacrifices she and her kind are about to make for the good of the country.

Always were too many...

FRESH outbreaks of censorship are expected soon on the Financial Times. Michael Dixon has mentioned the unmentionable. He has pointed out that far from being on the shop floor, the major area of overmanning and feather-bedding in industry is at management level.

As he put it: 'A number of personnel chiefs have commented privately that they think large companies in general are overstaffed at management level. One from a very big group shocked me by declaring that the business would run more effectively with only a third of its present managers.'

It seems that even in big business's own terms, most of the 110,000 managerial types who earn more than £8500 a year in salary are not necessary at all. But mention of the fact in the popular press might destroy the hoary old myth that massive salaries are necessary to provide 'incentives'.

WHAT WE THINK

LAST Friday the Labour government did what no government since the war—even a Tory government—has dared to do. It took measures which will lead to substantial cuts in the living standards of all workers and which will increase unemployment. And it did this with the full connivance of the majority of trade union leaders.

Wilson and Healey, introducing their policy with the support of Michael Foot and Jack Jones, claimed it was the only policy that would prevent massive unemployment. Yet unemployment is at present near the million mark and the government has taken no action at all to stop it rising further. Indeed, the White Paper called for 'staff numbers' in local government to be 'tightly restricted'.

On the basis of the government's own calculations the Financial Times suggested that the wage freeze measures 'will add some 20,000 to 30,000 to the unemployment figures'. Other commentators suggest the situation could be much worse if a world boom does not materialise as Healey hopes it will by next summer—and there is no sign of this yet in any of the major countries in the world economy.

The Economist suggests we are facing a 'long, hard slump'.

The government's second claim is that the freeze will not hurt living standards all that much—by 'at most' 1 per cent. Again, big business commentators outside the government, more interested in discovering the truth for themselves than in making propaganda to the trade unions, suggest otherwise. The stockbroking firm Phillips and Drew suggest a minimum cut in living standards of 4½ per cent will result.

RISE

What is more, a close reading of the White Paper suggests that the government is by no means convinced by its own propaganda. It says that 'a big increase in import prices would impose on us a further reduction of our standard of living.' Yet the government knows that some import prices are bound to rise—especially if there is the world boom which is needed to prevent unemployment rising much higher than the government claims.

But the biggest lie is the claim that the measures are aimed to help the lower paid. For the White Paper itself says explicitly that there is no compulsion on employers to pay the £6 all round. The £6 maximum

THE FREEZE

This may be capitalism's only solution, but it isn't socialism's

UNEMPLOYMENT
FIGHT LABOUR'S FREEZE



within which negotiations will take place: some employers may not be able to afford it.

So the government, the CBI, the TUC and, if necessary, the law will be used to stop workers with strength obtaining more than £6. But nothing at all will be done to help those workers who are lower paid because they have no industrial strength.

But, you may ask, won't the continuation of food subsidies help the lower paid? No. All the government has done is to reduce the subsidies less than originally intended. It is still reducing them.

GAP

According to the Sunday Times, the changes made last Friday will 'pare a mere ½ per cent on the retail price index'. Hardly enough to bridge the gap between the less than £6 you will get in your wage packet and the 25 per cent rate of price increases.

And there are no further restrictions on

prices. Not that you'd notice the present so-called restrictions having any effect.

But if the wage freeze measures don't cut unemployment, don't guarantee an end to eternal price rises and don't help the lower paid, what do they do? The answer is given by the Financial Times: 'The policy... is designed, as the White Paper makes very clear, to allow a large recovery in profits.'

THE ALTERNATIVE

THE TUC has embraced the government's measures, even though they mean cuts in real wages for their members. Their excuse is that there is no other way to end the present crisis.

Their thinking was summed up by Len Murray last week: 'Now we are being attacked by the so-called left. But what solution are they offering? Instant socialism at a stroke? This is no time for that sort of wishful thinking.'

From the mouth of Murray, who has never been particularly known as a left-wing figure, such talk is perhaps not surprising. But remember that Murray is speaking on behalf of Jack Jones, Lord Briginshaw, and various other trade union leaders who have paraded their socialist consciences from conference platforms in the past.

Their view can be summed up: it is all right to talk about socialism when capitalism does not face crisis. But the moment capitalism proves itself incapable of operating without causing immense hardship, that is the time to forget about socialism and to talk only in capitalist terms.

Their socialism is revealed as no more than a few fine phrases. What matters for them is to patch up the decrepit framework of the big business system so they can go on negotiating with the capitalists. To that end they are prepared to see their own members go to the wall.

Yet the alternatives are not, as the government pretends, the Wilson measures or chaos. In fact, looked at closely, the present

measures represent an incredible degree of chaos themselves.

With industrial production 8 per cent less than two years ago, we are told we all have to make sacrifices so that it can be cut still further by unemployment.

With nearly a million people who would like to work and produce more wealth, we are told there is not enough wealth to go round.

With newly-trained teachers queuing at labour exchanges, we are told that school staffs have to be cut back.

The delirium of a madman could not create a more insane vision of society than that we face today.

STRENGTH

But it is true that if you're concerned merely to tinker with the present system, then there is no alternative to Wilson's measures. The alternative is not to tinker, to restrict or limit the power of big business, but to abolish it once and for all.

This task, by its very nature, cannot be done from above. It cannot be done by pressurising the Labour Party to pressurise the government to pressurise big business. While the left is trying to organise in such a way, the big industrialists and banks will be running circles around the Labour Party and the government.

But it can be done from below, by organising to destroy the power of big business where it actually operates—in the factories and the offices. The strength which threw out the Tory government last year could, if workers had the necessary understanding and organisation, smash the present system for once and for all.

STRUGGLE

If there was in Britain a large revolutionary socialist party, with dozens of members in every factory and workshop, we would not now be building a movement merely to defend living standards from attack. We could then talk about workers taking the power from the employers in every workplace, co-ordinating their efforts and re-organising production themselves. We could talk about throwing out those who have produced the present system of chaos and creating instead a planned, rational organisation of production.

The organisation and understanding necessary to achieve these tasks does not yet exist. But it can be developed in struggle against the wage freeze, the government spending cuts and unemployment. In fighting to defend wages and jobs, workers can begin to see how their collective strength can offer the basis for a society much better than the present set-up.

'Instant socialism' is the remedy. The problem is to build the forces that can bring it about, against the opposition of big business, the Tories, the Labour government—and Jack Jones and Len Murray too.

How the freezer works

THE government's package contains the biggest array of devices designed to hold back wages we have seen since the war. It also contains fewer let-outs for workers than did either the Labour government's 1966 wage freeze or the Tory government's Phase Two and Three freezes.

ONE: From 1 August no worker will be allowed a wage increase of more than £6. But employers will not be compelled to pay the £6, despite Wilson's talk of helping the lower paid. Overtime or bonus rates are completely frozen at present levels and there is no exception for productivity deals or through increased fringe benefits or holidays. The only partial exception is for payments due to bring women closer to equal pay.

TWO: Workers who have already negotiated rises after 1 September will not be allowed to get more than £6 of that rise. This applies also to workers who still have threshold agreements. Even if the rise in the cost of living would entitle you to £10 by next March, you will only get £6.

THREE: Those earning more than £170 a week will not be entitled to the £6. They will only be able to increase their incomes by relying on their shareholdings,



CHRIS HARMAN EXAMINES THE WHITE PAPER

by persuading the company to give them another car, or by taking up further directorships.

FOUR: Price controls will be no stricter than at present. The government will 'ensure that the rate of price increases for a range of goods of special importance in family expenditure' will not be more than 10 per cent—'subject to unforeseen increases in the cost of materials.' In other words, other things will be allowed to rise by more than 10 per cent.

FIVE: There will be no direct legal action against workers who fight for more than £6. But a whole series of devices will be used to stop employers giving

more than that amount.

Nationalised industries and government departments will be refused any access to extra money to pay wage rises of more than £6 and will be forced to sack workers to balance their books. So although the White Paper claims that it does not try to cut wages through 'mass unemployment', in fact it threatens the dole to sections of workers who fight for more.

Local authorities who pay more than £6 will have their government grants cut.

Private employers who pay more will be denied government assistance and will face the possibility of control over their prices.

Law

If all these devices fail, the government will have a law available to take employers to court.

But it is doubtful if any of these measures will worry big business much. As the Financial Times noted: 'To make it illegal for an employer to pay out high wages is an odd way to punish him... It is aimed against militants.'

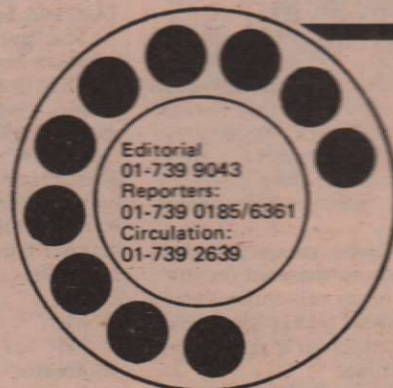
SIX: Food subsidies are to be cut by about £70 million instead of the £140 million originally

planned. Council rents will increase next April by an average of 60p—instead of £1 as originally planned.

SEVEN: Tougher measures are to be taken to ensure continuing cuts in the social services. There is to be a 'continuing reduction of public sector borrowing requirements'—which means fewer hospital workers, fewer local government workers, fewer teachers and higher unemployment. It will also mean a continuing run-down on those social services on which working people depend most.

However, all the press comment on the government's measures has indicated that they can be broken by workers. The control over the individual private employer will not be so great as to prevent some under-the-counter payments. But more important powerful groups of public sector workers could tear the whole policy to pieces.

As The Economist put it: 'The test is not what British trade union leaders say today, but what British trade union members actually do tomorrow. Union power can bring another government to its knees this autumn and winter as it weakly tries to defend the words and the intentions of a White Paper.'



Editorial
01-739 9043
Reporters:
01-739 0185/6361
Circulation:
01-739 2639

SOCIALIST WORKER, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

Morning Star DEFEND RIGHT TO ABORTION **FINANCIAL TIMES** Wednesday July 9 1975

Neither 10 per cent nor £6 has any relevance

MINERS VOTE TO SEEK **Setback for Left over**
£100 A WEEK Face axe now **miners' £100 claim**

The Morning Star's view of the £100 debate: the Financial Times (right) had a rather more accurate analysis



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

LAWRENCE DALY: His attack on ARTHUR SCARGILL (below) was one of nine separate speeches he had prepared



Picture John Sturrock (REPORT)

How the miners were led from battle...

By DAVE GIBSON

IT COULD have been a mighty blow to the Labour government's wage-cutting plans—but the demand for the £100 a week miner ended in farce at last week's miners' conference in Scarborough. WHY?

Of course, the right-wing can take a lot of the 'credit'. But there were others, men of the left, who also played their part in the sabotage of the Yorkshire area's resolution.

LAWRENCE DALY, elected general secretary seven years ago on his promises of support for militant action, vigorously defended the social contract and attacked Yorkshire president Arthur Scargill.

And, behind the scenes, leading Communist Party members manoeuvred to prevent the passing of the £100 a week resolution.

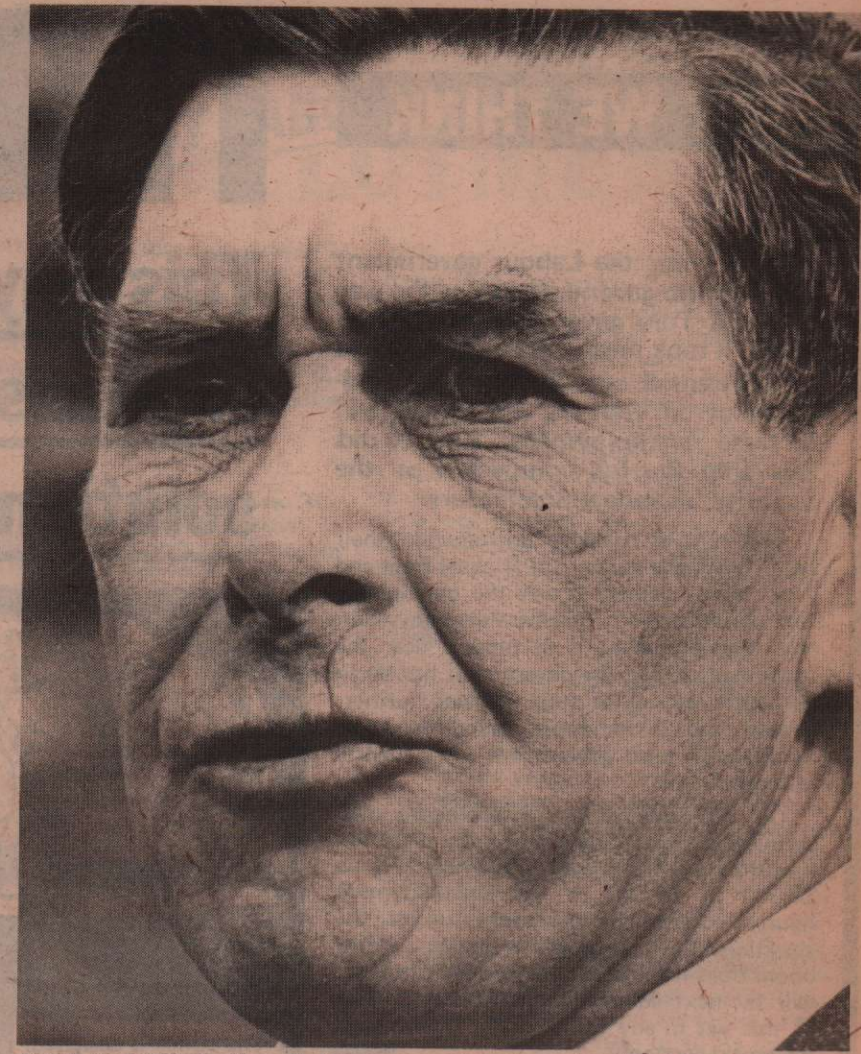
Before the conference, Yorkshire had the support of three major areas—Scotland, South Wales and Kent, all left-wing and influenced by the CP. Together with Yorkshire, they had 113 votes. The 21 extra votes necessary for an overall majority had been promised from smaller groups.

But the resolution those votes had been lined up for was quietly scuttled at a private meeting of CP members

on the Thursday night before conference began.

There were, according to *The Observer's Labour Correspondent, John Clare, a number of reasons for this sabotage.*

But the most important was that 'there was insufficient support outside the NUM for a head-on collision with the government'. In other words, faced with the possibility of rousing the most powerful section of British workers to the most savage attack ever on all British workers—the government's 15 per cent wage cuts—



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

MICK MCGAHEY: He called it compromise, Scargill called it betrayal...



Then, sickeningly for Scargill, it rapidly became clear that South Wales, Scotland and Kent would not be supporting the Yorkshire resolution.

Outmanoeuvred, Scargill and his delegates were forced to accept the compromise or, as he called it, 'betrayal'. But Scargill, nonetheless, took to the rostrum, to denounce the social contract.

And now Daly showed the full extent of his new colours. He defended his action in proposing the resolution for support for the social contract at last year's TUC.

He attacked Scargill for continuing to insist that the £100 could be won this year. He made it clear that he believed in the need for the TUC/Government wage guidelines. He accused Scargill of 'out-Machiavelling Machievelli'.

The key thing now is what happens in the coalfields in the coming months.

Crisis

The argument inside the union must not merely be concerned with getting the executive to go for £100, but must take up among the rank and file all the arguments against the freeze. As Scargill told the Conference: 'The working class are not responsible for the crisis, the guilty men are the capitalists.'

This is the argument that can win and commit the rank and file against accepting the government's £6. It is also the argument that can win the miners to support all other groups fighting the freeze.

No jobs - and our unions feud

WHILE building workers will be facing 20 per cent unemployment by December, their two major unions are virtually in a state of war.

UCATT, with 250,000 members, and the TGWU, with 50,000 members, represent only a third of the industry's million workers. Yet, while most builders are unorganised, these unions spend their time haggling over those who are.

The split flows from the right-wing leadership of both unions, not from differences over how best to serve the needs of rank and file builders.

Both have shown preference for soft option sell-outs instead of backing their members against the diehard anti-trade union National Federation of Building Trade Employers.

Lump

Both are concentrating their regional organisers' efforts in negotiating 'check off' deals with employers. This system, of deductions at source, sabotages any contact shop stewards and lay branch officers have with their members.

Many such deals are negotiated without reference to the men on site. This has led to lump sub-contractors breaking one union's picket line backed up by their employer's agreement with the other union.

The disagreement is really over which particular power block will claim to represent workers in the

WHAT THE CHARTER DEMANDS

- £1.50 per hour for crafts with maximum differential of 5p. 35-hour week.
- Four week annual holiday with average pay, plus May Day as an extra public holiday.
- A non-contributory pension scheme bringing operatives two-thirds of their full pay on retirement.
- Decasualisation of the Building Industry, including the registration of all building operatives.
- Adequate safety and welfare regulations to be introduced and rigidly enforced in the Building Industry.
- Democratise the Trade Unions by making:
 - Delegate Conferences policy making bodies.
 - All T.U. Officials submit themselves for election every three years, and Branch officials every year.
 - The disbanding of Selection Boards.
- Full protection and recognition for Shop Stewards with provision for regular meetings.
- Establishing 100 per cent compulsory T.U. membership.
- Total opposition to the lump.
- Abolition of working rule 2B six day and transfer clauses; used to victimise members.
- The establishing of one fully democratic union for the Building Industry.
- Full nationalisation and public ownership of the Building Industry.

industry at national negotiations and in the committees and lobbies of the TUC and Labour Party.

The split is a threat to the unity between building trade unionists.

The Building Workers' Charter Group, which initiated the 1972 national dispute, is not unaffected. One of its central demands is for one democratic union for the building industry and it has never sought to achieve this aim through sectarian manoeuvrings.

However, inside the Charter, there exists a very different school of thought.

Part of the Communist Party-dominated Charter Group see it as a traditional Broad Left ginger group for putting pressure on the official unions, as well as providing an

electoral machine through which 'left and 'progressive' candidates can win 'positions of influence' in the trade union hierarchy.

Adherents of this line find themselves forced to adopt an increasingly partisan attitude to their respective unions—at the expense of fighting for the policies of the very rank and file group from which they draw their support.

Build

The sectarian divisions, and the policies they lead to, find increasing support the further these ambitious and aspirant 'left leaders' progress up the bureaucratic scale.

The electoral strategy of these ascendant Communist Party and

fellow travellers, and their willingness to sacrifice militant rank and file policies to further their bureaucratic ambitions, can only damage the unified movement the Charter seek to build.

This was already apparent at the last Charter conference where, despite concern felt by many militants, there was no real attempt to discuss the situation in relation to Charter policy, and re-emphasise the non-sectarian demands for democratic control of the unions by rank and file members.

Unless these and other Charter policies are taken up and fought for by building workers, they will suffer mass unemployment, severe wage cuts and a complete dismantling of any control they have over union policy and their working lives.

Campaign for solidarity with the Portuguese Working Class

Marcolino Abrants, a shop steward and vice president of the Portuguese Textile Workers' Union, will be in Britain from 17 July. He will be addressing the following public meetings:

ROCHDALE Sunday 20 July 8pm, Labour Party Rooms.
MANCHESTER Monday 21 July 7.30pm, Wheatsheaf Pub, High Street, Manchester 4.
LEEDS Tuesday 22 July 7.30pm, Trades Council Rooms, Saville Place, off Chapeltown Road.

Organised by the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee

Questions on the Crisis

BY
DUNCAN
HALLAS

WILL the government's wage restraint policy actually stop prices rising? Of course if the simple 'price rises are due to pay rises' theory was correct then it *must* do so.

Holding real wages steady, on this theory, must result in prices staying steady. Cutting real wages (and that is what the government's £6 plan will do) must, if the theory is true, lead to prices falling.

So, assuming that the government is able to enforce the £6 scheme for a while, everyone will be able to see for themselves who is telling the truth about pay and prices.

But, of course, we already know that the theory is not true. During the Heath incomes policy, prices rose fast in spite of the fact that wages were held to the government norms. During Phase One (total freeze on pay) the Economist magazine was compelled to admit, 'the cost of basic materials (including food and particularly meat) and of fuels rose by a massive 3¼ per cent in a single month (December 1972) cutting through the ice like a blow-lamp. Shop prices rose 6 per cent.' This in a period of *no* pay increases at all.

The speed-up of inflation, which had nothing whatever to do with wages, was a by-product of the world boom. Now we have a world

Will Healey's £6 limit on wages stop prices rising?

recession but, even in conditions of recession, Healey type policies have failed to stabilise prices in France, to take one example.

The Guardian (10 July) reported 'Giscard came to power on a broad pledge to stop inflation . . . By now, according to Giscard's original timetable, inflation should have halved . . . Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been sacrificed to cut back inflation . . .'

Fact

And the results? Massive unemployment, and no change in the rate of inflation. 'In the last 12 months the inflation rate has been 12.1 per cent, an insignificant drop on the previous 12 months . . . M Mitterand (the Socialist Party leader) assesses the true number out of work at 1.2 million, which he says will rise to 1.5 million

after the holidays.'

The fact is that inflation is now built in to modern capitalism and cannot be stopped, on a capitalist basis, by anything short of a massive and prolonged slump, 1930s style.

The rate of inflation can and does vary with the boom-recession cycle and with local conditions. In Japan, for instance, the rate of price increases has fallen from 25 per cent a year to 14 per cent a year over the last twelve months—at the cost of cutting output by a fifth.

But inflation continues in Japan and will speed up again as the next boom gets under way in 1976 then these facts, what is the immediate prospect for prices in Britain?

They will go on rising at around the present average rate throughout the summer and autumn. The effect of the recent further devaluation of the pound (manipulated by financial interests with the connivance of the British government, as Paul Foot

showed last week) is to raise the prices of imported raw materials and goods of all kinds. This will feed through into further price rises here over the next few months.

The effect of cutting government support for nationalised industries will be still bigger price jumps. Postal charges at 8½p a letter, 28 per cent in 'phone charges, 30 per cent rise in the price of gas—all these and more to come. Then there are the rent rises promised by Crosland. And further food price increases as British prices are 'harmonised' (upwards of course) with Common Market ones. And more besides.

Most of these price rises are the direct result of the government's 'anti-inflation' policy. The ordinary man and woman believes, naturally enough, that 'anti-inflation' measures are measures to keep prices steady—or to reduce them.

That is the basis on which the wage-cutting scheme is being sold. It is a fraudulent basis. One of the most important aims of the operation is to cut real pay so as to increase profits. That cannot be done unless prices rise faster than wages. The whole 'anti-inflation' package is designed to make this happen.

Cost

What about the longer term? It depends on the timing of the next upturn in the world economy—and that is a very uncertain matter. The government's present measures are sure to cause a big rise in unemployment this year and next. If the upturn in the world economy is delayed then—at the cost of massive unemployment, reduced living standards, slashed social services and falling output—the British rate of inflation will indeed fall. Prices will go on rising but at a slacker pace.

If, on the other hand, a world boom gets under way in 1976 then raw material prices will start shooting up again and the rate of inflation will speed up.

'Will 1976-77 see a repetition of the 1972-73 boom in (raw material) prices? . . . That depends on the timing and strength of the recovery in world demand,' noted the Economist recently. Boom means still faster inflation, recession means slower inflation at the cost of workers' jobs and living standards. A gloomy prospect either way. And that is the only prospect modern capitalism has to offer.

Of course there is no reason why full employment, stable prices and expanding social services should not go hand in hand—provided you have a democratically controlled planned economy. But that is socialism. You can't lay the basis for it except by a successful fight against the Labour government's capitalist policies.

The case of the dog that didn't bark

WHAT have those guardians of Labour's famous Manifesto, the Tribune 'lefts', to say about the government's U-turn on statutory wage fixing? In the past week they have been like the dog that didn't bark in the Sherlock Holmes story.

Michael Foot, whose 'sticking point' we were told so often was just this issue, stays in the Cabinet with Jack Jones' blessing and so do the lesser fry. Tribune warns us against the government of 'betrayal'. Eric Heffer manages a few words of muted comment. Norman Atkinson threatens to produce a critical statement. And that is it.

Remember the deafening chorus of denunciation with which these same 'lefts' greeted Heath's Incomes policy? Imagine what they would be saying if a new Tory government had introduced the identical measures that are *not*, apparently, a betrayal when Wilson and Healey sponsor them. What a pathetic exhibition.

Class

'There cannot be neutrality in the class struggle. Either one is for the workers or against them . . . As far as the workers are concerned, we must forthrightly stand on the side of the trade unions in their fight for better wages and conditions,' wrote Eric Heffer in his book *The Class Struggle in Parliament*, published only two years ago.

Why cannot there be neutrality? Eric Heffer explains that 'because we live in a class society, based on private ownership, there is a fundamental struggle between those who own and control industry and those who do not.'

Now that 'those who own and control industry' are cheering the 'Labour' government on, where are the heroes of the parliamentary 'left', those men and women who 'cannot be neutral'?

Of course they will regain their voices when it becomes a bit more popular to attack Wilson's capitalist policies—or some of them will. These 'practical' and 'realistic' politicians always respond to events, they never try to shape them.

Just now 'the time is not ripe'. Wedgwood Benn, according to *The Observer's* usually well-informed



Beginning and end of the struggle for the Labour left: Michael Foot joins Healey and Wilson on the platform to announce the £6 wage limit

political correspondent, 'has allowed left-wing MPs to know that he is on their side in rejecting the government's White Paper on curbing inflation and that he is staying inside the government only to play a role when Mr Healey's policies are shown not to work.'

Stay quiet till Benn says when? But even when Atkinson, Heffer and the rest do manage to scrape together enough courage to tell the truth about what 'their' government is doing, what will they propose as the alternative? It is already clear that they will go on repeating the Tribune nostrums, calling on the government to enforce price controls and import controls.

Now these measures are not, in principle, impossible to carry out under capitalism—indeed have been operated by British governments in the past. They are no more 'socialist

policies' than the (nationalised) Royal Navy is a socialist institution. But they are not now going to be adopted by the government, no matter how many resolutions are passed at Labour Party Conference, because they are not *at present* in the interests of big business.

Proposals

The government is determined to increase profits—so prices must be allowed to rise faster than wages. It is gambling on an 'export-led' boom next year—so import controls are out since they invite reprisals.

But the most significant thing about these proposals, as about everything that the Tribunes propose, is that they are, by their very nature, demands which lead to resolution-mongering, to calls on the government to act, not the workers.

That is the essence of Tribune politics. Never attempt to develop the working-class struggle against capitalism. Always try to divert it into the parliamentary arena where it can be sterilised—with the help, I am sorry to say, of the Labour 'lefts'.

Let Eric Heffer have the last word—I am quoting from his book again. 'During the years of the Labour government, the Left were not prepared, except under very special circumstances, to vote against the government . . . We knew the alternative to Wilson was Heath, and not a government of the Left.'

Substitute Thatcher for Heath and you have it in a nutshell, the politics of paralysis. Don't vote against Wilson's Tory policies in case you help the Tories! What a sorry crew they are.

TONY CLIFF
THE CRISIS
SOCIAL CONTRACT
OR SOCIALISM



YOUR job's threatened, your pay's threatened, your groceries cost a fortune—so Harold's offered you a Social Contract. You can't spend it, you can't eat it—but you can fight it. Find out what it means, why your living standards are going out of the window, how and why you should hit back in:

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5 FIFTH COLUMN



Northern disasters

IF YOU really want to find out what's happening in Northern Ireland then you should go there. This is a sound theory and has recently been put into practice by a delegation from the Greater London Association of Trades Councils—with disastrous results.

The trip took place over the weekend of 3 July to 6 July, and culminated on Saturday 5 July with three members of the delegation, Mike Knowles and Gerry McMorrow of Hackney Trades Council and Rosemary Sales of Barnet Trades Council being slung off the delegation by GLATC chairman Tom Pilfold, a Labour Party member, and Electricians union full-timer.

A pre-trip discussion heard GLATC Irish sub-committee chairman Jack Dromey explain the schedule. Some delegates objected that it was too orientated towards Official Republicanism, trade union leaders and civil rights groups. Rosemary Sales pointed out that in the eyes of Irish nationalists it would only give one side of the story, and suggested meeting the editor of the Republican community paper, the Andersonstown News, and the Association of Legal Justice which is concerned with the internees held in Long Kesh camp.

She was told it was too late to change the schedule. The schedule which was followed—in fact—differed markedly from the one the delegates agreed on. She was defeated in a vote by 11 to three. Eight of the 11 were members of the Communist Party.

Tourist

By Friday morning, 4 July the party was at Harland and Wolff's Belfast shipyards, where they met shop steward Sammy Fitzsimmons. They had a tour of the yards, which was interesting, said Mike and Gerry—and very much like any other shipyard. 'It was a tourist thing,' said Gerry.

Their meeting with Fitzsimmons however was rather unusual for a free and frank exchange between trade unionists. It took place in the presence of the company's personnel manager and public relations officer...

Then the tour went on to—a government training centre. Followed by a meeting with Brendan Harkins, the General Secretary of the Public Services Alliance. 'This was the first chance we had to raise the question of British troops in the North,' explained Mike. 'So Rosemary did so—and got shouted down. Dromey said we "aren't here to lecture Irish trade unionists."

'We were told that the answer would be a "bill of rights"—the Communist Party's answer—Madge Davison of NICRA told us, that it has support from the Alliance Party and Vanguard (the Protestant ultra-right party led by William Craig).

'Who was going to enact it? we asked. It would be passed by Westminster—and then the British troops would withdraw.'

Asked

Less than happy with the results the three went off and met the editor of the Andersonstown News, a pro-Provisional Sinn Fein paper, the deputy editor of Hibernia—a Southern Irish fortnightly review, and a representative of the Link Tenants Association. They suggested that these three met the delegation the following morning, Saturday.

That morning the delegation were meeting with representatives of the Greater West Belfast Tenants Association. 'They told us that it was 100 per cent funded by the Northern Ireland Office,' said Mike. The three invited by Sales, Knowles and McMorrow arrived. They were asked to wait outside by Mike Knowles.

'I asked Tom Pilfold if I could introduce them to put "a different point of view",' explained Mike Knowles.

'He told them that he'd love "to listen to what they've got to say" but there's no time! This was after we'd been going around government training centres!

I told the meeting that "this set up is such a bloody farce that I'm leaving" and that we'd join them for the rest of the tour in the afternoon.'

Out

Alas it was not to be. Tom Pilfold then told the three to 'get out and stay out—you're no longer part of the delegation'.

From then on, despite a renewed effort to rejoin the main delegation the three were on their own. They spent the time visiting various parts of Belfast, concentrating on the Republican areas. 'I just wanted to meet all sorts, not just Loyalists,' said Mike.

'The Protestants already believe that the British have decided to withdraw. The majority of Catholics we spoke to wanted the Army out.'

Mike Knowles has now been suspended from active participation in the GLATC. The debate over the visit is likely to be carried on in London TCs centreing on those which have affiliated or support the Troops Out Movement—like Hackney, and those which, like the Irish tour itself, are tied to the politics of the Communist Party. It isn't a battle that ToM should be allowed to lose...

DETECTIVE Constable Thomas Aitchison and PC Peter Cuckson of Sheffield and Leeds respectively were both found not guilty in an interesting case at Huddersfield last week.

They had been charged of robbing a fruit machine at the West Yorkshire Police Academy social club. The two were on a crime detection course at the time.



WE NOW COME TO THE MATTER OF M.P.s SALARIES...



SPECIAL CASE BLAH BLAH...



Economics: Chile (and Thatcher?) style

THE Chilean Junta have a name for their efforts to build a 'stable' and orderly society. To date the efforts have involved murdering 40,000 trade unionists, socialists and other people who insisted on holding the country to ransom in order to eat.

The generals call it the 'social market economy'. The brains behind it were provided by a Professor Milton Friedmann of Chicago University. Heard of him? Well he's also the inspiration for our very own Margaret Thatcher, Keith Joseph and Enoch Powell.

Financial journalist Alejandro Koffman O'Reilly recently described the new style economy's effect on

the Chilean working class.

'Many cases of children fainting at school because of hunger are reported and parents in increasing numbers send their children to school with letters asking for them to be given subsidised breakfasts or lunches. But kitchens at primary schools can only provide enough for 70 per cent of the students, according to government figures,' he wrote on 1 July 1975.

'In a long queue of unemployed

waiting hopelessly at Sende, a state employment agency, stood Hugo R Valencia, 28 years married, with two children. He was sacked last February from a textile factory,' he added.

'We have not eaten meat for three months. Luckily our children are getting milk from my unemployment assurance but it is about to run out now.'



Mr Jackal... and Mr Ji...

SO the Jackal, after his assassination of an undercover agent of the French secret police, continues his prowling of the trouble spots of the world. How can decent people (and 793 journalists) sleep easy in their beds as long as this man is free?

Why don't they come clean? A quick scrutiny of the villain's visage reveals the truth to the discerning eye.

Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, alias Carlos, alias the Jackal, is clearly none other than last year's boy wonder, trainee god and idol of the popular press, Guru Maharaj Ji. The same plump features, the same interest in wild living and personal solutions to political problems.

Mr Ji is alive and living in California. Why has no arrest been made? He is believed to keep a black panther as a pet...

A Peachey time for all...

A LOT of people are, or should be, getting worried about Mr Eric Miller. These include shareholders, members of the stock exchange—and members of the Labour Party. Mr Miller is chairman of the Peachey Property Corporation.

The corporation is seven months overdue in the presentation of its accounts for 1974, reports the London Evening Standard. 'Given the unpromising background in the property world it is not surprising that some of the City's observers of the property scene are worried about Peachey's performance.'

Perhaps this was caused by too many kindly deeds performed for the Labour Party—like loaning Harold Wilson a helicopter for the February 1974 election. Or perhaps by too many late nights at that well known Mayfair working people's club, Annabels—much used by the holidaying Lord Lucan. Mr Miller has been seen there recently, reports the Daily Express, with Wilson's private secretary, Lady Falkender. 'Our meetings are connected with my support for the Labour Party,' he announced.

Perhaps he has been asked to speak to the next miners' conference...

Abortion's about men too!

by Alan Watts AUEW

JAMES WHITE'S Abortion (Amendment) Bill will take from women what rights they have to decide what happens to their own bodies. Many women are campaigning against the Bill, but many men have yet to see that the right to free abortion affects them as well.

If you're a man, and you and your wife have two children, can't afford anymore and she is pregnant, what can you do? You face increasing financial burdens, and if White's legislation is passed your wife won't have any chance of getting an abortion on the National Health Service.

And what does that mean? That you have no choice but to find someone who will 'help out' for a few pounds. And risk life at the same time.

For years equal pay has been a major issue for working class women. But it isn't always easy to understand that rotten wages aren't just an individual problem—



or a problem in one badly organised factory where people may work in isolation.

But James White's Bill is an attack on all women, everywhere, and it is an anti-working class Bill. We've seen mass demonstrations, like 21 June in London, but by the autumn the campaign against the Bill has to be taken into the working class.

This means arguing the issue out with other people we work

with inside the factories, leafletting and factory gate meetings.

If we are successful, and the abortion campaign becomes a working class campaign, and we defeat the Bill then James White will have done us all a service.

He will have given many other working class women and men the chance to see what socialists are fighting against—and more importantly, what we are fighting for.



Pickets outside Hammersmith Hospital, where the Joint Shop Stewards Committee, with the help of the local National Abortion Campaign are organising for a new abortion unit in the hospital. At the moment the hospital has a no-abortion policy because the top gynaecologist there, Doctor Mclure Brown, is a leading member of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, the anti-abortion pressure group.

Picture: Angela Phillips (IFL)

Pickets outside the offices of Mother magazine last Friday, protested at an anti-abortion article based on distorted facts and half-truths put out by the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child. They demanded the right of reply, and editorial retraction, and a policy from IPC, the publishers, of discouraging journalism which does not state its source or allow for balanced argument.

Catherine Munnion, the editor, was not available to discuss these demands. Neither were any IPC directors, who all managed to be abroad or in conference. The magazine's staff had been given the day off.

About 70 people joined the picket line, with support from NUJ Book and Freelance branches, NATSOPA and CPUSA members, and London NAC groups.

WHAT WE THINK

THE BRITISH press have once again started beating their well-worn drum over the alleged 'threat to democracy' in Portugal. They gave it a good thumping over the Republica affair, when a group of print workers challenged the undemocratic editor system.

But now that the government in Portugal has voted to set up some form of popular democracy, based on workplaces and tenants' committees, the drum is being beaten feverishly.

Our masters want to bang into our heads the notion that only those societies which have 'sovereign parliaments' are democratic.

In saying this, of course, they forget what they know only too well, namely, that parliament is but a cypher for the power of Ford, General Motors, ICI and Pilkingtons, and big business as a whole.

Real

Take the British system of democracy. Once every five years (or thereabouts) you have the right to mark a parliamentary ballot paper with a cross. That's better than having no rights at all. But it's scarcely a real and meaningful form of democracy.

When all the crosses on the ballot papers have been added up, you have helped to elect an MP. This person is your 'representative'. Note the word, because it means that you have absolutely no day-to-day control over him or her.

Indeed, as the Yorkshire miners have found out, if you try to exercise some

This is democracy... workers' democracy

minimal control, you're liable to be done for something called 'breach of privilege' or contempt of Parliament.

You have no control over the most important areas of your life. Democracy ceases, for example, when you go to work. As soon as you clock on, you are legally the property of your boss who can use you and abuse you, hire you and fire you. Unless, that is, you're organised.

The Portuguese working class is now far and away the most highly organised in Western Europe. And Portugal's workers are organised not where their employers claim that power lies, but at those points where workers themselves have discovered and developed their own power.

In the course of the many struggles of the past year, they have devised and developed a new and superior form of democracy. It's not the 'once-every-five-years-on-a-piece-of-paper' variety. It's something rooted in the daily lives of ordinary people. It is a real, living democracy and not a sham.

Take TAP, the Portuguese Airlines, for example. They are one of the biggest employers in Portugal, with some 6000 directly employed workers. Like virtually every

other enterprise in Portugal, TAP workers have an elected workers' committee to lead their struggles and co-ordinate their affairs.

The council meets after work virtually every day and its members are always on hand if you have a problem. The delegates to the council report back and are recallable to mass meetings. With this sort of system John Stonehouses are virtually impossible.

Solid

The mass meetings are held regularly once a fortnight or once a week depending on the situation. The 6000 TAP workers stop work, gather in the massive canteen, hear a report from the workers' committee and then get stuck into the debate.

There are dozens of mikes laid-on so that everyone can have their say. Often the 6000 stay until late into the night as some contentious thing is argued out.

Workers at Setenave, the giant shipyard at Setubal south of Lisbon, are another key group of workers who have gone to great lengths to develop working class democracy.

In May, in the half-yearly elections to the workers' committee, three slates of candidates stood, each publishing a programme

dealing in detail with safety conditions, pay, the political situation and the economic crisis.

Then, in the week before the actual elections, each slate had to hold a public meeting where candidates could be questioned in detail by rank and file workers.

Virtually every factory and workplace in Portugal has a similar story to tell, a story of everyday democracy, not the capitalist variety which is supposed to remain in the locker room while you go about your work.

In Portugal today, the struggle is for the working class to extend this new and superior form of democracy, from control of this or that factory to control over society as a whole. There is no doubt that the working class has the capacity to do this, which is why the propaganda offensive is being stepped up by the 'impartial' editors of British newspapers.

Mario Soares and the Socialist Party may have won the elections in April. But this trusted professional won by duplicity. In the North of Portugal he made right wing speeches. In the industrial areas he made left wing speeches.

Under the capitalist system of 'democracy' he could spend his whole life doing this over and over again and dominate parliament on the basis of calculated fraud. But in Setenave he could not get away with it for a week. In Setenave there is recall. In Setenave democracy is not a sham.

That is why it is the duty of every militant and socialist to defend the struggle of the Portuguese working class to extend the Setenave system to every sphere of life.

Portugal: First step to workers' power?

From COLIN SPARKS in Lisbon

THE LAST two weeks have seen important gains for the Portuguese working class.

Pressure from strikes, demonstrations and the growing influence of the revolutionary councils in factories and on housing estates have forced the government and the Armed Forces Movement to take several steps to the left.

A month ago, the assembly of the Armed Forces Movement ended in compromise which the right wing thought gave it a chance to re-exert its influence.

The Socialist Party and the right-wing officers took the initiative. Revolutionaries in the army were forced to keep their heads down. Two weeks ago, the right-wing felt strong enough to use troops against important strikes.

Troops were sent, with the support of the Communist Party—into the TLP—the telephone exchange in Lisbon—and the government threatened to enter the radio station Renascenca which was occupied by the workers.

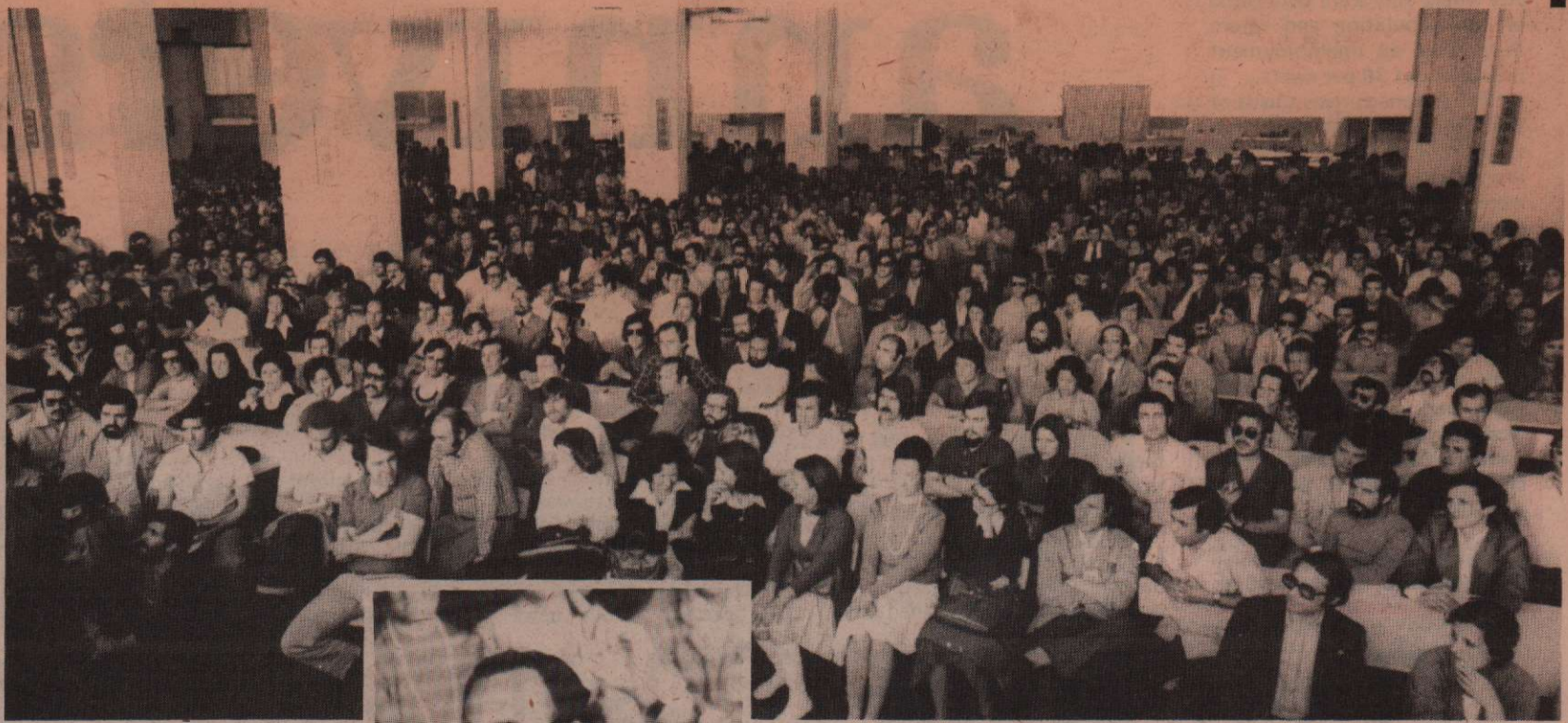
Break

But these attempts backfired. After two days the troops in the Post Office had to be withdrawn. Military police who had been sent to break a consumer boycott of increased rail fares fraternised with the workers who were refusing to pay.

Last weekend there were mass working class demonstrations of solidarity with the workers on strike.

Faced with this upsurge, last week's Armed Forces assembly was forced to the left. Its final statement was again a compromise—but this time a compromise to the left.

It calls for the setting up of popular assemblies based on workers' and tenants' committees, which will aid the armed forces in purging the state apparatus of reactionaries.



Workers' democracy: a worker addresses a mass meeting (above) at TAP, the Portuguese airline.

The document, which envisages the setting up of a popular national assembly, has very definite limits.

This supreme power remains in the hands of the military leaders, and the document does not call for a transformation of the structure of the army.

How much of a gain this represents depends on how far the revolutionary left can build real workers councils, both in the factories and in the barracks.

But this development, born of working-class pressure and desperation in the face of the profound economic crisis, offers massive opportunities.

The other victory for the working class was the republication of the newspaper Republica under workers' control. The workers announced last week that they would go ahead, naming as editor 'the workers' and risking prosecution under the press law.

This put the authorities on the spot. Either they prosecuted the paper and gave way to the right wing or they backed the workers.

At dawn on Thursday last week, as the paper was going to press, they

named a Colonel as nominal editor, giving in to the pressure of the workers.

The right wing have naturally reacted against these advances. Last Sunday, Mario Soares, who has emerged as the undisputed leader of the reaction, threatened strikes and demonstrations to paralyse the country unless the Socialist Party demands were granted.

This week, using the publication of Republica as an excuse, but in reality worried by the Armed Forces Movement decision on popular assemblies, the Socialist Party has left

the government. But there are indications that it is losing working class support.

The other big right wing party, the PPD, is threatening to follow the socialist leaders. Its strategy is to try to establish the Constituent Assembly as a British-style Parliament with themselves in the majority and private property in the saddle.

To achieve this, it is making all sorts of threats. This week the Portuguese version of the CBI met to discuss its plans despite protests from workers.

Gain

The workers struggle continues both in the factories and in the districts. In Setubal, a big tenants' demonstration last week demanded both the lowering of rents and the immediate dissolution of the constituent assembly.

All in all, the situation offers considerable possibilities for the revolutionary left to gain further ground and help create the conditions where the working class can seize power.

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 the International Socialists' work in solidarity with the Portuguese revolution.

send to:
Socialist Worker Portuguese
Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens,
London E2 8DN.

The 12th July

July

What it's like to be a Catholic in Northern Ireland

THE Unionist-controlled councils ensured that Protestants got the best jobs, with only 12 per cent of Northern Ireland's local government staff Catholics.

In Fermanagh, for instance, a county with a slight Catholic majority in the population, only 32 of the 370 council employees were Catholics. And in Derry (with its clear Catholic majority in the population) Catholics only accounted for 26 per cent of the total salary bill.

Even when it came to meagre jobs like bus driving or refuse collecting, discrimination prevented Catholics getting more than a third of the jobs in a city where they were two thirds of the population and where they faced an unemployment rate of about 30 per cent.

In Fermanagh, two thirds of the council houses built between 1945 and 1969 went to Protestants—although they were less than half the population.

Catholics were effectively excluded from the main industries in the Belfast area. For instance, Harland and Wolff's Belfast has fewer than 500 Catholics out of its 9000 workforce—and among its skilled workers virtually no Catholics.

In Belfast the Catholics are chiefly confined to peripheral jobs like bus driving, building, etc.

—from International Socialism Journal 70, mid-June 1974.

By FRANK DRAIN



An anniversary



The face of Protestant ascendancy: Orangemen march through Belfast on 12 July, a calculation of strength.

LAST Saturday, 12 July, in towns and villages in Northern Ireland thousands upon thousands of workers—in some cases led by their bosses—were on the march.

If you were a visitor, this spectacle would indeed be something to tell the folks back home about. The music and tunes of the many bands, the gaily-dressed people, the bowler-hatted, sash-bedecked, solemn-faced men marching in well-disciplined ranks,

in many cases carrying swords and blackthorn walking sticks.

Yes indeed, a wonderful sight—if you are a visitor.

But leave the parade and walk through some of the back-street areas, and you will find a totally different attitude. People will try to go about their ordinary business, but, not quite making it, they will hear the distant wail of the pipes, the high pitch of flutes, the pounding of the Lambeg Drum and they will wait apprehensively for the news of a riot or, more lightheartedly, of news that

some 'oul bastard' has dropped dead on the march through a heart attack or sheer exhaustion.

These people are part of what the march is about. They are the Catholic section of the working class, the minority, the third class citizens.

The marchers are the Protestant section, mainly workers but some middle class, landowners, factory owners, politicians and clergymen. They are the majority, the privileged, the masters, the Orange monolith.

They are letting the world know that the 'mad month' has well and

truly started, the Loyalist show of strength.

This is their day, the day when once again the battle of the Boyne will be relived, their hero King William will be toasted in songs and Guinness, the siege of Derry will be fought again, with 'Derry's Walls', 'Dolly's Brae'—where ten thousand papishes were kicked in—The Sash and all the other songs, not of victory but of repression.

The politicians will tell them that the very fact that they are loyal sons of William makes them first class citizens. Of course, they are, aren't they, on the same march as their employers, the landowners and so on.

Dole

They're told that if they smash the Republican resistance and subdue the Catholics, everything will be all right.

The clergymen tell them that God's on their side. The terrible monster of Orangism is there in its entirety—the dole clerks, the police, the former B-specials, the judges, the rich and, sadly, the trade unionists.

This is only the beginning. In August we will witness 86-year-old Apprentices marching through Derry to commemorate the 'siege'.

Yes, it's their day, their month, their supremacy and—by Christ—you papish dogs better remember it. Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right.

Of course, in many cases it is not the young kids in the Catholic areas who feel the awful threat of Loyalism.

We learn it in harsh terms in the slums of the Falls Road, Ardoyne, the Strand. When I was a school kid we had gang warfare just like kids all over the world, only in our case it was Micks versus Prods.

In these occasions a flash of show. For instance, Road we had a. There was none. Road, so after school would wait on the out of the pool.

We had different they were Prods. S tell by their eyes clothes, some by walked—all rubbish we believed it.

One favourite some kid and ma Hail Mary. Other gangs would stop you dirty Prods fr

Smiling with say 'No' and ourselves on our ba or money or, wor

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The Orange getting through as it's getting people in Noo this month, wi ing, the drum sectarian mur another lad sho Falls Road by 5

Truce? Kill, kill, say Orangemen

THE TRUCE between the Provisional IRA and the British Army appears to be breaking down. The security forces have been reported to demand that the sectarian Orange leaders of the Loyalists stop supporting the truce.

The Orange Order has been reported to have issued a statement saying that it will continue to support the truce.

The Orange Order has been reported to have issued a statement saying that it will continue to support the truce.

Dignified

That incident, or one like it, could be the occasion for the truce collapsing. But more important than the particular incident that triggers off a new Provisional campaign is the political reason why the agreement hammered out between Provisionals and British government representatives last February is in tatters.

By Frank Drain, Derry, Northern Ireland

The truce was signed Orange against them. The Loyalist leaders wanted Republicanism smashed into the ground, not, as it seemed to them, dignified by negotiations. For six months they campaigned vigorously against the truce agreement and for a military solution.

On a 12 July platform, for example, the Belfast Grand Master of the Orange Order, told Westminster to 'go in for the kill' against the IRA or stand aside and let loyal Orangemen do the job themselves.

Catholics here know what Mr Passmore means by 'loyal Orangemen'. There has been direct experience of their methods throughout the periods of the 'truce', with more than 80 people killed by sectarian murders.

Most of those killed were Catholics, but only a small number were active Republicans.

Because of Orange pressure, there has been only a trickle of interestees coming out of Long Kesh and not the flood which everyone, particularly the Provisional negotiators, expected.

For the same reasons, the harassment of Catholic working class areas has not been scaled down as promised.

Defend

Whether the truce breaks down in the immediate future or holds tenuously for a couple of months more, the point to remember when it finally collapses is this:

The existence of a British-run state in Ireland depends upon Orange sectarianism, and because of this British governments are acutely vulnerable to Orange pressure, ensuring any truce here can be no more than temporary.



taunt to Catholics

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The face of Protestant ascen-
dancy: Derry-bound civil
rights marchers being am-
bushed and brutally attacked
at Burntollet in January
1969. The police stood and
watched. The police are ex-
clusively Protestant...

The struggle in Ireland

Chris Harman

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

An International
Socialists
pamphlet 15p

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

THE CARIB TRIAL

'HAVE you heard the term 'spade' officer? Or 'bleeding black bastard'? Or 'wogs'?'

'I've heard them used in jokes.'

'It can be offensive?'

'To their face.'

'How about behind their back?'

That exchange between a defence council and PC Robert Mahoney came at the Old Bailey. It was in June, the first month of what is turning into one of the longest cases of modern times—the trial of the Cricklewood 12, black youths charged with affray and fighting. Several of them are on additional charges including possession of offensive weapons, assault and incitement.

In the early morning of 12 October last year a patrolling police car gave chase to what they believed to be a stolen Ford Cortina. It was alleged they saw the occupant (or occupants) get out of the car and run into the Carib Continental Club in Cricklewood, North London.

Whether or not the alleged thief or thieves did so is not known. Some of what followed is clearer. Police went into the club and were later followed by 140 more.

A battle broke out and at least 40 black youths were held by the police. Following this the 12 find themselves in the Old Bailey before Mr Justice Noakes.

Dream

The 12 are Dennis Bovell, Royfield Dockery, Peter Barnett, Danie Smart, Lawrence Thomas, Anthony Lovinder, Roger Streadwick, Oliver Francis, Earl Scott, Lloyd Ewan, Karl Watson and Keith Logan. Their trial is likely to continue until the end of August.

'The right criminals are not in the dock,' said Keith Logan's defence counsel, Rudy Narayan. While cross-examining PC Alan

The night 140 police staged an 'orgy of violence'

Pirrie he alleged that 'It was you and your fellow officers who made the affray. These young blacks were brutalised in an orgy of violence by you and your brother officers... You wouldn't dream of behaving like that at a white people's club.'

The police story is that a few of them entered the club, walked across the dance floor, and went into the men's toilet in pursuit of the thief. There they found him, they claim, and were on their way out when attacked by club members. By this time they had summoned assistance—and in it came, eventually totalling 140.

It was only when they had made it to the Gents—with no opposition—that the police summoned the assistance. But why should they

need it, they were asked, when 'everything was friendly' in the words of PC Mahoney?

'You knew full well what sort of club this was and you intended to stage a mass invasion,' defence counsel, Ronald Rose accused PC Chaumont Rambert.

'You were in the vanguard of this invasion, and that as such you were responsible for all that followed.'

Another policeman was accused by Rudy Narayan of 'hammering on the toilet door when it could have been peacefully occupied. You called for assistance even before you asked the alleged thief to come out.'

And the 'thief'? He's never been found...

As the weeks have passed so the inconsistencies in the prosecution's case have begun to emerge. Last week PC Eric Wetherall had his turn in the witness stand—and was asked to identify the defendant he claimed to have arrested during the fracas.

Dog

He got the wrong one. So he tried again, saying he was 'almost quite positive' this time. He was wrong again—and named the person as 'Sharpe'. There is no-one of that name on trial!

When the police came into the club in numbers they brought with them a police dog, and by the time the club members were leaving the stairs down to the exit were lined with policemen.

'When they came out were they beaten by the police on the stairs?' asked Rudy Narayan early in the trial. It was denied.

Later PC Anthony Brooks admitted that police lining the stairs had 'truncheons drawn'. The police have also denied defence allegations that girls leaving the club were treated to such names as 'black whore'.

They haven't denied that people leaving the club were 'helped' over the railing outside. The defence alleged they were thrown, and beaten in the vans which took them to the police station.

Defence

'They climbed over,' explained one constable about defendant Royfield Dockery. He was asked if they were held. 'By one arm,' he claimed. 'It was more convenient to put him over the railings and put him in the police van the quickest possible way.'

The defence has yet to begin calling witnesses. What has emerged as the police have stumbled through their evidence is the picture of yet another black club, yet another black community that has been hit—and hit hard—by the law.

'It is a nice club and very decent,' said a 17-year-old black girl. 'But not many people go there now—after what happened. There wasn't any trouble there before, it used to be packed, but last time I went, there were only about 20 people.'

'I used to go to another place—over in Wembley. You used to get all sorts. West Indians, Cypriots, English, then it got a new landlord. Now hardly any blacks go there—and there've been fights—and coppers moving in.'

'He's an ex-copper himself...'

NIGEL
FOUNTAIN

The Black Worker in Britain
 ڪارمن ڪارڪن ڪارڪن
Anwodudu To Wa Ni Iru Oyibo
O Trabalhador Português em Inglaterra
 ڪارڪن ڪارڪن ڪارڪن
O Κύπριος Εργάτης στην Αγγλία
 ڪارڪن ڪارڪن ڪارڪن
Ndi Ojie No Na Obodo Oyibo
 ڪارڪن ڪارڪن ڪارڪن
 Essential reading for all immigrant workers, the new IS/
 Chingari pamphlet in English. Available from IS Books,
 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4. 15p plus 4p postage.

WHAT'S ON

IS public meetings

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.

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

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.

RHYL IS open meeting: Rank and File—why we must fight for it. Rhyll Football Club, Friday 18 July, 7.30pm. Details from A C Evans, Townyn Post Office, Townyn, Abergele. All welcome.

N W LONDON DIST IS public meeting: Workers' power in Portugal. Speakers: A Portuguese worker and an IS member just back from Portugal. Slide show. Tuesday 22 July, 8pm, Willesden Junction pub (upstairs room).

KINGSTON IS public meeting: The Workers International Movement in the past and the opportunities for building a meaningful International Workers Movement now. Speaker: Harry Wicks (founder member of the CP). Thursday 17 July, 8pm, The Three Tuns Pub, London Road.

KINGSTON IS public meeting: Welfare cuts, wage cuts—the government declares war on workers' living standards. What's going on and how do we fight back? Speaker: John Palmer. Thursday 24 July, 8pm, Lecture Hall, Central Library, Fairfield West.

W LONDON SOCIALIST WORKER/WOMENS VOICE public meeting: The struggle for women's rights. Speaker: Norma Stephens (SEI, Manchester). Tuesday 22 July, 8pm, Southall Town Hall, Uxbridge Road. Plus Abortion, a play by West London Theatre group.

DARLINGTON IS public meeting: No to wage cuts, No to the dole queue. Speaker: John Deason. Friday 25 July, 7.30pm, Public Library (annexe room). All welcome.

HULL WOMENS VOICE public meeting: Women fight back. Speaker: Nancy Hall. Wednesday 30 July, 8pm, Stevedores and Dockers Club, Posterngate.

Meetings for IS members

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

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

BUILDING WORKERS: All IS branches and districts which have not already sent the names of IS building worker members of UCATT, TGWU and EPTU 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.

GLASGOW area IS education meetings: 19 July Abortion, 26 July The capitalist press, 2 August The Labour Party. Saturday mornings, 11am, at IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1.

S LONDON Regional IS Summer School will start at 1.30pm, Southlands College Students Union, 55 Wimbledon Parkside, SW 19.

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.

DAY SCHOOL for IS School Students: Sunday 20 July, Cottons Gardens, 11.30am. Sessions on Portugal, Education, NUSS plus comrade from American Youth Group. All London School Students urged to attend.

SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOLS for IS members: Sessions on Revolutionary prospects in Portugal, Italy, Spain and Greece; The capitalist crisis—where to next? and Building the International Socialist. **SOUTH LONDON** 19/20 July, **SOUTH WALES** (Cardiff) 2-3 August, **SCOTLAND** (Glasgow) 9-10 Aug, **NORTH WEST** (Manchester) 16-17 Aug, **MIDLANDS** (Birmingham) 23-24 Aug, **YORKSHIRE** (Leeds) 30-31 Aug. Attendance limited to 30 at each, so register now by sending 50p to Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Notes and details of the schools will be sent this week to those who have already registered.

IS Day School on THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT IN EUROPE. 1. Portugal. Speaker: Colin Sparks (recently back from Portugal again). 2. The revolutionary left in Europe. Speaker: Chris Harman. 3. The IS Portugal trip. Speaker: Paul Harrison. Sunday 27 July at IS Books, Manchester (for details phone Elana Dallas 01-739 1878). All IS members going on the Portugal trip or going to Portugal independently to attend this school. Pooled fare system (under new management!).

CENTRAL MANCHESTER DIST IS student cell training session: The Party, Duncan Hallas on tape, plus discussion. Wednesday 23 July, 7.30pm. Details from bookshop. All Manchester comrades welcome.

MANCHESTER IS Day School: The Cuts and how to fight. Sunday 20 July, 11.30am-4.30pm. Details from bookshop.

IS UPW fraction meeting on the cuts in services in the Post Office. Sunday 3 August, 11am in London (venue to be announced). This meeting is very important. All IS members in UPW must attend. All IS members in UPW must attend.

IS notices

Updated speakers' notes on ABORTION: Send 2p plus stamped addressed envelope to Julia Hatts, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

FACT SHEETS ON ABORTION: available 1p, from Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

WOMENS VOICE Issue 20: copy date 23 July. Please send all copy to The Editor, Womens Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

LEEDS IS Social: Saturday 19 July, 8pm, Central Station pub. Disco. Raffle. Collection for Shrewsbury 20 dependants.

DARLINGTON IS Social starring Arthur Eales. Friday 18 July, 8pm. Tickets 40p. All welcome.

SOUTHAMPTON IS jumble sale: Saturday 19 July, 11am-4pm, Kell Hall, London Road (opp. T&GWU office). 5p entrance.

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.

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

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.

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

Ireland: Be ready for when the storm breaks

SOLIDARITY work with those fighting British imperialism in Ireland must not be forgotten or taken for granted by IS members.

We appreciate the reasons why it is difficult to win a hearing within the British labour movement at this time. There is no mass resistance in Ireland, and the ceasefire still holds.

As revolutionaries we understand that this is a temporary situation. It is the lull before the storm. When that storm breaks we will mobilise. That is easy. But what about now? Solidarity work in times like these is crucial.

The IS Irish Committee is asking for these proposals to be implemented in branches and districts:

1. Each district/branch should appoint someone responsible for Irish solidarity work, working closely with the Irish Committee.
 2. Education programmes or weekend schools should include a session on Ireland. Speakers are available.
 3. Each district should adopt and correspond with an internee. Many of the internees read Socialist Worker and would welcome the opportunity of writing to someone.
 4. The Socialist Workers Movement of Ireland desperately needs money. Bankers' orders for regular donations are available from the Irish Committee.
- All correspondence about these suggestions should be sent to: Irish Committee, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

PORTUGAL: WHAT YOU CAN DO

INNER East London District International Socialists raised £161.46 last weekend in support of the revolution in Portugal.

Most of it came from bankers' orders forms, which have been issued for the Socialist Worker Portugal Fund. The orders commit people to pay £2 a month for the next six months into the fund.

Liz Balfour, secretary of the fund, said: 'This is just what is needed. The situation in Portugal is at a critical stage and it is up to socialists in Britain to give comrades in Portugal every assistance.'

The money was raised at a highly successful school, attended by 50 IS members and sympathisers from the district. Sylvester Mascarenhas of North West London IS District, who has just returned from Portugal, spoke of what it was like to be inside the revolution and emphasised the growing unity between soldiers in the barracks and workers in the factories.

Bruno da Ponte, from the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee, then outlined the events that led to the coup last year, and the prospects for the working-



class revolution. In a series of outstanding contributions he explained the role of the army, Copcon, the Communist Party and the importance of the emerging revolutionary councils of workers and soldiers. Everyone who attended the school, which is the first of a series of district IS holdings, felt that it was well worthwhile—full of interest and information—and only improved by the magnificent collection at the end.

THE new IS Training and Publications Committee called at its first meeting on every IS district urgently to organise a half-day school on Portugal during the summer. Some districts have already held public meetings but the schools are important to discuss in greater depth not only what is happening in Portugal but what practical solidarity work can be carried on in the district.

Paul Holborow, convenor of the committee, said: 'The events in Portugal are clearly of immense importance, not least because they are living proof of what revolutionaries have always argued—the power and militancy of the working class, the importance of workers' and soldiers' councils, the role of the Communist Party and the 'socialist' party, the need for a revolutionary party.'

All districts should contact the IS national office for speakers and speakers' notes, phone 01-739 1878.

SEVERAL comrades have contacted the IS Portugal Group saying they are going on holiday in Portugal this summer, and is there anything they can do?

We advise any comrades going there to contact workers in industries related to their own. This is not difficult. Just present yourself at the gates; show your union card and explain you are a British socialist and would like to talk to someone from the Workers Commission. You are almost certain to get a warm welcome. If you do make any good contacts, keep in touch and try to establish links between them and your workplace and union branch.

Collect any leaflets, posters, papers, etc that you can (although this is not advisable if you are returning through Spain), and send them to the Portugal Group. Also send us copies of any photographs you take which could be used in Socialist Worker.

Before going, you should read as much as possible on the political background to the Revolution in Portugal in recent copies of Socialist Worker and International Socialist Journal. When you return you should speak about Portugal to IS branches, cells and fractions in your district.

Anyone serious about carrying out any of these tasks should contact the IS Portugal Group before leaving. Phone Joanna Rollo 01-439 3764.

Visitors to Portugal should not visit the headquarters of the PRP on their own initiative. The resources of the PRP are stretched to the limit fighting for revolutionary politics within the working class and the army, and they have no time to deal with a continual stream of foreign visitors.

A Socialist Worker poster on the freeze will be produced within the next week, and will be distributed to branches with the paper as soon as possible.

Pamphlet on Trotsky

THE Socialist Worker pamphlet on Trotsky has been reprinted. It is a brief account of Trotsky's role in the Russian Revolution and his defence of it against Stalin, and is a useful introduction for those coming to Trotsky for the first time.

TROTSKY, by Duncan Hallas, 8p plus 7p postage. Bulk orders: 8p a copy plus 5 per cent for postage. From IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

ΚΥΠΡΙΟΣ ΕΡΓΑΤΗΣ
 • από την ομάδα κληρίων σοσιαλιστών • ΙΟΥΝΙΟΣ '75 • αριθμός 3 • 3 πένες •

OXI στις απολυσεις στην ακριβεία στις λυσεις τους

• 01 τιμές δωματίου.
 • 01 ασφαλείς λιγότερου.
 • 01 σύστημα βρώσικου αέ κρήνη.

01 έφημερες των κατασκευαστικών, οι συντηρητικοί, η δεξιά του εργατικού κόμματος, έλασαν τις μικροεπιφορές τους και ένωσαν για να αλλοιων το μέγεθος της κρίσης τους στην εργατική τάξη.

• 01 κινεζοί! Δεν δυνάμωσαν και γρήγορα από τις τιμές! Προσπαθούν να μείσουν από κερφάλι το βόλε έργαση

Cypriot workers and students have combined to produce the first Greek language newspaper for Cypriots in Britain, titled **Cypriot Worker**. It deals not only with problems faced by Cypriots in the workplace or in the unions, but also looks at politics in Cyprus itself from a socialist point of

view. The second issue, just published, contains leading articles on the effects of the wage freeze imposed by the Labour government, and on the problem of the division of Cyprus, it is available, for 8p including postage, from **Cypriot Worker**, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



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 gradually, or trying to change it by the means of the state.

The smashing of the capitalist

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

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

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

The 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 cuts on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of stop-work or under-employment.

Against imperialism, racism, sexism, homophobia, and all forms of oppression.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

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

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____



DAVID Livingstone once admitted that explorers such as himself went to Africa 'to open it up to commerce and Christianity—in that order'.

No such religious fervour accompanied Britain's 'civilising mission' in India. It was commerce all the way.

VIOLENCE

A country that, two centuries ago, was admitted by its British plunderers to have been as advanced industrially as the West, was 'opened up' so thoroughly that in the first 50 years of 'commerce' the equivalent today of £300 million was drained out every year. And that was only the beginning...

It could only be done, it was only done, by violence. Famine,

THE BRITISH EMPIRE... BUILT ON BLOOD

India's only credit in this colonial balance of payments, grew four times over. But mass starvation could be dismissed, as it still is today, as an act of nature. Mass murder could not.

And that, when they were disloyal and outraged enough to rebel, was what the Indian people got.

In 1857 the Indian army mutinied. The response of the glorious British Empire was a self-righteous savagery that has been largely and conveniently forgotten by those men of impartiality who write our children's history text-

books.

Michael Edwardes is an exception. He details the blood-letting in a book* that will shock anyone who still has doubts about the barbarians who were pleased to call themselves Empire-builders.

ACTION

When news of the outbreak of the rebellion reached Peshawar, two such uniformed Empire-builders, Herbert Edwardes and John Nicholson, took swift action. Sepoy regiments were hurriedly

disarmed and their leaders executed.

'The first ten,' recorded an eyewitness, 'were picked out, their eyes were bandaged, and they were bound to the guns—their backs leaning against the muzzles and their arms fastened to the wheels.'

'The portfires were lighted... and the guns fired. It was a horrid sight that then met the eye: a regular shower of human fragments of heads, of arms, of legs, appeared in the air through the smoke... three times this scene was re-enacted.'

In Delhi, Edwardes relates, the

city was 'put to the sword, looted and sacked with the ferocity of a Nazi extermination squad'.

But the army had no monopoly on massacres. 'Volunteer hanging parties went out into the districts, and amateur executioners were not wanting...'

'One gentleman boasted of the numbers he had finished off "quite in an artistic manner", with mango-trees for gibbets and elephants for drops, the victims of this wild justice being strung up, as though for pastime, in "the form of a figure of eight".'

To 'bag the nigger' became a favourite phrase of the military sportsmen of the day. 'Pea-fowls, partridges and Pandies rose together but the latter gave the best sport. Lancers ran a tilt at a wretch who had taken to the open for his covert.'

In Allahabad, 6000 were thought to have perished, 'their corpses hanging by twos and threes from branch and signpost all over the town... for three months did eight dead-carts daily go their rounds from sunrise to sunset, to take down corpses which hung at the cross-roads and the market-places, poisoning the air of the city.'

All this, remember, took place BEFORE the massacre by the rebels at Cawnpore, which did not, as legend would have it, provoke the butchery of a peace-loving British ruling class. It merely increased it.

When British soldiers re-captured the town, the few Indians remaining were rounded up and imprisoned. They were almost certainly not involved in the massacre, and the British commanders knew it.

REVENGE

'They were taken to a large room where a number of British people had met their deaths and there, in sadistic revenge, "made to crouch and with their mouths lick clean a square foot of the blood-soaked floor before being taken to the gallows and hanged.'

'The dried blood on the floor was first moistened with water and the lash of the warder was applied till the wretches kneeled down...'

This reign of terror continued for two years before the rebellion was finally put down... for the time being.

There were, in different places at different times, to be more revolts against British rule. There were to be more massacres to subdue them.

But at few times has the reality of the British Empire been more barbarically revealed...

*Red Year—The Indian Rebellion of 1857 by Michael Edwardes (Cardinal £1)

GEOFF ELLEN

Revolution betrayed...

JEFF SHAW, a Bradford building worker, reviews an important novel on the Spanish Civil War

IN HIS speech to the Revolutionary Council on May Day the Portuguese Prime Minister Vasco Goncalves said: 'Facts do not repeat themselves in history: our case is unique. We can discover original solutions.'

These are the words of a 'Bonapartist' who believes himself above society and able to operate freely and outside of class forces.

The opposite is true. At times of great social upheaval the most unlikely spokesmen appear for revolution and for reaction.

No part of society is free from the struggle between the working class and the bosses.

Spain 1936 and Portugal 1974 were 'revolutions' of fundamental similarity. Both were ushered in by military coups whose consequences went far beyond those intended.

The fascist coup of Franco against a reforming social democratic government led to armed workers' uprisings. The 'progressive' capitalism of Spínola against a fascist dictatorship did not lead to parliamentary democracy, but to workers taking power in innumerable enterprises.

Posts

In both 'revolutions', the Communist Party was quick to establish its power in the trade union bureaucracy and to take up ministerial posts in government, divorced from the rank and file.

In both 'revolutions', a clear and decisive struggle for a working class takeover against the bourgeoisie was and is being opposed by the Communist Party.

Hermanos, a novel of the Spanish Civil War, provides answers to these problems. An American Party cadre, Jake Starr, falls foul of the hierarchy's overtures to an eminent British scientist they wish to recruit.

He is banished to the front, and exits a wounded hero. He is then posted behind the lines to deal with left 'extremists'. He accuses: 'By your misplaced idealism you stand ready to hand the world to the fascists. We have to destroy you.'

(The Party-dominated Intersindical (TUC) in Portugal argued against strikes, against 'provocateurs' and 'opportunists' 'who are objectively the tool of reaction'.)

In the novel, the Party's case is well argued: 'There are those who raise the slogan of all power to the



1939—and the defeated flee Franco's Spain. It must not happen again

revolution. It is a slogan of betrayal because it is a slogan which would further divide our already sharply divided country. It is common sense to know that only together, bourgeois and working man, landowner and peasant, that only together shall we find the strength to defeat the fascists.'

Thus one character is able to explain 'Cabellero (left socialist) is for the workers, and you shittin' Communists are for the bourgeoisie'.

It becomes easier to understand

what the Intersindical means when it talks of 'the general struggle for the liquidation of fascism and the construction of democratic Portugal' and of the union of workers 'with other democratic forces'. (Intersindical Nacional Communique 1/74).

Jake Starr discovers, too late, that his bloody hands are those of the butcher, and not the midwife of the revolution. He retires, doomed, to the front line.

But this is not a pessimistic

novel, for through the slaughter of civil war, and the horror of socialists murdering socialists, through the dismal failure of 1936, the message remains.

A revolution can be won if it is based in a strong workers' party, democratically run. A revolution can be won if we do not forget that it is made by men and women, not party machines.

Bureaucracy can strangle us only if we do not use our strongest weapon. Truth.

ON THE BOX

SATURDAY

BBC-2: 9.30pm. THE NATIONAL DREAM: BUILDING THE IMPOSSIBLE RAILWAY is 'a six part dramatised documentary of the struggle to build the Canadian Pacific Railway.'

SUNDAY

BBC-1: 7.25pm. The Australian 'Western' series. BEN HALL better than any of the US versions... Burt Lancaster stars in the film about a hell-fire preacher, ELMER GANTRY (BBC-1, 8.15pm). Ian Paisley should enjoy it. THE WORLD ABOUT US from Thailand on a buddhist MONK FROM THE MARBLE TEMPLE (BBC-2, 7.25pm). CHINA IS HERE is a 1967 Italian satire (says the BBC) centred on a youthful middle class Maoist. (10.30 pm BBC-2).

MONDAY

BBC-2: 9pm. HORIZON: THE SICKLY SEA is about how pollution is killing that most beautiful sea, the Mediterranean. GOSLING'S TRAVELS (8.30pm, ITV) is about the city of Bath.

TUESDAY

BBC-2: 8.10pm. THE TIME-DETECTIVES: CRACKING THE STONE-AGE CODE is about '2000 BC Einsteins' of Britain and Brittany.

WEDNESDAY

BBC-2: 8.10pm. THE ASCENT OF MAN: THE DRIVE FOR POWER is about the 18th Century Industrial revolution.

THURSDAY

RADIO-4: 8.45pm. HOMOSEXUALITY—THE YEARS OF CHANGE surveys developments since the 1967 Sexual Offence Act. TEN YEARS OF MAN ALIVE (BBC-2, 9.25pm)—repeats of old material.

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

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.

Trawlers: A subsidy then the chop...

THE recent subsidy paid to the fishing industry would have been well spent paying redundancy money to men made unemployed at the age of 61. I'm out of work because of the scrapping of oil burning trawlers.

There is no provision in our employment conditions for compensation for loss of employment—as we are, according to the trawler owners, 'casual labour'. Yet here are some of the working rules under which we serve.

We have to register as qualified fishermen, issued with service books according to rank. We have to submit to medical examinations periodically to prove fitness to get to sea.

We are expected to be ready to sail at any time of the day or night. We have to report daily to the shipping offices of the firms for which we sail.

When we sign on a ship we are given a sailing warning card which reads thus: 'You are ordered to be on board at . . . ' This is an indication that you have been warned that failure to be on board will result in suspension and also prosecution.

It seems to me that for an industry that is considered more dangerous than coal mining the so called Labour government doesn't make enough enquiries before financing such ventures. Up to, and before getting the subsidy, these crafty employers kept the trawlers at sea. When they got it the scrapping and laying up of oil burning trawlers commenced.—S OLIVER, Hull.

'Open the books'

IN the discussions about the 'open the books' demand in Socialist Worker one important point has been overlooked. The real danger of the demand is that it accepts the whole idea of 'business methods' and 'success'. It implies that your employer is justified in enforcing redundancies or attacking your living standards if the firm is in trouble or even if profits are falling.

In answer to this, our argument must be that the trading position of a firm is strictly irrelevant to its employees' right to work, and defend or improve their living standards. It's not our crisis and any attempt to make us pay for it has to be resisted.

In this context the relevant demand is 'No business secrets'. That is, employers must be prevented from deliberately running a firm down by transferring assets in order to present it to the workforce as an 'uneconomic' concern. As Brian Trench says (Socialist Worker 21 June), this may raise the whole question of who caused the crisis—the employers who refused to invest from past profits or a working class whose real income is falling week by week.

It might also question the logic of the economic experts who say that Britain just isn't producing enough, and propose as a remedy more unemployment.—R T PIGOTT, Colchester, Essex.

THE CIA: TELL US MORE

YOU should make much more than you did (Fifth Column 5 July) about the reports about the activities of the United States Central Intelligence Agency. The exposures are a great chance to show what the USA and NATO's foreign and cold war policy has been for 30 years.

It is necessary to do this because it still goes on—and because it has been covered with the most intense and all-pervasive propaganda.

The thin nature of the CIA article is part of a general lack of coverage of US politics at home and abroad. Either the fate of the world capitalist system will be decided in or by the US or it won't. In either case it should be argued out more.—BOB DUMBLETON, Cardiff.

'FREE SPEECH' IN ASTMS

NOT only have members of the white collar union ASTMS no power to control their MPs (5 July), it now transpires that ministers can act against members on official strike, without a murmur from the union. After last year's radiographers' strike, Dr David Owen, health minister and an ASTMS member, refused to backdate payments to those radiographers who had been out on strike.

On hearing of this, ASTMS division 15 asked that proceedings be instituted to dismiss Owen from membership. The executive now refuse, not because they dispute the facts, but because Owen was acting in 'a ministerial capacity'. Any ordinary member can however (and is) hauled before an investigation committee for so much as publicly voicing criticism of the union. It is high time the rank and file of ASTMS made clear to the NEC that this isn't the kind of 'union democracy' they will stand for.—IRENE BRUEGEL, London NW5.

Talking of sacrifice

ON holiday in Edinburgh, I had just finished reading about Wilson's pleas for moderation at the miners conference when I saw him riding past in a cavalcade of black limousines in the company of an assortment of royalty and nobility.

For Edinburgh is being treated to an expensive week of pagentry.

Not only have we had a visit from the King of Sweden but the Queen and Prince Philip and scores of hangers-on have come up to meet him.

Not a day goes by without the traffic being held up for hours so that these black limousines can cruise unhindered about their royal business. Once or twice we have even been fortunate enough to witness colourful processions with mounted cavalry in shining breast plates, escorting a fabulous gilded horse drawn carriage.

This little extravaganza must be costing thousands, and the working class is paying every penny—from the income of each bloated parasite and soldier in fancy dress, to the cost of uprooting parking meters and taffic islands all over the city.

Apparently Harold Wilson considers royalty to be above restraint and cutbacks. Perhaps Wilson thinks a little colour in our lives will help us to forget all the unpleasant things in life. Fortunately, I don't think this is going to happen.—ANDREW PORTER, Southampton.

Joe £100 a week' Gormley

AGAIN the mineworkers of this country are being asked—nay, not being asked, blackmailed—into being patriotic to the country, the TUC and the Labour Party. This has been really hammered home in the gutter press by Joe 'Got to safeguard for your old age' Gormley.

to endanger his cosy relationship within the TUC and the Labour Party.

But what can we do? The rank and file miner must be as sick and as angry as I am to watch our so-called leaders creep and crawl to the upholders of capitalism. Never before has there been such need for a real rank and file movement to combat our 'friends' and enemies. Let's build the links, cast aside our differences and move as a class to victory.—DICK HALL, Warsop Main Colliery, North Derbyshire.

Is it really the same Joe Gormley who we pay £5300 plus perks to represent us, who says our wage rise is 'bloody daft'? This must verge on the ridiculous. But sadly it is the same specimen, who does not want

Democracy? Hear,hear!

READERS WHO missed Jilly Cooper's article on the House of Lords in last week's Sunday Times might be interested in some of her observations about this bastion of British democracy: 'I arrived to find most of their lordships peacefully sleeping off their lunch as someone droned on . . . Others listened through ear trumpets and occasionally said "Hear, hear" with the rumble of a Greek chorus.'

I wandered off to have a drink . . . In one corner talking animatedly to himself in broad Scottish sat a moustached Baron. Suddenly the peace of the room was disturbed by maniacal clattering. Lord St Oswald, another eccentric, was playing with a new toy, given him by his secretary, dark glasses with windscreen wipers. Just think, the miners came within a hairsbreadth of threatening this fabric of our great democracy.—SW READER, N. London.



Well, what WOULD you do?

YOU quote Len Murray as saying: 'I do not know what they are going to put in place of the Social Contract: perhaps they want socialism at a stroke'. You reply to this: 'If workers are to resist the results of the crisis . . . we need to fight for a trade unionism whose aim is to fight against the employing class, not worry about how to solve their problems.'

This is fine, but it does not go far enough. Many workers want to know what the alternative ways of dealing with capitalism's crisis are, and know that trade union struggle is only a first step, not an end in itself.

'Well, what would we do then if we did take power?' The failure to answer this question paralysed the trade union leaders in the General Strike of 1926, and now it paralyses many workers who have heard nothing but Harold Wilson and Co's prophecies of a land flowing with milk and honey in a year's time if only the workers will make sacrifices now.

Lenin in 1917 did not limit himself to a call for direct mass action—he also summarised the results the direct action was designed to bring about when he used the slogan 'Peace Bread, Land'.

When will you expand the sentences in What We Stand For: 'The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of work place delegates'. We need some idea of how such councils would solve our problems and carry on a workers' government.

Questions like these are in the minds of many workers, perhaps not those who are already militant, but many who wonder what militancy will lead to—will it be 'chaos', as the media tells them? Or the chance of a better world? If the latter, what sort of world, and how? And how would a workers' government deal with the problems that exist today?

Why would workers' councils do better about, say, unemployment, or the housing shortage, than Manchester City Council or Parliament does today?—E DYER, London N12.

Postal points

NO PAPISTS? . . . Colin Sparks' article on the Roman Catholics (5 July) saw no reason why Catholics shouldn't join the International Socialists . . . No one can effectively fight for socialism while subscribing to an ideology designed to serve the ruling class. In 'State and Revolution' Lenin wrote that freedom of religion is 'degrading the party of the revolutionary proletariat to the level of the most vulgar

"free thinking" philistinism . . . which renounces the party struggle against the opium of religion which stupifies the people".—B R GROVES, Warley.

WHAT ABOUT WINDSOR? . . . I've not seen any mention of the Windsor festival in Socialist Worker or of the imprisonment of two of its organisers Bill Dwyer and

Sid Rawle. On top of last year's massive police action against the festival, the jailing of these two could prove to be as important as that of the Shrewsbury Two . . . yet again people have been jailed for what they believe in by the manipulation of antiquated laws. The principles behind the festival should be common to all of us engaged in the struggle for a free society and whether differences of approach are apparent or not the maximum amount of solidarity in such cases is imperative. This is why I feel Socialist Worker should print a message of support, and demand their release.—ARCHIE REDMAN.

UNEMPLOYMENT'S LONGER TERM . . . Duncan Hallas' article on Healey and capitalist economists' wages fund theory' (Questions on the Crisis, 5 July) didn't go deep enough. . . The heart of the problem, as Marx said is that the means of production (technology etc) have outgrown the restrictive social conditions (capitalism) and therefore the contradiction of over-production and poverty exist side by side . . . We can increase production without adding to the volume of employment and with a possible large decrease in it—if we could sell the output . . . We can't because capitalism robs workers of the purchasing power to buy back the goods they've produced.

More production doesn't mean having more employed . . . Unemployment is only a problem because of capitalism. Under socialism unemployment is a leisure problem . . . We could produce in abundance with far less employed, we could have more leisure, a better standard of living and satisfy all our needs.—A CHATTIN, Bolton.



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Put the 'K' back into kulture with their full length production;
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Sub-titled;
SOCIALISM OR BARBARISM
Followed by
KK Disco-tex Show—Plus

on FRIDAY
18 JULY 7.30

At St Pancras Assembly Rooms Camden Town Hall Bidborough Street (off Euston Rd) Nearest tube Kings Cross

60p BAR EXTENSION



John Heathcote

Swan Hunter unions unite

MEMBERS of the Electricians and Plumbers, Engineers, Construction Workers and General and Municipal Workers unions at Swan Hunters, Tyneside, were on strike together last week for the first time. 5000 ancillary and finishing workers voted unanimously for action in support of an £8.30 claim to keep up with escalating prices.

This new-found unity is important. John Heathcote, plumbers' shop steward told Socialist Worker: 'For the first time the majority of finishing trades and general workers are pursuing the same claim. This is a great step forward for all workers in the Swan Hunter yards.'

'The claim is in line with the recent boilermakers' settlement of £8.30. Swans management offered 40p, excluding threshold, which was rejected as derisory.

'Swans may try to hold out until after 1 August. If they do they'll just be storing up further trouble. We must close up the gaps that have opened between the boilermakers, ancillary workers, office workers and ourselves.'

The idea of unity spread quickly and, again for the first time, apprentices in three separate yards organised to support the strike. Management got wind of their efforts and immediately threatened them with the sack in an attempt to intimidate them.

One apprentice told Socialist Worker: 'Management's attitude is two-faced. In return for non-involvement in strike action, apprentices are not supposed to be laid off, yet last Christmas 1500 of us were sent home during the electricians' dispute.'

'Management only stick to agreements when it suits them. Our interests are the same as those of the other trade unionists in the yard—we should be out with them.'

4000 LAID OFF BY PLESSEYS

MORE than 4000 workers have been laid-off at Plessey's two plants at South Shields and Sunderland as the result of retaliatory action by the management in response to a strike of clerical workers, members of APEX, over a wage claim.

The original offer of between £5 and £7.50 was rejected. The revised offer of £6 to £7.50 was an insult to the strikers, as most would only have got an extra 5p per week over the original offer. Other unions in the plant have managed much better increases and the APEX members are determined not to fall behind.

VICTORY FOR BOILERMAKERS

FOUR HUNDRED boilermakers have returned to work at Clarke Chapmans, Gateshead, after a week on strike to obtain a cost-of-living rise which had been promised for mid-1975 in the January wage settlement. The firm have blatantly refused to honour the agreement and were not prepared to negotiate.

Boilermakers' shop stewards say that if the company refuse to negotiate after the men returned to work, then they will walk out again immediately.

Parsons workers hold out for £10

SHOP FLOOR workers at C A Parsons, Heaton, are still holding out for their full claim of £10 across-the-board. Management's latest offer of £6 now plus £4 in November was unanimously rejected at a mass meeting last week.

Dickie Wade, the General and Municipal Workers' Union convener, told Socialist Worker: 'Shop-floor workers at Parsons have always been underpaid. There's no sick pay scheme and the pension scheme is inadequate. But the money is there to give decent wages and conditions.'

Workers at Parsons well realise the need for a unified, across-the-board claim, to prevent the company splitting the workforce as they have done in the past. Dickie Wade made the position about the government's wage freeze clear: 'Parsons' management will have to come to terms with the determination of our members. If they are hoping to sit it out for another two weeks until legislation takes effect they can be sure that our members will be incensed. The company would never again get the kind of production they want.'

Management now seem likely to make a new offer of

TYNESIDE: 15,000 NOW ON STRIKE

A STRIKE wave is sweeping Tyneside. 15,000 workers in a score of disputes are fighting against the cuts inflation is forcing on their standard of living.

Unemployment has been rising over the past few months while living standards are being eroded. But the giant shipbuilding and engineering firms on Tyneside have maintained their profit levels.

When the £6 limit is introduced on 1 August nearly all the workers on Tyneside who have not settled will be fighting the government as much as the local employers. Already local trade union officials have tried to persuade some factories to return to work.

The national organiser for the Rank and File Organising Committee, Ken Appleby, spoke to Socialist Worker in Tyneside about his discussions with groups of strikers:

'What we need to do is get as many groups as possible together. These strikers are up against the TUC, the government and the local press. They are going to need every trade unionist on Tyneside to fight inside union branches and shop stewards' committees to get them support and to insist that the officials do their job and support the men.'

'But what really must be done is to get as many stewards as possible together to unite the struggle. We are ready to supply help and information to any group who are trying to establish contact with other strikers on Tyneside.'



A mass meeting of draymen at Federation Breweries (see story below). PICTURE: Ray Smith (IFL)

GREAT LAKES, BREWERIES, STERLING

FIVE HUNDRED workers in four unions are on strike over a pay claim at the Anglo Great Lakes Corporation in Newburn. This has resulted in the furnaces being run down, though supervisors believe that scabs have been employed to maintain these furnaces during the strike. More information was difficult to find out because Mills, the Transport Union's local official, had told the strikers not to give interviews to socialist newspapers—so increasing their isolation in the present strike wave.

WORKINGMEN'S clubs, which are supplied by Federation Breweries, Newcastle, are likely to run out of beer this week as a result of a strike by 300 production workers and draymen.

The sell-out merchants in the House of Commons are going to feel early effects from their wage freeze efforts as Federation beer is normally sold in their bar. Presumably with their coming pay increase they'll be able to afford to put up with large scotches.

The strikers are demanding the same cash increase as the maintenance men. They have been offered the same percentage increase, 25 per cent, which means less money.

AFTER 15 weeks on strike the 80 maintenance workers at Sterling Organics have won their battle for a pay rise. Management have finally agreed to an all-round £5.92, only 8p short of the original claim

of £6.

During the strike the bosses used all the usual dirty tactics, with a campaign of lies in the local press and police intimidation of the pickets. Copies of Socialist Worker were produced by management at negotiations and security staff told to ring the police 'as soon as they saw a communist'.

Needless to say, these tactics only further angered the strikers, who received good local support—in particular from Tyneside Printers and Winthrop Laboratories, both Sterling Organics subsidiaries.

Lessons have been learnt. As one steward put it: 'After 15 weeks outside the gates we've found out how to fight. Next time we'll occupy right from the very beginning.'

STRIKE AT REYROLLE TOO

AT Reyrolles, Heburn, 800 members of the white-collar engineering union TASS are on strike following the suspension of 16 TASS members for working-to-rule in support of the current wage claim.

In view of the offer put to the TASS members at the Parsons end of the Reyrolle-Parsons combine it appears that a similar offer will be made to the lads at Hebburn. Meanwhile picketing continues.

TASS members at Parsons have agreed to a levy of £2 per person per week to aid the Reyrolle strikers.



Harry Louvre

Conference hits firemen

FIREMEN have been working to rule since May in support of a pay claim. Two weeks ago, an agreement for a 22 per cent increase was reached by the employers and union negotiators. The next day Healey's wage restrictions were announced—and the offer was changed to ten per cent!

Firemen on Tyneside reacted immediately and escalated their action to include refusal to move men to other stations: This led to the closure of three stations on Tyne and Wear.

At an emergency National conference of the firemen's union in Blackpool last Friday, Tyne and Wear backed a resolution from Merseyside calling for firemen to turn out only when life was at stake.

Some members of the union executive, sensing the increased militancy of the rank and file, arranged for a television to be brought into conference so that delegates could watch Wilson's appeal for restraint.

The major issue of the pay claim was side stepped by some of the union's leaders and diverted into a demand for a 40-hour week.

Harry Louvre, regional chairman of the FBU No 3 division, told Socialist Worker: 'In my view, negotiators have not given the necessary leadership. I am very disappointed about the result of conference. Parry, Humphries and the EC have surrendered.'

'We will have a mass meeting to explain the situation to our members. No doubt they will be angry and bitter. Many want to continue the action. Lots of lads want to close the doors.'

Against

Kevin Rooke, a member of the Tyne and Wear brigade committee said: 'I was left numb at the result of conference. The TUC will never deny the 40-hour week because everybody can safely push this line. Union was a dirty word in the fire service 11 years ago but there is new militancy now.'

Tyne and Wear firemen are solidly against any settlement short of the full claim.

A delegate to conference from the South writes:

The EC dodged the crucial question of how best to progress in the light of government attacks on the public sector and living standards. The EC narrowly carried the view that Healey's freeze ruled out any further fight on pay.

Management proposals for a 40-hour week are in line with government policy of public spending cuts—reduced manning of fire engines, less fire cover for residential areas (workers' homes), more part-time firemen, widescale re-employment of full-time firemen in their off-duty time.

There was strong opposition to the EC position centred around the Merseyside resolution. Despite hysterical reds-under-the-beds baiting from pro-EC speakers, the resolution was only defeated by 16,889 to 10,258.

The opposition was centred on the larger brigades and, despite the EC, we can expect the fight to continue in the localities.



Parsons convener Dickie Wade

Technology that spells danger

THE recent dispute at Sharmans of Peterborough highlights the biggest problem facing the National Graphical Association. The NGA, second largest of the print unions with around 100,000 members, has traditionally relied on its craft status, plus restricted entry into the industry as its main bargaining power.

The introduction of new techniques, particularly in typesetting, is rapidly eroding the strength of the union—traditionally the compositors. r. Compositors, by far the biggest section of the union, are bearing the brunt of the employers' attack, but are by no means the only section of printworkers affected.

The extent of computerised typesetting systems has reached a level where the telephone operator who takes down an advert can type out the entry, using the computer not only to set the type ready for platemaking, but to check that the customer lives at the address given, whether he or she is credit-worthy to process the bill.

Similarly the journalist can type out copy which will be typeset automatically, corrections and alterations being done on television-type screens before finally being ready for the press.

It is clear that technology in the newspaper industry is rapidly reaching the stage where the composing room can be almost by-passed. It is also clear that the employer will want to pay for this equipment by massive redundancies among print workers.

The struggle at Sharmans where the employers wanted to chop 37 jobs with the new technology, showed that at last the NGA was prepared to fight to maintain jobs. But the small scale operations of a local Peterborough newspaper are a different proposition to the giants waiting in the wings.

How 50 went down the road

by Carol Douras, SOGAT mother of chapel, DRG Cups, Liverpool

WE have just faced an attempt to make 100 women redundant. There was no fall off in the work, just an attempt by management to reduce numbers.

Fifty were lost through 'natural wastage' and not replaced. Another 50 were told they wouldn't be made redundant if they accepted 'down manning'.

What does this mean in working conditions inside what is a very noisy factory? Instead of having a ten-minute break every half hour they only have ten minutes in the morning, ten in the afternoon. If they hadn't accepted this then management wanted to introduce a two-shift system and sack 150 part-time workers.

None of this was fought with any vigour by the trade union officials. But this is the first round. The scars will serve to remind us and help organise the rank and file on the shop floor.

Crisis in the Print

SURVEY BY
PRINT WORKER
MEMBERS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL
SOCIALISTS

Why we need one union for the print—by a man who's building it

AS the new technology in the print industry undermines craft strength, the divisions between the different unions—NGA, SOGAT and NATSOPA—become an increasing advantage to management seeking to divide worker against worker. The call for 'One union for the print' is more vital than ever.

Here Bernie La Roche speaks to Socialist Worker about the fight to unite printworkers at the Kentish Times, Sidcup, in a federated chapel (workplace branch) and the advantages. He is father (shop steward) of both NGA and federated chapels.

WHEN we first started the federated chapel at the Kentish Times the SOGAT chapel didn't want to

know. Then they had a dispute and they were outside the door picketing.

The management asked me if I'd be prepared to press the button (an NGA job) to start the machine taking the papers from the presses into the warehouse where non-union scab labour would bundle them—normally SOGAT jobs. I thought about it and told them I would, which really surprised them as they knew I had been building up the federated chapel on the basis of full support for any chapel in dispute.

What I didn't tell them was that I'd press the button to stop the machine as soon as the work was

handled by the scabs. I did tell them, but only after they had printed a 110-page paper, with all the advertising, and committed themselves to paying the full bonuses—based on number of pages or advertising volume—to other workers in the firm. After that we had no more trouble convincing SOGAT of the benefits of a strong federated chapel.

Then there's the small things, like getting the management to install the same soft toilet rolls in our lavatories as they used in their own.

Through the federated chapel we've been able to break down the barriers that existed between the different chapels and to build solidarity on the shop floor. I believe in one union for all printworkers.

Deals

The trouble with the full-time national officers of all the unions is that they're afraid of losing out. After all, if you have six print unions with six general secretaries and then you amalgamate them all into one you need only one general secretary and that leaves five of them without the top job.

The fight for one union has to be waged on the shop floor, among the grassroots of the unions, as well as pushing it through the union machinery.

New technology now means that keyboard operators can do comps' jobs. We shouldn't be fighting over which union gets those keyboard operators: our concern is to ensure that neither the comps nor the keyboard operator lose their jobs.

If managements now have machines that can do ten men's jobs with only one man that doesn't mean we accept nine redundancies. They will be getting greater profits from the new machines even without kicking men out the door.

We shouldn't oppose the machines, we need to agree the manning, work them and live by them. By that I mean reap the benefits—longer holidays, shorter hours.

Claim

We have to break down the craft mentality. But for that you need one union covering all print jobs.

The unity of printworkers will be built around a common policy of fighting redundancies and improving our wages and working conditions. We have a strong federated chapel at the Kentish Times. All FoCs and chapels have benefited from it. The next step is a confederation of all print and allied unions throughout the parent company, Westminster Press. I'm working on it . . .

DEFEND JOBS, NOT CRAFT DIVISIONS

PRINT WORKERS face the full brunt of rising unemployment. New techniques and processes now exist which could transform the industry, threatening thousands of jobs.

In the 1960s when other workers were facing productivity drives, closures and rationalisation all round, the print industry seemed immune.

Craft sections within the trade could still use the threat of a strike to bring their employers to heel.

In fact, things were not quite so rosy. The multi-

nationals were quietly buying up small firms and rationalising within the larger groups. IPC publicly operates a policy of buying up smaller competitors with the sole object of closure or redundancies. On Fleet Street the integration of the newspapers resulted in a steady loss of jobs, while the closure of numerous small jobbing houses added to the ranks of the redundant.

Many trade union chapels (workplace branches) mounted militant campaigns to defend their members' jobs. But with the employers playing one group against the other, and with the unions pitching in with assurances of jobs for their own members instead of spreading the strike throughout combines, multi-nationals and the industry as a whole, and with a still fluid job market for craft members, these battles were lost.

In fact many chapels were prepared to allow redundancies through early retirement on the basis of assurances from management of job security for the rest of the workforce. Yet in most cases these assurances weren't worth the paper they were written on and only pushed back the date for total confrontations.

CUTS

Now new processes such as computerised typesetting will eliminate thousands of jobs. At the Observer, management want to reduce the workforce from 25,000 to less than 10,000.

Printworkers will have to win the argument that the crisis is caused by capitalism not by workers if we are successfully to take on the print employers over redundancies and closures. Too many printworkers have accepted the employers' protestations of poverty, when in fact they are talking not about losses but about low profitability.

The employers argue that they have a right to make profits and if profits are not high enough then it is reasonable for them to cut back on the wage bill. This can be done through increased productivity and the introduction of labour-saving processes. For us that means loss of jobs and more work

ALERT

There is no possible compromise in this argument. The workers at the Scottish Daily Express learned this the hard way, with the loss of three-quarters of their jobs. Either we accept the argument and are led happily to the slaughter for their 'national interest', or we fight back

Print unions will have to alter their traditional stance to combat these attacks on jobs. No longer can they rely on craftism but will have to use the methods developed by other workers, including mass picketing and occupations. New techniques must be accompanied by substantial cuts in the working week and retraining for those whose jobs disappear. There must be a campaign for no redundancies and united action of all printers to defend each other. If the present union leadership are incapable of leading such a fight then printworkers will have to take the leadership from them. Such a campaign will only succeed with mass participation at rank and file level.

As far back as 1924 print workers in the rank and file organisation of the time, the Minority Movement, called for one union for the print to unite the whole industry. We need that unity more than ever.

THE SOCIALIST WORKER GUIDE TO WORKPLACE SURVIVAL No 1



TREAT WORK-STUDY SCHEMES WITH SUSPICION ...

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.

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.

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).

Spanish Communist Party public meeting: 26 July, 7.30pm, Central Hall, Westminster (Tube: Westminster). Speakers: Carrillo, general secretary Spanish CP, and a member of the EC of the British CP.

INVESTIGATORS HANDBOOK—a guide for tenants, workers and action groups on how to investigate companies, organisations and individuals. It lists and details hundreds of sources of information about the local and national power structure—how to find out what positions individuals hold, what profits companies make, and what role is played by various organisations in local economic, social and political life. Only 30p (inc post) from Community Action, PO Box 665, London SW1X 8DZ.

Italian comrade seeks employment in London area, 22 July-31 August. Phone 01-251 3175.

Manchester Spanish Solidarity Disco: 18 July, West Indian Centre, Carmoor Road, 30p.

Revolutionary Communist Group day school on chauvinism, economism and the current crisis. Saturday 2 August, 10am-6pm, The Enterprise pub, Chalk Farm tube. Sessions on fascism, women and Ireland. For information on speakers and suggested reading write to David Yaffe, 78 Parkhill Road, London NW3 2YT.

FIRST WORLD WAR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS: socialist writer would be grateful to hear from and maybe meet or write to any socialist COs. Contact John Clarke, 12 Clarendon Road, Forest Gate, London E7 (01-534 3821).

Cutbacks in the NHS and how to fight them: meeting for workers in central London discuss situation in Westminster area and to thrash out campaign to defend NHS and fight private practice. Thursday 24 July, St Georges Hospital (large lecture theatre, medical school), Hyde Park Corner, 7pm. Speakers: Local Labour councillor, Jamie Morris (Westminster hospital NUPE), Steve Johnson (NALGO health services officer), and Berry Beaumont (MCAPP and National Abortion Campaign). Organised by Medical Committee against Private Practice, supported by Westminster Trades Council, hospital NUPE branches in the area, Westminster NUT and other local trade unionists.

National Abortion Campaign picket of University College Hospital, Grafton Way, London WC1. Tuesday 22 July, 4-6.30pm.

IN BRIEF



While Glasgow workers (see below) are fighting for £2.50 their boss has other things on his mind. Cavenham Foods chairman Jimmy Goldsmith seen here with an old friend, Lord Lucan...

GLASGOW ENGINEERS FIGHT BOSSES—AND THE TGWU

'MY members are not only being fought by the company, but by the Transport and General Workers union members' was the comment of Engineering union convenor Jimmy Allison of Abbotsinch Services, where AUEW members have been on strike for six weeks over a £2.50 differential payment. Abbotsinch, a subsidiary of Cavenham Foods is a large food and bulk handling store.

The battle began in 1972 when Abbotsinch drivers with heavy goods vehicle licences got an extra £2.50 a week. Maintenance fitters with HGV licences demanded the same, and the three-year struggle has soured inter-union relations and led to some odd deals between stewards, officials, and the bosses. The result? a collapse of trade union unity.

'TGWU members have been working on blacked lorries and with outside contractors who have taken work out of the depot,' explained Jimmy Allison. 'What is worse is that the outside contractors are all TGWU members and their officials are doing nothing about it. I can't get hold of a TGWU official to get something done, they appear to be in hiding.'

Some TGWU members refused to work on blacked lorries after a leaflet from the AUEW strike committee, but the officials' reaction has been a new low in trade union solidarity. It has to be fought within the TGWU!

Donations and messages of support to J Allison, AUEW House, Ingle Street, Paisley.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: THAMES BARRIER

'DO what you're told—or you're sacked' is the line of the Thames Barrier Project's personnel officer. The bosses have just sacked two Transport and General Workers union stewards and a ganger, who refused to unload pre-cast material, which, it had been agreed, was forbidden on the site.

The workforce here, building defences against the risk of freak tides flooding London, have been striking since. They've sought support from other local sites, including Thamesmead.

The workers see the fight as another example of management confrontation. Previously it was to set the TGWU members against Engineering union members. Now they want to smash the unions' organisation, close the site—and take who they want back.



Lucas convenor Larry Connolly. A pink leaflet for a red scare, see below. Picture John Sturrock (Report)

BIRMINGHAM LUCAS: RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THE REDS ARE COMING!

by Chris Sharpe, AUEW Shop Steward
'COME and hear how the old system has failed and how to establish the new system—THE WORKERS' STATE. Hear why we cannot just take over the old system—it must be smashed.'

'We must smash the parliament, the Army, the police, and the judges. We must set up workers' councils, and workers' militia, because if there's one thing they can't stand it's violence.'

That's what workers arriving at Lucas BW3 factory found on little pink leaflets scattered round the shop-floor the other day. Strong stuff eh? It named International Socialist shop stewards, and looked like an IS leaflet.

It was a forgery—a particularly nasty attempt to trigger a red smear campaign. The shop stewards' committee called a mass meeting where it was made clear that IS had nothing to do with the leaflet. No-one has admitted responsibility, but the bosses told Engineering union convenor Larry Connolly and shop steward Roger Griffiths, both IS members, that it was time they and Lucas 'parted company'.

The Shop Stewards' Committee, backed by the workers demanded an apology, which was refused. Now the matter is in AUEW district officials' hands...

CAMBORNE—AND THE CIA...

THIRTY workers at Holmans factory here heard ex-US Central Intelligence Agency agent Phillip Agee give them the low down on the CIA's worldwide operations. He explained how it operated, and how it has hit workers, peasants and trade unionists across the world. A lively discussion followed.

DUNDEE HOSPITAL WORKERS' VICTORY

AT Ninewells Hospital here 50 Transport and General Workers Union members struck—and won on Tuesday. Kitchen bosses Smith and Deans victimised a woman dish washer accused of 'removing scraps' and a kitchen porter who took two hours off was accused of 'gross misconduct'.

The TGWU stewards demanded, and got, immediate reinstatement with full pay.

GLASGOW: RAWLPLUG—WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!

by Angela McHugh, AUEW Shop Steward, Rawlplug

LAST week 500 workers, the majority women, here voted overwhelmingly for a total overtime ban and lightning strikes from this week. Rawlplug is a Burmah Oil subsidiary and has been in trouble for six months because of the building industry slump.

The workers have put up with redundancies, and short time working, but two months ago a claim to offset inflation was met with a refusal by the bosses to allow any union meetings, or union business on the premises.

The overtime ban will hit the management who've been trying to close one factory and move work into the other. The announcement of Wilson's wage freeze made it obvious to us why the bosses have been stalling—and has made us more angry.

It's women workers who face price rises in the shops every week—and who have to make the family income stretch. The AUEW opposes the freeze, let's see them make a stand like we are!

BONAR LONG, DUNDEE STRIKE: WEEK THREE

'THEY seem to be making a test case out of Bonar Long. It is important for all Dundee workers that we win.' That was the comment of Engineering union convenor John Henderson on the official strike of 575 men and women here. They want a £45 basic wage, £40 for semi-skilled men—and equal pay for women, and have rejected the bosses' offer of £40, and no move to equal pay.

Other employers are backing Bonar's management—but other workers from plants like Timex and T C Keays, are backing the strikers. 'Bonar Long is the battleground for the wages struggle in Dundee,' said one.

Redundancy threats have helped keep Dundee at the bottom of the national wages table—and unemployment here is at 6½ per cent—and rising.

The battle must be won, messages of support and donations to W Welsh, 11d Murcar Court, Dundee.

MANCHESTER ICL'S PLANS—CONFUSION AND SPLITS

By three ICL workers (Dukinfield)
OUR bosses at this computer firm have made us an extremely complicated offer, obviously designed to confuse us, play off factory against factory, and union against union.

It centres on a bonus scheme which will be hit if workers elsewhere in ICL strike. PARK ROAD workers have pushed for £10 across the board for all grades, let's hope other unions, and factories have the sense to do the same!

Step up fight for Engineers Charter

by John Deason

AT 11 DAYS' notice, 65 convenors, shop stewards and district committee members have signed their personal support for Willie Lee's candidature for AUEW National Organiser.

Four convenors, nine shop stewards and three district committee delegates signed in Swansea, an area dominated by Divisional Organiser Tal Lloyd, who supported John Weakley's use of the High Court against the union over the postal ballot.

Willie Lee, senior AUEW shop steward at Chrysler Linwood, is the author of the Socialist Worker pamphlet on the fight against the postal ballot. It is the only material circulating inside the union which argued the case against postal balloting and in favour of branch balloting.

The pamphlet also argues the need for an Engineers Charter. The strength of the left in the union is not just how many official positions are held, but the organised support of the shop-floor for agreed policies. For too long Scanlon and his left supporters have relied on left resolutions and place-seeking. This has meant bureaucratic wrangles with the right-wing, divorced from the rank and file.

For example, the AUEW is officially committed against the £6 freeze, but has turned its back on national claims. The minimum time rates settled nationally have little effect on take-home pay for most members.

Spite

Plant-by-plant bargaining is alright for a few of the stronger groups but doesn't help others. With the government, the TUC and the employers determined to cut living standards, we can't leave the wages battle to our own backyard. We need nationally co-ordinated campaigns.

Engineers are the only major section of workers not to have secured a meaningful national wage increase in recent years, in spite of courageously taking a militant stand on issues such as the Industrial Relations Act.

If the union is going to fight the freeze seriously, the first task must be to campaign against the massive propaganda for the £6 limit by the press and TV. Literally millions of leaflets, as well as posters, pamphlets and special articles in the Journal, are needed. It would be money better spent than the £400,000 a year for postal balloting.

This campaign should be linked to a national across-the-board lump sum wage claim of, say, £15. We can pass as many resolutions as we like, but a national campaign to win the members and then

fight for £15 will translate words into deeds.

A Charter group can fight inside the union for such policies. Local Charter groups should be formed now to lay the basis for a national meeting later in the year. Every effort must be made to fight for the policies of the Charter inside every union channel.

Socialist Worker has urged its readers to support candidates in the coming elections who are committed to Charter policies. But the Charter, to succeed, must be used to encourage debate among the rank and file.

Socialist Worker is opening its columns to discussion about the proposed basis for the Charter, which we reprint below. Already it has raised many questions. How can union democracy be improved by strengthening shop steward organisation while also defending the independence and importance of geographical branches?

Should apprentices be paid a full wage at 18? How can the loss of jobs be stopped? Please send us your views and arguments. Such public discussion can only help those within the union campaigning for the Charter.

SUGGESTED BASIS FOR THE CHARTER

WAGES

opposition to all forms of incomes policy.

for national, meaningful, across-the-board wage increases with official campaigning and propaganda within the membership for such claims.

for £60 minimum time rates.

for full equal pay and job opportunity for women workers.

JOB SECURITY

for a 35-hour week without loss of pay.

for official opposition to closures, short time working, speed up and voluntary redundancies.

for official occupations to force nationalisation, without compensation of plants threatened with closure.

for 100 per cent closed shops and strong shop stewards' organisation to maintain manning levels and control of work speeds.

for district committee control of job replacement and registration—a strict restriction of job loss.

UNION DEMOCRACY

against the postal ballot, for return to branch balloting and full discussion of election addresses.

for official encouragement of improved shop stewards' organisation—for joint shop stewards' committees including representatives from staff unions (for meaningful amalgamation).

for official efforts to build combine committees.

for majority of shop stewards' representation in district committees, and for bi-monthly district stewards' meetings.

for average engineering wage for full-time officials and full accountability to the membership.

APPRENTICES AND YOUNG WORKERS

for 100 per cent trade union membership.

for full rate at 18.

for junior workers committees inside each factory, representation on joint shop stewards' committees, and the right to direct negotiations on wages, conditions, etc.

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.



BIRMINGHAM:—Some of the 46 women, and one of the 22 men, Transport and General Workers Union members, officially striking at Palmer and Shelley car components factory in Saltley. They want a 25 per cent rise, across-the-board. They've rejected a 'divide and rule' offer of 12½ per cent for skilled male workers and 8½ per cent for unskilled females.

And it isn't just pay. The horrifying safety conditions were a trigger for the unionisation of the works three years ago: 14 hours a day, seven days a week picketing has halted supplies. There is suspicion that goods are being smuggled out to Chrysler, Fords, Leyland and Massey Ferguson at night. P&S material must be blacked. Behind the strikers is Saltley Power Station—where miners and engineers won their historic victory in 1972. 'It was solidarity support that won the day at Saltley,' pointed out a striker. 'We need it every day.'

Messages of support and money to Mrs Grant, 77 Greenlands Road, Birmingham 37.

LONDON BUILDING WORKERS' STRIKE

LAST week 57 workers were sent redundancy notices at the Mowlems National Westminster Bank, Broad St site. Bosses had claimed there was a 'shortage of work'. Most of the building hasn't been erected yet!

It followed growing militancy during the last month over bonuses and safety,

and has been followed by a strike to reinstate the 57, which the strikers hope will be made official.

LONDON: BRITISH RELAY—WAGES UP, JOBS GONE?

RECENTLY the bosses here have offered a 25 per cent wage rise to TV engineers and wiremen, and now they're trying to get their pound of flesh.

This would mean the SACK for one engineer per supervisor, the SACK for all apprentices—and they want to downgrade an average of six supervisors per depot.

This would CUT the inside service workforce by 32 per cent—but it isn't a price that wiremen are willing to pay for the wage rise. Shop stewards have rejected outright bosses' attempts to impose 20 per cent redundancies on mobile engineers. BR's 300 engineers and wiremen met on Tuesday to discuss the situation.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

YOU WON'T BLACKMAIL US, WOODALL'S

MANCHESTER: Woodall Duckham, part of the huge international engineering company Babcock and Wilcox, are trying to break the strike at their Partington gas works site.

They announced at a meeting with full-time union officials in Manchester's plush Portland Hotel last Friday, that they are going to shut the site.

And, what's more, it would stay shut until next Spring when, they hope, the workers who have dared to defy them and defend union organisation will have disappeared.

These tactics are nothing new to the men of wealth and power who run Babcock's. At their subsidiary in Spain, they have, assisted by the fascist government, maintained a ruthless regime.

BID

Woodall's chairman, Thomas Carlile, is a master in the repression industry. As vice president and then chairman of the Engineering Employers Federation, he co-ordinated the employers' battle against the Manchester engineers in 1972.

In this latest bid to break union organisation, the firm has enjoyed full co-operation from the Gas Board.

'I have told Woodall Duckham that when they do reopen the contract it must be started with the lads that were sacked on 13 June (Black Friday)' says W Charles construction engineering union full-time official in Manchester.

The dispute is over the victimisation of one welder who was asked to do four test pieces to qualify for the job, a practice never used in the construction industry, which is why the boiler makers' union had no hesitation in making the dispute official.

Bob Burds, PTU shop steward, said: 'What we need to win this fight is solidarity, financial and moral support from the Woodall Duckhams' sites and the nationalised gas industry. We also need support from local trades union bodies for a mass demonstration against manage-



Challenged—full-time TGWU official John Collier, the man who tried to stop the strike

ment's organised union tactics.'

And Cyril Lea, H and D steward, said: 'Isn't it bloody marvellous where a construction company can operate a blacklist with the support of a nationalised industry?'

All trade unionists should support the meeting called by the strikers at Hulme Labour Club, Bonsall St, on Thursday 24 July at 8pm.

Any trade unionist who works on a Woodall Duckham or a Babcock and Wilcox site should demand 'no recruitment of labour until the workforce at Partington has been reinstated by Woodall Duckhams'.

Finance is coming in, but very slowly so please rush donations and levies to Send to Woodall Duckham Strike Committee, 11 Lime Avenue, Urmston, Manchester.

Ricky Tomlinson out next week

SHREWSBURY picket Ricky Tomlinson will be out on parole on Friday 25 July. But Des Warren, who copped a three-year sentence just before Christmas 1973, will have to stay inside until the winter.

This comes as no surprise. The trade union movement at official level has moved from doing next to nothing about the Shrewsbury affair to doing absolutely nothing.

This puts tremendous pressure on the Warren family. Elsa Warren told Socialist Worker this week that she was very glad that at long last Ricky Tomlinson was to get out of jail.

'But', she added, 'while I don't think we'll have to spend another Christmas alone without Dennis, I think we've still a good few months to wait.'

The Warrens have six children to look after. And with only the barest minimum wage coming in they need every penny bit of financial support they can get.

The Shrewsbury Dependents Fund run by the National Rank and File Organising Committee exists to get that support. Every trade unionist should dig deep to assist.

Collections for the Organising Committee's summer fund should be held in as many places as possible and sent to Ossie Lewis, Honorary Treasurer, 25 Park Road, Cheam, Surrey.

FOOTNOTE: Another fascinating example of the 'one law for the rich,

Yet again—T&G sabotage black strikers

ONCE AGAIN immigrant workers are lashing out against lousy pay and rotten conditions. And once again the Transport Workers' union is doing its utmost to undermine their struggles.

But this time there is a difference. For Transport Worker Union officials are going to have great difficulty ignoring a strike of 400 of their members at London's Heathrow Airport, within spitting distance of the 11,000 highly-organised engineering and maintenance workers, many of them T&G members.

The 400 are catering workers who prepare and clean food trays for British Airways' flights in the overseas divisions. They are the worst paid group on the airport.

Their demand for pay parity with

other ground services staff, like labourers and cleaners, amounts to £2.50, which still leaves them with under £40 a week.

They also want a free issue of safety shoes, which the better-paid workers get. At the moment they have to pay half the cost. And they want an improved meal allowance. The 12½p allowance hasn't changed since 1955.

Conditions are appalling. Poor drainage means that dishwashers have to stand in two inches of water. And the shocking stench and heat has driven out any workers able to find jobs elsewhere.

Not surprisingly, full-time official John Collier failed to persuade the strikers to return to work on Tuesday morning. There is little trust for the full-time officials since Airport T&G chief John Cousins failed to deliver promised pay parity three years ago.

Collier later told engineering stewards that he would not stop T&G drivers taking food prepared by managerial staff to the planes because the union wants a return to work.

Stop

Already international flights are forced to stop at Prestwick and Glasgow to make up food supplies. Blacking at Prestwick and solidarity from the airport engineers can quickly overturn British Airways.

This means delegations from the engineering base coming over during meal breaks and before and after shift changes. It means collections. And, above all, it means T&G members on the base letting it be known that life will be hell for the full-time officials if they don't give the strike proper backing.

A lead has already been given by Jack Maher, T&G Convenor for the overseas division, who told Socialist Worker: 'I certainly intend to do what I can to give the strikers support.'

Back at the 'Comet House Slave Camp' as the strikers have renamed their department, spirits are excellent. As T&G steward Bashir Bhatti put it: 'Our people are in a beautiful form to fight.'

Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

IT'S SLOWING UP again, comrades. Our fighting fund raised only £272.54 this week, bringing the total so far for July to £639.17.

That means we're way behind schedule for our monthly target of £2000.

Why not organise a whip-round among your mates at work or on your estate?

Our thanks to:

IS NALGO Fraction Conference £24.71; Burnley IS £1.25; SW readers Nelson £1.75; Glasgow IS £12.50; YEB Parry Lane Bradford £5; Monmouth SW readers £4.23; York IS £7.30; Loughborough IS £10; Anon £10; Morden reader £2; SW reader Accrington 30p.

Two Newcastle Staffs readers £10; Devon SW reader £5; SW reader Preston £5; from Glasgow NALGO SW reader £5; SW readers GLC IS 20p; Maidstone IS £6; SE London District IS £25; Member AUEW Cannock £4; Thamesmead SW readers £3; STC (Greenwich) SW readers 50p; Woolwich comrades ½p collection £6.50; anonymous London member £100;

Members' Special Levy: London Central Print £7; Huddersfield £2; GLC £14.30.

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

STAFFORD WORKERS STAY OUT FOR £10

STAFFORD: The strike by 2500 men and women at GEC is still solid after six weeks. Effective picketing by the eight unions involved has continued through the works shutdown which ends this week.

The workers are demanding £10 across-the-board. Bill Hughes, deputy AUEW convenor, said: 'We believe we can crack the management. The order book is terrific as work has been transferred from other, previously more militant, GEC plants.'

'We couldn't have hit them at a better time. In spite of the new Healey plan for £5 a week rise, we're staying out for the £10.'

He was supported by Jack Mottershead, EETPU deputy senior steward, who added: 'We don't trust the management any more. Their attempt to split us—by sending letters to every workers' home accusing the shop stewards' committee of falsification—has failed.'

'We have replied with our own bulletins. The management are out to smash us and don't want to see workers on top at this plant.'

'A win for us now will give the rank and file the confidence to take them on again.'

So far the workers have only been offered £4.50 with another £2-£2.50 at the end of October.

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