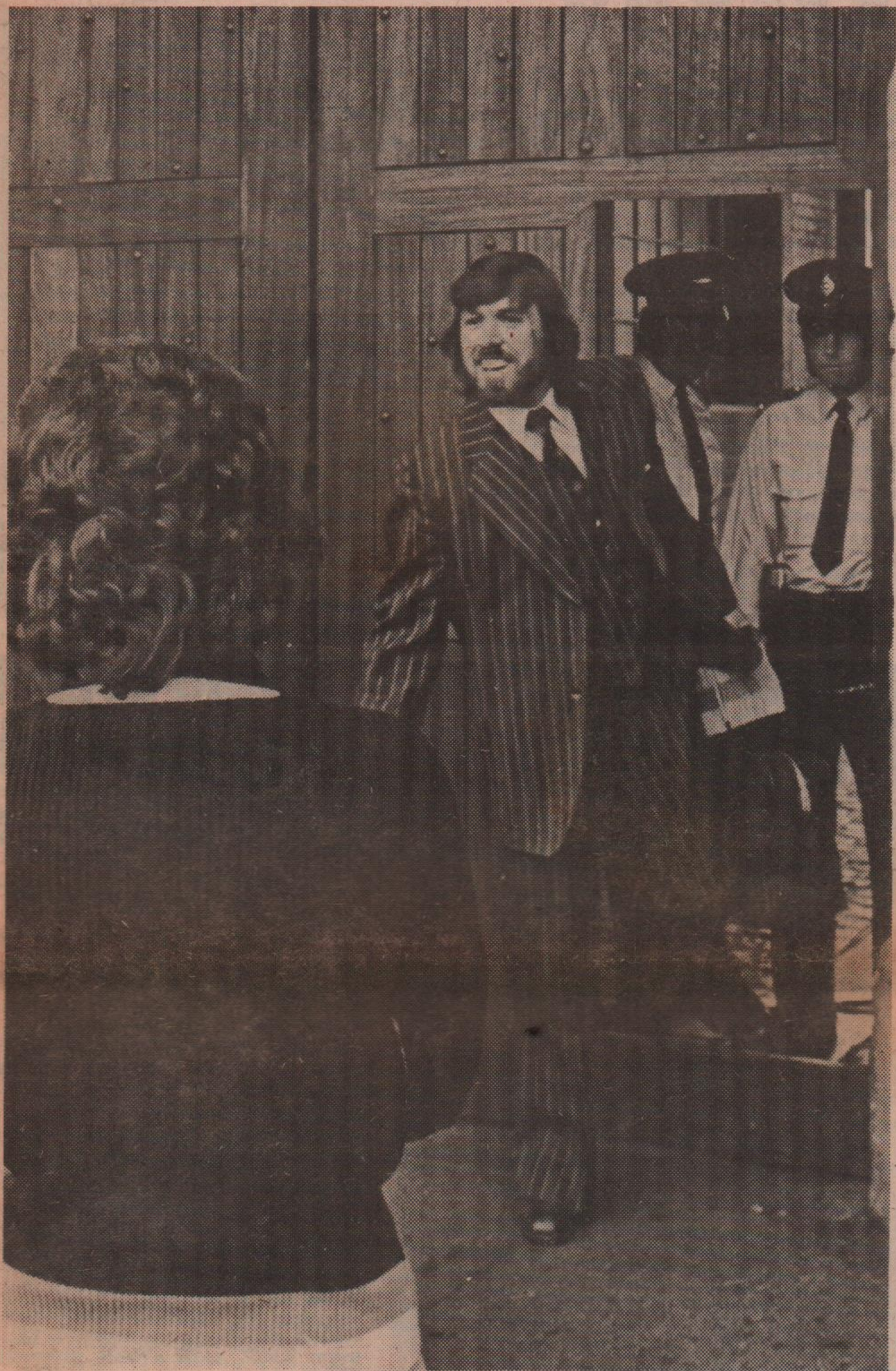


Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Picture: John Sturrock



Ricky's out! But Des is inside...

Ricky Tomlinson, jailed Shrewsbury picket, steps out of Leicester Prison at 7.30am last Friday. He spoke to Socialist Worker about his experiences in prison, about his quarrel with officials of his union—and most important about the fight to free his fellow picket, Des Warren, who is still in Nottingham Prison.

See pages 8 and 9.

THE £6 TRAP

THE government's claim that the £6 limit on wage increases will help the lower paid is a blatant lie.

As much was admitted by the Under Secretary for the Social Services Brian O'Malley in the House of Commons last week. He released official figures that show that a married man earning £30 a week with three children will get 70p less under the government's anti-inflation law.

Anyone with two children and earning £25 a week will be 52p a week worse off.

They will actually have less cash in their wage packets—that's before the effect of continued massive price rises.

Government regulations mean that every time you get a wage rise there is an immediate increase in your tax and national insurance

payments. You also lose entitlement to any rent and rate increases, to free school meals and so on. Unless the lower paid get a really large increase, they end up with less cash in their pockets than before.

The £6 limit will ensure that hundreds of thousands of nurses, hospital workers, farm-workers, will be caught in this trap.

When Chancellor Denis Healey introduced the freeze, he claimed that it would help the lower paid. He told a press conference: 'Not everyone will suffer a fall in living standards. A married couple, on two-thirds of average earnings will receive a slight increase.' He meant an increase in the buying power of the wage packet, after taking account of price increases.

KICKING

The message has been repeated a hundred times since, in the press, from conference platforms, at union meetings: the freeze, by holding back prices, will help the lower paid. If a group of workers such as the miners use their industrial muscle to break the freeze, they are kicking the really badly off in the teeth.

Now Healey has been proved as great a liar and fraud as his colleague John Stonehouse.

His help for the lower paid consists of making their pay even lower, just as his help for unemployed consists in adding hundreds of thousands more on the dole queues. Those in the trade union movement who are passing on his lies are either fools or frauds themselves.

The only way to help the lower paid and the unemployed is for those with industrial strength, the so-called big battalions, to stand up and fight the freeze. Then all workers can march together through the breach they make.

MINERS: VOTE NO!

The Miners will be voting in ballot on the government's pay curb during the next three weeks.

Turn the page to see what Yorkshire miners, including their president Arthur Scargill, have to say about the importance of voting NO.

Turn to back page

CRISIS IN INDIA

DEMONSTRATION

Free the 35,000 political prisoners

Down with the dictatorships in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh

Sunday 3 August. Assemble Trafalgar Square 1pm, for march to Indian High Commission.

All London IS branches and those in area with Asian communities to attend with banners.

Solidarity with the Portuguese Revolution

DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY

Saturday 30 August in London.

Further details next week.

Called by the International Socialists.

Portugal: CIA terror plans exposed

NINE CIA agents working undercover in Portugal to foment chaos and form 'death squads' were unmasked this week—by a former colleague.

Philip Agee, author of *Inside the Company*, an exposure of the CIA, has sent their names and a rundown on their activities to the PRP, the Portuguese revolutionary organisation. Those activities include:

INFILTRATION of the Armed Forces Movement 'to identify moderates and others favourable to Western strategic interests'.

ASSASSINATIONS and bombings 'that can be attributed to the revolutionary left.'

RUMOUR campaigns 'to foment strife, conflict and jealousy'.

MASSIVE financial backing for reactionary elements in the Catholic Church.

Agee discloses the names and, in most cases, the addresses of CIA operatives in Lisbon who are known or have been identi-

fied to him.

CIA chief of station in Lisbon is JOHN S MORGAN of number 3 Avenida Suica 1, Estoril. His deputy is JAMES N LAWLER, of 28 Avenida do Brasil, Cascais.

Letter

Known operatives include three based in one block of flats at Number 8 Praca Aguas Livres in Lisbon 2. They are RICHARD L BALTIMORE (8th floor, apartment D on the right) FRANK LOWELL (8th floor, apartment C on the left) and DONNA J CALDWELL (6th floor, apartment D on the left).

Other known CIA operatives are PHILLIP W SNELL, of 6 Rua de Beira, Carcavelos, ANTHONY ARREDONDO, ad-

dress unknown, LESLIE F HUGHES of Lote 3 N, Praceta da Rua 4, Quinta da Lagoa, Carcavelos and GERALD D ZAPOLI, address unknown.

In a Letter to the Portuguese People, which he has released as background to his disclosures, Agee spells out the CIA's role in detail:

The most specific task is to penetrate the Armed Forces Movement (AFM) in order to collect information on its plans, its weaknesses and its internal struggles. To identify the so-called moderates and others who might be favourable to western strategic interests.

The CIA would use information collected from within the

ARTHUR SCARGILL, YORKSHIRE MINERS' LEADER, SAYS

Miners must vote No to the £6 limit

'We are against the £6 limit. Miners should use all their strength against it. The miners' executive decision to call a ballot among miners on the question is blatantly contrary to rule. But now we've got the ballot, and miners should vote No.'

THIS was what Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire miners' president, told Socialist Worker in an interview last Friday.

He went on to say that the fight against the government's freeze was not confined to miners alone, and welcomed approaches from any workers in struggle who were looking for support from the miners.

'The policy of the union was laid down by the annual conference last month,' he said. 'It is quite clear. It commits the union executive this year to seek a substantial wage rise. It does not refer to any other year or the far distant future.'

'Rule 8 of the union says: "The government of the union shall be by conference". The rule also says that the executive "shall not at any time act contrary to, or in defiance of, any resolution of conference."

'The government's £6 limit clearly conflicts with conference policy as laid down last month and as laid down by last year's conference at Llandudno which voted against all incomes policies, voluntary or statutory.'

'Rule 23 of the union makes it quite clear that if the executive wants to change the policy of the union—which they might in some cases be forced to, let's be fair—they must call a special conference.'

'But they haven't called a special conference. The right wing have used their built-in majority on the executive to put the thing straight out to ballot. They refused to accept a motion from Yorkshire delegates for a special conference. I think that's a clear breach of the union rule.'

Arthur Scargill still bitterly regrets that at the recent Scarborough

conference of the NUM he was forced to withdraw the Yorkshire area's resolution committing the union to £100 a week for miners. Some of the blame for that, he suggests, must attach to delegates from areas that abandoned the call for £100 although they had previously been in favour of it.

'The Scottish area approached the Yorkshire miners and asked us to withdraw our motion and composite. The very fact that we were approached by people who had supported the £100 call and asked to withdraw it embarrassed us.'

RISE

The Yorkshire NUM council's campaign for a No vote in the ballot will reach every miner in the county. A leaflet is being prepared for every member showing how the £6 rise, even accepting the government's own figures about inflation next year, means a wage cut of £1.73 a week.

There will also be pit-head meetings in most of the major pits.

Arthur Scargill says he is talking not just for miners. 'I'm talking on behalf of and for all trade unionists in this matter. I have never regarded the miners as a special case. Only apologists and collaborators do that. The miners and all trade unionists are a special case because of the way they're abused by the capitalist system.'

'We're prepared to support any section of the movement that fights against the pay restraint. We learnt our lesson in 1971—when we should never have let the Post Office workers go to the wall. We marched for the nurses last year, and are constantly helping other workers in struggle.'

'Only this week we've already given financial aid to strikers in two industrial disputes in Yorkshire.'

Arthur Scargill urges all miners not to give up hope, or think that the postal ballot is lost before they vote.

'I think everyone could be in for a big shock', he said. 'People underestimate the depth of understanding of these issues among ordinary workers.'

'A recent survey, which was carried out far more extensively than the usual opinion poll, shows that in the Common Market vote 60.7 per cent of Yorkshire miners voted No.'

'We campaigned on the Common Market. And we're campaigning now. I think we can win.'

COAL BOARD PROFIT £34M

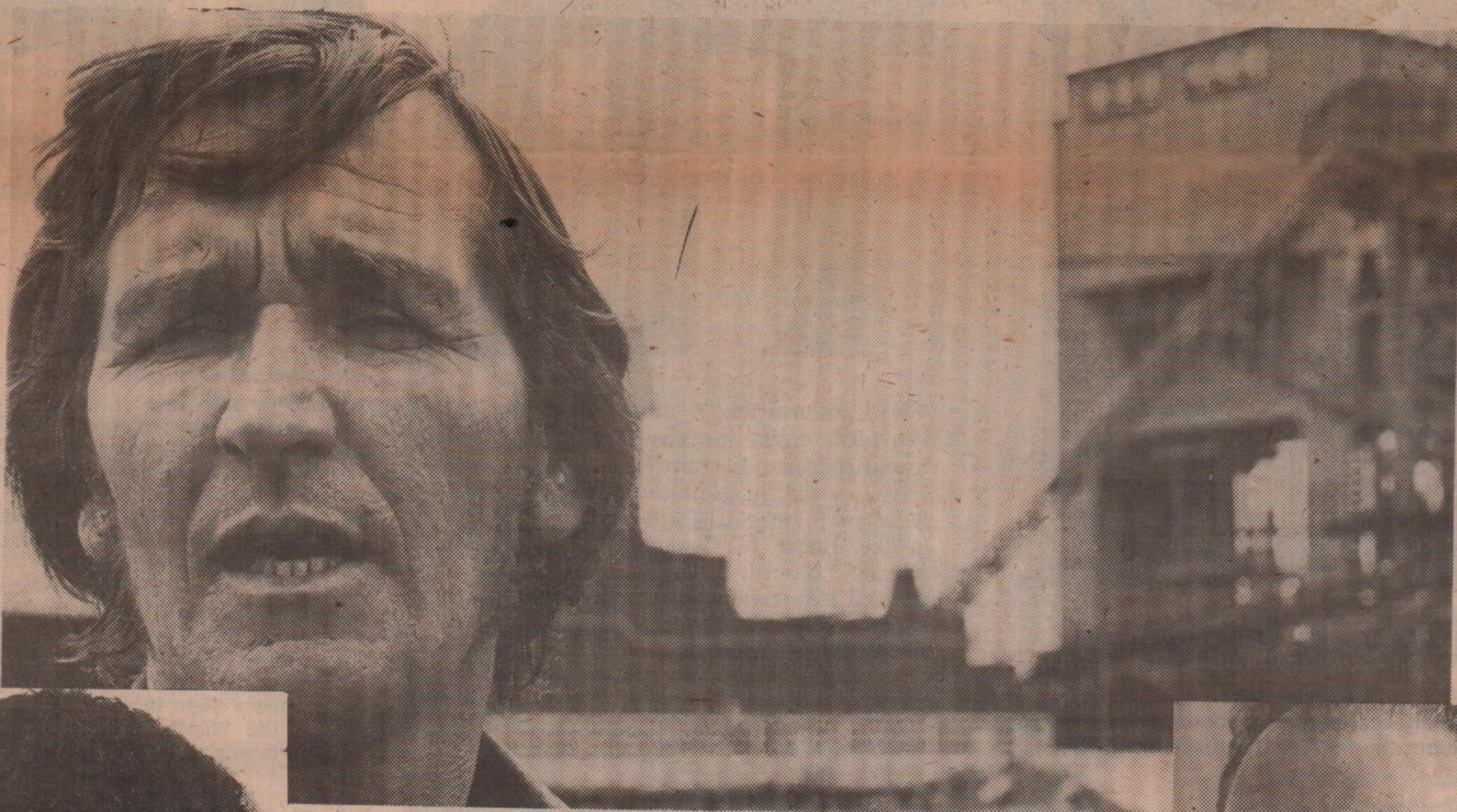
IT may be crisis year for some, but certainly not for the National Coal Board. Last week the Coal Board announced that they had turned a loss of £112 million in the boom year of 1973 into a profit of £34 million in the crisis year of 1974.

Next year, according to The Times, 'the board should be able to improve its financial fortunes again.'

The reason for these amazing figures was due to another increase productivity by the miners—6.4 per cent up on last year. Not content with this, NCB chairman Sir Derek Ezra, whose productivity increased by nil per cent last year, called on miners for another 'effort' to boost productivity by another 5 per cent.

Ezra announced these figures only a week after slamming the miners for absenteeism and falling productivity!

The operating profit of the NCB is not allowed to be a profit at all. After deduction of interest to pay off the coal owners who exploited the miners for 100 years and then made a killing on nationalisation, the profit was wiped out.



PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)



Trevor Brown outside Houghton Main Pit, with (left) Tommy Delemere and (right) NUM branch secretary George Wilkinson.

So do the men at Houghton Main

FROM Houghton Main, the Yorkshire pit where five people died after an explosion last month, three miners speak out for the No vote.

GEORGE WILKINSON, NUM branch secretary for the last 23 years:

'If the miners are given the lead, if it's explained what this £6 really means; if the miners are told that this isn't just a freeze for 12 months—that it's a freeze right up until 1981, and probably after that if they can get away with it . . .

'If our people are told just what this so-called Labour government is doing to the working class who elected it, if they're told the facts about nationalisation and how the industry has been bled from the

beginning; if they're told all the facts about Richard Marsh and Alfred Robens and all the other Labour men who wrecked the industry and put their own positions above the welfare of the workers . . . Yes, we can win.

'Every time we've gone out to campaign among the miners before, we've won. But if we keep the facts away, if we shrink from the campaign, well, then, we'll lose.'

TOMMY DELEMARE, 35, underground worker.

'If we vote Yes to this limit on wages, I think we'll be right back to where we were in the 1950s and 1960s with the pits being run down and closed. We'll be weak again, and

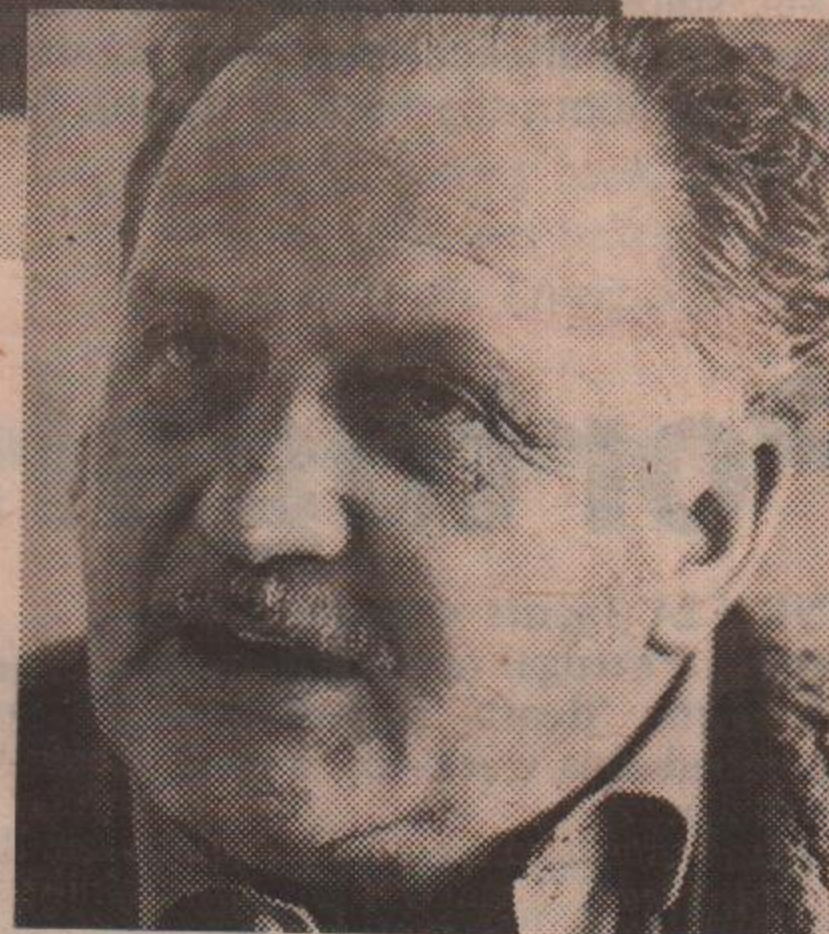
the Labour government will run all over us, just like they did before. I think miners must look back and see what happened before when we said Yes to the moderates and did what the government wanted.

'It's not our fault—the economic crisis. It's not a working-class problem. It wasn't the workers who got us in a mess.

'If the miners vote No, we'll be breaking ground for other workers to follow. I don't think we're a special case. Everybody's a special case when it comes to defending working-class living standards.'

TREVOR BROWN, underground worker:

'The miners are not supermen.



They are just like everyone else. The press and television give them one side of the story, and unless they're given the other side, they'll go along with the press and television.

'That's why our branch decision—and the Yorkshire Area Council decision—to campaign among miners is so important. Because then we can put the real facts about the £6 to this community. It's a balanced community and I think once they know the facts they'll vote for their interests and the interests of workers.'

'Too many miners are resting on past laurels. They think, "Oh, well, the union will come up with the goods again." But they won't—unless they're forced to.'

WHAT WE THINK

KEEPING HOMES FROM THOSE WHO NEED THEM

MILLIONS of people were shocked by the television programme Johnny Go Home last week. Here was a problem that was supposed to have died with Charles Dickens—thousands of young people forced to sleep rough on the streets of London, able to find accommodation only occasionally and then in the most dubious establishments.

The press has reacted just as it did some years ago to Cathy Go Home, the play about homeless families. There has been the same spotlighting of particular sad cases, the appeal for individual charity, the pretence that this or that local government department is to blame, the call for certain named kids to return to their families, as if they were to blame for the shortage of accommodation.

For all its tears, the press will not delve into the cause of the problem. It has not mentioned the lack of cheap housing that causes many young married couples less and less hope and which forces teenagers to sleep in the streets.

In campaigning over housing, the press cares only about the lurid stories designed to

turn working people lucky enough to have homes against squatters. It depicts those who take over empty properties for somewhere to live as dirty, smelly parasites who ought to be thrown on the streets.

This campaign has already pressurised the government's law commission into suggesting measures that would make squatting illegal.

Such measures would ensure a few thousand more families without homes, a few hundred more kids sleeping rough. And they would distract attention from the fact that any homelessness is unnecessary.

In London, there are ten empty houses for every homeless family. The homeless cannot occupy these houses lawfully, since they cannot afford to buy them because of the high level of interest charges and mortgage repayments.

The local councils cannot afford to buy them, because they, too, are spending more on interest than they collect in rent. And so the homes stay empty, unless someone has the gumption to squat.

Fact

Of course, not all empty houses are 'vacant', in the legal meaning of the term. Some are occupied—but by people who rarely live in them. There are 300,000 lucky, and usually wealthy, people who have more than one house. These are the front line of those clamouring for the defence of property—and of their own right to live in luxury while others sleep in the streets.

The greater absurdity is that fewer houses are being built in Britain today than 10 or 20 years ago, when the country was much

poorer. The resources exist to build 350,000 to 400,000 houses a year. Yet last year only 250,000 were built.

While building workers remain unemployed, while building ground remains unused for years at a time, while vast stockpiles of bricks build up, 150,000 houses that could be built are not. 150,000 families that could enjoy new homes do not get them.

We are often told that workers are incapable of taking the 'difficult' decisions involved in running society. Does anyone think that in a society where power lay with the building workers who are currently unemployed and with those who are homeless the present chaos would be allowed to continue one day?

The lunacy of capitalism—Page 12

Police plot to protect torturers

POLICE and soldiers perjured themselves last week in a conspiracy to protect colleagues on trial for the torture and beating up of a 32-year-old labourer in Northern Ireland.

Peter McKenna was arrested on 31 January and taken to Crookstown police station where he was deprived of food and sleep and given such a beating that on the advice of a police doctor he was taken to hospital and detained in a serious condition. He had not been charged with any offence.

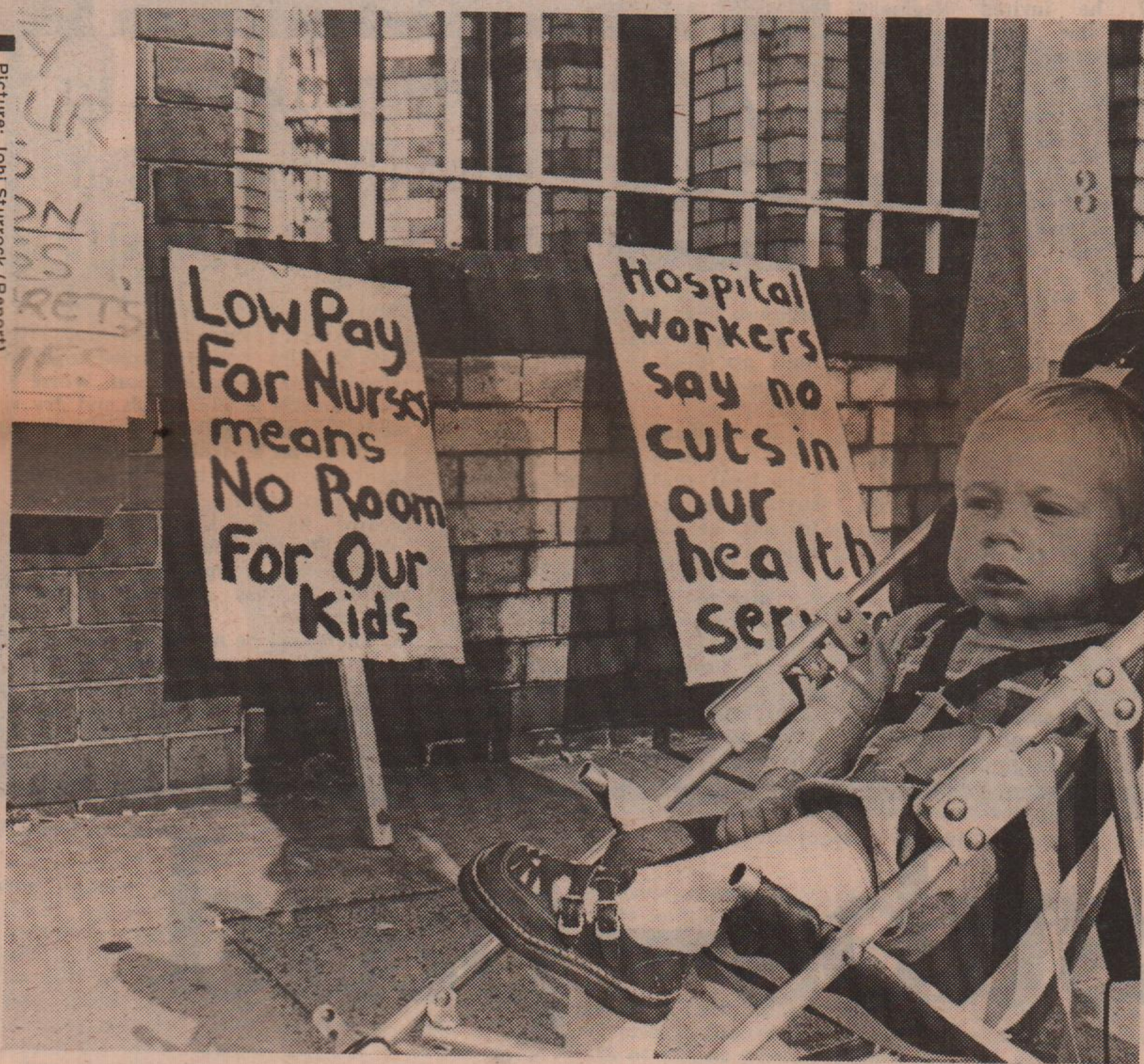
After an outcry from liberal clergymen and community leaders, three members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and a military policeman were charged with assault. All were acquitted last week.

In a letter to Northern Ireland Secretary Merlyn Rees, SDLP representative for the area Paddy Duffy alleges that during the trial RUC men crowded to the court disguised in false beards and moustaches so as to resemble two of those in the dock—so making identification almost impossible, that men stationed in Crookstown for up to four years swore they were unaware of the location of the cells where Peter McKenna had been held, and that the Crookstown RUC had without exception refused point blank to co-operate with the investigation into the case.

At the end of the trial, the judge agreed that Peter McKenna had been beaten up by the RUC and military police. But since no-one who had been in the police station—except Peter McKenna himself—was willing to testify for the prosecution, he said he had no option but to dismiss the case.

It is a rare week that there is not at least one case similar to that of Peter McKenna here in Northern Ireland.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



The other side of the Social Contract: Hospital staff and parents at the Pendlebury Children's Hospital in Manchester know that the government wage cut policies are not solving their problems—which is why they were out picketing on Monday. Half the wards in the hospital have been closed because of the rundown in staffing and the government cuts in the Health Service budget. After Wilson's 'Year for Britain' maybe there will be no hospitals at all...

LABOUR BRIBES THE RACISTS

THE LAST LINE of defence for many of the government's supporters is to say that however bad its policies are, they are better than the Tories' would be. Often they point to its foreign policies as an example.

Yet the government has taken a decision which must bring a pleasant glow to the racist right-wing of the Tory Party. Eric Varley, the one-time Labour left who is now industry minister, has agreed to the state-owned British Steel Corporation investing £20 million in South Africa.

The Tory press has, of course, jumped to the government's defence. Politics, it says, must not be allowed to interfere with 'business'.

What a contrast with the official announcement the week before that the Common Market agreed, under British government pressure, to put increased tariffs on clothing imports from Portugal. This will push up the prices of many clothes in Britain by 10p in the £, and will cause considerable unemployment in Portugal.

The measure reflected disapproval in Britain and Brussels of the left-wing drift of Portuguese society. It was designed to put pressure on some of the army officers in Lisbon to intervene and push things to the right.

There was no talk about 'politics' interfering with business. The Tories and the government agreed that a country where the control of big business is threatened, as in Portugal, has to be treated much more harshly than a regime which denies the most elementary rights to the mass of the population on the basis of their skin colour.

Tribune MPs, left, right and feeble...

THE TRIBUNE group of Labour MPs have been receiving a lot of attention. That is not surprising, since they have been the only people inside the parliamentary Labour Party even to murmur in protest as the government forgets all its electoral promises.

But how feeble their protests have been. Only half opposed the government's measures, while others defended them without being forced to leave the group.

And, when it came to it, even the opponents of the freeze abstained on the final reading of the so-called anti-inflation bill.

But more important than all

this, they are still confining their protests to strictly parliamentary channels.

They are not taking the initiative in organising rank and file trade unionists to fight against the £6 freeze when it comes before union conferences and the TUC.

They have no intention of organising for strikes against the freeze, the social service cut-backs and the rising toll of redundancies.

The most they think of is moving resolutions through various conferences and committees. Yet while they argue over the wording of their resolu-

tion the dole queues grow larger and living standards fall.

This is even true of the Labour left outside parliament. The resolution against Reg Prentice in Newham Labour Party will have brought a little joy to every socialist.

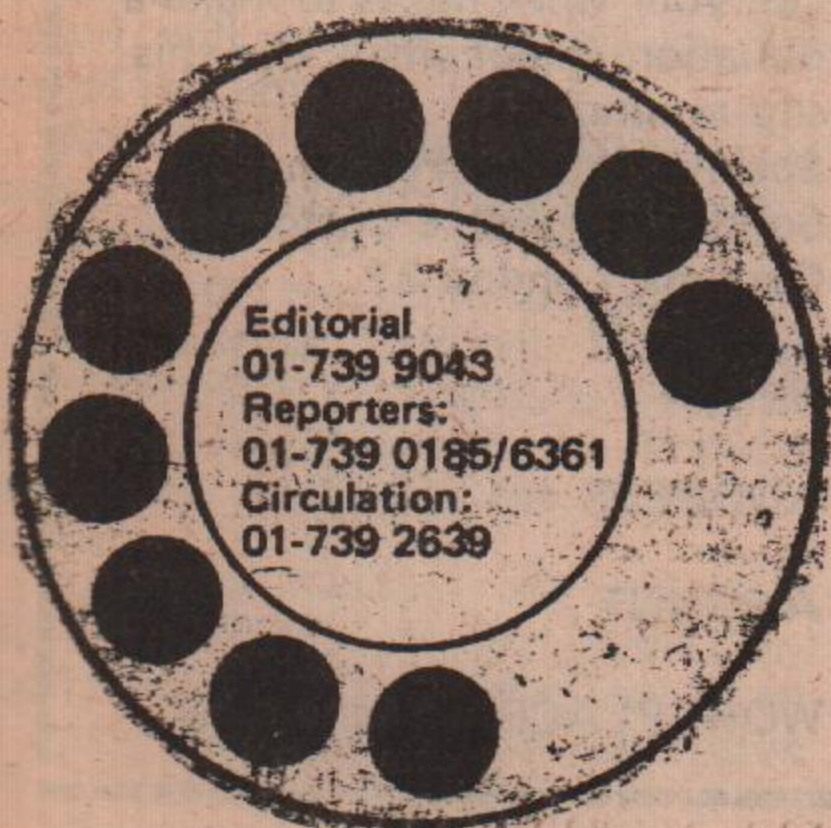
But it is not going to stop Prentice remaining as Newham's MP for the next three years, and it may well be over-ruled by the Labour NEC in any case.

Certainly it is not going to stop the freeze, the cutbacks, the dole queues. It is not going to stop Prentice talking of national unity and Wilson imposing national misery.

For that, what is needed is a fight where working class power really exists—in the factories, the docks, the white-collar work places.

And a mechanism is needed that will begin to co-ordinate the fight-back, to bring unity to disparate activities of thousands of militants, the unity of action, not merely of resolution-mongering.

The impotent protests and the internal divisions within the Tribune group show that what is really needed is not the politics of parliamentary pressure, but the politics of a revolutionary organisation.





Nancy McGrath with the key to the factory the day the occupation started.

FAKENHAM: UNION PUTS THE BOOT IN

THE SUPERVISORY staff's union ASTMS and their East Anglian official R Spiller are taking Nancy McGrath, leader of the women's occupation in Fakenham, Norfolk, to court for recovery of £60.

Spiller and Nancy had signed an undertaking to pay for the electricity used during the occupation. This amounted to £120. The union paid the bill and are suing Nancy for half.

The women are in desperate trouble. Nancy's take-home pay is £20 a week, and she has no money to spare.

Why should the union resort to such a petty vindictive action against one of its most courageous members? Could it be because Nancy has spoken out against the union's failure to give whole-hearted support to the occupation?

ASTMS members should pass resolutions in their branches condemning head office for this decision. Send donations to Nancy McGrath, Fakenham Enterprises, Fakenham, Norfolk.

Q: What have these two men got in common with a Communist former trade union official?

PAT FARRELLY, a lifelong member of the Communist Party, and Hampshire divisional organiser for the Engineering Union until he was defeated in this year's union elections, has joined the management at Lansing Bagnall, the Basingstoke forklift truck manufacturers. He is to be the 'employee relations manager'.

A Lansing Bagnall spokesman told the Daily Telegraph last Thursday: 'We are lucky to have his services'.

Lansing Bagnall have always operated a paternalistic policy towards their workers, frowning heavily on the sort of militant trade unionism which Farrelly had stood for all his working life.

Company chairman Sir Emmanuel Kaye made his money manufacturing ball bearings during the war.

Until 1970, Kaye was a staunch Tory, paying a regular £5000 a year into Tory funds from his company. In 1967, he invited Reginald Maudling, the former Tory Chancellor, to join the board (at £5000 a year).

Solid

Maudling, who was setting up with architect John Poulson (jailed for corruption) and financier Jerome Hoffman (jailed for corruption), readily agreed.

By 1970, however, Kaye discovered that if you want to get honours in this country you have to be friendly with both political parties.

So he started paying £5000 to the personal office of Harold Wilson, leader of the Labour Party. Wilson used the money for a researcher.

It is still being paid, along with the £5000 to the Tory Party. Last year Kaye was rewarded with a knighthood.

Tony Bonner (AUEW convenor Martonair Farlington, Portsmouth, writes:

Pat Farrelly's departure to the other side in the class war has been greeted more in sorrow than in anger by his many supporters among



A: They're all well in with the bosses at Lansing Bagnall

militants in this city.

He was a popular official who built up a reputation for straight dealing and for standing by workers in struggle.

His decision not to return to the shop floor is a disgrace. He could have kept the flame of militancy alive wherever he went to work. Instead, he will be doing Lansing Bagnall's dirty work.

But his sell-out is just as much a criticism of the strategy of the Broad Left in the union, which supported Farrelly.

The Broad Left relied almost entirely on Farrelly's position and reputation as existing full-timer. They did nothing to build a powerful rank and file movement in his

support.

This lack of rank and file support left Farrelly vulnerable to right wing defeat in the election. Worse than that, it left him high and dry when he was defeated.

There was no rank and file movement for him to turn to, so, like Labour politicians who go out to pasture in the House of Lords when they lose their seats, Farrelly has gone off to graze with the very people he has opposed all his political life.

There will be more Farrellys and more disillusionment until AUEW members learn the lesson and start to build a genuine rank and file movement round the Engineers' Charter.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR PORTUGAL'S WORKERS

Action to get the trade union movement in Britain to express its support for Portugal's workers has to be stepped up. Readers of Socialist Worker should make sure that speakers from the Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese Working Class are invited to as many union bodies as possible. Write to: 18 Fleet Road, London NW3.

Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund

This week we have received another £131. Portuguese Fund collection sheets have been sent in from the London School, Sedgill School, London, Portslade School Hove, Ealing Green School London.

Another 20 bankers orders have arrived, guaranteeing a further £240 in the next six months.

DIRECT aid for Portuguese revolutionaries is also needed. The Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund has been set up to help with both these tasks.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE WORKERS badges: 20p each including postage, 10p each for orders of more than 100 (plus 25p postage per 100). Proceeds to Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund. Orders to Elana Dallas, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

ETU subs—paid by the boss

EMPLOYERS in the electrical contracting industry no longer just deduct union dues at source on behalf of the Electricians' Union. The employers now actually pay the union dues.

This amazing scheme is the latest development in the long-running saga of the Joint Board for Electrical Contracting, the guild set up nearly ten years ago by employers and right-wing union officials to police the industry.

Until a few weeks ago, the JIB obligingly checked off union dues. But now each JIB member firm simply pays over the the Industry Board a slightly larger amount of money to cover its membership obligations.

This will include a fixed sum which will be turned over to the union as payment of union dues.

The dues will cover every worker in the employ of a JIB firm. So the union will collect without having to go to the 'trouble' of recruiting and organising new members.

Nor does there appear to be any formalised way of contracting out for workers who do not want the boss to pay and who want to continue paying themselves.

Why is it that electrical contractors are willing to stump up the cash? And why is it that the Tory press, which attacks trade union power in general and the closed shop in particular, has not entered even one word of protest?

The answer is that the arrangement is part of a structure which helps the employer to maintain control over workers.

The JIB scheme is rigidly centralised. It removes rank and file power and initiative from bargaining. A system of bureaucratic rules and penalties exists to discipline 'dissenters'.

In effect, the employers and the union officials police the industry jointly.

Just how valuable the scheme is to the employers can be seen from a 1970 dispute on the £1 million Rashleigh, Phipps electrical contract

on the new Charing Cross Hospital in London.

Faced with a potential strike, Rashleigh Phipps director S G Leonard went to the site to review the situation. He didn't come just as a company director, though. He came as a member of the London Region JIB.

As such, his relations with union officials were not only on the usual friendly basis. They were formalised through the JIB.

Having visited the site, Leonard fired off a set of memos to London JIB chairman W P Blair. One of them was the 'confidential chit chat' which Leonard claimed to have picked up.

Leonard finished his communication by asking Mr Blair's advice on how to proceed against the workers.

Mr Blair is, of course, also a member of the executive of the Electricians Union, the union which organised the electricians employed

by Leonard's firm Rashleigh and Phipps.

With the new dues deal, this corporate relationship has become closer still. As one contracting steward put it to Socialist Worker:

'It's bad enough that we don't elect most of our union officials. Now we don't even pay them. From now on, the bosses are doing that.'

Many rank and file contracting workers find this situation dispiriting. The union becomes more and more remote, more and more of a stranger. Interest disappears and the lump expands.

But this is not a fixed and final situation. The bureaucratic union apparatus could be changed if there was strong and concerted rank and file organisation to campaign to restore the spirit and structure of independent trade unionism to the EETPU.

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

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT _____

WORKPLACE (if collection) _____



People's court free man who killed

LISBON, Monday:
IN the Palace of Justice at Comar, near Lisbon, last Thursday a historic judgement was made, the sort of judgement that judges call a 'precedent'. But this precedent was not set by a judge.

It was not handed down by a learned gentleman in a funny wig, but was made by ordinary working people, delegates from factory committees in the surrounding area.

The defendant, Jose Diogo, was accused of murdering Senhor Comumbano. For many years Comumbano had been exploiting and humiliating the farm workers on his

large estate of Catroverde, in the argicultural area of Alentejo, about 100 miles south of Lisbon. That he was a tyrant is disputed by none.

Not surprisingly, one of his workers finally decided to separate him from both his possessions and his earthly body. After spending a year in jail while the case was being prepared, Jose was finally brought before the popular tribunal. The judgement stated:

'We posthumously condemn Comumbano for the exploitation and oppression of the people of Catroverde, and we consider him to be an enemy of the people of

Alentejo.

'We do not consider Diogo to have committed any crime.'

Jose Diogo has been released. The sections of the press still dominated by the upper classes are none too happy about the case. But an editorial statement in Republica, the paper recently taken over by its own printworkers, had this to say: 'Humiliated, exploited and victimised, Jose Diogo decided to kill his oppressor. The people will eliminate their exploiters. All those who used to dole out bourgeois justice know that the people will do away with them.'

Portugal: a military dictatorship?

POLITICAL power in Portugal is in the hands of a small group of officers. No doubt, being officers, they would like to be dictators, but they haven't the power to play that game.

Portugal is one of the freest countries in the world. There is democracy everywhere—in the factories, the tenants' committees, the barracks and the streets. The army, on which any military dictatorship relies for its power, is no longer the reliable instrument of its officers.

The Armed Forces Movement (AFM) is the group of junior officers who carried out the coup on 25 April 1974, and found themselves trying to govern a country in which a revolution was going on. As the class struggle has got more bitter the AFM has begun to fall apart at the seams. Among the officers many are right wingers. Some are in the 'centre' supporting the Communist Party and its ideas of socialism. Some are to the left of the Communist Party.

Some of the left-wing officers, concentrated in the active military units of the security force, COPCON, are serious revolutionaries but others, like the Commander of COPCON, General Otelo de Carvalho, are after personal power.

POWER

YOU claim that Portugal is not a military dictatorship, but hasn't there been an attempt to smash the Socialist Party?

There has been no direct attack on the Socialist Party. The Socialist Party is a right-wing party which opposes workers' control in Portugal. It is pro-NATO and has plans for Portugal similar to Denis Healey's plans in Britain. The reality of the situation is such however that the Socialist Party's supposedly middle road socialism is completely unviable.

The economic crisis is so severe that a capitalist solution must of necessity involve the most ferocious repression of the working class.

Despite the Socialist Party's right-



Workers join soldiers on a Lisbon demonstration last month in favour of the move to workers' councils. Picture: Graham Black.

wing policies there have been no attacks on Socialist Party offices. There have been no beatings-up of Socialist Party meetings and marches. The official paper of the Socialist Party—'Socialist Portugal'—is produced regularly and sells on the streets without any interference at all.

But Socialist Party mobs have beaten up workers in the Communist Party and burnt down its offices.

SO who has been supporting the

Socialist Party's demonstrations?

There is a sizable middle class in Portugal whose reactionary instincts can be fanned by appropriate doses of anti-Communism.

The major attacks on Communist Party offices have been in the small towns to the North of Lisbon where the right-wing is enormously strong. All the 60,000 ex-members of the Fascist Portuguese Legion, all the supporters of Parties far to the right

of the Socialist Party have used the 'respectable' cover of a 'socialist' demonstration to crawl out of their holes and run amok.

The Communist Party is their first target, but their real aim is to smash every workers organisation, to push back the gains made by the working class and to re-impose right-wing, capitalist rule.

The Catholic Church, very influential in the North, has also been active organising reactionary elements. The Catholic Church hierarchy in Portugal has a long history of association with fascism and reaction. Agostino Laurencio the top man in the hated Portuguese secret police, the PIDE, was made a Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory.

Cardinal Manuel Goncalves Cerejeira, dictator Salazar's friend and later Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, showed where he stood on his return from a fund raising mission in Africa in 1974.

'The Portuguese people must work harder and know hunger to become humble,' he said.

ABSURD

BUT isn't there a danger of a Stalinist dictatorship in Portugal?

The Portuguese Communist Party's leaders might want to be in the same position as their counterparts in Russia or in Poland. But at the present moment they are not. They have no secret police at their disposal. They don't control the state and the army. They don't run prison camps for workers who oppose the system.

Stalinist dictatorships are only in-

stalled when the working class movement is weak. But in Portugal the workers movement is strong.

The real danger of the Communist Party's policies in Portugal is that they suggest that there is some poney middle road, that 'sacrifice' and 'hard work' are going to solve the problems.

It directs attention away from the reality that either the working class takes power of the revolution will be swept back and reaction installed.

ROLE

SO what are the prospects in Portugal?

Revolutionary socialists in Portugal are working flat out to strengthen and centralise the existing organs of workers power in Portugal into Soviets.

If they are successful in this task, if they are able to win those bodies for uncompromisingly revolutionary politics and for the practical seizure of power by the Portuguese working class, then the drama of Portugal can be brought to a truly splendid outcome.

This is by no means impossible, though the revolutionary forces are still small. What this means is that every socialist and militant in this country and elsewhere must redouble their efforts in solidarity with the Portuguese working class.

COLIN SPARKS

US involvement in Angola

THE fighting in Angola is presented in the British press as a struggle between two 'liberation groups'. The implication is that black people, like workers, cannot solve their own problems without causing chaos.

This racist myth covers the real facts about Angola—a country of immense potential wealth which international big business is determined will not be allowed to fall out of its control.

Angola, a Portuguese colony for many years, is due to get complete independence on 11 November.

But in the run up to independence the right-wing National Front for the Liberation of Angola is doing all in its power to smash the Popular Movement (MPLA), the liberation force.

Based on Kinshasa, the capital of the neighbouring country Zaire (formerly the Congo), the National Front is backed to the hilt by the forces of American imperialism.

The organisation is led by Holden

Roberto, a French-speaking Kinshasa businessman of Angolan origin. Roberto is married to the sister of President Mobutu of Zaire who is acknowledged to be one of Henry Kissinger's front men in black Africa.

The character of FNLA's activities in Angola was revealed in April this year when they sacked the offices of the Angolan trade union organisation, in Luanda, the Angolan capital. FNLA troops seized union records, office equipment, killed at least 28 people and forced the cancellation of May Day celebrations.

Fired

By contrast the MPLA encouraged groups of workers and subsistence farmers to organise basic health care and literacy classes and to build a popular administration to replace the colonial one. This has been necessary because of the decline in basic food production and worsening hunger.

The Americans have been arming FNLA to try to smash the MPLA. The fact that FNCA also has some arms from China does not alter its basic character—although it does say something about Chinese policy.

Last weekend a group of Portuguese soldiers shot 20 militants of the MPLA. This shows how wrong are those who believe the Portuguese Army in Angola can play a progressive role. If Portugal's rulers are serious about their claim that they want to end imperialism in Africa, they should withdraw the colonial army and declare their full support for the real liberation movement, the MPLA.

They should abandon the pretence of 'neutrality' and offer it the most modern arms, as much arms training as it needs, and volunteers from the Portuguese forces to fight under MPLA discipline. Leaving the present army in Angola can only lead to more incidents like that last weekend.



US blacks show whites how to fight for jobs

What are the main problems facing black Americans today?

UNEMPLOYMENT. There are nine million Americans out of work. A quarter of all black workers have no job—that's double the white rate.

This time it's hitting the parents, not just the young people, particularly in the garment trades and the little sweat shops. The bosses are using the excuse of lay-offs to sack black militants and anyone who looks likely to fight or organise, specially in non-unionised shops.

It's always the blacks that take the rap, because they have no seniority. It's last in, first out. We have had no factory occupations like you have.

Then there's housing. Discrimination drives us into ghettos, which have lousy schools. So the

FRED HOOPER, a black militant and leading member of the American International Socialists, will be in Britain next week for a speaking tour. Before leaving Detroit, he was interviewed for Socialist Worker by Nigel Harris.

kids—if they get any education at all—get lousy jobs. Has there been any fight-back against lay-offs?

There are some black rank and file groups starting. Take the Black Workers' Coalition in Louisville. They are mainly auto workers who got together three years ago to fight racial discrimination.

They started off excluding whites but are now bringing in white militants and forming an opposition movement inside the unions. They've had a number of victories this year, not just in autos but in the hospitals and General Electric.

What happened to the government programme to help black people?

After the big fight by black people in the Sixties, Nixon set up his Human Relations Commission and made around £7 million available to finance black business.

The Commission in Louisville is run by the black businessmen. The president, Bill Summers, owns a newspaper, is on the Board of Education and is a Church Minister. He must be getting more than £20,000 a year. He's more conservative than the whites.

Most black businesses collapsed in the crisis. They were little clothing stores, restaurants, book and record shops. The dream of black

capitalism, the supposed saviour of American blacks, is over. But it served its purpose. For £7 million Nixon bought off the black revolt. What black organisations are fighting racialism?

The old ones have gone. Blacks lost all confidence in the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People and the black nationalist movement didn't lead anywhere.

The Black Panthers were different. They looked to the black working class. But they took to politics that isolated them—and they were murdered.

A lot of us also resented the dictatorship inside the organisation. It was a real Stalinist set-up with superstars at the top like Edridge Cleaver or Huey P Newton.

Bobby Seale—who had said that Democrats and Republicans represented the same ruling class—sold out and joined the Democratic Party. Cleaver fled to Algeria and

and formed the All-African People's Revolutionary Party.

He got crazy ideas, saying the blacks in America could never change things, that American blacks were all foreigners in America, and that Africa was the only place where it is happening.

But the Panthers were beginning to see the issue as one of workers against capitalism. They began to develop good relations with white militants—that's when the State smashed them up.

In this country, blacks can preach about the need to hate all whites. And, of course, the Ku Klux Klan, the John Birch Society and the Nazis preach straight race hatred of the blacks. Nothing happens.

But once black and white workers look like getting together, they are murdered, whether they are for revolution or just reforms. That's what happened to Martin Luther King, and to our finest leader, Malcolm X.

5 FIFTH COLUMN on how the Mail came unstuck



with this front page



THE GREAT Daily Mail exposure of Tony Kelly on 17 July, the Labour Party 'plotter' against Reg Prentice should have been a personal triumph for that paper's Northern news editor Ian Mean, and for London assistant editor Jack Crossley. Alas for them, it was not to be.

For now the future plans of these two seem somewhat uncertain. Having by 4pm on the day before publication constructed a story which blackened Kelly, Mean and his reporters were jubilant.

Mean and reporter Andrew Woodley had just received congratulatory telegrams from the Mail bosses. Their 'scoop' dragging Kelly's private life through the front page of the paper, was in the 'best traditions of the Daily Mail', they were told. £100 bonuses would follow for their efforts in trying to shatter Kelly's life. These telegrams are known as 'herograms.'

That evening Mean was celebrating in a Manchester pub, when he received an urgent message recalling him to the Mail's office. Smug complacency was followed by alarm. 'Had they checked that Kelly hadn't paid maintenance money to his wife?'

REMEMBER the stories of a couple of weeks ago about the plot by the Provisional IRA to defraud the social security of £10 million for its own nefarious purposes?

The Social Security have made their report. The newspaper concerned produced 'no hard facts to justify their headline that IRA terrorists have swindled £10 million out of the Social Security,' they reported. None of the 50 cases tried in the last two years involved Irishmen or women, and none had any connection with the IRA.

Funny how this news didn't get any publicity...

'Oh yes' said Mean. But Woodley hadn't. Confusion, panic and fury reigned in both London and Manchester.

Were proprietor Vere Harmsworth and editor David English concerned at the new low in 'investigative journalism' the Mail had sunk to? No they weren't. Their concern was that 40,000 copies of the Mail had had to be scrapped and that large areas of the paper had to be rewritten to get the paper out of trouble. And that costs money.

So even as the substantial remains of the Kelly character assassination hit the streets Ian Mean was on his way to London to face English. The result is that Mean now appears to be out of a job and Crossley has been shifted. Mean is apparently unhappy about an alter-

The Daily Mail, 17 July 1975.

native job offer from the Mail. Curiously the Mail's interest in Kelly's activities doesn't extend to other people's interest in them. The Manchester Daily Mail's story last week was that 'Mean is the news editor, he just happens to be on a week's holiday.'

Mr Mean seemed less certain. 'Am I the news editor? I don't want to talk about it.'

But surely a news editor should, as a basic piece of news, know if he is news editor?

'You should give the editor a ring about that, you should talk to him, I don't know,' said the wretched Mean, who has been known as the 'Pernod Kid' in happier times because of his interesting drinking habits.

Curiously David English was unavailable. He has just gone off on an (unscheduled) three week holiday. But an aide in his office was more forthcoming about the Pernod Kid than Manchester had been. Was he still on the staff?

'Well, it's in the editor's mind... He may feel his job's in jeopardy after the aah... incident. I can't really say anymore.'

But it can be stated with some certainty that Mr Mean has passed on from his post, and so has Mr Crossley. They were not the subject of a special meeting of the Daily Mail, like their hero Reg Prentice received from Newham Labour Party, they were quickly, and simply, bounced.

'What gets me about all this is all the hypocrisy,' said an informant. 'I don't have any views about Tony Kelly's private life one way or the other, but the idea that that shower, with all the skeletons in their own private lives—and there are plenty, should try and smash someone like that is sickening.'

So although Tony Kelly has been viciously attacked, in the 'best traditions of the Daily Mail' some good has come out of it. Two hacks have been 'redeployed'. The Mail lost a few copies,

David English has an unexpected holiday and Vere Harmsworth has lost a few more bob on his steadily sinking newspaper.

And after the speed with which the authorities moved in arresting Tony Kelly one should confidently assume it will only be a matter of hours before they move against the Daily Mail for its breaches of the Rehabilitation Act, which forbids publication of details of past convictions after a specified period. Which clearly applies to the Tony Kelly affair and come into force 16 days before the Pernod Kid was gunned down by his fellow cowboys.

Defence

Other organisations are appearing now. I mentioned the Coalition in Louisville. There's the United Black Workers in New Jersey, and that includes white and foreign workers. There's the Congress of African Peoples in Newark.

There is great potential here, linking up the struggles of all workers, and especially the minorities like the blacks, the Chicanos and the Indians.

The white workers are changing, too. Some are seeing for the first time what it's like to be thrown out of work and out of your home. 1700 people a week are evicted in Chicago, and going on to welfare. In the past, that only happened to blacks.

And the blacks are changing. They know now they can't win on their own. They have neither the numbers nor the resources to win in a racial civil war such as the nationalists used to glorify. They need to build a united revolutionary party, an army that unites all workers for the conquest of power.

Now we can take the community issues on to the shop floor. I started an organisation in Louisville to do just that—Workers for Collective Progress. We have held a couple of meetings on solidarity with the Attica prisoners, on racialism in the lay-offs, and we got a good response.

Some of these brothers will come into IS. They must, for I believe we are the only serious contender for workers' power in the very heart of world capitalism.

Speaking tour by two US rank and file militants and members of the US International Socialists.

Fighting capitalism in America

GLASGOW: Tuesday 5 August, 7.30pm, IS Books, 64 Queen Street. Speaker: Joel Geier (national chairman US IS)

COVENTRY: Wednesday 6 August, 7.30pm, IS Books, 65 Queen Victoria Road. Speaker: Joel Geier

CENTRAL LONDON: Friday 8 August, 8pm, The Roebuck, 108a Tottenham Court Road, W1 (Euston Square tube). Speakers: Joel Geier and Fred Hooper (chairman, Black Workers for Collective Progress, Louisville)

BIRMINGHAM: Saturday 9 August, lunchtime. Place to be announced next week. Speakers: Joel Geier and Fred Hooper

What happened to black power?

SOUTH LONDON: Tuesday 5 August, 8pm, Clapham Library, Clapham Common North Side, SW4. Speaker: Fred Hooper

NORTH LONDON: Wednesday 6 August, 8pm, Stroud Green School, Ennis Road, (Finsbury Park tube) London N4. Speakers: Fred Hooper and Martha Osamor on Black in Britain—the Way Forward.

WEST LONDON: Thursday 7 August, 8pm, Woodlands Hall, Crown Street, Acton. Speaker: Fred Hooper

JOIN THE NATIONAL FRONT

50 Pawsons Rd., Croydon, Surrey CR0 2QF

THIS sticker, from a wall in Hackney, East London provides a useful example of the cutting edge that the fascists of the National Front brings to all their political activity. Remember to use metal when scraping fascism from walls, soft soap has long been proven ineffective...

INDIA This 'saviour of the people' is fooling no one

WHEN Mrs Gandhi made her dawn swoop on the homes of her political opponents, it was clear that the official emergency was to safeguard Mrs Gandhi's own position. Since then she has tried to pose as the saviour of the people, as the champion of progressive elements waging war against the right-wing reactionaries.

This heroic self-portrait can deceive no one. The declaration of the state of emergency is the climax of several years of repressive and authoritarian rule by the Congress government.

For the past ten years more than 30,000 political prisoners have been held in Indian jails without trial, elected state legislatures have been dismissed and president's rule imposed, strikes have been smashed by mass arrests of trade unionists, and the clamour of hungry rioters silenced by the lathies (truncheons) and bullets of the Central Reserve Police.

Recent arrests of a few hundred right-wing opponents cannot alter these brutal facts. It is true that the right-wing has taken advantage of the sense of disaffection in the country. But the 'forces of corruption' that Mrs Gandhi blames are those of the Congress party itself: 28 years of Congress rule has left the mass of the people deeper in poverty, with a tiny minority growing rich in a swamp of graft and corruption.

No one is fooled by Mrs Gandhi's 'new'

by Soonu Engineer

economic proposals. Congress has previously put forward radical economic policies—but only on paper. The celebrated land reforms, far from giving 'land to the tiller', resulted in mass evictions and growing landlessness among the peasantry.

Only the landlord-turned-capitalist farmer has benefitted—from the cheap labour of landless peasants, from the money pumped in by US-backed agricultural projects, and from the government-backed high prices of food grains.

FAILED

It is not good enough, now, for Mrs Gandhi to try to win a bit of popularity by releasing more grain to Fair-price shops. How long can she offer this little bribe? When the stocks run out, she will have to confront the rich farmers and grain dealers. A year ago she tried to nationalise the grain trade and failed.

The financial backers of Congress include big industrialists like Birla. Mrs Gandhi has already promised them that she will not 'inter-

fere'. In rural areas, Congress' power depends on the support of the big landlords. They will tolerate Mrs Gandhi's socialist rhetoric so long as it is not translated into action.

The real opposition to Mrs Gandhi's government has come from workers and peasants who have fought against cuts in their living standards, against artificial food-shortages, and against forced eviction from their land. Mrs Gandhi's 'solution' to their problems has been to double expenditure on the central police force over the past ten years, and to increase military spending by five times.

In rural areas, where landless labourers are involved in struggle just to get the official minimum wage of 15p a day, large contingents of State Reserve Police are posted in their neighbourhoods to maintain 'law and order'.

Over the past 12 months, working-class opposition to Congress' Goonda Raj (gangster rule) has been growing, with strikes by jute workers, dockers, textile workers, and white-collar workers. Mrs Gandhi has made her stand quite clear: she stands against them. Her attack on 'disruptive elements' includes a 'special warning to workers': no strikes, no go-slows, and above all no political agitation.

END OF THE CAPITALIST ROAD...

by Farooq Nawaz

ONE lesson comes out clearly from the events in India is that the capitalist road to economic and political advancement is well and truly closed. Indian capitalism has come to a dead end. It cannot deliver.

It cannot provide food for India's growing population. Big landlords and rich peasants can dictate the price of grain while millions go hungry. It cannot even wrest the grain out of the grasping hands of hoarders and speculators. Most important, it cannot provide jobs to absorb the growing army of the landless unemployed that has flocked to the cities.

For the past 50 years the Communist Party of India (CPI) has tied its hands behind its back and waited patiently for the 'progressive middle class', represented by the Congress Party, to break the shackles of landlordism and economic backwardness. It can keep waiting another 50 years.

The middle class is weak in relation to the landlords and rich peasants. It is weak in relation to international capitalist countries. Now the world crisis has blocked any chance it had. It is futile to argue, as the CPI does, that with the right-wing forces locked up, Mrs Gandhi is now free to use radical economic policies.

Campaign

The truth is that as reformist solutions to India's problems become more irrelevant the Congress Party can remain in power only through repression and force.

Industrial workers, landless labourers and poor peasants number millions in India today. Large sections of the working class are concentrated in big factories in industrial towns. The crisis of inflation and unemployment has thrown them again and again into struggle.

On the other side, the ruling-class is in disarray—disagreeing on the forms of dictatorship, on the tactics of oppression.

In this situation, the task of revolutionaries is to build an independent workers' organisation, capable of overthrowing the system that today hampers development. It means giving organised support and direction to workers' struggle, participating in each activity that raises the level of class consciousness and confidence.

In India today, organised workers and peasants struggling for state power are the only progressive force. Middle Class reformism has outlived its use.

AVICTIM OF GANDHI'S LAW

TARLOCHAN Dulay (right), an active member of the Leamington No 5 branch of the AUEW, went back to India to visit relatives and worked with others to build a union for transport workers.

For this 'crime' he was arrested and since 4 June, has been held without trial in jail. His family and parents have no idea when they will next see him.

Under the new law, he can remain in prison indefinitely without charges being made against him.

Tarlochan, who came to Britain in 1960, was arrested in Raikot in the North Punjab. His relatives estimate that more than 1000 people from that district alone have been jailed. Few are the 'right wing opportunist politicians' the Indian government claims the repression is aimed against. Most are workers and peasants who oppose the government from the left.



Greece and democracy: Police batter building workers

BUILDING workers here in Athens got a brutal lesson in the meaning of democracy last week.

They staged a one-day strike last Wednesday and held a mass meeting in protest against massive unemployment in the trade and the fact that the government is doing nothing to help them.

The meeting took place at 9am. By 10 o'clock that night at least two were dead and hundreds wounded. One hundred were under arrest. The centre of Athens stank of tear gas and everyone was saying it was exactly like the time of the Junta.

It started at 10am when the police refused the building workers permission to march to the Ministry of Employment. At this the Communist-Party dominated leadership of the builders agreed that no march should take place. They agreed to make their way to the Ministry by the back streets.

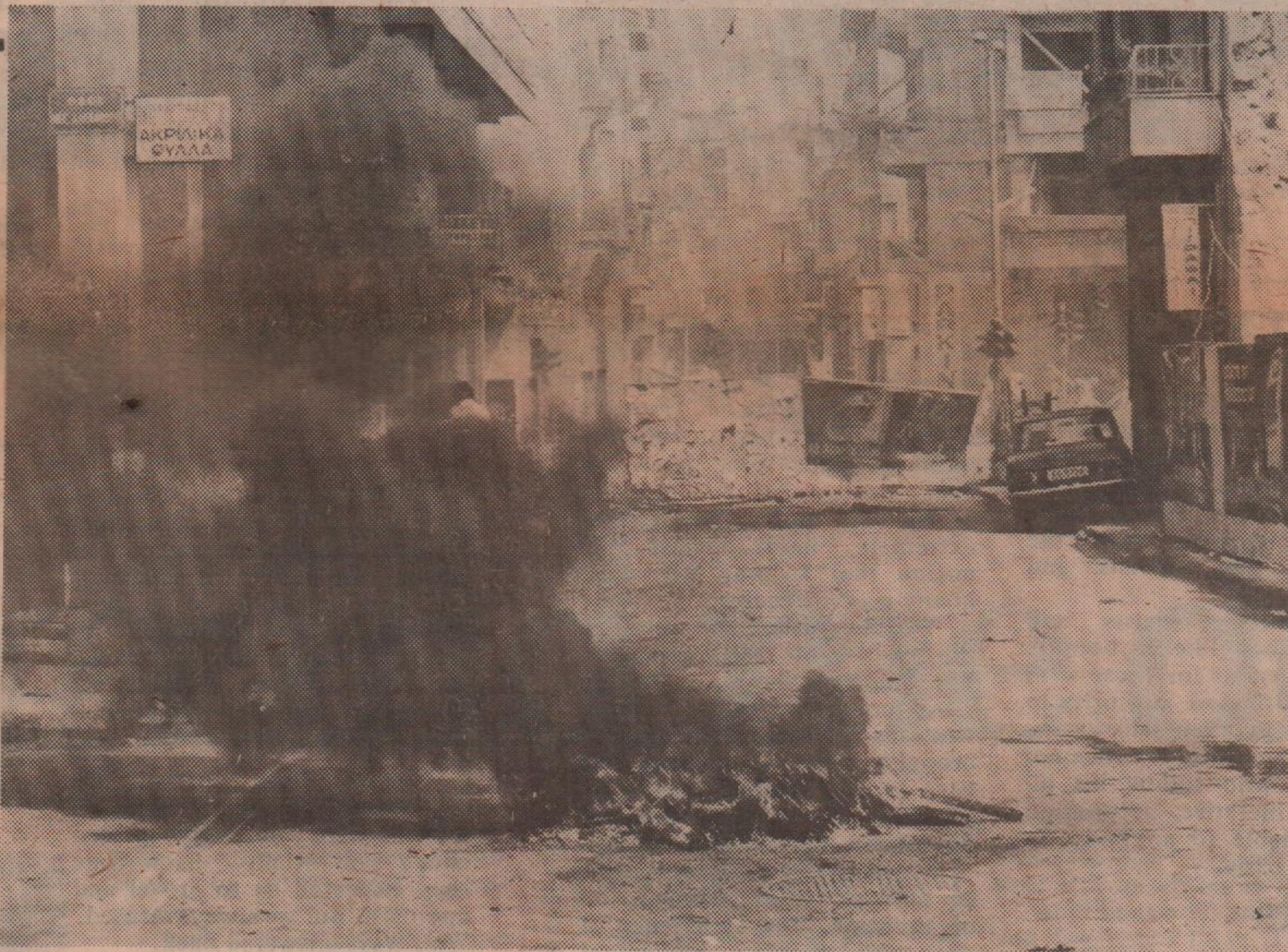
But rank and file building workers would have none of it. They wanted to march as planned. So the police began their attack.

They began by firing cannisters of the CS gas into the mass of workers. Worst of all were the tear gas bullets which can maim and kill.

But the builders were not intimidated. They formed into separate groups and fought back. Despite attacks by armoured vehicles, gas, clubs, the lot, despite all the forces at the disposal of the police, the building workers repeatedly drove the police into corners by hurling stones and bricks at them.

On several occasions during the day the police drew their guns and fired at the demonstrators.

Later in the morning the building workers were joined by students. Together they managed to destroy one of the armoured vehicles by throwing a concrete mixer on top of it from a scaffold on a building site. The police continued their attack throughout the day. They



George Gionis of the Greek organisation Socialist Revolution reports from Athens.

concentrated especially on bystanders.

Every five minutes the radio broadcast an announcement from the Communist Party and Socialist Party youth organisations saying they had cancelled the rally to mark the anniversary of the fall of the junta and the return of the so-called democracy. They instructed all members and supporters to stay at home.

Class

Inside the Athens Polytechnic, scene of a heroic stand against the Junta in November 1973, the newly-elected executive of the student union followed suit, saying the job of all real militants was... to go home.

During the late afternoon the police spent their time driving around in their armoured cars. They fired tear gas at people's balconies. They rushed into cafes and side streets generally trying to terrorise the population. The guardians of law and order smashing hundreds of shop windows with their tear gas bullets. Then they blamed their bloody work on 'anarchists' 'provo-

cateurs,' 'extremists'.

The fight continued into the night. The Karamanlis government thought they could simply disperse the building workers. They found instead the builders were willing to fight. They found also that thousands of others were willing to stand and fight shoulder to shoulder with them.

Karamanlis is under pressure from big business, the former backers of the junta, who one year ago contrived a democratic face. They insist that the government crack down on the workers and try to smash their organisations.

But the workers have launched a wave of strikes. Workers in industries ranging from the shipyards, to light engineering and textiles have been involved.

All are demanding a 35 per cent wage increase, better conditions and recognition of their union. To curb this threat Karamanlis brought out the armoured vehicles and let loose the might of the state against the building workers, the most militant section of the Greek working class.

The fact that he got a 12-hour street battle instead of a speedy victory shows how unsuccessful he was.

Chief among the many lessons of the struggle is that the face of capitalist democracy is exposed for all to see. It is no democracy at all.

A barricaded street in Athens after the police attacks had ended.

Shock for Prentice, lover of wheel-on wheel-off democracy

IF A MAJORITY in a meeting of 26 members of the Newham North East Labour Party decide that Reg Prentice should be their general election candidate, they are a properly constituted selection committee.

If a majority in a meeting of 48 decide that Mr Prentice should not be re-adopted, they are a small band of left-wing extremists undermining British democracy.

This is the absurd message that every major newspaper has been drumming into people's heads for the past few weeks.

They are an amazingly dishonest and hypocritical bunch, our newspaper owners and editors. If there was such a thing as justice, they would be arrested for grand fraud.

For these gentlemen who rattle on about democracy are elected by no-one and answerable to no-one.

These same gentlemen—you will remember—gave no support at all to Labour MP Eddie Milne when he was bumped from the Blyth Northumberland Labour Party.

But then Eddie Milne was demanding an inquiry into the corruption among the 'moderates' and right wingers in the Labour Party, the Labour government and other places besides.

But the Prentice affair reaches deeper yet. It raises clearly the question of what democracy is and what it is not.

Prentice claims that since he was elected by the people of Newham, he is answerable only to them. But in what way is he answerable?

Real

When someone in his own Labour Party even tries to call him to account, the people of Newham and elsewhere are bombarded by propaganda on his virtues and the menace posed by his opponents.

As for his constituents, why if they ask to see him about such things as the jailing of the Shrewsbury Two, he refuses even to meet them. Some democrat this.

The truth is that for Reg Prentice, the electors of Newham are a stage army to be wheeled on and off every five years to vote him back into the position he so deeply loves.

Even a superficial examination of the way he talks, and



Prentice with some of the policemen who were sent to picket the Newham Labour Party offices in his support.

by LAURIE FLYNN

the way the newspapers who support him write, proves this.

They keep shouting about activists. Why is that? The answer is simple. Reg Prentice and his friends who control the press don't like activists and activity.

They like passivists and passivity. They like it because it makes it easier for those with power, wealth and authority to walk all over us in our daily lives.

In reality neither Prentice nor the others who follow his increasingly lucrative occupation are accountable to anybody on any serious basis.

Crisis

He puts his wares on show, or rather the party machine puts its wares on show through him, every five years.

For a brief second every five years therefore more people are involved in democracy. For the rest of the time we are to submit quietly to the tyranny of the boss the landlord and the mortgage company.

Left-wing members of the Labour Party tend to think that all these things are recent developments in their party. But in fact in the so-called golden age of socialism, the founder of the party, Keir Hardie, and his associates fought just as hard on

these very issues.

They fought hard in 1907 to ensure that Labour MPs were not bound by conference decisions. They fought to ensure that the Party leaders and the Party leaders alone had the right to choose ministers, an undemocratic set-up if ever there was one.

What is more, they fought extremely hard against the notion that Labour MPs were in any way 'delegates'.

Yet delegation and recall is the essence of real democracy. The Chartists, the mass working class movement whose demonstrations and organised strength brought what democracy we have to this country, clearly recognised this in their demand for annually elected parliaments.

For our situation, even this is not a radical enough re-organisation. The experience of the working class movement over the past 50 years since we first sent our 'representatives' to 'their parliament' shows that having your own representatives is not enough.

For the working class to be free and to exercise power you need something more. You need your own system of representation, a system founded on day-to-day democracy and immediate recall, a system rooted in the factories where you work and the housing estates where you live.

It is that kind of system that Portuguese workers are trying to build, despite hysterical denunciations from the same newspapers which constantly attack and vilify the socialist left in this country.

Those newspapers detected the faintest whiff of such a system in the meeting of 48 people who decided that they had been sold out by Reginald Prentice long enough.

But it is only the faintest whiff because the activities of those people are still aimed virtually exclusively at Parliament and not at the embryos of true democracy that exist in the local community—the shop stewards' committees in the docks, the chemical plants and factories of East London—and beyond.

RICKY TOMLINS FREED AFTER TWO YEARS FOR PICKETING



Ricky and Marlene Tomlinson, flanked by Pe Building Workers' Charter, get away from the they can. Ken Barlow, Midlands UCATT orga Marlene.

I didn't

let the bastards

AT half past seven last Friday morning, Ricky Tomlinson, jailed Shrewsbury picket, walked out of Leicester prison into the sun.

They had kept him in different prisons for more than 15 months, cruelly prolonging the agony by allowing him bail on appeal and then locking him up again.

They had systematically victimised him. The national press, with the hearty support of Home Secretary Roy Jenkins and his henchman Reg Prentice, had insulted and abused him and his family.

If they hoped to break him, they have utterly failed.

The class which locked Ricky Tomlinson up will find that he is an even tougher adversary than he was before the Shrewsbury trial.

On the morning of his release, Ricky was full of stories of the treatment which he and Des Warren suffered in prison. Especially at Sudbury, which is meant to be an 'open prison' where prisoners are treated like human beings, the governor and his staff singled out the two pickets for harassment and humiliation.

'We were both constantly up on charges for petty offences which were normally passed over', said Ricky. 'Each time they expected us to grovel and apologise. But we always refused. We always answered back.'

'Des lost about 50 days in remission for these petty offences. Once, he lost seven days for not having his feet on the ground at 6.45am. Another time, he lost ten days for washing his hair when the bell went in the evening. The bell went off at different times, mind you—there was no way of telling when it would go off. But he was still charged and sentenced. Others were formally charged for the same offence—and let off with a reprimand'.

Parade

The two cushiest jobs at Sudbury are held by its two most pampered prisoners—who were convicted in a Birmingham corruption trial. Maudsley, the former city architect, is the prison librarian, and Sharpe, his accomplice, is the prison postman. The real criminals, the contractors who paid them profitable council contracts, are still at large.

At Sudbury, Ricky himself was involved in a row over photographs. His wife Marlene brought him pictures of herself and the children. Every other prisoner had such photographs up on the wall or shelf, but Ricky was told he could not



Marlene and Ricky with International Socialists' n in Leicester on the morning of the release.

have the photographs because he was in them.

'It's against the regulations', he was told. 'You are not allowed to be in the pictures yourself.'

The following day, Sunday, the prisoners lined up for the weekly inspection by the governor. On Sundays, the prisoners wore their best suits, and bowed and scraped to the governor as he came round.

Ricky put on his tie—and nothing else except his underpants.

'When the governor came

round, he too and his upper "What's this, said. "No shirt said, "it's in the you". So he says. "I'm con o'clock and fully dressed". "When he'd all the prison must all con o'clock, becau in the nude". "Well, the came back. He

CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT?

by Roger Kline

An International Socialists' pamphlet on the Labour Party and why 'the parliamentary road to socialism' is a dead end.

10p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.



SON



Ricky Tomlinson, the Carter of the prison as fast as a train, is behind



First cup of tea in freedom.

Away from the prison, Ricky and Marlene chat over a cup of tea.

ards grind me down



National secretary Jim Nichol (left) and Paul Foot

one look at me, it went very stiff. Tomlinson," he said. "Oh, yes," I said. "Oh, yes," I said. "Oh, yes," I said.

gone, I turned to the governor and said: "You've got me back at seven o'clock. I'm going to be bottled out."

"I lost five days remission for that, but it was worth it. And I got my photographs the next day."

"I think we showed some of the lads in there not to lie down and take everything," Ricky went on. "The whole prison system is based on prisoners moaning and creeping. An experienced trade unionist can change things."

"In the mornings, for instance, you come out with your slops from the night before. The screw opens the cell and shouts "Good morning" in a really

hearty voice, while the blokes slink out murmuring a weak reply.

"Well, I came out of my cell the first day, shouting 'Good morning!' right in his face. He almost fell down in a fit. And by the end of a week, every bloke down that line was coming out of his cell with his head high, shouting 'Good Morning', and the screws were slinking along the corridors opening the doors in silence."

Build

"Again, there's the work we did for outside firms. It's shocking the way those firms get such cheap labour out of the prisons. But people in prison in general have no experience of trade unions, no will to fight back."

"Des and I—we helped them fight for better conditions, constantly complained about the outside firms and the profit they were getting from our labour. It did make a difference."

"Well, we weren't liked by the authorities, as you can guess, but it's amazing how our case brought us support from other prisoners."

"People with little trade union experience began to take an interest and ask us about the case. One bloke who was in for 24 years called me over and said that my sentence was worse than his."

**INTERVIEW BY
PAUL FOOT
PICTURES BY
JOHN
STURROCK (Report)**

"In Sudbury we met blokes who had been hired by the building bosses to break the 1972 strike, even some who were on a special "anti-picket force". They were in prison for stealing because they couldn't live on the pittance they were paid to break our strikes. Almost all of them came up and said how much they supported us."

"When you and Jim Nichol [the national secretary of the International Socialists] sent me a telegram when my parole was refused, I was on the scaffolding, working."

"The screw brought me the telegram, and I asked him to shout it up to me. He yelled out the words of the telegram, and all the lads around cheered and stomped their feet. Great."

"We had a list in the prison for reading my copies of the Morning Star and Socialist Worker. There were about 30 of them reading them here at Leicester. There was more and more interest in the reports. I remember the article on the Carib

Club case—the black lads in there were very interested in that."

"Anything about police corruption fascinated them. They read about the police inspector who got fined £325 after causing all that damage. I tell you, he did more damage than 300 pickets did at Shrewsbury!"

While in prison, Ricky has read histories of the trade union movement, and is astonished how many working men have been sent to prison for conspiracy. "Always the same charge—conspiracy."

He is delighted by the removal of Labour right-winger Reg Prentice at Newham. "Harold Wilson's worried about Reg losing his job", he says. "If he'd shown half as much concern over 20,000 steelworkers losing their jobs I'd have been delighted."

Dole

He is appalled at the failure of many trade union officials to raise the Shrewsbury issue and fight for his and Warren's release. He wrote a furious letter to George Henderson, secretary of the building section of the Transport and General Workers Union, angrily protesting about his speech to the union's conference last month in which he opposed a motion calling for industrial action to free the two.

Henderson replied: "I have travelled the length and breadth

of the land attending rallies, speaking at meetings and endeavouring to obtain support for the campaign to free the Shrewsbury pickets."

What a pity neither Henderson nor any other official of the TGWU was outside Leicester prison to welcome Ricky Tomlinson. Ken Barlow, Midlands organiser for the building workers' union UCATT, had got up at 4am to be there.

Whipped

Ricky Tomlinson can hardly wait to campaign for the immediate release of Des Warren. "I'll speak anywhere, anywhere at all. I want to tell people about the conditions we were fighting against on that strike—the dirt, the disgusting toilets—if there were any, the dangers". He is open to invitations from trade union bodies anywhere in the country.

Don't waste him. Don't pass up the opportunity to get Ricky to speak at your union branch, trades council, shop stewards' meeting. His fighting spirit, sense of humour, and hatred for the system which maims and humiliates his fellow workers are mighty in weapons in the battle to free Des Warren from prison, and building workers everywhere from the grip of the gangsters who employ them.

ABORTION: Parliament may sleep—but not this campaign

THE parliamentary session is almost over—and the House of Parliament won't meet again until the Autumn. This means that James White's Abortion (Amendment) Bill will either fall, or have to be re-introduced. Moves are underway to introduce new restrictive legislation on abortion in the next session.

This threat was the key discussion at the International Socialists National Women's sub-committee last weekend.

The House of Commons Abortion Select Committee, dominated by male anti-abortionists, has published a special report asking the government to reappoint the committee at the start of the new parliamentary session in early November.

They can then go on meeting until the government introduces its own legislation, which it seems very likely to do.

A taste of that legislation is given in the report. A restrictive resolution from David Steele, MP, who favoured abortion, was defeated. It called on the government immediately to reduce the time limit for abortion from 28 weeks to 20 weeks, to alter the doctors' certificates to show that the doctor himself has examined the woman concerned, and to control the referral agencies.

The anti-abortion MPs on the Committee defeated that because they want something much worse. If they get the chance to word a new Bill it will be even more restrictive.

We in the International Socialists are against the James White Bill and any other restrictive legislation. We are in favour of free abortion on the National Health Service, as the only way to allow women to decide for themselves. The Catholic

Church, the Festival of Light and the majority of MPs won't let the matter drop now. The question is, how do we make them drop it?

There is only one way the legislation can be defeated, and that is by the sheer force of the opposition. The force the campaign needs is that of the organised working class, of the trade unions. Then we can fight to win.

We need to mobilise thousands of other workers in the campaign to defeat the Bill and to prevent the reappointment of the Select Committee. We need to work within the trade union movement, organise factory gate meetings, go round the trade union branches, and then we need another massive demonstration, before the end of the parliamentary session, in the Autumn to show the Parliament the strength of the opposition.

Every Socialist Worker reader should argue for this perspective in the local National Abortion Campaign groups. There is a danger that the campaign will go to sleep. NAC is organising a Conference in October, but if we want to prevent any new restrictive legislation we have to organise against it now.

If we loose, the campaign for women's rights will have taken a devastating blow.



Pamphlets from the International Socialists

- Can Socialism come through Parliament by Roger Kline, 10p
- Workers against Racism by Paul Foot, 10p
- Women Fight Back by Kath Ennis, 10p
- Trotsky by Duncan Hallas, 5p
- Lenin by Jim Higgins, 5p
- The Meaning of Marxism by Duncan Hallas, 30p
- Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism by Richard Kuper, 10p
- The Politics of Lenin by Paul Ginsborg, 20p
- Russia—How the Revolution was lost by Chris Harman, 15p
- Asbestos, the dust that kills in the name of profit, 10p
- National Front: The New Nazis, 10p
- The Struggle in Ireland by Chris Harman, 15p
- Black Workers in Britain (produced jointly with Chingari) 15p
- What's Happening to our Health Service? by IS Health Workers, 10p
- Crisis in British Leyland: our answer, 10p

All these pamphlets are available from IS branches, direct from the IS bookshops at 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4; 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1; 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham; 14 Grange Road, Middlesborough; 65 Queen Victoria Street, Coventry; and 4 Roseangle, Dundee; or by post from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (please add 4p for single copies, 8p for multiple copies, to cover postage).



What we stand for

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

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

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

The smashing of the capitalist state The state machine is a

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

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

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

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

WE ARE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____



THERE will be a school for IS teachers on Thursday and Friday 28 and 29 August, starting at 11am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, E2.

The school will have a session on the Crisis in Capitalism, dealing with the present economic crisis, Portugal, and the education cuts, and building the party, with particular reference to teachers, and the rank and file movement.

The school is intended for fraction executive members, who will have to lead the teachers work in the Districts.

Teachers attending should write to Jeannie Holbcrow, 9 Crosby Road, London E7 as soon as possible.

WHILE the teachers are on holiday every branch and district should organise rounds of all the newsagents. If every teacher spent one day of their holiday, going round the shops, and another following it up, the chances are we could get Socialist Worker into at least 500 newsagents. The Newsagents should get from 3p to 5p per copy sold.

CHINGARI ANSWERS MRS GANDHI'S EXCUSES

THE front page splash in the new Chingari is about India. A lot of Chingari readers accept Mrs Gandhi's plea that she was forced to declare a state of emergency because of growing right wing opposition to her regime. We tackle this issue head-on.

Chingari readers are also involved in the important struggles here, against wage restraint and unemployment. Another front page article explains that the £6 limit amounts to a wage cut, and doesn't protect us from unemployment.

A report on the Rank and File Conference on racialism, and the programme adopted, ties in with the problems of black workers in Walsall, and with the many strike experiences reported.

Chingari also takes up the issues of

special holiday rights of black workers who want to visit their families. In factories where this is not guaranteed militants often come back to find that they've been sacked.

Other articles are on Uganda's President Amin, the protests of workers in Pakistan against price increases, the tightening of Canadian immigration laws, the untouchables of India and the dowry system.

Urdu Chingari has been out for a week and already Birmingham and Reading International Socialists have sold out and ordered more. Southall has doubled its order for Punjabi Chingari. Let's hope other branches will follow this trend.

Orders for Chingari to 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IF THERE'S A FILM IN THE POST...

SOCIALIST WORKER is always being sent reels of film that it cannot use—which wastes time and money for a lot of potential photographers.

Only send in film by arrangement. We don't have the facilities to process it. Never send in colour film that we can't use at all.

Let us know if local events are sufficiently important for us to send a

photographer—time is needed to arrange it.

We are going to organise practical schools for photographers—if you are interested write to us now so that we can see what the demand is. One essential—you will have to be prepared to buy a camera. Write to Socialist Worker (photographs), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

WHAT'S ON

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

IS public meetings

LAMBETH COUNCIL WORKERS IS public meeting: The Revolution in Portugal. Speaker: Chris Harman. Thursday 31 July, 12.30pm, Lower Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall.

LEEDS IS Day School on International Work, Saturday 2 August, 11am-5pm, Trades Club, Saville Mount (off Chapeltown Road) Leeds 7. Buses 2, 3 or 20 from city centre. Ian Birchall on Imperialism, plus sessions on Southern Africa and Solidarity Work in Britain.

EDINBURGH IS public meeting: Fight Labour's wage freeze! Speakers: Willie Lee (senior steward, AUEW, Chrystler Linwood) and a local electrician. Thursday 7 August, 7.30pm, Room 2, Trades Council Club, 12 Picardy Place.

SOUTH EAST LONDON IS public meeting: The Situation in Ireland. Speaker: Alistair McSweeney. Wednesday 6 August, 8pm, Charlton House, Charlton Village, SE7.

SOUTH EAST LONDON Chingari public meeting: Crisis in India: Wednesday 13 August, 8pm, Committee Room, Erith Town Hall, Bexley Road, Erith.

RHYL IS public meeting: The Labour Party, the impossible road to socialism! Speaker: G. Evans (Bangor IS). Friday 1 August, 7.30pm. Rhyll Football Club. All welcome.

BANGOR IS public meeting: Immigrant Workers—the fight against racism. Monday 4 August, 8pm, Gwynedd Hotel, Bangor.

SOUTHAMPTON Chingari public meeting: Crisis in India. Speaker: Farooq Newaz. Saturday 9 August, 6.45pm. St Matthews Hall, St Mary's Road.

Meetings for IS members

IS Civil Service fraction meeting: Saturday 2 August, 11am. For all IS members in the civil service. Details from 01-739 6273.

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

IS UPW fraction meeting on the cuts in the Post Office. Sunday 3 August, 11am in London (details from Mike Thompson 01-739 6273.) This meeting is important. ALL IS UPW MEMBERS MUST ATTEND.

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

SOUTH WALES Regional IS weekend school: 2/3 August, WEA Room, Chapter Arts Centre, Market Street, Cardiff. Starts 10.30am, Saturday. Details of agenda etc from branch secretaries.

IS AGITPROP CONFERENCE: sessions on photography for socialists, designing and producing posters, using slides and tapes, socialist films, socialist theatre, organising a political social—everything to do using art to help build a socialist workers' movement. Weekend 27/28 September in Manchester. Registration £1 to Roland Muldoon, 11c Cabbell Street, London, NW1.

NORTH LONDON District IS Women's Meeting: Friday 1 August, 8pm, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4. Discussion on the abortion campaign until November, and the use of Women's Voice.

IS notices

WILL IS members attending the Trades Union Congress in September either as delegates or observers please contact Industrial Department: 01-739 6273

NORTH LONDON IS are organising a fund-raising jumble sale in early September. We need all the jumble we can get. It should be brought to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4—or phone 01-802 6145 to arrange for collection.

SPECIAL OFFER: Issues 66-73 of International Socialism journal, including articles on The Rank and File Movement. The Communist International, Lenin's Pravda, Ireland, the Miners' Strike, Women, Portugal, Asia, the Ulster Workers' Council strike, the Detroit car workers' struggle, Fascism in Britain, the Industrial Relations Act, White-collar workers, Redundancies, closures and the sit-in tactic. Eight issues (original price £1.20) for 70p, postage included. Orders to International Socialism Journal, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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

MANCHESTER IS needs all sorts of books, political and non-political, for a used book sale to raise funds. Will comrades please bring any books to the bookshop as soon as possible.

SCOTLAND: Any IS member or sympathiser with political knowledge of the Fort William/Kinlochleven/Lochaber area of Western Scotland please contact IS national office, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 1878) for contact with member in Ross-shire.

WOMEN'S VOICE needs someone to work unpaid at least half a day a week, to look after the subscriptions and bookshop orders. Ring Barbara 01-739 2639.

THE MAFIA... JUST PART OF THE VIOLENCE OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM

THE GODFATHER—the biggest money-spinning film in history—now has a sequel called, funnily enough, *Godfather Part II*.

It is a far more serious attempt to probe what the Mafia means in America today, and it touches on some important facts.

The film is split into two parts: a portrait of the Godfather as a young hood in the 1900s, and the career of his son, the new Godfather, as a Mafia businessman in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Mafia started, as a secret society of Sicilian peasants to protect themselves against foreign invaders, took root in the squalor of the early immigrant communities in America.

All the immigrant ghettos—whether Irish, Jewish, Italian, or today, Black and Puerto Rican—have been breeding grounds for gangs and gang-warfare.

The film shows one reason why. Immigrants, poor and bewildered, are wide open to exploitation and abuse by landlords, employers and police. So gangs grew up, partly at least as a means of self-defence.

The film shows an old lady about to be evicted. The landlord is threatening her with the police. So she turns to the Godfather, who straightens it all out by leaning on the landlord.

But the Mafiosi were never social workers with sub-machine guns. They were—and still are—American capitalists without the hypocrisy.

The gangs were vicious and violent, but then American capitalism has always been ready to murder its enemies: Joe Hill, Sacco and Vanzetti, George Jackson.

The only difference was that the Mafia did it in the road.

Blood

Once they had the capital, the Mafia and all the gangs went 'legitimate'. The Godfathers hung up their machine guns and reached for pocket calculators. Cheap gangsters graduated into more expensive gangsters.

This was the time when Mo Green and the Jewish mobs (the Koshers Nostra) started the city of Las Vegas, today the most lucrative business centre in the world. The Mafia bought into real estate, casinos, bars, dairies, bars, trucking companies, the stock market, and trade unions.

Gradually the Mafia was absorbed into the bloodstream of American capitalism.

Today organised crime isn't just in the blood stream, it has become the corpuscles of American capitalism.

There is no longer a dividing line between organised crime and organised capitalism. They use the same money, the same methods for the same ends.

None of the Chicago gangs could claim a record of cold-blooded killing to compare with the systematic violence of ITT, of the United Fruit Company, in Chile, in Brazil or Dominica.

None of the protection rackets ever extorted money in the way that monopolies and price-fixing rings can today.

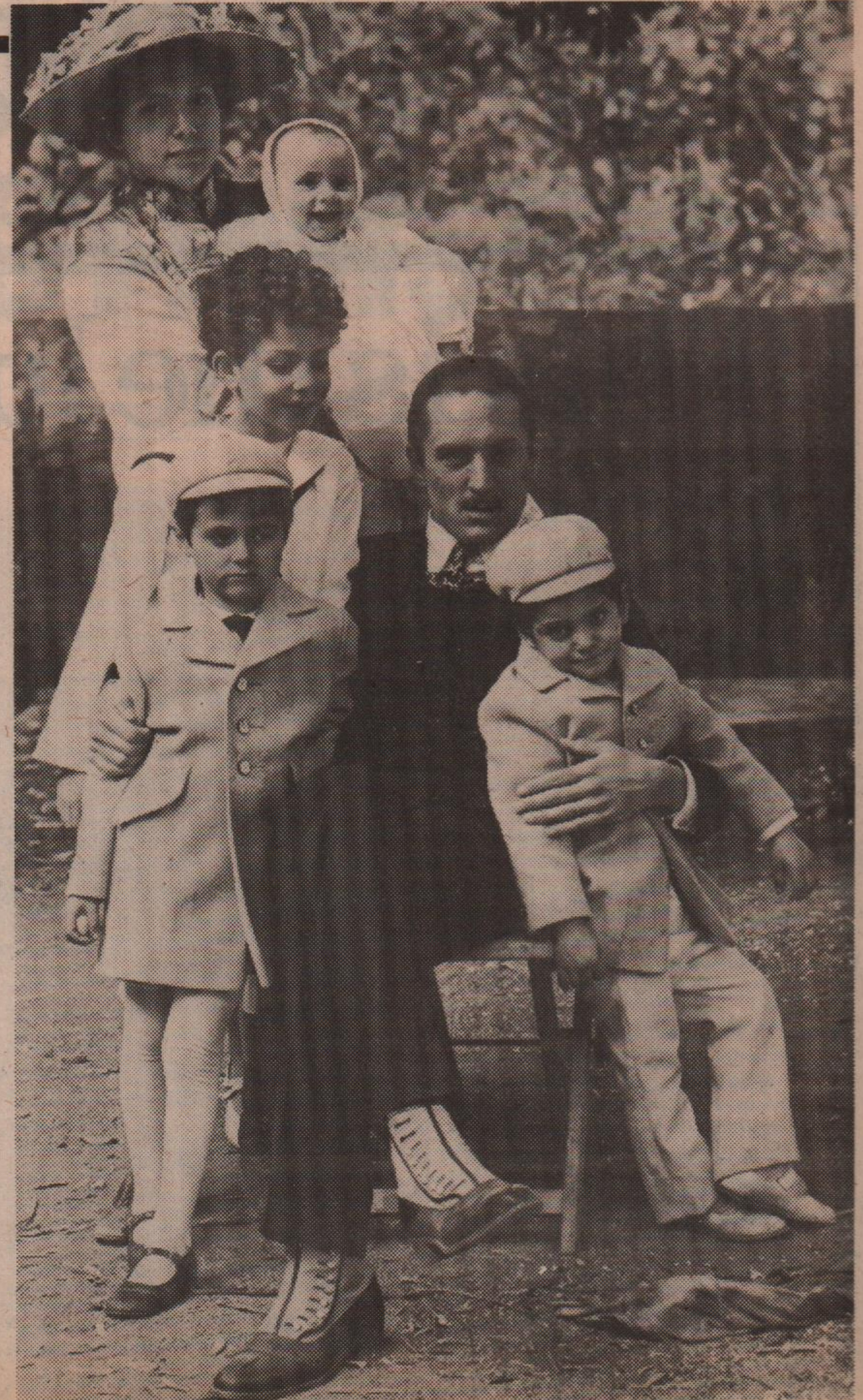
Westinghouse and General Electric, investigated under the Sherman Act, were found to have carved out a monopoly price-fixing ring worth more than £600 million a year.

Capitalism itself is an organised crime.

And the system needs the Mafia. The Mafia still control a number of powerful trade unions, like the International Longshoremen Association on the East Coast docks, the Union of Operating Engineers and the Teamsters.

And they know how to treat anyone who might challenge the employers' balance sheet. Only a couple of years ago, Joseph

We'll
make
them
an
offer
we
won't
let them refuse...



Godfather Part I... with Part II on his knee (right)

BOB LIGHT reviews *Godfather Part II*

Yablonsky was murdered by hoods because he was trying to mount a reform movement in the miners' union.

In 1947, the Mafia opened fire on a peaceful Communist May Day march. Dozens of workers were killed.

In 1930, Al Capone claimed that three out of four Chicago City police were on his pay roll. In 1971, the Serpico Hearings into police corruption in New York estimated that every policeman was on a back-hander from the mobs.

Jimmy Doyle, for instance, the hero of the film *French Connection* is mentioned in the Valachi Papers as the cop the Mafia used to intimidate militants in Mafia-controlled businesses and unions.

In 1959, it was reported to Congress that the New York police has 400 officers investigating the tiny American Communist Party; and four officers investigating organised crime. You don't investigate your business partners, after all.

The system has always been only too pleased to use the specialist services offered by the Mafia. In 1944, the OSS (forerunner of the CIA) released the Mafia gangster Lucky Luciano from jail and parachuted him into Sicily, where he was made 'technical adviser' to the Christian Democrats on ways of murdering Communist partisans.

More recently, the CIA and the Mafia were involved in a plot to assassinate Fidel Castro and his brother Raoul.

In one scene in the film, set in 1959, Michael Corleone and his partner Hyman Roth dream of staging the ultimate coup—one of their men in the Presidency itself.

Sixteen years later, we know the Mafia have made it to the White House: once at least. There is no doubt that Richard Nixon was a client of theirs. Two of his closest friends and 'political advisers', Robert Abplanalp and Bebe Rebozo, are straight men for the Mafia.

The £600,000 illegal 'slush fund' money

was Mafia money, most of it a 'donation' from Howard Hughes. It was passed through the hands of Mafia banks in Mexico, to disguise the original sources. Nixon's holiday home at San Clemente, California, was bought with an interest-free loan from Bebe Rebozo.

Most of his secret policy discussions took place in the La Costa Country Club in San Diego. It was here that—away from the tape-recorders—Dean, Mitchell, Nixon and his gang plotted the Watergate cover-up.

The La Costa Country Club is owned by the Mafia, through the Teamsters Pension Fund. The Presidential Party stayed there rent free.

That is the real story of the Mafia, but not the one the film tells. It nudges some of these facts, but it never comes to grips with them, and it winds up by giving the Mafia a make-up job.

But, without knowing it, the film does have one brilliant moment. It is the end of 1959, and the Godfather and his business partners are in Havana, Cuba to sign a contract with Batista to open a chain of casinos.

Wild

The contract is to be signed on New Year's Day 1960, but the night before, at the New Year Presidential Ball, Batista announces he is abdicating. Castro is about to take the city.

The beautiful people go berserk, desperately trying to get out of Havana before Castro arrives. Meanwhile, in the streets of Havana, the ordinary people are going wild with excitement: the oppressed are having their festival.

The Godfather has to drive through the streets to reach the airport, and his car is stopped by the crowds, who spit at him and take the piss out of him.

It's an electrifying moment: the most powerful gangster in America, the kind of man who can buy Presidents, is suddenly powerless.

All the money, all the hoods, all the politicians, don't mean a thing. That is the power—the power of ordinary people on the streets—that will one day break the Mafia in all its shapes and sizes.

We'll make them an offer that we won't let them refuse.

ON THE BOX

SATURDAY

BBC-2: 10.55pm. **THE CABINET OF DR CALIGARI**, made in Germany in 1919 is one of the most extraordinary films ever made. All the 'normal' certainties of German life had collapsed, and this classic horror movie deals with a world where authority belief, all the values of traditional society are sucked into a nightmare world. It's silent, with a musical soundtrack and colour tinted sequences. Red star of the week...

MONDAY

ITV: 8.30pm. **GOSLING'S TRAVELS** goes to Gooole. The excellent Daily Mirror reporter John Pilger discusses his book on Vietnam in the rotten book programme **READ ALL ABOUT IT** (BBC-1, 10.55pm) and **THE LIKES OF JIMMY REID** (BBC-1 8.30pm) features the Communist UCS shop steward. A string of programmes on the A-bombing of Hiroshima begins with **THE BUILDING OF THE BOMB** (BBC-1, 9pm) which features many of the people concerned with that atrocity.

TUESDAY

BBC-1, 9.25pm: **MUHAMMAD ALI: MOST BOXERS CAN'T EVEN TALK...** a documentary on the boxing champion. **SIX FROM THE SIXTH**, a new series features a working class Scottish sixth former, and her world (BBC-2: 7.50pm.)

WEDNESDAY

BBC-2: 9.25pm. **HORIZON: TO DIE—TO LIVE** on the appalling aftermath of Hiroshima. **THE ASCENT OF MAN—WORLD WITHIN A WORLD** (BBC-2, 8.10pm) on the atomic physics which developed, for good and ill, atomic power.

THURSDAY

ITV: 3.55pm. **HUGH MACDIARMID—A POET AND HIS TIME** a profile of the Scottish socialist and nationalist. The Hiroshima series continues with a dramatisation of the US government inquiry **ON TRIAL: J ROBERT OPPENHEIMER—SECURITY RISK?** (BBC-2, 9.25pm) who developed the US A-bomb. Interesting how he, like his Russian counterpart, Andrei Sakharov have both clashed with their respective ruling classes...

NIGEL FOUNTAIN



TONY CLIFF:
LENIN
Volume 1: Building the Party

Lenin wasn't God. Or a lunatic, or a dictator, or a saint. He was the architect of a new kind of political organisation, the Bolsheviks.

The Bolsheviks destroyed the old Russia of the Czar and replaced it, for a time, with one part of the world controlled by the workers, owned by the workers.

How Lenin helped build that party is the subject of this, the first volume of a three part biography. When you read it you aren't studying old, dead, history.

You are discovering how what that man did 60 years ago fits in with your life, your struggles today. You find out what the Bolsheviks did right, and wrong, and how we can finish what that man began at the turn of the century.

Price, £3 (paperback) £6 (hardback) plus 20p postage, from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

LETTERS

Send your letters to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, 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 your letters to not more than 250 words.

This is the lunacy of capitalism



PEOPLE on Luton's housing list who were expecting one of the 256 council houses on Marsh Farm will have to continue living in slums and overcrowded conditions.

Completion of the houses has been put back for eight months. Why? Because there is a shortage of bricks.

Bricklayers with no transport were given two days' notice to join the dole queue. Those fortunate enough to have cars face a long journey to other sites.

I was given the alternative of a daily 100-mile round trip to Corby, or unemployment. I decided to go because I have already spent the first two months of this year on the dole.

Yet 2000 brickworkers at the London Brick Company in Bedford—just 25 miles from Luton—have been made redundant in the last 12 months because of a surplus of bricks. There are about ten million stockpiled around the country.

This system gets madder every day. We must fight for nationalisation of the building industry, including the brickworks.—M PRESLAND, Luton.

Bricks—enough to build 1000 houses stockpiled at Stewartby, just up the road from Luton.

WILSON'S 'BIG BROTHER' OUTFIT

SOCIALIST WORKER has carried excellent articles exposing the government's £6 wage freeze. Readers will realise that it is not in the interest of workers to go along with it.

Against us is the vast power of the press and TV which reach into every working class home, with the relentless message that the militants are destroying the country.

Now a special government propaganda unit is to intensify this barrage of anti-trade union lies.

It is to be headed by the industrial editor of the Daily Mirror, Geoffrey Goodman, so we know what to expect—a continuous repeating of the simple lie that wage increases are, in Wilson's words, 'another man's ticket to the dole queue', that we 'are all in this together.'

POINTS

We have been a bit slow to respond, and a bit slow to see the possibilities it opens up for militants to argue the need to fight back. The trade union movement should turn against this 'Big Brother' propaganda unit.

How many trade union branches and district committees publish their own bulletins to carry the facts about the crisis and the freeze to all their members?

How many Trades Councils are prepared to take up the example of Newcastle, which publishes an excellent Workers' Chronicle, with a circulation of several thousand?

Socialist Worker readers will have to take the initiative, in pushing for a response from the trade union movement. After all, the information is all there in Socialist Worker.—MIKE NAPIER, Edinburgh.



Bosses booze, workers lose

JOHN BRENNAN, Ford's former boss in Switzerland, is suing them for £600,000 because 'business drinking' turned him into an alcoholic.

I was recently 'encouraged' to leave my job as a production operator at Vauxhall, Luton after being accused of grabbing a swift pint during company time.

My reward? The dole, six weeks' suspension of unemployment benefit because of my 'industrial misconduct', and other such perks too numerous to mention.

Carworkers are daily being screwed up by the ever increasing pressures and sheer monotony of mass assembly, short-time, redundancies, lay-offs and the like.

Some crack. Others hit the bottle. But no court in this free society would be sympathetic to pleas such as Brennan's from workers.

But then we are only unfeeling machines. Bosses are different. They get huge salaries because of the risks, responsibilities or the pressures. Or so we are told.

Then, when they fail, as in Brennan's case, they demand compensation for being unable to cope. Some justice.—IAIN BROWN, Luton.

Turkey: HQ for the conspiracy

AS two Turkish socialists living in Britain we read with interest Paul Foot's article the Bilderberg Conspiracy (Socialist Worker, 12 July), as it all took place in our country and involved some of its leading politicians.

Turkey is governed by a minority coalition of four parties, ranging from neo-fascists to the conservatives. Leading the opposition are the Social Democrats and Bulent Ecevit. He originally criticised the conference because it wouldn't admit the press! He only questioned some trivial aspect to retain his popularity, while omitting any reference to who was attending or why.

Against

Eventually, this self-styled saviour of Turkey was invited himself, joining the leaders of what we call the parliamentary fascists, who ran the country after the 1971 coup for two years.

During that time imprisonment and torture were the face of law and order. In 1974 Ecevit, then Prime Minister, amnestied not only the victims of the dictators, but also the torturers.

Yet at the same time left organisations are prosecuted by the state. Membership lists are supposed to be handed over to the police. Meetings with foreign organisations are only

possible with the permission of the Cabinet. The only organisation which is exempt from this law is the Freemasons!

Workers in our country are becoming increasingly involved in strikes and demonstrations demanding trade union and political rights. Recent demonstrations in several cities have had workers in their tens of thousands.

Given all his radical noises, Ecevit was no doubt thankful that only one native journalist, from an extremely right-wing paper, was allowed in. Given his anti-worker and anti-left past, we see his presence at the Dolphin Hotel as quite appropriate among the other international conspirators, learning how to smooth their rough edges.—KEMAL AND AHMAD, address withheld.

YOU WANT A UNION? THEN YOU'RE FIRED!

A FRIEND of mine saw me the other day and complained that he had been thrown out of work that morning for trying to organise a trade union in his work place.

I told him I would try to get the matter raised on the local trades council in Eastleigh. He has already started to take the case before the Industrial Tribunal, and I thought a letter to Socialist Worker might help publicise the already bad name the firm has got in the area, as well as get some help from you and other brothers in the area.

My friend's name is Dave Atkinson, and he lives in Eastleigh. The firm is Drapers, of Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire.

The events which led to Dave's dismissal are as follows: He, like everyone else in the factory, went to the gaffer, on his own, to ask for more money. He, as everyone else who asked (we think), was turned

THIS IS A WAGE CUT!

THE £6 pay limit means a massive cut in the standard of living for the working class.

The government are saying: 'Look, capitalism is in a crisis and the working class have got to be made to pay for it.'

In league with them are the trade union leaders. Jack Jones and Co know that the £6 will not bring down inflation, but it will cause unemployment and severe hardship for the working class.

Whatever the government and trade union leaders say, nothing is going to stop the confrontation between the classes. And if the working class is given the correct leadership, nothing could stop it from throwing this or any government out of office.

I agree with what Socialist Worker said some weeks back. It's their crisis—they must be made to pay for it.—KEVIN HUSSEY, shop steward, Royal Docks, London.

down. So he tried to form a works' Committee to ask the bosses for more money. This didn't work either.

So Dave sounded out opinion among the workers about organising themselves into a union. He received a favourable response, so one afternoon he went down to Transport House, the Transport Workers' Union office, in Southampton, to get the necessary details and forms.

When he got to work the next day, the foreman was waiting for him as he went to clock in. The foreman took him to one side, gave him his money and cards, and escorted him from the premises, without giving him time to see or distribute the union forms to his work mates.

Not only is this the very thing we are fighting against through the labour movement, but I'm sure it's totally illegal.—ADRIAN WEIR, AUEW Eastleigh No 3 Branch.

New IS bookshop open on Merseyside!

The International Socialists have now opened their seventh bookshop, stocking an extensive range of books on trade unionism, socialism, Labour history, women's struggles, black struggles, the Third World, novels and science fiction.

IS BOOKS, 28 Berry Street, Liverpool 1.

SACKED! MAN THE UNION VICTIMISED

CLAUDE LAVENDER, expelled by the Dyers and Bleachers' Union for being too militant, has been sacked by the firm for which he has worked for seven and a half years, and in which he had helped to build a strong trade union organisation.

Claude was expelled by the Dyers and Bleachers last November. His crime was that as an executive member he supported the unofficial strike of Dyers and Bleachers members at Intex,

by Socialist Worker reporter

Ashton-under-Lyne.

He got an injunction in the High Court which set aside his expulsion. But the union summoned him on the same charges and expelled him again. On 9 April, after the second expulsion, he resigned as convenor at Shaw Carpets, Darton, near Barnsley—a post he had held for five years.

While his appeal was outstanding against his expulsion, he went back to work at his old job as a tufting mechanic.

On 21 July he was handed a letter from the management sacking him instantly. The letter made no bones of the reason for the sacking: 'industrial relations problems stemming from your shift.' It ended: 'We regret that this action is necessary, but your activities over the last few weeks, in spite of warnings to stop "stirring things up", have left us no alternative.'

Claude Lavender has always been a thorn in the flesh of the Shaw management. In 1972-1974, while he was convenor, average earnings in the factory rose from £13 to more than £60.

STRUGGLE

Under his constant prodding, a powerful union organisation was built up inside the factory. When Claude was first expelled by the union, the workforce voted almost unanimously to retain him as convenor.

Unhappily, this strong organisation has been sapped by the three-day week which the management imposed some weeks ago. Management spokesmen have been telling workers that all the jobs in the factory are in peril unless the 'trouble-makers' are thrown out.

An even more vicious smear has been put around that Claude accepted a 'golden handshake' from the company and left. In fact, the company paid him redundancy money of £240 and four weeks' notice. The company will, of course, be able to claim back almost the whole £240 from the government.

When Claude asked the management why they had not pursued the sacking through the usual disputes' procedure, he was told: 'You are not a member of the union.'

CONTROL

What annoyed the management more than anything else about Claude Lavender was the suggestion that he favoured the workforce leaving the Dyers and Bleachers and joining the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The Shaw Carpets' management have always been on more than good terms with the officials of the Dyers and Bleachers' Union. The sacking could not have taken place without Claude Lavender's expulsion from the union.

A meeting has been arranged with workers in one section of the factory to discuss Claude's sacking. Barnsley branch of the International Socialists will be leafletting the factory with the facts of Claude's case.

The matter must not be allowed to stop there. While bosses and trade unions can victimise one militant, all are at risk.

Arrests at demo

MANCHESTER:—The police and army are taking a hard line against anti-army demonstrators. Eight people were arrested over the three days of the Manchester Show at Platt Fields last week.

On Thursday 24 July, six members of a Bolton Street theatre group were arrested for performing their anti-army play outside the show. They've been charged with breach of peace and threatened with possible charges under the incitement to disaffection act. The following Saturday two people were arrested inside the park. They've also been charged with breach of the peace for distributing an anti-recruitment leaflet. The police tried to hold the last two in custody over the weekend but all eight are now out on bail.

A defence fund has already been formed for the eight comrades, and a broad defence committee is being set up. Defence Fund c/o Central Manchester Troops Out, 43 Aspinall Street, Manchester, 14.



East London delegate Aiden White speaks at conference. Picture Chris Davies (Report).

Journalists back ballot on closed shop

THE closed shop policy agreed by the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) three months ago at their annual conference is to be put to a ballot of the membership. This was agreed to 204 to 190 votes at a stormy special conference in London last weekend.

The closed shop policy was designed to ensure that in future strikes journalists won't have editors working on, sabotaging the strike. It has been opposed by a sustained press campaign by the owners and editors of Fleet Street, who have labelled the move a threat to press freedom.

The right wing of the NUJ support the closed shop move—in theory. They were beaten after a prolonged debate at the annual conference in April which called for stronger action. The ballot decision was their attempt to win back the lost ground.

They didn't have it all their own way. A move to have the annual conference's policy ditched in favour of a ballot on the earlier, weaker policy decision of the union's executive was thrown out.

IN was the demand for 100 per cent membership to be sought in all newspaper and publishing offices.

OUT was the executive's declaration that newspaper editors could do their 'normal work' during official disputes.

Normal work has meant in practice producing the entire paper.

The April conference had agreed a seven-point policy which was a re-affirmation of a policy first agreed in 1920.

That decision led to a carefully orchestrated campaign, backed by the Fleet Street bosses, to reverse it. Thirty-two NUJ branches received a 'suggested' motion from Michael Rothwell, a leading member of the right-wing London Evening Papers branch. This was the basis of the 'spontaneous' call for the special conference.

'The left won the argument', explained one delegate, 'but in many branches the delegates had been mandated to vote for the ballot. Although they agreed with us, they couldn't break their mandate.'

The ballot takes place over the next month. The campaign for a No vote is already on. Every national paper will plug the propaganda about press freedom. We have to work to ensure that this campaign is resisted and there is a resounding YES vote for the closed shop.

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, Cambridge Works, Cambridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

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.

NORTH WALES FARMHOUSE HOLIDAYS: John and Margaret Llywarch invite you to a North Wales farmhouse holiday. Clean air, mountain streams, country rambles, fishing, wildlife galore, barbecues. A children's paradise and only two miles from a mainline station. For terms phone 069-186 2272 or write Bryn Iddon, Bron-y-Garth, Oswestry, Salop.

NELSONS: BACK TO WORK FOR 12 PENCE!

LANCASTER:—Officials of the Engineering Construction workers and Electricians' unions have recommended that 53 men who have been locked out at Nelsons Acetate Ltd, return to work for a mere 12 pence more than the £4.90 already offered by the bosses. Management have refused to pay compensation for seven weeks lost wages.

Two votes were taken. At the first vote, the men rejected the recommendation. But further discussion was urged. The trade union officials pressed for a return to work on the basis of the government's White Paper. With a £6 ceiling on wages, officials said, the choice left open to the men, was either to accept the pay deal or lose everything!

That kind of manipulation by the officials turned the vote. At the second vote, the men decided to return to work to negotiations with management, with only seven present voting against.

The White Paper with the full backing of the trade union bureaucracy is already being used to crush wage claims and disputes. Rank and file trade unionists must be ready to fight this. As Bill McRitchie, EETPU shop steward said, 'Proper rank and file links of all unions concerned would have won this dispute.'

CARDIFF Revolutionary Communist Group Meeting: The Question of the International. Speaker: Frank Richards. Wednesday 6 August, 7.30pm, Rhymney Hotel, Adam Street, Cardiff. All welcome.

PICKET RHODESIA HOUSE (on the Strand, opposite Charing Cross railway station, Central London). Friday 8 August, 12.2pm. Free political prisoners—support the struggle of the Zimbabwe people. For further details of campaigning activities on Zimbabwe, contact AAM, 89 Charlotte Street, London, W1P 2DQ. Tel: 580 5311.

WORKERS FIGHT Readers' Meeting: 8pm, Sunday 10 August: Bas Hardy, just returned from Lisbon, will report on WHERE IS PORTUGAL GOING? At 'The George', Liverpool Road, London, N1 (Angel tube).

ANTI-INTERNMENT MARCH: Sunday 10 August, 3pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park. Organised by the London Committee, Provisional Sinn Fein.

British Celanese —how other half live

By Stan Simpson, TGWU shop steward, British Celanese, Spondon, Derby

WE AT BRITISH Celanese were treated on Friday morning to a brief look at how the other half live.

There was this bright new flag flying from a bright new flagpole. We realised with dismay what all the activity that had taken place around the staff canteen all that week was for.

This was the day of the junket for the Queen's Award to Industry. For all that week we had seen the canteen and its surrounds being transformed from an everyday working area into something special.

We had seen the flower beds replanted the staff canteen repainted inside and out and curtains put up. And then we realised this was going to be the firm's thank you—not to the people who made it possible, the workers—but to a lucky few managers and a lot of hangers-on.

Flagpole

The workers got their thank-you in a letter in April from J W E Sharp, Finance Director of Courtauld's, telling us to keep up the hard work.

'Still', we thought, 'the Company are making a gesture'. But we realised it was an obscene gesture to us, the workers. We cast our minds back and asked why this mobile crane outside the main gate all day on hire at £9 an hour and never used.

Of course it was to lift this bright new flagpole into position. But unfortunately it couldn't, so some of the lads pulled it up with ropes.

But if somebody has asked us they could have saved a lot of

money. We could have told them there was a flagpole not 20 yards away.

Then we saw they had ripped the floor up in the Staff Canteen and we thought 'Hullo, What's this, surely they are not going to leave it like that?'

All the tables would be uneven and all this salmon and Rene Brisset 1969 Champagne would fall on the floor. After all, you can't have salmon costing £30 a time rolling on the floor.

But we need not have worried. They replaced the floor with a special matting costing £10 a square yard.

Then we thought of all our sisters who work in the canteen with all this booze and grub being splashed about but the management can't afford to pay them a bonus.

Then we thought of our four brothers outside the staff canteen all day Thursday with hacksaw blades getting weeds out from the cobble stones. What did they get for their reward—backache?

Then we thought of the bloke who, after the junket, ripped the water cistern away from the wall in the Staff gents bog.

Maybe, we thought, he would tell the management that the money spent could have been put to better use—like a couple of extra pounds in our pay packets. But this was where we started dreaming.

Finally we asked what this Queen's Award to Industry was for. It was for outstanding achievement in increasing exports.

Then we remember that Courtauld's management and some union officials are calling on the government to curb imports.

Then we thought: What a bloody farce!

Firemen: Defend democracy!

THE Fire Brigades Union executive are making every effort to break the power of militant areas in the union. FBU President Enoch Humphries fancies his chances of becoming the next assistant secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress.

While he is building his support for this among left wingers in the STUC he has also led the attack on the Strathclyde District Committee of the FBU. This committee elected by local members was expelled from the union a fortnight ago as part of the executive's attempt to cover up their complete failure in negotiations over wages and a 40 hour week.

RONNIE ROBERTSON, chairman of the nine member Strathclyde District Committee writes below about the issues raised by the behaviour of the executive.

Democracy is in danger inside the Fire Brigades Union. It's no longer an issue of wages and a claim for a 40 hour week. The executive have changed that by their expulsion of the Strathclyde Brigade Committee—includ-

ing myself—without any charges being made against us, or without giving us an opportunity to reply.

No reference was ever made to the rules of the FBU, or that the possibility of disciplinary action existed, when we were summoned to meet the executive in London.

A telegram was sent to the EC member in Strathclyde who then verbally informed the committee's secretary that we must attend a meeting with the EC. We never knew what the meeting was about.

If we had known we might have taken another look at our reasons for attending. Certainly the two Lanarkshire firemen, who work in a 100 per cent unionised section would not have threatened their own jobs by being thrown out of the union.

The EC of the FBU have proved that they have no regard for either the opinions of the rank and file, or their rights under the rules of the union. They wanted to discipline our committee, so they did it, and in doing so threatened the whole membership of the union.

As far as we are concerned on the Strathclyde Brigade Committee, we have been representing the feelings and decisions of the Strathclyde members. It was the rank and file that wanted a strike ballot—and

remember, it was only a strike ballot that was requested, not a strike.

We were bound to defend the decisions of those who elected us.

At the delegate meeting held on the Saturday after our expulsion the Strathclyde delegates overwhelmingly supported us. At branch meetings, and station meetings in the area our members have supported our stand and protested against our expulsion. With their support we will continue our stand and defend democracy in the FBU.

When the FBU leaders act in this bureaucratic way it shows the need for serious rank and file links in our union. Too many people in the FBU pose as left wingers in order to pursue their own careers. It is about time that the old attitude of military discipline was thrown out of the FBU.

Every FBU branch, station, area and member should protest at our expulsion. To do that every FBU member should be aware of the way in which the rules were set aside to suit the EC.

Speakers from the Strathclyde Brigade can be arranged, up and down the country, by contacting Ronnie Robertson at Parkhead Fire Station, Glasgow.

IN BRIEF

STAFFORD GEC: WAGES STRIKE OVER

THE 2500 hourly paid workers here have ended their eight week strike. Management's offer was £4 a week below the £10 the workers had demanded. Officials from the Engineering and Transport unions—the biggest at the plant had urged acceptance of the bosses offer of £4.40!

The strikers' magnificent solidarity won them £6 for skilled and semi-skilled workers and £5.50 for unskilled. An additional increase on the board £2 is due in September.

The workers had got backing from Liverpool and London dockers, and effective support from other plants in the combine. But against them was TV, the press, the bosses and the union officials.

The AUEW is committed to 'free collective bargaining'—and the strike could have been the first blow against the government's £6 limit. The local officials couldn't even explain the government's plans—let alone fight them. What happened to GEC is a warning to other AUEW members, the slogans have got to mean something!

Huddersfield Hospital Porters Sacked

THEY demanded 60 pence a week—and for 15 workers at the Royal Infirmary here, they got the sack instead. They had 'worked to grade' for three months—refusing cover work of porters who got higher pay.

On 18 July management gave an ultimatum, end the action—or be sacked. When some porters asked for time to discuss the issue they were fired.

Discussions are continuing at the hospital, with management's aim simple—to break union organisation.

BIRMINGHAM: COMPONENT WORKERS

SIXTY-EIGHT members of the Transport and General Workers Union at Palmer and Shelley, a car components firm, voted to accept management's offer of £6 for skilled and £4 for unskilled workers. This isn't total victory they have vetoed co-operation with non-union workers inside the factory, and they are blacking machinery they regard as unsafe. Confidence is so great that plans are being made for a new claim in the Autumn.

LONDON ITT WORKERS

MEMBERS of the white-collar union ASTMS employed by the Commercial Cable Company struck on Friday against the Company's refusal to pay any wage increases. This ITT subsidiary has also refused to negotiate and have threatened to sack strikers.

The Company are demanding 40 redundancies before they discuss wage increases, although the wages are up to £15 a week less than that paid by their main private competitor. The strikers are appealing to other trade unionists to black all business with the Commercial Cable Company, who deal in International Cable grams.

Socialist Worker

VOICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

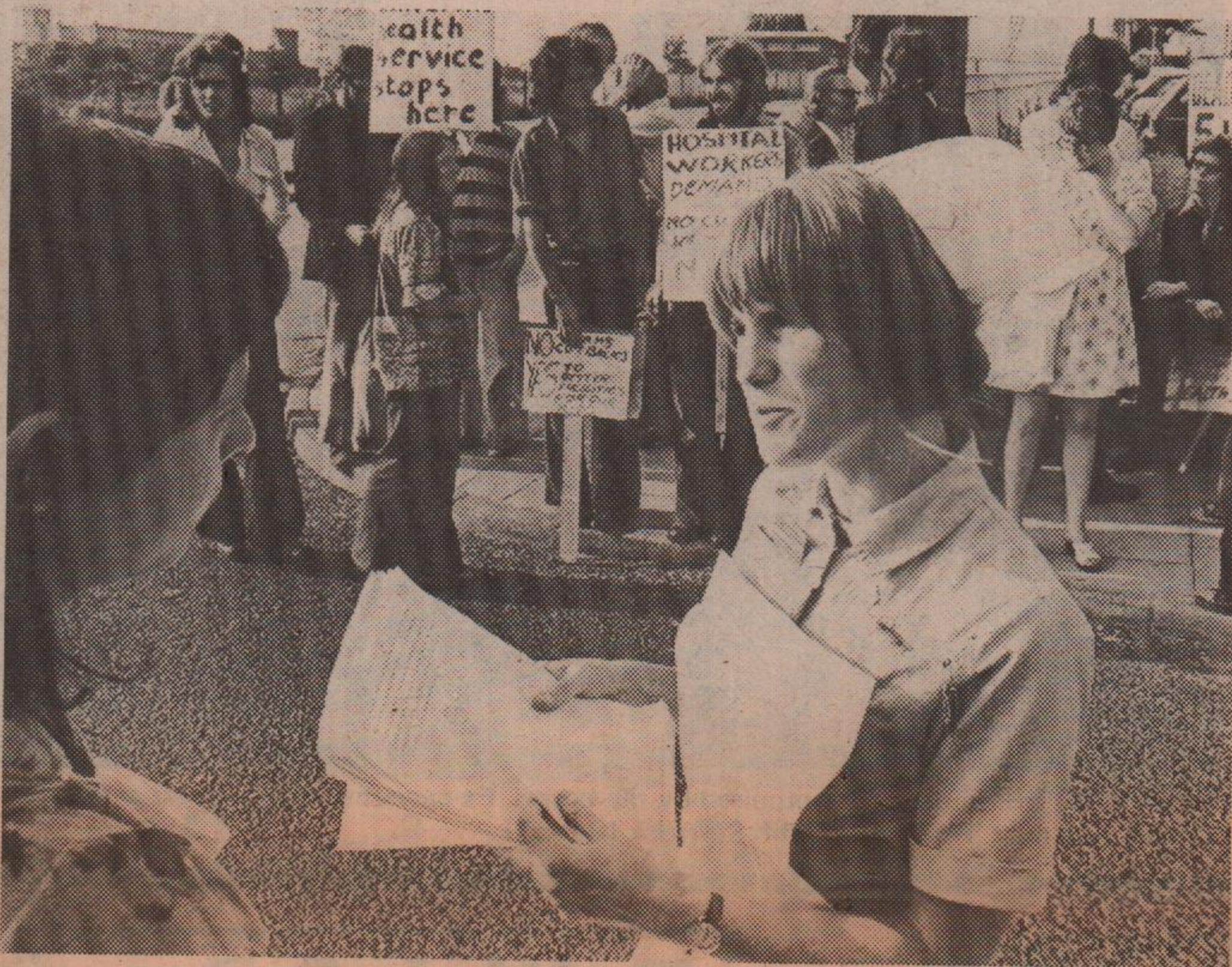
MINERS BALLOT

NO TO £6 WAGE LIMIT AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT

THE Socialist Worker Miners Special is being printed this week. International Socialists and supporters in the mines will be campaigning for a NO vote in the miners ballot on the freeze.

The SW Special, price 2 pence will be distributed with Socialist Worker to all branches in mining areas. For extra copies, phone SW distribution, 01-739 2639.

The cuts -and how we're fighting



MANCHESTER: This is the fight against cuts in action at Pendlebury Children's Hospital. The cuts have shut half the wards in the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and parents and hospital staff are seen here protesting about it. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report).

THERE'S a lot of talk in the papers about 'cuts in public expenditure'. And we're told why they are necessary, to 'save the country from the crisis'. But what do they really mean?

If you are a PARENT your children will get worse education. If you are OLD then the social services will be worse. If you send your children to NURSERY SCHOOLS then they'll be badly staffed. If you are ILL then you'll be on a longer waiting list at hospital—or on no list at all.

That's how you're saving 'the country'. Slump is just the time when you need to rely on the social services—and that's just the time when the Labour government wants to axe them.

The government and councils aren't having it all their own way. The

three reports below, from a London teacher, NALGO member social worker, and a Manchester nursery nurse show how the people who work in those areas are trying and succeeding in resisting the cuts.

The NALGO member explains what this means. 'We have been told what next year will bring, a savage cut in living standards, in wages; in social services, and 1,500,000 unemployed.

'One of these could be you.'

The message the three have is simple. The cuts have to be beaten, and that means unity, militancy, and a clear idea of what the Labour government is trying to do to us all.

NURSERIES: Strike threat brings sweet reason...

SOME people still believe that Labour councils will be softer than Tory ones. They are wrong, as this story from Manchester's Tameside district shows.

Last December the Labour council decided that a post at the Ashton under Lyne day nursery wasn't needed anymore. The remaining staff were left filling in for the job.

'We're not having it' said the staff. They threatened to stop doing the extra work unless the council reconsidered their decision.

The 'reconsideration' lasted two months. The council's discussion lasted two minutes—and the answer was NO to the day nursery workers.

The government officers union NALGO reacted swiftly. 'Give back the job, and pay our members for the extra work', they demanded. Two months passed and nothing happened.

So NALGO arranged a ballot for the staff, which offered three policies. An all-out strike on 8 July, an all-out, indefinite strike at the particular nursery and an all-out day nursery staff strike if the council continued to do nothing. All three points got more than 90 per cent support.

Suddenly the council representatives saw reason. A meeting on 3 July agreed to bring back the job—under a new name.

The lesson? No matter how logical the argument you put, it's the size of your muscles that count.

TEACHERS: The big battle's ahead

by an East London teacher

EDUCATION cuts aren't new. They began under the Tories, and under Labour they've totalled £227 million. That's a lot of money, but what does it mean if you're a teacher, a pupil or a parent?

It means less books to read, worse teaching, worse equipment. Less paper to write on. Fewer teachers to take classes. Teachers who leave aren't replaced, some

NALGO: THE SICK ARE HIT...

by a North London social worker (NALGO)

THE shape of the cuts to come here in Islington National and Local Government Officers Association was clear to us by last October. The NALGO social services shop stewards committee came out with some nasty predictions—and they are all coming true.

The easy targets came first, the old, the sick, and the handicapped. For that last group the council began by starting to cut their telephones...

Like the teachers we have had plenty of experience of what our Labour council was like during our battle for an extra allowance to allow for the higher London cost of living. The council won't fight government dictates, it'll go beyond them!

From the cuts in services they've moved on to cuts in us.

Socialist Worker has reported how we won a battle over one unfilled job, and how we're fighting now over a second.

This process is called 'freezing'. By leaving the job unfilled it means we are

are sacked, some part-timers find they become full time—unemployed.

Many teachers found out that they wouldn't be back in the classroom next term on the last day of this one—they've been fired.

The sack isn't the only weapon. The carrot can be useful too. During the London Allowance Campaign some would-be militant areas in London were bought off with differential payments imposed between inner, outer and the Greater London areas.

pressured to do the work ourselves—and jobs are lost.

Islington now has a group of councillors meeting nightly. What do they do? they are looking for jobs to axe, services to be cut! One of these meetings produced the 'freezing' of the second social workers post.

We met at a departmental meeting and agreed to strike on 21 July to keep that job. We knew that if they got away with that one they could get away with plenty more. The battle isn't over, but we're resolved not to lose it.

But the crisis and the cuts aren't just about Islington. They are about everybody. Once upon a time the sack was unheard of in the public sector.

I have no doubt that Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey has plenty more planned for us, waiting the other side of September's TUC conference. As the song says, 'You ain't seen nothing yet.'

So what we're learning here is what every public sector worker has to learn. To fight you have to use strike action—and you need unity. Unity in your workplace, unity with other public sector workers.

BUILDING WORKERS FIGHT FOR THEIR JOBS

HADEN YOUNG STRIKERS FIGHT ON

CENTRAL LONDON: Eight workers on the Walter Lawrence Lower Thames Street site have been on strike for five weeks now. The eight are members of the sheet metal workers' union and the dispute is official.

They are demanding an increase in bonus usually under £2 a week, from the contractors Haden Young and Hastie, to bring them into line with other building workers on the site. Instead they were threatened with the sack.

Other building workers on the site in the other two building workers' unions, the TGWU and UCATT, have asked their union executives to instruct members not to cross the Haden Young picket lines, but have not had any response.

Although the strike is official the men are not getting any strike pay. A levy on the site has raised £340. The men are asking other building workers to black Haden, Young and Hastie materials, to spread the strike to other Haden Young jobs, to get all fitters into the union, and to instruct their members to respect the picket lines.

Donations, messages of support and further details: A Robinson, Strike Committee Treasurer, 21 Goldsmiths Avenue, Corringham, Essex.

Lump labour battle: Week 15

By Tom Lannan, UCATT Shop Steward, Somerset House building workers.

CENTRAL LONDON: The strike by painters against the use of lump labour on building operations at the government's Somerset House has now entered its 15th week. Three of us are out and I am pleased to say that morale is still high.

We are still not getting any support from the Civil and Public Servants' Association branch inside Somerset House, although we are getting support from one member.

The lads are grateful for all the support they have received. But we still need contributions to continue the fight against the lump. The strike fund address is c/o Tom Lannan, 23 Westmoreland Street, London, SW1.

ANGER OVER SETTLEMENT

LONDON: The strike by the 200 construction workers building the Thames Flood Prevention barrier has ended after two weeks. The immediate aim of the strike has been achieved: the three men sacked for refusing to unload a lorry have been re-instated. But Transport Union full-time official Frank Byrne, supported by convenor Tommy Cummings, made it clear in recommending a return to work that a bargain had been struck with management to end the blacking in return for the reinstatement of the men.

The 38 welders in the Boilermakers' Union, understandably furious at this deal, argued that all management had to do to

VICTIMISATION is more brutal and more common in the construction industry than any other. The industry has a huge labour force, nearly 1½ million workers. It also has the worst conditions and worst employers.

They work hard to remove the militants who try to organise sites because of what it means to their profits if we establish decent working conditions and better wages. Safety conditions on the sites are disgusting, but the employers use non-union labour, brought in by contractors and prepared to work in any condition. The advantage to the employer is that the lump labour such as this gets the job done more quickly.

KNOW

They work, for example, on dangerous scaffolding which has been erected on the condition that it be put up quickly and taken down as quickly, with no consideration of whether it is safe. The lumpers don't pay tax or insurance, which plays into the hands of the bosses, as they don't have any responsibility.

The bosses use the lump to break

get its own way over anything on the site was to sack a couple of men, and then trade their reinstatement for an erosion of working conditions or job control. But the vote to return to work was taken.

With a more determined leadership the battle for reinstatement could have been won without any concessions. The barrier is a top priority council project, so it is a pacesetter for pay and conditions for building workers throughout London.

This will not be the last dispute on the site. It is crucial for militants and leading shop stewards on the site to build a spirit of unity by refusing to allow any particular section to suffer.

Profit —even if it means death

by a UCATT member in North London

union-organisation, to divide and weaken the workers on the site.

Every day one registered building worker gets killed on the sites, and who knows the figures for the lump? They could even be double that. On average every building worker will spend six months of his working life laid off as a result of injuries received on the sites.

The deaths and mutilations could be avoided but for the bosses hunger for profit. When the employer tenders for a contract he puts in estimates for scaffolding and for safety precautions. Whether or not he uses them is a different story. Most accidents on sites are caused by the bosses not using proper safety measures.

WORKS

How many building workers have had near misses, such as bricks being dropped from great heights and landing a couple of inches away from your feet—because there were no safety nets on the scaffold? How many times do you hear about horrible

injuries such as steel spikes going through workers' heads. Why weren't the men wearing helmets?

On one site I worked on they hadn't heard of helmets until a party of school kids came on to the site to do a project for their school. The contract manager gave us all brand new safety helmets to wear while the kids were there. Once the kids had left he took them all back.

JOBS

I have been on sites where you have to walk knee deep in mud just to get to the toilet—when you get there they haven't had paper in there for weeks.

Employers use an industrial blacklist against the militants. They check your insurance number against a list which they got from another company or from the police Special Branch. Then the foreman comes up to you and says 'You're sacked'. You ask why, he says 'Head Office'—even when you were doing as much work as anyone else.

The union's response to the sacking is sweet FA. This is largely because of right wingers like George Smith and other bosses's puppets in the building workers' union UCATT who condemned the Shrewsbury pickets who are more interested in keeping their fat salaries than representing the men who elected them.

Victimisation is increasing on the sites. The area for manoeuvre is getting smaller and smaller, men are being forced to leave the industry or to move elsewhere with their families unless they can get a start on an organised site which will fight to beat the blacklist and force the bosses to take them on.

As the bosses' crisis deepens there will be more victimisation and more unemployment. This is why we must fight now to keep our jobs and to organise other workers around us. This is what the bosses dread. Once we have organised, we may start blacklisting the employers.



A VICTORY for the pickets. Some of the 70 trade unionists on the mass picket at Cammell Lairds in Birkenhead on Monday convince a worker not to cross the line.

The picket was called in support of building workers who had occupied the site for six months in a demand for re-employment after the sacking of contractors.

The sit-in ended three weeks ago. But there are still 100 trade unionists without jobs and they are determined not to give up. Lairds have got hold of a new contractor. Wimpeys, and are

anxious to get the slipway completed as soon as possible.

Three coachloads of scabs employed by Wimpeys broke through the picket line last Friday with the help of the police. But Lairds stewards inside told them to get out and they left. On Monday, only staff for Wimpeys arrived and they were turned away.

The pickets will continue until the men get their jobs back. Wimpeys have said they will take back only 30 men.

It's too early to say that these will not include

the men who have campaigned and sat for six months, but Wimpeys are well known for their anti-union activity and seem determined to impose the right to hire and fire in one of the strongest organised building sites in the country.

This strike should have been made official months ago. But the morale of the pickets is high, because they know that victory will establish the right to work and set a precedent for other building workers that although they are victims of the crisis, they don't always have to foot the bill.

Cardiff battle on unemployment

SIXTY delegates from shop stewards' committees and trade union branches attended the Cardiff Trades Council conference on unemployment. The trades council had already unanimously agreed to a resolution calling for work or full pay, a 35-hour week, no short time and a militant struggle for nationalisation under workers' control.

The trades council has set up a sub-committee representing the major industries, with the power to co-opt representatives from workers facing redundancy.

The committee is producing 5000 copies of a regular bulletin warning workers not to be tempted by voluntary redundancy because of the unemployment situation in Cardiff. It has the power to organise support for workers threatened by sackings.

The delegate conference was called to help take this fight to the shop floor. Some trades council members simply wanted to send resolutions calling on the Welsh TUC to organise a campaign.

But part of any successful campaign

will be the extent to which shop floor workers are involved. International Socialists who are delegates to the trades council argued that the campaign we want the Welsh TUC to lead will be enormously strengthened by local delegate conferences of shop floor representatives.

The Cardiff conference was organised in just two weeks. But it still showed how useful these conferences can be.

Contributions from the floor covered voluntary redundancies, short time, natural wastage and closures, and ways

were discussed of how to fight these issues. These included bans on overtime, trade union control of manning and work quotas, no flexibility, internal blacking, return to 40-hour week from continental shift system, longer holidays, shorter working week and systems of trade union control over jobs so that those who accept voluntary redundancies go to the back of the queue.

The conference also demanded retirement at 60 for all. Contributors agreed that the £6 limit would only worsen unemployment and that the point to be hammered home was that a job lost to one is a job lost to all. It was also felt that a militant policy was needed now to force investment back into industry. If the present owners won't, then the government should do this through nationalisation with workers' control. Workers' control is important to Cardiff as East Moors Steelworks, is part of BSC, and is due for closure by the government in 1980.

The results of the conference will be published in a 'How to fight unemployment' pamphlet and will be distributed to all trade union branches and shop stewards' committee in the area.

The following evening Cardiff Trades Council also agreed to organise a campaign against the cuts in education and social services with relevant trade unions and bodies such as parent/teacher associations.

LADBROKES STRIKERS ARE SOLD OUT

GLASGOW: For nearly seven weeks, 280 members of the TGWU in Glasgow have been fighting Ladbrokes, the massive betting chain, for union recognition.

Now, because the biggest union in the country didn't mobilise its strength for some of its newest members, the strikers are being forced back to work—if the management accept them.

The dispute began when Ladbrokes refused to negotiate with the union. The workers came out on strike and Ladbrokes immediately sacked them. The strike then became dirty, with the employer recruiting blackleg labour and challenging the T&G to do its worst.

The TGWU officials, showed little urgency in pushing their members' case.

Shop stewards' committees received appeal sheets but never heard how important the strike was for the growth of trade unionism amongst unorganised workers.

Few TGWU members were aware that the strike was taking place at all. If it hadn't been for all Ladbrokes betting shops in Glasgow being closed, no-one would have noticed the dispute.

The isolation of the strikes could have been broken by calling a TGWU shop stewards' meeting. Support could have been organised there for the pickets and the flying pickets extended. But trade union officials are not keen on this sort of action. They prefer negotiations.

The strikers were sold out in exactly the same way as the Glasgow dustcart

drivers. They belong to the same union and, funnily enough, TGWU regional official and leading Communist Party member Hugh Wyper, who was there the day dustcart drivers' strike was broken, played a leading part in the Ladbrokes' strikers' meeting.

Wyper and other local trade union officials have often been keen to tell workers to get back to work. Clearly, he had much the same thing to say to these TGWU members in their dispute.

The pity is that the workers have gone back without winning any point in their claim. The union is still unrecognised and many of the strikers stand little chance of being re-employed.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

DON'T FORGET OUR FUND!

THE FINE response to the Portuguese Solidarity Fund is obviously taking its toll of the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund. We received only £97.48 this week, the smallest amount for a long, long time.

We know comrades are also scraping up every penny for holidays. And inflation and unemployment make sure there's not much cash about anyway.

But if we're to take up the fight against the government's anti-working class policies, we must have money. See what you can collect in your workplace or on your estate this week and rush it to:

Mel Norris, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Our thanks to: Burry Port SW readers £10; Portslade School and Community College SW supporters £1.80; Sussex subscriber £3; Wandsworth IS £7.50; SW reader Conisborough £2.20; Lambeth South IS £1.50; Aberdeen IS £25; Pontefract IS £5; Paisley IS £2; Cardiff IS £37.48.

STEEL: 20,000 FACE THE SACK

REMEMBER THE ROW three months ago when steel boss Sir Monty Finniston threatened to axe 20,000 jobs? Well, this week, he and his henchmen met Minister of Trade Lord Beswick and union officials—and made almost exactly the same demands again.

The signs are that at least 10,000 jobs will go almost immediately, with another 10,000 to follow. This almost certainly means the closure of Shotton steelworks in North Wales and the loss of 4000 jobs in Lanarkshire—two high unemployment areas.

Yet the sackings have already been agreed by Wedgwood Benn's successor as Industry Minister, Eric Varley. From Benn, who attacked Finniston over the talk of sackings in May, there is no threat to resign over this humiliating turn-around.

The sackings cannot be blamed on 'high' wages. For 50 years, the steel workers' moderate union leadership have ensured shockingly low pay for what is, in the main, dirty and soul-destroying work.

No. The real cause is the economic recession sweeping the steel industry all over the western world.

'By the end of May', the Economist reported recently, 'steel production in the non-communist world has dropped by 17 per cent on the same month last year, and in the EEC by almost 30 per cent. May was worse than April—western world production dropped five per cent—and reports suggest that June is worse than May.'

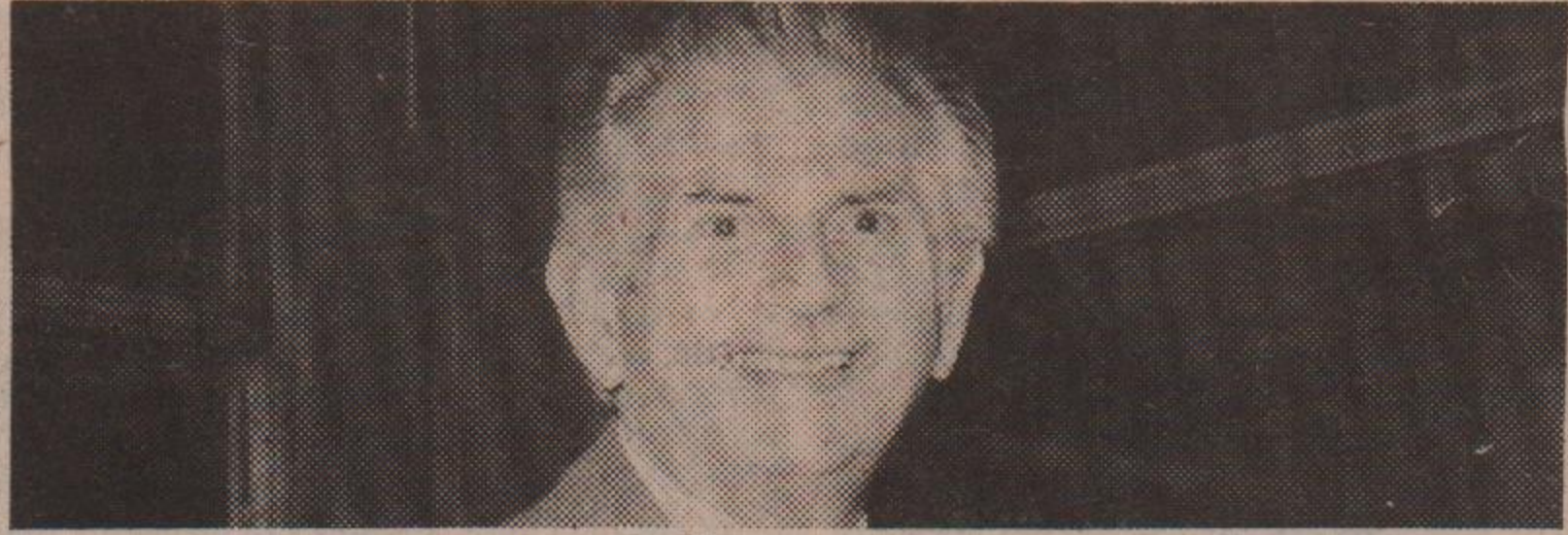
CRAVEN

The recession is the product of a system which creates crisis through its lack of planning and then 'deals with' them by cutting production and throwing men out of work.

Steelworkers will be told by Sir Monty, Eric Varley and their craven union leaders to accept redundancies in the interests of 'the nation' or of 'increased investment' elsewhere.

And that will be nonsense. Finniston wants workers to accept these sackings in the interest of his class. That's why he's fighting for a £200 a week pay increase for himself. That's why only this week he's agreed to pay enormous increases to his steel managers, who are already earning between £6000 and £9000* a year.

The increases are 30 per cent or £2000 a year (£40 a week) whichever is the lower. They are being paid to 'maintain the differentials' between middle managers and senior managers.



Finniston: now he's getting his way . . .



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Liverpool tenants march against rent rises

TENANTS in Liverpool marching on the Town Hall last week against proposed rent increases. They came from the Scotland Road area, officially classified as deprived and therefore previously exempt.

Rent increases are up to 90 per cent, although the rate of unemployment in the area is 20 per cent. If unemployment were at the same rate throughout the whole country, 4½ million people would be on the dole.

Although the council is now 'reconsidering' the increases following the protests, the tenants are not sitting back. A city-wide meeting was called for Thursday in the Liverpool Stadium.

CIA tricks in Portugal

From page one

AFM in propaganda inside and outside Portugal designed to divide and weaken the AFM. False documents and rumour campaigns, fomenting of strife, conflict and jealousy . . .

The CIA clearly must have intervened in the recent electoral campaign

James Lawler, the CIA deputy chief of station in Lisbon engaged in just such operation in Brazil in 1962 and in Chile in 1964 when many millions of dollars were spent to promote the election of US-approved 'moderates' . . .

Propaganda exploitation of economic hardship will thus prepare at least a limited public acceptance of a sudden strong military government 'to restore national dignity, discipline and purpose'. If there is a Portuguese Pinochet, he ought to be identified now.

Political assassination must be expected along with bombings that can be attributed to the revolutionary left. Mr Morgan, the head of the CIA in Lisbon, learned those kinds of operations when he served in Brazil (1966-1968) and in Uruguay (1970-1973). The 'death squads' in those countries over recent years must be anticipated and stopped before they are established.

Warfare

Agee's letter stresses that the CIA is only one in a whole range of agencies working to defend the economic and political interests of big business in Portugal.

Counter-revolutionary activities are, he states, in all probability carried out by State Department personnel at the US Embassy in Lisbon.

Assistance also comes from the British Secret Service. And economic warfare can be unleashed through the international loan and credit institutions.

Agee also states that the CIA are unquestionably involved in the sudden emergence of a separatist movement in the Azores, that CIA trade union operators have been working to split the Portuguese trade union movement and that large amounts of American money is being channelled to the most reactionary elements in the Catholic Church to assist their agitation against socialism.

He ends his 'Letter' with a call for ruthless exposure of the CIA and other such agencies and the expulsion of their agents. He adds that the best protection is the development of the revolution itself and above all the consolidation of organs of popular power.

Eldon Square worker killed

McALPINE'S—the ruthless building giants whose love of law and order helped put the Shrewsbury pickets in jail—have killed another worker. No criminal charges are expected.

The victim was a 25-year-old electrician on the Eldon Square Site in Newcastle, scene of a long and bitter battle earlier this year by scaffolders fighting victimisation.

The defeat of the scaffolders was McAlpine's signal to ignore even elementary safety precautions. With no unionised scaffolders on the site, hardly any toe-boards or hand-rails have been erected.

As work was being carried out on a site crane last week, the electrician

started work on the job. Normally scaffolders would have erected a platform to ensure safe conditions.

But McAlpine's and the scabs decided this would take too long. No platform was put up. The electrician fell to his death soon after beginning work.

Eddie Brady and the other scaffolders who fought McAlpines have been continually warning workers and Transport Union officials about the dangers of the site.

But T&G official Gordon McClean declared several weeks ago: 'We'll have to wait for a fatality on the site before we can do anything.' Now he's got it.

Socialist Worker DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

I enclose £ _____ for one year/six months Socialist Worker

(£7 for a year, £3.50 for six months)

Name _____

Address _____

Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2

For bulk orders phone 01-739 2639