

Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

The Government's Anti-Inflation programme came into full effect on August 1st.

It is a total fraud.

It is a wage cut.

A man earning £30 a week with three children will have 70p less in his wage packet after getting a £6 rise. All workers will have had their wages cut by 15 per cent by the time they will be legally entitled to another wage rise.

Prices will go on rising.

Provided an employer limits his workers to a £6 wage rise, there is no control at all on the prices he can charge. He can pass on rises in raw material costs in rates and fees and charges. Or he can put up his prices to boost profits. Even if the government's most optimistic forecasts are fulfilled, prices will rise by 15 per cent during the next year. And food prices will rise fastest of all.

Unemployment will go up and up.

There are a million and a quarter unemployed. There are another quarter of a million on short time. If the £6 limit is allowed to stand, there will be less money around to buy goods and services. There will be more jobs lost and more short time.

If you earn £8,500 a year, or if you have shares or dividends, don't worry.

You won't get any straight increase—and dividends are limited to ten per cent. But there are hundreds of ways you can protect yourself from the shock. Interest payments aren't controlled, for instance. You'll get much more from a bank or a local authority than from a share nowadays. Have you asked the firm whether they can give you a new company car, or more free meals or even those Harrow school fees?

For more details about what you can do about it ring
01-739 1878 and join the International Socialists



MINERS BALLOT

NO TO
**£6 WAGE LIMIT AND
 HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT**

The NCB and the orange juice fiddle

FOR 18 months in 1969 and 1970 the National Coal Board encouraged business with an undischarged bankrupt who had done a four-year prison sentence for war surplus frauds.

On New Year's Day, 1969, D R H Chaplin, then deputy director general of the Coal Board's purchasing department, sent a 'strictly confidential' memorandum to all areas about the 'disposal by sale of surplus assets'.

The memo gave 'certain instructions' about 'Mr George Dawson of Marble Arch, London'. Dawson, it pointed out, was an undischarged bankrupt, and so the board could not enter into a contractual relationship with him.

The memo went on: 'If he wishes to do business with the board (and it may be in the board's interest that he should) he will be required in each and every case to furnish the name of the principal on whose behalf he is acting'.

Method

It went on: 'It is realised that Mr Dawson's method of doing business may well require him to explore the possibility of acquiring surplus assets before exploring the market to see whether he can find a principal who would authorise him to act as agent. Mr Dawson should therefore be given the same facilities as are given to other persons interested in the disposal by sale of surplus assets'.

The memo did not explain why an undischarged bankrupt should be given these facilities by the National Coal Board.

Nor did it reveal that Dawson had been convicted in 1960 on three charges of false pretence, fraudulent conversion and obtaining credit by fraud. The charges all related to the sale of half a million gallons of orange juice obtained by fraud from the Ministry of Food.

For his part in the great orange juice rip-off, Dawson was sent to prison for four years.

These facts came to light nearly 18 months after Mr

Chaplin wrote his memo. Another 'private and confidential' memo was sent to all the Coal Board's regional controllers on 18 May 1970 by J P Hagan, director general of the NCB purchasing and stores department: The memo removed a number of firms from the list of buyers of scrap and surplus material.

It also insisted: 'In future there will be no dealings of any kind with Mr Dawson and the exception in the case of a named principal is withdrawn. This is the Director-General's ruling'.

How much of the Coal Board's surplus material was flogged off to a convicted orange juice fraud remains a mystery.

Only one thing is certain. Dawson and all his former friends at the purchasing department of the NCB are all hoping fervently for a Yes vote in the miners' ballot

THIS is the last week of the miner's ballot on the government's £6 limit. The press scent a victory for a Yes vote. They predict confidently that the miners will endorse the government's policy.

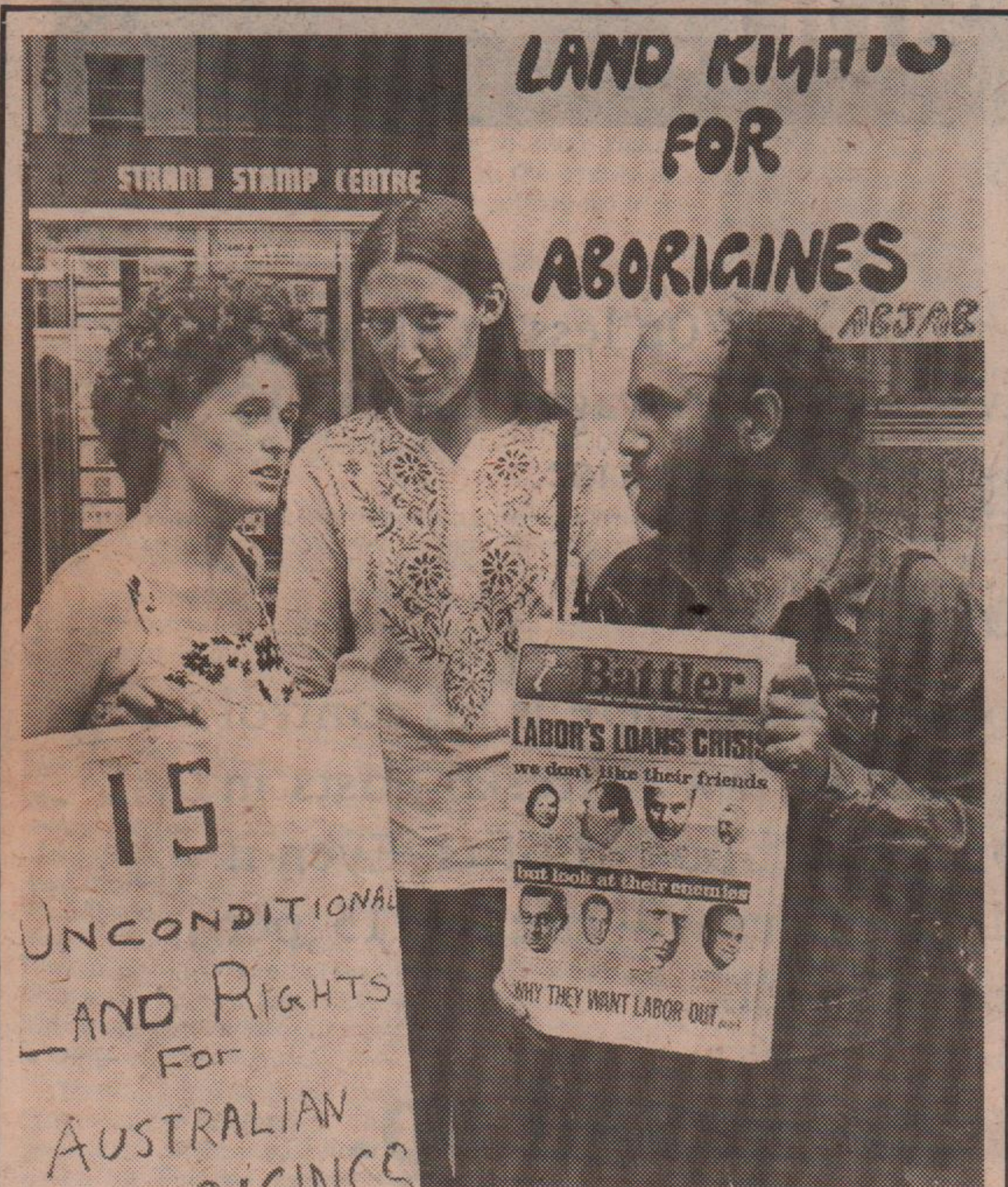
Last week the Welsh miners' leaders added their voices to those of the Yorkshire and Scotland areas, calling for a No vote.

In South Wales, 1000 copies of the Socialist Worker special issue (above) on the ballot have been sold in the local pits. Fantastic efforts have been made by management to stop the sale. At Oakdale pit the manager stood in

front of the men to stop them from getting copies.

Response to the special issue are favourable. One miner said he had always been Labour, but he was fed up with this lot. Other younger miners who support the Welsh Nationalists pointed out that the Nationalists had given no lead on the £6 issue.

Miners who want to know more about the International Socialists should come to the first meeting of Caerphilly IS on Thursday 28 August in the Town Community Centre at 7.30pm.



Some of the pickets with the Australian socialist paper The Battler. PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Aborigines: Free the three!

by Elliot Jones

ABOUT 40 people picketed the Queensland government's house in Brisbane of two black militants and a white supporter. Until their arrest all three have been active in a campaign against the racist Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's Act.

This Act would not be out of place in South Africa. It enables the Queensland government completely to control the lives of black people. Those living on reserves are cut off from the outside world to the extent that young people who have left the reserve are often refused permission to return to visit their families!

The government is afraid they might organise opposition to the system which allows the reserve manager to assign an aborigine any job under threat of imprisonment for refusal. National wage agreements do not apply; rates of pay are determined by the manager and are a 'state secret'. Even blacks outside the reserve can be classified as aged, infirm or slow, and paid less than the

minimum wage. For the 32,000 aborigines classified under the Act, any goods or money acquired even in these conditions is not theirs to hold—the state looks after it all. How they spend their money and almost every other aspect of their lives is carefully controlled by an obnoxious series of regulations.

But behind the 19th century racist paternalism lies the 20th century capitalism: some of the world's richest mineral bauxite fields have been discovered on northern Queensland reserves. Under the Act, the people on the reserves have no right to these. As far as the multinational mining companies are concerned, this state of affairs suits them fine.

Richest

Last week's picket in London was part of a campaign to force the Queensland government to drop the charges and to repeal the apartheid-type Act. Linked to this is the demand for self-determination and unconditional land rights for the aboriginal people. The picket was supported by the International Socialists and our fraternal Australian organisation the Socialist Workers' Action Group.

Bombs trial: The weighted scales of justice

by Doug Holton

'UNDER the circumstances it is hardly surprising that the prosecution have not been able to produce much concrete evidence', said the judge summing up at the Birmingham bombs trial at Lancaster last week.

The hub of the prosecution's case, according to the judge, was the evidence of a 17-year-old neighbour of John Walker who had seen bags of what looked like fertilizer being delivered to Walker's house one night. He had also passed Walker on the night of the bombings carrying a hold-all which looked heavy.

After ten weeks of being confronted with the full majesty and paraphernalia of English law, after seeing the defendants being led in handcuffed to prison officers, after witnessing the most extensive 'security' operation ever to accompany a criminal trial in this country, with everything except the evidence pointed to the guilt of the accused men, the jury returned verdicts of 'Guilty'.

If they had not found them guilty they would have had to face up to the certainty that the police had been guilty of perjury and torture.

The judge accused the medical officer of Winson Green Prison, Birmingham, of lying, because his evidence directly contradicted that of the police.

He posed such questions as: 'Is it not unusual for someone to carry a friend's bag? Is it not unusual for a man's wife to mend another man's trousers? Is it not unusual for five Irishmen to buy tickets for Ireland? Is it not unusual for someone to forget his change when buying a ticket?'

If there had been a different judge he might have asked the jury: 'Is it not unusual that after a series of bomb attacks which had been carried out without the Serious Crime Squad being able to charge a single person, that the most carefully planned of all should be followed by the immediate arrest of the "culprits"? Is it not unusual that although the police say they had information that the accused were in possession of explosives before the bombings they did not investigate?'

There are many unusual things about this case but you won't hear them from any judge, because state machine is able to use the legal system for its own ends. In this case those ends were to get a quick conviction and restore faith in the ability of the state to deal with its enemies.



Police chief Robert Mark at a recent garden party

Barbed wire, Sir Robert?

by Tony Barrow

(TGWU, Ford Leamington)

'WELL done, Sir Robert Mark! Not only are we now to have a fair percentage of innocent people convicted of crimes they have not committed, but you want those missed the first time investigated, just because they had the affrontery to be acquitted.'

There is a much easier way of going about the business you wish to conduct. Just throw a barbed wire fence all along the coast and allocate a prison officer to every family.

Sir Robert, who is London's chief of police, talks about the villains who are going free because the jury believes the man in the dock rather than the police officer giving evidence. Sir Robert could well reflect on who's fault that is. After all, there have been so many trials of corrupt police officers it is little wonder that the jury have some difficulty deciding just who is the real villain.

Sir Robert says there are only three policemen for each square mile of the Metropolitan Police area, and it is not worth pulling one of them off the street to give evidence

in court if the 'wrongdoers' are going to get off all the time. One wonders why there are so few coppers. Perhaps the pay isn't very good.

No, that can't be it. No one's pay is any good. Except perhaps Sir Robert's and the rest of his class who insist on having a paramilitary group to protect them.

Crunch

The fact is that decent working-class people don't want to be coppers when they can see that they are only there to oppress the workers. Those who are coppers now should think about that, because when the crunch comes there will be considerably fewer than three to the square mile in the Metropolitan area.

Last week a wealthy pig farmer was set free after he attempted to murder an agricultural official by shooting him in the back with a revolver. What would one of his workers have got had he shot one of the damn pigs? Of course attempted murder by the ruling class isn't a new thing. They have been getting away with it for years.

WHAT WE THINK

BACK in the thirties the Baldwin-Chamberlain 'national government' ran a big scale 'Buy British' campaign. It was, so they claimed, the way to reduce unemployment. Now, with unemployment heading for one and a half million, Trade Secretary Peter Shore is playing the same tune.

The leadership of the office workers' union APEX jumped on the bandwagon with a 'Buy British cars' campaign backed by 500,000 badges and stickers. 'One man's Datsun is another man's redundancy' is its slogan.

Incidentally, APEX president Roy Grantham is on record as saying, at a recent TUC Congress: 'We can further inter-dependence in other regions of the world and help heal the divisions between poor and rich, black and white, East and West. With our friends in Europe we can start on the road to world unity.' But then he was advocating Britain staying in the Common Market. Evidently the Japanese workers who make Datsuns are not part of Grantham's 'world unity'.

There are two things that have to be made clear about 'Buy British' campaigns and, of course, about the equivalent 'Buy American', 'Buy German', 'Buy French', 'Buy Japanese' or whatever it may be.

The first is that they do not in fact reduce unemployment. That is the experience. They did not do so in the 1930s and they will not do so today. The reason is obvious enough. There is 'over-capacity' in industry around the world and the various protectionist schemes and nationalistic campaigns tend to cancel one another out.

Gullible

Just now there is a tremendous agitation in the USA in press and Congress about the 'flood of cheap foreign cars' which is alleged to be responsible for mass unemployment in Detroit. No doubt the Detroit equivalents of Roy Grantham are telling their members: 'One man's British Leyland (and Volkswagen and Renault) is another man's redundancy'. No doubt some of them are gullible enough to believe it.

The second thing is that the 'Buy British' stunt is actively harmful because it diverts attention from the real problem and the real culprit. The Labour government's policies are sharply increasing unemployment.

The £6 pay limit, on the government's own admission, means cuts in real take-home pay. That means less to spend for workers as a whole. It means less purchasing power and therefore less jobs. 'One man's £6 limit is another man's redundancy' if you want it in slogan form.

The government-imposed cuts in public spending are making the slump worse. Just as in the 1930s, 'economy' is the watchword at the very time that unused resources, men and machines, are increas-



French carworkers demonstrating against unemployment. Their bosses and their government urge everyone to 'Buy French'—but that doesn't save their jobs either.

BUYING BRITISH WON'T SAVE JOBS

ing fast. Not the Datsun or Fiat workers, but Dennis Healey and Harold Wilson are the men responsible.

The Labour government is hell-bent on winning the 'confidence' of capitalists and bankers here and overseas. It is following the same reactionary policies that the Tory-dominated 'national government' followed in the thirties,

policies that are producing mass unemployment and wholesale run-down of the social services.

The 'Buy British' diversion fits perfectly into all this. It is the old game of setting worker against worker. To the extent that people are kidded into believing that it is some kind of solution, to that extent the struggle against capitalism, and the Labour politicians who are running the country in the interests of capitalism, is weakened.

Don't be fooled. There is no solution to the crisis, from the point of view of working-class interests, without taking industry out of the hands of the bosses and establishing a planned economy. 'Buy British' is one of the many propaganda stunts that are designed to hide that truth.

Ports nationalisation: Another beached promise

THE ports are not going to be nationalised. That's official. Yet another Labour Party promise broken.

The nationalisation of shipbuilding and aircraft has been 'put back'. The official excuse is 'lack of parliamentary time'. But time can be found for anything the government really wants to do. Jenkins' so-called Prevention of Terrorism Act was rushed through in 24 hours.

The fact is that the nationalisation measures are being quietly buried because winning the 'confidence' of big business is now the government's top priority.

Abortion campaign must go on

by Margaret Renn

THE campaign to defend women's rights to abortion has only just begun. The press and television, and many of the people involved in the campaign against the James White Bill, think that because the Bill no longer exists that's the end of the matter.

The parliamentary select committee which has been looking into the Bill makes it clear in their report that they will be back again in the autumn. The committee is dominated by anti-abortionists who hope to get a new anti-abortion Bill made law.

The Times said recently: 'The task of deciding whether to recommend that the present grounds on which abortions are allowed should be restricted or not has been deferred until the autumn.' (Our italics).

March

The anti-abortion campaign has not let up for a moment. The Catholic Church, the Society for the Prevention of the Unborn Child, the Festival of Light will be lobbying MPs in October. They already have a big march planned for 19 October.

It's not just a question of abortion. Women's rights are under attack on all sides. Already the protective clauses of the Factories Act have been thrown out. Now the Employment Protection Bill has been cut to giving maternity payments only when a woman has been in the same job for more than two years.

The biggest campaign for women's rights since the suffragettes fought for the vote has been organised in the past six months by the National Abortion Campaign.

In every locality, trade union branch, work place we need to organise to prevent any further restrictive legislation. We shouldn't wait for the government. The National Abortion Campaign should organise another massive demonstration before the new parliamentary session starts to show just how strong our campaign is.



The National Abortion Campaign is holding a meeting in London on Saturday 6 September to discuss the future of the campaign and decide whether or not to hold a demonstration. All local NAC groups should make sure they send representatives to this meeting.

Photo-typesetting - we need £6000

TWO years ago readers and supporters of Socialist Worker gave nearly £30,000 to the SW Printshop Fund. That money enabled us to buy a Goss newspaper printing press. That press has changed beyond all recognition the ability of our printshop to produce Socialist Worker, the many rank and file trade unionists' newspapers and a host of other publications of assistance to the socialist and working-class movement.

The Socialist Worker that is produced today has to be written and typeset over a period of just two days to meet the demands of the present political situation. It is typeset on the same machines as the Socialist Worker that was produced over a five-day period. The result is a terrible strain on

By Mel Norris, IS National Treasurer

all our resources. Furthermore, the rank and file newspapers that were few and far between are now regular and many. Their importance to the struggle on the shop floor cannot be overestimated, and we hope to assist in producing many more. Then there is Women's Voice, the IS Journal and a host of pamphlets to be typeset and printed.

The plain truth is that we have to service those papers with typesetting machinery that is worn out and inefficient for the demands put on it. We have no room for manoeuvre, to expand to meet the still greater demands which will be placed on us by the deepening economic and political crisis.

Photo-typesetting, the new computerised technique, would help

the printshop enormously. It would enable us to produce to our present capacity in much less time. More than that it would give us enough spare capacity to increase our output for the working-class movement.

Barons

We don't want to buy this to cut jobs, or save money and maximise profits like the newspaper barons who're trying to dump printworkers on the scrapheap by switching to computerised printing.

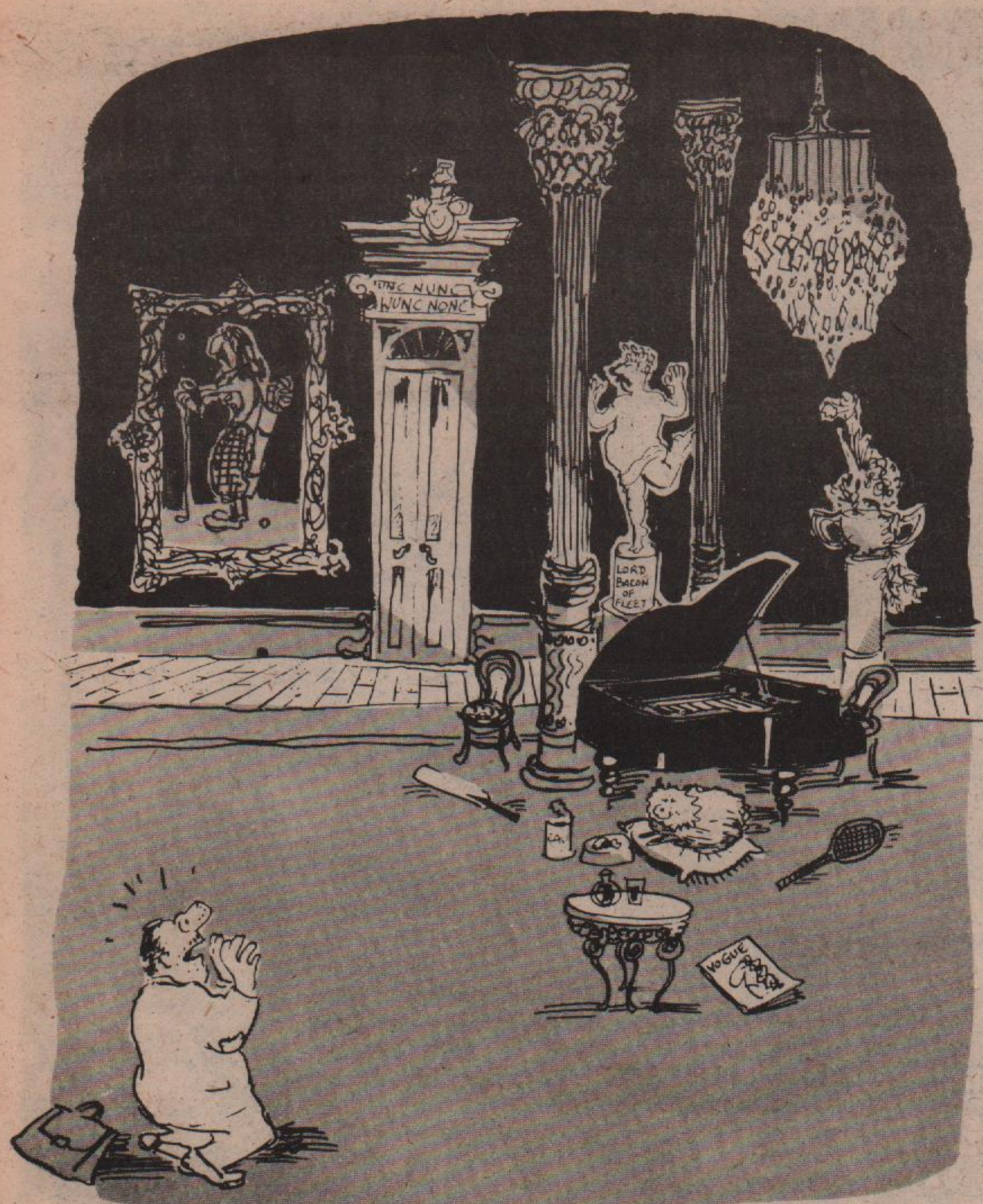
As ever there is one big snag. We need £6000 from you. Photo-typesetting costs money, a lot of money. So over the next couple of months the Socialist Worker Fight-

ing Fund is going to be devoted to helping us get that money.

That's why we need you to dig a little deeper

This week's fund brought in a total of £222.54, including SW readers, Tower Hamlets, London £1.60, Bristol IS £3, 'A little towards future of kids' from Shoreditch social worker £10, Paddington IS £6.75, Glasgow NALGO member £5, Central Manchester IS £30, SW readers, Queenswood Estate, Leeds £5, Manchester IS health workers £2, SW readers on holiday in Torquay £25, Wandsworth IS £10, Cardiff SW reader £50, SW reader, Accrington £1, Two Newcastle-under-Lyme readers £5, SE London IS £25, Maidstone IS £5, GLC IS £6.11, Southwark IS £7.08, SW reader, SW London £25.

Send your donations to SW Phototypesetting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



Why trade union officials sell out

AGAIN AND AGAIN in recent weeks, this page has featured the sell-outs of full-time union officials.

Some, like Pat Farrelly, the former militant Engineering Union official, go straight over to management.

Some, like Jim Mortimer, former editor of the draughtsmen's union journal, go to government bodies like the conciliation and arbitration unit, ACAS. Others just sell their members out from union offices.

Almost invariably, these men start as militants and socialists on the shop-floor. What is it that twists them into agents of the employers?

Classic

More than half a century ago, Sidney and Beatrice Webb finished the last edition of their classic history of trade unionism in Britain. One chapter—the Salaried Official—was based largely on interviews with a skilled engineering worker who had spent most of his life in and out of union office.

His comments on trade union officialdom are as true today as they were then:-

As Branch Secretary, working at his trade, our friend, though superior in energy and ability to the rank and file of his members, remained in close touch with their feelings and desires. His promotion to a salaried office brings him wider knowledge and larger ideas.

To the ordinary Trade Unionist the claim of the workman is that of Justice. He believes, almost as a matter of principle, that in any dispute the capitalist is in the wrong and the workman in the right.

THE UNIONS

But when, as a District Delegate, it becomes his business to be perpetually investigating the exact circumstances of the men's quarrels, negotiating with employers, and arranging compromises, he begins more and more to recognise that there is something to be urged on the other side.

There is also an unconscious bias at work. Whilst the points at issue no longer affect his own earnings or conditions of employment, any disputes between his members and their employers increase his work and add to his worry.

The former vivid sense of the privations and subjection of the artisan's life gradually fades from his mind and he begins more and more to regard all complaints as perverse and unreasonable.

With this intellectual change may come a more invidious transformation. Nowadays the salaried officer of a great Union is courted and flattered by the middle class. He is asked to dine with them, and will admire their well-appointed houses, their fine carpets, the ease and luxury of their lives.

He knows many men who, with less ability and energy than himself, have, by steady pursuit of their own ends, become foremen, managers, or even small employers...

And so the remarks of his wife and her relations, the workings of his own mind, the increase of years, a growing desire to be settled in life and to see the future clear before him and his children, and perhaps also a little envy of his middle-class friends, all begin insidiously, silently, unknown even to himself, to work a change in his views of life.

Wife

He goes to live in a little villa in a lower middle-class suburb. The move leads to his dropping his workmen friends; and his wife changes her acquaintances.

With the habits of his new neighbours he insensibly adopts more and more of their ideas. Gradually he finds himself at issue with his members, who no longer agree to his proposals with the old alacrity.

He attributes the breach to the influences of a clique of malcontents, or perhaps to the wild views held by the younger generation.

At last the climax comes. A great strike threatens to involve the Society in desperate war.

Unconsciously biased by distaste for the hard and unthankful work which a strike entails, he finds himself in small sympathy with the men's demands, and eventually arranges a compromise on terms distasteful to a large section of his members.

The gathering storm-clouds now break. At his next appearance before a general meeting cries of 'treachery' and 'bribery' are raised.

Alas! it is not bribery. Not his morality but his intellect is corrupted. Secure in the consciousness of freedom from outward taint, he faces the meeting boldly, throws the accusation back in their faces, and for the moment carries his point.

But his position now becomes rapidly unbearable. On all sides he finds suspicion deepening into hatred.

He looks out for some opening of escape, and finally accepting a small appointment, lays down his Secretaryship with heartfelt relief and disappears for ever from the Trade Union World.

ASTMS STRIKERS TOLD: 'GO TO HELL'

LAST WEEK'S meeting of ASTMS officials, which decided by 46 votes to 21 to continue the strike over the dismissal of Judy Cotter, was an unhappy one for two senior officials.

MURIEL TURNER, assistant general secretary, attended the meeting but her presence was challenged from the floor on the grounds that she was working while the other officials were on strike.

Muriel Turner said she 'wanted to make a personal statement', but the meeting voted that she should leave. She left, shouting 'To hell with the lot of you!'

BOB McCUSKER, the union's deputy general secretary, was not at all happy when Alec Day, former President of the Scottish TUC, spoke up for continuing the strike.

Badly

He indicated to Day that his speech came badly from an official who had been assisted by the union during illness.

He also said he would be 'watching closely' for any slip-up in Day's performance.

Alec Day sent a message to the chairman, complaining of being threatened by McCusker. The meeting was adjourned while the officers' committee discussed the incident.

They told McCusker that unless he apologised to Day, the matter would be brought out into the open at the meeting. McCusker apologised and that was the end of the matter.

John Bonfield, a retiring chap

JOHN BONFIELD, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, sprang a surprise announcement on the union's national council last week.

After fighting hard to win a narrow majority for endorsement of the government's £6 pay limit, he announced he was going to retire three years early.

Members of the union feel sure that Bonfield's considerable energies will find another outlet before very long.

Certainly his bosom pal, Lord Arnold Goodman, boss of the employers' association the Newspaper Publishers Association, should be able to unlock a few doors.



July 1974—and the NALGO Action Group is at the heart of the struggle; now the right-wing are 'investigating' it.

Defeat the NALGO witch-hunt!

THE EXECUTIVE of NALGO—the fourth largest union in the country—has asked its general purposes committee to investigate the 'NALGO Action Group, its parent body the International Socialists, and the News Sheet, known as NALGO Action News.'

The investigation will take up a lot of the union's time and money. The leaders' lust for the blood of its militants can be measured by the documents which have already been sent round to the branches. They include internal documents of the International Socialists.

Socialist Worker spoke to Peter Martin, editor of Nalگو Action News, about the investigation.

Q. Is it true that the International Socialists are the parent body of NAG?

A. Absolutely not. The proof is in the structure of the group. It's open to anyone who wants a more democratic, fighting union.

It consists of people with many different political views. It has an annual conference open to all paid-up members, which elects the editorial board of Action News. I was elected editor at the conference, and I am responsible to the conference.

Q. Why has the executive set up this inquiry?

A. Because they are terrified by the rank and file action which the

Nalگو Action Group has encouraged. The Group called on members to take action over the London Weighting claim last year.

In some London offices, the call resulted in unofficial strikes for the first time in the history of the union.

Again, earlier this year, NAG successfully campaigned for a special delegate conference to discuss the 1975 pay claim. The NEC wanted us to go for a vague substantial claim, but the conference, after several speeches from NAG supporters, decided on £10 plus 15 per cent.

Fight

The Healey cuts will result in attempts at mass sackings by local authorities. The NALGO executive are mandated to resist those sackings with strike action, but they don't want to carry out the mandate.

In this situation, more and more people are looking to NAG for a lead, and the executive want to reassert their authority, not by open argument, but by witch-hunt.

Q. Do you think NALGO members should co-operate in the inquiry?

A. No. The wording of the in-

quiry itself shows that it is a witch-hunt. The investigating committee will have a built-in right-wing bias. Their intention is to smear us, and whatever we say at any inquiry will be distorted or used out of context.

Q. Aren't you running away from the argument by not co-operating with the inquiry?

A. Not at all. I and all other NAG members are happy to talk about or debate with anyone about who we are and what we represent at any NALGO branch or office meeting.

In that context we can talk not just about NAG and what it represents, but what the executive should be doing in this great crisis for all NALGO members—instead of wasting their time on a squalid witch-hunt.

● The GLC branch of NALGO, one of the biggest in the country, has passed a motion condemning the investigation into NALGO Action News and IS as 'a waste of the union's time and money' and 'a threat to union democracy'.

It called on the General Purposes Committee to report 'nil findings'. The resolution was bitterly opposed by the branch chairman, a member of the executive, but was passed nevertheless.

Get out - and join IS

SOME WEEKS AGO, when printworkers at Sharmans in Peterborough were locked out in one of the most bitter disputes in the town's history, the local Labour Party were asked to do something quite shocking. They were asked to support them.

The suggestion came from David Bunch, the Central Ward secretary, and it left his fellow members of the Party's general management committee aghast.

He was answered by a councillor, who announced with unintended irony that 'this thing (the dispute) is political. We've got elections coming up next year and we can't afford to get involved in anything political'.

It was about then that David Bunch realised he was wasting his time in the Labour Party...

He and another local activist, David Toone, have quit to join the International Socialists. The two men this week told Socialist Worker why.

'There's lots of reasons,' says David Toone. He talks of the Stonehouse affair, the cuts in public spending—'stinks of 1931 all over again, does that'—and the way the Party is 'doing its damndest to prop the system up'.

But the hopelessness of it all is tinged with a deep feeling of moral bankruptcy. 'I remember the last general election campaign. You run around like mad for three weeks, getting things moving, thinking you're achieving something.'

'Well I came across an old woman, arthritic she was, living in a Nissen hut. Course, I made promises to her, how a Labour government would help her, would get her out of there, into somewhere decent to live.'

Vote

'And then, afterwards, you stop and think. You know that woman's still going to be there in five years' time when you go back and make all the same promises again. But you're forced to do it because you want her vote. And her vote is all that matters.'

'Just like you'd "agree" with people sounding off about "left-wing extremists" in the Party. You agreed with them because you wanted their vote. And you'd feel sick inside...'

At 38, David Toone is old enough to remember when the Labour Party meant something to workers. He grew up in a Leicestershire quarry village 'alongside the Labour Party'.

But the Party in Bourne Deepings, where he was chairman, was stuffed full of professional people. Consequently, he says, 'political issues were hardly ever discussed.'

'You made a political remark and you'd be told "people like you shouldn't be in the Labour Party", and you'd wonder what the hell it's all about.'

'People would say things like "the working man is his own worst enemy" and that workers were "just a greedy lot of buggers".'

It was a similar experience for David Bunch. Being a socialist in the Labour Party meant being labelled an 'extremist troublemaker'.

'My quarrel,' he says, 'is not with the right, but with the left-wing of

FIVE WORDS OF ADVICE FOR SOCIALISTS IN THE LABOUR PARTY - FROM TWO WHO'VE DONE JUST THAT



David Bunch speaking at an IS factory gate meeting on the Common Market: in the centre is David Toone. Both men have now quit the Labour Party to join IS

the Party. It's like a game of cowboys and Indians for them.

'When it comes to the crunch, they've got to play the game according to the rules laid down by the ruling class.'

'Some would argue that you to get more left-wing Labour MPs and councillors. But they wouldn't have been on the picket line at Sharmans either.'

The Sharmans dispute was not the only issue to lead him to break with the Party. The other was the Common Market.

'There were two anti-Market campaigns in Peterborough. I was

involved with people you'd regard as Labour left-wingers and with the Communist Party.'

'They wanted to tone down the campaign. They wanted patriotism. The other campaign was organised by IS—and David moved towards it.'

'IS came out with a coherent identity. They were the only organisation that carried the campaign to the factories.'

Then the Sharmans dispute blew up. And while printworkers were fighting for their jobs, and the local Party was refusing to organise support for them, David found that

a former Labour mayor employed by Sharmans was scabbing.

'No-one on the general management committee would do anything about it. So I rang the local press and told them what I thought. It was all over the front page.'

'A left-wing member of the Party tried to get me disciplined for that.'

Meanwhile, despite David's efforts to get it withdrawn, hefty Labour council advertising was still going into Sharmans, who produce a local paper. And Peterborough's Labour MP, Michael Ward, refused to support the men publicly, though he did find time to organise a Parli-

mentary petition in support of Reg Prentice and to bemoan the plight of local fish friers hit by the potato shortage.

None of this was lost on David Bunch. 'The Sharmans workers were able to challenge the power of their bosses far more than by putting a cross on a ballot paper once every five years.'

'That was the crucial thing I learned. The dispute showed the bankruptcy of the Labour Party's approach to things.'

And the Prentice affair? Didn't that show there was still hope for socialists in the Labour Party?

'I think the whole Prentice thing is unimportant,' says David Bunch. 'The same week Prentice was kicked out at Newham, Michael Foot—the darling of the left—released the latest unemployment figures... a million out of work. That's how socialists in the Party are trapped.'

David Toone agrees. 'The Prentice thing is irrelevant. It might make other MPs shudder a bit, but it could also harden the right wing.'

For both men, leaving the Labour Party is a wrench. But as David Toone says: 'If you're politically conscious, you're wasting your time staying in it.'



Two Labour councillors, including Charles Swift, Labour leader of Peterborough council, backed out of a public debate with David Bunch and David Toone this week 72 hours before the meeting was due to take place.

Women? They'll have to wait

THE LABOUR government are trying yet again to wriggle out of their commitment to women's rights. A junior minister made this clear in Parliament last week in the debate on the Employment Protection Bill.

The original document drawn up to discuss the Bill contained some progressive measures for women workers, including four weeks' paid maternity leave for women who had worked at a firm for a year or more.

But, when the Bill was published, this 'qualifying period' had been increased to two years, with six weeks leave. When questioned on this by some women Labour MPs, the ministers replied that the one-year qualifying period would cost too much. In fact, the extra cost is £3 million a year, peanuts to a government that spends £4000 million a year on defence.

By demanding that women must work at the same place for two years before getting maternity pay, the government are cutting out the workers

By Lindsay German

most likely to get pregnant. And they know it.

Their own figures from the Department of Employment, show that between a quarter and a fifth of working women have been in their jobs less than the one year—let alone two!

But even these figures don't tell the whole truth. Younger women—who are more likely to get pregnant—change jobs much more often than older women. For instance, nearly half of women workers between the ages of 18-20 had been in their present work less than a year. The figure is almost as high for women in their 20s and 30s—childbearing age.

They only dropped drastically when women reached middle age. Only one in eight women in their fifties had been in their employment less than a year.

The government know this two-year rule means many of the women most in need of maternity pay will not qualify. Helene Hayman MP summed it up: 'My concern is that the

women who will not qualify under the Bill are the most vulnerable women. They will be the poorest women, the women who are young... the women in jobs which have a rapid turnover.'

That is the truth of the matter. And it is a truth the government are prepared to stomach. Because they would rather cut out maternity pay for thousands of working women than stand up to those who call the tune—the employers.

Extra maternity pay would cut into profits. And the bosses won't take that—especially at a time when they are trying to impose wage cuts.

All we get are vague promises for when 'economic circumstances permit'. Another MP who voted against the government, Audrey Wise, showed what she thought of that:

'We have heard these words all our political lives and we know that economic circumstances never permit the improvements in their lives that working people want, particularly those that working women want.'

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM by DUNCAN HALLAS

'BUT the Parliamentary report (on British Leyland) dismisses the best known recipes for reform—better management, better marketing and fewer strikes—as too simple,' said the Observer newspaper last Sunday. 'They are less important than the fact that British investment is as little as one-half or even one-quarter of that by foreign car companies.'

'In Austin and Morris the investment failure goes back to the 1920s and 1930s. The committee got evidence of equipment from 40 years ago which is still in use, including presses imported from Detroit in the 1930s.'

This may not be a very accurate summary of the emphasis of the report. The committee, which had a majority of Labour MPs, said a lot about management. It indicated that poor Mr Barber, who is suing for a mere £370,000 redundancy pay, had been badly treated.

It also called for large scale

redundancies. So much for Labour as the working man's party.

But the argument about investment is there as well. More to the point, it is true. Output per man is much lower in British Leyland than in the Detroit plants, for example, because investment per man is much lower in Birmingham and Cowley than it is in Detroit.

Why is investment so low? Because, says the Observer, profits are too low. Much more investment is needed in British industry

generally 'but only adequate return on capital will produce that investment whether it be public or private.'

Hide

'Return on capital' is one of those smooth phrases that is designed to hide meaning. What, in plain words, is being said is that unless the rich get a bigger slice of what is produced, then they will not invest, or not invest enough.

Now since, at any point in time, there is only so much to be distributed it follows as night follows day, that if the rich get more the rest of us get less.

Less doesn't only refer to wages. It also means less housing, health, education and public services generally. It means all those services—from public libraries to meals-on-wheels—which the rich regard as a 'burden' on capital.

'Adequate return on capital' means not just lower wages; it

means accepting the social priorities of the rich five per cent or so who alone have money to invest in any quantity.

It means steadily increasing inequality. It means getting closer to the situation in which, as in the USA today, public services are falling apart. And it means increased repression, police violence, racism

Nonetheless, it is true that any industrialised society, including a socialist one, does indeed need an adequate level of investment. There are, broadly speaking, three ways in which this investment can be secured.

The first is the traditional capitalist way. The economist Keynes once wrote that the extreme inequality of pre-1914 British society was 'providential' since the rich had such vast incomes that they were more or less forced to invest a large part of them.

Among the many costs of this method are the boom-slump cycle, periodic mass unemployment, poverty and waste on an enormous scale. And though it does ensure investment as such, it by no means guarantees that the investment will be in a particular industry—however essential—or in a particular country—it tends to go where labour and other costs are cheapest.

Then there is the state-capitalist method, usually grafted on to the traditional one. State aid for investment, state participation in companies, nationalisation of particularly unprofitable industries that are essential to the running of the economy as a whole. In principle the state can become the main source of investment whilst preserving a basically capitalist economy.

There are problems in this though. If the state provides the investment, what is the justification for the unearned incomes of the rich? The fact that some advocates of this solution—Mr Benn is a prominent example—argue that it will ultimately lead to socialism does not reassure capitalists and bankers.

It is not so much the Benns they fear as workers taking the Benns at their word and going beyond the limits of state capitalism. Big business needs state intervention to survive but fears too much of it.

Failed

To reassure the profiteers Labour governments in Britain have combined limited state-capitalist measures with reactionary policies to 'restore confidence'—the confidence of the rich—and in the event have failed to get either adequate investment or progressive social policies. At the moment they are giving us rapidly rising unemployment, falling output, stagnant investments and cuts in public services.

The third solution is the socialist one. Cut the connection between 'return on capital'—in other words the unearned income of the rich—and investment. Organise industry on the basis of fully employing all measures according to a rational plan, including planned investment, under the collective democratic control of the producers—workers and technicians.

No stock-exchange, no share coupons, no unearned income, no capitalists. The main objective of all the parliamentary parties, the state-machine and all 'responsible' and 'expert' opinion is to prevent this solution, the only one in the interests of the great majority, from being implemented.

BLMC: Who's investing? And who is it for?



The mystery of the missing motorbikes: Granpa's yarn...

'THERE used to be adverts on the cover of the "Motor Cycle" magazine' said the old man, 'with a bloke with a cloth cap and a pair of goggles sitting on a BSA Golden Flash. I wonder what happened to him?'

'I wonder what happened to Vincent Black Shadows, the Brough Superiors, and Scott Squirrels, and Ariel Square Fours, and AJS 31 CRS, and Francis Barnettts, and James Commodores, and Norton Dominators, and Triumph Thunderbirds, and Matchless, and Royal Enfield Bullets, and DOTs, and Grieves, and DMWs, and Panthers, and Velocette Venoms, and Douglas Dragonflies, and Sunbeams, and BSA Gold Stars?'

'You're getting old, Granpa', said the brash youth looking at his Kawasaki 900cc Overhead Camshaft 4 cylinder motorcycle outside. 'Why that was centuries ago, back in 1961. They're all gone now.'

'Something terrible must have happened', said the old man, dusting an old photograph of Geoff Duke winning a TT race on a Norton racing motorbike. 'Perhaps all the workers were struck down by a plague.'

'Be quiet Granpa', said his wife. 'I've got a lovely book out of the library "The Autobiography of Lady Docker". All about life among the rich in the 1950s. She was married to Sir Bernard Docker who ran a company called Birmingham Small Arms.'

'That's BSA' said the old man. 'She had a gold plated Daimler.'

'Well she says here that "The public were not going to condemn us for being ostentatious, and they were the people who mattered. They realised that our object was to demonstrate British craftsmanship."

'Is that why she did it?' said the old man.

'That's what she says here', replied his wife. 'An impression generally formed that we were always engaged in fun and play. It was an impression falsely brought about by fanciful publicity... Sadly it was this kind of publicity which hampered a national campaign which Bernard launched in 1953 to curb government spending. Many observers questioned his sincerity, when he was widely known for his extravagant living.'

'I know about BSA' said the grandson. 'They took over Ariel and Triumph. Then they took over Villiers.'

'Villiers used to make two-stroke engines. I used to work for them once,' said the old man. 'I've got a book they published on their 50th anniversary in 1947.'

'At the end it says, "Fathers and sons, wives and daughters, nephews and nieces, are all on the Company's pay roll. I'll get you into Villiers when you are old enough" is not merely a promise of a good job for a youngster: it is a testimonial for the Company's conditions of employment from the father who wants a sound career for his son.'



The golden Daimler...

'Thank God you never gave me any advice,' said the young man. 'Associated Motor Cycles were formed out of AJS and Matchless and Francis Barnett and James. Then Villiers took them all over.'

'That was a big company', said the grandfather. 'Is it doing well?'

'No, that's what I said,' explained his grandson. 'They went bust and merged with Norton and Triumph and BSA.'

'They fired Sir Bernard from BSA' said the wife. 'Lady Docker is quite angry about it, she called the directors "a crawling, slimy bunch". They had to sell

Grandma was reading NORAH: The Autobiography of Lady Docker. It was published by W H Allen in 1969.



Evans

Gone fishing

REMEMBER the Mayaguez? That was the consolation prize that US President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger awarded themselves after losing Cambodia and Vietnam. They plastered an island off Cambodia to 'secure the release' of some US citizens on board the Mayaguez.

Angel Gandia, Johnny Sampson and Raul Garcia claim to have gone fishing off the coast of Dominica on 3 June. Dominica is the state next to Puerto Rico, the US West Indian colony. All Puerto Ricans are US citizens.

Twenty days later they appeared at a press conference in Dominica. The authorities produced confessions saying that the three had been transporting guerillas and arms to the country.

It took another week before sympathetic lawyers could meet them. They were told the beatings, electric shock treatment and death threats had increased the prisoners enthusiasm to 'confess'. No trace of the 'guerillas' has been found.

Then came the full weight of Dominican justice. By the beginning of August the three have been each sentenced to 30 years hard labour, reports the Committee for Puerto Rican Independence.

The response of the US and Puerto Rican press to the torture and sentences has been negligible—although pressure from the socialist and independence movement has grown. How commendable to find that the US government is adapting the principle of non-intervention at last.

Go-ahead young Alistair..

THIRTY THREE year old Alastair McAlpine has landed the important job of Tory party treasurer. It is his first job. Previous to this young Alastair has devoted all his energies to building up an art collection. He was helped in this by the fact that he inherited over £1 million pounds of the McAlpine family fortune, amassed by exploiting workers and clients across the world. Alastair naturally got the job on merit.

The fact that the McAlpine company Newarthill were last year's biggest single donors to Tory Party funds (they gave a total of £43540) is pure coincidence.

McAlpine's have also made another useful acquisition in recent weeks which will make it still easier for them to get governments and top policemen to launch prosecutions against strikers who get in their way like the Shrewsbury 24. They have acquired the services of Scotland Yard's head of CID support services Deputy Assistant Commissioner Robert Halliday who retired aged 57 on Friday this week. Mr Halliday who used to be in charge of fingerprints and criminal intelligence, is being taken on as a security officer.



Just an old fashioned girl. Lady Docker in her golden Daimler

their yacht, the Shemara, "We settled for the £290,000 offer of Mr Harry Hyams, who was not known to us at the time."

'He owns that tower block in London—Centrepoint, which he hasn't rented for the 15 years since he had it built' pointed out the son. 'He's made £12 million from it.'

'Lady Docker likes pink champagne, mink, although she prefers zebra skins for car seats and jewelry,' said his grandmother. 'She toured the works once a fortnight to show the workers that "the boss and his wife took a real interest. I loved them—even the only Communist—who was shunned in a corner until I discovered him and brought him into things. I made as much fuss of him as the rest, because he worked as well as anyone did!"'

'Why did they all go bust then?' asked the grandfather, 'didn't they do any research, make new plans?'

'Oh yes' replied his wife. 'They did research. When the other directors were firing Sir Bernard, Lady Docker hired a private detective agency.'

'Did they find out what was wrong?' asked the grandson.

'She says that the report was "quite astonishing", said the old woman, reading on. It included a "clandestine affair between one of the senior directors and the company secretary, which I had long suspected."

'Astonishing,' said the grandson. 'And now they have Norton-Villiers-Triumph, Dennis Poore as managing director, and they're broke. And before that they had Sir Hartley Shawcross.'

'He was on the TV the other night' said the grandfather. 'He said he was worried

the country was being taken over by Marxists.'

'He was a friend of the Dockers too,' said the grandmother. She says "he was retained by us for all our more important law suits... I remember being impressed by him."



... And the yacht, Shemara

'The equipment at NVT is mostly very old', said the grandson, 'so they find it difficult to compete with other companies whose equipment is mostly very new. The workers are occupying the factory.'

'What happened to Lady Docker?' asked the grandfather.

'She lives in Jersey' replied his wife, 'because the tax is very low and they haven't got quite so much money as they used to have. She's isn't sure if they're still millionaires.'

'The workers are all on the dole, and she's in Jersey,' pointed out the grandfather.

'Ah,' said the old woman, 'she isn't happy. People are jealous she says. It is a "disease to society as cancer is to life, and once the tiniest seed is planted it grows and ferments". She's tried to make up for it, she gave a taxi-driver £5 to vote Conservative once.'

'She was happiest on the yacht, the Shemara. She writes that:

"We would languish in giant oceans, and there wouldn't be another ship or land in sight. We just drifted endlessly..."

Bangladesh: What is a coup

THE army officers behind the coup in Bangladesh were publicly boasting about what they would do more than a month ago. Even then it was clear that the one-party regime of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was doomed.

Doomed by the poverty, misery and hunger that is the lot of Bangladesh in a world that could be one of plenty. Doomed by the appalling corruption and gangsterism over which the Sheikh presided. Doomed above all by the effects of the world economic crisis. For this is shattering the last dim hopes that there might be some small reversal in the train of disaster which is sweeping through South Asia. Soon that crisis will probably also bring military regimes to India and Pakistan.

Bangladesh was born just three years ago out of bloody war with Pakistan, of which it had been a part. With military backing from India, Bangladesh won its independence. Sheikh Mujib was installed first as president and then as prime minister of the new country.

He was greeted by four million deliriously happy Bengalis. It was not to be long before the dreams of the glorious future were to be smashed.

Devastated by the war, Bangladesh briefly enjoyed a little aid and assistance from the developed capitalist countries to rebuild its shattered bridges, restart agricultural production and rebuild.

Profit

But no sooner had this been started when floods, mass starvation and cholera struck. This led to devastation, devastation which the rich countries were no longer willing to help Mujib tackle. Soon the 'concerned' newspaper articles came to a stop and Bangladesh's 75 million population were left to scratch a living from the soil, to starve and die.

Amid desperate poverty, corruption grew rife. One sixth of the grain crop was illegally run across the border to India. This despite the fact that Bangladesh is perilously short of food. Jute followed the same trail, going where the price was still higher. Medicine too became an important traffic. The few will resort to any method to grow rich on the utter misery of the many.

In April 1974 Mujib launched a campaign against the smuggling and corruption that choked the society he was supposed to govern. It was a cruel joke. Members of his own party were protected from prosecutions, just as members of Mrs Gandhi's Congress are protected in India.

Mujib's own family were deeply involved in the traffic. His sons made vast fortunes. Gangsterism went hand in hand with crookery. The capital, Dacca, became a battlefield as different gangs jockeyed for advantage. Sheikh Mujib came to depend more and more on the para-military thugs called the Rakki Bahini. On this outfit no expense was spared, which

CHINGARI

The International Socialists' paper in Punjabi and Urdu by and for Asian workers in Britain.

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to the starving?



Starving children wait for a food hand-out from a relief organisation in Bangladesh—meanwhile grain is being taken out of the country for sale elsewhere at higher prices

naturally aroused the jealousies of the top men in the regular army.

Before long Mujib the democrat became Mujib boss of the one-party state. He banned newspapers and rival political parties and jailed opponents, just as Mrs Gandhi is doing in India now. In all this, Mujib was backed to the hilt by the Bangladesh Communist Party.

So Mujib paved the way for the military takeover, which came last week.

The first news of the coup was released by the State Department of the US government and there are indications of some CIA involvement. Already the new government has changed Bangladesh back to an Islamic state with an established religion. Links with Pakistan have been renewed at the expense of Indian influence.

Graft

But the new government will do no more and no less than Mujib to develop Bangladesh though they will doubtless step up the already ferocious repression.

The real scandal of Bangladesh isn't graft and gangsterism in Dacca. It is that Bangladesh, already on its knees, has been abandoned to its fate. A country which cannot afford the market price is to be forced to pay it for grain, for chemicals, for medicine, for fertiliser.

Bangladesh, a country which has yielded fortunes for the jute kings of Dundee, for the giant international tea and textile companies, is to be sacrificed and the people left to starve and die because it is too poor to pay anyone to do anything about it.

Bangladesh—South Asia as a whole—could be saved from the ravages of hunger, misery and disease. But they will never be saved for as long as production for profit grips and strangles these societies and the working class trusts its fate to those other than itself.



Mujib the democrat, who quickly became Mujib the one-party state boss

The horsetrading starts over Zimbabwe

by Alex Callinicos
(IS Africa Group)

IN Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) both the white settler regime and the black nationalists of the African National Council are preparing for the bloodiest phase yet of the ten-year guerilla war.

Nevertheless, Bishop Muzorewa, president of ANC, announced last week that they had agreed to hold constitutional talks with the white regime towards the end of August.

The announcement came shortly after Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith had visited Vorster, the South African Prime Minister. The moves towards a Rhodesian 'settlement' are the centrepiece of Vorster's strategy of detente in Southern Africa. Vorster hopes that by making concessions to black middle-class interests in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia he will persuade black African governments to end their support for freedom fighters in Southern Africa.

In this he has the support of Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda and Britain's Foreign Secretary James Callaghan, who was in touch with Vorster before last week's announce-

ment. Smith has been under heavy pressure from Vorster to come to a settlement with the ANC who has just confirmed that he is withdrawing all South African troops from Zimbabwe.

Recent by-election results in South Africa show that the whites are worried that detente may damage their own privileges from apartheid, and Vorster needs to produce results if he is to survive politically.

Deal

There are rumours in Salisbury, the capital, of a secret deal between Smith and Joshua Nkomo, president of ZAPU and leader of the right wing of the ANC, which supports detente. Under this deal it is claimed that in exchange for a promise of majority rule in ten years' time and a place in the Cabinet, Nkomo will disarm the black guerillas.

Certainly, Smith and other Rhodesian ministers have made it clear that if they don't get a settlement on their terms they will crack down on the ANC even more savagely than at present. They are preparing for the guerilla offensive that they expect to follow a breakdown in the talks by strengthening the army and hiring white mercenaries.

The ANC is preparing too. According to one set of figures there are more than 3000 guerillas training in Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique.

But these are the countries whose governments are most wholeheartedly backing Vorster's efforts to make Africa safe for apartheid.

The question is if the talks break down, will they allow Zimbabwe's nationalists to take up arms again?

FREE CZECH SOCIALISTS

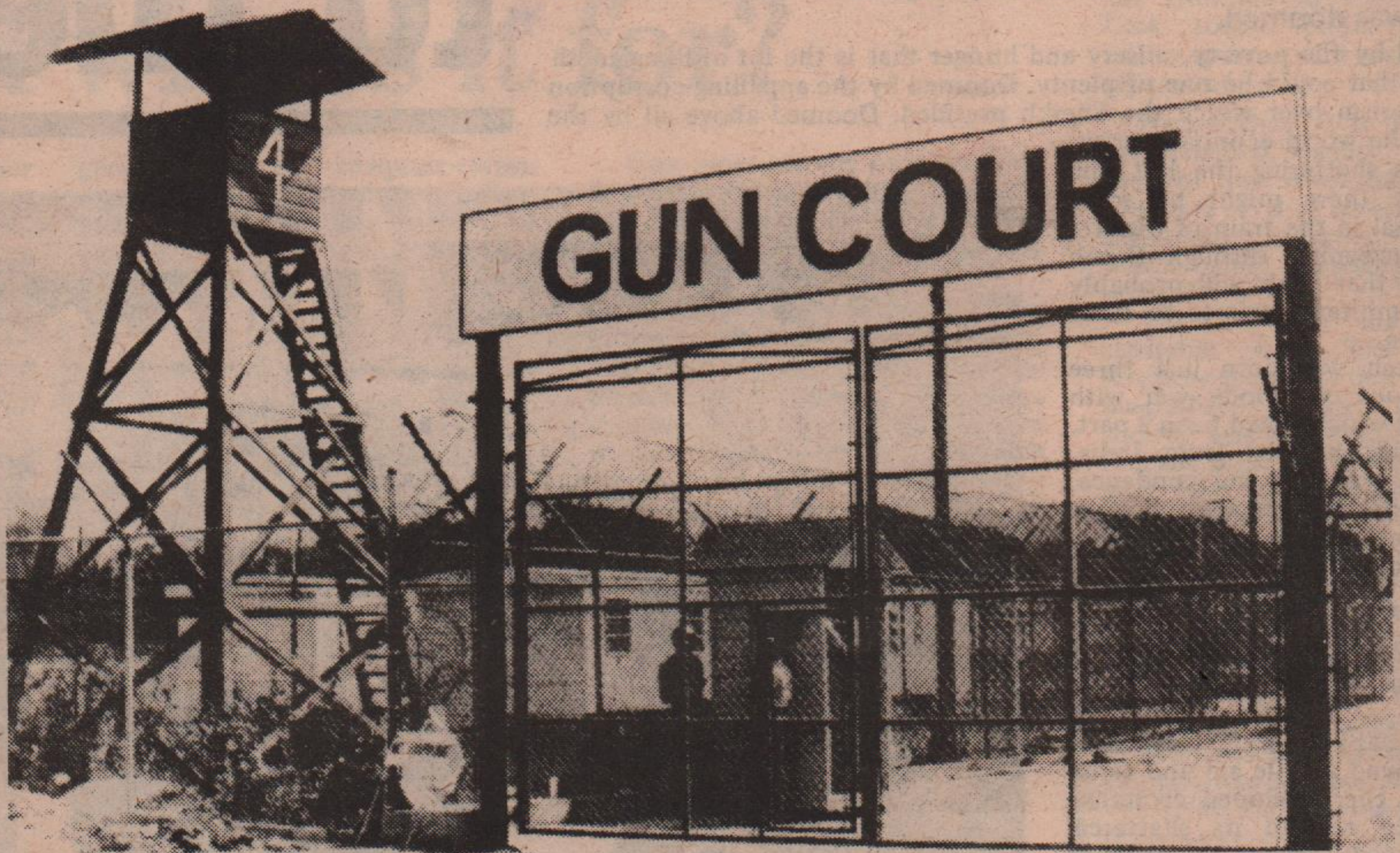
THIS WEEK is the seventh anniversary of the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. To coincide with this, the London-based Committee to Defend Czechoslovakian Socialists has again urged the Czech government to release the many socialist and communist political prisoners it still holds.

Among those the committee is particularly concerned about are prisoners held in particularly harsh conditions, including Jaroslav Sabata, a Communist of 25 years standing, and Dr Jan Tesar, former rector of the Czech Communist Party's political school. Many hundreds of others including students and workers are also held. The committee also states that in recent weeks the persecution and harassment of those who oppose the Czech regime has been stepped up.

Further information about the committee can be obtained from its secretary, Mrs Mrs Marian Sling, phone 01-607 7165.

Jamaica and the '60s

It's the same the whole world over...



Picture: Mary Egan (Report)

'LP is dead...time for revolution now'

THE SOARING murder rate in Jamaica has not been checked as promised by the Manley government. It does not dare tackle the root of the problem—the dreadful poverty of the Jamaican masses and the corruption around the marijuana market—so it has turned to oppression.

The Gun Court Act came into force on 1 April. Anyone found guilty of possessing arms or ammunition gets a mandatory indefinite sentence in a concentration camp. There is no right of appeal, and the cases are heard in camera.

Those condemned under this law are locked in cells without windows. Guards armed with machine guns watch from towers.

A recent article in *New Society* commented: 'There is a close similarity with legislation introduced by the British government to deal with the situation in Northern Ireland'.

The article concluded: 'Outside the gates of the gun court is a large and hungry population who have painted the walls with the slogan: 'PNP and JLP is dead. Time for revolution now'.

JAMAICA is a paradise island, not for the mass of the people who live in it, but for the multinational companies.

Elders and Fyffes, part of the United Fruit Company, control three-quarters of the banana trade. When their monopoly position was threatened, they paid growers higher prices than other companies.

Shares

Having forced small competitors almost into bankruptcy, they then offered to buy their shares.

Tate and Lyle, who control sugar, are protected by agreements which give them sugar at less than

the market price, as well as by an import levy on all but the lowest grades of sugar.

They have not replaced machinery in their Jamaican plants since the 1950s—no doubt in anticipation of the switch to sugar beet in Europe, and the greater profits to be made there.

The six bauxite companies in Jamaica are all foreign-owned.

The multinationals plunder Jamaica all the more efficiently by ensuring a high rate of unemployment, and consequently miserable wages.

The government under Michael Manley were elected three years ago after vigorous election

promises about 'ending corruption' and 'curbing the power of the multinationals'.

They have nationalised some sectors of the multinationals, but have left the companies in charge of marketing. They have also paid enormous compensation.

But the greatest service they provide for the multinationals is a disciplined labour force.

Both major trade unions are tied to the two main political parties, and officials in both are dependent on the political party in power for promotion. Militancy is played down by both.

More importantly, Manley's government passed an Industrial Relations Act, similar to the Tories' Act in this country.

It makes strikes, overtime bans or working to rule illegal before an agreement has expired. The penalty for flouting the industrial tribunal is imprisonment.

Illegal

The Act also makes strikes in the 'essential services' illegal, and allows the Ministry of Labour to declare any strike illegal where it is considered 'detrimental to the national interest'.

No wonder multinationals are happy to surrender some of their less profitable divisions to the Jamaican government,

But things are not going all the government's and the multinationals' way.

Bank workers, dockers, sugar workers have all been on unofficial strike in the last year.

The Workers Liberation League, a working class revolutionary organisation formed in 1974, has considerable support among rank and file workers.

We need to get together with them. Their bosses are our bosses—Tate and Lyle, Nestles, I.T.T. We know them all here in Britain.

LEE KANE

AND STILL IT GOES ON...

'I TELL YOU, you can't drive down to Brixton without being stopped at least once by the cops.' Where have you come from? Where are you going?' they ask. They'll accuse you of stealing the car—and they don't talk to you properly—it's black effing this, and black that...

That was Hyacinth talking. She's black, 17 and born in London's East End. What she is describing is the everyday experience of being black and young in London.

'A friend of mine, Ray, was given a cassette radio/recorder and he was walking down the street with it. A cop stopped him. "What are you doing with that?", he said. "Did you steal it? Black people don't carry expensive things like that."

Illusions

'He wound up at the police station, we had to go down and prove it was his.'

That was Roy, from North London, on the same subject. When immigrants came from the West Indies in the 1940s and 1950s they had illusions. At school they had been told about the 'Mother Country'

Twenty years of bad jobs, bad housing and racialism shattered all that. Now for their children, growing up in Britain there aren't any illusions

One police raid after another

Scattered around London are the black clubs and record shops. Places where young black (and white) people gather, talk, dance. They are the social centre for many young Londoners.

The history of the young West Indian communities in London over the past ten years is a history of long legal battles to defend their clubs and meeting places against the attacks of the police.

1970, AUGUST: The Black Panther Youth League were holding a dance at the OVAL HOUSE in South London. The police invaded in pursuit of an alleged thief. The man was never found. Three youths were held, beaten up—and got 18-month suspended sentences.

1970, AUGUST: 150 people march through Notting Hill after the continued police raids on the MANGROVE WEST INDIAN RESTAURANT. Eight blacks charged with 'riotous assembly'—later dropped and replaced with affray.

1971, MAY: The police Special Patrol Group move in on Notting Hill's METRO CLUB in West London. One black youth

knocked down by police van, another received a broken jaw, a third had an arm wrenched from its socket. 12 arrested.

1972, MARCH: Four black youths, members of a self-help youth organisation, intercepted by eight police at 11pm at Kennington tube station. Accused of theft, (though no victims were ever found).

A witness (white) said she had no doubt that the four were assaulted by the police. Three received three-year sentences and one was sent to borstal.

Panda

1972, BOXING DAY: Five panda cars, two black marias and more than 40 police raid a West Indian party in HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM. After beatings, 12 are arrested.

1974, APRIL: Three black youths get three-year sentences after alleged affray at BROCKWELL PARK FAIR in South London. The youngest is acquitted on appeal.

1975, JULY: Trial starts at Old Bailey of 12 youths arrested after 140 police raid CARIB CLUB in North London in October 1974. One of the 12, Keith Logan, now released. Case now adjourned for August, but 11 face part two next month...



He's black—so he's

Mother's Country:



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THE REAL JAMAICA

- One in four workers are unemployed.
- The average wage of the 12,000 people who don't work 'in the tourist industry' is 11.25 US dollars, (about £6 a week.)
- Food prices are three times higher than in London.
- One in three children never go to school.
- One in four children under five are starving.
- 85 per cent of all children under one year have a calorie intake below the minimum recommended levels.

“ We need a more positive policy on racism in the Engineering Union. Some of the organisers and leaders are very bad. It's not always the answer having black shop stewards—the black stewards in Frigidaires are bloody useless. The best steward is Irish, he fights really hard for blacks. We have to unite with white workers, like them or not, it's only together we'll achieve change. ”

—Tony Wilson, 37, who left Grenada in 1956.

airJamaica THE NONSTOP SERVICE TO JAMAICA



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

“ I did my apprenticeship in Jamaica as an electrician and I came over here in 1960 because I heard you could get better skills at electronics and education. What a shock when I got here and went to see my sisters who were living here! I couldn't get a job as an electrician so I took any job that was going just to get money to live. The first week I worked 44 hours and got £6 12s 6d, I tell you, I cried. How was I going to live on that? I felt very bad, depressed, in those early days. I wrote a letter to my father asking for my ticket home, but I didn't post it. It would have hurt him, he

JOHN FRANCIS, 35, Production worker at a General Motors factory in London:-

thought I had made it and was doing fine.

I kept being refused a job as a spark. I knew it was because I was black.

I'd come over here to the 'great mother country' where we were told there was no racialism and plenty of jobs and skills. When you get here and see what it's really like, I tell you it's nothing but pain.

All the 15 years I've been working here, I never got an

electrician's job. It has always been a struggle to keep alive. And the racialism is added onto the money worries.

In the early days, I never dared go into a pub except where there were black faces. Always used to look for the black faces before going in.

Things are better now. But for black kids born here, they are terrible. The problem for them is jobs.

It's really bad. They've been

born here, educated here—but the discrimination against them at work stops thousands of them getting work.

I've found out a few things since I've been here. You only get something when you fight for it. Working in a big factory owned by a multinational, General Motors, you see how it works very clearly.

There are white workers in there and black workers in there, and some of both argue for keeping separate from one another. That's a lot of nonsense.

RACISM: OUR ANSWER

FIGURES out this week show the British population is falling—for the first time in more than 100 years.

The rise and fall in population has much more to do with birth control and industrialisation than with immigration. In all the years of large scale immigration into this country—in the 1950s and 1960s—more people left the country than came in.

But what do you say to those workers who argue that if you remove all the controls, the country will be flooded with people from India, Africa and Asia?

People only move if there's a purpose. For 100 years before 1960, three-quarters of the world's population could have come to Britain without immigration control.

But they didn't come, because

there wasn't any work for them here.

But hundreds of thousands have come since the war.

Yes, because the post-war boom meant full employment. There were job vacancies in all the meanest, worst-paid areas of employment.

Boom

So workers from the West Indies, India and Pakistan were allowed in free. As soon as the boom stopped, immigration controls were slapped on, to the delight of racials everywhere.

But we haven't got enough houses, schools or hospitals for people already here, without letting in more.

Immigration workers don't just live in houses and send their children to school or to hospital. They work—and pay the taxes

which provide hospitals and schools.

It is a shocking fact that immigrant workers pay a higher proportion of their income in taxes and take less in social services than white workers do.

One of the ways the capitalists keep hold of all the property the workers produce is by pretending one group of workers—black, Jewish, Irish, whatever the fashionable prejudice is—is stopping another from getting the benefits of society.

There is nothing about a British worker which makes him or her better (or worse) than a worker anywhere else in the world.

We argue for international working class unity to overthrow the capitalist system.

And we oppose all policies which seek to divide one worker from another.

The boss is the same for both lots of us. He's making money from all of us. And the more we separate one from another, the more money he's going to make out of us.

We workers have got to get control of this society, but we'll never get it until we realise that we're all in it together. This racialism is just a tactic to divide us up.

● ●

I'm a member of the International Socialists, because it's an organisation that fights capitalism and racialism—it fights harder than any other organisation around.

I don't like everything about IS, mind you. There should be far more in the paper about black people, how they think and feel in this society.

But I hope other black workers who want to fight for socialism will join us and help us make IS a fighting organisation for black as well as white workers.

Back from Portugal - now the work begins

MORE than 50 members of the International Socialists returned to Britain last weekend after a two-week visit to Portugal. The visit was organised by IS in conjunction with the PRP, the Portuguese revolutionary socialist organisation, and other revolutionary groups in Europe.

During their time there our comrades visited factories, workshops, hospitals, barracks and other working-class strongholds. They built links with Portuguese workers in their own industries.

The highlight of the second week was an international demonstration of solidarity with the Portuguese revolution. The march started with 500, but swelled to 5000 as it passed through the working-class areas of Lisbon. It passed the offices of Republica, cheering the workers who have taken over the paper and now run it under workers' control.

The march went on to the United States Embassy with slogans against foreign intervention and the economic blockade of Portugal.

After the demonstration workers fraternised with soldiers sent to guard the Embassy building.

Now that the comrades have returned the real work starts. All involved will be busy in the next month driving home the lessons of Portugal and the need for solidarity action in Britain. We have to carry the enthusiasm and militancy of the Portuguese working class into the British labour movement.

Flat out

Said Pete Glatter, a member of the Transport Workers Union London bus section: 'Politically speaking it is one of the most important experiences of my life. We learnt that the basic things of revolutionary politics, such as mass meetings, are important even in the revolution itself. I intend to work flat out in my industry so that solidarity work becomes a central part of the work of the International Socialists.'

Steve Kind, a member of Leeds 17 branch of the Engineering Union (AUEW), said: 'The most impressive thing about it was that even in the hotel the maids were discussing politics with the hall porter. I have made a link with engineering workers in a firm very similar to my own. We have to do solidarity work in the AUEW. What we have seen in Portugal proves that socialism is a real possibility.'

Said Andy Kuttner, of Hammer-smith Hospital branch of the Public Employees Union, (NUPE): 'I feel really elated. The vast majority of people are revolutionary. Back in Britain I am going to continue the solidarity work we have started in our hospital, but we also have to push it throughout the labour movement.'

'This is the first time in my life I have experienced the living reality of workers' power.'

Dave Sherry, a Strathclyde member of the government officers' union NALGO, said: 'Tremendous. The possibility of workers' power is really on the agenda. We have to spread the ideas we got in Portugal in Britain. The really important thing is to fight against the boycott of Portugal which the Labour government in Britain is supporting.'

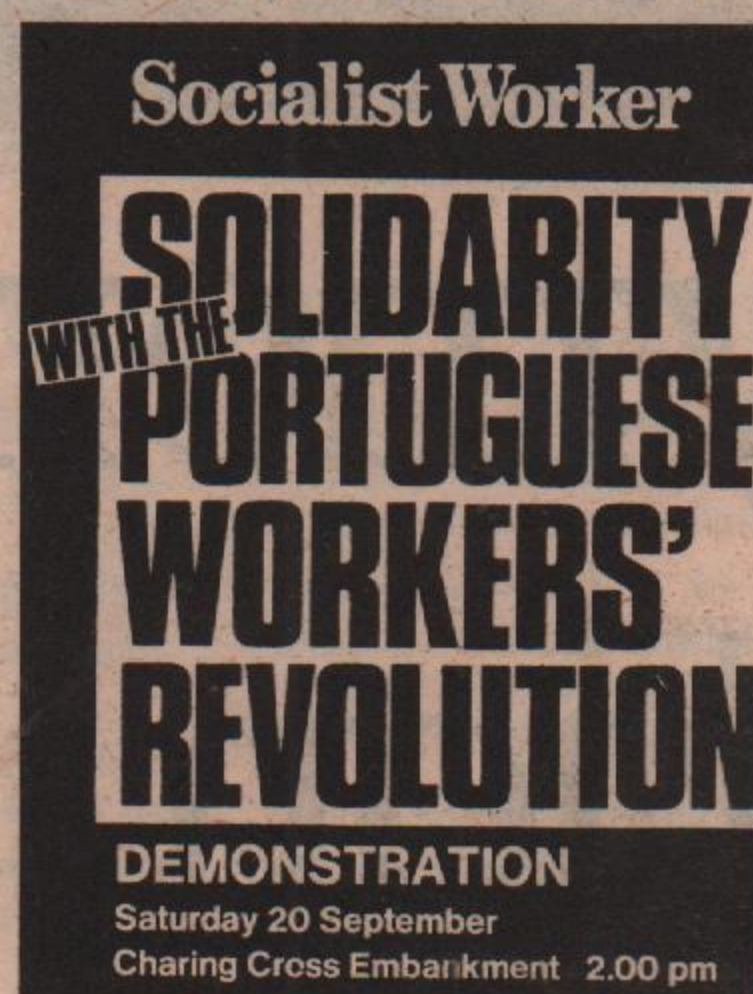
VIEW FROM THE U.S.

MORE than 100 people, almost equally divided between black and white workers, packed in to hear Fred Hooper, from the American International Socialists, speak at a meeting at Finsbury Park, North London. A long and lively discussion covered the rise and fall of the Black Power Movement in the US, and the way the lessons learned could be applied to Britain.

Martha Osamor concluded the meeting with an appeal that we take up the American experience of the need for a united rank and file struggle, and that those serious about the need for real action should become involved in the new black workers' newspaper soon to be launched by IS.



A member of IS selling the Spanish edition of International Socialism journal in Rossio Square, Lisbon, last week. PICTURE: Malcolm Herring



CALLER BY THE PORTUGUESE WORKERS' CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Thousands of these posters and stickers have been printed for the demonstration. The posters are being sent out to all branches this week with Socialist Worker. The stickers cost £1.50 for 1000. A leaflet to organise for the demonstration is also available at £1 for 1000. Orders with money to Socialist Worker Circulation, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Fred Hooper and Joel Geier, also from American IS, have spoken at meetings around the country on the politics of America and the struggle of American blacks.

Sample copies of the US IS newspaper, Workers' Power, are available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Price 10p.

THE International Socialists' Central Committee has appointed a full-time organiser for our international work.

Week's good cause?

GET up, work, drink, go to bed. The routine of this society. You don't own or control it.

Just 800 miles South in Portugal changes are being made in that routine. Our brother and sister workers are in revolution. They can build the first workers' democracy.



The poster you are looking at now plasters Lisbon's walls. The Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund is selling these three colour posters for 50 pence each, and the badges for 20 pence.

The fund hopes to make a whacking great profit.

Unlike the money sucked out of you every day by your employer, it will go straight to your allies 800 miles away. It isn't the 'week's good cause' but your cause.

And while forking out for the poster and badge get a collection sheet, and use it in your workplace. That way we can start changing all our routines.

SOCIALIST WORKER PORTUGUESE SOLIDARITY FUND.

Amount Workplace

Please send me the following items Please fill in number or tick

- Posters (50 pence each inc post) Badges (20 pence each inc post)
 Collection sheets—use them in your factory, office, or local group
 Information on speakers and pamphlets available Bankers order forms

Name

Address

Send your donations to:

Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund,
 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.
 I enclose cheque, postal order made payable to
 S W Portugal Fund for:



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



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

HALIFAX IS public meeting: The crisis—a socialist answer. Speaker: John Deason. Monday 1 September, 8pm, The New Talbot pub (next to abattoir).

SOUTHWARK IS public meeting: The Revolution in Portugal. Speakers: Laurie Flynn (of Socialist Worker) and Alan Miles (ATTI). Wednesday 27 August, 8pm, North Peckham Civic Centre (corner of Old Kent Road and Peckham Park Road), London SE15. Collection for Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund.

CENTRAL LONDON DIST IS public meeting: Progress of the revolution in Portugal. Report and discussion from comrades and trade unionists just returned from Portugal. Friday 22 August, 7pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road.

TUC CONGRESS Socialist Worker meeting: Fight the £6 Freeze! Speakers: Paul Foot (of Socialist Worker) and Vincent Flynn (former general secretary, SOGAT). Monday 1 September, 6pm, Kings Arms, Blackpool.

GLC COUNCIL WORKERS IS public meeting: No to the wage freeze and the cuts! Speakers to be announced. Thursday 28 August, 12.30pm, The Pillbox (opposite the Island Block) County Hall, SE1.

Meetings for IS members and Socialist Worker supporters

MIDLANDS Regional IS weekend school: Saturday and Sunday 23-24 August, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham. Starts 10.30am Saturday.

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

IS Motor Fraction Executive meeting: New date. Sunday 31 August, 12 noon—4pm. Birmingham. Further details from Industrial Department.

WEST LONDON District IS aggregate meeting: Friday 5 September, 7pm, Hammersmith Town Hall (small room). Perspectives.

IS TEACHERS fraction school! Thursday and Friday 28/29 August, starting 11am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Sessions on The Crisis in Capitalism: economic background, Portugal and the Education Cuts; Building the Party; the Role of teachers. For accommodation/creche, contact Jeanie Holborow, 9 Crosby Road, London E7 (01-634 1980).

IS notices

Part-time clerical assistant wanted for IS work at Cottons Gardens. Office experience preferred. Apply Mel Norris, 01-739 1878.

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.

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

E LONDON IS Disco: Friday 5 September, 8pm, Princess Alice, Romford Road, Forest Gate. Entrance 50p. Bar extension to 1am. Raffle.

E LONDON IS jumble sale: 13 September. Save your jumble and contact Steve 01-590 5846.

INNER E LONDON DIST IS needs jumble for 6 September jumble sale in aid of SW Portuguese Fund. Bring to 43 Allen Road, Stoke Newington, N16.

CHELMSFORD IS Party in aid of SW Portugal Fund. Revolutionary music, plenty of booze, Saturday 30 August. Details from Chelmsford 59129. All welcome.

HULL IS bookshop opening soon: room available for IS member/sympathiser. Would anyone moving to Hull contact Martin Shaw, 67 Salisbury Street, Hull (0482-492733) urgently. Also needed: books, furniture, etc.

SW Litho are offering a Printing Apprenticeship to start in September. Applicants must be under 19 and have a mechanical aptitude. Application in writing to: Training Officer, SW Litho, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Practical schools for photographers: Write to Socialist Worker Photographs, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 for further details or phone Margaret Renn (01-739 6361).

IS Electricians Union fraction meeting: Manchester Saturday 30 August. For further information contact the Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Phone: 01-739 6273.

WESTERN SCOTLAND: Would any IS member or supporter with political knowledge of the Fort William/Kinlochleven/Lochaber area of Western Scotland please contact IS Administrative Office, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, for contact with IS member in Ross-shire.

IS BULLETIN: Out 27 August, 10p to IS members only. Orders from branch secretaries (with money) to Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Barcelona 1936

TWO of the best books on the Spanish Civil War are novels by men who fought in it: George Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia* (60p) and William Herrick's *Hermanos* (40p).

Felix Morrow's *Revolution and Counter Revolution in Spain* (£1.25), which was written at the time, and Broue and Temines' *Revolution and Civil War in Spain* (£6), are also worth reading.

All these books are available from IS Books. Include 10p postage on each book.



There is now a chain of IS bookshops around the country:

LONDON: 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4 (01-802 6145)

BIRMINGHAM: 224 High Street, Birmingham 12.

COVENTRY: 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry.

DUNDEE: Angle Books, 4 Roseangle, Dundee.

GLASGOW: 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1.

LIVERPOOL: 28 Berry Street, Liverpool 1.

MANCHESTER: Basement, 260 Deansgate, Manchester.

TEESSIDE: 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough.

The London bookshop takes orders by post. Write for a catalogue.

Woke one bright morning—not so long ago—heard the sound of shooting from the street below. Went to the window and saw the barricade of paving stones the workingmen had made—not so long ago.

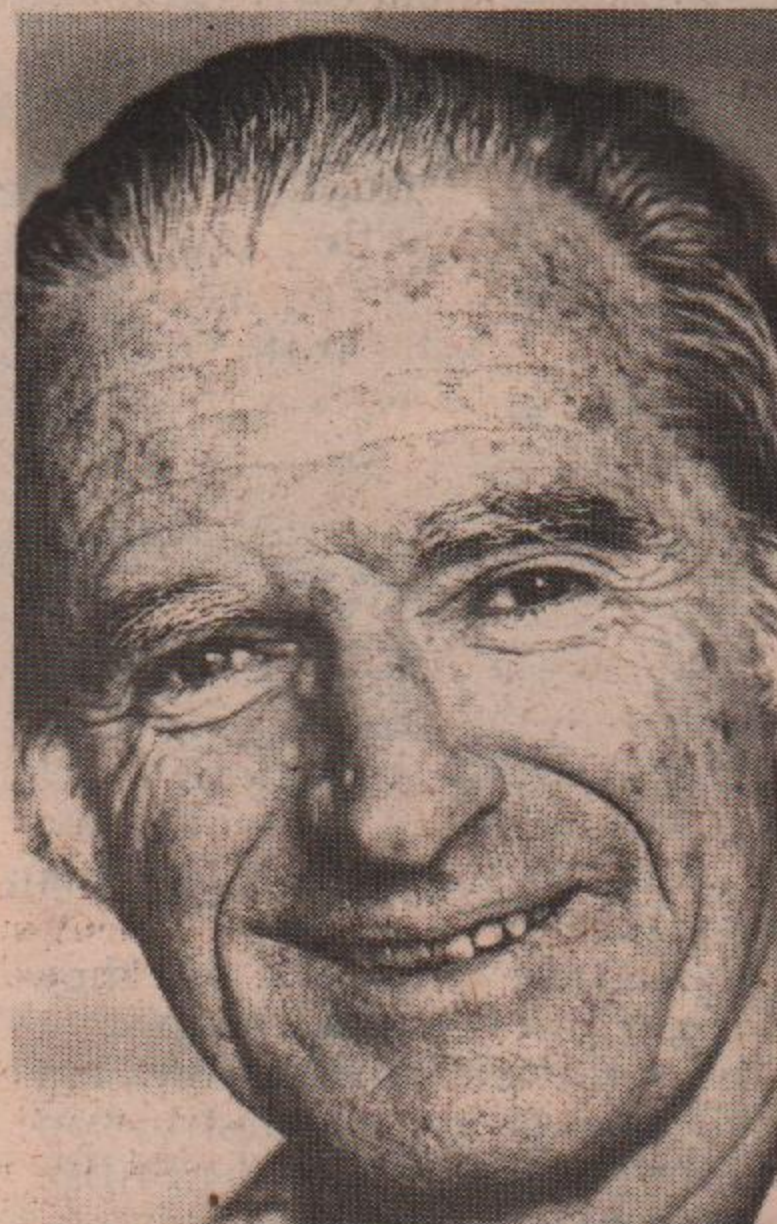
Met a man that morning—not so long ago—handed me a leaflet, on the street below. Lean and hard-faced workingman with a close-cropped head—held me for a moment eye to eye, then said: Read it, read it, read it and learn what it is we fight for, why the churches burn.

Down on the Ramblas she passed me on her way, weapon cradled in her arm—it was but yesterday. Not just for wages now, not alone for bread—we're fighting for a whole new world, a whole new world, she said.

On barricades all over town—not so long ago—they knew the time had come to answer with a simple Yes and No. They too were storming heaven—do you think they fought in vain; that because they lost a battle they would never rise again; that the man with the leaflets, the woman with a gun, did not have a daughter, did not have a son?

Hugo Dewar

The Communist author who outsold the Bible... and was denounced by Pravda



Frank Hardy, political novelist

By

COLIN SPARKS

FRANK HARDY was born in Australia in 1917, the year of the Russian Revolution. His father was a factory worker and a member of the Industrial Workers of the World—a militant syndicalist organisation. His mother was a firm supporter of the IRA.

Frank left school at 13 and spent seven years doing odd jobs before he finally became a merchant seaman. In 1937, he joined the Communist Party of Australia.

Build

In 1941, he was conscripted into the Army and set to work to build a CP branch. They needed a paper so Frank had to learn to write and edit one. That was his first experience of writing.

His first novel was inspired by a remark made by his father, who said that the Australian Labour Party was not a workers' party: 'John Wrenn owns the Labour

Party.'

John Wrenn was a self-made millionaire with connections with gangsters and Labour Party politicians. Frank wrote *Power without Glory*, a novel which exposed the gangsterism and political paralysis of the Labour Party.

The novel caused a sensation. It was read by just about every worker in Australia. In 1951 it sold 400,000 copies, outselling the Bible. It also led to Frank's arrest for criminal libel. This was a time when the Government and Press were whipping up hysteria against all Communists, trying to destroy the Party.

Frank fought the case outside the courts. In one day, he managed nine meetings with groups of

workers over the case. When the verdict was expected, thousands of workers downed tools and marched to the court room.

Frank was acquitted—and it took him three hours to fight his way through the cheering workers.

For 40 years, Frank Hardy has been a member of the Communist Party. During the Fifties and Sixties he became increasingly critical of the leadership.

Critical

When the Russians invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968, his public opposition earned him the humour of denunciation in the pages of Pravda itself.

Frank refuses to leave the Communist Party, although he says that



A girl from the past—and the future. She was one of the anti-fascist fighters on the streets of Barcelona. The time was the Spanish Civil War, 1936.

ON THE BOX

MONDAY

BBC-2: 2.20pm. Good film day with W C Fields in *YOU'RE TELLING ME, DUCK SOUP*, with the Marx Brothers (3.25pm) On BBC-1 (9.20pm) is the funny and largely ignored *THE PRESIDENT'S ANALYST* starring James Coburn and featuring a group of midgets as FBI agents. Possibly interesting *CENTRE PLAY* is *THE WATER BABY* about the Victorian writer Charles Kingsley (BBC-2, 10.40pm).

TUESDAY

BBC-2: 9pm. Orson Wells Great *CITIZEN KANE*, Lionel Hampton is featured in the *JAZZ SHIP* series (BBC-2: 8.10pm). *AS WE SAY FAREWELL* . . . features travelogues made between 1906-10 (BBC-1: 9.55pm). *GOSLING'S TRAVELS* is at Whittingham Mental Hospital at 9.15pm.

WEDNESDAY

BBC-2: 8.10pm. *THE ASCENT OF MAN* ends with *THE LONG CHILDHOOD*. *A TASTE OF BRITAIN* (BBC-2: 7.45pm) on London food. The classic children's film *THE RED BALLOON* is on BBC-1 at 6.20pm. *UNION MEN* is a documentary on the five General Secretaries of the TUC (BBC-1, 10.25pm)

THURSDAY

ITV: 8.30pm. The excellent Daily Mirror reporter John Pilger deals with the conspiracy laws in *A NOD AND A WINK* and interviews John Llywarch of the Shrewsbury 24 and an Iranian student. *THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE HARP SEAL* (BBC-1, 6.25pm)

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

the great party which he joined was wrecked by Stalinism. His latest book—*But The Dead Are Many*—attempts to explain how that happened by examining the reasons which could drive a marxist militant to the unthinkable act of suicide.

Socialist Worker readers will find some things to disagree with in Frank's books, but they are magnificent contributions to the working class movement.

We might differ on the details, but our hearts and minds are dedicated to the same task. Our feet are marching to the same goal: workers' power.

These novels are not simple political diatribes. They are fine novels in their own right. More than anything else, Frank Hardy wants young worker militants to read his books.

Power without Glory (Panther, 90p), *But the Dead Are Many* (Bodley Head (£3.50), are available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. There are many other books by Frank Hardy which are out of print but your library may have copies.

MEMBERS

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

IRELAND, THE LAW AND THE ARMY...1

SIXTEEN people are facing serious charges about a leaflet for British soldiers on how to leave the Army. Almost all of those accused have been charged—like the Shrewsbury pickets—with conspiracy; in this case, conspiracy to break the Incitement to Disaffection Act.

They all face extremely heavy sentences. We demand that the charges be dropped immediately and we call on the Labour Movement to do all in its power to see that this is done as the trial is due to start on 29 September.

The Incitement to Disaffection Act is a threat to free speech. It infringes the right of people to communicate freely with one another.

It denies soldiers the right to information about the conditions of their employment and how it can be terminated, as well as limiting their freedom to engage in political discussion.

Risk

Nor should it be forgotten that the Incitement to Disaffection Act has direct implications for the labour movement. If and when troops are used to break strikes, trade unionists who urge them to desist also run the risk of being charged under the Act.

We are living at a time of increasing anti-democratic legislation. Vital issues are at stake in the case of these anti-militarist supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign.

We therefore urge all who value civil liberty, especially those in the British labour movement, to do all in their power to defend those charged.

—JOAN MAYNARD, MP, JO RICHARDSON, MP, JOHN MILLER, TGWU, ERNIE ROBERTS, AUEW, JACK DROMEY, NCCL, JOHN HENRY, UCATT, PAT ARROWSMITH, SID EASTON, TGWU (each in their personal capacity). Defend the 16 Campaign, 84 Claverton Street, London SW1.

■■ The Campaign are holding a public meeting on Monday 15 September, 7.30pm, in the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. A demonstration is being organised for Sunday 28 September.

IRELAND, THE LAW AND THE ARMY...2

FOLLOWING our arrests at the Manchester Show for distributing anti-army leaflets, our trial on 6 August showed that the police will sink to the lowest levels possible to get workers convicted.

Their evidence was a fabrication and, despite the prosecution's bullying tactics, the case was eventually dismissed.

Other comrades are awaiting trial on issues relating to the Army's bloody role in Northern Ireland, defending British Imperialism. They can expect similar police provocation and intimidation.

With 27 soldiers a week deserting from the Army, and enlistment at an all-time low, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Britain to retain an effective stranglehold in Ireland.

The socialist alternative to capitalism's barbarous policies must be stressed.

We must demand the immediate

SOCIALIST WORKER 16 August 1975

And they said they were fighting fascism

THIRTY years ago this month, the Second World War—the bloodiest in history—came to an end.

Many of the 30 million who died gave their lives in what they believed was a crusade to defend 'freedom' and 'democracy' against fascism.

At least, that was what they had been told, and that same message will, doubtless, be coming over loud and clear in the next few weeks as television and newspapers commemorate 'those who died' but who should be free.

It was an illusion, glorified by men whose redoubts were surely different.

Britain's ruling class, for instance, had no objection to the murder, torture and imprisonment by Hitler and Mussolini of thousands of Communists, socialists and trade unionists. Neither had the other Allies.

It was a war for freedom, why had most British forces spoken such a solemn silence?

His [Mussolini's] fatal mistake was the declaration of war on France and Great Britain. Even when the issue of the war became certain, Mussolini would have been welcomed by the Allies.

—Winston Churchill, in his Memoirs, Closing the Ring

If we see that Germany is winning we ought to help Russia and if Russia is winning we ought to help Germany and that way let them kill as many as possible, although I don't want to see Hitler victorious under any circumstances.

—Harry Truman, later to be US President, June 1941

At the end of August 1939, British dealers were tumbling over one another in their eagerness to sell Germany tin, rubber, copper and shells—in the clear knowledge that war was going to break out in a week or two.

—George Orwell, The Lion and the Unicorn.



A victim of the war—and it wasn't the ruling class who suffered. But was there an alternative?

But what if the Nazis had won?

Last week's article: 'What point was it trying to make?'

WHAT POINT was Ian Birchall trying to make about the Second World War?

Of course, the British ruling class wasn't fighting the Nazis or fighting to restore the power and influence lost by the German working class when Hitler took over.

In fact, most of the British ruling class was pro-Nazi. George Orwell said Churchill, in 1940, was the only member of the British ruling class who could be trusted not to surrender.

Sweep

Many socialists argued that only revolutionary action by workers could sweep away the appeasers and secret pro-fascists in the ruling class and turn the war into a real war against fascism.

They failed to do this. But they did fight in the war because a British defeat and a German invasion would have meant the destruction of all the organisations of the British working class.

The first occupants of the concentration camps in Germany were not the Jews, they were trade unionists, and members of the German Socialist Party and the German Communist Party.

The collaborationist Vichy government in France set up its

I RECENTLY came across this statement by a trade union leader: 'A great deal has been said during the past few weeks regarding the taking of industrial action now that we have a Labour government, but I am of the opinion that if we rest on the industrial side for one moment it will be fatal to our progress and even to the Labour government.'

'It would be too big a price to pay and we must therefore go on with the economic war, waging it the whole time and utilising every opportunity on behalf of the class we represent.'

What 'militant', what 'wrecker' said this? Ernest Bevin, General Secretary of the TGWU and later bulwark of the Labour Party right-wing, at the time of the 1924 Labour government.

What, I wonder, would Bevin's 'left-wing' successor, Jack Jones, think of language like this?—CURTIS McNALLY, North London.

own Gestapo to hunt down French socialists. The same thing would have happened here.

It isn't a question of the motives of the ruling class. Their decision to go to war against Hitler regardless of why they did it, gave the first real opportunity since 1933 to overthrow the Nazi regime.

There was no simple internationalist position as there was in the First World War, because in reality in spite of every ruling class attempt to pretend otherwise, the war was against fascism and it did destroy both the Italian and German fascist regimes.

Of course, there were terrible betrayals. Spain was left alone, the Greek revolution was put down by the British, the Italian workers' councils in northern Italy were sold out by the Communist Party, eastern Europe was taken over by Stalinist butchers.

But the Nazi regime was broken. In 1939, fascism looked as though it could take over most of Europe. By 1945 this terrible danger to workers had gone.—JOHN CAMPBELL, London N1.

Why I want the miners to vote No

THE GOVERNMENT and TUC have, through the press and television, used all the subtleties of their positions of 'power' to attempt to convince workers to hold back our wage claims this winter.

As a low-paid hospital worker, the freeze can only drastically reduce my standard of living. With a take-home wage of £27.50 from a gross payment of £38 including £6 bonus, it is easy to see that a £6 increase will not help at all. In fact, I'll be worse off as inflation is bound to continue rising.

To beat this economic crisis, we are told we can't have a large pay rise this year. But the only thing in this society which I have a modicum of control over is my pay packet

Local

In the Health Service, we are fighting to build a rank and file movement which in many areas is based around a local paper. In the next couple of months, we must ensure that everyone understands the implications of holding back on any claim. The rank and file paper must play a large part here.

Hospital workers will be one of the first sections to settle on the wages front and if we are going to fight the government we will need the power of the miners and engineers behind us.

I urge the miners to say no to the £6 limit. It will not put money in my wage packet if you hold back on your claim. It will go into the government's coffers. But if you fight, then you can show the way ahead for weaker sections of the working class.—JIM BARLOW, Dundee.

Squatters

A FAMILY of squatters, the Reardens, recently took over a house in Darlington owned by a large car firm, Skippers. Skippers plan to demolish the house, along with others, to make way for a rear entrance to their garage.

They found the presence of the squatters rather irritating and the legal eviction process to be either expensive or frustratingly slow. So they circumvented the law by ordering the Gas Board to cut off the squatters' supply.

Mr Rearden protested to the local press, who published a few trivialised and misleading stories about his ordeal. Misleading because they claimed that, in law, squatters have no right to such services, when in fact they do, by statute, as 'occupiers'.

Mysteriously, after Mr Rearden was advised by other squatters about his rights, the Gas Board offered to reconnect the supply if he paid a £40 deposit.

The housing crisis once pricked the conscience of the press.

But as soon as we begin to assert our collective strength and demand decent housing for all at a rent we can afford to pay, the climate changes.

Squatters are now evil thugs who take over people's homes while the lawful occupants are on holiday. The ruling class are experts at the strategy of divide and rule.

We have to organise to win the right to even the most basic essentials of life.—DEREK STAMBY-TRON, Darlington, Co Durham.

POWER THAT COUNTS...

COLIN SPARKS' article (9 August) on the Royal Commission report on the Distribution of Income and Wealth, although a first class example of crusading journalism, laid far too much emphasis on the inequality of the trappings of wealth.

Some time ago, one of the gutter press (the Express, I think) calculated that if wealth was redistributed, everyone would receive an extra 30p. Which is quite irrelevant. What is relevant is the power of the wealthy. The power to influence or even topple governments, to devalue currencies, to close factories, and to steal the workers' livelihood.—M GREENWOOD, Halifax.

HOW WE OCCUPIED AT DECCA

BELOW: Some of the Asian women outside the occupied factory at Battersea



PICTURE: Marc Mellor

SOUTH LONDON:—There's no way to fight redundancies, workers at Decca were told by the convenor and stewards. Our union, the Electricians (EETPU), said it accepted the loss of 400 out of 480 jobs.

We, the rank and file workers, mainly Asian and West Indian women, were left to fend for ourselves. We were not prepared to accept what was going on. There are already 5700 unemployed in Wandsworth borough, with black unemployment rising at a much faster rate. We felt we had to act fast.

We handed out leaflets in English and Gujarati inside the factory, inviting everyone to a meeting on Thursday after work, in a local pub. Eighty people turned up,

by workers at Decca TV, Battersea

all but a handful Asian. Soonu Engineer, of Socialist Worker and Chingari, spoke at the meeting.

We realised that we had nothing to lose: either we accepted the redundancies or we had to do something. The mood of the meeting was militant and there was a unanimous vote to occupy the factory at once.

We burst into the factory and tried to lock the gates. The security boys were rough with us and set about the workers trying to lock the gate. Only later in the evening were we able to distract the guards' attention for long enough to put our own lock on above the bosses'.

The management tried its best to frighten us. The police were called in, but we refused to budge and they left. There was a rumour that the security dogs would be let out later. We were not scared.

We gave interviews to the radio and press. This was the first time anything had been done to fight redundancies in the area, and we were proud of it.

As the word got round, many trade unionists came to offer support. A local grocer came to protest against our action, but we convinced him and he was soon back with four crates of drinks!

Our families began to come, loaded with food and blankets. We got tremendous support from them all. 'As long as you stick together, we won't worry about you,' they said. When they passed in the first boxes of food, the guards tried to grab it away, but we pushed them off.

Then the guards locked up the lavatories. They would open them only if we talked to the management. We agreed.

BRIBED

This was a fatal mistake. The works manager, Mr Dungey, and others talked and talked for about three hours. They bullied us, they threatened to withhold our week's pay, they bribed us with promises of jobs at other Decca works.

They said they couldn't afford to keep the plant open. But we knew they had made £36 each week for each worker in the Decca group last year and that the workers had only been getting an average £35 and we told them so.

Then they tried to get at us women by talking about our children crying at home and how our families must be suffering. 'Think how they will be missing you,' they said. The women's resistance began to wear down a bit.

They promised that if we went home immediately they would do something for us the next day. Not everyone was in favour of giving in, but it seemed useless for a few of us to stay. None of us had been shop stewards—we weren't used to talking to the bosses. They talked well and they won.

MISTAKE

Next day we came to work feeling we should never have given in. We realised that if we had held on till the morning, then we could have won their support.

The bosses called a mass meeting. They told us not to come to work the next week and that they would pay us just the same. Clearly they were scared and they wanted to stop us getting together again.

A lot of the people who had been involved in the occupation were offered jobs elsewhere. This proved to us that if you are willing to fight, the bosses have to take notice. Yesterday there were no jobs, then today some of us were getting them.

But this is no answer to the problems of mass redundancies which most of us still face. More factories in Wandsworth will close and we mustn't let our experience and what we have learnt go to waste. We intend to form a committee to tell other workers what happened to us, and how important it is to organise.

Classified

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

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 Gŵrth, Oswestry, Salop.

IRELAND—Rising in the North: New Big Flame pamphlet. Interviews, reports and analyses from within the struggle of the past six years. From all good bookshops, or 20p plus 10p postage and packing from Big Flame Publications, 632 Bookshop, 632 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham 29.

The first edition of *Marxist Bulletin*, quarterly theoretical journal of the Bulletin group affiliated to the organising committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International, is now in sale at 49p including postage; annual subscription £1.98. Send your cheque/PO to Business Manager, *Marxist Bulletin*, c/o Unit 6c, 8 Green Lane, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 1HT.

DEFEND THE 16! Drop the Charges! Public meeting against the use of the Incitement to Disaffection Act, Monday 15 September, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Speakers include Joan Maynard MP, Ricky Tomlinson, Lawrence Daly, Paul Foot.

Social scientist, research experience, required for salary research post on marxist project on Northern industrial city. Write to Box M, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

ROOM WANTED. Comrade at present working in Canadian IS will be returning to London early September to begin teaching course at NE London Poly, Dagenham. Reply to L Dean, 596 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Canada, and c/o 26 Blackberry Terrace, Southampton.

NVT: We will fight

BACKING COMES IN FROM BUILDING WORKERS AND SHOP STEWARDS AT GKN - MORE NEEDED



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

RIGHT: Some of the workers inside Norton Villiers, Wolverhampton, with the motorbikes they are holding in ransom for their jobs

At some time a group of workers have got to stand up and say no. No more closures. We mean to give a message to the whole labour and trade union movement: we are prepared to fight this closure to the end, even if the end is bitter.

Mike Samson, shop steward and a member of the action committee at Norton Villiers Triumph, Wolverhampton, summed up the mood of the NVT

workers who are holding their factory in ransom for their jobs.

The workers occupied the factory last week after being told by management that there was no money left to pay their wages.

They are holding about 100 completed motorbikes and large numbers of unsold industrial engines.

Mike Samson, who is in the white-collar section of the Transport Union, ACTSS, says: 'If Dennis Poore, NVT's chairman, thinks he's going to move

any of these out to produce these bikes at the other NVT factory at Small Heath in Birmingham, he's got another think coming.

'The stewards at Small Heath have given us a categorical assurance that they will not work on any bike produced at Wolverhampton. Our work is black as far as the entire trade union movement is concerned.'

The action committee is still hoping to find some way to keep the factory running as a separate company, though prospects for this look bleak.

They are well prepared for any sudden move by the company. About 20 to 30 pickets man the factory day and night on an organised rota.

Appeal sheets have gone out to all branches and shop stewards' committees in the area. Already there has been some response. The Wolverhampton branch of the building workers' union UCATT has passed a motion calling for nationalisation without compensation at Norton Villiers, and a guarantee for all jobs there. The shop stewards' committee at GKN Bilston have also sent a message of support.

All trade union branches and shop stewards' committees should do the same—and back their support with hard cash. Norton Villiers cannot be allowed to close.

Donations and messages of support to Action Committee, Norton Villiers Triumph, Marston Road, Wolverhampton.

TEXTILES SIT-IN

SOUTH WALES:—350 women machinists are sitting in at the Corah textile plant in Aberargoed in the Rymney Valley to stop mass sackings. The women are members of the Tailors and Garment Workers Union. The factory makes clothing for Marks and Spencers and is threatened with closure from this Friday.

Help is urgently needed. Donations to Myrtle Jones, 16 Elm Street, Aberargoed, South Wales.

Back to work for SMC sit-in

SOMERSET:—Workers at Sealed Motor Construction in Bridgwater have returned to work. The redundancy notices have been temporarily lifted and officials are arguing that the company can make the necessary economies without sackings.

When the workers returned from holiday, 50 of the 61 night-shift workers received hand-delivered letters telling them not to report for work that night as they had been made redundant. No notice had been given.

Ignoring the company's instructions, the angry workers arrived at the factory, had a brief meeting, then informed management that they had five minutes to leave the premises as the workers were taking over the factory.

When the day shift turned up the next morning, it became apparent that a total of 153 people had been given their cards. 800 workers on the day shift, including 300 women, agreed to join the occupation. All management and all non-union workers were barred from entering any part of the factory.

Now normal working has been resumed while negotiations take place between officials and management. The management have not agreed to end the redundancies for good but have just suspended the notices.

If any attempt is made to sack anyone inside the factory the first successful occupation has shown how to resist. Every job can be saved if the occupation is repeated.

Jobless: Moves at Dundee

DUNDEE:—The recent lay-offs of 800 men at the National Cash Register (NCR) factory has prompted the Dundee Trades Council to call a conference on unemployment. Unemployment figures for Dundee are now 8 per cent among men, and nearly 5 per cent for women.

The conference will be open to delegates from shop stewards' committees, which should ensure a good conference, capable of discussing the real problems involved in fighting redundancies in the area.

THE NEED FOR AN ENGINEERS CHARTER

by Willie Lee
Senior Steward
Chrysler Linwood
A Socialist
Worker
pamphlet

THE CASE AGAINST THE POSTAL BALLOT

Vital reading for every AUEW member

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

FROM Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

Picture: Andrew Wilard (Report)



India: Pickets are beaten up

WEST LONDON: Pickets were attacked by Congress Party of India Goondas [thugs] in Southall last Saturday night. The pickets, including members of the International Socialists, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) were protesting at a speech in defence of Mrs Gandhi's repression, about to be given by the Deputy High Commissioner of India, who was addressing the India Annual Independence Day celebration at the Southall Indian Workers Association (IWA).

The Southall IWA is dominated by the Congress Party and the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India, which is supporting Mrs Gandhi to the hilt. As the fighting was going on downstairs, the commissioner prepared his speech flanked by Reuben Falber of the British Communist Party and the local Labour MP, Sid Bidwell.

GLC threat to sack 700 firemen

by Les Higgs, branch chairman, Plaistow Fire Brigades Union

FIREMEN agreed to the £6 wage settlement because of inflation: with rising prices eating into our wage packets every week we had to. But we are worried about the so-called inquiry that is part of the settlement. The terms were imposed by the government without any union agreement.

Basically what the government has said is 'OK, you can have the £6-a-week rise but we are going to use the inquiry to make further attacks.'

I see two major battles looming for firemen in the next few months.

First on redundancies—senior officers of the Greater London Council have already said they want a cut of one man in ten in the number of London firemen—that will be more than 700 men.

Second, when the inquiry is published I am sure we will be offered nothing except increased productivity. There are strong rumours that they want to reduce our working week, bringing in the three eight-hour shifts system. We are all unanimously agreed at Plaistow that the reduction in the working week should be made on the basis of the present shift patterns.

It is only when we escalated our action that things started to happen. If our union leadership had taken a stronger line we would have achieved much more. They do not fill me with much confidence for the coming battles.

The government is making a serious attempt to salvage the present economic system and working people are being forced to pay. I cannot support that. The Labour Party and the TUC are as usual going right along with this. The employers have created the crisis and they are the ones who should foot the bill.

Union officials "have it cushy"

by a Manchester fireman

OUR union officials have never acted for the rank and file firemen. They have backed up another rank system—the system where we have leading firemen, sub officers, station officers, county fire officers, system divisional officers and divisional officers. We have too many chiefs and not enough Indians.

All the union officials have cushy numbers. Hayworth, the secretary, is a prime pigeon. He has his own office, but whenever we try to contact him, he is always out.

Take this £6. What we should have had is £6 as an interim payment for fire prevention work. There are blokes here who have been doing fire prevention work for nine years and received nothing, while full-time fire prevention officers have cushy numbers. They see themselves as doing a light job and being above us. I do not see the blokes in Manchester just lying down and accepting this pay award.

SHIPYARD STAYS OUT

TYNESIDE:—The strike of 5000 labourers and outfitting workers at Swan Hunters shipyard, Newcastle, is now in its sixth week. The strikers are still solid in their demand for £8.30, which is in line with the recent boilermakers' settlement.

So far management have offered £3.50 now and £2 later. The strikers have rejected this offer twice almost unanimously. They are determined to fight for a decent living wage and to close the massive differential of more than £20 between them and the boilermakers.

The situation is deadlock. Trade union officials from the three unions involved, the General and Municipal, Engineers and Electricians, met Swans management last week and reported this to the strike committee. No

further progress was made since Swans refused to pay a penny over the last offer.

There is to be another meeting of trade union officials and the strike committee with management this week.

Trade union officials are trying to worm their way out of the situation by an agreement with management to approach the Department of Employment to discuss details of the £6 limit. They hope a statement from the government will send the strikers back to work.

But they should remember, as John Heathcote, Electricians shop steward at Swans, told Socialist Worker: 'The lads are shocked that the Labour government has sided with the bosses in this attack on living standards.'

International Socialists say:
STOP THE CUTS!
STOP THE SACKINGS!

STRIKE PAYS OFF FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

by Derek Ralph (NALGO), secretary, Social Services shop stewards' committee.

EAST LONDON: The Tower Hamlets social workers' one-day strike has paid off.

Three days after 230 of us had walked out our employers had gone no way towards meeting our demands for bringing Supervisory gradings up to other Inner London levels. It seemed they were prepared to let our service fester into total collapse.

But a rapidly convened meeting in our department voted overwhelmingly in favour of further strike action if our demands were not met within two days. This did the trick, for, exactly two days later, our shop stewards' committee was able to report to members that the assurances sought had been granted.

So a small victory in a large battle has been won. Our members, only a handful of whom have ever been actively involved before in any form of militant action, are now starting to realise that the only way to stop the

threat to public services, whether it be job freezing, deliberate undergrading or blatant cut-backs, is by organising to fight back.

Our shop stewards committee provided the initial arguments and inspiration. But it was the membership who packed the punch. All over London other social services workers are now aware that similar action is possible in their boroughs.

1000 JOBS TO GO

by a NALGO member working for the Greater London Council

LONDON:—The Greater London Council is the first local authority to announce mass redundancies. More than 1000 workers are to be sacked in the fire brigades, housing and architects' departments.

When the present Labour-controlled council was elected they promised to build 9000 houses a year. This year they have begun building just 900. The sackings will make the situation worse. According to official reports nearly one million Londoners need rehousing.

Courtaulds the common

£88m PROFIT—BUT THEY 'CAN'T AFFORD' £3.50 CLAIM

by a picket at Courtaulds, Spennymoor
COUNTY DURHAM:—Courtaulds again this year announced record profits of £88 million, yet Spennymoor engineering union (AUEW) workers had to resort to strike action to get a measly £3.60 increase.

The talks eventually ended up at national level where it was stated by Courtaulds management that this agreement was not binding for a year, and that this agreement was not binding for a year, and that at any time during the year we could come back and negotiate a further increase should trading conditions improve.

At the end of June, when output had increased from 75 per cent to 95 per cent and there was a general upturn in trade, we asked for the previous agreement to be honoured. Management refused point blank to honour this agreement.

They also refused to honour the agreement with the National Association of Unions in the Textile Trade—even though it is stated in all employees' contracts that pay will be in accordance with this agreement.

Our strike is now nine weeks old, and management consider the workforce sufficiently softened to accept their proposed

efficiency schemes. These include changes in the shift system—women on day work and men on night work—along with the transferring of machine gear charges from hourly-paid employees in the AUEW to staff status.

These are the age old Courtaulds' tactics at Greenfield, Skelmersdale, Coventry and Grimsby, designed to keep the workers off balance and disunited. These tactics are designed to produce a cheap, highly-skilled labour force which can be turned on or off or put on short-time working at any moment.

Donations and messages of support to: Kenny Beatty, 6 Bolton Close, Walton Hall, Newton Hall, Durham.

LANCASTER OUT 7 WEEKS FOR 12p

by an Electricians' shop steward at Nelson's Acetate, Lancaster.
LANCASTER:—We have just spent seven weeks locked out for refusing to work in unsafe conditions with blacked labour. Our dispute was made official at local level and then went to national negotiations between union officials and Courtaulds, the parent company.

They won for us just 12p above the original company offer and they recommended it to us. We put forward our claim in November 1974, local negotiations started in January, the claim should have come into operation in April. We went into dispute in June—and our national officers came in in July and got us 12p.

What a price to pay for 12p—seven weeks outside the gates! In recommending the offer the union officials stressed the £6 pay limit, although we should have been paid our claim on 27 April.

We had also objected to the methods employed by management. They created a rift between the craft unions and the Transport Union and white-collar union ASTMS. The Electricians, Engineers and Construction Union members were locked out while the TGWU and ASTMS members stayed at work and carried out the craftsmen's jobs with the help of non-union labour.

Management has been able to play off one group of workers against another. They negotiated settlements with the TGWU and ASTMS leaving the craft unions on their own. All the craftsmen were suspended for standing by their trade union principles.

Courtaulds is a highly-profitable organisation and every worker helps to swell those profits. But Courtaulds juggle the figures about and keep workers quiet by pretending a plant doesn't make a profit.

They used this one on our brothers down the road at Lansils, one of four Courtaulds plants in Lancashire where different rates are paid for exactly the same work.

The answer is for all Courtaulds workers to come together. We need a combine shop stewards committee. Most Courtaulds plants are small and the workforce is subject to these divide-and-rule tactics.

We need to know what Courtaulds is up to in other parts of the country. We need to know about wage rates in other factories so we can fight to bring all the wages up together.

If the trade union leadership can't provide the unity necessary to defend us then we shall have to do it ourselves. With proper organisation our dispute at Nelson's would never have started because management would never have dared to take on a united workforce.

350 SACKED IN WIGAN CLOSURE

WIGAN:—About 100 people, mainly women, marched around the streets of nearby Ince last Thursday. They had just collected their last pay packets from the Empress Mill, part of the Courtauld's group. The mill has closed and 350 men and women are on the dole. Nobody at the mill has found another job and there is little chance of getting one.

How did it happen? It can be summed up in a few words: 'trade union officials and MPs'. The workers hoped Prime Minister Harold Wilson would make 'a human gesture' and keep the mill open. Unfortunately for the mill workers Wilson is far more concerned with the interests of Courtaulds than the jobs of Wigan men and women.

Needless to say there was no sign of any MPs on Thursday.

From Monday Courtaulds are to lay off the workforce at their mill in nearby Skelmersdale for two weeks. Let us hope the Skelmersdale workers have learned something from the Empress Mill workers.

Scots NALGO victory

by a NALGO member at the Scottish Gas HQ, Edinburgh

EDINBURGH: 70 members of the Edinburgh District Gas branch of the government officers union NALGO came out on a one-day strike last month over management's uncompromising attitude to appeals for upgrading. The result? Withdrawal of trade union facilities.

For when the 70, mainly women workers, returned to work they were individually interviewed by management. The purpose was to divide them. The departmental representative, NALGO's equivalent of shop steward, vetoed the interviews.

Members who had refused to answer the questions were given letters telling them that if they didn't return to normal work they could be fired.

The staff hit back. The branch secretary calling a meeting which demanded that the letters be withdrawn, victimisation and intimidation cease, and all trade union facilities be restored.

The NALGO district officer told us that management would restore union facilities when they were 'satisfied' that everyone was working normally. The other two demands wouldn't be met.

Reluctantly the staff went back. But the issue had changed, now we wanted approval for official strike action.

The executive gave Scottish Gas until 12 August to meet our demands—or official strike action would follow.

Management gave in. The membership's response to the attempt to break the militants had given us victory—they'd shown that strike action would have been backed, and the NALGO executive had responded too.

BRITISH LEYLAND: 50,000 JOBS TO GO

BRITISH LEYLAND made £200 million profit between 1968 and 1974—and invested just £14 million in machinery and equipment. This looting by shareholders and bankers is at the root of the company's problems.

Not surprisingly, the government's Ryder Re-

port proposed an end to the chronic lack of investment. But it also sought to solve the problem by attacking those in the receiving end of that lack of investment—the workers.

News of sackings is slowly coming in. 4000 jobs, all the assembly workers, at the Rover Triumph plant in Canley, Coventry are to go in the next two years, shop stewards were told on

Monday.

And last week a Commons committee chaired by Labour MP Pat Duffy called for 50,000 sackings. The Ryder Report talked about 'realistic manning levels' which clearly meant redundancies. Now Duffy's committee has spelt it out.

But British Leyland's chronic lack of investment does not include the viciously anti-trade union Engineering Employers Federation. It has always been a member—and it's still pouring money in, even though it is now controlled by a Labour government. John Villiers, ACTSS member at Jaguar Coventry, writes about the Leyland re-organisation.

At present there are 30 vacancies on the British Leyland board. To be exact, only 29. One has without doubt already been filled by Eddie (Sacred cows have got to be slaughtered) McGarry, convenor at Triumph, Coventry.

Only convenors need apply; that is, convenors who are prepared to sacrifice the jobs of 50,000 workers. Not bad odds—1600 redundancies for each place in the power game.

During the past three weeks, the Combine Committee of British Leyland has been meeting on a regular basis. But the meetings have not been to discuss threatened redundancies in the Combine. They have been to discuss and to fight for places on the Workers Participation Board.

TACTICS

Meanwhile, on the shop floor and in the offices, the company are running rings around the stewards. They want 15 per cent redundancies—and that's on top of those sacked since this time last year.

The new tactic is not to discuss head counts with the stewards. It is to discuss locations and departments.

This is supposedly 'to avoid duplications and bring about rationalisation of jobs'. At Jaguar, the only area which has been discussed with white-collar workers is service and parts. The future plans are that the warranty, customer relations and technical publications areas will be transferred to other sites in the Company.

The present number employed in those areas total 521 in Cowley, Allesley and Coventry. The new proposed head-count is 432—a loss of 98 jobs.

The effects are obvious. People are becoming demoralised, some are heading for the dole queues. At each meeting with the stewards, the company axe men insist they haven't got the overall figures required. They will keep us informed—they say.

The trick is that management call the stewards to meetings, tell them nothing, but expect co-operation when they announce future plans. The stewards have nothing to report to their members, the members become suspicious and become demoralised. Is this what is meant by worker participation?

The reorganisation of British Leyland into divisions is not yet complete. The same old management who have proved their inefficiency in the past are appearing on the new family tree. The cash starvation and lack of investment is still in the hands of the mismanagers.

How many Leyland factories have had mass meetings? When will the combine committee unite and fight back? The answer lies with the membership. We are not interested in positions on the Board. We want the fight back to start now.

The Chrysler Stoke joint shop stewards' committee this week unanimously threw out the workers' participation scheme put forward by Chrysler management. They are calling a mass meeting to get their decision endorsed.

from their full-time officials, have backed down and agreed to sackings. And now they are being encouraged to challenge the Transport and General Workers' Union drivers for their jobs.

Instead of taking on the management—the Astor family, who have a fortune of £150 million—the SOGAT leadership are prepared to divert their members' fear of losing jobs into a squalid inter-union battle.

With the rest of Fleet Street lining up to destroy thousands of jobs—the Evening News with 400 redundancies announced last week—are just the latest in a long line—The Observer NATSOPA chapel's stand is crucial.

It could be turned into a base from which to campaign against all newspaper sackings. But if The Observer management get their way, it will be that much easier for every other management

Woodhall Duckham's: What we learned

MANCHESTER:—After 16 weeks of fighting for their jobs, the end has come for the Woodall Duckhams strikers.

They have been defeated—not by Woodall Duckhams, not by Babcock and Wilcox the parent company, not even by the Gas Board on whose site they were working, but by their own full-time trade union officials.

Wilf Charles, the Construction Engineers Union full-timer and signatory to the working agreement between Woodalls and the men, openly campaigned against the strike.

After publicly declaring he had 'done all he could to help', he embarked on a back-stabbing slander campaign. On one occasion, Charles advised a delegate with a donation from the Woodalls site at Redcar not to give it to the strikers and instead to take it back to Redcar.

Tommy Dalton, Plumbing Trade Union full-timer, slandered the strikers in the local papers, saying one of the strike leaders was a 'self appointed shop steward'. The truth is that the man concerned holds a steward's card signed by Dalton himself!

In the same article he was quoted as saying 'This is not even a dispute... our members are free to obtain employment elsewhere... In our opinion our members were rightfully dismissed, because there was no work for them.'

Pressure

Ronny Howe, Heating and Domestic Union full-timer, after telling two of the strikers that they were 'the instigators of all the trouble', said the best thing they could do would be to pile pressure on the welders to return to work. Since that time, the men have neither seen nor heard of him.

Les Froggart, Boiler-makers full-timer, the only official to do anything for the men, withdrew his support from the welders when he saw what the other officials were doing.

When approached by the strikers for a signed statement telling other trade unionists that the strike was official, he refused, saying that 'because Woodall Duckhams have closed the site there is no dispute to be made official'.

One striker told Socialist Worker 'Although we've lost this time, we've learnt a lot. We hope that other construction workers in the area have learnt from our struggle about their own officials, the bastards that they are.'

'We now know that if it comes to the crunch, you can only rely on your own strength and the support of other rank and file trade unionists. We will carry that message wherever we go.'

'We'd like to thank all the workers all over the country who have supported us. Without their support, we wouldn't have lasted 16 days, let alone 16 weeks.'

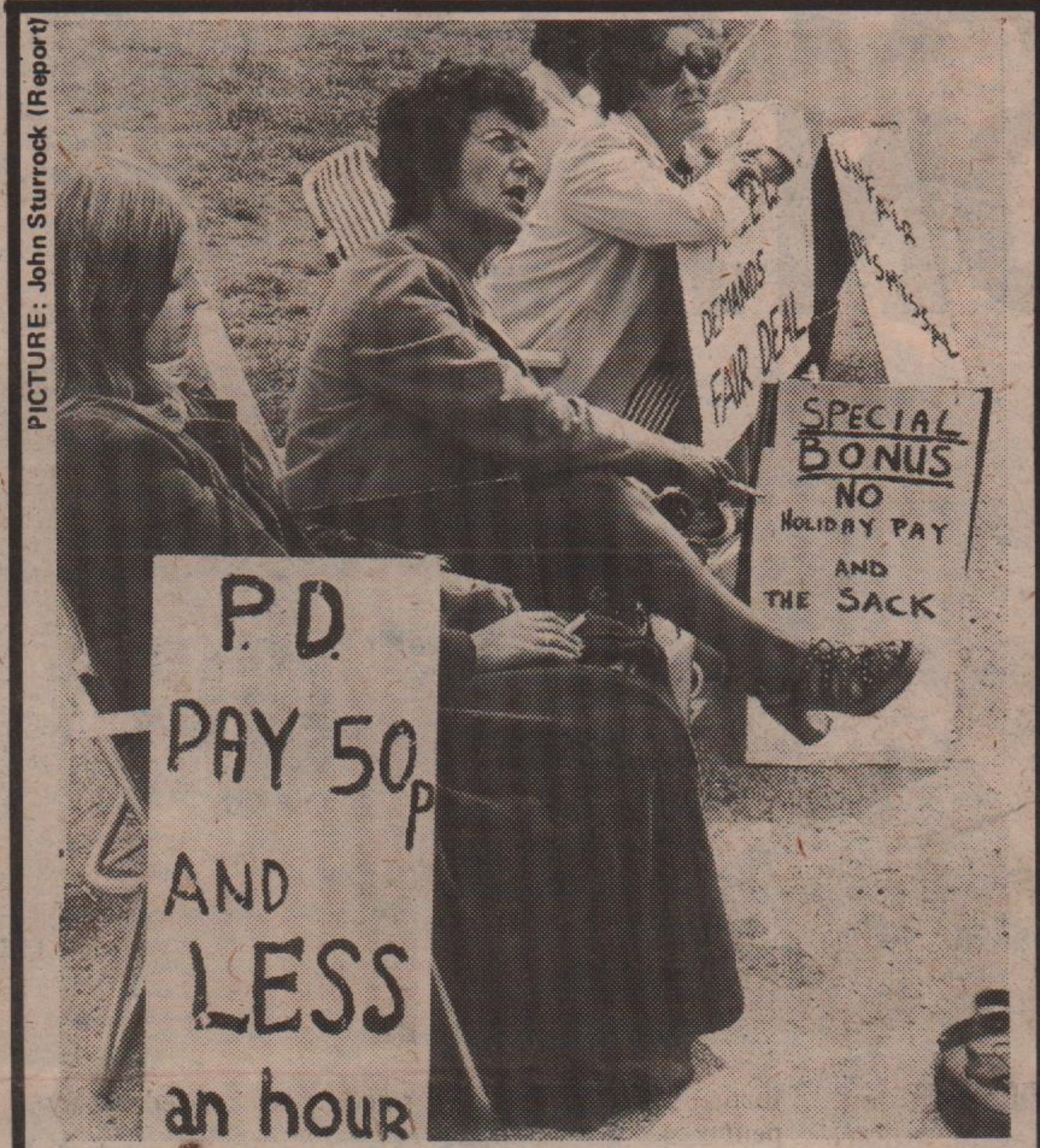
Leamington: 800 out

LEAMINGTON: 800 members of the clerical workers' union, ACTSS, are on strike at Automotive Products after management tried to suspend seven members.

They have not been helped by the antics of AUEW convenor Ivor Bennet. At one stage, he urged lorries to cross the picket line, saying 'in no way do we support this strike'.

Bennet even agreed that AUEW mechanics should drive company lorries through the picket line, after Transport Union drivers refused to do so. This has now stopped because of an agreement with the Deputy Convenor—Bennet is on holiday!

The strike is still solid and few lorries are daring to cross the picket line, which is rarely less than 100 strong.



TORY COUNCILLOR Neil Fuller is confident that he has God on his side in his battle against eight Engineering Union members on strike for the re-instatement of members he sacked from his Birmingham factory. 'I have gone to higher up' he informed them.

With the support of the Birmingham district of the AUEW, the eight women are confident they can overcome this unholy alliance.

The dispute, at Power Developments, began four weeks ago, when the workers were told they were not entitled to

holiday pay because they were on short time. After threats from the union's district office, some of the money was sent out together with dismissal notices to three members. Strike action began.

Rates of pay at the factory are 50p an hour. There are no tea breaks and several of the girls have to supply their own tools.

The strike is official. All donations and messages of support to the Strike Committee Chairman, Mrs Maureen Martin, 183 Bridle Lane, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

ASTMS officers call it off

THE STRIKE of ASTMS officers against the sacking of fellow full-time official Judy Cotter has been called off after an about-turn by their officers' committee.

On Thursday, the committee met general secretary Clive Jenkins and representatives of the executive after a mass meeting had agreed to continue the strike until Judy Cotter was reinstated and to refuse Jenkin's offer of arbitration.

After the meeting with Jenkins, the officers called for a 'phone vote' from strikers on whether to accept arbitration. No recommendation was made.

The results of the phone vote have not been made clear, but the officers decided to call off the strike and go ahead with arbitration.

Bill McCarthy, the well-known academic arbitrator, was appointed to adjudicate

on whether Judy Cotter should be reinstated immediately, pending full arbitration.

On Monday, he decided she should not be reinstated (though she should be paid an ex-gratia payment of a full month's gross salary). The full arbitration must now wait until after the TUC in September.

Five of the eight members of the officers' committee are members of the Communist Party. Although they at first supported strike action, heavy pressure from the Communist Party appears to have changed their attitudes.

The strike could have been won had the union's membership been involved. Last week, the No 3 divisional council, representing some 40,000 ASTMS members in the Midlands, voted overwhelmingly to support the officers against the executive, and strongly criticised Jenkins' attitude in the affair.

Observer men fight on

LONDON: Printworkers on The Observer are fighting on against the threat of massive redundancies. The paper's NATSOPA machine chapel, which has led the resistance to the sackings, voted again on Saturday to oppose them.

But full-time NATSOPA officials immediately called another chapel meeting for last Wednesday, when they were expected to try to break the chapel's principled stand.

BLACKBURN: 500 WALK OUT

BLACKBURN:—500 printworkers, members of SOGAT at Star Paper Mill came out on Friday demanding the re-instatement of four women made redundant.

Management have offered to suspend the four on full pay during talks, but the workers will not talk until they are re-instated. The mill is stopped and the firm's local depots are to be picketed.

Despite the present 'paper shortage' the warehouses are full of paper. It

would seem stocks are being allowed to build up so that easy profits can be reaped in a few months' time. They are now cutting back on production.

One worker suggested management welcomed the strike as they have recently considered putting workers on short time with a minimum 30 hours pay. The strike cuts production for a while without management having to pay anyone anything.

SOGAT van drivers, under pressure

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Birmingham journalists beaten up - and fined

BIRMINGHAM:— Ten picketing journalists beaten up by detectives for shouting at scab lorries were given another taste of British justice last week.

The pickets—members of the 245-strong National Union of Journalists office branch which has been locked out at the Post and Mail for six weeks—were arrested and charged after the attack.

And in Birmingham magistrates' court last week, they found themselves trapped by a prosecution 'deal'.

Originally charged with threatening behaviour, they were told that if six pleaded guilty, the other four admitted obstruction, an offensive weapon charge against one of the ten would be dropped: The 'weapon' was an eight-inch piece of wood.

Reluctantly, the journalists agreed—and were each fined £10 and bound over to keep the peace.

Several books of police photographs of the incidents were produced in court. The journalists claim their picketing operation had been filmed by the police, whose headquarters is nearby.

The prosecution told the court the journalists were on strike, when they are in fact locked out.

He DIDN'T say that the four Serious Crime Squad detectives itching for a punch-up ploughed into the pickets without being called upon by the uniformed men on duty. Which was true.

And he DIDN'T say that the police have allowed management's scab henchmen to break the law by driving lorries without number plates through other picket lines. Which is also true.

The defence lawyers asked: 'Why did the plain-clothes policemen intervene when the uniformed reinforcements saw no necessity to assist?'

The magistrate replied with the words that assistance was welcome no matter who gave it and it could even be given and welcomed by members of the public.

Meanwhile, the dispute was still being dealt with by the government's Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service this week.

Claim

The journalists have been locked out for pressing a pay claim which management has delayed for almost a year. Management have offered only £1—and have threatened redundancies.

More than 9000 journalists throughout Britain are waiting for a satisfactory conclusion to the dispute. Victory is essential for their hopes of winning a satisfactory national pay deal from the employers.

The Birmingham management are one of the most influential members of the employers' federation, the Newspaper Society.

The Chapel must demand: NO redundancies—FULL lock-out pay—MAXIMUM pay increase for all journalists.

It will be important for the chapel to receive maximum support if this attack on the largest NUJ chapel in provincial newspapers is to be defeated and the chapel's demands met in full.

Donations to the strike fund and messages of support to Disputes Committee, Birmingham Press Club, Corporation Street, Birmingham.

Leyland Worker

THE second issue of British Leyland Worker, the voice of shop-floor workers in British Leyland, is out now.

This issue takes up the fight against redundancies and lay-offs in the combine with a major article on the Ryder Report and how to fight it.

Leyland Worker, written and produced by rank-and-file trade unionists, needs orders and sellers in British Leyland plants everywhere.

Orders to: Business Manager, 15 Berners Close, The Hill, Coventry. Individual copies 12p including postage. 12 or more, post free.



RANSACKED... The Communist Party HQ in Famalicao.

PORTUGAL: MODERATES IN ACTION...

MORE TRADE UNION, Communist Party and left-wing offices were attacked this week as the right-wing frenzy in the north of Portugal continued.

Supporters of fascism and reaction who set the offensive in motion—and who are only too happy to see poor peasants spearheading it—are already reaping considerable rewards.

On Monday, would-be dictator Spínola, now exiled in Brazil after twice failing to stage right-wing coups, was clearly revelling in the events in the north when he announced the setting up of a new reactionary organisation.

The offensive has provided a focus for the right in the Armed Forces Movement. They organised around a document written by Melo Antunes, the man who wrote the original AFM programme.

Detested

This attempt to shift the situation decisively to the right was followed through by a Socialist Party call for Antunes to be made Prime Minister.

These moves have completed the isolation of the government, which is detested on all sides, because it offers no way through. But the right have by no means succeeded in swinging things their way.

Most industrial workers in and around Lisbon were on holiday when the Antunes document was published. But even before Copcon, the army security force, published its alternative document, significant groups of industrial workers had moved against it.

These included the workers' commission at CUF, the biggest single monopoly in Portugal, which has just been nationalised, the Engineering Workers' Union, the Textile Workers Union in the Lisbon area, various tenants' committees and a range of army barracks and Copcon units.

The Communist Party-dominated trade union federation the Inter-Syndicale called a half hour general strike on Tuesday against reaction in the North.

This move was supported by the revolutionary left which did, however, emphasise that it was in no way an adequate response.

Other workers are expected to move next week after the holiday period is over.

The Copcon document is a much needed rallying point against the

right, who are using popular hatred of the Communist Party to gain support.

It is all the more significant because Copcon controls the real firepower in the Portuguese armed forces, and is far and away the most politicised section of the army.

The document was written with the collaboration of leading mem-

bers of the Maoist UDP and of the PRP.

It contains an accurate analysis of the mistaken approach which has fuelled the growth of anti-Communist Party feeling in the north. It criticises the Communist Party for simply taking over the abandoned fascist structures of power.

But it is equally tough in its

criticisms of the pro-capitalist Socialist Party.

The document promises massive aid to the peasants, promises that will have to be translated speedily into deeds.

But while the document will provide the focus to win rank and file soldiers, it does skirt round a number of key issues.

There is much emphasis on alliance between soldiers and the working class, but little detail on how this is to be developed or what exactly workers must do in the present situation.

The publication of the rival documents has of course been accompanied by an increase in the intriguing and manoeuvring and jockeying for position at the upper levels of the Armed Forces Movement.

Otelo de Carvalho, the ambitious Copcon general, is, of course, up to his neck in all this, which is why he has stayed out of the government. Carvalho has in fact carefully distanced himself from the Copcon document, preferring once again to wait in the wings.

Power

All this indicates that the revolution is at an impasse. Capital and reaction are testing their strength, estimating how far they can go.

The working class, though massively strong, is not ready to reach out for power.

Whatever new government formation finally emerges, the revolution will be in its decisive phase in the next weeks and months.

What matters now is that the revolutionary left, spearheaded by the PRP, is successful in speeding the construction of revolutionary councils, which will cement ever closer links with the army and enable the workers to organise and arm themselves for power.



WRECKED... a car belonging to a Communist in Famalicao

RICHARD NOSS reports from Lisbon

Eldon Square: 10 in court

NEWCASTLE:—The ten pickets arrested during the Eldon Square strike earlier this year are to appear in court on 1 September.

The scaffolders struck after 14 of them had been locked out and victimised by McAlpines.

The 14 were active trade unionists who had organised the union, the TGWU, and won better conditions, on the site.

True to form, McAlpines introduced scab labour. The scaffolders were peacefully picketing the site when about 200 police descended and arrested ten of them.

The basis of the charges is that they were swearing and trying to hit the side of the scab van. For this, the ten are being sent for trial at Newcastle Crown Court and face heavy prison sentences and fines.

All trade unionists should support

the Eldon Square 10. The TGWU 8/214 scaffolders' branch have called on the Rank and File Movement to help organise a mass picket of the court on the first day of the trial.

Shop stewards' committees and trade union branches are asked to discuss the matter and send delegations. Trade unionists are asked to march to the Crown Court.

Vital

Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson will be speaking at a meeting in Newcastle on Thursday 4 September organised by the Rank and File Movement.

The same involvement of McAlpines and the police in the Shrewsbury workers' case can be seen again in Newcastle. It's vital that this link is made.

More information from Eddie Brady, 86 Benwell Lane, Newcastle 5.

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