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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

These children have a Labour government. But they can't get a school dinner.

PICTURE: JOHN STURROCK (REPORT)



THEY go to Knighton Field Primary School in Leicester with 385 other children. Only 130 of them can have school meals.

The rest have to join a waiting list for at least 18 months. Their mothers have to give up work to give them a meal—or let them wander home and cook their own.

There are waiting lists for school dinners at 16 other schools in Leicester—and in hundreds of working class schools all over the country.

The cause is simple: the government cuts in public spending which slashed £4½ million off the Leicestershire education budget for 1975/6.

Mrs Brenda Pearce, who has two children at the school, summed up the fury of hundreds of mothers all over the country.

'I've had to give up work as a waitress to collect my children and give them a meal. So have lots of other women in the area. None of us can afford it.

'The government and the council are quite happy to spend millions on things that don't matter: a new civic centre, new offices at county hall. They sit in comfortable offices while our kids go hungry.

'There's always money for the rich areas. In one new village outside they've built two new schools in the past ten years. But here among the working people in the growing cities, I just can't remember when they last built a new school.

'It makes me flare up every time I think of it.

'We're not going to let them get away with it. We're going to shout and demonstrate until we get our kids properly fed.'

PORTUGAL: ARMS TO THE PEOPLE!

'FACED with the offensive by the bosses, the advance of the anti-worker offensive and the attack by capital and its lackeys, our reply can only be one: to come out on to the streets and advance to the struggle, showing unity and strength and the revolutionary aim of exploited people. If the bourgeoisie want war, let's fight.'

That was the statement from the Portuguese metal-workers' union on Monday as they called for a mass strike to coincide with demonstrations all over Portugal calling on the government not to yield to 'pressure from the bosses'. It has been another week of open class struggle in Portugal, as the government has tried desperately to stem the rising tide of class consciousness and militancy in the army and the working class.

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BOYD IS SMILING

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by Jack Robertson
AUEW Shop Steward
Massey Ferguson, Manchester

I see what the boycott

THE WORKS CANTEEN at SACOR (Shell, Portugal) is a modern building seating about 1000. The food is excellent, three courses accompanied by beer or wine, fresh fruit or cheese followed by coffee and a 'little something' at the bar.

The wall at the head of the hall is covered by an enormous Portuguese flag alongside the slogan *Defend the Revolution—Increase Production*. The Workers Commission dominated by Communist Party and Socialist Party supporters.

Stoppage

Along another side is a table laden with literature. There is a poster/leaflet announcing a national one-hour stoppage of engineering workers as a first shot in defence of an agreement made with the government but which the employers are refusing to implement.

Beside this are copies of Lista B, one of three slates for the elections in the Engineering union. The demands are for unity of the working class, power to the workers' assemblies

and total independence of the working class.

The discussion today is very heated. The previous evening the workers at Sacor had attended a mass meeting in Lisbon along with other workers in the Petrochemicals Industry (CIDLA (BP), Sonap and Petrosul). About 2000 attended to discuss the length of the working week.

A good number of workers, particularly the 'clerics', already worked less than 40 hours. Just as many worked more. The resolution from the platform was 40 hours for everyone. Sacor wanted 35 hours for all but were defeated about 3-1 after a meeting which lasted from 9pm to 3am.

Sections

Today Sacor are upset at the stupidity of their comrades but 'it is only the beginning. We will continue the discussion and they will see we are right.'

In one of the boardrooms, a combine committee meeting of 50 delegates has been in session since early morning to discuss how the 40 hours would affect different sections in the

SHORTAGES IN PORTUGAL... SACKINGS IN BRITAIN

plants. I interrupted to explain that I was in Portugal as a delegate from the International Socialists (a body in no way associated with Mario Soares) and from the Massey-Ferguson shop stewards committee in Manchester to investigate the extent to which British multinationals were involved in sabotaging the revolution.

I explained that we had contacted the workers at Massey-Ferguson, Tractores de Portugal, whose stocks of tractors were now only 50 compared to 500 before 25 April because of a change in the credit system which demanded they now pay for each tractor before delivery.

On top of this, 70 per cent of their parts came from Manchester and we were shown long lists of these which were no longer being

sent. We knew similar policies were being employed by other companies, some of which had resulted in redundancies in Britain, because of 'lack of work'.

Spanish

It was our intention to return to England with as much information as possible to build the links with shop stewards committees. We hoped, but could give no guarantee, that we might be able to repeat the success of the Massey-Ferguson Combine who had forced the release of a Spanish worker, one of the Carabanchel 10, who was employed at M F, Madrid and was about to be executed by Franco.

I was taken round the maintenance depot



CHRIS HARMAN
reports
from Lisbon

PORTUGAL:

I SUPPOSE there will be civil war.

That was how the corporal at the Radio Renascenca building summed up the feelings of many Portuguese workers after the events of last week.

On Monday, he had been sent as part of an armed unit to close the building and prevent it operating under workers' control.

The same thoughts were apparently expressed by Major Dinis de Almeida, commander of the left-wing army units RALIS, who refused to obey an order to hand over 3000 G3 automatic rifles from the Beirolas arms depot to a right-wing unit.

He said: 'When civil war is inevitable, the greater the firepower on your side, the less will be the cost in terms of blood.'

He is also said to be prepared to give Beirolas' arms 'to the people'.

South

Civil war has also pre-occupied the ruling Military Council of the Revolution. Last week they discussed their reaction to the possibility of a 'commune of Lisbon'.

'In the event of this materialising,' announced the right-wing weekly Expresso, 'it was hoped that the government would leave Lisbon and would be able to defend itself relying on the military regions of the south, centre and the north.'

Neither right nor left have felt strong enough to attack each other. But they have been gathering the forces that make an all-out physical conflict a certainty in the near future.

The government's aim is to smash



completely any section of the armed forces that attempts to side with the workers. It pins its hopes on the commandos led by Jaime Neves—many of whom only recently returned from Angola—the military base at Santarem, and the paratroopers in Tancos.

It also believes it can rely on the two para-military police forces and so began distributing arms among them a few days ago.

An elite intervention group, AMI,

based on hand-picked troops from all regiments, is being groomed to maintain 'order'. Ex-Angolan settlers are being organised into a shock police force.

Swoop

If this is true, the government is building a Portuguese version of the notorious Black and Tans. All the atrocities practised in Africa under Caetano and Salazar will now be practised in Portugal.

The aim of all these forces will be to smash ruthlessly all expression of dissent. The right-wing troops in control of the radio were armed to the teeth with mortars, rifles, tanks, rockets and heavy machine guns.

The commandos swooped again near Oporto at 11pm on Friday and closed down a left-wing regiment, CICA.

Three weeks ago, CICA threatened to turn their guns on any officer who tried to stop them observing a minute's silence on the second anniversary of the Chilean coup.

These preparations by the right have been more than matched by the left.

Sides

On Tuesday, the RALIS unit organised a barracks meeting of representatives of virtually all the military units in Lisbon, plus a number of workers' committees and representatives of FUR, the United Revolutionary Front. Left-wing units told to hand the TV stations over to right-wing units refused.

The military police have refused to obey an order to disband, and continue to operate. Even paratroopers in occupation of one of the radio stations attacked right-wing demonstrators last week.

In purely military terms, the two sides are fairly evenly matched, although the left may have

10,000 WORKERS being greeted on Monday night at the RALIS barracks (the target of the right-wing attack on 11 March) by 2000 soldiers sitting on top of the guardhouse.

A huge cheer went up when the workers and soldiers were joined by 300 sailors carrying red flags. The main slogan heard was 'No to Civil War', but the speakers made it clear that they were ready to defend themselves if the right wing attacked.

strengthened and could win in the Lisbon area.

The real difference is in the relative strength of the workers. Demonstrations and pickets of workers have often shifted the balance inside individual units away from reactionary officers to the rank and file soldiers' movement, SUV.

This was shown at the Beja airbase last week. It had been announced that 49 soldiers were to be moved from the base for taking part in a workers' demonstration. As soon as this was made public, a joint meeting of workers' and tenants' committees called on workers to demonstrate in front of the base.

The call was taken up by the organisations of the revolutionary left and a number of important unions. Workers demonstrated outside the base and were joined by large numbers of agricultural workers in tractors. The town was half paralysed.

Similar

The workers made it clear—if the commander didn't back down there would be a total strike. A mass meeting at the local artillery barracks voted full support for the struggle.

Eventually, the commander withdrew the threats and agreed that the soldiers could go on any demonstration they wanted.

A similar unity between workers and rank and file soldiers in Setubal early in the week broke the hold of the right wing commander over his troops.

The events in Setubal and Beja point the way forward. The Portuguese revolution depends on the formation of joint workers' and soldiers' committees in the localities. Committees with which every worker and soldier can identify. Committees which would exercise a monopoly of armed force in the locality.

Through such a development, workers could create a structure to rule the country.

Disgusting—and dangerous

PRESIDENT Costa Gomes' state visit last week to Poland and Russia seems to have been more important to the Communist Party leadership than his role as one of the key people behind the right-wing offensive.

Despite the attack by the government on the working class, the Communist Party remains in the coalition.

This attitude has caused it many splits at local level. There are repeated reports of Party members tearing up their cards in disgust. And the papers report that a number of people walked out of a meeting of leading cadres last week complaining that the Party was becoming 'a social-democratic party

of traitors'.

This leads to many of the less militant workers wondering why they should worry about the right-wing offensive when the Communist Party apparently cares so little.

Settlers

And so there hasn't yet been an upsurge in the factories to match that in the rank and file of the armed forces. The resulting dangers for the revolution are grave. The left-wing controlled army units can't wait indefinitely before taking action to defend themselves.

Given time, the government will be able to build new armed forces based on commandos, police, returned settlers and right-wing

officers. And it would be prepared for bloody revolution against left-wing army units.

The left can only forestall this by striking first. But it can't do so unless large numbers of workers are also prepared to move.

Even as civil war threatens, the Portuguese working class is still held back by the hold of reformist organisations and by the absence of a mass revolutionary party.

The separate revolutionary organisations and the Revolutionary United Front have considerable influence. But they are still fragmented.

They urgently need to build the organisation to put across arguments for revolution, day in, day out, to the broadest layers of workers.

really means

by a young Communist Party member who had worked at CAV Lucas in Birmingham and had spent two years in jail during the fascist regime. The yard was full of tankers made all over Europe but most were from British Leyland. They were now receiving no pistons at all for these.

There was also a shortage of parts from AEC, CAV Lucas and a firm called BUTEC. Circuit boards were being improvised from pieces of tin and transistors cobbled together. In one bay, a testing rig for pipelines made up of odd bits of pipe and spare gauges had been fitted up. My guide decided to make a list of the parts they needed.

Subsidiaries

The Workers Commission at Sacor would like to send a delegate to England to speak to the appropriate shop stewards committees. The Shell Combine should contact them immediately and open the door for them at the plants where there is a problem with parts.

Any other groups of workers working for a company with subsidiaries in Portugal, and

wanting more information should contact SW or better still send somebody over.

It's worth it just to experience a private in the army say to you 'The people of Ireland—they are winning?' or a waiter in a restaurant—'Eusebio is too old. Football in Portugal no very good' and with a broad grin—'But politics in Portugal very good. The people are very strong.'

◆◆◆
THE SHOP STEWARDS' Committee at Massey Ferguson's, Coventry, passed a resolution on Monday sending fraternal greetings to our fellow workers in Massey Ferguson, Oporto, and appealing for detailed information on MF's part in the international economic boycott of Portuguese industry.

It is believed that the European parent company is holding up exports of CKD (Completely Knocked Down) kits for assemblies and may be imposing credit restrictions.

Copies of the resolution were sent to MF plants in Manchester, Beauvais in France, and Aprilia in Italy.

ARMS TO THE PEOPLE!

REPUBLICA, the paper under workers' control, reported last Wednesday: In Setubal they have created committees of struggle made up of workers' committees, tenants' committees, and a soldiers' committee elected in the 11th Infantry Regiment (RI II) and intended to involve all the enterprises and factories in the industrial zone, spreading information about the actual politico-military situation and mobilising workers in preparation for the defence of the conquests already gained by the workers in particular at Radio Renascenca and Republica.

On Monday morning, a mass meeting of workers in Setenave decided to send a group to Lisbon to defend Radio Renascenca and another to the Infantry Regiment to find out the position of this unit.

At the barracks, a meeting elected an ad-hoc committee of soldiers which, together with the commander of the unit, received the Setenave workers and some others. The workers obtained from the commander a promise not to shoot at the people in any circumstances, and from the 'committee' of soldiers the certainty that they would be unconditionally on the side of the working class.

As a result of this, there took place in the regiment on the same day various meetings leading to the formation of pickets made up of popular vigilantes and soldiers, that all night occupied various strategic points in the city and patrolled the streets.

Meanwhile, meetings are taking place throughout the industrial belt.

During Monday's attempts at mobilisation, the Setenave comrades contacted many enterprises: Siderurgia, Lisnave, Sapac, Socil, Socel, Ima, Barreiros, Imperex, Entreperto, Movado, Sorefame, Propam, etc.

However many 'false arguments' were used to demobilise the workers, who were advised by their leaders to remain in their workplaces.

Streets

In the Secil, the workers were quite old and had been in the factory many years. They were not ready to fight in the streets.

In other places, people claimed, it was not necessary to go onto the streets, as the troops were occupying the radio stations to prevent infiltration by reactionaries...

Many workers, tired through so many demonstrations without any practical results, believed these stories.

◆◆◆
REPUBLICA organised a meeting on Friday attended by 180 workers, soldiers and tenants.

ADFA, the war invalids' association, told the meeting that they planned to occupy the bridge across the river Tagus as part of their campaign for the rights and good treatment of war invalids.

Instead of collecting tolls on the bridge, they would collect money for Republica.



MARIO SOARES, accepting Harold Wilson's hand of friendship and a standing ovation from last week's Labour Party conference: A few days later, he spoke at a public ceremony to mark the 65th anniversary of the First Republic of Portugal and only 200 people turned up—enough to start a chorus of jeers and booing as soon as he appeared.

SUDDEN CONCERN FOR 'DEMOCRACY'

THE DECISION by the Foreign Ministers of Common Market countries to freeze relations with Spain has nothing to do with any genuine hostility to the fascist regime.

Of course, the wave of protest in the European working class movements against Franco's police terror is one of the factors Callaghan and his colleagues have to take into account.

But their real concern is to establish 'democratic' credentials for intervention in Spain when the fascist regime cracks, an event they expect in the near future.

Their aim would be the preservation of the Spanish military and police machines behind a 'democratic' facade and support for the most right-wing government feasible in the circumstances. The means? Economic aid and the threat of boycott.

Last summer the then Portuguese government, headed by Costa Gomes, appealed to the Common Market for aid.

In July, when Portuguese

WHAT WE THINK

democracy was far from safe,' the Guardian sanctimoniously noted, 'Mr Wilson and the other nine heads of government declared that the EEC was not in the business of propping up dictatorships, and Portugal got nothing.'

Admiral Azevedo is doing better because of his efforts to 'restore order'. Already the Common Market has agreed to send him £60 million.

A little later, Wilson joined with Willy Brandt, Francois Mitterrand, Olaf Palme and other social-democratic leaders to establish a Committee of Friendship with Democracy and Socialism in Portugal. Its object is, of course, support for capitalism in Portugal.

Wilson served in the British government that went into NATO along with the Salazar dictatorship (1949), he headed the British government whose NATO partners included Caetano's Portugal and the Colonels' Greece (1964-70).

Never a word from him then about democracy, let alone

socialism.

Now that there is a threat to capitalism from the working class, today in Portugal, tomorrow in Spain, 'democracy' is the watchword.

Wilson's 'democracy', Common Market 'democracy', is a dishonest label for the defence of capitalism. Common Market intervention is invariably directed to that end.

Reginald Maudling, Tory spokesman on foreign affairs, has been criticised in his Party for not being more active.

His defence? 'There is not much difference between government and opposition views in most foreign policy areas.'

Indeed there is not. Abroad, as at home, the Labour government serves big business.

SOCIALIST WORKER PORTUGAL FUND

Solidarity with Portuguese workers

JON LUCAS is unemployed. But he sent the Portuguese Solidarity Fund £5 this week with these words:

'I woke up last Saturday and the first news I heard was that Franco had executed five militants. My first thought was that that could have been me or any of our thousands of comrades in Britain.

'Not now, maybe, but give this crisis a couple of years and the employing class will be pushed a bit further into taking a more authoritarian line. If capitalist democracy here falls, then the choice will be simple, socialism or fascism.'

That's the choice facing the Portuguese working class right now. That's why the SW Portugal Solidarity Fund is becoming more and more important.

So, brothers and sisters, keep doing your very best. We need money for a hundred reasons—and all of them good.

This week the Fund raised £175.18 plus bankers' orders for October of £242. And the sale of badges, posters and stickers came to £17.70.

Our thanks to: Withington Hospital NUPE £4, Lancaster Univ ASTMS £2.10, Chelmsford IS £4.62, T C Summers £2, City and East London Coll £4.35, SW London £50, J Meedom £2, JR Gilding £1, Birmingham IS £25, Ford's Southampton SW Readers £1.50, Aberystwyth IS Soc £7.10, Brentwood SW Readers £1, Herman Knudsen, Denmark £9, Watford IS £4, NELP IS Soc meeting on Portugal £25.36, Tom Butler £5, Lowestoft collection on coach to demo £10.37, EETPU Glasgow £2.80, Gloucester Rank-Xerox worker £1.80.

All donations please to Socialist Worker Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

◆◆◆
THE DEMONSTRATION called on Monday night by SUV, the rank and file soldiers' group, was the biggest seen in Oporto since May Day.

The CICA barracks—closed down and occupied by right-wing commandos on Friday night—had since been continually picketed by workers and soldiers.

On Monday night they were joined by more than 100,000 workers and soldiers, 'the workers in uniform'. The demonstration surrounded the barracks and shouted to the occupying troops: 'Comrades, we are your hope, come over to us comrades', 'You who come from factories and fields cannot be on that side'. 'Come over, so you can be received with open arms, come over to our side.'

The PPD (supported by the Socialist Party) organised a counter-demonstration in support of the occupying troops. One officer is a well-known Spinoist, another boasts openly of being a PIDE agent. It is to scum like this that the PPD and the SP are looking to swell their ranks.

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THE UNIONS

AUEW: No wonder Boyd is laughing



John Boyd: able to pose as a custodian of union democracy.

DANGEROUS changes are planned in the Engineering Union. And they have given the right-wing yet another chance to parade themselves as the custodians of democracy.

For the last four years, the leaders of the four sections of the AUEW have been struggling to pull an acceptable set of rules out of the amalgamation argument.

From the beginning, the issue of a new rule book involved more than just a new structure. It was always about who held power inside the union.

Now the Broad Left leadership have decided to back the proposals of Ken Gill, general secretary of the staff section, TASS.

Break

These include a proposal that some full-time officials should not be elected—a fundamental break with the traditions of the engineering union.

The suggested new rule book says all full-time officials should be elected except the present TASS officials.

TASS has about 30 full-time organisers—most of them Communist Party members—who have not been elected to the job by their union members but were selected. The proposal is that none of these people would have to face election but would be in their jobs until they retire. Only new officials would have to be elected.

Had John Boyd made this suggestion, the response of the militants inside the AUEW would have been swift. It would have been rejected as bureaucratic manoeuvring, as undemocratic. And that would have been correct.

By Jimmy McCallum,
former TASS convenor,
John Brown Engineering, Glasgow

The attempt to build left wing officials into the constitution isn't only incorrect. It is madness. It plays into the hands of the Boyd supporters by making the argument over the constitution rather than policy.

But, much more significantly, it gives the right an opening to pull the union through the courts on yet another issue. And everyone knows how the judges will decide.

The most dangerous aspect of all is that it robs the rank and file of their right to decide who should be the full-time officials. In that respect, it underlines the slide of the Broad Left to the right and away from any belief in the capacity of the AUEW membership to take on a fight.

Apart from the fight against the Industrial Relations Act, the Scanlon leadership has never

involved the AUEW in a national battle for wages or conditions.

Both Scanlon and Ken Gill have made brave speeches about fighting unemployment and opposing the £6 limit. Neither of them has done anything to make sure that a fight takes place.

In fact, their actions have been the opposite. On the £6 limit, AUEW policy is merely hot air when you realise that no national claim will go in until next May.

Women

The record on equal pay is even worse—the claims of women workers in the union have been set to one side and forgotten.

This has led the members to place little faith in the ability of the leadership to deliver what they promise.

When the Broad Left then sets about reducing the democracy in the union it isn't surprising that only the faithful are prepared to buy it.

The question of amalgamation is important for the future of the engineering union—but it cannot be separated from its overall policy. It is important to make sure the union has the kind of leaders that defend the interests of the members but it is also important to make sure that it is the members who elect the leadership.

There isn't any short cut to maintaining a left policy in the AUEW—it has to be clearly stated and then campaigned for among the members. That is what the rank and file Engineers Charter is about.

Five

In the last 18 months, five new jobs have been established in TASS and all have gone to hand-picked members of the same political organisation.

In at least one case, the official is barely 30 years old, and under the proposals, would have 35 years as a union official without being re-elected.

It has to be firmly stated that this kind of manoeuvring has nothing in common with the attitude of socialists. The sisters and brothers who support the Engineers' Charter are for the extension of democracy inside the AUEW.

Every official should be elected on the basis of the branch ballot and should be open to recall by those who elected them. The Charter stands for one engineering union that fights for the members.

Stealth

The attempt to avoid, by stealth, a right-wing take-over plays into Boyd's hands. The right are now crowing about how they are opposed to the selection of full-time officials while the Broad Left maintain an embarrassed silence.

This sort of thing has happened before. When Foulkes and Haxell were in the driving seat of the ETU, their stupidity led to the courts and a right-wing coup.

The way to build amalgamation that works is on a policy of fighting unemployment, 1 y-offs and wage controls.

It must be fostered at the base, with united shop steward committees of TASS and engineering section representatives.

This would mean a more democratic union—not a captured machine.

THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE

ALBERT ROBERTS, MP for Normanton, Yorkshire, is sponsored by the National Union of Mine-workers.

The union pay the full cost of his election campaigns. And if he ever attends a miners' meeting, the union, that's the men in the pits, pay his expenses and subsistence.

Albert Roberts is also a public relations man for Fascist Spain.

For more than ten years now he has been speaking up for Spain in Parliament and outside. He is a constant and welcome visitor to that country.

Worm

He also helps to arrange trips there for other MPs. Hardly a year passes without a deputation of Labour MPs going to Spain, care of Mr Roberts.

You might have thought that the worm might have kept underground during the recent events in Spain. Not a bit of it.

In the same week as the Labour Party conference came out unanimously against the Franco regime—and two weeks after his own union had moved a resolution at the TUC bitterly denouncing the Franco regime—Roberts appeared in public in his accustomed role as apologist for tyranny.

On the Today radio programme last Thursday (audience 20 million), Roberts described the Franco regime as 'liberal to a point'.

He also said 'If Franco had not succeeded there would be a Com-



Alfred Roberts, Michael McGuire and the man they promote... General Franco

When are the miners going to get shot of these friends of Franco?

munist Spain... Spain has never threatened the peace of the world since Franco came to power.

He didn't agree with everything in Spain, but the way to change it was to go to Spain and talk to the Spanish government about where they are going wrong.

This is disgusting. The Yorkshire Area Council of the NUM should act at once. They should remove sponsorship from Roberts, and make it clear they will put someone up against him if he doesn't resign.

Speaking up for Franco isn't Roberts' only sideline. He received £8999 (minimum) from John Poulson, the corrupt architect, for 'helping his business'.

This included 'making things easy' with the former Portuguese dictatorship, which Roberts also supported.

Roberts helped Poulson get a lucrative contract for building a harbour at Mossamedes, Angola, and wrote a letter to the Maltese government trying to get him a contract for building a hospital on the island of Gozo.

Slagheaps

While they're looking at their Parliamentary candidates, the NUM might also cast a glance at Michael McGuire, MP for Ince (land of the slagheaps).

McGuire is chairman of the Anglo-Spanish Group of MPs, which exists to 'foster relations' between British MPs and the Spanish government. He has sunned himself in Francoland almost as much as Roberts.

Another interesting fact about McGuire is that he was secretary of the Sutton Manor colliery in St Helens, Lancs, when Joe Gormley was NUM secretary for Lancashire.

The two men were so close you could hardly tell them apart. Rumour has it that they did a deal. If Gormley worked for McGuire to get the NUM sponsorship as Labour candidate at Ince, McGuire would work hard for Gormley to become NUM President.

Well, it worked. And who knows? Maybe that's why Joe Gormley goes to Spain so often, too.

A Jenni jamboree

THE PARTY, thrown by ASTMS, the white collar workers' union, was a crowded and lively affair.

The drinks flowed like Niagara—until, sadly, the bar was drunk dry.

Unfortunately, some revellers became over-excited and the odd glass was trampled into the carpet. (Mrs. Barbara Castle avoided a nasty accident when, as we chatted, she suddenly heard a hefty crunch beneath her left foot.)

The host was, of course, that ebullient and genial little Welshman, ASTMS Secretary, Clive Jenkins.

He was only troubled by an endlessly throbbing waitew on a finger.

From the Daily Mirror, 2 October



THE COW, a film on the peasantry in Iran

Presented by Iranian Students Society in GB, for the benefit of 21 Iranian students arrested on conspiracy charges. English sub-titles. Sunday 12 October, 8pm, Collegiate Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1. Admission 50p.

Soldiers leafletted as 'disaffection' trial begins

THE trial of the 14 supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign opened last week at the Old Bailey. The 14 are all charged with conspiracy to contravene the Incitement to Disaffection Act.

All 14 either pleaded not guilty or refused to plead, some making political statements about the nature of the charges. When Michael Wescott pleaded 'peace in a world of war; love in a world of hate; free speech for all and an end to politically motivated trials', the judge—Justice Neil McKinnon—'If this goes on, I will have to have a medical report on you.'

Most of the first week was taken up by the prosecutor's opening speech. He set the scenario for the alleged conspiracy, emphasising to the jury that it was 'irrelevant' what they thought about Northern Ireland.

The trial opened with a number of solidarity demonstrations and actions, both here and abroad. In London there was a Weekend of Action, which began with a picket of the Northern Ireland Office and the Home Office on the previous Saturday, when a petition with 4000 signatures demanding that the charges be dropped was handed in, a torchlight procession on Sunday night and a mass picket of the Old Bailey on the opening day of the trial. The Statement of Complicity with the 14, with 600 signatures, was delivered to the Home Office on Monday morning.

News came through at the weekend that four supporters of BWNIC who had distributed 'Some Information for Discontented Soldiers', the leaflet the 14 are charged with distributing, had been charged in Aberdeen under the Incitement to Disaffection Act.

Squaddies

Supporters in Aberdeen were undeterred and leafletted the Army Recruiting Office there with the same leaflet. Young Liberals distributed the leaflet at a barracks in Lichfield on Saturday. Comrades in Germany distributed the leaflet to British soldiers in Hamburg, Krefeld, the Ruhr area, Werl and West Berlin, where two people were arrested but later released.

In Derry, Northern Ireland, four people gave out 200 copies of the leaflet to squaddies on the streets there, accompanied by television cameras. They were not arrested, but the RUC is forwarding the names and details to the Director of Public Prosecutions, so more arrests may follow.

Ten socialist, libertarian and pacifist papers published 'Some Information for Discontented Soldiers' to coincide with the opening of the trial (Socialist Worker, Peace News, Freedom, International Times, The Liberator, Newspace, The Pacifist, People's News Service, Red Weekly and Roadrunner). Some 50,000 people are now in possession of a copy of the leaflet as a result.

The court will be picketed and support for the picket is particularly requested all day Mondays and at lunchtime on other days. For information please telephone: Defend the 14 Campaign: 01-837 9794.

VICTORY!

Police who attacked young black are defeated in court



Some of the 150 people who picketed the court during the appeal hearing

LAST Friday was Victory Day for the black parents' and students' movement in Hornsey, North London. Cliff McDaniel was cleared in Middlesex Crown Court of using insulting behaviour 'with intent to provoke a breach of the peace' and assaulting a police officer.

It all started on Thursday 17 April, when Cliff and two friends were coming back to school after dinner. They were waving to friends when a police car driven by Constable Ryan David, with Constable Fry as operator and Constable McCulloch as observer, passed them and turned at the next corner. Then, almost immediately, it reversed and drew up beside them.

Constable Ryan David then provoked an incident. He picked on Cliff and demanded to search him. Cliff was pinned to the wall, punched and kicked.

More policemen were called, making seven in all, a van and a car. Badly beaten, Cliff was

thrown into the van. In spite of police tactics, pushing away witnesses from the scene, Cliff's friends and other students saw what was going on.

Two school welfare assistants saw the incident. One was pushed aside and told to mind her own business. Cliff cried out for her to come in the van with him for he knew what was to take place in the van and the police station. More beating and beating—and a charge of assault!

Outcry

There was an outcry in Hornsey. This was not the first time, but it had to be stopped. A Black Parents Movement was formed and a Legal Defence Fund set up to fight this and other cases.

Then on Thursday 26 June at the Highgate Magistrates Court the whole lie machine was on show. Constable McCulloch, who had been in the police force for only four months and was

going on his first job as an observer, claimed he observed nothing. He had been looking away from the scene of the action.

Constable Ryan David, who was driving, and Constable Fry said they saw Cliff making a masturbatory gesture. David claimed it offended a lady pushing a pram nearby and he came to this conclusion by watching the expression of disgust on her face. This woman was never produced as a witness.

While Cliff was 'arrested' and 'restrained', the observer claimed to have been watching people on the other side of the road who attracted his attention but who apparently made no attempt to interfere in the situation.

The magistrates—a civil servant, a toy manufacturer and the owner of an off licence—found Cliff guilty on both charges and bound him over in the sum of £10 to keep the peace for one year.

An appeal was launched. 150 people picketed the court. The police evidence was thrown out, and Cliff was cleared. Great. On to the next struggle.

NEW WAY TO SOLVE TEENAGE UNEMPLOYMENT-SLAVE LABOUR

A NEW way of solving unemployment among teenagers has been devised by Ray Naylor, headmaster of the 770-pupil Hermitage Secondary School at Chester-le-Street, County Durham.

Naylor runs what he calls an 'unofficial employment exchange' in the school. He sends out his final year pupils to local firms where they work for no pay, six hours a day every Monday. In exchange, the firm promises to 'look kindly' on the boys when they officially leave school.

The school—in other words the

taxpayer—also provides the boys with overalls and other clothes needed for work.

The main beneficiary of this new form of slave labour is the Caterpillar factory at Britley, which gets about 40 hours of free labour every week.

The Department of Employment is delighted. Said a spokesman: 'This school's efforts appear to be very praiseworthy.'

Perhaps that's the sort of 'initiative' which Employment Minister Michael Foot and the other mandarins of his department like. But it can't be so popular among local trade unionists.

Unemployment among engineering workers in the North East is running at more than 10 per cent. The 'praiseworthy' efforts of the headmaster can only make it more difficult for people to get jobs in factories like Caterpillar.

But then Chester-le-Street has never been a strong area for trade unionism. Its MP, Giles Radice, is sponsored by the General and Municipal Workers Union, whose former boss in the area, Andrew Cunningham, lived in Chester-le-Street until he went to prison for corruption last year.

Buy and sell tickets NOW for the Socialist Worker Christmas Draw. All proceeds to the SW Fighting Fund. Send all money from tickets to SW Draw, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

SOCIALIST WORKER SUPPORTERS' FUND
Promoter: F. J. Nichol, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E.2.

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Terror and hypocrisy

CERTAIN MORAL defectives on the right have been doing their best to help the bloodthirsty old dictator in Madrid by attacking the international campaign of protest against his latest murders of political opponents.

Shot

The protests are hypocritical and misguided, they say. Hypocritical because the protesters never denounce repression in Russia—which is a downright lie as far as Socialist Worker is concerned—and misguided because the victims are 'terrorists' and so deserve to be shot.



What is a terrorist? 'Anyone who attempts to further his views by a system of coercive intimidation', according to the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (1944 edition), which adds that the term was originally

applied to the Jacobins and their agents and partisans in the French Revolution.

The date of the edition quoted is put in because it is significant. Political words are never neutral and in 1944 the British government of the day was supplying arms, explosives, money, training and transport to groups of men who were carrying out assassinations of policemen and soldiers, and those who collaborated with them, in territories controlled by the German government of the day. That government was a fascist dictatorship like Franco's Spain.

So the Oxford Dictionary, an 'establishment' work if ever there was one, defined terrorism in a very general and unemotional way, and, in the only example it gives, refers to the actions of a government (the Jacobins

were in power when they were called terrorists).

In British eyes in 1944 the terrorists were the Gestapo and the Abwehr, not the Resistance fighters who tried to kill them.

Heroes

When five Czechs, armed and trained by the British and parachuted into Czechoslovakia from an RAF aircraft, succeeded in killing the German Governor-General of Bohemia Moravia, they were hailed as gallant heroes by the BBC and the British press.

The man they killed, 'Butcher' Heydrich, was described by Fleet Street—with perfect truth—as the boss of a murderous machine of police-terror and torture who richly deserved to die.

Times change. For Fleet Street, those who try to kill the Spanish Heydrichs of today are the terrorists.

The term is not applied to the bosses of the police terror and torture machine; least of all to the boss of bosses, Butcher Franco.

William Tell assassinated the tyrant Gessler and became a folk-hero. But that was before the ruling classes had equipped themselves with TV and press.

A modern Tell is represented as a terrorist, a public enemy by definition, and a modern Gessler as the representative of lawful authority, guilty perhaps of some unfortunate excesses, but nonetheless a man against whom the use of violence must be condemned.

Against

So much for bourgeois morality. Yet marxists have always argued against the policy of attempting to change society by armed attacks on individual agents of the ruling class (except, of course, in conditions of civil war or near civil war).

Why? Certainly not on moral grounds. If, by killing a Hitler or a Stalin or a Carrero Blanco their detestable regimes could be destroyed, the killing is justified a million times over. The objection is a practical one.

'Is individual terror, for example, permissible or impermissible from the point of view of "pure morals". In this abstract form the question does not exist at all for us,' wrote Trotsky in 1938.

'Conservative Swiss bourgeois even now render official praise to the terrorist William Tell. Our sympathies are fully on the side of Irish, Russian, Polish or Hindu terrorists in their struggle against national and political oppression ...

Masses

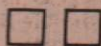
'However, not the question of subjective motives but that of objective expediency has for us the decisive significance.

'Are the given means really capable of leading to the goal? In relation to individual terrorism both theory and practice bear witness that such is not the case.

'To the terrorist we say: It is impossible to replace the masses; only in a mass movement can you find expedient expression for your heroism.'

That is the point. Terrorist groups run the risk of trying to substitute for mass action, 'to make the masses happy without asking their participation' as Trotsky put it, and so to isolate themselves. That is the marxist objection to them.

But the man or woman who is not, in spirit, with Tell against Gessler, with the ETA against Carrero Blanco, is no revolutionary.



Which questions about socialism baffle you? What points do you find difficult to argue with your workmates? Do some of Socialist Worker's politics puzzle you?

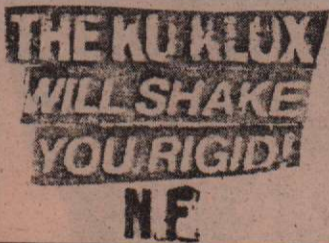
Why not write to Questions About Socialism, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2—and we'll take up your points.



THE 1945 Labour government may not have achieved the social revolution many of its supporters expected but it wasn't completely without success in that direction.

Its Minister of Transport, Alf Barnes, left £142,320 in his recent will, having achieved a social revolution all of his own ...

THE KU KLUX FRONT ...



THIS IS just one more reason why you should support the demonstration by anti-fascists outside the National Front's annual general meeting in Chelsea Town Hall this Saturday (11 October).

It's part of a leaflet (note the NF symbol) recently pushed through black homes in Camden, London. The Ku Klux Klan, of course, means to black families what the Nazis mean to Jewish people—decades of shuddering, spine-chilling violence.

That's the sort of racist terror close to the hearts of

the Nazis now re-asserting themselves in the leadership of the Front.

Martin Webster and John Tyndall, for instance, topped the poll in the recent elections to the Front's National Directorate. And another successful candidate was Norfolk landowner Andrew Fountaine, now back in the leadership after being ousted some years ago following his interesting submission to the Sunday Times that both Harold Wilson and Harold Macmillan should be gassed.

Time and motion - for the bosses

SOME WORKERS at Chrysler Ryton, fed up with being spied on by industrial engineers (time and motion men), recently decided to turn the tables and do a little 'time studying' themselves.

Off they marched in working parties and occupied the offices of the industrial engineers and management.

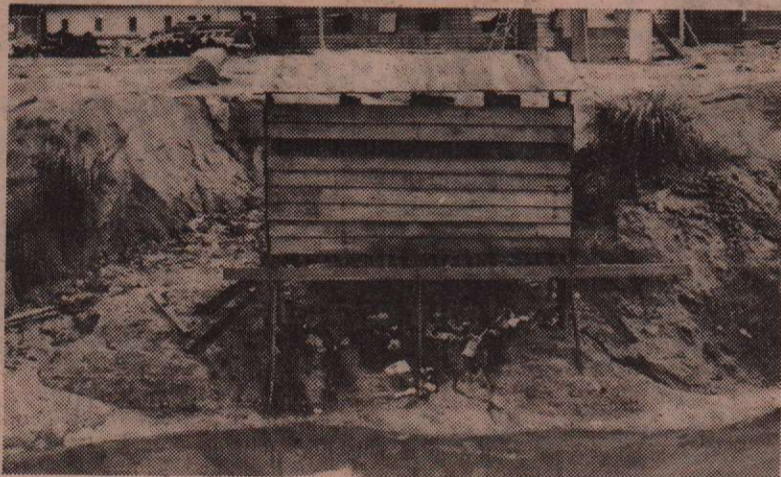
Bewildered IEs stood by open-mouthed and wondered if their time had come. They had to keep on working under the eagle eyes of a determined workforce, while hysterical management officials ran about wildly trying to herd the men back to work.

After a three hour stoppage, the men returned to work, confirmed in the belief that the IEs would be the first to benefit from their own rigorous time-study techniques.

AUEW MEMBER
Chrysler Ryton

◆◆ THE MANAGING Director of Church's, the Northampton cobblers, took a full page ad in last week's Economist to explain to 'my fellow Managing Directors' the merits of the firm's 22 carat gold shoes.

Well he might. After all, they do cost £32.50 a pair. Which is rather more than the £27 a week he pays his 'crafts-people' to make them.



THIS, disgustingly, is a lavatory for Chinese workers on the RAF base in Hong Kong. Even more disgustingly, its contents are sold by RAF officers as a side-line, the price of conventional fertiliser being high locally. Wonderfully civilising thing, the British Empire ...

A matter of life and death

HOW MANY people would you say have been killed in car crashes around the world since capitalism invented the lunatic machine?

The answer, according to a US expert, is 25 million. And, what's more, you're 300 times more likely to be killed travelling by road than by train.

Meanwhile, our Labour government's furiously cutting back on—that's right, you've guessed it—the railways.

WITHOUT COMMENT... 1

The Right-wing backlash against the international anti-Spanish campaign has so far been relatively muted. Yet the authorities, as well as the moderate opposition, fear it could still emerge violently to further polarise the nation.

This could explain the switch in emphasis in the official propaganda flooding out of the media. Instead of the earlier

accounts of foreign beastliness radio and television are now devoting most of their news bulletins to favourable reports published abroad to show that Spain is not friendless.

These range from readers' letters in *The Daily Telegraph's* correspondence column to a *Kuwait Times* editorial and a message of support from Chile's President Pinochet.

—Daily Telegraph, 4 October

Due to interference, profits are running late

A TRACK tale is told in the recently-published annual report of the massive British Electric Traction Company, owners of the TV firm Rediffusion.

Rediffusion's long association with Waltham, where a subsidiary company was established in 1935, has come to a sad end. Last autumn Mr Mintoff moved to implement his policy, frequently affirmed in public, to take broadcasting into public ownership.

Rediffusion were so desirous of its assets almost to expropriation, and the company refused to accept them. Consequently, the Waltham government passed an amendment of the Constitution of Waltham, enabling a bare majority in Parliament to lay down the basis on which compensation should be paid to a company following compulsory nationalisation.

As a next step, Mr Mintoff's General Workers' Union, on the flimsiest of pretexts, staged a sit-in

strike, occupying the company's property. They were publicly supported by the Prime Minister.

A few days later the Government enacted a Bill setting up an Emergency Council to operate Rediffusion's broadcasting business, specifically excluding shareholders and directors from any rights whatsoever.

Having thus been deprived of the businesses and any effective legal remedy, the company had to make the best deal it could and

it was consequently necessary to provide, in the Profit and Loss Account of the Rediffusion group, for a loss of nearly £400,000—a poor reward for 41 years' service to the Waltham people.

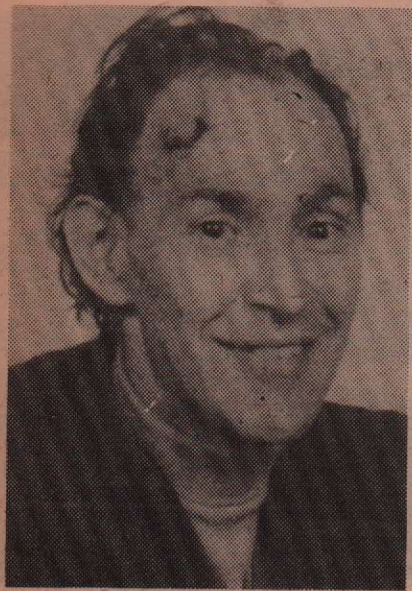
Messages of sympathy, wreaths etc should be sent to next Friday's annual general meeting of BET shareholders, c/o the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2.

WITHOUT COMMENT... 2

IF YOU were asked which Prime Minister had created the most perilous century, you would probably hazard a guess at Lloyd George or Baldwin or Churchill.

But you'd be wrong every time. It is, of course, our very own Harold Wilson. He is out on his own at the top of the league with a total of 228, well ahead of second placed Lloyd George who created 176, followed by Churchill 110, Asquith 95, Baldwin 85, Attlee 84, MacDonnell 75, Heath 74, Home 72, Chamberlain 74, Balfour 72, Eden 72, Campbell-Bannerman 71, Macmillan 74 and Bonar Law 3.

—Labour Weekly, 26 September.



LEFT: Disabled driver Frank McConville after his car overturned on Tyneside

'NOTHING BUT A TRAVELLING DEATH TRAP'

FRANK McCONVILLE'S car gave him another little surprise this week. He braked in the wet, and the car slewed across the Newcastle by Whitley Bay road before turning on its side.

No normal car would have done this. But Frank's is an invalid tricycle. Invalid tricycles are not normal cars. Said Frank, 38 years old and invalidated by multiple sclerosis: 'They have wheels and engines. They keep out the rain. Otherwise they are travelling death-traps.'

I've had one previous miraculous escape. I'd been to the theatre, and was driving along Newcastle's Walker Road, when a dog stepped off the pavement. I braked and swerved slightly. Unluckily, I hit the hound, which caused the trike to jump into the air and turn over. The dog ran off home, leaving the car a mangled wreck with me inside.'

Passers-by, amazed to see Frank alive, righted the car.

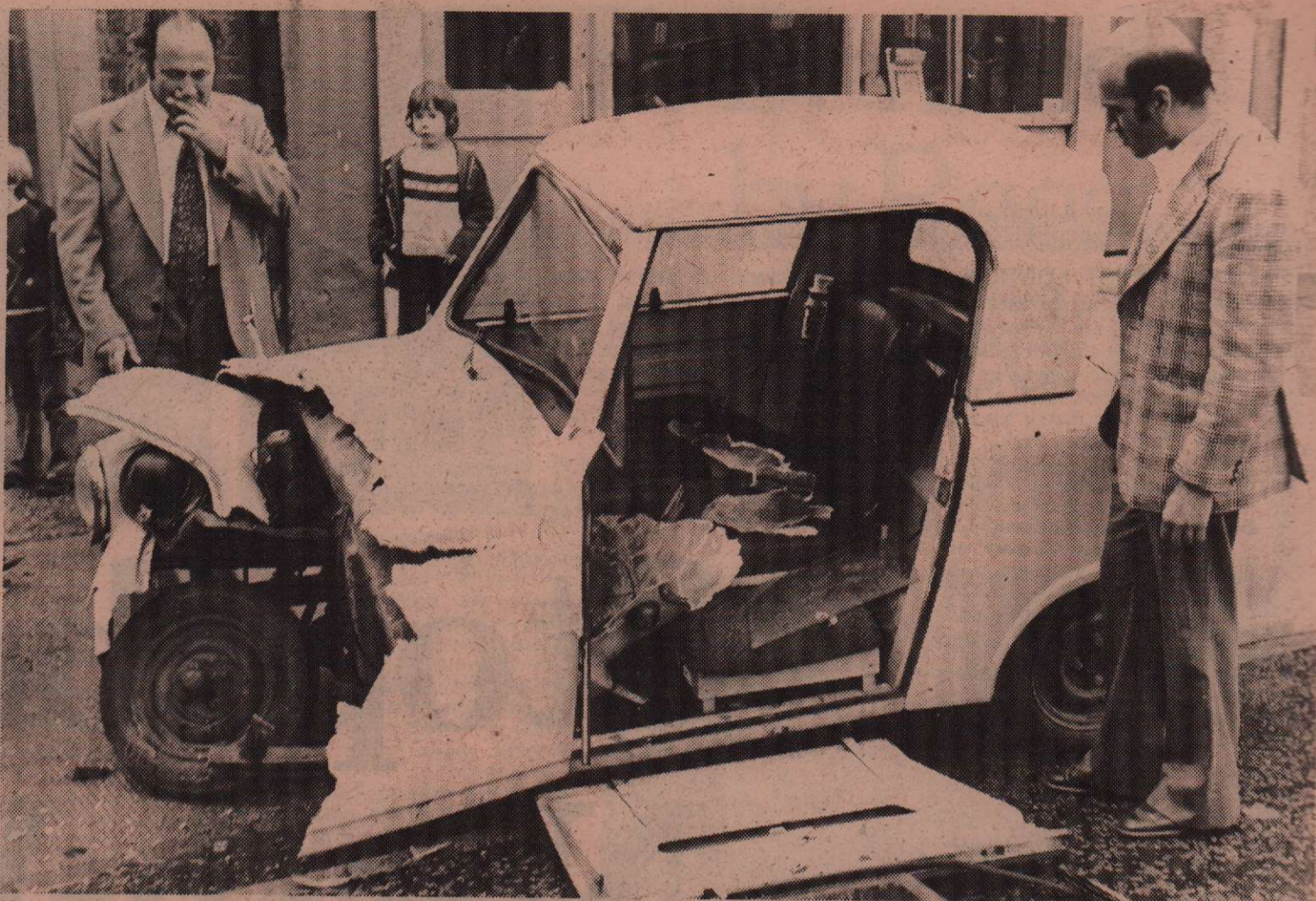
Both these 'accidents' show that invalid carriages cannot withstand the normal stresses of driving. Their design faults have knocked Frank unconscious once, and have now given him eleven stitches in the head.

This has happened in the latest 'improved' Model 70. In his previous two-stroke model, the glass fibre body could not withstand the stress of having a metal door. 'The door fell off several times. Once while I was driving the infernal machine', said Frank.

Quick

The scandal doesn't stop with the design. The AA has just uncovered a scandal involving government-approved service agents. They claim expenses for jobs half-done or not done at all. They give the trikes a quick greasing instead of a proper overhaul. They cannibalise parts from the old machines, then charge for new ones.

All the corruption of capitalist business, officially explained away as an isolated case, has been operating against an almost powerless section of the working class.



No more protection than a raincoat! This car was parked in Caledonian Road, North London, when struck by a passing car. Its disabled driver was taken to hospital with leg injuries.

This scandal is no accident

Wealthy invalids don't have to put up with lethal trikes. Obviously no disabled worker would compete for this form of charity from the government if he could afford to do otherwise.

Frank McConville puts it this way: 'Lethal injections are obviously an unethical way of disposing of an out-of-work invalid. So a sneakier, more seemly method of cajoling us into suicide is provided.'

To improve the design of the trikes is impossible. They lack even elementary safety features like roll-bars, which would prevent the roof collapsing in the frequent overturning accidents they have.

Saloon

But what invalids need is not even a modified minibus but a fully automated and power-assisted saloon or estate car, which allows the disabled to travel with their families or friends

Interview with disabled driver Frank McConville by Tony Wild

instead of being on their own. The standards employed should give maximum safety, comfort and ease of control, not the minimum.

Said Doreen, Frank's wife: 'I could never travel round in the trike with Frank, even if the rules did not forbid it. It's too small for two. I'm always worried when he goes out in it. If anything goes wrong, he has to rely on strangers to help him'.

Doreen works full time. She has to so that she and Frank can have something approaching a normal life. It's easier and less harassing for her to work, than for both of them to

be thrown into the arms of the Social Security.

The isolation of injured individuals has other terrible effects. 'When Doreen takes me out in the wheelchair', says Frank, 'people talk to me through her, as if I'm a child. If people treat me as an equal, I can get along well with them. If they're not afraid that helps. But many people imagine that if your body is in a wheelchair, then you mind must be slow and childish.'

Because so few disabled people are able to get jobs, they are isolated yet again. Frank would love to get another job—he hasn't worked for five years. But no firm wants him for the sort of work he could do as a receptionist and telephonist.

'Let's admit', he says, 'it's much nicer to have a dolly bird with a 38-inch bust in the foyer than a disabled man of 38 years of age'.

Being able to think things out for himself has been of great value when tackling the local and national government bureaucracies which are constantly raged against vulnerable people. Frank is used to dealing with other people. He used to be assistant manager of a cinema. He realises that bureaucracies exist to protect the establishment from 'unreasonable demands on scarce resources'.

Quips

'They like to create the impression of doing as much as possible, when they are doing as little as possible', he said. 'Personally I reckon I've done better out of them than the average person. So I'm not moaning about myself particularly.'

Even so, his case is instructive as an example of 'good' treatment. The council wanted the site of Frank's house to build garages. 'Homes for cars, you see,' quips Frank, 'come before homes for people'.

'They acted decisively and we moved after a bit of haggling into this place. After a year, they part-built a concrete ramp at the front door for the wheelchair.'

'They refused to pay for installing

a telephone, but after we had got one in ourselves, they agreed to pay the rental. "Sometime" a man is going to come round and see about re-designing the bathroom, although if he takes much longer I'll have disappeared under the accumulated muck, since I'm not able to get into the bath we have.'

'Medical research will eventually find a way of arresting multiple sclerosis, but so long as nuclear weapons, not human beings, take first place, all people like myself can hope is that our complaint will take hold among the top brass of the army, civil service and British industry. If such a "threat to the nation" materialised, then no expense would be spared in finding a cure as soon as possible.'

Quota

'Since this is unlikely, I support the overthrow of capitalism and its replacement by a socialist society controlled by the working class. Only a society like that would be willing to devote the right resources to solving such problems.'

In the here and now, there are other things we can do. At least we can stop treating physically disabled people as if they were children.

We can demand that our boss employs a fair quota of disabled people at full union rates and with full special consideration.

We should demand the trikes be replaced by modified production vehicles—Ford and Bedford ambulances are only modified vans. We must also make certain that the factory workers who make the trikes don't get put on the dole.

We should demand that the vicious regulations surrounding invalid car ownership are scrapped and that those who cannot work are given enough financial assistance to keep the vehicles on the road in good condition.

Real changes in the here and now will only be got by working-class action. Without it, the invalids of the future will get just as shabby a deal as invalids get now.

The dictator would have loved it

IT is just over a year since Haile Selassie, the emperor of Ethiopia, was removed from power and replaced by a military junta.

Selassie himself is now dead. But on 13 September the junta held anniversary celebrations with a fanfare Selassie himself would have envied. Millions of dollars were spent on pageantry.

Yet the famine which has killed hundreds and thousands of peasants, and which was partly responsible for the overthrow of Selassie's regime, is still raging.

Selassie's overthrow was the result of a popular movement, involving workers, peasants, intellectuals and rank-and-file soldiers. The general strike by Ethiopian workers in March last year was the most effective challenge to the old regime.

But when the military junta came to power in September 1974, they immediately turned against the demands of the workers and peasants.

Ian Birchall on Ethiopia

The regime has become more repressive. Workers' leaders, who defied the junta's plans to close down the Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions and called for workers' councils to control the nationalised firms, have been intimidated and imprisoned.

Jailed

A few weeks ago about 1500 left-wing youths who were siding with the landless peasants in the countryside were beaten up and jailed. Some were seriously injured and are in hospital.

While starvation and disease continue, a vicious war is being fought against the Eritrean people who are demanding self-determination.

The new regime is closely linked to the United States and is keeping to the military pact with the US made by Haile Selassie. The junta has stated that 'foreign private investment will be given ample opportunities . . . and will be assured fair and adequate returns.'

There is growing opposition to the regime in Ethiopia. One sign of this is in the recent coming into the open of a new opposition party—the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP). This has been in existence for three and a half years, and since last year has been publishing underground papers Abiot (Revolution) and Democracia.

On 1 September it distributed thousands of copies of its programme in the main languages of the country. The programme calls for a People's Democratic Republic, demanding better education and health, a people's army, equality for women, and the end of unequal treaties with foreign powers.



NORTH WEST LONDON, once the heartland of British engineering, is being devastated by a terrible slaughter of jobs.

The figures are almost incredible. In the 1966 census, there were 140,780 people at work in the borough of Brent. By 1971, the figure had dropped by 18 per cent—to 116,200. The employment exchanges won't give the figures now. Perhaps they are too ashamed.

But we know that it has fallen below 100,000 and is dropping at the rate of 100 sackings a week.

In the last five years, 66 factories have closed in the area. A member of the post office workers' union has told us that already this year 27 factories, most of them well-organised engineering factories, have closed in the NW10 postal area alone!

The last Walls factory in Willesden is due for closure, with little or no prospect of re-employment for any of its 1600 workers.

Three weeks ago, an auction was held to sell off assets at Beatonsons engineering works—where 800 workers lost their jobs.

Plans

In Willesden, Hitachi, Littlewoods, Rotaprints, Steel Tubes, Thames Litho, and a subsidiary of Smiths Cricklewood have all closed down and moved out during the last few months.

Cheeseborough Ponds is closing soon. So is Ascots on the North Circular Road. Guinness has out all plans for expansion.

Associated Automation are looking for 190 redundancies. 190 workers lost their jobs the other week at Rank Xerox.

Schweppes in Edgware Road is threatened with closure. Smiths Cricklewood, the huge clock and motor accessories firm, has just sacked half its toolroom in a purge of its militants. The firm is preparing for further lay-offs.

Frigidaire, the Hendon plant of General Motors, has been off and on a four-day week for months.

Boom

Why is our area being murdered like this?

As an excuse, the employers point to the ramshackle chaos of Willesden with its appalling traffic jams.

The chaos has been caused by their own insatiable hunger for profit. In the boom years for British engineering, they built hectically, without planning or working out any consequences.

More than half the factories were built on land not allocated for industrial purpose.

But the real reason is not transport chaos. The real reason is in the bosses' own words, 'labour costs'.

Almost all the sackings result from firms moving machinery and production to where union organisation is weak.

Dole

They are not only 'saving' money by cutting out jobs. They are destroying trade union organisation built up over decades.

For working people in the area, the consequences are dreadful. Even the government agree that living in London is more expensive than living anywhere else. But the dole money is the

MICK BRIGHTMAN, AUEW District Committee:

The North London district committee of the Engineering Union is one of the strongest in the country. Its president and secretary, and the great majority of its members, are in the Communist Party. The right wing hardly exists.

The committee supports the present union leadership to the hilt. It is for a 35-hour week—and absolutely against all redundancies and closures.

So how is it that we have had all these massive closures and sackings in our area, with hardly a glimmer of a fight back?

First, because union policy on wages and hours has not been carried out. A 35-hour week with wages which would make overtime unnecessary would save thousands of jobs—but this demand was dropped by the union in the last round of negotiations.

We were left with minimal improvements in holiday and time rates.

Secondly, because of the union's tactic of plant-by-plant



bargaining. This is bad enough in wage negotiations. But it's absolute madness when fighting redun-

In September 1965, there were 1109 out of work in Brent. In September 1974, 1378. In September 1975... 4133!

That's a 300 per cent increase in one year.

If things do go on like this, our area will become an industrial desert.

We'll still have the traffic jams, the smoke, the crumbling slums, and the rotten services. But we won't have the jobs.

For thousands of workers of every description, from skilled engineers to black teenagers, there will be nothing but chaos and despair.

All of us—employed and unemployed—have to fight back now. This jobs murder is not inevitable. It can and must be stopped.

KEN MONTAGUE

Delegate, Brent Trades Council
Pictures by John Sturrock (Report)

dancy and closure. It's obvious that a plant hit by redundancy or closure is often very weak if it's left to fight on its own.

In the fight against sackings we need links between the stewards in different factories.

The District leadership of the AUEW has completely failed to build these links, or even encourage them. Arrogantly, it thinks that the district committee alone can provide the necessary fight. But it doesn't.

All the closures mentioned here—Walls, Beatonsons and the others—have gone through without a fight. Just a few shocked words from District headquarters, and then surrender.

In the one factory where there was a fight, Crosfields, the District Committee intervention was pathetic.

The District Committee bases all its policies on lobbying, and pressure group politics based upon its control of the existing union machine.

But the strength of the union is not in its machine, but in its members.

ASSOCIATED AUTOMATION, a subsidiary of GEC, aims to cut production from 15 product lines to three. That means redundancies of about 10 to 15 per cent of its workforce of 850. Many stewards and militants fear the company means to close down the factory, or at best, to scale it down to a small workforce and one product line.

AUEW convenor ABDUL WAGU and deputy convenor DENHAM MACDOUGALL explain: Denham Macdougall: 'Here's a typical example. We produce a spirit duplicating machine here for Banda. It's the only really decent piece of engineering in the place. Well, just through gross management incompetence they weren't meeting delivery dates. So Banda put the pressure on—and the management replied by rising prices.'

'The result is we've lost the order. So now they come and say they're going to shift all the duplicator production up to Aycliffe near Durham, where the workers' pay and conditions are criminal.'

'We just blacked the tools for the duplicator. If we let the company get away with this, they'll flog off about £500,000 worth of machinery and we'll be pulling handles for making slot machines by Christmas.'

Abdul Wagu says that any suggestion of redundancy is 'just not on. We're absolutely against all redundancy'. Both men are shocked by the lack of action from the AUEW District Committee, which was hardly heard of when Associated

We CAN stop and h

by SW Readers, North West London

THE FACTS and figures on this page should shock every North London worker. All our jobs are in peril. We must use our power to save them.

Brent Trades Council has called a conference on redundancies for 12 October. This is an excellent initiative, and should be supported by all stewards and militants in the area.

But it must not become another talking shop for the same tired old voices that we've all heard before. We don't want to hear about pressure and lobbies. We want to know what the conference is going to do to organise a real fight back from the shop floor.

Involving

Such a fight-back needs co-ordination right through the area. Regular meetings between stewards and militants in different factories. Regular information and bulletins for shop floor workers. Contacting and involving those isolated factories which are often the worst hit by sackings.

A trades council conference can't do that

on its own. There will be no action until the conference sets up a Right to Work Committee of convenors and stewards from the entire area.

AUEW branches can start to help along these lines. The suggestion on this page from the convenor and deputy at Associated Automation that one of their branches No 5 or No 8—might call a Right to Work conference after the trades council meeting is a good one.

We would support such a conference and argue at it for a strong Right to Work committee in the area.

Such a committee cannot succeed if it becomes a battleground for sectarians. Ma

26 NOVEMBER:

ROGER COX, secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee, is urging trade unionists all over the country to join the TUC's North West Regional Council demonstration and lobby of parliament on unemployment on 26 November.

He said: 'Are workers going to sit back and accept this unemployment—or are they going to do something about it? We must start now getting our delegations to this demonstration. We've got to make it the biggest working class demonstration since we signed the Industrial Relations Act.'

THE DAY WE FIGHT BACK



e-up of ondon! ckings a week



Automation locked out all its workers last year. But they feel the fight-back against redundancies should come through local AUEW branches which, they say, are more and more centred on the workplaces. They argue that a call from a union branch or an across-the-branches committee to fight against sackings would carry more weight than the Brent Trades Council or any other gathering.

Abdul Wagu says: 'These conferences are often just talking shops in which the various parties and groups fight each other. That couldn't happen at a meeting called by a big union branch in the area'.

to the rot ere's how

militants are sick to death of the squabbling which has dominated so many small committees.

It will only succeed if it involves people from all parties—and most especially from no party—in a single-minded struggle for jobs.

We recently helped to organise an Engineers' Charter meeting, which was sponsored by several leading stewards and militants.

Many were impressed by Willie Lee's call for stronger rank and file action on jobs.

It's no good just being impressed. We need the action now.

If you read this and are interested in helping or forming a rank and file fight for jobs in the area, contact Roger Cox, 214 Roundwood Road, London, NW10.



MICKY QUINN, AUEW convenor, CAV Simms, Colindale:

The answer to all these problems is strong organisation. Here at CAV Simms in Colindale, we have strong organisation. But we had to build it.

In 1970, when I first joined and was elected steward, we had only two stewards. Now we've got 12 and we're well organised on every issue, especially safety.

If they told us they wanted redundancies, I'd reply to them with words you couldn't print.

We need organisation like that across the district. The London Area Organising Committee should be providing that job, but it's not. It doesn't function.

It ought to accept responsibility for all these sackings, but it doesn't.

I tell you I'm disgusted with all our district officials. At Crosfields and at Punfield and Barstows—and over Eddie Bennett's victimisation at Rank Radio—they sat back and let the bosses have their way.

We've got to do the job ourselves: meet each other and plan out a campaign to stop the sackings. I went to the Engineers Charter and heard Willie Lee. He was bloody marvellous.

We need more meetings like that. Bigger and better ones.

UVF: Banned by Rees, courted by the Army...

By Eamonn McCann

MERLYN REES, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, may find in the next few weeks that the Army, supposedly at his command, is extremely reluctant to implement the ban he has just imposed on the ultra-right Ulster Volunteer Force.

Rees announced the ban on Friday after the UVF admitted responsibility for the latest series of sectarian murders.

There is mounting evidence that the Army Officers in Northern Ireland no longer automatically accept orders from the Labour government. Instead, they have been collaborating with extreme Loyalists, both political and paramilitary. And it would appear that some Tory leaders know about it and approve.

On 17 September, Ian Paisley met Airey Neave, Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, for an hour in Belfast. Afterwards, Paisley said he had been able to supply Neave with 'confidential information about security policy'. Neave did not deny it.

Claim

However, Neave, in keeping with the bi-partisan policy on Ireland, is regularly briefed on all aspects of security by Merlyn Rees. . . . So how could Paisley possibly have been in a position to supply him with 'confidential information'?

Lending weight to Paisley's claim was a statement a week earlier from Army HQ confirming that a document mentioning IRA chief Seamus Twomey, which Paisley had displayed at a press conference late in August, was, as Paisley had claimed, a secret 'sit rep'—a weekly summary of intelligence gathered by 40 Marine Commandos, operating in Andersonstown and forwarded to Army HQ in Lisburn. Clearly, someone somewhere along the line had stolen a copy for Dr Paisley.

Confidential documents also appear to have been readily available to the UVF itself!

In July, the UVF announced the formation of the 'Ulster Central Intelligence Agency'. The UCIA claimed members in both the Army and the RUC who would, so it was said, supply 'up-to-date information about Republicans'.

At the time, the UCIA was generally dismissed as a figment of some UVF man's fevered imagination.

But in mid-August, as if to prove its point, the UVF showed pressmen in Belfast lists of local Catholics complete with addresses, descriptions, photographs and even car registration numbers.

Denies

Then, on 6 September, a UVF statement named a South Armagh man, Aloysius Garvey, as a participant in the killing of five Protestants at Newtownhamilton Orange Hall on 26 August. The statement located Garvey's home, not by its postal address but by an accurate map reference in British Army code. (Garvey vehemently denies the charge.)

And on 8 September, the UVF produced a photograph of the alleged 'IRA bomber' Margaret McKearney which no-one has denied must have come from Intelligence files.

Thus few were inclined to be derisive when UVF spokesman Dick Cameron, interviewed on Radio Ulster, on 14 September about the killing of Catholics, boasted that 'There are security forces who agree with our standpoint . . . 90 per cent of the people we have taken action against, we have Army photos to go with it.'

Army willingness to flout



Rees with Army chief Sir Frank King—'the least political general' he has 'ever met': events prove otherwise.

government directives dates back at least to July 1974 when Wilson was told point-blank that any order to move against the Loyalists' anti power-sharing strike would be refused.

The Labour government backed down and Wilson made frantic last-minute changes to a much-heralded TV 'address to the nation'.

No doubt this type of weak-kneed non-response to near-mutiny helped embolden the GOC, Sir Frank King, to make a public attack last April on Merlyn Rees' policy of releasing internees.

Once again, far from asserting its authority, Labour's response was pathetic. At Westminster, Rees defended King, describing him as 'the least political general I have ever met'!

Boosted

Taking its line from the top brass the military 'middle management' in Ulster became openly contemptuous of its political 'bosses', particularly of Rees and Stan Orme. It now feels strong enough to try to influence the course of political events.

It is worth noting that the Army statement confirming that Paisley's 'Twomey' document was genuine came precisely at the moment Paisley was battling against William Craig for leadership of the Loyalist Coalition. The Army statement greatly boosted Paisley's standing within the Coalition.

The Army's political motivation is also relevant to the recent IRA activity, which began with bomb attacks in seven Ulster towns on 23 and 24 September.

IRA claims that the truce agreement was first broken by the British Army—and that IRA units were merely retaliating—have been denounced by Rees as attempts to wriggle out of responsibility.

On examination, however, it is not clear that Rees would know.

Allegations that the Army had, without provocation, reverted to its tactics of before the truce, first came, not from the Provos, but from the organisation of Catholic lawyers, the Association for Legal Justice.

On 13 September, the ALJ alleged that in many areas the Army had recommenced 'screening'—arresting young men at random and usually in fairly large numbers, taking them to

'Interrogation Centres' and pumping them for information for up to three or four days.

That physical assaults and more subtle forms of torture have been used in the course of such 'interrogation' has been proved beyond doubt in a substantial number of cases.

The ALJ alleged specifically that the most notorious of all the 'Interrogation Centres', at Castlereagh on the outskirts of Belfast, had been operating for seven days and that 30 young Belfast Catholics had been taken there.

Suspicion that Rees may not have ordered this, and may not even have known about it, are increased by Provo claims that when they protested via their Incident Centres, civil servants at first flatly denied that Castlereagh was open again, and then conceded the point after long delay when the Provos supplied the names of youths held there at the time.

The most obvious explanation of the reintroduction of screening and of Army attempts to manipulate politics is a desire to hasten the final collapse of the shaky truce, exactly the thinking behind the onslaught which left Rees no option but to renew the ban on the UVF.

Orders

Indeed, UVF spokesmen made it clear over the weekend that they would cease all activity, and even hand in their arms, if the British would unilaterally call the truce off.

The calculation is that the end of the truce would be followed by renewed signing of internment orders against Republicans and much greater pressure generally on Catholic areas.

Which is what the UVF, its political mentor Ian Paisley, and every other anti-working class bigot in the country, is now loudly demanding as a giant step on the road to restoration of Loyalist rule.

THE NEW issue of The Worker, the paper of the Socialist Workers' Movement in Ireland, is now out.

Orders to:
Paul O'Brien, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

Far from frozen in the north

IN CITIES, it's fairly easy to sell Socialist Worker outside factories. It's not so easy up here, in the far north of Scotland, where the bosses usually own the factory and the fields surrounding it.

The police can move you on so that you're selling SW in the middle of nowhere. So we had to find other ways of getting the paper across.

We now have newsagents selling SW over an area of 60 miles—in Ullapool, Dingwall, Alness and Invergordon. We had some difficulty at first, but so far more have agreed to take it than have refused.

We make sure one comrade is responsible for one group of newsagents, which are visited from time to time to ensure SW is on display. Too often the paper might be tucked away under the counter.

The paper will sell if prominently placed. In the tiny village of Ullapool we sell 15 copies a week.

Estate sales have been far and away our greatest success. On the Milnafua Estate at Alness four of us sold 60 papers one week—and there are only 200 houses on the estate. The sale later evened out at 15 a week.

The success of the sale was proved by a public meeting we had in Alness. Half of those present came from that little estate.

A week before that meeting three of us went to another estate and sold 43 papers in an hour.

We have learned a number of things from estate sales which other

in the north



THE FAR North of Scotland is not the easiest of places to organise for socialism. But Socialist Worker supporters are beginning to do just that, as LORNE ANTON reports from the Highlands.

comrades might want to bear in mind.

- Don't try and do too big an area—concentrate on a smaller area and do it well.
- Be regular—this is important.
- Work, where possible, towards an event, such as a public meeting.
- Try to get someone on the estate to do the round.
- Get people to take extra copies to work.
- Pub sales have also been successful, though the disadvantage is a lack of regular contact with the buyer.

Tory

Our sales of Socialist Worker helped enormously to organise the two public meetings we arranged in Inverness and Alness.

About 30 people attended the Inverness meeting, not bad for a small ultra-Tory/SNP town. A mem-

ber of the General and Municipal Workers Union from Foyers Power Station said: 'This is a historic day in the history of Inverness. This is the first time a revolutionary socialist party has held a public meeting in Inverness.'

Most of our work had gone, however, into the second meeting, at Alness. Nearly 40 people turned up, some travelling up to 25 miles.

Fourteen people asked for further contact with IS and two joined. We expect two more to join in the near future.

One of the reasons for the success of SW sales and of the meetings was the hard work put in by comrades from other areas—two from Glasgow, two from Edinburgh, one from Aberdeen and one even from Liverpool.

And we also had the benefit of some magnificent speaking at the two public meetings from Jimmy McCallum, IS full-time organiser in Glasgow.

NOISS SOLIDARITY WITH PORTUGUESE WORKERS!

A GREAT start to the campaign by the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies (NOISS) in universities and colleges for solidarity with Portugal. That's the only way to describe the meeting at North East London Poly last week when Tony Cliff spoke to a meeting of more than 50. The chairman then stressed the importance of the Socialist Worker Portugal Fund and the meeting raised more than £25.

All IS Societies must hold meetings in Portugal, raise money for the fund, sell the pamphlet Portugal at the Crossroads, hold discos to raise money and push the special student bankers' orders. The target is 200 of these by the end of October—that's £1200 for the Portuguese Revolution. There is no time to lose. The Portuguese revolution is not going to wait for us.

It seems that the Communist Party in the colleges is attempting to collect money for Pro-Unep, the Commission for the Founding of a National Students' Union (Unep) in Portugal.

We are in favour of national students' unions. But we are in favour of represen-

tative ones. Pro-Unep represents little except the Portuguese Communist Party. Its main action so far has been to call for students to leave college for a year to work voluntarily for the 'national reconstruction'. With unemployment running at 30 per cent, the last thing the Portuguese working class needs is students working for nothing.

The majority of students in Portugal reject this, and are opposed to Pro-Unep.

In these circumstances, members of the National Organisation of IS Societies should oppose such support for Pro-Unep vigorously. The Portuguese Communist Party is in the government—a government which is attempting to use outright repression against revolutionary workers and soldiers.

We should try to get money from students' unions and collections. But this money should go to an organisation which is fighting for socialism in Portugal. So it should go to the workers' councils, the FUR (Revolutionary United Front) and the SUV (Soldiers United Will Win). These represent support for rank-and-file workers and soldiers—not for a bureaucratic Communist Party-controlled students' union.

SALES of Socialist Worker have taken another big jump this week—the sixth week in succession that the print order has been raised. By Monday morning, orders for 500 extra papers had been received. Sheffield have put their order up by another 500, North London by another 100 and Woolwich and Bristol by another 50. This week we've had 500 extra orders compared with 325 for the same time last week.

Over the last two weeks, the circulation has gone up by more than 2000 copies. Keep it up, comrades. If we all sold as many papers as Lorne Anton up in Scotland, we really would have a mass-circulation paper!

Hull bookshop gets trades council support

SOCIALIST BOOKS, the new bookshop opened by Hull International Socialists, has got off to a good start. As the only left-wing bookshop in Hull, we are attracting a lot of attention, and we got a mention on the local radio news—unfortunately, that was because someone phoned in to say we hadn't got a copy of Marx's Capital in stock!

The Hull Trades Council agreed at its September meeting to circulate every trade union branch affiliated to it—more than 100—with details of the shop and books of interest to trade unionists which we are selling.

Already we have held our first weekend school in the new premises, and we recruited a new member through the shop only a week after opening. Socialist Worker discussion groups are being held every Monday evening at 7.30, starting on 13 October, and we hope many readers of Socialist Worker in Hull will come along.



THE next issue of the IS Internal Bulletin will be ready shortly. Price 10p. Orders, with money only, from IS branch secretaries to Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



Send news, reports, articles, notices of meetings to SOCIALIST WORKER, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Phones: Editorial 01-739 9043/6361/0185. Circulation 01-739 2639.

Socialist Worker meetings

CHELMSFORD SW public debate with the Labour Party: Speakers: David Bunch (IS) and Chris Funnell (Braintree Labour Party), Friday 7 November 8pm, in Braintree Place to be announced.

DURHAM SW public meeting on Portugal: Wednesday 15 October, 7pm, Elvet Room, Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham. A speaker just back from Portugal.

NORTH WALES SW day school: Saturday 18 October. Sessions on the revolutionary party and Portugal. Evening social. Details from IS branch secretaries or Graham Coldwell, Lllys Hywel, The Close, Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd. All SW supporters and IS members welcome.

ENFIELD SW public meeting: Labour's attack on the workers. Speaker: Paul Foot, Thursday 16 October, 8pm, Celbic Hall, Lancaster Road, Enfield. Buses 135, 231, W8.

BRIGHTON SW public meeting: The Crisis, unemployment and the government cuts—how we can fight back? Thursday 16 October, 8pm, Brighton Labour Club. Local speakers, trade unionists.

BRIGHTON SW day school: The struggle in Spain and Portugal. Sunday 12 October, 2pm-5pm, Sussex University. All readers of Socialist Worker welcome, Creche.

BRISTOL SW public meeting: The workers' struggle in Portugal. Wednesday 15 October, 8pm, The George, Newfoundland Road.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE SW/Chingari public meeting: India. Speaker: Nigel Harris. Friday 24 October 1pm, Civil Engineering Room 207 (South Kensington tube).

HULL SW discussion groups: Every Monday at 7.30pm, Socialist Books, 238 Spring Bank, Hull. First meeting: Portugal at the Crossroads, 13 October.

BANGOR SW public meeting: Stop the cuts! Thursday 16 October, 8pm, Glanrafon Arms.

LOWESTOFT SW public meeting: The Portuguese struggle for workers' power. Speaker: Rick Noss (just back from Portugal). Friday 17 October, 8pm, The Norfolk (upstairs room), Denmark Road.

HITCHIN SW public meeting: Portugal—Can the workers win? Speakers are trade unionists recently returned from Portugal. Wednesday 15 October, 8pm, AUEW House, Nightingale Road, Hitchin.

SOUTH WEST LONDON SW public meeting: Towards a socialist Spain. Speakers: A Spanish comrade and a London dockworker. Tuesday 14 October, 8pm, Balham Baths, Elmfield Road, SW12.

LOUGHBOROUGH SW public meeting: Can Labour solve the crisis? Speakers: David Toone and David Bunch (former Labour Party activists from Peterborough). Tuesday 14 October, 7.30pm, Public Library, Granby Street.

HACKNEY TEACHERS SW public meeting: Unemployment—teachers and school students together on the dole queue. Monday 13 October, 5pm, Duke of Wellington pub, Balls Pond Road, (corner of Culford Road), London, N1.

GLENROTHES SW public meeting: What's happening in Portugal. Speakers: Jimmy McCallum and John Glen. Monday 13 October, 7.30pm, Golden Acorn Hotel, Town Centre.

YORK SW public meeting: Workers and the government cuts. Local NALGO speaker. Thursday 23 October, 8pm, The Lowther Hotel, Kings Staith, York.

NORTH LONDON SW Grand Hallowe'en Dance: Don't miss the event of the year. Bar extension, food, disco and special Evans extravaganza—all this for £1. Friday 31 October, The Red Lion, Tottenham High Road, N17. Organised by North London District International Socialists.

EAST LONDON: At long last! The social you've all been waiting for. Inner East London district International Socialists are having a social on Saturday 25 October at St Hilda's East, Club Row, E2 (nearest tube Bethnal Green). Music! Music! Music! and boozel entrance 50p.

ANYONE INTERESTED in selling Socialist Worker or forming a branch in the Gravesend or the Medway area, please write to 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 or phone Medway 575080.

ASTMS: National meeting for SW supporters and all IS members in ASTMS. Sunday 12 October, 2pm, Digbeth Hall, Digbeth High Street, Birmingham. Agenda: ASTMS and the abortion campaign, ASTMS and the £6 limit, Democracy in ASTMS.

PORTUGUESE SONGS for socialists in aid of the SW Portuguese Solidarity Fund. 35-minute cassette prepared by SW Agit-Prop Group includes 'Grandola Vila Morena', the song banned by the fascist regime and used as signal for the 25 April coup by Lisbon Radio. £1.50 plus 10p postage from Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Proceeds to the solidarity fund.

STUDENTS: Posters headed 'International Socialist Society' in red available by return of post from John Cox, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham 12. Size 25in x 18in approx. Cost is £2.50 for 100, including postage (minimum order 100 posters). Cash with orders only.

WOMENS VOICE Rally: Saturday 29 November, 11am-5pm, Belle Vue, Manchester (Cumberland Hall). Entrance 10p. For details write to Womens Voice Rally, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

NOISS

IMPERIAL COLLEGE IS Society meeting: Portugal: the struggle for workers' power. Speaker: Joanna Rolfo. Friday 10 October, 1pm, Civil Engineering Room 207.

PAUL FOOT'S tour, speaking to IS Societies, will take him to Lancaster, Manchester, York, Leeds, Hull, Sheffield, Reading, Southampton, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Norwich, Cambridge, Norwich, Cambridge, Sussex and Guildford. Posters already sent out... further details from Simon Turner, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

NOISS Portugal posters were sent out last week. Every IS Society should cover their college with them.

ALL COLLEGES where there are Socialist Worker supporters should order their papers directly from the SW distribution office, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN (phone 01-739 2639) and not through the branch or district. They will receive a separate invoice, but the papers will be sent with the relevant branch or district papers.

International Socialists

PLACARDS AND BANNERS for the Portugal demonstration for sale to branches and districts. **CASH WITH ORDERS ONLY.** Placards 10p. Banner £3. To arrange collection, phone 01-739 1878.

PRINTWORKERS IS fraction: Saturday and Sunday 11-12 October, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN. Open to SW supporters by invitation. Further details and agenda: IS Print Fraction, c/o Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

NORTH LONDON IS half-day school on Ireland: Saturday 11 October, 2pm, at IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4. Speaker: Neil Davies (ex-soldier) on Ireland—background and prospects, followed by discussion and mock debate. All members to attend, and SW supporters welcome.

WANTED: cheap bedsitter near centre of London for IS student (female). Prefer 15 house. Box SN, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

NATIONAL FRONT—The New Nazis. Any IS branches that still have copies of this pamphlet please return them urgently to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. You will receive credit for them. The pamphlets are urgently required as orders for them are still coming in and there are none in stock.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM JOURNAL: Issues 33, 36 through to issue 73 available at reduced rates. Price list available from International Socialism Journal, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

IS NALGO Fraction London Aggregate meeting: Tuesday 14 October, Mother Red Cap Pub, NW1 (exactly opposite Camden Town tube), 7.30pm, prompt. All IS NALGO members in London to attend.

NATIONAL IS WOMEN'S COMMITTEE: next meeting 11 October. Delegates from IS districts and fractions please. Could fractions telephone to let us know who is coming. 01-739 6273. Meeting: Saturday 11 October, 11am, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

ITALY and FRANCE: Two comrades needed to help with the sales of Portugal at the Crossroads, French and Italian editions, in Italy and France for six weeks starting about 15 October. Living expenses paid. Write or phone IS National Secretary, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (01-739 1878).

IS MEMBERS from Mauritius please contact Ian Birchall, c/o International Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

ANYONE interested in setting up an IS China group—especially anyone with a knowledge of Chinese—please contact IS China Group, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

MERSEYSIDE IS wants to buy a good second-hand electric typewriter suitable for offset litho work. Contact IS Books, 28 Berry Street, Liverpool 1.

NALGO ACTION Group Conference: 18/19 October, UMIST Buildings, Manchester. All IS members in NALGO to attend.

IS Steelworkers' national meeting: Saturday 11 October, Sheffield. Open to SW supporters by invitation. For further details and agenda write to IS Steel Section Secretary, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens London E2 8DN.

ROUGE FETE—18/19 October: The LCR (French section of the FI) is organising a fete in Paris. A large number of political organisations in Europe, including IS, Lotta Continua, Revolucion, LO and AO, have been invited to send contingents. There will be debates on Women, Marxism Today, the Economic Crisis, the Press/Mass Media, Social Democracy and Portugal, a pop festival in the evening. A creche and a mini-forum for kids is being organised.

Although IS has major disagreement with the FI and many of the organisations invited to the fete, this is an opportunity to discuss with and influence their members. IS members and SW supporters interested in going should contact the International Sub-committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN as soon as possible.

NATIONAL IS TEACHERS Delegate Conference: Saturday/Sunday 11-12 October. If you have not received details, contact J Holborow, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

WANTED: Socialist, revolutionary and working-class songs from all countries on tape or record. SW Agit-Prop Group is planning a series of cassettes for fund-raising socials. Phone Pete Marsden, 01-739 9043.



HOSPITAL workers Bill Geddes and Chris Longworth at a press conference in London last Friday called by West London International Socialists. Bill is chairman and Chris secretary of the NUPE branch at Hammersmith Hospital, and both told the conference that they and other anti-fascists will be picketing the National Front meeting at Chelsea Town Hall this weekend. 'This is the only town hall in London which has allowed the fascists to speak,' said Bill. 'It's obviously not enough just to hold a demonstration. We need a picket on the hall itself.'

Portugal: An open letter to the revolution

WE KNOW far less here, a thousand miles away from the field of struggle, what is happening day to day on the Portuguese class battleground. But when it comes to understanding the revolution, and the ways in which it can move forward, our experience and comments can be of use to you.

The experience of the Marxist movement is international, based upon the history of workers in scores of different countries. That experience and that history are crucial to the understanding and national peculiarities of the Portuguese revolution.

Now, with the establishment of the Revolutionary United Front (FUR) and the Soldiers United Will Win (SUV) organisation, the road is open for the rapid setting up of mass councils of workers and soldiers, organising the whole of the working class, together with the troops, at least in Lisbon and its surrounding area.

In a revolutionary situation, a united front may well lead directly to a central workers' council representing all the workers' councils in the area. It took a few days to establish FUR and SUV. It will take hours, not even days, to organise mass meetings in all the factories to elect delegates to councils, which, with the soldiers' delegates round SUV, will become the defence organisation of the revolution.

The first task of the workers' council will be the organising of the workers' militia to defend the revolution.

At the same time one cannot have a workers' militia side by side with the regular army for any length of time. So the demand for the amalgamation has to be raised. This entails the election of all officers in the armed forces, the democratic election of soldiers' delegates to a national council. As the working class cannot win state power without arms, the slogan 'Arm the workers' and the slogan 'Build the Councils of Workers, Soldiers and Sailors' are indissolubly bound together.

The central workers' council should immediately take radical measures in a number of fields, like the expropriation of the wealthy, and so on.

When it comes to the rural population, a whole number of measures are urgently needed—the rent paid by the poor peasants needs to be cut, their debts cancelled, massive loans provided for landless labourers who have occupied the land, car factories turned over to the production of agricultural machinery.

Mass revolutionary party is vital

A revolutionary government without the support of active councils would be extremely unstable. It would not be able to implement its revolutionary measures—it could not rely on the old state machine and it could not have the active, organised intervention of the workers in every area of society needed to build a new sort of state machine.

Even if it controlled for a period the majority of armed force, it would be like the fifth provisional government—operating in a vacuum, unable to implement its decisions, unable to solve the economic problems and the everyday needs of workers.

That is why a revolutionary government—whether constituted by the left parties or one or other revolutionary officer—would be useless for the revolution unless it was based on real workers' councils, binding together the working class.

But such autonomous organisations of the class cannot take power unless there exists a mass organisation of the vanguard of the class, a party, continually arguing with the more backward workers that their experience shows the need for such a power, and fighting to build it.

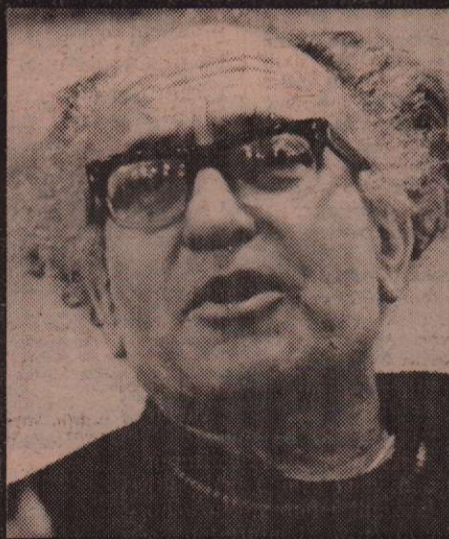
A mass revolutionary party is vital in organising and leading the working class to power. It is even more crucial in consolidating workers' power.

Of course history has shown a number of cases of the working class coming to power

LAST weekend 2500 copies of PORTUGAL—THE WAY AHEAD, a special pamphlet by Tony Cliff, were flown into Portugal for distribution among Portuguese revolutionaries. It was written, translated into Portuguese and printed in two days: an astonishing tribute to the hard work both of the translator and the Socialist Worker printers.

The pamphlet was commissioned by the central committee of the International Socialists at its meeting last week. The urgency of the situation in Portugal and the rapid political changes there made it crucial, in the committee's view, to give our analysis and our advice to Portuguese revolutionaries in struggle.

Its two central points are the need to build workers' and soldiers' councils, the 'soviet' of the Russian Revolution, and the need to transform the PRP, the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat, into a mass revolutionary party. This is an extract from the pamphlet.



Tony Cliff and the pamphlet now being distributed in Portugal



without mass revolutionary parties. In Paris in 1871 the Commune survived for 2½ months, in Hungary in 1919 for 4½ months, in Bavaria in the same year for less than one month. Alas, in all cases, the lack of a mass party led quickly to disintegration and defeat.

The reason is obvious. After the working class comes to power the strains on the new regime are extreme. Economic difficulties, massive reactionary propaganda and military pressure test to the limit the nerves of a working class not yet accustomed to holding the reins of power.

Premature rising may be tempting

In Portugal today the Revolutionary United Front (FUR) has led straight to the

creation of SUV—Soldiers United Will Win. On 25 September a huge demonstration in Lisbon was called by the revolutionary left through SUV. About 15,000 soldiers and 60,000 workers turned out. The demonstration came to a climax when tens of thousands of soldiers and workers went to Trafaria Military Prison to force the release of two arrested SUV members. Barricades were set up against commandos sent to restore order.

Alas, SUV and FUR are not workers' and soldiers' councils. Councils of workers elected in the factories and linked with SUV—that could be a workers' and soldiers' council. With the massive power of SUV and FUR, and with the right doing its best to provoke the working class, it may be tempting to launch a working class revolution without the existence of the two key weapons for the seizure of power—the workers' council and a mass revolutionary party.

The right will do its utmost to provoke

a premature rising, without workers' councils. It would welcome a revolutionary coup based on the actions of the left-wing regiments—if the workers did not move and build councils. For the result would be an impotent regime, which would easily be overthrown soon after.

An SUV or FUR government not backed by workers' councils or led by a mass revolutionary party would fall under fantastic pressures and strains, as did the Hungarian and Bavarian Soviet Republics in 1919.

That is why the question of building the revolutionary party—not at some indefinite point in the future, but now—is a life and death question.

That does not mean standing on the sidelines saying nothing can be done until the party is built. It *does* mean a sharp change in the attitude of the PRP, from top to bottom—towards party building. Every worker who shows willingness to follow a PRP lead must be brought into close and continual association with the party. Every PRP member must see the organisation of those workers who accept revolutionary ideas around the party and into the party as central.

In a revolutionary situation tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of workers move spontaneously towards revolutionary ideas. But unless the revolutionary party goes out of its way to organise them, to argue them out of their residual reformist views, then they can all too easily be sidetracked by half-reformist organisations or by sects that cannot relate to the needs of the revolution.

Operational workers' councils

The revolutionary party can only lead the class in building real, operational workers' councils if it can organise the most advanced layer of the class around itself. The FUR may be a bridge to this, the SUV most certainly is. But neither is a substitute for the party itself.

Within the working class the influence of reformist ideas has to be fought every day. Within the advanced layer of the workers the ideas of the half-reformist parties and of the Maoist sects have to be fought. They cannot be fought without an organisation of all those who are willing to fight.

They cannot be fought if the reiteration of the ideas of the revolutionary party through the revolutionary paper always takes second place to more 'immediate' 'practical' problems.

That is why Lenin always placed so much stress on the paper. That is why even at the height of the German revolution in 1918-19 Rosa Luxemburg devoted herself to work on the daily paper *Die Rote Fahne* (The Red Flag). She knew that without a paper there could not be a fight against reformism where it really mattered, in the depths of the class.

The FUR can be a bridge to the party. But not if it leads to a dropping off in the fight against the reformist and half-reformist ideas of some of its components. Every vacillation, every hesitation of the MES, the MDP, the FSP has to be exposed and explained to the class and to the supporters of the FUR. Agreements between leaders must not lead to half-truths before the class.

Again the party has to build within the FUR. Again the question of the right to build the revolutionary organisation is central. All sorts of tactics will be used to bring the best workers to the PRP but the aim must be to build. At every meeting and demonstration the PRP must recruit massively.

Every member has to understand that unless the organisation is built, the revolution will be destroyed.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Read

PORTUGAL AT THE CROSSROADS

The most important publication from Socialist Worker or the International Socialists in years. A full analysis of the situation in Portugal and a study in revolution and class struggle vital for socialists everywhere. A 48-page pamphlet, already being translated into Greek, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

50p including postage from ISJ, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



LETTERS

Write to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

Boredom: It made me a teenage vandal...

I READ Socialist Worker for the first time on 20 September and found the story on battered babies very interesting. You can understand why some mothers do it when they are stuck at home listening to shrieking babies all day.

It's the same sort of frustration that leads to vandalism among young kids like myself. A couple of years ago, when I was 15, I used to hang around on street corners with my mates with nothing to do.

We went around throwing bricks through the windows of people's houses, we nicked cans of spray paint and used them to decorate the sides of people's cars. My favourite hobby was getting dumpers off building sites and driving them through newly-built walls, ending up by pushing them into holes on the site and sometimes into the canal.

Fight

We weren't bad but bored. There was nothing for kids to do in Salford. The council wasn't bothered about us. They made sure there were pubs on the new council estates to keep our dads happy and plenty of new roads for those with cars.

But what we wanted was a sports centre, discos, even some place where we could learn to drive and use all the motorways they built.

They have now spent a lot of money telling us that vandalism costs the council £7 a minute every day in Salford. If they just spent a bit of money on facilities for young kids then there wouldn't be vandalism.

I'm lucky now that I've got a job and have grown out of that. But there are lots of young kids who can't get jobs and, with nothing to do all day, will end up throwing bottles through windows.—A M Salford.

IT IS gratifying that Socialist Worker has come out in solidarity with the BWNIC 14 at present on trial for conspiring to incite soldiers to disaffection.

We are delighted that the paper has put itself on the line by printing (27 September) the full text of *Some Information for Discontented Soldiers*.

There is one comment I would like to make on your article about the case. You say that: 'The desertion of a handful of conscientious objectors will not assist the fight for free speech in the armed forces. These rights will be won only by trade union organisation and militancy.'

I do not disagree with this point. In fact, BWNIC's policy is not just to call for individual soldiers to take

CONSPIRACY: A LETTER FROM PAT ARROWSMITH

a conscientious stand. In our published launching statement, which was posted up in Parliament Square, we said:

'We the undersigned intend to campaign among British civilians and soldiers. Soldiers will be asked to consider refusing postings to Northern Ireland, staging sit-downs and demonstrations in barracks, and in the final resort, deserting.'

In other words, BWNIC is committed to encouraging mass action by soldiers as well as individual action.

The political value of civilians

approaching members of the armed forces in this way is surely illustrated by the war in South East Asia.

The disaffection rife among GIs which was certainly helped along by civilians, was surely one of the reasons why the US was finally defeated in Cambodia and Vietnam? PAT ARROWSMITH, London N8

Thanks!

JUST A PERSONAL note to express my thanks for your fantastic gesture of solidarity with the BWNIC 14.

In laying yourselves open to prosecution I feel you have shown us you are truly with us. (More than some of the 'pacifists' have dared to do). Thanks once again. No-one is free till everyone is free.—TENEBRIS LIGHT, (defendant).

Army demo

FOOTNOTE to the publication by Socialist Worker of the leaflet, *Some information for discontented soldiers*.

I recently gave a soldier a lift on the M6 near Birmingham. He told me about his unit in Detmold in West Germany.

A group of people held a demo outside the camp in support of a united Ireland and distributed literature in English.

The army authorities got wind of it and warned that any soldier accepting a leaflet would be on a charge. Just to make sure the soldiers obeyed, uniformed 'Redcaps', and men from the Special Investigation Branch of the Military Police, stood by the picket. Any soldier who stopped to listen was put under close arrest.

Some of the 'squaddies' had got hold of Socialist Worker and were discussing the reports on Ireland by Eamonn McCann. In such an atmosphere, how do you think the authorities will receive your blatant publication of the leaflet mentioned above?—THOMAS NELIS, Falls Road, Belfast.

19 more

NINETEEN socialists were recently arrested on the trumped-up charge of conspiracy to trespass after peacefully occupying the London office of Iberian Airlines.

They were seeking to draw attention to the recent trials in Spain of Jose Garmendia and Angel Otaegui.

We feel this latest abuse of the conspiracy laws deserves more space than that which Socialist Worker gave it. There can be no excuse for complacency as long as the law remains on the statute book.

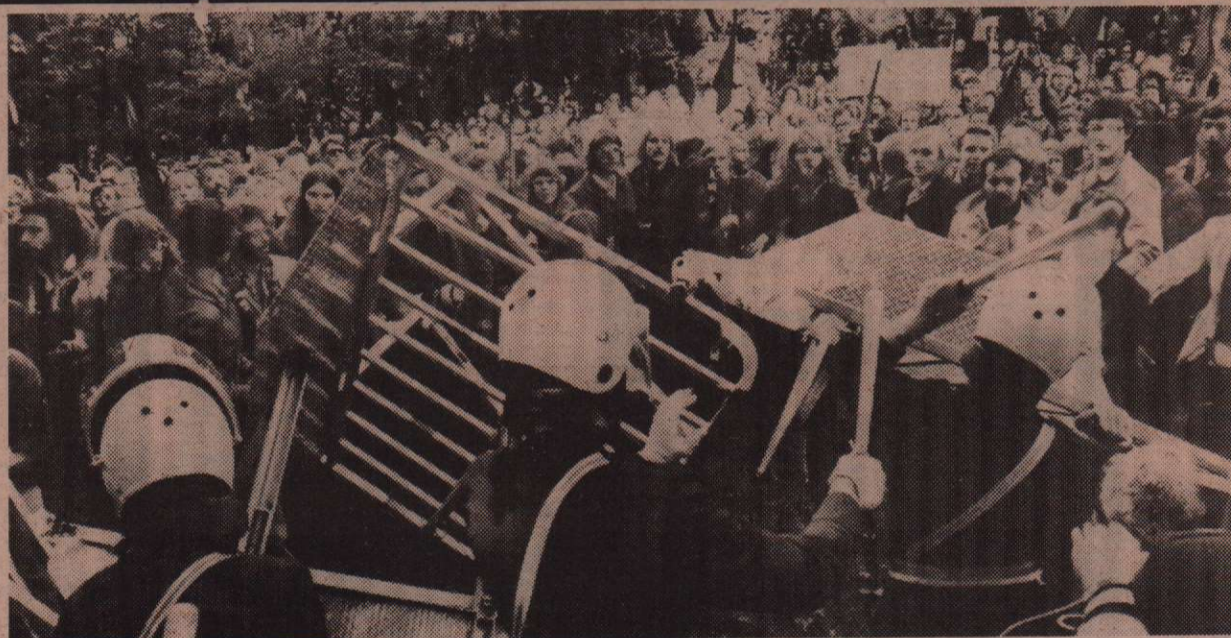
Could its next target be a factory occupation?—BARBARA CROOK, JOHN STEEL, FLORENCE HINDLE, LOUISE A CRIPPS, D F SPENCER, Apex workers, British Airways.

THERE is an increasing tendency in Socialist Worker and in other left-wing newspapers to refer to the use of conspiracy charges 'under the Conspiracy Act.'

The law of conspiracy is not, in fact, governed by any Act of Parliament but has been developed by judges since the days of the Star Chamber, with little interference by the legislature, except to provide certain protection for trade unionists in certain situations.

The Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1875 did not create an offence of conspiracy but did, in fact, provide that workers could not be prosecuted for conspiring to do non-criminal acts in the course of a trade dispute. The Act did, however, create the offence of intimidation and it is only to that extent that the Shrewsbury building workers were prosecuted under that Act.—HOWARD LEVENSON, Legal Officer, National Council for Civil Liberties.

Spanish demo 'disgusting'



The picket outside the Spanish Embassy in Stockholm: but the London turn-out was poor

WE WOULD LIKE, through the pages of Socialist Worker, to express our disgust with the turnout on the picket and march on the Spanish Embassy on the Friday night and Saturday, when the five Spanish comrades were murdered.

Had it not been for the turnout of IS, and the International Marxist Group, there would have been no demonstration in London. The 50 or so Spanish people there must have felt as disgusted as us.

The most noticeable absentee from these demonstrations was the Communist Party who did not have one banner on display. We, between us, know quite a few Party members, certainly most of those in the docks, and we did not see one of them.

For 30 years, the Communist Party have made great play about their involvement with the International Brigades. Surely they owed it to the memory of five

dead workers to be at the Spanish Embassy?

In fact, in the Newham area, their idea of a protest was for their local organiser to 'phone round asking to send a personal telegram to Franco! This must be the ultimate form of lobbying—now you don't even have to leave your front door or get your feet wet.

Another notable absentee was the so-called Labour left, who would have spent a far more worthwhile day outside the Spanish Embassy than gassing at Blackpool.

Demonstrations do matter. With more people maybe we could have done more than just demonstrate. So next time the fascist bastards execute one of our comrades, if you've got any conscience at all make a protest.—MICKY FENN (NASD), EDDIE PREVOST (TGWU), BOB LIGHT (TGWU), JIMMY CLARKE (TGWU), Royal Docks, London.

SCOTLAND'S OIL? NONSENSE! Stop knocking Russia!

IN REPLY to Ian McGregor's letter (4 October), the slogan 'it's Scotland's oil' must be one of the most naive ever.

If it's Scotland's oil—who or what is Scotland? Is it a land mass, or is it a people? If it means Scotland's people's oil—well how much of it do you own?

I don't own a drop of it and I bet that the people reading this now don't own any of it, either.

The truth is that it's the capitalists' oil. Whether they are English, Scottish or American won't ease the exploitation of the workers. We shouldn't argue about which capitalists should own it.

Get rid of the capitalist system by workers taking over the oil

industry under workers' control. Then it will really be Scotland's people's oil, the working people of Scotland.—TERRY STEWART, Dumfries.

Jamaica

THE FORD WORKER who complains that Socialist Worker (23 August) slandered Jamaica and, therefore, Jamaicans is right to criticise wrong facts, but he is missing the main point.

Just because Jamaica has black leaders it doesn't mean those leaders operate in the interests of most black people. The problems of Jamaica include high unemployment, too few schools, and an of-

ficially admitted 50 per cent of children under four suffering from some form of malnutrition.

These are not the faults of individual Jamaicans. They are problems caused by capitalism.

Manley, the Prime Minister, claims to be putting socialism into practice. He can only do this by challenging capitalism.

He won't do that. He takes 51 per cent shares and pretends this is socialism. He encourages private enterprise

But the workers and peasants can challenge capitalism. We in Britain can help that struggle by organising here to attack the companies that operate in Jamaica. LEE KANE, London.

Stop knocking Russia!

A MAGNIFICENT and well-reasoned crisis analysis put over in inimitable style by Paul Foot enthralled a full house in Barnsley recently, but it was marred by the sting in the tail, the predictable and disparaging references to the Soviet Union.

Parasites have no place over there, exploitation is unknown. No bureaucrats can prevent the full fruit of their labour being returned to the Soviet workers, as their individual welfare and slumless economy can testify.

Criticism may be justified, but let us debate the various aspects with open minds.—GEORGE OWEN, Barnsley.

ODE TO REGGIE PRENTICE

I tell a tale of Reggie Prentice
Who really is 'non compos mentis',
Which means he's silly in the head
For everywhere he's seeing red.

In his bed and on his chair,
Our hero sees them everywhere.
He tells us he's prepared to bet
They're even in his Cabinet.

Though critics may throw flour and soot
His finger points at Michael Foot,
Plus Judith Hart and Wedgie, too
And others of a pinker hue.

But should you mention Tony Kelly,
His little legs will turn to jelly.
Now wicked Tony, we are told,
Has pockets full of Russian gold.
This helps him to achieve his goal
Of throwing Reggie on the dole.

But comrades lest you shed a tear
Here's one bright thought to bring you a cheer!
Our lad has found some bosom pals
Some really worthwhile guys and gals.

Old Woy Jenkins from South Wales
Who keeps the pickets in his gaols
And Shirley Williams—so aloof
While prices spiral through the roof.

They're living in cloud cuckoo land
From whence all Trotskyists are banned
All bosses here are overjoyed
With such a pool of unemployed.

Ye social democrats—don't fear,
No danger of a Newham here.
To free you from that kind of strife,
The MP's job is yours 'for life'.

So comrades let's with wicked scheming
Rudely wake him from his dreaming.
Conspire with me to end the story
By shouting—'Prentice—you're a Tory'.

GED MORAN, APEX

Postal Points

THE LETTER on unemployment from the three press officers of the National Federation of Claimants Unions (27 September) must be the daftest ever printed in Socialist Worker.

Workers are strongest politically when at work, as the confidence gained by having your mates around you, all faced with the same problems and fighting together, is lost when workers are sacked.

Unemployment demoralises and undermines workers' fighting spirit. Capitalism can only be overthrown when workers are organised to take power at the workplace, where the real power lies.—PAUL CUNNINGHAM, Aveley, Essex.

THE CLAIMANTS Union believes that ideas—and not the strength of the working-class at the point of production—can change society. They point to the redundancy issue at BAC (Concorde) and the shipyards (warships for the fascist government) and concludes that it's pro-capitalist to demand the right to work.

Socialist Worker has always fought for jobs and not the lunacy of the bosses' Concorde. And it has always been in the forefront of the campaign for blacking war materials destined for Chile.

But SW supporters will never see workers thrown on the dole queue without putting up a fight.—TIM COUSINS (unemployed), Exeter.

WHILE working at the Pedigree Pet-food factory recently a couple of friends and myself did some calculations. On a seven and a half hour shift, 40 of us process and pack petfood worth £9000 on the market.

When I thought of all the other similar factories in this country alone, my mind boggled.—CHRIS B, Peterborough.

YOUR REPORT on the Portugal demo (27 September) was marred by a clanger. Judith Hart did not, as you claimed, 'speak up for Mario Soares'. Her quotes were designed to demonstrate his hypocrisy.

SW may believe Mrs Hart is insincere, but she is on record as condemning Socialist Party policy.—JOHN L CRAIG, Harrow.

Sorry, comrade, but we would draw your attention to this report in The Guardian on 30 September:

FORMER Labour Minister Mrs Judith Hart, who has been criticised by the Prime Minister after recent statements about the revolution in Portugal, last night declared whole-hearted support for the Portuguese socialist party under its leader, Dr Soares. She said the party's programme was "magnificent" and the most Left-wing of all the Portuguese parties. When Dr Soares spoke...

CBI WITCH-HUNT EXPOSED

THE CONFEDERATION of British Industry, the bosses' trade union, is directly involved in fingering trade union militants and staging victimisations.

This is revealed in a secret CBI memo leaked to—and then suppressed by—the Sunday Times and The Guardian.

In January 1972—at the height of the miners' strike—CBI deputy director general John Whitehorn submitted a draft letter to the CBI Council. This is the organisation's executive. Its membership is a Who's Who of British big businessmen.

The letter set out the varying functions of five familiar witch-hunting organisations—AIMS OF INDUSTRY, COMMON CAUSE, THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE and INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES (IRIS)—and appealed for more money for them.

The CBI memo explains the background:

During 1971, the President and Director-General of the CBI had talks with a number of heads of companies who are worried about subversive influences in British industry and about the climate of public opinion about private enterprise, the role of profit and related matters.

They have also been in touch with a number of organisations which seek in their different ways to improve matters in these fields.

The word 'subversion' needs to be approached with some care. The home security forces of Government are concerned only with those who use illegal means to achieve their ends; to seek to change society or to substitute one political or economic system for another is not in itself illegal.

Employers and managers on the other hand have a legitimate interest in seeking by legitimate means to defeat the efforts of those whose activities run counter to the objectives of their businesses as they see them.

The memo underlines that it would be counter-productive for the CBI to engage directly in this field of work. It also records that the CBI is happy with the present arrangement whereby the different organisations operate fairly autonomously.

The memo also commends support for a fifth witch-hunting organisation, the Institute for the Study of Conflict, headed by Brian Crozier and supported by right-wing academics such as Leonard Schapiro, Max Beloff and S E Finer.

This operation, set up by the CIA, has had a major article published in The Observer. It has also organised course after course at army and police training centres and generally assisted the drift to the right throughout the state machine.

This crucially important information has been revealed in an important series of articles in the news magazine, Time Out, over the past month. It was submitted twice to the Sunday Times as an article by one of its staff writers but on both occasions it has been spiked.

The Guardian, that other bastion of the free press, has shown a similar lack of interest.

Abortion: Support this conference

THE NATIONAL Abortion Campaign is holding a national conference on 18/19 October. It is important that Socialist Worker and Womens Voice supporters attend.

The conference offers us an opportunity to argue out the running of NAC, that it should be run democratically, with an elected leadership accountable to the local groups. It gives us the chance to argue hard for an orientation on working class women, who will be the ones affected by restrictions in the existing abortion legislation.

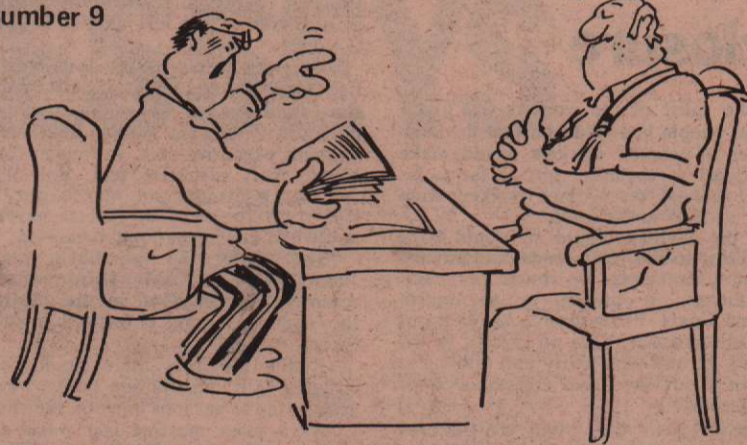
The TUC Congress decision to campaign for abortion and contraception on request gives us the opening we need to draw workers, particularly women workers, into the campaign.

Workers have the power to stop all attempts at repressive legislation. The National Abortion Campaign badly lacks that power. At this conference, we have a chance to make clear which way the campaign should go and push it firmly in that direction.

On Sunday 19 October, Womens Voice is organising a counter-demonstration to SPUC, the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child. Socialist Worker and Womens Voice supporters should turn up with banners and placards. Further details next week, or ring us at 01-739 9772.

SOCIALIST WORKER GUIDE TO WORKPLACE SURVIVAL Number 9

ALWAYS LISTEN CAREFULLY TO MANAGEMENT'S POINT OF VIEW...



ALL IN THE SAME BOAT?

By Gerald Baker

A NEW COMPANY is being set up in South Wales. But there is no point in unemployed workers going along for a job. The company, Butler Marine Services, will employ exactly no-one at all.

It's all explained in a leaflet handed out to yachting chaps visiting the Southampton boat show by a company called Butler Mouldings Ltd. Any resemblance in names is purely intentional.

The company believes that it's just not fair that the chaps should pay 25 per cent VAT when they buy their yachts. 'For months', says the

leaflet, 'we have been searching for a legal loophole around this iniquitous tax.'

The end result is that you (or, anyway, your boss) will buy the raw materials for the new yacht from one company and use the building services of another. This will save about ten per cent VAT.

Of course, the company hates taking such a devious path, flouting the spirit of the law, but it consoles itself with the idea that we have a 'lunatic government'.

Thus ends another Labour attempt to 'squeeze the rich until the pips squeak'.

SW

What we stand for

SOCIALIST WORKER is a revolutionary socialist paper that seeks to organise its supporters around the following principles:

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 mili-

tant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and Socialist Worker aims to build towards 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.

JOIN

Socialist Worker

IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Become a Socialist Worker Supporter—fill in the form on page three.

Rank and File Teachers Delegate Cuts Conference

10.45am-5.30pm, Saturday 18 October, North London Polytechnic, Admin Building, Holloway Rd, London N7.

Information and credentials from Blair Peach, 18 St Agnes Close, E9, (01-986 8719).

Sponsored by Rank and File Teachers. Supported by the National Rank and File Organising Committee.

AUEW: JUDGE HAS HIS SHARE OF THE ACTION

MR Justice Cantlev isn't the only judge who's been giving the Engineers Union (AUEW) a hammering in the High Courts. Last week Socialist Worker revealed his shareholdings in several companies concerned with engineering, at the time when he was giving judgement in the High Court in favour of the AUEW right wing.

The two previous court cases brought by right wingers earlier this year in the AUEW against the union's executive were both heard by Sir Raymond Henry Walton.

Socialist Worker has established that Sir Raymond owns shares in the following companies:

BP: 200 ordinary shares, ICI 552, Bowater 357, Courtaulds 357, Marks and Spencer 250, Woolworths 1600, Boots 400, Rank Hovis McDougall 905, British Oxygen 100, Plessey 250 and Unigate 514.

All these companies have a direct or indirect interest in engineering and all have an interest in a right-wing regime in the AUEW. So does the Honourable Mr Justice Walton. His dividends will rise if the right gain control and will fall if militant policies win out. This process is known as 'The Rule of Law'.

THE CHARTER CAMPAIGN GOES ON

WHILE newspapers and television have done their best to whip up support for the right wing in the AUEW elections, the Engineers' Charter has issued a special leaflet on what the elections mean to shop floor engineers.

The Charter is the organisation of rank and file engineering workers. In the past four weeks Willie Lee, senior shop steward

at Chrysler Linwood, has spoken at meetings across the country to groups of engineers interested in building Charter groups. Willie Lee is the candidate supported by the Charter in the election for AUEW national organiser.

In the other elections the Charter's leaflet urges support for candidates of the left. It describes the right-wing candidates as 'out to erode democracy in our union. They wanted the union to capitulate

late to the Industrial Relations Act. The sort of democracy they want is postal ballots now and then and long periods of inactivity in between.

'They want a democracy shorn of its main element, argument and debate, shop floor and branch activity.'

But the leaflet also says, 'The AUEW needs strengthening by an active rank and file committed to and controlled by the rank and file... a right wing take-over will not be prevented by the reactionary manoeuvres of the left on the Executive Council.'

The rest of the leaflet deals with the fight over jobs and wages. It ends by listing the candidates the Charter is urging support for. These are Jimmy Reid for the Scottish executive seat, P Bramah for the North West executive seat, Bob Wright for the Midlands and Manchester seat, Ken Brett for assistant general secretary, and Willie Lee for national organiser.

The right-wing candidate against Jimmy Reid is Gavin Laird, who has recently been involved in the dispute at the Ardesair oil rig construction site, in Inverness-shire.

AUEW members there are locked in struggle with construction bosses who are attempting to get jobs done on the cheap.

At a mass meeting last week, Laird really excelled himself. He said: 'Think of your wives having to cope with HP commitments and the humiliation of the social security queue. But I warn you, if you're going to capitulate next week, you are as well giving in today. It could be a long and bitter fight.'

The Aberdeen Press and Journal reported the success of Laird's speech. When he called the vote in favour of a return to work, only one man out of 1000 raised his hand.

ENGINEERS CHARTER MEETINGS

COVENTRY: Friday 10 October, 7.30pm, Sidney Stringer School, Cox Street (200 yards Pool Meadow)

BIRMINGHAM: Saturday 11 October, 11am, Digbeth Civil Hall.

BRISTOL: Tuesday 14 October, 7.30pm, George Hotel, Newfoundland Road.

Main speaker Willie Lee, AUEW senior steward, Chrysler Stoke.

said the spirit of the workers was high. He said people had told him that the large number of women workers would make it difficult to organise, but as far as he was concerned the women workers were 'ready to fight to the death'.

If the factory closed it would be a great blow to the town, and would put the unemployment rate up to 8 per cent. The factory is owned by the multinational Coats-Paton group. As Mick put it: 'Multi-nationals have no loyalty to the workers of any nationality and don't give a damn about the social consequences of their actions.'

Donations to: Cathy Hill, c/o Donbros Factory, Alloa, Scotland.

Alloa 1000 fight closure

ALLOA, Scotland: 'A fantastic spirit to fight—that was the feeling at a massive public meeting of nearly 1000 in Alloa last Wednesday, called to fight the closure of the Donbros knitwear factory. Money flowed into the campaign fund set up at the meeting, including donations from local Miners' Union branches and the student association from nearby Stirling University.

But when Socialist Worker spoke to the convenor at the factory, the nationalism and smear tactics were thrown out of the window. Mick Mulhearn, the convenor,

Cardiff: Action goes on

CARDIFF: Members of the action Committee set up by workers sacked from Bristol Channel Ship Repairers have organised another meeting this Thursday. They hope to extend their activities to take in the whole problem of sackings and redundancies in the area.

Their activity is in total contrast to the lack of action by the Transport and General Workers Union full-time district secretary, Graham Phillips.

Sixty-five extra copies of Socialist Worker were sold in the Cardiff docks area last week. The issue contained a story

about Bristol Channel Ship Repairers. Members of the action committee told Socialist Worker how work had been carried out on Graham Phillips' house by workers at the dry dock.

Roger Cox, secretary of the National Rank and File Organising Committee, which first publicised the action committee's case, told Socialist Worker: 'We are sending out a full summary of the facts of the case. We take this matter seriously and are not prepared to let it be dropped or covered up.'

A scalpel to the cuts!

THE fight back against the health cuts gets its first major boost on Saturday 11 October, when the Medical Committee Against Private Practice has called a conference which has won considerable support from trades councils, local Labour Parties and trade union branches.

Jack Collins, a member of the Miners Union executive, is to chair the conference. Speakers include Audrey Wise, Labour MP and a supporter of the Tribune group. The agenda will allow maximum time for contributions from the floor.

One important amendment has been submitted to the lengthy resolution of the MCAPP Organising Committee. It calls for 'realistic and concrete action rather than abstract demands' and suggests the setting up of local conferences. Against the Cuts, with trades council sponsorship, linked to local delegate trade union action committee.

In this way the proposers of the amendment hope to publicise the extent of the cuts to trade unionists in each area. Such committees will also make it possible to organise local industrial action against cuts. Hammersmith and Hackney Trades Councils in London are already organising such conferences.

There is little chance of effective nationwide strikes being organised. The initiative rests with local trade unionists.

With the active support of all trade unionists, local councils, education and health authorities can be beaten. But first the links need to be established in each area. Trade unionists, housewives, tenants and working people need to be convinced

that the fault does not lie with understaffed workers but with the government and councils enforcing the cuts. There is still time to go to the conference. It is at the Oliver Thompson Hall, City University, St John Street, London EC4 (nearest tube the Angel) on Saturday 11 October, 10am Details and credentials from Dr Paul Stern, 55 Bridge Lane, London NW11.

Classified

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot take them over the phone. Send cash (5p a word) with copy to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

PEOPLE who reject the nuclear family seek others (possibly with kids) to explore a viable alternative. Phone 01-348 3475.

Single Room in Kingston, low rent. Phone 01-720 3834.

Gay Workers Conference: open to all gay trade unionists interested in working towards liberation through the Labour Movement, Saturday 11 October, 10am-5pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

London Revolutionary Communist Group public meeting: Chris Davies and Frank Richards on the Trade Unions, the Left and the Crisis, Tuesday 21 October, 7.30pm, Conway Hall (Holborn Tube).

Campaign to repeal the Immigration Act public meeting, Friday 10 October, 7pm, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1. Speakers from immigrant organisations, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Camden Trades Council, a Labour MP, and Peter Hain. Your support is vital—the National Front may well try to break up this meeting, as they have done to similar meetings recently.

CONFERENCE ON PALESTINE and rally in support of Palestine and Dhofer, October 25-26, sponsored by Strathclyde Students Association. Conference supported by Arab Students Union, CAABU (Scotland), GUPS (Glasgow, Palestine Action). Invited speakers Said Hammami (PLO), Syrian Ambassador, Fred Halliday, Akiva Orr, Ghada Karmi, Andrew Faulks MP. Details from Organising Committee, Strathclyde Union, 90 John Street, Glasgow G1.

LONDON NALGO ACTION GROUP public meeting: Stop the cuts in jobs, services and pay, Wednesday 15 October, 6.30pm, The Pillbox, corner of Westminster Bridge Road and Lambeth Palace Road. All trade unionists welcome.

NUJ BOOK BRANCH Jumble Sale: Saturday 11 October, 1.30pm, Methodist Church Hall, Stoke Newington High Street, London, N16. Admission 3p. In aid of strike fund.



LABOUR MP Joan Maynard demonstrating for free speech in Trafalgar Square last Sunday. All demonstrations relating to Ireland have been banned from the square. With other left-wing MPs she demanded that the ban be lifted. By the very act of demonstrating she and the other demonstrators broke the law.

PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Chile: Time to turn the promises into action

THE National Rank and File Organising Committee is urging its supporters to give the fullest support to the trade union conference on Chile organised by the Chile Solidarity Campaign on Saturday 25 October. The conference comes as the National Union of Seamen has instructed its members not to work on ships to and from Chile.

Support for the conference has come from many Engineers Union (AUEW) district committees including Glasgow, Sheffield, North London and Accrington, from three areas of the Miners Union and from the British Leyland Combine Committee. More than 500 delegates are expected.

In a statement to Socialist Worker the Rank and File Organising Committee says: 'This conference offers the best opportunity to commit the most important sections of the trade union movement to a complete black on Chile.'

Family

The recent release of Pedro Cornejo, Chilean farmworkers' leader, and his family to this country shows how trade unionists not in a position to black Chilean trade can show their solidarity in an effective way.

That is why the Organising Committee is publishing a pamphlet on blacking to coincide with this conference, in order to spread the information needed to stop Chilean trade. We want to sell this where it will be most effective—on the docks, in the factories where there are Chilean contracts, among transport workers—and at 2p a copy we are sure that stewards' committees and branches will be able to place bulk orders to sell among their members.

The conference is on Saturday 25 October, 11.30am-5.30pm, at the University of London Union, Malet Street, London W1. Details from the Chile Solidarity Campaign, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London, N7. Phone 01-272 4298.

Sharman's printworkers fined for picketing

by David Bunch

PETERBOROUGH: Police flooded the public gallery in Peterborough Magistrates Court last week when 24 members of the print union NGA appeared in court facing charges arising out of the dispute at Sharman's in July.

The police prosecutor gave the usual pompous talk about protecting innocent citizens during what he called 'industrial warfare'. The police had acted as Sharman's private security force throughout the strike. They guarded the family firm's premises round the clock—even at weekends when it was deserted. Sometimes late night traffic was halted to allow scab-driven vehicles a picket-free run.

For the police prosecutor, the problem was that the union official had lost control over their members. It never occurred to him that true democracy means members controlling officials. Capitalist 'freedom' adds up to trade union leaders acting as industry's plain-clothes policemen.

During the lock-out, the NGA men saw things differently. After initial apathy and aimless tailing of scab lorries, they

took tough action. Hundreds of fellow militants invaded the works to prevent weekly scab newspapers going out.

The police admitted that they were powerless to stem the tide of anger. (Later they retaliated by arresting the peaceful pickets who became defendants in last Friday's court case.) So, the Sharman brothers—the greedy, obstinate, paternal trio—reluctantly gave in.

As the Sharman dispute is still a political hot potato in Peterborough, the 24 arrests gave the local magistrates a headache. They would like to have made an example of the men, but to avoid further political explosions they contented themselves with finding the defendants guilty, fining them £5 and binding them over to keep the peace.

For many socialists, the Sharman dispute highlighted the impotence of parliamentary prattling. It is a lesson not lost on the courageous printworkers. That is why many of them have now become regular readers and sellers of Socialist Worker.

CENTRAL LONDON National Abortion Campaign: Thursday 9 October, 6.30pm, St Clements Building, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC1.

Rank and File Teachers delegate conference on education cuts: the extent and effects of the cuts so far, the cuts and the economic crisis, fighting the cuts, Saturday 18 October, 10.45am-5.30pm, Polytechnic of North London, administrative building, Holloway Rd, N7. Delegates invited from NUT Associations, school branches, Rank and File groups and other trade union bodies. Credentials and information: B Peach, 18 St Agnes Close, London E9. Organised by Rank and File Teacher and supported by National Rank and File Organising Committee.

SOCIALIST FORUM: The Crisis in the Health Service, speaker from MCAPP, Tuesday 14 October, 7.30pm, Metropolitan pub, 95 Farringdon Road.

SOCIALIST FORUM: Abortion and the Struggle for Women's Liberation, 7.30pm, Tuesday 21 October, Conway Hall.

SOCIALIST FORUM: May-June '68 and the Current Student Movement, 7.30pm, Tuesday 28 October, Conway Hall.

CENTRES FOR MARXIST EDUCATION exist in Leeds, Manchester and elsewhere. Spreading Marxist ideas in the labour movement and on the left is an essential part of the class struggle. CME's aim to do this on a non-sectarian basis. Sessions and workshops on Basic Marxism, Marxism and Feminism, plus discussions on contemporary issues eg Portugal, are examples of our activities. If interested contact Tom Steele, 16 Regent Park Terrace, Leeds, LS6 2AX.

SAM is back. CAST have their new play ready—Sam the Man, an amusing and informative play about Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins, trying to walk the tightrope between socialism and being a Labour MP. Lasts 75 minutes and needs a largish audience. Contact CAST, 11c Cabbell Street, London, NW1. Phone 01-402 0687.

PICKET the Crompton Public House, in Crompton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. Friday 10 October, starting at 7pm. In protest against the actions of a new management in excluding sellers of Chingari, West Indian World, Flame and Socialist Worker from the pub. All Socialist Worker supporters in the Birmingham area are asked to support.

THE FIGHT FOR JOBS



Plesseys workers picketing the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool last week.

THE DIVIDE AND RULE GAME AT PLESSEYS

THE battle for jobs in the Plessey group, where the bosses are looking for 2000 redundancies, is in severe danger of being sold out even before it starts.

The bosses' skilful games of divide and rule has already won a big vic-

tory at the Plesseys factory in Sunderland. On Monday night, after a furious argument, workers in the General and Municipal Workers Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers voted to leave the committee. They also voted not to oppose the four-day week which the bosses are imposing on all

manual workers.

GMWU convenor at Sunderland Ken Jarvis told Socialist Worker: 'The majority at the meeting felt that we had greater flexibility if we manual workers were on our own'. Ken Jarvis made it clear that he was against the majority decision.

At a time when unity between all Plessey workers is crucial, this

decision will seriously damage the workers' interests throughout the combine.

If Plessey succeed in sacking thousands from the staff, they will move with greater confidence against the manual workers.

At Edge Lane, Liverpool, the same divisions between staff and manual workers are also being opened up. Staff militants fear that Plesseys will temporarily withdraw the few sackings they have announced for manual workers—if the manual workers agree to accept a four-day week and to jobs being hacked in the offices.

The manual workers' stewards must stand by their declared policy—repeated last week by union officials—of NO REDUNDANCIES, and NO SHORT TIME.

Time

There is no time to lose. Many of the union representatives are still meeting separately, union by union, as though this were a discussion about the timing of a Christmas social.

Thousands of jobs are at stake. Militants and stewards throughout the combine must come together across union and factory boundaries to plan a relentless campaign for jobs. If smaller factories and offices are left to fight on their own, Plesseys will win yet another grisly battle.

Office workers occupy as Leyland ditches agreement

by Barry Collins, ACTSS shop steward, Triumph Coventry. OFFICE workers at British Leyland's Triumph plant are sitting in following the company's refusal to honour an agreement made in January.

The agreement included a shift to the same grading and wage structure throughout Rover and Triumph plants. A joint union and management working party was set up to compare the complexity of jobs at Solihull and Coventry.

Of the 27 jobs considered by the panel, only one resulted in down-grading, coming out one or two grades higher than their counterparts at Solihull.

Now, true to the spirit of 'participation' as outlined by the Ryder Report, and in breach of the agreement, the company is refusing to implement the results. They say they would prefer to carry out an all-management grading exercise!

First the unions participate, then management decides.

A mass meeting of 1100 staff members of the Transport Union white-collar section (ACTSS) voted overwhelmingly for a ban on overtime

and not to cover for any jobs left vacant. They also agreed if any of their work was touched by management there would be a sit-in.

This happened on Thursday last week, so a sit-in followed. All work has effectively been stopped in the offices and the shop floor is affected too, and may be brought to a halt.

At the start of the sit-in a document entitled 'Procedure For Dealing With a Sit-in or Plant Occupation', issued by plant personnel manager Denis Hunt and dated 7 August, was found, and copies circulated among the sitters-in. Can this be a coincidence? It advises management to adopt a softly softly approach in the hope that the occupiers will become demoralised.

This can be countered by keeping the union members involved and informed of developments. But it means that a long struggle can be anticipated. Morale so far is high and we are determined to keep the company to its agreement.

LADBROKES: WE NEED MORE SUPPORT

GLASGOW: The strike of 280 members of the Transport Workers Union (TGWU) at Ladbrokes the bookmakers is now in its 16th week, and only now are the strikers beginning to get the kind of support that will help them win.

The problem for the strikers has always been that the industrial strength they held would not of itself beat the company. They need the help of other trade unionists. But the TGWU never extended the fight as it could have done.

When the strike committee picketed Ayr racecourse while Ladbrokes were sponsoring races, the TGWU delivery drivers put a black on beer supplies—but only during the Ladbrokes races and not completely. Had the drivers blacked the whole course, Ladbrokes would have been forced to acknowledge the strike committee's claim.

The TGWU could have instructed their members to black every racecourse. One, Lingfield, is owned by Ladbrokes—it has escaped solidarity action.

Despite the difficulties, the strike committee feel they are beginning to win.

Donations and messages of support to Michael Dougherty, Ladbrokes Strike Committee, 216 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

THIS IS A 'SUPER-DEAL'?

THE press has been full of praise for British Leyland's superdeal. Last month their share of the home market jumped to 39 per cent. A super-cover warranty has been announced for future buyers.

But for British Leyland workers the super-deal is not so attractive. More and more redundancies are promised, along with extra workloads, 100 per cent job mobility, and a breaking down of all local mutuality agreements.

At Longbridge another 1600 voluntary redundancies have been called for. The management have spelt out in detail just where the cuts will be made, and why they are being made.

The pretence that cuts are just to cover lower production programmes has been abandoned, and it has been made clear that the intention is to achieve a higher rate of productivity per worker

then ever in the past.

Workers at Longbridge have been told that the equivalent of three hours work a week is the extra load they must bear, even with the acceptance of the proposed redundancies. The management have said openly that if this is not achieved even more redundancies will follow. They even also let it be believed that redundancies will continue for several years in any case.

The introduction of workers participation is seen by Leyland management as the key factor in getting their plans for speed-up and sackings accepted. The fight against sackings can only be effectively sustained if it is linked to the fight against phoney participation deals and to the broadening of a genuine rank and file fight in the defence of Leyland's workers' interests.

Chrysler's secret plan for more lay-offs

by Gerry Jones, TGWU steward, Chrysler Stoke

EVIDENCE of increased lay-offs right through to the beginning of next year has come to light at Chrysler. This comes on top of already massive lay-offs, workers in the Stoke plant for example, are already laid off for about 10 days this month.

A document has fallen into the hands of the Stoke stewards which outlines how total output of Avenger cars will be reduced by 2000 down to 5876 components a month right through until January, and the Arrow to 10,000. This means a two-day week for many workers.

According to sources at the Whitley Design plant the much-talked about new car, to be built with the possible £35 million loan from Finance for Industry, would not be scheduled until 1977. This comes after the company's announcement at the Paris Motor Show last week that the Alpine will not be built in Britain 'no matter how great the demand'.

Rumour has it that this far distant model will be made in Linwood and that axles will be built both in France and in Coventry.

Crumbs

With no resistance to lay-offs whatsoever, the Chrysler bosses are keeping tight-lipped over the future. Rumours and demoralisation follow each other. The Stoke leadership are taking the line that nothing can be done and are hoping for a few crumbs. Although we at Stoke are committed to campaign against the financial wheeling and dealing of Chrysler, any talk of fighting back is consistently opposed by the convenors.

But there is a way out. This is to campaign against the idea that Chrysler's future is our future. We have to protect and use our trade union organisation in order to protect our jobs. Our future lies in the nationalisation of the industry under shop floor control without a penny compensation.

This campaign is now strengthened by the launching next week of a Chrysler rank and file paper—Chrysler Worker. Already many militants who want to fight for the right to work have shown a great interest in the paper. It will be in your factory next week. Buy it, read it and take some to sell.

COURTAULDS TO SACK 220

BURNLEY: George Street Mill, owned by Courtaulds, is to close in three weeks' time. 220 workers will lose their jobs.

Management have successfully prevented any real resistance by offering some workers jobs in nearby factories. Others have been bought off with redundancy pay.

But for the vast majority it means the dole without any money. William Mulrooney started work in June as a trainee weaver. He has almost completed the course. Now he finds himself with a skill and no job.

'There's no chance of me finding a job with Courtaulds or any other firm in this area,' he told Socialist Worker. 'Union organisation isn't up to much. There's only one shop steward and he's on permanent nights. We don't know what's going on.'

Calling all activists in the motor industry...

The Rank and File Organising Committee have called a conference on the Crisis in the Motor Industry for Saturday 15 November in Birmingham.

Gerry Jones, Transport Workers Union shop steward at Chrysler Stoke, told Socialist Worker: 'This conference is a major opportunity to get the activists together across the whole industry.'

'For the past 18 months we have suffered the loss of thousands of jobs, and everyone has been on short time at some point. Worst of all, the strength and experience of the shop floor organisations we've built up over the years has taken a real hammering.'

'Not that they needed to. We have always had the strength to stop this assault by the bosses. We have to use it.'

'That means forcing some of the established factory leadership to stop being gutless and to get out on the shop floor and argue and carry the rank and

file with them in a real campaign.

'We can use the conference to get together the militants who aren't prepared to put up with the backsliding. We can work out practical policies and how to fight and argue for them.'

The Organising Committee is also publishing this week a special factsheet on the Crisis in the Motor Industry. It contains a mass of information about what is happening in the industry and makes suggestions for the fight back.

The factsheet asks: how many jobs are threatened? Are the workers to blame? Are import controls an answer? How can we prepare for the next wave of the attack?

Details of the conference from the Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16. The factsheet costs 1p a copy plus postage, bulk orders for trade union branches and shop stewards' committees 75p for a hundred.

Socialist Worker

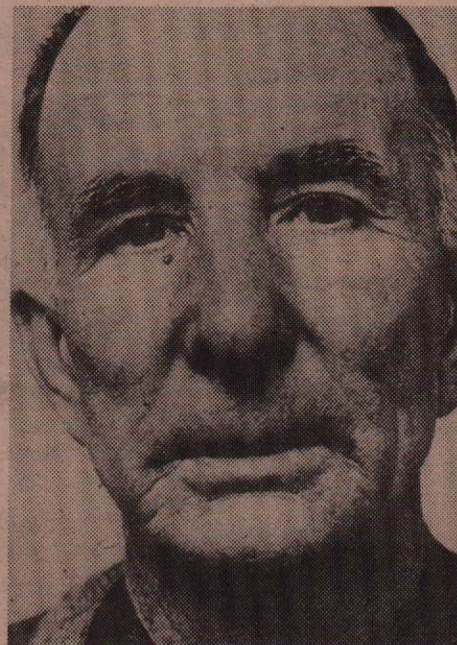
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

How Crosland fixed the vote

CLAY CROSS BETRAYAL



David Nuttall, fluor spar miner: 'The vote was fixed'



George Goodfellow, retired caretaker: could lose his pension money

'What the hell are we doing in the Labour Party?'

—DAVID SKINNER,
Clay Cross councillor

DAVID NUTTALL, a former Labour councillor in Clay Cross, has accused Anthony Crosland, Environment Minister, of fixing a parliamentary vote against the majority decision of the Labour Party in conference and in parliament.

The result, he says, means persecution and probable bankruptcy for the eleven former councillors who refused to raise rents under the Tories' Housing Finance Act.

Dave Nuttall told Socialist Worker: 'Three weeks ago, I asked Roderick MacFarquhar, MP for Belper, why he had abstained in the vital Clay Cross vote in the House of Commons on 5 August. I explained that if he and other MPs hadn't abstained, we'd have won the vote, and the bans imposed on us by the judges would have been lifted.'

Lost

'He replied that he and several other MPs had been in a room in the Commons on the night of the vote—and that Tony Crosland had come down and told them how to vote so that the government would lose.'

The government lost the vote by 268 votes to 261. Two Labour MPs—Crawshaw and Strauss—voted against. But ten other Labour MPs who were in the Commons that night abstained. If they hadn't abstained, the government would have won.

The ten were MacFarquhar, Andrew Faulds, Douglas Jay, Marcus Lipton, Evan Luard, Edward Lyons, Bryan Magee, David Marquand, William Small and Brian Walden.

These are all hard-line right-wingers, susceptible to instructions from right-wing Labour leaders like Crosland and Jenkins.

The curious fact that almost exactly the right number of MPs abstained in order to avoid the government's defeat is explained by Dave Nuttall's story.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, is not at all surprised to hear about the fixed vote. 'There was the smell of betrayal all that day,' he told Socialist Worker.

'Many left MPs were allowed to go away by the Whips. But they had to work very hard to lose the vote. Only five Ulster Unionists were in

the House to vote against. The Scot Nats and Welsh Nats abstained. The only way the Whips could be sure of losing was by Labour abstentions.'

Many supporters of the Clay Cross councillors hoped that this year's Labour Party conference would force the government to continue with legislation.

David Skinner, another of the eleven, explained: 'My union—NUPE—had a motion down calling for the lifting of the fines and the disqualifications.'

Guts

'It was supported by the miners and the engineers, ASTMS, the Boilermakers and the vast majority of constituency delegates. We would have won it quite easily.'

'The NEC voted—by a large majority—against the motion. But none of the executive members had the guts to get up and oppose the motion to the conference.'

'So they spent all week making sure that the motion never came up for debate!'

For standing up for Labour Party policy, for maintaining public services, for paying their workers decent wages and for saving the working people of the town tens of

thousands of pounds in rent, the Clay Cross 11 were disqualified and fined by the courts.

The Labour Party conference of 1973 voted overwhelmingly to pledge the next Labour government to remove the bans and fines.

When that government was elected, it brought in legislation to remove the bans (but not the fines).

When the House of Lords voted the law down, the Parliamentary Labour Party voted to put it back again.

Then Crosland and his henchmen ensured that the government lost its own law—and the Labour Party executive refused to allow its rank and file even to discuss the question.

Now those same councillors are being harassed and bullied by the courts. George Goodfellow, who has worked all his life as a school caretaker, has been told that his pension money may be seized by the Official Receiver. Others have had the insurance certificates for their cars seized.

The Labour Party has abandoned 11 of its most loyal and principled members to the persecution of the courts.

David Skinner says: 'I'll tell you this, you can publish it. As I sat there watching all the conniving and manoeuvring, I kept wondering to myself: "What the hell are we doing in the Labour Party?"'



David and Graham Skinner: now their own party has sabotaged them

By PAUL FOOT

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Great! Now
let's push
the Fund
up and up

'CONGRATULATIONS on the reporting of events in Portugal in this week's issue,' writes a Tottenham supporter, who sent us £5.

Come to think of it, Socialist Worker is just about the *only* place you'll find any reporting of events in Portugal, written from the workers' point of view.

Sending people to Portugal costs money. Phone calls to Portugal cost money. The strain on the paper with a third of our permanent staff in Portugal is terrific. Roll on the day when we can get the photo-typesetting equipment which will mean we can devote more of our time to getting out of the office!

The week's total was
£355.16

which takes us up to £2213. With just a little more than that a week, we could make the £6000 by Christmas.

Our thanks to: Ninewells Hospital Dundee SW Supporters £2, Comrade in Maidenhead £2, Tottenham member £2, Collection at P Foot meeting Ashton under Lyne £13.60, Maidstone IS £4.25, Oldham SW reader £10, SW reader Womersley Guildford £6, SW readers Wakefield £5.03, Preston reader £5.30, Wigan teacher £5, Norwich IS £6.50, Coventry SW reader £8.

Bristol IS £1.50, Bristol SW supporters 50p, A reader £5, Newham OAP 50p, SW supporter MK Electric £1, Brighton reader £1.50, Herne Bay SW reader £2.50, W Middlesex teachers £5.50, Reader London NW3 £5, Walthamstow reader £1, Edinburgh reader £1.58, German comrade 33p, North London Poly IS Soc £4, Peterborough IS £7.25, SW supporter Perkins V8 Plant Fletton £1, E London Hospital workers £27, N Herts IS £5, Southwark IS £39.72, SW reader Loughton £20, Manchester reader £15, Central Print London £13.20, Maidstone reader £5, Comrade in Sozialistische Arbeitergruppe (Socialist Workers Group) Germany £10, SW reader London SW12 (E1, Wandsworth & Wandsworth Teachers jumble sale £50, W London Hospital Workers £8.40, Tottenham SW reader £12, Oxford SW readers £6, N London District member £10, Sale Cheshire Shop Steward's commission from his union NUPE £5.

Send donations to: Mel Norris, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

SUPPORT THIS PICKET!

SUPPORT THIS PICKET!

NATIONAL Front members have recently been appearing on London streets with 'petitions against the muggers'.

A Harlow housewife was physically attacked when she challenged such a group two weeks ago.

This is just one more reason why the annual general meeting of the National Front in Chelsea Town Hall this Saturday must be stopped.

Bill Geddes, chairman of Hammersmith Hospital joint shop stewards' committee, told Socialist Worker that it was essential that everyone supporting the picket should be there on time.

Several thousand people outside the town hall by 8.30am could prevent the meeting taking place.

SUPPORT THE PICKET AGAINST THE NATIONAL FRONT
8.30am, Chelsea Town Hall,
Saturday 11 October

Nearest tube, Sloane Square
Organised by IS. Supported by Hammersmith Hospital Joint Shop Stewards' Committee. All IS branches in London and Home Counties to attend.

£6000
£5000
£4000
£3000
£2000
£1000