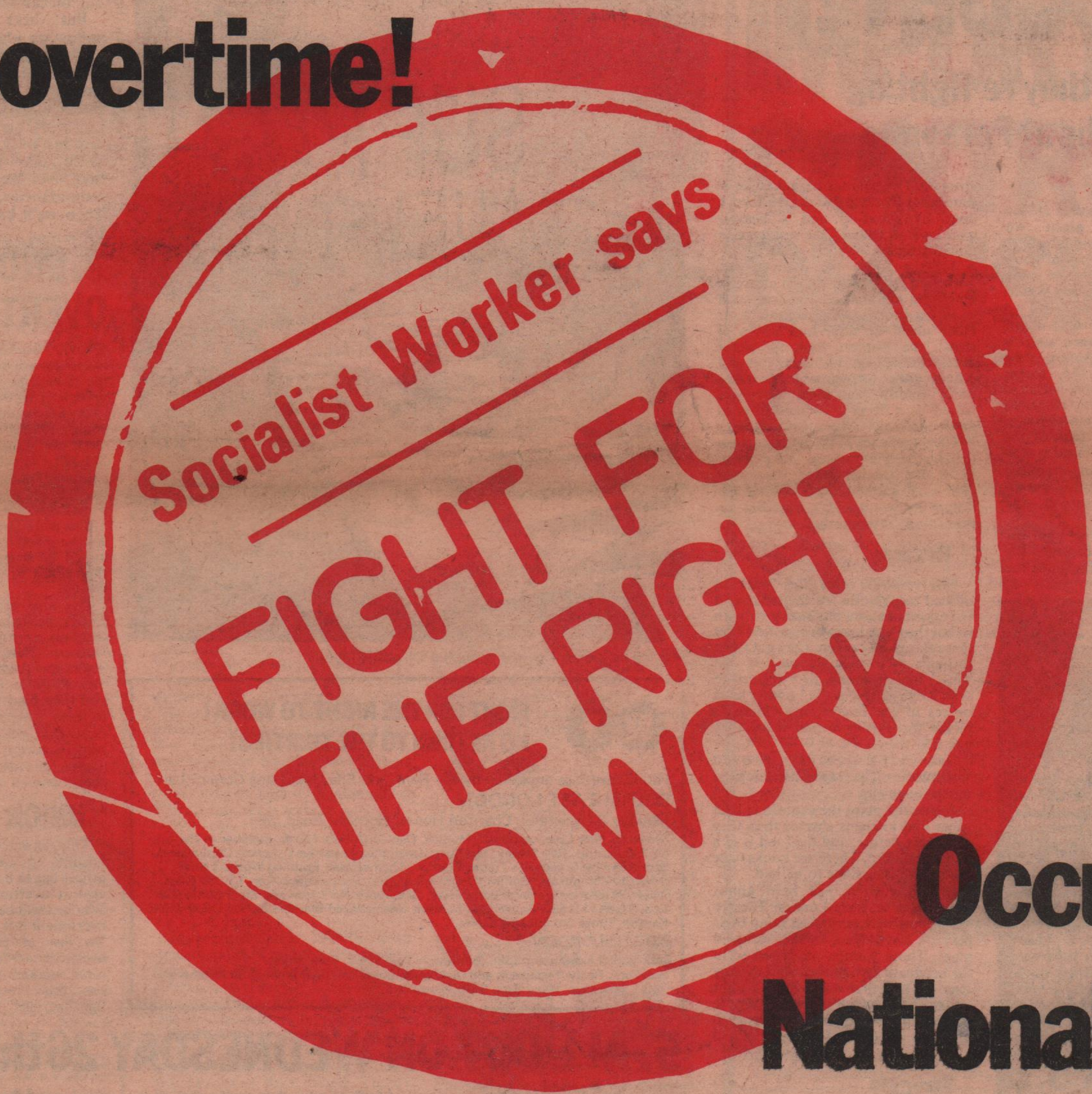


Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

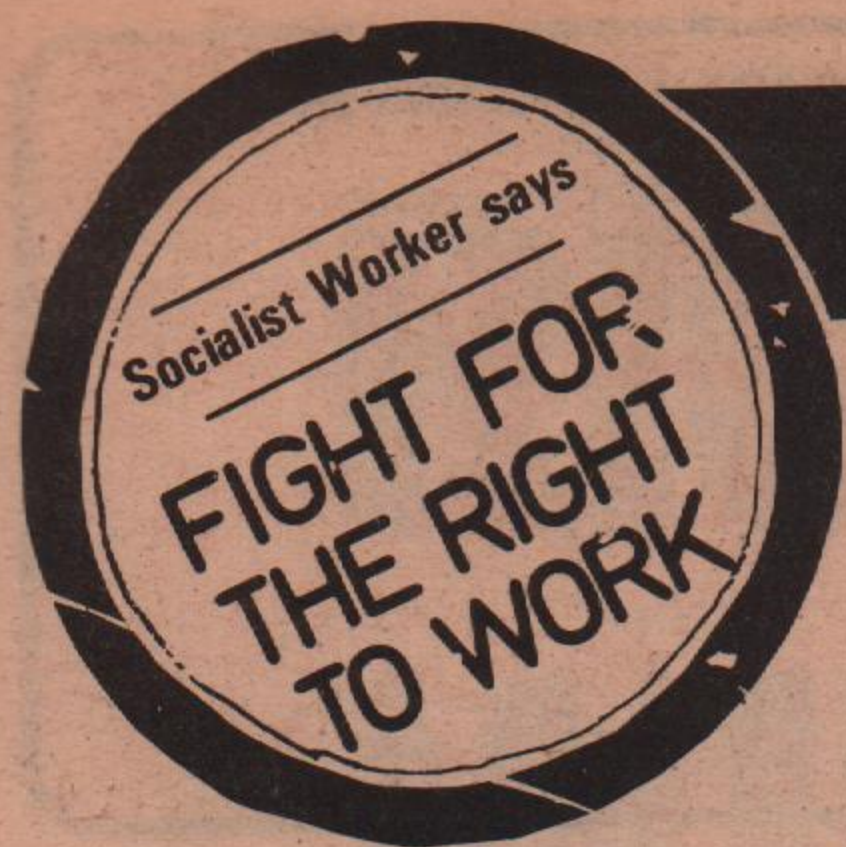
**Employed and unemployed unite!
For the 35-hour week!
No overtime!**



No compensation to employers!

ALL OUT WEDNESDAY 26 NOV

March on parliament. Assemble Euston Square, London N1, at 1pm



...and this how we can fight

1. NATIONALISE!

Chrysler—the clearest case

MEETINGS of the Labour Cabinet are now taken up almost exclusively with discussing the future of Chrysler. One faction wants to sack 'only' five or six thousand. The other, which is winning the argument at the moment, wants to dump the workers altogether.

They include Prime Minister Harold

Wilson and Deputy Prime Minister Ted Short. Short told a meeting of Coventry businessmen last week: 'Investment, jobs and security can only come out of adequate profits in a mixed economy like ours'. His government is now totally committed to profit. If a company doesn't make profit, the workers can go to the wall. The Times

described Short's speech as 'a welcome change in government thinking'. But if Short gets his way, thousands of Chrysler workers will be on the dole in the New Year.

Men like Short need not get their way. The workers can stop them—but only if they take action to do so.

The convenors at the Chrysler factory in

Linwood are stirring from the apathy which has stifled the atmosphere at Chryslers since the threat of closure was announced. They have called a West of Scotland Shop Stewards' Meeting for this Wednesday to discuss a campaign of action.

A meeting of more than 400 Linwood stewards on Tuesday afternoon passed unanimously a resolution proposed by AUEW senior steward Willie Lee calling for an immediate occupation if any attempt is made to close the plant.

This means occupation and picketing—not just of factories but of car showrooms

But these actions are futile unless we also have a policy to protect our jobs. It's futile too to look for another private employer—another multinational with shadowy shareholders which can duck and weave away from responsibility.

No. The government should take over the company, with no redundancies, no compensation. Then we'll know who's responsible.

3. END ALL OVERTIME

135,000 workers in manufacturing industries are working short time. At the same time nearly one and a half million workers are working overtime.

In car manufacture, at the last count, 155,900 hours were lost each week in short time—compared to 511,300 worked in overtime. In shipbuilding, where 12 per cent of the workers are on short time, a massive 37 per cent are working overtime.

The plain fact is that if all overtime were stopped tomorrow, all short time would be stopped too. And tens of thousands of new jobs would be created.

Overtime suits the bosses. They would rather have a worker working 40 hours overtime than employ a new worker. That way they save on insurance payments, they get more 'flexibility' in production for profit, and they bind their workforce closer to them, since many workers become dependent on overtime. Indeed, in some factories, workers have voted to accept the sack for some rather than accept cuts in overtime for all.

UNION

This can and must be fought. Verbal hostility to overtime in trade union offices has to be translated into action against overtime on the shop floor. Workers will be won to a fight against overtime if it is linked to the demand: No loss of pay. A total ban on overtime can force bosses to take on more workers, and to dispense with short time. It is a crucial demand in the fight for jobs.

2. OCCUPY!

That's how they're fighting for their jobs at Personna

by Laurie Flynn

YOU get a warm welcome at the occupied Personna plant on Glasgow's Hillington industrial estate. The welcome takes the form of good conversation, tea, and if you've come at the right time a dinner that would do credit to any restaurant.

There's an interesting thing about the dinner. The homemade soup is made by Engineering Union shop steward Bob Perry, the picket organiser, much to the appreciation of the women workers. They're proud that Bob and other union activists of the male sex see each part of the struggle as the property of all.

The struggle at Personna is edging towards its ninth week. It's about an increasingly familiar subject—the right to work.

Just over two months ago the Personna bosses came along with the scheme for taking back the gains the workers had won over years of

struggle. They wanted to sack some 40 shop-floor workers and get their work done by speed-up and a heavier workload all round. The result was a united strike.

But the strike met with a disinterested response from the cigarette kings and multinational businessmen of Philip Morris, who own this razor blade plant. So after four weeks of strike, the workers took the plant over, sending eggs, tea, cigarettes and other supplies through a broken ladies toilet window that some were sure would later be used to send in dogs and policemen.

The experience of the struggle since then has been important. 'We've got to know one another better than we'd ever have guessed,' says one of the occupying women. 'It's hard but it's rewarding,' says another.

Rewards

The rewards came this week in official recognition for the strike and the essential strike pay that goes with it, but the Personna workers didn't get these things by prayer. They got them through their own action. At last week's mass meeting, they decided to send a delegation to the London head offices of the Engineering Union to picket the executive and insist they pay up.

The long journey proved worthwhile. The executive coughed up straightaway.

Inside the plant the canteen is kept tidier and kitchens cleaner than they ever were before, and the food is of a better standard. There are books to be read and discussions to be had.

One discussion has been about abortion. The West London Theatre Workshop were invited to bring their play on the subject to the occupied plant. Those women we talked to in the occupation were clear that the key issue on abortion was women's right to choose. They felt that whatever the public morality displayed by the anti-abortion lobby rich women could always get by.

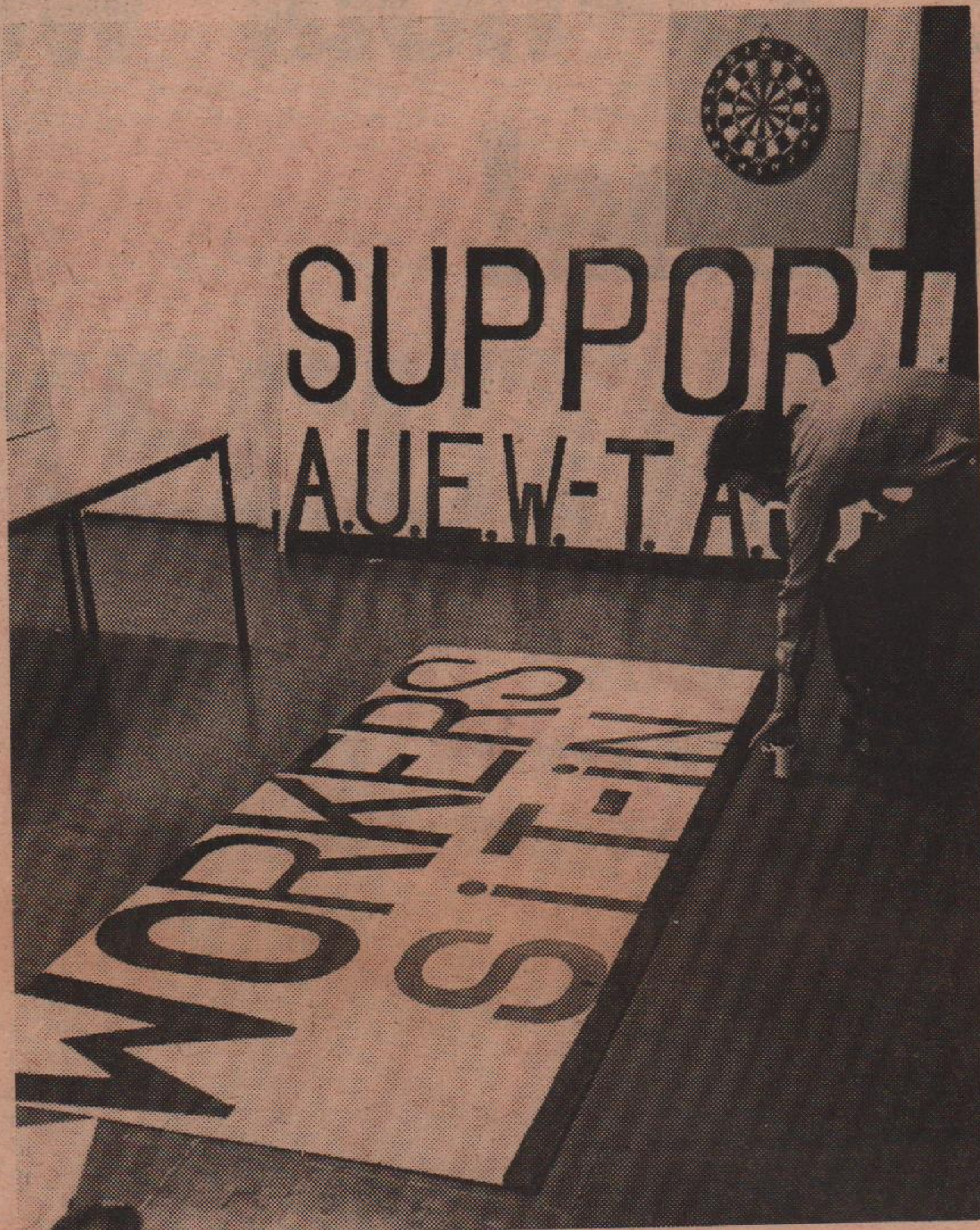
Struggle

Husbands are supporting their struggle to the hilt, because as one woman put it: 'They know it's right to resist unemployment and it could well be them next.'

The workers at Personna hope that workers throughout the Philip Morris group will rally to their cause. They hope that other trade unionists throughout Clydeside will help them in the fight for the right to work, just as Personna workers have helped their brothers and sisters in the past.

If the Personna workers do get out and involve other workers in their struggle, the tobacco barons will have to give in.

Messages of support and donations to Personna workers' occupation, C/o Ruby Duncan, 27 Bowfield Crescent, Glasgow GS2.



Making banners inside the occupied Personna factory

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK! NO RETURN TO THE THIRTIES!

Public meetings organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee
SOUTH EAST LONDON

Monday 8 December, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE7.

Speakers: Pete Lisle, convenor, Mollins, Deptford. Dick North, member of the NUT executive. Ray Storey, secretary, Unemployed Workers' Action Committee. Sponsored by Greenwich Trades Council, Thamesmead Building Workers shop stewards' committee, Mollins (Deptford) shop stewards committee, United Glass (New Cross) shop stewards committee, Greenwich No 1 Iron and Steel Confederation, TGWU 1/1563, South East London Unemployed Workers Action Committee, Kentish Times Combined Chapels.

NORTH LONDON

Monday 24 November, 8pm, Edmonton Town Hall, Fore Street.
Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson and local trade unionists. Chairman: Ross Pritchard (NGA executive, Metal Box, Tottenham).

5. ALL OUT ON WEDNESDAY 26th!

by Clive Hartley

Works convenor, Balfour Darwins EPD Fitzwilliam Works, Sheffield, and member of the AUEW Foundry Section.

IT'S no good leaving the bulk of the struggle to the people who are already on the dole—as was the case in the 1930s, magnificent as these struggles may have been. The struggle has to be in the organised trade union movement, inside the factories and workplaces up and down the country.

The fight for the right to work must be uppermost on the agendas of shop meetings, shop stewards' committees, branch committees and district committees. Support must be given to workers who are in struggle in the defence of jobs, such as the magnificent fight being waged by workers at Balfour Darwins Tool Division in

Sheffield with their strike and sit-in now in its ninth week.

For people who work in large groups of companies the group shop stewards' committees should be involved in the fight. Where these committees don't exist it should be seen as of major importance that they be formed. Joint shop stewards' committees representing a group can be a great asset, as has been proved at Balfour Darwins.

MAJORS

The 26 November lobby of parliament should be seen as a major step in the fight against unemployment. But it will only be as successful as the amount of work we put in to win support for it. It's no good passing resolutions supporting the lobby if

this is not followed by a real effort to point out to people on the shop floor the need for the lobby and why they should support it by stopping work for the day and joining the lobby.

We have in Britain one of the finest labour movements in the world. Let's prove it on Wednesday by putting the work in to get the biggest show of working-class solidarity that the British boss classes have ever seen.

Put the message over loud and clear. We won't return to the policies of the Thirties, we are opposed to all redundancies. We demand the right to work and will fight for that right. Tell them clearly: we will not let you solve your crisis at the expense of the jobs of the working class of this country.

4. FOR THE 35-HOUR WEEK!

FOR several years it has been the official policy of the Engineering Union to fight for a 35-hour week. The demand has not been met. It has not even been fought for.

Yet the 35-hour week without loss of pay would solve unemployment in the engineering industry overnight. There are nearly a million people working in mechanical engineering. If they all worked five hours less a week, that's five million hours work a week for someone else to do.

Add to that another 1.6 million hours a week worked in overtime—even after allowing for short time—and you have 6.6 million hours a week not worked. On the basis of a 35-hour week, that would mean nearly 200,000 more jobs in mechanical engineering alone. Translate that into every industry, and something like five million new jobs would be created—easily accounting for the million and a quarter unemployed.

The 35-hour week is a central demand of the Engineers Charter. The Charter argues that a real fight for the 35-hour week will be a fight for all workers, employed and unemployed. It's the way to link the struggles on the shop floor with the fury of unemployed workers outside.

SO THEY CLAIM THEY 'CAN'T AFFORD IT'

'SHARE MARKET FULL OF PEP' said the Evening Standard headline on Monday, as news of the biggest boom on the stock exchange since the recession started. The Financial Times Index moved up 10 points, adding about £1000 million to the values of shares in three hours.

The reason? The Guardian explained: 'Belief that the government is at last taking a more conciliatory attitude to industry and profits. Prices Minister Shirley Williams' remarks about tough spending cuts also aided sentiment.'

All the signs are that the people who make money for nothing—out of rents, interest, dividends—are 'turning the corner'. Last week profits were up 50.7 per cent over the same week last year.

Profits of food companies have been especially good. In July to September Unilever's profits were up 38 per cent. Spillers, the biggest flour millers in the country, forecast doubled profits. In the first half of the year Britain's other big baking monopoly, Associated British Foods, are up 37 per cent.

As unemployment rises, so do share prices

The people who benefit are the shareholders. ABF's dividends have been increased by four and a half times.

The changes in dividends announced so far this year give a good picture of belt-tightening in high places—UP:1775, DOWN:686, SAME: 709.



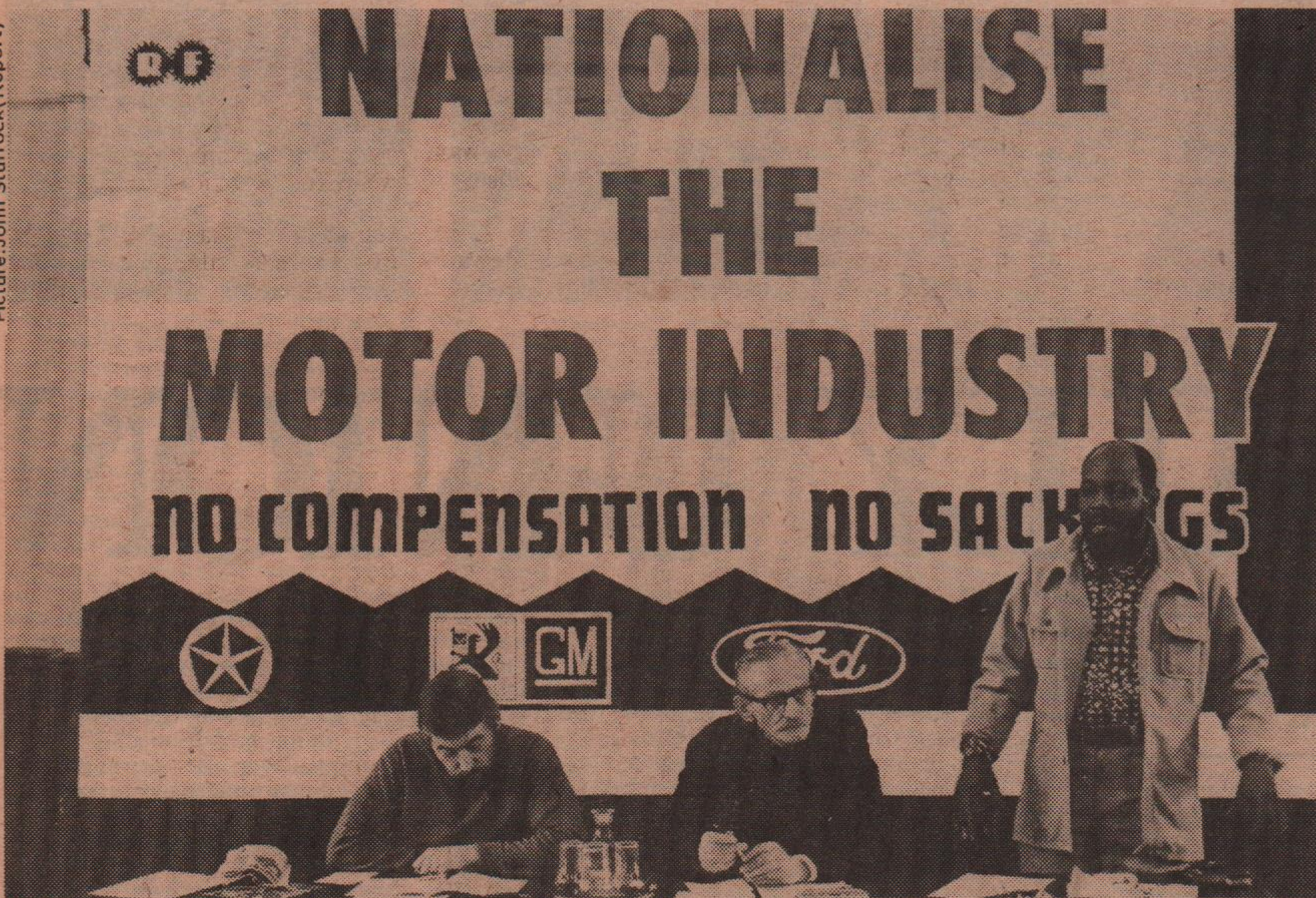
THE terrible times for property speculators were highlighted last Friday at a birthday party for property shark and racehorse owner 'Super' Rupert Denn. Eighty guests arrived at the £200,000 home of Davina Phillips, ex-wife of another property millionaire, and gorged themselves all night.

The Daily Mail reported: 'As a special surprise for Rupert, his friend, William Pigott-Brown, brought along a stripper from a West End club, whom he introduced to everyone as "Yvonne"—and the proceedings livened up after her entrance, busting out of the birthday cake brandishing two whips.'

'Among the ensuing scenes chocolate cake was thrown at various guests, and much of it ended up ground into the thick pile carpet.'

Socialist Worker can reveal, that there were cries of 'Up the Archbishop!' and 'Give a Year for Britain' from one of the hosts, Lord Alexander of Tunis, a former Tory whip, whose speeches in the House of Lords on the need for more workers' sacrifice have brought tears to the eyes of the few peers who can stay awake.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



Whip Bean, a shop steward from Chrysler Detroit in America speaking at the Rank and File Organising Committee's conference on the motor industry on Saturday. The chairman (centre) is Frank Henderson, sheet metal workers shop steward at Austin Longbridge, seated next to Willie Lee, AUEW senior steward at Chrysler Linwood.

Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund

WE SENT £300 to the PRP, the Portuguese revolutionary socialist party, last week. Next week we're going to send another £200, and we're bringing a woman worker, a PRP member, from Portugal to address the Women's Voice Rally next Saturday.

The PRP have few resources. They have a fantastic responsibility—to build a party that can lead the Portuguese working class to victory. They need all the help we can give them. They need every penny you can spare—and solidarity means fundraising as well—to support their paper, *Revolucão*, to produce thousands of leaflets and posters, and to finance the crucial work that a revolutionary situation demands.

So keep sending the money in—we'll make sure it goes to Portugal.

We have collection sheets for your factory, office, or estate. We have banker's order forms so that you can give regularly—and painlessly! You could try selling solidarity badges (20p each), PRP posters (50p each) and IS posters (30p each) that we've produced in the PRP colours—bright red and yellow.

Send your orders and donations to SW Portugal Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

This week we received £233.50 for the fund.

Thanks to: Glasgow teachers £7.20, Sheffield £3, Edinburgh University IS Society £3.50, NUPE steward, Hammersmith Hospital (Back Pay Money) £1, Dundee £10, Southampton £8, Edinburgh £14.25, Brian Ferguson £1, York £7, K D Harding £50, C Hughes, Cambridge £1, NUPE student nurse £3, Walthamstow teachers £50, Bristol University IS Society £8.50, Brighton IS £15, Glasgow University students £10.30, Sales of badges and posters £20.50.

Motor workers call for nationalisation

NATIONALISE the motor industry—protect all our jobs. That was the call that went out from the Rank and File Organising Committee's conference on the Crisis in the Motor Industry in Birmingham on Saturday.

It was attended by 60 workers, including 12 from Chrysler, 20 from various British Leyland plants, and others including Fords, GKN, Gardners, Lucas, Automotive Products and Massey Fergusons.

Said Willie Lee, AUEW senior steward at Chrysler Linwood: 'Nationalisation is now practical politics. The crisis won't just go away. We have instead to stop the multinationals bleeding the workers dry.'

'We want to fight to maintain jobs. The clarion call is to keep jobs.'

'We can produce anything. It doesn't have to be cars. We have the skills—and the abilities. Why should these factories be shut and these skilled workers be on the dole? The only way to save jobs is to nationalise the whole industry.'

John Hindmarch, TGWU shop steward at GKN, warned: 'We need to learn from British Leyland. They got compensation without nationalisation—10p a share, £200,000 to one sacked manager who's demanding even more.'

Dave Nesbitt, AUEW shop steward at Chrysler Stoke, said: 'Workers have lost control of their unions. There's

millions who need to get involved. The militants have got to get back on to the shop floor.'

'We don't just want nationalisation under Harold Wilson. In Leyland there's overtime being worked and sackings. People are going down the road for a pittance. We want to nationalise all manufacturing and stop Labour and the TUC propping up the capitalist system.'

'We need to get out on the streets. There's millions of us. Jesus is supposed to have said: 'The meek shall inherit the earth.' He didn't say it to me. All I'll get is six feet—on my face. Get out on the streets and fight.'



PLESSEY workers in Portugal are sending an official delegation to speak on the Rank and File Organising Committee's platform on the 26 November unemployment lobby. A delegation has also been invited from the Leyland subsidiary in Italy.

Steward held at gun point

'LAST Saturday night the police, without identifying themselves, burst into the house of a shop steward at the Southampton docks. They arrested him at gun point in front of his wife and children. They then searched the house.'

'His wife was questioned for two hours—the police were more interested in his trade union activity than in any supposed criminal acts.'

This is the story of one of the 42 people arrested in Southampton under the Prevention of Terrorism Act last weekend. It is told by his fellow Transport Union shop stewards.

'We eventually got in touch with the National Council for Civil Liberties who found us a local lawyer. But the police will not even let him see our mate. They refuse to tell us where he is being held or pass on cigarettes to him.'

AGAINST THE TERROR ACT—page five.

THE IMPORT CONTROLS DELUSION

ALL sorts of people are demanding entirely different action over unemployment to what Socialist Worker puts forward. Many trade union leaders, the left Labour MPs, the Communist Party, all raise the demand for *import controls*. This demand has been taken up on many demonstrations, and even Denis Healey himself is said to be considering this.

But import controls will not help in the fight against redundancies, short-time working and unemployment. In fact they will act against that fight and help employers get away with sackings.

Firstly, import controls would force up prices even more. If shoes made in East Europe were prevented from coming into Britain, the giant shoe companies, such as those owned by multi-millionaire Charles Clore, would be able to raise the prices of British manufactured shoes massively. Their profits would rise, and the cost of shoes would shoot up.

But there is no guarantee that more jobs would result. Clore might use his increased profits to buy new machinery which would cut jobs still further.

In the colour TV industry, the demand for import controls is a demand to push up the price of colour sets out of reach of many workers. It hurts those workers and it diverts attention from the fact that it was the government's 25 per cent VAT that cut the market for electrical goods and created the threat of unemployment.

Even if import controls aided some groups of workers, they would harm others. For they would inevitably invite retaliatory action by foreign governments. Industries with a high level of imports might be 'protected'—but workers in factories dependent on exports would be hit. Jobs saved in one factory would be lost in the factory around the corner.

UNION JACK WAVING

That is why the demand for import controls can never unite workers across different industries. You cannot expect a worker in one industry to campaign for measures which increase the price of goods he buys from other industries. Nor can you expect him to get enthusiastic for a demand that threatens his own export-dependent job.

It is significant that the union leaders most enthusiastic about import controls are those who have never fought seriously against redundancies and sackings. They like the demand because it enables them to unite with the employer in waving the union jack, rather than resisting his attempt to protect his profits at workers' expense.

The employers like it as well—especially when they operate internationally. What better than for their British workers to be fighting for demands that isolate them from their German workers, their Italian workers, and so on. They know that a workforce that is divided internationally will never be able to fight properly over either jobs or wages. And they know that because there will never be workers' unity around the demand for import controls they will not be forced to implement them when they threaten their profits.

Import controls are about how to protect the markets of the employing class. The real answer to unemployment is to take over these markets by nationalisation without compensation. Only then will we be able to ensure jobs for all, in a planned economy in which the massive wealth of modern society would create general prosperity for all, not crisis.

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Address

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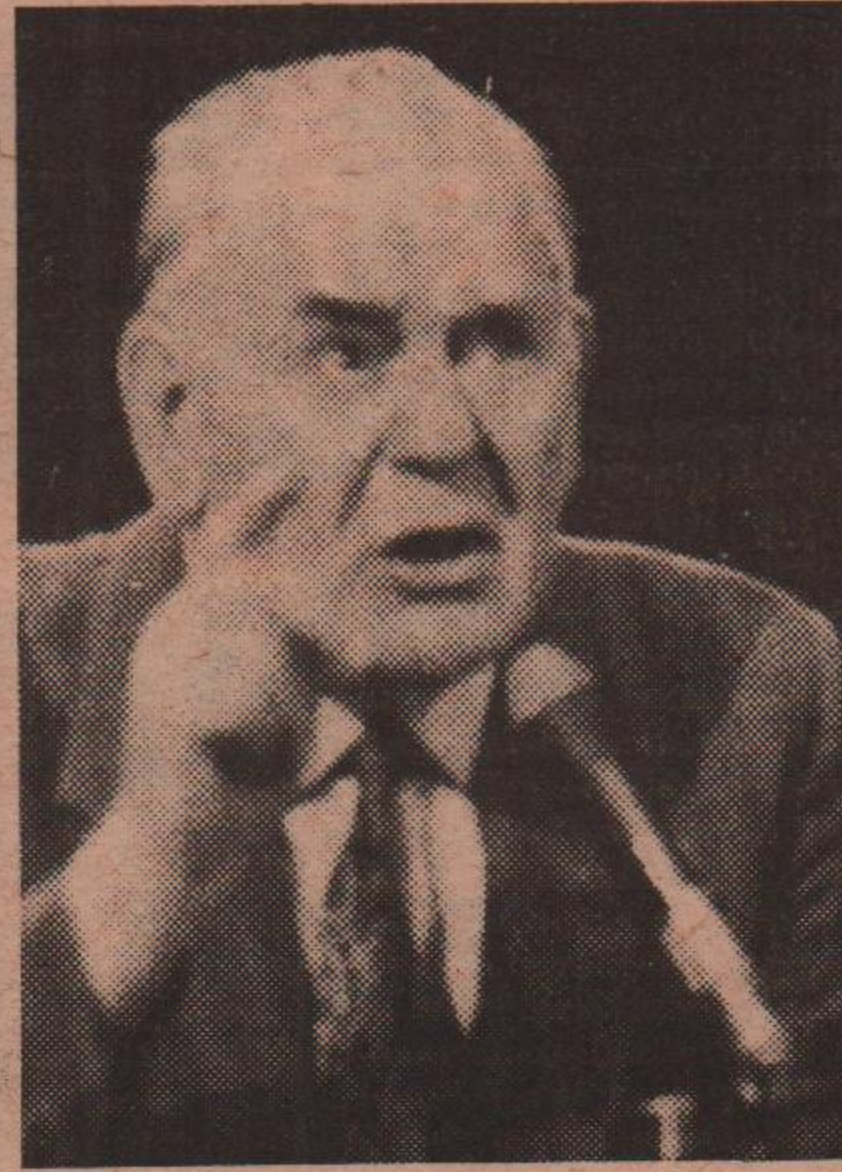
THE UNIONS

PICTURES: Chris Davies (Report)

You've heard of
the company
union
-now meet



DONNETT: Of 'Donnet's Union'



COOPER: Uncle's footsteps



BASNETT: Third generation

THE FAMILY UNION

A FEW weeks ago I watched David Dimbleby on Panorama laying into Hugh Scanlon about the lack of democracy in the Engineers' Union. What a farce!

If Dimbleby or anyone else wants to find out about undemocratic unions he should start with mine, the General and Municipal Workers' Union—the third largest in the country with 850,000 members, and one of the most undemocratic.

In the GMWU all positions are appointed, none are elected outright. Two years after being appointed, a full-time official has to undergo the indignity of an election—for life. The general secretary is elected only once.

In 1926 John Clynes, then general secretary, was opposed when he stood for re-election. Although he retained his position comfortably with a 90 per cent vote, re-election was felt to be an indignity. The executive member proposing the new system said that compelling officials to seek election was 'democracy gone mad.'

Rolls workers
call for
boycott on
cut-price
Spanish goods

IN a so-called 'bulletin' circulated among Royces and other Derby trade unionists last week our shop stewards—the Rolls-Royce (1971) Joint Shop Stewards Committee (Derby)—invited us and our friends to take advantage of an offer by which we can buy a five-pie set of cookware for only £8.50 while the price it was advertised at in the Sunday Times was £27.50.

So why do we say that we should boycott this offer and protest to our shop stewards? Because as Cliff Small, district secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union in Derby, wrote to his members last week: 'It has been proved that this hardware is produced by workers working in obnoxious conditions and for very poor wages.'

Deal

The first question we have to ask is: 'What the hell do the shop stewards' committee think they are doing getting involved in a deal like this, which can only be aimed at making a quick buck for some fly-by-night operator employing non-union labour in disgusting circumstances? What sort of a trade union movement is it that supports such an operation?'

But in fact the situation is much worse than that. The goods being

by a GMWU
shop steward

The GMWU is known as the family union. Most of the top positions are reserved for a few families. Lord Cooper, former general secretary, was a nephew of a previous general secretary, Lord Dukes. Cooper's predecessor was Lord Williamson, whose uncle was Liverpool district secretary.

SCAB

David Basnett, the present general secretary, is the son of a Liverpool district organiser who himself was the son of a Manchester GMWU official. Another GMWU family are the Donnets. Two brothers, sister and their dad are all officials or members in the GMWU. Charles Donnet is national organiser, Alec Donnet is Scottish regional secretary. In Dundee the GMWU is known as 'Donnet's Union'.

The GMWU is also called the scab union: a title derived from a list of sell-outs too long to detail.

In 1962, for example, the GMWU signed an agreement with the management of Fords, to replace the power of the shop stewards with that of full-time officials. Gradually track speeds were increased by a third, and in the following year Ford produced 140,000 more vehicles with the same labour force. In the Ford strike of March 1969 the GMWU, alone out of ten unions, refused to declare the strike official. The exodus from the GMWU was such that the Halewood branch of the union had to be closed.

Only this year in Hull more than 200 workers who offload fish from trawlers have left the GMWU because union officials have misrepresented them over negotiations and redundancies.

The whole constitution of the GMWU is to weaken shop stewards and keep firm control in the hands of the officials. No steward is allowed to sanction a strike but must get his members back to work and then go through procedure. The GMWU also restricts the bargaining powers of stewards, being known to expel stewards who take 'unconstitutional action.'

In 1965 it signed an agreement with Ilford, the photographic firm, which guaranteed the company freedom from unofficial strikes and unof-

ficial wage demands. In return for 100 per cent membership the union would police the agreement, expelling any troublemakers from the union and factory in one blow. By 1966 the GMWU had signed 315 such agreements.

Can the union be reformed? The rigid control of the bureaucracy often drives militant union members to despair—and to form breakaway unions.

But the temptation to do this must be resisted at all costs. Breakaway unions are *always* disastrous. They strengthen the bureaucracy in the old, bigger union and, as happened in the docks, they developed their own bureaucracy which can be just as reactionary.

FIGHT

The GMWU bureaucracy *can* be fought successfully within the union. A series of struggles by union members—from the glassworkers to the Tyne shipyard workers—has proved that. In the past four years the union leadership has been forced to pay out more strike pay than in all the other years since the war put together.

A real fight is needed inside the union to reintroduce the basic principles of trade unionism, to clean the union up. Such a fight for democracy in the union and a militant approach to workers' problems must be unofficial. *There is no choice.*

All over Britain there are workers fed up to the back teeth with the scabbing role of the GMWU, with the complete lack of concern of the leadership for what the membership wants. They need to be linked up. They can only come together on some agreed basis, a programme for reform.

Consider these proposals:
ONE: Elect all our officials.
TWO: Abolish the 'guilt by association' rules.

THREE: Abolish the power of existing officials to determine the eligibility of candidates for office.

FOUR: Set up trade and combine groups of elected representatives from the factories, with annual policy-making conferences.

FIVE: Abolish voting powers for full-time officials on all committees of the union.

Any GMWU member who agrees with all or part of these proposals should write to Mike Thompson at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

DIARIES: Want to give Socialist Worker a Christmas present? Then order an extra union diary and send it to the Unions Page. Union diaries have a lot of addresses, telephone numbers and other information invaluable to us.



The Rolls-Royce workers' picket—last week Derby Trades Council passed an ASTMS motion calling for a boycott by 30 votes to four.

WHAT follows is from a bulletin produced by readers of Socialist Worker at Rolls-Royce, Derby. It is one of a series of bulletins that represent the first real challenge to the deeply reactionary shop stewards' leadership there. It is also a model for readers everywhere about how bulletins can be workers' weapons without being dull.

offered by our shop stewards' committee were made in Spain and that fact was known to Charlie Hunt, works convenor, when the deal was discussed at the shop stewards' committee.

In Spain trade unions and strikes as we know them are illegal. Work is carried on by cheap labour in conditions that would be unacceptable anywhere in Derby. Multi-national companies invest in places like Spain exactly because the trade union movement is shackled by the law to prevent them achieving decent wages and conditions. In that way they can produce cheap goods which undercut workers' jobs and wages in this country.

Spanish trade unionists have been fighting this for the past 35 years. Many militants have been tortured, jailed and murdered. Just a few weeks ago five Spanish militants from the Basque area where this stuff was made were executed without a proper trial.

The Rolls-Royce shop stewards committee are helping this repression—why?

We are told that the committee will

get 20p for every set sold. That is disgusting. It is nothing less than scabbing—selling out workers worse off than ourselves and unable to defend themselves! For 20p. That's not trade unionism.

STOP THIS OFFER!

All trade unionists should have nothing to do with this scab offer and should protest to their shop stewards and at their branches. Any money that might come to the committee should be rejected—it is scab money.

We are organising a picket of the lorry where these goods are being sold at the Valiant Service Station on Mowbray Street/Osmaston Road. This will be at 5pm tomorrow (10 November). We call on trade unionists who agree with us to join this picket.

CALL FOR AN INQUIRY INTO HOW THE DEAL WAS ARRANGED.

As long as April an AUEW official warned that 'the union's name must not be used in connection with any commercial enterprise.' The majority of trade unionists at Royces are in the AUEW. We call on the district committee of the AUEW to investigate

the behaviour of its members in this matter.

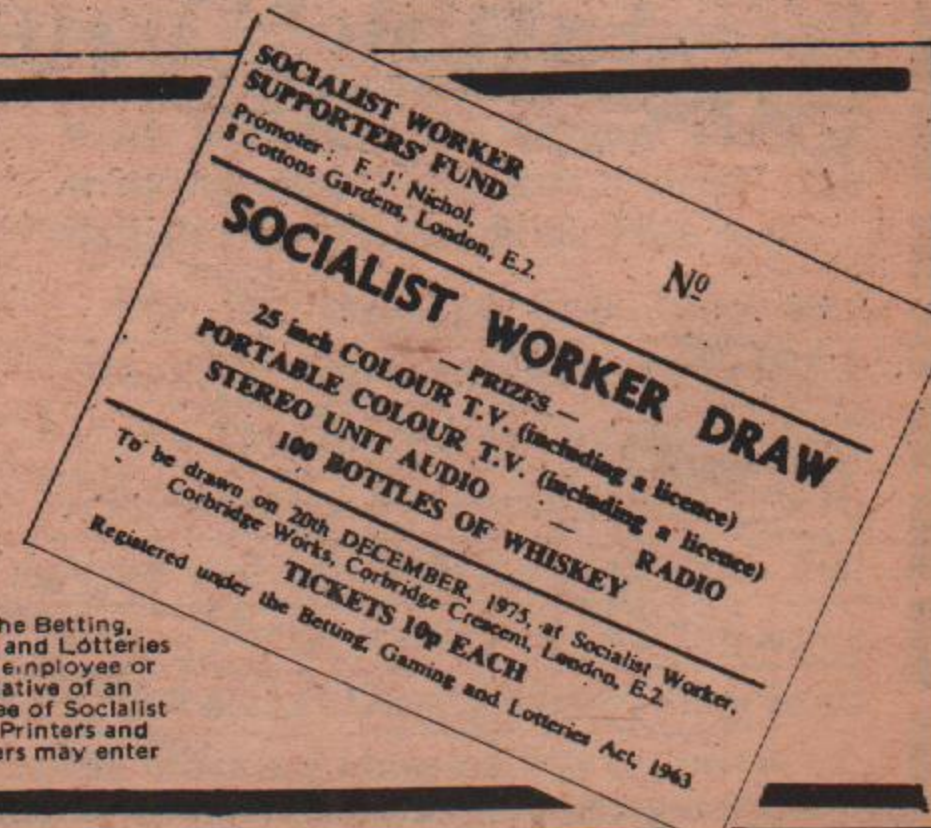
JOIN THE FIGHT TO CHANGE THE SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEE

This is not an isolated incident—it is typical of the sort of trade union leadership we have here and that we need to change. Socialist Worker supporters at Royces aim to build a strong opposition to the policies of the present leadership. We ask anyone who agrees with us to get in touch, buy Socialist Worker each week, and join the fight.

BUY SOCIALIST WORKER-10p every Friday on Gates 1 and 2 or from Derby IS by writing to: Derby IS, c/o 41 Matlock Road, Chaddesden, Derby

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Terror Act used to harass trade unionists

by Frank Conway

TRADE UNIONISTS flung into jail... their families frantic for their well-being or whereabouts... no charges brought... and then booted out of the country without explanation.

No, this didn't happen in Franco's Spain, or South Africa, or Russia. It has happened in Britain in 1975. Because under the wide net of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 766 people have been arrested since last November.

Of these only 32 have been charged and only one convicted. Sixty men and women have been given exclusion orders, meaning they can be banished from Britain without trial and without ever knowing why.

One look at the people affected shows that the Act is being used not to 'prevent terrorism', but to harass the Irish community in Britain in general, and to victimise Irish trade unionists and socialists in particular.

Danny Ryan's only crime was to be an active trade unionist, socialist and republican. He was a leading member of Clann na h'Eireann, a legal republican organisation, an Engineering Union shop steward in Bristol, a member of his AUEW district committee, and on the Bristol Trades Council. He was excluded from Britain.

Police have found that socialists arrested under the Act, fraudulently or not, become labelled a 'terrorist' and so they're vulnerable at their workplaces. All the rotten right-wing bastards who want to destroy the unions have seized the Act as a way of getting militants kicked out

Sacked

When republican Jim Flynn was detained, George Anderson, a worker at Spillers Mill, Avonmouth, near Bristol, took part in a protest picket. He was promptly sacked by the management. When shop steward Charles Horton voiced his support for George's right to protest, National Front members at Spillers tried to take his steward's credentials off him. Fortunately they were outvoted.

Not all the stories are bad. James O'Rourke's case is a lesson in how to fight back.

O'Rourke, a Transport Union member, appealed against the exclusion order slapped on him. A week after his arrest, the news got out to building workers in West London.

Sonny McGowan, chairman of his local UCATT branch, after a lot of telephoning, forced the Home Office to allow visits to O'Rourke. His UCATT branch took a petition round the sites and branches in West London

Hammersmith Trades Council not only took up the campaign for his release, it started to campaign against the whole Act. This was too much for Home Secretary 'Woy' Jenkins, who promptly withdrew the exclusion

Said Sonny McGowan: 'This is going on all the time. People are being arrested and there is no way any of us can find out about it except by luck.'

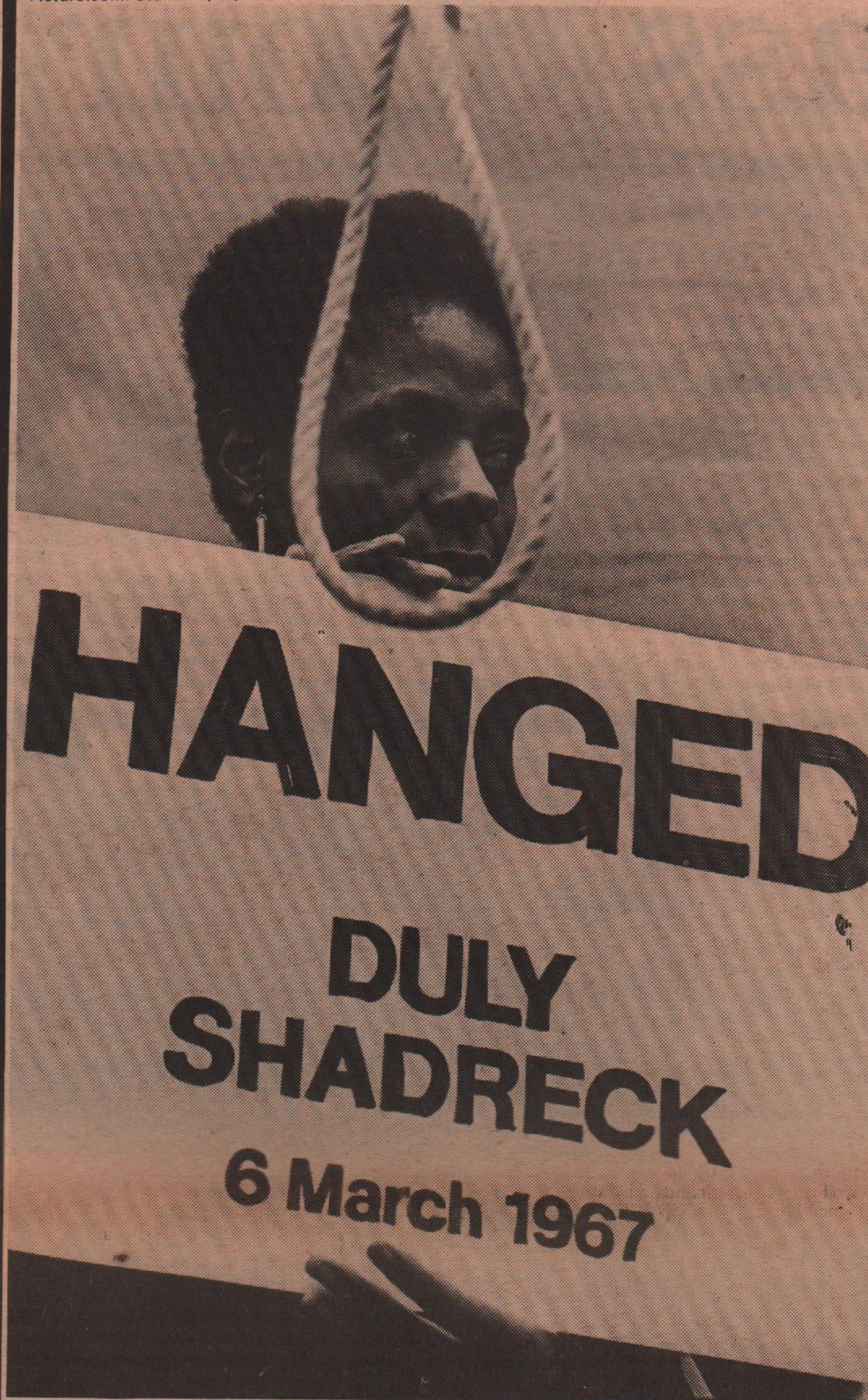
'We need a broad-based trade union committee which is widely known and which can act quickly when trade unionists are arrested. We've got to get this Act off the statute book. We need every trade union branch committed to its repeal.'

On 30 November there is an important conference in Manchester to organise a campaign in the labour movement against the renewal of the Act. Get your trade union branch to send a delegate.

The State, the Law and Ireland Conference: Sunday 30 November, 2.30pm, Barnes Wallis Building, UMIST, Sackville Street, Manchester. Sponsors include Safford Trades Council, AUEW (TASS) No 10 Divisional Council. Speakers include Eamonn McCann, Joan Maynard MP, Pat Arrowsmith and Patricia Hewitt of the NCL.

Trade Union credentials, and an excellent 25p pamphlet on how the Act is being used, available from: Manchester NCL, c/o 6 Braemar Road, Withington, Manchester 20.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



HANGED

DULY SHADRECK

6 March 1967

How Leyland uses apartheid

THE management of British Leyland has been co-operating with the South African police in 'disciplining' militant workers in its South African factory. They have called in the security police against stewards, and have assisted in the arrest of a shop floor trade union organiser. Leyland has even threatened to move its entire factory to a non-union area.

This is the answer to all those people who think that nasty multinational companies are all foreign. British Leyland South Africa is proving that it can be just as brutal and racist as any other multinational.

Black trade unions have grown fast in the last year but the South African government refuses them legal

recognition and tries to force black workers to accept powerless 'liaison committees' instead.

Leyland South Africa, controlled by Leyland Britain, had been in the forefront of support for the South African government's approach. 95 per cent of its workers in the Modern plant near Durban were organised into the newly formed Metal and

Allied Workers Union.

Leyland refused to recognise it and during a strike last February, took the advice of the Department of Labour and sacked many of the strikers.

Under South Africa's racist laws, any black without a job for 30 days is guilty of a criminal offence if he does not then leave the city where he lives for the remote countryside.

The assistant head of Leyland South Africa then applied the full 'Riccardo' treatment: he threatened to close the plant and move to another area where the workers were not what he called 'hotheads'. The head of Leyland South Africa—None other than our own Lord Stokes—was in the country at the time.

Police

Leyland was finally forced to recognise the union. But that did not stop it victimising militants. It turned to the South African police to stop the union spreading to its other plants

Security police arrested the secretary of the union when he was leafletting the Johannesburg plant. The union is convinced Leyland called the police.

A worker in the factory, Francis Mabotsa, was sacked when a personnel officer found a union card on him.

In Britain, a number of senior British stewards have signed an agreement, with the government's blessing for 'participation' in Leyland's management. They will be participating in a company dedicated to the pursuit of profit based upon a denial of workers' rights, upon racialism and upon blackmail.

ANO 54 • 2ª SERIE • N.º 15412 • SEGUNDA-FEIRA, 29 DE SETEMBRO DE 1975 • PREÇO: 50

República

Fundado por ANTONIO JOSÉ DE ALMEIDA DIRECTOR: JORGE PEREIRA DE CARVALHO

POR UMA
INFORMAÇÃO
LIVRE
E POPULAR!

HOW would you feel about a mass circulation daily paper that enthusiastically reported each and every workers' struggle? How would you feel about a paper whose columns were open to each and every strike committee, shop stewards' organisation or union branch as a matter of course?

You'd like it. You'd cherish it. You'd pump every penny you could collect into it. Above all you'd use it, to counteract the lies of the boss and to strengthen working-class organisation.

Unfortunately British workers don't yet have such a paper. In Portugal the workers' movement does. It's called *República*.

Since June *República* has consistently put its 40,000 daily copies at the service of the working-class movement in Portugal. As a result Portuguese workers have shown their devotion to the paper. They've shown it by pouring money into the papers' fighting fund.

But their endeavours can't solve every problem. The workers' movement is starved of costly paper supplies. They're desperate for new printing equipment. And there is a shortage of

one other very important thing—any real indication from overseas of how much support and solidarity there is for their struggles.

That's three convincing reasons why rank and file trade unionists should support *República*.

The National Rank and File Organising Committee hopes that your union organisation will take up *República's* cause. To this end the Organising Committee is calling on workers' organisations to send messages of solidarity and donations to *República*, as advertisements:

£5 will pay for a solidarity notice two inches deep and one column wide. A

TRADE UNION VISIT TO PORTUGAL

The first delegation of shop stewards organised by the RFOC will leave for Portugal at the beginning of December. The 25 delegates from a wide range of industries and companies operating in Portugal such as GEC and STC, will spend the week visiting workers in the same company or industry.

There are still places on the delega-

couple of hundred such adverts every month will provide useful extra income for *República* workers. It will also do a great deal for their morale.

We hope you can get your stewards' committee or union branch to buy some space.

Send your messages, with cheques or postal orders to the Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. We will gladly forward them to *República's* Lisbon offices. We'll also be happy to make sure you receive copies of the issue in which your solidarity notice is printed.

tion, open to shop stewards and nominees of bona fide trade union organisations. The cost of the week (including hotel and return air fare) is £60.

For full details contact the RFOC, 46 Prince George Road, London N16 8BY, phone 01-249 1207.

This week at least one fighter for freedom will be hanged in Rhodesia. By order of the whites-only government in that country, his name will not be published. The execution will take place in secret, in the middle of the night. The man will be taken to the gallows without even a chance to speak to his relations or his friends.

In the first ten months of this year, 22 Rhodesians have been hanged or sentenced to death for political offences. That is almost as many as for the entire ten years from 1965 to the start of 1975.

In December last year the Rhodesian white racist government announced that they would no longer publish the details of executions. Relatives and friends are not told either. The men themselves are woken in the middle of the night and frogmarched to the gallows. Every night in jail after their appeal is turned down—as all appeals in Rhodesia inevitably are—could be their last.

Convicted

On 6 August, two unnamed Africans had their appeals against the death sentence turned down. They were convicted of laying a land mine. No one knows who they are, let alone whether they are alive.

No one knows how long John Hlengani, 65, has to live. He was convicted at the end of October of taking boys for guerrilla training to Mozambique.

On 11 November, Elliott Dube, Reze Nyamarupa and Ignatius Moto were convicted of killing members of the Rhodesian army. The death sentence is mandatory. The appeal is a farce. The hanging will be in secret.

Meanwhile the racist South African premier, Vorster, the black African leaders of Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania and the British government are still searching for a 'detente' whereby Rhodesian premier Smith and his murderers can be 'accommodated' for another few decades.

In a class of our own

A COMRADE from Scotland asks: 'The working class are supposed to be the agent for building socialism but who are the working class?'

'In the case of miners, dockers, engineers and railwaymen it is obvious that they are part of the working class but what about the large numbers of white-collar workers in teaching, clerical, administrative, management and supervisory jobs?'

'Do they produce surplus value or do they live off surplus value? In other words are they part of the proletariat or are they petty-bourgeois?'

Dependent

For marxists, a worker is someone who does not own means of production and so is forced to sell his labour-power to someone (nowadays, some institution) who does, a capitalist, in order to earn his living. A worker is a wage-earner, wholly or mainly dependent on wages for his livelihood.

On this basis, clerks and teachers are workers and so, to a large extent, are most supervising



personnel below the level at which shareholding—a share is a certificate entitling you to part of the surplus-value produced by the workers—becomes important. Workers and their families are the overwhelming majority of the population in Britain.

But, of course, that does not end the matter. It is quite clear that a town clerk on £12,000 a year or a head teacher on £6000, even if they own nothing beyond personal possessions, are in a very different position from a council dustman or the lady who cleans the floors.

The difference is not only a matter of money, of job security, big pensions and so on. It is also the

fact that the typical high-salaried individual is part of a chain of command for a capitalist (or state-capitalist) enterprise or for the capitalist state.

This is not true in all cases; some highly-paid people are technical specialists, but these, too, tend to adopt the outlook of the top brass whose material conditions they share to some extent.

The really important thing is that the line between working class and 'petty-bourgeois' cannot, under modern conditions, be drawn simply by reference to the source of income, since the great bulk of employed people are wage or salaried earners, proletarians on a strict definition. The petty-bourgeoisie of the last century, shopkeepers, artisans, independent professional people etc still exists, but is now much less important than the salaried people.

Less

The line is drawn in the course of political struggle. The lower ranks of the salaried hierarchies can be drawn into the working class movement, even the middle ranks can under favourable circumstances. The extraordinarily rapid growth of white-collar trade unionism is an

aspect of this struggle, although only an aspect.

But before developing this point it is necessary to dispose of a red herring: the distinction between productive and non-productive work. Not that this distinction is unimportant in some connections. It is, but it is not decisive in this connection.

Marx called 'productive work' that work on which surplus-value was realised, and which therefore contributed directly to the accumulation of capital. Non-productive work was that which did not.

The distinction has nothing whatever to do with usefulness. Some absolutely essential jobs—not least the reproduction of the workforce itself—are 'unproductive' from this point of view. Some 'productive' work is downright harmful—the manufacture of heroin for instance.

Marx made the distinction because it was useful for the job he had in hand, the analysis of 'the economic law of motion' of capitalist society. To focus on capital accumulation was essential for this purpose.

But 'productive' and 'non-productive' are not at all the same thing as manual and white collar. There are productive white-collar workers (Marx himself included managers in this category) and there are non-productive manual workers.

The definition of productive work, made for the purpose of economic analysis, has no relevance to the question 'who are the working class?'

To return to the political problem; how can sections of the 'intermediate' layers of society—both the salaried and the 'old' petty-bourgeoisie—be pulled to the side of socialism?

These social groups can play no independent political role in society.

But that does not mean that they are politically unimportant. Far from it.

Prop

Normally they are, in large part, an essential prop for the ruling class and a broad political base on which conservatism rests.

But under conditions of acute social crisis these layers move—either left or right, to socialism or to fascism.

'For the social crisis to bring about the proletarian revolution,' wrote Trotsky in connection with Germany in 1930, 'it is necessary that, besides other conditions, a decisive shift of the petty-bourgeois classes occurs in the direction of the proletariat...'

'When revolutionary hope embraces the whole proletarian mass, it inevitably pulls behind it on the road of revolution considerable and growing sections of the petty-bourgeoisie.'

The opposite can happen, and did in Germany. If there is no revolutionary lead, then 'the petty-bourgeoisie swings in the direction of the most extreme reaction with such force that it draws behind it many sections of the proletariat.' It provides the mass base for fascism.

The outcome depends, first and foremost, on the struggle for revolutionary politics inside the working class.

It was a lovely funeral, but then it had been rehearsed a week before...

JOHN F KENNEDY was assassinated 12 years ago today (22 November), struck down in his peace-loving prime—if you believe what you're expected to believe—by a lone crank, Lee Harvey Oswald.

If you don't believe that, and if you care to investigate just a few of the uncomfortable facts that have since come to light, a different picture begins to emerge. A picture that says a lot about the monster of violence, conspiracy and cover-up that is the American state machine, 'the finest democracy on earth'. Consider a few of those facts about that day in Dallas, Texas:

FACT: Oswald is supposed to have shot Kennedy three times and Governor Connally of Texas three times—all in six seconds. Not bad for a World War One rifle wielded by a man whose military record describes him as a mediocre shot...

FACT: Violent hostility was known to exist in Dallas towards Kennedy. His funeral had, ghoulishly, been rehearsed a week before. Anonymous 'Wanted for Treason' posters had 'welcomed' his visit. And yet...

Most of Kennedy's Secret Service escort had been taken out on a binge till 3am the night before. Pictures of the assassination scene show them looking dazed and bewildered.

No investigation was ever carried out into who organised the binge—and why.

FACT: Seconds after the shooting, the main police radio channel was jammed for three minutes by an unknown source. Again, no investigation.

Meanwhile, police who rushed to a grassy knoll ahead of the presidential car and to the nearby Texas School Book Depository building encountered men with Secret Service credentials in both areas.

It is now known that there were no bona fide Secret Service men in the area at that time.

Notorious

FACT: Two interesting early suspects were quietly and quickly released: a man called Powell, who proved to be an agent for Army Intelligence, arrested in the TSBD building from which Oswald was later alleged to have fired the fatal shots; and Eugene Brading, now known to be a notorious Mafia figure on a one-day visit to Dallas, arrested in another building overlooking Kennedy's route.

FACT: Eight minutes after Kennedy had been pronounced dead, a policeman called Tippit was shot—and a scenario of almost mechanical precision emerged.

As police cars roared out to the scene of Tippit's death, police who had been 'searching' the TSBD building almost constantly from the time of Kennedy's assassination, suddenly 'discovered' a rifle traceable to Os-

wald.

Another half-hour and Oswald was arrested for shooting Tippit; a few more minutes and the news was flashing around the world, along with a tip that this was the president's assassin.

Soon the press were being told how Oswald's lodgings were stocked with marxist literature, how he had once defected to Russia, how he had subsequently taken part in pro-Castro activity. Meanwhile...

Curious

FACT: The new president, Lyndon Johnson, received a curious message from the Pentagon that 'there was no conspiracy' and that Oswald was the lone assassin. The message was taped and, when its significance was realised, later classified as top-secret...

FACT: Two days after his arrest, Oswald was shot dead by Jack Ruby

while in police custody. Both men, it is now known, were FBI informers...

Book after book has pointed to the powerful evidence of a conspiracy to get Kennedy out of the way... and to cover up the truth about his death.

Evidence that was either glossed over or ignored by the official investigation, the Warren Commission. Four of the remaining six members of that commission were:

Allen Dulles, former CIA chief sacked by Kennedy

John McCloy, former head of the CIA's predecessor, the OSS

Richard Russell, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a personal friend of Lyndon Johnson

Congressman Gerald Ford, consistent supporter of the CIA, nominated for the commission by Richard Nixon. Now president of the United States...

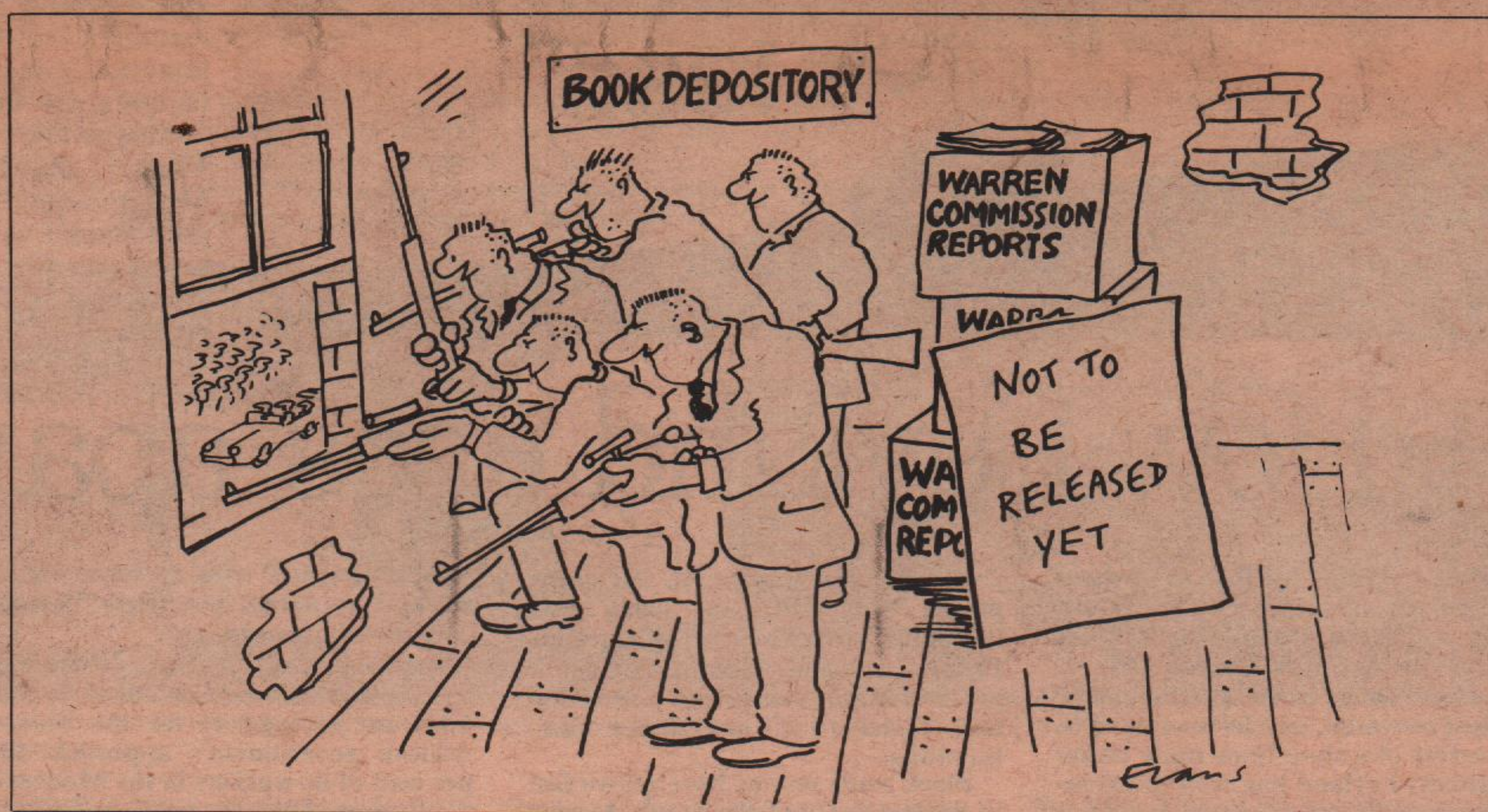
Conspiracy... or fantasy? Fantasy, if you've never heard of the CIA, Watergate and all the murky machinations of the American ruling class.

Conspiracy, if you can pinpoint a motive that makes more sense than the transparently absurd notion that John F Kennedy died at the hands of a deranged marxist called Lee Harvey Oswald...

5 FIFTH COLUMN



On the 12th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination



A class war joke

IN THE Hungry Thirties, the fabulously rich Lady Astor used to visit the slums of Glasgow and Edinburgh to lecture workers' families on the delights of cod-head soup.

After one such lecture, an old fisherwoman stood up and said: 'That recipe was marvellous, your ladyship, but I have one question.'

'Of course,' replied Lady Astor, 'by all means go ahead.'

Fisherwoman: 'While we're eating the cod-head soup, who is eating the cod?'

What class-war jokes do you know? Send them to Fifth Column, c/o SW, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



QUOTE: 'It is the story of a cheat, a liar and a thief. Above all it is the story of the greatest confidence trickster in history.' Who was this man? Karl Marx—according to a new leaflet by...the National Front.

WITHOUT COMMENT

FREDERICK BARNARD worked with asbestos for just nine months, back in the 1920s. But asbestosis killed him in July this year. Mr. Barnard, a 76-year-old bachelor, of Dove House

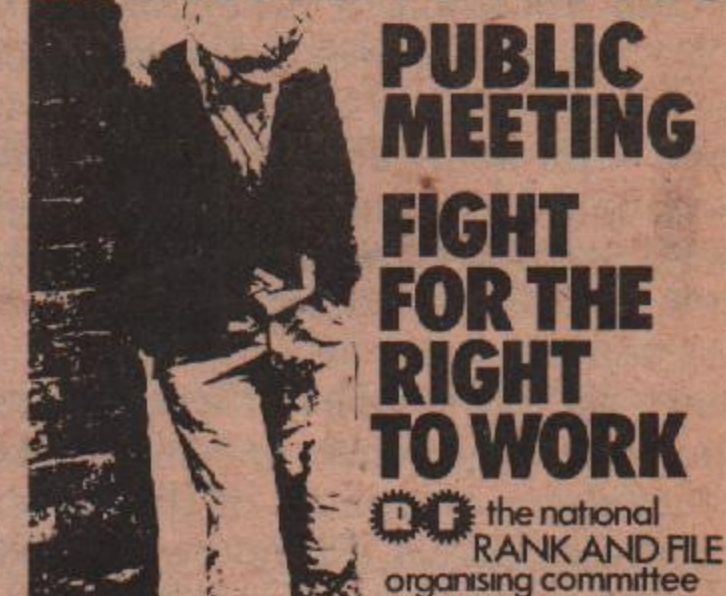
Mead, Gascoigne Estate, was one of three victims of the disease on whom inquests were held last week.

All had worked for Cape Asbestos, Barking.

From the Barking & Dagenham Post, 12 November

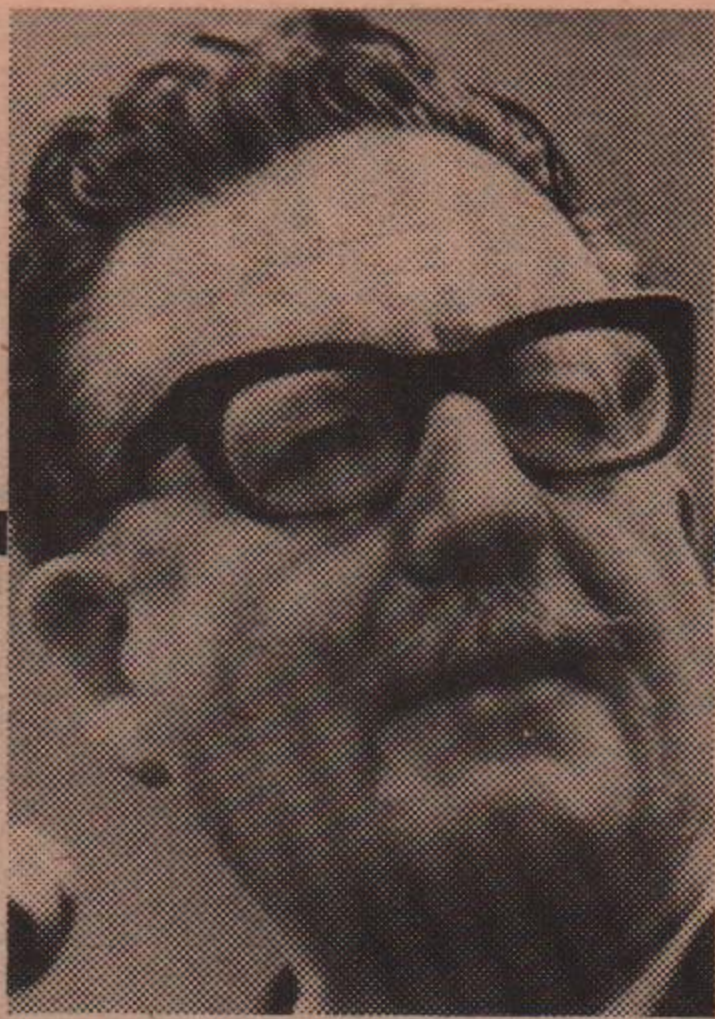
Are you fighting unemployment? Join the campaign!

NO RETURN TO THE 30's

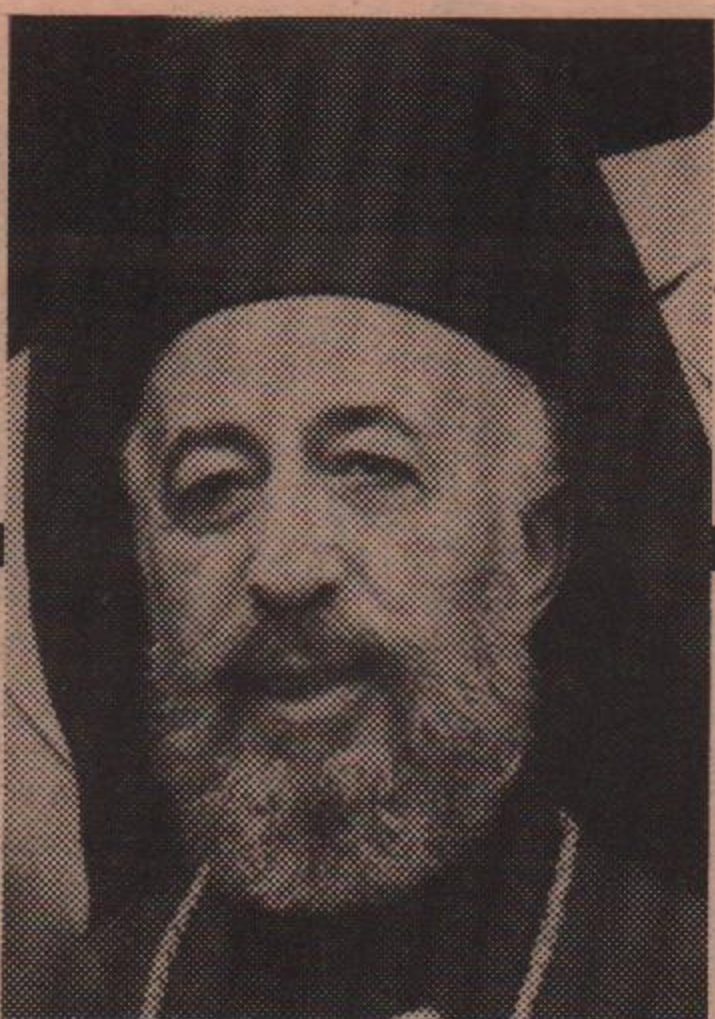


POSTERS FOR MEETINGS in the Right to Work Campaign: 10p for five, £1.50 for 100. Get your trade union branch or shop stewards committee to send in orders now.

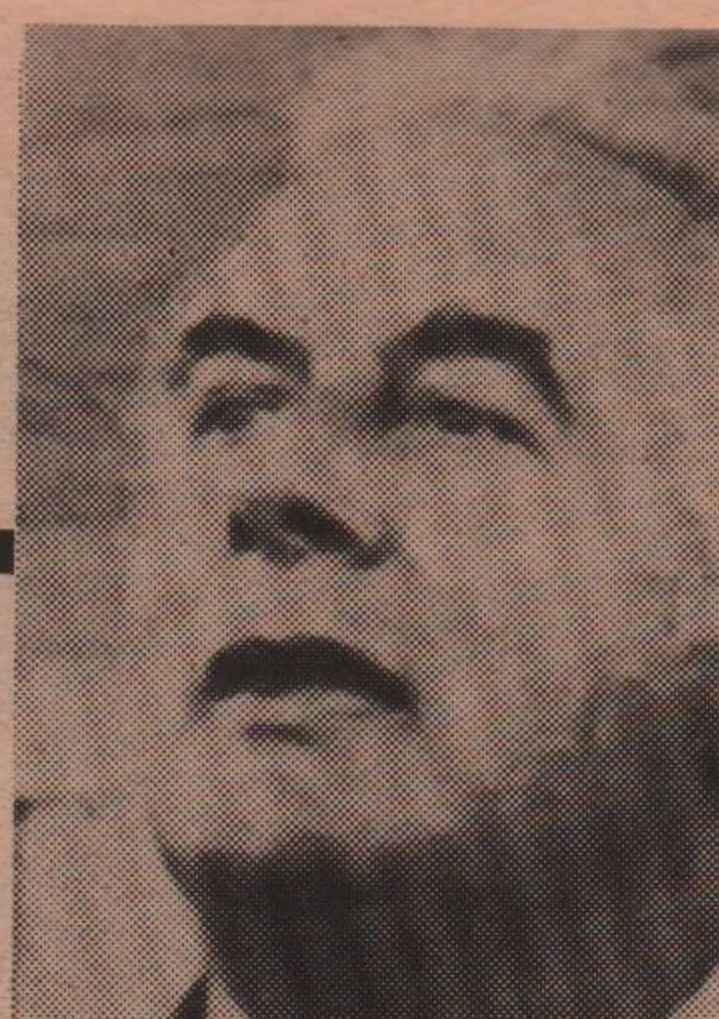
Right to Work Campaign, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.



Allende:
Shot



Makarios:
Toppled



Whitlam:
Sacked

The plunderers' conspiracy

by Paul Foot

THE tannoy system on the Sydney stock exchange bellowed: 'Attention everyone! Great news! Whitlam's been sacked!'

Several hundred dark-suited speculators went berserk. They jumped on chairs and tables, and hugged one another. They cheered. They wept for joy. That afternoon, Monday 10 November, share prices rose higher and more fortunes were made than ever before in the history of Australian capitalism.

No wonder. Without an election, without breaking the law or bringing in the troops, those speculators and their class had toppled an elected Labour government and put a Tory government in its place.

Ever since the Whitlam government was elected in 1972, the great business corporations which operate in Australia had worked for its downfall.

Plunder

Two-thirds of all mining and oil operations in Australia is conducted by multinational combines and under the Tory (liberal-Country) government, which had been in office since the war, these companies were granted absolute freedom to plunder.

Fierce opposition to this grew up in the Labour movement. It was based in the main on nationalism—'Buy Back the Farm for Australia'—but it wrote into Labour policy a demand for 51 per cent government control of all mining, oil and minerals.

This was intolerable to the corporations. As soon as Labour was elected, the corporations' man in the Australian civil service, Treasury boss Sir Fredrick Wheeler, told the two left-wing Labour Ministers, Jim Cairns at the Treasury and Rex Conner at the Energy Ministry, that they could not carry out the nationalisation policies on which they had been elected.

Wheeler organised a strike of international bankers, who refused to lend the government the money to buy out the mining multinationals.

Nonsense

Conner and Cairns—the Wedgwood Benns of Australia—searched for a capitalist weapon to beat off this capitalist attack. They started negotiations with Tirtha Khemlani, a bankrupt commodities hustler, who pretended that he could lay his hands on money from the Middle East oil sheikhs.

This was nonsense. The oil sheikhs' money was safe in the big banks. So the deal collapsed.

But at once the Australian ruling class used the Khemlani affair as an excuse for a fantastic smear campaign against the Labour government. Their excuse was alleged 'corruption'—though none of the Ministers made a penny.

Their weapon was the press. There are 19 daily newspapers in Australia. All simultaneously swung into action against the elected Labour government. The press campaign was backed by an investment strike in mining and oil. After a few months the government gave in. Cairns was sacked from the Treasury, Conner from the Energy Ministry. They were replaced by two extreme right-wingers, Hayden and MacLelland.

On 24 September, Prime Minister



A mass rally of students in Sydney calling for a general strike to get rid of the Fraser government.

PICTURE: Oliver Strowe (IFL)

Whitlam withdrew the commitment to 51 per cent control of foreign mining companies. His speech outlined new plans 'to engender business confidence'. In the same month, the government introduced a bosses' budget. Company taxation and social services spending was slashed.

The government was broken. Every spark of radical commitment had been doused. But the corporations had tasted blood and were greedy for the kill.

The Australian Senate, which has ten seats per state, had been skilfully gerrymandered to give the Tories a majority of one. They used that majority to block government funds. When Whitlam refused to call a general election, they conspired with Sir John Kerr, the Governor General. Kerr, a sympathiser with the CIA-inspired breakaway from Labour, the Democratic Labour Party, had been one of Australia's most anti-union judges. He agreed at once with the Tories that Whitlam should be sacked, and his government replaced by the Tories in the crucial run-up period to the election. This he did last week.

But the plunderers' conspiracy made one mistake. They reckoned without the working class.

Nearly three million Australian workers—that's more than half all wage and salary earners—are organised in trade unions. Last year, inspired by a second Labour victory at the

polls, a huge strike-wave had swept Australian industry, keeping wage increases in pace with the inflation caused by world economic crisis and by the investment strike.

This year as the recession deepened and unemployment shot up, the trade union leaders snuggled closely to the Labour government and refused to support militant action. But the rank and file now knew that militancy worked.

Action

In June, for instance, the leaders of the biggest union, the metalworkers, called on their members to drop a pay claim. At mass meetings all over the country, the members rejected the advice and called for more powerful action. In Adelaide the vote against the leadership was 4000 to 30; in Brisbane 2614 to 116.

In the building and meat industries, rank and file workers struck to save their jobs and safeguard their wages—often against the advice of their union leaders.

These rank and file workers were quick to detect the threat to their whole class if the Whitlam government was brought down by a corporations' conspiracy. Hundreds of thousands of workers struck and demonstrated. In the docks in Sydney and Melbourne, mass meetings called

for a general strike.

Whitlam, with the support of the union leaders, is trying to cool the workers' fury. 'Deal with the reactionaries at the ballot box', he begs. 'Save parliamentary democracy'.

Yet the central lesson from all these astonishing events is that parliamentary democracy has no power to protect working class interests.

Workers' action is the only guarantee that the Labour government will continue. It is the only guarantee that the workers will continue to make gains at the expense of their exploiters in the multinational boardrooms.

The Australian events fall into a grim pattern. In Chile in 1973, a Labour government was shot down. In Cyprus in 1974, a Labour government was toppled by a fascist coup.

In Australia in 1975, a Labour government has been ousted by decree of a union-baiting Governor-General.

In Britain, a Labour government has been paralysed by 'the flight of sterling'. This month, the centrepiece of its legislation programme, its Trade Union Bill, has been postponed by a junta of hereditary barons, dukes and marquesses.

The techniques of reaction differ, but the organisation behind them is the organisation of private property all over the world.

So this is parliamentary democracy...

AN extract from last month's proceedings in the Australian House of Representatives:

Dr R T Gunn (Labour): 'Why don't you shut up, you great fat pooffer?'

Mr J W Bouchier (Liberal): 'Come over here you little wop and I'll kick you up the arse'.

Speaker: 'Did I hear something?'

The militancy

Days lost in strikes
1970: 2,393,000
1971: 3,068,000
1972: 2,010,300
1973: 2,634,000
1974: 6,292,500

We're women,



ABORTION

The biggest campaign since women fought for the vote—but it's far from over yet.



£6 NOW

Kayser Bondor, South Wales, where 400 women are on strike for the full pay rise allowed under the government's freeze. Some take home as little as £20 for working 42 hours. One of them said 'We don't like being on strike, but it's £6 or nothing.'

EQUAL

we're workers

EQUAL PAY

WHAT WE WERE PROMISED ...

After 28 December 1975 all women workers are entitled to equal pay —by law. In theory, the employers can no longer pay women less for doing the same work.

... AND WHAT WE GET

But the employers have used the wording of the Act and the five years given to implement it to find every conceivable way of wriggling out of their commitment.

In August, the Department of Employment reported that of the wage agreements they had monitored, two-fifths had still made no firm commitment to equal pay. Only a quarter had removed discrimination in pay.

Actual earnings show the real difference; on average, women earn 62 per cent of men's earnings, including overtime.

Women earn £30.30, men earn £48.60. If you discount overtime, women earn 68 per cent of what men earn.

How do the employers do it? In the baking industry, men and women's rates were abolished to be replaced by a new series of grades, the top grades replacing the previous male grades and the bottom grades producing the old female grades.

Within the grades there are two classifications—one for men, one for women. So, women bakery operatives get 80 per cent of the men's rates for the same work.

MATERNITY LEAVE

WHAT WE WERE PROMISED ...

The Government promised that arrangements for maternity leave would be in-

THE WOMAN OF TODAY WANTS EQUAL PAY,

equal education, jobs choice, promotion — and maternity leave, sick-pay, pensions, health and safety at work, convenient hours, back-to-work chances, full citizen's rights and no discrimination.

Brave words from the TUC for International Women's Year: but what actually happened?

Promises, promises

roduced for all women at work for more than one year.

...AND WHAT WE GET

The Employment Protection Bill says women who have worked for the same employer for two years are entitled to six week's maternity leave with pay.

A third of women between the ages of 20 and 40 leave their jobs within one year. Two out of five working women are married.

DISCRIMINATION

WHAT WE WERE PROMISED ...

The Sex Discrimination Act also becomes law this year. It promises the same access to jobs, the same opportunities

for promotion and training, the same educational opportunities for promotion and training, the same educational opportunities.

It is intended to cover all the 'fringe' benefits that the Equal Pay act leaves out. It promises everything, but guarantees nothing.

PROMISES WE CAN DO WITHOUT

ABORTION

Women's rights took the biggest hammering with James White's back-street abortion bill. The 1967 Abortion Act gave women some legal rights to abortion.

The Labour government finally gave into the anti-abortion lobby when Barbara Castle announced in the



JOBS

'Philip Morris hope to starve us out. They are not going to get a now. We are determined not to go down the road. We are determined to our jobs. We are determined to win.' —Betty Franci, AUE

Commons in October that the government was implementing all the recommendations of the parliamentary Select Committee looking into the bill.

The government will allow another debate to reappoint the Select Committee.

The only way to stop the private market making money out of abortions is to put them out of business.

And the only way to do that is to make abortion free on the national health. Barbara

Castle didn't mention improving facilities on the National Health once.

RAPE

To add insult to injury, The Law Lords decided that women are not capable of making up their own minds on sexual matters.

When a man accused of rape claims that he honestly believed that a woman was not unwilling, whatever she might say to the contrary, then the law must make allowances.

JOBS

Jack Jones ger of the Transport Workers Union International V demonstration

It's not only have to make are there. Men have to fight t We have to against that so in our society.

In January, were 130,0 registered as u October there v

and we're fi

WHAT WE THINK



Tetley Tea workers in Bletchley, who occupied last May for equal pay. After two weeks, management and unions managed to split the men and the women,

offering £1 more to the men on the grounds that they might occasionally have to drive a fork lift truck. They never do.

THE WOMEN in Personna are fighting for their jobs. At Kayser Bondor they need a £6 increase to live on. At Ladbrokes, the fight is for union recognition.

Everywhere, women are fighting for their rights to abortion, for nursery facilities, against the cuts in education and the hospitals, against rising prices.

There is one common factor to all these disputes and campaigns: Working women want to be able to control their lives.

They want to be able to decide when to have children, when to go out to work, what job to do, where their children go to school.

But our society is not run in the interests of working women. It is organised to produce profit for a minority of parasites.

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That minority depend on workers accepting low wages, unequal pay, high prices. They depend too, on dictating to us when women have children, when we go out to work.

So they try to impose a pattern of ideas—about the family, about morality, about 'a woman's role in society' all of which helps them to make the decisions, not us.

There is plenty of evidence on these pages that women are fighting back against all this. But too often the fight back is carried on in separate sections, each isolated from one another.

We need to unite those separate battles into one, strong, offensive which hits those who run society where it hurts most.

Women resisting every attempt to return to the days of backstreet abortion need the industrial strength of the women in the factories.

It's not enough to say: 'Fight in the trade unions, join with other socialists.'

Women are isolated in the trade union movement, they can't get to union meetings, they have pressures on their time from home, they lack confidence and experience.

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So women get left behind again and again. Trade union leaders and dignitaries become word perfect in patronising statements about equality—but they never feel the pressure to do anything about it.

That's why we've organised the Women's Voice Rally in Manchester on 29 November—to bring together the fighting spirit of working women all over the country in an atmosphere where we can develop our own confidence and our own ability to organise.

When we've built that confidence and organising ability, we'll be able to force the pace in the trade unions and on the factory floor.

Then we'll be able to shove the whole labour movement towards a real battle for equal pay and women's rights.



UNION RECOGNITION

Ladbrokes workers in Glasgow have been out on strike for six months. Rena Brown, from the strike committee, said: 'If we get support from other trade unionists on the scale we deserve then we can still beat Ladbrokes.'

'I can't understand why the official movement hasn't taken it further, because the Transport Union is the biggest in the country, and if that support had been organised on the picket lines then we would have won by now'. The TGWU's recruiting leaflet says 'Put the strength of the TGWU Britain's biggest union, around you.'



RENTS

EILEEN WHOLEY, canteen cook, one of the Clay Cross 11:

The women at Clay Cross fought the battle just as hard as any men did. When we were fighting not to put up the rents, women in all the council estates called neighbourhood meetings in their houses. The rooms were crowded out, and we councillors went round arguing our case.

We could never have done what we did unless we'd had that support from women in the estates.

They felt it very close, you see, the women. The rents had to be paid out of the household money. If the rents had gone up, that would have been something off the food, something off the clothes money for the children.

I think women should be out fighting for their communities. I couldn't sit at home and watch four walls, I tell you.

I like to fight. Lots of women do. And the more they push us down the more we'll fight.

Fighting

By
Margaret
Renn

Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

Women's voice rally
Saturday 29 November,
11am-5pm, Belle Vue,
Manchester.

THE WOMEN'S VOICE RALLY IS TO FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS:
Our right to a job, equal pay and £6 now
Our right to a home, free nurseries and a national health service
Our right to free abortion and contraception
Our right to decent schools for our kids

For tickets, send this form with 10p to Women's Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

NAME

ADDRESS

London train for Manchester leaves Euston at 8am, arriving back in London at 9.45pm. Inclusive cost £4. Book, in advance only, through Women's Voice Train, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. (Phone: 01-739 6361).

NOTICE: International Socialists Bulletin printed this week omits to say that the documents on Birmingham and the AUEW, and International Work, are Central Committee documents.

THREE LABOUR ACTIVISTS QUIT TO JOIN IS

THREE leading Labour activists in Harlow, Essex have quit to join the International Socialists.

Sue and Terry Mackay and Barbara Williams, all members of the local Party's general management committee, told Socialist Worker this week of their disillusionment with Labour—and of their hopes of building a real socialist party.

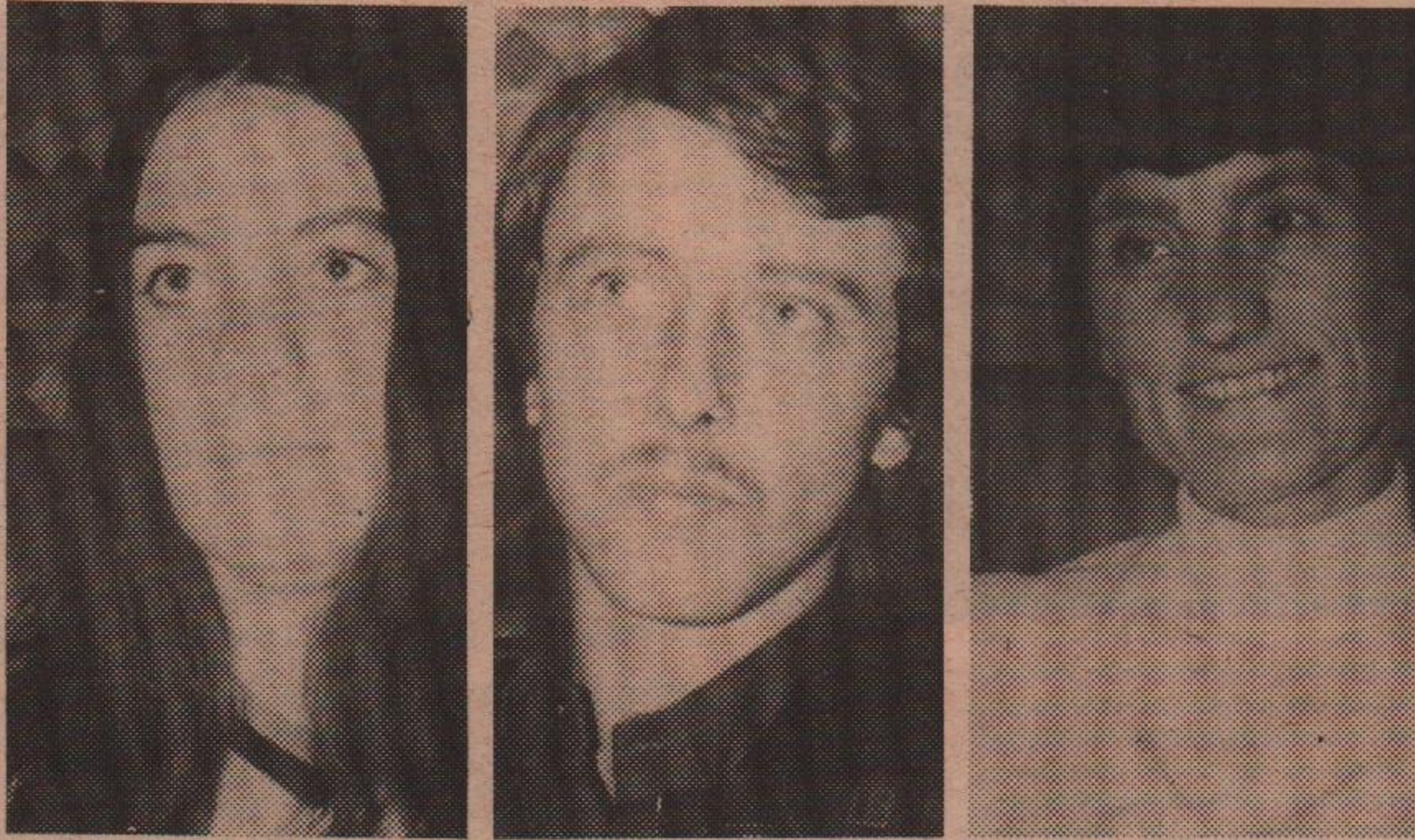
Barbara, a nursery school nurse and a member of NALGO: I originally started querying the values of the Labour Party over the abolition of free milk in schools under the Tories.

Many Harlow Labour councillors voted against paying for the milk from the 1p rate, and when Labour regained office the government refused to reinstate the school milk.

And then there were the Tories 'fair Rent' Act. Harlow's 100 per cent Labour council refused to fight, and put up the rents.

Terry, a Labour ward secretary and member of the Engineering Union: They should have taken the stand with Clay Cross—that would have given other Labour councils an incentive to fight.

We have also seen a pronounced shift to the right by successive Labour governments. They have adopted Tory policies and bent over backwards to appease big business.



Sue and Terry Mackay and Barbara Williams: 'Get out and join us'

The Common Market was a major issue—IS was active in distributing leaflets, fly-posting etc. All the Labour Party did was to pass resolutions, though they were represented on a joint action committee in Harlow. Just about all the non-IS posters that were put up in the town, we did on our own initiative.

Sue, a shipping clerk and a member of ASTMS: The Labour Party only wants people to knock-up at elections. It frowns on political activity. I think it gets embarrassed by activists.

IS is doing great work on Portugal. In fact, we joined after a meeting on the revolution.

Sue, Terry and Barbara have a simple message for all active socialists in the Labour Party: Get out and join IS to build a truly socialist alternative.

TRIVIA

Whatever happened to the fine words in their manifestoes?

We are socialists, and realise that the only way to achieve socialism is to spread our ideas to as many people as possible. The Labour Party is too wrapped up in procedures and trivia and is unable to mobilise its members and supporters into any kind of action.

Black and white, unite and fight!

By Maggie Dunne, Cricklewood IS

THIRTY SW supporters heard Whip Bean speak in Cricklewood last Wednesday. Whip, a black chief steward at Chrysler Detroit and a member of IS was asked: 'Why did you join IS, which is a white organisation?'

He answered: 'It is a lot blacker since I joined. Uniting with white workers to fight the common enemy is the only way to struggle and win.'

'Before the crisis in America, whites had jobs. Now they are facing the same problems as their black brothers: unemployment, lay-offs and short-time working. The reason I joined was that IS were there, fighting beside blacks. On black demonstrations, Workers Power relates to black struggles (far more than Socialist Worker does in Britain).'

He said he couldn't tell us how to struggle and win because he is still struggling. Struggle was the key.

Everyone at the meeting—black and white—was contributing to it. I found this more than at any other meeting I've been to.

SCUNTHORPE: 67 copies of Socialist Worker, featuring the British Steel Corporation explosion at Appleby-Frodingham, were sold last Saturday. Steelworkers took an additional 55 copies to sell in the works.

The reaction to the article was good. Several people said: 'We don't get the facts from Steel News (the BSC paper) or the local papers. What you say in the article is true. It's time something was done about safety at BSC.'

THE NEXT meeting of the women's committee will be on Saturday 10 January at 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Each branch and district and all the fractions, should make sure now that someone is responsible for the work and for coming to the meetings.

Main items for discussion will be the work needed following the Womens Voice Rally and the Right to Work campaign.

PORTSMOUTH: 100 people, some of them standing in the passage outside the hall, heard Paul Foot last Thursday at one of the biggest socialist meetings in the town for years. £30 was collected for the Portuguese Solidarity Fund, and 20 people asked for more information about IS.

ALL BRANCH and district Irish work organisers in London have an important meeting on Sunday 30 November, at 2.30pm, at IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road,

London, N4. Please see that your branch or district is represented.

PETERBOROUGH: 70 people heard hospital porter Chris Porsz call for militant action last Friday. By city workers to prevent Ibrahim Dhanji from being deported. Chris—who recently wrote an article for SW about the case—accused the Labour government of using racist tactics to bolster up capitalism. NUPE official Ian McLoughlin and welfare worker Richard Crowson also spoke.

Women's Voice rally coaches

GLASGOW: The Information Bureau, George Square, 7am. £4. Contact Linda Jones, IS Books, 041-424 1048.

CHESTERFIELD: Town Hall, 8.30am

ROTHERHAM: Bus station, 9am

SHEFFIELD: Pond Street, 9.30am, contact Lesley Klein (0742 55910)

LONDON: Euston Station, 8am, return 9.45pm. £4. Tickets must be paid for in advance. Write to Womens Voice 8 Cottons Gardens, E2.

COVENTRY: Pool Meadow, 8am. Contact Glynis Tew at IS Books, 0203 21662.

LIVERPOOL: Mann Island Pierhead, 9am calling at Golden Eagle, Kirkby, 9.30am. Contact Teresa, 051-236 5036.

BIRMINGHAM: 8.30am. IS Books.

HULL: YEB offices, Sevensway, 8am.

Notices for What's On should be posted to reach Socialist Worker by first post Monday before publication. Adverts will NOT be accepted by phone. Send to What's On, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

Socialist Worker meetings

Glasgow Socialist Worker Rally FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK—NO RETURN TO THE THIRTIES. Speakers: Duncan Hallas (Socialist Worker) and Harry McShane (Member of 1917 Clyde Workers Committee and Secretary of National Unemployed Workers Movement in Scotland in 1930s). Chairman: George Kelly, EETPU convener, Glasgow Central Electrical Workshops. City Halls, Albion Street (Lesser Hall), Glasgow, Sunday 22 November 7-9pm.

WALTHAMSTOW SW public meeting: What is socialism and can we get it? Speaker: Laurie Flynn (SW journalist) Thursday 27 November, 8pm, Rose and Crown, Hoe Street.

CAMDEN COUNCIL WORKERS SW public meeting: The Labour Party. Speaker: Duncan Hallas, Thursday 27 November, 6.15pm, Mother Redcap, Camden Town.

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW public meeting: Is China Socialist? Speaker: Nigel Harris, Thursday 27 November, 6pm, South Bank Poly Students Union, Rotary Street.

EAST LONDON WOMENS VOICE public meeting: Lives before Profits. Speakers: Pat Anderson (Laporte Action Committee) and Sheila McGregor, Monday 24 November, 8pm, Holbrook Annexe, NELP, Holbrook Road, Plaistow.

DERBY SW public meeting: Fight for the Right to Work—Fight Labour's Tory policies. Speakers: David Bunch (ex-Labour Party) and Steve Evans (TGWU shop steward), Thursday 20 November, 8pm, The Vine, Ford Street.

HIGH WYCOMBE SW public meeting: The Crisis—Unemployment and the Labour government: Fight for the Right to Work. Speakers: Tony Cliff and Tony Paul (president of High Wycombe Trades Council), in personal capacity), 8pm, Monday 1 December, Guildhall, High Wycombe.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL WORKERS SW public meeting: How East London fought the cuts in the 1920s. Speaker: Harry Wicks, Thursday 20 November, 8pm, basement of Centreprise Bookshop, Kingsland Road, Dalston.

HACKNEY TEACHERS SW public meeting: Fighting Back in the Schools. Speakers: Lab technician shop steward; Cliff McDaniel (recently cleared of assault charge on police) NUPE ancillary worker, school teachers, Monday 24 November, 5.15pm, Duke of Wellington pub, Balls Pond Road, N1. All welcome.

HEALTH WORKERS, national meeting for SW supporters and IS members. 6 December, in Birmingham. Discussion on: the Right to Work campaign: 'pay' cuts in the health service. More details from Health Workers Section Secretary, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

GRIMSBY WOMENS VOICE public meeting: Thursday 27 November, 8pm, The Dolphin, Cleethorpes.

MAIDENHEAD SE discussion meetings every Thursday at 8pm. All welcome. Details from SW sellers or by phoning Maidenhead 24102.

Come to Skegness with Socialist Worker



THE HOLIDAY CAMP HAS A PUTTING GREEN...

FOUR DAYS of boozing, political discussion, meetings and films, football, and swimming at the Derbyshire Miners' holiday camp.

Book now with your SW seller for the Easter weekend, 16-19 April.

Only £16.25 a head for full board and lodging. Don't delay—places are limited.

Local organisers for the rally should start sending the forms in now—places are limited, it will be first come, first served.



...AND A SWIMMING POOL.

Queries from local rally organisers should be sent to Julia Hatts, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, (phone 01-739 1878). Some areas are concerned about their allocation, particularly of children. The camp holds 1500 people. This has been divided into 1220 adults and 280 children. So we can, if necessary, re-assess this and redistribute places, we must have applications forms, and deposits by 15 December.

Socialist Worker events

CAMBRIDGE SW social: Saturday 22 November, 8.30pm, Village Hall, Trumpington. Music and FREE drinks. Entrance, 30p. All readers and comrades welcome. Further details: Trumpington 3196.

LOUGHBOROUGH SW supporters social. Friday 21 November, Corporation Hotel, Wharnclyffe Road. Bar till midnight. Good music. Food. All welcome. Tickets 40p.

WOMENS VOICE SOCIAL: Saturday 29 November, 8pm, Maypole Hotel, Ford Lane, Manchester 6. Organised by Central Manchester District.

NORTH LONDON DISTRICT SW Jumble Sale: Saturday 22 November 3pm at Stroud Green School, Ennis Road, N4. (Near Finsbury Park Tube). If you have any jumble or bric-a-brac, please phone 802 6145 to arrange collection.

EAST LONDON SW Grand Christmas Social: Friday 12 December, 8pm, Docklands Settlement Club, 250 Grove Crescent Road (near Stratford Tube). Late bar, raffle, good music, Christmas shocks and surprises. hurry, hurry—ring for your tickets now (590-5846) 50p.

EAST MIDLANDS SW Social: Jake Thackray and Cudgel, Grandstand Hotel, Nottingham Road, Derby, Thursday 27 November 8pm-midnight/8pm-midnight. Tickets in advance from 41 Matlock Road, Derby, or 75p at door. All readers welcome.

WOMENS VOICE RALLY: People wanting accommodation in Manchester should phone Penny (061-434 7255). Limited number of beds available.

NOISS

NOISS National meeting: 22 November, Leeds University Union, 10.30am sharp. With the growth of the right wing in many colleges, and the threat of secret ballot elections in NUS, this meeting is going to be important for deciding how we fight back. Every IS Soc should send one delegate, and all NOISS NC members should attend. For accommodation, phone Steve Cass, Leeds SU, 0532 39071.

WILL ALL STUDENT COMRADES and sympathisers whose homes are in the Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester, Stroud or Gravesend areas ring Medway 575080 or 575080 or Gravesend 57095 on their return from college.

IS STUDENT COMRADE wants accommodation in North London. Ring Terry 609 1260, 21 Bryantwood Road, N7.

IS notices

SW AFRICA GROUP weekend school: 22-23 November, Sheffield University Students Union (council room). Starts 1pm Saturday. Registration £1, which includes a film on the liberation struggle in Namibia and social on Saturday night. Accommodation provided, but bring sleeping bag if you have one. Minibus from London—contact Peter Alexander (phone 01-580 0916) for a seat. Sessions: Southern Africa and the essential role of the Southern African working class. Discussion groups on different areas—probably including Nigeria, Ethiopia, East Africa, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Solidarity work—how to use the SW Africa Group bulletin, work in the anti-apartheid and solidarity committees. Minibus leaves University Lond. Union WC1, Malet Street, 9.30am.

CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE, a short pamphlet produced by SW Africa Group, 5p (plus 6/10 postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Other bookshops should contact to get copies.

REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR IS training and literature organisers: YORKSHIRE and NORTH EAST: Sunday 23 November, 2.30pm, Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Chapeltown, Leeds 12. SCOTLAND: Sunday 30 November, 2.30pm, IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1. One representative from each branch and district committee. Pooled fare system to aid

MIDLANDS IS training and literature organisers please note: The regional meeting on IS pamphlets and books, due to be held at IS Books, Birmingham on Saturday 22 November, has had to be postponed because of pressure of other political commitments.

EETPU fraction members and supporters meeting: 7pm, Central London after 26 November lobby. Contact national or local secretaries for details.

WEST YORKSHIRE district aggregate: Saturday 22 November, 1pm, Bradford Central Library (room 4), Princes Way, Bradford 1. All comrades to attend or send apologies.

London and Home Counties meeting of IS Irish organisers Sunday 30 November, 2.30pm, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. All districts should send a delegate. Further details 806 7009.

POLLUTOCRATS—hear all about them at IS Science Day School, Saturday 29 November, 11am-5.30pm. The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London. The effects of weapons used in Northern Ireland, scarcity of raw materials, pollution, generic engineering—we need your arguments and you need ours. All shop floor workers, science teachers, technicians particularly welcome.

PAPER-MAKING INDUSTRY: Any members of SW readers in the paper making industry, particularly in SOGAT, who are interested in discussing a common policy please write to Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

FLAME: Second issue of Flame, Socialist Worker's sister paper for black workers, out this week. Articles on unemployment, black defence groups, housing and many others. 5p a copy (plus postage) from Flame, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Bulk orders to the same address or phone 01-802 6245. Don't forget to return the money for the last issue!

AGITPROP BULLETIN: The SW Agitprop Group is preparing a bulletin to draw together some of the experience of using films, theatre, songs, posters, photos, music in carrying forward the struggle for socialism. Write and tell us what's been happening in your branch, district, area. SW Agitprop Group, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

I was a 'soccer hooligan'

By STEVE FOREY



TAKE IT AS RED

by PAUL O'FLINN

DEAR SIR,

May I beg the courtesy of your columns to tell your readers about a far-sighted discussion that took place recently on the Oxfordshire County Council?

This concerned a proposal to introduce artificial protein into school meals as a substitute for natural protein, thus effecting a considerable saving of ratepayers' money.

Of course, we at once had predictable murmurs from left-wing extremists about feeding cardboard to the kids, so this very sensible scheme had to be shelved—further evidence, I fear, of the way vocal minorities these days are all too often able to hold the community up to ransom.

Whines

Last year we didn't have this trouble at all. Then, the County Council was able to implement a 3½ per cent cut in the nutritional value of school meals without too many complaints.

There were whines from the socialist Rentacrowd mob, of course, but I was able to remind them that we'd had this whole row about children's meals before—in 1837, to be precise.

Food for thought

Perhaps one or two of your older readers, and certainly most Tory councillors, will remember the support I helped organise in that year for Mr Bumble, a no-nonsense chap and a first-rate beadle, a sort of Victorian Reg Prentice, who had the guts to stand up and say No when faced with impertinent demands for more gruel from young Oliver Twist.

As I argued at the time, Mr Bumble acted like a true moderate, mindful of the national interest. Besides, more gruel would have made Twist sick, as the working classes aren't used to second helpings.

Small thanks Mr Bumble got for his patriotic stance. In particular, he was viciously pilloried by some radical novelist fellow—Dickson, Dickens or something the boulder's name was, I think—and given no right of reply whatsoever. (The left-wing monopoly of the media is nothing new, you see.)

And so, in 1974 as in 1837, the children had to tighten their belts a little to help the old country back on her feet.

Hungry

It was good to know that once again in hard times for each and every one of us the spirit of Mr Bumble walked the land and we had men and women of affairs prepared to keep us prosperous by making the children go hungry.

But, alas, in 1975 this spirit has died and it seems that the state schools of Oxfordshire will go on doling out food the country can ill afford instead of feeding the children on nourishing scraps of plastic and old socks, suitably processed of course.

I gather the same thing is true in far too many places up and down the land. Is it any wonder therefore that people like myself are seriously considering emigrating?

I said the same thing only the other day to some of these shop steward people and all I got was a slow handclap and some coarse suggestions.

I ask you, what is this country coming to when an employer no longer has the right to automatic respect from his workfolk?

Collapse

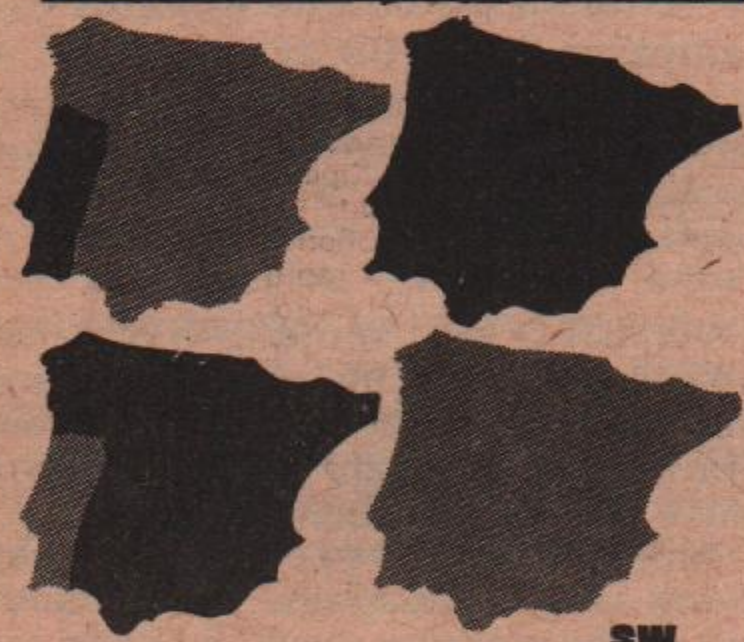
Personally, I put this complete collapse of national morale down to too many free handouts in the past—dentures, orange juice and the like.

So unless the government can come up with £300 million aid for my company, which is no more than that nice Mr Thatcher of Burmah Oil got last year, I'm off abroad where I don't doubt my abilities will be better recompensed.

Yours faithfully,
A PATRIOT

(As dictated to Paul O'Flinn)

Socialist Worker Film Tour SPAIN: DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES



PETERBOROUGH: Sunday 23 November, 8pm, Locomotive pub, New England.

BRADFORD: Monday 24 November, details to be announced.

NEWCASTLE: Tuesday 25 November, 1pm and 8pm, Room 27, University Students Union.

CAMBRIDGE: Wednesday 26 November, 8pm, International Centre, Gwydir Street.

CENTRAL LONDON: Thursday 27 November, 8pm, Kings College Theatre, Aldwych, WC1.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Friday 28 November, 8pm, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE13.

NORTH LONDON: Sunday 30 November, 8pm, Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road, n4.

SOUTHAMPTON: Monday 1 December, EXETER: Tuesday 2 December, BRISTOL: Wednesday 3 December, CARDIFF: Thursday 4 December, BIRMINGHAM: Friday 5 December, details in next week's Socialist Worker.

BANGOR: Sunday 7 December, 7.30pm, University Students Union.

EAST LONDON: Monday 8 December, BRAINTREE: Tuesday 9 December, NOTTINGHAM: Wednesday 10 December, DERBY: Thursday 11 December, DUNDEE: Friday 12 December, glasgow: Saturday 13 December, EDINBURGH: Sunday 14 December, details in next week's Socialist Worker.

Local organisers must send details to Pete Marsden as soon as possible.

ABOUT three years ago, on a nice sunny day, we all set off for Southampton. The occasion? A 'friendly' football match between the Saints and OUR team, QPR.

We hoped there would be some action (we called it 'aggro') and some lads were tooled up.

All the week, we were stuck in dead-end jobs, being pushed about by the boss. But Saturday was our day.

Shouting

The team lost 3-1 (robbed again), but we'd had a good time after a few pints and 90 minutes of singing and shouting.

The high point of the day came at 4.45pm. The Southampton mob had gathered outside while we were busy gathering empty beer cans.

We met and in went Vic, who worked in a hatters near Smithfield market. He was followed by Gary from Nottingham.

Soon the others were running and I took great pleasure in kicking one bloke in the back and rapping my knuckles on another's head.

SOCCKER hooligans at work—a familiar Saturday scene: they come in gangs, all wearing the same strange uniforms and heavy boots: most carry weapons, usually fearsome wooden handles called truncheons, and when violence flares, they're never far away: the Boys in Blue they call themselves: they're not true fans, are they?

On the way home, we daubed slogans all over the train. But we were a bit upset as one of our mates had been arrested.

This sort of thing still goes on most Saturdays. There's the Loft at QPR, the Chelsea Shed, Villa's Holt End and many more. Why do kids do this?

At work they are often treated as in some way second class. Their wages are lower although they do the same work. The union set-up doesn't really cater for them (a shop steward must usually be over 21, etc).

On top of this, they usually get stuck with making the tea, fetching and carrying and so on.

With this background, the comradeship and friendliness of a football crowd was very satisfying. Acting as part of a crowd gave us all something to belong to. It gave us a sense of identity. This was something we wanted after a week of being treated like a part of the machinery, a number on a card but

nothing else!

The football directors know this. They also know that these kids are the backbone of professional football. Without their money the game would be dead.

The directors deliberately encourage the kids to identify with the team to the extent that they will hate other team's supporters. It is this hatred that makes them stick the boot in, or wreck trains and shops.

Blame

But whenever there is any trouble, if the kids even dance on the pitch to celebrate, these bloody hypocrites are the first to complain, and to call them animals.

It is time to put the blame where it belongs. The directors in their search for profit have reduced football to victory by bank account.

Their deliberate attempts to seduce money from the kids are the direct cause of football hooliganism.

The violence stems from the bosses' policy of divide and rule—no matter what business they're in. They divide workers by race, sex, age, culture and religion so as to exploit us further.

We need links between workers to overcome these divisions. The day we get them, we'll be on the way to the biggest victory of all.

A FILM NO SOCIALIST SHOULD MISS

By Michael Fenn, NASD

I RECENTLY saw *Spain: Dreams and Nightmares*, the film which is to be taken on the Socialist Worker film tour next week. It is really worth seeing.

It shows the events leading up to the civil war in the 1930s, when the workers of Spain and socialists in the International Brigades fought to prevent the fascist Franco—backed by troops from Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Italy—taking control.

The film shows the hypocrisy of the American, British and French governments in signing a 'non-

intervention pact' while Dupont poured in bombs, General Motors trucks and Texaco oil.

It also shows the build-up of American involvement in Spain today, which is compared to that in Vietnam in the early 1960s.

There are some omissions. The most glaring is that of the Soviet Union's pact with France that stopped the Republican government of Spain offering freedom to Morocco.

This would have crucially weakened Franco's army, whose crack troops were mainly Moroccan legionaries.

But it would also have weakened France's hold on her North African territories...

The film also fails to mention the Republican government's action against peasants and miners. Both were crushed by troops in 1933—the peasants for occupying landowners' estates.

Yes, this film is well worth seeing. It made me sad, angry and hopeful for the future of Spanish workers.

ON THE BOX

FRIDAY
TRINITY TALES (BBC2, 10.15pm) by Alan Plater are a modern day version of the Canterbury Tales. Music by Alex Glasgow. Could be good.

SATURDAY
Many Russians were forced into German uniform by the Nazis in the last world war, but when they fell into British and US hands they were all treated as traitors and handed over to Russia. In Siberia they died at a rate of 120 a day. The story of this diplomatic secret is told in **ORDERS FROM ABOVE** (BBC2, 8.40pm).
OPEN DOOR (BBC2, 11.20pm) features the Hunt Saboteurs.

SUNDAY
OMNIBUS: THE FRIENDLY INVASION (BBC1, 10.15pm) is on the influence of American music in Britain. This week, from jazz to swing, next week, rock and roll. **TRADE UNION STUDIES** (BBC1, 9.45pm) is on reorganisation at work. **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE** (BBC1, 8.15pm) is a film version of a Tennessee Williams play about the unhappy relationship between a fading Southern belle and an 'ape-like' man. Stars Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh.

TUESDAY
MILESTONES IN WORKING CLASS HISTORY (BBC1, 11.15pm). Part two of how the dockers of 1889 won their tanner and built up union strength. **THE BOOK PROGRAMME** (BBC2, 7.50pm) interviews Peter Benchley, author of *Jaws*.

LETTERS

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

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

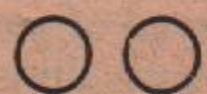
Postal Points

I LOOKED forward to the recent Right to Work meeting at East Ham. We heard some good powerful speeches and the Town Hall was packed. So why did I come away feeling angry and disappointed? Because as a woman worker I wondered where I came into it.

In any place where large numbers of women are employed, the women are the first to go in cuts and redundancies. Let's at least see a woman on the platform next time to make sure every woman's right to work isn't overlooked.—JEAN WRIGHT, London, E9

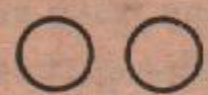


THE ARGUMENTS about workers' participation are summed up in a nutshell by a quote from the September issue of Sheet Metal Industries: 'the long-term test for any scheme of worker participation is whether union officials within the works will see the importance of, and accept the necessity to initiate, redundancies. We must be for workers' control, not participation in exploitation.—J HERBERTSON, Sheffield



WILLIAM TYNDALE school has been singled out by the gutter press to draw attention away from the disastrous effects of the education cuts and the lowering of standards that go with them.

In Liverpool, militant and socialist teachers have been subjected to periodic red smears over the last few years since the emergence of the Rank and File teachers movement. The latest came from the City's Chief Inspector of Schools. At the speech day of a leading Catholic convent school, he said 'Gay libbers and International Socialists should be eaten by bears'—a speech reported in full by the Liverpool Echo under the headline 'Subversive Teachers Must Be Rooted Out and Sacked' (another quote from his speech).—C ERSWELL, Liverpool



DUNCAN HALLAS (1 November) puts forward arguments derived from Trotsky's 1938 pamphlet Their Morals and Ours—a work badly in need of critical re-valuation. Like Trotsky, Hallas finds it easy to 'debunk' the principle of the 'sanctity of human life' without pointing out that a position of fundamental respect for human life remains central to the whole humanistic tradition of Marxist thought.

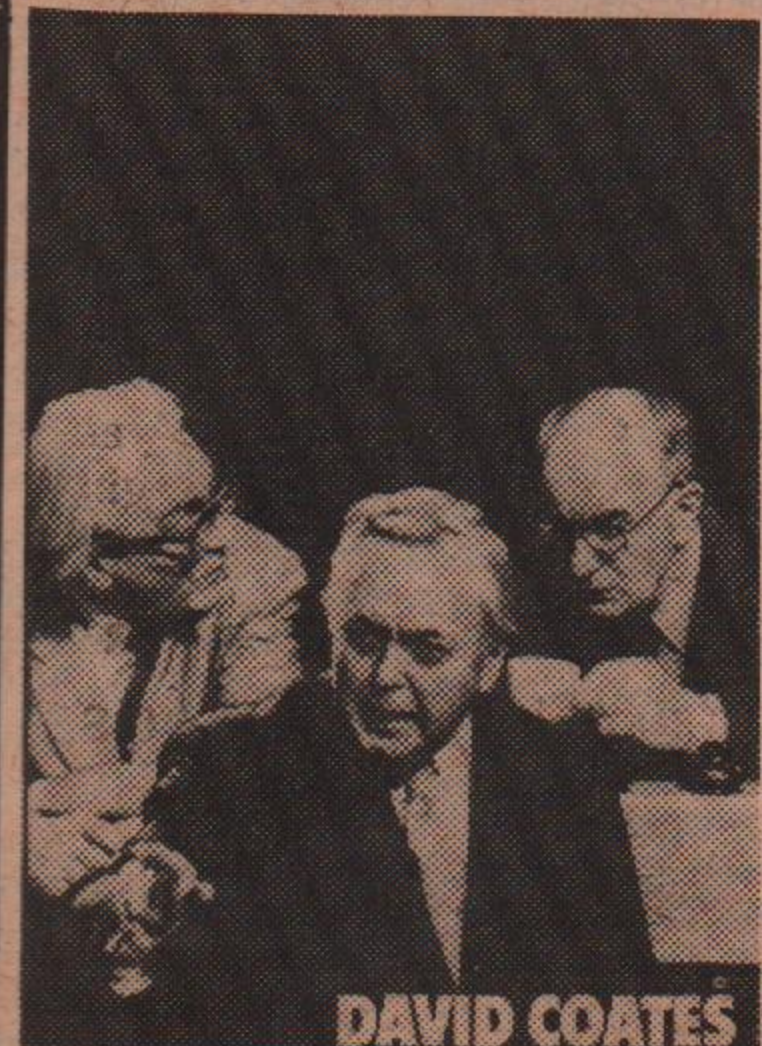
The criteria for judging behaviour which we are offered in Hallas' article are so vague as to be inadequate in real situations; they ignore the wide range of dilemmas which confront all socialists. As Rosa Luxemburg once wrote: 'In bourgeois revolution the shedding of blood, terror and political murder were the indispensable weapons of the ruling classes. The proletarian revolution needs for its purposes not terror, it hates and abominates murder.'—N NORMAN, E London.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Can the Labour Party achieve socialism?—a crucial question for thousands of socialists. David Coates examines the arguments in the light of the party's history and arrives at some compelling conclusions.

Vital reading for all socialists, whether inside or outside the Labour Party.

Available, £2.15 (inc. postage), from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.



Two letters from Portugal

You can help us win

I HAVE JUST read your paper for the first time and find your principles are almost the same as those of my group, the Party of the Revolutionary Proletariat.

I most liked the columns you dedicated to deal with the problems of socialism in Portugal. Things are reaching a climax that will be crucial for the victory of socialism in the next few years.

So far, conditions for a new rising of fascism are being fulfilled by the ambiguous politics of the state machine, the Armed Forces Movement and the reformist and revisionist parties.

The situation is tragic because of two factors: the 400,000 unemployed (including myself) and the 300,000 refugees from Angola.

To understand what this really means, I must say we are the poorest country in all Europe (by capitalist standards) and have only nine million inhabitants.

You are trying to get workers to learn Portuguese. Well, I think I can be a good help. I'm an ex-student and worker, 20, and very internationalist (though my English is not so strong as my will).—CARLOS, Lisbon. (full address available from Socialist Worker)

I BOUGHT Socialist Worker last weekend and was impressed. I work in iron foundry in Trofa north of Oporto, but my company has an office in Bedford, England, where I am now for a couple of weeks.

I do not like what your TV and newspapers are telling about my country. They seem very worried with left and extreme left wing, but they never mention anything about centre and right wing, which we know a big number of fascists have joined, pretending to be democratic.

They are always insisting that a civil war will blow in Portugal in any minute, but what they do not tell is that if we

have a civil war it will only be because of fascist parties.

We need your help, we do not want to be the Chile of Europe, as we know very well that will be worse than in Chile.

The fascists are still the owners of the north of Portugal. Only Oporto is giving a strong resistance. The Catholic Church is commanding people in villages and even suggests which political party they should support. Perhaps you do not know that the Catholic Church was well connected with rich and influential people in the old regime, and still is.

The last election was a big fraud; people were not educated and had only one solution to follow the local priest or their bosses.

I do not believe in the government. They are not left wing anymore. The others were no good also.

I only believe in one thing and I hope that will happen soon, only the workers power, fighting together will save my country from fascism, which is showing its face in every single moment.

I appeal for all workers of this country to help us. Most of the foreign companies that left my country after the coup did so not because of communism, as they say, but because they could not any more get the same profits.

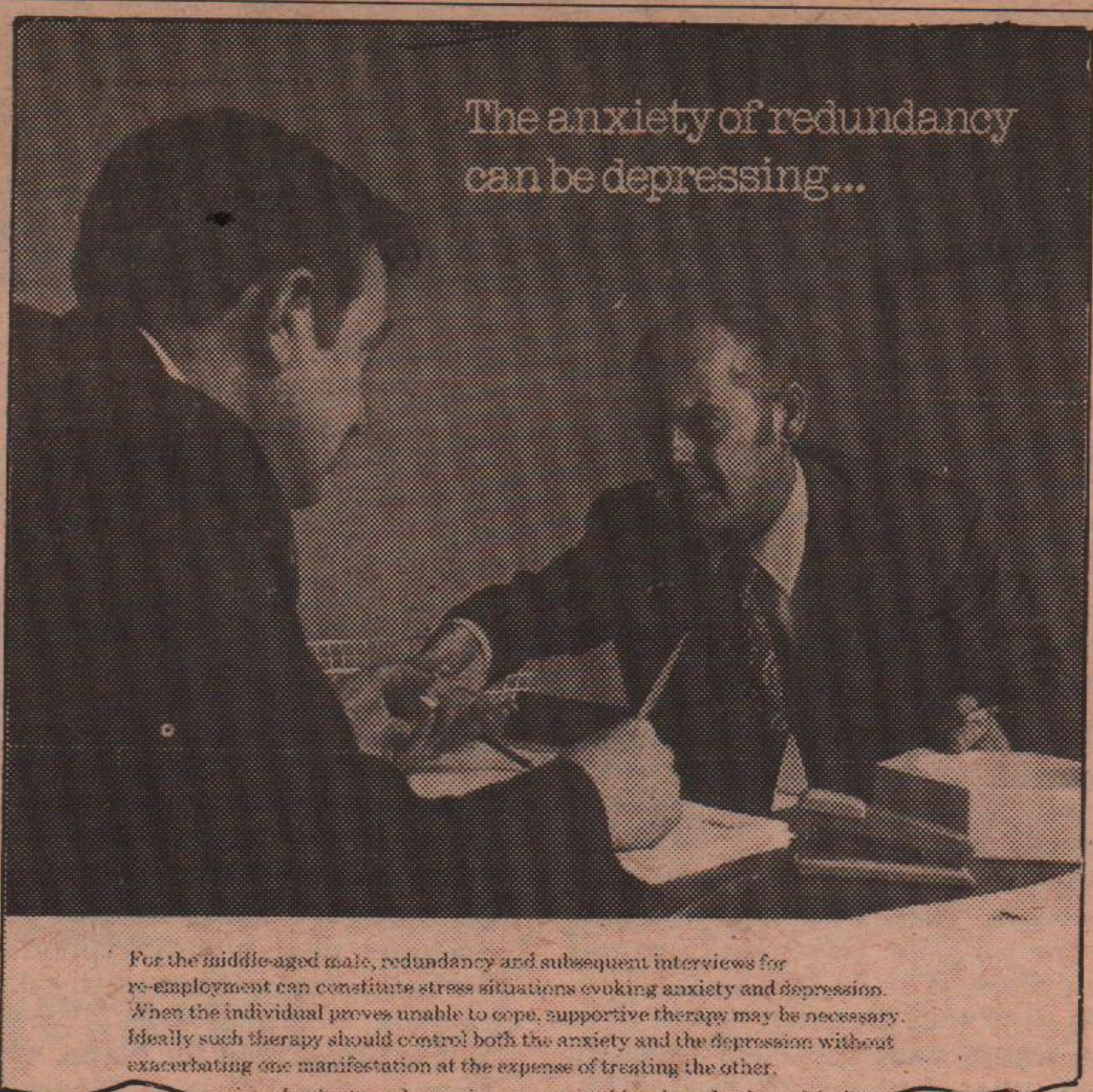
They could not exploit our workers as they did, paying low salaries.

I would like to subscribe your paper but I am concerned about means of payment. Your banks are not interested in escudos, they do not accept any.

Please fight with me against a capitalist and imperialist Portugal.—MARGARIDA COSTA, Porto, Portugal.



WE WERE DISGUSTED by the slogan '£6 Now', which stood out on the Women's Voice Belle Vue Rally poster. Does Women's Voice support the £6 wage limit and thus a cut in workers' standards of living? The slogan should read 'Smash the £6 wage limit'—MAUREEN TOMLINSON, BRIAN WILLMAN, Exeter.



The anxiety of redundancy can be depressing...

For the middle-aged male, redundancy and subsequent interviews for re-employment can constitute stress situations evoking anxiety and depression. When the individual proves unable to cope, supportive therapy may be necessary. Ideally such therapy should control both the anxiety and the depression without exacerbating one manifestation at the expense of treating the other.

ONCE AGAIN, from the disgusting drugs industry, an example of medical 'care'. This advertisement appeared in the British Medical Journal and says: 'When the individual proves unable to cope, supportive therapy may be necessary'. All that's necessary is a bloody job—but, for more than a million people. That's something this crazy system can't supply.—A DOCTOR, N. London.

FLAME: LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT!

TO ADVERTISE Flame as Socialist Worker's sister paper for black workers is misleading, and shows an ignorance of what Flame is about.

It belittles the work done by black workers involved with the paper, many of whom are not in IS, but without whom the paper would not have got off the ground.

The idea came from black IS members, but much of the fund-raising, writing and selling has been done by friends and contacts. At no stage has Socialist Worker been directly involved.

Since our aim is not just to report but to participate in the struggles that affect black workers, we feel that control of the paper by those involved is vital.

We have regular open editorial meetings—the next is on 19 November above London IS Books,

8pm—to decide what issues and themes we should take up, who will write and what action we should take. Taking initiatives in the paper is a step towards taking action outside.

It is also a tool for black IS members within the organisation. SW is still prone to condescend to black workers. For us, racialism and the class war go hand in hand, and we resent it when letters like the one advocating im-

migration controls go unanswered

Since Flame's existence, coverage in SW on black struggles has improved, but there is still a long way to go before black workers can feel that they are really fighting the same fight as white workers.

This is why we need a paper like Flame and why it is not an appendage of SW but a paper of black workers in struggle.—LEE KANE, N London

How many are really out of work?

IN MY SCHOOL, we usually have a sixth-form of about 50 or 60 staying on for A-levels. But this year, school students ready to leave faced the dole queue. So many more stayed on, increasing the number to 100

At the same time the Labour 'Tory' government is slashing millions of pounds off education, so they are not being educated anyway. How could they be with the cuts causing inadequate buildings, books, paper and teachers?

The official unemployment figures are just above the million mark. But with the school students and unemployed women who often do not sign on—just how big is the real figure?—LESLIE LANG, NUSS, Norwich.

JOBS: I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

I READ with interest the articles (25 October) on the struggle against redundancies and closures. You may be interested in the experiences we've had at the Smith's Industries Rugby factory where I am a steward.

The company declared redundancies in May and got away with it, despite warnings from the convenor and one or two militant stewards that they'd fight.

But the 'moderates' on the stewards' committee would not support a fight. In July exactly the same thing happened.

On 16 October, there was yet another dose of putting things right at the workers' expense (ie redundancies). This time our warnings have been listened to, in spite of the right-wingers, and the struggle is on. I only hope it's not too late.—H R ROWBOTHAM, TGWU steward.

We're in for a bashing...

MINING communities are in for a bigger bashing than in the Sixties. You only have to look at present coal stocks piling higher every day.

Polish and American coal is pouring in. It's the old story—pile up the coal, then start the closures.

If you've got any doubts, remember 28 power stations, nearly all coal-fired, are to close in the next two years, and there is mass recession in the steel industry—one of the biggest coal-users.

There is a growing realisation in mining areas that we were conned over the £6 pay limit. Given that vote again, the answer would be NO.

A campaign for the recalling of a national delegate conference, before any settlement, to demand the vote be re-taken would give impetus to a campaign for £100 and the right to work in the mining and auxiliary industries.—BILLY HYDE, South Wales, NUM.



I NOTICED that some of SW's main proposals to beat unemployment are a ban on overtime and a 35-hour week. These are obviously important, but I think there is a problem.

Most workers need overtime to get a living wage nowadays. To demand a cut in the working week, by itself, will not be readily acceptable to most workers. The demand will only become popular if it is tied in with demands to raise the hourly rate, so that fewer hours don't mean less pay. The bosses would obviously whine about their inability to foot the bill—all the more reason for workers to demand control of working hours and, ultimately, production as a whole.—JOHN CRAIG, Stanmore.

Congress that gave no lead...

By Chris Harman

THE CONGRESS of the Communist Party, held last weekend, heard a lot about the crisis of capitalism but very little about workers' response to it.

Many speakers stressed that the key struggle in the months ahead would be unemployment. There were repeated calls for support for the 26 November lobby—but next to nothing about what should be done afterwards.

Nothing

There was no discussion on the tactics of resisting redundancies, or on the relative merits of blacking, work-sharing, strikes and occupations. And, as far as I can recall, the 35-hour week was not mentioned once; nor was a campaign against overtime.

Even nationalisation only got a passing reference—without the demand 'no compensation'. It would seem there is nothing to be done against unemployment after the lobby—except to have more lobbies.

A number of speakers, such as Bernie Steer of the London docks, noted that 'the TUC have accepted a policy of wage cuts and unemployment' or, as Kevin Halpin put it, 'they've accepted the ideology of tightening

belts'.

Even that old hero of the Morning Star, Transport Workers' Union general secretary Jack Jones, came in for a hammering from leading Party members such as Ken Gill, general secretary of TASS, the white-collar section of the engineering union.

Yet no-one drew the conclusion that the only way to resist such betrayals was for the rank and file to be organised, regardless of the attitudes of full-time union officials.

Halpin used to be the leader of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, which initiated a number of important rank and file struggles.

But neither he nor anyone else mentioned the Liaison Committee, although you would think that the need for such an organisation was greater than ever.

Instead of asking why 'left' trade union leaders had so easily swung to the right, or why the right are on the advance in unions such as the engineers', or how the fight back is to take place, the platform and the

delegates wallowed in platitudes:

'The left has emerged as stronger and more powerful since the last CP congress... The left has suffered some serious setbacks but remains, compared with two years ago, a more powerful and coherent force... A left focussed on the perspective of a left Labour government is crucial for advance.'

These meaningless and contradictory words from one executive member summed up the overall confusion and lack of perspective of the congress.

Confusion

The same confusion ran through the resolution on racialism, which noted 'the positive developments and actions within and by trade unions'—as if the leaderships of unions like the TGWU or the Knitwear and Hosiery Workers had not tolerated and, in some cases, even encouraged, discrimination against black workers within their ranks.

But then, if the aim is only to put pressure on union leaders, you do not need to talk about how black workers can fight to break the hold of a racist bureaucrat.

The working class movement desperately needs an organisation within it where

militants can discuss seriously, from a revolutionary standpoint, how to fight the many attacks of employers and government. Such discussion will necessarily involve argument and polemic on many crucial questions.

But it was not forthcoming at last weekend's congress. The only thing approaching a real discussion was on whether the congress should condemn the handling of dissent in the Soviet Union by 'administrative measures' (a polite term for arbitrary arrest, torture, treatment with drugs that make you go mad, incarceration in labour camps, and even murder).

A quarter of the delegates voted that it should not. But the others were no clearer on the question than on any other. They applauded enthusiastically a message from the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party (which orders the arbitrary arrests, torture etc).

The congress was living proof of the need for a different sort of organisation to the CP—an organisation based, like IS, on the fight of workers to take control of their own destinies, not on putting pressure on trade union officials and Labour MPs.

So what are we arguing about?

SOCIALIST WORKER totally agrees with Lawson Imrie when he says that nationalisation doesn't equal socialism (Letters 15 November). In fact it is state capitalism, a massive prop to the rest of the system. That the Tories nationalised Rolls Royce shows how much of a threat it is.

But that granted, we still call for the nationalisation of bankrupt industries without compensation and under workers' control as a practical, immediate measure to save jobs.

Real socialism doesn't mean state control. The essence of socialism is workers' control, society run by and for the vast majority. In thinking about how we achieve socialism we get to Lawson Imrie's second point.

Again SW agrees that in the struggle for socialism violence is inevitable—not because we delight in blood or human suffering, but because we realise that the bastards who grow fat from our labour and who control society won't give up their privileges without a fight.

Roll

They won't roll over and let the working class take power simply because we ask them to, or because we are the majority, because for them democracy is only the icing on the cake—something they will do without when times get bad.

As the crisis of capitalism gets deeper all the old values and choices are going by the board, all they can offer is poverty unemployment and repression.

When you realise the violence involved in propping up the system, directly with the police and army, and indirectly through the ruining of people's lives, the violence which we realise will be necessary assumes a truer proportion.—GARRY BUSHELL, SE London



WE DEMAND trade union rates of pay for our husbands in prison so they may pay their own keep and maintain their wives and families, an end to letter censorship, privacy on visits, an end to the cockroaches, vermin and damp. Prison does not reform anyone because the whole system is wrong.—MAUREEN WRIGHT, Prisoners Wives and Families, 24 Wendon Road, Baguley, Manchester 23.

HAPPY RETIREMENT, George! That was the message from his workmates at Holmgate Primary School to George Goodfellow, the caretaker. He retired after working for Derbyshire County Council for 22½ years on Friday, 7 November.

STEADY

Not so unusual you may think, happens all the time, bloke does his stint then one day he's 65 and he's finished, draws his pension and tends to his onions or whatever. Steady bloke was George, teetotal all his life, couldn't afford to drink on his wage, he said. His wife had to work as well at the local library.

So what? you may ask. There's bloody thousands of workers who cannot afford to drink and their wives

£8m - WHY ROCHE ARE SO HAPPY

'NOW WE are happy,' said Dr Adolf Jann, president of Hoffman La Roche, the international drugs firm.

He was talking about the out-of-court settlement his company reached last week with the Labour government over 'excess profits' made on the tranquilliser drugs, Librium and Valium.

In 1972, the Tory government protested that Roche had made at least £12½ million through overcharging the National Health Service.

The hugely rich directors of Roche hit back. They sued the government (no kid-

ding) for 'a breach of natural justice' in demanding the money back.

Roche have found Labour more friendly even than the Tories. Prices and Consumer Affairs Minister Shirley Williams (slogan in the February 1974 election: 'Prosecute the profiteers') announced last week that Roche need only pay back £3.75 million.

In other words, she is taking £8.25 million from the National Health Service and giving it (tax-free) to one of the richest and most unscrupulous companies in the world.

£8 million would pay the salaries of 4000 nurses for a year. Or it could finance the crucial burns unit at Sheffield which could

save the lives of workers caught in accidents such as at Appleby-Frodingham steelworks this month. The unit has been abandoned because of government cuts.

The Monopolies Commission found the National Health Service was being charged £1962 for a kilo of Valium. A kilo costs £100 to make. That's a 2000 per cent profit.

Now, again with Labour government consent, the price of both drugs is to go up—Valium by 100 per cent and Librium by 50 per cent. This will enormously boost the share price of Hoffman La Roche. At the moment, one share costs £43,000.

By GRAHAM SKINNER

one of the Clay Cross 11



have to work to make ends meet. So what's so special about George Goodfellow? You wouldn't hear him swear either, never lose his temper, lived in a small council flat, raised one son who's now married and left and got a good job as a metalurgist.

Again you may say, nothing really out of the ordinary, families have to make sacrifices to try and give their offspring a better chance than the parents had.

Good trade unionist was George, one of the founder

members of the local branch of the National Union of Public Employees, recruiting members and collecting their subs. He rarely missed a branch meeting. He was always there, the little old man in the corner of the room, smoking his pipe. Never saying much, listening to all the discussions and nodding his head in approval now and again.

PROVIDE

He was also a member of the local Labour Party for donkey's years. And NUPE delegate to the Constituency Labour Party for several years. He was also a local councillor since 1962, I might add.

He was a member of the Clay Cross Council. Yes, he was and still is one of the Clay Cross Eleven. One of the next rebels.

There was no hesitation in George Goodfellow, raising his hand to vote not to implement the rotten Housing Finance Act. To vote to provide free school milk when Thatcher took it from our kids. To vote to increase the wages of the old persons' warden's wages. To provide free TV licences and free bus travel to Old Age Pensioners and the disabled. To pull down hundreds of slums left by the old coal owners and replace them with houses fit for people to live in, and build them at a rate eight times the national average.

Is spending money that way wrong? Or should we squander public funds on official trappings, such as fancy limousines and cupboards full of whisky for consumption by the councillors, their families and friends and the press hacks hoping that some councillor might get stewed enough to give him something to write about?

When councillors like George decided to dispense with municipal corruption, and channel money into social services, what happened?

The District Auditor and the weight of the law courts came down to hammer him to make an example so that others dare not follow the same path.

Apart from being disbarred from being a councillor or school governor, the District Auditor means to get his pound of flesh by dragging the 11 through the bankruptcy courts, ensuring that never again will they be able to hold office as councillors.

George will be bankrupt for the rest of his life. On top of that, he had his second-hand car, his only bit of luxury, seized by the Official Receiver. His flat and its contents were gone through.

PATHETIC

But, worst of all, they intend taking from George the lump sum he will receive on retirement. How the Tory gutter press will howl with delight, claiming it as part of the 'rebel's debt'.

So, after working all your life for a pathetic wage, scraping and scrimping to obtain some of the bits of luxury the working class is allowed, you finish it with nothing—the reward for having and carrying out socialist principles.

But don't get too upset at George's misfortune. His effort and sacrifice should not deter the fight for socialism, but spur the movement on.

Then George and all the people like him will not have fought in vain.

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.

JOIN

Socialist Worker

IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

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

DEFEND THE CLAY CROSS ELEVEN Demonstrate Saturday 6 December, 1pm, Homegate Community Centre, Clay Cross.

LADBROKES: YOU CAN HELP US WIN

By Dave Sherry

DO YOU bet with Ladbrokes? If so, you are helping a rich betting empire to kick 280 workers in the teeth.

Six months ago, Ladbroke's sacked those workers for trying to organise for trade union rights in the betting shops throughout the West of Scotland.

The strikers are still picketing the shops. The tragedy is that the battle is about the basic right of workers to organise, yet the official leadership of the Transport and General Workers Union, the biggest in the country, have left the workers to fight on their own.

Two weeks ago, Ladbroke's refused to reinstate the workers despite the recommendation of an industrial

tribunal which, in a test case, decided that the workers had been unfairly dismissed.

Ladbroke's, along with the other betting giants are determined to keep the trade unions out of their shops. In a period of mass unemployment it is a challenge that no trade unionist can afford to ignore.

The strikers can win, but only with the help of trade unionists across the country. Don't bet with Ladbroke's—tell your friends. Ladbroke's headquarters are in Harrow: the post office engineers and postmen should black all telephones and postal deliveries to it.

NGA members who operate the Express Telegraph which provides the race course commentary service should threaten

to black all commentaries to Ladbroke's betting shops. They were approached as long ago as August to assist in this struggle and until now have refused.

The TGWU should black all supplies to Lingfield Park, the racecourse owned by Ladbrokes, and should call for mass picketing of Ladbroke's betting shops in every major city.

Cash is needed urgently. It should be sent to the Ladbroke's Strike Committee, 214 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

STOP PRESS

TGWU officials, who throughout have done their utmost to turn the battle into a demand for compensation for wrongful dismissal, are now threatening to cut off strike pay.

Avonmouth: No wage cuts here!

BRISTOL: 638 members of the Transport Workers Union are now in their third week of an official strike at Commonwealth Smelting, Avonmouth.

Round-the-clock picketing has frozen stockpiles of zinc across the country.

The strike is over manning levels, redundancies and wage cuts, 100 jobs are at stake. Men have been taken off shifts and put on days with a loss of £16.20 per week.

Manning levels are being reduced, with the result that more overtime will be worked, exposing the men for longer periods to the extreme dangers of lead poisoning.

The 23-man stewards' committee, formed 18 months ago, has welded this works into a solid fighting unit. Eight times they have taken management through procedure and eight times they have won, without having to strike.

This time, though, management refused to go through procedure, because they knew they would lose. Their excuse was that procedure was a 'time-wasting device'. The result was an occupation of the works followed by a strike.

Allow

Alun Beynon, a senior steward, spoke to Socialist Worker on behalf of the stewards' committee:

'The lads are very much aware of what the strike is about,' he said. 'It's a concerted attempt by the employers to arbitrarily enforce wage cuts and redundancies.'

'The strike has been solidly backed by the full time officials and we are determined to stay out till we win. We know that to allow an employer to refuse to refer matters to the Joint Industry Council is to allow them to attack the trade union organisation on the site. They won't get away with it.'

A major breakthrough has been made in dealings with Social Security in this dispute. Because the men are so solid and militant, they were able to threaten Social Security with a rather boisterous occupation of one of their offices if they did not co-operate in the handling of the claims. This resulted in SS management calling in the clerical unions, CPSA and Civil Service Association, as they were unable to cope with the situation.

Fight NHS carve-up!

MOST PEOPLE won't need telling that there is a crisis in the Health Service. But the extent of it—and the massive cuts to come—have yet to sink in.

Hospital management are laying it on the line—services are to be reduced regardless of patients' health. All major capital spending has been chopped. This will mean no new hospitals.

Meanwhile existing services are being cut. Six hospitals have been closed down in London's East End alone. A seventh is under the axe.

In many areas, overtime working has been drastically pruned, without extra staff being employed. This ensures a reduced service to patients.

In some hospitals, workers who leave or retire are not being replaced except, in some cases, by 'voluntary workers. In Leeds, there are 700 of these unpaid helpers.

The prospect is ever-longer waits for ever-fewer beds and for deteriorating service—unless, of course, you can afford to jump the queue.

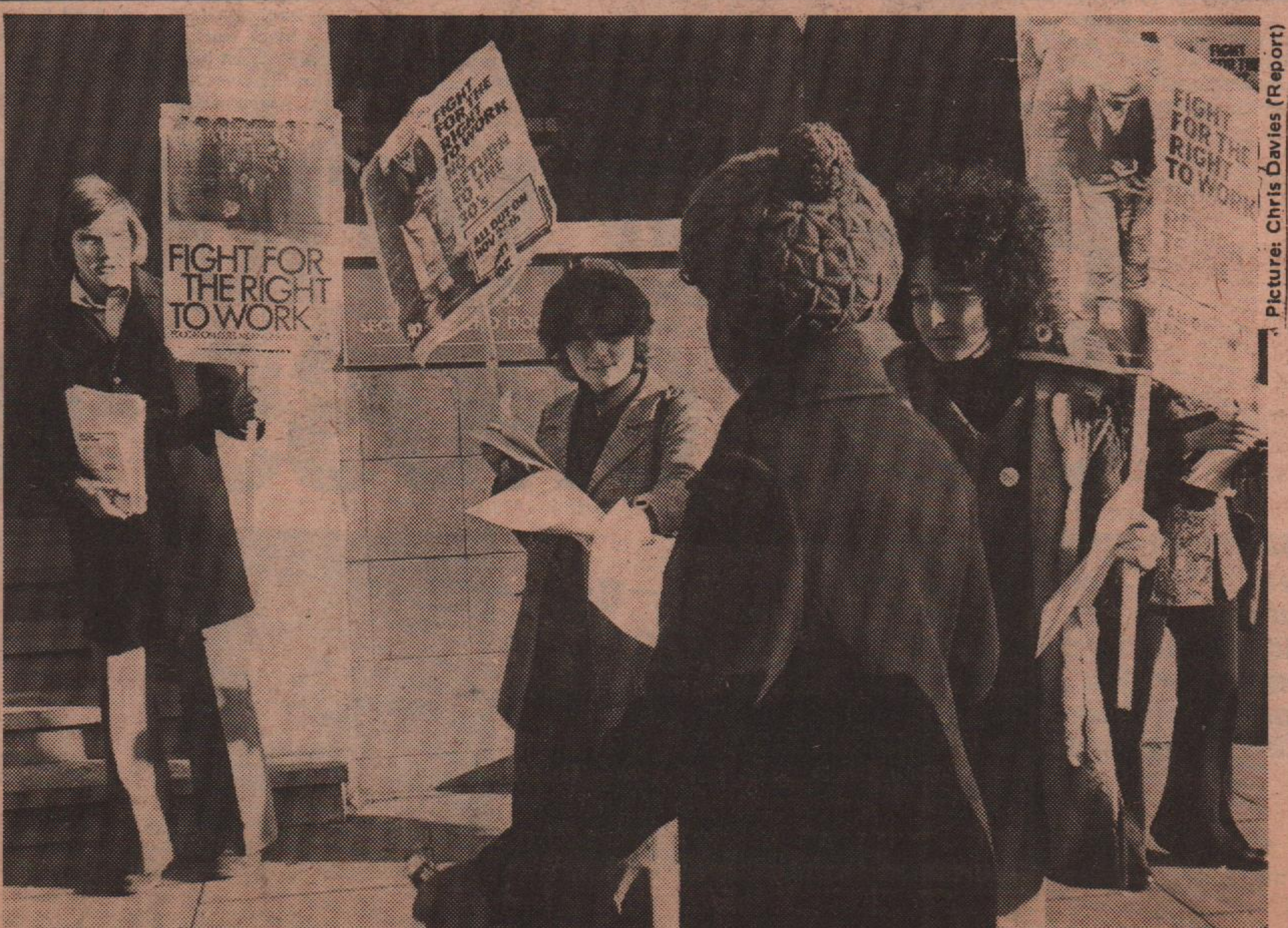
Battle

Rank and file trade unionists in the Health Service realise the problems and are getting ready to fight. The National Steering Committee of Hospital Worker recently decided to produce an emergency national edition packed with information on the cuts and how to fight them.

Hospital workers won't be able to fight this battle alone, because they are weak in industrial power. The whole labour movement will have to join the battle.

But it's no use waiting for a lead from union leaders. Alan Fisher of NUPE has been making his usual militant remarks about defending the NHS, but there are no plans for a fighting campaign at NUPE Head Office.

A meeting for all International Socialists and Socialist Worker supporters has been called for 6 December to work out a genuine campaign. It's at IS Books, Deritend High Street, Birmingham, 11am-5pm. Further details from 01-749 4834.



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

COME IN AND JOIN US! Right to Work pickets appealing for support on Tuesday outside the occupied Harlesden unemployment exchange.

And they got a good response. Thirty unemployed workers and school students soon joined the occupation, which was organised by the North West London Right to Work Committee.

One out-of-work black worker, Leroy Anderson, said: 'It seems a good idea to me—people take notice. We need more people to support this sort of thing, to spread the campaign out more.'

The occupation, the first of any jobs centre in London, follows recent occupations in Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester.

PICKET LINES

Notices and meetings

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post on Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (5p a word) with copy to CLASSIFIED, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Invoices cannot be sent.

SAVE ICC STOP THE CUTS: Rally, Friday 21 November, 6.15pm, Invalid and Crippled Childrens Hospital, Balaam Road, London E15. March to East Ham Town Hall for Newham Community Health Council public meeting to protest against proposed hospital closures. Organised by East London Action Committee Against the Cuts.

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE benefit disco: Friday 21 November, 8pm till late. North London Poly common room, Holloway Road, N7. Bar, food, live music.

LONDON RANK AND FILE TECH TEACHER: Day School on women's rights. Saturday 22 November, 11am-4pm, Central London Poly, Marylebone Road. Maternity leave, abortion (film 'An egg is not a chicken'), part timers, discrimination, nurseries, Social, 8pm, at the Globe, Marylebone Road. admission 60p. with the Stepney Sisters (women's rock band). Creche available if notified in advance. Details 229 6869 or 317 8812.

TROOPS OUT NOW! END CONSPIRACY LAWS! Friday 28 November, public meeting, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Sheffield, Speakers: Pat Arrowsmith (BWNIC 14) Eamonn McCann (Troops Out Movement). Organised by Sheffield Troops Out Group).

DEMONSTRATE: Free Desmond Trotter sentenced to hang in Dominica, West Indies. Saturday 13 December, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, 1pm. March to the Foreign Office, Downing Street.

THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN BY SCIENCE. Joint meeting of Science for People (BSSRS) and Brunel Womens Action Group. Tuesday, 25 November, 7.30pm, Lecture Block, Brunel University, Uxbridge. Members of Women in Science Collective will speak on Women and Science. All welcome.

WANTED: office space with access to telephone, for Angolan Solidarity Committee. Phone (01-734 9541).

COUPLE seek room in shared house in South London, write to Box H, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

THE CRISIS IN AUSTRALIA: Open forum organised by left wing Australians in London. Tuesday 25 November, 8pm. The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, near Warren Street tube.

THE OTHER CINEMAS looking for a programmer/political contexts. Apply in writing only, by 3 December, stating experience and interests to: The Other Cinema, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London, WC2H 7JJ.

RADICAL EDUCATION Benefit: 28 November, 8.30pm, North London Polytechnic, Prince of Wales Road, NW5 (Kentish Town Tube). Bar, disco, theatre groups. 50p at door.

LONDON RANK AND FILE TECH TEACHER: Day school on women's rights, Saturday 22 November, 11am-4pm, Central London Poly, Marylebone Road. Maternity leave, abortion (film: an egg is not a chicken), part-timers, discrimination, nurseries. SOCIAL-rearranged, details from Day School, or by phoning numbers below. Creche available if notified in advance. Details 229 6869 or 317 8812.

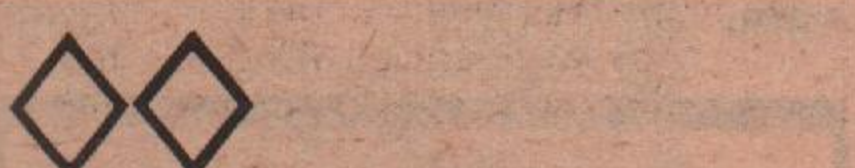
BIRMINGHAM CENTRE FOR THE ARTS: Aston University. Until 6 Dec: Socialist Theatre Season. 27 Nov: Banner with Collier Laddie. 28 Nov: Clarion singers with Truth on the March. 29 Nov: Banner with Womankind.

PICKET OF TURKISH EMBASSY: 43 Belgrave Square, London, W1. Saturday 22 November, 10am-1pm. Protest at the arrest of Iranian and Turkish students demonstrating against the Shah of Iran on his visit to Turkey. Organised by Iranian Students Society.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN: No to the Select Committee. Lobby your MP. House of Commons, 2pm to 6pm, Thursday 20 November.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN: Free abortion on demand—a woman's right to choose. No to the Select Committee. Rally, Trafalgar Square, 2-4pm, Saturday 22 November. Speakers, music, theatre.

The Socialist Theatre Group **RED LADDER** have in the past five years performed for hundreds of trade union branches, conferences, schools and socials. Now THEY need money for their permanent move to the North of England. They are to perform their new play *It Makes Yer Sick*—about Health and the NHS—at a benefit for themselves and will be joined by the women's rock band, Stepney Sisters, Friday 5 December, 7.30pm, St Pancras Assembly Rooms (Kings Cross Tube). Bar from 7pm. Tickets £1.



GLOUCESTER Trades Council have unanimously agreed to support the 26 November Right to Work demonstration and to send a letter of condemnation to Len Murray in protest at his letter 'instructing' Trades Councils not to support the demonstration.

By Ray Storey (GMWU), Secretary, Unemployed Workers Action Committee
S E LONDON: Workers on the Thames Barrier site are now on 12-hour shifts. Unemployed workers, refused starts on the job have picketed it for the last two months. We need the urgent support of organised labour, on the Barrier, on other jobs, and in the branches.

The Barrier should stop on 26 November for the half-day. Unemployed trade unionists and delegations from organised sites will be picketing it that day. We ask for your support at 6.45am to leaflet, and noon for a mass picket.

Copies of resolutions passed or requests for speakers should be sent to: Ray Storey, 76 Foyle Road, London SE3

S E LONDON: 'Greenwich has lost 35,000 industrial jobs since 1950, we're not going to lose any more', Ted Parker, secretary of Greenwich Trades Council, told Socialist Worker at a picket of FBG-Trident's plant on Tuesday.

The picket was organised by the local Right to Work Committee when FBG-Trident, a subsidiary of the American Owen consortium, announced 250 redundancies.

CENTRAL LONDON: 80 men at Lawrence building site, Lower Thames Street, are still out on strike after two weeks, demanding the honouring of a site agreement on bonus. This is the eighth dispute provoked by management this year. The employers have backed off their first position of no negotiation before a return to work. They even tried in the meeting with union officials to buy off sections of the men. This was rejected out of hand.

We are now seeking official recognition of the dispute from UCATT and the T&G and need resolutions from the branches. The site is still shut up tight, with a watch being kept after normal hours to prevent sneak deliveries. In the next few weeks we will

be taking the battle to other Lawrence sites. In the meantime, we need finance.

Donations, details of resolutions and information about other Lawrence jobs to: Bro F Westerman, Strike Treasurer, 27 Buckingham Road, London N1.

BLETCHLEY: 24 workers at P J Mirrors who joined the Engineering Union were told by their boss, Mr P J McEntee 'Under no account am I recognising the AUEW. The union can piss off'. Then he took the members' seats away, so they had to work standing up.

He then sacked nine of the men for going to a union meeting. When they formed picket line outside the gates, his younger brother Vincent McEntee drove his van at the pickets. One man has to wear a back support and attend hospital as a result. The men are not intimidated. 'We're keeping the picket on until we win.'

Messages and donations in support to: P J Mirrors Dispute Fund, c/o Mr P Brown, 62 Mallets Close, Stony, Stratford.

'MANAGEMENT are trampling on us'. That's how one driver explained the strike by 400 National Carriers (NCL) rail express parcel drivers at five main London stations (Paddington, King's Cross, Euston, Liverpool Street, and Waterloo).

NCL agreed over 18 months ago to discuss bonuses. Now they refuse to do

By Rob Silverstone, NUPE steward, Royal Portsmouth Hospital

THE KITCHEN porter at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital left work last week and walked down the road carrying a bag. Not a strange thing to do, you might think, but the catering officer thought otherwise.

He took it into his head that the bag contained stolen goods, and called the police. They arrested and bundled him off

that even after the end of the freeze and insist on implementing 'new work schedules'. They still owe the drivers £200 each in London Weighting back pay.

But the strike has been solid for more than a week now. The drivers are trying to pull out NCL goods drivers from other depots. British Rail management, acting as NCL's policemen, are pressurising their own parcels staff to handle the accumulated backlog of Christmas presents and perishables.

CLERICAL staff at British Airways Cargo Centre have been the first London Airport workers hit by the BEA-BOAC merger. Management forced through the first stage, a combined Imports section. The Combined Imports clerical staff accepted the terms negotiated for the merger by the APEX and ACTSS officials and representatives, including new duty rosters.

The staff who refused to work these new duty rosters were sacked. They have now been reinstated, but at a cost. Less money, longer and more unsociable hours and more weekend work. As one APEX member said, 'We've been sold down the river by our full-timers.'

Management next want to integrate the Engineering Divisions. Hopefully they will have learnt the lessons of the Cargo Centre and will not be split by divisional rivalry, management lies and a failure to mobilise the rank and file at all stages of negotiation.

ONE LAW FOR US, ANOTHER FOR THEM

into a police van. We immediately came out on strike until the porter was returned to the hospital. The police have now, for the time being at least, decided to bring no charges.

The catering officer tried to persuade us to call off the strike. He did not stay long, but before scuttling away, we had this exchange:

Us: 'If you walked down the road carrying a bag, we wouldn't send to have you arrested.'

Him: No, but even if you did, do you really

think the police would arrest me?'

As one of the cooks said, 'This was a case of class discrimination. If you're one of a militant bunch of ancillary workers, you may be arrested without any concrete evidence. If you're management, they'd never arrest you on such flimsy grounds.'

And the higher up society you go, the more people are protected from the 'forces of the law', until at the top, they can make vast fortunes out of legalised stealing.

Arrested — an entire family

HACKNEY: A black family charged with assaulting four detectives in their own home were last week remanded on £25 bail until 16 December.

Rex and Vera Tappin, and their two sons aged 18 and 16, were alleged to have assaulted Det William Geville, causing him actual bodily harm, and assaulting three other policemen.

A full account of this affair, which promises to be a symbol for the black community in North London, will appear in future issues of *Socialist Worker*.

SCUNTHORPE: BSC KNEW THE RISKS

'SAFETY CONSCIOUS' British Steel Corporation are replacing pipes and plugs on the water cooling system at the Victoria furnace, Scunthorpe—three weeks after ten men were killed and three seriously injured in an explosion there.

Black iron plugs and pipes in the copper tuyeres (part of the cooling system) are now being replaced by brass and stainless steel. The iron should never have been used—it corrodes when placed next to copper with water, a basic chemical reaction known to anyone taking O-level science. British Steel knew the danger, but iron is cheaper than

brass or stainless steel.

Meanwhile, the three other furnaces—Annie, Bessie, and Lizzie—are still working. As a pipefitter at Appleby-Frodingham told *Socialist Worker*: 'The other furnaces are just the same. One of them could go up now while I'm talking to you. BSC should start saving lives before they start saving money.'

The people of Scunthorpe have not been told of the cause of the explosion. The inquiry by the Health and Safety Commission could have been in public, but is not.

Black hole they call Sunlight ...

By Sam Strudwick, TGWU packer

BRIXTON: Sunlight Laundry is a sweat shop. There are about 200 workers on the shop floor. Most are women and black.

Everyone is paid different wages. The women do not get equal pay. The average rate for women works out at £17 take home pay for 40 hours. For that, we work extremely hard. Some spend all day sorting out dirty laundry. Others stand all day over a steaming presser.

Life on the assembly line consists of batches of washing one after the other without a break. So you work constantly with little time to stop. You only rest for tea breaks, ten minutes in the morning and afternoon and half an hour for lunch. If you talk to the person next to you, you get in trouble. As one woman said: 'It's like being in bloody prison'.

Management are so concerned about the bloody time, they tried sticking up a big clock on the wall which promptly fell down and hit a woman's hand, while she was working underneath!

With nowhere to sit and nowhere to talk, it's impossible to organise. And the work is so diabolical that no one stays long enough to get organised!

Week's notice

After six months of trying to organise a union I was given a week's notice. One of the drivers who was helping me organise was instantly dismissed, and paid off to keep his mouth shut. After that they sacked another six drivers.

The drivers are just as isolated as the people inside the factory. They all work different hours and hardly know each other's names. Management are cutting down on their drivers and doubling their rounds. Some have now decided it's about time they did something to change it.

Even when they do organise, the drivers know that they will need the support from the women and from other workers at the hospitals and schools which send the bulk of the laundry to Sunlight. If this was blacked, it would hit management where it really hurts.

OSSETT: YOU CAN LEARN FROM OUR DEFEAT

By Colin Moore,
AUEW Convenor, Jonas Woodhead
Springs

OSSETT: 150 jobs have been chopped at Woodheads. With luck, our defeat will be a lesson for others.

In 1972 we occupied the factory for six weeks—and won a £7.50 increase. Last December, management locked us out for six weeks so as to introduce work study.

They failed miserably to beat us at Ossett but they did manage to break the combine committee, set up during the 1972 occupation.

Last June, we were put on short time. In retaliation, the lads put production on a two day week. Management soon put the lads back on a five day week and fed the stewards false information about work schedules, saying the situation was 'very much improved.'

They could not foresee any short time working in the near future. They failed to tell us that there was no future.

At the beginning of October, we got wind that something was afoot—and so we immediately occupied the factory and the offices, pinning the local director and plant manager in their office.

Then we made our first mistake. Through our Divisional Organiser, we agreed to give the plant back to the management pending a meeting called for 6 October.

DRAWN

When that meeting took place, we allowed ourselves to be drawn into joint discussions with management on 'ways of keeping the factory open'—the suggestion of the ASTMS organiser.

During those talks we made a joint approach to the Department of Trade, which later stated it would not be 'against the national interest' if Jonas Woodhead Springs were to close down. It went on to suggest that talks should take place around a quiet closure.

When this became known, resistance to closure took a bad knock. It became more difficult to argue for a fight against being thrown on the dole. And so, in the last week, we have in effect been negotiating a price for the sack. That price has now been agreed and tragically accepted by a mass meeting.

The lessons are clear. The first whiff of closure should be met with an immediate occupation. Once the occupation is on, keep it in the hands of the rank and file. Do not get involved with full time officials and talks with government departments, except to discuss official backing.

Don't allow the pace of the action to be dictated by the bosses. Take the initiative and keep it. Even if you don't keep the place open, it's a hell of a sight easier to talk about a price if you are sitting on the bank vault door.

In our case, we haven't lost. They couldn't beat us, so the cringing bastards have taken their bat and ball home. Well, it won't always be that way. We'll win the war.

The sooner we've built a revolutionary party, the sooner we'll get the bat back. Then we'll be in a position to wrap it round the heads of the bleeding bosses.

Next job? Organise the unemployed.

South Wales: Women's strikes spread

WOMEN textile workers are out on strike all over South Wales: at Kayser Bondor, the Northgate group, and the Louis Edwards factories.

Pay is extremely low throughout the industry and the women are all fighting claims for the £6.

The Northgate group has eight factories. At Hafod and Llanelli, all the women are out, with 24-hour pickets and blacking well

organised. They make products for Marks and Spencer.

Louis Edwards has two factories. At Maesteg, the women came out for the £6 and then the Neath factory came out in support. Rita Griffiths, branch secretary of the Tailor and Garment Workers in Maesteg, told *Socialist Worker*: 'Nothing will be moved out of the factories even though we've been threatened with closure.'

MILITANT WINS JOB BACK

JOSE CABA, the Transport Workers Union branch secretary victimised at Manor House hospital last week has been reinstated. Management were forced to back down after almost all the hospital staff threatened to strike. Jose told *Socialist Worker*: 'It shows that when workers stick together, the bosses get scared.'



COVENTRY GEC workers have come out for the Right to Work. A stoppage and demo last Wednesday from all the firm's plants in the city ended with a mass meeting in the precinct.

GEC want 1200 redundancies in Coventry, including one closure, Carl Carter, ACTSS Deputy Convenor, told *SW*: 'GEC's profits are rising all the time. Last year they made £150 million, and yet they are under no obligation to us.'

Profits

'One manager summed up their attitude when he said, 'In no way will we carry anyone. We are in the business for profits only.' That's what we have to fight. Those profits have to be used to guarantee our jobs.'

But if the workers' spirit is one of resistance, the leadership's is different. They

GEC workers demand the Right to Work

By Murray Armstrong

proposed to the mass meeting that government finance should underwrite jobs, and that there should be voluntary redundancy and work-sharing.

There were 7000 workers at the beginning of the meeting. When the MPs and officials on the platform had ended their vague talk of 'solidarity', and 'the need for investment', the meeting had dwindled to around 2000.

The one shaft of light from the platform came from George Hope, TASS Divisional Organiser, who said: 'I don't agree the answer to this problem lies in parliament, the answer lies in the workers at GEC.' He argued for nationalisation, no compensation and no sackings, and finished by saying, 'Our concern should be the right to work, the right to work at GEC.'

Hughie Hay, TGWU night convenor at the Stoke plant, disagreed with the platform proposals. He explained to *Socialist Worker*: 'The idea that we are suffering because of the Post Office cuts is rubbish—that's not the main problem. The company is carrying out a massive rationalisation.'

Using

'Even if the Post Office contracts were put back, the company say they would still be looking for redundancies. Weinstock (GEC boss) is just using the whole situation to rationalise production.'

'We've been pushed into a corner and to get out we need to put up a strong fight. Even voluntary redundancy is a danger to all of us. One thing is certain—we won't get any help from the MPs. Listen to them—they're saying nothing about the fight for jobs—they're only using this meeting as a platform.'

'To save our jobs we have to fight the company. We have to fight for the right to work.'

PICKET LINES

NEARLY 500 lecturers at Manchester Polytechnic had a half day stoppage against forced redeployment. 200 lecturers lobbied a meeting of the City Council, together with lecturers from other colleges and the Students Union within the Poly. 200 jobs could be lost in the next five years through mergers in Frutcher and Higher Education.

Mick Tew, TASS, Edgwick site, Coventry, writes: 'Sack 1500 workers or the government will withhold its aid'. That was the message from Lord Ryder to a delegation from Alfred Herberts on 10 November.

Only the Red Lane Site, which is threatened with closure, and the AUEW-TASS staff at Edgwick, have put up any fight. However, Red Lane have been persuaded to lift their ban on any machines leaving the site by Frank Chater, retiring AUEW Divisional Organiser. The TASS action is being held back by the Office Committee following the talks with Ryder.

Tom Doughty, AUEW convenor at Edgwick, is putting forward a 'no action' campaign. His strategy now is to try and delay the redundancies till the last minute in an effort to outbluff the government.'

COUNTER INFORMATION SERVICES Anti-reports on Where is Lucas Going (45p), Courtaulds Inside Out (30p), Unilever's World (£1), Business as Usual—International Banking in South Africa (30p), The Oil Fix—Control and Costs of Energy (60p). Coming soon: a new report on the cuts. Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 add 10p each for post. Bulk orders to ACIS, 52 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

RIGHT WING WING TAKES OVER AUEW EXECUTIVE

THE right wing has taken over the executive of Britain's second biggest union, the Engineering Union (AUEW).

This is a serious setback for all trade unionists. It means an end to the policies which, however half-heartedly, brought resistance to the Industrial Relations Act and to Labour's wage cut policies.

The key question for every militant in the union is how to turn the right-wing tide. Already some people are drawing the conclusion that the left lost support by being too militant.

Not so. The majority on the old AUEW executive rarely turned their left-wing speeches into actions. So they could not counter the red-baiting of the press and the right wing with concrete achievements in wages and conditions.

Bob Wright, who was beaten in the Midland and North West region, ordered his members at Chrysler

Stoke, Coventry, to break official electricians' picket lines in 1973. A year earlier, the left majority on the executive left 30,000 Manchester engineers out in the cold during the struggle for the national claim. It is not surprising that there was no great enthusiasm to vote for Bob Wright.

VOTES

In the weeks before the ballot the left played into the hands of the right wing. Instead of arguing to the rank and file that the system of voting at branches after discussion about the candidates was more democratic than postal balloting, the left engaged in a series of manoeuvres which ended in high court judgments for the right. They allowed their reorganisation of the Banbury branches to appear as another such manoeuvre. Each of these efforts gave publicity to the right and lost the left thousands of votes.

Even the name of one of the best-known trade unionists in Scotland, Jimmy Reid, could not overcome the resulting distrust. He lost with 12,000

votes to 24,800.

The left in the AUEW can only recover from these defeats if it bases itself on a fighting policy that defends jobs and wages in deeds as well as words. This is the sort of policy that the Engineers Charter tries to work for.

Willie Lee, the Charter candidate in the election for national organiser, got 10,000 votes. This was only about a third of the votes won by the Broad Left candidate, but the Charter was running for the first time. It shows the Charter has a solid base of support from which to build for a fight against the right wing—a fight in which the Broad Left has proved incapable.

The Engineers Charter conference in London on Saturday 6 December will be a vital step towards a rank and file movement that unites rank and file engineers on clear and agreed policies.

FIRST NATIONAL ENGINEERS CHARTER CONFERENCE

Saturday 6 December, 1pm-5pm, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1 (nearest tube Holborn)
UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE RIGHT TO WORK, THE AUEW 1976 WAGE CLAIM
Agenda and credentials from Engineers Charter, 46 Prince George Road, London N16

Socialist Worker typesetting fund

'PLEASE accept this £1 from an old bloke in Chessington. I used to give him a copy of Socialist Worker because I thought he was out of work. Then one day he came up to me and gave me £1 for the fund. It made my night.'

This letter, signed M Edwards, made our night too.

There's a lot like that this week, with £20 from a reader in Romsey who thanks us 'for your fine work in advertising the socialist cause and providing an alternative to the capitalist media'.

But the total of £271.90 didn't quite make the £6000 for the typesetting fund. We're still just £78 short. We should get that and more next week. Here's the long list of contributors. If your name's not on it, you can make sure it is next week—with a donation.

Our thanks to: Sunderland IS £2, SW readers, Electrical Dept, Scott's Carlsburn Shipyard, Greenock £6.50, Glasgow ETU members' collection £2, Bristol IS £1, Plymouth SW supporters 50p, SW readers, Newport £10, Dudley IS £4.60, SW reader, Cannon Industries 40p, SW reader, Castle Donington £1.60, SW reader, Winchester £20, Anon, Glasgow £10, York IS £5.80, Cornwall reader £5, North London social £115, Hastings reader £1, Anon £2, High Wycombe £4.50, two Newcastle-under-Lyme readers £10, West Manchester SW supporter £5, Aberystwyth SW supporter £1, Collection, Aberystwyth IS Society £3, NUPE student nurse, York £7, North London member £20, Bristol SW reader £5, Bradford District £30.

Donations to SW Typesetting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



Supporters of the liberation government in Angola moving south to oppose the South African - led troops last week.

South African troops march against MPLA in Angola

THE newly-independent African state of Angola is threatened with a South African-led takeover. That is the reality from which the press distracts attention with reports of 'Russians' in the capital, Luanda.

Over the past fortnight, a column of troops, led by French-made armoured cars and with many British-made arms, have been advancing North into Angola from the border with South African-run Namibia.

Much of the press has given the impression that this column, which threatens Luanda, is made up of members of the 'rival African liberation movements'. Even left-wing—inclined commentators such as Keith Waterhouse of the Daily Mirror have implied that the civil war proves that black people cannot govern themselves.

But as the Sunday Times reported last week, the column is led by white South African troops. In Benguela, 'we saw over 50 uniformed South African troops stacking arms', reported the Sunday Times.

It is true that two black Angolan organisations, UNITA and the FNLA, support the column. But they have long proved their willingness to act as front men for Western powers.

Angola is immensely rich. The US, Britain, France and Portuguese right wing are united in the determination to keep

their hands on that wealth. In a secret report five years ago Henry Kissinger wrote that 'the biggest US interest in Southern Africa is Angola'.

The Portuguese government saw that the MPLA was the only authentic local movement, and was going to hand over power to it. But President Costa Gomes told a group of white Angolans that this had been 'vetoed' by the US.

The British Labour government is not neutral in this war either. By refusing to recognise the MPLA liberation government in Luanda, it is giving tacit support to the South African troops.

Mao

Even worse is the behaviour of the Chinese government, which for a long time claimed to be the leader of the struggle of 'the people of the Third World. Now China is giving arms and technical training to the troops that are threatening the liberation government. On Monday Mao Tse-Tung himself sent a message approving of President Amin of Uganda's opposition to the MPLA.

Trade unionists, socialists and black people in Britain must ignore this smokescreen. We must support with every means at our disposal the fight of the MPLA against white racists, the US government and their puppets.

Portuguese government powerless

from Robin Ellis in Lisbon

WORKERS came from all over Portugal for the huge demonstration here on Sunday against the Sixth Provisional Government. It is impossible to convey the sense of power and confidence expressed by this workers and peasants demonstration.

The streets were ablaze with red flags and banners. For one and a half hours the whole of Lisbon's massive main street, the Avenida de Liberdade, was full from end to end with people as the demonstration filed past, accompanied by hundreds of lorries, trucks and cement mixers full of people.

Peasants from the Alentejo marched side by side with shipyard workers from Lisnave. The demonstration showed beyond any doubt the immense power of a united working class. But it was being led up the blind alley of parliamentary politics. The Communist Party used its influence to manipulate it just to seek a new government with greater Communist Party participation.

Not that the demonstrators did not want to go further. It was obvious that they did. At the end of the demonstration, when the platform started to sing the Portuguese national anthem, it was greeted with groans and the International.

The previous Sunday the Socialist Party and the Popular Democrats had called a national demonstration in Lisbon, but mustered a mere twenty to thirty thousand enraged and hysterical middle-class supporters.

Win

On Wednesday the right-wing military force, AMI, was in tatters after the rank and file of one of its main sections, the paratroopers, forced 124 right-wing officers to leave the Tancos airbase.

At the end of the week the government itself barricaded inside the parliament building by tens of thousands of building workers, on a strike originally initiated by the revolutionary left, for a minimum wage of about £25 a week.

The remaining commando units loyal to

AMI refused to break the siege, and the government finally caved in after threat of an all-out sympathy strike from the country's biggest union federation, the Metalworkers.

There was a clear contrast between the militancy of the workers and the actions of the Communist Party—influenced union leadership. When they tried to get to workers to listen to a speech from the prime minister they were greeted with cries of 'go to shit'.

The government is virtually powerless in the Lisbon area. It faces two options. One is to flee to the North and build up its forces there for an attack on Lisbon. That is the option of civil war, in conditions which are not too favourable to the right.

The other is to accept more Communist Party members into the government, using them to buy time while preparations are made for an attack on the workers under more favourable circumstances. Approaches made to the left party MES suggest that the precondition for such a government would be joint agreement on repression against the revolutionary left.

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