

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## women's voice rally

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

The Women's Voice rally is this Saturday in Manchester.

We have organised it to bring together all those women, from all over the country, who are organising and fighting.

Women like Elsa Warren, whose husband Des Warren is still in prison, Marlene Tomlinson, who with her husband Ricky is still campaigning for Des' release, Pat Anderson from the Laporte factory action committee, the chemical factory whose walls back on to a children's school playground.

We're hoping to welcome delegations from the Kayser Bondor strike in South Wales, and from Personna and Ladbroke's in Glasgow, Chris Gunter from the Rank and File Organising Committee, and a shop steward from Courtaulds in Portugal.

We want the rally to show us how we can draw women workers into the campaign for jobs.

We want to come away with the strength to stop the government's plans to change the abortion laws.

We want to know how to organise in the unions to make them fight for their women members.

See you at Bellvue, Manchester, 11am, Saturday 29 November.

If you still don't have a ticket for the rally ask your Socialist Worker seller NOW

# 1,168,891

## - and going up!

I ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to regard what was said by my Hon friend from Wales on the intensification of unemployment figures as showing a situation of the utmost seriousness, as serious as roaring inflation. In Wales every day we have a new closedown, new redundancies, fresh fears of more of the same thing to come. I do not know whether the government has any conception of the shiver that is now going through Scotland, Wales and all the regions as a result of the policies which the government is now pursuing.

THAT was how Michael Foot attacked the Tory government in the House of Commons on 18 February 1971. Unemployment figures had just reached 683,000.

This week unemployment figures were released by the Minister of Unemployment, Michael Foot. They showed

1,168,891 on the dole—nearly double the 'situation of extreme seriousness' that so upset Michael Foot in 1971.

The other Labour ministers compete with him in hypocrisy.

Shirley Williams, who promised to 'prosecute the profiteers', announces that the few pitiable price controls are to

be relaxed.

Tony Crosland, who promised more houses, says this week: 'We can't afford to build any more' and slashes local government spending into the bargain.

Denis Healey, who promised he would 'squeeze the rich until the pips squeak' has postponed his diluted wealth tax.

Barbara Castle, who promised an 'expanded Health Service' goes on the telly almost every day to announce more hospital closures and sackings of hospital workers.

### Red flame

At the Labour Party Conference, Michael Foot sold his government's rotten policies with an appeal to light 'the red flame of socialist courage'. But what keeps his government going is the pale pink flicker of careerist hypocrisy.

We will get nothing from them except more wretchedness.

Their policies have to be fought on every front by the workers' rank and file. The great demonstration against unemployment this Wednesday and the occupation of Congress House by the Rank and File Organising Committee the day before have shown us the way.

### INSIDE

STOP THE CUTS—page 7.  
ORGANISE FOR TRADE UNION DEMOCRACY—page 2.  
BUILD A SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN WITH ANGOLA—centre pages.



## TO DIE IN MADRID

— the Chrysler way

THE streets of Madrid were thronged with mourners last week. But not with people grieving for Fuhrer Franco, as television news in Britain insisted time and again.

This was a workers' funeral, Chrysler workers to be precise. With their families and friends, with their comrades from many other factories, they turned out 15,000-strong for the funeral of three of their brothers killed two weeks ago by an explosion at

Chrysler's Madrid plant.

For these men and women the funeral was a chance to demonstrate their strength as well as their grief.

The British Labour government sent no crawling Lord Shepherd from the House of Lords to attend this ceremony. His Royal Lowness, the Duke of Edinburgh, also kept away.

This funeral was organised by the banned workers' commissions in Madrid. United Press International

took this photograph of the procession. They circulated prints to every British newspaper. Not one used the photograph.

The explanation is simple. It stemmed from the deep sadness and grief felt by that group of ageing reactionaries, the men who control our newspapers, for their dear departed friend, Generalissimo Francisco Franco, whose pictures left no space in their pages for the workers



# BARONS, BALLOTS AND BUREAUCRATS

by an EETPU member

BALLOT papers are out for six out of 14 executive council positions in the Electricians and Plumbers Union (EETPU). In a seventh election left-winger Bill Gannon, sitting councillor, was returned unopposed. His right-wing opponent, Mott, did not get the three plumbers' lodge nominations required to run.

The right-wing majority on the executive council seems to be worried. General secretary Frank Chapple was on television's Nationwide recently with striking electricians from the IRO site in Bootle and a representative of their employer, McAlpines. Workers and employer were ready to end their dispute but McAlpines required union blessing for their agreement.

Chapple refused to have anything to do with the issue, saying the strikers, his members, couldn't be trusted.

## NOTHING

However since then a fellow right-winger, Breakell, has moved in to try to settle the dispute. He is the local executive councillor up for re-election. He did nothing to represent strikers during their previous 3 1/2-year dispute.

In the current edition of the union paper, Contact, Chapple devotes nearly half of his piece to an attack on Russia. He does not compare his comments on the lack of democracy in Russia with the state of our union—executive council elections postponed, officials appointed, Communist Party members banned from office, conference decisions ignored, contracting members contributions paid by their employers, branch amendments to rules only allowed every sixth year.

His next paragraph, headed 'Support the Government', is no more relevant to the needs of the members.

## Police arrest 27 anti-fascists

IN a highly-organised swoop, the West Yorkshire police arrested 27 anti-fascist demonstrators in Dewsbury last Saturday. The demonstrators were protesting against a march through the town of about 150 strutting National Front fascists, whose main slogans were 'Viva Franco!' and 'Hitler was right!'

The police used the squads which had been trained to 'deal with' the miners' strikes of 1972 and 1974. Other policemen had recently been trained in an army camp.

More than a thousand demonstrators turned up to stop the fascists. Unfortunately, they were led by the police and 'responsible local leaders' away from the centre of the town and from the Front march.

Members of the International Socialists and other militants called for a move to the town centre. They were followed enthusiastically. By

now, however, the police had sealed off the town hall. The demonstrators forced their way on to a roundabout where they yelled abuse at the fascists on the town hall steps.

The police moved in with systematic violence. A young woman was knocked to the ground and beaten by one hero in blue.

Almost all the arrests were on the roundabout. Among those arrested were four workers from Jonas Woodheads factory of Ossett, which is threatened with closure.

## Black

Several immigrant workers were arrested. An arrested demonstrator told Socialist Worker: 'The police treated the black workers far worse than us. For instance, we were told we would be let out that evening. They

were told they would be kept in for several days.'

The arrests show that the police will prepare carefully for these demonstrations. But the Front won't come to Dewsbury again in a hurry.



**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, 8pm, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE7.

Chairman: Will Fancy, member of NALGO executive. Speakers: Peter Lisle, convenor, Mollins, Deptford, Dick North, member of the NUT executive (in a personal capacity), Ray Storey, secretary Unemployed Workers Action Committee.

Sponsored by Greenwich Trades Council, Thamesmead (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.

FROM Fleet Street and television comes the ugly sound of newspaper proprietors and commentators slapping themselves on the back. They are delighted with one of their greatest political triumphs since the war: the election of a right-wing majority on the Engineering Union executive.

But employers and newspaper owners never rest content. So this week they are focussing attention on the elections in the Electricians and Plumbers Union, where right-wingers are badly in need of a hand.

The whole operation is of course conducted to the tune of 'union democracy'. But the press are not, and have never been, in favour of extending union democracy. Most trade union officials are not elected at all, they are appointed by self-perpetuating dynasties.

## WHAT WE THINK

Have you ever read a single article in the Sun, the Daily Mirror or The Guardian calling for more elections in trade unions?

On the contrary. This week, for instance, John Elliott, industrial editor of the Financial Times, complains that too many officials are elected in the AUEW. This leads, he says, to 'excessive accountability'.

So the press only becomes interested in union democracy where elections are already held. These elections, the press insist, must be held by postal ballot, not in the branches. Why? Because more people vote by ballot—and therefore, isn't it obvious, the vote will be more democratic.

No, it's not obvious. In fact, the campaign for the postal ballot fits neatly into their interest in less union democracy. However many people vote, a postal ballot is less democratic than a branch ballot.

## LIST

Democracy means much more than a cross on a bit of paper. It depends on discussion of the issues involved among the people entitled to vote.

Above all, it depends on trade unionists making decisions among themselves in an atmosphere which cannot be infected by the employers' organisations and their press.

None of this happens in a ballot vote.

The postal voter in the Engineering Union, for example, does not even get with the ballot form information from the candidates about their ideas. There is no argument or discussion. He gets a list of names, and the Sun and the Mirror tell him who are the 'foul subversives' and who are the 'decent, family men'.

The unions fall into the hands of gentlemen who are elected once in a lifetime after a press campaign on their behalf. Separated from the criticism and energy of their members, they become creatures of the greatest unelected power group of them all, the employers.

## STEALTH

We stand for more elections in every area of the trade union movement, for all trade union elections to be carried on in an atmosphere of trade union discussion.

The only way to beat back the victories of the employers and their press is to organise in the rank and file. The election results have finally killed the ridiculous idea that 'progressives' can get control of the unions by stealth.

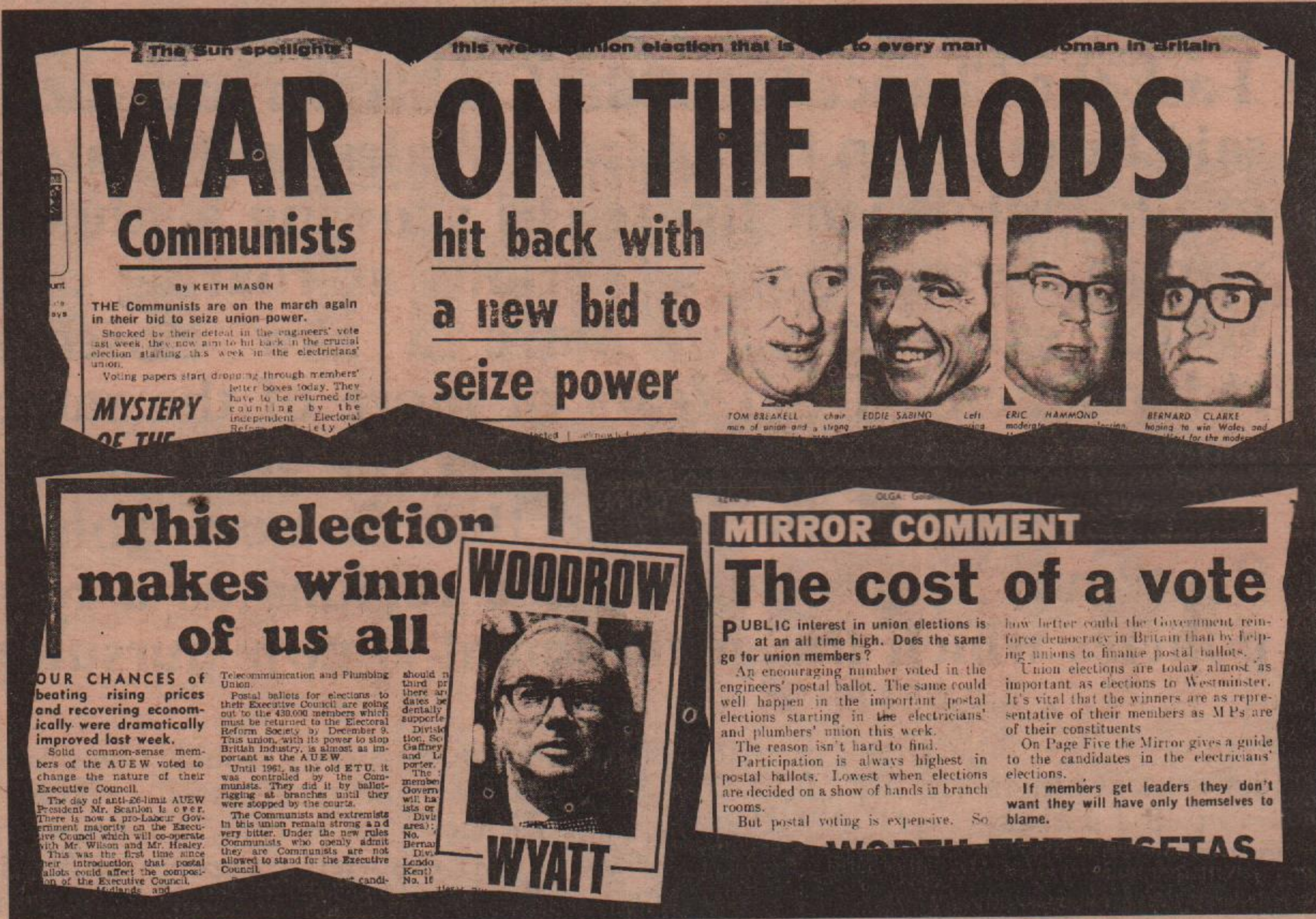
We have to start again on the shop floor, often in ones and twos, organising, arguing, discussing, persuading people to take part in union affairs.

That is why the Engineers' Charter is so important. Not because it is a vast, powerful organisation. It isn't. It starts from small beginnings. But it seeks to start that rank and file organisation which has been so desperately needed during the past few terrible weeks.

The First National Engineers Charter Conference takes place next Saturday—6 December. It starts at 1pm and goes on until 5pm at the Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, London WC1. The conference will have sessions on The Right to Work, led by Laurie Smith, AUEW national organiser, and on the fight-back in the union, led by Willie Lee, senior steward at Chrysler Linwood.

Engineers who want to fight should be at the conference.

Credentials and information from the Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.



defend our wages and conditions.

The only way to defend these is to fight the government's £6 limit, spending cuts and unemployment policies. The present executive council will not do that. All six up for re-election must go. Any further attempts to use undemocratic rules to retain right-wing control must be resisted by a massive, open rank and file movement.

If left-wingers are elected, the same kind of movement will be the best support for those who mean business and the strongest pressure on those who waver.

ABOVE: Scarcely had the press barons pulled off their campaign to boost the so-called moderates in the Engineering Union, then they turned to the EETPU. On Sunday it was that well-known electrician Woodrow Wyatt giving you his advice.

On Monday it was Barry Devney in the Express and Keith Mason in the Sun. On Tuesday it was the Mirror

Normally the Sun and the Mirror compete. But on union elections they chose different days to put the poison in. In the week before the AUEW elections there was a rota. Socialist Worker understands that senior newspaper executives operated a scheme to ensure that the propaganda barrage was kept up day by day.



# No jobs, no hotel, say 140 Jamaicans

Story and picture from  
Phil McCowen in Jamaica.

ONE HUNDRED and forty members of the National Workers Union have taken over the 95-room Mo Bay Colony Hotel, near Montego Bay, in an effort to force the American owners to pay severance money, which amounts to 200,000 dollars.

The workers were told that the hotel had to close during the off-season and would re-open on 31 October. An agreement was reached that if the date was changed, the union would be informed. Because the owners were trying to sell the property, they had also promised that in the event of the hotel not reopening, the workers would receive severance pay.

Nothing has been heard since.

Severance pay amounts to two weeks wages for every year of service. After seven years, it is three weeks wages for every year of service. Many workers have been at the hotel since it opened in 1960. Most have been there for eight to ten years.

One man has been a gardener at the hotel for 13 years. He is 74 years old. He asked me: 'How am I expected to get another job?' He, along with his workmates, would have been thrown into the ranks of the unemployed without a cent if it had not been for their courageous action of seizing the property.

When the hotel is open, the cost per day at the height of the season is 60-70 dollars a room. How many workers can afford these prices? The cheapest room off-season costs 35 dollars a day. This is more than Jamaica's average wage, of 30 dollars a week.

## Trail

The decision to capture the hotel 'until justice comes our way' was made at a meeting earlier in the week between the workers and NWU.

Union organiser John Atkins was quoted as saying: 'Jamaican people are going to have what belongs to them. We are making history—this is Jamaica's first occupation—and we're going to blaze the trail for our children and our children's children.'

The local police have been at the hotel since the takeover started on 6 November. They have made no attempt to interfere with the workers. In fact they are very sympathetic, which is pleasantly surprising.

The workers are not the only ones with a claim on the hotel. The First National City Bank is said to be owed 650,000 dollars. Who is to say that these two American companies are not making behind-the-scenes transactions to avoid their commitments to Jamaican workers?

Support is urgently needed as the workers get no form of strike pay. Workers in dire need can approach the union, but what happens to your prwhen you have to do this? Support from husbands and wives is solid. The workers are preparing for what could be a long struggle. Your support is vital to ensure that this history-making struggle is victorious.

Send donations and messages of support to: National Workers Union, 38 Church Street, Montego Bay, St James, Jamaica, West Indies.



The workers by the swimming pool of the occupied 70 dollars-a-day hotel. Average wage in Jamaica is 30 dollars a week

# CHRYSLER: JUST TRY IT! SAY LINWOOD

**JUST AS Chrysler International and the Labour government were putting the finishing touches to their schemes to sack Chrysler workers, workers at the company's Linwood plant gave the fight for jobs in Chrysler a huge boost.**

The workers—both white-collar and manual—came 7000-strong to the mass meeting.

That recommendation was to demand that Chrysler be nationalised without compensation and the plant be occupied if there was any attempt at closure.

When the vote was put, these fighting policies were carried overwhelmingly with only a handful of votes against.

Later that same day 1500 shop stewards from all over the West of Scotland answered the call of the

by Peter Bain, TGWU  
steward, Chrysler Linwood

Chrysler stewards. At a meeting in Partick they agreed unanimously to support whatever action the Linwood workers took to defend their jobs.

These decisions represent a great victory for members of the International Socialists and other militants at Linwood who have consistently argued, often in the face of abuse from some senior stewards, for the very policies that have now been adopted.

The government and Chrysler want to organise 'an orderly withdrawal' from Britain.

## Carve-up

A total shut-down is not on at the moment. So instead we are to get the progressive carve-up, with one factory played off against another. In all probability the operation will start with an attempt to massacre the Ryton plant at Coventry.

Socialist Worker understands that even as Wilson and Co were getting ready to announce their schemes this week, Chrysler International was moving into action. At Coventry Radiator where many components are made, Chrysler had apparently instructed its suppliers on Monday to cease all Chrysler component work. It seems that the same has been done at Automotive Products in Leamington.

We must resist their schemes. The truth is that any redundancies accepted at any plant will only encourage Chrysler and the government to put the boot in harder and sooner on those who remain. We have clear policies to defend jobs and we're sticking to them.

The confidence of the Linwood workers has increased as a result of last Wednesday's decisions. Now the stewards have to ensure that this

confidence is not dissipated in the next few weeks.

Regular stewards' meetings, with regular report back to the sections and a weekly shop stewards' bulletin would do the trick.

**Our aim is to force the government to defend jobs. With one third of the population of the world suffering malnutrition, with millions of people in Britain living in poverty, the government must be forced to provide work.**

## RYTON PUSH CONVENOR ON

IT was a pleasant surprise to hear our convenor, Pat Fox, on the TV programme This Week last Thursday admitting that in the battle for jobs an occupation of the factory might have to be considered.

Fox was prompted into saying this by angry militants from the Ryton shop floor who were disgusted and bitter to find their elected leaders prepared to accept responsibility for Chrysler's bad management and treachery.

'Pull your finger out, Fox—we're ready for occupation!' shouted one worker as Fox blundered on, trying not to commit himself.

It's interesting to note that before the show was broadcast there was a reception and free drinks given for all the 'important' guests. These included the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Labour MP Leslie 'Call me comrade' Huckfield, Tory Nigel Lawson and—would you believe it—our convenors.

But we need more than words on the TV screen. The company and the government are hoping that once November is through and we're all laid off till after Christmas, then they'll get away with massacring thousands of jobs. We need to make our stand now, before the slaughter

## Clay Cross: 'Labour has betrayed our faith'

by May Smith

(whose son-in-law, David Percival, one of the Clay Cross councillors, has just received a letter from the receiver telling him to hand over his car or face two years jail.)

I'M thoroughly disgusted. I've always been a socialist. I've been in the Labour Party for 25 years. The government is carrying on where the Tories left off.

We fought hard to get Labour on the council. Our councillors brought in the warden system for old age pensioners, free television licences, home helps, free bus tokens, free milk for schoolkids. They kept rents down and employed extra council workers at a decent wage.

Now, their treatment of the councillors is beyond reason. They're nearly as bad as Franco's regime as far as Clay Cross is concerned.

The government is allowing these—I haven't got a name bad enough for them—VULTURES to take the councillors' cars and possessions that they have worked for all their lives.

They treat the councillors like criminals while the real criminals go free. It's one law for the rich and one for the poor, like it's always been.

## Squeeze

We put the Labour government in in good faith.

Now it's two-timing and selling out. The Labour government 'froze' council house rents—but ours went up.

Two years ago, my rent was £3. Now it is £6.88. The increase now is another £1.34. This £6 wage limit is no good. Knock off rent and rate increases and tax, and what are you left with? Nothing.

All the people in Clay Cross should be on the demonstration on Saturday 6 December. They should show their gratitude and defend the eleven. People all over the country should look at what is happening in Clay Cross and should think about it. Support us. Let us know we are not forgotten.

DEFEND THE CLAY CROSS ELEVEN  
Demonstrate, Saturday 6 December,  
1pm, Holmgate Community Centre,  
Cross, Midlands and Yorkshire  
IS branches to support.

I want to be a  
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# THE UNIONS



An angry letter from John Forrester (left), deputy general secretary of TASS, and (below) a reply from the IS TASS fraction

# No right turn... if we steer this way

**WE ARE DELIGHTED** that John Forrester has replied to the recent Socialist Worker articles on TASS. We would answer his points as follows:

He says he didn't say what we said he said, and that the EC didn't discuss the 'modifying' document. Well, strictly he's right.

The remark about 'the Big Man' and the discussion on the document took place at a Broad Left meeting on the Thursday before the EC, in the Kensington Close Hotel. Many left-wing EC members were, of course, present at that meeting.

**THE CASE OF JUDITH HUNT:** At the 1974 TASS conference, it was agreed that the general secretary, Ken Gill, appoint a further member of headquarters staff with specific responsibility for women.

Judith Hunt, then a member of ATTI (and the Communist Party executive) was appointed. She could not be appointed women's organiser because the rules stated that applications for the job had to have five years' TASS membership.

At the 1975 conference, the executive proposed abolition of the qualifying period—and won.

**EXIT** Judith Hart, women's staff officer—**ENTER** Judith Hunt, women's organiser, salary £4,100, car, bridging loan for house etc.

By the way, it seems that when the women's post first fell vacant, a likely contender was another Communist Party member, Linda Smith.

## Paupers

When Judith got the job, Linda's career prospects were set back—until someone suggested that she should be union research officer.

**SALARIES:** TASS full-time organisers are not paupers or anything like it.

They have just been voted substantial salary increases. Perks on house purchase still apply to existing officials—about 30 of them.

**INCREASED STRIKE ACTIVITY.** This is a myth. Take the recent case of Clarke Chapmans in Leeds where 31 draughtsmen were on strike. The members were getting financial support from the union, though only on an irregular basis. Suddenly the money dried up.

A full-time organiser told a meeting of the men that Ken Gill had decided not to sign the cheques because of attacks made on the union in Socialist Worker!

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

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

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

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

**Break**

These include a proposal that some full-time officials should not be elected a full-time work with the members of the engineering union.

The proposed new rule book will allow the right-wing to elect a full-time general secretary of the amalgamated TASS.

**By Jimmy McCallum, former TASS councillor, John Brown Engineering, Glasgow**

The attempt to build left wing strength into the constitution isn't only averted. It is crushed. It plays into the hands of the right wing majority by making the argument over the constitution rather than policy.

Both Stanton and Ken Gill have made two speeches about fighting unemployment and of raising the £1 limit. Neither of them has done anything to make sure that a fight takes place. In fact, their actions have been the opposite. On the 16th, AUEW held a meeting to discuss who you make the

Socialist Worker's 11 October article that started the argument.

**ELECTION OF OFFICIALS:** John Forrester's letter doesn't mention the main point in the SW articles: that the appointment of all officials in TASS is not only undemocratic in itself, but that it threatens the whole future of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

John doesn't even try to defend the appointment of officials for life: still less the appointment almost exclusive-

ly of Communist Party members. Yet this feature of TASS, more than anything else, gives Boyd and the right-wing majority on the AUEW executive the excuse to condemn amalgamation as an undemocratic manipulation.

Boyd and Co will, any day now, be declaring: 'Why should we have these TASS people in the same union—they

don't even elect their officials as we do?'

This is our answer to John Forrester's suggestion that by criticising the undemocratic appointment of TASS officials we are playing into the hands of the right wing.

## Risk

It's a temptation, specially after the recent election results in the engineering section, to imagine that appointment of left-wing officials is better than risking elections which the right wing may win.

Such thinking always plays into the hands of the Right.

Unless the rank and file are allowed the maximum access to and control over the official union machine, the union leadership will always militate against its membership—and will always drift further and further to the Right.

## AUEW



Telephone 01-948 2271 Telegrams Draftineer Richmond Surrey  
K. GILL, General Secretary to whom all communications should be addressed

Please confine each letter to one subject

30th October 1975

The Editor,  
Socialist Worker,  
8 Cottons Gardens,  
LONDON, E.2.

Dear Sir,

Your article of the 20th September purporting to describe the happenings at an Executive Committee meeting and the intentions and the motivations of individuals within TASS did not seem at the time to be worth comment. However, I notice that your issue of the 1st November contains a letter from H. Smith of Merton who for many years was an Executive Committee member, President of the Union and an enthusiastic supporter of right-wing policies. He, not surprisingly, supports the articles which you have written attacking TASS.

It is now important to answer your original article as you appear to be successful in promoting a favourable right-wing response. Every single fact quoted in the piece entitled 'Can the big man afford democracy' is wrong. I did not make the statement attributed to me which formed the centre of the article. The Executive Committee did not discuss a proposal for modifying the Annual Conference. Conference was not even mentioned. Judith Hunt was a member of the union when she was selected by a rank and file committee of our annual conference to become National Women's Organiser. There has been an increase in industrial militancy, as stated in last year's conference. There are now more strikes than in the whole history of the union. The salaries of the officials are determined by Conference and are among the lowest in the trade union movement. Subsidised housing has been eliminated by decisions of the Executive Committee for all future officials.

Thus, every statement your writer, Brian Parkin, raised was untrue. Was this deliberate lying or error?

Yours sincerely,

*John Forrester*  
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY

## AND STILL THE GRAVY FLOWS...

AN AMAZING amount of gravy is expected to flow at the Richmond Hill Hotel, Richmond, Surrey from 11-16 January.

Some of the country's top bosses and trade unionists will be spending the week teaching each other how to negotiate with each other.

The week's 'industrial relations training laboratory' is being organised by the Institute of Personnel Management. Speakers include:

From the bosses: Eddie Robertson (CBI), J F Gogarty (British Leyland), S Hoggart (British Rail), Ken Bennison (Berger Paints) and George Webb



John Boyd: £37 a day to listen to him?

(Engineering Employers Federation). And from the unions: John Boyd (AUEW), Ron Nethercott (South West T&GWU), Geoffrey Drain (NALGO), Jock Haston (GMWU) Mark Young (BALPA).

Trade unionists everywhere are invited to attend this course 'which has been designed to enable industrial relations specialists to come to terms with the latest developments in the field of collective bargaining.'

The fees for trade unionists are £186.84 for five days (£37 a day).

'This includes coffee, lunch, tea, dinner, and course material. It does not include bed and breakfast, drinks, newspapers or early morning tea.'

Readers might like to find out how much union subscription money is going to be spent on this bonanza for professional negotiators of every description.

## Democracy's OK, as long as you vote for me...

FRANK Chapple is at it again.

In the current issue of Contact, official journal of the electricians' union he sounds off against 'Communists and Trotskyists' who are trying to win control of his union in the current executive elections.

His call is taken up by the press, who have printed lists of Chapple's candidates.

In his article, Chapple also complains about 'one left-wing newspaper' which has urged people to vote against the right-wing candidates.

He means us. So we'll do it again. Vote against the sitting executive member in every seat except the South of England plumbers.

EETPU right-wingers complain that statements like this in Socialist Worker are an 'interference' in union elections which will give them an excuse to declare the election void if it goes the wrong way.

That would be the day! One piece of advice in Socialist Worker is 'interference' and huge articles in the Daily Mail and Daily Express are 'fair' comment.



Manor House... the trade union hospital that tried to sack a militant

G M MORDECAI is a shop steward at Fords. He has the British Empire Medal. He is a member of the executive of the Manor House Hospital in North London, which is run mainly by and for trade unionists.

Over the last two weeks we have

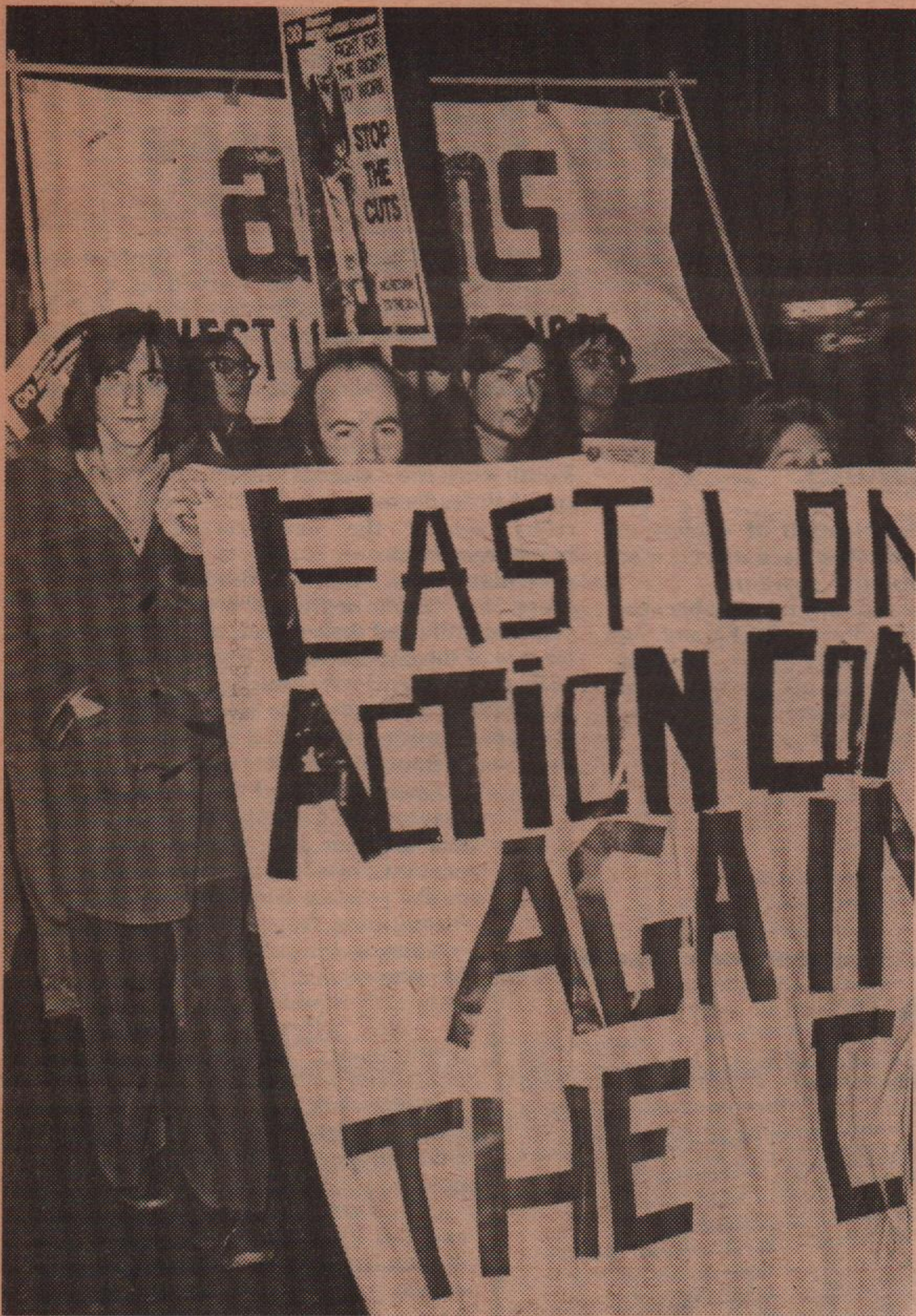
reported the case of Jose Caba, the Transport Union branch secretary victimised by the hospital management but reinstated after the entire membership threatened a strike.

This victory wouldn't have taken place had Bro Mordecai had his way. Soon after the management had

backed down, he summoned Jose and told him to accept his own sacking and appeal 'through procedure'.

If not, Mordecai threatened, he would see to it that the T&GWU branch at Manor House was 'investigated' by Transport House. Jose's answer can't be published.





ABOVE: Some of the 200 trade unionists who marched with the East London Action Committee against the Cuts in protest at the planned closure of the Invalid and Crippled Children's Hospital. They included workers from the hospital.

RIGHT: Demonstrators against the cuts demand a hearing at the Islington Council Social Services Committee last week.

# Public sacrifice

...MEANS PRIVATE PROFIT

## THE National Health Service is in crisis.

Despite an estimated shortage of 70,000 nurses, student nurses are being sacked the moment they qualify. Junior hospital doctors are threatening industrial action from Monday 8 December because the government is insisting on a payment system which will mean fewer doctors working longer hours.

Yet to grant their demands would cost at most £5 million—compared with excess profits of £8,250,000, made out of the NHS, which the government said the giant drug company Roche could keep last week.

The educational system is in crisis, with growing numbers of unemployed teachers.

The attack on the social services has been backed by a huge campaign in

## Garry Bushell reviews the latest CIS Anti-Report

the press, on television, on radio, against increased government spending. There is talk about 'a vast proliferation of civil servants', about 'too many unproductive workers', about 'the missing £500 million'. We are made to think that only massive cutbacks can cure these ills—at the expense of government employees and of those who depend on social services.

Labour ministers have gone to some lengths to popularise a new concept—that of the 'social wage'. They say that each and everyone of us gets this in addition to the money in our wage

packet. Government spending benefits everyone, they claim, and if you divide it among the population as a whole, it is equivalent to an extra £20 a week, £100 a year.

They draw the conclusion that the only way to avoid still harsher cuts in normal wages is to make inroads into the 'social wage'.

Counter-Information Services have published this week Cutting the Welfare State, a pamphlet that tears this argument to shreds and shows what the cuts really mean.

To begin with, the services that benefit all of us—education, the Health Service, local government welfare services—account only for a fraction of government spending and the so-called social wage.

Of the £1000-a-head of government spending, £91 went on interest payments to the banks, £129 on the military budget, £112 as direct or indirect hand-outs to private industry, £27 on maintaining the police forces. Yet these areas of spending are sacrosanct to the government and will hardly be touched by the cuts.

By contrast housing only got £69, education £119 and health and social security services together got £116.

## Hogs

Nor is that all. The pamphlet points out that schools, hospitals and doctors provided much more generously in middle-class suburban areas than in working-class slum neighbourhoods.

Put crudely, the middle-class hogs much more than its fair share of the 'social wage'. But the way the cuts are operated means that working-class areas will suffer. It is these areas that need new schools, new hospitals, more doctors, more old people's homes—and the cuts mean these will not be built.

When Labour ministers say: 'We all have to make sacrifices', they are really insisting that those in greatest need make the greatest sacrifices.

Who benefits from our 'sacrifice'? Here the CIS pamphlet is more revealing. It shows that government spending is used in a hundred different ways to boost private profit—cheap gas for ICI, massive profits for the giant drug companies, subsidised services for private hospital patients.

The most rapidly mounting of public spending is never mentioned by those loudest in their demands for cuts elsewhere—the massive growth of interest charges. Because of the way the government chooses to finance itself, it is now paying out £5000 million a year to the banks—equivalent to £5 a week from every wage earner.

It is to raise this sum that housing is allowed to deteriorate, teachers left unemployed, junior doctors forced to work without normal overtime pay, nurses sacked.

\*Cutting the Welfare State, A CIS-CDP Special Report, price 45p plus 15p postage, from 9 Poland Street, London W1. Orders for more than 15 copies receive a 25 per cent discount free of postal costs.

Pictures: Andrew Wiard (Report)



## Death of a thousand cuts

### HEALTH

In the Health Service there are 500,000 people on hospital waiting lists. At the same time private patients in the new Charing Cross Hospital are being subsidised by about £50 a week.

More than half the mental hospitals have only one doctor to every 100 beds, and one consultant to 300-400 patients.

Three-quarters of all beds are in hospitals built before 1918. But all major spending has now been slashed and there will be no new hospitals. Meanwhile closed casualty departments and closed hospitals are the order of the day.

As the NHS collapses, private practice booms. There are 60 new private nursing homes being planned or developed in Britain.

**SCHOOLS** Only one child in every 100 makes it to a nursery school. Three times out of four, that child will have middle-class parents. It's going to stay that way. Nursery schools have been the first hit by the cuts.

The cuts mean that the number of

ARE you one of the 363 Merseyside patients who has waited more than two years for an operation? Or are you one of London's 2000 unemployed teachers?

Perhaps you've just joined the queue of 100,000 homeless, or your husband's one of the 170,000 unemployed building workers. Maybe your wife's so messed up with worry she's the one woman in every five on sedatives.

If so, you are just one victim of the inadequate social services—services which the Labour government intends to cut back by about 10 per cent over the next two years.

teachers will be reduced, new building programmes dropped, maintenance

standards allowed to fall. Already school meal prices are constantly rising—and the quality of the food decreasing.

There is to be no replacement of old schools. Class sizes are being increased, and remedial education frozen.

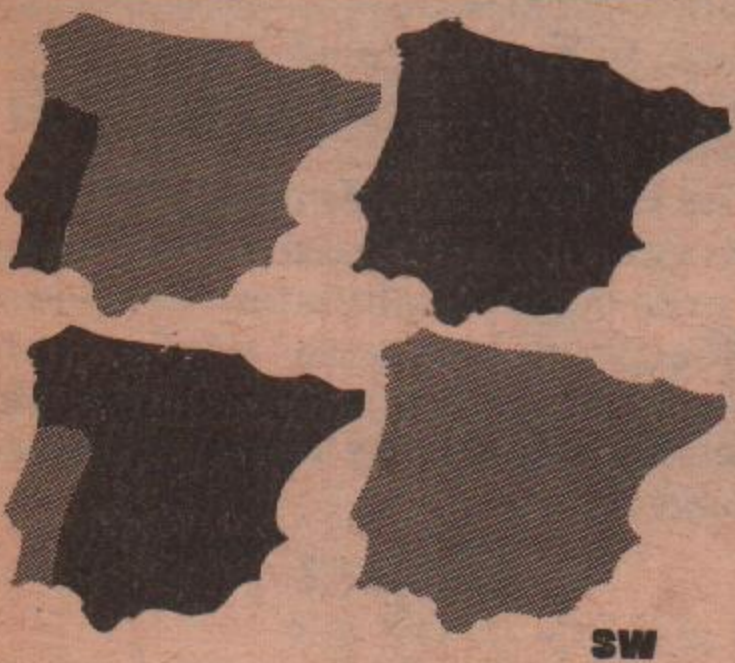
Thirteen teacher training colleges have been shut down, 16 more are in line to be closed. Estimated unemployment for teachers this winter will be 7000. Teacher training places will fall to 12,000 in 1978.

### HOUSING

Most council house spending is taken up with maintenance, repairs and interest repayments to money-lenders. Spending on new homes has fallen to a half. Clearance and improvement schemes in working-class areas are either being held back or removed. Redevelopment schemes are being halted.

The budgeted improvement spending is being reduced from £572 million to £271 million for the year 1975-6.

### Socialist Worker Film Tour SPAIN: DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES



**CENTRAL LONDON:** Thurs 27 November, 6.30pm, Room 27, First basement, Kings College New Building, Strand/Aldwych, WC1.  
**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Fri 28 Nov, 8pm, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE13.  
**NORTH LONDON:** Sun 30 Nov, 7.30pm, Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, N4.  
**SOUTHAMPTON:** Mon 1 Dec, 1pm, Debating Chamber, Students Union, Southampton University AND 8pm, Kell Hall, London Road.  
**EXETER:** Tues 2 Dec, 7.30pm, Lecture theatre 1, Queens Building, Exeter University.  
**BRISTOL:** Weds 3 Dec, Students Union, Queens Rd.  
**CARDIFF:** Thurs 4 Dec, 1pm, Joint Students Union, Park Place AND 8pm, Bouchier Hall, Fitzalan Place, off Newport Road.  
**BIRMINGHAM:** Fri 5 Dec, 7pm, Friends House, Bull Street.  
**BANGOR:** Sun 7 Dec, 7.30pm, University Students Union.  
**EAST LONDON:** Mon 8 Dec, 7.45pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road NELS, off Romford Road between Bow flyover and Stratford.  
**BRENTWOOD:** Tues 9 Dec, 1pm, Brentwood Teacher Training College, Sawyers Hall Lane.  
**BRAINTREE:** Tues 9 Dec, 8pm, The Institute, next to Wallis supermarket, town centre.  
**NOTTINGHAM:** Weds 10 Dec, 7.30pm, Int Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Road.  
**DERBY:** Thurs 11 Dec, 7.30pm, St Helens House, King Street.  
**DUNDEE:** Fri 12 Dec, 7.30pm, The Music Centre, Bell Street.  
**GLASGOW:** Sat 13 Dec, details next week.  
**EDINBURGH:** Sun 14 Dec, details next week.

Local film organisers please phone details to Pete Marsden at 01-739 9043 as soon as possible.

## CIS

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), and Cutting the Welfare State (45p). Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4—add 10p each for postage. Bulk orders to CIS, 9 Poland Street, London W1.



# Franco: Lest we forget...

**FRANCO IS DEAD.** For those who, like myself, first came to political awareness at the time of the Spanish civil war, it is an event for reflection as well as for rejoicing.

Spain, in 1936, was the scene of a mass, popular, revolutionary uprising with few parallels in Europe since 1917.

The strangulation and ultimate destruction of that movement was not inevitable. Nor was it primarily the result of fascist strength or German and Italian intervention in support of Franco, or British and French 'non-intervention' in the same cause.

It was the consequence, first and foremost, of the policies of the Spanish workers' parties—and above all of the policies of the Spanish Communist Party, it throttled the revolution in the name of 'democratic unity' and the 'People's Front'. It paved the way for the fascist victory.



That party, a small organisation of under 3000 members at the time of the overthrow of the monarchy in 1931, grew quickly into a mass organisation with dominant influence in republican Spain in 1936-38.

With the aid of the right wing of the Socialist Party, it throttled the revolution in the name of 'democratic unity' and the 'People's Front'. It paved the way for the fascist victory.

That was not, of course, the intention. But it was the result. Left-wing critics said so at the time—and were accused of being fascist agents for their pains—and they have been saying so ever since.

His testimony is exceptionally relevant because the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) and the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) have today, in the crisis that is now opening up, essentially the positions of class-collaboration that they had during the civil war.

## Testimony

I want to draw the attention of readers of Socialist Worker to a new witness, a witness who is in a uniquely authoritative position.

His testimony is exceptionally relevant because the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) and the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) have today, in the crisis that is now opening up, essentially the positions of class-collaboration that they had during the civil war.

Fernando Claudin became a professional revolutionary in 1933 and worked as a functionary of the PCE for 32 years. From 1947 to 1965, he was a top leader of the party, a member of its Political Bureau. He knows, at first hand, about the policies and practice of the party over a generation or more.

Claudín was a full-timer in the Communist Youth when the Asturian miners, under left-wing socialist leadership, made their heroic armed rising against the newly-created bourgeois republic in 1934.

He lived as an outlaw through the 'two black years', the 'bienio negro', of murderous repression that followed their defeat; the years when 19 leaders of the miners' union (two Socialist Party MPs among them) were sentenced to death, when hundreds of militants were 'shot whilst trying to escape' under the clerical-conservative 'democratic' regime.

Claudín worked for the election of the Popular Front government in 1936, and he took part in the workers' and peasants' revolt that prevented Franco's military-fascist coup d'état of July 1936 from killing that government at birth.

Then, as a loyal PCE apparatusman, he played his part in curbing and ultimately liquidating that upsurge, and in the witchhunt against the revolutionary left that followed in republican territory.

Afterwards, for 27 years, he served the party, in the underground and in exile, through all the twists and turns of policy.

But when, in 1966, he was finally expelled by the reformist leadership he did not become a renegade like so many others.

## Book

He tried to understand what had happened to the official communist movement in Spain and the world.

His book, *The Communist Movement*,\* is the result. It has many faults which cannot be discussed here—there will be an extended review in the January issue of *International Socialism*—but what matters immediately is what he has to say about Spain.

'The July days (1936, DH) revealed the point to which the proletarian revolution had matured in Spain, and how favourable to it was the balance of forces.'

'Although the counter-revolutionary putsch (of Franco, DH) enjoyed many advantages . . . it was nevertheless defeated over most of Spain, in the regions that were decisive economically and in terms of population, by the resolute counter-attack of the proletarian forces . . .'

'The republican state collapsed like a sandcastle, and the passive, vacillating and even openly capitulatory behaviour of the petty-bourgeois parties contributed to the few successes that the counter-revolutionary forces managed to achieve.'

## Object

But then the PCE exerted all its authority to re-establish the republican state, to destroy the incipient workers' state, to yoke the working class to the petty-bourgeois parties and restore bourgeois 'law and order'.

Why? Claudin is succinct and to the point:

'For the primary object of Soviet policy was to consolidate the military alliance with France and achieve an understanding with Britain.'

'But neither the bourgeois France of Blum nor the conservative Britain of Baldwin and Chamberlain could tolerate a victory of the proletarian revolution in Spain.'

'The only way, it seemed, "aid for Spain" could be reconciled with the objective of Soviet diplomacy was to ensure that the Spanish proletariat went no further than was acceptable to the French and British bourgeoisies.'

That was what the PCE did ensure. The Spanish workers paid the price in defeat and 36 years of fascist dictatorship.

\**The Communist Movement: From Comintern to Cominform*, by Fernando Claudin (Penguin) available £4.90 (inc. postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

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



◆◆ LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR: A vicar in Knoxville, Tennessee has been jailed ...for throwing a rattlesnake at a preacher in a nearby church.

◆◆ OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD: 12 coppers in Washington, United States, have developed skin cancer as a result of using so much tear gas against anti-Vietnam war demonstrators in the late Sixties.

# CIA BOMB BOYS RULE, OK?

THE LATEST crop of revelations about CIA assassination plots brings to mind an intriguing story told by Philip Agee, the former CIA officer who has just finished a Socialist Worker speaking tour.

While on 'active service' in Ecuador in 1962, Agee's job was to help discredit the mildly left-wing government and get it replaced with a regime that would break diplomatic relations with Cuba.

A secret right-wing bomb squad was organised to attack churches, for which the left would obviously get the blame. The government would be

smearing in the resulting hysteria.

One by one, churches were bombed—and the outcry reached fever-pitch when the home of the Cardinal, an immensely powerful figure in this deeply religious country, copped it. The explosion was carefully timed to coincide with a similar outrage at the offices of the Anti-Communist Front.

But as the CIA sat back and waited for the inevitable anti-left uproar, something went wrong . . . the two bombers responsible got themselves arrested.

Worse, they admitted to the police that they were members of the same Anti-Communist Front they had just blasted.

All was not lost, however. The news of the arrests was buried in the Ecuador newspapers—the editors being on the CIA payroll—and the CIA was able to go ahead and help organise a massive demonstration in solidarity with the hapless Cardinal.

Two days later, a new government cabinet was formed . . . and voted unanimously to break off relations with Cuba.

## WITHOUT COMMENT

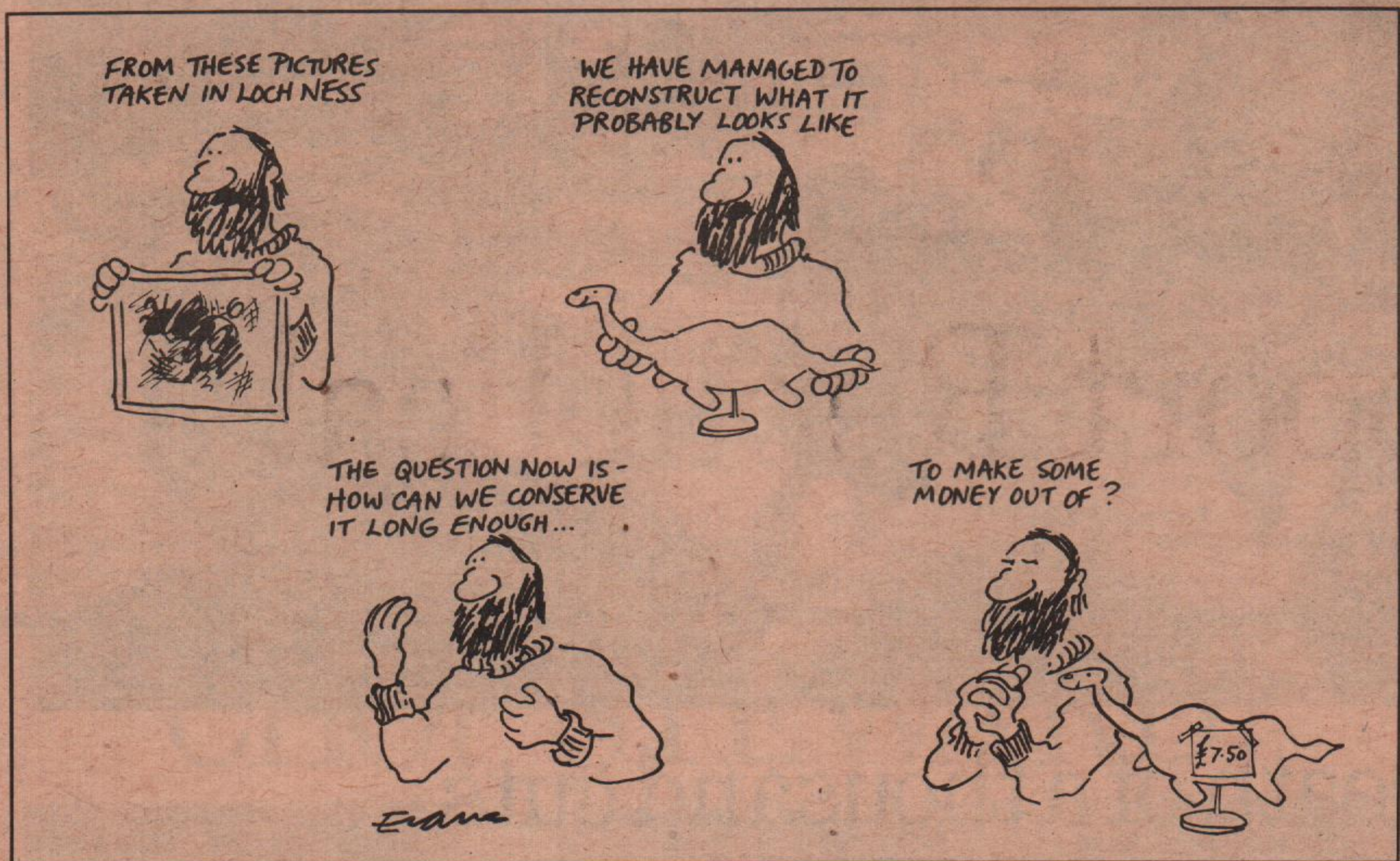
### Post Office Workers

MY article in *The Star* last week unfortunately contained an error which is entirely our fault. It occurred in the opening few lines. The second sentence read "Don't blame the postman or the telephone operator they are neither underpaid or overworked." This should have read "they are neither overpaid nor underworked."

I am sorry about this. It is entirely our fault.

Tom Jackson  
General Secretary,  
Union of Post Office  
Workers.

—from the *Sheffield Star*, 30 October.



# The torture was wonderful...

ON 13 NOVEMBER, the Spanish government rounded up 500 'political suspects' threw them into prison and started 'interrogation procedures' (torture).

On the same day, Lord Goronwy Roberts, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office and a former Labour MP, gave a slap-up lunch to M Fraga, the Spanish Ambassador in London, who is tipped as the next Spanish Prime Minister.

The lunch was excellent. The

A THOUGHTFUL little extra for first-class passengers has been included on the refitted liner OE2 . . . a special top-deck lamp post for their pet poodles.

speeches were delightful. The torture was wonderful.

FOOTNOTE: Some Socialist Worker supporters in East London, inspired by Franco's desperate bid to cling to life, decided to send him a simple but

moving death bed message.

Tragically, the Post Office refused to accept the telegram. Nonetheless, Franco quickly took its sentiments to heart. It read: Die You Bastard, Die!

One message that did get through expressed condolences from Marshall Chu Teh, chairman of 'socialist' China's National People's Congress. This was followed by a wreath from Premier Chou En Lai.

NOTHING LIKE impartiality, specially when the lives of thousands of women are at stake. The latest issue of *Tribune*, the left-wing Labour paper, contains an article by abortion campaigner Sally Hesmondhalgh . . . immediately above a large advertisement from *Life*, the vehemently anti-abortion lobby.

# A class war joke

A Yorkshire miner was out poaching one day when the local Lord of the Manor rode up on his horse.

Lord: Hey you, what are you doing on my land?

Miner: this your land then?

Yes, as far as the eye can see.

And where d'you get it from?

From my father.

And where did he get it from?

From his father.

And where did he get it from?

It was a reward from the King for fighting a battle for him.

Fair enough—get off yer horse and I'll fight you for it.

Don't forget to send your favourite class war jokes to Fifth Column, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

There is a deep illness and sickness in Britain which is sapping our health and vitality. In industry, there is too much Mafia tactics and protection racket tactics. Trade unions have too much power ...

—John Stonehouse MP, in the House of Commons, 20 November.



## An Act of terror...

THIRTY-FIVE men and women—seized by the police in Southampton last week and held under the so-called 'anti-terror' act without any contact with their families—were innocent of any subversive or criminal activity whatsoever.

As much was admitted by the police when they released 18 on Wednesday, seven on Thursday and another ten on Friday.

Imagine being picked up on 'suspicion' and held for up to six days without having done anything illegal. You would be angry, and your family would probably be frightened as well as angry.

◆◆◆  
If you were not accustomed to police interrogation methods you might well say things that could be construed as evidence of guilt, just to get out quickly.

What is more, any Irish trade unionist in the local might feel that any sort of militant activity would attract police attention and the same sort of treatment.

This is what the 'anti-terror' act means. This is why any active trade unionist must oppose it.

# Ireland: Why three died

**A LARGE SHARE** of the blame for the death of three soldiers in South Armagh at the weekend rests on the shoulders of Northern Ireland Secretary Merlyn Rees.

It is he, representing the government, who insists on keeping the Army in Ireland. And it was he who retreated before right-wing pressure a few months ago and sanctioned a series of futile and provocative gestures which led directly to the bloody engagement on Drumacavall Hill.

### Local

In interviews over the past weeks, Rees described South Armagh as 'bandit country' and the Provos there as 'common gangsters'. He left out of account the fact—admitted by British commanders on the spot—that the Provisionals enjoy overwhelming local support.

South Armagh is not bandit country. It is

By Eamonn McCann

farming country. And the reason local people support the Provos is that the Provos are local people. At bottom, it is as simple as that.

The present upsurge of activity dates back about three months. After a series of sectarian killings and counter-killings, right-wing Tories on both sides of the Irish Sea began gibbering their demands that Rees 'do something' about the area.

In response, Rees drafted in more troops, including units of the revamped B Specials, the Ulster Defence Regiment, and also ordered the cratering of border roads.

As Socialist Worker pointed out at the time, this would not lessen sectarianism or hasten peace; rather it would make matters worse.

The Provisionals interpreted the increased British activity as a breach of the truce and, in retaliation, stepped up their operations. Before last Saturday's shoot-out, they had killed three regular soldiers and three members of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

### Hysterics

The fact that they were able to step up activity at will is itself eloquent testimony that Rees's 'new measures' had less to do with 'security' than with demonstrating to Jill Knight, Ian Paisley and other reactionary hysterics that 'something is being done'.

*That is why four soldiers were sent to squat in a dug-out on a bleak border hill.*

They were not 'defending the border'. They were protecting Labour Ministers against Tory allegations of 'softness'...hardly the worthiest of causes to die for.

The same willingness to sacrifice socialist principle to placate rampant Toryism is evident in the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The Act, passed the emotional aftermath of the Birmingham bombs, gave the police virtually unlimited powers of search, arrest, detention and deportation.

It is the most formidable assault on civil liberty in Britain for more than a century. Yet it goes through Parliament 'on the nod'—only a handful of Labour MPs voting against—because the government is terrified of seeming 'soft'.

Yet it is clear that the Act has little relevance to the actual prevention of terrorism. The bombing continues.

### Racism

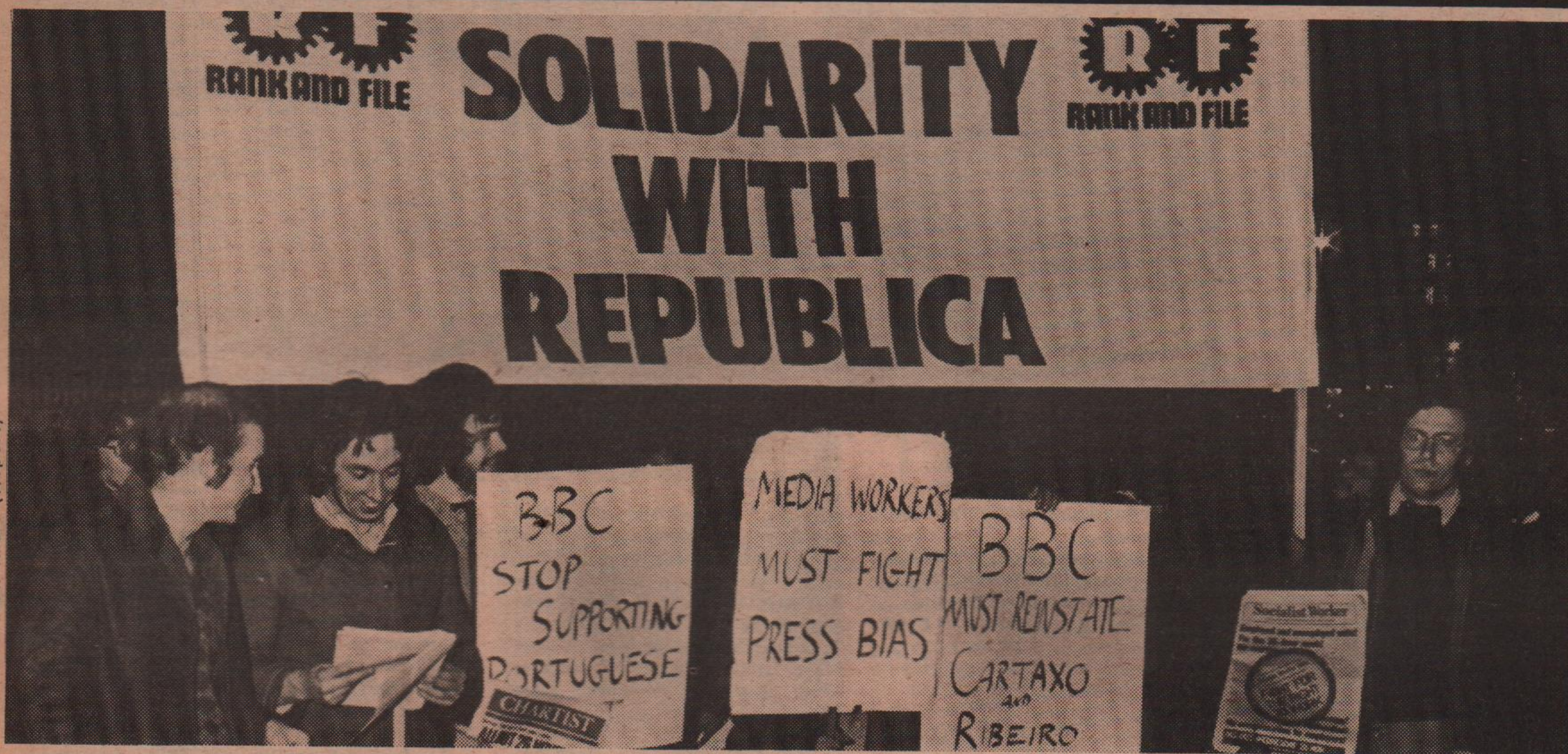
What it has achieved is the deporting without charge or trial of dozens of Irish workers, the intimidation of hundreds of others who had presumed to involve themselves in socialist or Republican politics and a continuing increase of anti-Irish racism.

In Central London, as in South Armagh, the Labour government reacts to IRA activity not by facing facts, but by backing off in the face of Tory pressure.

The unpalatable fact is that there will be more bloodshed in both places, no matter what Acts are passed or 'initiatives' taken, until Labour recognises the reality:

That the whole Irish operation is a futile and inexcusable exercise in colonialism which can only be brought to an end by an unconditional withdrawal from Ireland.

That is the truth of the matter, which all Rees's babbling about banditry cannot hide.



Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Demonstrators protesting outside the BBC in London last week over the sacking of Portuguese radio journalists Cartaxo and Ribeiro.

# Support Republica!

By Steve Marks, NUJ, Magazine branch

CASH IS needed now if Republica is to survive. This was the urgent appeal for solidarity brought back from the revolutionary Lisbon paper under workers control by a ten-strong

solidarity delegation organised by Journalists Charter, the rank and file organisation in the National Union of Journalists.

The delegation also visited Radio Renascenca and the local paper Setubalense, which have also been taken over by their workers.

Republica's crisis has been brought on by a deliberate policy of boycott from the government and the big newspaper distributors. The workers' management has just had to pay off a big debt to the Swedish monopoly SODIPAL, incurred by the old management.

But the government is denying Republica credits given to other papers.

We asked the workers at Republica and Renascenca what we could do to help their fight to survive.

Republica workers urged us to help sell the English-language edition of their paper. And they welcomed our suggestion that Journalists Charter would supply them with regular news items on the struggles of British workers with the help of the Rank and File Organising Committee and other organisations.

The Organising Committee is appealing for donations from workers' organisations to buy space for solidarity messages in Republica.

For details contact the Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16 8BY. (01-249 1207).

By Alan Purkiss

'WE WANT our paper to be a weapon of all the Portuguese workers', Salvador dos Santos, from the revolutionary Lisbon daily Republica, told a meeting of 200 organised by the Portuguese Workers' Coordinating Committee in London last Thursday.

Salvador, a compositor and a member of the committee of 12 that has run the paper since it was taken over by its workers last May, described how the distributors have boycotted Republica, and how the Portuguese government has tried to force it to close by preventing it from obtaining bank loans.

'The government will try any means to stop Republica being published,' he said.

### Love

It keeps going, he explained, because the workers love the paper and regard it as their own. They support it financially and many come to the office after their work and take bundles of copies to sell.

Neighbourhood, workers' and soldiers' committees willingly act as distribution agents.

The workers' committee of Republica meets daily, and contentious questions are referred to mass meetings of the staff, which includes members of all left parties and groups, he said.

THE first delegation of shop stewards organised by the RFOC will leave for Portugal at the beginning of December.

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

lê - divulga - crítica colabora



## HANDS OFF PORTUGAL



This new pamphlet, written by Jack Robertson, AUEW steward at Massey Ferguson, Manchester, and Roger Kline, TGWU steward at Massey Ferguson, Coventry, for workers in Britain, traces the development of the workers' movement in Portugal over the past 17 months. It has a vital section on solidarity work, packed full of ideas on how you can support the struggle for workers' power in Portugal.

10p a copy (plus 6½p postage)—or 12 copies for £1 post free, from the Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

## International Socialism 83

The rank and file movement • The crisis in Italy • Southern Africa



Articles include:

- Portugal—the latest phase,
- The Rank and File Movement, The Italian Crisis,
- Southern Africa, Angola—a new Congo, Notes of the Month, Reviews.

30p including postage, from ISJ, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN



# Republicans it's time for a rethink

NOTHING in the past few years has unnerved people in the Catholic ghettos in Belfast as much as the fued between the Provisionals and the Official IRA, which claimed ten dead, including a six-year old child.

The fued, coming at the same time as the renewed bombing in London, will have convinced many that everything the newspapers and television have been saying about Irish Republicans is true—that they are thugs, not patriots, that they are not intent on freeing a country but are expressing a natural savagery.

The first thing to understand about the fued is this: that if it wasn't for the British presence in Ireland, and British support through the years for the corrupt, sectarian Northern Ireland state, there would not be any Provisional and Official IRA to fight it out in Belfast. No one who supports the troops in Ireland has any right to moralise about what has been happening.

Socialist Worker defends absolutely the right of the Official Republican Movement to exist and to organise politically. We defend the Officials, on the receiving end of the initial attack in this case, just as we defended the Irish Socialist Republican party (IRSP) a few months ago when that organisation was attacked by the Officials.

We do so because we recognise that the fight back against British imperialism can only be fully effective if open discussion on strategy and tactics is possible for all republicans and socialists without fear of armed reprisals.

From its beginning nearly 200 years ago, Irish Republicanism has had a tradition of secrecy and militarism. It could hardly have been otherwise. It grew as an armed and automatically illegal response to the military presence of imperialism. Of necessity it operated underground.

## Basic

One result is that within the Republican tradition, which both the Provos and Officials claim to embody, military matters have tended to take precedence over politics. The basic function of the political wings of both is to mobilise support for the fighting men.

Tactics and strategy are decided by the military leadership, the Army Council of the IRA. The rank-and-file accept the strategy, not because they have involved in a preceding discussion, but simply because they have been ordered to. That is the way with armies.

It is a tradition and a form of organisation which demands extraordinarily fierce loyalty from the membership—and which creates a corresponding degree of bitterness when loyalty is not forthcoming.

That is what gives Republican splits their special virulence. The Provos and Officials see each other not just as having moved away from the correct political line but actually as traitors.

by EAMONN  
McCANN

For traitors, especially in a war, there is but one proper punishment in the throbbing tension of ghetto-life in Belfast, where the entire population lives on the edge of a nerve, it becomes virtually inevitable that someone will eventually find 'justification' for exacting that punishment.

There is a lull in the fighting now. In the ghettos people ask one another repeatedly, nervously, whether it is really over. The honest answer is that it is not, not permanently. Blood feuds will always be possible until the structure and political content of Republicanism is changed.

## Insist

There were many among the rank and file on both sides who hated what was happening but could see no way to stop it. Insofar as it is possible they should use the present breathing space to insist on a re-examination of some parts of their tradition and of the structure which that tradition decrees. As a minimum they should demand that there be political control of the respective armed wing. Until that is achieved there is little point talking politics at all.

Unfortunately in the strained urgency of Irish politics it is doubtful if much immediate progress will be made along these lines.

British socialists, however, will not lack opportunities to make the point that the 'connection with England', as Wolfe Tone put it, is the never-ending source of Ireland's political ills. Those socialists who were appalled by the bloodiness of the fued should not waste time wringing their hands in horror. They should do something constructive—like joining the disgracefully small number of people trying to build a movement to get the Troops Out and leave the Irish people at long last to build their own, free future.



**BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION:** All London public meeting: Thursday 11 December, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 (nearest tube Holborn). Speaker: Bernadette McAliskey. Organised by the Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee.

# Angola - Af



ABOVE: Angolan militia men wave their machete knives, the symbol of the peasant resistance, at the midnight independence celebrations in Luanda.

*'It was the local peasantry which provided us with the necessary food, shelter and refuge. This support was given freely and in a spirit of true comradeship. It was a reflection of the vital interdependence which now exists between villagers and guerrillas... and of the fact that the MPLA's guerrillas are in a very real sense the sons and daughters of the people,' wrote Don Barnet, an American, from the Moxico district of Angola in 1968.*

## FACT

**HOW BRITISH CAPITALISM HELPS INVESTMENT IN ANGOLA:** In 1974, Tanganyika Concessions made £2,922,357 in profits after tax, mainly from the Benguela railway. The shareholders were paid £2,232,000 in dividends.

## THE COMPANIES

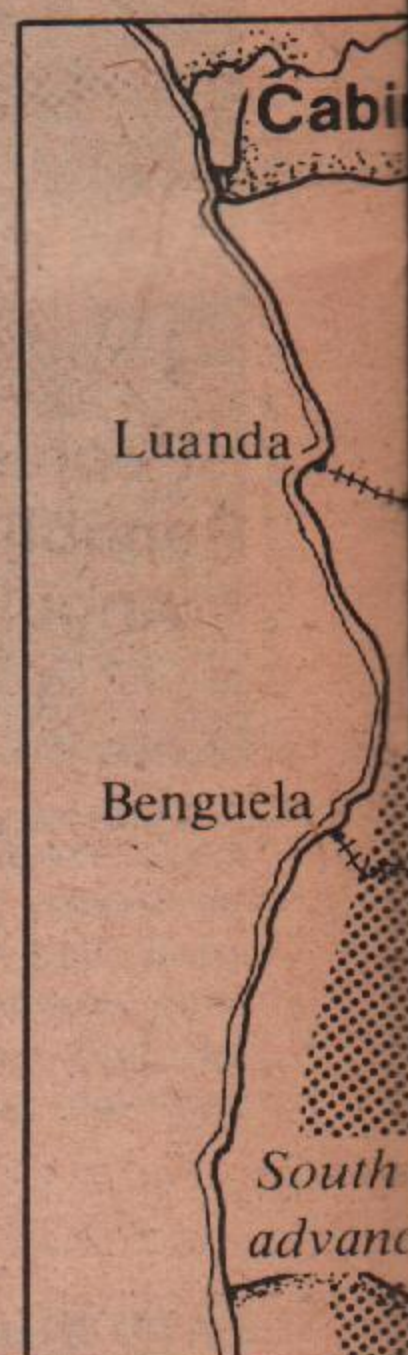
ANGOLA'S wealth is not owned by the Angolan people. It is owned by huge business corporations. The main transport service, the Benguela Railway, is 90 per cent owned by the British company Tanganyika Concessions, whose most famous director is former Tory Foreign Minister Lord Clitheroe.

The American Gulf Oil Corporation, the fourth largest oil company in the world, has sunk 120 oil wells off Kabinda, which bring the company about a thousand million dollars a year. Not far away, the Belgian company Petrangol are refining 30,000 barrels of oil a day, and depositing the revenue in a Swiss bank account. Iron ore at Cassinga is controlled by Krupp, the German

arms firm which equipped Hitler's armies.

Two South African giants, De Beers and Anglo American, control Angola's diamonds, copper and coffee. 80 per cent of Angola's telephones and cables are provided by Standard Electrica, a subsidiary of ITT, the company which helped to smash the elected Chilean government in 1973.

All these concessions, and many more like them, were granted cheaply by the Portuguese government, which staked out Angola 300 years ago, and ruled its people ever afterwards by starvation, robbery, forced labour, apartheid and unrelenting terror. In return, the corporations subsidised the terror with payments to the Portuguese army, and, where necessary, with their own special police forces.



## THE RESISTANCE

OVER the past ten years, an underground military resistance to the Portuguese took root among the Angolan people. It was run by the Popular Liberation Movement, MPLA. By 1970, MPLA had 5000 fighting men and women in Angola.

They worked with unimaginable self-sacrifice, patience and heroism. Over enormous distances and impossible terrain, with little transport and outdated weapons, they built an army which wrested huge tracts of territory from the Portuguese.

Each armed MPLA unit was preceded into the villages by political units brought better agricultural production, makeshift schools and medical care.

The MPLA forged out of the desperate Angolan people a genuine powerful movement of national resistance.

It was watched with mounting fury by the corporations. One MPLA document promised, after independence, 51 per cent Angolan control of all foreign companies operating in the country.

To Lord Clitheroe and the other predators this was an outrage. Their class had lived comfortably off starving Angolans for centuries. They were determined not to give up their property without a fight.

Their government, especially the South African and American governments, made plans to con-

rol Angola after. For this purpose, familiar technique 'Detente'.

'Detente' meant governments, who pawned to the MPLA whose political programme was limited by the white government in South Africa. 'Detente' meant the Congolese national movement by an MPLA Department placed in the country.

'Detente' is the negotiated, between racist government and black traitors, and Zimbabwe's wealth of the corporation. 'Detente' meant strangling of all dependence of governments in Zambia and Mozambique.

The biggest to however, was in labour force does migration to South Africa whose agriculture not dependent on trade.

## PORTUGAL AT THE CROSSROADS

This pamphlet by Tony Cliff is the most important publication from the International Socialists in years. A full analysis of the situation in Portugal and a study in revolution and class struggle vital for socialists everywhere. 48 pages in English, German, French, Greek, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese. 50p including postage from ISJ, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

## Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund

'YOU'RE the first English person I've heard speak good of the Portuguese in 600 years of alliance'. Before, we've always helped you when you've asked for help. When we needed help you never gave it. Things are changing now.'

That's what a Transport workers shop steward from Manchester was told after he'd spoken at a meeting of Portuguese immigrant workers in Berlin. He's just come back from a week in Germany, spent addressing meetings in Hanover, Cologne, Munster and West Berlin on how to campaign for solidarity with the Portuguese workers' struggle.

The speaking tour was organised by the Sozialistische Arbeitergruppe (SAG), a fraternal organisation of the International Socialists and Socialist Worker. Another speaker on the tour was a member of the PRP, the Portuguese revolutionary socialist organisation.

It raised more than £300 for the PRP and £60 towards rebuilding the Radio Renascenca mast. Copies of Revolucao, Socialist Worker and the foreign language edition of the pamphlet Portugal at the

Crossroads were sold at the meetings, as well as copies of the new PRP manifesto.

We're going to print 3000 copies of that manifesto in English, to be sold in North America and Europe with proceeds to the PRP. This is the kind of concrete assistance we can give the PRP thanks to the Portugal Solidarity Fund.

We want to keep sending money to the PRP and supporting them in these ways outside Portugal. So we need all you can spare. We've got badges (20p) and posters (PRP-50p, and IS-30p) that you can sell to get that bit extra; and bankers orders if you can afford to give them regularly.

Order them and send your donations to: Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, 8DN.

This week the fund received £151.85. Our thanks to: Manchester University £6.35, Westinghouse workers, Chippenham £2.50, Portsmouth IS £25, Benedict Mellor £5, Norwich £13, East Anglia IS Society £18, Surrey University IS Society £31.10, Dumfries £3, Maidstone £2, W. Clark, Newton-le-Willows £2, Sheffield £15, Lambeth £1.50, North London District £2.50, Badges and posters £4.90.



# Africa's Vietnam

Report by Paul Foot

TWO million people in the city of Luanda, capital of Angola, and the surrounding towns are preparing for a long and terrible siege. They are defending the liberty of the people of all Africa.

Among their enemies are the newspapers of the Western world, including Britain. Every day we read that the people of Luanda are 'Marxists'—by which they mean 'baddies'—and that their opponents are 'two liberation armies from North and South Angola' (Daily Telegraph, 19 November).

These commentators cannot resist a racist sneer. 'You see what happens when these blacks get control', they imply. 'They all start fighting one another.'

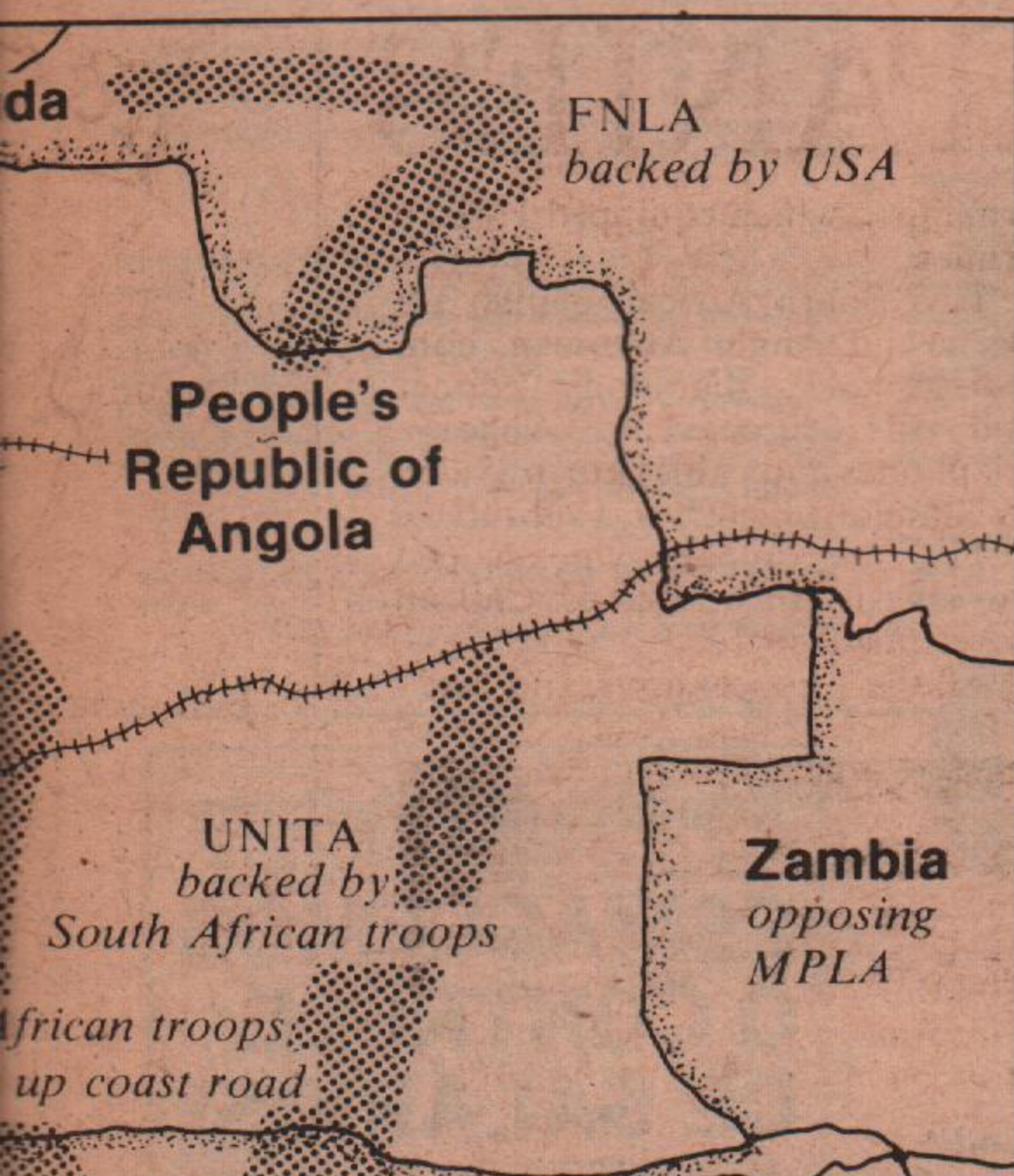
Well, in Mozambique, which like Angola became independent this year, they are not fighting one another. Why is Angola singled out for civil war?

The answer is simple. Angola has more wealth than the rest of Central Africa put together.



In all activities, all aspects of our revolution, women are present. They not only direct the activities of the Angolan Women's Organisation, but are working in the educational field as teachers, as doctors, nurses, in logistics and transport as carriers, in the preparation of clothing and uniforms, and in the military field as guerrillas, taking part in ambushes and attacks on the Portuguese forces.

Paul Jorge, External Affairs Director, MPLA, in an interview in 1973.



Holden Roberto of FNLA, backed by the US



Jonas Savimbi of UNITA, backed by South Africa

## THE OPPOSING ARMIES

FOR 15 years and more the corporations and their governments in South Africa and America have been preparing suitable black 'leaders' to make an 'independent' Angola free for plunder. In 1962, the American CIA singled out Holden Roberto as their man in the Angolan north.

Roberto had led a fruitless rising in North Angola in 1961, and had slunk back, while his comrades were murdered by the Portuguese, to Zaire.

Zaire and its President Mobutu are governed by the American State Department. It is the second largest recipient of American aid in Africa. A third of all its aid goes to building up its army.

Roberto and Mobutu became soul-mates. They set up an 'Angolan government in exile' under a movement now known as FNLA. It pretended to fight the Portuguese. In fact, it fought the MPLA.

In 1961, Roberto's gangs shot down a column of 21 MPLA fighters in Northern Angola. In 1966, the MPLA commander in Zaire, who had been forced to work underground, was captured by Mobutu's secret police and tortured to death.

In June 1967, 200 MPLA soldiers were arrested by Mobutu's army eight miles north of the Angolan border and locked up in

### QUOTES

The biggest US interest in Southern Africa is Angola.

Henry Kissinger in a secret memorandum, 'The US role in Africa', written in 1970 for President Nixon.

The Angolan venture is the biggest CIA operation since the Congo in the 1960s.

An 'American source' quoted in the Sunday Times, 23 November.

the notorious Kinkuzu concentration camp. Many Angolan freedom-fighters died in the camp, among them the leader of the MPLA women's section, Deolinda Rodrigues.

While Holden Roberto was killing Angolan freedom-fighters, he grew rich. He married Mobutu's sister and dabbled in property speculation. He owns five big office blocks in Kinshasa.

In the south, the South African secret services found an even more presentable puppet: Jonas Savimbi, a well-spoken graduate of Lausanne University in Switzerland who had broken with Roberto's movement. Savimbi set himself up in the south of Angola with a small detachment of troops and announced to the world that he was leading another Angolan independence movement, UNITA.

UNITA did not fight the Portuguese. It helped them. In July 1974, the French journal *Afrique-Asie* printed a series of letters between Savimbi and the Portuguese commander in Angola, General Luz Cunha. The letters, written between September and November 1972, gave the Portuguese information about MPLA posts and camps.

'We are prepared to furnish

guides,' wrote Savimbi, 'as soon as we have located MPLA camps.'

When the April 1974 coup toppled the government in Portugal, these two 'secret weapons'—FNLA and UNITA—were thrown into action.

Holden Roberto and Mobutu flew to a special meeting with the Portuguese President Spínola, where they discussed the ousting of the MPLA. The following month, Roberto travelled to Namibia for discussions with the South African government there.

Zaire, on the instructions from the United States, provided soldiers, equipment and propaganda for Roberto's FNLA in the north. South Africa provided soldiers, equipment and propaganda for Savimbi's UNITA in the south. These are the marauding armies which are being cheered into Angola by big business newspapers all over the world.

Angola is Africa's Vietnam.

BY far the best account of the history of Angola and the liberation struggle is Basil Davidson's book, *In the Eye of the Storm*, published by Penguin and available, price £1 including postage, from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

The Angola Solidarity Committee has published *ANGOLA* (10p), which is available on affiliation to the Committee. There are other ASC publications, especially *White Power*, a study of the Cunene Dam project, and up-to-date bulletins, *MPLA for Angola*.

Affiliation to the Angola Solidarity Committee costs £2 for individuals for a year, union branches £5, student unions £10, national organisations £25. Contact Gifford, 6 Bowden Street, London SE11.

A meeting of the Socialist Worker Africa Group in Sheffield last weekend stressed the urgency of building solidarity with the Angolan people under siege. International Socialist Societies in universities and colleges in particular are urged to organise a series of meetings and film showings.

For information, speakers and films contact Peter Alexander on 01-580 0916.

### QUOTE

The blacks must be seen as productive elements organised, or to be organised, in an economy directed by whites.

Marcello Caetano, later prime minister of fascist Portugal, in a lecture in 1947.

## THE STRUGGLE

ANGOLA is being invaded just as crudely as was Vietnam in the 1960s. If the invaders win, they will slaughter at least a million Angolans in the most horrible holocaust in the continent's history. They will then hand Angola over to the big business corporations.

The corporations and their newspapers will then gain strength and confidence in their war with the freedom fighters of Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia, against the revolution in Portugal and against workers all over the world.

But they have a tougher fight on their hands than they imagine. Already the MPLA are rolling back the invading armies. They have a gigantic weapon—the support of the Angolan people. This they have

won—as the Vietcong won support in Vietnam—not with Russian arms or Cuban mercenaries but by controlling the price of food and organising agricultural production for the producers.

If the MPLA win, as the Vietcong won against even more impossible odds, they will light a beacon for every starving peasant and guerrilla fighter in Africa—and for every worker in the world whose livelihood is threatened by the big business corporations.

The war in Angola touches every one of us every bit as much as did the war in Vietnam. Angola needs a solidarity movement in Britain every bit as much as Vietnam did. Let us build it.

independence. They developed a... known as

puppet African... economy is... and his replace-... American State... man, Mobutu.

deal, now being... the white... in Rhodesia and... which will keep... in the pockets

the gradual... meaningful in-... the African... mbia, Tanzania

at for 'detente',... Angola, whose... not depend on... Africa, which... to the sea, and... economy is... South African





SPECIAL CRISIS EDITION WITH FREE SUPPLEMENT Number 12, November 14 1975 (full paper) 10 cents

**Whitlam had the votes, the Constitution and public support.**

**Fraser had the bosses and the Governor-General ..... he won.**

**So much for democracy in Parliament.**

**Defend yourself with democracy on the job**

## STRIKE TO STOP FRASER

**INSIDE: WHY THEY SACKED WHITLAM page 2**  
**THE MAN THEY GOT TO DO IT page 11**

A SPECIAL edition of *The Battler*, paper of the Socialist Workers Action Group, the Australian fraternal organisation of Socialist Worker and the International Socialists. The edition was in immediate response to the sacking of the Whitlam Labour government, to call for a general strike.

The edition was sold out within 36 hours.

A letter from SWAG tells us: 'Thursday saw 30 left-wing Victorian unions declare a four-hour strike of all their members on Friday afternoon and they called a rally for 2pm in the city square. At the demonstration we sold 500 copies of our paper and collected about 50 dollars extra in donations.'

'They then marched up to the Old Treasury and heard insipid "Go home and be peaceful" speeches—and a plea from state secretary of the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union John Halpenny to go home before peak hour to avoid disrupting transport!

'We had a megaphone. We started agitating for a march on Parliament House and got our two banners and our members to move off. Everyone followed. We then marched on the Stock Exchange. SWAG was now leading 20,000 demonstrators, although they did not all share our views!

'A whole layer of workers is having parliamentary illusions stripped from their view of politics.'

Australians in the International Socialists are attempting to organise support in this country through the IS Australia group. They have speakers who can visit Socialist Worker meetings or trade union meetings, and can supply copies of *The Battler*. They are especially anxious to contact socialists from or with contacts in Australia. For more information contact the IS Australia Group, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## Why we left this conference

AT the beginning of November, Lutte Ouvriere, a French revolutionary socialist organisation, organised an international conference to discuss, among other things, Portugal.

The International Socialists accepted an invitation to attend the conference. There we moved this resolution:

'This conference recognises that the formation of the workers', soldiers' and tenants' committees, the arming of large sections of the working class, the occupation of the factories and the land, the complete breakdown of discipline in the armed forces, and the purging of the old fascist state apparatus, constitute a revolutionary situation in Portugal.

'The only two alternatives facing Portugal are a victory for workers' power on the one hand, or on the other, a Chilean-type catastrophe.

'We call upon all organisations represented here to give maximum active support to the revolutionary working class of Portugal.'

Despite lengthy discussion, unfortunately the conference would not support this resolution. The IS delegation withdrew from the conference. It had become a mockery.

We completely disagree with those, like Lutte Ouvriere, who pin their hopes on co-operation, at whatever level, with the Portuguese Socialist Party. The task is not to fight alongside its leader, Mario Soares, in a United Front to defend the revolution from the extreme right wing. The task is rather to unite all working-class organisations in the workers' councils to build organisations of working-class power.

## Support for prisoners

THREE Provisional IRA prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs climbed on to the roof last week and ripped off tiles. They were protesting at being denied the right to be treated as prisoners of war—and there is a war on in Northern Ireland.

Members of the International Socialists in the nearby Hammersmith Hospital put into action Socialist Worker's call of a fortnight ago for concrete solidarity with those resisting British rule in Northern Ireland. An emergency SW bulletin was produced explaining the plight of the prisoners and demanding: Support the prisoners; Adequate humane visiting facilities; Stop the bombings; Troops out of Ireland now; Self-determination for the Irish people.

Many people in the hospital were watching the prisoners' protest, and our bulletin was well received as the only source of information. A NUPE stewards' meeting accepted a call from IS members for a demonstration of solidarity

*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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**CAMBRIDGE SW public meetings:** The Cuts. Speaker: Mike Duggan (CPSA). Monday 1 December, 8pm, Duke of Argyle pub, Argyle Street.

**SOUTHWARK SW public meeting:** The City—how it works. Speaker: Alan Franks. Wednesday 3 December, 8pm, Committee Room 1, Rotherhythe Civic Centre, Albion Street, London SE16.

**CANTERBURY and district:** Any SW readers and supporters in Canterbury and the surrounding area who would like to get in touch with active supporters in Canterbury please write to 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

**ACCRINGTON SW public meeting:** Fight for the right to work. Speaker: John Deason. Thursday 11 December, 8pm, Blockade Hotel, Fring Street.

**HULL SW discussion groups:** Every Monday, 7.30pm, Socialist Books, 238 Spring Bank.

**ASHTON District International Socialists and SW supporters meet every Sunday at 7.30pm** at the Laughing Cavalier, Market Street, Stalybridge.

## Socialist Worker events

**SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION:** 60-minute cassette includes Grandola Vila Morena, the song played over Lisbon Radio as signal for the 25 April coup, Alertal, a song often heard on Lisbon demonstrations, and songs about the tenants' struggle and the African liberation movements. £1.60, including postage, from Pete Marsden, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Proceeds to the SW Portugal Solidarity Fund.

**HERE IT IS,** what you've been waiting for: Socialist Worker, Women's Voice, Wings Disco, buffet. 7.30pm, 6 December, Waverley Hotel, Lowestoft. Tickets £1.

**BRISTOL SW jumble sale:** Saturday 6 December, 2pm, St Michael's Church Hall, St Michael's Hill, Bristol 2. Please note change of date.

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

**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.

**WOMENS VOICE Factsheet on Abortion.** 1p a copy plus postage or 75 for 50p from SW Distributors, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

## NOISS

**STUDENTS:** Posters headed 'International Socialists Society' in red available by return from J Cox, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham 12. Size 25in x 18 in. Cost £2.50 per 100 including postage. Minimum order 100 posters. Cash with orders only.

**WILL ALL STUDENT COMRADES** and sympathisers whose homes are in the Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester, Stroud or Gravesend areas ring Medway 57508Q or 575080 or Gravesend 57095 on their return from college.

## IS notices

**CO-PROJECTIONIST NEEDED** to accompany driver-projectionist on final week of Socialist Worker film tour, Monday 8 December—Sunday 14th. Expenses paid. IS member preferred.

**CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE,** a short pamphlet produced by SW Africa Group, 5p (plus 6½p postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Other bookshops should contact to get copies.

**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.

**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.

**WITNESSES of the arrest of Terry Povey at the Chelsea Town Hall anti-National Front picket required immediately.** Phone 01-609 1260.

## Come to Skegness with Socialist Worker

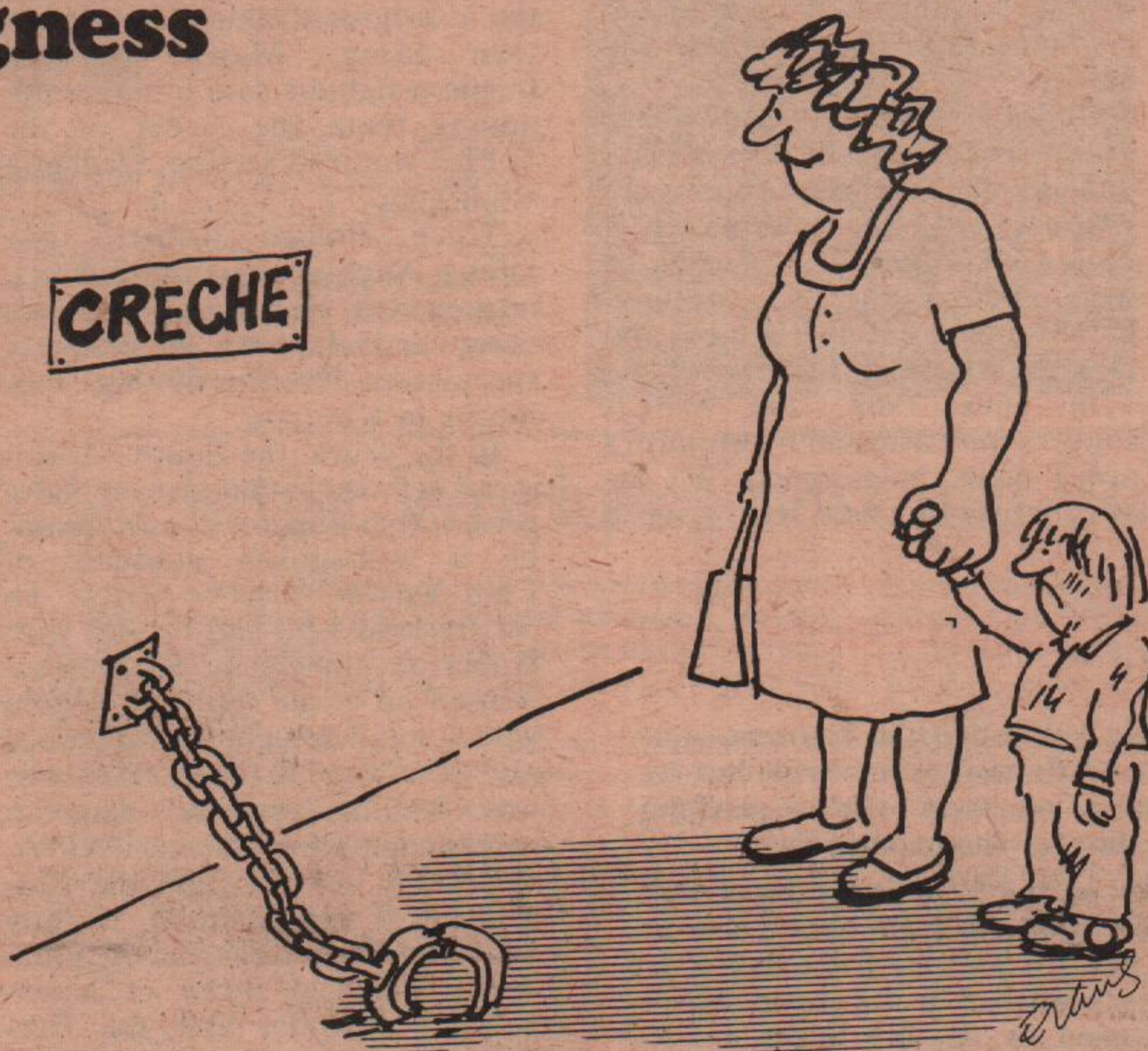
FOUR DAYS of boozing, political discussion, meetings and films, football, and swimming at the Derbyshire Miners' holiday camp.

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.

CRECHE



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.

## Portugal: Vital points in solidarity

THE Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation has invited a number of organisations, including the International Socialists, to participate in calling a conference in solidarity with the Portuguese Revolution in Paris on 13 and 14 December.

At the first planning meeting IS proposed some basic points which we thought should form the basis of the conference. These were: full support for the workers' and soldiers' committees, support for the workers of Republica and Radio Renascensa, and opposition to the disarming of workers.

These were all agreed. Since then these points seem to have been dropped from the publicity for the conference. We think this has happened for fear of upsetting friendships within the Labour Party and the trade unions, many of which support the Portuguese Socialist Party.

Together with several other British and French organisations that agree with our arguments we will be going to the next planning meeting to put the case again for supporting the Portuguese workers. We hope that we can convince the majority of those present that the only sort of conference that is worth holding is one that is clear on which side it is.

If the conference is on the workers' side then it will provide a fine opportunity for organising working-class solidarity throughout Europe.

**República do Trabalhador**  
JORNAL MENSAL DOS SOCIALISTAS INDEPENDENTES

**ESMAGUEMOS O CONTRÔLE DE SALÁRIOS!**

Incluimos neste número:  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Mínimo  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Máximo  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Real  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Nominal  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Efetivo  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Líquido  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Bruto  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Líquido  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Bruto  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Líquido  
- Artigo sobre o Salário Bruto

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- Artigo sobre o Salário Mínimo  
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THIS is the first edition of a monthly paper for Portuguese workers in Canada produced by the Independent Socialists, one of our fraternal organisations. Canadian IS have recently recruited some Portuguese workers who are helping to write the paper.

There are 100,000 Portuguese workers in Toronto alone, and smaller communities in Hamilton, Kingston and London, all in Ontario and all with IS branches.

△▼ Districts must make sure the names of delegates for the IS National Council are sent in to the national office now.

△▼ YOU don't have much time left to sell the Socialist Worker Christmas lottery tickets. Remember: all the money for tickets sold must be sent in now. It doesn't matter how little, don't hold on to it. Return the stubs in the same envelope as the money—we need the stubs to make the draw.



## TAKE IT AS RED

by PAUL O'FLINN

Bias?  
It's  
news  
to  
me...

AS THE SALES of most newspapers continue to dwindle, with only one or two exceptions called Socialist Worker, it's inevitable that people will come to depend more and more on their radios and TVs for news.

That being so, it's worth keeping an eye on what passes for news on the BBC these days.

This thought recently prompted me to switch on The World at One three times a week. The World at One is on Radio Four, the old Home Service, whose chief function was and is to provide jobs and entertainment for the upper-middle classes. (40 per cent of upper-middle class listening is to Radio 4; only 13 per cent of working class listening is spent tuned to that station.)

Yet The World at One has a slightly naughty, radical image. On its recent tenth anniversary there was much congratulatory talk in the media of its belt and braces atmosphere and its abrasive, forceful approach, all regional accents and rude questions and sleepless nights for BBC mandarins. But the clue to the truth about the programme

lies in William Hardcastle, its founder and anchorman till his death earlier this month.

Ex-editor of the Daily Mail, he shifted the presentation of news from a Lord Reith/Times style—pompous, royalist and right wing—to a populist/Daily Mail style—matey, royalist and right wing.

His opening, for example, of a discussion on the blastfurnacemen's strike at Llanwern with the comment 'Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad' is in the central Daily Mail tradition of regarding all strikers as nutters. (The technical term for this at the BBC is impartiality.)

## Tories

On the three days I listened, 22 people were interviewed. They included the Prime Minister, paying tribute to William Hardcastle, Barbara Castle telling striking junior hospital doctors that 'industrial action' was 'a waste of resources', and Bill Price, Labour MP for Rugby, who went on about the need to 'get them (workers) to understand that their security depends on profits.'

Also interviewed were three Tories: first of all Ted Heath (enough said); then Sir Keith Joseph and Monday Clubber Patrick Wall, with statements that put them marginally to the right of Ivan the Terrible.

The rest of the 22 consisted of three journalists, a vicar, an actor, three doctors, an ambassador, two trade union leaders, Jeremy Thorpe, a man from a company pensions scheme, a trawler skipper, a newspaper editor and the mother of a man killed by the Provisionals.

What's shocking about this list is not just the overwhelmingly heavy proportion of men—20 out of 22—but also the similarly heavy proportion of interviewees from the ruling and professional elite.

## Fact

It could be argued, I suppose, that this is no fault of the BBC—that granted the way our society operates it's those men who exercise power, and all the BBC is doing is reporting what they do with it.

But the fact is that even when workers make the news they don't get on it.

The World at One wanted to know about the motives of the strikers. You'd have thought the obvious person to ask about that was a striker.

Instead the BBC asked Charles Wintour, editor of the Evening Standard, who said . . . but why bother, you know what he said, you've heard it about 43 times a day since you were born.

You haven't been on The World at One lately because you don't make news, you just make profits for the people who hire you. They make the news so it's their programme.

But like the man said, one day, my son, all this will be yours.



Joe Hill and (right) the sort of state violence against workers that cost him his life.

SIXTY years ago last week, the legendary Joe Hill was gunned down by a firing squad after having been framed for murder.

Joe's fellow-workers knew he had done no such thing. As Jim Larkin said at his funeral:

*'Joe Hill was shot to death because he was a member of the fighting section of the American working class, the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World).'*

Joe Hill—original name Joel Emmanuel Haagland—was born in Sweden in 1879. And from the start he had a flair for music.

Had he been lucky or rich, he might have become a composer. As it was, economic and social conditions forced him, like millions of other European workers, to emigrate to America.

## Rotten

For eight years, he worked at just about every job available to an immigrant worker, from spittoon cleaner to cooper miner.

By 1910, he had had enough of the rotten jobs and rotten society he saw all around him—and decided to do something about it.

He joined the Industrial Workers of the World, or Wobblies as they were called.

The Wobblies, born in 1905, stated their position clearly: 'The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. Between these two classes a struggle must go on until all the workers of the world come together on the political, as well as the industrial field, and take and hold the industry of the country.'

In short, they hoped to unite industrial workers all over the world into one big union and then destroy capitalism with a massive general strike.

Whether such a programme was feasible is, of course, a matter for debate. What was important was that the Wobblies united in their ranks

# Don't mourn, organise!

By  
DAVE SMITH

most of the best American revolutionaries—and it was as revolutionaries that the Wobblies were regarded.

Established trade union leaders refused to have anything to do with them. The capitalist class turned hired gangs of armed thugs loose on them.

Joe wrote fighting songs. His first, Casey Jones—The Union Scab, was written to help the railway workers on the South Pacific Line whose strike was being broken by scab labour. The song went:

*Casey Jones got a job in Heaven;  
Casey Jones was doing mighty fine;*

*Casey Jones went scabbing on the angels,  
Just like he did to workers on the SP Line.*

Before long, workers all over the States were singing it. Joe Hill became a frequent contributor to the Wobblies' Little Red Song Book. His songs were always simple, direct and relevant to the workers they were written for.

In 1913, Joe found himself in Utah, where workers were locked in a fierce battle with the Utah Cooper Company and the Brigham Construction Company.

He set to work to help organise the workers, but by now he was a marked man. The police, anxious to crush the Wobblies, pulled him in for questioning over the murder of a grocer and his son.

Their evidence, if you could call it that, was that Joe had been injured on the night of the murder—'obviously'

Those were the final words of Joe Hill before being executed 60 years ago this month—murdered by 'law and order' ...

he had received the injury when committing the murder.

A man came forward to say he had been with Joe that night and that he had received the injury in a fight over a girl.

The police promptly ran the man out of town. Joe was tried, found guilty and executed.

His funeral in Chicago was unlike anything the city had seen before. The Red Flag flew on every street corner.

There were no prayers or hymns: the crowd of more than 30,000 sang the songs Joe had written for them.

Above the grave was a banner with the words: *In Memoriam, Joe Hill. We never forget. Murdered by the authorities of the State of Utah, November 19, 1915.*

Joe's own message to the Wobblies the day before he died was:

*'Tell the fellow workers for me to waste no time in mourning, but to organise our class and march to victory.'*

*THE IWW SONGBOOK (with a number of Joe Hill's songs) is available from IWW, c/o Bob Lees, 6 Coniston Avenue, Oldham, Lancs. 25p plus 10p postage.*

## ON THE BOX

FRIDAY  
THE MONEY PROGRAMME (BBC-2, 8.15pm) looks at the 700 anonymous bowler-hatted gents who comprise the Price Commission, a body set up to monitor and restrict price rises and noticeable only for its total failure. This week's TRINITY TALE (BBC-2, 10.15pm) is the Fryer's Tale with Bill Maynard as Stan the Fryer. Rod

Stewart's farewell concert is on London Weekend at 11.30pm.

SUNDAY  
This week's TRADE UNION STUDIES (BBC-1, 9.45pm) is on overtime.

TUESDAY  
MILESTONES IN WORKING CLASS HISTORY (BBC-1, 11pm), features Red Clyde, the 1915 munition workers' strike

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

Wilhelm  
**Reich**  
The Mass Psychology  
of Fascism

Reich argues that fascism springs not only from economic and political factors but is also a product of the ruthless suppression of the individual by an authoritarian and sexually inhibited society.

Available, £1.15 (inc. postage), from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

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# LETTERS

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.

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

## THE RIGHT TO WORK, NOT TO SABOTAGE

**THE UNDERSIGNED** are extremely angry at the sectarian attitude adopted by the West Middlesex district of the Communist Party towards the local Right to Work Campaign.

Three weeks ago, NUPE shop stewards at Hammersmith Hospital and the Joint Shop Stewards Committee at British Airways (European Division) at London Airport agreed to sponsor what was the only major public meeting to build up support for the 26 November unemployment lobby called by the North West TUC.

The meeting was organised by the National Rank and File Movement with Ricky Tomlinson as the main speaker.

Communist Party members made preparation for the meeting as difficult as possible. When it was suggested that the West London Joint Trades Council Action Committee Against Unemployment advertised the meeting on the 25,000 leaflets they had produced locally for the lobby, CP members blocked it.

### Help

When the powerful District Committee of the AUEW was invited to help publicise the meeting, CP members opposed it, alleging that the National Rank and File Movement was out to split the lobby by calling for the march to assemble at 1pm instead of 1.30pm.

Ironically, the Trades Council Action Committee leaflet which the Southall AUEW supported, also calls for the march to assemble at 1pm!

Finally CP members on the joint shop stewards committee at British Airways (European Division) didn't even have to the courtesy to come to the meeting despite the fact that one of them had agreed to speak.

Needless to say, they made no effort to get other people to the meeting.

We are truly astonished that an organisation that prides itself on its part in the campaign to release the Shrewsbury pickets from prison should behave like this when Ricky Tomlinson comes to the area to speak in the campaign against unemployment.

### Sabotage

The meeting was in the interests of all working people who want to fight Labour's unemployment policies. The fact that the CP tried to sabotage it is just one more example of them under pressure ALWAYS putting the interests of their organisation above the interests of the working class.

—IAN MORRIS, AUEW shop steward, British Airways (European Division), STEVE DERBY, EETPU shop steward, British Airways (European Division), BILL GEDDES NUPE shop steward, Hammersmith Hospital, BILL TIZARD, NUPE shop steward, Hammersmith Hospital, BERNIE BATEMAN, President, Southall Trades Council, JIM McCANN, Deputy Convenor, ACTSS, Walls Meat Company, Hayes, MARTIN GERALD, NUT School rep, Ealing.

# Chrysler: The real story...

**WORKERS** at Chrysler Linwood last week voted overwhelmingly to demand the nationalisation of Chrysler and to occupy the factory if the company try to pull out.

I was amazed, however, to read in the Morning Star on 17 November a statement by John Ray, the Communist Party's Scottish industrial organiser, that 'Party members were at the forefront in the big struggle at Chrysler Linwood'.

*This letter has also been sent to the Morning Star.*

As far as I can recall, the only CP member who spoke at the shop stewards meeting at which the above policies were hammered out was Ronnie Rigby, AUEW sub-convenor. At the joint shop stewards meeting on Wednesday 28 October, called to

hear a report-back from a combine meeting with the company, the JSS chairman moved that the stewards should support Chrysler's demand for £35 million from the government.

When I moved an amendment calling for a policy of 'no redundancies—nationalise Chrysler without compensation', the first person on his feet to oppose this was Brother Rigby.

He spoke of 'these people who demand nationalisation' as being in 'cloud cuckoo land' and went on to speak, with some passion, in favour of campaigning to get the workforce lined up behind Chrysler's £35 million raid on public money. The amendment was defeated 200-50.

### Threat

Later that day, news came through of Chrysler's threat to pull out of Britain—a development completely in line with the argument used to advocate nationalisation as an immediate, not an abstract, measure.

The policy of nationalisation then became the only way to defend jobs and was accepted by the shop stewards and workforce.

Occupation was also argued for by IS members and other militants. I cannot recall Brother Rigby opening his mouth on the subject.

I do not believe that statements like the one in the Morning Star lead in the direction of the Left Unity which they claim to espouse, to say nothing of historical accuracy.—PETER BAIN, TGWU shop steward, Chrysler, Linwood.

## Don't miss this film

DREAMS and Nightmares, the film now on an SW tour lifted my spirits as well as reducing me to tears.

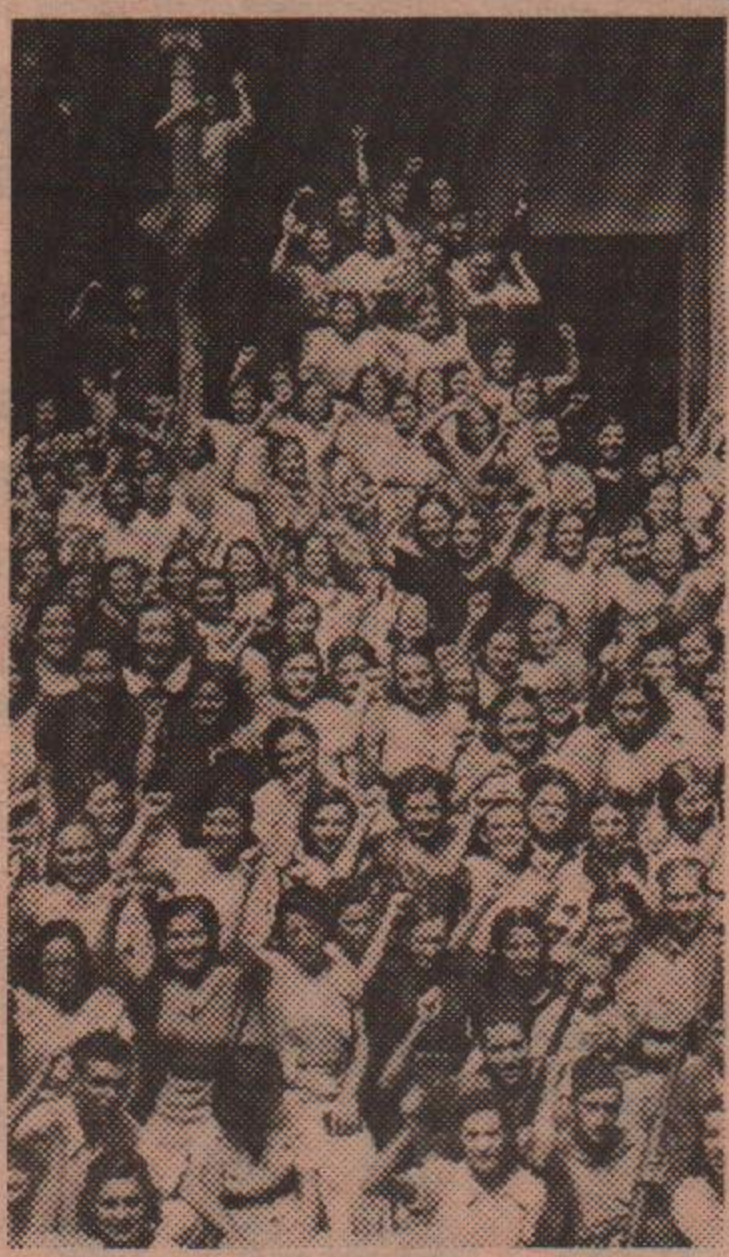
It's a 50 minute documentary made by an American building worker

He finally decided to volunteer to fight against Franco in the Spanish Civil War when he saw a newsreel of the bombing of Guernica.

The film skilfully uses clips of archive film of unemployment, the Depression and the rise of fascism.

Its author returned to Spain in 1974 with a camera and found the menace of Franco's police state. He finds the real Spain seething below the surface.

The film should guarantee a passionate discussion. Don't be the one who missed it. DAVID WIDGERY, IS Agit Prop Committee.



Spain 1936: the dream that turned into a nightmare

# WHAT RUBBISH!

I WAS STUNNED to see that Fifth Column (22 November) had joined the ranks of the Kennedy cult. John F. Kennedy never had a 'peace loving prime'. He was as murderous and vicious as every other US president in living memory.

Recent revelations about the CIA tell how Kennedy ordered them to arrange the murder of Lumumba, the leader of the Congolese liberation movement, and to try to assassinate Fidel Castro. In his election campaign against Nixon, Kennedy managed the feat of being more of a war-monger than tricky Dick himself, inventing a 'missile gap' and demanding more arms spending, as well as calling for action against Cuba.

He gave the go-ahead for the Bay of Pigs CIA invasion of Cuba, and was prepared to contemplate complete destruction of humanity through nuclear warfare during the confrontation with Russia over the Cuban missiles.

He had been one of the Congressmen who picked on the notorious dictator Diem to run South Vietnam for the US, and he presided over the build-up of US troops around Saigon.

The book The Best and the Brightest tells how all the 'nice liberals' taken into the White House by Kennedy were behind the mass bombing of civilians in the Lyndon Baines Johnson period.

Maybe some nutty right-wingers did kill Kennedy. Some of the American extreme right are capable of anything. But I find it difficult to imagine that the Kennedy supporters in high places under LBJ's reign (including the rest of the Kennedy family) would have kept quiet about the affair—especially when you look at the hysteria which broke out over a simple burglary of the Democratic Party HQ.

### Weep

But in any case, the Kennedy assassination was nothing for the Left to weep over. The death of an arch-murderer like that should not cause anyone to lose a tear. It is said that the evil men do lives on after them. One of Kennedy's creatures was Holden Roberto, chosen in 1962 to represent US interests in Angola. Roberto is now using white South African troops to tear that country apart.—COLIN WHITE, N London.

THE JFK article contained an error. Kennedy's funeral was indeed 'ghoulishly rehearsed' a week before the assassination, but not by the right-wing fanatics of Dallas.

According to Appendix 12 of the Warren Report, it was rehearsed by the very same military personnel who provided the actual funeral cortege! I could quote the Warren Commission's explanation but readers would probably have more fun devising their own.—BRIAN BURDEN, Braintree.

BRITISH RAIL have quickly shown what the new Sex Discrimination Act is worth. Lawyers have told them that their reduced Away Day tickets for women shoppers and housewives go against the Act—so they've scrapped them. What a sick joke!

The Times said this was one of the 'comic side effects' of the law. Ha bloody ha.

Men who work on the railways get travel concessions for their wives and kids. Women employees don't.

When it suited BR to fill up the trains in off-peak hours, they turned to the obvious market—women. Now their finances are in the fertiliser, they want to squeeze every penny out of all travellers, regardless of sex.—GAIL ARMSTRONG, Coventry.

SW'S ANSWER to capitalism will involve considerable violence. Yet surely, if no man inflicted violence on another, we would have achieved considerable progress? Violence is sometimes difficult to avoid and may, during a life-time, involve the most non-violent of us. Your road to socialism, however, leads straight to it.—K ANDERSON, Ashton-under-Lyne.

## ABOUT THAT '£6 NOW'

MAUREEN Tomlinson and Brian Willman (Letters, last week) miss the point.

Of course we are against wage controls and the £6 freeze. But at the present time, many women are being denied the £6 or are having the £6 traded against equal pay.

It is also likely that women who push for equal pay and the £6 will be told their jobs are in danger as they will no longer be cheap labour for the boss.

## Postal Points

CONGRATULATIONS to Paul O'Flinn. The Take It As Red column has breathed life into an almost dead reviews page. Here's hoping the column becomes a regular part of Socialist Worker. In time, it might even stimulate interest in the 'arts' among some of our more philistine comrades.—GEORGE KELLY, Glasgow.

CHRIS HARMAN'S preview (15 November) of the Communist Party's Congress will convince few of its rank and file militants to exchange their party cards for IS ones.

Members are leaving the Communist Party, but not because they can see through its politics in the way Harman can. A more likely explanation is the general retreat of the working class in the face of increasing unemployment, victimisations etc. Can he tell readers that even IS has been struggling a bit recently?

Surely when the working class goes over to the offer believe and hope it will, the Communist Party will revive a little. I hope that as we have better politics, IS will revive even more.

If a worker doesn't join IS, it's better that he or she joins the Communist Party than stays outside politics altogether. Harman's article is a good example of how to be sectarian.—BILL FAKES, Workington.

HALLAS cites 'from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs' as the basic principle of socialism. Thus he is using 'socialism' to mean the higher phase of communist society. Lenin used it to mean the first phase.

Terminology is not important so long as you are consistent. Hallas is not. He goes on to use the Soviet Union's definition as evidence against it. This is not on—that definition is perfectly correct in the Leninist sense. What is wrong in the USSR is the way they twist their own definition to justify greater inequality.—STUART BOARDMAN, Edinburgh.

R MOUNCER (8 November) misses the point about Hallas' article on the relationship of marxism to morality. In maintaining there is no absolute morality, marxists do not mean moral judgements are impossible or that one society is no more moral than another. They mean that such concepts do not have their roots in immutable ideas coming from outside the real world.

For example, eskimos have allowed their old to die of cold or starvation in periods of food shortage. This may have been tragic but it was not immoral, for their level of economic development meant that those who did not produce had to die so that the others might live.

The death of old people through cold or starvation becomes exceptionally immoral when the means of production have advanced to provide for the needs of everyone, as is obviously the case in present-day Britain. JAMES CROCKETT, Aberdeen.

WHILE understanding and sympathising fully with John Gillett (8 November) on the employment of non-union labour in the TV series Days of Hope, can an argument not also be put forward that the working class has little enough access to the media and therefore any opportunity must be used? Days of Hope was surely such an opportunity.—BILLY SMITH, Carpach, Nr Fort William, Inverness-shire.

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

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# DON'T LET THIS STRIKE BECOME ANOTHER FINE TUBES

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



Shop steward Rena Brown (left) with fellow strikers: sacked for belonging to a trade union

## Amnesty? What amnesty?

WHILE leafletting the Salford dole for a few weeks, I have had many discussions and arguments with the unemployed and have had some good remarks.

One I really liked was from a man about 50 who had lived through the bad days and been unemployed for a number of months. He started to talk about lack of support from the government and union leaders to smash the system.

He finished up by saying: 'No wonder the government called for an arms amnesty'. Being a bit baffled by this I said 'What amnesty?'

Reply: 'When they stopped us being able to get guns in case we shot the bastards!'. I still do not know what amnesty he is talking about but he made his point.

This is the hard line you get off some people but others are so depressed and demoralised that they can't make the effort to take their hands out of their pockets and take a leaflet.

This is why comrades, we have to work harder to push the sales of SW and also consolidate on previous work to get the message across to the class that they are being conned and there is a way to fight back.—BOBBY BUIRDS. Manchester.

## Sacked—for no reason

I HAVE worked at Millwards, a furniture factory in East London, for 18 months. Before getting this job, I had been down and out for some time and was determined to pull myself up and get back on my feet.

For this reason, the job meant a lot to me, although the conditions in the canteen, toilets and warehouse were dirty and unhygienic.

A couple of weeks ago, I went sick for two days and when I returned I was told to 'push off' and get another job.

I was sacked on the spot, without reason or notice. I was shocked and disgusted.

Yet the Department of Employment put my redundancy down to 'misconduct'. If there's been any misconduct, it's on the side of Millwards.

I can appeal against this decision—but why should I have to defend myself when it's the firm that should be forced to account for its behaviour?—MR FLEET, E London.

THE LADBROKE'S strike is looking more and more like another Fine Tubes. That strike for union recognition went on for three years with brave promises from the leaders of the Transport and Engineering Unions—and ended in defeat after they failed miserably to use their power to win it.

The Ladbrokes strike committee are convinced they could have—and could still win—if they got decent support from the TGWU.

They point to the way Ladbroke's depend on the average punter to build their profits. They ask what would have happened had the TGWU asked the dockers, lorry-drivers and bus drivers up and down the land to picket Ladbroke's shops.


### BEER

They also point to the way Hugh Wyper organised the TGWU support of a picket of Ayr racecourse. Instead of stopping all supplies to the course, Wyper organised it so that the beer deliveries were stopped during the Ladbroke sponsored races alone. That was it. No beer for two races.

When the TGWU called a meeting in Newcastle to organise support for the strike among Ladbroke workers, only a handful of people attended. Yet when a member of the Glasgow strike committee later went there, 80 Ladbrokes workers turned up.

Now at least 200 of the 300 employed by the betting shop empire in Newcastle are in the union. Yet Jack Jones still hasn't called these members out on strike.

But Jack isn't interested in the quick way to win disputes. He has a role to play, a position to keep. Certainly he supports the strike and the workers' claim. That is why, nine weeks ago, when he spoke in Paisley at the opening of the new TGWU office, he

<b>Ladbrokes</b>		<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>
<b>BET &amp; SELECTION</b>		
<b>FIX THE ODDS</b>		
<b>SCREW THE WORKERS</b>		
<b>£254 million each way</b>		
<b>Winnings: £10,078,000</b>		
<b>Punter's name: Cyril Stein (above) boss of Ladbroke's (the figures are their turnover and profit last year)</b>		

attacked 'Victorian employers' who would not accept trade union rights.

That same night Jack Jones dug into his wallet and gave the Ladbroke's strike committee £1 for their fund. What generosity—particularly when he had just accepted a gift of a set of cut crystal glasses worth £35 for opening the new Paisley headquarters. His house must be stowed out with such gifts.

With the kind of support Wyper and Jones are giving the strike it could easily go the same way as Fine Tubes.

But Fine Tubes and Ladbroke's show that if the rank and file take the initiative, then at least you're in with a chance of winning.

At Ladbroke's it's more than a chance. The strikers are good and determined fighters. They can get rank and file support and so put more pressure on the big wigs of the Transport Union.

So, brothers and sisters, stay away from Ladbrokes betting shops, get your workmates to raise money for the strikers and contact the strike committee direct to see what else you can do to help them and trade unionism get the first foothold in the multi-million pound a year betting industry.

Contact the Ladbroke's Strike Committee at 214 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

quickly. After all they were solid in and around Glasgow. They had good prospects of spreading the union to other towns.

And they had, as the Transport Union's own advertising put it, 'the strength of Britain's biggest union around them'.

But six weeks later the strikers were dealt their first blow. Hugh Wyper, Glasgow district officer of the Transport Union told them to accept defeat and ask for their job back.

Yet he was in a position to give the strikers immense assistance. Not only is he an influential position in the union. He is also a member of the Communist Party, with access to a network of activists in the trade union movement on Clydeside and beyond.

As a former full-time secretary of the Glasgow Trades Council, he probably has an unrivalled number of contacts and avenues to explore in the local movement.

But Hugh Wyper's offices were never used to spread the struggle and help win. He is an appointed official, like almost all Transport Union officials, and therefore not subject to the recall of the membership.

Instead officials—left or right—are answerable to the big chief, that man of reason and moderation and turning the other cheek to even the most vicious employers, Brother Jack Jones.

A meeting of the strikers voted reluctantly to accept Bro Wyper's advice. But, to Ladbroke's, this was a sign of weakness.

They took the request for re-employment as an indication that the Transport Union leadership wanted out of the struggle and refused to take any of the strikers back.

Even at this, the Transport Union officers continued to avoid the issue. They moved to convert the struggle into a dispute over how much Ladbroke's would pay for the victory of keeping the union out of its shops.

Wyper had tried similar tactics to dispose of another dispute earlier in the year. When the Glasgow dustcart drivers struck for more pay and found the Labour government breaking their strike with troops, Wyper advised them to accept defeat.

The TGWU leaders hoped to repeat the operation with Ladbrokes. They thought the chance had come when, three weeks ago, they were contacted by the company and asked for a meeting.

### TUNE

This followed the (unenforceable) industrial tribunal ruling that the strikers should get their jobs back and receive compensation to the tune of £200.

The meeting was held at the plush Churchill Hotel in Portman Square, owned by the close friend and funder of Harold Wilson, Eric Miller of the Peachey Property Corporation.

Moss Evans, TGWU national official, and Hugh Wyper were told that Ladbrokes would not meet them in the company of any of the strikers.

Immediately Wyper and Evans gave in. Disgracefully, the meeting went ahead without any of the strikers.

Wyper came out of the meeting to announce that the strike was over. The strikers picketing outside could not believe their ears. He explained that Ladbroke's had offered payment in return for breaking the union.

The strikers were, of course, to stay sacked. Payments were to be £610 for a shop manager, £300 for a settler and £245 to £285 for women cashiers.

Despite this sorry catalogue, the women and men of Ladbrokes are fighting on. The Transport Union is still doing its damndest to get them out of the way. Last week there were the first signs of a move to withdraw official strike pay.

# SW

## What we stand for

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

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

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

**The smashing of the capitalist state** The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply

be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

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

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

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

**The revolutionary party** To achieve socialism the most mili-

tant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and Socialist Worker aims to build towards such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

### WE ARE

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

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

to strike and on effective picketing.

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

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

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

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

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people.

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

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# South Wales: One up for the women!

**SOUTH WALES:** Round-the-clock picketing continues at clothing factories where women are out for a £6 pay increase.

The women were furious when management—Kayser Bondor and the Northgate group—offered only £3.60. Most of the factories in dispute are part of the Courtaulds giant, which announced interim profits of £22 million last week.

'We're worth the £6—we're not prepared to work for a pittance any more,' Rita Griffiths, branch secretary of the Tailor and Garment Workers at Maesteg told Socialist Worker.

The organisation of the pickets is superb. All the sites have comfortable caravans or shelters, and glowing fires. At Pyle, each woman puts in 20p for the caravan rental and 10p for the gas. At Llanelli and Merthyr Tydfil, local factories are taking collections to pay for them.

It's not easy for women, who have the responsibility of the home and the shopping, to man a 24-hour picket. But they're doing it. At Merthyr Tydfil, the factory has three sections—so the women do one day in every three.

'It's good this way—one day on and two days off, so we can organise the house,' said steward Barbara Evans.

And at Maesteg: 'It's lucky we've got the husbands with us. They help look after the kids.'

At Neath, one husband and wife on strike share picket duty with looking after the kids.

The pickets are keeping finished goods in the factories, and searching every vehicle to make sure.

## Shock

At Neath, where about half the women are still working, two lorry firms are breaking the picket line—Cannonball Transport of London, and Matt Price, a local firm.

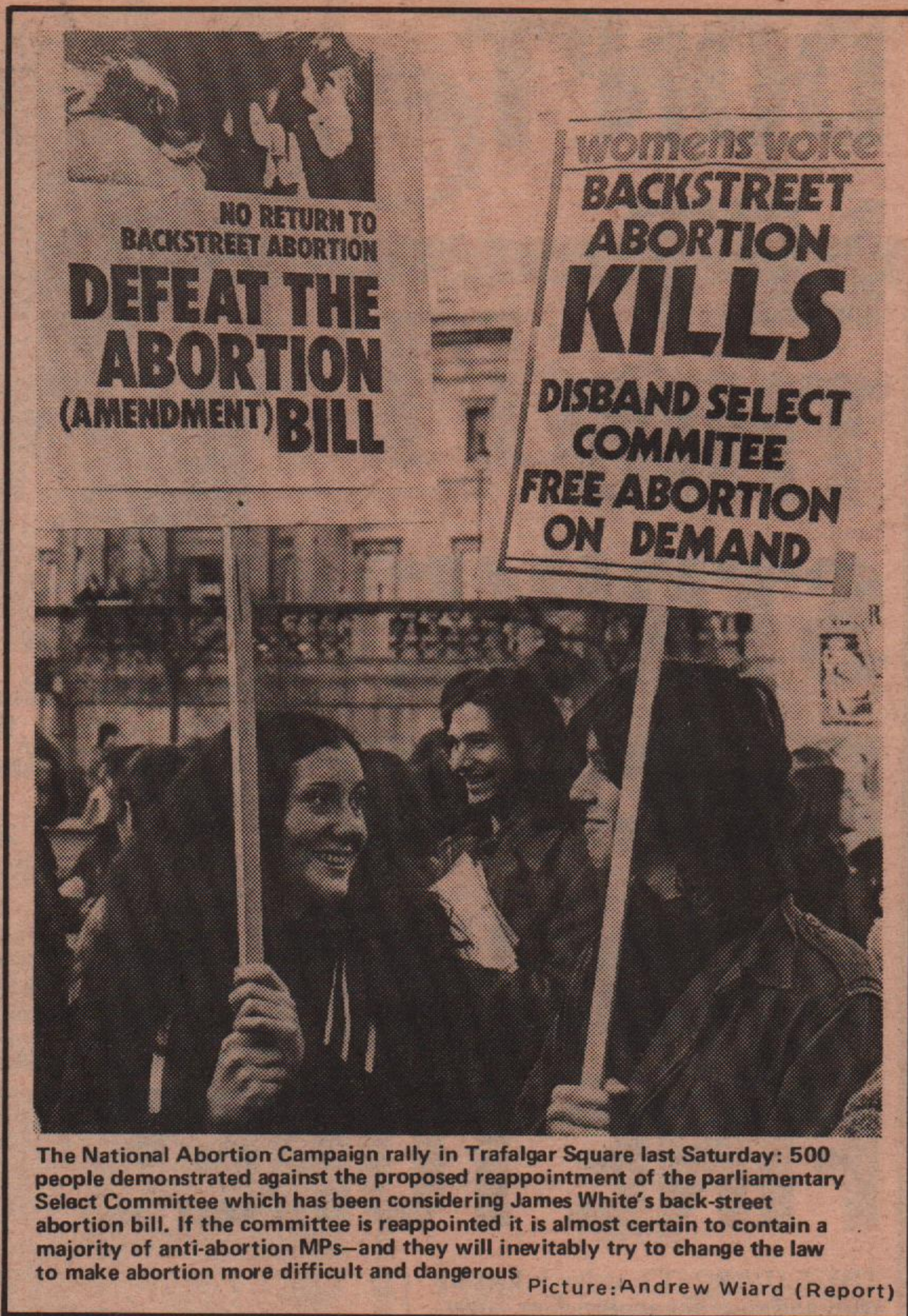
Meanwhile, on MERSEYSIDE, have come out: St Helens and the Paula Works that supply Marks and Spencer, and Linacre Road and Lark Hill that supply Mothercare.

On every picket line the response is solid. 'We're worth the £6, we need the £6, and we're out till we get it.'

The women went back last Monday morning for an official ballot, and came straight out again.

As Barbara Evans put it: 'Considering it's women's year, this is one up for the women.'

**Funds are needed. Collections and messages of support to Mrs Lillian Hopkin, 600 Middle Road, Ravenhill, Swansea.**



The National Abortion Campaign rally in Trafalgar Square last Saturday: 500 people demonstrated against the proposed reappointment of the parliamentary Select Committee which has been considering James White's back-street abortion bill. If the committee is reappointed it is almost certain to contain a majority of anti-abortion MPs—and they will inevitably try to change the law to make abortion more difficult and dangerous

Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)

# PERSONNNA: NOW LET'S GO ALL OUT TO WIN

**GLASGOW:** The occupation by 300 workers at Personna is beginning to get the kind of support needed for victory.

After ten weeks of struggle to stop 40 sackings, the men and women inside the factory feel the tide is beginning to turn. Morale is high. The occupation has forced the Engineering Union to give official support.

## Tyneside battle begins for the Right to Work

**TYNESIDE:** 350 delegates from most local trade unions set up a Right to Work committee on Saturday at a Conference on Unemployment called by Newcastle Trades Council. They also set up an action committee to reduce the cuts.

'It's like giving a strawberry to an elephant,' said Dave Brennan, miners' delegate, referring to the £4 million grant to aid unemployed youth in Tyneside.

David Skinner, former Clay Cross councillor, said the only way to fight against these attacks on living standards was to demand the refusal by local authorities to implement

Betty Franci, AUEW shop steward, told Socialist Worker, 'The AUEW members in the Rolls Royce factory on our estate are organising a weekly levy to support us. The Hull dockers have promised to black Philip Morris goods. Our delegates have been across to the east coast to get support from the pits, and Helen Gallagher, one of the shop stewards, is going down to Wales to raise support there.'

A delegation was going to Wednesday's Right to Work march in London.

Last Sunday, Phil McBride, AUEW convenor spoke at the Glasgow Socialist Worker Right to Work rally.

'The time to fight is when you have a job', he said. 'There's no point in waiting until you're on the street corner.'

## Struggle

'There's a new era of struggle developing, and for that reason it's important that we win.'

'Every trade unionist should be on the Right to Work march to tell this Labour government exactly how we feel about their Tory policy.'

*Collections and messages of support to: Ruby Duncan, Treasurer, Personna Strike Fund, 27 Bowfield Crescent, Glasgow.*

Crosland's cuts.

Ernie Ennew, a delegate from Sunderland Trades Council, called for better links between shop floor and staff unions.

Mick McGahey, President of the Scottish mines, attacked wage restraint. But he then complimented Tribune MPs, and finished by calling for import controls.

This was countered by Tommy Healey, from Liverpool's Speke Committee, who said: 'We condemn any demand for import controls. Workers can only fight against the multinationals by the establishment of international combines.'

## 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.**

**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.

**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 OTHER CINEMA** is looking for a programmer/political comms. Apply in writing only by 3 December, stating experience and interests to: The Other Cinema, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London, WC2H 7JL.

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, **Stephney Sisters**, Friday 5 December, 7.30pm, St Pancras Assembly Rooms (Kings Cross Tube). Bar from 7pm. Tickets £1.

**NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN:** Greenwich and Bexley NAC are showing the film 'An egg is not a chicken' on Wednesday 3 December, 8pm, Information Centre, Thamesmead.

**LONDON—DUBLIN return.** Two places in car leaving 23 December, return 30 December. £20 each. Phone Paul 01-739 1870 or 01-272 1970 (evenings).

**FIGHTING FOR WORKERS' POWER.** A chance to see the Newsreel Collective's new film on Portugal. Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. The film is about the struggles over the newspaper *República* and the formerly Catholic-owned *Radio Renascença*—both symbols in the fight for popular power. Acclaimed by audiences in Liverpool and Manchester. With speakers on the latest situation in Portugal and Angola and a speaker from Big Flame. Organised by Big Flame.

**MANCHESTER NCCL Conference on organising against the Prevention of Terrorism Act.** Sponsored by Salford Trades Council and auew (tass) No 10 Divisional Council. 30 November, 2.30pm, UMIST, Sackville Street, Manchester.

**ENGINEERS Charter Social:** Saturday 6 December, 7pm, Central London Poly, 104 Bolsover Street, London W1. Bar, food, raffles, disco, the 'Best in Rhythm and Blues'. All welcome.

**IF YOU'VE BEEN PHONING Sam the Man in vain—please try again!** Socialist Worker apologises to CAST theatre group for having misprinted their phone number three weeks running. Is this a record? CAST's latest play, *Sam the Man*, is still looking for bookings—it's about Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins MP, trying to walk the tightrope between being a Labour MP and his socialist ideals. Lasts 75 minutes, needs large hall and audience. Contact: CAST, 11c Cabell Street, London NW7. Phone 01-432 6367.

**Peggy Seeger and Ewan MacColl sing FOR THE CHILEAN RESISTANCE.** A concert on Monday 15 December, 7.30pm, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Tickets 50p at the door. Sponsored by the Cultural Committee of the Chile Solidarity Campaign.

**RADICAL AMERICA**—a revolutionary socialist magazine covering the history and current condition of the working class, reports on shop floor and community organising, analyses of the history and politics of socialist movements, black liberation and the women's movement in the United States and Western Europe. A one-year subscription for six issues costs £2.50. Send to: Radical America, Box B, N. Cambridge, Mass. 02140, USA.

**BIRMINGHAM CENTRE FOR THE ARTS:** Aston University, until 6 December. Socialist Theatre Season. 28 November: Clarion Singers with Truth on the March. 29 November: Banner, with Woman kind. 2 to 6 December: The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists. All at 8pm.

**SOCIALIST SOCIETY Disco** in aid of South London National Abortion Campaign. Good sound and bar. Admission 15p. 5th Floor common room, London College of Printing, Elephant and Castle SE1.

**Defeat the threat to occupations and squatting—stop the criminal trespass law!** Public meeting at Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London N1, 7.30pm, 3 December. Trade union, student and campaign speakers. Campaign Against a Criminal Tresspass Law, 6 Bowden Street, SE11. 01-289 3877.

**OMAN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN public meeting:** Friday 28 November, 7.30pm, Polytechnic of Central London, New Cavendish Street. Photographic exhibition, film and speakers. Saturday 29 November, 1pm, march and demonstration at Iranian Consulate in Manchester against repression.

**PLAYGROUP** workers in Manchester want information from other playgroup workers paid by social services departments. Please contact Janet Brown, 34 Delamare Road, Manchester 19.

**ANYONE** with information on Communist Party since 1960, especially in industry, local press cuttings, party leaflets etc, which would be useful in writing an article, please contact Steve Wright, c/o Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

# Manchester students fight colour bar

By Ken Wilson, MPSU Action Group

A COLOUR BAR is being operated by Manchester Polytechnic. Each year its lodgings bureau asks local landlords, in a questionnaire, if they are willing 'to accept overseas students'.

In other words: does the landlord wish to operate a colour bar? Having campaigned against this racist policy for 18 months without success, the students union decided this term to step up the action.

A one-day occupation was staged—and suddenly the authorities' attitude changed. The deputy director, sent to address the occupation, was full of 'helpful' suggestions. The union should entertain these racist landlords to 'tea and buns'—presumably to prove that overseas students are not sub-human. This quaint idea rejected.

## Solid

This isn't the only discrimination against overseas students. Their intake is to be slashed by three-quarters next year. And overseas students are charged twice the rent charged to English students—£27 a week instead of £13. That includes Scottish students—which may come as a shock to those who never realised Scotland was overseas.

A picket organised by Manchester area students, and widely supported by delegations from other colleges, protested against these fees and the general high level of overseas students fees.

Last weekend the Poly Students Union hosted a conference to exchange experiences at a national level, and to decide how to carry the campaign forward. A delegation will be going to national conference next month at Scarborough to argue that the campaign should be given national priority.

A similar campaign is being mounted at Sheffield University. Fee increases for overseas students were planned so the students union proposed a lightning occupation of parts of the administration block.

## Workers win as management cracks

**LONDON:** The eighth strike at Lawrence's Lower Thames Street site is over. Management cracked after three weeks. We stayed out in defiance of a panel recommendation to resume work and won our main points.

Lawrences have guaranteed our bonus won't be less than 75p and that there will be no redundancies before the structure is completed and no reduction in the workforce as it was before the dispute. Any vacancies will be filled by members found by the union.

When the structure is completed every man on the site will be paid £200 tax free. Sub-contract labour will be phased out, and the men offered direct employment. Direct labour will be used for the rest of the job. Negotiations will continue on the bonus for the rest of the job, and about an ex gratia payment for time lost.

Lawrence's are so eager to finish the job that they want overtime worked. We must demand they take on more men instead. If Lawrence's pay decent wages on our job, they should pay it throughout the firm. As the biggest organised site, it is now our job to extend the union to make Lawrence's 100 per cent.

# PICKET LINES

**SCUNTHORPE:** British Steel needed just 90 minutes last week to repair a faulty coke guide car—immediately after it caused the death of Thomas Parker, 43-year-old foreman at the Appleby-Frodingham. He was crushed to death.

This fault appeared repeatedly on shift reports. Nothing was done until a man was killed. 11 men have now died from burns after the explosion at the Victoria furnace, Appleby-Frodingham.

**SALFORD:** 'We will not be going back till they have put £12 on the table'—the words of one of the striking maintenance workers at Salford University. The men came out last Thursday after the University authorities rattled on a year-old deal.

Under the deal, all the workers should have had a minimum earnings level of £49.20. But the management refused to pay them more than the agreed basic rates, £6 a week less. The men also want to be guaranteed the £6 which is theirs by right from November under the government's pay cut laws.

The men have calculated that the deal would cost £19,000. The University recently brought its Vice-Chancellor a new Daimler car (£8000) and a house in

Hale Barnes (£22,000), and then spent £17,000 renovating the house using university staffs as labour.

*Messages of support and donations to Brother E. Kearney, 14 Derby Avenue, Salford 6.*

**LONDON:** The strike by NCL Rail Parcel Express Drivers was broken last week—by their own union. The NUR imposed a 'compromise' peace formula. An inquiry is to probe whether management broke an agreement by arbitrarily imposing new manning schedules. Rather than backing their members, the NUR executive has scuttled for cover.

A wave of anger is sweeping the depots. Eleven NUR branches (Camden, Kings Cross, Stratford, Waterloo, Lambeth, Bethnal Green, Euston, Hatfield, Bricklayers Arms, and Paddington Nos 1 and 2) have passed resolutions condemning the peace formula as a sell-out.

Euston branch have called on the NEC sub-committee to resign. As one Paddington driver said: 'They've sacrificed a principle of agreements not being broken for the promise of an inquiry.'



## Alcoa: We've got them over a barrel

SWANSEA: The strike by 500 electricians for reinstatement of workers sacked on the Alcoa site is continuing.

The secretary of the joint shop stewards committee, Stevie Stevenson, told Socialist Worker: 'We've got them over a barrel now. There's thousands of pounds of equipment tied up on the site.'

'There's a hot rolling mill all the way from Pittsburgh, down the Mississippi, and across the Atlantic, just sitting there rusting.'

He added: 'Everyone is solid. There is a mass picket of 50-100 men every day. Cabin after cabin of workers on the construction sites were addressed by us.'

'Workers at seven sites in the Swansea area are putting in £1 a week for the strike fund.'

'Bernard Clarke, electricians' union executive councillor, instructed us back to work and reminded us, just in case we'd forgotten, that Christmas is approaching.'

'Brother Clarke's disgusting performance has motivated 90 Alcoa sparks into campaigning against his re-election this month.'

Alcoa have now ended the contract with the electrical contractor, Holliday Hall, making 34 more sparks redundant. They want to give the contract to N G Bailey.

Alcoa claim the dispute is nothing to do with them, just a matter between the contractor and men he has hired. This is nonsense.

Stevie Stevenson said: 'We are demanding full re-employment of all 63 electricians, and recognition of our joint shop stewards committee.'

## Ansell's: TUC sabotage

BIRMINGHAM: The Ansell's strike is now in its sixth week—and management are still determined to break agreements as they choose, aided by the TUC.

The fight revolves around a decision, agreed with by management, that Transport Union clerical workers would not deduct dues for an outfit called the National Association of Licensed House Managers.

NALHM is not a bona fide trade union and is actively working against the Ansell's T&G branch campaign to unionise public house managers.

The success of the campaign so far can be gauged from the fact that in two successive weeks the unionised public house managers, at present suffering some hardships as a result of the dispute, raised £750 and £500 for the dispute fund.

Now that the TUC has admitted this phoney union into its ranks, management have decided to break their agreement. They describe the result as an 'inter-union dispute'.



Avonmouth: The four-week-old strike of Transport Union workers at Commonwealth Smelting is still solid. The strike, over manning levels, redundancies and wage cuts, has official support.

A statement from John Miller, National Secretary of the TGWU Chemicals Section, says: 'The union's position is that when members of this union, like the CSL men, want to stand up to be counted in the fight against growing unemployment, then they will get the full backing of this union, because that is the union's policy.'

Because of the union's official backing they want donations from other TGWU branches. Send to: Mike O'Dea, 10 Eldon Terrace, Bristol BS3 4NZ.

## TEACHERS: NOW FOR THE ACTION...

THE EXECUTIVE of the National Union of Teachers have decided that teachers should not take the classes of colleagues who are off work for more than three days.

As supporters of Rank and File Teacher have argued, this will force education authorities to employ a pool of teachers to

North London District IS

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Nasty Thatcher design by Liz Mackie and vulgar Evans cartoon. Red and blue on nice grey card. Only £1 for 10—that includes postage—(5 of each). Send £1s at once to Maggie Rutter, 8 Stamford Grove West, London E5 for immediate delivery.

# IT'S ALL OUT AT THE CO-OP - NOW!

CHISWICK: 70 workers, including staff, who produce soft drinks at the Co-operative wholesalers society factory are on strike against a decision by Co-op directors to close the factory in January. The strikers, all members of USDAW, aim to sabotage the Co-op's Christmas market.

## NERVE

'They had the nerve to ask us to do overtime before Christmas and then expected us to leave the factory quietly in the New Year', said George Butcher, on behalf of the Strike Committee.

The Strike Committee, Keith Butler, chief shop steward, George Butcher, Gurmail Johal, Mrs Sybil Kirton (women's shop steward) and company chemist Pierre Ismael, are angry with what they see as betrayal by a company that claims the allegiance of the trade union and labour movement.

In fact such claims are based upon myths. George Butcher explained: 'The Co-op is supposed to employ workers in the name of socialism, yet they behave like animals. The management structure is rotten with free-masons and Tories from factory manager upwards. One of them, a Mr Lamb, actually told us we were lucky to get ten weeks' notice since it was easy to find work in

West London.' This remark particularly annoyed shop steward Keith Butler, who as a West Indian, knows just what a lousy lie that is.

## DATE

George continued: 'Management double-crossed us. They agreed to put aside the closure date pending negotiations. Then they started sending in whopping great lorries to pull out the stocks.'

'They even tried to take the two best fork lift trucks and bottle capping machines to other plants. We got wise to their tricks and stopped work.'

The strikers are hoping that USDAW members in all the depots in the South East region will prevent any removal of stocks.

They are also urging fellow members in the Co-op bottling plants at Newcastle, Middleton, Taffwells in Wales, Nottingham, Paisley and Sutton Coldfield not to increase production to compensate for losses in the South East.

Socialist Worker readers in these towns should take this article to those factories because the strike committee has to rely on expensive phone calls to make their case.

THE WEST LONDON Joint Council Action Committee against Unemployment handed out 25,000 leaflets calling for support for Wednesday's lobby against unemployment. The leaflets were printed—and partly financed—by the political committee of the London Co-operative Society.



ENFIELD: 250 production, staff and maintenance workers at the Enfield Rolling Mills (part of the DELTA combine) were given redundancy notices last Thursday. DELTA plan to close down the aluminium factory as it is 'no longer viable'.

Maintenance, with 50 jobs at stake, have put on an indefinite overtime ban. This will seriously affect the production section, where, despite a planned loss of 150 jobs, overtime is still being worked.

As expected the iron and steel union (BISAKTA) are doing nothing.



On the picket line in Deansgate, Manchester last week against the use of non-union shop fitters on Gerrard's site. Shop fitters employed by the scab firm, Great American Sandwich, were thrown off the site over the weekend.

## Cowley: 'Work harder' con-trick

THE FIRST thing you notice when you walk round British Leyland's Assembly Plant at Cowley is the large number of Princess cars.

Yet the company claim the workers don't produce enough. The problem is that all these cars are either fitted with reject parts or are short of parts.

That's not the workers' fault—it's bad management. Yet once again the workers are crucified. The real facts are rarely printed.

The shop stewards' committee have produced a report which makes explosive reading. It says: 'Everyone knows that 99 per cent of all rejects have nothing to do with the assembly worker. They are due to faulty components and rejects.'

The report goes on: 'A great deal of faulty material is at present being fitted on all tracks.' It quotes a supervision document which lists a long series of faulty parts which have been known about for up to 12 months.

On top of this, management have virtually abolished 'goods inward inspection department', so that components are no longer inspected when they come into the factory. And company policy of reducing stock levels has created a number of shortages.

A few weeks ago, the company tried to clamp down on 'bad' workmanship by handing out suspension notices. They were temporarily stopped by militant action. Their latest move, threatening to shut North Works if the right number of cars aren't produced, is part of their campaign to blame the workforce for their problems.

The letter from management to the workforce blames 'industrial relations' in certain parts of the plant. The truth is that Leyland have brought it on themselves. They are looking for an excuse to attack the trade union organisation inside Cowley.

The senior stewards met management on Monday afternoon but have yet to report to a stewards' or a mass meeting.

Leyland are trying to con us. But we aren't going to pay for their crisis. It's up to the rank and file in Cowley to put pressure on the shop-stewards not to make any more concessions.

## TRIUMPH 'NO' TO PARTICIPATION

TRIUMPH manual workers in Coventry voted last week to reject British Leyland's participation agreement.

The Coventry Evening Telegraph reported a majority of about 400 out of a total ballot vote of 5000 (from a possible 8000) in what it describes as a 'bitter blow' to Transport Union convener Eddie McGarry.

McGarry chaired a 32-man committee which negotiated and, except for Engineering Union convener, right winger Jim Griffin, signed the agreement.

Confronted by his members, McGarry could not avoid the call for a ballot.

McGarry is probably right in claiming the result was not a vote against participation in principle, but against a specific agreement.

But it was also against the undemocratic, secretive way that the agreement was reached—it was against McGarry himself. With the high turnover of stewards in the annual elections, which were also taking place last week, McGarry must be a worried man.

The company quickly announced that Triumph's shop-floor would not take part in the participation scheme, but that everyone else would carry on as planned. But already a mass meeting of TASS members has thrown out the agreement and there are indications that the Bordesley Green plant will do the same. The agreement in fact is in tatters before it gets off the ground.

By Jeannie Holborow, Redbridge NUT

cover for absences.

Some schools in London are already imposing this policy unofficially. Now all schools should hold meetings to get action underway. If we wait for the cumbersome official machinery, the policy will die on its feet.

The official procedure guarantees the lowest possible response. Each division of the union has to submit a case for action to the executive based on the employing record of their authority and the level of unemployment in the area.

If the case is agreed, the division asks schools to apply to take action, if they have the agreement of two-thirds of the NUT members in the schools. The Local Association then puts up a list of schools and the National Action Committee, in consultation with the Regional Official action.

So, six months later, a handful of areas might take some form of limited action.

The two Rank and File executive members were the only ones to oppose this ridiculous procedure, which fits in nicely with the executive's decision to freeze the union's strike fund from 1 January.

Because of the union's shameful position in the face of mounting unemployment among teachers, any fight must be started by militant teachers on the ground.

Trade unionists who are parents can help by letting teachers know that they support their fight against unemployment and for a decent education service.

'Cover-up' for absent teachers is usually childminding and not the proper teaching they should be given.

## CHARTER CHALLENGE

LEN BLOOD, the Engineers Charter candidate for the post of Assistant General Secretary in the Engineering Union is now being challenged by a leading right-winger, John Weakley. Weakley dragged the AUEW through the law courts earlier this year to keep the postal ballot and prevent branch balloting. He is convener of British Leyland's Llanelli plant.

Len Blood is a shop steward at Greenings in Warrington, Lancs, and a member of the Warrington District Committee. He was a shop steward at Ford Halewood and a member of the strike committee in both the 1969 eight-week stoppage and the 1971 ten-week stoppage. He was a senior steward at Ruston Paxman and on the occupation committee in the 12-week occupation in 1972 and the seven-week occupation in 1973.

The first conference of the Engineers Charter is on Saturday 6 December at Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London, WC1. (Nearest tube, Holborn). Agenda and credentials from 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

## Castle Bromwich strike ends

CASTLE BROMWICH: 230 press operators at British Leyland's car body plant have voted to return to work after being on strike for a week. The dispute which brought production to a standstill, involved members of the General and Municipal Workers

Workers have an agreement with management. If they finish their day's quota early, the rest of the time is considered their own. Last week, night shift workers were suddenly told by the foreman that the rules had changed—they had to do more work after finishing.

They got an even bigger shock when they found out that their convener had negotiated a deal with management. As one worker said: 'The men were mad. The convener should have called the shop steward and put it to the blokes before signing. I reckon this is part of the workers' participation deal that all our workers have signed.'

BRISTOL: Will immigration controls aid unemployed British workers? Yes, according to the Frenchay Hospital Acute Sector Joint Shop Stewards Committee, who have banned recruitment of foreign workers not at present living in this country.

No, according to Mike Alderton, a NUPE shop steward and ex-secretary of the JSSC. Rather than argue for immigration controls, Mike resigned from the JSSC and is now organising a petition among Bristol trade unionists calling on it to reverse the decision.

## 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

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Background to the showdown

THE CONFRONTATION in Portugal follows an attack on the working-class movement and on left-wing soldiers.

That attack was underlined when President Costa Gomes declared a state of emergency, banning meetings and demonstrations in Lisbon, where the left is strong, but not in the North and centre of Portugal, where former fascists have been attacking trade union offices and planting bombs.

The aim of the army and government had earlier been revealed by the so-called socialist Mario Soares. After a week in which mass demonstrations and strikes had wrecked attempts

—supported by Soares—to hold wages increases below the cost of living and to weed out left-wing army units, he declared:

*'We will fight them on the streets, with guns in our hands, if necessary.'* He was openly threatening civil war against those who defended workers' interests.

Naturally, the Lisbon military police, who have openly backed workers' strikes and demonstrations, were the first target of the attack from the right.

All the most reactionary and rotten elements, all those who grew rich and powerful during Portugal's 48 years of fascism, have been using Soares' words as an excuse for organising.

As we went to press, they were threatening to

attack the left in Lisbon with aircraft and commando units recently returned from Angola.

Soares has been playing the same so-called 'moderate' role played by the Christian Democrat leaders in Chile two years ago. Their talk of 'democracy' and the 'need for moderation' was used by fascist elements and right wing generals as an excuse to attack the working class.

In Portuguese right-wing circles, there has been talk of the 'Commune of Lisbon' making the comparison with the Paris Commune of 1871, when right-wing forces wreaked a bloody vengeance on the workers, murdering 30,000.

They expect full support from the other NATO powers. Indeed, they probably hope their manoeuvres this week will provide an excuse for foreign intervention, perhaps along the lines of the American and South African intervention in Portugal's former colony of Angola.

Workers and rank and file soldiers in Lisbon know there is only one force they can look to for aid in their hour of need—the working class movement in other countries.

We must not let them down.

## It must not become another Chile

THE MASS movement in Portugal is even more powerful than that in Chile under Allende: It also has the advantage of open support from many military units, guns and all.

But the key question will now be whether it has learned the lessons of Chile. There, the most powerful parties within the working class tried to negotiate with the right wing generals—instead of leading an all-out fight for workers' power, based upon workers' and soldiers' democratically elected committees.

That—despite the massive support for workers among rank and file soldiers—has remained the perspective of Portugal's biggest workers' party, the Communist Party.

### State

Through its predominant influence in the joint workers' committees of the Lisbon industrial belt—based upon 120 factories and more than 1000 delegates—it organised massive demonstrations last week and a huge two-hour general strike on Monday.

But each time it ended up telling the workers to return to work or their localities, without organising them for an assault on the power of the state.

*The revolutionary left have been putting forward a quite different perspective.*

On Friday, a group of 18 revolutionary officers issued a call for the creation of workers' power, based upon the workers' autonomous organisations, the arming of the working class, and the creation of a revolutionary army to link armed workers with rank and file soldiers.

### Face

Among the signatories were the commanders of the military police.

This stand was supported on Monday in a joint manifesto issued by the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat, and MES, the Movement of the Socialist Left.

And, on Tuesday, in face of the attack by the right, they declared *The time has come to give a lesson to the bourgeoisie. Against the Sixth government. Against the counter-revolutionary council. Long live the armed working class. Long live socialist revolution.*

The revolutionary left are still considerably smaller than the Communist Party.

But they are convinced that unless the working class follow their lead, the danger of another Chile is very real.

# PORTUGAL: EVERYTHING AT STAKE

WE WILL FIGHT AND DIE FOR THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION.

With these words, soldiers at the EPAM barracks in Lisbon greeted the news that open conflict had broken out between the left and the right in the armed forces on Tuesday. They took their place alongside rank and file paratroops who had driven out their right wing officers and seized three airforce bases.

The right wing had moved on the offensive on Tuesday morning by sacking the commander of the armed forces in the Lisbon area, Otelo de Carvalho for supporting workers' demonstrations. The paratroops knew they would be next on the receiving end of punishment, since they had been refusing to attack workers' strikes and demonstrations.

The right wing did not hesitate to move in, with guns at the ready to seize back one of the bases. Reports indicated that Carvalho himself was being held under arrest by the right wing in Sao Bento palace.

The right wing also seized the radio station, which had been broadcasting calls from trade unions and left wing parties for vigilance from workers and for a general strike.

As we went to press on Tuesday night, news was coming through that troops in the Alameda barracks south of Lisbon had promised arms to workers in the neighbouring 8000-strong Lisnave shipyard.



## WHAT IS AT STAKE...

170 new recruits taking the oath of allegiance at the RALIS light artillery barracks in Lisbon: but this was an oath of allegiance with a difference. Instead of saluting an upper class officer and promising to aid the rulers of the nation, they gave the clenched fist salute.

And as they did so, a representative of the workers' and tenants' co-ordinating committee for the area read to them their oath: 'To always be on the side of the people, at the service of the working class, of the peasants and the labouring masses, and to accept voluntary revolutionary discipline against fascism and imperialism, and for democracy and people's power, for the victory of the socialist revolution'.

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