

Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

HOW TO STOP THE BOMBINGS



WHENEVER a bomb goes off in Britain, whenever there is a siege in Balcombe Street or a hijacking, the wise men of Fleet Street reach for the rope.

They believe capital punishment might work where bomb squads, Roy Jenkins' anti-terror legislation and the secret police have failed.

Always their answer to terrorism is more terrorism, government-sanctioned 'legal' terrorism, of course.

They make the same response that members of the British establishment have always made over Ireland and over every other country they have ever ruled.

When people demand self-determination they have only one answer: repression and more repression.

That was the rationale, after all, for introducing internment without trial in 1971. That—and the concentration camps that went with it—didn't deter violence. They caused it.

EFFECT

Fewer than 50 people died in the three years before internment: 950 have died in the four years since.

Nor did Roy Jenkins' anti-terror Act last year end violence. There have since been more incidents, not less.

Socialist Worker has always argued that the only way to solve any problem is to deal with the cause, not the effect.

In the case of Ireland, the cause is crystal clear: British domination.

Every major British political party has spent years shying away from this awkward fact.

They have tried policy after policy, each of which has ended up in ruins, each of which has led in recent years to more terrible bombings.

That's why it is good news this week to see that ordinary working people are not swallowing every line from Fleet Street's misinformation machine.

On the contrary, according to opinion polls a clear majority of people, 64 per cent, are in favour of the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

Only when that is done, will it be possible for Irish people to begin to solve their problems. Only then will the bombing campaigns come to an end.

That's why Socialist Worker says again

Troops out of Ireland now!

This is
what the
£6 deal
means

FARMWORKERS got their £6 rise—and a fat lot of good that will do them. In a recent Low Pay Unit survey, two in every five farmworkers interviewed could not afford breakfast. They couldn't afford to buy the milk, eggs and bacon they themselves produce!

Farmworkers were lobbying parliament last week against the tied cottage system. Lose your job and you lose your house too. The threat of eviction has kept trade union militancy—and wages—down.

'The farmworkers' union and the Labour Party have been talking about the need to get rid of tied cottages since 1906!' Chris Thompson, farmworker in Suffolk, told Socialist Worker.

'We have the right to work and the right to a house. This relic from serfdom needs to be smashed now.'

PICTURE
John Sturrock



ENGINEERS: IT'S £6-AND WORSE TO COME

'HAMMER BLOW to militants-overwhelming pressure from moderates', declared the Daily Mail.

'The Engineering Union last night gave the government a tremendous boost,' said The Sun. And the Daily Express, gleefully: 'The final barrier opposing full union co-operation with the government's £6 pay limit toppled.'

That was Fleet Street greeting the decision last Monday by the AUEW's emergency National Committee to support the £6 pay limit. Half a dozen members of the committee had given way to the tremendous press campaign and changed their votes.

After the meeting, Hugh Scanlon, the union president, made it clear what the decision meant. The current national agreement ends in May. There will be no new agreement in operation until August and this 'will be conditioned by the legal niceties of whatever policies then obtained.'

FREEZE

So the AUEW now support the freeze. And they will support the next part of it, when Harold Wilson and Len Murray announce Phase Two in the Spring.

As one delegate said at the National Committee, the engineers have already decided what the result of their next national claim will be before it has even been drawn up.

Even the demand for a shorter working week will be dropped, since the government would interpret not as clashing with the £6 freeze. Yet a 35 hour week among engineers would create tens of thousands of new jobs.

The effects will go far beyond the engineers. No significant section of workers is now likely to carry out a national fight against the freeze.

The attempt by the Yorkshire miners to get a recall Miners Conference to reverse support for it has now been made much more difficult.

Instead of defending the freeze, the government will now be able to concentrate on preventing as many groups of workers as possible getting even the £6. With inflation at 26 per cent, nearly all workers face a wage cut, even if they get the £6. Many workers won't even get that.

Worse, without serious national opposition, Harold Wilson and Len Murray are now free to work out what the limit will be in Phase Two.

FAILED

Already the CBI and the Financial Times are suggesting that £3 will be about right.

The right wing leadership in the engineers can be relied upon to give every support to whatever Murray, Wilson and the CBI work out. The left wing will oppose them, at least verbally.

But the truth is that under the now-deposed Broad Left leadership, the engineers were the only major group of well organised workers in recent years who failed to win a significant national wage increase.

And that leadership consistently failed to argue its opposition to the £6 freeze with the members. The right wing didn't need to argue. The national press did it for them.

Without a campaign in the membership, it was easy for a half dozen of the feebler members of the National Committee to change their votes and support the government.

A new National Committee meets in May. Every branch, district committee and shop stewards' quarterly should start putting pressure on now for the new National Committee to adopt a policy that fights to preserve members' living standards.

This will mean rank and file engineers campaigning now to influence the districts and divisions into putting pressure on the new National Committee.

What is needed is £15 across-the-board for all engineers to keep pace with inflation, and the 35 hour week without loss of pay to create more jobs.

Off the terraces and into the arena: Page Four.



Scanlon: He spelt it out



Spanish workers on the move: this demonstration, demanding the immediate release of political prisoners, took place in Madrid on Monday. There'll be plenty more such

Portugal: Now we need that cash more than ever...

By Steve Jefferys, just returned from Portugal

THE MODERATES of the world are sleeping happier. The defeat of the paratroopers' rebellion of 25 November was, they claim, a victory over 'extremism' in Portugal.

Reactionaries like General Eanes and Colonel Neves are once more in the driving seat of the armed forces. Eanes was implicated in the right-wing coup on 11 March and was then removed from his job as head of Portuguese broadcasting.

Neves is the commander of the Amadora commandos who are spearheading the 'arms searches' being carried out on farms where peasants have seized the land and set up co-operatives.

One such search took place in the Alcoentre last Wednesday morning at 6am. Men, women and children were forced from their beds and spreadeagled against a wall. Nothing was found.

The exact number jailed under the repression is still not known, but probably exceeds 200. An appeal signed by 493 relatives of imprisoned soldiers said that those awaiting court martial were being denied many basic rights, including contact with their families.

The government has stopped their wages and the Socialist Party-dominated bank clerks union decided to help by freezing their bank accounts.

In spite of all this, the revolutionary left organisations are still operating. The PRP distributed illegally two

leaflets into most of the factories in the Lisbon area while martial law was still in force.

Since it ended they have produced two editions of *Revolucão* explaining the events of 25 November, and last Friday held a meeting of 500 workers in the Almada, a working class area near the Lisnave shipyard.

More than ever, socialists in Britain have to show their solidarity with the Portuguese working class. That means raising money to send to Portugal. We want to raise £1,000 by Christmas.

We received £377.46 this week. Make sure you send in a donation this week. Organise a collection. Help us meet that target.

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



Republica

English edition of Republica available from IS Books (25p each) or in bulk from the PWCC, 12 Little Newport Street, London WC2.

Labour's bonus—to the rich

THE LABOUR government, which is savagely attacking health and welfare public expenditure at every turn, has awarded yet another Christmas bonus to shareholders in the former Rolls Royce group.

Just before last Christmas, Labour agreed to pay these needy people 50p a share compensation for the loss of their shares in the formerly privately owned company.

If they had sold the shares on the open market, they wouldn't have got enough to buy a Milky Way.

Scandalous

The total cost to public funds of that little Christmas bonus to the needy people of Bournemouth and Chipping Sodbury was £38 million.

Now this week these same people have been handed another 5p a share. What is particularly scandalous about this operation is that most of those getting the 55p a share compensation are speculators who bought them up at 5p a time.

The total cost of the latest 5p is £3.2 million. This sum alone would have

been enough on its own to settle the junior doctors' dispute. But, instead, the government stands firm, preferring to use public funds to pay off speculators.

The amazing lengths to which the government is now going to serve the interest of the seven per cent of the population who own 84 per cent of the wealth was also highlighted this week

in Brussels.

The British government successfully got the European Commission to exempt British industry from new pollution controls.

This followed intensive pressure from the captains of the chemical industry, who insisted that the controls would be 'too expensive'.

ANOTHER ACT OF TERROR

'YOUR IRISH accent—that's a good enough reason for me.' That's what Socialist Worker supporter Terry Herron was told by police who seized him and two girls in Holberton, along the coast from Plymouth, last Sunday.

'They held us for seven hours einterrogation under the so-called Prevention of Terrorism Act before they finally released us without charging us with anything. They took our fingerprints and photographs and we were thoroughly questioned about our political beliefs. My flat in London was searched while I was held in Plymouth.'

Terry and his friends were held for seven hours—even though they had done nothing remotely illegal. And under the Act, had the police so wished, they could have held them for seven days, without letting anyone know where they were.

No wonder that large numbers of Irish people are frightened to take part in any trade union or political activity that might draw them to the attention of the police. You don't need to do anything against the law to have your life disrupted and your family frightened by the workings of the Act. Of the 1000 people arrested since the Act was introduced a year ago, 950 have later been released without any charge.

PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT

Meeting of trade union delegates and observers.

Tuesday 16 December, 7pm, Blythe Hall, Blythe Road, London, W14.

Speakers: Eamonn McCann (Troops Out Movement), a legal expert (who will answer questions on the Act), and trade unionists arrested under the Act. Chairman: Bill Geddes (NUPE) shop steward, Hammersmith Hospital).

Called by Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Sponsored by Hammersmith Hospital NUPE shop stewards' committee.

STEWARDS' COMMITTEE AND AUEW Chiswick No 5 Branch. Delegates also from 727 TGWU Branch (Heinz).

All trade union bodies invited to send delegates or observers. Credentials available from above address or on door, price 25p. Admission by trade union card only.

SACKINGS:

Don't be fooled by Labour's pretty packaging

RUMOURS are circulating that the government is about to announce 'a modest package' of measures to 'alleviate unemployment'. But this can only be a public relations exercise not a serious attempt to reverse the growth of the dole queues.

It can be nothing else because one of the three main prongs of government economic policy is the 'New Industrial Strategy' of 'backing the winners', Labour's version of the Tory 'no lame ducks'.

Chancellor Healey is insisting that even the modest sums advanced in this exercise should be made up for by extra cuts elsewhere. For the second main prong of government policy is a drastic reduction of public spending.

'There is no chance of regenerating British industry,' said Healey at the last Labour Party Conference, 'unless we can narrow drastically the gap between what we are spending in the public sector and what we are raising in taxes.'

Healey's plans call for a reduction of around £4000 million a year in public spending, a massive deflationary measure, to take full effect over the next two years or so. The result can only be a still further increase in unemployment.

Incidentally, a charade is being put on by the press about allegedly big 'defence' cuts. If the cuts were done 'across the board', each department taking a proportionate share, 'defence' spending would fall by about £400 million a year. Yet on Tuesday it was announced that defence spending this year had already risen by £375 million, to a total of £4975 million.



Front page report from last week's Hackney Gazette

The privileged position of military spending means still further cuts in health, housing and education.

Back the winners and cut public spending, these two prongs of policy are intended to increase the profits of big business. Then, so the tale goes, 'industry will pick up, come the next boom, and then, maybe, unemployment will fall.'

In other words the government is pinning its hopes on the operation of blind market forces. All attempts to plan the economy have been thrown out of the window in favour of the most orthodox capitalist policies.

And it will not work, even in strictly capitalist terms. The state-financed National Institute of Economic and Social Research last month published its forecast for next year, 'perhaps the most depressing,' it said, 'since this review was launched in 1959: high unemployment, high inflation with a mere hint of further slowdown'.

Specifically, the Institute predicts one and a quarter million unemployed at the end of 1977—and higher between then and now, a further fall in industrial investment next year, and continuing

UNEMPLOYED OCCUPY JOB CENTRE

UNEMPLOYED and employed trade unionists occupied the Hackney Jobs Centre in East London last week in protest at the level of unemployment. There are over 3000 people out of work in Hackney, and one person in ten is unemployed in neighbouring Tower Hamlets.

452 building workers are chasing precisely eight advertised vacancies. There are 318 registered unemployment engineering workers for just 39 vacancies and seven jobs going for school leavers, who have no prospects of work anywhere in the area.

Mike Heym, an unemployed printworker, said: 'The fight against unemployment must be taken up by trade unionists all over the area. That is why the Hackney Right to Work Campaign is seeking support not only among unemployed workers but also those still in work. We will be visiting factories and trade union branches urging them to take up the issues and join the campaign.'

'The campaign in East London against the cuts in public spending is also vital in the fight for the Right to Work. Wherever cuts take place redundancies are bound to follow sooner or later.'

'The demonstration in London on 26 November was very encouraging. We now have to build on that in each of the local areas.'

As the Job Centre was occupied leaflets were handed out at the nearby Labour Exchange. Many of those who were signing on expressed their support for the action, and some went down to help at the occupation. A dozen people applied to join the Right to Work Campaign.

Join the CAMPAIGN! There's probably a local group at work in your area already. Write to the Right to Work Campaign, National Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Phone 01-249 1207.

Against unions? The press is with you

'IN today's conditions the closed shop can become an instrument of tyranny,' wrote The Economist last week. Its words have been echoed by virtually every right-wing newspaper.

Six men sacked from the Ferrybridge power station have given them the pretext they required. A host of articles has followed,

NEWS WORKERS STRIKE OVER SLANTED REPORTS

THE fight for press freedom spread to Australia last weekend when printers working for the Sydney Mirror and Sydney Telegraph newspapers refused to publish election front pages calling on people to vote against the Labour Party.

This magnificent fighting lead against the millionaire press baron Rupert Murdoch—who owns the Sun and News of the World in Britain—was followed later in the week by the Journalists Union. This called an official stoppage against bias in the election coverage, the first official strike against press bias for years.

Unfortunately, as in British journalists' strikes, scabbing executives got the papers out. Now you know why Rupert and Co scream about the threat to editorial freedom if a closed shop is allowed in journalism.

It would stop him and his kind scabbing on strikes and exercising what he is pleased to call press

comparing the six with the Tolpuddle Martyrs, suggesting that a fundamental question of civil liberty is at stake, implying that it is the workers' movement which threatens liberty and freedom.

Yet this week and every other week a much greater number of workers are sacked for organising unions. Not one gets a bare mention

freedom—his own ability to brainwash people into backing the political policies of which millionaires approve.

Further light is thrown on the debate about 'press freedom' by the most recent set of CIA revelations. These show how the CIA plants agents as reporters in newspapers in various countries. This enabled it, for instance, to get 726 right-wing articles into the Chilean press or radio in 1970, the year in which Allende was elected president.

When Allende criticised one of the CIA-dominated papers, El Mercurio, the CIA organised a campaign accusing him of 'interfering with press freedom'. The agency boasted that it 'orchestrated cables of support and protest from foreign newspapers, a protest statement from an international press association, and world press coverage of the association's protest'.

in the press, still less the massive publicity given to the Ferrybridge case. For they are victimised and sacked for organising workers to fight back against the employers, in defence of wages, working conditions or safety.

About these people, fighters such as those at Ladbroke's in Glasgow, or Alcoa in South Wales, the real latter day Tolpuddle Martyrs, the newspaper proprietors keep silent.

The reason for the double standard is simple. The employers and their press cry 'liberty' in order to attack it. They operate in highly-centralised companies, trade associations and employers associations. But they do not wish to see their unity met with unity of the working class.

That's why they nag away on the issue of the closed shop—although they will of course be only too happy to grant a closed shop if, as in electrician contracting, it helps them police the industry. That's why, while they support the Ferrybridge Six and the Electrical Supply Union, they provided no such support when the Pilkington workers broke away from the General and Municipal Workers Union.

Socialist Worker believes in 100 per cent closed shop unity against the bosses. Not that 100 per cent organisation guarantees good trade union organisation. If it is used bureaucratically by full-time of-

ficials, convenors or stewards then it can cause strains and problems which set off Ferrybridge-type situations.

But there is never, ever any excuse for anyone aggrieved by bureaucracy to end up assisting the cause of the employing class as the six Ferrybridge scabs are doing. Those genuinely concerned with improving working-class organisation and expanding working-class liberty do not fight through the law courts and the millionaire press.

We fight through the machinery of the unions for more democracy and better, more united organisation to pit against the employing class.

I want to be a Socialist Worker supporter

Name _____

Address _____

Fill in Cut out Send to
SOCIALIST WORKER SUPPORTERS
8 Cottons Gardens
London E2 8DN

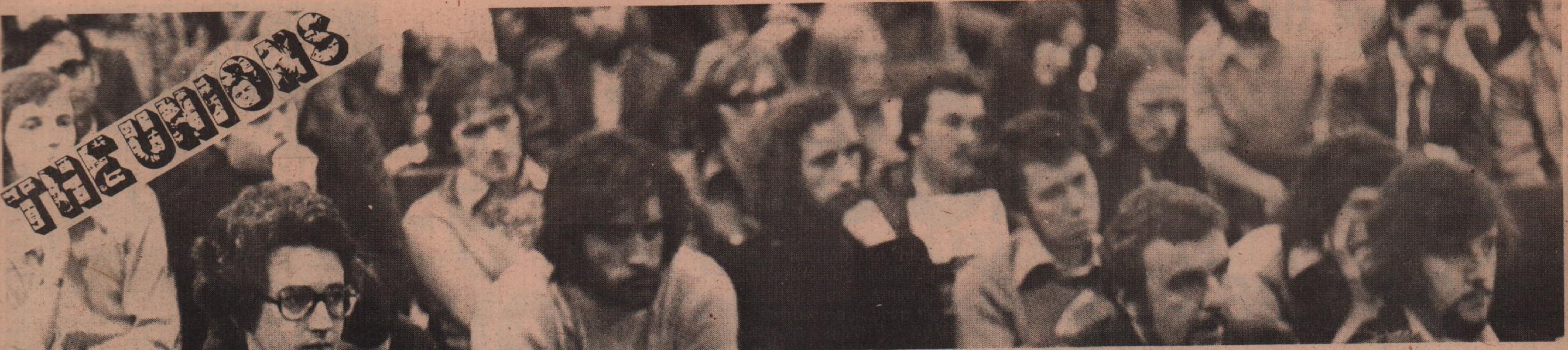
Why not take extra copies of Socialist Worker to sell to your mates? We will expect you to pay only for the copies you actually sell.

Please send me

extra copies of Socialist Worker each week

(Fill your name and address in on the left)

THE UNIONS



A section of the audience at Saturday's conference

IF there was anything wrong with the first national conference of the Engineers Charter it was that it didn't go on long enough.

Good contributions there were aplenty. But sadly, time was in short supply. Nevertheless Saturday's conference in London's Holborn Library Hall was a considerable success. 120 engineering workers, men and women, black and white, were there.

By the end of the meeting they had enthusiastically resolved that their energies and fighting abilities should be pooled in a more permanent way than by attendance at a conference. They decided in fact to publish a new rank and file Engineers Charter paper. If the speeches of those in the hall is anything to go by, the paper should be a fighting publication of the best.

The conference itself was quick but ably chaired by the Lancashire Engineering Union militant Len Blood. The first session was opened by the recently elected AUEW national organiser, Laurie Smith, speaking in a personal capacity.

Lax

He paid particular attention to the role of the supposedly left-wing union leader Jack Jones and left-wing politician Michael Foot in forcing through Labour's fantastically reactionary policies.

The problem for the left, said Laurie, was clear. 'We have been lax in getting among the mass of our members, among the mass of working-class people and spelling out the issues. That's the job that we have to get out and do.'

He underlined that no matter how critical you were of the Broad Left in the Engineering Union, the election of the right wing was a grave set back for our movement.

To win back the ground we had to fight on several fronts. We have to expose the £6 incomes policy, which would shortly be brought down to £3, he said. 'We have to explain to workers that each time they accept a

Off the terraces and into the arena

Laurie Flynn reports from the first conference of the **ENGINEERS' CHARTER**

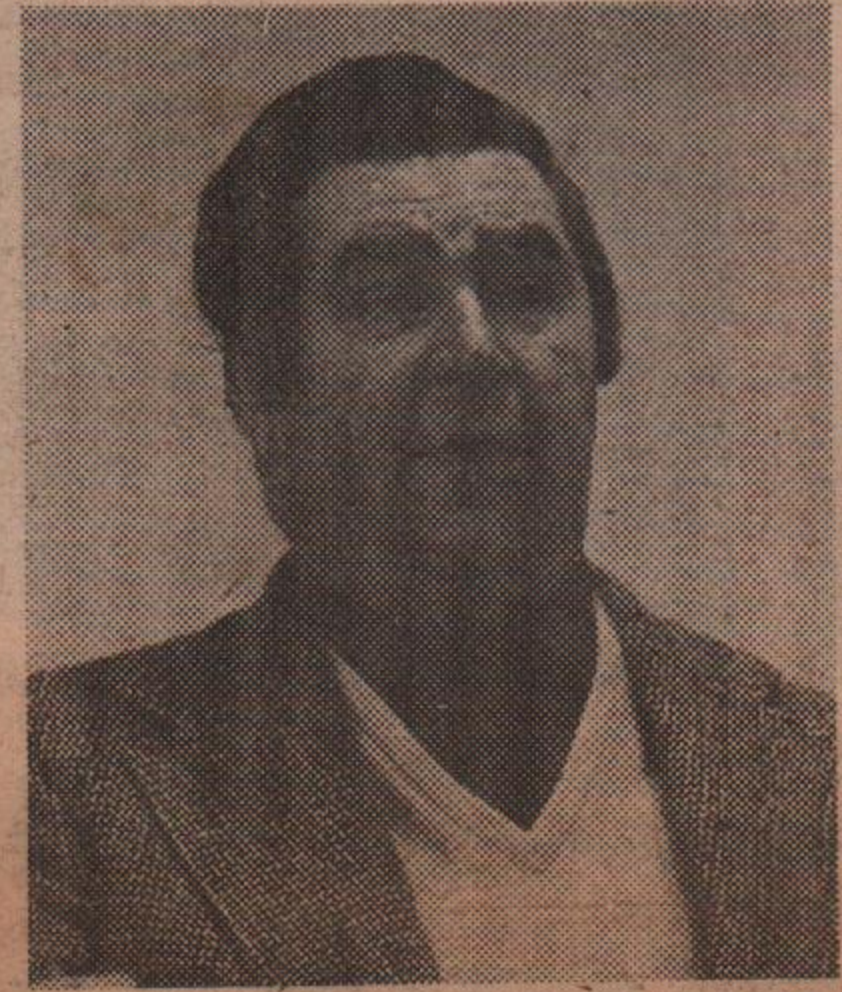
Pictures by Andrew Wiard (Report)

cut in their living standards then it's easier for the boss next time round. This is because you start from a lower level of struggle and he finds it easier to beat you.

On unemployment, he said: 'We have to ram the message home that this is not some natural development. Growing unemployment is the result of the deliberate decisions of this government. Our movement has to face up to this and has to fight without holding back for some phoney loyalty.'

'It doesn't make any difference to the unemployed whether Heath or Wilson is in the saddle. You're still unemployed and your dole money's still the same.'

The way to fight was to popularise the demand for the 35-hour week, to take the union's decided policies for



Laurie Smith, newly elected AUEW national organiser, who opened the conference

the right to work and demand that they be implemented each and every time a group of workers enters the struggle.

But, he added: 'We can't dodge the issue. There are many members who have been unwilling to fight for jobs. In this the Redundancy Payments Act has played a terrible role. What we have to do now is get it home to them that they can't sell a job in one factory now and expect to get another. There aren't any others.'



Brian Kelly: 'There's no substitute for hard work at the bottom level'

Kathy Tait, of Landis and Geir in North London, underlined that every militant in the union had to take the issue of women's rights very seriously indeed. Furthermore in this time of unemployment, a woman's right to work was every bit as important as a man's.

Willie Lee, the Charter candidate in the recent elections for AUEW national organiser, argued that the essence was to get through to the rank and file. The rank and file are not



Bernadette Dunne: 'Women must be involved'

apathetic, he argued. 'But they feel lost. They feel like they are being treated as a stage army who are called on to march every now and then by remote leaders.'

Brian Kelly, a steward at International Harvesters in Doncaster, stressed that there was absolutely no substitute for hard work at the bottom level. The broad Left leadership were absolutely incapable of doing this. The job of the Charter was to get that work going and enlist the assistance of those supporters of the Broad Left who wanted to do that work.

'In this way we can build a rank and file movement that will bring the AUEW back into the hands of the members,' he said.

In reply to the discussion, Laurie Smith stressed that the involvement of the unemployed in the fight for the right to work was central. People were working overtime when they didn't ought to be, he said, and this had to be organised against.

'We've got to build a movement that is incapable of being resisted,' he added. 'We may need to start with a different approach, and a separate organisation. But this does not mean we should in any way be sectarian. We do have to relate to the Broad Left. We want a movement that involves masses of workers. And that can't be done by a tiny nucleus on its own though that is very often essential for instigating and realising things'

HOW CAN WE ORGANISE AGAINST THE RIGHT WING?

THE second session of the Charter conference was concerned with the fight against the AUEW right wing and how best it could be conducted.

Willie Lee spoke of the immense dangers of answering the right with cynical manoeuvres. This could be seen from the disasters that befell the Electricians Union in the early 1960s, he said. The only answer lay in building an organisation that was rooted in the branches and the shop floor, that was a permanent part of the scenery and not just wheeled out for elections.

People want to know why we have divorced ourselves from the Broad Left, said Willie. 'The answer is simple. The organisation was not doing the job. It lives, works and talks outside factories and the only time we see them is at election time when they make militant promises which they don't fulfil when in office.'

'The Charter exists to put forward a platform of rank and file involvement, to present a consistent alternative. To do that we need a paper that consistently represents the working class and the rank and file in the union, a paper that really speaks to working people.'

Jack Robertson, from Manchester, described the terrible situation there where the leading man of the Broad Left, Bernard Panter, had deserted the ranks and got a job as an industrial adviser to management. Worse, during a struggle the union branch, which should be the focus to

unite the members involved with others, didn't do that. People in struggle came and joined the same lifeless queues to pay dues or collect money. The Charter had to change that and make meetings invigorating.

Terry Farrer, convenor of Metal Box, Shipley, said that no matter how small the first meeting was—and in truth it was far from small—it was more than possible to build from there.

FIRE

At Metal Box the members had been fighting redundancy on the basis that you shouldn't sell any jobs. While some workers ran away with their redundancy money in hand, most were fighting.

But then no lead came from the national officers. They were skilled negotiators who supported left-wing resolutions but they had no fight and fire in their belly.

Bernadette Dunne, an unemployed AUEW member, stressed that women had to be involved in formulating the demands relating to women. Otherwise when you demanded

nursery facilities at a factory, they would be added only to the women workers' factories. In any case, she didn't want her kids nurseried near a factory. They needed better facilities than that.

Mal Collins, delegated to attend by a Coventry AUEW branch, intervened to tell the conference of the answer given by new general secretary John Boyd for the union's financial crisis. Speaking in Coventry, Boyd had said he wanted to abolish the union's unemployment benefit. Strike pay for the first six days would go also, Boyd had added. So would sick payment.

Boyd was threatening to take this to an emergency AUEW National Committee, which Collins thought was unconstitutional. It should go to a Rules Revision Conference. This was an excellent issue for the Charter.

Chairman Len Blood summed up: 'We've got to get off the terraces and into the arena. It may be that we hit the cross bar or the upright a few times. But what everyone should remember is that when you get the ball in the net, it feels good—very good.'

Appeals

The first session of the conference closed with two appeals. Angela McHugh eloquently underlined the importance of the occupation at Personna, near Glasgow. 'It's said again and again that women won't fight. Well, here at Personna women Engineering Union members are fighting, not against closure, but for the jobs of 40 of their workmates.'

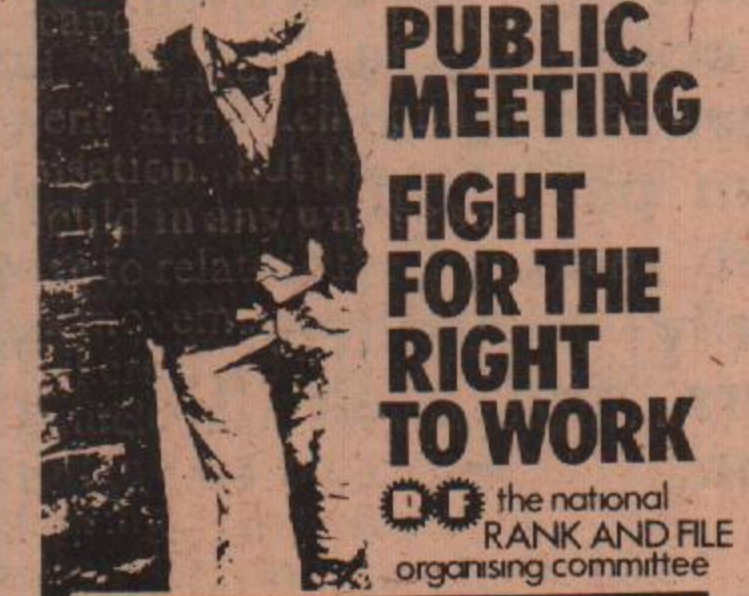
There were also an appeal for workers victimised for seeking union recognition at P J Mirrors in Milton Keynes and for the Charter. The total collection was £64: £32 to the Charter, £22 to P J Mirrors and £10 to Personna—less because they are receiving a district levy. £45 was collected for the Charter at the social.

Watch out for the Charter

DELEGATES from Engineers Charter groups met to discuss the content of the first issue of the Charter journal the day after the conference. Publication of the first issue will come early in the New Year. Orders for copies should be sent to Engineers Charter, c/o National Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

Are you fighting unemployment?
Join the campaign!

NO RETURN TO THE 30's



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

BADGES: Fight for the Right to Work! 10p each, plus 7p postage. Bulk orders over 50, post free.

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

Junior doctors -35p an hour

THE PRESS has been stepping up its campaign against junior doctors. Phrases such as 'holding the country to ransom'—usually reserved for manual workers—are being thrown at them.

But a different attitude is being taken over the other dispute in the Health Service—that of the £10,000 a year consultants who are trying to preserve their 'right' to make a few thousand more by treating private patients in Health Service facilities.

Sneaking

The government is being told to stand absolutely firm against the junior doctors, and to make huge concessions to the consultants. Meanwhile, the British Medical Association is trying to give the impression that somehow the two disputes are linked—although junior doctors in no way benefit from the huge fees of the consultants.

To find out what conditions are really like for junior doctors, PAT EDWARDS, Leeds Womens Voice organiser, interviewed a junior doctor at one of the smaller hospitals in Yorkshire.

Because this doctor is of foreign origin and has the added problem of

WHY WE SHOULD SUPPORT THEM

'I TOOK HOME £24.50 this week. The only way I can get a rise is to support the junior hospital doctors. If they break the £6 limit, that paves the way for all other health workers to fight for an increase. If they lose, we haven't got a hope.'

That's Jim Barlow speaking. He's a storeman at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee—and his words sum up the feelings of many militants in the Health Service.

The effects of breaking the £6 limit—whether the junior doctors see it in that way or not—will be crucial for all other workers.

Already the government is seizing on a let-out—

that the amount of overtime worked has been underestimated and the actual sum of money is much greater. This will be used to put a pretty face of the fact that the junior doctors' action may force the government to back down.

Meanwhile, all hospital workers face a fight against the government's spending cuts, which really mean a fight for jobs.

In Sheffield, student nurses are being used as cheap labour for three years and then not being offered jobs when they qualify. Racism is rearing its ugly head in Bristol, where immigrants' jobs are threatened. The joint shop stewards' committee at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, has put forward a policy of not recruiting immigrants.

racialism to cope with, she wishes to remain anonymous.

Most doctors at her hospital are from overseas; they are forced to accept appalling hours and disgusting treatment by senior staff, since they rely entirely on good references from British consultants for future employment. One word out of place can mean no reference at all.

For a 'normal' working week of 110 hours she is paid roughly £40, about 35p an hour. But for the past five weeks she has been working 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

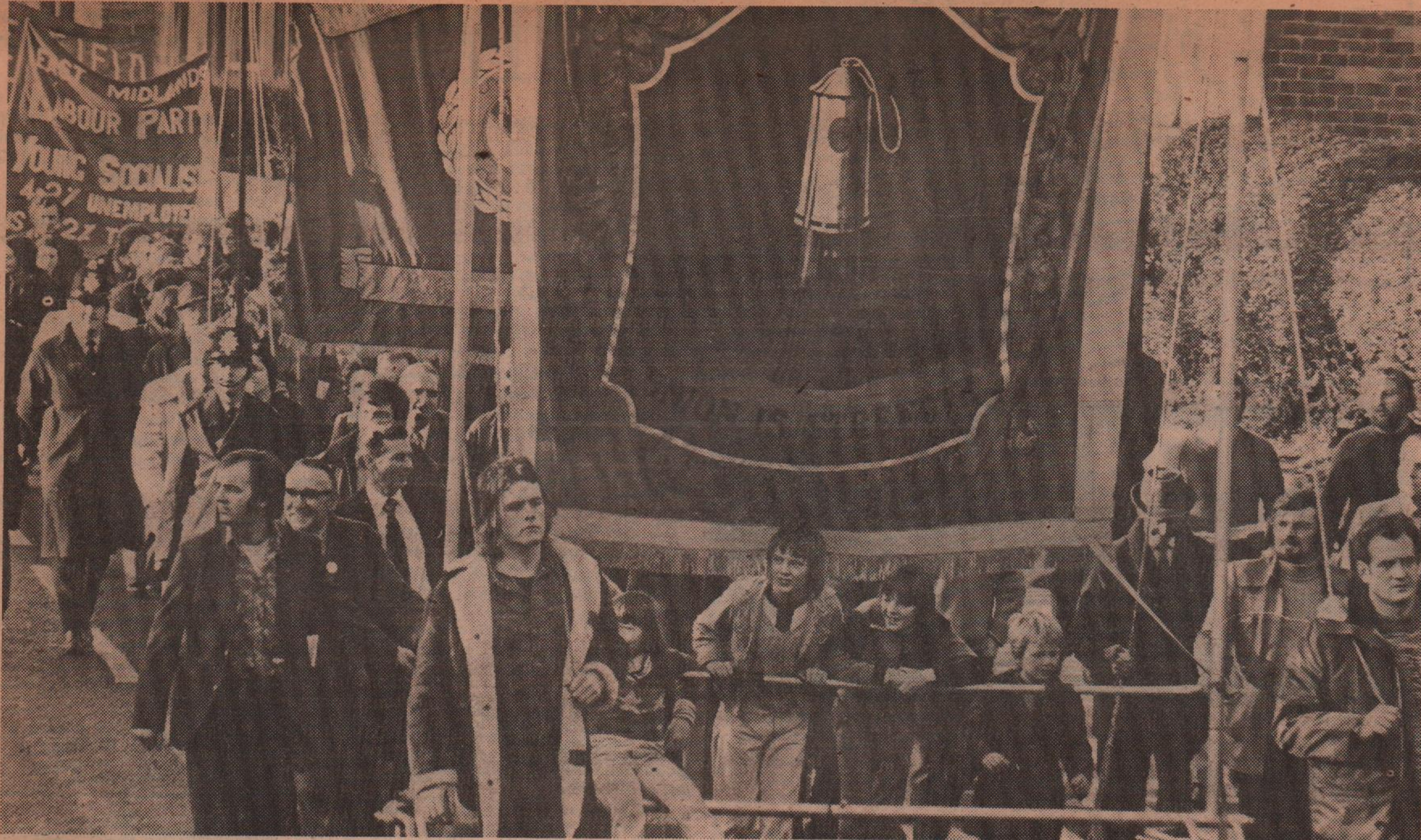
Because another doctor took five weeks accumulated holiday to visit his family in India, she was expected to perform his duties as well as her own which meant that she was permanent-

ly on call.

The hospital authorities refused to get a temporary replacement for that period on the grounds that they 'couldn't afford it'.

When the doctor threatened to resign unless a replacement was brought in, a consultant asked her why she was objecting, since doctors had performed these marathon feats

Clay Cross pays tribute



SOME OF the 500 people who marched through Clay Cross last Saturday in support of the 11 ex-councillors. Local miners, engineers and public employees banners led the march, which was swelled and spurred on by shoppers and on-lookers.

One woman, standing at the traffic lights waving a copy of Socialist Worker, called: 'Well done all of you, thank you for coming.' Another came out of her bungalow, joining in the chant: 'Hands off Clay Cross, Keep the Bailiffs out!'

Explaining where the campaign will go from here, Dave Nuttall, one of the councillors, told Socialist Worker: 'We've got to go to the shop floor. We've got to do a lot of hard work at grass works level explaining to people what's happening to us and what's going to happen if we don't get support'.

WE'LL GET NOTHING FROM PARLIAMENT-IT'S GOT TO BE STRIKE ACTION

And he added: 'Parliament has no useful role. Any change isn't going to come from Parliament. What we need is strike action and pickets when we're in court.'

'That's what got the dockers out of Pentonville, and it's because there hasn't been proper strike action that Des Warren is still inside.'

He explained how the councillors attacked by the Tories and betrayed by the Labour leadership would be hit over the next few months.

'Roy Booker's had a letter saying that the valuers will be coming to see how much his furniture's worth and

then I suppose they'll try and take it away.'

'He'd be left in his council house with his wife and four kids and no furniture.'

'David Percival has been told to give up the keys and log book for his car. He's not going to take it to them, and he could go to jail for two years for that.'

'June my wife, is being surcharged £2800 as one of the second eleven and is appealing in January. If she loses they could take our bungalow, which is in her name.'



Dave Nuttall: how we can fight back

Police help Labour to evict black families

POLICE HELPED evict several homeless black families from Greater London Council property in North Kensington last week. The families had moved in a few days before after a fire at the hotel in which they had been housed.

The hotel was in a disgusting condition, but it gave the landlord a nice profit from the local authority. After the fire, the women and children did not fancy the idea of moving into another, similarly miserable and dangerous hotel owned by the same landlord.

The action of the Labour-controlled GLC shows how hollow is the pretence of Labour councillors who claim to care for the 'underprivileged'. They accept the government-imposed cuts which create massive numbers of homeless people, and then turn the police on those who try to get decent accommodation.

for years and never objected.

'I soon found out why no-one made a fuss,' she said. 'When I made inquiries about my next six months registration, I was told they weren't sure whether I would get it. Before this fuss there had been no problems.'

'What really sickened me was reading in one of the papers that Barbara Castle had gone for 36 hours without sleep—junior doctors are suffering that for months on end but it never gets printed!'

In five weeks, the doctor interviewed got four nights' sleep—but if I'd made any slip because of it the hospital would not have taken responsibility—I would have been to blame.

Linked

'I get no support from my fellow doctors because they have become cowards. They are afraid of losing their references from the consultant who acts as a big blackmailer.'

'It's no wonder they become back-biting and sneaking around consultants, working against their own people.'

'Foreign doctors are not only subjected to these sorts of pressures, but are also treated as second-class citizens by both consultants and senior nursing staff.'

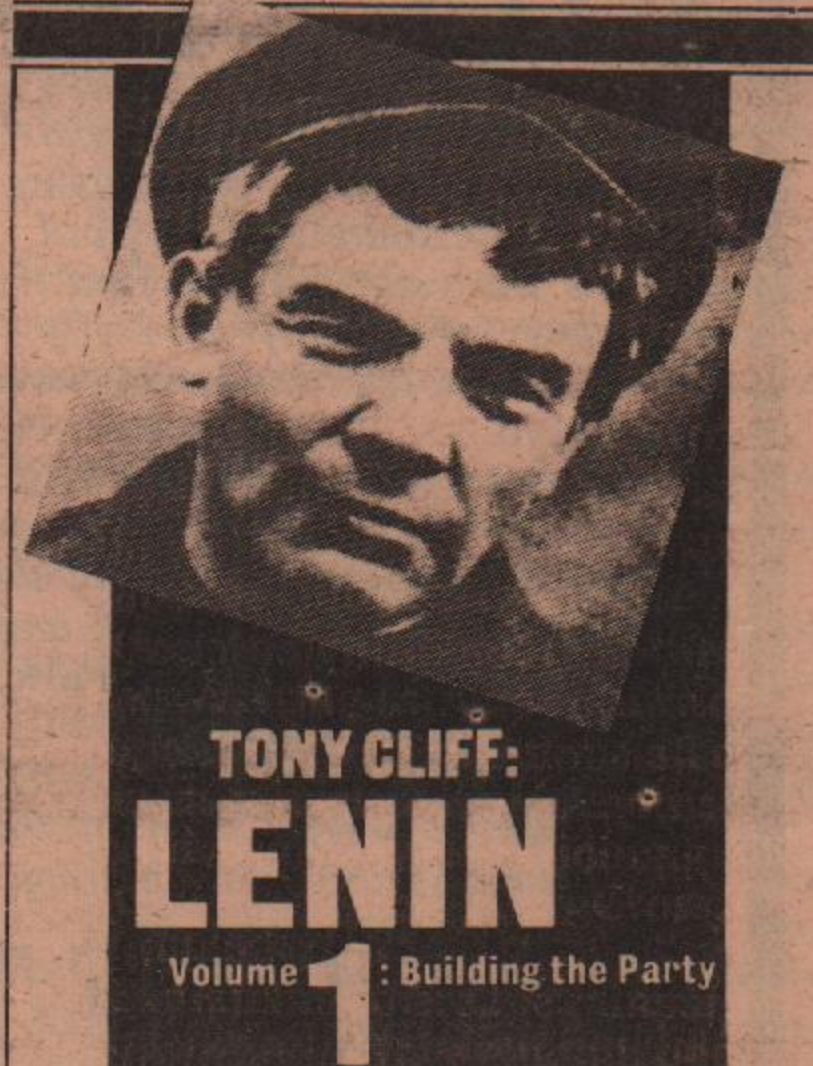
'Sisters and nursing officers have been given authority over them while local doctors wouldn't stand for it.'

'And then, when it comes to registration, we are not entitled to full registration, so we have no job security.'

At a time when the National Health Service is in crisis, and there is a chronic shortage of doctors, the story of this doctor is horrifying.

It is yet more evidence of the dictatorial power of the medical elite over the junior staff who do all the hard graft in the hospitals.

Power which the consultants will also use in their attempts to distort the National Health Service for their own gain.



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

But what about wages?

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

What are your Questions About Socialism? What arguments at work always stump you? What points in Socialist Worker are you unhappy about? Write to Questions About Socialism, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2—and let's argue them out.

'WHY DO YOU NOT differentiate between the words Socialism and Communism in the way Lenin did in State and Revolution?' asks Robert McBride of Falkirk.

'When you refer to the Communist principle "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" you wrongly call it a Socialist principle.

Injustice

'You say that the constitution of the USSR twists this into its opposite to justify the big inequalities that exist there by saying, "from each according to his ability to each according to his work".

'But this is the correct Socialist principle. Lenin explains this when he refers to the inequalities that still apply under Socialism. "It is not capable of destroying at once the further injustice which is constituted by the distribution of articles of consumption according to work performed and not according to need" (State and Revolution).'

Comrade McBride is right, of course. Lenin did indeed make this distinction and, in view of the history of this question, it was careless of me not to make that clear.

Whether, for us today, the distinction is a useful one or not is another matter.

Marx himself did not use it, although he did speak of 'the period of revolutionary transformation' in which some inequalities persist.

In any case, it is clear enough that the wages system cannot be abolished at a stroke but must be eroded, more or less rapidly according to

circumstances, by expanding the areas covered by the 'social wage' to the point that personal pay becomes unimportant.

What ought to concern us is the use that has been made of Lenin's formulation to justify the opposite of what he intended.

Future

In State and Revolution he is concerned to point out what is immediately possible—the abolition of unearned income. Payment according to work done is a big step towards equality in this connection.

But in the USSR, nearly 60 years later, the supposedly Socialist principle (payment according to value of work done) is now used to justify a hierarchy of wages and salaries and the 'Communist' stage of development is postponed to the never-never land of the indefinite future.

For example, a book published in 1971 (The End of Inequality? by David Lane, Penguin Books, 40p) gives these figures for the Leningrad engineering industry.

Group of Workers	Average Monthly Wage(Roubles)
Unskilled Manual	97.5
Press Operators	107.5
Fitters	120.0
Shop Superintendents	172.9

That doesn't look too bad, perhaps. But why, generations after 1917, are the 'educated', the supervision, still able to extract a premium for their services?

Surely the massive educational spending that has undoubtedly been made should have abolished their 'scarcity value' long ago?

From the same source we learn that 'in 1969 the salary of a Soviet government minister was 1050 roubles a month (about nine times the average wage).

'There are also other non-monetary benefits such as cars, houses, holiday facilities and special shops.

'Taking such items into consideration, it has been asserted that the ratio between the earnings of a factory manager and a manual worker ranges from 25 or 30 to one.'

In Lenin's time no party member, whatever his position, was allowed to earn more than the average skilled manual workers' wage—that would put the government minister on around 120 roubles by today's standards.

So there has been, under the cover of 'Socialist Principle', a re-introduction of inequality, a move away from equality in practice, while lip service is still paid to the idea.

That is what I meant by saying that in the USSR the Socialist Principle had been twisted into its opposite.

Under Stalin and his successors, the wages system has not been eroded. It has been reinforced.

Incidentally, some additional light is thrown on the set-up in the USSR by this fact about the Leningrad engineering industry.

Of the top pay category (management) 60.8 per cent are Communist Party or Communist Youth members. Of the bottom category (unskilled manual workers) only 13.8 per cent.

No wonder the Party is firmly in favour of payment according to the value of work done!

The rights of property

CHRYSLER are not only putting the boot into British workers. You'll remember the recent 'accidental' death of three workers blown up in their Madrid plant. Well, there's more...

In South Australia, a militant at Chrysler's Tonsley Park plant, Will Heidt, has been sacked—and then arrested—for protesting about proposed

cut-backs in his section.

After his mates took up his protest and stopped work, Heidt was assaulted by security guards, who also called in the cops.

Heidt left the plant before the police arrived but was arrested in a nearby pub soon after. He was charged with assaulting a security guard, resisting

arrest and being unlawfully on Chrysler's premises.

Seven months ago, another militant in the same plant, Peter van Arend, was jailed for contempt of court—a charge Chrysler are now also trying to pin on Heidt.

In Australia, in Spain and in Britain, the rights of property, as the legendary militants of the Wobblies used to say, take precedence over the rights of life...

WITHOUT COMMENT

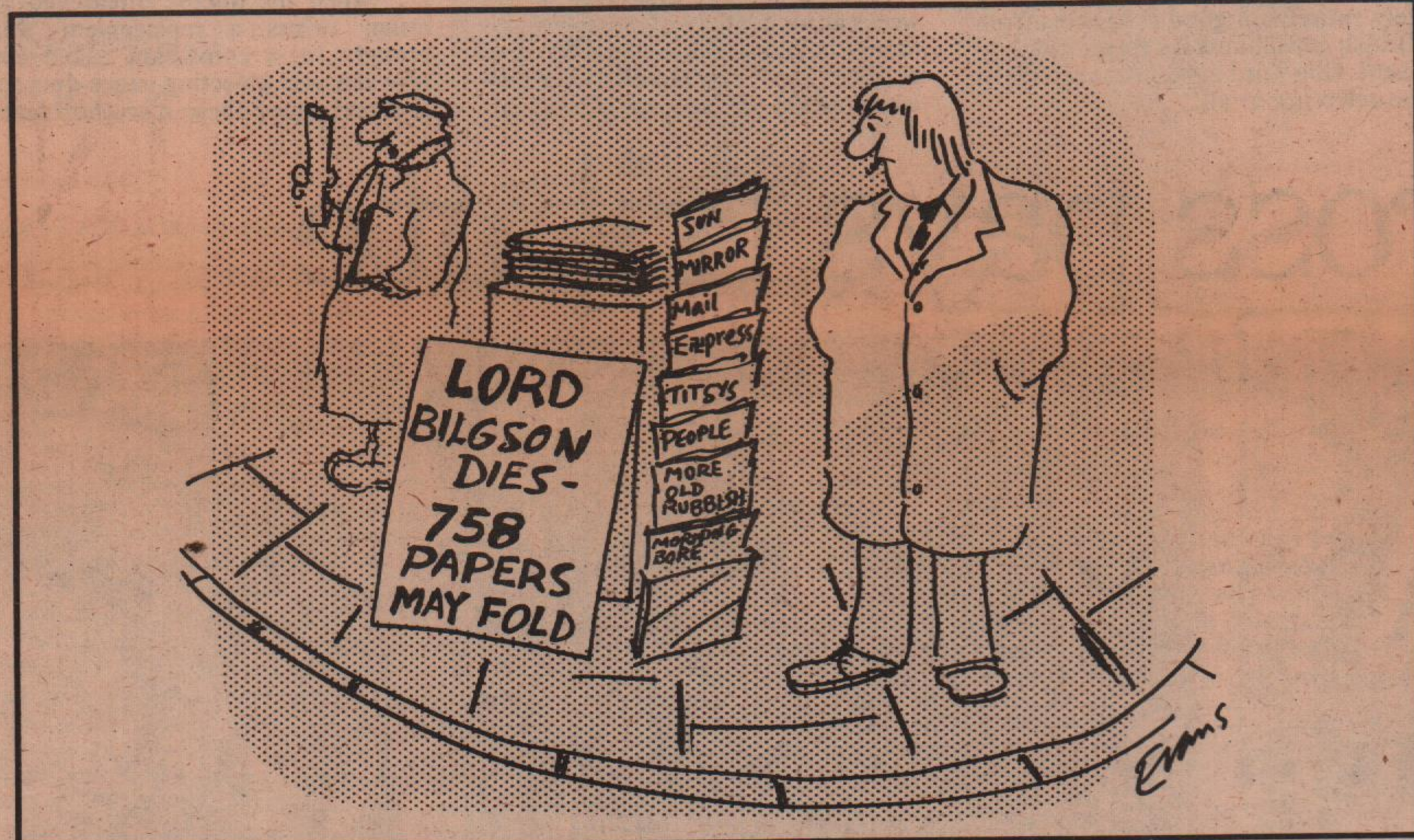
MY sympathies today for Sir Giles Loder. I'm told he's just lost his sixth head gardener and is now faced yet again with the chore of finding a replacement to look after the 80 acre Leonardslee Gardens on his 1000 acre estate near Horsham. Says Sir Giles: "The old style family gardener is very hard to come by these days."

—London Evening Standard, 29 November

Economic miracle, aged 76

W H Hutt, 76-year-old economics professor, has come up with a final solution to the problems of British industry. In a book published this week by the Institute of Economic Affairs he proposes the re-introduction of the 1799 and 1800 Combination Acts, which were used among other things to deport the Tolpuddle Martyrs, and ban trade unions. He believes the re-introduction of these acts would have 'sensational results' and lead to 'an economic miracle'.

Professor Hutt also believes that socialism and Marxism are out of date and old-fashioned.



A class war joke

THE SHAH of Iran was having trouble keeping his workers in line.

So he thought he'd look into one or two new, improved ways of doing the job.

He visited a Coventry armaments factory to discuss with its bosses the purchase of several dozen Chieftain Tanks.

Suddenly the lunchtime hooter sounded. To the great horror of the Shah, hundreds of workers immediately downed tools and rushed out of the factory.

'We must escape,' cried the Shah. 'The workers have made an uprising. We must get inside one of your Chieftains and fight our way to safety.'

A suave executive took him by the hand and explained: 'It's nothing unusual, it happens every day. Half an hour later, another hooter sounds and they all come rushing back in.'

At this, the Shah smiled and said: 'Forget the tanks—I'll take 4000 hooters.'

YOU CAN ALWAYS AFFORD THE LORD...

(Dedicated to Archbishop Coggan)

I'm just a Coggan the wheel
I'll divert you away
from what's real,
So forget your pay freezes
Concentrate on old Jesus
Let the good book
replace a good meal

STEVE COHEN

Free Press horror sensation!

THE FREE PRESS: Journalists covering a demonstration outside the Spanish Consulate in Liverpool recently were surprised to find their newspaper, the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo, suppressing every word they wrote.

This was not unconnected with the fact that the reception for the new Spanish Consul—the target of the demo—was attended by Post and Echo managing director Ian Park and Post editor John Pugh.

Meanwhile, a public comment on Spain more powerful than anything the Post and Echo could manage...

The news of Franco's death was greeted by Fiat car workers in Dublin with a minute's noise. They sounded car horns and rattled bits of metal as a mark of 'respect'.

Rather less irreverent was the response of 'socialist' Cuba, where flags were flown at half-mast as a mark of respect...

SIR KENNETH KEITH, government-appointed chairman of the government-owned Rolls-Royce Aerospace, is a firm believer in

freedom and democracy. As he recently told the Jersey branch of the Institute of Directors:

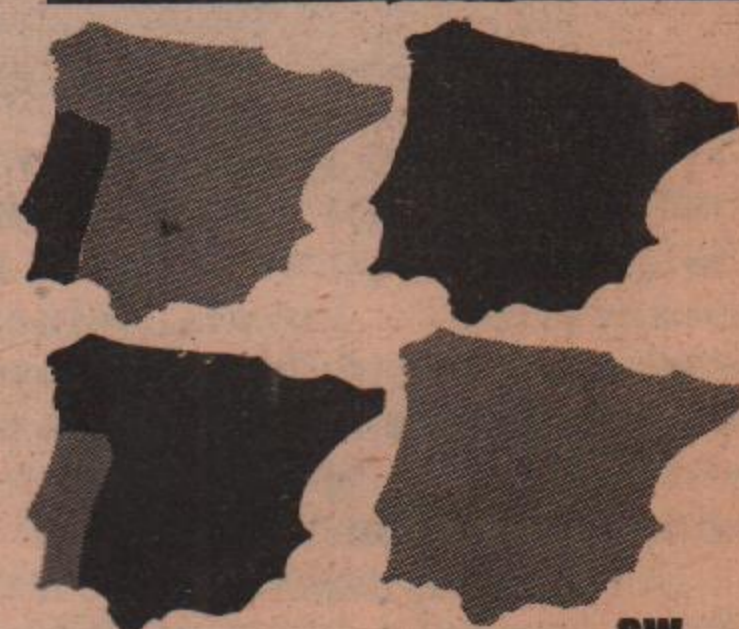
'We must be much, much tougher. The militants have got to be slung out. It can be done. You've got to sack them. A manager has got to be seen to manage.'

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It is as absurd for porters and cooks to tell surgeons when and where they may operate, as it would be for doormen and cleaners at the Foreign Office to try and dictate our foreign policy.

—Lord Hunt of Fawley, President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, in the House of Lords, 3 December.

SPAIN: DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES



PLUS Workers' Newsreel from Portugal.

DERBY: Thursday 11 December, 7.30pm, St Helens House, King Street. DUNDEE: Friday 12 December, 7.30pm, The Music Centre, Bell Street. GLASGOW: Saturday 13 December—the afternoon showing has been cancelled to put as much emphasis as possible on the pickets in support of the Ladbroke's strikers. EDINBURGH: Sunday 14 December, 7.15pm, Student Society Centre, 21 Hill Place.

Tyranny, Yes



ABOVE: A Russian soldier confronts the people of Prague in 1968. TOP LEFT: Russia's Brezhnev and Czechoslovakia's Husak inspect their forces.

by Laurie Flynn

SOCIALISM equals tyranny. We know that's true because it says so every day of the week in the Daily Express.

After all, look what happened in Hungary in 1956, or in Czechoslovakia in 1968. Obvious, isn't it?

Or is it? The Daily Express, and papers like it, will also tell you that the only opponents of those regimes are liberals, who, were they living in Britain and not Eastern Europe, would probably be Tories or perhaps Labour 'moderates'.

And yet the bravest and most consistent fighters against the set-up behind the Iron Curtain are in fact socialists, many of them revolutionaries. This fact is consistently and conveniently ignored by Fleet Street. When they do write about opposition in Eastern Europe, they refer exclusively to prominent intellectuals and former top politicians now in forced retirement.

Rulers

Curiously enough this is exactly how the Eastern European press writes about opposition there. As far as they too are concerned opposition is confined to allegedly privilege-deprived intellectuals or big politicians who have lost out in the fight for jobs, in short people with nothing at all to say about the problems facing working people.

And so the distortions of our media are only surpassed by the lies of Eastern Europe's rulers. Lies about socialists such as:

IVAN DEJVAL, who has been constantly harassed and intimidated since serving a two-year prison sentence for being a member of the clandestine and illegal Revolutionary Socialist Party.

While on army service, he was so maltreated that he tried to kill himself.

Then he was arrested and given another two-year jail sentence, this time for 'denigrating the post of president of the republic'.

This he is alleged to have done by telling fellow soldiers that the Presi-

BUT THE ONLY SOCIALISTS ARE IN JAIL OR UNDERGROUND

Imagine then the surprise of a select group of Western specialists in communist affairs when an important and very well connected Soviet official casually observed the other day that what Russia really needs to improve economic productivity in the coming years is: "a pool of unemployed."

—from *The Guardian*, 28 November

dent was only the formal head of state and that the real number one was the general secretary of the Communist Party (a fact known to virtually everyone in Czechoslovakia from an early age).

JIRI MULLER has served three and a half years of a five and a half year sentence for subversion.

He is often held in isolation, and has been deprived of family visits and denied treatment for a serious eye infection.

Muller is the former chairman of the student/worker co-ordinating committees set up in 1969.

Gustav Husak, the present Czech president, repeatedly insisted, when he came to power, that the agreements to set up these committees had to be renounced.

By doing this, Husak confirmed that the government saw them as the most dangerous threat to the post-1968 regime.

In other words, they were just as frightened of rank and file democracy and independent working class organisation as any devotee of the Daily Telegraph letters' column.

According to members of the London-based Committee to Defend Czech Socialists (without whose assistance this article could not have been written), these committees still function to some limited extent.

Edited

One of the most interesting developments on the socialist left in Czechoslovakia is the emergence of the small clandestine Party of the Workers Councils.

This revolutionary socialist organisation has so far distributed a programme and a manifesto urging workers to set up their own local or factory committees independent of local Party and trade union structures.

Both publications were edited and distributed by workers. What's more, there are small signs that their ideas are being taken up.

Shop-floor dissent and opposition ranges from low productivity to

outright defiance, involving demands for the removal of particular managers, more money or more control.

Over the past two years, the Czech economy has begun to show serious strains, with sections of the government favouring tough penalties for absenteeism and low productivity.

But these measures are increasing tension on the shop floor. This of course is an aspect of opposition utterly and totally neglected by the free western press, who have as much liking for strikes as their East European counterparts.

The Czech party bosses go to enormous lengths to suppress information about such events.

A leaflet put out by the clandestine Party of the Workers Councils puts it as follows:

'As protest strikes have received no publicity even people in the immediate vicinity can be unaware that they have taken place.'

'The following are a few examples: SKODA workers in Pilsen, OSPAP drivers and drivers' mates, construction workers in Praha-Vrsovice, drivers employed by the Railroad Construction Company in Southern Bohemia, workers in the gigantic East Slovak steelworks. ...'

The young revolution

THERE IS considerable opposition in Czechoslovakia among the young—and it takes interesting forms.

In addition to underground publishing (*samizdat*), there is a new musical underground called *Magnetizdat*.

This involves the illegal circulation of progressive music, from 'frowned on' western progressive pop to overtly political Czech progressive music.

The 'Magnetizdat' tapes are often made at illegal underground concerts, to which people are summoned by word of mouth.

Of course these are regularly smashed, just as the Windsor Pop Festival was here.

But often before the police arrive, a cassette tape recording has been made from which copy after copy can be obtained, and circulated.

The musicians from bands such as the Plastic People of the Universe, are often arrested, joining political puppet and theatre group members and active socialists in jail.

Collections made at the illegal concerts are used to help their families or circulate details of their case.

All of this is over and above the thoroughly justified dissent of historians, writers and purged members of the Communist Party—of whom there are over 400,000.

The socialist opposition do not believe that the answer to the problems of the Czech or Polish or Russian working people lies in substituting the lies of the Daily Express for the lies of Pravda, the dictatorship of private capital for that of the state.

Like the International Socialists, they believe that the answer lies in workers' control and workers' power.

They believe that human freedom, far from being an impossible dream, is something that can indeed be won.

Capitalist crisis, Russian-style

THE WESTERN capitalist economies are not the only ones facing crisis. Russian and Eastern Europe are also in trouble.

Hungary has just announced a spate of price increases—sugar up 50 per cent, building materials up by ten to 15 per cent, and meat up next summer by a third.

The figures for the next Russian five-year plan, released last week, reveal that the planned industrial growth rate is down by a third on that for the last five-year period and is the lowest planned rate in 30 years.

The head of the plan, Baibakous, revealed that none of the targets for the last five years had been reached—except for those for coal and fertilisers.

Five years ago, Russian workers were promised massive increases in their living standards. These promises were not kept. And for the next five years there are not even promises.

Production of consumer goods is due to increase by only about 2½ per cent a year, only a little ahead of the growth of the working population. Planned figures for consumer goods output have rarely been

By Chris Harman

achieved in the past.

Reports have also been coming through that this year's Russian harvest was considerably worse than previously stated. One figure mentioned, 137 million tons, would be the worst in ten years. If true, it would mean hunger in many parts of Russia in the months ahead, even after massive buying of grain from the US.

Injustice

Such revelations of economic crisis in the so-called Communist countries must come as shock to those who believe them to be immune to the crises of western capitalism. Only three weeks ago the congress of the British Communist Party was extolling this uninterrupted economic progress.

On the other hand, no one should believe the claims in pro-capitalist papers that the crisis shows that socialism can never work. It isn't socialism, but

state capitalism that is failing in Russia.

The basic reason for the economic crises in the 'Communist' countries is the same as the reason for crises in the West.

Planning is a myth. The driving force of their economies is competition—military competition with the West and China, economic competition with each other and with the western countries.

To keep ahead in this international rat race, the rulers of each country try to expand industry as fast as possible. They pay no regard to the resources that exist for accomplishing this or to the needs of their workers.

The result in each factory is chaos, lack of materials, disgruntled and underpaid workers. The result nationally is neglect of the needs of agriculture and consumer goods industries. The result internationally is a world system plagued by inflation and crises. The blind drive to expand gives birth to its opposite—waste and poverty.

It is no wonder that growing numbers of East European and Russian workers talk of 'state capitalism' and 'the red bourgeoisie'.

Review article by PAUL FOOT

BILL HETHERINGTON is on trial at the Old Bailey for talking politics to a sailor in a railway carriage. He is, according to prosecutor **Michael Coombe** a 'threat to democracy'.

'We have seen the threats to democracy in countries not even outside Europe where troops try to run political affairs contrary to the elected representatives of the government,' said Coombe.

He meant Portugal, of course. He meant that left-wing sections in the Portuguese military were a disgrace to armies everywhere. He meant that soldiers and sailors must be taught absolute obedience.

Otherwise the elected government can't rely on them. So they are a threat to democracy.

The same argument is being used by the French government, who are prosecuting conscript soldiers in the French army. Last Saturday 15 soldiers were charged by a 'special security court' with 'demoralising the armed forces'. They were accused of arguing for trade unions in the army.

In Britain, France and Portugal the authorities all claim that the armed forces' unswerving obedience to the elected government is a 'cornerstone of democracy'.

Different

This month a book* is published which tells a rather different story. In May 1974, a strike was organised by the Ulster Workers Council in Northern Ireland. Its purpose was to continue Protestant domination over Catholics at every level of society.

Elected parliaments in Britain and Northern Ireland opposed the strike. On Monday 20 May, writes the book's author, Times correspondent Robert Fisk, Protestant extremists turned Belfast 'into the capital of a country in which a revolutionary army has just staged a coup d'etat'.

Protestant gangs roamed the streets hijacking cars and lorries and setting fire to them. They set up road-blocks throughout the city and formed human chains outside factories, offices and shops. They bullied and intimidated workers, shopkeepers, passers-by.

'Every one of these incidents was watched, sometimes from only a few yards away, by policemen or soldiers, but the people of Belfast found that they did little or nothing to stop such demonstrations of Protestant lawlessness,' writes Fisk.

Preserve

That afternoon, Stan Orme, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, told the House of Commons: 'All necessary steps will be taken to preserve law and order'.

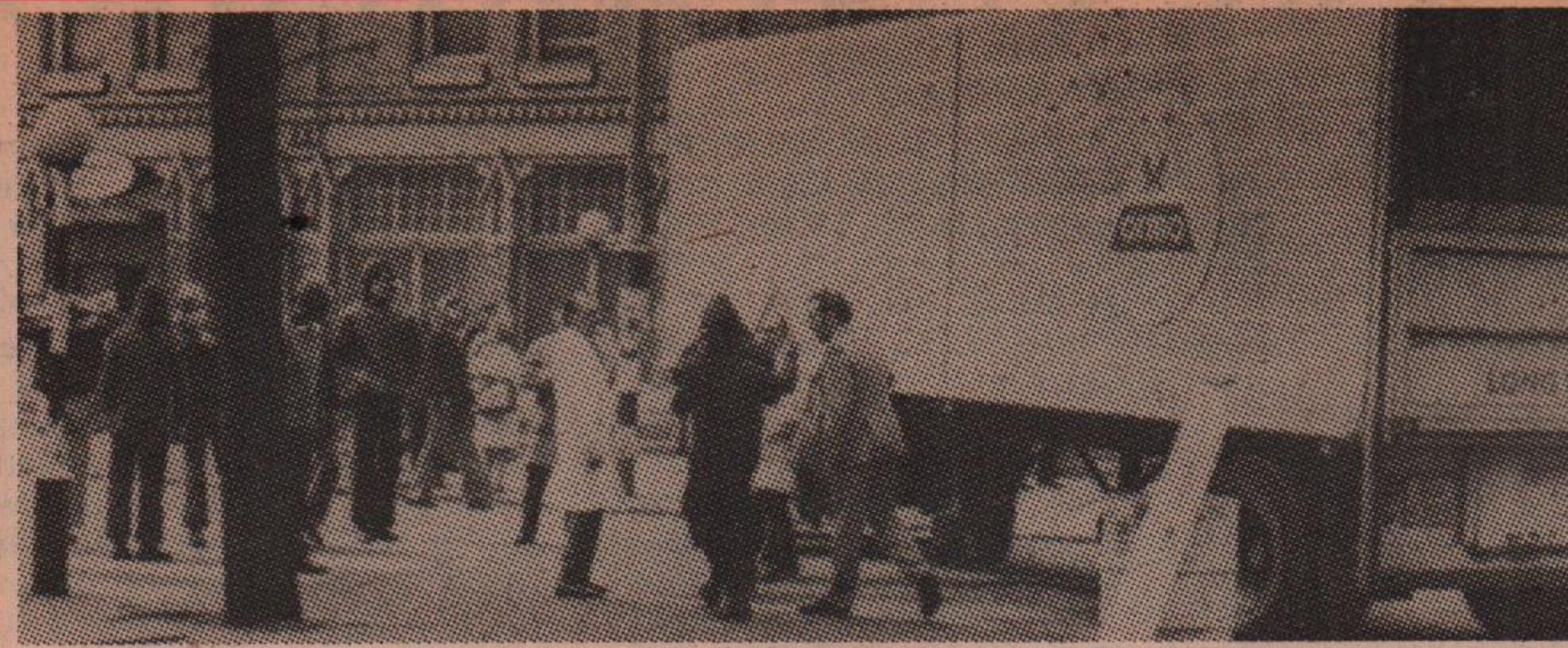
Fisk writes: 'Quite clearly, all the necessary steps to preserve law and order were *not* being taken: the people responsible for the "bullying and intimidation" were for the most part being ignored by Her Majesty's forces.'

And again: 'Neither the police nor the army made any serious effort to interfere with the Ulster Workers' Council's insurrection.'

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Merlyn Rees, had urgently requested reinforcements from the Ministry of Defence in London. The Ministry delayed sending them. Rees had to speak personally



Army of the right



Masked loyalists with iron bars hijack a lorry in East Belfast. Wrote Fisk: 'Every one of these incidents was watched, sometimes from only a few yards away, by policemen or soldiers, but ... they did little or nothing.'

to senior defence civil servants—and even then the reinforcements were held back for two crucial days.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson insisted that the strike must be outfaced. On 25 May, he wrote a draft of a television speech to the nation about the Northern Ireland strike. The draft attacked the strike as a 'rebellion against the Crown'. It insisted that the rebellion should be put down.

Fisk writes: 'But between twelve and two o'clock on Saturday afternoon, Wilson changed his mind about the statement. In those two hours, he took a sudden and final decision, sharply reversing the mood and content of his speech and abandoning the executive to their fate.'

All references to the word 'rebellion' were deleted.

Why? Fisk reports: 'It was the army's influence . . . that caused Wilson to place a new "interpretation" on his promise to the executive of action against the Ulster Workers Council.'

The Northern Ireland government wanted 'swift action' from the military. The military refused. After a week, the government collapsed and went along with the army.

Confrontation

Fisk quotes an article about the strike by a 'serving army officer' in the summer 1974 issue of Monday World, the publication of the extreme right-wing Monday Club. He used the name 'Andrew Sefton'.

'The unwillingness of the army to act to bring about the end of the strike . . . and the

subsequent confrontation between the military and the politicians, must be the most significant event of recent years. For the first time the army decided that it was right and that it knew best and that the politicians had better toe the line.'

Fisk concludes: 'The army did play a political role in Ulster in May . . . Why was the army not prepared to face the UWC in the first days of the strike when they witnessed the most blatant intimidation on the streets of Belfast?'

'Why did the Ministry of Defence deliberately delay sending badly-needed reinforcements to Northern Ireland that first weekend? Why did 39 Brigade choose to work by the book and dutifully wait for the police to

initiate their interference on the streets instead of taking the decision themselves as in the past?'

'The answer is that the army did not trust the political judgement of the British ministers at Stormont?'

In other words, the officers who control the army are not neutral automatons at the beck and call of the elected government. They are loyal not to their government, but to their class.

Defend

As Andrew Sefton's Monday Club article put it: 'For at least two years now it has been a topic of conversation in the messes of the army that sooner or later it would be called upon to act in England itself.'

These army officers will fight to

the death to defend their class. The demonstrators or time they're asked they're not.

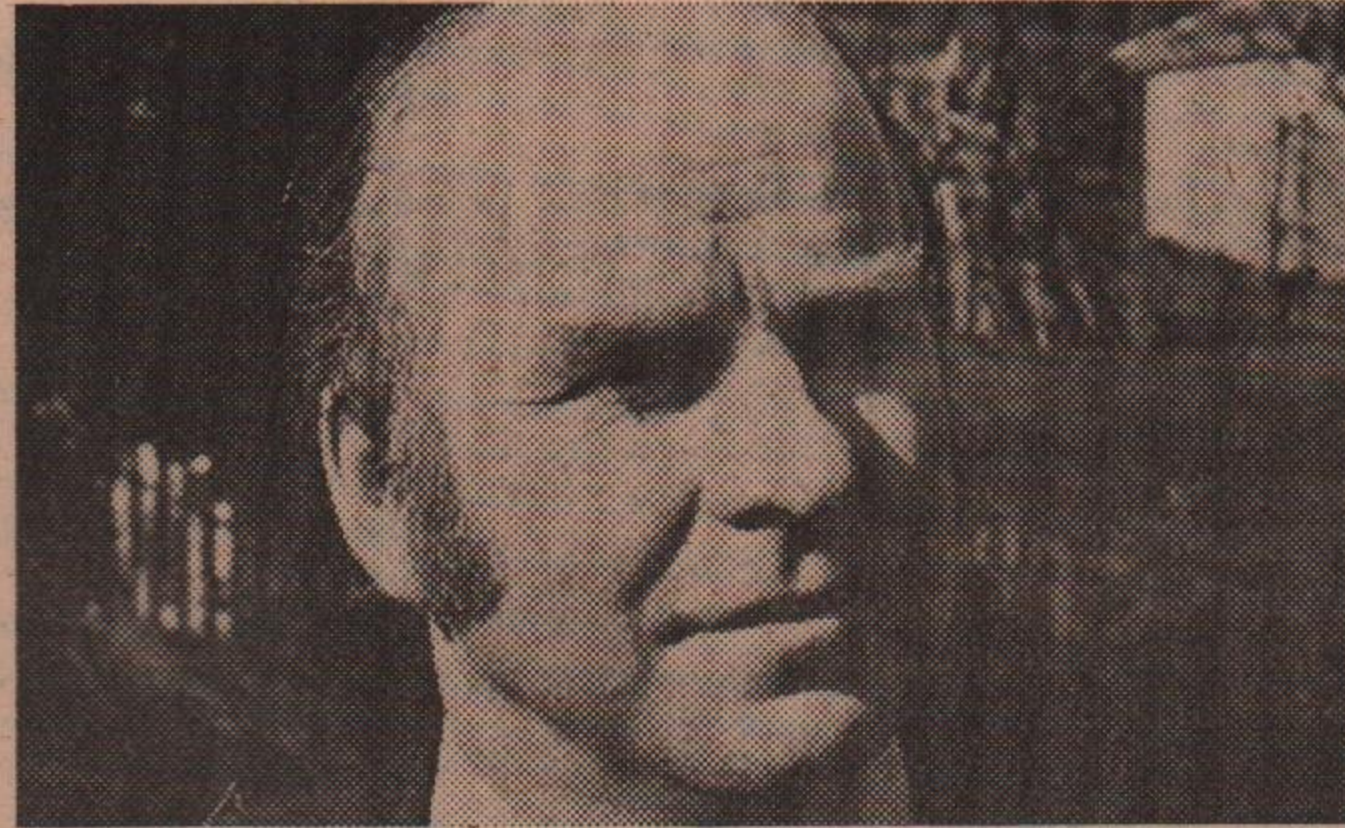
As they proved winter, when the a break the dustcar they will break workers if consid threat to the right

The army officer Northern Ireland to keep Northern Britain. The Prot in Britain and the did not. Therefore points out in his b were principally f and only occasion tant armies.'

In May 1974 government's poli to support a po



Northern Ireland Secretary Merlyn Rees—he called for army reinforcements to deal with the UWC strike. The Ministry of Defence deliberately delayed sending them.



Northern Ireland Minister Stanley Orme, who promised 'All necessary steps to preserve law and order'. The army operated a token intervention at a few petrol stations, no more.

The politicians need the army—and not just in Northern Ireland. For at least two years now it has been a topic of conversation in the messes of the army that sooner or later it would be called upon to act in England itself . . . The government has at its disposal an army with an experience in counter urban guerrilla warfare greater than any other comparable force in the world.

—a serving army officer writing in Monday World, publication of the right-wing Monday Club, summer 1974.

Lieutenant Northern power-sha

Labour ready to sack railmen in the name of profit

ON Tuesday railway workers from all over Britain will be showing a rare and welcome degree of unity. Members of all three rail unions—NUR, ASLEF and TSSA—will be lobbying parliament in protest at the massive cuts being planned by the Labour government.

For the fact is that Labour, having attacked past Tory governments for carving up the railways, have spoken loftily in its election manifesto about improving public transport, is now about to wield another Beeching-style axe.

Instead of restoring the services decimated by Beeching in the early 60s, those same understaffed and inadequate services will now be cut even further.

As many as 80,000 jobs could be destroyed, dozens of stations closed at weekends and, in some areas, left without trains except during peak hours.

This is 'justified' because British Rail are not making a profit, as if profit should decide where people live and work and visit.

Confrontation

Yet even this scandalous excuse for pouring still more deaths on to the streets, poison into the air and profits into the insatiable hands of the powerful road lobby, is riddled with deceit. Britain's railways fail to pay, not because of overmanning—consider, the next time you have to kick your heels on some icy platform because lack of staff has forced your train to be cancelled, that 250,000 jobs were slashed in the ten years after 1960—not because of low productivity, nor even because of some devil called nationalisation, but because of the crazy system they operate in.

It is a system designed to enrich those with the power to wreck havoc with our lives. For instance, British Rail are still shelling out enormous sums—£57 million in 1973—in interest payments to the rail owners bought out by nationalisation nearly 30 years ago.

Foundations

Those interest payments also finance losses made in years when deliberate government policy carved up the railways to the benefit of private industry, that is, to the benefit of the rich.

Sections of British Rail which were highly profitable, such as haulage, were handed to the vultures of the Road Haulage Association.

Experts brought in to solve the crisis of profitability advised British Rail in 1966 to invest £400 million in containerisation—an outlay exposed five years later to have been a costly mistake. The experts had done their sums wrong and British Rail were deeper in debt.

So the bungling and sabotage—all the direct result of the lust for

FACT

You are 300 times more likely to be killed travelling by road than by rail. Yet rail travel could be made free with less than the amount now spent on subsidising the roads.

The annual subsidy to British Rail for each taxpayer is £16, compared with £250 on roads—through spending from taxes and car depreciation for each car-owner.

FACT

The British Rail workforce has been cut by half since 1945. In 1960 there were 20,000 miles of track. Today there are 11,500. If governments' plans are not fought, there could soon be only 8000.

profit—go on. Ironically, the lack of that same profit is now used to justify making its victims, British Rail's workers and customers, pay the price with the loss of their jobs and services.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the railway unions make nothing but abject compromises with the British Railways Board.

Already they have agreed to voluntary redundancies until next May. Instead of taking a stand now against any cuts on the railways, they have opened the back door to them.

But of course, it is not *their* jobs and working conditions that are disappearing, but their members. And it is their members who are going to have to fight to save them.

Three weeks ago, the Railway Review, journal of the National Union of Railwaymen, announced: 'The unions acknowledge that something has to be done. All industries and services are having to be pruned and there is no way in which railways can get special dispensation to opt out of the country's present economic troubles.'

The same article added that 'the Railways Board and the three unions have worked out guidelines ...to make economies.'

The warning is there: the bureaucrats of ASLEF, NUR and TSSA have acquiesced in the destruction of jobs—and no amount of whining by them will prevent that destruction becoming a slaughter.

Only the members themselves can stop that. Only the rank and file can provide the force to halt the plans of the British Railways Board and the Labour government.

But they will only be able to do that if they turn their backs on the sectionalism, the divisions by craft and status, that have held them back for so long.



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ecutive, one which included
members from both sides, and
which would keep Northern
Ireland in Britain while ridding it
of its heritage of Protestant
domination. The Protestants went
on strike for their right to dis-
criminate against and repress the
Catholic minority.

Foundation

From the moment the strike
started, the officers realised that if
they fought the Protestants, they
would be fighting the supporters of
British rule in Northern Ireland. If
the Protestants were defeated in
battle, the whole foundation of the
Northern Ireland state would dis-
integrate.

If they wanted to keep the British
in Ireland, they had to give in to the

Protestants all along the line. If
that meant opposing the will of the
elected governments—then the
elected governments would have to
be opposed.

Robert Fisk's book is proof of a
simple truth which needs to be spelt
out in every barracks in Europe.
The army is not a neutral servant of
elected government. Its decisions
are made by unelected class
warriors of the most bigoted varie-
ty.

The law follows the class course
of the army. 'Andrew Sefton', for
instance, who wrote an article in a
Monday Club rag clearly inciting
army officers to defect from the
government—is he up for incite-
ment to disaffection? No. Robert
Fisk discloses that the army knows
who he is, but no charge has been
laid against him. He is still a
serving officer.

Andrew Sefton was inciting
army officers to disaffect in the
interests of their class. The army
officers who refused to intervene
against Protestants in May 1974
were encouraging disaffection
from their elected governments—
again in the interests of their class.

The men and women in the
dock at the Old Bailey, the
arrested soldiers in Portugal
and in France had the audacity
to question the class motives
and class power of their of-
ficers. That is why they are on
trial and in prison.

*Whose side is the
British army on?
Soldiers chat with
UDA men on
barricade duty
during the Ulster
Workers' Council
strike. The British
colour sergeant on
the left is standing
next to a UDA
'sergeant' whose
stripes are clearly
visible on his right
arm.*



General Sir Frank King, whose 17,500 troops in
Ireland stood by as the Loyalists toppled the
executive.

*THE POINT OF NO
RETURN, by Robert Fisk,
Deutsch, £4.95.

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.

Special police protect Front

AT an anti-fascist demonstration in Dewsbury two weeks ago 27 protesters were arrested. The police brutality was so blatant that one police cadet has since resigned from the force and agreed to be a witness against them.

It is now clear that the police who made the majority of arrests were not part of the local police force, but a special unit established for use in demonstrations and on picket lines.

The Dewsbury National Front march was their first chance to prove themselves, which in part accounts for the large number of indiscriminate arrests. But that was not all. Those people the police did not arrest they pursued, kicking in formation somewhat like the Tiller girls!

So carried away did the police become that when a passer-by intervened in one case they proceeded to

by Pete Elliott

kick him as well. Their impartiality was remarkable —when one anti-NF demonstrator was being dragged away by his hair, an NF member ran up and punched him while he was being held.

Clobbered

Naturally, no action was taken against this individual, who in his eagerness had temporarily put aside his placard saying 'Get tough with the muggers'.

But we have little faith in British justice and expect to be clobbered when we appear in court. Some of

those arrested are unemployed since the closure of Woodheads' factory in Ossett. So please give a donation towards our defence costs. Apart from the financial side, we are anxious that the full facts of the case be widely known and that if the National Front appear in this area again then the reception committee will be even bigger.

We have set up a committee to conduct the campaign and to raise a target of £1000 to fight the issue and pay any fines.

Local Labour MPs and other local figures are being asked to sponsor it. A letter is being sent to all the local trade union branches. Student unions are being asked to donate money.

Send money to the Defend the 27 Fund, c/o Selwyn Smith, 20 Healey Drive, Ossett, West Yorkshire.

BY PHILIP GREENWOOD, WHO RECENTLY LEFT THE FRONT TO JOIN IS

Socialist Worker NEWS...and WHAT'S ON

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

SOUTHAMPTON Flame meeting: Chairman Kingsley Giddings. Speakers: Lee Kane (Flame), Phil Murphy (WIA) and a local teacher. Friday 12 December, 7pm, St Matthews Hall, St Mary's Road. All welcome.

INNER WEST LONDON SW public meeting: Fight for the Right to Work. Speakers: Tony Cliff and local trade unionists. Thursday 11 December, 7.30pm, Woodlands Hall, Crown Street, W3 (near Acton Town tube).

SOUTHWARK SW public meeting: The Multinational Corporations. Speaker to be announced. Wednesday 17 December, 8pm, Committee Room 1, Rotherhithe Civic Centre, Albion Street, London SE16.

SOUTHWARK SW public meeting: The Nationalised Industries. Speaker: Christopher Hird. Wednesday 7 January, 8pm, Committee Room 1, Rotherhithe Civic Centre, Albion Street, London SE16.

HARLOW SW public meeting: The Environment under Capitalism. Speaker: Rosie Calvert (IS Science Group). Thursday 11 December, 8pm, Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair.

CAMBRIDGE SW public meeting: The £6 limit equals wage cuts. Speakers: Richard Buckwell (NALGO). Monday 15 December, 8pm, Duke of Argyle pub, Argyle Street.

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

CANTERBURY and district: Agy 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.

SW AUSTRALIA GROUP public meeting: The attack on the Australian Labour Government. Speaker: Phil Griffiths. Socialist Worker Action Group (SWAG) activist, just arrived from Australia. Rising Sun, Tottenham Court Road, London W1, Friday 12 December, 7.30pm.

URMSTON Socialist Worker readers have regular discussions on Thursdays, 8pm, at the Nags Head. All welcome, but please check with your regular seller in case of cancellations.

EDINBURGH SW Agitprop Group: School on silkscreen printing. Saturday 13 December, 10am, Societies' Centre, Hill Place, Edinburgh. IS members and SW supporters welcome.

HACKNEY Teachers SW public meeting: Is there a black student problem? Speaker: Martha Osamor. Tuesday 16 December, 8pm, 58 Allerton Road, London, N16.

Socialist Worker events

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.

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. Alerta, 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.

INNER EAST LONDON SW Christmas Social: Saturday 13 December, 8pm, The Knave of Clubs, Bethnal Green Road (on the corner of Club Row), E2. (Nearest tube Liverpool Street, Food and Night Train Soul Disco. Entrance 50p.

FLAME Grand New Year Social: Come, listen and dance to the cream of Afro Jazz played by London-based South African group, Jabula Spear. Saturday 3 January, YMCA, Tottenham Lane, Hornsey, North London, 7pm-11.30pm. Bar and Afro food. (Wood Green, Turnpike Lane, Finsbury Park tubes. Buses 41, W7, W2, W3.) Admission £1. Come one, come all.

ASHTON Socialist Worker Social. Bar and entertainment. Friday 19 December, 8pm, Halfway House, Whiteacre Road, Ashton-under-Lyne. Admission 40p.

ASHTON IS and SW supporters Children's Christmas Party: Saturday 13 December, 2pm-6pm, 186 Kings Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED: Trade union and socialist badges. All types required. Send badge or details to: T.Alicott, 106 Knighton Fields Road West, Leicester. Donation to Socialist Worker for every badge received.

NORTH HERTS Big Red Xmas Party: Friday 19 December, 8pm, Rock group, Folk music, Disco. Full bar till midnight. Tickets 75p (£1 at door), Youth Wing, Hitchin College, Hitchin. Phone Bedford 854693 or Hitchin 52975.

NOISS

STUDENTS: Posters headed 'International Socialist 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.

IS notices

SOCIALIST WORKER DRAW: All money, stubs, unsold tickets must be returned by 18 December. Send them off now, to Julia Hatts, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Any not received by then cannot be included in the draw.

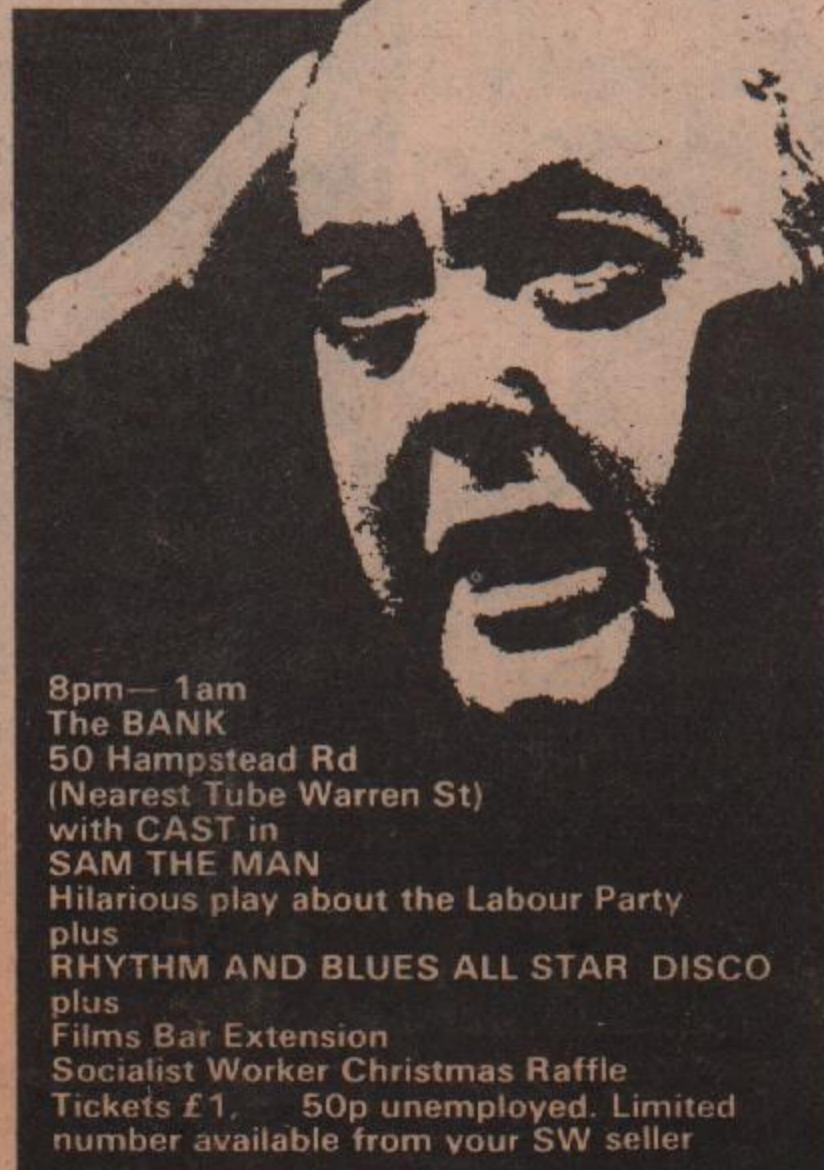
CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE, a short pamphlet produced by SW Africa Group, 5p (plus 6½p postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Other bookshops should contact to get copies.

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

WOMEN'S VOICE Christmas postcards: 3p each, 15p for a set of six. All with political nursery rhymes—drawn by Liz Mackie. Send money with orders to Women's Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Third issue of **FLAME** out this week. Send orders to 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

DECEMBER 19 SW XMAS DRAW BOP A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



8pm-1am
The BANK
50 Hampstead Rd
(Nearest Tube Warren St)
with CAST in
SAM THE MAN
Hilarious play about the Labour Party plus
RHYTHM AND BLUES ALL STAR DISCO plus
Films Bar Extension
Socialist Worker Christmas Raffle
Tickets £1, 50p unemployed. Limited number available from your SW seller

PAPERS OVER CHRISTMAS

THE arrangements for printing Socialist Worker over the Christmas break will be:

• Next week's issue, the issue dated 20 December, will be printed as usual on Wednesday 17 December and arrive at the normal time.

• The following week, Christmas week, there will be NO Socialist Worker—we're having a break.

• The following week, New Year, we will print a 12-page paper early, on Tuesday 30 December. Out of London branches should collect the papers from the stations on Wednesday. London branches will be able to collect their papers on Tuesday evening until 7.30pm and daytime on Wednesday FROM 8 COTTONS GARDENS. IS Books will be closed.

Please remember to adjust orders for those weeks. Phone the Socialist Worker circulation office now—01-739 2639. All money for 1975 must be paid up quickly please.

Chingari supporters' group set up

TEN Punjabi and Gujarati building workers met in North London last week to discuss the aims of Chingari and how to contribute to and build the paper.

The Gujarati-speaking workers showed much interest in starting a Gujarati issue of Chingari. It was suggested, however, that launching a local rather than a national paper might be a better way to start.

At the end of the meeting, there was a feeling that we should have regular discussions dealing with general political themes. As far as possible, the language used will be Hindi.

The success of this first meeting is down to the consistent trade union and international work of North London building workers who are in the International Socialists.

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 should send in forms now. We have been flooded with requests for extra places. All bookings and deposits must be in by 19 December—places unfilled after then will be allocated to branches that have asked for extra.

Send forms to Julia Hatts, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

SW What we stand for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The revolutionary party To achieve socialism the most mili-

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

WE ARE

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

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

to strike and on effective picketing.

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

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

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

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

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people.

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

JOIN Socialist Worker IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

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

The

MY FIRST introduction to politics was to join the National Front in 1973.

I had served for four years in the army and had two jobs in non-union shops. Most of the lads I met in the army joined, like myself, because of a shortage of jobs.

I did a fair bit of travelling. But most of the lads weren't so lucky. They ended up in a 'dead end' posting to Germany, where many became alcoholics out of boredom, and rejection by the local population.

I didn't get on too well in the army because of the moronic set-up. 'You're not paid to think' was the motto.

I got out and took a job at a timber merchants. It was a non-union shop—and didn't we know it.

Promised bonuses were not paid and conditions were bad. I stuck it out for four months.

About this time a leaflet was pushed through our door at home by a new party that offered to get us out of the mess the country was in. I wrote off to get further information.

About a week later, two National Front members came round. They looked very smart in black suits. But, looking down at their feet, I noticed something odd—they were wearing steel toe-cap boots.

The arrogant attitude of one, a Mr Slack, led my old man to come out with the statement: 'You're a fascist, you are'.

I didn't heed the warning, as my dad always made a habit of insulting people he didn't take to.

I joined and went to my first meeting the following Sunday at a local pub. John Tyndall talked about the 'Youth and Vigour of our Country', which turned out to be an average of 40 years old, with a few members about 17.

The meeting took the form of a policy statement read out by the

Got any more

trite ideas?

A CHARACTER in Graham Greene's novel *The Confidential Agent*, published in 1939, reflects that 'it was wrong to underestimate the ignorance of the ruling class.'

I suppose a lot of readers at the time would have agreed. After all, the ruling class had just finished organising one of the world's longest running cock-ups, otherwise known as the Thirties—their most impressive shambles since the First World War, which in turn was their most impressive shambles since ...

But I digress. The point is that things haven't changed much, at least as far as the ruling class is concerned.

Open a newspaper on any day of the week and you're at once struck by the ideological poverty of the class, the way they don't actually seem to have had a fresh idea, a genuine thought, since about 1833, when laissez faire capitalism was going strong and generating the mass of ideas appropriate to it.

So, dipping into this week's papers we find: *The death sentence is an essential deterrent*. (Ivan Lawrence MP), *The nationalisation plan is simply political dogma* (Society of British Aerospace Companies), *Ford Escort. The car that competition built* (Advert. Hands up all the dumbos who thought it was built by workers at Halewood), *Europe of the people, by the people, for the people* (Edward Heath).

And so on and on and on—great dead mounds of vivid slogans and washed-up platitudes posing as new truths.

Moderates, as we've all learnt from listening to Roy Jenkins, could save the world, given half the chance. But one thing they clearly can't do any more is create anything—dreams, ideas, visions, poetry.

It's a fact that literary critics have known for a long time. George Orwell, for instance, commenting on T S Eliot's later work, argued that 'Conservatism of the half-hearted, modern kind' is 'deadly to poetry' so that the bulk of Eliot's best lines were written before he became a Tory royalist around 1928.

Eliot is not an isolated example. Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Tennyson in the nineteenth century, Sassoon, London, and Auden in the twentieth, all produced striking, original poems before their

various declines into Anglican piety and solid conservatism reduced them to writing verse that rarely rises above conventional mumbles.

This is not just a case of some Marxist hack saying, 'Boo, this stuff's right wing, therefore it's not poetry', but is a view that's shared by nearly all readers and critics.

Thinking about this you sometimes get a picture of a class committed to a system that is moribund, that is terrified of change which it sees as equivalent to collapse, and so a class unable to think freely, radically, or imaginatively.

A class limited instead to a sort of feverish, mad, defensive ingenuity. There are perhaps even now top brains of the CIA working on a master plan to smuggle Harpic into Paul Foot's Weetabix, thus making his teeth fall out and so permanently discrediting IS in the eyes of all industrial militants.

This very real mental failure might move the rest of us to quiet sympathy. Capitalism, like Charles II, has been an unconscionable time dying, and so has the idiocy that goes along with it.

The problem is that the idiocy kills people. In the end we're the ones who pay for it with wasted lives. As the German poet, Bertolt Brecht, put it:

*The people above
have met in one room
Man in the street
given up all hope
The governments
are writing agreements of non-violence.
Little man
go and write your will.*

Flashback to last week's Socialist Worker

Members of the National Front, went on an outing last Sunday. They went by bus from Blackburn to Manchester, where they dropped in on a National Council of Civil Liberties meeting on The State, the Law and Ireland. As solicitor Tony Cason introduced the meeting, these supporters of Roy Jenkins' anti-Terror Act got to work. 'Fenian bastards', they shouted. 'Get back to Ireland'. One of their number threw a brick at the chairman. Then these believers in flogging and the hach for howlains got to work on the furniture and fittings. They wrecked the place, causing upwards of £3000 damage.



Graham Atkinson - 19 stitches in his face after being attacked by Front members armed with bottles and bricks and the remains of the meeting hall after the Front had passed through.

The National Front passed this way...

inside story of the National Front

chairman and a question and answer time at the end. It was, to most, just an excuse for a piss up. No real politics came out at all, and this was to be the case at future meetings.

I was soon told about IS ... 'a student anarchist party run by Jewish capitalists that go round beating up old men and women'.

It was one of three groups the NF feared most. The other two are the 62 group (a Zionist organisation) and the Association of Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen.

At first, the party seemed patriotic, rather than Nazi. This is how ordinary members see the NF. I came into contact with the Nazi clique that runs the NF.

Most of these people had been in the British Movement, a Nazi organisation run by Colin Jordan and backed by Oswald Mosley.

This clique runs most, but not all, NF branches. To split the membership down, you get those who don't like the Parliamentary system, black haters, aggro merchants, and Nazis, in that order. Most of those in the first group don't last long. Some only attend one or two meetings before quitting the party.

Power

Anyone the Nazis feel to be a 'moderate' is branded a plant. In our branch, Kingsley Read, national chairman of the Front, was thought to be an IS plant, because he had a 'Support the State of Israel' sticker in his car window.

The NF is split over Israel. The Nazis oppose it because they are anti-semitic, the others support it because of their general right-wing politics. The Nazis say these 'traitors will be taken care of' when the Front get to power.

The Front is trying hard to get into power in the unions. It is urging members to put up for shop rep in their factories.

But instead of these shop reps taking the problems of the workers to the management, they would dictate Front politics to both workers and management.

The Front is for private enterprise as long as it is British owned. All foreign firms would be nationalised. To get rid of the international financiers is top priority. They say this part of commerce is run by Jews and must be destroyed.

The Front always prides itself with a close association with the Ulster Defence Association, the Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Freedom Fighters. Arms were said to be stockpiled for the use of the Front, but I never saw any.

Money is a big problem with the Front. Fighting the last election has put them very deep in debt to head office. Our branch was £500 in debt to head office when I left it.

Apart from actual members, support is very small at Front events, like marches and election campaigns. Many members are frightened to go

on marches because of violent opposition expected from the left.

I found that a few men in one or two branches cause most of the trouble at meetings they don't agree with. They act as a 'flying squad', going all over the country in members' cars.

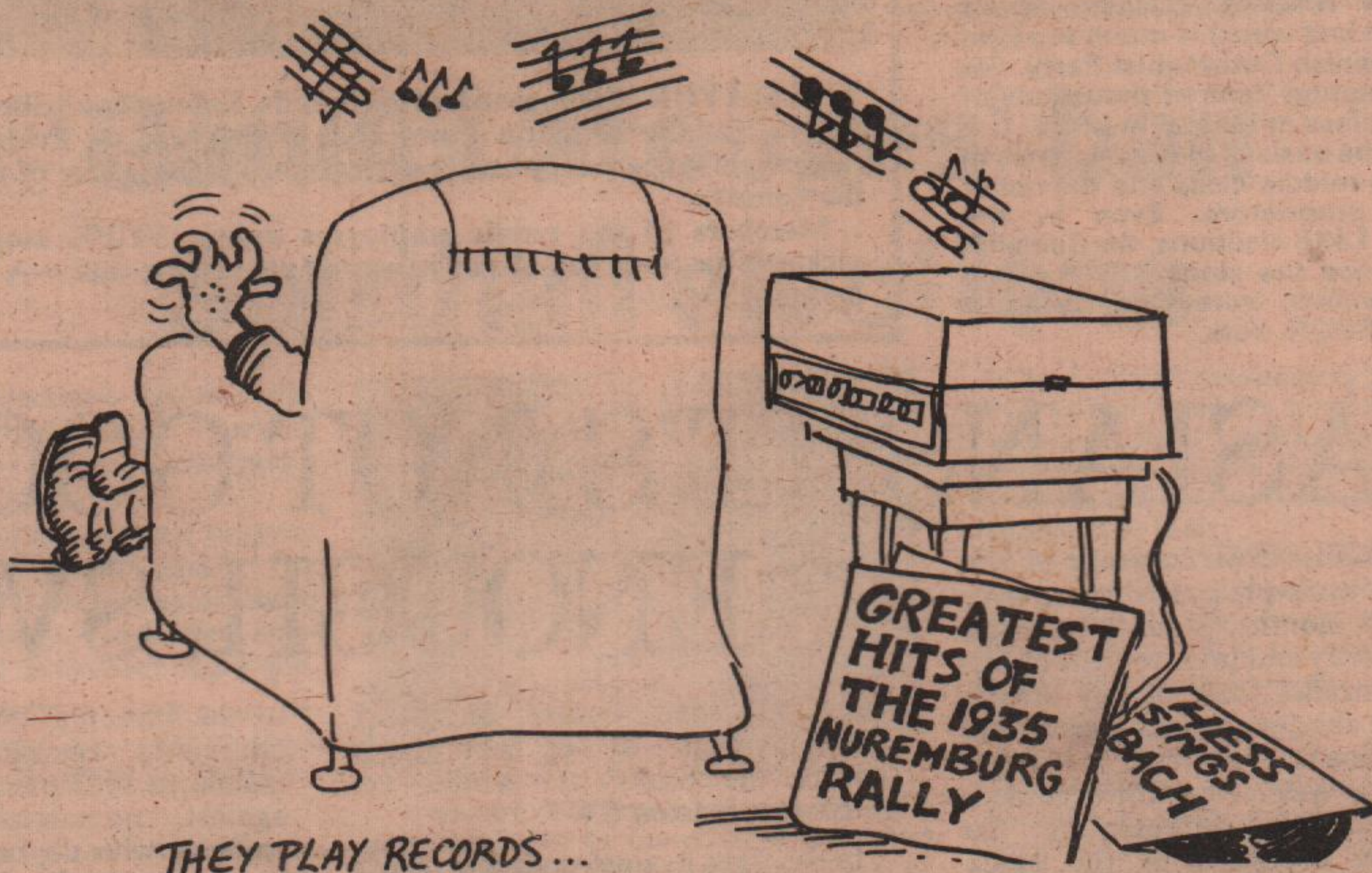
This gives the impression that all Front members are thugs, which is not the case.

I was involved with vote challenging in the elections, both local and Parliamentary.

When you stand for election, you can appoint polling agents. These people have the right to challenge a person's vote if they think he or she is illiterate.

Answer

The challenge is given as the person, usually an Asian woman, enters the polling booth. The challenge is to try to stop people voting twice and consists of asking the person's name and address and if they have voted in this election before.



"YOU ARE A TRAITOR AND WE ARE GOING TO HANG YOU"



Wessel rally in Belgium every year, wearing black shirts and swastikas.

The Front says it is for unions, when it really wants to destroy them. It says it is for the British people, when it thinks workers are too stupid to govern themselves.

It says it is for free speech, when it doesn't allow it in its own branches.

I left the Front last March. My contact with IS increased and I joined six months later.

I have only met one member of the Front since then. He said: 'You are a traitor and we are going to hang you'.

This didn't surprise me, as the NF plan to hang all of us, if they don't shoot us first.

Since joining IS, I have learned where the real problem of our society lies. The only solution to our problem is revolution, not the dictatorship which would be the Front's way of dealing with workers.

It is clear to me that the Front would enslave workers and not get them a better deal, as they claim.

LETTERS

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

VIOLENCE: YOU CAN'T JUST IGNORE IT

WHY IS IT that pacifists like K Anderson (Letters, 29 November) always accuse socialists of seeking violence?

I was brought up a pacifist and taught to accept passively society's violence.

From their self-righteous ivory towers, pacifists turn a blind eye to the violence of capitalism and believe that passive protest will somehow stop the growth of the National Front, defend the revolution in Portugal, prevent genocide in Angola and achieve world socialism.

The spirit of pacifism contributed to the bloodbath in Chile.

It is not socialists but the ruling class who use violence. They use any means to defend their wealth and power.

K Anderson's dream that 'no man will inflict violence on another' is the dream of all socialists—but it will never be achieved under capitalism, for violence is capitalism's mainstay.

To achieve peace we must destroy capitalism and be prepared to defend ourselves if the capitalist class do not hand over power peacefully.

Only since leaving the pacifist movement and joining IS have I felt that I have contributed anything positive to the struggle for a non-violent society.—JENNY WISTREICH, Partington.

POSTAL POINTS

I HAVE RECENTLY READ *Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe* by Chris Harman and *Workers Against the Monolith* by Ian Birchall—and what an eye-opener they were.

If only they had been available in the late Fifties when I left the Communist Party. So when the family ask you what you want for Christmas, forget the shirts, socks and after-shave and send for these two books instead.—RHYS THOMAS, Pontypool.

Both books are available, £1.65 each (including postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

AS A revolutionary feminist and mother, I must protest most bitterly against the disgusting cartoon by Phil Evans (29 November) which shows a grinning mother preparing to shackle her child at the Skegness creche.

Reactionaries who argue that a woman's place is in the home are only too ready to depict revolutionary or feminist mothers as heartless viragoes who dislike their children and want to get rid of them for as many hours a day as possible.—NORAH CARLIN, London, N9.

THE PUBLICITY for the Easter weekend at Skegness has portrayed the Socialist Worker family as a half-wit father on the putting green and a gormless misshapen mother about to bellyflop (with a golfball making a very sexist joke in the back of her bikini) before she gleefully leads her miserable brat to the leg-iron creche.

What could be more patronising than this Andy Capp-style portrayal of working people?—ANDY WISTREICH, Partington.

THE NATIONAL Front attack on the National Council for Civil Liberties' meeting in Manchester (reported in last week's SW) is a warning to us all. If we allow the fascists free reign in the streets and in political meetings we retreat from the fight against racism and vicious violence.

They thrive on ignorance and prejudice. They attract the worst elements in society, people with criminal inclinations and a sadistic lust to hurt.

Fascism is the poisonous fruit of a decaying society. It should never be underestimated. A united left must chase fascism back into the hell which has spawned it. Remember the gas chambers.—E REDCLIFFE, Huddersfield.

Help us defeat Rio Tinto Stink

WORKERS at Commonwealth Smelting in Bristol have been on strike against redundancies and for control of manning levels since 30 October.

The strike concerns management's blatant refusal to progress certain contentions through the nationally agreed procedures.

We all as trade unionists have heard managements of many companies complain bitterly when unions are unwilling to take disputes through jointly agreed procedures but were more inclined to strikes before the various stages were exhausted.

Ours is an exception which proves the lie. It is our belief CSL, one of the biggest smelting employers in Bristol, have taken on a fight with our union, which they resolutely and ruthlessly intend to win. If the rank and file members allow them to do so.

We therefore ask for the support of all Socialist Worker readers both morally and financially to debilitate the attack being made by this subsidiary of the multinational Rio Tinto Zinc group and therefore strike a blow against all companies who consider this an open season for redundancies and a deterioration of working conditions and living standards of trade unionists throughout the country.—T COOKSLEY, Chairman, TGWU shop stewards committee, Commonwealth Smelting.

DUNCAN HALLAS (Talking About Socialism last week) is much too kind to the Spanish Communist Party. Far from attracting 'tens of thousands of working-class militants' in 1936-7, it grew on the basis of blatant appeals to the urban middle-class and the richer peasant proprietors. Even in the February 1936 elections, the Socialist Party coined the slogan *Save Spain from Marxism, vote Communist*.—DAVE BURGON, York.

THE EXCELLENT coverage in SW of Asian work-place struggles, over the last 18 months, is more the result of the activity and involvement of our black comrades than of any drastic change in the journalistic bias of the editorial board.

Socialist Worker cannot become a paper genuinely representing the views and problems of the black community unless black workers and students write for it and actively influence it.

But you cannot hope to attract such comrades as long as you continue to exhibit insensitivity and indifference to matters that affect the black communities, even when such information is easily available.

For example, almost every newspaper in Britain carried the report alleging blatant racial discrimination in the allocation of local government housing (at a time when the government's White Paper on Race Relations was just out), but not a word of it in SW.

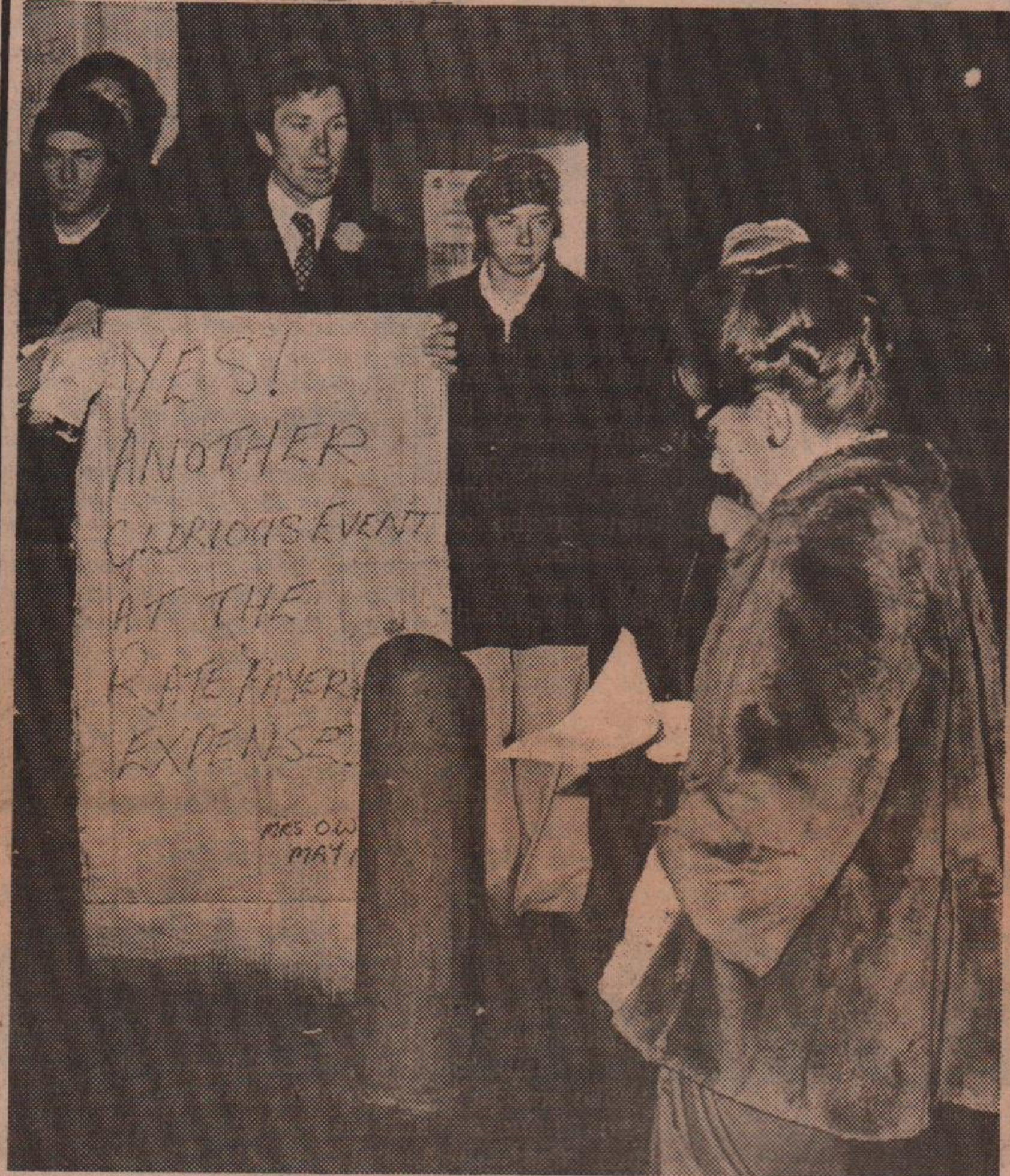
Then the Department of Employ-

Just plain crazy!

POLITICAL LUNACY can now be added to the charge of sectarianism made—on this page two weeks ago—against the West Middlesex Communist Party. In the local unemployment campaign, they are proposing a mass public rally with all the local MPs, Tories included, on the stage so as to 'put them on the spot.'

This is not all. To 'open the situation up', they want to involve 'others outside the trade union movement'. School leavers on the dole, perhaps? No. The key to a broad mass movement against unemployment is held by... wait for it... the local Chamber of Commerce!—JOHN ROSE, West London.

PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)



THE MAYOR of Islington and his friends, Labour councillors, sat down to a banquet at the Islington Town Hall a week ago on Friday. This—at the ratepayers' expense—when the borough is facing some of the worst cuts in the country!

Members of the public employees union, NUPE, stopped work and picketed the town hall all day to protest against the cuts.—A NUPE member, Islington.

ASIANS: IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH, SW!

ment published figures on black unemployment—70 per cent higher than for the country as a whole—yet no comment from SW.

In the fight against racialism, SW's prime task should be the education of its white readership. We cannot afford to miss out on events such as the anti-National Front demonstration in Dewsbury a fortnight ago, where out of the 400 protesters present, 300 were Pakistanis. SW reported everything except this important fact!

Similarly, last week's report on the Women's Voice Rally was more a public relations job than a serious attempt at reporting the concerns of the women present.

Worse still, was the non-reporting of the discussion on the struggle of black women.

The women's attention was drawn

to the Immigration Act, which discriminates against women whose marriages took place in Pakistan; and against unmarried West Indian women, who do not have the right, like white unmarried mothers, to be considered solely responsible for their children.

Unless the problems of black workers are given full coverage, SW will not only remain with a pure white readership, but also an ignorant one. MISS NERGIS KHAN, W London.

Scunthorpe

AFTER the recent explosion at the Scunthorpe ironworks, the burned men were taken 40 miles to Sheffield.

They came to a hastily converted ward at an old, poorly equipped annexe with staff hurried in from other Sheffield hospitals.

Although Sheffield is one of the largest steel areas in the country, we have no special burns unit.

The government has just cancelled the building of a burns unit along with many other urgently needed modernisations and extensions at Sheffield Northern General Hospital.

It is there that these men and the many like them in the past should have been treated.—ROSEMANY WITHERSPOON, Sheffield nurse.

Letter from a dole queue

I GET SO depressed on the dole, constantly scraping for money. It's easy to feel cut off.

Job hunting gets more and more demoralising. Each time I've gone for a job (usually with 20 or so others) it seems to be the same old 'We'll let you know' routine.

Some employers enjoy seeing people crawl for jobs.

My blood boils while watching TV, which refers to lay-offs and sackings in such a callous way, completely ignoring the human suffering. You'd think they were announcing football scores, not talking about people's livelihoods.

Then there's the horrors of signing on at the dole. Last time I went the supervisor asked me for a specimen signature. When I hesitated and looked at the attached forms, he shrieked, 'they're nothing to do with you'.

As it was my claim, I told him in no uncertain terms it was very much by business.

I now see why the strong need to talk and discuss with unemployed workers. We have to organise, channel our anger and fight for our right to work.

It becomes painfully obvious that we only have ourselves to rely on. After all, it's easy to condone sacrifices if you're puffing on a big cigar at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, isn't it?—CB, Peterborough.

OK, but what about the patient?

THERE APPEARS to have been a fortunate follow-up to the case of John Brazil who killed his wife in a jealous passion and was turned down by the staff of three 'open' mental hospitals after Judge Mais had tried him for treatment. John Brazil will receive hospital treatment, but in Cornwall, far from possible visitors.

While it's welcome that rank and file psychiatric nurses are displaying the confidence and energy to defy a judge and their medical seniors, Dave Bridge's letter (15 November) speaks worlds about the distance some of them have to travel before mental patients can have confidence in them.

Cases such as Mr Brazil's should apparently always be sent 'for a period of assessment in a secure unit' first. Because there is no such secure unit he and others like him must be shunted around prison or sent to Broadmoor, (Dave Bridge's alternative).

Perhaps Dave would tell us why, in principle, a person who has killed in a crime of passion is to be considered dangerous in the Health Service—but why should this particular outcry take the form of pressure for bigger and better locked wards?

One unfortunate consequence of this underspending is the persistence of custodial and punitive attitudes in mental health staff.

To proclaim these attitudes under the banner of trade unionism is to repeat the experience of those health service unions in the US which opposed the closing down of the state asylums in the name of job security.—PETER SEDGWICK (formerly on the staff of Grendon Psychiatric Prison), Leeds.

CONGRATULATIONS on the improvement in SW, specially last week's issue. But when you going to cover the politics of music and sport?—R NORTON, Bradford.

YOU WON'T TREAD ON US, ALCOA!

THE festive season isn't going to bring much cheer to the Alcoa bosses this year.

Their attempt to break union organisation by redundancies at their rolling mill construction site near Swansea has been met with a seven-week-old strike by the 500 workers.

IDLE

Thousands of 'pounds' worth of equipment due to move on to new contracts, is sitting idle, blocked by a daily picket of at least 50 men a day—come rain or shine.

Not that it's easy for the men. The strike has not been made official, and social security money, has often only

been forthcoming on the showing of letters threatening eviction—and only then enough to pay the rent.

In response, no less than £1,500 has been collected from other sites in the area, mainly from other construction workers—a magnificent demonstration of solidarity that's showing no signs of drying up.

From this, pickets are paid a pound a day expenses. The hardship has only made the men more determined to stay out till they win.

As Harry Leonard, an AUEW

construction steward told Socialist Worker: 'It's all up to Alcoa now. They can throw the keys away, or they can take the men back. We'll make no more compromises.'

SAFETY

The origins of the dispute stretch back to the workers' determination to build a joint shop stewards committee, embracing all the site unions.

The electricians had won a 35p an hour increase. The JSSC had forced

Alcoa to recognise them on safety but not on industrial matters. The site organisation won a couple of minor disputes.

To quote one picket: 'It was the biggest embarrassment ever to local officials and the biggest threat ever to Alcoa.'

To hit back, Holliday Hall, an electrical contractor, sacked 29 EETPU men, including Steve Stevenson, the secretary of the JSSC, at half an hour's notice.

Alcoa denied involvement, but as Charlie Sarseto, CEU, said: 'Alcoa was behind it, its them that crack the whip.' The 500 workers struck for their reinstatement.

Alcoa's generous offer, to take the men back and sack them again in three days, was rightly turned down.

REPLACE

Alcoa's plan was to run the site by awarding contracts in piecemeal phases. This way they could replace any contractor whose workforce was organised. With this in mind they replaced Holliday Hall with another contractor N G Bailey, making another 34 men redundant.

N G Bailey then offered to take the 34 men back, but not the original 29. Immediately Bernard Clarke, electricians' union executive councillor, instructed the men to accept this.

The full-timers have been as hostile to the JSSC as the bosses. But a mass meeting of the men rejected the sellout.

The latest offer from Bailey's was to accept back all but six of the 29; the six all being Scots, including Stevie Stevenson.

Harry Leonard summed up the men's reaction: 'This was blatant victimisation. These six men could easily be absorbed. They are only being excluded because they are active in the union.'

At a mass meeting last Wednesday, 229 of the 250 workers present voted to continue the strike.

N G Bailey's have turned down the men's demands to take unemployed men back in order of seniority. They still want to be able to operate a blacklist.

Alcoa's behaviour throughout the dispute has even surprised many of the stewards. Ralph Doble, CEU steward, said: 'In all my dealings with management I have never seen the like.'

BURNT

At one stage, the pickets' temporary shed was burnt down and placards ripped up overnight. No-one knows who was responsible. Obviously the bosses wouldn't stoop that low, would they?

All that's left on the £35 million project is the wages bill. Alcoa want to ensure that union organisation does not infringe upon their right to run the rest of the job as they please.

The men, however, will not give up in a hurry. Many were involved in the 16-week dispute at the Llandarcy refinery three years ago. As Charlie Sarseto said: 'The jobs are there, it's just victimisation.'

'We are only standing up for what we're entitled to. We're not going to be trodden on. They won't get away with the tap on the shoulder and up the road in half an hour.'

The men aren't expecting any more offers now till the New Year, but this hasn't shaken their determination one inch.

Donations and messages of support: S Stevenson, 4 Carlton Terrace, Swansea.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



On the picket line at Alcoa: even with the chief of police protecting them, non-union labourers wouldn't cross the line.

'Gandhi stooges' ban Southall elections

SOUTHALL:—Elections to the executive of the local Indian Workers Association have been arbitrarily suspended by its leadership.

They are supporters of the Congress Party in India which, under the leadership of Mrs Gandhi, has declared a state of emergency, suspended elections and arrested thousands of people.

'They are like pythons sitting on the money,' says Joginder Kaur, one of those now involved in a campaign to force elections.

'They raised subscriptions to the IWA,' he continued, 'and now the membership has halved from 10,000 to 5000. The leadership has given no real assistance to the Indian immigrant and his problems—it is far too preoccupied with making money for the cinema, charging high prices for people to watch films on dirty, torn seats. They would never dream of organising nursery schools for the children.'

Waste

'Instead they waste a lot of our money arranging entertainments and parties for the Indian ministers that visit Southall at least five or six times a year. And they spend a lot on defending Mrs Gandhi's repression.'

'My family suffered very much in the campaign to get rid of the British from India before 1948. Then, after four years, we realised that the new Congress government was quite willing to oppress its own people.'

'I helped organise a strike of 10,000 people, mostly women, mill workers in Delhi, for better pay. So I know what struggle is all about and I'm not afraid of anyone—neither the mob in Delhi nor their stooges in Southall.'

Just last month, 25 Congress supporters from Britain were flown free of charge to India for a personal meeting with Mrs Gandhi.



Joginder Kaur: 'they're like pythons'

'It was a way of trying to convince people of the legality of the Congress,' says Jaswant Atwal, secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) branch in Southall.

The elections have been postponed for the last 18 months. One of the few members of the present executive in favour of holding them is Iqbal Singh Vad. He says: 'They say they were once elected by the public so they know what the public wants. And in this case they say they know the public doesn't want elections.'

Jaswant Atwal said: 'The campaign will turn militant soon if no date is given for elections soon. We will organise pickets and demonstrations and even a gherao.' This last tactic is widely used in India. It means locking the employer in his office until he gives in.

The agony of Chile, by a man who escaped

PEDRO CORNEJO, the Chilean trade union leader brought to Britain by the Rank and File Organising Committee, has recently spoken at two meetings in London.

He told of his experiences and the need for solidarity with Chile at a well-attended meeting of the Hammersmith Hospital branch of NUPE.

Branch chairman Bill Geddes pointed out that the meeting showed why the branch was

The campaign has suddenly gained a new ally. Vishnu Sharma, a member of the Communist Party's national executive, has now said there should be elections. But, at the same time, he is continuing to defend the repression in India.

Iqbal Singh Vad commented: 'Only if Sharma publicly condemns the Congress government can there be any question of an electoral alliance. If he reduces the argument to personalities, he's not on.'

While the IWA is unable to lead the area, another problem is growing—unemployment. As long as the IWA is concerned to create a business class in the immigrant community, it is not going to do anything about unemployment.

Dole

They did nothing to mobilise support for the 26 November lobby. Indian youngsters on the dole who have been brought up in Britain are not going to get excited about the politics of India.

But they undoubtedly would respond to an IWA leadership that had a militant socialist policy on unemployment and campaigned against it.

The IWA would then emerge as an absolutely essential force in the local working class movement.

right to organise on the issues of Chile and Portugal, and against the fascists in this country.

During a Chile evening organised by the Tower Hamlets NALGO branch and the East London Chile Solidarity Campaign, Pedro spoke to about 40 people on the importance of trade unionists adopting prisoners, as he himself had been adopted.

The Rank and File Organising Committee has issued a circular to its supporting trade union bodies to suggest holding meetings on

Chile, with Pedro Cornejo as a speaker.

The circular also includes a copy of the new pamphlet on blacking Chilean trade, sponsored by the Hull Docks shop stewards, the London Airport British Airways European Division shop stewards and The Dockworker, the ports rank and file paper.

For further information on the pamphlet and on arranging meetings get in touch with the Organising Committee at 46 Prince George Road, London N16. (Phone 01-249 1207).

GMWU: And about time, too!

I WAS DELIGHTED to read the article (22 November) on the General and Municipal Workers Union. It was about time SW took an interest in the third biggest union in the country.

One of the biggest problems facing GMWU activists is communication, as there is no district structure to link branches together.

The rule book gives officials complete dominance and procedure is designed to block any rank and file initiatives.

The only way forward is to build a reform movement to organise the rank and file against the likes of the Basnetts, Donnetts and Coopers, and to fight for a democratic union controlled by the members for the members.

This won't be easy—but it's time we made a start.—J KELLY, Hull.

Bankworkers' official replies

THE ARTICLE (15 November). NUBE How low can they get', has been brought to my attention by a member of NUBE employed by a foreign bank.

As a paid Official of NUBE with direct responsibility for negotiating in the foreign and overseas banks sector, I wish to make one or two points on the policy your article so misguidedly castigates.

The Union has become increasingly concerned at the policy of some of these banks, and particularly (though not exclusively) those with Head Offices in India and Pakistan, who recruit staff for all senior positions in the UK from their country of origin by means of work permits.

These overseas-based officers enjoy terms and conditions set at the Head Office, and in addition most lucrative fringe benefits. In fact, the general remuneration and favoured status of these employers contrasts sharply with the position of the locally-recruited staff, many of whom have comparable banking experience and qualifications.

The majority of these locally-recruited staff are either UK citizens of Asian origin, or alternatively UK citizens whose parents' originated from those countries.

It has become obvious that promotion prospects and adequate training are being denied to the UK employees of these banks by the increasing practice of obtaining work permits to accommodate overseas-based labour (even accepting that a certain period of service in London for training may form a desirable part of the career development of the overseas officers in question).

NUBE has endeavoured to pursue the matter directly with some of the banks on question, but has been unable to gain sufficient information to control the increasing abuse of the situation.

The matter was therefore taken up with the Overseas Labour Section of the DE, through informal talks. Obviously, NUBE's legitimate and central desire is to protect the job interests of our members in this period of rising unemployment, although we are also conscious of the limits placed upon the employment opportunities open to school leavers and others by the increasing practice.

In view of this you may belatedly comprehend our dismay upon reading your article. The Union requires a categorical apology in Socialist Worker immediately; we are also putting the matter into the hands of our Solicitor, and no doubt you will be hearing from us upon the matter—STEVE GAMBLE, Negotiating Officer, National Union of Bank Employees.

Socialist
Worker says**STOP
THE
CUTS!**

COVENTRY Corporation held a public relations exercise—otherwise advertised as a public meeting on the cuts—last Saturday. Fifty trade unionists picketed the meeting.

'Since the cuts are inevitable,' the argument went, 'we are giving you the opportunity to express your views on how we can carry out the surgery with minimum pain.'

The council attempted to control the meeting by allowing only vetted questions on specific points, which would then be answered by the relevant committee chairman. So any attempt to oppose the cuts would be headed off—or so they thought.

Speaker after speaker expressed frustration at the Labour-controlled council presiding over the dismantling of the social services. Most people found it difficult to believe that their council was doing such a thing.

**Trade unionists scorn Coventry
Councils "soft soap" exercise**

But several speakers were greeted with loud applause when they challenged the council to fight against the cuts and use the industrial strength of Coventry workers to back them up. The council refused to be drawn by any of the arguments and continued coolly to provide apologies and technical answers to individual requests.

Many people saw the council exposed for what it was. That's what made the rank and file meeting held afterwards so important. The meeting, which was organised by NUT Rank and File, ATTI Rank and

File and NALGO Action, was also attended by members of the Coventry Local Authority Workers' Stewards Committee.

The meeting decided to work for a full attendance at an open meeting of the stewards' committee this Saturday, 15 December, at 10.30am in the Lanchester Polytechnic, Room D 108. This meeting will discuss the strengthening of the combine and the organising of a fight against the cuts. Individuals as well as delegates from organisations can attend.

**STUDENT
DEFEAT
FOR THE
RIGHT**

By Lindsay German

A DECISIVE defeat for the politics of the right — that was the National Union of Students annual conference at Scarborough last weekend. Conference clearly rejected the £6 pay limit and the government's economic policy.

Tory and Liberal students who mounted a well-financed campaign for a national secret ballot for elections to the NUS executive were heavily defeated. In this they got support from the national press who would have no doubt loved to run the sort of campaign for right-wing candidates that they won in the AUEW.

**Cut Prentice
say pickets**

AS 'distinguished' guests took part in a ceremony at Manchester Polytechnic last Thursday to bestow an honorary degree on Education Minister Reg Prentice, police brutally attacked students protesting against the award. 'Cut Prentice—not education' and 'Honorary awards a waste of money', shouted more than 100 students who had occupied the entrance to the hall. The picket was called by the Poly branch of the teachers' union ATTI and the students' union.

The degree was to honour Prentice's services to education; but many felt it may have had more to do with services rendered to the Poly's director, Sir Alec Smith, who received a 48 per cent pay increase and a knighthood since Prentice became Minister for Education.

Prentice didn't turn up, but the police did, and in remarkably quick time. Quite a contrast to last Sunday when it took them 30 minutes to get to the National Council for Civil Liberties meeting on Ireland. By the time they arrived then, the National Front thugs had broken up the meeting, causing more than £3000 damage and seriously injuring several people.

But the real argument over NUS democracy was not between right and left but between the Broad Left—Communist Party and the Labour Left—and their largest challengers, the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies (NOISS).

The argument was over a NOISS amendment which called for democratic elections of delegates from general meetings, college hustings for national election candidates, and election of the executive at conference. It also called for full-time elected officers to receive the same salary as the student grant.

If the present executive want to maintain their present basic wage of £3200, they should fight for a grant of the same figure.

UPROAR

This amendment was carried by conference and so became the main motion. It was then that the trouble started.

All sorts of bureaucratic manoeuvres resulted in time wasting—so the session ended without a vote on the motion. In an effort to end the debate, the Broad Left-dominated steering committee switched off the microphones against uproar from the floor and cries of 'fix'.

In an attempt to get support for their policy of high salaries for themselves, some Broad Left executive members, including deputy president Al Stewart, went along to

Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)



Willie Lee, a senior steward from Chrysler Linwood, speaking to the conference on the fight against unemployment and the need to build the Right to Work Campaign. He was given a standing ovation and more than £260 was collected for the Linwood shop stewards' committee.

a meeting of the Tories. This enabled them to get a bare majority for their position when the debate was resumed next morning.

But their manoeuvring meant that although the right were clearly defeated, the union ended up with no policy on the ballot. The right will use this to minimise their own defeat and keep up the press campaign for the secret ballot.

The other most contentious debate concerned the activities of the executive on international work. NUS conferences invariably vote against the reactionary policies of western governments. They did so again this year by voting support for the struggle of the MPLA against South Africa and the CIA in Angola.

But the executive has rarely transformed these votes into real campaigns of solidarity. It has instead devoted most of its efforts in international work to 'loving up' to the bureaucrats who run Russia and Eastern Europe.

So it refused to condemn the Indian government when socialists and trade

unionists were imprisoned. Instead of building solidarity with the workers and students of Chile, it organised an expensive seminar jointly with the Russian-run International Union of Students, from which Chilean revolutionaries were excluded but which the puppet Czech Students Union was allowed to attend.

FAILURE

Yet NUS conferences have repeatedly made it clear that they are opposed to Russian imperialism in Czechoslovakia as to American imperialism. Because of the disregard of these decisions by secretary Sue Slipman, conference backed a NOISS motion removing her responsibility for international affairs.

The conference also censured the president, Charles Clarke, for his failure to support the students of North London Polytechnic in their struggle against police investigations into their accounts.

The strength of NOISS was shown in by-elections for a place on the executive. NOISS member Dick Mungin came narrowly second to the Broad Left candidates, who won after many Tory delegates had transferred their second preference votes to him.

**BACKDOWN OVER
EXPULSION
THREAT**

STUDENTS occupied the Edgbaston Centre of Birmingham Polytechnic for a week after the threat to expel 47 students who refused to pay the newly-introduced tuition fees for the teacher training college.

The occupation ended last Monday with a march and rally against tuition fees. The director of the Poly gave written assurance that the students involved will not be thrown out at the end of term.

Although this small concession was won, it does not solve the problem of the real hardship caused to students by these fees. The students are now pressing the union to wage a national campaign against tuition fees.

**Hackney
'a medical
disaster
area'**

EAST LONDON: 'Hackney is becoming a medical disaster area,' Dr David Widgery told 80 people attending the Hackney Trades Council public meeting against hospital closures. 'What we want are hospitals which are warm, friendly, where you don't have to scrape to make ends meet.'

Bob Dark, secretary of the Hackney United Tenants Association, said: 'It's impossible to talk about housing without talking about the illnesses that come from bad housing conditions. We see children suffering with bronchitis and asthma, mothers under tension waiting for psychiatric treatment.'

'People ask me: Where's the money coming from? Put a two-year freeze on interest charges. Let's have the wealth tax. Stop sending the army to prop up the feudal society in Oman. Take over the drug companies. Cut defence spending. That's where the money can come from.'

The Hackney Trades Council is holding a lobby of the area health authority meeting this Thursday, 11 December, at Addison House, Chart Street, London N1, from 1pm onwards.

**HOSPITAL
SITE
SACKINGS**

SOUTH WALES: On the new district hospital site at Withybus, Haverfordwest, management incompetence has reached record proportions. The electrical contractors, Clarke Engineering, have consistently refused to provide their men with adequate wet weather protective clothing. The job has never been staffed to Joint Industrial Board regulations—and local Electricians and Plumbers officials have done nothing about this.

The men were provided with helmets and wellingtons, but not raincoats. Two months ago a half-day token strike brought a management agreement to provide transport. This was only laid on once.

The sparks then agreed with the foreman a 20-minute waiting period for rain to ease off. But in last Monday's torrential rain they were ordered to the site after just seven minutes. When men objected, all 17 sparks were sacked.

Only 14 have been reinstated and one of those is to lose his job after Christmas. The firm is now using JIB staffing regulations to justify the sackings.

These redundancies come at a time when, largely due to management incompetence, the job is at least 15 weeks behind. The men feel it's ludicrous to worsen this by sacking sparks.

The sparks offered to work a shorter week so that the four could keep their jobs. This was turned down, hardening their feeling that the men are being victimised. 'The men's only crime was daring to speak their mind,' one worker told Socialist Worker last week.

These men were involved in successful action earlier in the year to increase beds for the children's ward at the local hospital. If a meeting this Wednesday between JIB, union and management did not result in reinstatement further action is planned.

**Smelter workers
vote to stay out**

AVONMOUTH: Workers resisting redundancies at Commonwealth Smelting voted to continue their six-week old strike at Monday's mass meeting. The dispute is being referred to arbitration. Meanwhile the workers are staying out unless the company accepts the trade union interpretation of the agreement.

The strike is solid and enthusiastic. A delegation has been set to South Wales to get support. The press tried to stage a 'back to work' movement but this flopped, with only one woman turning up.

What's more, the previous day women and children staged a 'stay out' demonstration. A social security office was also occupied in protest against treatment of the strikers, whose cause has been assisted by the Claimants' Union.

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.

FREE DESMOND TROTTER Demonstration, Saturday 13 December. Assemble 1pm, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park. March to the Foreign Office, Downing Street.

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

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 NW1. Phone 01-402 6087.

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOSPITAL CLOSURES: Mass lobby of Area Health Authority, Thursday 11 December, 1pm onwards, Addison House, Chart Street, Shoreditch, London E2.

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 8, N. Cambridge, Mass. 02140, USA.

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.

South African troops out of Angola! Victory to the MPLA! Solidarity rally, Friday 12 December, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (Holborn tube). Film: Angola in Struggle (made in Angola, October 1975). Speakers from Southern Africa, Portugal and Chile. Basil Davidson (author of In the Eye of the Storm: Angola's People). Tickets 20p in advance and at the door. Organised by Angola Solidarity Committee, 30 Romilly Road, London N4.

BREAK ALL LINKS WITH FASCIST SPAIN! Public meeting organised by West London Spanish Solidarity Committee at Southall Town Hall, Uxbridge Road, Southall, on Friday 19 December, 7.30pm. Speakers include Sid Bidwell MP, Fred Gore (ETU convenor, Heathrow), and a speaker from PWCC. Sponsored by Southall and Hounslow Trades Councils.

CONFERENCE ON IRELAND: Saturday 13 December, 10am-5pm, Speaker: Eamonn McCann, workshops and a film. 8pm: Irish social, 60p. City of London Poly, Whitechapel High Street, Aldgate East tube. Organised by East London Troops Out Movement. All welcome.

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).

Ireland—and the British Labour Movement. Troops Out Movement public meeting. Speaker: Mike Knowles (Hackney Trades Council secretary). Friday 12 December, 7.45pm, Basement Theatre, Town Hall Extension, Albert Square, Manchester. All comrades urged to support this meeting—no more National Front intimidation.

New edition of SQUATTERS HANDBOOK. 10p plus postage. Squatters Handbook, 2 St Paul's Road, London N1.

BLOODY SUNDAY Commemoration Committee is looking for support in the trade unions and labour movement. Get your trades council and trade union branch to sponsor its demonstration on Sunday 1 February. Details from Ted Coxhead, phone 01-278 9529.

HARINGEY Street Theatre have a play to offer about the Working Women's Charter. Available evenings and weekends; expenses only. Useful for trade unions, community groups, tenants' associations, women's groups, etc. Phone 01-888 2610 (evenings).

LABOUR DELAYING TACTIC ON CHRYSLER

Leyland rolls out its big guns and threatens: Work harder—or else

WORK harder and do as you're told—or no more cash. That was the gist of Lord Ryder's message to 400 British Leyland senior stewards and officials in Birmingham last Monday.

Leyland managing director, Whittaker, put it more bluntly when he threatened that there would be no jobs at all unless productivity increased, overtime was worked—and to hell with the unemployed or those on short time, unless they made 'participation' work, unless claims were restricted—in short, unless the workers of British Leyland forget they are trade unionists and bow down to management's right to make profits.

The trade union response, led by Engineering Union executive member Bob Wright, was that we would have to consider these points but above all we must participate. Eddie McGarry, chairman of the Leyland combine committee, appealed for support for participation—conveniently failing to mention that his own plant had thrown it out.

He said workers 'had to accept some blame for bad industrial relations'.

He appealed to everyone to take their problems to the independent Labour government-sponsored Arbitration and Conciliation Service, saying: 'A good case is like a bottle of good wine. It matures with age.'

NEWSPAPER reports this week said the government was split over the future of Chrysler. But they seem agreed on one thing: Thousands of jobs in Chrysler are to disappear in the next few weeks.

After claiming that the government could not 'throw away 25,000 jobs like a dirty rag', Industry Secretary Eric Varley told a stewards' delegation he could not guarantee a job for every Chrysler worker.

Put crudely, that means that some plants will be shut and the workforce everywhere will be cut back. The argument in the government is about whether this cutback will be all at once, or over a period of months.

The government hopes its delaying tactics will

encourage workers to leave before the decision is announced, will divide the workers in the Midlands against those in Scotland, and prevent a united fight back.

Meanwhile more evidence has come to light of Chrysler's deliberate running down of sales from its plants in this country.

A letter has been sent by Chrysler to all its United Kingdom dealers, signed by one R C Dunbar and headed SIMCA CAR SPRINT. It boasts that 'sales of imported Chrysler models have shown a steady improvement ... To help you maintain sales momentum we are pleased to announce big new trading allowances ...'

'This three-month programme has deliberately been designed to enable you to plan your sales strategy ... With import sales still rising the next three months provide you with a genuine opportunity to build further sales and profits'.

'Starting date or we occupy'

by Peter Bain

TGWU shop steward, Chrysler Linwood WORKERS at Chrysler's Linwood plant in Scotland have been told that there is no date fixed for them to restart work after the Christmas and New Year holiday. Workers at the Ryton assembly plant in Coventry face an even worse holiday: they will only be told later if and when Chrysler wants them back.

At Linwood, a joint shop stewards meeting has unanimously recommended workers to come back on 5 January and occupy if no restart date is given. The recommendation is to go before a mass meeting before next Friday.

But the stewards were out-manoeuvred by management over immediate lay-offs. A resolution calling on two groups of workers due to be laid off to come into work—with the threat of a mass meeting if management refusal to re-employ them—was defeated by three to one.

When convenors could reach no agreement with management on this, the machine shop stewards involved agreed to accept the lay-off until all the workers return on 5 January. The danger is that the workers are entitled to claim redundancy payments after being laid off for so long and many may voluntarily leave the factory.

Occupy

But a struggle still lies ahead. From next Friday there will be only staff and maintenance workers in the plant. Over Christmas and the New Year, there will be only security guards, members of ACTSS, who have already decided to back the shop floor call to defend jobs and occupy if necessary.

They will not permit anything to leave the plant during the holidays and will phone the stewards if Chrysler tries to overrule them.

The press and television have been attacking Chrysler workers, with programmes such as Panorama and Tonight blaming the workers for the job crisis. To counter this campaign and to build the workers' confidence, the Linwood stewards are producing a weekly bulletin.

No matter what the government and Chrysler boss Riccardo might decide, we must remain opposed to any redundancies and any closures. The closure of a single plant in a situation of 'phased withdrawal' can only hasten the closure of every plant.

We demand the nationalisation of Chrysler to guarantee every job. With hundreds of millions of starving people in the world, and with six million people in Britain below the official government poverty line, there is no shortage of work that needs to be done. To win our demands, we must be prepared to occupy the Linwood plant on 5 January and use it as the base to build a mass protest against the government's unemployment policy.

Textiles: A winner as strikes begin

THE 1800 South Wales and Merseyside clothing workers in the Northgate group, part of the Courtaulds combine, are back at work. They won a £4 rise now, with another £2 to come in April.

Meanwhile more than 40,000 members of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers have started a series of one-day strikes on Mondays for a £6 rise. They are banning all overtime and operating a strict work-to-rule.

Management have tried to split the workers with a 10 per cent offer. This would give some of the men, who average nearly £60 a week, a £6 increase. But the women would get less than £3. This offer was rejected immediately.

Workers at Mansfield Hosiery, who were split by race in a dispute over two years ago, are fighting together for the £6. Asians and whites manned the picket line together last Monday.

Journalists' call

THE Magazine Branch of the National Union of Journalists has voted overwhelmingly to condemn the attack on the freedom of the press in Portugal. On Monday the branch called for the reopening of newspapers and radio stations that have been shut down and an end to the attempted political purge of journalists. The resolution was sent to the Portuguese Embassy and is being circulated to all other NUJ branches asking for support.

Unanimous vote by 120 to join the Right to Work Campaign

WORKERS at a South London plastics factory were told by their boss at the height of the referendum campaign that if Britain didn't stay in the Common Market, there would be 300 jobs lost. Now they're threatened with 375 sackings.

That warning tale came from stewards from Commercial Plastics, Orpington, at the founding meeting of the South East London Right to Work Campaign in Charlton on Monday. 120 local trade unionists and unemployed workers heard speeches from Pete Lisle, convenor of Molins, Deptford, Ray Storey of the Unemployed Workers Action Committee, and Dick North, an executive member of the National Union of Teachers.

'When we talk about the right to work, couple it with the right to live', said Pete Lisle. 'We cannot live without work. So when you're faced with redundancies don't sell what is not yours to sell. Don't sell your birthright.'

PERSONNA STRIKERS DO A 'TRADE' ON SACKINGS

THE occupation at Personna is over. On Monday a mass meeting of the workforce accepted management's latest offer, and agreed to return to work—with only one vote against.

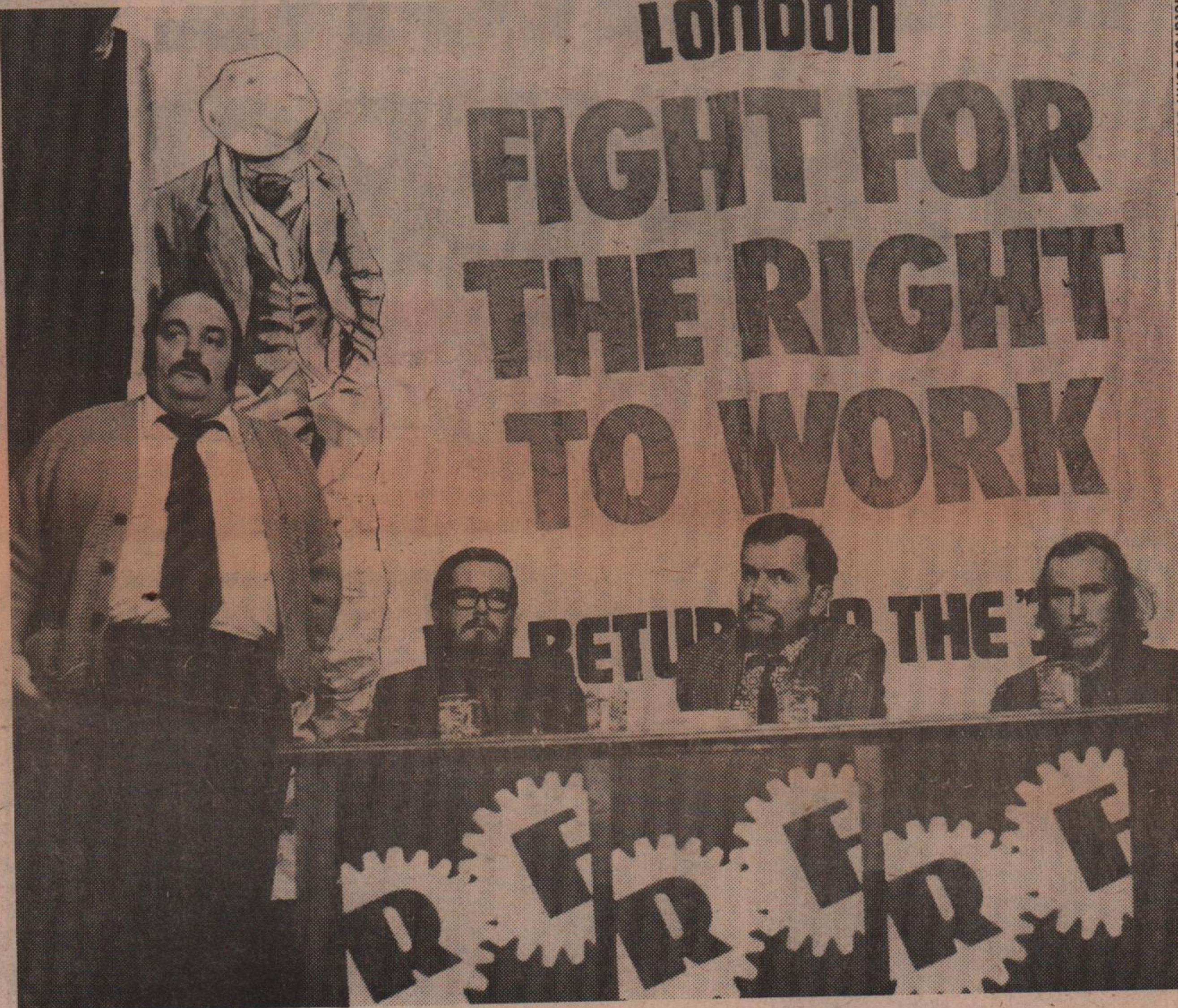
The workers' occupation forced management to back down on many of their initial demands. But it is by no means a total victory.

The return to work agreement is that management have dropped their demand for 44 compulsory redundancies, but the workforce have agreed that the management can ask for up to 24 'voluntary' redundancies at the end of February.

These redundancies will be in the sections employing women. This weakens the position of the women inside the factory.

Management have been forced to guarantee that every other job will be retained till the end of 1976. The workforce

Pete Lisle, convenor at Molins, Deptford, speaks at the Right to Work meeting. Seated are Dick North of the NUT executive, Will Fancy of the NALGO executive, and Ray Storey, secretary of the Unemployed Workers' Action Committee.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Ray Storey stressed the need to build links between employed and unemployed. Unemployed men would be used to scab, he warned, 'because if we turned down jobs we'd lose our dole'.

Dick North said we had to stop talking and start fighting. He called for full trade union rights for the unemployed. 'Unemployed workers must picket factories working excessive overtime', he said.

'Employed workers should fight for

a 35-hour week without loss of pay. Against short time, we must demand either five days work or five days pay. If firms can't afford to pay it they must be nationalised without compensation.'

Paul Lutner, an Iron and Steel Confederation steward from British Steel, Greenwich, warned against waiting for union leaders to lead a fight. 'Redundancies have to be fought on a rank and file basis', he said.

Pip Shearsky, the senior UCATT steward at Molins, spoke of the activities of the National Unemployed Workers Movement in the 1930s. We needed a similar fighting organisation now. 'I'll fully support a Right to Work Committee.'

Argued

Bernard La Roche, father of the federated chapel (convenor) at the Kentish Times, spoke against voluntary redundancies. Ralph Darlington, a post office worker, argued for banning overtime and spreading work without loss of pay. Busmen, teachers and engineers also spoke.

A resolution to set up a South East London Right to Work Committee, with delegates from union bodies and the Unemployed Workers Action Committee, and affiliated to the National Rank and File Organising Committee's Right to Work Campaign was carried unanimously by the meeting.

Its first meeting will be at 8pm, Monday 15 December, at Charlton House, Hornfair Road, London SE7. Its first task will be to aid the workers fighting those 375 sackings at Commercial Plastics.



LEEDS

Right to Work meeting: Tuesday 16 December, 8pm, Trades Club, Chapeltown. Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson and Colin Moore (convenor, Woodheads, Ossett).

BRADFORD

Right to Work meeting: Monday 15 December, 8pm, Star Hotel, Westgate. Speaker: Ricky Tomlinson. Sponsored by Queensbury No 1 AUEW branch.

NORTH WEST LONDON

Right to Work: film show: The Harder They Come starring Jimmy Cliff. Thursday 18 December, 7.30pm, Harlesden Primary School, Action Lane, NW10.

Organised by the National Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Phone 01-249 1207.

Picket union-breakers this Saturday

IT'S A STRIKE every trade unionist will want to support. And this Saturday, 13 December, it's a strike every trade unionist CAN support—by joining the picket of Ladbroke's betting shops throughout Britain.

As we went to press, plans were being drawn up to picket shops in dozens of towns and cities. They included: Cambridge, Bath, Colchester, Brighton, Liverpool,

Newcastle, Leeds, Bolton, Burnley, Hitchin, Hull, Southampton, Blackburn, Stockport, Bradford, Huddersfield, Darlington, Bristol, Birmingham, Reading, Oxford, Sheffield, Aberdeen and London.

If your town isn't among them, organise your own picket. It's up to every supporter of Socialist Worker and Womens Voice—and every member of the Transport Workers Union—to stand up to Ladbroke's.

Every picket should make sure a message of support is sent immediately to the strike committee, along with collections and donations. Write to: Ladbroke's Strike Committee, 214 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

Pickets sponsored by National Rank and File Organising Committee.

SUPPORT THE LADBROKE'S STRIKERS!

An appeal from the strike committee

FOR NEARLY seven months, the workers of the Ladbroke's betting empire in the West of Scotland have been fighting for union recognition.

Now, just before Christmas, Ladbroke's are hoping that empty pockets will so dispirit the workers that they will end their long and bitter fight.

They are offering a paltry sum in return for lost jobs and an end to union organisation. And the Transport and General Workers Union are ready to sell their members out.

There are 160 workers left out of the 280 who came out on strike last spring. The issue is simple: do workers in the betting industry have the right to join a union just like other workers?

Union officials obviously think not. Having done nothing to campaign on their behalf, they now threaten to cut off their strike pay, and go out of their way to remind the strike committee that they have bills to pay that the TGWU won't meet.

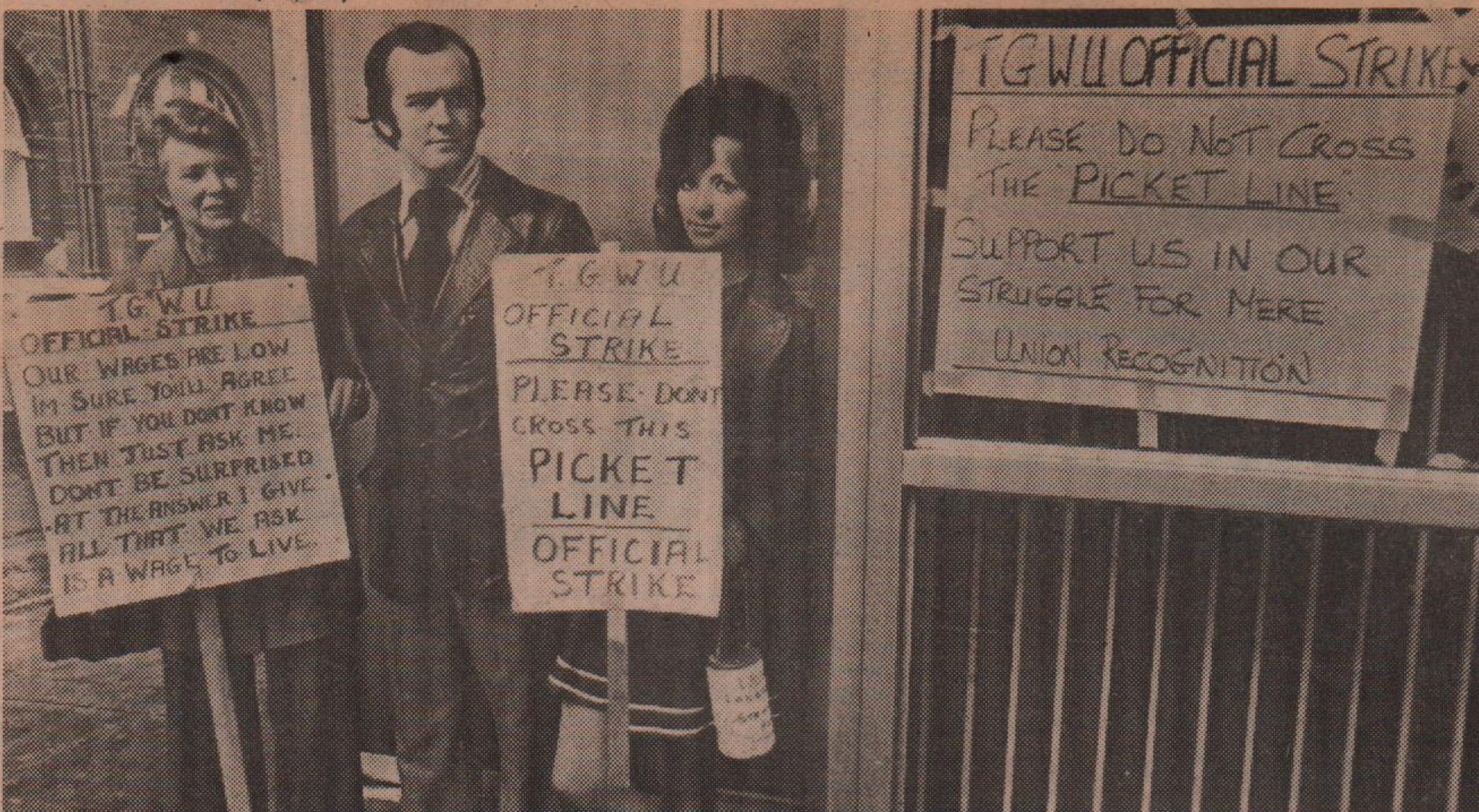
The union are rather more accommodating with management: Hugh Wyper, their Glasgow district organiser, has agreed settlement terms of £610 for each of the 15 managers, £300 for the settlers, and £285 to £245 for the women counter hands.

140 out of the 160 workers left are women. The total outlay for Ladbroke's could be £45,000. A cheap price—for smashing the union.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



On the picket line in Glasgow: we need pickets outside every Ladbroke's betting shop this Saturday

WE APPEAL to all trade unionists to give every effort and action to support our strike.

In particular, we urge trade unionists to come out on the national picket of Ladbroke's betting shops on 13 December.

We have now been on strike for six months in an attempt to win what most trade unionists consider an everyday fact—the right to be members of a trade union and the right to representation.

In these six months, we have been forced to rely solely on our own efforts and organisation to make Ladbroke's concede our claim.

Many organisations have made verbal commitments. Some have given money, but very, very few trade unionists including our own union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, have given us the sort of support we need.

We need a real fight and you, the rank and file, can give us that fight. Your strength can help us win the right to belong to a trade union. We appeal to you: Give your full support to our strike now.

Support the National Rank and File Movement's picket on 13 December and hit Ladbroke's where it hurts.

—LADBROKE'S STRIKE COMMITTEE, GLASGOW

WOMENS VOICE December issue 12 pages—including a special supplement on the Womens Voice Rally. Articles on Ladbroke's, why women have the right to work. Pick up from the stations or IS Books this Saturday, 13 December.

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Heads they win, tails you lose...

By Margaret Renn

Corals, Hills or Mecca, win.

But Ladbroke's don't play the game to the same rules. They are not gambling men. They are straight, hard hearted businessmen, like Cyril Stein and Derek Sate the directors, who have set out to build an empire.

In 1960, the Gaming Act made it possible to bet away from the racecourses. Since then, with the help of television, betting shops have opened up everywhere.

The boom for Ladbroke's followed. It was like owning a licence to print money.

For example: at the beginning of 1971, they bought out five profitable

bookmakers at a price twice that of their profits.

Immediately, the stock market values increased ten times. And Ladbroke's went on to mop up one bookmaker after another around the country.

They had started with shops in Glasgow, Nottingham, and London, bought up William Hill in Newcastle, and through 1972 added: Jack Solomons and Bud Flanagan, Fourway Commissions, Clarence Commissions (Brighton), Kings Lynn (Turf Accountants), J Pennington (Lincoln), Easywyn, C M Adthead, W H Cutler (Midlands), Charles Tobin, Charles Malizia, Hunt and Hunt, and many more. Some of these shops still operate under their old names.

Ladbroke's have built an enormous empire. They are making a profit out of a business that can't lose.