

# Socialist Worker

No 457 3 January 1976

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

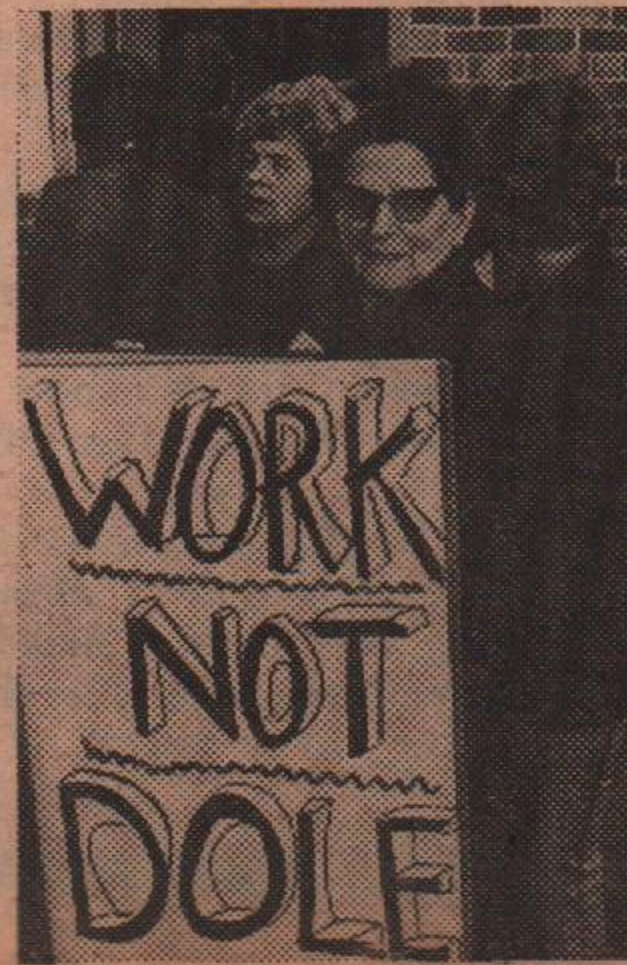
# NEW YEAR

REVIEWING the Labour government's record for 1975 last week, Harold Wilson said: 'I think it is a year which historians will say was a year of great change, in which we had the most remarkable achievement of postwar years in the agreement between the government, the trade unions, industry—and I believe pretty well the whole British people—about the things that have to be done to overcome inflation.'

The social contract, the £6 wage freeze, social service cuts. These are Wilson's 'great achievements'. These are the policies which he promises to continue in 1976.

If he is allowed to get away with another year of these policies, this will be 1976:

# HORRORS



## Harder

'Unemployment in the United Kingdom rose by 42,563 to 1,211,464 between mid-November and mid-December. There is no sign of any slackening in the sharp upward trend. The wholly unemployed figure has jumped 37,800, or 5 per cent of the labour force. Vacancies fell a further 2,500.'

—Department of Employment, 23 December.

'Thirty top people from industry, commerce and the trade unions and the City have contributed to a report which forecasts 1,750,000 unemployed by next December.'

—Opinion Research Centre, 24 December.

## Dearer

'Grocery prices recorded their biggest increase, according to the Financial Times grocery prices index. The 3.7 per cent rise means that prices measured by this indicator have doubled in less than five years. Nearly all fresh foods are expected to be dearer in the New Year.'

—Financial Times, 29 December.

'The cost of school meals for nearly six million children is to go up again. An announcement is expected early in the New Year raising the present cost of a school meal from 15p to 20p.'

—Daily Telegraph, 24 December.

## Colder

'Electricity has gone up by 80 per cent in the past two years. Old people can't pay. At least six million of Britain's nine million old age pensioners will suffer from cold this winter. 20,000 will die from too much cold.'

—An Age Concern spokesman.

'In the four months ending 7 November, 212 more infants under 12 months died in England and Wales than last year. If this increase develops into a trend, the number of babies who die each winter because of cold—about 1000—could rise alarmingly. A decline in living standards is a well-known cause of increased infant mortality.'

—Research report by Margaret and Arthur Wynn, published 21 December.

# LIST



## Support this march NOW!

The Right to Work March from Manchester to London next March, which was announced in last week's Socialist Worker, has already attracted the support of trade union bodies up and down the country. The march must mobilise the full force of the working class in all the places it passes through. This means that trade union branches, trades councils and shop stewards committees must start discussing NOW what they can do to build the march.

Every reader of Socialist Worker who wants to do something about unemployment must ensure that his or her organisation decides this month about the march.

A small donation of £1 commits your branch, your trade council, your stewards committee—even yourself—to support the campaign. The Right to Work Committee wants to

hear as soon possible that minimum commitment has been made.

There are many things you can do to help the march.

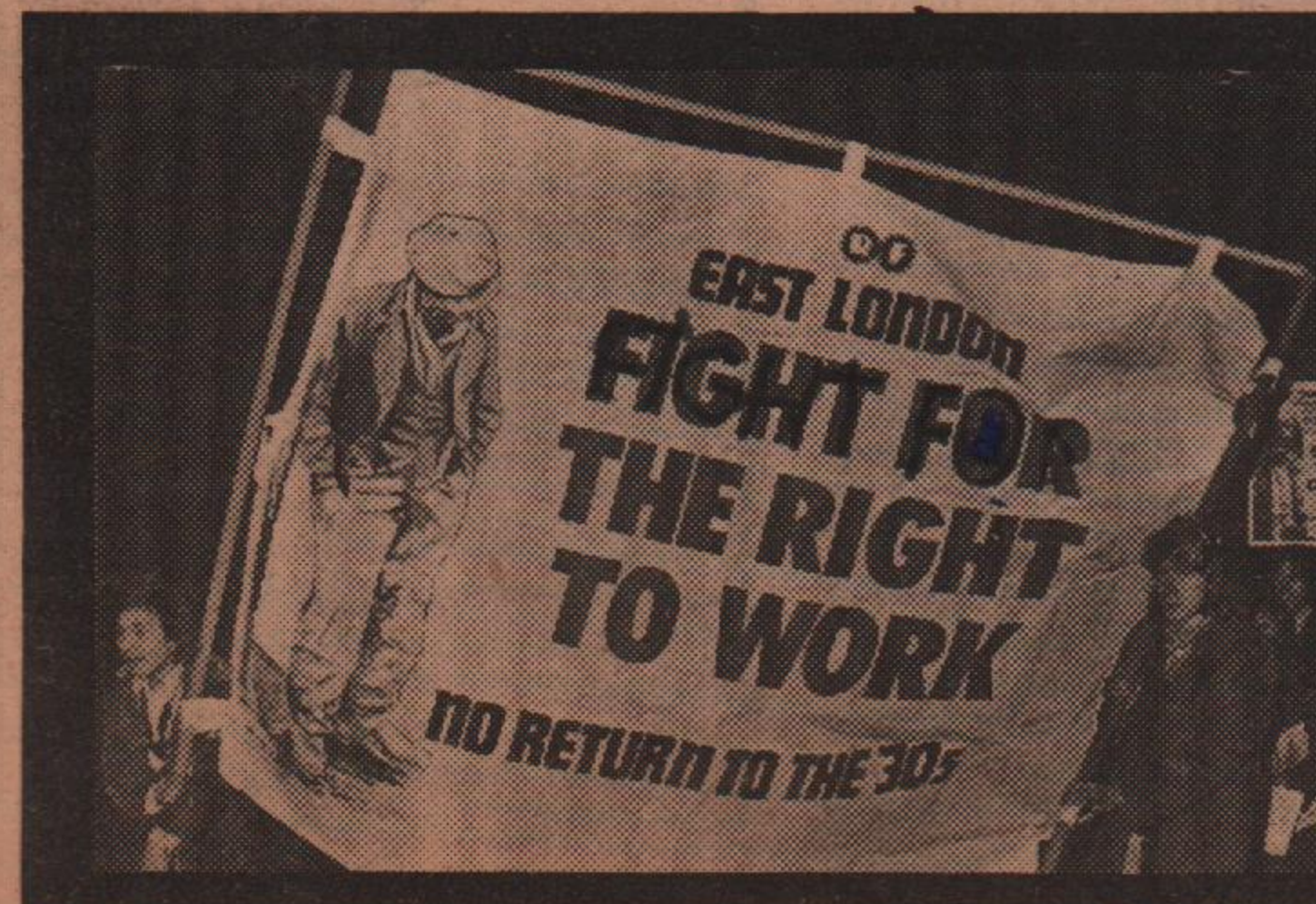
□ Sponsor a marcher for one day—or for a week, or for the whole march. It costs about £5 a day to keep a marcher on the road.

□ Help with accommodation.

□ Send delegations and banners on the march for a day or two as the march moves through your area. Send delegations to the Albert Hall rally in London on 20 March

GET MOVING NOW

The address of the Right to Work Campaign is: 46 Prince George Road, London N16





# It's a free country... ISN'T IT?

## FREE...for bosses to kill in secret

HOW DANGEROUS is the most dangerous industry in Britain—diving for the oil companies in the North Sea? The companies who profit from the diving know.

They've just carried out a major research investigation into the dangers of diving deeper than 250 feet. But they're not giving the results to anyone—not even to the divers.

They claim 'commercial secrecy' for their research. They whine that if the facts of their research got out, their 'competitors' would benefit. Meanwhile, divers for all three main competitors are condemned to unheard-of hazards as the great North Sea oil grab gets under way.

More than 75 divers have already died in the interests of a quick North Sea oil profit—and that's in depths of 250 feet or less. Now the oil companies are planning dives of up to 1600 feet. The death rate for deep sea divers, already 33 times more dangerous than that of coal miners, will soar.

The three big diving companies know that the rate will soar. They know why—because they aren't prepared to take simple precautions which would postpone the oil bonanza by a few weeks. But they won't publish the facts.

## FREE... to freeze

## FREE...to be harassed by racist laws

GURMIT SINGH first entered this country 16 years ago. His wife Balbir joined him two years later in Birmingham, where they started a family.

By last August they had saved enough to take extended leave and visit their parents in the Punjab. There was no difficulty in leaving England—but their troubles began when they arrived back at Heathrow Airport on 7 November.

### Interrogation

Although both Gurmit and Balbir showed the Immigration Officer their expired passports—which showed clearly that they had been in the country for 14 and 12 years respectively and had not left during that time—they were forced to be victims of a humiliating interrogation during which they were accused of trying to enter the country illegally.

Eventually, when the officious officer would not

By John Plummer

be satisfied with any evidence, he stamped their passports with the conditions which are the dread of every migrant worker who takes a holiday

These state: 'Leave to enter the United Kingdom on the conditions that the holder does not enter paid employment or unpaid and does not engage in any business or profession, is hereby given for two months.' The entry in the passports also show that the conditions were applied by Immigration Officer number 687.

Gurmit told a Socialist Worker supporter in his factory—and a letter was immediately obtained from the company stating that Gurmit had been employed there for 13 years. It was sent to the Home Office with a demand for the removal of the conditions, for an explanation and for an apology.

Two weeks later, the passports were returned with a printed letter stating that the conditions attached to the leave to enter the UK had been removed, but there was no explanation.

The Home Offices had required that Gurmit and Balbir produce evidence to clear themselves for the error and deliberate harassment by the Immigration Officer.

### Sacked from work

Cases like this are all too frequent. The couple were distressed, could have been sacked from work and were vulnerable to victimisation and blackmail as they worked illegally for some weeks.

The Immigration Act amounts to legally authorised racial discrimination, made even worse as a weapon in the hands of some incompetent or racist officers.

THREE senior judges, led by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, decided in Christmas week that a tenant whose gas, water and electricity is illegally cut off has absolutely no rights against the landlord.

The tenant in the case is black. Leonard McCall hired a ground floor room in Cricklewood in March 1968 for £3.50.

The tenants had to pay extra into meters for gas and electricity.

In May 1973, two sharp operators in North London who called themselves Riverside Property Services bought the house.

Almost immediately they got a bill for £435 for gas, which the previous landlords hadn't paid.

Like all good landlords who believe in law and order, they refused to pay it.

### Paying

Leonard McCall went on paying money into his meter, and went on paying his rent. In October, when the bill still hadn't been paid, the gas was cut off.

In March 1974, for good measure, the landlords refused to pay the electricity or water bills either. So they were cut off.

For four months, Leonard McCall had to live in his room without heat, light or water.

He sued the landlords in the county court. He asked for damages to compensate for his misery during those four months.

The county court awarded him £75.

Leonard McCall appealed to the High Court for more damages.

Lord Justice Denning, Lord Justice Shaw and Lord Justice Ormrod decided unanimously that he should get... NOTHING AT ALL.

They said that cutting off the gas, electricity or water might be a criminal offence under the Rent Act. But it afforded no rights of damages to the tenant.

They did not say why the property company had not been prosecuted.

## CIA: The biggest terrorists of all...

THE assassination of the CIA's chief of station in Greece, Mr Richard Welch, has led to yet another torrent of press 'wisdom' on the menace of terrorism.

Yet what's most remarkable about this 'wisdom' is its utter hypocrisy.

Typical of the double standard were the Christmas and New Year messages of Her Majesty the Queen and Her Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Harold Wilson.

Wilson improved on Her Majesty's remarks about standing up to the terrorists, by saying that kidnapping, hijacking and terrorism in general was 'endemic to our times'.

It was, he said 'an international threat, needing international action'. The firm line taken by the Metropolitan Police, he added, 'had been applauded all over the world.'

### Obscene display

The Right Honourable Harold Wilson is in fact in charge of a government that is involved in an obscene display of terrorism in Oman.

There, British officers mastermind the napalming and bombing of poor peasants fighting for national independence.

These activities are naturally carried out under the pretence of opposing terrorism. In Ireland the

## SACRIFICE CORNER

ANGUS OGILVY, husband of Princess Alexandra, proposed a generous Christmas present to himself and the other directors of British Industries and General Investment Trust, at the company's annual general meeting on 18 December. Directors' fees, he said, should go up from £5000 a year to £15,000. Mr Ogilvy is a director of 63 other companies.

The proposal was opposed by Mr Gerald Davis, who said that the directors' duties were not 'terribly arduous', since many of them were also on the board of the trust's advisers. He added: 'The present climate does not really call for a threefold remuneration paid to the board of an investment trust in the city.'

Silly fellow. The proposal was carried, with one vote against.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Rose Davies picketing outside New Scotland Yard police headquarters over Christmas demanding the release of her husband, George Davies, who was jailed for 20 years for a robbery he did not commit. Rose and her children picketed the Yard for three days, camping in a van outside from Christmas Eve until Boxing Day.

story is the same.

Not that Harold Wilson's support for terrorism stops at the edge of the Irish Sea.

He and his kind give unconditional support to the activities of government organisations like the CIA and the organisation on which the CIA is modelled, the British M16.

In recent months the American press have disclosed that the CIA on several occasions, tried to assassinate Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro. They had similar schemes for Mao-tse Tung and a host of other people.

What's more they did murder Patrice Lumumba, prime minister of

the Congo to assist the development of the puppet government that now runs the country (renamed Zaire).

The CIA has also been involved in a host of other filthy operations, including the bloody coup in Chile, the emergence of vicious right wing dictatorships in other Latin American countries and in funding thugs and gangsters in Angola.

### Murdering

They have admitted to murdering the head of the Chilean army General Schauder, in 1970. And what does hypocrite Harold say about this? Precisely nothing.

His call for 'international action against terrorists' will not affect the biggest terrorist operation of them all.

In Greece, where the late Mr Welch was operating, the CIA masterminded the coup that brought the Colonels and their Junta to power in 1967.

The CIA trained the killers and torturers who were let loose on trade unionists and students under their puppet regime.

Mr Welch was doubtless continuing this filthy work under the sham

democratic regime that has replaced the Colonels. Unlike Harold Wilson we shed no tears for his departure.

But, unfortunately, his departure will not call a halt to the operations of the CIA and the system it upholds.

Individual assassinations will never do that. Only mass action and mass struggle will.

As for Harold Wilson, he is exactly the sort of hypocrite characterised by the Australian rebel Ned Kelly:

'Kill one man and you're a murderer. Kill a hundred and you're a hero.'

The CIA has about 60 agents at work on Harold Wilson's doorstep, a fact which Wilson certainly knows.

The top men in London are:

Cord Meyer Junior of 24 Eaton Place, London SW1: His top assistants are: Joseph C Then of 39 Montague Square London W1, William M McGhee of 11 Chester Square London SW1, George W Ford II of 9 Kynance Place London SW7 and Robert F Hopfl of 138 Albury Drive, Pinner, Middlesex.

What does Harold Wilson do about these terrorists? He drinks with them at diplomatic receptions!

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



**For decades, Portugal terrorised Angola. Thousands were slaughtered—but British politicians, press and TV said not a word. Now, suddenly, they are all obsessed by the menace of 'foreign intervention' . . .**

**THE FOREIGN Secretary, James Callaghan, 'deplores' foreign intervention in Angola.**

His Tory opposite number, Reginald Maudling, calls for an international conference to find ways of ending it.

Press and TV are full of stories about Cuban soldiers and Russian guns and the alleged menace of a Russian takeover.

*This is the most contemptible hypocrisy.*

Neither the media nor the Labour Party paid the slightest heed to foreign intervention in Angola when that intervention was run by their NATO ally Portugal under the dictatorships of Salazar and Caetano.

A murderous colonial war was waged by Portuguese troops for years on end in support of a corrupt and vicious foreign rule. What had Callaghan and Co to say then? Nothing.

Nor had they anything to say about United States involvement in Angola until it recently became so blatantly obvious that it has to be excused as a 'response' to Russian intervention.

The US, it is being put about, is

# WHY?

only supporting the 'non-Marxist' forces to stop the Russians getting control.

This is a lie. Recent investigations into the CIA have shown that CIA involvement in Angola goes back 'at least ten years' according to the Sunday Times. And thereby hangs a tale.



The major US involvement until 1964 was, of course, military and economic support for the Portuguese dictatorship of Salazar.

Without American guns and American money, the colonial war could not have been carried on for very long.

*But the US government also sought 'insurance' against a*

*possible Portuguese defeat.*

At the same time that it was financing and arming Salazar it also gave limited support to Holden Roberto to build up a fake 'liberation' movement, the FNLA.

This was the long-standing CIA involvement. With the revolution in Portugal this was stepped up and extended to support for (if not the creation of) another movement, UNITA.

All this long pre-dates Russian and Cuban military support for the MPLA.

The major foreign intervenor in Angola, apart from Portugal itself, was and is the USA.

The unholy coalition of white racist South Africa and the USA that sustain the 'non-Marxists' was made in Washington.

*Why? What are they really*



*Captured by the MPLA—two South African soldiers; the defenders of apartheid, are now, we are told, the defenders of freedom . . .*

*after? In a word: profits.*

Angola is the second largest oil producer in Africa. Gulf Oil runs the show. The country contains huge, untapped mineral wealth which, under Portuguese rule was destined for US hands. The State Department means to keep it that way.

The MPLA stands for nationalisation, that is why it is a 'menace'.

Of course Russian and Cuban support for the MPLA is not given out of pure altruism, any more than Russian arms were sent to Vietnam out of pure altruism.

But it is not Russia or Cuba that threaten Angolan independence and territorial integrity. It is the US and South Africa, supported by China as part of its 'anti-Russia at all costs' policy.

British policy is clearly moving into support for some kind of partition—a carve-up that will preserve the resources of the country for multinational big business.

The South Africans want this, too, and the US may be moving towards it.

No one should be deceived by hypocritical pretences of British 'impartiality'.



The Labour government is not neutral. It is against the MPLA, just as it was against the National Liberation Front in Vietnam.

Calls for a government of 'all three movements' are in fact calls for the CIA-run and South African backed outfits to take a predominant share in the government from the MPLA.

The war in Angola is a classic imperialist war, a war for booty, for profits and control of raw materials.

It is being waged, first and foremost, by Wall Street and the Pentagon.

There can be only one position for socialists—support for the authentic Angolan national struggle.

**And that means support for the MPLA.**

# The law of the land...

SINCE 1970, when the Act was introduced, the bosses have been expected to 'move rapidly towards equal pay'.

*But a special report last month revealed:*

In 1972, women earned 51.5 per cent of men's wages.

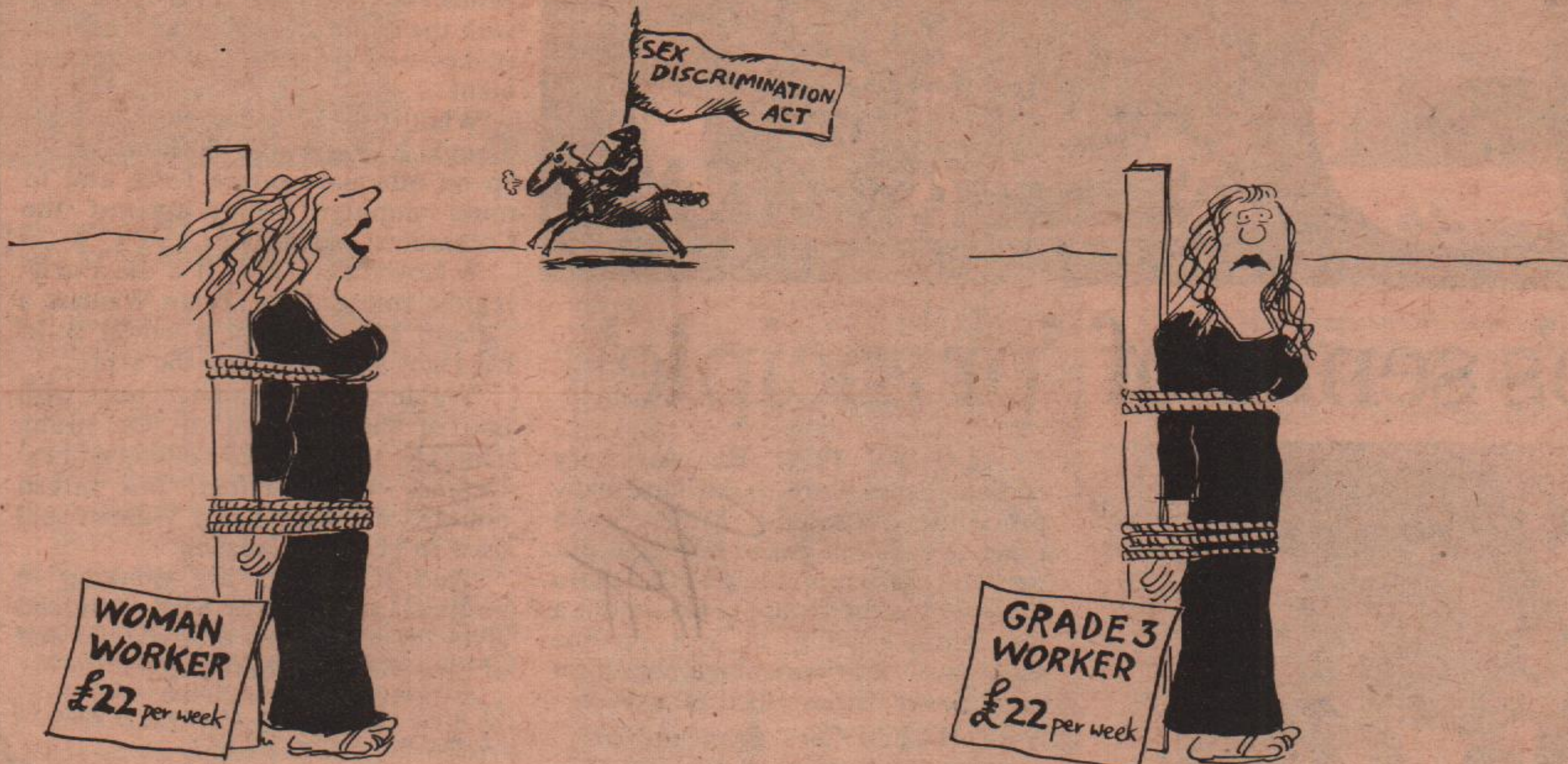
In 1975, women earned 55.5 per cent of men's wages.

The bosses have maintained the differences without breaking the Act by paying men long service payments, pay attendance bonuses, special shift premiums and so on.

Special women's grades have had to go under the Act. So the bosses have shoved women workers into a new grade.

*The result is exactly the same and it's all legal. For instance:*

The bakers' agreement, signed last year, abolished men's and women's rates, replacing them with a new series of grades. Within each grade there are two separate classifications, A and B. Women dough makers earn 80 per cent of the male dough makers' rate.



## But REAL equality still has to be fought for

### Suffer

The hourly wages of part-time agricultural workers have been fixed at a lower rate than the wage paid to full time workers. The vast majority of part-time agricultural workers are women.

Even if the bosses are caught out by the Act, they won't suffer. There is no sanction against employers found guilty of discrimination: no prison sentence, no fine, nothing.

The Sex Discrimination Act does not cover two of the most flagrant areas of sex discrimination: pensions and social security.

Women who are discriminated against in industry have to take their cases to industrial tribunals, which can award compensation but cannot enforce reinstatement or promotion. Otherwise, the woman who complains of discrimination must take a case to a civil court.

The Equal Opportunities Commis-

sion, which will preside and conciliate over allegations of discrimination, is an insult to women who have fought for women's liberation.

The chairman is Betty Lockwood, women's organiser of the Labour Party in the years when the Party herded its women into separate conferences.

### Claim to fame

The vice-chairman is Lady Howe, whose main claim to fame is that she is the wife of Tory economics spokesman, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

This passion for 'party balance' runs through the whole Commission, which has one person under 35, and consists in the main of career philanthropists and pastured civil

servants.

*Neither the Equal Pay Act nor the Sex Discrimination Act will do anything to solve unemployment among women—up 121 per cent in the first nine months of this year, compared with 48 per cent for men.*

It will do nothing to lighten the main burdens of women. It will not provide a single extra nursery school to take some of the strain off working women.

**CONCLUSION:** Both these Acts are riddled with loopholes and exceptions.

Left to themselves, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the law courts will not bring equal pay or an end to sex discrimination.

In fact, left to themselves, the commissions and courts will make little difference.

But the Acts do change the atmosphere about discrimination. They make it easier for women to fight for their rights where they can win them—on the picket line and on the shop floor.

The Acts make those shop-floor battles all the more important. If 1975 was the year of the equal pay laws, we must make 1976 the year of the equal pay fight.

### Tough fight

Moira Simpson, one of 21 strikers for equal pay at Newtons, Derby, wrote in the last issue of Socialist Worker:

*'It seems that the company are trying to dodge the Equal Pay Act. We are already seeing the flaws in this Act*

*'We are having a tough fight with the company, but all the members are determined to stick it out. They are a spirited bunch of girls . . . We are the union and we shall stay out to win.'*

**That's the sort of spirit which can turn the dream of equal pay into a reality.**



# If we all got together...

'INSTEAD of competing with each other, surely all the workers' parties should stand together as one body,' writes a reader from Gateshead.

'Then maybe something could be done to step up the struggle for socialism. As long as they remain fragmented (which suits the government and its supporters) not very much can be achieved as they will remain powerless.'

## Iron out

'Therefore it is up to all socialists to unite, no matter which party they support, and iron out party differences as to which road to take to achieve workers' power, the smashing of the capitalist system and racialism.'

'These are aims on which most of the parties agree and until we have a strong socialist body the



working class will always be suppressed.'

*Of course, we need a strong socialist party which can unite the bulk of the working class around it.*

Certainly, the fragmentation of the left is a serious handicap. But we need to see how it has come about in order to understand how to end it.

First of all, many of those who call themselves

socialists do not agree at all with the aim of 'the smashing of the capitalist system'.

This is very obviously the case with the leaders of the Labour Party. They can talk about socialism when it suits them (commonly when they are in opposition) but are in fact, as the reader evidently recognises, thoroughly wedded to the preservation of capitalism.

We see the same thing internationally. All manner of parties and governments profess to be socialist. Mrs Nehru's Congress government in India, President Sadat's in Egypt, Olaf Palme's in Sweden—not to mention Harold Wilson's in Britain—will stand as examples.

Now in reality all these regimes are conservative in the sense that they are actively engaged in trying to make capitalism work; certainly they are not trying to smash it. (I will leave aside regimes of the Russian type, they are a separate problem.)

The point is that the socialist label is very often used to deceive and confuse, to prevent the development of strong socialist forces. The people who so use it are not misguided comrades, they are conscious opponents sailing deliberately under false colours.

That is why they talk of the 'mixed economy', not capitalism, and call themselves 'moderates', not right-wingers. A refusal to call things by their right names is a sure sign of attempted fraud.

The claim of the Labour Party to be a socialist party is a fraudulent claim. It is, to be sure, a party supported by large numbers of workers; it is not a party standing for fundamental social change by any means.

Our difference with it is not about means, about the best road to socialism. It is about ends. The Labour Party has no intention of taking any road to socialism and it will do its best to prevent the working class moving in a socialist direction.

But, certainly, there are socialists inside the Labour Party. Why can't we unite with them against Wilson and Co?

The Communist Party members are socialists, too. Why not unite with them against Wilson?

The answer is that we can and we must fight for unity against the bosses and against the government's Tory policies.

## Racialism

We must try to unite with all those, including Labour Party people and Communist Party members, who are willing to take up the struggle against unemployment, cuts in the health, housing and educational services, the £6 freeze, racialism and all other reactionary policies.

*What is the best way to do this?*

It is to try to get unity in action on those issues where there is already agreement. Everyone on the left agrees that unemployment is a totally unnecessary evil which must be fought.

Therefore let us all, irrespective of party affiliations, get together to mount a big and effective Right to Work campaign.

It will not do to say to a Labour supporter, 'first you must leave the Labour Party and join the International Socialists' (or some new body). Not at all.

We say 'let us fight together on those things about which we agree'. If unity in action can be achieved then the discussion on those things about which we disagree is much more likely to be useful.

## Mass party

We believe that a mass socialist party (which we believe must be a revolutionary party) can only be built in the course of the struggle.

So we put the emphasis on trying to pull together the broadest possible forces to fight on specific issues rather than on 'ironing out the differences'.

Not that the differences are unimportant. Far from it; some of them are matters of vital importance. But, as Marx wrote:

*'The question of whether objective truth can be attributed to human thinking is not a question of theory but is a practical question. In practice man must prove the truth, that is, the reality and power of his thinking.'*

So with parties. Unity in action is the key to overcoming fragmentation and building a united movement.

# FOR KING AND COUNTRY

DID YOU KNOW that 'all talk of a free society is now obsolete' in Britain? Or that 'communist influence' is 'very visible in the Sunday Times, ITN and other media'?

You would if you were a crank—or, worse, a member of the British ruling class. Our masters, it seems, are privately obsessed with such ideas.

## Paranoiac fears

The two quoted above—Sir Arnold Weinstock, boss of the GEC empire, and Lord Shawcross, one-time top man at Thames Television—voiced their almost paranoiac fears, along with just about every other leading member of the ruling class, at the breakfast, lunch and dinner tables of Cecil King.

King, former boss of the massive Daily Mirror group and therefore, in case you didn't know, one of THEM, obligingly put pen to paper. His recently-published second volume of diaries \* tells all with an honesty that draws its strength from the certainty that he is the most intelligent man on earth.

(For instance: Ted Heath 'is a friend. His misfortune is that he has taken up a career for which he is entirely unfitted.' Reginald Maudling..

## The inside story of the British ruling class, by a man who knows

...a disaster when responsible for Northern Ireland, and a lazy and ineffective Home Secretary'.

*But, such gossip apart, King hands us fascinating proof of what most of us knew all along: that what our betters say in public—the need to preserve democracy and safeguard society as we know it—is rather different from what they say among themselves in private.*

And what they say in private—and they

apparently discuss it to the point of obsession—couldn't be more to the point: What the bloody hell are we going to do about the working class before the working class start doing something about us? Only they call the working class 'the trade unions', or the 'militant minority'.

Take Weinstock again: 'Circumstances are compelling us to have an authoritarian state though there is as yet no indication how we get there'. King duly entered that up in his diary, it should be noted, on 21 April 1971, long before any talk of miners' strikes, or Who Rules Britain, or Colonel Stirling.

## Civil war

And there's plenty more: '6 November 1970 lunch for Campbell Adamson (director-general of the CBI). I said I thought a clash with the trades union movement would built up into something like a mild civil war and would have to be fought with the government's gloves off—no unemployment pay, no outrelief for families, freezing of union funds etc, etc, including censorship. Adamson went along with the rest but not with censorship.'

'7 February 1972: Lunch for Dick Marsh (boss of British Rail). As he said: Anarchy is on the increase.'

'14 April 1972: Lunch with AB (a senior civil servant). He says the miners' strike brought home to Ministers for the first time that a clash with the unions would mean a general strike—and the defeat of the government.'

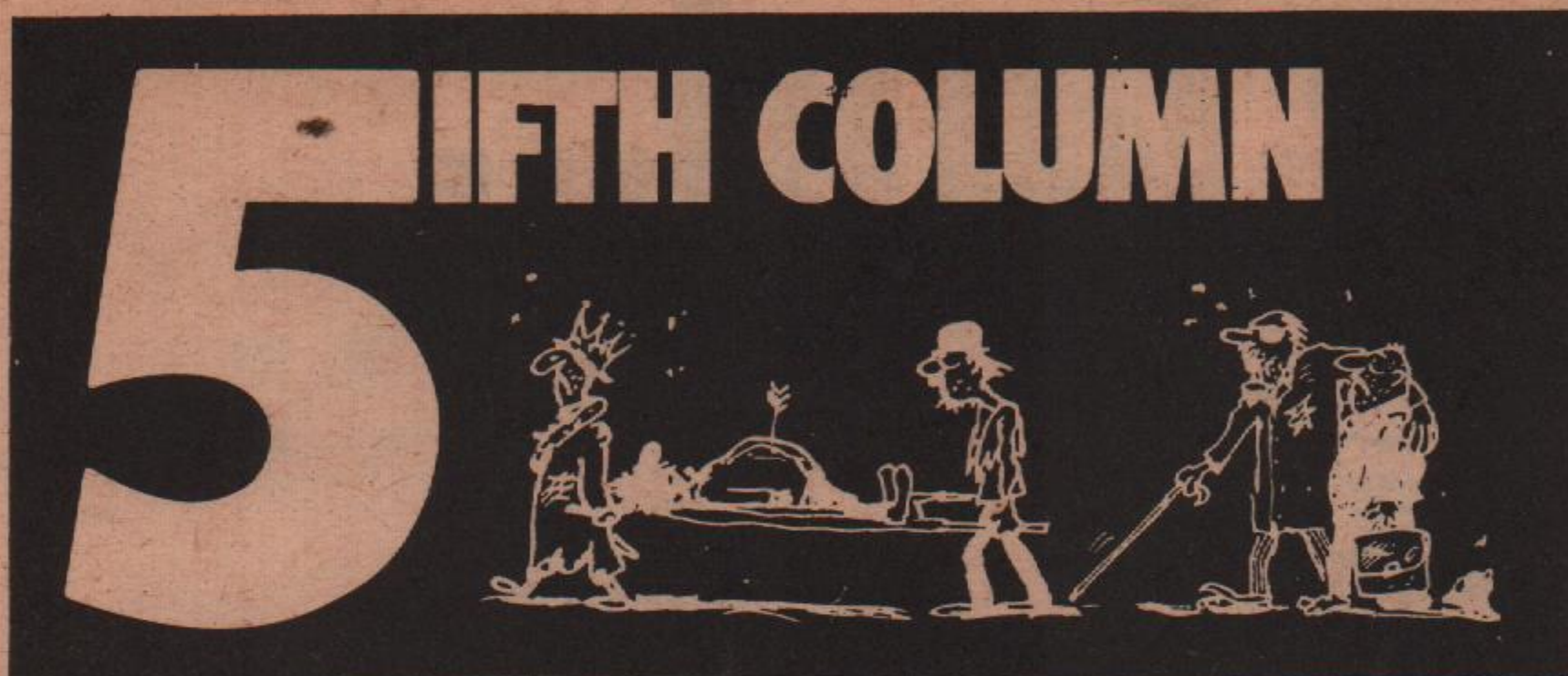
'What is the government to do? AB thought it would take 15 years to build up an adequate police force and to rouse popular feeling against the Communist menace.'

'8 November 1972: If a dictatorial regime emerged, he (Brian Walden, a Labour MP) thought it would be of the right and involving the army.'

'Walden himself had had lunch with one of the brightest of our young generals, who showed no interest in a Defence White Paper, but talked politics of a kind which Walden said used to be called treason.'

'And if officers are thinking in political terms, Northern Ireland gives them experience of politics and of civil riot and commotion.'

\* Cecil King's Diary 1970-74 (Jonathan Cape, £5.95)



18 JANUARY, 1971: I told Whitelaw that the government's policy over Ireland was limited to a wish that Ireland and the Irish should go away and get lost. Whitelaw said: 'Exactly'.

## Stonehouse's sense of 'principle'



5 AUGUST 1970: He was very contemptuous of parliamentary procedure. He said Ministers in practice have not got to bother about parliamentary opinion, and that in no sense now is the House of Commons a watchdog keeping its eye on the Executive. Parliamentary question and answer he described as a farce.

25 MAY, 1973: Stonehouse... said he was enjoying life as never before with his Bangladesh Bank and other business enterprises. He said Tory MPs... were now opportunists who sought office, not power, and their ambitions were not buttressed by principles of any kind.

23 MARCH, 1973: Brian Walden had one item of news which I found interesting. At the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Singapore last year, President Obote of Uganda was rude to the British—a discourtesy which was much resented.

Later our Intelligence learnt that there was a tribal plot to oust Obote and replace him with General Amin. The Intelligence people wanted Obote to be warned.

However, Obote was not warned, and the Labour Party chiefs believe this helped the rebels and so landed us with General Amin.

## WHITELAW ON RHODESIA



22 NOVEMBER 1971: He (William Whitelaw) thought the best course is to allow the sanctions gradually to be eroded—mainly by assorted foreigners—until there is in practical terms no sanctions policy left.

## The truth about Denis Healey

19 OCTOBER, 1970: He has lost a good deal of prestige lately because he has all along been enthusiastically in favour of arms for South Africa. Within three weeks of vacating office, however, he was denouncing the very idea. This volte-face was to ensure his election to the Labour National Executive, which indeed he achieved.

8 NOVEMBER, 1971: Hugh Cudlipp (then chairman of the Daily Mirror group) told me that when Denis Healey signed the letter in the Guardian with 100 Labour MPs advocating our joining the Market, he asked Denis to write a piece for the Mirror on why he had changed his mind.

Previously he had been mildly anti-Common Market. Denis duly wrote the article and received £250. Three weeks later he changed his mind back again.

## RANK AND FILE HANDS OFF PORTUGAL CAMPAIGN



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

A slide and tape show is now completed for use in the campaign. It lasts 30 minutes, including 200 slides from Portugal, many from inside workers' controlled factories, recordings made in Lisbon on May Day, and Portuguese revolutionary songs. It is ideal for starting off solidarity meetings.

Contact the Rank and File Organising Committee for details. Another delegation of shop stewards and other trade union representatives will be going to Portugal in February. Details from

Rank and File organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Phone 01-249 1207.



# CHRYSLER

## This is no rescue plan!



by Peter Bain, TGWU shop steward, Chrysler Linwood.

**THE real face of the government's 'rescue plan' for Chrysler is clear from the details that were spelt-out last week.**

The plan calls for 8,300 redundancies out of 25,000 workers. At Linwood in Scotland 3000 redundancies—or 1500 if those remaining will accept a three-day week until the summer. That means 42 lay-off days in six months.

There would also be a three-week shut down after the three weeks holiday, redundancies on a last in, first out basis, and this to be taken section by section, national negotiations and the so-called workers' participation scheme—described by the Labour Research Department as 'the destruction of effective trade union organisation'.

There would be new manning levels and work methods to obtain a 50 per cent increase in productivity. And none of the proposals are to be negotiable—the deal to be accepted as it stands.

This is no rescue plan.

The government's plans are still based on Chrysler pulling out of Britain, but over a slightly longer period. Those who see in the present proposals the end of the cuts, or even a prelude to future expansion, are sadly mistaken. Acceptance of any redundancies, voluntary or otherwise, can only hasten the closure of the entire Chrysler UK operation.

Whatever the outcome, failure to fight now can only encourage more vicious attacks on jobs and working conditions in the future.

Even now this has not been fully understood. Workers in Coventry and Linwood have now voted for militant action and occupation against redundancies. But sections of the combine leadership are anxious to use these threats simply as a negotiating ploy. Or worse, they see it as a way of shifting the sackings on to another section of the workforce.

We need to work now for united action and that means occupation by all Chrysler workers to stop all redundancies and to fight for the nationalisation of the whole of Chrysler without compensation.

### The trade unions collapse

ONE clear message came out of the meeting between Chrysler management, combine shop stewards and national and local full-time trade union officials before Christmas: that Chrysler had no intention of retreating on the number of sackings, while the full-time officials fell over themselves in their rush to accept the deal.

Indeed the meeting marked a new stage in the collapse of the official trade union movement's stand against unemployment. The resolution moved by Bob Wright, AUEW national executive member—that the Chrysler workers reject only the company's unwillingness to negotiate and not the deal itself—marked a new stage in the bankruptcy of the left trade union leadership.

But Wright wasn't content with stating his case. With others, he insisted that every full-time official had the right to vote on the jobs of Chrysler workers and that AUEW officials had no choice—they were instructed to vote for Bob Wright's resolution or face the consequences. On paper and at conferences every trade union leader, including TUC general secretary Len Murray, is pledged to fight to reduce the numbers out of work and to halt the growth in unemployment. But when it comes to the reality away from the conference hall it is a completely different matter.

The overwhelming majority of full-time officials are not only willing to accept sackings and call them 'voluntary redundancies' they also want to bully workers into accepting the sack.

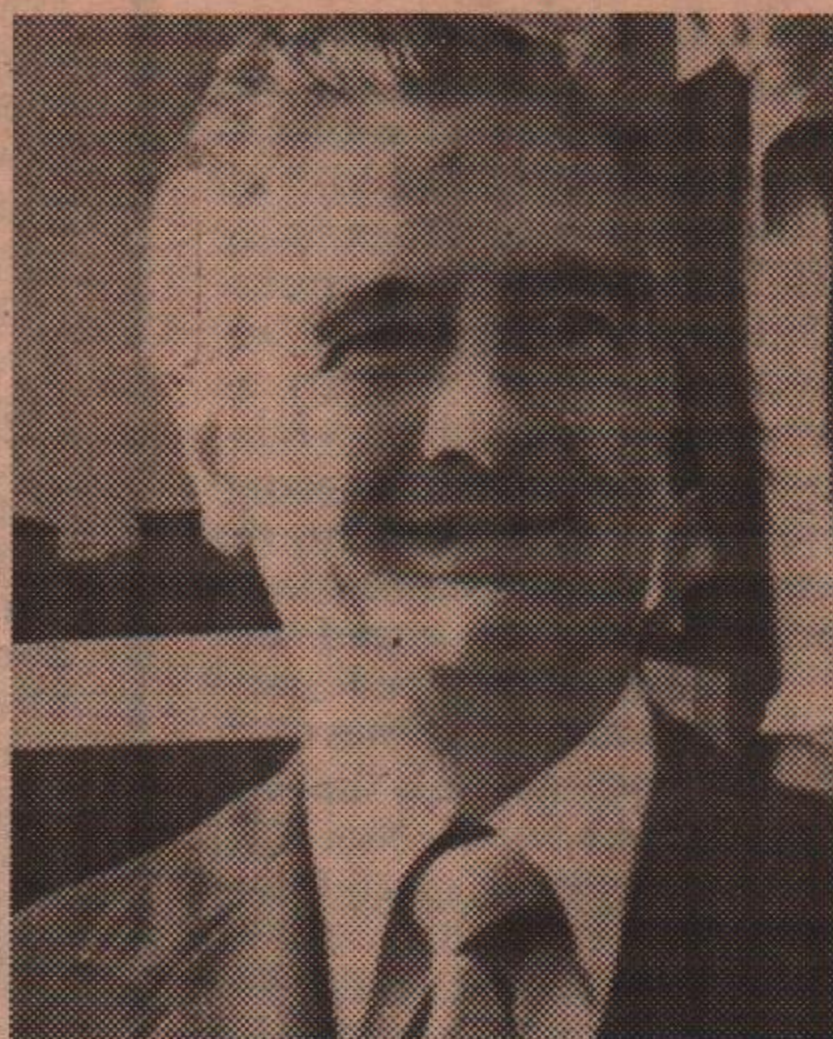
In simple terms that is what Bob Wright's resolution and the trade union officials' vote meant. The full-time officials are now clearly interested in fighting only for redundan-

cy payments and for any deal that involves voluntary acceptance of the dole.

They think there is no possibility of a serious fight developing and would defend themselves by saying that they are trying to salvage the best possible.

But voluntary redundancy in the car industry isn't the best possible alternative to Chrysler's plans. The alternative is a serious fight and a serious campaign in the whole trade union movement against unemployment.

The trade union officials and the trade union leadership in general have now made it clear that they do not want to be part of such a campaign and fight. That clears the way for us to build a serious rank and file fight that will save jobs and call for nationalisation of the whole car industry.



Godfather Riccardo—make him an offer he can't refuse, nationalisation without a penny compensation.

### 'Take it out on workers'—Think Tank

'TOP manufacturers, with too many models, too many plants and too much capacity'. That's the conclusion of the government's 'Think Tank' report on the car industry.

It says the British car industry can't compete with the foreign market unless drastic cuts and changes are made.

The report says there is enough capacity in Europe to produce about 25 per cent more cars than there will be a demand for. This will mean 'intense competition, low profits and increased pressure on multinationals to cut capacity in their least productive European plants.' Demand will not pick up until 1979 at least.

Severe weaknesses in the industry in Britain are low productivity and too much manpower, the report claims. One of the main causes of low productivity is overmanning—in some operations 50 to 80 per cent more than on the Continent.

There is nothing in the report about how the present crisis came about. For years factories and resources were turned over to producing motor cars. Beeching wrecked the railways and the rest of public transport was run down.

### Report they're keeping secret

'HALF the production but ten times the disputes.' 'How too many workers are doing too little.' That is how The Sun newspaper greeted the report on the motor industry by the 'Think Tank', the Cabinet's economic advisors.

Yet a secret British Leyland report shows exactly the opposite. After management at British Leyland's Cowley plant threatened to send the workers home 'because they weren't working hard enough', and were 'producing vehicles below the quality required' last month, a joint union-management inquiry into the plant was set up.

Its report was so critical of management that Leyland have tried to stop its publication. Far from the workers not working hard enough, the report

reveals amazing management incompetence.

For example, on the quality and design of the materials the workers were trying to use the report says: 'There were numerous examples of materials seen by the team which were of poor quality and unsatisfactory design. Both supervision and operators were of the same mind in pointing out these faults, in many cases they were completely frustrated at the apparent inability of those concerned to rectify their complaints. In some instances complaints were outstanding for long periods of time.'

Not only had the workers not caused the problems, they had tried to get management to do something about them, without success.

The report then continues: 'There were cases brought to notice where materials were rejected and then had to be recycled due to shortages.'

In 1973 the Chrysler management at Ryton, Coventry, forced the workers to use panels that had been rejected as below standard. The management then attacked the workers for 'shoddy work'.

The Leyland report mentions design problems such as the 'line up of drill holes, position of cage nuts, spot welds undisced'.

As for the workers, the report says the main problem was a 'continuous change in labour with manning changes'. Again management's responsibility—not the workers!

None of this has been reported by The Sun, which continues to spread the lie that the workers are to blame in an effort to conceal the incompetence, greed and stupidity of managements obsessed with the need to make a profit.

In Linwood the Rootes Company took workers off making panels for railway coaches and put them into assembling cars. They and British Leyland handed profits away to the shareholders and directors, leaving the workers with antiquated, obsolete machinery. Not surprisingly, the British car industry now can't compete with Japan or West Germany.

The machinery in British plants is on average twice as old as that used in the rest of the world.

The Think Tank solution to the mess made by the car manufacturers means taking it out on the workers. They want a much smaller workforce, working much harder, for the lowest wages in Europe. Other factories will be shut, the machinery left to rot, skilled workers left on the dole queues outside.

There is an alternative to this madness. The skills of the workers can be used to help build a sensible transport system. This means nationalisation of the whole industry. It means removing every ounce of control from Godfather Riccardo and his friends. And paying them *not a penny* in return.



# INTERNATIONAL THEY STAND

'For business purposes the boundaries that separate one nation from another are no more real than the equator.'

That's Jacques Maisonrouge speaking, and Jacques Maisonrouge, boss of IBM, one of the biggest multinationals in the business, should know.

But the unity of the employers internationally is all-too-often not matched by a unity of those they exploit. Companies such as IBM depend on being able to play off the workers of one country against those of another to maintain their power.

That is why for socialists internationalism is not a luxury, an afterthought, but is central to all our activities.

For an organisation such as the International Socialists, the fight to build international links between workers is as important as the fight to build a revolutionary party in this country. Twenty years ago, or even ten years ago, the weakness of the revolutionary left everywhere made it difficult to give real meaning to these links.

Even today, the job is only just beginning to be done. But over the past year considerable progress has been made, as IS international secretary Joanna Rollo told the December IS National Council.

# INTERNATIONAL WE OPPOSE THEM

IN the very citadel of capitalism, the United States, our comrades of the US International Socialists have made great gains in the past year.

Starting with small physical resources but with great determination, enthusiasm and confidence in their own politics they have succeeded in significantly increasing the membership of their organisation. Their influence in the American working class has expanded apace.

By a mixture of determined rank and file activity, an uncompromising campaign against racism and a concerted recruitment campaign the USIS now includes some of the best black working-class fighters in Detroit, the automobile centre of the country, and in Louisville, Kentucky.

At the same time, the American International Socialists have helped to develop important activities in the corrupt and immensely bureaucratic Teamsters Union. The rank and file caucus in which they work, Teamsters for a Decent Contract, has answered the deeply felt need of thousands of exploited and angry truck drivers. In a matter of a few months TDC has grown into a powerful opposition group.

## Revolução

The USIS have duplicated this work in a number of other industries despite the limitations of size. They've risen to the challenge of Portugal and spread the word throughout the United States with big fund-raising rallies. They've struggled to develop the organisation of working-class women.

Besides this they have managed to make their fine newspaper, Workers Power, into a magnificent weekly which speaks up to the American working class in the fresh language that socialist ideas so desperately need. Not for them sterile sectarianism. It is a most marvellous achievement which will doubtless go from strength to strength in the next twelve months.

In Canada, solid growth has also been achieved by the fighting comrades of the Independent Socialists.

Starting from nothing just over a year ago these comrades have achieved regular publication of Workers Action, their monthly newspaper. Workers Action is making the fight against Canadian premier Pierre Trudeau's new wage

controls the centre of its concerns. This is nothing more than a Canadian equivalent to the social contract and incomes policy fraud.

The comrades of the Independent Socialists too have risen to the task of defending the Portuguese revolution. A small group of Portuguese revolutionary socialists based in Toronto, where there is a huge Portuguese immigrant community, recently joined their organisation. Together, they now publish a regular Portuguese language paper called Republica do Trabalhador.

The Independent Socialists pulled out all the stops during the recent tough battles staged by section after section of the Canadian labour movement. They took up the case of the Quebec construction and asbestos workers in the spring. More recently they have been fighting for support for the Canadian postal workers. Sadly they have now been defeated by the government and the employing class after a bitter six-week struggle against the government's new wage controls.

The Independent Socialists are of course a small organisation. But their advance over the past year is a tribute to their own endeavours. What's more, it's eloquent testimony to the great future that working-class socialist ideas and organisation now have.

Readers of Socialist Worker will have seen the article a fortnight ago on the defeat of Australian Labour by Phil Griffiths of the Australian International Socialists.

They too are small but growing strong. Their excellent newspaper, The Battler, came right to the fore on the Australian left during the crisis that followed the sacking of the Whitlam government, full of fight, policies and ideas.



These three are not the only organisations which the IS here in Britain have been developing links. There are also small but important fraternal organisations in Germany and Ireland.

Over Portugal, Socialist Worker and IS have redoubled any previous international efforts and attempted to live up to the demands of the situation. Thanks to our readers we have had some small successes in assisting the revolutionary socialist PRP and

the Portuguese working class.

But IS, as international secretary Joanna Rollo explained to the December IS National Council, is anxious and willing to make the widest possible political links.

She reported on our contacts through Scandinavia, Germany, Ireland, Italy and France. and new openings elsewhere.

All in all, Joanna explained, our newspapers and literature were sent out to more than 40 organisations throughout the world and to many individuals.



The IS International Department, she explained, was anxious to develop links not just with one group in any country but with all those fighting and organising seriously. That's why it was important that relations had been established with PDUP in Italy as well as with Avanguardia Operaia.

These and other links are becoming more and more crucial to the workers' movement as a whole. In the months and years ahead they need to be developed and strengthened a hundred times over.

All of this costs not only time but money. That's why in the New Year SW will be opening a special fund to expand those activities, redouble those efforts and make the slogan 'Workers of the world unite' a more practical proposition.

## REVOLUTIONARY PAPERS from fraternal organisations overseas—NOW on subscription from IS Books.

The following are immediately available:  
WORKERS POWER (USA) weekly  
WORKERS ACTION (Canada) monthly  
THE BATTLER (Australia) monthly  
THE WORKER (Ireland) monthly

Available soon:  
REVOLUCAO (Portugal) weekly  
REVOLUTION! (France) weekly  
KLASSENKAMPF (Germany) monthly/fortnightly

ARBETERKAMP (Sweden) Fortnightly  
SUBSCRIBE NOW! Send £1 each for 10 issues of any paper; please add 75p for postage and packing. Send your orders to: IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

We are also trying to arrange something with IL QUOTIDIANO DEI LAVORATORI (daily paper of Avanguardia Operaia in Italy)—details to follow.

# Soldiers' 'crime' to join union

THREE WEEKS ago the French government arrested a number of working-class militants, including some local officials of the CFTD, the second biggest trade union federation.

Their 'crime' was attempting to recruit soldiers into a trade union.

But this is only the latest in a series of repressive moves against the organisations of rank and file soldiers that have been growing during the past year.

Forty-seven soldiers have been imprisoned or detained for their activities in setting up soldiers' committees and regular papers, and demanding the right to form trade unions.

A special state security inquiry has been set up. 'Inspectors' are going round the barracks searching soldiers' belongings for 'undesirable' literature and dragging soldiers in for questioning.

## Laugh

A soldier from a soldiers' committee in the east of France described it: 'To begin with we found it difficult to take it seriously. Lots of my mates were inclined to laugh at the government's gross exaggerations about us and all the accusations thrown out by the press. Then we realised that, with or without these unfair lies, the real problem wasn't in what they said about us, but how they had decided to let loose a big attack on us, and how they were really going to hit us hard.'

Or as another soldier from the Besancon soldiers' committee said: 'I think it's disgusting to risk five or ten years of prison for speaking out about what many soldiers are already thinking.'

But it isn't only soldiers who are being attacked for being 'anti-militarist'. The government is also clamping down on workers who show any solidarity with the soldiers' movement. On 14 December two Ford workers were

arrested for distributing leaflets outside their factory near Bourdeau. Two members of an anti-militarist committee were arrested near Nimes.

In other words, the government is using the whole affair to attack workers, and as an excuse to carry out further repressive measures.

On 15 December, the offices of the revolutionary paper Rouge Revolution, and of the left socialist party the PSU were all searched, with the police detaining several members of these organisations for some time.

## Protested

Unfortunately the main organisations of the French working class have not given the soldiers the support they should. They have protested at the most outrageous acts of government repression but have not supported the demand for soldiers' committees and unions.

For instance, George Seguy, leader of the Communist-led federation, the CGT, has said that he does not give 'unconditional support for the creation of an army union'.

Such people seem to have learned nothing from the experience of Chile—that unless rank and file soldiers are organised independently of their upper-class officers, they can all too easily be used to smash the working-class movement.

In spite of these setbacks the soldiers are determined to push ahead with their claims. 'What we must do', said one member of a soldiers' committee, 'is to find means of mobilisation which are big enough to group together the majority of the soldiers in a regiment, and if possible on a regional or national level.'

## Spirit

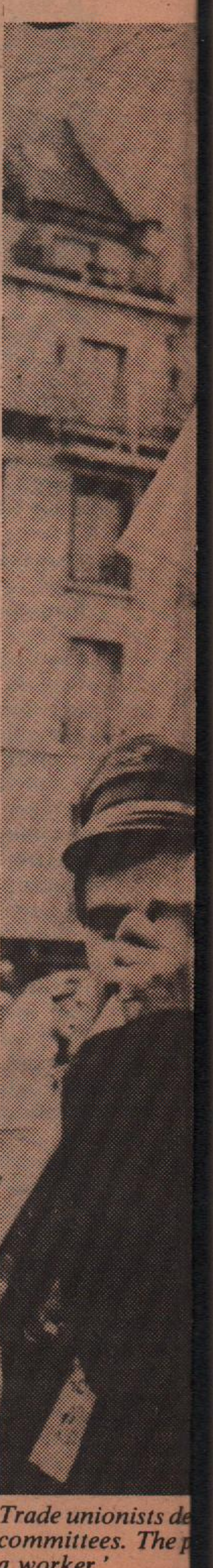
The spirit of the soldiers' struggle is shown in the titles they have given their committees. At one barracks they call themselves The Angry Hairies—because soldiers are not allowed beards.

In Luneville it is Stop your Tank! In the Dragoons they are Dragons see Red, and in Lorient The Red Collar. Then there's The Broken Cannon, The Thunder of Brest and Lions Roaring.



Workers at the Portuguese factory of CER-CAT, a subsidiary of BICC, have asked the National Rank and File Organising Committee to put them in touch with workers in BICC-owned plants in Britain. Could any interested BICC workers contact the committee at 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Phone 01-249 1207.

THE SOLD DEMANDS MONEY: Co soldiers get £ They are den £55-a-month with a minim £133 a month married soldi CONDITION demanding fr for members committees, for soldiers a they are stat cleaner barra and file cont total freedom outside the b no more har from inspect dormitories.



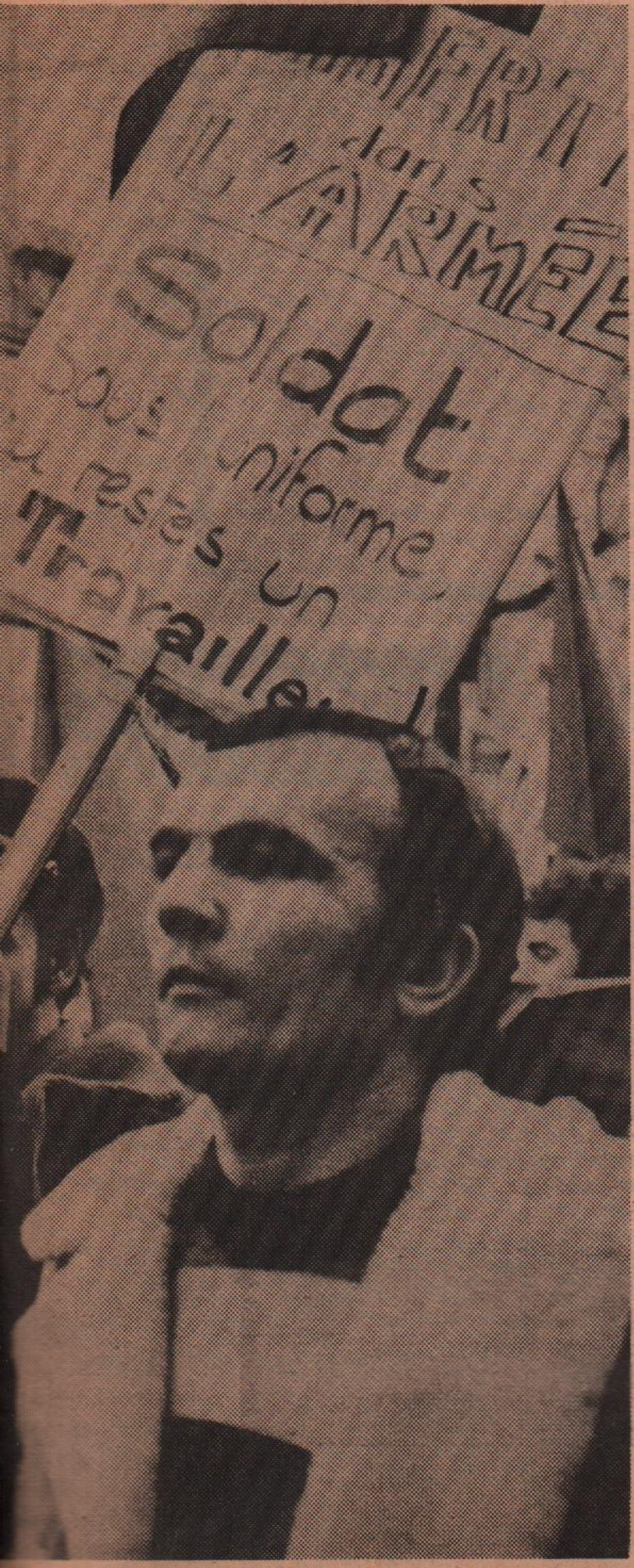
Trade unionists de committees. The p a worker.'





Newly-enlisted in the French army, soldiers march through Draguignan in protest at poor conditions in their barracks—an incident early in the movement.

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Protest in Paris last month in support of the soldiers' and says: 'Soldier! Beneath the uniform you are still

## US-backed junta makes dictator look lightweight

A FEW years ago many people would have been at a loss whether Ethiopia was in Asia or Africa. Some no doubt would have managed to associate it instinctively with the name of its autocratic ruler, Haile Selassie. But events of the past two years have driven greater attention on the country.

Yet, thanks to the capitalist press, one mythology has only been replaced by another. Then, it was the diminutive yet superhuman figure of the emperor. Now it is 'the creeping coup' and the revolutionary Derg (Military Council).

Beneath these mystifications lie the struggle of the Ethiopian working class and other genuine democratic forces. These are the real protagonists of the revolutionary movement that has been going on since—and before—February 1974.

The Ethiopian working class is small, numbering some half a million out of a population of about 26 million. But its strategic location—in the capital and other major towns, and in the modern sectors of the economy—has given it an importance far outweighing its numbers.

### First

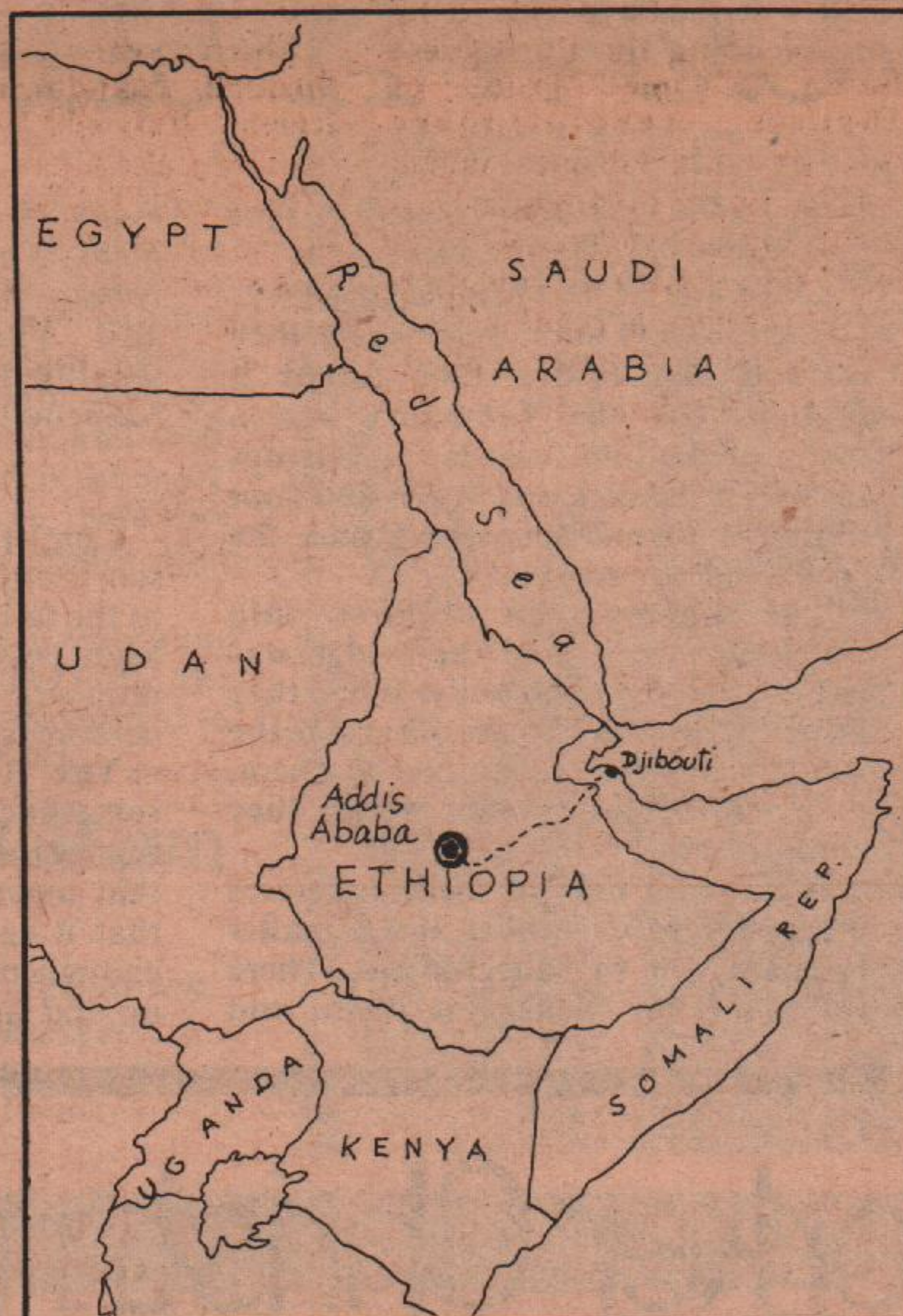
The first group of organised workers in Ethiopia were those of the Franco-Ethiopian Railway. This connects Addis Ababa and Jibouti and has been running since 1917. In 1947, the railway workers staged the first ever strike in the country's history. Others in the forefront of the working class struggle under the feudal rule of Haile Selassie have been workers of the Indo-Ethiopian Textiles Company, whose 1961 strike was bloodily suppressed; workers of the General Ethiopian Transport, who run the bus service in the capital, and employees of the

Wonji Sugar Estate Company, largely owned and managed by the Dutch.

The founding of the Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions (CELU) in 1963, after years of hard struggle and much sacrifice, was a landmark in the working-class movement.

It provided a framework for coordinating the workers' struggle. But American imperialism through its agencies, such as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions—to which the CELU was affiliated—and the International Labour Organisation, managed to infiltrate and subvert the organisation.

In spite of this, workers were able to play a key role in the February 1974 popular movement by staging a four-day general strike in March 1974. Almost all the demands of the workers were conceded.



by William Brown

The deposing of the emperor in September 1974 was as much an outcome of the decades of heroic struggle by students, workers, revolutionary intellectuals, peasants, and oppressed nationalities, as it was of the great democratic upsurge of February. The later seizure of state power by a small group of military officers was in utter disregard of the call by all progressive forces for a provisional popular government. The setting aside of all democratic rights—including the right to strike—set the new pattern of class struggle.

### Junta

Four days after the formation of the so-called provisional military government, CELU concluded its annual congress with a resolution calling for the restoration of democratic rights, the constitution of a provisional popular government, and the declaration of a republic. The junta responded by

arresting the president, secretary-general, and vice-president of CELU. These three are still in jail.

For the past 12 months, the junta has been trying to suppress the working-class movements by a combination of demagoguery and naked force. First, in December 1974, the junta announced with a great deal of ostentation that it had gone socialist. After the nationalisation of some foreign-owned firms, the junta's spokesmen began talking of 'the end of class struggle' and tried to undermine the organisational independence of the working class.

What the junta actually meant by nationalisation became even clearer last September when it justified the declaration of the state of emergency as follows: 'Strikes in any country where production and distribution industries are under the control of the government and are for the benefit of the people are considered to be a blow against the government and the people.'

### Puppet

Last May, the junta tried to appoint a puppet president of CELU. In face of determined opposition from the workers it backed down, and had to acquiesce in the election of a radical provisional executive committee.

The class struggle is sharpening. On 25 September, seven workers of the Ethiopian Airlines were killed and 29 others seriously wounded when they tried to prevent the arrest of one of their colleagues who was distributing copies of the CELU resolutions.

To avert a threatened general strike and to hunt down members and sympathisers of the EPRP, the junta declared a state of emergency on 30 September, giving draconian powers to its forces. Since then, hundreds of trade union leaders and activists have been arrested.

The Ethiopian working class, young and small, yet showing a high degree of commitment and combative spirit, is facing fascist repression. US imperialism is continuing to arm and finance a regime whose capacity for deception and brutality has made the late absolute monarch a lightweight figure.



## THE first great workers' march against hunger and unemployment was the march of the Blanketeers in Manchester 160 years ago.

Thousands of workers, infuriated beyond endurance by the repression of a ruthless Tory government, intolerable food prices, starvation wages and massive unemployment, gathered in St Peter's Fields, Manchester, for a march to London. They were called the blanketeers because each carried a blanket. They couldn't afford coats.

The stated purpose of the march was to deliver a petition to the government for more work and better conditions. But the march organisers made it clear that they were not begging charity. They wanted to stir the labouring masses and the anti-government majority in London into a huge protest movement.

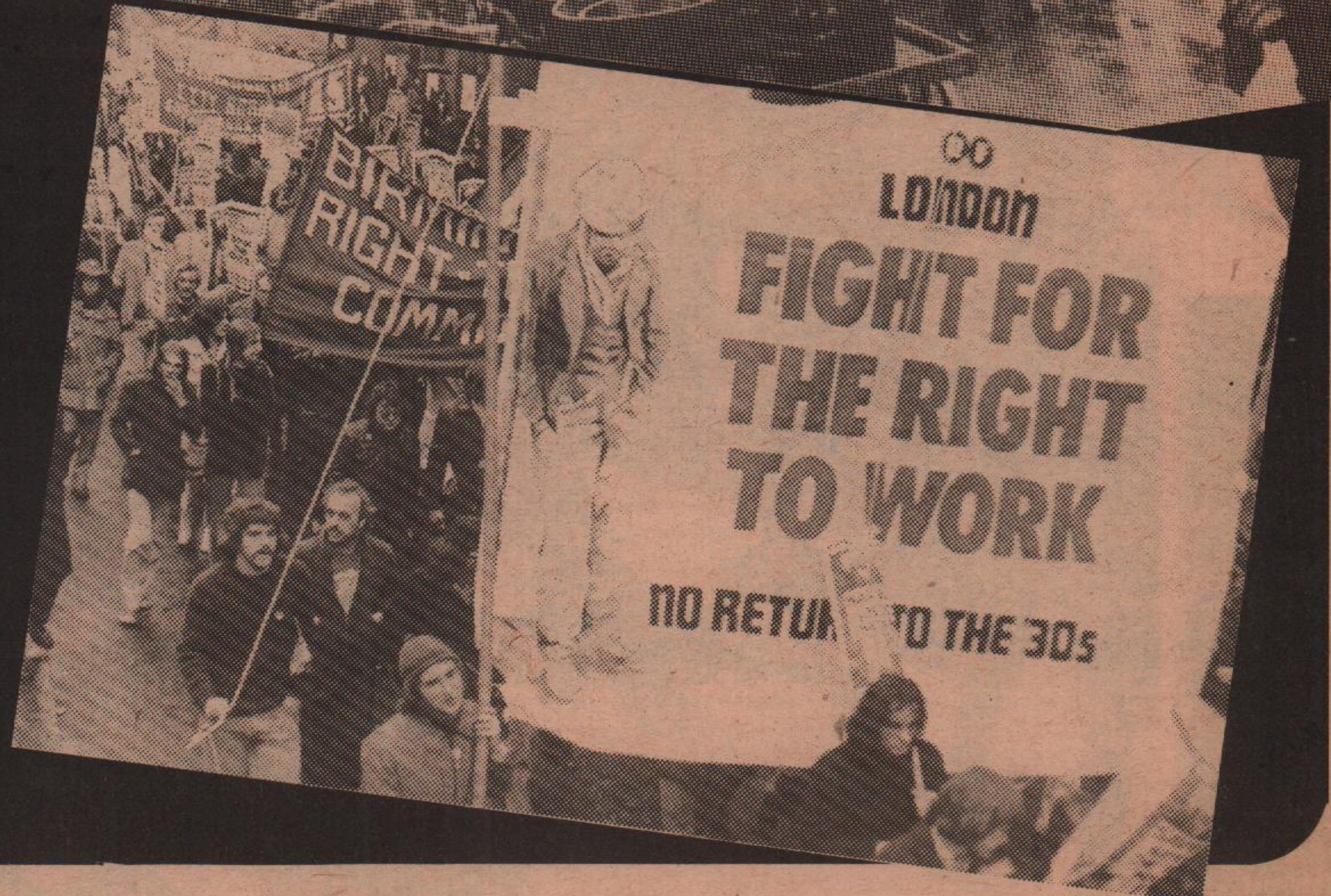
Long before the day of the march, the government had infiltrated the movement with spies. Many of the leaders had been interned without trial. When the Blanketeers assembled in St Peter's Fields, rows of troops were drawn up, ready for the attack.

What followed was described by the radical Victorian novelist Mark Rutherford, in his book *THE REVOLUTION IN TANNER'S LANE*.

*The Right to Work march that will be campaigning against unemployment all the way from Manchester to London next March is a part of our history. Ever since workers got together to fight against oppression, against unemployment and against hunger they have taken to the streets in protest.*

*This series describes some of the great workers' marches of history.*

## THE MARCH OF HISTORY



# How they beat down the Blanketeers

At nine o'clock in St Peter's Fields a kind of platform had been erected, from which an address was to be given. Thousands of men were present; some with coats; others without coats; some with sticks; some with petitions; but most of them with blankets, which they had rolled up like knapsacks.

The magistrates read the Riot Act, although there was no riot, nor the semblance of one, and forthwith surrounded the platform and carried off every one on it to prison. The crowd was then chased by the soldiers and special constables till all power of combination was at an end. About three hundred, however, were collected, and found their way to Ardwick Green.

Respectable Manchester was frightened when the Blanketeers met, and laughed them to scorn when they were dispersed. No wonder at the laughter! What could be more absurd?

And yet, when we call to mind the THING then on the throne; the THING that gave £180 for an evening coat, and incurred enormous debts, while his people were perishing; the THING that drank and lied and whored; the THING that never did nor said nor thought anything that was not utterly brutish and contemptible—when we think that the THING was a monarch, Heaven-ordained, so it was said, on which side does the absurdity really lie?

The Blanketeers shivering on Ardwick Green, the weavers who afterwards drilled on the Lancashire moors, and were hung according to law, or killed at Peterloo, are less ridiculous than those who hung or sabred them, less ridiculous than the Crimean war and numberless dignified events in human history, the

united achievements of the sovereigns and ministries of Europe.

The route of the three hundred was towards Stockport; but when they reached the bridge they found it occupied by the Yeomanry and a troop of the Life Guards. To attempt to force a passage was impossible; but numbers threw themselves into the river, and so crossed.

The soldiers then withdrew into Stockport town, and the bridge was left open to the main body. When they got into the street on the other side the soldiers and police dashed at them, and arrested everybody whom they could catch.

A remnant only of the Blanketeers escaped from Stockport, and a smaller remnant got to Macclesfield. There there was no shelter for them, and

many of them lay in the streets all night. When the morning dawned only twenty went on into Staffordshire, and these shortly afterwards separated, and wandered back to Manchester.

Conventional history books pour scorn on the Blanketeers. They point to the failure of the march to get out of Manchester, or to rouse substantial numbers of workers to join the demonstration.

Yet the Blanketeers started something which no government repression could stamp out: the idea that unemployment is not inevitable, that it can be fought and beaten—if enough people are prepared to stand up and organise against it.

*When my father was a lad, unemployment was so bad,  
He spent the best part of his life on the dole.  
Straight from school to the labour queues  
Raggy clothes and holey shoes,  
Combing pit-heaps for a manky bag of coal.*

*And I'm standing at the door  
At the same ole bloody door  
Waiting for the pay-out like my father did before.*

*Nowadays they've got a craze,  
To follow clever Keynesian ways,  
And computers measure economic growth.  
We've got experts milling round  
Making theories on the pound  
Caring little whether we can buy a loaf*

*And I'm standing at the door,  
At the same ole bloody door,  
Waiting for the pay-out like my father did before.  
Song by Alex Glasgow*

## Socialist Worker Christmas Draw

The prizewinners are:

**First prize, 25in colour television set, with licence:** J Tombe, Lazenby, Teesside (ticket number 43903).

**Second prize, portable colour television set:** M Gladwin, Chaddesdin, Derby (46356).

**Third prize, stereo unit:** M P Gray, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire (12291).

**Fourth prize, radio:** J Lissaver, Buckhurst Hill, Essex (50799).

The following 100 people won bottles of whisky:

Margaret Cannell, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire (ticket number 62801), M R Pegreen, Edmonton (54899), D O Hughes, Rhyd (68459), Steve Porteous, Glasgow (20926), Richard Lonnon, Hatfield (48304), L Hearne, Chippenham (9448), T51 ECW, Lowestoft (no name or address) (2100), Fiona Manch, Claygate, Surrey (69467), Marion Gillies, Glasgow (22980), M J Nuttall, Clay Cross (68576), B L Jones, Tetbury, Gloucestershire (9609), John Gower, Hampton,

**SOCIALIST WORKER would like to thank the thousands of supporters who sold, and bought, tickets for our Christmas lottery. After paying for all of the prizes the Socialist Worker Supporters' Fund will be handing over more than £1000 to help our paper in 1976.**

Middlesex (53566), Dave Redfern, Leeds (39935), Pat O'Meara, Beckenham (58999), John Joop, Harlesden (56920), Keith Mollison, Bradford (30314), J Morris, Ipswich (1898), P Ruff, London Cooperative Society (62243), M Smith, Brierley Hill, West Midlands (19562), P J Davies, Dulwich (58670), D Phelps, Bromley LT Bus Garage (59025), John Hann, Royal Dock (no address) (50500), G Ray, Glasgow (23034), C Cartwright, Derby (46133), R Robertson, Glasgow (22500), T Mackay, Harlow (1575), K Dobson, Harmondsworth, Middlesex (12278), G Hancock, Forest Gate, London (67681), J Evans, West

London (62566).

D Bosley, Derby (46258), Josie Kevern, Stockport (17766), M I Brown, Maidenhead (9718), H Montgomery, South London (62176), J McGrotty, Southampton (5420), Phil Hutchinson, Harlesden (54071), D J Dyke, Welwyn Garden City (48279), P Arthur, Bassett Street site, NW5 (no address) (54409), F Luke, Hackney Downs School (51352), Terry Ward, Stockport (17760), N Levy, Cricklewood (55193), E Mason, NGA Chapel, HMSO Harrow (53925), A Dickinson, Wickersley (48821), R Telfer, Pontefract (48686), J T Kelsley, Hessele (37341), L Turner, Charlton, London (59288), M Cosgrove, Bromley (59531), M Perciato, Enfield (50391), Roy Storer, Hull (37345), (no name), London W7 (63271), D German, Maidstone (7004), G Pritchard, Harlow (69407), Lyn Fihlebon, Cricklewood (52386), Jonathan Niale, Finsbury Park (56586), Sara Rule, Cambridge (8297), G Smith, Rutherglen (22983), G Doyle, Derby (68624), Mrs D Longhorn, Harpurhey, Manchester (17120), K Ramsay, Coventry (18140), P Mead, Coventry (18449), J Armstrong, Derby (46218), Nick Phillips, Tottenham (48506), John Sullivan, N W Department, R A (no address) (50467), J Hartley, M K Toolroom (no address) (54942), Jackie Standen, Surbiton (69468), Patterson, South London (58834), P Roberts, Birkenhead (69439).

D Dean, Derby (68573), Chinwood,

Bournemouth (4194), P D Murray, Norwich (3354), D Lyddon, Oxford (10179), Mrs Miller, Cricklewood (57166), Julie, Earlsdon, Coventry (18122), Mary O'Reagan, Maidenhead (9670), Lesley Scott, Peterborough (42481), D Pittan, Preston (29516), B Richardson, Glasgow (23149), B Saltmarsh, Catford (60784), W Cartledge, Clay Cross (45886), Loleen Linden, Manchester (16635), A Danks, Coventry (18188), (no name or address) (53563), G Jenkins, South London (58430), D & P Jackson, Bath (7278), Patsy Regan, Royal Docks, B Shift (no address) (50470), F A Brampton, Umispeed (no address) (2048), Mal Bezzant, Stoke Newington (54545), Ron Johnston, Ripley (46371), Mrs E Laraby, Burnley (16284), C Burton, Derby (46431), Lesley Scott, Peterborough (42351), Francine Chandos, Southampton (5392), R Frampton, West London (54040), B B Salisbury, Hitchin (36694), L Borton, South London (52893), A Raks, Preston (26604), H Brown, Millwall (50635), M Sheridan, Harlow (1128), Alan Purkiss (no address) (43704), A Thornton, North London (56575), Brian Armstrong, Derby (68585).

**A number of prizes need to be claimed. Check your number against the list and if it is there write to: Socialist Worker Supporters Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.**

## Socialist Worker WHAT'S ON

**TEESSIDE SW Public Meeting:** Unemployment and the Labour government. Speaker: Paul Foot. Friday 9 January, 8pm. AUEW Hall, Borough Road, Middlesbrough. Employed 10p, unemployed free. All welcome.

**EAST LONDON SW series of six fortnightly lectures on the Meaning of Marxism.** Starting: Friday 9 January, 7.30pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, Stratford, E15.

**Friday 9 January:** What is Marxism? Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

**Friday 23 January:** what are the causes of the present economic crisis? Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

**Friday 6 February:** Is there a parliamentary road to workers' power? Speaker: Ian Birchall.

**Friday 20 February:** The Revolutionary Socialist Alternative. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

**Friday 5 March:** What is Imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris.

**Friday 19 March:** What is a revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Tony Cliff.

**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.

**WHERE CAN WE FIND A 16mm film projector and portable screen?** The North West Agitprop Committee needs the use of the equipment for short periods of time so we can get crucial film showings organised. If you can help, please phone us at 061-881 5011.

**IS Day School on SPAIN:** Saturday 17 January, in Birmingham. All comrades interested in working on Spain welcome. All districts should send at least one comrade. Please send names to the International Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Agendas and other material will be sent. For place and times watch SW. Pooled fare system.



RIGHT: Kilns in the Potteries at the turn of the century, when Bennett was writing. BELOW: Women in the potteries did the painting of the 'crocks'—highly skilled, appallingly paid.

# The fire and the clay

CLAYHANGER is a magnificent book. I have a suspicion, though, that the television series just starting on ITV is going to be very different from the book.

The first episode on New Year's Day is the first of 26. It is based on three books by Arnold Bennett: *Clayhanger*, *Hilda Lessways*, and *These Twain*. All are set against the background of the 'Five Towns'—the potteries surrounding Stoke on Trent.

For television the three have been woven into one story—which is a pity, because the central theme of the series, the romance and eventual marriage of Edwin Clayhanger and Hilda Lessways, is almost incidental to the best book of the three, *Clayhanger* itself.

The book is about Edwin, born in the potteries, the son of a printer, who is driven by his own imagination to want to be more than a printer himself. He wants to achieve something with his life. There is a desire which drives him on.

'In that head of his a flame burnt that was like an altar-fire, a miraculous and beautiful phenomenon, that which nothing is more miraculous nor more beautiful over the whole earth. Whence had it

## CLAYHANGER

suddenly sprung, that flame? After years of muddiness, of contentedness with the second-rate and the dishonest, that flame astoundingly bursts forth, from a hidden, unheeded spark that no one has ever thought to blow upon.'

That's what the book is about—the flame of imagination and inspiration that can burn in all of us. And about the constant battle between this and the world around us, which does its best to dampen every ounce of originality, every spark of life.

For Edwin the battle is between him and his father, and the world they live in, the potteries at the end of the 1800s, where 'nothing matters so long as "it will do"', everywhere something forced to fulfil badly, the function of something else.

It is a world which is 'an episode in the unending warfare of men and nature ... Here, indeed, is nature repaid for some of her notorious

## CLAYHANGER

cruelties. She imperiously bids man sustain and reproduce himself, and this is one of the places where in the very act of obedience he wounds and maltreats her.'

Bennett failed miserably when he came to write the sequel to *Clayhanger*, *Hilda Lessways*. It is not worth reading. The book merely fills in the gaps, the bits in between her appearances in *Clayhanger*. It adds nothing, and you know the story in advance.

But there is one other book of Bennett's that I have read which does almost match up to *Clayhanger*—*Anna of the Five Towns*.

Edwin's battle with life is to become an architect instead of a printer like his father. He fails, in that he becomes a printer all the same. But fighting the

“

The various agencies which society has placed at the disposal of a parent had been at work on Edwin in one way or another for at least a decade, in order to equip him for just this day when he should step into the world.

Arnold Bennett in *Clayhanger*.

*Clayhanger* is one of the most compelling love stories ever screened on television.

ITV publicity handout.

”

battle is what matters, it's the spark that pulls him away from just being anybody.

Ann's freedom from her father's oppressive house takes a different road, the only one open to so many women—marriage. But her victory contains its own defeat too.

'Some may argue that Anna, knowing that she loved another man, ought not to have married Mynors. But she did not reason thus; such a notion ever occurred to her. She had promised to marry Mynors, and she married him. Nothing else was possible.

'She who had always submitted and bowed the head, submitted and bowed the head then. She had sucked in with her mother's milk the profound truth

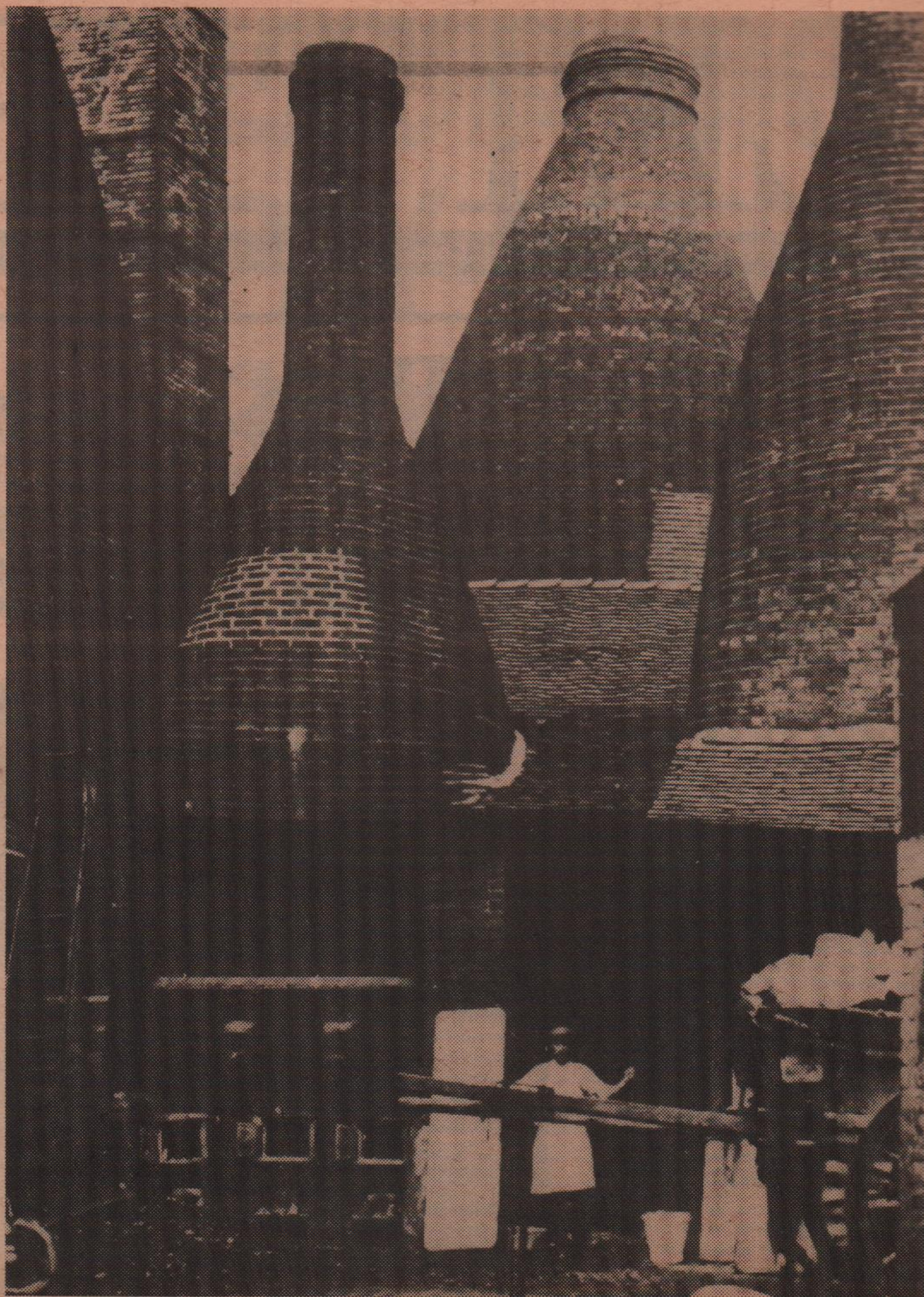
that a woman's life is always a renunciation, greater or less. Hers by chance was greater ...'

It's that which makes these two books worth reading. Arnold Bennett manages to describe, without making it seem grandiose, the battle between two fairly ordinary people and their own world. What matters is the spark of originality that makes them rise above it. It's the same spark that makes all of us socialists.

Remember it, when you watch the television series. I suspect that the flame will have been extinguished in favour of a 'good love story'.

Margaret Renn

Books by Arnold Bennett available by post from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (prices include postage): *Clayhanger* £1, *Hilda Lessways* 85p, *These Twain* 90p, *Anna of the Five Towns* 65p.



## TAKE IT AS RED

ONE of the myths about the art of a society—its books, plays, films, music and so on—is that art is autonomous and for the most part independent of that society. Great Art, so the claim goes, captures unchanging essences like Truth and Beauty and is thus a centre of permanence in a muddled world.

Even Marxists are sometimes nervous of challenging this myth, partly because of the crudity with which the challenge has often been made in the past. Partly, too, because it's certainly true that while the relationship between, say, capitalism and unemployment is fairly obvious, the links between capitalism and, say, the modern novel are much more complex and difficult to determine.

One means of chipping away at the myth and seeing the real relations of art and society is to ask ourselves how art becomes available in the first place. Every year thousands of songs, stories and so on are written but only a tiny fraction of them are actually published. The rest disappear for ever.

What determines publication is, in the end, a publisher's estimate of whether or not a given work is likely to make him some money. Without that

## The Great Myth

estimate your song remains a few notes in the back of your head, your story just a grubby notebook at the bottom of a drawer.

It's an estimate that can act as an immensely powerful cultural filter, cutting out at source not just the worthless but often the odd, the dissenting and the dangerous as well.

### Stone dead

The critics who stand between a work and the public are another sort of filter. They can and do kill a work stone dead before it finds a public at all.

Take a recent example of this process in action. David Edgar's play *Death Story* opened at the Theatre at New End in London, last month. It was a brilliant work that tried to come to sympathetic terms with the struggle for revolutionary change—'making things better is a hard and bloody

business', one of the characters remarked, and it was a business that the play lived out on stage.

Most critics hated it.

The man from the *New Statesman* warned his readers that the play's 'intransigence'—in other words its position to the left of the man from the *New Statesman*—'began to appal and repel me'.

The *Financial Times* lied that 'the acting is uniformly rotten'. The *Observer* hack summarised the message and sneered: 'I trust that makes you feel guilty'.

The result of this hammering was that audiences some nights were as low as half a dozen. The play limped off at the end of its run into an undeserved obscurity from which it'll take a brave/mad company to rescue it.

So one more honest statement disappears and one more radical theatre group is pushed a little nearer bankruptcy.

by PAUL O'FLINN

Part of the fight, then, for a revolutionary culture is a fight to find ways round the two filters—the major publishing houses and the critical establishment—whose combined tendency is to let through in the main only the safe, the profitable and the politically acceptable.

It's encouraging the number of people who are finding ways round. Theatre groups like *North West Spanner* and *CAST* by-pass both filters by taking their work direct to audiences in factories, canteens and branch meetings. Singers such as Alex Glasgow work for a real degree of control over the production and marketing of their records.

And, above all, men and women in their thousands dip into their pockets and their free time to create and sustain an alternative socialist press. It's with them that the best cultures, like the best revolutions, really start.

PS: A fortnight ago I made a rude remark about *Blunden* (Edmund, English poet). It came out as *London* (Jack, American novelist). Sorry, it's the kind of mistake that happens when you phone your article in late. You're all right, Jack.



# LETTERS

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

## COVENTRY: LET'S PUT UP A CANDIDATE

THE BY-ELECTION in Coventry caused by the death of Labour MP Maurice Edelman will gain national TV and newspaper coverage on the state of the British motor industry and the unprecedented level of unemployment in the city.

It will be an excellent chance to expose the government's policy of 'fighting' inflation by using unemployment to discourage wage militancy.

IS should stand a candidate in the election, preferably a worker from Chrysler, with the aim of building the Right to Work Campaign and hence the National Rank and File Movement as a fighting leadership within the trade union movement to combat the collaboration of Jack Jones and Len Murray with the Labour government's Tory measures.

Meetings should be held with speakers such as Ricky Tomlinson, David Skinner, Dave Nuttall and Arthur Scargill to gain the maximum publicity impact for the fight against unemployment and sell-outs by the Labour government.—MIKE CARVER, Wandsworth.

## AN ODE TO HEINZ

*In the department where I work  
This cliché has become a joke—  
'If your face don't fit'... for your jobs  
you must grieve.  
The sack will be your only reprieve.*

*Overtime is allocated to the chosen few,  
Who only with extra money have  
better things to do.  
Not to such as John, Peter or I.  
That's the rule in my section, but why?*

*To be late is to break a Heinz strict law.  
But just who has the law been set down for?  
It should be for me, it should be for all.  
Why is it only John, Peter and I who  
head for a fall?  
—A HEINZ WORKER, N W London.*

AS Workers Power paper organiser for the branch of the International Socialists (US) in Bloomington, Indiana, I want to say that Socialist Worker is a real inspiration to us all. A solid agitational paper is central to building the fighting workers' organisation that you've got in Britain and which we are building here.

The most impressive single characteristic of SW is the real base of support you clearly have for the paper, and which you got by making it an organisational tool for militant workers. We are consciously pushing Workers Power in this direction as fast as we can. The difference between our paper today and the paper as recently as one year ago shows the results.—STEVE LANGLEY, Indiana, USA.

Pluto  
**1976**  
Big Red Diary

Just flicking through the pages, with their old photographs and the details of the women's movement in the past alongside today's dates, it is perfectly clear that women have had to fight every inch of the way, even among our own ranks. That's what I like about the diary. The very past and the present overlap so that we can see our own struggles are not just isolated incidents.  
Bernie Dunn, in *Women's Voice*.

Big Red Dairy, £1 post free from Pluto Press, with a special discount for bulk orders. Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1. Also available from all IS bookshops.

## The victims of Labour's racism

TWO WEEKS before Christmas, Cypriots in Haringey, North London were once again subjected to the racist policies of the Labour Party.

Alex Lyon, Minister of State at the Home Office, stated that because of the partition of Cyprus, refugees would be expected to go home.

He and the Home Office have done nothing to help Cypriots, nor have the local Labour council.

The councillor for housing told a recent council meeting that it was untrue that Cypriots were jumping the housing queue. He also boasted that because of the points system no refugee could possibly be re-housed in Haringey.

This quietened the racist idiots who asked the question. Meanwhile, the homeless—Cypriot or otherwise—remain unhoused.

Alex Lyon, the Labour Party and Haringey's Labour council are guilty of encouraging racialism.

They would rather appease racials than deal with the plight of all of Haringey's homeless.—ANDREW STROUTHOUS, London, N10



Enjoying yourself, officer? A Greek Cypriot finds out about Britain's democratic traditions—of which the Labour government's racist policies are the latest example

## HOW WE'RE FIGHTING FOR JOBS

TRANSPORT UNION members at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee sent a delegation of two to the march against unemployment on 26 November. The demonstration was good, but it did not involve enough unemployed workers.

Nor did it strike fear into the hearts of big business and the government. That is because demonstrations in themselves cannot solve the problem. It will only be solved by direct action on the shop floor.

At Ninewells, we are trying such direct action. In the stores department, where a bonus scheme is in operation, we are trying to force management into employing two men to work on the loading bay.

Their job would include working alongside the men inside the stores and this is where the stumbling block lies with the bosses. They claim it is impossible because of the bonus scheme.

Negotiations are still continuing and a new time study is to be done. I am convinced that we will have to take industrial action to win our demands.

The only thing to ensure that workers in Ninewells and other workplaces will defend the unemployed is for the unemployed themselves to act directly. A demonstration outside my hospital would push the storeman to act in defence of the unemployed knocking on the door outside.

The pressure and plight of the unemployed must be felt by those in employment. Only by uniting can we challenge the Labour government's Tory policies.—JIM BARLOW, Dundee.

## Democracy? Don't make me laugh...

JOHN FORRESTER'S letter (29 November) left me almost speechless. He is trying to use me to attack Socialist Worker and IS.

My record in the trade union, Labour Party and working class movement will bear comparison with his. And I did it without receiving any payment.

I do admit that I am anti-Communist, anti-fascist, anti-any system which tries to keep the working class people in bondage. I also know that I received pretty rough treatment in my union because I would not support the Communist line in AESD, DATA, TASS.

Brian Parkin, Jimmy McCallum and others have also suffered for not toeing the line.

John Forrester never knew me, all he did know was that I was not on his side of the wall.

Can John Forrester truly say that the elections at our conference are really democratic, having in mind the

THE CLASH between IS and the Broad Left at the National Union of Students' conference over the activities of the NUS Executive on international work got a lot of press coverage.

The right wing feeds on such divisiveness. Surely it is about time IS and the Communist Party considered the dangers of inconsistent united front tactics. Specially when press reports pinpoint an alliance between IS and the Tory Party in defeating the Communist Party.—MARTIN HUGHES, Brunel University.

lists of 'preferred' people circulated around the conference the day before the elections?

These lists show a remarkable piece of forecasting. Most are Communists or supporters.

Come on, John Forrester. Come off that wall and just answer the queries put forward by Brian Parkin, Jimmy McCallum and page 4 of Socialist Worker on 29 November.—H SMITH, Merton.

## 'OUR BOYS' IN IRELAND

WHILE agreeing with the politics of the front page article, 'How to stop the bombings' (13 December) I feel you badly misrepresented the reasons why 64 per cent of British people are in favour of withdrawing the troops from Ireland.

It is stupid to pretend that they want self-determination for the Irish people. They just want to 'bring the boys back home'. You also forgot (?) to mention that, in a recent poll, the majority of people want capital punishment for terrorists.—STEVE COX, Stevenage.

## Right to work: A pat on the back

THE Manchester Rank and File Right to Work Committee would like to thank the people and organisations who donated money and tickets in sending unemployed to the 26 November lobby of parliament. We were able to send 38 unemployed out of the 85 Rank and File delegation. Donations came from Ciba-Geigy TGWU branch, Trafford Park—£8.80, Whellman Gas shop stewards' committee—£3, Docks TGWU shop stewards committee—£5, NUT Rank and File teachers—£22, ATTI Rank and File members—£22, Oldham Tech NUS—£3.50, Oldham and Ashton Rank and File supporters—£13.80, Hospital workers Rank and File members—£8.80, Prestwick COHSE Branch—£5, APEX branch—£5, NUS Oxford Road Polytechnic—14 free tickets for train, NUS Salford University—seven free seats for coach.

We would also like to thank Tilghman Wheelabrators workers who, through the Right to Work Committee's approach, donated money to the Broadheath AUEW district committee to send unemployed and also Lankro Chemical workers who have held £25 in a fund for the Right to Work Committee.

The committee has also got a guarantee of the Docks TGWU shop stewards' committee to give support to workers fighting redundancy. If any shop stewards' committee approaches them for solidarity in fighting redundancy, they will treat every case by its merits and black that factory's goods. BOBBY BUIRDS, Secretary, Manchester Right to Work Committee, c/o Trade Union Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester.

THE ARTICLE on the Health Service by Pam Denard (6 December) was down to earth and frank. As I am an unemployed, I read more and so it's good to see articles such as hers.

At the age of 51, I am finished in my trade. I feel all workers should decide on doing just 35 hours. Only then will we achieve a good standard wage.—BILL BAILEY, Lowestoft.

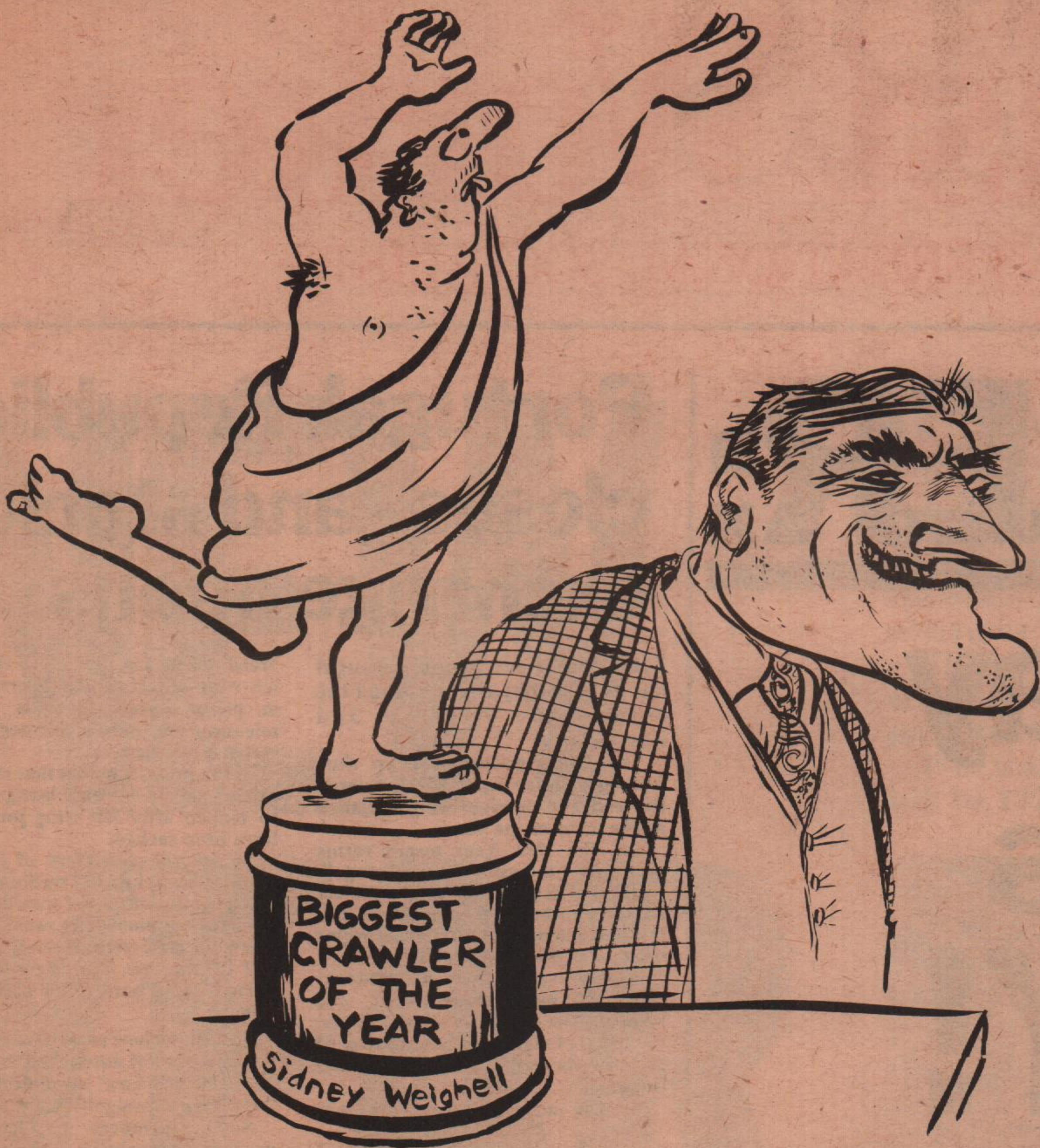
THE army has for a long time been the short-term answer for many unemployed, and those in poorly-paid jobs. The pay looks good, a private soldier on a six-year contract earns £37.66 gross pay after training—but this is for a possible 168-hour working week. As for learning a trade, most soldiers are infantry, or similar, with no trade usable in civilian jobs.

Travel is a thing of the past, as most overseas postings have closed, so your travel could just mean SHUTTLING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN Germany and Ireland.

The internal army structure mirrors society's class structure, only worse, with the officer class playing the ruling class, and senior NCOs as overseers. Military laws remove just about every right you might have left: the right to strike, the right to join a trade union and belong to a political party or organisation. This is to keep the army a weapon of the ruling class.

Unlike the majority of jobs, you cannot just give a month's notice and leave. You have to buy your discharge, often costing almost £200. So think twice before the dole drives you to the army.—N GROVE, Plymouth.





## WAS THE BIG WEIGHELL NOT MADE TO TURN?

THE 1975 Crawler of the Year award goes to Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen.

On Tuesday 16 December, Sid Weighell led 1000 railwaymen on a mass lobby of parliament in protest against the proposed rail cuts.

At a mass meeting in Central Hall, Westminster, he bellowed: 'We shall not hesitate to say to our ten NUR MPs that you will no longer support the government, no matter how critical the situation is.' (Tumultuous applause.)

Several months ago, the Yorkshire Area Council of the National Union of Mineworkers had raised the same issue. By a large majority they passed a motion insisting that Yorkshire NUM MPs should

not vote in parliament against NUM policy.

A great fuss was made in parliament about 'privilege'. But Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, held firm. He said on television that if the House of Commons wanted to 'do' him for contempt, let them try. The House of Commons shut up.

Now bold Sidney Weighell followed in Scargill's footsteps.

But the day after Weighell's speech, the Tory benches exploded in rage. Sir John Langford Holt wanted the Privileges Committee to investigate Weighell's speech, which he described as 'an unwarranted intrusion into the rights of MPs'.

Immediately the Speaker read a letter

which he had had that morning from Weighell. Weighell admitted that he had said that NUR MPs would be instructed to vote against the government—but then assured the Speaker that 'no such instructions would ever be issued by myself or my union'. Weighell recorded his 'humble apologies for the discourtesy to the House of Commons' and said that 'MPs sponsored by this union are free to act in the traditions of British democracy'.

The House of Commons cheered. The matter was dropped. Sidney Weighell was a gentleman and a patriot after all. He saved his loud words for his members at public meetings. Once back in the corridors of power, he could be relied on to sell them out.

## THE Ladbroke's strike is over.

The seven-month battle for trade union recognition in Ladbroke's betting shops in the west of Scotland ended in defeat last week.

Ladbroke's have offered compensation totalling £100,000 to the 329 sacked employees. Only 28 will get their jobs back. The paltry pay-outs range from £650 to £1100—a drop in the ocean for Ladbroke's, who recently paid out £1,600,000 to keep the Grand National going.

Ladbroke's have succeeded in buying out the union—and cheaply.

The dispute started seven months ago. It was seen as an important first

step in bringing thousands of unorganised white-collar workers into trade unions. The majority of the workers were inexperienced trade unionists. The vast majority of them were women. But they were prepared to fight and expected support from their union, the Transport and General—Britain's biggest.

The strikers felt that such a basic issue would win the support of the Labour movement, particularly in Clydeside with its traditions of industrial militancy and working-class solidarity.

There were other factors which convinced the strikers they could win. After all, wasn't Jack Jones, boss of the TGWU, a man with a left reputation? And Hugh Wyper, the local full-time official, was a member of the Communist Party and a prominent member of the Glasgow Trades Council.

Wyper in particular has access to a wide network of trade union militants in the west of Scotland. The tragedy was that neither Jones nor Wyper organised the kind of support and solidarity necessary to carry the strike to victory.

## TOO BUSY

Instead Jones was too busy conning the rest of the trade union movement into accepting wage cuts. As the strike developed Wyper spent more and more of his valuable time denouncing the International Socialists and the coverage of the strike in Socialist Worker.

It is difficult not to be bitter about the outcome of this strike.

Throughout, it was a rank and file fight. Initiated by the rank and file. Continued by the rank and file. Supported *only* by the rank and file around the country.

The defeat is a disgrace to the whole trade union movement.

The outcome is probably best summed up by Michael Docherty, a member of the strike committee. 'In a strike like this, if you are a member of the Communist Party and a full-time official, there are two things you can do. Either you remain a full-time official, you ignore the wishes of the strikers, and resign from the Communist Party. Or else you support the workers and resign from your post as a full-time official.'

Hugh Wyper is still both.

## Steel fight-back

SOUTH WALES: A steel industry Right to Work Committee has been set up in Swansea to fight the proposed sackings and the ending of the guaranteed week. An area conference will be held at the beginning of the new year to work out a cross-union strategy for the dozen British Steel Corporation plants in the Swansea area.

## WOMEN'S VOICE

is about women fighting for the right to work, a decent house to live in, and a hospital to go to when you're sick. The December issue also has a special supplement on the Women's Voice Rally.

Price 6p. Send for your copy to Women's Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, or ask your Socialist Worker seller.

## 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.

North London Women's Voice public meeting: Violence in the Family, Monday 5 January, 8pm, The Beehive, Tottenham, N17, near Bruce Grove Station.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN: First inaugural meeting of the mobilising committee of NAC for the 3 April national demonstration, Monday 5 January, 8pm, Room 3A, University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1 (nearest tube Goudge Street).

RADICAL PHILOSOPHY FESTIVAL, Balliol College Oxford, 9-11 January. Registration, 6pm, Friday £1 (75p to students). Accommodation arranged. Details: David Berry, Hertford College, Oxford.

BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND CAMPAIGN (BWNIC): London group meets at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 January, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. All interested welcome. Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month.

## Narrow 'back to work' vote at Alcoa

SOUTH WALES: The nine-week strike at the Alcoa site near Swansea has ended. The decision to go back was pushed through by a narrow margin (79-74) at a poorly-attended mass meeting. Many of the strikers

were so sure the strike would be solid through Christmas that only 153 of the 500 strikers attended the meeting.

There the Electricians' Union officials repeated the threats plastered over the front page of the local paper

that Alcoa would pull out of the country altogether. This would mean more than 1000 jobs lost from the area.

Then came a surprise move. The five Scots electricians who had been left out of the previous deal—which was roundly rejected—were offered jobs.

The only catch is this. The jobs are not at the Swansea site! They are 'somewhere in southeast England'.

## Danger

These five Scottish electricians helped organise the joint shop stewards committee on safety. Alcoa could see the danger to themselves of this growing into an organised body demanding negotiating rights on all other matters.

The Alcoa workers will have their work cut out for them now to maintain the joint shop stewards committee.

## Jobs sit-in broken by police

'MERRY CRISIS! Fight for the right to work! No redundancies at Chrysler!' This Christmas message hung from the balcony of Paisley Town Hall briefly last Monday.

Eleven unemployed workers from the Glasgow Right to Work Committee occupied the Town Hall for half an hour. They caught the attention of crowds of shoppers by using megaphones. Others handed out leaflets in the street supporting Chrysler workers.

Police broke down the door with boots and truncheons. The eleven were arrested and charged with breach of the peace. They were held overnight in jail and refused bail.

Mal Higgins, unemployed, said: 'The police ignored requests for mattresses and

blankets. They wouldn't let us get in touch with lawyers until ten minutes before we went into court.'

Linda Jones, who is single and has a young baby, said: 'I was angry because they wouldn't let us get in touch with anyone. I couldn't ring anyone to make sure my baby was being looked after. The way we were treated at the police station has only hardened my commitment.'

The occupation was the main news on Scottish Television and got front page coverage in all the local papers.

The Right to Work Committee is following up the occupation with factory gate meetings at Chrysler Linwood. There have already been 2000 redundancies in Paisley in the past year.

## IT'S THIS ARSY-VERSY WORLD WE LIVE IN

*There's a world called Arsy-Versy whose ways are very queer,  
And the things that happen in that world could never happen here.  
They plant a lot of apple trees and from the laden boughs  
They pluck the bounteous harvest and feed it to the cows,  
And then they take the milk the patient cows deliver  
And give it to disposal firms to pour into a river.*

*At times they churn the cream and when the work is done  
They build a butter mountain to shade them from the sun.  
They also press out tons of grapes and from the wine they make,  
For boating and for swimming, an artificial lake;  
And spuds and fruit and vegetables upon the roads they spread,  
And mash them very thoroughly beneath a tractor's tread.*

*And if you ask them why they act in this peculiar way,  
They shake their heads and answer: Grow food just to eat? It simply doesn't pay.*

*From wells beneath the sea they bring by pipes and tankers  
Enormous quantities of oil, then give it to the bankers.  
They're also most pacific, for violence they abhor  
And only manufacture arms for peace, or for others to make war.*

*In Arsy-Versy world the bosses, union leaders, politicians, economic  
experts by the score,  
All plead with those producing goods to turn out more and more;  
And they way the turn-out turns out is somehow always such,  
That though there never is enough, there's always far too much.*  
HUGO DEWAR



# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## CHRYSLER:

# The only way to save jobs OCCUPY!

**CHRYSLER and their allies in the Labour government are now blackmailing the trade unions.**

At Tuesday's meeting in Coventry between shop stewards, union officials and the Chrysler management, the company left the meeting to phone the government.

The message they brought back was: accept the sackings by this Saturday or we close the whole of Chrysler UK.

This is what the so-called rescue plan is all about—sacking 8500 workers. The few concessions made at the meeting amount to nothing at all.

At Stoke, Coventry, they are prepared to accept some short-time working instead of some sackings, for the moment. At nearby Ryton there is no change.

The other concession is a sick joke. The company are prepared to relax the principle of 'last in, first out' on the sackings, and instead are prepared to accept plant by plant negotiation over who should go. But there is to be no real reduction in the number of jobs lost.

### Save jobs

Some trade union officials are already acting as if their job is to 'save the plan', rather than save the 8500 threatened jobs. The company took advantage of this weakness by refusing any serious negotiations at all.

A fortnight ago at Whitley the company said their position was not negotiable. Despite their talk of 'flexibility', their position stands. They are happy with their £162 million pay-off for 8500 sackings.

Calling the sackings voluntary instead of compulsory will not save jobs. Shifting the sackings from one part of the combine to another will not save jobs. Nor will trying to get the redundancy pay raised a bit. But some senior union officials and convenors act as if this was the problem.

The problem is not to save the 'rescue plan', or to add a few modifications. The problem is how to scrap completely this fake and fight to save all the jobs.

The only solution was that spelt out by some Linwood stewards. Occupy the plants and defend the jobs. The alternative is thousands on the dole in a matter of weeks, with the rest following within 18 months.

Occupation of the plants must be the first step in a campaign for full nationalisation of Chrysler, without a penny in compensation. To win this all the plants and the machinery must be taken under the control of the workforce.



Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)

By a BBC news reporter

BBC Chiefs got the shock of their lives on Monday when 700 members of the journalists' union (NUJ) went on strike for equal unsocial hours payments. BBC administrators had predicted: 'These chappies will never go on strike'. In fact, every union member walked out, and the BBC's current affairs service was wrecked. BBC TV News would not have aired last Monday without the co-operation of the notorious scab, Peter Woods, the newscaster. The strike arises from a ridiculous distinction drawn by the BBC between newsroom staff and non-newsroom staff. The former got £400 a year in 'unsocial hours payment' the latter £234.

The movement of all goods and machinery must be stopped. Pickets must be sent to all Chrysler depots and showrooms throughout Britain.

A national appeal for support from the whole trade union movement and blacking of all Chrysler goods must be launched.

This can only be done if we take up the argument in the trade union movement that it is not a fight to save the Chrysler company, but a fight to take them over and drive them out.

This is part of the national fight for the right to work.

On Monday, Rolls-Royce added their name to the list of the job butchers and announced plans to get rid of at least 3000 and possibly 6000 workers in 1976.

All these attacks can only be resisted by a united national fight.

- Occupy Chrysler
- Fight for nationalisation of Chrysler without compensation
- Fight for the Right to Work.
- Build a national Right to Work Campaign

## Portugal: Republica closes - and stock exchange opens

THE PRESS are happy. Portugal has at last, they claim, turned the corner to 'freedom and democracy'.

The Observer summed up their feelings by referring to Mario Soares, the leader of the right wing Socialists as the 'man of the year'.

But the New Year means rather grimmer things for Portugal's workers. The government has extended for another two months the pay freeze it introduced after the purging of the left wing in the army.

At the same time its austerity measures have meant huge and sudden price increases. For instance, the price of cigarettes has shot up 65 per cent, the cost of a cup of coffee has doubled.

In the armed forces, the new

'freedom' means that more than 100 left-wing officers and soldiers remain in prison, while there is talk of releasing on parole former fascist secret policemen.

In the press, it means that the state-owned papers are only being allowed to reopen after left wing journalists have been sacked.

So far the defenders of the 'free press' have sacked 127 media workers, chiefly journalists, for their left-wing political opinions. The radio stations where the staff were most left-wing are still off the air, and Renascenca is being handed back to the reactionary bishops.

So far, the new repressive measures have mostly left untouched the unions and the workers' committees. But there have been significant exceptions.

Some members of left wing groups—especially the group LUAR—have been arrested and a number of exiled foreign revolutionaries have been thrown out of the country.

### Real meaning

And when it looked as if elections would replace Mario Soares' supporters from their control of the pharmaceutical union, police took over its headquarters.

For the workers' movement, the worst blow has been the closure of the paper Republica, after the resignation of the military officer who was its nominal director.

The real meaning of the new 'freedom' was shown when it was announced that the stock exchange was to be reopened for the first time since the overthrow of fascism and that tens of millions of pounds were to be paid out to shareholders in the banks, which were nationalised last March.

But the workers' struggle is by no means over. The present ruling group in the government and the military council of the revolution is far from stable.

These are still run by 'moderate' right wingers, who think they can solve capitalism's problems through parliamentary means. But they are under increasing pressure from right wing officers in the armed forces, who would like a Chilean solution.

### Fight back

But before the extreme right can see their dreams fulfilled, they have to break the resistance of the workers. They are no doubt hoping that the 'moderates' will be able to do this for them.

But there are the first signs of a renewed fight back by workers. There have been a number of strikes by small factories in the North. At Braga building workers hit by the wage freeze occupied the labour exchange.

In both Lisbon and Oporto there have been strikes of bookstall employees. At the Applied Magnetic plant, pickets are posted to stop the fulfilment of a court order for the movement of stocks as a prelude to closing the factory.

And the government has not been able to carry through the purge of the press without clashes with print workers.

The right wing may have won a temporary victory. But the struggle goes on. And so does the need for solidarity from workers in this country.

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Printed and published by Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers Ltd [T, all departments], Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.